



The Story Starts September 13

Our worship each week during the school year, beginning September 13, will center on *The Story* which is the Bible in one continuing, chronological story of God and God's people. Plan to renew your connection with God, the Word, and the Church by being in worship each week this coming school year.

Get a copy of *The Story* on Sundays in the Lobby or weekdays in the office for only \$5. Read the chapter each week as your devotions, and find yourself better prepared to experience God's Word in worship.



"Discover Trinity" A Faith Community for You

"Discover Trinity" is a friendly and informative event this fall for people interested in becoming a part of Trinity. This event will be offered on Monday, October 26, from 6:00 P.M. – 7:30 P.M. in Trinity's Lobby. Register online at trinity-ec.org. For more information, contact Pastor Sarah Semmler Smith at sarah@trinity-ec.org or Heather Day at heatherd@trinity-ec.org.

Worship Times Grow

Beginning the week of September 13, Trinity resumes its schedule of four weekly worship opportunities. Plan to worship often this coming school year. Worship opportunities are:

- ☛ Sundays at 8:15 A.M. in the Worship Center.
- ☛ Sundays at 9:45 A.M. in the Worship Center.
- ☛ Sundays at 10:30 A.M. in the Chapel (south side of the building).
- ☛ Wednesdays at 6:30 P.M. in the Worship Center.

Succession Process Forum

On Sunday, September 20, Dr. Jim Pence, Trinity's Succession Planning Consultant, will present forums in the Trinity Room at 9:05 A.M. and 10:35 A.M. He'll overview the succession planning process, introduce the Transition Team, and field your questions. Read about the year ahead on the Transitions page of trinity-ec.org.

Adult Education Seven Big Conversations About Faith

Beginning Sunday, September 27, during the Sunday School sessions, the pastors will offer "Seven Big Conversations about Faith." This series imaginatively explores central topics of Christianity. The series features perspectives on God, religion, Jesus, salvation, the cross, the Bible, and church from Christian thought leaders. Plan to be part of this engaging conversation about faith!

"Soles for Special Souls" Thank You!

We are thrilled to share that with your generous financial support we, in partnership with Shopko, were able to distribute 259 shoe vouchers to children in need! Many families shared their gratitude for new shoes. What joy there is found in sharing what God has provided for the benefit of all! Thanks!



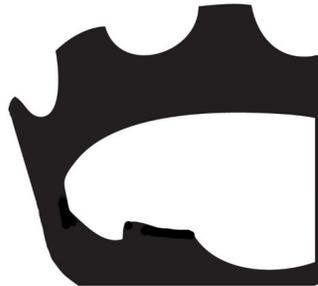
The Story: Dual Lens

On September 13 we begin a 31 week journey through the Bible. Using *The Story*, which provides a chronological and continuous story of God and God's people, we'll discover where God's story and our story meet.

To best understand this story, we need a dual lens, like bifocals. Through the lower lens we'll gaze at individual stories of life in chronological order that occurred here on earth. In the "lower story" we get sick, tired, and deal with breakups and conflicts. In the "lower story" we live with faith and trust that God will meet our needs for survival and comfort. And God does. But God also surprises people in the "lower story" . . . intervening, redirecting, and even correcting in rather harsh ways. But the "lower story" is always covered by a higher agenda than survival and comfort. That's called the "upper story."

Using the upper lens, we look beyond the daily grind and view the individual stories in the Bible from God's perspective. Doing so helps us see that the Bible isn't filled with thousands of individual stories of God's intervention just to get people through tough times. Rather, there is one grand story of something larger, something eternal. This is the "upper story."

This year we'll look at the lower and upper stories of the Bible and see that God has been up to something amazing from the very beginning. God has a vision, a big idea, and it's all good news for us!



What is Friends of Flynn?

As a reflection of our mission statement of "Serving in Christ's love and sharing the good news," Trinity has a wonderful partnership with Flynn Elementary to help address the needs of children. Many students enrolled at Flynn qualify for the federal free or reduced lunch program. The need is great, but we can help! As the school year begins, we will once again deliver weekend meals to over 90 low-income students each week. We will provide books, boots and shoes, clothing, school supplies, and healthy snacks at different times throughout the year and will look for new ways to support the students and teachers. Join us! We welcome financial donations (indicate FOF on your gift) as well as your gifts of time and prayers.

Baptizing Your Babies

Lutherans love children, and our understanding of God's grace in baptism is made available to the tiniest children. So, we unashamedly baptize babies! We baptize people of all ages, too! If you're anticipating the birth of a child or you want to schedule a baptism, the first step is enrolling in the next Baptism Class set for Monday, September 21, from 6:00 P.M. – 7:30 P.M. The goal of this one session class is threefold:

- To answer practical questions about the baptism day.
 - To provide a basic Lutheran understanding of baptism along with resources for fostering faith in the home.
 - To help build relationships among parents within the Trinity community.
- Register for the class and make arrangements for baptism via Trinity's website: trinityec.org/baptism.phtml. Available baptism dates are also listed on the website.

