

# Trinity

Matters



# AT HIS FEET

As we continue through the Gospel of John on Sundays here at Trinity, notice that faith begins with a posture. Again and again, people are drawn to Jesus, not to stand above Him or try to manage Him, but to kneel at His feet. And it is at His feet that true life begins.

Mary of Bethany pours out costly perfume at His feet, wiping them with her hair, as recorded in John 12. The room fills with fragrance, and devotion becomes tangible. The posture of life is revealed. At His feet, self gives way to surrender. What seems wasteful to the world becomes worship to God. His great sacrifice is revealed in that moment as Mary gives Him everything at His feet. Later in the Gospel of John, in a stunning reversal, Jesus Himself kneels to wash the feet of His disciples, showing that divine love is never distant, never proud, but always near and self-giving.

To be at His feet is to live in trust. It is the place where our fears are named, our pride loosened, and our hearts reordered. In John's Gospel, those who follow Jesus discover that humility is not weakness, but is the doorway to life. At His feet, we learn who God truly is, the Son revealing the Father, empowered by the Spirit, inviting us into a life shaped by faith, hope, and love.

In a restless world, Jesus is calling us to be at His feet, not to diminish us, but to make us whole.

We are committed to staying at His feet as we walk in humility to let our neighbors know that they matter. In each of our ministries we are following His teaching. We are always at His feet. Our ministries matter. You matter. It's at His feet where we see the great love that the Father has lavished on us, and we are His children, a family that is growing closer together.

May we be like Mary who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to His teaching.

*Pastor Justin Krupsky*

REV. JUSTIN KRUPSKY | SENIOR PASTOR

# Lent, Holy Week, & Easter WORSHIP

## ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, February 18  
11 am Worship\*+ | 12 pm Lunch | 7 pm Worship+

## LENT II

Wednesday, February 25  
11 am Worship\* | 12 pm Lunch | 7 pm Worship

## LENT III

Wednesday, March 4  
11 am Worship\* | 12 pm Lunch | 7 pm Worship

## LENT IV

Wednesday, March 11  
11 am Worship\* | 12 pm Lunch | 7 pm Worship

## LENT V

Wednesday, March 18  
11 am Worship\* | 12 pm Lunch | 7 pm Worship

## LENT VI

Wednesday, March 25  
11 am Worship\* | 12 pm Lunch | 7 pm Worship

## MAUNDY THURSDAY

Thursday, April 2  
11 am Worship\*+ | 7 pm Worship+

## GOOD FRIDAY

Friday, April 3  
1:00 pm Worship\* | 5:30 pm Worship (gym)\*+  
Worship 7 pm\*

## EASTER SATURDAY

Saturday, April 4 | 5:30 pm Worship+

## EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday, April 5  
7:00 am Worship\*+  
9:00 am Worship\*+  
9:30 am Worship (gym)\*+  
11:15 am Worship\*+

## EASTER MONDAY

Monday, April 6 | 7:00 pm Worship+

\*Denotes Live Stream

+Denotes Communion

# Worship in the SHADOW OF THE CROSS



REV. JOSH BRITTON  
ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF WORSHIP

One of the teachings or practices of Jesus that has always stood out to me and informed the worship ministries I have served in over the years is what is Matthew records Jesus did with His disciples right after Jesus institutes the Lord's Supper.

“And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.”

These words come at the very end of the night we now call Maundy Thursday. Jesus has just given His disciples the gift of His true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. Judas has already left to betray Him. Gethsemane lies ahead, followed by arrest, mockery, suffering, and the cross. And in that moment—knowing exactly what is coming—Jesus sings.

This was no accidental detail. Matthew includes it to show us something essential about who Jesus is and how He prepares His people to walk through the valley of suffering. Jesus does not rush from the Supper to the struggle. He pauses to worship.

Scholars suggest that Jesus and his disciples could have sung one of the Psalms, such as Psalm 118, where one praises the Lord for His steadfast love, His faithfulness to His promises, and His deliverance

of His people. Jesus sang words about trusting the Father, about God's mercy enduring forever—words He Himself would soon fulfill on the cross.

Let that sink in. Jesus does not sing because the night is easy. He sings because the Father is faithful. He sings not to escape suffering, but to enter it anchored in God's promises. There is something deeply comforting here for us. Jesus does not wait until after the resurrection to sing. He sings on the edge of anguish. He worships in the shadow of the cross. And He invites His disciples to sing with Him.

