

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
504 S. Westnedge at Cedar Street, Kalamazoo, Michigan
269-344-6181 www.tlckzoo.com

WORSHIP at 8:30
SUNDAY SCHOOL at 9:45 AM

All are welcome at Trinity for this Sabbath time of prayer and praise!

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024

*As the prelude begins, please observe a period of
silence and contemplation in preparation for worship.*

PRELUDE: "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came" Basque Carol,
setting by Paul Manz (1919-2009)

Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."

The * indicates when the congregation stands, if able.
Congregational responses are in **bold**.

***WELCOME**

P. In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P. Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by
the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and
worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

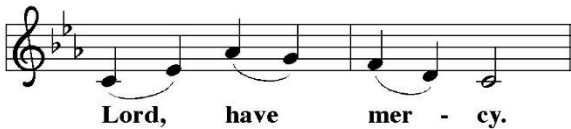
C: Amen.

***ENTRANCE HYMN** Your Little Ones, Dear Lord **ELW #286**

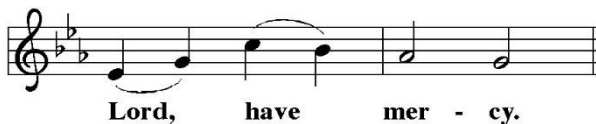
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation,
let us pray to the Lord.



P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us gracious Lord.

A - men, a - men.

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Glory to God

Glo - ry to God in the high -
 est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.
 Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and
 Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we
 praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus

Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,

Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the

right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a -

lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,

Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of

God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Glo - ry to God in the high -

est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

***SALUTATION**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

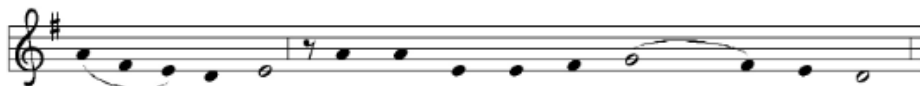
(please be seated)

PRAYER OF BLESSING & LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel - vs. 3



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

FIRST READING: Micah 5:2-5a

The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;

^{5a} and he shall be the one of peace.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Luke 1:46b-55

^{46b} My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

⁴⁷ my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ **for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.**

From this day all generations will call me blessed:

⁴⁹ you, the Almighty, have done great things for me
and holy is your name.

⁵⁰ **You have mercy on those who fear you,
from generation to generation.**

⁵¹ You have shown strength with your arm
and scattered the proud in their conceit,

⁵² **casting down the mighty from their thrones
and lifting up the lowly.**

⁵³ You have filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ **You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,
to remember the promise of mercy,**

⁵⁵ the promise made to our forebears,
to Abraham and his children forever.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:5-10

The author of Hebrews uses the image of religious sacrifice to convey the significance of Christ's coming. Through obedient acceptance of God's will, Christ allows his own body to become the greatest sacrifice of all, one through which we are made a holy people.

⁵ Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;

⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

⁷ Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

⁸ When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), ⁹ then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

L: The Word of the Lord.

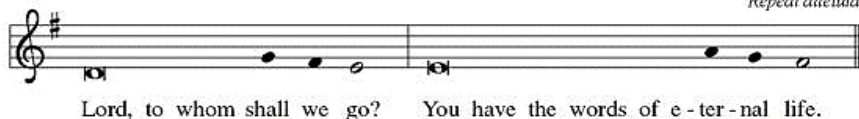
C: Thanks be to God

(please stand)

*** GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Repeat alleluia



P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

***GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-55**

Elizabeth, John's mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, are two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth's inspired greeting and Mary's song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." [

⁴⁶ And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

⁵⁰ His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you O Christ.

There will be no Children's Sermon at the 8:30 Service due to the Children's Christmas Pageant held at the 11:00 Service today.

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW #265

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

SERMON

Pastor Jake Lehman

***CREED** *Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
He descended into Hell.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

A brief silence.

