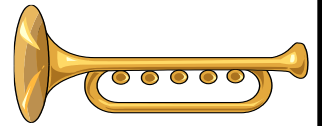




TRINITY TRUMPET

December 2021



PASTOR'S LETTER

*Joyful is the dark, shadowed stable floor;
angels flicker, God on earth confessing,
as with exultation, Mary, giving birth,
hails the infant cry of need and blessing.*

*Joyful is the dark, coolness of the tomb,
waiting for the wonder of the morning;
never was that midnight touched by dread and gloom:
darkness was the cradle of the dawning.*

The verses above are the third and fourth verses from Joyful is the Dark, the song we will be singing as the hymn of the day this Sunday (December 5th). In addition to simply being beautiful poetry, I think this hymn really gets to the heart of our Advent theme for this year, a meditation on the holiness of darkness.

Often in scripture and in the church, we talk a lot about light. Just last Sunday we sang Christ Be Our Light, which is one of my favorite hymns. And light is great, light is important. At the beginning of creation God said, "Let there be light," and called the light good, after all. But in our lifting up of light, sometimes we forget that dark, too, is good and holy and important. That we need dark just as much as we need light. Both dark and light are essential parts of God's creation.

Advent is a season for finding beauty in the dark. In the northern hemisphere, Advent falls at the darkest time of the year. The nights are long, the days short—and in Michigan even the days are often grey and dark. This darkness introduces a slowness into the world, we cannot move as quickly in darkness as we can in light, inviting us to pay attention to our surroundings, to travel through space in a different way, to find different touchpoints and means of orienting ourselves. And what's interesting about darkness is the longer we're in it, the better we are able to see. If you walk into a room and switch off the light, at first nothing will be visible. But slowly, as your eyes adjust, you will be able to notice more and more detail. The slowness of Advent invites us into such introspection.

Darkness is also a space for rest and healing. There are all sorts of studies that say we sleep better in darkness. Plants need darkness, and in some cases cold, to know when they are supposed to germinate and sprout. And as the words from next Sunday's hymn remind us, darkness is the place where our salvation was born. The Light of the World was born and buried in darkness, and both darknesses were sacred, holy, and life-giving.

*Joyful is the dark, depth of love divine,
roaring, looming thundercloud of glory,
holy, haunting beauty, living, loving God.
Hallelujah! Sing and tell the story!*

Peace,
Pastor Kjersten

A CHRISTMAS PLAYLIST

I thought you might enjoy some Holiday music for your listening pleasure! You can take on the pieces below as a whole concert or you can spread the pieces throughout the month for a moment here and there to refocus on the meaning of the season. The choices are from a variety of backgrounds and styles. If you're reading this from your computer or smartphone, all you'll have to do is click on the blue link and it will play.

So we'll start with a famous classical piece from the Baroque Period (1600-1750). Antonio Vivaldi wrote his choral masterpiece Gloria for solo voices, chorus and orchestra. This is the opening movement of the 12-movement work: a burst of excitement in both the vocal parts and the glorious instrumentation. It's followed by my favorite movement (#7) which shows how four different voice parts can be very independent and blend with skillful writing. Vivaldi was known as "the red priest" because he actually was a priest in Italy AND he had red hair! He lived about the same time as J.S. Bach.

https://youtu.be/8kzgMkpsw_M

<https://youtu.be/4usUicIfGc>

Next is an elegant choral piece by the American composer Charles Ives (1874-1954). At thirteen, he was the youngest church organist in Connecticut. On Saturdays, he played ragtime piano in bars. His actual profession was running a highly successful insurance company in New York. Music was a hobby. Ives was an enthusiastic borrower in his music. Old hymns, cowboy songs, Christmas carols, Stephen Foster melodies, African-American music and the theme from Beethoven's Fifth Symphony can be found in his music — all used in new ways. Ives was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in music, but he gave away the money. "Prizes are for boys — I'm grown up!" he explained.

