



Trinity

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
1314 E Lexington Blvd • Eau Claire WI 54701-6434
2023, February Newsletter—Vol. LXIX No. 2

Annual Congregational Meeting

Join the Annual Meeting of Trinity on Sunday, February 5, in the Worship Center at 10:30 A.M. This constitutionally directed event brings together all confirmed members to hear reports from the pastors, review 2022, elect a new council, and adopt the 2023 budget. The online Annual Report will be available at trinity-ec.org on Friday, January 27. Please print a copy and bring it to the meeting. Print copies will also be available in the Lobby and at the meeting.

Lent 2023 "In Community"

The invitation to Lent spoken on Ash Wednesday reminds us that we enter this season together "with the whole church." Though many common Lenten practices rightly invite us to individual acts of repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love, Lent is also a time for deepening of community. As a community of ELCA Lutheran churches in Eau Claire, we encourage you to attend Wednesday worship services where pastors will rotate through the congregations bringing a new perspective on what it means to be in community with one another, with the world, with creation, and with God. Join us on Wednesdays for worship at 12:15 P.M. or 6:00 P.M. beginning February 22

Additionally, Lent Soup Lunches are returning. After you attend 12:15 P.M. enjoy fellowship and lunch in the Trinity Room. We hope to see you there!

- February 22 • Ash Wednesday
- March 1 • In Community ... Our Neighbors
- March 8 • In Community ... Christ
- March 15 • In Community ... Those on the Margins
- March 22 • In Community ... All the Saints
- March 29 • In Community ... Creation

Valentine's Day Luncheon

We invite all Seniors—widowed, divorced, married, or with a significant other—to celebrate Valentine's with us on Monday, February 13, at 12:00 noon in the Trinity Room. Join us for laughter, good food, and conversation. The lunch is free. Socializing is important for seniors to prevent isolation, loneliness, and depression. Join us because it is good for your health! The menu is homemade turkey tetrazzini, glazed carrots, rolls, and dessert. Come join us for great conversation and food. Please sign up at Clipboard Central or contact Vicki Dueringer at 715.832.6601 ext 214.

Pancake Supper

We are excited to bring back our Noah's Ark Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper this year! Come and celebrate with us on February 21 from 4:00 P.M.–7:00 P.M. Advance ticket prices are \$10.00 for age 13 and over and \$4.00 for age 2–12. At the door on February 21, prices are \$12.00 for age 13 and over and \$5.00 for age 2–12. Tickets will be on sale on Sundays, February 12 and February 19, before and after worship in the lobby and also on Wednesday, February 15. During the week, tickets are available in the Church Office.





Anti-Racism Program

You are invited to participate in the Trinity Anti-Racism program designed to provide an education opportunity including book discussion, documentary analysis, sensitivity sessions, etc. The meetings will be set in a safe, non-judgmental, welcoming environment with an expected duration of an hour. However, be ready to be uncomfortable and humbled. We

will meet the last two Sundays of the month through May 21. This month we will meet February 19 and February 26 at 10:45 A.M. If you are interested, please contact Lidix Montoya, Minister of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; at lidixe@trinity-ec.org

Missionaries Jackie and Patrick Bencke, Kumamoto, Japan

Global Mission Update

During our worship services on September 11, 2022, we enjoyed meeting and hearing about Jackie and Patrick Bencke's mission work at Kyushu Lutheran College. The following is a recent update from Jackie.

Happy New Year!

I trust that you were able to enjoy some time with family, friends, or "Framily" over the past several weeks. We were blessed to have our daughter, Emilie (she is a junior at St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN) with us for the three weeks in between fall semester and her study abroad program. She will study in Milan for spring semester.

We are back to classes as well, closing up the school year in a few short weeks and preparing for the start of a new term in April. This next academic year will most certainly involve some big changes as Luther becomes the first international school in Kumamoto. With the TSMC (Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company) plant being built, Kumamoto will become home to several hundred Taiwanese families who will need internationally codified programs for their kids/students. So, a mixed bag of tension and excitement is in the air these days.

Peace be yours, Jackie Bencke

Note: You can find a copy of Jackie's 97th newsletter posted on the bulletin board inside door #2. We ask you to keep Jackie and Patrick and their daughters, Emilie and Hannah, in your prayers.