This tells us something about worship that we often forget. It tends to be easier to sing and worship when life feels settled or joyful. It is what Christ gives us when life is uncertain, frightening, or heavy. In worship, we are not pretending everything is fine; we are confessing that God is faithful even when everything is not.

Notice also when Jesus sings. It is immediately after the Lord's Supper. Word and Sacrament lead naturally into praise. Having received His body and blood, the disciples sing—not because they fully understand what is coming, but because Christ has already given them Himself.

The pattern remains the same for us. Fed by Christ, forgiven by Christ, we are sent into the world singing—not in denial of suffering, but in hope grounded in His victory.

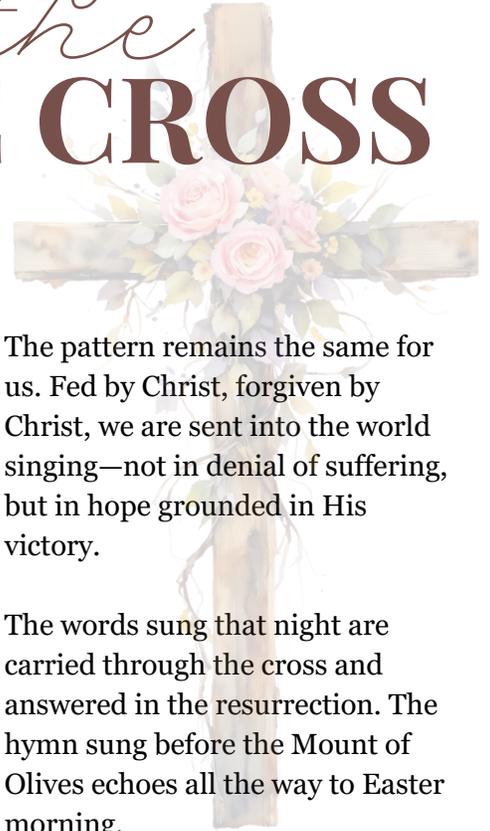
The words sung that night are carried through the cross and answered in the resurrection. The hymn sung before the Mount of Olives echoes all the way to Easter morning.

So when we worship—whether with joy or with trembling—we are joining that same song. We are singing with saints and angels, with the disciples, and with Christ Himself. We sing because Jesus has already gone ahead of us, through suffering and death, and has opened the way to life.

So may we experience these truths as we sit at His feet this Lent and respond with singing to the great and lavish love we have been given from the Father through Jesus.

We can't wait to worship with you, whether in person or online, all throughout the Lenten season, into Holy Week, and on Easter Sunday at the services listed to the left.

We wish all of you a blessed Easter as we worship together at His feet in the shadow of the cross.



# Sitting at the FEET OF JESUS



REV. NICK DUERR  
ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF FAITH FORMATION

“Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to His teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to Him and said, ‘Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me.’ But the Lord answered her, ‘Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her.’” Luke 10:38-42

It's terribly easy to get distracted from God. Martha was doing something important. She was preparing and serving food, making sure that everyone was taken care of. And yet, she missed what was necessary: sitting at the feet of Jesus. Mary, however, set aside the time to prioritize the Word, listening to the voice of Jesus and growing in her relationship with Him.

It's terribly easy to get distracted from God. I'm blessed to work in a place where prayer and God's Word are woven into the rhythm of the day—and I'm still surprised by how quickly even good, church-related tasks can distract me from the one necessary thing. How often do we lose sight of Jesus in the midst of the important work we do?

It's terribly easy to get distracted from God. A day or two of missing daily Bible reading and it feels like a month to get back on track. “It's a busy season” becomes an excuse for not setting time aside to go to a Bible study. Or we miss out on the Divine Services because there's an important event that got scheduled for that same time.

These are the struggles I face, and maybe you've faced the same ones or similar ones to Martha and me. We get so busy with important things that we lose sight of the necessary thing. At work, in our personal lives, with family and friends, we have many important responsibilities. But like Martha, Jesus encourages us to remember and prioritize sitting at His feet. That's hard. Just as Martha would've had to stop serving, we may have to set aside some important things. But it is worth it to be able to sit at Jesus' feet.

So today, I want to encourage you to do that. Consider how you can sit at Jesus' feet: daily devotions, Bible studies, or other events and services at church where you can hear His voice. I expect finding what works for you will be a challenge, but one I—as your Faith Formation Pastor—would be happy to help you take on. By God's grace and the work of the Holy Spirit, let's resolve together to spend less time on the important things, and more time sitting at the feet of Jesus.

