



The Messenger

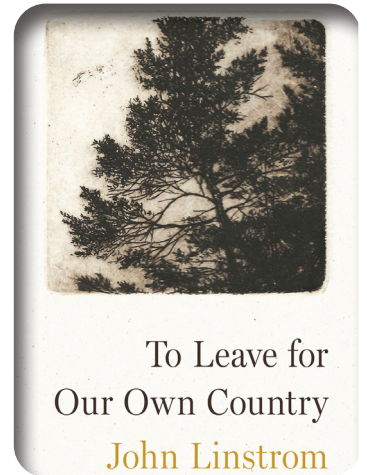
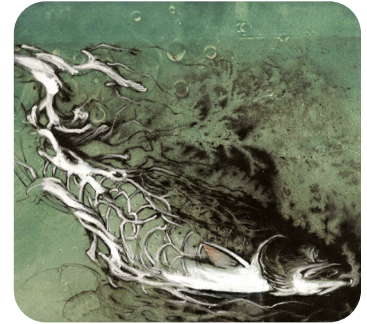
To Leave for Our Own Country:

Exhibition and Book Launch with Ladislav Hanka and John Linstrom

On Sunday, May 5, Trinity will open a new exhibition of art and poetry in the Overlook Gallery, running through the end of June. The show will feature the elegant, naturalist etchings, carvings, and drawings of Kalamazoo-based artist Ladislav Hanka alongside a selection of poems from John Linstrom's new, debut poetry collection, *To Leave for Our Own Country*, which features Hanka's artwork on the cover. The two will be available in the gallery between services that morning, and will host a formal opening reception at 2:30 p.m. followed by the Michigan launch of the book at 3:30 p.m. The book launch will feature Linstrom reading from and discussing the book, and copies will be available for sale and signing. A limited number of copies including an original, signed impression of the etching from the book's cover will also be available for purchase.

Ladislav Hanka is an artist, beekeeper, and naturalist. Born to Czech parents in Iowa, Hanka has studied in Germany, Austria, and Czechia, working for a time under an engraver of stamps and currency in Prague. His etchings of fish, birds, and people have become nationally recognized through the labels of Bells Brewing Company, most recognizably the Brook Trout on Two Hearted Ale. His etchings, drawings, and book art may be found in the collections of over 150 public institutions, from Boston to Prague and Beijing. He is currently the subject of a new documentary art film, *A Two Hearted Tale*, co-directed by Rory K. McHarg and Bret Miller. Hanka's artwork takes on themes of life, death, and transfiguration—of nature as the crucible in which man finds a reflection of his own life and meaning. His 2014 installation at the Urban Institute of Contemporary Art in Grand Rapids, entitled *The Great Wall of Bees*, was a crowd favorite at that year's ArtPrize. He lives in Kalamazoo with his wife, the sculptor Jana Hanka.

John Linstrom, eldest son of Trinity's retired senior pastor Robert Linstrom, is the author of the poetry collection *To Leave for Our Own Country* (Black Lawrence, 2024). He will begin as Assistant Professor of English at Centenary College of Louisiana in the fall of 2024, and currently works as the Mellon Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow in Climate Humanities and Social Justice at the Climate Museum in New York City. He is the editor of *The Liberty Hyde Bailey Library* from Cornell University Press, and his editions of Bailey's work include *The Nature-Study Idea* (2024), *The Liberty Hyde Bailey Gardener's Companion* (coedited, 2019), and *The Holy Earth* (2015). He currently lives with his wife and young daughter in Queens, NY.



What's Happening at Trinity in May?

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.
Last Day is Sunday, May 19
Traditional Worship, 10:45 a.m.
Livestreaming of Worship, 10:45 a.m.

Mondays

Stroller Barre, 9:30 a.m.
Band Rehearsal, 6 p.m.

Tuesdays

TLC Quilters*
LWR Quilters, 9:30 a.m.
Women's Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.
Fit4Baby, 7 p.m.

Wednesdays

Power Bend & Stretch Fitness Class, 9 a.m.
No class on May 29

Thursdays

Tai Chi Fitness Class, 10 a.m.
No class on May 30
Choosing Peace & Serenity AFG, 7 p.m.
Body Boost, 7:30 p.m.

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

Shop the Trinity Rummage Sale!

Thursday, May 2:
5 to 8 p.m.
\$5 admission

Friday, May 3:
10 a.m. to noon & 3 to 9 p.m.

Saturday, May 4:
9 a.m. to noon
Everything must go!
\$5 bag deals!

Daily Calendar

Wednesday, May 1

Rummage Sale Setup, 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
Sumud Adult Forum, 10:30 a.m. & 7 p.m.
Outreach Comm Mtg, noon

Thursday, May 2

Rummage Sale, 5-8 p.m.
Resound Bell Rehearsal, 6 p.m.
Trinity Choir Rehearsal, 7:15 p.m.

Friday, May 3

Women's Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.
Rummage Sale, 10 a.m.-noon; 4-8 p.m.

Saturday, May 4

Rummage Sale, 9 a.m.-noon
Bassoon & Piano Recital, 1 p.m.

Sunday, May 5

Confirmation Sunday
High School Bible Study, 9:15 a.m.
Piano Recital, 1:30 p.m.
Artist/Author Reception, 2:30 p.m.
Book Launch/Reading, 3:30 p.m.

Monday, May 6

In The Image Volunteering, 1 p.m.
Stephen Leaders Mtg, 1:30 p.m.
Property Comm Mtg, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, May 7

GriefShare, 3:30 p.m.
Children's Min Comm Mtg, 8 p.m.

Wednesday, May 8

Sumud Adult Forum, 10:30 a.m. & 7 p.m.

Thursday, May 9

Helping Hands Comm Mtg, 10 a.m.
Resound Bell Rehearsal, 6 p.m.
Trinity Choir Rehearsal, 7:15 p.m.

Friday, May 10

Memorial Service for Bob Vander Veen, 1 p.m.

