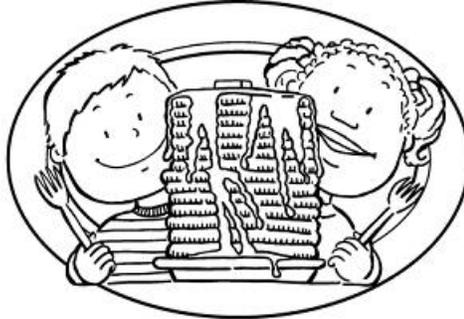


17th Annual Shrove Thursday Pancake Carnival

Come and celebrate with us at our Annual Shrove Thursday Pancake Supper on Thursday, February 16, from 4:00–7:00 P.M. This year we will again have a fun time with music, balloons, Mardi Gras beads, and an "Art Stroll." Come and indulge yourself on pancakes, sausage, fruit, and fellowship. Advance ticket prices are \$6.00 for age 12 and over and \$3.00 for under age 12. At the door on February 16, prices are \$7.00 for age 12 and over and \$3.00 for under age 12. Tickets will be on sale at the Information Center on Sundays, February 5 and 12, after the 8:15 A.M. and 9:45 A.M. worship services, and on Wednesday, February 15, after the 6:30 P.M. service. During the week, tickets are available in the Church Office.



The supper is sponsored by Trinity Christian Preschool—"Noah's Ark." This fundraiser will tithe to UCP.

Trinity Helps Hispanic Ministry

Recently the Trinity Council granted \$3,000 of Thrivent Choice funds to assist the start-up of an ELCA Hispanic ministry in the Chippewa Valley. Aimed at ministering and providing worship for the growing Hispanic population living and working in the area, Jorge Cervera has been employed by the NW Synod of WI ELCA to work with area congregations and clergy in this effort. Thank you to all who hold Thrivent Financial products and have elected Trinity as a beneficiary of "Thrivent Choice" dollars. Contact your Thrivent representative to elect Trinity for your Thrivent Choice dollars.

Grant from the Olson Fund

In 1990 Trinity established the Pastor Jack and Lois Olson scholarship fund at Luther Seminary for students coming from Trinity, other congregations Pastor Olson served, or other Wisconsin students. He served Trinity from 1968–1989. The Fund has a value of \$22,346 and awarded an \$1,063 scholarship to Trinity seminarian Jamie Brieske.

Trinity's Endowment Trust Fund has its own fund for Future Church Leaders and welcomes your estate and current gifts. Learn more about the Trust Fund at trinity-ec.org

Looking for Baptism?

Baptism is the sacrament of the Lutheran Church in which we are adopted into the family of God and begin a promising new life in Christ. We celebrate baptisms of children, youth, and adults throughout the year. If you desire to be baptized or wish to present a child for baptism, please consider the following upcoming Sundays: February 12, 26; March 11, 25. When you have a date in mind or would like more information, please call one of the pastors to begin the process to make arrangements for baptism.

Record Low of Married Adults

Valentines Day makes us think about love and marriage. But recent Pew Center research of Census data shows that barely half of all adults in the United States—a record low—are currently married, and the median age at first marriage has never been higher for brides (26.5 years) and grooms (28.7).

In 1960, 72% of all adults ages 18 and older were married; today just 51% are. If current trends continue, the share of adults who are currently married will drop to below half within a few years. Other adult living arrangements—including cohabitation, single-person households, and single parenthood—have all grown more prevalent in recent decades. The most dramatic marriage rate decline is among young adults. Today, just 20% of adults ages 18 to 29 are married, compared with 59% in 1960.

Public attitudes about the institution of marriage are mixed. Nearly four-in-ten Americans say marriage is becoming obsolete, according to a Pew Research survey in 2010. Yet, the same survey found that most people who have never married (61%) would like to do so someday.

