



## Special Musical Guest on January 3

Our celebration of Christmas culminates on Sunday, January 3, when we welcome Joseph Fuller as guest musician on the Yamaha grand piano. Joseph and his music will inspire your praises of God and delight your ears.

Beginning his musical studies at age five, Joseph's talent has been nurtured into a career that continues to flourish. He holds advanced degrees in piano, which include a master's degree from Baylor University, and has worked with some of the world's finest opera houses, children's choruses, and universities in the United States. Having played under conductors from the Metropolitan Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Indianapolis Opera, former Berkshire Opera, and the world renowned Indianapolis Children's Chorus, Joseph's playing has been influenced by some of music's most dynamic and classic composers.

Plan to worship on January 3 and bring a friend to be touched by the passion, artistry, and faith of Joseph Fuller.

## Transition News

The third and final retreat with Dr. Jim Pence of Walkalong Consulting will be January 8–9. A major component of this retreat will be the presentation of the Transition Team's draft of the evidence-based Ministry Site Profile. This extensive document used throughout the ELCA describes our mission and the qualities, experience, and skills needed in our next Lead Pastor. The Transition Team has gained evidence for the Ministry Site Profile through data from the C.A.T. (Church Assessment Tool) taken by over 600 members of Trinity in October 2015, and interviews with staff members.

Please remember to pray for this holy and important work being done among the congregation. Your trust in God and trust in this process is key to moving ahead with a vital mission. The "Transitions" page of [trinity-ec.org](http://trinity-ec.org) has a complete description of the process, roster of the Call Committee, and all news releases. This is your one-stop spot to know everything about this process.

## Call Committee Update

The Call Committee had its first meeting December 16. Greg Kaufmann from the Synod was in attendance and gave an overview of the process as we near the start of our search in early 2016. Please be aware of the committee's hard work. They ask for your prayers and support through the process. Call Committeemembers are: James Fedie (chairperson), Tony Benedict, Stan Hillestad, Mary Pomerening, Deb Gilbertson, and Mary Schoenknecht.

## Israel and Palestine Forum January 3

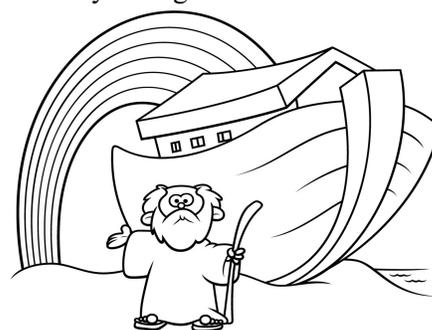
Warren Hermodson was recently part of the Trinity tour to the Holy Land. He will present an Adult Forum on Sunday, January 3, following the 8:15 A.M. worship service. Warren will share engaging and enlightening information on the challenges which exist today and throughout history between Israel and Palestine. Please plan to attend. You'll be glad you did.

## Noah's Ark Open House

All interested families are invited to attend our 2016–2017 Open Houses on Sunday, January 10, at 10:30 A.M. and Monday, January 11, at 6:00 P.M.

Tour the Noah's Ark classroom, ask any questions you might have, and learn about 2016–2017 registration and enrollment. You will also have the chance to meet Marlee Knickerbocker, the new 2016–2017 Director, along with teachers Jill Kasmarek and Ginny Lien. Jeanne Cooper, outgoing Preschool Director, will be there too, along with members of the 2016 Noah's Ark Preschool Committee.

Brochures for the 2016–2017 year will be included in the January 10 Sunday bulletins and are also available at [www.trinity-ec.org](http://www.trinity-ec.org)





## A New Year, An Old Journey

*In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." —Matthew 2:1–2*

I've got wise men on the mind this afternoon—for a few reasons. For one, at our house we are currently getting a daily question from 3 ½ year old Meta, "Are the wise man to baby Jesus yet?" See, being a "church nerd" family (and for the fun of it), the wooden kings from our nativity set don't start out



Advent with the rest of the Christmas crew at the stable. Rather, these three stately astronomers begin December on one side of our house and will take the entire month to "journey" through the dining room, across the family room, into the entry area, all the way to the nativity scene atop our piano, to arrive there by Epiphany on January 6. This is the day the Christian church traditionally celebrates the wise men's arrival, and it is around this time that the infamous larger-than-life paper mache kings make their appearance in Trinity worship (every other year). Meta thinks the "kings" at our house should be moving much faster to their destination. I think this season flies by too fast the way it is - take your time on those camels, gentlemen!

