



Trinity Trumpet

July 2026



HOW TO IDENTIFY THE TRUE CHRISTIAN CHURCH ON EARTH*

Martin Luther himself stated....” The key is not to look at the people but at what God is doing to bring people together.” Given what has happened to Trinity, that is an idea that really raises questions!

The Augsburg Confession claims that the one holy, Christian Church “is the assembly of all believers among whom the Gospel is rightly preached and the holy sacraments are administered according to the Gospel.” This was an important change at the time to have a church that was NOT organized around popes and bishops.

Lutherans identify seven visible signs of the “One True Church on Earth.” 1. The Word of God, 2. Holy Baptism, 3. Holy Communion, 4. The Forgiveness of Sin (and the Admonition against it), 5. The Office of the Ministry, 6. Worship, and 7. The Cross (that is persecution for the sake of the gospel.) What is God doing that brings people together?

Another short definition: Listen for the Gospel and look for the sacraments. When and where God bestows grace and salvation through Jesus Christ proclaimed and the sacraments, that is the church. The biggest change when the Martin Luther was at work was that there was no reference to Popes.

"Where and when God bestows grace and salvation through Jesus Christ proclaimed and the sacraments, that is the church." There you have it! Both churches, TLC and FCC, meet that standard!

Laurie Swanson

* The information above was gathered from “” The Lutheran Handbook II” published by Augsburg Fortress

PREACHING SCHEDULE

July 5 – Rev. Ricky Perry

July 12 – Tresa Garver

July 19 – Rev. Ricky Perry

July 26 – Rev. Nate Craddock with communion

ROAD RUNNERS



The Road Runners will be meeting at Suipi's (915 W Territorial) on Thursday, July 16th, at 11:30 am. Come on out for good food and great conversation. Everyone is welcome so come and enjoy being with your Church Family.

Wayne

PRIDE FEST

Battle Creek's annual Pride Fest will be held from 11 – 7 on Saturday, July 18, at Leila Arboretum. Trinity's spot is reserved (#3 near the entrance), our handouts are planned and ordered (magnets, bookmarks, bags, candy, fliers with our Welcome Statement and Core Values), our set up is planned, all that is needed is volunteers. Gloria Kolodizieizyck has a sign-up sheet for us to pick a time to come and share that everyone is safe here at Trinity. We are truly a welcoming worshipping community and spending time with the folks here in Battle Creek is a rewarding way to spend a few hours on a Saturday in July.



THIS & THAT

PRAYER CANDLES



You may have noticed the cross and candles on the left side of the sanctuary. Those of us who traveled to FCC following Pride Fest last July remember these candles as part of their service. We have been welcomed to also use them during our service.

As we worship, you're invited to light a candle any time music is playing or we are singing. This is a way of praying with our bodies and the elements – as we light a flame, we lift up our concerns, gratitude, or whatever else we carry in our hearts.

MESSIAH LUTHERAN, BAY CITY

Messiah Lutheran in Bay City has been a mission partner with us for many years. One of their members attends worship with us whenever she is visiting family here in Battle Creek. During a recent visit, she shared a picture of them attending Pride Fest in their area. The ELCA is Open Mind, Open Heart, Open Table!!



SANDBOX GATHERINGS

Our friends at First Congregational are hosting a meaningful summer program for kids. The Sandbox Gathering is hosting free, age-scaffolded programming for Pre-K through High School youth in Battle Creek from July 20 – 22. This racial justice affinity space honors the legacy of Zilphia Horton through singing, play, ecology, spirituality and arts-driven activism.

Pre-K & Elementary: M – W, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm
Middle & High School: M – W, Noon – 5 pm
Optional evening activities, 6 – 9 pm, TBD
All programming is free and hosted at FCCBC,
145 Capital Ave NE



HODGE/PODGE CHRISTIANITY?



When you return to church this summer your eyes will be drawn to a banner displayed near the entrance to the Children's Room. The banner actually is made up of strips of colorful cloth woven into plastic fencing material. What does it mean????

