



The Messenger

Annual Meeting of the Congregation: Sunday, January 21, 2024

Each year on the third Sunday of January the people of Trinity Lutheran Church gather to share an All-Congregation Potluck Luncheon and the Annual Meeting of the Congregation. The work of the Annual Meeting includes the reception of reports from all the congregation's ministries, the election of Council members, Synod Assembly representatives and Nominating Committee members, and the adoption of an

operating budget for the new fiscal year which begins on February 1. Participation in this important meeting is the responsibility of all the voting members of Trinity.



Hard copies of the 2023 Annual Report of the Congregation will be available at the church beginning Sunday, January 14. PDF copies will also be linked to eBlasts in early January 2024.

Mark your calendar and plan now to be with us for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation on January 21, beginning with our potluck luncheon at noon. Look for a link in the weekly eBlast to sign up to bring a dish to share or to assist during the luncheon/meeting.



KCAH Coming to Trinity January 28, 2024

We are so excited that our annual meal-packing event with the Kids Coalition Against Hunger (KCAH) will return the last Sunday in January. With your help, we hope to package and pay for 40,000 meals. Each of those meals can feed a family of 6, at a cost of 35 cents per meal. **To reach our goal, we need to raise a total of \$14,000!**

In addition to your financial support, we also need volunteers to help us set up for the event and to pack the actual meals. **Set-up begins at 8 a.m. and meal packing starts at 10:15 a.m.** The whole family is welcome and refreshments will be provided. Thank you for your support and we look forward to seeing you on the 28th!

Upcoming Fellowship Events

January 13
Men's Breakfast & Fellowship [PAGE 8](#)

January 13
Bunco Game Night & Potluck [PAGE 8](#)

January 28
Celebration of Music Concert [PAGE 12](#)

January 31
Food for Thought: Intuitive Eating [PAGE 21](#)

What's Happening at Trinity in January?

Weekly at a Glance

Sundays

Traditional Worship, 8 a.m.
Rejoice Worship, 9:15 a.m.
Livestreaming of Worship, 9:15 a.m.
Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.
Traditional Worship, 10:45 a.m.
Livestreaming of Worship, 10:45 a.m.

Mondays

Stroller Barre, 9 a.m.

Tuesdays

TLC Quilters*
Fit4Baby, 7 p.m.

Thursdays

Choosing Peace & Serenity AFG, 7 p.m.

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

Daily Calendar

Tuesday, January 2

LWR Quilters, 9:30 a.m.
Executive Comm Mtg, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, January 3

Outreach Comm Mtg, noon
Odyssey of the Mind, 6 p.m.

Thursday, January 4

Endowment Fund Comm Mtg, 6 p.m.

Sunday, January 7

High School Bible Study, 9:15 a.m.
MS Youth Group, 2 p.m.
MS Confirmation Class, 3 p.m.
HS Youth Group, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, January 8

The Messenger Deadline
In The Image Volunteering, 1 p.m.
Stephen Leaders Mtg, 1:30 p.m.
Safety Comm Mtg, 5:30 p.m.
Schubert Male Chorus Bd Mtg, 5:30 p.m.
Property Comm Mtg, 6 p.m.
Rejoice Band Rehearsal, 6 p.m.
Congregation Council Mtg, 6:30 p.m.
Oasis Board Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, January 9

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

Wednesday, January 10

Power Bend & Stretch Fitness, 10 a.m.
Odyssey of the Mind, 6 p.m.

Thursday, January 11

Resound Bell Rehearsal, 6 p.m.
Trinity Choir Rehearsal, 7:15 p.m.

Friday, January 12

Women's Book Club, 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, January 13

Men's Breakfast, 8 a.m.
Liturgical Drama Workshop, 11 a.m.
Bunco Game Night & Potluck, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 14

SM Continuing Ed, 12:30 p.m.
SM Peer Supt Grp 1, 1:30 p.m.
SM Peer Supt Grp 2, 1:30 p.m.
MS Youth Group, 2 p.m.
MS Confirmation Class, 3 p.m.
HS Youth Group, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, January 15

Beyond Belief Band Rehearsal, 6 p.m.
Health Ministries Comm Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, January 16

LWR Quilters, 9:30 a.m.
Women's Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.
Book Club, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, January 17

Power Bend & Stretch Fitness, 10 a.m.
Odyssey of the Mind, 6 p.m.

Thursday, January 18

Heart-to-Heart Conversations, 10:15 a.m.
In The Image Volunteering, 1 p.m.
Bridge, 1 p.m.
Resound Bell Rehearsal, 6 p.m.
Trinity Choir Rehearsal, 7:15 p.m.

Saturday, January 20

DeColores, 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, January 21

All-Congregation Potluck & Annual Mtg, noon
MS & HS Tubing at Cannonsburg, 3 p.m.

Monday, January 22

Adult Ed Forum with Pr. Dennis, 10:30 a.m.
Rejoice Band Rehearsal, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, January 23

Council on Aging, 8 a.m.
Women's Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.
Care & Share, 10:30 a.m.
LWR Quilters, 10:30 a.m.
Odyssey of the Mind, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, January 24

Power Bend & Stretch Fitness, 10 a.m.

Thursday, January 25

Resound Bell Rehearsal, 6 p.m.
Trinity Choir Rehearsal, 7:15 p.m.

Saturday, January 27

COM Rehearsal, 10 a.m.

Sunday, January 28

KCAH Food Packing Day
KCAH Brunch, 10:15 p.m.
Celebration of Music Concert, 3 p.m.

Monday, January 29

Adult Ed Forum with Pr. Dennis, 10:30 a.m.
Beyond Belief Rehearsal, 6 p.m.
Schubert Male Chorus Rehearsal, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, January 30

Women's Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.
SM Continuing Ed, 6:30 p.m.
SM Peer Supt Grp 1, 7:30 p.m.
SM Peer Supt Grp 2, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, January 31

Power Bend & Stretch Fitness, 10 a.m.
Food for Thought, 5:30 p.m.
Odyssey of the Mind, 6 p.m.
Pack 3015 Comm Mtg, 6:30 p.m.



A Message from Pastor Dennis Smith



Janus, the Roman god after whom the first month of the year is named, is often pictured with two faces, one looking forward and the other looking back.

As is customary this time of year, Internet blogs, morning news, and weekly magazines will cater to the nostalgia junkies for the first week or so of January with the top ten stories of 2023: the wars in Ukraine and Gaza, celebrities who died during the past year, candidates for this year's elections, and stock market postmortems. At the same time, the prognosticators and soothsayers will look deeply into their crystal balls, consult artificial intelligence, and dish up the economic, political, and social scenarios for 2024.

Looking forward and backward at the same

time, we seek a meaningful context for the present and hope for the future.

That's where Trinity Lutheran Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan finds itself on the brink of a new year of our Lord, 2024. Looking back, we can lift up our being the flagship congregation of this synod, leading the way in proclaiming a gospel of grace in a world where works righteousness is the dogma of success. We can highlight our community outreach and social consciousness. We can take pride in the quality of the worship, preaching, and Christian education offered by Trinity in an inspiring physical facility. We can appreciate the excellence of well-integrated pastoral, staff, and lay leadership that has brought Trinity to this juncture in history.



Looking forward, our vision is a bit murkier. As pastor Robert Linstrom enters retirement, Trinity enters a period of uncertainty. Who will be our new senior pastor? How long will the process take? What changes will take place in the interim time? These are all urgent questions and may cause some fear among us – a time of testing, if you will.

