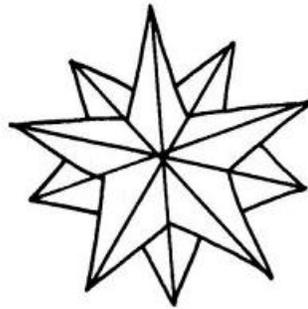




Trinity

Lutheran Church

Advent & Christmas Worship Schedule



ADVENT SUNDAYS

8:15 A.M. (Traditional)

9:45 A.M. (Contemporary)

10:30 A.M. (Worship in Chapel)

ADVENT WEDNESDAYS

6:30 P.M. (Contemporary)

DECEMBER 24 CHRISTMAS EVE

2:00 P.M. Christmas Eve Festival Worship

4:00 P.M. Christmas Eve Festival Worship

9:40 P.M. Music by the Trinity orchestra, handbells, and organ

10:00 P.M. Candlelight Christmas Worship with Communion

FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS

Sunday, December 30, at 9:45 A.M. (One service this day).

A festive celebration of the birthday of Jesus with Trinity Brass and Organ

Generous Giving Blesses Many

Your year-end offerings are so important to our church and its mission of serving in Christ's love and sharing the Good News. Please remember Trinity in your charitable goals as 2012 ends. Thank you for every dollar you share that blesses thousands through our church.

Faith Lights for Christmas

You're invited to give a gift in honor of someone or in memory of a loved one by purchasing a "Faith Light" to go on the Christmas trees in the entry to Trinity. For \$5 a light, you can brighten Christmas at Trinity this season. Order forms are available in the Lobby information rack or online at trinity-ec.org. Your gift or memorial Faith Light will be acknowledged in the Christmas Eve bulletins and help build a long-term legacy through Trinity's Endowment Trust Fund. Download a form at trinity-ec.org Trust Fund page under Give.

Guest Preacher on December 2

We are pleased that Rev. Jessicah Duckworth will be our guest preacher on Sunday, December 2. Rev. Duckworth joined the faculty of Luther Seminary in 2011 as assistant professor of congregational and community care leadership. Prior to arriving at Luther, she served as assistant professor of Christian formation at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. from 2008-2011.

As a pastor's child growing up in Baltimore, Chicago and Philadelphia, Jessicah noticed that the diverse faces of her urban neighborhood and school were not reflected in the regional and national church events she attended which were comprised primarily of white suburban families. "Why doesn't the wider Lutheran church look like the cities I know?" she came to ask. The discrepancy propelled her to seminary where she began to search for ways to integrate culturally the world of her faith. Her research and experiences include cultivating communities of care, foundations of pastoral care, forming faithful adults, and teaching and learning in Christian education.

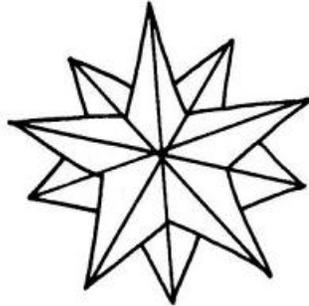
**Check out our many
Advent events on the
next page!**



Advent for Everyone

Angel Breakfast

Preschool and kindergarten age children and one adult guest per child are invited to the Annual Angel Breakfast on Saturday, December 8, from 8:30–10:00 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.



Christmas Sharing Project

We plan to provide food, outdoor clothing and gifts for kids, and other household items, as requested, for 25+ families in the Eau Claire/Altoona area. Elementary school counselors have identified families in need of this service. Gift tags with specific information are available beginning Wednesday, November 28. Look for the distribution table in the lobby on Sundays and Wednesdays or contact Mary Schoenknecht during the week. Help is needed for sorting on Saturday, December 15, beginning at 9:00 A.M. with delivery on Sunday, December 16, after the 9:45 A.M. worship service.

Wall of Food

Sunday, November 25, through Friday, December 14

Help build a wall of food in the church lobby during the first weeks in Advent by bringing non perishable food products. These foods will be distributed to families in the Eau Claire/Altoona area at Christmas as part of the Christmas Sharing Project.

Mitten Tree

Each year Noah's Ark puts up a Christmas tree in celebration of Jesus' birthday. If you would like to help decorate the tree with mittens, hats, or children's sleepers sizes 0–six, hang them on the tree. These items will be included in the Christmas Sharing Project. Any items not needed for the sharing project will be taken to the Bolton Refuge House. Thank you!

Birth of the Baby

Come celebrate with the children of Noah's Ark Preschool. All families and friends of Noah's Ark children are invited to attend on either Thursday, December 20, or Friday, December 21, at 10:00 A.M. and 1:45 P.M. in the Trinity Room! We invite all of you to a BIG birthday party/program for Jesus!