New Member Orientation

"Discover Trinity" is the one-time new member event designed to introduce new people to our congregation's mission and many ministries. If you're looking for a faith community to provide you support, guidance, and growth in faith as well as joyful fellowship and opportunities to serve with people who love God, please join us! "Discover Trinity" is available for you to learn more about our church and become a member. The next Discover Trinity will be held on Monday, March 6, at 6:00 P.M. Please register online at trinity-ec.org or call 715.832.6601.

February Circle Meetings

- **Deborah** • Tuesday, February 21, 9:30 A.M. Oakwood Hills Senior Apartments
- **Miriam** • Wednesday, February 15, 9:30 A.M. Trinity
- **Ruth** • Tuesday, February 21, 1:30 P.M. Trinity

Live Committee

The first meeting of our new LEAD Vision Live Committee will be on Wednesday, February 8, at 5:00 P.M. in room 306. This committee will help our congregation embody the first baptismal promise to "live among God's faithful people." We're already doing many types of fellowship and may wish to explore others. This meeting is open to anyone interested in the notion of fellowship, stewardship, education, and more! Please contact Pastor Tom with any questions at tomw@trinity-ec.org

Trinity Endowment Trust Awards Grants

In November 2022, the Board of the Trinity Lutheran Endowment Trust awarded over \$18,000 in grants to ministries and missions that extend the work of the congregation. Thanks to memorials, offerings, and estate bequests, the Endowment Trust now has a portfolio over \$1,800,000! Let's continue to grow the Endowment Trust. What you do now will do great things in perpetuity!

November grants will support:

- Neighbor to Neighbor Ministry
- Praise in the Park
- Trinity Quilters
- Corrections Education in the Eau Claire County Jail
- Trinity Podcast Equipment
- Hope Gospel Mission Short Stay Expansion Project
- Upgrade Equipments and Software for Contemporary Worship



Received December 2022 Memorials & Gifts

Children's Bibles

- In honor of Mary Hoepner: Char Finseth

Food Pantry

- In memory of Roger Clark: Paul & Sarah Pedersen, Marleen Clark
- In honor of Dan & Jacki Helgeson: Randy & Peggy Casper
- In honor of Pam Burrows: Margie Larsen
- In memory of Orville Anderson: Family & Friends, Ron & Yvonne Nixdorf, Susan Schaefer, LuAnn Miller, Roger & Marilyn Engen, Jim & Marilyn Bollinger, Roger & Jane Dale, Sam & Ginny Yanakopulos, Jerry & Joanne Dow, Sue Brown, David & Sonia Becker, Jim & Anne Walker
- In memory of Louella Krumrie: Sharon DeRusha

General Fund

- In memory of Roger Clark: Marleen Clark
- In memory of William "Billy" Saetre: Ron & Cindy Beck

Memorial Fund

- In memory of Roger Clark: David & Debra Olsen

Library

- In memory of Barbara Johnson: Steve & Ann Nelson, David & Vicki Romanski, Barb Lee, Norb & Helen Wurtzel, Sandra Jacobson, Jerry & JoannE Dow, Mary Dixon, Erik & Kim Hill Phelps, Nancy Weiss, Family & Friends

Friends of Flynn

- In honor of Randy & Peggy Casper: Dan & Jacki HelgesOn

Quilters

- In memory of Orville Anderson: Family & Friends, Leatrice Solberg, Lori Juneau, William & Diane Burdt, Beverly Briggs, M. & Deanne Vasilikos, Barb Lee

Advent Tea

- In memory of Elayne Peterson: Judy Foss
- In memory of Anna Trullinger: Judy Foss

Endowment Trust/Faith Lights

- In memory of Michael Gullicksrud, Kyle Gullicksrud and Elayne & Gordy Peterson: Jim & Lynn Gullicksrud,

Flower Chart for 2023!

There are weekends available in 2023 to sponsor altar flowers for worship to memorialize or honor some person or event in your life. Sign-up on the chart at Clipboard Central. Cost: \$45. Pick up the blue card with further instructions.

