



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
1314 E Lexington Blvd • Eau Claire WI 54701-6434
2024, April Newsletter—Vol. LXX No.4

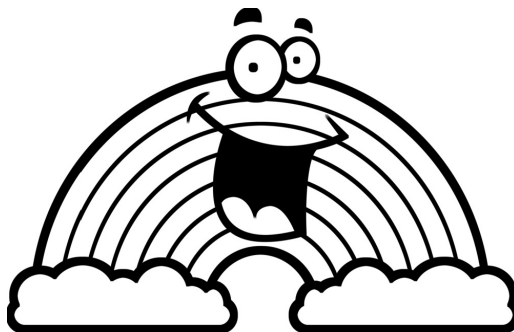
Worship With Us

Earth Day Worship

Earth Day is April 22 and churches typically observe it during the month of April. It is an opportunity to reflect on the goodness of God's creation and the human responsibility to steward it through worship, education, and action. Join us on Sunday, April 21 as we celebrate God's creation and reflect on our call to be faithful stewards of all the earth.

A Technicolor Promise

Everyone loves a rainbow! Not only is it a wonder of creation, radiating beauty after a rain, but more importantly it is also the sign of the covenant. It reminds us of God's overwhelming love and grace. Join us on Sunday, April 28, at 8:15 A.M. & 9:45 A.M. for musical worship services when the combined children's choirs of Trinity lead us in worship!



Last Wednesday Worship

Join us for our last Wednesday Night Worship of the academic year on Wednesday, April 17.

Add Your Photo to Your Church Account

Did you know that you can upload individual and family photos to your church app?

1. Open the app
2. Click on the profile tile
3. Click edit profile
4. Upload your photo

Adding a photo to your Church profile can help other members recognize you and connect your name with your face.

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.

- April 14: Women's Giving Circle
- April 21: Caring for Creation Team

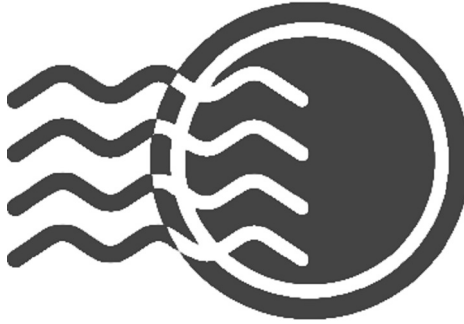
Quarterly Devotionals Available

Pick up a free devotional booklet in the information rack in the lobby and resolve to make devotions part of every day this year. There are two different booklets, so take both! Large-print copies are available, too.

When Your Mailing Address, Email, or Phone Changes

Whenever you're moving or changing to "temporarily away" with the United States Postal Service, any mail Trinity sends to you is returned at a cost per item. Please inform the church office when your address changes or you're going away and having your mail held.

And, if you are eliminating or have eliminated a land line and going exclusively to cell, please share your phone number with your church. Email new information to dawn@trinity-ec.org



Funeral Planning Workshop

This is designed to help you make informed decisions regarding funeral planning, end-of-life arrangements, paying for a funeral, grief options and other important funeral-related topics. 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 20 at 9:00 A.M.. 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.

Serve Committee Update

Global Mission Kumamoto, Japan—Jackie and Patrick Bencke

Jackie and Patrick Bencke's mission work at Kyushu Lutheran College. The following is a recent update from Jackie: *When Patrick and I came in 2006, we never would have imagined that in our lifetime we would see the establishment of an international school in Kumamoto or an elementary school on our campus! Both of those things are being realized this coming school year which starts on April 1, 2024. Recently, we held the dedication ceremony for the building in which the Kyushu Lutheran International Primary School will be housed. We welcomed new teachers and staff members from South Africa, the Philippines, Scotland, China, and elsewhere in Japan to Kumamoto. These folks have committed to bringing our Lutheran mission to a new generation of children and for that, we can praise God.*

Note: You can find a copy of Jackie's 103rd newsletter posted on the Serve Committee bulletin board inside door #2. Please join Jackie and Patrick in prayer in these coming weeks that the Lord will guide the hearts and minds of teachers and staff as they guild this new educational and spiritual community.

