



Trinity Trumpet

February 2024

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held on **Sunday, February 4, 2024**, immediately following the church service. In addition to reviewing the information presented in the Annual Reports for 2023, also on the agenda will be a consideration of the following motion approved by the Church Council at their December meeting. This is the next step moving forward to becoming a community center:

Establish a 501(c)3 corporation for the purpose of a community center and authorize the expenditure of up to \$1000 from the Community Cornerstone Fund to be used for the cost of the legal documents.

A potluck will follow the meeting.

Pastor's Letter

Ash Wednesday is on February 14th this year, which always seems to present an odd contradiction. "Happy Valentine's Day," announces the church, "you are going to die."

Lent as a season doesn't always feel like the most loving time of the church year, with its focus on confession and repentance, spiritual disciplines, fasting and almsgiving and sacrifice. The deep purples and somber tones seem to stand in contradiction to the pink and red hearts, unicorns, and puppies, and so much chocolate declaring love from every corner of the grocery store. Don't get me wrong, chocolate is a great way to declare one's affections, but it's not particularly deep or meaningful. Lent, on the other hand, is about real love. Lasting love. The kind of love that sticks

with us through good times and bad. That will not let us go, no matter what. The disciplines of Lent aren't about trying to clean ourselves up so that God will like us, it's about getting ourselves out of our own way so we can lean more deeply and trust more strongly in what has always been true. God's deep and abiding love for us. We love, we are capable of love, because God first loved us. In Lent, we engaged in practices to help us refocus our relationship with God, who is the source of all love.

Which may make Valentine's Day the perfect day to enter into Lent. Because the basis to any loving relationship is honesty, and Ash Wednesday is a day about being honest about who we are. On Ash Wednesday we stand before God and say, "You are God, and I am not. You are God, and I am a broken human being." And on Ash Wednesday we make visible the sign of God's love that we always carry, the mark of God. The cross-shaped ashy smudge on our foreheads follows where oil was placed on us at our baptism, where we were claimed as God's beloved child. The ashy cross declares our mortality, yes. That we were made from dust and that to dust one day we will return. But it also reminds us that through Christ's death on the cross, death is not the end but a new beginning. In death we land more deeply in the place we have always been, in the very heart of the God who first formed us from dust.

On Ash Wednesday, when you come to worship. When you hear the calls for repentance and renewal, when you sing songs of lament, and receive the ash on your forehead, and when you come again to the table to receive the bread and wine, a foretaste of the promised feast, remember that these are all acts of God's tremendous love for you. A God who loves you enough to be honest with you about your faults. This is a super trite example, but it gets to the point. You know the friend who loves you enough to tell you when your outfit is terrible, or when you really were being the jerk, or when you have something in your teeth. Not to make you feel bad, but because they love you enough to be truthful. God is that friend to the max. God loves you so much that God will hold nothing back in God's efforts to help us grow into who God not just wants us to be, but knows we were created to be. On Ash Wednesday, we are offered the opportunity to approach ourselves and God with that same honesty. And that, dear people of God, is love.

Peace, Pastor Kjersten

Ash Wednesday – February 14

12 pm @ First United Methodist Church (111 E Michigan Ave) 7 pm @ Trinity Lutheran Church

On Ash Wednesday we enter into the season of Lent by making visible the mark of Christ on our foreheads, a mark first etched in oil at our baptism. Since ancient times, the wearing of ashes has been a symbol of repentance and humility. Job, the people of Nineveh, and the prophets all used ashes as a symbol of their brokenness and need for God's mercy. Ashes are also a symbol of healing. Ashes were used as part of the cleansing ritual to welcome someone back into the community (Numbers 19:17). On Ash Wednesday, we make the sign of the cross on our foreheads as a reminder that we too sin and we too are healed. Ash Wednesday worship offers a time of extended confession; a time for reflecting on, for letting go of, all that keeps us separate from God. We then receive the ashes on our foreheads in the shape of a cross, a visual reminder that we are sealed with the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ. That nothing can separate us from God's love.