Sunday, May 12

IHN Week Begins
High School Youth Group, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, May 13

IHN Onsite
The Messenger Deadline
Finance Auditors Mtg, 8 a.m.
New Members VIP Supper, 6 p.m.
Safety & Security Comm Mtg, 5 p.m.
Congregation Council Mtg, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 14

IHN Onsite
Finance Auditors Mtg, 8 a.m.
GriefShare, 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 15

IHN Onsite
Finance Auditors Mtg, 8 a.m.
Sumud Adult Forum, 10:30 a.m. & 7 p.m.

Thursday, May 16

IHN Onsite
Finance Auditors Mtg, 8 a.m.
Volunteer at In The Image, 1 p.m.
Bridge, 1 p.m.
Resound Bell Rehearsal, 6 p.m.
Life Begins at 60 Dinner, 6 p.m.
Trinity Choir Rehearsal, 7:15 p.m.

Friday, May 17

IHN Onsite
Finance Auditors Mtg, 8 a.m.
Women's Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.
Wedding Rehearsal, 5 p.m.

Saturday, May 18

IHN Onsite
Wedding, 3 p.m.
Game Night & Potluck, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 19

New Members Sunday
Stay & Play Event, 10:30 a.m.
High School Youth Group, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, May 20

Finance Auditors Mtg, 8 a.m.
Health Ministries Comm Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 21

Care & Share, 10:30 a.m.
Mental Health Speaker, 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday Evening Book Club, 7 p.m.
SM Peer Supt Grp 1, 7:30 p.m.
SM Peer Supt Grp 2, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 29

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

Friday, May 31

Wedding Rehearsal, 5 p.m.



A Message from Pastor Dennis Smith

“What is truth?” -Pontius Pilate, circa 30 C.E.

Though likely meant as a snarky retort to Jesus’ claim of otherworldly kingship, Pilate’s question has rattled Christian witness ever since. For example, we need look no further than our namesake, Martin Luther. In protest to the salvation truth claims of his own Catholic Church, Luther triggered a revolution that relocated the foundational basis of theological truth from ecclesiastical decrees to biblical script. With Bible in hand, Luther decreed, “Unless I am convicted by scripture and plain reason—I do not accept the authority of popes and councils for they have contradicted each other—my conscience is captive to the Word of God.”

This sounds simple enough and Luther certainly expressed it with a good deal of energy. The trouble comes when other people read the same scriptures and come away with very different and equally contradictory understandings of what is truth. One need only read the church signs on the way from home to work to realize that Christians cannot answer Pilate or the Pope with one voice. Compounding our ambivalence is an increasing cultural willingness to abandon the quest for objective truth altogether in favor strongly held opinions. In short, truth has become a commodity, sold in the marketplace of passions. Truth claims are like Tinkerbell: real enough as long as we truly believe, no matter how objectively silly.

I don’t believe that Luther intended to trigger an avalanche of religious relativity. I think he would be horrified by the realization that his Reformation battle cry, “scripture alone!” had unleashed such violent and competing passions among Christians. In the wake of centuries of denomination fissioning, we find ourselves left with what I call the “Lucy” paradigm. With all due credit to Charles Schulz, it goes like this:

Lucy and Charlie Brown are standing side by side, elbows on a stone fence, contemplating the big questions of life.

“Charlie Brown,” inquires, Lucy, “Do you think there are more good people in the world or bad people?”

“I don’t really know,” confesses Charlie Brown. “Who’s to tell?”

A frame of comic strip silence follows.

“I will!” declares Lucy confidently. Problem solved.

No church suffers a shortage of Lucys.

However, what often gets lost in Luther’s resume is his cautious humility when it comes to truth and the claims one makes in that name. One of the reasons why I am passionately Lutheran is because of that cautionary stance. “Simultaneously saint and sinner,” is how Luther described what it means to be a baptized Christian. It is a way of saying that we can never find solid, self righteous footing in the decisions we make or the claims we stake. As one wise pastor advised, “Go, do the right thing and know that you are forgiven.”

I confess that even my claims about the gospel are staked in humble faith, a kind of “Here I stand” affirmation of what shapes my life. I believe that such humility could lead all of us into conversation rather than competition for the truth. I believe that such humility can broaden our horizon of God’s truth. I believe that such humility compels us to break free of our ideological cocoons and listen to other voices, especially those with whom we disagree.

That’s where I stand. In keeping with that commitment, I’d like to hear from you. Where do you find truth? How do you engage people with whom you disagree? How does your faith inform what you believe to be true? Are you more like Lucy or Charlie Brown?



Council Corner



A Message from Council Member Michelle Feutz

One of Trinity's strongest assets is our Worship and Music Ministry. We are blessed to have both dedicated and talented leaders in this area as well as many willing volunteer participants. It is safe to say that each of us has been touched in some way by the Trinity Choir, Resound Handbell Choir, or Rejoice Bands, as well as other special musical guests. As congregants, when we lift our voices to join in the music or turn our hearts and minds to God as we listen, all of us are active participants in this essential ministry of our church!

At Trinity, we recently celebrated together the beautiful sounds of Easter, and we are looking forward to the upcoming events in the endowed Celebration of Music Concert Series. These inspiring performances serve as ways to both invite others into our church who may not typically set foot inside, and to showcase and celebrate all that our sanctuary can offer in terms of acoustics and instruments. We are blessed for the connections that our musical directors have to the greater musical community at large as they plan these delightful events.

A new highlight in our Worship and Music Ministry has been the revitalization of the Children's Choir. A small group of children has participated in both a traditional and a Rejoice service during the past year, and they look to continue with further opportunities in the future.

Both the Council and the Property Committee have kept the needs of the Worship and Music Ministry at the forefront of conversations about repairing the recent water damage in the Sanctuary. We are committed to ensuring that great care is taken to protect the organ and the acoustics of the Sanctuary when repairs begin.

