



# Trinity Trumpet

September 2023

## Pastor's Letter

The wagon in the entryway that collects donations for the food pantry is not the same wagon. It looks very similar to the old one, but it's not the old one. I want to tell you about how we came to need, and have, a new wagon, because it was my God Sighting for the week.

You have probably noticed over the last month or so there has been a lot more stuff in the social hall and generally around the building. Co-op has connected with a new partner who has been really generous in bringing much needed donations for families settling into new housing. Co-op, being Co-op, has made good use of those donations and has connected with a lot more people to make sure the new donations get into the hands of those who need them. This also means we've had a lot of new people in the building recently. And when you have a lot of new people doing new things, miscommunications can occur. One of those miscommunications was someone thought the wagon was one of those donations and took it home with them.

Simple miscommunication, that's all it was. When I heard the wagon was missing and the theory of what happened to the wagon, I wasn't too concerned about it. I wasn't happy about it; we use that wagon all the time for the food pantry. But it was an honest mistake, mistakes happen, and we can figure out another solution. I asked Kayla from Co-op to try and chase down the wagon for us, and she agreed to do her best. Kayla and I both knew there was no guarantee we could find and return the wagon not knowing who'd taken it, but we'd try.

James, the janitorial training person, on the other hand, was not satisfied with Kayla and my solution. This was the church's wagon, not Co-op's wagon, and even if it was an honest mistake, it needed to be rectified. I tried to assure him I wasn't concerned, and James gave me a nod, like "I hear you Pastor, but I don't care. This is a problem that needs to be fixed." The next morning, I walk into the building and James is sitting at the front desk. "Look what showed up," he said, gesturing down the hall. The first thing I noticed was the hallway was clear and empty for the first time in several weeks. Then, I saw the wagon. James had gone home that evening, and scoured Facebook Marketplace for a replacement red sided wagon, as close to the missing wagon as he

could find. The new wagon had apparently beaten me to the building by minutes. “And no one else but the church is going to touch this wagon,” James informed me. “I don’t care,” I said. “Anyone can use the wagon, it’s a useful wagon.” “No,” he countered, “this is the church’s wagon, only the church can use this wagon.” Will we be the only ones to ever use the wagon? Let’s be realistic, no. But the thought and the emphasis behind James’s declaration reminded me of the beauty and challenge of community.

We’ve been talking a lot recently and will talk more in the meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> and in the weeks and months to come, about really leaning into being a community center. The key word in that idea is “community.” What does it mean to be a community, what does it mean to live together in community? How will we make it work? What challenges will we face and how will we face them? I think the wagon incident is a great example of how we already make this work, and how we will continue to. We do this with grace and respect. With understanding that mistakes happen, stuff gets misplaced, people are people. We’re all here trying to do best we can to love God and love our neighbors. And sometimes we’re going to have to go out of our way to fix problems that weren’t ours. That’s what James did. He’s not the reason we lost the wagon, but when he saw there was a problem, he stepped up and made it right. This is the culture we’re trying to create together.

Peace,  
Pastor Kjersten

## **A Reminder: Congregational Meeting – Sunday, September 17**

The purpose of this meeting is to update the congregation on the progress towards our building becoming a community center. Bob Kampuis will be present to answer questions as will our council. Please take the opportunity to read through the proposed Draft Bylaw’s and bring any questions or concerns you have to the meeting. Pastor emailed the proposed Bylaw’s with the September 3 bulletin and copies will be were available at the September 3 service and will be available at the meeting.

## **God’s Work, Our Hands with St. Peter**



What a wonderful service, luncheon and opportunity to use our hands to serve others!

