



## Praying for the World

This year as a worshipping community, we'll be praying for every country in the world. Each week in worship, we'll pray for four countries and, by year end we'll have prayed for all 196 of them. The goal of praying by name of all the countries are:

- To encourage us to think globally and beyond our own concerns while stretching ourselves to pray with love and respect for all people;
- To be inspired to look for news about ways God is at work in other countries;
- To pray through world events of joy, sorrow, startlingly unexpected, or boringly ordinary; and
- To raise our own awareness of the vastness of God's world.



Check out these two ways to engage in praying for the world:

- Visit the world map in the hallway by the nursery and peruse the countries. There you'll find a list of countries and the schedule for each week.
- Subscribe to World in Prayer and receive weekly posts of international news in prayer form.

World In Prayer was started by the Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist, Lodi, California, to teach ways of praying in response to international news and invite others to deepen their own prayers for the needs of the world. Find these prayer resources and more at: <http://www.trinity-ec.org/prayer.phtml>

## Trinity on TV 18

The Council has approved our church partnering with two other ELCA churches in Eau Claire to provide a weekly televised and radio broadcast called "Together in God." Worship will be broadcast each Sunday on WQOW TV 18 at 10:30 A.M., on WAYY radio at 8:30 A.M., and on Public Access local TV on Wednesdays at 10:30 A.M.

The broadcast of Trinity's worship will take place on the third Sunday of the month in 2014. Grace and St. John's Lutheran Churches (ELCA) will provide coverage for the other weeks. Our three churches hope this media ministry will bless thousands and advance the mission of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Please tell your friends to tune in!

## Reconciled in Christ Action at February 2 Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of Trinity is this Sunday, February 2, at 10:40 A.M. in the Worship Center. Please come. The order of business will include reports from 2013, the 2014 proposed budget, and elections for the Trinity Council, Endowment Trust Fund Board, and Personnel Committee.

In addition, a resolution from the Council's Reconciled in Christ Task Force will come before this meeting. Since its inception last spring, the task force has invited the congregation to numerous listening sessions, educational forums, and Bible studies to consider becoming a R.I.C congregation and making a public affirmation of welcome to LGBT people. If it is the will of the majority at the meeting to approve a Reconciled in Christ designation and affirmation of welcome, then our church would publicly welcome your children, siblings, and friends who are gay or lesbian and often feel excluded or scorned.

The Council in January approved the resolution after finding a clear consensus among Trinity members in favor of an Affirmation of Welcome and R.I.C. designation.



# "Always Being Made New"

Dear Friends,

"Always Being Made New" is the celebratory phrase marking the 25th anniversary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. It is a statement that speaks of growth, formation, and an underlying openness to such realities, all made possible by God.

The ELCA has been, and continues to be, made new. New ventures included the ordination of women, faith partnerships with other denominations, expansion of disaster response ministries throughout the world, huge steps forward in combating malaria in Africa, and affirming ministries for our brothers and sisters who are homosexual. I am proud of our denomination!

"Always Being Made New" is also the theme for my upcoming sabbatical. I served as solo pastor for 2.5 years in Balsam Lake, and this month marks my seventh anniversary with this fine congregation of Trinity. In Trinity's personnel policy, pastors are eligible for sabbaticals after completing six years of ministry. It reads, "A sabbatical leave is understood as an integral and important part of an overall strategy for enhancing the mission of the congregation through pastoral renewal, development and growth."

My sabbatical will extend from April 1–June 1, and its framework is divided into three sections:

- Something that directly benefits the congregation: I will be volunteering for two weeks (Monday–Friday) at Reach, Inc. here in Eau Claire. I'll be working, interviewing, and learning from their staff, employees, and employee's family members. From this experience, I will develop a ministry plan for individuals with a developmental disability. This has been a great interest of mine since my days in seminary.
- Exploring an area of interest: Reading has always been an interest of mine. Yet, like many of you, time to do so isn't always possible. I have a reading list of five books that I will read while away. As a father with three young children, this will be a unique venture.
- Relaxation: Time with my family will be a primary focus for my time away. We have planned a week-long trip to Disney World which has left our children ecstatic! This will be their first time on a plane, so it'll be an experience.

