



Stewardship 2015

Because of God's Great Mercy

In I Peter we read, "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people."

God's mercy comes to us in our Lord, Jesus Christ. God's mercy also comes to us in many other ways. Among these are the material possessions we enjoy. They are gifts from God; but more than this, they are entrusted to us by God. The Bible teaches us that all that we have in this life comes from God. Our time, our talents, and our money and possessions all come from God, and in a very real sense still belong to God. In this life we are stewards, caretakers, managers of God's incredible bounty.

"Because of God's Great Mercy" is our stewardship theme this year, and during this time we will consider the ways God's mercy shines in and through us. Trinity has been blessed by the generosity of many, and we give thanks for this generosity. We also take steps to ensure that this reflection of God's mercy continues among the people and ministry of Trinity through our giving. During the next few weeks, you will be hearing about the ways Trinity is able to live out our mission to "Serve in Christ's Love and Share the Good News," and on November 15 we will ask you to continue to support this mission.

Together, we are able to live out God's Great Mercy in this world. Thank you for making this possible!



C.A.T. Survey Results Revealed

Come to an Adult Forums on Sunday, November 15, at 9:05 a.m. or 10:40 a.m. in the Trinity Room to learn the results of the C.A.T. survey (Congregation Assessment Tool). Dr. Jim Pence, Succession Planning Consultant will share the data and field your questions.

Read about the next steps of the transition on the Transitions page of trinity-ec.org

Worship Notes

- November 1 **All Saints Sunday** • All services the week of November 1 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 25 **Thanksgiving Eve** • Come and worship at 6:30 P.M. on Wednesday, November 25. This festive worship includes the Trinity Brass and all choirs. The Lord's Supper is offered, and many children will make their first communion.
- November 29 **Service of Healing** • Our next Services of Healing are Sunday, November 29, and Wednesday, December 2 at all services. From its earliest days, the Christian Church has engaged in ministry that acknowledges our need for healing in all ways. There is a special time during the church service to receive a healing prayer and anointing.
- **Christmas** • Join us on Christmas Eve for worship: 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. Then we will celebrate the Festival of Christmas on Sunday, December 27, with one service at 9:45 A.M. Worship will include the Trinity Brass, and lots of great Christmas music.



Trinity's Thanksgiving Dinner

—New partnership with Gordy's County Market

Dear Friends,

Johnny Carson once said, "Thanksgiving is an emotional holiday. People travel thousands of miles to be with people they see only once a year. And then discover that once a year is way too often." You may recall the memories of your past Thanksgiving celebrations. The tasty food, the family traditions, and watching the Macy's parade and/or a football game.

Trinity's Community Thanksgiving Dinner has been a place where many have gathered to share a wonderful meal, visit with others, and yes... we have a big screen television for those who want to watch football! More than that, it is a time for families to forgo all the Thanksgiving dinner preparations and simply enjoy a meal with their loved ones in an uplifting atmosphere. Festive decorations, candle lit tables, and fun kid activities have led to our Thanksgiving Dinner growing the past few years. Last year was a record year of serving 547 people!

We have made a few adjustments to make our dinner more efficient, and the key item is partnering with Gordy's County Market. Rather than asking members to bring in baked turkeys for the dinner, we are asking for financial contributions that will allow us to purchase baked turkeys from Gordy's County Market. My hope is that you will consider a financial gift of \$20 to assist us in purchasing the turkeys needed for our growing Thanksgiving dinner! A financial gift is easier for you and allows greater efficiency in our planning and meal preparations.

To make this dinner a success, we will need more than just turkeys! We'll have sign-up lists for food items and many volunteer opportunities. Those lists will be available in the lobby after worship on Sundays and Wednesdays and outside our office during the week. In addition, they'll also be on our website (trinity-ec.org).

I hope you consider attending our Community Thanksgiving dinner to enjoy a wonderful meal (seating times are 11:30 A.M. and 12:30 P.M.), to volunteer, or both! Reserve your spot today! For more information, contact me at jim@trinity-ec.org and I'll be thrilled to share more.

