



Trinity Trumpet

February, 2025

The Pastor's Letter

Dear Trinity,

After centuries of quietly doing God's work, the Lutherans have finally made the news. As you may or may not have heard, the "General Mike Flynn" account on X (formerly Twitter) posted an image of payments made from the Department of Health and Human Services to a variety of Lutheran service organizations, inferring that the payments were "use of "religion" as a money laundering operation." (As an aside, a colleague made a quip that while we may not be money laundering, LSA organizations do provide money for laundry, so this could be the confusion). Instead of what they actually are, competitive government grants awarded to reputable social service organizations providing essential services to the most vulnerable.

While there's a lot that could be said about this, I want to use this attention raising to share some information about the absolutely amazing work Lutheran Services in America affiliates and Global Refuge (Formerly Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services) are doing. Because you may not have known this, Lutheran affiliated organizations make up one of the largest networks of social service agencies in the country. One in fifty Americans has been touched by the work of Lutheran affiliated organizations.

Lutheran Services in America (LSA) is a network of affiliated health and human services nonprofits across 1,400 communities. Per the LSA website, "Lutheran Services in America network organizations are rooted in the Lutheran theology of caring for our neighbor and the spirit of early Lutheran reformers who transformed the way we address society's greatest challenges." The LSA affiliate in our area is Samaritas (formerly Lutheran Social Services of Michigan).

So what do LSA affiliates actually do? What don't they do may be a better question. LSA organizations work across a broad variety of needs. Here is a snapshot taken from an article by Pastor Clint Pr. Schnekloth, "Musk and Flynn's Attack on Social Services."

- Refugee Resettlement & Immigration Services – Many LSS organizations are key partners in resettling refugees, assisting with housing, employment, and integration services. They work under federal programs like the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program, ensuring that refugees receive the support they need to become self-sufficient. The Lutheran part recently rebranded as Global Refuge.
- Disaster Response & Housing Assistance – LSS provides emergency relief and long-term recovery services following natural disasters. They also operate affordable housing programs for low-income individuals, seniors, and people with disabilities.
- Child Welfare & Adoption Services – LSS agencies provide foster care placement, adoption services, and family counseling to ensure that children in difficult circumstances receive stable, loving homes.
- Mental Health & Addiction Recovery Services – Many LSS agencies operate counseling centers, addiction treatment programs, and crisis intervention services, filling critical gaps in mental health care.
- Food Assistance & Community Support – LSS organizations run food pantries, meal programs, and nutrition assistance efforts to fight food insecurity in local communities.

Here in Michigan, Samaritas focuses on foster care and adoption services, affordable housing for seniors, people with disabilities, and people with low income, and refugee resettlement services. In 2023 (the most recent annual report), they served 972 children in foster care, kept 704 families together, and helped 214 children find their forever home through adoption. They helped resettle 5,033 refugees, 81% of whom were self-sufficient within 180 days. 1,314 people went through Samaritas' Substance Use Disorder program. And as the largest provider of trauma services in Michigan, they severed 504 people suffering from trauma. Samaritas' biggest impact by number is in their housing programs. 1,026 seniors live in Samaritas senior living facilities, 55 people live in Samaritas supported disability group homes, and 1,502 people live in Samaritas affordable living communities. Additionally, 23,918 households were served through their emergency food assistance program. Just this week (Tuesday, to be exact)

Samaritas celebrated the dedication of their newest affordable housing community in Spring Lake, 53 one- and two-bedroom apartments available to anyone who meets the MSHDA requirements for the property.

To quote again from Lutheran Services in America, “Lutheran reformers worked together to pool community resources, not only to provide essentials such as food and shelter, but also to deliver healthcare, job training and other services critical to individuals leading a life of dignity and respect. They recognized that a holistic approach best empowers people to reach their full potential and when people thrive, communities thrive. Five centuries later, Lutheran social ministries continue the legacy of the Reformation by rising to 21st century challenges. Lutheran social ministries continue to care for our neighbor putting people at the center of our work.” Since Martin Luther first came up with the idea of creating a community chest to help the needy in his community, Lutherans have been on the cutting edge of caring for those in need. While I’m upset about the misinformation, I am glad to have an excuse to tell the story of these amazing ministries. Here are a few websites for you to check out if you want to learn more about or support the work of any of these incredible organizations.

