



News & Notes

January 2018 - Number 1026

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage PAID
Permit # 575
Kalamazoo, MI

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
504 S. Westnedge Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49007-6004

269-344-6181
www.tlckzoo.com
office@tlckzoo.com

Worship Services
Sundays at 8:30 and 11:00 am
Wednesdays at 7 pm
Sunday School at 9:45 am



Trinity Staff

Pastor
Associate Pastor
Organist/Director of Music
Children's Choir/Pianist
Office Staff

Custodian
Director of Family Ministry
Seminary Students

Rev. Ken Johnson
Rev. Jake Lehman
William Musselman
Sara McGarvey
Katie Grubaugh &
Trudi Giffin
Margaret Stevenson
Heidi Albertson
Alex Aivars &
Ed Ruble

Sunday School Coordinator

Emily Wright

Trinity Foundation Members

Jerry Molitor
Maridel Greer
Mike Mueller
Jim Allen
Rev. Ken Johnson
Rev. Jake Lehman

Church Council

President
Secretary
Treasurer
Financial Secretary
Worship & Music
Christian Education

Service & Social Ministry

Facilities
Evangelism, Fellowship
& Communications
Stewardship & Finance

Karen Adams
Teri Koretsky
Mike Mueller
Don Nelson
Gege Shurney
Lisa Ruble &
Emily Wright
Kay Nelson &
Donna Gardner
Shaun Wright
Erin Sutherland &
Ashley Wineland
Bill Sherrod &
Jerry Molitor

Library

Carolyn Albert
Mary Bittner
Maryann Hubbell

Missionaries

David Kramer, Tillers, Int.
Eisleben Church, Germany

Trinity Student Ministry News!



Chicago Winter Trip!!!

All Sr. High and Middle School Youth are invited to join us for our first ever **Winter Trip to Chicago!** We'll stay at the Lutheran seminary downtown and have dinner with some of the staff, then do some more exploring on Saturday morning with a bit of service and a trip to Shedd's Aquarium for a up close look at some of God's most curious and cool creations!

The trip will be Friday/Saturday January 19-20 and will cost just \$25 per student plus money for lunch and dinner on Saturday! We'll meet at the church to leave at 4pm on Friday the 19th and return later in the day on Saturday evening. Sign up on the youth board by Jan 14th if you plan to come!

Middle School Charge at Great Wolf Lodge!

Charge is a weekend event for students in 6th-8th grade and is chalked full of music, games, speakers, and fun all designed to build your relationships with one another and God! And as if that weren't enough, Charge is held at **Great Wolf Lodge in Traverse City** so in addition to all the other awesomeness, you get to play in the water park! Charge happens from **March 16-18** and total cost to you is just \$60! Look for registration material to come in the mail soon!

Register by Jan 10th to secure your spot!

Confirmation Class is Back!

After a little break for the holidays, **starting Jan 10** all students in grades 7-8 are invited to join us for Confirmation classes in the youth room each Wednesday from 6-6:50pm!

Sunday School!

Don't forget to join us every Sunday Morning in the Youth room for Sunday School Starting back up on Jan 7th!

Acolyte Training Session!

Anyone in 5th-12th grade (and beyond!) is invited to join Pr. Jake during the Sunday School Hour on Sunday January 14th for an Acolyte Training Session. Current

Acolytes are encouraged to attend as well in order to brush up on your skills and help with teaching the new recruits!

We'll meet in the sanctuary at 9:45. Come and participate in this fun and important part of worship!

Pancake Breakfast: Save the Date!

The youth will be hosting the annual Pre-Lent Pancake Breakfast on Sunday February 11th between services. Be sure to mark your calendars and plan to be there to help with this fun and important fund raiser!

News from the SCRIP (gift card) Table

Sales have increased dramatically this month, reaching a high of \$1800! We appreciate every purchase whether large or small, and thank you for stopping at the SCRIP table. Gift cards do make an easy choice for Christmas giving (and most every other occasion), and every purchase makes it possible for us to use the profits for those in need. Recently we have provided support for Bingo prizes at the monthly games our members hold at Ministry with Community and supplemented a Thrivent grant for Christmas baskets for shut-in's.

