Volume 95, Number 11 A Monthly Publication of Trinity Lutheran Church November 2026

The Messenger

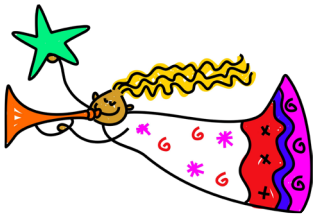
Calm Before the Chaos: A Quiet Advent Afternoon



In addition to our Sunday and midweek services, we are again offering *Calm Before the Chaos*. Join us **Sunday, November 29 from 4:30-6 p.m.** as we begin the season of Advent — a gift of time that the church gives us to prepare the way for Jesus!

The afternoon will center around simple prayer practices that can cultivate peace and contemplation in a world of busyness. We'll begin together in the Sanctuary for lectio divina, then have breakout opportunities, and conclude together in the Sanctuary with a candlelit contemplative service of evening prayer. Please RSVP at https://tinyurl.com/35tc4ayz so we can prepare enough materials for everyone.

Be a Christmas Angel!



Trinity is once again helping to provide Christmas gifts for children and families, and partnering with several local agencies to stock their Christmas Stores.

On Sundays, November 15 and 22, you will find Christmas Trees in the Narthex and Courtyard filled with colorful angel ornaments with gift suggestions for Samaritas, ICCF Community Homes, Wedgwood Christian Ministries, Dégagé Ministries, MomsBloom, Family Promise, and Hope Network Wildwood. Be sure to pick an angel and **sign up at the tables before or after worship services.** Many angels will have specific names and ages of children and some will have general items needed to stock Christmas Stores – like Family Promise's store, which enables families to shop and buy items at very reduced prices.

Return new, unwrapped presents in a Christmas bag with your angel ornament securely attached by placing them under one of the trees in the Narthex or Courtyard by Sunday, December 6.

As always, if you want someone else to do your shopping, you may donate your monetary gifts designated for the Angel Tree Drive.

Can You Help? The Outreach Committee is **seeking volunteers** to help with many different tasks: labeling angel ornaments, decorating the trees, signups on Sundays, and packing and delivering gifts. Scan the QR code to sign up, or contact Outreach Coordinator Cindy Zientarski.

Advent Devotional Booklet 2026

Written by and for the members of Trinity, The Advent Devotional Booklet contains a devotion for each day of Advent, plus Christmas Day. The writings are based on scripture, providing thoughtful reflections on this season of joyful preparation. **Starting November 29, each day's devotion will be emailed to you using the address Trinity has on file. It will also be posted daily to Trinity's Facebook and Instagram.**

Beginning Sunday, November 22, a limited number of hard copies can be picked up at Trinity. The booklet can also be downloaded as a PDF by clicking the link in the weekly eBlast.

What's Happening at Trinity in November?

Weekly at a Glance

Sundays
Angel Tree Gift Drive – Begins Nov. 15
Traditional Worship, 8 a.m.
Rejoice Worship, 9:15 a.m.
Livestreaming of Worship, 9:15 a.m.
Children's Ministry (Sunday School), 9:15 a.m.
Traditional Worship, 10:45 a.m.
Livestreaming of Worship, 10:45 a.m.

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

Tuesdays
TLC Quilters*
LWR Quilters, 9:30 a.m.
Meets at 10:30 a.m. on Nov. 24
Women's Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.
Tai Chi, 1 p.m.
Scout Troop 290, 6:30 p.m.

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

Wednesdays
Core Fitness & Flexibility, 9:30 a.m.
No class on Nov. 25

Thursdays^
Men's Bible Study, 7 a.m.
Tai Chi, 1 p.m.
Resound Bell Choir Rehearsal, 6 p.m.
Choosing Peace & Serenity AFG, 7 p.m.
Trinity Choir Rehearsal, 7:15 p.m.

^No activities on Nov. 26 (Thanksgiving)

Daily Calendar

Sunday, November 1
All Saints Sunday
HS Bible Study, 9:15 a.m.
Youth Halloween Party, 5 p.m.

Monday, November 2
In The Image Volunteering, 1 p.m.
Stephen Leaders Mtg, 1:30 p.m.
Opening the Book of Faith, 5 p.m.
Property Comm Mtg, 6:30 p.m.
Faith in Civic Life Discussion Cir, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 3
Executive Comm Mtg, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, November 4
Outreach Comm Mtg, noon
A Matter of Balance, 1 p.m.
Food for Thought, 6 p.m.

Friday, November 6
MS & HS: Charge!
Women's Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, November 7
MS & HS: Charge!
Surviving the Holidays, 1 p.m.

Sunday, November 8
Veteran's Appreciation Sunday
MS & HS: Charge!
Stephen Ministry Cont Ed, 12:30 p.m.
Stephen Ministry Peer Supt, 1:30 p.m.

Monday, November 9
Family Promise
Messenger Deadline
Faith in Civic Life Planning, 4 p.m.
Council Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 10
Staff Mtg, 1 p.m.

Wednesday, November 11
A Matter of Balance, 1 p.m.

Thursday, November 12
Family Promise
Angel Tree Ornament Labeling, 1 p.m.

Friday, November 13
Women's Book Club, 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, November 14
Jon Ferguson Memorial Serv, 11:30 a.m.
Game Night & Potluck, 5 p.m.

Sunday, November 15
Consecration Sunday
Angel Tree Gift Drive Begins
Life Begins at 60 Lunch, 12:30 p.m.
MS Youth Group, 2 p.m.
MS Confirmation, 3 p.m.
HS Youth Group, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, November 16
Opening the Book of Faith, 5 p.m.
Finance Comm Mtg, 6 p.m.
Fellowship & Hosp. Mtg, 6:30 p.m.
Faith in Civic Life Speaker, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 17
Care & Share, 10:30 a.m.
Book Club, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, November 18
Communications Comm Mtg, noon
A Matter of Balance, 1 p.m.
Pack 3015 Comm Mtg, 6:30 p.m.
Spiritual Growth Comm Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 19
In The Image Volunteering, 10 a.m.
Coping with Chronic Conditions, 10 a.m.
DVAN Mtg, noon
Bridge, 1 p.m.

Friday, November 20
Women's Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, November 21
Embellish Bell Choir Rehearsal, 8 a.m.
Parents of Heavenly Children, 1 p.m.
Celebration of Music Concert:
Embellish Bell Choir, 3 p.m.

Sunday, November 22
Stay & Play: Get Ready for Advent!, 10:30 a.m.
MS Confirmation Class, 3 p.m.
HS Youth Group, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, November 23
Opening the Book of Faith, 5 p.m.

Tuesday, November 24
Bake Sale Pickups
Council on Aging, 8 a.m.
Staff Mtg, 1 p.m.

Wednesday, November 25
Bake Sale Pickups

Thursday, November 26
Happy Thanksgiving! Office Closed.

Friday, November 27
Office Closed

Sunday, November 29
Advent Begins
Calm Before the Chaos, 4:30 p.m.



A Message from Senior Pastor Jon Niketh



We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you, we are an offering.
Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord use our lives, they are yours, we are an offering.
All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be we give to you, we give to you...

—ELW 692

What do you think of when you hear the word "stewardship?" So often stewardship sounds like church code language for money – and, in one sense, that's true. The church does count on your generosity to help keep God's ministry in this place vibrant and growing. You've been hearing about some examples of this in the Monday Mission Moment emails, where Trinity members have been reflecting on the impact of our ministry on their lives.