Bread Baking and Spiritual Growth

Head to Luther Park Bible Camp for a retreat March 23–24 and learn to make a wide range of breads and enjoy Bible study and great Christian fellowship. Led by Pastor Joel and Lou Ann Olsen, you'll gain baking skills and be renewed spiritually. Youth may accompany adults. Cost \$55. Register at lutherpark.org or 715.859.2215.

Community Programs

Memory Care Connections Support for Spousal Caregivers

The goal of Memory Care Connections is to provide knowledge and support to people caring for their husband or wife with dementia. When spouses who are also caregivers receive the support and services they need, the person with dementia also benefits. Call the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Eau Claire County at 715.839.4735 for more information.

"We're in this Together" Family Caregiver Support Group

"We're in this Together" offers support and encouragement to family and friends who provide care to a loved one with a chronic illness or Alzheimer's disease/dementia, whether in the home, or in a facility, or from a distance. Join us every other Friday of the month at Bethesda Lutheran church at 1:00 P.M. (January 27, February 10, 24...). For more information, contact Mary Pierce at 715.598.9307 or mary@laughlady.com

NAMI

A National Alliance on Mental Illness Family Support Group is starting on February 2 and will meet the first Thursday of each month from 6:30–8:30 at St Andrews Office Park, 3300 Birch Street, Eau Claire. For more information, contact 715.450.6484 or email namicv@yahoo.com. Come join our NAMI-trained family support group facilitators for a supportive, informational, and educational meeting with others dealing with the issues of having someone in their lives with a mental illness. For more general information, visit www.nami.org, or www.namiwisconsin.org



Chippewa Valley Lewy Body Dementia Support Group

This group meets on the second Wednesday of each month from 6:00–8:00 P.M. at Sacred Heart Hospital, Conference Room 15. For more information, contact Amy Lokken at amy@modularmarketingsystems.com or 715.379.3148.

Save Outdated Cell Phones

Trinity's Health Ministry Committee will be collecting your old cell phones to give isolated people in the developing world access to medical care. Medic Mobile is a company that responsibly recycles or refurbishes all mobile phones, from old and broken to the latest smartphone, and creates communication networks for health workers serving millions in 15 countries. Be watching for a recycle box. Go to hopephones.org for more information.

Book Suggestions for February

ADULT FICTION

- *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* by Jamie Ford. This book is historical fiction at its best. Young Chinese American Henry Lee meets Keiko Okabe, a Japanese American girl, in the early 40's in Seattle. The reader is then taken to the 80's where an elderly Henry Lee struggles in his relationship with his son. The novel moves back and forth in time with it all coming together beautifully in the end. It tells the story of first love but also of the struggle between a father and his son, the role of fate in our lives, and ultimately the terrible cost of war. A must read! Reviewed by Monika Fiedler. (FIC FOR)
- *The Countertenor Wore Garlic* by Mark Schweizer. This is the latest addition to the Liturgical Mysteries series that are available in our library as well. (FIC SCH)

CHILDREN'S FICTION

- *Barn Boot Blues* by Catherine Friend. Catherine is the daughter of Irene Friend, Trinity member and member of the Trinity Library Committee. This is a delightful story about Taylor, a city girl from the Twin Cities, who moves with her parents to a sheep farm in the middle of nowhere. The target audience is for children ages 8-12; however, I found it a delightful read and recommend it to anyone. Recommended by Mary Schoenknecht. (+ FIC FRI) Catherine has also written a picture book, *The Perfect Nest*, that can be found in our library.

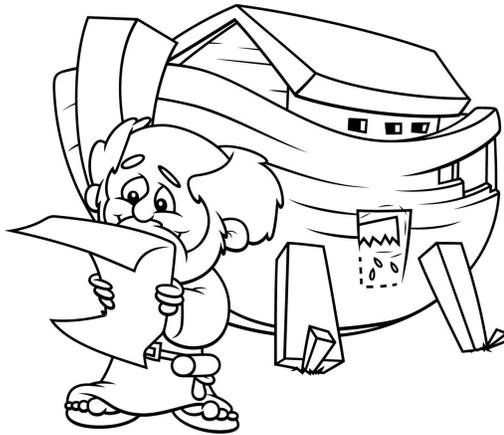
Friendship Group

Join us on Wednesday, February 8, at 10:00 A.M. in the Trinity Room. Cheryl Miller will share a program about Katie Luther (Martin's wife). The program will be followed by lunch at Pizza Hut. No reservations are necessary!

