



Trinity Lutheran Church

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Kalamazoo MI 49007

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Inside this Issue

Page 2

Calendar

Page 3

Christian Ed

Page 4

Family Ministry

Page 5

Choir Letter

Page 6

Volunteer Opportunities

Page 7

Service Ministry

Page 8 & 9

Worship & Faith Formation

Page 9 & 10

Fellowship & Events

Page 12

Pastor's Letter

Trinity Staff

Pastor	Rev. Ken Johnson
Outreach Pastor	Rev. Jake Lehman
Organist/Director of Music	Nathan Mattson
Director of Family Ministry	Heidi Albertson
Office Administrator	Katie Grubaugh
Custodian	Margaret Stevenson
Bookkeeper	Trudi Giffin

Church Council

President	Jim Magerlein
Secretary	Keith Peterson
Treasurer	Mike Mueller
Financial Secretary	Jerry Molitor
Christian Education	Lisa Ruble & Ashley Wineland
Congregational Life	Connie Ruch & Katie Grubaugh
Facilities	Dave Runstrom
Service Ministry	Rasma McMullen & Sandy Wallace
Stewardship & Finance	Dave Grubaugh & Gary Kent-Bracken
Worship & Music	Jennifer Gatz

Important Announcement

On Sunday September 11, Trinity will change to two Sunday Services at 8:30am and 11am.

Senior Choir will start on September 11 at 9:30am in the choir loft.

Children's Sunday School, Confirmation, Senior High Sunday School and Adult Sunday School will start on September 11 at 9:45am.

September 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Meeting of the Men 5-6:60pm	2	3
4 Worship w/Holy Communion 10am <i>Fair Trade Coffee and Tea</i>	5	6 Clothes Closet 10-2pm Pantry 11-1pm	7 Men's Bible Study 7am	8	9	10
11 Worship w/Holy Communion 8:30 & 11am <i>Fair Trade coffee and tea</i> Choir 9:30 in loft All Sunday Schools 9:45 Confirmation 9:45 VASA 2-5 Open Doors 3-5	12	13 Clothes Closet 10-2pm Pantry 11-1pm	14 Ladies Lunch 11:30am	15 Scripture and Sandwiches 12-12:30 Meeting of the Women 4:30-6	16	17
18 Worship w/Holy Communion 8:30 & 11am <i>Fair Trade Coffee and Tea</i> Stewardship Sunday Choir 9:30 in loft All Sunday Schools 9:45 Confirmation 9:45 Youth Planning Meeting 12:30	19	20 Clothes Closet 10-2pm Pantry 11-1pm	21 Men's Bible Study 7 am	22 Quilters 9am P.E.O. 11:30 Scripture and Sandwiches 12-12:30	23	24
25 Worship w/Holy Communion 8:30 & 11am Stewardship Sunday All Sunday Schools 9:45 Confirmation 9:45 Oktoberfest 12-2pm	26	27 Clothes Closet 10-2pm Pantry 11-1pm	28 Wed Evening Service 5:30pm	29 Quilters 9am Scripture and Sandwiches 12-12:30	30	

From Christian Education Team

Welcome to a new Sunday School year! We are so excited to welcome you and your children to a fun, grace-filled year of growing in faith. Join us as we begin the fall season with

Rally Sunday Ice Cream Social **Sunday, September 11 9:45am in Fellowship Hall** **All ages – grownups too!**

We will have games, music and activities to introduce everyone to the new education year. During the last part of the hour, children will go with their teachers to visit the classrooms.

Classes meet every Sunday 9:45-10:45 in the following locations:

Pre-K and Kindergarten students meet in the Nursery with Emily Wright
Grades 1 – 5 meet in the second-floor classroom with Ashley Wineland
Grades 6 and up meet in the third-floor Youth Room

We are using a sign-in/out clipboard system for the safety of our children. The church building is a wonderful place to gather for worship and education, but it is also challenging as we have activities happening on many levels. To ensure children are safe when arriving and leaving, caregivers must sign each child in and out of the classroom each week.

