

Welcome to Trinity CYF Ministry

2021-2022

The goal of Trinity's Children, Youth & Family Ministry is for young people and their families to love God, themselves, and others, and be able to identify and positively live out Christ's presence in their lives. The church is a living partnership between the ministry of the congregation and the ministry of the home. Faith is formed by the power of the Holy Spirit through personal, trusted relationships, especially the relationship between a parent/guardian and child.

As we navigate our ever-changing circumstances, we want young people and their families to clearly receive this message:

Because of Christ, you are **LOVED**, you **BELONG**, and you have **GIFTS TO SHARE**.

Ministry Leaders

Heather Day – *Children and Family Ministry Director*, heatherd@trinity-ec.org

Ashley Olson – *Youth Ministry Director*, ashley@trinity-ec.org

Dr. Frank Watkins – *Worship and Music Ministry Director*, frank@trinity-ec.org

Marlee Knickerbocker – *Noah's Ark Preschool Director*, marlee@trinity-ec.org

Pastor Tom Westcott – *Associate Pastor*, tomw@trinity-ec.org

You Are Welcome Here

People of all ages, races, ethnic backgrounds, sexual orientations, gender identities, educational backgrounds, marital status, physical or mental ability, theological perspective, and economic conditions share the worth that comes from being unique individuals created by God, and as such are welcome in the worshipping community of Trinity Lutheran Church. We invite all people to be part of the faith community of Trinity.

All programs and events are open to the community, and all people are invited to participate. Children are always encouraged to bring guests! (Talk to Heather or Ashley about visitor registration forms.)

Trinity Lutheran Church

www.trinity-ec.org

1314 East Lexington Blvd., Eau Claire, WI 54701

715-832-6601

Important Dates to Remember

September 8 – CrossWord rehearsal begins at 5:00 PM

September 12 – Rally Sunday, Registration deadline for Faith Formation and Music Programs

September 15 – Wednesday Worship begins at 6:00 PM

September 19 – Children’s Storytime in Trinity’s Library after each worship service

September 22 – Confirmation Orientation for all students (grades 6-9) and parents at 6:35 PM

September 26/29 – Sunday/Wednesday Faith Formation and Music Programs begin

Worship and Learning Schedules

Sunday Mornings

8:15 AM	Traditional Worship
8:50-9:35 AM	Children’s Faith Formation
9:45 AM	Contemporary Worship

Wednesday Evenings

There will NOT be a meal offered on Wednesday evenings this year. Please make sure children have a snack or meal before coming to class.

5:00-5:50 PM	Children’s Faith Formation
5:00-5:55 PM	Children/Youth Music Rehearsals
6:00-6:30 PM	Worship
6:35-7:30 PM	Youth Faith Formation - Confirmation Class
6:35-7:30 PM	Celebration Singers Rehearsal (2 nd and 4 th Wednesdays)

Registration Information

NEW THIS YEAR - Each family must complete one Family Information Form (valid September-August), as well as a Student Registration Form for each child registering for programming. Payments can be completed online or by cash/check (payable to Trinity Lutheran Church). **Please complete all registrations by Sunday, September 12.**

How to register:

Option #1 – Complete the Family Information Form and Student Registration Forms online at www.trinity-ec.org

Option #2 – Complete the paper forms included in this booklet and turn them in to Trinity’s office, to Heather Day/Ashley Olson, or on Rally Sunday. Additional paper forms can be found in the main office.

Questions?

If you have any questions regarding programs or registration, please contact:

- Heather Day, Children's Ministry (birth-grade 5)
- Ashley Olson, Youth Ministry (grade 6-12)
- Dr. Frank Watkins, Music Ministry (all ages)

Rally Sunday - September 12

Let's kick off the new school year together with a fun morning!

- **Bibles** will be distributed to three year olds, third grade students, and sixth grade students during the 9:45 AM worship service.
- **Backpacks** will be blessed during both the 8:15 AM and 9:45 AM worship services. Bring your backpack with you! Receive a blessing and a backpack tag to attach to your bag to remind you of God's presence in your life every day.
- **Registration** will be available in the lobby for faith formation and music programs.
- A **Rally Sunday Celebration** will take place in Trinity's backyard featuring games, activities, prizes, and brunch (RSVP for brunch at trinity-ec.org).

Worship at Trinity

Child Friendly Worship

Children are a gift from God, and they are an integral part of the worshiping community of Trinity. As a result, we try to facilitate ways for families to bring their young children to worship and to encourage children and youth to be active participants.

When COVID restrictions allow, we will offer activity bags, books, and kids' bulletins. Until then, we encourage families to bring books and quiet activities from home for their small children.

We also welcome children and their families to serve as greeters, ushers, and readers! Watch for more information about how to sign up when COVID restrictions allow.

Nursery Care

Birth-Age 4

Currently, Trinity's nursery is NOT available due to COVID activity level. When COVID restrictions allow, nursery care will be available for children age four and under. An employed nursery care provider, along with volunteers, provide a safe, nurturing, and enjoyable experience for our youngest children.

Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Baptism is the sacrament of the Lutheran Church in which we are adopted into the family of God and begin a promising new life in Christ. We celebrate baptisms of children, youth, and adults throughout the year at Trinity. Baptism is a gift of grace—all are welcome to receive this sacrament. We look forward to being a part of this journey with you.

Before you schedule a baptism for a child, we ask that you attend a Baptism Class. Baptism Classes are offered regularly throughout the year. This one-session meeting is an opportunity to learn about baptism and ongoing opportunities for nurturing faith, while meeting other individuals and families looking forward to baptism. You are welcome and encouraged to attend a baptism class before your child is born. Watch for dates and times of Baptism Classes to be announced later this fall. For teens and adults, please contact a pastor directly for information and scheduling.

