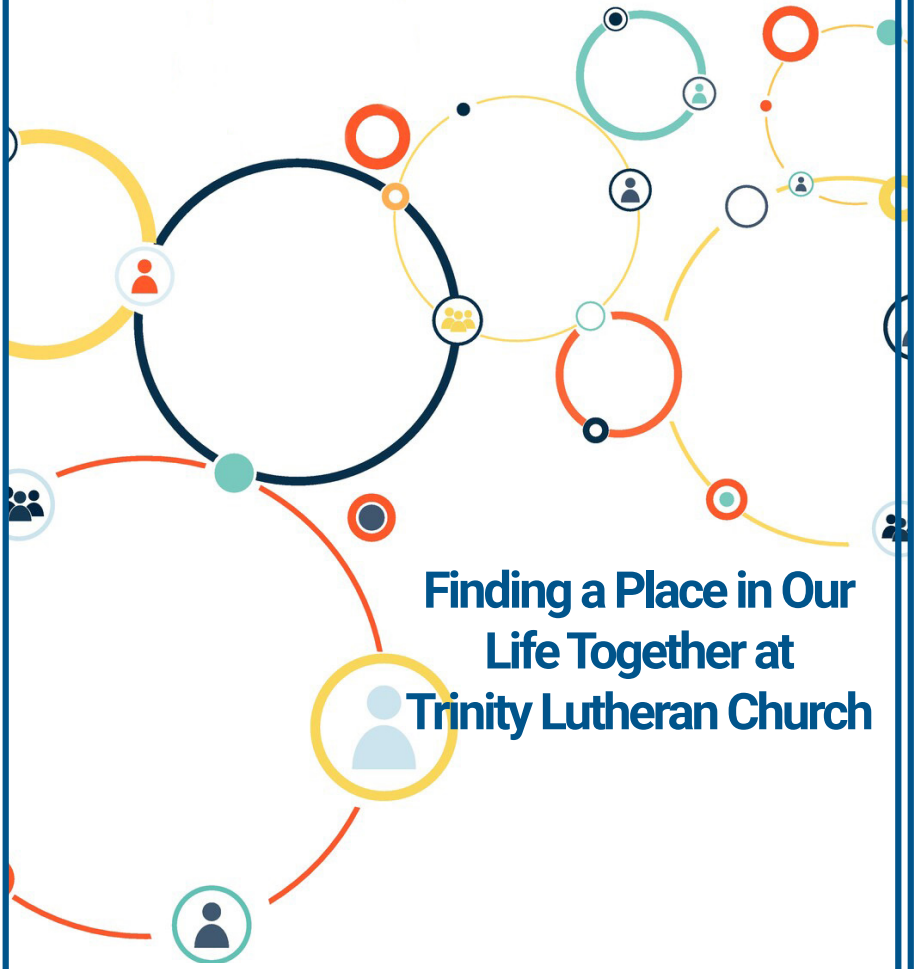
# Connect.



## Finding a Place in Our Life Together at Trinity Lutheran Church

Trinity
Lutheran Church

2700 Fulton Street East • Grand Rapids, MI • 49506 • 616.949.2510

## Trinity Lutheran Church Mission Statement

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.

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***For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. –Romans 12:4-5***

Being part of a church community provides you with the possibilities to make a difference within the church, our community, and within the world while providing you a sense of belonging.

**For more information on how to get involved in one or many of the following, please look at Trinity's website (tlcgr.org), *The Messenger* monthly newsletter, weekly eBlasts, or contact the church office at 616.949.2510.**

## WORSHIP

**Sunday Worship at Trinity**

- 8 a.m. – Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
- 9:15 a.m. – Rejoice Worship in Centennial Hall
- 10:45 a.m. – Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary

Check the website or our newsletter, *The Messenger*, for special worship services during the Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, and summer seasons.

**Worship Assistants**

- **Acolytes/Crucifers –** Youth assist in leading worship by lighting the altar candles, presenting the congregation's offering, and helping with Communion distribution. On festival days, they lead the procession and recession by carrying the Cross and Bible.

- **Communion Assistants –** Help serve the bread and wine during distribution of Holy Communion.

