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Trinity Lutheran Church

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Letter from the Pastor

Trinity Staff

Pastor	Rev. Ken Johnson
Outreach Pastor	Rev. Jake Lehman
Intern	Vicar Megan Floyd
Organist/Director of Music	Nathan Mattson
Director of Family & Youth Ministry	Heidi Albertson
Office Administrator	Katie Grubaugh
Hospitality Host	Margaret Stevenson
Bookkeeper	Terri Schmidt
Custodian	Bob Koenes

Church Council

President	Julie Peterson
Secretary	Holly Wohlfert
Treasurer	Christina Adams
Financial Secretary	Jerry Molitor
Christian Education	Ashley Wineland & Sally Morris
Congregational Life	Paula Sportel & Jennifer Gougeon-Catarino
Facilities	Shaun Wright
Service Ministry	Rasma McMullen & Sandy Wallace
Stewardship & Finance	Steve Morris & Steve Bittner
Worship & Music	Jennifer Gatz

Trinity's Sunday Schedule:

Worship with Holy Communion
at 8:30 and 11am

Choir at 9:25 in choir loft through June 23

Starting July 7 – September 1

**Trinity will switch to ONE
Sunday Service at 10AM**

*Starting June 19, summer office hours
limited to Tuesday-Thursday
mornings 9 -noon.*

June 2024

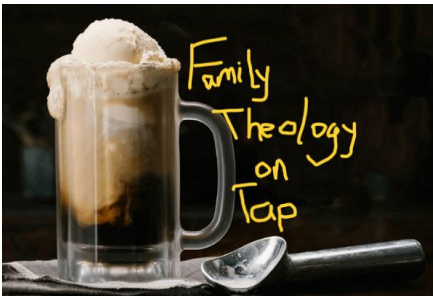
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>2 Worship w/Holy Communion 8:30 & 11am <i>Senior recognition</i> Christmas in June 9:45</p>	<p>3 Prayer Shawl 10-12 Reading the Bible with & for Kids 1-3</p>	<p>4 Clothes Closet 10-2 Loaves & Fishes 11-1 C.F.T. 11am Family Theology on Tap 5-7pm</p>	<p>5 Men's Bible Study 7am Women's Bible Study 10-12</p>	<p>6 Scripture and Sandwiches 12-12:30 Theology on Tap @ Shakespeare's 7-8:30pm</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9 Worship w/Holy Communion 8:30 & 11am Choir 9:25 Church Council 12:15 Youth gaming event 12-3</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 Clothes Closet 10-2 Loaves & Fishes 11-1 C.F.T. 11am</p>	<p>12 Men's Bible Study 7am Ladies Lunch 11:30 Theology on Tap @ Latitude 42 - Osherno 7-8:30pm</p>	<p>13 Scripture and Sandwiches 12-12:30 Women's Bible Study 1:30-3</p>	<p>14 Bible Dig-In 7-9 Session 1</p>	<p>15 Bible Dig-In 10-12 Session 2 Bible Dig-In 12:30-2:30 Session 3</p>
<p>16 Worship w/Holy Communion 8:30 & 11am Bible for Grow nups 9:45 Open Doors 5-8</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 Clothes Closet 10-2 Loaves & Fishes 11-1 C.F.T. 11am</p>	<p>19 SWELL 11am</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23 Worship w/Holy Communion 8:30 & 11am Choir 9:25 <i>Confirmation Sunday</i></p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 Loaves & Fishes 11-1 C.F.T. 11am</p>	<p>26 Men's Bible Study 7am Rebecca Circle 10am Blood Drive 11-4:45</p>	<p>27 Quilters 9am</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30 Worship w/Holy Communion 8:30 & 11am <i>Next week ONE Service at 10am!</i></p>						

Please remember that articles for the Newsletters are due by the 16th of each month; articles for the Sunday bulletins are due one week in advance, by end of day Sunday.



FAMILY MINISTRY

All families with children infant through 5th grade are welcome to join us!