Leaders Elected

The following people were elected by the congregation on November 11 for three year terms on the Church Council: Herschel Day, Emma Cruciani, John Moen, Diane Nelson, Kim Passi, Rick Risler, and Derek Prestin. They'll begin serving in January. The Annual Meeting of Trinity will be Sunday, February 3, at 10:40 A.M. Annual Reports will be available Sunday, January 27, 2013.

Adult Learning Living the Questions2

Living the Questions2 is coming to Trinity early in 2013. LtQ2 is a popular video and internet-based small group exploration of progressive Christianity featuring premier religion voices of our day. LtQ2 is ideal for anyone who wants to take the initial steps in Christian growth or for those who look for greater spiritual formation. Living the Questions will help seekers and long-time believers alike in discovering the significance of Christianity in the 21st Century and what a meaningful faith can look like in today's culture. More information will be available next month.

Small Steps to Wellness

Do the Circle 7 • Take a deep breath as you count to seven. Hold your breath for seven counts. Over seven counts, slowly exhale. Repeat seven times. Breathe in God's goodness and exhale frustrations and anxieties.



In 2012 the average holiday shopper will spend \$749.51 on gifts, décor, greeting cards, and more and U.S. shoppers will spend over \$586 billion.—National Retail Federation



When You Desire Baptism

The vitality and hope for new generations emerging for Trinity is seen about 50 times a year when a child is baptized in worship. We celebrate the sacrament of Holy Baptism in Sunday worship normally on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. Dates available are December 9, 23; January 13, 27; and February 10, 24.

When a child is born, schedule a baptism by calling any pastor to begin arrangements. The pastor presiding at the baptism will meet with you in advance to discuss the meaning of baptism and answer your questions. If you are not baptized, it's never too late. Baptism of youth and adults is more common today. Don't be bashful. Call or email a pastor and find contact information at trinity-ec.org Staff page under About.

Global Missions

Jamaica Mission Trip for All

Men, women, and kids (grade 6 and older) are invited to join a mission trip to Jabneh Christian Academy near Savanna La Mar, Jamaica, February 7–12, 2013. The team will finish a classroom building begun by Trinity men in January and share in activities with the children of the school. Information and registration forms are available online at trinity-ec.org Global Missions under Serve or contact Pastor Kurt at kurt@trinity-ec.org Registration closes on Sunday, December 2.

Inviting You to Italy

Trinity friends are going to Rome and Tuscany September 17–26, 2013, and you and your friends are invited on this special journey. We'll visit Vatican City, charming towns, magnificent monuments, and more. Trip brochures are available in the lobby information rack. For more information, contact Joan Lorenz at joan@higginstravel.com or Pastor Kurt Jacobson at kurt@trinity-ec.org

Grief Guidance Groups at St. Joseph's Hospital

People who are grieving the death of a loved one often find encouragement and support in talking things over with others in similar situations. Two opportunities to gather are provided at St. Joseph's Hospital in Chippewa Falls: the second and fourth Mondays at 6:30 P.M. or the second and fourth Wednesdays at 3:00 P.M. A trained leader, prepared to help with thoughts and emotions, guides the meeting. The groups vary in size from 4–10 people. Some folks attend a couple of times; others continue for many weeks. You are invited to come and see. Please call Jennifer Binczak, St. Joe's Hospice, 715.717.7581, for more information.

"Bereaved Parents" Support Group

The Chippewa Valley Chapter of the Compassionate Friends welcomes all bereaved parents and their adult family members at its meetings on the third Thursday of each month from 6:30 P.M.–8:30 P.M. at St. Joe's Hospital, Chippewa Falls. The Compassionate Friends is a national non-profit support organization for families following the death of a child of any age, from any cause. Please call Pati Bresina, Chapter Leader, at 715.828.8011 for more information.

Circle Listings

Deborah

Wednesday, December 19, 9:30 A.M., Trinity
Hostess: Group
Leader: Mary Schoenknecht

Dorcas

Wednesday, December 19, 1:00 P.M., Trinity
Hostess: Group
Leader: Group

Martha/Mary

Tuesday, December 18, 7:00 P.M.,
114 Viking Place
Hostess: Group
Leader: Group

Miriam

Wednesday, December 19, 9:30 A.M., Trinity
Hostess: Sonia Becker
Leader: Mary Schoenknecht

Ruth

Tuesday, December 18, 12:15 P.M.,
Trinity
Hostess: Group
Leader: Group

Sarah

Wednesday, December 19, 9:30 A.M., 3395 Westhaven Court
Hostesses: Marilyn Bollinger & Phyllis Burrows
Leader: Barb Vorhes

