



The Kings are Coming!

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

Noah's Ark Open House

All interested families are invited to attend our Preschool Open Houses on Sunday, January 28, at 10:45 A.M. following the Noah's Ark Sunday worship, and Monday, January 29, at 6:00 P.M.

Visit the Noah's Ark classroom, learn about the Noah's Ark program, ask questions, and gather 2018–2019 school year registration information. You will meet Marlee Knickerbocker, the Noah's Ark Preschool Director, along with teachers Jill Kasmarek and Ginny Lien. Members of the 2018 Noah's Ark Preschool Committee, who are Noah's Ark parents, will also be available to share their family experiences at Noah's Ark and answer parent questions. Brochures for the 2018–2019 school year will be available in the Trinity Lobby and throughout the building. It is also available online.

Baptism

Trinity celebrates baptisms regularly as an affirmation of God's gracious claim and a welcome into Christian community. For parents seeking to baptize their children, baptism classes are offered regularly. The class seeks to help parents both reflect on the meaning of the sacrament and prepare for the day, as well as connect them to faith formation resources. Childcare is provided. Sign up is online through the Trinity website. If you are an adult who is not baptized and are interested in pursuing your own baptism, contact Pastor Sarah at sarah@trinity-ec.org or through the office 715.832.6601. We look forward to walking with you toward that meaningful day!



Upcoming baptism classes for parents: Monday, January 15, 6:00 P.M.; Sunday, March 4, 11:00 A.M.; Sunday, May 6, 11:00 A.M.

Talk, Listen, and Pray

As Christians in community, we seek ways to support each other. It can be difficult to know how to give someone support beyond promising to pray for them.

Sometimes challenges can make us feel alone or misunderstood. Often it is helpful to gather with others with shared experiences. In Christian community, we gather knowing the Holy Spirit is with us and working in us as we gather and pray.

Talk, Listen, and Pray are gathering opportunities for groups of people who share a difficulty in life, a life transition, a loss, or any other life challenge. I will invite a group to gather for a confidential opportunity to share stories, give each other the gift of true listening, and to pray together.

Talk, Listen, and Pray opportunities will not be therapeutic or problem solving in nature. The purpose is to support one another and walk with one another while turning to God for support and direction. Participants will share only what they are comfortable sharing, and confidentiality will be a high priority.

Starting this month, I invite you to watch for a *Talk, Listen, and Pray* opportunity that fits your needs and to share ideas with me for groups you would like to see offered. I expect that the opportunity to speak the truth about our lives, to receive the gift of true listening without judgement, and to invite God to act will have a powerful effect on individual lives and our community as a whole.

Pastor Natalie



A Monthly Book Study with Trinity's Pastors Good God Books

The Bible is the source and norm of our life together. At the same time, for centuries Christians have listened for wisdom in the lives and thoughts of people of faith. Beginning this January, the Pastors of Trinity will facilitate a monthly conversation on one of their favorite or thought-provoking theological books. All are invited and welcome to these discussions. It is recommended that you acquire and read the book beforehand, but regardless you are welcome to come and be a part of the exchange of ideas. The books and dates for the first three months are listed below.

- January 22, 6:00 P.M. • *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis • Pastor Peter
- February 19, 6:00 P.M. • *Living Buddha, Living Christ* by Thich Nhat Hanh • Pastor Sarah
- March 26, 6:00 P.M. • *Speaking Christian* by Marcus Borg • Pastor Brahm

Simplicity Parenting

Simplicity Parenting is a two-part gathering for parents that will meet on Mondays, February 5 and 12, at 6:00 P.M. Do you ever feel like the lives of your children are filled with too much—too many activities in their schedules, too many toys in their house, too many pressures that didn't seem to exist in childhoods even just 20 years ago? Pastor Sarah invites parents and grandparents alike to a two part study and support group surrounding Kim John Payne's book, *Simplicity Parenting: Using the Extraordinary Power of Less to Raise Calmer, Happier, and More Secure Kids*. In today's busier, faster society is there a way we can protect the sanctity of childhood? This class seeks to ask and begin to answer that question. The book can be purchased through Amazon or at the BAM bookstore in Eau Claire. Sign up at Clipboard Central or online through Trinity's website. Childcare provided.

Praying in Color

On Wednesday, January 10, at 10:30 A.M., join Pastor Natalie in the lobby to learn to pray in color. Praying in Color is a way to be active in prayer that does not require artistic ability. Praying in Color allows us to pray with words and also to pray with our presence. If you find it difficult to pray about something or feel like you have run out of words to pray, Praying in Color might be right for you.

