

The Monthly Newsletter of Trinity Reformed Church

CONNECTIONS

Welcome to the August Connections!

In This Issue

As the long summer days begin to wind down and the store shelves fill up with back-to-school items and fall decorations (!!), this month's newsletter both lingers in the joy of summer and anticipates some of the activities launching next month.

As you flip through these pages, you'll discover the first installment of our new Trinity Creates series with a focus on our very own Tom Lampen and his hidden talent for carving stone and wood into works of beauty. Be sure to flip toward the back and hear about Anubis Wunder's class trip to Greece and all the exciting things they experienced and learned.

And mark your calendars for all the upcoming events and ministries starting up again: our August Church Picnic, the All City Youth Fall Kick-Off, info on the upcoming Bus Trip to Frederick Meijer Gardens, the fall launch of both the Women's Bible Study and our monthly Book Club, and more!

May we enjoy these remaining summer days and look forward to what's to come!

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Look at the newly fixed basketball hoop! Thanks to the work of Jim Allen, the badly broken backboard and mishappen hoop and tattered net have been replaced and repaired. This hoop gets LOTS of use by our neighborhood kids!



A NOTE FROM PASTOR AMANDA

Dear Trinity Family,

A mark of a healthy family is the practice of good communication. That means not just communicating about big things or when things go wrong, but communicating and sharing about the small things, the seemingly inconsequential things. When a family practices good communication in the small things, they get better at listening to each other and sharing with one another when things do eventually get hard or difficult. (Note the “when”, not “if” of that statement.)

The same goes for a church community: **A mark of a healthy church is the practice of good communication.** This very thing came up in our Consistory retreat back in October. As your elders and deacons reviewed and reflected and dreamed and brainstormed and planned, we realized that we could do a better job of listening to and hearing from the rest of the congregation. Because we're all in this together!

If good communication is a continual practice of sharing and listening in the small things AND the big things, the good things AND the hard things, we realized we need to get into a regular rhythm of sharing with one another. So what could that look like?

Here's one possible practice that we're gonna try for the 2026-2027 ministry year: Trinity Talks.

On the Sunday before our scheduled Consistory meeting, we'll hold a Trinity Talk following the worship service. Folks will be invited to grab coffee and a cookie and bring them back into the sanctuary for a discussion on a topic or question that is on the Consistory's agenda.

This could be an update on the Pavilion Project and getting some feedback and input on the details or the final direction of the project.

It could be a time to walk through the proposed budget and ask good questions about our financial health and stewardship (rather than just a truncated Q+A at our annual congregational meeting!).

Or it could be a wondering conversation about what we all mean by “outreach” - a point that Pastor Lydia's work and role has revealed we all have vastly different ideas of what exactly we mean when we talk about “outreach”. For some this meant knocking on doors and getting people in our pews, for others this meant building relationships with our neighbors whether or not they ever walk through our front doors, and still for others it means broadening our engagement with the local mission work going on around us. How different could Pastor Lydia's time with us have been if we all sat down and shared with one another our different expectations as a congregation!

My hope is that this practice of communication in the small things and the big things helps us grow as a healthy church community where we hear each other and trust one another.

So, be on the look-out for upcoming topics and questions as we launch Trinity Talks. **And if you have an idea or a topic or a question you'd like to explore together with Consistory and other congregational members, please share them!** Reach out to me or to Teresa Harrington, as Vice President of Consistory.

We're all ears. 😊



SUMMER SERMON SERIES

Growing Disciples in the Gospel of Matthew

This summer, we have been exploring the Gospel of Matthew with a focus on growing as disciples.

Discipleship is a major theme of Matthew's gospel. More than the other gospels, Matthew focuses on Jesus as a teacher and rabbi, and he writes with great detail about the calling of the disciples and their ongoing formation as those who follow Jesus. And the gospel ends with that most famous of discipleship passages: *"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded."*

This month, we will conclude our focus on the Twelve as they seek to grow as disciples by learning from the One they follow and from each other. And as we walk along with them, may we, as disciples of Jesus, consider how the Spirit is inviting us to grow and learn from the One we follow too.