The wise men are significant to the storyline of Matthew's gospel as they bring onto the scene King Herod and his jealousy of the new baby king, setting up Jesus' story to not only echo that of Moses long ago, but to also demonstrate the significance of Christ to the first century political context.

I believe these wise men are also significant symbols for Christians today as a whole, and for Trinity as a congregation in particular. For as little as we know about these men historically, we do know this: the wise men were on a journey. What began with a prayer and a star, ended with their adoration of a new kind of king and the risk to take a new way home for his sake.

2016 will be a journey of change for us in many ways. This year we'll see significant changes in ministry staffing at Trinity. I have been appreciative for the guidance of consultant Jim Pence and the faithful dedication of so many lay leaders who have and continue to give of their time to make this transition transparent, open, and mission-focused. On a different note, 2016 will also bring significant transitions to the Semmler Smith family life as Brahm and I welcome our new little girl from Thailand late summer/early fall.

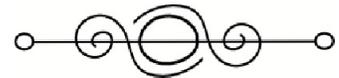
Through it all, I am both hopeful and confident in the future of Trinity. For as the wise men followed a star, this congregation is one which is deeply committed to its mission of serving in Christ's love and sharing the good news. It is the mission which is our star during this time of transition, and with the kings long ago, we too will discover Christ in this journey and will be invited to continue to share our gifts with him and with the world who needs our love.

After all, what we learn from three non-Jewish wise men who came to pay Jesus homage is that the significance of Christ went well beyond the people of Israel. Similarly, the significance of Trinity Lutheran is more than what

goes on within these walls or among those who call themselves "members." The good news we share of a gracious God is for all Eau Claire, for the transformation of our community, and for the positive difference we make in our world.

I am confident in and hopeful for the journey we will embark upon in 2016 because it is God who gathers us, and God who calls us, and God who continues to enliven us for mission. There may be some bumps along the way (I don't think camels came with shocks), but with our eyes on the star (who is the Son) all will be well. This may be a new year, but it's an old, old journey.

In Christ,  
Pastor Sarah



## Baptism Celebration January 10

Don't miss the baptism celebration in worship on Sunday, January 10, and Wednesday, January 13, when we look back at photos of the 46 people baptized at Trinity in 2015! We're going to read about Jesus' baptism and see how it has an important message for our lives today. Come to worship and hear again the news of Jesus' baptism and how it applies to your life!

## Nutrition & Healthy Living Speaker

Children's Ministries is looking for a nutritionist, doctor, or nurse to speak to our sixth grade students on a Wednesday night about nutrition and healthy living. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity and speaking to our sixth grade students, please call Sara Reed at 715.832.6601 ext 215.



## Global Missions: Building Benefits Children

Trinity is dedicated to global missions that make tangible God's love in Christ. This month a team of 12 men will be back at Jabneh Christian Academy in Jamaica from January 21–27. They will work to finish a kitchen/cafeteria facility begun last winter. The team welcomes your support of providing funds for purchasing paint and supplies, lumber, and roofing materials. You may contribute through “Give Now” at [trinity-ec.org](http://trinity-ec.org). Use the “other” line and note “Jamaica” in the comment box. The men pay their own expenses and also contribute toward materials, but your help is key.

The team is comprised of: Matt Blohowiak, Jim Dahlstrom, James Fedie, Jim Gullicksrud, Pastor Kurt, Scott Jadeke, John Konkel, Scott Mohr, Kirk Myhre, Darrin Schober, Pastor Brahm, and Andy Strey.