However, if we focus only on money when we talk about stewardship, we'd miss the point entirely. Stewardship is not just an annual fundraising appeal; it is a reminder that **everything we have is God's gift to us**: our home, our possessions, our food, our church—even our own lives. We don't pay dues for any of it; God gives it to us, as Martin Luther says in the Small Catechism, **"out of pure, fatherly, and divine goodness and mercy."** We could never "pay God back" for what God has given us.

What we *can* do is lead lives of **gratitude**; we can be **good stewards** of what God has entrusted to us. A steward is someone who is given the responsibility of taking care of something that belongs to someone else. As stewards of God's creation, it is, as we say in the Eucharistic Prayer each Sunday, "**our duty and our joy**" to give thanks to God at every time and every place—by making sure that everything God has placed into our hands is taken care of, and gets used not only for our benefit, but for all God's children.

One way we do this is with our money. We return to God a portion of what we have to ensure that God's message of love and forgiveness continues to go out to all the world through the ministries of this congregation and beyond. But just as important as our money is our **hearts**. As this song so clearly says, **we are an offering**—not just what we have and can give away, but what we are on the inside as people. God has given each of us gifts for ministry and for the building up of the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:12), and I firmly believe that includes **everyone.** Each person at Trinity has something to contribute, whether it be creative ideas, music, time, labor, or hospitality.

This congregation is what it is because of **you**. You are the building blocks built on Jesus the cornerstone. As we prepare for the stewardship season this year, remember that. Remember that you are an offering. Thanks be to God!

Pastor Jon Niketh

Join Us for Worship in November!

Sunday, November 1 – All Saints Sunday: Remembering those who have died and those who have been baptized since All Saints Day in 2025.

Sunday, November 8 – Commemorating Veterans Day: A prayer of thanksgiving for all who have served in our nation's armed forces.

Sunday, November 15 – Consecration Sunday: The people of Trinity are invited to make their Estimates of Giving for 2027.

Sunday, November 22 – Christ the King Sunday: The last Sunday of the church year, in which we celebrate Christ's reign of justice and love.

Council Corner



Trinity's Safety & Security Committee Continues to Work

Unfortunately, in today's world, ensuring the safety and security of church members and visitors is a priority for every congregation. **A well-organized safety and security team plays a crucial role in creating a secure environment where people can worship with peace of mind.** This committee at Trinity began meeting approximately three years ago, and several key initiatives have been implemented to strengthen safety measures, focusing on communication, emergency preparedness, and child protection.

The newest implementation you may notice is the introduction of walkie-talkies for ushers. This simple yet powerful tool allows ushers to have instant communication with the nursery and other key areas within the church. By staying connected throughout services and events, the ushers can quickly address any concerns or emergencies, enhancing overall responsiveness and ensuring members' safety, especially for families with young children. So, don't think the president is visiting if you happen to see an usher with an earpiece! It's just part of a new policy to make Trinity as safe as it can be.

To further boost safety, all doors within the church facility have been clearly numbered. This systematic approach makes it easier for emergency responders to locate specific areas quickly in case of an emergency. Trinity is a big church with a number of entrances, so making sure emergency responders get to the right door can make a big difference. Door numbering can also make it easier for members, ensuring efficient navigation and coordination throughout the building during meetings and events.

Recognizing that a prepared team is an effective team, we held our annual usher training just a few weeks ago. We conduct these sessions to equip volunteers with essential skills in safety protocols and emergency response. These trainings help keep the team sharp and confident in handling various situations. If you are interested, we are always ready to welcome new ushers! The time commitment is minimal – one service a month – and you can choose the service you would like to work. Please reach out if you are interested.

Finally, an integral part of our security strategy is the careful examination and review of the church's child protection policy. This has undergone a thorough evaluation to ensure it meets current safety standards and effectively protects the youngest members of the church community. The reviewed policy has been presented to the church council for approval, underscoring the church's commitment to a safe and secure environment for all children.

The Safety and Security Committee can always use new members. Please reach out to me or the church office if you are interested in joining!

Chris Becker
Safety & Security Committee Chair

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
Secretary: Chris Norton
Vice President: Kelly Wittry
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), 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 September 2026

	Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable/ (Unfavorable)	
Total Income	92,139	72,285	(19,854)	-21.5%
Total Expenses	113,450	104,683	8,767	7.7%
Net Operating Income (Loss)	(21,311)	(32,398)	(11,087)	52.0%
Interest Income	2,650	3,265	615	
Net Income (Loss)	(18,661)	(29,134)	(10,473)	56.1%

2027 Fiscal Year-to-Date (Through September 2026)

	Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable/ (Unfavorable)	
Total Income	971,575	913,006	(58,569)	-6.0%
Total Expenses	934,067	895,186	38,881	4.2%
Net Operating Income (Loss)	37,508	17,820	(19,688)	
Interest Income	22,380	27,459	5,079	
Net Income (Loss)	59,888	45,279	(14,609)	-24.4%

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.

Consecration Sunday at Trinity is November 15

Prayerfully consider your intent for giving for 2027!

"Take my life, that I may be consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise!" ELW 685

To "consecrate" something is to set it apart for God's use, that God may in turn use it to bless the world. The people of Trinity Lutheran Church are invited to "Consecration Sunday," a celebration of our financial stewardship and generosity, on Sunday, November 15. All three worship services that day will include the invitation for members and friends of Trinity to make their Intent for Giving for 2027 as an act of worship. Watch for your mailing of an "Intent for Giving" card and be with us on Consecration Sunday to offer your pledge for our shared ministry in the year ahead.

A Message from Associate Pastor Dan Schewe



Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. **Hebrews 12:1 - 2**

When you ask someone to name a Christian holiday, most will say Easter or Christmas. Some might say Ash Wednesday or Pentecost, and some of us Lutherans might say Reformation Day. Yet, every year on the first Sunday of November we gather for a day that is of paramount importance in our culture: All Saints Day.

This day is so important because we live in a culture that promotes taking no time to feel, does not encourage introspection, and ignores grief. Instead, we are taught to be constantly busy and not look back on difficult times in life. We are taught to treat grief like a cut, something that heals and we can move on from, never to think of it again. But grief is more complicated than that. It lingers. It can be like the waters of the ocean – some days calm and other days threatening to crush you under the waves.

In our tradition, we gather on the first Sunday of November to celebrate All Saints Day; a day when we remember and honor the memories of our loved ones who are no longer with us. We remember the wisdom and love they shared with us and hold the grief of their absence.

The best definition of grief I've heard is that it is love that is unable to be expressed because the one you love is no longer able to receive it. Daily, I feel this as I mourn the passing of my father and the declined mental capacities of my mother. I catch myself wanting to call my dad to talk about what my boys are up to, the Vikings, or to enjoy simple conversation. I walk with that grief every day and I am learning the rhythms of it.

I also grieve the loss of my beloved uncle Herb, my father's brother. I have a reminder in my phone on April 22 to remember him, as that is the day that cancer took his life. Herb didn't marry until later in life and had no children of his own, but he loved to spend time with young people. He was a mentor to so many in his neighborhood, and he found ways to make special memories with me, my brother, and our cousins. He was very intentional about this. I remember long talks about life over tacos, burritos, enchiladas, and margaritas. I remember our trip to D.C. to visit the museums and monuments. I remember the mischievous gleam he would get in his eye when we would joke with our family. I remember the joy he had for life and for his family. I am thankful for how he poured wisdom and love into my life, and into the life of my brother, cousins, and so many others. Nearly every day, I wish I could tell him how much I love and miss him, but I can't. That grief is mine to hold and walk with.

