



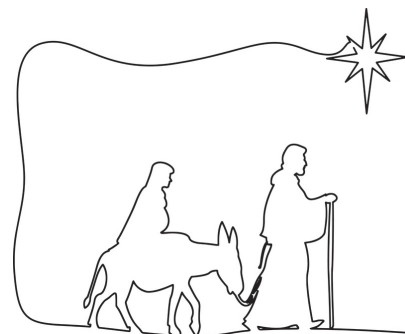
The Messenger

Advent Devotional Booklet 2023

Written by and for the members of Trinity, the Advent Devotional Booklet contains a devotion for each day of Advent: December 3 through December 23, plus Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The writings are based on scripture and hymns, providing thoughtful reflections on this season of joyful preparation.

Starting December 3, each day's Advent devotion will be emailed directly to your inbox using the email address Trinity has on file. It will also be posted daily to Trinity's Facebook and Instagram.

Beginning Sunday, November 19, a limited number of hard copies of the devotional booklet can be picked up at Trinity. The booklet in its entirety can be downloaded as a PDF to your mobile device or computer by clicking the link in the weekly eBlast.



Consecration Sunday at Trinity is November 19

Prayerfully Consider Your Estimate of Giving for 2024!

The people of Trinity Lutheran Church are invited to a celebration of our offering giving on Sunday, November 19, 2023. All three worship services that day will include the invitation for members and friends of Trinity to make their Estimates of Giving for 2024, their pledges of offering giving for the year ahead, as an act of worship.

Watch for your mailing of an "Estimate of Giving" card and be with us on Consecration Sunday to offer your pledge for our shared ministry in the year ahead.

An Order of Farewell and Godspeed on Sunday, November 19

Pastor Linstrom's Last Sunday as He Enters Retirement

Be welcome to join with the people of Trinity in offering the blessing of "Farewell and Godspeed" at the conclusion of the three worship services on Sunday, November 19, Pastor Bob Linstrom's last Sunday preaching and presiding in our worship life together. Let us give thanks for most of eleven years of Pastor Bob's ministry among the people of this congregation!

Highlights in This Month's Issue

Mark Your Calendar • [11](#)

Trinity News Briefs • [22](#)

Order Your Christmas Poinsettias • [31](#)



What's Happening at Trinity in November?

Weekly at a Glance

Sundays

Traditional Worship, 8 a.m.
Rejoice Worship, 9:15 a.m.
Live Streaming of Worship, 9:15 a.m.
Sunday School/Christmas Prgm Practice, 9:30 a.m.
(No Sunday School November 26)
Traditional Worship, 10:45 a.m.
Live Streaming of Worship, 10:45 a.m.

Mondays

Stroller Barre, 9 a.m.

Tuesdays

TLC Quilters*
Women's Bible Study, 9 a.m.
LWR Quilters, 9:30 a.m.
(Meeting at 10:30 a.m. on November 28)
Tai Chi for Arthritis, 10:15 a.m.
Fit4Baby, 7 p.m.

Wednesdays

Power Bend & Stretch Fitness, 9 a.m.
Fit4Baby, 7 p.m.

Thursdays

Tai Chi for Arthritis, 10:15 a.m.
(No class on November 23)
Resound Bell Choir Rehearsal, 6 p.m.
(No rehearsal on November 23)
Choosing Peace & Serenity AFG, 7 p.m.
(Not meeting on November 23)
Trinity Choir Rehearsal, 7:15 p.m.
(No rehearsal on November 23)

*Contact Carol Hendricks at
cahendricks14@gmail.com for exact
dates and times.



Daily Calendar

Wednesday, November 1

Coffee & Donuts, 10:15 a.m.
Pastor Bob's Adult Forum, 10:30 a.m.
JOYful Days Lunch & Speaker, 11:30 a.m.
Outreach Comm Mtg, noon

Thursday, November 2

Helping Hands Comm Mtg, 10 a.m.

Friday, November 3

Women's Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, November 4

Surviving the Holidays, 9:45 a.m.

Sunday, November 5

All Saints Sunday
Christmas Angels Following All Services
HS Bible Study, 9:15 a.m.
Pastor Bob's Retirement Potluck, noon
MS Youth Group, 2 p.m.
Confirmation Class, 3 p.m.
HS Youth Group, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, November 6

In The Image Volunteering, 1 p.m.
Stephen Leaders Mtg, 1:30 p.m.
Property Comm Mtg, 6 p.m.
Beyond Belief Rehearsal, 6 p.m.
Schubert Male Chorus Rehearsal, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, November 7

Executive Comm Meeting, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, November 8

Coffee & Donuts, 10:15 a.m.
Pastor Bob's Adult Forum, 10:30 a.m.

Thursday, November 9

Children's Ministry Comm Mtg, 6 p.m.

Friday, November 10

Women's Book Club, 9:30 a.m.
Charge Youth Conference Weekend, 4 p.m.

Saturday, November 11

Thankful Hearts Family Event, 1 p.m.

Sunday, November 12

Veterans Appreciation Sunday
(Reception 8:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m.)
Stephen Ministry Continuing Ed, 12:30 p.m.
Stephen Ministry Peer Sup Grp 1, 1:30 p.m.
Stephen Ministry Peer Sup Grp 2, 1:30 p.m.

Monday, November 13

The Messenger Deadline
Schubert Male Chorus Bd Mtg, 5:30 p.m.
Rejoice Band Rehearsal, 6 p.m.
Oasis Board Mtg, 6:30 p.m.
Schubert Male Chorus Rehearsal, 7 p.m.
Congregation Council Mtg, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 14

Care & Share, 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, November 15

Life Begins at 60 Dinner, 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 16

Bridge, 1 p.m.
In The Image Volunteering, 1 p.m.
Heart-to-Heart with Pastor Kari, 2:15 p.m.

Friday, November 17

Women's Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, November 19

Consecration Sunday
Confirmation Class, 3 p.m.
Youth Craig's Cruisers Outing, 5-7 p.m.

Monday, November 20

Finance Comm Mtg, 6 p.m.
Beyond Belief Rehearsal, 6 p.m.
Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, 7 p.m.
Schubert Male Chorus Rehearsal, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, November 21

Tuesday Evening Book Club, 7 p.m.

Thursday, November 23

Happy Thanksgiving!
Office Closed

Friday, November 24

Office Closed
Women's Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.

Monday, November 27

Rejoice Band Rehearsal, 6 p.m.
Schubert Male Chorus Rehearsal, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, November 28

Council on Aging, 8 a.m.
Stephen Ministry Continuing Ed, 6:30 p.m.
Stephen Ministry Peer Sup Grp 1, 7:30 p.m.
Stephen Ministry Peer Sup Grp 2, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 29

Pack 3015 Comm Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

A Message from Pastor Bob Linstrom

Making Ready for the “Second Half of Life”

*Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.*

*Do not remember the former things,
or consider the things of old.
I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?*

Isaiah 43:1, 18-19



Beloved community,

Early in October, I received a book in the mail from a friend who is also one of this congregation's leaders. According to the publisher, *From Strength to Strength: Finding Success, Happiness, and Deep Purpose in the Second Half of Life* by Arthur C. Brooks is a guide to transforming the life changes we fear into a source of strength. The book summary on the dust jacket flap reads, “In the first half of life, ambitious strivers embrace a simple formula for success in work and life: focus single-mindedly, work tirelessly, sacrifice personally, and climb the ladder relentlessly. It works. Until it doesn't. It turns out the second half of life is governed by different rules . . .”

The title for the first chapter in Brooks's text is a reality check. “Your professional decline is coming (much) sooner than you think,” it reads. My first reaction to that titling was a bit defensive. And yet as I skimmed the book, I found inspiration and hope as consistent themes in this “how to retire gracefully” volume. This book will be among the first that I read in December of 2023, as I officially enter the so-called “second half of life.”

When I submitted my letter of impending retirement to the congregation back in June of this year, I quoted the venerable children's television host Fred Rogers, aka Mr. Rogers: “Transitions are almost always signs of growth, but they can bring feelings of loss. To get somewhere new, we may have to leave somewhere else behind,” he wrote. Mr. Rogers always brought surprising nuggets of wisdom to life's journey. The rich proclamation of the word of the Lord as cited above by the prophet in Isaiah 43 is joined with such reflection. Our God is about to do a new thing and we are called to perceive that revelation in our lives. That perception is most certainly called for in retirement, but in reality, it is a daily calling for the people of faith.

In the morning, Martin Luther prayed, “I give thanks to you, heavenly Father, that you have protected me through the night from all harm and danger. I ask that you would also protect me today from sin and all evil, so that my life and actions may please you. Into your hands I commend myself: my body, my soul, and all that is mine.” Each day is a new beginning, and a new opportunity to perceive and dedicate ourselves to God's will for our lives. I hope to welcome the new day of retirement with such thankfulness for what has been and with openness to the potential of a new day.

