



Trinity Lutheran Church

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Kalamazoo MI 49007

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Inside this Issue:

Page 2

Calendar

Page 3

Family & Youth

Ministry

Page 4 & 5

Worship & Faith

Page 5 & 6

Service Ministries

Page 7

Volunteer Opportunities

Page 8

Fellowship Events

Page 9

Green Team & Thank Yous

Page 10

Church Council updates

Trinity Staff

Pastor

Outreach Pastor

Organist/Director of Music

Director of Family & Youth Ministry

Office Administrator

Hospitality Host

Bookkeeper

Custodian

Rev. Ken Johnson

Rev. Jake Lehman

Nathan Mattson

Heidi Albertson

Katie Grubaugh

Margaret Stevenson

Terri Schmidt

Bob Koenes

Church Council

President

Secretary

Treasurer

Financial Secretary

Christian Education

Congregational Life

Facilities

Service Ministry

Stewardship & Finance

Worship & Music

Julie Peterson

Holly Wohlfert

Christina Adams

Jerry Molitor

Ashley Wineland & Sally Morris

Paula Sportel & Jennifer Gougeon-Catarino

Max Wineland

Rasma McMullen & Karen Jachym

Steve Morris & Steve Bittner

Jennifer Gatz

Trinity's Sunday Schedule:

***Worship with Holy Communion
at 8:30 and 11:00am***

Choir at 9:25 in choir loft

All Sunday School classes 9:45

Parent Small Group 10am

Spring Festival: Children's Sunday school, families and parents groups will have our last classes for the school year Sunday May 18 with our annual end-of-year party in the courtyard from 9:45 - 10:45AM.

May 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>4</p> <p>Worship w/Holy Communion 8:30 & 11am Choir 9:25 Sunday School 9:45 Adult Bible Study 9:45 Parent small group 10 Church Council 12:15 VASA 2-5</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Prayer Shawl 10-12</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Clothes Closet 10-2 Loaves & Fishes 11-1 C.F.T. 11am</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>1</p> <p>C.F.T. 5:30-7</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Church Work Day 2-Oct</p>
<p>11</p> <p>Worship w/Holy Communion 8:30 & 11am Choir 9:25 Sunday School 9:45 Confirmation 9:45 Adult Bible Study 9:45 Parent small group 10</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Clothes Closet 10-2 Loaves & Fishes 11-1 C.F.T. 11am</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Men's Bible Study 7am Ladies Lunch 11:30</p>	<p>15</p> <p>C.F.T. 5:30-7 Sacred Harp 6-8</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Youth and Family Ministry Movie Night 5:30-8:30pm</p>
<p>18</p> <p>Worship w/Holy Communion 8:30 & 11am Sunday School Spring Fest 9:45 Adult Sunday School 9:45 Plant Swap Stewardship Sunday Sons of Norway 2-5 Synod Assembly</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Clothes Closet 10-2 Loaves & Fishes 11-1 C.F.T. 11am</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Quilters 9am C.F.T. 5:30-7 Sacred Harp 6-8</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25</p> <p>Worship w/Holy Communion 8:30 & 11am Choir 9:25 Sunday School 9:45 Confirmation 9:45 Adult Bible Study 9:45</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Synod Assembly</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Loaves & Fishes 11-1 C.F.T. 11am</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Men's Bible Study 7am</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Quilters 9am Green Team meeting 3pm C.F.T. 5:30-7</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>

*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.*



FAMILY MINISTRY & YOUTH MINISTRY



For the May newsletter, the news is the same, so I combined two pages together.

Youth and Family Ministry Potluck and Movie Night



Saturday, May 17th

5:30pm-8:30pm

So our original plan has changed and we are now doing a Family and Youth Potluck and Movie night. Please bring a dish to pass (main dish, side dish, or dessert) and camping chair or pillow to sit on. First we'll eat some dinner at 5:30pm and then we'll start the movie. We'll vote on the movie that

evening. It's the end of the school year and we need a night to relax! Sign up by Friday, May 16th by emailing me (hmfuerst@aol.com) or on our Facebook page (TLC Family Ministry or TLC Youth Ministry).

