

Trinity Trumpet

Novemer 2024

The Pastor's Letter

Dear Trinity,

As I write this, the election is one week away. As you read this, it will be even closer, and maybe has even already happened (especially likely if I mail you the Trumpet). I'm feeling the effects of being in a swing state. I've gotten multiple "I'm so glad you live in Michigan" texts from various friends and family members from across the country. I've commiserated with my other swing state friends and family about the pressure of being in the nation's spotlight. I've joked about how I can't wait to get regular commercials back so I can know about the latest medication whose side effect is death. And I've already made plans for election day including how we will vote, when we will vote, and what we will have for dinner (Tim Walz's Tater Tot Casserole. I will share the recipe, because regardless of what you think of Walz or who you're voting for, it's a VERY GOOD tater tot casserole).

More concerning to me than the election is the vitriol that has surrounded it, on all sides and at every level. I obviously don't personally know Donald Trump or Kamala Harris, or even Elissa Slotkin or Mike Rogers, so I cannot speak to the truth of any of their advertising. But I do know both Jim Haadsma and Steve Frisbie. I have served on committees with both men, and I can personally attest that neither has horns. So, the extremist ads against both, rather than causing me to question either of them, cause me to question the extremism of every ad.

Elections have consequences. As I have mentioned several times recently, your vote for president is important, but so is your vote for Water Resource Commissioner (or Michigan House Representative). And the Water Resource Commissioner vote may have more impact on your day-to-day life, the federal government has no impact on, or interest in, the maintenance of Calhoun County drains. But regardless of who is elected to

any position on November 5th, we're all going to have to live together at the end of this. I will continue to sit across the table from Steve at KCC EMS Advisory meetings, I will continue to run into Jim at community events. Both men will, I'm sure, continue to be great advocates for Co-op and contributors to the well-being of our community, whether from the Michigan House or from their current occupations.

I encourage you to look past the attack rhetoric as you make your decisions on who to vote for, first because looking past the rhetoric is important to help you make an educated decision. But second, because all the rhetoric is doing is fueling an increasingly polarized society where we see each other not as fellow children of God, but as opponents. As Bishop Eaton reminds us, "We are not defined by our political affiliations but by our shared baptism and our commitment to the Gospel. As people of faith, we are called to engage in our communities and work for justice and to advocate for the dignity and well-being of all people." Bishop Eaton added, "One way we do this is by voting, ensuring that our voices are heard, as we shape our society together." But once our vote is cast, there are other ways we continue in this work. By loving our neighbor, by listening well, by looking past the rhetoric to the true concerns fueling them. And, most importantly, by doing our part to bring down the temperature of the dialogue. We need to advocate for peace and calm, because rage only benefits the powerful.

The next few weeks and months are going to be stressful regardless of the outcome. Elections take time to calculate, and there are a LOT of votes to count. So, I encourage you to do your best to not get too caught up in the waiting. Elijah's snack and nap philosophy is always a good one. But also, if you start to feel anxious, channel your energy into making change in the ways you can. Volunteer at the food pantry (our day is the first Tuesday) or at Pete's Pantry on a different Tuesday. Clean out your closet and give the extras to Co-op. Call someone you think might be lonely just to check in (if you've missed seeing someone at church recently, that could be a good place to start). Call to congratulate Steve or Jim and let them know the issues that are of most concern to you. And try Tim Walz's Tater Tot casserole, because those Minnesotans do make a mean hot dish!

Peace, Pastor Kjersten



TIM WALZ'S TURKEY TROT TATER-TOT HOTDISH



1 lb of fresh green beans, diced

4 slices of bacon

1 clove of garlic, finely chopped

6 tbsp. butter 5-6 tbsp. flour 2 ½ cups whole milk ½ cup half and half

2 tsp. salt

3 cups shredded sharp cheddar cheese

1 lb ground turkey ½ tsp. sage

l tsp. pepper

l egg

1 tbsp. olive oil½ cup green onions¼ cup chopped onions

1 1/2 cup chopped baby bella mushrooms

1 package tater tots

Preheat the oven to 375° F.

Put ground turkey into a medium bowl and mix-in garlic, sage, green onions,

egg, pepper, and 1 tsp salt

Heat olive oil in a 10-inch skillet, and then cook the seasoned turkey mixture at 165° F until well done, then place cooked turkey in a 9-by-13-inch baking dish.