This work of art was put together years ago by those folks who attended Trinity at that time. Each person was asked to bring a strip of cloth that would represent that person's participation in the congregation of Trinity. The cloth could come from anything even rags or outgrown clothing, and colors and patterns were up to the donor. Adults and children returned with scraps of all kinds of colors and patterns, some carefully planned and some whatever could be found. Some even had a message or Bible verse written on them. You'll see the final product on the wall.

This banner has hung in storage now for several decades. When I spotted it last Sunday, I had a wild thought: This work of art was perfect to represent the people who attend Trinity NOW! We come from all different backgrounds and life experiences. We have people of all ages and we're just learning where everyone is from. We have LGBTQ folks who add their own special talents. And now we can include First Congregational members in the group that occupies this building. We work together on some goals, share some resources (and even some people!) when needed. We are ALL part of US and each one contributes his or her unique self to this mixture. We have a mixture of ages, we're from a whole list of places, and we are all doing our best to create a type of church that may be the key to churches surviving changes in society and even economics.

We are just beginning to discover how much alike we are. Call some "Congregationalists." Call others "Lutheran". But ask one or the other for help and you will get it with a smile. Congregationalists came from England. Lutherans' start was in Germany. Even though they spoke different languages the message was the same. "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you."

So, all of us together make a hodgepodge of people, but every single one of us understands what it means to” Do unto others ...”and we do, and we will discover more and more ways as we grow together in this new style of Hodge/Podge Christianity!

Laurie Swanson

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

On June 7, Tresa Garver pointed that when Matthew was called by God he didn't say "I'm busy", he went and followed. There are times in our lives when God calls us to follow Him too. Matthew had the courage to follow; we often feel that we don't have that same courage. Matthew welcomed everyone to his home and around his table, we're doing the same with FCC.



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

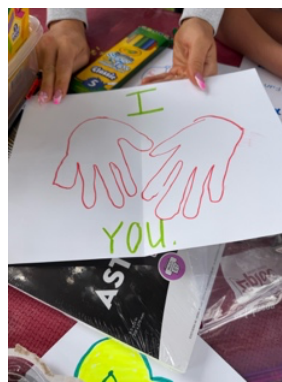
First Congregational held their first service in our sanctuary on June 7 and June 14 was the first time their Pastor Nate Craddock shared his message with Trinity. After sharing his story and his path to the ministry, he reminded us that the good news in the day's Gospel was that "the kingdom of heaven has come here!!" We're all apostles creating a space where people can be who they are.



FYI: The beautiful flowers provided by FCC were from one of their member's gardens.

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

Freeze Pop Tuesdays returned on Tuesday, June 15, and the kids made Father's Day cards in addition to enjoying a freeze pop! Their cards were definitely "Hallmark Quality"!! Stop by any Tuesday between 2 and 4 to share a freeze pop with our neighbors!



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

Pastor Nate shared some of his family's history on June 21 when preaching on the Genesis story of Abraham sending his servant Hagar into the wilderness with her son. God finds her and tells her that her son will lead a nation. Ishmael means "God is Here"; the God who sees, the God who hears, the God who will not turn away. Telling the truth in these stories is one way that God repairs the wrong.



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

To celebrate Father's Day, our youngest worshipers made super cute cards for their dads!!



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



Have you have a chance to stop and see our beautiful lilies on the front walk? A big thank you to Eileen Martens and Mary Mahurin for tending our flower beds through the season!

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

Gloria Kolodizieizyck asked about a “Welcome Friends” mat during the children’s sermon on, Sunday, June 28. What do we do with it? They talked about Jesus welcomed everyone, especially people who were different. How could they welcome folks? It doesn’t need to be big – open a door for someone, share a smile, say “good morning”. When you are doing these things, you are putting out the “God Welcome Mat”!



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT LAST MONTH ... PART 8



After sharing their welcoming ideas with Mrs. Kolodizieizyck, under the guidance of Emily, Leah and Emerson, our young worshipers Levi & Xander painted rocks and shells for the Memorial Garden. Stop by to see their original art up close!!

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT LAST MONTH ... PART 9

What does the word hospitality mean to you? Hospitality in the church means welcoming folks, brewing coffee, providing snacks, opening the building to different groups, welcoming people into our space. What does Jesus tell us to do? Instead of welcoming people, he sends people out! This can feel risky because we're not in control – we're warned that we may not always be welcomed. Let's take a chance to help our world.