https://youtu.be/c9TJrsIvS_k

Now an instrumental piece: the famous Pachelbel Canon. The Canon is often included on Christmas albums and concerts but it is actually general in nature. This piece has been arranged to virtually every form and for every possible grouping of instruments. It had a surge of popularity in 1980 when it was the main musical theme of the movie Ordinary People. This version is as authentic to the original as you can hear (including the instruments that would have been used in the late 17th century). Let the music carry you back 300 years.

https://youtu.be/JvNQLJ1_HQ0

A very famous choral piece from the Romantic Period is There Shall a Star Come Out of Jacob by Felix Mendelssohn. He was famous for his massive choral oratorios (the sacred equivalent of an opera — minus the staged production). He lived from 1809 to 1847 and you can hear the greater display of emotion in his music through swells from quiet to loud and dramatic elements that were part of the musicians' tools of the trade in that era. The recording is from my alma mater, Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey with the phenomenal Joseph Flummerfelt conducting.

<https://youtu.be/V54n7AWuvbc>

Now an abrupt shift to the 20th century to the American composer Daniel Pinkham and his Christmas Cantata. It's filled with clashing chords from a vocal choir and a Double Brass Choir (or a pipe organ taking the place of one of the Brass Choirs). The sounds grow on you the more you listen to it. At first hearing, it may be a bit shocking. It has a modern and medieval sound rolled into one. I've included the third and final

movement of the cantata.

<https://youtu.be/FFk7YotvQfc>

Now for a change of pace. This is an a cappella piece by the outstanding 5-member ensemble, Pentatonix . They have tremendous arrangements of so many great tunes. I've chosen Mary, Did You Know?. It's hard to believe, but every sound you hear is made by the singers. No instruments are used, other than body percussion and vocal percussion sounds.

<https://youtu.be/ifCWN5pJGIE>

The final piece is one of my favorite compositions of all time. Dona Nobis Pacem from the B Minor Mass by J.S. Bach is a towering giant of choral music. The words translate to "Give Us Peace". The recording you'll view is the St. Thomas Church Boychoir in Leipzig, the church that Bach is most remembered as serving during his life.

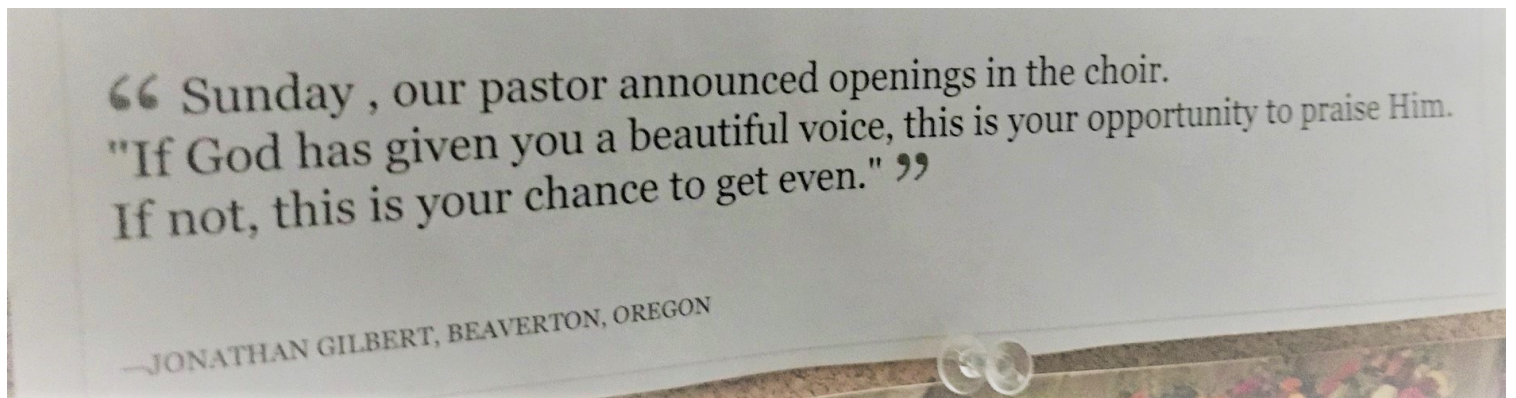
<https://youtu.be/ayn-BrRUE5s>

Happy Listening and a Blessed Christmas to you all,
David Lipps
Director of Music



