Volume 95, Number 9 A Monthly Publication of Trinity Lutheran Church September 2026

The Messenger

"God's Work. Our Hands." at Trinity



On Sunday, September 13, ELCA congregations will gather for our dedicated day of service, "Gods work. Our hands." Since 2013, "Gods work. Our hands." has inspired people of all ages to put their faith into action through service projects that share God's love with all God's people.

We will gather this year to put together **Gift Bags for Veterans** to be donated to the Michigan Veterans Home in Grand Rapids. These will include snack and craft items to bring some joy to men and women who have served in one of the branches of our country's military (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Space Force, and Coast Guard).

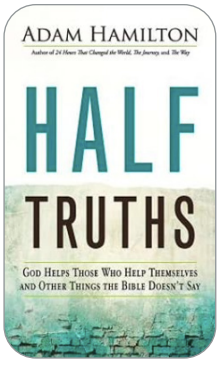


Ongoing through the entire month of September is our **Kids' Food Basket bag decorating** – back by popular demand! Be creative and add a touch of love to these sack suppers distributed by Kids' Food Basket. Adults and children are welcome – look for the table in the Courtyard.

One yearly event we participate in during this time is the **Mayors' Grand River Cleanup.** Trinity has organized groups for several years now to participate in this collection of thousands of pounds of trash along our beautiful Grand River. **Want to volunteer individually or with a Trinity group? Save the date for Saturday, September 19 from 9:30 a.m.-noon and watch for more information in the weekly eBlasts and in an upcoming Mission Moment.**

Pastor Jon's Adult Forum: Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. Starting September 16

Half Truths: God Helps Those Who Help Themselves and Other Things the Bible Doesn't Say



They are simple phrases. They sound Christian—like something you might find in the Bible. We've all heard these words. Maybe we've said them. They capture some element of truth, yet they miss the point in important ways. In this five-week study we will use Adam Hamilton's book to search for the whole truth by comparing common Christian clichés with the wisdom found in Scripture. The phrases include:

Everything happens for a reason. (Sept. 16)
God helps those who help themselves. (Sept. 23)
God won't give you more than you can handle. (Sept. 30)
God said it, I believe it, that settles it. (Oct. 7)
Love the sinner, hate the sin. (Oct. 14)

Reading the book is not essential but will greatly contribute to your understanding. Please join us!

What's Happening at Trinity in September?

Weekly at a Glance

Sundays
Outreach Collection: Coats, Blankets, & Outerwear
Service Opportunity (All Month): Kids Food Basket Bag Decorating
Traditional Worship, 8 a.m.
Rejoice Worship, 9:15 a.m.
Livestreaming of Worship, 9:15 a.m.
Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.
Starts Sept. 13
Traditional Worship, 10:45 a.m.
Livestreaming of Worship, 10:45 a.m.
MS Confirmation Class, 3 p.m.
Starts Sept. 13
HS Youth Group, 6:30 p.m.
Starts Sept. 13

Mondays
Core Fitness & Flexibility, 9:30 a.m.
Starts Sept. 14

Tuesdays
TLC Quilters*
LWR Quilters, 9:30 a.m.
Meets at 10:30 on Sept. 22
Women's Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.
Starts Sept. 15
Tai Chi, 1 p.m.
Starts Sept. 8
Scout Troop 290, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesdays
Core Fitness & Flexibility, 9:30 a.m.
Starts Sept. 16

Thursdays
Men's Bible Study, 7 a.m.
Starts Sept. 17
Tai Chi, 1 p.m.
Starts Sept. 10
Resound Bell Choir Rehearsal, 6 p.m.
Starts Sept. 10
Young Adult Women's Bible Study, 6 p.m.
Choosing Peace & Serenity AFG, 7:15 p.m.
Trinity Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m.
Starts Sept. 10

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

Daily Calendar

Tuesday, September 1
Staff Mtg, 1 p.m.
Oasis Bd Mtg, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, September 2
Outreach Comm Mtg, noon

Friday, September 4
Wedding Rehearsal, 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, September 5
Bos/McGillivray Wedding, 4 p.m.

Monday, September 7
Labor Day - Office Closed

Tuesday, September 8
Executive Comm Mtg, 6 p.m.

Thursday, September 10
DVAN Mtg, noon

Friday, September 11
Women's Book Club, 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, September 12
Game Night & Potluck, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 13
"Gods Work. Our Hands." Sunday
Service Opportunity: Gift Bags for Veterans
Service Opportunity: Kids' Food Basket Bags
Stephen Min Cont Ed, 12:30 p.m.
Stephen Min Peer Supt, 1:30 p.m.

Monday, September 14
Messenger *Deadline*
Blood Drive, noon-6 p.m. - Donors Needed!
Stephen Leaders Mtg, 1:30 p.m.
Safety & Security Mtg, 5:30 p.m.
Congregation Council Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 15
Care & Share, 10:30 a.m.
Staff Mtg, 1 p.m.
Young Adult Fellowship, 6 p.m.
Book Club, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, September 16
Pr. Jon's Adult Forum, 10:30 a.m.
Communications Comm Mtg, noon
Life Begins at 60 Dinner (off-site), 5 p.m.
Usher Training, 6 p.m.

Thursday, September 17
In The Image Volunteering, 10 a.m.
DVAN Mtg, noon
Bridge, 1 p.m.

Friday, September 18
Women's Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, September 19
Service Opportunity: Mayors' Grand River Cleanup, 9:30 a.m.-noon
Property Work Day, 9 a.m.-noon

Sunday, September 20
Usher Training, noon
COM Dress Rehearsal, 12:30 p.m.

Monday, September 21
WOW Tea, 11:30 a.m.
Finance Comm Mtg, 6 p.m.
Faith in Civic Life Speaker Event, 6:30 p.m.
Fellowship & Hosp Comm Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 22
Council on Aging, 8 a.m.

Wednesday, September 23
Pr. Jon's Adult Forum, 10:30 a.m.

Friday, September 25
Women's Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, September 26
COM Dress Rehearsal, 11 a.m.
Parents of Heavenly Children, 1 p.m.

Sunday, September 27
Celebration of Music Concert, 3 p.m.

Tuesday, September 29
Staff Mtg, 1 p.m.
Joy & Grief in Sacred Music, 6:30 p.m.
Stephen Min Peer Supt, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 30
Pr. Jon's Adult Forum, 10:30 a.m.

A Message from Senior Pastor Jon Niketh



Christ has no body now on earth but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are his body.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

Attributed to St. Teresa of Avila

The motto of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) — our national church body—is "**God's work. Our hands.**" It's clear, succinct, and powerful: as Lutherans, we believe that *God actually works through us!* We believe that when we are baptized, we are anointed with the Holy Spirit and called to live as ambassadors of God's love in the world. When we get out there in our community and do the work that Jesus did — feeding the hungry, caring for the sick, advocating for justice, making room for those who feel excluded — people experience God's love through our lives. Our hands actually participate in the work of God!

That is quite a theological claim. It's one thing to pray that God would act in our individual lives, or that God would heal the parts of our world that are broken. We do this each time we gather as the church. But to imagine that we could actually *be* the way God answers prayer? That's powerful!

In September, ELCA congregations across the country renew their commitment to be the hands of Jesus in the world. We will celebrate "God's Work. Our Hands" Sunday on September 13. You can find ways to join in this effort on the cover of this *Messenger.* But make no mistake: the people of Trinity answer this call year-round in so many ways. It's true that because of our size, our annual benevolence (money we give away in service of God's mission) exceeds the entire budget of many ELCA congregations. **But far more important than any dollar amount is the way we connect what we believe with how we live.** Community outreach is part of the lifeblood of this congregation and is consistently one of the things that newcomers notice when they discern God's call to membership here.

