



Trinity Trumpet

March 2025

Pastor Letter

March 2025

Dear Trinity,

Hard to believe this is my final pastor letter to you. I knew this day would come, it is the nature of pastoral ministry to move on and of congregational ministry to welcome new leadership and new ideas. And I truly feel the Holy Spirit calling me into this new role in the synod, where I can use all the incredible learnings that we figured out together to share with the whole synod. But it is still so bittersweet to be saying goodbye to all of you, and to this mission we have shared together for the last ten+ years. As the verse I shared at the start of my resignation letter stated, I truly do and will “thank my God every time I remember you... [and] I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ,” (Philippians 1:3, 6). One of the nice pieces of this transition is that I will get to continue to see that good work unfolding and support the work, just from a different vantage point.

Transitions are hard, saying goodbye is hard. I was so grateful for Jeff’s words during worship a few weeks ago about the emotions of grief. I am feeling many of the emotions Jeff mentioned as I consider how our relationships are changing from pastor and people to DEM and congregation. I want to, like Peter in the text from Transfiguration Sunday, cling a little bit longer to the mountain top together, rather than descending into the work that God has before us. In times of ending, I have often found myself drawn to, of all unlikely places, the end of the book of Deuteronomy.

Deuteronomy, for those not familiar with it, is a series of speeches from Moses to the Israelites, outlining and commenting on the various laws God has given the people, and encouraging them to be faithful to God. Deuteronomy ends with Moses standing on the top of Mount Nebo,

overlooking the Promised Land across the River Jordan, which his people will soon enter into without him. He led them as far as he could, it was time for someone new to take the reins.

In Moses' final words, he encouraged Israel to "choose life," (Deuteronomy 30:19b). The use of the word "choose" here is an interesting one, because the Old Testament doesn't offer humanity a whole lot of choices, usually God does the choosing. But in Deuteronomy, God through Moses gives the Israelites the option to choose life, to choose loving God, obeying God, holding fast to God, and following God through whatever comes. This choice, the passage hints, will shape an uncertain future. And, the point should be made, the Israelites have the option to choose because God has already chosen them. This is not a way for them to become the people of God, that has already happened. This is an offer within their existing relationship with God. What they choose will shape their future, but it won't shape God's love, connection, and presence with them.

I have found this passage, this image, helpful in times of transition because it reminds me that there is a season for our work. We have journeyed well together for the season of these past ten years. Like Moses and the Israelites, we have had joys and struggles, we have overcome huge obstacles and fought over cucumbers, we have laughed and cried, been bored and elated, messed up and asked for forgiveness. We have lived. We did not finish the work, for the work cannot ever be finished, but we did our part together. And now we stand at a shift. We don't know what the future holds, and there is much we cannot choose. But we can choose life, we can choose trust, we can choose God, because God has already chosen us. And so, we journey into uncertainty, confident that God journeys ahead.

Blessings to you on your journey, dear people of God. I will be praying for you and cheering you on from the synod office.

Peace,
Pastor Kjersten

Worship Schedule

Beginning on March 16th with the start of Pastor Cheri Johnson's role as an Interim Pastor, we have scheduled our worship experience and leadership through Lent. Our services will be as follows:

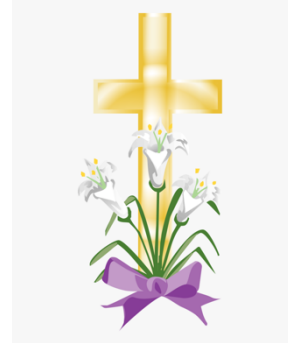
March 16 th	Service at Trinity with Pastor Cheri Johnson Preaching.
March 23 rd	Service at Trinity with Bishop Satterlee preaching. A discussion will follow the service with the Bishop regarding future planning for Trinity and various options for a Call process.
March 30 th	Joint Service at First Congregational Church with Pastor Nate Craddock preaching, 10 am
April 6 th	Service at Trinity with Pastor Cheri Johnson preaching.
April 13 th	Palm Sunday Joint Service at St. Peter Lutheran Church with Pastor Ed Ruble preaching
April 20 th	Easter Service at Trinity with Pastor Cheri Johnson preaching.