For more information about Trinity's Global Missions, visit [trinity-ec.org](http://trinity-ec.org) or email [kurt@trinity-ec.org](mailto:kurt@trinity-ec.org)

## Annual Congregational Meeting

Join the Annual Meeting of Trinity on Sunday, January 31, in the Worship Center at 10:45 A.M. This constitutionally directed event brings together all confirmed members to hear reports from the staff, review 2015, elect a new council, and adopt the 2016 budget.

The online Annual Report will be available at [trinity-ec.org](http://trinity-ec.org) starting January 28. Please print a copy and bring it to the meeting. Limited printed copies will be available at the meeting.

## Usher in 2016

If you worship at 8:15 A.M., we really need YOU to join an usher team! Teams consist of 8–12 people and serve for a month of Sundays alternating throughout the year. No experience is necessary. Excellent team captains will orient you, and you'll help provide hospitality and service to your church. Sign-up at Clipboard Central to be on an 8:15 A.M. usher team for 2016, and we'll contact you with additional information.

## Complete a 2016 Time and Abilities Form Make a Resolution

God has given you abilities to express who you are and to make a difference in the world. Our congregation is also enriched by your gifts, and together we can be a powerful force of mission in the community and beyond. By acknowledging your abilities and interests, you help our staff and leaders match people with ministry needs and possibilities.

Please complete a 2016 Time and Abilities Form (one for each adult and teen in your household), indicating ways that you would like to be involved at Trinity in 2016. Forms can be found in your bulletin on January 3 and 10, in the church lobby, and online forms can be found on our website [www.trinity-ec.org](http://www.trinity-ec.org). Please return your forms either in the offering plate during worship or to the church office. Thank you!

## Housing Needed

All are welcome to attend a concert by the Luther College Orchestra at Memorial High School on January 31 at 7:00 P.M. In addition, we and other local congregations have been asked to host the student musicians the evening of January 31 after the concert. The details are as follows: pick up musicians at Memorial High School after the concert (between 9:00 P.M. and 9:30 P.M.), drop off at Memorial High School at 7:15 A.M. the next morning, a minimum of TWO musicians per host, a small snack in the evening and a small breakfast would be appreciated. Please note if you have any potential allergens in your home (dog, cat, smoke).

If you are interested in hosting, please sign-up at Clipboard Central. If you have any questions about hosting, please contact Pastor Brahm at 715.832.6601 or [brahm@trinity-ec.org](mailto:brahm@trinity-ec.org)

## January Spice Drive

Myrrh is mentioned in the New Testament as one of the gifts the three wise men brought to Jesus when he was born (Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh). Myrrh is a spice that has many uses including use as a fragrance and as a flavoring in food products. One of the things rarely donated to food pantries is spices and food seasonings. To mark the arrival of the three wise men and highlight this need in the food pantry, Children's Ministries will be holding a spice drive during the month of January. See the display in the lobby for more information. Please bring UNOPENED spices and food seasonings to donate to the Trinity Food Pantry.





## Moving or Going South?

If you're heading south for the winter, please inform us of your new 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 or change phone numbers (delete your land land), please let Trinity know! To share any changes, contact Heather at [heatherd@trinity-ec.org](mailto:heatherd@trinity-ec.org) or 715.832.6601 ext 202.

## Scholarship Fund Grows

The Jack and Lois Olson Endowed Scholarship Fund at Luther Seminary in St. Paul has reached \$24,000. It was established in January 1990 by the people of Trinity in honor of Pastor Jack's retirement. Jack previously had served four other congregations. The fund provides important financial support for deserving students of Luther with first preference to members of Trinity, second to other Eau Claire area students, and third to members of other churches Pastor Jack served.

Recently, Sarah Miller, member of Spirit Lutheran Church in Eau Claire, received an award from the Olson fund. She will graduate from Luther in the spring and be available for ordination thereafter.

## We Shared Abundantly This Christmas

Thanks to all who shared the spirit of generosity and love this Christmas. Because of your generosity, we were able to distribute toys, jackets, snowpants, clothing, household products, and food to 25 families in the community. This annual Christmas Sharing Project addresses needs of families with school-age children. Thank you to all who helped by purchasing gifts and food, by donating money, and by sorting and delivering the items to the families. The quantity of care and the expression of love that goes out into our community and the lives of these families by this sharing is unbounded. Trinity makes a difference in people's lives, and you have a part in that mission. Thank you for your generosity.