Thankful for all you do,
Pastor Jim

THANKSGIVING
DINNER AT
TRINITY 2014
547 guests served
112 volunteers
55 turkeys



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 Heather Day at heatherd@trinity-ec.org or by phone 715.832.6601.

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 trinity-ec.org 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 Heather Day at heatherd@trinity-ec.org

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.



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 29, 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 the Christ child. Members are encouraged to invite friends. Treats will be served throughout the afternoon.

People are needed to help lead the activities. This is a great service project for confirmation age students and their leaders or mentors. Please watch for the display and sign up beginning November 8 in the lobby. For more information, contact Sara Reed at 715.832.6601 ext. 218 or sarar@trinity-ec.org

Angel Breakfast

Preschool and kindergarten age children and one adult guest per child are invited to the Annual Angel Breakfast on Saturday, December 5, from 8:30 A.M.–10:00 A.M. Children and adults will participate in activities, have breakfast together, and hear the Christmas Story. The cost is \$10.00 per couple along with two non-perishable food items for the Wall of Food. Registration forms are available in the Children's Ministries Office.

Reservations are required.



Second Annual Advent Tea

This afternoon event on Monday, December 7 from 1:30 P.M.– 3:30 P.M. is a wonderful chance to pause and celebrate a joyous time of year in the company of friends of all ages. There will be entertainment by a “not yet named” quartet of Warren & Mavis Hermodson and Gary & Mary Rambo, a presentation by Noah's Ark Preschool, and even a Christmas Carol “Sing-A-Long.”

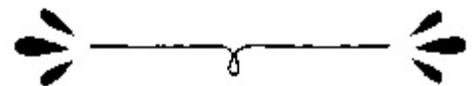
Please R.S.V.P. by signing up at Clipboard Central. Each person attending is asked to bring either holiday cookies, breads, or finger sandwiches for 12–15 guests. The leftovers will be boxed and shared with our shut-ins for a Christmas treat and holiday visit. Just like last year, if you have Christmas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

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 13. 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

Youth will be taking orders for Christmas Wreaths and Door Swags from Baroka's Wreaths on Sundays, November 8 and 15, and on Wednesdays, November 11 and 18. 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 29. This fundraiser will assist students in raising money to attend Trinity's High School Mission Trip to Denver in June 2016. A tithe will be given to Friends of Flynn.



Seniors Meet The Friendship Group

The Friendship Group's November meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 11, at 10:00 A.M. with a Thanksgiving Service and Communion in the Chapel at 10:30 A.M. Following the service we will celebrate the season with a potluck lunch. Please bring a dish to pass and a jar of peanut butter to stock our food pantry.



Adult Education Opportunities

"Staying in Love" Couples Ministry

Married couples are invited to register for a four-week couples ministry class titled "Staying in Love" led by Pastor Jim on Sunday evenings (November 22 and 29; December 6 and 13) from 6:15 P.M.–7:30 P.M. at Trinity. Each session will include a 20 minute DVD presentation followed by small group discussion. Childcare will be provided!

This series is a means for couples to spend time together and connect with other couples in a fun, relaxed atmosphere.

"Staying in Love" is small group material developed by Andy Stanley, pastor at North Point Community Church where 33,000 people worship among six campuses each weekend. Outreach Magazine recently named the church the largest in the United States.

We all know what's required to fall in love...a pulse. Falling in love is easy, but staying there, that's something else entirely. With more than a 1,000 match-making services available today, finding a romantic match is easier than ever. But staying together with the one you've found seems to be the real challenge. Not everything is perfect but with insights from God's word, we'll be able to nurture the God-given gift of love in our marriages and families.

Cost for a discussion guide is \$10 and can be paid at the first session. Come be a part of a great social gathering with other couples! Register today via our website under the "Grow," "Adult Ministry" page or by emailing Pastor Jim at jim@trinity-ec.org

"What's a Lutheran?"

This three-session course is an opportunity to explore faith in a relaxed, non-threatening manner over three thought-provoking weekly sessions. We will meet Thursdays, from 6:00 P.M.–7:15 P.M., November 5, 12, 19.