The following month we will meet on Wednesday, March 14, at 10:00 A.M. in the Trinity Room. Pastor Ned Lenhart will present a program on mission churches. After the program, we will attend Lenten worship followed by a soup lunch in the Trinity Room.

Noah's News

Hear Ye...Hear Ye! You are invited to the 17th Annual Noah's Ark Shrove Thursday Pancake Supper fund-raiser on Thursday, February 16, from 4:00–7:00 P.M. Tickets will be on sale on Sundays, February 5 and 12, from 9:00–9:45 A.M. in the lobby, and on Wednesday, February 15, following the 6:30 P.M. worship. Tickets are also on sale in the Church Office daily. Ticket prices are adults \$6.00, children age 12 and under \$3.00. Tickets the day of



the supper are \$7.00 for adults. Come enjoy the Third Annual Art Stroll prepared by the children of Noah's Ark. Get ready to be awed! Children can also participate in a variety of activities following their pancake supper! We hope to get a picture of YOU enjoying the fun! Did you know that Cindy Beck was the chair of our very first pancake supper for Noah's Ark? Her children were here then! I love trivia about Noah's Ark!

In February, Noah's Ark will also celebrate Valentine's Day, prepare for Lent, learn about "Peace Officers" from Eau Claire Police Officer John Rush, mark leap year, and greet Pastor Jim. It's going to be a short month FULL of fun!!

In January, the Noah's Ark Preschool Committee welcomed Emily Kreiner, Sara Scovil, Heather Day, and Valerie Fedie. Other members of our committee continuing three year terms are: Stephanie Erickson, Jenny Larson, Raeann Nargiz, Kaying Xiong, Lori Borg, Jessica Loasching, and Lisa McIntyre, our Council Rep. We thank Michelle Page, Anne Lindahl, Trisha Pichla, Ali Rouse, and Shelly Seeman for many years of service. You are appreciated!

January also found the children of Noah's Ark welcoming 3 new students to our M-W-F PM class: Brady, Jace, and Ryan. As we begin our outside play together each week, we'll celebrate our new friends! It's Not too late to invite a friend to join us yet this year. Make sure to mark February 7 at 8:00 A.M. as the CALL IN (715.832.6601) day for Trinity members to register their children for the 2012–2013 Noah's Ark Preschool year. Check out the bright yellow brochure in this newsletter!

Hugs to YOU all, JC

Circle Listings

DEBORAH

Thursday, February 16, 9:30 A.M.,
Trinity
Hostess: Joyce Davis
Leader: Nancee Burbank

DORCAS

Wednesday, February 15, 1:00 P.M.
Trinity
Hostess: Ruth Wolfram
Leader: Group

MARTHA/MARY

Tuesday, February 21, 7:00 P.M.
Trinity
Hostess: Kathy Gjesfjeld
Leader: Kathy Gjesfjeld

MIRIAM

Wednesday, February 15, 9:30 A.M.,
Trinity
Hostess: Avis Drung
Leader: Group

RUTH

Tuesday, February 21, 1:30 P.M.
Hostess: Joanne Stange, 2029
Declaration Drive
Leader: Joanne Stange

SARAH

Wednesday, February 15, 9:30 A.M.,
Trinity
Hostess: Phyllis Burrows
Leader: Barb Vorhes

Children's Ministries

Open Gym Tuesdays

Open Gym Tuesdays will continue in February (except on February 21). It meets from 10:00–11:30 A.M. The Trinity Room will be open for parents/grandparents/day care providers and their young children (toddlers–preschool) to come in and use our equipment in a large safe space. Marlee Knickerbocker will supervise the area and offer a story time and snack during the last half hour. There is a \$3 charge for each child at each session; \$5 for 2 children from the same family, and \$7 for three. No registration is required; however, please email or call Mary Schoenknecht to indicate your interest at marys@trinity-ec.org or 715.832.6601. Members, friends of members, and non members are welcome to attend.