With so many things competing for our time and attention, people want to belong to something that is *doing what matters.* There is a false perception in our culture that Christians are always eager to offer "thoughts and prayers" to solve problems but are not always interested in doing the actual work. I give thanks to God for the ways that the people of Trinity make a tangible difference in this world through their volunteer efforts, generosity, and advocacy. I also give thanks for the voices who challenge us to go even deeper by answering God's call to address the systemic injustices that cause so many of our neighbors to suffer or be in need.

Through it all, I invite you to see the work you do each day as a way of fulfilling your baptismal calling. Martin Luther believed that every person — not just those who work in the church — has a vocation, or a call from God. The things you are good at, the things you are passionate about, the big and small ways you bring love into this world… *that is holy!* That too is God's work with our hands.

May God bless your hands and mine, and all the good we will do together in Jesus' name!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Jon Niketh

Council Corner



A Message from Council Member Dan Butler

We are indeed blessed. As a Christian community, we have a heart for those in need and actively reach out to be of help. As a family of God, we are a good-sized group and have abundant resources – more than many other Christian communities. We have used our position to follow Jesus' teaching to love God and love others, both as individuals and as a congregation.

We have much to be thankful for. It is easy to be comfortable, even complacent. Yet we, in our Church Council, have made special efforts in recent meetings to consider what is going well, what might be improved, and what opportunities we see. We are doing this to better assess the plans we should make. We are challenged to take stock.

Carol and I have been a part of Trinity Lutheran Church since 2004. We have seen significant strides in the past several years, and we continue to see growth. We are a generous congregation that contributes to our community in special ways – through our synod, our Outreach Committee, and through our many congregational giving programs each year. We are stepping up to the giving responsibilities that are part of our Christian calling.

It seems a key consideration is whether we are actively weighing our community's needs and identifying where we can share the Christian message with others. We continue to consider our unique place in the community of Christians.

Dan Butler

Family Promise Presentation

Family Promise of West Michigan

On **Sunday, October 4,** between the 9:15 and 10:45 a.m. services in Centennial Hall, join us for an **inspiring update from Kelsy Vining,** Director of Advancement at Family Promise of West Michigan. Kelsy will share how Family Promise is continuing to help kids and families navigate housing crises, from emergency shelter to long-term housing stability, and what they're seeing on the frontlines of our community's growing housing needs. Most importantly, Kelsy will share how Trinity can be part of this work and make a meaningful difference for local families. We hope you'll join us to learn, be inspired, and discover how we can make an impact together!

Trinity Congregational Council Members 2026

Standing committees of the Congregational 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 Council member, please refer to information in the Trinity directory or call the church office.

President: Bill Bush
Vice President: Kelly Wittry
Secretary: Chris Norton
Treasurer: Brad Kessel

Chris Becker (Safety/Security), Steve Bennett (Fellowship & Hospitality), Dan Butler (Outreach), John Derbin (Stewardship), Michelle Feutz (Health), Sarah Huckstep (Children's), Erick Kind (Property), Susan Knoll (Helping Hands), Mike Mason (Endowment Fund), Tyler Mason (Worship/Music), Lisa Mead (Communications), Julie McLeod (Spiritual Growth), Don Otten (Outreach), Amy Stephan (Youth/Family), and Julie Westra (Human Resources)

Financials

Trinity Lutheran Church Budget vs. Actuals

Month of July 2026

	Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable/ (Unfavorable)	
Total Income	88,651	78,733	(9,918)	-11.2%
Total Expenses	145,481	145,624	(143)	-0.1%
Net Operating Income (Loss)	(56,830)	(66,892)	(10,062)	17.7%
Interest Income	3,240	3,915	675	
Net Income (Loss)	(53,590)	(62,977)	(9,387)	17.5%

2027 Fiscal Year-to-Date (Thru July 2026)

	Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable/ (Unfavorable)	
Total Income	791,602	750,610	(40,992)	-5.2%
Total Expenses	713,546	695,090	18,456	2.6%
Net Operating Income (Loss)	78,056	55,520	(22,536)	
Interest Income	17,080	20,825	3,745	
Net Income (Loss)	95,136	76,344	(18,792)	-19.8%

Don't Forget Your Offering!

Options for giving at Trinity:

Direct bill pay from your bank
(*free to set up with your bank*)

Offering plate Sunday morning

Mail in your offering

Online giving via Tithe.ly
https://get.tithe.ly
(*member incurs fee*)

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

ATVs / 4-Wheelers / Lawn Tractors Needed!

October 25, 3-5 p.m.

This October, our Confirmation Students and the Boy Scouts will be spreading 18+ yards of mulch on our nature trail and grounds. We have found that motorized vehicles are a great help in hauling the mulch to be spread and speeds up the project significantly.

If you (or someone you know) have a vehicle and/or trailer we could use, please contact Pastor Dan. We will gladly cover the cost of fuel for the day.

A Message from Associate Pastor Dan Schewe



He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6:8

Our lives are filled with many responsibilities; so many things that depend on us to get done, and so many things that we are responsible for.

Think for a moment about all the things you have to do today.

What needs to be done for your family? To take care of your home? If you have a pet, what needs to be done for them? What do you need to do today for work? What are those other things that need to be done today? What things do you need to do to take care of yourself? I find I live by a lot of lists – often I will make one in the morning of all the things I need to do and relish crossing them off as they are accomplished.

All of these demands on our lives are exhausting. Often, I feel like I'm stretched so thin by them, that I am almost to the point of being torn apart. On top of all of these daily responsibilities, what does God want from us? What does God require us to do?

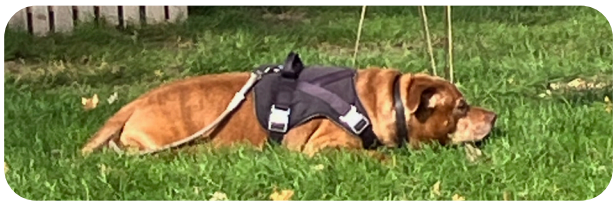
This very question is at the heart of the work of the prophet Micah. He spoke to the people of Judah in a time of turmoil. They had nations bearing down on them. They were experiencing horrific exploitation at the hands of the wealthy. They were struggling to survive with the demands that have been put on them. So, they called out to God to ask what God wants of them. What does God require of them? More sacrifices? More effort? What do they have to do?

To this question, the prophet responds with this well-known phrase: "He has told you O mortal what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and love kindness, and walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8).

God does not demand more sacrifices of them, or us. God does not heap more responsibilities on them, or us. God seeks to set them, and us, free of the burden of the demands we so often feel. Like the people of Judah, we are called to live lives filled with justice, kindness, and humility, knowing the freedom we have received and that we get to share.

The book of Micah ends with the reassurance that God will have compassion on us, and remove all of our sins. It reminds us to trust in the promise of God, not in what we do or think we have to do. Trust that God is walking with us and share the gifts we have been given.

Outdoor Worship & Blessing of the Animals: October 4



On Sunday, October 4, we will have outdoor worship at 10:45 a.m. Please bring a lawn chair or blanket.

This outdoor worship will also include the annual Blessing of the Animals. This blessing is a way to thank God for the companionship and joy we receive from our furry friends and to recognize them as a beloved part of God's creation, in whom we see God's goodness and handiwork. Bring your pet along if they would be comfortable outside for an hour, or bring a photo to represent them instead.

If you would prefer to worship inside that day, the 8 and 9:15 a.m. services will be offered as usual.

A Message from Associate Pastor Kari Fast



Dear Trinity Family and Friends,

"Like us, the monarchs' sense that fall is in the air – changes in day length and temperature, aging milkweeds... tell monarchs that it is time to fly south…" wrote Alice Puchalsky, a doctoral candidate at the Kellogg Biological Station. So too, we may be noticing, seeing, and paying attention to this time of transitioning from summer to fall. How might we be sensing fall's approach? What are we sensing we need this fall? Where are we sensing we need to give our time/talent/treasures this fall?