Who is it for?

- Newcomers to the church.
- Adults who are interested in taking steps towards baptism.
- Anyone interested in exploring what is unique about the Lutheran "flavor" of Christianity.

What will happen in this course? Learning and laughter. Asking anything. Helping one another grow. You are invited! Registration is at Clipboard Central in the lobby or online at Trinity's website. Childcare is available upon request. Contact Pastor Sarah with questions at sarah@trinity-ec.org



Circle Listings

Deborah

Thursday, November 19, 9:30 A.M.
Trinity

Hostess: Irene Friend

Leader: Barbara Johnson

Martha/Mary

Tuesday, , 7:00 P.M. Trinity

Hostess:

Leader:

Miriam

Wednesday, November 18, 9:30 A.M.
Trinity

Hostesses: Marilyn Engen & Joan
Smith

Leader: Group

Ruth

Tuesday, November 17, 1:30 P.M.

Hostess: Marge Oleson, 875 Windsor
Drive

Leader: Group

Youth Make 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 25, the following high school youth publicly affirmed their baptism in worship: Adam Joseph Altmann, Brian W. Baker, Grace R. Baumgardner, Paige M. Baumgardner, Kaitlyn Isabel Belmont, Nathan Alan Black, Olivia Rose Black, Devan Dubberke, Ty Emberson, Justin Paul Gandrud, Siri Giles, Hannah Marie Groseth, Katelyn Holmquist, Ethan Homann, Kristen Anna Jadeke, Callie Alexis Larson, Molly Larson, Allison Christina Lindquist, Hannah Joan Messer, Ryan William Mohr, Toby Moszer, Leah Grace Myhre, Julia Nelson, William Todd Nordlund, Mercedes Patko, Claudia Marcene Paul, Bergen Clara Hill Phelps, Aja Leigh St. Germaine, Gretchen Kirschner Scarseth, Kirk Sorensen, Daniel Southard, Victoria Eloise Sparger, Laurel Joy Studt, McKenna Riley Walker, Megan Walker, Adam Warren Webb, Emma Caitlyn Wright, Hannah Elise Wright.



Received in September Memorials & Gifts

Memorial Fund

- In memory of Sharen Hoepner: Family & Friends
- In memory of Lowell Joseph: Susan Schaefer, Jack & Lois Olson, Jim & Lynn Gullicksrud, Char Finseth, Morris & Audrey Brumberg, Eleanor Hesse, Martha Fuller, Don & Arlys Jolstad, Paul Lokken & Carla Reppert-Lokken

Trinity Food Pantry Fund

- In memory of Tom Tomlinson: Erik & Kim Hill Phelps
- In memory of Glenda Halbleib: Jim & Sherry Jones
- In memory of Ardelle Bergh: Jim & Sherry Jones
- In memory of Laurence Cook: Hazel Cook
- In honor of Jim & Lynn Gullicksrud's 41st wedding anniversary: Joe & Marlee Knickerbocker
- In memory of Lowell Joseph: Elayne Peterson, Clifton & Doris Husberg, Jan Gumz, John Stromwall

Children's Bible Fund

- In honor of granddaughter Sophia's first birthday: John & Jacqueline Krumenauer

St John's Bible Fund

- In memory of "Mully" Brenden: Dick Cable

Trinity Choir Fund

- In memory of Lowell Joseph: Ann Ayres

Library Fund

- In memory of Lowell Joseph: Ann Johnson, Carl Higgins

Mission Fund

- In memory of Lowell Joseph: Ted & Ardis Nystuen

Endowment Trust Fund

- In memory of Lowell Joseph: Barbara Vorhes, Barbara Tischer

Page Turners Book Club

The Page Turners Book Club meets on Tuesday, November 17, at 6:30 P.M. to discuss *The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins. Rachel takes the same commuter train every morning. Every day she rattles down the track, flashes past a stretch of cozy suburban homes, and stops at the signal that allows her to daily watch the same couple breakfasting on their deck. She's even started to feel like she knows them. "Jess and Jason," she calls them. Their life—as she sees it—is perfect. Not unlike the life she recently lost. And then she sees something shocking. It's only a minute until the train moves on, but it's enough. Now everything's changed.

