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Welcome to the October Connections!

Even though the calendar tells us it's fall, the weather seems to not want to let go of summer yet. As you enjoy these unexpectedly warm and sunny days, we hope you enjoy the news and stories and updates in these pages.....

This month we're taking a break from our Trinity Volunteers section to focus on the ways we support local and global mission.

Pastor Lydia shares about her experience at the RCA local mission conference last month. Ron Blaukamp returns with Part II of Rex's interview with Sarah. And there's a new section with an invitation for all of us to go deeper in prayer together over the month of October.

As Connections has grown and changed, we are considering making the newsletter bi-monthly. We already combine Dec/Jan and June/July together and think this works really well. But we'd love your feedback on that idea. Let us know what you think!



MISSION 2025 A NOTE FROM PASTOR LYDIA

Dear Trinity Family,

Local mission 2025 was a two day gathering to collaborate and explore what being missional in our local contexts can look like. How can our congregations and communities thrive through our efforts to live and love like Jesus right where we are?

I ended up making a few drawings on the papers they gave us to take notes on during the conference. The drawings evolved into different categories of local mission that I knew or heard about. At the top of my scattered drawings I wrote "One is Enough"









Maintenance

Storytelling

Mental Health





Food/Drink

Spaces and Safety

Education





Sustainability and Stewardship

Mentorship

It's pretty typical for me to brush aside my own needs until they pile up so high that I can't seem to ignore them. When I think about the phrase "one is enough" I am reminded of how God loves me and how I've seen God love others. God values the "one" entirely; both body and spirit ... and the entirety of creation. I believe God shows up in moments of need and forever afterwards. I was reminded that my loneliness, fear, curiosity and so on are never too unimportant for God to tend to both now and in the future.

At the local mission conference one was certainly enough. Just one person without food, without belonging, or without a beloved friend was more than enough to show up for. Both by connecting with that person in the moment and telling them about a God that will forever show up for them.

Which category of local mission have you found in a time of need?



One of the key teachings of the Reformed tradition is that we try to live according to God's law not out of guilt or fear but out of gratitude.

Often in Reformed liturgy, the reading of the Law comes <u>after</u> the confession and the assurance of pardon. After we've confessed our sins, after we've received God's forgiveness, we ask: "As God's forgiven people, how then do we live?" Then the Law is read as the Guide for Grateful Living, teaching us and reminding us of how we can go about our daily lives so that, as the Heidelberg Catechism says, "our whole lives may show we are grateful to God" for all that God has done for us.

This fall, we are exploring together each of the commandments through a particular Scripture passage and through the lens of the Heidelberg Catechism's teaching on each commandment. May we wrestle honestly and deeply with what it means to live as God's forgiven people!

Digging Deeper Sermon Discussion Returns!

This is for everyone and all ages! Grab your coffee and join the discussion circle up at the front of the sanctuary to wrestle with what you heard in Scripture and in the sermon - sharing your questions, wonderings, insights, and learnings!

Grateful Lives Catechism Group - 4th - 8th Gr

Our Upper Elementary & Middle School kids are invited to join Pastor Lydia immediately following the service for a 15 minute discussion to wrestle with what it looks like to live the 10 Commandments at home and at school.

October 5 - #4 Keeping Sabbath HC Q&A 103

October 12 - #5 Honoring Parents Exodus 20:12 // HC Q&A 104

October 19 - #6 Don't Kill
1 John 2:9-11 // HC Q&A 105-107

October 26 - #7 Be Faithful
1 Corinthians 6:12-20 // HC Q&A 108-109





About the Missionary



Rev. Dr. Denise Kingdom Grier was born in New York City and moved to North Carolina as an adolescent. In 1994, Dr. Grier received a BA in psychology from Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina, and immediately began a career as a social worker.

Upon moving to Michigan, she became a child welfare specialist in foster care and adoptions at Bethany Christian Services. Dr. Grier soon went on to attend Western Theological Seminary, becoming the first African American female to graduate with the Master of Divinity degree in 2005 and the Doctorate of Ministry degree in 2017. Dr. Grier's doctoral research interrogates a system of apartheid in the American church in order to redirect outreach practices toward what she calls Embracing, a reciprocal model of community engagement.