For more information about the class, contact Pastor Sarah Semmler Smith at sarah@trinity-ec.org.

NW Synod Communications Director Wanted

The NW Synod of WI seeks a Communications Director to develop and coordinate the synod's communications. The position is part-time with an average of 20 hours per week. This position requires working in the synod office at Luther Park, Chetek, Wisconsin at least one day/week and an associate's degree. See complete job description and contact information at www.nswi.org/news_and_events/.



Your Giving Blesses Many

Thank you for every offering you share for Regular Ministries. Your offerings make possible so many God pleasing missions which serve the needy, instill faith in hundreds of children, and extend the spirit and love of our congregation into this community and world. God continues to do many great things through our church because you give back to God a portion of what God has entrusted to you.

In addition, your Mortgage Payment offerings make possible the monthly payment of \$8,413 on the loan from our building expansion and improvement ten years ago. We also regularly make direct principal payments because you've been generous. Thank you! If you're not already helping with this effort, please join us yet this year.

Please be generous with your offerings in September, and come and see the great things being done on Trinity's campus as we "Serve in Christ's Love and Share the Good News."

Financial Update

January through July	2015	2014
Income	\$617,840	\$594,469
Expenses	\$647,647	\$611,054
Difference	-\$29,807	-\$16,585

Making Offerings Easy

You can make consistent offerings to Regular Ministry and Mortgage Payment when you opt for automatic transactions through your checking account, savings account, or credit card. Set it up online by selecting the "Give Now" button at www.trinity-ec.org or by contacting Amber Moltzau, Office Administrator, at amber@trinity-ec.org or 715.832.6601 ext 203. Be sure your love for God and Christ's church is always first in your charitable giving by using this easy option for offerings. Thank you for every gift you share.

Entrusting a Gift from Your Estate

Trinity has a permanent (endowed) fund to receive contributions that come from your estate or current giving. The endowed principal generates income which is extremely beneficial for current ministry support. Please remember the Trinity Endowment Trust when you wish to give a memorial to Trinity or to honor someone upon a birthday or anniversary. Then remember the Endowment Trust as you're updating your will. A simple designation in your estate plan can live on forever through the Trinity Endowment Trust.

For additional information, go to www.trinity-ec.org under Trust Fund or Giving.

Friendship Group

The Friendship Group, for senior citizens, will meet on September 9 for a tour of sites in Clark County. We will leave the church parking lot at 9:00 A.M. Our first stop will be at St. Hedwig's church in rural Thorp. The church is being renovated as a recording studio for the group Fragile. This group does charity work of building houses and purchasing and distributing blankets to homeless veterans. Our next stop will be Nazareth Lutheran Church in Withee. The church houses a collection of paintings by Danish inspired artist Katherine Hansen. We will enjoy an included buffet lunch of ham and hot beef sandwiches, chips and pickles, coleslaw, baked beans, coffee and water. Then we will visit St. Katherine's in Owen. This church was formerly on the site of Eau Claire's Christ Church. We will then travel to Munson Creek Winery where wine, flavored oils, and flavored vinegars are available for tasting. Our final stop will be at award winning Holland Cheese in Thorp to see and sample Gouda cheese.

The cost for the trip, including lunch, is \$40. Please make checks payable to the Trinity Friendship Group and send to Linda McClelland at 3107 Garner Street, Eau Claire. Reservations and payment are due by September 2.

Prayer Link

You are invited to join Prayer Link and begin praying for others who ask for prayers from the pastors, staff, and members who've agreed to pray for others. When you join Prayer Link, you will receive prayer requests via email or phone message. Then you pray wherever and whenever you can! We'll provide you a monthly update of prayers and some inspiration for your praying.

Note your willingness via the Prayer Link on the homepage of trinity-ec.org or email Heather Day at heatherd@trinity-ec.org



Marriage Equality and Our Response

In February 2014, the people of Trinity passed a resolution to become a Reconciling in Christ (R.I.C.) congregation and adopted an Affirmation of Welcome. The resolution passed by a large margin on a voice vote. This decision was the culmination of a year of study, listening, and conversation within the congregation led by a council appointed task force. The resolution did not include any action regarding blessing same sex unions. At that time there was no legal path for same sex marriage.

Since early 2014, much has changed on the legal front regarding this issue. Last fall marriage equality became legal in Wisconsin. In June the Supreme Court made marriage equality the law of the nation. Late last year, the Council began discussing what our R.I.C. designation meant in light of giving same sex couples the legal right to marry. Some wondered how the Affirmation of Welcome could stand with integrity should we not act to affirm providing Christian wedding services to all couples.