Alice Puchalsky continues, "The monarchs that we see in August and September in Michigan are part of the *super generation*: the super generation's migration is remarkable – the butterflies that migrate to Mexico have never been there before (their great-great-grandparents were there), and yet, members of the super generation manage to navigate to a small region in Mexico to overwinter." Like the monarch, we don't know what is coming. We haven't been in Fall 2026 before. And, yet, we know the way, just like the monarchs; our faith says we can trust that we'll know the way. For Jesus is the way, the truth, and the light.

Jesus was asked to name the greatest commandment. Jesus said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:37-39). Jesus described a fully embodied love of God: "with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."

Loving God with our **heart** seems to include feeling the love of God that is all around and within us. Allowing ourselves to be open to receiving this unearned unconditional love and allowing its natural flow outward to others and all creation.

Loving God with all our **soul** seems to include being aware that our lives from beginning to end belong to God. As Psalm 62:1 puts it, "For God alone my soul waits in silence; from [God] comes my salvation."

Loving God with all our **mind** seems to include being intellectually curious about God, leading us to read, meditate, and study the word of God, being curious about our image of God. If our faith is alive, it seems that our understanding and image of God is ever-growing in depth and understanding.

Thinking of the monarch butterfly's yearly generations, where does your spiritual life in this season most resonate? Do you relate most to the first-generation monarchs who have a long way to go on their migration? Do you relate to the other generations who are smaller and do not migrate? There is no right or wrong answer to this question; our spiritual and faith life changes over time, but perhaps how we think about our future will help us identify what we need to prepare for now.

Another way to wonder about your faith life is to ask which area of loving God and loving others most needs growth and attention? "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind... You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Since we are the worst judge of ourselves and our faith lives — this may be best discerned with a trusted friend.

May we trust in the One who has placed within our faith lives ways of knowing and being that are best discerned with others. May we trust in the One who loves us, wants to bless us, and wants our lives to bless others and all creation.

God's Deepest Blessings now and always!
Pastor Kari, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care

Parents of Heavenly* Children: Saturday, September 26, 1-2:30 p.m.

We are not alone. For this initial meeting, I've asked one parent to share about their loss journey; a discussion will follow. A particular story is a powerful way to reflect on our own story. After a time of sharing, listening, laughing, and shedding some tears, we will wonder together what may be most helpful for our next meeting.

**The term heavenly is not meant to denote whether we believe our child "made it to heaven" or not; it is simply to denote that our child has passed away. God's love is large enough for all, so we need not worry.*

Worship Music & The Arts at Trinity

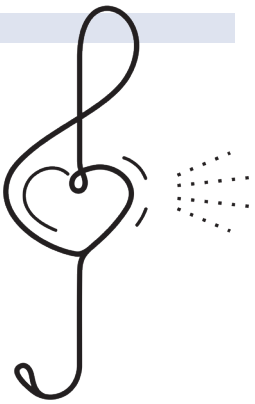
We cannot be whole without music. Music is not a decoration applied to liturgy, like icing on a cake. Music is not an ornament on a liturgy that is substantially intact without it. Music is an integral part of liturgical celebration because it is an integral part of a whole human communication, of a full, rich human celebration.

–Robert Hovda, from *A Sourcebook about Music* by Alan J. Hommerding

Music is our expression of praise and thanksgiving to God. Without music, the vibrant worship we experience at Trinity would be significantly altered. Everyone is a part of the largest "choir" in the church which is the congregation. **Everyone** has a place in this part of worship. Additional opportunities for more dedicated musical contributions are listed below. We look forward to welcoming those who wish to be a part of these music communities.

Dr. Darlene Kuperus, Director of Music Ministries & Organist

Sanctuary Worship Service Ensembles



We look forward to welcoming singers (new and returning) to the **Trinity Choir**. This choir leads worship music on a regular basis for the 10:45 a.m. Sanctuary services. The first rehearsal takes place on Thursday, September 10 at 7:15 p.m. ***Contact Worship Music Associate & Trinity Choir Director Dr. Mark Stover at mark.stover@tlcgr.org.***

The **Resound Bell Choir** is a dedicated group of musicians that also welcomes new members. Music reading skills are necessary to be part of this ensemble. This group rehearses on Thursday evenings from 6-7 p.m. in the Sanctuary beginning on September 10. ***Contact Director of Music Ministries & Organist Dr. Darlene Kuperus at darlene.kuperus@tlcgr.org.***

Rejoice Worship Music

There are a group of musicians that lead at the 9:15 a.m. Rejoice service. If you are someone that plays a musical instrument or are a singer that would like to be part of this team of musicians, please ***contact Interim Director of Rejoice Worship Dr. Mark Stover at mark.stover@tlcgr.org.***

Celebration of Music Concert Series

Please see the **concert series brochure and donation card included with this issue** of *The Messenger*. Watch for a special eBlast which shares this same information in digital format.

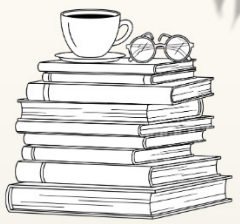
The Overlook Gallery Presents Artist Kathleen Bechtel



The Arts Committee is pleased to display the work of professional artist Kathleen Bechtel in the Trinity Overlook Gallery during the months of September and October. Kathy is a local, well-known artist who has been a lifelong resident of the area. She grew up in Comstock Park and attended Kendall School of Design, majoring in illustration. Kathleen has studied with various workshop instructors that she admires and is part of a *plein air painting* group in the area. She feels that art is a form of communication and that it reflects the things that move the artist: "People will know me through my paintings. My paintings will speak to people I will never see or know. I am profoundly affected by this." She continues to create landscape, still-life, and figurative works from her home in Jenison, Michigan. Kathy's works are for sale, with 10% of sales going toward continuing the Trinity Arts initiative and permanent art collection.

ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Fall 2026



WEEKLY

Tuesday Women's Bible Study 9:30am
Begins Sept 8
Leader: Karen Unruh

Pastor Jon's Adult Forum
Wednesdays 10:30am
Begins Sept 16

Men's Bible Study - Thursdays 7am
Begins Sept 17
Contact: John Bradley

Young Adult Women's Bible Study - Thursdays 6pm
Begins August 27
Contact: Frances Maurer

Friday Women's Bible Study 9:30am
Begins Sept 11
Leader: Kris Fox

Rooted in Scripture,
Grounded in Faith,
Growing Together.

MONTHLY

Faith in Civic Life
Speaker Events and Discussion Circles
Most First & Third Mondays
Contact: Frank Rothfuss

Tuesday Evening Book Group 7pm
Third Tuesdays
Contact: Corina Dulecki

Friday Morning Women's Book Group 9:30am
Second Fridays
Contact: Carol Hendricks

SPECIAL EVENTS

Joy and Grief in Sacred Music
Tuesday, September 29

Contemplative Evening Prayer
Wednesday, October 7

Men's Breakfast
Saturday, October 17

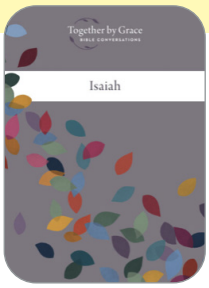
Women's Retreat
Fri & Sat. October 23-24

Food for Thought
Wednesday, November 4

Spiritual Growth

Tuesday Women's Bible Study, 9:30-11 a.m. | Starts September 15

Join anytime! Contact Karen Unruh at karen@unruhfamily.net for more details.

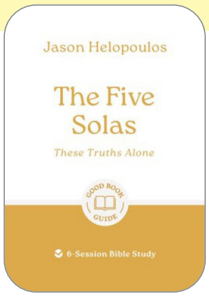


Written over hundreds of years as God's people navigated war, exile, and homecoming, the **book of Isaiah** intertwines grief and hope, inviting readers and hearers across the centuries to join in God's lament over a broken world, to receive God's abundant love and overflowing grace, and to respond with joy to God's call to the work of justice and peace.