Let us hear once again the life-changing invitation of Jesus to all who follow him: *"Come to me and take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls..."*



"For those of us who desire to follow Jesus, here is the reality we must turn and face:

If we're not being intentionally formed by Jesus himself, then it's highly likely we are being unintentionally formed by someone or something else."

John Mark Comer
Practicing the Way

August 2 | Matthew 14:13-21

Feeding of the 5000

August 9 | Matthew 14:22-33

Jesus Walks on Water

August 16 | Matthew 15: 10-28

The Canaanite Woman

August 23 | Matthew 16:13-20

Peter's Confession

Discipleship Wondering...

How is Jesus inviting you to follow him more closely?

Where in your walk with Jesus have you felt the Spirit nudging you to grow or change?

What change or transformation in your own life of faith do you need to celebrate and give thanks for??





Here's the first installment of our new Connections column for 2026-2027! Over the course of the next year, we will explore all the different ways we live into the image of our God through our creativity and craft.

This month, we highlight our very own Tom Lampen who shares with us some of his creative work...

Q: What do you create?

Tom: Wood and stone carvings, and stone jewelry

Q: When and how did you begin creating this way?

Tom: I've always been fooling around with one thing or another. I started messing around with carving somewhere in my 20's. It just came from somewhere within me. For a long time I didn't get much pleasure from it because I didn't think I was doing it "right". Even though I got some positive feedback, I never thought it was good enough.

When I started doing some more abstract stuff a couple of years ago I felt set free. I could just do what made me happy. I'm less concerned with quality control. Maybe it's similar to playing jazz rather than classical music. It's letting my imagination run rather than playing the notes on page perfectly.

In a nutshell, the focus shifted from making something that impressed others (or myself) to making something that makes me happy.

Our creative work "is a reflection of God's creativity, an evidence that we are made in the image of God."

-Francis Schaeffer





Q: What is one of your favorite things you've created?

Tom: I made a Madonna-looking statue in honor of my daughter becoming a mother.



Here's a glimpse of Tom's work bench with his carving tools and pieces of wood in various stages of being worked on....



Q: How does creating in this way impact your connection with God?

Tom: God is THE creator. When humans create we are experiencing the fact that we are made in God's likeness.

A favorite quote of Tom's on the meaning and place of creativity in our lives....