Parent involvement as a classroom 'shepherd' is welcomed!

If you are not helping in a Sunday school classroom, we encourage you to find a place where your faith can be fed too. There are opportunities for all adults & parents during the education hour each week. Adult Bible Study is offered in the Lounge, Choir will practice in the choir loft and we are excited to restart the Parent Small Group and Baby/Toddler Groups that were so popular before Covid.

Attending Sunday morning worship will help your child grow in faith. We worship each week at 8:30 and 11:00 am. Plan to join us before or after the Sunday school hour for worship.

We look forward to this year of Sunday School with your family!

- The Christian Education Team

IMPORTANT DATES

9/11	Rally Day & Ice Cream Social
10/30	Reformation Day Celebration
11/27	No Sunday School – Thanksgiving
12/18	Tentative Christmas Pageant
12/25	No Sunday School – Christmas

Sunday School Classes at 9:45am:

Pre-K and K
Nursery

Grades 1-5
Second Floor
Classroom

Grades 6-8
Confirmation

Grades 9-12
Youth Room

Adult S.S.
Lounge

**Parent &
Infant/Toddler**
will begin
October in the
F.M. Room



FAMILY MINISTRY

Happy Fall!! It won't be long before the weather will start changing and we'll start adding on more layers of clothes. And soon we'll starting our Family Ministry activities and events for this school year!

Since September is often so busy with readjusting to school-life, we are going to begin our Family Ministry activities in October. However, please watch for the wonderful Sunday school offerings and Trinity's Oktoberfest coming to you in September!

Beginning on Sunday mornings in October, we will offer two opportunities for parents and infant & toddlers. During the Sunday school hour (from 9:45am-10:45am), our Parent Small Group will meet the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month and our Infant/Toddlers (and parents) will meet the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. Both classes will meet in the Family Ministry room, which is now located on the 3rd floor.

A fun Family Ministry outing is in the works for October. A mailing about Family Ministry events, plus a questionnaire will be sent out at the beginning of September, so please watch your mailbox. Can't wait for another fantastic and fun year of Christian fellowship and friendship! ☺ ☺



Upcoming Events

October 2

Parent Small Group

October 9

Infant/Toddler Group

October 16

Parent Small Group

October 23

Infant/Toddler Group



Thank You!!

A HUGE thank you to all of the volunteers who helped with Vacation Bible School this summer! The Jerusalem Marketplace theme was hugely popular, and the kids enjoyed all the different booths that were available. VBS this year included dinner in fellowship hall, songs, Synagogue school and games, and then the outdoor market. Volunteers, we could not have put on such a creative VBS without you. THANK YOU!

From our Director of Music

Dear Christian Friends,

The Second Book of Chronicles (20: 1-30) contains the story of the Jehoshaphat, the righteous King of Judah, and how he countered an attacking army with his own army led by a Choir, singing, "Praise the Lord; for his mercy endures forever." The choir led the army! Verse 22 tells us that the army of Moab, Ammon, and Mount Seir was routed by Judah's army led by the choir.

This is one of many scriptural accounts of God accomplishing extraordinary things through ordinary people. I strongly believe that Trinity's choir is one of God's tools, ordinary people doing the extraordinary, proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ in song. I often say that our choir is comprised, not of professional musicians, but of "butchers and bakers and candlestick-makers." We can't know the degree to which the Holy Spirit uses our choir to grow the Gospel in the hearts of his people sitting in the pews at Trinity Church. I believe that, through the Power of the Holy Spirit, we are doing the extraordinary!

We are starting something new this year. Thursday evening choir rehearsals will be eliminated. Beginning on Sunday, September 11, we will hold the weekly choir rehearsal on Sunday mornings at 9:30, immediately after the early service, in the organ loft - NOT in the choir room. We will then sing at the 11:00 a.m. service. We can use YOU! GOD can use you! Please prayerfully consider joining us on September 11 at 9:30 a.m. and becoming one of the ordinary people doing the extraordinary through the Power of the Holy Spirit.