The season of Epiphany helps us take the longer view of history and meaning by focusing our attention on the story of one special child, born in a sheep pen in the Jerusalem suburb of Bethlehem, over 2000 years ago. His is a story of testing in the wilderness of life. His is a story of uncertainty. His is a story of journeys begun and destinations reached. His is a story that begins in a manger, leads us to the cross, and leaves us with the epiphany of Easter – new life. His story (history) is our story.

From an Epiphany perspective, Jesus is seen as both the summation of all that has gone before and the definitive example of all that is yet to be. Epiphany is an opening season, a time to open our eyes, our minds, and our hearts to the meaning of our lives past, present, and future in terms of the one life who names us and claims us for eternity.

So, take a moment and look back on Trinity's 2023 from an Epiphany perspective. As we turn our attention to the future, may the unfolding of 2024 meet our most hopeful expectations. Yet, wherever the next 12 months take us, may the epiphany of Christ give us courage to face the challenges, patience to endure the process, hope to continue the journey, and trust in the promise of the gospel of Jesus Christ to lead us.

Peace be with you all.

Pastor Dennis Smith

Pastor Smith's Adult Forum starts January 22! See [page 10](#) for details.

Council Corner

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 church 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)



A Message from Council Member David Marquardt

Many of us know from our childhood church experiences that the church is not simply a building, but is rather a people deeply rooted in and longing for relationship – relationship in Christ and with one another. As a congregation, we are starting a new relationship with one another as we embark on our journey together in finding a new senior pastor for Trinity. I refer to this time as a “new relationship” simply from the perspective that the foundational work taking

place in our search for a new senior pastor requires all of us to share and communicate important stories and perspectives that will help us to find the right person for this important role in our church community. Stories from those that have been long-time members of the congregation and have given much of themselves to the life and growth of this church. Those that are newer members come with unique stories to share and fresh experiences and perspectives. I have had the privilege of hearing both types of stories in listening sessions that have helped to shape Trinity’s search process. In many ways, the sharing of these stories is helping to build new relationships throughout our church community while also building the necessary foundation to finding our new senior pastor.

The Communications Committee is dedicated to ensuring continued clear and concise communication throughout this important time of transition in addition to elevating the important on-going work of the church. The committee has been assessing and working to ensure mission alignment in Trinity’s communication work. As we continue, we intend to survey the congregation to assess Trinity’s communication strengths while also seeking to understand ways in which we may be able to improve. Our goal is to make communication easy for Trinity members and visitors while providing the right amount of content paired with the most effective frequency. Additionally, the committee is working through ways in which we can ensure Trinity’s message is effectively reaching those outside of our own church walls, and that we are appropriately communicating who we are and what we represent.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as one of your church council members and as a liaison to Trinity’s talented communications staff and Communications Committee members. We welcome conversation and stories from any of you as we continue with our search for a new senior pastor. We also look forward to your voice as we seek feedback on our assessment of communication methods and frequency.

David Marquardt, Communications Committee Liaison

Trinity Lutheran Church Budget vs. Actuals

Month of November 2023

	Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable/ (Unfavorable)	
Total Income	113,634	70,472	(43,162)	-38.0%
Total Expenses	92,179	94,054	(1,875)	-2.0%
Net Income (Loss)	21,454	(23,583)	(45,037)	

2023 Fiscal Year-to-Date Thru November 2023

	Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable/ (Unfavorable)	
Total Income	1,022,802	1,068,356	45,553	4.5%
Total Expenses	922,871	955,556	37,315	3.8%
Net Income (Loss)	29,932	112,800	82,868	

Please Don't Forget Your Offering!

At Trinity, you have many options for giving:

1. Direct bill pay from your bank
{free to set up with your bank}

2. Online giving via
Tithe.ly
<https://get.tithe.ly>
{member or church
incurs fee}



3. Offering plate on Sunday morning

4. Mail in your offering

We thank you for your generosity. Please contact Trinity's Finance Administrator [Joanna Waite](#) in the church office if you need assistance.

January Giving: Our Shared Stewardship to Support Trinity's Mission and Ministry as the Fiscal Year Draws to a Close

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." —Matthew 6:21

January is the last month of Trinity's fiscal year – the new budget year begins in February. As we prepare to adopt the new 2024 budget at the January 21 Annual Meeting of the Congregation, be reminded of the importance of your faithfulness in offering giving in the quiet of early winter at Trinity. Give generously and take your part in the vital mission that has been entrusted to us as the people of Trinity Lutheran Church.

Offer Your "Estimate of Giving" for 2023

November 12 was "Consecration Sunday" at Trinity. At all three worship services there was an 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 that morning. An additional "Estimate of Giving" form can be found on the back cover of this newsletter so that you may offer your pledge for our shared ministry in the year ahead – please plan to return your Estimate of Giving to the church office soon as our Finance Committee and Congregation Council use those estimates to care for the 2024 budget for our shared mission and ministry.

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. –1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

I like to start and end every day by giving thanks. I pause for a few moments and contemplate what has passed and what is to come and reflect on what I am thankful for. This is a habit my father gave me years ago. He found it helped him keep a positive and thankful mindset.

As a new year begins, I try to do the same; to look both backward and forward and give thanks to God for what has been and what is coming.

On behalf of our youth, thank you. Thank you for the amazing support you give them and for your generosity. Thank you for investing your time and hearts in their lives and thank you for praying for them. Thank you for helping shepherd them toward where God is calling them (and us) and thank you for modeling what a faithful life looks like. Thank you.

On a personal note, thank you for the honor of being one of your pastors. It is an honor and joy that I get to serve with you as we strive to follow the leading of God. Every day I am thankful for you and our partnership.

As we look toward the new year, we have a lot of amazing things planned for the young people of our congregation, opportunities to learn and grow in faith and as people. This summer our high schoolers are going to New Orleans for the ELCA Youth Gathering and Lincoln, IL, on our annual Mission Trip. These are two amazing weeks for our young people to experience God and community. This summer, kids as young as those entering first grade next year and as old as graduating seniors will be going to camp at Stony Lake for an amazing week of experiencing God in community and nature. Alongside these amazing trips we have our weekly gatherings where our young people grow in community and faith.

To help support and fund these transformational experiences, we schedule initiatives throughout the year:

- In the fall we sold Christmas wreaths; thank you for ordering one.
- In April we are elated to serve you breakfast on Easter Sunday.
- In May we hold our camp scholarship fund appeal, during which we raise funds to make camp extremely affordable for all families.
- Also in May, Trinity is transformed for our annual rummage sale. Thank you for donating your stuff and for help with sorting and selling.

Do note that our annual February *Sponsor a Mile* campaign is going to morph into a campaign to annually raise funds for youth in our synod to attend the ELCA Youth Gathering. Our young people are excited to help support their sisters and brothers in faith across our synod.

Thank you for your generosity and faithful modeling a life of faith. It makes these life-changing experiences a reality in the lives of our youth. Thank you for your partnership, support, and commitment to our community. Thank you for being a blessing.

Shalom,

Pastor Dan Schewe



A Message from Associate Pastor Kari Fast

Liminal Space: Transparency, Teamwork, & Non-Anxiousness



Dear Trinity Family and Friends,

As we enter 2024, we enter as a new congregation. New to the reality of Pastor Bob's retirement after 10 years of faithful ministry. New to the reality of a search committee preparing to hear the Spirit's nudges regarding the new senior pastor. New to the welcome reality of having Pastor Dennis Smith with us. Thankfully, most other things remain unchanged for Trinity Lutheran Church. And yet, as we continue in a new place, we grieve and mourn in various ways for what once was.

