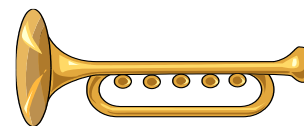




TRINITY TRUMPET

September 2022



Pastor's Letter

Why is Pastor Kjersten in Columbus Part Two: What Happened

Dear Trinity,

Last month I traveled to Columbus, Ohio for the ELCA Churchwide Assembly. Quick refresher on what that means. Made up of voting members from all the synods, the Churchwide Assembly is the highest legislative body of the ELCA. It meets every three years to hear reports from church leaders, approve a budget, hear memorials, and elect leaders to a variety of boards and positions. We did a LOT in five days. Here are two of my highlights.

Imran Siddiqui Elected Vice President of the ELCA – Vice President is second to the Presiding Bishop in the ELCA and is the highest lay (church word for not a pastor) position in the church. The Vice President serves six years and is responsible, among other things, for overseeing the work of the Church Council. As his day job, Vice President-elect Siddiqui is a senior investigator for the U.S. Department of Labor. His church experience includes being the current vice president of the Southeastern Synod (Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama and Mississippi). He's a father with two young children and is newish to Lutheranism. He grew up Muslim and became Lutheran in 2011.

Honestly, voting for the Vice-Presidential candidates was one of the hardest things I did during the assembly, because all of the nominees were so excellent. The way the process works is the first ballot is a nominating ballot. Any non-clergy ELCA member can be nominated. Nominees then have time to remove themselves from the process. The next ballot consists of all the names of the remaining nominees, some thirty people this year. The third ballot cuts the list to the top seven. So good were the nominees that any of the top seven would have been incredible. Frankly, of the thirty original names, I recognized probably fifteen and would have heartily supported any of them. We had an abundance of riches in people willing to serve in this role. Vice President-Elect Siddiqui was a strong candidate all the way through, but what totally won me over to him was his acceptance speech. I am looking forward to working with him on Church Council.

Voted to restructure the governance of the ELCA – The assembly voted to call for the establishment of a Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church to reconsider the principles of the denomination's organizational structure and the statements of purpose for its churches, synods and the churchwide organization. The memorial instructs the commission to be "particularly attentive to our shared commitment to dismantle racism." This is a bold move, but I think an important one. The ELCA was formed thirty-five years ago as a merger of three Lutheran bodies. Between the challenge of blending together three different

governance structures and the changing culture since 1987 and today, the governance structure of the ELCA could use some (to put it mildly) adjusting. As ELCA Lutherans, we bring an important witness of God's grace to the world, and we need a governance structure that supports that witness.

Received a presentation on the "Declaration of the ELCA to American Indian and Alaska Native People" adopted by the ELCA Church Council last September. As part of the work of that declaration, the assembly supported a memorial encouraging ELCA members and entities to support "creative programs of restorative justice in partnership with Indigenous peoples." That can include returning land to the appropriate Native American nations when selling or transferring property. The memorial also encourages ELCA members and entities to explore making land acknowledgements a part of their public gatherings, to educate themselves about the Indigenous peoples whose land they inhabit and to deepen relationships with Indigenous peoples and tribal nations. We also experienced a worship service designed and led by Indigenous Lutherans and an address by National Congress of American Indians President Fawn Sharp.

This is the second Churchwide Assembly I have had the privilege of participating in. And while the work itself is important (though, as I talked about in my sermon a couple weeks ago, boring and tedious at times), the most powerful part is being in a space with so many people eagerly trying to hear God's call for the church and follow what the Holy Spirit has in store. We don't always get the work right, and we often have to go back and fix an earlier thing. But it is powerful to feel the Spirit move, even among Roberts Rules of Order and convention center tech issues. Thank you for allowing me the time to be part of this experience.

Peace,
Pastor Kjersten



Left: Vice President Elect Imran Siddiqui, Top right: Gospel procession in worship, Bottom right: ELCA Church Council poses with Arnold (can you find Pastor Kjersten?) Below: Presiding Bishop and Parliamentarian consult on the amendment to the amendment to add a half hour to the meeting.