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



***Faces of membership.***

For the early part of the Woman's Co-op, we kept our focus on feeding and managing the network and redefining poverty for families in Battle Creek through the cooperative assistance approach. In 2010 the concept for our Work Experience Program was born. The program would allow members to gain marketable skills for employment and provide vital services for the organization (front desk reception and janitorial building services). In 2012 we worked with Battle Creek Community Foundation supported consultants to determine an expansion to the Work Experience Program that would earn revenue for the organization. As a result, the Industrial Sewing Classroom was added. Which later launched the Butterfly Boutique, an online and on-site store to sell products made by students. The addition of industrial sewing has not reached its goal of being a lucrative social enterprise for the organization, however it has fulfilled the needs of the students. In 2022 we expanded the Work Experience program to include offsite employer partners. The Co-op places potential employees for an 8–22-week training period with these local employers under contract. Co-op receives a fee for each trainee and trainees receive a training stipend. This expansion is proving to be a worthy social enterprise with the potential to support a large part of our program budget within three-five years.



From behind the doors of Trinity Lutheran Church...

We signed a placement contract with Community Action Agency to place early childhood workers for sixteen local facilities. Placements that will lead participants through to associate degree in early childhood education.

We had a site visit from United Way. It went very well. Leading to other potential ways they could support Woman's Co-op.

I have been invited to be a guest on a panel for the Council for Michigan Foundations by WKKF in November. The topic will center on racial and economic disparities for families at or below the poverty line.

Purchased and provided 741 items from the Co-op Store  
Distributed over 1,500 diapers and wipes  
Sold six BCBC dolls  
Created and sold 57 shirts for family camp  
Created a new Trinity / Co-op sign for Cliff Street entrance

Currently we are serving # 221 members / participants.

Triaged another 23 guest

Community Service folks = 6

In Education and Training

GED = 4

Front Line = 3

Janitorial = 1

Industrial Sewing = 1

Snackwerks = 15

Bronson Battle Creek Hospital = 8

Life enrichment:

Nurturing = 2 classes with 9 participants total

Keeping Families Together = 1 class with 5 participants

Street Court Battle Creek = 7 participants

Respectively submitted,

Teresa Momenee Young

## Road Runners

The September meeting of Road Runners will be held on **Thursday, September 21, 11:30, at Cornwell's Turkey Farm** on Gorseline Rd. The drive to the Turkey Farm is beautiful year around so enjoy the drive and join us at the table for lunch with your Trinity Family.



## 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 pm – 3:00 pm with the walk happening from 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm.

The WALK will be at the Leila Arboretum, rain or shine. Kathy Chapman has the envelopes and can answer any questions you might have!!

Since we've been studying Exodus and Moses:



## Coffee Hour



A reminder that there's a calendar on the table during coffee hour to sign up to donate goodies – cookies, cake, fudge, ice cream (thank you Anderts the Ice Cream Social after a week of heat), etc. Hosting coffee hour is a fun way to celebrate with our Trinity Family special events like the 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary of John & Gloria Kolodizieyck on August 20!!!



## Thank You Trinity Volunteers

A big THANK YOU to our Trinity Volunteers who joined St. Peter members in serving breakfast last month at St. Thomas Episcopal.



## Calling All Bakers—Cakes Needed

The Calhoun County Health Department Homeless Health Fair and VA Stand Down is once again taking place at **Full Blast on Friday, October 20th**. This day-long event assists the homeless, including many veterans, in getting necessary services/items such as health screenings, flu shots, information, and referrals to a variety of programs, along with a hot meal, a bag of groceries, and cold weather items. Trinity has been asked to provide 5 sheet cakes for the meal. Cakes are to be baked and frosted in a 9"X13" disposable pan with a lid and **brought to Trinity by noon on Thursday, October 19**. Contact Pastor Kjersten if you can provide a cake.

## RECIPE CORNER

### THE Brownies

#### Ingredients:

- Your favorite brownie mix
- Small jar of Marshmallow Crème
- 1 C. Smooth Peanut Butter
- 2 C. (1 Package) Semisweet Chocolate Chips
- 3 C. Rice Krispies.

#### Directions:

- Prepare the brownie mix according to directions in a 9x13 pan. Allow to cool completely.
- Spread the jar of crème evenly over the brownies.
- Melt the chocolate chips in the microwave in a large bowl.
- Stir in peanut butter. Add the Rice Krispies & stir.
- Spread over the Marshmallow Crème.
- Chill until the topping is set.
- When you're ready to serve, let them sit out for a few minutes to ease cutting them into pieces.



