

# CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER



## FAMILY OF GOD: STORIES FOR ADVENT

During Advent we are exploring what it means to belong to the Family of God through the stories of the women and mothers included in Jesus's family tree in the Gospel of Matthew. These stories help us see the incredible way the Family of God is redefined then and now by the coming of Jesus.

As we journey through Advent and anticipate the coming of our Emmanuel, may you know and experience the presence of Jesus with you.

## UPCOMING SERMONS

- December 1 | *Communion*  
Tamar | Matthew 1:3;  
Genesis 38
- December 8 | Rahab | Matthew 1:5;  
Joshua 2 & 6:22-25
- December 15 | Ruth | Matthew 1:5
- December 22 | Bathsheba | Matthew 1:6;  
1 Kings 1:15-37
- December 24 | *Christmas Eve*  
Mary | Matthew 1:16
- December 29 | TBD

# Children's Ministry at Trinity

## Children and Worship

After the children's blessing, students ages 4 yr old-2nd grade can go down to the worship center with the helper. Please see the bulletin for who the Teacher and Helper is each week. Students will come upstairs at the end of worship to meet their adult in the cafe during connection time.

December 1 | Prophets

December 8 | Mary + Joseph

December 15 | Shepherds

December 22 | Magi + Christ's birth

December 29 | NO Children & Worship

January 5 | NO Children & Worship

January 12 | The Boy Jesus in the Temple

January 19 | Jesus is Baptized

January 26 | Jesus in the Wilderness



## Weather Cancellations

In the event of inclement weather, any service cancellation will be communicated by 8AM on Sunday morning. Following the decision to cancel made by the preaching pastor and the Vice President of Consistory, the church office will send email communication, as well as posting our cancellation on the following news outlets; Wood TV8, Fox 17, W/WMT Channel 3 and WHTC 1450 AM Radio.

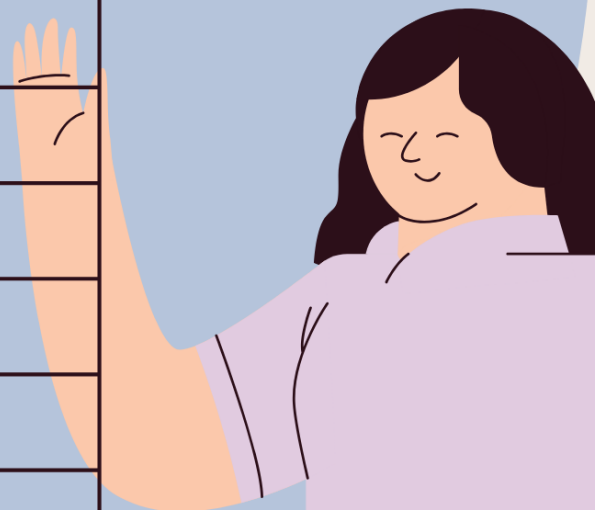
For any church events happening throughout the week, the cancellation and communication will come from the ministry organizer.

# “Welcome to Trinity!”

A friendly face and a warm welcome can make all the difference on a Sunday morning whether someone is a first time visitor or a long-time member.

Please consider signing up to serve as a greeter on a Sunday morning! Sign up as a household, with a friend, as an individual, and let's all get involved in extending a warm welcome to all those who join us for worship...

Date	Name	Name
February 2		
February 9		
February 16		
February 23		
March 2		
March 9		
March 16		
March 23		
March 30		



*Whisper oh my love the True Christmas Story*

*by Linda Louisa Johnson*

*Whisper oh my love  
the true Christmas Story  
Hide not the truth  
about which you abide  
Hidden from the scholars,  
the wicked, the wise,  
Child of tomorrow  
when your wings shall fly  
As the earth descends  
you shall not die,  
The Lights of lights  
glory be on high  
The King of kings  
with His kingdom  
surrounding the skies,  
Brother betray brother  
wickedness arise  
Peace and prosperity  
wealth in men's eyes,  
Whisper oh my love  
the secrets you hold  
Though your throat will become hoarse  
the story become old,*

