



# Trinity Trumpet

April 2023

## Road Runners

The April meeting of Road Runners will be held on Thursday, April 20, 11:30, at Finley's on Columbia. Spring is here (hopefully, it is Michigan after all) and it's time to come out of our winter "cocoon" and enjoy a meal and good conversation with our Trinity friends!! See you there!

## Pastor's Letter

This is a story some of you may remember, but it bears repeating. The first year I was here, we did a joint Easter Vigil service with St. Peter. The Great Vigil of Easter, for those of you who are unfamiliar, is one of my very favorite services of the church year. We're not holding one this year, but Pastor Ed and I are talking about trying one again next year. A traditional Easter Vigil starts late on Easter Saturday, in the dark, with the telling of the great salvation stories of our faith. Creation, the crossing of the Red Sea, the dry bones, the fiery furnace, among others. Anywhere between four and twelve stories of times God has saved God's people. Having heard how God has saved God's people in the past, we then hear the story of Christ's resurrection, and the service switches from the Tomb to Resurrection. We share communion, shout Alleluia, and celebrate Christ's victory over death. Most Easter Vigil services end with a party. Our first Easter Vigil too, was to end with a party. And as any good church party should, the plan was to have a sheet cake. This is where the story gets good.

Because it was a special occasion, instead of my traditional Meijer cake (which, for the record, Meijer is my favorite cake), I went to Continental Bakery. The traditional refrain for the Great Vigil of Easter is "This is the Night." Over and over again throughout the service, we repeat the refrain, "This is the Night." This is the night of Christ's victory over death. This is the night of our salvation. This is the night that the cross redeemed us. So, when asked what I wanted written on the cake, I asked for the phrase "This is the Night." "What color do you want it written in?" "I don't know," I replied, "Easter colors."

The day of the vigil arrived, and I went to pick up the cake. And of course, the set up had taken longer than planned, and I was a bit rushed when I got to the bakery. I asked for the cake, and the cake decorator himself brought it out, giddy with excitement. I should have sensed something was about to happen. "Do you want to see the cake," he asked. Rushed, I just wanted to pay and leave, but he so clearly wanted me to see it that I agreed to let him show me the cake. He opened the box, and, to my surprise, what greeted me were the words "This is the night" in tiny font in the upper left hand corner, and a tableau of bunnies scattered across a forest scene, with jelly beans as Easter eggs. In a secular Easter, "This is the night," apparently, that the Easter bunny hides the eggs. The detail on this cake though, I cannot stress enough. I could not have gotten this cake if I'd tried.



"Do you like it?" the decorator asked earnestly. "Yeah..." I mumbled. This was not at all what I had in mind, but it was after three, the service started at four, and this was the cake we were having, regardless of my opinion. "It has a lot of bunnies on it," I stumbled, looking for something positive to say. "It does," the decorator responded proudly, "people love bunnies."

I brought the cake back to Trinity, unsure how I was going to share this very lively, and not at all Jesus themed, dessert with the bishop. He LOVED it. Thought it was the best vigil cake he'd ever seen. "This is your thing now," he told me. "You are the church of the bunny vigil cake."

Dear people of God, so often Holy Week becomes routine. Year after year, the same traditions. Beautiful and powerful, yes, but similar. Every so often we need something, like a bunny cake, to drop into our midst and remind us that the resurrection is not a memory of past events but a very real experience that is still changing us today. I don't know what that surprise will be this year, what will get dropped or mixed or forgotten, that will shake us from the regular and remind us of Christ's resurrection. But I know it will happen, and I know it will be beautiful. Be on the lookout as we go through Holy Week, for the bunny cake in our midst, the unexpected lightness of the empty tomb where you least expected it to be.

Peace,  
Pastor Kjersten

## **A New Look**

Due to an ordering snafu, Pastor was gifted with new furniture from the Woman's Co-Op – a \$400 value!! Stop by to see the new look in her office!!



