



CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

December 18, “Bethlehem’s Child”

On December 18 the Trinity Choir will perform the Christmas Cantata “Bethlehem’s Child” by Victor C. Johnson and Lloyd Larson at the 8:15 A.M. and 9:45 A.M. Worship Services. The cantata is beautiful, familiar carols combined with original compositions celebrating our Savior’s birth. Please note that there will be no 10:30 A.M. service on December 18.

December 24, Christmas Eve

- 2:00 P.M. Christmas Eve Festival Worship with Choirs of Children
- 4:00 P.M. Christmas Eve Festival Worship with Harmony in Spirit
- 9:30 P.M. Music by the Trinity Orchestra, Handbells, and Organ
- 10:00 P.M. Candlelight Christmas Worship with Communion

December 25, Festival of Christmas

Sunday, December 25, at 9:45 A.M. (One service this day). A festive celebration of the birthday of Jesus with Trinity Brass and Organ.

Generous Giving Blesses Many

Your year-end offerings are so important to our church and its mission of “serving in Christ’s love and sharing the Good News.” Please remember Trinity in your charitable goals as 2016 ends. Thank you for every dollar you share that blesses thousands through our church. You can give anytime online at trinity-ec.org and set up the service of electronic fund transfers there, too.

Trinity in Print

Russell Crabtree (creator of the C.A.T.) has written a new book, *The State of the ELCA*. Through his reflection on the responses of nearly 60,000 members of the ELCA to a variety of topics, Russ examines the perspectives, experiences, and aspirations of a large cross section of church members. An interview with Pastor Kurt about Trinity is included. If you would like to learn more about this book or purchase a copy, it is available on Amazon.com

Moving or Going South?

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! Contact Becky at becky@trinity-ec.org or 715.832.6601.



CHRISTMAS PRAYER

—Christina Rossetti

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him—give my heart.



Advent

The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! We are challenged to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain, and there will be no more war or suffering. We vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation.



Angel Breakfast

Preschool and kindergarten age children and one adult guest per child are invited to the Annual Angel Breakfast on Saturday, December 3, from 8:30 A.M.–10:00 A.M. Children and adults will participate in activities, have breakfast together, and hear the Christmas Story. The cost is \$10.00 per couple along with two non-perishable food items for the Wall of Food. Registration forms are available outside the Children's Ministries Office. Reservations are required.

Christmas Sharing Project

We plan to provide food, outdoor clothing and gifts for kids, and other household items, as requested, for 25+ families in the Eau Claire/Altoona area. Look for gift tags with specific information in the lobby. You can also help build the Wall of Food with non perishable items in the lobby through Friday, December 16.

If you are unable to purchase a gift, there are Monetary Donation slips available. A donation to Trinity's Christmas Sharing Project will help purchase the following items: turkey; non-perishable food items such as toilet paper, laundry soap, dish soap, and bar soap; as well as personal items such as toothpaste, shampoo, and Kleenex.

Help is needed for sorting on Saturday, December 17, beginning at 9:00 A.M. with delivery on Sunday, December 18, after the 9:45 A.M. worship service. For more information and to volunteer, contact Sara Reed at 715.832.6601 ext. 218 or sarasar@trinity-ec.org

Mitten Tree

Each year a Christmas tree in celebration of Jesus' birthday is put up in the hallway by the preschool room. If you would like to help decorate the tree with mittens, hats, or children's sleepers sizes 0–six, hang them on the tree. These items will be included in the Christmas Sharing Project. Thank you!

Caroling Party

Sing noel! Lift your voice to celebrate the coming of Baby Jesus at a Caroling Party on Sunday, December 4. We meet at the church at 4:00 P.M. near the pre-school area, to car pool and visit several of our shut-in members at area facilities where we sing Christmas songs. This is a wonderful family activity, and people of all ages are invited to participate in and enjoy the season's festive music.

Faith Lights

The Christmas season is a special time to remember Jesus, the Light of the World. It is also a special time to remember the people who have shared faith in Jesus. 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 in the Trinity Lobby 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 11. Forms are available in the lobby, office, or at trinity-ec.org. All Faith Light gifts will be acknowledged in the Christmas worship bulletins.