In our personal lives, as well, there are also new things: perhaps a new diagnosis or treatment plan, a new job or retirement, a new role as a grandmother or grandfather, new friendships, new losses of friendships or loved ones, and on and on our list of new could go.

When we're in these new or in-between places — or as us pastors love to speak of them — in *liminal places* (defined as places relating to a transitional or initial stage of a process), we're adjusting to the old that is gone and the new that hasn't fully arrived. We can find ourselves, just as with any grieving process, not feeling our best or acting to our full potential. We may feel grumpy, irritable, angry, float-y, or silly. We may find ourselves desiring order and control, struggling to sleep, or having other various issues.

Transitions expert Melissa Cohen, a licensed clinical social worker, says, "Uncertainty can be very uncomfortable, lonely, overwhelming, paralyzing, emotionally demanding and mentally exhausting, but it can also be transformative and valuable, providing creativity, strength and the opportunity to move forward, evolve, grow and develop a mindset that anything is possible."¹ Other transitions experts agree that during transitions it is helpful to maintain transparency, teamwork, and a calm mind, body, and heart.

Together, we can be honest, work together, and trust the process of the call committee, while allowing ourselves to grieve. We can be gentle and kind with one another, moving away from anxiety and toward calmness.

*And all of you must clothe yourselves with humility in your dealings with one another...
Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God...
Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you.*

1 Peter 5:5a, 6a, 7

May we carry these words in our heart during this time of transition.

Pastor Kari
Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care



Name Tags are Back!

It's All in a Name!

The second you know a person's name you feel closer and more connected to them. In the simplest way, a name tag reduces the distance between people. Wearing name tags reminds us all to be more open with each other.

So . . . **NAME TAGS ARE BACK!**

Everyone is invited to write and wear a name tag for worship and other group events at Trinity. There will be areas at all entrances to fill out a tag and join in connecting with each other in this small and meaningful way!



Upcoming Events



Men's Breakfast on Saturday, January 13

The Men's Breakfast group is planning its first gathering of the new year on January 13, 2024. Gathering every quarter for food, study, and fellowship, the Men's Breakfast will run from 8 to 9:30 a.m. We will gather for a fresh, full breakfast, a brief Bible study led by Pastor Dan Schewe and our guest speaker.

Men of Trinity, watch for your invitation to sign up for our January 13 quarterly breakfast!

Bunco Game Night! Saturday, January 13

Come join us on Saturday, January 13 for a Lutheran potluck at 5:30 p.m. and a fun game of BUNCO afterward!

No experience necessary. If you can roll 3 dice you can play BUNCO!

Look for a signup in the weekly eBlast or contact Fellowship and Hospitality Coordinator [Tess Lundgren](#) for more information.



NORTH/WEST LOWER MICHIGAN SYNOD ELCA

ADULT THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

SIX WOMEN FROM CHURCH HISTORY THAT
YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT



JOIN THE REV. DR. JOY
SCHROEDER, PROFESSOR OF
CHURCH HISTORY AT CAPITAL
UNIVERSITY, FOR A SIX-WEEK
STUDY OF CHRISTIAN WOMEN
THROUGH THE AGES!

TUESDAYS STARTING JANUARY 16
ZOOM

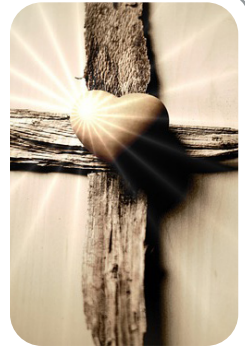
<https://tinyurl.com/s9tdmkmh>

Registration is required and closes on January 5, 2024.

Upcoming Events

Lent Begins in Worship on Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2024 *Ash Wednesday Worship at 4 and 7 p.m.*

Lent begins with a solemn call to fasting and repentance as we begin our journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. As we hear in the Ash Wednesday readings, now is the acceptable time to return to the Lord. During Lent the people of God will reflect on the meaning of their baptism into Christ's death and resurrection. The sign of ashes suggests our human mortality and frailty. What seems like an ending is really an invitation to make each day a new beginning in which we are washed in God's mercy and forgiveness. With the cross on our brow, we long for the spiritual renewal that flows from the springtime Easter feast to come.



At Trinity, Ash Wednesday will include worship at 4 and 7 p.m. Take note in the February edition of this newsletter details of a livestreaming/YouTube recording option for those who wish to participate in one of those virtual formats. Plan now to join Trinity as we seek to mark our journey from ashes to Easter in worship in 2024.

*Save the
Date for
Fellowship!*

February 10
Celebration of Music: Silent Movies Event

February 21
Lenten Suppers & Midweek Services Start

March 23
Euchre Night - Come join the fun!

March 27
JOYful Days Begin

Stephen Ministry

Can You Hear Jesus' Words of Comfort?

In Matthew 11:28-30, Jesus tells his followers, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yolk is easy and my burden is light."

- Do you feel weary?
- Does the yoke of life seem too difficult to carry alone?
- Are your burdens too much to bear?

God has called some people in our midst to Stephen Ministry. These people are trained in walking with others through life's difficult times; they will listen and care.

Could you benefit from a Stephen Minister?

Contact one of the pastors or Faith Community Nurse [Kristin Bradley](#).



Biblical Learning Opportunities

Pastor Smith's Adult Forum

Pastor Smith's Monday Adult Forum

What Does it Mean to Be an ELCA Lutheran? Why Should Anyone Care?

4-Week Monday morning seminar led by Pastor Dennis Smith
Meets January 22 & 29 / February 5 & 12
10:30 a.m. in Centennial Hall



Have you ever wondered:

- Why our church ordains women, but so many other churches do not?
- Why we celebrate two sacraments (Baptism and Holy Communion) while our Catholic brothers and sisters celebrate seven?
- Why our church emphasizes grace while it seems so many others emphasize judgment?
- How to answer the question, "Are you saved?"
- As a Lutheran, how to name Jesus as your Lord and savior?

Let's explore these and other questions of life and faith as we gather with Pastor Smith on Monday mornings and answer together what it means to be an ELCA Lutheran and why we should care.

Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study

Meets at Trinity every Tuesday from 9:30 to 11 a.m. starting January 9. *New participants always welcome!*

Want to join an intergenerational group of women on Tuesday mornings to grow together in faith and friendship? We'll begin the new year with a new study and you're invited to join us!

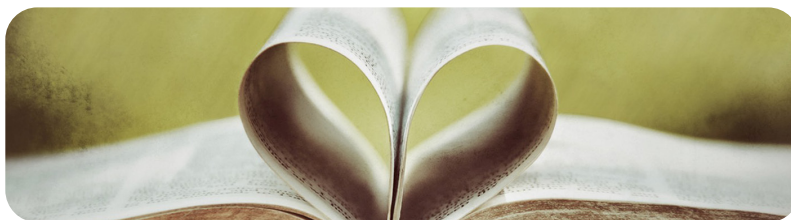
Starting Tuesday, January 9 at 9:30 a.m., we will meet in the Trinity Library. Contact Karen Unruh with questions at kbunruh@gmail.com.



Friday Morning Women's Bible Study

Meets at Trinity the 1st, 3rd, and 4th Friday of every month from 9:30 to 11 a.m. starting February 2. *New participants always welcome!*

We would love for you to join Friday Morning Women's Bible Study! In our last session, we focused on hope and confronting our doubts and fears. Join us starting in February as we delve into new material and make connections with one another. For more details, contact Kris Fox at jklsafox@comcast.net.



Tuesday Evening Book Club

Meets the 3rd Tuesday of the Month at 7 p.m.