Talk, Listen, Pray

Attention all parents of atypical kids. Do you know about classroom adaptations or I.E.P. meetings? Do you count transitions or watch for sensory overload? Do you have experience with OCD, ADHD, or PANDAS? Are you an expert in something you never heard about before your child came along? You are invited to a session of Talk, Listen, and Pray on Thursday, January 25, at 6:00 P.M. If your child's path is unique, as a parent you may face unique stress, joy, judgement, and misunderstanding. You are invited to gather together to simply talk, listen, and pray with others who may have similar experiences. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Pastor Natalie at natalie@trinity-ec.org

Dear Friends,

When I look around my office, I notice the icons that I've collected over the years. They represent Russian, Greek, and Ukrainian styles, and I like them as art pieces as much as Christian devotionals.

The icons also remind me of Paul's letter to the Hebrews, Chapter 12, Verses 1–3: *Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of [b] the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart.*

I enjoy the idea that we're not doing the work of ministry alone, but that we are surrounded by a cloud of witnesses, present and past, inspiring and encouraging us beyond what we think we can accomplish. January is a month that is full of hope and promise. Soon though, that optimism returns to the daily obligations, of life and we're tempted to forget all that the saints before us created for us.

This January, take heart in knowing that we're not alone and that we cannot make a difference in the world around us. Let's run the race ahead of us together. When we look into the eyes of those icons or pictures of our loved ones past, our own cloud of witnesses, know that we too will make our mark for Christ. Let us be enlivened by our witnesses and by the words of the Advent hymn "Each Winter As the Year Grows Older" found in *With One Voice* 628. The final verse reads, "O Child of ecstasy and sorrows, O Prince of peace and pain, brighten today's world by tomorrow's, renew our lives again; Lord Jesus, come and reign."

Pastor Peter



In the News

Hmong Ministry Update • In April 1976, Trinity sponsored Yong Kay Moua, his wife Houa, their two toddler sons, and his two brothers, Dang and Lo Pao. In April 1978, we sponsored Houa's mother, Ma Xiong Vue, and Houa's four brothers and two sisters. While all of these individuals continue to strive and succeed, it is our immense pleasure to relay the following information to you about Sophia Yeu Vue, the youngest of Ma's children.

Media Release November 30—Today, Governor Mark Dayton announced the appointment of Sophia Vuelo as a District Court Judge in Minnesota's Second Judicial District. Ms. Vuelo will replace the Honorable Margaret M. Marrinan and will be chambered at St. Paul in Ramsey County.

"Ms. Sophia Vuelo has dedicated her career to pursuing justice for all Minnesotans, through her work with Minnesota courts, charities, and in her own private practice," said Governor Dayton. "Ms. Vuelo's commitment to public service has prepared her well for this important new role, as District Court Judge for Minnesota's Second Judicial District."

Ms. Vuelo will be the first judge of Hmong descent to serve in Minnesota, and the second to be appointed in the nation.

Feed My People • Trinity's own Peggy Larson has been named Feed My People's Volunteer of the Year for 2017. From Feed My People (FMP): *Peggy Larson has been an active volunteer at FMP for over eight years, giving over 750 hours. She began volunteering in the warehouse at the old Putnam Street location helping to pick orders for FMP's partner programs. When FMP moved to Alpine Road, she acted as their inventory control person and trained others for this task. The others came and went, but Peggy was consistent until we started receiving more trucks and needed to hire a staff person. At that time she began volunteering in the office helping to compile surveys, enter volunteer hours, maintain truck records, and perform other data entry projects. She regularly serves as an ambassador for FMP, bringing her positivity and passion for hunger-relief to community events. If there is a new project, staff often think about Peggy to handle it. Perhaps Peggy's greatest value lies in her flexibility and willingness to help in any way needed.*

Thank You from the Trinity Staff

The Trinity staff extends sincere thanks to all who remembered us during the celebration of Christmas. Your cards and delicious treats were appreciated. Most of all, your thoughtfulness and support touched us richly. We are grateful to God for calling us to serve this congregation and to experience your friendship and goodwill in so many ways throughout the year.

Quarterly Devotions Available

While you're making a new year resolution, do two more things! Pick up free devotional booklets in the information rack in the lobby and resolve to make devotions part of every day next year. There are two different booklets, so take both! Large-print copies are available, too.