Annual Advent Tea

Please plan join us on Monday, December 5, from 1:30 P.M.–3:30 P.M. We will have great conversation, fancy finger sandwiches, Christmas baking, punch, tea, coffee, and entertainment by the Memorial High School Madrigals. There will be a presentation by Noah's Ark Preschool and even a Christmas Carol "Sing-A-Long."

Just as last year, we are asking individuals to decorate a table by providing Christmas dishes and perhaps a centerpiece. If you are willing to share your dishes and table decorations, please contact Phyllis Grohn at 715.836.7055 or Sheila Running at 715.832.9686. Our attendance has increased for this festive and fun annual event, so we need to plan for at least 12 tables. All help is deeply appreciated.





Birth of the Baby

All families and friends of Noah's Ark children are invited to attend the Noah's Ark Party/Programs on either Monday, December 19, or Tuesday, December 20, at 10:00 A.M. or 1:45 P.M. in the Trinity Room! We invite all of you to a BIG birthday party/program for Jesus!

Friendship Group Christmas Gathering

The December Friendship Group meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 14, at 10:00 A.M. with a Christmas Message in the Chapel at 10:30 A.M.

Advent Devotional

The 2016 Advent devotional "Savior of the Nations, Come," is available for download at luthersem.edu in standard print and large print. The devotions are written by Luther Seminary professor Dirk Lange. You may also subscribe to the Advent devotionals and receive them by email.



Stewardship 2016 "Round Up"

As the year draws to a close, we remember that much has been shared, and Trinity has shown itself to be a good steward of all that God has entrusted to us. How we learned of 5 T's—Time, Talent, Treasure, Testimony, and Temple (body). You've received letters, notes, announcements, and other conversations inviting you to consider how those 5 T's will help you determine your stewardship for 2017. You've received a card or gone to the website to declare your intentions. We'll carry all of these themes into 2017 together in faith.

In this last month of 2016, consider what excites and inspires you about the ministry of Jesus Christ as it is lived at Trinity. Or, consider something new that God is calling you to do. Make time and space to pursue that thing or things, and tell others what you are working on. You'll be an inspiration.

2017 will bring renewed energy to the message of the gifts that God has given and how we can tend to them and sustain them.

FROM PASTOR PETER

"Let us travel to Bethlehem," he said. "We'll take the donkey." Mary pondered *this* in her heart: "How am I going to make it to Bethlehem on a donkey at nine months pregnant? Is that thing going to stop every 10 minutes so I can use the bathroom?" We did make it, but it was not quite as pleasant as you may remember. Shortly after my son's birth, Joseph and I had to flee to Egypt to escape the murderous rage of Herod. We were lucky to get out alive. I hope that this part of the story can show you some things to ponder in your heart during this Advent and Christmas season.

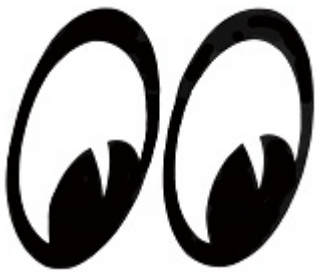
Like Jesus, the church is delicate and sturdy at this time of year. Delicate because the whole power and creation of God was introduced to the world in a little baby, small and helpless. The world says that power is force and might; God says otherwise. Remember those who are weak, helpless, delicate, and in peril at this time of year. Pray that they might be delivered as we were into Egypt.

The church is sturdy because the rhythm, the traditions, and the joy of this time renew the life and energy of your congregation so it can minister in my son's name in the year ahead. It is the warmth of Jesus' love and the hope of a new spring that gets you through the winters that you have in Eau Claire. The church needs expressions of delicacy and sturdiness all year.

I'm touched that you remember my son each year. I'm pleased that you put so much energy into the celebration and sharing your gifts with others. Don't put so much energy into the party that you forget the guest of honor. He loves you, and he wants time with you. That love is the best gift you can give others, too—I know; I loved him first, and he loved me. I followed my son all the way to the cross, and the powers couldn't take him from me. He rose again!

Remember that the first Christmas wasn't easy, but we were together. You may not get every present that you want or have the "perfect Christmas" that you desire, but you have the cross, the greatest gift anyone has ever given. He'd do anything for you, and he already has.