As the Call Committee begins to receive and review candidate applications for the position of senior pastor, know that they are committed to finding someone who will continue to support the gifted work being done in the Worship and Music Ministry. If you have questions about Trinity's Worship and Music Ministry or would like to find out how you can be further involved, please reach out to [Dr. Darlene Kuperus](#) directly, or to myself as the council liaison to this committee. We would be happy to get you connected in this area!

Michelle Feutz, Worship and Music Ministry Committee Liaison

Trinity Congregation Council Members 2024-2025

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: Steve Heacock Vice President: Bill Bush
Secretary: Jamie Kuntzman Treasurer: Brad Kessel

Congregational Council Members

Children's Ministry: Sarah Huckstep	Outreach: Dan Butler
Communications: David Marquardt	Property: Erick Kind
Endowment Fund: John Derbin	Spiritual Growth: Julie McLeod
Fellowship & Hospitality: Jamie Kuntzman	Stewardship: Jacquie Murray
Finance: Chris Norton	Worship & Music: Michelle Feutz
Health Ministry: Michelle Morin	Youth & Family Ministry: Chris Becker; Dakota Morin (Youth Representative)
Helping Hands: Susan Knoll	
Human Resources: Kelly Wittry	

Trinity Lutheran Church Budget vs. Actuals Month of March 2024

	Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable/ (Unfavorable)	
Total Income	109,203	102,495	(6,707)	-6.1%
Total Expenses	99,284	93,161	6,123	6.2%
Net Income (Loss)	9,919	9,335	(584)	

2024 Fiscal Year-to-Date (Through March 2024)

	Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable/ (Unfavorable)	
Total Income	237,658	259,101	21,443	9.0%
Total Expenses	212,933	192,245	20,688	9.7%
Net Income (Loss)	24,725	66,855	42,131	

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.

Camp Scholarship Fund Appeal

Camp is an amazing gift in the lives of our young people. At camp they experience God, community, and nature in amazing ways, and this is largely possible because of your support of our camp scholarship fund. We ask families to pay \$100 per camper and our scholarship fund covers the rest of the cost of camp, no questions asked; thus, many of our youth are able to attend camp because of our generosity. In May we are seeking to replenish this fund.

A gift of \$230 sponsors one first through third grader for a three-day camp experience.

A gift of \$380 sponsors one elementary aged child for a week of camp.

A gift of \$370 sponsors one middle or high school aged youth for a week of camp.

Please prayerfully consider how you would like to help support this life changing experience in the lives of Trinity's youth. When donating, please specify that your donation is for the *Camp Scholarship Fund*.



A Message from Associate Pastor Dan Schewe

*Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations,
I am exalted in the earth."
The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge. –Psalm 46:10-11*



As summer springs we are invited to take part in all of its amazing offerings that we experience here in West Michigan. Enjoying the beaches and lakes, hikes through parks, marveling at the beauty of nature springing up around us, connecting with friends and family, bonfires, the wonder of the night sky, and all the other ways to enjoy this wonderful time of the year.

Yet, our days can get so full of these wonderful things and our other commitments that we feel stretched, pulled thin – like a rubber band pulled so tight it is about to snap. We can become so busy that it is hard to enjoy the moments we find ourselves in. It is hard for us to slow down. To stop filling our minds with all the things we have to do and all the things we want to do, and simply be. To be in the moment that God has given to us.

I want you to try something.

Slowly inhale through your nose as you count to five. Then, pause and hold your breath for another five count. Next, exhale slowly through your nose for a five count. Try to do this five times in a row. As you do, focus on your breath and the motion of your diaphragm as your lungs fill up and empty out. Notice the rise and fall of your chest. Feel your heart slowing down with your breath. I find that this practice helps me find the now when I'm distracted by all the things pulling on my life. When I become too focused on the past or the future at the expense of the now, it helps me be present in the moment.

God continually invites us to slow down and experience Him and what He has made. Often, we are too busy to notice what God has done or is doing. We get too focused on what we have going on. As we slow down, we are able to notice God. How God surrounds us with beauty. How God provides for us. How God walks with us. In these wonderful summer months, I hope and pray that you can slow down. That you can be still and experience God in all the big and little ways that He is present with us each and every day. I pray that you can breathe and be present in these moments God gives to us.

New Members Celebrations in May 2024

We are excited that our community continues to grow. New members will be gathering for a VIP supper with members of our Congregational Council and staff on **Monday, May 13**. On **Sunday, May 19** we will welcome new members in worship and celebrate with a reception after services. The celebration will likely spill over to a couple of additional Sundays to meet the availability of those joining Trinity this spring.

Please know that you are welcome to explore what it would mean to affirm membership with the people of Trinity in mission and ministry. If you are considering becoming a member, please contact Office Coordinator [Kris Baker](#), [Pastor Dan](#), or [Pastor Kari](#) for more information.



A Message from Associate Pastor Kari Fast

Welcoming Others: “There’s Always Room for One More!”

Greetings Trinity Family and Friends,

When our children were little, one of the many books they loved was *The Mitten* by Jan Brett. A short description: “The Mitten is a retelling of a Ukrainian folktale. After a young boy drops his mitten in the snow a mouse finds it and uses it to shelter from the cold wind. The mouse eventually ends up inviting animals such as an owl, a frog, and a fox to share the warmth of the mitten.” The mouse, the littlest of the animals in this very cold forest invites in a diverse group of animals, always with the words of welcome: “There’s always room for one more!”



We too, at Trinity, live out this sense of welcome which seems to be in our very DNA. We welcome all to worship each Sunday and we welcome all to receive the gift of grace in Holy Communion. Even during this “in between” place as we await a new senior pastor, our welcoming continues as we will soon officially welcome new members to our church in May.

Welcoming all brings a beautiful sense of diversity and with diversity comes a beautiful mixture of people with different life stories, gift sets, points of view, and experiences with God. Even more importantly, welcoming diversity means welcoming unity. We are united in Christ. In all our diversity, we are one.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ... Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many... If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

–1 Corinthians 12:12, 14, 26

As Christ teaches us the way of welcoming, we learn that in Christ, “There’s always room for one more!” Just as each one of us were welcomed, we share the grace and beauty of being welcomed.

