



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
1314 E Lexington Blvd • Eau Claire WI 54701-6434
2021, January Newsletter—Vol. LXVII No. 001



Budget Forum Zoom Meeting

Join the Budget Forum on Sunday, January 24, at 9:00 A.M. The Trinity Council will host a Zoom forum to review the 2020 finances and preview the 2021 budget. The forum will provide insight into the process of establishing the budget and the faithful and diligent oversight the council has used to prepare a fiscally responsible budget plan for 2021. The Council welcomes your questions at this forum. Watch for links in the Friday E-News or on our webpage.

Annual Congregational Meeting

Join the Annual Meeting of Trinity via Zoom on Sunday, January 31, at 9:00 A.M. This constitutionally directed event brings together all confirmed members to review 2020, elect a new council, and adopt the 2021 budget. Reports to be included in the Annual Report are due to Amber Moltzau by Tuesday, January 12. You may email them to her at amber@trinity-ec.org. The online Annual Report will be available at trinity-ec.org starting January 24. Print copies will also be available in the entry way at Door 1.

Watch for links in the Friday E-News or on our webpage.

Sharing at Christmas

Thank you to all who shared the spirit of generosity and love this Christmas. Because of your generosity, we were able to distribute toys, jackets, snowpants, clothing, and giftcards for food to 20 families in the community. This annual Christmas Sharing Project addresses needs of families with school-age children. Thank you to all who helped by purchasing gifts and by donating money. Trinity makes a difference in people's lives, and you have a part in that mission. Thank you for your generosity.

Baptism Celebration

Don't miss the online Baptism celebration in worship on Sunday, January 10 when we look back at photos of those baptized by Trinity pastors in 2020! We're going to read about Jesus' Baptism and see how it has an important message for our lives today. Join a worship service and hear again the news of Jesus' Baptism and how it applies to your life!

A Special Thank You

Thank you to our Decorating Committee for all their hard work and dedication in making our church and our altar area look its best for the holidays. Thank you also to Don Peterson for setting up all the trees. If you would like to join the Decorating Committee, please contact Dr. Frank Watkins at frank@trinity-ec.org or call 715.832.6601 ext 213.

Online Bible Study Opportunity

Do you have questions about the Bible, but aren't sure where to start? Join Pastor Tom and Ashley Olson for a six week book study about big questions in the life of faith. We will be facilitating this through a closed Facebook Group with videos, discussion threads, and reading the book *About the Bible: Short Answers to Big Questions* by Terence Fretheim (you will need to purchase this on your own). Contact Pastor Tom at tomw@trinity-ec.org for details about joining the group!



Parent Check-In

Parents are invited to a Zoom Check-In with Pastor Tom on Thursday, January 21, at 8:00 P.M. We will share a devotion as well as commiserate in the joys and struggles of parenting. Contact Pastor Tom at tomw@trinity-ec.org with any questions.

Join the Zoom meeting:

- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85855285329?pwd=VVdCTIRIN1BxTCtKNUpYdIBQs3MvZz09>
- Meeting ID: 858 5528 5329
- Passcode: trinity



Noah's Ark and ECE Classes

Happy 2021!

As I am writing this we are celebrating the advent and Christmas season with the children of Noah's Ark. While many things are different in 2020 due to the pandemic, this celebration remains constant and the joy of our days. The children have heard the Christmas story of Baby Jesus and are sharing it with their family and friends through our class party programs in a virtual format this year with a special Christmas video. It is the blessing of the season to have these children know Jesus and share His peace with their family and friends. We look towards the star of Jesus shining on us all in 2021!



As January begins, our classes will relish a more relaxed schedule as kids are excited to be back to school with their friends with time to play, discover, investigate, create and learn. Hopefully we'll have some good snow and temperatures to allow some discovery and snow play outside, bundled up in warm clothes and boots!

As we look towards 2021 we are filled with hope for today and the future. Our classroom routines still look different, but God's love and the message of peacemaking which we share with children remains constant. We look forward to Noah's Ark Sunday on January 24 at the 9:45 A.M. worship service when the congregation can see more about our days at Noah's Ark. 2020–2021 class information will be available on our website. We will have a virtual open house posted on our website to share our school with the congregation and community. Registration for the 2020–2021 school year will open to congregational members on January 30 with a phone in registration. If you have a young child in your life and you would like to know more, please contact me for information regarding our program or registration process at marlee@trinity-ec.org or 715.832.6601.

