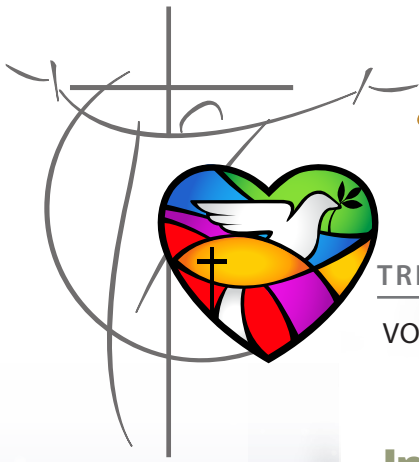




Trinity Spirit

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH



NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 22, ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2026

**Give
thanks
to the
Lord
for he is
good;
his love
endures
forever.**

PSALM 107:1

In all things give thanks.

My son Nathan (one of our twins) and I flew down to West Virginia the last week in September to see my parents who are now 88 and 85. They still live in the house they bought when we moved to WV from Toledo, OH 52 years ago. But they are slowing down.

As we always do, Nathan, my Dad, and I spent a night at our cabin down in Summers County. Now, this is not the Wisconsin type cabin that I've heard people talk about since I first moved to this state – a cabin up north on a lake somewhere. This is an original Appalachian log cabin, nestled under a mountain, far off the beaten path.

A family lived there, raising a parcel of children, doing a little farming, raising some livestock, distilling a little moonshine, until such a life was no longer economically viable (if it ever was.) Sometime in the 1950's they took the tin off the roof, disconnected the electricity, and left. The property changed hands until my Dad bought it from a professor at Bowling Green State University in 1975. It was just what my Dad wanted – remote and primitive. By that time the cabin was overgrown, the roof caved in, many of the logs rotten, and we always kept a lookout for copperheads. We tore down the small kitchen and one of the large rooms, which was beyond repair. The remaining room, maybe 12 x 18, my Dad, with the help of others, repaired. New roof, new flooring. I remember helping to pull off the boards on the walls, peeling off the newspaper insulation, digging out the mud from between the logs, and putting in new chinking.

This is partly where I grew up – camping, shooting, hunting. We saw the largest moon ever rise over the opposite mountain one evening in the late 70's. There is no electricity and no well. We've rid the area of copperheads now, but the black snakes keep the mouse population down. My Dad and I have taken my kids there nearly every year of their lives. I've been going there with Dad for 51 years now.

I think this past trip in September will be the last time I'll go there with Dad. Who knows, maybe we'll make a day trip there next year. It's just gotten difficult for him. He can't roam the woods or go down to the valley by the small waterfall on Dust Lick Creek. It will never be the same.

Thanks be to God, for times past, for memories, for all the gifts we have been given. Thanks be to God that we have lived to see the ends of so many things we have loved. And thanks be to God for walking with us into a future we neither know nor see.

Christ's Peace,

Pastor Robb

Interim Pastor Robb Kosky





NOVEMBER SPECIAL WORSHIP

All Saints Day

SUNDAY - NOVEMBER 1
9AM and 11AM WORSHIP

This special worship service is a celebration of all God's saints—*known and unknown*. On this day we especially lift up, name and light a candle for those close to us who have gone before us in the past year.

ECUMENICAL

Thanksgiving Service

TUESDAY - NOVEMBER 24
7PM - CEDAR RIDGE
GRAND HALL

This annual community event brings local congregations together for worship, music, and shared expressions of gratitude ahead of the holiday.

Bring a PIE to share after the service
(or drop off a PIE at Trinity by 3PM on Tuesday, November 24th)

Advent Begins

SUNDAY - NOVEMBER 29

The word "Advent" comes from the Latin *ad-venire*, meaning "to come". It is a season of waiting, joyful expectation and preparation for the coming of the Christ child. **Advent worship is an important part in preparing our hearts for a season of hope.**



These Trinity 9th graders affirmed their baptisms through the Rite of Confirmation on Sunday, October 11th, 2026

Congratulations and God Bless this milestone in the faith journeys of these young adults in our congregation:

