



## Trinity Lutheran Church

504 South Westnedge Avenue

Kalamazoo MI 49007

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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     |
| Sexton                      | 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

## November 2022

| SUNDAY  | MONDAY | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY   | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY | SATURDAY   |
|---|--------|---|---|---|--------|--|
| <p>6</p> <p>Worship w/Holy Communion<br/>8:30 &amp; 11am<br/><i>Fair Trade Coffee and Tea</i><br/>Choir 9:30 in loft<br/>All Sunday Schools 9:45<br/>Confirmation 9:45<br/>Parent Small Group 10-10:40<br/>VASA 1-6</p>                               | 7      | <p>1</p> <p>Clothes Closet<br/>Winter Coat Giveaway<br/>Pantry 11-1pm</p> | <p>2</p> <p>Men's Bible Study 7 am<br/><br/>Wed. Evening Service 5:30pm</p>   | <p>3</p> <p>Scripture and Sandwiches<br/>12-12:30</p>                         | 4      | <p>5</p> <p>Daylight Saving Time<br/>ends at midnight!</p> |
| <p>13</p> <p>Worship w/Holy Communion<br/>8:30 &amp; 11am<br/>Choir 9:30 in loft<br/>All Sunday Schools 9:45<br/>Confirmation 9:45<br/>Infant/Toddler Small group 10<br/>Church Council 12<br/>Family Ministry 12:30-2<br/>Youth Leaf Raking 12-3</p> | 14     | <p>15</p> <p>Clothes Closet 10-2pm<br/>Pantry 11-1pm</p>                  | <p>16</p> <p>Men's Bible Study 7 am<br/>Rebecca Circle 10am<br/><br/>Blood Drive 11-4:45pm<br/><br/>Wed. Evening Service 5:30pm</p> | <p>17</p> <p>F.H. reserved 9-12<br/>Scripture and Sandwiches<br/>12-12:30</p> | 18     | <p>19</p> <p>K'zoo Folklife<br/>Concert 5:30pm</p>         |
| <p>20</p> <p>Worship w/Holy Communion<br/>8:30 &amp; 11am<br/><i>Fair Trade Coffee and Tea</i><br/><i>Service Ministry Sunday</i><br/>Choir 9:30 in loft<br/>All Sunday Schools 9:45<br/>Confirmation 9:45<br/>Parent Small Group 10-10:40</p>        | 21     | <p>22</p> <p>Clothes Closet 10-2pm<br/>Pantry 11-1pm</p>                  | <p>23</p> <p>Men's Bible Study 7 am<br/><br/>Thanksgiving Eve Service</p>   | <p>24</p> <p>Thanksgiving</p>   | 25     | 26   |
| <p>27</p> <p>Worship w/Holy Communion<br/>8:30 &amp; 11am<br/>Choir 9:30 in loft<br/>No Children's or Youth Sun. School</p>   | 28     | <p>29</p> <p>Clothes Closet 10-2pm<br/>Pantry 11-1pm</p>                  | 30  |   |        |  |

**Please remember that Daylight Saving**

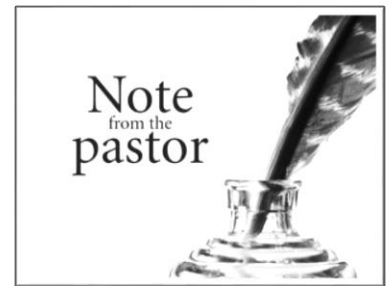
**Time ends Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>.**

**Don't forget to set your clocks back one  
hour Saturday night!**

**Please remember that articles for the Newsletters are due**

**by the 16<sup>th</sup> of each month; articles for the Sunday bulletins  
are due one week in advance, by end of day Sunday.**

*"There was a rich man who lived in luxury. At his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus. The time came when the poor man died, and the angels carried him to be with Abraham." LK 16:19-22*



The last Sunday in September had this Gospel lesson from Luke 16. As we approach (or have already celebrated) the "holidays"/Holy Days of late October thru December, I'm hoping and praying that we as a community can show extravagant hospitality. May we be intentional about inviting others. Over 1,600 years ago one of the Church Fathers, St. John Chrysostom wrote about this text.

