



# Trinity Trumpet

December 2024

## The Pastor's Letter

Dear Trinity,

Last Sunday we started our journey to Christmas with Jesus talking about people fainting in fear. This Sunday we will meet John the Baptist, who next Sunday will call us all a “brood of vipers” fleeing “from the wrath to come.” All around us the world is decked in lights and bows, Christmas carols wafting through store speakers and car radios, yet right here in our church we are singing songs about stars falling from the sky while a crazed man with locusts in his teeth calls us names. Why is it that in the season dedicated to celebrating Christ’s birth, the church finds itself so out of step with culture?

We are out of step with culture because culture’s understanding of Christmas is simply too small. As Christians, we proclaim that the God who became flesh and dwelt among us in human form on Christmas is not only a past event, but Christ is present in our world today and in our unfolding future. We proclaim the Christ “who was, who is, and who is to come.” In Advent, we anticipate not the historical birth of an infant, we anticipate the continued promise that God continually comes to bring life to a dying world.

In the northern hemisphere, our celebration of Advent matches the season of the year. As the days shorten and the darkness lengthens, we await the birth of the One who is the Light and the Life of the world. The Advent wreath creates a visual representation of this pattern. As the darkness grows outside, the lights of the Advent wreath increase, reminding us of Christ who is the Light that breaks the darkness.

Our readings help remind us that we are not waiting for baby Jesus to be born; we are waiting for God to come into our world. The first Sunday’s readings urge us to be ready when God arrives and promises the glory of that day. The second and third Sundays tell of John the Baptist, his urging

that we be prepared and his preachings on the hope Christ brings. The fourth Sunday's readings finally lead us into the birth narratives, and the form our promised hope will take, in the infant Jesus.

The color of the Advent season is blue. It is similar to the purple of Lent, but while purple has a penitential tone, blue represents hope and waiting.

It has been suggested that the idea of Advent has passed, and churches would do best to join with culture's celebration of Christmas rather than to fight it. I disagree with this suggestion. I think especially as Christmas becomes more and more commercial, the church is called to be grounded in the promise that Christ is bigger than our history and to create space and time to wait and to hope in God's promise of salvation.

Peace,  
Pastor Kjersten

**Extra Holiday Fun Fact:** Have you ever wondered about the phrase "Merry Xmas"? It comes from the Greek spelling of Christ, Χριστός. You can see another example of this shorthand on our Christmas tree in the sanctuary. Look for an ornament with a P over an X. It is known as the Chi Ro, the first two letters of the word Christ in the Greek alphabet.

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A Congregational Meeting is scheduled for immediately after the service on **Sunday, December 8**, for the purpose of adopting the 2025 Budget and electing council members to fill two vacancies. Tresa Garver advised Council President Jeff Andert that she needed to step back from her Council duties, hence the need for election of two new members. A copy of the proposed budget was provided in the November Trumpet.





# December Happenings at Trinity

## ADVENT BAGS

Advent begins **Sunday, December 1**. As we have done for several years, we are asking you to fill an “Advent Bag” with food items during the Advent Season. We will be delivering them to the Franklin Food Panty after the first of the year. Pick up a bag to fill from the back of the sanctuary. The bags are due back by December 29.



## COOKIE EXCHANGE



December 8, after the congregational meeting, will be our annual cookie swap. Bring your favorite cookies to share and fill a box to take home!!



Also, during the cookie swap, supplies will be there for anyone who is interested to make Christmas cards for our shut-ins and our Tree of Wishes families. You can also make some for your own use! There will be several samples to look at to help get your creative juices flowing!!

Wayne and Connie

## TREE OF WISHES GIFTS DUE

Trinity has again adopted families this Christmas season. A Thrivent gift is funding the food baskets and Trinity members are purchasing \$20 - \$25 gifts for each family member. The wrapped gifts are **due at Trinity by Thursday, December 12**. The families will be picking up the gifts at noon on Sunday, December 15. It’s always a fun day being able to give them Christmas dinner and gifts for their family!



## CAROLING AND FELLOWSHIP



On Friday, December 13, we will be caroling at The Oaks and The Legacy located at 706 North Avenue, meeting at 4:45 in the afternoon. We will carol at the Oaks first and then go to The Legacy. After leaving The Legacy, we will all gather at the Eversons (226 Pennbrook Trail) for a light meal and fellowship. It's so heart-warming watching the residents sing along to the familiar carols and then enjoy sloppy joes, queso cheese & chips, ribbon jello (see Recipe Corner), rum balls (Wayne's favorite), Dark Chocolate Salted Caramel

Oreo Pie and other yummy treats of the season. This is always a super fun evening for the whole family!

