



Trinity Trumpet

October 2023

Pastor's Letter

I have to tell you all a story. Bit of background. Because Trinity hasn't in my time here had a lot of kids in worship, I haven't had to think much about at what age people should get first communion instruction. I taught a first communion class to Teresa's granddaughter when I first got here, but she's been it. Other than her, when we have kid visitors I look to the parents and let them tell me if the child takes communion or if they want a blessing.

The traditional order of the sacraments is baptism as an infant, and then communion later, though the age of communion instruction has shifted. Many churches have a First Communion class around 2nd or 3rd grade, some wait until confirmation, some let the parents and kids decide when the child is ready. The reasons behind this are both practical and theological. Practical, because you can't exactly give an infant a wafer, they're chewy enough for those of us with teeth. Theologically, because there is a sense that people should have some understanding of what communion is before they join at the table. If we truly believe that communion changes us, that we are transformed by taking Christ into our bodies, then we should give people some instruction as to what that change is and what it means.

I tell you all this, because here's the story. September 3rd was Levi's first Sunday with us at Trinity. We get through the whole service, he behaves amazingly well for anyone, especially a two-year-old with a room full of strangers, including coming up for the children's sermon even though he has no idea who I am. So we get to communion, and he's standing at the rail in front of Kendra, and he sees me coming around giving everyone a piece of bread, and boom, out go his little hands. Kendra and I hadn't discussed before whether he would have communion, so we have to both make a split-second decision communicated through eye raises as to what

to do here, communion or blessing. So, I asked, she nodded, and I communed Levi. And every Sunday since, as soon as he sees me come around, out go his hands, eager for Jesus. He's even gotten bold enough now to ask for more. (Let me also throw out, he's not the first Trinity member to ask me for extra communion though he is the youngest by about 90 years 😊).

When Levi is old enough, I will certainly offer him a communion class and we'll celebrate it all up. I don't know what we'll call it, it won't be first communion, we'll figure that out later. But here's my theological reason for communing him now, here's what he's teaching me about the power of communion. What Levi is learning in communing every Sunday is that there has never been a time when he was not welcome at the table, there has never been a time when he was not a full and included part of this community. No, he doesn't understand the full theological meaning behind the sacrament, he's two. But let's be real, I have a Master of Divinity degree, and I don't understand the full meaning of the sacrament. On my best days I get from it that God loves me. On my worst, God loves me and feeds me even though I don't get it. That's the beauty of weekly communion, it doesn't need us to be ready for it, it just shows up and feeds us. And as Levi grows in his faith, and just grows, he will learn more about what it means, but he will never remember a Sunday where God didn't meet him and feed him at the table.

That's what Levi's learning, here's what I'm learning. Friends, this kid is so excited to have communion. His little hands are out as soon as he sees me, he's begging for more. What would it look like for all of us to come to the table with that enthusiasm for being fed from God's hand, that eagerness to be filled with Jesus. Levi reminds me that I don't have to get what's happening, that I can get out of my own head and just be fed, just be loved by God.

Peace,
Pastor Kjersten

Council President's Letter

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms

1 Peter 4:10

Stewardship has been an active discussion at Trinity in two forums recently.

Community Center

First, as we consider our vision for the future of Trinity, the concept of using the blessing of our building as a community center has begun to take shape. A non-negotiable consideration for members new and old is the continuation of Trinity as a worshipping community in the space we all love. At the same time, Trinity at its core is committed to our neighborhood and the needs of those most challenged in our community. Stewardship of our physical building as a space for creative provision of resources has momentum. It was gratifying to participate in the discussion with you all in March at our Annual Meeting and again in September. The Council plans to continue these discussions and views the participation of everyone in this process as essential. While Trinity has a history of service to those in need, we are pressing ourselves to consider expanded opportunities within and outside our walls. Your thoughts are welcome by any Council representative.

A Piece of the Pie

Second, October is the time for personal reflection on stewardship and determination of our individual commitments to the work of our church. You have heard of the financial challenges we face with reduced members participating and increasing costs. While our long-term planning is aimed at meeting some of these financial challenges, the immediate needs remain. As you prayerfully consider your contributions to Trinity we realize we each make contributions based on our talents, skills, time, interests and resources. Stewardship is a time to recognize all of these contributions in whatever forms they take.

To this end, I propose we celebrate Intent Sunday, October 22nd, with a pie social. As I considered stewardship, it occurred to me we all share "a piece of the pie" we are blessed with and able to contribute. There are many types of pies with some of us favoring the making and eating of certain

types (My preferences are pecan, coconut cream and peanut butter). We each share the gifts with which we are blessed or a piece of our pie. So, as we consider our commitments to Trinity the flavors of our gifts and resources may vary, but we all have such blessings we can share. What piece of your pie are you willing and able to share this year?

