



Trinity Spirit



VOLUME 22, ISSUE 9

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2026

And surely
I am with you
always,
to the very end
of the age

MATTHEW 28:20

My first caterpillar died.

I had signed up to get a caterpillar from Suzanne Baker and our Monarch Ministry. I took it home. I fed it. I cleaned out the plastic container it was living in. It grew. It ate. It crawled up to the top of the container to hang there, just like it was supposed to. And it died.

I waited a few days, just to make sure. But sure enough, that was the end of its journey.

A few weeks back, Suzanne gave me another caterpillar. This one was older, larger, closer to the end of its caterpillar stage. So, I took it home. I fed it. I cleaned out the container. And waited. It climbed up to the top. Hung there. I went to work. And it formed its chrysalis. *So far, so good! I waited some more. Then, one day when I came home from work, I looked into the container, and there was the butterfly – a female.* I took it outside. It crawled onto my finger, and then flew away, through my backyard, to the top of a tree near the house behind ours.

In the 29 years I have been a pastor, these have been my first experiences working with caterpillars. But I have worked with life and death, hope and despair. I had a Saturday, years ago, when I officiated at an outdoor wedding next to a lake, then went to a cemetery for a graveside funeral, and then to my church's Saturday worship service where we celebrated a baptism —*all within about 6 hours.*

We cannot know the particulars that lie in our future. Surely, there will be joys and sorrows, despair and hope and love, but we are not guaranteed any particular experience.

But there is one thing more that we know, or believe, or trust. ***That we are not alone.***

Jesus is with us, just as he was with Peter, sinking into the sea after walking to Jesus on the waves, just as he promises the disciples on the mountain after the resurrection – *"I will be with you always."*

Jesus' followers are with us as we *"bear one another's burdens"* and *"love one another"* as Jesus has loved us.

So, we live our lives in trust, not knowing what lies ahead, but **knowing that we belong to Jesus always, always ... and always.**

In Christ's Peace,

Pastor Robb

Pastor Robb Kosky





TRINITY'S MINISTRY TO OTHERS EXPANDED AGAIN

Thanks to requests from Trinity members the Endowment Fund, *managed by our 6 member Trust Board*, helped support a number of community groups in their service to others in the last three months.

Recipients of funds have been the Casa Guadalupe Multicultural Center, the Youth and Family Project's Washington County Pride Event in August, and the Welcome Network, which welcomes and serves newcomers with language and cultural challenges to the greater West Bend area. In addition we provided the balance of funds needed to cover the cost for the bus that transported Trinity youth to and from their July week at Pine Lake Camp near Waupaca.

All these funds were allocated through the Outreach Ministry category of the Endowment Fund. The Trust Board welcomes requests anytime that fall under any of these three categories:

- **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**—*promote growth in congregation leaders.*
- **OUTREACH MINISTRY**— *to develop new ministry options for the sake of the congregation, and*
- **MISSION TO THE LARGER CHURCH**— *supporting the wider Church.*

Request Forms are by the center support column in the Heritage Room. Trinity's Bylaws say annual investment earnings can be distributed as requested and approved. In the last two years, almost \$15,000 has been available annually for each of the 3 categories.

Submitted by Paul Bauman, Trust Board member
Other Trust Board members include: Charlie Hillman, Chairman; Marcia Vrankin, Vice-Chair; Cyndee Bruder, Finance Coordinator; Katie Martin, Virtual Communications Coordinator and Todd Markgraf



SIXTH GRADE BRIDGE is a Sunday morning program geared specifically for our 6th graders as they bridge this year between the Children's Ministry Rotation Workshop program and entering Confirmation Foundations. We welcome a new leader who will be walking with our 6th graders this year, *Dusty Flunker*.

Hello! I'm Dusty Flunker. My wife, Katie and I moved to West Bend in 2021 and we welcomed our son, Chase to the world that same year. A few years later we began searching for the perfect church and were blessed to find Trinity! We were so lucky to find such a welcoming church community where our whole family felt like we belonged. As part of the congregation, we've been honored to take on additional responsibilities within Trinity; Katie as part of the MET team, and myself serving as the congregation council secretary and, *now*, also as the 6th grade bridge teacher.

As a family, we strive to live active lifestyles and enjoy exercising together. Whether it's our daily dog walks, trying to get back into shape for another 5k, pushing each other on our bikes, playing "bat and ball", shooting hoops in the driveway, or trying to convince Katie that my latest hobby endeavor is fun and "cool" and that she should join in. (*Lately that one is golf... I have some more convincing to do.*) We have a pup named Barley who we love dearly. We try to involve Barley in our daily fun activities whenever possible.