Throughout 2015, the Council has continued this discussion. In April, the Council hosted Sunday forums on the subject. In subsequent monthly meetings, the Council heard reports regarding the dialogue at the forums and thoughtfully, prayerfully considered the next steps on this issue. They determined that there was overwhelming support for Trinity providing Christian wedding services to same sex couples. As a result, in August the Council decided to affirm a motion to empower the pastors of Trinity to be able to respond to any couple desiring a Christian wedding service inside the Trinity building or elsewhere, regardless of sexual orientation. This motion was passed without dissent. The decision was deemed to be wholly consistent with both our church's mission to serve in Christ's love and share the good news as well as the Affirmation of Welcome adopted by the congregation in 2014.

The commitment of two people who love each other and choose to enter into a publicly celebrated union is an occasion for joy and blessing. This motion of the Council commits Trinity to extending the grace, mercy, and love of God to all couples who desire to marry in the context of the Christian community.

If you would like to learn more about Trinity's Wedding Policies or the R.I.C. Affirmation of Welcome, please visit trinity-ec.org.

Trinity Assists School District Program

A group of Trinity members volunteered with Pastor Jim during the final week of July at the Eau Claire School District office to assist Danielle Claesges, Homeless Program Coordinator, in organizing her inventory. Dani oversees donations given to the district and distributes them as needed to each school. Our team of 11 people moved her inventory to a new storage area and organized winter clothing, shoes, and school supplies. In addition, they packed an array of backpacks for each school. You're invited to volunteer in assisting Dani in the near future as her responsibilities have increased due to the growing needs among children in the district. These opportunities will be available after the school year begins and will be promoted via our website and during worship.

Circle Listings

Deborah

Thursday, September 17, 9:30 A.M.
at Trinity

Hostess: LaVon Schlenker

Leader: Barbara Johnson

Martha/Mary

Tuesday, September 15, 7:00 P.M.
at Trinity

Hostess: Marilyn Johnson

Leader: Group

Miriam

Wednesday, September 16, 9:30
A.M. at Trinity

Hostess: Jeanann Stone

Leader: Mary Schoenknecht

Ruth

Tuesday, September 15, 1:30 P.M.

Hostess: Jeanette Suchla, 3809

Harvest Lane, Eau Claire

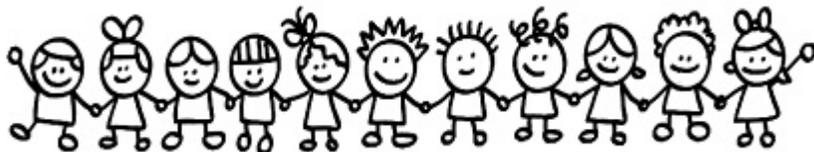
Leader: Group



Hike for the Homeless

One local mission we support through our offerings and volunteering is the homeless family shelter downtown called the Beacon House. A "Hike for the Homeless" in support of this shelter will be held on Saturday, September 26, beginning at 9:00 A.M. at Phoenix Park.

Register by September 11 and get a t-shirt. Otherwise you may register at the event beginning at 8:00 A.M. Entry fees are \$5 for children age 11 and under; \$15 for children age 12 and older; \$20 for adults; and \$40 for a family (includes two t-shirts). Find the registration form and more information at www.beacon-house.org.



Children's Ministries

The 2015–2016 Children's Ministries school year programming is finally here! There are many opportunities for not only your children, but also for YOU, to help be a part of the ministry at Trinity! I am excited for the school year to kick off and to watch the kids at Trinity develop relationships and grow in their faith. If you would like to learn more or are interested in helping out this year, please contact Sara Reed at sarar@trinity-ec.org or 715.832.6601 ext 218.

Join Us on Sundays

Sunday school kicks off on September 20 for children 3 Years Old–Grade 6. (My Church for 2 year olds begins in October.) There are two session times available. Registration forms may be found at www.trinity-ec.org, in the Children's Ministry Office, or in the lobby.

- Session 1: 8:55–9:30 A.M.
- Session 2: 10:30–11:05 A.M.

Wednesday Night Programming

To Gather in Faith (TGIF) is a wonderful program where kids learn about the gospel, share a meal together, worship, and build relationships. It will kick off on September 16 for children in Grades 3–6.

Does your child love to sing? Trinity has been gifted with wonderful leaders that direct God's Little Singers (GLS), the Children's Choir, and Totally Joyous Christians (TJC). Each choir gives children an opportunity to share their spiritual gifts, create friendships, and share a meal together. Choir rehearsals begin on September 16. You will find additional information and choir director contact information on page 9.

How to Register

- Pizza Family Registration night is **Wednesday, September 9**, at 5:00 P.M. Come with your family for a pizza supper and register your kids for Sunday School, TGIF, and Choirs.
- Rally Sunday is **September 13** throughout the morning. Look for registration materials in the lobby. After each worship service, join us in the Trinity Room for an ice cream sundae. You won't want to miss a delicious treat!