God’s Deepest Blessings,

Pastor Kari, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care

Ongoing Adult Forum Series – Join Us!

Our congregation is learning about **Sumud**, an Arabic word describing steadfastness, resilience, and persistence and sometimes also referred to as resistance through existence.

We are in the middle of a 7-week adult forum series entitled *Following the Way of Jesus*. The video series that provides a basis for our forum was filmed in the Holy Land at key places in Jesus’ life. At each location, Palestinian pastors and people share stories of Jesus’ life and reflect on what they mean for Christians today – especially people who are living, as Jesus did, under occupation and oppression.

You can still join in the conversations! Sessions are held on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. or 7 p.m. in Centennial Hall and run through May 15. Contact Pastor Frank Rothfuss at 616.481.2433 with questions.

Many thanks to Trinity member Albert Asfour who generously provided a traditional Palestinian lunch (see right) to kick off the start of this series. Having the cost partially offset by a Thrivent grant made the meal available to all attendees for no cost.



Music & The Arts at Trinity

“Music and art as prayer.”

“He who sings prays twice.”

“Hymns are the sermons we remember.”

These are all expressions of the power of music, art, and words that shape our faith as we sing and listen in worship. As a community of faith, we are shaped by what we say, what we hear, what we pray, and what we sing together.

We have just walked through the very meaningful seasons of Lent and Easter. Some of the richest and most profound music we sing and play still resounds in our ears and hearts. The sound of an unaccompanied violin... the sorrow of Psalm 22 chanted as the altar is stripped on Maundy Thursday... the sound of cello and piano... the Trinity Choir singing anthems, hymns, and descants throughout the entirety of Holy Week... the congregational singing of *Were You There* as the organ sound slowly disappeared and the voice of each person joined together... the joy of handbells bursting forth on Easter... the *Hallelujah Chorus* sung by choir and congregation... the brilliance of brass and organ as we sing *Christ the Lord is Risen Today!*

All these sounds and more created a tapestry of meaningful, heartfelt worship. There are many dedicated Trinity members who sing, ring, and play instruments to inspire worship. It is a blessing to lead and coordinate these efforts so that all we share in worship may be pleasing to God and uplifting to those who participate in worship at Trinity Lutheran Church.

Dr. Darlene Kuperus

Music Director, Organist, and Artistic Director of the Celebration of Music Concert Series

Celebration of Music Concert Series: Gratitude

The 2023/24 Celebration of Music Concert Series has been an overwhelming success. This is largely due to the strong support we receive from Trinity Lutheran Church through your attendance. Thank you for inviting friends from the community to join us. It is wonderful to see a significant number of new faces at each concert. New friends are made, and community is being built.

It is due to the generosity of donors that we can offer these concerts without ticket cost so that all are welcome. We have had nearly 200 people attend each of the 8 events in the past season, with the VOXmas Christmas concert drawing over 400 people into the Sanctuary. The financial support we receive for this series supports the work of highly talented guest musicians who share amazing music with our audiences. In my work creating this series, I repeatedly hear that musicians absolutely love making music in the resonant space of Trinity's Sanctuary and concert attendees regularly share with me their deep gratitude for music that uplifts and inspires them.

Concerts Trinity Hosted in the 2023/24 Series:

- Fanfares and Flourishes: Music for Brass and Pipe Organ, Dr. Darlene Kuperus
- Debora DeWitt & Company: Music for Duo Grand Pianos



Thank
You

Continued on following page

Music & The Arts at Trinity

- VOXmas: Christmas Choir Music Sung by Vox GR
- Voices of Extraordinary Youth: Mandala, Grand Rapids Youth Chorus conducted by Leah Ivory and joined by GR Christian High School choirs
- An Afternoon at the “Silent” Movies: Live piano music provided by Robert Edwards
- Chamber Music Series: Karen Krummel (cello); Robert Edwards (piano); Adam Liebert (violin)
- Rotman “Young Organist” Competition, in collaboration with the Grand Rapids Chapter of the American Guild of Organists
- Art of the Keyboard: A Mosaic of Trinity Keyboards, Dr. Darlene Kuperus (organ/piano/harpsichord), joined by Vox GR singers and guest instrumentalists

We celebrate the enormous gifts of music that were shared in the past series and look forward to the new series that begins in the fall.

Band Corner

SPOTLIGHT ON REJOICE BAND MUSICIAN TOM HELZER

Welcome to the Rejoice Band Corner. **Are you interested in joining one of the bands? We have a great need now for a bass player.**

This month we feature **Tom Helzer**, who plays drums with Beyond Belief.

How long have you been playing with the Rejoice service bands?

Boy, taxing my memory. Believe 25+ years. Pretty close to the beginning.

Do you play or do music anywhere else?

At the moment, no.

What got you involved in playing for Rejoice worship?

I’ve always been drawn to contemporary over traditional worship music and when Trinity started the “come as you are” outreach service that was to include a contemporary band, I had to check it out. After attending a couple times, I knew I could offer my gifts as a percussionist for use in a worship environment.

Why do you play with us on Sunday mornings?

Enjoyment! For me music is therapeutic and performing with a group of other talented musicians is very satisfying for the soul.

Do you have any favorite songs or favorite types of songs that we've done?

Too many favorites over the years. With new songs being produced every day, the list can and does change.

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

Quite a wide variety. As long as there is a solid group of musicians behind the music, I’ll give it a listen. I typically stay away from pop or vocalist centric music. For me I enjoy listening to a band – whether jazz, rock, or progressive – that has a balance between instrumentation and vocals.



Children's Ministry

Trinity Kids Go to Camp!

Did you know that summer camp is Trinity tradition? It is not just for BIG kids! Each year, more and more elementary kids have their first overnight camp experience at Stony Lake Camp in New Era, Michigan. *Explorers* is an abbreviated, 3-night camp experience for younger campers entering grades 1-3. It is the perfect first-time camp experience! *Discoverers* is a full week (5 nights) of camp for grades 3-6.