Clipboard Central

Remember to check out Clipboard Central on Sunday mornings. We currently need volunteers for the following on Sunday mornings:

- **Ushers:** If you worship on Sunday morning at 8:15 A.M. or 9:45 A.M., we really need YOU to join an usher team! No experience is necessary. Excellent team captains will orient you, and you'll help provide hospitality and service to your church.
- **Scripture Readers:** We are in need of readers for the 8:15 A.M. and 9:45 A.M. worship services. The reading will be emailed to you the week you choose to read. Be sure to include your email address!

Coffee Servers

Coffee servers offer hospitality before and during worship services. If you are interested in volunteering, please sign up online or contact Sarah Pedersen at 715.456.1541.





YOUR CHURCH LIBRARY

New Books

Note: featured in the January Tidings and repeated for this issue

- *A World of Curiosities* by Louise Penny. Chief Inspector Armand Gamache returns in the 18th novel of Louise Penny's series. It's spring and Three Pines is reemerging after the harsh winter. But not everything buried should come alive again; not everything dormant should reemerge. (FIC PEN)
- *Mad Honey* by Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan. *Mad Honey* is a riveting novel of suspense, an unforgettable love story, and a moving and powerful exploration of the secrets we keep and the risks we take in order to become ourselves. (FIC PIC)
- *The Boys from Biloxi* by John Grisham. John Grisham returns to Mississippi in his most gripping legal thriller yet, the riveting story of two sons of immigrant families who grow up as friends but ultimately find themselves on opposite sides of the law. (FIC GRI)
- *The Light We Carry: Overcoming in Uncertain Times* by Michelle Obama. In an inspiring follow-up to her memoir *Becoming*, former First Lady Michelle Obama shares practical wisdom and powerful strategies for staying hopeful and balanced in today's highly uncertain world. (B OBA)



Book Recommendation

—from Sonnie Jacobson

Horse by Geraldine Brooks (FIC BRO)

I feel this is one of Brooks' best. So skillfully does she weave stories together, they all blend into a perfect whole. Three timeframes combine to tell the life story of the record breaking American thoroughbred, Lexington.

Several clues begin the story, among them a forgotten horse skeleton in a Smithsonian attic and a discarded painting found in a junk pile. Using many real people as characters, Brooks recreates these times, the people and their horses into a sweeping story of spirit, art, science, history, love, and our unfinished reckoning with racism.

We learn a lot and feel like we, too, lived through these periods in our country.

Trinity Book Club

The Trinity Book Club invites you to join them on Tuesday, February 21, in room 208 at 6:00 P.M. to discuss *The Warmth of Other Suns* by Isabel Wilkerson

From 1915 to 1970, the exodus of almost six million people changed the face of America. The author interviewed more than a thousand people, and gained access to new data and official records, to write this definitive and vividly dramatic account of how these American journeys unfolded, altering our cities, our country, and ourselves.

With stunning historical detail, Wilkerson tells this story through the lives of three unique individuals: Ida Mae Gladney, who in 1937 left sharecropping and prejudice in Mississippi for Chicago, where she achieved quiet blue-collar success and, in old age, voted for Barack Obama when he ran for an Illinois Senate seat; sharp and quick-tempered George Starling, who in 1945 fled Florida for Harlem, where he endangered his job fighting for civil rights, saw his family fall, and finally found peace in God; and Robert Foster, who left Louisiana in 1953 to pursue a medical career, the personal physician to Ray Charles as part of a glitteringly successful medical career, which allowed him to purchase a grand home where he often threw exuberant parties.

Your Church Library

Stop by your library as it celebrates Black History Month this February. Look for a display of books.

For American Girl Fans

Library Committee members just finished cataloging and processing 56 new American Girl books featuring Chrissa, Saige, Felicity, Tenney, Grace, Kit, Rebecca, and Lea to name a few. Subjects include family life in 1950's, music, cyberbullying, Civil War Era, War of 1812, The Depression of 1934, Civil Rights, mysteries, environmental care, and friendship. Look for these books in the DVD display shelves.



