



Worship Notes

- November 6 All Saints Sunday • All services the week of November 6 give honor to God for the faithful people who have gone before us. In generous love, God has provided us with the saints, and in worship we'll include a visual remembrance of our family and friends who have died in the past year. All Saints is a wonderful festival to recall the people who have died in faith and passed along to us a legacy that will continue into the future.
- November 23 Thanksgiving Eve • Come and worship at 6:30 P.M. on Wednesday, November 23. This festive worship includes the Trinity Brass and all choirs. The Lord's Supper is offered, and many children will make their first communion.
- Christmas • Join us on Christmas Eve for worship at 2:00 P.M. with Children's Choirs; 4:00 P.M. with Harmony In Spirit; and 10:00 P.M. with the Trinity Orchestra, Choir, and Tollers. An extended time of music before the latest service begins at 9:30 P.M. We will celebrate the Festival of Christmas on Sunday, December 25, with one service at 9:45 A.M. Worship will include the Trinity Brass, and lots of great Christmas music.

New Worship Service

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

Yoga 101

Yoga is a 5,000-year-old wisdom tradition integrating body, mind, and spirit. It encompasses strengthening and releasing areas of tightness, body and breath awareness, conscious exploration of mental and emotional patterns, deep relaxation, and the opportunity for spiritual awareness. Cassie Brenden will offer a "Yoga 101" class in the Trinity Room on Thursday, November 10, at 6:30 P.M. for anyone who is interested. Please note that yoga is an individualized practice and is appropriate for any age and ability. If you can't make it down to the floor, we will bring the floor up to you! Bring your enthusiasm, a yoga mat or towel, and make sure to wear comfy clothes. Sign-up at Clipboard Central!

Community Thanksgiving Dinner

Give thanks with a grateful heart! Give thanks to the Holy One! On Thanksgiving Day, November 24, Trinity will host our annual Thanksgiving Dinner. We'll offer two seatings: 11:30 A.M. and 12:30 P.M. This is a dinner for the community. The atmosphere is festive, the food is great, the children's activities are fun, and the joy of giving thanks to God is on the faces of everyone!

Last year, we served 417 guests and had more than 90 volunteers serving in many ways. We hope to serve many again this year, and volunteers are necessary across a spectrum of duties: food preparation, carving turkeys, servers, clean-up, and home delivery drivers are only a few of the tasks needed to make this dinner a success.

Are you available and willing to volunteer to serve and/or donate food or funds for this event of service and fellowship? Sign-up sheets to volunteer and lists of needed food items will be at the "Thanksgiving Dinner" table in the lobby beginning October 30 as well as on our website under the "Serve" link. For more information, contact Pastor Dave at dave@trinity-ec.org





ADVENT

Annual Advent Workshop

It's time for one of our most anticipated events of the year! The Advent Workshop will be held on Sunday, November 27, from 2:00 P.M.–5:00 P.M. in the Trinity Room. The Advent Workshop is for people of all ages. Participants will be able to choose from more than 25 activities centered on getting ready for the birth of Jesus. Members are encouraged to invite friends. Delicious treats will be served throughout the afternoon.

We are looking for people to lead an activity. This is a great service project for confirmation students and their leader/mentor. Beginning on November 6, there will be a sign up sheet and display located in the lobby. For more information, please contact Sara Reed at sara@trinity-ec.org or 715.832.6601 ext. 218.

Angel Breakfast

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

Annual Advent Tea

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

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

Faith Lights

The Christmas season is a special time to remember Jesus, the Light of the World. It is also a special time to remember the people who have shared faith in Jesus. This Christmas, the Trinity Endowment Trust Board invites you to honor and memorialize relatives and special friends by dedicating Faith Lights in their name. These lights will adorn Christmas trees in the Trinity Lobby this season. For a small donation, you can dedicate a white light to memorialize a loved one; or a blue light to honor a living relative or friend, or simply to express the joy of faith this Christmas. Faith Light orders will be received through December 11. Forms are available in the Lobby, office, or at trinity-ec.org. All Faith Light gifts will be acknowledged in the Christmas worship bulletins.