Thanks for helping us help others!

WELCA Mission Action

In November, hats, gloves, scarves and mittens were given to Alma's Mitten Tree and offerings were sent to What-So-Ever Freebed. Also, the YWCA Domestic Assault Program received \$22.88 worth of personal care items. Dainty Christmas cookies were provided to Church Woman United to be packed on December 1 for people in area nursing homes.

The January project is to supply cookies for the Veterans. These must be **purchased** and left in their original package. 12 dozen cookies from each circle are requested to be in the church kitchen by Sunday January 7.

Thanks for all the various ways you continue to help those in need.

News from the SWELL Partnership*

(Volunteers from area Lutheran churches supporting Samaritas's foster care kids)

In spite of the crummy weather a large crowd of foster families turned out for their annual Christmas Party at Prince of Peace on December 14th. SWELL members provided a taco bar and a visit from Santa.

SWELL would like to thank Trinity for having them as a part of their budget as well as bringing our partnership under their umbrella. The gratitude of the foster parents and kids should be shared with you and all the area churches who make it possible for us to support these foster families in Samaritas's care.

Worship Assistants for January

		<u>Lectors</u>	<u>Acolytes</u>	<u>Greeters</u>
Jan 7	8:30	Emma Shugars	Blake Martin & David Latshaw	Beth Belleville & Joyce Cleasby
	11:00	Sheree Sorensen	Marissa King & Sierra Campbell	Greta Decker & Nancy Diment
Jan 14	8:30	Ron Breischaft	Emma Shugars & Max Shugars	Steve & Mary Bittner
	11:00	Wendy Kent-Bracken	Tatianna Tyler & Alina Offerman	Tim & Sandy Eschelbach
Jan 21	8:30	Steve Bittner	Blake Martin & Michelle Yarzebinski	Ted & Cindy Dorman
	11:00	Steve Jones	Ben Meyer & Anna Schreiner	John & Cathy Jensen
Jan 28	8:30	Ed Ruble	Helen Spence & David Latshaw	Don & Rachel Fowler
	11:00	Donna Gardner	Evalynn Hurley & Gryffin Hurley	Cheryl Koopman & Melissa Lehman



FAMILY MINISTRY

We have two big events in January:

Winter Break Boredom Buster: Moana Party on Thursday, January 4th from 3pm-7pm

Is Winter Break long and boring and it's too cold outside to play? Or do you just love hanging out with your Trinity friends? If you answered "Yes!" then please join us for our Winter Break Boredom Buster. We are having a Moana-themed party and pretending that we're in a warm, tropical place while the cold winter winds blow outside. This event is for kids and parents! We'll do some fun activities, eat pizza, and watch the movie Moana. If you can't come the whole time, then join us for whatever fits your schedule.



Please sign up on our Facebook page or by emailing Heidi (hmfuerst@aol.com) by January 2nd, so I know how many to plan for.

Our Family Dances Together: Church-wide Family Dance Party Saturday, January 27th from 6pm-10pm Fellowship Hall



Ecclesiastes tells us there is a time for everything under heaven. On January 27th, it will be time for dancing! Put your party clothes on and bring your whole family—sons, daughters, fathers, mothers, aunts, uncles, grandparents, cousins, and friends to our Family Dance Party. The theme will be Music through the Decades—from the 40s until today! A dance instructor will guide us through a few dance steps at the beginning of the evening and then we'll dance the night away! We'll have snacks, desserts, and drinks. We'll also have a photo booth, so bring your camera! Be there or be square!!