Finally, thank you to this congregation for having a sabbatical policy that seeks to nurture and support its pastors. Thank you to our Church Council for supporting this sabbatical; and thank you to Pastor Kurt, Pastor Sarah, and Pastor Brahm for their additional ministry efforts while I am away. I am truly blessed by many as I seek to grow in new ways within pastoral ministry.

Peace,  
Pastor Jim

# Souper Bowl of Caring

On Sunday, February 2, youth will lead the "Souper Bowl of Caring," a nationwide hunger relief 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! Look for the giant soup pots as you exit worship on Sunday, February 2. All contributions will be donated to Trinity's Food Pantry.



# Empty Bowls

A BENEFIT FOR

FEED MY PEOPLE FOOD BANK

Feed My People Food Bank will host the 14th Annual Empty Bowls Fundraiser at the Florian Gardens on Thursday, March 6, from 11:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. Enjoy delicious soups made by local restaurants, breads, beverage, and desserts. For a donation of \$18.00 you will receive your meal AND take home a beautiful ceramic bowl hand-crafted by UW–Eau Claire art students, area high school students, and other area potters. The meal without the bowl can be purchased for \$8.00. Children 10 and under are free. Tickets are available at UW–Eau Claire Davies Center; Feed My People, 2610 Alpine Road, Eau Claire; Trinity Lutheran Church; online at [www.fmpfoodbank.org](http://www.fmpfoodbank.org), or at the door the day of the event.



## Registration Open for Family Camp

Pastor Jim invites you to join him and his family for Family Camp, a wonderful vacation experience, at Luther Park from August 3–8. Located 45 minutes north of Eau Claire with a shoreline on Prairie Lake, Luther Park provides a beautiful north woods camping atmosphere. Activities include swimming, canoeing, hiking, inspiring worship, and simply relaxing. Camp brochures are in the Information Racks near the Fireside Room. Registration forms can be found on the Family Ministry page under the grow menu on Trinity's website [trinity-ec.org](http://trinity-ec.org). Register soon to reserve your spot!



## College Care Packages

Many Trinity Lutheran young adults are pursuing their secondary education at colleges and technical colleges around the state and country. If your son or daughter is attending college or technical school, you may request a special care package to be sent to their dorm or apartment. Care packages will include a snack, a card, and Luther Park Counselor opportunities suitable for a college student. Toward the end of February, our High School Youth Group will prepare the care packages. If you are interested in sending a care package to your son or daughter, please forward your student's mailing address to Cassie at [cassie@trinity-ec.org](mailto:cassie@trinity-ec.org) or 715.832.6601 by Sunday, February 16.

## Add ICE to your Cell Phone

Emergency medical personnel are being trained to check your cell phone for an "In Case of Emergency" (ICE) contact. This contact allows them to reach your family members or other designated emergency contacts in the event you are unconscious or unable to respond to them. Some phones come with a contact labeled ICE which allows you to attach one or more of your phone contacts to the ICE label. Others allow a spot to add medications, allergies to medications, and medical conditions/surgeries. If your phone does not have a pre-designated ICE contact, create one by adding a contact labeled ICE or, for more than one, "ICE–Dad" or "ICE–John."

## Letter to a Grieving Heart

In this personal letter to those facing the loss of a loved one, Billy Sprague revisits his own landscape of mourning. With sensitivity and understanding, he writes about the numbing reality of grief's shadow land and the sources of light and hope, the wise words, the acts of kindness, and the surprising revelations that eased him forward, back into the land of the living. Four copies are available in the office of the Parish Nurse. For more information, contact Marti Hofer, Parish Nurse, at [marti@trinity-ec.org](mailto:marti@trinity-ec.org)

## Thank You

Thank you notes from Christmas Sharing Project Recipients:

*Trinity Church Members,  
Thank you so much for helping our family out at this special time of the year. This is the first Christmas in a while that financially my family is strapped due to some family crisis that have occurred. We are very thankful for your generous gifts for our children. We have no family here other than ourselves and our children. Christmas will be truly special for us with your help. One day we will be able to help others and give back.*

*God Bless, Merry Christmas  
Jane and John*

*Trinity Lutheran Church,  
Thank you for blessing my grandson with gifts and food. Please thank the little children for making such a beautiful quilt.  
In His Love, Judith*



You can have all the sermons you hear at Trinity delivered right to your computer or mobile device. It's easy and free! Visit our website [trinity-ec.org](http://trinity-ec.org) and follow the instructions to set up your subscription. Take Trinity with you wherever you go!



