



# Trinity Trumpet

June 2023

## Pastor's Letter

### God Sightings

I was sitting at my desk today, working on the bulletin, when the Co-op Front Desk person knocked on my door. "There's a man in front who wants to make a tithe offering?" she said with a question in her voice. I admit I assumed she misunderstood, and it was one of you trying to drop off an offering envelope or something, so I followed her to the entryway to see a man I didn't know sitting on the pew. "I want to tell you a story," he told me, "Do you know where James Street is?" I told him I did, and he proceeded to tell me about his cousin, who lived on James Street, struggled with addiction and depression, wanted community but was never able to find it, and had passed away in an automobile accident. "He never made it to this church," he told me. "I go to the church down the street from my house. This would have been the church he could have walked to, but he never managed to overcome his demons enough to get out of his house. So, I'm here for him, to give you this, because he never got to come." And with that, he handed me a twenty-dollar bill and got up to leave. I asked him his cousin's name (Robert) and told him I would pray for him and his cousin, and he left. And as I walked back down the hall to label the \$20 and put it in Doug's box for deposit I thought, I saw God today. I saw God in a man who loved his cousin, and in being reminded that we are the kind of church that neighbors know is theirs, even if they never make it through our doors.

Over the summer we will be starting worship by sharing our God Sightings. God Sightings are places we saw God show up in the world. God Sightings don't have to be big things like people showing up out of the blue and handing you money. In my sermon on Sunday, I talked about how I saw God in a woman getting her cane stuck in the library book drop. I see God every time I drive past the Little Free Library and see books added and removed. And in the baby birds that just hatched in my in-laws driveway, and their very protective parents. God Sightings are all around us, if we learn to look for them. This is why we will be starting worship by sharing them with each other, to train our eyes to be open to all of the ways and places God is showing up in our world. I can't wait to hear from you where you are seeing God in your lives.

Peace, Pastor Kjersten

## Council President's Letter

### *Bless the Children*

The theme of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod ELCA Assembly in May was "It's About Jesus." Bishop Satterlee encouraged participants to share examples of where they see Jesus at work in the world. He specifically requested a few synod representatives to share their witnesses to the Assembly regarding a favorite Bible story and our views of Jesus at work in our lives. Pastor Kjersten and I were asked to share our witnesses. Given Pastor's request for Trinity to follow suit in sharing weekly examples of God at work in our world, I am sharing my witness from the Assembly.

Nothing puts a big smile on my face and sends a chill up my spine more than a congregation enthusiastically singing a classic Lutheran hymn with the organ cranked up, the walls pulsating – give me a Holy, Holy, Holy or Praise to the Lord the Almighty, anytime. It was Jesus who awoke me, giving voice and talents to praise God.

A cradle to grave Lutheran, I recall this experience from a young age. Growing up in Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, as the son of a music teacher there was never a question I would sing in the choir. My first experience understanding and singing hymns – was in the youngest, Cherub Choir – beginning to recognize music as a part of worship. The enthusiasm Jesus instilled remains as a lifelong chorister.

As with you, there are many other spiritual practices, traditions, liturgies and beliefs Jesus instilled at an early age which remain a part of me today. Music among them. These responses have been very consistent and reliable over decades of intervening events, challenges, changes and experiences. These childhood gifts are a reminder of Jesus' early and persistent presence, providing talents, support and opportunities to experience fulfillment and to praise God.

I find music across the lifespan to be a metaphor for all Jesus provides children for their growth. Diane and I have five grandchildren – 8 and under. They sing all the time and we have two aspiring violinists, two piano players and one learning the recorder. Also, being the children of music teachers, they have no choice but to develop their musical talents for the enjoyment of themselves and others. Jesus' gifts of their talents have already been used to praise God. Yet music is only one of a multitude of gifts.

My inspirational story about Jesus, is the Blessing of the Children in Mark 10 - the importance of children to Jesus of all his children. At the request of parents and over the protests of the disciples, Jesus "took the children in his arms and placed his hands on their heads and blessed them." We know his care goes beyond blessing. Jesus' persistent nurturance of children provides all child essential talents and strengths.

