



ON OUR WAY CHRISTIAN PRACTICES FOR LIVING A WHOLE LIFE



Join us this Lent for Wednesday worship, as we center ourselves on the theme "On Our Way: Christian Practices for Living a Whole Life."

There are many things in our lives that we practice to improve ourselves and to grow and learn ... the piano, basketball, a new language. Faith is no different. When we commit to practicing our faith in different ways, and do this in a community where others have different experiences and ways of looking at life, we stretch ourselves and grow as followers of Jesus. We open ourselves up to experience anew where God's grace and mercy are breaking into our lives.

During worship this Lent, we will focus on six different practices of faith that contribute to our living a whole and abundant life as a disciple of Jesus Christ. Beginning Ash Wednesday, we offer worship twice on Wednesdays during Lent: at 12:15 P.M. and 6:30 P.M. Our *themes* for each week are the following:

- February 18 Living in the Presence of God
- February 25 Honoring the Body (12:15 P.M.); Making a Good Living (6:30 P.M.)
- March 4 Friendship and Intimacy
- March 11 Being Open to Learning
- March 18 Discerning God's Call
- March 25 Knowing and Loving Neighbors of Other Faiths

Please join us as we explore these practices of human life and faith and how our faith in Jesus Christ carries over to the way we live in the world. During Lent, as we remind ourselves to return to the Lord our God, let us do this with an eye towards our spiritual practices and remembering God's desire for us to live lives of wholeness centered around the grace and forgiveness we receive in Jesus.

Lenten Soup Lunches

Each Wednesday after the 12:15 P.M. Lenten service, the Trinity Room will be the place for marvelous soup and enjoyable fellowship. Each week we will serve soup favorites from years past. We will have your favorite cheese breads from Great Harvest and something sweet to end the meal. A free will offering helps offset expenses for Friends of Flynn and the National Youth Gathering Trip.

Revelation Bible Study During Lent

Join Pastor Brahm for a study of Revelation during the Lenten Season. We will be using a Bible study written by Dr. Barbara Rossing titled "Journeys Through Revelation: Apocalyptic Hope for Today."

Revelation has a reputation of being all about doom and gloom, filled with weird visions and creatures and associated with the rapture, a time when the world would be destroyed by a vengeful Jesus. But does that sound like the Jesus we know from the cross and from the resurrection? Taking a historical, Lutheran perspective, Dr. Rossing's study will lead us to see Revelation as a vision of God's healing love for the world, written to the early church who was being strongly persecuted by the Roman Empire. Revelation is a book about hope that we receive in Jesus Christ and has beautiful imagery and songs that have formed Christian worship throughout the centuries. Ultimately, Revelation is about Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, and Jesus' love for us and creation.

We will be meeting Thursday Evenings (February 19, 26 and March 5, 12, 19) at 6:00 P.M. The cost is \$9.00. To register, sign up at Clipboard Central in the lobby or online at trinity-ec.org For more information, contact Pastor Brahm at brahm@trinity-ec.org



DEAR FRIENDS

Connecting our faith to our daily lives is what we long to do though it can often be challenging to do so. Hectic schedules, the possible less-than-favorable impression from others, and perhaps even a tad of insecurity about how we live out our faith each day can be present. What does it mean to live out our faith in what we do?



That is a central challenge for Christians: taking God's teachings in the scriptures and our renewed souls from the sacrament of Holy Communion into our lives as individuals, parents, employees, relatives, and friends.

I am excited about this upcoming season of Lent for two reasons that connect faith and daily life:

1. An inspiring series, "On Our Way," that will focus on Christian practices of faith in our lives that lead to wholeness and abundant life.
2. An enlightening adult education opportunity titled "Taking Care of Business" immediately following worship on Wednesday evenings from 7:15 P.M.–8:00 P.M. Each gathering will incorporate a 15 minute DVD presentation, discussion, and a brief presentation from a Trinity member on the topic of faith in the workplace. Each presenter is a leader in their field. It is not imperative to attend every week; simply attend when you can! Topics include: Meet the Boss, Current Economic Indicators, The Corner Office, Going Public, Paying Your Dues, and Leaving Early. We are fortunate to have the following guest speakers
 - Sue Brown (Food and Nutrition Director, Eau Claire School District)
 - Faye Deich (Chief Operating Officer; Sacred Heart Hospital)
 - Todd Glaser (Head Football Coach; UWEC)
 - Adam Mohr (Financial Advisor/Managing Partner; Mohr, Kolinski, Noe & Associates)
 - Dana Schroeder (Chief Financial Officer; Productive Living Systems, Inc.)
 - Jon Schultz (Division Chief, Eau Claire Fire and Rescue)

I invite you to this unique gathering after Wednesday worship during Lent where matters of faith will be discussed! Come and learn from these Trinity members about their professions and where they see faith present in what they do! We will together become better equipped to live out our faith each day to bless others.