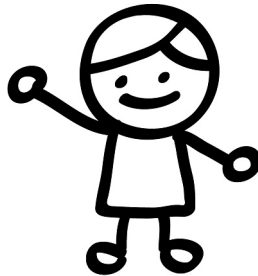
CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

Noah's Ark Preschool Registration

Registration for 3–5 year old classes at Noah's Ark Preschool for the 2023–2024 school year is currently underway. Brochures for the 2023–2024 are available in the Trinity Lobby and throughout the building. It is also available online at <https://trinity-ec.org/noahs-ark-preschool/> For more information or to register, contact Marlee Knickerbocker at 715.832.6601 ext. 205.

Open Gym

On Wednesdays, through March 15, from 9:00 A.M.–10:20 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. The area will be supervised, and a story time and snack will be offered during the last half hour. Members, friends of members, and non-members are welcome to attend. No registration is required for Open Gym. The cost per session is \$3 for one child; \$2 for each additional child from the same family.



Christ Jam

All 6th–8th grade students are invited to attend for Christ Jam, a Middle School Youth Gathering, on Saturday, February 11, from 8:00 A.M.–4:30 P.M. at Bethany Lutheran in Rice Lake. The theme this year is “REBOOT,” and participants will visit several decades to be reminded that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever! (Hebrews 13:8). Payment of \$50 and a registration form are due by Sunday, February 5. To register or for more information, please sign-up at the Toolbench or email Ashley at ashley@trinity-ec.org

High School Tri-Synod Youth Gathering

Mark your calendars! The Tri-Synod High School Youth Gathering will be from July 24–27 at UW-River Falls. This event is open to youth who have completed 8th–12th grade at the time of the event. The cost is \$300 per participant. Sign-up at the Orange Toolbench Bulletin Board across from the main office or email Ashley at ashley@trinity-ec.org if you are interested.

Youth in Advocacy Retreat

This event is open to high school students in Wisconsin & Upper Michigan. It will take place from April 14–16 in Madison, WI. More details will be shared as they become available. Please sign-up at the Orange Toolbench Bulletin board across from the main office or email Ashley at ashley@trinity-ec.org if you may be interested in this event.

CARE AND CONCERN

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. —John 13: 34-35

Caregiver Ministry

According to research from the National Alliance for Caregiving and AARP, there were 10 million more family caregivers in 2020 than there were in 2015, and the share of family caregivers who have difficulty coordinating care for their care partner increased to 26% in 2020. More than one in five family caregivers say caregiving made their health worse. How do we as a congregation, friend, or relative help the caregivers in our life? Here are a few suggestions.

1. Help them with errands, chores, and other tasks. Offer help with specific things grocery shopping, meals, laundry, etc.
2. Provide emotional and social support. Listen. Your very presence will be a blessing
3. Negotiate times to check in with them through a simple text, a card, or a brief phone call to let them know you are thinking of them and praying for them.
4. Make sure they are managing their own health care needs. Offer to stay with their loved one while they keep a medical appointment or cook a healthy meal. Connect them to respite care resources.

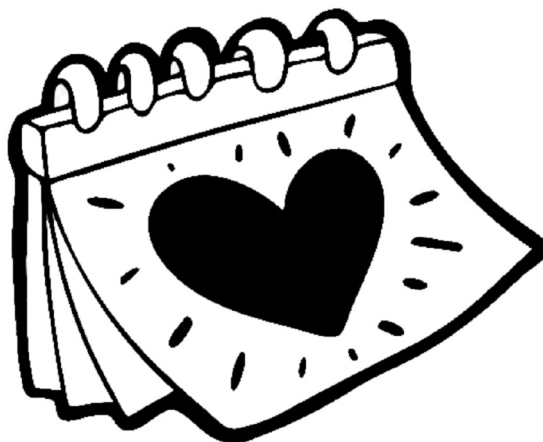
Monthly Healing Service

We have resumed the monthly Healing Service on the third Sunday of each month at 9:15 A.M. in the chapel. We all experience times of grief, illness, or stress. The Healing Service is meant for those times; a service of prayer, comfort, and reflection. Everyone is welcome. Please join us on Sunday, February 19, for our next service.



American Heart Month

February is a time when all people should focus on their cardiovascular health. Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States, and stroke is the fifth leading cause. Heart disease and stroke can result in poor quality of life, disability, and death. Though both diseases are common, they can often be prevented by controlling risk factors like high blood pressure and high cholesterol through treatment and lifestyle choices. Physical activity and healthy eating can improve our heart and brain health.