- **Communion Bread Bakers –** Make bread at home to be used for Holy Communion during all worship services for a month at a time. The bread recipe can be provided, or bakers are welcome to use their own basic recipe.

- **Sacristans –** Set up Communion trays with wine and bread prior to worship service and clean up the trays and supplies following worship.

- **Launderers for Holy Communion Linens –** Launder the linens used during Holy Communion.

- **Lectors –** Proclaim the scripture readings, lead the Prayers of Intercession, and assist with Communion.

- **Ushers –** Be a welcoming presence before the services, collect offerings, and direct members to Communion.

- **Cantors –** Lead the congregation in chanting the Kyrie and the Psalm of the Day during traditional worship services.

- **Trinity Choir –** Prepares anthems for traditional worship and occasional concerts. Open to high school students and beyond. The choir breaks during summer.

- **Resound Handbell Choir –** Plays handbells about once per month and sometimes during special worship services. Adults and teens who have musical/instrumental experience are welcome to join. No handbell experience is required but must be able to read music.

- **Contemporary Band Members –** Play during Rejoice worship. Adults and teens can audition as vocalists, electric and acoustic guitar players, keyboardists, drummers, and bass players to be placed in a Trinity band. Other instruments are welcome. Proficiency in basic musicianship is required and previous experience in other bands is helpful.

- **Sound Board/Livestreaming Assistants –** Assist our tech team in the livestreaming and recording of worship services and concerts.

## FAITH FORMATION

### Children & Youth Faith Formation

**Sunday School –** Sunday school is offered for children ages three through fifth grade from September through May.

**Vacation Bible School –** Children ages three through fifth grade gather for Bible stories, games, and crafts in the mornings for a week in summer.

**Middle School Youth –** Confirmation class and youth group are held on Sunday afternoons during the school year. Confirmation, a three-year program for sixth through eighth graders, is led by our pastors.

**High School Youth –** Our Trinity high school youth stay busy learning, serving, and having fun! High school youth group meets on Sunday evenings. Our youth take part in many varied activities throughout the year.

**Stony Lake Camp –** One-week summer camp for children first through twelfth grade. Campers enjoy an amazing week of community and faith formation in the midst of nature, building relationships with each other and with God.

**Mission Trip –** High schoolers are invited to participate in a week-long service trip in the summer.

**ELCA Youth Gathering –** Every three years, 20,000+ youths and their companions gather to experience the diverse breadth and depth of what ELCA has to offer.

**College Care Packages –** We support our college students with goodies during final exams or other challenging times.

## Adult Faith Formation

### Bible Studies

- **Tuesday Morning** – Women's Bible Study
- **Wednesday Morning** – Pastor's Adult Forum (seasonal)
- **Friday Morning** – Women's Bible Study

These studies meet at various times/locations. Find more information at tlcgr.org or in select issues of *The Messenger*.

### Book Clubs

- **Tuesday Evening -** Meets on the third Tuesday of the month at Trinity. Open to adults of any age and gender.
- **Friday Morning –** Meets on the second Friday of the month. This women's book club reads all types of literature and enjoys lively discussions from a religious point of view.

**Grace Groups** – Grace Groups are Trinity's short-term, small group Bible studies that take place during Lent and Advent. More information can be found at tlcgr.org, in select issues of *The Messenger*, or by contacting the church office.

**"Food for Thought"** – Dinner and speaker/conversation events about important health topics — a ministry for the whole congregation!

**Women's Retreat** – Occurs annually to help women grow in faith and community with each other.

**Men's Breakfast** – Meets quarterly for a full breakfast, a brief Bible study, and an engaging guest speaker.

**Advent Devotional Writing** – Trinity members and friends write a short devotion based on a Bible verse for our congregational Advent Devotional book.

## FELLOWSHIP & FUN

**Sunday Morning Hospitality** – Enjoy coffee, refreshments, and fellowship after each Sunday service.

**All Church Potluck & Annual Meeting –** On the third Sunday in January we gather as a church family for a potluck luncheon and the Annual Meeting of the Congregation.

**Advent Meals & Lenten Soup Suppers –** Occur on Wednesday evenings prior to Advent or Lent midweek worship. Many hands are needed for these special dinners.

