

NOVEMBER 2026 | ISSUE 20

The Monthly Newsletter of Trinity Reformed Church

CONNECTIONS

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Welcome to the November Connections!

This month, as the days get a little darker and the wind turns colder, grab a cup of coffee and settle into this issue. Here you'll read an update from Lori Kooyers on our newly launched Children's Story Time, you'll find out exactly how many books Linda Johnson has published in the past 50 years in our Trinity Creates column, and you'll be encouraged to reflect on the place of gratitude in our prayer life.

And make sure to flip all the way to the back for updates on our Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, November 22, in partnership with CUSP (Christians Uniting in Song and Prayer, a local ecumenical group) and a whole bunch of other events coming up!



That's Jakob Bork cheering on the Hope College Men's soccer team against Calvin University! The game was a heartbreaker for Hope but so much fun!



CURRENT SERMON SERIES



This month we are exploring the Lord's Prayer through the wisdom of the Heidelberg Catechism. Each week we seek to discover how Jesus teaches us not only what to pray, but how to live in relationship with God.

The Catechism includes the teaching on the Lord's Prayer in its section on grateful living. By placing prayer in this section, the Catechism reveals to us that our prayer life is not about duty or a religious chore, but our prayer life flows from our deep joy and gratitude for all that God has already done for us and through us.

As we walk through the prayer Jesus taught us, we are learning to bring our worship, our needs, our struggles, our hopes, and our daily lives before God with greater trust and confidence. With joy and with gratitude.

Invitation to Reflect: : How's your prayer life right now? Joyful? Stagnant? Consistent? Non-existence? How might focusing your prayers on gratitude deepen your trust and joy in the Lord?

November 1 | Hunger & Daily Bread
Mark 6:30-44 // HC Q&A 125

November 8 | Forgiven & Forgiving
HC Q&A 126

November 15 | Temptation & Evil
HC Q&A 127

November 22 | The Power of Amen
HC Q&A 128-129

November 29 | 1st Sunday of Advent

Lord's Day 45

Q&A 116

Q. Why do Christians need to pray?

A. Because prayer is the most important part of the thankfulness God requires of us.[1]

And also because God gives his grace
and Holy Spirit only
to those who pray continually
and groan inwardly,
asking God for these gifts
and thanking God for them.[2]

[1] Ps. 50:14-15; 116:12-19; 1 Thess. 5:16-18
[2] Matt. 7:7-8; Luke 11:9-13



TRINITY KIDS' CORNER

An Update from Lori Kooyers!

Hello all,

Kids time is off to a great start!

We have been watching an episode of The So and So Show. Two hosts walk us through a contemporary and comedic presentation of a bible story. We then follow up with a discussion on the story and our thoughts relating to it. We take time to talk about our the week and what's on our hearts before a time of prayer.

My vision is to help our kids develop a deeper personal relationship with Jesus as they learn to love their neighbors.

We close our time together singing "Go Now in Peace"

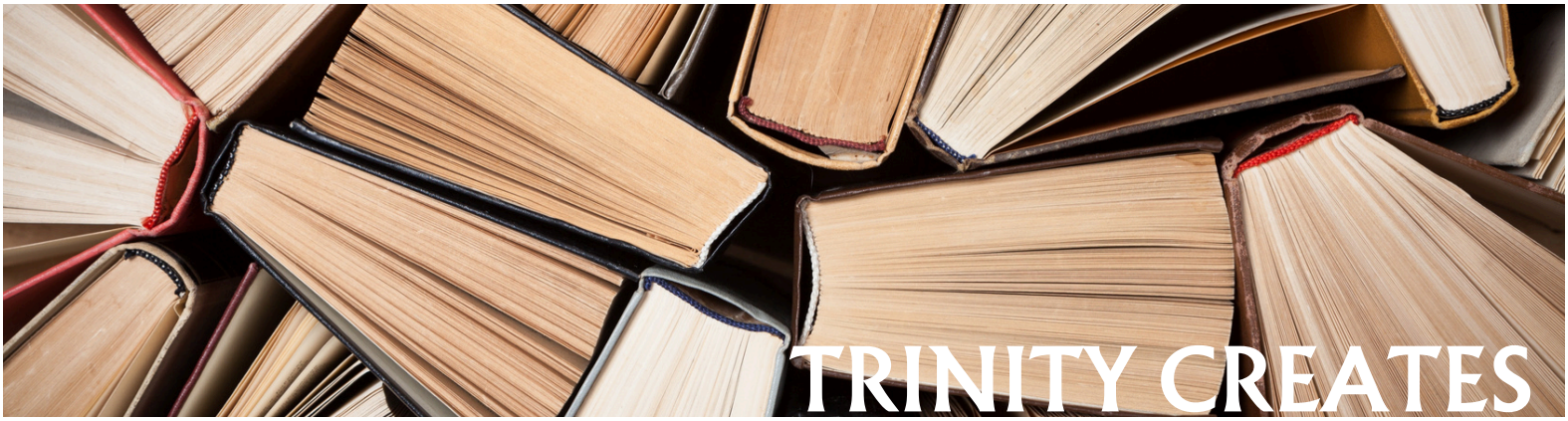
If you would like to be a part of this ministry please let me know!