In my June retirement letter, I also wrote of looking forward to a “pause”. Except for a three-month sabbatical in 2003, I have been active in full-time ministry settings since 1984, with never more than a week or two between calls as a parish pastor. It's time for a deep breath, what the monastics call *statio*, the practice of stopping one thing before beginning another, a holy pause full of possibility.

continued on following page

A Message from Pastor Bob Linstrom (cont.)

That pause is getting closer. I will seek to embrace it in prayer, reading, sitting at the piano, writing, getting a bit of exercise, and gathering in new ways with Rebecca and our family. For now, I have some more preaching and teaching to do, a handful of baptisms and the nurturing of some of Trinity's prospective members, visiting with a few of our homebound, and joining with a few more of our committees in caring for Trinity's ministry. I have a library to share with others and a surprisingly large volume of files that need both organization and purging. I am completing various transition documents and meeting with Trinity's pastors as that transition arrives, and continuing to check things off my lists.

A new thing springs forth and I seek to both perceive and live into that new thing. Friends in Christ, I am deeply thankful for the journey we have shared even as I prepare to begin a new chapter on life's journey.

It has remained my distinct privilege to serve as one of your pastors at Trinity.

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Bob Linstrom, Senior Pastor

Could You Use Some New/Used Reading Materials?

An invitation to peruse Pastor Bob's library

As Pastor Linstrom is completing his parish ministry and shifting gears into retirement, he spent a bit of time in the early fall determining which volumes from his office library would travel with him into retirement in South Haven. About 300 books were boxed up and moved home, leaving about 1,100 volumes on his shelves. He has invited pastoral colleagues from the Grand Rapids Conference to peruse his bookshelves and gather some new acquisitions. He is now extending that same invitation to the Trinity congregation.

Be welcome to stop in Pastor Bob's office on weekdays during office hours, from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and take home a book or two – or 20! They are being distributed free of charge to any who would be interested in adding some new reading material to their bookshelves at home.

Celebration of Pastor Bob Linstrom's Ministry on Sunday, November 5

Join us on Sunday, November 5 at noon as we celebrate the ministry of Pastor Bob Linstrom as he retires after 40 years of service in the Lutheran Church. We will share a potluck lunch following 10:45 a.m. worship. Please look for the potluck signup in the Friday eBlasts.

Please contact [Tess Lundgren](#) with questions.



A Message from Council Member Michelle Morin

God gave us body, mind, and spirit. All three can get out of shape, and need tending. The health of one component affects the health of the others. This is what the Health Ministry Committee focuses on. With our Faith Community Nurse Kristin Bradley, we have been busy with several functions to help keep our bodies, minds, and spirits in good shape. In May of 2021, the Health Ministry Committee held an all-day Mental Wellness Fair that was well attended. We were so thankful to let the people of our church see and hear that it is OK to speak about mental health issues. Several resources offering assistance were shared with those in attendance.

We are also working on a series of “Food for Thought” sessions that we are hoping to offer twice a year. Our first session was Suicide Prevention and the second was Sleeping Well. We had an overwhelming attendance, and excellent discussion! Thank you to all of the congregation members that took the time to fill out our survey looking for topics of interest for future sessions. Based on your feedback, our next session will be **Nutrition for Well-Being on January 31, 2024**.

To better help keep our bodies in tune, we offer several fitness programs. We are partnering with Senior Neighbors to offer Tai Chi for Arthritis on **Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:15 a.m.** There is also Power Bend & Stretch class on **Wednesdays at 9 a.m.** As we move on to this new chapter of programming, we would like to thank Xristina for her many years leading our fitness classes, and we wish her the very best going forward.

You may not know that Health Ministries at Trinity also offers flu shot clinics and blood drives. We are very excited that our blood drive participation has continued to grow! In September, we had hoped to collect 31 pints, but received an astonishing 47! This is a great contribution to our community. We hope to see you at our next blood drive on **December 4 from 12:30 to 6 p.m.** (see [page 17](#) to sign up).

For any nurses that worship at Trinity, the Health Ministries Committee offers a scholarship for you to receive your Faith Community Nursing Certification. I was fortunate enough to be able to take this class in 2021 and it has helped me to create a faith-based focus in my nursing career.

Here are some more upcoming Health Ministries events: **Care & Share – Caregiver Support Group** meets one Tuesday a month from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Youth Room October 17, November 14, and December 12; see [page 17](#) for more information. The educational opportunity **Substance Use Services at Pine Rest** meets November 12 from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in Centennial Hall; see [page 18](#) for details.

Michelle Morin
Health Ministries Council Liaison

Trinity Congregation Council Members 2023-2024

Standing committees of the Congregation Council coordinate the mission and ministry of Trinity and provide their leadership in developing new programming. Committees have a Council person who acts as the liaison between the Council and committee. If you are interested in contacting a Congregation Council member, please refer to information in the Trinity directory or call the main office.

Congregational Council Executive Committee

President: Karen Unruh; Vice President: Steve Heacock
Secretary: John Fox; Treasurer: Chris Engle

Congregational Council Members Children's Ministry: Sarah Huckstep
Communications: David Marquardt; Endowment Fund: Brad Kessel
Fellowship & Hospitality: Jamie Kuntzman; Finance: Chris Norton
Health Ministries: Michelle Morin; Helping Hands: Susan Knoll; Human Resources: Steve Heacock; Outreach: Dan Butler; Property: Erick Kind and Lauren Wright; Publicly Engaged Church: Michelle Feutz; Spiritual Growth: Bill Bush; Stewardship: Jacquie Murray; Worship & Music: John Fox; Youth & Family Ministry: Chris Becker and Dakota Morin (Youth Representative)

Financials

Trinity Lutheran Church Budget vs. Actuals

Month of September 2023

	Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable/ (Unfavorable)	
Total Income	107,327	72,846	(34,481)	-32.1%
Total Expenses	93,976	88,270	5,707	6.1%
Net Income (Loss)	13,351	(15,423)	(28,774)	

2023 Fiscal Year-to-Date (Thru September 2023)

	Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable/ (Unfavorable)	
Total Income	801,843	872,867	71,025	8.9%
Total Expenses	803,950	759,519	44,432	5.5%
Net Income (Loss)	(2,108)	113,349	115,456	

TITHE.LY
Innovative church giving



Don't Forget Your Offering!

At Trinity, we use "Tithe.ly" for our online giving.

Online giving is so easy and convenient. Never miss a week even when you are out of town! To get started simply

click on the 'Donate' button at the top of the Trinity Website, scan the QR code to the right, or go to:



<https://get.tithe.ly>

Contact Trinity's Finance Administrator [Joanna Waite](#) if you need assistance.

Pastor's Discretionary Fund – Consider a Year-End Gift



In the last several years in our life together at Trinity, including during the uncertain times of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Pastor's Discretionary fund has provided from \$20,000 to as much as \$45,000 annually to address special needs beyond our doors. These are the funds that are accessed to assist with utilities, rent, avoiding eviction, and more in our community. Trinity has a long history of being a deeply generous congregation that seeks, after vetting recipients through the case workers at Access of West Michigan, to respond to neighbors in need in the wider Grand Rapids Community and around the world.

In late 2023, we are completing a year in which the Discretionary Fund has again been called upon often and the available balance has declined. If you are planning year-end charitable giving, consider supporting the Pastor's Discretionary Fund at Trinity. Simply mark your donations accordingly or speak with Finance Administrator [Joanna Waite](#) to learn more or to ask questions about your intended gift.

A Message from Associate Pastor Dan Schewe

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. –1 Thessalonians 5:16-22

It is really easy to complain.

I'm sure if you took a moment you could think of all sorts of things you would want to complain about, and could think of many conversations centered around complaining. We have been trained to complain; to look for where there are cracks and where things don't quite line up with our expectations and to find ways to draw attention to them.



For some people complaining is as natural as breathing. Yet, how do you feel when you are around people who complain? What kind of energy do they give off?

There is a consistent theme in the scriptures that encourages us to give thanks, not to complain. The scriptures encourage us to contemplate whatever circumstances we are in and find ways to thank God for them. Good, bad, or somewhere in between, we are encouraged to be people who give thanks.

The tension between our common inclination to complain and giving thanks is nothing new. The author of Thessalonians takes up the scriptural theme to give thanks in their first letter to that community. They encourage them to "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in all circumstances."

The scriptures seek to mold us into people who are quicker to give thanks than to complain. As we lean more and more into this guidance, it can have a profound impact on our lives. It can train us to see the world in a different way. Not as a place lacking or as something that isn't enough, but a place full of fundamental good surrounding us, to see daily how God is breathing life and love into our lives, to enter into a new rhythm of living.

This November, I encourage you to get into the habit of giving thanks. Take some time every day to examine your life and focus on the things you are thankful for. Maybe when you first wake up or before you go to bed. If it helps, write these out on a piece of paper or in a note on your phone. When you find yourself getting sucked back into the habit of complaining, look at your list and try to counter the impulse with a thought of gratitude.