Sincerely,
Mary, Mother of Jesus



In Search Of

We're looking for people with a heart for hospitality to serve as luncheon coordinators for families and friends who have been bereaved and come to Trinity for a funeral service and a lunch or reception afterwards. We have volunteers who provide this care, but we want to expand

our coordinators as the frequency of funerals increases. We currently have only four coordinators, and last year we had over 30 funerals. You would need to call and recruit workers from a list provided, and supervise the kitchen the day of the funeral. Please contact Cindy Beck at 715.832.6601 ext. 201 or cindy@trinity-ec.org for more information. Thank you!

Funeral Planning Guide

We plan for many important events in our lives; yet, many people resist planning for the reality of their death. To assist you in planning, Trinity provides a "Funeral Planning Guide and Worksheet" which walks you through numerous topics and provides options so you can develop a plan. Doing so assists your family in very tangible and profound way.

What Is That?

Are you wondering what that big octagonal structure is by the playground? Guess what? Trinity now has a Gaga Ball Pit! Gaga is a kinder, gentler form of dodgeball originating in Israel. Players hit a soft ball with their hands. If the ball hits a player on the knees or below, that player is "out." Gaga continues until only one player is left; then everyone climbs back in the pit for a new round!

Trinity member Toby Moszer chose the pit as his Eagle Project for Boy Scouts. He received a grant from Trinity's Endowment Trust, as well as donations from Trinity's Youth Ministries and Don Peterson & Sheri Buening. A huge thank you goes out to the many people who helped and encouraged Toby during the project, especially our Facilities Director Don, who was a wonderful mentor and advocate throughout the process which started last spring, and his brother Pete who helped get the lumber. Others who were vital to the building of the pit include members of Boy Scout Troop 175, Grandpa Roger Kees, and "Uncle" Bob Fuller. Thank you all!

Thank You

The Quilters are starting a new year. Thank you to all who donated time, materials, their sewing, and funds. We would also like to thank:

- Cindy for always getting our announcements and publicity out.
- Don for setting up our tables and making us coffee.
- Ashley and the Trinity Youth for getting all of the Trinity boxes out for Lutheran World Relief.

Women's Triennial Convention

Please consider attending the Tenth Triennial Gathering in Minneapolis from July 13–16, 2017. The theme of this convention is "All Anew." If you have never experienced a gathering of this kind before, you will find it very uplifting and will enjoy spiritual growth like no other.

Registration opened on September 6, 2016. The early bird fee is \$310; after January 6 the fee increases to \$350. Registration forms are available on the Women's Bulletin Board across the hall from the nursery, or you can register online at womenoftheelca.org

The Triennial Gathering will never happen closer to Eau Claire, so this is your chance to be part of a gathering of women that will be an experience of a lifetime. Please call Phyllis Grohn at 715.836.7055 with any questions.

Circle Listings

Deborah

Thursday, December 15, 9:30 A.M.
Trinity
Hostess: Group
Leader: Gorup

Martha/Mary: No meeting

Miriam

Wednesday, December 21, 9:30 A.M.
Trinity
Hostess: Sheila Running
Leader: Marsha Arnette

Ruth

Tuesday, December 20, 11:30 P.M.
Trinity
Hostess: Group
Leader: Christmas Gathering



SOCIAL MINISTRIES

Gifts that Give

Looking for a unique gift for that special loved one or friend? "Gifts that Give" is a perfect way to not only give a special gift but also bless others in our community who are in need. Last year, people of Trinity gave \$1,475 through the gift-giving option! We are offering six gift options this year for your consideration:

- Community Table—provides a warm meal to anyone who comes.
- Friends of Flynn—provides healthy snacks, weekend meals, and clothing for children.
- Soles for Special Souls—provides back to school shoes and winter boots for needy children in the Eau Claire area.
- Sojourner House—support a safe, clean place to sleep for single adult men and women.
- Beacon House—supports emergency shelter, meals, and hospitality to families and single pregnant women for up to 30 days.
- Trinity Food Pantry—provides free food to as many as 700 families per month.