Thanks,
Lori

THE SO&SO show

Join us for Children's Story Time on the 2nd & 3rd Sundays of each month!

All kids are welcome to engage with bible stories through video, discussion, prayer and song!



TRINITY CREATES

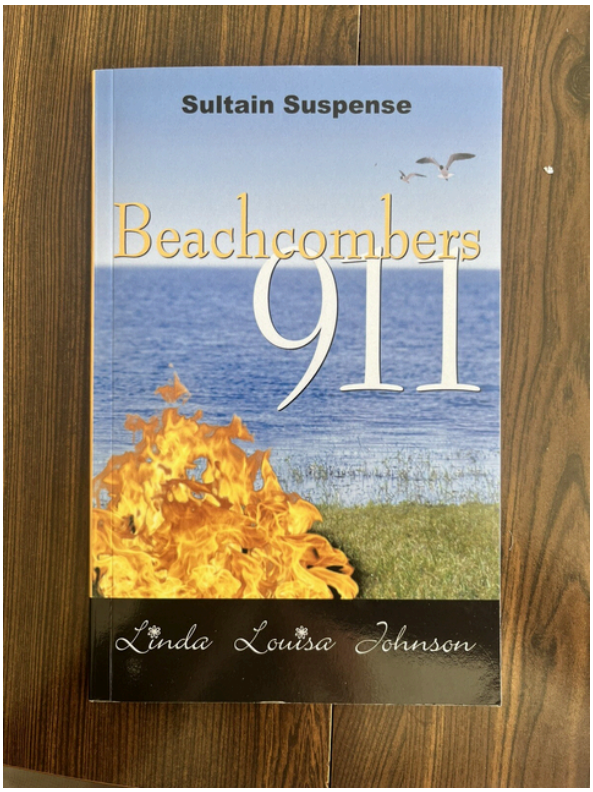
Here's the 4th instalment of our new Connections column for 2026-2027! We are exploring all the different ways we live into the image of our God through our creativity and craft.

This month, we highlight Linda Louisa Johnson who shares with us some of her creative work...

> 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 do you create?

Linda: I've written a book each year for 50 years. My books are on eBay under "Linda Louisa Johnson".

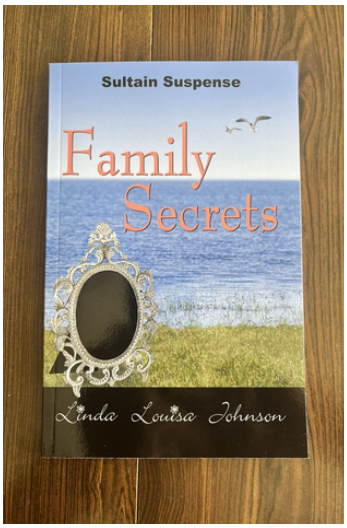


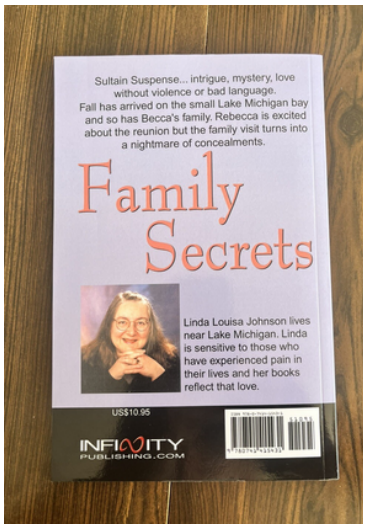
Q: When and how did you begin creating this way?