Lutheran Services in America: <https://lutheranservices.org/>

Samaritas (formerly Lutheran Social Services of Michigan):

<https://www.samaritas.org/>

Global Refuge (formerly Lutheran Immigration and Refugees Services):

<https://www.globalrefuge.org/>

Peace,
Pastor Kjersten

Ash Wednesday – March 5
12 pm @ First Presbyterian Church (111 Capital Ave NE)
7 pm @ Trinity Lutheran Church

On Ash Wednesday we enter into the season of Lent by making visible the mark of Christ on our foreheads, a mark first etched in oil at our baptism. Since ancient times, the wearing of ashes has been a symbol of repentance and humility. Job, the people of Nineveh, and the prophets all

used ashes as a symbol of their brokenness and need for God's mercy. Ashes are also a symbol of healing. Ashes were used as part of the cleansing ritual to welcome someone back into the community (Numbers 19:17). On Ash Wednesday, we make the sign of the cross on our foreheads as a reminder that we too sin and we too are healed. Ash Wednesday worship offers a time of extended confession; a time for reflecting on, for letting go of, all that keeps us separate from God. We then receive the ashes on our foreheads in the shape of a cross, a visual reminder that we are sealed with the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ. That nothing can separate us from God's love.

This year, to bring attention to our unity in Christ, we will be joining with siblings in Christ as members and ministers from First UMC, First Congregational, First Presbyterian, Chapel Hill UMC, St. Peter, and Trinity will be coming together in worship to pray for our congregations and community. There are two opportunities to join in worship. At 12 pm, there is a service at First Presbyterian Church (111 Capital Ave NE). I will be preaching at the noon service. And at 7pm, we will be hosting a service at Trinity. Pastor Lorenzo Small from First Presbyterian will bring the sermon in the evening. Whether you attend the service at First Presbyterian or Trinity, all services will include confession and forgiveness, receive ashes, share communion, and time to contemplate God's love for us.

CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING



SAVE THE DATE: At their December meeting, the Council set **March 2, 2025**, as the date for the Annual Meeting. In addition to reviewing 2024 via committee reports and the financial reports, we will be electing one council member and discussing our goals for Trinity Lutheran.

ANNUAL REPORT

Items for the 2024 Annual Report are due to Connie Everson by Sunday, February 9. Copies will be available Sunday, February 16, to allow everyone time to study them before the annual meeting.

February Happenings at Trinity

ROAD RUNNERS

On **February 20** the Road Runners will be "On The Road Again" this time at **MOONRAKERS on Beadle Lake Road**. We will meet at **11:30 a m.** Come and enjoy good food and great conversation.



Wayne

SOUPER BOWL



We are all aware that Sunday, February 9, is Super Bowl Sunday. Even though our beloved Lions aren't playing in it this year, it's still a special day for us here at Trinity. As has been our tradition, we put out a basket for a "Souper Bowl" collection for the Franklin Pantry. Bring your extra change, bills or a check to drop into the basket and the money will be delivered to the Pantry for them to use to purchase items for the folks in need in our neighborhood.

COFFEE HOUR

We are looking for Hosts/Hostesses for Coffee Hour. If you have a celebration to share such as birthday, anniversary, or any other, to serve as a host just sign up on the calendar on the table in the Fellowship Hall. Also, we would appreciate donations of snacks if you would rather do that.



Thank You in Advance

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



On January 7, 11 Advent Bags filled with donations were delivered to the Franklin Pantry. A big THANK YOU to everyone who took a bag and returned it filled with groceries. Trinity members volunteer at the Pantry the first Tuesday of every month. If you're interested in volunteering, talk to Eileen Martens. It's really a joy meeting the clients and providing them with some food. One remarked last fall that she would like to volunteer with us because we have so much fun!

Franklin Pantry Needs

The Franklin Pantry is especially in need of the following items:

- Quart Size Plastic Bags (used to package fresh fruits & vegetables)
- Peanut Butter
- Juice
- Peanut Butter
- Canned goods (no super large cans please)
- Toilet Paper
- Bar Soap



Please put all donated items in the wagon in the narthex. THANKS!!

CASE YOU MISSED IT LAST MONTH ... PART 2

Laurie Swanson provided the sermon on January 19 while the Sullivans traveled to California to celebrate Pastor Kjersten's mom's birthday. It was MLK Weekend and the children's sermon provided a history/science lesson. The hymns were also selected to follow the theme of Dr. King's message. (Teachers never retire, they just teach to different students.)