*Lucas Richard Doede
Mia Marie Hanvey
Andrew Lee Hull
Finnegan Allen Koch
Ellis Kathrine Martin
Dane Thomas McIntyre
Makiyah Michelle Rouse
Siona Rose Scaffidi*





ROOTED IN CHRIST | Because our identity is rooted in Christ, it is up to each of us to be the branches that reach out to share his love and bring new life. We want that for our kids, for our families, and for the life of our congregation. **As Trinity's MET completes their work and we move forward with hope and anticipation, our shared commitment to Trinity and its ministries is a critical part of what will come next.**

Below, Trinity's Finance Team shares a look at our current financial trend

GIVING	ACTUAL	PLAN	DIFFERENCE
September 27th Offering	\$ 1,712.00	\$ 7,291.66	\$ (5,579.66)
Month of September	\$ 28,991.76	\$ 29,166.67	\$ (174.91)
2026 Year-To-Date	\$235,565.12	\$262,500.03	\$(26,934.91)



ROOTS-BRANCHES & NEW LIFE

The challenges of the increasing costs of everyday basic needs; *housing, food, gas, Healthcare, and utilities* is real and affects us all. The same real challenges are part of maintaining Trinity's building and ministries. **Here at Trinity, we ask our members to prayerfully give, as we are able, out of the blessings we each receive.**



TRINITY TOGETHER for GOOD

Our multi-generational church family is rooted in Christ, connected, and called to respond to God's love, grace, and mercy in ways each of us is able.

Working together for good, in and through Christ, is all we need.

Hope lives and new life is coming.

Believe it. Be part of it.



FAITH IN ACTION | God is always with us and works all things together for good—in *HIS* time. **Ask what we can do, together, in OUR time—right here, right now to ensure that new life, indeed, will come to our congregation.**

"God doesn't need your good works, but your neighbor does."

MARTIN LUTHER



At a time of year when many of us will be blessed to gather with family and friends to celebrate with thankful hearts over abundant tables, may we also remember those who may be experiencing food insecurity or separation from loved ones. **You are invited to help us fill Thanksgiving Food Baskets**

Suggested food items that can be brought in **NOW**:

Grocery Gift Cards or cash donations which go to fill out the baskets. Instant potatoes, boxed stuffing mix, canned sweet potatoes, canned vegetables, applesauce, canned fruit, canned cranberries, canned or dried soups, boxed macaroni and cheese or other boxed pasta/rice dinners, boxed mixes for desserts (brownies, cakes, puddings, jello).

Fresh produce can be brought in on **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22**

Apples, oranges, potatoes, carrots, celery—pies, etc.

If you are aware of a family or individual who could use a hand up, please call the church office (in confidence)

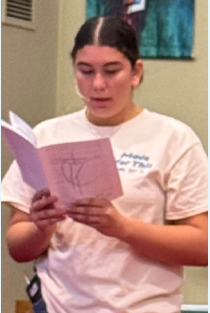
BEFORE NOVEMBER 8th





This summer, five of our Sr High youth traveled to Savannah, GA for a summer servant trip filled with spiritual growth.

During the worship services on Sunday, September 27, under the theme of **LOVING YOUR NEIGHBORS**, the summer trip travelers shared how much the experience touched their lives. From delivering the Children's Message that illustrated how well things can go when we share each other's loads, to their personal testimonies that giving us a glimpse of just how much these trips impact the lives and faith journeys of our high school youth—long, long after they are back home.



ALL ABOUT YOUth

YOUTH SCHEDULES, EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

SHARING GOD'S LOVE & PROMISE | 3 YR OLD - 6TH GRADE

RoTaTion Workshops

SEEit • MAKEit • MOVEit • TELLit • TASTEit

LITTLE LAMBS | **SIXTH GRADE BRIDGE**



Attention Children's Ministry Families:

During **Children's Ministry** EVERY WEEK IN NOVEMBER we will be taking time to work on our **Christmas Program** parts, special music and fittings for costumes. Please try to have your children attend each Sunday for **Children's Ministry** and this very important practice time.