Christmas Wreaths

Trinity youth will be taking orders for Christmas Wreaths and Door Swags from Baroka's Wreaths on Sundays, November 6 and 13, and on Wednesdays, November 9 and 16. A table, along with wreath samples, will be in the lobby. Wreaths and swags will be available for pick up at Trinity on Sunday, November 27. This fundraiser will assist students in raising money to attend Trinity's High School Summer Trip with Camp Amnicon's Voyageur Canoeing on Lake Superior in June 2017. A tithe will be given to Friends of Flynn.





Greetings from the Semmler Smiths

As you read this November newsletter, we will still be in Thailand, soon to come home with our 18 month old daughter, Sybil. We will have spent nearly two weeks here already in this wonderful, busy, and diverse city of Bangkok where the weather—like food—is hot! Thailand's culture is a joyful and welcoming one—where “sanuk” (or fun) is not just mindless diversion or frivolity, it's a national mindset which sees it as an intrinsically valuable activity.

These days, however, “sanuk” in Thailand will have been more subdued. On October 13, King Bhumibol Adulyadej died. He had reigned here for more than 70 years. To say this is a big deal is an understatement. Although Thailand is a constitutional monarchy, and currently governed by the military, Thai people loved and revered their king. There is hardly a home or business in Thailand that does not have his portrait hanging somewhere. And so, they have declared a year of national mourning. The King's son will not take the throne until next fall. The normally bright and festive country dons mostly black clothing; even mall mannequins are draped in black. As visitors to Thailand during this time, we have tried to be sensitive, also wearing darker colors out of respect.

As she grows, we look forward to teaching Sybil about the beautiful country and rich culture she comes from, while at the same time showing her what it means to be an engaged American citizen. For now, the main task for us and for her is attachment.

Attachment is defined as the development of a healthy emotional bond, typically developed through early caregiver-infant interaction, that provides a safe haven in distress, a secure base for exploration, and affects the child's social and emotional development into adulthood. Each time an infant or young child cries out with a need—whether it be food or safety or rest—and that need is responded to, attachment is formed. Through positive interactions—time after time—with their primary caregivers, children learn to see themselves as special and competent, others as loving and responsive (vs. uncaring and untrustworthy), and the world as a safe and exciting place.

So, these next months at home with Sybil are critical as we seek to help her attach to us as Mom and Dad. We'll be doing a lot of basics, of responding to her needs, becoming attuned to her personality, and learning one another's rhythms in order to create a new, specific, shared rhythm. Remember, everything and everyone will be new to her! We'll necessarily start her world very small—with just us as parents and Meta as big sister. Then some family and a few friends will meet her. Eventually, she will meet you all—her family of faith—and baptism will happen too.

In the meantime, thank you for your prayers and for this time away to focus on family life. We are better pastors when we are the best parents we can be. We hope to give another update in the December newsletter, but note: due to Thai adoption regulations, no pictures in anything that goes on the web, just yet!

Blessings and Gratitude,
Pastor Brahm and Pastor Sarah



Prayer Join the Team

Prayer is conversation with God that can take place anytime and anywhere. It is a matter of conversing with a very good friend. Typically, the conversation of prayer is about one's own concerns. Hopefully it always includes thanks and praise to God. Prayer is also often for the benefit of someone else. To pray for the needs of another is to lift that person into the caring, healing hands of God.

Trinity has a prayer group called "Prayer Link" that is open to receive your prayer requests (they can be anonymous) so that others are praying along with you. You can submit your request at by contacting a Prayer Link volunteer listed in the weekly bulletin, or by calling the church office at 715.832.6601.

For more information or to become a part of the Prayer Link Team, email Becky Ragsdale at becky@trinity-ec.org

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! You can email Becky

R a g s d a l e a t
becky@trinity-ec.org or by
phone 715.832.6601.