Do you enjoy reading? Please join us for Tuesday evening book club! This group is open to adults of any age and any gender. We love having new people, so bring a friend! This year we will be meeting at Trinity on the third Tuesday of every month starting at 7 p.m. Reach out to Corina Dulecki at cdulecki@gmail.com for more information.

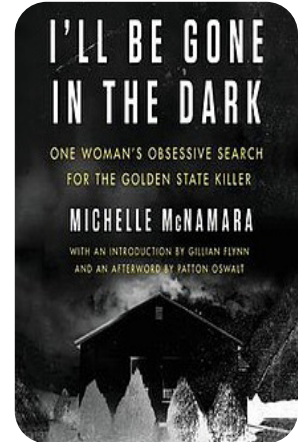
January: *I'll Be Gone in the Dark: One Woman's Obsessive Search for the Golden State Killer* by Michelle McNamara

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



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.

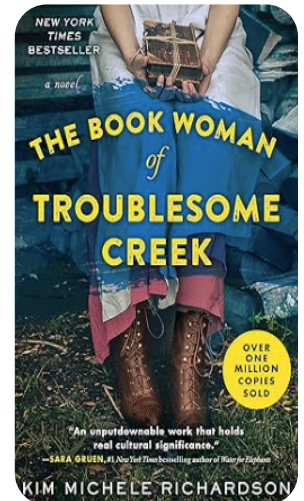
January 12: *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michele Richardson
Host: Karen Niemeyer

February 9: *The Day the World Came to Town* by Jim DeFede
Host: Kris Racek Discussion: Pam Gunderson

March 8: *The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell* by Robert Dugoni
Host: Dolly Lowe

April 12: *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett
Host: Jamie Kuntzman

May 10: TBD
Host: Laura Norton



Music & The Arts at Trinity

Music & The Arts at Trinity

Come and find your place in music and the arts at Trinity!

- We heard the newly formed **Children's Vocal Ensemble** as they sang in the Children's Christmas program in December. Read on to learn about more opportunities with this group in 2024.
- We also look forward to a new opportunity to explore **liturgical drama**. You are invited to join others who enjoy theatre and drama as they play a role in liturgical worship expressions.
- The **Celebration of Music Concert Series** has monthly offerings starting in January.
- The **Overlook Art Gallery** will feature the work of artist George Peebles in January and February. See the [following page](#) for more details about this colorful display.

Come and be enriched by all that Trinity offers through music, worship, and the arts.

Dr. Darlene Kuperus

Director of Music & Organist

Artistic Director of the Celebration of Music Concert Series

Celebration of Music Presents:

Voices of Extraordinary Youth

Mandala: Grand Rapids Youth Chorus Treble Ensemble

Sunday, January 28, 2024

3 p.m. • Trinity Sanctuary

Mandala is an auditioned, 16-voice treble ensemble that is a part of the Grand Rapids Youth Chorus program. Their musical versatility and technique combine to create amazing music with a dynamic presence. They are led by GRYC conductor Leah Ivory. You may remember that Leah led an African Drum Circle event at Trinity in February 2023. Ms. Ivory is a gifted musician as conductor, teacher, performer and lecturer. She teaches world music classes at Calvin University in addition to her work with the GR Youth Chorus.

Also featuring singers from Grand Rapids Christian High School's *Bella Voce* and *Chamber Chorale*, this concert will take the audience on a musical journey to warmer climates with *Ghana Alleluia*, and down memory lane with *Wanting Memories* and *Winter Wonderland*. Other repertoire explores varied themes. For the finale, singers will combine forces with all three choirs singing Sean Ivory and Paul Caldwell's beloved song *Hope for Resolution*.



Celebration of Music Presents:

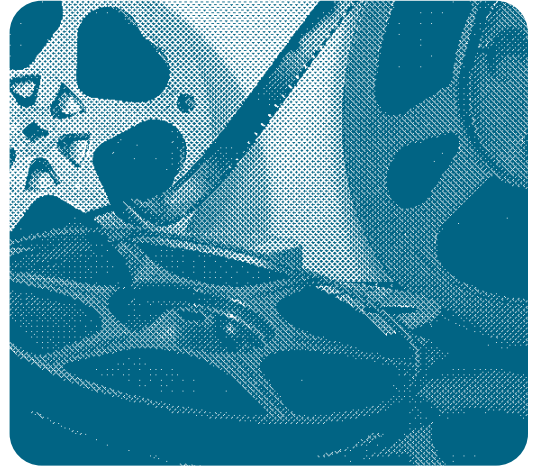
An Afternoon at the "Silent" Movies

Saturday, February 10, 2024

2 p.m. • Trinity's Centennial Hall

Enjoy some classic silent movies from the Golden Era of early film making. Classic actors in these films include Charlie Chaplin with his hilarious onscreen antics. These fun movies were often accompanied by a live pianist whose role in making the action on film come to life was an art form! Our accompanist Robert Edwards is a highly sought-after musician that performs frequently for events like these all over the world. A classically trained pianist, Edwards performs all types of music, including this interesting and entertaining genre. This is sure to be an afternoon of fun, laughter, and amazement for all who join.

Popcorn and movie candy provided. This is a family-friendly event geared for the young and the young at heart.



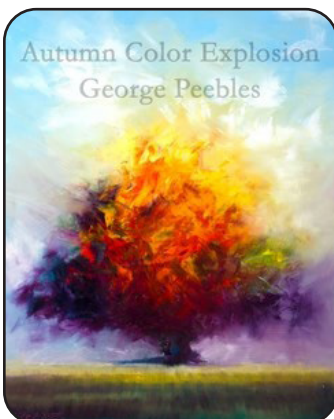
Trinity's Children's Vocal Ensemble

This past summer we began collaboration with hopes to offer a new opportunity for children that enjoy singing. In October, the Children's Vocal Ensemble began rehearsing on Sunday mornings at the conclusion of Sunday School classes. They sang together in worship for the Children's Christmas Program on December 10, 2023. Their music was an absolute joy to hear.

We welcome new children to join the vocal ensemble as it prepares to sing in March for 9:15 a.m. Rejoice worship. Interested parents can contact Trinity Music Director [Dr. Darlene Kuperus](#) for more details and rehearsal plans.



New Art Featured in Trinity's Overlook Gallery



Visit the Overlook Gallery to see the art of George Peebles, featured in January and February of 2024!

Known for his vibrant, contemporary paintings of woodlands, fields and water, George sees the world through a different lens (as he is color blind). The viewer can feel the energy and pleasure that is poured into each piece he creates just by observing the movement of the brush and knife strokes.

George Peebles is a resident of Grand Rapids, Michigan where he attended Kendall College of Art and Design. He lives on a "farm in the city" and paints in an old outbuilding filled with drying works, supplies, and his 70s music collection.

Music & The Arts at Trinity (cont.)

Liturgical Drama Workshop Discovery Session

Embodied Scripture Workshop: *Experiencing Scripture Holistically*

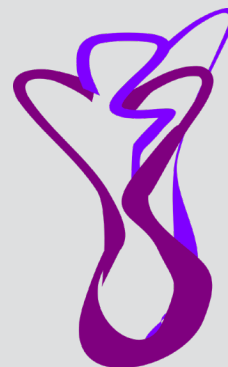
Leader: Trinity member Debra L. Freeberg, Theatre Professor Emerita, Calvin University

Saturday, January 13, 2024 • 11 a.m. • Choir Room

How exciting to delve into scripture in community! To speak, to move, and to respond to a Biblical text directly and personally with others. This is the substance of this guided workshop, offered to people of all levels of interest and experience. In pairs or small groups, to stand, to read scripture aloud and on your feet. Find out how the particular text speaks to you and your partners in the moment. How can it speak to our community today? "Read it and play it" and get the passage "in your bones."