## MAXINE HAMMOND'S FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

Maxine will be laid to rest at the Fort Custer National Cemetery on **April 14, 2023**, at noon with a brief service at the cemetery. After the burial, a luncheon will be provided at Trinity Lutheran Church where members of her family and many of her friends will be able to gather for the first time since Maxine's passing. The luncheon will be hosted by members of Trinity. Diane Andert, is the lead person for this luncheon. She may be calling for assistance for food and/or help on April 14<sup>th</sup>. The family is suggesting there could be 75 people honoring Maxine on that day. We could use help from as many members as possible to make this a celebration that everyone can enjoy. Diane's phone number is 269-967-4434 or you can email her at [dandert@icloud.com](mailto:dandert@icloud.com).

## Wednesday Bible Chats are Back

Starting **Wednesday, April 12**

10:30 am and 5:30 pm in the Lounge at Trinity

On Facebook Live Tuesdays at 1 pm.

Starting after Easter, Pastor Kjersten is bringing back Wednesday Bible chats. 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. Note: No Bible Chat on March 26.

## Easter Week

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

Thursday, April 6 – Maundy Thursday, 6:30 worship. Worship will include a simple meal of soup and bread and end with communion. Please sign up on the sheet outside the sanctuary.

Friday, April 7 – Good Friday, 7:00 Worship @ St. Peter

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

## Council President's Letter

*The Church is not an automobile showroom – a place to put ourselves on display so that others can admire our spirituality, capacity, or prosperity. It is more like a service center, where vehicles in need of repair come for maintenance and rehabilitation.*

Dieter Uchtdorf

The Annual Meetings of congregations provide a time of reflection on the life of the church in the past year as well as a vision for the future. As we mark the unfortunate third anniversary of the COVID pandemic it seems that all of our reports of church activity are tainted by this adverse influence. It has been gratifying to see Trinity emerging from the pandemic and resuming many aspects of our ministry.

For some time, discussions in our congregation regarding long-range planning have included the concept of converting our building into a “community center” as an expression of our social ministry in the Eastside of Battle Creek. I appreciated the discussion of this concept at our Annual Meeting on March 5th as there were many helpful questions and observations. As we deal with reduced human and financial resources, this approach seems to hold promise for our enduring ministry through the use of one of our greatest assets – our building. The potential partnerships in this model actually expand the impact of Trinity's spiritual and social ministry.

The Trinity Council will continue to explore this model through affordable resources. One of the challenges is the uniqueness of this concept and limited examples of similar implementation. Yet, it is this same uniqueness that has drawn interest from numerous sources in the church and non-profit arenas. As we gather information on our options, we look forward to discussion and input from the Trinity community in deciding on the appropriate plan going forward. Please share your thoughts and questions to assist in guiding us into the next phase of our life as a congregation.

In prayer,  
Jeff Andert

## Lazarus Is Raised From The Dead

On Sunday, March 26, we were treated to a live reenactment of story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. A big Thank You to Laurie, Jeff, Eileen and Doug (who was concealed on the cart for nearly 30 minutes) for the wonderful presentation of the Gospel reading. Laurie's sermon was timely and thoughtful, as always. We are truly blessed to have Laurie, Jeff & Gloria available to fill in when Pastor Kjersten is gone. We can always count on a great message from all three!



## St. Thomas Breakfast Program

### Saturday, April 15

Next Dates: Saturdays, May 13, Sept. 16, Nov. 11, and Dec. 9, and the week of August 7-11.

Trinity, St. Peter, and Resurrection Episcopal are once again partnering up to serve our neighbors by helping out at the St. Thomas Breakfast Program. 3-4 people are needed at 7 am to help with meal prep. Then at 8 am, an additional 6-8 people are needed to help serve the meal. Breakfast is served until 10 am with some clean up after. Linn Kracht from St. Peter is organizing our joint congregational efforts. Contact Linn at [ldkracht@gmail.com](mailto:ldkracht@gmail.com) to volunteer.

## Welcoming and Inviting Committee

The Trinity Church Council has been working to restart the committees that were paused during Covid. There will be a meeting on **Sunday, April 23**, after church for anyone interested in serving on the Welcoming & Inviting Committee. This committee has the purpose of planning funeral luncheons and other outreach functions for our congregation. Please come to give your input and help us to restart this important committee.

