

FALL 2025

Trinity

Matters

Photo: Michele Grupe



CHILDREN OF GOD

that is what we are

1 John 3:1 says, “*See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are!*”

As we continue to move forward together as a church family growing together in our relationships with Christ and one another, let's remember who our “Daddy” is and Who made us. Our Father is the One who loves us so much that He lavished His love on us through Jesus on the cross. So that, we would know that His love is stronger than our sin. So that, we would not be separated from Him, and so that, we would know nothing has the power to separate us from Him. Jesus said in John 14:9, “If you have seen Me, you have seen the Father.” Our Father, just like Jesus, is full of grace and truth, forgiveness and might.

We are His children, meaning we are brothers and sisters. We are family, and families have each other's backs no matter what. Families do life together and are always there for each other. Families work through tough stuff together, and families always have their houses open for each other. Families not only apologize to each other, but we also offer grace to each other as well. This is who we are. We are those called to love each other the way that our Father loves us.

As we move forward together may God our Father remind us every time we gather together that we are His, may Jesus, our Big Brother and Savior, show us how to love one another, and may the Holy Spirit the “In-Filler,” empower us to be the children that He has created us to be.

Friendly reminder; you matter!

Pastor Justin Krupsky

REV. JUSTIN KRUPSKY | SENIOR PASTOR



FALL WORSHIP

As we move forward together this fall, it is our plan to continue our 9:00 am Sunday morning worship service.

This past summer, we have experienced much favor—not only through joyful music, but also through the richness of our historic liturgical elements. We plan to continue using the organ as the lead instrument in each service, along with piano, choirs, cantors, soloists, handbells, brass, acoustic guitar, and ensembles.

We will also continue to utilize our historic Lutheran liturgy guide us through Divine Worship, just as we have during our former 8:00 am and 9:30 am services, and throughout this summer. As you may have experienced, we now offer the option to humbly kneel at the rail during Communion.

It has been a true blessing to gather as a community each Sunday morning—lifting our voices in praise and speaking our faith in word. Looking ahead, we are excited to offer more intentional fellowship opportunities, both before and after the 9:00 am service. Along with;

- 8:00 am – Bible Study
- 10:15 am – Bible Study following the service
- Nursery care during services and Bible studies.
- A live, pastor-led children's message on non-Communion Sundays.

We are committed to evaluating the 9:00 am service through Christmas, along with our 7:00 pm Monday night service, to ensure we are growing together in Christ and in community.

Thank you for your encouragement and feedback throughout the summer. We look forward to walking this journey of faith with you—and we welcome your continued input.

In Christ,
Your Elders and Pastors

Saturday at 5:30 pm

Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)

Sunday at 9:00 am

Traditional/Blended Worship (Sanctuary)

Sunday at 9:45 am

Contemporary Worship (gym)

Sunday at 11:15 am

Contemporary Worship (Sanctuary)

Monday at 7:00 pm

Contemporary Worship (Sanctuary)

FAITH *fundamentals*



REV. NICK DUERR
**ASSOCIATE PASTOR
OF FAITH FORMATION**

I am very excited to share with you something old that is becoming something new. The last few years, we have had our Connect Family Services (originally Grade Based Services) where we invited all children of a certain grade level and their families to a special worship service in the gym. The goal has always been to bring families together in worship of God and in development of their faith. While I've always liked the idea of gathering families together intentionally for worship (and giving one child an opportunity to shine) and some families have been blessed by these services, I've always felt like there was more we could be doing to make these services valuable to families.

And over the last year, through conversations I've had with a number of people, and in particular seeing how the preschool staff had some inspired ideas that--together with Ladies Aid--had families excited to participate and be blessed, we are prepared for this coming school year to have these special services be something extra special for kids and their families. So with that long introduction out of the way, I am excited to announce our Faith Fundamentals Services! These services (like our Connect services) will take place on Sundays at 11:15 in the gym, with each grade having a specific date during the school year ('25-'26 dates are listed at the end of this article).

Each year, the same Faith Fundamental, or lesson, will be taught at the same grade level, so that as the children progress through school, they will learn age-appropriate lessons about what it means to be a follower of Jesus. The list of Faith Fundamentals per grade level is:

- Preschool: Faith 5
- Kindergarten/Young 5's: Make a Joyful Noise! (Worship)
- 1st: The Gift of Baptism
- 2nd: Pray without Ceasing
- 3rd: Bible Blessing
- 4th: Financial Stewardship
- 5th: Loving and Serving our Neighbor
- 6th: Luther's Small Catechism



I can tell you I am very excited about these Faith Fundamentals Services. It is my prayer that through these times of being in God's Word together, the children--and families--here at Trinity would grow in their faith and love of God.



Children of God



BRUCE VOLKERT
SCHOOL PRINCIPAL



Trinity's theme for this upcoming year is quite appropriate for our school - "Children of God." Our school community is filled with tons of Children of God - and many of them are adults! There is no age qualifier to be called a child of God. We have over 500 children in our school ministry. We have a bunch of adults who have been called in a variety of capacities to lead the learning of the students. The adult Children of God also include parents, grandparents, family members, those in our community and, of course, our very own Trinity Lutheran members. All of these people work together and are led by God so that our mission of "Making Disciples Who Share Christ's Story With Love" can be fulfilled. The dedication of many is needed to provide a Christian education to the students and family who call Trinity their home.