## Thank You from the Staff

The staff extends sincere thanks to all who remembered us during the celebration of Christmas. Your cards and delicious goodies were appreciated. Most of all, your thoughtfulness and support touched us richly. We are grateful to God for calling us to serve this congregation and to experience your friendship and goodwill in so many ways throughout the year. God's blessings to you!

## Circle Listings

**Deborah:** No information submitted

**Martha/Mary:** No information submitted

### Miriam

Wednesday, January 20, 9:30 A.M.  
Trinity  
Hostess: Jan Kneer  
Leader: Mary Schoenknecht

**Ruth:** No information submitted

## Received November Memorials & Gifts

### Memorial Fund

- In memory of Jane Lee: Leneta Johnson, James & Charlyn Peterson
- In memory of Loren Nelson: Dennis & Norma Bohman

### Food Pantry Fund

- In memory of John Hammes: John & Nancy SchAAF
- In memory of Laurence Cook: Hazel Cook
- In memory of Lloyd Miller: Geraldine Miller

### Good Samaritan Fund

- In memory of Beverly Cameron: Jim & Sherry Jones

### Friends of Noah's Ark Fund

- In memory of Kjerstie Pressler: The Clouse Family

### Trinity Choir Fund

- In memory of Bonnie Miller: Bob & Mary Schoenknecht

### Women's Giving Circle Fund

- In memory of Allan Hanson: Dorothy Noecker



# Start the Year Right - READ!

These are new books in Trinity's Library. You can find them on the A Frame display.

## For Adults

- *The Secret Chord* by Geraldine Brooks. If your knowledge of the Bible's King David is limited to the battle of David and Goliath, this book will open your eyes to his extraordinary life and times. Goodreads reviewer Tony writes: "Brooks' capacity to tell a gripping story of a person who is immensely talented and deeply flawed is wonderful." (FIC BRO)
- *After You* by Jojo Moyes. This novel will make the reader laugh, cry, and rejoice at being back in the world previously created by Moyes (Me Before You). Here she revisits beloved characters and takes them to places that were not expected. (FIC MOY)
- *The Bohemian Flats* by Mary Relindes Ellis. The authors' rich, imaginative gift carries the reader from the bourgeois world of Germany to a vibrant immigrant community living in Minneapolis and to the killing fields of World War I. Ellis has been a frequent visitor to Eau Claire for special events and several library committee members have heard her speak and have read this book.. (FIC ELL)

## Adult Biography

- *Walk to Beautiful* by Jimmy Wayne. This biography is the powerfully emotional account of Jimmy's horrendous childhood and the love shown him by Russell and Bea Costner who gave him a stable home and a chance to complete his education. (B WAY)
- *Lady Bird and Lyndon* by Betty Boyd Caroli. The author uses a wealth of primary sources to explore the marriage of Lady Bird and Lyndon Johnson. She weaves the couple's personal lives together with the tumultuous political situations they faced. (B CAR)

## The Walk Series

- *The Walk, Miles to Go, The Road to Grace, A Step of Faith* and *Walking on Water* by Richard Paul Evens are now available in our library. This series is about one man's search for hope following the death of his loved one and the loss of his job and home. He starts out from Seattle, Washington to walk to Key West, Florida. Each book is a piece of the journey and would be best read in order. (FIC EVE)



From the "50 Books to Read Before You're Five!" these are new to the Trinity Collection!

- *You Are My I Love You* by Maryann Cusimano Love and Satomi Ichikawa. Illustrations and rhyming text describe how a parent and child complement one another. (++) FIC LOV)
- *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* by Michael Rosen and Helen Oxenbury. This story is full of delightful comedy and high drama as a brave family romps through sweeping landscapes. (++) FIC ROS)
- *Barnyard Dance!* By Sandra Boynton. Children's favorite farm animals dance around the barnyard. (++) FIC BOY)
- *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* by Bill Martin Jr and John Archambault. The reader will roll along on waves of fun in this lively alphabet rhyme that is now a classic board book. (++) FIC MAR)

## Trinity Page Turners Book Club

The book club meets on Tuesday, January 19, at 6:30 P.M. to discuss "*All the Light We Cannot See*" by Anthony Doerr.