**Woman's Co-op  
Executive Director Report  
March 2023**



***Faces of membership.***

We have experienced a tremendous amount of change over this last year. Some of which was planned growth and some of which was needed by virtue of the moment. I find myself at my new desk staring out the window and reflecting on it all. I am thinking about how much I appreciate the quiet in this moment to think and focus but also how I miss things down the hall in my old office too. The more I step into my role as the Executive Director the more I have to step away from the things down the hall. I have always known this but somehow it is more meaningful sitting at this new desk in my new space down the hall.

The program shifts and changes we made this year have been necessary for Woman's Co-op to grow and sustain itself. But that does not mean they have been easy. We have stepped into new territory with our offsite training partners. Valerie and I have had to allow our new staff members to take over training and managing our people so that we can manage their opportunities. For anyone that knows me you know that my attraction to this work is in the direct contact with our families. I will do the other duties but I don't love them, they don't spark the joy that the other does. I have had to learn the importance of these duties as they fulfill the needs of the first. What I am doing now ensures we can do this work with our families in the future. So, I steal a little time when I'm not so busy to sit with members and I think that's ok, maybe even needed.

Our new staff members have had to fully step into their roles without the security of always feeling Valerie and I one step behind them directing the traffic. And believe me when I tell you I don't know who it scares more, us or them. And most importantly our families have had to adjust to these shifts in programming. The growth of our staff and the expansion of all our work experience programming. They have to understand they can't always talk to me, sometimes they have to talk to Kayla and allow her to handle their situation. They have to understand and accept that with the larger crowd on-site and the additional offsite locations we have to have a few new policies and rules for program access. Again, all necessary to support our growth but not always completely easy. These my friend are our growing pains, and although they take acceptance and require adjustments they are exactly right for where we are and where we are heading.



1. We have a signed contract with Geislinger Corporation. They have agreed to place one person at a time for a twelve-week apprentice program for CNC Operators at a 36% mark up for Woman's Co-op!
2. We fulfilled our second-year contract obligations with Michigan Works placing just over thirty trainees in a little over the first quarter and earning \$60,000 in tuition revenue.
3. We have started our first Bridges out of Poverty class at Calhoun County Alternative High school and it is going great! Can't wait to share outcomes with you.
4. Out of everyday things can sometimes come incredible things. And that is exactly what happened...One of the sewing students was fixing a doll dress for her daughter's little cloth doll when I noted the very authentic looking hair on the doll. This sparked a conversation that resulted in a spring launch of a line of Co-op dolls from the lightest shade of white to the darkest shade of black. All having authentic hair and sporting little t-shirts with our logo (will have soon) for BC/BC beautifully colored Battle Creek.
5. We have finalized everything with Michigan Secretary of State to host a SOS mobile office a couple of times this year at Trinity. The first is scheduled for May 8<sup>th</sup> 10am-6pm
6. We are currently working with the Michigan Attorney General's Office to host a Drivers' License Restoration Clinic set for October 18, 2023.
7. Woman's Co-op's Access Vision continues and may be actually improving so don't forget to check us out. We are novices for sure but learning. You can tune in Monday nights at 7pm on Access channel 16 or on demand from our website, there is a YouTube icon on every page that will take you to full episodes on our channel.



Currently we are serving # 153 members / participants.

Community Service folks = 4

In Education and Training

Front Line = 4

Janitorial = 3

Industrial Sewing = 4

Snackwerks = 24

Bronson Battle Creek Hospital = 4

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

House Meetings continue to be productive. Highlights include the addition of three cameras which will monitor the parking lot, the Co-Op hallway and the interior of the building. All of the cameras will be accessible to Trinity during our Sunday worship services. The "sign in system" for all guests coming into the building during the week is working well. Discussion was held at the Council meeting to have folks also sign out to make sure everyone has left the building. The locked storage has been cleaned and shelving sections have been designated for both Trinity and the Co-Op. Biweekly meetings will continue routinely. Contact Eileen Martens or Diane Andert if you have any topics you wish to be presented at a meeting.

## Thank You

A thank you was received from the South Michigan Food Bank as a response to our Super Bowl of Caring collection on February 5. Thank you to everyone who contributed!!

