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

November 8-14, 2026

Gather, Worship, & Learn

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

Worship replay available instantly on Facebook & YouTube

24TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
NOVEMBER 8, 2026

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

FELLOWSHIP OF FAITH
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Prayer Parlor • 11:30 a.m.

NEIGHBORHOOD BINGO
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Fellowship Hall • 2-4 p.m.

BOOK CLUB
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Prayer Parlor • 6 p.m.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Conference Room • 6:30 p.m.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Welcome Center • 7 p.m.

BELLS & CHOIR PRACTICE
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Worship Space • 6 & 7 p.m.

CHARGE
FRIDAY-SUNDAY, NOV. 6-8

Traverse City

Pastor Alysa is accompaning youth from Holy Trinity, Emmanuel, and St. Johns and will not be present in worship on Sunday, Nov. 8, as the group will still be traveling home.



FAITH CAFE
SATURDAYS



Panera Bread • 9 a.m.
37800 Six Mile Rd, Livonia, MI 48152

Follow us

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2026



FIRST READING:
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

GOSPEL READING:
Matthew 25:1-13

TRUSTING IN GOD, TRUSTING WITH GOD

Human beings are relational creatures. We are created to be in relationship with one another and with God. No one, no matter how independent or disconnected they may feel they are, functions completely outside the context of relationships. From the moment we are born we are thrust into relationship with people around us—the people who delivered us, the people who will be taking care of us in a hospital nursery, our family, and God. When we enter this world we do so forming relationships right from the start.

Relationships, healthy relationships, require a lot of work and care to continue. In particular, relationships require trust to grow and become mature. Relationships rooted in trust can bring out the best in us. Relationships rooted in anything else can bring out the worst.

Today's readings give us the chance to consider the trust required in the relationship between God and God's people. Moreover, we are invited to give thought to the consequences of replacing trust with something else: hubris stemming from trust in one's identity or work (in Amos), or hubris stemming from trust in others to sustain us rather than God (in Matthew). Paul reminds us that our relationship with God is cause for joy even in the midst of sorrow, since we believe (trust) God's promise of eternal life through the living Lord Jesus. — *Sundays and Seasons*

BLESSINGS IN JAM

Every week at the end of JAM, I have the kids pray together in an echo prayer where I say a line and they repeat it. This week I gathered them to pray. Before I could start, Ruby started for me with "Dear God." Everyone repeated after Ruby. She then continued "Thank you for loving us," which was repeated by the other kids. Next Ruby said "Help us to love others." I was blown away! Ruby's prayer was almost exactly what I had in mind to say. God is good.

I went back to the JAM room after church to clean up. As I was cleaning up, Sophia came in and asked if she could help. As she was helping me put things away, we had a really nice conversation! Kylie and Abbey came in to help too. All three girls were a big help.

When I got back to the office, I found this sweet note and picture from Milo.

My morning was blessed by the kids and their love for me and for others. God is truly at work in their hearts.



JAM IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR MINISTRY AT HOLY TRINITY. THIS PROGRAM MAKES GOD'S LOVE REAL FOR OUR KIDS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

WANT TO JOIN THE JAM TEAM? EMAIL DEBBIE LAFONTAINE OR PASTOR ALYSA.



BINGO FUN WITH OUR NEIGHBORS!

Mark your calendars for Sunday, November 8 at 2-4 p.m.

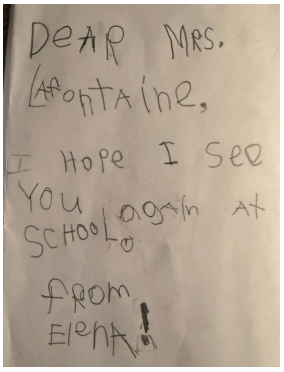
We will be hosting our neighbors from Livonia House, Plymouth House and Garden City for a fun afternoon of bingo, music and other activities. Livonia, Plymouth and Garden City Houses are group homes for adults with developmental disabilities. The residents of these homes, along with their staff, will come to Holy Trinity for a fun afternoon out. There will be music from Randy & Mark DJs. There will also be bingo - with prizes! We will have cookies to decorate as well as other yummy treats to enjoy. Please plan to come for an afternoon of fun with our neighbors.

MENTORS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Our Kids Hope mentors a making a difference for the kids they mentor. Bob and Christian have been meeting together for the past several years. Christian had to write an essay for class about his favorite Randolph adult. Guess who he chose? His mentor Bob! This is the second year that Debbie and Elena have been meeting. Debbie has noticed a lot of growth in Elena since last year. Elena wrote a note to Debbie and sent it in the mail. Debbie has sent notes to Elena in the past but has not received any responses so this note was a very pleasant surprise!