God our uniter, increase communication and cooperation in our relationships with those of other traditions and religions. Root your church in the radical message of your incarnation, and enable us to pursue your justice in the world. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God our creator, we praise you for the beauty that surrounds us. Awaken in us a renewed sense of care for the wildlife in our communities. Form us into faithful stewards of what you have made. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God our sovereign, Mary proclaims a new way of life that lifts up the lowly and fills the hungry with good things. Nurture in local governments and municipalities a desire to care for all who are overlooked and ignored. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God our beacon, as the northern hemisphere begins its slow turn toward more daylight, remind us that even in the deepest nights, you are there. Comfort the lonely and bereaved. Hold closely the frightened, anxious, depressed, and ill (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God our guide, shepherd the leadership of this congregation. Bless the council and staff in discerning future ministry and open their hearts to the voices of the community. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God our life, you remember the promises you have made to your people. In gratitude for those who have died (*especially*), we praise you for your faithfulness throughout history. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

***SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Please take a moment to sign and pass the navy fellowship folders located in each pew at this time.

OFFERTORY

During this time, we worship God with our offerings.

There are a variety of gifts and a variety of ways to give!

- If you give electronically, thank you.
- If you would like to give electronically, please scan the QR code.



- If you are led to give through cash or check,
simply place your offering in the plate as it passes.

“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

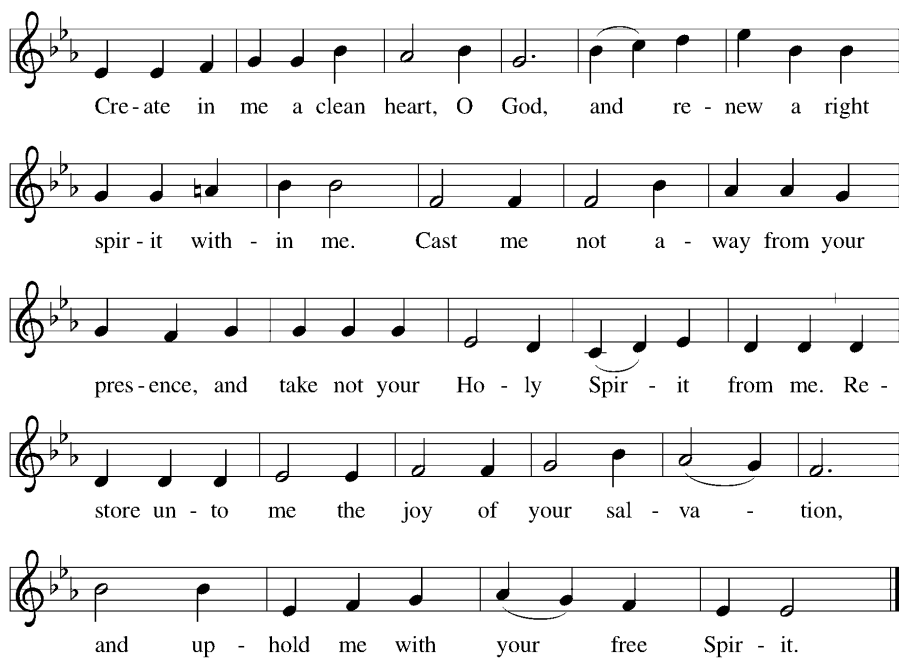
Offertory Music:

8:30 - "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (Forest Green),

English Folk Hymn, setting by Paul Manz

*Please stand as we begin singing the “Create in Me”
and the elements are brought forward*

Create in Me a Clean Heart



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING:

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The image shows a musical score for 'The Great Thanksgiving' in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are: 'The Lord be with you. And al - so with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.' The melody is simple and hymn-like, using quarter and eighth notes with various rests.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The image shows a musical score for 'Holy, Holy, Holy' in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.' The melody is more complex than the previous piece, featuring eighth and sixteenth notes.

*EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end...proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: With this bread and cup...We look for hope for his coming.

C: Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Holy God, we long for your Spirit...bring the gift of peace on earth.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: All praise and glory are yours...One God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

C: Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be Thy name,

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

(Please be seated)

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

HOLY COMMUNION by Intinction (dipping the bread into the wine)