Affirmation of Faith

Confirmation is a pastoral and educational ministry of the Church that is designed to help baptized children identify with the life and mission of the adult Christian community. It is celebrated in a public rite. On October 30, the following high school youth publicly affirmed their baptism in worship: Alexandra Adkins, Jeremy Kaufman, Rebecca Boese, Megan Fuller, Erin Hayes, Alexandra Hansen, Landon Massey, Teddy Paul, Alex Plante, Emily Sylte, Derek Werk, Sierra Auleta, Mark Pepperl, Sydney Presler, Averi Bohman, Katrina Klawiter, Vanessa Luther, Sydney Brown, Zachary Bernhardt, Cooper Kapanke, Connor Stoik, Zini Hirsh, Lucas Zumwalt, Alison Fletcher, Greta Glaser, Leah Hujik, Nicole Hayden, Madeline Hager, Colton Berg, Andrew Solberg, Elizabeth Campbell, Lauren Walker, Annika Walukas.



Baptizing Your Babies

Parents with children they desire to have baptized anytime November 2016–January 2017 are invited to register now for the Baptism Class on Monday, November 14, at 6:00 P.M. in the lobby. This class will answer practical questions about the baptism day, provide important resources for fostering faith in the home, and connect you with other parents of young children at Trinity. Childcare is available. You may contact the church office with questions or sign up for the class online thru Trinity's website at www.trinity-ec.org/baptism.phtml

The Friendship Group

You have met the women; now meet the men. Join the Trinity Friendship Group as they travel to Plymouth Playhouse on November 9 to see the latest Church Basement Ladies play "Rise Up Oh Men of God."

The bus will leave the parking lot at 9:30 A.M. Before the play, we will enjoy a Church Ladies Lunch of tater tot hotdish, mac and cheese, salad, red jello, and bars.

The cost of the trip is \$65 per person which includes the bus, lunch, play and tip for the driver. Please make your checks payable to the Friendship Group and mail them to Linda McClelland 3107 Garner St. Eau Claire 54701. Reservations and checks must be received by October 30.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Trinity is hosting our fall blood drive on Monday, November 14, from 12:30 P.M.–6:30 P.M. Sign-up sheets are at Clipboard Central. If you have not given whole blood in the previous 56 days, you are eligible. Double red cell donors must wait 112 days. If you have never given blood, consider doing so. We are also in need of Greeters, Canteen Hosts, and volunteers to provide baked goods.

Japan Missionaries

Trinity sponsors missionaries in Japan, and the offerings you make to the Missionary Fund provide the financial support they need. Read about the Benecke family on the Global Mission page of trinity-ec.org and see their latest newsletter. Thanks for your offerings to the Missionary Fund.

Noah's Ark Substitute Teachers Needed

Noah's Ark Preschool is working to create a substitute teacher list for the rare occasion that one of the preschool teachers is unable to teach. We are looking for individuals with a teaching background. It would be the perfect way for a retired or former teacher with a flexible schedule to spend some time with wonderful children! A background check would be completed by the Noah's Ark Director. Substitute pay is \$100 for a full day of teaching (8:00 A.M.–4:00 P.M.). If you are interested, contact Marlee Knickerbocker, Noah's Ark Preschool Director, at marlee@trinity-ec.org or 715.832.6601.

Trinity Liturgical Dance Team

Sign up for Trinity's Liturgical Dance Team this fall and help spread God's message through movement. Ages 5 to 105 are invited to participate. No experience is necessary. The Dance Team leader is Lynn Buske, and rehearsals are held in the worship center. Sign up at Clipboard Central or contact Lynn at 715.514.4648.

- Presentation for Sunday, December 25
- Rehearsals are Sundays; November 27 and December 4, 11, 18; from 4:00 P.M.–5:00 P.M.



Be a Communion Server

Because Holy Communion is an important part of our faith life, we need YOU to help serve communion on the first and third Sundays of each month. Simply sign-up on the clipboard near the Lobby drinking fountains for a particular date/service. Arrive ten minutes before worship, and check in at the table near the pulpit with the pastor leading worship to receive instructions. If you have any questions, contact Shirley Sands at 715.832.6601 ext. 214 or shirley@trinity-ec.org

Women's Triennial Convention

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

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

Bus transportation planning is ongoing and will be provided for approximately \$50. Hotel registration should be made, when registration for the gathering is sent in at one of the following hotels which are all about two blocks from the event center.