Choir Rehearsals Moving to Sundays

Found on the bulletin board in the choir room at Trinity:



Whatever your reason for singing, choir rehearsals are now Sunday mornings after worship. This is to take advantage of the pre-heated sanctuary and to cut down on the amount of winter driving folk have to do. The Trinity choir sings an anthem each Sunday during the offering time as well as supporting the congregation in singing hymns and liturgy pieces. All are welcome to come, no previous choir singing experience required. Come make a joyful noise to the Lord.

Candle Fund

Now that we are back inside, we want to get back in the habit of using lit candles to lighten our sanctuary. Because we don't have candles in our budget, at our last council meeting (11/23), council decided to establish a candle fund to pay for sanctuary candles. We change the candles twice a year, for Christmas Eve and Easter Sunday. Candles cost \$125 for a set of 12, or about \$10.50 per candle and can be given in memory or honor of a person or event. Thank you for your support in beautifying our sanctuary.

Wayne Walentowski



Advent News

Advent Bags



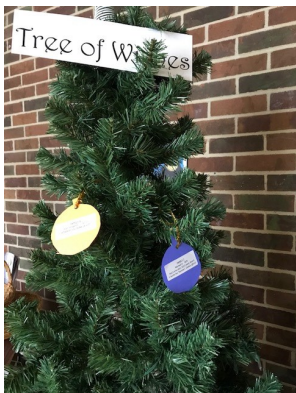
During the season of Advent, it's been our tradition at Trinity to put a food item aside each day to be donated to The Franklin Pantry. To help with this task, decorated grocery bags with suggestions are available at the back of the Sanctuary - please take one to use! Return your bag anytime between Christmas Eve and the New Year. We'll be delivering them to the Pantry in early January. Thanks for your help!!!

December Caroling

Friday, December 17 at 6:30 is the date and time for our Annual Trinity Caroling Party! We're changing it up a little this year by gathering in a larger space here at Trinity and making cards for our shut ins and our Tree of Wishes families instead of caroling (we can still sing while we're being creative though). For dinner, the Eversons will provide the sloppy joes and desert (Connie's rum balls, Rice Krispie Treat trees and Salted Caramel Dark Chocolate Oreo Pie are all rumored to be on the desert menu.) We're asking everyone to bring an appetizer to share!! Beverages will be provided. It's always a fun filled evening - folks are still smiling on Sunday - and we'd love to have you join us at 6:30 on the 17th!!



Tree of Wishes

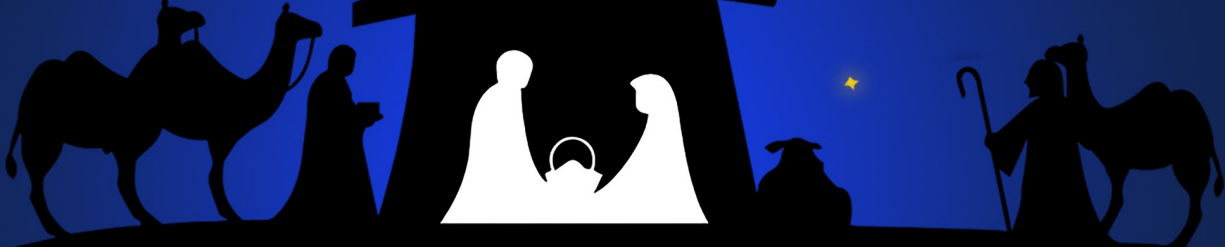


It's time for the Tree of Wishes to support the Santa's Helper community program. This year we are supporting 21 individuals from four families with gifts and food for their holiday celebration. Names and gift suggestions are on the tree in the narthex. Many of the names are already claimed, but we still need gifts for a 15 year old boy and a 37 year old man from Family A, a 34 year old man, and a 13 year old girl and a 1 year old girl from Family C. Gifts should be \$20-\$25 each, and a gift card is a great option. Please wrap your gift or card with the Christmas bulb attached to help identify it.