"It is worthwhile enquiring why the rich man saw Lazarus in Abraham's arms, and not in the company of some other righteous person. The reason is that Abraham was hospitable, and so the sight of Lazarus with Abraham was meant to reproach the rich man for his own inhospitality. Abraham used to pursue even passers-by and drag them into his home, whereas the rich man disregarded someone lying in his own doorway. He could have helped him but failed to do so. Abraham was not like that but the opposite. He would sit in his doorway and catch all who passed by. And just as a fisherman casting a net into the sea hauls up fish, yes, but also quite often gold and pearls, so Abraham whilst catching people in his net finished by catching angels, strangely enough without knowing it. (Gen.18, Heb. 13)

At least 3 Sundays in August and September, we literally had the poor laying at our front church doors. I usually arrive at 7am on Sunday mornings, and have seen the stranger(s) sleeping in the doorway of Westnedge. Twice invited them in for coffee and food, and they came, the other time had to call the police/ambulance. Our church has always been a refuge for the poor. We can provide food, clothing, a temporary shelter, a listening ear, a sense of dignity as a child of God.

Can we also emulate Abraham, and "catch all who pass by". Inviting people to church, engaging in conversation, reaching out to those we might not know, are all hallmarks of a welcoming and loving parish. Especially with the addition of online services, the possibility of "come and see" (or go and watch :) is expanded. Prayerfully consider who you might invite, or a "stranger" at church that you might engage in conversation. As we approach a new liturgical church year, may we once again strive to be as welcoming and hospitable as possible in the name of Christ!

May the peace of Christ, which passes all understanding, be with us all,  
Pr. Ken



# FAMILY MINISTRY

All families with children infant through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome to join us!

## Walking on Water

**Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup> from 12:30pm-1:30pm**

How much does God care for us? Join us in the Fellowship Hall for lunch. Then we'll try to answer that question with a crazy "walking on water" science experiment. And to show others that we care about them, we'll make cards for some friends who serve in the military and for some church members in our Caring Ministry. Please let Heidi know if you can attend by email ([hmfuerst@aol.com](mailto:hmfuerst@aol.com)) or sign up on our Facebook page (TLC Family Ministry) by Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>, so we know how many to plan for. Thx! ☺



## Sunday Morning opportunities coming in November:

Our Infant & Toddler Small Group and our Parent Small Group sessions are off to a great start! Mark the dates on your calendar. We hope to see you there!

**Parent Small Group:** All parents are invited to hang out together, discuss the joys & concerns of raising faith-filled children, and how God helps us with the adventure that is parenting.

**Dates:** Sundays, Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 10am-10:40am

**Place:** Family Ministry Rm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor



"Your mother and I are not happy about your BLOG's criticism of our parenting skills."

**Infant & Toddler Small Group:** All infants and toddlers (along with their parents) are invited to hang out together and enjoy some fun infant/toddler activities, while their parents discuss the craziness of parenting these amazing and unique individuals.



**Dates:** Sunday, Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>

\*only one this month because of the Thanksgiving holiday weekend

**Time:** 10am-10:40am

**Place:** Family Ministry Rm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor

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 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, and Trinity's website. Email Heidi ([hmfuerst@aol.com](mailto:hmfuerst@aol.com)) with any questions.

# YOUTH MINISTRY

for all youth in grades 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>

## YOUTH LEAF RAKING SERVICE PROJECT



This month, we'll do our annual Leaf Raking Project. Please set aside **Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup>** after the late service to

come and rake leaves for church members who need a little assistance from you strong people! Bring rakes, tarps, leaf blowers, and work gloves. We'll feed you and then get to work! Sign up on the Youth board or the TLC Youth Ministry Facebook page if you can help us. Remember—many hands make light work!!

## CONFIRMATION & SENIOR HIGH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Calling all 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders!! Confirmation class needs your presence every Sunday from 9:45am-10:45am in the new Confirmation classroom on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> 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.

### \*\*NO SUNDAY SCHOOL:

There will be no Sunday school on Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup>. We hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving weekend! There will also be no Sunday school on Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> and Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>.

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](mailto:hmfuerst@aol.com)) with any questions.

## UPCOMING FUN STUFF:

### PROGRESSIVE DINNER:

The Youth Group's annual Progressive Dinner is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. Please pencil that into your calendars and watch for more info to come...



### HOT DOG FUNDRAISER:

Calling all Youth—we need your help for a very special Hot Dog Lunch fundraiser on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> 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.



## Volunteer Opportunities

### **Hospitality Team**

Greeters and Ushers have returned to Trinity! Will you consider joining the Hospitality Team? We need a few more people to join us in extending the grace of God by offering a warm welcome to all who enter our doors. Contact Julie Peterson (jtpeterson55@comcast.net) to add your name to the list (greeter or usher) and indicate your preferred service (early or late). Thank you!

### **Fellowship Time!**

Our Fellowship Chart is looking bare, 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! Sign up on the chart posted in the Fellowship Hall.

