



Trinity Trumpet

January 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:

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. Watch for details.

PASTOR'S LETTER

Welcome to the uninterestingly named "Time after Epiphany" season. Unlike Christmas or Easter, which we think of as days but are actually seasons, we tend to think of Epiphany as a season, but it is a day. January 6th, in fact, 12 days after the birth of Jesus. Though January 6th only falls on a Sunday 1/7th of the time, so we celebrate Epiphany on the first Sunday after January 6th, which this year is January 7th. We crash it together with Baptism of Our Lord Sunday, liturgically the first Sunday after Epiphany, because both days seem too important to highlight one over the other.

Epiphany, from the Greek *epipháneia*, meaning manifestation or appearance, is the celebration of the revelation of God through the person of Jesus. Epiphany highlights three main revelations, the wise men following a star to Bethlehem, Jesus' baptism at the Jordan, and Jesus' first miracle in John's Gospel, turning water into wine at a wedding feast in Cana. In some Christian traditions, especially in the Eastern Orthodox traditions, Epiphany is THE big holiday. Ways it is celebrated include Epiphany singing (traveling from house to house dressed as magi, singing Epiphany carols), chalking the door and having one's house blessed (we do this one!), consuming Three Kings Cake, and winter swimming (no joke, winter swimming is a big part of Eastern Orthodox tradition, especially in Russia, a tradition which seems very cold).

But these are just the day of Epiphany, let's talk about this season. The Time after Epiphany is about looking more deeply for the revelation of God in the person of Jesus and, through our baptism, the revelation of God in our lives as well. We are going to read a lot of call stories this season. We'll hear God call Samuel, Jonah, and a prophet to follow Moses. We'll hear Jesus call Nathanael, Philip, Simon Peter, Andrew, James, John, and Peter's mother-in-law. We will begin our services with a thanksgiving for baptism, reminding us that we too are called by God. That we do have work to do in this world to bring about God's kingdom. That we too are God's beloved children.

We've stopped sharing God Sightings at the start of our worship services (we will again, we're just taking a break to explore other ways to enter into worship), but even without that formal announced time, the Time after Epiphany is a great time to keep that vision sharp and look for ways that God is revealing Godself to us and to the world.

Where is God calling you? How have you seen Christ's presence revealed to you? And how can you be part of revealing Christ's love to the world?

Peace,
Pastor Kjersten

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The new year stands before us, like a chapter in a book, waiting to be written. We can help write that story by setting goals.

Melody Beattie

Reflecting on 2023, we have experienced many significant events as a congregation which reflect the vitality of our church family. There has been a welcomed sense of normalcy coming out of the pandemic and a resumption of many of our traditions. The “traffic” in our building has been remarkable with large events bringing people through our doors for various aspects of our ministry. Numerous opportunities for partnerships with community organizations in shared missions have presented themselves as well.

As a council, it has been gratifying to witness concrete steps in defining the future of Trinity. Following longstanding discussions regarding our future, we have some momentum toward setting a direction and acting. It was nearly a year ago at our annual meeting the Council initiated discussion of an option for the use of our church facility which is likely to ensure Trinity's place as a worshipping community. The concept of a “Community Center” continues to use Trinity's primary physical asset – our building – in service to our ministry while broadening its use. The consideration, questions and productive dialogue on the part of our members has been encouraging.

Transparency and open decision-making are a hallmark of this process. As you will recall, we had a second congregational meeting after six months and provided an update on our progress in September. By now you have all met Bob Kamphuis, our consultant provided by the North/West Lower Michigan Synod, to assist in the process of re-imagining the use of our facility. Bob joined us at our December congregational meeting to provide an update and answer questions. Generally, the feedback received has been supportive of the concept.

At our December meeting, the Trinity Council approved a motion to recommend to the congregation the establishment of a new corporation which would serve as the non-profit organization operating a community center. Bob, who has experience in establishing such legal entities, advised

us of the process and costs. Legal documents need to be filed with the State of Michigan and IRS which Bob estimates will require approximately six months for a response. The cost of approximately \$1,000 was approved by the Council using existing Community Cornerstone funds which were designed for such a purpose.