## *Sunday Bible Studies*

8:30 am | Meeting Lounge, Keith Wingfield

9:45 am | New Member Class, Anna Gauss

10:15 am | Meeting Lounge, Andy Mather

## *Tuesday Bible Studies*

10 am & 8 pm (2nd Tuesday) | Visual Faith (Zoom)

7:30 pm | TABS, Sr. High Room, Andrew Brazcal

## *Wednesday Bible Studies*

6:30 am | Men's Savory Grill Bible Study

## *Thursday Bible Studies*

9:30 am | Women's, Meeting Lounge, Deb Cichoski & Sue Parent

7 pm | R.E.A.L Men's, Jr. High Room, Bill Wood & Mike McGrady

## *Saturday Bible Studies*

9 am (2nd & 4th Sat.) | Band of Brothers, Board Room, Dave Sheldon

5:30 pm | Spanish Bible Study, Meeting Lounge, Pastor Jones

# Diana's Angels



JANET SCHAAF  
DIANA'S ANGELS



Photos: Janet Schaaf & Michele Grupe



In Iowa, one family's devastating tragedy became a blessing to over 2000 families here in Michigan, as well as other states.

In 1997 Diana Word was expecting triplets. She went into labor in her fifth month, and all three babies died. Because all the baby clothes were too large, they bought burial clothing at a toy store for the tiny infants. A Bible study at Diana's Lutheran Church heard about this and quickly went into action. They designed patterns and sewed tiny outfits so no parent needed to worry about what to bury their child in.

Upon reading about this, and since I had just retired, I thought we could do this here at Trinity. So I sent for the patterns. They came in four sizes and were a dress, jumper, and kimono. I quickly started sewing. Terry Measel made multiple copies of the pattern. I immediately contacted area funeral homes and local hospitals. I was advised that in our area, there was a greater need for a simple outfit to dress the baby at delivery when it had not survived.

At this point, I persuaded several Trinity women to be part of the Diana's Angels Project. We now only followed the kimono pattern per the advice of area nurses. We soon simplified the kimono pattern, thus making it even easier for the nurses.

Diana's Angels has grown over the years. There are now Angels here at Trinity who cut out the tiny outfits. They are then passed on to another Angel who sews them. Another Angel crochets tiny blankets, booties, and hats. What a blessing! Once completed, they are packaged by size with a card, cross, and angel pin. They are donated to area hospitals. Deliveries have also been made as far as northern Michigan, Alabama, and Florida.

God's guidance and blessings have followed this project through the years. Through Diana's Angels, Trinity members are serving families at His feet—bringing tenderness, dignity, and Christ's love into moments of heartbreaking loss. When you ask God, "What can I do for others?" you never know what His plan is. Do you ever wonder what God's plan is for you? Ask!

*"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." - Philippians 4:13.*

*If you're interested in volunteering with Diana's Angels, please contact Janet at 989-858-3983. The group meets once a month on a Tuesday from 9:00-11:00 am, and meeting dates are announced in the ENews and the Welcome Bulletin.*

# FOOD MINISTRY

## *Miracles*



**BETH HELMER**  
**FOOD MINISTRY ASSOCIATE**

Throughout the Gospels, we read about Jesus' miracles that occurred before the eyes of those present with Him in His human flesh on earth in order that those who witnessed them would come to believe in Him as it states in John 2:23: "Now while in Jerusalem, many people saw the miraculous signs He was doing and believed in His Name." Today, we still witness His miracles through the various ministries He has ordained for us to do - especially the food ministry here at Trinity.

All throughout the Scriptures when the Lord gave a command for His people, and they obeyed, He provided exactly what they needed to accomplish what was asked of them. Today is no different. The vision for Trinity Utica Food Ministries does not come from a human thought or ideology, but rather a divine teaching by the Lord Himself: "For I was hungry and you gave Me something to eat. I was thirsty and you gave Me something to drink. I was a stranger and you invited Me in." - Matthew 25:35

Many of the miracles we witness in food ministry (and all ministries) begin with the "Yes" of His people. In the feeding of the 5000, the people were willing to share their food, the Lord multiplied it, and the people were fed because the disciples said, "Yes" to His command, "You give them something to eat." - Matthew 14:16b. This miracle is two-fold: God provides, and then the people obey and do what He asks. The disciples were blessed, and their faith was strengthened, and then the people they served were blessed and strengthened.



That being said, as we follow the teachings of Jesus in this area, we at Trinity witness miracles every week. These miracles are talked about often by all of the food ministry staff and volunteers, hence continuing to strengthen all of us in who Jesus is and confirming His will for us to keep doing His work. Our hope and prayer also is for those we serve to see Christ in the miracles before them - that they would come to believe and know Him.

Obviously, one of the main miracles we witness in food ministry is the abundance of food that is donated and delivered to us. We will sometimes talk about what we would like to serve, and then lo and behold, that very item appears. This happens a lot. We often will receive the exact amount of something or a donation will be dropped off, and it will be just what is needed at the exact moment.

We are very grateful for the miracle of food that comes in from all of you from the church and school food drives that keep the food pantry stocked and support our Thanksgiving/Christmas and Easter meal blessing bags. This brings guests to Trinity, and our very own Stephen ministers have been coming and not only serving the guests their food, but offering prayer and support for them. We witnessed a miracle in that almost all of our guests receive prayer when asked. This is a miracle, as many of them are not Christians, yet are very open to being ministered to. These moments reflect what it means to come "At His Feet"—meeting people with compassion, humility, and trust that God is already at work in their hearts.

Another miracle is the willingness of our students to come and help in the ARK, which is evidence of the Lord's work in their hearts. Our hope for them is that through their exposure to this ministry, God will foster a servant's heart in them to continue in this mission work either now or in the future.

And last, but not least, the miracle we witness that allows for God's will to be done are the faithful lead and team volunteers who serve weekly in these ministries. Without our volunteer staff (as in the miracle of the feeding of the 5000) we would not be able to fulfill this calling. The Lord consistently sends new workers - often at the perfect time, again, confirming His will.

We invite you to join us in this mission work. There are many roles available throughout all of the food ministries (SSS, Delivering Disciples and the food pantry), so please pray about what gift the Lord has blessed you with and where He is calling you. To sign up to serve at SSS or the food pantry please visit [trinityutica.com/outreach](http://trinityutica.com/outreach). For Delivering Disciples email Dawn Janicki at [djanicki@trinityutica.com](mailto:djanicki@trinityutica.com). For questions email Beth Helmer at [bhelmer@trinityutica.com](mailto:bhelmer@trinityutica.com) and we will connect you to the right person!



Photos: Beth Helmer

## Women's Ministry



ANNA GAUSS  
**CHRISTIAN GROWTH  
ASSOCIATE**

As we head into spring, our calendars are filling up quickly. In the rush of new activities and obligations, it is easy to feel the pressure to be everything to everyone. We have planned relaxing times of fellowship to encourage you to rest at His feet, and we also have planned serving opportunities for you to be His hands and feet. Stay tuned for updates!

### *Rest at His Feet*

- Visual Faith Zoom Studies | Second Tuesday of every month
- International Women's Day Booth | March 8
- Warrior Moms | April 22
- Paddle and Par Event (Pickleball Event - all experience levels are welcome!)
- Spring Craft Night
- Women's Ministry Retreat | May 7
- Mother's Day Booth | May 10 (stop by the church lobby after church for gifts and fellowship)
- Women's Bonfire

### *Be His Hands and Feet*

#### **Warrior Moms Volunteer Opportunity**

April 22, 2026 | We want every mom who walks through the doors for Warrior Moms to feel relaxed and cared for, allowing them to focus entirely on fellowship and quality time with their children. We'd love your help in creating this special space for them! Are you interested in volunteering?



**We would love to see more women's life groups form!** A hostess simply sets a time and place that works for them (it could be at a cozy coffee shop, after a cooking class, the ideas are endless!) and guides a group of women through a study. We would love to help you get started!

**Share Your Gifts and Ideas** | Do you have a talent for crafting, a love for kickball, or a new idea for an event? I'd love to hear from you! Your unique passions are a gift.

# AT HIS FEET

## *with compassion*



REV. CHAD WRIGHT  
**ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF  
CHRISTIAN CARE & COUNSELING**

Thrown down forcefully onto the ground at the feet of someone can be a terrifying event. If the person's feet you face belong to someone to be feared – an enemy – that position is a bad omen of things to come. In ancient times, when a general or king was captured and placed before the enemy, it usually led to brutal torture and imprisonment or a cruel death. It is the same still today in modern warfare and conflicts.

If, however, someone throws himself at the feet of another – one in power – that person often hopes for mercy from the one in authority. It is a self-imposed stature suggesting humility and submission. It is a non-verbal plea for compassion.

In John 8, Jesus enters the temple. He sits down and teaches the people gathered around Him. They were all sitting at His feet. Brazen and looking for conflict, the Pharisees brought a woman caught in adultery to be stoned. They brought her before Jesus to trap him. The Law of Moses said that they could stone her to death. What would Jesus do? He simply replied, "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her." She waited to be stoned. Jesus knelt before them all and wrote something on the ground. He knelt at her feet! The men all dropped the stones and left. "Jesus stood up and said to her, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' She said, 'No one, Lord.' And Jesus said, 'Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.'" (John 8:10–11, ESV)

What mercy and compassion! Can you imagine meeting Jesus in that way? In reality, we have. We all deserve death and eternal punishment in hell. We all sin and fall short of the glory of God. Yet, Jesus does not condemn us. He came into this world to save sinners...to save all humanity.

Those who stood at His feet when He was splayed on the cross heard His words that He completed our salvation: "It is finished." (John 19:30) He rose from the dead so that we might know our sins are forgiven; we stand as those who are not condemned! Jesus comes to each one of us to forgive our sins and lead us into new life. He desires to have us sit at His feet and learn from Him, to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 3:18) He desires that we show compassion to all others, as He has shown compassion to us.

The traditional hymn, *God Be With You Till We Meet Again* by Jeremiah Eames Rankin, is a classic hymn of the faith. You hear it sung by believers around the world at various times in life: at the end of a church service as a benediction hymn, a closing hymn for a funeral, or even around the campfire or kitchen table when bidding farewell to family and friends. It's full of peaceful and comforting lyrics for the troubled soul or anyone who needs God's comfort in loss or grief or other life challenges. The lyrics of the first verse read:

*God be with you till we meet again;  
loving counsels guide, uphold you,  
with a shepherd's care enfold you:  
God be with you till we meet again.*

The refrain, repeated after every verse, reads, "*Till we meet. Till we meet. Till we meet at Jesus' feet. Till we meet. Till we meet. God be with you till we meet again.*"

When the Last Day comes, when the Lord will return visibly in glory, He will judge all people. At that time, we will all kneel before His feet. We do not need to fear that day nor the judge that day. We will have reason to rejoice as we confess that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior, who has redeemed us from our sins and given us His righteousness. Until then, He asks us to love our neighbors, to be kind and compassionate, and to speak His truth in love so that others, too, may rejoice to be at



CYNDI CARPENTER  
DIRECTOR OF HR & FINANCE

# Giving AT HIS FEET

When we read the words of Jesus in Scripture — especially His red-letter instructions — one theme rises again and again: trust and surrender. Trust in God’s provision. Trust that the Kingdom is bigger than what we can see. Trust that when we place our lives, our time, and our resources at Jesus’ feet, He multiplies them for His purposes.

Jesus often teaches about money and generosity, not to shame or pressure, but to invite reflection on the heart. In Matthew 6:21, He says, “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” When we give from a heart surrendered at Jesus’ feet, our giving becomes an act of worship — an expression of love, faith, and trust. Sitting at Jesus’ feet, like Mary in Luke 10:38–42, means prioritizing Him above all, listening to His words, and allowing them to shape how we live, work, and give.

Throughout the Gospels, Jesus shows that generosity flows from a heart free from fear and attachment. In Luke 12:15, He warns, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.”

And He reassures His followers in Luke 12:32, “Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.” Giving at Jesus’ feet is about trust — trusting Him with what we have, knowing He is faithful.

One of the most powerful examples Jesus shares is the widow in Mark 12:41–44, who quietly places two small coins into the temple treasury. Jesus notices her not for the amount, but for her trust: “She put in everything — all she had to live on.” Her gift reflects surrender — giving everything she had at God’s altar, much like placing ourselves at Jesus’ feet in devotion and reliance.

At Trinity, we see this same spirit of faithfulness in action. Your generosity allows our ministries to flourish and Christ’s love to be shared in tangible ways:

- Children learn about Jesus and grow in faith through Trinity Lutheran School, Trinity Kids and Youth programs.
- Families receive support through various community outreach events, including the Warming Center, SSS, Food Ministries, MCREST, Family Feud, Free Oil Changes, and the Christmas Toy Shop.

- Our congregation is equipped to serve through mission trips like Lamp and Guatemala’s Children’s Hope Chest, Bible studies, Stephen Ministry, Grief Share, and various other discipleship and fellowship programs and events.
- Worship and prayer ministries continue to uplift and nurture hearts on and off campus.

Giving at Jesus’ feet is not about obligation or measuring up; it’s about surrender, trust, and joy in participating in His work. Acts 20:35 reminds us, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” Your faithful giving — whether large or small, one-time or recurring — makes ministry possible and demonstrates trust in God’s work in and through Trinity.

We are deeply grateful for those who give their first fruits to the Lord through Trinity. Your generosity fuels our mission to go and make disciples who share Christ’s story with love. Through your giving, Jesus’ love is shared — in word, in action, and in life-changing ministry — every day. Thank you for your faithfulness, your prayers, and your partnership in the work of the Lord.

## Financials

DECEMBER 2025	Budget Month	Actual Month	Budget YTD	Actual YTD
Church & School Income	\$618,741.65	\$595,586.04	\$2,950,022.90	\$3,030,123.72
Church & School Expenses	\$452,126.15	\$498,628.51	\$2,826,756.90	\$3,048,739.10

### Sanctuary Renovation/Building Fund:

December Income \$78,873.73

Total to date: \$2,540,011.09

### Ways to Give

- Online at [trinityutica.com/give](http://trinityutica.com/give)
- Church Center app
- Send in by mail
- Stock/IRA

# SCRIPTURE

## *and Intercessions*



REV. CHRISTIAN JONES  
**ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF OUTREACH**

Not long ago, someone in the church lobby asked me an important question: *What should we do when we see someone standing on a street corner holding a sign asking for help?*

It is a common experience. Sometimes it happens on Van Dyke; sometimes it happens on the way to a sporting event or museum in Detroit. Our hearts are tugged, yet our minds are conflicted. Often, by the time we reach the intersection, the easiest response is to look straight ahead and avoid eye contact. But is that what Christ would have us do?

Holy Scripture, in the Old Testament, the Epistles, and the Gospels, does not teach us to turn away. Instead, God's Word prepares us for moments like these. Through the prophets, the apostles, and our Lord Himself, we hear a consistent call to mercy:

6 "Is not this the fast that I choose:  
to loose the bonds of wickedness,  
to undo the straps of the yoke,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
and to break every yoke?"

7 Is it not to share your bread with the hungry  
and bring the homeless poor into your house;  
when you see the naked, to cover him,  
and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?

8 Then shall your light break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing shall spring up speedily;  
your righteousness shall go before you;  
the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard  
(Isaiah 58:6-8, ESV).

16 By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. 17 But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?

18 Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth (1 John 3:16-18, ESV).

34 Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' 37 Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? 38 And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? 39 And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' 40 And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me' (Matthew 25:34-40, ESV).

These passages remind us that love is not merely spoken but lived, not only confessed but practiced. Throughout the whole of Scripture, God calls His people to care for those in need. As members of the Body of Christ, we are invited to follow these commands joyfully, as fruits of faith in Christ. Let us return to the original situation. You are driving and see a man or woman on the street corner holding a sign asking for help. What can you do? How can you be prepared?

Based on the guests who come through SSS, the Food Pantry, and other ministries we host, most people on the corner already know where local shelters are located. If they want to be indoors, they often know where they can lay their heads for the night.

Still, it is wise to know one or two nearby resources so you can offer helpful direction in a brief conversation.

Food, however, is where I most encourage you to be prepared. It is quick, relatively inexpensive, and always needed.

When I was in seminary in St. Louis, the homeless population was large and visible throughout the city, downtown near Busch Stadium and even near the seminary itself. Many people stood on street corners asking for assistance.

One simple practice we adopted was to keep small care bags in our cars. These bags contained nonperishable, easy-to-open food items: peanut butter crackers, cans of tuna or chicken with pull-tabs, and a plastic fork or spoon. These simple gifts were often received with gratitude and joy.

Along with food, these bags can include other practical items. A pair of gloves, warm socks, or new underwear can bring comfort, dignity, and warmth, especially during cold months.

Above all though, pray for them. Pray daily. They are walking through difficult circumstances. You do not need to pretend to know what their lives are like, but it is important to recognize that their burdens are heavy.

So, I encourage and challenge you: be ready to care for those who stand at the street corner asking for help. Prepare your hearts, your prayers, and even your glove compartments. As you do, you follow in the footsteps of Christ, who did not turn away from us in our need, but came to us in mercy, grace, and love.



# SCAN QR

*to make a difference*



# Community OF CHRIST



BRUCE VOLKERT  
PRINCIPAL

There are several times in scripture in which we are told that people praised Jesus while at His feet or learned while sitting at His feet. Matthew shares this in chapter 19 of his Gospel - "Then people brought little children to Jesus for Him to place His hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked them. Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'" When He had placed His hands on them, He went on from there.' This significant account is repeated in both the Books of Mark and Luke. Artists have often portrayed this story by illustrating a group of children sitting around Jesus and at His feet.

In ancient times, it was a common practice for people to sit at a master's feet in order to learn from them. At Trinity Lutheran School, our students "sit at the feet" of masters to receive an education. In many cases this is a metaphor for describing the learning that takes place at school. However, visitors to our preschool and primary grade classrooms will very often see the students actually seated at the feet of their teacher. There is a certain level of informal rapport that happens when we find teachers and students in this pose. It can be an aid in making a connection between the teacher and the students.

We have the blessing to join together "at the feet" of Jesus as a Community of Christ when gathering in the Sanctuary for our weekly chapel services. We sit "at His feet" during our opening devotions, at Bible time, during religion lessons and we turn to Jesus in prayer. Thank you Jesus for providing for our students a seat at your feet!

We will celebrate National Lutheran Schools Week during the first week of March. The theme is "Let's Make a Joyful Noise" based on Psalm 98:4.



We will "be at Jesus' feet" with 1,800 other Lutheran preschools, grade schools and high schools to give thanks for our Lutheran schools.

This is a very fitting quote from our Synod office about the ministry of Lutheran Christian schools: "Our schools are amazing incubators for faithful witness of God's love for us through Christ by teachers and students alike." You may follow our various NLSW activities in the Trinity ENews. Our week will conclude on Sunday, March 8 when we host an Open House and School Expo from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. This is for the entire Trinity congregation as well as any prospective families interested in learning about a Christian education at our wonderful school. Your tour begins in the church lobby. A little detail: "officially," NLSW is the last week in January. Trinity, as well as some other schools, celebrate during the first week of March when we hope that weather does not interfere with our activities!

Our 8th grade students are learning about managing money during the second semester through a series of Financial Literacy workshops. The topics include investing, introduction to banking, the cost of a home, saving for education, making a budget, running a small business and the impact of taxes. These are important items for our students to begin considering. God gives gifts to His people. It follows Biblical teaching for His people to look after these gifts with wisdom. We offer praise and worship by returning a portion of these gifts back to the one who provided them - our Heavenly Father. One of our final Financial Literacy sessions will focus on the Christian duty and the blessing of tithing. We are so fortunate to be able to secure all of our "guest lecturers" from people connected to our Trinity Church and School ministry. Our students are thankful for the opportunity to learn "by sitting at the feet" of our speakers who gave of their time to invest in our kids.

# AT HIS FEET

## *Set Apart for His Work*



JENNY JARONESKI  
**SOCIAL MINISTRY ASSOCIATE**



I recently had the opportunity to spend two weeks at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne for intensive coursework in preparation to become a Deaconess—a time set apart for study, worship, and formation. The days were full and often overwhelming, like drinking from a fire hose, but grace showed up in ways I didn't expect. From morning chapel to late-night study sessions, each moment was shaped by Scripture, prayer, and fellowship. Being on a campus set apart in holiness—surrounded by sisters in Christ and immersed in the Word—reminded me that formation doesn't just happen in class. It happens in community, in worship, and in the quiet moments when Christ meets us at His feet with mercy.

That image—sitting at Jesus' feet—has stayed with me. In Scripture, it's where people listen, learn, and are changed. To be set apart for His work begins there. In John 17:17, Jesus prays, "Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth."



Photos: Jenny Jaroneski

That prayer is for all of us. Being set apart doesn't mean stepping away from the world—it means being rooted in Christ so we can serve with clarity, compassion, and joy wherever He's placed us.

At Trinity, I see this lived out every day. Some are set apart to welcome, cook, or offer a kind word. Others teach, pray, lead, or serve quietly behind the scenes. Many care for neighbors through our food pantry, Kids' Closet, and outreach ministries. Some serve alongside our partners in Detroit; others reach across borders to Guatemala or Northern Canada. And as far as we may go, we're also called to serve right where we are—at home, at work, inschools, and in everyday conversations—bringing Christ's love into every corner of life.

Being set apart takes shape in the ordinary. As Ephesians 2:10 says, "We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works." But those works begin not with doing, but with abiding—at His feet, where we remember who we are and whose we are.

This season of formation is a gift, and I'm grateful for the support of our congregation. But more than that, I'm grateful to be part of a church family that already understands what it means to be set apart—not for privilege, but for purpose. My prayer is that we keep encouraging one another in this calling, trusting that Christ is at work in and through us—and that we keep returning to His feet to be formed, renewed, and sent.

# You have a spot AT HIS FEET



ANDREW BRAZEAL  
YOUTH MINISTRY ASSOCIATE

There's a lot of good happening in youth ministry right now. There are retreats, Bible studies, service projects, games, conversations, late-night Taco Bell runs, and plenty of laughter along the way. Behind all of it is a question we've been asking more intentionally this year: Are we simply doing things *for* Jesus... or are we being *with* Him?

At our 7th grade confirmation retreat, we centered everything around a simple but powerful picture from Luke 10 of being "Locked in with Jesus." When Jesus visited the home of Mary and Martha, Martha worked tirelessly to serve Him, while Mary sat at Jesus' feet, listening and simply being with Him. Martha wasn't doing anything wrong; serving matters, and Scripture encourages it. Jesus gently reminds her that Mary chose "what is better." She chose connection over activity. She chose presence over productivity. We challenged our students with that same idea. What does it look like to be "locked in" with Jesus? Not just learning about Him or serving in His name, but being deeply connected to Him and His heart.

That focus is shaping how we approach youth ministry. We still have a lot of fun together, and that matters because good Christian community is one of the ways God strengthens faith. We still 'do' a lot with our faith, but we're intentionally creating space for students to slow down and sit at His feet. That happens when middle schoolers open Scripture together and wrestle with how it applies to their lives. It happens when high school students put the distractions away during large groups and choose to open up and discuss their faith instead of rushing to the gym to play basketball. It happens in small group conversations where students feel safe enough to ask honest questions and discover that God's Word speaks directly into their real highs and lows.

We're also seeing students live this out in quiet but powerful ways. Some are stepping into leadership roles in worship and service. We had 7 different high schoolers step up to lead small groups with middle schoolers this year! Others are forming friendships rooted in faith, encouraging each other through challenges, and reminding one another of truth when life gets overwhelming. These moments may not always look big or flashy, but they reflect something deeply important: students learning that their faith is not built only on what they do for God, but on who they are as children who belong to Him and with Him.



If you're a kid who feels overwhelmed by the 'doing' of your faith, know you're not alone. But there is hope. Come sit with us at youth group. Feel the freedom that God has given you to just be with Him. Let Him take the burden, knowing He's already done it all. Come find a place where questions are welcomed, friendships are formed, and where you can slow down long enough to hear the voice of the One who calls you His own. Our prayer is that every student would know they don't have to earn a place with Jesus—they already have one at His feet, and there will always be a seat open for them here with us.

**5th-8th Grade Youth**  
Sundays, 4:30-6:00 pm

**9th-12th Grade Youth**  
Sundays, 6:30-8:30 pm

**18-30ish Year-Olds Bible Study:**  
Tuesdays, 7:30-9:00 pm

# PASTORAL STAFF



**Rev. Justin Krupsky**  
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**Rev. Josh Britton**  
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## CHURCH COUNCIL

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**VICE-CHAIRMAN**  
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**TREASURER**  
Bob Vondett

**SECRETARY**  
Donna Lee/Shirley Rottman

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**CHAIRMAN CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL**  
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Cindy Gliesman

**CHAIRMAN OF CHRISTIAN GROWTH**  
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Theodore Meinka  
Frank Meinert  
Dave Garden  
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Brian Stump  
Mark Kuppe  
Steven J Powell  
Howard Cichoski  
Andrew Briggs  
Leonard E Harden III  
Mark Hu  
John Banasik  
Keith Vergin  
Tim Carpenter

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**PASTORS' ASSISTANT**  
Karah Gomez

**VIDEO PRODUCTION**  
Joshua Weyhing

**WORSHIP ASSISTANT**  
Jacob Roggow

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



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**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**



**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)

Articles for the next Trinity Matters are due Friday, May 1, 2026.  
Please send to [mgrupe@trinityutica.com](mailto:mgrupe@trinityutica.com). Thank you!