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Trinity Lutheran Church

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Pastor's Letter

Trinity Staff

Pastor

Outreach Pastor

Organist/Director of Music

Director of Family & Youth Ministry

Office Administrator

Hospitality Host

Bookkeeper

Custodian

Rev. Ken Johnson

Rev. Jake Lehman

Nathan Mattson

Heidi Albertson

Katie Grubaugh

Margaret Stevenson

Terri Schmidt

Bob Koenes

Church Council

President

Secretary

Treasurer

Financial Secretary

Christian Education

Congregational Life

Facilities

Service Ministry

Stewardship & Finance

Worship & Music

Julie Peterson

Holly Wohlfert

Christina Adams

Jerry Molitor

Ashley Wineland & Sally Morris

Paula Sportel & Jennifer Gougeon-Catarino

Max Wineland

Rasma McMullen & Sandy Wallace

Steve Morris & Steve Bittner

Jennifer Gatz

Trinity's Sunday Schedule:

**Worship with Holy Communion
at 8:30 and 11:00am**

Choir at 9:25 in choir loft

All Sunday School classes 9:45

Parent Small Group or Infant/Toddler
Small Group 10am

**Christmas Eve Services
December 24, 2024
5pm, 7pm, 9pm**

December 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Worship w/Holy Communion 8:30 & 11am <i>No Sunday School!</i> Poinsettia Orders Due!	2 Prayer Shawl 10	3	4 Holden Village Vespers 6 with Hammered Dulcimer	5 P.E.O. 9:30	6	7 Parent's Afternoon Out 12-5pm Violin Ensemble 4-6
8 Worship w/Holy Communion 8:30 & 11am 120th Anniversary Sunday School classes 9:45 Parent small group 10 Congregation picture 12 Annual Budget meeting 12	9 Volunteers for Christmas décor 10:30 Sacred Harp 7-8:30	10 Clothes Closet 10-2 Loaves & Fishes 11-1 C.F.T. 11am Advent Beer & Hymns 6-8pm	11 Men's Bible Study 7am Ladies Lunch 11:30 Holden Village Vespers 6 with Violin & Cello	12	13	14 VASA & Sons of Norway St. Lucia Pageant 2-4pm Violin Ensemble 4-7
15 Worship w/Holy Communion 8:30 & 11am Lessons & Carols Choir 9:25 Sunday School classes 9:45 Parent small group 10 Open Doors 5pm	16	17 Clothes Closet 10-2 Loaves & Fishes 11-1 C.F.T. 11am	18 Rebecca Circle 10am Holden Village Vespers 6 Service of Healing with Oboe	19	20	21 Youth Progressive Dinner 5-9
22 Worship w/Holy Communion 8:30 Children's Christmas Pageant 11am Service Sunday School classes 9:45 Hot Dog Lunch 12	23 Sacred Harp 7-8:30	24 Christmas Eve Services 5, 7, 9pm	25 Church office closed Merry Christmas!	26 Church office closed	27 Church Office closed	28 Church office closed
29 Worship w/Holy Communion 8:30 & 11am No Sunday School	30 Church Office closed	31 Church Office closed	1 Church Office closed	2 Church Office closed	3 Church Office closed	4 Church Office closed

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.

YOUTH MINISTRY

for all youth in grades 6th-12th

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

The time for merriment and waiting for our Lord Jesus to be born is upon us. Last month we gave thanks for our many blessings—one of which was our weekend up at **Charge** at the Great Wolf Lodge in Traverse City. Trinity, St. Peter's, and Prince of Peace joined together and brought 12 youth and 3 adults up there. It was an awesome weekend and we give thanks to Megan Floyd and Shaun Wright for joining our group! This month, as we celebrate Jesus' birth, I feel blessed to be allowed to lead such an incredible group of youth. We have lots of fun stuff to do this month, so I hope you don't miss out! ~Heidi



PARENTS' AFTERNOON OUT

Your help is needed on **Saturday, December 7th from noon-5pm**. This is the date of Family Ministry's Parents' Afternoon Out and we need youth to help us to care for the children. This is a service project, so if you need volunteer hours, then please sign up to help. You can sign up on our Facebook page or by emailing me.

