



CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

December 20, "Festival of Lessons and Carols"

On December 20 the Trinity Choir, along with instrumentalists, will perform the Christmas Cantata "A Festival of Lessons and Carols" by Jonathan Willcocks at the 8:15 A.M. and 9:45 A.M. Worship Services. The cantata is a beautiful, uplifting collection of traditional carols celebrating our Savior's birth.

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 27, Festival of Christmas

Sunday, December 27, 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 2015 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.

Child Care Evening

Need some time to Christmas shop, go out to dinner, or just complete tasks around the house? Trinity Youth are offering child care on Friday, December 11, from 5:30 P.M.–10:00 P.M. at Trinity as a fundraiser for their Mission Trip to Denver, Colorado this summer. Donations will be collected on that evening. Space is limited, so please register your child or children in advance by contacting Cassie at cassie@trinity-ec.org or calling 715.832.6601 ext. 209.

Guest Pianist

On Sunday, January 3, Joseph Fuller, a widely sought-after pianist for concert and recital engagements, will play the piano at both the 8:15 A.M. and 9:45 A.M. worship services at Trinity. Beginning his musical studies at age five, Joseph's talent has been nurtured into a flourishing career. He holds advanced degrees in piano, including a master's degree from Baylor University, and he has worked with opera houses, children's choruses, and universities in the United States. He has shared the stage with Gospel Music Associations Award winning group Tenore and can be heard on Pandora Radio. Bring a friend, and come to hear Joseph Fuller share his passion, artistry, and faith through music.



Dear Friends:

“Behold I bring you glad tidings of great joy” was the news the angel shared above Bethlehem long ago. It was an expression of hope from God that still has meaning for our lives today.

This fall I was privileged to visit Bethlehem. There is little joy that hovers over this contested land in Israel and Palestine. Political differences, varying viewpoints on religion, and a degradation of respect for the basic rights of people combine to create disheartening divisions that threaten to undermine the stability of that region. But I think this situation is mirrored in many places and people of this world.

What happened to the “glad tidings of great joy,” I wonder.

When we lose sight of the big picture and the “Upper Story” of God who desires to be in relationship with people (of all persuasions), our stance turns from trust and hope in God to self-reliance, confusion, and ultimately despair.

As this Christmas season unfolds, open yourself again to the gift of hope that comes from God. Aspire to put aside self-reliance, independence, and personal perspectives and see anew the love, mercy, and joy that are offered to all in Christ. Trust in that goodness, and keep your eyes peeled on the “Upper Story” as we gather for worship this Advent and Christmas.

Joy and Peace,
Pastor Kurt Jacobson



Israel, Palestine, and Personal Perspectives

Come to a Sunday forum at 9:05 A.M. or 10:40 A.M. on December 6 and hear from Trinity members who recently toured the Holy Land. They will have interesting photos and compelling stories to share about their experience.

Endowment Trust Expands Property

The Trinity Endowment Trust recently purchased the house at 1408 E Lexington Blvd and is working with Sue Hesketh, rental manager, to prepare it for renting. This real estate will be part of the Endowment Trust’s investment portfolio. The fund already owns the red house on the frontage road directly east of Trinity.

Your gifts now and through estate bequests to the Endowment Trust ensure that your faith will live on in legacy and bless the mission of Trinity for generations to come. Read more about the fund and how you might bless it at trinity-ec.org

Hunger Appeal Goal Surpassed!

We are thrilled to share that your generosity resulted in a total of \$14,834 received in October that will further Trinity’s Food Pantry ministry with strength and vitality! This also qualifies 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!

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 Heather at heatherd@trinity-ec.org or 715.832.6601.

Thank You

Many thanks to everyone who donated time, material, or money to the Trinity Quilters this past year. We have had a great year. We made 220 quilts and 100 health care kits. The quilts keep people warm locally and world-wide. We couldn’t do it without you! 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.
- Lisa and the Trinity Youth for getting all of the Trinity boxes out for Lutheran World Relief.