Friendship Group Event

The December meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 12, at 10:00 A.M. with a Christmas Service and communion in the Chapel at 10:30 A.M. Lunch will follow at Fanny Hill at noon. The cost of \$36.95 includes the play, lunch, dessert, beverage, tax, and tip. Make your reservation by Wednesday, December 5. Send your check to Elaine Lonning, 1210 East Lexington Blvd., Eau Claire WI 54701





Giving to God: 2013 Plan

It's time to think about New Year's resolutions and all the opportunities you have as a follower of Christ to share the gifts of your life and resources and give to God. Please remember Trinity in your plans, and complete a 2013 financial commitment card. Cards were mailed to member households recently. Please be sure you've returned yours. An online option is available to complete this card at www.trinity-ec.org. Please do so today!



The Season of Giving

This holiday season, we thank everyone who has contributed to Trinity this past year with their time, talents, and financial contributions. Your giving has supported Trinity's mission and ministries to thousands of people! If you need a convenient way to make regular offerings or if you plan to make an additional gift before the end of the year, we encourage you to check out our electronic giving options. Visit trinity-ec.org or contact Office Administrator Amber Moltzau at amber@trinity-ec.org or more information.

- Offerings in December 2011 \$155,522
- Offerings in December 2010 \$171,979
- Offerings in December 2009 \$171,683

Trust Fund Awards Grants

Since its inception in the 1980's, the Trinity Endowment Trust Fund has donated funds for a variety of missions thanks to the gifts and estate bequests that have built this fund to over \$425,000. Your current gifts and memorials, as well as plans for your estate to gift the Trinity Endowment Trust Fund, will help do great things in perpetuity.

The Trust Fund provided grants in 2012 for:

- Seminary scholarships for students from Trinity preparing for future church leadership.
- Grants for low-income families to enroll children in Noah's Ark Preschool.
- Building a second classroom structure project through this winter's mission trips to Jamaica.
- The Cable Family Fund provided a grant for the display cabinet for the St. John's Bible Library Edition at Trinity.

Do you have a favorite ministry that you'd like to support? Please consider leaving a legacy by making a gift in honor of a birthday or anniversary or designating a memorial gift. Leaving a legacy can be very straightforward:

- In your will, designate a specific dollar amount or percentage of assets to the Trust Fund.
- Use assets (e.g. stocks, bonds, real estate, art, jewelry) for your charitable gift.
- Name the Trinity Endowment Trust Fund as the beneficiary of your IRA or pension plan.

To learn more about the Trust Fund, go to trinity-ec.org or contact the church office at 715.832.6601.

Getting Out of Debt

Like many people, Trinity lives with a mortgage because we've invested in a facility that serves hundreds of people every week. Each week your offering to mortgage payment allows Trinity to make its \$10,485 monthly payment to the ELCA Mission Investment Fund that holds our note. Thank you for every offering you make.

Sanity A Goal This Christmas

We often go to incredible lengths to make the holiday season spectacular, such as tracking down the perfect gift for someone we love. The pressure to find the perfect gift plus the cost and stress don't combine to make the holiday season enjoyable. So what can you do? How does one withstand the overwhelming pressure to spend and still enjoy the best of the holidays?

Here are some tips to help you maintain your sanity:

1. *Be realistic.* Create a list of everyone you want to buy a gift for, compare that to your total holiday gift budget, and then assign a specific dollar amount for each gift. Then, when possible, shop with cash, not plastic.
2. *Buy local.* When buying gifts for friends and family, support local merchants. It might take a little more time to source them out, but it is well worth it. When you give the gift, make sure the recipient knows where it came from as it may inspire them to do the same.
3. *Share time and money.* If you want to really create great memories this year, give a "share check" to friends and family. It's super simple. Use a check from your checking account, fill everything in except the "pay to order of," and then ask the person you share it with to give the money away to a cause or charity they are passionate about. The memory will last a lifetime, and nothing will end up in a landfill.
4. *Share your family stories.* Some of the best holiday memories from years past involve listening to grandparents and parents talk about holiday experiences from their childhood. Our family stories, the good and the challenging, shape our family narrative and reinforce the notion of gratitude. Don't cede the narrative to the culture of consumption.



