



Advent & Christmas Worship Schedule

Advent Sundays

8:15 A.M. Traditional Worship
9:45 A.M. Contemporary Worship
10:30 A.M. Worship in Chapel

Advent Wednesdays

6:30 P.M. Contemporary Worship



December 24 Christmas Eve

2:00 P.M. Christmas Eve Festival Worship with Children's Choirs
4:00 P.M. Christmas Eve Festival Worship with Harmony in Spirit
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 29, at 9:45 A.M.
Only 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 2013 ends. Thank you for every dollar you share that blesses thousands through our church. You can give anytime online at trinity-ec.org and set up automatic electronic fund transfers there, too.

Hunger Goal Met!

Thanks to dozens of donors, we met and exceeded the \$10,000 November Hunger Awareness goal for supporting our Food Pantry. These funds make it possible to purchase tons of food from Feed My People to address the increasing demand on our pantry. In October 2,297 people (879 who are children) were served through the pantry.

Thank you for supporting our mission of serving in Christ's love and sharing the Good News through gifts which make this food pantry possible. Your contributions bless thousands!





"HalloThankmas"

Dear Friends in Christ,

A few years ago I was in the habit of getting together with some ecumenical colleagues over lunch. It was late winter, and we were discussing upcoming events in our respective parishes. I had mentioned that Ash Wednesday was only one week away, and how I was ready to get busy for the next six weeks. To which one of the pastors, who served a non-denominational evangelical church, replied, "Yeah, we 'did Lent' one year. It was neat."

His comment caused me to pause, and in that moment, a gift of our Lutheran tradition was crystallized: the gift of sacred time. Sacred/church/liturgical time is this rhythm of seasons which echoes not just the pattern of weather, but the seasons of our souls. Within the church year, there are times for growth and repentance (Pentecost, Lent), resurrection and epiphany (Easter and Epiphany), hope and waiting (Christmas and Advent). Not every Christian tradition holds to these rhythms; they are one of the gifts of being a liturgical church.

I don't know where I found this list of tips for a more meaningful Christmas that happened to be saved on my hard drive. As practical as the tips are, the fact that half of them have to do with gifts, and that "Celebrating Advent" is all the way down at #8 is striking.

How can we as Lutherans reclaim the gift of Sacred Time in these months which our culture might as well call "HalloThankmas!?" I don't know what it might be for your family, whether it is the lighting of your own Advent wreath at dinner, saying a prayer each day with an Advent calendar, or just doing your best to keep the focus on the hope found in a manger rather than the stocking. But whatever it is, I hope that you find some way to "do Advent" this year. This is a season of waiting, longing, and hoping after all. Certainly there is something in all of our souls that not only resonates with, but needs to voice that reality. Your church family at Trinity stands ready to walk with you in this season.

Thanks be to God for a time to wait, hope, and pray with one another this Advent.

In Christ,

Pastor Sarah



"10 Tips for a Simpler, More Meaningful Christmas"

1. Plan ahead. Instead of going on auto-pilot the day after Thanksgiving, hold a family meeting to decide what the group really wants to do and who's going to do what.
2. If you need a symbol for giving (in addition to Jesus and the Three Wise Ones), learn about St. Nicholas. Santa Claus has been completely taken over by commerce.
3. Avoid debt. Refuse to be pressured by advertising to overspend.
4. Avoid stress. Give to yourself. Don't assume that things have to be the same way they've always been.
5. Draw names rather than everyone giving something to everyone else in your giving circle.
6. Give appropriate gifts. Get to know the recipient. Give what they want to receive, not what you want to buy.
7. Give alternative gifts. Give 25% of what you spent last year to needy individuals or groups locally, nationally, or internationally.
8. Celebrate Advent for four weeks before Christmas.
9. Put the gifts under the tree shortly before opening them. Then take turns opening them around the tree, not all at once, so that each gift can be admired and each giver thanked.
10. Make changes slowly but persistently. Don't try to change everything and everybody all at once. The resistance will make you feel defeated and lonely.



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 7, 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. Look for gift tags with specific information at the display in the lobby starting December 1. Help is needed for sorting on Saturday, December 14, beginning at 9:00 A.M. with delivery on Sunday, December 15, after the 9:45 A.M. worship service. For more information and to volunteer, contact Mary Schoenknecht, 715.832.6601.