Linda: I started writing poetry in 7th grade. When I was just fourteen years old, I told my Dad I wanted to be a rich, famous author. My dad laughed at me and said, "Do you know how hard it is to get published?"

Q: How does creating in this way deepen your relationship with God and neighbor?

Linda: My Sultain Suspense books encourages Christians to pray.





Linda was a member of the National Society of Poets and was asked to be in Who's Who in Poetry. She has also had a poem published in the book, Michigan Society of Poets. In addition to poetry, Linda also wrote greeting cards in her career!

And you can find Linda's poetry every month here in our very own Connections newsletter! Make sure to flip to page 8 to find this month's submission.



COMMUNITY NOTES



Annual Weather Cancellation Reminder

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 and WWMT Channel 3.

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

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

NOVEMBER

KLEENEX
+
PAPER TOWELS

Trinity Reformed Church

THEREFORE, *GO*

NEWS FROM MIKE AND KELLI ANDERSON
MISSIONARIES TO PERU



"Therefore ***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 I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."
– Matthew 28:19-20



EXPANDING HIS KINGDOM TOGETHER

The first command of the great commission is to **GO**! These last few months Mike has been busy with several trips to visit isolated communities. He has traveled by mission plane, small boats, motorcars, car-ferry, and gone by truck over hundreds of miles of dirt road. To go isn't easy, but in order to reach the least reached, we must be willing.

This last week, Mike drove 13 hours over the mountains to help lead a pastors' conference. Some of the participants had traveled for days to get there. **If they are willing to go so far to hear, shouldn't we be willing to go to share?**





We are so grateful for Trinity's partnership that allows us to fulfill the great commission together.







ON THE HOME FRONT

Thank you for your prayers for our family!

- Emily (18) is currently a freshman at Columbia International University and adapting well to life in the States. We look forward to her coming home for Christmas
- Lydia (17) is a senior and working on college applications
- *James (7) is in 2nd grade and enjoys science
- *Jeven (5) is doing homeschooling with Mommy and full of energy



PAVILION SURVEY UPDATE

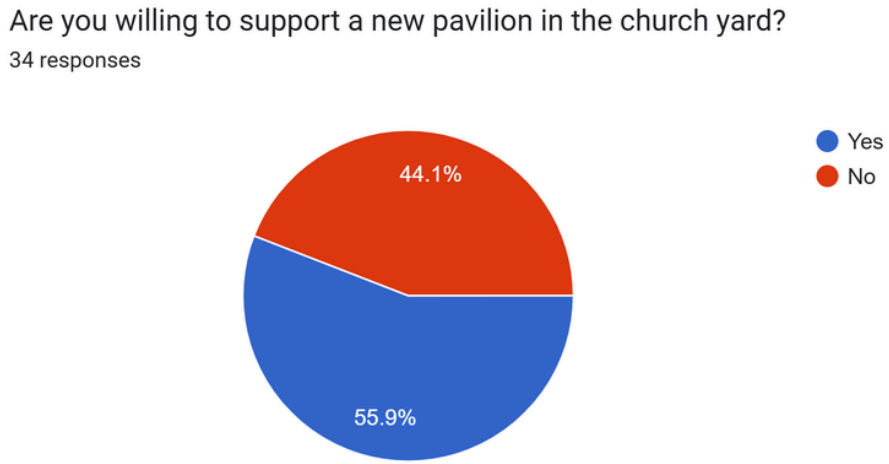
In September we hosted a Trinity Talks...About the Pavilion Project where we discussed and brainstormed together about a pavilion near the playground.

Following that Trinity Talk, we sent out an anonymous survey to seek feedback from the congregation regarding the congregation's financial commitment to the project. That financial commitment would help us determine how complex the project would or could be (i.e. the availability of electricity or not).

Thank you so much to each of you who took the time to complete the survey and share your honest thoughts and opinions.

However, the results left us with a split decision,
56% of the congregation was willing to support the project and 44% of the congregation was not.

The Board of Deacons have met and have decided to move forward with exploring alternative options for providing shade and electricity to the playground area.