To get information about Youth Ministry activities and to sign up for events, please join our Facebook page—TLC Youth Ministry. If you're not on Facebook, you can also get info in the weekly church emails (make sure the office has your correct email), Sunday bulletins, the bulletin board outside the kitchen on the lower level, and Trinity's website. Email Heidi (hmfuerst@aol.com) with any

PROGRESSIVE DINNER:



The Youth Group's annual Progressive Dinner is scheduled for **Saturday, December 21st from 5pm-9pm**. This is a special time of eating, reflection,

eating, gift giving, and, did I mention, eating?!?! We will meet at church at 5pm and then parents will pick you up from our last stop—wherever that may be!! You will also need to bring a White Elephant gift to exchange. Ask your parents if you aren't sure what that is. We will need drivers, too, so if your parents are interested in hanging out with us, please have them contact me. Please sign up on the Facebook page or email me if you can join us by Dec. 19th. Thank you!!

HOT DOG FUNDRAISER:

Calling all Youth—we need your help for a very special Hot Dog Lunch fundraiser on **Sunday, December 22nd at noon**. This is the date for the Sunday school



Christmas program and we are helping by providing lunch for the children, their families, and the congregation. A free-will offering will be collected to benefit Youth Ministry activities. Sign up on the Facebook page or email me if you can help out. This is a big deal, so the more the merrier!!

**NO SUNDAY SCHOOL:

There will be no Sunday school on Dec. 1st and Dec. 29th for the Thanksgiving and Winter Breaks.

2025 SUMMER CAMP:

As of this printing our dates for Stony Lake Lutheran Camp are **June 15-20, 2025**. Sign ups will begin soon, so please watch for more details.



FAMILY MINISTRY

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

Parents' Afternoon Out

Saturday, December 7th from 12:00pm-5pm

Drop your kids off at church and enjoy an afternoon for Christmas shopping, chores, relaxing, or lunch out with friends. The kids will be busy with crafts, games, and other fun activities. Lunch and snack will be provided. We will take children who are 1 year through 5th grade. Sign up by Dec. 5th on our Facebook event page or email Heidi at hmfuerst@aol.com. This is always a super fun event, so don't be left out in the cold!! ☺



SPECIAL ADVENT ACTIVITIES

So on **Sunday, December 1st**, there will be no organized Sunday school classes, due to the Thanksgiving holiday weekend. However, if you are coming to church anyway, please join Heidi in the Fellowship Hall for some Advent Activities to help us get ready for the season. We'll make Advent Calendars and have lots of fun.

Note: No Sunday school on Dec. 1st or Dec. 29th, due to Thanksgiving and Winter breaks.

Sunday School Christmas Pageant

Have your children participate in this year's Christmas Pageant.

Rehearsals will take place during Sunday school in December (except for Dec. 1st). The program will take place on Sunday, December 22nd during the 11am worship service. This will be a very special service, so we hope you'll join us. Afterwards, we'll have a hot dog lunch in the Fellowship Hall. A freewill offering will be collected to support the Youth.

Sunday Morning opportunities coming in December:

Our schedule will be a little different this month, due to all the Christmas holiday activities. Hope you can join us for our two sessions in the Family Ministry room on the 3rd floor! *Note: There will be no Infant/Toddler class this year.

Parent Small Group: All parents are invited to hang out together, discuss the joys & concerns of raising faith-filled children, and how God helps us with the adventure that is parenting.