Wall of Food

Through Friday, December 13, 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!

Caroling Party!

Lift your voice to celebrate the coming of Baby Jesus at a Caroling Party on Sunday, December 8. We meet at the church, near the pre-school area, at 4:30 P.M. and visit several of our shut-in members to sing Christmas songs. This is a wonderful family activity, as people of all ages are invited to enjoy and share the season's festive music.



If you ordered a "Walking to the Manger" devotional booklet, you may pick them up and pay for them (\$4) in the office.



The Perfect Gift ... Gives

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

Trinity's 2014 "Gifts that Give" includes these gifts and the ministries they support:

- Sojourner House: \$10 Sponsors a meal
- Trinity's Food Pantry: \$10 provides 100 pounds of food.
- Soles for Special Souls: \$20 provides one pair of boots; \$15 provides one pair of shoes.
- Friends of Flynn Elementary School: \$10 sponsors weekend meals for one child for one month; \$75/school year; \$5 provides emergency items for children (socks, underwear, shirt, pants).
- Grange Hill, Jamaica-Jabneh Christian Academy: \$15 buys one soccer ball.

These gift-giving options will be available at the "Gifts that Give" table in our lobby on Sundays, December 1, 8, 15, and 22. As you purchase a gift, you will receive a special card that you can give to that special loved one or friend in whose honor you have given the gift. Blessings to you as you give gifts to bless others!



Trust Fund News

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 or under the "Endowment" page of 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.



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 \$657,000. 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 2013 for:

- A Seminary scholarship for a student from Trinity preparing for future church leadership.
- Grants for low-income families to enroll children in Noah's Ark Preschool.
- Building a new bathroom at Jabneh Christian Academy in Jamaica in January 2014.
- Weekend meals for children from Flynn Elementary School.
- Tech upgrades in the Chapel and Worship Center.
- A mural in the Lobby coffee cafe area.

To learn more, visit the Endowment page at trinity-ec.org

Jack & Lois Olson Fund

Pastor Jack Olson served Trinity from 1968–1989 and, in March 1990, the people of Trinity established a scholarship fund in the Olson's name at Luther Seminary, St. Paul. Aiming to provide financial support for deserving students first from Trinity, then other Eau Claire ELCA congregations and then to any other church Pastor Jack served, the fund has recently awarded Trinity member Jamie Brieske a \$1,049 scholarship. Jamie will graduate in May 2014. The Olson Fund stands at \$22,846 as of June 20, 2013.

Endowed giving is a great way to carry on ministries and provide legacies. Like this scholarship fund, the Trinity Endowment Trust Fund exists to carry on your value of faith by way of gifts now and through estate provisions, IRAs, and real estate designations you establish. Learn more at "Endowment" on trinity-ec.org

Adult Learning on Sundays

The Reconciled in Christ Task Force will present a video series on Sundays in December after worship. The series "Reconciled in Christ: Learning about what it means to truly welcome LGBT people into the worship life of our congregation" will foster our awareness and conversation about our church becoming a congregation that clearly welcomes people of all walks of life, especially those who are LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender). Visit trinity-ec.org News page to learn about the task force, the proposed Affirmation of Welcome, as well as some Frequently Asked Questions.

Begin 2014 with "Future Family!"

Family. We all have one. While some of us loved our "growing up" years, others of us couldn't wait to move out and start fresh. Either way, we want our Future Family to be a step up from our families of origin. Most of us want something better for our children. But what? When it comes to family, what does a preferred future look like? What exactly are we aiming for?

Pastor Jim invites you to join him for *Future Family* as we see how scripture gives us direction and hope in nurturing our families now and into the future.

Two sessions are available: Sunday evenings, January 5–February 9, from 6:00 P.M.–7:30 P.M. or Mondays mornings, January 6–February 10 from 10:00 A.M.–11:30 A.M. at Trinity. Childcare will be provided on Sunday evenings. This class is for everyone since, well, all of us have a family! Register at Clipboard Central or via our website under the "Grow" link. Deadline to register is December 29. Cost for this class is \$5/participant.



