



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
1314 E Lexington Blvd • Eau Claire WI 54701-6434
2021, July Newsletter—Vol. LXVII No. 007



Trinity ALL MEMBER Events

This summer, the Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Team is excited to offer faith-based opportunities for people of all ages. It is time to mark your calendars with some fun and awesome events. Registration is required for some events. Please visit Trinity's website for more details.

- **Express Baseball Game at Carson Park:** July 6
- **Scavenger Bingo at Fairfax Park:** Wednesday, July 14

Vacation Bible School July 26–30 for ALL MEMBERS of Trinity

Hold onto your mullet. We are taking a totally tubular trip through the early church! We will hear stories from the book of Acts and learn how God's Spirit worked in and through the early believers. Everyone is invited to participate in VBS this year. All are welcome to celebrate! As long as Trinity has your current email address on file, you will receive a daily email that includes a variety of fun activities to do at home. You are also invited to celebrate at our nightly VBS events. We will enjoy a time of fellowship, laughter, and fun. Registration and more information can be found on Trinity's website.

- Monday, July 26: Food Trucks & Dunk Tank from 4:00 P.M.–7:30 P.M.
- Tuesday, July 27: Tie-Dye from 4:00 P.M.–7:30 P.M.
- Wednesday, July 28: Outdoor Worship at 6:00 P.M.
- Thursday, July 29: Stepping Stones from 4:00 P.M.–7:30 P.M.
- Friday, July 30: Pool Party from 7:00 P.M.–8:45 P.M.

We Are Hiring! Multiple Job Openings

- Trinity Lutheran Church is looking for a new Children and Family Ministry Director to help us continue making peacemakers and disciples across all generations. Interested? The full job description is available in the office and on the Trinity website. Please submit a cover letter, resume, and references to Pastor Tom Westcott.
- The Early Childhood Enrichment program of Trinity Lutheran Church seeks a qualified part-time teacher to co-teach two year old children in our Come and Play classes, beginning fall 2021. The full job description is available in the office and on the Trinity website. To apply, please submit a cover letter and resume to Marlee Knickerbocker, Early Childhood Enrichment Coordinator.

Summer is Here!

The office is now open and the hours have changed with the season. The office will be open from 8:00 A.M.–4:00 P.M. Monday through Friday. We ask that if you have not been vaccinated to please wear a mask in an effort to keep adults and children safe who have not been vaccinated. However, masks are required for all worshippers at Sunday morning worship services according to CDC and Health Department protocols.

Global Mission Update

—Kumamoto, Japan, Jackie and Patrick Bencke, Missionaries

A newsletter update from the Benckes arrived just before the end of May. Jackie wrote, "Vaccinations for the public are just getting underway with people age 80 and older now eligible to make appointments and receive the injection. Japan is very far behind the rest of the world in immunizing her people. Unfortunately, the variants have also hit various places in Japan, including Kumamoto, so the infection rates continue to climb. This concerns our family deeply, as Patrick is one of those with a condition that would mean complications are likely in the event of a COVID infection. Our college has been in remote learning since the end of April."

Both serve at Kyushu Lutheran College. Patrick is a teacher of English, and Jackie is the Director of Sacred Music. Please keep the Bencke family in your prayers especially during these challenging times in Japan.



Notice to all Gardeners

Do you ever find yourself with an excess of vegetables from your garden? Your freezer is full, you have run out of canning jars, and your neighbors lock their door when they see you coming with a box of greens? Instead of tossing these fresh usable vegetables into the compost pile, please consider bringing them to Trinity's Food Pantry for distribution to those that are in need of fresh healthy food choices.



Drop off your produce at Door 5 on Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday mornings throughout the growing season. Our guests thank you!

Trinity Food Pantry distributes over 15,000 pounds of food per month, serving over 400 families.

Protocols/Policies for Sunday Mornings

- By attending in person worship, you are agreeing to abide by Trinity's Safety Protocols.
- Only Door 3 will be available for entry into the building.
- Door 3 will open for registering family units 20 minutes prior to each worship service.
- Hands will be sanitized upon entry.
- Masks must be worn over the nose and mouth.
- Physical distancing of 6 feet will be maintained outside of household units.
- Ushers will seat family units together with six feet between families.
- There will be no congregant contact.
- Communion will be celebrated in non-contact ways.
- Ushers will release congregants by pew, and people will immediately exit through Door 2 or Door 3 after the worship service as directed by an usher.
- No congregant food or beverage activity will be permitted.
- The nursery, Rainbow Bags, children's books, and the library will not be available.

ELCA Women's Conference 2021 Retreat

Please join the women of the Chippewa Valley for the 2021 Retreat at Luther Park Bible Camp in Chetek, WI., on August 18 and 19. The retreat begins on Wednesday at 12:30 P.M. and concludes on Thursday at 3:00 P.M. The cost is \$65 before July 31 or \$70 after August 1 which includes three meals and lodging. Presenters are Cathy Jenson and Deb Gilbertson. Registration forms with additional information are available in Trinity's Door 1 entryway.

