



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
1314 E Lexington Blvd • Eau Claire WI 54701-6434
2021, March Newsletter—Vol. LXVII No. 003



Lent 2021

God's Promises for You

Join us each Wednesday during Lent at 12:15 P.M. or 6:00 P.M. for online worship as we explore our theme "God's Promises for You." This Lent, we are going to explore words of assurance and hope that God offers to all people through covenants, parables, and even miracles so we can stand firm in our faith no matter how uncertain our day to day might be. Join us each Wednesday to discover God's promises for you!

- March 3 • John 6:1–14 "Jesus feeds the 5000"
- March 10 • Luke 22:14–28 "The Last Supper"
- March 17 • Luke 22:32–71 "Jesus is Betrayed"
- March 24 • Luke 23:26–56, 24:1–12 "Easter"



Join Us for Holy Week Worship

- Maundy Thursday—April 1 online worship at 6:00 P.M. Please have communion elements ready as we confess our sins together.
- Good Friday—"The Last Seven Words." April 2 online worship at 6:00 P.M. This will be an Eau Claire Area ELCA collaborative service.



Easter Worship

Please join us for a celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord on Sunday, April 4 at 8:15 A.M. or 9:45 A.M. online worship. Our tentative plan is for online Easter worship to be accessed through the Facebook link on the home page of our website even if you don't have a Facebook account. Whether you dress in your Easter finest or just stay in your pajamas, be prepared for the resounding message that "He is Risen! He is risen indeed!"

Trinity Library

Traditionally, in March members of the Library Committee celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday by decorating the library, displaying our extensive collection of Dr. Seuss books, and inviting Sunday school classes to check out books and receive prizes. Since we are not meeting at this time, we are not inviting you into the library (we are certainly looking forward to that day when it is safe to do so) but we would still like to encourage you to celebrate by reading Dr. Seuss books to your children. Hopefully, you have favorite books at home or have access to public libraries to get them. We also know that a lot of Trinity's Dr. Seuss books must still be in people's homes from last year's celebration. So, keep reading those and when you are done with them, you can return them to Door One by the church office.

Just an update on our plans. We will wait to hear from the church council on when we can open the library for people to come in and check out books. In the meantime, there are a couple of people on the committee who are checking in books when they are returned and keeping the space in order. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Mary Schoenknecht at 715.834.4204.

Remember books, can be returned by taking them to Door # 1—just put them in a bag marked "For Trinity Library" and place them in the bin in the entry way. Thank you.

Trinity Library Committee



Children, Youth and Family Ministries

Noah's Ark and Early Childhood Education

God is good! Know that the mission of Noah's Ark and our ECE classes continues through these days when we may feel so far apart from one another at Trinity. God's spirit is certainly present in our classes through the friendships, peacemaking, God's love shared with each other, and time spent with these young children!

February began with a little bump in the COVID-19 road this year. Due to two unrelated cases, we had to close our Noah's Ark and Early Childhood classes for the last week in January and the first week in February. We were disappointed to have to do so, but our focus continues to be on the safety and health of our children, families, and staff. To the best of my knowledge, no new cases resulted and everyone is well again. We are hoping the road will be smooth from now to the end of the school year; however, only time will tell!

When the teachers and kids returned to school, we celebrated LOVE! We love because God loves us! The kids love to share valentines with their friends. We celebrated love between friends, family, and from God. Jesus loves us FOREVER...no matter what!

Our registration for the 2021–2022 school year has opened. We have enrolled many children, but we still have openings. We ask you to continue to share about our program and keep our registration process in your prayers. It is our goal to be able to open with full classes in the fall, assuming it will be safe to do so!

We were disappointed to be unable to hold our Noah's Ark Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper due to the pandemic. This is usually a significant fundraiser for Noah's Ark with wonderful support from our congregation. Our Preschool Committee is working on a couple of alternative fundraisers. Watch the Friday Enews for more information in the weeks ahead regarding how you may continue to support our fundraising efforts.

Marlee Knickerbocker

Noah's Ark Preschool Director, Early Childhood Enrichment Coordinator

Noah's Ark Preschool Registration

Our phone-in registration for the 2021–2022 school year is open. Register your children by calling 715.832.6601. Classes include a T/Th morning class for three year olds, a M/W/F morning class for 3–5 year olds, and a Monday—Thursday afternoon class for 3–5 year olds. For more information about our classes, fees, or to download a brochure, visit our website trinity-ec.org. Contact the Noah's Ark Preschool Director, Marlee Knickerbocker, at 715.832.6601 ext. 205 if you have questions or to learn more about Noah's Ark Preschool.

First Communion Class

Students in second through fifth grade are invited to join Sara Reed and Pastor Tom on Wednesday, March 24, from 6:30 P.M.–7:15 P.M. (via Zoom) for a time of instruction and discussion about the sacrament of Holy Communion. Students will receive their 1st Communion during the online Maundy Thursday service. Email Sara Reed, Children's Ministry Director, at sarar@trinity-ec.org to sign-up.

