## November Newsletter 2023



# Trinity Lutheran Church

504 South Westnedge Avenue Kalamazoo MI 49007 www.tlckzoo.com T: 269-344-6181 Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage PAID Permit # 575 Kalamazoo, MI

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#### <u>Trinity Staff</u>

Pastor Outreach Pastor Organist/Director of Music Director of Family Ministry Directory of Youth Ministry Office Administrator Hospitality Host Bookkeeper Custodian Intern

#### Church Council

President Secretary Treasurer Financial Secretary Christian Education Congregational Life Facilities Service Ministry Stewardship & Finance Worship & Music Rev. Jake Lehman Nathan Mattson Heidi Albertson Lindsay Casey Katie Grubaugh Margaret Stevenson Terri Schmidt Bob Koenes Vicar Megan Floyd

Rev. Ken Johnson

Jim Magerlein Keith Peterson Mike Mueller Jerry Molitor Ashley Wineland & Sally Morris Connie Ruch & Paula Sportel Shaun Wright Rasma McMullen & Sandy Wallace Gary Kent-Bracken & Steve Morris Jennifer Gatz

### Trinity's Sunday Schedule:

Worship with Holy Communion at 8:30 and 11am

Choir at 9:25 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

|   |  | 8:30 & 11am Loav     | 26 27 | Infant/Toddler small group 10<br>Family Ministry 12:30-2 | <i>о</i> |             | Choir 9:25<br>Sundau School 9:45 | Vebr                 | 8:30 & 11am Coat Drive set-up Co | 20 | Church Council 12:15<br>Sons of Norway 2-5 |             | Confirmation 9:45 |                          | Communion             | 5           | VASA 2-5  | Choir 9:25<br>Sunday School 9:45     | ay Prayer Shawl 10-12                       | munion      |   | hour Saturday night!             | Don't forget to set your clocks back one | Remember that Daylight Saving Time |   |
|---|--|----------------------|-------|--|----------|-------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|----|--|-------------|-------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|---|--------------------------------------|---|-------------|---|----------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|---|
| C.F.T. 11am<br>Ho   |  | Loaves & Fishes 11-1 | 28    |  | iat. 4p  | C.F.T. 11am |                                  | Loaves & Fishes 11-1 | Coat Drive 10-2                  | 21 |  | C.F.T. 11am |                   | Loaves & Fishes 11-1     | Mathae Masat 10-2     | 4           | C.F.T. 11am   |                                      | Clothes Closet 10-2<br>Loaves & Fishes 11-1 | ! _         | 4 | _                                | ወ  |                                    |   |
| Holden Village Advent Service 6pm   |  |                      | 23    | Virtual Wednesday Eve. Prayer                            | Э.       |             |                                  |                      | Rebecca Circle 10am              | 22 | <br>Virtual Wednesday Eve. Praye           |             |                   |                          | Men's Bible Study 7am | <del></del> | Virtual Wednesday Eve. Praye Meeting of the Women 6-8 |                                      | Shine & Glow 10am<br>Ladies Luncheon 11:30  | !<br>! o    | • | <br>Virtual Wednesday Eve. Praye |  | P.E.O. 11am                        |   |
|   | Please reme  | !                    | 8     |  |          |             |                                  | Happy Thanksgiving!  |                                  | 23 | e Meeting of th Men 5-6:30                 |             | 12-12:30          | Scripture and Sandwiches |                       | 6           | e Meeting of the Women 6-8                            | Scripture and Sandwiches<br>12-12:30 | P.E.O.                                      | ,<br>,<br>, | P | e Theology on Tap 6:30-8         | 12-12:30                                 |                                    |   |
| month; articles for the Sunday bulletins<br>are due one week in advance, by end | Please remember that articles for the<br>Newsletters are due by the 16th of ea |                      |       |  |          |             |                                  |                      |                                  | 24 |  |             |                   |                          |                       | 71          | Youth @ Charge  |                                      |   | 5           | 5 |                                  |  |                                    |   |
| e, by end   | th of each   |                      |       |  |          |             |                                  |                      |                                  | 25 |  |             |                   |                          |                       | 5           | Youth @ Charge  |                                      |   | =           | ± | ndo                              | L&F Benefit Concert                      |                                    | - |

# **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 youthtlckzoo.com or message Lindsay on remind if you would like the youth to help you out in this way!