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

You may ask "why are there pictures of the St. Phil basketball team in our newsletter?" If you look closely, you'll see a very familiar face – our own Pastor Kjersten!! She's the JV coach for the Tigers and they were able to play a game at Crisler Arena on the University of Michigan Campus on January 3rd. Ask to look at her pictures of the facilities!!



Pastor Kjersten has shared both of the following messages on Trinity’s Facebook page. She also referred to the one from Bishop Satterlee in her February 2 sermon (giving your life away 25 cents at a time). If you don’t have access to a Facebook page, they’re found here for you to read and ponder.

Presiding Bishop Eaton Issues Pastoral Message on Executive Orders

January 24, 2025

Dear church,

On Monday, our nation witnessed the peaceful transfer of power central to our democracy, followed by sweeping actions by the incoming Trump administration. Facing such changes, we receive guidance through Martin Luther's words in the Large Catechism.

In the fourth petition of the Lord's Prayer, where we pray “Give us this day our daily bread,” Luther writes about the importance of praying for our leaders, asking God to grant them wisdom and strength. He also speaks to the responsibility of leaders to provide stability, sufficiency and equity, saying, “[I]t would be very proper to place in the coat-of-arms of every pious prince a loaf of bread instead of a lion, or a wreath of rue, or to stamp it upon the coin, to remind both them and their subjects that by their office we have protection and peace, and that without them we could not eat and retain our daily bread.”¹

This past week has been one of rapid and cascading change, from the inauguration of a new president and vice president to the flurry of activity in government orders and regulations. The policies and decisions reflected in this week's executive orders and regulatory changes have the potential to profoundly impact our lives, the well-being of our neighbors and the future of the planet. Therefore, I am concerned about the ways that many of the executive actions have created uncertainty and fear in our communities among neighbors struggling to survive, neighbors struggling to provide for their children, and neighbors struggling to be seen.

As a church, we are called to speak up when the government distorts or denies the image of God in each person by endangering access to

protection, peace and daily bread. Where harm or inequity occur, we are called by God to respond with love and advocacy.

Luther also writes that in asking for daily bread, we are to pray for our leaders. We should pray that they act wisely and justly, protect all people and not cause harm.

Prayer is not passive; it's an act of hope. Prayer reminds us to ground ourselves in God's promise. We pray for strength, to love unconditionally and to serve one another. As we lift up our petitions, we must also act—advocating for policies that affirm the dignity of every person and standing against actions that demean or exclude.

This church is committed to upholding the humanity of everyone, regardless of who we are or where we come from. We are a church called to love our neighbors and accompany all people in their joys and struggles. We must remain steadfast in this calling. As the ELCA, we will continue to proclaim the radical inclusivity of Christ's love. And we will deepen our local and global partnerships with those working to build a just and compassionate society, especially through our ecumenical and interreligious networks.

I commend to you the social message [“Government and Civic Engagement in the United States: Discipleship in a Democracy,”](#) which states on page 7: “To evaluate how well agencies of government are doing their proper work of providing for the safety and well-being of those within their borders and/or jurisdiction, Lutherans ask one simple but all-encompassing question: Is the neighbor being served?”

I encourage our congregations to use the resources of the [ELCA Witness in Society Team](#) with advocacy networks on the state and federal level. And get involved with [AMMPARO](#), the ELCA’s strategy toward just and humane policies affecting migrants.

As we move forward, let us hold fast to our faith and to one another. Let us be bold in our witness to the gospel, steadfast in our prayers for those in authority and tireless in our efforts to seek justice for all.

May God grant us courage, wisdom and peace in these days.

In Christ,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

A Message from Bishop Satterlee

January 29, 2025 Written by **North/West Lower Michigan Synod**

Fred B. Craddock, the famous preacher and teacher of preaching, once delivered a sermon in which he shared his fantasy, as a young pastor, of being a martyr and gloriously giving his life for Jesus. The sermon was amusing, complete with blindfold, firing squad, and statue erected in Fred's honor. It also never happened. Craddock remarked that he never imagined that rather than laying it all on the line, Jesus would ask him to quietly give his life 25 cents at a time.