Not Too Late to Sign-up

Current Day Camp Possibilities for Preschool Age Children

The Great Pretenders • Tuesday afternoons; has two openings.

Come & Play, Session Two • Wednesday early afternoon; has one opening.

Thrilling Thursdays • Morning & afternoon sessions; has two openings in each session.

For more information check out the Trinity webpage at trinity-ec.org or contact Mary Schoenknecht at 715.832.6001 or marys@trinity-ec.org

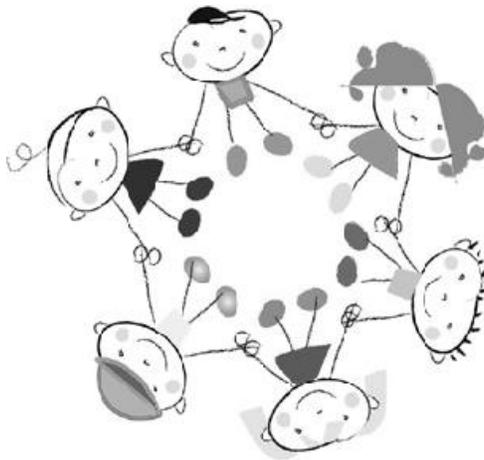
Communion Instruction

Communion Instruction is a sacramental class that prepares children in first grade for participation at the Lord's Supper. This is a family class, meaning parents accompany their child so the faith conversation can continue at home. We meet on Saturday, March 3, from 9:00–11:00 A.M. Information and forms will be sent to parents in mid February. Additional forms are available in the Children's Ministries office.

Summer Fun!

Before we know it summer will be here. It's time to mark your calendar Summer 2012 Day Camps! Our registration booklet will be available in mid March. Registration begins in mid March. Registration begins on Sunday, April 1, beginning at 8:00 A.M. in the lobby/library area.

- Camp Discovery: June 11–15
- Trinity Sports Camp: June 18–20
- Camp Come & Play: June 25–28
- Camp Cooking & Booking: June 25–29
- Camp Veggie Tales: July 9–13
- Camp Tell The Good News: July 9–12



2012 Vacation Bible School "Kids in God's Word"

VBS is scheduled for July 23–27 from 8:45 A.M.–12 noon. The cost is a suggested \$20 donation per child. VBS is for children who were three by 9.1.11 through those who have completed grade six. The Kick Off Event is Sunday, July 22, at the 9:45 A.M. worship service. Registration begins on Sunday, April 1, beginning at 8:00 A.M.

Luther Park

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

Safety Guidelines

Trinity's Children's Ministries Committee and Child Safety Committee members would like to remind parents there is no one supervising young children in the rest rooms or other parts of the building during the worship services. We would advise parents to accompany their young children and not send them on their own. During Sunday school sessions, children are supervised by their teachers.

On Wednesday evenings, we also advise parents to come into the building to pick up their children following choir rehearsals and Camp T.G.I.F. classes. Young children are not released unless a parent or designated person is present.

Youth Ministries

Youth Dates to Remember

Wednesday, February 1

- CrossWord practice in the Worship Center at 5:30 P.M.
- Club 78 and parents in the Trinity Room from 7:15–8:30 P.M.
- Club 9 and parents in the Trinity Room from 7:15–8:30 P.M.

Sunday, February 5

- Teen Study: Club 78 in the Trinity Room, High School in Room 306 from 10:30–11:05 A.M.

Wednesday, February 8

- CrossWord practice in the Worship Center at 5:30 P.M.
- Club 9 in the Trinity Room from 7:15–8:30 P.M.
- Group Guide meeting in Room 302 at 7:15 P.M.