*Scholars will laugh  
the rich will not listen  
The religious will prophecy  
truth not given,  
'You foolish people  
can you not smell  
The foul of your truth  
you tell so well.'  
When the streets become blood  
and darkness abides  
And Christmas lights only tell  
earthly lies  
When the Christ Child comes  
in the sky  
Then and only then  
will they open their eyes  
And see the King of love  
whom they crucified,  
But you my child  
will not be here  
For you shall have risen  
oh so high  
To be with the King of Kings  
who lives who did not die.*

# *Advent* Soup + Bread Potluck Dinners

**SAVE THE DATES!**

Wednesday, December 4 | Ornament Exchange

Wednesday, December 11 | Christmas Caroling

Wednesday, December 18 | Reading of the Christmas Story

Let's come together for a heartwarming  
evening filled with delicious soups,  
good company and time to share the  
joy of the advent season!



Trinity Reformed,

We cannot thank you enough for your continued partnership with Gateway Mission through the Corners of Your Field partnership. Below are your totals from July, 2024 to September, 2025. Your donations not only contributed to Gateway Mission's vision of leading people to changed lives in Christ, but additionally providing food, shelter, and other services to those in need. If you have any questions or would like to schedule a Fill the Trailer Event, please do not hesitate to let me know!

**Value of Items Donations**

**\$6,260.00**

**Value of Gift Cards**

**\$315.00**

\*Items Donated July 2024 through September 2024.

## Cover to Cover Book Club

The 2024/2025 Book Club meets the 4th Thursday of every month. Participation is limited to 12 people. If you are interested in joining, please see Sharon Kruse.

**December 19 | The Lemon Tree by Sandy Tolan**

**January 23 | The Last Runaway by Tracy Chevalier**

**February 27 | The Women of Copper Country by Mary Doria Russell**

**March 27 | News of the World by Paulette Jiles**

**April 24 | The Sun Does Shine by Anthony Ray Hinton**

**May 22 | The Edge of Summer by Viola Shipman**

*Cover to Cover Book Club will meet at The Marriott Downtown Holland at 7PM.*

## Women's Fall Bible Study

# Gospel of John

The women's fall Bible study will pause from December 6 until January 8. We will return to our regular meetings on Thursday, January 9, at 9:30 AM.

# 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.*

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## Donations of the Month

DECEMBER

**MOUTH WASH  
+  
TOOTHPASTE**



# 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.*

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## Donations of the Month

JANUARY

**KLEENEX  
+  
ALUMINUM FOIL**



Join in the fun!

**The Trinity Bus will be**  
*decked out in the*  
**DOWNTOWN HOLLAND**  
*Parade of Lights*  
**DECEMBER 3, 6:30PM**

**HERE'S HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE:**

- If you want to **RIDE** in the bus in the parade, sign up, and be at church by 4:45PM.
- If you want to **WALK** with the bus, meet it at the SW corner of 10th and College by 6:00PM.
- The parade route is 8th street from Columbia to the Civic Center.
- Come on out and join the fun!



# CHRISTMAS **BREAKFAST** *Potluck*

**BRING A DISH TO SHARE!**

**Wednesday, December 18 @ 9:30AM**



**Please sign up at the Welcome Desk  
or call the church office  
@ 616-396-6526**

# Christmas Card list

Ken Borgman	Gord Kossen
Dick Boss	Sydelle Kroll
Bev Dekorte	Betty Marcus
Robin Dryer	Marlene Plaggemars
Joann Dykstra	Phyllis Post
Stu Emmons	Arlene VandenBosch
Bill Jarnaagin	Glen & Shirley Vereeke
Linda Johnson	
Arlon Jongekrijg	

Please deposit cards in the designated bags  
by December 15

## TUESDAY COFFEE WITH PASTOR AMANDA



10:30AM

While I've met many folks, there's always more to learn about each other. And there's folks I haven't gotten to know yet. Let's have coffee together!

I'm setting aside every Tuesday morning at 10:30am for coffee. Your house. A local coffee shop. My office. Whatever works best for you!

Just sign up in the Church Office for an upcoming Tuesday, then I'll reach out and confirm details!