## Senior Citizens Meet—The Friendship Group

The Friendship Group will meet on Wednesday, February 12, at 10:00 A.M. in the Chapel. After a brief business meeting, a program will be presented by Mary Rambo. Mary & Gary Rambo recently toured China following the path of Lutheran Missionaries on the China Missionary Trail. Following the program lunch will be on your own at Perkins.

## Providing Hospitality For Funerals

We're looking for people with a heart for hospitality to serve as funeral coordinators for families and friends who have been bereaved and come to Trinity for a funeral service and a lunch or reception afterwards. We have volunteers who provide this care, but we want to expand our coordinators as the frequency of funerals increases. We currently have only four coordinators, and last year we had over 30 funerals. Please contact Cindy Beck at 715.832.6601 or [cindy@trinity-ec.org](mailto:cindy@trinity-ec.org) for more information. Thank you!



## Funeral Planning Guide

We plan for many important events in our lives; yet, many people resist planning for the reality of their death. To assist you in planning, Trinity provides a "Funeral Planning Guide and Worksheet" which walks you through numerous topics and provides options so you can develop a plan. Doing so assists your family in very helpful ways. Find this guide in the Worship section of [trinity-ec.org](http://trinity-ec.org)

## Driving Down Debt

Trinity's mortgage from the 2004 building expansion is being driven down by faithful giving to the Mortgage Payment fund. Thank you for your offerings every week. In 2013 strong giving to Mortgage Payment resulted in over \$130,000 directed toward extra principal payments. Thank you! Please continue your faithful offerings. Remember you can give anytime at [trinity-ec.org](http://trinity-ec.org)

## Wanting to Schedule a 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 9, 23; March 9, 23. 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.

## Circle Listings

### Deborah

Thursday, February 20, 9:30 A.M.  
Trinity  
Hostess: Joyce Davis  
Leader: Nancee Burbank

### Dorcas

Wednesday, February 19, 1:00 P.M.  
Trinity  
Hostess: Elaine Lonning  
Leader: Group

### Martha/Mary

Tuesday, February 18, 7:00 P.M.  
Trinity  
Hostess: Marilyn Johnson  
Leader: Group

### Miriam

Wednesday, February 19, 9:30 A.M.  
Trinity  
Hostess: Sheila Running  
Leader: Group

### Ruth

Tuesday, February 18, 1:30 P.M.  
Trinity  
Hostess:  
Leader: Charlotte Finseth

### Sarah

Wednesday, February 19, 9:30 A.M.  
Trinity  
Hostess: Barb Vorhes  
Leader: Barb Vorhes





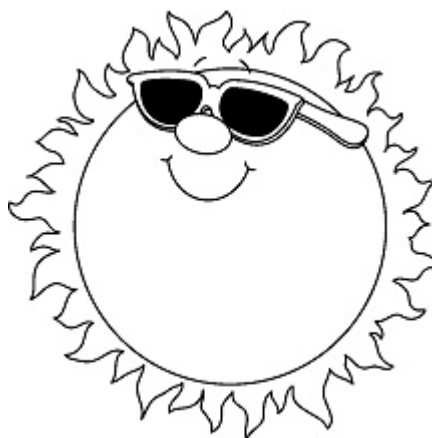


# Children's Ministries

For more information on any of our Children's Ministry programming, please check out the Trinity Website [www.trinity-ec.org](http://www.trinity-ec.org) or contact Mary Schoenknecht at 715.832.6601 or [marys@trinity-ec.org](mailto:marys@trinity-ec.org)

## Open Gym Tuesdays

Open Gym Tuesdays will continue on February 4, 11, and 25 (we will not meet February 18). It meets from 10:00–11:30 A.M. in our Trinity Room and is 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 supervises the area and offers a story time and snack during the last half hour. There is a \$3 charge for each child at each session; \$5 for two children from the same family and \$7 for three. No registration is required. Members, friends of members, and non members are welcome to attend.



