



A Church of



Trinity Lutheran Church and School  
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**Our Vision Statement:**  
Establishing 20,000 relationships  
through the ministries at Trinity

**Our Mission Statement:**  
Go and Make Disciples who Share  
Christ's Story with Love

**Core Values:**  
Love, Learn, Live, Lead

**Discipleship Strategy:**  
*Our community's focus points...*  
Heart (worship services)  
Head (educational opportunities)  
Hands (service ministries)

# Trinity

Matters



Photo: Nate Mooty

# DIGITAL DISCIPLESHIP

BY REV. JUSTIN KRUPSKY  
SENIOR PASTOR



Photo: Nate Mooty

**G**o and make disciples of all nations... This is the great mission that Jesus has given to His followers. This is the mission that we are called into as Trinity Lutheran Church. I love the word "go" in this statement from Jesus. When I hear it I always picture a coach telling his team to go get it as the last words of the pre-game speech. In the original Greek language when Jesus said "go," He actually meant, "while on your way." He was not saying go to another place or go to do something new. He was literally saying *as you live the life that you have right now*. In all of your doing and going, make disciples.

Since the pandemic I have no doubt in my mind that God has been working in some incredible ways. One way that I see Him working, not just *in* my life but *through* my life, is through modern day technology. Now please do not get me wrong, there is great relational power in face-to-face contact when it comes to making disciples, but discipleship-making through technology is happening.

Since the pandemic we have gone old-school here at Trinity by using the technology of a phone call. We have done thousands of one-on-one phone calls and have done automated phone calls, too, like never before. All the phone calls were done to connect with you and share the good news of Jesus with you through prayer, spiritual conversations and Scripture readings. Yes, we have even utilized text messaging in an effort to add value to your life through discipleship. We have stepped up our email to you, not just to connect you to our ministries, but to actually share Christ's story with love. We have also

stepped up our social media discipleship, especially on Facebook where we have connected over 100,000 people to our blogs, YouTube channel studies, worship services, prayers, groups and devotionals. Our YouTube channel has over 1100 subscribers! We have even introduced online worship with an online minister moderating every service in order to chat and pray with online worshipers.

There is no doubt about it, we are fulfilling the mission of Jesus by utilizing modern day technology. Here's the truth, though. Your staff and leadership know that Trinity has only tapped the surface of digital discipleship. Digital relational discipleship is not going away because this is where God's children are living and going.

Does this mean that we are not going to be doing face-to-face discipleship? Absolutely not! We will continue to and have many plans to introduce new in-person discipleship opportunities and still bring back many in-person ministries that have been put on hold over the last year.

In this *Trinity Matters* edition I am excited that our staff will be sharing with you many ways to connect with our discipleship ministries through technology this summer and beyond.

This summer I am praying that you will come to know how deep and wide the love of Christ is for YOU and how this love flows through us to our neighbors who are both in-person with us and able to be connected to us through technology. Let's go, team! ■

# CHRIST FOR YOU ANYTIME, ANYWHERE!

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE  
Mite Box Report and Grant Update

BY GAIL TEREY  
CO-PRESIDENT TRINITY LWML

**T**his past year has been a difficult one for all of us trying to cope with COVID-19, mask wearing, hand sanitizing, vaccinations and being quarantined! Our usual everyday routines have been disrupted as well as our regular church attendance and schedule of favorite Bible studies and group meetings. BUT one thing I must commend all of you for is your dedication to filling up our LWML Mite Boxes! From 2020 to April of 2021, we have sent in around \$1,400 to support Grants at both the Michigan District and National level.

The National LWML meets in Convention this year in June in Lexington, Kentucky and will choose a new set of mission grants and a new monetary goal. The grant goal for 2019-2021 was \$2,100,000. All the national mission grants were paid off early this year and there was a surplus of funds left to be applied to the new grants that will be chosen in June. Praise the Lord! The Michigan District Grant goal for 2020-2022 is \$348,437.50. The Districts send 25 percent of what is collected to national funding both sets of mission grants in that way. Thanks to all of you who regular take a Mite Box and fill it! I encourage everyone to take one and give it a try. It's a great place to put that pesky change that just clutters up the dresser and make it work for the Lord!

As I was reading a report in a newsletter on one of the mission grants awarded at the National Convention in 2019 held in Mobile, Alabama, I was struck by how the Lord was at work. As a delegate for past conventions, I always prayed to God for guidance over what grants I should vote to fund. In the year of 2019 we had no idea what was coming in the way of the pandemic and lock downs but one grant that was chosen would prove to be a blessing to many during this very stressful time. The grant was for \$60,000 to KFUE Radio called "Christ for you, Anytime, Anywhere!" This is a radio station/media company sponsored by the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod located in St. Louis.