Blanch the green beans in boiling water for 2-3 minutes, then plunging beans into ice water. Once cool, drain completely and gently mix them into baking dish.

Fry the bacon until crispy, then chop into ¼-inch pieces before adding into baking dish.

Heat 2 tbsp. of butter. Once the butter foam subsides, add mushrooms to

the melted butter.

Gently stir butter and mushrooms for 4-5 minutes, or for about 2 minutes after

browning point. Remove from heat and add to the baking dish.

In a sauce pan, melt remaining butter over medium heat and sprinkle flour into the butter. Let cook for 2 minutes, then slowly whisk in milk and half and half.

Cook for 2 more minutes, then add diced onions and salt and pepper.

After a minute, stir in 2 1/2 cups of cheese until melted.

Pour cheese mixture over the ingredients in the baking dish.

Scatter tater tots and remaining cheese over top of the baking dish.

Bake for 45 minutes or until golden brown.

Note: I used veggie crumbles in place of ground turkey and omitted the bacon to make it vegetarian. Travis liked it, even without meat.

Council Vacancy

As previously announced, Teresa Momenee-Young resigned from the Council to allow her more time to devote to the Community Center board. In addition, we are saddened by the death of long time Trinity member Kathy Chapman who was also on the Council. The Synod advises for congregations our size an eight-member council. Therefore, we are only filling one position at this time. If you are interested in running, **please contact JoAnn Rusan**. The election will be at the December 8, 2024, congregational meeting.

Congregational Meeting

A Congregational Meeting is scheduled for immediately after the service on **Sunday**, **December 8**, for the purpose of adopting the 2024 Budget and electing a council member to fill a vacancy. A copy of the proposed budget is provided for you to study and prepare any possible questions before the meeting.

BENEVOLENÇE	Proposed 2024 Budget \$6,000.00	2024 ACTUAL DISBURSEMENTS as of Sept 2024 \$4,368.00	Proposed 2025 Budget	
111 N/W LOWER MICHIGAN SYNOD, ELCA other		\$4.368.00		
other			\$6,200.00	
TOTAL BENEVOLENCE	\$6,000,00	\$134.04	Q0,200.00	
TOTAL RENEVOLENCE	96 000 00			
TOTAL DETECTOR	\$0,000.00	\$4,502.04	\$6,200.00	
			004	
WORSHIP 1212 Director of Music Salary	\$12,600.00	\$9,450.00	2% \$12,852.00	
4042 0 4-17-1- 0	2050.00		6350.00	
1213 Substitute Organist	\$250.00 \$964.00	A700.00	\$250.00 \$983.00	
1215 FICA Taxes	\$964.00	\$722.89	\$963.00	
1220 Choir Music & Instruments Pipe Organ Maintenance				
Piano Maintenace	\$1,200.00		\$1,200.00	
Copyright Licenses	\$200.00		\$200.00	
1230 Worship Supplies	\$600.00	\$618.47	\$700.00	
1232 Communion Supplies	\$100.00		\$0.00	
1233 Candles	\$350.00	\$449.25	\$450.00	
TOTAL WORSHIP	\$16,264.00	\$11,240.61	\$16,635.00	
EDUCATION 1316 Family Camp	\$150.00		\$150.00	
, ,				
TOTAL EDUCATION	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$150.00	
WELCOMING & INVITING 1410 Evangelism				
1412 Advertising	\$260.00	\$223.80	\$260.00	
1415 Fellowship		\$158.81	\$200.00	
1450 Stewardship Speaker/meal 1460 Offering Envelopes				
TOTAL WELCOMING & INVITING	260.00	382.61	\$460.00	