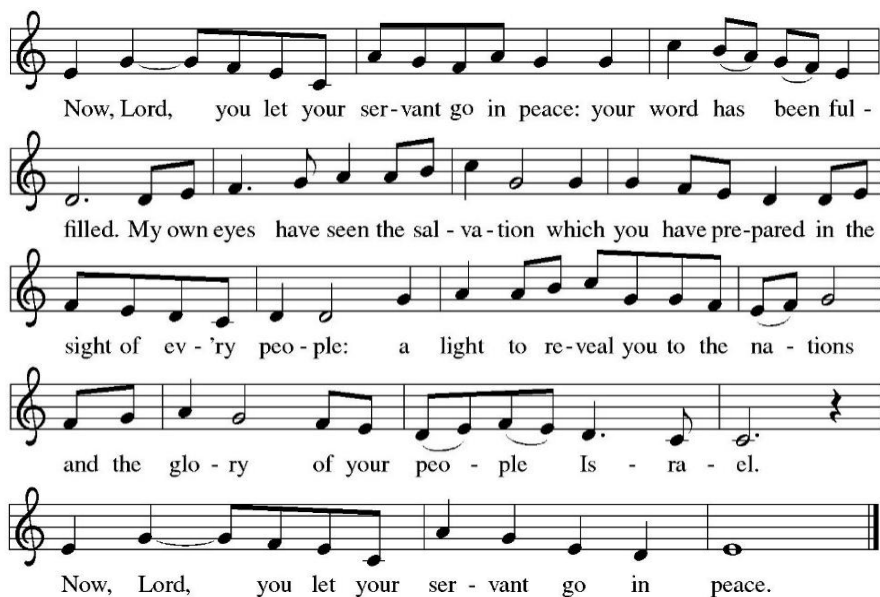
Please come from both sides up the center aisle and return to your seat by the side aisles.

*8:30am Holy Communion by Intinction
Please kneel, if you are able, at the rail.*

*11:00am Holy Communion by Intinction
Those desiring to kneel or pause for prayer at the rail
after communing are invited to do so.*

Communion Music: 8:30 - "It Came upon the Midnight Clear"
R. Willis (1819-1900), setting by Rudy Davenport (b.1948),
Jennifer Gatz, Piano

***POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE**



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the
sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions
and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.
Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you
and keep you in his grace.

***POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

***HYMN**

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ELW #272

***BLESSING** The Three-fold Amen

***DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: Chorale: "Break Forth, O Beauteous, Heavenly Light"
Johann Schop (1600-65), setting by J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

All are welcome at Trinity for this Sabbath time of prayer and praise!

Our Nursery is available for children 5 years and younger at each service. The nursery is located near the south side entrance.

OUR STAFF AT TRINITY:

Rev. Ken Johnson	Pastor
Rev. Jake Lehman	Outreach Pastor
Nathan Mattson	Organist/Director of Music
Katie Grubaugh	Office Administrator
Heidi Albertson	Dir. of Family & Youth Ministry
Terri Schmidt	Bookkeeper
Margaret Stevenson	Hospitality Host
Bob Koenes	Custodian
Dr. William Musselman	Organist/Director Emeritus

ALTAR GUILD: Teri Koretsky, Sheree Sorensen

WELCOME TEAM: 8:30 Dave & Jeannie Grubaugh
11:00 Karen Jachym, Sheree Sorensen
Fabiana Yanez, Izzy Grubaugh

LECTORS: 8:30 Teri Koretsky

ACOLYTES: 8:30 Avner & Jaxon Grubaugh
11:00 Kaitlyn Albertson, Jacob Zimmermann

PRAYER CONCERNS: Ruth Krueger, Beth Latshaw, Sandy Eschelbach,
Linda Ward, David Mason, Rachel, Alex and Emma, Karen Schank.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- Sun Dec 22 Worship with Holy Communion 8:30
Children's Christmas Pageant Service 11:00
Hot Dog Lunch 12:00
- Tue Dec 24 Christmas Eve Worship 5, 7 and 9pm
Church Office closed Dec 25 – Jan 4
- Sun Dec 29 Worship with Holy Communion at 8:30 & 11:00
No Sunday School

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Children's Christmas Pageant and Hotdog Lunch TODAY!- 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!

Please take a moment to sign Christmas cards for Trinity's homebound members! They are set up in the Fellowship Hall through Dec. 22.



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

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

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 or 618-799-9981 for more info!

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 or 269-993-2301 (text/call).*

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!

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

corn bread/muffin mix

mustard/ketchup/mayo (small bottles are fine)

cereal (incl. oatmeal, specially instant)

cake mix/frosting

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

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.

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.

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

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.

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”. 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!

Register here today! <https://forms.gle/exuaeo3ntiq1DBXr7>

Trinity 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 Lutheran Church’s Advent and Christmas Worship Schedule

Sunday 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!

Tuesday December 24 – Christmas Eve - 5pm, 7pm & 9pm
5pm Service focused on Families with younger children.
Both the 5pm and 7pm Services will be live-streamed.

Sunday December 29 - 8:30 & 11am