The \$60,000 was used to improve KFUE's technology and equipment. They created a new iOS and Android app so that people everywhere can listen to broadcasts with their smartphones or tablets. The app also includes a feature called "Connected Car" which enables traveling listeners to easily enjoy live streamed and on-demand programs in their car.

KFUE radio broadcasts a variety of Christ-centered programs including Bible studies, daily devotions, sacred music, Lutheran worship services, apologetics and more. Having the app on a phone or tablet is great for those who are shut-ins, missionaries living in different places around the world as well as those in the armed services. No large computer or laptop is necessary to hear God's word. The

hope is that the younger generation who love technology will form a daily habit of tuning in through this format.

Gary Duncan, Executive Director of KFUE, said, "KFUE listenership has increased greatly since the beginning of COVID-19. People want to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ now, more than ever. We are thankful for LWML and their generous grant allowing us to stay current in this digital age."

God was at work during that 2019 convention prompting delegates to choose this as one of the projects. You can search for the KFUE app from the App Store and download it for free. You may also listen online at [www.kfuo.org](http://www.kfuo.org). I encourage you to check it out for a whole new range of Christian programming and podcasts to enrich your daily life. ■

(Excerpts/quotes taken from "Gracious Giver, Official LWML Donor Newsletter, Winter 2021")



Using the latest technology, KFUE can video stream LIVE on Facebook reaching multiple generations, especially the Digital Generation, with Bible studies, chapel services, and informative interviews about organizations that are striving to spread the Gospel. Viewers can make comments, ask questions, and engage in conversations with hosts/guests as they learn about God's Word and what they can do to help share the His Word with others. (KFUE interviews Kelly Schumacher as she talks about her liturgical art and how she uses her skills and talent to spread the message of Jesus Christ, and encouraging listeners to use their own God-given talents to help share the Gospel.) - LWML.ORG

# AN EVERYDAY JOURNEY

BY JOSH BRITTON  
DIRECTOR OF WORSHIP & MUSIC

**A**s we gear up for summer, as Michiganders do so well, we look forward to being outdoors, taking in the breathtaking sunsets, splashing in the water at the lake, and being around a blazing fire at night with loved ones as we gaze into the vast heavens above us. Rest is needed; we are designed for it. Jesus even modeled the perfect tension between working hard and resting hard. Balance is a crucial part of the rhythms of life. The team at Trinity is constantly laboring relentlessly, so that no matter where you find yourself this summer, you can still be blessed, connected, and filled during your time recharging.

Some of the creative new ideas we are trying out, by way of our digital avenues, is making more content and resources that will be a blessing to you and your family. One of the new ideas that has come forth is making and sharing "behind the song" stories to the worship songs that we sing. We are blessed with a vast and rich array of music, but we often don't know where the songs came from, the story behind it, or even where it finds its origins in scripture. We hope these videos bless you and help you to look forward to worship and singing these songs together even more. We are also committed to continuing to refine and make the online streaming of our worship services as excellent as possible. One of the areas we have been focusing on lately is making prayer ministers more available to all of you who join us online. Now you will have even more pastoral support available to you to pray with you in the moment to be able to attend to whatever needs you may have. We will also keep sharing videos on our Trinity worship group page on Facebook as well as looking into creating a Spotify list that you can access with many of the songs we do here at Trinity.

Through all of this, we hope and pray you are constantly blessed and growing in your faith and relationship with Jesus. He never takes a break from us, so we are committed to resourcing you with as much as we can, so that even through the slower summer season, we wouldn't be tempted to slow down in our walk with God. Making disciples who share Christ's story with love is an everyday journey. We are so thankful that we get to engage with our faith family here at Trinity through all the digital and streaming resources that are now available to us. So we invite you to still engage and worship with us onsite and online. You can always find us here in person on Saturday nights at 5:30 pm and onsite and online on Sunday mornings at 8 am, 9:30 am, and 11 am. May you be blessed this summer as you rest and worship. ■



Photo: Michele Grupe



## BY REV. CHAD E. WRIGHT, ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF CHRISTIAN CARE & COUNSELING

**A**s the COVID-19 crisis continues, more and more people are likely to be struggling with pandemic fatigue—the mental and emotional exhaustion that comes with the ongoing disruptions, stresses, and challenges they're facing. The COVID-19 pandemic has also led to lots of changes in life. Change can bring stress. Unmitigated stress can strain emotional and mental health. People who struggle with emotional and mental health issues can also experience spiritual health issues.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. During the month of May, there is a national movement to raise awareness about mental health. Established in 1949, Mental Health Month sought to put a spotlight on the importance of mental health and wellness. Each year, there is a special emphasis to continue to fight against the stigma associated with mental health. This emphasis is also aimed at providing support for those with mental illness and the counselors supporting them. In addition, people are encouraged to get involved and advocate for policies on behalf of those with mental illness and their loved ones in their state and national legislatures.