Dates: Sunday, Dec. 8th and 15th

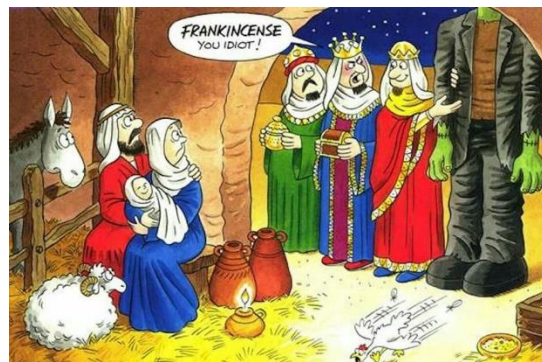
Time: 10am-10:40am

To get information about Family Ministry activities, please join our Facebook page— **TLC Family Ministry**. If you're not on Facebook, you can also get info in the weekly church emails (make sure the office has your correct email), Sunday bulletins, the bulletin board outside the Family Ministry room on the 3rd floor, and Trinity's website. Email Heidi (hmfuerst@aol.com) with any questions.

Summer Camp 2025:

As of this printing, the dates for summer camp for Stony Lake Lutheran Camp are June 15-20, 2025.

Registration will open soon, so please watch for details.



Worship and Faith Formation

From our Christian Education Team:

On Reformation Sunday, we were able to learn more about our Lutheran roots during a special Sunday School hour. Thank you to Deb Mattson for demonstrating her printing press for us and letting the children experience making their own prints. What a great way to explore some hands-on history!

Please mark your calendar for the special days this year. As always, keep our teachers and students in prayer and let us know if you are interested in teaching, subbing, or helping 'shepherd' one of our classes.

IMPORTANT DATES:

- 12/1 No Sunday School – Thanksgiving Break
Advent crafts with Heidi Albertson for Sunday School
- 12/22 Christmas Pageant & Luncheon
- 12/29 No Sunday School – Christmas Break

Sunday School Classes Every Sunday from 9:45-10:45am!

- **Adult Bible Study** will be in the Lounge with Pr. Ken. The class will be focused on a series by Max Lucado.
- **Confirmation** with Pr. Jake on the second floor of the education wing. Confirmation is for all youth 6th -8th grade!
- **High School Sunday school** in the Youth Room with Mr. Grubaugh.
- **Elementary Sunday School** for K-5th grade students on the second floor of the Education Wing with Mrs. Wineland.
- **Preschool Sunday School** in the preschool room on the second floor of the education wing with Mrs. Wright.
- **Infant/Toddler small group OR Parent small group** with Heidi Albertson in the Family Ministry room on the second floor of the education wing

Children's CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

SUNDAY | DECEMBER 22, 2024 | 11 AM

Join us at the 11am worship service, led by our Youth, where Trinity's Sunday School students will share the Christmas story with a Nativity play.

This festive service will be live-streamed and include Holy Communion.

Stay after the service for the Annual Christmas Party & Hot Dog Luncheon!

Hosted by Trinity's Youth Group, freewill donations will be collected to support their activities.

Trinity Lutheran Church, Kalamazoo MI

tlckzoo.com

Worship Assistants

Date	Time	Altar Guild	Welcome Team	Lectors	Acolytes
Dec 1	8:30	Joyce Magerlein	Janet & Arlen Gullickson	Dave Runstrom	Jaxon & Avner Grubaugh
	11:00	Gary Kent-Bracken	Connie Ruch, Liz Morison	Laura Woodruff	Kiley & Calico Morris
Dec 8	8:30	Karn Erlandson	Jason Grubaugh, Teri Koretsky	Steve Bittner	Nolan & Avery Fowler
	11:00	Sharon Kokales	Carolyn Kana'an, Nancy Diment	Heidi Albertson	Frederick Thurn, Edith Wright
Dec 15 <i>Lessons & Carols</i>	8:30		Janet & Arlen Gullickson	Jen Gatz, Suze Breischaff	Jaxon & Avner Grubaugh
	11:00		Erin & Mark Sutherland	Sarah Zimmermann, Keith Peterson	Elyse Albertson, Emma Zimmermann
Dec 22	8:30	Teri Koretsky	Jeannie & Dave Grubaugh	Teri Koretsky	Nolan & Avery Fowler
	11:00	Sheree Sorensen	Karen Jachym, Sheree Sorensen	Connie Ruch	Kaitlyn Albertson, Jacob Zimmermann
Dec 24 <i>Christmas Eve</i>	5:00pm <i>Children & Family service</i>	Teri Koretsky	Rasma McMullen, Greta Decker		Kaitlyn Albertson, Elyse Albertson
	7:00pm	Joyce Magerlein	Connie Ruch, Liz Morison	Nancy Diment	Nolan Fowler, Avery Fowler, Kiley Morris, Calico Morris
	9:00pm	Marianne Fuerst	Carolyn Kana'an, Nancy Diment	Liz Morison	
Dec 29	8:30	Karn Erlandson	Jen & Tim Gatz	Carol Knoch	Nolan & Avery Fowler
	11:00	Julie Peterson	Erin & Mark Sutherland	Linda Ward	Miryam Greenman