Rite of Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation)

When we talk about faith, baptism is where we begin as Lutherans. Many youth were baptized when they were young, but not all. In baptism, God claims us and promises to walk with us in faith. Baptism is a lifelong event, and so when we affirm our baptism, we reaffirm the promises made for us by our parents and sponsors at baptism. We acknowledge God's love, God's presence, and God's promise for our lives. At Trinity, Affirmation of Baptism is celebrated after completing the confirmation program.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

All baptized Christians are welcome to the table at Trinity, and we want your child to be a part of this special meal as soon as they are ready. At Trinity, the decision of when a child will begin to receive communion is made between the parents/guardians and the child. Holy Communion instruction will be offered twice each year during the Wednesday evening Faith Formation time. Children do not need to be registered for Wednesday Faith Formation to attend these special classes.

Holy Communion Classes

November 17 - Children in second grade and higher who have not participated in Holy Communion instruction will meet with Pastor Tom from 5:00-5:50 PM. The Holy Communion celebration for these children will happen at the Thanksgiving Eve worship service on Wednesday, November 24 at 6:00 PM.

April 6 - Children in first grade will receive instruction with Pastor Tom from 5:00-5:50 PM. The Holy Communion celebration for these children will happen at the Maundy Thursday worship service on April 14, at 6:00 PM.

Faith Formation

Children's Ministry

Age 3(by 9.1.21) - Grade 5

NEW THIS YEAR – Children age three through grade 5 will have the opportunity to attend faith formation classes (formerly Sunday School and Impact) on either Sunday morning or Wednesday evening. The same program will be offered on both Sundays and Wednesdays so families can decide which day/time works best for their family.

During faith formation class, children open their Bibles each week and engage with Scripture! Watch them grow in faith as they encounter God's Word, participate in lessons and activities that reinforce the scripture, and are mentored by caring Christian adults.

Faith formation classes meet September 26/29 through mid-May. A donation of \$25 per student is suggested to help offset the cost of supplies and curriculum.

Sundays: 8:50 to 9:35 AM

Wednesdays: 5:00-5:50 PM

Youth Ministry - Confirmation

Grades 6-9+

Trinity's confirmation program begins in grade 6 and leads to Affirmation of Baptism typically in the spring of their 9th grade year. Please know that there is no "deadline," and youth may take as much time as they need.

Students typically meet for class 2-3 times each month, September-May. Students in grades 6-8 learn in both large and small group settings. 9th grade students will attend class with one consistent parent or adult mentor and will engage in learning and conversation together. Confirmation has a fee of \$35 per student.

Grades 6-8 – 1st/3rd/5th Wednesdays: 6:35-7:30 PM

Grades 9 – 2nd/4th/5th Wednesdays: 6:35-7:30 PM

Adult Volunteers

Relationships are the vehicle by which faith is passed on. Trinity is committed to facilitating life-giving relationships between young people and caring adults.

These relationships are often nurtured within the classroom, where adults can offer mentorship and leadership to the young people in their midst. We seek to create an environment in which young people feel safe to be who they are, express their creativity, and ask honest questions.

If you are interested in learning more about how to be in relationship with Trinity's children/youth on Sunday mornings or Wednesday evenings, please contact Heather Day (5th grade and below) or Ashley Olson (6th grade and above).

Music

God's Little Singers (GLS)

Age 4- Kindergarten

GLS rehearses in the Noah's Ark Preschool room, and activities will include: Bible lessons, worship anthems, praise and prayer, music and movement, rhythmic activities and instruments, team work, and much more. GLS sings in worship several times throughout the year and participates in Trinity's spring musical on Sunday, April 24. Children must turn 4 by 9.1.21.

Director: Jeanne Cooper, jeanne@trinity-ec.org or 715.828.6942

Wednesdays: 5:00-5:55 PM

Jesus and Me (JAM)

Grades 1-2

Children can continue to nurture their love of music in JAM which rehearses in the Chapel. JAM sings in worship several times throughout the year and participates in Trinity's spring musical on Sunday, April 24.

Director: TBD

Wednesdays: 5:00-5:55 PM

Totally Joyous Christians (TJC)

Grades 3-6

The youth in TJC begin to really learn choral music and technique in this choir which rehearses in Room 507 (Choir Room). TJC sings in worship several times throughout the year and leads Trinity's spring musical on Sunday, April 24.

Director: Corinne Gransee Paral, corinne@trinity-ec.org or 715.839.9173

Wednesdays: 5:00-5:55 PM

Celebration Singers

Grades 7-8

Celebration Singers rehearse in Room 507 (Choir Room) on weeks when they don't meet for confirmation. This choir sings in worship several times throughout the year and leads Trinity's spring musical on Sunday, April 24.

Director: Corinne Gransee Paral, corinne@trinity-ec.org or 715.839.9173

2nd/4th Wednesdays: 6:35-7:30 PM

CrossWord Youth Band

Grades 7-12

The CrossWord Youth Band leads the music for the Wednesday evening worship services September 15 through mid-May. Singers and instrumentalists are welcome and necessary. CrossWord rehearsals begin on September 8.

Director: Andy Hofer, andyhofer31@gmail.com or 715.271.1280

Rehearsal - Wednesdays: 5:00-6:00 PM

Worship - Wednesdays: 6:00-6:30 PM

Liturgical Dance Team

The Liturgical Dance Teams will not meet this fall, but hope to resume in the spring.

Director: Lynn Buske, lynnchristianson@gmail.com or 715.514.4648