In peace,
Marlee Knickerbocker

CARE & CONCERN MINISTRIES

Friends of Flynn

- **Forever Books Project:** During December, we were able to give a new book to each student at Flynn. The books were distributed with the help of Flynn's media specialist and partnership coordinator. The students were able to pick out a "forever book" to take and keep at home before the holiday break, and those who participate in virtual learning were able to pick up their books at the school. This is made possible by our congregational members and their generous support. Thank you from the members of Trinity's Friends of Flynn Committee.
- **Weekend Meals Project:** This fall, the members of the Trinity Friends of Flynn Committee voted to send \$4,000 to Feed My People Food Bank to help off-set the cost of the weekend meals project for students at Flynn Elementary School. We were able to do this through the generous support of our congregation through our annual fund-raising effort in March, memorial donations, on-going gifts, and a grant from the Trinity Endowment Trust. Thank you to all who have supported this fund.

The following is a note from Amanda Parkinson, Development Specialist, Feed My People:

*Dear Trinity Friends of Flynn,
Thank you for your continued support of the students at Flynn Elementary. It is your commitment to the students that ensures they have the food they need each weekend. This year has been challenging for many families in our community and some are struggling with hunger for the very first time. Thank you for helping their children not go hungry.*

In gratitude, Amanda

From the Parish Nurse

It's a New Year! Have you ever been so happy to see a year come to an end? I had to look back at January 2020's newsletter article, just for fun. In January 2020 I was worried if I would adjust to retirement and what that would mean for my life. What a trivial worry. I certainly didn't see what the year had in store for me. 2020 put a new perspective on each of our lives.

This January, I see hope on the horizon. Two vaccines for Covid-19 have been approved. Our citizenry saw the importance of voting, and new records for voter participation were set. Our democracy is alive and well. So my prayer for 2021 is HOPE.

Gracious God, We come before you today in need of hope. There are times when we feel helpless; there are times when we feel weak. We pray for hope. We need hope for a better future. We need hope for a better life. We need hope for love and kindness. We need hope for peace. Some say that the sky is at its darkest just before the light. We pray that this is true, for right now all seems dark. We need your light, Lord, in every way. We pray to be filled with your light from head to toe. To bask in your glory. To know that all is right in the world, as You have planned, and as You want it to be. Help us to hear You saying, "I am your hope" over all other voices. Fill us up with hope and remind us each day that Your hope is an unbreakable spiritual lifeline. Amen

May 2021 bring us all Health, Peace, Love and Hope. And remember...wear your mask, physically distance, wash your hands. Get the vaccine when it is available to you.

Vicki Dueringer
Parish Nurse



Memorials & Gifts

QUILTERS

- In memory of Joan Harris: Timothy & Dawn Buckley
- In memory of Lois Olson: Miriam Circle, Bruce & Ruth Eastenson, Glen & Bev Tamke
- In memory of Vila Nygaard: Bob & Mary Schoenknecht
- In memory of Geraldine Miller: Bob & Mary Schoenknecht

MEMORIAL FUND

- In memory of Lois Olson: Pat Garber, Karen Metzgar, Mark & Suzanne Becker, Ed & Mary Elworthy
- In memory of Barbara Ihlenfeldt: Gary & Gloria Crossman
- In memory of Vila Nygaard: Leatrice Solberg, Janis Smith, Pat Garber, Joel & Lenore Higgins
- In memory of Geraldine Miller: Jan Rasmussen & Janine Seiffert, Carla Brandrup, Family & Friends
- In memory of Maridale Jacobson: Ed & Mary Elworthy
- In memory of Rick Silloway: Ed & Mary Elworthy

ENDOWMENT TRUST FUND

- In memory of Lois Olson: Warren & Mavis Hermodson, Barbara Tischer, Patricia Hanson, Jon & Maureen Homstad, Chuck & Sue Nyberg, Deyon Ziehme, John & Nancee Burbank
- In memory of Merle Dahl: Jon & Maureen Homstad

CHILDREN'S BIBLES

- In memory of Lois Olson: Jim & Lynn Gullicksrud, Bob & Mary Schoenknecht
- In memory of Kjerstie Pressler: Mike & Dori Ritland

THANKSGIVING DINNER

- In memory of Maridale Jacobson: William & Diane Burdt
- In memory of Lois Olson: William & Diane Burdt
- In memory of Allen B. Olson: Rebekah Krumrie