The goal of each group will be to discover something true and meaningful to share with the larger group. Thus, our imaginative range is enlarged, and the Scripture comes more fully alive to the community of faith gathered. This isn't a theatre workshop demanding specific expertise and experience. It's an exploration for anyone and everyone: middle school and up! It's a chance to learn from each other and grow in our knowledge of interpreting and understanding Scripture.

We hope to create a group to lead a liturgical drama in worship on one of the Sundays after Easter. The "Road to Emmaus" is reading which can shape worship services in a powerful way. You are welcome to join us for this exploratory session and see if this is for you!



Band Corner

SPOTLIGHT ON TRINITY'S REJOICE MUSIC-MAKERS

Cliff Hartline has been helping lead worship with the Rejoice Band since 2006. Cliff plays guitar and sings. He sometimes fills in on bass as well.

Do you play or do music anywhere else?

I don't now. But I was in road bands for about 7 years then continued to play every weekend around St. Louis for 14 more years.

What got you involved in playing for Rejoice worship?

When I was first attending church I talked with Petra after service. One of the members wanted to cut back so I got an audition. And it seems like I passed.

Why do you play with and for us on Sunday mornings?

I feel like I'm called to do this. I love playing and I treasure the friendships that have developed over all these years with the Rejoice band.

Do you have any favorite Rejoice songs or favorite types of songs?

It's great when we put a bit of blues feel to some of the tunes. When we get a chance to expand, improvise, and express what we are feeling.

Outside of the music we play in church, what other type of music do you like?

That's a pretty inclusive list of genres...from jazz to rock, Motown to blues, folk to Americana, punk to funk.



Sunday School Resumes January 7, 2024

Children are welcomed back to Sunday School on January 7, during 9:15 a.m. Rejoice worship. After children's time, preschoolers through 3rd graders head to large group for music, announcements, offering, and prayer. They then break into small groups by age for Bible lessons and activities, using a lectionary-based curriculum called Spark. 4th and 5th graders have class in the Lounge starting at 9:15 a.m. The Connect curriculum is video and discussion based. All children return to worship during Passing of the Peace, in time for Holy Communion with their families. Kids are welcome to join anytime during the year!

Kids Helping Kids: Children's Offering

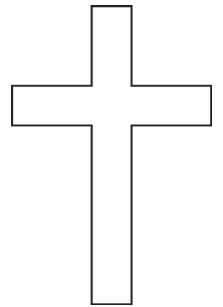
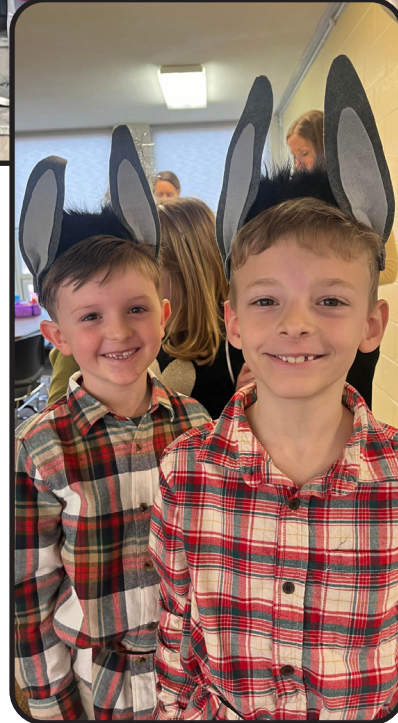
During the month of January, we will learn about Kids Coalition Against Hunger (KCAH). Children's weekly offering will be going to this campaign to fight world hunger. Families are encouraged to donate and volunteer at the huge meal-packing event on January 28. Kids can help pack thousands of meals right alongside parents and grandparents. It is a fun and meaningful way to make a difference!

A Job Well Done in the 2023 Children's Christmas Program!

If you missed it, the program can be seen on the December 10 YouTube recording of 10:45 a.m. worship. A special thanks to all the adults and youth who helped with music, rehearsals, costumes, and scenery!



Children's Ministry (cont.)



Children's Ministry



Trinity's Children's Vocal Ensemble

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Youth News

Middle School

January and February Confirmation Schedule:

January 7 & 14 – Youth Group, 2 to 3 p.m./Confirmation Class, 3 to 4:30 p.m.

January 21 – Tubing at Cannonsburg, 3 to 5 p.m.

January 28 – No Class – Kids Coalition Against Hunger food packing!

February 4 & 11 – Youth Group, 2 to 3 p.m./Confirmation Class, 3 to 4:30 p.m.

February 18 – No Class due to Mid-Winter Break

February 25 – Service Projects, 3 to 5 p.m.



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

High School

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

All high schoolers and their friends are invited to join us for youth group in the Youth Room. Come for some fun and conversation around how God is leading us in our lives. On January 21, youth group will be tubing at Cannonsburg (see [next page](#) for more details). We will not be meeting on January 28 because that day is KCAH food packing day (see [cover page](#) for more details on KCAH food packing at Trinity).

High School Bible Study with Pastor Dan – January 7 at 9:15 a.m.

All high schoolers and their friends are invited to join Pastor Dan during the 9:15 a.m. service for Bible Study in the Youth Room. Come for donuts, juice, and conversation.

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.*

**In December, Trinity high schoolers
volunteered with Home Repair Services
to help install an aluminum ramp.**



Middle and High School Youth News & Upcoming Events

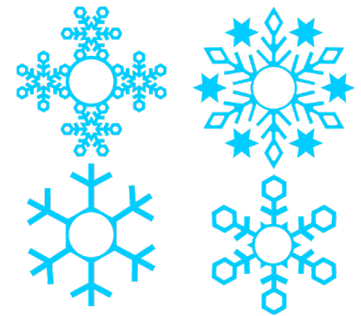
Youth-Decorated Christmas Cookies Delivered to the Community

On Saturday, December 2, Trinity's middle and high schoolers, along with their friends and families, spread Christmas cheer by decorating and delivering Christmas cookies to 33 homes in our community.



Tubing at Cannonsburg: January 21, 2024 at 3 p.m.

We are going tubing at Cannonsburg on Sunday, January 21 from 3 to 5 p.m. **Please arrive at 2:45 p.m. to check-in with Amy Stephan.** Watch your email for an RSVP form. The cost is \$20 for each person who is tubing. We will bring snacks and hot chocolate for everyone to share and enjoy around the campfire. Come and join the fun!



Camp is Coming July 22 to 27, 2024 – Registration Open Now!

Youth going into first grade through current seniors in high school and their friends are invited to join us for an amazing week of community and faith formation! Trinity makes camp extremely affordable for families. Each camper is asked to pay a \$100 deposit and Trinity will cover the rest of the cost. For more information, consult your email from Pastor Dan or reach out to dan.schewe@tlcgr.org if you did not receive an email.

Register today at:
www.elcalivingwater.com

Let's fill up this week with Trinity kids!



Living Water Ministries
Faith Formation, Service, Leadership, and Community

Health Ministries



NO-COST WORKSHOP

DO YOU NEED HELP WITH YOUR HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE?

High Blood Pressure Control (HBP Control) is a class that will help you build skills and tools* to manage your high blood pressure. It is an eight week, interactive workshop led by certified leaders.

*Participants will receive a blood pressure monitor after joining.