Teacher Orientations

- **Camp TGIF Teachers** • Wednesday, September 9, at 6:15 P.M.
- **Sunday School Teachers** • Thursday, September 17, at 7:00 P.M.

At each orientation, you will receive your teaching materials, important procedures, schedules, and help generate class lists!

Want to Make a Difference? Volunteer!

Do you have a love for kids and want to make a difference? We are still looking for teachers for both Sunday School and TGIF on Wednesdays. The teaching materials, supplies, and support are provided! You can teach with a partner if you prefer. It's a wonderful opportunity to share your faith, share your life experiences, and help a child grow. You won't regret helping!

Do you have a passion for cooking or serving food? To Gather in Faith (TGIF) is looking for volunteers to help cook and serve on Wednesday evenings beginning at 5:00 P.M. It's a wonderful opportunity to serve alongside adults, teens, and children. Our new Meal Coordinator is Jessie Strey. She is excited about this ministry at Trinity and would love to have you help serve alongside her!

Upcoming Events

- **Bible Sunday** is September 13. Children in the three year old class (Preschool 1) and in Grade 3 will receive their new Spark Bibles during the 9:45 A.M. worship.
- **Blessing of the Backpacks** will occur on September 20 during the 9:45 A.M. worship service. Please have your child bring their backpack to Children's Time where they will receive a blessing for the start of the school year and a small charm for their backpack. The charm will remind them of the love that God has for them.
- **Staff Installation Sunday** will be September 27. We encourage all teachers and individuals who will be a part of Children's Ministry at Trinity this fall to attend and be blessed as they start their journey working alongside adults and children.



Early Childhood Enrichment Programs Openings for Fall 2015

Music & Movement • Children move and grove as they explore music with song, dance, and instruments. The class includes free play, story time, and guided music instruction with new themes explored each week. Music & Movement begins Monday, September 14, and runs for 15 weeks.

- Session One: 9:05 A.M. – 9:50 A.M. 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 \$80.
- Session Two: 10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M. for children who are two by 6.1.15. Children experience this class independently. Cost is \$190.

Creative Arts • Spend Mondays engaged in a variety of creative activities! Children will dance, sing, and experiment with art processes. Children will also hear stories 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, September 14, from 1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M. and runs for 15 weeks. Cost is \$200.

Readers, Authors, & 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, September 15, from 9:00 A.M. – 11:15 A.M. and runs for 14 weeks. Cost is \$190.

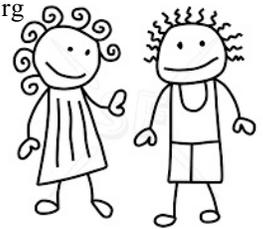
Great Pretenders • Let your child's imagination run free. This class uses drama, art, and creative games to enhance and expand great children's literature and Bible stories. Children will create story props, costumes, and puppets and then use them to retell stories. Children will explore new vocabulary, story structures, and build literacy skills. This class is for children who turn four by 1.1.16. Great Pretenders begins Tuesday, September 15, from 12:45 P.M. – 3:00 P.M. and runs for 14 sessions. Cost is \$190.

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 6.1.15. Come & Play begins on Wednesday, September 9, from 12:15 P.M. – 2:15 P.M. and runs for 14 weeks. Cost is \$190.

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, September 17, from 9:00 A.M. – 11:15 A.M. OR 12:45 P.M. – 3:00 P.M. for 13 weeks. Cost is \$180.

To register or for more information on any of our Early Childhood Enrichment Programs, please check out the Trinity website at trinity-ec.org where you will find a link to the registration form. For additional information or to verify openings, please contact Children's Ministry Director Sara Reed at 715.832.6601 ext. 218 or sarar@trinity-ec.org



New Children's Ministry Committee!

I am excited to announce the members of the Children's Ministry Committee! I am not only supported by the congregation, but these individuals will also serve and support me in a variety of special areas and with special events. I am extremely thankful to have this committee and to be supported by the congregation as well. Please encourage them, pray for them, and support them as they join in God's mission here at Trinity. The new members are Malissa Dahlstrom, Kelly Fridlund, Jessie Strey, Juli Ezell, Marlee Knickerbocker, Jill Kasmarek, Jeanne Cooper, Pastor Sarah Semmler Smith, Kim Hill, Alicia Strozinsky, Alison Blazek, Marilyn Thompson, Jackie Krumenauer, Nathan Nybroten, Ginny Lien, Mike Schremp, and Kristy Casto.

