

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

WORSHIP at 8:30 and 11:00AM
SUNDAY SCHOOL at 9:45AM

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

Third Sunday in Lent

March 23, 2025

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

PRELUDE: "Sonata" Antonio Lotti (1667-1740),
Carolyn Hiestand, Flute

The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!

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. God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.

We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

***ENTRANCE HYMN** Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me **ELW #623**

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

Your Heart, O God, Is Grieved

Cantor

1 O God, Father in heav - en, have mer - cy up - on us.
2 O Son of God, redeemer of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.
3 O God, Holy Spir - it, have mer - cy up - on us.

Congregation

Your heart, O God, is grieved, we know, by ev - 'ry
Your arms ex - tend, O Christ, to save from sting of
O lav - ish Giv - er, come to aid the fee - ble

e - vil, ev - 'ry woe; up - on your cross - for -
death and grasp of grace has made. Now scars be - fore the
child your grace has made. Now make us grow and

sak - en Son our death is laid, and peace is won.
Fa - ther move his heart to mer - cy at such love.
help us pray; bring joy and com - fort; come to stay.

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***SALUTATION**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(please be seated)

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:1-9

To those who have experienced long years in exile, the return to their homeland is a celebration of abundant life. God calls them into an everlasting covenant of love. Those who return to God will enjoy new life and forgiveness, because God's ways are not our ways.

¹ Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.

² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.

³ Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.

⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.

⁵ See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

⁶ Seek the LORD while he may be found,

call upon him while he is near;
7 let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.
9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 63:1-8

1 O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.
2 **Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place,
that I might behold your power and your glory.**
3 For your steadfast love is better than life itself;
my lips shall give you praise.
4 **So will I bless you as long as I live
and lift up my hands in your name.**
5 My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods,
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,
6 **when I remember you upon my bed,
and meditate on you in the night watches.**
7 For you have been my helper,
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.
8 **My whole being clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Paul uses images from Hebrew Scriptures and prophecy to speak the truth of Jesus Christ: He is our rock, our water, our food, and our drink. Christ is the living sign of God's faithfulness.

1 I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, 2 and all were

baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. ⁵ Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

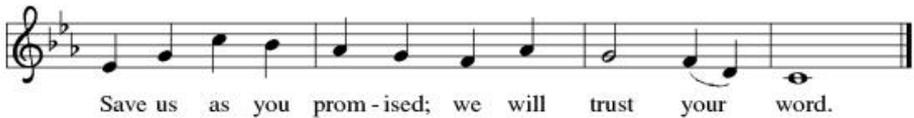
⁶ Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷ Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." ⁸ We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹ We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. ¹⁰ And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹ These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹² So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. ¹³ No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God

(please stand)

*** GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

C: **Glory to you O Lord.**

***GOSPEL: Luke 13:1-9**

Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.

¹ At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.² [Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?”³ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴ Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

⁶ Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷ So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ ⁸ He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you O Christ.**

CHILDREN’S SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

O Blessed Spring

ELW #447

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**

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church, called to be a witness to all peoples. Grant humility and wisdom to bishops, pastors, deacons, elders, councils, and congregations, that they may call upon you in making decisions. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

We pray for the earth, called to provide abundantly. Teach your people the goodness of your generosity, that in sharing what we have been given, all life may flourish on the planet that is our shared home. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

We pray for the nations, called to protect their inhabitants and collaborate in the work of justice and peace. Forge bonds of compassion and mutual care across human borders and boundaries, that all the world may have enough to live. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

We pray for those in need, the sick, and the grieving, called to receive your compassion (*especially*). Comfort those whose lives have been disrupted through natural disasters and human conflict. Aid communities in coming together to mourn, heal, and rebuild. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

We pray for this assembly, called to welcome its neighbors to the table of your grace. Bless food pantries, community gardens and kitchens, clean water projects, and all ministries that address human hunger and thirst. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

We give thanks for the faithful lives of those who proclaimed your gospel in times of challenge and strife, and for all those whose lives of love and service have ended. May their witness inspire our own. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

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 - "Rock of Ages"

setting by Peter Pindar Stearns (1931-2016)

11:00 - **ELW 808** "Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song"

Les Petite Soeurs de Jésus, Congregation joins on stanzas 3 & 4

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.

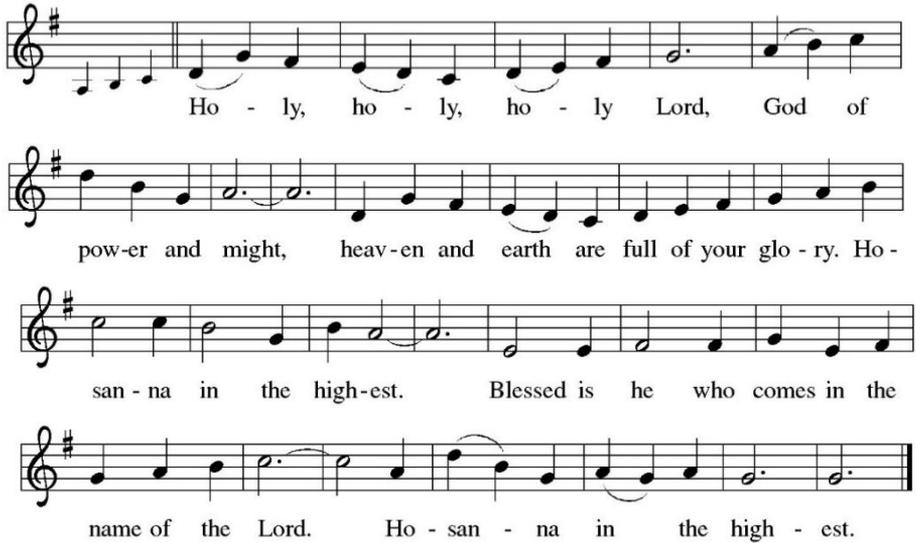
*OFFERTORY PRAYER

*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.

