

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Church Office closed Dec 25 – Jan 4

Sun	Dec 29	Worship with Holy Communion at 8:30 & 11:00 <i>No Sunday School</i>
Sun	Jan 5	Worship with Holy Communion at 8:30 & 11:00 Choir 9:25
Mon	Jan 6	Holiday décor cleanup 10:30
Tue	Jan 7	Christ Clothes Closet 10-2 Loaves and Fishes 11-1 C.F.T. 11-12:30
Wed	Jan 8	Men's Bible Study 7am Ladies Lunch 11:30
Fri	Jan 10	Women's Game Night 4-6
Sun	Jan 12	Worship with Holy Communion at 8:30 & 11:00



WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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).*

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.

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.

Women's Game Night Friday January 10th from 4-6. All ages are encouraged to come! 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.

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.

Scripture and Sandwiches Online Bible study is Back! Due to popular demand, Pr. Jake is bringing back Scripture and Sandwiches for an eight week walk through the Sermon on the Mount! We'll meet each Thursday from 12-12:30 beginning on January 9th for a bit of bible study and conversation over lunch. The meetings happen via Zoom so you can join in from wherever you are! Use the Zoom info below or follow the link provided in the weekly emails to join! Meeting ID: 821 5743 3849 Passcode: Lunchtime

Men's Bible Study - We will meet next on Wednesday January 8, 22 & February 5, 19. 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".

Stew and Brew Chili Cook-off and Homebrew Competition! Save the date of Saturday February 22 from 4:30-6pm for Trinity's second annual Stew & Brew Chili Cook-off and Homebrew competition! Bring your favorite homemade chili, cornbread, show off your homebrewing skills or just come out and enjoy some warmth and fellowship on a cold winter day! Cooks and brewers are invited to arrive around 4:15 with the tasting beginning around 4:30. This will be a people's choice competition, so all styles of chili and home-brewed beverages are welcome! Contact Harry Jachym (hjachym@gmail.com) with any questions!

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!

Meeting of the Men! 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! We'll plan to gather at O'Duffy's Pub near Trinity in the Vine Neighborhood on Wednesday January 22 from 5:30-7:00pm for a relaxed Jme of fellowship and conversation!

Prayer Shawls are available for gifting to members of Trinity and their extended families and friends in times of healing, grief, celebration, or any other occasion one feels the need of God's loving presence. To request a prayer shawl, or with questions about our Prayer Shawl Ministry, please contact Sidney Mueller (269-806-0023), one of the pastors, or Julie Peterson, chair of the Caring Ministry team.

Bike repair workshop for El Sol Elementary School! Trinity is once again repairing bicycles to be donated to students and families at El Sol Elementary School! We have an abundance of donated bikes and we're partnering with Open Roads to make sure that the bikes are in top notch condition before passing them on to the students. The repair day at Open Roads will be on February 8th from 11-3ish and we're looking for 8-10 volunteers who are willing do the repairs. No experience is necessary as the staff of Open Roads will be there to teach and guide us along the way! Sign up in the fellowship Hall by Feb 2nd to be a part of the crew!

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.

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

Helping Hands Needed at Quilters!! No sewing required, please come and help with this project if you are looking for a place to volunteer and some conversation and coffee. Quilters take a break in November and December for the holidays but resume again in the new year! For more information, contact Teri at tkoretsky44@yahoo.com or at 269-567-4238.

Emergency Food Box: Trinity is looking into partnering with people in our neighborhood to stock the emergency food box located on Oak Street between Cedar and Lovell. This would be entirely reliant on donations from our congregation and not under Loaves and Fishes direction. If we have a positive response from our congregation, we would start this by the end of the month. Easy open, ready to eat, non-perishable foods (cans with a flip top if possible) should be put in the box designated Emergency Food Box outside the Fellowship Hall. Call Rasma McMullen (269-349-9429) or Sandy Wallace (269-375-8876) with any questions.

Invitation to Connect with Scripture through the Daily Lectionary

It's a New Year, and sometimes that means trying to start a new habit! Why not try a daily bible reading? The cycle of readings we follow through the year each Sunday at Trinity comes from the Revised Common Lectionary, which is used by a wide variety of mainline protestant churches around the world. In addition to our Sunday readings, the Lectionary provides readings for every day of the year! The readings are short, so they don't take long to read and they are a great way to ground ourselves and create a habit of connect with Scripture in a meaningful way every day of the week!

The Daily Lectionary can be found online at

<https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/daily-readings/>

(you can even sign up to have the daily reading e-mailed to you!). If you're not the digital type, the lectionary is also listed in the back of our church hymnals on page 1121. Whether you use the lectionary or another devotional practice, we encourage to pause in your daily routine to engage with scripture and recognize the presence and promise of God in our midst.