ADVENT IS HERE!

Angel Breakfast

Preschool and kindergarten age children and one adult guest per child are invited to the Annual Angel Breakfast on Saturday, December 5, 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 in 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 starting on Wednesday, November 25. You can also help build the Wall of Food with non perishable items in the lobby through Friday, December 18. Help is needed for sorting on Saturday, December 19, beginning at 9:00 A.M. with delivery on Sunday, December 20, after the 9:45 A.M. worship service. For more information and to volunteer, contact Sara Reed at 715.832.6601 or sarar@trinity-ec.org

Wall of Food

Help build a wall of food! From November 29–December 13, please bring nonperishable food products to the lobby. These foods will be distributed to families in the Eau Claire/Altoona areas at Christmas as part of the Christmas Sharing Project.

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

Celebrate the joyous news of Baby Jesus' birth at a Caroling Party on Sunday, December 6. We meet at the church, near the pre-school area, at 4:00 P.M. and visit several of our shut-in members to sing Christmas songs. Bring your entire family, as people of all ages are invited to enjoy and share the season's festive music. Contact Shirley Sands at shirley@trinity-ec.org for more information.

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 Thursday, December 17, or Friday, December 18, 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!

Second Annual Advent Tea

Join us on Monday, December 7, from 1:30 P.M.–3:30 P.M. for a wonderful chance to pause and celebrate a joyous time of year in the company of friends of all ages. There will be entertainment by the Hermodson/Rambo Quartet, a presentation by Noah's Ark Preschool, and even a Christmas Carol "Sing-A-Long."

Please R.S.V.P. by signing up in the lobby. Each person attending is asked to bring either holiday cookies, breads, or finger sandwiches for 12–15 guests. The leftovers will be boxed and shared with our shut-ins for a Christmas treat and holiday visit. Just like last year, if you have Christmas dishes and/or decorations that you would be willing to share, please contact either Phyllis Grohn (715.836.7055) or Sheila Running (715.832.9686).

Free Advent Devotionals

Luther Seminary invites you to use this year's Advent devotional, "Creator of the Stars of Night," this coming season. Written by Luther Seminary faculty members, the devotionals are available online as a printable collection. During the season of Advent, the daily God Pause devotion will be from "Creator of the Stars of Night." If you are not already a God Pause subscriber, sign up at luthersem.edu/advent.





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 increases self-confidence. With many of the 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.”



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 \$9,763 which will assist the Eau Claire School District with homeless student transportation costs; offset costs of interviewing candidates for the Lead Pastor position; contribute to a retirement celebration of long-time Director of Noah's Ark Preschool, Jeanne Cooper; and purchase a quality camera for recording events of the congregation.

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

In our inaugural year the Women's Giving Circle, a fund of the Trinity Endowment Trust, is excited to announce that they recently awarded eight grants totaling \$6,300. The funds will be used for the following:

- Diapers to be distributed through the Trinity Food Pantry
- New risers to be used by multiple Trinity ministries
- Shoes for low-income children through Soles for Special Souls
- Seed money for a new bathroom for Noah's Ark Preschool
- New picnic tables for Vacation Bible School and other Trinity ministries
- Basic needs for homeless individuals through Plymouth Street Ministries
- Soccer balls for low-income children in Costa Rica to be distributed by Delong students
- Professional development for Trinity Children's Ministries personnel

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.

Youth Ministries

Luther Park Recharge Club 78 and Club 9 Retreat

Luther Park Recharge is scheduled for the weekend of January 8–9. This retreat is 24 hours of camp to recharge faith through faith discussion, music, friends, and activities. 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 Lisa at 715.832.6601 ext. 209 with any questions.

Thank You

The Trinity Youth thank the congregation for supporting the Wreath Fundraiser. Students will use the monies raised to put toward the High School Denver Mission Trip in June 2016. A tithe from the proceeds was given to Friends of Flynn. Thank you again for your support.