Received in October Memorials & Gifts

Food Pantry Fund

- In memory of Rosina Zimmerman: David & Jeanette Suchla
- In memory of Joanne Erickson: Lori Juneau

Library Fund

- In memory of Joanne Erickson: Joanne Stange, Jon & Maureen Homstad, Larry & Mary Hoepner, Bev Hill, Joanne & Jerry Dow, Don & Barb Lee

Trinity Choir Fund

- In memory of Eleanor Larson: Jerald & Jacqueline Joanis

Memorial Fund

- In memory of Eleanor Larson: Alice Yellowega-Rude, David & Linda Pieper, Family & Friends
- In memory of Joanne Erickson: Ralph & Norma Marking, Suzanne Kristo, Char Finseth

Women's Study Fund

- In memory of Joanne Erickson: Charles & Sue Nyberg

Endowment Trust Fund—Future Church Leaders

- In memory of Jane Hathaway: Bill & Kim Hathaway

Children's Bible Fund

- In memory of Robert Scates: Bob & Mary Schoenknecht
- In memory of Frank Stoik: Bob & Mary Schoenknecht
- In memory of Marian Dingman: Bob & Mary Schoenknecht

Quilters Fund

- In honor of Anice Reiman: Bob & Mary Schoenknecht
- In memory of Eleanor Larson: Dorcas Circle

Continuing Education Fund

- In honor of Pastor Kurt and Pastor Jim: Char Finseth

Piano Fund

- In honor of Kirsten Alvarez & Dean Van Amber, Anne Finseth & Barry Michlig, Karl Finseth, Anita & Mike Atkinson, Kaitlyn Alvarez, Elaine & Oliver Atkinson, Peyton & Olivia Michlig: Char Finseth
- In memory of loved ones: Sue Kristo
- In memory of John Vorseth: Ken & Roberta Vance
- In memory of Eugene Brack: Shirley Brack
- In memory of Mary Markquart: Lee Markquart
- In honor of David Markquart, John Markquart, Paul Markquart, and Jeanne Markquart Hartfield: Lee Markquart
- In memory of Jane Hathaway: Bob & Mary Schoenknecht
- In honor of Britta Pressler and Annika Clouse's Confirmation: Mike & Dori Ritland (grandparents)
- In memory of Shannon Frances Walsh: Doug & Sherri Auleta
- In memory of Lawrence Odegard: Ronald & Barbara Misselt, Michael &

Sharon DeRusha

- In memory of Norman Braaksma, Merwyn Deich, Paul Deich, Duane Deich: James & Faye Deich
- In honor of Ron Nixdorf, Yvonne Nixdorf, Bobby, Ann, Trey, Luke and Andrew Ferraro: Ronald & Yvonne Nixdorf
- In memory of Eric Nixdorf: Ronald & Yvonne Nixdorf
- In memory of Victoria Lyn Schnack: Larry & Carol Schnack
- In honor of Kylee Ray & Luke Joshua: David & Cindy Fleming
- In memory of Zeena Novotny & Fran Broten: Rose Sippel
- In memory of Ruggie Dale: Roger & Jane Dale
- In memory of Garf Freeberg: Shirley Freeberg
- In honor of their Families: Lawrence & Deyon Ziehme
- In memory of Gayle Radford: Joe & Dawn Stienessen
- In memory of Thomas & Geneva Pederson, Ronald & Lucille Grafenberg: Tom & Karen Pederson
- In memory of Franklin "Redd" Ayres: Ann Ayres
- In memory of Art Vorhes: Barb Vorhes
- In honor of Lucy Jane Arnette: John & Marsha Arnette
- In memory of Alton Lonning, Carol Lonning: Elaine Lonning
- In memory of Lois Wendt: Richard Wendt
- In memory of Richard & Mildred Mahoney, B.W. & Edith Burdt: William & Diane Burdt
- In honor of their Children and Grandchildren: William & Diane Burdt
- In honor of Shirley Sands: David & Mikelle Malone
- In memory of Peter & Jeanne Cruciani, Melvin Bonkrude, Anker & Velma Miller: Tim & Lori Cruciani



Trinity Book Club

Join the Trinity Book Club on Tuesday, December 18, as they discuss *Working Stiff (Mattie Winston Mysteries #1)* by Annelise Ryan. When Mattie Winston (an R.N. who lives in Wisconsin) catches her husband, Dr. David Winston, receiving some very special loving care from R.N. Karen Owenby, she quits her job and moves out. Mattie's best friend Izzy offers her a place to stay and suggests she'd be a natural as deputy coroner. Now, instead of taking patients' pulses, Mattie's weighing their hearts and livers. Annelise Ryan is the author of the Mattie Winston mystery series. Ryan is a real life emergency room RN working and living in Wisconsin. She has always believed laughter really is the best medicine, and with the Mattie Winston series she is hoping to "medicate" the masses. Please R.S.V.P. a spot for yourself by calling 715.832.6601 or by signing up at Clipboard Central.

Our Books Enrich, Encourage and Inspire!

Check out these new books in your Church Library.



