



REFORMATION 500

October Series

"ALWAYS BEING MADE NEW"



Trinity is a Lutheran church. Our particular faith perspective was born from the actions and theology of Martin Luther in the early 16th Century. This year, churches around the world recognize the 500th anniversary of the church movement he began which became known as the Reformation. In 2017 we ask, "Reformed, for what?" During the month of October, we'll explore four major ways a Lutheran community like Trinity bears the legacy of the Reformation and how these ideas continue to reform the church, and our hearts, today.

- October 1 • **The Word is Out!** • 2 Samuel 12:1–7, Luke 19:1–10
- October 8 • **Women, Empowered** • Ruth 1:1–18, Acts 16:11–15
- October 15 • **#SinnerSaints** • Jonah 4:1–11, Romans 5:1–11
- October 22 • **God's Work, Our Hands** • Isaiah 58:5–9a, Matthew 25:31–40
- October 29 • **Reformation/Affirmation Of Baptism Sunday** • Jeremiah 31:31–34, Romans 3:19–28

"TOGETHER BY GRACE"

In honor of the 500th anniversary of the reformation, "Together By Grace" is a collection of articles written by a variety of Lutheran voices that talk about what it means to be Lutheran and how we see that acted out in churches around the world. Beginning October 16 at 6:00 P.M. in the Fireside Room, we will spend six weeks looking at what it means to be "Lutheran" and how we share this in a global community. The books cost \$12 with checks made payable to Trinity. Sign-up at Clipboard Central or contact Pastor Brahm at brahm@trinity-ec.org

- October 16: The Faith We Confess
- October 23: 16th Century to Today
- October 30: Worship and Art
- November 6: Faith Active in Love
- November 13: Being Lutheran in the World
- November 20: Stories of Global Lutherans

Reformation 500 Book Store

Want to know more about Martin Luther and the history of the Lutheran Church? You'll be able to peruse a number of books and order them right then and there! Reformation Books will be on sale at 50% off from Augsburg Fortress. A table will be set up in the library on Sunday mornings, October 8 and 15, after all services. Be sure to stop by and order your books!

Catholic—Lutheran Prayer Service

On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther proposed his 95 Theses in a desire to reform the Church. This year marks the 500th anniversary of that historic event. The last 500 years have seen both helpful reforms and sad divisions. We pray for unity while staying committed to the truth. Throughout the world, Lutherans and Catholics will be gathering to pray together and commit together to the things we share in common. Locally, a Prayer Service will be at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 1712 Highland Avenue, Eau Claire, on Sunday, October 29, at 4:00 P.M. A choir of over 200 people will lead the music. Food and fellowship will follow immediately at St. John's Lutheran Church, right across the street. All Lutherans, Catholics, and others are welcome.



Five Hundred

The design on the right is on a t-shirt I bought at the National Youth Gathering in Detroit a few years ago. Pixelated like the computers I grew up on, I thought it was cool. But the teenagers I was surrounded by, all who were born after the year 2000, just thought I was old.

Age is a relative thing at times! For even though the teens I work with so fondly make me feel old at times, many others who are more seasoned than I remind me that in the grand scheme of things, I am really not all that old. Which brings me to the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. 500 years is a long time. As Lutheran Christians, our roots are firmly planted in events of 1517. But what does that mean for us today? If "the 80's" is looked at as being old, what about things that were born 500 years ago? What good is history and tradition if they do not inform our faith and actions today?

That has been the challenge for us for 500 years as a church that is always reforming and always renewing. How do we hold onto the things that root us while leaving room for God's Word and the Holy Spirit to reform us and call us into something new?

God's Word, grace, forgiveness, service for to neighbors . . . these are some of the things that I find deeply ingrained in our way of following Christ as Lutherans. My faith takes root in them. What aspects of faith are central for you? How does God call you out into the world? This October, as we spend time considering what the 500 year anniversary means for us, I look forward to hearing how you are rooted in faith and called out into God's world.