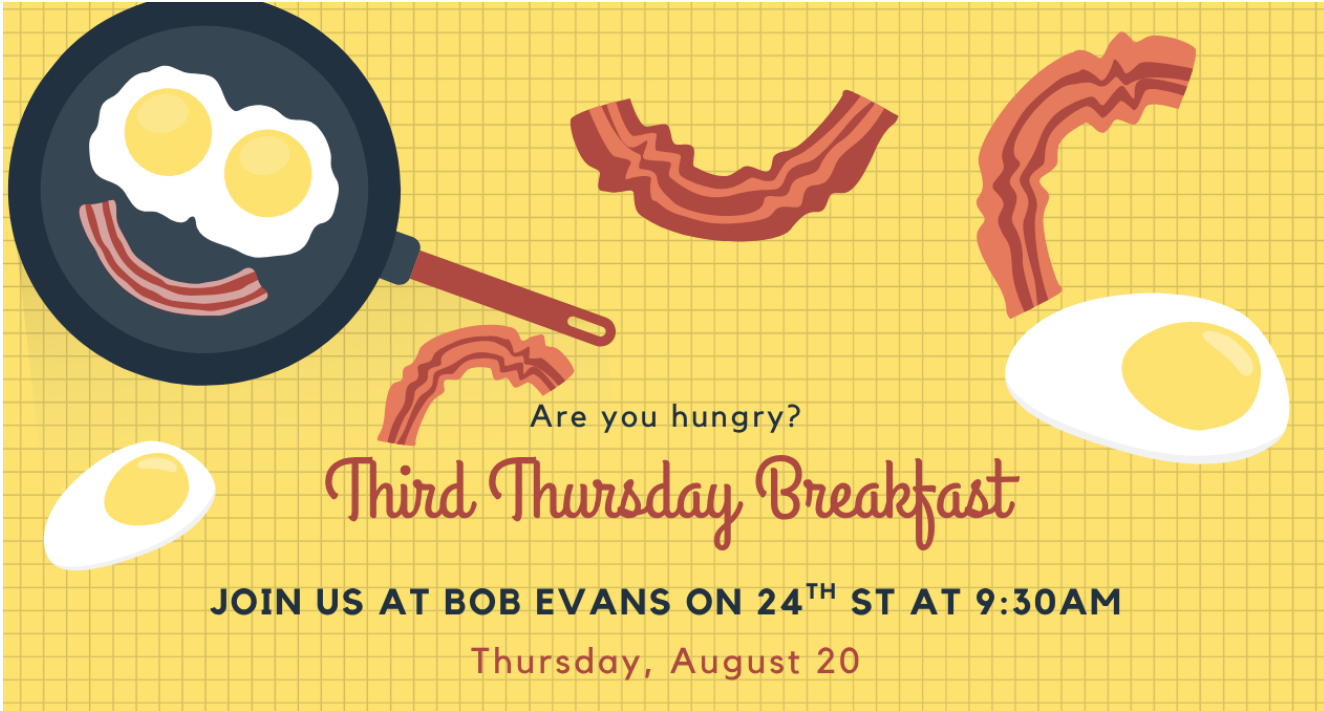
Thanks for sharing, Tom!

If you're still interested in sharing your own creative endeavours, send along to the Church Office photos and your own answers to our 4 questions. We'd love to share in an upcoming issue!

**To practice any art, no matter how well or badly,
is a way to make your soul grow. So do it.**

-Kurt Vonnegut

COMMUNITY NOTES



Are you hungry?

Third Thursday Breakfast

JOIN US AT BOB EVANS ON 24TH ST AT 9:30AM

Thursday, August 20



Sign up
using this
QR code

Trinity Care Closet

This month, Care Closet needs the following items. Would you please consider making a donation to assist our neighbors who could benefit from some extra support?

Look for the donation basket located on the Welcome Desk!

Thank you very much for your continued support of Trinity's Care Closet.

Donations of the Month

AUGUST

Q-TIPS
+
BANDAIDS



Hi Trinity Reformed Church!

We wanted to thank you for your \$512.35 donation that you made on 4/28/2026. As the days grow longer and spring seems to be just around the corner, we're reminded of the incredible growth that's possible with a lot of passion, gratitude, and dedication!

Thank you for your willingness to partner with Renew's mission; to bring about positive change in the life of those in our community through the physical, emotional and cognitive benefits of therapeutic horsemanship. Your gift has enabled the staff, volunteers, and horses the opportunity to serve those in our community with challenges.

