

Trinity

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
1314 E Lexington Blvd • Eau Claire WI 54701-6434
2021, November Newsletter—Vol. LXVII No. 11



COME & WORSHIP

All Saints Sunday

All services the week of November 7 give honor to God for the faithful people who have gone before us. In generous love, God has provided us with the saints and in worship we'll include a visual remembrance of our family and friends who have died in the past year. All Saints is a wonderful festival to recall the people who have died in faith and passed along to us a legacy to continue into the future.

Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Come and worship at 6:00 P.M. on Wednesday, November 24. This festive worship includes the Trinity Brass and all choirs. The Lord's Supper is offered, and many children will make their first communion.

An Advent Series My Heart Shall Sing

In this series, we look to global Christian songs and hymns to explore the revelations of our lectionary texts. This music brings us closer to the melody of justice sung in those first biblical canticles and arranges those melodies for our modern ears. It harmonizes our ancient texts and our contemporary stories. Each hymn or song offers an Advent proclamation for how we might prepare the way of the Lord.

- November 28: Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning
- December 5: Freedom is Coming/Jesus is Coming
- December 12: Canticle of the Turning
- December 19: Trinity Choir Cantata "Festival of Lessons & Carols"



Christmas Cantata

We wish to extend a warm invitation for additional singers for the 2021 Christmas Cantata by the Trinity Choir. This year we will perform a "Festival of Lessons and Carols" by Jonathan Willcocks. Performing the Cantata has long been a tradition at Trinity. But to do this, we will need the help of additional singers in all sections, especially in soprano and bass sections.

Please join us and bring a friend! Walk in to the rehearsal in the room 507 and pick up a cantata book. We will direct you to your section. Choir rehearsals begin at 6:45 P.M. for our Sunday anthems, and we will begin the cantata portion at or before 7:15 P.M. See the rehearsal schedule below. For your safety, we currently require masks and will run a room air purifier. Please sign-up at Clipboard Central. Contact Choir Director Gary Rambo for more information at girambo@att.net or 715.832.4429.

Cantata Rehearsals at Trinity Lutheran Church, Room 507

- Wednesday, October 27, at 7:15 P.M.
- Wednesdays, November 3, 10, 17, at 7:15 P.M.
- Wednesdays, December 1, 8, 15, at 7:15 P.M.
- Saturday, December 18, at 9:00 A.M.

Cantata Performances on Sunday, December 19

- Warm up 7:30 A.M.
- Worship/Cantata performance 8:15 A.M.
- Worship/Cantata performance 9:45 A.M.



ADVENT



Preparing for Advent

Follow the Star

You are invited to bring the whole family to Trinity on Sunday, December 5, from 3:00 P.M.–5:00 P.M. to experience Advent in a whole new way! Use clues to find a variety of scenes of the Christmas story which will be spread throughout the church building. Collect small gifts as you go, and you'll have a complete set when you finish! This event will include COVID precautions including limited, timed entry; masks; and plenty of distance between Christmas scenes. Let's anticipate the birth of Jesus through this new, exciting event! Watch for registration details to come.

Advent and the Art of Coziness

Parents with kids in Noah's Ark Preschool, Children's Ministry, and Youth Ministry are invited to join Pastor Tom for a Bible study that will connect the season of Advent to the Danish idea of "hygge" (the art of coziness). We will gather between worship services on Sunday mornings (8:55 A.M.–9:35 A.M.) on December 5, 12, and 19. If your child is not registered for faith formation yet, the Advent and Christmas unit is a great opportunity to try it out! Childcare will be provided for children 2 years and younger. To register, contact the church office at 715.832.6601 or signup at Clipboard Central.

My Heart Shall Sing Bible Study

Join Trinity's pastors on Thursday mornings at 7:30 A.M. during the season of Advent for a deep dive into the gospel texts for the upcoming Sunday while also tying them to hymns that encourage us to prepare for the coming of God. If you are unable to join us for the morning study, a packet for all four weeks will be available in the Lobby and entryway to door #1.