### **Blood Drive**

Trinity is Hosting another Blood Drive in collaboration with the Red Cross YOU are invited to come and give! The drive will run from 11:00-4:45 on November 16th, so sign up today to come and give the gift of life or contact Holly Wohlfert or Pr. Jake if you'd like to volunteer to help! Go to <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=TLC> or call 1-800-RED-CROSS today to sign up for a time slot!

### **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.

### **Please keep these people in your prayers:**

Ruth Krueger, Beth Latshaw, Mike Spreser, Don Irving, Clara Mellum, Sylvia Reekers, Vicky Phillips, Andy Mellum, Mark, Wolfgang Kloth, Dakota Ramirez, Debbie Harding and Carrie Henshaw

## Service Ministries

### **Samaritas**

Samaritas (foster care group TLC supports) has asked if SWELL congregations would be willing to have an ongoing "bedding drive" for the ILP (Independent Living Plus) homes. Each time someone moves in they hope to give them a new comforter, sheet set and pillow. They estimate needing 13 of these sets/year (twin size for girls and twin XL for boys). For those who wish to make a cash donation: we will use it to buy gift cards, making it a win-win! If any individual or group could help with any part of this need, please bring whatever donation you are able to make to the SCRIP table. For more information about this project please see Janet G. or call her at 269-372-0081. Thanks!

**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

### **Trinity Clothes Closet**

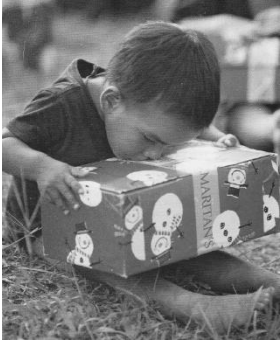
The Clothes Closet is open every Tuesday from 10-2 and serve all our neighbors in need! They continue to accept all donations of gently used clothing and are looking for winter gear—coats, boot, hats, gloves etc. for a Winter Gear Giveaway on November 1. They are also looking for donations of children's clothing, size 2T-14 to help restock their depleted supply.

### **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!

**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!



### **Samaritans Purse Christmas Shoeboxes**

Boxes are due in church by November 6<sup>th</sup>. If you don't have the time or inclination to fill one yourself but still want to support this worthy ministry, I will be happy to fix one or more for you or put any funds you wish towards the cost of sending a box. Remember, the shipping cost is now \$10. You can contact me in church after 2<sup>nd</sup> service, email me at [thelaw1944@aol.com](mailto:thelaw1944@aol.com) or call me at 344-8684. Boxes and labels are available in Fellowship Hall. Somewhere a child is in need of this sign of God's love. You can write a note or enclose a selfie if you wish to make it more personal.

**Service Ministry Sunday** – On November 20, everyone is invited to come down to the Fellowship Hall to check out the displays and get acquainted with our volunteers that are helping in all areas of service within our church and neighborhood community! If you have time and are interested in helping in one of our Service Ministries, please take a moment to let our volunteers know, contact the church office, or contact Rasma McMullen or Sandy Wallace directly!

### **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**

### **All Saints Day**

The All Saints Book is now available in the Narthex for you to write the names of family members and friends who have died since last All Saints Day. The names inscribed on the register will be read at each service on All Saints' Sunday, November 6. Please contact the church office by November 2 if you would like a name written in the book!

### **Wednesday Evening Prayer**

You are invited to join us for Wednesday Evening Prayer service every Wednesday at 5:30pm now through Nov. 16th! 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. *(Mid-week worship will continue on Wednesday November 23rd with Thanksgiving Eve and Advent Services in the weeks to follow)*

### **Adult Bible Study**

Join us every Sunday at 9:45 in the Lounge for Adult Bible Study. We will be using the series by Ray Vander Laan "Cultures in Conflict" video series that focusses on passages of Scripture and cultural reference points to help facilitate discussion and personal reflection.

### **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

### **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!

**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 - [hWps://www.miWensynod.org/events/adult-theological-education/](https://www.miWensynod.org/events/adult-theological-education/)

### **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, November 16 at 10:00 AM in the church lounge. Please join us!

## Worship Assistants

| Date   | Time  | Greeters   | Ushers          | Lectors          |
|--------|-------|--|-----------------|------------------|
| Nov 6  | 8:30  | Jen Gatz<br>Teri Koretsky                              | Tim Gatz        | Dave Runstrom    |
|        | 11:00 | Sheree Sorensen<br>Rasma McMullen                      | Greta Decker    | Sarah Zimmerman  |
| Nov 13 | 8:30  | Jason & Izzy<br>Grubaugh<br>Gary & Marie<br>Belleville | Beth Belleville | Janet Gullickson |
|        | 11:00 | Pat Mason<br>Joy Kuhs                                  | Keith Peterson  | Tim Eschelbach   |
| Nov 20 | 8:30  | Trudi Giffin<br>Jen Gatz                               | Dave Runstrom   | Suze Breischafft |
|        | 11:00 | Greta Decker<br>Sheree Sorensen                        | Tom Kuhs        | Linda Ward       |
| Nov 27 | 8:30  | Teri Koretsky<br>Jason & Izzy<br>Grubaugh              | Beth Belleville | Carol Knoch      |
|        | 11:00 | Keith & Julie Peterson<br>Rasma McMullen               | Greta Decker    | Nancy Diment     |