New Liturgy Starts September 11.

Theme: God's Work. Our Hands.

Sunday, September 11 is, as you will read later in the newsletter, God's Work Our Hands Sunday. This is a day of service for ELCA Lutherans all across the country. At Trinity, we have a tradition of taking part in this day of service, but we also know that God's Work Our Hands isn't a one day declaration, it is a way of life. Our worship for fall will help us to reflect deeper on that promise, that God has great things in store for the world and that God uses our hands to accomplish that great work.

Each Sunday before (and sometimes after) the reading of the Gospel, we sing a Gospel Acclamation. With this song we welcome and rejoice in the gift of God's Word. During the fall, we will sing two verses of the hymn O God of Mercy, God of Light. We will sing verse one before the Gospel reading, and verse three following. The words of the hymn call on God to teach us to live our lives in God's vision for the world.

The Prayers of the People are our collective prayers to God on behalf of ourselves, our community, and our world. At Trinity we have a tradition of singing a prayer hymn before or after the prayers to either center us into the time of prayer or move us out from prayer. For the fall, we will be singing For Such a Time as This after the prayers, to remind us that we are the people God has called for the needs of our world in this time.

After the offering is collected, it is brought forward to the table while we sing an offertory. This song reminds us that God gives to us so that we may give to others. Everything flows from God's goodness and giving, everything draws us into God's grace. Our offertory for fall is appropriately a hymn titled God's Work, Our Hands. Each week we will sing a different verse of the hymn, about the work of our hands, our feet, and our voices. We will also sing the fourth verse, reminding us that God is at work in the world, blessing us, our lives, and our world.

For those of us who are visual processors, Laurie is working on some decorations to reinforce the theme of God working through us. You'll notice a real "hands" theme, with a display of work gloves. While not all of us use gloves in our work, they are a nice representation of work. Pastor Kjersten is also working on a creative prayer opportunity to make handprints with prayer requests on them to create a prayer mural.

God's work, our hands, our feet, our voices, our prayers, our hearts. Come join in giving thanks to God for all that God does, and for all that God empowers us to do.



**God's Work. Our Hands.
Sunday, September 11**

Pastor Kjersten always likes to keep it local for God's Work, Our Hands, the ELCA national day of service. This year we have two opportunities to serve, one local and one hyper-local. Both of these projects will take place immediately after worship on Sunday, September 11th, so please plan on hanging around to help out.

Local—Thank you to our teachers

Kinds in our neighborhoods go to one of two elementary schools, Post-Franklin Elementary and Waddles Park Elementary. We will be decorating and signing a large card for the staff of both schools. The card will be delivered one day the following week along with hot Biggby coffee. Pastor Kjersten consulted with a contact at one of the schools and was assured that coffee would be the most appreciated show of support a teacher/support staff/administrator at the beginning of the school year could receive.

Hyper-Local—Stock and organize the Co-op Store, then tell everyone you know about the awesome work Co-op does for the community.

The Co-op Store is a free store where Co-op members can get household and personal care products, all the things that families need which cannot be paid for with Bridge cards. The Co-op store is in desperate need of reorganizing and is always in need of restocking. Trinity members are invited to bring to worship on Sunday, September 11th items to stock the store. We will then clean and organize the store so it is easy for Co-op members to use. Finally, we will take lots of pictures of the store along with the list of needed items, and share them on social media or with others in the community, to share the good news of the amazing work Woman's Co-op does for women and families.