This summer, Pastor Dan and a group of Trinity kids will head to Stony Lake the week of July 22 (also known as "Week 6" of camp when you sign up). It will be an amazing week of community and faith formation, and Trinity makes camp very affordable for families. Each camper is asked to pay a \$100 deposit and Trinity will cover the rest!

Anyone interested should reach out to [Pastor Dan](#). For more information about Stony Lake, go to elcalivingwater.com.



Pop Into Summer!

Stay & Play: May 19, 10:30 a.m. to noon

After wrapping up a wonderful year of Sunday School, more fun times are just around the corner. Trinity families are invited to the next Stay & Play event after 9:15 a.m. worship on May 19. Break out the flip-flops, sunglasses, and popsicles for a good time featuring summer themed games, songs, and more! Look for the signup in your email or the weekly eBlast.



dive into adventure!

SCUBA VBS at Trinity

June 24-27, 9 a.m. to noon

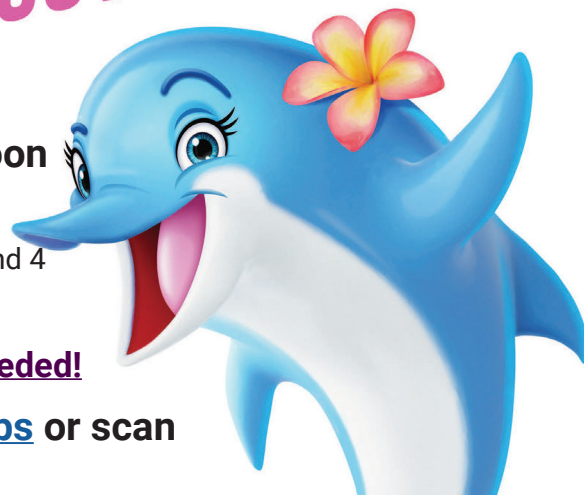
Ages 3 years to grade 5

Tide Pool Preschool for ages 3 and 4

(limited to 20 kids)

Adult and youth volunteers needed!

Visit vbspro.events/p/tlc2024vbs or scan the QR code!



**V
B
S**



Middle School

Confirmation Sunday is May 5!

Come celebrate 12 young people in our congregation, and their families, who are confirming their faith on Sunday, May 5 during the 10:45 a.m. service. This joyous occasion will be followed by a cake reception in the Courtyard. We look forward to continuing our journey of faith together with these young people!



High School

Summer Trips Meeting – May 19 at 6:30 p.m.

Our next meeting for our trips to New Orleans, LA and Lincoln, IL will be Sunday, May 19 at 6:30 p.m. in the Youth Room. Please reach out to [Pastor Dan](#) with questions.

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 on Sunday evenings. Come for some fun and conversation around how God is leading us in our lives. There will be no youth group on May 5 as we all recover from the Rummage Sale.

High School Bible Study with Pastor Dan – May 5 at 9:15 a.m.

All high schoolers and their friends are invited to join Pastor Dan in the Youth Room on May 5 during the 9:15 a.m. service for Bible Study! There will be donuts and conversation. See you there!

Celebrating Graduates on Sunday, June 2!

On June 2 we celebrate 2024 high school graduates! They will be blessed, given a gift, and highlighted in the bulletin. Join us in celebrating these amazing young people!

Stay connected with our 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.

Camp at Stony Lake: July 22 to 27, 2024

Young people 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. If you have any questions, please reach out to [Pastor Dan](#).

The week is filling up, so register now. If you end up on the waitlist let [Pastor Dan](#) know or consult him for additional information.

Sign up here: elcalivingwater.com



Health Ministries

Mental Health Matters

May is Mental Health Awareness Month and we are honored to have Trinity member Kay Zeaman share some of her journey dealing with treatments for obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD), depression, and anxiety. Kay is being joined by Rebekah Becker, BSN-RN, CARN from the Neuromodulation Clinic at Pine Rest and we'll be learning about Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS). TMS is a procedure that uses magnetic fields to stimulate nerve cells in the brain to improve symptoms of major depression, OCD, and possibly other mental health issues.



Please join us on Tuesday, May 21 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in Centennial Hall.

Your Health Ministries Team at Trinity hopes to decrease the stigma surrounding mental health by spreading awareness through education and personal experience; everyone's story makes a difference! Contact Faith Community Nurse [Kristin Bradley](#) with questions.

Care & Share

Are you, or have you been, a full-time caregiver for an adult child, parent, spouse, or loved one? If so, you could likely benefit from getting together with other folks in similar situations. We gather together to **Care** for each other and **Share** in our journeys.

Our next meeting is on **Tuesday, May 21 at 10:30 a.m.** at Trinity. We'll meet each other and then discuss the challenges... and benefits... surrounding caregiving, learn ways to refocus when things get chaotic (both for us and those we are caring for), and ground ourselves in God's promises. Connect with [Kristin Bradley](#) with questions or concerns.

SPRING FITNESS

Through
May 23

WEDNESDAYS AT 9 A.M.

Power Bend and Stretch

THURSDAYS AT 10 A.M.

Tai Chi

Recommended donation - \$3/class.

Contact Faith Community Nurse Kristin Bradley with questions.
kristin.bradley@tlcgr.org

WHY DONATE BLOOD?

1. One donation can affect up to THREE lives.
2. Donating blood is free.
3. There is no substitute for blood.
4. You or someone you love may need blood someday.
5. You get a mini-physical.
6. It's an act of kindness and compassion.
7. Blood donation makes you a real life Superhero!
8. Donating blood burns 650 calories.
9. There is fellowship with treats!
10. The real question is, "Why not donate blood?"



Contact Faith Community Nurse Kristin Bradley to secure your spot or find our additional ways you can help.



NEXT DRIVE:
Monday, June 10
12:30 to 6 p.m.



Act Now to Become a Stephen Minister!