Please Look After Mom by Kyung-Sook Shin. An elderly mother is missing in Seoul, lost in a crowded train station, and her family is desperately trying to find her. The reader is given insight into this woman's life through the voices of her children who realize they never fully appreciated their mother. This is a novel about regret and how so often we wish we could go back and change how we treated the people we most love. It's a tender, compelling story of motherhood and family. Reviewed by Monika Fielder. (FIC SHI)

Creative Grandparenting by Jerry & Judy Schreur. With emotion-packed stories, some humorous and some heart-wrenching, the authors offer creative ways to have a positive and godly influence on your grandchildren in today's culture. Discover how you can impart wisdom, share your values and faith, and leave a lasting legacy for your grandchildren. (248 SCH)

The Hour That Matters Most, The surprising Power of the Family Meal by Les & Leslie Parrott. Featuring the inspiring story of Stephanie Allen and Tina Kurna, the founders of Dream Dinners, *The Hour That Matters Most* shows readers how to nourish and nurture their family through regular meal times. Included are recipes, cooking tips and ideas, photos of family-favorite meals, and conversation starters. (306.874 PAR)

Christmas Books Bring J-O-Y!

Members of the Trinity Library Committee are offering an Open House on Sunday, December 9, between worship services. Stop in and check out what we have to offer. Many Christmas books will be on display and ready to check out.

Ministry Builder Stickers

If you are shopping at the Family Christian Bookstore, ask for the Ministry Builder Stickers. One filled card gives our church library \$5 off a purchase.



Noah's Ark News

November was a special month at Noah's Ark. We honored our fire fighters, celebrated good healthy food, and enjoyed field trips to Fire Station # 5 and the NEW Charley's Market by Phoenix Park. We also gave God thanks for our many blessings at our annual Thanksgiving Feasts!

Now we move on to December, an amazing month "on the ark." We'll decorate our hallway and classroom as part of our Advent preparations. We'll also have a special birthday party honoring Jesus, complete with a gift exchange with friends to remember the gifts the Wise Men brought. Our Advent will conclude with Christmas Party Programs on Thursday and Friday, December 20 & 21, during regular class time. We'll sing and tell the Christmas Story, and then enjoy treats together with friends and family. It will be a special week. Happy Birthday Jesus and JOY to the World!

Continue to keep our Noah's Ark program in your prayers so that we can fill 4-5 year old openings on M/W/F A.M./P.M. Just three spots to go! Noah's Ark is a great place to be!

Hugs to you all! Happy Advent!!

Ms. C

PS...2013-2014 Noah's Ark brochures will be available in early January. Look for them in the January newsletter and a mid-January Sunday bulletin. Our 2013-2014 Open House will be on Sunday, January 13, at 10:30 A.M. and Monday, January 14, at 6:00 P.M. in the Noah's Ark classroom.



Registration

- **For Camp Come & Play:** Phone in registration begins Wednesday, December 12, at 8:00 A.M. and will continue until classes are full.
- **For All Other Camps:** Begins December 12 and continues until classes are full.
- Call Mary Schoenknecht at 715.832.6601 to enroll or for more information.

Camp Come and Play Semester 2

Children with birthdays between 9.1.2009 and 8.31.2010 have an opportunity to play with other children of their age. They will hear Bible stories, participate in art and music activities, and take time out to share a treat. We meet in Trinity's nursery from 9:15–11:15 A.M. or 12:15–2:15 P.M. on Wednesdays and are limited to 12 children in each session. We meet for 19 class periods beginning January 2. The cost is \$250 which includes snacks and supplies for activities and can be paid in installments. **Registration begins at 8:00 A.M. on Wednesday, December 12, by phone only. Call 715.832.6601**

Music & Movement Mondays

Move and groove to the music with both new and old songs. We will explore music with song, dance, and instruments. It's a wonderful bonding experience for you and your child. New themes each week, and Bible stories conclude each class. Parent or caregiver must attend class with child. This Day Camp is for children ages one through three. Session One meets 9:15–10:00 A.M. and Session Two meets 10:30–11:15 A.M. on Mondays beginning January 7 for 16 class periods (Please note: we do not meet on January 28, February 18, or March 25). The cost of \$113 includes cost of supplies/equipment and may be paid in installments.

The Great Pretenders

Come and join the fun. Dynamic drama and awesome art will be combined to enhance children's literature and Bible stories. After creating props and costumes, children will use them to act out the stories. Theater games, creative movement, story structures, and creative artistry will be explored in this high energy class. This Day Camp is for children who are four by 12.31.12. We meet from 1:00–3:00 P.M. on Tuesdays beginning January 8 for 17 class periods (Please note: we do not meet on February 19 or March 26). The cost of \$218 includes cost of supplies and snacks. Fees may be paid in installments.