# Trinity Reformed Church

712 Apple Avenue Holland, MI 49423

Phone: (616) 396-6526

Website: [www.trinityrc.org](http://www.trinityrc.org) | Email: [info@trinityrc.org](mailto:info@trinityrc.org)

## Trinity Staff

Amanda Bakale, Pastor  
Hope Ward, Assistant Treasurer  
Samantha Valentine, Administrative Assistant  
Lauren Garza, Children's Ministry  
Jim Allen, Facilities Coordinator  
Dan Kruithof, Custodian

[amanda@trinityrc.org](mailto:amanda@trinityrc.org)  
[hope@trinityrc.org](mailto:hope@trinityrc.org)  
[samantha@trinityrc.org](mailto:samantha@trinityrc.org)  
[lauren@trinityrc.org](mailto:lauren@trinityrc.org)  
[jhallen\\_48@yahoo.com](mailto:jhallen_48@yahoo.com)  
[dan@trinityrc.org](mailto:dan@trinityrc.org)

## 2025 Trinity Consistory

### Elders:

Gregg Harper  
Teresa Harrington  
Dee Hubbard  
Bob Koning  
Lynda Simmons

### Deacons:

Warren Kooyers  
Steve Lundy  
Matt Oom  
Shirley Perez  
Jay Lynn Wheeler

## December + January Birthdays

Kimy Oom	12/1	Gretchen Fisher	12/18	Dick Boss	1/13
Mary Naber	12/3	Joyce Harper	12/19	Elsie Kossen	1/14
Barb Long	12/5	Dan Kruithof	12/22	Jim Simmons	1/24
Ed Prince	12/7	Bev DeKorte	12/24	George Jacob	1/25
Joyce Warncke	12/8	Ruth Klungle	1/4	Marj Kleis	1/28
Brian Bork	12/10	Dave Tanis	1/4	Tiffany Shull	1/29
Ken Borgman	12/11	Pat Trevino	1/11		

## December + January Anniversaries

Gregg + Sally Harper	12/9	Ed + Marlene Plaggemars	1/21
Rob + Teresa Harrington	12/16		

## Church Office Hours

Monday-Thursday | 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

## After Hours Emergency Contact

Pastor Amanda | 519-497-8654 | [amanda@trinityrc.org](mailto:amanda@trinityrc.org)