Pastor Brahm

**LUTHERAN
SINCE THE
EIGHTIES**

Spaghetti Supper



Noah's Ark Preschool will host their Annual Fall Spaghetti Supper on Tuesday, October 24, from 4:00 P.M.–7:00 P.M. Come feast on a great spaghetti supper, meet new and old friends, enjoy children's activities, and participate in our annual Silent Auction. Themes for the Silent Auction baskets this year are "Reader's Corner," "Just Local," "Family Game Night," "Pamper Me," and a special "Noah's Ark" themed basket. The Silent Auction begins at 4:00 P.M. and ends promptly at 7:00 P.M. with basket winners announced. In advance, individual tickets are \$5.00 for ages 2–12 years and \$8.00 for age 13 and older. Advance tickets are available in the office during the week and in the lobby on Sundays, October 15 and 22. Tickets will also be sold on Wednesday, October 18, after worship. At the door, adult ticket prices will increase to \$10.00. Come join us to enjoy the community of Noah's Ark!

Yoga "Stretch and Pray"

If you are looking for a healthful way to begin your week and center yourself and your relationship with God, this opportunity may be for you. You are invited to a place where you can fuse Christian faith with the life-giving practice of yoga. On Monday nights this fall, from 6:30 P.M.–7:30 P.M., join us for Yoga and Prayer in our Trinity Room. All experience levels are welcome, and you do not have to be a Trinity member to participate! Cost is free, or you are invited to give a free will donation to the Trinity Women's Giving Circle. No pre-registration is necessary. Invite a friend!

Help Serve Communion

Because Holy Communion is an important part of our faith life, we need YOU to help serve communion on the first and third Sundays of each month. Simply sign-up on the clipboard near the Lobby drinking fountains for a particular date/service. Arrive ten minutes before worship, and check in at the table near the pulpit with the pastor leading worship to receive instructions. If you have any questions, contact Shirley Sands at 715.832.6601 ext. 214 or shirley@trinity-ec.org

Christmas Tree Crew

Our church is decorated by volunteers every year for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter. We rely on the dedication and talent of our volunteers to ensure that the building is ready! This year we are in search of a Christmas Tree Crew. We need volunteers who are willing to help set up, place, and take down our Christmas trees and wreaths.

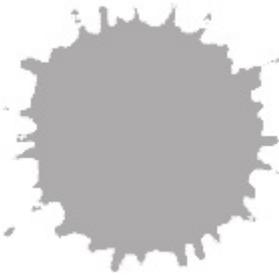
- **Setup Date: Thursday, December 7, at 3:00 P.M.**
- **Take Down Date: Thursday, January 11, at 3:00 P.M.**



CREATE

"What Is God Making in Your Life?"

It is exciting to see all that has been created by God's people at Trinity. As a pastor in the area for 20 years, I have been aware of Trinity's many gifts. Entering into my call as Pastor of Care and Concern, it has been marvelous to see the strength of the home visitor program that Pat Garber oversees. Parish Nurse Vicki Dueringer has shown me the carefully laid out steps of our grief ministry to members and how we work to be aware of people who may need extra support in life for a period of time. It seems like the layers just keep unfolding while at the same time, we talk together and dream of what else we can create to support members and those in the community.



All of these ministries lead us to respond to God with the return of our gifts. I am grateful for the monetary offerings and for those who share special skills by providing their time, or their body, in action while others share the stories of God's actions among us. Because we have a generous God, we all have something to contribute. We all matter. That's amazing to me!

One thing that amazes me about our generous God is that not only are we created and provided for, but we are also invited to become creators ourselves. As God creates creatures in Genesis, the humans are invited to name the creatures. Scientists continue to discover species of mammals that have not been identified before. Look up the Olinguito, for one super cute example.

Having been given this amazing creation as home, I feel I have the responsibility to care for it. I remember feeling a communal kind of pain when I visited the northern part of Cameroon, West Africa in the 1980's. Climate change was already expanding the Sahara Desert southward. In order to get water in the dry season, people were forced to walk miles to a main riverbed and dig until they finally reached water to drink and to wash their clothes. As we look at challenges like this, I am grateful for our ability to create, to find solutions for problems, and to learn how to do things in new ways to protect what we have been given.

Pastor Natalie

Join Us

If you're looking for a church home, please consider Trinity. We have great ministries and a compelling mission with many ways for you to engage the abilities God has given you and to grow in faith. "Discover Trinity" is the one evening event that brings newcomers into the life of Trinity. Our next class is Sunday, October 15, at 11:00 A.M. For more information, contact Pastor Sarah Semmler Smith at sarah@trinity-ec.org

Women's Giving Circle Annual Meeting

All Trinity members are invited to join the Women's Giving Circle as they meet on Sunday, October 8, in the Trinity Room. Refreshments will be available at 11:00 A.M., and the meeting will begin promptly at 11:15 A.M.