Online Giving Makes a Difference

It's SUMMER! We can finally say it. We know that these warmer months take many of you far and wide on weekends. While you might be away, Trinity's ministry and mission continue! If you are not already doing so, we invite you to consider online giving. Thank you for considering supporting Trinity's ongoing mission this summer and this year!

Attention Seniors

Our last senior get together was a Valentines luncheon in February 2020. Then Covid-19 hit, and we have been isolated ever since. It is time to reconnect! The Circles and quilters are starting to meet again, so its time to plan events for senior members of Trinity. Contact Vicki Dueringer at vickid@trinity-ec.org or 715.832.6601 ext 214 if you have ideas or are interested in planning an event.

I'd like to extend a special invitation to Seniors who appreciate baseball. A group of Trinity members and friends are attending the Eau Claire Express game at Carson Park on Tuesday, July 6. First pitch is thrown at 6:35. Cost is \$9 for general admission and its BOGO night at the concession stand. We would love to have you join us in cheering the Express on to victory!

Memorials & Gifts

Advent Tea

- In memory of Elayne Peterson: Mark & Suzanne Becker, Sam & Ginny Yanakopulos, Miriam Circle

Missions

- In memory of Elayne Peterson: Sandy Pehler, Carla Brandrup, Janet Floeter

Food Pantry

- In memory of Wally Bruns: David & Jeanette Suchla
- In memory of Elayne Peterson: Ed & Mary Elworthy

Memorials

- In memory of Wally Bruns: Dean & Margo Brudwick
- In memory of Elayne Peterson: Rose Sippel, Anna Trullinger, Robert & Karen Yant, LuAnn Miller

Children's Bibles

- In memory of Elayne Peterson: Leatrice Solberg



Trinity Book Club Resumes this Fall!

Are you ready to start? Get ready because this fall Book Club is back. The Book Club brochure is available in the library. We have pieced together a list that includes books from the last year and half we missed. The first meeting will be Tuesday, September 21, at 6:30 P.M. in the Trinity library. We will discuss *The Immortalists* by Chloe Benjamin. We hope to see you there!

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

Greetings from Noah's Ark Preschool and the ECE Program!

It is summer and my hope for children...and adults...is for everyone to be spending their time playing in God's beautiful summer world! We know that unstructured play is important for children's brain development. Likewise, spending time in the natural world which God created for us rejuvenates all of our bodies, minds, and souls. Enjoy these great summer days and play outdoors!

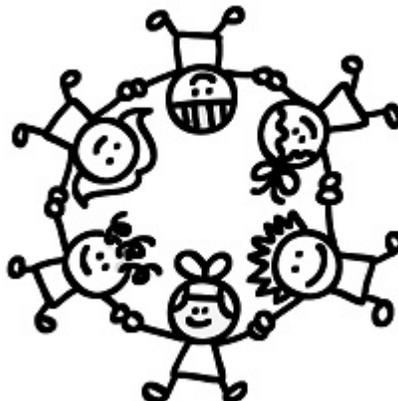
We continue to enroll children in our Fall, 2021 Early Childhood Enrichment classes for children ages 18 months–3 years, as well as our Noah's Ark Preschool classes for children ages 3–5 years. If you have or know someone with young children, consider checking out what we have to offer through these awesome programs at Trinity!

In Peace,
Marlee Knickerbocker

Early Childhood Enrichment and Noah's Ark Preschool

Registration continues for our fall programming.

- Music and Movement, a parent/child class for children whose birthdates fall between 9.1.2018 and 3.1.2020.
- Come and Play, a drop off class for children whose birthdates fall between 9.1.2018 and 5.31.2019
- Noah's Ark Preschool, Tues/Thurs mornings, for children age 3 by 9.1.2021
- Noah's Ark Preschool, Mon/Wed/Fri mornings, multi-age class for children 3–5 years old by 9.1.2021
- Noah's Ark Preschool, Mon–Thurs afternoons, multi-age for children 3–5 years old by 9.1.2021
- Noah's Ark Preschool, Mon/Wed afternoons, multi-age for children 3–5 years old by 9.1.2021. This class has an emphasis on science, early literacy, and creative arts.



Children, Youth, and Family Summer Opportunities!

Trinity is excited to offer faith based opportunities this summer for all ages! Mark your calendars! Registration is open and available online. Please visit our website trinity-ec.org for more program details.

Children Only Events

- **Outdoor Game Day** at Trinity: Monday, July 12
- **Light the Fire Campfire** at Trinity: Thursday, July 22

Family Opportunities

- **Playtime in the Park:** Mondays, July 5 (Oakwood Hills Park) and July 19 (Irvine Park Playground)
- **Express Baseball Games** at Carson Park: July 6
- **Scavenger Bingo** at Fairfax Park: Wednesday, July 14
- **VBS** at Trinity: July 26–30

Vacation Bible School July 26–30 for ALL MEMBERS of Trinity

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Youth Ministries

Youth Only Events For the Summer

- **Light the Fire High School Campfire** at Trinity: Sunday, July 18
- **Light the Fire Middle School Campfire** at Trinity: Tuesday, July 20
- **Christ Jam Middle School Youth Gathering** at Luther Park Bible Camp: Saturday, August 14

CARE & CONCERN

Health Ministries

Dear Trinity,

As I sit in my office at Trinity this morning writing this newsletter, I am listening to laughter and an animated conversation going on outside my door. These are sounds I have not heard since last March when Covid-19 began and we all started working from home. I cannot express the joy and happiness I feel to again be working with my friends.

And thus the inspiration for this month's newsletter: The importance and benefits of friendship. There are two scriptures from the Bible on friendship that call to me. Proverbs 17:17 *A friend loves at all times, and kinsfolk are born to share adversity.* The other one is John 15:15 (this is Jesus speaking to his disciples) *I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.* Can you imagine how treasured the disciples must have felt to be called Jesus' friend? Friendships have a major impact on your health and well-being. Understanding the importance of friendships in your life and what you can do to develop and nurture friendships is important to good health. The following list is from Mayo Clinic.

What are the benefits of friendships?

Friends can help you celebrate good times and provide support during bad times. Friends prevent loneliness and give you a chance to offer needed companionship, too. Friends can also:

- Increase your sense of belonging and purpose.
- Boost your happiness and reduce your stress.
- Improve your self-confidence and self-worth.
- Help you cope with traumas, such as divorce, serious illness, job loss or the death of a loved one.
- Encourage you to change or avoid unhealthy lifestyle habits such as excessive drinking or lack of exercise.

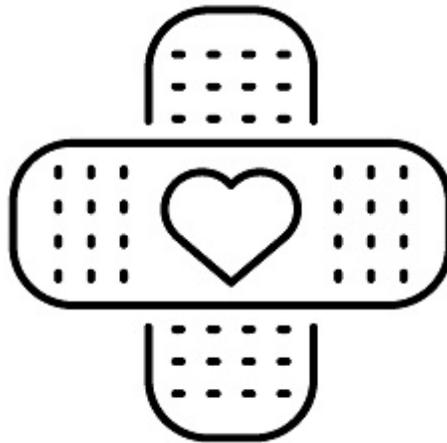
Friends also play a significant role in promoting your overall health. Adults with strong social support have a reduced risk of many significant

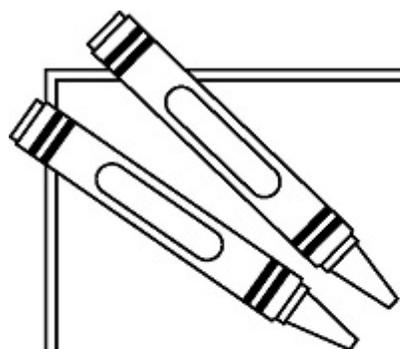
health problems including depression, high blood pressure, and an unhealthy body mass index (BMI). Studies have even found that older adults with a rich social life are likely to live longer than their peers with fewer connections. Quality counts more than quantity. While it's good to cultivate a diverse network of friends and acquaintances, you also want to nurture a few truly close friends who will be there for you through thick and thin.

Developing and maintaining good friendships takes effort. The enjoyment and comfort friendship can provide, however, makes the investment worthwhile. Call a friend today and plan to get together in-person!

Friends of Flynn School Supply Drive

As a reflection of our mission statement of "Serving in Christ's Love and Sharing the Good News," Trinity has a wonderful partnership with Flynn Elementary School to help address the needs of children. We know that beginning in July, stores will have great prices on school supplies. Please consider purchasing some to give children for the beginning of the school year. Stores will have a printed list near the supplies to help with your selection for Flynn students. The supplies can be dropped off at Trinity (lobby on Sunday mornings; door #1 during the week) beginning Thursday, July 15. Thank you.