"Gifts that Give" cards are available in the lobby on Sunday mornings. Know that your financial gift will not only bless someone close to you, but it will also enhance the lives of many with the joy of Christmas! For more information, contact Pastor Dave at dave@trinity-ec.org

Collecting Books for Flynn Kids

The Friends of Flynn Committee believes that putting books in the hands of children not only encourages a love of learning, but also increases self-confidence. For many Flynn families, the purchase of books is a luxury they cannot afford. As the students leave for Christmas break this year, we want to provide each one with a new book to take home and keep. While Christmas shopping this year, please consider buying a book appropriate for K–grade 5. There is a display in the lobby with suggested book titles that you can take shopping with you. Then bring your purchased books to the collection bin in the Trinity lobby. Financial donations should be made out to Trinity with a notation of "Friends of Flynn."

Hunger Appeal Goal Surpassed!

We are thrilled to share that your generosity resulted in a total of \$18,270 received in October that will further Trinity's Food Pantry ministry with strength and vitality! This also qualified us for the \$5,000 food credit match from Feed My People. Thank you for helping us surpass our \$10,000 financial goal. Our annual Hunger Awareness Month focuses our attention on the hunger needs in our community and how we, as a congregation, join together in addressing those needs as a fixture of our mission. Thank you!

Received in October Memorials & Gifts

Food Pantry Fund

- In memory of Susan Burchill: Ron & Barb King
- In memory of Franklin "Redd" Ayres: Ann Ayres
- In memory of Judith Thompson: Linda McClelland
- In memory of Hubie Peplinski: Rita Peplinski
- In memory of William Schorr: Joan DeMars
- In memory of Elaine Sonnentag: David & Jeanette Suchla, Jim & Marge Oleson
- In memory of James Reppe: Roger & Marilyn Engen

Memorial Fund

- In memory of James Reppe: Pat Garber, Edward & Margaret Ragatz, Sandra Jacobson, Christopher & Sarah Jones, Joel & Nadine DeRider, Jerry & Sharon Colburn, Dauneen Amundson, Jan Butler, Arla Ziehl

Children's Bible Fund

- In memory of Marie Rudolphson: Ken Rudolphson

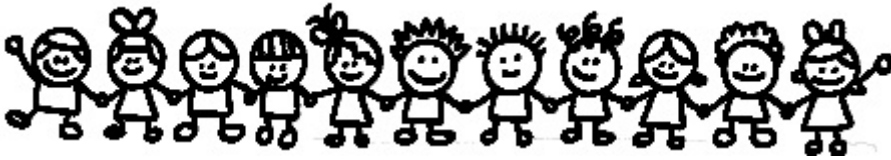
Prayer Shawl Ministry Fund

- In memory of Carolyn Haldeman: The Haldeman Family





Children's Ministries



Early Childhood Enrichment Programs

Registration for our Winter Spring Early Childhood Enrichment Programs is currently open. Registration is call-in based on a first come, first serve basis. *Classes are subject to cancellation due to low enrollment.* You may register by calling Sara Reed at 715.832.6601 ext. 218.

Music & Movement • Children will move and groove as they explore music with song, dance, and instruments. This 17 week class meets on Mondays beginning January 9. There will be no class on January 23, February 27, or March 20.

- Session One: 9:05 A.M.–9:50 A.M. This class is for children who turn one by 6.1.16 through those who turn three by 8.31.16. This is a parent/child class. Cost is \$80.
- Session Two: 10:00 A.M.–11:30 A.M. This class is for children who turn three by 9.1.16. Children experience this class independently. Cost is \$160.

Great Pretenders • Let your child's imagination run free in this high energy, dynamic, imaginative play and art class. Children will learn Bible stories, read great literature, build cooperative play skills, and use various art mediums to create items that will assist children with retelling stories. This program is for children who turn four by 1.1.17. This 20 week class meets on Tuesdays from 12:45 P.M.–3:00 P.M. beginning January 3. There will be no class on March 21. Cost is \$265.

