

FAMILY MATTERS

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY NEWSLETTER

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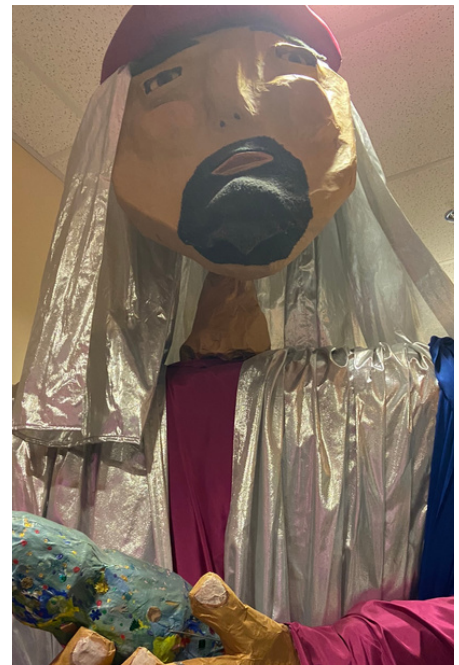
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FAITH FORMATION



JANUARY LESSON SCHEDULES

SUNDAYS

Preschool (ages 3-5)

- Jan 7 - First Sunday family lesson
- Jan 14 - Wise Men
- Jan 21 - Wise Men
- Jan 28 - Jesus Feeds a Crowd

Elementary (Kindergarten-Grade 4)

- Jan 7 - First Sunday family lesson
- Jan 14 - The Boy Teacher
- Jan 21 - The House on the Rock
- Jan 28 - The Sower

Connections (Grades 5-6) - Sunday

- Jan 7 - First Sunday family lesson
- Jan 14 - Judges
- Jan 21 - David
- Jan 28 - Solomon's Temple

WEDNESDAYS

Connections (Grades 5-6) - Wednesday

- Jan 3 - Rewind
- Jan 10 - Judges
- Jan 17 - David
- Jan 24 - Fun Day/Service Day
- Jan 31 - Solomon's Temple

Confirmation (Grades 7-8)

- Jan 3 - 10 Commandments 1-3
- Jan 10 - 10 Commandments 4-6
- Jan 17 - 10 Commandments 7-10
- Jan 24 - Fun Day/Service Day
- Jan 31 - Lord's Prayer 1

High School Youth Group (Grades 9-12)

- Jan 3 - New Orleans Youth Gathering Meeting
- Jan 10 - Youth Group Meets
- Jan 17 - No Meeting
- Jan 24 - Youth Group Meets
- Jan 31 - No Youth Group



INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

During the winter, there are times when we will need to cancel programs due to inclement weather. It is our policy to close if Eau Claire public schools are closed. Please check Trinity's Facebook page or call the church office if you are unsure.

EPIPHANY



THE KINGS ARE COMING!

You are invited to celebrate Epiphany with the Trinity community and with our three special 15 foot tall guests on Sunday, January 7. If you have never seen the Kings, this is your year! On this day, we'll also remember our baptisms and celebrate the goodness of God who is the light of all of our lives this season and all seasons. You won't want to miss this special Sunday!

FIRST SUNDAY

The next First Sunday family faith formation event will be held at 8:50 am on Sunday, January 7 in the Trinity Room. Kids and their grown-ups are invited to learn about the theme of "Epiphany."



NOAH'S ARK PRESCHOOL



Open House and Registration

You are invited to attend our Preschool Open Houses on Sunday, January 28, at 10:45 am, or Monday, January 29, at 6:00 pm. Visit the Noah's Ark classroom, learn about the Noah's Ark program, ask questions, and gather 2024-2025 school year registration information. Noah's Ark teachers and parents will be available to share their experiences and answer questions.

Registration for the 2024-2025 school year will open to Trinity members on Tuesday, January 30. Brochures will be available [online at trinity-ec.org](https://trinity-ec.org), as well as in the lobby and near the preschool room.

LET'S GET TOGETHER

OPEN GYM

On Mondays, January 8 through March 18, from 10:00-11:30 am, 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. (No Open Gym on January 22 or March 4) The area will be supervised by a preschool teacher, 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 and no registration is necessary.