Family Theology on Tap: Come join Dr. Amy Lindeman Allen, our visiting guest pastor, for a fun evening on Tuesday, June 4 from 5pm-7pm. We'll eat pizza, drink root beer, and dive into an ice cream bar. Plus we'll talk about Jesus and the Little Children, "Whose Kingdom is it Anyway?" Sign up on our Facebook page if you can join us for this super awesome event!!

VBS: This summer, our Family Vacation Bible School will be August 7, 14, and 21 from 6pm-8pm. It will be an Olympic themed VBS and it'll be super fun!! Please watch our Family Ministry Facebook page to sign up to attend.



Picnic at the Zimmermanns!!

As a final farewell to summer, our good friends Sarah and David Zimmermann, along with Emma, Jacob, and Joseph, are inviting our Family Ministry and Youth Groups out to their home for swimming, fishing, and a picnic. We'll meet out there at 2pm to swim and fish. They have a pond on their property that is safe for swimming.



Then we'll have dinner between 5-5:30pm and be done between 6:30-7pm. Watch the News & Notes and our Family Ministry Facebook page for more information.



When: Saturday, August 24

Where: Zimmermann's House, 04240 22nd St, Otsego

Time: 2pm-7pm



Trinity Lutheran Church – Kalamazoo
August 7, 14, 21 6:00-8pm

2 Timothy 4:7-8  **VBS**  Exercise Your Faith

OLYMPICS

Join us for a family-style VBS with dinner, games, crafts & songs

Youth Ministry

for all youth in grades 6th-12th

Game On!!

Schools OUT so the games are ON!! Join us after the second service on **Sunday, June 9th** from noon-3pm for some not-so-healthy gaming with your church friends. Bring your video game consoles, games, VR games, Switch games, phones, and any other gaming systems. We'll eat some pizza and veg out and play non-stop games until our eyes start bleeding. Or at least until 3pm. Sign up by Friday, June 7th if you can join us.



The Gathering

Three of our Trinity youth will be going to The Gathering in New Orleans, Louisiana this summer in July. We can't wait to be a part of this event, which will bring together so many young people from all over the USA and the world. Please lift up a prayer for our youth who are going and maybe a small one for their crazy youth director!

One of the service projects for The Gathering is bringing batteries to New Orleans so youth can make up hurricane relief packets for those who need them. Our synod has been assigned to bring batteries. Since we are flying and can't bring batteries with us, during the month of June, we'll be collecting money to purchase batteries through Amazon and send them to the proper people in NOLA. Please give generously!

Family Theology on Tap!

You and your family are invited to join us for this very special Theology on Tap—for families! We'll meet at church on Tuesday, June 4 from 5pm-7pm. Bring your parents and enjoy some pizza, root beer, and an ice cream bar. Dr. Amy Lindeman Allen, our visiting pastor, will lead a discussion of "Whose Kingdom is it Anyway? Jesus and the Little Children." It will definitely be a good time!

VBS

In August, Trinity will again host our Family Vacation Bible School. It will take place **August 7, 14, and 21** from 6pm-8pm. We will need youth volunteers to help us with games, drama, arts & crafts, set-up, and clean-up. Please see Heidi to sign up to help.

Youth Fundraiser:



Hopefully you have ordered your new Trinity T-shirts. The shirt orders will be placed in the beginning of June and we'll get them back by mid-June. I will need help distributing them to

the congregation who ordered them. Please sign up on the Facebook Youth page if you can help.

Picnic at the Zimmermann's!!!

Join us on **Saturday, August 24 from 2pm-7pm** for a super fun afternoon. We'll swim and fish in their pond. Then we'll have a yummy potluck dinner and leave by 7pm. All of the Family Ministry and Youth Group



families are invited to come. Please sign up on the Facebook page to participate.