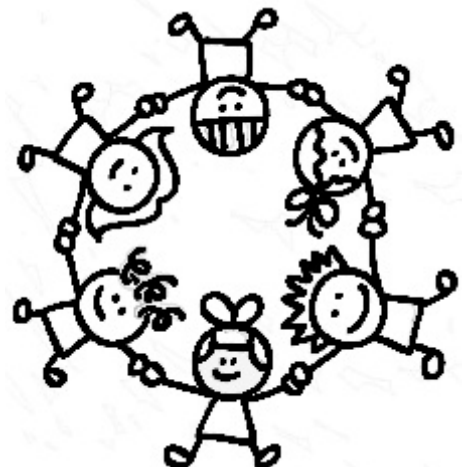
Readers, Authors, and Artists • Immerse your child in literature and early oral and written language experiences with a focus on nurturing a child's natural readiness for reading, writing, and creating. Children will explore books, authors, and illustrators through discovery, music, play, and art. This program is for children who turn four by 1.1.17. This 20 week class meets on Tuesdays from 9:00 A.M.–11:15 A.M. beginning January 3. There will be no class on March 21. Cost is \$265.

Come and Play • In this great precursor to preschool, children are provided a warm and safe Christian environment to play with other children. Art, music activities, and snack are included. This program is for children who turn two by 8.31.16. This 20 week class meets on Wednesdays in Trinity's Nursery from 12:15–2:15 P.M. beginning January 4. There will be no class on March 22. Cost is \$260.

Thrilling Thursdays • Spend Thursdays engaged in a variety of preschool activities in a Christian environment. Emphasis will be on science and cooking with a hands-on discovery approach encouraging observation, predicting, investigating, and other creative thinking. This program is for children who turn four by 1.1.17. This 18 week class meets on Thursdays from 9:00 A.M.–11:15 A.M. or 12:45–3:00 P.M. beginning January 5. There will be no class on February 23, March 23, or April 13. Cost is \$240.

Friday Friends • This class is for children who would benefit from an additional day of preschool experiences. Children will hear Bible stories, other books, and will participate in art and music activities. This program is for children who turn three by 12.31.16. This 17 week class meets from 9:00 A.M.–11:15 A.M. beginning January 6. There will be no class on February 24, March 24, or May 5. Cost is \$215.

Open Gym Tuesdays • On Tuesdays, beginning January 3 through March 14 from 10:00 A.M.–11:30 A.M. the Trinity Room will be open for parents and their young children (toddlers–preschool) to come in and use our equipment in a large safe space. We offer a story time and snack during the last half hour. Members, friends of members, and non-members are welcome to attend. No registration is required for Open Gym. The cost is \$3 per child, per session.





Children's Ministries Inclement Weather Policy

During the winter, there are times when we cancel children's programs due to snow or ice storms. Please check our website for updates, or call the church office if unsure. It is our policy to close if the public schools are closed.

Volunteer in the Nursery

If you like to help care for young children and would be willing to help out in our Nursery during the 9:45 A.M. service 1–3 times a year, we would greatly appreciate it. We do have a full time nursery attendant, so your responsibility would be to assist. We will be making a new schedule of volunteers for January–May, 2017. If you are interested in being a part of ministry helping young families, please contact Sara Reed at 715.832.6601 ext. 218 or sara@trinity-ec.org

Noah's Ark News

The teachers and I marvel at the speed at which these fall months have flown! The weather has added to our deception as the days have been lovely, warm, and sunny, leading us to feel that it is just the start of the school year. Yet, the calendar and the growth we are already seeing in the children tell us otherwise. The children have enjoyed these wonderful days outside on our playground!

The preschool classes have been giving thanks to God this month for our many blessings! We are celebrating with a Thanksgiving pizza feast. Each child is sharing an ingredient that by itself is not very special. However, when we share all we have with each other, we can make a delicious pizza to enjoy together. It is a celebration of peacemakers as we share and come together around our table.

We quickly follow our Thanksgiving celebrations with Advent preparations and the telling of the birth of Jesus. The Noah's Ark children will hear the story through books, songs, dramatic play, creative art processes, and their playtime with numerous Nativity sets. It is our hope that these children will learn the story, feel the love that comes from Jesus, and then have the opportunity to share that story and love with the people in their lives. We invite all to join us in the Trinity Room as we share the Christmas story through song at our annual Christmas Party/Programs. The four-five year old programs will be on Monday, December 19, at 10:00 A.M. and 1:45 P.M. The three year old programs will be on Tuesday, December 20, at 10:00 A.M. and 1:45 P.M.. These party/programs are the highlight of the Christmas season for me! We will close out the month of December with a class birthday party for Jesus. We have so much to celebrate!