****There will two last meetings for our Parent Small Group. We will meet on May 4th and 11th at 10am.**

Soup/Salad Suppers: Hey Youth! Thank you again for your help with our Soup/Salad Suppers. I don't have an exact amount, but we made between \$500-\$600. Thanks, Trinity, for support the youth!



Spring Festival: Attention all children, youth, and families! On May 18 during our Sunday school time, we will have our Spring Festival. This is our time to share a little bit of what we learned in Sunday school and a time to thank our teachers for their hard work. And it's a party!! We hope you will join us for this fun event. If the weather cooperates, we'll be in the courtyard. If not, then find us in the Fellowship Hall.

Summer Time Fun: Summer time is coming fast. During the month of June, many of us will be at camp. In July, we will have a Youth and Family Field Trip to Markin Glen Park for swimming and a picnic. In August, we'll have our annual Vacation Bible School. Please watch the bulletin, News & Notes, and Facebook pages for announcements of dates and times. We hope you have a wonderful summer!!



Congratulations Seniors!!

This year, we have two seniors who are graduating from high school—Kaitlyn Albertson and Ava Schreiner. We know they will go on to do amazing things and we truly wish them all the best. Our Senior Recognition will be **Sunday, May 25th at the 11am service**. We hope you can join us and help us wish them well.



**Sunday School Classes Every Sunday
from 9:45-10:45am!**

Spring Festival: Children's Sunday school, families and parents groups will have our last classes for the school year Sunday May 18 with our annual end-of-year party in the courtyard from 9:45 - 10:45AM.

- **Adult Bible Study** will be in the Lounge with Pr. Jake.
- **Confirmation** with Pr. Ken on the second floor of the education wing. Confirmation is for all youth 6th -8th grade!
- **High School Sunday school** in the Youth Room with Mr. Grubaugh.
- **Elementary Sunday School** for K-5th grade students on the second floor of the Education Wing with Mrs. Wineland.
- **Preschool Sunday School** in the preschool room on the second floor of the education wing with Mrs. Wright.

New Member Interest: If you are interested in becoming a member at Trinity, please contact the church office or speak with one of the pastors. We will be having a New Member Orientation and Reception this spring!

Sunday Morning Adult Forum This month we'll be finishing off the academic year with a bit of an Adult Sunday School mix-n-match! We'll start on May 4th by wrapping up our "By Heart" Adult Catechism Study and then we'll have a pair of sessions aimed at answering some broader questions that have come up in the study or other conversation.

First, on May 11th we'll take a look at where our Bible comes from as we delve into the history of how we got from letters and stories composed in the 1st and 2nd centuries to the scriptures that we read today.

Then on May 18th, we'll take some time to look at the broader church and how it operates. You may know that Trinity is part of the ELCA, but what does that mean and why does it matter?...and what does a Bishop do anyway?

Join us for any or all of these sessions in the Lounge on Sunday Mornings at 9:45am!

Men's Bible Study - We will meet next on Wednesday May 14 & 28. We will be serving a light breakfast each time. We meet @ 7:00 AM and try to finish around 8:00 AM. All are welcome. "No experience necessary".

First Communion Class - June 1 If you have a child who is interested in taking their first communion, or one who has been taking communion, but you feel could benefit from a class, they are invited to join us for a first communion class on Sunday June 1 from 9:45-10:45. The students will then receive first Communion at the 11:00am worship that day (or another time if they prefer). This class is typically geared toward 3rd-5th graders, but is open to any age. Please let Pr. Jake know if you plan to attend!

Rebecca Circle Looking for a chance to participate monthly in a women's small group meeting for Bible study? Rebecca Circle is an excellent chance to make some new acquaintances while studying God's word. They meet every 4th Wednesday of the month at Trinity and all are welcome! The next Circle meeting will be on Wednesday, May 28 at 10am.