Sara Reed, Children's Ministry Director



Noah's News

September is here, and Noah's Ark is sailing into a new school year! This is our 35th year of early childhood programming with a Christian emphasis that praises God. God is surely at work through the beautiful children that will enter our doors after Labor Day. Our school year focus continues to be a celebration of God's message of grace and love through the Bible; our personal interactions with families and friends; and learning about our Trinity family, our community, and our blessed world. Please pray for the Noah's Ark children and their families as they embark on this most important school year. It is a proven fact that more learning takes place in these early childhood years than at any other time in our lives. What fun!

In September, Noah's Ark looks forward to Visit Week, the distribution of Spark Story Bibles to 3 year olds on Bible Sunday, photo day, tie dye day, and much more. We'll be busy. The hallway and building will be abuzz with lots of children's voices and family interactions. We welcome back our teaching staff: Mrs. Lien (25th year), Mrs. Kasmarek (21st year), Mrs. Knickerbocker (20th year), and me (33rd year). My how time has flown by as we were having fun with wonderful children from all over this community. We have been blessed over and over again!

Noah's Ark is a great place to be. Please tell your friends that there are a few T-Th P.M. (3 before 9-1-15) and M-W-F P.M. (4 before 12-31-15) spots left. We'd love to spend the year celebrating God's love with the new families you invite!

Hugs for an awesome September!

Jeanne Cooper

Noah's Ark Preschool Director



Prayer Friends for 7th & 8th Graders

Being a Prayer Friend is a powerful way to connect with God, and it is an extraordinary blessing to have other people praying for you. The Youth Leadership Team once again invites adults to be Prayer Friends with our seventh and eighth grade confirmation students. This partnership will be anonymous until it is revealed in a celebration at the end of the school year. Students will be able to use email (myprayerfriend@trinity-ec.org) to direct prayer requests to their adult partner. The Prayer Friend administrator will relay requests to the Prayer Friend. Please volunteer to pray for a student this year. You'll be providing a great ministry to our youth.

Sign up at Clipboard Central in the lobby. Contact Lisa or Cassie at 715.832.6601 ext 209 or youthministry@trinity-ec.org with any questions.

Youth Ministry Volunteers Needed!

There are many opportunities to volunteer with Youth Ministries! Sign-ups are available at Clipboard Central. Please contact Cassie or Lisa at youthministry@trinity-ec.org with any questions.

7th and 8th Grade Group Guides • Group Guides are responsible for leading a group of 8-10 students following a large group lesson led by a pastor in the Trinity Room. We meet during the school year approximately every other Wednesday evening. This is a wonderful opportunity to grow in faith while leading a small group of enthusiastic students.

Be A Mentor • Youth Ministry is looking for "Triple A Adults" (Authentic, Affirming, and Available) to mentor high school students in our Club 9 confirmation program. Mentors are responsible for attending large group lessons, led by pastors, with their student. Small group discussion is woven into the large group lessons.

Teen Study Leaders • Teen Study Leaders are needed to teach Club 78 Teen Study and High School Bible Study. Club 78 Teen Study meets on Sunday mornings during the second Sunday school session from 10:30-11:05 A.M. There is a 7th grade class and an 8th grade class. High School Bible Study meets on Wednesday evenings from 7:15-8:00 P.M. Club 78 Teen Studies and High School Bible Study will use *The Story* study materials. We are looking for a team of three to five adults to teach each group on a rotating schedule. Curriculum, materials, and support are provided. This is another great opportunity to serve in Christ's love and share the Good News!



Wednesday Evening Youth Ushers Needed

Sign up at the Tool Bench to indicate your willingness to usher for the Wednesday 6:30 P.M. Worship Service. Ushering responsibilities include handing out bulletins, collecting the offering, and assisting with communion. Ushering counts as a service for confirmation students and is a fun way to participate with a friend or mentor.

Adopt-A-Highway

All youth are invited to participate in the fall Adopt-A-Highway service event on Saturday, October 3, at 9:00 A.M. Trinity has a designated two-mile stretch of Highway 37, by Little Red School, to keep clean. Adults are also needed to help with this event. We meet at Little Red School. A sign-up sheet is at the Tool Bench.

Donut Fundraiser

Sign up at the Tool Bench to participate in the Donut Fundraiser on Sunday mornings. There are two shifts available each Sunday. We start serving donuts on Sunday, September 20. This fundraiser allows youth to earn money for their student account. These funds are then available to put towards Trinity sponsored events, retreats, and summer camps/trips. A tithe will be given to Faith Partners in Literacy.

Reading – A Beautiful Habit to Fall Into!

New to the Trinity Library:

Rose's Garden by Carrie Brown. Conrad and Rose met as children, fell in love as teenagers, and married young. Conrad earned a living as a gilder, raised homing pigeons, and worshiped Rose. Rose gardened. They lived together for more than fifty years, and then Rose died. At seventy-five, Conrad found himself alone, staring at the walls of his house and neglecting Rose's garden. Then an angel came to the garden, the last person he ever thought to see wearing wings. Startled, he felt compelled to spread the news throughout his town, and to his surprise, people he'd known all his life began to reveal their deepest selves to him. (FIC BRO) This book is the Trinity Page Turners Book

Club selection for February 2016.

