



A congregation of
**THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH IN AMERICA**
God's work. Our hands.



We are a welcoming
community of believers in
Jesus Christ who witness
our faith by serving
together, praying
together, and living
generously together.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

39020 Five Mile Rd., Livonia, Michigan 48154 | info@holytrinitylivonia.org | 734-464-0211

Dec. 7-13, 2025

Gather, Worship, & Learn

Sunday Worship • 10 a.m. in person & YouTube Live

Worship replay available instantly on Facebook & YouTube

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 7

Holy Trinity Sanctuary & YouTube Live • 10 a.m.

ADVENT DINNER CHURCH SUNDAY, DEC. 7

Doors at 4:30 p.m. • Worship at 5 p.m.

JESUS & ME

Children's Bible Lesson
Takes place during worship

COFFEE TIME

Fellowship Hall • Following Worship

CHRISTMAS DECORATING TUESDAY, DEC. 9

Sanctuary • 11 a.m.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY TUESDAY, DEC. 9

Prayer Parlor • 7 p.m.

ADVENT MIDWEEK WORSHIP WEDNESDAY, DEC. 10

Prayer Parlor • 6:30 p.m.

BELLS & CHOIR THURSDAY, DEC. 11

Sanctuary • 6&7 p.m.

LIVONIA YOUTH CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT SATURDAY, DEC. 13

Prayer Parlor • 6:30 p.m.



FAITH CAFE SATURDAYS

Panera Bread • 9 a.m.

37800 Six Mile Rd, Livonia, MI 48152



Follow us



SUNDAY, DEC. 7, 2025



FIRST READING

Isaiah 43:19-21

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 11:1-11

WHEN WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF HOPE, GOD IS AT WORK

By the time we meet John the Baptist in Matthew 11, he is no longer the bold prophet in the wilderness, crying out, “Prepare the way of the Lord” (Luke 3:4b). He is a prisoner—held under Herod’s authority, cut off from the movement he helped ignite. The firebrand voice has been silenced. And in its place, we find a question, carried through his disciples to Jesus:

“Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” (Matthew 11:3) It is not just a question — it is a cry from the edges of despair. John, the prophet who baptized Jesus and had declared him the Lamb of God, is now unsure. In the dim light of his cell, with execution on the horizon, hope flickers low. He does not ask for a miracle. He asks whether his whole life — his ministry, message, and risk — meant anything. It’s a question many of us have asked, especially when our efforts for justice and truth feel fruitless. After every protest, election, vigil, or prayer for peace that seems unanswered — Did it matter?

Did I get it wrong? Was any of it worth it? This is not doubt born of cynicism. It is the trembling that comes when conviction meets suffering — when the cost of faithfulness has been high, and the fruit appears small. It is what hope sounds like when it’s running thin. And how does Jesus respond? Not with chastisement. Not with a lecture. He doesn’t say, “John should know better.” Instead, Jesus answers indirectly — with the witness of what is unfolding: “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them.” (Matthew 11:4-5) Jesus points not to grand victory, but to quiet signs of transformation. He doesn’t hand John certainty — but invites him to perceive God at work. It is a reorientation toward Isaiah’s vision: “I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?” (Isaiah 43:19a) — Rev. Dr. Boyung Lee

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM SUNDAY

Join us on Sunday, December 21 during morning worship for our annual Christmas Program.

Our Christmas Program is a mix of readings, hymns, and Christmas story narration and invites people of all generations to join us.

If you would like to participate, please contact Pastor Alysa at pastoralysa@holytrinitylivonia.org.



KID'S TREE DECORATING



All youth are invited to join us as we decorate the Welcome Center Christmas tree this Sunday, Dec. 7 following worship. Decorating this tree gives kids an opportunity to participate in our progressive Advent and Christmas decorating, which otherwise happens during the day when our kids are in school. All are welcome to participate in this activity.

Giving kids a opportunity to participate in our shared life as a community of believers helps establish their place at church.

WOMEN'S RETREAT 2026

Don't forget to sign up for our 2026 Women's Retreat. Forms are available in the Welcome Center. You can leave your filled-out in Pastor Alysa's mailbox.

ADVENT DINNER CHURCH SIGN UP!



Last year, Advent Dinner Church was a HUGE success — because of YOU! We had over 70 guests, many of whom were people you invited to join you at your table.

This year we will once again be asking you all to host a table and invite friends and family to join you there.

Table hosts provide a tablecloth, plates, silverware, cups, and a centerpiece. (See the picture to the left for reference.)

A table host sign up is located in the hallway, please sign up as soon as possible so we can prepare for another wonderful Advent Dinner Church!

Dinner Church is Sunday, December 7. Doors open at 4:30 p.m., worship is at 5 p.m. We will have a catered meal by Szegedi's.

WINTER DRIVE

Getting rid of your old winter clothing? Why not share it with refugees and asylum seekers.

On behalf of Samaritas, Holy Trinity will be collecting **gently used coats, boots, scarves, etc. for all ages and genders** as a way to support their New American clients.

This is an ongoing drive that will end sometime in January. Look for a basket in the Welcome Center to place your items.



COFFEE TIME NEEDS YOU!

Coffee Time is a core part of our life of fellowship at Holy Trinity. Most Sundays after worship we gather in the Fellowship Hall to enjoy coffee, drinks, and light refreshments. Coffee Time is also a ministry of hospitality that helps welcome guest to our church!