Friendship Group

Its time to replenish our stock of celebratory cards for our shut-ins. We will meet on Wednesday, April 10 at 10:00 A.M. in Room 208. We will make cards for Valentine's, St. Pat's and Easter. After our meeting, we will have lunch on our own at Shanghai Bistro.

The Endowment Trust Fund

The Trinity Endowment Trust Fund exists so that your values and legacy of Christian faith will live on and further God's work for generations to come. Gifts now, or through a will bequest to the Endowment Trust Fund, become part of a perpetual fund with earnings used to advance Trinity's ministries and global missions.

Grant applications are welcomed semi-annually with submission deadlines of May 1 and November 1. A nine member Board oversees the Endowment and welcomes grant applications for individual or organizational endeavors that advance the Fund's mission: "Serving God's people in Christ's name by providing financial foundations to the ministries and missions of Trinity Lutheran Church for all generations."

You can read more about the Trust at trinity-ec.org. The grant application is online on the same page.

Women's Giving Circle

Join the Women's Giving Circle Board on Sunday, April 14, in the Fireside Room following both worship services. Hear from some of our grant recipients for 2023 and learn about our group! You are welcome to sign up at this meeting, as well. Trinity's Women's Giving Circle is a unique opportunity to positively impact people's lives through collective philanthropy. Through gifts from members, the women's Giving Circle gives grants to programs that improve the lives of families and children within our church and community.

The Women's Giving Circle is a group of individuals who have established a donor advised fund within the Trinity Lutheran Church Endowment Trust. You are invited to join! The membership is renewable on an annual basis and is open to anyone who makes an annual contribution of at least \$250. To learn more, visit www.trinity-ec.org and click "Women's Giving Circle" under the Endowment Trust tab.

Received February 2023 Memorials & Honorariums

Memorial Fund

- In memory of Jeremy Larsen: Margie & John Larsen
- In memory of Carl Manz: Jon & Maureen Homstad, Robert Morgan, James Bartl,
- In memory of DeAnn Fern: Rebecca Stanley, Bill & Lynn Gautsche, James & Wendy Severson

Food Pantry

- In memory of Jeremy Larsen: Syvert & Cathleen Wilson
- In memory of Uncle Jack Hedlund: Fail Schulner
- In memory of Elaine Miller: Steve & Sue Marczinke
- In memory of Jack Wolf: Steve & Sue Marczinke

Building

- In memory of Gordy Larson: Family of Gordy Larson, Frank & Beth Gawdun

Children's Bible Fun

- In memory of Errol Francis: John & Jacqueline Krumenauer

Quilters

- In memory of Leatrice Solberg: Michael & Mary Chronquist
- In memory of Bob Smith: Miriam Circle

Endowment Trust Fund

- In memory Carl Manz: Charles & Sue Nyberg, Neil & Mary Nelson

Library

- In memory of Leatrice Solberg: Bob & Mary Schoenknecht
- In memory of Jeremy Larsen: Mary Hoepner

Memorials & Honorariums Easter Garden

In memory of

- Joan Smith from Dennis & Peggy Larson
- Ade & Margaret Olson, George & Evelyn Schoenknecht from Bob & Mary Schoenknecht
- Roger & Phyllis Burrows from Pam Burrows
- Roger Clark from Marleen Clark
- Our parents from Hal & Carol McCabe
- Our parents from Tom & Monika Fiedler
- Joshua Fleming from Cindy & David Fleming
- Our parents from Charles & Dorothy Miller
- Loved ones from Kathy Nelson
- Christine Ann Lien, Arland "Chet" Lien from Scott Lien
- Our parents from Ron & Denyse Schroeder
- Peter Brandvold from Dolores A. Brandvold
- Butch & Linda Laehn from Denice Laehn
- Our parents from Jim & Anne Walker
- Mike DeRusha from Sharon and Family
- Lawrence & Margaret Odegard from their Family
- Eric Nixdorf from Ron & Yvonne Nixdorf
- Wally & Jean Wheeler, John & Bonnie Benedict from Tim & Amy