Together by Grace: Bible Conversations invites participants to gather together and engage with the text and one another. With guided conversations and open-ended questions, everyone is invited to share thoughts and experiences in these round table discussions that approach biblical stories honestly and build community.

Friday Women's Bible Study, 9:30-11 a.m. | Starts September 18

Register by contacting Kris Fox at jklsafox@comcast.net



The Five Solas of the Reformation

As we approach another Reformation Day, we will learn how, 500 years ago, Europe was transformed by five key Biblical truths as the Reformers brought Christians back to the gospel. **Are these five solas (By Scripture Alone, In Christ Alone, By Grace Alone, Through Faith Alone, and Glory to God Alone) still relevant today?**

Young Adult Women's Bible Study, Thursdays, 6 p.m.

Contact Frances Maurer at frances.a.maurer@gmail.com for more information.

Frances Maurer is leading a seven-week Bible study for young adult women on Thursday evenings. Please come join us!

Men's Bible Study, Thursdays, 7-8 a.m. | Starts September 17

New participants welcome! Contact John Bradley at johnstuartbradley@gmail.com for details.

We will be journeying together through an eight-week study of Matthew from the *Books of Faith Series*. Matthew's gospel speaks well to church communities today, identifying the church as founded by Jesus (16:18) and issuing practical instructions for practicing community (18:1-35).

See the cover of this newsletter for details on Pastor Jon's Fall Adult Forum starting September 16!

Contemplative Evening Prayer: October 7

Do you find it easier to connect with God when things slow down and become quiet? Do you appreciate moments of silence in worship alongside music, scripture, and prayer? Join us Wednesday, October 7 for a peaceful service of Contemplative Evening Prayer in the Sanctuary. This midweek service will offer simple, repeated songs, time for quiet reflection, a slow and prayerful reading of scripture known as *lectio divina*, and prayer. Come as you are and make space in the middle of the week to be still, listen, and rest in God's presence.



WALKING WITH GOD

Women's Retreat: October 23-24

Hello, friends! If you are looking to recharge, gain new perspectives, and build lasting connections with other women, look no further than the Trinity/St. Luke's Fall Women's Retreat!

Set against the picturesque backdrop of Lake Michigan, this retreat offers a unique opportunity to escape the busyness of life and "Walk with God."

We will explore personal and Bible stories of women who learned to walk with God in trust, faith, and courage. Each woman walking with God has a powerful story of transformation and strength.

The retreat begins with dinner at Maranatha Conference Center in Norton Shores on the evening of **Friday, October 23 at 5:30 p.m.** and will finish by 4 p.m. on Saturday, October 24. The registration fee includes dinner, breakfast, lunch, snacks, lodging, program materials, and priceless connections.

A pre-retreat gathering at Trinity on October 14 at 7 p.m. will give you a chance to meet your fellow retreat members and get details to help you prepare.

Sign up now to secure your spot! A registration form and full payment is due by Sunday, September 27. Pick up a registration form in the Narthex at St. Luke's or the Courtyard at Trinity. Please indicate your room choice and roommate preferences. Retreat coordinators will assign rooms as needed.

Single: $222; Double: $180; Triple: $166 ***Scholarships available! See a Retreat Team member or pastor.***

For more information, contact a Retreat Team member below. All women are welcome, but space is limited so sign up early. Invite your friends and family!

The Women's Retreat Team:

Diane Rabe (616.648.0772), St. Luke's
Lynn Prince (616.485.9490), St. Luke's
Lisa Sikkema (616.635.1589), St. Luke's
Carrie Wygmans (616.648.5254), Trinity
Julie McLeod (952.465.4987), Trinity
Robinn Van Fleet (616.724.6387), St. Luke's

Fellowship & Hospitality

Holiday Bake Sale!



Chef Tess and her sous chefs are planning a delectable holiday indulgence just for you! We are planning, tasting, and stirring up some irresistibly decadent items for you to purchase just in time for Thanksgiving and then again for Christmas!

Visit our pre-sale in October to taste some items and pre-purchase pies, truffles, brownies, cheesecakes, cookies, caramel corn, tarts, etc. Watch for updates so you don't miss out! You especially don't want to miss the pre-order because we will be baking up fresh all the wonderful items you pre-order with no ordering available to purchase at time of pick up.

The proceeds of this sale will benefit the Trinity Kitchen.

Sunday Fellowship
Meet me after Service

Trinity is a big church with three separate services. One of the ways we keep in touch with each other is by sharing fellowship after each of our Sunday services. We serve refreshments at the Hospitality Counter beneath the stairs in the Courtyard from 8:45-9:15 a.m., 10:15-10:45 a.m., and 11:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. We always have a hot cup of coffee or tea, pastries, and a warm welcome for you. Come share fellowship and meet up with old and new friends!

Trinity Game Nights

Laughter is good for the soul! Come join us in the Courtyard each month as we share a meal and play some games. We gather at 5:30 p.m. for dinner followed by an hour or two of games. Signing up via the link in the eBlast or with the QR code at right helps us to plan a great event. Mark your calendar for the dates below. Contact Tess Lundgren with any questions.

WHAT HAPPENS at GAME NIGHT Stays at Game Night NOBODY ELSE WOULD UNDERSTAND ANYWAY

Saturday, September 12
Saturday, October 17
Saturday, November 14



Sneak Peek

Here are a few things your Fellowship & Hospitality Committee is planning for you:

November & December: Holiday Bake Sale
November 8: Veteran's Appreciation Reception
December 2, 9, 16: Advent Suppers
December 5: All-Congregation Advent Event
December 12: Scandinavian Smörgåsbord

Young Adult Fellowship: September 15

Please join us Tuesday, September 15 at 6 p.m. in Centennial Hall for dinner and a creative evening decorating bags for Kids Food Basket! An assortment of stamps, stencils, markers, and other supplies will be provided to decorate bags. *This group meets 3-4 times per year and was previously known as 2131FUN.* Please RSVP by text or call to Frances at 630.292.0214.

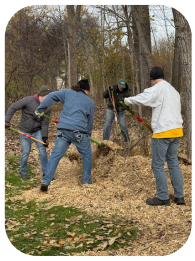
Come Lend a Hand! Property Workday: September 19

As we transition into fall, the Property Committee is hosting a workday from **9 a.m.-noon** to tackle some simple projects around the church and they could use your help. Projects include cleaning, power-washing, weeding, painting, and more. Many hands make light work, and donuts and coffee will be provided! Take a look at the projects we have planned and **sign up for a slot at by visiting** https://tinyurl.com/3e3y6y27. Thank you!



Workday in the Woods: October 3

For the last several years, Trinity members have been **restoring the forests and wetlands** to the east and west of our church. **From 8 a.m.-3 p.m.** we'll be having our biannual Workday in the Woods. We'll be removing invasive species and chipping many of these invasive trees and deadfall. Please join us for an hour or more and see the results of these efforts, including the wetlands restoration, the new scattering garden, and the soon to be restored fire bowl and benches. No tools required but gloves and sturdy shoes are recommended. Breakfast, lunch, and snacks will be provided.



Dinner at Fuji Yama: September 16

We'll be gathering for dinner at **Fuji Yama, 1501 East Beltline Avenue NE,** at **5 p.m.** on **Wednesday, September 16**. If you are 60 years or older, please come and enjoy the evening with us. *We have reserved space for 30 people.* Contact host Marilyn Mellema at 616.780.3742 to make your reservation. Looking forward to seeing you all!

Dinner at Cascade Roadhouse: October 8

Please join us as we gather on **Thursday, October 8, at 5 p.m. at Cascade Roadhouse, 6817 Cascade Rd SE**. If you are 60 years or older, come and enjoy the evening with us. *Reservations are limited to the first 35 people.* Contact Carol Butler at 616.540.1660 or caroljb43@me.com to make your reservation.

