2025 April Newsletter



Trinity Lutheran Church

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Inside this Issue:

Page 2 Calendar

Page 3 Family & Youth

Ministry

Page 4 & 5

Worship& Faith

Page 6 & 7

Page 7 & 8

Volunteer Opportunities

Page 8 & 9

Fellowship Events

Page 10

Church Council notes

Page 11 & 12

Service Ministries Holy Week & Easter Schedules

Trinity Staff

Pastor Outreach Pastor Organist/Director of Music Director of Family & Youth Ministry Office Administrator Hospitality Host Bookkeeper Custodian

Church Council

President Julie Peterson Secretary Holly Wohlfert Treasurer Christina Adams Financial Secretary Jerry Molitor

Christian Education Ashley Wineland & Sally Morris

Congregational Life Paula Sportel & Jennifer Gougeon-Catarino

Rev. Ken Johnson

Nathan Mattson

Katie Grubaugh

Margaret Stevenson Terri Schmidt

Heidi Albertson

Bob Koenes

Rev. Jake Lehman

Facilities Max Wineland

Rasma McMullen & Karen Jachym Service Ministry

Stewardship & Finance Steve Morris & Steve Bittner

Worship & Music 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 10am

Easter Sunday Services Worship with Holy Communion at

8, 9:30, and 11am

A special Easter Fellowship of coffee, juice, and continental breakfast snacks will be served from 9-11am

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newsieners rticles for the advance, by	riease remember that afficies 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.	are due by the 16th Sunday bulletins are end of day Sunday.		C.F.T. 11am		Choir 9:25 Sunday School 9:45 Confirmation 9:45 Adult Bible Study 9:45 CROP Walk 1pm
			Men's Bible Study 7am	Loaves & Fishes 11-1	;	Worship w/ Holy Communion 8:30 & 11am
Violin Choir Recital 5:30	Family Ministry & Youth Retreat	C.F.T. 5:30-7 Sacred Harp 6-8	Meeting of the Men 5-6:30	29	28	27
Retreat			Rebecca Circle 10am	Clothes Closet 10-2 Loaves & Fishes 11-1 C.F.T. 11am		Easter Sunday Services @ 8, 9:30 & 11AM A continental breakfast will be served from 9-11am
26 Family Ministry & Youth	25	24	23	22	23	20 Worship w/Holy Communion
Violin Choir 4-6	Godd Friday Tenebrae 7pm	Seder Meal 5:30pm Maundy Thursday Serv. 7pm				Sons of Norway 2-5 Open Doors 5-8
Berry - 9-12 Handled - 1-4	Stations of the Cross 12noon		Blood Drive 11-4:45	Loaves & Fishes 11-1 C.F.T. 11am		Choir 9:25 Sunday School 9:45 Confirmation 9:45 Adult Bible Study 9:45
19 Basket Weaving Classes -	ಹ	17	16 Men's Bible Study 7am	15 Clothes Closet 10-2	4	13 Worship w/Holy Communion 8:30 & 11am
voin Chor+-o		C.F.T. 5:30-7 Sacred Harp 6-8	Soup/Salad Supper 5:45 Lenten Service 6:30			Adult bible Study 3:43 Greece Trip mtg 10 Church Council 12:15 VASA 2-5
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SATURDAY	- FHILAY	HURSUAY	WEUNESUAY	IUESUAY	MUNUMY	SUNDAY



FAMILY MINISTRY & YOUTH MINISTRY



For the April newsletter, the news is the same, so I combined two pages together.

Youth and Family Ministry Retreat



Friday, April 26th-Sunday, April 28th

This last weekend of April, our Youth and Family Ministries are having a retreat weekend at the Double JJ Ranch in Rothbury, MI (about ½ hour north of Muskegon. This special weekend includes an indoor water park, bonding time together, campfires, and a break from the craziness of life. We will stay in individual family cabins. The costs are: \$200 per family of 2 people, \$250 per family of 3 or 4 people, and \$300 per family of 5 or more people. That includes housing, 1 day waterpark passes, breakfast on Saturday and Sunday, and dinner on Saturday. Dinner on Friday and lunch on Saturday will be on your own. This is always a fantastic

weekend and we truly hope you will join us. Sign up by Sunday, April 13th by emailing me (hmfuerst@aol.com) or on our Facebook page (TLC Family Ministry). Check can be made out to Trinity, memo: Family Ministry. Please let me know if you have any questions.

**There will be no Parent Small Group during the month of April due to meetings, Easter, and our retreat.

We will meet again on May 2nd.

Camp!!