Learn how to:

- Monitor your blood pressure
- Cope with stress
- Make healthy food choices
- Create a physical activity plan
- Manage your medications
- Keep personal action plans – and more

NKFM is committed to providing access, equal opportunity and reasonable accommodation in its programs. To request accommodation contact the PATH team at least ten days in advance at: 800-482-1455 or e-mail at PATHPrograms@nkfm.org.



In-Person

Where:

Trinity Lutheran Church
2700 Fulton St. E
Grand Rapids, MI 49506

When:

Mondays from 2:00 - 3:30pm

Sessions 1-8:

February 5, 12, 19, 26
March 4, 11, 18, 25

To learn more:

Visit nkfm.org/HBPC
or call 734-222-9800.

This workshop is offered at no cost to participants.



Fitness at Trinity

Power Bend and Stretch, Reach for the Sky!

**Resumes January 10.
Join us Wednesday mornings
at 10 a.m. in the Commons.**

Trinity member Debra Freeberg leads this class which is geared toward anyone who wants to strengthen their core and increase flexibility.

Bring your own mat, or borrow one of ours. Recommended donation - \$3/class.

Please note: Tai Chi classes are on hiatus until spring.

Watch the weekly eBlast for a sign-up and contact Faith Community Nurse [Kristin Bradley](#) with any questions.



Food for Thought: Intuitive Eating

Trinity's Health Ministries team is excited for our next FOOD FOR THOUGHT event and you're invited! Join us for dinner and a speaker on Intuitive Eating on **Wednesday, January 31 at 5:30 p.m.** This event is provided at no cost to you!

We will enjoy a loaded baked potato and salad bar and then learn about the benefits of intuitive eating. Our presenter is Holly Dykstra, a registered dietitian and founder of The GR Dietitian. Holly specializes in nutrition counseling and coaching to help others feel comfortable with their food choices and body image. She helps set sustainable eating patterns and behavioral modifications to meet anyone's nutrition needs. Together we can shift priorities, stop worrying about food, and enjoy the things we love most. **Sign up:** <http://tinyurl.com/bddy38me>

Contact Faith Community Nurse [Kristin Bradley](#) with any questions or suggestions.



you are a professional caregiver, you will benefit from this gathering. Connect with Faith Community Nurse [Kristin Bradley](#) if you have any questions.

Care & Share: Tuesday, January 23

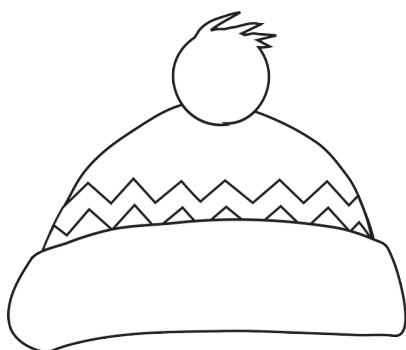
Caregivers – let's get together! Our next meeting is **Tuesday, January 23 at 10:30 a.m.** in the Youth Room and we would love to have your presence among us!

On January 23 we'll be talking about communication and learning some tips from Teepa Snow, a nationally renowned specialist who created the "Positive Approach to Care."

If you have been a primary caregiver of an adult child, spouse, parent, sibling, or friend, or

Many Thanks!

Thank You, Outreach Committee!



Thank you to the Outreach Committee for distributing almost 400 warm weather articles (coats, blankets, boots, socks, mittens, scarves) to Samaritas, In The Image, Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN), Baxter, Exodus, and Dégagé. The committee's continuous dedication and hard work in this ministry is greatly appreciated!

Thank You for Being a Christmas Angel!

Thank you so very much to everyone involved with our Christmas Angel program this year. Trinity partnered with Samaritas and brought Christmas joy to 104 children. Your generosity is humbling.

A special thank you to Grace from Penske Grand Rapids East. Penske donated the truck for us to get the gifts to Adrian, MI and Grace was instrumental in working with Jeanne Becker to make that happen.

Another thank you goes to Cheryl Love who helped sort all the gift bags and group them into families, and to Martha Carter for helping sort gift bags and for taking the first trip to Adrian with a packed SUV of gifts on Tuesday. Thank you to Ian Love for helping pack the truck and to John Bosserman for packing and driving the truck, full of Christmas cheer, and for unloading the whole thing.

And lastly, thank you to my very special elves Jeanne Becker, Martha Carter, and Jan Palm. Without you, I could not have gotten all of this done.

Thank you all for your generosity and kindness in taking care of these kids.

With lots of love,

Tess Lundgren



Christmas Angels Jan Palm, Ian Love, and John Bosserman

A Special Thank You to My Trinity Family

It has been my pleasure meeting new members and seeing old friends. I appreciate the rides to Sunday church service and Friday morning Bible study. I'm overwhelmed and grateful for the outreach of Trinity members.

Thank you for the visits, cards, and phone calls.

A special thank you to Pastor Dan and the youth group for the yummy cookies and to the Trinity Quilters for the prayer quilt.

Bless You,

Nancy Anderson



An Enjoyable Christmas Tea

Thank you to all the ladies who joined me for Christmas Tea. It was a beautiful day to pause, chat, and listen to some wonderful songs with heartfelt lyrics. Your company made the day very special; thank you for sharing your time. —Tess Lundgren



Thanks!

News Briefs

North American Church Leaders Call for Peace in Holy Land

From *Living Lutheran*: The leaders of the ELCA, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, the Anglican Church of Canada, and The Episcopal Church have released many resources through Churches Beyond Borders which call for justice and peace, primarily for places of worship affected by the war in the Holy Land. These resources lift up Palestinian Christian communities and ministries and the congregations and institutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem.



In a [letter](#) accompanying a portion of the resources, church leaders write, ***"We call, and pray for, an end to the war in Gaza, Israel, and the West Bank. We call for a ceasefire, an end to violence in the West Bank and the opening of humanitarian corridors in Gaza."***¹

For more information, resources, or to gain a deeper understanding of the context; the current humanitarian crisis; and the ELCA's work for a just peace in Palestine and Israel, visit:

<http://tinyurl.com/46zky9xu>

¹ "North American Church Leaders Call for Peace in Holy Land in Advent Resource." *Living Lutheran*, <http://tinyurl.com/mr3xpb8>. Accessed 14 December 2023.

For a Deeper Understanding: A Message from Trinity Member Albert Asfour

Albert Asfour was born in Jerusalem in 1937 and raised in a Christian household, a member of the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Jerusalem and now a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Grand Rapids, MI. His family enjoyed a wide circle of friends, including the international residents in the area, as well as their Muslim and Jewish neighbors. He and his family endured many hardships during the tumultuous times since the mid-1930s, but he continues to spread the message of hope and peace, which is only possible through justice. In recent years he has served as a council member and vice president of the Southeast Michigan Lutheran Synod, vice president of Alameh (the ELCA arm for the Lutherans of Middle East heritage). He also serves as board member of Bright Stars of Bethlehem, a US non-profit organization supporting Al-Kalime University, under the leadership of Pastor Dr. Mitri Raheb. For more information please contact aasfour06@gmail.com.

If Jesus were born in Bethlehem today, he would be stateless, governed by Israeli Military Law, living under constant threat of displacement, and fearing deadly attacks by settlers and occupation forces. In solidarity with those living under unrelenting bombardment in Gaza, Palestinian Christians in Bethlehem have canceled Christmas celebrations this year. They will not be putting up Christmas decor or engaging in celebratory events, instead they are calling on Christians globally to stand in solidarity with the hundreds of thousands killed and displaced in Gaza and the demise of Christianity in Palestine and Israel.

