#### 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!

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 30, 2025

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

**PRELUDE:** "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" setting by Paul Manz (1919-2009)

The psalm sets the tone this day: "Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!" Happy are those who have "become the righteousness of God" in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has "rolled away... the disgrace" of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake. Rejoice!

> 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.

- 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 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing ELW #807

- 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
- C: And also with you



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#### **\*SALUTATION** P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

#### **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, 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: Joshua 5:9-12

By celebrating the Passover and eating the produce of the promised land instead of the miraculous manna that had sustained them in the desert, the Israelites symbolically bring their forty years of wilderness wandering to an end at Gilgal.

<sup>9</sup> The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

<sup>10</sup> While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. <sup>11</sup> On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. <sup>12</sup> The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM: Psalm 32

<sup>1</sup> Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,

and whose sin is put away!

<sup>2</sup> Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!

<sup>3</sup> While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.

<sup>4</sup> For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.

<sup>5</sup> Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

# <sup>6</sup> Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;

- when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.
- <sup>7</sup> You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.
- <sup>8</sup> "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.
- <sup>9</sup> Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle,
- or else they will not stay near you."
- <sup>10</sup> Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.
- <sup>11</sup> Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

## SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

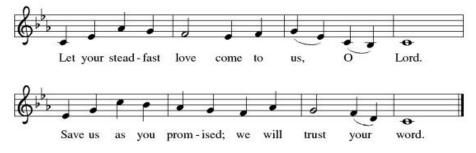
One way to describe the gospel is the promise that in Christ everything is transformed into newness. All mistakes, all deliberate sins, all old history is reconciled with Christ's resurrection. This is Paul's strong message to the congregation in the city of Corinth.

<sup>16</sup> From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. <sup>17</sup> So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup> that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. <sup>20</sup> So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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 15:1-3, 11b-32

Jesus tells a parable about a son who ponders his father's love only after he has spurned it. The grace he receives is beyond his hopes. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother who believes it is his obedience that has earned his place in the father's home.

<sup>1</sup>Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] <sup>2</sup> And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

<sup>3</sup> So he told them this parable: <sup>11b</sup> "There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup> A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. <sup>14</sup> When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. <sup>16</sup>He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup> But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! <sup>18</sup> I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.", <sup>20</sup> So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven

and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' <sup>22</sup> But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup> And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; <sup>24</sup> for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup> "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. <sup>27</sup> He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' <sup>28</sup> Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. <sup>29</sup> But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' <sup>31</sup> Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup> But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

P: The Gospel of the Lord. C: Praise to you O Christ.

#### **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

#### HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW #779

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

#### SERMON

Pastor Ken Johnson

\*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.

God of faithful promise, make your church a new creation in Christ. As you reconcile us to yourself, guide us also in your way of reconciliation, that through confession and forgiveness, repentance and reparations, your church may bear witness to your love. God, in your mercy,

## receive our prayer.

God of new beginnings, restore balance to the earth. Send rain to places of drought and sunshine to places of flooding, that the produce of the land may again support life. God, in your mercy,

## receive our prayer.

God of prodigal grace, unite the nations as fellow members of the human family. Give leaders the courage to put aside pride and ego, to cease squandering lives and time, and to work for the well-being of all. God, in your mercy,

#### receive our prayer.

God of boundless love, receive with open arms any in need of compassion or healing(*especially*). Embrace all who are far from home or estranged from loved ones, and all who live with regret. Embolden your people to offer and to seek forgiveness. God, in your mercy,

## receive our prayer.

God of radical inclusion, widen human circles to welcome all who are excluded. Bless the work of disability ministries, ministries by and with neurodivergent people, and multicultural and ethnic-specific ministries; that the welcome of Jesus be extended to all. God, in your mercy,

## receive our prayer.

God of resurrection life, welcome home all who have died. We thank you for their lives and entrust them into your keeping, where true reconciliation and eternal peace are found. 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.

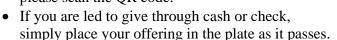
Please take a moment to sign and pass the navy fellowship folders located in each pew at this time.

## 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.



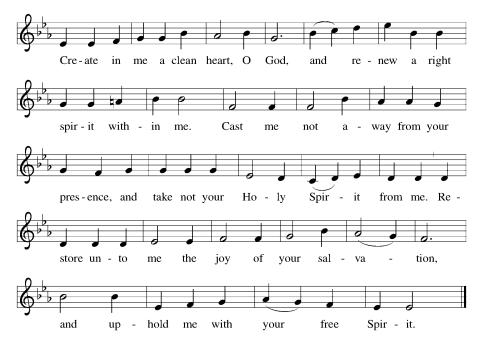
"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

Offertory Music: 8:30 - "O Rest in the Lord" Felix Mendelssohn (1809-47), transcribed by Alexander Schreiner (1901-87) 11:00 - "Love Is But My Answer" Rev. Carlton T. Russell (b.1938)

> Please stand as we begin singing the "Create in Me" and the elements are brought forward