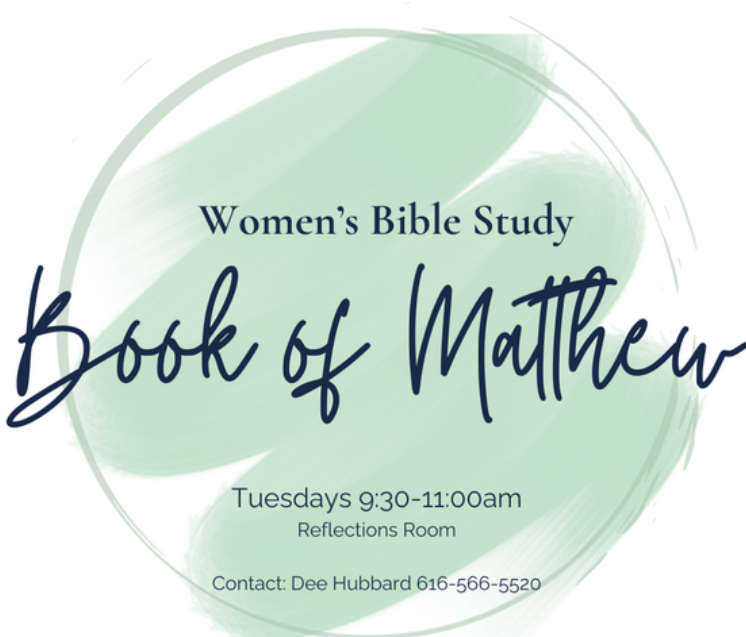
Whether you support Renew with your donations or with your time, your partnership and willingness brings such a positive change in the life of those truly in need. Because, behind every child and adult that is served at Renew Therapeutic Riding Center there's also a compassionate person like you who cares. Your continued support and belief in our mission makes these acts of kindness possible as we partner with our therapy horses, our community volunteers, and credentialed professionals to bring quality equine services to our participants.

As we look forward to the warmer days ahead, we continue to think about how much growth we're looking forward to this year as well! Thank You!!

With gratitude,

Liz Lesperance
Development Coordinator

THANK
YOU!



Women of the Word

Book of Matthew

The Tuesday morning women's Bible study will resume meeting on Tuesday, September 15th at 9:30AM in the Reflections Room.

All are welcome!

We will be studying the Book of Matthew.

Interested in joining us?
Reach out to Dee Hubbard for more information.

A Journey to Greece

My plans for my trip to Greece started 2 years ago, when me and my friends saw a flyer in the halls for the Greece trip and persuaded our parents to let us go. We've been waiting in anticipation for the trip ever since, and I'm so excited that it finally happened!

I had so much fun. On my trip I went to Athens, Santorini, and Crete with a few of my friends. While we were there, I made even more friends from one of the other schools on the trip and my own! When I left for the trip, I was friends with 4 people, and when I came back I was friends with 6! I had so much fun hanging out with and talking with my friends and it was a wonderful bonding experience for us. We were almost always together, which was great and we went to lots of shops and restaurants together!

There were 3 schools in my group, one from California, one from Alaska, and mine. I became friends with someone in California and someone from my school. I wasn't expecting to make new friends while we were there, so I was super enthusiastic when I did.

While on the trip, we completed lots of activities including visiting ancient ruins, shopping downtown, eating ice cream, and more. We went to lots of very good restaurants and had lots of foods that I've never had before. I had lots of very interesting foods like mousaka, baklava, gelato, fresh olives and more. I had this orange cake called portocalopita and it was something unique that I've never had before!

There were lots of shopping districts that we investigated where I bought lots of interesting items. I bought bracelets, a necklace, a pair of jeans, a realistic fish keychain, and more. They had lots of cool jewelry and accessories! I even got to bring back a piece of pumice from one of the beaches i went to.

I had lots of fun trying new things that Greece had to offer for us! We rode on lots of buses and airplanes, where I got to see the beautiful views in Greece. We were always on the move and we hardly took breaks in our hotels. The water there was very beautiful and a strikingly striking shade of turquoise, and I was super excited to get in and go swimming! The water was so much more blue than the water in lake Michigan and salty. There was lots of diversity in the plants that we saw around there. The climate and terrain was much different than anything in Michigan.

Overall, I had an epicly good time while I was in Greece. It was full of friend bonding time and new experiences! I would definitely go again because I had an amazing time. One thing i won't miss was the smoky smell from everyone there smoking. I thought I left all the smoke there, but for the past few days, its been stinky in Michigan too! (haha I'm so funny I know)

Thank you all for thinking of me on my trip and for praying for me!

Written and submitted by Anubis Wunder



Cover to Cover Book Club

The 2026/2027 Book Club will meet for the first time this season
on Thursday, September 24 at 7pm.

