





Lent 2024 "Created to Be"

Our 2024 Lent Round Robin prepares congregations for the upcoming ELCA youth gathering by utilizing their theme "Created to Be." Join us on Wednesdays for worship at 12:15 P.M. or 6:00 P.M. beginning February 14. Lent Soup Lunches are returning. After you attend the 12:15 P.M. worship service enjoy fellowship and lunch in the Trinity Room. We hope to see you there!

- March 6 Created to be **DISCIPLES**
- March 13 Created to be **DISRUPTIVE**
- March 20 Created to be AUTHENTIC

Palm Sunday

On Palm Sunday, March 24 we celebrate Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem, setting in motion the eternal plan that God had to redeem all of humanity through Jesus' death and resurrection. It is an opportunity to set the stage for Easter and to build up the anticipation for all that will happen on Easter weekend. Please join as we celebrate with palms!

Holy Week Worship

Holy Week is the pinnacle time for Christians across the world as we follow the last days of Jesus' earthly life leading to his death and resurrection. To fully find your faith touched and led in these days, we offer worship with Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday, March 28, at 6:00 P.M. and worship on Good Friday, March 29 at 12:15 P.M. and 6:00 P.M. Find time in your life this week to worship and rediscover the incredible depth of God's love for you in Christ.

Easter Sunday Worship

We hope to celebrate Easter with you here at Trinity on Sunday, March 31! Please note the additional worship time. For all the information about Holy Week and Easter at Trinity, visit trinity-ec.org

- 8:15 A.M. Traditional Worship with Communion; Trinity Choir, Tollers, Organ and Brass
- 9:45 A.M. Traditional Worship with Communion; Trinity Choir, Tollers, Youth Choirs, Organ and Brass
- 11:00 A.M. Contemporary Worship with Communion; Praise Team



March Madness at Trinity

During the month of March, the NCAA holds women's and men's basketball tournaments that begin with 64 teams each and are whittled down to a single champion within four weeks' time. The Live Committee would like to invite all Trinity members to enjoy some friendly competition with a March Madness bracket tournament! This will all be done online, so look for links on our website, as well as Facebook, to join following the announcement of participating teams on March 17.

Time Change!

Adjust your clocks on Saturday night, March 10! Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 11, at 2:00 A.M. At this time, we "spring forward" one hour!

CVASING Concert

Enrich your soul and help Feed My People by attending the Annual CVASING's Concert on Sunday, March 3, at 2:00 P.M. or 7:00 P.M. in the Trinity Worship Center. Tickets are available at the door on the day of the concert. This year's performance is entitled "Together We Sing." The chorus is directed by Gary Rambo and accompanied by Karol Hommen. This year's special guests are the members of the CollECtive Choir of Eau Claire, a performance group whose mission is "to reflect the love of Jesus through the arts."

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 Sundays, March 3 and 10, at 10:45 A.M., Please register online at trinity-ec.org or call 715.832.6601.

Funeral Planning Workshop

Are you ready to make REAL decisions about your life and how it will be celebrated before it is too late? End of Life and Funeral Planning truly is one of the greatest gifts that you can give to your loved ones. This workshop on Saturday, April 9 at 9:00 A.M., will give you the tools and the inspiration to take practical steps for outlining your funeral plans/memorial celebration, preparing advance medical directives, and grief options for your family support. All ages are welcome. Brunch will be served and RSVP's a must. Childcare is available. You can sign-up at Clipboard Central or online.

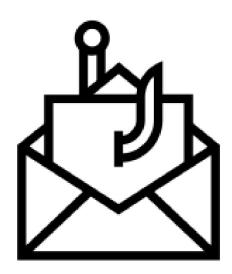
What is "Phishing"

These email phishing scams rely on impersonation and social engineering tactics to engage with victims to ask them to purchase gift cards. The attackers leverage authority and urgency in their requests and will frequently impersonate high-level executives, Deans, or Chairs of departments *(or pastors)* as part of the scam. After a few exchanges the person asks you to purchase gift cards and send them the activation codes.

These attacks work because they are a simple, quick way to get money from their targeted victims, especially when the email is impersonating someone in the organization.

What should you do?

- Inspect the sender's email address to confirm it's actually coming from that person. Scammers will often send the email from a random email account and change the Display Name of the email address to either your boss, supervisor, or director.
- If you get an email from a colleague asking if you "are available?" or asking for you to only "text them," before responding, reach out to the sender in a separate email or call them to check if they actually sent the request.
 - Don't reply to the email or use any contact information provided in the email—attackers often provide fake numbers or email addresses that they control.