These are the books scheduled for the remainder of the school year. They are all available in the church library.

- Tuesday, December 15, *From the Mouths of Dogs* by B.J. Hollar. Author B.J. Hollar will join us to discuss his book!
- Tuesday, January 19, *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr
- Tuesday, February 16, *Rose's Garden* by Carrie Brown
- Tuesday, March 15, *A Spool of Blue Thread* by Anne Tyler
- Tuesday, April 19, *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown
- Tuesday, May 17, *Prodigal Summer* by Barbara Kingsolver

If you haven't attended in the past, or if you haven't attended for awhile, please join us. There are no special expectations to participate. 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





Noah's Ark News

Looking back at October, it was a spectacular month at Noah's Ark. We had great outside play days, wonderful activities together in our classroom, and lots of fun family experiences. The Eau Claire Public Library visited, bringing us a special kit of "color" fun for our special themes in October. We are so thankful for this partnership.

As I write my Tidings article, I am fresh off of an amazing 21st Annual Noah's Ark Spaghetti Supper. We were blessed with approximately 370 guests who enjoyed the best spaghetti dinner ever, were entertained by the Balloon Guy, were hosted by Trinity Youth at activity tables, and were involved in our Silent Auction. It was such a good night. We thank the many Club 78 and Club 9 youth and mentors for their service. We also are so thankful for our sponsors: The Coffee Grounds, Here We Grow Again, Fryzski's Country Gardens, Stokes-HERZOG/Queen of the Castle, Chippewa Valley Endodontics LLC, Mike and Gina Toutant, Courtney Kanz, Texas Roadhouse, and four anonymous sponsors. We are also so happy to tithe from this event to the benefit account for Maddie Presler, a Noah's Ark alumni youth. Thanks Trinity for making this 21st Spaghetti Supper so much fun! I give thanks to the Co-Chairs: Anne Lindahl, Valerie Fedie, and Kristy Casto. Thanks to Alicia Strozinsky for arranging decorations and Kirsten Rubenzer for doing publicity. Special thanks to Kristy Casto for organizing the Silent auction baskets. We thank Stephanie Olson for lots of clean-up help and bringing her husband to man the dishwasher with Beth, Anne, and many others. Thanks also to the spaghetti pre-cook team: Jacqueline Strayer, Marlee Knickerbocker, Valerie Fedie, Alicia Strozinsky, and Beth Borsheim. We give thanks to the MANY volunteers it takes to pull off a supper event and for the many guests who enjoy the evening!

We are happy Mrs. Lien has returned following foot surgery. Special thanks to Kristy Casto, Marlee, and Jill, who subbed for her. The transition was smooth! We do have a student teacher from Chippewa Valley Technical College this fall. Amanda loves our classroom and has fun with the children. We are thankful for her!

It's hard to believe that November will be here soon with Thanksgiving, a visit from the Fire Department, and food fun. We give thanks, O God, for our many blessings! Hugs, JC



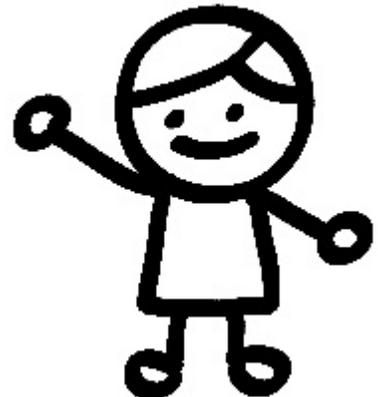
Children's Ministries

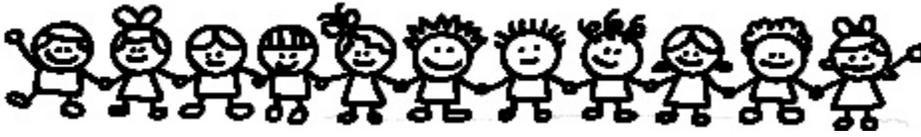
Volunteer in the Nursery

If you like to help care for young children and would be willing to help out in our Nursery during the 9:45 A.M. service 1–3 times a year, we would greatly appreciate it. We do have a full time nursery attendant, so your responsibility would be to assist. We will be making a new schedule of volunteers soon for January–May, 2016. If you are interested in being a part of this ministry helping young families, please contact Sara Reed at 715.832.6601 ext 218 or sarar@trinity-ec.org