While 1 in 5 people will experience mental illness over the course of their lifetimes, everyone will face challenges that can and will affect their mental health. Licensed professional counselors play a critical role in providing care and guidance for those who are struggling with mental health. The American Counseling Associations' members all

across the country are dedicated to assisting anyone who is struggling with mental health. The National Board of Certified Counselors also helps establish a national standard for counselors who want to provide the evidenced -best practices in mental health care. This year's slogan for Mental Health Awareness Month is *#BeKindtoYourMind*.

As we continue to navigate this pandemic together as members of Trinity, I am thankful to be here as the counseling pastor to assist you in any way that I can. As a licensed professional counselor in the State of Michigan, I am completing the continuing education requirements. I do that so that I can provide the best care possible as the counseling pastor here at Trinity. Over the last year, I have answered calls and offered spiritual and mental health support as we have made it through this difficult time together. If you are having trouble coping and experiencing pandemic fatigue, I am here for support. You can call to speak directly with me. I have also started developing a list of resources for counseling in our area for individuals who would like mental health care. With the Stephen Ministers being trained this summer, we will also have the benefit of one-on-one Christian support with life issues.

I welcome any feedback or ideas you have for my role as the associate pastor of Christian care and counseling. You can reach me at [cwright@trinityutica.com](mailto:cwright@trinityutica.com) or at (586) 731-4490 ext. 102. I pray you stay safe and healthy. ■

# INTEGRATING TECHNOLOGY

BY BRUCE VOLKERT  
SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

The use of technology in our Trinity classrooms is not a new thing. Our school integrates technology into teaching and learning. This has not been accomplished simply for the sake of having technology present and we can say, "Hey, look everyone! We just used technology!" Rather, it is used to enhance and facilitate learning and the operation of our school. Trinity did this at a high level even prior to COVID. This was noted in 2019 by the visitation team who studied our school during our most recent National Lutheran School Accreditation process. The manner in which we used technology was noted as a "Powerful Practice," a model that can be held up as an example for other schools. This played a role in Trinity being named a "School of Distinction." When the COVID shutdown descended upon us last spring, we were well positioned to respond to this new challenge. It was necessary to evaluate, rethink and readjust the way in which instruction was delivered and students learned. This is not to infer that this transition was simple! It was not! However, due to years of unknowingly preparing for the unimaginable, the accomplishments of our students and teachers are to be commended. We thank God for the resources and leadership with which we have been blessed in this area.

People in our Trinity community may know about our use of technology. Others may not be aware. Observers may see the use of technology at Trinity but not have knowledge of what it took for it to be available to us. There is much that goes into the successful operation of a Christian school. Much of this is clearly observable as it happens "out in front." This includes teachers active in their classrooms, athletic competitions, musical events, volunteers at work, and more. There are many activities to support our school that happen behind the scenes. Whether visible or not, these efforts are all crucial to the continuation of this corner of God's kingdom.

We are going to pull back the curtain on various aspects of Trinity Lutheran School. We will do this through a new "Spotlight on Trinity" video series. Episodes of these periodic videos will focus (one could even say [RE]FOCUS...) on specific parts of our school ministry. We will learn more of what it takes to operate a successful Christian grade school. This allows those supportive of our ministry to have a fuller appreciation of the efforts necessary to teach kids about Jesus and the world He gave us. Our processes can serve as examples to others in the Christian schools. Those who work behind the scenes at Trinity do not go about their jobs to be adorned with praise. It will be nice to shine a little light on their efforts. "Spotlight on Trinity" will include how various workers arrived at their current position. We will learn what is involved in preparing for a life of work in the church. Viewers will discover how church workers are blessed through their work and how God uses them to bless others. First up in the "Spotlight" series is Sheri Daniell. Sheri is our ever smiling Director of Early Childhood. She loves her job, and you will love learning about it. ■



## MRS. MALINOWSKI MOVING ON

BY MICHELE GRUPE  
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

I would say that Mrs. Carolyn Malinowski is retiring, but she prefers the term "moving." She may be ending her time as the school Research Center/Library Director, but she knows this isn't the end of her story. It is the beginning of a new chapter in her life.