There are a number of impactful ways that those in our Trinity family can assist the ministry of your school. The first, and most critical, is actively including the school in your prayer life. "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (I Thessalonians 5:16-18). Praise God for the 143 years of a Christian school. Ask Jesus to send people to our doors - students, families and workers. Pray for hearts open to hear His Gospel message. Pray that the seeds of faith take root and bloom within our classrooms. Ask God to bless the relationships between our families and our school. You may call upon God to grant us the resources that can be used to further His kingdom. Ask for our workers to continually seek wisdom and grace from our Heavenly Father. Pray for safety and positive relationships within our walls.

Christian schools thrive on the service of volunteers. There is great value in volunteering. The value is not simply to the school but also to the person giving of their time and talents. Being active with kids always has the potential of filling one's life with joy!

Serving may provide a greater appreciation and insight to the important work that happens at Trinity Lutheran School. We have a whole host of volunteering opportunities. You can find a list of ideas on our website clicking "SERVE." These vary from helping in classrooms, assisting in athletics, being a part of fundraisers and more. We have tasks appropriate for many ages of Children of God.

A Christian education is not always accessible to each family who desires their child to attend Trinity. There are families in which finances can present a challenge to enrollment. The blessing of the Win Graebner Scholarship Fund is able to assist some. It is named in honor of Mr. Win Graebner who served Trinity faithfully as a teacher and administrator from 1937 until 1978. People understand the need of a Lutheran education and desire for families to have the opportunity to attend. The scholarship fund has played a crucial role in our school's growth. These scholarships are not in the form of a "full ride." Families make tuition contributions in addition to their grant amount. Families with a lower income, one income, those facing financial instability, and families with large families make up some of the recipients. The scholarship fund provides the needed dollars that allows a family to fully consider the opportunity of a Christian school experience. This need based scholarship fund is 100% comprised by the gifts and offerings of generous supporters of our school. You are invited to play a role in the mission of our school by prayerfully making contributions to this vital scholarship fund. Donations can be mailed to school, brought to the campus or put in the offering plate. Donors may write "Win Graebner Scholarship Fund" in the memo line. Those giving electronically can indicate in the "Church Center" app their desire to have their gift go to this important fund.



AND YOUR

Grandchildren



SUE SHELDON
TEACHER'S AIDE

The Lord is crystal clear when it comes to telling your children and grandchildren about your God.

Deuteronomy 4:9 *Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them.*

Deuteronomy 6:1&2 *These are the commands, decrees, and laws the Lord your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess, so that you, your children, and their children after them may fear the Lord your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life.*

Proverbs 17:6 *Children's children are a crown to the aged, and parents are the pride of their children.*

Much of the time, Grandparents aren't aware of this responsibility because they didn't see this modeled, and they presumed that was no longer their responsibility, but should be left to the parents. It's actually both the parents' and grandparents' responsibility to pass on faith. So what can we do?

To help grandparents learn about this Godly function, a seminar, "Christian Grandparenting Today" has been scheduled for **Saturday, September 27 from 9-10:30 am** at Trinity, Utica in the Fellowship Hall. A continental breakfast will be served as well as a video speaker, Larry Fowler, "The Heart of an Intentional Christian Grandparent." Also, we will be giving practical ideas on how to get to know your grandchild. You can register on the Church Center app, signing up at the seniors' binder or calling Dave Sheldon at 586-731-4490 ext.162 and leave a message. Christian Grandparenting Today is a multi-congregational event, so give an invitation to all of your Grandparenting friends. Let's pray for those grandkids!



AS A CHILD OF GOD
YOU HAVE A

Church Family

TO HELP YOU
THROUGH GRIEF



REV. CHAD WRIGHT
ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF
CHRISTIAN CARE & COUNSELING

Grief is a journey, not one you would choose, but one that you must go through when someone we love dies. No matter what the circumstances, grief can be a painful, confusing process. As a church family, Trinity recognizes that we can provide support and help as God helps you through this journey. Some of our members volunteer to help with GriefShare, to help you on this journey.

A GriefShare group is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. At this 13-week support group program, you'll discover what to expect in the days ahead and what's "normal" in grief. Since there are no neat, orderly stages of grief, you'll learn helpful ways of coping with grief, in all its unpredictability—and gain solid support each step of the way.

At each weekly meeting, you will view a video featuring respected counselors, pastors, and healthcare professionals on grief-related topics, plus you'll hear relatable personal stories of grief. After that is a small-group discussion to allow people time to talk, share support, and personally apply what they learned on the video. Everyone will receive a book to take home filled with valuable exercises for navigating their personal grieving process.



Topics include how to manage grief-related emotions such as loneliness, anxiety, sadness, anger, and regret; how to cope with the changes in your life and relationships; and how to recognize what's normal in grief and what to do if you feel stuck or hopeless.

GriefShare group participants have repeatedly shared that they feel comforted and encouraged by being in a place where people truly understand what they're going through. And they feel a sense of relief when they're given guidance and tips on how to deal with the daily challenges. Your bereavement experience may be recent or not so recent. No matter how long it's been, this is an opportunity to be around people who understand what you are feeling.