Women's Advent Tea

The Advent Tea has become an anticipated event for many Trinity women and their friends and family members. This year, in order to keep our members safe while honoring the tradition, attendees of the most recent Advent Tea will receive in the mail a card with a Christmas Tea bag and a surprise. The card invites them to take a few minutes to brew the Christmas Tea and remember past Advent Teas and the fellowship shared. If you would like an Advent Tea Card with tea bag to share with a friend or family member, please stop by Trinity. In the entry way of Door One you will find a basket of cards. Please take one to share the spirit of the season. May your Advent season be blessed with peace, hope, and love.

Faith Lights

This Christmas, the Trinity Endowment Trust Board invites you to honor and memorialize relatives and special friends by dedicating Faith Lights in their name. These lights will adorn Christmas trees at Trinity this season.

For a small donation, you can dedicate a white light to memorialize a loved one; or a blue light to honor a living relative or friend, or simply to express the joy of faith this Christmas.

Faith Light orders will be received through December 12. Forms are available online or in the entry way of Door One. All Faith Light gifts will be acknowledged in the January Newsletter.

Christmas Wreath Sales

We are taking orders for Christmas Wreaths and Door Swags from Baroka's Wreaths from November 1–15. Orders and payment will need to be completed online at www.trinity-ec.org. Wreaths and swags will be available for pickup at Trinity on Wednesday, December 1, from 5:00 P.M.–6:00 P.M. and Sunday, December 5, from 9:00 A.M.–10:30 A.M. This fundraiser raises money for the youth accounts and the youth scholarship fund which assists youth attend ELCA and Trinity sponsored events.

Advent Family Devotional

Download a digital copy or pick up a printed version of Illustrated Ministry's Family Advent Devotional booklet. This Advent resource invites your family to explore the ways in which Emmanuel, God-with-us, brings hope, peace, joy, and love to your home and community, especially during hard times. Use this Advent guide to center your thoughts on the ever-present hope that sees us through change and challenge. Each week you will explore how the good news of God-with-us changes our perspective and gives us courage for each day.





Decorate an Ornament for the Worship Center

Help beautify the worship center this Advent and Christmas season by decorating an ornament and putting it on a Christmas tree! Ornaments and suggestions for decorating will be available in the lobby or in the entry way of door #1 beginning Sunday, November 28, with instructions on where to return the ornament.

Sharing the Season of Advent



Mitten Tree

Each year Noah's Ark puts up a Christmas tree in celebration of Jesus's birthday. If you would like to help decorate the tree with mittens, hats, or children's sleepers size 0–six, hang them on the tree. These items will be included in the Christmas Sharing Project. Any items not needed for the sharing project will be taken to the Bolton Refuge House. Thank you for your support!

Christmas Sharing Project

Trinity is excited to provide clothing, gifts, and other household items to families in the Chippewa Valley this Christmas. This year we will be partnering with several Eau Claire schools to identify families in need of special attention. Gift tags with specific family information will be available online and in the lobby in mid-November. You will have the opportunity to choose items, purchase and wrap the listed items, print a confirmation email for your item(s), and drop the items off at Trinity. You will also have the opportunity to deliver gifts to families later in December. Stay tuned for specific dates and times! For more information, contact Heather Day at 715.832.6601 ext 218 or heatherd@trinity-ec.org

Are You a Snow Bird?

If you're moving or heading south for the winter, Trinity can change your address. Let us know when you're leaving and how long you'll be away, and we'll be sure to get Trinity mail to you in a timely fashion. Whenever you change address, please let Trinity know! Please contact Amber Moltzau at amber@trinity-ec.org or by phone at 715.832.6601 ext 203.

Noah's Ark Preschool Thanks You

Thank you to everyone who purchased food from Chipotle or made a contribution to this fundraiser. Your generosity is greatly appreciated, and we hope you enjoyed your dinner while supporting Noah's Ark Preschool.

November Circle Meetings

- **Deborah** • Wednesday, November 17, 9:30 A.M. Trinity
- **Miriam** • Wednesday, November 17, 9:30 A.M. Trinity
- **Ruth** • Tuesday, November 16, 1:30 P.M. Trinity

Online Prayer Requests

You're invited to share prayer requests at trinity-ec.org by using the Prayer Request button. These requests go to our Prayer Link Team, and then they pray!