By Jay Lynn Wheeler, Chair of Deacons



The night is dark and cold
the stars and moon are not out.
Kids trail with their Mom's to a house
they know not about.
Pail in hand they knock at the door
in scary clothes they ask me for more.
What lies ahead in this dark night
is no more than a child's delight.
Accept them all, candy at hand,
do not hesitate, my man.
What you may not know in this land
is a child's imagination is at hand
and God designed imagination for man.
This is how the industrial revolution began
imagination

Written and submitted by
Linda Louisa Johnson



We would like to extend
A Special
Invitation to you....

89th VETERANS DAY
OBSERVANCE

Wednesday, NOVEMBER 11, 2026
10:05 A.M. DUTCH DOME (gym)
HOLLAND HIGH SCHOOL

Keynote Speaker will be featured.

Music performances provided by:
HHS CHOIR, BAND AND ORCHESTRA

At Holland High School, we take great pride in our salute to all Veterans. All Community guests are welcome to attend the assembly.

If you are a Veteran or family member of a veteran, please join us for a luncheon following the program in the Performing Arts Center lobby.

Andrea Mehall, Principal
Holland High School
600 Van Raalte Ave
Holland, MI 49423



Second Sunday Brunch

Sunday, November 8

Join us for sausage gravy, biscuits & waffles following the worship service.

Please sign up at the Welcome Desk to let us know you are coming and to see how you can help!

During breakfast, help us complete a craft that will be displayed on the Trinity bus in the Downtown Holland Parade of Lights!

Please join us for a

Community-wide

THANKSGIVING SERVICE



Sunday, November 22, 2026, 5:30PM

Trinity Reformed Church

712 Apple Ave., Holland

Freewill offering / light refreshments

CUSP
CHRISTIANS UNITING IN SONG & PRAYER

www.CUSPholland.org

Illustration by Public domain vectors on Unsplash

Join in the *fun!*

The Trinity Bus will be *decked out* in the

DOWNTOWN HOLLAND

Parade of Lights

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1 AT 6:30PM

Here's how you can help:

-Help engineer/install the lights on the bus

-Walk with the bus in the parade

-Ride the bus in the parade (seniors get 1st dibs)

Work dates to install the lights and to decorate will be held on Mondays, November 23 & 30!



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!

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

November Birthdays

Clara Ward	11/07	Lauren Garza	11/19
Bill Jarnagin	11/15	Kristina Schrotenboer	11/21
Jeanne Dannenberg	11/17	Kelly Brink	11/22
Russ Johnson	11/17	Rose Bork	11/24
Randy McSorley	11/18	Nancy Ponstein	11/24

November Anniversaries

Paul Vander Starre + Carol DeBoer	11/05
Scott + Marilyn Brower	11/07

If you've made it this far and are still reading and engaged, reach out to the church office! We have prizes for the first 3 people who reach out - 1st place wins a $10 gift card to Bob Evans, 2nd & 3rd place will each get Bowerman's blueberry donuts.