Even if you are not yet a voting member, come to find out more about this exciting organization as they review and vote on this year's set of grant recommendations. Board members for 2018 will also be elected. One lucky member will receive a gift basket! (Must be present to win.) Read more about the Women's Giving Circle on the Endowment tab of Trinity's webpage trinity-ec.org

Circle Listings

DEBORAH

Thursday, October 19, 9:30 A.M. Trinity
Hostess: Jan Jenson
Leader: Helen Mateski

MARTHA/MARY

Tuesday, , 6:30 P.M. Trinity
Hostess:
Leader:

MIRIAM

Wednesday, October 18, 9:30 A.M.
Trinity
Hostess: Sonia Becker
Leader: Group

RUTH

Tuesday, October 17, 1:30 P.M.
Hostess: Pam Burrows, 875 Windsor
Forest Dr. Altoona
Leader: Group

Free Devotionals

Pick up the two daily devotionals for this fall in the information rack today. There are a few large-print editions available.



Save the date for the Annual Advent Tea! Monday, December 4!



Received in August Memorials & Gifts

Endowment Trust Fund

- In memory of Sue Vance: Barbara Tischer
- In memory of Jack Dixon: Tom Rouse

Food Pantry Fund

- In memory of Sue Vance: Gary & Mary Rambo
- In memory of Georgi Tastad: Shirley Parr
- In memory of Jack Dixon: Jim & Marilyn Bollinger, Phyllis Burrows
- In honor of Dale Peterson's 90th birthday: Bill & Diane Burdt

Health Ministry Fund

- In memory of Sue Vance: Char Finseth
- In memory of Jack Dixon: Pat Garber

Library Fund

- In memory of Jack Dixon: Mary & Ron Doering, Gary & Gloria Crossman, Ann Felton, Jerry & Joanne Dow, Norb & Helen Wurtzel, Barb Lee, Lori Juneau
- In memory of Jim Ludwigson: Gary & Gloria Crossman

Memorial Fund

- In memory of Gary Schultz: Corinne Charlson

Endowment Trust Fund Youth Ministries

- In memory of Georgi Tastad: Charles & Connie Barnes; The Farley, Forster, Herbenson Group/Baird; Ardelle Brown

St. John's Bible Fund

- In memory of Jack Dixon: Dick Cable

Trinity Choir Fund

- In memory of Jack Dixon: Warren & Mavis Hermodson

Endowment Trust Fund Youth Scholarships

- In memory of Georgi Tastad: Duane & Virginia Walsh, Lynn Norheim & Daneen Gullicksrud-Norheim, James & Janice Gordon, James & Carolyn Watton, Arvin & Sara Boetcher, Kathleen Knuth, Wesley Tastad & Patricia Wellbank-Tastad, Roman & Diane Fritz, Rodney & Debra Ellifson, Leslie Foster, Family & Friends, Don Tastad

The Friendship Group

Looking ahead to October, the Friendship Group will host a bus trip to Historic Stillwater, Minnesota, on October 11. The bus will leave Trinity's parking lot at 9:00 A.M. Once we arrive, we will tour the historic city. Lunch will be at the German restaurant "Gasthaus." Food selections must be made at the time of sign up. The cost is \$60 made payable to Trinity Friendship Group. To make a reservation(s), please call Linda at 715.836.7719.

Out to Dinner!

Church dinners and bazaars are the best! Here are a few that are happening in "our neck of the woods."

Harvest Meatball Supper Extravaganza

The absolute finest Meatball Dinner will be at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 1300 Mansfield St, Chippewa Falls on Tuesday, October 3, from 4:30 P.M.–7:00 P.M. You will find the best quilts, the finest crafts, and the yummiest baked goods. Carry outs are available and the church is handicap accessible. The cost is adults \$10; Children 5–10,4\$.

Harvest Luncheon

The Annual Harvest Luncheon at Big Elk Creek Lutheran Church (6118 County Rd M, Elk Mound) will be at 12:00 P.M. on Wednesday, October 11. A program "Katie Luther: Here I Stand" (based on the 500th anniversary of the Reformation) will be presented. Please contact Virginia Ives at 715.874.6236 by October 2 to reserve a spot.



Social Concerns

Supporting Trinity's Hunger Ministry

Did you know that in the Chippewa Valley, 1 in 9 individuals are food insecure, meaning at times they do not know where their next meal is coming from? This number rises to an alarming 1 in 5 when we are talking about children.

