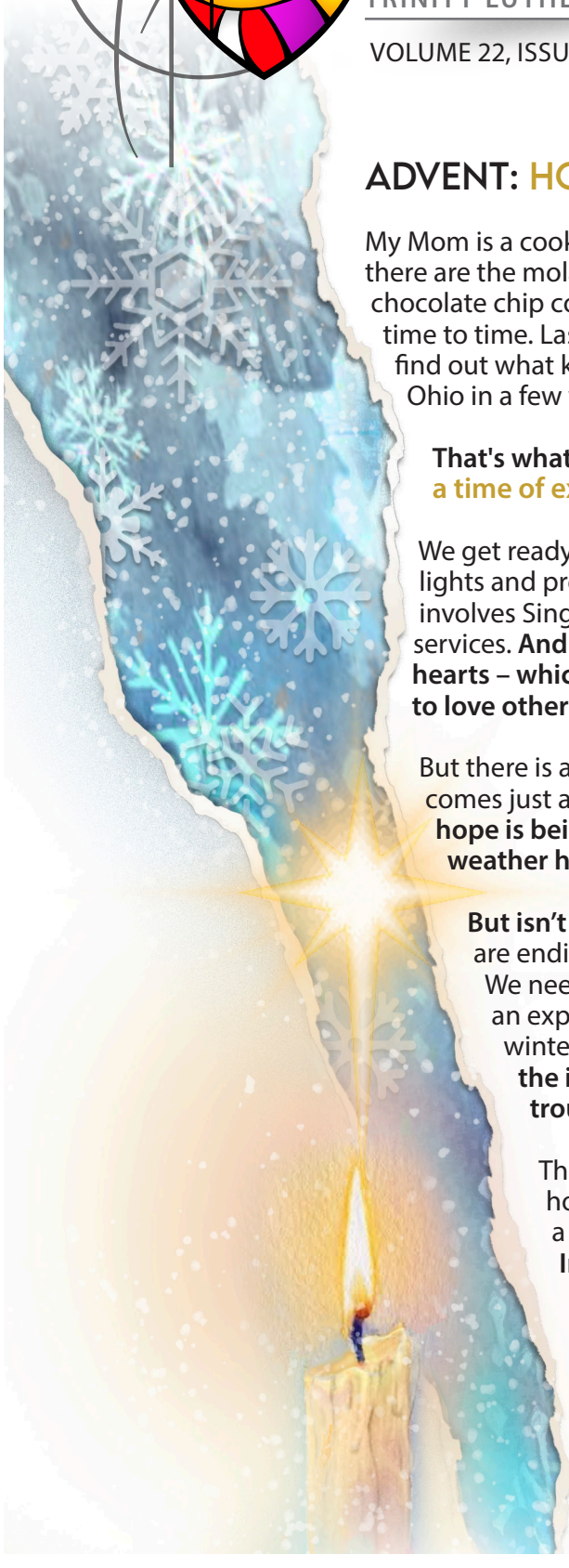
Trinity Spirit

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 22, ISSUE 12 DECEMBER 2026



ADVENT: HOPE IN WINTER

My Mom is a cookie baker. Oatmeal Raisin have always been my favorite, but then there are the molasses cookies, peanut butter chocolate oatmeal drop cookies, chocolate chip cookies, snowballs and a whole host of others that she tries out from time to time. Last week she was taking orders – asking me to check with my boys to find out what kind of cookies they want her to bring for them when we meet in Ohio in a few weeks. **She is looking forward and getting ready.**

That's what Advent is: A time of looking forward and getting ready, a time of expectation, a time of hope.