Alaska Cruise Tour 2014

Come along to Alaska and explore the glories of nature on a Princess cruise and land tour in Alaska, July 26–August 6, 2014. This adventure into pristine areas of the United States and Canada will include seven nights on the Crown Princess and then rail to two Princess Lodges in Denali and Fairbanks. We take a day-long tundra tour into the magnificent Denali National Park, too!

Contact Joan at Higgins Travel to take advantage of this limited-time offer for you, your friends, and your relatives. To see the full itinerary, visit higginstravel.com Group Travel page.

Friendship Group

The December Friendship Group meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 11, at 10:00 A.M. with a Christmas Message in the Chapel at 10:30 A.M. Lunch will follow at Grizzly's at noon. The cost for a chicken dinner including dessert is \$12.00. Make your reservation by December 9 by sending a check to Pat Cliff, 6681 Talmage Rd. Eau Claire WI 54701

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. 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. Find contact information at trinity-ec.org We celebrate the sacrament of Holy Baptism in Sunday worship normally on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. Dates available are December 8, 29; January 12, 19; and February 9, 23.

Winter Parking Guidelines

As winter looms, parking around Trinity is affected by snowbanks. When you are parking on the residential streets, please be careful to park 4 feet away from neighbors' driveways. Periodically neighbors call Trinity with concerns about vehicles restricting visibility and driveway access. Please be kind and park appropriately.



Circle Listings

Deborah

Thursday, December 19, 9:30 A.M.,
Trinity
Hostess: Group
Leader: Group

Dorcas

Wednesday, December 18, 1:00
P.M., Trinity
Hostess: Group
Leader: Group

Martha/Mary

Tuesday, December 17, 7:00 P.M.,
Trinity
Hostess:
Leader:

Miriam

Wednesday, December 18, 9:30
A.M., Trinity
Hostess: Marilyn Engen, Joan Smith
Leader: Group

Ruth

Tuesday, December 17, 11:45 A.M.,
Trinity Fireside Room
Hostess: Joanne Stange
Leader: Shirley Freeberg

Sarah

Wednesday, December 18, 9:30
A.M., Trinity
Hostess: Group Christmas Brunch
Leader: Barb Vorhes

Children's Ministry Leadership Transition Task Force

Mary Schoenknecht, Children's Ministry Director, will retire May 2014. The church council approved the formation of a Task Force to help develop and propose a plan for this transition in leadership. Chair of the Task Force is Kim Hill Phelps, and members include David Perchinsky, Mike Peplinski, Nathan Nybrotten, Kristy Casto, Shiela Presler, along with Mary Schoenknecht, Pastor Kurt, and Pastor Sarah.

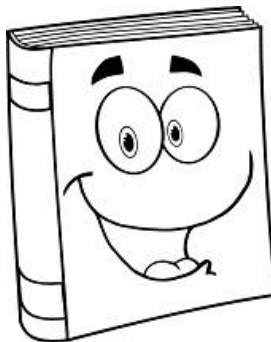
Beginning to meet in August, the team first reviewed existing organizational documents and job descriptions in this area before taking time to study current research and trends in ministry with children. For the past several weeks, the work at hand has been forming and tweaking a staffing proposal for a team approach to this ministry, similar to that in place in Youth Ministry already. Two potential positions will take care of programmatic areas, and another will provide office/logistical support. The goal of the Task Force is to have a finished proposal for the council's consideration for their December meeting. Look for more updates to come in your weekly announcements soon!



Good Books Always a Wonderful Gift

Check out these new novels in our church library.

- ***Threads of Love*** by Andrea Boeshaar. This is book three of the Fabric of Time series. (FIC BOE)
- ***The Union Quilters*** by Jennifer Chiaverini. This one is part of An Elm Creek Series. (FIC CHI)
- ***Ordinary Grace*** by William Kent Krueger. It is a novel of redemptive grace and mercy that transforms the narrator and reader alike. (FIC KRU) Look for another novel by Krueger, ***Trickster's Point***.
- ***Every Waking Moment*** by Chris Fabry. The author delivers an uplifting, human tale of an ordinary woman with an extraordinary gift. (FIC FAB)
- ***Home Front*** and ***Winter Garden*** by Kristin Hannah. In ***Home Front*** she explores the intimate landscape of a troubled marriage, and in ***Winter Garden***, the secrets mothers keep. (FIC HAN)
- ***Lighthouse Road*** by Peter Geye. This author, born and raised in Minneapolis, brings the wilderness of northern Minnesota to crackling, thundering life. (FIC GEY)
- ***An Accidental Life*** by Pamela Binnings Ewen. (FIC EWE)
- ***Coming Home*** by Karen Kingsbury. This is a story of undying hope. (FIC KIN)



Christmas Books Bring J-O-Y!