Herb is a member of the cloud of witnesses who has impacted my life. His faith and life have been powerful influences on my own. Though he is gone, he is not forgotten, and I long for our reunion when I too pass from this life into the next.

As we step into November and head toward the busy Christmas season, I encourage you to pause and remember those who have impacted your life like my uncle did. Think of your own cloud of witnesses and how they have guided your life. Join us on November 1 to honor and remember them.

Shalom,

Pastor Dan Schewe

A Message from Associate Pastor Kari Fast



Dear Trinity Family and Friends,

In early October, I was at a beautiful, nature-filled retreat center in Marriottsville, Maryland (about a half hour from Baltimore) for the annual summit of the Shalem Society Institute for Spiritual Formation. Their mission is to nurture contemplative living and leadership.

This annual retreat is a time when all those who have completed their training are invited to return for a time of renewal. I have received two one-and-a-half year trainings: Transforming Community (Leading Contemplative Spiritual Groups & Retreats) in 2019 and Nurturing the Call: Spiritual Guidance in 2023.

During our retreat in October, we spent time with the entire group of 40 others in contemplative silence, in prayer, worshiping, singing, and even dancing. We gathered in holy listening circles with four other people, sharing our struggles and joys and wondering together where God might be working in our lives. And we spent a lot of time out in nature.

Some people may think of contemplation as simply gazing or focusing on the self. Sue Pickering, author of *Spiritual Direction: A practical Introduction*, says, "There is a common misconception that contemplation takes us away from the struggles of *the real world*. But Catherine of Siena (1347-1380) reminded the Church of the true relationship between action and contemplation when she wrote: "'The secret of Christian contemplation is that it faces us with Jesus Christ toward our suffering world in loving service and just action.'"

I sense that one of my next callings might be to bring more invitations for contemplation and Holy Listening to Trinity in small groups. I look forward to discerning when this may be a blessing to Trinity.

From my time of refreshment away in Maryland with my fellow contemplatives, I share the blessing spoken by one of my mentors, Liz Ward. It is a blessing from Rev. Brian Baker and Rev. Amelie Wilmer, entitled simply...

A Blessing

The world now is too dangerous and too beautiful
For anything but love.
May your eyes be so blessed,
that you see God in everyone.
Your ears, so you hear the cry of the poor,
Your mouth, so you speak the truth in love,
Your hands, so that everything you give
And everything you receive, is a sacrament.
And your feet, so you run to those who need you.
May your heart be so opened,
So set on fire, that your love,
YOUR love, changes everything.

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

Surviving the Holidays:
Saturday, November 7, 1-2:30 p.m.

When grieving the loss of a loved one, the holiday season can be painful. Our seminar helps participants prepare for the holidays, and will include a 40-minute video and time for sharing and support. Feel free to arrive at 12:45 p.m. to settle in with a light snack. A $5 registration fee will cover the cost of the workbook *Holiday Survival Guide*. Scholarships are available. **To register, please visit https://tinyurl.com/436cta69** or contact Pastor Kari for more details.

Parents of Heavenly Children:
Saturday, November 21, 1-2:30 p.m.

If you have had a child pass away, please consider joining us. You are welcome to arrive at 12:45 p.m. to settle in with a light snack. Please reach out to Pastor Kari with any questions or concerns, in person or through email. **To register, visit https://tinyurl.com/4wkenhk7**, or call Kris in the church office.

Worship Music & The Arts

Choral Worship Interns: Creating a Church Home for College Students

Trinity's music ministry launched a new initiative in the fall of 2025, which was intentionally created to provide a place of welcome for college students. Specifically, Choral Worship Music Interns find a church home as singers in the Trinity Choir and as leaders of worship in the 10:45 a.m. Sanctuary services. This mentoring program is co-led by Dr. Mark Stover, Director of the Trinity Choir, and Dr. Darlene Kuperus, Director of Music Ministries.

Currently, all of the choral interns are Calvin University students and are part of the choral music program there. In addition, several of the choral interns are international students. We are so pleased to have them as a part of the music ministry at Trinity!

Dr. Darlene Kuperus, Director of Music Ministries / Organist / Concert Series Director



Choral Worship Music Interns Sayo Ayeni, Audrey Rakotomalala, Haley Grace Fox, Natalie Poortenga, & Daniel Okereke

Celebration of Music Concert Series Upcoming Events

Saturday, November 21, 2026 | 3 p.m. | Trinity Lutheran Church
EMBELLISH: I HEARD THE BELLS ON CHRISTMAS DAY BRENDA AUSTIN, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

The Embellish Handbell Ensemble, under the direction of Brenda E. Austin, presents an inspiring afternoon of music celebrating light, joy, and the changing season. Featuring lyrical originals, festive favorites, and dynamic handbell artistry, the program also includes a special collaboration with Trinity's Resound Bell Choir, creating a joyful and memorable musical experience.



This is a perfect way to begin enjoying some of your Christmas favorites and to hear them played by extraordinary handbell ringers. Their techniques will amaze, and their musicianship will bring to life cherished favorites and new compositions alike.

Celebration of Music Concert Series Upcoming Events - *Continued*

Saturday, December 19 | 5 p.m. | Trinity Lutheran Church
VOXMAS 2026: A CHRISTMAS CAROL DR. CHRISTOPHER MASON, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

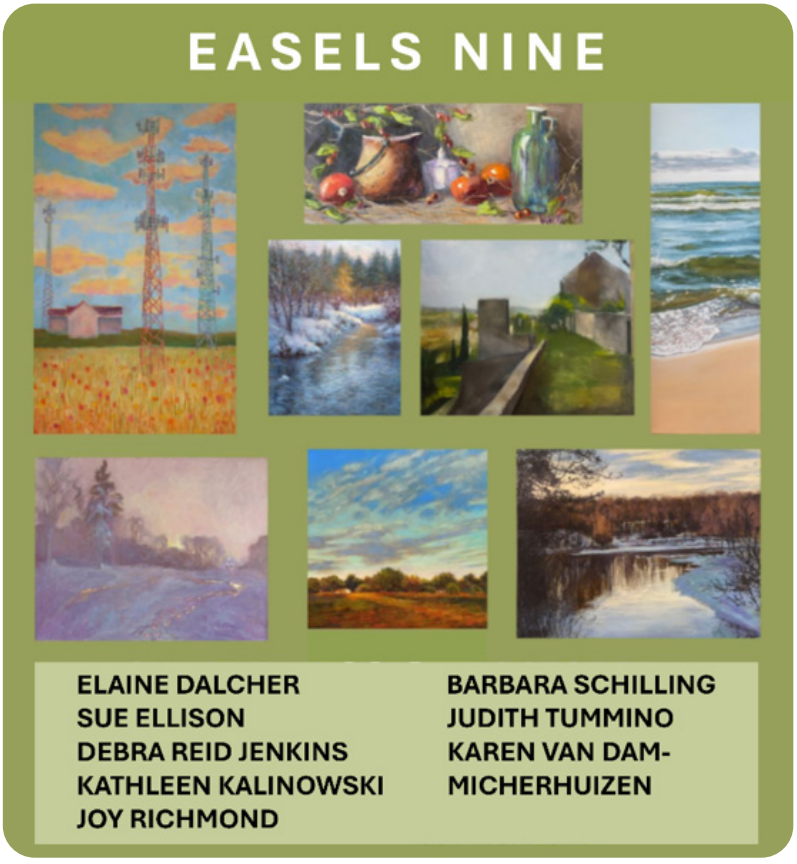


VOXmas is Vox GR Choral Ensemble's annual through-composed winter choral concert. VOXmas 2026 features a live reading of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol accompanied by choral music which underpins and comments on the unfolding story. Beautiful singing will bring forth the season's themes of goodwill, generosity, and second chances.