# DECEMBER 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>Advent</b> 8:00am - 9:00am TRC Worship Team Rehearsal 9:30am - 11:00am TRC Worship 9:45am - 10:30am TRC Children + Worship 10:45am - 11:30am TRC Post-Service Coffee 11:00am - 12:00pm BH Set-up + Rehearsal 11:00am - 12:00pm Bread House coffee & breakfast 12:00pm - 4:00pm Bread House Worship	<b>2</b> 5:00pm - 7:00pm Bread House Praise & Worship Practice	<b>3</b> 6:15pm - 9:00pm Thornapple Ridge Condo Meeting 6:30pm - 8:30pm TRC Bus in Downtown Holland Parade of Lights 7:00pm - 9:00pm Bread House Bible Study	<b>4</b> 7:30am - 8:30am Men's Bible Study 10:00am - 11:00am Folding Group 5:00pm - 8:00pm TRC Wednesday Night Dinner   Ornament Exchange	<b>5</b> 9:30am - 11:00am Women of the Word   Gospel of John 6:30pm - 9:00pm Bread House Family Night 7:00pm Community Connections Meeting	<b>6</b> 6:00am - 7:30am Holland Middle Wyldlife 8:00am - 6:00pm BH   Making Tamales	<b>7</b> 8:00am - 6:00pm BH   Making Tamales 10:00am - 2:00pm Quilt/Craft Group Meeting
<b>8</b> 8:00am - 9:00am TRC Worship Team Rehearsal 9:30am - 11:00am TRC Worship 9:45am - 10:30am TRC Children + Worship 10:45am - 11:30am TRC Post-Service Coffee 11:00am - 12:00pm BH Set-up + Rehearsal 11:00am - 12:00pm Bread House coffee & breakfast 12:00pm - 4:00pm Bread House Worship	<b>9</b> 5:00pm - 7:00pm Bread House Praise & Worship Practice	<b>10</b> 9:30am - 10:30am Care Closet Packaging 11:30am - 1:30pm Staff Christmas Lunch   Office Closed 7:00pm - 9:00pm Bread House Bible Study	<b>11</b> 7:30am - 8:30am Men's Bible Study 10:00am - 11:00am Folding Group 11:00am - 1:00pm Care Closet 5:00pm - 8:00pm TRC Wednesday Night Dinner   Christmas hymn sing/caroling	<b>12</b> 6:30pm - 9:00pm Bread House Family Night	<b>13</b> 5:30pm - 9:00pm Bread House Youth Ministry	<b>14</b> 11:00am - 5:00pm Lampen Christmas Party
<b>15</b> 8:00am - 9:00am TRC Worship Team Rehearsal 9:30am - 11:00am TRC Worship 9:45am - 10:30am TRC Children + Worship 10:45am - 12:00pm Post-Service Christmas Card + Cookie Packaging 10:45am - 11:30am TRC Post-Service Coffee 11:00am - 12:00pm BH Set-up + Rehearsal 11:00am - 12:00pm Bread House coffee & breakfast 12:00pm - 4:00pm Bread House Worship	<b>16</b> 5:00pm - 7:00pm Bread House Praise & Worship Practice	<b>17</b> 7:00pm - 9:00pm Bread House Bible Study	<b>18</b> 7:30am - 8:30am Men's Bible Study 9:30am - 11:30am TBD Senior Ministries Christmas Brunch Potluck 10:00am - 11:00am Folding Group 5:00pm - 8:00pm TRC Wednesday Night Dinner   Christmas Story	<b>19</b> 9:30am - 10:30am Third Thursday Breakfast 6:30pm - 9:00pm Bread House Family Night 7:00pm - 9:00pm Cover to Cover Book Club	<b>20</b> 6:00pm - 9:00pm Bread House Leadership Meeting	<b>21</b> <b>First Day of Winter</b>
<b>22</b> 8:00am - 9:00am TRC Worship Team Rehearsal 9:30am - 11:00am TRC Worship 9:45am - 10:30am TRC Children + Worship 10:45am - 11:30am TRC Post-Service Coffee + Cake for Joyce Harper's 95th Birthday 11:00am - 12:00pm BH Set-up + Rehearsal 11:00am - 12:00pm Bread House coffee & breakfast 12:00pm - 4:00pm Bread House Worship	<b>23</b> 5:00pm - 7:00pm Bread House Praise & Worship Practice	<b>24</b> 6:00pm - 7:00pm TRC Christmas Eve Worship Service	<b>25</b> <b>Christmas Day</b> Office Closed for Christmas 11:00am - 4:00pm Borgman Christmas Party	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 8:00am - 9:00am TRC Worship Team Rehearsal 9:30am - 11:00am TRC Worship 10:45am - 11:30am TRC Post-Service Coffee 11:00am - 12:00pm BH Set-up + Rehearsal 11:00am - 12:00pm Bread House coffee & breakfast 12:00pm - 4:00pm Bread House Worship	<b>30</b> 5:00pm - 7:00pm Bread House Praise & Worship Practice 6:00pm - 9:00pm Kruthof Christmas Party	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> <b>New Year's Day</b> Office Closed for New Year's Day 7:30am - 8:30am Men's Bible Study 10:00am - 11:00am Folding Group	<b>2</b> 7:00pm Community Connections Meeting	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 10:00am - 2:00pm Quilt/Craft Group Meeting