- Hilton Minneapolis \$162/Parking Rate \$14/day
- Hyatt Regency \$165/Parking Rate \$19/day
- Millennium Hotel Minneapolis \$169/Parking Rate \$18/day

State and local taxes are 13.4% which are subject to change.

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

Circle Listings

Deborah

Thursday, November 17, 9:30 A.M. Trinity

Hostess:

Leader: Barbara Johnson

Martha/Mary

Tuesday, , 6:30 P.M. Trinity

Hostess:

Leader:

Miriam

Wednesday, November 16, 9:30 A.M. Trinity

Hostess: Shirley Anderson

Leader: Mary Schoenknecht

Ruth

Tuesday, November 15, 1:30 P.M

Hostess: Marge Oleson, 875 Windsor Forest Drive, Altoona

Leader: Group

Received August 2016 Memorials & Gifts

Endowment Trust Fund

- In honor of Ron Retzlaff's 75th birthday: Amber & Paul Moltzau
- In memory of George Woodington: Amber & Paul Moltzau
- In honor of Jack & Lois Olson's 65th wedding anniversary: Keith & Carol Sommerfeld

Children's Bible Fund

- In honor of grandson, Owen Michael Wehling: David & Mary Larson

Memorial Fund

- In memory of Marge Thimke: Helen Rizzi

Jeanne Cooper Scholarship Fund

- In honor of Jeanne Cooper: David & Christine Gessner

Trinity Tollers Fund

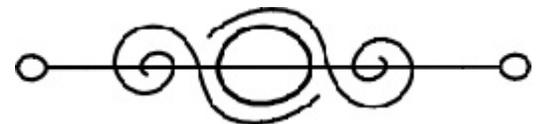
- In memory of Pete Brandvold: Dolores Brandvold

Trinity Food Pantry Fund

- In memory of Susan Burchill: Dawn Kupka, Peggy Aspenson, Judy Scott, Charles & Nancy Helfenstein, Sandra Nordlund

Endowment Trust Fund/Pastor Kurt Jacobson Fund

- In honor of Pastor Kurt Jacobson: Steve & Kris Hayden



Trinity on Facebook

Trinity's Facebook page is an active source of information and inspiration for your faith development. We have several Facebook pages: our general page for all, a youth page, and a Noah's Ark Preschool page. Be sure to "Like" Trinity soon and begin enjoying the benefits of inspiration and news.

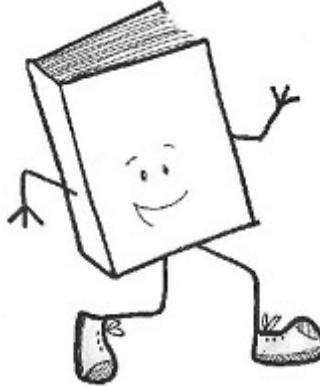


Your Church Library

Take the lead; READ! The following titles are new in our library this month. During November, look for books with a Thanksgiving theme in a specially marked display.

Fiction

- *Woman of God* by James Patterson and Maxine Paetro. Spanning the globe from the drug dens, high-powered law firms, and churches of Boston to the brutality of a civil war in Sudan, violence and spiritual enlightenment of the Holy Land—*Woman of God* is a thrilling tale of perseverance, love, trust and what it means to live in a fallen world. (FIC PAT)
- *Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult. In this book, master storyteller, Jodi Picoult tackles race, privilege, prejudice, justice, and compassion. (FIC PIC)



Biography

- *Accidental Saints: Finding God In All The Wrong People* by Nadia Bolz-Weber. ELCA pastor Nadia Bolz-Weber serves the congregation at House for All Sinners and Saints in Denver, CO. In this biography, she shares stories of how God keeps showing up in the most unlikely of people—a church loving agnostic, a drag queen, a felonious bishop, and a gun-toting member of the NRA. As she lives and worships alongside these “accidental saints,” Nadia is swept into first of many encounters with grace. (B BOL)