We expect this concert to be very well-attended. Carpooling is a great idea — and then enjoy dinner out with friends after the concert!

The Overlook Gallery Presents: Easels Nine

Trinity is fortunate to welcome Easels Nine, an award-winning group of West Michigan artists, to our gallery during November and December.



During the pandemic in West Michigan, nine established artists discovered a way to connect. They met virtually via Zoom every week, fostering a sense of community amid isolation. The support within this group forged strong bonds of friendship and trust, enabling each artist to grow and enhance her skills.

Despite their diverse styles and techniques, they all draw inspiration from nature and the world around them.

This group helps its members stay focused and maintain a positive outlook as they navigate new challenges in both their artistic journeys and the world around them. The women have remained connected, meeting regularly to support one another and find that their combined energy positively influences their creativity, artwork, and mindset. They participate in group shows several times a year.

All Saints Sunday: November 1

For All the Saints

We remember Trinity members who have gone before us since All Saints Day, November 2025.

William E. Leidel
January 5, 1940 – October 26, 2025

John Walls
March 4, 1948 – December 8, 2025

Robert C. Carlson
January 25, 1943 – December 11, 2025

Jeanette Sorensen
January 25, 1943 – January 10, 2026

Dewayne Glenn Ide
October 18, 1936 – February 1, 2026

Gloria Vonderheide
September 22, 1952 – February 12, 2026

David Daniel Fast
May 1, 1993 – April 8, 2026

Natalie Yeager
August 17, 1933 – April 14, 2026

Susan L. Bailey
June 3, 1949 – May 7, 2026

Marian Schaible
March 18, 1928 – May 30, 2026

Patricia Johnson
September 1, 1931 – June 15, 2026

Dennis Dean Rosen
March 28, 1945 – June 16, 2026

Robert E. Carlson
January 17, 1931 – July 16, 2026

Marilyn Helene Leese
May 9, 1931 – August 28, 2026

Jon C. Ferguson
April 8, 1943 – September 21, 2026

Timothy Michael Schau
September 29, 1967 – September 25, 2026

"If we have died with Christ, we shall also live with him; if we are faithful to the end, we shall reign with him."

Join Us on All Saints Sunday

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

Each year on All Saints Sunday the people of Trinity gather to remember both those who have died and those newly baptized in our life together in the past year. Both emphases will be observed at the three services of Holy Communion on November 1. Be with us in worship!

Giving Thanks for Our Newest Brothers and Sisters in Christ
Those Baptized Since All Saints Day 2025

Cyrus Gilbert Pugh
November 16, 2025

Beckham Rainn Pearsall
November 23, 2025

Micah Chase Amash
December 28, 2025

Adorah A'mpirhe Muganza
January 4, 2026

Rowan Jon Garvey
January 11, 2026

Lainey Anne Atkinson
February 8, 2026

Axel John Lemaitre
March 1, 2026

Henry Pleyte
March 8, 2026

Gretchen Pleyte
March 8, 2026

Charles Daniel Lynn
April 20, 2026

Addison Lane White
June 28, 2026

Marshall John Meyer
June 28, 2026

Anderson Christopher Engle
July 5, 2026

Marla Klap
July 12, 2026

Barrett James Filler
July 13, 2026

Etta Rea Filler
July 13, 2026

Norma Jean Olson
August 9, 2026

Arthur Louis Mencarelli
August 23, 2026

Heidi Grace Hirt
September 27, 2026



Advent at Trinity

Advent Midweek Worship Begins Wednesday, December 2



A season of hope and expectation, during Advent we pause in the life of the church to provide a counterweight to the remarkable busyness of the holiday season. **Wednesday Midweek Worship will be offered on December 2, 9, and 16 at 6:30 p.m. following a simple supper in the Courtyard.** Our pastors and cantors will lead the well-loved vespers service of Holden Evening Prayer with support from Dr. Darlene Kuperus at the piano.

Advent suppers will be offered in the Courtyard before each Wednesday vesper service starting at 5:30 p.m. Trinity will provide the entrée, and attendees are asked to make a goodwill offering of a side dish, dessert, or monetary donation. Donations can be placed in the box at the Hospitality Counter during the supper. **Sign up at https://tinyurl.com/yc46pbks, via the weekly eBlast, or by scanning the QR code.** Contact Tess Lundgren if you have any questions.

Cookie Decorating for Everyone: December 5



Each year the youth of our congregation come together on the first Saturday in December to decorate cookies to be delivered to our homebound parishioners. This has become a favorite tradition, so this year ***we are opening it up to the whole congregation!*** Come join us in the Courtyard on Saturday, December 5 from 10 a.m.-noon. We will decorate cookies to the sounds of your favorite Christmas carols. Cookies will be made and ready for decoration with no stress or mess to your own kitchen! As you decorate your masterpieces, platters will be made up that will need to be delivered around the Grand Rapids area. Take a platter to bring holiday cheer to your fellow parishioners, and take a platter of cookies home with you to enjoy.

Middle and high school youth can earn fundraising credits by taking part in this event.
See page 17 for details, and connect with Pastor Dan if you have any questions or concerns.

Christmas Traditions: December 5



Our Trinity Christmas Tea has morphed into *Christmas Traditions* and is open to the whole congregation! **Join us on Saturday, December 5 at 3 p.m. for this newly-branded Trinity event where we will enjoy Trinity's traditional warm, spiced Christmas tea and a table laden with all kinds of wonderful desserts.** Rumor has it there will even be a s'mores station to make your own treats. The large tree will be up in the Courtyard and you are invited to help us decorate it. We'll sing some favorite Christmas songs to get into the spirit of this beautiful season. **Please register at https://tinyurl.com/3394js8e or by scanning the QR code, so we know how many delectable treats to make**.

If you enjoy baking Christmas treats and would like to share one of your Christmas culinary traditions please visit the registration page referenced above and let us know what you'd like to make!

Scandinavian Smörgåsbord: Saturday, December 12



Join us for Trinity's Scandinavian Smörgåsbord which offers up a host of traditional Scandinavian food. We will have a musical program and a visit from Santa Lucia and her traditional cookie tray!

Doors open at 5 p.m. and the cost is $12 per person. Payment by cash or check can be dropped off or sent to Trinity, or can be made at the door. If paying by check, write Smörgåsbord on the memo line so the funds get directed to the right account. **Please RSVP with the QR code, via the eBlast, or at https://tinyurl.com/mrydh58b.**

Trinity provides the main dishes for this event and we ask those who love to bake and cook to bring a Scandinavian dessert or side (salads, cucumbers, breads, cookies, etc.) If you need a recipe, let Tess or Kris Shannon know. Thank you for your contributions.

This event is a big undertaking and we especially welcome volunteers!

- Make a Scandinavian dish to share
- Help with advance food preparation in the Trinity Kitchen on Friday, December 11
- Help set up the Courtyard for the event
- Help cook the food on Saturday, December 12
- Help replenish the table as needed on Saturday, December 12
- We need lots of help to clean up after the event so the room is reset for Sunday services

We are looking for a young teenage girl to be Santa Lucia (no experience necessary).
Contact Tess Lundgren if interested or for more information.