When was the last time someone really listened to you, paying full attention to your needs? We need more Stephen Ministers to provide that kind of care for those journeying through a time of stress or hurt.

Stephen Ministry is our congregation's one-to-one caring ministry. As a Stephen Minister, you would walk alongside someone who is dealing with a difficult time in life, perhaps grieving the loss of a loved one through death or divorce, dealing with special needs children, with illness, adjusting to a new baby, or navigating a transition in life.

As a Stephen Minister, you would meet with your care receiver weekly, providing a listening ear, encouragement, and prayer. This regular care supplements pastoral care, providing tangible support for ongoing needs. Twice a month, you would also participate in continuing education and peer support with the whole Stephen Ministry team.

Stephen Minister training equips you to do an excellent job as a Stephen Minister as well as to improve the quality of all your relationships. Topics include listening, feelings, confidentiality, providing Christian care, maintaining boundaries, crisis theory, and practice. Specific modules address circumstances such as ministering to people experiencing grief, divorce, hospitalization, illness, and more.

Now is the time to act! The Stephen Leader team is now taking applications for a fall training class. Contact Faith Community Nurse [Kristin Bradley](#) for more details or to request an application.



Opportunities to Support Church & Community

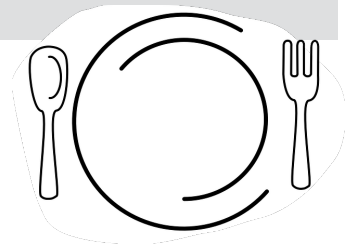
Donate Diapers & Underwear in May and June!

One child goes through thousands of disposable diapers. Now imagine you have a limited income and can't afford to buy them. As a result, you resort to changing your baby's diaper only once or twice a day. Beginning on Mother's Day and through Father's Day, we will welcome your contributions of diapers and underwear. Please consider donating all sizes of NEW unopened packages of children's, women's and men's underwear, undershirts, and socks as well as diapers. **You may place your donations in the labeled bins located in the Narthex and west entryway by the office. Monetary gifts are also appreciated.** Checks may be written to Trinity Lutheran Church with *Diapers/Undies* in the memo line. Our collections will be distributed through local Grand Rapids organizations. There is a need, especially, for larger adult-sized underwear and undershirts, such as size XXXL.



Provide Meals for Trinity Members & Friends

The Helping Hands Ministry is looking for more volunteers to make and deliver meals to fellow Trinity members in times of illness, grief, or the addition of a baby. During these times providing meals can be such a helpful act. If you'd like to volunteer and receive notifications when someone is in need, please reach out to Helping Hands Coordinator [Jeanne Becker](#).



Volunteer at In The Image

In The Image provides gently used clothing, housewares, furniture, and appliances to families in need. Please come volunteer on the first Monday/third Thursday of the month from 1 to 3 p.m. to help sort, organize, and help in the community. Meet at In The Image, 4255 Kalamazoo Ave SE, GR, MI 49508, at 1 p.m. Contact [Jeanne Becker](#) with inquiries.



Thank You for Donating Hams!



We asked, and the members of Trinity Lutheran responded wholeheartedly. We donated a literal **TON** of hams to SECOM and The Green Apple Pantry! Trinity donated 200 hams which, in all, weighed just shy of 2,000 pounds. In addition, we were able to give a monetary donation to SECOM to purchase other options besides ham, and Monica Randles, owner of Nutcase Vegan, donated three vegan plant based "hams." Both pantries were extremely grateful for our members' generosity. Thank you for helping so many families celebrate Easter with a ham dinner. Many thanks to Outreach Committee members who helped with collecting, purchasing, and delivering hams.

Opportunities to Support Church & Community

Be a Welcoming Presence by Supporting Refugee Children in the B.R.I.D.G.E.S. Program

The Refugee Education Center's **B**uilding Refugee Independence and **D**elivering **G**uidance for **E**ducational **S**uccess (B.R.I.D.G.E.S.) program provides a safe and welcoming environment for newly resettled refugee children who have yet to attend school in the United States. At the center, they can prepare for their K-12 education and relieve anxiety before entering a new classroom.



The program is provided twice over the summer, from June 10 to July 11 and July 15 to August 8. **Volunteers are needed to help 2 - 4 days each week for both sessions.** If you would like to volunteer, more information is available at <https://refugeeeducationcenter.org/bridges>, by contacting the REC volunteer coordinator at anna@refugeeeducationcenter.org, or from Trinity member Skip Franklin at sfranklin1717@gmail.com.

Volunteer for Habitat for Humanity on June 22

Summer is quickly approaching and along with it comes an opportunity for us to help with a Habitat for Humanity build. We are looking for volunteers who are available on June 22. The specific location has not been determined yet, but it will be in the Baxter neighborhood of Grand Rapids. The link below from Habitat of Kent County will give you some general information and allow you to sign up. All helping hands are welcome and lunch will be provided. Habitat has been one of Trinity's outreach partnerships for many years, and it's always been a wonderful fellowship opportunity.



Registration Link: <http://vhub.at/TrinityLutheranGR>

Once registered, everyone will receive a confirmation email. Three days prior to the actual event, you should receive a reminder email with key information about location, parking, and what to expect when volunteering. Please contact Kelly Smith at smithkelly314@yahoo.com with questions.



Volunteer for IHN: May 12 to 19

After a small break, it's almost time for Trinity to once again house IHN homeless families! Please mark your calendar for May 12 to 19 and plan to volunteer. We will need a lot of help, both onsite as we host and behind the scenes before, during, and after. This is such an important ministry that would not be possible without the help of our volunteers.

Thank you all for what you do! Please contact [Kathy Bush](#) with questions.

Sign up to help onsite: <https://tinyurl.com/ypekdjw3>

Sign up to donate groceries: <https://tinyurl.com/5n8jneyr>

Mark Your Calendar!