If you appreciate the benefits of prayer and are willing to pray for those who share requests, join our Prayer Link Team under the Grow menu at trinity-ec.org. You will receive a monthly update of prayers and some inspiration for your praying. Please contact Cindy Beck for more information at cindy@trinity-ec.org

Noah's Ark Preschool Chicken Fundraiser

We are once again selling bacon wrapped stuffed chicken breasts from Family Farms in Eleva, Wisconsin. They make a quick, easy, and very delicious meal on busy days!

- All chicken breasts are wrapped in bacon with a variety of stuffing choices offered.
- All boxes of four bacon-wrapped, stuffed chicken breasts are \$24 each.

We are taking orders online at trinity-ec.org through November 12, with pickup on December 9. All boxes are delivered frozen. It will be important for you to pick up your order on the day it is delivered. Details regarding time of pickup will be published soon.

Thank you for helping support Noah's Ark's operating budget. If you do not wish to order chicken but would still like to help, you may make a direct donation to Noah's Ark through the same link. If you have questions or concerns with the online ordering, please email Marlee Knickerbocker, Preschool Director, at marlee@trinity-ec.org or call 715.832.6601 ext. 205. We appreciate your support for Noah's Ark Preschool!



Memorial Fund

Friendship Group

- In memory of Barbara Vorhes: Linda McClelland
- In memory of Anna Trullinger: Linda McClelland
- In memory of Arlene Martinson: Linda McClelland
- In honor of Rose Sippel: Linda McClelland

Food Pantry Fund

- In memory of Margaret Odegard: Dianna Miller, Ron & Marilyn Thompson
- In memory of Barbara Vorhes: Jim & Connie Beck, Eleanor Hesse, Ardy Nystuen
- In memory of Roman Fritz: Nancy Spak, Dennis & Norma Bohman
- In memory of her cousin, Joanne: Sharon DeRusha

Memorial Fund

- In memory of Barbara Vorhes: David & Jane Kangas, Jeff & Kathy Doering, Julie Anderson, Pastor Mary & Dale Erickson
- In memory of Margaret Odegard: Greg & Carolyn Helgeson
- In memory of Don Buchholz: Pat Garber
- In memory of Donald & Yvonne Buchholz: Patti Cigan
- In memory of Doug Smith: Todd & Peggy Munden
- In memory of Roman Fritz: Todd & Peggy Munden

Trinity Choir

- In honor of Ron & Yvonne Nixdorf's 60th wedding anniversary: Kirsten Alvarez & Dean VanAmber
- In honor of Ron & Yvonne Nixdorf's 60th wedding anniversary—Cranberry Hymnals for the Trinity Choir: Robert & Ann Ferraro and Family

Quilters Fund

- In memory of Barbara Vorhes: Jim & Lynn Gullicksrud
- In memory of Elayne Peterson: Jim & Lynn Gullicksrud

Prayer Shawls

- In memory of Barbara Vorhes: Miriam Circle

Noah's Ark Preschool

- In memory of Barbara Vorhes: Jeanne Cooper
- In honor of her great-grandchildren—Emelia and Eli Benedict, and Logan and Reece DeRusha—on the occasion of her 100th birthday: Margaret Odegard

Health Ministries

- In memory of Barbara Vorhes: Mark & Marti Hofer

Library

- In memory of Barbara Vorhes: Michigan State Police Calumet Post, Steve & Ann Nelson, Barbara Lee, Sandra Jacobson

Bible Fund

- In honor of their grandsons, Easton and Owen: David & Mary Larson
- In memory of Barbara Vorhes: Char Finseth

LIBRARY NEWS

Book Club

On Tuesday, November 16, at 6:30 P.M. in the lobby, the group will discuss *The Home for Unwanted Girls* by Joanna Goodman. In 1950s Quebec, French and English tolerate each other with precarious civility—much like Maggie Hughes' parents. Maggie's English-speaking father has ambitions for his daughter that don't include marriage to the poor French boy on the next farm over. But Maggie's heart is captured by Gabriel Phénix. When she becomes pregnant at fifteen, her parents force her to give baby Elodie up for adoption and get her life "back on track." Sign up at Clipboard Central or email Cindy Beck at cindy@trinity-ec.org if you plan to attend.