Trinity will have our 120th Anniversary Worship Celebration on Sunday December 8th

at both 8:30am & 11:00am Services. Bishop Craig Satterlee will be preaching and West Michigan BrassWorks will be joining us for worship. We will also be taking a congregational photo immediately after the second service to commemorate the anniversary!

The Annual Budget meeting will follow the congregational picture.

Men's Bible Study - We will meet every other Wednesday morning, next meeting on December 11. 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.

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.

Invitation to Connect with Scripture through the Daily Lectionary

With the coming of Advent comes a new liturgical year and a new year of readings. 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. Did you know that 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.

Free Online Learning Opportunity through our Synod!

Join our friend, Rev. Dr. Amy Lindeman Allen (*daughter 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>

There will be a congregational meeting on December 8th immediately after the 11:00am service where we will vote on the Annual Budget for 2025. All members are encouraged to be a part of the meeting to voice their vote. Please make every effort to be at this meeting!

Service Ministry

The TLC Prayer Shawl Ministry meets December 2 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! If you would like more information, please call Sidney Mueller at (269)806-0023.

Personal Care Item Donations Needed As part of our care for our neighbors in need, the Christ Clothes closet has expanded its offerings to include personal care items. Items needed are:

- Feminine hygiene products
- Toilet paper
- Soap
- Toothpaste

Thrivent Grant Request - We are seeking Thrivent Grants! We have several needs between our Service Ministries, Christian Education, Youth and Family Ministries and Congregational Life Ministries that could use your help! With Thrivent Grants, we're able to continue to keep this time welcoming to all. 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.

- Granola bars or similar items
- Pop tarts
- Peanut butter or cheese crackers in wrapped packages
- Snacks (in small bags).
- Baked beans (pork and beans)
- Plastic grocery bags

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. Snowpants are a particular need! 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.

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! We have cards for eating out, DIY needs, gasoline, groceries, clothing shoes, and cosmetics. The cards are also a easy way to make a gift to the Salvation Army Angel Tree. (See below for Express Lane directions.) Profits this year have been used to match the Youth's Battery Project collection (\$404.25), for needy individuals and families, and for Ministry with Community BINGO prizes. Please stop buy the SCRIP table or call Janet Gullickson (260-372-0081) to buy or order cards and support our work. Thank you!

Express Lane for the Salvation Army Angel Tree

For those who might prefer to give a gift without going shopping, here is an option:

- 1. Choose a card from the Angel Tree*
- 2. Bring it to the SCRIP gift card table in Fellowship Hall*
- 3. Choose the retailer and amount you wish*
- 4. Put both cards in the Angel Tree gift box on the SCRIP Table*

Thanks for supporting this annual event which brings joy to so many!

The Salvation Army Angel Tree will be set up in Fellowship Hall to collect toys in **November through early December**. The tree has tags with age and sex of a child, with some suggestions for a gift, but you do not have to buy what is listed. We do suggest that for teenagers a gift card to a teenage-friendly store or activity is appropriate. There will be a small box on the SCRIP table for the cards. After selecting a tag from the tree, purchase an appropriate gift, and deliver the UNWRAPPED gift to the box by the tree with the tag attached. The Salvation Army has a "toy store" where parents come and choose an appropriate gift for their child. Any questions, call Rasma McMullen: 349-9429

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.