NOVEMBER 1

Esther RoTaTion | Christmas Program Practice

LITTLE LAMBS
SIXTH GRADE BRIDGE

NOVEMBER 8

Esther RoTaTion | Christmas Program Practice

LITTLE LAMBS
SIXTH GRADE BRIDGE

NOVEMBER 15

Esther RoTaTion | Christmas Program Practice

LITTLE LAMBS
SIXTH GRADE BRIDGE

NOVEMBER 22

Esther RoTaTion | Christmas Program Practice

LITTLE LAMBS
SIXTH GRADE BRIDGE

NOVEMBER 29



ThanksgivingBreak
NO CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Save-the-Date!

Mark your calendars and plan to come and witness the good news of Jesus' birth as shared in

The Night Before

presented by Trinity's kids at 11:00 AM on Sunday

December 13th

Parents, plan NOW for your child(ren) to participate —RSVP to Alyssa



CONFIRMATION FAITH FOUNDATIONS

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

WEDNESDAYS | 6:30 - 8 PM

CONFIRMATION LEADER: **Nancy Hanvey 414-364-4986**

FAITH FOUNDATIONS | FELLOWSHIP | RETREATS | SERVICE

NOV 4 3rd Commandment
Sabbath: *The Original Group Chat*
SNACK: Emma

NOV 11 3rd Commandment
Connecting & Recharging with God
SNACK: Lucy

NOV 18 *When is enough, enough?*
Movie and Popcorn Night
SNACK: Joel

NOV 25 **ThanksgivingBreak**
NO CONFIRMATION

DEC 2 4th Commandment
Honor your Mother and Father:
When "whatever" isn't the whole story
SNACK: Finn

ConfirmationRetreat NOVEMBER 6-8 at PINE LAKE CAMP

Connect on a new level through Bible studies, group initiatives, challenge courses, crafts, and worship. Confirmation camp is a unique experience for entire confirmation groups to be immersed in an intentional Christian community together, and have faith-filled conversations with their counselor and others. They will leave strengthened for service in their congregations, schools, and communities. Your confirmation group will learn more about their faith and dig deeper into what it means to live your faith and trust one another.



Sr High Sunday

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

November 1 and November 22

5:00 - 6:30 PM

A brand-new season of Trinity's Sr High Youth Ministry is here and ALL 9TH - 12TH GRADERS ARE INVITED!!

We'd love for you to come and hang out at 'Senior High Sunday' where we'll make room to breathe, connect and listen for God. We'll share food, and take time to talk about real life and faith in a safe, chill place.

- Connect and/or reconnect with friends
- Make time to laugh, wonder, and listen for God
- Safe space to decompress and ask honest questions
- Recenter our souls through devotions and prayer—**bring your Bibles, please!**
- Recharge and anchor our identity as children of God
- 2027 Summer National Youth Gathering | MN | June 28-July 2

Come as you are—no pressure, and you are totally welcome to bring a friend! Any questions, text Alyssa 262-343-5557

Attention ALL Sr High Families

this includes those in
8th Grade right now up to
graduating in 2027



ELCA YOUTH GATHERING
JUNE 28 - JULY 2, 2027
MINNEAPOLIS, MN

Every three years, thousands of high schoolers and their adult leaders from across the ELCA come together for the ELCA National Youth Gathering. **It's not just an event but a movement in which faith ignites and community comes alive.** Through inspiring speakers, experiential learning and transformative connections, young people experience the church in bold, unforgettable ways. Each night, participants share a unique faith experience through high-energy worship and powerful storytelling. The Gathering is an opportunity to ask big questions, grow in faith and be part of something bigger than yourself.

2027 ELCA Youth Gathering theme is "Imagine More," based on Ephesians 3:20 (Inclusive): *"To God — whose power now at work in us can do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine."* Inviting young people to imagine more love, welcome, grace, joy, and courage through faith, community, and service.

If you are ready to 'imagine more', mark your 2027 calendars now and SAVE JANUARY 10TH for an important PARENT-YOUTH INFORMATIONAL MEETING



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

In October we got into our weekly groove of **Children's Ministry** and learned about Abraham and Sarah through different workshop experiences. We focused on God's promises and trusting God even when it seems impossible.