Members of the Trinity Library Committee are offering an Open House on Sunday, December 8, 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.

Page Turners Book Club

You are invited to join the book club on Tuesday, December 17, at 6:30 P.M. in the library as they discuss "Bubba and the Dead Woman" by C.L. Bevill. Bubba Snoddy is a good old country boy with a big problem. Although he's personable, handsome, and lives in a historical Southern mansion in a small Texas town, he has just discovered the dead body of a woman to whom he was once engaged to marry. Sheriff John Headrick believes Bubba killed his ex-fiancée in a fit of vengeful rage. The townsfolk believe that Bubba killed his ex-fiancée in a fit of vengeful rage. Bubba's own mother believes that Bubba killed his ex-fiancée in a fit of vengeful rage. Bubba has to find out exactly who did murder his ex-fiancée, and quickly, before he goes to jail for the crime, or before someone murders him.

Small Steps to Wellness • Giving the Perfect Gift

Consider giving these gifts this Christmas: to a friend—loyalty; to your enemy—forgiveness; to your boss—service and honesty; to your child—a good example; to your parents—gratitude and devotion; to your spouse—love and faithfulness; to all men and women—charity; to your God—your life.

For Your Calendar

A few dates to mark on your calendar for the coming weeks and months:

- Tuesday, December 10, "Conversations about Dementia" by the Alzheimer's Association, 1:00 P.M.–3:00 P.M. at Mayo Clinic in Eau Claire.
- Thursday, May 15, 2014, Azura Memory Care's Annual Dementia Conference "Capabilities of Dementia" from 9:00 A.M.–4:00 P.M. at the Florian Gardens in Eau Claire.

"Thank You"

From the Chippewa Valley Free Clinic

Dear members of Trinity Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your generous, compassionate gift of hope to the Chippewa Valley Free Clinic as a Good Samaritan Partner. Free Clinics across the nation take responsibility for those who cannot afford reasonable health care. In most cases, we serve as the safety-net clinic to our most vulnerable population.

Remembering that each person who asks for our help has a name, a voice, and a story is crucially important. Many times our patients are faced with the challenge of how to get through the day, how to provide for their family, and how to stretch meager earnings a little further. From the community, for the community, through the miracle of neighbors helping neighbors, we can't do without you! You help us give hope, renew spirits, and save lives.

Wishing you good health and well-being,

*Maribeth Woodford
Executive Director*



Financial News

Inspiration: Giving to Make a Difference Financial Commitments for 2014

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 financial commitment card for 2014. 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

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 \$8,413 monthly payment to the ELCA Mission Investment Fund that holds our note. Thank you for every offering you make.

Ending the Year with Gratitude

Thank you for your charitable giving to the mission of Trinity in 2013. Your giving has supported Trinity's mission and ministries to thousands and these last weeks are very important!

Offerings to Regular Ministries

January through October	2013	2012
Offerings	\$823,621	\$810,754
Expenses	\$809,823	\$813,874

Offerings to Mortgage Payment

January through October	2013	2012
Offerings	\$178,514	\$174,258
Monthly Payments	\$88,277	\$104,850
Additional Principal Only Payment	\$94,675	\$80,367

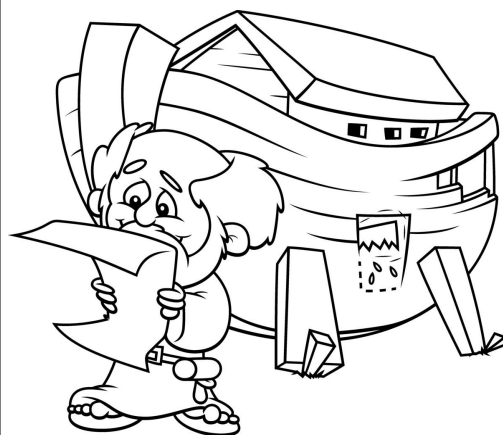
Please respond by December 31 to the blessings of God in your life, and give to God as God has given to you. Thanks for your support of the mission of Trinity. Remember you can give online at trinity-ec.org

Noah's Ark News

Happy Birthday Jesus! You are invited to our Noah's Ark Christmas Party Programs on Thursday, December 19, and Friday, December 20 in the Trinity Room at 10:00 A.M. or 1:45 P.M. Come enjoy the Christmas story about Jesus come down to earth to be our Savior and King shared by beautiful preschoolers.