# HOW TO GET CONNECTED

Sign up for youth group remind app to receive text messages and notifications about upcoming events. If you are a congregation member please select "parent" if you are a part of the youth program please select student. Everyone is invited to join! Text @tlc2k23 to 81010

# THE CHARGE

This month November 10-12th, Living Waters ministry is hosting the Charge event in Traverse City Michigan. Charge is an event that attempts to provide a powerful faith community where students grades 6-12 can grow in faith, engage in service, and develop leadership skills. Worship, small groups, congregational time, workshops, recreation options and an outdoor campfire camp style are all elements of this powerful

gathering of community!

# Lock-in

December 2-3 the youth will have the opportunity to participate in the lock in. More information regarding the event will be coming out in the coming weeks.

Do you have an event or public service idea for the youth? Message Lindsay Casey on Remind or email Youth@tlckzoo.com



YOUTH NEWS



# FAMILY MINISTRY

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

# Family Service Project: Making Blankets Together Sunday, November 19th from 12:30pm-2pm

Join us for an afternoon of making blankets for kids in need! After some yummy lunch, we'll get to work cutting and tying blankets for Project Linus. This is an organization that distributes blankets for children in hospitals, foster care, after disasters, etc. We'll need your help to make as many blankets as possible, so don't forget to sign up on our Facebook event page or email me at hmfuerst@aol.com. ©



### Sunday Morning opportunities coming in November:

Our schedule will be a little different this month, due to a youth retreat and Thanksgiving weekend. Hope you can join us for our two sessions in the Family Ministry room on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor!

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: Sunday, Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> Time: 10am-10:40am



# Coming in December... Parents' Afternoon Out

# Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> noon-5pm

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. 12<sup>th</sup> Time: 10am-10:40am



Drop your kids off at church and enjoy an afternoon for Christmas shopping, chores, relaxing, or lunch out with friends. The kids will be busy with crafts, games, and other fun activities. Lunch and snack will be provided. We will take children who are 1 year through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Sign up on our Facebook event page or email Heidi at <u>hmfuerst@aol.com</u>.

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) with any questions.

#### Worship and Faith Formation

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 to 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** meets throughout the year, every other week on Wednesday mornings at 7am in the church Fellowship Hall! The dates for the fall will be the first and third Wednesdays each month: October 4 & 18, November 1 & 15. All are welcome to join them for breakfast and bible study.

**Wednesday Evening Prayer** Trinity offers short online services released each Wednesday at noon on our YouTube channel. These services offer an opportunity to join us from wherever you are to take a pause in the rhythm of your week for some quiet, prayer, reflection, and peace. Look for the link each week in the weekly email announcement or on our website.

Advent Wednesday Service – Starting November 29, each Wednesday in Advent Trinity will have inperson Holden Village Evening Prayer services at 6pm. All are encouraged to join us for these services to pause amid the busy season with these special services that will feature guest musicians and a time of prayer and reflection.

**Confirmation Classes** Confirmation Classes take place each Sunday from 9:45-10:45 during the Sunday School. 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 and be a part of the group!

**Sunday Adult Ed. Class** - Join Vicar Megan Floyd for an Adult Education Class based on Dr. Karoline Lewis' book, *Belonging: 5 Keys to Unlock Your Potential as a Disciple*. We will use the Gospel of John, with a special focus on the story of the woman at the well, to discern how God might be calling you into discipleship. You do not need to purchase the book, but reading or listening to the full Gospel of John in preparation would be helpful. The class will meet on Sundays at 9:45 AM from Oct. 22 – Nov 19. We'll add a final meeting on Nov 26 for any who wish to further the discussion or offer feedback for future classes.

**Rebecca Circle** Looking for a chance to participate monthly in a women's small group meeting for Bible study? Rebecca Circle is active and welcoming more participants; they meet regularly on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month at 10am at church. This is an excellent chance to make some new acquaintances while studying God's word. We will be meeting next on Wednesday, November 22. Please join us!

\***Communion Change for the 8:30 Sunday Service** - Please note that beginning in December, we will begin kneeling at the rail for Holy Communion by Intinction; follow the direction of pastors.

<u>Attention, Students!</u> We are in need of middle school and high school music students to play in church! It would be absolutely great if our band, orchestra, and choir students would share your talents with your church family. You could play prelude, postlude, or communion music. You don't have to be a professional musician to offer your talents to God and to your church family on a Sunday morning. We need you! Please call, text or email us to discuss (cellphone: 269.447.0258, email: (nathan\_mattson@hotmail.com). We look forward to hearing from you!