Our team members share some thoughts on how being a child of God has enriched their experiences as they have journeyed through grief and comforted others who are grieving:

Through this experience, I've come to understand that God will never leave me, and I feel deeply blessed to be called His child. -Karen Golovan

"As a widow, remembering that I am a child of God helped me on my grief journey. As a child of God, I knew that my Father loved me and was there for me, walking along side me, during that difficult time when my husband passed and still is, as the grief journey continues. I did not seek any help through a grief program back then. Now that I am facilitating GriefShare, I see the value in the program. I am able to walk alongside other children of God going through difficulty of a loved one passing. The Grief Share videos and workbook provides them with guidance and tips, plus they have the valuable discussion with the group, but most of all, we can continue to remind them that they have a Father that loves them and is walking along side of them on their grief journey." – Jill Griffin

"Ever since I was little, I knew that Jesus was my Savior, but as the years passed by so very quickly, it was amazing how He directed my life through happiness and overwhelming sorrow. It was through His hand that my husband Tony and I were led to Trinity, where we became members and made it our spiritual home. I felt called to give back after receiving so much from God, and I got the chance to help with GriefShare as a co-facilitator. It was during one of our sessions that my oldest daughter Kellie passed away in Florida. That heartbreaking moment reminded me just how much I needed God's strength. GriefShare has truly been a lifeline for me. The videos, honest conversations with others in the group, and seeing everyone's healing journey – those things helped me more than I can say. But most importantly, I've felt God's presence in all of it. His love and comfort have helped me move forward and now I try to offer the same support to others. Through this experience, I've come to understand that God will never leave me and I feel deeply blessed to be called His child." – Karen Golovan

"When I heard about GriefShare, I felt a calling to become a part of this wonderful group... From day one, I have felt God's love, peace, and understanding of how important a service this is to anyone who is hurting and needs to hear God's Word and comfort. I am blessed to see the participants as they start this journey and to watch how God's hand is working in their comfort and to hear God's Word and love as they heal. It is marvelous to watch them heal and feel God's presence... To watch God's children, work through their grief with the love of God and to know that the Lord never leaves them in their time of need. What a beautiful experience to be able to help them and to comfort them in their grief journey." – Pam Pavlik

Ideally, family brings to mind support even and especially in hard times. As your church family, we are here to support your healing through your grief journey. If you have questions or would like to sign up, please reach out to me via email: cwright@trinityutica.com or call (586) 731-4490, ext. 102

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

- 2 Corinthians 1:3-4



Come & Sing

WITH US THIS FALL



JACOB ROGGOW
WORSHIP ASSISTANT



My name is Jacob Roggow and it's an honor to begin serving here at Trinity, both in helping lead several of the weekend worship services and in directing the adult choirs. Ultimately it is my mission to help empower those of the congregation and choir to sing boldly and confidently in worship, proclaiming the hope we confess in what Jesus Christ has done for us.

Colossians 3:16 says “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly... singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” Singing helps instill the Word of God in your heart and mind and also shares it with others. I’m thankful for the strong tradition of singing here at Trinity and for those who have and continue to help lead it.

As I look ahead to this fall, I want to extend the invitation to all members of our

congregation to consider joining one of our choirs—Mixed Chorus or Men’s Chorus. Whether you’ve sung in choirs before or you’re just curious and willing to try, there is a place for you.

This Fall – A Great Time to Start!

If you’ve ever thought about joining a choir, there’s no better time than now. Mixed Chorus is open to all, and Men’s Chorus offers a special opportunity for our men to lead in worship through song. Both are great places for fellowship, encouragement, and growing together in faith.

This fall we’ll be considering opportunities for seasonal/short term commitment involvement in the mixed chorus.

For example, maybe you can’t commit to the whole year, but CAN make a shorter term commitment for singing Christmas music for several weeks, or we may at times emphasize a certain style of music (modern, gospel or hymn arrangements) people could join for. Overall variety and flexibility will be the name of the game encouraging people to join singing when they can. Men’s chorus will meet about twice a month, and we’ll look to also encourage fellowship opportunities among the group, like perhaps enjoying a meal at Shamrock pub on occasion after rehearsals!

Come and See

If you have questions or want to learn more, please reach out to me!



Email Jacob at jroggow@trinityutica.com.

Building the Kingdom

TOGETHER AS CHILDREN OF GOD



CYNDI CARPENTER

DIRECTOR OF HR & FINANCE



At Trinity, we are more than members of a congregation—we are Children of God, adopted by grace through Jesus Christ, and entrusted with time, talents, and treasures to be used for His glory. Being a child of God means we live from a place of identity and love, not obligation. We give because He first gave to us.

When we offer our tithes, we're participating in something far greater than ourselves: the building of God's Kingdom through the ministries and mission of Trinity. This isn't just financial giving—it's a spiritual act of worship, rooted in trust and gratitude.

"Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty..."
— Proverbs 3:9–10 (ESV)

Every ministry at Trinity—whether it's worship, education, outreach, or care—relies on the faithfulness of those who give. Your financial support makes ministry possible, and every gift becomes part of God's unfolding work.

As children of God, our generosity reflects the heart of our Heavenly Father.

But giving isn't just about money. It's also about offering our time and talents—gifts uniquely placed in each of us by God. Whether greeting at the doors, teaching little ones in Sunday School, making music, or quietly setting up or taking down chairs, every act of service matters. These offerings, though often unseen, are seen by God and used powerfully.

Sometimes, the true impact of our giving isn't immediately visible—but it is deeply felt. One story reminds us just how far a small act of generosity can reach:

A visitor once told us he had been away from church for years. One Sunday, he came to Trinity with a friend, not expecting much. But what struck him most wasn't the sermon or the music—it was the warmth of the people he met, the clean nursery his child was welcomed into, and the

coffee in the lobby. "I felt like I was home," he said. "That little moment brought me back to faith."