In the Library

Have a feast with our bountiful books! Stop by Trinity's Library and check some out.

Fiction

- *The Paris Library* by Janet Skeslien Charles. Based on the true World War II story of the librarians at the American Library in Paris, this is an unforgettable story of romance, friendship, family, and the power of literature to bring us together. (FIC SKE)
- *Apples Never Fall* by Liane Moriarty. A suburban couple with four grown children seem content until their secrets emerge, shaking the family to the core. (FIC MOR)
- *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig. This unique novel ponders the infinite possibilities of life. It is the story of a young woman named Nora Seed who lives a monotonous, ordinary life and feels unwanted and unaccomplished. Then one night she discovers the Midnight Library. (FIC HAI)



- *Lightning Strike* by William Kent Krueger. Krueger returns with a powerful prequel to his acclaimed Cork O'Connor series—a book about fathers and sons, long-simmering conflicts in a small Minnesota town, and the events that echo through youth and shape our lives forever. (FIC KRU)
- *The Madness of Crowds* by Louise Penny. Chief Inspector Armand Gamache serves as security for a visiting university lecturer whose abhorrent views begin to spread like a virus—and may have led to murder. Also new to the library, *A Better Man* by Louise Penny. (FIC PEN)

Children's Books

- *Biscuit Visits the Pumpkin Patch* by Alysa Satin Capucilli. What will Biscuit find in the pumpkin patch? The perfect pumpkin, and some friendly surprises. (++) FIC CAP)
- *Time For School, Little Blue Truck* by Alice Schertle. Little Blue Truck wishes he was a school bus so he can take his animal friends to school. (++) FIC SCH)
- *Pete the Cat's Groovy Imagination* by Kimberly and James Dean. When pouring rain and gray skies cancel Pete the Cat's beach day plans, a big box is all he needs to beat the rainy-day blues. (++) FIC DEA)
- *Hello, Little Dreamer* by Kathie Lee Gifford. Illustrations and rhyming text convey the message that God plants dreams in each individual and wants every dream God gave to come true. (++) FIC GIF)
- *Bright Star* by Yuyi Morales. A nurturing voice reassures the lonely and afraid in difficult times—in English with some Spanish phrases. (++) FIC MOR)
- *Welcome to the Green House* by Jane Yolen. This nonfiction book describes the tropical rainforest and the life found there. (++) 574.5 YOL)

Books for Youth

- *Friends Forever* by Shannon Hale and LeUyen Pham. It's eighth grade, and Shannon thinks she's got it all figured out. She's found her people, she's loving drama class, and she thinks she knows the key to happiness. All she has to be is beautiful, famous, successful, liked by boys, and a good person. Easy, right? (+ FIC HAL)
- *Spy School at Sea* by Stuart Gibbs. This book is another great addition to the Spy School series. Ben Ripley faces his nemesis, Murray Hill, on the high seas where the CIA thinks Murray has boarded the world's greatest cruise ship. Ben is sent to find out what Murray is plotting—so the adventure begins. (+FIC GIB)
- *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Deep End* by Jeff Kinney. This graphic novel is about Greg Heffley and his family as they take a summer vacation using their uncle's camper. They find a fancy campground to stay at which makes for a fun adventure. (+ FIC KIN) Also new to the library is *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Cabin Fever*.
- *Unscripted* by Nicole Kronzer. Nicole (Johnson) is a former member of Trinity Lutheran and now teaches English at Champlin Park High School in Minnesota. *Unscripted* is a funny and timely debut novel about the toxic masculinity at a famous improv comedy camp. (YP FIC KRO)

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY MINISTRY

Parenting Forward

Discover a kind of Christian parenting focused on teaching our children to love others, avoid judgment, and show compassion to those in need. Heather Day will host an online discussion group on Tuesdays, beginning November 2, from 8:00 P.M.–9:00 P.M. via Zoom. The group will read and discuss *Parenting Forward: How to Raise Children with Justice, Mercy, and Kindness* by Cindy Wang Brandt. Through encouraging conversations and personal reflection, we will explore how Brandt's book offers a new way of following Jesus and raising our children with justice, mercy, and kindness. Purchase your book at any online bookstore. Bring your struggles, hopes, fears, and questions to this Zoom group meant for parents in any stage of parenting! Register at www.trinity-ec.org.

