



# Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Apr 2, 2024)

## Trinity, Alpena, Eastern Michigan

124 E. Washington Avenue, Alpena, MI 49707, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 05/30/24.

[tlittle@eastmich.org](mailto:tlittle@eastmich.org)

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA)	Number of Weekend Worship Services	Number of Weekday Worship Services	Number of Other per Month Worship Services
45	2	1	
Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities
\$47659		\$50000	\$3600
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position	Housing Available for	Pension Plan
	\$47000	4	<b>We're in compliance with CPF requirements.</b>
Healthcare Options	Dental	Housing Equity Allowance in budget	Annual Equity Amount
Full family	Yes		
Vacation Weeks	Vacation Weeks Details	Continuing Education Weeks	Continuing Education Weeks Details
4			
Continuing Education Funding in budget	Sabbatical Provision	Travel/Auto Account	Other Professional Account
	Yes		

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Describe a moment in your worshipping community's recent ministry which you recognize as one of success and fulfillment.

Trinity's Sunday Supper program, a National Jubilee Ministry, begun in January 1997, serves a free meal each week to those in our community facing food insecurity. It started with an idea and a few dollars and has blossomed to an ecumenical outreach that has served 68,494 people over 26 years, never missing a week. Trinity parishioners were the first cooks and servers, but over time two evangelical churches joined the effort each month; the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints cooks quarterly; and parishioners from Lutheran congregations have both cooked and "crewed" for several years. In addition, Trinity maintains a community pantry providing groceries to those who cannot adequately provide for themselves. Stocked in part through the efforts of Ella White Elementary School, which runs a food drive bringing in several thousand food items each year, the pantry also received donations from business, industry, churches, and individuals. By bringing together volunteers and donors with varying beliefs and philosophies we have reduced hunger in our community. As a testament to its strong support, Sunday Supper runs on the consolidated care for our brothers and sisters.

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How are you preparing yourselves for the Church of the future?

We have streamed our 11am service since the fall of 2020. Our videos stream on YouTube. Through the diocese, Trinity has trained several lay worship leaders to guide the parish through Morning Prayer in the absence of a priest or deacon. Our small choir and the small choir at the neighboring United Church of Christ have sung together, supporting each other to greater effect. Our energetic young music minister continues to seek out opportunities to enhance our music ministry using new talents in our own parish and with willing members of the community. We maintain a website with contact information, parish news and programs, and photos illustrating our ministries. Our bulletin and newsletter also go out via the internet and we mail hard copies. Our space is shared with community groups during the week. We were the first Alpena church to open its doors to AA. We offer a variety of programs for the young and offer college scholarships. Trinity is currently growing with the addition of families, couples and individuals who have moved into the Alpena area. We invite newcomers to share in our ministries. We are looking at sharing our building with another denomination.

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Please provide words describing the gifts and skills essential to the future leaders of your worshipping community.

Pastoral care; building a beloved community; preacher; liturgist

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Describe your liturgical style and practice for all types of worship services provided by your community.

Our liturgical style is best described as broad church. We offer spoken worship services early Sunday and mid-day Wednesday; Sundays at 11am Trinity holds a more formal worship with a full complement of special music (sometimes invited from outside the church), congregational hymns, and prayer. Every service includes gospel readings and, if a supply priest or deacon is present, a sermon. Communion is offered when a priest is present.

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How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

Though small in number, Trinity's people are mighty, stepping forward in many capacities to support the work of the parish. A rotating slate of 10 parishioners read the gospels, seven are trained as Eucharistic chalice bearers, and 3 are trained as lay worship leaders in the absence of a priest. Some usher, sing in the choir, or regularly volunteer their musical talents as soloists or in instrumental ensembles. 5 adult leaders work with the young in the Worship Center children's program, others volunteer for altar guild. The parish Prayer Group and its Bible study are led by church members. In Trinity's hospitality ministry, parishioners take turns hosting Sunday morning coffee hours after both services, our monthly potluck supper is parishioner-led, and our remarkable Sunday Supper program, a weekly effort to feed the community's hungry, is fueled by the labor and monetary donations of our church. Almost everyone who is physically able to help - whether it's working a phone network, knitting mittens for the needy, fixing leaky faucets, watering the flowers, counting alms, cooking meals does so. We believe ministry to God's people is in the hands of all of us.