That "little moment" happened because someone gave—someone served.

As **God's children**, we don't just give money—we give love, opportunity, and welcome. We offer the very things God has entrusted to us so others can encounter Jesus and know they, too, are beloved children of God.

Thank you for giving generously and faithfully—not out of duty, but as **Children of God** who delight in their Father's work. Through your gifts of tithes, time, and talents, Trinity remains a place where lives are changed, faith is renewed, and Christ is made known.

Let's continue building His Kingdom—together as Children of God.

"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased." — Hebrews 13:16 (NIV)

A Note From the Finance Team

We also want to share a few important updates that reflect our commitment to stewarding Trinity's resources faithfully and securely.

We are currently transitioning our banking services from Christian Financial Credit Union to Community Choice Credit Union. This change strengthens account protection and streamlines our financial processes.

In addition, after over 40 years of using Shelby Financial church systems, we are now moving to QuickBooks. This shift will help us modernize, improve reporting clarity, increase efficiency, and reduce software costs—so that more resources can directly support ministry.

Due to these transitions, our year-end financial reports will be published at the end of August rather than the beginning. We appreciate your understanding and grace as we work through these improvements.

Ways to Give

- Online at trinityutica.com/give
- Church Center app
- Send in by mail
- Stock/IRA

JUNE Financials

Thank you for your contributions. Please continue to give your first fruits. We pray all our ministries will continue to be blessed with your help as we work together on building the kingdom of heaven and making disciples who share Christ's story with love. The fiscal year-end financial report was not available at the time of publication of this issue.



SANCTUARY RENOVATION
BUILDING FUND
JUNE INCOME

\$22,334.45

PLEDGED

\$150,000

TOTAL

\$2,454,180.26

Connecting, Serving, & Learning



ANNA GAUSS
CHRISTIAN GROWTH ASSOCIATE



I am excited to share what's coming up this fall in our Women's Ministry! Our emphasis this season is "Faith Focused – Connecting, Serving, and Learning." We have a variety of events and opportunities designed to help God's children draw closer to Him and serve Him with joy.

Fall Women's Events in the Works!

Comedy Night: A fun evening out to see Christian comedian John Crist!

Culinary Game Night: Enjoy good food and friendly competition.

Warrior Moms: Nov 12 at 8 am in the Fellowship Hall. Fun morning event for moms and their kids.

Women's Ministry Servant Events: Opportunities to serve our community together.

Women's Wellness Support Group: A Christ-Centered space for fellowship and discussion on health and wellness.

Visual Faith Studies: Engage creatively while deepening your faith.

Apologetics Retreat: Strengthen your faith through deep discussion and learning.

...And there's more!

Looking forward to a wonderful fall season filled with activities-so keep an eye out for more information coming soon!

How Can I Get Involved?

Bible Chat Groups: We'd love to start more groups for women to gather, read Scripture, and reflect together. Interested in leading or forming a group? Let us know!

Event Setup and Teardown: We welcome volunteers to help with events. Your support makes a difference!

Share Your Skills: If you have a talent in crafting, an interest in leading a sports group (like pickleball or kickball), expertise in health-related fields (such as dietetics, women's health, or psychology) for our Women's Wellness Support Group, or any other area of interest, please reach out! I'd love to connect with you or anyone you might know!

Idea Contributions: We're always interested in hearing your ideas for new events or programs!

Community Events (Men & Women)

Christian Growth: Faith Fellowship and Food Nights:

This fall, the Christian Growth team is hosting a series of Faith, Fellowship, and Food Nights on the second Thursday of each month! Get ready for the Cornhole Tournament (September 11 at 6:30 pm in the gym), Trivia Night (October 9 at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall), and Bingo Bash (November 13 at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall), all with a light dinner and prizes!

New Member Class:

Starting on September 14, the New Member Class will meet every Sunday through October 19. We're excited to welcome you! New members and everyone attending worship on October 19 are warmly invited to a special New Member Reception following the welcome service!

This class is a perfect opportunity to meet fellow new members, explore the variety of ministries at Trinity, and chat with our pastors. It's also a wonderful time to ask any questions you may have about faith or Lutheran beliefs.

We can't wait to see you there and help you make meaningful connections!

Growing Together as Children of God!

Whether participating in women's activities, engaging in community events, or joining our new member class, every experience brings us together in faith. Your presence enriches our community, and we look forward to walking this journey of faith with you!



MEN'S MINISTRY

Matters



REV. JUSTIN KRUPSKY
SENIOR PASTOR

R. – Reject passivity

If not me, then who?

E. – Engage with God

Be still and know that He is God!

A. – Accept responsibility

When we mess up, we fess up.

L. – Live/Lead courageously

We will walk by faith and not fear!






“As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.” — Proverbs 27:17

At Trinity, we believe God is calling men to step up and live out their faith with courage, humility, and strength. That's why our men's ministry exists — to equip and encourage men to become R.E.A.L. We have several discipleship opportunities designed to help you grow deeper in your relationship with Christ and with other brothers in the faith.

R.E.A.L. Men's Bible Study

Have we gotten manhood all wrong? The world needs R.E.A.L. men — men who know their identity in Christ and are committed to living out His purpose for their lives. This study will explore what that looks like using Brant Hansen's book, *The Men We Need: God's Purpose for the “Manly Man,” the “Avid Indoorsman,” or Any Man Willing to Show Up.*

 Begins Thursday, September 25
 7:00 PM
 Trinity's Youth Room

Come ready to dig into Scripture, challenge your assumptions, and encourage one another toward godly manhood. For more information, text Bill Wood at (586) 321-4294 or Mike McGrady at (586) 321-4912.