We're looking for Coffee Time hosts for the rest of 2025! Please sign up in the hallway!

FELLOWSHIP OF FAITH

Fellowship of Faith is on break for the remainder of Advent and will return on Sunday, January 4.

Please take this season to explore personal Advent devotions and enjoy extra time in coffee hour fellowship!

FAMILIES IN NEED CHRISTMAS PROJECT

The Angel Tree is up and filled with tags to provide for the special wishes of our families in need from Randolph Elementary School and Samaritas. Please take the top portion of the tag with you and return it attached to the gift you purchased. Fill out the white portion with your name and address and place it in the gift box next to the tree.

Randolph Elementary School wishes are on red tags. You can wrap your gift or bring it back to the church unwrapped – either way is fine.

The light green tags on the Angel Tree are for the children in the Samaritas Foster Care Program. If you take these tags from the tree, please do not wrap it. Samaritas has asked us to return these gifts unwrapped – gift bags only.

The dark green tags are for gift cards for the older children in the Samaritas Refugee Foster Care Program.

Gift cards purchased for Randolph or Samaritas should be placed in the Christmas box in the office.

We are doing special collection for the 21 families in residence at the Samaritas Wayne County Family Center. Each of the 21 families in residence at the Center will be given a small 4-foot. Christmas tree for their personal living space. They need Christmas tree ornaments, tree toppers, garland, tree skirts, etc.

The “tweens” and teenagers at the Samaritas Wayne County Family Center like to play Bingo! Please place your donations of Bingo prizes in this basket.

For Example:

- Adult coloring books
- Crayola “Super Tips” Washable Markers
- Fancy notebooks
- Fancy pens and pencils
- Water bottles
- Mugs
- Fidgets

Please place your donations in the baskets near the Angel Tree to help make their Christmas a little brighter.

We have a firm deadline of Sunday, December 7, so these gifts can be delivered to Samaritas and to Randolph before December 12.

Thank you for helping make God’s love real through this important ministry every Christmas!

DOES KIDS HOPE MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Yes - definitely!

Kathy has been mentoring Carson since he was in Kindergarten. Carson is now in eighth grade! Mentoring in eighth grade is a little different than it was in kindergarten. Kathy and Carson spent more time playing games when they first started meeting together. Now, they do more chatting. Currently, Kathy writes out questions for Carson to pick and answer for a few minutes of their time together. This helps Kathy understand how Carson's week has been and things that are on his mind. They generally spend the rest of the hour in the gym, shooting baskets — and of course more chatting.

Over the years, Kathy has established a relationship with Carson's family. She recently went on a Saturday to watch Carson bowl.



Kathy recently shared the following:
"When I originally started helping mentor years ago, I wasn't sure myself any impact I was having on the various students but the longer I participate I definitely feel like it is a worthwhile program for the students and me."

He was thrilled to see her at the bowling alley. Carson has already started asking whether Kathy will be able to meet with him next year when he goes to high school.

DECEMBER NEEDS FOR ST. CHRISTINE'S

St. Christine's hopes to provide all their clients with a Christmas ham and all the fixin's for their Holiday Dinner:

What we'd appreciate from Holy Trinity to help us out is:

- Instant mashed potatoes or boxed potato mixes
- Kid friendly cereal
- Jam/jelly

Brown paper and plastic grocery bags

Items due back by December 14.





THOSE FOR WHOM WE PRAY

Kim, Dorisann, Dan, Peggy, Jo, Ron, Linnea, Robert,
Marget, Kathy, Jason, Erik, Steve, Rhonda, Marge
Carrie, Ray, Jackie

*To submit a prayer request call Sue Corney **OR** email prayers@holytrinitylivonia.org
OR call the church at 734-464-0211.*

You may include a specific prayer need, or just a name. Those for whom we pray are printed here so that you may also offer prayers during the week. The prayer chain is intended to serve the short-term, emergency, and confidential needs of members, friends, and family. Prayer requests remain on the list for four weeks unless otherwise noted.

GIVING INFORMATION

Giving Online

Visit HolyTrinityLivonia.Org/Give

Giving via U.S. Mail

Checks can be mailed to:

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Giving is an act of worship and thanks to our awesome God! Thank you for the many **39020 Five Mile Road, Livonia MI 48154**

ways you give to God's mission in the church and in the world, especially your support of the ministries at Holy Trinity.

Your gifts are appreciated.

Because of your continued generosity, we are able to reach out with the message of God's love and grace in Jesus. Thank you for your support of God's mission in the world through Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.





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Livonia, MI 48154



Rise Up
Southeast Michigan Synod • ELCA



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**THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
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God's work. Our hands.

Return Service Requested

Ministers: **All Baptized People of Holy Trinity**

Senior Pastor: **Andrew Chavanak** pastorandrew@holytrinitylivonia.org

Associate Pastor: **Alysa Offman** pastoralysa@holytrinitylivonia.org

Parish Administrator: **Patti Harhold** htlc@holytrinitylivonia.org

Director of Music Ministries: **Dan Mikat** musicdirector@holytrinitylivonia.org

Kids Hope USA: kidshope@holytrinitylivonia.org

Tiny Tots Preschool Director: **Stacy Kraus** tinytots@holytrinitylivonia.org

Custodian: **Don MacRae** dmacrae@holytrinitylivonia.org

Board President: **Debbie LaFontaine** dlafontaine@holytrinitylivonia.org

Communications: communications@holytrinitylivonia.org

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