I think some within the ELCA fantasized that we would somehow lay it all on the line and that our agenda of DEI, LGBTQIA+, AMMPARO, and stewardship of creation would provide the prevailing path into God's promised future. Now we are disappointed and even distraught because our nation chose a different route. Truth be told, the church has been out of step with the culture ever since Jesus challenged Jerusalem and Rome. I recall visiting Latvia with Pastor Andreas Teich and learning about the church under communism. For most of its life, the church has given its life 25 cents at a time. Solidarity was the church's best form of advocacy as it cared for widows, orphans, and soldiers who had no one to care for them. Lending a hand proved more constructive than wringing our hands.

In 2024, gifts to our synod from individuals, which totaled \$21,050, came from people who generously and consistently give their life for Jesus in what sometimes seems to be small ways. In addition to Craddock's sermon, I am reminded of Jesus's assurance that "whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward" (Mark 10:42). I anticipate giving our life 25 cents at a time is how the church will serve as we move into the future.

I also anticipate that proclaiming the Jesus we know will prove unpopular, risky and even dangerous. The Jesus we know preached good news to the poor, reached out to heal the sick and the suffering, welcomed the estranged and outcast, ate and drank with those deemed sinners and beyond God's love, and on the cross, opened his arms to all.

People both inside and outside our church may want us to paint a different portrait of Jesus. Meeting with a congregational council recently, I was asked if the ELCA could become pro-life, honor biblical marriage, become less woke, and emphasize obeying the Ten Commandments more than receiving God's grace. If we make these changes, I was told, their church will grow.

I think we need to adjust to giving 25 cent cups of cold water rather than imagine that we are going to eliminate racism, classism, sexism, discrimination based on gender and sexual orientation, and climate change. I think we all need to adjust to proclaiming the Jesus we know loudly, clearly, and boldly for no other reason than sharing this good news is itself an act of nonviolent resistance to the powers of death at work in the world. When you proclaim Jesus and find yourself in trouble, I'll have your back.

Jesus healed. Jesus taught. Jesus welcomed. Jesus provided for. Jesus brought good news to people who needed it. We can proclaim this. We can also do these 25 cents at a time. And we are. The cups of cold water that the congregations and people of our synod offer not only nourish the people who received them, but also refreshes my colleagues and me who minister on your behalf. For this, we give thanks.

The Rev. Craig Alan Satterlee, Ph.D., Bishop

Stronghold Grants

At this moment in the life of our nation, people in our country are afraid and in need of a stronghold. To assist congregations in providing a stronghold, Bishop Satterlee, in consultation with Pastor David Sprang, establishes "Stronghold Grants" for congregations reaching out to the immigrant, refugee, and LGBTQIA+ communities to share the love of Jesus, provide a safe space for prayer, fellowship, and conversation, and to offer resources and assistance to help members of these communities navigate the situations in which they find themselves. [Learn more.](#)

Care for the Refugee and Immigrant Community

On and after January 20, 2025, President Trump issued several Executive Orders which affect churches that support refugee and immigrant populations. Our Synod Attorney shares information on these orders and resources for congregations. [Learn more.](#)

ELCA AMMPARO and Global Refuge Webinar

Join ELCA AMMPARO and Global Refuge for a webinar, “What Now—Resources for Faith Communities after Executive Orders” on January 30 from 4:00-5:00pm ET. [Register Now.](#)

ELCA Resources

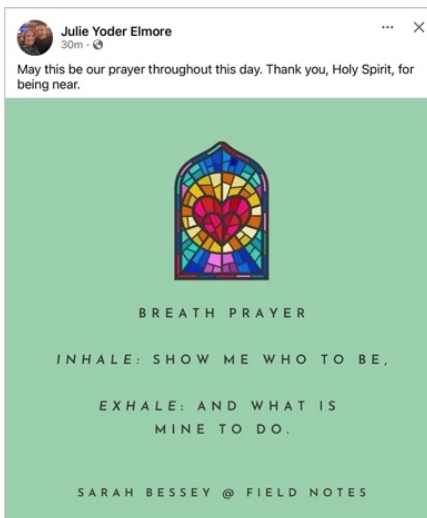
[Presiding Bishop Eaton’s Statement on Immigration Executive Orders \(January 28\)](#)

[Presiding Bishop Eaton’s Pastoral Message on Executive Orders \(January 24\)](#)

[ELCA AMMPARO](#)

[ELCA Witness in Society](#)

[Global Refuge \(formerly Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service\)](#)



This simple prayer was shared on Facebook by Julie Elmore who is the pastor at Chapel Hill UMC. Many of us met Julie along with her husband and son Oliver when they participated in our 2023 Family Camp. Chapel Hill UMC is one of the churches that will be joining Trinity and other Battle Creek congregations in Ash Wednesday services on **March 5**.