Upcoming Fireside Chats

Join the Trinity community in the Fireside Room on Sunday mornings after each worship service. Our Fireside Chats are in conversational setting where we chat about what's happening in our church and community.

• March 17 Come to the Fireside Room and learn how JONAH is tackling mental health in the Chippewa Valley.

Circle Listings

- Deborah Tuesday, March 19, 9:30 A.M. Oakwood Hills Apartments
- Mary/Martha Tuesday, March 19, 9:30 A.M. Trinity
- Miriam Wednesday, March 20, 9:30 A.M. Trinity
- Ruth Tuesday, March 19, 1:30 P.M. Trinity

Friendship Group

Welcome back to Friendship Group! We will meet on Wednesday, March 13, at 10:00 A.M. in room 208. Please bring a snack or treat to share. We will have snacks and games for our first meeting.

Memorials & Gifts

Quilting

• In memory of Leatrice Solberg: Susan Schaefer, Leone Helstrom, Sandra Biermeier, David & Sonia Becker, Jim & Lynn Gullicksrud, Jean Sivertson, Jeanine Helwig, Kathleen Sislo, Miriam Circle

Food Pantry

- In memory of Leatrice Solberg: Stephen & Susan Aulie, Gary & Deborah Stone, Tom & Sheila Zahorik, Phyllis Grohn, Sharon DeRusha, Dave & Kristine Gessner
- In memory of Jeremy Larsen: Peggy Munden

Memorial

- In memory of Muriel Baumgarten: Pat Garber
- In memory of Jeremy Larsen: Nickolas & Regina Butler

Children's Bibles

- In memory of Jeremy Larsen: Char Finseth
- In honor of Mary Hopener: Joanne Stange

Scholarship Singers:

 In honor of Gary & Mary Rambo's 50th Wedding Anniversary: Bob & Mary Schoenknecht

Care & Concern

Friends of Flynn

Thank you to the many people who have supported the Friends of Flynn ministry through the years. Your generosity has allowed us to provide snacks, laundry support, clothing, books and Weekend Meals to the students at Flynn Elementary School.

Our annual fund drive to continue this support is this month. We invite you to make a donation anytime this month to the Friends of Flynn committee so that donations to support students can continue. Donations can be put in the offering plate or dropped off in the office or made online.

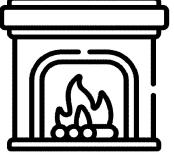
We also invite you to become a Friend of Flynn on their Facebook page. (Flynn Elementary School) where you can see all the wonderful learning and events that are happening at "Our School." Often there is a special shout out to Trinity Lutheran Church in appreciation of all that is given to support the learning and student joy at Flynn.

Thank you in advance for your donations. The students and staff at Flynn thank you, along with our own Friends of Flynn committee.

PS: If you would like to be on the committee inform the office. All are welcome!

Got Bags?

If you have extra paper or plastic grocery type bags taking up space in your closet, garage, pantry, etc., please consider bringing them to the Food Pantry. We use close to 300 bags per week so would love to help reuse/recycle for you. Just drop them off anytime inside door one or in the Food Pantry bin outside the Trinity Room. Thanks!



Corner Cupboard

Trinity Food Pantry is our onsite distribution center assisting families in our community who suffer from hunger and food insecurity. Our goal is to help those in need stretch their monthly food budgets. If you should ever have a question for our Food Pantry Coordinator, please email Sue Marczinke at sue@trinity-ec.org



Events

- The results are in...our Spice Drive this year did not meet its goal of 700 spices, however, we were able to collect 365 spices that we are currently distributing to our guests. Thank you!
- We hope you all found your Reverse Lent Calendars in your Lenten mailing. Watch for sales and pick up an extra item or two for our pantry, every donation helps our budget! Let's see if we can exceed last years donations of 348 pounds.
- We distributed over 150 Valentine treat bags to our guests. A thank-you to Felicity Gunderson, a student from South Middle School who made us cards with attached treats we included with our bags. She is a member of National Juniors Honors Society and chose us as her service project.