Trinity needs your help. The pantry is only possible through your faithful gifts of money, food, and time. During the month of October, we have a goal of raising \$15,000 to support our mission of addressing hunger in our community. In addition, financial gifts received in October will be matched by Feed My People up to \$5,000 allowing us to do even greater things through our congregation's outreach.

Your designated gift can be placed in the offering plate in worship or dropped off in the Trinity during the week. Thank you for contributing to the strength and vitality of this mission!

Friends of Flynn

Nearly 60% of children at Flynn Elementary qualify for the federal free or reduced lunch program. These children often struggle with hunger on the weekends when school meals are not available. But, there is GOOD NEWS Trinity's Friends of Flynn Ministry partners with Feed My People each week to provide weekend meal bags to over 90 children at Flynn. We help pack the meals, deliver them to the school, and share in the cost. Thank you to everyone who helps make this possible. You are a blessing to these children! If you would like to support this ministry, note "Friends of Flynn" on your donation.

In the Mail

Dear Friends of Flynn,

As you know, having the essential school supplies on the first day of school is critically important. Your continued efforts and generosity in making sure our students have what they need goes a long way! Again, thank you for your continued partnership in making sure every student has a successful year of learning at Flynn.

Peace, Adam Keeton and the Staff at Flynn

Dear Friends of Flynn,

Thank you for your amazing gift of \$3,000 to Feed My People Food Bank supporting weekend meals for Flynn Elementary.

As you read this letter, school has begun and we are gearing up. Volunteers are busy packing bags of food that will be distributed every week during the school year. We have worked hard over the summer to improve our menus ensuring fresh fruit, vegetables, protein and other items are included in the bags.

We continue to be honored to share this partnership with you and are inspired by your generosity both financially and through gifts of time.

*Suzanne Becker
Assistant Director*

Noah's Ark News

Noah's Ark Preschool is underway for the 2017–2018 school year. We are blessed with wonderful families and children. We had great visit days with kids and parents or other caregivers. It was an awesome day for everyone to meet and learn about their school. We are thrilled to have full enrollment in our classes this year!

September was spent discovering in our classroom, meeting new friends, and celebrating God's creation. Kids have been investigating the world around them and discovering God's awesome creation from giant trees to the tiniest of pebbles, flying birds to crawling ants. Kids have had the opportunity to make their own paint creations, a stone creation, and even a cooking creation. Another kid creation comes with tie dying their very own Noah's Ark t-shirts. It's a joy to spend our days with such energy and enthusiasm! They are already becoming peacemakers in their words and actions!

As we look forward to October, we will be out enjoying the beautiful fall days...on our playground, making science discoveries, and looking for changes all around us.

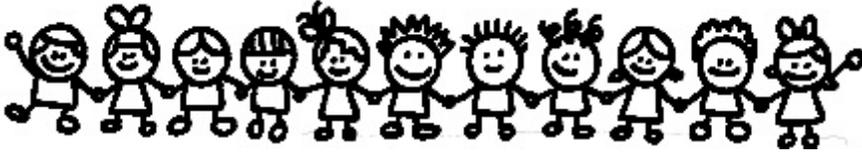
Also in October, we will celebrate our Noah's Ark community with our annual Fall Spaghetti Supper Fundraiser on Tuesday, October 24, from 4:00 P.M.–7:00 P.M. We hope you will join us! If you know of a business or individual who would like to help sponsor this event, please contact Marlee Knickerbocker. It's a great way to support this ministry of early childhood education at Trinity. Thank you for keeping Noah's Ark Preschool in your prayers!

In Peace,
Marlee Knickerbocker





Children's Ministries



Wednesday Impact and Sunday School

Wednesday Impact and Sunday School kicked off! Registration remains open for Wednesday Impact (Grades 3–6), choirs (Pre-Kindergarten–Grade 6), and Sunday School (Three Year Old– Grade Six). For more information, contact Sara Reed at 715.832.6601 ext 218 or sarar@trinity-ec.org or visit our website at www.trinity-ec.org We encourage children to bring their Spark Bibles to each Sunday School class and Wednesday Impact classes.

First Communion Instructions

We invite children who are in second grade and above who have not participated in Communion to meet for instruction on Saturday, November 4, from 9:00 A.M.–11:00 A.M. with their parents. Their first Communion celebration will be during the Thanksgiving Eve worship service at 6:30 P.M. on Wednesday, November 22, at 6:30 P.M.