I encourage you to lean into the scriptural guidance to be people who give thanks and to see the impact it has on your life.

Shalom,

Pastor Dan Schewe

A Message from Associate Pastor Kari Fast

Dear Trinity Family and Friends,

Celebration and mourning hang together. Hellos and goodbyes hang together. Soon we will be welcoming new members into the congregation and saying goodbye to Pastor Bob and Rebecca. We will be celebrating for them their retirement and the good ministry they have provided here and mourning the loss of their steady, healthy presence. Romans 12 speaks of this beautiful complexity of love and faith:

Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. –Romans 12:12-16



Soon we'll be celebrating the holidays; even then, it's not all celebration. If we pay attention, there are always pieces of mourning within a special holiday. A grandparent, spouse, or friend who isn't able to be there due to death, a rift in a relationship, or for some unforeseen reason is held amongst all the joys of the day.

As we gathered for the Women's Retreat at Trinity on October 7, there were moments of laughter, joy, feelings of togetherness, and hearts touched with tears as we thought of people and areas of our lives touched by injustice. In moments when things are real, beautiful, and meaningful we're often brought to laughter and tears. We know this reality. We laugh and cry at a funeral. We rejoice over our children's accomplishments and feel the bittersweet feeling of their moving beyond what we have to teach them. Everything hangs together – the sweet and the sour, the joy and the hardship, the work and the rest. All of life is holding and honoring both the celebration of the ordinary and sublime while acknowledging the hurts, injustices, and pain.

For those who will be moving through this holiday season while mourning the loss of a loved one, celebrating the holiday can be especially difficult. Please know you are not alone. Even though your grief is very particular, there are others who are also grieving. There is comfort in knowing others will also be celebrating and mourning this year.

We will be holding our annual **Surviving the Holidays** gathering on **Saturday, November 4 from 9:45 a.m. until noon**. This time together includes a video and a time for conversation afterward. The focus is helping the participants consider strategies and to be aware of pitfalls; learning ways to best move through the holidays while experiencing grief. Participants also gain the support and understanding from others who are walking the same journey. **Surviving the Holidays** is a ministry of GriefShare, and the new edition of **Surviving the Holidays** is described as "timely, warm, and expands on topics grieving people struggle with during the holidays." Be welcome to bring friends and family members. Registration is appreciated, so we can have participant workbooks for everyone! Sign up here: <https://tinyurl.com/436cta69>

Another place where celebration and mourning are welcome is the next **Heart-to-Heart Conversation with Pastor Kari**. These conversations are held monthly, excluding December and the summer months. Feel free to join one or all of them. The next conversation is **Thursday, November 16. Join us at 2:15 p.m. for** doughnuts and coffee or tea; the gathering will start at **2:30 p.m.** Sign up here: <https://tinyurl.com/rbjxvea2>

Godspeed for Pastor Bob as we celebrate his retirement and honor our loss. Plan to attend Pastor Bob's retirement potluck on **Sunday, November 5 starting at noon** and/or attend Pastor Bob's last worship service on **Sunday, November 19**.

God's Deepest Blessings now and always!

Pastor Kari, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care

All Saints Sunday to be Observed in Worship November 5

All Saints celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who are the body of Christ. As November heralds the dying of the landscape in many northern regions, the readings and liturgy call us to remember all who have died in Christ and whose baptism is complete. At the Lord's table we gather with the faithful of every time and place, trusting that the promises of God will be fulfilled and that all tears will be wiped away in the new Jerusalem.

Each year on All Saints Sunday the people of Trinity gather to remember both those members of our congregation who have died and those newly baptized in our life together in the past year. Both emphases will be observed in our full schedule of worship services at 8, 9:15 and 10:45 a.m. – the listing of those saints follows. Be with us in worship!

For All the Saints

*We remember Trinity members who have gone before us since All Saints Day, November 1, 2022.
"If we have died with Christ, we shall also live with him; if we are faithful to the end, we shall reign with him."*

Joyce Stella Schenk

October 8, 1937 – December 25, 2022

Madelyn (Midge) Reges

September 19, 1929 – January 1, 2023

Marjorie Mae Enell

March 8, 1929 – February 18, 2023

Janet Marie Konen

July 3, 1936 – February 18, 2023

Carolyn Eleanore McCready

April 27, 1936 – March 29, 2023

Alberta May "Bertie" Nelson

April 1, 1938 – April 25, 2023

James B. Billings

January 11, 1943 – September 7, 2023

continued on following page

All Saints Sunday (cont.)

Giving Thanks for Our Newest Brothers and Sisters in Christ; Those Baptized Since All Saints Day 2022

Phoebe Jean Yu

January 1, 2023

Cooper Edward Cox

January 8, 2023

Ralph Lee Thomas

February 5, 2023

Emelyn Joyce Tague

February 26, 2023

Liam Daniel Zielinski

February 26, 2023

Ella Lucia Severns

April 16, 2023

Schuyler Steven Severns

April 16, 2023

Scarlett Hartley Meleca

May 14, 2023

Nathan Sahir Bennett

May 21, 2023

Grant Owen Packard

June 25, 2023

Abigail Renee Ulmer

August 6, 2023

Emerson Andrew Gohlke

August 27, 2023

Emilia Rose Sechrist

September 16, 2023

Zara Jean Abbate

September 17, 2023

Lydia Lynn Smith

October 8, 2023

Russell Roby Lamb

October 15, 2023

Eleanor Joy Lamb

October 15, 2023

Hayden Elizabeth Engle

October 22, 2023

Billy Allen Harris

October 29, 2023



Mark Your Calendar!

Join Us for Sunday Worship in November!



Sunday, November 5 – All Saints Sunday Remembering those who have died and those who have been baptized since All Saints Day in 2022.

Sunday, November 12 – Commemorating Veterans Day in worship with a prayer of thanksgiving for all who have served in our nation's armed forces.

Sunday, November 19 – Consecration Sunday The people of Trinity are invited to make their Estimates of Giving for 2023; November 19 is also **Pastor Bob's last Sunday as Trinity's Senior Pastor.**

Sunday, November 26 – Christ the King Sunday The last Sunday of the church year

Veterans Appreciation Day at Trinity • Sunday, November 12



Trinity will mark Veterans Day weekend in worship on Sunday, November 12. A prayer of blessing for those who have served our nation in its armed forces will be offered as we join with all citizens of our nation in giving thanks for the sacrifice of those who have served.

We would like to be able to recognize every Trinity member who has served in any branch of our military: Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Air Force, Army, Space Force, or National Guard. **If you have served, please submit a photo of yourself during your period of service, preferably in uniform, as well as a current photo.** You can submit a digital or hard copy to Tess Lundgren. If hard copy, please bring or send to the church office with attention to Tess Lundgren. If submitting a digital copy, email to: tess.lundgren@tlcgr.org. All hard copies will be returned.

Along with your photos, please provide the following information:

Name	Military Branch	Length of Service	Where were you stationed?
Photo	Rank	Honors/Medals	Which campaign were you in?

Please make submissions to [Tess](#) no later than Sunday, November 5.

Life Begins at 60: Dinner at Timbers Inn



If you're 60 years or older, please join us as we gather on **Wednesday, November 15 at 5:30 p.m.** at Timbers Inn, 6555 Belding Road NE in Rockford. Reservations are limited to the first 30 guests. Contact hosts Cheryl and Denny Rosen (text or call 231.250.1390) to make your reservation.

From Trinity's Stephen Ministry: A Presentation on Substance Use Services at Pine Rest

**Sunday, November 12
12:30 to 1:30 p.m.
Centennial Hall**

Everyone is welcome!
See [page 18](#) for more details.

Mark Your Calendar! (cont.)

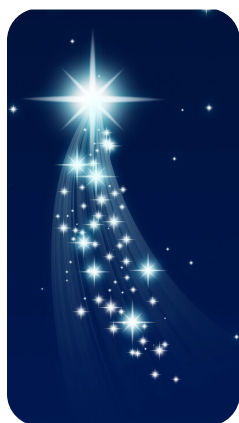
24th Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration: November 20 • Fountain Street Church, Grand Rapids

For more than twenty years, the people of the Grand Rapids community have gathered on the Monday evening before Thanksgiving for a celebration of our many faith traditions. Historic Fountain Street Church will host this year's Interfaith Thanksgiving service which will include participants from Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh, and Bahá'í traditions and others in a genuine celebration of that which binds us.



The 2023 Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service will take place on **Monday, November 20 at 7 p.m.** at Fountain Street Church, 24 Fountain Street NE in Grand Rapids. A livestream of the service will also be available at: www.interfaithunderstanding.org. Be welcome to join us in celebrating our unity in diversity during the week of our national celebration of Thanksgiving!