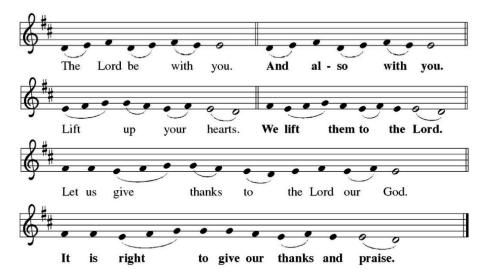


#### Create in Me a Clean Heart

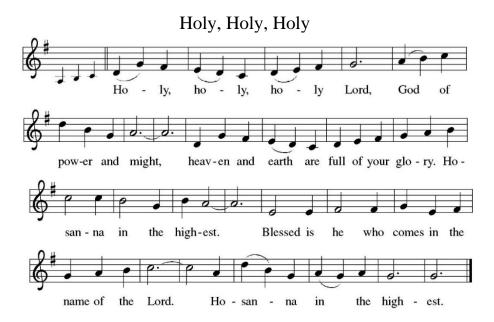


#### **\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

### **\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING:**



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:



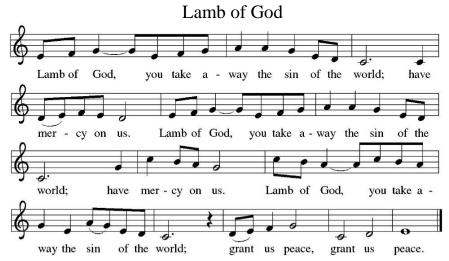
## **\*EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

- 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)



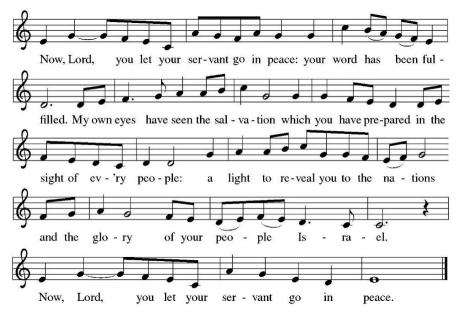
**HOLY COMMUNION** by Intinction (dipping the bread into the wine) Please come from both sides up the center aisle and return to your seat by the side aisles.

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 - "God So Loved the World" John Stainer (1840-1901), transcribed by William Stickles (1882-1971), Debbie Harding, Piano 11:00 - "O Rest in the Lord" Felix Mendelssohn (1809-47), transcribed by Alexander Schreiner (1901-87)

## **\*POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE**



P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

#### **\*POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

**\*HYMN** My Life Flows On in Endless Song **ELW #763** 

\*BLESSING The Three-fold Amen

#### \*DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE:** "March from 'Scipio'" G.F. Handel (1685-1759)

#### 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 Musselm	an	Organist/Director Emeritus
ALTAR GUILD:	Joyce	Magerlein, Sheree Sorensen
WELCOME TEAM:	8:30	Beth Belleville, Julie Peterson
	11:00	Greta Decker, Connie Ruch
LECTORS:	8:30	Steve Bittner
	11:00	Nancy Diment
ACOLYTES:	8:30	Avner & Jaxon Grubaugh
		Clare Lehman

PRAYER CONCERNS: Bertha Boettcher, Jeannie Grubaugh, Beth Latshaw, Sandy Eschelbach, Diane Reau, Linda Ward, Kendall, Joanne Musselman, David Mason, Ruth Krueger, Jo Brinker.

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!

Calendar of Upcoming Events			
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	Men's Bible Study 7	
		Soup/Salad Supper 5:45	
		Lent Service 6:30	
Sat	Apr 5	Violin Choir 4-6	
Sun	Apr 6	Worship with Holy Communion at 8:30 & 11AM	
		Choir 9:25	
		All Sunday School classes 9:45	
		Greece Trip interest meeting 10:00	
Mon	Apr 7	•	
Tue	Apr 8	Christ Clothes Closet 10-2	
		Loaves and Fishes 11-1	
		C.F.T. 11-12:30	
Wed	Apr 9	Ladies Lunch 11 :30	
		Soup/Salad Supper 5:45	
		Lent Service 6:30	

**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!



**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.

**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.

# 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-



<u>579-0619</u>). Our team web page is available for online donations at: <u>https://events.crophungerwalk.org/crophungerwalks/team/trinity-lutheran-</u> 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!!

**The TLC Prayer Shawl Ministry meets April 7 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! Don't know how to knit or crochet? Here's your chance to learn—instruction will be provided! If you would like more information, please call Sidney Mueller at (269)806-0023.

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.

**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.

**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.

> Midweek Lenten Services Soup/Salad Suppers each Wednesday at 5:45 Lent Evening Service each Wednesday at 6:30

Palm Sunday – April 13<sup>th</sup> Worship with Holy Communion 8:30 and 11am

> Maundy Thursday – April 17<sup>th</sup> Seder Meal at 5:30pm Worship with Holy Communion 7pm

**Good Friday – April 18<sup>th</sup>** Stations of the Cross with Organ and Strings 12noon Good Friday Tenebrae Service 7pm

Easter – April 20<sup>th</sup> 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

## 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.