GENESIS 15:5

He took him outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

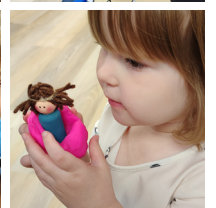
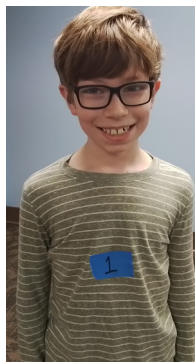
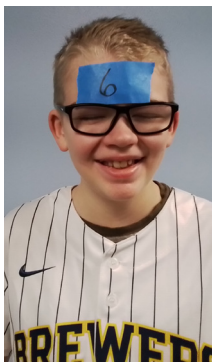
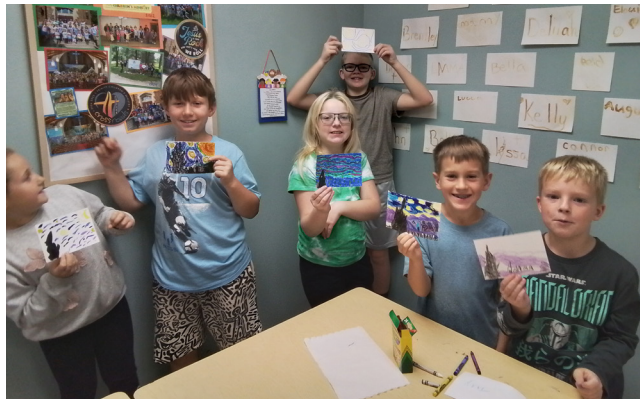
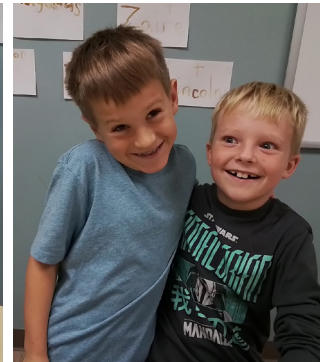
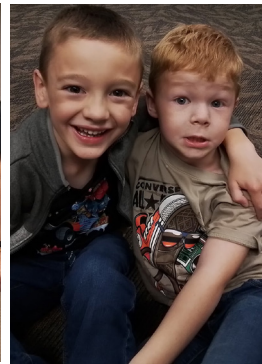
Our kiddos made postcards for Trinity members who are unable to be here in person. They designed the cards with their own interpretations of van Gogh's *Starry Night*.

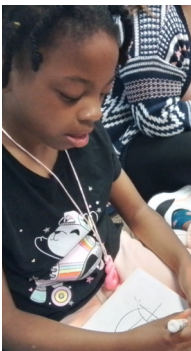
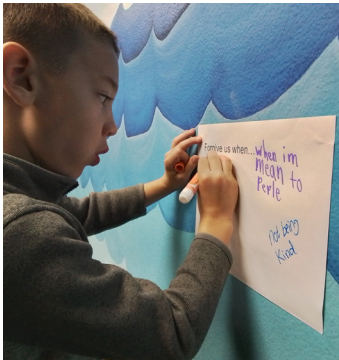
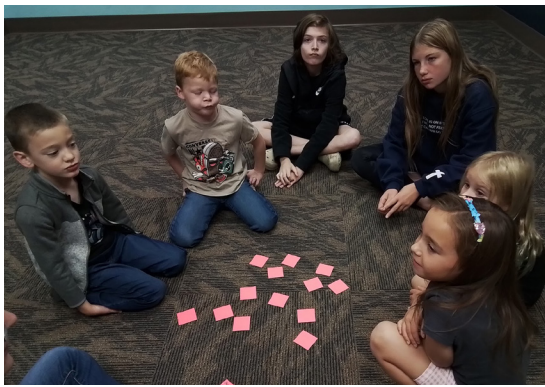
LITTLE LAMBS

We had a lot of fun in October learning the story of Joseph and his coat of many colors! We all helped make the coat! A *collaboration!* We had to help each other out of the well! Through this story we learned that God wants us to be happy for others, to share, be kind, to tell the truth and forgive!