Dear Trinity Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift of \$124.00 to South Michigan Food Bank that you made on 3/27/2023. Your gift has been designated to support KC004C Franklin Elementary BP. Your generosity changes lives in our community. Your donation provides:

- 55 meals for every \$10 you have donated!
- Nutritious food to fuel growth and stability in our community
  - Crucial Support for 15,000 families visiting a food pantry each month.

Our neighbors are spending 12% more on groceries this year due to increased costs. As a result, we're spending 50% more this year to feed our neighbors. Gifts like yours make this possible!

Thank you for joining the fight to end hunger and empower our community so that no one has to sacrifice nutritious food this year.

Peter Vogel, CEO  
South Michigan Food Bank



## **SPRING GATHERING – A Retreat for Women of the ELCA**

A retreat for women of our local ELCA will be held in Kalamazoo on Saturday, April 22. Our own Pastor Kjersten will be leading Bible Study and Worship.



# **SPRING GATHERING**

Sponsored by Region 6B of the  
N/W Lower Michigan Women of the ELCA

Love one another as I have loved you

John 13:34b

Saturday April 22, 2023 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Registration & Snacks from 9:30 to 10:00

Trinity Lutheran Church

504 Westnedge Kalamazoo, Michigan 49008  
Cost \$10.00

Come out to the Spring Gathering  
There will also be fellowship opportunities, Bible Study, and Worship Service. We  
hope to see you there!

Please Contact Linda Ward 269-344-8684 by April 15, 2023, to reserve your place.  
Pay at the door when you come.

Take 131 to Kalamazoo and exit on exit 41 (downtown Kalamazoo) it becomes S  
Westnedge Ave

Trinity Lutheran is at 504 S Westnedge Ave

## Trinity Becoming A Community Center Concept

We need to be concerned about long range planning using our limited resources to move into the future. We are not alone in facing questions concerning our moving out of Covid restrictions, getting members back in their seats and how do we handle a building bigger than our current needs. Six years ago, our redevelopment team was given a grant for churches serving people in poverty to aid us in searching for ways to use our largest physical asset, our building.

At the March 5 Annual Meeting, Congregation President Jeff Andert presented a Power Point that highlighted the following:

In 1971 (when our building was built), we were Trinity Lutheran Church at 2055 E. Columbia Ave. Approximately 19 years ago, we became Trinity Lutheran Church and Woman's Co-Op at 2055 E. Columbia Ave. During the time since, additional community partners have also spent time in our building – KCC, a voting precinct, a vaccination spot, etc. With all of these, Trinity was in the “Top Box” of the organizational chart.

It is proposed that Community Center “Under One Roof” (a term borrowed from our joint meals scheduled in Novembers pre-Covid) at 2055 E. Columbia be in the top box of the organizational chart with Trinity Lutheran, The Woman's Co-Op and other community partners in the lower branches. Some of these community partners could include KCC classes, DHHS classes & supervised visitation, entrepreneur site for food start-ups, police departments, human service agencies, public health services, support groups, educational programs and housing services.

There are many questions still to be answered - a lively discussion followed. Here are the highlights for those folks not able to attend the meeting:

- Who owns the building & how is the organization set up is big! We will need an attorney to advise us about these major concerns. If we turn over the responsibility for the building, we will be able to spend less on the maintenance of the building. It remains to be seen what's the best way to structure the ownership.
- Pastor Strang is aware of many resources in our area and nationally and will help us locate someone versed in this type of non-profit set up.
- The council, Jeff and Pastor have been made aware of other churches as possible resources – one in Kalamazoo and Detroit. Contact will be made with them.
- It's scary thinking about losing control of the building. Yes it is!! We are ahead of the curve by 5-10 years when it comes to ELCA congregations finding solutions to their financial problems. We had a mission partner that sent money to us every month but recently had to close their doors. New ideas need to be investigated.
- Other start up churches as potential partners? Yes!!