Rev. Grier is also a Mission Partner with a child-placing agency in Botshabelo, South Africa. Setshabelo Family and Child Services. She works under the supervision of the Global Missions department of the Reformed Church in America.

"Rev. Denise Kingdom spoke at the RCA Local Mission Conference this year. What stood out to me about her was her certainty in the importance of family in forming our identity. She had a theology of family and had implimented this into her ministry" -Rev. Lydia Ribich

About the Mission



She was only a child when a violent assault made her a mother. Her new reality is attending school by day and caring for her toddler and siblings by night—her dreams and goals taken away. Then she met Denise, who visited her school in Botshabelo Section K. Hearing her despair, Denise connected her with social workers at Setshabelo Family and Child Services (SFCS). She received psychosocial counseling, parenting skills training, and academic support. Now, her future is looking brighter.

SFCS places orphaned and vulnerable children in loving families, and works alongside churches and partners to strengthen the community. They provide support services and education for the benefit of the most vulnerable in Botshabelo, South Africa. Denise works with SFCS to raise awareness about family-based care and establish family and child support ministries within area churches.



by Rexilius, investigative scribe of the Jerusalem Temple Gazette, AD 33 or so

Rex -- Sarah, thanks for coming back for one more question. We didn't get to discuss the "Sacrifice Isaac" incident.

What can you tell us about that?

Sarah -- I still get chills when I think about that.

Isaac was a teenager when Abe came in to our tent in tears and told me God had come to him in a dream and told him to take Isaac to the mountain and sacrifice him there to God.

We had quite a heated exchange.

I told him that God was testing him, testing us, to see if we would really do the same stupid things the pagans around us did--sacrificing their first born children to their idol gods. I told Abe that he should be arguing with this "messenger," like he did before for Lot in Sodom, and point out that our true God wasn't like that.

Abe said he thought it was a test of his, or our, faith.

Did we believe God that Isaac would be the father of a great nation and would we trust God and his promises ANYWAY?

Abe believed that Isaac would be resurrected, if killed, and God's promises would be fulfilled.

"Resurrected?" I asked? "What's that? Nobody gets resurrected and nothing comes back from the dead."

Abe's comeback was, "Nothing is impossible with God!" I said, "Well, yah, possible but highly, highly unlikely. Pregnancy is sorta normal, but resurrection? Think, Abe! Would a good God really ask you to traumatize your only legitimate son, slit his throat, burn his body, and then reconstitute his ashes into a living boy again? Is that our God? That's just like the pagan gods!"

Well, Abe was the patriarch so he and Isaac loaded up a donkey with all the paraphernalia for sacrifices and headed for the mountain to sacrifice to God.

Isaac asked Abe about the animal.

Abe said "God will supply,"

Rexilius, an investigative scribe from AD 33, is the pen name of our very own Ron Blaukamp!

Ron started writing these interview style historical pieces many years ago as a way to process what he heard in sermons and deepen his own engagement with Scripture.

This month's column is Part II of of an interview inspired by the story of Abraham and Sarah.

Last month Rex delved into when Sarah laughed at God's promise to give the couple a child in their old age.

This month we hear Sarah's side of the story of Abraham (almost) sacrificing Isaac...



Isaac trusted Abe even when he tied his hands and laid him on the altar they had built. When Abe took the knife and was about to slit his throat, Isaac panicked. But he heard the voice say, "Abraham, stop! I always knew you would have done it, but now you know that you trust me beyond death. Look over there in the thicket and use that sheep instead. I did supply the sacrifice."

I know this whole thing has seared God into my mind, Isaac's mind, and Abe's mind. No-one survives a trauma like that without being profoundly changed.

Our people who know the story take away the message that God really doesn't demand child sacrifice. None of us practice child sacrifice anymore. Our neighbors just say, "Isaac's salvation was just a one off. That was a special situation because of God's previous promises. God really does want our first and best. It's the least we can do to get his blessing."

I certainly do not understand God's command. He's "omniscient," right? Why put Isaac and Abe through that horror just so they would know? Then there's the question about "How do we know this is the true God making this command and not the "Satan" or Baal or some lesser god?"

Wouldn't the test of whether it was a true or false command be 'how does it fit with previous commands and promises? How does it show God's love?' Divine child abuse is a very strange test from my perspective.