There are two opportunities to celebrate Ash Wednesday this year. At 12 pm, there is an ecumenical Ash Wednesday service at First United Methodist Church (111 E Michigan Ave). Members and ministers from First UMC, First Congregational, First Presbyterian, Chapel Hill UMC, St. Peter, and Trinity will be coming together in worship to pray for our congregations and community. This is a great service for you to come on your lunch break or if you'd rather not drive at night.

Then at 7pm, we will have our traditional Ash Wednesday service right here at Trinity. We will begin with confession and forgiveness, receive ashes, share communion, and contemplate God's love for us.

SOUPER BOWL of CARING

On **Sunday February 11** we will once again be passing the Buckets for **The Souper Bowl of Caring** to collect money for the Franklin Pantry. Bring your coins, bills, or checks to put in the Buckets and let everybody know Trinity Lutheran CARES.



Shrove Monday Pancake Extravaganza February 12th at 6:30 pm

After a long pandemic pause, Pastor Kjersten is back in the pancake game! Let's enter into Lent with some pancakes! Join us on Monday, February 12 for all the regular and gluten-free pancakes you can eat. Please bring a pancake topping to share. We will also bless and burn last year's palm fronds in preparation for Ash Wednesday.



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT LAST MONTH ...



On Sunday, January 21, Pastor Sprang was invited to be our guest speaker. Unbeknownst to everyone but Pastor Kjersten, besides preaching he presented to Trinity Lutheran a check in the amount of \$24,000 to be used to continue our work as a strategic congregation. (This is in addition to the funds already sent to us from the Synod.). Many tears were

shed at this recognition of the work we have been doing in our neighborhood. The check has been deposited in the savings account with its own line item so that the Council can monitor its use. The Council will be working to make a plan that has a deliberate structure to have the maximum impact possible on our surrounding neighborhood. A Thank You letter is being sent to Bishop Satterlee inviting him to visit Trinity this spring to be able to thank him in person for this wonderful gift.

FED: Faith, Food, Fellowship

Our new dinner church with the Woman's Co-op had its second worship service on January 18th. The weather was, cold, to put it mildly, but it was warm in the sanctuary as we came together to be FED with faith through God's Word and with Fellowship with one another, and then went to the social hall to be FED with tacos! The colder weather and smaller numbers had no impact on the power of the Spirit to move through this service.

FED is now a monthly occurrence, on the third Thursday of each month. Our next opportunity for worship is **February 15th at 5:30 pm**. All are invited to come check it out. This is a great service to bring a friend who isn't familiar with church because it is very informal and casual.

Wednesday Bible Chats

We enter into February continuing in Mark. Then we'll jump to the transfiguration in the middle of the month and start our journey together through Lent. Lent is a great season for taking on a new spiritual practice and deepening your relationship with scripture. Join Pastor Kjersten on Wednesdays at 10:30am or 5:30pm in the lounge to discuss the texts. Bring your questions and hear what others are thinking.

Chalking the Doors for Epiphany 2024

We are still in the Epiphany season, it's not too late to do a house blessing. (Honestly, it's never too late to do a house blessing, Pastor Kjersten will bless your house anytime you want.) The tradition of blessing houses by chalking the door is part of Epiphany celebrations around the world. The C + M + B stands for the traditional names of the three wise men along with the Latin phrase *Christus mansionem benedicat*: "May Christ bless the house." Call or email Pastor Kjersten (pastor@tlcbattlecreek.org) to let her know if you would like your house blessed and when.

Note: Sorry Arizona, Texas, and Florida Trinitarians, as much as Pastor Kjersten would LOVE to bless your home, this is a Michigan only offer. The transportation budget doesn't account for cross-state travel.



Those of us who had to deal with the Raymond Road closure this summer can relate.

ROAD RUNNERS



The Road Runners are on the road again on **February 15 @ 11:30 am**. We will be gathering at the Newly Reopened **R&R Cafe** on E. Michigan Ave. Join us, bring a friend or 2 and enjoy a good meal and great conversation!!

While many of us were cheering the Lions on against the Tampa Buccaneers at home, one of our own was in the stands and was the recipient of a bucket full (or two) of celebration streamers after they won!!



THANK YOU



I would also like to extend a BIG THANK YOU to those who donated to help me get a new tire after I had an incident and ran into a curb and had a blow out and had to miss church on January 28.

