



# Trinity Trumpet

March 2023

## Thank You St. Peter

A BIG THANK YOU to St. Peter for welcoming us to worship on February 5. Not only were we delighted to meet their new pastor but we had a wonderful welcome as soon as we turned into their parking lot!! Also, every woman received a rose for Valentines Day!!



## Road Runners

The March meeting of Road Runners will be held on Thursday, March 16, 11:30, at Lux Café on Capital S.W. March can often be cloudy, snowy & gray, help lift your spirits by joining us for a yummy lunch and fun conversation!! See you there!!

## Pastor's Letter

Welcome to the season of Lent. This is one of my favorite seasons of the church year. In contrast to the big, bold celebrations of Christmas, Easter, Pentecost, even Advent with it's eager leaning and Epiphany with it's light, Lent's quieter, stripped down tone feels like a welcome relief in a world that feels constantly on the move.

Our readings for this Lenten season give us contrasting images of parched deserts and streams of living water. The Gospel readings too are contradictory. Nicodemus who comes at night to ask of being born from above. The woman at the well offered living water. The man born blind who alone can see. And finally, Lazarus, the dead man who was raised. All of this points us to the greatest contradiction of all, a God who's greatest glory and triumph

is made known through death on a cross, and who rose from the dead so that we might know that death had been defeated.

One of the clearest images of the powerful contradictions of Lent is the one we use at the start of the season, the ashes of Ash Wednesday. The ashes we use from Ash Wednesday come from the burned palm fronds from Palm Sunday the previous year. Every year on Palm Sunday, we process triumphantly into the sanctuary singing “Hosanna to the Son of David” and “Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.” After worship, we gather up all those palms, symbols of our shouts of praise, and they sit on a shelf in the sacristy for the next ten and a half months. After which I take them out and burn them in an old soup pot I commandeered from the co-op donation closet for just that purpose (the pot is on the top of the bookshelf in my office. In case you’ve ever wondered why I keep a soup pot in my office, that’s why). One of the articles I was reading offered the movement of last year’s palms to this year’s ashes as an opportunity to reflect on the question, what is breaking down (in individuals, in our congregations, in our communities, and in the world)? What fresh hopes of the past year are now burned out? And – and this is the crucial “and” of this reflection – what is waiting to be (re)born? As a child of the wildfire-prone west I know this is a thing that is true but often forgotten about ashes, ashes are not the remains of destruction, ashes are the stuff of new life. They are the carbon-rich fuel out of which forests are born.

As we walk through this season of Lent, look for the life that is rising out of the ashes. Look for the sparks of green taking advantage of the rich soil of earlier efforts. Everything that came before is the stuff of new creation.

Peace,  
Pastor Kjersten

### **Lenten Services & Bible Study**

St. Peter will be hosting services weekly on Thursdays during Lent. The theme will center on Jesus and meals so there will be lots of wonderful food stories. In keeping with this theme, a pot luck will be held at 6:00 followed by worship at 7:00. Pastor Kjersten will be participating and leading the meditation for at least one week. (She will be gone to the ELCA later in the month.) Bible Study will resume after Easter.

## Council President's Letter

*I have one life and one chance to make it count for something...My faith demands that I do whatever I can, wherever I am, whenever I can, for as long as I can with whatever I have to try to make a difference.*

Jimmy Carter

We Lutherans are fond of professing the faith we are *Saved by Grace Alone*. Our salvation is not dependent upon good works. Yet, to be Christian means to use the resources we have for the benefit of those in need through our service. As we reflect on the life of Jimmy Carter in his last days, he provides a truly amazing example of Christian dedication.

At Trinity we have many initiatives where we provide service for the benefit of those in need and the preservation of our planet – God's Work Our Hands, Food Pantry, gardening, St. Thomas Breakfast program, Crop Walk, promotion of Voter rights, Family Camp and Freeze Pops as examples. The service to our community provided through our doors by the Co-op is immeasurable. All these programs have been running in the background as we recently resumed structure of the volunteer services necessary for worship, financial management, communication, maintenance of our building and co-habitation with our community partners. It has been gratifying to see the willingness of all of you to assist in this process. I have sensed a renewed enthusiasm for numerous projects which have been postponed over the last three years. Service opportunities at Trinity abound.