Worship and Faith Formation

Worship Assistants

Date	Time	Altar Guild	Welcome Team	Lectors	Acolytes
June 2	8:30	Karn Erlandson	Teri Koretsky	Dave Runstrom	Avner & Jaxon Grubaugh
	11:00	Liz Morison	Liz Morison, Rasma McMullen	Pat Mason	Miryam Greenman, Frederick Thurn
June 9	8:30	Teri Koretsky	Jason Grubaugh, Trudi Giffin	Janet Gullickson	Avery & Nolan Fowler
	11:00	Holly Wohlfert	Liz Morison, Holly Wohlfert	Laura Woodruff	Elyse Albertson, Emma Zimmermann
June 16	8:30	Joyce Magerlein	Paula Sportel, Debbie Harding	Steve Bittner	Avner & Jaxon Grubaugh
	11:00	Gary Kent-Bracken	Jan Shugars, Holly Wohlfert	Marianne Fuerst	Kiley & Calico Morris
June 23	8:30	Teri Koretsky	Dave & Jeannie Grubaugh	Suze Breischaff	Avery & Nolan Fowler
	11:00	Marianne Fuerst	Julie & Keith Peterson	Linda Ward	Miryam Greenman, Frederick Thurn
June 30	8:30	Karn Erlandson	Janet & Arlen Gullickson	Teri Koretsky	
	11:00	Sheree Sorensen	Sheree Sorensen, Rasma McMullen	Keith Peterson	Kaitlyn Albertson, Jacob Zimmermann

Intergenerational Sunday School! Sunday, June 2 everyone is invited to join us while Amy Allen leads a special “Christmas in June” Sunday School class based on Luke chapter 2.

Reading the Bible with and for Children – Monday June 3 from 1-3pm

Visiting theologian Amy Allen will lead this class for teachers, parents, grandparents and anyone who works with kids!



June 4 Family Theology on Tap: Come join Dr. Amy Lindeman Allen, our visiting guest pastor, for a fun evening on Tuesday, June 4 from 5pm-7pm. We’ll eat pizza, drink root beer, and dive into an ice cream bar. Plus we’ll talk about Jesus and the Little Children, “Whose Kingdom is it Anyway?” Sign up on the Family Ministry Facebook page if you can join us for this super awesome event!!

Scripture and Sandwiches Join visiting Theologians Amy Allen and Tim McNinch online Thursdays June 6 and June 13 from 12-12:30 for a short bible study and conversation about scripture over lunch. After

these two June meetings, we will be breaking for the summer and resume once again in September. Click the link in our emails or use the Zoom meeting ID and passcode to join in from wherever you are!
Meeting ID: 821 5743 3849 Passcode: Lunchtime

Men's Bible Study - We will meet on Wed June 5, 12 and 26. We will be serving a light breakfast each time. We meet @ 7:00 AM and try to finish around 8:00 AM. All are welcome. "No experience necessary". We're just a group of men trying to apply what we read in Scripture to our present lives and to hopefully become a light for others. Visiting Theologian Amy Allen will lead the discussion on June 5 with the topic "Generations of Fisherfolk: James, John and Zebedee" and Tim McNinch will lead the discussion on June 12 with the topic "Political Theology? How can we read political scriptures in our political season?"

Women's Bible Study June 5 AND June 13

Join our visiting theologians for a special Women's Bible study the first two weeks in June!
Amy Allen will lead the study on Wednesday June 5 from 10 - 12pm exploring the topic "Generations of Service: Mary and Martha at the feet of Jesus."
Tim McNinch will lead the Women's Bible study the following week on Thursday June 13 from 1:30 – 3pm on the topic "Casual Conversations about feminist interpretation of the Hebrew Bible... (with a man who's doing his best to understand ;))"

Theology on Tap June 6 AND June 12 from 7 – 8:30PM!

On Thursday June 6, join visiting theologian Amy Allen at Shakespeare's Pub for a relaxed time exploring "whose Kingdom is it anyway? Jesus, Little Children and the Poor."
And then come out the following week on Wednesday June 12 at Latitude 42 Brewing in Oshtemo with visiting theologian Tim McNinch to explore "The Bible is a perfectly poured Guinness" – Scribal layers and stages in the Bible and why they matter to regular Bible readers like us."

Friday and Saturday June 14 & 15 – Bible Dig-in sessions on the book of Ruth!

Join visiting theologian Tim McNinch for an in-depth exploration of the book of Ruth! On Friday, June 14 from 7 – 9PM he'll start this in-depth and highly interactive class on Ruth. We'll continue the class on Saturday June 15 from 10-noon, break for lunch and then continue from 12:30-2:30PM. Lunch will be provided Saturday June 15!