In turn, I will make sure we have a variety of pies to share during coffee hour on October 22nd as we celebrate your answer.

In thanksgiving for all your gifts,

Jeff Andert

Intent Sunday October 22, 2023

Every Sunday during offering as the plate goes around, I remind you that offering is about more than our finances. It is about our time, our skills, our prayers, our very presence. I encourage you to “place in the plate” whatever it is you are offering to God this week. “Place in the plate” in quotation marks, because if your gift is lawn-mowing, we don’t want that in the plate.

Offering is not just about our finances, but it is also about our finances. Jesus talked about money more than just about any other topic, because money has a tricky way of standing in for a lot of other things. For power, for control, for a sense of independence. Because it’s a concrete, measurable thing, it’s also a way to concretely practice giving of ourselves to God.

Next week, a letter will be going out from council president Jeff Andert about our stewardship campaign. In the letter will be an intent card, where you are invited to consider what financial contribution you will make in the coming year. Let me reiterate as I do every year, the budget for 2024 is not affected by what you write, council approved a draft of the budget in our September council meeting. These cards are meant to be a spiritual discipline, an opportunity for you to prayerfully consider where you are and

what your gift may be. On October 22nd, we will take time during worship to receive the intent cards. We will follow up worship with a celebratory coffee hour thanking God for all that has happened in our ministry and all that will happen.

Intent Sunday Coffee Hour

Following the presentation of our intents for the 2024, a pie & ice cream social will be held following the service. Please contact Gloria Kolodzieizyck if you're able to donate or help prepare this yummy event for our Trinity Family.

Road Runners

On Thursday, October 19, the Road Runners will meet for their monthly luncheon here at Trinity @11:30 am. We're calling it "Soup, Salad and Such" with "Such" being chips, sandwiches, dessert, etc. As always, everyone is invited. Bring any item to share. A sign-up sheet will be available Sunday, October 8, and Sunday, October 15. There will be an offering basket with all monies being donated to Trinity. Come and enjoy a fine lunch (we all know Lutherans as super great with potlucks) and share in conversation with each other.



Wayne Walentowski



CROP WALK for 2023



The **CROP WALK for 2023** was held on Sunday, **September 24th**. A big THANK YOU to Gloria, Kathy, Kenda & Levi for representing Trinity!! Also, thanks to everyone for their generosity in supporting our team!!



Reminder

If you volunteered to bake a cake for The Calhoun County Health Department Homeless Health Fair and VA Stand Down at **Full Blast on Friday, October 20th**, you'll need to drop the cakes off by **noon on Thursday, October 19**, so that Pastor can transport the cakes to Full Blast. Since you're dropping off a cake, stay for lunch with Road Runners!

Core Value - Inclusion

The Council has followed the lead of the Property Committee and has been discussing how we at Trinity are addressing our core values at each meeting. This month it was **Inclusion – “For all of you are one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:28b)**. A lively discussion was held with the highlight being the statement “we are a herd of unicorns”! It was mentioned that we are listed in the Shopper as being a welcoming environment for all!!

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)
Welcoming & Joyful for All!
LGBTQ+ Affirming & Supportive.
Pastor Kjersten Sullivan.
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study at 5:30 p.m.
Open Communion. Barrier free.
2055 E. Columbia - 963-5356
www.tlcbattlecreek.org



Mark your calendars to take advantage of this recycling opportunity!

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection

Monday, October 16
2:30 - 5:30 p.m.

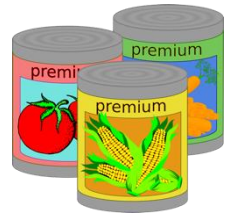
Bailey Park
1350 Capital Ave. NE, Battle Creek, MI 49017
Please enter the event on Wagner Dr.

Helpful Tips:

- Empty containers can be thrown away.
- Latex paint is not hazardous. Tips on drying it up are available on our website: calhouncountymi.gov/recycling.
- Please separate paint cans from the rest of your items.
- Pack your items, so they stay upright.
- Use tarps and leak proof plastic totes or buckets to prevent spills in your vehicle.
- Please label all items that are not in their original packaging.
- You may be asked to park and wait if you want your gas cans returned.

Franklin Food Pantry

A big THANK YOU to everyone who brought things to put in our Food Pantry Wagon on Crop Walk Sunday! The wagon was overflowing with donations!! Trinity volunteers the first Tuesday of the month and your donations will be headed there then. The need is ongoing and the following is a list of the items that are needed most:



1. Toilet Paper & Bar Soap (the Pantry is not able to get these from the Food Bank)
2. Peanut Butter
3. Saltine Crackers (Many of us remember Millie Sullivan asking for these often!)
4. Cereal
5. Cans (smaller ones, not the giant size) of fruit, soup, tuna and beans.
6. Money

Bring your donations on any Sunday of the month and just place them in the red wagon in the Narthex. If you would like to volunteer your time, please contact Eileen Martens. (We are especially in need of volunteers during the winter months when our snow birds head to warmer temperatures.)