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT LAST MONTH ... PART 10



If you drove by on Monday or Tuesday, June 29, 30, you saw something exciting happening! Our driveway has been made safer!! Thank you to Tish Gancer, Bob Swanson and Gloria Kolodiziezyck for working to make this happen!

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT LAST MONTH ... PART 11

Ellis Cutler was gone on June 21 to meet his new great-granddaughter. Be sure to ask him to show you pictures of this new little sweetheart! "A baby is God's opinion that the world should go on." Carl Sandburg





RECIPE CORNER

EGG & DAIRY FREE CHOCOLATE CAKE

Ingredients:

- 3 C. Flour
- 2 C. Sugar
- ½ C. Cocoa Powder
- 2 tsp Baking Powder
- 1 tsp Salt
- 2 C. Water
- 2/3 C. Vegetable Oil
- 2 Tbs Distilled White Vinegar
- 2 tsp Vanilla

Sift flour, sugar, cocoa, soda and salt.

Add water, oil, vinegar & vanilla. Beat until batter is smooth and well blended.

Bake at 350 degrees, 20 minutes for 24 cupcakes, 35 minutes until done for two layer pans.

(Chocolate cake is my favorite and this is definitely a delicious, moist cake that everyone enjoys!! *Connie Everson*)

July Prayer Partners

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



July 5 – Saron Lutheran, St. Joseph, Rev. James Smith

July 12 – Immanuel Lutheran, Sutton's Bay, Rev. Jonathan Reid

July 19 – St. John's Lutheran, Three Rivers, Rev. Vicky Blough

July 26 – Bethlehem Lutheran, Traverse City, Rev. Paul Busekist

Worship Volunteers & Readings for July

Lay Assistants, Sound Board

July 5 – LA: Tresa Garver
Sound: Ellis Cutler
Streaming: John Kolodizieizyck

July 12 – LA: Scott Schindehette
Sound: Ellis Cutler
Streaming: John Kolodizieizyck

July 19 – LA: Mary Conklin
Sound: Ellis Cutler
Streaming: John Kolodizieizyck

July 26 – LA: Doug Martens
Sound: John Kolodizieizyck
Streaming: Quentin Valenzuela

Readings

Zechariah 9: 9 – 12
Psalm 145: 8 – 14
Romans 7: 15 – 25a
Matthew 11: 16 – 19, 25 – 30

Isaiah 55: 10 – 13
Psalm 65: [1 – 8] 9 – 13
Romans 8: 1 – 11
Matthew 13: 1 – 9, 18 – 23

Isaiah 44: 6 – 8
Psalm 86: 11 – 17
Romans 8: 12 – 25
Matthew 13: 24 – 30, 36 – 43

Genesis 29: 15 – 28
Psalm 119: 129 – 136
Romans 8: 26 – 39
Matthew 13: 31 – 33, 44 – 52

July Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

7/6 Sonya Bruns
7/8 Art Yates
7/11 David Herdman
7/22 Victoria Walentowski
7/25 Kjersten Sullivan
7/28 Wayne Walentowski



Anniversaries

7/25 Ned & Joyce Davis

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.

JUL2026



SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

			01	02	03	04
						
05	06	07	08	09	10	11
11:00 Worship, Coffee Hour	10:30 Yoga	10:30 Yoga 12:30 Franklin Pantry 2-4 Freeze Pop Tuesday 			10:30 Yoga	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
11:00 Worship, Coffee Hour	10:30 Yoga	10:30 Yoga 2-4 Freeze Pop Tuesday 		11: 30 Road Runners @ Suipi's	10:30 Yoga	11 – 7 Pride Fest 
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
11:00 Worship, Coffee Hour	10:30 Yoga	10:30 Yoga 2 – 4 Freeze Pop Tuesday 			10:30 Yoga	
26	27	28	29	30	31	
11:00 Worship, Coffee Hour	10:30 Yoga	10:30 Yoga 2-4 Freeze Pop Tuesday  7 Council			10:30 Yoga	