It turned out alright, but maybe God just had to stop Abe from doing something incredibly stupid and "cultural" like our pagan neighbors would have done without question.

Maybe God really wanted Abe to do what I suggested, but adapted when Abe didn't.

I'm not sure we will ever know.

We were just thankful Isaac was alive and with us. We went on with our lives expecting God to make good on his promises.

And. God did.

Rex- Wow, Sarah.

You and Abe had the same argument many of our rabbis have

had and are still having about what Abe should have done.

It seems the prevalent opinion is that your approach was expected, but God "turned Abe's evil to good.". I guess we will never really know.

We just have to be thankful that Isaac lived and prospered as God promised.

OCTOBER DAILY PRAYER PROMPTS

Dear Trinity Family,

We are constantly reminded throughout the Bible of the need for us to pray. God is waiting for us to ask him so that he will release his blessings. Ephesians 4:6 tells us, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God".

Corporate prayer is a very important method of prayer for the church. We are excited to offer each of you a way to corporately connect and pray for your fellow congregation members and ministries closely associated with our church and beyond. This would be done from your own home.

We will provide a list for each day of the month with at least one item to pray about that day. We will also be praying for each Trinity member on their birthday. Picture all of Trinity praying for you on your birthday, what a source of blessing and encouragement! Imagine all of Trinity praying on the same day for the very same thing. This focused form of corporate prayer will yield results that we cannot imagine.

Look for this in each Connections newsletter beginning in October. Some will also be available on the information desk. Please keep these for reference as you pray daily. Let's embark on this new ministry together and see what blessings God will give!

Submitted by Sally and Gregg Harper











Prayers of Gratitude

Prayers of Protection

Prayers for New and Old Ministry

Prayers for Justice

Prayers for Stewardship of Resources: time, knowledge, gifts, privilege, voice, money....,

October Daily Prayer Prompts





Prayer of gratitude and appreciation for Pastor Amanda (Pastor Appreciation Month!)

Happy Anniversary to Steve + Crystal Lundy!



Prayer of gratitude and appreciation for Pastor Lydia (Pastor Appreciation Month!)

Happy Birthday to Glen Vereeke!



Prayer for the new ministry Trinity is embarking with Resident Pastor Lydia of Community Engagement and Outreach



Prayer of protection from discourageme nt for pastors



Prayer for protection for pastors time so they can accomplish what they are being led to do



Prayer for pastors to have discernment to recognize your voice



Prayer for protection for pastors' marriages and physical and mental health







Prayer of protection Trinity from the devil's opposition



Prayer for the staff at Trinity: Samantha, Dan, Hope, Jim



Prayer for our Care Closet ministry, that the clients are blessed by their interaction with the volunteers and adequate supplies are provided



Pray for the various Teams of Trinity. Bless their discussions volunteer their and decision making

Happy Birthday to **Dennis Snyder!**



Thank you for all the willing hearts who time to make our programs work.



Help Trinity to continue béing a welcoming church and that all who enter feel Christ's love.





Pray for Trinity's global missionary partners



Increase the desire of all members to do personal devotions



17

Pray for the Spirit's leading in the selection of Consistory candidates at our congregational

meeting



Pray for those in our congregation that are lonely. May they feel God's peace.

18



19

Pray for those in our congregation that feel discouraged



Pray for those looking for a church home to belong to

Happy Anniversary to John + Sandy Bedard!



Bless the Bible Study groups at Trinity

October Daily Prayer Prompts





Help us to be a blessing to a stranger today, even if it is a simple smile



Pray for the consistory for discernment and decision making

Happy Birthday to **Brook Oom**!





Bless the ministry of Breadhouse



Help Trinity be good stewards of their

Happy Birthday to **Sally Harper!**

finances



26

Enable
members give
generousely,
with a grateful
heart,
providing for
the financial
needs of
Trinity's
ministries



Be with the parents and grandparents to be a positive influence on the children in their families



Empower each member to speak up when we see wrong within our community

Happy Birthday to **Ron Blauwkamp!**





fill that need

Happy Birthday
to **Nancy**

Quillian!

recognize when

we are called to



30 Protect

Protect all churches from harm and violence that has become so pervasive

Happy Birthday to **Jennifer Timmer!**



31

Thank God as our Good Shepherd



Prayers of Gratitude



Prayers of Protection



Prayers for New and Old Ministry



Prayers for Justice



Prayers for Stewardship of Resources: time, knowledge, gifts, privilege, voice, money....,







Hop on board and join the fun by signing up using the QR code below





Second Sunday Brunch

Sunday, October 12

Join us for a breakfast casserole potluck following the worship service.

