



Trinity Trumpet

September 2026



On the death of Ellis and the Living Death of Sharon

Why? We ask ourselves over and over. Two people of whom we knew no faults or trespasses. Two who served their churches...St. Peter and Trinity...with countless hours of work and a ton of joyously welcoming everyone into the sanctuary. Two who treated everyone with kindness and joy.

Two who raised families and then created a joined family. Two who did even more service through social agencies and through those in need who came in contact. And then there's the hours of loving care Ellis delivered to Sharon when she became confined to the Nursing Home. She was sometimes alert but more often acted as if she didn't know Ellis. Somehow, he gritted through the heartbreak and rejection from Sharon that she bestowed on him during many visits.

On Sunday mornings Ellis would give a report of how Sharon greeted him when he visited her. Often, she did not know who he was. This was probably the hardest part. And through it all, there was never an explanation of why this was happening. So, a week ago Ellis expressed the usual heartbreak he experienced with most visits. This week he passed away.

So, we can hope the heartbreak is gone from his memory and the joy of arrival in Heaven is showering down upon him. Of course, we Trinitarians have to be on our best behavior as Ellis might be able to keep his eye on us! But then he already knew our strengths and our shortcomings and loved us anyway as we loved him.

Laurie Swanson

Thank you, Laurie, for putting into words what all of us at Trinity are feeling in our hearts, Ellis is a big loss for our Trinity Family.

Ellis's funeral will be held at Trinity on **Tuesday, September 8, at 11:30**, with a visitation before the service starting at 11:00. A light luncheon will follow. Pastor Kjersten Sullivan will be presiding.

PASTOR KATE VAN VALKENBURG'S Q&A

Director of Evangelical Mission

On Sunday, August 16, we welcomed Pastor Kate to our pulpit. She stayed after the service and answered questions concerning our current status and how the Synod could help us. For those who were not able to be present, here is a summary of what we learned:

- Pastor Kate's Statement: Not looking actively for a full-time pastor but you are still Trinity Lutheran Church. We are not the only church in the West Michigan area without a pastor and not knowing what that means right now. Pastor Kate assured us that even though we are not actively in the call process this does not change the status of our congregation. They are here to support us. She noted that not having a called pastor changed our grant status because the previous grants were for staff support. We would have to re-apply.
- It was expressed that we appreciate the Synod staff being approachable in this process.
- There is a program called Ministry Insights that tracks the demographics of the surrounding area. These can be shared with the council. There is access through the Synod.
- Is there a link for sermons to read? Yes, we can have access to sermons. These are shared in the group letter every week. (Sign up if not yet available.). Also, a link on the website for sermons that are available - videos and manuscripts.
- If you're not so text savvy, are there conferences, sessions, etc., to help improve online skills? We don't want to create a barrier; if you

use email, contact the Director of Communication, Shannon. You can also call if necessary. Mitten Talks via Zoom coming.

- Campus Ministry? KCC is a community college here in Battle Creek. How does it work to create a relationship with the college? “Commuter” colleges are different. Students “come and go”. A relationship with the faculty and staff is the one that needs be created long term. Helpful to create a list of “what do you need” for students. It’s a list of things they need such as food, personal items, etc.
- Is there a class to be taken to learn how to write sermons? Yes - coming soon!! Distance learning - each seminary offers resources.
- Social Media? It’s not a competition with other congregations. The point is how do we make people feel like they have a home? Most churches are struggling right now. The #1 reason students don’t find a church after college - they don’t know who’s there. A campus ministry is one way to answer “how to find those bridges?”

PREACHING SCHEDULE

September 6 – Jaimie Fales

September 13 – Rev. Ricky Perry

September 20 – Ronnie Cung

September 27 – Rev. Ricky Perry

ROAD RUNNERS



The Road Runners will be meeting at D’Nicio’s, 1275 E Columbia, on Thursday, September 17, 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

GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS WEEKEND

The 2026 God's Work, Our Hands Weekend is scheduled for **September 19 and 20**. We'll have a light lunch provided by The Council on Sunday. This year the Trinity 2026 Committee has planned two projects.