Annual Congregational Meeting

Join the Annual Meeting of Trinity on Sunday, February 4, in the Worship Center at 10:45 A.M. This constitutionally directed event brings together all confirmed members to hear reports from the staff, review 2017, elect a new council, and adopt the 2018 budget.

The online Annual Report will be available at trinity-ec.org starting January 28. Please print a copy and bring it to the meeting. Print copies will also be available in the Lobby, and at the meeting.

Thursday Morning Text Study

Join a group of early risers on Thursday mornings from 7:30–8:30 A.M. in Room 208. This group comes together for a pastor led study on the upcoming Sunday morning texts. Coffee is provided beginning at 7:00 A.M., and the group brings breakfast treats weekly.

Moving or Going South?

If you're heading south for the winter, please inform us of your new address. Let us know when you're leaving and how long you'll be away, and we'll be sure to get Trinity mail to you in a timely fashion. Whenever you change address or change phone numbers (delete your land line), please let Trinity know! To share any changes, contact Becky at becky@trinity-ec.org or 715.832.6601 ext 202.



Noah's News

Happy New Year from Noah's Ark Preschool!

We return to preschool after a delightful advent and Christmas season with the children of Noah's Ark! The children learned the Christmas story of Baby Jesus and shared it with their family and friends through our class party programs, gifts to their family, and with their songs and words. It is the blessing of the season to have these children know Jesus and share his peace with their families and friends.



As January begins, Noah's Ark will relish a more relaxed schedule when kids are excited to be back to school with their friends and have time to play, discover, investigate, create, and learn. We'll be especially focused on the winter season with cold and ice. Hopefully we'll have some good snow and temperatures to allow some discovery and play outside, bundled up in warm snow clothes and boots!

We look forward to a Noah's Ark Sunday on January 28 at the 9:45 A.M. worship service. The children and families of Noah's Ark are invited to join us at this service, and we will sing a song for the congregation. Look for our beautiful rainbow tie dye shirts created by each child. Following the worship, we invite you to our 2018 Noah's Ark Open House. Come see our beautiful classroom space, talk to the teachers and committee member-parents, and learn what we are all about. We value discovery and learning through play, helping children become peacemakers, and sharing the love of God with every child who enters our space. Please look for our brochures placed in kiosks and holders throughout Trinity and share them with family and friends with preschool age children. Registration for the 2018–2019 school year will open to congregational members on January 30 with a phone-in registration. Contact me with any questions regarding our program or registration process at marlee@trinity-ec.org or 715.832.6601 ext 205.

In peace,
Marlee Knickerbocker, Preschool Director

When You Are Hospitalized

The Pastoral Care Team of Trinity makes frequent trips to visit hospitalized Trinity members. But to know about your hospitalization, they depend upon the hospitals having your admission coded into their system. This will not result in your name being shared with anyone beyond the staff. So, when you or a family member are admitted, please inform the hospital of your church affiliation. Better yet, share information about planned or unexpected hospitalizations directly with us by:

- Calling 715.832.6601 or emailing trinity@trinity-ec.org in advance of or at the start of hospitalization.
- Asking the hospital chaplain to call Trinity's office.

If you wonder if a Pastoral Care Team member is going to call on you, that's the time to call the church office! Thank you.

Received in November Memorials & Gifts

Friendship Group

- In memory of Sandra Blexrude: Darla Sorenson
- In memory of Alyce Bertelson: Linda McClelland

Food Pantry Fund

- In memory of Laurence Cook: Hazel Cook
- In memory of John Scholze: Susan Brumberg

Children's Bibles Fund

- In memory of Warren Saetre: Jim & Mary Karker
- In memory of Kjerstie Pressler: Mike & Dori Ritland

Health Ministries Fund

- In memory of Rita Hendrickson: Carla Brandrup

Circle Listings

Deborah

Thursday, January 18, 9:30 A.M. Trinity
Hostess:
Leader:

Martha/Mary

Tuesday, January 16, 6:30 P.M. Trinity
Hostess:
Leader:

Miriam

Wednesday, January 17, 9:30 A.M. Trinity
Hostess: Leatrice Solberg
Leader: Group

Ruth

Tuesday, January 16, 1:30 P.M., Trinity
Hostess: Mary Hoepner
Leader: Group



Children's Ministries

Early Childhood Enrichment Classes

Music & Movement

Children will move and groove as they explore music with song, dance, and instruments.