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.

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.

Please keep these people in your prayers:

Ruth Krueger, Beth Latshaw, Sandy Eschelbach, Vicky Phillips, Linda Ward, David Mason, Marge Bateman, Rachel, Alex and Emma.

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers Needed! There are two upcoming opportunities to help with Christmas decorations at Trinity:

Monday December 9 at 10:30am - We need help installing wreaths, hurricanes, candles, swags and greens in the sanctuary and gathering space. The trees will already be up, so no heavy lifting for us!

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).

Bike repair workshop for El Sol! 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! Look for a sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall or talk with Pr. Jake if you're interested!

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.

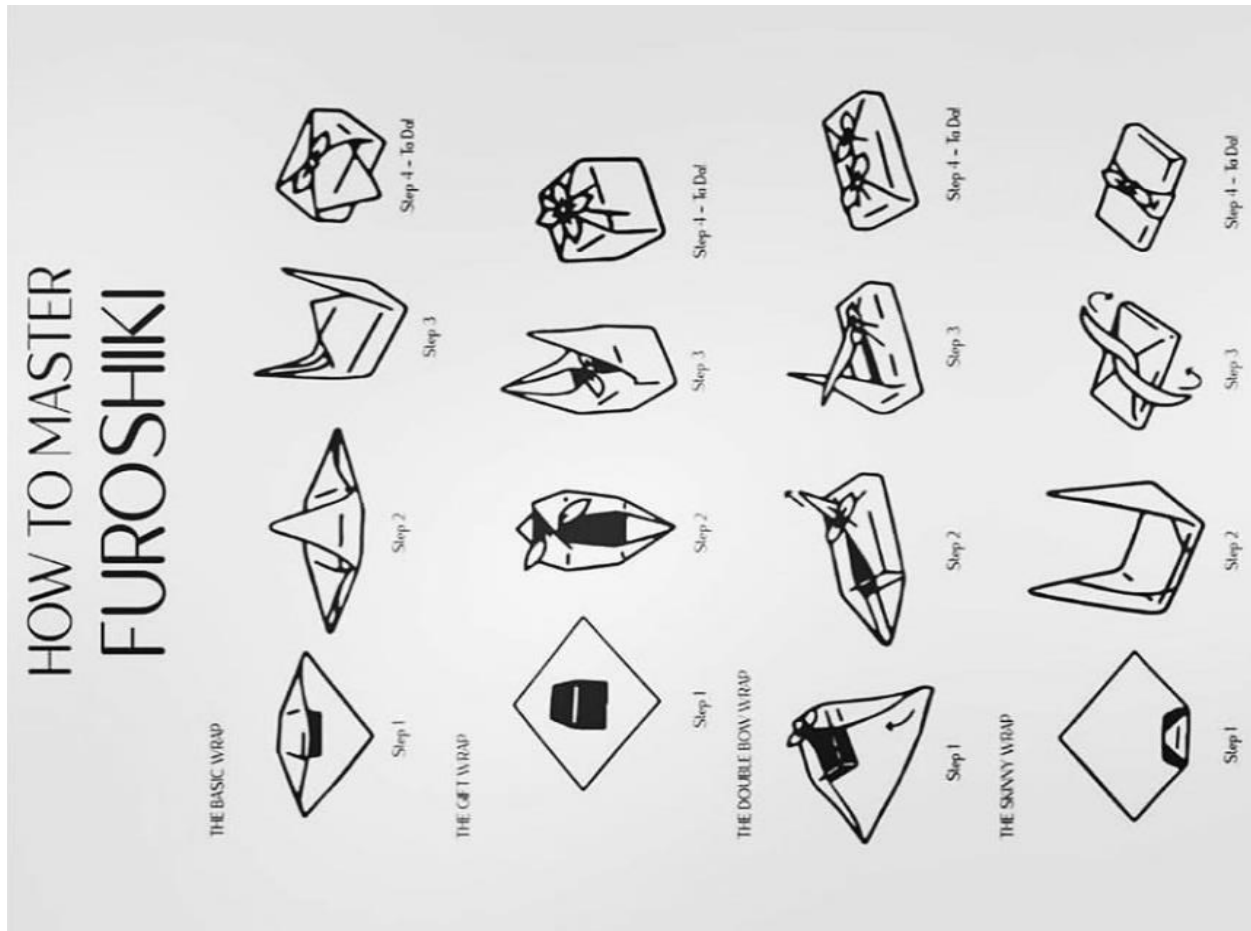
One of the suggested goals from some of our members is to have Trinity's location be "The Best Blood Drive in downtown Kalamazoo!" To help us attain that goal, please prayerfully consider becoming a donor! Also, if you are a Thrivent member and have access to Thrivent gift cards that could be used for 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!

