

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Wed	Feb 19	Men's Bible Study 7am Meeting of the Men 5:30-7pm
Thu	Feb 20	Scripture and Sandwiches 12-12:30
Sat	Feb 22	Stew & Brew Chili & Homebrew competition 4:30-6 Negar Afazel benefit concert 6:30
Sun	Feb 23	Worship with Holy Communion at 8:30 & 11:00 All Sunday school classes 9:45-10:45 Parent small group 10 Church Council 12:15
Tue	Feb 25	Loaves and Fishes 11-1 C.F.T. 11-12:30
Wed	Feb 26	Rebecca Circle 10am
Thu	Feb 27	Quilters 9am Scripture and Sandwiches 12-12:30
Sat	Mar 1	Middle School service project 9:30 Violin Choir 4-6
Sun	Mar 2	Worship with Holy Communion at 8:30 & 11:00 Choir 9:25 Pancake Breakfast 9:30 – 10:30 Sunday School 9:45 VASA 2-5

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 One Well Brewing Co. on **Wednesday February 19th from 5:30-7:00pm** for a relaxed time of fellowship and conversation!

Stew and Brew Chili Cook-off and Homebrew Competition! Join us on **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 tastings 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!

Violin Concert, February 22 at 6:30 - Everyone is invited to come to Trinity on Saturday, February 22 at 6:30pm for a Night of Solo Violin Concert with Negar Afazel. A free will donation will go to benefit Trinity's Loaves & Fishes pantry.

Pancake Breakfast! To celebrate the final Sunday before the beginning of Lent, the Youth will be hosting a Pancake Breakfast for the congregation! We'll be serving up pancakes and sausage **between services on Sunday March 2nd**. This has become a great annual event for our church and it will also be a fundraiser to benefit the youth fund for all of our activities!

March 5 is Ash Wednesday and marks the beginning of Lent. Starting March 5 and through the season of Lent, Wednesday Evening worship services will be in-person at 6:30pm every Wednesday. For those unable to join in person, the service will be live-streamed and be available to view on our YouTube channel.

Please sign up to help with Lenten Soup/Salad Suppers starting March 12.
Lent Wednesday Evening Services start on Ash Wednesday, March 5 at 6:30pm. Every following Wednesday in Lent, a Soup/Salad Supper will begin at 5:45 before the Lenten Service. We ask for our congregants to sign up to help provide food for these suppers by signing up on the list posted on the Youth Board opposite the kitchen in the downstairs hallway!

Lenten devotional materials will be available in the Fellowship Hall as we approach the season of Lent and prepare for Easter. Please help yourself!

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 through March 13 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

Updated Date- 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 March 8th from 11-2pm 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 or online by March 2nd to be a part of the crew!

Christ Clothes Closet: The Closet needs donations of men's and women's socks and winter coats for all as they continue to give away cold weather gear throughout this season.

Euchre Tournament, Saturday March 8! We will gather at 6pm with card play to start at 6:30pm. A suggested donation of \$10/person at registration (split 50/50 between Good Samaritan Fund and prizes) and \$1.00/person for each time if "Euchred" during play (given to last person winning w/a "lone hand"). For the Euchre tournament, you don't need a partner but bring your choice of beverage and a snack to share! If you have any requests for other games to be offered, let Holly Wohlfert know via text 269-808-3889. Put a "save-the-date" on your calendar and watch for more updates in the upcoming weeks.

Wartburg Singers and Orchestra to Visit Kalamazoo Our friends at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church are hosting a concert by the Wartburg College Castle Singers and Kammerstreicher Chamber Orchestra on Tuesday, March 4, at 7:30 PM. Musical selections will range from classical to contemporary and will surely make for an enjoyable evening! Wartburg College is an ELCA affiliated school located in Waverly, Iowa and freewill donations will be accepted to help fund scholarships and provide for future tours.

Good Samaritan Fund Need Trinity's Good Samaritan fund is the fund that enables us to meet the needs of those in our community during some of their most difficult moments. This fund is generated entirely through the generosity of our congregation. These funds go toward electric bills, rent, and other essentials when our neighbors are facing utility shut-offs, eviction notices, or seeking to get into housing. Due to a sustained time of high demand this fund balance is running low. If you find yourself in a position to be able to give, any gift is greatly appreciated. Simply designate the gift to the "Good Samaritan Fund" on the memo line of your check or give online under the "giving" tab on our website www.tlckzoo.com.

Basket Weaving at Trinity! A basket weaving class is being offered on Saturday, April 19 just in time for Easter. Please sign up on the bulletin board in Fellowship hall if you're interested. The interest in the type of basket and time will be used to determine the final details of the class. Questions? Contact Jennifer Gougeon-Catarino gougeonjs@gmail.com

Men's Bible Study - We will meet next on Wednesday February 19, March 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".

Refugee Families in Need! Trinity is working with our local refugee services to help provide for new refugee families in Kalamazoo. We currently have 7 families that have a list of practical needs and as a congregation we would like to be able to fulfill those needs! Some of those basic needs include:

- Towels (kitchen and bath)
- Blankets
- Cleaning supplies
- Laundry baskets and detergent
- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Personal Hygiene products (soap, lotion, razors, shaving cream, feminine hygiene, deodorant)



If you are interested in helping with this project you can drop items off to church labeled “Refugees” any time the church is open; or if you wish to contribute financially to our Kalamazoo Refugees, scan the QR code to make a donation. And if you would like to volunteer time to help our refugee families, please contact Bess Fitzgerald (bess.fitzgerald@gmail.com) or the church office.

We are once again hosting American Red Cross blood drives at Trinity in 2025.

The next dates are 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.

Emergency Food Box: Trinity is partnering with people in our neighborhood to stock the emergency food box located on Oak Street between Cedar and Lovell. Easy open, ready to eat, non-perishable foods such as cans with a flip top lid, ramen, granola bars, crackers, protein shakes etc. 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.

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
- lotion
- razors
- shaving cream

Green Highlights in February...and a Mug Wall! Did you know that at Trinity we have solar power, a high efficiency boiler and light bulbs, Styrofoam recycling, and a number of other programs and features that help us care for God's good creation? If not, you're in luck, because during the month of February, the green team will have some informational displays out in the fellowship hall to help us all learn more about what we are doing as a congregation and what we can all do to help us all focus on our care for creation! In addition, we will be adding a "Mug Wall" to the fellowship hall, so that you can bring your own mug to be reused from week to week! Instructions will be posted by the wall, so find a mug at home or the thrift shop that you'd like to use for coffee hour and bring it in!

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

Hold the date for Sunday, April 27, 2025 - the Kalamazoo Valley CROP Hunger Walk is back! New this year: Trinity Lutheran will be the starting and ending point for the walk! We are also working on an alternative activity during the walk for non-walkers. CROP Hunger Walks raise money for [Church World Service](#) hunger/ poverty reduction projects locally (~25%) and internationally (~75%). This year our local funds will go to Loaves & Fishes food pantry. If you are interested in walking, donating to our Trinity team, or just would like more information, please contact Karn Erlandson (karnerlandson@yahoo.com; [269-579-0619](tel:269-579-0619)). Our team web page is available for online donations at: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/crophungerwalks/team/trinity-lutheran-kalamazoo>

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 sign up for Fellowship Time and Altar Flowers! 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.**

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.

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 reading are short, so they don't take long to read and they are a great way to ground ourselves and create a habit of connecting 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!). 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.