Advent Grace Groups: Preparing the Way



Stay tuned for more information on Advent Grace Groups. Just as in Lent, these groups will meet at church and in people's homes at various times for three weeks in the month of December around a common theme. You are invited to be part of one of these groups during this season of preparation for Christ's birth! Look for a signup in upcoming eBlasts.

Fellowship & Hospitality

Bake Sale Taste & Order: November 1



Remember to come to our Taste & Order event for our very first holiday bake sale! We will be located in the Library before and after each service. We ask adults only who are interested in ordering baked goods to come to our tasting. You will receive an order form at the beginning of the line, enter to taste our offerings, and then make your selections on your order form and turn it in with your payment as you leave the Library. Choose your pickup date: Tuesday, November 24 or Wednesday, November 25. We will also have pickups on December 22 and 23. Any items not picked up will be donated. All proceeds go to improving the Trinity kitchen. We appreciate your support!

Game Night & Potluck: November 14

Come share a potluck dinner at 5:30 p.m. and hang out with your Trinity Fun Crowd. We will play games, share laughter, and have a fun/no stress evening. Game Night is open to all ages that can participate. For younger kids, we offer childcare in our nursery if you contact Tess by November 4.

Sign up: https://tinyurl.com/4ykcrpa7 or use the QR code.



Trinity Veterans Honored: November 8

Calling all Trinity members who have served in any of our military branches! Trinity honors our veterans each year by displaying our veterans' photo and a summary of their service.

If you have not yet submitted your photo and bio, please email or drop off to Tess Lundgren by **Sunday, November 1**.

Bio info should include: name, photo in uniform, current photo, military branch, rank, honors/medals, campaigns/where you served, and length of service. Also, if it has been awhile since you submitted this information and you would like to update your current photo, you can submit a new photo to Tess. Submit photos in digital format if possible, or we can scan it into a digital format for you in the main office.



Sneak Peek

November 24 & 25: Bake Sale Pickups (also December 22 & 23)
December 2, 9, 16: Advent Suppers
December 5: Cookie Decorating for Everyone & Christmas Traditions
(two separate events – come to one or both!)
December 12: Scandinavian Smörgåsbord

Join us for Fellowship & Hospitality Events During Advent!
See pages 12-13.

Tuesday Women's Bible Study, 9:30-11 a.m.

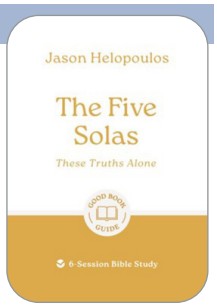


Join anytime! Contact Karen Unruh at karen@unruhfamily.net for more details.

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.



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?**

Men's Bible Study, Thursdays, 7-8 a.m.

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

We are 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).

Faith in Civic Life



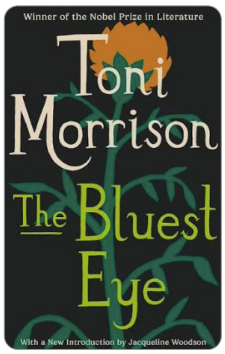
With increasing interest in how we as Christians can and should respond to issues in our society, we have structured our Faith in Civic Life offerings around speaker events and follow-up discussion circles to take place at **6:30 p.m. on the dates listed below.** The speaker events will be educational 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".

November 2 - Discussion Circle - Christian Nationalism
November 16 - Speaker Event: Refugee Updates from Samaritas and Global Refuge
December 7 - Discussion Circle: Refugee Care

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

Opportunities for Connection

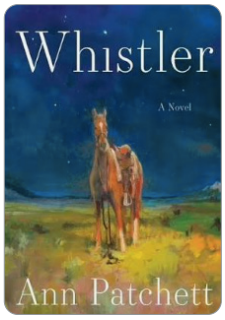
Tuesday Evening Book Club | Meets the 3rd Tuesday of the Month, 7 p.m.



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

November: *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrision
December: *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michele Richardson
January: *A Brief History of Everyone Who Ever Lived* by Adam Rutherford

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



Join anytime! Contact Carol Hendricks at cahendricks14@gmail.com with questions or for more information.

November: *Whistler* by Ann Patchett — **Host:** Sue Coates & Kathy Sommers
December: *The Diamond Eye* by Kate Quinn — **Host:** Pam Sellers & Carol Hendricks
January: *The Lumber Baron's Wife* by Lynn Austin — **Host:** Kristy Bennett & Sandra Sudak



Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration
Monday, November 23, 7 p.m.
First United Methodist Church (227 Fulton St. E.)

From GVSU's Kaufman Interfaith Institute: The Grand Rapids Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration has been celebrated annually since the year 2000. The event features participation from a wide variety of Christian denominations and representatives of Native American, Jewish, Muslim, Baha'i, Buddhist, Hindu, secular, and inclusive religious communities. We come together to give thanks for the blessings we have received. Prayers, music, sacred writings, reflections and meditation will be woven together with a common theme of gratitude from many traditions.

The human desire to express gratitude is felt among all religious traditions and in secular society. How people express thanksgiving takes many different shapes and styles. The Grand Rapids Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration is an opportunity for people of diverse traditions to listen, to share, and to better understand one another. No one is asked to compromise their beliefs, just to come together and share their stories, their cultures, and their gratitude.

This event is organized by a committee of representatives that are Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, secular, and other inclusive religious communities.

Middle School Youth News

November Confirmation Schedule:



November 1 – Halloween Party, 5-8 p.m.

November 8 – No Class – Charge Weekend!

November 15 & 22 – Youth Group, 2-3 p.m.; Confirmation Class, 3-4:30 p.m.

November 29-December 27 – No Class – Thanksgiving & Christmas Break

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

High School Youth News

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

All high schoolers and their friends are invited to join us for youth group! Come have fun and conversation about how God is leading us in our lives.
On November 1, we will have a Halloween party from 5-8 p.m.
We are not meeting on November 8 or 29.

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

Bible Study with Pastor Dan: November 1, 9:15 a.m.

See you on November 1 for our First Sunday of the Month Bible Study in the Youth Room during 9:15 a.m. worship. There will also be donuts and juice!



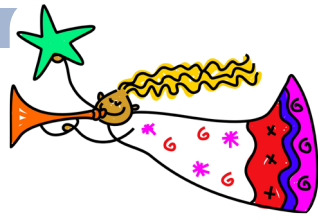
Bowling Event: November 22, 6:30-8 p.m.

Join us for bowling at AMF Lake Eastbrook Lanes. *Remember to bring socks!*
Stay tuned for more details from Pastor Dan.

Middle & High School Activities

Share the Blessings You Have Received!

Angel Tree Giving Starts November 15



This Christmas season our youth are invited to join with our congregation in our churchwide Angel Tree program. Both the Courtyard and Narthex will feature Christmas trees that contain wishes for those in need. Pick an ornament and visit the sign-up table! Next, shop and bring the gifts back to Trinity so we can deliver them. It is a blessing to share what we have been blessed with. See cover for more details.

Cookie Decoration & Delivery: Saturday, December 5



All middle school and high school families (and their friends) are invited to help us spread Christmas cheer on December 5. We will meet in the Courtyard at 10 a.m. to decorate Christmas cookies, then split into groups and deliver them to members of our community! Come help us brighten someone's Christmas season. **Earn fundraising credits by helping bake cookies ahead of the event, setting up the space, decorating cookies, cleaning up, and delivering cookies. Sign up on the form when you arrive, so your time is documented.** Contact Pastor Dan and watch your email for more details.