If you are interested in joining, please let Sharon Kruse know!

September | The Impossible Fortune by Richard Osman

October | Capote's Women by Laurence Leamer

November | Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus

December | **NO MEETING**

January | Horse by Geraldine Brooks

February | Something to Look Forward To by Fannie Flagg

March | Personal Librarian by Marie Benedict/Victoria Christopher Murray

April | The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo by Taylor Jenkins Reid

May | Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt

Cover to Cover Book Club will meet in The Reflections Room at Trinity

Each one of us
has a purpose
to be on earth for.

Each one of us
has a gift

that God bestows before.

But how we use this
special task

is it always up to us?
Or does God

have a
mysterious plan

that is not before us?
Someday it will be clear

why on earth we are here.

Just don't give up
your dream

because your days
are unclear

or time
doesn't seem near.

Written and submitted by
Linda Louisa Johnson

Trinity Bus Trip

to



FREDERIK MEIJER
Gardens & Sculpture Park



Featuring

CHIHULY

“RADIANT FORMS”

indoor and outdoor exhibits

Saturday, September 12, 2026

Dale Chihuly is an American artist who transforms spaces with experiments in color, light, transparency, and form. He is known for his exhibitions and large-scale architectural installations around the world and for revolutionizing the studio glass movement.

Join us for a bus trip to one of the nation's most beautiful botanical gardens and sculpture parks. Price includes general admission to the Garden and Sculpture Park plus the indoor Chihuly exhibit.

Optional use of the Hop-On, Hop Off tram for touring the gardens is available for \$10.

Departure Location	Trinity Parking Lot
Departure Time	9:00 AM
Indoor gallery tour	10:15 am
Explore the gardens	11:00 am- 4:00 pm
Lunch	On your own at the Cafe, or you may bring a sack lunch which can be kept by staff while you explore.
Depart Meijer Gardens	4:30 PM
Cost	\$28 per person (includes bus transportation, garden admission and indoor exhibit)
Optional	\$10 additional to ride the Hop-On/Hop-Off tram. Purchase this ticket on-site.

Sign up at the Welcome desk.

Payment is required by Sept 6

make checks out to Trinity Church.

See Sandy B for more info

There are 20 seats available on the bus.

If you'd like to drive separately,

please note that on the sign-up sheet and you can still get the group ticket price.



TRINITY
CHURCH



AUGUST PICNIC

all are welcome



A FUN OUTDOOR EVENT WITH LAWN
GAMES AND FREE CHILI DOGS



AUGUST 12 AT 6:00 PM
712 APPLE AVE, HOLLAND



PLAYGROUND, TRAIL, AND OUTDOOR GAMES
FOR ALL AGES!

RSVP's are welcomed, but not required -
please email, sign-up at the Welcome Desk or
call to RSVP or with any questions!

 616-396-6526
 info@trinityrc.org

ALL CITY YOUTH GROUP

FALL KICK-OFF



August 30 • 5-8 PM

Trinity Reformed Church • 712 Apple Ave
6-12th Grade Students

**Yard Games, Worship, Food Trucks,
Community, Large Group Games!!!**

AN OUTDOOR EVENT: BRING A PICNIC BLANKET AND MONEY FOR THE FOOD TRUCKS

Can Drive: Bring pop/soda cans to support Escape Ministries!

We can't wait to host this year's **All City Youth Group Event at Trinity!** Youth groups across Holland come together as one Church to worship God and play games. You may notice the Escape Ministries trailer the week of August 23rd – Youth plan to bring their cans to the event to support Escape Ministries – we hope this trailer fills up!