Other December fun for Noah's Ark includes: the Advent Workshop on Sunday, December 1, from 2:00–5:00 P.M., the Angel Breakfast on Saturday, December 7 at 8:30 A.M. (by reservation only), and birthday parties for Jesus the week of December 16. Noah's Ark will celebrate with gusto the birthday of our Lord!

Merry Christmas to you all! Special end of the year thanks to the Trinity Lutheran staff and Trinity Lutheran congregation for our wonderful classroom. Noah's Ark is blessed!





Children's Ministries

Registration for Winter/Spring Day Camps

- Phone in registration begins Wednesday, December 11, at 8:00 A.M. and will continue 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 9.1.2010 and 8.31.2011 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 8. The cost is \$252 which includes snacks and supplies for activities and can be paid in installments.

Music & Movement Mondays

Move and groove to the music with both new and old songs. We will explore music with song, dance, and instruments. New themes are explored each week, and Bible stories conclude each class. Session One: 9:15–10:00 A.M. for children ages 1–3 years. Parent or caregiver must attend class with child. Session Two: 10:15–11:15 A.M. for children who are three by 8.31.13. Parent or caregiver does not need to attend class with child. Meets on Mondays beginning January 6 for 17 class periods. The cost of \$120 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 were four by 12.31.13. We meet from 1:00–3:00 P.M. on Tuesdays beginning January 7 for 18 class periods (Please note: we do not meet on February 18 or March 18). The cost of \$232 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 12.31.13. We meet from 9:00–11:00 A.M. OR 1:00–3:00 P.M. on Thursdays beginning January 9 for 19 class periods (Please note: we do not meet on March 20). The cost of \$245 includes cost of supplies and snacks. Fees may be paid in installments.

Open Gym Tuesdays

Beginning Tuesday, January 7, 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 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, 2014.



Youth Ministries

Youth Dates to Remember

Sunday, December 1

- Teen Study: Club 78 in the Trinity Room from 10:35–11:05 A.M.

Wednesday, December 4

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

Sunday, December 8

- Teen Study: Club 78 in the Trinity Room from 10:35–11:05 A.M.

Wednesday, December 11

- CrossWord practice 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 15

- Teen Study: Club 78 in the Trinity Room from 10:35–11:05 A.M.

Wednesday, December 18

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

Sunday, December 23 Christmas Break—No Teen Study

Wednesday, December 25 Christmas Day—No Confirmation Classes

Sunday, December 29 Christmas Break—No Teen Study

Thank You

The Trinity Youth thank the congregation for supporting the Wreath Fundraiser. Students will use the monies raised to put towards Trinity sponsored youth events such as the Rainbow Trails back packing trip. A tithe from the proceeds will be given to Friends of Flynn. Wreaths and swags will be available for pick up at Trinity on Sunday, December 1, 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 20. 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 for the streets of Eau Claire to ask 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 24 banana boxes. Way to go Club 9 Students and Mentors!

High School Youth Group

High School students are invited to participate in an interactive Bible Study, "Road To Shalom," on Wednesday, December 4, from 7:15–8:30 P.M. in the Chapel. "Road To Shalom" was used at the 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans.

Luther Park Recharge "Out of This World"

The Luther Park Recharge, for Club 78 and Club 9, is scheduled for the weekend of January 10–11, 2014. Campers and adult chaperones are encouraged to come away to Luther Park and engage in Holy Play and RECHARGE their faith through music, workshops, and discussion. Registration materials and more information are available online at lutherpark.org and at the Tool Bench.