**Start of Summer Celebration & Fall Congregational Potluck –** It's always fun to enjoy a Lutheran potluck! Attendees are asked to bring a dish to share and, if possible, volunteer to help with setup, activities, and/or tear-down.

**Stay & Play –** Families with preschool through fifth grade children gather for fun and fellowship. Each event is unique with varied themes and activities for the whole family.

**Trinity's Scandinavian Smörgåsbord –** A Saturday evening in December to enjoy great food and a musical program. Bring your favorite Scandinavian dish to share (recipes available upon request). There is a small fee for this event.

**JOYful Days (Just Older Youth) –** Wednesdays in the fall and spring begin with coffee and donuts, followed by an adult forum. We then enjoy a catered lunch with a speaker presentation. All are welcome! There is a fee for this event.

**Game Night & Potluck –** Join fellow members for a potluck supper followed by games. No experience needed.

**Know Mercy Trinity Softball Team –** Trinity's co-ed softball team "Know Mercy" plays weekly during the summer.

**Fitness Classes –** Offered weekly in the Commons. All abilities are welcome and no experience is necessary.

**Celebration of Music Concert Series –** The Celebration of Music Concert Series is a wonderful opportunity to attend concerts in our beautiful sanctuary. These concerts are free and open to the public and typically take place on Sunday afternoons. Freewill donations and concert sponsors sustain the series so that all are welcome without ticket cost.

**Bridge Group –** Meets monthly during the day.

**Life Begins at 60 –** This group of aged 60 or older Trinity members and friends meets monthly at various local restaurants to enjoy dinner and fellowship.

**Fall Family Outing –** All-congregation fun-filled evening in the fall! Typically takes place at a local orchard and offers unique activities, food, and fellowship.

**TLC Quilters –** This group of women typically meets bimonthly, on Tuesday, at Trinity. Design and sewing is done by individual members at home on their personal machines. Fabrics and batting are provided. Quilts are gifted to Trinity members facing health issues or grieving the loss of a loved one, and to individuals who are baptized by Trinity pastors.

**Rummage Sale –** The annual Rummage Sale is a time when you can donate all the gently used items you no longer need, join with other members in sorting the goods, and then come back and shop for treasures new to you! Typically held the first Thursday through Saturday in May, the Rummage Sale is put on by Trinity high school youth to raise funds for their summer mission trip.

**2131 FUN –** Those in the 21-31 age range gather monthly for game nights, outings, or other fun activities. Even if you're a bit past 31, you're not excluded from this gathering. Bring a friend or roommate -- all are welcome!

## CARE FOR EACH OTHER

**New Member Mentors –** Program in which established Trinity members serve as a short-term, connecting presence for new Trinity members.

**Youth Mentors –** Trinity is constantly striving to surround our youth with an array of nonfamilial adults who participate in youth group and/or impact youth lives in positive ways.

**Email Prayer Chain –** Prayer concerns are shared via email to volunteers who will pray for these specific concerns.

**Trinity in Touch Visitation & Phone Call Ministry –** Provide calls, connections, and homebound Communion to members unable to be present in worship.

**Pastoral Care/Visitation –** Available for those who are hospitalized, in rehab, are homebound, experiencing a life challenge, or who request a visit.

**Altar Flower & Poinsettia Delivery –** Volunteers deliver altar flowers to members who are hospitalized or homebound. These members also receive poinsettias during Christmas.

**Helping Hands Meals –** Volunteers can cook meals at Trinity and/or deliver meals to members experiencing times of illness, grief, or special circumstance.

**New Baby Ministry –** We reach out to families at about two and six weeks postpartum to offer support in practical and prayerful ways.

**Stephen Ministry –** Trained volunteer members care for others in a one-on-one, confidential, Christ-centered way to those who are experiencing challenging circumstances. This ministry provides both an opportunity to receive care and an opportunity to be trained to provide care.

**GriefShare –** A 13-week Christian-based grief support group for those mourning the death of a loved one. Offered once a year in late winter/early spring.

**Surviving the Holidays –** A seminar offered one Saturday morning in November to provide strategies for coping with the holiday season after the loss of a loved one.