| Date                          | Time  | Altar Guild                   | Welcome Team                      | Lectors          | Acolytes                            |
|-------------------------------|-------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Nov 5                         | 8:30  | Karn Erlandson                | Trudi Giffin,<br>Janet Gullickson | Jen Gatz         | Avner & Jaxon<br>Grubaugh           |
|                               | 11:00 | Marianne Fuerst               | Nancy Diment,<br>Melissa Lehman   | Marianne Fuerst  | Elyse & Kaitlyn<br>Albertson        |
| Nov 12                        | 8:30  | Joyce<br>Magerlein            | Teri Koretsky,<br>Beth Belleville | Arlen Gullickson | Avery & Nolan<br>Fowler             |
|                               | 11:00 | Liz Morison                   | Sheree Sorensen,<br>Karen Jachym  | Sheree Sorensen  | Maryim Greenman,<br>Edith WRight    |
| Nov 19                        | 8:30  |                               | Jen Gatz, Tim Gatz                | Nicole Shugars   | Avner & Jaxon<br>Grubaugh           |
|                               | 11:00 |                               | Julie Peterson,<br>Keith Peterson | Liz Morison      | Frederick Thurn,<br>Emma Zimmermann |
| <b>Nov 21</b><br>Thanksgiving | 6pm   | Teri Koretskt,<br>Liz Morison |                                   |                  |                                     |
| Nov 26                        | 8:30  | Karn Erlandson                | Jason Grubaugh,<br>Isela Grubaugh | Steve Bittner    | Avery & Nolan<br>Fowler             |
|                               | 11:00 | Julie Peterson                | Joy Kuhs, Tom Kuhs                | Pat Mason        | Kiley & Calico Morris               |

# Worship Assistants

### **Christian Education**

Please mark your calendar for these special dates this fall and Advent season. As always, keep our teachers and students in prayer and let us know if you are interested in teaching, subbing, or helping 'shepherd' one of our classes.

IMPORTANT DATES:



11/26 - No Sunday School, Thanksgiving Break 12/17 - Luncheon 12pm & Children's Christmas Pageant 1pm 12/24 - No Sunday School, Christmas Eve

# Please keep these people in your prayers:

Sharon Kokales, Cathy Rysenga, Cliff Davidson, Sandy Eschelbach, Sylvia Reekers, Beth Latshaw, Vicky Phillips, Ruth Krueger, Jody Wood, Barb Hogg, Joe Pinocci, Tara Gurd, Dontrea, Ja'Miha and Skye, Mike Reynolds, Lucy Sellin. **Christmas Child Shoeboxes** - Now that you have your school supplies and hopefully are choosing toys, remember to add a few "health" items such as a <u>child's</u> toothbrush (no toothpaste), comb, washcloth and soap (no towels please). Brochures and shoeboxes for your use are available in Fellowship Hall along with a list of suggestions for fillers, along with the "official" boxes for assembly or you may choose your own box. Please feel free to email me, Linda Ward at: thelaw1944@aol.com if you have questions. Due date is November 6<sup>th</sup> which will be here before you know it!

**Thankoffering Sunday – November 19** This tradition has been observed for over 100 years and helps all of us stop and reflect on our ministries and on how we have all been blessed by God. During both worship services on November 19, there will be an opportunity to:

\*Donate non-perishable food to Trinity's food pantry. Since Loaves and Fishes supplies their clients with basic food, we would like to provide our customers (who are often our local neighbors and frequently are homeless or have limited food preparation facilities) with items they like and find special. Please note that all items received will be handed out over and above the standard Loaves and Fishes order. Types of items that fit this need may include:

- juice boxes, cereal (store brand is great), cookies (boxes or bags, tooth brushes, Jiffy (or other) cake or muffin mix, canned frosting, power bars (good item for homeless), packs of cheese or peanut butter crackers, boxed crackers of any kind, fruit cups, small bottles of water.

\* Give a monetary donation to support our Good Samaritan Fund, which is critical in supporting our local community members that has occasionally struggled with utility bills and shut-offs or rent and evictions.

**Bingo at Ministry with Community** is looking for prizes to give to our community members. In particular, winter hats, gloves and gear is always needed. If you can donate, please drop your items off at the church office or call Bess Fitgerald with any questions.



### The Salvation Army Angel Tree will be set up in Fellowship Hall to collect toys from

**November 5– December 5.** 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!

**Good Samaritan Fund Need** Trinity's Good Samaritan fund is the fund that enables us to meet the needs of those in our community during some of their most difficult moments. This fund is generated entirely through the generosity of our congregation. These funds go toward electric bills, rent, and other essentials when our neighbors are facing utility shut-offs, eviction notices, or seeking to get into housing. Due to a sustained time of high demand this fund balance is running low. If you find yourself in a position to be able to give, any gift is greatly appreciated. Simply designate the gift to the "Good Samaritan Fund" on the memo line of your check or give online under the "giving" tab on our website www.tlckzoo.com.