The Council requests a vote of the congregation before proceeding with these next steps. We will add this agenda item to our Annual Meeting scheduled for Sunday, February 4th. In the interim we ask for your prayerful consideration of the future vision for Trinity as you prepare to vote. Please request any additional information you may need from Pastor and/or any Council member.

While we have much work ahead, 2024 holds an exciting promise for Trinity securing and expanding our ministry. Thank you for your support.

Jeff Andert
Council President

CHALKING THE DOORS FOR EPIPHANY 2024

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.”

Trinity has had the practice of blessing our church home on Epiphany for several years now. This year, Pastor Kjersten wants to take house blessing on the road. In January, she is hoping to visit as many houses as she can to bless and chalk your home. House blessing is a great pandemic activity, as it takes place outside. 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



WEDNESDAY BIBLE CHATS

Throughout Epiphany we will be settling into Mark, Chapter 1. With one quick jump into John on the 14th, we will work our way through all of the first chapter of Mark. This will give us a unique opportunity to really immerse ourselves in the story. 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.

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE

Reports for the Annual Report are due to Connie Everson by Monday, January 15. Please forward a copy of your report to CAE226@aol.com so that it can be included. Copies of the report will be available to members on Sunday, January 28.

FED: Faith, Food, Fellowship

November 16 was our first dinner church with the Woman's Co-op, and it was incredible! Over 70 people joined us for an hour of worship followed by a meal. And the feedback we've received has been overwhelming. Our next service is scheduled for **January 18, at 5:30**. We will be looking at the theme Faith and Endurance.

COFFEE HOUR

We all agree that we have a terrific coffee hour following our weekly service. Our "Marvelous Mary" would like input from members about what you would like to see served at coffee hours. Contact Mary or jot down your requests on the sheet next to the calendar in the social hall. Thanks!!



POP-UP CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

On Christmas Eve morning we celebrated the 4th Sunday of Advent with the always popular Trinity Lutheran Church Pop-Up Christmas Pageant: Advent Version. As always, it was fun to watch, fun to participate in and it provided an excellent message. (Lobster's family was still talking about it and remembering their own participation in Trinity pageants at Christmas Dinner after seeing pictures of him in the production!!)





TREE OF WISHES

A big THANK YOU to everyone who took a tag and purchased a gift for a member of our six adopted families!! The smiles were contagious on Sunday, December 17, when they picked up their gifts and groceries. As always, your generosity was overwhelming.



ADVENT BAGS

The Franklin Pantry is one of our continuing ministries and we again used the Advent Season to collect food in our Advent Bags to donate to the Pantry. Twelve bags were collected and taken to the Pantry on Tuesday, January 2. Donations of food for the pantry can be made year around by placing items in the wagon in the narthex. Toilet paper and soap along with crackers, soup, canned goods, juice, boxed milk and cereal continue to be needed.





ROAD RUNNERS



On Thursday, January 18, Road Runners will meet for their monthly meal at Panera Bread on Capital & Beckley at 11:30. Start the New Year off by joining the group for an always enjoyable lunch!!



Road Runners meets the third Thursday of each month. Mark your calendar with the 2024 schedule for the year (all times are 11:30 except December 19 at Clara's): Contact Wayne Walentowski with questions or suggestions for restaurants to visit!

- January 18 – Panara Bread
- February 15 – R & R
- March 21 – Moonraker
- April 18 – Finley's
- May 16 – JB Whiskey's
- June 20 – Miller's Time Out
- July 18 – Long Island Café
- August 15 – Cracker Barrel
- September 19 – Turkeyville
- October 17 – Big Boy
- November 21 – Coney Island
- December 19 – Clara's on the River @ 6:00pm



CAROLING AT THE OAKS & LEGACY

What a fun time we had on December 15 caroling and then gathering at the Eversons for a light meal. Watching the faces of the residents as they sang along with the familiar carols was so heartwarming! The opportunity to sing to our favorite Oaks resident was even more special. Enjoying a bite to eat along with the fellowship of our Trinity Family together with having the opportunity to watch our favorite two year old make Christmas ornaments and then put them on Everson's tree rounded out an extra delightful holiday gathering.