Benedict

- Lloyd & Cora Rouse from Tom Rouse
- Our parents and sister from Roger & Marilyn Engen
- Donald Lee from Barb Lee
- Betty & Harvey Gullicksrud from Ginny & Sam Yanakopoulos
- Jerry Jacobson from Sonnie Jacobson

In honor of

- Grandchildren, Tori, Trae, Taya Schaefer, Jason, Sarah, Jacquelin Bobb from Susan Brumberg Schaefer
- Our children from Brad & Caryn Linn
- Donna, Autumn, and Isaac Lien, Elaine, Derek and their Families from Scott Lien
- Ann Ferraro from Ron & Yvonne Nixdorf
- Children & Grandchildren from Barb Lee
- Vicki Dueringer from a friend

Circle Meetings

- Deborah • Tuesday, April 16, 9:30 P.M. Trinity
- Mary/Martha • Tuesday, April 16, 9:30 A.M. Trinity
- Miriam • Wednesday, April 17, 9:30 A.M. Trinity
- Ruth • Tuesday, April 16, 1:30 P.M. Trinity

Day of Renewal

ELCA Women's Chippewa Valley Conference Day of Renewal will be held on April 20, from 9:00 A.M.–1:00 P.M. At Hope Lutheran Church, 2226 Eddy Lane, Eau Claire, WI 54703. A Musical Journey– "How to Renew Our Minds." The cost is \$15. Make checks payable to WELCA. Payment is welcome at time of registration. There will be no refunds. Registration forms are available on the Women's bulletin board in the nursery hallway.

WELCA Retreat

The WELCA Retreat hosted by Chippewa Valley Conference will be held at Luther Park, Chetek on Wednesday/Thursday, June 5 and 6. The theme is *Wonderful Worth of a Woman: the Joys, Challenges, & Influences*. The presenter will be Pastor Lori Peper with music by the Northern Lakes Worship Team.

Library

New to the Library

New Books

- *The Little Liar* by Mitch Albom. Beloved bestselling author Mitch Albom returns with a powerful novel that moves from a coastal Greek city during the Holocaust, to America, where the intertwined lives of three survivors are forever changed by the perils of deception and the grace of redemption. (FIC ALB)
- *The Women* by Kristin Hannah. This historical fiction is the story of one woman gone to war, but it shines a light on all women who put themselves in harm's way and whose sacrifice and commitment to their country has too often been forgotten. It is an intimate portrait of coming of age in a dangerous time (Vietnam War) and an epic tale of a nation divided. (FIC HAN)
- *Being Henry* by Henry Winkler. Filled with profound heart, charm, and self-deprecating humor, *Being Henry* is a memoir about so much more than a life in Hollywood and the curse of stardom. It is a meaningful testament to the power of sharing truth and kindness and of finding fulfillment within yourself. (B WIN)



Books for Youth

- *Little Women* (Classic Starts) by Deanna McFadden (Adapter). While their chaplain father is away in the American Civil War, mother "Marmee" watches the four March sisters grow up and strive for their dreams. (+ FIC MCF)
- *Amil and the After* by Veera Hiranandani. This novel for young people is a hopeful and heartwarming story about finding joy after hardship in 1948 India after it became independent of British rule. (YP FIC HIR)

Picture Books

- *Christmas Song of the North* by Marsha Bonicatto. This beautifully illustrated book follows the pattern of "The Twelve Days of Christmas" to introduce the forest animals of the north woods during winter months. (++) FIC BON)
- *Music Over Manhattan* by Mark Karlins. Summary: Perfect Cousin Herbert always gets all the attention until Uncle Louie starts teaching Bernie how to play the trumpet. (++) FIC KAR)
- *Ditch of Witches* by Warren Nelson. Ditch of Witches is a winter tale about the magic of snow. When winter refuses to bring the snow upon which winter fun depends, four women take matters into their own hands. Sirred by their magical efforts, an old-time blizzard descends upon the town, bringing enchantment and delight to the town's children. (++) FIC NEL)

Trinity Book Club

The Trinity Book Club invites you to join them on Tuesday, April 16, at 6:30 P.M., in room 208, *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver

Set in the mountains of southern Appalachia, *Demon Copperhead* is the story of a boy born to a teenaged single mother in a single-wide trailer, with no assets beyond his dead father's good looks and copper-colored hair, a caustic wit, and a fierce talent for survival. Relayed in his own unsparing voice, Demon braves the modern perils of foster care, child labor, derelict schools, athletic success, addiction, disastrous loves, and crushing losses. Through all of it, he reckons with his own invisibility in a popular culture where even the superheroes have abandoned rural people in favor of cities.