Worship Assistants

Date	Time	Altar Guild	Welcome Team	Lectors	Acolytes
May 4	8:30	Karn Erlandson	Jason Grubaugh, Beth Belleville	Dave Runstrom	Nolan Fowler
	11:00	Julie Peterson	Greta Decker, Pat Mason	Laura Woodruff	Elyse Albertson, Emma Zimmermann
May 11	8:30	Teri Koretsky	Paula Sportel, Teri Koretsky	Carol Knoch	Avner & Jaxon Grubaugh
	11:00	Holly Wohlfert	Tom & Joy Kuhs	Heidi Albertson	Kaitlyn Albertson Jacob Zimmermann
May 18	8:30	Joyce Magerlein	Tim & Jen Gatz	Debbie Harding	Avner & Jaxon Grubaugh
	11:00	Gary Kent-Bracken	Connie Ruch Liz Morison	Erin Sutherland	Miryam Greenman Evelyn Sutherland
May 25	8:30	Joyce Magerlein	Arlen & Janet Gullickson	Steve Bittner	Avner & Nolan Fowler
	11:00	Julie Peterson	Carolyn Kana'an Nancy Diment	Connie Ruch	Frederick Thurn

Service Ministry

The TLC Prayer Shawl Ministry meets May 5 at 10am We gather the first Monday of each month in the lounge at 10:00 to receive and pray over completed shawls, encourage one another as we work on new shawls, reflect on the gratitude of prayer shawl recipients, and, yes, socialize! If you would like more information, please call Sidney Mueller at (269)806-0023.

Prayer Shawls are available for gifting to members of Trinity and their extended families and friends in times of healing, grief, celebration, or any other occasion one feels the need of God's loving presence. To request a prayer shawl, or with questions about our Prayer Shawl Ministry, please contact Sidney Mueller (269-806-0023), one of the pastors, or Julie Peterson, chair of the Caring Ministry team.

Thrivent Grant Request - We are seeking Thrivent Grants! We have several needs between our Service Ministries, Christian Education, Youth and Family Ministries and Congregational Life Ministries that could use your help! With Thrivent Grants, we're able to continue to keep this time welcoming to all. Thank you!

Christ Clothes Closet: The Closet needs donations of men's and women's socks of all sizes. Donations may be dropped off in the box located next to the elevator or outside the Fellowship Hall. They are also collecting personal hygiene items :

- Feminine hygiene products
- Toilet paper
- lotion
- razors
- shaving cream

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.



Refugee Families in Need! Trinity is working with our local refugee services to help provide for new refugee families in Kalamazoo. If you wish to contribute financially to our Kalamazoo Refugees, scan the QR code to make a donation. And if you would like to volunteer time to help our refugee families, please contact Bess Fitzgerald (bess.fitzgerald@gmail.com) or the church office.

Emergency Food Box: Trinity is partnering with people in our neighborhood to stock the emergency food box located on Oak Street between Cedar and Lovell. Easy open, ready to eat, non-perishable foods such as cans with a flip top lid, ramen, granola bars, crackers, protein shakes etc. should be put in the box designated Emergency Food Box outside the Fellowship Hall. Call Rasma McMullen (269-349-9429) with any questions.

Trinity's Loaves and Fishes Pantry Requests:

Although basic food needs are being met, our pantry clients are most grateful for extras that are not often included in our Loaves and Fishes orders. Adding any of these items to your grocery cart would be appreciated. They can be dropped off in the church office.

- Granola bars or similar items
- Pop tarts
- Peanut butter or cheese crackers in wrapped packages
- Snacks (in small bags).
- Baked beans (pork and beans)
- Plastic grocery bags

Please keep these people in your prayers: Beth Latshaw, Sandy Eschelbach, Diane Reau, Linda Ward, David Mason, Ruth Krueger, Bertha Boettcher, Jeannie Grubaugh.