Sunday, February 12

- Teen Study: Club 78 in the Trinity Room, High School in Room 306 from 10:30–11:05 A.M.

Wednesday, February 15

- CrossWord practice in the Worship Center at 5:30 P.M.
- Club 78 in the Trinity Room from 7:15–8:30 P.M.
- High School Youth Council in the Youth Room at 7:15 P.M.

Sunday, February 19

- No Teen Study

Wednesday, February 22

- CrossWord practice in the Worship Center at 5:30 P.M.
- Club 9 in the Trinity Room from 7:15–8:30 P.M.

Sunday, February 26

- Teen Study: Club 78 in the Trinity Room, High School in Room 306 from 10:30–11:05 A.M.

Wednesday, February 29

- CrossWord practice in the Worship Center at 5:30 P.M.
- Club 78 in the Trinity Room from 7:15–8:30 P.M.



Summer Camp Opportunities at Luther Park

Luther Park summer camp information is available on their web site at lutherpark.org. Camps are available for middle school and high school students. A variety of programs are offered including Drummin' and Strummin', Outdoor Adventures, and Kayaking in the Apostle Islands. Leadership and employment opportunities are also available for high school and college students. Luther Park's PALS, Partners Actively Learning and Serving, offers high school students two free weeks at camp. This program includes traditional camp experiences along with service. Trinity is offering to college students who secure employment as a camp counselor at Luther Park a grant that will subsidize your salary from the camp. Any Trinity student who attends camp is eligible for a 25% grant reimbursement of registration costs. Contact the Youth Ministry Office at 715.832.6601 for more information about the grant applications or with any questions.

New Driver's Recognition

On Wednesday, February 1, students who are eligible to earn a driver's license in 2012 will be recognized during the Wednesday Evening Worship Service. Students and parents will also receive a AAA Parent-Teen Driving Agreement. AAA has developed this agreement to help families work together to help navigate the learning process. Students will also receive a key chain as a gift from the Parish Nurse and Youth Ministry Team.

Club 9 and Mentor Service Opportunities

Check out the Tool Bench for two new service opportunities. There are also February dates available for The Beacon House and Trinity's Food Pantry. Don't forget to include your mentor's hours on your Faith Plan.

- **Souper Bowl of Caring** • Sunday, February 5, youth will lead the "Souper Bowl of Caring," a nationwide hunger effort. Youth, sporting their desired team apparel, will invite each person present in worship to help reach our goal of \$1,000 in support of the Eau Claire community as we recognize how our small offerings come together to accomplish great things! All contributions will be donated to Friends of Flynn Healthy Snacks Program.
- **Community Table** • Food is a basic need of humankind, and it is our privilege to serve those who go without! We will be serving a meal to those in our community at the Community Table on Friday, February 24, from 4:30–7:00 P.M. Both students and parents are needed to provide this service to the community. A sign up sheet is available at the Tool Bench.

Health Ministries

Renew! Challenge in February! Heart, Soul, Mind & Strength

Welcome to 2012. And welcome to the Renew! Challenge. The new year is always a wonderful opportunity to examine several facets of our lives, observe the choices we are making, and become intentional about using the gifts of Heart, Soul, Mind and Strength. The Renew! Challenge is a four-week exercise in stretching ourselves. It's a star chart, and your goal is to put a star in each box each day. It's simple—each day, maybe at dinner or bedtime, take a moment and remember back on your day. Have you used your heart? Put a star! Your soul? Put a star! Your mind and strength? Two more stars! If you commit to the four weeks there will be a reward!

How do you use these gifts of God?