Please return gifts to church by Wednesday, December 15, 2021, for distribution on Sunday December 19, 2021. For question or to sign up for a gift, call Eileen Martens 269

-275-0352. Thanks everyone for your support!

Christmas Worship Opportunities



Special Christmas Worship Opportunities

Christmas Eve Service - Friday, December 24 at 7:00pm

We welcome the birth of our Savior with the traditional service filled with readings and carols and ending with the singing of Silent Night by candlelight. Bring your Advent Bags to place under the Christmas tree.

Sunday, December 26 at 10:30am - Pop-up Christmas Pageant

On the First Sunday of Christmas, it is time for the one, the only, Trinity Lutheran Church Pop-Up Christmas Pageant. This is the Children's Christmas Pageant you remember as a child, but without the long, boring rehearsal and you never have to age out of participating! There will be singing, costumes, laughter and more! Come a few minutes before worship to choose a part, pick up a script and a costume, and join in the fun. There will be parts of all sizes, from starring roles to, well, stars. Want to just sit and watch? There's a part for you too! The Heavenly Host help sing all the songs. The Christmas pageant is a great event to bring friends or family.





Did You Know?

In Michigan, in May 2019, people were rejoicing as the Auto No-Fault (ANF) Law was changed and car insurance rates were sure to drop.

But today we know the change in law did not lower insurance rates for many. Detroit citizens are still in a pickle and cannot afford the high insurance costs. This law that had been hastily passed without public comment or being vetted was not as great as it had seemed on the surface.

And even worse, people who have been catastrophically injured are being placed at risk and deprived of the care needed to survive. The law's 45% cut to provider companies and to family caregivers is devastating the entire post-acute industry. As of November 1, 46 businesses that provided care to people who had suffered brain injuries or had been paralyzed with spinal cord injuries, have closed. More will soon follow. They could not survive a 45% cut in their fees.

Families are not allowed to provide the care needed and are limited to 56 hours a week. Moreover, they can't find providers to fill the holes in the care. And, sadly, we already have five reported deaths directly related to this change in the law. More are sure to follow unless something changes.

We now have \$27 billion in the MCCA—the fund we all paid into to take care of us should we be catastrophically injured by a crash. There is plenty of money to care for the injured and yet, although several bills have been created by Republicans and Democrats, the bills sit in insurance committees without even having a hearing. Many Senators and Representatives want to fix this situation for all who live in Michigan and still, the bills are not getting to the floor for a vote.

And in October 2021, people are rejoicing that the Michigan Catastrophic Claims Association (MCCA) is following Governor Whitmer's recommendation to give \$5 billion to drivers. And, still there is no focus from either the Governor or the MCCA to address the plight of those survivors losing their homes, their health, and their lives. Their cries are falling on deaf ears. Giving this refund from the MCCA may make a legislative fix financially impossible.

What is the impact for your community? The loss of these rehabilitation and post-acute care businesses means the loss of care for many in the community, not just the catastrophically injured. Anyone requiring home care or rehabilitation, say after a stroke, will find a very different landscape when they search for care. Thousands around the state have lost their specialty jobs. This is a double slam since it is occurring right in the middle of a pandemic when many other businesses have been affected.

Many survivors are known as Michigan Miracles. We have been blessed to grow such a lifesaving, life regaining system in Michigan that allowed these miracles to occur. It is pitiful to see it slide away due to the changes in ANF. So, we gave up the best system of recovery in the nation, our insurance costs did not go down, families are facing additional tragedy, survivors are still suffering and dying, and many businesses and jobs have been lost.