**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 Thanks for helping us help others!

**New Greeting Cards** - Don't throw away those "free" greeting cards and envelopes you get in the mail and also calendars this time of year. There is a need among seniors who could not otherwise afford them. 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!

#### Fellowship and Events

**Theology on Tap!** During this time of year when the nights get longer and the leaves begin to fall we tend to turn our minds towards the end and those who have come before us. In Christianity we typically recognize the faithful departed on All Saints Day, while cultures around the world remember in different ways. Join us at O'Duffy's Pub on **Thursday November 2nd** (*All Souls Day*) from 6:30-8pm as we look at different ways to recognize and remember our ancestors in the faith.

<u>**K'zoo Folklife Loaves and Fishes Benefit Concert**</u> On November 4th, the annual Loaves and Fishes benefit concert is back at Trinity. Doors open at 5pm, concert starts at 5:30pm and put on by K'zoo Folklife Organization with a variety of great acts! They'll be collecting food donations or monetary gifts for Loaves and Fishes. Everyone is invited to come on out!

**Meeting of the Women –** All women of all ages are invited to join us for a relaxed time of fellowship and friendship. On November 9 from 6-8 we'll gather at Murray Street Brewing (57620 Murray St, Mattawan). Come as you're able and stay as long as you like!

Ladies Luncheon - The Ladies Luncheon will be held at Sakura 2 in Portage (6749 S Westnedge Ave.) on Wednesday, November 8 at 11:30. Sign up in the Fellowship Hall if you plan to come or let July Sherrod know!

**Meeting of the Men** - Meeting of the men is an "informal, come as you are, when you can" kind of get together with no agenda, just good conversation and a great opportunity to get to know one other guys who call Trinity home! We meet on the Third Thursday of each month so this month look for us at Hopcat on Thursday November 16th from 5-6:30.

Advent Beer and Hymns! After a break of over three years, Beer and Hymns is back! On Saturday December 9th from 6-7:30, we'll celebrate the season at O'Duffy's Pub (804 W. Vine St.) with a time of singing, fellowship, and more singing all in the cozy atmosphere of this wonderful Irish pub! Invite your friends and be sure to join us for this wonderful evening!

An Evening in Advent & St. Nicolas Day – All congregants are encouraged to join us on December 6, immediately after the Advent service at 6pm 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, salad and dessert dinner, with a seasonal program of music, carols and readings. All congregants are encouraged to come! Sign ups for food contributions will be in the Fellowship Hall or contact the church office (office@tlckzoo.com) if you wish to help in any way.

Holy Land Pilgrimage - interest survey on hold Due to the heightened conflict in Israel/Palestine our consideration of a pilgrimage to the holy land is on hold at this time. Please pray for all of those who are affected by this conflict as well as those who are in positions to bring it to a swift and peaceful conclusion.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

**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. If you enjoy baking, we're always happy for help to stock our freezer for Sundays that might not have a host. But remember, it need not be fancy; store-bought cookies, snacks and other treats are great too! Sign up on the chart posted in the Fellowship Hall.

**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!

**Support our Neighborhood Teachers!** El Sol Elementary School is just a few blocks away from Trinity and as their partners in serving the neighborhood, we want to show our support for their teachers and students! To show that support, we're collecting non-perishable items like chips, candy, granola bars, microwave popcorn, drinks, ground coffee, and K-cups for their staff wellness room! If you're out shopping and are able to pick up any of these items to contribute that would be great! Just drop them by the church office during weekday hours (Monday – Thursday 9am -2pm) or Sunday morning! Also, if you are a Thrivent Member, this would be an excellent use of one of your Action Team grants! Thanks for your help in building a stronger connection with our neighborhood school!

**Thrivent Members!** If you have access to a Thrivent Action Grant, please consider applying to use one for Trinity! We are looking for grants to help with several fellowship and outreach opportunities. Let the church office know if you are willing to help.

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. 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 Youth Director Lindsay Casey (youth@tlckzoo.com)or sign up in the Fellowship Hall by November 5<sup>th</sup> if you would like the youth to help you out in this way!

Thank You Quilters! Our auilters completed 104 auilts for Lutheran World Relief which are packed and shipped for this year. 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. See Teri Koretsky for more details.

There will be a congregational meeting on December 10th immediately after the 11:00am service where we will vote on the Annual Budget for 2024. All members are encouraged to be a part of the meeting to voice their vote. Please make every effort to be at this meeting!