Rebecca Circle Looking for a chance to participate monthly in a women's small group meeting for Bible study? Rebecca Circle is an excellent chance to make some new acquaintances while studying God's word. The next Circle meeting will be at Trinity on Wednesday, June 26 at 10am.

From the Christian Education Team:

We thank God for another wonderful year studying His Word together! In classrooms on Sunday mornings, over lunchtime Zoom meetings, even in the local pubs — our congregation gathered to learn together and deepen our understanding and faith.

A special thank you to our volunteer teachers and classroom 'shepherds' who gave their time and energy on Sunday mornings to share the love for God with our children and youth, remaining faithful to the promise that we each make at baptism to help raise our children in the Christian faith. Thank you, Emily Wright, for leading the preschool/kindergarten room, and Ashley Wineland for teaching the elementary schoolers. Along with regular assistants Jim Magerlein and Jennifer Greenman, they have prayed, played, sung and shared themselves with our youngest saints each week.

We will take a break over the summer but look forward to a few fun nights later this August for Vacation Bible School. Sign-ups for families and volunteers will be posted at the church and on Facebook soon!

Service Ministry

El Sol Elementary Outreach: El Sol Elementary School is just a few blocks away from Trinity and as their partners in serving the neighborhood, we want to show our support for their teachers, students and families! We will be collecting all the items listed below at Trinity and will deliver to El Sol in the fall when school starts back up! Please drop off during the week or on a Sunday! Thanks for your help in building a stronger connection with our neighborhood school!

- Kids Clothes Needed - It's time to clean out your kids' closets! El Sol Elementary has asked for help with supplying some of their students with winter clothes and gear, new socks and underwear, sweatpants and leggings. Will you consider helping us spread the word and donating your kids' clothes here?
- School Supplies - Backpacks, crayons, standard washable school markers (Crayola) and plastic two pocket folders. These donations will be collected at Trinity. Look for sales this summer!
- Teachers Breakroom - non-perishable items like chips, candy, granola bars, microwave popcorn, drinks, ground coffee, and K-cups.

Personal Care Item Donations Needed As part of our care for our neighbors in need, the Christ Clothes closet is expanding its offerings to include personal care items. Items needed are dish soap, bar soap, body wash, shampoo, conditioner, toothbrushes, toothpaste, laundry detergent (both single and multi-load containers), feminine care products, deodorant and other like items. Donations can be brought to the church weekdays during office hours or Sunday mornings.

SCRIP Gift Card Table - we would like to remind Trinity members and friends to think of purchasing a few cards to have on hand for teacher gifts, Mother's Day and Father's Day, or graduations not that far off, and Amazon works for almost everyone! We encourage you to stop by and look over our retailer list so you can be part of those helping us help others!

Volunteer Opportunities

Singers, One and All! We will have a "Pickup Choir" on two Sundays in the summer months. This is an opportunity for any and all to join us for a short, pre-service rehearsal at 9:10 a.m. and then sing a simple anthem for the service that follows. It's an opportunity to sing in the choir for one Sunday with no long-term commitment and no pressure to join in the fall. Please consider joining us for one or both Sundays: July 14 and August 4. I'll be looking for you!

The TLC Prayer Shawl Ministry meets June 3 at 10am We gather the first Monday of each month in the lounge at 10:00 to receive and pray over completed shawls, encourage one another as we work on new shawls, reflect on the gratitude of prayer shawl recipients, and, yes, socialize! Don't know how to knit or crochet? Here's your chance to learn—instruction will be provided! If you would like more information, please call Sidney Mueller at (269)806-0023.

Ministry with Community Volunteer help: In June the Ministry will resume cafeteria style dining. They would love to have experienced volunteers as they change over from Covid take-out days. If you can help and if you are inexperienced but interested in serving Kalamazoo's poor in this way, contact Andrea Tramel - Development Director at (269) 343-6073 x131.

Blood Drive! There continues to be a great need for blood donations, and at Trinity we are grateful to be able to help meet that need! Thank you to those of you who have given in the past and to those who will consider giving in the future! The next drive at Trinity will be on **Wednesday June 26 from 11:00AM – 4:45PM**, so be sure to get registered at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=TLC> or by calling 1-800-RED-CROSS.