The CHARGE Men's Conference

“Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.” — 1 Corinthians 16:13

Let's go, men! On October 10–12, 2025, we'll gather at Michigan Christian Youth Camp in Attica, MI, for a powerful weekend of encouragement, equipping, and connection. We'll join forces with men from Immanuel Macomb and St. Peter Macomb to enjoy:

- Uplifting worship
- Engaging teaching on being spiritual leaders
- Delicious food (including a smoked meat dinner!)
- Fun & games with friendly competition
- Time to relax and recharge

Each church will present on a topic to help us “man up” for Jesus. Don't miss this chance to CHARGE up and CHARGE forward together in faith! Contact Bill Wood (586-321-4294), Mike McGrady (586-321-4912), or Karl Resch (586-713-3999) to sign up or get involved.

Band of Brothers

Meeting on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month from 9:00–10:00 AM in the Lecture Hall, Band of Brothers is a space to dig into God's Word, pray for one another, and build lasting friendships.

For more details, contact Dave Sheldon at dsheldon@trinityutica.com.

Monday Night Bible Study

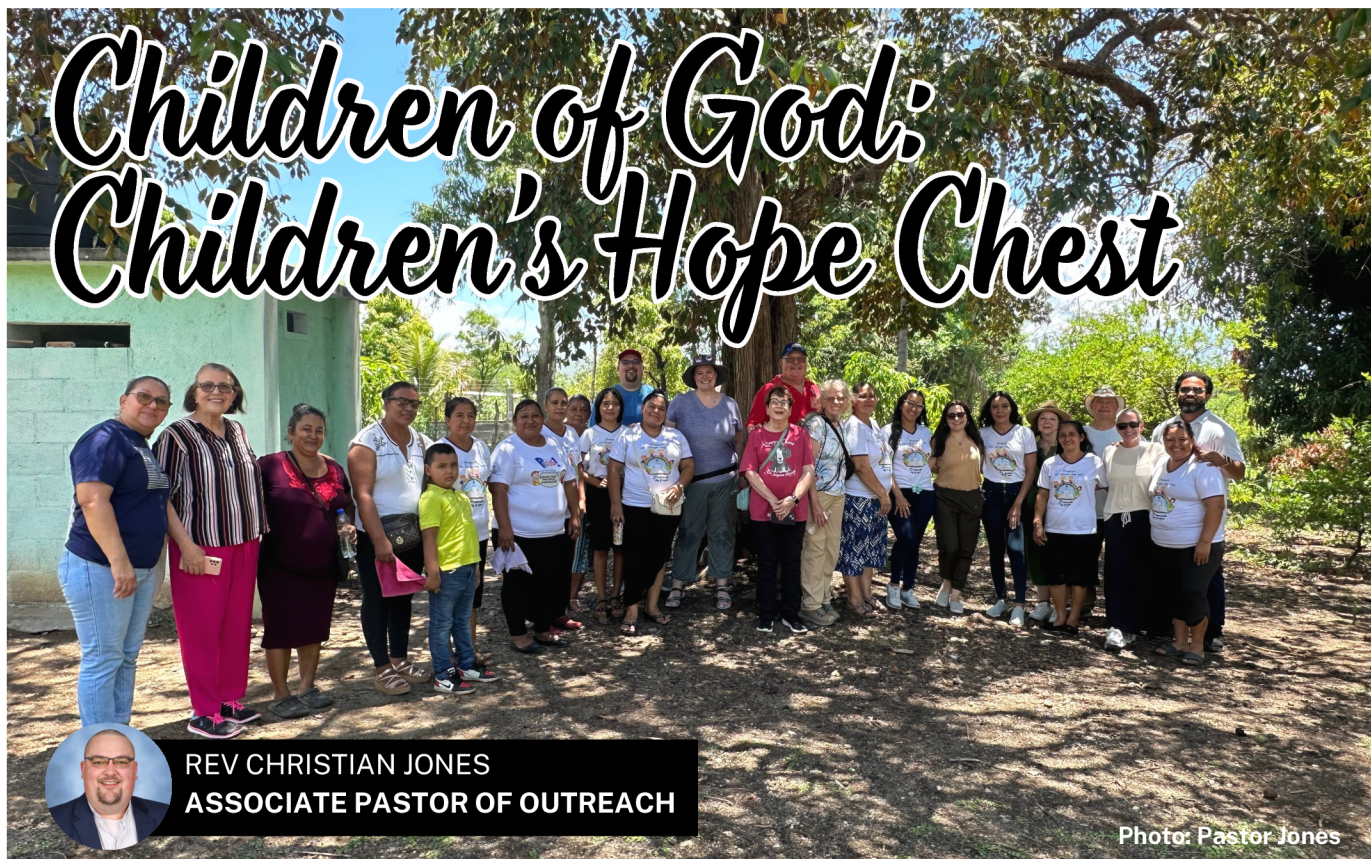
During NFL season, gather at the Hamlin Pub (55076 Van Dyke) for 21 weeks of Bible study and fellowship. We meet Mondays at 7:30 PM in a private room. Come whenever you're able — no long-term commitment needed!

Contact Rick Raichle at raichle@sbcglobal.net for details.