There are no special expectations to participate in this group. You should feel free to come whether you've finished the book or not. You can RSVP at Clipboard Central. For more information, email Cindy Beck at cindy@trinity-ec.org



Book Recommendation

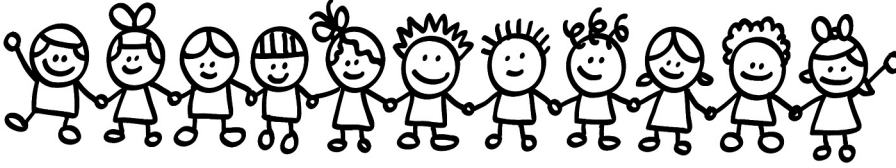
Zero Days by Ruth Ware

By Mary Karker

Ruth Ware's latest novel is an action-packed thriller that will keep you reading long past your bedtime. Jacintha "Jack" Cross is in a race against time to clear her name and to find her husband's murderer. Jack and her husband Gabe are security penetration specialists, hired by companies to break into their own buildings and to hack into their security systems. After a routine job goes terribly wrong, Jack returns home to find her husband Gabe murdered. The police name Jack as their main murder suspect, so she takes to the streets to clear name and to find Gabe's real murderer.

I highly recommend this book for an exciting and unpredictable read!

Children, Youth and Family Ministry



Noah's News

Greetings from Noah's Ark Preschool and the Early Childhood Enrichment Classes! We are enjoying spring's early arrival. The flower bulbs our children helped the Caring for Creation team plant last fall have begun coming up and blooming in mid-March! Check them out on the Lexington Blvd. side of our building. Our classes are enjoying days outside. We are discovering God's creation with our five senses!

Brochures for our 2024–2025 Early Childhood Enrichment weekday class offerings for our youngest kids (age 1–3) are available throughout our building and on our website. A call-in registration for these Come and Play and Music and Movement classes will be on Tuesday, May 7 at 8:00 A.M. For more information about the ECE classes or the Noah's Ark 2024–2025 school year, please contact me at 715.832.6601, ext. 205 or marlee@trinity-ec.org.

In peace,
Marlee Knickerbocker

Early Childhood Education Registration

A phone-in registration for all Fall and Spring session classes will open on Tuesday, May 7 at 8:00 A.M. for the 2024-2025 school year for the following ECE classes:

- Music and Movement: Wednesdays, 10:30 A.M.–11:30 A.M. A parent/child class for children who are 18 months–36 months at the start of the session. A fall and spring session is offered.
- Come and Play: Tuesdays and/or Thursdays, 9:15 A.M.–11:15 A.M. A drop off class for children who are two years old by September 1, 2024. A Fall and Spring session is offered. Children may be registered for one or two days each week.

Contact Marlee Knickerbocker at 715.832.6601, ext. 205 or marlee@trinity-ec.org for more information.

Noah's Ark Chipotle Night Fundraiser

Please join us for a Noah's Ark Chipotle Night Fundraiser on Monday, April 2, 4:00 P.M.–8:00 P.M., Chipotle Mexican Grill, 941 W Clairemont Ave. (this location only). At the time of in-person ordering tell the cashier you are supporting Noah's Ark Preschool OR order online and pick up at the Clairemont Ave. Chipotle by using the Promo Code: EEPGJW4 on the Chipotle app or website. (Please note delivery orders and gift cards do not qualify.) Noah's Ark will receive 25% of the proceeds at the restaurant during our fundraiser time frame.