Open Gym Tuesdays

On Tuesdays this winter the Trinity Room will be open for parents and their young children (toddlers—preschool) to come in and use our equipment in a large safe space. We offer a story time and snack during the last half hour. Members, friends of members, and non-members are welcome to attend. No registration is required for Open Gym. The program starts on Tuesday January 5 and runs through Tuesday, March 8, from 10:00 A.M.–11:30 A.M. The cost is \$2 per child.





Early Childhood Enrichment Programs

Registration for our Winter/Spring Early Childhood Enrichment Programs opens on November 4 at 8:00 A.M. Registration is call-in based on a first come, first serve basis. You may register by calling Sara Reed at 715.832.6601 ext 218.

Monday Music and Movement

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

- Session One • 9:05 A.M.–9:50 A.M. A 45 minute class for children who are one by 6.1.15 through those who are three by 9.1.15. This is a parent/child class. Cost is \$85, \$6.30/hr.
- Session Two • 10:00 A.M.–11:30 A.M. This hour and a half class is for children who are two by 6.1.15. Children experience this class independently. Cost is \$170, \$6.30/hr.

Monday Creative Arts

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

Tuesday Readers, Authors, and Artists

Immerse your child in literature and early oral and written language experiences. Weekly themes will explore books, authors, and illustrators through discovery, music, play, and art. All activities will encourage students to become authors and illustrators of their own books, with a focus on nurturing a child's natural readiness for reading, writing, and creating. This class is for children who turn four by 1.1.16. Readers, Authors, and Artists begins on Tuesday, January 5, from 9:00 A.M.–11:15 A.M. and runs for 20 weeks. Cost is \$260, \$5.78/hr.

Tuesday Great Pretenders

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

Wednesday Come and Play

A great precursor to preschool! Children are provided a warm and safe Christian environment to play with other children and to practice spending some time away from parents or caregivers. They will hear Bible stories and other books, participate in art and music activities, and take time out to share a snack together. This class is for children who turn two by 9.30.15. Come & Play begins on Wednesday, January 6, from 9:15 A.M.–11:15 A.M. OR 12:15 P.M.–2:15 P.M. and runs for 20 weeks. Cost is \$265, \$6.63/hr.

Thrilling Thursdays

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

Friday Friends

Children will hear books and Bible stories and will participate in art and music activities. This class is for children who would benefit from an additional day of preschool experiences. This class is for children who turn three between 07.01.15 and 12.31.15. Friday Friends begins Friday, January 8, from 9:00 A.M.–11:15 A.M. for 19 weeks. The cost is \$265, \$6.20/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.



Health Ministries

Giving Thanks

We are fast approaching the holidays and November is definitely the month we focus on thankfulness and gratitude. 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 says; *Be joyful always, pray continually, give thanks in ALL circumstances.* This is really asking a lot of us. Where do we find thankfulness in a diagnosis of cancer, or the death of a loved one, or the loss of a job? Even in the face of tremendous loss or tragedy, it is possible to feel gratitude.

Consistently grateful people are happier, more energetic, more hopeful, more helpful, more empathetic, more spiritual, more forgiving, and less materialistic. They are also less likely to be depressed, anxious, lonely, envious, neurotic, or sick.

So what would happen if we extended the tradition of giving thanks to include every day throughout the year? Research is showing that with such gratitude, we would be rewarded with better health. Gratitude may be one of the most overlooked tools that we all have access to every day and it costs nothing and requires a small amount of time. What are you thankful for?