Sunday Morning opportunities in January:

Infant & Toddler Small Group:

Date: Sundays, Jan. 7th and Jan. 21st

Time: 10am-10:40am

Place: Family Ministry Rm

Parent Small Group:

Date: Sundays, Jan. 14th and Jan. 28th

Time: 10am-10:40am

Place: Family Ministry Rm



Many, many thanks to Pastor Ken, Jim & Joyce Magerlein, Marianne Fuerst, Heather Sjoquist, Karn Erlandson, Helen Spence, Michelle Yarzebinski, Sonata Davis, and Kristina Hubbell for hanging out with our awesome kids during the Parent's Afternoon Out in December. Your support, creativity, patience, and kindness made this event a success! And I know the parents appreciated it and our kids loved hanging out with you!!! Thank you!!!!

This is good news we can cling to even in the midst of uncertainty; a light when all else seems bleak.

Psalm 119:50: *“This is my comfort in my distress, that your promise gives me life.”*

Jeremiah 31:13-14: *“. . . I will turn their mourning [depression, anger, disappointment, struggle] into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow . . . and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty.”* Of course, the richest treasure of God’s promises is **JESUS**. Jesus is ‘God’s Word in the flesh. Jesus, the Christ child the wise men sought, is the same Christ who is present in all of us today. Jesus is a miracle in our midst – no matter our individual circumstances or challenges.’ Let’s encourage one another to begin this year full of hope and expectation. Because all too soon, the pressures of life will creep in. ‘We may eventually find ourselves feeling overwhelmed, apprehensive, fearful or even disillusioned. But at that point, we can turn to God’s promise – a promise that ends all promises. With new ears, eyes and hearts, we will encounter the fullness of God’s grace and truth.’ **John 1:5** *“[God’s] light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.”*

Multiple Meanings: Learning for Other Interpretations

Session One: Washing Hands with Distant Hearts (Mark 7:1-8)

by Mark Allan Powell

Introduction: Lutherans believe the Bible is a “living word.” It continues to speak God’s word to us today, and God does not say the same thing to everyone. The word of God is both law and gospel – and sometimes it is both at once. Bible stories often mean different things to different people. In this short series of four studies, we are going to explore some of the ways this happens and some reasons why it happens. *Dear God, the Apostle Paul urges us to give thanks for all things and in all circumstances. We want to do that, but we especially want to give thanks for all people. Thank you for people who comfort us and for people who challenge us. We thank you for people who teach us and for people who learn from us, for people who amuse us and for people who annoy us, for people who inspire us and for people who confuse us. Thank you for people who surprise us. Thank you for everyone. Amen.*

Chaos & Creation

There was a significant article in the Gather magazine about how acts of creativity can bring comfort and meaning to our days. Examples of Vincent van Gogh who, out of the chaos of his own mind, brought comfort and care to millions of people who have found respite in the wild blues and purples of his painting, *The Starry Night*. And writers like Maya Angelou, who created out of her own painful childhood trauma the poetic memoir, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, as well as musicians like the Rev. Thomas A. Dorsey, whose profound grief over the loss of his wife and son gave us “*Precious Lord, Take My Hand*” (ELW 773). Art can breathe new life into our days. Our creative passions, the care that goes into a meal or a garden, musical interpretations of all kinds or an insightful, beautiful painting are how God works in us and how we can bring light into darkness!

LORD BLESS YOU and HAPPY NEW YEAR! Kay Nelson

Women of the ELCA Newsletter January 2018

Circle Meetings

- Esther Mary** will not meet in January.
- Lydia** will meet on Tuesday, January 16th at 7:30 at Renee Beck's home (* new address: 6101 Ormada, Kalamazoo, 49048). Renee will lead the study as well.
- Martha** will meet on Thursday, January 18th at 9:30 at church.
Hostess: Teri Koretsky and Lorraine Duke will lead the study.
- Miriam** will meet on Saturday, January 6th at 6:30 at church.
- Rebecca** will meet on Wednesday, January 24th at 9:00 at church.