Store Needs

- | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| Laundry Soap | Baby Shampoo | Hair Color |
| Dyer Sheets | Baby Lotion | Toothbrushes |
| Dish Soap | Lotion | Mouth Wash |
| Shampoo | Powder | Hair Ties |
| Conditioner | Relaxers | Hairbrushes |
| Trash Bags | Ethnic Hair Care Products | |
| Household Cleaner | Gel | |
| Body Wash | Hair Spray | |
| Deodorant | | |



CROP Walk

Sunday, September 25, 3 pm

It's time once again for the annual CROP Hunger Walk. This year's event will be held at the Leila Arboretum, a beautiful place for a stroll to end hunger. All money raised by the CROP walk goes to help Church World Service fight hunger both in Battle Creek and around the world. Donation envelopes for walkers are available at Trinity. Kathy Chapman is organizing us again this year, talk to Kathy for more information.

St. Thomas Breakfast Program

Saturday, October 8

Next Dates: Nov. 12

Trinity and St. Peter are once again partnering up to serve our neighbors by helping out at the St. Thomas Breakfast Program. In the winter, breakfast is served on Saturday mornings. St. Thomas is transitioning back to an in-person meal inside the social hall. This means more volunteers will be needed for each shift. I believe it is still 3-4 starting at 7 am, but then closer to 6-8 starting at 8 am. Breakfast is served until 10 am, with some clean up after. Masks will be optional for both volunteers and guests. Linn Kracht from St. Peter is organizing the effort. Contact Linn at ldkracht@gmail.com to volunteer.



Collecting Stamps for St. Peter

Our friends at St. Peter Lutheran Church are collecting cancelled postage stamps to support the creation of Spanish language Sunday school material and they are looking for our help. Cut cancelled stamps from envelopes, leaving 1/4 to 1/3 inch margins, and place the stamps in the box in the table in the entryway. For more information on the program, check out the flyer in the box.

Summer Fun

Family Camp was SO FUN!!!!

Thank you to everyone who helped make Family Camp such an amazing success! Thank you to all the organizers, the wranglers, the kitchen workers, and of course, the kids and families for participating. It was a smaller group than we've had in the past, but what they lacked in size they made up for in enthusiasm. Here are some pictures from our fun week.





Roadrunners on the Road
11:30 am, Thursday, September 22

J B Whiskey
3905 W Dickman Rd STE B, Springfield, MI 49037

The Roadrunners are keeping it close to home this month, traveling just a few blocks up Columbia to Lucky Rooster. Featuring scratch-made Italian food with locally sourced ingredients, you're certain to find something delicious. Come check it out and enjoy lunch with some Trinity friends.

2022 Tentative Roadrunners Schedule

September 22-J B Whiskey

October 20- Turkeyville

November 17-Soup and Sandwiches Potluck at Trinity

December 15- Clara's on the River (6:00pm)

Wayne Walentowski



Wednesday Bible Chats
10:30 am and 5:30 pm in the Lounge at Trinity
On Facebook Live Tuesdays at 1 pm.

The feedback has been received and Bible chats are going to try going in-person. There are two opportunities to join the conversation, a morning conversation at 10:30 am on Wednesdays and an evening one at 5:30 pm on Wednesdays. I will continue to post an overview of the texts on Facebook Live on Tuesdays at 1 pm.

What is Bible chat? Exactly what it sounds like, it's a chat about the Bible text for the coming Sunday. When I moved to Michigan from California, I left behind a text study group that I loved, so I turned you into my new text study group. The format of these chats is simple, we start by reading the text aloud together, and then we talk about what we heard, insights we noticed, questions the text raised. I bring some introductory background information and research, but the conversation really goes wherever the group takes it. Come join the conversation.

Thank you!

Thank you for all your prayers during my Rehab at Evergreen and the Get Well card.

Rose Walentowski

Questions and Curiosities

By Tresa Tulley

For the past couple of months, I have been exploring the topic of adoption. I am excited to share with all of you a small amount of the information and resources I have become aware of. If you believe this information might be helpful to you, please talk to me at church or give me a call.