In Christian love,

Nate
nathan_mattson@hotmail.com
cell: 269.447.0258

**Starting
September 11,
Choir at 9:30am
every Sunday in
the choir loft!**

Report of Council President - August 2022

Update on custodial position

- In the very short run, Julie Peterson is coordinating a group of volunteers to clean critical areas of the building
- A team met to look at longer term solutions
 - A candidate has been interviewed on August 18 for a temporary cleaning position; this person will be hired as a temporary position until the end of the year.
 - A long term solution is still being looked at
 - Margaret's role will likely be transitioned to a hospitality type position

Volunteer Opportunities

Ushers and Greeters Needed!

Are you able to share a welcoming smile and say good morning? Are you interested in helping people feel welcome at Trinity? If so, you're invited to join our Hospitality team as an Usher or a Greeter! Let Pr. Jake know if you are interested in helping! (prjake@tlckzoo.com)

Altar Guild Service Opportunity

Altar Guild is seeking a few new volunteers. This service involves preparing and caring for the communion elements used in worship. Guild members serve for either first or second service, depending on her/his availability and it takes only a few minutes each week. Training is provided! Are you seeking a way to help Trinity provide a beautiful worship service? Think of joining Altar Guild! Contact Ginny Giese or Teri Koretsky for more information.

Quilters

The fourth (and fifth) Thursday of the month at 9:00 am a lively group meets in the Fellowship Hall to assemble quilts for Lutheran World Relief. They cut, design, knot tie and sew the quilts as well as have a lot of fun while doing it! The Quilters usually take a break for the holidays and will resume in January. If you are interested in joining this group, or would prefer to sew at home, or would like to make a donation of flat cotton sheets or sewing materials, please contact Teri Koretsky or Ginny Giese.

Fellowship Time Help!

We are looking for a few volunteers who would be willing to help coordinate and clean up for Fellowship Time after each service on Sunday. If you would be willing to help in this way, please let Katie Grubaugh or Connie Ruch know.

We are also asking individuals, families, and groups to host fellowship time for the coming months. Remember, it need not be fancy; store-bought cookies, snacks and other treats are great! Sign up on the chart posted in the Fellowship Hall!

Blood Drive

Trinity is hosting another blood drive on **August 31 and again on Wednesday October 26** from 11:00-4:45 and YOU are invited to come and give! For an appointment visit RedCrossBlood.org (sponsor code: TLC) or call 1-800-RED-CROSS to sign up for a slot and help save a life!

Please keep these people in your prayers:

Pr. Dale Krueger and Ruth Krueger, Beth Latshaw, Marie Belleville, Mike Sprester, Andy Mellum, Don Irving, Margaret Stevenson, Pat Broad, Clara Mellum, Pat Gulley, Dakota Ramirez, Helen Howes and Sylvia Reekers.

Trinity Clothes Closet

The Clothes Closet is open every Tuesday from 10-2 and has been serving our neighbors in need successfully throughout the pandemic. They continue to accept all donations of gently used clothing and are looking especially for winter gear—coats, boot, hats, gloves etc. for a Winter Gear Giveaway in November.

Food Pantry Update

Following the Covid closing and then the construction project, we have been in the process of determining the best timing and organization for Trinity's food pantry.

There have been many changes at Loaves and Fishes as well as at Trinity. They are offering home delivery of food as well as order pick up. Only a couple sites offer the grocery option that we have used in the past. Following L&F guidelines, we assemble orders and meet clients at our new entrance for loading food into cars.

These changes, as well as our closing, have resulted in a very slow start to our reopening. The L&F staff has assured us that we are still needed to distribute food so that all needs are met.

