



Trinity Trumpet

APRIL 2026



LUTHER LEAGUE MEMORIES

In last month's Trinity Trumpet, the Editor asked if any reader remembered going to Luther League Conventions. I have wonderful memories of a special Luther League Convention I was chosen to attend in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

This was to be a meeting to join 3 groups of Luther Leagues into the new synod that was formed when 3 synods of the church itself joined together. These synods were national branches of Lutheranism...ALC, ELC, and UELC. They originally were started by Lutherans with different backgrounds...Norwegian, Swedish, and German. These synods were formed because when all these groups had come to America in the 1800's they did not all speak or sing in English. But by the 60's they certainly could! So, it was time to unite...at least the teenagers! And it was time to agree on the rules.

The first meetings taught us Robert's Rules of Order. These are the same rules Congress or the State Legislature would follow. In other words, it made our work legal and binding. So, we got to work.

In spite of the importance of our work, we had lots of fun. I was put in a room with 2 girls from Ishpeming, Michigan. It took me the whole time to learn how to say it and spell it. Remember, I was from Illinois then! I had travelled alone up the North Shore Railroad...an electric train that ran in silence from Chicago along Lake Michigan to Milwaukee. It was a fabulous ride!

But the best part of the experience was not the train ride or feeling like we were doing important work. It was lunch....not because of the food but because we had to wait in line to get the food and we filled the time singing! 1000 kids knew hymns by heart and they would sing without words or music IN 4 PARTS because they knew them all from being in the choir at their home churches! I'll never forget the joy this generated as the sound echoed through the hallways!

Laurie Swanson

THANK YOU, Laurie, for sharing your memories – I'm sure we all wish we could have been in that hallway listening to all those voices singing the familiar hymns! My musical memory from Luther League is Christmas Caroling via a Lansing City Bus. A member of Bethlehem Lutheran was a city bus driver and he was able to borrow a bus to drive all of us around as we caroled!! The singing was fun but being able to all be in one vehicle was the best memory!

Connie

PRESIDENT'S REPORT PENDING DECISIONS

Last month marked one year since Trinity lost the leadership of an ordained minister. Over that time, we have been very fortunate to receive the Gospel message from the perspectives of numerous preachers. The feedback has been very positive regarding the variety and inspirations of these messages. While we met our goal of continuing to worship in our own space this year, our journey brings us to a time when decisions are necessary regarding permanent leadership.

The Council is considering two decisions.

First, our kindred relationship with First Congregational Church shares major decisions in the future of each congregation, The recent decision to sell their building required their consideration of an alternate location. Following a visit in February, the FCC congregation is planning to move into our building by July 2026 to share space with us. We need each other and this move provides an opportunity for FCC to have space in a church

building and for Trinity to utilize unused space in our building. We are fostering our relationship with joint worship services this month. On April 12th we will attend FCC for a joint service at 10:00 am following by a Spring Fling Potluck Celebration. On April 19th FCC will join Trinity for joint service at our usual 10:30 am time. We hope you can join us to become more familiar with our FCC partners. The shared space agreement will be decided by our Council.

Second, we are fortunate to have two possibilities for pastor leadership. Realizing our need is limited to a part-time pastor, we are blessed with two options. Over the last year, St. Peter Lutheran, our fellow ELCA congregation in Battle Creek, has graciously participated in a joint visioning team to consider how Pastor Ed Ruble's service could be shared. Documents defining a shared arrangement and the hiring of a ministerial support staff member at St. Peter were developed. As we have neared completion of this agreement, the decision of FCC to move was presented to us. That decision provided the opportunity to utilize Pastor Nate Craddock for our pastoral leadership. Pastor Craddock has sufficient time available for our part-time needs due to changes at FCC. Following the FCC move, he will be located in our building which has some advantages. Through an inter-denominational agreement, Pastor Craddock is able to serve as pastor of our ELCA church.

Many members of Trinity had the opportunity to participate in services with each of these pastors. There were shared services with St. Peter during Holy Week led by Pastor Ruble as well as prior services. The upcoming shared services with FCC provide an opportunity to become familiar with Pastor Craddock. Council will appreciate your views on each of these leadership options.

Jeff Andert, President
Trinity Lutheran Council

EASTER BREAKFAST



Trinity's Easter Breakfast returns in 2026!! Join us from 9:30 to 10:15 on Easter Morning for a delicious breakfast before celebrating that Christ has Risen!! Contact Eileen Martens (269-964-9120) if you're able to contribute a breakfast casserole, fresh fruit, etc.

GARAGE REPAIR

Many of you probably noticed the damage to our garage this winter. A big THANK YOU to John Sullivan for using his wonderful "fix it" skills to repair it!