## Look A This!

It's not too late to sign-up! We have current Day Camp openings for preschool age children.

- Camp Come and Play on Wednesdays Session Two, from 12:15–2:15 P.M. For children with birthdays between 9.1.2010 and 8.31.2011. Fee will be adjusted to start date (sessions go through May 21).
- A New Program! A playgroup with Music & Movement on Mondays, starting February 10, from 9:15–10:00 A.M. in the Trinity Chapel area. For children ages 1–3 years (parent, grandparent or caregiver attends class with child). The cost of \$90 includes supplies/equipment (for 13 class periods).

## Communion Instruction for Children in 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

Communion Instruction is a sacramental class that prepares children in 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1, 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.

## Luther Park Bible Camp

It's time to be thinking about a summer camp experience at Luther Park Bible Camp in Chetek for children completing grades K–5! Brochures are available around the church at the Youth Tool Bench, in the Children's Ministries office, and in the lobby. We offer 25% of the registration fee as a partial grant. Complete information is also available on the camp website at [www.lutherpark.org](http://www.lutherpark.org)

## Summer Fun!

Before we know it summer will be here! It's time to mark your calendar for Summer 2014 Day Camps! The registration booklet will be available in mid March.

Trinity Sports Camp: June 16–18 (three days)

Camp Come & Play Week 1: June 16–19 (four days)

Camp Cooking & Booking: June 23–27 (five days)

Camp Come & Play Week 2: June 23–26 (four days)

Camp Discovery: June 30–July 2 (three days)

Camp Veggie Tales: July 7–11 (five days)

Camp Tell The Good News: July 7–10 (four days)

## 2014 Vacation Bible School "Live in God's Word"

VBS is scheduled for July 21–25 from 8:45 A.M.–12 noon. The cost is a suggested \$20 donation per child. VBS is for children who were three by 9.1.13 through those who have completed grade six. The Kick Off Event is Sunday, July 20, at the 9:45 A.M. worship service. Registration will begin early April.

## Safety Guidelines

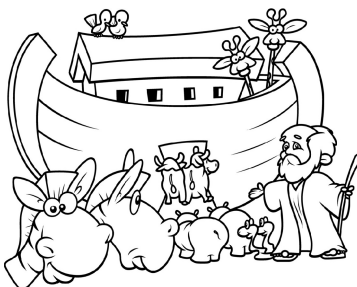
Trinity's Children's Ministries Committee and Child Safety Committee members would like to remind parents there is no one supervising young children in the rest rooms or other parts of the building during the worship services. We would advise parents to accompany their young children and not send them 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.



# Noah's Ark News

Noah's Ark is already looking ahead to the 2014–2015 preschool year. Registration opens to the Trinity congregation on Tuesday, February 4, at 8:00 A.M. Call 715.832.6601, and Ms. "C" will answer the phone and take your information. The Preschool Committee is also investigating the possibility of offering before and after care for our afternoon classes beginning at noon each day. If that is something that interests you, please contact Jeanne Cooper at [noahsark@trinity-ec.org](mailto:noahsark@trinity-ec.org). Other registration dates include Thursday, February 6, at 8:00 A.M. for non-member Come & Play, Friday Friends, and siblings of non-member currently enrolled Noah's Ark students. On Tuesday, February 25, registration opens to the public.



Noah's Ark has been a very busy place this past month of January. We were so glad to welcome parents for our annual Parent Activity Day. We have built a "milk jug igloo" in our classroom. It's very geometric. We will end the month by enjoying our "warm, sunny room" for Beach Day activities.

Now we look forward to the Love Month of February. We'll be reminding each other about God's unconditional love for each of us. We will celebrate the love of family and friends at our annual classroom Valentine's Parties. Dr. Boda, an Eau Claire dentist and preschool mom, is planning to join us for a dental health talk this month, too. February includes a mid-winter vacation February 17 and 18 when Noah's Ark is closed for two days.

