



Trinity Lutheran Church

504 South Westnedge Avenue

Kalamazoo MI 49007

www.tlckzoo.com T: 269-344-6181

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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
Hospitality Host	Margaret Stevenson
Bookkeeper	Trudi Giffin

Church Council

President	Jim Magerlein
Secretary	Keith Peterson
Treasurer	Mike Mueller
Financial Secretary	Jerry Molitor
Christian Education	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

Trinity's Sunday Schedule:

Worship with Holy Communion
at 8:30 and 11am

Choir at 9:30 in choir loft

Children's Sunday School classes 9:45

Confirmation 9:45

Youth Sunday School 9:45

Adult Bible Study 9:45

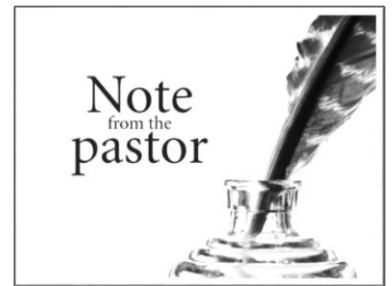
Parent Small Group or Infant/Toddler
Small Group 10am

December 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			30 Advent Service 5:30	1 Scripture and Sandwiches 12-12:30	2	3
4 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 Parent Small Group 10-10:40	5	6 Pantry 11-1pm	7 Men's Bible Study 7am	8 Scripture and Sandwiches 12-12:30 Angel Tree gifts due!	9	10 Open Doors dinner 6pm
11 Worship w/Holy Communion 8:30 & 11am Choir 9:30 in loft All Sunday Schools 9:45 Confirmation 9:45 Infant/Toddler Small group 10 <u>Congregation Budget mtg. 12noon</u> VASA & Sons of Norway St. Lucia program 2-5	12	13 Clothes Closet 10-2pm Pantry 11-1pm	14 Rebecca Circle 10am Ladies Lunch 11:30am Celtic Christmas w/ "Whiskey Before Breakfast" - 5:30	15 P.E.O. 10-3 Scripture and Sandwiches 12-12:30	16	17 Youth Progressive dinner
18 Worship w/Holy Communion 8:30 & 11am <i>Lessons and Carols</i> All Sunday Schools 9:45 Confirmation 9:45 Hot Dog lunch 12noon Kid's Christmas Program 1pm	19	20 Clothes Closet 10-2pm Pantry 11-1pm	21 Men's Bible Study 7am	22 Scripture and Sandwiches 12-12:30	23	24 Christmas Eve Services: 5, 7, and 10pm
25 Worship w/Holy Communion 10am No Sunday School classes	26 Church CLOSED	27 Church CLOSED	28 Church CLOSED No Wednesday Service	29 Church CLOSED	30 Church CLOSED	31 Church CLOSED
1 Worship w/Holy Communion 10am No Sunday School classes			No Wednesday Service			

Please remember that articles for the Newsletters are due by the 16th of each month; articles for the Sunday bulletins are due one week in advance, by end of day Sunday.

"Christmas...the only time I know of, in the long calendar of the year, when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely, and to think of people below them as if they really were fellow-passengers to the grave, and not another race of creatures bound on other journeys. And therefore, uncle, though it has never put a scrap of gold or silver in my pocket, I believe that it has done me good, and will do me good; and I say, God bless it!"



- Charles Dickens - A Christmas Carol

As we move into the season of Advent and anticipation that leads to Christmas, our hearts and minds are filled with images of Christmas' past, present, and future. We remember Christmas past with a joy tinged by the sorrow of memories that cannot be remade; we live in the busyness or peace of Christmas present; and we look with hope or anxious anticipation toward Christmas future, not knowing what tomorrow may bring.

Charles Dickens of course brought these temporal realities to life in his classic work, "A Christmas Carol". After visits from the three spirits, a reformed Ebenezer Scrooge excitedly proclaims, *"I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year. I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future. The Spirits of all Three shall strive within me. I will not shut out the lessons that they teach."* Those lessons are well stated by Scrooge's nephew earlier in the book as he makes the statement quoted above. They are lessons concerning opening our hearts to recognize one another as "fellow passengers to the grave" or as the funeral service prayer states, as "companions in our pilgrimage on earth". The lessons lead us to see others not better or worse than us, but as equals; fellow children of God, imbued with God's love and in need of God's grace.