The Community Table

Trinity will volunteer at The Community Table on Thursday, February 9, to serve lunch. We need six volunteers to prepare the meal from 9:00 A.M.–11:30 A.M. and six volunteers to serve the meal and clean up from 11:15 A.M.–2:00 P.M. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Phyllis Grohn at 715.836.7055 or sign up at Clipboard Central.

Interfaith Hospitality Network

The Beacon House in downtown Eau Claire provides emergency shelter, meals, and hospitality to families and single pregnant women. Due to COVID, volunteers are no longer needed for overnight stays, but food items are needed for evening meals and emergency assistance. If you would like to provide a meal, serving is optional, sign-up at Clipboard Central. If you would like more information or would like to volunteer, please contact Diane Fritz at 715.456.2245

Red Cross Blood Drive

Our next Blood Drive will be on Thursday, February 16, from 12:30 P.M.–6:30 P.M. We'll hold blood drives every other month during 2023 to maximize donations. Last year we collected 221 units of blood. Thank you to all who donated or helped at the drives. You can register to donate at redcross.org or call Parish Nurse Vicki Dueringer at 715.832.6601 ext 214, and she will register for you.

Get Your Blood Pressure Checked

One in three American adults has high blood pressure. High blood pressure increases your risk for serious health problems including stroke and heart attack. Get your blood pressure checked regularly starting at age 18—and do your best to keep track of your blood pressure numbers. Trinity's Health Ministry offers free blood pressure screenings in the Parish Nurse's office on the second Sunday of every month.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who brought in spices and food seasonings for the Trinity Food Pantry as part of the Food Pantry's Spice Drive in January. These donations will further enhance the variety of items available to food pantry guests.

Friends of Flynn

The Friends of Flynn Committee is a community mission project of Trinity that serves and supports the children and staff of Flynn Elementary School on Lee Street in Eau Claire. The committee members meet regularly with the Partnership Coordinator from Flynn to identify unmet needs of the students that this mission can address with the help of our generous congregation. During this current school year, we have been able to provide school supplies, snacks for classrooms and afterschool programs, books for each student to keep, clothing (including socks and undergarments), and weekend meals for those families who request them. Our committee worked with two laundromats in the school area to purchase laundry vouchers for families, a request through the Partnership Coordinator.

Thank you to the many people who support the Friends of Flynn ministry. Our annual fund drive to continue this support will begin in March. We invite you to watch for more information and how you can make a special gift that directly supports the students and staff of Flynn School. We invite you to become a Friend of Flynn on their Facebook page where you can see all the wonderful learning and events that are happening at "Our School." Often, there is an acknowledgment and thank you to the Trinity Lutheran congregation.

Prayer Ministry

You may make prayer requests for the Prayer Link by emailing Carla Brandrup at cjbrandrup@yahoo.com, Sharon DeRusha at sderusha2002@yahoo.com, Brenda Buss at bbuss0771@charter.net or Laurie Nowak at gjnowak@sbcglobal.net



FROM PASTOR TOM

The beginning of February is one of my favorite times of the year. Admittedly it has nothing to do with church, but all to do with our culture's obsession with sports. If you haven't guessed it, I will give you a few clues. On average, 112.2 million people watch this event. The average 30 second advertisement costs 4.5 million dollars. And finally, on average there are 17 people at each in-home party to watch this event together. Can you guess it now? It's the Superbowl.

Indeed the U.S. often treats this as its very own holiday with approximately 16.5 million "sick days" taken the following Monday to recover from the revelry. Despite whom you are cheering for or the inspirational narratives from players and teams, what everyone wants is a close game. More than that, what most people want is a slugfest of scoring benefit for the ages. Me? I love watching the game for that moment when the tides shift. I watch for that game changing moment.

Game-changers have a huge impact on sports history. Some would say those moments are why we watch and play sports. But the real question for us is not what sports game-changers are the most impacting, but rather, what moment in life has been the ultimate game-changer for you? Do you have one of those moments—one that altered everything in your life and forced you to see life differently?