Throughout Lent, prayer services will be held at St. Peter on Thursday evenings. The Maundy Thursday service will be a joint service with St. Peter hosted at Trinity and led by Pastors Johnson and Ruble. Good Friday and Easter Vigil services on Friday and Saturday will be joint services at St. Peter. Easter Services, of course, will be our respective churches. These collaborations provide great assistance to Trinity as we secure necessary preaching and leadership through Lent.

Following Easter, Pastor Cheri will continue her alternate week preaching schedule on May 4th. The Council will review resources for supply preachers on alternate weeks.

EASTER LILIES

It's that time again to order your Easter Lily to be in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 20, as a way to honor or remember your loved ones. The cost this year is \$7 and your money is due to Eileen Martens by Sunday, April 6. Contact Eileen or use the sign-up sheet in the narthex.



March Happenings at Trinity

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE EXTRAVAGANZA March 4 at 6:30 pm

Let's enter into Lent with some pancakes! Join us on Tuesday, March 4, for all the regular and gluten-free pancakes you can eat. Please bring a pancake topping to share. We will also bless and burn last year's palm fronds in preparation for Ash Wednesday.



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



Pastor Kjersten's Celebration

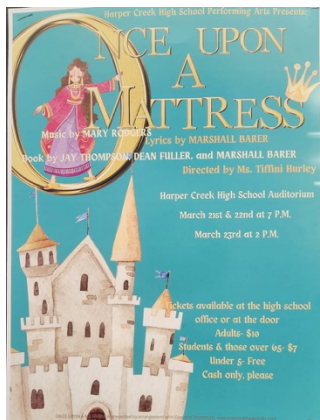
Immediately following our March 9th service, which will be Pastor Kjersten's final service, we will have a celebration of her ten years of ministry at Trinity as well as her promotion to an Assistant to the Bishop for the Synod. Plan to join others from the Church and community to share stories of Pastor's service and wish her well in her new position. Refreshments will be served.

ROAD RUNNERS

On **March 20** the Road Runners will be "On the Road Again" this time at **Cracker Barrel on Beckley**. We will meet at **11:30 am**. Come and enjoy good food and great conversation.



Wayne



ONCE UPON A MATTRESS
Harper Creek High School
March 21, 22 @ 7 PM
March 23 @ 2 PM

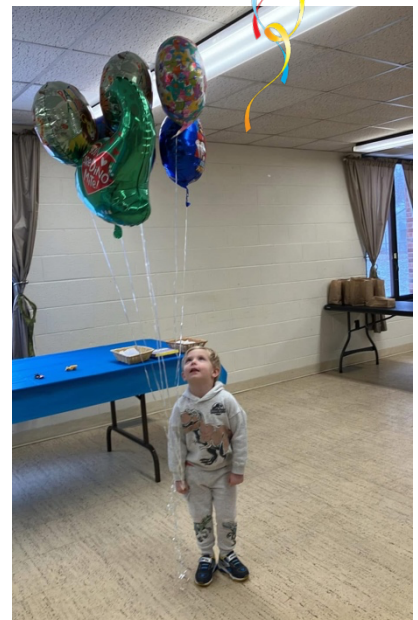
Our own Emily Hickey has a role in the production and would love to see Trinity members in the audience!!

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

After months of waiting, it's official!!! The "Little Mister" that has captured all our hearts is officially Levi Lehman!! Coffee hour on Sunday, February 9, was a celebration of his adoption and, of course, we had cake and more cake!!!!



PRAY - WAIT - TRUST



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



Sunday, February 9, was also Super Bowl Sunday. Here at Trinity, we celebrated “Souper Bowl” Sunday when we collected money to be donated to the Franklin Pantry. We collected \$135 to be donated to the Pantry for soup and other food items. A big thank you to everyone who donated!!!