Savory Grill Bible Study

Start your Wednesday mornings with God's Word and good food! We meet every week at 6:30 AM at Savory Grill Restaurant (just north of Trinity). Come hungry for breakfast and for Scripture.

God is calling men to be strong in Him, to lead with love, and to serve with humility. In a world that often confuses strength with aggression and leadership with self-promotion, Christ calls us to a different standard — one rooted in His example of sacrificial love and steadfast faith. Whether you've been walking with the Lord for decades or are just beginning to explore what it means to follow Him, you are welcome here. In Trinity's men's ministry, you'll find a brotherhood that will stand with you in prayer, challenge you to grow, and walk beside you in both the victories and the struggles of life. Together, we can encourage one another to be men of integrity, courage, and compassion — men who reflect Christ in our homes, workplaces, and communities.



This past June, Trinity sent a Vision Team to visit a number of villages in Guatemala that are working with the mission organization Children's Hope Chest. We were so excited to visit the communities and build relationships with the children of those villages as we prepare to relaunch our international ministry programs that were halted at the start of COVID. Guatemala posed many challenging experiences: poverty, hunger, and poor education; but, joy still radiated from the children and families of the villages we visited: El Paoquil, El Jicaro, and Santo Domingo.

The villages referenced desire to become what are called CarePoints in the HopeChest model. Carepoints are sites where churches from the United States partner with the congregations of Guatemalan communities, supporting the local children. However, Children's HopeChest does things differently than many other organizations. Children's HopeChest's mission model puts power in the hands of the community, "For many orphaned or impoverished children, decisions are made for them. At HopeChest, we flip the script. We launch each new community partnership with the Friendship Model—a powerful, child-led

approach where children choose their sponsor." This experience is dignifying, giving the children power and a voice in their story and relationships, allowing them to begin on the terms of mutual respect with their sponsors, not just charity.

After our visit to Guatemala and our conversation with our Children's HopeChest representative, we are looking at sponsoring a community called Pueblo Modelo. Pueblo Modelo, in English, "Model Village" was created some 20 years ago by the President of Guatemala to show what an ideal town can look like under his vision for progress and social reform. This suburb was

created with the intent of accessible infrastructure, public resources and community-centered development, but after a time, this community was no longer a priority and began to struggle with economic and social issues (gangs and violence). Pueblo Modelo sits in the southeastern side of Guatemala in Zacapa near the border with Honduras.

Along with congregations like Faith, Troy and Immanuel, Macomb who sponsor other villages through Children's HopeChest, Pueblo Modelo also has one of our sister LCMS congregations from Colorado already sponsoring her.

However, with additional assistance and support, this CarePoint has the potential to serve many more children and families in the community.

How Does Trinity Partner With Children's HopeChest?

As we continue to grow in our partnership with Children's HopeChest, they are going to ask us to form relationships with Pueblo Modelo. The first piece is *letter writing*. After a child chooses you to be their sponsor, building relationships through communication will be a foundational step to communicating the Gospel with them.

The second piece is *financial sponsorship*. Financial sponsorship ensures that the children we sponsor will have food, education, clothing, and the basic necessities needed to have a strong, healthy childhood.

The third piece is *project funding*. Whether it is helping construct a community center, a different facility, or another project altogether, Children's HopeChest aims to provide a community everything it needs to be self-sustaining within 7-10 years.

Fourthly, we as a congregation *pray* for the community of Pueblo Modelo. We pray for the children, for the families, and for the community as a whole asking for the Father to richly provide the daily bread He taught us to pray for in the Lord's Prayer.

Lastly, we are called to visit Pueblo Modelo through CarePoint visits. Every year a small group of us are asked to visit the community and strengthen our relationships with them by spending time, coaching and learning with our brothers and sisters in Christ from Guatemala.

When Will We Begin Our Relationships With Pueblo Modelo?

Trinity's community partnership and relationships will begin this fall with Pueblo Modelo. The Outreach Board has dedicated a portion of their budget establishing sponsorship for each Trinity classroom to be paired with a child from Pueblo Modelo. This initiative is designed to allow global missions to enter our classrooms and inspire our students to care for others throughout the world. Services during the weeks of November 16 and 23 will center around the theme of Mission Life within our Lutheran Church. We are delighted to welcome representatives from Children's HopeChest on November 23. They will be available to connect with potential sponsors and answer any questions that might be asked.

This is the beginning of something wonderful-serving together as the body of Christ!



The Friendship Model Impact

In May 2019, at the Mt. Elgone CarePoint launch in rural Kenya, one of the CarePoint staff noticed an excited and emotional 11-year-old girl named Altipute, clutching the profile photo card of her chosen Friend. Altipute shared, "Since I was born, I've never had a dad. He has made many very bad choices and he is not in my life. I don't have a father-figure in my life that I trust. I chose this man right here," pointing to the picture of her new Friend. "I chose him to be my HopeChest Friend because he is a man who I want to speak into my life, as a dad might. I'm so very happy because this is an answer to prayer. I have been asking God for a long time to have a father-figure I can look up to, someone that would pray for me, someone I can trust and who cares about me. God has answered my prayers today!"

Altipute's story demonstrates the power of the Friendship Model, an innovative approach that we hope to lead in the ministry world, so more children can experience a voice and choice within child sponsorship.



Our Unique Model

What sets HopeChest apart from other international development organizations?