I'm looking forward to this next opportunity to bond with the 6th graders as we deepen our faith and love for Jesus together.

Dusty



TRINITY SUPPORTS YOUTH & FAMILY PROJECT WASHCO PRIDE EVENT

Thank you to everyone who helped and showed up to ensure Trinity's wide open welcome was represented and shared with our community at the Washington County Pride Celebration Even on August 9th, hosted by the Youth and Family Project of West Bend. Though a huge down pour and forecast for a stormy start to the event had planners scrambling for a bit, everything worked out and we were sheltered from the storm!

As Pastor Robb's shirt exclaimed, nothing can dampen or stop the radically inclusive love of God!



God invited me. I said yes.

A CONVERSATION OVER A CUP OF COFFEE
WITH NATE SHUBAT

In the fall, I'll be starting classes at Luther (ELCA) Seminary, in St. Paul, MN. I've been accepted into their new Graduate Certificate in Biblical Preaching program. It's a 2-year program intended to provide some tools, knowledge, and experience for the lay preacher. *My goals: being better able to see and experience God at work in the world, become better able to preach effectively about it in my local context, and strengthen and deepen my skills for ministry leadership.* All that which comes to mind when you think of a lay preacher.

God invited me down this path and I said yes. I want to see where it leads, what adventures there are along the way. *I am convinced my future lies in what I call marginal ministries such as incarceration, immigration, recovery — the lost, the left behind, those on the margins.*

I think about my time with Breaking the Chains, my relationships with the men, when I am with my brothers and sisters living in all those places on the margins. *The world becomes clear to me. I see a different reality. I find myself connected with the world in a way that turns my focus out beyond myself.*

I am in my right place. I want more of that.

During these times I understand God working in the world in a new way. What Jesus was saying and doing . . . *I see it, I get it like never before.*

I want more of that.

This program will help me get more of that. I will be better able to talk about faith and life and God coming together in the world and what that means for us. This will give me even more opportunities and make me more effective for my time on the margins.

After thinking, praying, long talks during those long rides to Kenosha, and a few calls to the seminary, I know this is my right next step. I'm told over 40% of those in the Graduate Certificate programs continue on to go into the ministry — *just saying.*

Classes start in the fall. I already have an abundance of reading and a paper to write between now and then. ***I said yes . . . and now it's time to get to work.***

*"For all that has been, thank you.
For all that is to come, yes!"*

Dag Hammarskjöld

Truth be told, it took a little nudging before Nate agreed to share where God's call is taking him. But ultimately—it wasn't the nudging that convinced him—it was another heart-call and realization that, perhaps, sharing the journey he has been called to was not about 'him', but about the possibility others might be inspired to listen and say yes themselves. So, he wrote this as if he was sharing time, conversation, and a cup of coffee with a friend. *Thank you, friend. God bless you and Godspeed, Nate!*



Rally Day Sunday, Sept 13

ALL-CONGREGATION ice cream social

Join us between services
as we **CELEBRATE** the start
of another great year of
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
complete with sprinkles
and a cherry on top!

MET UPDATE

MINISTRY EXPLORATION TEAM

MET UPDATE

We received a great response to our first 4 question survey. Thank you for taking the time to fill that out. Responses have been shared with the congregation.

We will have a second short survey starting September 9th that will conclude on September 27. This survey will also be available to fill out both online and in person. **The responses from this second survey will be vital in our conclusion of the MSP (Ministry Site Profile) that we submit to the Synod to start the process of finding a call pastor.**

The MET has also contacted every member household to update information. If you have not yet responded to that, please give the church office a call to update your information with Sue. Thank you for helping us keep accurate information.

Pictured at the bottom of this column (from right to left) are **Children's Ministry** and Little Lambs Coordinators, Alyssa Brockman and Susie Kelnhofer (respectively) along with our **Confirmation Faith Foundations** Leader, Nancy Hanvey and our new **SIXTH Grade Bridge Leader**, Dusty Flunker.

Rooted And Made New

Watch for more announcements about the start up of our **4th-6th Grade F.I.S.H. Youth group**, coordinated by Ashley Granger and the renewal of our **Sr High Youth Group**, coordinated by Izzy Beckman and Caitlin Kemmett!