Noah's Ark Preschool Mother's Day Flower Sale

Noah's Ark Preschool will be having a fundraiser sale of summer flowers just in time for Mother's Day gift giving! If you buy summer flowers, why not order through Noah's Ark Preschool, and help support our program at the same time?! We are working with Down To Earth Garden Center to offer 10" and 12" hanging baskets and 12" patio pots. If you prefer to do your own shopping at the garden center, we will be selling gift cards in increments of \$25. Noah's Ark will receive the proceeds from this sale. Pre-orders and payment are required and will be taken in the lobby during the weeks of April 14 and April 21. Orders may also be placed and paid online. Watch for the link on our website and in the Friday Enews soon. Flowers will be delivered in time for Mother's Day on Thursday, May 9.

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 to 11:00 am on Sundays, September through May, along with occasional opportunities to provide care during special events.

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

Faith Formation Update

The last days of faith formation for the 2023–2024 school year will be Sunday, April 28 and Wednesday, April 17.



Communion Celebration

Eleven children recently attended Holy Communion instruction with Pastor Tom and Heather Day. They learned all about Jesus' last supper and how God shows their love for all of us through the gift of Holy Communion. These children were recognized during worship at 9:45 A.M. on March 17. Children completing communion instruction were Finn Riley, Barrett Kerr, Sophie Travis, Eli Benedict, Emmit Galle, Nolan Sisco, Owen Wehling, Logan DeRusha, Norah Kedrowski, Maggie Kilmurray, and Olive Westcott.

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.

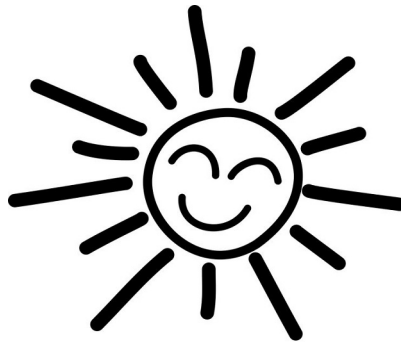
NEW THIS YEAR! Trinity encourages families to send their kids to Luther Park by paying 25% of the registration cost for one session per child each summer. Use the discount code TLEC at registration.

SUMMERTIME AT TRINITY

Join us at Trinity this summer as we learn and play together! Register now at trinity-ec.org/register.

Vacation Bible School

This summer, we will celebrate that God has created us all to be our authentic, beautiful, silly, fun, loving, bravest selves. Through Bible stories, songs, new friends, games, art, and time playing outside, kids will discover God's amazing world and their own unique amazingness! VBS is for children who turn four by 9.1.2024 through those completing grade 5, June 17–20, 9:00 A.M.–12:00 p.m. The cost is \$40 per child, which includes all snacks, supplies, and a T-shirt. Register by June 1 to guarantee a T-shirt.



Camp Come & Play

Children will have an opportunity to play with other children their age in a safe, caring environment. They will hear Bible stories, participate in related activities, and take time out to share a treat. Camp Come & Play meets in the Noah's Ark Preschool classroom and is a great precursor to preschool! This program is for children who turn three between 9.1.2023 and 8.31.2024. Children can register for one or both sessions. The cost is \$45 per session, which includes snacks and supplies. Session One is June 24–26, from 9:15 A.M.–11:15 A.M.; Session Two is July 22–24, from 9:15 A.M.–11:15 A.M.

Playground Playtime

Invite your friends and enjoy Trinity's fenced-in playground area together! The playground has a sandy surface, so there is plenty of opportunity for digging as well as exploring the playground equipment. This playground is best for ages six and under, but older siblings are also welcome. Trinity staff will provide a different activity each week (painting supplies, water play, etc.) Playground Playtime will be held Thursdays, June 6–July 25, from 10:00 A.M.–11:00 A.M. *Please note there will be no Playground Playtime on June 20 or July 4.* No registration is needed. Caregivers must stay with and supervise children at all times.

Summer Stretch

Summer Stretch is a ministry for middle school youth, led by high school youth! We meet for a short week in the summer, August 5–8, from 9:00 A.M.–3:00 P.M. Summer Stretch is for kids completing grades 6–8. We do service projects throughout the community each morning, then participate in a (top secret) just-for-fun activity each afternoon. Our week culminates with a day together at Valley Fair. Register by June 1. The cost for Summer Stretch is \$130, which includes all activities, transportation, a t-shirt, and Valley Fair admission.