Most sponsorship organizations focus on one-to-one child sponsorship, but Children's HopeChest focuses on integrating those sponsorship and donor commitments into transforming the communities in which those children live.

- OUR MODEL IS RELATIONAL AND CREATES TWO-WAY TRANSFORMATION
- OUR MODEL IS STRATEGIC
- OUR MODEL HAS A SPECIFIC TIMEFRAME TO AVOID CREATING DEPENDENCY
- OUR MODEL IS HASSLE FREE AND EASY TO IMPLEMENT

Transformation, Not Transaction

Children's HopeChest equips vulnerable children, their families, and their communities to escape the cycle of poverty.

We do this through connecting North American communities to an overseas community that has a high population of vulnerable children. The North American community becomes a catalyst to sustainability by coming alongside the strategic development plan created by indigenous leaders.

We believe the most transformational, holistic, sustainable, and long-term change occurs when one community partners with another.

THREE FACETS OF PARTNER ENGAGEMENT

PARTNER VISITS

Share your spiritual gifts, talents and love with your partner community

THE FRIENDSHIP MODEL

Give children a voice and choice and help meet real needs through relationships

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLANS

Engage with projects and programs designed to create sustainability in the community with an exit strategy

The Friendship Model

In the Friendship Model, a North American community is connected with a community overseas with a high population of impoverished children. Individuals from the North American community can sign up to become a "HopeChest Friend". Then, the overseas community hosts a "Friend Match" event where children choose their HopeChest Friend from a display of photos!



Explore How Other Lutheran Churches Are Making a Global Impact

[HOPECHEST.ORG/LUTHERAN](https://hopechest.org/lutheran) | PO BOX 1190, PALMER LAKE COLORADO 80133 | PHONE: 719.487.7800

/childrenshopechest

@childrens.hopechest

childrenshopechest@hopechest.org

GOD'S KIDS

I can't wait to dive into God's Word with you this year as we grow in what it means to know we are called to be a church family who grows together in our relationship with Christ and one another. As I think about this, my mind goes to our theme verse for the year where we are reminded in 1 John 3:1 that we are God's kids because of the love our Father has lavished on us through His Son Jesus. We are God's kids, that is who we are. It is who I am, and it is who you are.

This is fitting, because when I look around at Trinity, I see lots of kids. Whether youth spanning ages from infants, babies, and toddlers all the way through teens going into high school, children are everywhere. God is at work in every demographic at Trinity, but specifically He is doing something special within the hearts of our young adults.

I see this so clearly in the lives of our teen and young adult volunteers who are continually becoming more and more the regular faces you see week in and week out, who are serving and giving their time and talents here at Trinity to make worship happen. Not only do we have teens serving in key spots and positions on our tech, acolyte, and hospitality teams, we have youth stepping up to help make the music happen every week.

This was most clearly evident during our Next Gen Youth service and VBS program back in June where our youth fully led the music. Our youth are helping to lead the way!

God is working through them to encourage all of us to come together as a family, to give of ourselves, to serve, and to live in the truth that we are God's kids. As God's kids, we have a role to play in our family, the body of Christ.

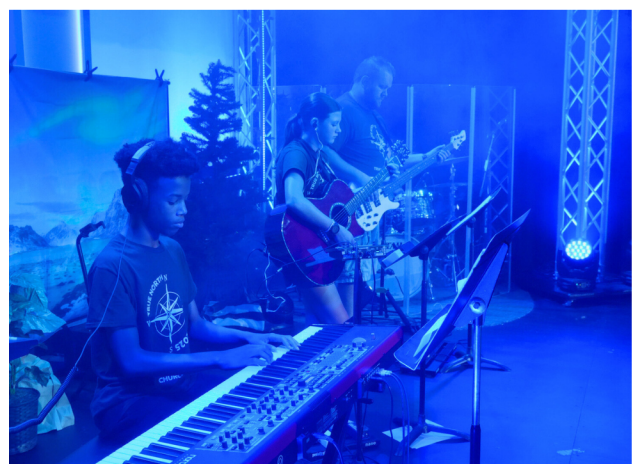
I pray you see their example and are blessed, encouraged, and motivated to step up to serve. We are all God's kids, which means we have all been blessed with something, some gift or ability, that is meant to be used to glorify God by blessing others.

So come join us. Come see what God is up to through Trinity's worship ministry. Come join in on something that is so life giving and exciting, that not only will you see how you fit into God's family, but you will also see how you will be blessed in the process as you serve to be a blessing to someone else.

If you are interested in taking the next step, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at jbritton@trinityutica.com. I can't wait to hear and join up with you as we journey and discover together what it means be loved and part of God's family!



REV. JOSH BRITTON
ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF WORSHIP



Save the Date

for Trinity's annual Christmas A-Glow celebration on Tuesday, December 2. Questions? Call Shirley 586-488-7029 or Gloria 586-291-3316.



Trinity's Mission Minded Women- LWML

(Lutheran Women in Mission)
Celebrating The Journey of 65 Years
Psalm 100:2 Serve the Lord with Gladness
September 8, 2025, at 7:00pm



MARLENE HERZOG & PAM RANK
LWML CO-PRESIDENTS

That's more than 6 decades of God's awesome work in the hearts of the men, women and children of Trinity giving of their pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, bills, checks and QR codes to share Jesus around the world. The iconic Mite Box has been the receptacle for all monies to fund mission grant proposals from organizations who are in desperate need of funds to move their Bible-based/Christ centered ministry forward.