Noah's Ark is a great place to be. We hope any new families will email or connect with the staff of Noah's Ark if they have any questions. The bright yellow brochure has information on classes available, tuition, supply fee costs, and programming. Email addresses and other teacher information is available on our website: [www.trinity-ec.org](http://www.trinity-ec.org)

## Bundle up

Choosing clothes and layering them properly are keys to keeping comfortable while exercising outdoors, especially in cold temperatures. Adding or removing layers as needed will help you to stay warm and dry while staying active.

**Base Layer:** This layer, closest to your skin, should wick moisture away from your body and into the air or outer layer where it can evaporate. The best base layer materials are synthetics (polypropylene and polyester). These materials are lightweight, too. Skin chafing can be a concern, so check the base layer design features. Stretchy fabric allows you to move easily. Seamless or flat-seam clothing lies flat and won't rub your skin.

**Mid-Layer:** This insulating layer helps to take moisture away from the base layer. Wool and synthetics, such as fleece, work well. This layer should be snug but not constricting. Features such as full-length front zippers allow for venting.

**Outer Layer:** This layer protects you from the elements. When it's dry outside, go for a lightweight soft shell that provides warmth, breathability, and wind resistance. If the conditions are wet, make sure your outer layer is both breathable and waterproof. Source: American College of Sports Medicine



# Youth News

## Student Fundraising "Trip" Accounts

All students in grades 7–12 at Trinity have the opportunity to fundraise for their own Trip Account. For every fundraising activity they participate in through Trinity, they will be given a portion of the proceeds from that fundraiser according to the time they spent at the fundraiser. Then students are able to use this money towards any Trinity sponsored event to help ease the burden of financial cost. If a student does not use the money by the time they graduate high school, this money is either given to a younger sibling's account or it will be transferred to the Youth Scholarship Fund.

## \$\$\$ For You

A scholarship program is available to all students of Trinity Lutheran Church. It is our hope that all students, regardless of financial ability, have the privilege of participating in any event that will nurture their growth in Christ. In light of this, every student is eligible for a 25% reimbursement of registration costs for all events at Trinity. If further assistance is needed, arrangements can be made with the Youth Ministry Team. Scholarship forms are located next to the Tool Bench in the blue side bins. We hope this will continue to encourage students to participate in the life changing opportunities here at Trinity!



## Trinity Page Turners

Join the book club on Tuesday, February 18, at 6:30 P.M. in the library when they review *Flight Behavior* by Barbara Kingsolver. *Flight Behavior* is a brilliant and suspenseful novel set in present day Appalachia. Kingsolver's riveting story concerns a young wife and mother on a failing farm in rural Tennessee who experiences something she cannot explain, and how her discovery energizes various competing factions—religious leaders, climate scientists, environmentalists, politicians—trapping her in the center of the conflict and ultimately opening up her world. *Flight Behavior* is arguably Kingsolver's most thrilling and accessible novel to date, and like so many other of her acclaimed works, represents contemporary American fiction at its finest. Please feel free to come whether you've finished the book or not. Talk if you want, or just listen. We hope to see you there!

## Get Your Mind in Shape—Readercise!

### Two New Additions

- *The Postmistress* by Sarah Blake. *The Postmistress* is a tale of two worlds—one shattered by violence, the other willfully naive—and of two women whose jobs are to deliver the news, yet who find themselves unable to do so. Through their eyes, and the eyes of everyday people caught in history's tide (WW II), it examines how we tell each other stories and how we bear the fact of war as we live ordinary lives. Many on the Trinity Library Committee said this is a good read! (FIC BLA)
- *Little Mouse Finds a New Home* by Liz Siivola. This delightful book for children is based on a true story about a mouse found in a hospital on Christmas Eve. *Little Mouse Finds a New Home* demonstrates how an animal found in an unlikely place can be rescued, cared for, and returned to its natural habitat. (++)FIC SII)

Find the above new books on the A Frame Display as well as these other recently acquired books:

- *Off Main Street* by Michael Perry. (973.92 PER)
- *Visiting Tom* by Michael Perry. (B PER)
- *Tell My Sons, A Father's Last Letters* by Lt. Col. Mark M. Weber. (B WEB)
- *I Am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai. (B YOU)
- *Pastrix, The Cranky. Beautiful Faith of a Sinner & Saint* by Nadia Bloz-Weber. (920 BOL)
- *Threads of Love* by Andrea Boeshaar. (FIC BOE)
- *The Union Quilters* by Jennifer Chiaverini. (FIC CHI)
- *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger. (FIC KRU)
- *Every Waking Moment* by Chris Fabry. (FIC FAB)
- *Home Front and Winter Garden* by Kristin Hannah. (FIC HAN)
- *Lighthouse Road* by Peter Geye. (FIC GEY)
- *An Accidental Life* by Pamela Binnings Ewen. (FIC EWE)
- *Coming Home* by Karen Kingsbury. (FIC KIN)



## Health Ministries

### Get my People Going! On the Move

The people of Israel got a lot of exercise walking from Egypt to the promised land! Did you know that exercise not only helps you lose weight or maintain a healthy weight, but it also does all these things?



- Helps with brain function
- Strengthens immune systems
- Significantly reduces risk of developing various diseases
- Reduces risk for reoccurrence of certain cancers

Exercising also helps your lymphatic system move toxins out of your body and speeds up your metabolism for close to 24 hours. Of course, you already know that it helps you sleep better!

If you are not already exercising, start small. How about exercising for five minutes today? Go for a walk or wave your arms around in your chair. Then increase the time a little every day. When you do exercise, give yourself a huge pat on the back. You are taking a proactive step that can add years to your life and quality to those years. No matter what your age or physical condition, the exercise that is right for you can help you feel better.

Blessings on the journey,

Marti Hofer, Parish Nurse



# Social Concerns

## Inspiring Support of Trinity's Food Pantry

Trinity's Food Pantry received many generous donations in December and early January. We are grateful to the following organizations for either their financial gifts or their food donations:

- Arnold and Lois Dommer Foundation: Donation of \$4,000.
- Ann Marie Foundation: Donation of \$3,500 to pay for our new refrigeration unit.
- Bethesda Lutheran Church: Donation of \$800.
- Anonymous Community Member: \$2,500 given to Feed My People Food Bank to be used for Trinity's pantry.
- Festival Foods: Donation of over \$500 of ground beef.
- The American Legion Post on Water Street: Food donations from their recent food drive.
- Bethlehem Lutheran Church: Many boxes of cereal from their cereal drive.
- The Altoona Lions Club: Treat bags to be handed out to the children who came to the pantry during the Christmas season.
- Kwik-Trip: sponsored a campaign to Fight Hunger during November and December. With donation canisters next to their check outs, they collected \$865.98 for Trinity's Food Pantry.



## A New Partnership

The 2014 University of Wisconsin Eau Claire Community Leadership Class seeks project proposals from an array of community organizations as part of their senior project. We are pleased to share that a Trinity Food Pantry project proposal was selected as one of five projects by class members.

The project will include: an assessment of our pantry and the hunger needs in our community, a summary of overall pantry status given an array of factors, composing 2014–2015 food order and financial projections, and a proposal for overall long-term sustainability. Three students will work with Pastor Jim and Sharry Hebert, Food Pantry Coordinator, throughout the spring. Those students will then present their finished project to our Church Council and Food Pantry Board in early May.

## Community Missions

- Syverson Nursing Home: The Social Concerns Team invites you to consider being present to assist in hosting the Syverson Nursing Home Birthday Party on Wednesday, February 12, at 2:30 P.M. We need four helpers on the day of the event. In addition, we need 2 angel food cakes and four additional cakes of any kind. If you are interested, simply sign up at Clipboard Central by Sunday, February 9. For more information, contact Linda McClelland (Party Coordinator) at 715.836.7719. Thank you!
- Sojourner House: In this cold weather, the Sojourner House continues to bless many homeless individuals in our community. Trinity will host on Friday, February 21, from 6:30 P.M.–9:30 P.M. All volunteers need to be 18 years old or older. We need only five volunteers for this service opportunity. If are

willing to help, sign up at Clipboard Central. Phyllis Grohn, Social Concerns Team Member, will connect with you regarding any necessary details.