Community

It's important that we (Trinity Family) continue to spread the word and promote our Food Pantry. By doing this we can benefit from donations and support from our community. Please help us in thanking these community partners. Here are some examples of our community support:

- We were able to help out Princeton Valley Golf course after they had broken pipes that caused extensive flooding and required them to close for an extended time. To avoid destroying all of their fresh food items, they donated over 300 pounds of useable items that we were able to distribute to our guests. Thanks to Vicki Dueringer, Bill Engle, Terri Krause, Peggy Munden, Lynda Meyer, Pam Halgrimson for their assistance to help make this happen.
- Our Redeemer Church hosted a food drive and donated 167 pounds of food.
- The Memorial High School Honor Society team worked two evening pantries in February.
- We received a donation from Ramone's Ice Cream Parlor in the amount of \$500. This donation was raised by their team members Cash for a Cause program in 2023.

Activity/Financial

- We have continued to see an increase in the number of guests served. In January we served 732 families, this is up 13% from last January.
- In January, our expenses were \$6,771.98, with income of only \$5626. Our current dedicated account balance is \$59,463.52 with current spending averaging \$1,630 per week. We will continue to monitor this and adjust spending as needed.

March Products of the month

Chicken Noodle and Cream of Mushroom Soups! Soups are very popular with our guests, our costs per can are:

- Chicken Noodle \$0.77
- Cream of Mushroom \$0.70

The Community Table

Trinity will volunteer next at The Community Table on Monday, March 4, serving 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.

Trinity Hosts the Beacon House

The Beacon House mission is vital to families in Eau Claire, and there are many ways you can help! Trinity will host May 26-29. Volunteers are no longer needed for overnight stays. Food items are needed for evening meals and emergency assistance. If you would like to provide a meal, serving is optional, not required. If interested, please sign up at Clipboard Central or online https://tinyurl.com/mshpcc78

"Men Only" Group

This is a group for men who have had or currently have a diagnosis of cancer; any type. All men are welcome! Future meetings will be the fourth Tuesday of April, July, and October at 6:00 P.M. in the Fireside room. Mark your calendars.

Children, Youth & Family Ministry

Noah's Ark and ECE News

The school year is marching right along! We have been enjoying our days together with great kids who are loving school, learning to be peacemakers, and loving their friends.

Thank you for joining us for our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper! It was a fun-filled night for all who attended and volunteered their time. We love the opportunity for our preschool families and congregational members to build community together.

Just a few spots remain for

registering children ages 3–5 for the 2024-2025 school year for Noah's Ark Preschool. Information and registration opportunities for the fall Early Childhood Enrichment classes for ages $1\frac{1}{2}$ – 3 including Come and Play and Music and Movement will be available in the spring. Watch for more information!

Open Gym

On Mondays through March 18, from 10:00 A.M - 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. (No class on March 4) The area will be supervised by Noah's Ark and ECE teachers. 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.

2024–2025 School Year Noah's Ark Registration Information

A few openings remain for fall classes at Noah's Ark Preschool. A wait list is taken for classes already filled. Please contact Marlee Knickerbocker, Noah's Ark Preschool Director, at 715.832.6601, ext. 205 or marlee@trinity-ec.org for more information.

Now Hiring Part-Time Nursery Attendant

Trinity is looking for an individual to job share our nursery attendant position. This position is vital to the role of welcoming and supporting families with young children. Regular work schedule is 8:00 A.M.–11:00 A.M. on Sundays, September through May, along with occasional opportunities to provide care during special events.

Applicants must have completed high school and have had experience caring for young children. For more information, please contact Heather Day at 715.832.6601, ext. 218 or heatherd@trinity-ec.org.

"Raising Kids Beyond the Binary" Book Study

You are invited to gather on Monday evenings to discuss Jamie Bruesehoff's book, *Raising Kids Beyond the Binary: Celebrating God's Transgender and Gender-Diverse Children.* They will meet Mondays March 4, 11 at 6:30 P.M. Heather Day will lead conversations based on this book, which can be purchased from any online retailer. To participate, purchase your own book and sign up at Clipboard Central or online at trinity-ec.org/register.

Holy Communion Instruction

Children in first grade are invited to meet with Pastor Tom and Heather Day to learn together about God's love for us and the special gift of Holy Communion. Holy Communion Instruction will be offered on Sunday, March 10, 10:45 A.M.–12:00 P.M. Children are welcome to commune at any time, but there will be a special recognition of their participation in Holy Communion at the 9:45 A.M. worship service on Sunday, March 17. Register online at trinity-ec.org/register by March 6.



Spring break

There will be no faith formation classes March 24–31. Enjoy Spring Break!

