



Trinity Trumpet

May 2023

Congregational Meeting

A short congregational meeting will be held after church on **Sunday, May 21, 2023**, for the purpose of electing two council members. Laurie Swanson and Tish Gancer are both term limited and will be leaving the council. We thank them for their dedicated service the past six years. If you are interested in serving, please contact Laurie Swanson.

Pastor's Letter

“What’s a Seraphim?”

During the Easter season the preface (that’s the words I say during communion before we sing the Holy Holy) ends with the line, “as so with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn.” You probably know what/who most of those things/people are. Mary Magdalene and Peter, of course disciples of Jesus as the first witnesses to the resurrection. Earth and sea and all their creatures, that’s all of creation. Even angels and archangels, ok. But maybe you’ve wondered, what’s a cherubim and seraphim?

Short answer, they’re angels. Types of angels, really. Cherubim, an alliteration of the Hebrew word, probably derives from the Akkadian *karabu*, “to bless” or “one who blesses.” They show up 91 times throughout the Old Testament, doing a variety of different things, but most commonly they carry the throne of God. And you know how I’ve commented before that there is a reason angels in the Bible always open with “Do not be afraid.” Check out Ezekiel’s description of the cherubim:

This was their appearance: they were of human form. Each had four faces, and each of them had four wings. Their legs were straight, and the soles of their feet were like the sole of a calf’s foot; and they sparkled like burnished bronze. 8Under their wings on their four sides they had human hands. And the four had their faces and their wings thus: their wings touched one another; each of them moved straight ahead, without turning as they moved. As for the appearance of their faces: the four had the face of a human being, the face of a lion on the

right side, the face of an ox on the left side, and the face of an eagle; such were their faces. Their wings were spread out above; each creature had two wings, each of which touched the wing of another, while two covered their bodies. Ezekiel 1:5-11

Wild, eh. So that's cherubim. Seraphim come from the Hebrew *saraph*, meaning "burning" or "burning one." They are frequently depicted as flying serpents. Also, fun fact, the -im at the end of both words is the plural ending in Hebrew, like the -s in English. There are references to Cherubs in scripture, but no Seraphs. Seraphim are always plural, they always come with others.

Seraphim show up a few times in scripture, but the two that have the most relevance to why they show up in our liturgy are from Isaiah 6:1-3 and Revelation 4:6-8. In both of those examples, the seraphim are described as flying around the throne of God, singing praises. And the song they are singing, see of this sounds familiar to you.

'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.' (Isaiah 6:3b)
'Holy, holy, holy, the Lord God the Almighty, who was and is and is to come.'
(Revelation 4:8b).

That's the song we sing on Sundays when we "praise your name and join their unending hymn." We're joining in the song of the seraphim, the song sung in praise of God since creation first began, and the song that will be sung until the end of days. So sing out loud on the Holy, Holy, because we are singing the song of the angels.

Peace,
Pastor Kjersten

Council President's Letter

It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving

Mother Theresa

As we emerge from COVID it is gratifying to see the renewed focus on stewardship of our building. One of our most valuable resources is Trinity's building which provides many opportunities for our ministry. Resuming the Property Committee under Eileen Martens' leadership generated a working list of building maintenance/improvements. These items have been identified to preserve the quality, comfort and safety of the building. Many congregation members have volunteered to complete these tasks as a form of giving.

Giving financially for the benefit of our building is another form of generosity. As you know, some time ago we identified nonbudgeted major repairs needed for our aging building. Numerous congregation members responded to a request for a Special Building Fund and \$8,276 was donated by December 2021. The Council prioritized the projects necessary for safety,

energy conservation and aesthetics. Replacement of the large windows at the front of the church, repair and installation of aluminum fascia on the South side of the building and replacement of the two West doors were identified. By now I hope everyone has seen the new metal doors installed at the West hallway and kitchen which are a huge improvement. With these three major projects completed the Council is pleased to report the Special Building Fund was used for those important projects. We thank all who contributed and supported these tasks.