This novel tells the story of Marie, a French girl who goes blind at the age of six and who flees to the countryside when her father disappears from Nazi occupied Paris. Her story becomes entwined with that of German orphan Werner, whose genius with radios makes him an expert tracker of the Resistance, and who ends up in a brutal branch of Hitler youth.

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](http://trinity-ec.org) or sign-up at Clipboard Central. For more information, email Cindy Beck at [cindy@trinity-ec.org](mailto:cindy@trinity-ec.org)



## "Because of God's Great Mercy" 2016 Financial Commitments

Giving is a sign of one's spiritual health and an avenue for growing in love for God. If you have yet to do so, please complete the 2016 financial commitment card online at [trinity-ec.org](http://trinity-ec.org). Thank you.



## Worried About Taxes?

The US Congress continues to wrestle with taxation. But there's no need to wait to make wise plans for your estate. "Estate Planning Smarts" author Deborah Jacobs says, "Giving is the simplest estate-planning technique." Every dollar you give away to charity now saves on estate taxes, and you'll get a break on your income tax while getting a sense of satisfaction." Consider the Trinity Endowment Trust Fund as you make or review your estate plan. Learn more about it at [trinity-ec.org](http://trinity-ec.org)

## Make Devotions a 2016 Resolution

While you're making a new year resolution, do two more things! Pick up free devotional booklets in the information rack in the lobby, and resolve to make devotions part of every day next year. There are two booklets, so take both! Large-print copies available, too.

# Health Ministries

## It's a New Year!

### What are your expectations and hopes for 2016?

I read an article recently titled "The Happiness Challenge; How to Have a REALLY Happy New Year." It did not suggest the usual; you know,..lose weight, exercise more, stop smoking, eat more vegetables. It suggested a more contemplative approach to change that I found refreshing and probably results in more success.

The author recommended looking back on 2015, all the ups and downs, successes and failures. Are you happier than you were last year at this time? Are your personal (family, friends, work) relationships stronger than last year? Is your spiritual life where you want it to be?

Looking back can help guide you in goal setting for 2016. So take some time to reflect on 2015, and ask these questions:

1. What would you like to let go of in 2016? (clutter, worry, unhealthy habits, harmful relationships) What would you like to add more of? (faith, happiness, peace, optimism, health)
2. What is something in your past that you are proud of? This will give insight into your strengths.
3. What is something in the present that excites you? This reveals your passions and priorities.

4. What is something you are looking forward to in the future? What is meaningful/gives you purpose.

Now, using those answers which are rooted in your strengths, passions, and your sense of purpose, you will be able to set goals (notice I did not say resolutions) for 2016 that actually have meaning and importance for you. Your chance for success in meeting your goals is greatly improved.

Vicki Dueringer  
Parish Nurse

## New Resource Person

We would like to introduce you to a newer member of Trinity, Dr. David Mertens, who is a retired oncologist (cancer)/hematologist (blood disorders). David has 35+ years of experience in this field. Now, he would like to offer his knowledge as a RESOURCE person to members, family, and friends of Trinity who are living with cancer or newly diagnosed. David is NOT going to function as a physician; but as a professional with lots of knowledge who can listen, reassure, give guidance if needed, and help maneuver through the health care systems. When you have a diagnosis of cancer, it is life changing for both you and your family members. Having David available as a resource is truly a blessing for our faith community. Contact Vicki Dueringer, Parish Nurse, at [vickid@trinity-ec.org](mailto:vickid@trinity-ec.org) or any of the Pastors at the office if you would like a visit from David.