Mrs. Malinowski started her journey at Trinity twenty years ago as a substitute teacher in the sixth grade. During that time, the Research Center position opened up, and Carolyn quickly acclimated to that role. The school library took on new life and reflected Mrs. Malinowski's adventurous and upbeat personality as she redecorated in bright shades of orange, teal, and yellow. She filled the library with huge stuffed animals that the students named and loved. It was important to Mrs. Malinowski that she created a fun and inviting environment for the students. "The kids felt relaxed and enjoyed being here. They knew they could sit anywhere and just read," she said.

The kids' excitement for reading was Mrs. Malinowski's favorite part of her job. She also enjoyed the many Book Fairs and having students help set them up with her. Carolyn always promoted March is Reading Month,

and even invited guest authors such as Johnathan Rand of *Michigan Chillers* fame to come speak at Trinity. Mrs. Malinowski also helped organize several school open houses. She made these events fun for parents and students alike by including creative activities such as crafts, musical performances, meals, and passport stamps at each classroom.

Mrs. Malinowski loved organizing the open houses because she understood how important it is to receive a Lutheran education. She attended a Lutheran grade school in Bridgeport, Connecticut, and remembers walking to school with her second grade teacher Miss Fisher. Because of Miss Fisher, Carolyn can still recite the 23rd Psalm to this day, and it remains her favorite Bible verse. When Carolyn and her husband Norm had a son, Zach, they decided to send him to Trinity because they knew the education he received would prepare him for life. "The values you get from a Lutheran elementary school, like developing your conscience, learning Christian beliefs, following the Ten Commandments, being honest, and helping others are the parameters by which you live your life," she said.

Her son Zach now works for Garmin and lives in Kansas City, Missouri. Carolyn and Norm are moving this summer to be near their son and begin a new chapter in their lives. Mrs. Malinowski said, "We are excited to have a different part of the country to explore and many state and national parks to visit."

This idea of "going for it" and trying new things is the final lesson Mrs. Malinowski would like to leave with her students. She encourages everyone to "Explore new people, places, and ideas. Explore your talents, and let God direct you where He wants you to go. Remember, without change there would be no butterflies."

Thank you, Mrs. Malinowski, for not only nurturing our students' love of reading, but helping them to grow, to explore, to try new things, and to soar. ■



# DIGITAL GROWTH

BY REV. CHRIS TROXEL  
ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF CHRISTIAN GROWTH

If you are reading this at all, thank you.

If you're reading this on a device, thanks for clicking, tapping, swiping whatever opened this on your screen. You matter.

If you're reading this on paper, you might be feeling left out or overlooked. Let the very periodical you hold in your hands reassure you that you are not forgotten. You matter. In the digital age, print still has a presence. If you need to hold it, you will have it, and we will print it for you.

We can break each other down like fractions with all kinds of categories, labels, interests, or dislikes. What common ground do we have? William S. Burroughs is credited with the quote, "When you stop growing you start dying." Lou Holtz said, "In this world, you're either growing or you're dying, so get in motion and grow." The point they both preach is that growth demands activity.

So whether you started breathing 97 seconds or 97 years ago, you do things to survive and thrive. Babies cry when they have needs that require attention. To a certain extent as we age, we grow to identify more ways to communicate our needs. When it comes to nutrition, you quickly learn where you can find reliable sources of food. When you suffer injuries or disease, we learn where to find cures or treatments. When you need to develop intelligence, finances, or physical strength you find resources to make that happen. When it comes to growing your faith, you also have options.

As you grow in your faith in Jesus, you become increasingly aware that the only thing that grows faith within you like the tree in Psalm 1 is Jesus. Jesus comes to you in many ways, but definitively identifies three: His Word (the Bible),

baptism, and communion. The most common way He guarantees to speak to you is through His Word. John 1:1 describes Jesus as and literally calls Him the Word, meaning what speaks is Jesus. Take what John talks about in his gospel with what Paul wrote in a letter to teach the faith to believers in Rome, Romans 15:4 says that whatever was written in terms of Scripture was done so that you may have hope.

So our faith is either growing or dying, and God grows that faith via Jesus in words written about Him in the Bible. So all we need to do is hand out Bibles to people that want print, send out links to people who want digital, and we good, right? As we do just that, we also know from personal and published history we all need help understanding what God says in His Word. Israel was very forgetful, as were the disciples, early believers and everyone in God's Church throughout time. We. Need. Reminders.

We have some. We are continually developing others. Check out our online studies on Trinity's website. For a list of current in-person studies, you can also visit the website, or for a printed list, call Trinity or stop by the Information Booth. I became a pastor for the same reason I follow Jesus: I want new people to know Jesus, and I want people who believe to grow in that faith. And I'm not just a pastor, I'm also a member. I'm also someone that needs God's Word pumping through my brain, breaking through my heart, bringing me back to life over and over and over again. God is faithful.