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.

*EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: Blessed are you....as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

P: O God of resurrection....grace our table with your presence.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: Reveal yourself to us....with justice, peace, and love

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: With your holy ones.... 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.*

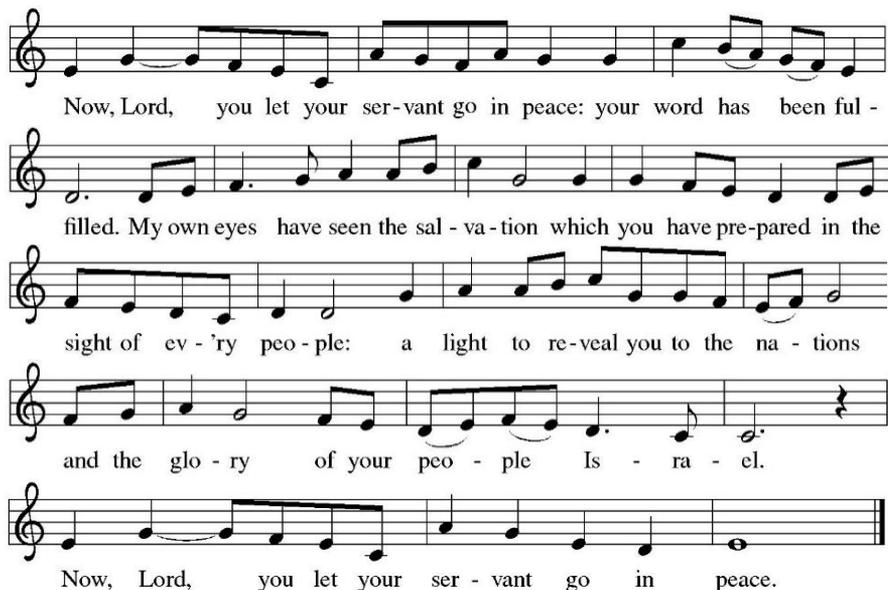
8:30am Holy Communion by Intinction please kneel, as able, at the rail.

*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 - "Largo" Giovanni Battista Pergolesi (1710-36)
 11:00 - "Rock of Ages" setting by Peter Pindar Stearns (1931-2016)

(please stand)

*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

O Living Bread from Heaven

ELW #542

*BLESSING The Three-fold Amen

*DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: "Andante con moto" Johann Erasmus Kindermann (1616-55)

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: Karn Erlandson, Julie Peterson

WELCOME TEAM: 8:30 Beth Belleville, Paula Sportel
11:00 Tom & Joy Kuhs

LECTORS: 8:30 Debbie Harding
11:00 Linda Ward

ACOLYTES: 8:30 Avner & Jaxon Grubaugh
11:00 Kiley & Calico Morris

PRAYER CONCERNS: 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.

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR TODAY are given to the glory of God by Brian and Ann Segraves in honor of their daughter Laura's birthday.

Weekly Announcements

Lenten Wednesday Evening worship services will be in-person each week at 6:30pm. 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 each Wednesday at 5:45. 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!

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

Christ Clothes Closet: Needs personal hygiene products such as toilet paper, razors, shaving cream, lotion and feminine hygiene.

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!

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.

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 gather at O'Duffy's Pub on **Thursday March 20 from 5-6:30pm** for a relaxed time of fellowship and conversation!

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.

We are once again hosting American Red Cross blood drives at Trinity in 2025. The next date is Wednesday April 16 from 11:00am to 4:45pm.

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.

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). Our team web page is available for online

donations at: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/crophungerwalks/team/trinity-lutheran-kalamazoo>



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.

Quilting supplies and donations needed! 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!!

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.

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, March 26 at 10am.



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.**

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.



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.

Seder Meal Sign Up! 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.

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 the pink forms (located next to the bulletins) and 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.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- Sun Mar 23 Worship with Holy Communion at 8:30 & 11AM
Choir 9:25
All Sunday School classes 9:45
Church Council 12:15
- Tue Mar 25 Loaves and Fishes 11-1
C.F.T. 11-12:30
- Wed Mar 26 Rebecca Circle 10am
Soup/Salad Supper 5:45
Lent Service 6:30
- Thu Mar 27 Quilters 9am
- Sat Mar 29 E.M.M. 11-3:30
Violin Choir 4-6
- Sun Mar 30 Worship with Holy Communion at 8:30 & 11AM
Choir 9:25
All Sunday School classes 9:45
- Tue Apr 1 Christ Clothes Closet 10-2
Loaves and Fishes 11-1
C.F.T. 11-12:30
- Wed Apr 2 Soup/Salad Supper 5:45
Lent Service 6:30

Midweek Lenten Services

Soup/Salad Suppers each Wednesday at 5:45
Lent Evening Service each Wednesday at 6:30

Palm Sunday – April 13th

Worship with Holy Communion 8:30 and 11am

Maundy Thursday – April 17th

Seder Meal at 5:30pm
Worship with Holy Communion 7pm

Good Friday – April 18th

Stations of the Cross with Organ and Strings 12noon
Good Friday Tenebrae Service 7pm

Easter – April 20th

Worship with Holy Communion 8, 9:30, and 11am
A special Easter Fellowship of coffee, juice, and continental breakfast snacks will be served from 9-11am