RECIPE CORNER

John Sullivan's Peanut Butter Sheet Cake

First: Mix $\frac{1}{2}$ C. milk and 1 tablespoon lemon juice. Set aside for 5 minutes or more. If the milk starts to curdle too quickly, add more milk. Buttermilk can also be used if you have it.

Second: Bring $\frac{1}{2}$ C. peanut butter, 1 C. water and 2 sticks butter to a boil, then add 2 C. flour, 2 C. sugar, 1 teaspoon salt and 1 teaspoon baking soda.

Add 2 eggs, reserved milk and 1 teaspoon almond extract (John uses this) or vanilla extract.

Mix all together.

Grease & flour a $\frac{1}{2}$ sheet pan and pour batter into it.

Bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes or until done.

Icing for Peanut Butter Cake:

While the cake is baking, bring $\frac{1}{2}$ C. peanut butter, 10 tablespoons milk, 1 stick butter, 2 teaspoons vanilla and 16 ounces of powdered sugar to a boil.

After the cake is done, poke holes in the cake and pour icing on the top.

That's it – Ta Da!!!



woman's co-op

STORE NEEDS

The store from the Woman's Co-Op could use some restocking. If you're "out and about" and you see any of the following items, your donation will be greatly appreciated!

Personal items:

- Ponytail holders
- Relaxers (mild)
- Hair Spray
- Hair clips
- Mousse
- Brushes / combs
- Deodorant
- Razors
- Shaving Cream
- Feminine products
- Dish soap
- Cleaning supplies
- Comet
- Spic and Span
- Mops
- Brooms

Other Items Needed:

- Laundry Soap
- Bleach
- Dryer Sheets

Additional items are welcome as donated

SAVE THE DATE

Yes, it seems like we just finished celebrating Advent and Christmas but Ash Wednesday and Lent will be here next month. Save **Monday, February 12**, for a dinner of pancakes and fun celebrating Fat Monday (our head cook is coaching a basketball game on Tuesday)!! More details to follow.

REMINDER

Did you miss the December 10 congregational meeting? Do you wonder what our Council is discussing? Do you wonder who's on the Council? How about upcoming activities? The answers to all of these can be found on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall!

WINTER WOES

It's cold outside and that means we need to start worrying about a surge in flu and respiratory illnesses. Covid is surging right now so it's time for us to be vigilant and stay home when we're feeling ill. The Co-Op has a basket of masks available in the narthex should you feel you need one. If you haven't ordered them yet, the government is again sending up to 8 free Covid tests per address. The website to order them is: [COVID.gov](https://www.Covid.gov)



Hill Harper
Guest Speaker

MLK

PRAYER BRUNCH

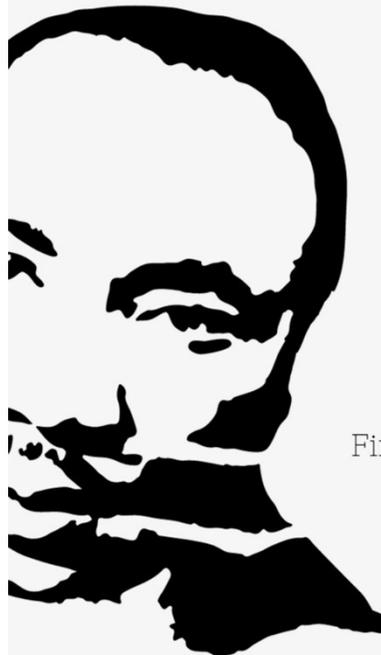
13 JANUARY 2024
10 AM

First Presbyterian Church- Fellowship Hall
111 Capital Ave NE Battle Creek , MI



Tickets - \$20 call 269-963-4640

MLK Day Opportunities In Our Community



UCMA MLK Ecumenical Service

January 14, 2023
@ 3pm

Hosted by
First Presbyterian Church
of Battle Creek

111 Capital Ave NE Battle Creek, MI

Educational Opportunities through the Synod

There's still time to register for the North/West Lower Michigan Synod's January Learning Events:

Adult Theological Education: Six Women from Church History that You Need to Know About with Dr. Joy Schroeder

The North/West Lower Michigan Synod announces the next session of our Adult Theological Education program: Six Women from Church History that You Need to Know About. Join the Rev. Dr. Joy Schroeder for a six-week study of Christian women through the ages!