There is a student at Randolph who is waiting to have a mentor. Could you open your heart to be that person? It only takes one hour out of your week of 168 hours. I promise it will be a very rewarding experience. Please contact Debbie LaFontaine for more information.







WHO'S IN THE PEW

Dick and Jen Casper both grew up outside of Michigan. They both grew up in Lutheran homes and Jen's dad was Pastor Arnold Jahr, who started Ascension Lutheran Church on 5 mile Rd in Livonia. Dick is from Northwest Ohio, where he lived in a rural community. He likes to say he went to Ohio State and took up space. [His bachelor's degree is in Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering].

Work brought him to Michigan, where he met Jen. Jen grew up in Iowa and graduated from Wartburg College in Elementary Education. Her first teaching job was at Henry Ford Elementary School in Dearborn. After Christian was born, she left elementary school teaching to become a full-time mom at home. She later was on staff at the Plymouth District Library and retired from there in 2011.

Dick retired from General Motors in 2014. Our oldest son, Christian and family live in Ann Arbor, with two of our grandkids, 11 year old Glory and 14 year old Leah. Christian is a professor in the UM Engineering department and Anne is a biology professor at Eastern Michigan. Andy, our youngest is in Oxford, Ohio, where both Andy his wife, Pepper are Art History Professors at Miami University. 14 year old Louisa, our other granddaughter is now in high school. She has Down Syndrome, and is doing well, mainstreamed in school and, of course, in a town like Oxford, everyone knows Louisa. We have been members of Holy Trinity since 1993. Jen's favorite hymn is "It Well With My Soul"; and her favorite Bible verse is Psalm 46:10 "Be still, and know that I am God". Dick's is from Isaiah 6:8: "I heard the voice of the Lord saying 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?'and Isaiah says. "Here am I, send me."

Jen serves with Kids Hope and teaches JAM when needed. Dick has served with Church Council in past years and now serves as an usher and sometimes helps with the Technical Team.

He also enjoys learning from and assisting Dave Doyle with outdoor and indoor projects when time permits.

We have been very happy at Holy Trinity and are excited to see the service that is given to the community in God's name. We are also pleased with the growth that is occurring here under the leadership of Pastor Andrew and Pastor Alysa, and , of course, with Julie, our new Music Director.



Dick and Jen Casper

IT'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM TIME!

Every year Holy Trinity puts on a simple Christmas program that takes place during worship on the last Sunday of Advent. This year that program will be Sunday, December 20.

For the last two years we have done a "pick-up" program that's allowed people to particpate with little commitment. This year we're moving back to a more traditional take. Our program will still be short and lighthearted, but will have a conventional cast and script.

We will have three practices ahead of the program. These practices will take place Sunday, November 29 and Sunday, December 13, with a dress rehearsal and pizza party on Saturday, December 19.

We want YOU to particpate. Whether you're a child, a parent, an elder or anyone in between.

Use the QR code to the right to sign up. Or follow this link: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090C45AAA72FA7FD0-66942248-htlc



ST. CHRISTINE'S OCTOBER THANKSGIVING NEEDS

This month consider donating the following items to our friends at St. Christine's.

turkey or cornbread stuffing, turkey stock, broth or gravy

Any quantity you bring is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your support of St. Christine's mission. **They will be providing Thanksgiving meal for 200 families Please have these items to church by Sunday November 15.**

The need is great and your donation is appreciated.

Drop off your donations by the shopping cart near Door 1. A volunteer will deliver donations to St. Christine's.

THOSE FOR WHOM WE PRAY

Kim, Dorisann, Jo, Ron, Robert, Jared, Elaine, Roberta, Steve, George, Kaamil & Ashley, Lisa, Jill, RJ, Beck, Norman, Emma, Stephanie, Judy, Roger, Sheila, Mike, Frank, Bill, family & friends of Lisa Lemponen

*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
39020 Five Mile Road, Livonia MI 48154

Giving is an act of worship and thanks to our awesome God! Thank you for the many 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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Rise Up
Southeast Michigan Synod • ELCA

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

Return Service Requested

Ministers: **All Baptized People of Holy Trinity**
Senior Pastor: **Andrew Chavanak, OLF** pastorandrew@holytrinitylivonia.org
Associate Pastor: **Alysa Zavala-Offman** pastoralysa@holytrinitylivonia.org
Parish Administrator: **Patti Harhold** htlc@holytrinitylivonia.org
Director of Music Ministries: **Julie Stevens** 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: **Ruth Hagen** ruthhagen521@gmail.com
Communications: communications@holytrinitylivonia.org
HT Board: board@holytrinitylivonia.org

KIDS HOPE USA®

Tiny Tots Preschool
A Ministry of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