Our wagon filled from Crop Walk Sunday with food donations for the Franklin Food Pantry and blankets that will be donated to the Homeless Health Fair and VA Stand Down October 20.

RECIPE CORNER

Zucchini Pizza (From the potluck at St. Peter.)



3 c. thinly sliced
1 c. Bisquick
1/2 c. onion, chopped
1/2 c. grated Parmesan cheese
2 tsp. parsley
1/2 tsp. salt
dash of pepper
1/2 tsp. oregano
1 clove garlic, chopped
1 c. cheddar cheese
1/2 c. vegetable oil
4 eggs, slightly beaten

Heat oven to 350 degrees F.

Oil a 9" x 13" baking pan.

Mix all the ingredients. Spread into the pan. Bake until golden brown for about 25-30 minutes. Cut into 1" x 2" squares.



Class on Luther's Small Catechism

A reminder about the zoom class studying Luther's Small Catechism on Tuesdays from October 24 through November 28. There's a sign up in the narthex to let folks know who is joining Pastor Kjersten and other Trinity members together with Lutherans from all around Michigan. The sessions will also be recorded and available to registered participants, so don't worry if you can't make all of them (Pastor will miss two for council meetings). The class is free, but you must register through the synod by October 19th. Here is a link to the registration: <https://www.mittensynod.org/events/adult-theological-education/>.

It's Back!!



It's been a few years but the Under One Roof Pre-Thanksgiving Meal with the Woman's Co-Op is scheduled for Saturday, November 18. Mark your calendars and watch for a sign-up sheet in early November along with more information in the November Trumpet.

Trinity News

Check the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall for all the Trinity News. Copies of the Council Minutes and Trumpet will be there along with fliers and other notices about what's happening here!

October Prayer Partners

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



October 1 – Grace Lutheran Church, Hastings, Rev. Kenneth Scheck, II

October 8 – St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Herron, Rev. Leslie Nye

October 15 – Trinity Lutheran Church, Hillsdale, Rev. Kara Shaw

October 22 – Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Holland, Rev. Jessica Rivera-Walker

October 29 – Peace Lutheran Church, Holland, Rev. Clay Bates

Worship Volunteers & Readings for October

Lay Assistants, Sound Board

October 1 – LA: Chase Lehman
Sound: Ellis Cutler

October 8 – LA: Doug Martens
Sound: John Kolodzieizyck

October 15 – LA: Tresa Garver
Sound: Don Boulton

October 22 – LA: Gloria Kolodzieizyck
Sound: Ellis Cutler

October 29 – LA: Kendra Witkowski-Lehman
Sound: John Kolodzieizyck

Readings

Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
Philippians 2:1-13
Matthew 21:23-32

Exodus 2:1-4, 7-9, 12-20
Psalm 19
Philippians 3:4b-14
Matthew 21:33-46

Exodus 32:1-14
Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23
Philippians 4:1-9
Matthew 22:1-14

Exodus 33: 12-23
Psalm 99
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22

Deuteronomy 34:1-12
Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
Matthew 22:34-46

October Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

10/1 – Connie Everson
10/10 – Pam Geleff
10/14 – Dan Boyd
10/18 – Tish Gancer
10/20 – Chase Lehman
10/22 – Don James
10/31 – Ellis Cutler



Anniversaries

10/16 – Steven & JoAnn Rusan
10/26 – Chase Lehman &
Kendra Witkowski-Lehman

Prayer Requests

COMMUNITY

Sharon Cutler
Pam Ellison-Kring
Family of Millie Sullivan
Linda Hermann
Rose Walentowski
Tish Gancer

IN OUR HEARTS/ON OUR MINDS

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 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.

OCT2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
01	02	03	04	05	06	07
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			
08	09	10	11	12	13	14
10:30 Worship Coffee Hour	8:30am-4pm Woman's Co- Op Monday Mixer	1:00 Bible Chat FaceBook Live	10:30 Bible Chat Pastor Gone thru 10/16			
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
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 @ TLC Soup, Salad & Such		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
10:30 Worship Coffee Hour INTENT SUNDAY	8:30am-4pm Woman's Co- Op Monday Mixer	1:00 Bible Chat FaceBook Live 11 Worship & Music 7 Council	10:30 & 5:30 Bible Chat			
29	30	31				
10:30 Worship Coffee Hour Property Meeting	8:30am-4pm Woman's Co- Op Monday Mixer					

