



# Trinity Trumpet

August 2023

## Pastor's Letter

### What is Social Justice?

***From the Core Values of Trinity Lutheran Church: "Social Justice – We believe God's will for the world is for every living thing to thrive. (By thrive we mean access to basic needs as well as space to grow and to know you are loved and accepted). We take seriously God's mandate in Micah to "do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God" (Micah 6:8).***

The council has been having really interesting conversations our last two council meetings about social justice, and I thought it would be fun to bring the rest of us into the conversation. Trinity has long had a deep commitment to social justice issues of all kinds. In our council conversations, we identified two different, and equally important, types of justice work, direct service and advocacy. Direct service is meeting people's immediate needs, like our work with Franklin Food Pantry, the CROP walk, helping with the Co-op store, cheering on and supporting Co-op members at graduations and other milestone events. Advocacy involves asking the why behind the immediate need and working for structural change to eliminate the need to fill that need. Like, why is it that so many families who use the Franklin Food Pantry have jobs and cannot afford food? Is there a need for better paying jobs? Access to better education? Childcare? Transportation? And then, after doing the learning, taking that learning to those in power to advocate for change. Or, what is the next step in our work of being a Reconciling In Christ congregation beyond having a table at Pride Fest and inviting people from the LGBTQIA+ community to worship at Trinity? How can we learn more about the needs of that community and add our voices to those supporting those needs. Or climate change. It's great that Teresa is unintentionally leading the charge on reducing our carbon footprint by hating the sound the air conditioner makes and insisting we all use open windows and fans instead. But how can we reach out to legislators about the need to reduce our carbon footprint on a national scale?

These are big questions with no easy answers. But the starting place for all of them is education, followed by action. If you're interested in any of those issues, or if there's something else that you want to speak up for, or if you're simply interested in helping

Trinity get more involved in advocacy, talk to someone on council and let them know. God's Work Our Hands takes our hands. It also takes our minds, our hearts, and our voices.

Peace,  
Pastor Kjersten



### God's Work Our Hands

**Sunday, September 10** will be a great day of fun and service. We will start with worship with our friends at St. Peter Lutheran Church. Worship is at **10 am** (note the different time). After worship, we will have the opportunity to take part in one of five different service projects.

On "God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday we will:

- \* Gather for a joint worship service with St. Peter Lutheran Church
- \* Enjoy a potluck luncheon.
- \* Help with 5 projects:
  1. Bake cookies for school bus drivers.
  2. Write thank you notes to teachers.
  3. Make hand warmers for local police officers.
  4. Make fleece scarves for Kambly folks.
  5. Help with yard or house chores for Trinity or St. Peter folks.  
Contact Linn Kracht if you have ideas of people in need.

God's Work Our Hands Shirts are available for purchase. The shirts **cost \$10**. The sign-up sheet is in the entryway. **Orders MUST BE in by August 16** (Pastor Kjersten is ordering the shirts on the 17<sup>th</sup>).



## **Council President's Letter**

***"A leader is a dealer in hope"***

**Napoleon**

Trinity is fortunate to have a Council with a great deal of leadership experience and representative of the make-up of our congregation. We were blessed at our election in May to add two long-term members with prior Council experience; Gloria Kolodzieizyck and JoAnn Rusan, as well as a more recent member with a passion for religious leadership, Tresa Garver. Continuing members Connie Everson, Teresa Momenee-Young, Kathy Chapman, Wayne Walentowski and myself, provide recent history on the status and direction of our church. We all know the next three years will be a turning point for Trinity and such leadership will be critical in navigating changes. Leadership of the Council for the next year was determined at the June Council meeting with the election of JoAnn Rusan as Vice President, Connie Everson as Secretary and Jeff Andert as President. All your Council members are elected to represent you in the life of Trinity and the future of our church. Please do not hesitate to communicate your interests, concerns and support to any of our Council members as you can be assured, they will be communicated to the Council.

The Council set an informational **Congregation Meeting for September 17<sup>th</sup>** after service. It has been six months since our Annual Meeting when we presented the concept of a Community Center for our facility. The Council believes it is important to be transparent in our decision-making and planning for Trinity's future. We would like to provide an update to the congregation on consideration of this model as a means of stabilizing the future of Trinity. No decisions have been made at this point and there will

be no proposals to vote on in September. You can expect such informational meetings on a regular basis in the future.

We will introduce our consultant, Bob Kamphuis, provided by the synod, who understands Trinity's strengths and challenges. He is very knowledgeable regarding non-profit organizations and will provide his expertise in shaping a vision for the continuation of Trinity's ministry in the Post neighborhood and beyond. Bob has done some work on the "nuts-and-bolts" of forming a non-profit to manage our building as a cost-saving measure while continuing 2055 East Columbia as our worship space. As Bob has pointed out, many churches face a similar challenge of reduced membership and the unrealistic costs of maintaining a building. He aptly notes Trinity is in a unique position with the community partnerships we have already developed to expand our ministry and service to the community. Bring your ideas and questions as we hope for continued discussion of our vision.