Selections by Two Local Authors:

Now and Then This and That by Margaret Gratz. Margaret was a geography and English teacher in the Eau Claire Schools, and following retirement she spent a great deal of time teaching English as a second language. This is her book of memories as a child growing up in the Menomonie area and living, working, and serving in Eau Claire.



Readers will recognize names of people she encountered in the community and members of Trinity Lutheran who were involved in the resettlement of Hmong families. (B GRA)

Max Your Mind: The Owner's Guide for a Strong Brain by Sandra Sunquist Stanton. This book takes a light hearted look from a spiritual perspective at the serious subject of the ways brain, body, spirit, and relationships should work together so we more easily make choices to stay healthy and happy. Sandy lives in Eau Claire, was a counselor in the Eau Claire school system, and is a friend to many Trinity members. Check out this book; you will find it interesting!

Look for these new books and others on the A-frame display in the Trinity Library. New books are tagged with a small sticker on the front cover.

Page Turners Book Club

The Page Turners Book Club meets on Tuesday, September 15, at 6:30 P.M. to discuss *The Dovekeepers* by Alice Hoffman. Nearly two thousand years ago, nine hundred Jews held out for months against armies of Romans on Masada, a mountain in the Judean desert. According to ancient historian Josephus, two women and five children survived. Based on this tragic and iconic event, Hoffman's novel is a spellbinding tale of four extraordinarily bold, resourceful, and sensuous women, each of whom has come to Masada by a different path.

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.



Join a Music Team You Have Been Blessed!



“Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy.” Join one of Trinity’s Music Teams this fall to shout your praises! Opportunities exist for everyone, any age and any ability level, to participate in our exciting worship life at Trinity. Call the following numbers to receive more information, or just show up for a rehearsal. No auditions are required. Everyone will feel welcome in a choir.

God's Little Singers, PreK–Kindergarten

Director: Jeanne Cooper (715.832.6601; jeanne@trinity-ec.org)
 Rehearsal: Wednesday, 5:00–6:15 P.M.
 Location: Noah’s Ark Preschool Room
 Start Date: Wednesday, September 16
 Registration: Wednesday, September 9, Pizza Party at 5:00 P.M.

Children's Choir, Grades 1–2

Director: Corinne Gransee Paral (715.839.9173; cgranseeparal@mac.com)
 Rehearsal: Wednesday, 5:00–6:15 P.M.
 Location: Choir Room
 Start Date: Wednesday, September 16
 Registration: Wednesday, September 9, Pizza Party at 5:00 P.M.

Totally Joyous Christians, Grades 3–6

Director: Liz Drayton (608.514.4143; earasmus@gmail.com)
 Rehearsal: Wednesday, 4:15–4:55 P.M.
 Location: Choir Room
 Start Date: Wednesday, September 16
 Registration: Wednesday, September 9, Pizza Party at 5:00 P.M.

7th and 8th Grade Choir, Grades 7–8

Director: Corinne Gransee Paral (715.839.9173; cgranseeparal@mac.com)
 Rehearsal: Wednesday, 7:15–8:00 P.M. (alternating with Club 78)
 Location: Choir Room
 Start Date: Wednesday, September 16
 Registration: Wednesday, September 9, Club 78 Orientation at 7:15 P.M. or come to the first rehearsal

Trinity Tollers Handbell Choir, Grade 7 and up

Director: Ryan Poquette (715.552.5266; ryan@creation27.com)
 Rehearsal: Tuesday, 6:15–8:00 P.M.
 Location: Worship Center
 Start Date: Tuesday, September 8

Harmony In Spirit Worship Team, Grade 9 and up

Director: Shirley Sands (715.832.6601; shirley@trinity-ec.org)
 Rehearsal: Wednesday, 7:15 P.M.
 Location: Worship Center
 Start Date: Wednesday, September 9

Trinity Choir, Grade 9 and up

Director: Gary Rambo (715.832.4429; gjrambo@att.net)
 Rehearsal: Thursday, 7:00–8:00 P.M.
 Location: Choir Room
 Start Date: Thursday, September 10

CrossWord Youth Band, Grades 7–12

Director: Drew Brandenburg (715.833.8591; drewjill@gmail.com)
 Rehearsal: Wednesday, 5:30 P.M.
 Location: Worship Center
 Start Date: Wednesday, September 9

New Choir

Starting this fall, 7th and 8th grade students may continue in Trinity’s choir program when the 7th and 8th Grade Choir launches on Wednesdays, opposite Club 78, at 7:15 P.M. Corinne Gransee Paral is excited to be directing this much requested musical growth opportunity. Please put this excellent choral offering on your schedule.