The cost per session is \$3 for one child, \$2 for each additional child from the same family.



BOWLING TOGETHER

You are invited to join your Trinity friends as we go bowling at Wagner's Lanes (2159 Brackett Ave) following the second worship service on Sunday, January 21, from 11:00 am-1:00 pm. Games will be \$3 per person, per game (price includes shoe rental). Food and beverage are not included, but feel free to order it to be brought to your lane!

RSVP at Clipboard Central or [online](#).



HIGH SCHOOL REMIND

Want to stay in touch and receive reminders about high school events and meet-ups? Text @2324trinh to the number 81010 to join the Remind group and receive updates from Heather and Pastor Tom.



NOTES FROM HEATHER



EXTRAVAGANZA

I will be away from Eau Claire from January 16-22 at the Extravaganza in New Orleans!

The Extravaganza (also known as “The E”) is the ELCA Youth Ministry Network's annual conference, drawing together over 1,000 leaders in children, youth, and family ministry, along with teachers, resource providers and leaders from the ELCA, all for four days of renewal, education, and networking.

This year’s “E” also includes an intensive care course specifically for leaders who will be bringing a group of teens to the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering, held in New Orleans in July. I’ll be excited to share all that I’ve learned when I return to Eau Claire!

NURSERY HELPERS

We are in need of adult (age 18+) nursery volunteers for this winter/spring on Sunday mornings, 8:00-10:45 am. Dates needed:

February 4, 18
 March 3, 17, 24
 April 7, 14, 28
 May 12, 19

[Contact Heather](#) if you can help. Thanks!

DIRECTOR UPDATE

Following the departure of Ashley Olson last March, Trinity looked for candidates to fill the vacant Youth Ministry Director position, which served youth in grades 7 and older. After further conversation and discernment by staff, pastors, and the church council, a new path forward has emerged.

I have agreed to take on many of the Youth Ministry Director duties and have a new job title of Children, Youth, and Family (CYF) Ministry Director. Moving forward, I will be the staff contact person for birth through high school ministry. I’m excited to see what God has in store for Trinity’s children, youth, and families!

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LOOKING AHEAD



DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Winter/Spring 2024

- February 13 Noah's Ark Pancake Dinner, 4:00-7:00 pm
- February 18 Sledding Party at Centennial Park, 2:00-3:00 pm
- March 10 Communion Instruction for 1st Graders, 10:45 am-12:00 pm
- March 17 Communion Celebration for 1st Graders, 9:45 am
- March 24-31 Spring Break/Holy Week (no classes)
- April 28 Children's Musical
- May 5 Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation) for 8th Graders



Summer 2024

- June 17-20 Vacation Bible School
- June 23-28 Trinity at Luther Park Bible Camp (Week 3)
- July 16-20 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans
- August 5-8 Summer Stretch for Middle School

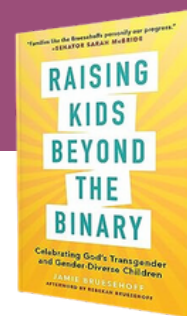


UPCOMING BOOK GROUP

Mondays • Feb 26, March 4, 11 • 6:30-7:30 pm

Dare to dream of a church and a world transformed by the bold celebration of all children!

You are invited to a series of gatherings on Monday evenings later this winter centered on Jamie Bruesehoff's book, *Raising Kids Beyond the Binary: Celebrating God's Transgender and Gender-Diverse Children*. Heather Day will lead conversations based on this book, which can be purchased from any online retailer. There are also two copies of the book available to borrow from Heather.



Now more than ever, people of faith need to be grounded in God's call to love and affirm young people in who God created them to be. *Raising Kids Beyond the Binary* bypasses the sound bites to give readers a vivid picture of who transgender, non-binary, and gender-expansive young people are and what they need to thrive. Grounded in the unequivocal truth of God's deep love and limitless creativity, this book compels readers to move past "all are welcome" to loving and celebrating transgender and gender-diverse youth in the brilliance of their uniqueness, the wisdom of their self-awareness, and the joy of their authenticity. *These children need us, and the world needs them.*