- Session Two: 10:00 A.M.–11:30 A.M. This class is for children who turn four between 9.1.2017 and 8.31.2018. Children experience this class independently.

This 17 week class meets on Mondays beginning January 8. There will be no class on January 22, February 26, or March 19. Cost is \$190.

Creative Arts

Spend Mondays engaged in a variety of creative activities! Children will dance, sing, and experiment with art processes. They will hear stories, Bible stories, and enhance language learning through finger plays. This class is for children who turn four between 9.1.2017 and 8.31.2018.

This 17 week class meets on Mondays from 12:30 P.M.–2:30 P.M. beginning January 8. There will be no class on January 22, February 26, or March 19. Cost is \$190.

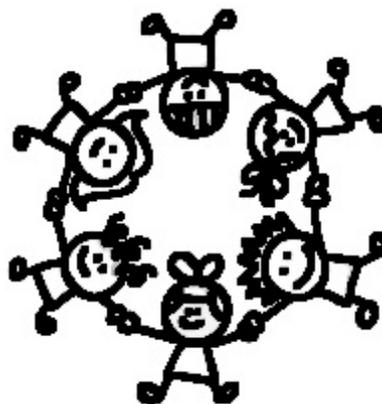
Come and Play

In this great precursor to preschool, children are provided a warm and safe Christian environment to play with other children. Art and music activities and snack are included. This class is for children who turn three between 9.1.2017 and 8.31.2018. This 20 week class meets on Wednesdays in Trinity's Nursery from 12:15 P.M.–2:15 P.M. beginning January 3. There will be no class on March 21. Cost is \$260.

Friday Friends

Friday Friends is for children who would benefit from an additional day of experiences. Children will hear Bible stories, other books, and will participate in art and music activities. This class is for children who turn three between 9.1.2017 and 12.31.2017.

This 17 week class meets from 9:00 A.M.–11:15 A.M. beginning January 5. There will be no class on February 23, March 23, April 20, or May 18. Cost is \$180



*Classes are subject to cancellation
due to low enrollment.*

Children's Ministries Inclement Weather Policy

During the winter, there are times when we cancel children's programs due to snow or ice storms. Please check our website for updates, or call the church office if unsure. It is our policy to close if the Eau Claire public schools are closed.

Volunteer in the Nursery

If you like to help care for young children and would be willing to help out in our Nursery during the 9:45 A.M. worship service one–three times a year, we would greatly appreciate it. We do have a full time nursery attendant, so your responsibility would be to assist. We will be making a new schedule of volunteers for January–May, 2018. If you are interested in being a part of ministry helping young families, please contact Sara Reed at 715.832.6601 ext 218 or sara@trinity-ec.org

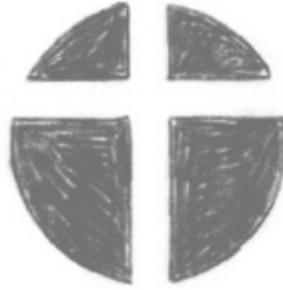
Open Gym Tuesdays

On Tuesdays, beginning January 2 through March 13, 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. We offer a story time and snack 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 is \$3 per child, per session.

*For more information on any of
our Children's Ministry
programming, please check out the
Trinity Website www.trinity-ec.org
or contact Sara Reed at
715.832.6601 or
sara@trinity-ec.org*



Youth Ministries



Luther Park Recharge Club 78 and Club 9 Retreat

The next Luther Park Recharge is January 5–6. 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. Register online at www.lutherpark.org or call 715.859.2215. Scholarships are available if needed. Contact Ashley at ashley@trinity-ec.org with any questions.

Friends of Flynn Weekend Meals

On Wednesday, January 10 from 4:00 P.M.–5:00 P.M. Trinity youth and adult volunteers will assemble weekend meals for Flynn Elementary School students as well as many additional elementary schools in the Eau Claire District. Please meet at Feed My People Food Bank, 2610 Alpine Road, on Eau Claire's west side.

Community Table

Food is a basic need of humankind, and it is our privilege to serve those who go without! Trinity will prepare and serve a meal at the Community Table on Sunday, January 14, from 1:00 P.M.–5:00 P.M. Both students and parents are needed to provide this service to the community. The sign-up sheet is available at the Tool Bench.