As we meet for our Annual Meeting there will be an opportunity for the sharing of information and dialogue regarding our ministry. This is a time to address questions on the part of our membership. It is my hope we can resume a focus on long-range planning for Trinity. To this end, I asked to include time to discuss the Community Center concept for our building. This concept has been discussed since we had a Redevelopment Team which was charged to consider creative options in long-range planning for our church in partnership with other congregations facing similar challenges. I am eager to hear your thoughts on this particular model and the viability for Trinity.

Thank you for all the service you provide...wherever you can and whenever you can...to make a difference.

Blessings,  
Jeff Andert

## Easter Lilies



It's time to order Easter Lilies to adorn our sanctuary on Easter morning!! The cost is \$8. If you would like to donate a lily, there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex where you can indicate if you are placing it in the sanctuary "In Memory Of" or "In Honor Of" a loved one. The deadline is March 19. You can give the money directly to Doug Martens, place it in the offering plate in an envelope marked Easter Lily, donate via our Facebook "Donate" button or PayPal including your information. Lilies can be picked up after the Easter service on April 9.

## Looking Ahead – Easter Week

Sunday, April 2 – Palm/Passion Sunday, 10:30 worship. Meet in Social Hall to process with palms.

Thursday, April 6 – Maundy Thursday, 7:00 worship.

Friday, April 7 – Good Friday, 7:00 Worship

Sunday, April 9 – Easter Sunday, 10:30 worship.

### Woman's Co-op Executive Director Report February 2023



***Faces of membership.***

No matter where you go in this world, even the Woman's Co-op, attitude, and effort matters. Now some places are more forgiving than others. Here at the Co-op, there is much room for missteps and grace. There has to be when you are learning to walk a new way. No one is going to get it completely right with their first steps. But with the grace there has to be boundaries. The boundaries are important for everyone to feel safe, welcome, wanted and valued. And one of the boundaries at our core is respect. At Woman's Co-op you have to respect who we serve and those who do the serving.

Respect for the people we serve is always at the forefront of any and all our interactions and transactions. It is one of the main reasons there is so much room for grace around here.

This respect must move both ways. Our people have to respect the ones who serve and the organization as a whole. I was faced with these principles a couple of times this past month and they are easier to say than live out at times. Everett was an awesome training candidate in the janitorial program. He had spent the bulk of his career as a cook but now the physical requirements of the job were too much for his health. We considered and discussed somewhere in the commercial janitorial field, perhaps even supervision, since he had been showing the new trainees what to do since his first week. That's when an opportunity caught his eye. Kellogg Community College was planning to host a Microsoft Office certificate program at the Co-op. We encouraged him to test and apply. When he was accepted, we all celebrated. But then Everett's diabetes became unmanageable, he had to be hospitalized three different times during the course. KCC regrettably had to drop him from the program. Everett felt defeated for sure. His car was in need of repairs he could not afford to do, he owed fines and fees on his driver's license. The stipends from KCC and the Co-op along with his disability was his means of just surviving. In true Co-op style we offered Everett the opportunity to fill a contract position under our KCC grant. He would serve as the immediate supervisor and trainer to the Janitorial Program for 20 weeks. This would allow time for his medications and health matters to balance out, his car repairs to be done and a chance to find a part-time job that his current health conditions would allow. It was great, until it wasn't great. Everette's whole attitude shifted. The church and Co-op changed a couple of needed policies and processes (use of the kitchen and its equipment) and Everett moved through the building for days grumbling. I pulled him aside, let him explain why he was so upset, assured him I understood but also explained why the changes were necessary. He said he understood, as well he understood the damage his attitude caused to the harmony and well being of the group as a whole. I thought we were good, lesson learned. Then a few days later Everett was grumbling again, this time to new training candidates. It was about the change in policy to when stipend checks were handed out. Staff used to provide trainees with their checks on Wednesday to cash on Thursday. However, some were cashing them early and not showing up on Thursday, Everett included. So, I stopped the privilege of anyone getting them early. I called Everett aside again for a discussion, once again he assured me, he understood he was just mad. Once again, I explained the dangers of these kind of attitudes in the organization. Before the week was out Everett had two confrontations with staff where he was elevated and aggressive. I had no choice but to end his assignment. After a couple of days had passed Everett called me. He wanted to say I was right, and he was so sorry for the way he had spoken about Woman's Co-op and the church. He said he knew he was blowing it but he couldn't seem to stop himself until it was too late. I hope Everett is able to regulate the behavior and find that great opportunity he very much deserves, even more I hope Co-op can help him find it.