## Share the Warmth Blanket Drive

The Calhoun County Homeless Coalition is collecting blankets to distribute to those in need this winter. You can donate clean (new or gently used) twin and full-sized blankets for our homeless population. **Please bring the blankets to church with you by Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup>.** Linn Kracht from St. Peter will pick up the blankets from Trinity.



## Dear Friends,

As many of you know, in May I received word that I had been accepted into the Education and Formation process of the Lutheran Diaconal Association. This program involves reading assigned text and answering questions that highlight my understanding of the material, seminar attendance, service learning and mentorship with a woman who is currently a deaconess. The program has no set time for completion. Instead, it is based on the development of specific skills and gaining necessary information that will allow me to serve our church and the larger Battle Creek community as a whole in the way that I feel makes the best use of the skills God has given me. Throughout the remainder of this article, I will share the history of the diaconal association. Next, I will share how I have seen God's hand guiding me through this process. Finally, I will share with the reader specific things each of you can do to support me as I take the first steps into ministry with the Lutheran Diaconal Association.

The Lutheran Deaconess Association was founded in 1919 in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Women who became deaconesses were often nurses. If a woman felt called to be a deaconess she was not allowed to marry. At the time, it was believed that marriage would distract a woman from being able to fully follow God's leading in her life. I am so thankful that the Lutheran Diaconal Association has set aside these old fashioned views. For me, having the support of family allows me to serve within the church with a joyful spirit. This joy comes from knowing I can serve God while things at home continue as normal.

Women who entered diaconal ministry were looking for four things. These women had a strong desire to be part of a faith community. These women longed to be supported and nurtured by other women. These women longed for a deeper connection to God. They found this deepening of faith as they worshipped together. These women longed for strong relationships. The foundation of these relationships was twofold. First, these relationships were built on mutual respect. Second, each woman had a desire to honor God in her daily life by finding ways to serve other people. In the 1930's many women wanted to serve as a deaconess not in a hospital setting instead, these women like me wanted to serve in the church.

In 1943, the President of Valpariso University invited the Lutheran Diaconal Association to move their training program to the university. This allowed women to see themselves as capable of both having a career and serving God. In 1988, the LDA developed a distance learning program for adults over 35 years of age. In 2012 the LDA recognized the vital ministry of men in the church. At this time, the Lutheran Diaconal Association welcomed men to become deacons. In 2019 the Lutheran Diaconal Association celebrated 100 years of loving God and serving others.

Pastor Kjersten and I visited the diaconal center on November 30, 2022. I wish that each of you could visit as well. There is a feeling of peace that permeates that environment. There was no pressure to make a hasty decision. The deaconesses that I met invited me into dialog, they invited me to ask questions, they invited me to be



vulnerable. Asking me to tell my honest story of what God has brought me through and what I feel He is asking me to do next? I am very excited to share with you that I will be attending my first student seminar at the diaconal center on October 1-6, 2023. I know that in this place of peace and difficult discernment I will be exposed to new ideas. I also know that my call to ministry may be transformed as I go through this process.

In the next part of this article, I will briefly share one God sighting that I have noticed while planning my trip to Valparaiso. I wanted the opportunity to stay in the home of a deaconess, so I could learn about her ministry and make a new friend. I didn't know how comfortable strangers would be having me in their home with my limitations. I will be spending the week with Deaconess Diane and her husband Bill. Diane is a retired Special Education teacher. Her father was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis when Diane was 16 years old. She was her father's caregiver for many years. The couple have a daughter who is a physical therapist. When I talked with Diane on Friday, she was not afraid of my Cerebral Palsy at all. Nor did she seem put off when I talked about my specific needs. This, friends, is a God sighting for me. God found a couple for me to stay with who have knowledge of physical challenges. This couple is willing to see me as a person who might need some extra help and yet still open their home to me.

In the next part of this article, I will share two specific ways you can assist me in my calling to be a deaconess.