August Birthdays

Marcia Brink	08/06	Doris Welling	08/18
Scott Brower	08/06	Mia Garza	08/19
Cal Overbeek	08/06	Ed Borgman	08/21
Randy Timmer	08/08	Betty Marcus	08/21
Matt Oom	08/10	Sandy Bedard	08/22
Dawn Schurman	08/13	Judy Tanis	08/28
Wilma Prince	08/17	Amanda Bakale	08/29

August Anniversaries

Brian Bork + Amanda Bakale	08/09
Randy + Sally Timmer	08/14
Tom + Nita Bos	08/17
Ed + Beth Borgman	08/21
Martin + Pat Trevino	08/22

Financial Update thru June 30, 2026

<u>Budgeted Income</u>	\$40,303.58	<u>Actual Income</u>	\$25,592.26	<u>Income YTD</u>	\$172,326.55
Contributions	\$37,360.00	Contributions	\$18,738.46		
Monthly New Ministries Endowment Fund Transfer	\$2,943.58	Monthly New Ministries Endowment Fund Transfer	\$2,943.58		
		Interest on Accounts	\$60.22		
		Memorial Gifts	\$550.00		
		Breadhouse Contribution	\$3,300.00		
<u>Budgeted Expenses</u>	\$40,303.58	<u>Actual Expenses</u>	(\$31,176.80)	<u>Expenses YTD</u>	(\$228,636.11)
		<u>Net Income</u>	(\$5,584.54)	<u>Net Income YTD</u>	(\$56,309.56)

Please know you can mail your contribution or use the link on our website or the QR code to the right if you are unable to worship with us.