Women of the ELCA Purpose Statement

As a Community of Women **Created** in the Image of **God**, **Called** to Discipleship in Jesus **Christ**, And **Empowered** by the **Holy Spirit**, We **Commit** ourselves to **Grow** in Faith, **Affirm** our Gifts, **Support** one another in our Calling, **Engage** in Ministry and Action, & **Promote** Healing and Wholeness.

Christian Action

The January project is providing cookies for the Veterans and are due in the kitchen by Sunday, January 7th. They must be purchased. **12 dozen** per circle. They are very much appreciated! Also, please take an offering for Kalamazoo Youth Ministry, Open Door/Next Door at your meetings.

BINGO at Ministry with Community

BINGO prizes (or money donated to Linda Ward) are needed for our monthly time with folks who attend Ministry with Community – 3rd Tuesday afternoon.

Advent Tea

A lovely and inspirational evening was had by all at the Advent Tea on Monday, December 4th. The Tea is always a special evening spent together with friends, eating delicious desserts, being served by our Trinity gentlemen and ushering in the Advent season! This year, Susan and Bruce Uchimura delighted us with their unique and meaningful talents combined with Lydia Circle's Christmas story Bible readings! Our offerings went to Kalamazoo Loaves and Fishes who strive to "feed hungry people and engage our community in the fight to end hunger." **\$500** was graciously taken in that evening!

Promises in the New Year

Of course, we all make New Year's Resolutions each January: physical goals, reading and informational gathering goals and goals to be more active in our local communities. Promises go hand in hand with the goals. Epiphany, (January 6th), is celebrated by the church as commemorating the arrival of the wise men who sought and paid homage to the Christ child. While promises and resolutions are being made by many – mostly focusing on self-improvement, it also seems the perfect time to look for new insights about ourselves and the God we serve. God keeps God's promises and we need to examine and see that His promises are pure treasure. **Psalm 12:6**: "*The promises of the Lord are promises that are pure, silver and refined in a furnace . . . purified seven times.*"

Thank You

Thank you to Trinity church for the lovely flowers and good wishes. Thank you to Pastors Ken and Jake for the visits while I was in the hospital and rehab. God bless the Trinity family and the Pastors!

With Appreciation,
Astrida Rozenbergs

Dear Trinity family,
Thank you a lot for the prayers and beautiful flowers. Thank you Pastor Ken for the visit in the hospital. Thank you all.

Blessings,
Irma Aivars

I would like to thank everyone who participated in donating to the Angel tree. We collected 45 toys and 15 gift cards. Due to your generosity many kids will enjoy a happier Christmas.

-Rasma

Greeting and Christmas Cards

Don't throw away those "free" greeting cards and envelopes you get in the mail. There is a need among seniors who could not otherwise afford them. Please leave them in the bottom drawer outside Fellowship Hall or drop them off at the office for Linda Ward.

Also, some of the charities send items which might be used for Bingo prizes at Ministry with Community.

Thank you for taking the extra time to help others!

-Linda Ward



OUR JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Phyllis Botticher
- Simon Dorow
- 2 - Kay Nelson
- 3 - Jim Lamson
- 4 - Mary Beth Wood
- 5 - Jackie Schaefer
- 7 - Sarah Neifert
- Emma Zimmermann
- 10 - Carolyn Albert
- Bev Johnson
- 11 - Suze Breischaff
- 14 - Anthony Chase
- 16 - Robyn Cassell
- 17 - Elizabeth Menck
- Quinn Benson
- Karn Erlandson
- 20 - Natalie Nelson
- 21 - Matthew Sorensen
- 22 - Noah Gonzales
- Ken King
- 23 - Heidi Albertson
- Neil Hurley
- Timothy Keck
- 24 - Elizabeth Jackson
- Cecelia Aleo-Andrus
- Svend Kloster-Larkey
- 25 - Bruce Uchimura
- Marcia James
- 26 - Bill Morison
- 29 - Bob Rowe
- Liz Morison
- 31 - Norena Freeberg

*In Our Thoughts
& Prayers*

Ruth Brown, Bonnie Cleasby, Ruth Krueger, Lisa Budzinski, Phyllis Botticher, Rich Ellstrom, Duane Rasmussen, Patti Bosar, William Peevey, Shirley Dragoo, Pastor Dale Krueger, Barb Hogg, Helen Schweinsberg, Patrilla Martz, Cathy Rysenga, Charlene Carrel, Irma Aivars, Carol Bosley, April Wright, and Nicole Koretsky.