Jeff Andert  
Council President

## **Community Center Information**

Here's a review of Congregational President Jeff Andert's presentation and the questions and concerns shared at the March Annual Meeting for you to review before the September 17 meeting:

**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 to 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.

Jeff 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:

- 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.



## St. Thomas Breakfast

The week of **August 21 – 25, 2023**, is our week to help prepare and serve together with St. Peter the free breakfast at St. Thomas Episcopal Church. There is a need of at least three people every day at 7 a.m. and then at least 7 at 8 a.m. There is a signup sheet in the Narthex. If you aren't able to sign up in the Narthex, you can contact Linn Kracht at St. Peter at [ldkracht@gmail.com](mailto:ldkracht@gmail.com) to let him know the time and the days you are able and willing to help. Please consider helping with this ministry. If you have questions, contact Linn Kracht. God's Work Our Hands!!

## Road Runners

The July meeting of Road Runners will be held on **Thursday, August 17, 11:30, at Bob Evans** on Beckley Rd. The "Dog Days of August" are upon us – take a break from the heat and enjoy lunch with our Trinity family!



## Freeze Pop Tuesdays

**Every Tuesday, 2 pm to 4 pm**

Feels like we've only just begun, but school is right around the corner. The last day of Freeze Pop Tuesdays for the summer will be **Tuesday, August 15<sup>th</sup>**. Come out and get a Freeze Pop and enjoy the warm weather. Thank you to everyone who supported this fun community activity.

## Trinity's Wonderful Volunteers



The last Sunday of July while Pastor was running a marathon in Seattle and Will was attending a family funeral, three Trinity members filled in for them to provide a wonderful service.



Laurie Swanson (who is also a lay preacher) provided the service music, Linda Herman provided a solo (the photographer closed her eyes and it felt like she was praying, hence the lack of a photo of Linda) and Gloria Kolodzieizyck preached. Along with Jeff Andert who is also a lay preacher, we are truly

blessed to have these members who are always willing fill in to ensure we have a beautiful and meaningful service.

## CROP WALK for 2023

The **CROP WALK for 2023** will be on the 4th Sunday of **September 24th**, 2023.

Registration for the walk is at 2:30 with the walking beginning at 3:00.

The WALK will be at the Leila Arboretum, rain or shine. So, get out your walking shoes, cane, wheelchair or walker and I will see you there.

As always 25% of the money stays in the Battle Creek area to fight hunger. This is sponsored by the CWS (Church World Services). The other money will go the CWS for people who need clean water, or blankets in a storm etc.

I will have the envelopes available after the 14th of August 2023.

Thanks,  
Kathleen A. Chapman



### Cliff Street Sign

While turning into the parking lot or the circle drive you may not have noticed the new look of our Cliff Street sign. The crafty folks at the Co-Op updated it! Take a peek the next time you drive in.

## Worship and Music Meeting

**Tuesday, August 8, 10:30 am**

The Worship and Music Committee meets on the Second Tuesday of the month at 10:30 am. This fun group talks about our worship life at Trinity and how we want to come together in prayer and praise. Anyone interested in helping shape the worship life of our church is welcome.

Also, remember we're still looking for suggestions on hymns you like. If we sing one you particularly like, write a note (or tear out the hymn from the bulletin) and place it in the offering plate. This will help Will and the worship committee know what everyone is enjoying.

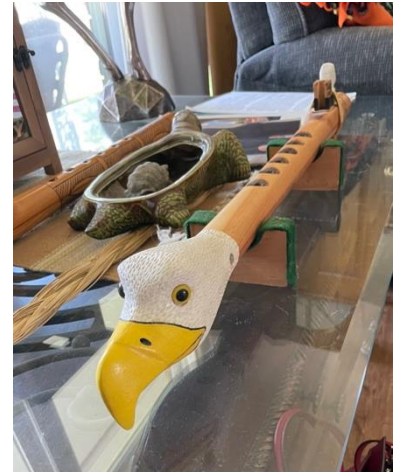
## Family Camp 2023

Family Camp 2023 was, in the words of John Kolodzieizyck, one of the best ones yet! The theme was God's Creation where each day focused on working as a community to help one another using God's gifts that are around us. Each day included an opening with a skit and singing, a craft session, story time, games, closing with more singing, dinner and special guests – chickens, ducks, a fire engine, our neighborhood liaison officer with her squad car and Wade the bee guy! If you haven't had the chance, check out the pictures in the Narthex.



## Native American Flute Maker

We have a talented craftsman in our midst!! Art Yates, Tresa Garver's husband, has hand crafted beautiful Native American flutes. His flutes have been props in the movies "A Man Called Horse" and "Windtalkers".