Palm Sunday

Pick-up your palms at Trinity Lutheran on Friday, March 26, from 4:00 P.M.–6:00 P.M. Grab your palm, take a picture at the photo booth, and send it to heatherd@trinity-ec.org to be included in Palm Sunday Worship.

Bake Your Own Communion Bread

Join the Children, Youth & Family Team on Sunday, March 28, at 11:00 A.M. for an intergenerational making communion bread event via Zoom. This event will be part Bible study and part cooking class! We will talk about the importance of Holy Week as we make communion bread, separate but together. Then you will have your very own, homemade communion bread to use during the online Maundy Thursday and Easter worship services.

This event will be limited to the first 100 participants. Please sign-up for this event on Trinity's Youth Page beginning February 8.

- **J o i n Z o o m M e e t i n g :**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83917683958?pwd=ZEhaSXd2SWdPMjdueUdRU29pM2p3QT09>
- Meeting ID: 839 1768 3958
- Passcode: 502332

Luther Seminary Communion Bread

Yield: 4-8oz. Loaves

It may be helpful to have all ingredients measured out and ready to go.

Sift dry ingredients three times

- 2 c. whole wheat flour
- 1 c. white flour
- 1 ¼ tsp. baking powder
- 1 ¼ tsp. salt

Mix water and sweeteners together

- ¾ cup + 2 Tbsp. very hot water
- 3 Tbsp honey
- 3 Tbsp molasses
- Cut in 4 tsp. oil

Add to dry ingredients and mix well. Dough should be a bit sticky. Divide and roll ¼" thick circle and mark with a cross.

Bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes.

Remove and brush with oil. Bake an additional 5–8 minutes. Remove and cool.



Confirmation-ish: A Youth Lenten Video Series

Youth are encouraged to tune in each Wednesday during Lent for a weekly episode (February 24–March 24). Pastor Tom; Ashley Olson, Youth Ministry Director; and Sara Reed, Children's Ministry Director will discuss various Lenten themes, engage in honest faith conversations, and encourage a whole lot of laughter and silliness. We are excited for you all to join us!

Confirmation-ish YouTube Channel:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLFfxwrqGm8f2r7IHj0xt_0umAgq0oUFAg3

Real Talk: Real People, Real Life, Real Faith Podcast

Tune in each Wednesday during Lent (February 17–March 31) for a brand-new podcast that discusses where faith and life intersect. Expect laughter, honest dialogue, and occasional guests as Ashley Olson, Youth Ministry Director; Sara Reed, Children's Ministry Director; and Pastor Tom help listeners discern what God is up to in our day-to-day lives. Real Talk Podcast Link: <https://anchor.fm/trinity-ec>

Luther Park Summer Camp

Ashley Olson, Youth Ministry Director, invites students completing grades 6–11 to join her for a week at camp, Week Three, June 27–July 2. Campers stay in cabins and experience the wide variety of fun and activities available at Luther Park. Youth will experience the heart pounding excitement of the High Ropes course and Disc Golf, along with swimming, games, and developing community with new and old friends. You will also engage in creative Bible studies, worship, campfires, and meaningful small group discussions. Check out the Luther Park web page lutherpark.org to learn more about Luther Park Summer Camps and to register.



Memorials & Gifts

Trinity Quilters

- In memory of Avis Grambo: Bruce & Ruth Eastenson

Food Pantry

- In memory of Vila Nygaard: Bruce & Ruth Eastenson

Memorial Fund

- In memory of Avis Grambo: Leatrice Solberg
- In memory of Rachel Studt: Pat Garber

Children's Bibles

- In memory of Avis Grambo: Rose Sippel
- In memory of Lois Olson: Doris Husberg
- In memory of Vila Nygaard: Doris Husberg

Noah's Ark Preschool

- In honor of Noah's Ark Staff: Lori Juneau
- In memory of Rachel Studt: Jeanne Cooper

Trinity Tollers

- In memory of Rachel Studt for all her musical talents she gave praising her

Savior, Jesus Christ: Trinity Choir, Warren & Mavis Hermodson

Trinity Library

- In memory of Rachel Studt: Bob & Mary Schoenknecht

Care & Concern Ministries

Dear Trinity members,

What a struggle I'm having writing this month's newsletter article. I feel like I'm stuck in a rut....Covid-19, Covid-19, Covid-19. Oh....and then there is Covid-19. It's time for some laughter, which I normally have in good supply. The following is from a book *Laughter for a Woman's Soul*, but this works for everyone. It's written by Barbara Johnson:

I heard someone say recently that laughter is her drug of choice. Simple as that! Laughter is the language of the young at heart and the antidote to what ails us. No drugstore prescription is required; laughter is available to anyone at any time. Laughter's benefits show on our face, in our body language, and in the spring in our step. So who needs a face-lift or crazy diets that don't work?