As we move in to the future from a very recent past that was marked by pandemic quarantines, this Advent and Christmas Season has the potential to be the first "normal" season in a number of years. So during this "Christmas present", as we are free to gather in relative safety once again, I pray that you are able to enjoy the season, spend time with community, worship joyfully, and give and receive the grace of God in each person you encounter.

God Bless!

Pr. Jake

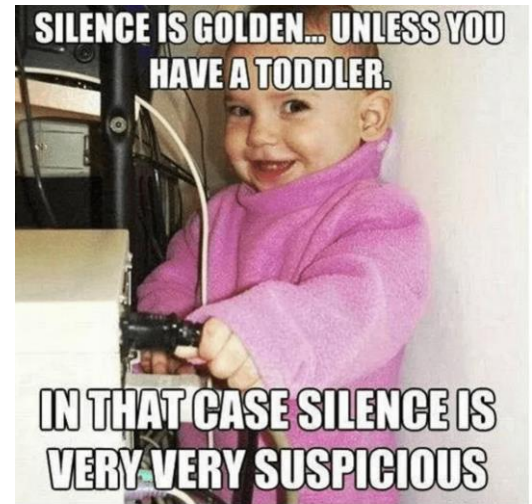
There will be a congregational meeting on December 11th immediately after the 11:00am service where we will vote on the Annual Budget for 2023. All members are encouraged to be a part of the meeting to voice their vote. For those who would prefer to not attend in person for any reason, there will be a live-streamed option. Watch for more information, instructions and a link to attend this live-stream event. Please make every effort to be at this meeting!



Winter Break Boredom Buster

A colorful cartoon illustration of three children singing enthusiastically. The child on the left has blonde hair and wears a pink shirt, with one hand raised. The child in the center has grey hair and wears a green shirt, holding a silver microphone. The child on the right has brown hair and wears a yellow shirt, with one hand on their chest. All three have large, open mouths as if singing. Several musical notes and yellow sound waves float in the air above them.

ME-TIME



To get information about Family Ministry activities, please join our Facebook page—TLC Family Ministry. If you're not on Facebook, you can also get info in the weekly church emails (make sure the office has your correct email), Sunday bulletins, the bulletin board outside the Family Ministry room on the 3rd floor, and Trinity's website. Email Heidi (hmfuerst@aol.com) with any questions.

YOUTH MINISTRY

for all youth in grades 6th-12th

CONFIRMATION & SENIOR HIGH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Calling all 6th-8th graders!! Confirmation class needs your presence every Sunday from 9:45am-10:45am in the new Confirmation classroom on the 3rd floor. Pastor Jake will be there to walk with you on your faith journey and help answer all the questions about God that you're afraid to ask. ☺

As for you 9th-12th graders, you'll meet in the Youth Room with Mr. Grubaugh from 9:45am-10:45am. Come talk about the highs and lows of being a teenager and a Christian in this ever-changing world.

PROGRESSIVE DINNER:

The Youth Group's annual Progressive Dinner is scheduled for Saturday, December 17th. This is a special time of eating, reflection, eating, gift giving, and, did I mention, eating?!?! We will meet at church at 5pm and then you'll pick up from our last stop—wherever that may be!! Please sign up on the Facebook page or on the bulletin board at church if you can join us. We will also need places to go, so if you can host us, we would love it!! Go to the Youth Ministry Facebook page to sign up for places. Thank you!!



To get information about Youth Ministry activities and to sign up for events, please join our Facebook page—TLC Youth Ministry. If you're not on Facebook, you can also get info in the weekly church emails (make sure the office has your correct email), Sunday bulletins, the bulletin board outside the kitchen on the lower level, and Trinity's website. Email Heidi (hmfuerst@aol.com) with any questions.

HOT DOG FUNDRAISER:

Calling all Youth—we need your help for a very special Hot Dog Lunch fundraiser on Sunday, December 18th at noon. This is the date for the Sunday school Christmas program and we are helping by providing lunch for the children, their families, and the congregation. A free-will offering will be collected to benefit Youth Ministry activities. Sign up on the Facebook page or on the bulletin board at church if you can help out. This is a big deal, so the more the merrier!!



**NO SUNDAY SCHOOL:

There will be no Sunday school on Dec. 25th and Jan. 1st.



Volunteer Opportunities

Worship Assistants needed! What is a Worship Assistant? Basically it is an adult acolyte. The main duty is to assist in serving communion. If you are interested, please contact Beth Latshaw (Latshaw.Beth@gmail.com). Thank you!