Please sign up at the Welcome Desk to let us know you are coming and/or to volunteer to bring something!



Missional Opportunity:
We will wrap silverware for the
Great Thanksgiving Banquet
after breakfast.



Join us for a Hymn Sing

Luncheon to follow

When: October 14, 2025

Time: 11:00 am

Accompanist: Ruth Klaasen

Location: Central Avenue CRC 259 Central Ave, Holland, MI



An Invitation from our neighbors at Central Avenue Church

"By-Request" Hymn Sing - 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, October 14 in the Central Avenue Church sanctuary (259 Central Avenue, Holland, MI downtown across from Centennial Park). If you would like to attend the taco luncheon following, please email info@centralavecrc.org. All are welcome.



Wednesday Family Nights - Fall 2025

September 24, October 15, November 5

5:30 - Dinner

6:15 - Watch 2 Episodes from Season 1 of *The Chosen*

8:00 - Reflection time

Wed Sept 24	Episode 1: I Have Called You By Name	55 min
	Episode 2: Shabbat	40 min
Wed Oct 15	Episode 3: Jesus Loves the Little Children	33 min
	Episode 4: The Rock On Which It Was Built	49 min
Wed Nov 5	Episode 5: The Wedding Gift	55 min
	Episode 6: Indescribable Compassion	53 min
Date TBD	Episode 7: Invitations	38 min
	Episode 8: I Am He	60 min

OCTOBER 2025 Mon Tue Wed 01 04 02 03 10 09 17

Save the date!

Please join us on Sunday, October 26, 2025 immediately following the worship service for our Annual Congregational Meeting. Join us as we review our proposed 2026 budget, thank our outgoing Consistory members and celebrate our accomplishments from the past year.



The Trinity Bus will be decked out in the DOWNTOWN HOLLAN

arade of Light

DECEMBER 3, 6:30PM

Here's how you can help:

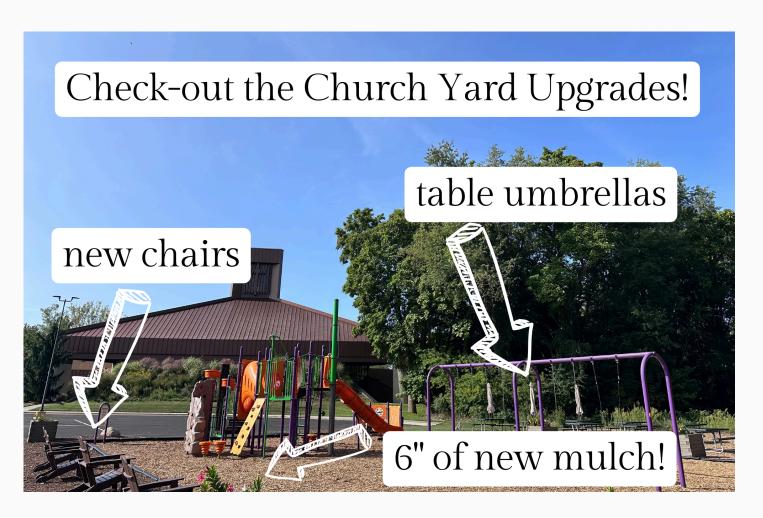
-Donation of LED lights

-Help engineer/install the lights on the bus -Walk with the bus in the parade

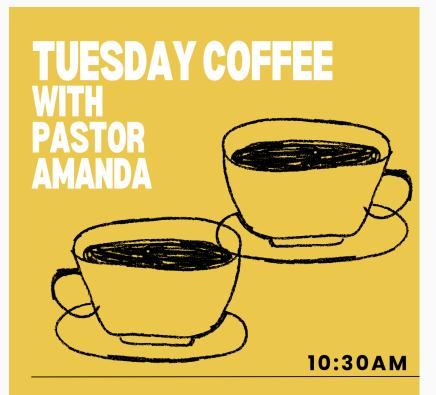
-Ride the bus in the parade (seniors get 1st dibs)

kickoff meeting Tues. Nov 12 at 7:00pm. Potential Work dates to install the lights on Monday and/or Tuesday evenings in November, and final installation on Monday Dec 2.