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.**



Christmas is quickly approaching and so is the season of gift wrapping. While some gift wraps are recycleable, wrapping paper with a plastic coating or metallic decorations are not. Here are a couple of sustainable alternatives to the classic glittery wrapping paper!

- Reusable gift bags
- Make your own wrapping paper with plain paper! Decorating it can be a fun family craft!
- Use fabric in place of wrapping paper! The Japanese craft of using fabric to wrap gifts is called furoshiki and includes many different techniques for different shaped gifts. (see the diagram below!)



Fellowship Events

Advent Beer and Hymns! December 10 from 6-8

Need a little holiday cheer? Have no fear! Beer and Hymns is back this year! On Tuesday December 10th from 6-8, O'Duffy's Pub (804 W. Vine St.) is opening especially for us! We'll celebrate the season with a time of singing, fellowship, fun, and more singing all in the cozy atmosphere of this wonderful neighborhood pub! Invite your friends and be sure to join us for this wonderful evening!

(*note - if you were crowded out last year, please give it another shot! The pub is opening specially just for this event this year, so there should be a little more space ;))

Saint Lucia Christmas pageant: On December 14 Vasa Satellite Lodge and Sons of Norway Askeladden Lodge will host a traditional Swedish Saint Lucia Christmas pageant at Trinity. All are invited to meet in the Sanctuary at 2 pm for the thirty-to-forty-five-minute festival of light pageant, then adjourn to the Fellowship Hall for traditional Scandinavian refreshments. There may even be a surprise visit by Father Christmas (or Jultomten). Festivities will wrap up at 4 pm.

Ladies Christmas Lunch will be December 11 at 11:30am at The Park Club at 219 W. South Street. The cost will be \$25 per person which includes tax and tip. Please make payment to Joanne Musselman. The menu will include soup, salad, beverage and dessert. This is a fun way to meet old friends and new and celebrate this beautiful season of the year together. Sign up in the Fellowship Hall and call Joanne with any questions at 26-344-1433. Hope to see you there!

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!

An Update on Megan Floyd:

Megan has been named the "candidate of choice" by the call committee of Faith Lutheran in Okemos, MI. She will meet the congregation and preach there on Sunday December 8, and the congregation will vote on December 15.

Your prayers are most welcome!

And since completing her internship at Trinity, Megan has been participating in a study on compelling preaching through the Lily Foundation and Luther Seminary. Her part in this study is wrapping up soon, and she looks forward to visiting with Trinity again before beginning this new exciting chapter.

Thank-you to all who attended the presentation on Sunday, November 10th by the leaders of the Kalamazoo Valley Gleaners organization, and I hope you found it interesting and informative. The link to their website for more information and to sign up for their newsletter, or volunteer opportunities is listed below. The gleaners organization is not one of our designated benevolence organizations, so if you want your donation to go to them from any of your offerings, please designate that on your check or envelope. <https://kalamazoogleaners.org/>



Thank you to you all who came out for the Oct 12th workday. Highlights include: Paula and Chuck deep cleaning/refreshing the fellowship hall; Judy and Laura leading a team to garden and clean our outdoor spaces; Rodney, Steve, Nate, Larry, and Dave knocking out a plethora of handyman tasks to include winterizing the window air conditioners; and the team pictured below carefully relocating a pew from the choir loft. You can find

the current list of needed repairs/tasks posted next to the church office and in the fellowship hall. Please add repairs/tasks as you see them, and keep an eye out for future work days.