Invitation to Singers

Trinity Choir welcomes you to join us this fall. We invite anyone confirmation age and beyond to sing in our adult choir, and we need singers in all voice ranges. Rehearsals are Thursdays from 7:00–8:00 P.M. (with some exceptions, i.e. when we occasionally sing at a Wednesday worship service) in the Choir Room beginning September 10. We welcome “snow birds,” singers with busy schedules and occasional conflicts, and offer a special invitation to new members of Trinity. If you have any questions, please contact Trinity Choir Director Gary Rambo at 715.832.4429.



Received in July Memorials & Gifts

Endowment Trust Fund

- In memory of Allan Hanson: Warren Wangen, James & Marjorie Oleson, Barbara Johnson, John & Nancee Burbank, Corinne Charlson, Glen & Beverly Tamke, Phyllis Burrows, Avis Grambo, Joel & Lenore Higgins, Family & Friends, Suzanne Kristo, Jerry & Joanne Dow, Kirk & Jacqueline Day, Donald & Donna Dickson, Jon & Maureen Homstad, Kenneth & Gloria Anderson, Jerry & Laurene Taylor, Sandra Jacobson, Ann Ayres, David & Gloria Weiss, Mary Friederich, Ron & Yvonne Nixdorf, Barbara Tischer, James & Marilyn Bollinger, Donald Betthausen, Donald & Nancy Winter, Bob & Mary Schoenknecht, Char Finseth, James & Beverly Page, Gary & Mary Rambo, Shirley Parr, Jack & Carol Bartingale, Barbara Vorhes, Dennis & Norma Bohman, Jack & Lois Olson, David & Carol Anderson, the Village of Wales
- In memory of Lawrence Ziehme: Ardelle Ziehme, Connie Ziehme, Robert & Carole Johansen, Warren Wangen, James & Marjorie Oleson, Ron Retzlaff, Corinne Charlson, John & Charlotte Drake, Richard Wendt, Regal Williams, Carla Brandrup, Helen Counsell, Dee Maug, Robert & Debra Sutton, Jan Stewart, Gretchen Hutterli & Robert Erffmeyer, Sandra Jacobson, Barbara Vorhes, Barbara Tischer, Joyce Mortt, Char Finseth, Theodore Carlson, Albert & Paula Ziehme, Mark & Debra Peterson, Susan Stangfeld, Larry & Sheryl Gullickson, Ralph & Norma Marking, Morris & Audrey Brumberg, Rose Sippel, Jack & Lois Olson, Ron & Yvonne Nixdorf, Wanda Steinke, Wally Bruns, Pat Anderson, Bev Jungerberg, Al & Kris Jarocki, Hugh Buchanan, Betty Lee, Pam Blanchette, Carla Kurg, Kay Magadance, Marilyn Bergmann, Blanche Caton, Cecile Kruger, Wally & Velda Swenson, Marilyn & Terry Sullivan, Jim Kopp, Steven & Carol Rondoll, Alden & Gertrude Berg, Marcella Kurth, Steven Kurth, Vonita Johnson, Jim & Kathy Fritz Family, Wayne & Betty Jo Abley, Robert & Jeri Morris, Brenda Ziehme, LeAnna Serpic, Doris Ganske, Richard & Diana Bauer, Shirley Lee, Jim & Sandy Webb, Beverly Railton, Steven & Sherry Hansen, Donna Crawford, Dennis & Kim Gullickson, Dan & Sandy Gullickson, Dick & Bonnie Slomkowski, Steven & Janice Franck, Roger & Jane Dale, Donald & Marian Yauch, Charles & Diane Peterson, Anthony & Phyllis Reilly, Dean & Peggy Gullickson, Orville & Shirley Anderson, Alice Biel Family
- In memory of Jack O'Connell: Barbara Johnson
- In memory of Jerry Jacobson: Ron Retzlaff
- In memory of Lowell Joseph: Richard Wendt

Food Pantry Fund

- In memory of Lawrence Ziehme: David & Jeanette Suchla
- In memory of Margaret Sprain: Jim & Joyce Davis
- In memory of Jack O'Connell: Gary & Gloria Crossman

General Fund

- In honor of Esther Johnson's 100th Birthday: Patrick & Mary Beth Ingrouille

Children's Ministries Fund

- In honor of Brayden Walker's Baptism: Dan & Babette Walker

Library Fund

- In memory of Lawrence Ziehme: Donald & Barbara Lee, Jerry & Joanne Dow
- In memory of Allan Hanson: Donald & Barbara Lee

St. John's Bible Fund

- In memory of Lawrence Ziehme: Jim & Marilyn Bollinger
- In memory of Allan Hanson: Dick Cable