PREACHING SCHEDULE

April 2 – Maundy Thursday, Pastor Ed Ruble @ Trinity, 7:00
April 3 – Good Friday, Pastor Ed Ruble @ St. Peter, 7:00
April 5 – Easter, Pastor Cheri Johnson
April 12 – Joint service with First Congregational Church @ **FCC, 10:00**
April 19 – Pastor Nate Craddock, Joint service with First Congregational Church @ **Trinity**
April 26 – Pastor Erick Johnson

ROAD RUNNERS

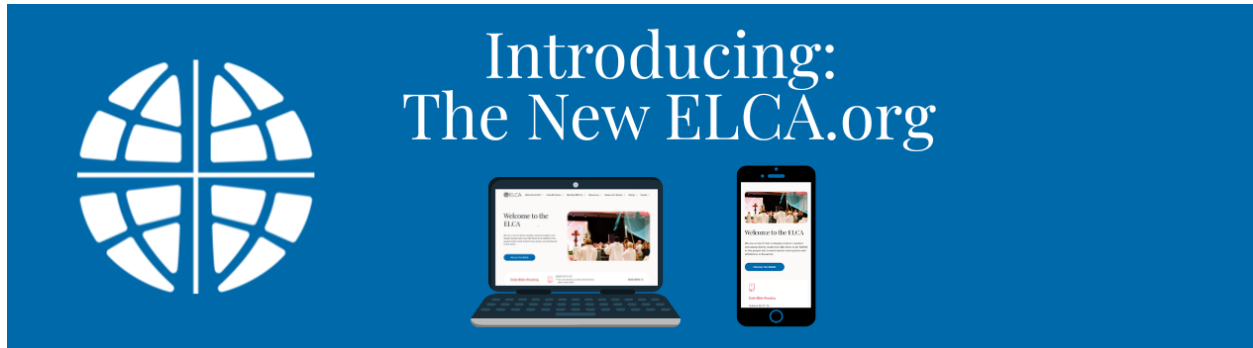


On Thursday, April 16, Road Runners will be meeting at Finley's at 11:30 am. Join us for what is always good food and great conversation.

Wayne

THIS & THAT

ELCA.org has a new look!!



SAVE THE DATE! Always a rewarding Sunday!

God's work. Our hands.



September 13, 2026



Earth Day & Arbor Day Event

Saturday, April 18, 2026

10 am to noon

Leila Arboretum

928 W. Michigan Ave, Battle Creek, MI 49037

Join the City of Battle Creek and our project partners for a morning to celebrate our trees, birds and natural habitat.

There will be fun activities for both kids and adults!

- FREE tree seedlings! (While supplies last)
- Chances to win binoculars, field guides, Cornell Bird Academy online courses, and an arborist visit to your property!
- Tree care tips and tricks from the experts at Leila Arboretum
- Bird identification tools and techniques from Kellogg Bird Sanctuary
- Displays from local conservation and nature organizations
- Scavenger hunt - with prizes!
- Orienteering tutorials!
- Learn about the City of Battle Creek's urban forestry efforts!
- Crafts
- Refreshments



This event was made possible through funding from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation 5-Star and Urban Waters grant and the USDA Forest Service, Urban and Community Forestry Program in partnership with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Urban and Community Forestry Program.

Thank you!



Questions?

Contact the City of Battle Creek's Environmental Division @ pjhoch@battlecreekmi.gov or (269) 966-3355 x 1878



NFWF



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, March 26, 2026

Solid Waste and Recycling Program Announces Spring Recycling Events

Calhoun County will hold two free collection events this Spring for **Household Hazardous Waste, Appliances & Scrap Metal**. These events accept residential materials and are open to residents of Calhoun County. We request all participants to stay inside their vehicles at the events, so staff and volunteers can unload efficiently.

MONDAY, APRIL 27

Household Hazardous Waste, Appliances, Electronics & Scrap Metal Collection 12 – 5:30

Bailey Park (lot south of CO Brown Stadium – enter on Wagoner Dr), 1350 Capital Ave. NE, Battle Creek, MI

MONDAY, MAY 18

Household Hazardous Waste, Appliances, Electronics, & Scrap Metal Collection 12 - 5:30 pm, Ketchum Field 1203 E. North St., Albion, MI

The following items will be collected: **Household Hazardous Waste** - Oil-based paint, fuels (in fuel cans), solvents, acids bases, pesticides, household cleaners, mercury (place in Ziplock bag), medications, sharps (inside rigid puncture resistant container w/lid), household batteries, fluorescent light bulbs, motor oil, oil filters, antifreeze, propane cylinders (20 pounds or smaller), gas cylinders (NO foam insulation), fire extinguishers, aerosol cans, PCB and non-PCB lamp ballasts, oxidizers, self-heating solids, flammable solids/liquids, toxic inorganics/organics, lighters, chlorophenols, lead, self-defense spray, peroxides, water-reactives, isocyanates and cyanide.