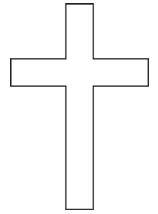
Confirmation Sunday: May 5

Confirmation Sunday will be celebrated on May 5. Our confirmands have completed three years of catechetical instruction with Pastor Dan Schewe, who will offer each of them individual blessing prayers.

Our 2024 confirmands are:

Sam Bishop	Layla Lothschutz	Helena Phillips	Liam Selleck
Magdalena Coles	Jenna Luchies	Claire Robach	Sydney Waite
Isaac Johnson	Inara McNally	Ethan Schaefer	Jude Westra

We invite you to be with us as we bless these 12 young people as they continue their faith journeys.



Mother's Day is Sunday, May 12!

Bring Your Favorite Mother to Worship!

We will celebrate the gift of family at Trinity on Mother's Day, May 12. Join us in honoring and giving thanks for all mothers, grandmothers, and those who have mothered us with a gift of carnations. We will also kick off the annual Trinity Diapers & Undies Drive on Mother's Day, an appeal that will conclude on Father's Day in June.



Dinner at Logan's Roadhouse



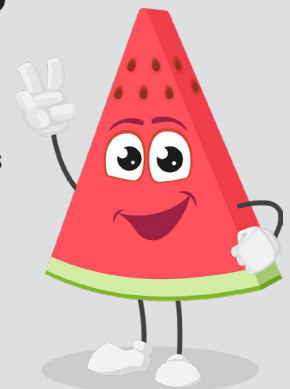
If you're over 60, please join us for dinner at Logan's Roadhouse (1651 Marketplace Dr. in Caledonia) on Thursday, May 16, at 6 p.m.

To make your reservation, email host Mari Franz at mari49546@gmail.com or call/text her at 616.450.5068. *Space is limited to the first 35 people.* See you there!

Outdoor Worship & Start of Summer Celebration on June 9

Our "Second Sunday" outdoor worship will return on Sunday, June 9! You are invited to join us on the west lawn for 10:45 a.m. worship. In the case of inclement weather, outdoor worship will move to the Sanctuary. For those who prefer to worship indoors on these Second Sundays, the 8 and 9:15 a.m. services will be offered in the Sanctuary and Centennial Hall as usual.

Please join us immediately after the 10:45 a.m. outdoor service for our annual Start of Summer Celebration! This parish picnic potluck will feature a Trinity-provided entrée, while parishioners are asked to bring sides, fruits/veggies, and desserts. Please look for a signup in the weekly eBlast and contact [Tess Lundgren](#) with questions. See you there!



I Have Called You by Name

Name tags are working out well for both new and seasoned members! We're providing reusable, waterproof, magnetic or clip-on name tags for YOU! There are signups in the Narthex and Courtyard or sign up by scanning the QR code at right or by visiting the link below. Your new name badge will be ready for you the following Sunday on the ribbons near the name tag stations. Thank you for connecting with each other in this small and meaningful way.

Name tag sign up: <https://tinyurl.com/yc86u3zs>



Trinity Partners With Davenport Nursing Students



Trinity's Faith Community Nurse Kristin Bradley has partnered with Davenport University to have senior community health nursing students work on educational projects within our community. This year's students prepared safety videos and provided a blood pressure clinic along with a virtual presentation on managing hypertension. Check out their work on our YouTube page under the Health Ministries playlist or visit <https://tinyurl.com/2zwpb252>.

Safety & Security at Trinity

Many of you are aware that our community experienced a car theft during our Good Friday service this year. While this incident raised concern about security and safety here at Trinity, it highlighted the benefits of the camera system we have in place and showed the importance of having doors locked in areas that are not being monitored. It also served as a reminder to keep vehicles locked and any valuables hidden.

Our recently formed Safety and Security Task Force has been very involved this past year exploring everything safety and security related: door locks, security cameras, wheelchair safety, medical preparedness, fire and weather emergencies, outdoor lighting, and also how to respond in the event of a hostile intruder. Being prepared in the case of any emergency helps provide a better outcome. If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions please reach out to the Task Force chairperson Chris Becker at christopherbecker1@icloud.com or 616.862.9392.



May Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations

May 1

Kellee Donovan
Nancy Mattson
Sharon White
Drew & Gretchen Flemming
Robert & Barbara Meyers
Larry & Debra Petrick

May 2

Marina Kosiorek
Dave Straw III
Andrew Vanderwall
Michael & Sarah Bernard
Matt & Jenna Ludeman
Andrew & Ailee Van Hagen

May 3

Doug Brackmann
Emma Colby
Maria DeVita-Krug
Lindsey Mooney
Ainsley Reges
Susan Rich
Caleb Thamban
Kent & Kristin Linkfield

May 4

Matthew Candela
Kris Fox
Reid Johnson
Julia Kessel
Matiss McNally
Deborah Pollert
Kara Posthumus
Lydia Smith
Lena Wilson
Cindy Zientarski
Laura & Paul Reges

May 5

Mary Ashimine
Katie Gingras
Aaron Knoll
Isabelle McKinney
Daniel Mukendi
Gabriel Mukendi
Josh & Katie Gardner

May 6

Connor Kuhlmann
Bill & Renee Fisk
Jonathan & Jennifer Sommers
Kim & Lance Walsh

May 7

Amy Beuker
Madison Fisher
Kari Ruble
Bill Thorsen
Bob Carwell & Mary Minich-Carwell

May 8

Britten Rodammer
Ellery Smith

May 9

Anna Griewahn
Marilyn Leese
Mary Leese
Vivian Mall
Douglas Start
Ted & Sarah Frecka

May 10

Adam DeVita-Krug
Cody Lamprich
Doug & Becky Bacon
Andy & Heather Heaford

May 11

James Day
Bethany Dunning
Anna Peterman
Chris Straw
Nick & Cyndi Harrison

May 12

John Basher
Steven Fox
Alison Wittenmyer
Nathan & Clara Osbeck
James & Beth Vanderwall

May 13

Roy Black
Kristin Bradley
Mary Candela
Sharon Flink
Alaina Steketee
John & Kathy Fuger