Youth Gathering Fundraiser Stuffed Chicken

Stuffed chicken breasts wrapped in bacon-flavorful, golden, and deliciously satisfying. Orders for bacon-wrapped stuffed chicken breasts will be taken in the lobby on Sundays and Wednesdays from March 6–24, with payment required at the time of order. Online orders can also be placed at trinity-ec.org/register/ Frozen chicken pick-up will be on Wednesday, April 10 from 3:30 P.M.–6:00 P.M.. All profits from the sale will go to support Trinity's youth attending the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans this summer.

Luther Park Bible Camp

Trinity children and youth are invited to join us for a fun week at summer camp! Trinity encourages students to attend Luther Park Bible Camp in Chetek during Week 3, June 23–28, 2024. (Day Camp is available during Week 5, July 8-12.)

Campers stay in cabins and experience the wide variety of fun and activities available at Luther Park. Kids will engage in creative Bible studies, worship, campfires, and meaningful small group discussions, along with swimming, games, and developing community with new and old friends. Older kids will even experience the excitement of the high ropes course!

Find more information and register for Luther Park day camps or overnight camps at lutherpark.org.

NEW THIS YEAR! Trinity encourages families to send their kids to Luther Park by paying 25% of the registration cost for one session per child each summer. Use the discount code TLEC at registration.

Save the Date! Vacation Bible School

This year's Vacation Bible School will be happening at Trinity June 17–20, 9:00 A.M.–12:00 P.M.. Watch for more details to come soon!

Hiring VBS Counselors

We are looking for current high school students (completing grades 9–12) to work as small group leaders during Vacation Bible School. These will be paid positions and will include mornings during VBS (June 17–20), as well as a required training on June 13. Application forms will be available online and at the Youth Toolbench in early March and will be due on May 1.

Library

Book Club

On Tuesday, March 19, at 6:30 P.M. in room 204, the group will discuss *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt.

After Tova Sullivan's husband died, she began working the night shift at the Sowell Bay Aquarium, mopping floors and tidying up. Keeping busy has always helped her cope, which she's been doing since her eighteen-year-old son, Erik, mysteriously vanished on a boat in Puget Sound over thirty years ago.

Tova becomes acquainted with curmudgeonly Marcellus, a giant Pacific octopus living at the aquarium. Marcellus knows more than anyone can imagine but wouldn't dream of lifting one of his eight arms for his human captors—until he forms a remarkable friendship with Tova.

Ever the detective, Marcellus deduces what happened the night Tova's son disappeared. And now Marcellus must use every trick his old invertebrate body can muster to unearth the truth for her before it's too late.

What's New in the Library

New Books

- A Grandmother Begins the Story by Michelle Potter. This novel is a story of the unrivaled desire for healing and the power of familial bonds across five generations of Metis women and the land bison that surround them. (FIC POT)
- *Of Time and Turtles* by Sy Montgomery. Compassionate and deeply researched, warm and astonishing, this book is an invitation to slip into turtle time— not the tick-tock hurry of human hustle, but the sacred, eternal time of daylight, darkness, and seasons. It's a story that shows us a way to mend a world beset with unprecedented perils, shell by shattered shell. (597.92 MON)
- *Here on Lake Hallie* by Patti See. This is a compilation of essays from local author and Leader Telegram columnist, Patti See. She writes about the comedy and beauty of life's everyday moments. (977.5 SEE)

- *Romney: A Reckoning* by McKay Coppins. Based on dozens of interviews with Romney, his family, and his inner circle, as well as hundreds of pages of his personal journals and private emails, this in-depth portrait by journalist McKay Coppins show a public servant authentically wrestling with the choices he has made throughout his career. In lively, revelatory detail, the book traces Romney's early life and rise through the ranks of a fast-transforming Republican Party. (B COP)
- *How to Be a Good Creature* by Sy Montgomery. This memoir reflects on the personalities and quirks of thirteen animals, Sy's friends, and the truths revealed by their grace. It also explores vast themes: the otherness and sameness of people and animals; the various ways we learn to love and become empathetic; how we find or passion; how we create our families; coping with loss and despair; gratitude; forgiveness; and how to be a good creature in the world. (B MON)
- *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride. This novel is a tale that urges us to be better, do better, and open our eyes to missed connections. (FIC MCB) Note: Want to know more? Read Bob Schoenknecht's book recommendation for this month.