For Children and Youth

- *Harriet and the Garden* by Nancy Carlson. Harriet feels terrible until she confesses to trampling on a neighbor’s garden and ruining a prize dahlia. A good book to share with young children about honesty. (++) FIC CAR)
- *Arnie and the Stolen Markers* by Nancy Carlson. After spending his allowance at Harvey’s Toy Stop, Arnie steals a set of markers. (++) FIC CAR)
- *The Three Questions* by Jon J. Muth. Nikolai asks his animal friends to help him answer three important questions: “When is the best time to do things?” “Who is the most important one?” and “What is the right thing to do?” *The Three Questions* is based on a story by Leo Tolstoy. Look for it with the special label *A Book that Encourages Kindness*. (+ FIC MUT)
- *Where Are You Going? To See My Friend!* by Eric Carle & Kazuo Iwamura. This is a story of friendship in two languages. (++) FIC CAR)
- *Swimmy* by Leo Lionni. Deep in the sea lives a little school of fish. Their watery world is full of wonders, but there is also danger, and the fish are afraid to come out of hiding . . . until Swimmy arrives. This brave fish shows his friends how with ingenuity and teamwork, they can overcome any trouble. (++) FIC LIO)
- *Ghosts* by Raina Telegemeier. Catrina and her family have moved to the coast of Northern California for the sake of her little sister, Maya, who has cystic fibrosis. Cat is even less happy about the move when she is told that her new town is inhabited by ghosts, and Maya sets her heart on meeting one. (+ TEL)

- *Hoot* by Carl Hiaasen. Summary: Roy, who is new to his small Florida community, becomes involved in another boy’s attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site. (+ FIC HIA)
- *Scat* by Carl Hiaasen. Nick and his friend Marta decide to investigate when a mysterious fire starts near a Florida wildlife preserve and an unpopular teacher goes missing. (+ FIC HIA)
- *Chomp* by Carl Hiaasen. When the difficult star of the reality television show “Expedition Survival” disappears while filming an episode in the Florida Everglades using animals from the wildlife refuge run by Wahoo Crane’s family, Wahoo and classmate Tuna Gordon set out to find him while avoiding Tuna’s gun-happy father. (+ FIC HIA)
- *Flush* by Carl Hiaasen. With their father jailed for sinking a river boat, Noah Underwood and his younger sister, Abbey, must gather evidence that the owner of this floating casino is emptying his bilge tanks into the protected waters around their Florida Keys home. (+ FIC HIA)

Page Turners Book Club

The Page Turners Book Club meets on Tuesday, November 15, at 6:30 P.M. to discuss *The Sandcastle Girls* by Chris Bohjalian. When Elizabeth Endicott arrives in Aleppo, Syria, she has a diploma from Mount Holyoke, a crash course in nursing, and only the most basic grasp of the Armenian language. It’s 1915, and Elizabeth has volunteered to help deliver food and medical aid to refugees of the Armenian Genocide during the First World War. There she meets Armen, a young Armenian engineer who has already lost his wife and infant daughter.

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



YOUTH MINISTRIES

Sojourner House Cook Out

November is Homeless Awareness Month. High School students will partner with the Sojourner House to co-host a cookout for the homeless community of Eau Claire. The Cook Out is scheduled for Wednesday, November 2, from 6:00 P.M.–8:00 P.M. at the Sojourner House (618 S. Barstow Street). High School students will help grill and serve food, interact with the guests of Sojourner House, and clean-up. A sign-up sheet will be on the High School bulletin board, or you can e-mail cassie@trinity-ec.org for more information.

Cookie Bake

The annual Cookie Bake is scheduled for Saturday, November 12, from 10:00 A.M.–12:00 P.M. in the Trinity Room. Youth will decorate bags and bake cookies. The festive bags of cookies will then be delivered to shut-in Trinity members during Pastoral or Parish Nurse visits, as well as included with the Christmas Sharing Project.

Luther Park Recharge Club 78 and Club 9 Retreat

The Luther Park Recharge is scheduled for the weekend of November 4–5. This retreat is 24 hours of camp to recharge faith through faith discussion, music, friends, and activities. This year's theme is *Anchored*. 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 Ashley or Cassie with any questions.

Club 78 & 9 Youth and Parent Lesson

On November 16, from 7:15 P.M.–8:30 P.M., all Club 78 and Club 9 students and parents will meet to learn about local issues surrounding homelessness and hunger. Club 78 & Club 9 families will have the opportunity to hear from people who work at the Beacon House, the Community Table, and with the EC School District Homeless Student Program. They will share what they do, why they do it, and how we can partner with them.