New Driver Recognition

On Wednesday, January 24, students who are eligible to earn a driver's license in 2018 will be recognized during the Wednesday Evening Worship Service at 6:30 P.M. Students will also receive a key chain as a gift from the Parish Nurse and the Youth Ministry Team.

Souper Bowl of Caring

On Sunday, February 4, youth will lead the "Souper Bowl of Caring," a nationwide hunger relief effort. Youth, sporting their desired team apparel, will invite each person present in worship to help reach our goal of \$1,000 in support of the hunger needs in the Eau Claire community. Look for the giant soup pots as you exit worship on Sunday, February 4. All contributions will be donated to The Community Table.

Wreath Fundraiser Thank You

The Trinity Youth thank the congregation for supporting the Wreath Fundraiser. The youth will use the monies raised to put toward the High School Summer Trip to the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas. A tithe from the proceeds will be brought to the National Youth Gathering to support the Houston Literacy Campaign "Blast Off For Books." Thank you again for your support.

Trinity Page Turners Book Club

The Page Turners Book Club meets on Tuesday, January 16, at 6:30 P.M. to discuss *Brain on Fire* by Susannah Cahalan.

An award-winning memoir and instant New York Times bestseller that goes far beyond its riveting medical mystery, *Brain on Fire* is the powerful account of one woman's struggle to recapture her identity.

When twenty-four-year-old Susannah Cahalan woke up alone in a hospital room, strapped to her bed and unable to move or speak, she had no memory of how she'd gotten there. Days earlier, she had been on the threshold of a new, adult life: at the beginning of her first serious relationship and a promising career at a major New York newspaper. Now she was labeled violent, psychotic, a flight risk. What happened?

If you haven't attended in the past, or if you haven't attended Book Club for awhile, please join us. 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

Page Turner Reading List through May

- Tuesday, February 20, *Garden of Stones* by Sophie Littlefield
- Tuesday, March 20, *The Same Sky* by Amanda Eyre Ward
- Tuesday, April 17, *A Manual For Cleaning Women: Selected Stories* by Lucia Berlin
- Tuesday, May 15, *Under the Wide and Starry Sky* by Nancy Horan



Social Concerns

Sharing at Christmas

Thank you to all who shared the spirit of generosity and love this Christmas. Because of your generosity, we were able to distribute toys, jackets, snowpants, clothing, household products, and food to 30 families in the community. This annual Christmas Sharing Project addresses needs of families with school-age children. Thank you to all who helped by purchasing gifts and food, by donating money, and by sorting and delivering the items to the families. Trinity makes a difference in people's lives, and you have a part in that mission. Thank you for your generosity.

January Spice Drive

Myrrh is mentioned in the New Testament as one of the three gifts the wise men brought to Jesus when he was born (Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh). Myrrh is a spice that has many uses including as a fragrance and as a flavoring in food products. One of the things rarely donated to food pantries is spices and food seasonings. To mark the arrival of the three wise men and highlight this need in the food pantry, Children's Ministries will be holding a spice drive during the month of January. See the display in the lobby for more information. Please bring UNOPENED spices and food seasonings to donate to the Trinity Food Pantry.

Food Pantry Volunteer(s) Needed

Trinity's Food Pantry needs a temporary Kwik-Trip driver(s) to pick up at two Kwik-Trip stores each Thursday morning from January 11–April 12, 2018. The Kwik-Trip stores are on Golf Road and Mall Drive. Please contact Sharry Hebert at, sharry@trinity-ec.org if you are interested in one or both stores.

A Food Pantry Volunteer Shares...

One of our regular couples came in one day. The husband was his usual quiet self, but the wife and I have a more verbal relationship. After he checked in, she bent over close to me and said, "We have an address!" As you can guess, I thought they had moved, but that wasn't the case. They had gotten off the streets and had an actual address, and she was ecstatic. She said they have walls, heat, water, and electricity!

The people we serve in the food pantry have all different situations. Some of them, like homelessness, are unimaginable to us. We hope that the food and kind words that we are able to provide will put a smile on their faces and hope in their hearts. Thank you for your ongoing support of the Trinity Food Pantry. We are making a difference.