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As a worshipping community, how do you care for your spiritual, emotional and physical well-being?

Through its worship services, Trinity maintains the steady, traditional liturgy that is both a touchstone and a comfort to its Episcopalian members. Thought-provoking and often inspiring sermons help guide its people through their week and the Eucharist, available to all, is the touch of God. Through priest-led weekly Bible Study and parishioner-led Prayer Group, church members stay closer to the Word of God and to their fellows, sharing their insights into the scriptures and learning from each other, sharing their care and concern for distressed and ailing members in the church. The Deacon recently introduced the Daily Office to those unfamiliar, explaining how it guides morning and evening prayer through scripture. The music program, led by our young, accomplished music director, reaches parishioners in the way only music can. Choir anthems reflect the gospel message and solo performances speak to God's gift of true talent. Occasional parishioner-led book studies broaden the spiritual understanding of participants. The Deacon visits shut-ins, bringing God's word to those who cannot be with us. A columbarium is maintained in the inner courtyard offering comfort to all.

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How do you engage in pastoral care for those beyond your worshipping community?

Trinity is known in the wider Alpena community as a "giving" congregation. Most notable among our efforts is our Sunday Supper program, offered every week and led by the same woman for more than 26 years. Fueled by donations from business, industry, individuals, other churches, and our own parishioners, it provides a weekly home-cooked meal to 60 - 70 local residents, no questions asked. It maintains a "community pantry" that serves the hungry, needy, poor. In partnership with Ella White Elementary School's food drive project and other local food drives, Trinity stocks and stores thousands of canned goods and boxed foods for those who call or are directed to us. If money is required for various expenses, the priest's discretionary fund can assist. Recognizing the need in Ukraine, Trinity participated in a community fundraiser that netted \$20,000. Donations of bundles of goods are taken directly to Ukraine by a community member. TECW has adopted the local woman's shelter providing gifts and goods each Christmas and Easter. Food baskets are filled twice a year. Trinity partnered with Habitat for Humanity providing supplies to a family moving into their first home.

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Describe your worshipping community's involvement in either the wider Church or geographical region.

In terms of the Alpena community, Trinity is an active member of the LARCC organization, meeting regularly in joint services and taking turns welcoming other churches. It hosted an ecumenical pilgrimage with the catholic church and contributes to the Bishop's fund for relief. The Sunday Supper has evolved into an ecumenical effort including an individual from the local hospital who takes a turn with his own "crew" cooking. The deacon's visits to the sick and shut-in are bolstered by cards and phone calls from the parish. Our fundraising for the women's shelter, Habitat for Humanity, and Ukraine are also part of this effort.

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Tell about a ministry that your worshipping community has initiated in the past five years. Who can be contacted about this?

A monthly Messy Church program for children up through teens and their families welcomes friends to "come as you are" for a casual experience that allows everyone to feel comfortable and at-home. Centered on fun projects for kids, no matter how messy, this is a chance for us to meet new families and to provide a time for parents to spend time with the children in art, music and other activities. The TECW, recognizing the difficulties facing women and children in a women's shelter, provides toys, clothing, and personal care items that they can take with them as they move forward. The TECW partnered with Habitat for Humanity in providing new supplies to support a family. The Trinity "newspaper", in its fifth year, has proven a significant unifying force through trying times and in the absence of a priest. It brings us together as it spotlights our ministries and programs; recognizes those who put in their time, money, and energy; focuses on the Worship Center children's program and activities; honors those we have lost; and begins each edition with a meditation. It also circulates information from the Vestry, aiding its efforts to govern transparently as everyone is informed.