Each child is a canvas on which Jesus' gifts are expressed.

It is a source of profound gratification to witness the development of children and realization of their unique gifts – sharing their artwork, reading first words, watching their sports, graduations... We all see daily examples of Jesus' gifts to the children as they prosper. Jesus is persistently in the world with them. As adults, Jesus reminds me of our responsibility, by his example, to support, recognize and promote those talents. To provide protection and safety for their growth. To be ever mindful of God's children and guide them in knowing Jesus.

Tragically, we know so many children who lack the opportunity to know Jesus. In my work as a psychologist, I see daily examples of children deprived of the fulfillment of their gifts. Often due to societal barriers, children lack opportunities and the ability to grow in healthy circumstances. In our church we grieve their absence. We pray Jesus provides for their needs and guides us as a church in connecting and nurturing them.

As Jesus blesses the children, he reminds us as adults we need to become like children to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. "For the kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children." Accepting Jesus' gifts in the spirit of childhood enthusiasm, closeness in relationship and willingness to learn. Most importantly, confessing Jesus is Lord and believing God raised him from the dead for our salvation.

Jesus loves all his children. Our prayer is all children have a smile and chill up their spines from knowing Jesus' love.

Blessings,  
*Jeff Andert*

## Road Runners

The June meeting of Road Runners will be held on **Thursday, June 15, 11:30, at J B Whiskey's** on Dickman. It's the start of our beautiful and lush Michigan summer – take a drive out to the Fort and we'll see you there!



## Freeze Pop Tuesdays

**Starting June 21!!!**

Every Tuesday, 2 pm to 4 pm.



It's time once again for the return of everyone's favorite summer tradition, **FREEZE POP TUESDAYS!!!** Starting Tuesday, June 21st, come by Trinity every Tuesday from 2 pm to 4 pm to enjoy a Freeze Pop, play some yard games, color with chalk, and enjoy the beautiful Michigan summer.

## Summer Neighborhood Walks with Pastor



Michigan summers are amazing, and Pastor Kjersten is always looking for excuses to get out of the office and enjoy the sunshine. Come take a walk with her. We will walk as long or as short as you want, dog / kids / etc. invited. We can pick up trash, meet neighbors, or just stretch and enjoy the sunshine. Catch her with her calendar (phone) to pick a time that works for you.

## FAMILY CAMP 2023

**SAVE THE DATE: Week of July 24.**



It's summer, school's out and that means it's time for Family Camp!! An **organizational meeting** will be held on **Wednesday, June 7, at 12:00** in the lounge. The theme this year is God's New Creation. There are many ways to volunteer – crafts, games, camper wrangler and meal preparation. As in the past, Family Camp is a joint effort between St. Peter and Trinity. If you want to volunteer but aren't able to attend the meeting, please contact Pastor Kjersten.

## Property Committee

The next meeting of the Property Committee is **Sunday, June 25**, after church. Please consider joining this important committee.

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

A House Meeting was held on May 9.

**Kitchen:** The dishwasher is repaired and is reserved for large events. TLC is responsible for washing dishcloths & towels weekly. The Co-Op will wash the cleaning towels. TLC will purchase a new coffee pot for coffee hour. The Co-Op has a Keurig and an urn for their use.

**Building Security:** The Co-Op has added 3 more cameras to the existing nave camera. One shows the parking lot, one Co-Op Hallway and there is a third camera in the interior. An app will be available to sound/streaming staff to monitor if there is anyone entering the building during the service. A "No Weapons on Premises" sign is being sought for the front window.

**Maintenance:** Co-Op interns will continue to do daily tasks or occasional ones assigned (for example cleaning windows) but cannot be assigned a long-term task or a special event due to the turnover in staff.

### **PAINTED CHAIR AFFAIR A THANK YOU TO ALL TRINITY MEMBERS!!**

The 2023 Painted Chair Affair Committee and the Woman's Co-op Members want to pass along a big thank you to all the Trinity members who contributed, attended or purchased the artwork from this year's fundraiser. It was a great turn out of the community at large as well. The earnings look to have a better net income than last year. So many of the Woman's Co-op members worked hard to make this fundraiser a success. Congratulations to all! Thanks again to all the Trinity members who support the Woman's Co-op in all their endeavors.