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 set 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.

Poem by Linda Louisa Johnson

The time is upon us
When new colors will bloom
Yellow and flaming red trees.
Warmth will soon disappear
The coolness of weather
Will overflow into our lives.
Change will soon come
Appearing fast as dawn breaks
New season upon our earth.
Many welcome the change
Others think of cold winter
Soon to come.
Seasons bring different life

Seasons bring different life Under God's blessed care. Welcome each day As new.

Think not of winter
With bitter cold winds.
Think of change of color
As God's paintbrush
Continues to change life.
From bright sunny flowers
To redish golden trees
To white flowing from earth.
God's seasons
Are new blessings.
Be refreshed.



Thanksgiving Observance

The turning leaves, shorter days, and cooler temps remind us that Thanksgiving will soon be here! Over the years, it has been Trinity's tradition to hold a service to give thanks to God for all the wonderful blessings we enjoy. This years' service will be held on **Wednesday**, **Thanksgiving Eve, November 26 at 6:00 p.m.** A service of song, scripture, and "specials" is being planned. Plan now to attend with family and friends. More information to come!

Submitted by Ruth Klungle, Chair of Worship Life

Budget Report

August 2025

<u>Budgeted</u> <u>Income</u>	\$34,718.92	<u>Actual Income</u>	\$18,431.62	Income YTD	\$210,182.25
Budgeted Expenses	\$34,718.92	Actual Expenses	\$21,101.34	\$21,101.34 <u>Expenses YTD</u>	
		<u>Net Income</u>	\$(2669.72)	Net Income YTD	(\$34,090.00)

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.



October Birthdays

Glen Vereeke	10/02	Ron Blauwkamp	10/28
Dennis Snyder	10/12	Nancy Quillian	10/29
Brooklynn Oom	10/23	Jennifer Timmer	10/30
Sally Harper	10/25		