## ROAD RUNNERS

On **December 19 Road Runners** will meet at **Clara's on the River at 6:00**. All are welcome so come, bring a friend and enjoy Battle Creek's Festival of Lights.



Wayne

## SPECIAL CHRISTMAS WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### Christmas Eve Service - Tuesday, December 24 at 7:00pm

We welcome the birth of our Savior with the traditional service filled with readings and carols and ending with the singing of Silent Night by candlelight. Bring your Advent Bags to place under the Christmas tree.



### Sunday, December 29 at 10:30am - Pop-up Christmas Pageant

It's time once again for the annual Trinity Lutheran Church Pop-Up Christmas Pageant. This is the Children's Christmas Pageant you remember as a child, but without the long, boring rehearsal and you never have to age out of participating! There will be singing, costumes, laughter and

more! Come a few minutes before worship to choose a part, pick up a script and a costume, and join in the fun. There will be parts of all sizes,

from starring roles to, well, stars. Want to just sit and watch? There's a part for you too! The Heavenly Host help sing all the songs. The Christmas pageant is a great event to bring friends or family.



## 2023 PAGEANT

### MEIJER PANTRY DONATION OPPORTUNITY



Turn multiples of \$10 into \$30, \$60, (yes 3 times as much!!!!) at the **Beckley Meijer** store on **Saturday December 14, 2024**. The donation cards for the BC Neighborhood Pantries will be at the checkout. Ask the cashier for one if you don't see them and have it added to your purchase. Your \$10 (or more) will grow to a donation three times as much from Meijer!!

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

Tuesday, November 5, was election day and Trinity was again a polling station. We welcomed all the patriotic visitors to our building offering them a beverage and a snack. A big thank you to Thrivent for the grant to pay for the supplies, to all Trinity members who greeted the voters and to Wayne Walentowski for opening and closing the building on Election Day.



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

Under One Roof was celebrated with the Co-Op on Saturday, November 16. A yummy dinner was shared and we all enjoyed the opportunity to visit with our Co-Op friends.



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



Laurie and Bob Swanson celebrated their 58<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on November 26 and on Sunday, November 24, they celebrated with us with cake!!!

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

After enjoying the anniversary cake, members gathered in the sanctuary to put up the Advent Tree for us to enjoy during the season which begins December 1.



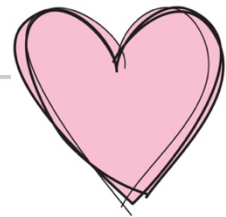
## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT LAST MONTH ... PART 5

Our own Teresa Momenee-Young gave us a shout out on FaceBook!!!



**Teresa Momenee - Young**

17m · 🌐



Trinity Lutheran Church works every day to spread love in the world. They have always been excellent at taking this love out of the building and into the community... but today I want to highlight the love I was able to find IN the building. We rented out their social hall space to gather for our large family Thanksgiving. The space is inviting and warm, functional and efficient, with plenty of room for a group of over 20 to gather (and that's not even counting the flock of grandchildren who happily ran about the entire day!) Thank you Trinity for maintaining such an amazing space and sharing it with our community.



## RECIPE CORNER

### Ribbon Jello

Ingredients:

5 boxes of Jello (I use sugar free)  
Sour Cream  
Boiling Water



Dissolve a box of Jello in 1 C. of boiling water.

Transfer  $\frac{1}{2}$  of fully dissolved jello back to the measuring cup.

Add  $\frac{1}{2}$  C. of sour cream to the  $\frac{1}{2}$  C. of jello remaining in the bowl.  
Whisk to fully combine the two.

Pour the clear jello into the bottom of a 10" x 10" square pan.  
Place in the refrigerator and allow to set.

After the clear layer is set, pour the sour cream mixture over it  
and allow it to set.

Repeat for the other 4 boxes of Jello. Allow time for the Jello to  
cool down before pouring the clear layer, otherwise it may make a  
hole in the previous layer.

Serve by cutting into cubes or rectangular prisms. (Who said you  
would never need your geometry class???)

Use 3 red, 2 green at Christmas, harvest colors at Thanksgiving.