In the first part of this article, I will share with the reader my own definition of adoption. I believe a significant reason for adoption is to provide a person, no matter his or her age, with a sense of belonging. In the second section of this article, the reader will notice that I have included Romans 1:1-6. These verses deal with what it means to belong to Christ. In the third section, I will share insights about adoption from my interview with Judge Tina Yost-Johnson. In the final section of the article, I will share the story of the adoption of Steven Kolodzieizyck. Through his work as a mentor, coach, and principal, he gives children places in which they belong.

In this section of the article, I have chosen to include my definition of adoption. Adoption is having secure relationships within a family or a church that provide you with a sense of belonging.

In this second section of the article, I have chosen to include Romans 1:1-6. These verses follow the theme of belonging. In this case, Paul is writing about our belonging to God. “1This letter is from Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, chosen by God to be an apostle and sent out to preach his good news. 2God promised this good news long ago through his prophets in the holy scriptures. 3The good news is about his Son. In his earthly life he was born into King David’s family line, 4and he was shown to be the Son of God when he was raised from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit. He is Jesus Christ our Lord. 5Through Christ, God has given us the privilege and authority as apostles to tell gentiles everywhere what God has done for them, so that they will believe and obey him, bringing glory to his name. 6And you are included among these gentiles who have been called to belong to Jesus Christ.”

Tina Marie Yost-Johnson has been a judge in Calhoun County since January 1, 2017. In that time, she has helped to create 20-30 families per year through adoption. There was not a single event that birthed in Tina Marie a passion for adoption. As she interacted with people who appeared in her court room seeking to be adopted, she realized that there were three things that all of them, no matter their age, were looking for. 1) Each person who was being adopted wanted the joy of knowing that he/she had been chosen. 2) Each person who was being adopted wanted the security of knowing that he/she will always have a place where he/she belongs. 3) Lastly, people who want to be adopted are looking for unconditional love. A person or a family who is willing to say to him or her, there is nothing you could ever do, say, think, or feel that would make me stop loving you.

I asked Judge Yost-Johnson to identify three misconceptions most people have about adoption. One misconception is that the person being adopted is always grateful that he/she was adopted. Adopted children are just children. Depending on the day, the adopted child may be thankful for having been adopted. It is also true that the child may find it very difficult to adjust to all the changes that come with being part of a family. These changes may include being separated from his/her biological family. Even if their biological family lacked the ability, desire, or financial means to take care of the child, that child may still love and feel connected to some members of the family. Being happy about being part of this new family may feel to the child like he or she is backstabbing their family of origin.

A second misconception that Judge Yost-Johnson identified is that in order to adopt, the adoptive family must be perfect. There are no perfect families. When you adopt a child, not only the parents but the entire family are making a life-long commitment to love the child unconditionally. The family is making a commitment to learn about the child. The child who is being adopted is also making a commitment to learn about the family and grow within the family. Lastly, the child and their adoptive family are making a commitment to trust each other as they walk bravely into this new life.

A third misconception that people have about adoption is that you have to be rich in order to adopt a child. Judge Yost-Johnson said it is expensive to adopt internationally. According to the Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange, there are 225 children in foster care in Michigan who still have hope that he/she will be adopted. And adoptive family should budget for things like medical exams and safety classes. A family who chooses to adopt a child who is currently in foster care in Michigan will pay no more than \$300. To me, that seems like such an insignificant amount of money to spend in order to provide a cathartic influence in the life of a young person.

In this fourth section, I will share some of the experiences of Gloria and John Kolodzieizyck. When their daughter Kimberly was seven years old, John and Gloria began trying to add to their family. It was John who suggested they adopt a child. Steven was born in 1974. It had taken nearly three years for God to send the exact child that belonged in their family.

When he started school, Steven was a very smart and curious child. After some time had passed, testing was done that revealed that Steven was dyslexic. He went to Project Hope several times per week for tutoring. With a lot of hard work and determination, Steven was able to graduate. When he was ready to go to college, Steven knew that he wanted to be a teacher. He wanted to help other students realize that no matter how they learned best, school was a place where they could feel safe, know that they belong, and be given the tools to succeed.

