



TRINITY

Lutheran Church

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News & Notes

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| Dec. 4 | • Youth Progressive Dinner at 5pm |
| Dec. 5 | • Sunday Services at 8:30 & 10:30am |
| Dec. 6 | • Kalamazoo Singers Holiday Concert at 6pm |
| Dec. 8 | • Holden Village Evening Prayer at 7pm |
| Dec. 10 | • Angel Tree donations due |
| Dec. 12 | • Sunday Services at 8:30 & 10:30am
<i>- Poinsettia Orders due</i> |
| Dec. 15 | • Holden Village Evening Prayer at 7pm |
| Dec. 16 | • Theology on Tap at Shakespeare's Pub from 7-8:30pm |
| Dec. 19 | • Sunday Services at 8:30 & 10:30am
Children's Christmas Pageant online and viewing party at 4pm |
| Dec. 22 | • Holden Village Evening Prayer at 7pm |
| Dec. 24 | • Christmas Eve Worship Services at 5, 7 and 10:30pm |
| Dec. 26 | • One Sunday Service at 10am |
| Dec. 28 | • Youth Group Alumni Reunion at Bilbos from 7-8:30pm |

Weekly Emails

Please take a moment to subscribe to our weekly emails! This is the most effective way to stay up-to-date on the events around the church and receive direct links to our online services. Visit our website at www.tlckzoo.com and scroll to the bottom of the homepage to subscribe or call the church office!



FAMILY MINISTRY

Pageant Pajama Party



Sunday, December 19th 4pm
Fellowship Hall

You're invited to a Pageant Pajama Party! Put on your favorite Christmas, winter, or warm & fuzzy pajamas and come on down to Trinity. We'll watch our virtual Christmas Pageant together and have a light supper. If you don't have pajamas to wear in public, then don something festive (ugly Christmas sweaters are encouraged!).

Don't forget your masks!

Please RSVP to Heidi Albertson (hmfuerst@aol.com)

or on the TLC Family Ministry Facebook page) by Dec. 18th. Thanks!

Our Family Makes Blankets Together:

Homemade Blankets for Project Linus

Sunday, January 16th 11:30am-1pm
Fellowship Hall

After the late service, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for some lunch (provided). Afterwards, we'll get to work making blankets for children in need. Families will work together on making fleece blankets—the kind that you tie knots around the edges. Since this is an indoor activity and not all of our friends are fully vaccinated yet, it is expected that everyone wears a mask. If your family is not comfortable attending this event or is not able to attend, but you would still like to participate, please let me know and I will make a "to go" box for you with instructions and materials so you can make a blanket at home.



If you're in need of quick and easy gift ideas for the season, consider visiting the Fair Trade Table for chocolates, coffee and tea or SCRIP Table in the Fellowship Hall. They have a huge number of gift cards available from various retailers with denominations from \$5-\$100. This makes a wonderful teacher gift, stocking stuffer, hostess gift, or serves well as a last-minute "I can't come up with anything!" gift.

Profits help support our Service Ministry projects: A win-win!

I want to thank all who have donated unused greeting cards of all types. The bottom drawer in the utility drawers just outside Fellowship Hall is where to place them. The residents at Crosstown Senior Apartments are grateful to have them, especially the Christmas cards and calendars! Bless you for taking the extra effort to see that these do not go to waste.

-Linda Ward

Opportunities to Help our Community

Do you have 1-2 hours a week to dedicate to local youth in need of support? Judge Bell and I are looking for adults who can commit to checking in with youth at Family Court on Gull Rd. once a week and help them with their homework for an hour after school beginning in January. (You could opt for one or two students.) It would be a one year commitment. For additional information please reach out to Jennifer Gougeon-Catarino (gougeonjs@gmail.com)

Tillers International has succeeded in making arrangements of our fellow member, Dave Kramer, to join a work group in Mozambique. Trinity will be helping support this project, and anyone interested in making a donation to further help fund the project can make checks out to Trinity with

"Tillers-Dave Kramer" in the memo line.

Here are the details from Dave:

"A coworker at Tillers, Jeffery Hillman, will be traveling with me. He is our measuring and evaluation coordinator and will be setting up a process with the local staff to evaluate the overall impact of the project. The local Tillers staff in Mozambique have selected two groups of 30 farmers who either have oxen or can hire someone with oxen, to get training in conservation agriculture. Conservation agriculture involves using minimum tillage (a ripping plow rather than a moldboard plow) to reduce soil erosion. We have already introduced ripping plows. We would like to focus on mechanical planters and weeders on this trip. Mechanical ox drawn planters allow faster and earlier planting after the first rains. The rainy seasons in Mozambique are becoming shorter and shorter with global warming. Planting quickly and early is important. Ox drawn weeders reduce the burden of hand weeding. Most minimum tillage farming is done with the use of herbicides, but Tillers is trying to steer clear of introducing herbicides for several reasons. Herbicides are expensive for small farmers, and on small farms we have often seen herbicides being applied manually without proper safety equipment. So the need for a good ox drawn weeding tool is important.