-2-	Proposed 2024 Budget	2024 ACTUAL DISBURSEMENTS as of Sept 2024	Proposed 2025 Budget	
SOCIAL JUSTICE/YOUTH				
1510 Reconciling Works	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	
TOTAL SOCIAL JUSTICE/YOUTH		\$0.00	\$100.00	
PASTORAL MINISTRY				
1600 Sub minister		\$400.00		
1610 Salary	\$43,713.00	\$34,184.84	\$50,891.00	
1611 Housing Allowance	\$12,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$12,000.00	
1612 FICA Allowance	\$4,262.00	\$3,303.56	\$4,811.00	
1613 Pension & Insurance	15593.76	\$14,294.78	\$7,800.00	
1614 HSA		-\$350.00		
1615 Transportation Reimbursement Pastor	\$500.00		\$500.00	
1616 Cont. Education	\$700.00	\$580.00	\$700.00	
403 B Contribution		-\$4,498.20		
TOTAL PASTORAL MINISTRY	\$76,768.76	\$56,914.98	\$76,702.00	
CHURCH ADMINISTRATION 1720 Office Supplies/Ink/ computer	\$700.00	\$214.97	\$400.00	
Paper				
Filing fees/safe deposit box/checks	\$500.00	\$331.15	\$500.00	
1730 Postage	\$250.00	\$134.00	\$250.00	
1733 Web service Domain	\$250.00	\$737.28	\$200.00	
1740 Telephone/ I Internet service	\$1,476.00	\$1,173.18	\$1,550.00	
1750 Convention Expense				
TOTAL CHURCH ADMINISTRATION	\$3,176.00	\$2,590.58	\$2,900.00	
CHURCH PROPERTY				
1811 Church Gas	\$4,300.00	\$2,172.11	\$3,000.00	
1812 Church Electric	\$3,100.00	\$2,585.99	\$3,500.00	
1813 Church Water	\$900.00	\$709.06	\$900.00	
1820 Cleaning Services (Carpet)			00.450.00	
1830 Insurance	\$4,800.00	\$4,581.75	\$6,150.00	
Ins. Workers Comp	\$400.00	\$388.00	\$400.00	
1840 Maintenance & Supplies/garbage Church Repairs	\$1,000.00	\$2,287.70	\$1,000.00	
1842 Parking Lot				
1850 Snow Removal	\$500.00	\$671.00	\$600.00	
1862 Roof MIF Payments	\$5,952.00	\$4,464.54	\$0.00	
TOTAL CHURCH PROPERTY	\$20,952.00	\$17,860.15	\$15,550.00	
TOTAL BUDGET	\$123,570.76	\$93,490.97	\$118,697.00	

Intent Sunday/Community Center Update

On Sunday, October 20, pledges of time, talents and financial support were presented at the end of the service. During our soup and sandwich luncheon that followed, Bob Kamphuis came and shared an update on the progress of the community center. A brief summary follows:



- The usual wait time is 6 months, we probably have 4 months left before hearing from the IRS. He is cautiously optimistic about our approval. The only snag might be that they require more information.
- Even though there are 4 months left, we can still start the work of setting up the center. The Board will be identified and meeting soon.
- There are several topics the Board can tackle, such as finding community members to serve, who is responsible for the maintenance of the building, etc, and identifying other partners (Ex: The Congolese community now worshiping in our building on Sunday afternoons.)
- We are generating a lot of excitement within the Synod as evidenced by his church, St. Paul in Greenville, becoming our new mission partner.
- We currently have 13 pledges totaling \$56,590.





On a beautiful Sunday afternoon, several Trinity faithful gathered with others around the city at Leila Arboretum to take part in the annual CROP Walk for Hunger. Organized by the ever-dedicated Kathy Chapman, walkers Pastor Kjersten, Gloria, Kendra, Levi, and Lola represented Trinity. Many others contributed financially to the effort. Money raised by the CROP Walk goes to support hunger efforts both locally and around the world.

Looking back on the CROP Walk this year is bittersweet, as it turns out to have been our last organized by Kathy. She was the stalwart organizer of our CROP Walk effort every year, and we will miss her.

Election Day 2024 – Tuesday, November 5

Tuesday, November 5th is Election Day. First and foremost, get out and vote! In addition to the presidential race, there are many statewide and local elections. You can find out your polling location and see a sample ballot at the Secretary of State website: https://www.michigan.gov/sos/.



If you live in Precinct 1, Trinity is your poll location (Post Addition, Bell Street to Illinois, and north to Roosevelt). Since we will have many of our neighbors in the building to cast their votes, Trinity thought we should show them some hospitality. We are hosting a Hospitality Table in the entryway with coffee and snacks. Please sign up to sit for a few hours and welcome our neighbors. You can also donate cookies or other snacks to share (Halloween candy is always a hit!)