Early Childhood Enrichment Programs for Winter/Spring 2018

Registration for Winter/Spring Early Childhood Enrichment Programs will be a call-in process on Wednesday, November 1, for Come and Play and Friday Friends only beginning at 8:00 A.M. Register for all other classes on Thursday, November 2, beginning at 8:00 A.M. To register, please call Sara Reed at 715.832.6601. Registration will occur on a first come, first serve basis.

For more information about our Winter/Spring Early Childhood Enrichment Programs, please see our website www.trinity-ec.org, our Facebook page, or contact Sara Reed at 715.832.6601 ext 218.

Health Ministries

As I write this article, Hurricane Marie is headed toward Puerto Rico and other islands in the Caribbean. Only two weeks ago, it was Hurricane Irma. Hurricane Jose is now heading up the East Coast and New England area, and don't forget about Hurricane Harvey which devastated Texas so recently. This leads me to our Red Cross Blood Drive on November 13. I know there is always a need, but I cannot think of a time in recent years when the need was this great. Not only do these areas need blood, but any donation sites that had blood drives scheduled in these areas had to cancel. So, please consider giving blood either at Trinity's blood drive, or don't wait and give blood now! You can sign-up online at redcrossblood.org and I will have a sign-up sheet at "Clipboard Central" starting

mid-October. For those of you who have never given blood, I can tell you, it is not a bad experience. I had not given blood until three years ago. I have "horrible" veins, so even a lab draw can be traumatic for me. The Red Cross staff are experts! Out of six blood drives, I have only had one failure. So please think about giving blood this fall.

Vicki Duerninger
Parish Nurse

A "Learning and Growing Experience"

Pastor Natalie and Parish Nurse, Vicki Dueringer are attending a retreat on "Conscious Eldering" at Ghost Ranch in New Mexico, October 1–7. Some of the areas addressed include: What distinguishes an "elder" from someone who is "older?" How can I transform the fear of aging into anticipation of the rich possibilities of the elder third of life? Please keep them in your prayers both as they prepare for this retreat and while they are attending.

Pastor Natalie and Vicki will then bring what we have experienced and learned at the retreat back to Trinity to share with you. And if you think you have to be over age 60 to benefit from what they learn, consider that adult children can learn a lot from this. Decisions our parents have to make that are life changing for them, we often see as "not a big deal." So look for more information to come in October when Pastor Natalie and Vicki return.

Monthly Healing Service

One to six people attended each monthly Healing Service over the summer. This is a brief service focused on prayer and anointing for individuals in need of healing or for their family/friends in need of healing. Join us on Sunday, October 15, at 9:15 A.M. in the Chapel

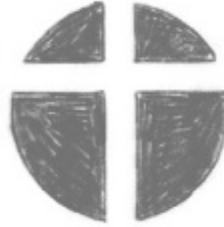
Along with that, we need knitters! Our prayer shawl supply is getting low. We have a lot of yarn just waiting to be made into a beautiful prayer shawl. Contact Cindy Beck in the office (715.832.6601) to volunteer.



YOUTH MINISTRIES

2018 ELCA Youth Gathering

Every three years, 30,000 high school youth and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives. High school students have an opportunity to travel to Houston, Texas from June 25–July 2, 2018 to attend The Gathering. Check the Tool Bench for more details and registration materials. Contact Cassie with any questions about the trip at cassie@trinity-ec.org. The registration deadline is Wednesday, October 18.



Affirmation of Baptism

Join in praising God and celebrating the Affirmation of Baptism of our sophomore confirmation students on Sunday, October 29, during the 8:15 A.M. and 9:45 A.M. Worship Services. Jackson Anderson, Melanie Balts, Alex Becker, Katie Becker, Ryan Belmont, Ashley Berger, Lauren Brantner, Hannah Brenden, Zachary Caterer, Dane Clouse, Maria Cruciani, Jake Gandrud, Brennen Gumbert, Kate Harris, Seth Hazen, Will Hesse, Caragan Hollenbeck, Samuel Hower, Emily Larson, Elizabeth Lindquist, Raymond Marcinke, Alec Marquardt, Leanna Massey, Ryan Nelson, Julia Nick, Thomas Nordlund, Morgan Parks, Riley Parks, Adam Phippen, Leila Running, Max Savaloja, Taya Schaefer, Kyle Schultz, Garrett Secker, Jacob Tepsa, Amanda Thompson, Jaxon Vance, and Aidan Wolniak.