Annual Caregiver Town Hall Meeting

The Thirteenth Annual Caregiver Town Hall Meeting will be held from 4:00 P.M.–8:00 P.M. at Calvary Baptist Church, 3036 Epiphany Lane, Eau Claire. The topic is "The Ultimate Caregiver Tool Box." The event is free and open to the public. There will be education on dementia, healthy living, music therapy, etc., as well as available local resources and experts. Walk-ins are welcome, but you can register at ADRC at 715.839.4735.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Trinity is hosting our fall blood drive on Monday, November 16, from 12:30 P.M.–6:30 P.M. Our goal is 46 donors. 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.

Youth Ministries

Cookie Bake

The annual Cookie Bake is scheduled for Saturday, November 21, 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 and included with the Christmas Sharing Project.



Community Table

Food is a basic need of humankind, and it is our privilege to serve those who go without! We will be preparing and serving a meal to those in our community at the Community Table on Friday, November 20, 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 is available at the Tool Bench.

Luther Park Recharge

Club 78 and Club 9 Luther Park Recharge is scheduled for the weekend of November 6–7. 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 or call 715.859.2215. Scholarships are available to offset the cost of registration. Contact Cassie or Lisa with any questions.

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 Trinity sponsored events. 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!



Give Thanks for the Right to Read!

New to our Trinity library for adults and young people!

Fiction

- *The Dog Master* by W. Bruce Cameron. Cameron’s novel is an emotional coming-of-age saga and an exciting, imaginative story of the world’s first dog. BAM (FIC CAM)
- *The Boston Girl* by Anita Diamant. Anita Diamant, the beloved author of *The Red Tent*, returns with another absorbing historical novel. This story is about Addie, the daughter of Jewish immigrants, born in 1900 in Boston and her life as she grew up in a cramped tenement. Over the years she witnesses war, experiences heartbreak, and comes into her own as a woman. BAM (FIC DIA)
- *Our Souls at Night* by Kent Haruf. Before he died last fall at 71, Haruf, author of *Plainsong* and *Eventide*, left us one last novel. *Our Souls at Night* tells the wistful story of an elderly man and woman, neighbors in the town of Holt, Colorado who come together as friends. It is a moving meditation on life, loneliness, and the balm of connection. BAM (FIC HAR)
- *The Wonder of All Things* by Jason Mott. Ava has an unusual gift: she can heal others of their physical ailments. Until an air show tragedy, her gift was a secret. Now the whole world knows, and suddenly people from all over the globe begin flocking to her small town, looking for healing. But her gift comes at great cost to Ava with each healing, she becomes weaker. (FIC MOT)
- *Stepdog* by Nicole Galland. *Stepdog* is a refreshing and hilarious romantic comedy that asks: How far would you go for the one you love? It comes with immigration bureaucrats, psychopathic exes, articulate biker gangs, literal cliffhangers, and an adorable dog. (FIC GAL)
- *Orphan #8* by Kim van Alkemade. A stunning debut novel of historical fiction set in the forgotten world of New York City’s Jewish orphanages. (FIC VAN)



Nonfiction

- *From the Mouth of Dogs, What Our Pets Teach Us About Life, Death, and Being Human* by B.J. Hollars. This nonfiction work is by local author B.J. Hollars and is the December selection for the Trinity Page Turners Book Club. It is an account involving real people and real pets in and around the Chippewa Valley. The author will be joining the December book club meeting to discuss his book. (636 HOL)
- *The Oregon Trail, A New American Journey* by Rinker Buck. This book is an account of traveling the length of the Oregon Trail the old fashioned way—in a covered wagon with a team of mules and chronicles the rich history of the trail. (978 BUC)

Biography

- *American Wife* by Taya Kyle. The widow of *American Sniper* Chris Kyle

shares their private story: an unforgettable testament to the power of love and faith in the face of war and loss. (B KYL)

- *Blackout, Remembering the Thing I Drank to Forget* by Sarah Hepola. Sarah Hepola reveals the ugly side of addiction with humor and honesty. She writes of blackouts, junk food binges, unnerving sexual encounters, and her eventual sobriety. Her story is funny, scary, and hopeful. (B HEP)

