

## Giving thanks for God's immeasurable love

*Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us.*

*We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.*

*We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.*

*We thank you for setting us at tasks that demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments that satisfy and delight us.*

*We thank you also for those disappointments and*



*failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.*

*Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his*

*Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he conquered death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.*

*Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know Christ and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things.*

2019 Book of Common Prayer pg. 681

## Sunday Supper: Celebrating Ellen Eagan and 25 years of feeding the hungry!

It wasn't just about Ellen Eagan, of course.

The more than 50 people gathered in Fellowship Hall Nov. 7 to mark 25 years of Sunday Suppers were there to celebrate the awesome power

of community as well as the woman who helped us believe that



together, we could feed the hungry.

**W**hen she launched the program in 1997 with little more than \$750 in seed money from Trinity Episcopal

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# Celebrating Sunday Supper's 25th year!

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Church Women and a boatload of conviction that “hungry people should be fed,” Ellen says she was following a “nudge from God.” The underprivileged were fed at St. Bernard Catholic Church’s soup kitchen Monday through Saturday, but on Sunday – the Lord’s Day – no one had stepped up to cover the need; thus, with that nudge, a few pans, and even fewer ideas on how to cook for a crowd, Ellen said “I’ll do it.” That was more than 25 years and 1,300 Sundays ago.

**W**hen Ellen said “I’ll do it” she really meant “we” – God and Trinity– believing one would provide and the other help cook, serve, do the dishes and take out the garbage. Miraculously, for 25 years it has transpired exactly so, God never failing to provide through grants, gifts, food drives and sometimes, when funds are low, a just-in-time check in the mail. The people of Trinity have also done their part, but as age and time shrinks the congregation other churches and organizations are stepping in to help maintain this quarter-century ministry.

Living Hope Church, Huron Shores Fellowship,

*Every Sunday at 4 p.m. in Trinity Episcopal’s Fellowship Hall, hungry people step forward for a cafeteria-style hot meal. The menu varies from soup to sandwiches to homestyle entrees dished up by friendly and respectful volunteers. Diners number 35-120, depending on the season, and greet each other as they settle around tables to enjoy the company. Unfailingly polite to the kitchen crew, they bring their dishes to the kitchen window and depart in about an hour with a wave, a “thank you!” and often, compliments to the cook.*

*It’s a simple time of sharing, and safe to say those on both sides of the counter leave satisfied.*



The Community of Christ Church, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, St. Paul and Grace Lutheran churches, and United Steelworkers Local 204 cook and contribute. Ella White Elementary School and the U.S. Postal Carriers conduct annual food drives. Most recently, two groups from Lafarge Corp. donated 2,800 food items and the Comstock Fund, an annual supporter, increased its giving.

**T**oday Sunday Supper is a community-wide, ecumenical effort that brings us together as Christians and puts our focus right where Christ would have it – on caring for each other. That’s why the big celebration on its 25th anniversary: it wasn’t just about the inimitable Ellen (who happened to be sick that day and couldn’t attend), but about all who over the last 25 years have cooked,

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**Cheryl Bates (left) and helpers (from right) Easton Mann, Debbie Brown and Betty Westrope serve Nov. 7’s celebratory soup.**

# Sunday Supper...

served, cleaned up, donated, shopped, stacked food, and come to eat what's prepared.

**F**or the Nov. 7 party Cheryl Bates and helpers dished up a simple soup-and-bread luncheon chased with (especially for Ellen) chocolate cake. Former Trinity rector the Rev. Bruce Michaud led the prayer and offered memories of his long-time friend; Ellen and John Eagan's daughter Mary spoke with humor of her mother's unflinching dedication to Sunday Supper. An appearance by the low-stepping Trinity Episcopal Rockettes, followed by an amusing reader's theatre vignette featuring Sonya Titus and Bill Powell and then a spirited rendition of "You Gotta Have Heart" finished the afternoon. Carol Cadarette and Kat Tomaszewski provided the music.

"I never thought there would even be this kind of event," Ellen

said later, "but I'm glad everyone was recognized for their contributions. This was beyond anything I could imagine."

The Office of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan cited Ellen for her work with a special certificate, recognizing her for *"exemplary service to the people of Alpena in providing the community with a Sunday Supper program, and also recruiting and developing an interfaith program with the area to fulfill this community's food needs."*

The Rev. Bruce and Maggie Michaud donated flowers and a bowl and spoon marked with Ellen's name; and attendees brought some 30 bags of goods for the food pantry, each bag stenciled



Photos by Bronwyn Woolman



Tina Wilson, Carol Rundell, Betty Westrope and Lisa Rhea stomp out a tune

with a Sunday Supper logo designed by Cathy Meske.

It was a fun and funny afternoon put together by Sonya Titus in keeping with Ellen's well-honed sense of humor. We went the extra mile because, well, Ellen does.