ROAD RUNNERS

On **November 21 Road Runners** will meet at Coney Island on Capital Ave NE at **11:30 am**. Come out and enjoy good conversation and great food. ALL are welcome so come and bring a friend. Wayne



Under One Roof

On **November 16**th **at 4:00** we will once again gather for "Under One Roof" with the Woman's Co-Op and the KCC computer class. There is a Sign-Up sheet in the Narthex. Sign up, list how many are coming and what covered dish you will be bringing. Ham and turkey will be provided. Hope we have a nice turnout from both Trinity and the Woman's Co-Op. Come and mingle, have fun and enjoy a Pre-Thanksgiving meal.

Wayne

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT LAST MONTH ... PART 1

We now have 3 acolytes lighting the candles on Sunday Morning. They are: Emily Hickey, Leah Hickey and Emerson Ralston. These young ladies are a welcome addition to our pre-service and post-service. Please let them know what a great job they are doing.









IN CASE YOU MISSED IT LAST MONTH ... PART 2

Sunday October 13 was Clergy Appreciation Sunday so of course we celebrated with cake!!





IN CASE YOU MISSED IT LAST MONTH ... PART 3

Sunday, October 20, was our annual stewardship Sunday when members submit their intents for the 2025 year. The Children's Sermon focused on our giving gifts of our time and talents in addition to our dollars.



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT LAST MONTH ... PART 4

Reformation Sunday was celebrated on October 27. Not only were the paraments red, but we dressed in red to celebrate Martin Luther and his 95 Theses.





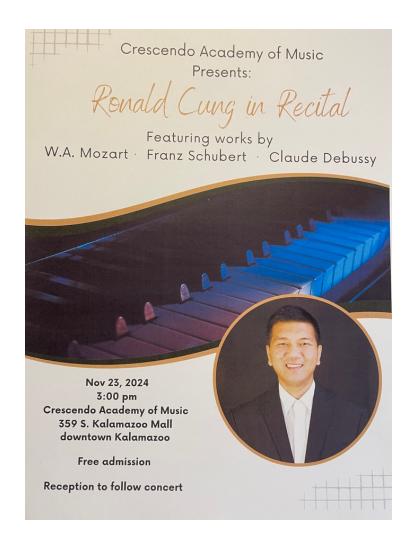
IN CASE YOU MISSED IT LAST MONTH ... PART 5



Road Runners visited a new restaurant in October. We gathered at Sand Hill in Marshall where we all enjoyed the baked potato skins that had a secret ingredient — maple syrup!! The syrup gave them just a smidge of sweetness!! We also celebrated Tish's birthday a day early!!

Ronnie Cung Concert

We all enjoy Ronnie's music every Sunday and we have an extra special opportunity to hear him perform on **Saturday**, **November 23 at 3:00 pm** in Kalamazoo. It's a free concert and promises to be a wonderful way to spend a Saturday afternoon.





RECIPE CORNER

Chicken Galette

(AKA "Hot Salad")

Toss in a large bowl:

1/2 Onion, thinly sliced
6 C. Swiss Chard or Baby Spinach (stemless, torn)
Rotisserie Chicken Breast – shredded
Red Sweet Bell Pepper – sliced
2T Olive Oil

Fold in:

3 oz Feta Cheese (about 2/3 Cup, add more if you like) ½ Tsp Kosher Salt

Roll a refrigerated pie crust into a 14" circle on parchment paper. Slide onto a cookie sheet.

Spoon salad mixture onto crust with a 2 ½" border. Fold the edges of crust over & brush with 1 beaten egg.

Bake at 400 degrees for 25 – 30 minutes. Use a pizza cutter to cut into wedges to serve.





Holiday Buffet Food Smart Tips

Since the holiday season is almost here, we're sharing these tips to keep our celebrations safe:

Size Matters

- Keep buffet portion servings small when you aren't sure how quickly the food will be eaten.
- Store cold back-up dishes in the fridge and keep hot dishes warming in the oven.

Take Temperatures

 Use a food thermometer often to ensure hot foods are 135 degrees or hotter and cold foods are 40 degrees F or colder.

Keep it Fresh

- Don't add new food to a nearly empty service dish. Instead replace nearly empty service dishes with clean, freshly filled ones.
- Clean serving utensils when replacing service dishes.

Watch the Clock

 Perishable food should be discarded after being left out at room temperature for more than 2 hours.

· Adapt "Old Family Recipes"

- Some traditional recipes, such as custards or eggnog, call for raw or slightly cooked eggs. You can adapt the recipe by using pasteurized eggs, or by adding eggs to the recipe and heating the mixture until it reaches 160 degrees F on a food thermometer.
- Use store-bought products, which are often already cooked or pasteurized.