*Diane Andert*



## It's a Time For Joy

June is a time for celebrating graduates and the Woman's Co-Op certainly did that on Friday, May 19!! Fifty-one (51!!!) graduates celebrated completing a variety of programs through the Co-Op. A truly exciting time for them and their families! The scheduled speaker was delayed and our own Jeff Andert stepped up and delivered the commencement speech. The graduates were holding their phones recording him which is why his new title is "Rock Star"!!



## June Prayer Partners

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

**June 4** – Evangelical Lutheran Church, East Jordan, Rev. Matthew Deames

**June 11** – St. Paul Lutheran Church, East Lansing, Rev. Carl Ballard

**June 18** – University Lutheran Church, East Lansing, Rev. Gary Bunge,  
Rev. Haley Vay Beaman

**June 25** – Our Savior's Lutheran, Edmore, Rev. John Autio

A BIG Thank You to everyone following my recent surgery. All the prayers, cards and messages checking up on me were greatly appreciated. The Trinity Family is extra special and we are blessed to have all of you in our lives!

*Connie Everson*



## Worship Volunteers & Readings for June

### Lay Assistants, Sound Board

June 4 – LA: Jeff Andert  
Sound: Don Boulton

June 11 – LA: Scott Schindehette  
Sound: Ellis Cutler

June 18 – LA: Gloria Kolodzieizyck  
Sound: Don Boulton

June 25 – LA: Kendra Witkowski-Lehman  
Sound: Ellis Cutler

### Readings

Genesis 1:1 – 2; 4a  
Psalm 8  
2 Corinthians 13:11 – 13  
Matthew 28: 16 – 20

Genesis 12: 1 – 9  
Psalm 33: 1 – 12  
Romans 4: 13 – 25  
Matthew 9: 9 – 13, 18 – 26

Genesis 18: 1 – 15, 21: 1 – 7  
Psalm 116: 1 – 2, 12 – 19  
Romans 5: 1. – 8  
Matthew 9:35 – 10:8

Genesis 21: 8 – 21  
Psalm 86: 1 – 10, 16 – 17  
Romans 6: 1b – 11  
Matthew 10: 24 – 39

## June Birthdays & Anniversaries

### Birthdays

6/5 – Steven Millard  
6/11 – Laurie Swanson  
6/15 – Dorene Boulton  
6/26 – Barry Chapman



### Anniversaries

6/8 – Kim & Kwame Robinson  
6/12 – David & Christine Herdman  
6/25 – Don & Dorene Boulton

## *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)  
The Family of Cameron Ezekiel Ray Wilson  
(Val Whitney's infant grandson)



### **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.



# JUN2023

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>	<b>09</b>	<b>10</b>
10:30 Worship Coffee Hour	8:30am-4pm Woman's Co- Op Monday Mixer	1:00 Bible Chat FaceBook Live 10 Worship & Music 12:30 Franklin Pantry	10:30 & 5:30 Bible Chat 12 Family Camp Meeting			
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
10:30 Worship Coffee Hour	8:30am-4pm Woman's Co- Op Monday Mixer	1:00 Bible Chat FaceBook Live	10:30 & 5:30 Bible Chat	11:30 Road Runners @ JB Whiskeys		
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
10:30 Worship Coffee Hour  <b>Father's Day</b>	8:30am-4pm Woman's Co- Op Monday Mixer	1:00 Bible Chat FaceBook Live	10:30 & 5:30 Bible Chat 2-4 Freeze Pop Tuesday			
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	
10:30 Worship Coffee Hour Property Committee Mtg	8:30am-4pm Woman's Co- Op Monday Mixer	1:00 Bible Chat FaceBook Live 7 Council	10:30 & 5:30 Bible Chat 2-4 Freeze Pop Tuesday 6:30 Choir			