## Advanced Directive Certification

Parish Nurse Vicki Dueringer recently attended training and received certification on completing advanced directives. Many of you might think it is simply filling out the form, and you're done. However, does the person you named POA of health care truly understand your wishes? Do they even know you chose them? How will the rest of the family feel about your choice? What do terms like vegetative state, quality of life, etc. mean to you? What you think and what your POA thinks could be different. If you have questions or want to meet, please contact Vicki at [vickid@trinity-ec.org](mailto:vickid@trinity-ec.org)



# Social Concerns

## Friends of Flynn

Our partnership with Flynn Elementary helps fill the gap for low-income students. We also strive to support teachers and administration who work tirelessly every day for the kids. Thank you for making this happen! Here are a few of the things we accomplished in 2015:

- Healthy snacks were provided to students twice a week in the spring and fall.
- Weekend meals were delivered each Friday through our partnership with Feed My People.
- School supplies were provided in the fall and throughout the year as needed.
- Numerous pairs of athletic shoes were donated to the school for children to borrow so that they may participate in physical education classes.
- Clothing items including socks, underwear, and sweat pants were donated for students in need of these items.
- Special treats were delivered to the Flynn teachers and staff to thank them for their commitment to the Flynn students.
- Children were allowed to pick out a book to keep before spring break, summer break, and Christmas break.
- Lots and lots of Campbells® soup labels, General Mills® box tops, milk caps, and pull tabs off soda cans were given to the school. (We will continue to collect these items!)

Thank you for your support of this partnership. We look forward to new, exciting ways to support the students and teachers at Flynn School in 2016.

## "Best Shopping Trip Ever" Pantry Amplifies Our Mission

*Excerpted note from a recent food pantry guest.*

Dear Trinity Lutheran Church:

I wanted to send a note to say thanks. This week I visited your food pantry. For me it was of the most humbling and difficult decision I have ever made. For some reason I had pictures in my mind that it would be an awful experience. Instead I was greeted by friendly faces, kind words, helping hands, and a lot of love for my family.

You made my children feel like it was the best "shopping" trip ever because they got to pick anything out, and they didn't have to put it back. You made them smile and feel comfortable. They have no idea that our family is struggling this year, and you kept it that way. Thank you!

I have spent most of my life on the other side of the table. I have, in some sort or another, served in mercy ministries almost my entire life. As an adult I have served as a missionary in Central America, worked in the inner city, and worked at homeless shelters among others. In all those years, I never thought it would be me waiting in that line.

We are a one income family and fall just above the poverty limit 110%. We adopted my oldest. She has some unexpected special needs, so I had to quit working to stay home with her. This has been a wonderful blessing for our family. We just financially have to be very careful. This year our youngest was born. My husband had some unpaid time off when she was born. We were prepared for this. She has since had two hospital stays and many trips to Minnesota for doctor appointments. We were not prepared for this. It has been devastating to our budget.

I have somehow managed to make the mortgage, but that's about it. It will probably be this way for a few months. Eventually our daughter should be stronger, and our budget will go back to normal.

In the meantime, I really wanted you to know how very thankful we are for your assistance. It's often a thankless service. In fact, at one point I stood back in disbelief as a lady who came to the pantry was rude and made a point to complain about the meat that was offered to her!

Your staff was so gracious and kind. Your staff offered to carry the food to my car. I didn't need help, but my friend did and you were so helpful.

Thanks for serving the need. Thanks for "as you do unto the least of these." Thank you for feeding my children.

I pray that God richly blesses your ministry!

*Name withheld upon request*

*Our mission of "Serving in Christ's Love and Sharing the Good News" makes a difference in this world. Thank you for your part in carrying this mission forward and supporting it with you prayers, time, and financial offerings.*

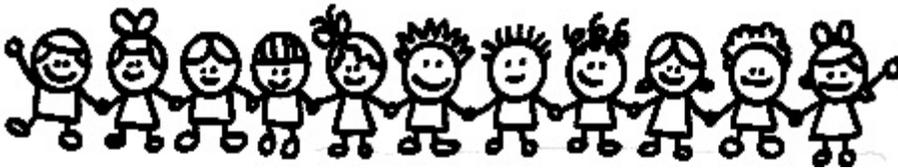




# Children's Ministries

## Open Gym Tuesdays

Beginning Tuesday, January 5, from 10:00–11:30 A.M., the Trinity Room will be open for parents/grandparents and their young children (toddlers–preschool) to come in and use our equipment in a large safe space. Julie Ezell will supervise the area and offer story time and snack during the last half hour. There is a \$3 charge per session. For children of the same family, the cost is \$5 for two kids and \$7 for three. No registration is required; members, friends of members, and non-members are welcome to attend.