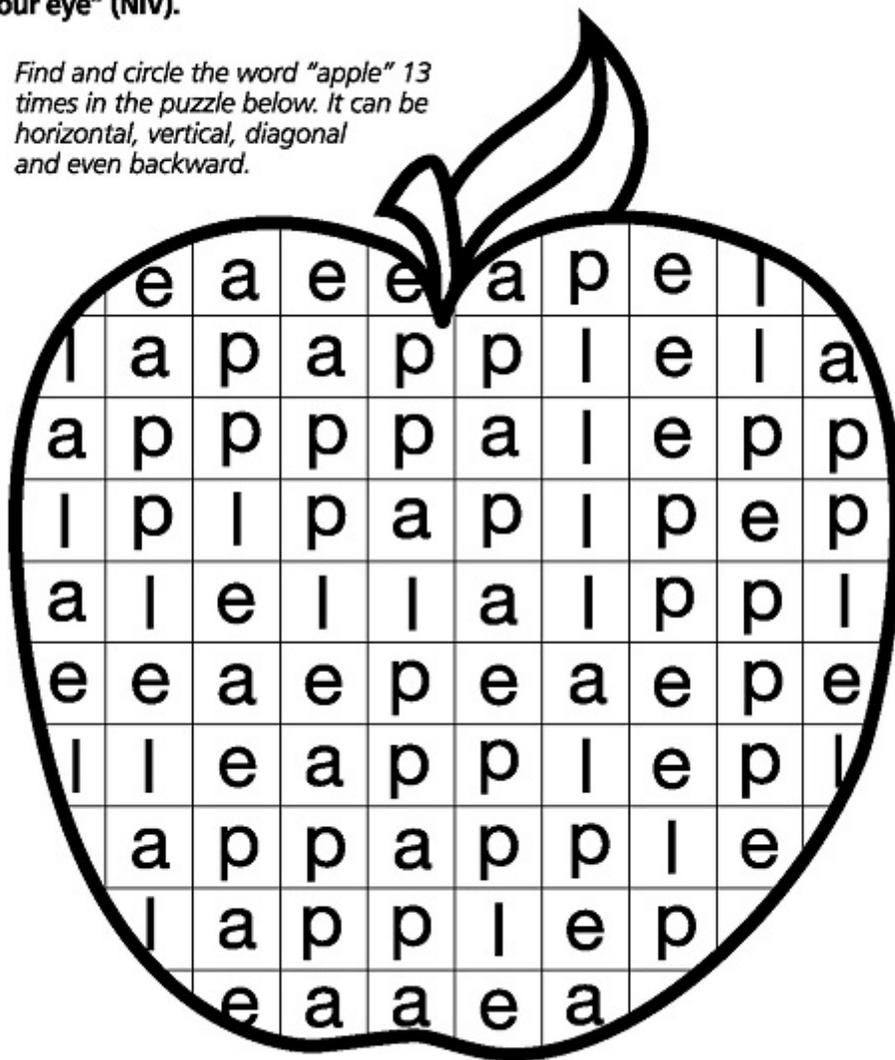


Just for **KIDS**

Apple of Your Eye

When something is said to be the "apple of your eye," it means it's precious to you and you would protect it as you would your own eye. With school starting up again, we should remember God's instructions in Proverbs 7:2: "Keep my commands and you will live; guard my teachings as the apple of your eye" (NIV).

Find and circle the word "apple" 13 times in the puzzle below. It can be horizontal, vertical, diagonal and even backward.



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

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

Trinity Lutheran Church, 1314 East Lexington Blvd, Eau Claire WI 54701

Phone: (715) 832.6601 • Fax: (715) 832.6700 • Web Page: trinity-ec.org

Pastors

Patrick Patterson patrick@trinity-ec.org
507.779.4991
Tom Westcott tomw@trinity-ec.org
612.481.0810

Children, Youth, and Family Ministry

Heather Day heatherd@trinity-ec.org
Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Assistant; Young
Adult Ministry Coordinator
Ashley Olson ashley@trinity-ec.org
Youth Ministry Director
Marlee Knickerbocker marlee@trinity-ec.org
Noah's Ark Director; Early Childhood Enrichment
Coordinator, Noah's Ark Teacher
Jill Kasmarek jill@trinity-ec.org
Noah's Ark Teacher
Cassie Brenden cassie@trinity-ec.org
Noah's Ark Teacher

Care & Concern Ministry

Vicki Dueringer vickid@trinity-ec.org
Parish Nurse
Pat Garber garberpa@uwec.edu
Visitation Ministry Director
Sue Marczinke sue@trinity-ec.org
Food Pantry Coordinator

Worship & Music Ministry

Dr. Frank Watkins frank@trinity-ec.org
Worship & Music Director
Brian Pressler—Organist brian@trinity-ec.org
Gary Rambo—Trinity Choir
Ryan Poquette—Trinity Tollers
Andy Hofer—CrossWord Youth Band
Jeanne Cooper—God's Little Singers
jeanne@trinity-ec.org
Corinne Gransee Paral—Jesus And Me, Totally Joyous
Christians corinne@trinity-ec.org

Building & Grounds Team

Don Peterson
Sheri Peterson

Ministry Support

Amber Moltzau amber@trinity-ec.org
Office Administrator
Cindy Beck cindy@trinity-ec.org
IT/Ministry Assistant

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 August Newsletter is July 15.