Men's Breakfast: October 17

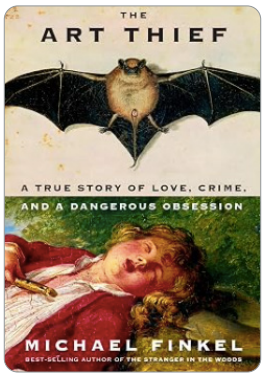


The Men's Breakfast group is planning to gather again in the Courtyard fellowship area on Saturday, October 17 with breakfast beginning at 8 a.m.

Embracing the pattern of gathering once every quarter for food, study, and fellowship, the upcoming Men's Breakfast will include a full hot breakfast, a brief Bible study led by Pastor Jon, and **guest speaker David LaGrand, mayor of Grand Rapids.** Men of Trinity, watch your email and the eBlast for your invitation to sign up for our breakfast!

Book Clubs & Faith in Civic Life

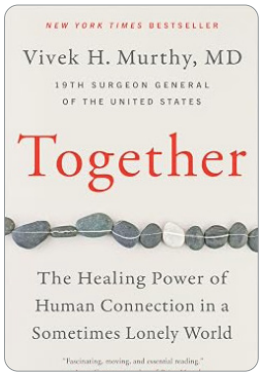
Tuesday Evening Book Club | Meets the 3rd Tuesday of the Month, 7 p.m.



All ages/genders welcome! New members always welcome; come alone or bring a friend! Contact Corina Dulecki at cdulecki@gmail.com. **Starts September 15.**

September: *The Art Thief* by Michael Finkel
October: *Together* by Vivek H. Murthy
November: *The Bluest Eyes* by Toni Morrision
December: *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michele Richardson

Friday Morning Women's Book Club | Meets the 2nd Friday of the Month, 9:30 a.m.



Contact Carol Hendricks at cahendricks14@gmail.com with questions or for more information. **Starts September 11.**

September: *Together* by Vivek H. Murthy — **Host:** Ellie Buggeln
October: *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi — **Host:** Pam Gunderson and Kris Racek
November: *Whistler* by Ann Patchett — **Host:** Sue Coates and Kathy Sommers
December: *The Diamond Eye* by Kate Quinn — **Host:** Pam Sellers and Carol Hendricks



Faith in Civic Life

With increasing interest in how we as Christians can and should respond to issues in our society, we have structured our Faith in Civic Life offerings around speaker events and follow up discussion circles. The speaker events will be educational and will focus on one topic at a time. The discussion circles will explore Christ-centered responses and ELCA teachings related to the issue addressed. There will also be actionable items related to each topic so we can live out our mission of "God's Work. Our Hands".

September 21 – Speaker Event: Voting & Elections
Presenters: Courtney Winell, League of Women's Voters; Tina Pondzorek, Plainfield Township Deputy Clerk

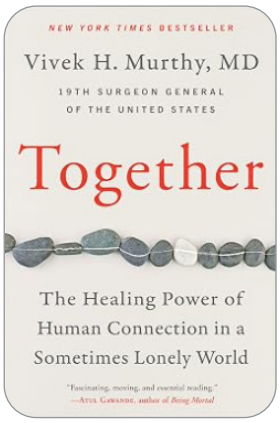
October 5 – Discussion Circle: Voting & Elections
Facilitator: Carrie Wygmans

Mark your calendar for these additional dates:

October 19 – Speaker Event
November 2 – Discussion Circle
November 16 – Speaker Event
December 7 – Discussion Circle

Please join us! Reach out to Faith Community Nurse Kristin Bradley, Pastor Frank Rothfuss, or Skip Franklin with any questions or suggestions.

Nurse's Notes: Together, We Can!



You have likely heard people talk about the "epidemic of loneliness." In 2015, then U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy identified loneliness as the number one public health issue facing Americans. Loneliness is a common denominator for many physical and mental health issues that have been on the rise in our country, including, but not limited to, high blood pressure, substance use disorders, obesity, anxiety, self-harm, diabetes, and depression.

Dr. Murthy was a speaker at the January Series at Calvin University this past year and he highlighted how Faith Communities provide a powerful antidote to this crisis. How? By the healing power of connection – with our Creator, each other, and our neighbors!

Some of the ways we, as a Trinity family, help combat loneliness include bringing people together to get to know each other outside of worship services, fostering education/conversations around topics that help individuals realize they are not alone, creating opportunities to serve our neighbors together, and reinforcing the presence of God in our daily lives.

We have a few offerings this fall specifically related to the topic of loneliness:

You are invited to join one of Trinity's book groups as they review Dr. Murthy's book *Together*: **Friday, September 11 at 9:30 a.m.** or **Tuesday, October 20 at 7 p.m.** If you are interested in reading this book, there are several copies available in the church Library or they can be found at your favorite local library or retail/online book seller.

Our next **Food for Thought** event is **Wednesday, November 4 from 6-7:30 p.m.** We'll enjoy a meal together and then dive deeper into the loneliness epidemic and how we can improve health outcomes by creating meaningful connections. Sign up information will be in upcoming eBlasts and the October *Messenger*.

Thank you for being an important part of our community!

Together in Christ,
Kristin Bradley, Faith Community Nurse

A Matter of Balance: Any Interest?

Trinity has an opportunity to host **A Matter of Balance.** This eight-week program is designed to help adults reduce the fear of falling, manage fall risks, and increase physical activity and confidence. It will be taught by professionals through Senior Neighbors. There is no cost for the program. At least 8 participants are needed to offer the program. Reach out to Faith Community Nurse Kristin Bradley if you want to be included!

A MATTER OF BALANCE

Health Ministries

Stephen Ministry: A Stephen Minister is Here to Listen to You



Listening is perhaps the most important skill that a Stephen Minister uses. Even though we may think of listening as a simple natural activity it is also a powerful care-giving tool. In his book, *The Good Listener*, Fr. James E. Sullivan lists four crucial steps to good listening:

1. Stepping Out of My Own World – First and foremost I must step out of my own world, my own thoughts and feelings. I must put aside my own preconceived notions and prejudices, my own point of view, and focus on you.
2. Enter Your World – After leaving my own world I must enter yours, seeing the world through your eyes, understanding and accepting your view of the world as if it were my own.
3. Sensing Your Deepest Feelings – This third requirement of good listening is realizing your deepest hurt or loss, the thing that is bothering you the most. Although there may be many hurtful things, my response is a big help to you when I can respond to one of them with understanding and care. When I am able to help you identify your deepest pain and respond to you with understanding and support, I help you the most.
4. Giving an Adequate Response – The final condition to good listening is that I make an adequate response to what you have shared with me. This is essential. When you hurt, a caring response from me shows that I understand and care. To understand internally without expressing to you that I understand your feelings and I care is not enough. Rather, you need to know and hear from me that I understand you, your feelings, and I don't blame you for them. Then you can stop blaming yourself for them as well.

Could you or someone you know benefit from the listening skills of a Stephen Minister? Contact Beth Vanderwall (jvander005@gmail.com), Faith Community Nurse Kristin Bradley, or a pastor.

A Special Invitation! You are all welcome to join the Stephen Ministry team as we learn about "Joy and Grief in Sacred Music." Dr. Darlene Kuperus is providing this presentation on **Tuesday, September 29 from 6:30-7:30 p.m.** in the Sanctuary. ...*In Thee is Gladness Amid all Sadness... (ELW 867)*



Care & Share: September 15

We have a wonderful group of Trinity folks meeting together to **Care** for each other and **Share** in our care-giving journeys. If you are, or have been, a full-time care partner for an adult child, parent, spouse, or loved one, you may benefit from this group too. Our next meeting is **Tuesday, September 15 at 10:30 a.m.** in the Youth Room.

Contact Faith Community Nurse Kristin Bradley with questions.



Fitness: Join Us Weekdays in the Commons for Connection & Movement!