Saturday, September 19: Rev. Ricky Perry from The Haven of Rest has shared his message with us often and we're thanking him by helping the folks at The Haven by providing sack lunches. The contents of the lunches will be purchased (sandwich, chips, fruit, cookie, etc.) and ready for assembly to be delivered in the afternoon.

Sunday, September 20: We'll be making cards for residents of nursing homes or assisted living facilities for folks that wouldn't otherwise get mail or have visitors. If you're thinking "I'm not creative!!!", don't worry, stencils, markers, messages and ideas will be provided to help you make a truly "one of a kind" card to brighten someone's day. We'll also be painting rocks to add to our memorial garden; you can paint some to take home to share in your neighborhood or to keep at your house.



CHOIR PRACTICE

Choir practice will begin on Wednesday, September 9, at 6:30. We are excited to again hear those wonderful anthems starting Sunday, September 13! We are blessed to have so many beautiful voices share their music under the direction of our talented music director, Ronnie Cung. New members are always welcome!!



SHOPPER FYI

Check out the "Church Happenings" in the Battle Creek Shopper for upcoming events here at Trinity!



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



As a follow up to our participation at Pride Fest in July, the first Sunday of August we celebrated God's love for everyone! We were delighted to have Pastor Erick Johnson back in our pulpit for this special service.

During the children's sermon he shared items from his home that welcome visitors in different languages. Welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you!!

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

Pastor Erick's message to the congregation was focused on the fact that even though Jesus is the Son of God, it doesn't mean that he goes it alone, he picks ordinary people to help him. We are here in our church as contemporary disciples of Jesus!! Reconciling in Christ is about the fact that every person is made in the image of God. He then shared his personal story as pastor at St. Peter Lutheran here in Battle Creek and his current church in Jackson. He reminded us that, if we read the Bible through the lens of Jesus, it equals love for everyone!



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

Coffee hour continued our celebration of welcoming everyone to Trinity so, of course, we had cake!!!



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



On Sunday, August 9, we again welcomed Rev. Ricky Perry and his always energetic message to our pulpit. His sermon focused on family through the eyes of God. There is no end to God's family, it endures. He read 1 Corinthians 12:12 substituting "family" for "body". This is the power of the church!

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



Last month our kids made “mini-mes”, took pictures of them at church and then took them home to take more pictures. All those pictures were made into a book. On August 16, the book was shared



during the Children’s Sermon. It was so exciting reading a book reminding us that Jesus is always with us with our own minis in it!! Each family got to take a copy of this wonderful book home. A third copy is on the children’s table in the sanctuary if you’d like to see these sweet mini-mes!!

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



As previously noted, on August 16 Assistant to the Bishop Pastor Kate Van Valkenburg visited our congregation. In addition to answering questions after the service, she also shared during the sermon her feelings on the importance of the day’s lessons in that we must open our house to all people. We must continue to show up and do the work

when we are tired because we are called to share that God’s love is for everyone!

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

On July 24, nine women from Battle Creek set out to swim in all 5 Great Lakes on the same day!! Two of these faces are very familiar to us - Christine Guthrie and Kjersten Sullivan. Definitely a “WOW”!!



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

On Sunday, August 23, Tresa Garver asked our children about their friends. She assured them that Jesus wants to be our very best friend!!



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



During her sermon, Tresa shared with us that the Psalms were meant to be sung by the people on their journey to Jerusalem. Psalm 124 is about a physical attack but our words may attack as well. On social media we should ask ourselves “Is this something I am well informed about? Will I want it to be read in 10 years?” If no, we should wait.

Where do you think we would be if God hadn’t been on our side?