THANK YOU OCTOBER VOLUNTEERS

Karissa Laatsch
Katie & Dusty Flunker
Maureen O'Connell
Charlotte Butzler
Peter Nelson
Kennedy Butzler
Dane McIntyre
Elias del Campo O'Connell
Finn Pawlowski
Joel Beier
Morgan Beier
Emma Parchim
Mia Hanvey
Jayden Hanvey
Manny Jones
Harper Kenworthy





CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

In October our kids also wrote prayers. Sometimes hearing a prayer from our youngest people is a great reminder to pause, step back, and remember what is truly most important.

K, 1st & 2nd grade prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for all your creation, for food, water, animals and our existence. We also thank you for the change in seasons.

Forgive us when we are mean to people. When we are wrong and when we sin. Also forgive us when we are naughty and not being kind. Sorry for that, God.

Please help us when we need forgiveness the most in tough times. Help us when we are hurt and when we don't know what to do. Sometimes we don't know if it is wrong or right to do something. Please be with us then.

God, you go with us when we spend time with others. You are always with us when we are lonely and alone.

We love you, God. In your name we pray,
Amen

3rd, 4th & 5th grade prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for caring about us and loving us. Thank you for our freedom. Thank you for our families and providing us with food and water.

Please forgive us when we mess up. Forgive us when we lie and don't follow your rules. Especially forgive us when we are being salty.

Please help us when we are lost, down, and not feeling well. Help us when we are low on resources. We need you.

God, you go with us when we are scared. You are with us when we need help.

In your name we pray,
Amen

faith & fellowship

NOVEMBER 19 | 6:30 PM

You are invited to share an hour of **faith & fellowship** with us on Thursday, November 19th at 6:30 PM.

This year's theme is **Spiritual Support**—exploring how we can walk alongside one another in faith through: listening, encouragement, prayer, and presence.

At our first gathering, we will talk about future topics, format, frequency and dates. **Come, be part of the conversation at faith & fellowship!**

For more information,
TEXT Nancy Hanvey | 414-364-4986

härmenē Thank you!

On the afternoon of September 27th, the men of härmenē SANG AGAIN—making a difference for our neighbors, one song at a time. The benefit concert provided a wonderful atmosphere of generosity and celebration!

The combined generosity of time, talent and resources from the Trinity congregation and the community, resulted in **RAISING A TOTAL OF \$3,250 for SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE, Washington Co.** This new non-profit, all volunteer organization in our county builds and delivers free beds to kids age 3 to 17 years who sleep on the floor or other undesirable conditions. Their mission is: **NO KID SLEEPS ON THE FLOOR IN OUR TOWN** and they are very thankful for the support they have received through the efforts of Trinity and härmenē.



MONDAY
NOVEMBER 30 | 6:30 PM

A **SAFE PLACE** to share offers us time to share our concerns about the world. *It is not a place for answers, but a place to share and encourage one another as we try to live our Christian commitment in a world that often seems to be very un-Christian.* 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 IN THIS SAFE PLACE—We plan to meet on the last Monday of each month, **join us at any time!**



Trinity Comforters

A ministry *from the heart* with a mission of making and donating blankets of warmth for people in need—both in and outside our community.

PreLOVED SALE thankYOU

The Trinity Comforters are very grateful for your support of our annual fundraiser! Your contributions of books, toys, puzzles, jewelry and purses—as well as the purchases you made—have helped us continue to create "warm hugs" (blankets!) to share with those in need in our community and beyond.
Thank you—Bless you!



Citizen Advocates
est. 1978

BINGO!

November 9TH

FREE & FUN BINGO & PRIZES!

MONDAY AFTERNOON
November 9th, 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!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Kaori Rosalina Ramos Benito
is a Compassion International child
sponsored by the Trinity congregation.

Our **CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**
offering goes toward sponsorship of
Kaori, but your donations help us keep
things on track.

*Thank you for your
prayers and support.
Scan the QR code to
donate toward
Trinity's sponsorship
of Kaori now.*



ALUMINUM TABS WELCOME ALL YEAR LONG!

*Tabs saved from beverage cans
make a difference for families
being served by Children's
Hospital in Milwaukee.*

*Thank you for your continued
support of this outreach effort!*



GIVING tree

Our advent Giving Trees offer us
the opportunity to lighten the load
and brighten the hearts of folks
who may be struggling during the
holiday season.