We get ready to celebrate Christmas – which involves cookies and decorating and lights and presents and trees. We get ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus – which involves Singers and Ringers and Children's Christmas programs and candlelight services. **And we get ready for Christ being born again into our lives and into our hearts – which involves recognizing again God's love for us and Jesus' call for us to love others, to recognize God's presence in our world and in our neighbors.**

But there is an odd juxtaposition here. For us, this time of expectation and hope comes just at the beginning of winter. The coldest days are ahead of us. **Our hope is being born just as we look forward to enduring the worst that our weather has to offer.**

But isn't this just when we need hope the most – not when our difficulties are ending, not when spring is blooming in a literal or metaphorical sense. We need hope when the darkest days are before us. We need a vision and an expectation that transcends the snowdrifts, the icy roads, and the winter storms. **We need a vision and an expectation that looks beyond the immediate future to something new, to a hope beyond the present troubles, a hope that they will one day be overcome.**

This is what we are preparing to celebrate at Christmas – a renewed hope in Jesus Christ for our lives and for the world we live in. It is not a promise that all of our troubles are behind us. **It is the promise of Immanuel, that God is with us, and a promise that in Christ, not only the troubles of this world, but death itself, will be overcome.**

In Christ's Hope,

Pastor Robb

Interim Pastor Robb Kosky





Trinity Comforters 'bought the farm'

The congregational support of the Trinity Comforter's annual fundraiser is greatly appreciated. Your generosity not only helps us buy supplies we need throughout the year to make our blankets and prayer shawls, it also enables us to give more—making an impact to transform lives in Jesus' name around the world.

This year Trinity's Comforters literally **'bought the farm'**, *that is,* **they bought the gift of a Family Farm through the ELCA GOOD GIFTS program.** The **Family Farm** includes a cow, a couple goats, a dozen chicks, two pigs, farming tools, seeds, and agricultural training. They also chose to include a rooster, to help the farm grow.

With eggs, milk and meat to eat and sell, along with the tools and training to increase the harvest, this gift will help enable a family break the cycle of hunger and poverty—making a big difference and promoting a positive future.







Back to our blankets! **In October the Trinity Comforters donated 80 Quilts to Lutheran World Relief.** LWR Mission Quilts create a tangible, lasting bond between the people who lovingly assemble them, and our neighbors around the world, who receive quilts in their greatest times of need. *Thank you to Jim and Suzanne Barker for delivering the quilts to the LWR collection site.*







Thank you, Trinity! **Your generous, and faithful support of the Comforters group and their ministry helps make a difference in our community and around the globe.**

ELCA GOOD GIFTS

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Trinity Roots&Branches

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:21

Over the past few weeks, some Trinity members have shared their personal stories of why they are here (at Trinity) and what being here means to them. The reasons may vary as much as each of our personal circumstances. ***Yet, we are all loved equally by the same God whose grace, mercy, and forgiveness have no boundaries, no strings attached, and no end.***

Trinity's wide open welcome and ministries are life giving.

Our music and worship provide strength and guidance for our daily lives. Our multi-generational and diverse congregation find comfort and joy in acceptance and the realtionships we are building with each other as we strive to follow Jesus' command and example. We find joy in the bond our children share with each other as they grow together in a loving, nurturing faith community. We work to make a difference as we partner to bring awareness and support for the marginalized, for those experiencing insecurities, and in tackling issues that impact others in our back yards as well as around the globe. ***This is exactly what Jesus calls us to do—to love and care for one another.***

We are rooted in Christ and called to action.

We are called to be the hands and feet (the branches) of Christ. We are called to share the gifts of our time, passions and resources. ***We are called to respond*** *to God's abundant love, grace, and mercy* ***abundantly—from our blessings!***

A response driven by the heart.

As we end this year together, prayerfully consider a response to blessings received that is driven by the heart. A response driven by the heart allows any future *'budget'* to serve our generosity instead of creating a budget that caps it. Prayerfully consider what Trinity means to you, and to our community—and what we can do to ensure we can support the new life we seek in calling a new pastor. Prayerfully consider ending this year with a special gift to the life of our church. And, *if you haven't already,* prayerfully consider filling out a 2027 **Roots&Branches** Estimate of Giving card—driven by your heart. Plan your giving intentionally, yet hold your plans loosely enough that when God brings a blessing or a need across our paths, we can respond with open hearts and hands.