Health Ministries

As most of you know, as a congregation we are focusing on stewardship right now. In the past, what that meant to me was Treasure (finances), Time (volunteering), and Talent (music, teaching, creating). To be honest, this was not a time in the church year I looked forward to. It was too secular! Church is where I go to receive spiritual renewal, to rejoice, to be uplifted, not to talk money! But if a church does not have the money to maintain the building, pay the pastors and staff, support community outreach, then it won't survive and I won't receive what I need every week. So, Trinity does need financial well-being, people to volunteer to make our programs work, and talent that blesses all the activities of our church.

This year, we are adding Testimony and Temple to make the "Five T's." As Parish Nurse, my focus is on Temple, Caring for Ourselves. This is also a difficult thing for me. One of my core values, how I was raised, is that I am to help others. My own priorities go to the bottom of the list if my family, co-workers, patients, church, or friends need my assistance. And it makes me feel wonderful that I helped another person out; I made a difference! But just as Trinity will weaken if we don't maintain the building, pay the staff, nourish our members, reach out to our community; the same will happen to each of us if we do not care for ourselves.

So this year when you are making your commitments for stewardship for the coming year, make sure you make a commitment to improve your own well-being; be that mind, body, or spirit. It can be a small change or addition: pray five minutes while waiting to pick up the children from school, take five minutes during lunch at work to meditate, park at the far end of the parking lot to get a few extra steps in each day, add one serving of fruit or vegetable to your day. The list is endless! Five minutes of prayer daily is 30 extra hours of prayer each year. That is a lot of conversation with our Lord! Small changes can make a big difference.

Parish Nurse
Vicki Dueringer



Rainbows!

We want the young parents of Trinity Lutheran Church to know about our Rainbow Bags. They are the colorful bags hung beside the three entry ways into our worship center. Each bag contains crayons, a clipboard with paper, and three to four books that are age appropriate for your little ones to utilize while you enjoy the service. They are cleaned out weekly by volunteers and rehung before the next Sunday. Please let your children pick up a bag that is their favorite color and bring it into church to use so they can enjoy the service too. We also have additional books beside the front entry of the worship center for children to enjoy. We believe that it is important for children to witness their parents attending church, and these bags help them feel special, too. Please hang the bags back up after church and they will be there next week for your children to enjoy.

Noah's Ark News



I am writing this on the night before our Fall Spaghetti Supper. We are expecting it to be a wonderful evening of food, fellowship, and fun! As I write this, I am filled with gratitude for the support I see for Noah's Ark Preschool and our ministry here at Trinity and within our community. I am thankful for the many congregational members who bought tickets these past Sundays to join us at this event. I am thankful for the many parents, youth, mentors, and other adults who have agreed to volunteer their time to help. I am thankful for the generosity of many individuals, families, and businesses who have donated food or money to sponsor this event. I am also thankful that through the tithe chosen by our Preschool Committee, we will be able to share with other children in our community through the Feed My People Weekend Kid's Meals. Peacemaking is in action! It is so heartwarming to feel this support, and I thank everyone who has contributed! All of you help make Noah's Ark strong!

In early October, we spent some beautiful days outside in God's world on our first field trip to Leffel Roots Apple Orchard. We learned so many interesting things from the farmers that grow the apples. We picked apples off the trees, and they were delicious! All of the kids and the parents enjoyed our days there together. As we close up the month of October, we will be having fun at our costume party days. Kids love to pretend and imagine, and this is a day made just for that!

We continue to be blessed by the wonderful smiles, peacemaker words and actions, and inquisitive minds of the children of Noah's Ark every day!

In Peace,
Marlee Knickerbocker

Children's Ministries

Winter/Spring Early Childhood Enrichment Programs

Registration for our Winter Spring Early Childhood Enrichment Programs opens on November 2 at 8:00 A.M. for Come and Play and Friday Friends only. On November 3, all other classes are open for registration at 8:00 A.M. Registration is call-in based on a first come, first serve bases. You may register by calling Sara Reed at 715.832.6601

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

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

Creative Arts • Spend Mondays engaged in a variety of creative activities! Children will dance, sing, and experiment with art processes. They will hear stories, Bible stories, and enhance language learning through finger plays. This program is for children who turn three by 9.1.16. This 17 week class meets on Mondays from 12:30 P.M.–2:30 P.M. beginning January 9. There will be no class on January 23, February 27, or March 20. Cost is \$215.