This change was a mistake. Many in the legislature agree that a fix is needed and needed now! An amicus brief was signed by 73 lawmakers who said when they signed the bill, they thought the catastrophically injured were grandfathered in. This is not a political issue; this is a humanitarian and business crisis in Michigan.

What can you do? Contact your senator and representative. Let them know that you agree that we need a fix, now. And share this information with others in your community because we are all just a car ride away from tragedy. Please do what you can to impact our leaders to fix Auto No-Fault. You and your family may never need it, but if you do, you will be forever thankful it was restored!

If you need additional information, visit the We Can't Wait website: [WecantwaitMI.org](https://www.wecantwaitMI.org) or visit the Facebook page, [Wecantwait](https://www.facebook.com/wecantwaitMI).

Roadrunners Back on the Road
11:30 am, Thursday, December 16
Lux Cafe



Roadrunners are Trinity friends and members on the road checking out local restaurants. On the third Thursday of each month we meet at a different restaurant for fun and fellowship. Everyone is invited and you can bring a friend (or more) to have good food and great conversation.

I will have next year's schedule at a later date. If you have a favorite place you would like to go to, let me or Pastor Kjersten know. We would like to have 1 or 2 here at Trinity and if you have an idea, also let me know.

Wayne Walentowski

Notice of Special Congregational Meeting

On **Sunday, December 5, 2021**, we will be holding a special congregational meeting following worship **for the purpose of approving the budget for 2022**. The budget is printed on the next two pages. This meeting will also be broadcast on Facebook Live. A budget is a missional document, it guides direction for the coming year. Please plan on staying after worship for this important opportunity to discern how the Spirit is calling us in 2022.

Notice of Special Cookie Gathering

"Sweetening" the motivation to stay for the special meeting, **Sunday, December 5** is also the date of the Trinity annual Christmas cookie tea and exchange. Everyone is invited to bring their favorite cookie, candy, or seasonal treat (healthy treats like tangerines welcome) to share. We will eat cookies, drink tea, coffee, and hot chocolate, and enjoy fellowship. At the end, everyone is invited to pack up a variety of cookies to take home. Mark your calendars and warm up your ovens (or your Meijer / Family Fare members cards) for this fun celebration of the holiday season.



Trinity Lutheran Church
2022 Proposed Budget

11-28-2021

	2021 Budget	Proposed 2022 Budget
<u>BENEVOLENCE</u>		
111 N/W LOWER MICHIGAN SYNOD, ELCA	6000.00	6000.00
other		
TOTAL BENEVOLENCE	6000.00	6000.00
<u>WORSHIP</u>		
1212 Director of Music Salary	16300	16626.00
1213 Substitute Organist	250	
1215 FICA Taxes	1247	1272.00
1220 Choir Music & Instruments		
Pipe Organ Maintenance	300	300.00
Piano Maintenance	300	300.00
Copyright Licenses	200	300.00
1230 Worship Supplies	600	600.00
Worship Bulletins		
1232 Communion Supplies	150	
1233 Candles		
TOTAL WORSHIP	19347	19398.00
<u>EDUCATION</u>		
1316 Family Camp	150	150.00
TOTAL EDUCATION	150	150
<u>WELCOMING & INVITING</u>		
1410 Evangelism		
1412 Advertising	175	200.00
1415 Fellowship	250	
1450 Stewardship Speaker/meal		
1460 Offering Envelopes	200	170.00
TOTAL WELCOMING & INVITING	625.00	370.00