Advent Midweek Vespers Begin Wednesday, December 6 *Join Us for Supper and Holden Evening Prayer!*



A season of hope and expectation, during Advent we pause in the life of the church to provide a counterweight to the remarkable busyness of the holiday season.

Wednesday Midweek Vespers will be offered on December 6, 13, and 20 at 6:30 p.m. following a simple supper in the Courtyard. Pastor Dan Schewe will provide the homily weekly and will join cantors in leading a liturgy offering the well-loved vespers service of Holden Evening Prayer with support from Dr. Darlene Kuperus at the piano.

Advent suppers will be offered in the Courtyard before each vespers service starting at 5:30 p.m. Trinity will provide the entrée and attendees are asked to provide side dishes and desserts. Look for a SignUpGenius in the weekly eBlasts to register and contact Fellowship & Hospitality Coordinator [Tess Lundgren](#) if you have any questions.

Add a discipline of midweek worship to your journey to Bethlehem in December of 2023!

Save the Date!

Advent by Candlelight • Sunday, December 3 at 6 p.m.
Scandinavian Smörgåsbord • Saturday, December 16 at 5:30 p.m.

Ongoing Biblical Learning Opportunities

Pastor Bob's Adult Forum

Pastor Bob's Wednesday Adult Forum

Last sessions on the "Seven Deadly Sins" in early November

Since late September Pastor Linstrom has led an adult forum and Bible study on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. in Centennial Hall on the "Seven Deadly Sins." Developed by Gregory the Great in the 6th century to encourage people of faith to mark the seven days of the week with disciplines of right living, the seven deadly sins are matched with seven virtues and, in this study inspired by a course taught by Dr. Brad Binau of Trinity Lutheran Seminary, are further matched with key parables from the teaching of Jesus and other biblical sources. Topics for the last two sessions of the series are:

- November 1 **Greed: Possession by Possession** (Luke 12:13-21) and **Gluttony: Raiding the Icebox for a Cure for Spiritual Malnutrition** (Matthew 5:6, 6:25-33)
- November 8 **Lust: The Craving for Salt of a Person Who Is Dying of Thirst** (2 Samuel 11:1-26) and a final reflection on **Ebenezer Scrooge: The Classic Converted Deadly Sinner** (Romans 12:1-5)

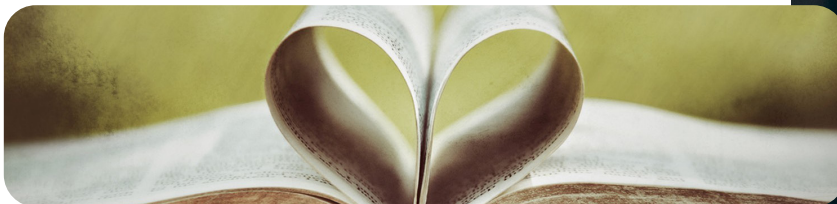
Join us on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. in early November for this discussion of a daily reflection discipline for the seven days of the week. We will meet in Centennial Hall – all are welcome!



Friday Morning Women's Bible Study

This group meets at Trinity the 1st, 3rd, and 4th Friday of every month from 9:30 to 11 a.m. New participants are always welcome!

Sometimes hope becomes so real that it's almost tangible. But at other times – especially when tragedy or hardship intrudes – you wonder whether your hope will fail, leaving you exposed, vulnerable and overwhelmed. In this eight-session LifeGuide® Bible Study, Jack Kuhatschek leads you to explore both sides of hope. You'll confront doubts and fears, and you'll anticipate the great joy that awaits you in Jesus Christ. Contact Kris Fox at jklsafox@comcast.net.



Ongoing Book Clubs

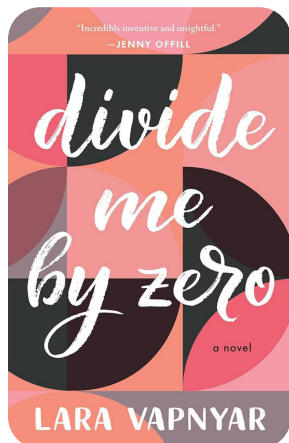
Join a Trinity Book Club!

Tuesday Evening Book Club

Meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at Trinity

The Tuesday night book club invites you to join us for a new year of reading great books and enjoying great conversation. We are open to all ages and genders and always welcome new members!

Check out our picks for the year:



November: *Divide Me By Zero* by Lara Vapnyar

December: *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett

January: *I'll Be Gone in the Dark: One Woman's Obsessive Search for the Golden State Killer* by Michelle McNamara

February: *Hello Beautiful* by Ann Napolitano

March: *Rodham* by Curtis Sittenfeld

April: *The Wide Circumference of Love* by Marita Golden

May: *Yellowface* by R. F. Kuang

Contact Corina Dulecki at cdulecki@gmail.com with questions or for more information.

Friday Morning Women's Book Club

Meets the 2nd Friday of the month at 9:30 a.m.

This book club typically meets through May in a member's home. Contact Carol Hendricks at cahendricks14@gmail.com with questions or for more information.

November 10: *Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann

Host: Pam Sellers

December 8: *West with Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge

Host: Carol Hendricks

Look for the rest of our picks in an upcoming issue of *The Messenger*!



JOIN US

Reinvigorating the Publicly Engaged Church Committee

Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed. –Psalm 82:3

What is advocacy? How can our church be an advocate and defend those in need? How can YOU be an advocate? These are big questions, but the answers do not need to be complex. Advocacy can simply be speaking up when we notice something unfair or unjust being done to one of our neighbors. Advocacy could be expressing support for a policy that protects God's creation, or it could be promoting peace where there is conflict. In his time on earth, Jesus gave us many examples of advocacy as he interacted with and defended people who were discriminated against, forgotten, or oppressed. How can we, the church, do the same in our current society? These questions are some of what the Publicly Engaged Church Committee hopes to explore as it begins to lead this faith community's efforts at advocacy and education around issues of social justice as a congregation within the ELCA. **Our first volunteers have already stepped up and we look forward to gathering a few more individuals who are interested in being a part of this effort in our life together.** If you have interest in living out your faith in a way that brings together our church and our community, please contact Council member liaison, Michelle Feutz, at michellefeutz@gmail.com.



Children's Ministry Team to Hire New Part-Time Leaders

Trinity's ministry with young children is led by a dedicated team of part-time staff who bring their love of faith formation to our youngest families. The Children's Ministry team is seeking to add new staff members in the year ahead. Positions range from 5 to 15 hours weekly in a variety of areas, such as:

- Sunday School
- Vacation Bible School
- Children's Christmas Program
- Fellowship Activities
- Milestone Celebrations & Blessings

The good news is that our existing Children's Ministry staff team is going to remain in place through the spring of 2024. We are seeking to interview prospective staff members this fall, allowing new staff partners to shadow our existing staff leaders in the school year ahead.

Are you interested in a part-time position at Trinity working with our Children's Ministry? Contact [Pastor Bob Linstrom](#) for more information.



Youth Ministry Team Seeking Youth Ministry Coordinator

Trinity Lutheran Church is looking for an individual to work alongside our Associate Pastor as our **Youth Ministry Coordinator**. This position works with our middle and high school youth to help them delve into their faith and find ways to put it into action in their lives. Resumes with cover letters can be sent to dan.schewe@tlcgr.org. The full job description can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/3ru9k6se>.

Music Ministries

CELEBRATION OF MUSIC CONCERT SERIES: UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, December 19, 2023 • 7:30 p.m.

VOXMAS: CHRISTMAS CHOIR MUSIC SUNG BY VOXGR

VoxGR has quickly gained an enormous following as one of Grand Rapid's finest chamber choirs. They are conducted by Dr. Christopher Mason. Enjoy VoxGR in a sparkling concert of Christmas music.

The audience will also have an opportunity to sing Christmas carols with this stellar vocal ensemble, accompanied by the pipe organ in the Sanctuary.

CONCERT SERIES AT TRINITY IS SUPPORTED BY *MANY FAITHFUL* CONGREGATION MEMBERS

At the heart of the Celebration of Music Concert Series are people who appreciate live music and connecting with others during moving concert experiences. The series is built upon generous and faithful donors who support this gift to the church and the wider community. Many people who attend the concerts are first time visitors to Trinity. Please consider giving a gift and becoming a named donor in future concert programs. Donation cards are available in the church or online.

Band Corner

SPOTLIGHT ON TRINITY'S REJOICE MUSIC-MAKERS

Have you wondered about the people who volunteer with the Rejoice Service bands? Do you have a talent you can share with the Rejoice bands? Please contact Rejoice Service Coordinator [Debora DeWitt](#) (517.507.9271) for more information. We'd love to learn more about you. Read on to learn about Tom Shannon, our awesome bass guitar player! Tom's been playing for Rejoice services for a few years and it is important to highlight his contributions because he plays for both bands right now. About Tom:

Do you play or do music anywhere else? I provide music for events with vinyl records from my collection (mostly 45s and some songs from LPs). I have also played guitar since 2000 in a garage band called The Cheeztones. We're on Facebook and YouTube.