Lent will be a wonderful six weeks at Trinity where practical topics of faith will open our lives to God's presence as we live in response to God's love and grace. Come and worship; come and learn; come and nurture your faith among others!

Peace, Pastor Jim

20th Annual Pancake Carnival

Tuesday, February 10, 4:00–7:00 P.M.

Come and celebrate with us at our Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Advance ticket prices are \$6.00 for age 12 and over and \$3.00 for under age 12. At the door on February 10, prices are \$7.00 for age 12 and over and \$3.00 under age 12. Tickets will be on sale on Sundays, February 1 and 8, before and after worship and also on Wednesday, February 4. It's a great night! During the week, tickets are available in the Church Office.

The Holy Land and Jordan this Fall

Join Pastor Kurt and Trinity friends in an amazing tour to the "Holy Land and Jordan" October 20–November 2. This tour, created exclusively for Trinity, will highlight not only biblical sites of interest, but also bring you to places where Lutherans across the world are contributing to a better life for many in East Jerusalem and the West Bank.

Registration for this trip is now open with Higgins Travel Leaders. You, your friends, and your relatives are welcome to join this tour. A full brochure is available at trinity-ec.org or in the Lobby. For more information please contact Pastor Kurt at kurt@trinity-ec.org or Joan Lorenz at joan@higginstravel.com

Spice Drive Thank You

Thank you to everyone who brought in spices and food seasonings for the Trinity Food Pantry as part of the Children's Ministries Spice Drive this past January. These donations will further enhance the variety of items available to food pantry visitors.



Succession Planning Begins

The pastoral succession planning process beginning now seeks to have a new lead pastor selected by the time Pastor Kurt Jacobson retires in later 2016. Right now, you are invited to apply to be part of one of the three key teams which have major responsibilities in the process. They are:

1. Transition Team
2. Call Committee
3. Start-Up Team

Apply online on the "Transitions" page of trinity-ec.org or print and submit the form to the church office. While online, read the descriptions and desired skills and experiences needed for each team. There's also a helpful FAQ piece and an overview of the process online. Applications for the teams are due by February 15.



Photo Directory

Sign-up online on our web page at trinity-ec.org

Weekday Photo Hours are 2:20 P.M.–9:00 P.M., and Saturday Hours are from 10:00 A.M.–4:30 P.M.

These dates are currently available for registration:

- Tuesday, February 24, thru Saturday, February 28
- Tuesday, March 17, thru Saturday, March 21

Additional dates in April will be posted and available soon.

Cost... there is none! There is no sitting fee, and for participating, you will receive a complimentary 8"x10" portrait and a free church directory! There will be no pressure to order additional portraits.



Human Trafficking Forum

The International Labor Organization estimates that there are 20.9 million victims of human trafficking globally, including 5.5 million children. Wisconsin has one of the highest number of cases of human trafficking in the US. A forum on Human Trafficking will be held on Thursday, February 19, from 6:00–8:00 P.M. in the Trinity Chapel. The evening will consist of viewing the film "Nefarious: Merchant of Souls" as well as information about trafficking in the Chippewa Valley.

Featured guests are Jeni Haddad from Family Support Center, Jenny Almquist from Fierce Freedom, and Dave Malone, former Eau Claire Chief of Police, and Trinity member. Please join us for this event, and learn what you can do to recognize and fight trafficking in your community. For more information, contact Pastor Jim at jim@trinity-ec.org

Human Trafficking Sculpture

Eau Claire artist Kathy Steinke's sculpture "Sara" tells the story of a young girl trapped in the world of human trafficking. Trinity will showcase this sculpture in our lobby from February 9–23. Upon learning about human trafficking, the most common question is, "What can I do?" We can use our creativity, like Kathy, to spread awareness. We can educate, advocate, and volunteer to assist organizations in addressing this issue. As "Sara" travels around our community, you are invited to join in the fight to break her chains and those of a million like her.

Annual Meeting Ahead

The Annual Meeting of Trinity will be Sunday, February 8, at 10:45 A.M. in the Worship Center. This constitutional mandated meeting includes important elections, approval of financial reports, and approval of an annual budget. Those who attend will learn more about the Pastoral Succession Planning process underway in 2015.

The 2014 Annual Report will be available online at trinity-ec.org by February 1. Limited print copies will be available at the meeting.



Recycle your plastic and paper bags by dropping them off at church for our pantry! Thank you.