- **HEART:** Kindness and compassion. Speaking an intentionally kind word to someone, writing a letter (by hand!), giving a hug, listening fully to someone, choosing to think the best of someone, donating food to a pantry, praying for someone.
- **SOUL:** Imagination and creativity. Draw, dance, cook, play. Talk and listen to God. Create or imagine.
- **MIND:** Intellect and learning. Read a book or an article (or your Bible!), explore a website to learn something new, go to the library, have a really good dinner conversation, go without TV.
- **STRENGTH:** Body and fitness. Walk instead of drive; stretch each time you stand up; breathe deeply after each e-mail sent; eat three colors of vegetables; get at least 30 minutes of cardio or weights.

The Renew! Challenge begins February 1. Sign up at Clipboard Central and pick up a chart, or sign up online and print it from our webpage, trinity-ec.org Sign up with your email address and receive weekly email encouragements. *Mark 12, "...you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength."*

Join me in this challenge of Renewal, Trinity!!

God's Peace,

Marti Hofer
Parish Nurse



Social Concerns

Family Volunteer Opportunities

Wondering what to do with the kids when school is out? Come volunteer at Feed My People! Children in grades K-12 and their families are invited to volunteer an hour or two at the food bank. Families will work in the warehouse repackaging bulk foods, labeling cans, and sorting food collected from area food drives. Space is limited, and volunteers must sign up in advance. For more information or to sign up, contact Ashley at 715.835.9415, x101 or ashley@fmpfoodbank.org

Sign up to help during any of these days and times:

- Monday, February 20, 1:00–4:00 P.M.
- Friday, April 6, 10:00 A.M.–1:00 P.M.

Trinity Food Pantry

Great News! In order to better serve working families in our community, beginning in February, Trinity's Food Pantry will be open on Tuesdays from 5:30–7:00 P.M. We are looking for a pool of volunteers who would work periodically for this shift. We are hoping to involve families, mentors and students, and anyone who is interested. You may volunteer once or help periodically—whatever works for you! If you are interested or have questions, please contact Suzanne at 715.832.6601 or email suzanne@trinity-ec.org

Beacon House

With the incredible volunteer efforts of over 20 area faith based organizations, the Beacon House in downtown Eau Claire provides emergency shelter, meals, and hospitality to families for up to 30 days. Trinity is proud to be a supporter of the Beacon House. Four times a year, we serve by providing meals and acting as hosts to the guests. It's a wonderful, rewarding opportunity to serve those in need in our community. Our next serving opportunity is the week of February 12-16. Several volunteers will be needed each day to fill the following duties:

- Supper Hosts: (5:30–7:00 P.M.): Prepare and serve a meal to Beacon House guests. Several volunteers to make a main course, salad, and dessert are needed.
- Evening Hosts: (7:00–9:00 P.M.) Spend time with Beacon House guests. Perhaps play games, read to children, etc.
- Overnight Hosts: (9:00 P.M.–6:00 A.M.) Stay overnight. You will have your own bedroom.
- Breakfast hosts: (6:00–7:30 A.M.) Serve breakfast. Cereal, etc. is provided. You only need to put out breakfast items.

Please join us for this rewarding experience! Sign up at Clipboard Central or contact Trinity's office at 715.832.6601 if you can help.

Gifts That Give

Trinity's alternative gift giving program aims to provide you thoughtful gifts with a charitable direction when you're shopping for Christmas, birthdays, anniversaries, and other occasions. In December, the Christmas gifts purchased included the following:

- School lunches for our friends in Jamaica
- Bed nets for our friends in Malawi
- Seminary tuition for a Trinity student
- Emergency housing at the Sojourner House
- Healthy snacks at Flynn Elementary School
- Food for Trinity's Food Pantry
- Food and milk for the Community Table
- Shoes and boots for Soles for Special Souls

Gifts totaled \$710. In addition \$800 in gifts through Heifer International were purchased. Thank you! Gifts that Give is available to you year-round whenever you're shopping for that person who has everything or when you want to make your gift thoughtful for the receiver and beneficial in a charitable way. Contact Suzanne at suzanne@trinity-ec.org in Trinity's office to shop!