Ever since the beginning of Christianity, women have been teachers, writers, and preachers of the Gospel. Learn about the struggles and accomplishments of six exemplary women from church history. Dr. Schroeder will discuss these women's inspirational lives and writings.

The class will meet on six consecutive Tuesday evenings: January 16, 23, 30, February 6, 13, 20, 2024 from 7:00 – 8:15pm ET via Zoom. Registration is required and will close on January 5, 2024.

Congregational Financial Wellness Seminar

Have you wondered if your congregational financial systems and policies were up to date and meeting the standards for excellence?

Join Pastor David Sprang, Assistant to the Bishop and Director for Evangelical Mission, and Steve Oelschlager, ELCA Congregational Assessment Research Coordinator, for a one-hour introduction to the ELCA's free Congregational Financial Assessment and corresponding resources.

This seminar will be held via Zoom on January 18, 2024 at 7:00pm ET.

Registration for both classes can be found at www.mittensynod.org

Opportunities for Learning through the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago Theological Intersectionality for the 21st Century Church with Dr. Linda Thomas. Engage in a thought-provoking 4-part series on intersectionality with LSTC's Dr. Linda E. Thomas. Delve into the intersections of race, class, gender, and more, and explore antioppressionistic approaches to theology and parish life. Sunday sessions begin January 7 from 6-7:30pm and Wednesday sessions begin January 10 from 7-8:30pm. To register go to www.lstc.edu/events.

January Prayer Partners

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



January 7 – Advent Lutheran Church, Lake Ann, Rev. Timothy Jahn

January 14 – Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Lansing, Rev. Matthew Smith,
Rev. John Burow

January 21 – Grace Lutheran Church, Lansing, Rev. Christin Fawcett

January 28 – Redeemer Lutheran Church, Lansing, Rev. Janice Hite

Worship Volunteers & Readings for January

Lay Assistants, Sound Board

January 7 – LA: Jeff Andert
Sound Don Boulton

January 14 – Scott Schindehette
Sound: Ellis Cutler

January 21 – LA: Tresa Garver/Teresa
Momenee-Young
Sound: Don Boulton

January 28 – LA: Doug Martens
Sound: Ellis Cutler

Readings

Genesis 1: 1 – 5
Psalm 29
Acts 19: 1 – 7
Mark 1: 4 – 11

1 Samuel 3: 1 – 10 [11 – 20]
Psalm 139” 1 – 6, 13 – 18
1 Corinthians 6: 12 – 20
John: 1: 43 – 51

Jonah 3: 1 – 5, 10
Psalm 62: 5 – 12
1 Corinthians 7: 29 – 31
Mark 1: 14 – 20

Deuteronomy 18: 15 – 20
Psalm 111
1 Corinthians 8: 1 – 13
Mark 1: 21 – 28

January Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

1/19 – Kathleen Millard

1/29 – Travis Sullivan

1/30 – Dick Everson

1/31 – Linda Herman

Anniversaries

1/11 – Pam Geleff



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.

JAN2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	01	02	03	04	05	06
		1:00 Bible Chat FaceBook Live 12:30 Food Pantry	10:30 & 5:30 Bible Chat 6:45 Choir			
07	08	09	10	11	12	13
10:30 Worship Coffee Hour	8:30am-4pm Woman's Co-Op Monday Mixer	1:00 Bible Chat FaceBook Live 10:30 Worship & Music	10:30 & 5:30 Bible Chat 6:45 Choir			Pastor Kjersten gone through January 15
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
10:30 Worship Coffee Hour	8:30am-4pm Woman's Co-Op Monday Mixer Annual Reports Due	1:00 Bible Chat FaceBook Live	10:30 & 5:30 Bible Chat 6:45 Choir	Road Runners @ Panera, 11:30 FED, 5:30		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
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			
28	29	30	31			
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			