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

Tresa Garver was our speaker for the second week in a row on Sunday, August 30. She talked with our children about Moses being an ordinary person that didn’t think he was capable of a lot but God called to him from a burning bush. God’s presence in our lives changes each of us!



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



Tresa’s sermon was based on Exodus 3:1 - 15 where God is talking to Moses from the burning bush about bringing the Israelites out of Egypt. She shared her six inferences from reading this passage with the most important one being that Moses changed over time. He became someone who led people on a journey that would change not only their history but ours too. He never gave up!



RECIPE CORNER

NO PEEK BEEF CASSEROLE*

Ingredients:

- 2 lbs. beef stew meat
- 2 10.5 cans of cream of mushroom soup
- 1 envelope onion soup mix
- 1 4 oz can of mushrooms
- ½ C. red wine
- 1 pkg eggs noodles or rice

Combine meat, soup, soup mix, mushrooms and wine in a crockpot. Stir well together. Cover and cook on low 8 - 12 hours or cook on high 4 - 5 hours.

Serve over cooked noodles or rice.

*Sylvia Kellan
Golden Gate Treasured Recipes

September Prayer Partners

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



September 6 – Christ Lutheran, Wyoming, Rev. Rob Schmidt

September 13 – Covenant Hospital Pastoral Care Dept, Saginaw,
Deacon Kathy Bonn

September 20 – Feast of Victory Lutheran, Acme, Rev. Haley Vay Beaman

September 27 – Immanuel Lutheran, Allegan, Rev. Christopher Laughlin

Worship Volunteers & Readings for September

Lay Assistants, Sound Board

September 6 – LA: Chase Lehman
Sound: John Kolodizieizyck
Streaming: Quentin Valenzuela

September 13 – LA: Gloria Kolodizieizyck
Sound: John Kolodizieizyck
Streaming: Doug Martens

September 20 – LA: Scott Schindehette
Sound: John Kolodizieizyck
Streaming: Doug Martens

September 27 – LA: Doug Martens
Sound: John Kolodizieizyck
Streaming: Doug Martens

Readings

Ezekiel 33: 7 – 11
Psalm 119: 33 – 40
Romans 13: 8 – 14
Matthew 18: 15 – 20

Genesis 50: 15 – 21
Psalm 103: [1 – 7] 8 – 13
Romans 14: 1 – 12
Matthew 18: 21 – 35

Jonah 3:10 – 4:11
Psalm 145: 1 – 8
Philippians: 1: 21 – 30
Matthew 20: 1 – 16

Ezekiel 18: 1 – 4, 25 – 32
Psalm 25: 1 – 9
Philippians 2: 1 – 13
Matthew 21: 23 – 32

September Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

9/8 – Joyce Davis
9/10 – JoAnn Rusan
9/10 – Janelle Sullivan
9/13 – Adrienne Boyd
9/22 – Doug Martens



Anniversaries

9/18 – Dan & Adrienne Boyd

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)
Family of Ellis Cutler



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 (our former pastor) sermons under the **Worship** tab.

TRUMPET

To update your newsletter email/mail preferences, contact us at office@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.

SEP2026



SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

		01	02	03	04	05
		12:30 Franklin Pantry	12, AA		10:30 Yoga	
06	07	08	09	10	11	12
11 Worship, Coffee Hour	Labor Day	10:30 Yoga 11:30 Ellis Cutler's Funeral	12, AA		10:30 Yoga	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
11 Worship, Coffee Hour	10:30 Yoga	10:30 Yoga	12, AA	11:30 Road Runners @ D'Nicio's	10:30 Yoga	God's Work, Our Hands The Haven 
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
11 Worship, Coffee Hour God's Work, Our Hands Cards & Rocks 	10:30 Yoga	10:30 Yoga 7 Council	12, AA		10:30 Yoga	
27	28	29	30			
11 Worship, Coffee Hour	10:30 Yoga	10:30 Yoga				