Maggie and Bruce Michaud surprise Ellen with her own bowl and spoon



Cathy Meske and daughter Maya film the event for the absent Ellen





### Profiling parishioner

#### Charlie Plourd

"It's the little things that matter," we like to say, whether about polite manners, loving gestures, or making out a tax return.

When it comes to church services at Trinity Episcopal, it is indeed "the little things" that comport with a well-run, welcoming hour of worship. And for the 8 a.m. Sunday service, Charlie Plourd takes care of just about all of them.

He's always there to unlock the door, turn on the lights, raise the heat, light the candles, unlock the sacristy, and say hello to his fellow parishioners as they enter the door. Charlie is also the 8 a.m. usher, dependable as a sunrise and just as familiar to his early-rising fellow Episcopalians. They may not always notice the "little things" he does to prepare God's house for worship, but would certainly notice if he weren't there to do them. Charlie is, after all, family.

He's been part of the family for decades, though he can't pinpoint the exact date, recalling it was during the Rev. Gil Runkel's rectorate (1953-70.) Because his mother was Presbyterian, Charlie began his Christian upbringing there but soon gravitated to Trinity, the church of his father and grandfather.

He and his wife Florence ("Toots," to Charlie) both attended and raised their children, Timothy and Tamyra, in the church. Timothy moved to Washington state and reared his children Genevieve, Channing, and Kyle there; Tamyra and husband Jerry Gillis reside in Big Rapids. Florence



passed away eight years ago and was buried from Trinity Episcopal.

As for Charlie, he appreciates the opportunity to be at Trinity every Sunday because it wasn't always so. During his career at Abitibi Corp. he worked shifts and often missed worship. Since retirement 22 years ago he has made it a priority to be there.

For parishioners, Charlie is the good-natured servant of God who takes care of all the "little things that matter," and we thank him. For Charlie, those 8 a.m. parishioners and Trinity itself care for him through the fellowship of family.

"This is my church," Charlie says. "I'm very comfortable here. It gives me a sense of belonging."

Many of us might say "me too."

*HOW do we choose parishioners for our profile? Completely at random. Eventually we hope to get around to every member of the family!*

Just for  
kids (of  
ALL ages)



The Worship Center children are busy preparing their annual Christmas Pageant set Sunday, Dec. 18 at the 11 a.m. service.



In the meantime, says leader Bronwyn Woolman, they are learning each Sunday about the Holy Season of Advent and the reason for lighting a special candle on each of the Sundays preceding Christmas: one each for hope, love, joy, and peace.



## Looking like Christmas!

The 12-foot Fellowship Hall Christmas tree is going up this week through the labors of volunteer parishioners. It's always a good deal of work and we are grateful for those willing to help. The sanctuary will be decorated after Dec. 18.

## In memory...

Since the last Trinity Times in September, Trinity has lost a devoted long-time member. We offer our loving support and condolences to the family of:

**Maxine Louise Moran**, 90, who passed Nov. 6, 2022. A nurse who was instrumental in starting the Hospice program in Alpena and in past years a very active member of Trinity Episcopal, she is survived by sons Kevin Moran, Michael (Jenny) Moran, Thomas (Vicki) Moran, Timothy (Julia) Moran; grandchildren Michael (Jenny) Moran Jr., Ryan (Nycki) Moran, Haley Moran, Chad (Renee) Krzyminski, Chelsea Krzyminski, and Tatum Moran; two great-grandchildren, Joe Moran and Ellie Moran; and a brother, Urban (Rose) Miller.

Visitation is Saturday, Dec. 10 at Trinity Episcopal Church from 10 a.m. until the 12 noon memorial service, the Rev. Bruce Michaud officiating. A luncheon will follow the service.

## Vestry reviewing parish self-study

A two-part parish self-study begun in September was reported to the Vestry Nov. 28.

Led by Rich Bates, the study was done in separate questionnaires sent electronically and in paper form to all Trinity parishioners. The first survey attempted to elicit members' views on the church as it is today; the second survey, what they'd like the church to be.

Once the Vestry has a chance to digest the information it may release some or all of it to the congregation. It will also be forwarded to the Diocese as it helps prepare a nationally-circulated posting for



**REPRESENTING THE BISHOP:** Tracy Little (back right), Canon to the Ordinary for the Eastern Michigan Episcopal Diocese, was here in November to meet with the Vestry and as a plus, had a chance to chat with parishioners Patti and Ted Rockwell (foreground) and Marge and Bob Lakin.

a new priest.

The point of the self-study, Rich says, is to ensure Trinity understands just what it wants

in a priest – and any potential priest may discern whether he or she is a good fit for the job.

"We'd like a good match."

# Packing up for Operation Christmas Child

Toys, notebooks, pens and pencils, health supplies, deflated soccer balls, clothes – whatever could be squeezed into a regular shoebox – was packed at Trinity Fellowship Hall as part of Operation Christmas Child.