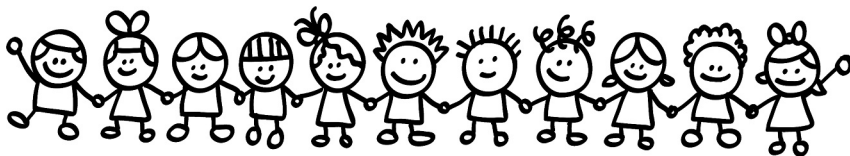
Holy Communion Instruction

Children in second grade and higher who have not already participated in Holy Communion instruction are invited to come together during the Wednesday evening Faith Formation time on Wednesday, November 17, from 5:00 P.M.–5:50 P.M. All students participating should register for this special class at www.trinity-ec.org. Students will meet with Pastor Tom to learn together about God's love for us and the special gift of Holy Communion. Children are welcome to commune at any time, but there will be a special recognition of their participation in Holy Communion at the Thanksgiving Eve worship service on Wednesday, November 24, at 6:00 P.M.



Workshop Leaders

You have the opportunity to be a workshop leader for Trinity's Faith Formation classes! We seek to create an environment in which young people feel safe to be who they are, express their creativity, and ask honest questions. Our upcoming unit is Advent and Christmas (November 28–December 19) which includes workshops titled: Bible Skills and Games, Digital Media and Technology, Science, and Video. If you are interested in leading a 4-week workshop on Sunday mornings or Wednesday evenings, please contact Heather Day at heatherd@trinity-ec.org or sign up outside Room 208.



Eighth Grade Retreat

Retreat offers youth a time to unplug and let go in order to focus on their relationship with God. This retreat will nurture faith, deepen relationships with God and each other, and allow youth to hear and proclaim the Good News of Christ. Each eighth grade confirmation youth needs to attend their milestone retreat, and there will be two opportunities to do so. The first retreat will be on Saturday, November 6, from 9:00 A.M.–12:00 P.M. and the second retreat will be on Saturday, April 2, from 9:00 A.M.–12:00 P.M. Please sign-up at the Toolbench!

Confirmation Elective

The following elective will be offered during the month of November.

- Bible Study: Boundless #1 with Ashley Olson on Sunday, November 7, from 8:50 A.M.–9:45 A.M. in the Youth Room.

No Classes

There will be no Confirmation Class or Faith Formation Classes on Wednesday, November 24. Have a great Thanksgiving!

College Connections

Many Trinity young adults are pursuing their secondary education at colleges and technical colleges around the state and country. Youth Ministry desires to continue to connect with them over the course of the school year. In order to do so, we need parents/guardians, grandparents, and/or youth themselves to send us their address. Send all addresses to Ashley at ashley@trinity-ec.org. She looks forward to continuing to share God's Love with them throughout the year.



CARE & CONCERN

Dear Trinity,

November...a month for gratitude and Thanksgiving. Even during the worst of circumstances (and there are many Trinity members right now who have had loved ones die, who are caring for ill loved ones, or facing major medical issues themselves), God blesses us each day. It might be the unexpected lilac bloom in October, the warmth of the sun, another day spent with the one we love, the smile of a child. 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 says *Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

In this time of continuous, daily change, I took comfort in a project this week that showed me God does not change. About 45 years ago I bought a felt Advent Calendar that was the Nativity scene. Each pocket had a person/animal/thing that was a part of the Nativity story. My now adult sons loved that Advent Calendar. My oldest figured out early that if he let his brother do December 1, he would get to add baby Jesus on the 24th. The original is faded and pieces are missing. So this week, I made a new Advent Calendar for my grandson (his Dad being the sneaky brother). And it reminded me that in this world of change, Jesus' birth in a lowly manger is as powerful and joyous as 50 years ago. *"For unto you is born in the city of David a Savior who is Christ the Lord."*

- **Seniors Citizens:** As you have figured out, I did not organize another social gathering. The weather was just too uncertain for October. I did meet with a few seniors, and we discussed what type of events to offer, what activities would draw couples, etc. So sometime in the next couple of months, I would like feedback from many of you. It will probably be in the form of a survey.