College Christmas Greeting and Care Package

Many Trinity Lutheran young adults are pursuing their secondary education at college and technical colleges around the state and country. If your son or daughter is attending college or technical school, you may request a special Christmas card and care package to be sent to their dorm or apartment. Our confirmation students will send a Christmas card mid-December, and then a care package toward the end of February. If you are interested in your daughter or son receiving a Christmas card and care package, please forward your student's address to Cassie at cassie@trinity-ec.org or call 715.832.6601 ext. 209 by Monday, December 7.



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!

Loan Balance as of October 2015: \$511,780
 Loan Balance as of October 2014: \$682,975

Thank you for every offering you make to Mortgage Payment.

Ending the Year with Gratitude

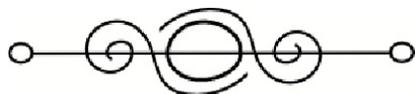
Thank you for your charitable giving to the mission of Trinity in 2015. Your giving has supported Trinity's mission and ministries to thousands, and these last weeks are very important!

Offerings to Regular Ministries

January through October	*2015	2014
Offerings	\$887,790	\$847,753
Expenses	\$915,129	\$870,396
Difference	-\$27,339	-\$22,643

**In 2015 the financial operation of the Day Camp Ministries was incorporated into the operating system and, through October, includes \$34,125 of fee income and \$35,978 of expenses.*

Please respond by December 31 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



R.E.A.P in January

Join Pastor Kurt in a discussion of "The Hidden Wholeness" by Parker Palmer. This one-time study will meet on Monday, January 18, from 6:30 P.M.–7:45 P.M. in the Fireside Room. Pick up the book on your own. No need to sign-up. Just come!

New Director Named

Marlee Knickerbocker has been selected to succeed Jeanne Cooper who will retire as Director of Trinity Christian Preschool "Noah's Ark" this coming July after 33 years of service. Marlee has been on staff as a Noah's Ark teacher since 1997 and has been a key leader in Day Camps since its inception. Marlee demonstrates the highest commitment to Trinity's mission and the continuation of our high quality of ministry with young children. The congregation is blessed to have the caliber of leadership, experience, and commitment that Marlee shares with children and parents. She will assume the position July 1, 2016.

Circle Listings

DEBORAH

Thursday, December 17, 9:30 A.M. at Trinity
 Hostess: Joyce Davis
 Leader: Group

MARTHA/MARY

No Meeting in December

MIRIAM

Wednesday, December 16, 9:30 A.M. at Trinity
 Hostess: Marsha Arnette
 Leader: Mary Schoenknecht

RUTH

Tuesday, December 15, NOON at Trinity
 Hostess: Group
 Leader: Group



Trinity Page Turners Book Club

The book club meets on Tuesday, December 15, at 6:30 P.M. to discuss “*From the Mouths of Dogs*” by local author B.J. Hollars. What is it that dogs have done to earn the title of “man’s best friend?” And more broadly, how have all of our furry, feathered, and four-legged brethren managed to enrich our lives? Why do we love them? What can we learn from them? And why is it so difficult to say good-bye? Join B.J. Hollars as he attempts to find out—beginning with an ancient dog cemetery in Ashkelon, Israel, and moving to the present day.

Hollars’ firsthand reports recount a range of stories: the arduous existence of a humane officer, a woman’s relentless attempt to found a senior-dog adoption facility, a family’s struggle to create a one-of-a-kind orthotic for their bulldog, and the particular bond between a blind woman and her Seeing Eye dog. The book culminates with Hollars’ own cross-country journey to Hartsdale Pet Cemetery—the country’s largest and oldest pet cemetery—to begin the long overdue process of laying his own childhood dog to rest.

B.J. is the author of several books and serves as a mentor for Creative Nonfiction and the reviews editor for *Pleiades*. He is an assistant professor of English at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. B.J. will join us for our discussion!