He does just that. ■

“  
**WHATEVER WAS WRITTEN IN TERMS OF SCRIPTURE WAS DONE SO THAT YOU MAY HAVE HOPE.**

— PASTOR CHRIS

”



## MRS. BRENDA HAVERS RETIRES

BY MICHELE GRUPE  
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

1 Timothy 6:11 says, "Be faithful, loving, dependable, and gentle." If there was ever a teacher who lived out these attributes on a daily basis, that teacher would be Mrs. Brenda Havers.

Brenda has been teaching for a total of 36 years, 29 of them being at Trinity. The past few years she has served as one of our fifth grade teachers along with Mr. Faszholz. She counted it as a special blessing that she got to end her teaching career with a former student as her teaching partner!

Mrs. Havers has so many special memories over the years, but the ones that stood out to her were: "Building roller coasters in physical science class with extremely creative 8th graders, seeing the excitement (and nervousness) of students when dissecting for the first time, crazy faculty Christmas and end of the school year celebrations, all those hours spent in gyms coaching and hanging out with players & families at tournaments, having countless students return to say hello and tell me what they are doing now (LOVE, LOVE, LOVE this), laughing and sharing stories with my 5th & 6th grade teacher buddies at recess, and Washington, DC trips with Rose Remer."

Trinity alumni Chris Cooper, who is currently an Emergency Medicine Resident at Detroit Receiving Hospital, reflected on how Mrs. Havers impacted his life. "I got to know Mrs. Havers well before 7th grade science class when I signed up for Science Olympiad. Her passion for getting us interested in science was evident. As I got into 7th and 8th grade, it seemed like she always had something fun/unique to draw our attention to the topic. To this day, I still use the organizational skills and scientific question model that she taught us in our lab notebooks. All in all, it was such a blessing to learn how science and Christianity support each other while in her class. It not only set me up for success in high school, but truly taught me 'how to think' and problem solve."

In her retirement, Brenda plans on spending more time with her parents, including helping her mom work on a family history and genealogy project. She also looks forward to golfing, running, traveling, fishing, volunteering, and enjoying time with her husband and daughter.

Brenda noted that 1 Corinthians 16:14, "Let all you do be done in love," has guided her teaching. Clearly her love for teaching, for her students, for her colleagues, for her family, and for God was evident throughout her time here at Trinity. Thank you, Mrs. Havers, for blessing so many lives by sharing Christ's story with love. ■

# THE HOPE OF ROBOTS

BY MARK FRAEYMAN  
IT DIRECTOR

I love this time of year when the trees and flowers just begin to bloom and bud. You can see things coming back to life after the cold and isolation of winter. These signs give me hope and remind me that God has a plan and His creation perseveres. This past month I've had that same feeling in my classroom. I've seen signs that we are coming out of the isolation that Covid has caused, and that God's creation is resilient.

The reason for my hope is seeing kids begin one of my favorite technology projects – robotics. This time last year we had just taken out the kits and began building when we had to go virtual for the remainder of the year. It was disappointing, but we changed course and made it work.

So, here we are just about one year later, back in school and my students are excited to re-begin and start building / programming their robots. The students have a sense of accomplishment and are proud of themselves as they program their robots to move, recognize colors, and search out objects (think Mars Explorer except in our classroom). They are learning so much!

One thing that I'm learning is that our kids are resilient. With a lot of work on the part of parents and teachers, they are coming out of this and are starting to bloom again! It's like Pastor Justin has been saying throughout the past year, when we [RE]FOCUS and put our hope and faith in Him, it will work out. As much as I would NEVER want to go through this again, I am thankful for such a supportive Trinity staff and community that have put our students first.

Did you know that EVERY student who graduates Trinity has experience building and programming robots? This is one of many technology projects that our students participate in that gives them valuable experience in science and technology. ■



Photo: Mark Fraeyman

# PARTNERSHIP IN THE GOSPEL

BY REV. LEW STIER  
ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF OUTREACH

I THANK MY GOD EVERY TIME I REMEMBER YOU. IN ALL MY PRAYERS FOR ALL OF YOU, I ALWAYS PRAY WITH JOY BECAUSE OF YOUR PARTNERSHIP IN THE GOSPEL FROM THE FIRST DAY UNTIL NOW, BEING CONFIDENT OF THIS, THAT HE WHO BEGAN A GOOD WORK IN YOU WILL CARRY IT ON TO COMPLETION UNTIL THE DAY OF CHRIST JESUS.

