



Trinity Trumpet

December 2025

ADVENT



I was changing the church decor from "Fall" to "Advent", and I learned some interesting things about symbols for the season we are just entering...Advent. I needed to find a simple shape to put on the blue cardboard strips that go in the niches along the side of the sanctuary. Blue is the color for Advent. This goes along with the idea that Advent is the church's winter. So, things are supposed to be simple...like winter is much calmer than other seasons of the year. It brings a lot of cold and darkness as well. The symbol the book suggested was snowflakes. The color blue suggests the shorter days bringing increased darkness of the season and in this part of the world winter brings snow. So next Sunday in six places along the sides of the church you will see a blue background with a snowflake brightening the effect just a little.

The book I used for this reference also mentioned that Advent is a time many church groups also think about refugees. This connection comes from the journey and lack of hotel space that Mary and Joseph encountered. The writers mentioned that this story calls to mind all who are refugees, all who are pilgrims, all who are homeless. Trinity continues this form of helping by encouraging people to fill a bag with items for the Food Pantry. We also observe the Tree of Wishes to provide needed items of winter clothing.

Perhaps you will think of the history behind gift giving and especially giving to those less fortunate as you fill your Advent Bag with food and other helpful items. You are continuing a tradition actually started with the Inn Keeper. He kept Mary and Joseph out of Bethlehem's darkness and winter. And others followed with more gifts to make life better for the Holy Family.

And millions around the world continue this tradition. The book I used for reference about Advent traditions was copywritten in 1994. It mentioned the church groups that helped new immigrants were mainly “Filipinos, Mexicans, and Central Americans.”

Laurie Swanson

Worship & Music Committee

VISIONING TEAMS UPDATE

The joint Trinity and St. Peter Visioning Committee continued their work by meeting on Monday, November 3, and Monday, November 24. In addition, the finance committees from both churches met and determined a rate for Trinity purchasing 25% of Pastor Ed Ruble’s time necessitating in part the revised budget for 2026. Much discussion has been held concerning what a partnership would look like. At the November 24 meeting, a chart of joint Trinity/St Peter “Strengths” “Opportunities” and “Barriers” was developed which will be useful to our own Trinity 2026 committee and for determining the job description that St. Peter will use to hire a part-time non-clergy person to fill some of the duties now performed there by Pastor Ed. The minutes of both meetings are found on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

The Trinity 2026 committee met on December 1 to focus on what our vision is for Trinity moving forward and how we would best use Pastor Ed’s time to reach that goal. The next meeting has been set for December 15.

INTENDED GIVING FOR 2026

Thanks to everyone for the \$61,802.00 of intended giving for year 2026. As in years past we have struggled to meet our budgets, but with this year's stewardship program, you have given Trinity Lutheran Church a bright future.

In Christ, *TLC Finance Team*

December Happenings at Trinity

PREACHING SCHEDULE

December 7 – Gloria Kolodzieizyck

December 14 –

December 21–

December 24 - Pastor Ed Ruble, Service @ 5:00

December 28 - Christmas Pageant

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A meeting will be held on **Sunday, December 7**, immediately after the service, for the purpose of adopting the 2026 Budget for Trinity Lutheran Church. Copies of the revised budget were sent out with the November 30 bulletin and will be available at the meeting for members to check over and ask questions about. As always, a big thank you to our Financial Team (Doug Martens, Eileen Martens and Bob Swanson) for their devotion to the financial needs of our congregation.

RESCHEDULED COOKIE EXCHANGE & CARD MAKING

Due to the wintery road conditions on Sunday, November 30, the cookie exchange and card making has been rescheduled for Sunday, December 7, following the congregational meeting to adopt the budget. Bring some cookies to share, enjoy a cup of coffee and make a card or two for our shut-ins/adopted families and your own love ones. If you aren't able to bring cookies - no worries!! You can still take a box of yummy cookies home with you! Everything will be ready for you to add your creative skills to make "one of a kind" cards! Study the samples to help think about what you want to do.



TREE OF WISHES



Our Tree of Wishes is up in the Narthex!

- Pick a tag from the tree (there's a list of their gift ideas on the back).
- Sign your name by theirs on the list next to the tree.
- Buy the gift (\$20-\$25).
- Wrap attaching the tag.
- Return the gift to Trinity.