Trinity Together—rooted, called, and driven by the heart.

Thank you

to everyone who donated to the **Thanksgiving Food Baskets** You made a difference for families!



DECEMBER 6th DEADLINE



- Giving Tree(s)
- Chips & Beef Sticks for BtCC
- Poinsettia Orders
- Estimate of Giving Cards

Christmas WORSHIP

CHRISTMAS EVE
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24

3 PM | Family Service
5 PM | Candlelight Worship
7 PM | Candlelight Worship

CHRISTMAS DAY
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25

9:30 AM | Service of the Carols



Attention ALL Sr High Families

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

IMAGINE more

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.

Sr High Save-the-Dates

January 3
5 PM-6:30 PM

January 10
10 AM
IMPORTANT
PARENT / YOUTH MEETING
ELCA Youth Gathering

January 31
5 PM-5:30 PM

Questions, TEXT
Alyssa - 262-343-5557

ALL ABOUT YOUth
YOUTH SCHEDULES, EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
SHARING THE LOVE & PROMISE OF GOD WITH OUR YOUNGEST MEMBERS & FRIENDS

RoTaTioN Workshops | SEEiT • MAKEiT • MOVEiT • TELLiT • TASTEiT

LITTLE LAMBS SIXTH GRADE BRIDGE

Children's Ministry SUNDAYS | 9 AM
Everyone is gearing up and getting into the Christmas spirit! We have been practicing our Christmas program songs and parts weekly.



You are Invited!
Join us for
A Capital C-H-R-I-S-T-M-A-S
presented by Trinity's kids
Sunday, December 13 | 11 AM

DECEMBER 6
Christmas Around the World RoTaTioN
LITTLE LAMBS SIXTH GRADE BRIDGE

SATURDAY DECEMBER 12
9 AM - 11 AM | Christmas Program PRACTICE
11 AM - 1 PM | Lunch&Fun*
PARENTS, enjoy a little quiet before the holiday busy kicks in or do a little Christmas shopping! Your children are welcome to stay for lunch & fun after practice.
***RSVP TO ALYSSA REQUIRED** 262-343-5557

DECEMBER 13
9 AM | Children's Ministry
Christmas Around the World RoTaTioN
LITTLE LAMBS SIXTH GRADE BRIDGE

11 AM | A Capital C-H-R-I-S-T-M-A-S
Our kids have worked to present this program to the Congregation—please join us at 11 AM on Sunday, Dec 13 as they present A Capital C-H-R-I-S-T-M-A-S

DECEMBER 20
Christmas Around the World RoTaTioN
LITTLE LAMBS SIXTH GRADE BRIDGE

DECEMBER 27
CHRISTMAS BREAK
NO Children's Ministry

JANUARY 3
NEW YEAR'S BREAK
NO Children's Ministry

ALL ABOUT YOUth
YOUTH SCHEDULES, EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

ConfirmationRetreat at PineLake Crossways Camp FRIDAY–SUNDAY | NOV 6–8

Seven of Trinity's Confirmation youth experienced a weekend retreat, just for them, at Pine Lake Camp! They had an action action-packed weekend. Campers cooked pasta over a fire, did a bit of raking in a lot of Nine Square, dove deep into the Old Testament, led worship, and captured the flag! One of the camp's most experienced and one of their freshest Camp staff enjoyed spending the weekend with the Trinity crew in the legendary Juniper cabin!





