Wayne A Walentowski



RECIPE CORNER

Kathy Chapman's Creamy Cherry Gelatin Salad

- 2 packages (3 ounces each) cherry gelatin
- 2 C. boiling water
- 1 can (21 ounces) cherry pie filling
- 1 can (20 ounces) unsweetened crushed pineapple, undrained

TOPPING

- 1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened
- 1 C (8 ounces) sour cream
- ½ C Sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- ½ C chopped walnuts

In a large bowl, dissolve gelatin in boiling water. Cool for 10 minutes. Stir in pie filling and pineapple until blended. Transfer to a 13" by 9" and 2" deep dish. Cover and refrigerate until partially set, about an hour.

For topping, in a small bowl, combine the cream cheese, sour cream, sugar and vanilla. Carefully spread over gelatin; sprinkle with the walnuts.

Cover and refrigerate until firm. Yield: 12-15 servings

February Prayer Partners

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



February 4 – Emanuel Lutheran Church, Ludington, Rev. Domingo Shriver

February 11 – Victory Lutheran Church, Ludington, Rev. Ron Iris (UMC)

February 18 – Trinity Lutheran Church, Manton, Rev. Bill Huether

February 25 – Hope Lutheran Church, Marlette, Rev. John Sleziak

Worship Volunteers & Readings for January

Lay Assistants, Sound Board

February 4 – LA: Laurie Swanson
Sound: Don Boulton

February 11 – LA: Teresa Garver/Teresa
Momenee-Young
Sound: Ellis Cutler

February 14 – LA: Doug Martens
Sound: Ellis Cutler

February 18 – LA: Kendra Witkowski-Lehman
Sound: Don Boulton

February 25 – LA: Linda Hermann
Sound: Ellis Cutler

Readings

Isaiah 40: 21 – 31
Psalm 147: 1 – 11, 20c
1 Corinthians 9: 16 – 23
Mark 1: 29 – 39

2 Kings 2: 1 – 12
Psalm 50: 1 – 6
2 Corinthians 4: 3 – 6
Mark 9: 2 – 9

Joel 2: 1 – 2, 12 – 17
Psalm 51: 1 – 17
2 Corinthians 5: 20b -- 6:10
Matthew 6: 1 – 6, 16 – 21

Genesis 9: 8 – 17
Psalm 25: 1 – 10
1 Peter 3: 18 – 22
Mark 1: 9 – 15

Genesis 17: 1 – 7, 15 – 16
Psalm 22: 23 – 31
Romans 4: 13 – 25
Mark 8: 31 – 38

February Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

2/16 – Lou Young
2/24 – John Sullivan
2/24 – Cindy Wright
2/26 – Tresa Garver

Anniversaries

2/14 – Doug & Judy Markusic



Prayer Requests

COMMUNITY

Sharon Cutler
Pam Ellison-Kring
Linda Hermann
Rose Walentowski
Tish Gancer

IN OUR HEARTS/ON OUR MINDS

Jim Hines (Maxine's Nephew)



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.

FEB2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				01	02	03
04	05	06	07	08	09	10
10:30 Worship Annual Meeting Potluck	8:30am-4pm Woman's Co-Op Monday Mixer	1:00 Bible Chat FaceBook Live 12:30 Food Pantry	10:30 & 5:30 Bible Chat			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10:30 Worship Coffee Hour Souper Bowl of Caring Property Committee	8:30am-4pm Woman's Co-Op Monday Mixer Shrove Monday Pancakes 6:30	1:00 Bible Chat FaceBook Live 10:30 Worship & Music	10:30 & 5:30 Bible Chat Ash Wednesday 12 First Methodist 7 Trinity 6:00 Choir	Road Runners @ R&R, 11:30 FED, 5:30		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
10:30 Worship Coffee Hour	8:30am-4pm Woman's Co-Op Monday Mixer	1:00 Bible Chat FaceBook Live	10:30 & 5:30 Bible Chat 6:45 Choir			
25	26	27	28	29		
10:30 Worship Coffee Hour	8:30am-4pm Woman's Co-Op Monday Mixer	1:00 Bible Chat FaceBook Live 7 Council	10:30 & 5:30 Bible Chat 6:45 Choir	Pastor Kjersten gone through March 4		