It was just an average Tuesday, well at least it started out that way. Then Kayla called in sick leaving me and Valerie to manage the training candidates. Now there's something we should be familiar with but funny what you can become unfamiliar with once someone else takes it over. Not to mention we still had to perform our job duties as well that day. Let's just say it was a bit stressful. I started out the morning assigning the front desk trainees their duties for the day. One of the new trainees caught my attention, she seemed disconnected, laid back in her chair half sleeping. When she did engage, she was rolling her eyes. I asked if anyone had any questions or needed help getting started, she stated she wasn't even clear on how anything worked it was her second day and now her trainer wasn't here. I assured her that both Valerie and I were here to assist with anything she needed as well as answer any questions. She said she didn't understand any of it. I asked if she had orientation to go over her training folder the day before? She said yes but still didn't understand. I said OK let's start there. I carefully went over the folder with her and answered any questions she had. Then I assigned her to Sara, a training candidate that was in week four of training and understood the ropes a bit better. I said she could shadow Sara until she was more comfortable or even all day until Kayla returned the next day. I also let her know again that Valerie and I were there to assist with anything she needed. The girl rolled her eyes at me and said, "yea I need a bottle of water". We were currently out of bottled water, but I offered her the one from my lunch bag. Then I left her and Sara at the front desk. A few minutes later I heard the young lady criticizing the co-op and it's training program, "how they going to have a training program without a trainer" and even with her here I don't know what I am supposed to be doing". I heard Sara reassuring her it would all get easier with time but still she complained and criticized the program and Co-op. I called her in the office to ask why she was so upset, explained that at no time in any of her training would she have a trainer looking over her shoulder every step of the way. That she was treated with respect that day, assured that if she needed anything all she needed to do was ask. Instead, she chose to talk badly about the entire program at the front desk rather than to share her concerns. I let her know this was not a good first impression and not the level of professionalism we expected at the front desk. I suggested she leave for the day and come back tomorrow if this was still something she wanted to do. She promptly let me know she would not be returning. It bothered me even though I knew I was right. I questioned rather I had done everything I could to connect her to the training. At the end of the day, I did. We have just six weeks to teach someone to manage a front desk reception, rule number one; don't talk poorly about the organization you are assigned to in front of the public. Attitude and effort are everything.



1. We have raised \$9,635.00 in our 2023 Annual Appeal
2. Valerie and Mia placed our first two training candidates at Bronson Battle Creek Hospital.
3. I am currently negotiating a contract with Geislinger Corporation. This contract will be small in numbers of placements, in fact limited to just one or two. But it looks a bit different as well, it will be considered an apprenticeship program for skilled trades (machine operators, tool and die). These will lead to good careers for our people.
4. I would like to begin researching small janitorial contracts locally. It would allow us to have additional work training sites and could operate much like our current contracts do.
5. We are set to teach our first Bridges out of Poverty class session at Calhoun County Alternative High school this month. As I previously discussed we will teach four classes a year across the community for two years. We wanted the groups to represent a wide range of the community's voice. I am please to be able to include a group of high school seniors. I am looking forward to sharing data and stories as we move forward with the project.

Currently we are serving # 131 members / participants.

Community Service folks = 5

In Education and Training

Front Line = 6

Janitorial = 5

Industrial Sewing = 3

Snackworks = 22

Bronson Battle Creek Hospital = 2

## House Meetings with The Woman's Co-Op

House meetings between representatives of Trinity and the Woman's Co-Op have been held since January. These have been very productive. One result has been the implementation of a Sign In Sheet at the receptionist desk to keep track of whoever enters the building during the week to aid in providing better security for everyone here. We ask that you please sign in when you enter the building. Thanks!! If you have any concerns that you would like brought to these meetings, please contact Eileen Martens or Diane Andert.