Received December 2011 Memorials & Gifts

SHOE PROJECT FUND

- In memory of Vera Helgeson: Mark & Suzanne Becker

FRIENDS OF FLYNN FUND

- In memory of Vera Helgeson: Bob & Mary Schoenknecht

MEMORIAL FUND

- In memory of Millie Weaver: Lenore Rood
- In memory of Glenn Anderson: Ann Ayres

CHILDREN'S BIBLE FUND

- In memory of Lucille Christian: Jeanne Cooper

FOOD PANTRY FUND

- In memory of Daryl Wohler: Dave & Jeanette Suchla
- In memory of Thomas Hanson: Dave & Jeanette Suchla
- In memory of Millie Weaver: Elaine Lonning
- In memory of Morris Stokes: B.A. & Kathleen Dressel, Patricia Popple, Roy & Rita Hendrickson, Morris & Audrey Brumberg, Ellen Newman, Ray & Dianne Hughes, Larry & Sandy Stokes, John & Tanya Grupe, Jeff & Cindy Taylor, Geraldine Schultz, Gordon Larson, John & Nancee Burbank, Vila Nygaard, Bob & Mary Schoenknecht, Elaine Lonning

Want to Help the Library?

Save Ministry Builders Stickers! If you make a purchase at a Family Christian Store, please ask for the Ministry Builders stickers. With 20 stickers we can redeem \$5 worth on a book or DVD in the store. You can place stickers in the specially marked can in the library. Thank you from the Library Committee.

Just for Kids!

Mail Call for Trinity!



Clothing in Bible times

Men and women wore similar clothing, but according to Hebrew law they had to look different. Women usually had pretty embroidery on their garments.



Fit these words into the spaces below:

cloak	headdress
signet ring	sandals
inner tunic	girdle
outer tunic	earrings

- 1) _____ Toe rings, bracelets and necklaces were also worn.
- 2) _____ Could be a cap, turban or scarf, depending on rank and nation.
- 3) _____ Outer garment for cold weather. Used as a blanket at night.
- 4) _____ Like a belt. Women's could be rainbow colors.
- 5) _____ Graceful, simple wool or linen; women's very long.
- 6) _____ Worn by women and men.
- 7) _____ Finer cloth worn next to the body.
- 8) _____ Made of leather with soles of wood, cane or palm bark.

From the Beacon House

On behalf of the Eau Claire Interfaith Hospitality Network, the Board of Directors, volunteers and staff, we would like to thank you for your donation in the amount of \$2,100.00 to our organization. We are most grateful to have your support in our pursuit to assist struggling families and for your commitment to the well being of the Greater Eau Claire Area. Thank you again for your contribution. It is very much appreciated.

From Catholic Charities

Thank you to you and your congregation so much for your donation of \$7,534.47 and faithful adherence to the words of our Holy Father in his Encyclical letter, Deus Caritas Est, where he stressed the important difference that our works of charity not be just good works, but rather they are rooted in the love of God and thus rooted in love of neighbor. Your generosity in supporting the work of Catholic Charities in assisting the most needy among us through your donation to support the Sojourner House in Eau Claire puts you on "a path that leads to the encounter with God."

Your support and prayers for the Sojourner House are very much appreciated.

Thank You

This thank you note was delivered to Trinity's office this month.

Thank you for the boots! Thank you for the vouchers for new boots for my girls. They were so happy to finally have a pair of boots that actually fit. Your

kindness has gone a long way. You should have seen the faces of the girls in their new boots. It was priceless. Thank you.

With Deep Appreciation

I had a nice surprise on the Sunday before Christmas. A large group from Trinity came and sang many Christmas carols for myself and others at Dove South Rehabilitation Center. As they were leaving Pastor Kurt gave us a decorated bag of good Christmas cookies made by the Trinity Youth. Thank you very much and God bless.