Sign up for Fellowship Time and Altar Flowers! Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall and help share God's love for our community! Individuals, families, and groups are encouraged to provide flowers or host fellowship time for the coming months. This is a great way to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, or other special events. *(And if you enjoy baking, we're always happy for help to stock our freezer for Sundays that might not have a fellowship host!)* *Altar flowers are \$ 20 per bouquet and should be ordered one week in advance. **Call or email the church office or sign up in the Fellowship Hall if you wish to put altar flowers on for a Sunday.**

Fellowship and Events

Women's Retreat! Saturday, August 10, 2024, from 9 AM – 4 PM. Trinity is hosting a women's retreat with facilitator Kara Haug. Kara is highly skilled at leading healthy and loving conversations on womanhood and our relationships with ourselves, others, and God. Her goal is to help us change the narrative of negative stories we believe about ourselves and reframe them into God's positive, loving vision for us. Please RSVP to Vicar Megan (intern@tlckzoo.com) if you can join us! And if you'd like to learn more about Kara Haug, please visit her website: www.reframingourstories.com

Men's Retreat- Sign up and Save the Date! This fall we'll be heading north again for the Men's Retreat at Camp Arcadia on the beautiful shores of Lake Michigan! The retreat runs from Sept 27-29 with options for coming up early to take advantage of fall in northern Michigan! This is always a great opportunity to get away to relax and connect with other guys from Trinity and beyond! Trinity will be covering your deposit, so cost of registration is just \$163 with options to pay a little more if you'd like a private bath (\$35) or an extra night (\$62). To register, or for more information, go to <https://camp-arcadia.com/rkd-mens-retreat/> .

Be sure to register for the "Arcadia Men's Retreat with Chad Bird". If you have any questions, contact Pr. Jake or the Camp Arcadia office staff.

Ladies Luncheon The June Ladies Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, June 12 at 11:30 at The Blue Dolphin (502 Burdick St. Kalamazoo). We hope to have a large group of old friends and new for some fun and fellowship. Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall or contact Judy Sherrod with questions (269-329-8570)!

Youth Ministry: Game On!!

Schools OUT so the games are ON!! Join us after the second service on **Sunday, June 9th** from noon-3pm for some not-so-healthy gaming with your church friends. Bring your video game consoles, games, VR games, Switch games, phones, and any other gaming systems. We'll eat some pizza and veg out and play non-stop games until our eyes start bleeding. Or at least until 3pm. Sign up by Friday, June 7th if you can join us.

June 4 Family Theology on Tap: Come join Dr. Amy Lindeman Allen, our visiting guest pastor, for a fun evening on Tuesday, June 4 from 5pm-7pm. We'll eat pizza, drink root beer, and dive into an ice cream bar. Plus we'll talk about Jesus and the Little Children, "Whose Kingdom is it Anyway?" Sign up on the Family Ministry Facebook page if you can join us for this super awesome event!!

Meeting of the Men - We typically meet on the Third Thursday of each month but *will break for June to take advantage of the Visiting Theologians extra classes and events.* We'll meet again on July 18 and August 15 so look for a group from Trinity at the Old Dog Tavern from 5-6:30! Meeting of the men is an "informal, come as you are, when you can" kind of get together with no agenda, just good conversation and a great opportunity to get to know one other guys who call Trinity home!

Church Cookout July 14!

Save the date for Sunday July 14!

After the service, everyone is invited to join our Trinity family for a church-wide BBQ cookout and potluck. Trinity will provide the hot dogs and burgers, you provide the sides. Plan on bringing friends and outdoor games and we'll set up in the parking lot for a time of food and fellowship!



THANKS

Thank you to everyone who participated in the church workday or contributed to our building and courtyard maintenance this spring! Your dedication to helping us complete practical projects and tidy and beautify the grounds blesses our entire congregation and neighborhood and we are extremely grateful for your efforts!

Please keep these people in your prayers:

Ruth Krueger, Debbie Roach, Matt Jaeky, Sylvia Reekers, Beth Latshaw, Cliff Davidson, Sandy Eschelbach, Linda Ward, David Mason, Jo Ellen Lampos, Nick Karasch, Darcey Stevens, Jo Brinker, Vicky Phillips, Rob Broad, Robyn Cassell.