Our Trinity kids are going to Stony Lake Lutheran Camp on Sunday, June 15th thru Friday, June 20. To sign up, go to the Living Water Ministries website at www.elcalivingwater.com. For each person signed up for camp, you choose if you want to pay full rate, half rate, or nothing, and Trinity will donate \$100 per person. Camp is such a wonderful way to meet new people and explore your faith! You can sign up elementary, middle school, and high school youth. Please let me know if you have any questions.



Soup/Salad Suppers: Hey Youth! Don't forget to

sign up to help with one of the Soup/Salad Suppers on the Wednesdays during Lent. Be at church by 5:15pm to help with set up and stay to help with clean up. This is a youth fundraiser, so we need everyone's help!

Busy Couple of Months... Our Youth and Family Ministries have been busy with volunteering for two different organizations and making pretzels. Here are a few pictures...



Worship and Faith Formation

By Heart - Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study

Are you new to the church? Are you curious about the basics of Lutheran faith? Have you been around for a while, but would like a refresher? Wherever you are on your journey, you are invited to join Pr. Jake throughout Lent for a study and conversation centered on the essentials of the Lutheran faith. We're bringing back the study "By Heart" which was put together by pastors and teachers all across the ELCA in order to bring adults into conversation with Luther's Small Catechism. Join us in the Lounge each Sunday from 9:45-10:30 for this engaging look into the basics of our faith!

Through the season of Lent, Wednesday Evening worship services will be in-person at 6:30pm every week. For those unable to join in person, the service will be live-streamed and be available to view on our YouTube channel.



<u>Please sign up to help with Lenten Soup/Sald Suppers each week at 5:45.</u>

Every 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!

Men's Bible Study - We will meet every other Wednesday morning, next on Wednesday 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". 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. They meet every 4th Wednesday of the month at Trinity and all are welcome! The next Circle meeting will be on Wednesday, April 23 at 10am.

Interested in First Communion? If you have a child who is interested in taking their first communion, or one who has been taking communion, but you feel could benefit from a class, please contact Pr. Jake. If there is interest we will meet for a class in the spring. This class is typically geared toward 3rd-5th graders, but is open to any age.

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

- Adult Bible Study will be in the Lounge with Pr. Jake.
- **Confirmation** with Pr. Ken 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.

Worship Assistants

Date	Time	Altar Guild	Welcome Team	Lectors	Acolytes
April 6	8:30	Karn Erlandson	Teri Koretsky Beth Belleville	Dave Runstrom	Avery & Nolan Fowler
	11:00		Liz Morison Carolyn Kana'an	Holly Wohlfert	Kiley & Calico Morris
April 13	6:30	Joyce Magerlein	Jason Grubaugh Paula Sportel	Janet Gullickson, Suze Breischaft	Avner & Jaxon Grubaugh
	8:30	Sheree Sorensen	Nancy Diment Karen Jachym	Julie Peterson, Marianne Fuerst	Elyse Albertson, Emma Zimmermann
April 17 Maundy Thursday	7:00	Teri Koretsky		Laura Woodruff	
April 18 Good Friday	7:00				
April 20 Easter	8:00	Teri Koretsky	Janet Gullickson, Arlen Gullickson	Teri Koretsky	Nolan Fowler Avery Fowler Jaxon Grubaugh Avner Grubaugh
	9:30	Joyce Magerlein	Julie Peterson, Keith Peterson	Sheree Sorensen	Kaitlyn Albertson Elyse Albertson Frederick Thurn Emma Zimmermann
	11:00	Marianne Fuerst	Tina Adams, John Adams	Liz Morison	Kiley Morris Calico Morris Clare Lehman Miryam Greenman
April 27	8:30	Teri Koretsky	Teri Koretsky Nancy Diment	Carol Knoch	Avery & Nolan Fowler
	11:00	Gary Kent-Bracken	Rasma McMullen Sheree Sorensen	Pat Mason	Frederick Thurn Clare Lehman

Easter Flower Orders are due April 6!

Each 6" pot is \$12.00. Please be aware that all orders will be "Florist Choice". Please fill out either the pink forms (located next to the bulletins on Sunday), the online form or the form in this newsletter and return to the office or place in the offering plate along with your payment.

Orders may be picked up after the 11:00AM service on Easter or the week following Easter.

Please keep these people in your prayers: David Mason, Ruth Krueger, Bertha Boettcher, Jeannie Grubaugh, Beth Latshaw, Sandy Eschelbach, Diane Reau, Linda Ward, Kendall, Joanne Musselman, Erika, Jim, Grant, Dani and Artie Wattrick.

Service Ministry

<u>The TLC Prayer Shawl Ministry meets April 7 at 10am</u> 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.

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.

<u>Christ Clothes Closet</u>: The Closet needs donations of men's and women's socks and underwear for all sizes. They are also collecting personal hygiene items:

- Feminine hygiene products
- Toilet paper
- lotion

- razors
- shaving cream

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.