The Property Committee will be continuing to address their maintenance, repair and improvements list. I have seen many examples of generosity in maintaining our home. There will be numerous future opportunities for giving of time, talents and financial gifts to allow us to take pride in the blessing of our building. Trinity is a busy place and activity is increasing as we resume programs. If you see something that needs attention, discuss it with a Council or Property Committee member. If you are so inclined to volunteer to address an issue, small or large, let us know as well.

Pastor plans to include a blessing of the results of the Special Building Fund projects in a future service. Let us take that time to appreciate all the ways our building has served us and our community.

Thank you,
Jeff Andert

Road Runners

The May meeting of Road Runners will be held on **Thursday, May 18, 11:30, at The Griffin** on Michigan Avenue in Downtown Battle Creek. The flowers are starting to bloom and the trees are leafing out – definitely a perfect time to take a drive and meet other Trinity friends for lunch and conversation. See you there!



Franklin Neighborhood Food Pantry



One of the ways we serve our neighborhood is volunteering the first Tuesday of every month (starting at 12:30 until 3:00) at the Franklin Pantry located at First United Methodist Church downtown. As always, they are in need of donations to help provide a grocery bag or two of food to help folks every two weeks. The items needed include cereal, soup, crackers, spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, macaroni & cheese, tuna fish, canned vegetables, canned fruit and juice. Donations can be brought any Sunday and placed in the wagon in the narthex. Please remember that we cannot use the giant cans of food, the pantry only provides families with a few days of food. Also, pop top cans are best for many of the clients. If you're interest in volunteering (it's really a fun and rewarding time), please contact Eileen Martens or Connie Everson.

St. Thomas Breakfast Program

Saturday, May 13

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

Trinity, St. Peter, and Resurrection Episcopal are once again partnering to serve our neighbors by helping out at the St. Thomas Breakfast Program. 4 people are needed at 7 am to help with meal prep. Then at, 8 am, an additional 6 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 to volunteer.



Welcoming and Inviting Committee

The committee met after church on Sunday, April 23. We made a list of our Welcoming Activities and our Inviting Activities along with the person(s) responsible. Lots of opportunities to volunteer and participate to enhance our congregational life!

Welcoming:

Road Runners – Wayne Walentowski

Coffee Hour – Mary Mahurin

New Member Luncheons – Connie Everson

Christmas Caroling and Dinner – Eversons

Shrove Tuesday – Pastor Kjersten

Funeral Luncheons – Trinity Members

Inviting:

Family Camp – a joint effort with St. Peter (Week of July 24 this year.)

Under One Roof – a joint effort with The Woman's Co-Op

Freeze Pop Tuesdays – Pastor Kjersten & Trinity Members

Pride Festival – Pastor Kjersten & Trinity Members

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



Faces of membership.

Every person who lays their head in Battle Creek Michigan for consecutive days is a citizen of Battle Creek Michigan. As citizens they should be afforded and allowed all the same opportunities with an equal voice in their collectivity. Unfortunately, not everyone agrees with me. There are some citizens who feel like others have not earned their right to be regarded as much as those who have. Tragically not everyone feels like they are equal citizens either.

Some feel like they are on the outside seemingly as spectators of the life that is happening all around them. They feel unequipped and unable to truly participate in the opportunities being offered. The reasons vary to why they feel this way, feeling less than for their lack of education, position, or economic level. For some they are made to feel disconnected due to their past choices, even those they have paid for. Others actively suffer through mental health issues, sometimes even undiagnosed ones.

When these citizens are required to have involvement or engage for survival in systems or private agencies they rarely argue with its process or advocate for their individual circumstances. And in most cases, they don't know how to advocate for themselves.

Woman's Co-op considers this reality in every exchange we experience. Rather it is our work with these systems and agencies or case management for a client. We strive to give voice for these citizens and empower them to do the same. We encourage them to actively participate in their community, to not count themselves out of its opportunities. And one of the most important things we do is inspire them to tell their own story, proudly and boldly.