The staff at Trinity would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas as we enter into this season of Advent! Just as the longest night of the year approaches and we light our four Advent candles, indeed, Christ's light shines in the darkness. May you be touched this season by the sweetness of the Babe of Bethlehem, the profound love of God the Father and the miracle-working power of the Holy Spirit.





Holiday Services at Trinity

Advent Wednesday Evening Prayer using the Holden Village Vespers service:

December 4 - 6pm

with music provided by

Jenny Parnaby on hammered 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 120th 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

5pm Service focused on Families with younger children.

Both the 5pm and 7pm Services will be live-streamed.

December 29 - 8:30 & 11am



Poinsettia Orders are DUE on December 1. Orders may be picked up on Christmas Eve AFTER the 9pm Service or on Sunday, December 29th.

Poinsettia ORDERS POINSETTIA ORDER FORM 2024

Each Christmas season we place poinsettias in the church as part of our decorations. Please use this form, along with a check to Trinity Lutheran Church (indicating payment for poinsettias) for your order. The cost is \$15.00 per plant. The deadline for ordering

is Sunday, December 1.

Due to limited supply and color availability, all orders will be "Florist Choice". Please place your check along with this order in the offering plate or mail to the church office. Plants may be picked up following the late service on Christmas Eve, December 24.

_____ Number of poinsettias—florist choice

Please **circle** honor or memory:

In honor/ memory of:

Donated by: _____

Phone: _____

Envelope number (if available): _____



"For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

-Isaiah 9:6

December is a busy month in the church, and it's often just as busy or busier in our homes. It's a time full of festivities, traditions, parties, family gatherings, and more. This year however, as we enter the season of Advent, we are coming off a national election that has brought the divisions among us into sharp focus rather than all that we hold in common. As a result, many are approaching all that this season brings with a fair amount of anxiety and trepidation. We worry that we will either be confronted with views that we deeply and personally oppose, or that we will do or say something that will harm relationships with those we love. This tense and divisive political environment has threatened our relationships as well as the joy with which we long to approach this season. Some may say that it's a mess...but in a way that's what the Christmas season is about.

Christmas is a time that we celebrate the coming of Christ; and Christ didn't enter into a pristine world void of conflict and rich with of healthy relationships centered on mutual affection and care for the less fortunate ...Jesus entered into our mess. 2024-ish years ago in the midst of Roman occupation, the Judean people experienced political and religious division, poverty, and oppression...and Jesus entered into their mess. It's not a stretch to imagine the tense conversations at first century dinner tables as a puppet king (Herod) served at the pleasure of an occupying force, building wealth at the expense of his people. But amidst the divisions and challenges of that time Jesus entered into their mess. And this month we celebrate that regardless of whatever messes we continue to make, Jesus remains among us.

The prophet Isaiah says in the above verse, "...a child has been born for us, a son given to us... and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Luke recalls how at the birth of Jesus, the angelic heavenly host proclaimed "Peace, and good will..." to the shepherds. Jesus comes into our mess, and he comes not to divide or condemn, but he comes to bring peace...and as "Mighty God" and "Everlasting Father" he has the authority to do so.

So, no matter what your holiday plans look like and no matter how unified or divided your family and friends may be, may you find deep peace this season in *who Christ is* and *what Christ has done*. Because of the promise and hope that we celebrate this season, may we be a people of peace; a people who work for peace, and a people who experience peace. For Christ is with us, in our mess and always.

Peace,
Pr. Jake

**Please note the church building and office will be closed for the holidays
December 25 – January 4!
For pastoral emergencies during that time, please email or call either pastor directly.
Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**