CONFIRMATION FAITH FOUNDATIONS

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

WEDNESDAYS | 6:30 - 8 PM

Confirmation Leader:
Nancy Hanvey | 414-364-4986

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

DECEMBER 9
4th Commandment
Growing Up Without Growing Apart
SNACK: *Finn*

DECEMBER 16
Confirmation Christmas Party

DECEMBER 23
Christmas BREAK
NO CONFIRMATION

DECEMBER 30
New Year BREAK
NO CONFIRMATION

JANUARY 6
5th Commandment
Murder: When Hurt Becomes Intent
SNACK: *Anniken*

TRINTIY CHILDREN'S MINISTRY — 26-27 —

Rooted And Made New

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

LITTLE LAMBS

We finished up learning about **David and Goliath** the first Sunday in Novemeber and then spent the rest of the month learning all about the story of **Daniel and his friends.**

We learned that God wathces over us . . . God is with us when we are away from home . . . God watches over us when we are at school . . . God watches over us when we are scared . . . God watches over us ALL THE TIME!

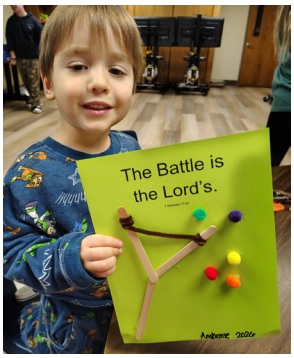
Meanwhile . . .







Um ... what's happening down at the end of the hall, in the **SIXTH GRADE** BRIDGE room!?





