

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

Wed	Dec 18	Rebecca Circle 10 Wednesday Evening Worship 6
Sat	Dec 21	Youth Group Progressive Dinner 5-9
Sun	Dec 22	Worship with Holy Communion 8:30 Children's Christmas Pageant 11:00 Hot Dog Lunch 12:00
Tue	Dec 24	Christmas Eve Worship 5, 7 and 9pm <b>Church Office closed Dec 25 – Jan 4</b>
Sun	Dec 29	Worship with Holy Communion at 8:30 & 11:00 <i>No Sunday School</i>

## WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Advent Wednesday Evening Prayer Services:** All are welcome to join us for a reflective time of prayer and guest musicians each Wednesday in Advent at 6pm. We will be using the Holden Village Vespers Service and feature guest musicians at each service. For those unable to join us in person, the services will be live-streamed on YouTube and available to view anytime following the service.

**Children's Christmas Pageant and Hotdog Lunch** - Mark your calendar for Trinity Lutheran's annual Sunday school Christmas Program on **Sunday, December 22 for the 11am Service!** After the program, our youth group will host a hot dog luncheon at noon. A free-will offering will be collected to benefit the youth ministry activities. Please plan on joining us!

We encourage everyone to take a moment after the service to sign  
**Christmas cards for Trinity's homebound members.**

Cards will be available in Fellowship Hall after both services  
through December 22.

**Volunteers Needed! On Monday January 6 at 10:30am** - We need to take down and put away all Christmas decorations. *If you can help, please contact Jen Gatz at [gatzjen@gmail.com](mailto:gatzjen@gmail.com) or 269-993-2301 (text/call).*

**Advent devotional materials**, prayer booklets for adults, families, and children, are available in the Fellowship Hall. This is a wonderful way to help keep our focus on Christ during this Advent season and the holy days of Christmas.

**Meal Packing:** Are you a busy mom struggling to keep up with delicious healthy homemade meals on top of everything else? Join a group of moms Saturday December 28 & 29(if needed) to make up to 20 bulk freezer meals in the church kitchen together. Many hands make for light work! See Julia Brown or email/text her at: [juliawhitney.ceramics@gmail.com](mailto:juliawhitney.ceramics@gmail.com) or 618-799-9981 for more info!

**Personal Care donations for the Clothes Closet:** Feminine hygiene products, soap, toilet paper & toothpaste.

**Christ Clothes Closet:** The Closet needs donations of women's underwear size 6 & 7 and socks, and winter coats for all as they continue to give away cold weather gear throughout this season.

*Advent is a special time to remember the poor. Baby Jesus was sent without any provision for comfort. There is a bulletin board in the fellowship hall near the giving tree that challenges each of us to consider making a personal sacrifice for a time for Jesus' sake. Do share the plan you come up with in the space provided. That is one way to "encourage one another to love and good works"- from Hebrews.*

**From the SCRIP (gift card) Table:** We hope you will take advantage of the gift cards our Service Ministry has available at the SCRIP Table; they are a perfect fit and easily mailed! Please stop by the SCRIP table or call Janet Gullickson (260-372-0081) to buy or order cards and support our work. Thank you!

**Refugee Families in Need!** Trinity is working with Bethany Christian Services to sponsor new refugee families for the holiday season. We currently have 5 families that have a list of practical needs and wish list items and as a congregation we would like to be able to fulfill those needs! If you are interested in helping with this project with individual items, or wish to sponsor and entire family, please contact the church office or Pr. Jake.

***If you have access to Thrivent Grants, please consider using one to help purchase needed items and supplies for church outreach and events! Contact the church office if you are looking to find out more.***

**Mark your calendars - Women's Game Night Friday January 10<sup>th</sup> from 4-6.** Bring a snack to pass, a favorite game(if you have one) and a White Elephant gift!

**Campbell Soup Labels** - To all our loyal label savers, I regret to inform you that Campbell's is no longer collecting labels for schools. We thank you for your past continued support and request that you no longer save them.

**Ladies Lunch** – The January lunch will be held at Martell's at 11:30 the 8th of January. The sign up sheet is in the Fellowship Hall or call Judy Anderson at (908) 337-0646 with any questions.