## Worship Volunteers & Readings for March

### Lay Assistants, Sound Board, Streaming

March 5 – LA: Jeff Andert  
Sound: Don Boulton  
Streaming:

March 12 – LA: Scott Schindehette  
Sound: Ellis Cutler  
Streaming:

March 19 – LA: Laurie Swanson  
Sound: Don Boulton  
Streaming:

March 26 – LA: Teresa Garver  
Sound: Ellis Cutler  
Streaming:

### Readings

Genesis 12:1-4a  
Psalm 121  
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17  
John 3:1-17

Exodus 17:1-7  
Psalm 95  
Romans 5: 1-11  
John 4:5-42

1 Samuel 16:1-13  
Psalm 23  
Ephesians 5:8-14  
John 9:1-41

Ezekiel 37:1-14  
Psalm 130  
Romans 8:6-11  
John 11:1-45

## March Birthdays & Anniversaries

### Birthdays

3/29 Eileen Martens  
3/29 Gwen Geselle  
3/30 Diane Andert  
3/31 Kendra Witkowski-Lehman



### Anniversaries

3/13 Doug & Eileen Martens



## *Prayer Requests*

### **COMMUNITY**

Sharon Cutler  
Pam Ellison-Kring  
Maxine Hammond  
Linda Hermann  
Rose Walentowski  
Tish Gancer  
Millie Sullivan  
Family of Jeanne Stelloh  
Family of Anitra Bettac

### **IN OUR HEARTS/ON OUR MINDS**

Lanny Johnston, Jr. (Sharon's son)  
Jim Hines (Maxine's nephew)  
Margo (Tish's sister)  
All families impacted by the gun violence  
in Battle Creek

### **OTHER WAYS TO CONNECT WITH TRINITY**

Trinity's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/trinity.church.581>

"Like" the Trinity Facebook page to follow events and activities.

### **WEBSITE**

Trinity website: <http://www.tlcbattlecreek.org>

Check out the **What's New** tab to see the latest events going on at Trinity. You can also find transcripts of Pastor Kjersten's sermons under the **Worship** tab.

### **TRUMPET**

To update your newsletter email/mail preferences, contact Pastor Kjersten at [pastor@tlcbattlecreek.org](mailto:pastor@tlcbattlecreek.org) or 963-5356. Let us know if you would like to be added our quarterly mailing list to receive a color brochure of what's new at Trinity.

### **ONLINE GIVING**

Trinity now has online giving. Simply go to Trinity's website, <http://www.tlcbattlecreek.org> and click on the yellow button that says "Donate" on the bottom left corner of the page. Or go to Trinity's Facebook page and click on the blue button that says "Donate" on the right side of the page.

## **CHURCH STAFF**

**Kjersten Sullivan, Pastor.**      **Will Canfield, Organist/Choir Director**

pastor@tlcbattlecreek.org      wilcanfield@gmail.com (805) 458-6074

## **CHURCH COUNCIL**

Jeff Andert, President, 968-3712

Laurie Swanson, Vice President, 729-5464

Connie Everson, Secretary, 963-6608

Teresa Momenee-Young 753-2411

Kathy Chapman 660-8548

Tish Gancer 832-4719

Wayne Walentowski. 830-5094

# MAR2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
				<b>01</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>04</b>
			7:00 Choir	Lenten Service St. Peter 6 Pot Luck 7 Worship			
<b>05</b>	<b>06</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>08</b>	<b>09</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	
10:30 Worship 11:45 Annual Meeting Pot Luck	8:30am-4pm Woman's Co-Op Monday Mixer	12:30 Franklin Pantry	7:00 Choir	Lenten Service St. Peter 6 Pot Luck 7 Worship			
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	
10:30 Worship	8:30am-4pm Woman's Co-Op Monday Mixer	11 Worship & Music	7:00 Choir	11:30 Road Runners@ Lux Cafe St. Peter, 6 Pot Luck 7 Worshin			
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	
10:30 Worship	8:30am-4pm Woman's Co-Op Monday Mixer		7:00 Choir	Pastor gone March 23-29 ELCA Meeting St. Peter Lenten 7 Worship	Pastor Gone	Pastor Gone	
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		
10:30 Worship 11:45 Property Committee Pastor Gone	8:30am-4pm Woman's Co-Op Monday Mixer Pastor Gone	7:00 Council Meeting Pastor Gone	7:00 Choir <b>Trumpet Articles Due</b> Pastor Gone	Lenten Service St. Peter 6 Pot Luck 7 Worship			