- The word “potential” income stands out. Our finances are a big worry – we have to look at the future, if it helps, we need to take a look.
- The Woman’s Co-Op continues to expand their use of our space. They’re growing – it can be scary for us but a matter of moving forward.
- If we proceed with this, will we lose our ability to share Christ’s message with others in our community? When you set up a non-profit, there is a mission statement. We can include that this is a Christian community. Our main goal is to keep this congregation and our building. This is an effort to find a balance between our ministry and finances.
- The church is US – this is a great opportunity to get people into our building.
- It’s amazing how many people that are in the building during the week consider Trinity their church. This will let the spirit of our congregation continue to grow. Come during the week and chat with the people that are here and hear their stories of how God is working in their lives. We are trying a new thing; we don’t know that the new thing will look like but we’ll keep working. The Synod and the ELCA are very interested in our project.
- More people need to have heard Pastor’s message from today. Sarah & Abram were sent to different religions – not the narrow view of some denominations today. We need to get our message out!

Next steps:

- Legal opinions (paying for this????)
- Contacting other organizations for ideas and guidance.
- Continue to dialogue.

## Worship Volunteers & Readings for March

### Lay Assistants, Sound Board

April 2 – LA: Teresa Memominee-Young  
Sound: Ellis Cutler

April 6 – Maundy Thursday  
Sound: Ellis Cutler

April 7 – Good Friday

April 9 – LA: Doug Martens  
Sound: Don Boulton

April 16 – LA: Kendra Witkowski-Lehma  
Sound: Ellis Cutler

April 23 – LA: Chase Lehman  
Sound: Don Boulton

April 30 – LA: Mary Conklin  
Sound: Ellis Cutler

### Readings

Matthew 21:1-11  
Isaiah 50:4-9a  
Psalm 31:9-16  
Philippians 2:5-11  
Matthew 27:11-54

Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14  
Psalm 116: 1-2, 12-19  
1 Corinthians 11:23-26  
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

John 18: 1-19:42

Acts 10:34-43  
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
Colossians 3:1-4  
Matthew 28: 1-10

Acts 2:14a, 22-32  
Psalm 16  
1 Peter 1:17-23  
John 20: 19-31

Acts 2:14a, 36-41  
Psalm 116: 1-4, 12-19  
1 Peter 1:17-23  
Luke 24: 13-35

Acts 2:42-47  
Psalm 23  
1 Peter 2:19-25  
John 10: 1-10

## April Birthdays & Anniversaries

### Birthdays

4/13 Bob Swanson

4/14 Kathy Chapman

4/15 Gloria Kolodzieizyck

4//29 Don Boulton



### Anniversaries

4/21 – Rose & Wayne

Walentowski

## *Prayer Requests*

### COMMUNITY

Sharon Cutler

Pam Ellison-Kring

Millie Sullivan

Linda Hermann

Rose Walentowski

Tish Gancer

Family of Maxine Hammond

### IN OUR HEARTS/ON OUR MINDS

Lanny Johnston, Jr. (Sharon's son)

Jim Hines (Maxine's nephew)

Family of Margo Fischer (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.

# APR 2023

SUN      MON      TUE      WED      THU      FRI      SAT

						<b>01</b>
<b>02</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>05</b>	<b>06</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>08</b>
10:30 Worship 11:45 Choir	8:30am-4pm Woman's Co- Op Monday Mixer	12:30 Franklin Pantry Chrism Service for Clergy	7:00 Choir	6:30 Maundy Thursday Worship w/soup & bread meal	7:00 Good Friday @ St. Peter	
<b>09</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
10:30 Easter Worship	8:30am-4pm Woman's Co- Op Monday Mixer	1:00 Bible Chat Facebook Live 11:00 Worship & Music Meeting	10:30 & 5:30 Bible Chat		12:00 Maxine Hammond Funeral Luncheon	
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
10:30 Worship	8:30am-4pm Woman's Co- Op Monday Mixer	1:00 Bible Chat Facebook Live	10:30 & 5:30 Bible Chat	11:30 Roadrunners @ Finleys		10:00 ELCA Women's Spring Gathering, Trinity, Kalamazoo
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
10:30 Worship 11:45 Welcoming & Inviting Committee	8:30am-4pm Woman's Co- Op Monday Mixer	1:00 Bible Chat Facebook Live 7:00 Council				
<b>30</b>						
10:30 Worship 11:45 Property Committee						