Why do you play with us on Sunday mornings? It's a specialized, creative way to give of myself, serve God, and serve the congregation in a volunteer capacity. And it keeps me out of trouble. I enjoy playing an instrument and coming up with new arrangements to suit my tastes. I'm not one to play an instrument at home alone. I prefer to play with an ensemble, so it's a good opportunity to work with a lot of talented people.

Outside of the music we play in church, what other type of music do you like? Rock 'n' roll is my favorite, especially from the 1950s and 60s, rockabilly, R&B, instrumentals, garage, soul, and pop. So many young people tried their hand at releasing 45s in the 1960s that no one can ever master them all. I am always searching for my next new favorite record!



Music Ministries

Trinity Choir Invites Singers for Christmas Eve

Would you like to sing with the Trinity Choir at the 7 p.m. Christmas Eve service?

Our rehearsal on Thursday, December 21 will be dedicated to preparing music for Christmas Eve. We will begin at 7:15 p.m. in the music room and would love to have you join us! If you have any questions, please contact Trinity Choir director [Sid Hoeksema](#).



Health Ministries

Fitness Happenings in November



Tuesdays at 10:15 a.m. – Tai Chi for Arthritis

Wednesdays at 9 a.m. – Power Bend & Stretch

Thursdays at 10:15 a.m. – Tai Chi for Arthritis (No class 11/23)

Trinity member Debra Freeberg leads the **Power Bend & Stretch** class. This class is geared to anyone who wants to strengthen their core and increase flexibility.

Tai Chi is brought to you in partnership with [Senior Neighbors](#) through the Engaging Wellness program. This class focuses on slow and methodical movements to improve flexibility, balance, and overall health.

Suggested donation is \$3/class. Contact [Kristin Bradley](#) with any questions or suggestions.

Care & Share

Are you a primary support partner for an adult child, spouse, sibling, or parent? Do you work in social services, nursing, medicine, ministry, psychology, education or have anything to do with caring for others? This series may be for you.

This fall, our caregiver support group is delving into Henri Nowen's writings related to 'Courage for Caregivers'. While this is a 4-part series, each session can stand alone. We explored the *Challenges of Caregiving* in October; the November session relates to *Seeing and Celebrating the Gifts of Caregiving*. **We meet Tuesday, November 14 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Youth Room.**

Study guides will be available. Questions? Contact Faith Community Nurse [Kristin Bradley](#).



December Blood Drive

We have risen to meet the needs of our community and plan to keep meeting and exceeding our goals. This holiday season many people will need life-saving transfusions; others will need donated blood of all types as they continue to fight disease, undergo surgery, or recover from trauma.

One donation can help save the lives of up to three people!

Versiti Blood will be onsite Monday, December 4 from 12:30 to 6 p.m.

Appointments are highly recommended. **Contact [Kristin Bradley](#) to secure your spot or register here: <https://tinyurl.com/muwd5er9>.** Plan your giving today!

Not able to donate? Check the SignUpGenius for other ways you can help: <https://tinyurl.com/5h9v6bz7>



Health Ministries (cont.)

Nurse's Notes

It's that time again . . . the time of year where we are already knee deep in illnesses and have to take a step back and remember how to prevent sharing our germs with others. We are all rejoicing that we have returned to a pre-pandemic state of being! Gathering together, singing in worship, potlucks, hayrides, retreats, and fundraising events are all underway. Praise GOD!

For most of us, these activities bring a marginal risk of getting a 'bug' that is going around. For others, it's a major health crisis to get RSV, COVID-19, strep throat, influenza, colds, or a GI illness. These prevention and mitigation strategies are tried and true and good to remember:

- Wash your hands with soap and water – often! The Lord's Prayer is the perfect length for washing!
- Stay home if you are feeling sick.
- Cover your coughs/sneezes – masks work well.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Practice healthy habits: Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, hydrate, eat nutritious food, and get appropriate vaccinations.

Please know that high touch surfaces at Trinity continue to be cleaned regularly and hand sanitizer and masks are available throughout the building. Thank you for helping to keep our community as healthy as possible during this cold and flu season.

With care and kindness,

Kristin Bradley, Faith Community Nurse

Do to others as you would have them do to you. –Luke 6:31



Stephen Ministry

Substance Use Services at Pine Rest

Sunday, November 12

12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

Centennial Hall

David N. Filkins, LMSW CAADC CCS-DP

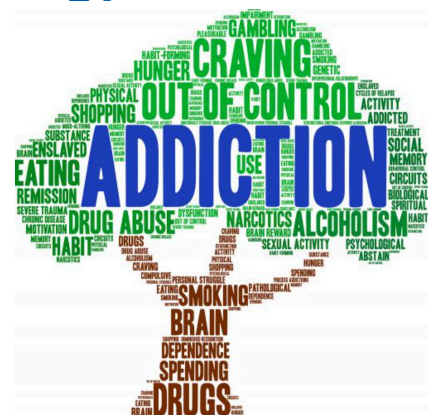
Join us as David Filkins speaks on substance abuse and the treatment services offered at Pine Rest. David is Clinical Services Manager of Patient Access for Pine Rest Hospital and Residential Services.

He will explain the services Pine Rest offers for treating substance abuse, including "co-occurring" treatment in which both psychiatric and substance use treatment are needed concurrently. We will learn the assessment criteria for a substance abuse disorder diagnosis and how it is different from simply using a mood-altering substance. The presentation will last about 30 minutes and will be followed with time for questions.

Trinity's Stephen Ministry is hosting this speaker as part of continuing education. Cider and donuts will be served.



Join Us!



Middle School Youth News

Confirmation Schedule:

November 5 – Youth Group, 2 p.m. / Confirmation Class, 3 p.m.

November 12 – Charge Youth Conference Weekend, 4 p.m.

November 19 – Confirmation Class, 3 p.m. / Craig's Cruisers, 5 to 7 p.m.

November 26 through December 31 – Thanksgiving & Christmas break

January 7 – Youth Group, 2 p.m. / Confirmation Class, 3 p.m.

Stay connected with our middle school ministries via Remind!
Text @a4ha6a to the number 81010.



High School Youth News

HS Youth Group – Sunday Nights, 6:30 to 8 p.m.

All high schoolers and their friends are invited to join us for youth group Sunday nights in the Youth Room. Come for some fun and conversation around how God is leading us in our lives. **On November 5**, we will be working on several service projects around Trinity. Youth group on **November 19** is at Craig's Cruisers starting at 5 p.m. There will be no youth group on November 12 or 26 due to Charge and then Thanksgiving with your family.

HS Bible Study with Pastor Dan – November 5 at 9:15 a.m. All high schoolers and their friends are invited to join Pastor Dan in the Youth Room for Bible study. Come for donuts, juice, and conversation. See you there!

Plan for This Summer! There are three great events to plug into! Please put these dates on your calendars now and contact [Pastor Dan](#) with any questions.

Mission Trip to Lincoln, Illinois: June 15 to 22

ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans: July 15 to 20

Stony Lake Camp: July 22 to 27

Stay connected with High School Ministries via Remind! For information on our summer trips text @k8dk9d7 to 81010. For general High School Ministry information text @42gefgh to 81010.



Christmas wreaths will be delivered to Trinity in **mid-November** and will be available for pickup during weekday office hours from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and on Sundays from 7:45 a.m. to noon. Cash or check payment is due when you pick up the wreath(s) you ordered. Please make checks payable to Trinity Lutheran Church and put *wreaths* in the memo line. Thank you for helping our youth experience God in transformational ways!

Middle & High School Youth Upcoming Events & News



CHARGE!

November 10 to 12

Great Wolf Lodge, Traverse City

High schoolers, middle schoolers, and their friends are invited to join us for Charge! This is an awesome conference at the Great Wolf Lodge in Traverse City November 10 to 12, 2023. It is an impactful weekend put on by our

friends at Living Water Ministries. The event focuses on helping young people in their journeys of faith and building friendships. It is a lot like camp, but at a resort over a weekend. There are a few spots left in our rooms and we hope you can join us! The cost for **Charge** is \$150 (or 5 fund raising credits). This includes event registration, housing, and food. Pastor Dan needs a \$50 deposit ASAP to get you registered. Questions? Please reach out to [Pastor Dan](#).

Craig's Cruisers Outing

Trinity youth, family, & friends!

Sunday, November 19 • 5 to 7 p.m. • \$20/person

Includes the buffet, \$5 in game credits, and 3 attraction tickets. RSVP to [Pastor Dan](#) today!

Christmas Cookie Decoration & Delivery: Saturday, December 2 from 2 to 6 p.m.

All middle school and high school families (and their friends) are invited to help us spread some Christmas cheer on Saturday, December 2.