Books for Youth

- *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: No Brainer* by Jeff Kinney. No Brainer is the 18th book in this best-selling graphic novel series and is the sequel to Diper Overlode. (+ FIC KIN)
- *The Black Stallion* by Walter Farley. First published in 1941, Walter Farley's best-selling novel for young readers is the triumphant tale of a boy and a wild horse. (+ FIC FAR)
- The World Famous Nine by Ben Guterson. In this mystery, Zander is determined to do whatever it takes to save his grandmother's nineteen-story out-of-this-world department store. It is a mystery book with a fantastic setting, full of surprises and danger, and coded messages to be solved. (+ FIC GUT)

Picture Books

- *Knight Owl* by Christopher Denise. Summary: After achieving his dream of becoming a knight, a small owl protects the castle from a hungry dragon. (++ FIC DEN)
- *Keepunumuk* by Daniel Greendeer. A Thanksgiving Story: Wampanoag children listen as their grandmother tells them the story about how Weeachumun (the wise Corn) asked local Native Americans to show the newcomers how to grow food to yield a good harvest Keepunumuk in 1621. (++ FIC GRE)
- *Powwow Day* by Traci Sorell. In this story young readers will learn about the rites and traditions of a Powwow. Because she has been very ill and weak, River cannot join in the dancing at this year's tribal powwow. She can only watch from the sidelines as her sisters and cousins dance the celebration but as the drum beats, she finds the faith to believe that she will recover and dance again. (++ FIC SOR)
- *We Are Grateful* (Otsaliheliga) by Traci Sorell. Debut author Traci Sorell, a citizen of the Cherokee Nation, invites readers to journey through the year with a Cherokee family and their tribal nation as they express thanks for celebrations big and small. (++ 970.004 SOR)

Book Recommendation

by Bob Schoenknecht

The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store by James McBride

In 1972, when workers in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, were digging the foundations for a new development, they find a skeleton at the bottom of a well. Who the skeleton was and how it got there were two of the long-held secrets kept by the residents of Chicken Hill, the dilapidated neighborhood where immigrant Jews and African Americans lived side by side and shared ambitions and sorrows. Chicken Hill was where Moshe and Chona Ludlow lived when Moshe integrated his theater and where Chona ran the Heaven & Earth Grocery Store. When the state came looking for a deaf boy to institutionalize him, it was Chona and Nate Timblin, the black janitor at Moshe's theater and the unofficial leader of the Black community on Chicken Hill, who worked together to keep the boy safe.

When I began reading this book, I had known nothing of Pottstown, Pennsylvania, with its Jewish immigrant families in the late twenties and early thirties and its African Americans who had moved to the northern states from the south. I learned about tallits, jook joints and the prevalence of dance halls for entertainment during that era prior to the Second World War. I got an in-depth look into the way people lived and engaged each other in the struggling neighborhood of Chicken Hill. I learned about the informal segregation of class, religious culture and race in small-town Pennsylvania and the ominous presence of the Ku Klux Klan and its annual march that was pretty much tolerated by all.

I enjoyed meeting the various primary characters—the caring Chona, owner of the *Heaven and Earth Grocery Store*, her husband, Moshe, the silent Nate, his loving wife, Addie, the mysterious Bernice, and the deaf boy, Dodo. They were colorful, soulful people, whose lives enriched the community of Chicken Hill.

The *Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* gives many beautiful life lessons that ultimately fill your heart with love, hope, and possibilities. This wonderfully woven tale with its' hardworking, clever characters is a thrilling multicultural, multigenerational, journey that will be hard to put down once you start reading.



"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

Trinity has several active Facebook pages which are a source of up to date information and inspiration for your faith development. There is a general Trinity page plus pages for Children, Youth, and Family Ministries and Noah's Ark Preschool. Be sure to "Like" Trinity soon and begin enjoying the benefits of inspiration and news

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 Ext 218 Children, Youth and Family Ministries Director/ heatherd@trinity-ec.org Emily Kreiner Ext 207 CYF Ministry Assistant/emily@trinity-ec.org Marlee Knickerbocker Ext 205 Noah's Ark Director/Teacher; ECE Coordinator/marlee@trinity-ec.org Kim Dewey Noah's Ark Teacher/kim@trinity-ec.org Monica Bauer Noah's Ark Teacher/monica@trinity-ec.org Mallory Harden Noah's Ark Teacher/mallory@trinity-ec.org Gina Toutant Early Childhood Enrichment Teacher Natasha Durnick Early Childhood Enrichment Teacher **Care & Concern Ministries** Vicki Dueringer Ext 209

Parish Nurse/vickid@trinity-ec.org Pat Garber Visitation Ministry Director/garberpa@uwec.edu Sue Marczinke Ext 211 Food Pantry Coordinator/sue@trinity-ec.org

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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 April Newsletter is March 15.