Since we didn't have church on November 30, the deadline to return the gifts has moved from Thursday, December 11, to Sunday, December 14. The families will be coming later that day to pick up their gifts so it is really important that they're all returned by then. If you need help getting yours to church by December 14, contact Eileen Martens or Connie Everson.

ADVENT BAGS

As referenced by Laurie, for the past several years Trinity has had the tradition of filling "Advent Bags" during December. These bags will be collected between Christmas Eve and January 4 to be taken to the Franklin Food Pantry on Tuesday, January 6. Bags will be available to be taken home starting Sunday, December 7 (one more thing delayed because of weather). Ideas for things to add to the bag are listed on the back. Thank you for your continuing to help those in need in our neighborhood.



CAROLING

Another Christmas time tradition has been caroling at The Oaks and The Legacy and then adjourning to the Eversons for a light supper and fellowship. This year it's been scheduled for Friday, December 12. We'll meet at The Oaks around 4:45 (their dinner is at 5) carol there, go next door to The Legacy for more caroling and then proceed to the Eversons. This is always a fun evening for so many reasons. The looks on the residents faces as they hear the familiar Christmas Carols (many sing along) is something that always warms our hearts (Bucket #3). Enjoying the fellowship (along with Sloppy Joes, Rum Balls, Rice Krispie Treat Trees and Dark Chocolate Salted Caramel Oreo Pie) at the Eversons is also fun! Please mark your calendars and join us!!

ROAD RUNNERS

The Road Runners will have their Annual Christmas Dinner at Clara's On The River on December 18 at 6:00 pm. This is always a beautiful evening out sharing a good meal, good conversation and the beautiful lights adorning downtown Battle Creek.



Thank You,

Wayne



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Pastor Ed Ruble will be leading our Christmas Eve service at **5:00 (note the time)**. Please plan on joining us for a what is always a truly moving experience as we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child.

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

On All Saints Sunday, Pastor Cheri pointed out the white paraments on the altar signifying another special day like Halloween. They say "Alleluia" which is Angel Language for "YAAYYY GOD"! She reminded all of us that we should count our blessings and remember those saints who blessed us.



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



On November 9 we welcomed Candy McCorkle-Boughton, the VP of Diversity & Inclusion at WMU to our service. She engaged us by having us share our glasses with someone else. Looking through someone else's lenses helped us realize that we have a limited view. When we are resurrected, because of God's clarity, we get to become fully what He intends us to be.

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

On November 16, in honor of Veterans Day, Pastor Cheri asked Emily & Leah to name the branches of the military and then acknowledged the veterans in our congregation. They all got Oreos too!! Thank you for your service!



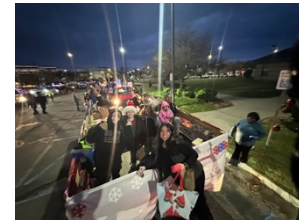
IN CASE YOU MISSED IT LAST MONTH ... PART 4

On Tuesday, November 18, Ellis Cutler and Eileen Martens represented Trinity Lutheran as we were presented with a Beautiful Battle Creek Award in recognition of our beautifully maintained property. Thank You to Eileen and Mary Mahurin, caretakers of our memorial garden and flower beds, along with our lawn crew Ellis, John Kolodziejczyk, Doug Martens, John Sullivan and Dick Everson who work all summer to weed, mow, weed whip and keep the equipment running.



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

The Woman's Co-Op participated in the Battle Creek Holiday Parade on Saturday, November 22. They shared their smiles and candy with the parade goers! Thank You to everyone who donated candy.



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT LAST MONTH ... PART 6



On Christ the King Sunday, Pastor Erick shared that we have a King of Love in Jesus. He shared a crown of thorns like Jesus wore (it was really sharp)!

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT LAST MONTH ... PART 7



On November 23, we celebrated the anniversary of Bob & Laurie Swanson with cake!! Congratulations to Bob & Laurie for 59 years of wedded bliss!!

2026 ROAD RUNNERS

The schedule for Road Runners for 2026 is:

- January 15 - Big Boy
- February 19 - Cracker Barrel
- March 19 - Applebees
- April 16 - Finley's
- May 21- Olive Garden
- June 18 - Moonrakers
- July 16- Supi's
- August 20 - Miller's
- September 17- D'Nicio's
- October 15 - Turkeyville
- November 19 - Fiesta
- December 17- Clara's @ 6:00 pm



Wayne

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Vicki Walentowski's new phone number is 269-472-1788. Please make the change in your directory.