Trinity Lutheran Church
2022 Proposed Budget

11-28-2021

-2-

	2021 Budget	Proposed 2022 Budget	
<u>SOCIAL JUSTICE/YOUTH</u>			
TOTAL SOCIAL JUSTICE/YOUTH			
<u>PASTORAL MINISTRY</u>			
1610 Salary	40400	41208.00	
1611 Housing Allowance	12000	12000.00	
1612 FICA Allowance	4192	4070.00	
1613 Pension & Insurance	14650	14920.00	
1614 HSA			
1615 Transportation Reimbursement Pastor	750	500.00	
1616 Cont. Education 403 B Contribution	700	700.00	
TOTAL PASTORAL MINISTRY	72692	73398	
<u>CHURCH ADMINISTRATION</u>			
1720 Office Supplies/Ink/ computer Paper	500	600.00	
Filing fees/safe deposit box/checks	200		
1730 Postage	150	150.00	
1733 Web service Domain	200	200.00	
1740 Telephone/ Internet service	160	215.00	
1750 Convention Expense	1588	1605.00	
TOTAL CHURCH ADMINISTRATION	2798	2770	
<u>CHURCH PROPERTY</u>			
1811 Church Gas	3400	2800.00	
1812 Church Electric	3800	3400.00	
1813 Church Water	800	800.00	
1820 Cleaning Services (Carpet)	500	500.00	
1830 Insurance Ins. Workers Comp	4500	4500.00	
1840 Maintenance & Supplies/garbage Church Repairs	1500	1500.00	
1842 Parking Lot			
1850 Snow Removal	700	700.00	
1862 Roof MIF Payments	5952	5952.00	
TOTAL CHURCH PROPERTY	21152	20152	
TOTAL BUDGET	\$122,764.00	\$122,238.00	



St. Thomas Breakfast Program Saturday, December 11

Next Dates: February 12, and April 9



Trinity and St. Peter are once again partnering up to serve our neighbors by helping out at the St. Thomas Breakfast Program. In the winter, breakfast is served on Saturday mornings. Meals continue to be served “to go” style, which means we need 6-7 volunteers each day. We will need 3 volunteers starting at 7 am, and 4 starting at 8 am. Breakfast is served until 10 am, with some clean up after. Linn Kracht from St. Peter is organizing the effort. Contact Linn at ldkracht@gmail.com to volunteer.

Post/Franklin Food Pantry

One of the ways Trinity supports our neighbors is by volunteering at the Post/Franklin Food Pantry hosted by First UMC. Trinity volunteers help stock the food pantry and distribute food bags twice a month on Tuesdays. We also have a wagon in the entryway for donations to the pantry. For more information on this ongoing ministry, talk to Eileen Martens.

Collecting Family Fare Receipts

As of November 28th we are up to \$107,000. Only \$43,000 to go. When we get to \$150,000 Trinity will receive \$1,000 from Spartan Foods. Thank You to all who are bringing their receipts to Church.

— Wayne Walentowski

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Worship Assistants

December 5—Chase Lehman
December 12—Linda Hermann
December 19—Doug Martens
December 26—Ellis Cutler

Sound Volunteers

December 5—Ellis Cutler
December 12—Don Boulton
December 19—Ellis Cutler
December 26— Don Boulton

Altar Guild Volunteers Needed

Back inside for worship means we once again need volunteers to help prepare communion. Altar Guild volunteers set up for communion and clean up after. Benefits include a fun-filled lesson from Pastor Kjersten on what all the things are called and getting to take part in the sacramental ministry of the congregation. See Wayne Walentowski or Pastor Kjersten to be added to the schedule.

Readings for December

Sunday, December 5

Malachi 3:1-4
Luke 3:1-6

Sunday, December 12

1 Samuel 3
Luke 3:7-18

Sunday, December 19

Luke 1:26-38
Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

December 24—

Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

Sunday, December 26

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

December Birthdays

12/12 – John Kolodzieizyck
12/24 – Sharon Cutler
12/26 - Angela James
12/27 - Melody Mason



December Anniversaries

12/27 - Barry & Kathy Chapman

2022 Lay Assistant Schedule

January

2 – Jeff Andert
9 – Tish Gancer
16 – Ellis Cutler
23 – Doug Martens
30 – Laurie Swanson