- **Caregivers:** We are hoping to start a new ministry for caregivers. This ministry would offer support to anyone caring for a spouse, a parent, a child, or friend/neighbor. The person with cancer, chronic illness, dementia, etc. is often the center of concern, and we forget to ask how the person caring for that person is doing. I often think of caregivers as older, but that is not the case. We have several younger people who are in a caregiving role in our congregation. Watch for upcoming information on this.

Vicki Dueringer, Parish Nurse

Friends of Flynn

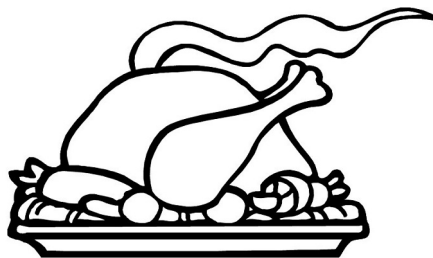
- **Giving Thanks and Offering Appreciation** • We give thanks for the staff at our partner school, Flynn Elementary, and all they do for children. During this month, our committee members will show our appreciation by offering messages of support.
- **Weekend Meals** • During November we will send in our contribution of \$4000 for weekend meals to Feed My People Food Bank (FMP). FMP supplies the foods that go into the bags, volunteers pack the bags, and Trinity members Joel & Mary Strayer pick up the bags and deliver them to Flynn School each week.
- **Snacks for Afterschool Club** • Through our Friends of Flynn funds, we are able to provide snacks for children who signed up for the Flynn Afterschool Club. They meet five times in October and November.
- **Books for Flynn Children** • As students leave for Christmas break, we want to provide each one with a new book to take home and keep. We have done this for several years, and the students really look forward to and enjoy this gift from our congregation. Please keep this project in mind as you do your Christmas shopping. A display will be in the lobby by mid-November where you can pick up book lists, and then place your purchased books in a bin.

For more information on how to volunteer, contact Michelle Olson 715.577.3033. Your financial donations to the Friends of Flynn Fund are always welcomed (indicate FOF on your gift) as well as prayers for a safe and productive school year. Thank you.

Thanksgiving Dinner

The Annual Thanksgiving Dinner is a beloved tradition at Trinity, and not even the ongoing pandemic can get in the way of that. Since there is no way to safely prepare and serve the dinner in the same way as previous years, organizers have found another way to provide a Thanksgiving meal to the food insecure. We will provide the ingredients for a complete Thanksgiving “dinner in a box” for families in need through our food pantry including turkey, stuffing, potatoes, gravy, veggies, and even a pie!

We need your help to keep the tradition alive. We need to raise \$5,000 to cover the costs of this meal for nearly 200 families. If you can help, please put your donation in the offering plate or send a check to the office or with “Thanksgiving Dinner” in the memo line. Thank you!



Blood Pressure Screenings

These screenings are presented to the Trinity community on the second Sunday of each month following each worship service, typically in the church office. They are provided to increase awareness and knowledge of prevention, detection, and management of hypertension (high blood pressure) and are provided free. Because it is possible to have high blood pressure without any symptoms—and because untreated high blood pressure can cause serious problems, even death—it is often called the “silent killer.” Come to the free blood pressure screenings and let the church help you monitor and control your blood pressure.

Red Cross Blood Drive

In November, we will have our last blood drive of 2021 on Thursday, November 18, from 12:30 P.M.–6:30 P.M. Please mark your calendar and sign up to donate blood at redcrossblood.org.

Get Your Flu Shot

We know you are hearing “get your flu shot” from ads, your medical providers, and work/school. Please get your flu shot! If not for yourself, then do it for those who you may expose who do not have strong immune systems.

Thank You

A big THANK YOU to everyone who donated fresh produce to the Food Pantry this summer! We distributed almost 1,000 pounds of locally grown veggies to our guests. A huge thanks to Bill and his gardeners at the First Presbyterian Church on Rudolph Rd who delivered over half of the fresh produce we received. Get your soil ready for next season; we will welcome your donations again! Then God said, *“Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.”* And it was so. Genesis 1:11-12

"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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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 December Newsletter is November 15.