For nearly 2,000 years this tiny strip of land between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean has been called the "Holy Land." It is considered sacred ground for all three of the major monotheistic religions, and has seen more than its fair share of conquerors come and go.

This most recent chapter in the long and complicated history began on October 7, 2023, when a group of Hamas men were able to infiltrate the heavily fortified security fence separating Gaza from Israel, killing over 1,000 Israelis and taking over 200 hostages. Since that attack, Israel has been retaliating.

As I write this, over 17,000 Palestinians (more than 70% of which are children and women) and over 1,200 Israelis have been killed. Entire swathes of land in Gaza have been reduced to rubble, with nothing left of the already barely adequate infrastructure. Gazan children have their names written on their arms so they can be identified if they are killed. None of us can imagine this, just like none of us can imagine having our loved one held hostage without knowing their fate.

Our US news outlets repeatedly mention Israel's right to defend itself as justification for this indiscriminate destruction, but at what point do we ask ourselves if this is ok? As Christians, or even just as humans, do we condone violence, which we all know begets more violence? Is our silence just a form of complicity?

Of course the Hamas attack was awful and cannot be justified. The loss of any innocent life is absolutely intolerable. However, we cannot opine on this event without taking a deeper look at the situation.

Since Israel was established in 1948, the Palestinians have been living under an oppressive and racist military occupation, waning and waxing in severity depending on the current prime minister and his coalition. Unfortunately, the current government in Israel is the most far-right government in Israel's history – made of Netanyahu's Likud Party and the Religious Zionism Party. This extremist government in Israel is increasingly isolated internationally, but the US continues to support Israel without question so as to not lose the powerful backing of the American Israeli lobbyists.

The laws, policies, and practices are intended to maintain control over Palestinians, keeping them fragmented geographically and politically, frequently impoverished, and in a constant state of fear and insecurity. Land and property seizures, home demolitions, and forced evictions continue to be a common practice, as thousands of new illegal settlements are constructed every day. Meanwhile, the settler violence is at an all-time high, with entire villages being destroyed as armed settlers light homes and cars on fire.

Israeli soldiers control the passing to and from all Palestinian territories, arbitrarily denying passage of both passenger vehicles, people, and/or supply vehicles. Thousands of Palestinians are routinely incarcerated without charge (called "administrative detainees" by the Israeli government). Several current Israeli government officials have called for and support the destruction of Palestinian villages.

Together these policies add up to a slow (and sometimes not so slow) strangulation of an entire people. And technically speaking, each and every one of these practices amounts to apartheid as prohibited in international law. Apartheid is not acceptable anywhere in the world. So why has the world accepted it against Palestinians? In spite of multiple UN resolutions against the actions of Israel (all vetoed by the US), the situation is consistently ignored, or worse, occasionally legitimized with a wide range of Zionist interpretations.

Am I making excuses for the Palestinian fighters responsible for the October 7 brutal attack? No, of course there is no excuse for the loss of innocent lives. However, these people were born and raised under siege. For decades, they waited for justice, for freedom, for a life in dignity, but all in vain. What they saw was a double standard treatment; those who stood with the occupied Ukrainians were standing with the Israeli occupiers. Even the young Gazans have already witnessed four wars (2008, 2012, 2014, 2021) that the United Nations estimates have caused \$5 billion worth of damage to homes, agriculture, industry, electricity, and water infrastructure – money that Gazans do not have.

continued on following page

News Briefs (cont.)

They are left with no hope whatsoever in an area where the air, water, and sea are polluted and where life has become unlivable. Israel and the world left them to perish slowly but surely, as if they were children of a lesser god.

And today, instead of this senseless attack ending, the Israeli forces are continuing to target civilians by using white phosphorus, cutting off what is left of water, fuel, and electricity, and bombarding schools, hospitals, and places of worship, including the massacre at Al-Ahli Anglican-Baptist Hospital and the bombardment of the Greek Orthodox Church which wiped out entire Palestinian Christian families.

Western Christians offering unquestioned support to Israel's war against the people of Palestine puts into question their moral judgment. Of course, we condemn all attacks on civilians, but the hypocrisy of the US, and specifically many Christian leaders is horrific. Why are they silent when Palestinian civilians are killed? Some not only refuse to condemn the Israeli occupation, but actually offer support and justification for all of Israel's actions, including the killing of innocent civilians and children.

Furthermore, governments with the responsibility and power to do something have refused to take any meaningful action to hold Israel accountable. Instead, they have been hiding behind a moribund peace process at the expense of human rights and accountability. Unfortunately, the situation today is one of no progress towards a just solution and worsening human rights for Palestinians.

It is important to state that the vast majority of Palestinian Christians do not condone violence, not even by the powerless and controlled. Instead, the Palestinian Christians are fully committed to the way of Jesus in creative non-violent resistance. We reject all ideologies that legitimize the wars of the powerful, and we strongly urge our fellow Christians in the Western world to stand by us in this belief.

We are concerned about the high number of civilian casualties, irrespective of their status as Palestinians or Israelis. We call for the Geneva Convention and International Humanitarian Law to be guaranteed by the international community. However, the military and political support that Israel is getting from Western countries is giving Israel a green light to level Gaza without any repercussions.

The bottom line is that occupation will keep triggering resistance. No one can relinquish people's quest for freedom. Without justice there will be no peace. Keep us in your prayers. Raise your voice for justice. It is high time to decolonize Palestine so that all people can live in dignity and reach the potential that God has for them. Thank you for your support.

Albert Asfour



Apply to Be a Trinity 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>.



New Members Celebration Coming This Spring

Are you finding a home at Trinity? Are you back among the people of Trinity after a time away? Are you curious about these Lutheran-flavored folks and hoping to learn more, even if you are not sure that you are ready to become a member of Trinity Lutheran Church?

Pastor's classes for prospective members will be offered next spring for those who are ready to dig into this tradition of ours more deeply. Others may wish to affiliate as members of Trinity by a simple letter of transfer or by Affirmation of Faith. **A New Members Sunday will be celebrated on a Sunday in the spring of 2024.** Even if you are not a "joiner," or if you are unsure that membership with Trinity is the right thing for you, please know that you are welcome to explore what it would mean to affirm membership with the people of Trinity in mission and ministry. All are welcome – contact Office Coordinator [Kris Baker](#) or one of the pastors for more information.



Trinity's Inclement Weather Policy

When the Forest Hills Public Schools close during the day, all Trinity daytime activities are canceled and the church office is 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!



News Briefs (cont.)

Scandinavian Smörgåsbord Fun!

Thank you to all who volunteered for, participated in, and attended Trinity's Scandinavian Smörgåsbord on Saturday, December 16! *Clockwise from top left:* Sydney Waite as St. Lucia and Lexie Shannon as her assistant Star Child; Kris and John Fox sing; St. Lucia and her assistant chat with a Smörgåsbord guest; Trinity Director of Music & Organist Darlene Kuperus plays the piano.



Opportunities to Support Church & Community

Donate Cleaning Supplies or Basic Home Items

Help others to have a clean start in the new year! As you plan ahead, please be aware that we will once again be collecting cleaning supplies for distribution to area food pantries and social service agencies. The Food Stamp/Bridge Card program does not cover such things as laundry detergent and assorted household cleaning necessities, so why not buy a laundry basket or cleaning bucket and fill it with cleaning supplies? Following are some suggested items:

- Dish detergent, all-purpose spray cleaner, powdered cleanser
- Glass cleaner, disinfectant (bleach or other), disinfectant wipes
- Toilet bowl cleaner, toilet bowl brush
- Sponges, scrub brush, rubber gloves, paper towels
- Laundry detergent, stain remover, fabric softener sheets



In addition to cleaning supplies this year, we are taking donations of the following items for Family Promise/IHN: **New and gently used pots and pans, cooking utensils, and bath and kitchen towels/washcloths.** Family Promise provides these items to families when they secure housing of their own to help them get started with some of the basics.