We will meet in the youth rooms at 2 p.m. to decorate Christmas cookies.

We will then split into groups and deliver them to members of our community! Come help us brighten someone's Christmas season. Contact [Pastor Dan](#) if you would like to participate.



Mitten Synod ELCA Youth Gathering Scholarship Fund

The ELCA Youth Gathering is an amazing experience of Christian community in the lives of all those who attend. Unfortunately, the cost of the event can limit/prohibit the ability for families and congregations to participate. To help with this financial burden, our synod has created the ELCA Youth Gathering Fund. The goal of this fund is to distribute 100 \$250 scholarships this Gathering cycle, and grow during non-Gathering years to further help families and congregations. As the fund grows the hope is to be able to cover the registration cost for the event and beyond for all participants from our synod.

When our youth heard about this fund, they decided to give \$5,000 of their fundraising dollars to it. If you would like to give a gift as well you can send a check to the synod office with *ELCA Youth Gathering Fund* in the memo line or donate via Tithe.ly at <https://www.mittensynod.org/donate/> (select NWLMI Synod ELCA Gathering Fund from the pull down menu). We are already \$11,000 into our \$25,000 goal! We hope many will join us in being the church together and providing for the youth of our synod.

Children's Christmas Program

Children will present the story of Jesus' birth on December 10 in the sanctuary at the 10:45 a.m. worship service. All Trinity children ages 3 years through 5th grade are invited to participate in this cherished tradition. After the program, all are invited to a Christmas cookie reception in the Courtyard!

Children will wear costumes and sing Christmas songs. Interested 4th and 5th graders will have speaking parts from the gospels of Matthew and Luke. Practices take place during Sunday School all month long during the 9:15 a.m. service. Dress rehearsal is Saturday, December 9 from 10 a.m. to noon. Those children unable to attend practice during Sunday School can still be part of the program. For more details, visit <https://tinyurl.com/5fpbkwd3> or contact Director of Family Ministry Rachele Battreall.



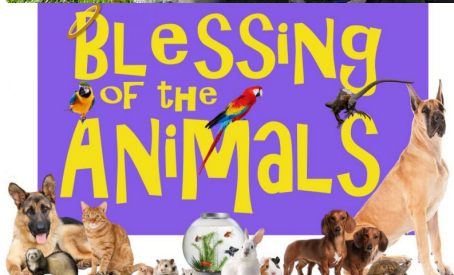
News Briefs

October was filled with many special events and opportunities, including several Young Children's Communion Classes offered by Pastor Bob and Trinity's last outdoor service of the year, which also featured the Annual Blessing of the Animals.

Below: After learning about Holy Communion, children bake Communion bread in the church kitchen with Rebecca Linstrom. Following page: Congregants showed up with many different animals for the Annual Blessing of the Animals on October 8.



News Briefs (cont.)



Endowment Fund Committee Recommends \$45,000 in Distributions

Trinity's Endowment Fund Committee met for its quarterly meeting on October 5 and recommended to the Congregation Council distributions of \$27,000 from the Mission Endowment Fund and \$18,000 from the Building Endowment Fund. At its October 9 meeting, the Council accepted those distributions with plans to allocate those funds in November of 2023.

Mission Endowment Fund distributions are used exclusively for ministries beyond our doors, supporting a wide range of local and international efforts to touch those with the greatest needs in society. Building Endowment Fund distributions are used for special projects to provide for the upkeep and maintenance of our church facilities.

Endowment Fund distributions are calculated by reviewing the average balance of the funds over the last 20 quarters and recommending up to a 4% distribution based on those averages. As the overall Endowment Fund balances have grown to more than \$1.4 million in 2023, the growth of those annual distributions makes a larger impact each year in our life together as the people of Trinity.

Be welcome to consider special giving to support our two Endowment Funds, Trinity's "forever gifts" that will continue to support our outreach and ministry in the generations to come.

Update on the Senior Pastor Transition

Thank you to all of those who participated in the congregational listening sessions on September 24 and October 15, and to those who completed the congregational survey. The Congregation Council will use your feedback as we complete our Ministry Site Profile. The Council has also selected a Call Committee who will interview pastoral candidates and select a candidate to be presented to and approved by the congregation for a call. The members of this committee are: Tim Lundgren and Amy Stephan (co-chairs), Elizabeth Derbin, Steve Feutz, Kris Fox, Ted Frecka, David Marquardt, Tyler Mason, Matt Mead, Karen Niemeyer, Maddie Scurfield, and Karen Unruh.

Thanks!

A special "thank you" to Pastor Bob and our Trinity family for your prayers, cards, and well wishes during my recent back surgery.

God's Peace,
Gordy Engstrom

Medicare and Medicaid Open Enrollment Assistance Sign Up NOW!



Trinity member Jo Murphy, Executive Director of Michigan Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program, is once again providing assistance to older Trinity members. She will be available to assist both with Medicare benefits and with selection of a 2024 Prescription Drug Program. To sign up for a session in November or December, register at <https://tinyurl.com/mwnkyja2> or contact Helping Hands Coordinator Jeanne Becker.

News Briefs (cont.)

Race and Restitution Reading Group Update

A group of us have spent the past year reading and discussing the topic of race and restitution in the United States. We began our journey by reading the autobiography of Frederick Douglass, *My Bondage and My Freedom*. We moved on to *Caste*, by Isabel Wilkerson, *White Fragility* by Robin Diangelo, *How to Be an Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi, and finally Clint Smith's *How the Word Is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America*. In the midst of this reading and discussion we had a meeting with Kathy Noble's daughter in order to learn more about how to intervene when encountering racist comments and attitudes.



The following are individual responses to this journey:

Kathy Noble: I have come to understand the privileges I enjoy just on the basis of being white. From the reading and discussion, I realize my obligation to contribute in some way to reparations for black and brown people. Yes, I never was a slave owner so there is no guilt there; only the knowledge that I have responsibility to support reparations and to contribute to discussions of them. My other big takeaway was in how to have difficult conversations with people close to me (and those not) about racist remarks or comments. I feel more emboldened to be clear and vocal about racism and will continue to practice this when situations arise.

Cyndi Len: Each of us in this group came from different backgrounds, geographically, in what we were exposed to in terms of diversity, and in how we were raised. Our work experiences are also quite different. We brought all of these impressions to our reading and discussions. Though *White Fragility* may have seemed controversial with a white author on black issues, I found it served as a bridge for a white person to read without feeling as threatened. I felt an understanding that was easy to relate to from my perspective as a white woman. The book *Caste* by Wilkerson was incredibly enlightening. I think we all understand and reject the Indian caste systems but by equating this with our own caste system in America I think it clarifies systemic racism more honestly. It was very well researched. To find that America's deeply ingrained and government sanctioned caste system (Jim Crow, education, segregation) was a model for the Nazi party was both appalling and disturbing. *How The Word Is Passed* is a book filled with some of the most beautiful prose and horrifying images I have read. Because of this dichotomy it made a huge, permanent impression on me. I can never walk through Central Park again without pausing to reflect on our history, and grieve over it, renewing my commitment to work towards equality in voting rights, and true equality in access to housing and education. It was important in breaking my own prejudices about the South.

Jan Curry: I found several areas where my understanding of the history of race in the United States was expanded, including how the Nazis used the U.S. as a model for their policies as discussed in the book *Caste*, and a greater awareness of the role of slavery in the North in *How the Word is Passed*. I am exploring ways to transform the organization I work for, and identifying ways I can contribute resources to overcome the deficit in intergenerational wealth transfer among African-Americans.

Vince Schumacher: If anyone is inclined to doubt the extent of institutionalized invidious and vicious racism in recent U S history, that person should read the story of the Scottsboro Boys. Wikipedia is as good a source as any: <https://tinyurl.com/yhu2z6rr>. And anyone who doubts that our country can find the strength to overcome its history should carefully consider the courageous and ingenious defense mounted for the Scottsboro Boys in Decatur by Samuel Leibowitz as well as the fact that the appeals to the U.S. Supreme Court resulted in two landmark opinions establishing fair jury selection as a constitutional right. We are stronger as a country for having experienced (vicariously) the ordeal of the Scottsboro Boys.

Women's Retreat Recap

Over 40 women gathered on October 7 to learn more about the JUST LOVE that is found in Christ. We studied, sang, ate, connected, and reflected together. We also put love into action and packed 100 bags of spicy black bean soup mix that were shared with food insecure families through [Heartside Gleaning](#) on October 25.

Love, Love, Love . . . That's What it's All About!



Opportunities to Support Church & Community

Thank You!

- Thank you for helping to keep our neighbors in need warm with your generous donations of coats and blankets! Your gifts were greatly appreciated.
- Many thanks to those who made donations for the purchase of basketballs and to those who participated in pumping up the balls on "God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday! We distributed 130 basketballs to Kent County Juvenile Detention Center, Boys & Girls Club of Grand Rapids, and the Grand Rapids Police Department in support of high-risk kids in Grand Rapids. All three departments were beyond grateful for this gift.