Thank you, Laurie Swanson, for sharing these timely tips.



Adult Theological Education: Winter 2025

Time for another great Zoom class offered by the synod. Join The Rev. Dr. Amy Lindeman Allen, Indiana Christian Church Associate Professor of New Testament at Christian Theological Seminary (Disciples of Christ) in Indianapolis, Indiana, for a six-week course titled, "Jesus and the Little Children"!

Based on Dr. Allen's book, The Gifts They Bring: How Children in the Gospels Can Shape Inclusive Ministry (WJK, 2023), sessions will include presentations on the following topics:

The Gift of Participation: Little Children as Proprietors of the Realm of God

The Gift of Proclamation: The Bethlehem Shepherds

The Gift of Advocacy: James and John, Fisherfolk

The Gift of Listening: Mary at the Feet of Jesus

The Gift of Sharing: The Child with the Fish and Loaves The Gift of Partnership: A Son and His Mother at Nain

The class will meet on six consecutive Tuesday evenings: January 14, 21, 28; February 4, 11, 18, 2025 from 7:00 – 8:15pm ET via Zoom. This course is open to all adults, both laypeople and rostered ministers, and is free of charge. Registration is required and will close on January 6, 2025. Sessions will be recorded and available to those registered for one week.

Register on the synod website:

https://www.mittensynod.org/events/adult-theological-education/.

November Prayer Partners



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

November 2 – Christ the King Lutheran Church, Gladwin, Rev. David Sprang, Assistant to the Bishop & Director for Evangelical Mission – Retirement

November 3 – Christ Lutheran Church, Wyoming, Rev. Robert Schmidt **November 10** – Feast of Victory Lutheran Church, Acme, Rev. Haley Vay Beaman

November 17 – Immanuel Lutheran Church, Allegan Rev. Christopher Laughlin

November 24 – Spruce Lutheran Church, Spruce, Rev. Leslie Nye, Contracted Supply

Worship Volunteers & Readings for November

Lay Assistants, Sound Board

November 3 – LA: Jeff Andert Sound: Doug Martens

Streaming: Travis Sullivan

November 10 – LA: Linda Hermann

Sound: Ellis Cutler Streaming: Doug Martens

November 17 – LA: Tresa Garver/Teresa

Momenee-Young Sound: Doug Martens Streaming: Travis Sullivan

November 24 – LA: Doug Martens

Sound: Ellis Cutler Streaming: Travis Sullivan

Readings

Isaiah 25: 6 – 9

Psalm 24

Revelation 21: 1 – 6a

John 11: 32 – 44

Ruth 3: 1 - 5, 4: 13 - 17

Psalm 127

Hebrews 9: 24 – 28 Mark 12: 38 – 44

1 Samuel 1: 4 – 20

1 Samuel 2:1 - 10

Hebrews 10: 11 – 14 [15 – 18] 19 – 25

Mark 13: 1 – 8

2 Samuel 23: 1 - 7

Psalm 132: 1 – 12 [13 – 18]

Revelation 1: 4b – 8 John 18: 33 – 37

November Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays 11/19 - Jan Mead



Anniversaries

11/19 – Travis & Kjersten Sullivan **11/26** – Bob & Laurie Swanson

Prayer Requests

COMMUNITY

Sharon Cutler
Pam Ellison-Kring
Linda Hermann
Tish Gancer
The Family of Kathy Chapman

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.

NOV2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					01	02
						Daylight Savings Ends
03	04	05	06	07	08	09
10:30 Worship Coffee Hour All Saints Sunday	8:30am-4pm Woman's Co-Op Monday Mixer	Franklin Pantry, 12:30 1:00 Bible Chat FaceBook Live	10:30 & 5:30 Bible Chat 6:45 Choir	7 Kathy Chapman's Funeral		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
10:30 Worship Coffee Hour	8:30am-4pm Woman's Co-Op Monday Mixer	1:00 Bible Chat FaceBook Live	6:45 Choir			4:00 Under One Roof
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
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 6:45 Choir	11:30 Road Runners @ Coney Island		3 Ronnie Cung Concert Kalamazoo
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
10:30 Worship Coffee Hour	8:30am-4pm Woman's Co-Op Monday Mixer	1:00 Bible Chat FaceBook Live 7 Council	10:30 Bible Chat	Thanks- giving		