Summer Stretch Assistants

Students completing grades 9–12 may serve as assistants for the week. They will lead small groups and help in other ways. The cost is \$65, which includes Valley Fair admission.

Now Hiring VBS Counselors

We are now hiring current high school students (completing grades 9–12) to work as small group leaders during Vacation Bible School. These are paid positions and will include mornings during VBS (June 17–20), as well as a required training on June 13, 6:00 P.M.–8:00 P.M. Application forms are available now at trinity-ec.org/register. To complete their application, VBS Counselor applicants must also have an adult submit a reference form. Apply by May 1.

Care & Concern

Updates from Trinity's Friends of Flynn Committee

March Fund Appeal :Thank you to all who donated to the recent Friends of Flynn Fund Appeal—our expenses for a school year are \$8,000. At the writing of this article, we do not have an update of funds received. Just a reminder, most of these funds, \$5,400., help support Flynn's food pantry and the weekend meal project through Feed My People. Another \$1,000 was sent to Feed My People for fresh food vouchers to be used at local Kwik Trips. If you haven't had an opportunity to give to this ministry, you are invited to do so now. Checks should be made out to Trinity Lutheran Church with a notation to Friends of Flynn.

Here are some of the ways that Friends of Flynn funds will be used for the remainder of this school year.

- Snacks—Snacks were recently supplied for an after-school program called Club Invention and for each classroom who have students that are unable to bring snacks from home. Snacks will also be purchased for the third and fourth grade classes during their testing days in April.
- Emergency Clothing—Jogger pants and athletic shoes are often requested.
- Staff Appreciation—We will supply a year end treat for all the staff.

Book Drive

A new book will be given to each child to keep at home before the summer vacation. Suggestions for new book donations include:

- Grades 4-5 like *Dog Man*, *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, *Gordon Korman* and *Carl Hiassen* books
- Grades 2-4 like *Bad Guys* and *Dragon Masters* books
- Grades K-1 like *Elephant and Piggy* books and anything nonfiction.

Look for a poster display in the lobby for additional suggestions. Again, thank you for your support of this ministry. If you would like to join the Friends of Flynn Committee, please contact the church office.

Red Cross Blood Drive Update

- We had 38 donors signed up (we are still hoping to reach the mid-40s) and collected 38 units of blood. Ten of those units were "Power Red" (double red cells) which are valued by the Red Cross. Thank you to all who donated and the volunteers who helped.
- Next blood drive is Thursday, April 11 from 12:30 P.M.–6:30 P.M. The Red Cross now plans staffing 2–3 weeks prior to a drive by looking at how many donors are signed up. If possible, please register early at redcrossblood.org



For Caregivers

One of the blessings the Eau Claire community has is our Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC). Part of the ADRC is the Dementia specialist and the programs offered to the community. There are two upcoming events that we highly recommend:

1. Caring for Your Loved One at Home...a skills fair for family caregivers on Thursday, May 9 from 8:00 A.M.–3:00 P.M.
2. Confident Dementia Caregiver Monthly Series, held on the last Thursday of each month starting in May 30 and ending in September at Peace Lutheran Church.

Register by going to adrc@eauclairecounty.gov or call 715.839.4735.

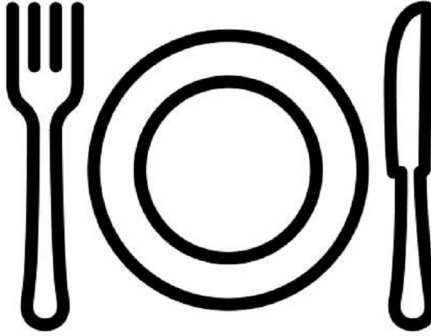
Spring Tips for Caregivers

1. Bring spring indoors. The sights and smells of spring stimulate and uplift the senses, especially for seniors who may be less mobile. Spring flowers are a great way to do this! Bringing these into the home is a great way to lift spirits. You'll find a variety available in shops and even fresh from the garden.
2. Go for a walk: For older individuals or even those recovering from injuries, walking can be one of the most powerful springtime activities. There are numerous benefits of walking such as improved circulation, a 40 percent reduced risk for hip fractures, improved mood, healthier weight, and stronger joints.
3. Plan a daytrip: Getting out of the house for the day can provide you and your loved one with a change of scenery and a new environment to relax in. One-day outings can offer a much-needed break from the daily pressures of life and allow you and your loved one to meet new people and explore new places.