– PHILIPPIANS 1:3-5

As a pastor of this congregation for over five years now, this particular passage holds some significant importance to me in relation to the Social Outreach through the Missions and Human Care Ministries in which I am allowed to serve. First of all, it is not just with joy that I thank my God when I think of you, I am overjoyed and humbly thank my God for the way I am allowed to “do ministry” in our community. I have been truly blessed by God through Trinity Utica.

Secondly, I certainly view our entire Social Outreach as a “partnership” in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I sure do not do any of this alone or by myself. There is a Social Ministry team I work with each and every week.

Our Ministry Associates Jenny Jaroneski, John Bullaro, and Tammy Mizerski make up our “paid” partnership staff. We have an Outreach Board of seven Trinity members who partner with the staff and we have countless volunteers each week partnering to supply some of the “felt needs” of the community.

Thirdly, this ministry is a “good work” begun IN YOU long before I came to Trinity. It may have gotten bigger over the last five years, but it still will not see its completed form until Jesus returns or the Lord decides it is time for it to be over. This ministry only survives because it is faithfully “partnered” with the Gospel mission and is rooted in the very Word of God.

Now the idea of a *partnership* is the real focus for this article. The philosophy I have tried to promote is the idea of “partnering” with other ministries. I never want this to be just a “We are Trinity” thing.

Too many churches I know are so possessive of their ministries they do not want any outside help because this is what “they do.” It causes me to wonder if sometimes Christian congregations lose sight of the fact that whatever good they do is a good work God began IN them.

So I want to tell you about two different partnerships your Social Ministry Team is looking to form in the coming months. The first is a new global mission project designed to teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to people in Bangladesh. I have already begun the first steps in forming the *Bengali Lutheran Mission Society* in partnership with Pastor Tony Boos from Faith Lutheran in Troy and Pastor Evan Gaertner from Our Shepherd in Birmingham.

Pastor Boos and Faith Lutheran Church have been working with a minister named Eleio Boiragee from Bangladesh for a number of years. Eleio has been trying to minister to the Bengali community located in Hamtramck, MI which is predominately Muslim.

He also works several secular jobs in order to send money back to Bangladesh to support his wife and the ministry he started there some years ago. The ministry in Bangladesh has five pastors, four schools, and twenty teachers ministering to over 3000 Christians in the community. Up to now, Faith has been supporting the good work of Eleio's ministry to the Bengali people in Hamtramck and Bangladesh by themselves.

Now they are looking for a “partnership” in the Gospel so the ministry can be even more effective. I do not even remember now how it came about but Pastor Boos contacted me and asked if Trinity might be able to help.



## MEET OUR FAMILY LIFE, DCE INTERN

*Janis Buelow*

There is a new face joining our Family Life team at Trinity for the next year! We are pleased to welcome Janis Buelow from Concordia University, Nebraska in June! Janis is majoring in Theology and Christian Education Leadership, finishing up her final year of school by doing her internship here at Trinity. She will be serving alongside our Family Life Associate, Allison Carr and our Youth Ministry Associate, Andrew Brazeal sharing Christ's story with love with the next generation and their families!

### Fun Facts about Janis

- Janis got married this last year to her husband, Colby, who is a Mechanical Engineering graduate from Western Kentucky University.
- She loves to learn about history and watch TV!
- Janis has a 9 month old puppy named Mira!
- She also loves to read and loves the *Harry Potter* series!
- Her favorite Bible verse is 2 Timothy 1:12, “That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet this is no cause for shame, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day.”

*Welcome to  
Trinity!*

# FAITH 5



## FAITH 5 RECHARGE

Dr. Rich Melheim, the creator of Faith 5, wanted to give families a powerful framework to connect families to God, to each other, and to connect the church to the home. Imagine what happens within a family that intentionally shares the best and worst of life with one another every night. Imagine what happens to a family who grounds their highs and lows in God's Word and prayer every night. Imagine what happens to a church where most families are engaged in intentional nightly faith talk and reflection. How might doing this simple, five-step FAITH 5 practice for intentional family devotions change a child, a family, the church? Could it even change our world?

This summer, we are looking to help families recharge each Thursday using the amazing tool that is Faith 5 on our NexGen Ministries Facebook page. Each week, we will be posting a short video to share a thought or story related to a selected text for families to watch together, adding to their Faith 5 devotion experience and hopefully start a conversation!

- STEP 1: SHARE your highs and lows
- STEP 2: READ a Bible verse or story
- STEP 3: TALK about how the Bible reading might relate to your highs and lows
- STEP 4: PRAY for one another's highs and lows
- STEP 5: BLESS one another

# MOMS & MUNCHKINS

This summer, we are excited to launch a bi-weekly moms group called, “Moms & Munchkins!” Beginning June 22, moms and their little munchkins (children 4 & under) are invited to meet at Trinity's, fenced-in, preschool playground on Deshon for some fun, fellowship, and refreshment in God's Word. Moms will spend time doing a devotion and spend time in prayer together, while also giving kids a chance to socialize together and enjoy the warm weather of the summer months! Moms are encouraged to bring a lawn chair! If you have any questions, please contact Allison Carr.