There are no special expectations to participate in this group. You should feel free to come whether you’ve finished the book or not. You can RSVP online at trinity-ec.org or sign-up at Clipboard Central. For more information, email Cindy Beck at cindy@trinity-ec.org

Christmas Books Bring J-O-Y

Come to Trinity’s Library on Sunday, December 13, 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.

For Children

- ***B is for Bethlehem: A Christmas Alphabet*** by Isabel Wilner. Originally written for second graders to perform at their Christmas program, this remarkable Christmas alphabet tells the story of the Nativity in graceful couplets. It is illustrated with beautiful, painstakingly crafted collages. (++) FIC WIL)
- ***Beautiful Hands*** by Kathryn Otoshi and Bret Baumgarten. Little hands can do so many wonderful things: plant ideas, lift spirits, stretch imagination. This colorful concept book rouses children to use their hands for good and reach for their dreams. (++) FIC OTO)
- ***The Full Moon at the Napping House*** by Audrey Wood & Don Wood. In this cumulative tale, a chirping cricket calms a worried mouse, a prowling cat, and other restless creatures, helping them to finally fall asleep. (++) FIC WOO)
- ***Llama Llama Gram and Grandpa*** by Anna Dewdney. Llama Llama has an overnight at Grandma and Grandpa’s house. Perfect story for family sharing to help young children with their own first trips away from home. (++) FIC DEW)

- ***You’re Here for a Reason*** by Nancy Tillman. Every person matters. In this book the author shows readers how each of us fits into life’s big picture. (++) FIC TIL)

For Youth

- ***Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Old School*** by Jeff Kinney. “Greg Heffley is wondering if he can survive when his town voluntarily unplugs and goes electronics-free.” BAM (+ FIC KIN)
- ***The Peanuts Movie*** by Charles Schulz and adapted by Tracey West. “The peanuts gang is gearing up for a grand, new adventure in this charming retelling of the holiday season’s biggest animated movie event!” BAM (+ FIC SCH)

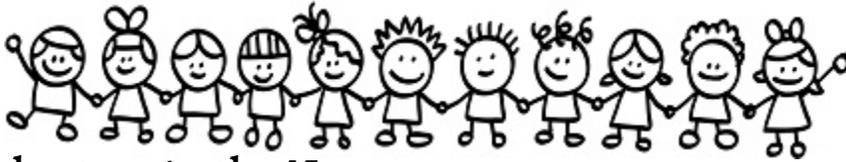
For Adults

- ***The Lake House*** by Kate Morton. “From the internationally best-selling author of *The Secret Keeper* comes this spellbinding new novel of suspense set in the English countryside.” BAM (FIC MOR)
- ***Destiny and Power*** by Jon Meachan. “The Pulitzer Prize-winning Meachan chronicles the life of George Herbert Walker Bush in this illuminating biography.” BAM (B MEA)
- ***I Feel Like Going On*** by Ray Lewis. “Lewis, a legendary Baltimore Ravens linebacker and one of the greatest defensive players of his generation, holds nothing back in this memoir.” BAM (B LEW)





Children's Ministries



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 soon for January–May, 2016. If you are interested in being a part of this ministry helping young families, please contact Sara Reed at 715.832.6601 ext 218 or sarar@trinity-ec.org

Open Gym Tuesdays

On Tuesdays this winter 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 program starts on Tuesday, January 5, and runs through Tuesday, March 8, from 10:00 A.M.–11:30 A.M. The cost is \$2 per child.

Early Childhood Enrichment Classes

Our Early Childhood Enrichment Classes are quickly filling! There are just a few classes that still have openings! Please check out our webpage www.trinity-ec.org or contact Sara Reed at 715.832.6601 ext. 218 for more information and to register.

Monday Music and Movement

Children move and groove as they explore music with songs, dance, and instruments. The class includes free play, story time, and guided music instruction, with new themes explored each week. Music & Movement begins Monday, January 4, and runs for 18 weeks.