# JANUARY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>29</b> 8:00am - 9:00am TRC Worship Team Rehearsal 9:30am - 11:00am TRC Worship 10:45am - 11:30am TRC Post-Service Coffee 11:00am - 12:00pm BH Set-up + Rehearsal 11:00am - 12:00pm Bread House coffee & breakfast 12:00pm - 4:00pm Bread House Worship	<b>30</b> 5:00pm - 7:00pm Bread House Praise & Worship Practice 6:00pm - 9:00pm Kruithof Christmas Party	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> <b>New Year's Day</b> <b>Office Closed for New Year's Day</b> 7:30am - 8:30am Men's Bible Study 10:00am - 11:00am Folding Group	<b>2</b> 7:00pm Community Connections Meeting	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 10:00am - 2:00pm Quilt/Craft Group Meeting
<b>5</b> 8:00am - 9:00am TRC Worship Team Rehearsal 9:30am - 11:00am TRC Worship 10:45am - 11:30am TRC Post-Service Coffee 11:00am - 12:00pm BH Set-up + Rehearsal 11:00am - 12:00pm Bread House coffee & breakfast 12:00pm - 4:00pm Bread House Worship	<b>6</b> <b>Epiphany</b> 5:00pm - 7:00pm Bread House Praise & Worship Practice	<b>7</b> 9:30am - 10:30am Care Closet Packaging 7:00pm - 9:00pm Bread House Bible Study	<b>8</b> 7:30am - 8:30am Men's Bible Study 10:00am - 11:00am Folding Group 11:00am - 1:00pm Care Closet 7:00pm - 8:30pm Women of the Word   Prayers in the Night	<b>9</b> 9:30am - 11:00am Women of the Word   Gospel of John 6:30pm - 9:00pm Bread House Family Night	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 9:00am - 3:00pm Bread House Ladies Luncheon
<b>12</b> 8:00am - 9:00am TRC Worship Team Rehearsal 9:30am - 11:00am TRC Worship   Ordination + Installation Service 10:45am - 11:30am TRC Post-Service Coffee 11:00am - 12:00pm BH Set-up + Rehearsal 11:00am - 12:00pm Bread House coffee & breakfast 12:00pm - 4:00pm Bread House Worship	<b>13</b> 5:00pm - 7:00pm Bread House Praise & Worship Practice	<b>14</b> 6:30pm - 7:30pm Dinner + Orientation for Incoming Elders + Deacons 7:00pm - 9:00pm Bread House Bible Study	<b>15</b> 7:30am - 8:30am Men's Bible Study 10:00am - 11:00am Folding Group 7:00pm - 8:30pm Women of the Word   Prayers in the Night	<b>16</b> 9:30am - 10:30am Third Thursday Breakfast 9:30am - 11:00am Women of the Word   Gospel of John 6:30pm - 9:00pm Bread House Family Night	<b>17</b> 6:00am - 7:30am Holland Middle Wyldlife 6:00pm - 9:00pm Bread House Leadership Meeting	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 8:00am - 9:00am TRC Worship Team Rehearsal 9:30am - 11:00am TRC Worship 10:45am - 11:30am TRC Post-Service Coffee 11:00am - 12:00pm BH Set-up + Rehearsal 11:00am - 12:00pm Bread House coffee & breakfast 12:00pm - 4:00pm Bread House Worship	<b>20</b> <b>Martin L. King, Jr. Day</b> 5:00pm - 7:00pm Bread House Praise & Worship Practice	<b>21</b> 5:30pm - 7:00pm Executive Team Meeting 7:00pm - 9:00pm Bread House Bible Study 7:00pm Deacons Meeting 7:00pm Elders Meeting	<b>22</b> 7:30am - 8:30am Men's Bible Study 10:00am - 11:00am Folding Group 7:00pm - 8:30pm Partnership Meeting - TRC & BH 7:00pm - 8:30pm Women of the Word   Prayers in the Night	<b>23</b> 9:30am - 11:00am Women of the Word   Gospel of John 6:30pm - 9:00pm Bread House Family Night 7:00pm - 9:00pm Cover to Cover Book Club	<b>24</b> 6:00pm - 9:00pm Bread House Prayer Meeting 6:00am - 7:30am Holland Middle Wyldlife	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 8:00am - 9:00am TRC Worship Team Rehearsal 9:30am - 11:00am TRC Worship 10:45am - 11:30am TRC Post-Service Coffee 11:00am - 12:00pm BH Set-up + Rehearsal 11:00am - 12:00pm Bread House coffee & breakfast 12:00pm - 4:00pm Bread House Worship	<b>27</b> 5:00pm - 7:00pm Bread House Praise & Worship Practice 7:00pm - 9:00pm Worship Life Meeting	<b>28</b> 11:45am - 12:45pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm - 9:00pm Bread House Bible Study	<b>29</b> 7:30am - 8:30am Men's Bible Study 10:00am - 11:00am Folding Group 7:00pm - 8:30pm Women of the Word   Prayers in the Night	<b>30</b> 9:30am - 11:00am Women of the Word   Gospel of John 6:30pm - 9:00pm Bread House Family Night	<b>31</b> 6:00am - 7:30am Holland Middle Wyldlife	<b>1</b> 10:00am - 2:00pm Quilt/Craft Group Meeting