Godstock

Thirteen high school students and three adult chaperones attended Godstock the weekend of November 8–10. Godstock is the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin's yearly youth gathering, and this year it took place at the Metropolis Resort here in Eau Claire. Around 160 youth from our area attended the event which was keynoted by Leslie Hunter, a pastor and youth director from Holy Family Lutheran Church in Chicago, who shared with us original poetry and stories of grace, hope, and love in his life and ministry. The band Lightswitch led the gathering in music throughout the event, and Bishop Rick Hoyne preached at the closing worship. Our group had lots of fun and were definitely tired at the end of the weekend.





Social Concerns

Heartwarming News

Trinity's Food Pantry received a grant from Thrivent Financial in November. With the grant, we were able to give out a box of food (35 lbs. each) plus a turkey to 50 families a few days before Thanksgiving. Each family, consisting of five or more people, were very appreciative and thankful for the gift we offered them. It would have warmed everyone's heart, as it did ours, to see the tears of gratitude when we gave out Thanksgiving boxes.

Thank you Thrivent Financial for selecting Trinity's Food Pantry to receive this gift for those less fortunate. It was truly a gift appreciated by both us and our guests.



Trinity Receives Grant

Trinity has been blessed to be selected by the Eau Claire Community Foundation to receive a \$4,000 grant in support of "Boots for Special Souls!" This ministry of outreach will provide new boots to children in need within our community. We are excited about this ministry given the many lives that have been blessed by our shoe ministry "Soles for Special Souls." Thank you to the Eau Claire Community Foundation for supporting this outreach ministry that will further strengthen our community!



Collecting Books for Flynn Kids

The Friends of Flynn Committee believes that putting books in the hands of children not only encourages a love of learning, but increases self-confidence. With many of the Flynn families, the purchase of books is a luxury they cannot afford. As the students leave for Christmas break this year, we want to provide each one with a new book to take home and keep. While Christmas

shopping this year, please consider buying a book appropriate for K-grade 5 and bring it to the collection bin in the lobby. Financial donations should be made out to Trinity with a notation of "Friends of Flynn."

Yoga Tree

The First Annual Yoga Tree is considered a success with 44 people attending and raising \$570.00 for Trinity's Food Pantry, along with many food items also being donated. There were people doing yoga for the first time along with the experienced in attendance. Everyone enjoyed the time spent as well as friendships made and snacks provided. Thanks to Karen Myhre for organizing the event.

Haiti Thank You

Every offering you share includes extending our love to places far from Eau Claire which enact God's care for people. Haiti Partners is a small organization that strives to help Haitians change Haiti through education. We recently received a note of thanks and news that 37 young Haitian leaders are receiving seminary education and additional training in advancing children's rights and leadership, 1,000 Haitians are receiving a quality education and 170 Haitians have secured employment because they can now read and write. Thank you for your offerings which make a difference in the world. Learn more about this mission at HaitiPartners.org

Our Church in the Philippines

We are a church that rolls up our sleeves and gets to work. Through the ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response, we are responding immediately with \$1 million to address the urgent needs in the Philippines for food, water, clothing, shelter, and medicine. Long-term needs will be assessed and addressed, too. 100% of your donation to Lutheran Disaster Relief goes to relief. To give online, visit elca.org or by mail: LDR 39330 Treasury Center, Chicago, IL 60639-3330 with memo "Typhoon" or call 800.638.3522.



Received October 2013 Memorials & Gifts

Endowment Trust Fund

- In memory of Betty Gullicksrud: Ron Retzlaff

Food Pantry Fund

- To the glory God: Trinity Exercise Group
- In memory of Caryl Rihn: Jan Gumz, Jim & Lynn Gullicksrud
- In memory of Norman & Pearl Westegaard and Jerald & Lillian Moltzau: Paul & Amber Moltzau
- In memory of Jerald Moltzau: Mark & Suzanne Becker

Day Camp Ministry Fund

- In memory of Jim Richards: Bob & Mary Schoenknecht
- In memory of Jerald Moltzau: Bob & Mary Schoenknecht

Youth Ministry Fund

- In memory of Betty Gullicksrud: Family & Friends, Ronald & Jennifer Gullicksrud, Anita Hildebrandt, Paul & Amber Moltzau, Gerald & Jane Bergerson, Roger & Marilyn Engen, Jim & Lynn Gullicksrud, Christopher & Meredith Engen