## Japan Missionary: Handbells as Mission Work?

They're expensive. They're heavy. They require a lot of "tender loving care" and time for caretaking. And, as one student said, "When I watched the students play, it looked so easy, but when 'I' tried it, I couldn't make one nice note. They are more challenging than I thought." All that being said, why in the world would a small college like ours try to instigate a program that requires so much to be successful?

When we created the Handbell Team here at Kyushu Lutheran College, part of the rationale was both to enhance the worship experience for students and faculty, as well as to provide an additional opportunity for students to tangibly engage in worship. My role as their teacher was born not out of my own handbell experience (since I had none!).

With a large portion of students coming from non-Christian backgrounds, it is difficult to explain to them that when they perform at a service, the goal is not to be seeking applause. A wonderful performance is a blessed outcome, but not the main purpose. Their job, I tell them, is to offer whatever they have done in terms of musical preparation as an offering of thanks to God.

Part of the teaching I do is to explain the text behind the melodies and harmonies, and contextualize it as the bones of the music. Additionally, exploring reasons for the hymns being written are often mini-testimonies in and of themselves, as they are so often written as a response to the composers' own personal experiences and faith. Students are often surprised and genuinely moved by the stories behind such hymns as "How Great Thou Art" and "It Is Well With My Soul."

Peace,  
Jackie Bencke





## Received December 2013 Memorials & Gifts

### Children's Bible Fund

- In memory of Norman Berg: David & Mary Larson, Anna Trullinger

### Missionary Fund

- In memory of Norman Berg: Bob & Mary Schoenknecht

### Handbell Fund

- In memory of Marie Noreen: Dan & Shirley Sands, Dorothy Petzold

### Organ Fund

- In memory of David Pressler: Dan & Shirley Sands

### Library Fund

- In memory of Norman Berg: Family & Friends, Julie Peterman, Ann L. Johnson, Helen Leipnitz

### Youth Ministries Fund

- In memory of Norman Berg: Cari Taylor

### Friends of Flynn Fund

- In memory of Lorraine Higgins: Bob & Mary Schoenknecht
- In memory of Norman Sandager: Bob & Mary Schoenknecht

### Trinity Choir Fund

- In memory of Jeff Twesme: Paul & Joy Twesme, Roman & Diane Fritz, Marge Gharrity, Joyce Voigts

### Building Maintenance Fund

- In memory of Lorraine Higgins: Susan Schaefer

### Endowment Trust Fund/Rev. Kurt Jacobson Fund

- In honor of Pastor Kurt Jacobson: Tekla Bekkedal
- In memory of Lorraine Voss: Roger & Judy Goss

### Endowment Trust Fund/Children's Ministries Fund

- In memory of Faye Woodington: Bob & Mary Schoenknecht
- In memory of David Pressler: Bob & Mary Schoenknecht

### Endowment Trust Fund/Worship & Music Ministries Fund

- In memory of Alden R. Pederson: Arlys Pederson

### Endowment Trust Fund

- In memory of James Stai: Jeff & Lisa Goetz
- In memory of Norman Berg: Gordon Larson
- In memory of Marie Noreen: Barb Vorhes
- In memory of Lorraine Higgins: Barb Vorhes, Norb & Helen Wurtzel
- In memory of Marie Rudolphson: Tekla Bekkedal
- In memory of Lorraine Voss: Norb & Helen Wurtzel

### Food Pantry Fund

- In memory of Norman Berg: Clif & Doris Husberg, John & Nancee Burbank, Family & Friends, Shirley Freeberg
- In memory of Jim Lonning: Tekla Bekkedal
- In memory of Lorraine Higgins: Pam Burrows, Steven & Beth Zodnichek, Jeri Thompson, Edith Murray, Doris Dodson, Elma Luthye, Dane & Irma Butler, Alan Goldsmith, Kermit & June Walker, Linda Bachowski, Donna Rehbeck, Eau Claire Morning Rotary, Shirley Freeberg, Dorothy Jensen, David & Gloris Weiss, Rose Sippel, Roger & Phyllis Burrows
- In memory of Tom Doyle: Dave & Jeanette Suchla
- In honor of Lori Juneau: Amy Juneau
- In honor of Pastor Sarah & Pastor Brahm Semmler Smith, Pastor Jim Page, Pastor Kurt Jacobson: Thursday Morning Bible Study Group
- In memory of Lorraine Voss: Rose Sippel