Men to Jamaica

As February starts, a team of nine men from Trinity will take our global mission back to Jamaica in person as they build at Jabneh Christian Academy in Grange Hill. This seventh annual men's mission benefits this Christian school with 80 children. They're finishing a bath/shower facility started last winter and beginning construction of a kitchen facility.

The generosity of many Trinity members and friends makes possible the purchase of building supplies and classroom supplies. Along with a grant from the Endowment Trust Fund, the majority of the \$8,000 needed for the project was raised. Thank you! The men cover their own expenses and contribute to the material costs, too.

Sabbatical Approved

Pastor Kurt Jacobson has been granted a sabbatical by the Council for spring 2015. This policy of Trinity grants full-time pastors thirteen weeks for renewal after six years of service. Pastor Kurt will be away April 6–July 6. During that time he will volunteer with Global Volunteers in an Appalachian coal-mining town and provide pastoral coverage at least one weekend for a pastor in need of respite. He'll travel for a period in Eastern Europe and finish the sabbatical by documenting his work responsibilities as Lead Pastor and major historical events during his tenure which began in June, 1988. These documents will contribute to the succession planning process and transition that will commence upon his retirement anticipated in the later half of 2016.

Friendship Group Meeting

Trinity's seniors will meet on Wednesday, February 11, at 10:00 A.M. in the Chapel. After a short business meeting, they will meet at the Chippewa Valley Museum for a guided tour of the new exhibit "Changing Currents." Cost of the tour is \$4 per person, or you may get in with a museum membership card. Lunch will be on your own at Red Lobster. All are welcome to join us.

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 helpful ways. Find this guide in the Worship section of trinity-ec.org

Praying for the World

This year, as a worshipping community, we'll be praying for every country in the world. Each week in worship we'll pray for four countries, and by year end we'll have prayed for all 196 of them.

The goal of praying by name for all the countries is:

- To encourage us to think globally and beyond our own concerns while stretching ourselves to pray with love and respect for all people.
- To be inspired to look for news about ways God is at work in other countries.
- To pray through world events of joy, sorrow, startlingly unexpected, or boringly ordinary.
- To raise our own awareness of the vastness of God's world.

Check out these two ways to engage in World in Prayer:

- Visit the world map in the hallway by the nursery and peruse the countries. There you'll find a list of countries and the schedule for four each week.
- Subscribe to World in Prayer and receive weekly posts of international news in prayer form.

World In Prayer was started by the Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist in Lodi, California, to teach ways of praying in response to international news and invite others to deepen their own prayers for the needs of the world. Find these prayer resources and more at: <http://www.trinity-ec.org/prayer.phtml>





Received in December 2014 Memorials & Gifts

Poinsettia Tree Fund

- In memory of Marie Rudolphson: Ken Rudolphson

Food Pantry Fund

- In honor of William Burdt: Diane Burdt
- In memory of Jeff Twesme: Paul & Joy Twesme
- In memory of Eric Twesme: Paul & Joy Twesme
- In memory of Lois Buchanan: Jim & Marilyn Bollinger
- In honor of LoWayne & Sue Rust: Jennifer Anderson

Children's Bible Fund

- In memory of Leona Collins: Miriam Circle
- In memory of Jan Oliver: Bob & Mary Schoenknecht

Library Fund

- In memory of Leona Collins: Bob & Mary Schoenknecht
- In memory of Robert Dawson: Vi Berg

Endowment Trust Fund "Faith Lights"

- In memory of Mom & Dad: Ellen Harris
- In memory of Wayne Bertelson & Laverne Bertelson: Alyce Bertelson
- In memory of Allan Friederich: Cathy Ott
- In honor of Mary Friederich: Cathy Ott
- In memory of Loved Ones: Sandra Gravunder
- In honor of Families everywhere: Sandra Gravunder

Endowment Trust Fund

- In memory of Jan Oliver: Barb Vorhes, Phyllis Burrows
- In memory of Jeff Wurtzel: Norb & Helen Wurtzel
- In memory of Lois Buchanan: Phyllis Burrows
- In memory of Piper Benton: Allan & Patricia Hanson

Youth Ministries Fund

- In memory of Jeff Wurtzel: Norb & Helen Wurtzel

Noah's Ark Preschool Fund

- In honor of Noah's Ark Teachers—Jeanne, Ginny, Marlee, and Jill: Bob & Mary Schoenknecht

Trinity Choir Fund

- In memory of Jan Oliver: Skyward, Inc.