Refugee Families in Need! Trinity is working with our local refugee services to help provide for new refugee families in Kalamazoo. 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.

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) with any questions.

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:

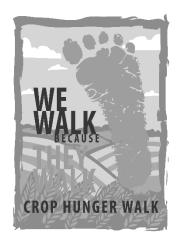
Although basic food needs are being met, our pantry clients are most grateful for extras that are not often included in our Loaves and Fishes orders. Adding any of these items to your grocery cart would be appreciated. They can be dropped off in the church office.

- 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

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 meet the fourth (and fifth) Thursday of each month from 9am – 12noon. For more information, contact Teri at tkoretsky44@yahoo.com or at 269-567-4238.

Fabric Donations needed for Quilters! Have you recently discontinued a quilting or seamstress hobby? Have a stash of fabric looking for a home? The Trinity Quilters would happily accept a donation of your fabric to use in the construction of mission quilts. You can drop off fabric at church (just label it for the quilters) or, if you would like a pick-up, contact Teri Koretsky at 779-5632. Thanks!!

Volunteer Opportunities



Love your neighbor, walk the CROP! If you're looking for a way to spread kindness both here in Kalamazoo and across the globe, volunteer your time, talent or treasure to the Kalamazoo Valley CROP Hunger Walk on Sunday, April 27th! New this year: Trinity Lutheran will be the starting and ending point for the walk, with both a 1.25 mile and a 3.1 mile route. Event check in starts at 1 p.m., with the walk kickoff at 2 p.m.

CROP Hunger Walks raise money for Church World Service hunger/ poverty reduction projects locally (\sim 25%) and internationally (\sim 75%). This year our local funds will go to Loaves & Fishes food pantry. The steps we take and the funds we raise together provide life-saving support including emergency food and resources, along with the seeds, tools and programs that help families feed

themselves in the future. \$1 provides 10 meals through local partners in the U.S., \$15 provides chickens for a family in Tanzania, \$30 provides a household water filter for a family in

Cambodia...there are so many ways to love our neighbors. Help us end global hunger one step at a time!

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).

Use the QR Code here or go to our team web page for online donations: https://events.crophungerwalk.org/crophungerwalks/team/trinity-lutheran-kalamazoo

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.

We are once again hosting American Red Cross blood drives at Trinity in 2025. The next date are Wednesday April 16, 2025 from 11:00am to 4:45pm. Schedule a time to donate here: https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive (sponsor code TLC)

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!

Church Work Day: The Spring facilities workday will be in May, and we are currently targeting Saturday May 3rd. Lunch will be provided, more details to follow in the weekly bulletins and emails! Any questions, please direct them to Max Wineland (max.wineland@gmail.com)

Fellowship Events



<u>Seder Meal Sign Up!</u>

On Maundy Thursday, April 17, Trinity will host a Seder Meal. The Meal will be held at 5:30pm. Please sign up on the chart in the Fellowship Hall or call the church office by April 13.

All are welcome to join us!

There will be a Service following the meal at 7pm.

<u>Ladies Lunch will be April 9th at 11:30am at The Crew</u> (5200 Portage Road, Portage) This is a fun way to meet with old friends and make new connections with each other.

All women are welcome! Sign up in the Fellowship Hall or contact Judy Sherrod with questions; hope to see you there!

Easter Breakfast, April 20: Join us for a light continental breakfast on Easter Sunday. Fruit, bagels, and pastries will be set out in the Fellowship Hall from 9:00AM – 11:00AM.

April Basket Weaving classes at Trinity are full! If you have signed up for one of the classes on Saturday, April 19, the \$25 berry basket class will run from 9am - 12 pm and the \$30 handled basket class will be 1pm - 4pm. Payment can be made to instructor Susan Hanna on the day of the class. Please plan to bring a snack to share as you work and a donation to the food pantry or emergency food box! Classes are full for this round, but arrangements are already being made for some amazing fall woven creations!

Plant Swap! Spring is here and it's time to start planning for the Trinity plant swap on May 18! Get your seeds, seedlings and plants ready. Tables will be available in Fellowship Hall between services.

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 Bell's Brewery on Wednesday April 23rd from 5:00-6:300pm for a relaxed time of fellowship and conversation! If the weather is good, look for us out in the Beer Garden!

The recent Euchre tournament/game night was a fun evening! We had 12 Euchre players and 2 game participants. Donations from all who attended totaled \$144 and were given to Trinity's "Good Samaritan Fund." A HUGE "Thank-you!" to all who participated and we hope to see more of you at future gatherings.