In peace,

Marlee Knickerbocker



YOUTH MINISTRIES

Thank You

The Trinity Youth thank the congregation for supporting the Wreath Fundraiser. The youth will use the monies raised to put towards the High School Summer Trip with Camp Amnicon's Voyageur Canoeing on Lake Superior in June 2017. A tithe from the proceeds was given to Friends of Flynn. Thank you again for your support.

Luther Park Recharge

The Luther Park Recharge Club 78/Club 9 Retreat is scheduled for the weekend of January 6–7. This retreat is 24 hours of camp to recharge faith through faith discussion, music, friends, and activities. This year's theme is *Anchored: Hebrews 6:19*. Registration cost includes programming from 7:00 P.M. Friday until 7:00 P.M. Saturday, meals, lodging, and a Recharge t-shirt. Register online at www.lutherpark.org or call 715.859.2215. Scholarships are available to offset the cost of registration. Contact Cassie or Ashley with any questions.

Service Opportunities

Community Table • Food is a basic need of humankind, and it is our privilege to serve those who go without! Trinity will prepare and serve a meal at the Community Table on Friday, December 16, from 3:00 P.M.–7:00 P.M. We still need volunteers for the first shift which is from 3:00 P.M.–4:45 P.M. Please sign-up at Clipboard Central.

Friends of Flynn Weekend Meals at Feed My People Food Bank • On Wednesday, December 7, from 4:00–5:30 P.M. Trinity youth will pack weekend meals for Flynn Elementary School students. Youth will meet at Feed My People Food Bank, 2610 Alpine Road, on Eau Claire's west side.



OUR LIBRARY



Books Warm the Heart and Delight the Mind!

Come to Trinity's Library on Sunday, December 11 between worship services. Many Christmas books will be on display and ready to check out. Committee members will be on hand to assist and distribute prizes to children and Sunday school classes.

Michael Perry's New Book

Roughneck Grace • Michael Perry returns with this collection of brief essays from his Sunday Wisconsin State Journal column, "*Roughneck Grace*." Perry's perspectives on everything from cleaning the chicken coop to sharing a New York City elevator with supermodels will have the reader laughing. (808.84 PER)

Biography

- *Haatchi & Little B* by Wendy Holden. This is the true story of Owen, a disabled boy, and his friendship with a three-legged rescue dog. (B HOL)

Five New Biographies from the "Who Was ... Who Is ... Who Were ... Series"

- *Who Was Gandhi?* by Dana Meachen Rau (+ B RAU)
- *Who Were The Beatles?* by Geoff Edgers (+ B EDG)
- *Who Was George Washington Carver?* by Jim Gigliotti (+ B GIG)
- *Who Was Steve Jobs?* by Pam Pollack and Meg Belviso (+ B POL)
- *Who Is Malala Yousafzai?* by Dinah Brown (+ B BRO)

For Youth

- *Maxi's Secrets* by Lynn Plourde. Kids love stories about dogs and this is a good one. This book is about friendship and overcoming some life challenges. (+ FIC PLO)
- *Raymie Nightingale* by Kate DiCamillo. Three girls, one summer, and a friendship that changed their lives. (+ FIC DIC)
- *Moo* by Sharon Creech. Moo is the uplifting story of how a little kindness can change lives, reminding us that if you're open to new experiences, life offers surprises. (+ FIC CRE)

For Young Children

- *The Very Clumsy Click Beetle* by Eric Carle. A clumsy young click beetle learns to land on its feet with encouragement from various animals and a wise old click beetle. (++ FIC CAR)

- *Otis and The Kittens* by Loren Long. Otis the tractor races toward a barn fire to save kittens. He soon finds out that he needs help from his friends to do the rescue. This is a heartwarming ode to the bravery of firefighters. (+ FIC LON)
- *Big Brothers Don't Take Naps* by Louise Borden. Little brother Nick lists all the wonderful things his big brother does with him, preparing him to greet the new baby in the family. (+ FIC BOR)
- *Creation* by Cynthia Rylant. This picture book contains lovely illustrations of the creation story. (++ 231 RYL)
- *Three Books about Cat the Cat* by Mo Willems. Join spunky Cat the Cat as she introduces the very youngest readers to her world where a surprise is waiting in every book.