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What is your practice of stewardship and how does it shape the life of your worshipping community?

For many years Trinity's stewardship program was low-key, static, and routine. Every member received a letter defining stewardship and the gifts of time, treasure, and talent, encouraging them to look at the many opportunities for service in the church. Last year the Vestry took a new look at stewardship. It provided each member with financial information from the budget along with a "step up" diagram of giving, showing the percentage of people who pledged at each level. A request was simply put: could your giving go "up a step?" Almost every member increased their pledge! The Vestry has also offered opportunities for people to give to special projects such as church landscaping, to which they respond generously. We have found that communicating information to each member that is transparent about the needs of the church has increased each individual's understanding of the part that their pledge plays in the life of the church. Needs that are understood are likely to be needs that are met.

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What is your worshipping community's experience of conflict? And how have you addressed it?

Trinity has tried various means of coping with conflict. Too often the individuals in conflict would gather a few more people to support their viewpoint and talk about the issue with each other but never with "the other". While this was going on, other members in the congregation would practice ignoring the entire situation, hoping it would go away. It rarely did. Another way to handle conflict was to put it in the lap of the Priest, a move that made trouble for him and did little to resolve the issue. In the past year, without a Rector, the Vestry took on the responsibility of resolving the conflict with the goal of reconciliation. Using conflict resolution principles, an open space was created for ideas and opinions to be expressed as all were invited to truly listen. Did it work, yes, although as in any compromise, no party gets exactly what it wants. The individuals involved and the Vestry discovered places of agreement and were able to move forward. The Vestry is ready to continue using the practice of conflict resolution into the future, relieving the Priest of having to carry the fully burden and perhaps "take sides" to resolve an issue.

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What is your experience leading/addressing change in the church? When has it gone well? When has it gone poorly? And what did you learn?

The initiation of a Sunday dining program and food pantry for those experiencing food insecurity in our community in January 1997 was tolerated initially by some congregants but became beloved and a point of pride over the intervening years. Direct experience in the program, education about the plights in which some people find themselves, and the support of many organizations and individuals in the community have changed perceptions and increased a spirit of generosity. For the most part, our parish has been gracious and accepting about changes that have been necessary during our search for a new rector. The 10:30am service needed to be changed to 11am to accommodate our new organist who also plays at the UCC church. Our supply priests requested that the 8am communion service be moved to 9am in consideration of their commuting in dark or dicey winter weather. The communicants who attend the earlier service were accepting of the time change and willing to give it a trial. The move to 11am for the second service has been well accepted with no negative feedback.



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### Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Bill McClure	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2015-02	2022-07

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Bruce Michaud	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2002-05	2014-12

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
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Church School <b>Yes</b>		Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School <b>4</b>	Number of Students for Children School <b>10</b>
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Number of Teachers/Leaders for Teen/Young Adults School	Number of Students for Teen/Young Adults School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Adults School <b>1</b>	Number of Students for Adults School <b>10</b>
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Day School	Number of Students for Day School	Number of Teachers for Day School	Number of Total Staff for Day School
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Worshipping Community Web site: [www.trinityalpena.net](http://www.trinityalpena.net)

Media Links:

Online References:

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Languages Significantly Represented:

**English**

> <https://www.facebook.com/trinityalpena>

**English**

### References

Bishop:

**The Rt. Rev. Skip Adams  
(Assisting Bishop)**

sadams@eastmich.org 877-752-6020

Diocesan Transition Minister

**The Rev. Canon Tracie  
Little**

tlittle@eastmich.org 810-300-9177

Current Warden/Board Chair

**Ellen Eagan**

Please mail correspondence to the church. 989-356-0576

Previous Warden/Board Chair

**Sonya Titus**

Please mail correspondence to the church. 989-356-0576

Search Chair

**Ellen Eagan**

Please mail correspondence to the church. 989-356-0576

Parish/Institution

Local Community Leader