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

The Children’s Sermon on February 23 included the opportunity to make some noise and be the instruments of God’s peace. Pastor Kjersten



brought out a box of musical noise makers that she and the kids used to add some noise to the congregation re-reading the Prayer of the Day (also known as the Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi.)



RECIPE CORNER

“YUMMO” Chicken

Ingredients:

- Boneless, skinless chicken thighs, tenderloins or breasts.
- Sour Cream flavored with garlic powder (about 1 tablespoon), I've started adding crushed garlic too (1-2 teaspoons, whatever tastes best to you)
- Crushed Ritz Crackers (for a gluten free alternative, use Japanese Panko)
- Melted Butter

Directions:

1. Heat oven to 425 degrees.
2. Prepare sour cream mixture
3. Dredge chicken in sour cream mixture, roll in crackers.
4. Drizzle with melted butter (up to 1 stick)
5. Bake for 40 – 45 minutes on a cookie sheet covered with parchment paper, covering with aluminum foil the last 20-25 minutes.
6. Yummy served with a side salad.

Connie Everson

March Prayer Partners

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



March 2 – Messiah Lutheran Church, Constantine, Rev. Rev. Thomas Pederson

March 9 – Christ United Church, Dewitt, Rev. Alex Alvares

March 16 – Evangelical Lutheran Church, East Jordan, Rev. Matt Deames

March 23 – St. Paul Lutheran Church, East Lansing, Rev. Carl Ballard

March 30 – University Lutheran Church, East Lansing, Rev. Emily Shipman & Rev. Zachariah Shipman

Worship Volunteers & Readings for March

Lay Assistants, Sound Board

March 2 – LA: Tresa Garver
Sound: Staff
Streaming: Doug Martens

March 9 – LA: Jeff Andert
Sound: Ellis Cutler.
Streaming: Quinten Valenzuela

March 16 – LA: Doug Martens
Sound: Staff.
Streaming: Quinten Valenzuela

March 23 – LA: Laurie Swanson
Sound: Ellis Cutler
Streaming: Chase Lehman

March 30 – Joint service at First Congregational

Readings

Exodus 34: 29 – 35
Psalm 99
2 Corinthians 3: 12 – 4:2
Luke 9: 28 – 36

Deuteronomy 26:1 - 111
Psalm 91: 1 -2, 9 - 16
Romans 10: 8b – 13
Luke: 4: 1 – 13

Genesis 15: 1 – 12, 17 – 18
Psalm 27
Philippians 3: 17 – 41
Luke 13: 31 – 35

Isaiah 55: 1 – 9
Psalm 63: 1 – 8
1 Corinthians 10: 1 – 13
Luke 13: 1 – 9

March Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

3/29 Eileen Martens
3/29 Gwen Geselle
3/30 Diane Andert
3/31 Kendra Witkowski-Lehman

Anniversaries

3/13 Doug & Eileen Martens



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
The Family of Heidi
(Sheffer) Fields



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.

MAR2025

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

						01
02	03	04	05	06	07	08
10:30 Worship Annual Meeting Luncheon Following	8:30am-4pm Woman's Co- Op Monday Mixer	1:00 Bible Chat FaceBook Live 12:30 Pantry 6:30 Fat Tuesday Pancakes	Ash Wednesday 12 First Congregational 7 Trinity 10:30 Bible Chat			
09	10	11	12	13	14	15
10:30 Worship Pastor K's Celebration	8:30am-4pm Woman's Co- Op Monday Mixer		6:45 Choir	7 Lenten Service @ St Peter		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
10:30 Worship Coffee Hour	8:30am-4pm Woman's Co- Op Monday Mixer		6:45 Choir	11:30 Road Runners @ Cracker Barrel 7 Lenten Service @ St Peter		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
10:30 Worship Coffee Hour	8:30am-4pm Woman's Co- Op Monday Mixer		6:45 Choir	7 Lenten Service @ St Peter		
30	31					
Joint service @ First Congregational 10 am	8:30am-4pm Woman's Co- Op Monday Mixer					