Health Ministries Fund

- In memory of Jean Wheeler: Mark & Marti Hofer
- In memory of Jack Garber: Karen Metzgar

Circle Listings

Deborah

Thursday, February 19, 9:30 A.M.
Trinity
Hostess: Helen Mateski
Leader: Barb Johnson

Dorcas

Wednesday, , 1:00 P.M.
Hostess:
Leader:

Martha/Mary

Tuesday, February 17, 7:00 P.M.
Trinity
Hostess: Dianna Miller
Leader: Kathy Gjesfjeld

Miriam

Wednesday, February 18, 9:30 A.M.
Trinity
Hostesses: Sonia Becker & Avis Drung
Leader: Group

Ruth

Tuesday, February 17, 1:30 P.M.,
Trinity Fireside Room
Hostess: Char Finseth
Leader: Group

Lenten Bible Study for Women

A study on Philippians will be offered on Monday evenings at 6:00 P.M. during Lent at the Coffee Grounds. Enjoy an evening with friends, a cup of your favorite coffee or a glass of wine, and one of the most uplifting books of the Bible. Could this be where God is calling you to spend Monday evenings during Lent? All women are invited to join Pastor Sarah for a brief five-week Bible study on the book of Philippians. No preparation is necessary. Come once, or come weekly as you are able. We will meet on February 23, March 2, 9, 16, and 30. Sign-up on our website or at Clipboard Central. Contact Pastor Sarah for more



information at sarah@trinity-ec.org

Books Warm the Heart and Delight the Mind New in the Trinity Library

New Fiction

- *Still Life With Bread Crumbs* by Anna Quindlen. "This story begins with an imagined gunshot and ends with a new tin roof. Between the two is the wry and knowing portrait of Rebecca Winter, a photographer whose work made her an unlikely heroine for many women. Her career is now descendent, her bank balance shaky, and she has fled the city for the middle of nowhere. There she discovers, in a tree stand with a roofer named Jim Bates, that what she sees through a camera lens is not all there is to life." Literary Book Club (FIC QUI)
- *Under the Wide and Starry Sky* by Nancy Horan. This is a novel about "Fanny Osbourne who kidnapped Robert Louis Stevenson's heart ... A richly imagined novel of love, laughter, pain and sacrifice." USA Today (FIC HOR)
- *Brooklyn* by Colm Toibin. The novel, *Brooklyn*, is set in Ireland and Brooklyn in the early 1950's. A young woman, Eilis Lacey, leaves the small town in Ireland where she grew up to start a new life in America. Eilis finds work in a department store and, when she least expects it, finds love. (FIC TOI)
- *Lila* by Marilynne Robinson. "When Lila arrives in Gilead, she struggles to reconcile her makeshift family with the worldview of her minister husband who judges them." BAM (FIC ROB)
- *The First Phone Call from Heaven* by Mitch Albom. From this best selling author comes this thrilling and magical novel. "One morning in Coldwater, Michigan, the phones start ringing. The voices say they're calling from heaven, but is it a hoax?" BAM (FIC ALB)
- *This Dark Road to Mercy* by Wiley Cash. "After their mother dies, two children are stolen away from a foster home by their wayward father in the middle of the night. Narrated in alternating voices that are at once captivating and heartbreaking, *This Dark Road to Mercy* is a soulful story about the emotional pull of family and the primal desire to outrun a past that refuses to let go." BAM (FIC CAS)
- *The Signature of All Things* by Elizabeth Gilbert. Love, adventure, and discovery are at the heart of *The Signature of All Things*, which soars across the globe from America to Tahiti to tell the story of a brilliant woman named Alma Whittaker. Born in 1800, the daughter of a charismatic botanical explorer, Alma quickly comes into her own within the world of plants and science. Penguin Book (FIC GIL)
- *The Kitchen House* by Kathleen Grissom. "A touching tale of oppressed women, black and white... This novel about love, survival, friendship, and loss in the antebellum South should not be missed." The Boston Globe "Through the eyes of Lavinia and Belle, Kathleen Grissom's debut novel unfolds in a heartbreaking and ultimately hopeful



story of class, race, dignity, deep-buried secrets, and familial bonds." Minneapolis Star Tribune (FIC GRI)

New Nonfiction & Biography

- *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown. "This is the intimate account of how nine working-class boys from the American West beat the odds and came to compete in the 1936 Berlin Olympics." BAM (797.12 BRO)
- *Vanishing Grace* by Philip Yancey. Using his trade mark journalistic style, story-filled, compelling, accessible, Yancey explores how grace can bridge the gap between Christian faith and the world. (277.3 YAN)
- *Killing Patton* by Bill O'Reilly & Martin Dugard. The authors recount the dramatic final months of World War II in Europe and General George S. Patton Jr.'s invaluable contributions to the Allied victory before his mysterious death in a car collision in December 1945, days before he was to return to the United States. For almost seventy years, there has been suspicion that his death was not an accident and may very well have been an act of assassination. (355.0092 O'R)
- *41: A Portrait of My Father* by George W. Bush. George W. Bush describes his father's eventful and remarkable three decades in politics. (B BUS)
- *Empty Mansions, The Mysterious Life Of Huguette Clark and the Spending of a Great American Fortune* by Bill Dedman and Paul Clark Newell, Jr. (B DED)