November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 **All Saints Day** **Daylight-Saving Time Ends** 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	**2** 11:00am- 1:00pmExecutive Team Meeting 5:00pm- 7:00pmBread House Praise & Worship Practice 5:30pm- 8:00pmAthletic Sensations | Baton Twirling Class 6:00pm- 8:00pmFinance Team Meeting	**3** 9:30am- 11:00amWOW | Book of Matthew 6:00pm- 7:30pmGirl Scout Troop Meeting 7:00pm- 9:00pmBread House Bible Study	**4** 7:30am- 8:30amMen's Bible Study 10:00am- 11:00amBulletin Folding Group 1:30pm- 2:30pmEscape Ministries 5:30pm- 8:00pmFood & Flick | Ray Vander Laan Series - Fire on the Mountain	**5** 5:30pm- 6:30pmBread House Set-up 6:30pm- 9:00pmBread House Family Night 7:00pmCommunity Connections Meeting	**6** 6:30am- 7:30amHolland Middle Wyldlife	**7** 9:00am- 2:00pmEvergreen Commons | Striders Potluck 10:00am- 2:00pmCraft/Quilt Group Meeting Church Building Closed at 8pm
8 8:00am- 9:00amTRC Worship Team Rehearsal 9:30am- 11:00amTRC Worship 9:45am- 10:15amChildren's Story Time 10:45am- 11:30amTRC Second Sunday Brunch 11:00am- 12:00pmBread House Coffee & Breakfast 11:30am- 12:00pmBH Set-up + Rehearsal 12:00pm- 4:00pmBread House Worship	**9** 5:00pm- 7:00pmBread House Praise & Worship Practice 5:30pm- 8:00pmAthletic Sensations | Baton Twirling Class	**10** **9:00am- 10:30amCare Closet Packaging** 9:30am- 11:00amWOW | Book of Matthew 6:00pm- 9:30pmTBD Thornapple Ridge Condo Meeting 7:00pm- 9:00pmBread House Bible Study	**11** **Veterans Day** 7:30am- 8:30amMen's Bible Study 10:00am- 11:00amBulletin Folding Group 10:00am- 12:00pmCare Closet 1:30pm- 2:30pmEscape Ministries 5:30pm- 8:00pmFood & Flick | Ray Vander Laan Series - Fire on the Mountain	**12** 5:30pm- 6:30pmBread House Set-up 6:30pm- 9:00pmBread House Family Night	**13** 6:30am- 7:30amHolland Middle Wyldlife	**14** Church Building Closed at 8pm
15 8:00am- 9:00amTRC Worship Team Rehearsal 9:30am- 11:00amTRC Worship 9:45am- 10:15amChildren's Story Time 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	**16** 5:00pm- 7:00pmBread House Praise & Worship Practice 5:30pm- 8:00pmAthletic Sensations | Baton Twirling Class	**17** 9:30am- 11:00amWOW | Book of Matthew 12:30pm- 2:30pmConsistory 6:00pm- 7:30pmGirl Scout Troop Meeting 7:00pm- 9:00pmBread House Bible Study	**18** 7:30am- 8:30amMen's Bible Study 10:00am- 11:00amBulletin Folding Group 12:00pm- 1:00pmSenior Ministries | Thanksgiving Dinner 1:30pm- 2:30pmEscape Ministries	**19** **Connections Deadline** 5:30pm- 6:30pmBread House Set-up 6:30pm- 9:00pmBread House Family Night	**20** 6:30am- 7:30amHolland Middle Wyldlife 6:00pm- 9:00pmBread House Leadership Meeting	**21** Church Building Closed at 8pm
22 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 5:30pm- 6:30pmCUSP Thanksgiving Service	**23** 5:00pm- 7:00pmBread House Praise & Worship Practice 5:30pm- 8:00pmAthletic Sensations | Baton Twirling Class 7:00pm- 9:00pmWorship Life Meeting	**24** 9:30am- 11:00amNO WOW - Thanksgiving Break | Book of Matthew 11:45am- 12:45pmStaff Meeting 7:00pm- 9:00pmBread House Bible Study	**25** 7:30am- 8:30amMen's Bible Study 10:00am- 11:00amBulletin Folding Group 1:30pm- 2:30pmEscape Ministries	**26** **Thanksgiving Day** 7:00pm- 8:00pmCover to Cover Book Club	**27** 6:30am- 7:30amHolland Middle Wyldlife	**28** Church Building Closed at 8pm
29 **First Sunday of Advent** 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	**30** 5:00pm- 7:00pmBread House Praise & Worship Practice 5:30pm- 8:00pmAthletic Sensations | Baton Twirling Class	**1** 9:30am- 11:00amWOW | Book of Matthew 5:00pmDowntown Holland Parade of Lights (Offsite) 6:00pm- 7:30pmGirl Scout Troop Meeting 7:00pm- 9:00pmBread House Bible Study	**2** 7:30am- 8:30amMen's Bible Study 10:00am- 11:00amBulletin Folding Group 1:30pm- 2:30pmEscape Ministries	**3** 5:30pm- 6:30pmBread House Set-up 6:30pm- 9:00pmBread House Family Night 7:00pmCommunity Connections Meeting	**4** 6:30am- 7:30amHolland Middle Wyldlife	**5** Bread House | Christmas Luncheon 10:00am- 2:00pmCraft/Quilt Group Meeting 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*	amanda@trinityrc.org
Hope Ward, *Assistant Treasurer*	hope@trinityrc.org
Samantha Valentine, *Office Administrator*	samantha@trinityrc.org
Jim Allen, *Facilities Coordinator*	jim@trinityrc.org
Dan Kruithof, *Custodian*	dan@trinityrc.org

Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday | 9am to 1pm

After Hours Emergency Contact *Pastor Amanda | 616.402.4671*

Trinity
Reformed Church

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(616) 396-6526
www.trinityrc.org | info@trinityrc.org