Time to Sleep Sheep the Sheep!
What's Your Sound Hound the Hound?
Let's Say Hi to Friend Who Fly!

Trinity Page Turners Book Club

The Page Turners Book Club meets on Tuesday, December 20, at 6:30 P.M. to discuss *The Age of Miracles* by Karen Thompson Walker. *The Age of Miracles* is a beautiful novel of catastrophe and survival, growth and change, the story of Julia and her family as they struggle to live in an extraordinary time. On an ordinary Saturday, Julia awakes to discover that something has happened to the rotation of the earth. The days and nights are growing longer and longer; gravity is affected; the birds, the tides, human behavior, and cosmic rhythms are thrown into disarray. In a world of danger and loss, Julia faces surprising developments in herself and her personal world—divisions widening between her parents, strange behavior among friends, the vulnerability of first love, a sense of isolation, and a rebellious new strength.

If you haven't attended this book club in the past, or if you haven't attended for awhile, please join us. Feel free to come whether you've finished the book or not. Please RSVP online at trinity-ec.org or sign-up at Clipboard Central. For more information, email Cindy Beck at cindy@trinity-ec.org



FINANCIAL UPDATE

Mortgage Update

Like many people, Trinity lives with a mortgage because we've invested in a facility that serves hundreds of people every week. Each week your offering to mortgage payment allows Trinity to make its \$8,413 monthly payment to the ELCA Mission Investment Fund that holds our note with a rate of 4.125%. Your generosity assists your church in making additional principal payments often! Thank you for every offering you make to Mortgage Payment.

- Loan Balance as of October 2016: \$304,078
- Loan Balance as of October 2015: \$511,780
- Loan Balance as of October 2014: \$682,975

Ending the Year with Gratitude

Thank you for your charitable giving to the mission of Trinity in 2016. Your giving has supported Trinity's mission and ministries to thousands, and these last weeks are very important! Please respond by December 30 to the blessings of God in your life, and give to God as God has given to you. Thanks for your support of the mission of Trinity. Remember you can give online at trinity-ec.org

Offerings to Regular Ministries

January through October	2015	2016
Offerings	\$887,790	\$929,767
Expenses	\$915,129	\$919,540
Difference	-\$27,339	\$10,227

Grants Awarded

The Trinity Endowment Trust is a means by which you can leave a legacy of your faith in God. The Endowment Trust receives your bequests, memorials, and contributions which are permanently invested to grow and provide interest and dividends that are then used to advance the mission of Trinity and make a difference in the world.

In November the Endowment Trust Board awarded grants totaling \$8,500 which will assist Trinity's Men's Mission Trip to Jamaica; assist in the purchase of new Christmas trees for the Worship Center; Support Trinity's Food Pantry for homeless patrons; and purchase an automated external defibrillator for the church.

You can learn more about the Endowment Trust Fund at trinity-ec.org and consider how your legacy of faith might live on through it.

Women's Giving Circle

The Women's Giving Circle, a fund of the Trinity Endowment Trust, is excited to announce that they recently awarded eight grants totaling \$6,450. The funds will be used for the following:

- Trinity's Advent Tea
- Trinity's Thanksgiving Dinner
- Boots for low-income children through Soles for Special Souls
- Friends of Flynn for weekend meals for Headstart students at Prairie Ridge Early Learning Center who will be attending Flynn next year
- Trinity Food Pantry for purchase of meat
- Trinity Safety Committee
- Chippewa Valley Free Clinic medication program
- Plymouth Street Ministries for support for trafficked victims
- Bonnie's Boxes of Love for Cancer Patients
- Citizens Employment & Training

The Women's Giving Circle is proud to support the good work being done to improve the lives of families and children within our church and our community. We invite all members of Trinity to join the Women's Giving Circle. For more information, visit Trinity's webpage at www.trinity-ec.org and click on the Endowment menu.