For Children

- *Rules* by Cynthia Lord. "Twelve-year-old Catherine has tried to teach her autistic brother, David, the rules for avoiding embarrassing social moments, but soon she must ask herself: What is normal?" BAM (+ FIC LOR)
- *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library* by Chris Grabenstein. Kyle wins a spot at a sleepover at his favorite game designer's library, but he must solve Mr. Lemoncello's puzzles for a high-stakes



prize." (+FIC GRA)

"Unbroken"

The Page Turners Book Club will meet on Tuesday, February 17, at 6:30 P.M. to discuss "Unbroken" by Laura Hillenbrand.

On a May afternoon in 1943, an Army Air Forces bomber crashed into the Pacific Ocean and disappeared, leaving only a spray of debris and a slick of oil, gasoline, and blood. Then, on the ocean surface, a face appeared. It was that of a young lieutenant, the plane's bombardier, who was struggling to a life raft and pulling himself aboard. So began one of the most extraordinary odysseys of the Second World War.

Ahead of Zamperini lay thousands of miles of open ocean, leaping sharks, a floundering raft, thirst and starvation, enemy aircraft, and, beyond, a trial even greater. Driven to the limits of endurance, Zamperini would answer desperation with ingenuity; suffering with hope, resolve, and humor; brutality with rebellion. His fate, whether triumph or tragedy, would be suspended on the fraying wire of his will.

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

Join Prayer Link

Pastor Kurt invites you to join in praying for others who ask for our prayers and become part of Trinity's Prayer Link. Each week many people ask for the prayers of the pastors, staff, and the people who've agreed to pray for others. Will you join this effort? It's simple. Email Heather Day at heatherd@trinity-ec.org or note your willingness via the Prayer Ministry page under the GROW menu at trinity-ec.org. You will then begin to receive prayer requests via email or phone message. Pray wherever and whenever you can!

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ~ Romans 12:12

When Your Address Changes

Whenever you're moving or changing to "temporarily away" with the United States Postal Service, any mail Trinity sends to you is returned at a cost per item. Please inform the church office when your address changes or when you're going away and having your mail held. Email address updates to heatherd@trinity-ec.org or include Trinity in the United States Postal Service address change cards you send to others. Thank you.



The Quilt Ladies

Come join the group! Quilting pros and novices alike are invited to join at any time. The group meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays each month at 9:00 A.M. in Trinity's lobby. Sew a quilt, and give the everlasting "warmth" and

"comfort" of God's love! Join us February 10 & 24 and March 10 & 24.

Christmas Sharing Project Letters of Thanks

The following are excerpts from the letters of thanks Trinity has received from families helped through the Christmas Sharing Project this past December.

- *Thank you for making our Christmas one to remember!*
- *Thank you for helping our family and my daughter-in-law's family. Without you, it would be extremely difficult.*
- *We would like to thank the people at Trinity for making our Christmas brighter. Thank you for getting our children presents. We are grateful.*
- *Pastor Kurt Jacobson and the People of Trinity Lutheran Church-I would like to thank you and everyone involved for the gifts and gift of food. Because of your generosity, my granddaughters will have a blessed Christmas. The meaning of the holidays for me is the family being together; however, the children are all about the packages! And thanks to you all, we are very grateful. Thank you all again and God Bless You.*
- *This personal handwritten note is for all you people who chose to sponsor families through the Trinity Lutheran Church Christmas Sharing Project. Thank you all for putting other families on your "to do" lists this Christmas season. The gifts and food delivered really do give children something to open Christmas morning, a nice meal to eat, and lightens the stress parents may have just trying to make ends meet and pull it all together. My family had been homeless for two months. I found myself jobless, carless, and disabled from a broken foot. Thankfully, God opened up a place for us to live on December 1st and, thankfully, he put it on your hearts to help the way you did. God Bless You All!*



Children's Ministries

Noah's Ark News

Happy LOVE month! February, and every month, is a great time to share the love that God has given you. Pass it on...it's available in abundance!