We are now open on Tuesdays from 11-1 to coincide with the hours of the Clothes Closet. Some clients are sent from Loaves and Fishes and some come to us while they are here for clothing.

As of mid-August, our numbers are slowly increasing. If this trend continues, we hope that we can call on the volunteers who have offered to help.

The Pantry Team
Jim, Greta, Bill and Trudi

From the Scrip Table

Sales have diminished but continue to bring in funds for our Service Team activities. Please keep our gift cards in mind for eating out, home improvement, gas and the many occasions where you need a gift. If you have a Kohl's charge card, you can earn 4% for Trinity by paying your bill with Kohl's from the SCRIP table. When your bill comes, just stop at the SCRIP table to buy what you wish to pay (or more!) and a chore becomes a win-win. (Kohl's cards come in \$25's and \$100.) Downside: you do have to go into the store, but you can pay at any register.

We need your help. If you know of someone who still has Outback restaurants where they live, we have 2 x \$25 gift cards that can no longer be used here. A hostess gift for someone there? An anniversary or birthday present?

Please stop by and check out our retailer list. You can also order from Janet G. by calling 269-372-0081. Another option is to have a personal RaiseRight account so you can order e-cards online and receive them immediately. (There is a \$.15 fee if you use your bank account.) Trinity still receives the retailer rebate.

Thanks for helping up help others!

Children's sermons are back!

That's right! After over 2 long years, we're finally bringing back Children's sermons! Beginning September 11th we'll be inviting the kids forward for a special message during worship again! Parents, please let your kids know so they're ready to participate!

Men's Bible Study

After taking a break for the summer, Men's Bible Study is Back! Starting September 7th, we meet 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 and discussion!

Wednesday Evening Prayer

After going virtual for over 2 years our Wednesday Evening Prayer service will return **LIVE and IN PERSON** each week beginning on Wednesday September 14th at 5:30pm! These short services are a great way to take a pause in the rhythm of your week for some quiet, prayer, and reflection. Each service features quiet music a brief meditation and Holy Communion. Services will also be live-streamed for those unable to attend.

Adult Sunday School

Adult Sunday School will start up once again on September 11. Join the group in the Lounge at 9:45 each Sunday for a time to grow your faith and fellowship with one another.

Scripture and Sandwiches Returns!

Starting September 15th, join Pr. Jake each Thursday from 12-12:30 for a short bible study and conversation about scripture over lunch! We'll meet via Zoom for a look at the history, purpose, and story of the bible so we can better understand God's activity in the world and our lives. Follow the link in our weekly emails or use the meeting ID and passcode below to join in from wherever you are! Meeting ID: 821 5743 3849 Passcode: Lunchtime

Service Ministries

Trinity's Backpack Project

In plenty of time for delivery before the start of school, 105 filled backpacks were delivered to Samaritas for the foster kids in their care. The caseworkers always share with us how excited and thankful the children are when receiving something all their own and all new.

This is really an ongoing project: we collect all year to take advantage of the sales on school supplies and clearance prices. Thanks to the generosity of Trinity families and friends, we already have a great head start for 2023! If you still wish to donate items or money, many back-to-school sales continue. Or, if you find a bargain any time during the year, we will gladly accept it and store it for next summer's backpack project.

Once again this year we wish to thank Thrivent Financial for giving us an Action Team grant of \$250. We spent every penny!
- TLC Service Ministry Team



D&D Gamers Group

Calling all Druids, Bards, Rangers, Warlocks, Barbarians, and Wizards! Trinity is forming a RPG Gamers Club and is looking for a Dungeon Master or two and all classifications of players! All ages are welcome, some experience is helpful but entirely necessary. If you or someone you know is interested in being part of our group, please contact Katie in the church office. (office@tlckzoo.com) The next campaign awaits!

Pet Blessing

Our annual Pet Blessing will be on October 2nd immediately following the 8:30am Service in the Courtyard. Plan to bring your furry, feathery or scaly friends!