I will be working for three weeks with some metalworking craftsmen on training for how to construct planters and weeders. The project will continue after I leave, with the local staff continuing to make planters and weeders and introducing them to the groups of selected farmers. An Amish community and some other donors to Tillers are paying the cost to keep the training going for one year after we leave.

We are hoping to work on several planters and weeders while I am there. Honestly, I do not know exactly what the current cost for materials for a planter or weeder will be. Sometimes we have to modify the plans because certain sizes or types of materials are not available. I am guessing the cost for one planter will be around \$175, and the cost for a weeder around \$100. If there are any additional funds at Trinity to help with some project materials that would be great."

Trinity Lutheran Church Caring Ministry

If you are interested in participating in our Sunday Services by being a reader please contact the church office or Julie Peterson.

If you would like to be a greeter or usher, all are welcome, so please let the church office know!

The TLC Caring Ministry ministers to church members who are challenged to attend church services and activities. The Caring Ministry cares for persons who need an extra hand for the short or long term.

After many years of thoughtful guidance and direction from Marie & Gary Belleville, Julie and Keith Peterson will be leading the future of this important Ministry. We would love for you to join this Ministry. Call Julie or Keith at 353-1935 to ask questions about the Caring Ministry or to add your name to the list!

We plan to have a potluck in January to kick off the Ministry in 2022 and to establish our partnerships. More on that in December, but for now, please let us know if you would like to join us in caring for other church members!

From our newly hired Organist and Director of Music, Nathan Mattson:

Dear Christian Friends,

Thank you for the confidence you have placed in me by appointing me as Organist and Music Director at Trinity Church. I am honored. You have an outstanding music program at Trinity due in large part to the hard work and dedication of Bill Musselman. Bill is a fine Christian, a wonderful person, and an exceptional musician. Following Bill will be a formidable task. With God's help I will do my best.

After twenty-five years as Minister of Music at Immanuel Lutheran Church on West Main Street in Kalamazoo Township, I feel that I am coming home to Trinity. I met and married my wife Deb at Trinity, served on the church council at Trinity, and just last month we said goodbye to Deb's mom, Shirley Dragoo, at Trinity. I look forward to being with old friends again and to meeting new ones.

The music of the church is not merely an "add-on." It is vital to the church's worship and an integral part of church life. I ask that we join hands and sing the praises of him who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light!

In Christ,

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES

Our final tally of shoeboxes was 77 so we met our goal and

WAY BEYOND stretch goal! Here is the breakdown of what we sent.

Age	Boys	Girls
2-4	12	9
5-9	12	16
10-14	<u>14</u>	<u>14</u>
	38	39

Once again, I thank the generous people at Trinity! A Thrivent grant also allowed us to fill 20 boxes this year with the aid of the congregation who paid for postage and handling. How happy you will make 77 children! Remember to pray for the children receiving the boxes that they will also choose to receive Jesus Christ into their hearts and homes.

Please also pray for the many people who will be packing and transporting the boxes to various places around the world. A number of the boxes were sent with a "Follow your box" label so I hope to hear soon where our boxes went. God bless you, every one!

-Linda Ward

Trinity on Amazon Smile!

If you're doing any holiday shopping on Amazon, you can 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" (and be sure to pick the one in Kalamazoo MI). To get this benefit just go to the smile.amazon.com page each time you plan to order through Amazon.

Trinity Clothes Closet

The Clothes Closet continues to be a major success and has helped many people throughout the pandemic. The Closet is open every Tuesday from 10-2. The Clothes Closet is also working with area organizations to provide clothing to our refugee community. They continue to accept all donations of gently used clothing. Donations may be brought to church Monday-Thursday from 9-noon.

Highlights from the Church Council Meeting on November 14, 2021



Council Notes

Treasurer: The remaining funds from the forgiven PPP loan have been moved to Restricted Funds and will be allocated for future needs.

Financial Secretary: A revised 2022 budget was approved to be brought to the congregation.

Pastor Ken: Future funding for the Family Ministry was discussed. Nate Mattson has accepted the position of Director of Music beginning January 1st. In order to re-open the nursery attendants are needed.