May 14

Vera Abbate
Shauna Allchin
Gabe Larson
Patti Mutch
Kari Proux
Michelle Stewart

May 15

Leah Bredwell
MJ Rubenstahl
Caleb Ruble
Ethan Ruble
Bruce Youngman
Dan & Alexis Schewe

May 16

Nora Lamb
Chris Norton
Kim Owens
David & Cori Beckett

May 17

Renee Bennett
Brian Scalabrino

May 18

Grayson Bernard
Helena Hughes
Michelle Quinn
Sophia Warren

May 19

Justin Ulrich
Dan & Joy Prusak
Wayne & Joyce Snyder

May 20

Jane Barsema
Bonnie Cleveland
Scott Dulecki
Missi Glass
Jenna Grzelak
Kristy Nikolajuk

May 21

Douglas Lee
Jim Reeve
Noah Salasky
Robert & Judith Mallen

May 22

James Boyse
Brenda Conway
Christopher Schau
Brandon & Heather Kimble

May 23

Austin Johnson
Ginta McNally
Lily Spalding

May 24

Bob Carwell
Bill Grinstead
Mary Harger
Logan Selleck
Virginia Stoll-Tyrrell & Patrick Tyrrell

May 25

Donovan Estep
Susan Knoll
Alex Luders
Venta Norris
Sheree Smith
Antoine & Karin Neal
Craig & Patti Mutch
James & Maria Schultz

May 26

Sue Boyse
David DeStefano
Ava Ezell
James Gingras
Macy Lynn
Myles Olson
Devin & Doree Burnside

May 27

Cheryl Rosen
Jim Willman
Douglas & Michelle Lee

May 28

Ingrid Brang
Brett Reges
Kathy Sommers
Kirsten Zarou
Mike & Kim Horn
Larry & Kathleen Longstreth

May 29

Bev Karman
Hudson Missman
Dan & Carol Butler
David & Kristine Candela
Jason & Elizabeth Coles
Bill & Linda Grinstead
Terry & Susan Knoll
Rick & Debbie Kulas

May 30

Cliff Hartline
Logan Huckstep
Samantha Kuipers
Kenneth Vanden Bout
Peter & Jill McKinney

May 31

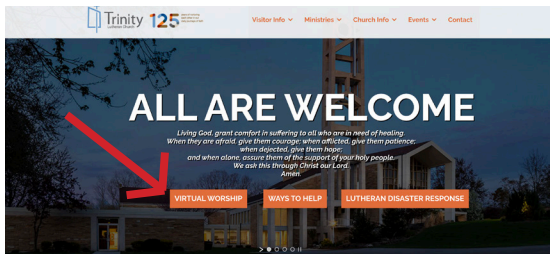
Ryan Beld
Amanda Bidle
Jason Coles
Steve Feutz
Wendy Giuliani
Annie Ludeman
John Olson
Mary Smoes
Ryan & Allie Idema

*** If you have a special milestone birthday or anniversary, please contact the [church office](#) at Trinity to let us know!**

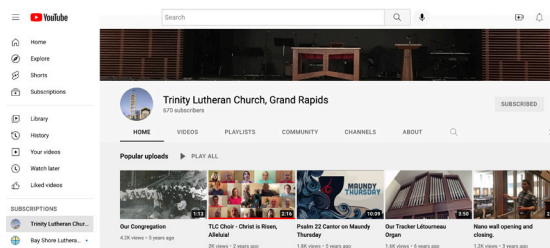
Trinity is Livestreaming Services!

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.tlcr.org) and click on **Virtual Worship**.

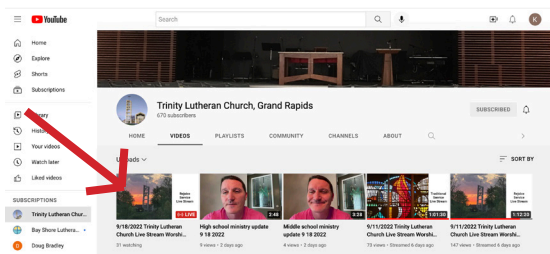


(2) Clicking the Virtual Worship button will take you to our YouTube page:



(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.



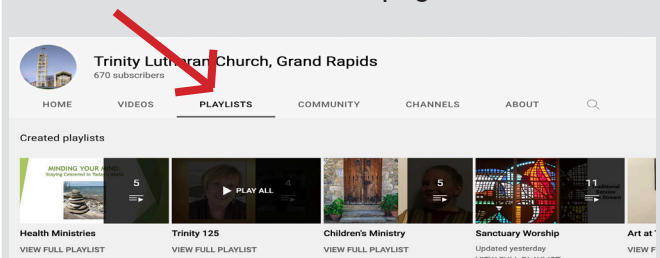
You can also go directly to www.youtube.com and search **Trinity Lutheran Church Grand Rapids** to find our YouTube page.

***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. *Please note that the broadcast is more than a week behind.*

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.

The Paper Gator is Available to You!



Trinity's Paper Gator is by the garage in the east parking lot. Its proceeds help offset the cost of our coffee cups and lids. Accepted materials:

- school/office paper
 - newspaper
 - junk mail
 - hard & soft cover books
 - magazines
 - shredded paper (bagged in clear plastic)
 - paperboard (cereal type boxes)
 - cardboard (12"x12" or smaller)*
 - wrapping paper (no foil or sparkles)
- *MUST be cut down to 12x12" or less.**



Trinity kids catch "Hallelujahs," Easter 2024



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



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



[YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com)
Search: Trinity Lutheran
Church Grand Rapids

Rev. Dr. Dennis B. Smith, Contracted Consultant Pastor
dennis.smith@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/
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debora.dewitt@tlcgr.org

Awilda Diaz, Nursery Coordinator
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Grace Gohl, Sexton (ext.117), grace.gohl@tlcgr.org

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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)
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Laura Norton, Co-Wedding Coordinator
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Amy Stephan, Interim Sunday School Coordinator
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