### ***Thank You Quilters!***

Our quilters completed over 100 quilts for Lutheran World Relief which have been packed and shipped. Thank you to all those who donated their time and/or supplies. If you are interested in helping, the Quilters meet the 4th and 5th Thursdays in the Fellowship Hall beginning in January. Contact Teri Koretsky or Ginny Giese.

Trinity Family!

Thank you all so much for helping to make my ordination service on Friday a success. It was simply wonderful! I especially want to thank Pr. Jake for not only offering a poignant and heartfelt sermon but surprising us all with his piping. I also want to thank Jim, Joyce, Margaret and Jaxon for all their help during the reception. My family and I will miss you all dearly.

Pr. Ed Ruble

## Fellowship and Events

### **Ladies Luncheon**

Please join us for lunch on Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. at Jac's Cekola's Pizza – 3112 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Kalamazoo. Sign up in the Fellowship Hall or contact Rasma McMullen.

### **Meeting of the Men**

The men are gathering on Thursday November 3<sup>rd</sup> from 5-6:30 at O'Duffy's Pub in the Vine Neighborhood! Come join us for a relaxed evening of fellowship over a pint or two!

### **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 Pastor Jake by November 6<sup>th</sup> if you would like the youth to help you out in this way!*

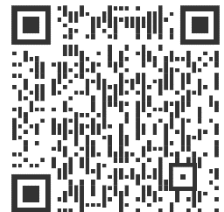
**LIBRARY OPEN HOUSE!** Sunday, November 6 between church services in the library, one floor above the gathering area – take the stairs or try out the new elevator! We want to welcome everyone to visit our cozy new space! Come in and browse and maybe check out a book or two. We have many old favorites on the shelves and new books coming soon – both children and adults. Treats will be provided!

**K'zoo Folklife Loaves and Fishes Benefit Concert** On November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022, the annual Loaves and Fishes benefit concert is back at Trinity, starting at 5:30pm and put on by K'zoo Folklife Organization. They'll be collecting food donations or monetary gifts for Loaves and Fishes. Everyone is invited to come on out!

**Advent Celebration and St. Nicholas Day** – Trinity will be hosting an evening potluck event to help celebrate the season of Advent with a possible visit from St. Nicolas! We're planning an evening in early December, but more details will be coming, so keep an eye out in our bulletins and weekly emails!

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.*



### Meet our Newest Members!

Brian and Ann Segraves  
7853 Clydesdale Ave  
Kalamazoo, MI 49009  
269-270-1026  
brian.segraves@gmail.com

Erica Stolz  
8116 Copper Oaks St.  
Portage, MI 49002  
231-620-8041  
estolz0890@charter.net

Bess and Will Fitzgerald  
1219 Grand Ave.  
Kalamazoo, MI 49006  
B: 269-381-4264  
W: 269-599-9558  
bess.fitzgerald@gmail.com  
will.fitzgerald@gmail.com

Nate and Deb Mattson  
2499 Hunter's Woods  
Kalamazoo, MI 49048  
N: 269-447-0258  
D: 269-348-5668  
nathan\_mattson@hotmail.com  
deborah\_mattson@hotmail.com

Carl Mattson  
2499 Hunter's Woods  
Kalamazoo, MI 49048  
269-808-7225  
carl.p.mattson@gmail.com

As a faith community (congregation) we are so incredibly blessed to have our membership be growing. We are known as a friendly and joyful faith community and we regularly welcome new members and have visitors amongst us. Not everyone is comfortable with actively seeking out greeting opportunities, yet each of us CAN easily be welcoming to others.

As you see new people in the pews, or during Fellowship time, etc., here are some simple things to do: make solid eye contact and smile; if close enough, introduce yourself. Here is an easy intro to consider using: "Hi! I'm (your name). I am glad you are with us this morning." Give them time to share their name. If you are unsure if they are visitors or already members, here is another way to introduce yourself: "Hello. We may have met before, but my name is (your name). Welcome today." Again, let them share their name and if a visitor or member.

Please don't use "Sharing of the Peace" as a time of lengthy conversations/introductions; save it for later!

One last tidbit: "Try it, you'll like it!"

**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!