TREES WILL BE *in the*
HERITAGE ROOM SOON



poinsettias

Poinsettias purchased by
members to adorn our chancel
(altar) area always help
make our church even more
beautiful and festive during
Christmas.

**WATCH for ORDER
FORMS SOON**

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.

Carly Doede	11/01
Brentley Hanson	11/01
Kathy Kershaw	11/02
Kim McIntyre	11/02
Pauline Lentz	11/04
Elise Marlett	11/04
Shirley Walters	11/04
Kim Downer	11/05
Macy Pawlowski	11/05
Barbara Sass	11/11
TJ Abraham	11/12
Tom Kieckhafer	11/13
Danielle Ellis	11/15
Kathleen Roecker	11/15
Paul Bauman	11/17
Susie Kelnhofer	11/17
David Rhoads	11/17
Rannveig Polinski	11/18
Brenda Dehler	11/19
Colleen (Pinky) Kirchner	11/19
Connor Scaffidi	11/20
Siena Scaffidi	11/21
Barbara Gunnare	11/24
Audrey Kelnhofer	11/25
Ray MacDonald	11/25
June Stracka	11/25
Paula Baldwin	11/26
Isabelle Beckmann	11/27
Morgan Beier	11/27
Kay Laatsch	11/27
Mike Kozlowski	11/30
Suzanne Mildbrandt	11/30

NOVEMBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 TURN CLOCKS BACK CTP Worship 9 AM Children's Ministry Liturgical Worship 11 AM  Sr High Sunday 5 PM	2	3	4 CONFIRMATION 6:30 PM	5 COMFORTERS 1 PM 7 PM NA	6 Confirmation Retreat at PINE LAKE NOVEMBER 6- 8	7
8 CTP Worship 9 AM Children's Ministry Liturgical Worship 11 AM	9 BINGO 3:30 PM MUSIC THERAPY 1:30 PM	10 7 PM NA	11 CONFIRMATION 6:30 PM	12 COMFORTERS 1 PM 7 PM NA	13	14
15 CTP Worship 9 AM Children's Ministry Liturgical Worship 11 AM	16 MUSIC THERAPY 1:30 PM	17 7 PM NA	18 CONFIRMATION 6:30 PM	19 COMFORTERS 1 PM faith & fellowship COUNCIL 7PM 7 PM NA	20	21
22 CTP Worship 9 AM Children's Ministry Liturgical Worship 11 AM  Sr High Sunday 5 PM	23 MUSIC THERAPY 1:30 PM	24  ECUMENICAL Thanksgiving Service 7 PM Cedar Ridge 7 PM NA	25 NO CONFIRMATION	26  HAPPY Thanksgiving	27 OFFICE CLOSED	28
29  ADVENT BEGINS NO Children's Ministry Coffee Hour 9 AM Worship 10 AM MET/SYNOD TOWNHALL MEETING 11 AM	30 A SAFE PLACE 6:30 PM MUSIC THERAPY 1:30 PM					

Trinity | Contact Information

Trinity Lutheran Church |  ELCA |  Reconciling in Christ | 140 N. 7TH AVE | WEST BEND, WI 53095
 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
 FRIDAYS 8:00 AM - NOON

Sue Walker.....Parish Coordinator
swalker@trinitywestbend.com | 262-334-2125

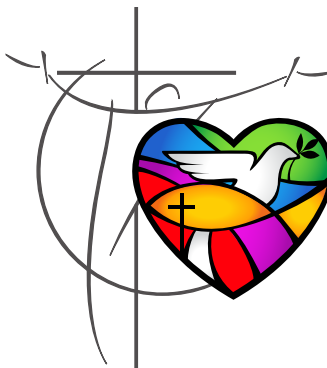
Alyssa Brockman.....Children's Ministry Coordinator
trinitywestbendcm@gmail.com | 262-343-5557

Heather Peters.....Music Ministry Coordinator
peters.heatherj@gmail.com | 262-305-7338

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
 Phil Pierce.....TBA
 Lexi George | YOUTH REP.....OUTREACH