Preschool Tuition Grants

- In memory of Jerald Moltzau: Jeanne Cooper, Randy & Mary Olson

Children's Bible Fund

- In memory of Jim Richards: Jeff & Lisa Goetz

Library Fund

- In memory of Caryl Rihn: Jerry & Joanne Dow

Trinity Quilters Fund

- In memory of Caryl Rihn: Rose Sippel
- In memory of Jerald Moltzau: Miriam Circle

Memorial Fund

- In memory of Caryl Rihn: Susan Schaefer, Elayne Peterson, Ken & LuAnn Miller, Char Finseth, Ann Ayres

Soles for Special Souls

- In honor of Dan & Jacki Helgeson Family: Randy & Peggy Casper

Page Turners Book Club Fund

- In memory of Jerald Moltzau: Ron & Cindy Beck

New Members Received in November

Corey and Kim Benton Wesley (4)

Corey is a Quality Engineer at Phillips Medisize and Kim is a stay-at-home mom. They enjoy baking, playing board games, bird watching, drawing birds, and reading. They came to Trinity after moving from Madison last year and hearing about Noah's Ark Preschool. Also, Kim's sister and her family are members at Trinity.

Tony and Stefanie Betley Brooke (10), Kendra (6)

Tony is an Agricultural Lender with Investors Community Bank, and Stef is an Accountant with Ayres Associates. They enjoy camping, fishing, running, swimming, and all things Disney! They enjoy Trinity's Sunday services and youth activities.

Sharon Blank

Sharon comes to Trinity from Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Cornell, where Pastor Brahm was her pastor.

Beth Borsheim Easton (3)

William and Diane Burdt

Bill is retired from Xcel Energy. Diane is a retired elementary school librarian. Bill enjoys working on home projects and bullseye pistol target shooting. Diane likes to read, sew, quilt, garden, and travel. They came to Trinity because of the people and Trinity's vibrant, youthful programming and outreach.



New Members Received in November

Rachel DeRusha

Rachel is an RN with Mayo Clinic Health System. She likes to exercise, play soccer, read, and spend time with friends and family. Rachel's husband and his family are long-time members of Trinity, and she enjoys the atmosphere and fellowship here.

Mary Doering

Mary is a retired first grade teacher from the Eau Claire School District. She likes to visit her children and grandchildren in Madison and Milwaukee, spend summer vacations in Minocqua, read, and cheer for the Packers. She finds Trinity to be a friendly and welcoming place to worship.

Nick and Liz Drayton

Nick is a band director for Osseo-Fairchild middle and high schools. Liz is an elementary music teacher at Pedersen Elementary in Altoona. Nick enjoys photography and cooking, and Liz likes to read. They enjoy Trinity's great musical tradition and outreach ministries. They also like the large amount of young families with kids.

Lindsey Fitch

Lindsey works as a manager at Maurices. She enjoys working out, reading, shopping, and spending time with family and friends. She likes the atmosphere at Trinity and enjoys learning about a new religion.

Cassie and Greg Fisher

Taylor (9 months)

Cassie works as a Bank Examiner with the FDIC, and Greg is a Team Sales Representative with Eastbay, Inc. They like to play golf and volleyball, and they enjoy the welcoming environment and the children's programs at Trinity.

Scott Funk and Kristin Holtman-Funk

Joseph Holtman (10), Jackson (4) and Jarrett Funk (2)

Scott is an IT Manager for Global Finishing Solutions, and Kristin is a stay-at-home mom. Scott likes to snowmobile, Kristin likes to bake, and they both like to travel and cook. They came to Trinity because of the many opportunities for their children.

Court and Sara Gunderson

Ella (7 ½), Kaylee (6)

Court works for RainMaster and is in the Navy Reserves. Sara teaches at Sherman Elementary in Eau Claire. They enjoy camping, boating, and spending time outdoors. They came to Trinity because of the family atmosphere.

Lynnea Jessick

Lynn works for Eau Claire County in the Finance Department. She enjoys fishing and spending time with family and friends. She comes to Trinity after getting to know Pastor Sarah at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Stanley.

Sherry Kluge

Sherry works as a social worker at Dove Healthcare West. She loves to read, go shopping, and play with her 2 dogs and 3 cats. She comes to Trinity because of the focus on acceptance and the mission of helping others.