Two things for our Trinity Congregation to put on their February calendars:

1. February 3 at 8:00 A.M. Trinity congregational members are invited to register their children for the 2015–2016 Noah's Ark school year. Please call the Trinity office at 715.832.6601. Enrollment has already begun for the currently enrolled students. We hope to hear from you...this is your preschool. Noah's Ark is a great place to be.
2. February 10, Trinity and the Eau Claire community are invited to our 20th annual Noah's Ark Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper from 4:00 P.M.–7:00 P.M. We will tithe to the Ronald McDonald House Charities again this year as many of our families have found this service to be a great one when hospitalization occurs for their children. We also have these sponsors to date: Festival Foods, The Coffee Grounds and Moms on the Run, and Noah's Ark. If you'd like to be one of our sponsors, please email Ms "C" at noahsark@trinity-ec.org. Come enjoy the yummy food, great fellowship, diversity of generations with Trinity's youth serving and working the event, and our annual Art Stroll of the current children's creations. We are thankful for Kirsten Rubenzer and Beth Borsheim, our chairs. Tickets will be on sale on Sundays, February 1 and 8, before and after worship, and also before and after on Wednesday evening worship, February 4.



We hope to see you at Trinity's Annual Meeting on February 8 at 10:45 A.M. As our 2014 year drew to a close, the financial response was amazing. Noah's Ark thanks those preschool families and Trinity members who gave monetary Christmas gifts to our preschool ministry. We are blessed to have your support!

Communion Instruction for Children in First Grade

Communion Instruction is a sacramental class that prepares children in first grade for participation at the Lord's Supper. This is a family class, meaning parents accompany their child so the faith conversation can continue at home. We meet on Saturday, March 7, from 9:00 A.M.–11:00 A.M. in the Trinity Room. Information will be sent to parents of first grade children in early February. Registration will be available by paper form or online. For additional information, please contact Kristy Casto at kristy@trinity-ec.org or 715.832.6601 x 207.

Luther Park Bible Camp

It's time to be thinking about a summer camp experience for children completing grades K–5, especially about attending our own Luther Park Bible Camp in Chetek. Brochures are available around the church at the Youth Tool Bench, in the Children's Ministries office, and in the lobby. We offer 25% of the registration fee as a partial grant. Complete information is also available on the camp website at lutherpark.org

Safety Guidelines

As a reminder to parents, there is no one supervising young children in the restrooms or other parts of the building (other than the Nursery) during the worship services. Parents are advised to accompany their young children and not send them on their own. During Sunday School sessions, children are supervised by their teachers. On Wednesday evenings, we also advise parents to come into the building to pick up their children following choir rehearsals and Camp T.G.I.F. classes. Young children are not released unless a parent or designated person is present.

Open Gym Tuesdays

Open Gym is up and running on Tuesday mornings! This is a great, safe environment for your children to let loose some energy during our cold winter. Each Tuesday morning, until March 17, between 10:00 A.M. and 11:30 A.M. the Trinity Room is open for parents/grandparents and their young children (toddlers-preschool) to come in and use our equipment. Marlee Knickerbocker will supervise the area and offer story time and snack during the last half hour. There is a \$3 charge per session (multiple child discounts and punch cards available). No registration is required; members, friends of members, and non-members are welcome to attend.



Winter/Spring Day Camps

There are still a few openings in some of our Day Camps. We will prorate the fees for late starters. Come join these great fun, educational and faith based classes. You can read more about each class online at trinity-ec.org under the Grow tab. To register, call Julie Lutteke at 715.832.6601 x218.

- NEW CLASS! Monday Great Pretenders—must be four by 8.31.2015
- Music and Movement Mondays (two sessions)—for children eight months—three years
- Tuesday Great Pretenders—must be four by 12.31.2014
- Come and Play Wednesdays Session 2—for children who turn three by 8.31.2015
- Thrilling Thursdays—must be four by 12.31.2014
- Friday Friends—for children who turn three by 2.28.2015



Summer Day Camp Leaders

We are starting the process of staffing leaders for our children's summer Day Camps. If you enjoy working with children and want to be a part of their faith growth contact Julie Lutteke at 715.832.6601 x218. These are paid positions and dates vary throughout June and July.

Youth Ministries

Student Fundraising Accounts

All students in grades 7–12 at Trinity have the opportunity to fundraise for their own Student Account. For every fundraising activity they participate in through Trinity, they will be given a portion of the proceeds from that fundraiser according to the time they spent at the fundraiser. The students are then able to use this money towards any Trinity sponsored event to help ease the burden of financial cost. If a student does not use the money by the time they graduate high school, then this money is either given to a younger sibling's account or it will be given to the Scholarship Fund for all students.

Scholarship Money for You!