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

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

Come and Play • In this great precursor to preschool, children are provided a warm and safe Christian environment to play with other children. Art, music activities, and snack are included. This program is for children who turn two by 8.31.16. This 20 week class meets on Wednesdays in Trinity's Nursery from 9:15 A.M.–11:15 A.M. or 12:15–2:15 P.M. beginning January 4. There will be no class on March 22. Cost is \$260.

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

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

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

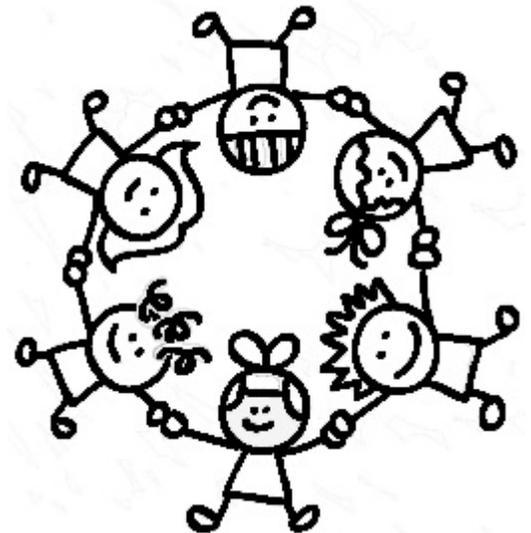
Classes are subject to cancellation due to low enrollment.

Children's Ministries Inclement Weather Policy

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

Volunteer in the Nursery

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





FINANCIAL UPDATE

Year End Giving

Your charitable contributions do great things in Christ's name through Trinity and its mission of "Serving in Christ's Love and Sharing the Good News." Thank you for every dollar you share. As we come to the last weeks of 2016, your donations are especially important. Your leaders have held expenses very close to the budget all year and plan a similar approach for 2017. We believe our church can have a strong financial finish to this year, and you are important to achieving it. Please be generous in your year-end giving. Give online at trinity-ec.org

Regular Ministries Income and Expense		
January through September	2016	2015
Income	\$832,342	\$805,974
Expenses	\$830,687	\$828,150
Difference	\$1,655	-\$22,176

Round Up

Discussing how we can be faithful stewards of our resources, especially our finances, can be a hard conversation. It doesn't have to be. Talking about caring for our resources is a natural thing, something we all do every day. "Can I afford this?" "How should I best use my limited time?" "Am I eating right or exercising enough?" All of these are stewardship questions.

Stories and examples of the use of financial assets and being a steward are plentiful in the Bible. Some people are shown to be faithful stewards, others, not so much. God loves them all but makes it clear that life will be better if we make sound choices. Consider the following:

- Religious affiliation is a strong indicator of potential for giving to charitable organizations—religious and non-religious.
- American charitable giving was \$373 Billion in 2015—a new record.
- You can give to Trinity at any time in your life, even after your life, with your estate planning.
- Anyone, of any income, can benefit from the knowledge of a financial advisor. That person can help you be a good steward of all of your financial gifts.
- Financial giving is easiest with Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)—automatic withdrawal from your financial institution or a credit card of your choice.
- Trinity's annual budget is \$1,174,307 which is \$3,217 per day.



- \$3,217 each day makes possible: a food pantry that serves hundreds each month, a preschool that teaches children about faith and peacemaking, visitors for our sick and shut-in members, mission trips that put faith into action, music that inspires, youth programs that pass faith in Jesus from one generation to another, a staff that is prepared to serve you, and much more.

Money is all around us. We need it to get what we need and what we want. The faithful steward knows the difference. Let's continue to have an open conversation about all of our financial resources. We're all asking the same questions, how can we be wise about what we have, and how can we share it to bring Christ to all.

A Great Facility!