Today, Steven and his family live in Georgia. He is a husband, father, principal, and coach. All of these roles allow Steven to mentor children. He works every day to show them that their lives matter. Each child has a place where he or she belongs.

In conclusion, in section one of this article, I shared my definition of adoption. In section two, we learned what Romans says about belonging to Christ. Section three I shared insights on adoption from Judge Tina Yost-Johnson. In section four, Gloria Kolodzieizyck shared the story of the adoption of their son Steven.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Worship Assistants

September 4— Ellis Cutler
September 11—Doug Martens
September 18—Mary Conklin
September 25—Scott Schindehette

Sound Volunteers

September 4—Don Boulton
September 11—Ellis Cutler
September 18—Don Boulton
September 25—Ellis Cutler

Streaming Volunteers

September 4—Chase Lehman
September 11—Travis Sullivan
September 18—Chase Lehman
September—Travis Sullivan

Altar Guild Volunteers Needed

Altar Guild volunteers set up for communion and clean up after. Benefits include a fun-filled lesson from Pastor Kjersten on what all the things are called and getting to take part in the sacramental ministry of the congregation. See Wayne Walentowski or Diane Andert to be added to the schedule.

Readings for September

Sunday, September 4

Jeremiah 18:1-11
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
Philemon 1-21
Luke 14:25-33

Sunday, September 11

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28
Psalm 14
1 Timothy 1:12-17
Luke 15:1-10

Sunday, September 18

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1
Psalm 79:1-9
1 Timothy 2:1-7
Luke 16:1-13

Sunday, September 25

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15
Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16
1 Timothy 6:6-19
Luke 16:19-31

September Birthdays

9/8 – Joyce Davis
9/10 – JoAnn Rusan
9/10 – Janelle Sullivan
9/13 – Adrienne Boyd
9/22 – Doug Martens



September Anniversaries

9/18 – Dan & Adrienne Boyd

OTHER WAYS TO CONNECT WITH TRINITY

FACEBOOK

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 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

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Will Canfield, Organist/Choir Director
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CHURCH COUNCIL

Jeff Andert, President	968-3712	Kathy Chapman	660-8548
Laurie Swanson, Vice President	729-5464	Tish Gancer	832-4719
Connie Everson, Secretary	963-6608	Teresa Momenee-Young	753-2411
		Wayne Walentowski	830-5094

COMMUNITY

Sharon Cutler
Pam Ellison-Krings
Maxine Hammond
Linda Hermann
Rose Walentowski
Students returning to schools

IN OUR HEARTS/ON OUR MINDS

Lanny Johnston, Jr. (Sharon's son)
Jim Himes (Maxine's nephew)
Mary (Tish's friend)
Karen Rambadt (Ellis's niece-in-law)
Mark (Vicki's friend)



SEPTEMBER 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 12:30 pm Stewardship Team Mtg.	2	3
4 10:30 am Worship	5 Office Closed— Happy Labor Day	6 1pm Facebook Live Bible Chat	7 10:30 am and 5:30 pm Bible Chat in the lounge 7pm Choir Practice	8	9	10
11 10:30 am Worship God's Work. Our Hands. After worship	12	13 1pm Facebook Live Bible Chat	14 10:30 am and 5:30 pm Bible Chat in the lounge 7pm Choir Practice	15 11:30 am Roadrunners @JB Whiskey	16	17
18 10:30 am Worship	19	20 1pm Facebook Live Bible Chat	21 10:30 am and 5:30 pm Bible Chat in the lounge 7pm Choir Practice	22	23	24
25 10:30 am Worship 3pm CROP Walk at Leila Arboretum	26 Trumpet articles due	27 1pm Facebook Live Bible Chat 7 pm Council Meeting	28 10:30 am and 5:30 pm Bible Chat in the lounge 7pm Choir Practice	29	30	