Tai Chi – Tuesday & Thursday at 1 p.m. (note the time change)
Starts September 8

Core Fitness & Flexibility – Monday & Wednesday at 9:30 a.m.
Starts September 14

Suggested donation: $3/class or $20/month.

Contact Faith Community Nurse Kristin Bradley with any questions or suggestions.

September Blood Drive

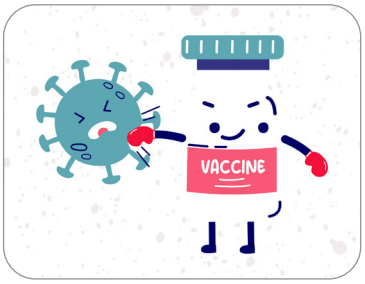


This summer our country has seen the worst blood shortage since 2021. Can you help? **Our next blood drive is Monday, September 14 from noon-6 p.m.** We have a dedicated team of regular donors but are in serious need of new donors.

Register online at **https://tinyurl.com/ymsdpuh8** or contact Faith Community Nurse Kristin Bradley to secure your spot.

Not able to donate? There are many other ways you can help. Visit **https://tinyurl.com/ydshz3ty** and pick what works for you!

Immunization Sunday: October 11



Trinity is hosting an Immunization Clinic on **Sunday, October 11 from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the Library.** Corewell Health will have **FLU** and **COVID** vaccines for our members/guests ages five and above. Appointments are needed to ensure enough vaccines are set aside for us. **Register and get more information at https://tinyurl.com/37ewjs2f.** Let's stay well together! Connect with Faith Community Nurse Kristin Bradley with questions.

Hear Better at Trinity!

Introducing Auracast: our new hearing assist system in both worship spaces! Auracast delivers the audio signal from worship services directly to compatible hearing aid devices via a wireless Bluetooth connection. After an initial setup, your device should pair automatically with our system when you are in the Sanctuary or Centennial Hall.

The two most important questions are for your audiologist: can your hearing device connect to an Auracast broadcast and, if so, how does it connect? In most cases, setup takes place through your smartphone app. *Please note:* If you were connected to the trial units, you will need to connect to the new permanent units. If you need help connecting, please contact Pastor Dan.

Children's Ministry

Register your PreK-5th grade child for Children's Ministry!



Sunday School takes place within the framework of the 9:15 a.m. service. Using curriculum from Amazing+, children preschool through fifth grade hear stories from the Bible that connect them to God's Big Story of redemption through Jesus. Time together is focused on connecting with each other, learning about our place in God's Story, and having fun while doing it all! **Sunday School Kick-Off for the 2026-2027 school year is on September 13 (see next page).** Use the QR code to get kids registered and to update your information.

The Trinity Nursery is open from 9 a.m.-noon. Nursery care during the 8 a.m. hour can be considered at request with advance inquiry via email to Nursery Coordinator, Carmen Wiseman.





Join in as a family all month!
See cover for service opportunities.

Coming in October: Neighborhood Nights!



During the month of October, in an effort to connect families who live in the same geographical area, Children's Ministry is working to coordinate **Neighborhood Nights.** Trinity families from various parts of the greater Grand Rapids area will host outdoor gatherings to connect and build community with other families in the "neighborhood." These gatherings could include things like yard games, board/card games, sidewalk chalk drawing competitions, dance parties, family trivia, and snacks or treats! If you are interested in hosting (or co-hosting), please email Julie Stover to talk about possibilities. Dates and times will be determined by family hosts, and those details along with locations will be shared via email to those who have registered for the 2026-27 Children's Ministry program year.

Trinity Nursery Refresh — Want to Help?

Trinity's Nursery is being refreshed with much needed repairs and a new coat of paint, and we are hoping to refresh some of the furniture and toys as well! If you are interested in helping our Nursery Ministry, we have created an **Amazon Wishlist** with items we would love to have in our space. If you'd prefer to give a monetary gift, please note in the memo line of your check that it is for the *Nursery Refresh Project*.

Check out the Amazon Wishlist here: https://a.co/07NPTcV0. Thank you for your support!

TRINITY CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

SUNDAY SCHOOL FALL KICK OFF

SEPTEMBER 13

AT 9:15 A.M.

REGISTER HERE

SCAN ME

PRESCHOOL

3-5 YEAR OLDS MEET TOGETHER

ELEMENTARY

KINDERGARTEN–THIRD GRADE MEET AS A LARGE GROUP THEN SPLIT INTO SMALL GROUPS (K-FIRST AND SECOND-THIRD)

FOURTH AND FIFTH GRADE MEET TOGETHER

ALL KIDS REUNITE WITH FAMILIES BEFORE COMMUNION, NEAR THE END OF WORSHIP

Trinity Lutheran Church
Children's Ministry

QUESTIONS? CONTACT JULIE STOVER, DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Middle School Youth News

Confirmation Kick Off: Sunday, September 13



Confirmation classes kick off for sixth, seventh, and eighth graders on **Sunday, September 13 from 3-4:30 p.m.** We need each student and at least one parent/guardian at this meeting, as we have a lot of important information to share.

Confirmation Schedule:

September 13 – Class for parents and youth, 3-4:30 p.m.
September 20 & 27 – Confirmation Class, 3-4:30 p.m.
October 4, 11, 18 – Youth Group, 2-3 p.m.; Confirmation Class, 3-4:30 p.m.
October 25 – Mulch Day!
November 1– Halloween Party!

High School Youth News

Youth Group Kick-Off: September 13

High School Youth Group kicks off for 9th-12th graders, their friends, and parents with a night of fun and information from 6:30-8 p.m. It is a very important gathering for parent(s) and high schoolers to attend, as we will be going over our plans for summer, explaining the fundraising credit system, getting your input on activities, and more. High School Youth Group will then resume weekly meetings on Sundays at 6:30 p.m.

Escape Room Outing: October 18

Youth group on October 18 will be an escape room outing! It will be happening during our normal Sunday night youth group time, 6:30 – 8 p.m. Mark your calendars now to join us for some fun!

Halloween Party: November 1 (MS + HS)

We will once again host a Halloween party from 5-8 p.m. There will be games, contests, food, a bonfire, and more! Make your plans to join us! If you would like to help plan this event or have suggestions, please connect with Pastor Dan.

Get text messages about our **middle school ministries!** Scan the QR code or text *ms2627* to 1.833.284.2204.

Get text messages about our **high school ministries!** Scan the QR code or text *hs2627* to 1.833.284.2204.

Important Dates!

This year we have amazing experiences for **middle schoolers and/or high schoolers** to plug into. More information on each will be shared at our kickoff meetings on September 13. Please put these dates on your calendars now.

September 20: Charge Deposits Due
October 18: Gathering Deposits Due
November 6-8: Charge (MS & HS)
June 27-July 2: ELCA Youth Gathering (grades 8-12)
July 18-23: Bridge Builders (Sophomores+)
July 25-30: Stony Lake Camp

Opportunities to Support Church & Community

Become an Usher Today!



Serving as an usher is one of the most meaningful ways to support the life of Trinity. More than simply handing out bulletins, ushers are often the first friendly faces that members and visitors encounter. Their warm smile, kind greeting, and willingness to assist can set the tone for the entire worship experience.

Every person who walks through the church doors brings a unique story. Some come with joy, while others arrive carrying burdens, seeking hope, comfort, or encouragement. A welcoming usher helps create an atmosphere where everyone feels seen, valued, and accepted. Small acts of kindness—opening a door, offering directions, or greeting someone by name—can leave a lasting impression and reflect Christ's love in practical ways.