A CHRISTMAS BLESSING

Wilda English, n.d.

God grant you the light of Christmas,
which is faith;
the warmth of Christmas,
which is purity;
the righteousness of Christmas,
which is justice;
the belief in Christmas,
which is truth;
the all of Christmas,
which is Christ.



HEALTH MINISTRIES

Dear Friends,

I am writing this on the Thursday after election day. I am so glad it is over! Some people are thrilled with the outcome; others are sad and worried. But my hope is that everyone can come together with respect and caring for the good of our country. So my wish for each of you this Christmas season is peace. As individuals, we can spread that peace to others.



Galations 5:22, 23, 25, 26:—*The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another.* Those are words to live by!

During this Christmas season and the months after, take time for yourself (Temple). Learn to say no. Do not expect perfection. Do not spread yourself too thin. Forgive yourself and others.

- Pray: God is listening and knows your needs.
- Be still: Listen for God's whispers.
- Be thankful: Focus on the blessings you have.
- Be joyful: There is joy, even in the little moments.
- Remember: It is OK to be sad and miss your loved ones who have passed away.

John 13:27—*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.*

Monthly Healing Service

Beginning in January, Trinity will be offering a Healing Service the third Sunday of each month in the Chapel starting at 9:15 A.M. This service is for anyone who seeks healing in body, mind, or spirit. We will offer time for personal prayers for healing, for anointing, as well as time for reflection and peace. The first monthly service will be on Sunday, January 15, 2017.

Thank You!!

Doctors and surgeons rely on blood donations to carry out life-saving and life-enhancing treatments every day. Blood donation is the act of giving life. To all our blood donors, we thank you for your support in our medical mission through your blood donations. And to our volunteers, we thank you for supporting our November Blood Drive. We had a goal of 38 units, and we collected 38 units! We also had four first time donors. All together, we impacted or saved the lives of 114 patients!

Skinny Eggnog Fudge

Ingredients

- 1 cup light eggnog
- 2 cups granulated sugar
- 2 tbsp butter
- 3 oz white chocolate (or ½ c white chocolate chips)

Directions

- Line an 8" square baking pan with foil, and lightly coat with nonstick cooking spray. Set aside.
- In a large pot, combine the eggnog, sugar, butter, and white chocolate. Cook over medium-low heat, stirring constantly, until the butter and white chocolate have melted. Bring to a boil, and cook for another 10–15 minutes, stirring frequently, until a small amount becomes moldable when dropped in a glass of cold water. (It may take longer, depending on your pot and stove.)
- Remove from the heat and the burner, and allow the hot mixture to sit undisturbed for six minutes. After six minutes, stir vigorously until the mixture becomes thick and creamy and lightens in color. Spread into the prepared pan, and allow the fudge to cool to room temperature before slicing into 1" squares.

Nutrition Facts

Serving Size: 1 square • Servings In Recipe: 64 • Amount Per Serving • Calories 38 Calories from Fat 8.1 • % Daily Value* • Total Fat 0.9 g 1% • Saturated Fat 0.5 g 3% • Unsaturated Fat 0.1 g • Cholesterol 2.5 mg 1% • Sodium 4.6 mg 0% • Total Carbohydrate 7.1 g 2% • Dietary Fiber 0.0 g 0% • Sugars 7.0 g • Protein 0.3 g 1% • *Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Your daily values may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs.



The Birth of Jesus Foretold

The prophet Isaiah foretold the birth of Jesus Christ. Isaiah knew that Jesus would be called a peacemaker, but that He would also be called by other names.

Use the code to find out what Isaiah said Jesus would be called.

CODE:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
Z	Y	X	W	V	U	T	S	R	Q	P	O	N	M	L	K	J	I	H	G	F	E	D	C	B	A

Z M W S V D R O O Y V

X Z O O V W D L M W V I U F O

X L F M H V O L I N R T S G B

T L W V E V I O Z H G R M T

U Z G S V I K I R M X V

L U K V Z X V

Isaiah 9:6, NIV

Answer: And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

"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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Drew Brandenburg—CrossWord Youth Band
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World Missions

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Blantyre Lutheran Parish in 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 January Newsletter is Monday, December 19.