Friends of Flynn

Our partnership with Flynn Elementary helps fill the gap for low-income students. We also strive to support the teachers and administration who work tirelessly every day for the kids. Thank you for making this happen! Here are a few of the things we accomplished in 2017:

- Healthy snacks were provided to students twice a week in the spring and fall.
- Weekend meals were delivered each Friday through our partnership with Feed My People.
- School supplies were provided in the fall and throughout the year as needed.
- Numerous pairs of athletic shoes were donated to the school for children to borrow so they may participate in physical education classes.
- Clothing items including socks, underwear, and sweat pants were donated for students in need of these items.
- Special treats were delivered to the Flynn teachers and staff to thank them for their commitment to the Flynn students.
- Children were allowed to pick out a book to keep before summer break and Christmas break.
- Lots and lots of Campbells® soup labels, General Mills® box tops, milk caps, and pull tabs off soda cans were given to the school. We will continue to collect these items!

Thank you for your support of this partnership. We look forward to new, exciting ways to support the students and teachers at Flynn Elementary in 2018.

Volunteer Opportunity!

If you are interested in volunteering with children, please contact Alison Harder. She is the Partnership Coordinator at Flynn Elementary. The Flynn telephone number is 715.852.3000.



Health Ministries

Dear Trinity,

It's the start of another new year. I remember at a younger age (30s) thinking about what it was going to be like entering a new century. And then 2000 came and Y2K. At work, we were "on-call" that New Years in case the computers crashed. And now it's 18 years later. I never thought this far ahead, but here we are.

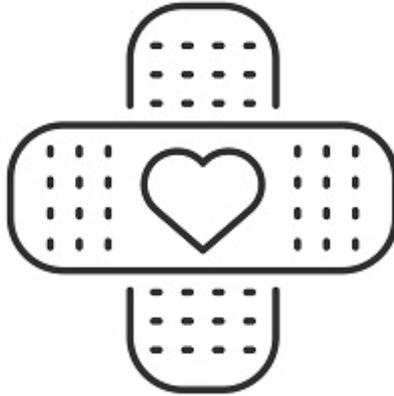
What is 2018 going to hold for each of us? None of us know what this year will bring. But we do know that through both joy and sorrow, change and routine, God is right beside us sharing in it all. We are never alone! Garth Brooks had a beautiful hit song called "The Dance." A few lines of this song are: *Now I'm glad I didn't know how it all would end, how it all would go. Our lives are better left to chance. I could have missed the pain, but I'd have to miss the dance.* So, embrace "your dance" this year!

- **Red Cross Blood Drive:** Thursday, February 8, from 12:30 P.M. to 6:30 P.M. I have added an extra blood drive this year. The number of donors is going down as more people no longer meet the requirements. Adding another drive will keep our yearly total stable.
- **Healing Service:** Sunday, January 21, at 9:15 A.M. in the chapel. This will mark our one year anniversary.
- **Legacy Letters:** Pastor Natalie and I are working on offering group sessions on writing legacy letters for our families, friends, or publishing (just kidding on that one). One of the topics at our October retreat on Conscious Aging was writing letters to those generations who follow us about our lives, values, passions, and exploits. Look for more information to come in the February Newsletter.

What does a Parish Nurse do? That was the subject of the Adult Forum on Sunday, December 3. Much to my surprise, most of the people who attended the forum really didn't know what I do each week. So I am going to share one topic each month. This month is the Bereavement Ministry. If you have someone close to you die, you will get a total of five letters from me along with information on grieving throughout the first year. The information helps a person understand that what they are going through is normal and that we all grieve differently and at a different pace. I have information on community resources, including support groups, that focus on grieving. And, if you just need someone to talk to, I am here to listen.

God Bless,

Vicki Dueringer R.N.



Healthy Christmas Appetizer

Burger Bites

Mini burgers with bacon, layered on a bamboo skewer with lettuce, tomatoes, and pickles! Who can resist your favorite foods on a stick! These burger bites make the perfect low-carb appetizer to please everyone from age six to age sixty. Just set out some ketchup and mustard for dipping, and watch them disappear!

Ingredients

- 2 lbs 93% beef
- 4 oz center cut raw bacon, minced
- 2 tbsp prepared mustard
- 1/2 tsp kosher salt
- 1/2 tsp onion powder
- 1/4 tsp black pepper
- 1 head butter lettuce
- 30 cherry tomatoes
- 30 dill pickle chips or slices
- ketchup, mayo, and/or mustard optional for serving

Directions

- Using your hands, gently mix together the beef, bacon, mustard, salt, onion powder, and pepper.
- Form into 30 (golf ball size) meatballs.
- Heat a grill or grill pan to high heat and grill 3 minutes on each side, or until your desired doneness.
- Place on skewers with lettuce, pickles, and tomatoes and serve with ketchup and mustard for dipping.