Being an usher also requires reliability, attentiveness, and a servant's heart. It is a ministry of hospitality that demonstrates humility and a commitment to serving others before oneself. By creating a welcoming environment, ushers help remove distractions and allow worshipers to focus on God. ***When you become an usher, you become an ambassador for Trinity and a reflection of God's love. Your presence and service can make every person feel that they truly belong.***

Don't fear! We will show you what to do! We will be having Usher Training on **Wednesday, September 16 at 6 p.m. and Sunday, September 20 at noon. Sign up here: https://tinyurl.com/y6c2st7v.**

Donate Coats, Outerwear & Blankets



Is it already time think about going through last year's winter clothing?! Share the warmth! We are collecting clean, gently used, or new coats, outerwear (mittens, gloves, scarves, boots, snow pants), and blankets during the months of September and October to help people served by local agencies stay warm this winter. Samaritas, Exodus, Dégagé Ministries, AYA, YouthBuild, Family Promise, and In The Image receive our Trinity donations. You can place your items in the labeled bins in the Narthex or by the office/west entrance. If you have questions, please contact Discipleship and Outreach Coordinator Cindy Zientarski.

Much Needed: Food for SECOM Food Pantry



Please consider picking up an extra item while grocery shopping and bring it in to help fill the grocery carts. SECOM's neighborhood depends on our donations. **In-date, nonperishable items such as peanut butter, canned meats, vegetables, and fruits (in natural juice), soups, grains (pasta, rice) as well as diapers (size 4-7,) pull-ups, and baby wipes are much needed.** Those at SECOM who help unload what we collect are so thankful for all you donate throughout the year! Help continue to feed our neighbors in need. Thank you!

Opportunities to Support Church & Community

In The Image Update



In The Image provides gently used clothing, housewares, furniture, and appliances to families in need. Please consider volunteering on **Thursday, September 17 from 10 a.m.-noon** (since Labor Day is the first Monday we will *not* be volunteering on that scheduled day). Meet at In The Image: 4255 Kalamazoo Ave SE, GR, MI 49508. Contact Discipleship & Outreach Coordinator Cindy Zientarski with inquiries.

A **big thank you** to the group of six ladies from Trinity who volunteered at DeVos Place August 13 for the 30th Annual S.H.O.E.S. event, helping children find a free, new pair of athletic shoes for school! In July, Trinity also had four volunteers who separated and inventoried 400 pairs of donated shoes to help get ready for the big event!



In The Image Outreach Spotlight

In the mid-1980s, volunteers saw the need for clothing, shoes, and coats for homeless and struggling people in the area. A donation area was setup in the basement of a local Heartside District church. Needs expanded and the clothing bank quickly outgrew the basement they were in. A grant of just $5,000 allowed In The Image (ITI) to become an official 501(c)3 non-profit in 1993 and they moved to the Harris Building on Division and then later to 1823 South Division. Finally, in 2021 they moved to 4255 Kalamazoo Avenue SE where they currently reside. Clients include those who have experienced trauma or crisis – for example a house fire, job loss, a medical emergency, homelessness, poverty, or domestic violence. In The Image is where they can find a compassionate place to fill their needs.



The S.H.O.E.S. (Shoes Help Our Elementary Students) Program was added in 1996 to serve elementary students with free back to school shoes. In the 29 years since the program's inception, more than 100,000 pairs of shoes have been provided. More recently, ITI added Pop-up Shops as an opportunity to take items out into the community and meet people where they are, removing the barrier of transportation. They serve thousands of individuals and families and help them meet basic needs like clothing, shoes, coats, toys, books, and especially items from Brian's Basic Needs Room, like personal hygiene products, baby basics, and toiletries, which are not covered by public assistance programs like SNAP and WIC. All of these items are no cost in the Free Store where clients can shop without judgment or the requirement to disclose the details of their situation. Donors and community volunteers continue to make these programs a success.

Trinity supports this remarkable organization with budgeted quarterly financial support as well as in-kind gifts from our drives throughout the year. You may also donate items at their location, but it is best to check their website for donation times and items they accept. See **www.intheimage.org** for more information or contact Outreach Coordinator Cindy Zientarski with questions.

Opportunities to Support Church & Community



Save the Date for the Outreach Ministry Fair!

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, October 11** for Trinity's biennial Outreach Ministry Fair! At the fair, you can browse tables in the Courtyard representing many of the agencies Trinity supports financially and/or with in-kind gifts or volunteerism. Take this opportunity to learn more about how these organizations help those in need in our community and beyond, and to learn how you can get involved!



FIVE FUNDRAISERS. ONE MISSION.

Help support our community as they work to raise money for Living Water Ministries! Each fundraiser has a goal of $2,000. Who will reach their goal first?

Opportunity to Help Support Living Water Ministries

Help Living Water Ministries "run the race" and keep camp affordable! Members of our community are raising money for camp. Each has been challenged to raise $2,000. Can you help them reach their goal?



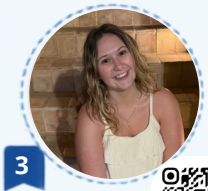
1 **MEGAN BARNHART**

"I'm fundraising for LWM because I am passionate about making sure every child has the chance to experience God's love at camp."



2 **CAITLYN SPOELMAN**

"I'm helping to raise money because I want to be sure camp is able to welcome ALL God's children!"



3 **TEAGUE MECKSTROTH**

"I'm raising money because Stony Lake is my home, and I want to share it with as many people as possible."



4 **AMY STEPHAN**

"I'm raising money because there's nothing like camp. God works through people in so many different ways at camp and it has always been an important part of my life and faith journey."



5 **NICK DERBIN**

"I care so much about raising money for LWM because I want camp to be available to all kids now and for future generations!"

For more details or to give:
https://tinyurl.com/k53twk9y or scan the QR code(s).



News Briefs

In the News! SECOM Ribbon Cutting in July Celebrates New Location

As reported by Fox17's Sam Landstra (July 23, 2026):



GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — A Grand Rapids nonprofit celebrated the grand opening of its new location on Thursday, cutting a ribbon to commemorate its move from Buchanan Avenue to Burton Street. The SECOM Resource Center runs a food pantry, a farm fresh market, a community garden and more. "This building brings us closer to our neighbors and closer to opportunity, closer to the future we want to build," SECOM Executive Director Pablo Garcia said. "It's a place where families can not only find food and resources, but they find community, belonging and the freedom to choose."

Outside the building, local artists have painted a mural in bright, vibrant colors, depicting a woman among fields, flowers and apple trees. The mural also includes the words "hope" and "dignity." This mural does a really good job of sharing the immigrant story, but (also) the community story, right?" Garcia said. "I wanted to bring life to this building because I felt like there was so much missing art-wise in this community that I just wanted an opportunity that we could give some artists some life and beautify this space."



Freezer Meal Ministry Update

A **big** thank you to all who continue to support the freezer meal ministry by helping prepare meals or by giving monetary donations for the ingredients. This ministry continues to thrive and help our members in need! We recently prepared two different entrees which made 14 meals each. If you know of a Trinity member experiencing surgery, illness, or other special circumstances and that could benefit from freezer meals, please reach out to Congregational Resource Coordinator Jeanne Becker.



Bus Ticket Drive Totals
Your Generosity is Much Appreciated!

Thank you for your monetary donations in June and July to provide bus tickets to local agencies and their clients who need public transportation to get to work and health appointments.

A total of $2,915.00, including donations collected in February and March, was provided to Dégagé, Family Promise, and Samaritas.



Dear Trinity:

Our sincerest thank you to all at Trinity who prayed for Denny and our family during his lengthy illness and passing. Your concern, cards, and words were heartfelt felt and touched us deeply.

thank you

Special thanks to Pastor Jon, Pastor Kari, Kris, and Joanna in the office who helped and gave support to us during Denny's final hospital stay and after, and to Tess, Kris Racek, and volunteers who served Denny's memorial luncheon. Darlene and Brooks left us with beautiful music and a video memory to hold dear, and thanks to ushers and all who helped with his service. We are so blessed.