1. Please pray for me. Pray specifically, that I will be able to complete the assigned readings and dictate the notes before leaving for seminar on October 1, 2023.
2. Please pray for myself and the other deaconess students to be able to take in the necessary information without feeling overwhelmed by how much there is to learn.
3. Please ask yourself if you have the financial means to support my journey into diaconal ministry? The total amount needed for the entire program is \$ 7,000.00. The amount that I have been asked to submit when I come to seminar in October is \$500.00. Thank you for your prayers and consideration of how you might partner with me as I begin this journey to become a deaconess.

In conclusion, In the first part of this article I shared with the reader the history of the Lutheran Diaconal Association. In the second part of this article, I shared with the reader the story of a God sighting that has been revealed to me as I have begun planning to attend my first Diaconal Student Seminar on October 1-6, 2023. In the final part of this article, I asked for the reader's prayers and financial support as I seek to serve God as a deaconess here at Trinity.

Growing in His service, Tresa

## Class on Luther's Small Catechism

Interested in learning more about how God is at work in our lives, the church, and the world? Join Pastor Kjersten and other Lutherans around Michigan in exploring Luther's Small Catechism. This six week zoom class will meet on Tuesday evenings, October 24, 31, November 7, 14, 21, and 28 from 7 to 8:15 pm. 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 19<sup>th</sup>. Here is a link to the registration: <https://www.mittensynod.org/events/adult-theological-education/>. You can watch at home on your own, or if there is enough interest, Pastor Kjersten will see about setting up a viewing so we can watch it together at Trinity.

## September Prayer Partners

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

**September 3** – Faith Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids, Rev. Kevin Sullivan

**September 10** – Trinity Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids, Rev. Robert Linstrom, Rev. Daniel Schewe, Rev. Kari East

**September 17** – St. John Lutheran Church, Grayling, Supply Pastors

**September 24** – St. Paul Lutheran Church, Greenville, Pastor Betsy Kamphuis



## Worship Volunteers & Readings for September

### Lay Assistants, Sound Board

September 3 – LA: Scott Schindehette  
Sound: Ellis Cutler

September 10 – Joint Service With St. Peter

September 17 – LA: Mary Conklin  
Sound: John Kolodzieizyck

September 24 – LA: Gloria Kolodzieizyck  
Sound: Don Boulton

### Readings

Exodus 3:1-15  
Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b  
Romans 12:9-21  
Matthew 16:21-28

Exodus 12:1-14  
Psalm 149  
Romans 13:8-14  
Matthew 18:15-20

Exodus 14:19-31  
Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21  
Romans 14:1-12  
Matthew 18:21-35

Exodus 16:2-15  
Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45  
Philippians 1:21-30  
Matthew 20:1-16

## September Birthdays & Anniversaries

### Birthdays

9/8 – Joyce Davis  
9/10 – JoAnn Rusan  
9/10 – Janelle Sullivan  
9/13 – Adrienne Boyd  
9/22 – Doug Martens



### Anniversaries

9/18 – Dan & Adrienne Boyd

## *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](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.

# SEP2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						01 02
03	04	05	06	07	08	09
10:30 Worship Coffee Hour		1:00 Bible Chat FaceBook Live	6:30 Choir  Pastor Gone	Pastor Gone	Pastor Gone	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
10:00 Worship with St. Peter God's Work,	8:30am- 4pm Woman's Co-Op	1:00 Bible Chat FaceBook Live	10:30 & 5:30 Bible Chat 6:30 Choir			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
10:30 Worship Congregational Meeting Coffee Hour	8:30am- 4pm Woman's Co-Op Monday Mixer	1:00 Bible Chat FaceBook Live	10:30 & 5:30 Bible Chat 6:30 Choir	11:30 Road Runners @ Cornwell's Turkey Farm		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
10:30 Worship Coffee Hour Crop Walk	8:30am- 4pm Woman's Co-Op	1:00 Bible Chat FaceBook Live	10:30 & 5:30 Bible Chat 6:30 Choir			