RECIPE CORNER

“MIX”

Several years ago (as in decades ago), I was hosting my bridge club and recently purchased Tupperware/Pampered Chef included a snack mix that looked yummy that I decided to try. I also had some Christmas M&Ms to put out but there wasn't much room on the card tables so I mixed them together. “ VOILA “, a new Christmas tradition was born!! The combination of flavors was so good I started mixing some up (hence the name “Mix”) and putting into Christmas jars, canisters, holiday ziplock bags, etc, and giving to neighbors, sending to my siblings and serving during the season. I start with a layer of Golden Grahams (1”?) and add layers of the other ingredients. Stir and start munching!

- Golden Grahams
- Chocolate Chips
- Raisins
- Dry Roasted Peanuts
- Miniature Marshmallows
- Plain Christmas M&Ms
- Peanut Christmas M&Ms



Some of the containers I've used.

- I do not use an entire package of any ingredient in a batch. Just enough to have a “layer”. (FYI: I try to buy the big jars of M&Ms from Sams.)
- If preparing for a family with a toddler or a peanut allergy, omit the peanuts.
- Store in a sealed container.

Connie Everson

December Prayer Partners

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



December 7 – All Saints Lutheran, Mason, Rev. Gerald Ferguson

December 14 - Christ Lutheran, Michigan Center, Rev. Robert Martin

December 21 – Trinity Lutheran, Midland, Rev. Jeffrey Gramza

December 28 – Trinity Lutheran, Millersburg, Rev. Mary Hughes

Worship Volunteers & Readings for December

Lay Assistants, Sound & Streaming

December 7 – LA: Tresa Garver

Sound: Ellis Cutler

Streaming: Quentin Valenzuela

Readings

Isiah 11: 1 - 10

Psalm 72: 1 - 7, 18 - 19

Romans 15: 4 - 13

Matthew 3: 1 - 12

December 14 – LA: Gloria Kolodzieizyck

Sound: Doug Martens

Streaming: Quentin Valenzuela

Isaiah 35: 1 - 10

Psalm 146: 5 - 10

James 5: 7 - 10

Matthew 11: 2 - 11

December 21 – LA: Jeff Andert

Sound: Ellis Cutler

Streaming: John Kolodzieizyck

Isaiah 7: 10 - 16

Psalm 80: 1 - 7, 17 - 19

Romans 1: 1 - 7

Matthew 1: 18 - 25

December 24 – LA: Connie Everson

Sound: Staff

Streaming:

Isaiah: 9: 2 - 7

Psalm 96

Titus 2: 11 - 14

Luke 2: 1 - 14 [15 - 20]

December 28 - LA: Laurie Swanson

Sound: Staff

Streaming:

Isaiah 63: 7 - 9

Psalm 148

Hebrews 2: 10 - 18

Matthew 2: 13 - 23

December Birthdays

Birthdays

12/12 – John Kolodzieizyck

12/24 – Sharon Cutler

12/27 – Melody Mason



Prayer Requests

COMMUNITY

Sharon Cutler

Pam Ellison-Kring

Linda Hermann

Tish Gancer

Diane Andert

JoAnn Rusan



IN OUR HEARTS/ON OUR MINDS

Cliff Whitney (Val's Husband)

Howard Winnie (Val's Father)

Rod Tungate (Janelle Hickey's
Uncle)

Colton Will (Andert's Grand-
Nephew)

Roseann Littell (Connie Everson's
Cousin)

Bob Kampius

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.

TRUMPET

To update your newsletter email/mail preferences, contact the church office at 963-5356 and leave a message.

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.

DEC2025

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

	01	02	03	04	05	06
		12:30 Franklin Pantry	6:30 Choir Practice			
07	08	09	10	11	12	13
10:30 Worship Budget Meeting Cookie Swap/Card Making 	7 Visioning Team @ St. Peter		6:30 Choir Practice		4:45 Caroling @ The Oaks then @ The Eversons 	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
10:30 Worship Coffee Hour Tree of Wishes Gifts Due	7 Trinity 2026	7 Council via ZOOM	6:30 Choir Practice	6 Road Runners @ Clara's		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
10:30 Worship Coffee Hour			5 Christmas Eve Service 			
28	29	30	31			
10:30 Worship Pageant Coffee Hour						