- Session One • 9:05 A.M.–9:50 A.M. A 45 minute class for children who are one by 6.1.15 through those who are three by 9.1.15. This is a parent/child class. Cost is \$85; \$6.30/hr.

Monday Creative Arts

Spend Mondays engaged in a variety of creative activities! Children will dance, sing, and experiment with art processes. Children will also hear books and Bible stories and enhance language learning through finger plays. This class is for children who turn three by 9.1.15. Creative Arts begins Monday, January 4, from 12:30 P.M.–2:30 P.M. and runs for 18 weeks. Cost is \$220; \$6.11/hr.

Tuesday Readers, Authors, and Artists

Immerse your child in literature and early oral and written language experiences. Weekly themes will explore books, authors, and illustrators through discovery, music, play, and art. All activities will encourage students to become authors and illustrators

of their own books with a focus on nurturing a child's natural readiness for reading, writing, and creating. This class is for children who turn four by 1.1.16. Readers, Authors, and Artists begins on Tuesday, January 5, from 9:00 A.M.–11:15 A.M. and runs for 20 weeks. Cost is \$260; \$5.78/hr.

Tuesday Great Pretenders

Let your child's imagination run free. This class uses drama, art, and creative games to enhance and expand great children's literature and Bible stories. Children will create story props, costumes, and puppets and then use them to retell stories. Children will explore new vocabulary, story structures, and build literacy skills. This class is for children who turn four by 1.1.16. The Great Pretenders begins Tuesday, January 5, from 12:45 P.M.–3:00 P.M. and runs for 20 weeks. Cost is \$260; 5.78/hr.

Thrilling Thursdays

Spend Thursdays engaged in a wide variety of preschool activities in a Christian environment. Emphasis will be on science and cooking, but will also include language, music, math, and art activities. A hands-on discovery approach will be encouraged with observation, predicting, investigating, and other creative thinking. This class is for children who turn four by 1.1.16. Thrilling Thursdays begins on Thursday, January 7, from 9:00 A.M.–11:15 A.M. or 12:45 P.M.–3:00 P.M. for 19 weeks. Cost is \$250; \$5.85/hr.

Friday Friends

Children will hear books and Bible stories and will participate in art and music activities. This class is for children who would benefit from an additional day of preschool experiences. This class is for children who turn three between 07.01.15 and 12.31.15. Friday Friends Session Two begins Friday, January 8, from 12:15 P.M.–2:30 P.M. for 19 weeks. The cost is \$265; \$6.20

Classes are subject to cancellation due to low enrollment. 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. If the Eau Claire Public schools close, we will do likewise.



Noah's Ark



Noah's Ark is happy to announce Marlee Knickerbocker as the new Preschool Director beginning July, 2016. Marlee has been on staff at Noah's Ark since 1997. She also has been a key leader in developing the Early Enrichment Programs since their inception. Trinity Lutheran Church is blessed to have her caliber of leadership, experience, and commitment to our Noah's Ark children and their parents. Hugs to Marlee as she begins this new chapter in service to our congregation.

On Thursday and Friday, December 17 and 18, at 10:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M., the children of Noah's Ark will share the story of Jesus' birth at their annual Christmas Party Programs. You are welcome to join the fun as they sing, move, and chant the message of God's love.

The children of Noah's Ark will also have a Birthday Party for Jesus on Monday and Tuesday, December 21 and 22, during regular class time. We'll even have birthday cake and share gifts with each other. It will be a celebration remembering God's love for us.

We give thanks to Lorraine Hansen who knits many pairs of mittens for the Noah's Ark Hat and Mitten Tree each year. She is a blessing to beautiful children in need of warm clothes!

A blessed Advent to you all, and Merry Christmas!