Lutheran World Relief Load-A-Truck

Trucks will be ready to be loaded on Saturday, October 14, right here in Trinity's main parking lot. The first shift is from 8:00–9:30 A.M., and the second shift is from 9:30–11:00 A.M. Various churches from around the region, including Trinity, will bring their donations to be transported to Minnesota and then shipped around the world. Lutheran World Relief works to improve the lives of millions of smallholder farmers and people experiencing poverty in Africa, Latin America, Asia, and the Middle East both in times of emergencies and for the long term. A sign-up sheet for volunteers is available at the Tool Bench.

Luther Park Recharge Club 78 and Club 9 Retreat

The Luther Park Recharge is scheduled for the weekend of October 20–21. This retreat is 24 hours of camp to recharge faith through faith discussion, music, friends, and activities. This year's theme is *Lifeline*. The registration cost is \$80 and includes programming from 7:00 P.M. Friday until 7:00 P.M. Saturday, meals, lodging, and a Recharge t-shirt. Sign-up at the Toolbench and then register online at www.lutherpark.org or call 715.859.2215. Scholarships are available to offset the cost of registration if needed. Contact Ashley or Cassie with any questions at 715.832.6601 ext. 209.

Teen Study Club 78

Seventh and Eighth grade Affirmation of Baptism students are asked to attend ten Teen Study classes as part of their Discipleship Plan. Teen Study is scheduled on Sunday mornings from 10:30–11:05 A.M. in the choir room located across from the Trinity Room.

Noah's Ark Spaghetti Supper Service

Volunteer at the Noah's Ark Spaghetti Supper and support Trinity's Preschool Ministry on Tuesday, October 24. Help serve a meal, bus tables, or engage with children as you assist with games and activities. Contact Mrs. Knickerbocker at 715.832.6601 ext 205 for more details, and sign-up at the Tool Bench.



Trinity Library

Autumn Books Provide Colorful Reading

For the month of October, we focus on Martin Luther, and celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation. Look for the special display in our church library of books and DVD's about Martin Luther's writings, theology, and biography. A few to choose from include:

- *Martin Luther's Basic Theological Writings* edited by Timothy F. Lull and William R. Russell.
- *Treatise on Good Works* by Martin Luther. This book has been translated and introduced by Scott H. Hendrix.
- *Luther*, the major motion picture on DVD starring Joseph Fiennes as Martin Luther.
- *Luther: Gospel, Law, and Reformation*. This is a two part DVD produced by The Teaching Company and presented by Professor Phillip Cary from Eastern University.

Newly added Children's Books

- *I Love You the Purplest* by Barbara N. Joosse. Two boys discover that their mother loves them equally but in different ways.
- *When You See Flukes* by Katherine Hocker and Cheryl Cook. This is a conversation between a mother and her son as he learns about "what it takes to make a whale." Parents, teachers, and children learn about humpback whales.
- *The Gruffalo's Child* by Julia Donaldson. One wild and windy night, the gruffalo's child ignores her father's warning and tiptoes out into the snow. After all, the Big Bad Mouse doesn't really exist...does he?
- *This Place is Cold* by Vicki Cobb. This book focuses on the long, animals, plants, and climate of Alaska, presenting it as an example of a place where it is so cold your hair can freeze and break off.
- *Sleep* by Charles Anthony Silvestri. A young boy finds comfort after his loss while falling asleep.

50 Books to Read Before You're 5

These books are available in our Trinity Library! The American Academy of Pediatrics released a policy statement urging policy makers and pediatricians to become advocates for parents to read to their children daily, beginning as early as infancy. Library Committee members made this project a goal for 2016 and have all 50 books available for check out. The books, a list recommended by Books-A-Million, Inc., can be found on the A framed book display. Look for a bookmark list of the titles and for the *special 50 Books to Read Before You're 5* label on the front covers of the books. We hope you make it a goal in your families to read to your young children—please feel free to pick up our bookmark.

Page Turners Book Club

The Page Turners Book Club meets on Tuesday, October 17, at 6:30 P.M. to **discuss with author B.J. Hollars his book *Flock Together: A Love Affair with Extinct Birds***.