Please note through June Trinity's Worship Schedule will remain the same, Sundays at 8:30 and 11:00AM.

Starting July 7 through September 1, Trinity will switch to ONE Sunday service at 10:00AM.

The church office hours will also be very limited through the summer starting June 19. The office will plan to be open on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings from 9am – 12noon. Please call ahead if you wish to come down to make sure someone will be available!

Get ready to join us the first two weeks of June for a special series of classes and events as we welcome two visiting theologians at Trinity!

Fliers are available to pick up at church and these events will be posted on our Facebook page and in our emails to remind you to take advantage of these wonderful opportunities to learn and grow together!

Visiting Theologians at Trinity!

June 12 - June 16



Tim McNinch,
Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of
Hebrew Bible at
Christian Theological
Seminary and co-host of
"First Reading", a popular
preaching podcast

WEDNESDAY JUNE 12

- Men's Bible Study

7 - 8AM

"Political Theology?" How can we read political scriptures in our political season?

- Theology on Tap

7 - 8:30 PM @ Latitude 42 Brewing -
Oshtemo

"The Bible is a Perfectly Poured Guinness"

THURSDAY JUNE 13

- Scripture and Sandwiches

12 - 12:30PM

"Dining in the Dark" Explore the meaning of the darkness at Jesus' Crucifixion
Zoom Meeting ID: 821 5743 3849
Passcode: Lunchtime

- Women's Bible Study

1:30 - 3PM

"Casual Conversation about feminist interpretation of the Hebrew Bible"

FRIDAY JUNE 14

- Bible Dig-In - Session 1
7 - 9PM

An in-depth and highly interactive exploration into the book of Ruth

SATURDAY JUNE 15

- Bible Dig-In - Session 2

10AM - Noon

Ruth 2 - 3 - Lunch Provided

- Bible Dig-In - Session 3

12:30 - 2:30PM

Ruth 4 and wrap up

SUNDAY JUNE 16

- Worship at 8:30 & 11AM

Tim will preach and share a children's message

- The Bible for Grown-ups

9:45 - 10:45AM

A Sunday School class on how to get the most out of the Bible as adult readers

Visiting Theologians at Trinity!

June 2 - June 6



Amy
Lindeman
Allen, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of New
Testament and Director of
Master of Divinity program
at Christian Theological
Seminary

SUNDAY JUNE 2

- Worship at 8:30 & 11AM
Amy will preach and share a children's message with youth
- Christmas in June
9:45 - 10:45AM
A special intergenerational Sunday School class based on Luke chapter 2

MONDAY JUNE 3

- Reading the Bible with
and for Children
1 - 3PM
*For teachers, parents, grandparents,
and anyone who works with kids!*

TUESDAY JUNE 4

- Family Theology on Tapi!
5 - 7PM
*Pizza, ice cream and root beer floats
over the topic "Whose Kingdom is
it anyway? Jesus and the
Little Children"*

WEDNESDAY JUNE 5

- Men's Bible Study
7 - 8AM
*"Generations of Fisherfolk: James,
John and Zebedee"*
- Women's Bible Study
10 - 12PM
*"Generations of Service: Mary and
Martha at the feet of Jesus"*

THURSDAY JUNE 6

- Scripture and Sandwiches
12 - 12:30PM
"Children in the Bible and its Contexts"
Zoom Meeting ID: 821 5743 3849
Passcode: Lunchtime
- Theology on Tapi!
7 - 8:30PM @ Shakespeare's Pub
*"Whose Kingdom is it anyway? Jesus,
Little Children and the Poor"*

About the visiting Theologians at Trinity!



Amy Lindeman Allen is Associate Professor of New Testament at Christian Theological Seminary and Book Review Editor for the seminary's journal, *Encounter: A Journal of Theological Scholarship*. She is an ordained minister in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and has served in congregations in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Nevada, and Indiana. She is currently serving as President for the professional organization, Lutheran Women in Theological and Religious Studies and preaching part-time at First Trinity Lutheran Church in Indianapolis, IN.