Yield: 30 "bites", Serving Size: 1 bite; Amount Per Serving: Smart Points: 1 Points +: 2 Calories: 66 Total Fat: 2.5g Saturated Fat: 1g Cholesterol: 20mg Sodium: 293.5mg Carbohydrates: 1.5g Fiber: 0.5g Sugar: 0.5g Protein: 8g



Trinity Library

*This January, resolve to
read a book from the Trinity Library!*

Read Biographies

- *Courage to Soar* by Siomone Biles. Four-time Olympic gold medalist and three-time world all-around gymnastics champion Simone Biles shares her ups and downs in this new autobiography. (B BIL)
- *I am Martin Luther King, Jr.* by Brad Meltzer. This biography of Dr. King inspires kids to dream big, one great role model at a time. (+ B MEL)

Read Fiction

- *The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead. This bestselling author chronicles a young slave's adventures as she makes a desperate bid for freedom in the antebellum South. (FIC WHI)
- *A Gentleman In Moscow* by Amor Towles. This story is about a count who was stripped of his title, belongings and freedom. He is under house arrest and is confined to the four walls of a Moscow hotel. The author skillfully guides readers across a century of Russian history, from the Bolshevik uprising to the dawn of the nuclear age under Kruschchev. (FIC TOW)
- *Britt-Marie Was Here* by Fredrik Backman. This best selling author of *A Man Called Ove* returns with an irresistible novel about finding love and second chances in the most unlikely places. (FIC BAC)
- *The Orphan's Tale* by Pam Jenoff. A powerful novel set in a traveling circus during World War II introduces two extraordinary women and their harrowing stories of sacrifice and survival. (FIC JEN)

Read Non-Fiction

- *Hidden Figures* by Margot Lee Shetterly. This young readers' edition is the untold true story of four African-American women who helped launch our nation into space. (+ 900 SHE)
- *Portraits of Courage* by George W. Bush. This vibrant collection of oil paintings and stories by President George W. Bush honors the sacrifice and courage of America's military veterans. (700 BUS)

Read Books That Encourage Kindness

- *Those Shoes* by Maribeth Boelts. All Jeremy wants is a pair of those shoes, the shoes everyone at school seems to be wearing. But his grandma tells him they don't have room for "want," just "need," and what Jeremy needs are new boots for winter. In this very real story, this young boy realizes the thing he has—warm boots, a loving grandma, and a good friend—is all that he needs. (++) FIC BOE)
- *We All Sing with the Same Voice* by J. Philip Miller and Sheppard M. Greene. This joyful Sesame Street song embraces the notion that no matter where children live, what they look like, or what they do, they're all the same where it counts—at heart. (++) FIC MIL)

- *Ordinary Mary's Extraordinary Deed* by Emily Pearson. A young girl's good deed is multiplied as it is passed on by those who have been touched by the kindness of others. (++) FIC PEA)

Read Books That Celebrate Immigration

- *Lost and Found Cat* by Doug Kuntz and Amy Shrodes. This is an unforgettable true story of survival and hope. (++) 304.8 KUN)
- *We Came to America* by Faith Ringgold. Vividly expressed in Faith Ringgold's sumptuous colors and patterns, *We Came to America* is an ode to every American who came before us, and a tribute to each child who will carry its message of diversity into our nation's future. (++) FIC RIN)
- *I'm New Here* by Anne Sibley O'Brien. Three children from other countries (Somalia, Guatemala, and Korea) struggle to adjust to their new home and school in the United States. (++) FIC O'BR)
- *The Journey* by Francesca Sanna. Based on her own interactions with people forced to seek a new home and told from the perspective of a young child. (++) FIC SAN)

READ MORE

Make progress on my TBR pile. Try a new genre!

Share a good book with a friend.

Prepare for plot twists – Write both real and fictional. down my favorite

♥ Reread an old favorite. ♥ favorite

Always carry tissues READ A lines.

for when public crying CLASSIC. 

becomes unavoidable.

ALWAYS read the book

Keep adding   before watching the movie.

to **Read every day!** 

my Never stop saying, Ask someone new for a TBR "Just one more chapter!" recommendation.

pile. Discover a new reading spot.

♥ Eat. Sleep. Read. 

"Serving in Christ's Love and Sharing the Good News"

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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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 February Newsletter is Monday, January 15.