Received October Memorials & Gifts

Endowment Trust Fund

- In memory of John Hammes: David & Carol Anderson, Suzanne Kristo, Cheryl Bluske, Ken & Roberta Vance, Doug & Margaret Hallott

Endowment Trust Fund Global Missions

- In memory of Kathy Rau: Jon & Maureen Homstad, Jim & Mary Karker, Pete & Rita Van Stelle, Dennis & Karen Zacho, Susan Dodd, Rose Sippel, Darrin & Julie Schober, Wipfli CPA's & Consultants, Jim & Joyce Davis, Scott & Andrea Jadeke, Barbara Harrass, Patty & Greg Chambers, Paul & Amber Moltzau, Paul Karker, Bob & Mary Schoenknecht, Janis Smith, Pat Prissel, Family & Friends, Robert & Elaine Victorine, James & Evelyn Hintzman Sr., Leatrice Solberg, Lawrence & Marilyn Motzer, Lou Kelsey, Marilyn McMahon, Donetta Lee, Jeff & Kathy Doering, Craig & Jane Olsen, Mary Friederich, Morris & Audrey Brumberg, Steven & Vicki Borsheim, Bruce & Margaret Anderson, David & Sonia Becker, Marlene & Stan Larson, Bob & Judy Pielhop, John & Erin Northup, Gary & Mary Rambo, Michael Dahl, Jackie Mickelson, Cathy Haasl, Edward & Sharon McMahon, Rick & Rebekah Krumrie, Timothy & Edna Perkins, Howard & Sharry Hebert, Char Finseth, Kathryn Teeters, Ann Ayres, Susan Schaefer, Gerald Fahl II, Steve & Anne Josephson, Elayne Peterson, Jon & Kathleen Fruh, Loren & Susan Brumberg, Sheree King Powers & Jim King, Jeff & Jennifer Giesking, Michael & Cathleen Kaas, Carol Hagen, Thomas & Jaci Quigley,

Darlene Prissel, Helen Hansen, Terry & Jane O'Connell, Alan & Amy Anderson, Jim & Lynn Gullicksrud, Elliot & Lizabeth Kaas, Lynn Hanson, Curt & Trisha Travis, Charlene Kjos, Richard Rau, WESTconsin Credit Union, Eau Claire Golf & Country Club

Food Pantry Fund

- In memory of Jean Holtman: Stanley & Sharon Monson, Steven & Elaine Bjork, Kenneth & Audrey Boigenzahn, David & Julie Wiensch, Billy Holm, John & Ann Lamoureux, Steven & Dawn Johnson, Karla Linderholm, Sunrise Exchange Club of Eau Claire, Mark & Melani Orendorff, Roman & Diane Fritz, Michael Fritz & Sharon Wilke, Clifton Larson Allen
- In memory of Neal McIntyre: Jim & Marilyn Bollinger
- In memory of Roger Hauser: Ed & Mary Elworthy
- In memory of Don Kwick: Ed & Mary Elworthy
- In memory of John Hammes: Jim & Marilyn Bollinger, Lori Juneau
- In memory of Kathy Rau: Tom & Sheila Zahorik, Jim & Marilyn Bollinger
- In honor of Mark & Karen Otterson's 25th wedding anniversary: Jim & Bev Page, Roger & Marilyn Engen, James & Jean Dohlby, Clarice Gardow, Shawn & Heather Kapanke

Memorial Fund

- In memory of William & Barbara Hilgedick: Steve & Anne Josephson
- In memory of Barbara Dachel: Steve & Anne Josephson

Health Ministries Fund

- In honor of Pat Garber: Hazel Cook

Library Fund

- In memory of Sharen Hoepner: Norbert & Helen Wurtzel
- In memory of Kathy Rau: Ann Johnson

Children's Bible Fund

- In memory of Kathy Rau: Jeanne Cooper



Transition Update

Associate Pastors Declare Their Intentions

At the “Findings Retreat” of the succession planning teams (Council, Transition Team, Call Committee, Start-Up Team, and Staff) November 13–14, the Associate Pastors declared their intentions regarding their plans and desires with respect to their current calls to serve Trinity.