Pastor Jake: Emma McCleary has begun her new position as Director of Youth Ministry

President: Recent events: The newly renovated space was dedicated Sunday, November 7th. Rodney Freudenberg and Judy Sherrod were recognized for their tireless efforts in making this extensive upgrade a reality. (We sincerely thank all who contributed/volunteered for this huge project!) A recognition of Trinity's sainted members was held in the courtyard on All Saints' Sunday; it included a bagpipe anthem by Pastor Jake.

Christian Education: Preparations are underway for a virtual children's Christmas program.

Congregational Life: The next Meeting of the Women will be on December 2nd.

Facilities: Funds are included in the budget for repairing brickwork on the north side of the building. There is broken concrete on a front step that needs repair.

Service Ministry: There continue to be many clothes donated and lots of customers, including three refugee families. The annual Coat Giveaway is just ahead.

Stewardship and Finance: The 2022 proposed budget will be mailed to the congregation before the Annual Budget Meeting on December 5th at 11:45 am. **All members are asked to review it and submit their comments and questions to the office before the meeting in order to facilitate online participation.**

Worship and Music: The Retreat went well.

Communications: A thank you was received from the ELCA for our contribution.

Other: The Trinity Food Pantry will soon be re-opening.

- Donations to support Dave Kramer's travel and supplies for a Tillers International agricultural equipment project in Mozambique are being accepted. Checks should be made out to "Trinity Lutheran Church" and have "Tillers - Dave Kramer" on the memo line.

- Janet Gullickson, President

Sr. High and Recent Grad Sunday School Class!

In December, Pastor Jake will be leading a special three week class for youth in Sr. High and any recent graduates who may still be in the area! The class will meet in the new gathering space from 9:30-10:15am on Dec. 5, 12, and 19, and will focus on the story and message of Christmas and how it relates to our lives today!

Youth Group Alumni Reunion!

If you're home for the holidays and looking to connect with some old friends and grab some free pizza, join us for the Trinity Youth Group Alumni Reunion! If you're a recent-ish graduate from Trinity join us at Bilbo's Pizza on Stadium Dr. on Tuesday December 28 from 7:00-8:30 to catch up and reminisce over some pizza! Please spread the word!

Church Office Hours - As the Winter season begins and Covid precautions continue, please be aware that the church office plans to be open Monday –Thursdays from 9am-3pm, but the necessity for flexibility remains a constant. If you are planning to come down to the church, please be aware the church building is accessible from 9-noon Monday - Thursday.

If you are looking to come outside of those hours or need to speak directly with the church office, please call ahead to make certain someone will be available!



Trinity Lutheran Church's

Advent and Christmas Worship Schedule

Sundays Nov. 28, December 5, 12, 19

Worship at 8:30 and 10:30 (Live-Streamed at 8:30 and available anytime following the service)

Wednesdays December 1, 8, 15, 22

Holden Village Evening Prayer Service at 7pm-
(In-person and Live-Streamed and available anytime following the service)

Sunday, December 19

Christmas Pageant Pajama Party in Fellowship Hall at 4pm.

Christmas Eve December 24

Worship at 5:00, 7:00, and 10:30 (5:00 service will be live streamed and available any time following the service)

Sunday, December 26

One Worship Service at 10:00am – Carols and Hymns service
(Live-Streamed and available anytime following the service)

The staff at Trinity would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas as we enter into this season of Advent! Just as the longest night of the year approaches and we light our four Advent candles, indeed, Christ's light shines in the darkness. May you be touched this season by the sweetness of the Babe of Bethlehem, the profound love of God the Father and the miracle-working power of the Holy Spirit.



No Wednesday Services on Dec. 29 and January 5 The Wednesday Evening worship service will be taking a break for the Christmas holiday so there will be no services on Wednesdays December 29 and January 5.



Poinsettia Orders - Each Christmas season we place poinsettias in the church as part of our decorations. If you would like to order poinsettias, please look for the form link in our weekly emails, call the church office, or fill out the green form located next to our bulletins on Sundays. The deadline for ordering is December 12th.

Annual Budget Meeting – Sunday, December 12

There will be a congregational meeting on December 12th immediately after the 10:30am service where we will vote on the Annual Budget for 2022. All members are encouraged to be a part of the meeting to voice their vote. For those who would prefer to not attend in person for any reason, there will be a live-streamed option. Watch for more information, instructions and a link to attend this live-stream event in our weekly emails. Please make every effort to be at this meeting!

Theology on Tap - God with Us

This is the season of caring and sharing when we gather in the church and with family and friends all in anticipation of Christmas. But to paraphrase Charlie Brown "What is Christmas all about?". What does it mean that God took on flesh and lived with us, that he is Emmanuel, God with us?

Join us at Shakespeare's Pub from 7-8:30 on Thursday December 16th as we share a festive drink and discuss the history and meaning of the incarnation!