#### Meet our Newest Members!

Jonathan Weber and Lindsay Casey 705 Wallace Ave Kalamazoo, MI 49048 J: 810-360-9063; jonathanweber1520@gmail.com L: 810-875-4418: lindsaycasey418@gmail.com

Laurie Hankins

510-396-6763

Portage, MI 49024

glenlaurie@gmail.com

Maureen Savage 3125 Winchell Ave Kalamazoo, MI 49008 269-370-0332 m3savage@gmail.com

Carol Malmud 6747 Tall Oaks Dr. Apt 2A Kalamazoo, MI 49009 269-274-2618 cjmalmud@att.net

Teri Barrett 1403 Sheridan Dr. Kalamazoo, MI 49002 Home: 269-552-4201: Cell: 269-910-4510 1tlbgo@gmail.com 8287 Boulder Creek Pt.

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 after the service and invite new people down for fellowship time!

| Each Christmas season we place poinsettias in the church<br>as part of our decorations. Please use this form, along<br>with a check to Trinity Lutheran Church<br>(indicating payment for poinsettias) for your order.<br>The cost is \$15.00 per plant. The deadline for ordering is                              |
|--|
| Sunday, December 3. Due to limited supply and color<br>availability, all orders will be "Florist Choice".<br>Please place your check along with this order in the offer-<br>ing plate or mail to the church office. Plants may be<br>picked up following the late service on Christmas Eve,<br>Sunday December 24. |
| Number of poinsettias—florist choice   |
| Please circle honor or memory:   |
| In honor/ memory of:   |
|  |
|  |
|  |
| Donated by:  |
| Phone:   |
| Envelope number (if available):  |

# Holiday Services at Trinity

#### Thanksgiving Worship Service

Please join us **Tuesday**, **November 21 at 6pm** as we celebrate our many blessings at our annual Thanksgiving Service. This service is a perfect way to take a step back from all the busyness of the holiday weekend and spend time in worship with our church family and friends.

#### **Sunday Services**

December 3 - First Sunday of Advent - 8:30 & 11am

December 10 - Second Sunday of Advent - 8:30 & 11am

December 17 - Third Sunday of Advent Lessons and Carols 8:30 & 11am with West Michigan Brassworks and Choir Lunch at 12pm - all are welcome! Children's Christmas Program at 1pm

December 24 – Christmas Eve –10am, 5pm, 7pm & 9pm

December 31 - 8:30 & 11am

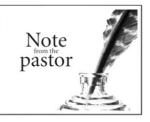




Advent Season Wednesdays using the Holden Village Evening Prayer service:

November 29 - 6pm December 6 - 6pm with music provided by Negar Afazel and Jon Barnes Dec. 6 An Evening in Advent - 6:30pm Dinner, program & visit from St. Nicholas December 13 - 6pm Celtic Christmas with music provided by "Whiskey Before Breakfast" December 20 - 6pm Service of Healing with music provided by Jenny Parnaby

#### "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" Hebrews 13:8



The season of Fall can be punctuated by both poignancy as well as anticipation. Poignancy as we commemorate All Saints, the leaves color and scatter, and the earth itself prepares to "sleep" for a season. Anticipation as Halloween (especially for children), Thanksgiving and Christmas draw near.

Family gatherings and festive times are being planned by many.

November also encompasses the ending of the church year on the 26<sup>th</sup>, Christ the King Sunday. Often the readings closing out the church year are of end times and preparation for the return of the second coming of Christ. Once again one can have a sense of both longing and reckoning. Perhaps especially this year we ponder the verses from Matthew 24:6,7 about "wars and rumors of wars", of "nation rising against nation", famines, earthquakes, the brokenness of humanity.

Yet as the days become shorter and the darkness lengthens, we hold fast to sure certainties and promises. The light of Jesus Christ shines brightly in the midst of a struggling world. The grace and unconditional love of Christ is present for all who call on his name. While we might not be able to make sense or understand fully the warring madness taking place in so many parts of the world, we can hold fast to the power of the story of the life and resurrection Jesus.

The "changing of the clocks" (Daylight Savings time ending) also happens in November. It wrenches an hour of light to the morning from the evening. Many are disoriented for a few days. But ponder the words of Paul in Romans 13:11,12; "Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from your sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone and day is near."

The promise of a new day for a Christian is always present and comforting. As we continue through the changing of the seasons of life, may we always experience that peace which passes all understanding found in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Peace, Pr. Ken



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!

# 2024 PLEDGE CARDS

If you haven't done so already, take a moment to fill out a Pledge Card for next year. Pledge Cards were mailed out and are also available near the entrances to the sanctuary or from the church office. Please help our Stewardship and Finance committee prepare a budget for next year by filling one out! They may be returned to the church office, put in the offering plate or mailed to the church.