Children's Ministry



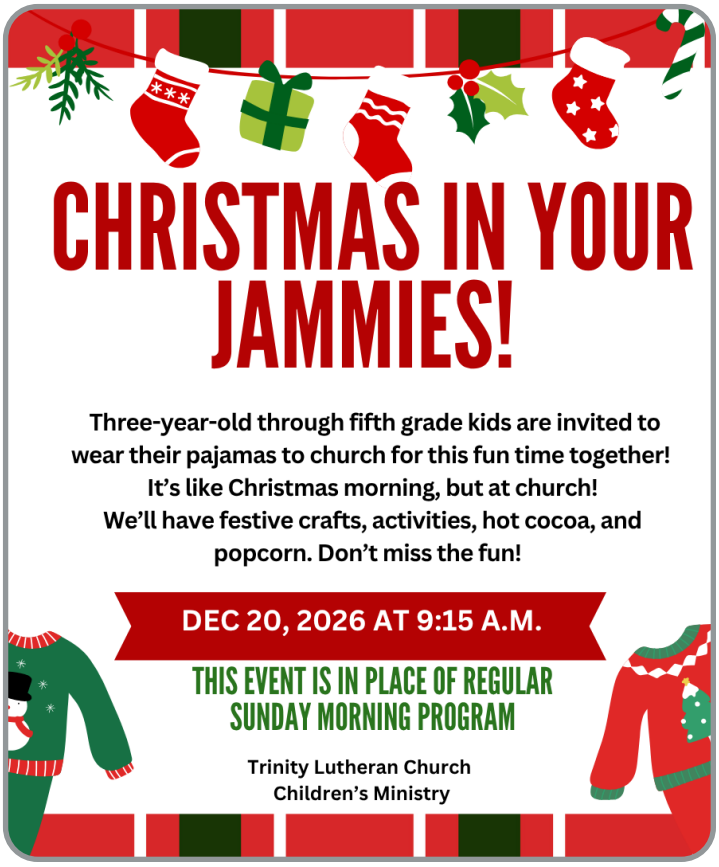
Sunday School takes place within the framework of the 9:15 a.m. service. Using curriculum from Amazing+, children preschool through fifth grade hear stories from the Bible, connecting them to God's Big Story of redemption through Jesus. Time together is focused on connecting with each other, learning about our place in God's Story, and having fun while doing it all!

Trinity Lutheran Church
Children's Ministry

Register here!

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.





Here's What Kids are Learning in November...

3-5 YEAR-OLDS: TINY PARADE – I CAN CELEBRATE GOD!



This month, our preschoolers will be hearing stories from the Old Testament that show moments when people chose to celebrate God. Through each story, kids will be asked the question, "Who can celebrate God?" They will learn the answer is: "I can celebrate God!"

Memory Verse: "Shout aloud and sing for joy." (Isaiah 12:6)

Nov 1: I can celebrate God for what He made. (Psalms; Psalm 33 & 100)
Nov 8: I can sing to celebrate God. (Deborah; Judges 4:1-10, 14, & 5:1-31)
Nov 15: I can celebrate God with others. (Moses and Miriam; Exodus 15)
Nov 22: I can celebrate God for everything. (Feast of Booths; Deuteronomy 16:13-17, 29:5, & Leviticus 23)
Nov 29: I can celebrate God all the time. (David Praises God; 2 Samuel 6:12-15; 1 Chronicles 15-16)

K-5TH GRADE: THE GREAT GRATITUDE CHALLENGE – THANKING GOD FOR EVERY GOOD THING



Our elementary-aged kids will be hearing stories from the Bible that help us recognize the amazing and good gifts that God has already given to us—and how we always have something to be grateful for!

Memory Verse: "Every good and perfect gift is from God. This kind of gift comes down from the Father who created the heavenly lights. These lights create shadows that move. But the Father does not change like these shadows." (James 1:17)

Nov 1: I can thank God. (Every Good Gift Is From God; James 1:17 and Philippians 4:8)
Question for preteens: What can you thank God for?

Nov 8: I can thank God no matter what. (Always Something to Be Grateful for; Habakkuk 3:17-18; 1 Thessalonians 5:18)
Question for preteens: What can you thank God for, even when life feels hard?

Nov 15: Remember to thank God.
(Jesus Heals Ten Men; Luke 17:11-17)
Question for preteens: What are ways you can remember to thank God?

Nov 22: Make time to celebrate God.
(Feast of Booths; Nehemiah 3:13-18)
Question for preteens: How can you celebrate what God has done?

Nov 29: We can thank God for giving us hope.
(God's Plan to Send Jesus; verses in John, Micah, and Isaiah)
Question for preteens: What are you hoping for?

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



We are so grateful to those of you who have purchased items off of our Trinity Nursery Amazon Wishlist! Many of the items we were hoping for have been delivered, set up, and put to use. Thanks for your generosity and support of our ministry to the littlest in our congregation! Stop by to check it out!

Health Ministries

Join Us Weekdays in the Commons For Connection & Movement!



Core Fitness & Flexibility – Monday & Wednesday at 9:30 a.m.
Tai Chi – Tuesday & Thursday at 1 p.m.

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

Contact Faith Community Nurse Kristin Bradley with questions or suggestions.

Food For Thought: November 4

Loneliness, Faith, & Connection



You're invited to our next **Food for Thought** event on **Wednesday, November 4 from 6-7:30 p.m.** We'll enjoy a meal and then explore the loneliness epidemic and how we can improve health outcomes by creating meaningful connections, especially within our faith community.

- 6-6:45 p.m. – Taco/Nacho Bar
- 6:45-7:30 p.m. – Presentation/conversation based on Dr. Vivek Murthy's *Parting Prescription for America* and his book *Together* – facilitated by Kristin Bradley

Dinner will be provided for those who **sign up at https://tinyurl.com/2rmf93nn**. This event is sponsored by our Health Ministries committee and a Thrivent Action Grant. Connect with Faith Community Nurse Kristin Bradley with questions.

Care & Share: November 17

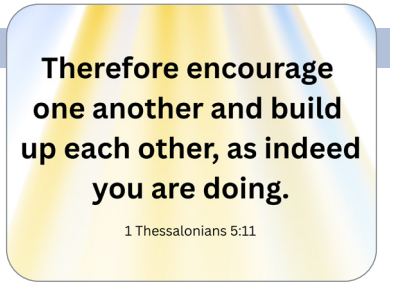


Are you, or have you been, a full-time caregiver for an adult child, parent, spouse or loved one? If so, you could likely benefit from getting together with other folks in similar situations.

We gather together to **Care** for each other and **Share** in our journeys. Our next meeting is on **Tuesday, November 17 at 10:30 a.m.** at Trinity. Connect with Faith Community Nurse Kristin Bradley with questions or concerns.

Coping With Chronic Conditions

There is a new group forming at Trinity to provide people living with unseen chronic illnesses a safe, faith-centered space to share, pray, and encourage one another. For more information, connect with Faith Community Nurse Kristin Bradley.



The Gift of Being Served: Finding Christ in Caregiving with a Stephen Minister



Accepting help when we are going through a difficult time is one of the hardest adjustments we can make. It is completely natural to resist help. Our human nature fights for independence, and we often worry about becoming a burden to those we love. However, consider this thought: **serving and being served are two sides of the exact same coin**, beautifully woven together by God to connect the Body of Christ.

The Lesson at the Basin

We see this dynamic clearly during the Last Supper. When **Jesus** knelt down to wash His disciples' feet, **Peter** flatly refused, exclaiming, *"You shall never wash my feet!"* (John 13:8). Peter resisted out of pride and a false sense of humility.