Lorraine Hansen

Thank You Trinity

Dear members of Trinity Lutheran,

I would like to thank you for your generosity in supporting me in my seminary experience, especially for the scholarship money in the name of Rev. Jack Olson and the Endowment Trust Fund. Pastor Jack's legacy of care and ministry is greatly honored through this gift. I would also like to thank you for the endless support, encouragement, and grace that I find in Trinity Lutheran. You have helped me develop my sense of call and pastoral identity.

With love in Christ, Jamie Brieske

Christmas Sharing Project Thank You's

Dear People of Trinity Lutheran Church,

On behalf of myself and my five children, I wanted to thank you all so much for your amazing gifts to us this Christmas. I was simply overwhelmed with your generosity towards us. We have had a very difficult year, with my ex-husband quitting his job and stopping nearly all child support payments, then moving 18 hours away. I had been trying to put together things for Christmas for my children but was not having much luck; I appreciate so much the abundance of things you provided to me and my children things which we will use all season long and hopefully well into next winter as well. My littlest daughter did not have an appropriate coat this year, now she does—one with a zipper that works. We now have plenty of food that is still in our pantry. It was also thanks to you that my children got something “fun” rather than something necessary and second-hands that I had wrapped up and tried to pass off as something special for them. My daughter was thrilled about all the yarn she received and the many knitting needles, and has already knit several infinity scarves for some of our family as late gifts. My son really likes the Transformer, and my other son was absolutely delighted about gift cards to Culver's and Burracho's (he feels quite strongly that I do not feed him adequately most of the time). My daughter has been using her huge set of markers ever since Christmas morning. I could continue for a long time listing everything you provided to us; everything was just perfect, and we thank you so very much.

A very, very special thank you for the lovely quilt with all the colorful little hand prints—it makes me so happy to look at it and my littlest daughter really likes to cuddle up underneath it.

Jennifer and Family

I am writing to express how beyond grateful I am for the help with my children's Christmas. I am a totally 100%, full-time & single mom. I have absolutely no help physically, financially, or mentally. I have no income due to health issues and the

kids' fathers just don't pay anything at all ever. Being given the help from your wonderful church truly made our Christmas... much better and defiantly a more happy day. When the gifts and much needed household items arrived, I cried—a happy and better cry tho. I can't even find the words to express how great it was and beyond thankful we all are.

Thank you so much, Cassie and Children

Dear Trinity Lutheran Church,

My name is Jacob. I am currently an inmate at the Chippewa County Jail. Unfortunately, I will be here long after the holiday season, most importantly Christmas. I am writing you this letter in humility with regards to my 2 daughters. You see, this is my first Christmas away from my family. With my children being 3 and 2, this will always be a very special, precious, and influential time for them. Which brings me to why I am writing this letter. This Christmas, my family opened the front door to a wonderful surprise. Out on the front porch stood a humble man, one of our chaplains here at the jail. Now, from what I've heard from my family, my girls will have a very generous Christmas morning, complete with many gifts, food, and other items. All of which would never have been possible if it wasn't for all of your caring donations. So I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart. Your gifts, prayers, and open hearts have made such a huge difference in my life and also in the lives of my family. With God in your hearts, and the courage to make a difference in someone's life this holiday season, you have given so much. Much more than you could have imagined. Much more than just presents under a tree. You have given hope, love, and most importantly shown us faith. Faith that God will always be there working through others to improve the lives of all. So once again, Thank you from my family. Merry Christmas to all and God bless! Jacob

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

Trinity Lutheran Church, 1314 East Lexington Blvd, Eau Claire WI 54701

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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Shirley Sands—Totally Joyous Christians, Children's Choir,
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Jamie Brieske—Worship Music Leader
Brian Pressler—Worship Music Leader

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Maranatha Church in Kingston, Jamaica
Blantyre Lutheran Parish in Malawi, Africa
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- Please submit all articles for the Tidings electronically in MS Word, WordPerfect format, or in the body of an email. Submit to: cindy@trinity-ec.org
 - All submissions must be your own work. Any copyrighted material (code, images, or otherwise) must include written permission from the original source.
 - Deadline for the March Newsletter is February 21.