Please drop off your donations **during the months of January and February** in the labeled black barrels located outside the Narthex and in the Courtyard.

Fill the Grocery Carts at Trinity



We collect non-perishable food items at Trinity year-round. As you are grocery shopping, please consider picking up a few extra items to donate. You may place groceries in the grocery carts located outside the Narthex and downstairs near the elevator, and please don't forget to check those expiration dates. Help us fill the grocery carts each week!

Participate in KCAH Meal Packing on January 28, 2024



Trinity children, youth, and their families can help pack thousands of meals for Kids Coalition Against Hunger (KCAH). Have fun while making a huge difference in the lives of others! See cover for more details and hope to see you there.

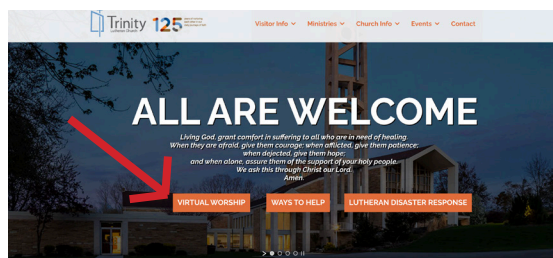


Technology @ Trinity

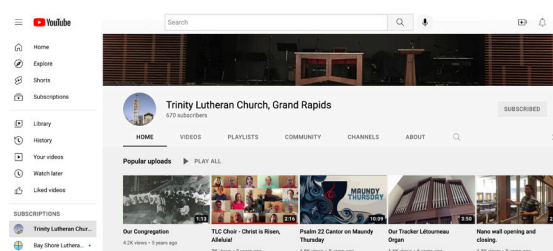
Trinity is Livestreaming Services!

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**.

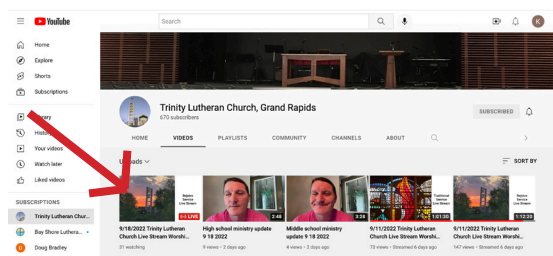


(2) Clicking the Virtual Worship button will take you to our YouTube page:



(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.



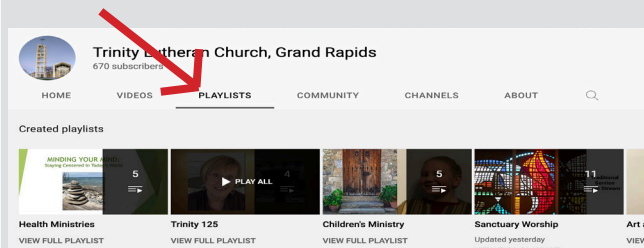
You can also go directly to www.youtube.com and search **Trinity Lutheran Church Grand Rapids** to find our YouTube page.

***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.

January Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations

January 1

Cameron Brandstadt
Spencer Kuipers
Matt Mencarelli
Prodige Mukadi

January 2

Annalise Campbell
Serafiina Ege
Rob Mirque
Bob Ortiz
Liz Schmehling

January 3

Lyman Harrison
Margaret Hartline
Russell Langenburg
Lauren Williams

January 4

Steven Cairns
Rachel Zollman

January 5

Tammy Engblade
Bill Leidel
Travis McMillan

January 6

Maxwell Cothorn
Shekinah Kawulu
Brad Kessel
Phil Wittry

January 7

Katherine Lown
Allison Radke
Amy Stephan
Taylor Sytsma
Stacey & Brian Phillips

January 8

Mary Jo Peterson
Mike Spalding
Lisa Warren

January 9

Rachele Battreall
Doug Brubaker
Anneliese Meeuwsen
Adam Petrick
Niki & Rob Ferguson

January 10

Donald Barsema
Caylyn Moglia

January 11

Emily Ashby
Brian Bakkila
David Candela
Cameron Czerew
Julie Murray
Paula Tibbe

January 12

Dick Duyser
Mari Franz
Brian Phillips
Arabella Soule

January 13

Theodore Wright
Corey Yoder
Annie & Jim Hudson

January 14

Brenda Donahue
Andrea Dudley
Lisa Keller

January 15

Jordan Fox
Andrew Glenn
Anna Hale
Caitlyn Harrison
Laura Reges
Lisa Reiersen
Owen Tesch
Julie Westra

January 16

Chris Becker
Heather Heaford
Andy McLeod
Amy Parshall-Peters
Cheryl Reeve
Emelyn Tague

January 17

Bob Carlson
Colleen Gardner
Jan Jacobson
Sheri Mason
Deborah Rohde

January 18

Mike King
Jan Palm
Colton & Lauren Wright

January 19

Bob Dever
Lisa LaFleur
Jackson Mester

January 20

Krysta Billock
Burke Hungerford
Kris Racek

January 21

John Derbin
Michelle Feutz
Michelle Lee
Eliana Meeuwsen
Evelyn Scalabrino

January 22

Chad Bradbury
Bill Day
Chuck Hickerty
Dan Schewe

January 23

Keith Gohlke
Bill Keller
Andrew Pupel

January 24

Doug Bacon
Kate Bishop
Sam Cole
Noah Kuhlmann
Sam McLeod
Kathy Wilcox

January 25

Michael Baribeau
Kelli Basher
Jennifer Brown
Judy DeStefano
Tess Lundgren
Brad Selleck
Jeanette Sorensen
Will Thorsen

January 26

Avery Fox
Brandon Kimble
Christy & John Kendall

January 27

Larry Lindquist
Matt Ludeman
Todd Osbeck
Don Otten
Jeff Postlewaite
Veda Stevenson

January 28

Gretchen Bieneman
Sam Bishop
Karl Crist
Andrew Fox
Jim Krug
Melissa Mazurek
Madeline Schmehling

January 29

Jaclyn Abbate
Katie Bowman
Bill Brock
Beth O'Connor
Maya Rubenstahl
Jeanie Wilkinson

January 30

Susan Barnhart
Garrett Havard
Rick Kulas
James Schultz
Molly & C.J. Havard

January 31

Rachel Engle
K.C. Fawcett
Francesca Fuger
Drew Hutchinson
Giulia Mencarelli
Jake VanZalen



**If you have a special milestone birthday or anniversary, please contact the [church office](mailto:church.office@tlcgr.org) to let us know!*

Estimate of Giving Form

Be welcome to clip out the form below to use it to pledge your Estimate of Giving for 2024! Additional copies will be available in worship on Sundays.

My/Our Estimate of Giving for 2024

So that others may know God's grace and engage in God's work, I/we plan to offer \$_____ per week/month/year to support Christ's mission through Trinity Lutheran Church.

I/we additionally plan to offer \$_____ per week/month/year to service our building project mortgage.

_____ This amount reflects a commitment to percentage giving.

_____ This amount reflects a one percent increase in giving.

_____ I/we are unable to make a commitment at this time.

First and Last Name(s)

Street Address

City/State/Zip

Telephone

Email



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



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

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

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



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Church Grand Rapids

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