Amber and Robert Kramer

Amber works at Burger King and Robert works for Abby Vans. They enjoy reading and doing crafts. They are interested in Trinity because Amber's grandma and great-grandma were members here, and she came here as a child.

Dennis Lee

Dennis is a sales representative for Litho Specialists, Inc. He enjoys golfing, fishing, and all things Packers and Badgers. Dennis grew up and was confirmed here at Trinity and is now returning as an adult.

Carl and Diane Manz

Tyler and Tiffany Merriman

Hayden (7 months)

Tyler is a computer programmer at Midwest Manufacturing, and Tiffany is a Physical Therapist Assistant at Genesis. They like camping, fishing, and taking walks. They also enjoy the kid-friendliness of the 9:45 A.M. worship service.



New Members Received in November

Charles and Dorothy Miller

Charles is a retired teacher from Cambridge, Minnesota, and Dorothy is a retired LPN. They enjoy outdoor activities like fishing, canoeing, hiking, biking, and camping. Dorothy also enjoys reading and doing handicrafts. They like the size and location of Trinity, and Dorothy enjoys leading our new exercise class!

Charlot Nacius

Charlot is a student majoring in computer science and information technology and will be working with Charter. He enjoys playing soccer and working out at the gym. He likes everything that we do at Trinity, especially the preaching!

Travis and Brittany Nessel

Lylah (2 months)

Travis is a sergeant in the U.S. Marines. Brittany works for Lutheran Social Services as a supervisor and mental health therapist. They enjoy spending time outdoors, camping, playing sports, and spending time with family. They have family here at Trinity and feel it's a very loving and welcoming church—a great place to raise a child.

David and Jennifer Pettit

Jameson (6 months)

David is a Subject Matter Expert (SME) in Community and State Appeals for United Healthcare. Jennifer is an instructor at CVTC for the Cosmetology program and also a salon manager at Cost Cutters. They enjoy taking walks with their dogs, attending festivals, and watching Packers football. They were drawn to Trinity because it is highly active in the community and because it's a busy place!

Curt and Lisa Riley

Lila (3 months)

Curt is a Physical Therapist at Marshfield Clinic, and Lisa works at the Aging and Disability Resource Center as a social worker. They enjoy camping, hiking, and watching the Brewers and Packers. With a new baby, they love to make her smile and are surviving sleepless nights! They like Trinity's contemporary worship service and the great kids' programming.

Bob and Connie Smith

Bob is a retired Computer Center Manager, and Connie is a retired Office Manager. Bob likes to read and play golf, and Connie enjoys perennial flower gardening, counted cross stitch, and reading. They enjoy Trinity's website, community involvement, parking access, music sound system, and that it is a congregation of all ages.

Justin and Jacqueline Strayer

Charles (6), Benjamin (5), Abigail (4)

Justin is the Director of Operations for Productive Living Systems, and Jacqueline is a Spanish Teacher in the Eau Claire Schools. They like to hike, walk, play sports, play games, spend time with family and friends, and listen to music. They were first interested in Trinity because of the roof! Jacqueline's sister and her family are members at Trinity, so they have visited in the past. They love the large number of children present in worship!

Phillip and Alicia Strozinsky

Mabel (2) and Oliver (2 months)

Phillip is a Graphic Designer at Documentation, and Alicia is a stay-at-home mom. They like to play outside, spend time with family, shop, go to movies, and go out to eat. They enjoy Trinity's warm, welcoming atmosphere.

Robert Swedeen and Danielle Meyer

Calvin Swedeen (1)



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

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Congregational President

Brandon Thorsness

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Club 9 Coordinator

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Melissa Buchli

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Sharry Hebert sharry@trinity-ec.org
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Jill Kasmarek jkasmarek@att.net
Marlee Knickerbocker jknick6054@aol.com

Choir Directors

Gary Rambo—Trinity Choir
Ryan Poquette—Trinity Tollers
Kris & Brian Pressler—Worship Music Leader
Drew Brandenburg—CrossWord Youth Band
Jeanne Cooper—God's Little Singers
Corrine Gransee Paral—Children's Choir
Shirley Sands—Totally Joyous Christians, Harmony in Spirit

Missions

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

Seminary Student

Jamie Brieske—Luther Seminary

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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 January Newsletter is December 16.