But Jesus gave him a profound answer: *"If I do not wash you, you have no share with me."*

Jesus came **"not to be served but to serve"** (Mark 10:45). By allowing Jesus to serve him, Peter wasn't being weak. Rather, he was entering into a deeper communion with his Savior. When you allow a caregiver to assist you, you are not failing. You are following Peter's corrected path—allowing Christ, through another person, to minister to you.

Allowing Others to Use Their Spiritual Gifts

The Bible asks us to **"bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ"** (Galatians 6:2).

For someone to fulfill this call, another person must be willing to let their burden be carried. When you hesitate, deny the need, or refuse care, you inadvertently block your brothers and sisters in Christ from exercising their God-given gifts of service, hospitality, and mercy.

- **It blesses the giver:** Scripture reminds us that *"It is more blessed to give than to receive"* (Acts 20:35). By accepting care, you are giving your caregiver the profound joy and blessing of serving God.
- **It builds the community:** The Apostle Paul wrote that we are all different parts of one body (1 Corinthians 12). A hand cannot function without an arm. We were created for mutual dependence, not self-sufficiency.

Receiving Grace with Humility

Letting someone serve you requires immense humility. It means laying down the need to look strong under the pretense that you can handle it all alone, rather than allowing God's grace to fill your weak moments.

Remember that **Christ is present in both roles**. He is in the caregiver who offers a helping hand, and He is in the care receiver who accepts it with a grateful heart.

Let down your guard, open your heart, and allow a member of your community to be an outlet for God's love. You are not a burden; you are an opportunity for the Body of Christ to shine.

To talk about receiving the care of a Stephen Minister, contact Beth Vanderwall, Faith Community Nurse Kristin Bradley, or a pastor.

Supporting Church & Community

Volunteer at In The Image

In The Image provides gently used clothing, housewares, furniture, and appliances to families in need. Come volunteer with other members of Trinity on **Monday, November 2 from 1-3 p.m. and Thursday, November 19 from 10 a.m.-noon.** Meet at In The Image (4255 Kalamazoo Ave SE). Contact Cindy Zientarski with inquiries.

Another opportunity! If you would like to **volunteer for Brian's Basic Needs Room** to fill hygiene orders while customers shop, please contact Jake Houser at **jake@intheinmage.org** and let him know you are with Trinity. You can also contact Outreach Coordinator Cindy Zientarski to get signed up. This opportunity would be for shorter, specified time periods on Mondays, Wednesday, and Thursdays.



Thank You for Donating!

A big, heartfelt thank you to all who donated coats, outerwear, blankets, and monetary funds for the "Got Coats?" September and October drive. You have helped spread a lot of warmth to those in need of protection against the cold this winter! Look for the list of agencies that we supported in the December *Messenger*. These photos feature donations received through the first week of October.

A very special thank you goes out to Jane Barsema, who has shared her knitting gift with us and donated over 100 beautiful, colorful and warm scarves again this year!









Thank You For Attending the Outreach Ministry Fair!

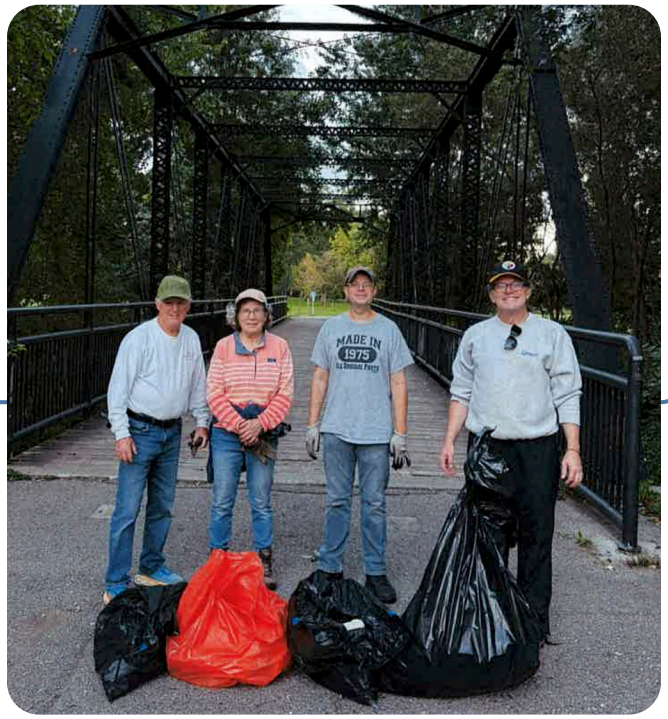


On Sunday, October 11, the Courtyard was filled with representatives from the many organizations that Trinity supports, as well as Trinity members who took time to talk and learn more about how they can serve those in need in our community.

There was also a delicious and "enhanced" brunch beautifully presented by our Hospitality & Fellowship Coordinator Tess Lundgren and kitchen volunteers. Thank you to all, including the Outreach Committee, for lending a hand wherever needed, and to Thrivent for providing a grant to offset the cost.

Amazing Volunteers!

Even though the annual Mayors' Grand River Cleanup was officially canceled on Saturday, September 19 due to weather, a "faithful four" from Trinity got together on the evening of Wednesday, September 23 at Riverside Park and collected several bags of trash. Thank you for your dedication to this worthy project!





Thank You for Decorating Lunch Bags for Kids' Food Basket!

We had a total of **367 bags** decorated for Kids' Food Basket. Thank you to all the children and adults who created fun shapes, pictures, and encouraging words for the children who receive nutritious meals in these lunch sacks. Way to go!

Supporting Church & Community: Outreach Spotlight

ICCF Community Homes

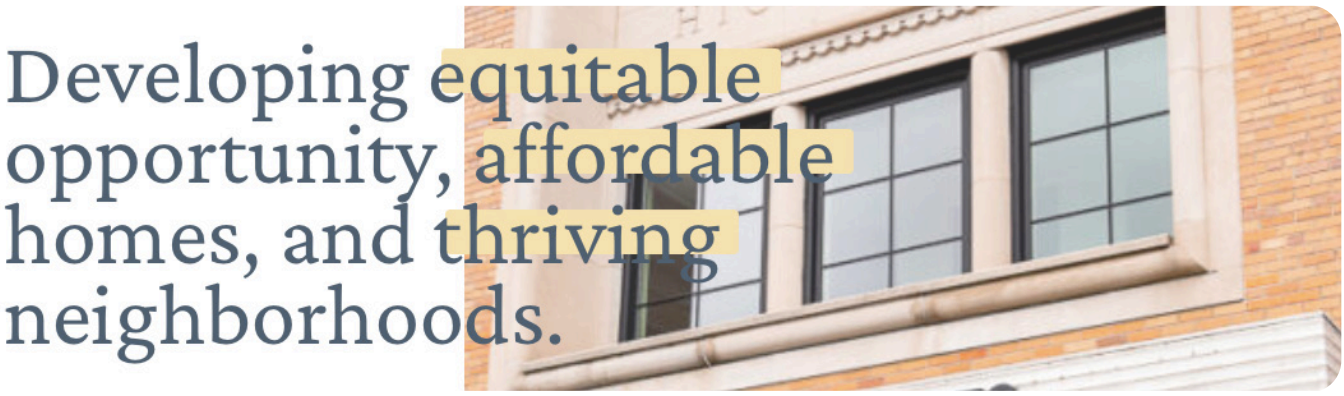
Their Mission: Equitable Opportunity, Affordable Homes, and Thriving Neighborhoods