Community Table

Trinity will volunteer next at The Community Table on Thursday, April 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 Food Pantry Corner Cupboard

Events

- The “Created To Be” Reverse Lent Calendar food donations are currently being tallied. Watch the May newsletter for our results. We will even accept donations after Easter!! Remember we are trying to exceed last years donations of 348 pounds.
- We distributed 170 Easter treat bags to our guests during Holy Week. The bags included candy, socks and cards. Thanks to the Alpha Delta Kappa Sisters for making cards, Cindy Beck for providing the Bombas socks and Eleanor Kilmurray, Heather Day and Sarah Pedersen for helping put the bags together.

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>

National Healthcare Decisions Day

Do you have an Advanced Directive for Healthcare? National Healthcare Decisions Day is April 16. Did you know that Wisconsin is NOT a next of kin state when it comes to making medical decisions. So, if you or your loved one is in a situation where you cannot speak for yourselves, and do not have an advanced directive, you cannot make healthcare decisions for them and they cannot make decisions for you, even if you have verbally told them your wishes.. A guardian will be appointed by the courts. And it costs between \$3,000–\$5,000 to change guardianship. If you are 18 years old or older, you need an advanced directive completed and on file with your provider.

Trinity can help you with that! On Saturday, April 20 we are having an Advanced Directive and Funeral Planning workshop. We will go over various forms of Advanced Directives, as well as Funeral Planning decision making. Please join us that morning! And if you want to meet one-on-one to discuss Advance Directives, call Vicki Dueringer a church or email vickid@trinity-ec.org to set up an appointment.

"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, April 23, July 23, and October 22 at 6:00 P.M. in the Fireside room. Mark your calendars.

Prayer

We rejoice as we prepare to witness the greening of the world,
unfolding in apple and dogwood blossoms.

In every flower that blooms and every tree that buds,
You have graced us

With the theme of Resurrection: Christ Lives!

We acknowledge his presence in our lives.

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. Here are some examples of our community support:
 - Nestle's donated 444 Lean Cuisine frozen meals we were able to distribute to our guests. Thanks to Bill and Kim Engel for making this connection and delivering them to us.

Activity/Financial

- In February we served 735 families, this is up 25% from last February.
- Our expenses were \$5,868.74 in February. Our current dedicated account balance is \$56,291.80. We are showing a deficit of \$2,025.74 for the year.

Fun Food Pantry Stats

- As of the end of February we served 771 different families. This is a 39% increase from last year for the same time period. Thanks Bill Engel for submitting that question!
- April Products of the month: Chicken Pouch and Fettuccini Alfredo Pasta Mix. Our guests like to receive these items together so they can combine to make a meal: Chicken Pouch/\$0.80 and Fettuccini

Alfredo Pasta Mix/\$0.77

Food Pantry Volunteers

Please enjoy this food pantry story shared by one of our volunteers.

Volunteering for Trinity's Food Pantry has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my various volunteering activities. Often, I do not realize the immediate impact on those people who benefit from my work, time and or financial support. That's not to say that other volunteering opportunities are not worthy and needed; it's just that volunteering for one of the open pantries gives me instant knowledge and gratification that I (little old me) am making a difference, and collectively we are making an impact. There are numerous impelling stories of guests sharing their hardship stories with volunteers and expressing their gratitude for Trinity's service that I could share with you. This is one such story.