Leaf Raking By Trinity Youth!

Once again our Youth will be working to serve our congregation by helping to clear leaves! We'll be raking in Mid-November after most of the leaves have come down but would love to get our schedule filled out as soon as we can. This is a service event for our members who are physically unable to do this alone or who find themselves needing an extra hand this fall, so there's no need to pay anything. *Please contact the church office if you would like the youth to help you out in this way!*

Worship and Faith Formation

New Member Orientation

There will be a New Member Orientation for anyone interested in joining Trinity on Sunday, October 16 at 9:45am. New Members will be received into the congregation on Sunday, October 23. Please let one of the pastors know if you are interested in joining or if you have any questions!

Confirmation Classes

We're trying something new this year and moving confirmation class to Sunday Morning! Confirmation Classes will begin on SUNDAY September 11th and will meet from 9:45-10:45 during the Sunday School hour each week. This is your chance to learn about our history, explore your faith, and ask all those questions that you're too embarrassed to ask anywhere else! If you're an incoming 6th-8th grader, you are invited to join us! If possible, contact the church office to let us know you're coming.

Matrix Campus Ministry

Matrix is OUR campus ministry and is a collaboration between area ELCA Lutheran churches who are working together to provide mentoring, fellowship, *paid internships* and other opportunities for church involvement and leadership to local college students! If you know a student (*or if you are a student*) contact Pr. Jake to see how you can get involved.

Fellowship and Events

Men's Retreat Is This Month! REGISTER TODAY!

The men of Trinity are invited to head north once again this fall for the Men's Retreat at Camp Arcadia on the beautiful shores of Lake Michigan! The retreat runs from Sept 30 - Oct. 2 with options for coming up early to take advantage of fall in northern Michigan! This is always a great opportunity to get away to relax and connect with creation and one another! Cost of Registration is \$216 with options to pay a little more if you'd like a private bath (\$29) or an extra night (\$50). To register, or for more information, go to <https://camp-arcadia.com/rkd-mens-retreat/>. Be sure to register for the "Arcadia Men's Retreat with Joel Oesch". If you have any questions, contact Pr. Jake or the Camp Arcadia office staff.

Youth Ministry Planning Meeting!

If you're heading into grades 6-12, you and your family are invited to join us for our annual youth ministry planning meeting and meal! We'll meet on Sunday September 18th from 12:30-2pm in the church fellowship hall to enjoy lunch together and talk about what we hope to do this year as a group! We hope you can join us for this important kick-off to our year together!

Trinity is once again hosting our traditional Oktoberfest!

On Sunday, September 25 at 12noon, everyone is invited to join us outside for authentic German food, traditional games, a homebrew competition and live music!

Anyone interested in submitting a beer for the Brewing Competition is welcome, please contact Harry Jachym (hjachym@gmail.com) if interested or have questions.

And if you have a pop up tent, or are able to help with food prep, set-up or clean up, please let Katie in the church office know! We're calling on all youth to help with set up and clean up if you're able. Set up will take place on Sunday September 25 during the Sunday School hour. Many hands make light work, so please come out if you're able to help make this a great event for the Trinity family!

Meeting of the Men

Join us in the Bell's Beer Garden on September 1 from 5:00-6:30 for the Meeting of the Men! Meeting of the Men is a no-agenda, come when you can, stay as long as you like kind of gathering. Just a chance to gather with guys for good conversation over a pint or two!

Meeting of the Women

Meeting of the Women takes place every other month on the third Thursday at Walnut and Park Cafe. The next one will be on September 15th from 4:30-6pm. If you've not been before, this is an informal, come when you can and stay for as long as you like gathering of women. All are welcome and encouraged to invite a friend or two!

Ladies Luncheon

Please join us for lunch on Wednesday, Sept 14, 11:30 a.m. at Fieldstone Grille on Centre St. in Portage. Sign up in the Fellowship Hall or contact Cathy Mejia (call/text) 630-235-3599 by Sept. 11.