October Anniversaries

Steve + Crystal Lundy

10/01

John + Sandy Bedard

10/20

October 2025

			tober 20			
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 8:00am - 9:00am TRC Worship Team Rehearsal 9:30am - 11:00am TRC Worship 9:45am - 10:45am Children & Worship 10:45am - 11:00am Grateful Lives Catechism Group 10:45am - 11:30am TRC Post-Service Coffee 11:00am - 12:00pm Bread House Coffee & Breakfast 11:30am - 12:00pm BH Set-up + Rehearsal 12:00pm - 4:00pm	29 5:00pm - 7:00pm Bread House Praise & Worship Practice	9:30am - 11:00am Women of the Word Book of Acts 7:00pm - 9:00pm Bread House Bible Study	1 7:30am - 8:30am Men's Bible Study 10:00am - 11:00am Folding Group	2 1:00pm - 2:00pm Escape Ministries 6:30pm - 9:00pm Bread House Family Night 7:00pm Community Connections Meeting	3 6:00am - 7:30am Holland Middle Wyldlife	4 10:00am - 2:00pm Quilt/Craft Group Meeting 12:00pm - 7:30pm Moreno Baby Shower Rental
5 World Communion Sunday 8:00am - 9:00am TRC Worship Team Rehearsal 9:30am - 11:00am TRC Worship 9:45am - 10:45am Children & Worship 10:45am - 11:00am Grateful Lives Catechism Group 10:45am - 11:30am TRC Post-Service Coffee 11:00am - 12:00pm Bread House Coffee & Breakfast 11:30am - 12:00pm BH Set-up + Rehearsal 12:00pm H	6 5:00pm - 7:00pm Bread House Praise & Worship Practice	9:30am - 11:00am Women of the Word Book of Acts 6:00pm - 7:30pm Girl Scout Troop Meeting 7:00pm - 9:00pm Bread House Bible Study	8 7:30am - 8:30am Men's Bible Study 10:00am - 12:00pm Care Closet 10:00am - 11:00am Folding Group	9 1:00pm - 2:00pm Escape Ministries 6:30pm - 9:00pm Bread House Family Night	10 6:00am - 7:30am Holland Middle Wyldlife	11
12 8:00am - 9:00am TRC Worship Team Rehearsal 9:30am - 11:00am TRC Worship 9:45am - 10:45am Children & Worship 10:45am - 11:00am Grateful Lives Catechism Group 10:45am - 11:45am TRC Second Sunday Brunch 11:00am - 12:00pm BH Coffee & Pastries 11:30am - 12:00pm BH Set-up + Rehearsal 12:00pm - 4:00pm	Columbus Day Indigenous Peoples Day 5:00pm - 7:00pm Bread House Praise & Worship Practice	9:30am - 11:00am Women of the Word Book of Acts 7:00pm - 9:00pm Bread House Bible Study 7:00pm - 9:30pm HHS Girls Swim + Dive	7:30am - 8:30am Men's Bible Study 10:00am - 11:00am Folding Group	16 9:30am - 10:30am Third Thursday Breakfast 1:00pm - 2:00pm Escape Ministries 6:30pm - 9:00pm Bread House Family Night	17 6:00am - 7:30am Holland Middle Wyldlife 6:00pm - 9:00pm Bread House Leadership Meeting	18
8:00am - 9:00am TRC Worship Team Rehearsal 9:30am - 11:00am TRC Worship 9:45am - 10:45am Children & Worship 10:45am - 11:00am Grateful Lives Catechism Group 10:45am - 11:30am TRC Post-Service Coffee 11:00am - 12:00pm Bread House Coffee & Breakfast 11:30am - 12:00pm BH Set-up + Rehearsal 12:00pm - 4:00pm Bread House Worship	5:00pm - 7:00pm Bread House Praise & Worship Practice	9:30am - 11:00am Women of the Word Book of Acts 6:00pm - 7:00pm Deacons Meeting 6:00pm - 7:30pm Girl Scout Troop Meeting 7:00pm - 9:00pm Bread House Bible Study 7:00pm - 9:30pm Consistory	7:30am - 8:30am Men's Bible Study 9:00am - 1:00pm Consistory Retreat 10:00am - 11:00am Folding Group 7:00pm - 8:30am Partnership Meeting TRC + BH	1:00pm - 2:00pm Escape Ministries 6:30pm - 9:00pm Bread House Family Night 7:00pm - 9:00pm Cover to Cover Book Club	24 6:00pm - 9:00pm Bread House Prayer Meeting 6:00am - 7:30am Holland Middle Wyldlife	25
Reformation Sunday 8:00am - 9:00am TRC Worship Team Rehearsal 9:30am - 11:00am TRC Worship 9:45am - 10:45am Children & Worship 10:45am - 11:00am Grateful Lives Catechism Group 10:45am - 11:30am TRC Post-Service Coffee 11:00am - 12:00pm Bread House Coffee & Breakfast 11:30am - 12:00pm BH Set-up + Rehearsal 12:00pm - 4:00pm Bread House Worship	5:00pm - 7:00pm Bread House Praise & Worship Practice 7:00pm - 9:00pm Worship Life Meeting	28 9:30am - 11:00am Women of the Word Book of Acts 11:45am - 12:45pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm - 9:00pm Bread House Bible Study	7:30am - 8:30am Men's Bible Study 10:00am - 11:00am Folding Group	30 1:00pm - 2:00pm Escape Ministries 6:30pm - 9:00pm Bread House Family Night	31 Reformation Day 6:00am - 7:30am Holland Middle Wyldlife	1 All Saints Day 9:00am - 4:00pm Brower Memorial Service



Trinity Consistory

Elders:

Gregg Harper, Vice President
Teresa Harrington
Dee Hubbard
Bob Koning
Lynda Simmons

Deacons:

Jay Lynn Wheeler, *Chair*Matt Oom, *Clerk*Warren Kooyers, *Treasurer*Steve Lundy
Shirley Perez

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

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Church Office Hours Monday - Thursday | 9am to 1pm

After Hours Emergency Contact Pastor Amanda | 616.402.4671



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