# CHILDREN'S & FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

BY ALLISON CARR  
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY AND FAMILY LIFE ASSOCIATE

## TREASURED

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 12, 14, & 16 at 10:00 am



Join us for a Family VBS Stage Show Experience!  
Location: Trinity's Sanctuary by Registration Only

Looking for an exciting quest to take with your family this summer through hidden ruins, ancient caves, and dense jungle? Well, your family is invited to embark on an epic adventure and discover God's greatest treasure-You! Join us for TREASURED, an in-person VBS experience where we will discover we are priceless to God! Families will attend three 60-minute stage shows together throughout the week, experiencing the fun of VBS in a whole new way! At the end of each day, children will receive a take-home kit full of fun faith-building activities and resources! Families are also invited to join us on Sunday, July 18 for a special VBS Celebration Worship Service! VBS is designed with children 4th grade and under in mind. Register at [trinityutica.com/kids](http://trinityutica.com/kids).

Registration is required. We will also be live-streaming each stage show and make take-home kits available for pick-up the week before VBS for families preferring to watch from home. We can't wait to embark on this adventure together where we'll discover God's greatest treasure isn't diamonds, gems, or gold—it's us!

### TREASURED VBS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are so excited to offer an in-person VBS experience this summer! Although we have a more limited number of volunteer opportunities this year, we still need help creating an immersive VBS experience! We are seeking both adult and youth volunteers for a variety of different areas including set-design, drama, and music motions team! Sign up to volunteer today at [trinityutica.com/kids](http://trinityutica.com/kids).



## MOMS PODCAST PLANNING

We have all had quite the challenge this last year, and as moms, it's been easy to feel disconnected, balancing all life throws at us. We have such a huge population of moms here at Trinity, and we want to create opportunities for moms to be supported, encouraged, and get connected all while fostering deeper relationships with Jesus.

We are in the process of creating a new, untitled podcast for moms to launch this fall! We know it takes a village to raise a family and we all have a story to share! So, it is our goal to use the podcast to have conversations with different moms, sharing their experiences and how God is moving in their lives while passing along little pearls of wisdom as we all navigate life together.

While we are still in the planning phase of launching this new endeavor, if you would be interested in possibly sharing your story in a future episode of our podcast, please contact Allison Carr!



Photo: Michele Grupe

The idea he had would be to get 5 Lutheran congregations who would be willing to contribute \$8,000.00 a year to supply this ministry and allow Eleio to return to Bangladesh, reunite with his wife, and lead this ministry.

Can you believe a ministry with 12 people working in it could be funded for \$40,000.00 per year? That is what happens when American dollars are converted into Bengali currency they have so much more funding to accomplish the good work God has established in them.

So Pastor Tony, Pastor Evan, and I, along with Eleio decided we would start the *Bengali Lutheran Missionary Society*. We have already applied for 501(c) 3 non-profit status. Trinity, through the budgeted Mission Fund the Board of Outreach administrators has established the Society with a grant of \$15,000.00.

And in order to get the Michigan District of the LCMS to acknowledge this mission as a "Lutheran" mission, the ministers in Bangladesh and Eleio are being taught the Lutheran Catechism via zoom classes on Friday mornings. Our own Pastor Chris Troxel is taking part in the teaching duties along with Pastor Tony and Pastor Evan.

Now the other ministry partnership we are looking at centers around our Catholic brothers and sisters at the Society of St. Vincent DePaul (SVD) in the Shelby/Utica area. Yes you read that correctly—Lutherans partnering with area Catholics!

But I have to tell you it is not the first partnership with area Catholics for Trinity. The men from the Knights of Columbus

at St. Lawrence Catholic Church in Utica have been cooking a meal for our SSS program once a month for the last 5 months.

But this "partnership" is really just in the infant stages. In fact it has just been a contact from them concerning their clothing ministry program. What is truly amazing is the timing is so incredible as to the way God orchestrates his "good works" in us.

This contact comes at the same time our Human Care Ministry has ended the adult clothing ministry program. God has brought this ministry operating on our campus to its completion after over 20 years of service. And we thank our God and with joy we thank Carolyn Cece and the ladies who have faithfully served in this ministry over the years.