College Care Packages

Are you a college student or do you have a child or grandchild that is currently in college or trade school? We'd love your permission to send some goodies their way as a reminder of love and support from our congregation.

Please use this link to provide contact information: <https://tinyurl.com/ph4nw25m>. Be sure to indicate any food allergies.

Donations Needed for College Care Packages!

Of course, we're also accepting donations of items to include in these mailings and care packages. Check out the list here:

<https://tinyurl.com/y2az9u9j>

Items can be brought to church from October 29 to November 3.

Please contact Jamie Kuntzman with any questions at jamkuntzman@gmail.com or 616.485.5763.



Volunteer at In The Image!

November's volunteering dates are:

Monday, November 6, 1 p.m.

Thursday, November 16, 1 p.m.

In The Image is located at 4255 Kalamazoo Ave. SE in Grand Rapids.

Can you help?



Opportunities to Support Church & Community

ELCA Good Gifts

Finding meaningful gifts for loved ones at Christmastime can sometimes be a challenge, especially for those people who seem to have everything imaginable. Have you ever thought about purchasing a "good gift?"

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has a multitude of life-giving items that you may buy in someone's name that are actually delivered to someone in need around the world.

Go to [ELCA.org/goodgifts](https://elca.org/goodgifts) to view the Good Gifts catalog.



IHN at Trinity: December 10 to 17

IHN is fast approaching and will be here at Trinity December 10 to 17, 2023! **Please prayerfully consider being part of this important ministry.**

You and your family can be part of helping families feel Trinity's Christian love during this week by making a meal, picking up groceries, setting up bedrooms, being a host, staying overnight, playing with children, and much more!

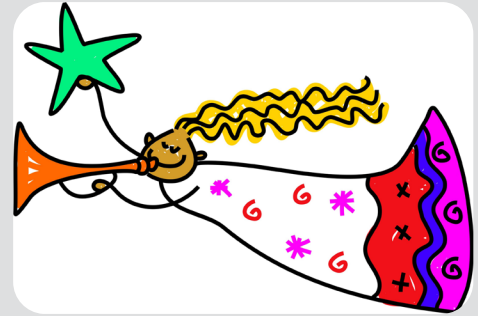
To sign up to donate groceries visit:
<https://tinyurl.com/nxpetcuc>

To sign up to volunteer onsite visit:
<https://tinyurl.com/2p98a9mc>

You can also sign up through Friday's eBlast or contact IHN Coordinator Kathy Bush. Thank you!

Be a Child's Christmas Angel!

We are once again partnering with Samaritas to bring Christmas to 100 kids in the Samaritas Affordable Living Community located in Adrian, Michigan. The kids are busy dreaming and making wish lists



for us. **Those lists will be available at Trinity on November 5.** We will have a table set up in the Narthex after the 8 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. services and in the Courtyard after the 9:15 a.m. service.

Just like last year, you can choose a girl or boy and pick the age you'd like to shop for. We get wish lists from infants to 17 years old. There will be individuals as well as siblings so you can choose if you'd like to buy for a family group or for an individual child. The wish lists are suggestions to give you an idea of what the child is interested in and would like.

Please drop off UNWRAPPED, NEW presents in a Christmas bag by Sunday, December 10.

Last year we found that we needed to rent a truck to transport all of the presents. This year Penske Rental has graciously donated a truck for our use and all we need to pay for is gasoline. We do need a driver, so if anyone is interested in driving a ton of presents to Adrian, Michigan, please contact [Tess Lundgren](#) for details.

Christmas Stores at Dégagé & Heartside

Through your donations, people are able to purchase gifts for loved ones at a reduced cost, allowing them to maintain their dignity and self-worth. You can purchase items for these organizations by viewing their Amazon wish lists here: <https://tinyurl.com/2p9a992n>

Please place your orders by November 30 in order to ensure a timely delivery.



Opportunities to Support Church & Community (cont.)



Christmas Store

Family Promise of West Michigan is hosting their 12th Annual Christmas Store on **Friday, December 8th** at Cornerstone Church Heritage Hill Campus.

Inviting families to shop at a store allows parents to pick out their own gifts for their kids, be the hero in their children's lives, and have pride and dignity about the fact that they purchased gifts for their kids on their own.

"I can't believe all I am leaving here with. You are all such a blessing to us."

How you can help:

Items for all age ranges are needed including:

- Household Goods: pots/pans, dishes, toasters, coffee makers, microwaves, vacuum cleaners, dish towels etc.
- Stockings & Stocking Stuffers: play dough, pencils, small stuffed animals, coloring books, nail polish, hair ties, craft kits, cards, hairbrush, candy, action figure, yoyo, hacky sack etc.
- Gifts for Parents/Teens: candles, headphones, matching pajama sets, body lotion, basketballs, soccer balls etc.
- Wrapping Supplies: we send families home with their own paper and tape so they can wrap at home!

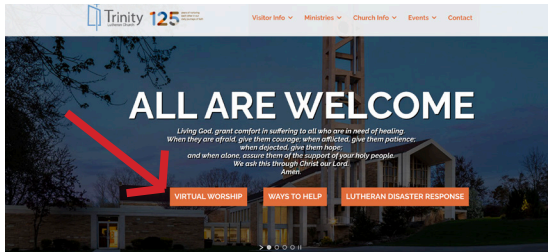
*All donations will need to be dropped off at Cornerstone Church Heritage Hill campus on Thursday, December 7th between 4pm-8pm!

For more information on donating, please contact Rachel Kowalk at (616) 608-8917, or rachelk@familypromisegr.org

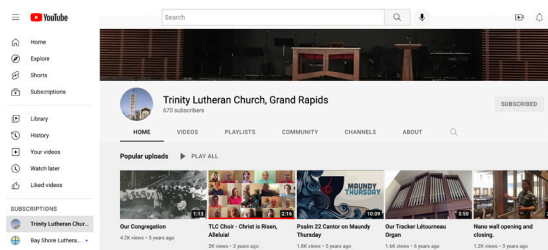
Trinity is Livestreaming Services!

We are streaming our **9:15 and 10:45 a.m.** Sunday services on YouTube. The 10:45 a.m. service is streamed for **indoor** services only. To find virtual services:

(1) Go to the Trinity website (www.tlcgr.org) and click on **Virtual Worship**.

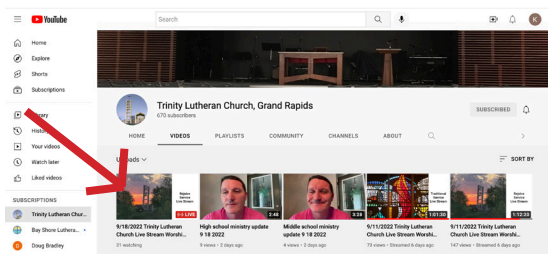


(2) Clicking the Virtual Worship button will take you to our YouTube page:



(3) If the service is currently streaming live (from about 9:10 to 10:20 a.m. and 10:40 to 11:50 a.m. on Sunday mornings), **you will see a video with a red box with the word "LIVE" in it. Click on that video.**

Note: If you go to YouTube early, you may have to wait a few minutes or refresh the page to get this "LIVE" option.



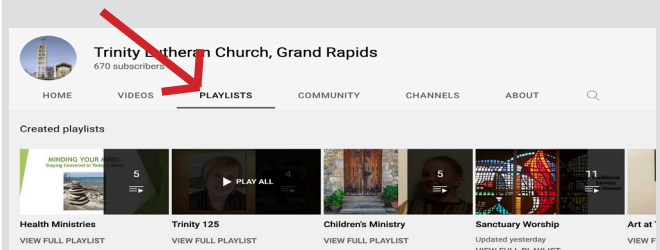
You can also go directly to www.youtube.com and search **Trinity Lutheran Church Grand Rapids** to find our YouTube page.

***If you click the **subscribe button** on Trinity's YouTube page, videos should automatically show up on your feed.



Miss a Livestreamed Service?

We record our services, so you can always watch a past service. These are referred to as **"Rejoice Worship"**, and **"Sanctuary Worship"**. (On Sundays, it may be a few hours before videos are available.) These are available under the **PLAYLISTS** tab on our YouTube page.



We are on GRTV!

Our Sunday services are being broadcast on GRTV channel 25! Our services air on Sundays from 11 a.m. to noon. The broadcast is a week behind, so this Sunday's service will air next week. Find us wherever you find GRTV!

Please Note:

If live services are unavailable due to internet issues at Trinity, please check YouTube later in the day to watch a recorded version of that day's service. Most Sundays, services will be available by 2 p.m.

November Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations

November 1

Michael Bishop
Sarah Budzyn
Ann Croly
Kyle Flack
Mark Hagbom
Amelia Haywood
Lisa & Matt Mead

November 2

Colin Beckett
Annika Bekker
Travis Fredericks
Lyndon Turnage

November 3

JD Bacon
Beth Engstrom
Stacey Hale
Monique Kalonji
Zachary Lynn

November 4

Ken Block
Don Brouse

November 5

Kent Bollinger
Lois Ege
Ted Frecka
Peter McKinney
Hailey Pfeiffle

November 6

Leah Bryce
Sarah Legault
Judith Mallen
Frank Rothfuss
Beth Van Meter
Lisa & David Greiner

November 7

Theodore Garvey
Beth Hall
Rick Wolner
Leslie & Gregg Gallagher

November 8

Jill McKinney
Iris Peterman
Mary & Jack Frick
Stephanie & Andy McLeod

November 9

Lisa Barkema
Grace Cairns
Sherri Ide
John Taylor II
Kim & James Bradbury
Brenda & Jim Donahue
Ann & Perry Gooch
Malorie & Jeff Packard
Kaori & Tim Schau

November 10

Paul Crist
Chuck Schadler
Nick Wollen
Julie & Sam McLeod
Dawn & Bill Thorsen

November 11

Hunter Allchin
Parker Allchin
Jeffrey Grooters
Barb Hansen
Kim Horn
Wendy Johnson
Gary Kuhlmann
Kristin Linkfield
Chase Palaszek
Jana Siminski
Nan Treul
Gale Volkerding

November 12

Steve Lewkowski
JJ Lorenz
Jordan Spoelhof
Maddie & Dan Krueger

November 13

Pat Bruin
Elisabeth Degener
Laura Fawcett
Vivian Glenn
Joan Lohr
Allison Palm
Kari & John Ruble

November 14

Dolly Lowe
Wendy Mielock
Canaan Smith
Dawn Thorsen
Harlow Ulmer

November 15

Holly Mester
Michael Morin
Dani Ryan

November 16

Hank Eimers
Diane Field
Dan Meeuwsen
Henry Worsfold

November 17

Esperance Kalonji
Hanna Reiersen
Andrea Severns
Amy & Steve Stephan

November 18

Amelia Crist
Kim Hysell
Tyler Quinn
Cheryl & Bill Ahrens

November 19

Daniel Ahrens
Carrie Lamb
Sheryl & Mike VanderBaan

November 20

Naomi Engblade
Evan Hart
Laura Krug
Sally Mahoney
Marty Packard
Amy Vander Woude

November 21

John Glass
Dan Krueger
Steve Potter
Marie Selleck
Courtney Steketee
Linus Stevenson

November 22

Jules Brubaker
Carolyn Johnson
Brayden Kimble

November 23

Stacey Curtiss
Katie Nikolajuk
Glenn Swanson
Donna Erickson & Galen Knutson

November 24

Tori Harris
Beth Humphreys
Wayne Snyder

November 25

Becky Bacon
Deb DeWitt
Griffin Gooch
Jill Hahn

November 26

Erin Breaugh
Will Hatkowski
Steve Heacock
Steve Korb
Tom Zollman
Jodi & Mike Nikolajuk
Susan & Mark Youngren

November 27

Ruth Behn
Elizabeth Coles
Blake Garvey
Sarah Hirt
Kent Linkfield
John McIntyre
Brittney Mencarelli
Dakota Morin
James Morin

November 28

Andy Engle
Joyce Fick
Bob Pfau
Missi & John Glass

November 29

Charles Cairns
Christine Malvitz
Jan & Norm Palm

November 30

Amia Bidle
Holden Fischer
Ashton Griewahn
Dave Gutierrez
Jill Hagenbush
Kevin Schaefer
Nanci & Bob Guigue

*If you have a special
milestone birthday or
anniversary, please
contact the main
office at Trinity to let
us know!*

Christmas Poinsettias: Order Yours Today!

Poinsettia Contribution Form

Poinsettias help create a beautiful worship setting during the Christmas season! Please use this form to make a poinsettia plant gift in honor or in memory of a loved one. **Forms are due by Friday, December 8.** Place the form in the offering plate/basket, drop it off in the church office, or mail to: Trinity Lutheran Church, 2700 Fulton St. E, Grand Rapids 49506. *Poinsettias can be picked up after Christmas Day services through Sunday, January 7. If not picked up by the 7th they will be discarded.*

First Name

Last Name

Address

City, State, ZIP

Home Phone

Cell Phone

Email

_____ 6" single red plant (\$10 ea.) \$_____

_____ 8" double red plant (\$18 ea.) \$_____

_____ 10" triple red plant (\$25 ea.) \$_____ **TOTAL DUE: \$_____**

My contribution is given by (list how you would like your name to appear in the bulletin):

☐

In honor of: _____

☐

In memory of: _____

Please make checks payable to Trinity Lutheran Church and write *Poinsettia* in the memo line.



Trinity Members Enjoy Poinsettias

If you would be willing to deliver poinsettias to the homebound, please contact Jeanne Becker at 616.949.2510 ext. 129 to be set up with a homebound member. You may also sign up through the link in the Friday eBlasts. Plants will be ready for delivery in early December.

Poinsettias Get Thirsty Too!

Keeping our delicate Christmas poinsettias beautiful is a simple but very important task! We are seeking helpers to come in once or twice in mid-December to check and water the poinsettias throughout the church. With a little TLC our poinsettias will look beautiful on Christmas Eve and Christmas day. If interested, please contact Jeanne Becker at 616.949.2510 ext. 129.

Trinity's Inclement Weather Policy

When the Forest Hills Public Schools close during the day, all Trinity daytime activities are canceled and the church offices are closed.

When Forest Hills Schools announce a two-hour morning delay, morning programming at Trinity will be canceled. After 3 p.m. and on weekends, check WOOD TV8, WZZM TV13, or FOX17 about the status of our evening or weekend activities. Please be as certain as possible that it will be safe for you to be out on the road. We will miss you if you are unable to join us for worship or a church event, but we count on you to use your best judgment when it comes to your personal safety this winter!



2700 Fulton Street East
Grand Rapids, MI 49506
616.949.2510 tlcgr.org



Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. (M-F)



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

Mission: *Trinity Lutheran Church is a dynamic family called by God to nurture each other in our daily journeys of faith and to joyfully increase our response to all people in need, sharing God's gifts of love and grace.*

Staff

Direct Dial:
616.949.2510

(then dial extension #)



Contact Trinity



Instagram: [tlc.gr](https://www.instagram.com/tlc.gr)
[facebook.com/tlcgr](https://www.facebook.com/tlcgr)



[YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

Search: Trinity Lutheran
Church, Grand Rapids

Rev. Robert Linstrom, Senior Pastor (ext.115)
robert.linstrom@tlcgr.org

Rev. Dan Schewe, Associate Pastor (ext.124)
dan.schewe@tlcgr.org

Rev. Kari Fast, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care
(ext.112), kari.fast@tlcgr.org

Brooks Alder, Sound Board Operator, 616.949.2510
Kris Baker, Office Coordinator (ext.110)

kris.baker@tlcgr.org

Rachele Battreall, Director of Family Ministry
rachele.battreall@tlcgr.org

Jeanne Becker, Helping Hands Coordinator and
Co-Wedding Coordinator
(ext. 129), jeanne.becker@tlcgr.org

Kristin Bradley, Faith Community Nurse (ext.119)
kristin.bradley@tlcgr.org

Kathy Bush, IHN Coordinator
616.485.0031, kathy.bush@tlcgr.org

Dr. Debora DeWitt, Rejoice Music Coordinator/
Accompanist, 616.949.2510
deb.dewitt@tlcgr.org

Awilda Diaz, Nursery Coordinator
616.427.2261, awilda.diaz@tlcgr.org

Grace Gohl, Sexton (ext.117), grace.gohl@tlcgr.org

Sidney Hoeksema, Trinity Choir Director (ext.118)
616.540.7190, sidney.hoeksema@tlcgr.org

Dr. Darlene Kuperus, Director of Music & Organist
(ext. 118), darlene.kuperus@tlcgr.org

Carrie Lamb, Communications Coordinator
(ext.121), carrie.lamb@tlcgr.org

Tess Lundgren, Fellowship & Hospitality Coordinator
(ext.121), tess.lundgren@tlcgr.org

Sheri Mason, Sunday School Coordinator
kids@tlcgr.org

Peter McKinney, IT Coordinator (ext.200)
peter.mckinney@tlcgr.org

James Morin, Family Activity Coordinator
james.morin@tlcgr.org

Laura Norton, Discipleship & Outreach Coordinator and
Co-Wedding Coordinator (ext. 128)

laura.norton@tlcgr.org

Andrea Severns, Sunday School Coordinator
kids@tlcgr.org

Amy Stephan, Interim Sunday School Coordinator
kids@tlcgr.org

Joanna Waite, Finance Administrator (ext. 111)
joanna.waite@tlcgr.org