Appliances/Scrap Metal - stoves, washers, dryers, dishwashers, lawn mowers (remove fuel), metal patio furniture, metal railings, sheet metal, rims (no tires), metal fencing, metal doors, metal pipes, and bike frames. No items with refrigerant (AC units, dehumidifiers, freezers, and refrigerators) will be unloaded.

Electronics - stereo equipment, DVD and VHS players, projectors, gaming consoles, computers, laptops, Chromebooks, LCD and CRT computer monitors, keyboards, mice, speakers, scanners, servers, switches, routers, cellphones, iPads and tablets, iPods and MP3 players, e-readers, printers, floor copiers, fax machines, copy machines, televisions (LCD, plasma, projection, and CRT), microwaves, toasters, blenders, mixers, vacuums, lead-acid batteries, power tools (including their rechargeable batteries), cameras, electronic toys, Christmas lights, and wires and cords from electronic devices.

Household Hazardous Waste Tips:

Empty containers can be thrown away. Latex paint is not hazardous. Tips on drying it up are available on our website.

Please separate paint cans from the rest of your items. Pack your items so they stay upright. Use tarps and leak proof plastic totes or buckets to prevent spills in your vehicle. Please label all items that are not in their original packaging.

You may be asked to park and wait if you want your gas cans returned. If you have an item that is not on our accepted list, please check out our other recycling events, recycling guide, and tips on our website calhouncountymi.gov/recycling.

Polystyrene is only accepted at the Marshall Recycling Center.

For information, contact

Sarah Lundy, Program Coordinator
269-969-6395

www.calhouncountymi.gov/recycling

Follow Calhoun County Recycling Facebook

JOINT SERVICES WITH FIRST CONGREGATIONAL April 12 and April 19

As shared in the March Trumpet and Jeff Andert's President's Letter, we have been invited to attend First Congregational first for their service **at 10:00am** on April 12 and then for their Spring Fling Party following the service. For any of us that have attended their brunches, we know how wonderful they are – mimosas included!! This is an opportunity for us to share their beautiful sanctuary one last time and to enjoy a meal and conversation with them.

The following Sunday, they will be joining us for a joint service and we'll be hosting them for one of our special coffee hours. Watch for information concerning donations as we return their hospitality!

Words of Wisdom from The Woman's Co-Op

There's a well-known observation about geese often shared in leadership circles about how they fly in a V formation. When geese fly in a V formation they:



- Rotate leadership when the one in the front gets tired,
- Create uplift for the ones behind them,
- Honk to encourage the others to keep going,
- And when one falls out due to injury or exhaustion two go down with them and stay until they can rise again.

That's not weakness, that's design.

At the Co-Op leadership rotates – the person in the front today may be the one supported tomorrow. Encouragement is not fluff it's fuel and there is struggle among us but no one gets left behind.

We rise in formation
We rest in community
No one flies alone

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT LAST MONTH PART 1:



On March 1, our own Tresa Garver shared a message about a journey her son Daniel took to Turkey, how God sometimes has us go through some negative things and, after we have gotten to the other side, we see God's love and care.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT LAST MONTH PART 2:

Sunday, March 8, found us welcoming Rev. Ricky Perry back to Trinity. As always, he involved us in his sermon by having us shake our keys as a reminder that we all have the "Keys to the Kingdom of God"!



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT LAST MONTH PART 3:



Pastor Erick Johnson narrated the Gospel of John 9: 1 – 41 on Sunday, March 15, with our Trinity Players. (The story of the blind man now seeing.) Having a variety of voices read parts of the Gospel really made the story come alive.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT LAST MONTH PART 4:

During the Children's Sermon, Pastor Erick had them re-listen to the story with their eyes closed and then asked them what they thought the blind man saw when he first opened his eyes. He reminded all of us that the Bible urges us to see ourselves through the love of God and the gifts of Jesus Christ that help us so that we can truly see the world around us.



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT LAST MONTH PART 5:



We were blessed to have Rev. Perry back for a second Sunday in March when he shared one of his acronyms: PTC – Presence, Time, Consciousness. Tomorrow is not promised and this time of Lent is a reminder that we’re preparing to experience the resurrection of Christ.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT LAST MONTH PART 6:

Spring has Sprung – our Lenten Rose was in bloom the last full week of March! A big THANK YOU to Eileen Martens and her property/landscaping crew for keeping all of our property beautiful year-round!