Allen is passionately committed to the transformative power of the gospel at the intersection of the church and world. She seeks to advance a scriptural vision for equality and justice for all people in both her professional and personal life and celebrates CTS' commitment to this vision as a central tenet of her teaching philosophy. Full of questions from an early age, Allen went to graduate school seeking answers, only to discover that there are few "right" answers, but an infinite supply of questions. Her greatest joy in teaching is exploring these questions together with students and, in the process, learning together the gift of mutual respect and compassion amidst difference.

Presently, much of Allen's work continues to focus on this burgeoning field within ideological criticism called childist criticism, seeking to locate and reclaim the voices of children from the New Testament texts. She is an active member of the Children in the Biblical World unit of the Society of Biblical Literature and has published numerous articles, book chapters, and bibliographies on children and the New Testament.



Timothy McNinch serves as Assistant Professor of Hebrew Bible at Christian Theological Seminary. He earned his PhD in Hebrew Bible from Emory University, where his dissertation focused on the compositional history of 1 Samuel 1–8. Prior to his academic career, McNinch was a church planting pastor in Michigan with the Association of Vineyard Churches (USA). He is now certified for ordination in the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Dr. McNinch's scholarship has appeared in *Vetus Testamentum*, *Bible and Critical Theory*, and *Encounter*. He is the series editor of the "Politics of Scripture" blog at the Political Theology Network (politicaltheology.com), and series editor of the *Illustrated Biblical Texts* series from GlossaHouse Publishers (glossahouse.com). He is also the creator and co-host of the popular weekly preaching podcast, "First Reading" (firstreadingpodcast.com), and curates a biblical languages YouTube channel (youtube.com/timmcninch).

"In my capacity as a regular contributor and editor for the "[Politics of Scripture](http://politicaltheology.com)" blog at *The Political Theology Network*, I work as part of a multiethnic and interdisciplinary team of scholars who regularly challenge me to expand the limitations I sometimes place on biblical scholarship through my own inherited lens. Working this out in another project, part of the vision for the popular podcast I co-founded, "[First Reading](http://firstreadingpodcast.com)," is to provide a platform where the work of underrepresented biblical scholars can be heard and utilized in the church world. These steps represent my intent to seek diverse mentors and steward my own privilege to transform the dynamic in my field."



**Red sky at night, sailor's delight.
Red sky at morning, sailor's take warning.**

Since the recent renovation of the new entry way and gathering space, my office shifted to overlooking Westnedge and facing East. My old office faced West looking over the parking lot. So now I can experience the sunrise instead of the sunset. The skies can show the glories of God, whether the fabulous hues of color at sunrise or sunset. Recently also the northern lights and a solar eclipse were all the rage.

Did you know this phrase of "Red skies" is found in the Bible? In Matthew chapter 16 in the first verse the Pharisees and Sadducees came to test Jesus and him to show them a sign from heaven. In verse two "He answered them, 'When it is evening, you say, It will be fair weather, for the sky is red. And in the morning, It will be stormy today, for the sky is red and threatening.' You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the time." How difficult it can be to interpret "the signs of the time". As Christians we live in the world, but long to be not of the world.

In the Book of Baruch (4:36) from the Apocrypha it says "Look toward the East, O Jerusalem, and see the joy that is coming to you from God." Throughout the Bible, the coming of the dawn has meant a diminishing/banishment of the darkness. For centuries churches (As Trinity is) have been built on an East West Axis. The Latin phrase is "Ad orientum", literally meaning "to the East". The rising of the sun, the coming of the dawn, new life in Christ. One of the earliest forms of Baptism as evidenced at the church in Ephesus, was walking through and being immersed in water while walking down steps from the west, and going up steps facing the East.

Paul writes in Romans 13:12 "The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light". As the days lengthen towards summer, may we also grow in our relationship with the Lord of Light, Jesus Christ. May God richly bless you throughout these days of new dawns this season.

Peace and the light of Christ be with you, Pr. Ken



Trinity Lutheran Church sends out weekly emails to update our congregation on upcoming events, ongoing projects, volunteer opportunities, changes to our schedule, and links to our online services. Sign up with our QR code for the most up to date information available!