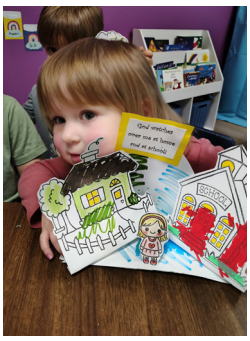






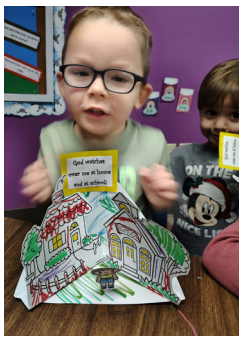










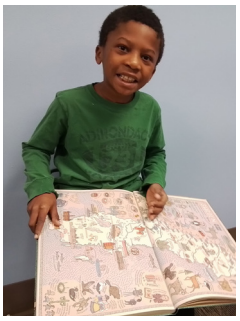


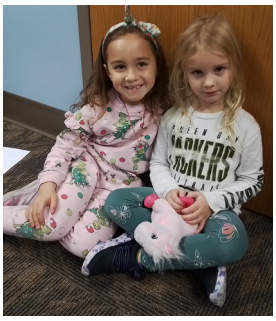




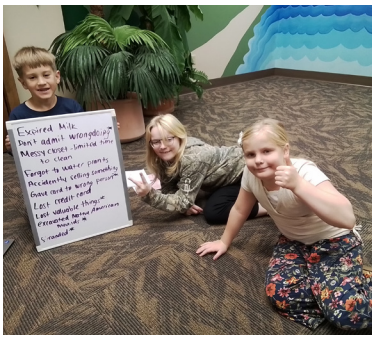












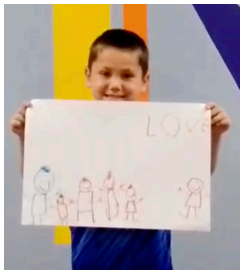




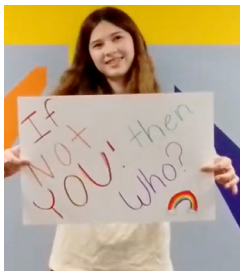




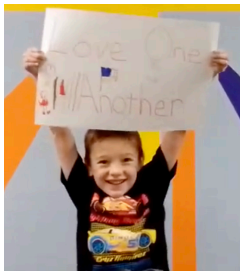




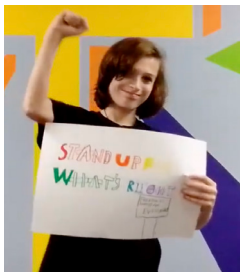


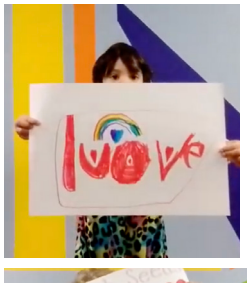










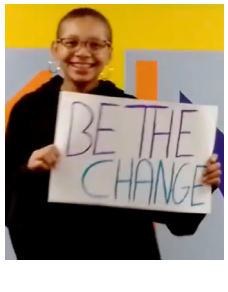
















TRINITY CHILDREN'S MINISTRY — 26-27 —
Rooted And Made New

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Esther RoTaTioN

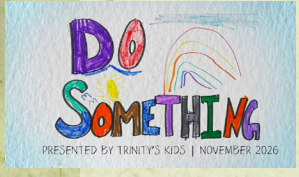
In November Children's Ministry focused on Esther. Esther, a jewish queen, knew that the king had plans to kill all the jews. At this time, the king did not know that his wife was Jewish. She was reluctant about stepping up to save her people. Ultimately she did. It was bold and brave!





In **TASTEiT** we made and then shared **Challah bread**, a traditional celebratory Jewish tradition, with members of the congregation.

We also learned about a *'modern day Esther'* that stepped up to save an orphanage in Uganda. That story and a song that was written about her, made the Esther Bible story even more real— ***inspiring us to come up with ideas on how we can make a bold, brave difference in the lives of people that we know.*** **Everything we learned inspired us to share a video with the congregation about how we can stand up and Do Something and make a positive impact.**



If you missed it, you can find the DO SOMETHING video on Trinity's website

Envelope or *NO Envelope* . . . that is the Question!



Your 2027 **Roots&Branches** Estimate of Giving card includes a box for you to check to indicate whether or not you need Trinity to continue to purchase offering envlelopes for you. **Please consider this if you are thinking of setting up automatic giving —*it is really easy and convenient!*** *Scan the QR code above to try it out. Or, if you need help, please call the office.*

Also, if you give monthly vs weekly and just don't use many of the envelopes provided —you can actually place your offering in any plain envelope, just make sure you write your name on the outside so we know it is from you!

We support whatever your preference is for the way you give—envelopes will be prepared and provided for all those who need them, *but if you don't*—kindly check the box on the card or give Sue a call in the office.

All 2027 **Roots&Branches** *Estimate of Giving cards—**driven by your heart, filled out, and turned in by December 6th are gratefully appreciated.***

Trinity Together—*rooted, called, and driven by the heart.* Thank you.



It doesn't *have* to be a BLuE Christmas

A WORKSHOP PRESENTED BY: MARY BAUMGARTNER

The pressure to be happy and joyful during the holiday season can be overwhelming.

There are lots of very real reasons for feeling out of whack. It might be a recent loss of a loved one; a health issue; unemployment and/or financial insecurity; a divorce or strained relationships that may make family gatherings stressful—rather than enjoyable.

Whatever might have you out of whack - first and foremost, know you are not alone.

Mary Baumgartner, MSW is a licensed Social Worker with a passion for walking with people in our community who are dealing with a number of life challenges—including, *but not limited to:* grief and divorce. **Mary is offering a FREE workshop to introduce herself and offer tips, focuses, and techniques for those of us who may want a little help as we approach the upcoming holiday season—*and you're invited!***

JOIN MARY BAUMGARTNER FOR

It doesn't *have* to be a BLuE Christmas

OFFERED ON TWO DIFFERENT DAYS AND TIMES

6 PM - 8 PM | Monday, December 7

10 AM - NOON | Wednesday, December 9

Trinity LUTHERAN CHURCH
140 N 7TH AVENUE | WEST BEND
On the corner of 7th Ave & Em Street
Enter through the alley doors located in the upper parking lot off of Elm Street

Open to the public, share with a friend!* Trinity folks can SiGnUP *in the Heritage Room by December 1

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!

faith & fellowship

WATCH FOR RE-START DATES IN THE NEW YEAR

You are invited to share an hour of faith & fellowship with us on Thursday, evenings beginning in the New Year.

Reserve an hour a week for **Spiritual Support** as we walk alongside one another in faith through: listening, encouragement, prayer, and presence.