Established in the Grand Rapids area since 1974, ICCF Community Homes is the oldest non-profit affordable housing provider in the state of Michigan. It serves over 2,000 households a year through its programs:

- Family Haven emergency shelter which provides six units of shelter where the whole family can stay while pursuing stable housing
- Over 700 units of affordable rental housing and newly constructed homes for purchase and services
- Homeownership education, including home buyer classes, housing counseling, individual development accounts and Community Homes Land Trust (see below), and financial counseling

What is the Community Homes Initiative? In 2017-2018, ICCF took on the largest real estate portfolio in their history. They purchased 248 homes that were previously owned by one out-of-state investment firm that only wanted an above average return for their investors. All have been renewed to assure continued affordability for neighbors with limited incomes. ICCF obtained financial backing and leadership by local foundations who provided almost $10 million in private grants and investments as well as support from cities of Grand Rapids and Wyoming and other nonprofits. Grand Rapids "housing market is now one of the hottest in the nation" and this is a concern for neighbors with limited incomes. (To summarize a census bureau report: median income has not risen to meet the rising median home prices and average apartment rent has increased to at least 49% in the last 15 years. The percentage of area homes sold for less than $100,000 has dropped to around 11%.) **ICCF is one of Trinity's budgeted benevolence recipients, and also receives in-kind and Christmas Angel Tree gifts.**

Want to volunteer? Here are some of the opportunities: assist with mailings, database entry, filing, organization and event preparation, or help renovate ICCF homes (painting, carpentry work, landscaping). For Family Haven: sort and organize donations, make and serve meals, lead a craft or game night for kids, or help with outdoor projects. **Please visit iccf.org/volunteer.**



Endowment Fund Committee Recommends $63,400 in Distributions

Trinity's Endowment Fund Committee met for its quarterly meeting in October and recommended to the Congregation Council distributions of $34,400 from the Mission Endowment Fund and $29,000 from the Building Endowment Fund. At its October 12 meeting, the Council accepted those distributions with plans to allocate those funds in November of 2026.

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

Endowment Fund distributions are calculated by reviewing the average balance of the funds over the last 20 quarters and recommending up to a 4% distribution based on those averages. As the overall Endowment Fund balances have grown to more than $1.9 million in 2026, the growth of those annual distributions makes a larger impact each year in our life together as the people of Trinity.

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

Pick Up Your Christmas Wreaths & Purchase Trinity Ornaments

Christmas wreaths are being delivered to Trinity mid-November (exact date TBA) and will be available for pick up during weekday office hours from 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., as well as on Sundays from 7:45 a.m.-noon. Cash or check payment is due when you pick up your wreath(s). Make checks payable to Trinity Lutheran Church and write *Wreaths* in the memo line.



This year we also have Trinity Christmas ornaments for $10. They can also be purchased on Sunday mornings or during the week. Thank you for helping our youth experience God in transformational ways!

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.

November Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations

November 1
Michael Bishop
Mark Hagbom
Lisa & Matt Mead

November 2
Colin Beckett

November 3
Beth Engstrom
Stacey Hale
Zachary Lynn

November 4
Don Brouse
Todd Wittlinger

November 5
Lois Ege
Ted Frecka
Peter McKinney
Hailey Pfeiffle
Jenna & Chad Mencarelli

November 6
Sarah Legault
Judith Mallen
Frank Rothfuss
Beth Van Meter
Lisa & David Greiner

November 7
Beth Hall
Rick Wolner

November 8
Jill McKinney
Iris Peterman
Stephanie & Andy McLeod

November 9
Lisa Barkema
Grace Cairns
Sherri Ide
Kim & James Bradbury
Ann & Perry Gooch

November 10
Chuck Schadler
Julie & Sam McLeod
Dawn & Bill Thorsen

November 11
Gary Kuhlmann
Chase Palaszek
Gale Volkerding
Brianne Jurs & Pr. Jon Niketh

November 12
Jordan Spoelhof
Maddie & Dan Krueger

November 13
Pat Bruin
Laura Fawcett
Joan Lohr
Allison Palm
Kari & John Ruble

November 14
Dolly Lowe
Wendy Mielock
Dawn Thorsen

November 15
Marla Klap
Holly Mester
Michael Morin

November 16
Hank Eimers
Dan Meeuwsen
Henry Worsfold

November 17
Nancy Albertson
Andrea Severns
Amy & Steve Stephan

November 18
Kim Hysell
Cheryl & Bill Ahrens

November 19
Daniel Ahrens
Carrie Lamb
Nadia Meyer
Sheryl & Mike Vander Baan

November 20
Laura Krug
Sally Mahoney
Amy Vander Woude

November 21
Dan Krueger
Marie Selleck
Linus Stevenson

November 22
Carolyn Johnson

November 23
Stacey Curtiss
Katie Nikolajuk
Glenn Swanson
Donna Erickson & Galen Knutson

November 24
Michele & Curt Kemppainen

November 25
Deb DeWitt
Griffin Gooch
Jill Hahn

November 26
Erin Breaugh
Will Hatkowski
Steve Heacock
Steve Korb
Tom Zollman
Jodi & Mike Nikolajuk

November 27
Ruth Behn
Elizabeth Coles
Brittney Gogulski
Sarah Hirt
Dakota Morin
James Morin

November 28
Andy Engle
Joyce Fick
Bob Pfau

November 29
Jan & Norm Palm

November 30
Amia Bidle
Ashton Griewahn
Dave Gutierrez
Jill Hagenbush
Kevin Schaefer
Nanci & Bob Guigue

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



Order Your Christmas Poinsettia Today!

Poinsettia Contribution Form 2026

Poinsettias help create a beautiful worship setting during the Christmas season! Please use this form to make a poinsettia plant gift in honor or in memory of a loved one.

Forms are due by Sunday, December 6. Place the form in the offering plate/basket, drop it off in the church office, or mail to: Trinity Lutheran Church, 2700 Fulton St. E, Grand Rapids 49506.

Please don't forget to pick up your poinsettias after Christmas! See below for details.



_____
First Name Last Name

_____
Address

_____
City, State, ZIP

_____
Home Phone Cell Phone Email

_____ 6" (4-7 red blooms) ($7.75 ea.) $_____

_____ 8" (8-12 red blooms) ($21.00 ea.) $_____

_____10" (16 red blooms) ($31.50 ea.) $_____ TOTAL DUE: $_____

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

_____

☐ In honor of: _____

☐ In memory of: _____

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



Pick Up Your Poinsettias!

Poinsettias can be picked up January 3-10.

Please note that church office hours may vary slightly around the Christmas/New Year holidays.

All unclaimed poinsettias will be discarded after January 10.

Let's Do Lunch at Licari's!

If you are 60 or older, please join us for lunch on **Sunday, November 15, at 12:30 p.m.** at Licari's Sicilian Pizza Kitchen, 3123 Leonard St NE.

Reservations are limited to the first 30 people. Contact Joe and Marybeth Iaria at 530.209.0436 or 2iarias@comcast.net to make your reservation.



Trinity is Livestreaming

We are streaming our **9:15 & 10:45 a.m.** 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*.

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 the broadcast is more than a week behind.*

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.com
Search: Trinity Lutheran Church Grand Rapids

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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
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julie.stover@tlcgr.org
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Cindy Zientarski, Discipleship & Outreach Coordinator (ext.128), cindy.zientarski@tlcgr.org