Thrilling Thursdays

Spend Thursdays engaged in a wide variety of preschool activities. Children will cook, read, paint, experiment, sing, and dance. The class will allow children to explore and discover in the areas of language, science, music, math, and art. A hands on discovery approach will be emphasized in a Christian environment. This Day Camp is for children who are four by 12.31.12. We meet from 9:00–11:00 A.M. OR 1:00–3:00 P.M. on Thursdays beginning January 10 for 18 class periods (Please note: we do not meet on March 28). The cost of \$230 includes cost of supplies and snacks. Fees may be paid in installments.



Open Gym Tuesdays

Beginning Tuesday, January 8, from 10:00–11:30 A.M. the Trinity Room will be open for parents and their young children (toddlers–preschool) to come in and use our equipment in a large safe space. 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. Members, friends of members, and non members are welcome to attend.

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, contact Mary Schoenknecht at 715.832.6601 or marys@trinity-ec.org We have a full time nursery attendant; your job would be to assist. Volunteer soon to be included on the nursery schedule for January–May, 2013.



Children & Youth Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for children and youth are available in the Lobby (in the rack by the doors entering the worship center and by the confirmation picture display), in the supply room (406), or at the youth tool bench.

YOUTH MINISTRIES



Youth Dates to Remember

Sunday, December 2

- Club 78 Teen Study in the Trinity Room from 10:35–11:05 A.M.
- High School Youth Group at Cherry Berry from 7:00–8:00 P.M.

Wednesday, December 5

- CrossWord Rehearsal in the Worship Center at 5:30 P.M.
- Club 9 in the Trinity Room from 7:00–8:30 P.M.

Sunday, December 9

- Club 78 Teen Study in the Trinity Room from 10:35–11:05 A.M.
- High School Youth Group in the Trinity Room from 7:00–8:00 P.M.

Wednesday, December 12

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

Sunday, December 16

- Club 78 Teen Study in the Trinity Room from 10:35–11:05 A.M.
- High School Youth Group meet in the Youth Room (Christmas Caroling) from 7:00–8:00 P.M.

Wednesday, December 19

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

Sunday, December 23

- No Teen Study or High School Youth Group—Christmas Break

Wednesday, December 26

- No Confirmation Classes—Christmas Break

Sunday, December 30

- No Teen Study or High School Youth Group—Christmas Break

Thank You

Trinity Youth thank the Trinity congregation for supporting the Baroka Wreaths Fundraiser. Students will use the monies raised to put towards Trinity sponsored youth events. Wreaths and swags will be available for pick up at Trinity on Sunday, December 2, from 8:45–11:15 A.M. Thank you again for your support!

Club 9 Scavenger Hunt

Club 9 Students and Mentors participated in Trinity's traditional Confirmation Scavenger Hunt on Wednesday, November 14. The purpose of the Scavenger Hunt was to collect food items for the Trinity Food Panty and for the Christmas Sharing Project Wall of Food. Students and Mentors teamed up and headed to the streets of Eau Claire neighborhoods and asked residents to donate non-perishable food items. Once all teams were back, points were awarded for specific food products. Our Club 9 class collected enough food to fill 18 banana boxes. Way to go Club 9 Students and Mentors!

High School Youth Group

Trinity's High School Youth Group continues to meet on Sunday evenings. During December, the group plans to host a game night, go Christmas Caroling, and grab a treat at Cherry Berry. Check out their new bulletin board by the Tool Bench and join "Trinity Lutheran Youth Group" on Facebook for the most current information, events, and photos. Grab a friend and join Allison and Amanda for Trinity's weekly High School Youth Group on Sunday evenings from 7:00–8:00 P.M.

Luther Park Recharge for Club 78 and Club 9

A Luther Park Recharge is coming up the weekend of January 4 and 5. Campers and adult chaperones are encouraged to come away to Luther Park and engage in Holy Play and RECHARGE their lives of faith. The weekend has three transforming themes: The Light, Light Seekers, and Light Givers. These themes will be supported through large group sessions with music, skits, speakers, small group Bible studies, and active games. Registration materials and more information are available online at lutherpark.org and at the Tool Bench.



Social Concerns

Thank You for the Boots!

Working through the Eau Claire elementary school counselors, Trinity recently distributed boot vouchers to many children in our community. Thanks to the wonderful generosity of this congregation along with our partner K-mart, these children will have warm feet this winter!

Helping Those in Our Community

According to recent statistics, 13% of those living in Eau Claire County are living in poverty. In addition, 15% of the population is considered "near poor." In our city alone, one in three children are eligible for free or reduced lunch. Your gifts to Trinity's Hunger Ministries provide food for our neighbors who are struggling. Thank you for your donations, your time, and your prayers. Together we celebrate God's love by making this season a little easier for many in our community.