A scholarship program is available to all students of Trinity Lutheran Church. It is our hope that all students have the privilege of participating in any event that will nurture their growth in Christ. Every student in grades 7-12 is eligible for a 25% reimbursement of registration costs for all events at Trinity. If further assistance is needed, arrangements can be made with the Youth Ministry Team. Scholarship forms are located next to the Tool Bench in the blue side bins. We

hope this will continue to encourage students to participate in the life changing opportunities here at Trinity!

Souper Bowl of Caring

On Sunday, February 1, youth will lead the "Souper Bowl of Caring," a nationwide hunger relief effort. Youth, sporting their desired team apparel, will invite each person present in worship to help reach our goal of \$1,000 to support the hunger needs in the Eau Claire community. Look for the giant soup pots as you exit worship on Sunday, February 1. All contributions will be donated to Trinity's Food Pantry.

College Care Packages

Another opportunity is available to send your son or daughter a College Care Package. If your son or daughter is attending college or technical college, you may request a special care package to be sent to their dorm or apartment. Toward the end of February, our youth will assemble the packages. The care packages will include a card and a snack. If you are interested in sending a care package to your child, please forward their mailing address to Cassie at cassie@trinity-ec.org or 715.832.6601 x 209 by Sunday, February 15. Our mailing list will include the names given for the Christmas Cards mailed in December 2014.



Summer Stretch God's Work Our Hands

Summer Stretch is a faith centered Day Camp Ministry connecting community service, learning, and youth. Incoming 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th graders are invited to gather with their peers and contribute to the community. Possible activities may include Frisbee Golf, Community Table, swimming, Feed My People Food Bank, Bolton House, Kubbs, and Valley Fair. Brochures and registration materials will be available in late February.



Health Ministries

I struggled with this month's newsletter. I didn't want to cover the same old thing for February. Yes, it is Heart Health Awareness Month and, of course, Valentine's Day with the focus on Love. It's the same old stuff! But, then I realized there is nothing cliché about either of these topics. The greatest Commandment is "You shall love the Lord with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 22:37-39.



So...What Makes God Love Us? It is GOOD to be law-abiding, responsible, dependable, kind to others. But it is BAD to think that this makes God love us! Why so? Because Jesus shows us something totally different and we need again and again to be shocked by God's upside-down way of viewing things. Jesus reveals God's strange point of view by associating with the rejects and the despised of his society. The poor, the sick, the possessed, the non-nationals are his table companions.

This means that God loves people just as they are, in all their inadequacy and brokenness. We don't earn God's love, because we don't have to earn it. We are already totally loved. We see that divine love is never merited. We are loved unconditionally!

So, how do we show our love to God for giving us this blessing of life? We show it by living as healthy as we can!

If You Smoke, Quit: Smoking can raise your risk of CHD and heart attack. Talk with your doctor about programs and products that can help you quit. Also, try to avoid secondhand smoke.

Maintain a Healthy Weight: If you are overweight or obese, work with your doctor to create a reasonable weight-loss plan that involves diet and physical activity.

Be as Physically Active as You Can: We all know that being physically active is good for our health. But how does it really benefit us? Regular physical activity:

- Relieves tension, stress, anxiety, and anger.
- Lowers blood pressure and boost levels of good cholesterol.
- Improves blood circulation which reduces the risk of heart disease.
- Keeps weight under control.
- Helps in the battle to quit smoking.
- Boosts energy level.
- Provides a way to share an activity with family and friends.
- Establishes good heart-healthy habits in children and counters the conditions that lead to heart disease later in life.

Follow a Heart Healthy Meal Plan (Not a Diet!): A healthy diet includes a variety of foods with the focus on vegetables and fruits, whole grains, and lean proteins. It is low in saturated fats, trans fats, sodium (salt), and added sugars (think dessert, candy, regular soda).

Vicki Dueringer, Parish Nurse

Social Concerns Ministries

Shopko to Partner with Trinity!

We are pleased to announce that Shopko has agreed to partner with Trinity to continue our Soles for Special Souls ministry! With the closing of Kmart, there was concern about how this ministry of providing shoes for children in need would continue. This ministry has prospered as a result of the many Kmart employees involved in this effort, and for that we are grateful!

Details are still being finalized, though we are looking forward to promoting the ministry again this spring! Thank you Shopko!

Providing Meals to Hungry Children

Nearly 60% of children at Flynn Elementary qualify for the federal free or reduced lunch program. These children often struggle with hunger on the weekends when school meals are not available. Hungry children have lower academic achievement, increased health concerns, and are more likely to experience hunger throughout their lifetime. But, there is GOOD NEWS. Trinity's Friends of Flynn Ministry partners with Feed My People each week to provide weekend meal bags to over 80 children. We help pack the meals, deliver them to the school, and share in the cost. Thank you to everyone who helps make this possible. You are a blessing to these children! If you would like to support this ministry, note "Friends of Flynn" on your donation.