Told with charm and wit, *Flock Together* is a remarkable memoir that shows how "knowing" the natural world—even just a small part—illuminates what it means to be a global citizen and how only by embracing our ecological responsibilities do we ever become fully human. A moving elegy to birds we've lost, Hollars's exploration of what we can learn from extinct species will resonate in the minds of readers long beyond the final page.

If you haven't attended the book club in the past, or if you haven't attended for awhile, please join us. There are no special expectations to participate. Feel free to come whether you've finished the book or not. Please RSVP online at trinity-ec.org or sign-up at Clipboard Central. For more information, email Cindy Beck at cindy@trinity-ec.org





Your Offerings Bless Missions

Our church is blessed by every offering that is shared to support its mission and ministries. Thank you for your offerings. If you're not already using the convenient service of electronic fund transfer, please consider doing so. You may set this up at trinity-ec.org or receive assistance by contacting the Trinity office. If you're already using electronic fund transfer for your offerings and no longer need offering envelopes mailed to you, please email amber@trinity-ec.org

January thru August	2016	2017
Regular Offerings	\$723,531	\$684,802
Expenses	\$738,913	\$733,184
Variance	-\$15,382	-\$48,382

A Testimony to Faith and Trinity

—by Dick Cable

Before moving to Eau Claire in 1972, our family had already become quite involved in church. The process took time; however, over that time we embraced the Christian Concept, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." By the time we arrived here, it was not a matter of joining a church or not, but rather, which one? Since we moved into a house just a half a block away on Trimble, Trinity was the obvious choice. It has just grown from there.

Our family has changed over the 45 years, and now I'm an "empty-nester." But the decision to embrace the Christian Concept still impacts me in at least 4 important ways:

- **Attendance:** If I'm in town, I'm at the 8:15 A.M. service, sitting in the left side section with friends and fellow Christians. I have come to believe it's not optional. If I'm going to be a member of the Christian Church, I MUST be a part of The Community. Another key community for me is the Men's Small Group Bible Study which has been meeting for now over 20 years. That leads directly to the second way my Faith impacts my life today.
- **Being in the Word:** Being a part of our Men's Small Group Bible Study has probably been the most important decision I could have made, and at the center of that decision is Bible Study, "being in the Word." It has become the very core of my being and a blessing of the highest order.
- **Service:** Being in the right place, at the right time, led to another blessing for which I'm extremely grateful. In 2003, I was accidentally introduced to The St. John's Bible (SJB), and over these years as "the boundaries and territories" of the SJB expanded, so did my involvement in it. Those experiences have led me into a unique role in Trinity where I can be a part of God's plan for the SJB in the Chippewa Valley and beyond. Each Monday morning I have an opportunity to connect with our Trinity Page Turners and our week's Gospel. Now, that truly is a blessing and gives me meaningful purpose on a continuing basis.

- **Tithing:** We were blessed in 1962 with a situation which led to our family putting our giving on a planned percentage basis. When we started, we were NOT at the proverbial 10% level; however, as we came to learn, EVERYTHING is a gift, and things change over time. Now that I've been blessed in living to my stage in life, my tithing view is "Empty Barns." Rather than building more and bigger barns, I'm drawn toward the paradigm of "empty barns" which means what I have will be given to those I love and to those in need, during my lifetime.

As I am now in "the final two minutes of my game," I am grateful for the blessing Trinity has been to all of us. Thanks be to God!

Online Prayer Requests

You're invited to share prayer requests at trinity-ec.org by using the Prayer Request button. These requests go to our Prayer Link Team, and then they pray!

If you appreciate the benefits of prayer and are willing to pray for those who share requests, join our Prayer Link Team under the Grow menu at trinity-ec.org You will receive a monthly update of prayers and some inspiration for your praying. Please contact Becky Ragsdale for more information at becky@trinity-ec.org

When Your Address 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 your land line and are going exclusively to a cell phone, please share your phone number with your church. Email new information to Becky Ragsdale at becky@trinity-ec.org

"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

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Ginny Lien ginny@trinity-ec.org
Teacher
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Teacher

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Youth Ministry Coordinator

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Visitation Ministry Director

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Music Director/Organist
Gary Rambo—Trinity Choir
Ryan Poquette—Trinity Tollers
Kris & Brian Pressler—Worship Music Leaders
Drew Brandenburg—CrossWord Youth Band
Jeanne Cooper—God's Little Singers
Corrine Gransee Paral—Jesus And Me, Celebration Singers
Liz Drayton—Totally Joyous Christians

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

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- 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 November Newsletter is Tuesday, October 17.