Thank You Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

Our congregation was blessed to receive a financial gift of \$1,600 from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans to support Trinity's hunger ministries. The funds received were used to support our annual Thanksgiving Dinner, and a portion was devoted to our food pantry. Thank you to Thrivent for their on-going partnership in ministry!

Friends of Flynn

Thank you for your continual support of Friends of Flynn, Trinity's partnership with Flynn Elementary School in Eau Claire. In November we have been able to do the following:

- Weekend meals were delivered each Friday through our partnership with Feed My People. The Tuesday before Thanksgiving additional meals were delivered to help children through the long weekend.
- Numerous pairs of athletic shoes were once again donated to the school for children to borrow so that they may participate in physical education classes.
- Clothing items including socks, underwear, and sweatpants were donated for students in need of these items.
- A special treat was delivered to the Flynn teachers and staff to thank them for their commitment to the Flynn students.
- Lots and lots of Campbells® soup labels, General Mills® box tops, milk caps, and pull tabs off soda cans were given to the school. (We will continue to collect these items!)

Thank you for your support of this partnership. We look forward to new, exciting ways to support the students and teachers at Flynn School in 2013.



CROP Walk

This year's CROP Walk was a huge success with over \$15,000 raised in our community. Thank you to all who helped Trinity contribute \$950 toward this important ministry. The CROP Walk (held in October each year) raises money for Church World Service (75 percent) and our local Feed My People Food Bank (25 percent).



Gift Giving this Holiday Season

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 several gift-giving options that benefit the recipient along with someone in need.

Through Trinity's "Gifts that Give," you can give unique gifts such as supporting a meal at the Community Table, sponsoring a bag of food for our food pantry guests, or purchasing a pair of shoes for a child in need in our community.

Trinity will also offer gift-giving options through Heifer International. Purchasing gifts such as a share of a pig (\$10) or a flock of chicks (\$20) help empower families in poverty-stricken countries to achieve self-reliance and enhance their livelihood.

These gift-giving options will be available at the "Gifts that Give" table in our lobby on Sundays, December 9, 16, and 23. As you purchase a gift, you will receive a special card that you can then give to that special loved one or friend in whose honor you have given the gift.



Health Ministries



Holiday Blues and Stress

"One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up." Luke 18:1 NLT

Are you overbooked for this month? Do you look at your schedule and start to panic? How can you possibly do everything? There are meetings, birthdays, gifts, decorating, parties, and too many other things, not including work, family, and church.

It's time to trim your list instead of the tree. Consider fewer gifts, fewer decorations, and not so many parties. Find quiet time to spend with devotional materials and in prayer. The only way to get to the heart of Christmas is with Jesus. All of the other things are fine, but they aren't necessary.

Practice some stress busting techniques. Here are some ideas:

- *Leave.* If the noise level is too much or the crowds are closing in, just leave. You don't have to stay in the toy store with all of the screaming youngsters, and you don't have to converse with the know-it-all at the party. You can walk away.
- *Close your eyes.* Take a break from the lights and activities. Closing your eyes is a great way to get re-centered.
- *Try some solitude.* In the middle of so much activity, it helps to have time alone. Use the quiet time to set priorities, to pray, or to count your blessings.
- *Go outside.* Fresh air and sunshine can make a difference in how you feel. Being in God's creation and going for a walk can help you find extra energy.
- *Locate some water.* Listen to it, watch it, drink it, or sit in it. Water refreshes in so many ways. God knows what we need; maybe that is why God put so much water on earth.
- *Breathe!* Remember to exhale occasionally. When your shoulders are up to your ears, it's time to take some deep breaths. Fill your lungs completely from the bottom to the top. Pause for a couple of seconds. Exhale letting all of the air out of the lungs from the top to the bottom. Repeat three or four times. Your shoulders should relax with the rest of your body. Stress causes shallow breathing. Deep breathing releases it.
- *Listen to music.* Choose whatever type makes you happy. Sing along. It's amazing how good this can make you feel.

Give yourself the gift of peace in the midst of a world in chaos. Have a great holiday, and share your peace with those around you.