FOOD PANTRY

- In memory of Lois Olson: Sheila Rupprecht, David & Christine Gessner, Charles Nelson, Curtis & Sharyl Miller, Eleanor Hesse, Omar Nelson, Roger & Marilyn Skatrud, Jean Parkhurst, John & Nancy Schaaf, Keith & Carol Sommerfeld, Ardis Nystuen, Carla Brandrup, Char Finseth, Robert & Judy Pielhop, Leatrice Solberg, Ron & Yvonne Nixdorf, Kirsten Alvarez & Dean VanAmber, Barbara Vorhes, Diane Fritz, Victoria Kohlhepp, Marilyn Johnson, Orville & Shirley Anderson, Ron & Marilyn Thompson, Phyllis Burrows, LuAnn Miller, Jim & Anne Walker, Charles Smith, Joel & Lenore Higgins, Jeff & Jane Cote, Darryl & Deb Schaefer, Shirley Purchatzke, Jim Urness & Dorothy Sorlie, David & Gloria Weiss, Anna Trullinger, Jack & Leslie Jeatran, Norbert & Helen Wurtzel, Robert & Merrelyn Dawson, Torey Johnson, Dale & Lou Kuhlman, Darrell Broten, John Stromwall, Dean & Carolyn Brockmeier, Tom & Sheila Zahorik, Ardelle Brown
- In memory of Maridale Jacobson: David & Christine Gessner
- In memory of Pamela Creydt: Joel Creydt
- In memory of Geraldine Miller: Phyllis Grohn, Marilyn Johnson, Alfred & Margaret Namejunas

- In memory of Vila Nygaard: Diane Fritz, Barbara McDermid, Ardelle Brown, John & Nancee Burbank, Mary Ellen Mathews, Carla Brandrup
- In memory of Barbara Ihlenfeldt: Mary Keller, Daniel & Nancy Gunderson, Jon & Sharon Berg, Bob & Mary Schoenknecht, Thomas Rust, Todd & Kelly Schmidt, Darrell & Beth Berge, Carolyn Schleppenbach, Mary Ellen Mathews, Phyllis Burrows, Pat Garber, Dorothy Bonstrom, Sharon Lehman
- In memory of Joan Harris: Ardis Nystuen
- In memory of Marvin Solberg: Leatrice Solberg
- In memory of Daniel Hillestad: Bob & Mary Schoenknecht
- In memory of Maridale Jacobson: Jack Olson, Tom & Sheila Zahorik
- In honor of Sarah Rinholen: John & Peg Dimpfel
- In honor of Sophie and Maddie Elworthy, Jackson and Alli Elworthy, Reyna and Boden Sundell: Ed & Mary Elworthy

LIBRARY

- In memory of Lois Olson: Ann Felton, Barbara Lee, Jerry & Joanne Dow, Tom & Monika Fiedler, Sandra Jacobson
- In memory of Joe Dow: Tom & Monika Fiedler

NOAH'S ARK PRESCHOOL

- In memory of Kjerstie Pressler: Bill Clouse & Katie Ritland Clouse

ENDOWMENT TRUST/KURT JACOBSON FUND

- In memory of Joan Harris: Family & Friends, William & Mary Hanafin, Dolores Hyland, Kathleen Green, Mark & Catherine Seyffer, Michael & Violet Ashbaugh

WOMEN'S GIVING CIRCLE

- In memory of Vila Nygaard: Gary & Mary Rambo
- In memory of Maridale Jacobson: Gary & Mary Rambo

FLOWERS

- In memory of Vila Nygaard: Susan Schaefer

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

- In memory of Lois Olson: Gale & Jan Otterholt

"Serving in Christ's Love and Sharing the Good News"

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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Andy Hofer—CrossWord Youth Band
Jeanne Cooper—God's Little Singers
Corinne Gransee Paral—Jesus And Me, Totally Joyous
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World Missions

Jabneh Christian Academy, Grange Hill, Jamaica
Blantyre Lutheran Parish, Malawi, Africa
Jacqueline & Patrick Bencke, Japan

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- Please submit all articles for the Tidings **electronically** in MS Word, Corel WP format, or in the body of an email. Submit to: cindy@trinity-ec.org
 - All submissions must be your own work. Any copyrighted material (code, images, or otherwise) must include written permission from the original source.
 - Deadline for the February Newsletter is January 18.