RECIPE CORNER

Spicy Applesauce Cake

Ingredients:

1 $\frac{3}{4}$ C. Flour
1 $\frac{1}{4}$ C. Sugar
1 tsp Baking Soda
1 tsp Salt
1 tsp Cinnamon
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp Ground Cloves
1 C. Sweetened Applesauce
 $\frac{1}{2}$ C. Oil
1 Egg



1. Heat oven to 350 degrees.
2. In a mixing bowl, sift the dry ingredients.
3. Add the applesauce and oil, mix well. (This recipe is so old it says to beat for 200 strokes – IYKYK.)
4. Add the egg, mix well again.
5. Bake for 17 – 19 minutes for cupcakes/muffins, 25 – 30 minutes for layers using the “toothpick” test.

This recipe makes an 8” or 9” square pan. If you’re making a layer cake, double the recipe to get two layers plus 6 cupcakes. My kids started eating the cupcakes before the cake could be frosted. They began calling them “muffins” and the name stuck. Now I mainly bake a single recipe and make only “muffins.” If you do frost the cake, a cream cheese frosting is yummy!!

Connie Everson

February Prayer Partners

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



February 2 – Zion Lutheran Church, Cadillac, Rev. Scott Torkko,
Rev. Chrisy Bright, Assistant to the Bishop/NWLM Synod

February 9 – Peace Lutheran Church, Charlotte, Rev. Neil Brady

February 16 – St. Thomas Ev. Lutheran Church, Cheboygan, Rev. David

February 23 – Zion Lutheran Church, Comstock Park,
Rev. Julie Schneider-Thomas

Worship Volunteers & Readings for February

Lay Assistants, Sound Board

February 2 – LA: Laurie Swanson
Sound: Ellis Cutler
Streaming: Quenten
Valenzuela

February 9 – LA: Kendra Witkowski-
Lehman
Sound: Staff
Streaming: Doug Martens

February 16 – LA: Linda Hermann
Sound: Ellis Cutler
Streaming: Quenten
Valenzuela

February 23 – LA: Mary Conklin
Sound: Staff
Streaming:
Travis Sullivan

Readings

Jeremiah 1:4 – 10
Psalm 71: 1 – 6
1 Corinthians 13: 1 – 13
Luke 4: 21 – 20

Isaiah 6: 1 – 8 [9 – 13]
Psalm 138
1 Corinthians 15: 1 – 11
Luke: 5: 1 – 11

Jeremiah 17: 5 – 10
Psalm 1
1 Corinthians 15: 12 – 20
Luke 6: 17 – 26

Genesis 45: 3 – 11, 15
Psalm 37: 1 – 11, 39 – 40
1 Corinthians 15: 35 – 38, 42 – 50
Luke 6: 27 – 38

February Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

2/16 – Lou Young
2/24 – John Sullivan
2/24 – Cindy Wright
2/26 – Tresa Garver

Anniversaries

2/14 – Doug & Judy Markusic



Prayer Requests

COMMUNITY

Sharon Cutler
Pam Ellison-Kring
Linda Hermann
Tish Gancer
Diane Andert

IN OUR HEARTS/ON OUR MINDS

Jim Hines (Maxine's Nephew)
Bob Kamphuis



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.

FEB2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						01
02	03	04	05	06	07	08
10:30 Worship Coffee Hour	8:30am- 4pm Woman's Co-Op Monday Mixer	12:30, Pantry 1:00 Bible Chat FaceBook	10:30 & 5:30 Bible Chat 6:45 Choir			
09	10	11	12	13	14	15
10:30 Worship Coffee Hour Souper Bowl Sunday	8:30am- 4pm Woman's Co-Op Monday Mixer	1:00 Bible Chat FaceBook Live	10:30 & 5:30 Bible Chat 6:45 Choir			
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
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 @ Moonraker		
23	24	25	26	27	28	
10:30 Worship Coffee Hour	8:30am- 4pm Woman's Co-Op Monday Mixer	1:00 Bible Chat FaceBook Live 7:00 Council	10:30 Bible Chat 6:45 Choir Pastor Gone	Thru	Saturday	