On Nov. 7-8 piles of items donated by Trinity parishioners, including dozens of little dresses sewn by Margaret Quagon, were sorted by age (up to 9 years, over 9 years) and by gender, then packed into specially marked Christmas shoeboxes, eventually to be distributed to needy children in other corners of the world.

Churches around the country participate in the annual drive, their shoeboxes taken to central depots, then grouped for shipment overseas. Here at home, led by Ted Rockwell and Pam Wojda, Trinity helpers this year filled more than 300 boxes.



**SO MANY GOOD GIFTS** – Parishioner Pam Wojda (above) sorts through stacks of dolls while (below, from left) Jim Munro, Margaret Quagon, and Barb Applebee pack pencils.



## Help fill a Christmas basket!

As we think about those who need our help this winter, please don't forget those closest to home.

Every year we pack Christmas baskets for area families in need and this year, because we didn't have our soup fundraiser, we could use monetary donations along with the usual contributions of hats, gloves, scarves, etc. If you can help, please bring your winter hats and gloves to Fellowship Hall or place your contribution marked "Christmas baskets" in the offering plate. You could also mail it to the church.

## TECW to play 'Santa' for Shelter

To brighten the holiday for those and their children who spend Christmas in the Shelter program for abused women, Trinity Episcopal Church Women will again wrap and deliver gifts to residents. Between Dec. 10-19, please bring donations to Fellowship Hall. A full list of suggestions is in the bulletin, but consider baby supplies, notebooks and crayons, women's hair and health supplies, twin-size bedding, and sweatshirts (all sizes).





## Cookies, carols, special music set for Christmas at Trinity!

**T**hough the pandemic softened our voices over the past couple of years, we'll be singing out this Christmas.

The choir is already in rehearsal and music director Kat Tomaszewski is arranging other special anthems to celebrate this joyous, sacred season.

On Christmas Eve, the choir will perform for 15 minutes prior to worship at 5 p.m. That service will include additional voices and instrumentalists supported by Kat and the choir.

Kat is also urging members interested in singing with the choir to join pre-Christmas rehearsals Dec. 7 and Dec. 21, 5:30-6:30 p.m., and Dec. 11, 12:15-1:15 p.m.

Another festive (and tasty!) holiday event, "Cookies and Carols," is set Dec. 16-17 in Fellowship Hall.



Cookie-baking (all are welcome) is set Dec. 16 and cookie-decorating (and eating) begins at 10 a.m. Dec. 17. The Christmas cookies will be included with

Dec. 18's Sunday Supper. For cookies and carols, please RSVP to Kat at [trinityalpenamusic@gmail.com](mailto:trinityalpenamusic@gmail.com), or leave a message at the church office.



**REHEARSING FOR CHRISTMAS** – Trinity's choir, back in tune after a quiet pandemic, includes (from left) Bill Powell, Sid Urbanowicz, Ted Rockwell, Ellen Eagan, Easton Mann, and Tina Wilson.

### Trinity offering private spiritual direction

*For many, getting closer to God is a life-long pursuit. It sometimes helps if you've a friend along on the journey.*

Trinity member Rich Bates, certified in Spiritual Direction after a three-year program at the Dominican Center in Grand Rapids, is offering private, one-on-one sessions on the church campus to help individuals discern how the Holy Spirit may be working in their lives as they walk in God's direction.

To schedule a session, ask questions, or learn more, email Rich at: [richbates17@gmail.com](mailto:richbates17@gmail.com), or call 989-464-3146

### Table is set for Dec. 3 Little Girls' Tea!

Little girls have "tea parties" with their dolls, and moms and stuffed animals, but how much better to have one with other little girls!

In keeping with a Trinity tradition, little girls under age 11 are invited to an Advent-themed Little Girls' Tea set Saturday, Dec. 3 from noon to 2 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Reserva-

tions may be made by contacting Bronwyn Woolman (989-356-1045).

This party, arranged with the help of Kathryn Kunze, Fran Hamp, and Sue Krafft, will include lots of fun

and fancy foods served by teenaged maids.

Parents whose children "need them near" are welcome, as are donations to cover costs.



## Flowers for Christmas?

*Wish to honor loved ones or celebrate the joy of Christmas with flowers on the altar? Please call Sonya Titus at (989) 354-6031*



## Good response, some pledge cards still out

As of the end of November, about a quarter of the annual pledge cards mailed to Trinity members had not yet been returned, although Senior Warden Ellen Eagan said Trinitarians have been generous and the response so far is "gratifying." If you intend to pledge and have not yet returned your card, please do so.



**WE DON'T DO IT ALL OURSELVES** – Trinity parishioners are always willing to chip in, no matter the cause, but sometimes we get a little help from our friends (and relatives). During Operation Christmas Child, Marge Lakin (left) brought along sister-in-law Kay Lakin to help get the job done. Ted Rockwell is at right.



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