Trinity's youth are truly blessed by these gifted and passionate people who have stepped up on their behalf. **The only thing missing is . . . you!**

You Are Invited!

While we have lots of great plans for **Children's Ministry**, **Confirmation** and our **Youth Groups** in the year ahead, **we know it would be even better if YOU were part of it.**

Every week, kids are discovering who Jesus is—through stories, games, laughter, relationships, connections and love. It's beautiful, sometimes a little chaotic, and it matters more than we realize.

All these programs aren't about being perfect. They're about showing up, loving kids well, and helping shape faith in the next generation. This is real 'God' work. Right here, right now! **And, honestly . . . we'd love to do it with YOU!**

RSVP

Contact Alyssa Brockman with any questions | 262.343.5557
trinitywestbendcm@gmail.com



ALL ABOUT YOUth

YOUTH SCHEDULES, EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

SHARING THE LOVE & PROMISE OF GOD WITH 3 YR OLD - 6TH GRADE
SEEit • MAKEit • MOVEit • TELLit • TASTEit

After a long summer apart, we are excited to **KICK OFF** a new **Children's Ministry** year on **RALLY DAY, Sunday, September 13th!** We look forward to reuniting with our friends and welcoming new friends as we grow in faith together on Sunday mornings!

Our program is open to all kiddos age 3 years up to 6th Grade and our theme this year is,

Rooted And Made New

We will begin each Sunday with our families in the 9 AM Worship service—*heading downstairs after the Children's message.* On Sunday, September 13th we will kick off the year with **FUN and GAMES**—and top it off after Children's ministry with an all-congregation **ice cream social** up in the Heritage Room!



SEPTEMBER 13

Children's Ministry RALLY DAY KICK OFF
3 YEAR OLD - 6TH GRADE
ice cream social

SEPTEMBER 20

BRING-A-FRIEND SUNDAY

SIXTH GRADE BRIDGE BIBLE SUNDAY

Abraham & Sarah ROTATION BEGINS

LITTLE LAMBS

SEPTEMBER 27

Abraham & Sarah ROTATION

SIXTH GRADE BRIDGE

LITTLE LAMBS



TRINITY CONFIRMATION

WEDNESDAY FAITH FOUNDATIONS

A JOURNEY OF FAITH FOR OUR 7TH & 8TH GRADERS

WEDNESDAY | SEPTEMBER 9 | 7 PM

CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION NIGHT

PARENTS & YOUTH—in the Heritage Room

WEDNESDAY | SEPTEMBER 16 | 6:30 PM - 8 PM

Confirmation Faith Foundations BEGINS

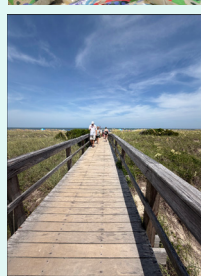
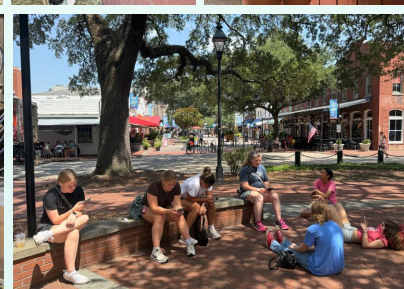
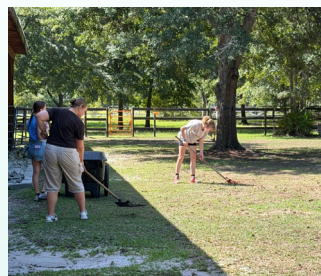
NOTE: More information, including a complete schedule has been mailed and/or will be shared with Confirmation families on Orientation Night, Wednesday, September 9th at 7 PM.

I am both excited and honored to be leading this important ministry journey again this year. Please and always—reach out to me with any questions or concerns.

Nancy Hanvey | 262.364.4986



This summer, five of our Sr High youth completed an impactful mission trip to Savannah, GA filled with service, community, and spiritual growth. Our 17-hour journey was made possible through the warm hospitality of Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Carmel, Indiana, and Incarnation Lutheran Church in Columbia, South Carolina on our way down, as well as Messiah Lutheran Church in Brownsburg, Indiana, who graciously hosted us on our return trip home. Once in Savannah, our group joined forces with students from Cherry Street Wesleyan Church in Ottawa, Kansas, forming new friendships as we worked side by side. Guided by our site hosts, we served across the community at Blessingdale's Thrift Store, Loop It Up, The Old Savannah City Mission, and Faith Equestrian Therapeutic Center. In addition to our daily service work, we explored local sights, visiting the historic River Street, First African Baptist Church, Forsyth Park, and Tybee Island beach. **Above all, we anchored each day in faith through morning devotions and evening gatherings for worship and reflection at The Gathering, returning home with refreshed hearts and a deeper commitment to serving others.** *Thank you to Katie Martin and Pastor Robb for chaperoning the trip!* The Sr High summer travelers plan to share more about their trip during worship in the coming weeks.



ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR MONARCH MINISTRY WITH ALMOST 100 KITS DISTRIBUTED

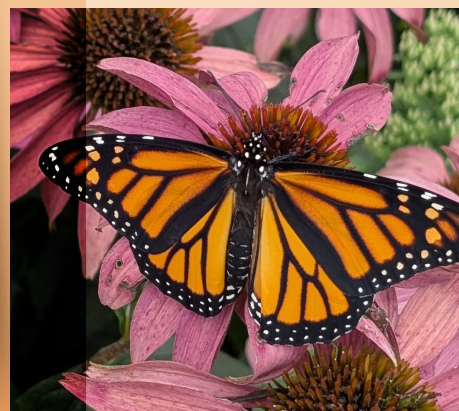
The butterflies emerging in the next couple weeks will lay the eggs for the generation of monarchs that live for 8-9 months and travel 3,000 miles to Mexico. Scientific research shows that caterpillars exposed to natural weather conditions are more successful in migration.

That is the reason we stop passing out kits in August.



THANK YOU!

A special thank you for Suzanne Barker's leadership, and to Cyndee Bruder, CarlEda Skinkis, and Alyssa Brockman for their help with this ministry. Dairy Queen in West Bend also donated a fresh supply of sundae containers used for habitats.



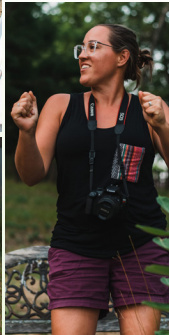
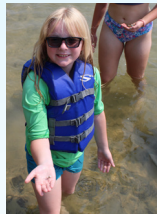
Monarch Ministry Recycles! Please return bags and cleaned Dairy Queen sundae containers to Trinity for reuse next season.

MONARCH MINISTRY



Words can hardly express how thankful and grateful we are for the congregation's support of this invaluable youth ministry. 23 Trinity kids spent a week at PINE LAKE Crossways Camp from July 26 - 31. 6 DAYS AT CAMP that will stay with each of them (and myself) for a lifetime! *To know these kiddos is to love them, its that simple.* Thank you, Trinity! Praise God from whom all blessings flow —Alyssa Brockman





Plan to join us on the afternoon of Sunday Sept 27 for **härmonē SINGS A6AIN!**—talented singers whose ages span 6 decades—coming together for the sixth time to lift up our neighbors one song at a time

Enjoy an afternoon of inspiring music from these talented men in support of the new Washington County Chapter of **SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE** an all volunteer organization that builds and donates beds to children in Washington County. The numbers of kids in our own community who do not have a bed to sleep in is eye opening! Nick Stamatakos, president of the local chapter, will be at the concert to provide additional information on the numerous ways we can be involved.

Visit the Washington County SHP facebook page here:
<https://www.facebook.com/SHPWashingtonCoWI>

Check out this 4-minute video that explains the reason and the mission for **SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_C57HxFHh3U



YOUR DONATIONS WELCOME | As part of this event, there will be Gift Card bag raffles, and we welcome donations of **gift cards of \$25 or more in value** (grocery stores, gas stations, restaurants, Amazon, Visa, etc.). If you have points or miles that are not being used, please consider trading them in for a gift card to donate! **We also welcome donations of bottles of wine** (no distilled spirits or beer please) for our Wine Pull.

Please bring all donations to Trinity by SEPT 20

härmonē

SINGS A6AIN | BENEFIT CONCERT

härmonē is an **ALL MALE ENSEMBLE**—whose ages span 6 decades—gathered from all corners of our community who are coming together again for the **6TH TIME** to help lift up our neighbors one song at a time!

SEPT 27
3 PM **THE CONCERT IS FREE**
DOORS OPEN AT 2 PM

2 PM | DAY OF CONCERT

- 50/50 RAFFLE
- GIFT CARD BAG RAFFLES
- WATER & COOKIE BAR
- WINE PULL **AND MORE...**!



SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE
 WASHINGTON COUNTY, WI
 NEW COMMUNITY OUTREACH
 ORGANIZATION IN WASHINGTON COUNTY

BENEFIT HOSTED BY



NO KID SLEEPS ON THE FLOOR IN OUR TOWN!

A bed is a fundamental requirement for a child's physical, emotional, and mental well-being. **SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE** is a 501(c)(3) volunteer-driven nonprofit dedicated to building, assembling, and delivering top-quality beds and bedding to children and families in need in our community. **Nicholas Stamatakos, President of the WI-Washington Co SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE chapter will be with us for this event.** All funds raised and bedding collected at the **härmonē** event will go directly to helping children/families in need right here in Washington County.

www.facebook.com/SHPWashingtonCoWI



Trinity COMFORTERS

The Trinity Comforters group gathers on Thursday afternoons at 1 PM to create blankets of comfort for people in need—in and outside our community.

In past months the Comforters have gone beyond just blankets, bringing comfort in other forms by donating 300 hygienes to Bob's Under the Bridge in Milwaukee and loads of food to Casa Guadalupe Multicultural Center in West Bend.



The Comforters are now accepting donations of books, puzzles, games, toys, jewelry and purses for their annual **PRELOVED FUNDRAISER SALE!**

Your support of the Trinity Comforters Ministry is always greatly appreciated. **Mark your calendars for the TRINITY & FRIENDS EARLY BIRD SALE—SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4th!**

PRELOVED SALE

BOOKS
PUZZLES
GAMES
TOYS
Jewelry
Purses



TRINITY & FRIENDS

EARLY BIRD SALE

Sunday | October 4
 8:30 AM - 1 PM

PUBLIC SALE

Thursday | October 8
 9 AM - 4 PM

Friday | October 9
 9 AM - 4 PM

Saturday | October 10
 9 AM - 1 PM



Trinity LUTHERAN CHURCH
 140 N 7TH AVE | WEST BEND
 ENTER THROUGH ALLEY ENTRANCE

ALL SALES SUPPORT the ministry of the **Trinity Comforters**—Making and Donating blankets of warmth for people in need in and outside of our community



FOOD PANTRY

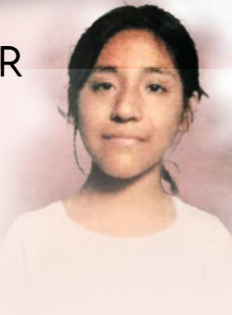
ITEM OF THE MONTH



MULTI-PACKS OF CEREALS & OATMEAL INDIVIDUAL SIZE

Trinity food collections are shared directly with folks that come to us for a hand up, the Full Shelf Food Pantry, and other pantry resources in our West Bend community.

REMEMBER KAORI



**MONDAY | SEPT 28
6:30 PM**

A **SAFE PLACE** *to share* offers us time to share our concerns about the world. It is a **SAFE PLACE** because we gather not to condemn or berate, or even to convince—but to *listen with respect, share in vulnerability, and support one another.*

ALL ARE WELCOME — join us!

WISHING YOU *Birthday* BLESSINGS

ON THE DAY YOU WERE BORN, GOD DANCED,
ANGELS SANG AND THE STARS ALIGNED.
WE HOPE THAT YOUR BIRTHDAY WILL BE
A HAPPY CELEBRATION FILLED WITH BLESSINGS.

Ethan Schickert	9 01
Kendall Mesich	9 03
Jessica Gonzalez	9 03
Abby Nelson	9 03
Margie Kieckhafer	9 04
Lily Lance	9 05
Jeffrey Schicker	9 05
Daxton Dwyer	9 06
Kelly Omernick	9 06
William Dushek	9 08
Alissa Michels	9 08
Candy Sarauer	9 08
David Solberg	9 08
Patrick Budoff	9 09
Steven Caves	9 09
Skylar Crass	9 09
Jay Nelson	9 09
Susan Sulik	9 09
Leon Vore	9 09
Joseph Falconer	9 10
Nicole Hoffman	9 12
Lanae Poupore	9 12
Nicole Hull	9 18
Marcia Vrankin	9 18
Lynn Anderson	9 19
Jordyn Kurer	9 19
Melissa Pitzen	9 19
Rachel Squibb	9 19
Howard Vrankin	9 20
Judy Dricken	9 21
Sue Harter	9 21
Ryan Schneider	9 22
Kelly Granger	9 23
Philip Pierce	9 23
Arlene Pierog	9 23
Amy Oksiuta	9 24
Heather Peters	9 24
Lois Haase	9 25
Brad Abraham	9 26
Maryn Disterhaft	9 26
Dee Washa	9 26
Manual Jones	9 28
Michael York	9 29