Helping Hands Needed at Quilters!! No sewing required, please come and help with this project if you are looking for a place to volunteer and some conversation and coffee. Quilters meet the fourth (and fifth) Thursday of each month from 9am – 12noon. For more information, contact Teri at tkoretsky44@yahoo.com or at 269-567-4238.

Fabric Donations needed for Quilters! Have you recently discontinued a quilting or seamstress hobby? Have a stash of fabric looking for a home? The Trinity Quilters would happily accept a donation of your fabric to use in the construction of mission quilts. You can drop off fabric at church (just label it for the quilters) or, if you would like a pick-up, contact Teri Koretsky at 779-5632. Thanks!!

Volunteer Opportunities

Please sign up for Fellowship Time and Altar Flowers! Sign up in the Fellowship Hall and help share God's love for our community! Individuals, families, and groups are encouraged to provide flowers or host fellowship time for the coming months. This is a great way to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, or other special events. *(And if you enjoy baking, we're always happy for help to stock our freezer for Sundays that might not have a fellowship host!)* *Altar flowers are \$ 20 per bouquet and should be ordered one week in advance. **Call or email the church office or sign up in the Fellowship Hall if you wish to put altar flowers on for a Sunday.**



Stewardship Opportunities Day May 18, 2025

On Sunday May 18th we are holding an opportunity to get to know those members who currently volunteer so selflessly on our behalf. In the gathering area at 9:30,- 10:30, and after the 2nd service, we will have tables set up with displays and information on Trinity's many ministries, guilds, circles and committees. Please stop by and share insight and consider the possibility of providing your time and unique talents for one of our many groups. We look forward to seeing you there!

Fellowship Events

Ladies Lunch will be May 14 at 11:30am at Four Roses Cafe in Plainwell, MI (663 N. 10th Street, Plainwell) This is a fun way to meet with old friends and make new connections with each other. All women are welcome! Sign up in the Fellowship Hall or contact Jan Forsberg with questions; hope to see you there!



Plant Swap! Spring is here and it's time to start planning for the Trinity plant swap on May 18! Get your seeds, seedlings and plants ready. Tables will be available in Fellowship Hall between services.

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'll plan to gather at Hopcat on Wednesday May 14th from 5:00-6:30pm for a relaxed time of fellowship and conversation! If the weather is good, look for us outside!

Faith Refugia Readers! We have another date to get together and discuss the book. We will probably be at different points in the book but there is much that can be discussed. The second discussion will be Sunday June 8th at 9:45 in between the services. Keep me posted if this date works for you. Maryann Hubbell (mahubbell1@gmail.com) 269-341-2056

Youth and Family Ministry Potluck and Movie Night Saturday, May 17th 5:30pm-8:30pm Please bring a dish to pass (main dish, side dish, or dessert) and camping chair or pillow to sit on. First we'll eat some dinner at 5:30pm and then we'll start the movie. We'll vote on the movie that evening. It's the end of the school year and we need a night to relax! Sign up by Friday, May 16th by emailing me (hmfuerst@aol.com) or on our Facebook page (TLC Family Ministry or TLC Youth Ministry).

Men's Retreat - New Venue/format! - Save the Date!

We're mixing it up this year with a new format for our Men's Retreat! From Sept 19-21 we'll gather up North at a hunting cabin connected to a few Trinity men for a time of fellowship and fun. The cabin is near Baldwin, so just over 2 hours away, and we'll enjoy golf on Friday, relaxed tubing/rafting Saturday, and relaxation, fellowship, and food throughout! Be on the lookout for more details and registration to come soon, but for now, mark your calendar and plan to be there!

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE PASTORS WILL BE OUT OF TOWN
AND THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED MAY 19& 20
DUE TO THE ANNUAL ELCA SYNOD ASSEMBLY.