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT LAST MONTH PART 7:



We were delighted to welcome Pastor Cheri back to Trinity to celebrate Palm Sunday. As she often does, she shared a childhood memory about parades being celebratory, solemn and fun. She pointed out that Jesus parading into Jerusalem was all three. We should not give into today’s world but “come and

follow the parade”.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT LAST MONTH PART 8:

Following Pastor Cheri's sermon, our Trinity Players shared the Passion According to Mark. The readings and hymns reminded us about the week ahead in the church year.



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT LAST MONTH PART 9:

After a beautiful Palm Sunday service, it was time for our annual birthday celebration for Diane, Eileen, Gwen & Kendra!!





RECIPE CORNER

German Bratkartoffeln (Pan Fried Potatoes)

(A nod to our German heritage.)

Ingredients:

- 4 medium waxy potatoes (Yukon Gold)
- 4 slices bacon, diced
- 1 large onion diced
- 1 Tbs Butter
- 3 Tbs vegetable oil (divided)
- Fresh chives for garnish (optional)



1. Parboil Potatoes: In a pot of salted water, boil potatoes for 10 – 15 minutes until just tender. Cool for 1 hour, then slice into ¼” rounds.
2. Cook Bacon: In a pan, cook bacon until crispy. Remove bacon, crumble, leave the fat.
3. Saute Onion: Add diced onion to the bacon fat; cook until translucent. Set aside with bacon.
4. Fry Potatoes: Add butter and oil to the pan, then fry potato slices in a single layer until golden, 3 – 5 minutes per side.
5. Combine: Return bacon and onions to the pan with the potatoes, toss gently, season with salt and pepper, add garnish with chives.

These are often served with bratwurst or sausage.

April Prayer Partners

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



April 5 – Hope Lutheran, Rhodes, Rev. Roger Bauer

April 12 – Hope Lutheran, Rockford, Supply Pastors

April 19 – St. James Lutheran, Rogers City, Rev. Mary Hughes

April 26 – Prince of Peace Lutheran, Rose City, Rev. David Sprang

Worship Volunteers & Readings for April

Lay Assistants, Sound Board

April 2 – LA: Tresa Garver
Sound: Doug Martens
Streaming: Doug Martens

April 5 – LA: Doug Martens
Sound: Staff
Streaming: Quentin Valenzuela

April 12 – @ First Congregational
Church

April 19 – LA: Scott Schindehette
Sound: Ellis Cutler
Streaming: Quentin valenzuela

April 26 – LA: Heidi Peterson
Sound: Staff
Streaming: Doug Martens

Readings

Exodus 12: 1 – 14
1 Corinthians 11: 23 – 26
John 13: 1 – 17, 31b – 35

Acts 10: 34 – 43
Psalm 118: 1 – 2, 14 – 24
Colossians 3: 1 – 4
Matthew 28: 1 – 10

Acts 2: 14a, 22 – 32
Psalm 16
1 Peter 1: 3 – 9
John 20: 19 – 31

Acts 2: 14a, 36 – 41
Psalm 116: 1 – 4; 12 – 19
1 Peter 1: 17 – 23
Luke 24: 13 – 25

Acts 2: 42 – 47
Psalm 23
1 Peter 2: 19 – 25
John 10: 1 – 10

April Birthdays

Birthdays

4/13 – Bob Swanson
4/15 – Gloria Kolodzieizyck
4/29 – Don Bolt



Prayer Requests

COMMUNITY

Sharon Cutler
Pam Ellison-Kring
Linda Hermann
Tish Gancer
Diane Andert
JoAnn Rusan
Steven Rusan
Dan Cox
Michelle Tooker
Damian Diamante (deployed)



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 Littel (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. 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.

APR 2026



SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

			01	02	03	04
			6:30 Choir Practice	7 Maundy Thursday Service @ Trinity 	7 Good Friday Service @ St. Peter 	
05	06	07	08	09	10	11
9:30 Breakfast  10:30 Worship Coffee Hour EASTER	1 – 4 Co-Op Monday Mingle 7 Trinity 2026	12:30 Franklin Food Pantry				
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10 @ FCC	1 – 4 Co-Op Monday Mingle		6:30 Choir Practice	11:30 Road Runners @ Finleys 		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10:30 Worship Coffee Hour FCC @ Trinity	1 – 4 Co-Op Monday Mingle		6:30 Choir Practice			
26	27	28	29	30		
10:30 Worship Coffee Hour	1 – 4 Co-Op Monday Mingle	7 Council	6:30 Choir Practice			