February

6 – Teresa Momenee-Young
13 – Kendra Witkowski-Lehman
20 – Mary Conklin
27 – Tish Gancer

March

6 – Jeff Andert
13 – Ellis Cutler
20 – Laurie Swanson
27 – Tresa Tulley

April

3 – Teresa Momenee-Young
10 – Doug Martens
17 – Kendra Witkowski-Lehman
24 – Chase Lehman

May

1 – Mary Conklin
8 – Ellis Cutler
15 – Tresa Tulley
22 – Teresa Momenee-Young
29 – Jeff Andert

June

5 – Doug Martens
12 – Ellis Cutler
19 – Gloria Kolodizieizyck
26 – Kendra Witkowski-Lehman

July

3 – Gloria Kolodizieizyck
10 – Mary Conklin
17 – Chase Lehman
24 – Tish Gancer
31 – Teresa Momenee-Young

August

7 – Gloria Kolodizieizyck
14 – Doug Martens
21 – Tresa Tulley
28 – Laurie Swanson

September

4 – Ellis Cutler
11 – Jeff Andert
18 – Mary Conklin
25 – Gloria Kolodizieizyck

October

2 – Chase Lehman
9 – Doug Martens
16 – Ellis Cutler
23 – Gloria Kolodizieizyck
30 – Kendra Witkowski-Lehman

November

6 – Tish Gancer
13 – Laurie Swanson
20 – Teresa Momenee-Young
27 – Jeff Andert

December

4 – Chase Lehman
11 – Ellis Cutler
18 – Tresa Tulley
25 – Doug Martens

OTHER WAYS TO CONNECT WITH TRINITY

FACEBOOK

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 the church office 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.

CHURCH STAFF

Kjersten Sullivan, Pastor
pastor@tlcbattlecreek.org
(805) 458-6074

David Lipps, Director of Music
lippsdr@gmail.com

CHURCH COUNCIL

Kendra Witkowski, President	967-3474	Kathy Chapman	660-8548
Teresa Momenee-Young, Vice President	753-2411	Tish Gancer	832-4719
Laurie Swanson, Secretary	729-5464	Wayne Walentowski	830-5094
Jeff Andert			

COMMUNITY

Sharon Cutler
Pam Ellison-Krings
Maxine Hammond
Linda Hermann
Rose Walentowski

HOMEBOUND and in CARE FACILITIES

Don Herdman

IN OUR HEARTS/ON OUR MINDS

Family and friends of Joyce Shaffer
Family and friends of Michael Alpine
Family and friends of Bill Sullivan
Lanny Johnston, Jr. (Sharon's son)
Bill Elliott (Maxine's son-in-law)
Jim Himes (Maxine's nephew)
Andrea Andert
Mary (Tish's friend)
Karen Rambadt (Ellis's niece-in-law)



DECEMBER 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10:30 am Facebook Live Bible Chat 5:30 pm Bible Chat	2	3	4
5 10:30 am Worship Special Budget meeting and cookie exchange Choir Rehearsal	6	7	8 10:30 am Facebook Live Bible Chat 5:30 pm Bible Chat	9	10	11 St. Thomas Breakfast 7 / 8 am to 10 am
12 10:30 am Worship. Choir Rehearsal	13	14	15 Tree of Wishes Gifts due 10:30 am Facebook Live Bible Chat No 5:30 pm Bible Chat	16 11:30 am Roadrunners @ Lux Cafe	17 6:30 pm "Caroling" Party at Trinity	18
19 10:30 am Worship Tree of Wishes pick up Choir Rehearsal	20	21	22 10:30 am Facebook Live Bible Chat 5:30 pm Bible Chat	23	24	25 Merry Christmas!
26 10:30 am Christmas Pageant Worship Choir Rehearsal	27 Trumpet articles due	28 7 pm Council Meeting	29 10:30 am Facebook Live Bible Chat 5:30 pm Bible Chat	30	31	