Our **Secretary of State mobile office** will be onsite **May 8th** from 10am to 6pm

We continue to work with the Attorney General's Office to map out our Driver's Restoration Clinic. Valerie and I joined Michigan Works staff and lead attorney for Legal Services on a site visit to Lansing's clinic.

Armand Hudson, training at Snackwerks has qualified as "Mixer" which results in a lead position and a \$1.00 an hour raise! Armand is only half way through his twenty-week training.

On **May 19th at 5:30pm at Trinity Lutheran we will celebrate fifty-one graduates.** A stellar year for Co-op! This is the highest number of graduates we have ever celebrated.



Currently we are serving # 167 members / participants.

Community Service folks = 3

In Education and Training

 Front Line = 3

 Janitorial = 1

 Industrial Sewing = 0

Snackwerks = 24

Bronson Battle Creek Hospital = 5

We need to figure out a way to meet tuition for onsite training – we had \$60,000 from Michigan Works and just over \$25,000 from Kellogg Community College under their workforce grants but we have expended all of those dollars for this year. We have over twenty-five people on the waiting list. I am working with Valerie to secure two avenues, one- a grant source and two- DHHS path program. So far, the path program has approved and paid for one trainee.



SAVE THE DATE

**WOMAN'S CO-OP PAINTED CHAIR AFFAIR & MORE May 18, 2023
6:00PM**

The Woman's Co-op has put together another amazing program this year with local artists supporting local women transform their lives. The flyer gives you much of the information you need to participate in this annual fundraising event for the Co-op.

Keith Thompson from WWMT Channel 3 will be the emcee. Many of us have watched Keith give us the weather report year after year from this local station. I feel like I have grown old with him as he has been with Channel 3 since 1989. Our kids grew up watching Keith in the mornings before school especially in the winter months to see if he might announce a snow day.

The ticket includes food and 2 drink tickets for the bar. Ticket prices are \$30.00 in advance and \$35.00 at the door.

Diane Andert will have tickets available for purchase immediately. Watch for announcements during our church service for updates.

The hard work that Teresa and Valerie do daily has helped so many people in our community. For instance, on **May 19, 2023, at 5:30pm**, the Woman's Co-op will celebrate **51 graduates at a ceremony at Trinity**. This is the highest number of graduates ever. **Please come and help the students feel the support from this community.**

COME to the Painted Chair Affair this year and support this important agency as the dollars received will be used for people who live in Calhoun County.



Woman's Co-op Presents:

Painted
CHAIR
affair & more

A live and silent auction featuring the work of local artists supporting local women transforming their lives.

Thursday, May 18, 2023 at 6pm
Kool Family Center
200 W. Michigan Ave.
Lew Boyd Room
Tickets: \$30 in advance
\$35 at the door



Tickets available through Eventbrite

House Meetings with The Woman's Co-Op

With Holy Week and Easter, there was only one meeting with the Co-Op. Eileen and Kayla finished the organization of the kitchen – take a peek to see the result of all their work. Be sure to check out the new soap dispensers on the kitchen wall!! A big thanks for getting this job done!!

Trinity Becoming A Community Center Concept

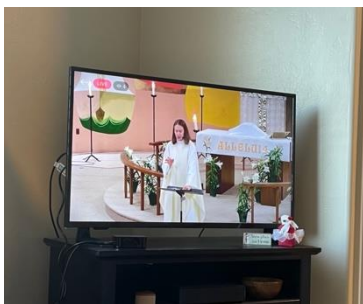
The Annual Meetings of congregations provide a time of reflection on the life of the church in the past year as well as a vision for the future. As we mark the unfortunate third anniversary of the COVID pandemic it seems that all of our reports of church activity are tainted by this adverse influence. 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.