Looking back at my life, I can't help but notice not just one moment, but a series of moments when I saw that God was working through people and places to deepen my faith—shadowing a pastor for a day, going on the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering trip to Houston, the birth of my kids, watching the sunset after catching a huge walleye on Devils Lake, spending quality time with friends around the campfire, coaching kids to succeed on and off the field. All these and more have been game changers for me in my faith journey.

As you ponder those big moments of your life, go a little deeper. What did you learn? How has it changed you? And then, if you are really brave, bring it here to church. I challenge everyone to take those learnings from your life changing moments and apply them to the ministry God has gifted us within community of faith. The best news is that you can do this through our baptismal promise committees that are seeking to deepen our faith and life together as a church.

As part of our call to follow Jesus, we are pushed to share the gifts we have been given in such a way that we articulate God's activity in the world, and if necessary we use words. Maybe it is being on one of the committees, or maybe it is making one particular ministry your passion. Maybe it is trying something new for the first time or doubling down on what you are passionate about.

We are not called to go through the motions of life as if we have purchased tickets to the game and merely sit in the stands. We are called to enter into life wholeheartedly, embodying those moments that have changed us, those moments that are full of Gods.

Don't leave your game-changing moments on a trophy shelf collecting dust. They are gifts to share with all people.

- ★ LIVE among God's faithful people
- ★ LISTEN to the Word of God and share in the Lord's Supper
- ★ PROCLAIM the Good News of God in Christ
- ★ SERVE all people following the example of Jesus
- ★ STRIVE for justice and peace in all the earth

—Pastor Tom



"SERVING IN CHRIST'S LOVE AND SHARING THE GOOD NEWS"

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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

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

Pastors

Patrick Patterson
patrick@trinity-ec.org/507.779.4991
Tom Westcott
tomw@trinity-ec.org/612.481.0810

Minister of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

Deacon Lidixe Montoya
lidixe@trinity-ec.org

Children, Youth, and Family Ministry

Heather Day
Children and Family Ministries Director/
heatherd@trinity-ec.org
Ashley Olson
Youth Ministry Director/ashley@trinity-ec.org
Marlee Knickerbocker
Noah's Ark Director/Teacher; ECE
Coordinator/marlee@trinity-ec.org
Jill Kasmarek
Noah's Ark Teacher/jill@trinity-ec.org
Kim Dewey
Noah's Ark Teacher/kim@trinity-ec.org
Gina Toutant
Early Childhood Enrichment Teacher
Natasha Durnick
Early Childhood Enrichment Teacher

Care & Concern Ministries

Vicki Dueringer
Parish Nurse/vickid@trinity-ec.org
Pat Garber
Visitation Ministry Director/garberpa@uwec.edu
Sue Marczinke
Food Pantry Coordinator/sue@trinity-ec.org

Worship & Music Ministry

Dr. Frank Watkins
Worship & Music Director/frank@trinity-ec.org
Brian Pressler
Organist/brian@trinity-ec.org
Jeanne Cooper
GLS & JAM Dir./jeanne@trinity-ec.org
Corinne Gransee Paral
TJC & CS Dir./corinne@trinity-ec.org
Gary Rambo
Trinity Choir Dir./girambo@att.net
Ryan Poquette
Trinity Tollers Dir./ryanpoquette@gmail.com
Andy Hofer
CrossWord Dir./andyhofer31@gmail.com

Building & Grounds Team

Don Peterson
Nicolasa Reyes Hernandez

Ministry Support

Amber Moltzau
Office Administrator/amber@trinity-ec.org
Katie O'Connell
Reception/Digital Communications
Coordinator/katie@trinity-ec.org
Cindy Beck
IT/Ministry Assistant/cindy@trinity-ec.org

World Missions

Jabneh Christian Academy, Grange Hill, Jamaica
Blantyre Lutheran Parish, Malawi, Africa
Jacqueline & Patrick Bencke, Japan

-
- Please submit all articles for the Tidings **electronically** in MS Word, Corel WP format, or in the body of an email. Submit to: cindy@trinity-ec.org
 - All submissions must be your own work. Any copyrighted material (code, images, or otherwise) must include written permission from the original source.
 - Deadline for the March Newsletter is February 15.