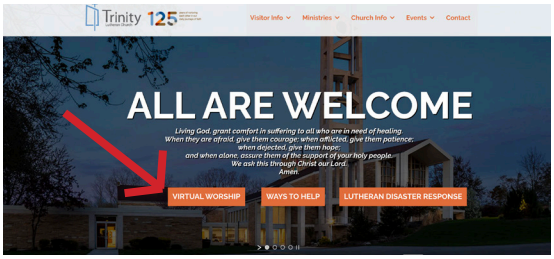
In Christ,
Cheryl Rosen & Family

Livestreaming @ Trinity

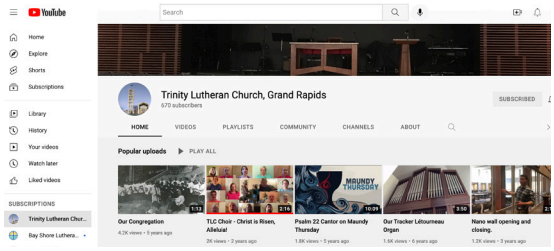
Trinity is Livestreaming Services!

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**.

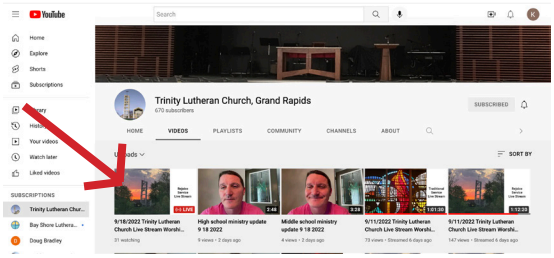


(2) Clicking the Virtual Worship button will take you to our YouTube page:



(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.



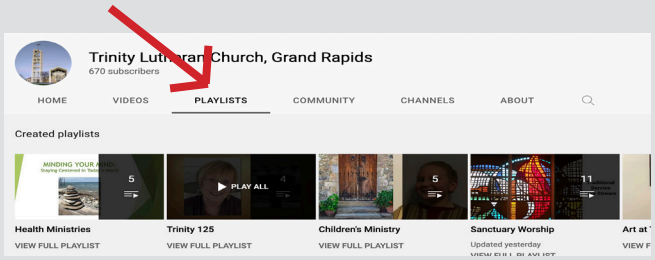
You can also go directly to www.youtube.com and search *Trinity Lutheran Church Grand Rapids* to find our YouTube page.

***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. *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.

September Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations

September 1
David Fox
John Leese
Jeffrey & Haley Atkinson
Gene & Pam Gunderson

September 2
Audrey Kind
Audrey Korb
Lois McCardell
Phil Rupp
Luanna Seyffert

September 3
Kate Schaefer
Brad & Pam Burkle

September 4
Nathaniel Hahn
Elliott Meyer
Doug Vander Woude
John Ziech
Jim & Marge Willman

September 5
Anna Breaugh
Alexander Hahn
Henry Harrison
John Johnson
Drake Selleck
Gary & Xristina Kuhlmann
Matt & Kara Seyffert

September 6
John Ashby
Nate McCardell
Karen Unruh

September 7
Katie Knoll
Marilyn Mellema
Kristi Pearsall
Greg & Rachele Battreall

September 8
Malena Kind
Lisa Postlewaite

September 9
Lila Riegling
Doug & Melissa Haneline
Ian & Cheryl Love
Sara & Joseph Robach

September 10
Lynn Getzin
Joy Horning
Ryan Huckstep
Frances Maurer
Steve Olson

September 11
Benjamin Sommers
Steve & Brenda Heacock

September 12
Bob Beaudry
Madi Ferguson
Jack Groesser

September 13
Roger Marks
Ryan Severns
Gregg & Susan Cothern
Bill & Kara Day

September 14
Bill Bruin
Joe Fisher
Doug Haneline
Maddie Krueger
Everett Phillips
Charlie Slabaugh
Greg & Kristine Lang

September 15
John Hall
Melat Lang
Don & Joanne Brouse

September 16
Debbie Duckworth
Winona Mester

September 17
Christopher Ashby
Megan Legault
Kathy Noble
Gabby Saum
Jack Stover
Edmund Van Meter
Jennifer & Dustin Hughes
Mark & Marilyn Johnson
60th Wedding Anniversary!

September 18
Andrew Ashby
Jamie Norris
Jacqueline Riegling
Bruce & Nancy Albertson
Bill & Kim Brock
Dave & Sarah Huckstep
Jeff & Rebecca Ulrich

September 19
Paul DeBoer
Tori Shannon
Brian & Gail Mazurek

September 20
Raymond Cargill
Elizabeth Derbin
Marilyn Johnson ***(Happy 80th!)***
Todd Osbeck & Paula Tibbe

September 21
Steve Bennett
John Hagenbush
Jessica Marks
Chloe McMillan

September 22
John Fox
David Wait
Rodney & Sue Stanard

September 23
Stella Eimers
Joyce McKenzie
Laura & Allan Fawcett
Tom & Connie Helzer

September 24
Violet Bidle
Ian Hall
Cheryl Love

September 25
Ethan Hale
Greg Lang
Alyssa Phillips

September 26
Mark Johnson
Karen Krummel
Amanda Schneider
David & Sharon Flink

September 27
Liz Dever
Mary Hamilton

September 28
Connie Helzer
Caroline Kuntzman
Pam Sellers

September 29
Steve Kleiman
Joni Korb
Dorothy Postema
Jenna Potter
Timothy Schau
Michelle Wolner

September 30
Michelle Albaitis
Amanda Cox
Mark & Kris Baker



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

Name Tags

Whether you're new to Trinity or have been a lifelong member, your name matters! Something as simple as wearing a name tag can help make a big church feel warm, welcoming, and connected.



If you already have a reusable name tag, please remember to wear it each Sunday and at church events! If you don't have a reusable name tag and would like one, you can sign up at the **name tag table** by the Welcome Center in the Courtyard or upstairs in the Narthex, or contact Jeanne Becker. Your reusable tag will be on the table the following Sunday. Disposable name tags are available at these tables if you forget yours.

Trinity Lutheran Church

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

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

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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

Staff

Direct Dial:
616.949.2510
(then dial extension #)

Email Trinity

Instagram: tlc.gr
facebook.com/tlcgr

YouTube

YouTube.com
Search: Trinity Lutheran Church Grand Rapids

Rev. Jon Niketh, Senior Pastor (ext.115)
jon.niketh@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
Jeanne Becker, Congregational Resource Coordinator (ext.129), jeanne.becker@tlcgr.org
Kristin Bradley, Faith Community Nurse (ext.119)
kristin.bradley@tlcgr.org
Doree Burnside, VBS Coordinator
doree.burnside@tlcgr.org
Kathy Bush, Family Promise Coordinator
616.485.0031, kathy.bush@tlcgr.org
Dr. Darlene Kuperus, Director of Music Ministries & Organist (ext.118), darlene.kuperus@tlcgr.org
Carrie Lamb, Communications Coordinator (ext.121), carrie.lamb@tlcgr.org
Kristen Lamprich, Youth Ministry Coordinator
kristen.lamprich@tlcgr.org
Tess Lundgren, Fellowship & Hospitality Coordinator (ext.121), tess.lundgren@tlcgr.org
Peter McKinney, IT Coordinator (ext.200)
peter.mckinney@tlcgr.org
James Morin, Family Activity Coordinator
james.morin@tlcgr.org
Sarah Singer, Wedding Coordinator
sarah.singer@tlcgr.org
Julie Stover, Director of Children's Ministry
julie.stover@tlcgr.org
Dr. Mark Stover, Worship Music Associate & Director of Trinity Choir, mark.stover@tlcgr.org
Joanna Waite, Finance Administrator (ext.111)
joanna.waite@tlcgr.org
Lucas Wepman, Facilities Coordinator (ext. 117)
lucas.wepman@tlcgr.org
Carmen Wiseman, Nursery Coordinator (ext.130)
carmen.wiseman@tlcgr.org
Cindy Zientarski, Discipleship & Outreach Coordinator (ext.128), cindy.zientarski@tlcgr.org