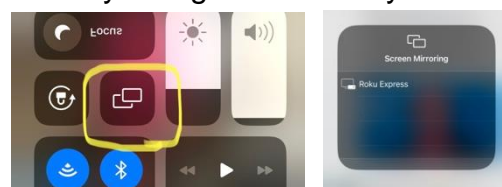
In prayer,
Jeff Andert

Coming To A Bigger Screen Near You



Many of us take advantage of the service being broadcast via Facebook Live on Sunday mornings. (This picture was taken at the Trinity Satellite Location in Tucson.) It was suggested that it be shared that you can use your phone, computer or iPad to mirror the service to your television giving a bigger screen to watch. Another advantage is that you get the quality of the audio coming through your television. Many televisions already have this capability and your phone will already recognize it when you select

the Mirroring setting on your phone. If not, you’ll still be able to mirror with the use of a Fire Stick, an Apple TV or a Roku. Any questions, contact Connie Everson.



May Prayer Partners

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

May 7 – St. Thomas Lutheran Church, Cheboygan, Rev. David Hueter

May 14 – Zion Lutheran Church, Comstock Park, Rev. Julie Schneider-Thomas

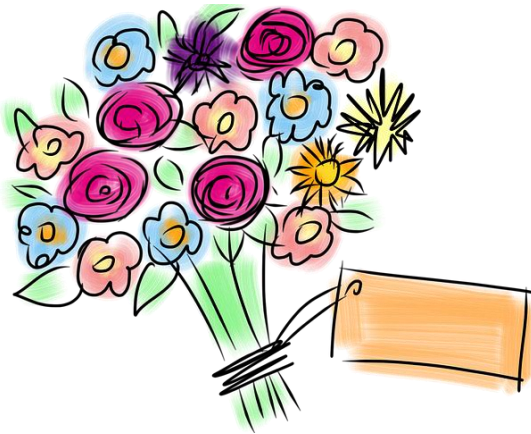
May 21 – Messiah Lutheran Church, Constantine, Rev. Thomas Pederson

May 28 – Christ United Church, Dewitt, Rev. Alex Aivars

Mother's Day

Mother's Day is a season for me to remember all the wonderful memories through the years of the many, many strong faithful women who have touched my life forever including Sharon Cutler, my dear friend forever.

Always, Kathy Holder



Riddles for Gardeners

WITH SPRING FLOWERS starting to make their welcome appearance, we thought these riddles shared by Robert Schumann of Loretto, Pennsylvania would be both timely and fun.

All the answers are names of flowers. If you're completely stumped, the answers are printed below. Of course, they're upside down so you can't peek. Enjoy!

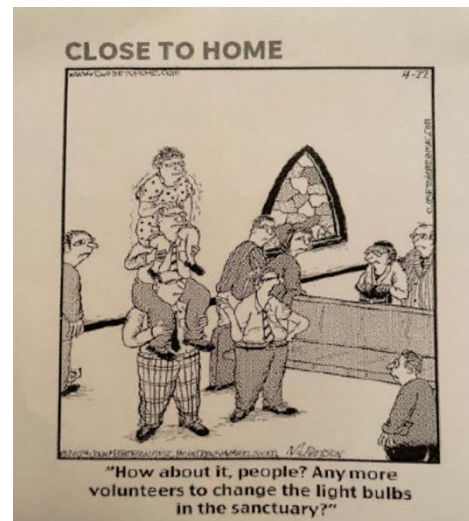
Your Turn. After trying to solve Robert's riddles, we were inspired to "grow" some of our own. You might want to give it a try, too.

If you think up some good riddles that have flower names for answers (or bird names, for that matter), send them to "Riddles", *Birds & Blooms*, 5925 Country Lane, Greendale WI 53129. We'll print the best ones in a future issue.

1. How you might describe a silent person.
2. Name for a lady who weds for riches.
3. Everyone has these on their face.
4. You might find these on a safari.
5. An appropriate gift from a banker.
6. Unmarried male fasteners.
7. A country of automobile lovers.
8. Good name for a guy's biking club.
9. He's an awfully sugary Bill.
10. They're the dairy best blooms.
11. A peevish fairy-tale creature.
12. A woman's nightly footwear.
13. They hate to wait.
14. A fine-looking jungle ruler.
15. Cross between a violin and a clarinet.