### Memorial Fund

- In memory of Norman Berg: Marian Rudy, Walt & Kris Schreiber, Sylvia Loga, Ev Carlson, Avis Grambo, Tommy & Patricia Tompkins, Paul Bunyan Logging Camp, Robert & Gloria Williams, Family & Friends, Joan Anderson, Ann Ayres, Morris & Audrey Brumberg, Ralph & Norma Marking, Rose Sippel, Leatrice Solberg, Elroy & Agnes Strand
- In memory of Geraldine Roy: Jack & Pat Garber, Mr. & Mrs. Orville Alitz, Joan Anderson, Bill & Mary Sherman
- In memory of Lorraine Higgins: Kermit & June Walker, Trudie Reinbacher, Warren & Mavis Hermodson, Ralph & Peggy Hudson
- In memory of Lorraine Voss: Maurice & Donna Eide
- In memory of Janis Joseph: James & Thekla Schneider

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

Trinity Lutheran Church—Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 1314 East Lexington Blvd, Eau Claire WI 54701  
Phone: (715) 832.6601 • Fax: (715) 832.6700 • Web Page: [trinity-ec.org](http://trinity-ec.org)

## Ministers

People of Trinity

## Congregational President

Brandon Thorsness

## Pastors

Kurt M. Jacobson                      [kurt@trinity-ec.org](mailto:kurt@trinity-ec.org)  
715.832.9726

Jim Page                                      [jim@trinity-ec.org](mailto:jim@trinity-ec.org)  
715.834.7092

Sarah Semmler Smith                      [sarah@trinity-ec.org](mailto:sarah@trinity-ec.org)  
715.827.1230

Brahm Semmler Smith                      [brahm@trinity-ec.org](mailto:brahm@trinity-ec.org)  
715.827.1220

## Building & Grounds

Don Peterson  
Melissa Buchli

## Ministry Support

Gail Brian                                      [gail@trinity-ec.org](mailto:gail@trinity-ec.org)  
Financial Ministry Assistant

Amber Moltzau                              [amber@trinity-ec.org](mailto:amber@trinity-ec.org)  
Office Administrator

Heather Day                                      [heatherd@trinity-ec.org](mailto:heatherd@trinity-ec.org)  
Web Coordinator/Ministry Assistant

Cindy S. Beck                                      [cindy@trinity-ec.org](mailto:cindy@trinity-ec.org)  
IT/Ministry Assistant

Sharry Hebert                                      [sharry@trinity-ec.org](mailto:sharry@trinity-ec.org)  
Food Pantry Coordinator

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

Ginny Lien                                      [ginny@trinity-ec.org](mailto:ginny@trinity-ec.org)  
Jill Kasmarek                                      [jkasmarek@att.net](mailto:jkasmarek@att.net)  
Marlee Knickerbocker                                      [jknick6054@aol.com](mailto: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

## Ministry Directors

Mary B. Schoenknecht                      [marys@trinity-ec.org](mailto:marys@trinity-ec.org)  
Children's Ministries

Jeanne Cooper                                      [noahsark@trinity-ec.org](mailto:noahsark@trinity-ec.org)  
Noah's Ark Preschool

Shirley Sands                                      [shirley@trinity-ec.org](mailto:shirley@trinity-ec.org)  
Worship & Music

Marti Hofer R.N.                                      [marti@trinity-ec.org](mailto:marti@trinity-ec.org)  
Parish Nurse

Pat Garber                                      [pat@trinity-ec.org](mailto:pat@trinity-ec.org)  
Visitation Ministry

## Youth Ministry Leadership Team

Lisa Goetz                                      [lisa@trinity-ec.org](mailto:lisa@trinity-ec.org)  
Youth Ministry Assistant

Anne Josephson                                      [anne@trinity-ec.org](mailto:anne@trinity-ec.org)  
Club 78 Coordinator

Cassie Brenden                                      [cassie@trinity-ec.org](mailto:cassie@trinity-ec.org)  
Club 9 Coordinator

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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](mailto: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 18.