**Care & Share –** A group for those who are the primary caregivers of a parent, adult child, or spouse. This group gathers to Care for each other and Share their journeys.

**Funeral Luncheons –** Volunteers set up/clean up, and prepare and serve lunch/dessert at funeral receptions held at church.

**Flu Shot Clinic –** Facilitated on a Sunday morning in early fall by Corewell Health visiting nurses.

**Blood Pressure Screening –** Offered by our Faith Community Nurse as requested.

**CPR Training –** Offered twice a year to staff members and others who are required to or wish to participate.

**WOW Tea! (Widows Offering Welcome) –** Offered three times a year as a time of fellowship and support for women who have lost their spouses.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

**Family Promise of West Michigan**
Volunteers bring/serve home-cooked meals to homeless families at the Wyoming Park Family Shelter. Trinity has 4 weeks per year during which your family or small group can serve families with a warm meal and hospitality.

**Trinity's Annual Collections of In-Kind Items**

- **January & February: Clean Start in the New Year**
  *Cleaning products*
- **March & April: Personal Care Items**
  *Personal care and hygiene products*
- **May & June: Diapers and Undies**
  *Diapers and underwear in various types and sizes*
- **June & July: Bus Tickets**
  *Monetary collection providing tickets to local outreach agencies*
- **July & August: School Supplies**
  *Supplies for GR Public School, Congress Elementary*
- **September & October: Blankets and Coats**
  *Clean, gently used or new items. Warm hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves are also welcome.*
- **November & December: Angel Tree and Holiday Food Drive**
  *Christmas gifts for children and families through local agencies and holiday food basket contributions for Baxter Community Center*

**Blood Drives –** Versiti Blood partners with Trinity to host quarterly onsite blood drives to supply our local hospitals with blood products.

**<u>Local Community Agencies Supported By Trinity</u>**

**Baxter Community Center**

**Christophe's Children –** In the village of Kalehe in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Trinity helps provide safe, sanitary housing and schooling for orphaned children.

**Dégagé Ministries**

**EquiTable**

**Exalta Health**

**Global Outreach Ministries**

**Green Apple Food Pantry**

**Habitat for Humanity**

**Home Repair Services**

**ICCF Community Homes**

**In The Image**

**Kids Coalition Against Hunger (KCAH) Meal Packing –** Once a year, Trinity raises money and packs tens of thousands of simple, nutritious meals to combat food insecurities here and around the globe.

**Kids' Food Basket**

**Living Waters Ministries**

**Lutheran Disaster Response –** Trinity and its congregants help to provide assistance to communities devastated by disaster.

**Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Quilting –** Volunteers from Trinity meet weekly to make quilts for LWR. Volunteers do not need to know how to quilt to help.

**Mission In India –** Trinity supports the Neerekshe community ministry in South India.

**MLK Leadership Academy Tutoring**

**Moms Bloom**

**New City Neighbors**

**Refugee Resettlement –** Trinity partners with Samaritas to support refugees in the resettlement process by collecting items to set up housekeeping, financial assistance, rides to appointments and worship, assistance in learning English, and much more.

**Safe Haven Ministries**

**SECOM Resource Center**

## CARE OF OUR CHURCH: OPERATIONS & BUILDING

There are many ways to help with church operations and to help care for our building:

- Help **set up** and **clean up** during church events
- Provide **general mailing assistance**
- **Dust/polish the pews** and **replenish pencils/cards**
- Serve on a **Trinity Committee**:
    - Arts
    - Children's Ministry
    - Communications
    - Endowment Fund
    - Fellowship & Hospitality
    - Finance
    - Forestry-Land/ Gardening Team/ Green Team
    - Health Ministry
    - Helping Hands
    - Human Resources
    - Outreach
    - Property
    - Safety & Security
    - Spiritual Growth
    - Stewardship
    - Worship & Music
    - Youth & Family



## TRINITY CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS 2026

*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: Bill Bush
Vice President: Kelly Wittry
Secretary: Chris Norton
Treasurer: Brad Kessel
Pastors: Rev. Jon Niketh, Senior Pastor
Rev. Dan Schewe, Associate Pastor
Rev. Kari Fast, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care

**Congregation Council Members**

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

# Trinity Staff

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Evangelical
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in America