August 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 8:00am- 9:00amTRC Worship Team Rehearsal 9:30am- 11:00amTRC Worship 10:45am- 11:30amTRC	27 1:00pm- 3:00pmFacility Use Task Force Meeting 5:00pm- 7:00pmBread House	28 11:45am- 12:45pmStaff Meeting 7:00pm- 9:00pmBread House	29 10:00am- 11:00amBulletin Folding Group	30 5:30pm- 6:30pmBread House Set-up 6:30pm- 9:00pmBread House	31	1 Church Building Closed at 8pm
2 8:00am- 9:00amTRC Worship Team Rehearsal 9:30am- 11:00amTRC Worship 10:45am- 11:30amTRC Post-Service Coffee 11:00am- 12:00pmBread House Coffee & Breakfast 11:00am- 11:30amDigging Deeper 11:30am- 12:00pmBH Set-up + Rehearsal 12:00pm- 4:00pmBread House Worship	3 11:00am- 1:00pm NO Executive Team Meeting 5:00pm- 7:00pmBread House Praise & Worship Practice 6:00pm- 8:00pmFinance Team Meeting 6:30pm- 7:30pmRoots & Renewal Ministry Team Meeting	4 7:00pm- 9:00pmBread House Bible Study	5 10:00am- 11:00amBulletin Folding Group	6 5:30pm- 6:30pmBread House Set-up 6:30pm- 9:00pmBread House Family Night	7	8 Church Building Closed at 8pm
9 8:00am- 9:00amTRC Worship Team Rehearsal 9:30am- 11:00amTRC Worship 10:45am- 11:45amNO Second Sunday Brunch 10:45am- 11:30amTRC Post-Service Coffee 11:00am- 12:00pmBread House Coffee & Breakfast 11:30am- 12:00pmBH Set-up + Rehearsal 12:00pm- 4:00pmBread House Worship	10 5:00pm- 7:00pmBread House Praise & Worship Practice 6:00pm- 8:00pmConsistory I Budget Workshop	11 9:00am- 10:30amCare Closet Packaging 7:00pm- 9:00pmBread House Bible Study	12 10:00am- 11:00amBulletin Folding Group 10:00am- 12:00pmCare Closet 6:00pm- 8:00pmTRC Church Picnic 7:00pmCommunity Connections Meeting	13 5:30pm- 6:30pmBread House Set-up 6:30pm- 9:00pmBread House Family Night	14	15 Church Building Closed at 8pm
16 8:00am- 9:00amTRC Worship Team Rehearsal 9:30am- 11:00amTRC Worship 10:45am- 11:30amTRC Post-Service Coffee 11:00am- 12:00pmBread House Coffee & Breakfast 11:00am- 11:30amDigging Deeper 11:30am- 12:00pmBH Set-up + Rehearsal 12:00pm- 4:00pmBread House Worship	17 5:00pm- 7:00pmBread House Praise & Worship Practice	18 12:00pm- 1:00pmDeacons Meeting 12:30pm- 2:30pmElders Meeting 6:00pm- 9:00pmApple Tree Condo Meeting 7:00pm- 9:00pmBread House Bible Study	19 10:00am- 11:00amBulletin Folding Group	20 9:30am- 10:30amThird Thursday Breakfast (offsite) 5:30pm- 6:30pmBread House Set-up 6:30pm- 9:00pmBread House Family Night	21 2:00pm- 7:30pmAppledorn South I Community Picnic 6:00pm- 9:00pmBread House Leadership Meeting	22 Church Building Closed at 8pm
23 8:00am- 9:00amTRC Worship Team Rehearsal 9:30am- 11:00amTRC Worship 10:45am- 11:30amTRC Post-Service Coffee 11:00am- 12:00pmBread House Coffee & Breakfast 11:00am- 11:30amDigging Deeper 11:30am- 12:00pmBH Set-up + Rehearsal 12:00pm- 4:00pmBread House Worship	24 5:00pm- 7:00pmBread House Praise & Worship Practice	25 11:45am- 12:45pmStaff Meeting 2:00pm- 4:00pmChurches in Mission Team Meeting (Cafe) 7:00pm- 9:00pmBread House Bible Study	26 10:00am- 11:00amBulletin Folding Group 7:00pm- 8:30pmTRC + BH Partnership Meeting 7:00pm- 9:00pmWorship Life Meeting	27 5:30pm- 6:30pmBread House Set-up 6:30pm- 9:00pmBread House Family Night	28 5:00pm- 10:00pmTBD Apple Ave + Brookside Ave Neighborhood Picnic 6:00pm- 9:00pmBread House Prayer Meeting	29 Church Building Closed at 8pm
30 8:00am- 9:00amTRC Worship Team Rehearsal 9:30am- 11:00amTRC Worship 10:45am- 11:30amTRC Post-Service Coffee 11:00am- 12:00pmBread House Coffee & Breakfast 11:00am- 11:30amDigging Deeper 11:30am- 12:00pmBH Set-up + Rehearsal 12:00pm- 4:00pmBread House Worship 5:00pm- 8:00pmAll City Youth Fall Kick-Off Event	31 5:00pm- 7:00pmBread House Praise & Worship Practice	1 7:00pm- 9:00pmBread House Bible Study	2 10:00am- 11:00amBulletin Folding Group	3 5:30pm- 6:30pmBread House Set-up 6:30pm- 9:00pmBread House Family Night 7:00pmCommunity Connections Meeting	4	5 Church Building Closed at 8pm



Trinity Consistory

Elders:

Teresa Harrington, *Vice President*
Dee Hubbard
Bob Koning
Tom Lampen
Jan VanAuken

Deacons:

Jay Lynn Wheeler, *Chair*
Neil DeBoer
Rick Fisher
Warren Kooyers, *Treasurer*
Dianne Moker

Trinity Staff

Rev. Amanda Bakale, *Pastor*
Rev. Lydia Ribich, *Resident Pastor*
Hope Ward, *Assistant Treasurer*
Samantha Valentine, *Office Administrator*
Jim Allen, *Facilities Coordinator*
Dan Kruithof, *Custodian*

amanda@trinityrc.org
lydia@trinityrc.org
hope@trinityrc.org
samantha@trinityrc.org
jim@trinityrc.org
dan@trinityrc.org

Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday | 9am to 12pm

After Hours Emergency Contact *Pastor Amanda | 616.402.4671*



712 Apple Avenue Holland, MI 49423
(616) 396-6526
www.trinityrc.org | info@trinityrc.org