- Who were the brave women in 1960 to propose an LWML group (society)?
- How did LWML stay alive in 1970, 1980, 1990 thru 2025?
- Who were the leaders, the prayer warriors, the note takers, the encouragers ? (Did you know that member Gail Terey served as President 11 years!)
- How were the Mite Offerings gathered, hearing of God's Word, enjoying fellowship?
- What changed in those 65 years?
- What remained the same in those 65 years?

You're invited on September 8 to learn the answers! Oh, and ladies-please wear a lovely hat or fascinator hat to remember the women of 1960! (We are the "purple peeps" who wear purple.)

AN UNFORGETTABLE *journey*



STEPHANIE DAVIS
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY ASSOCIATE

This past summer was an unforgettable journey as we had the amazing opportunity to teach and inspire children during our annual Vacation Bible School, True North. From June 23 to June 27, we dove into the book of Matthew, helping kids discover the powerful truth that we can always trust Jesus no matter what. With engaging Bible lessons and hands-on experiments in our Imagination Station, we made a meaningful impact on over 100 kids who joined us for this special week.

This incredible experience wouldn't have been possible without the unwavering dedication of our volunteers. I wish I could express my gratitude in full and honor each person who played a part in this journey. To everyone who helped set the plans in motion, spent months preparing, led our children with enthusiasm, decorated with creativity, or donated snacks and supplies. Every single contribution wove together the vibrant tapestry that brought our program to life. Your time and effort truly made a difference, and it was inspiring to witness how the Lord brought so many together with a shared mission to create something beautiful.

In the spirit of trusting Jesus through every season, I am excited to announce that Trinity Kids will resume on September 14 during the 9:45 service! We invite all children from preschool to fourth grade to join us as we adventure through the Bible in chronological order. Together, we'll explore how these stories reveal God's character and continue to remind us that we can always trust Him, no matter what life throws our way. Don't miss out on this journey—we can't wait to see you there!

Trunk or **TREAT**



Seeking Trunks & Treats! We are excited to once again be hosting Trunk or Treat on **Friday, October 24 from 7:00-8:30 pm**, but we are in need of Trunks & Treats! Come deck out your car and have fun handing out candy to our 'trick or treaters.'

We are seeking individually wrapped candy to be given out to our 'trunk & treaters' as they hop from car to car! Candy donations can be dropped off in the Church Lobby. If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Davis at sdavis@trinityutica.com.



SCAN HERE

PASTORAL STAFF



Rev. Justin Krupsky
Senior Pastor
jkrupsky@trinityutica.com



Rev. Josh Britton
Associate Pastor
jbritton@trinityutica.com



Rev. Nick Duerr
Associate Pastor
nduerr@trinityutica.com



Rev. Christian Jones
Associate Pastor
cjones@trinityutica.com



Rev. Chad Wright
Associate Pastor
jcwright@trinityutica.com

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VICE-CHAIRMAN
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Tim Carpenter

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PRINCIPAL
Bruce Volkert

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EARLY CHILDHOOD DIRECTOR
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Stephanie Davis

MEN'S/SENIORS ASSOCIATE
David Sheldon

RECEPTIONIST
Linda Powell

PASTORS' ASSISTANT
Karah Gomez

VIDEO PRODUCTION
Joshua Weyhing

WORSHIP ASSISTANT
Jacob Roggaw

WORSHIP TECHNICAL ARTS
Chris Winter

CHURCH & SCHOOL INFORMATION

CHURCH LOBBY HOURS
PHONE: 586-731-4490

M, W, TH, F
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

TUESDAY
8:00 AM - 9:00 PM

SATURDAY
4:30 PM - 7:00 PM

SUNDAY
7:00 AM - 1:00 PM

WORSHIP SERVICES

SATURDAY - 5:30 PM
SUNDAY - 9:00 AM,
9:45 AM (GYM), 11:15 AM
MONDAY - 7:00 PM
FRIDAY FLOCK - 11:00 AM
(normally 1st Friday of the month)

SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS
MONDAY - FRIDAY
7:15 AM - 4:15 PM

(Entrance is located on the east side
of building along Deshon.
Please look for the red awning.)

ONLINE INFORMATION

WEBSITE
[HTTPS://WWW.TRINITYUTICA.COM](https://www.trinityutica.com)

EMAIL
CHURCHOFFICE@TRINITYUTICA.COM
SCHOOLOFFICE@TRINITYUTICA.COM

LIVESTREAM
[HTTPS://WWW.TRINITYUTICA.COM/LIVE](https://www.trinityutica.com/live)

WORSHIP INFORMATION
[HTTPS://WWW.TRINITYUTICA.COM/INFO](https://www.trinityutica.com/info)



Trinity Lutheran Church and School

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**RUMMAGE SALE
DROP-OFF:**

Monday, September 29, 2025 9:00 am–7:00 pm

Tuesday, September 30, 2025 9:00 am–7:00 pm

Wednesday, October 1, 2025 9:00 am–noon

SALE:

Thursday, October 2, 2025 with \$3 early bird admission 5:00 pm–8:00 pm

Friday, October 3, 2025 9:00 am–5:00 pm

Saturday, October 4, 2025 \$5 bag or 1/2 off items 9:00 am–1:00 pm



Articles for the next Trinity Matters are due Friday, October 31, 2025.
Please send to mgrupe@trinityutica.com. Thank you!



Our Vision Statement

To be a church family who grows together in our relationships with Christ and one another.

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)