It is important to know that all Trinity staff are key components to the success factors of Trinity’s ministries and mission. With regard to Associate Pastors, their ministry continues as the current lead pastor departs. The Trinity Constitution does not require that other pastors submit their resignations as is the practice in some congregations. The current pastoral staff has been closely engaged by consultant Dr. Jim Pence and the Council in a part of the process called “staff retention philosophy.”

It is the practice of Dr. Pence to have Associate Pastors declare their intentions before the search is formally launched. In this way, people in the congregation have clarity about each pastors’ status. If they are open to the possibilities of being called as Lead Pastor, he recommends that they “simply share that they are in discernment and trust that the Call Committee, the congregation, and the Holy Spirit will also be in discernment with them.”

There is nothing in the process that precludes a current pastor from being considered for the Lead Pastor position. Dr. Pence informs us that should a current pastor desire to be considered, the full succession planning process still is conducted. “After the congregational and staff assessments are completed,” he writes, “the Ministry Site Profile (MSP) is crafted. This evidence-based document serves to describe the Lead Pastor position, as well as significant analysis of the congregation. Should one of the current Associate Pastors match the MSP, and the synod bishop concurs, that pastor could be considered by the Call Committee.” Should this occur, Dr. Pence will consult with that pastor and work as an intermediary with the Call Committee in guiding both parties.

Declaration of Intent Pastor Brahm Semmler Smith

brahm@trinity-ec.org

I have been blessed to be part of the pastoral staff at Trinity for the past 2 ½ years. Being half-time has been a gift to our family as our daughter has grown. I love working with youth and their families, and the call to pastoral ministry at Trinity! We are also preparing for a personal transition coming up in 2016, as Sarah and I are preparing to adopt a little girl from Thailand. We will most likely be able to go get our daughter the second half of 2016, and my remaining half-time will help us welcome her and adjust to our new family reality.

So, with all these things in mind, I feel God continues to call me to Trinity in the current capacity in which I serve. Someday I know that I want to return to full-time ministry, but not now. I am thankful for God’s presence throughout this transition process and trust God’s presence will continue throughout this discernment!

Declaration of Intent Pastor Sarah Semmler Smith

sarah@trinity-ec.org

Time flies when you are having fun, and it seems just moments ago that I was called as Associate Pastor to Trinity in 2013. I continue to be energized, challenged, and affirmed in my calling to work with and among you. Each new family I get to know, baptism I get to perform, or class I get to teach draws me into a deeper understanding, appreciation, and delight for ministry here.

I feel I am just getting going in the areas in which I serve—Children’s Ministry and Evangelism—and look forward to much fruitful work towards God’s kingdom as I continue in the capacity of Associate Pastor. I am assured that the Spirit will bless and guide us into this next phase of shared ministry and look forward with hope to what God has in store for us during and on the other side of this transition in leadership.

Declaration of Intent Pastor Jim Page

jim@trinity-ec.org

Trinity continues to live out our mission of “Serving in Christ’s Love and Sharing the Good News” in inspiring ways, and I have experienced great joy in my eight years of ministry as one of your Associate Pastors. My words fall short in describing the ways that I have seen God present as we together answer God’s call to discipleship.

In this period of pastoral transition and discernment about who will be our next Lead Pastor, I feel that God is calling me to a new venture beyond my current role of Associate Pastor. I have submitted my Rostered Leader Profile to the ELCA with the intent at this time of being available to new call opportunities throughout the ELCA, as well as possibly the new call opportunity here at Trinity.

I value Trinity’s transition process and the transparency it displays. So I share this information out of respect and care for you, as a congregation, and I believe that God will be present and actively guiding all of us in this important time!

"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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Worship & Music Director

Gary Rambo—Trinity Choir
Ryan Poquette—Trinity Tollers
Kris & Brian Pressler—Worship Music Leaders
Drew Brandenburg—CrossWord Youth Band
Jeanne Cooper—God's Little Singers
Corrine Gransee Paral—Children's Choir, Club78 Choir
Liz Drayton—Totally Joyous Christians

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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 Tuesday, December 15.