## Save Your Cancelled Stamps



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





# MICHIGAN SECRETARY OF STATE **MOBILE OFFICE IS COMING TO YOU**

The Secretary of State Mobile Office will be visiting  
**WOMAN'S CO-OP**  
to provide service to  
**CLIENTS OF WOMAN'S CO-OP TO COMPLETE THEIR  
SECRETARY OF STATE TRANSACTIONS**

**Date:** AUGUST 14, 2023

**Time:** 10 A.M. TO 3P.M.

**Location:** 2055 R COLUMBIA AVE, BATTLE CREEK,  
49014

**Book a visit to complete your Secretary of State transactions, including:**



First-time  
Michigan ID



Renew driver's  
license or ID



Transfer title



Apply for/renew  
disability placard

For more information or to schedule  
your visit during this Mobile Office  
event, contact

**TERESA MOMENEE YOUNG**

at 269-753-2411  
teresamomenee@  
womanscoop.org



The **Michigan Secretary of State** will be setting up their **Mobile Office** in our fellowship hall on **Monday, August 14**. If you have a need to visit the SOS, here's a great opportunity to avoid the lines or trying to schedule an appointment. Talk to Laurie Swanson about her personal experience using it last fall – she recommends it!

## August Prayer Partners

We are praying weekly for Lutheran Congregations in our Synod. Our prayer partners for July are:

**August 6** – Christ the King Lutheran Church, Gladwin, Rev. Emily Olsen  
**August 13** – Settlement Lutheran Church, Gowan, Rev. Betsy Kamphuis  
**August 20** – Immanuel Lutheran, Grand Ledge, Rev. Charles Foerster  
**August 27** – Bethlehem Lutheran, Grand Rapids, Rev. Karsten Voskuil-RCA



## Worship Volunteers & Readings for August

### Lay Assistants, Sound Board

August 6 – LA: Gloria Kolodizieyck  
Sound: Don Boulton

August 13 – LA: Doug Martens  
Sound: Ellis Cutler

August 20 – LA: Tresa Garver  
Sound: John Kolodizieyck

August 27 – LA: Laurie Swanson  
Sound: Don Boulton

### Readings

Genesis 32: 22 – 331  
Psalm 17: 1 – 7, 15  
Romans 9: 1 – 5  
Matthew 14: 13 – 21

Genesis 37: 1 – 4, 12 – 28  
Psalm 105: 1 – 6, 16 – 22, 45b  
Romans 10: 5 – 15  
Matthew 14: 13 – 21

Genesis 45: 1 – 15  
Psalm 133  
Romans 11: 1 – 2a, 29 – 32  
Matthew 15: [10 – 20], 21 – 28

Exodus 1: 8 – 2:10  
Psalm 124  
Romans 12: 1 – 8  
Matthew 16: 13 – 20

## August Birthdays & Anniversaries

### Birthdays

8/17 – Mary Conklin



### Anniversaries

8/1 – Dick & Connie Everson

8/6 – Louis & Teresa Young

8/12 – Steven & Kathy Millard

8/24 – Ellis & Sharon Cutler

8/24 – John & Gloria

Kolodzieizyck

8/28 – Art Yates & Tresa Garver

## *Prayer Requests*

### COMMUNITY

Sharon Cutler

Pam Ellison-Kring

Millie Sullivan

Linda Hermann

Rose Walentowski

Tish Gancer

### IN OUR HEARTS/ON OUR MINDS

Lanny Johnston, Jr. (Sharon's son)

Jim Hines (Maxine's nephew)



## **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.

### **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.

# AUG2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		<b>01</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>05</b>
		1:00 Bible Chat FaceBook Live 2-4 Freeze Pop Tuesday	10:30 & 5:30 Bible Chat <b>6:30 Choir</b>			
<b>06</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>08</b>	<b>09</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
10:30 Worship Coffee Hour	8:30am-4pm Woman's Co-Op Monday Mixer	1:00 Bible Chat FaceBook Live <b>10:30 Worship &amp; Music</b> 2-4 Freeze Pop Tuesday	10:30 & 5:30 Bible Chat <b>1:00 Family Camp Meeting</b> 6:30 Choir			
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
10:30 Worship Coffee Hour	8:30am-4pm Woman's Co-Op Monday Mixer	1:00 Bible Chat Facebook Live 2-4 Freeze Pop Tuesday	10:30 & 5:30 Bible Chat 6:30 Choir	<b>Road Runners @ Bob Evans</b>		
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
10:30 Worship Coffee Hour	8:30am-4pm Woman's Co-Op Monday Mixer	1:00 Bible Chat Facebook Live <b>7 Council</b>	10:30 & 5:30 Bible Chat 6:30 Choir			Choir Party
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		
10:30 Worship Coffee Hour <b>Property Committee</b>	8:30am-4pm Woman's Co-Op Monday Mixer	1:00 Bible Chat FaceBook Live	10:30 & 5:30 Bible Chat 6:30 Choir			