Be part of the conversation at faith & fellowship!



A SAFE PLACE *to share*

MONDAY | DEC 28 | 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





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.

Steven Crass	12/01
Kevin Davis	12/01
Jacob Myrhum	12/02
Ethan Schicker	12/02
Kristin Anderson	12/03
Dylan Kenworthy	12/04
Lori Kurer	12/04
Evelyn DeLuka	12/05
Brendon O'Shea	12/07
Therese Rosenthal	12/07
Kristen Nelson	12/08
John Omernick	12/08
Avis Wallesverd	12/08
Morgan Doede	12/10
Daniel Schmidt	12/11
Sophia Reno	12/12
James Myrhum Jr	12/14
Craig Doede	12/15
Keith Downer	12/15
Harper Kenworthy	12/16
Paul Sulik	12/18
David VandeBoom	12/18
Augustus Brockman	12/19
Jaley Bungert	12/19
Natalie Granger	12/19
Katelyn Schicker	12/19
Kaitlin Sparks	12/19
Jeffrey Esselmann	12/21
Jeffrey Schibline	12/23
Jayden Hanvey	12/24
Charles Hillman	12/24
Christie Boden	12/25
Lucca Del Campo	12/25
Suzanne Barker	12/26
Bradley Pierce	12/26
Diane Solberg	12/26
Mia Hanvey	12/27
Glenn Pietschmann	12/27
Kristen Robinson	12/28
Bruce Abel	12/30
Sue Gilbertson	12/30
Monty Hull	12/30
Dawn Spaeth	12/31

DECEMBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	MUSIC THERAPY | 1:30 PM	1 7 PM | NA	2 CONFIRMATION 6:30 PM	3 COMFORTERS LUNCHEON 11 AM @ The Early Bird 7 PM | NA	4	5
6 CTP Worship | 9 AM Children's Ministry Liturgical Worship 11 AM DEADLINE Giving Tree(s), Chips/Beef Stix Poinsettias, 2027 Giving Cards	7 Blue Christmas 16-8 PM BINGO 3:30 PM MUSIC THERAPY | 1:30 PM	8 7 PM | NA	9 Blue Christmas 10-NOON CONFIRMATION 6:30 PM	10 COMFORTERS 1 PM 7 PM | NA	11	12
13 CTP Worship | 9 AM Children's Ministry CHRISTMAS PROGRAM 11 AM	14 MUSIC THERAPY | 1:30 PM	15 7 PM | NA	16 CONFIRMATION 6:30 PM	17 COMFORTERS 1 PM COUNCIL | 7 PM 7 PM | NA	18	19
20 Adore Him | 9 AM Children's Ministry Liturgical Worship 11 AM	21 MUSIC THERAPY | 1:30 PM	22 7 PM | NA	23 NO CONFIRMATION	24 CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP 3 PM | Family Worship 5 PM | Candlelight Worship 7 PM | Candlelight Worship	25 CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE 9:30 AM Service of the Carols	26
27 CTP Worship | 9 AM NO CHILDREN'S MINISTRY Liturgical Worship 11 AM	28 A SAFE PLACE 6:30 PM MUSIC THERAPY | 1:30 PM	29 7 PM | NA	30 NO CONFIRMATION	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE 7 PM | NA	HAPPY NEW YEAR TRINITY OFFICE CLOSED	

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 YouTube

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

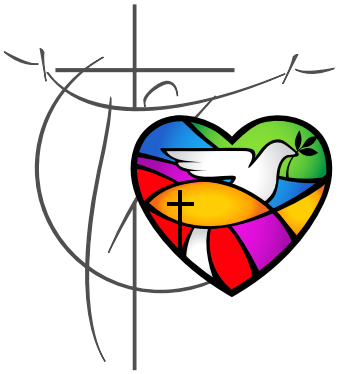
Alyssa Brockman.....*Children's Ministry Coordinator*
trinitywestbendcm@gmail.com | 262-343-5557

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**