Imagine one week you are in your late 50s, have a great family, edging towards being comfortably middle class and have a great job, with benefits, as a hustling sales contractor selling to businesses in a tri-state area. You have a comfortable modest home that you have slowly improved, a new truck that you finally saved enough money for the down payment. You are happy. Then without warning the pandemic closes the country down, but you are not worried. You have saved an emergency fund. You know times will get better soon. Several weeks turn into months. The inventory you sell that was stock piled is no longer available, even if those businesses were buying, which they were not. Because you are a contractor, you do not immediately qualify for unemployment compensation (in fact it took several long months to receive).

You hear about Trinity's Food Pantry and so you swallow your pride and drive up in your new beautiful truck. We smile and greet you and explain how the pantry works. You are stunned that no qualifying questions are asked to receive our services, yet you feel compelled to explain why you are here. You tell us your story and fight back your tears. You ask us if we know anyone wanting to buy a new truck; and you ensure us that you never ever dreamed of being in this predicament. You are running out of money and the cupboards and freezer are sparse. Week after week you update us on your job prospects, your unemployment compensation struggles, and your success in selling your truck, albeit at a discount. But at least you could pay off the loan and have a little money to hold you over. You ask us to pray for you. We look forward to seeing you and hearing your updates. You admit that you use other pantries in order to feed your family. Yet Trinity does not turn you away.

Then comes the week when you tell us you found a job. It doesn't pay as well, but you believe the tide is turning because you also found an additional part-time job to subsidize your incomes. Your wife has been called back to work also. You tell us that soon you will be caught up and will no longer need our help. You thank us over and over as we share in your good news. Weeks go by without seeing see you and I wonder how you are doing as I smile and greet the next guest. Collectively we helped this family for months, and little old me experienced it firsthand. What an opportunity for just a two hour a

*week volunteer. ...true story submitted
by a food pantry volunteer*

Have a question for the food pantry coordinator,
email sue@trinity-ec.org

FREE Foot and Nail Care Clinic

Eau Claire Diabetic clients and individuals with difficult foot and nail care issues are encouraged to attend. Registered nurses will perform foot and nail care services as part of a two-day certification program. The clinic will be supervised by a nurse practitioner certified in foot and nail care. Clinic dates are April 22, 1:30 p.m.–5:30 p.m., and April 23–26, from 7:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church, 202 W. Grand Ave. Registration begins April 8, call 715.836.3636 to register. Appointments are required, The services are free.



Save the Date for Empty Bowls Feeding Our Neighbors

Thursday, May 16

11:00 A.M.–7:00 P.M.

Feed My People

2610 Alpine Road, Eau Claire

One bowl may not seem like a lot, but the impact is enormous when they're all stacked together. For 23 years, Feed My People's annual Empty Bowls fundraiser has brought together handcrafted bowls, supporters like you, and a determination to take a bite out of

local hunger. In 2023, this fundraiser raised enough groceries for well over 200,000 meals for children, seniors, and families who face food insecurity in west central Wisconsin.

"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 Lidix Montoya

lidixe@trinity-ec.org

Children, Youth, and Family Ministry

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Children, Youth and Family Ministries Director/

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Early Childhood Enrichment Teacher

Natasha Durnick

Early Childhood Enrichment Teacher

Care & Concern Ministries

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Pat Garber

Visitation Ministry Director/garberpa@uwec.edu

Please submit all articles for the Tidings **electronically** in MS Word, Corel WP format, or in the body of an email. Submit to:

Sue Marczinke Ext 211
cindy@trinity-ec.org
Food Pantry Coordinator/sue@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 May Newsletter is April 15.

Worship & Music Ministry

Dr. Frank Watkins Ext 213

Worship & Music Director/frank@trinity-ec.org

Brian Pressler

Organist/brian@trinity-ec.org

Jeanne Cooper

GLS Director/jeanne@trinity-ec.org

Corinne Gransee Paral

TJC Director/corinne@trinity-ec.org

Gary Rambo

Trinity Choir Director/gjrambo@att.net

Ryan Poquette

Trinity Tollers

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Andy Hofer

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World Missions

Jabneh Christian Academy, Grange Hill, Jamaica

Blantyre Lutheran Parish, Malawi, Africa

Jacqueline & Patrick Bencke, Japan