Soles For Jesus

THE NEXT STEP | *We are planning a Trinity Volunteer Day (2 hour session) at Soles for Jesus—working in their Milwaukee warehouse.* We will be helping sort shoes into categories. SFJ leaders will be assisting us and answering questions as we go. It is a fairly simple but meaningful task suited for teenage through adult volunteers. *The volunteer time goes fast.*

You donated the shoes, now you are invited to be part of the next step in this impactful outreach effort!

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5 | 9 AM to 11 AM

We will meet at Soles for Jesus

8835 W Heather Ave | Milwaukee, WI 53224

Direct questions to Denise Kenworthy

jndi12345@gmail.com

SIGN UP IN THE HERITAGE ROOM



Citizen Advocates
est. 1978

BINGO

Sept. 14

FREE & FUN BINGO & PRIZES!

MONDAY AFTERNOON
SEPTEMBER 14th, 2026
3:30pm - 4:30pm

TRINITY LUTHERAN
Corner of 7th & Elm St
USE ALLEY ENTRANCE

This event is open to the public—all ages and abilities are encouraged to attend!

SEPTEMBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5  Soles For Jesus 9 - 11 AM
	MUSIC THERAPY 1:30 PM	7 PM NA		COMFORTERS 1 PM 7 PM NA		
6 9:00 CTP Worship 10:00 Coffee Hour 11:00 Liturgical Worship 	7 LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED MUSIC THERAPY 1:30 PM	8 7 PM NA	9 MET SURVEY BEGINS CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION 6:30 PM	10 COMFORTERS 1 PM 7 PM NA	11	12
13 9:00 CTP Worship Children's Ministry 10:00 Ice Cream! 11:00 Liturgical Worship	14  3:30 PM MET 6:30 PM MUSIC THERAPY 1:30 PM	15 7 PM NA	16 CONFIRMATION 6:30 PM	17 COMFORTERS 1 PM COUNCIL 7PM 7 PM NA	18	19
20 9:00 CTP Worship Children's Ministry 6th GRADE BIBLES BRING-A-FRIEND 10:00 Coffee Hour 11:00 Liturgical Worship	21 MUSIC THERAPY 1:30 PM	22 7 PM NA	23 CONFIRMATION 6:30 PM	24 COMFORTERS 1 PM 7 PM NA	25	26
27 9:00 CTP Worship Children's Ministry 10:00 Coffee Hour 11:00 Liturgical Worship härmenē MET SURVEY ENDS	28 A SAFE PLACE 7:00 PM MET 6:30 PM MUSIC THERAPY 1:30 PM	29 7 PM NA	30 CONFIRMATION 6:30 PM			

Trinity | Contact Information

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262-334-2125 | trinity@trinitywestbend.com | trinitywestbend.com  

Interim Pastor Robb Kosky | pastorrkosky@gmail.com

OFFICE HOURS | MON - THURS.....8:00 AM - 3:30 PM
FRIDAYS8:00 AM - NOON

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Alyssa Brockman.....Children's Ministry Coordinator
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Heather Peters.....Music Ministry Coordinator
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Sandy Poenitsch.....Communication Coordinator
spoenitsch@trinitywestbend.com | 262-388-1616

Karen Sparks.....Financial Clerk
ksparks@trinitywestbend.com

Phil Wagner.....Facilities Manager
farmerwagner673@gmail.com | 262-355-5332

Congregation Council Members

Cheryl Scaffidi, PRESIDENT.....WORSHIP & MUSIC
Amy Kreutzer, VP.....FAITH DEVELOPMENT
Greg McMahon, TREASURER.....FINANCE
Dustin Flunker, SECRETARY.....MINISTRY SUPPORT
Mike Kappler.....PROPERTY, TECHNOLOGY
James Winkler.....STEWARDSHIP
Jessica Gieryn.....COMMUNITY BUILDING
Nick Laatsch.....PROPERTY
Linda George.....COMMUNITY BUILDING
Tom Bulin.....PROPERTY
Lexi George | YOUTH REP.....OUTREACH