Did you know that one laugh burns six calories? Laughing is jogging (or jiggling) your insides. It increases heart rate and improves circulation, stimulates the immune system, and improves muscle tone of the abdomen. Dr. William Fry says, "Laughing heartily a hundred times a day has the same beneficial effects as ten minutes on a rowing machine!"

There is nothing like a mouthful of laughter. Get some for yourself!

Get your Covid vaccine when you are eligible! The sooner everyone is vaccinated, the sooner we can get back to church and its activities.

We recently had a Red Cross Blood Drive. We had 47 donors signed up! Our next blood drive is Thursday, April 22, from 12:30 P.M.–6:30 P.M.

THINK SPRING!
Vicki Dueringer R.N.
Parish Nurse

Mondays in March

The Northwest Synod of Wisconsin's theme for the 2021 Synod Assembly is *Justice & Joy*. Spirit Lutheran's Mission and Outreach Committee invites you to Mondays in March, a series of virtual (online) facilitated conversations. Sessions include a presentation, devotion and prayer, and an invitation to talk about and ask questions about the resolutions being presented at the Synod Assembly in April. To participate, please call Gail at Spirit Lutheran's office, 715.832.2421, or send an email to gsmall@spiritlutheran.org to sign up. The deadline to register is noon the day of each scheduled session. You will receive an email on the afternoon of the scheduled session with a ZOOM link to the session you registered to attend. A link to the synod's website and the resolutions is here: <http://nswsi.org/social-justice-advocacy>

Questions may be directed to Michelle Pride at 715.563.0023 or mapride@hotmail.com

- March 1, 6:00 P.M.–7:30 P.M. • **Hunger Ministry** • The number of people experiencing hunger and food insecurity in the world has risen since 2018. Let's talk about ELCA World Hunger, regional, and local hunger ministries, and how we can become more engaged.
- March 8, 6:00 P.M.–7:30 P.M. • **Care for Creation** • The ELCA's Social Statement Caring for Creation affirms we are called to care for the earth as God cares for the earth! How can we celebrate Creation and continue to care for it, both individually and as a church?
- March 15, 6:00 P.M.–7:30 P.M. • **Gender Equity** • Explore sexism and gender inequality in our congregations, in our culture, and in our world as a whole, especially as it relates to compensation inequities and sexual harassment in our church.
- March 22, 6:00 P.M.–7:30 P.M. • **Reconciling in Christ Conversation** • The ELCA declares "this church, in faithfulness to the Gospel, is committed to be an inclusive church in the midst of division in society." How can the Church follow the example of Jesus to love one another by including LGBTQIA brothers and sisters in worship and the ministries of the Church?
- March 29, 6:00 P.M.–7:30 P.M. • **Racial Justice** • Broaden your understanding of racism and the impact it has had within our church and our communities. Let's talk about how the church can influence change.

Global Mission Update—Malawi

Trinity continues to provide \$4,625 annually to the Northwest Synod /Malawi Companionship for the Blantyre Parish. In her January update Deacon Laura Ramlow, Malawi Companion Coordinator, stated the financial gifts are used for food security, Covid-19 relief, deep drilled wells, and specific parish needs. Most of the 65 pastors in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Malawi serve in multiple point parishes (anywhere from 5 to 13 congregations). Because so many of these parishes are in rural villages and due to the uneven terrain and lack of paved roads, there is a great need for bicycles and motorcycles so the pastors and evangelists are able to travel between congregations. Last summer they were also able to send funds specifically for these needs.

Due to ongoing travel safety concerns, as well as the unpredictability of coronavirus cases in the next few months it is unlikely that the synod will be making a visit to Malawi in 2021. But they are beginning to plan for 2022 and will be deciding what ministries would be best to focus attention on as we accompany our partners.

As we continue to walk with our siblings in Malawi, Laura asked that we please join in praying for them: *Creator God, we thank you for teaching us how to humbly accompany one another as we share the gospel of Jesus Christ through our words and actions. Continue to bless our siblings in Malawi, comfort those who weep, bring assurance to those who are suffering, strengthen those who are weary and shelter the vulnerable. By the power of your Spirit, continue to inspire all of us as advocates for justice and compassion. And, in this next year grant us all glimpses of joy and fill us with the hope and peace that can only come through Jesus Christ. Amen.*

Empty Bowls Week

This year's Empty Bowls fundraiser will be a week-long opportunity (March 1–6) to come to Feed My People and pick up a one-of-a-kind gift bag without ever leaving your vehicle. Each gift bag includes a handcrafted bowl, local recipes, and coupons to restaurants who typically supply the meal for Empty Bowls. A traditional Gift Bag is \$20 and contains a randomly selected handcrafted bowl made by a local artist or student. Signature Gift Bags are \$25 and feature a special bowl designed by Scheelhouse Pottery. Supporters also have the option of purchasing a Bowl with a Bow for \$10 that will go directly to someone in need as a gift. Purchase tickets at give.fmpfoodbank.org/EmptyBowlsWeek. Pickup times will be emailed with your ticket receipt. Thank you for helping feed your neighbors in need.



"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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- 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 April Newsletter is March 15.