1-Mum; 2-Marigold; 3-Tulips; 4-Tiger lilies; 5-Money plant; 6-Bachelor's buttons; 7-Carnation; 8-Cyclamen; 9-Sweet William; 10-Buttercups; 11-Snapdragon; 12-Lady's slipper; 13-Impatiens; 14-Dandelion; 15-Violet.

The **Property Committee** is still working hard on finding a solution for the sanctuary lighting!! Stay tuned!! Next Meeting: **Sunday, June 25**, after church.



A lovely luncheon honoring our dear friend Maxine Hammond was held in our sanctuary on Friday, April 14. Her family was deeply grateful for the opportunity to gather and reminisce about Maxine while enjoying a delightful meal. A big **THANK YOU** to Diane Andert for planning and organizing this wonderful tribute to Maxine.

Pentecost Art Project **May 28**

On Pentecost we remember how the Spirit of God blew through the disciples and still blows through us. You are invited to wear **red** on Pentecost as a visual representation of the fires of the Spirit blowing through all of us.

Another image associated with the Spirit is a dove. Write your name on the dove found on the next page (and decorate it if you're feeling really creative), cut it out and bring it with you to Trinity by May 21st. We will use them to decorate the sanctuary for Pentecost.



Add your name, decorate if desired, cut out and bring to Trinity by May 21.

Worship Volunteers & Readings for March

Lay Assistants, Sound Board

May 7 – LA: Gloria Kolodzieizyck
Sound: Don Boulton

May 14 – LA: Doug Martens
Sound: Ellis Cutler

May 21 – LA: Tresa Garver
Sound: Don Boulton

May 28 – LA: Teresa Monemee-Young
Sound: Ellis Cutler

Wear Red for Pentecost

Readings

Acts 7: 55-60
Psalm 31: 1-5, 15-16
1 Peter 2: 2-10
John 14: 1-14

Acts 17: 22-31
Psalm 66: 8-20
1 Peter 3: 12-22
John 14: 15-21

Acts 1: 1-11
Psalm 47
Ephesians 1: 15-23
Luke 24: 44-53

Acts 2: 1-21
Psalm 104: 24-34, 35b
1 Corinthians 12: 3b-13
John 20: 19-23

May Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

5/10 Kwame Robinson
5/18 Linda Grubaugh-Buckner
5/21 Jeff Andert
5/25 Teresa Momenee-Young



Anniversaries

5/29 – Jeff & Diane
Andert

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)
Tom Everson (Dick's Brother)
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 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.

MAY2023

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

	01	02	03	04	05	06
	8:30am-4pm Woman's Co-Op Monday Mixer	12:30 Franklin Pantry 1:00 Facebook Bible Chat 11 Worship & Music	10:30 & 5:30 Bible Chat 6:30 Choir			
07	08	09	10	11	12	13
10:30 Worship Coffee Hour	8:30am-4pm Woman's Co- Op Monday Mixer	1:00 Facebook Bible Chat	10:30 & 5:30 Bible Chat 6:30 Choir			7:00 am St. Thomas Breakfast
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
10:30 Worship Coffee Hour <i>Mother's Day</i>	8:30am-4pm Woman's Co-Op Monday Mixer	1:00 Facebook Bible Chat	10:30 & 5:30 Bible Chat 6:30 Choir	6:30 Painted Chair Affair, Kool Family Ctr 11:30 Road Runners @ The Griffin	5:30 Co-Op Graduation TLC Pastor Gone Thru 5/22	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
10:30 Worship Congregational Meeting Coffee Hour	8:30am-4pm Woman's Co-Op Monday Mixer	1:00 Facebook Bible Chat 7:00 Council	10:30 & 5:30 Bible Chat 6:30 Choir			
28	29	30	31			
10:30 Worship Coffee Hour Pentecost – Wear Red	Memorial Day	1:00 Facebook Bible Chat Trumpet Articles Due	10:30 & 5:30 Bible Chat 6:30 Choir			