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 Quilters will take a break for the holidays and will resume in January. 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! 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.

Trinity Needs Volunteers!! If you haven't taken the time to fill out a Time and Talent Sheet, please scan the QR code below! *This helps us be able to plan and prepare for upcoming events, services, and outreach opportunities within our church family and community.*



Altar Flowers! If you've not taken time to sign up for Altar Flowers lately, please check out the chart on the clipboard in the fellowship hall and sign up. This is a great way to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, or other special events, and you have the option of leaving the flowers to go to our shut-ins who always are very appreciative for the bright spot in their week!

Facilities Team We are looking for volunteers to be able to help on our Facilities team. If you have ability or time to help with some maintenance projects around the church, please let the pastors or the church office know. Many hands make light work!

Fellowship Time!

The New Year's chart is posted in the Fellowship Hall, and we need people to help contribute to this weekly opportunity to host a Sunday and share God's love for our community! Please consider signing up: individuals, families, and groups are encouraged to host fellowship time for the coming months. Remember, it need not be fancy; store-bought cookies, snacks and other treats are great!

Please keep these people in your prayers:

Beth Latshaw, Mike Spresser, Don Irving, Clara Mellum, Vicky Phillips, Sylvia Reekers, Mark, Wolfaana Kloth, and Catherine Chase.

Trudi Giffin Retires! Trudi began her career with Trinity in June of 2009, and has filled vital roles in support of the church ever since. That means for 13 years she has been an important part of the ministry here at Trinity. To provide a bit more time with family, and to still continue with her volunteer activities here at church, she has decided to retire from her current role as Bookkeeper. Many, many thanks go out to Trudi for all she has done for Trinity.

Bookkeeper: With Trudi's retirement, we will be replacing the position of Bookkeeper. This position is responsible for recording Trinity's day-to-day financial accounting activity, including payroll. Fulfilling the responsibilities of the position takes an average of six hours per week. The position reports to the Treasurer. If you would be interested in this position or a more complete job description, or if you know someone who might be interested, please contact Mike Mueller (call 269-388-4670 or email treasurer@tlckzoo.com) with any thoughts or questions.

Service Ministries

The Salvation Army Angel Tree will be set up in Fellowship Hall to collect toys from **November 3 – December 8**. The tree has tags with age and sex of a child, with some suggestions for a gift, but you do not have to buy what is listed. We do suggest that for teenagers a gift card to a teenage-friendly store or activity is appropriate. There will be a small box on the SCRIP table for the cards. After selecting a tag from the tree, purchase an appropriate gift, and deliver the UNWRAPPED gift to the box by the tree with the tag attached. The Salvation Army has a "toy store" where parents come and choose an appropriate gift for their child. Any questions, call Rasma McMullen: 349-9429

Express Lane for the Salvation Army Angel Tree

For those who might prefer to give a gift without going shopping, here is an option:

1. Choose a card from the Angel Tree
2. Bring it to the SCRIP gift card table in Fellowship Hall
3. Choose the retailer and amount you wish
4. Put both cards in the Angel Tree gift box on the SCRIP Table

Thanks for supporting this annual event which brings joy to so many!

From the Scrip Table

As the holidays approach, please consider gifting cards from our Scrip Table! 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 us help others!

Fair Trade sales at coffee hour will end in December. As long as there are products left, you may contact me at nmdiment@aol.com or by phone at 269-344-0298 or at church services.

- Nancy Diment

New Greeting & 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. Also, calendars are needed, all sizes. Please leave them in the middle 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!

Service Ministry: Did you know?

In the corner outside of the south double doors to Fellowship Hall there is a plastic 3-drawer storage container. One of the drawers is designated for coupon fliers from the Sunday paper or elsewhere. The Service Ministry Team can use certain ones, so please bring your fliers to church and deposit them in the designated drawer after you cut out the ones you want. Thanks in advance!

Worship and Faith Formation

Advent Wednesday Evening Prayer

Starting November 30 and through the season of Advent, Trinity will have Holden Village Evening Prayer each Wednesday at 5:30pm. The Service will be live-streamed for those who are unable to attend in person.

Lessons and Carols, December 18

Lessons and Carols will be on December 8th this year and will again be led by the Senior Choir and WestMichigan Brassworks. Come and enjoy the beautiful music and readings of the Christmas season!

Scripture and Sandwiches!