Our sincere condolences go to the Bateman and Woodruff families at this time of loss. Please keep these families in your prayers.

Upcoming Activities



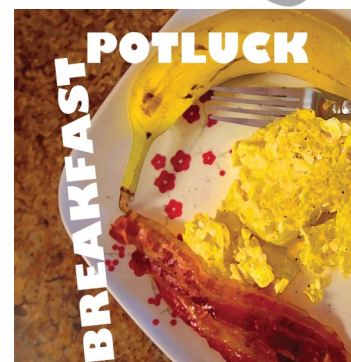
Men's Bible Study

Men's Bible Study meets each month on the first and third Wednesdays at 7am in the fellowship hall for breakfast and bible study. If you've not joined

us before, this is a great way to get involved and kick off your day with some good fellowship, food, and discussion!

30s 40s

We're bringing back a winter favorite for 30s40s Potluck this month with Breakfast for dinner! We'll meet on Friday, January 19th from 6-9pm at Ed and Lisa Ruble's house for great breakfast food and even better fellowship! Bring a breakfast themed side dish and a beverage of choice...and feel free to come in your comfy pajamas if you so choose!



Theology on Tap! – Open to everyone as always!

Have you ever looked at the story of the prodigal son from the perspective of the pigs? Okay, what about the parable of lost sheep from the perspective of the owner of the herd? For this month's Theology on Tap we're going to have some fun with parables over a few pints! We'll look at a few well-known parables from some different angles and see what we can learn about God! We'll meet at **Boatyard brewing company on Tuesday, January 23 from 7-8:30** so come on out and bring a friend!

Church– Wide Family Dance!



Family Ministry and the Evangelism, Fellowship, and Communications Team are going to have a church-wide Family Dance!! This will take place on **Saturday, January 27th from about 6pm-10pm** in the Fellowship Hall. The theme will be Music

through the Decades—from the 40s until today! A dance instructor will guide us through a few dance steps (such as swing and maybe foxtrot) and then we'll dance the night away! We'll have snacks, dessert, and drinks. Be there or be square!!



Fellowship Time

The sign up calendar for next year is posted in fellowship hall. Please consider hosting fellowship to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, or any happy occasion with your church family. The circles are doing great taking turns hosting, but how about some of the other groups taking a turn? If you are not able to host, donations of baked goods are always appreciated. If you have any questions or need help talk to Margaret or Rasma. Thank you!



The new chart for Altar flowers is up in the Fellowship Hall. Please take a moment to sign up for the coming year!