Like many people who make house mortgage payments, your church also makes a monthly payment. Thus, your offerings to Mortgage Payment are very important because every gift makes it possible for Trinity to make its \$8,413 monthly payment, and often times additional principal payments. Our outstanding loan balance is \$317,138. (9/30/2016). The ELCA Mission Investment Fund holds the note at 4.125%. Thank you for your offerings to Mortgage Payment.

Remember you can give to Mortgage Payment online and set up electronic fund transfers on our website.

Giving Without Envelopes

The safe service of electronic fund transfers is available for all your charitable contributions. You can set it up at trinity-ec.org or call Amber for assistance. If you're currently using this service and still receiving envelopes that you don't use, please contact Amber Moltzau to discontinue them. Email her at amber@trinity-ec.org or call 715.832.6601 ext. 203.



SOCIAL CONCERNS

Gifts that Give

In this holiday season of gift giving, there is often the pursuit of the "perfect" gift. Within such a pursuit, there is the question, "What do I give someone who seems to have everything?" The Social Concerns Team is offering a handful of gift-giving options that benefit the recipient along with someone in need.

Trinity's 2016 "Gifts that Give" includes these inspiring gifts and the ministries they support:

- Beacon House
- Trinity's Food Pantry
- Soles for Special Souls
- Community Table
- Sojourner House
- Friends of Flynn Elementary School

These gift-giving options will be available at the "Gifts that Give" table in our lobby on Sundays from November 27–December 18. As you purchase a gift, you will receive a special card that you can give to that special loved one or friend in whose honor you have given the gift. Blessings to you as you give gifts to bless others!

ELCA Good Gifts

Another gift giving option is through the ELCA Good Gifts program. By accessing this website <https://community.elca.org/elcagoodgifts> you can purchase items for that special someone that will benefit many in need throughout our world. For example, \$10 can provide a family with 10 chicks that will bless a family with eggs to address their hunger needs and to sell at a local market!

Serving at the Beacon House

Trinity will fulfill a variety of tasks at The Beacon House from November 27–30. 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!

Thank You for Winter Boots!

As a part of our "Soles for Special Souls" outreach ministry, we provide vouchers for children to receive new winter boots through our partnership with Payless Shoe Source. Parents visiting our Food Pantry sign up to receive vouchers for their children. In addition, we provide vouchers to school counselors at Robbins Elementary and Flynn Elementary to distribute as needed.

In mid-October, we were able to distribute vouchers to children in need of winter boots. What a joy it is to see children excited to have new boots well before the snow begins to fly! Thank you for your donations to keep children's feet warm this winter!



Lutheran World Relief Load-A-Truck

Various churches from around the region, including Trinity, brought their donations of quilts and kits and loaded them on the truck that then drove the donations to Minnesota. These items will now be shipped around the world to those in need. Lutheran World Relief works to improve the lives of millions of smallholder farmers and people experiencing poverty in Africa, Latin America, Asia, and the Middle East both in times of emergencies and for the long term. Thank you to the great team of youth and adult volunteers who showed up to unload items from vehicles and load them into the LWR truck.

Friends of Flynn

- **Giving Thanks and Showing Appreciation** • Members of the Friends of Flynn Committee give thanks for the staff at our partner school, Flynn Elementary, and all they do for children. During November we will show our appreciation by sharing a treat with them and continuing to offer our support.
- **Weekend Meals** • We will be sending in our contribution for weekend meals to Feed My People Food Bank. Feed My People supplies the foods that go into the bags, Trinity confirmation students and parents are part of the packing teams, and Trinity drivers deliver to the school on Friday mornings. At this time, over 70 meals are being sent home each weekend.
- **Books for Flynn Children** • As students leave for Christmas break, we want to provide each one with a new book to take home and keep. Students really look forward to and enjoy this gift from our congregation. Please keep this project in mind as you do your Christmas shopping. A display will be in the lobby by Sunday, November 27, where you can place your purchased books.

Thank you members and friends of Trinity for your support of Flynn Elementary School through your donations—you do make a difference for these families in our community.

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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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—Jesus And Me, Celebration Singers
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 December Newsletter is Tuesday, November 15.