**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, December 18 at 10am.

**Blood Drives:** We are again planning to host American Red Cross blood drives at Trinity in 2025. Currently these are the planned dates, but always watch the newsletters for confirmation; Wednesday Jan 15, 2025, Wednesday April 16, 2025, Wednesday June 25, 2025, Wednesday August 27, 2025. We are asking for volunteers to become part of the team to help with registrations/hospitality, some set-up and closing the church at end of the drive. If you are interested/able to do this, please contact Holly Wohlfert at 269-808-3889 or the church office. Thank you in advance for your help.

One of the suggested goals from some of our members is to have Trinity's location be "The Best Blood Drive in downtown Kalamazoo!" To help us attain that goal, please prayerfully consider becoming a donor! Also, if you are a Thrivent member and have access to Thrivent gift cards that could be used for prizes, we would welcome them as donations to help increase our donation numbers. Maybe we could also offer additional choices of post-donation goodies? If you have any ideas for ways to make us the best donation spot, please let Holly Wohlfert know!

### **Trinity's Loaves and Fishes Pantry Requests:**

Although basic food needs are being met, our pantry clients are most grateful for extras that are not often included in our Loaves and Fishes orders. Adding any of these items to your grocery cart would be appreciated. They can be dropped off in the church office.

cooking oil

mustard/ketchup/mayo (small bottles are fine)

cake mix/frosting

corn bread/muffin mix

cereal (incl. oatmeal, specially instant)

We continue to have a need for plastic bags but at this time, we no longer are in need of egg cartons.

## **Free Online Learning Opportunity through our Synod!**

Join our friend, Rev. Dr. Amy Lindeman Allen (*daughter in law of Jim and Chris Allen and theologian in residence at Trinity in June 2024!*) and Indiana Christian Church Associate Professor of New Testament at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, Indiana, for a six-week course titled, "Jesus and the Little Children"! Based on Dr. Allen's book, *The Gifts They Bring: How Children in the Gospels Can Shape Inclusive Ministry* (WJK, 2023), sessions will include presentations on the following topics:

The Gift of Participation: Little Children as Proprietors of the Realm of God

The Gift of Proclamation: The Bethlehem Shepherds

The Gift of Advocacy: James and John, Fisherfolk

The Gift of Listening: Mary at the Feet of Jesus

The Gift of Sharing: The Child with the Fish and Loaves

The Gift of Partnership: A Son and His Mother at Nain

The class is free of charge and will meet on six consecutive Tuesday evenings: January 14, 21, 28;

February 4, 11, 18, 2025 from 7:00 – 8:15pm ET via Zoom and is open to all adults, both laypeople and rostered ministers. Registration is required and will close on January 6, 2025.

Sessions will be recorded and available to those registered for one week.  
Register Now!

Additional information, including Zoom links, will be sent via email closer to the start of the course. If you have additional questions, please contact the synod office at [communications@mittensynod.org](mailto:communications@mittensynod.org).

Register here today! <https://forms.gle/exuaeo3ntjq1DBXr7>



**Poinsettia Orders may be picked up on  
Christmas Eve AFTER the 9pm Service or  
on Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup>**



**Advent Wednesday Evening Prayer using  
the Holden Village Vespers service:**

**December 4 - 6pm**  
*with music provided by  
Jenny Parnaby on the dulcimer*

**December 11 - 6pm**  
*with music provided by Negar Afazel and Jon  
Barnes on violin and cello*

**December 18 - 6pm**  
*Service of Healing with music provided by  
Gabriel Renteria-Elyea on oboe*

**Advent Season Sunday Services**

- December 1** - First Sunday of Advent - 8:30 & 11am
- December 8** - Second Sunday of Advent - 8:30 & 11am  
*Trinity's 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
with West Michigan Brassworks*
- December 15** - Third Sunday of Advent  
*Lessons and Carols 8:30 & 11am  
With Trinity's Choir*
- December 22** – Fourth Sunday of Advent – 8:30 & 11:00  
*Children's Christmas Pageant at the 11:00 Service  
Hot Dog Lunch at 12pm - all are welcome!*
- December 24** – Christmas Eve - 5pm, 7pm & 9pm
- December 29** - 8:30 & 11am