January 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 	2	3 Men's Bible Study 7 am Pantry 1-2:30	4 Pantry 1-2:30 Clothes Closet 1-3pm Family Ministry Winter Break Boredom Buster 3-7pm	5	6 Miriam Circle 6:30pm
7 Worship w/Holy Communion 8:30 and 11am Sunday School 9:45 am Bible Studies 9:45 am Infant/Toddler small group 10 am VASA 2-6 pm	8 Pantry 1-2:30	9 Pantry 1-2:30 Miriam Circle 6:30 pm	10 Pantry 1-2:30 Children's Choir 6 pm Confirmation 6pm Wednesday Evening Prayer 7pm	11 Pantry 1-2:30 Clothes Closet 1-3pm Senior Choir 7 pm	12	13
14 Worship w/Holy Communion 8:30 and 11am Sunday School 9:45 am Bible Studies 9:45 am Parents small group 10:00 Sons of Norway 3-7 pm	15 Pantry 1-2:30 Council 7 pm	16 Pantry 1-2:30 Bingo at MWC -meet at Trinity 2:30pm Lydia Circle 7:30 pm	17 Men's Bible Study 7 am Pantry 1-2:30 Confirmation 6pm Wednesday Evening Prayer 7pm	18 Martha Circle 9:30 am Pantry 1-2:30 Clothes Closet 1-3pm RBC Ministries 1:30 Senior Choir 7 pm	19 30's/40's 6-9pm Youth Winter Trip	20 Youth Winter Trip
21 Worship w/Holy Communion 8:30 and 11am Sunday School 9:45 am Bible Studies 9:45 am Infant/Toddler sm group 10 am	22 Pantry 1-2:30	23 Pantry 1-2:30 Theology on Tap 7-8:30pm	24 Rebecca Circle 9 am Pantry 1-2:30 Children's Choir 6 pm Confirmation 6pm Wednesday Evening Prayer 7pm	25 Quilters 9 am Pantry 1-2:30 Clothes Closet 1-3pm Senior Choir 7 pm	26  6-10pm	27
28 Open Doors 5 pm	29 Pantry 1-2:30	30 Pantry 1-2:30	31 Pantry 1-2:30 Confirmation 6pm Wednesday Evening Prayer 7pm	PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES FOR THE FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER BY JANUARY 15.		
28 Worship w/Holy Communion 8:30 and 11am Sunday School 9:45 am Bible Studies 9:45 am Parents small group 10am Vegan Kalamazoo 1-3pm						

*From our
Pastor*



“Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” Mt. 4:19
Trinity once again has 2 Seminary students.

Epiphany begins with the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles represented by the Magi who followed the star. The season after January 6th continues with the Baptism of Christ and then the call of the disciples. The call of all disciples is to follow Christ, and to bring light into the darkness of sin and brokenness. Each of us has a call from Christ, but some are called to the particular vocation of Word and Sacrament, the office of ministry. For the third time since I have been a Pastor here at Trinity, we shall have 2 seminary students simultaneously preparing for ordained ministry.

Please join me in praying for Alex Aivars and Ed Ruble as they discern their calling to follow Christ. Alex is in his 3rd year on internship in Rochester Minnesota, with one more year remaining at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. Ed begins his studies at Luther Seminary in St. Paul Minnesota through both combined distance and on site learning. Pray that the Holy Spirit might grace them with the necessary gifts. Pray that Christ lead them and strengthen them and help them to serve joyfully without reproach.

We as a parish here at Trinity have been abundantly blessed by God, and we have been able to share that with seminary students throughout the years. The Trinity Foundation has gifted thousands of dollars to help members who have gone into the ministry. Having 2 students at the same time can be challenging to offer full financial support. I would also ask you to prayerfully consider an additional gift of support to Alex and Ed to help them graduate as debt free as possible.

“When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then Jesus said to the disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest’”. Mt. 9:36-38

May the love of Christ constantly sustain and support Alex and Ed throughout the coming years as they begin this unique and wonderful journey! Peace be with you all, Pr. Ken



No Wednesday Services on January 3

The Wednesday Evening worship service will be taking a break for the Christmas holiday so there will be no services on Wednesdays Jan 3. Service will resume on January 10 with Evening Prayer at 7pm.

Trinity on Amazon Smile!

If you shop on Amazon, you can now designate a portion of your purchase cost to go to Trinity! There's no cost to you, but through a program from amazon called "amazon smile", they will send a percentage of every purchase toward Trinity or any other non-profit that you designate. To begin just go to smile.amazon.com, log in with your account then choose "Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church" ... or just use this link smile.amazon.com/ch/38-1678580! To get this benefit just go to the smile.amazon.com page each time you plan to order through Amazon. Thanks!

The celebration of Christmas at Trinity is enhanced in many ways by many people.

We are most grateful to our pastors, to Bill Musselman and our choir, to Helen Howes and her faithful team of decorators, to Ashley Wineland and the helpers of our children's program and to the many more who help behind the scenes.