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

Adult Bible Study

Join us every Sunday at 9:45 in the Lounge for Adult Bible Study. December 4, 11 and 18th we will be using a DVD series by Rick Warren, "The Purpose of Christmas" based on the Gospel of Luke.

Men's Bible Study

Men's Bible Study meets each month on the first and third Wednesdays from 7-8 am the fellowship hall for breakfast and bible study. Join us and kick off your day with some good fellowship and discussion!

Rebecca Circle

Looking for a chance to participate monthly in a women's small group meeting for Bible study? Rebecca Circle is active and looking for more participants. We welcome all women and those from other Circles who are not yet meeting. This is an excellent chance to make some new acquaintances while studying God's word. We will be meeting on Wednesday, December 14 at 10:00 AM in the church lounge. Please join us!

Worship Assistants

Date	Time	Greeters	Ushers	Lectors	Acolytes
Dec 4	8:30	Gary & Marie Belleville Jen Gatz	Tim Gatz	Jen Gatz	Avner Grubaugh Avery Fowler
	11:00	Pat Mason Joy Kuhs	Keith Peterson	Julie Peterson	James Kloster-Larkey Frederick Thurn
Dec 11	8:30	Beth Belleville Trudi Giffin	Dave Runstrom	Arlen Gullickson	Jaxon Grubaugh Nolan Fowler
	11:00	Greta Decker Sheree Sorensen	Tom Kuhs	Holly Wohlfert	Emma Zimmerman Edith Wright
Dec 18	8:30	Teri Koretsky Beth Belleville	Beth Belleville	Nicole Shugars	Avner Grubaugh
	11:00	Keith and Julie Peterson Rasma McMullen	Greta Decker	Keith Peterson	Kaitlyn Albertson Elyse Albertson
Dec 24	5:00		Tim Gatz	Marianne Fuerst	Jaxon & Avner Grubaugh Kaitlyn & Elyse Albertson
	7:00		Dave Runstrom	Sheree Sorensen	James Kloster-Larkey Max Shugars
	10:00		Beth Belleville	Liz Morison	
Dec 25			Tom Kuhs	Cliff Davidson	

It's time to celebrate Advent and Christmas! Free devotional materials are available in Fellowship Hall, including family devotions, books of prayers, children's books and ideas, etc. Trinity's Library is also stocked with seasonal books and DVDs for adults and children. Please help yourself!

**Please note the church building and office will be closed for the holidays December 26 – 31!
Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**



Fellowship and Events

An Evening in Advent, Wednesday December 7 at 5:30

All congregants are encouraged to join us on December 7, immediately after the Advent service at 5:30 as Trinity hosts an evening meal and short program to help celebrate the season of Advent (with a visit from St. Nicolas!). This will be a soup and dessert dinner, and congregants all ages are encouraged to sign up for a 4 minute time slot for seasonally appropriate special music, reading or reflection. Please take a moment to sign up in the Fellowship Hall for food contribution or a time slot, or contact the church office (office@tlckzoo.com) if you wish to help in any way.

Hot Dog Lunch and Children's Christmas Pageant –

Mark your calendar for the Sunday school Christmas Program on **Sunday, December 18**. Our youth group will host a hot dog luncheon at noon. A free-will offering will be collected to benefit the youth ministry activities. After lunch, the children will present their Christmas Pageant at 1pm in the Sanctuary. Please plan on joining us!

Celtic Christmas, Wednesday, December 14 at 5:30

Celtic Christmas service of hymns! We'll welcome our friends, the local Irish combo "Whiskey Before Breakfast" as they lead us in singing many of our favorite Christmas and Advent hymns and share a few traditional tunes as well! All are invited to gather at O'Duffy's Irish pub after the service for a time of fellowship and Christmas cheer!

St. Lucia Program

There will be a St Lucia program held at 2pm on December 11th at Trinity. It is a joint program sponsored by Vasa and Sons of Norway. Refreshments in the fellowship hall will follow the program. All are welcome to come, and children are encouraged to participate if they wish (costumes will be available)!

Ladies Luncheon

Our Christmas Ladies Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, December 14 at 11:30 at the Park Club (219 W. South Street in downtown Kalamazoo, located across from Bronson Park). We hope to have a large group of old friends and new for some fun and fellowship to celebrate this beautiful Christmas season together. Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall and contact Joanne Musselman (269-344-1433) for details.



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.