Trinity Choir Fund

- In memory of Lawrence Ziehme: Ann Ayres
- In memory of Allan Hanson: Warren & Mavis Hermodson

Women's Giving Circle

- In memory of Allan Hanson: Rose Sippel, Lori Juneau, Dorcas Circle, Family & Friends

Mission Fund

- In memory of Allan Hanson: Ted & Ardy Nystuen

Memorial Fund

- In memory of Margaret Ann Sprain: Jack & Lois Olson

Friendship Group

- In memory of Margaret Ann Sprain: Rose Sippel, Cal Sprain, Sherry Solberg, Darlene Nelson

Endowment Trust- Youth & Children

- In memory Lowell Joseph: Bob & Mary Schoenknecht
- In memory of Lucille Brown: Bob & Mary Schoenknecht

Children's Bible Fund

- In memory of Sharen Hoepner: Kurt & Kristine Lauer



Health Ministries

I have been struggling for a health topic for September. I'm sure you can think of lots of ideas . . . back-to-school, Alzheimer's Month, etc. None of those topics felt right. It may be because my closest and long-time friend is at the end of her life and all those other topics seem unimportant right now. She had courageously fought cancer in the past, but it is back. She and her family are my inspiration for this month's topic . . . end of life decisions and hospice.



Hospice staff are the experts in managing end of life care. You see a cardiologist for your heart and a nephrologist for your kidneys. Hospice staff are the experts when your life is near the end; often defined by six months or less to live with no further treatment options available or chosen. The main point I want everyone to know is that you do NOT have to wait until a few days before death to use their services. When my mother's treatment options were over for brain cancer, I enrolled her in hospice right away. That was September; she died in April. Yes, that was longer than six months, but we just re-enrolled her at the six month mark. Both she and my father received the benefit of weekly nurse visits, home health aide visits, and chaplain services for all those months. They both developed a relationship and bond with the hospice staff. These were not strangers coming in at the last minute to provide care at the time of my mother's death. Plus, this service was as helpful to my father and me as it was to Mom. My friend has delayed enrolling in hospice. No one knows how long she has, but hospice would be a great help and comfort to her and her family. She has planned her funeral, taken care of finances, but she is not ready to enroll in hospice yet. I love her and respect her decision, but in my heart I know hospice would be a blessing to her and her family. So if you, a friend, or a relative are ever in this situation, know that hospice is there to care and guide a person and their family through the end of life. Don't wait until the end to bring them into your life!

Secondly, have an Advanced Directive or 5 Wishes document completed stating your choice for "power of attorney for healthcare," have the signatures witnessed, and give the completed form to your health care provider. You can get the booklets at any Health Care facility, and we have 5 Wishes documents at Trinity. This is important for everyone, even you 20 year olds who plan on living forever! The person you choose for your "power of attorney for healthcare" needs to know what your wishes are when you can no longer make those choices for yourself. That person needs to be committed to what YOU want. This is not easy when family members and friends want to do everything possible to prolong life. I have sat in on family discussions that involved debate over what the children wanted to do. The question that we came back to every time was "What does Mother/Dad want?" "What were her/his wishes?" So if you love your children, your spouse, your friends; help them through a difficult time by giving them the gift of knowing you died as you wanted.

Autumn is right around the corner with the beautiful leaves and cooler temperatures. Enjoy every day given to you to the fullest!

Blessings,

Vicki Dueringer, Parish Nurse

Plan Ahead and Bless your Family

More people are preparing a blessing for family members by doing the faithful task of making and recording decisions and desires to be enacted upon death. Planning for the end of life is a journey that calls forth faith and trust in the God of new life. To guide the hundreds of decisions that surround the end of life, including the rites of the church and burial, Trinity has developed a funeral planning guide, and it's available on our website under the "Worship" tab. Some print copies are also available on the table in the Lobby. The plans you make now can be a reassuring gift to others in the future. Check out this guide today.

Powerful Tools for Caregivers

Powerful Tools for Caregivers is an educational program designed to help family caregivers take care of themselves while caring for a relative or friend. If you provide assistance to someone who is ill, disabled, or needs help with daily activities . . . you are a caregiver. Participants will learn to:

- Reduce stress.
- Improve self-confidence.
- Better communicate feelings.
- Increase ability to make tough decisions.
- Locate helpful resources.

Classes will be held on six Thursdays, September 10–October 15, from 9:30 A.M.–12:00 P.M. at Trinity Lutheran Church in Eau Claire. The cost of \$10 includes materials, refreshments, and *The Caregiver Helpbook*. Register by September 8 at www.adrcevents.org or contact the Aging & Disability Resource Center at 715.839.4635.

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

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Ryan Poquette—Trinity Tollers
Kris & Brian Pressler—Worship Music Leaders
Drew Brandenburg—CrossWord Youth Band
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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 October Newsletter is September 22.