Bring Your Ugly Mug to Church! Okay, it doesn't have to be ugly, but bring your mug to church! In an effort to produce less waste and give a little more of a personal touch the coffee we sip on Sunday mornings we've added a "Mug Wall" to the fellowship hall. There are detailed instructions next to the wall, but the basic idea is you bring in a mug from home, you use the mug when you're here, we wash the mug during the week! Simple, right!? So we'll say it again, Bring your ugly (or not ugly) mug to church!

Greece & Turkey Trip – "Walk in the Footstep of Paul and John" - Summer 2027 - Informational Meeting on Sunday April 6, at 10am! Trinity is exploring the option of taking a Youth and Congregational trip to Greece and Turkey the summer of 2027. If you would be interested in joining us or would like more information, please plan to attend this meeting. You can also sign up in the Fellowship Hall or the Youth Board or fill out the interest form online in our weekly emails. If you are in middle school, a parent/guardian would have to attend the trip. If you are in high school, Heidi Albertson would act as your guardian if a parent/guardian is not going on the trip.



If you have not already signed up for our weekly emails, please use the QR code here or visit our website (www.tlckzoo.com) and scroll to the bottom of the home page to sign up to receive weekly updates about what's going on around Trinity!



Green Team Update - Spring is here!

The Green Team has had a busy couple of months! In February we highlighted the things Trinity is doing to care for creation with a set of displays in the fellowship hall and in March we welcomed Molly Mechtenberg, the director of the faith based non-profit Hope for Creation who shared the work and resources that her organization has to offer.

This month as we celebrate Easter and resurrection, we encourage you to look for signs of growth and new life in the world around you! Spring is a great time to think about how we use our resources and how we can care for the land that we inhabit! For instance, if you've got a yard and are looking for ideas on what to plant, check out the resources on native plants shared here! https://www.hopeforcreation.net/nplants

News from the Church Council

During our February Council meeting we had a guest speaker from the Kalamazoo Housing Advocates talk about their delivery of services. Sarah Cain, Executive Director, discussed how churches in the Kalamazoo downtown area are sending emergency funds to KHA as well as requests from the public for such funds. By sending our emergency relief funds to KHA we are ensuring that the neediest are being serviced in our geography. It is a blessing to have people that call the church looking for assistance can be forwarded to KHA to have their needs considered by all the downtown churches, not just Trinity.

We welcomed Karen Jachym to our Council. She will be part of our Service Ministry team.

We elected Ashley Wineland, VP; Tina Adams, Treasurer; and Jerry Molitor, Financial Secretary for the 2025 Council year.

Following our Consent Agenda, we approved the reports from all the ministries.

Finally, we talked about the Crop Walk and the Kalamazoo Gleaners and our church's ability to volunteer and get involved with both organizations.

Our next Council meeting is March 23 after second service in the meeting room. Feel free to join us.

Yours in Christ,

Julie Peterson

If you have questions about any of the above information, feel free to contact Julie Peterson at jtpeterson55@comcast.net (or find her at 11:00 a.m. worship service!)

New Member Interest: If you are interested in becoming a member at Trinity, please contact the church office or speak with one of the pastors. We will be having a New Member Orientation and Reception this spring!



EASTER FLOWERS ORDER FORM

Each Easter we place 6" pots of daffodils, tulips, hyacinths and lilies in our Chancel area. Please note that due to availability, all Easter Flowers will be "Florist Choice". Each pot is \$12.00. Please use this form for your order and include the dedication you wish to use.

Please make your check out to Trinity Lutheran Church with "Easter flowers" in the memo line and place in the offering plate.

Deadline for ordering is Sunday, April 6.

Plant(s) may be picked up following the 11:00AM service on Easter Sunday or the following week.

Please take only the number of plants you ordered!

Total number of plants ordered *Please be aware that all orders will be considered "Florist Choice" based on best selection.

Please (circle) in honor or memory:

In honor / memory of:

Donated by:
Phone
Envelope number (if available)



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

LENTEN SCHEDULE

SUNDAY SERVICES - 8:30 AND 11AM

WEDNESDAY SOUP/SALAD SUPPERS -5:45PM WEDNESDAY LENTEN SERVICES - 6:30PM MARCH 5,12, 19, 26, APRIL 2, 9

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 17 - 7PM SEDER MEAL, APRIL 17 AT 5:30PM

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 18 STATIONS OF THE CROSS -12NOON TENEBRAE SERVICE- 7PM

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 20
SERVICES AT 8, 9:30 & 11AM
A SPECIAL EASTER FELLOWSHIP OF COFFEE,
JUICE, AND CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST SNACKS
WILL BE SERVED FROM 9-11AM

ALL SERVICES LIVE-STREAMED AND AVAILABLE TO VIEW ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL