

# CONNECTIONS

## COME WORSHIP WITH US!

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 1—9:30AM

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 6—7:00PM

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 8—9:30AM

Amazing  
LOVE

## April Sermon Series

April 1 <b>Palm Sunday</b>	Luke 19:28-41	Sing Praises to the King
April 6	<b>Good Friday Worship at 7pm</b>	
April 8 <b>Easter</b>	Luke 24:1-8	Amazing Love
April 15	Matthew 7:7-12	Stones, Snakes and Good Gifts
April 22	Matthew 7:13-14	Which Road Are You On?
April 29	Matthew 7:15-23	Wolves, Thistles and Salvation

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## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- ♦ April 4 - Trinity Leading Easter Worship at Appledorn Living Center **10am**
- ♦ April 4 - Care Closet **4:30-6pm**
- ♦ April 5 - Community Kitchen at Western Seminary, **11am**
- ♦ April 6 - Good Friday Worship **7pm**
- ♦ April 8 - Easter Celebration **9:30am**
- ♦ April 9 - Spiritual Growth Team Meeting **7pm**
- ♦ April 10 - Prayer Group Meeting **10am**
- ♦ April 11 - Care Closet **4:30-6pm**
- ♦ April 11 - Wednesday Dinner & Activities **6pm**
- ♦ April 12 - Turning Pages **noon**
- ♦ April 14 - Spring Clean-Up
- ♦ April 16 - Finance Team Meeting, **7pm**
- ♦ April 18 - Care Closet **4:30-6pm**
- ♦ April 18 - Wednesday Dinner & Activities **6pm**
- ♦ April 18 - Ministry Team Leaders Meeting **7pm**
- ♦ April 19 - Ladies Night Out **5:30pm**
- ♦ April 19 - Building & Grounds Team Meeting **7pm**
- ♦ April 19 - People Care Team Meeting **7pm**
- ♦ April 22 - Heralders Quartet Concert **7pm**
- ♦ April 23 - Lydia/Ruth Circle **9:30am**
- ♦ April 23 - Mission Team Meeting **7pm**
- ♦ April 24 - Prayer Group Meeting **10am**
- ♦ April 25 - Care Closet **4:30-6pm**
- ♦ April 25 - Wednesday Dinner & Activities **6pm**
- ♦ April 26 - Turning Pages **noon**
- ♦ April 26 - Worship Team Meeting, **7pm**
- ♦ April 27 - Life Expressions Youth Fund Raiser

A good example  
is the best  
sermon

***“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.”*** <sup>25</sup>

*The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.* <sup>26</sup> *But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand.* <sup>27</sup> *The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”*

<sup>28</sup> *When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching,* <sup>29</sup> *because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.”*

Matthew 7:24-29 NIV

I am continually amazed at how many homes I see that are being built upon the sand. I have seen a fair share of them here in Holland. There was a rather large mansion built near Grand Haven, which was later torn down because its foundation was not secure and the house was falling apart. This was no small place, but was built at a cost of millions of dollars. I just saw a home being built near Silver Lake, and its foundation was securely placed in, of all places, the sand. Maybe it has something to do with living near so much beautiful water here along Lake Michigan’s eastern shore that we are lulled into forgetting the important teaching by Jesus about the wise and foolish builders. The house built upon the sand ends up falling with a great crash when the rain comes down and the streams rise. But those who build upon the rock have a firm foundation that will not be shaken, washed away or threatened by the storms of life.

It is curious to me that this simple illustration is what gets remembered by the majority of church goers, but is not the actual point Jesus is making through his teaching. He is not giving us instructions about where to build, although listening to this advice is wise. What Jesus wants us to remember is that there is essential information that will benefit the life of the believer in powerful and profound ways. There are important teachings that we have been given and need to respond to. The Sermon on the Mount includes so many of these life changing teachings for us to follow as disciples of Jesus.

So what is the teaching that Jesus wants us to capture in our lives? Well, look back to Matthew chapters 5-7 for a glimpse of that answer. Once you have a handle on what teachings are important, then Jesus adds on this story of the builders. The words of verse 24 instruct us to put into practice all that Jesus has been saying and delivering though this extended time of teaching on the mountainside. The point of the teaching on this story of the wise and foolish builders is this: **Ignoring the teachings of Jesus will result in producing a bunch of fools who’s lives will be full of devastation.** And conversely: **Following the teaching of Jesus has the power to bring about a life that stands secure through the storms of life.** As followers of Jesus, as his disciples, as Christians living in the world today, we must be willing and ready to put into practice all of these teachings. It is precisely the time that we do not practice the wisdom of Jesus that we shoot ourselves in the foot. We make out our lives to be a fraud! I would not only encourage you, but I would challenge you to put into practice these Essential Teachings of Jesus and to truly live a life of security, joy and purpose.

Blessings,  
Pastor Chris

### **From Your Worship Coordinator...**

It's April and spring is in full swing! The coldness and darkness of winter have passed and we find new strength in the sun and warmth of spring! And of course, we know ultimately our strength comes from the Lord, as we are reminded in Isaiah 40:31... ***"But those who trust in the LORD will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint."*** It is good to have this reminder from God's word, especially when we go through those seasons in life when things seem dark and bleak... our strength can be renewed as we trust in the Lord!

Spring also brings about a resurgence in activity, and here at Trinity Church there are so many exciting things to look forward to this season! One of those activities is The Heralders concert to be held here at the church on April 22 at 7:00PM. It will be a fun, uplifting night of music for all ages! It's a free concert (a freewill offering will be taken) and we hope to pack the house!

But I'm getting ahead of myself... Easter is almost here and I want to invite you all to participate in worship on Good Friday (7:00PM) and Easter Sunday (9:30AM) here at Trinity Church. Personally, Easter is my favorite time of year! Easter reminds us of all that our Lord has done for us... how can we not be filled with joy and gratitude? Good Friday and Easter worship this year are set to paint a vivid picture of God's amazing love for His people! We hope you will be able to join us!

By God's Grace,

*Becky*

## HERALDERS QUARTET

### IN CONCERT AT TRINITY CHURCH

**Sunday, April 22      7pm**





## *Meet Our Newest Members*



**Doug and Robin Dams** started attending Trinity in August 2011. We felt welcomed and at home immediately and became involved as soon as we started attending. Robin is employed at J's Again and enjoys volunteering, knitting and spending time with friends. Doug is employed at K&R Trucking and enjoys fishing and gardening. Both of us enjoy spending time with the grandkids. Thank you to everyone at Trinity for welcoming and accepting us into the church family. Blessings to all.

**Bob and Jeanne Thompson** met on the campus of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, where they attended classes for one year. Bob was born and raised in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, namely Iron Mountain – Kingsford. Jeanne came from Oceana County, the Hart area and graduated from Hart High School.

We were married in 1945, so will celebrate our 67<sup>th</sup> anniversary later this year. We have two children. Our son Terry resides in Kentwood with his wife Janice. Our daughter Kendra was widowed at a relatively young age when her husband, our dear Mike, passed away from mesothelioma (asbestos poisoning). He had been a jet mechanic at the air base in Battle Creek. We have been blessed with 4 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandson. We find great joy in each and every one of them.



Bob worked at Dow Chemical for a number of years and we built a home just south of Ludington. Our next move was to my hometown of Hart, where we purchased an insurance agency where we worked together. Bob began to feel confined in the office every day, and he went to work for Hastings Mutual Insurance Co. as an adjuster and subsequently as a field representative. Jeanne worked for the Ludington Public Schools in the administration office for fifteen years, took a couple years off, then worked in a law office until retirement in 1987.

We built an A-frame cabin on a small lake in the Upper Peninsula before our retirement. Later on, we bought a townhouse in Tucson Arizona, spending eighteen winters there and the summers at our U.P. cabin. We surely had the best of both worlds. A highlight of Jeanne's life while in Tucson was a sky dive at the age of 73. I absolutely loved it! Bob was thrilled with our time out there because he was a volunteer cowboy on a friend's ranch. We met the ranch owner at our church. Some of the work was pretty hard for a man in his 70's, but he just loved it.

We feel so blessed to have our wonderful family, to have the many experiences we've had, including cruises and trips. God has been good to us.

# CROP HUNGER WALK 2012



Saturday, April 28  
Holland Christian H.S.  
Register 8:00-9:00 am

or

Sunday, April 29  
Beechwood Reformed  
Register 1:30-2:30 pm

**PICK UP YOUR WALKER FORMS FROM DAN KRUIHOF**

PLEASE BRING FOOD ITEMS FOR LOCAL PANTRIES

DONATE AT— [WWW.HOLLANDHUNGER.ORG](http://WWW.HOLLANDHUNGER.ORG)





# SPIRITUAL GROWTH TEAM

## Children & Worship: This Ain't No Child's Play!

The children will be working with Easter stories as they celebrate the six Great Sundays of the Easter season. They will begin by sharing in the glory of the resurrection as they ponder the empty tomb.



## Care & Share



All are welcome to encourage one another in our congregation and in our community by sending a friendly note in the mail. Sandy has all the material you'll need. Join us in the Connection Café each Sunday after worship!

## Studying the Psalms

Join Al Kooyers and several others as they continue reading through the book of Psalms. Revel in these authentic prayers and use them as a model in your own prayer life. This group meets each Sunday in the prayer room at 11:00.

## Photographer Needed!

Do you have an eye for photography? Do you have a camera that can capture action shots? Would you be willing to take some pictures on a Tuesday evening? We'd like photos of our basketball players on their bulletin board in the gym. Please contact a Spiritual Growth Team member (listed below) if you are able. We'll discuss the details!



## Next Spiritual Growth Meeting April 9 @ 7:00 PM

### Agenda Items

- **Chili Cook-Off:** The Results!
- **Lenten Activities:** How is it going?
- **Book of Psalms, Care & Share, Children & Worship:** Updates
- **Middle School & High School Youth Ministries:** Updates
- **VBS & Sunday School:** Updates
- **Budget:** What are our projected needs?

**Future Meetings:** May 14 @ 7:00

*You are welcome to join us and share your ideas!*

### Spiritual Growth Team Members

Sandy Bedard (Care & Share): 335-8009  
 Jeanne Dannenberg (Secretary): 848-7109  
 Teresa Harrington (Chair): 395-9439  
 Al Kooyers (Book of Psalms): 335-2842  
 Lori Kooyers (Children & Worship):  
 994-9672

# Youth News

## Go Fish

April 1 — Go Fish & Area 51 Movie Night

April 4 — Service Project @ Church (Dinner Provided)

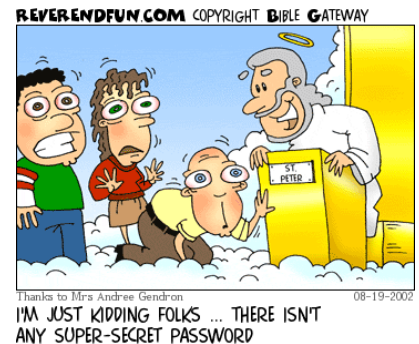
April 11 — Regular Meeting @ Church (Topic: Self Worth)

April 18 — Regular Meeting @ Church (Topic: Acceptance)

April 25 — Last Regular Meeting @ Church (Topic: Vulnerability)

May 2 — Go Fish Open (Putt– Putt & Ice Cream) If the weather is good!!!

**HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!! WATCH THE BULLETIN FOR SUMMER ACTIVITIES!!**



## Area 51

April 1 — Go Fish & Area 51 Movie Night

April 4 — Service Project @ Church (Dinner Provided)

April 8 — NO Area 51 (Easter)

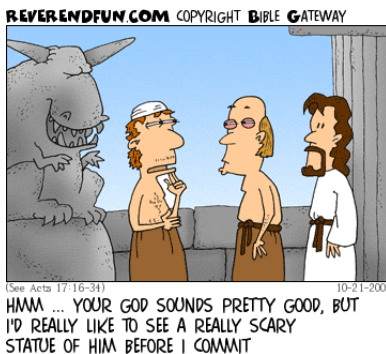
April 15 — Regular Meeting @ Church (Topic: Mormonism)

April 22 — Regular Meeting @ Church (Topic: Islam)

May 6 — Last Regular Meeting @ Church (Topic: New Age Movement)

May 20 — MESSY NIGHT!!!!

**HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!! WATCH THE BULLETIN FOR SUMMER ACTIVITIES!!**



**Thanks to all the people who have help the youth groups over the course of this year. Meals were provided and snacks/pop was donated!!! Thank you!!**



# OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED



## Easter Worship Service at Appledorn Living Center

*Pastor Chris will lead Easter worship at Appledorn Living Center on Wednesday, April 4 at 10am. If you would like to be a part of this service with our neighbors across the street, please talk to Pastor Chris.*

## SPRING CLEAN UP AT TRINITY!



**Come on Saturday morning, April 14 to help "spruce up" the grounds for spring. Come when you can - leave when you must.**

**Please sign up at the information table so we know how many to plan on.**



## Library News

*If you have ideas for books/videos you would like to see in the library, please feel free to leave a note in Beth Borgman's mailbox.*

### CHECK OUT THESE NEW DVD's IN THE LIBRARY



**Soul Surfer** - At the age of thirteen, surfer Bethany Hamilton lost her arm to a shark attack. The film, based on Hamilton's autobiography, details the events surrounding this attack, her struggle during the aftermath and how her Christian faith helped her recover her surfing career after the attack.



**Courageous** - Four men, one calling: To serve and protect. As law enforcement officers, Adam Mitchell, Nathan Hayes, David Thomson and Shane Fuller are confident and focused. Yet at the end of the day, they face a challenge that none of them are truly prepared to tackle: fatherhood. When tragedy hits home, these men are left wrestling with their hopes, their fears, their faith and their fathering. Can a newfound urgency help these dads draw closer to God ... and to their children?

## Thank You!

Thank you to the following individuals who provided baked goods for all of us to enjoy after worship during the month of March.

Jeanette Olbrich  
JoAnn Dykstra  
Alice Kooyers  
Heather Tindall

Dianne Moker  
Joyce Harper  
Jeanne Thompson  
Barb Bolks

Robin Dams  
Nancy Ponstein  
Crystal Lundy  
Judy Mulder

Muncie Boeve  
Beth Borgman  
Carla Brower  
Mick Gebben

If you would be willing to provide cookies and haven't been called, please contact the church office (396-6526). Thank you!



## **News From the Mission Team**

Have you ever wondered where the money placed in the offering is spent? Your Mission Committee is entrusted with the oversight of the mission part of our budget. This year at our annual congregational meeting the congregation voted to designate \$32,000 to be spent in support of what we have traditionally labeled, “domestic and foreign missions”.

Presently the Sunday offering supports various community outreach endeavors as well as missionaries in six foreign countries. The following is the present list of recipients: Chad VandenBosch (Africa), Roland and Jane Van Es (Gambia), Judy Estell (Taiwan), Wayne and Miho Jansen (Japan), Linn Gann (India), Mike and Kelli Anderson (Brazil) and Keith and Mary Beavon (Cameroon). In addition, our domestic Mission Endowment helps support Ina Montoya (New Mexico) and Max Weighmink (Western Michigan).

The Mission Committee also has responsibility for some of the Endowment Funds. This year the committee has the oversight of approximately \$4,000 from the Community Partnership Fund and \$10,700 from the Hands-On Ministries Fund of the Chippewa Chapel Endowment. Requests are made by Trinity members for portions of these funds. The committee considers these requests and grants funds based on the guidelines provided by Trinity’s Endowment Policy.

In this budget year, money from our Community Partnership Endowment has helped support two local ministries: Eighth Day Farm and 3-Sixty, and a new local RCA church start called Embody Christ Fellowship. Money has also been set aside for the Care Closet if it is needed. Our Hands-On Endowment has helped support Rick Fisher’s mission trip to Nigeria where he provided IT support for a Wycliffe Bible translation workshop. Funds have also been designated for the upcoming New York mission trip to provide Hurricane Irene disaster relief, and Trinity’s youth group trips this summer.

Some money remains in the endowment funds. If you or your group have a great idea for a mission project or trip, feel free to contact Pastor Chris or a Mission Committee member to see if some financial help may be available for your project. Your Mission Committee members are: Ken Neevel, Carol DeBoer, Dianne Moker, Dan Kruithof, Gretchen Fisher and Rog Mulder.

Dear Friends,

I've been struggling. I feel weak. How can I live a life of complete gratitude to God when there are such difficult things that happen? An 18 year old girl dies in an accident caused by a drunk driver. A young dad dies of a heart attack leaving his wife and two young children. A church van blows a tire and many children are seriously hurt, at least one dead. (All in one weekend). How do I be thankful? Then, my amazing Lord gave me a reminder. He *\*knows\**. He *\*knows\**. He has been here on this earth. He has experienced pain. He has experienced loved ones dying. He has felt pain. He *\*knows\**.

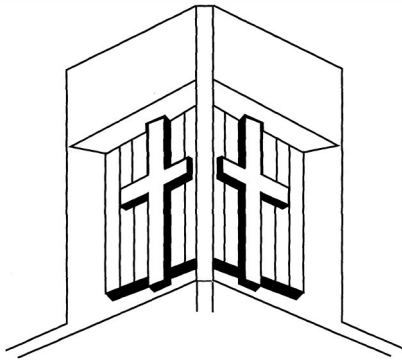
Hebrews 2:18 reads ***"Since he himself has gone through suffering and testing, he is able to help us"***.

This morning I read *"Who would ever know the greater graces of comfort and perseverance, mercy and forgiveness, patience and courage, if no shadows fell over a life?"* (One Thousand Gifts by Ann Voskamp).

I don't understand why such horrible things happen. But God understands. He is there to comfort us, to give us mercy, to give us courage. To make us strong again, when we feel so weak.

This world is clearly not our home.

*Tabitha Wolters*



## Trinity Reformed Church

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**Pastor: Chris DeGraaf** Email [chris@trinityrc.org](mailto:chris@trinityrc.org)

**Director of Youth Ministry: Jon Wolters** Email [jon@trinityrc.org](mailto:jon@trinityrc.org)

**Worship Coordinator: Becky Bierma** Email [becky@trinityrc.org](mailto:becky@trinityrc.org)

### Chili Cook-Off Winners!

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Tabitha Wolters (Gift card to Buffalo Wild Wings)

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Randy Busscher (Gift card to El Rancho)

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Amanda Schurman (Gift card to MC Sports)

Honorable Mention: Jan Becksfort for her intriguing "Fruit & Nut" Chili

Thank you all who participated to make this a wonderful event with over 120 people in attendance! We had 18 pots of chili and numerous desserts and lots of cornbread. It was a fabulous night of fellowship and basketball! Look for more details about the cook-off in next month's Connections!



## Happy Birthday!!



Betsy DeGraaf	4/1	Shirley Nienhuis	4/13	Chris DeGraaf	4/23
John Bedard	4/2	Roger Mulder	4/15	Julaine Knap	4/23
Olivia DeGraaf	4/5	Stuart Emmons	4/17	Shirley Perez	4/23
Pat Bosma	4/7	Ross Helmus	4/17	Gord Kossen	4/24
Doug VandeWege	4/8	Marlene Plaggemars	4/17	Betty Diekema	4/27
Jeanne Thompson	4/9	Bryan Gezon	4/19	Judy Groteler	4/27
Megan Kleinheksel	4/12	Del Kuipers	4/19	Bill VanAuken	4/27
Jessica Myaard	4/12	Kim Schrotenboer	4/19	Chuck Cherrie	4/28
Kathy Nyhoff	4/12	Hazel Dirkse	4/20	Jan VanAuken	4/28
Marilyn Brower	4/13	Joyce Dozeman	4/20	Randy Busscher	4/29
Bob Koning	4/13	Al Nienhuis	4/20	Katy Stroop	4/29

## Happy Anniversary!!

Jon and Barb Schulze	4/4	Jim and Lynda Simmons	4/17
Milt and Cheri Bos	4/6	Vern and Isla DeFouw	4/18
Merle and Alyda Boes	4/8	Larry and Becky Gezon	4/19
Carl and Connie Dykhuis	4/10	Andy and Audrey Behrmann	4/27
Paul and Dianne Moker	4/11		