Possible Seminary Internship site at Trinity in Fall 2023

Trinity is exploring the possibility of being an Internship Site starting in September of 2023. No firm decision has been made yet. This would be an additional outreach and ministry opportunity for us to help not just an individual, but the mission of the church and the spread of the Good news of Jesus Christ. Preparing ordained clergy is both time consuming and expensive. We are hoping to partner with the Synod to provide funding for this project. We have some available dedicated funds from the Foundation. We are including this endeavor in the 2023 church budget, even though it is still in the initial phases of prayer, discussion and possible implementation. Please join us in prayer as we attempt to discern visions and directions for the future ministry of Trinity.

May the peace of Christ be with all of us! Pr. Ken

Theological Educational Opportunity! Beginning in winter 2023, our Synod (*the North/West Lower Michigan Synod*) of the ELCA will offer a series six-week Zoom courses led by seminary professors. These courses are open to all adults, both laypeople and rostered ministers, and are free of charge!

The first course offering will be *"Corinthian Correspondence: Conflict, Case Studies, Contemporary Congregations, and Christ"* led by Rev. Dr. Walter F. Taylor, Jr., the Ernest W. and Edith S. Ogram Professor Emeritus of New Testament Studies, Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University. As an added draw, Dr. Taylor was Pr. Jake's faculty advisor (and favorite professor!) while at seminary and has visited Trinity to preach and teach on a number of occasions!

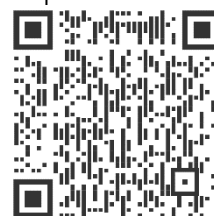
The goal of this study is to learn from Paul and his house churches in the ancient Greek city of Corinth— both how they fell into conflict and how Paul sought to move them to reconciliation and ministry; and how that history relates to problems facing believers and the church today.

The class will meet online via Zoom on six consecutive Tuesday evenings: January 10, 17, 24, 31; February 7, 14, 2023 from 7:00 – 8:15pm ET. Registration will close December 1, 2022.

To register or for more information, go to - <https://www.mittensynod.org/events/adult-theological-education/>

Trinity Lutheran Church sends out weekly emails to update our congregation on upcoming events, ongoing projects, volunteer opportunities, changes to our schedule, and links to our online services. Sign up with our QR code for the most up to date information available!

If you are already signed up for our weekly emails but are not receiving them, please take a moment to check your junk/spam folder and mark our emails as safe. If you have done this and are still are not receiving our weekly emails, please let the church office know.





POINSETTIA ORDER FORM 2022

Each Christmas season we place poinsettias in the church as part of our decorations. Please use this form, along with a check to Trinity Lutheran Church (indicating payment for poinsettias) for your order. The cost is \$10.00 per plant. The deadline for ordering is Sunday, December 11. Due to limited supply and color availability, all orders will be "Florist Choice". Please place your check along with this order in the offering plate or mail to the church office. Plants may be picked up following the late service on Christmas Eve or on Sunday, December 25.

_____ Number of poinsettias—florist choice

Please circle honor or memory:

In honor / memory of:

Donated by: _____

Phone: _____

Envelope number (if available): _____



Trinity Lutheran Church's Advent and Christmas Worship Schedule

Sundays Nov. 27, December 4, 11

Worship at 8:30 and 11:00 (Live-Streamed at 8:30 and available anytime following the service)

Sunday December 18

Lessons and Carols at 8:30 and 11:00 with West Michigan Brass Works (Live-Streamed at 8:30 and available anytime following the service)
Children's Christmas Program and Youth fundraiser lunch 12pm

Wednesdays November 30, December 7, 14, 21

Holden Village Evening Prayer Service at 5:30pm
(In-person and Live-Streamed and available anytime following the service)

Wednesday, December 7 – An Evening in Advent

Holden Village Evening Prayer at 5:30pm followed by soup and dessert dinner served with a special visit from St. Nicolas and a short Advent program.

Wednesday, December 14 – Celtic Christmas

Celtic Christmas service of hymns at 5:30pm. We'll welcome our friends, the local Irish combo "Whiskey Before Breakfast" as they lead us in singing many of our favorite Christmas and Advent hymns and share a few traditional tunes as well! All are invited to gather at O'Duffy's Irish pub after the service for a time of fellowship and Christmas cheer!

Christmas Eve December 24

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

Sunday, December 25

Worship at 10:00am – From Heaven Above service
(Live-Streamed and available anytime following the service)