Green Team Update:

Some reflections from Refugia Faith by Debra Reinstra:

A “pyramid problem” is when we expect someone else to come up with solutions and take action to solve problems. It can be overwhelming to consider all the problems in the climate and in our country. Let each of us find our space or heart matter that we want to focus on to make an active difference. You can start small, maybe with your prayers, maybe a phone call, letter or donation, join a group (i.e. Green Team and a variety of local opportunities we would love to have someone participate in and share ideas) At church be mindful of our variety of recycling bins so items are placed in the proper receptacle. Read about the environment from the library or online.

Practice wonder and gratitude. Pay attention to the beauty of God's earth. We've had beautiful days to be outdoors and to enjoy the blossoms even as you drive. It could be a kindness observed in another person, It could be honoring the Sabbath day by resting, sharing a meal, whatever feels life giving to you.

From the Citizens' Climate Lobby there are ideas about how to save money and help the climate.

- Basic weatherization such as insulation, air sealing & ventilation can earn you a tax credit of 30% up to \$1,200.
- An electric induction stove which improves air quality has an upfront discount of \$840.
- Check out the Office of Climate and Energy at Michigan.gov



CROP Walk Update and Thanks! Thanks to the entire Trinity family- you were a big part of making the 2025 Kalamazoo Valley CROP Hunger Walk on April 27 a big success! Our team raised more than \$2000 for Loaves & Fishes and Church World Services, and the walk total is currently over \$15,000! There were 123 participants, including over 30 volunteers from Trinity who walked, served as route monitors, baggiped, and held down the fort. It was a great day to walk in community, to show & share love for our neighbors in Kalamazoo and globally!

April Basket Weaving classes - Everyone had a wonderful time spending time together, eating, visiting and creating amazing baskets! Thank you to everyone who contributed with food donations for our pantry! Fall classes will be scheduled for more weaving and fellowship fun!

Trinity Picture Directory!

A picture directory proof is available in the Fellowship Hall or Church Office. Please take a moment to review your personal information and correct in the margins any information that needs updating! If you do not have a picture included or wish to change your picture, please submit one to the church office to be added into the directory. We hope to publish the final picture directory by the beginning of June, so please provide updates by May 18.



News from the Church Council

During our March Council meeting the facilities plans for the electrical upgrade, the roof repair and the plastering/painting repairs were discussed. We talked about how to fund these projects. A letter was created to be sent to all congregants asking for their monetary assistance with these projects.

A second letter will be written if needed.

Steve Bittner talked about the Stewardship Fair which will be on May 18. All ministries will be offered a table for this Fair. It will be between services and after second service.

The air conditioning upgrade costs were discussed by Max Wineland. The upgrade planned with Consumers Power will make future HVAC upgrades possible. We are waiting for a quote from CP. Funds for this upgrade are already available in our operating funds.

Our next Council meeting is May 4 after second service in the meeting room. Feel free to join us.

Yours in Christ,

Julie Peterson

If you have questions about any of the above information, feel free to contact Julie Peterson at jtpeterson55@comcast.net (or find her at 11:00 a.m. worship service!)

Electrical Upgrade, Roof and Plaster Repairs Update!

Many thanks to those congregants who have committed to or made contributions to our upgrade campaign! Since sending our campaign letter, we have received gifts or commitments totaling \$5,738.50. Here's where we stand:

Prior Anonymous Gifts:	\$42,385.60
Trinity Foundation Gift:	\$20,000.00
New Gifts/Commitments:	\$ 5,738.50
Total Received:	<u>\$68,124.10</u>

Our goal to complete necessary repairs and upgrades is \$100,000.00. **We need \$31,876.00 more to reach our goal.** Please prayerfully consider contributing to our building needs by placing your contribution in your Sunday offering and designate "ERPF" in the memo line of your check or on your envelope. You may also contribute electronically through Trinity's Vanco application. We thank you in advance for your generosity.



If you have not already signed up for our weekly emails, please use the QR code here or visit our website (www.tlckzoo.com) and scroll to the bottom of the home page to sign up to receive weekly updates about what's going on around Trinity!