Marti Hofer, Parish Nurse
(Source: www.mayoclinic.com)

Low Calorie Christmas Cookie Recipe Chocolate Mint Wafers

Ingredients

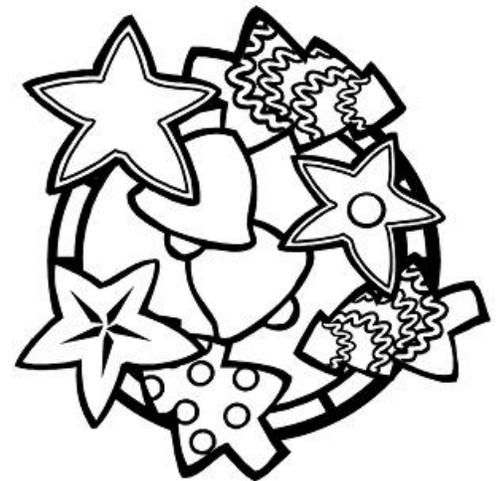
- 4 ounces dark chocolate candy coating
- 1/8 to 1/4 teaspoon peppermint extract
- 18 to 24 vanilla wafers

Directions

Place candy coating and extract in a microwave-safe bowl. Microwave, uncovered, on high for 30-60 seconds or until smooth, stirring every 15 seconds. Dip vanilla wafers in coating; allow excess to drip off. Place on waxed paper; let stand until set. Store in an airtight container. Yield: about 1-1/2 dozen.

Nutritional Facts

1 serving (1 each) equals
38 calories
2 g fat (1 g saturated fat)
9 mg sodium
5 g carbohydrate
trace fiber
trace protein
Trace cholesterol





Gold Frankincense and Myrrh Word Search

L W G X Y L L S U Z P W R S V
 E S L O Z Q J H A I S S E M X
 U G A H L M P P B N J Q E T J
 N W A V S D R E H P E H S I J
 A P K B I I G S N E E W N D W
 M R Y A R O A O D L A N E I I
 M G J N T I R J H D C T C N R
 I R I T C S E T D O D H N G D
 S W E D W S E L G N W K I S E
 T N T D U B I U S K E Q K L R
 A J G S E N W I S E M E N L D
 B M A N G E R F P Y G Y A M H
 L E S N A H M E L A S U R E J
 E O T L U F R E D N O W F R K
 O X Q L P M C Y R A M X D K H



How many Christmas Story words can you find?



- | | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|----------|--------------|-----------|
| BEGOTTEN | MYRRH | GOLD | WISEMEN | |
| DONKEY | SHEPHERDS | JESUS | CHILD | MESSIAH |
| GABRIEL | TIDINGS | MARY | FRANKINCENSE | SAVIOR |
| JERUSALEM | BETHLEHEM | REDEEMER | INNKEEPER | SWADDLING |
| MANGER | IMMANUEL | STABLE | JOSEPH | WONDERFUL |

"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

Phone: (715) 832.6601 • Fax: (715) 832.6700 • E-mail: trinity@trinity-ec.org • Web Page: trinity-ec.org

Ministers

People of Trinity

Congregational President

George McLeod

Pastors

Kurt M. Jacobson
715.832.9726
kurt@trinity-ec.org

Jim Page
715.834.7092
jim@trinity-ec.org

Ministry Directors

Mary B. Schoenknecht
Children's Ministries
marys@trinity-ec.org

Jeanne Cooper
Noah's Ark Preschool
noahsark@trinity-ec.org

Shirley Sands
Worship & Music
shirley@trinity-ec.org

Marti Hofer R.N.
Parish Nurse
marti@trinity-ec.org

Pat Garber
Visitation Ministry
pat@trinity-ec.org

Youth Ministry Leadership Team

Lisa Goetz
Youth Ministry Assistant
lisa@trinity-ec.org

Anne Josephson
Club 78 Coordinator
anne@trinity-ec.org

Cassie Brenden
Club 9 Coordinator
cassie@trinity-ec.org

Building & Grounds

Don Peterson
Melissa Buchli

Nursery Attendant

Elizabeth Meyer

Ministry Support

Gail Brian
Financial Ministry Assistant
gail@trinity-ec.org

Amber Moltzau
Office Administrator
amber@trinity-ec.org

Sharry Hebert
Food Pantry Coordinator
sharry@trinity-ec.org

Cindy S. Beck
IT/Ministry Assistant
cindy@trinity-ec.org

Noah's Ark Pre-School Teachers & Day Camp Leaders

Ginny Lien
Jill Kasmarek
Marlee Knickerbocker
ginny@trinity-ec.org
jkasmarek@att.net
jknick6054@aol.com

Choir Directors

Gary Rambo—Trinity Choir
Jeanne Cooper—God's Little Singers
Shirley Sands—Totally Joyous Christians, Children's Choir,
Harmony in Spirit
Ryan Poquette—Trinity Tollers
Kris Pressler—Worship Music Leader
Brian Pressler—Worship Music Leader

Missions

Maranatha Church in Kingston, Jamaica
Blantyre Lutheran Parish in Malawi, Africa
Jacqueline & Patrick Bencke, Japan

Seminary Student

Jamie Brieske—Luther Seminary

-
- 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 January Newsletter is December 18.