For Children and Youth

- *My Head Is Full Of Colors* by Catherine Friend, illustrated by Kiki. This book was first published in 1994 and, through much encouragement by readers, a new edition was published this year. Catherine grew up in Eau Claire and is the daughter of Trinity Library Committee member, Irene Friend. Trinity Library Committee members are particularly proud to have this special work as part of our collection. (FIC FRI)
- *God Bless The Child* by Billie Holiday and Arthur Herzog Jr. This beautifully illustrated work is a spiritual based on the proverb, “God blessed the child that’s got his own.” Included with the book is a CD of the song performed by Billie Holiday. (FIC HOL)
- *The Jazz Fly* by Matthew Gollub. Seeking directions to town, a fly picks up the rhythm of the answers he gets from a frog, a hog, a donkey and a dog, and then uses these sounds to jazz up his band’s music. A CD is included with the book. (FIC GOL)

During November ... Look for books with a Thanksgiving theme in a specially marked display.



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 2015 "Gifts that Give" includes these inspiring gifts and the ministries they support:

- Beacon House • Toiletries/food for families in need: \$15
- Trinity's Food Pantry • 100 pounds of food: \$10
- Soles for Special Souls • One pair of boots: \$20, One pair of shoes: \$15
- Community Table • Sponsor a meal: \$10
- Friends of Flynn Elementary School • Sponsor weekend meals for one child for one month: \$10; school year: \$75; Provide emergency items for children (socks, underwear, shirt, pants): \$5

These gift-giving options will be available at the "Gifts that Give" table in our lobby on Sundays from November 29–December 20. 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 15–19. 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!

Collecting Books for Flynn Children

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

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 Shopko. 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 96 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!





Financial News

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 2015, your donations are especially important. Your leaders have held expenses very close to the budget all year and plan a similar approach for 2016. 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 Every gift touches a life with the truth of God's love!



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 \$519,528. (9/30/2015). 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.

Regular Ministries Income and Expense

| January through September | 2014 | 2015* |
|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Income | \$762,922 | \$805,974 |
| Expenses | \$782,573 | \$828,150 |
| Difference | -\$19,651 | -\$22,176 |

* Please note that in 2015, Day Camp Income and Expenses were added to the budget.

Your regular offerings do great things in Trinity's mission of serving in Christ's love and sharing the Good News. They are the life-line that gives hope and healing to thousands of people every month. Please give and know that every dollar touches lives.

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.

IRA Bequest with Moderate-Size Estate

John Bequest has an estate of \$800,000 and therefore will not have to be concerned about paying estate taxes. \$200,000 of his estate is an IRA. Since John desires to benefit his favorite charity, he selects favorite charity as the designated beneficiary. Under the Uniform Lifetime Table, this does not have any impact on his MRD. When John passes away, the family receives the majority of his estate, comprised of his home, CDs, and bonds. The favorite charity receives the \$200,000 IRA. This saves over \$60,000 in income tax, since the charity is tax exempt. Naming Trinity or the Endowment Trust Fund as the beneficiary of your IRA is a tax-free way to pass your legacy of faith on for generations to come. Check out the Endowment page of trinity-ec.org and learn more.

Giving Gifts of Stock

A gift of stock or designating a minimum required distribution from an IRA can be one of the best ways to give to Trinity. Gifts of appreciated stock are particularly wise from a tax perspective since there are no capital gains paid and the giver receives a tax deduction of the full face amount. The same is true for your IRA RMD.

For example, if you bought stock for \$1,000 and now it is worth \$5,000, you receive a tax deduction for the entire \$5,000 without having a \$4,000 capital gain. You would benefit in two ways, and Trinity would benefit from the \$5,000 contribution.

Contact your financial advisor for details. Then, to donate stock call your broker or contact Amber Moltzau at 715.832.6601 or amber@trinity-ec.org

"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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Ryan Poquette—Trinity Tollers
Kris & Brian Pressler—Worship Music Leaders
Drew Brandenburg—CrossWord Youth Band
Jeanne Cooper—God's Little Singers
Corrine Gransee Paral—Children's Choir, Club78 Choir
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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 November 17.