## Early Childhood Enrichment Classes

For more information on any of our Children's Ministry programming, please check out the Trinity Website ([www.trinity-ec.org](http://www.trinity-ec.org)) or contact Sara Reed at 715.832.6601 ext. 215 or [sarar@trinity-ec.org](mailto:sarar@trinity-ec.org).

## 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.

*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 News

We thank all Trinity families and friends who donated to the Hat, Mitten, and Sleeper tree in the Noah's Ark hallway this past Advent season. (and the Wall of Food) It is always fun to wrap up as many gifts as we can for the Christmas Sharing Project and take any leftovers to the Bolton House. The Food Wall was amazing this year. We give thanks for your many donations that have gone out to families in need.



Noah's Ark visited Feed My People Food Bank in Advent as a field trip. We packed apples for the weekend meals that go home with children from their schools each Friday. We saw first hand where our own food pantry gets the food to stock its shelves. We came right back to Trinity and visited our own Food Pantry in the building. Sherry Hebert and her team of volunteers do an amazing job distributing food to the needy in our community. We thank Suzanne Becker and the Feed My People staff for our wonderful visit. It was one of our favorite field trips!

Noah's Ark will resume on January 4 and 5 with fun Epiphany, Wise Men, and star celebrations. We give thanks for the 2015 year and look forward to fun ahead in 2016. God is good, and we are truly blessed!

All interested families are invited to attend our 2016–2017 Open Houses on Sunday, January 10, at 10:30 A.M. and Monday, January 11, at 6:00 P.M. Tour the Noah's Ark classroom, ask any questions you might have, and learn about 2016–2017 registration and enrollment. You will also have the chance to meet Marlee Knickerbocker, the new 2016–2017 Director, along with teachers Jill Kasmarek and Ginny Lien. Jeanne Cooper, outgoing Preschool Director, will be there too, along with members of the 2016 Noah's Ark Preschool Committee.

Brochures for the 2016–2017 year will be included in the January 10 Sunday Bulletin and are also available at [www.trinity-ec.org](http://www.trinity-ec.org). Hugs for an amazing new year!



## New Driver Recognition

On Wednesday, January 13, students who are eligible to earn a driver's license in 2016 will be recognized during the Wednesday Evening Worship Service. Students and parents will receive an AAA Parent/Teen Driving Agreement. AAA has developed this agreement to help families work together to navigate the learning process. Students will also receive a key chain as a gift from the Parish Nurse and the Youth Ministry Team.

## Community Table

Food is a basic need of humankind, and it is our privilege to serve those who go without! We will be serving a meal to those in our community at the Community Table on Friday, January 22, from 3:00 P.M.–7:00 P.M. Two shifts are available to the congregation: 3:00 P.M.–4:30 P.M. and 4:30 P.M.–7:00 P.M. A sign-up sheet is available at the Tool Bench and at Clipboard Central.

# YOUTH MINISTRIES

## Friends of Flynn Weekend Meals

On Wednesdays, January 13 and 27, from 4:00–5:30 P.M. Trinity youth and adult volunteers will assemble weekend meals for Flynn Elementary School students as well as many additional elementary schools in the Eau Claire district. We will meet at Feed My People Food Bank, 2610 Alpine Road, on Eau Claire's west side.

## 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. This year's theme is Breaking News: The Miracles of Jesus. 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](http://www.lutherpark.org) or call 715.859.2215. Scholarships are available to offset the cost of registration. Contact Cassie or Lisa with any questions.

# "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  
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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

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## 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 February Newsletter is January 19.