## 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/>.



**Invite A Friend!!**



## December Prayer Partners

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



**December 1** – Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Alpena, Rev. Tom Orth, UCC

**December 8** – St. Paul Lutheran Church, Alpena, Rev John Shipman

**December 15** – St. Paul Lutheran Church, Au Gres, Rev. Max Miller

**December 22** – St. John's Lutheran Church, Baroda, Rev. Kenneth Babcock

**December 29** – St. Peter Lutheran Church, Battle Creek, Rev. Ed Ruble

## Worship Volunteers & Readings for December

### Lay Assistants, Sound Board

**December 1** – LA: Laurie Swanson  
Sound: Staff  
Streaming: Quenten Valenzuela

**December 8** – LA: Kendra Witkowski-Lehman  
Sound: Doug Martens  
Streaming: Quenten Valenzuela

**December 15** – LA: Tresa Garver/Teresa Momenee-Young  
Sound: Ellis Cutler  
Streaming: Doug Martens

**December 22** – LA: Scott Schindehette  
Sound: John Kolodzieizyck  
Streaming: Doug Martens

**December 24** – LA: Doug Martens  
Sound: Staff  
Streaming: Travis Sullivan

**December 29** – LA: Linda Hermann  
Sound: Ellis Cutler  
Streaming: Doug Martens

### Readings

Jeremiah 33:14 – 16  
Psalm 25: 1 – 10  
1 Thessalonians 3: 9 – 13  
Luke 21: 25 – 36

Malachi 3: 1 – 4  
Luke 1: 68 – 79  
Philippians 1: 3 – 11  
Luke 3: 1 – 6

Zephaniah 3: 14 – 20  
Isaiah 12: 2 – 6  
Philippians 4: 4 – 7  
Luke 3: 7 – 18

Micah 5: 2 – 5a  
Luke 1: 46b – 55  
Hebrews 10: 5 – 10  
Luke 1: 39 – 45 [46 – 55]

Isaiah 9: 2 – 7  
Psalm 96  
Titus 2: 11 – 14  
Luke 2: 1 – 14 [15 – 20]

## December Birthdays & Anniversaries

### Birthdays

12/12 – John Kolodzieizyck

12/24 – Sharon Cutler

12/27 – Melody Mason



### Anniversaries

## Prayer Requests

### COMMUNITY

Sharon Cutler

Pam Ellison-Kring

Linda Hermann

Tish Gancer

### IN OUR HEARTS/ON OUR MINDS

Jim Hines (Maxine's Nephew)

Bob Kamphuis



**November 30<sup>th</sup>** was the **International Remembrance Day** for Lost Species.

Hold your own extinction memorial event, or just light a candle in memory of the three species lost to eternity every hour.



## **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.

# DEC2024

SUN      MON      TUE      WED      THU      FRI      SAT

| 01   | 02  | 03  | 04  | 05  | 06  | 07 |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| 10:30<br>Worship<br>Coffee Hour  | 8:30am-4pm<br>Woman's<br>Co-Op<br>Monday<br>Mixer | <b>Franklin<br/>Pantry, 12:30</b><br>1:00 Bible Chat<br>FaceBook Live | 10:30 &<br>5:30 Bible<br>Chat<br>6:45 Choir |   |   |    |
| 08   | 09  | 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14 |
| 10:30<br>Worship<br>Coffee Hour<br><b>Congre-<br/>gational<br/>Meeting<br/>Cookie Swap</b> | 8:30am-4pm<br>Woman's<br>Co-Op<br>Monday<br>Mixer | 1:00 Bible<br>Chat<br>FaceBook<br>Live                                | 10:30 &<br>5:30 Bible<br>Chat<br>6:45 Choir | <b>Tree of<br/>Wishes<br/>Deadline</b>      | <b>4:45<br/>Caroling<br/>@The<br/>Oaks,<br/>Dinner @<br/>The<br/>Eversons</b> |    |
| 15   | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21 |
| 10:30<br>Worship<br>Coffee Hour<br>Family Pick<br>Up Tree of<br>Wishes                     | 8:30am-4pm<br>Woman's<br>Co-Op<br>Monday<br>Mixer | 1:00 Bible<br>Chat<br>FaceBook<br>Live<br><b>7 Council</b>            | 10:30 Bible<br>Chat<br>6:45 Choir           | <b>6:00 Road<br/>Runnters<br/>@ Clara's</b> |   |    |
| 22   | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28 |
| 10:30<br>Worship<br>Coffee Hour  | 8:30am-4pm<br>Woman's<br>Co-Op<br>Monday<br>Mixer | 1:00 Bible<br>Chat<br>FaceBook<br>Live<br><b>7 Christmas<br/>Eve</b>  |   |   |   |    |
| 29   | 30  | 31  |   |   |   |    |
| 10:30<br>Worship<br>Coffee Hour<br><b>Pop Up<br/>Pageant</b>                               | 8:30am-4pm<br>Woman's<br>Co-Op<br>Monday<br>Mixer | 1:00 Bible<br>Chat<br>FaceBook<br>Live                                |   |   |   |    |