Serving Others Locally

- Trinity will be serving at **Sojourner House** on Friday, February 20, from 6:30 P.M. to 9:30 P.M. We are looking for volunteers to donate two large fruit salads to be served with the meal. Sign up at the designated sheet at Clipboard Central. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the co-leaders, Phyllis at 715.836.7055 or Sheila at 715.831.8982.
- Trinity will fulfill a variety of tasks at **The Beacon House** from February 22–26. We have spots available for evening and breakfast hosts, providing dinner, and overnight hosts. If you are available for a volunteer shift, you are invited to sign up at the designated sheet at Clipboard Central. Roman and Diane Fritz, Trinity members, will contact you with additional details. Thank you!

"Serving at the Sojourner House"

Trinity's mission seeks to bless the lives of others through the sharing of time and gifts. An inspiring way we do this is through our partnership with the Sojourner House on South Barstow Street in downtown Eau Claire.

Volunteers from Trinity serve on the third Friday of every month. Six volunteers are need from 6:30 P.M.–9:30 P.M. Within that timeframe, we provide a meal for all the guests. All volunteers need to be 18 years of age.

As of December 29, 2014, the Sojourner House averages 5–10 women staying per night, and the number of men averages 24–39 per night. This averages out to 1,137 homeless guests per month!

Guests receive a meal, can shower every night, and can do their laundry once a week. The doors open at 7:00 P.M. with all guests needing to be checked in by 9:00 P.M. All guests depart by 8:00 A.M. after eating breakfast.

Trinity members Phyllis Grohn and Sheila Sorenson are the co-leaders of the Trinity volunteers who commit to serving those in need in this ministry. All volunteers can be assured all their questions will be answered, and they will be guided within a specific task.

Homelessness is a growing concern in the Eau Claire community, and you can enrich the lives of many by serving with Trinity volunteers at the Sojourner House. Especially during these cold winter months, your time and service is needed more than ever.

If you would like to serve with this inspiring ministry, contact Phyllis Grohn at 715.836.7055 or sign up at the designated sheet at Clipboard Central in the Trinity lobby! Thank you!

Social Concerns Committee Expanding

Trinity's Social Concerns Committee oversees a variety of outreach ministries that benefit the lives of many in our community and beyond. This committee is seeking to expand in order to effectively oversee current ministries while engaging new ministry opportunities for Trinity. Two of these new ministries include:

1. Advocacy for human trafficking victims and educating others of this growing concern in our community.
2. Engagement with community leaders in addressing growing homelessness in our community.

Consider sharing your time and gifts with this committee as we seek to join others in benefitting the lives of individuals as well as serving our greater community. Our committee meets on the first Tuesday of the month from 5:30 P.M.–6:30 P.M. If you feel that this would be a good fit for you or you'd like more information, contact Pastor Jim at jim@trinity-ec.org

From Haiti Partners

Dear Trinity

It is a joy to celebrate this Christmas season with you! This is a time of year when we're reminded of the joy of celebrating and remembering together. As we reflect back on 2014, we see the many things you helped make possible: You sent over 1,000 children to primary school.

- *You provided forty-four full scholarships for our Micah Scholars to attend seminary.*
- *You helped open three social businesses to support education.*
- *You distributed thousands of booklets on women and children's rights.*

You brought joy to the thousands of people who came in contact with Haiti Partners.

We recognize these things with a grateful spirit. Your support makes them possible. Every gift, every bit of encouragement, every recommendation and referral, every prayer, helps provide education in Haiti. From our family to yours we pray you have a joyful Christmas season as you reflect on this past year and look forward to the year ahead! We're grateful to work with you to help Haitians change Haiti through education.

*In the hope of Emmanuel
Kent Annan & Brian Ballard
Co-Director &
Development Coordinator*

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

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Trinity Lutheran Church, 1314 East Lexington Blvd, Eau Claire WI 54701
Phone: (715) 832.6601 • Fax: (715) 832.6700 • Web Page: trinity-ec.org

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Congregational President

Herschel Day

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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	
Liz Drayton—Totally Joyous Christians	

Building & Grounds Team

Don Peterson
Sheri Buening

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IT/Ministry Assistant	
Sharry Hebert	sharry@trinity-ec.org
Food Pantry Coordinator	

World Missions

Maranatha Church in Kingston, Jamaica
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 March Newsletter is February 17.