Yet, God is not done. The "partnership" with SVD would provide a way for Trinity to still accept your adult clothing donations as well as a way for our clients to still get clothing on Sundays when they come here for the meal—through a voucher system. It can also open up additional opportunities for Trinity members to volunteer in Social Ministry. Jenny is working on this effort and there will certainly be more details to come in the near future on both partnerships.

In the meantime -- please pray "with joy" to God our Father for these partnership efforts over the coming months. And let any good work you do be totally done to the glory and honor of God our Father and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. ■

# DIGITAL DISCIPLESHIP & YOUR SENIOR PASTOR

BY REV. JUSTIN KRUPSKY  
SENIOR PASTOR



**B**elow is a list of some the digital discipleship that I am currently doing and some that you can expect to be coming this summer. It is a joy to serve you through the ministries of Trinity. If you wish to get connected to any of these digital ministry opportunities please reach out to the church office and we will connect you.

- I am going to continue to e-mail out a Wednesday devotional video.
- I am going to continue to send out a Wednesday phone call with a Scripture for the week.
- I am going to continue to send out a Monday text message video to the men in our congregation who have subscribed to the Man-up Monday text message.
- I am posting worship songs to our Trinity Worship Facebook group.
- I am going to add to the Family Ministry YouTube playlists with parenting videos on the "The Birds & the Bees."
- I am going to continue to share a pre-online worship welcome video and a post-online worship video to our online worship services.
- I am going to work with other staff members to send out a monthly e-news video.
- I am going to do live Facebook posts for special blessings and prayer moments.
- I am continuing to lead our ministry team in implementing digital discipleship in their area of ministry.
- I am working with other staff members to add fun discipleship content to our Instagram account and start up a TikTok account. ■

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

### Congregation Monthly Financial Report—April 2021

	Month Actual	YTD Actual		
Income:	334171.40	4541795.51	Our Father's House Sanctuary Renovations	
			April Income:	\$ 29551
Expenses:	337459.27	3867265.73	House Purchase Repayment YTD	\$ 17367

## 5 WAYS TO GIVE



- TEXT**  
Text \$\_\_\_ White Envelope to 84321
- BY MAIL**  
45160 Van Dyke, Utica, MI 48317
- ONLINE**  
www.trinityutica.com
- MOBILE APP**  
Church Center
- STOCK/IRA**



BY REV. CHRIS TROXEL  
ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF CHRISTIAN GROWTH

**H**ow does someone get connected to God's people at Trinity? Through you!

Someone who serves and attends one of our worship services, social ministry events, Bible studies, small groups, or someone who is a part of the school - you are someone God uses to connect other "someones" to His Church here. You have already committed to following Jesus and joining us as God works within us to grow faith, and now you're bringing someone else along.

Okay, so you've done that. Now what? Especially since COVID limits gathering sizes and opportunities.

Here's Step 2: have that "someone" join the conversation about who Jesus is, what we believe, and how we live because of Him. This is what we mean by "membership" or "become a member:" commit to following Jesus as He grows them in faith, and commit to taking an active role in sharing Christ's story with love to someone else. Your Christian Growth team created an online experience that covers the same content in nearly the same way as those who gather in-person.

In six sessions, meet with God in His Word (the Bible) and learn what He does through it. We identify simple ways to begin studying that life-giving Word. For those already studying that Word, we share simple ways to grow in studying. We explore how God brings the Word into our lives, rhythms, and routines in six powerful life-changing ways. As we learn more about God and what it means to believe and follow Him, we also learn that He challenges us to join Him in His work: to serve others inside and outside His family. At the end of this, those "someones" commit to joining God in His work, and join God's people at Trinity as together we keep moving forward as God leads us.

Jason and Kirsten began the Step 2 in-person experience in January. They met with God in His Word. They learned more and more of God and what He does. They experienced how God brought that life-giving, life-changing Word into their lives, their marriage, their home, and their daughter. God baptized Jason earlier in life, but this past March, Kirsten was baptized because God worked faith in her heart and soul and mind, and she wanted to be a part of the grace God works here at Trinity.

Lisa began attending Step 2 online in April this year. Through the online experience, she watched the same videos Jason and Kirsten watched in person. She answered the same questions and connected with Jane Strybis and me via the digital study guide and email.

These are two very different experiences for two very different families that experienced the same powerful Word of God, strengthening their common faith in Christ, and stepping forward in their desire to join God's people here at Trinity. He does it through worship, school, study groups, social ministry, homes, relationships - through you. God is using you to change hearts and minds, to change neighborhoods and communities.

Do you know a "someone" - someone who wants to know more about God and how He works?

Are you someone who has those questions?

Check out [trinityutica.com/step-2](http://trinityutica.com/step-2) for more information or experience it for yourself! ■