TIME AND TALENT SHEET

NAME _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

- ____ Sunday School Teacher or substitute
- ____ Bible Study
- ____ Women of the ELCA
- ____ Substitute or assist in the nursery
- ____ Serve on committee

FAMILY MINISTRY

- ____ Helper

STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE

- ____ Member mailings
- ____ Temple talks
- ____ Serve on committee

YOUTH

- ____ Helper
- ____ Fund raising coordinator
- ____ Serve on committee

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

- ____ Sunday Coffee hour
- ____ Help with Meals/Fellowship events
- ____ Plan and organize events
- ____ Help with Funeral lunches
- ____ Serve on committee

OFFICE

- ____ Assistance
- ____ Video assistance

PROPERTY

- ____ Project Coordinator
- ____ Carpentry
- ____ Painting
- ____ Special cleaning projects
- ____ Yard work
- ____ Serve on committee

SERVICE MINISTRY

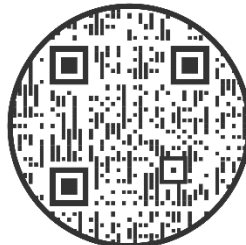
- ____ SWELL (Sharing With Everyone Lutheran Love)
- ____ Loaves & Fishes food pantry
- ____ Quilting
- ____ Christ Clothes Closet
- ____ Serve on committee

WORSHIP & MUSIC

- ____ Acolyte/Worship Assistant
- ____ Altar Guild
- ____ Choir
- ____ Help with Christmas/seasonal decorations in the sanctuary
- ____ Greeter and Usher/Hospitality Team
- ____ Instrumentalist
- ____ Read Scripture
- ____ Serve on committee

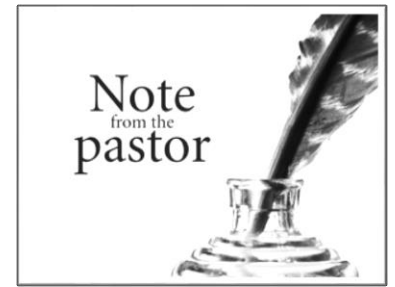
____ I am a Thrivent member

____ I am willing to use Thrivent grants to help fund church projects.



Use the QR code to fill it out digitally!

“Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.” Heb.13:1-2



During the height of uncertainty in the Covid pandemic, we closed down, masked up, and socially distanced. As weeks turned into months and then years, we struggled as a church to find an appropriate safe balance for gathering. We still contend with a variety of capricious shifts and turns. Is a person comfortable with me approaching them before or after church if I am or am not wearing a mask? Should I shake hands, fist bump, or wave? Should one shout or raise a voice and keep social distance?

As the pandemic lingers, a vitally important question lingers often unanswered. How can we continue to proactively show hospitality, and “welcome” the stranger into our midst? Trinity had been known for a very friendly and welcoming atmosphere. Often gregarious outreach to a stranger was the norm.

We are trying to get volunteers to once again be greeters and ushers. To be at the doors and gathering spaces to greet and provide direction to worship or activities. Might you prayerfully consider helping us restart these endeavors?

Critical in our readjustment back to a welcoming space and place, is that everyone make the effort to let mutual love show. Seek out the stranger, do not worry of embarrassment of greeting a long time member! We actually have a reason over the last couple years of forgetting faces and names due to closing and online worship. Consider this an opportunity to reconnect as a gathering of disciples which is focused on Word and Sacrament, outward mission. Let us joyfully show and experience the mutual love of Christ and entertain angels in our midst!

Have a blessed rest of the summer, and may the peace of Christ be with you!
Pr. Ken

On the back side of this page, there is a Time and Talent Sheet that we are asking congregants to take a moment to fill and return to the church office. This helps us be able to plan and prepare for upcoming events, services, and outreach opportunities within our church family and community.