



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
1314 E Lexington Blvd • Eau Claire WI 54701-6434
2020, March Newsletter—Vol. LXVI No. 003



Lent 2020

“We Are Church Together”

Our 2020 Lenten Theme this year is *We are Church Together*. The Holy Spirit uses us all in ways we haven’t dreamed or imagined to be the *Church Together*. Join us on Wednesdays for worship at 12:15 P.M. or 6:30 P.M.

- March 4 • Gathered By the Holy Spirit
- March 11 • Shaped By Word and Sacrament
- March 18 • Diversity and Challenges
- March 25 • Joys and Burdens
- April 1 • We Are Connected



Lenten Soup Lunches

Each Wednesday after the 12:15 P.M. Lenten service, the Trinity Room will be the place for marvelous soup and bread, enjoyable fellowship, and something sweet to end the meal. Ash Wednesday will be chili, corn bread, and dessert (all homemade). Please plan to join us in the Trinity Room each week. The menu will be posted before the service. We need volunteers to serve and clean-up! Please sign up at Clipboard Central. The free will offering profit will support Health Ministries.

Walk the Labyrinth

You are invited to walk or visit Trinity's Labyrinth. The Labyrinth will be available in the Trinity Room on March 25 from 2:00 P.M.–8:00 P.M., March 26 from 9:00 A.M.–8:00 P.M., March 27 from 9:00 A.M.–4:00 P.M., March 29 from 8:00 A.M.–1:00 P.M., and March 30 and 31 from 9:00 A.M.–8:00 P.M. Instructions and possible ideas for your prayer walk on the Labyrinth will be provided. Shoes are not allowed on the cloth, so we provide clean socks for you to borrow if you need them. Handheld Labyrinths will also be available for your use if walking is difficult or you feel the somewhat uneven cloth will be a challenge. Please remember to sign and date the guest book and, if you wish, share your thoughts and/or experience.

More information on walking the Labyrinth as a family can be found on page seven.

Pastoral Call Updates

- **Call Committee One:** Call Committee One is excited to have completed the first round of interviews for our new Children, Youth and Family (CYF) Associate pastor this past weekend. Our next step is to meet candidates in person for second interviews. We ask for your continued prayers as we move forward with the call process.
- **Call Committee Two:** Call Committee Two has had two meetings thus far. The committee is currently focused on developing plans to gather input from congregation members that will be used to determine the unique responsibilities for the third pastoral position. We intend to seek feedback through a variety of channels to allow for broad participation and well-rounded perspective. Watch for opportunities to contribute in the weeks ahead!



TRINITY LIBRARY

March is a great time to read something uplifting! You can find these selections in trinity's library.

Fiction

- *Dear Edward* by Ann Napolitano. In *Dear Edward*, author Ann Napolitano deftly navigates the psychological and physical trauma of 12 year old Edward Adler in the aftermath of a plane crash, of which he is the only survivor. He grapples with the loss of his family, his near-celebrity like status, and the adjustment to living with his aunt and uncle in New Jersey. In his new home, Edward's lifeline becomes his next-door neighbor's 12 year old daughter, Shay. (FIC NAP) **Note:** *Dear Edward* is a Today Show "Read with Jenna" Book Club selection.
- *Lady Clementine* by Marie Benedict. This historical fiction is the ferocious story of the ambitious woman beside Winston Churchill, the story of a partner (wife) who did not flinch through the sweeping darkness of war, and who would not surrender either to expectations or to enemies. (FIC BEN)

Non Fiction/Biography

- *Tightrope: Americans Reaching For Hope* by Nicholas D. Kristof & Sheryl WuDunn. The Pulitzer Prize winning authors address the crisis in working-class America, while focusing on solutions to mend half a century of governmental failure. (306.09 KRI)
- *Hill Women* by Cassie Chambers. In this memoir, quietly moving and powerful, Chambers shares her family's story while praising the fortitude, intelligence, and strength of Appalachian women. (B CHA)

Youth/Young People

- *Ellie's Story* by W. Bruce Cameron. Ellie is a special dog with an important purpose. From puppyhood, Ellie was trained as a search-and-rescue dog. She finds people and saves them, but people can be lost in many ways. (+ FIC CAM)
- *Bailey's Story* by W. Bruce Cameron. This book is an irresistible illustrated novel for young readers inspired by the bestselling book *A Dog's Purpose*. (+ FIC CAM)
- *Girl In Pieces* by Kathleen Glasgow. Glasgow's debut novel is a deeply moving portrait of a girl and the journey she undergoes to put herself back together. (YP FIC GLA)

Three books from the Narwhal and Jelly Book Series by Ben Clanton. Each book contains three stories, a comic strip, and seaworthy facts.

- *Narwhal, Unicorn of the Sea! Book # 1* (+ FIC CLA)
- *Super Narwhal and Jelly Jolt Book # 2* (+ FIC CLA)
- *Narwhal's Otter Friend Book # 4* (+ FIC CLA)

Trinity Book Club

The Trinity Book Club invites you to join them on Tuesday, March 17, in the Trinity Library at 6:30 P.M. to discuss *The Immortalists* by Chloe Benjamin.

It's 1969 in New York City's Lower East Side, and word has spread of the arrival of a mystical woman, a traveling psychic who claims to be able to tell anyone the day they will die. The Gold children—four adolescents on the cusp of self-awareness—sneak out to hear their fortunes.

A sweeping novel of remarkable ambition and depth, *The Immortalists* probes the line between destiny and choice, reality and illusion, this world and the next. It is a deeply moving testament to the power of story, the nature of belief, and the unrelenting pull of familial bonds.

A Book Recommendation

"*Dancing on Broken Glass*" by Ka Hancock.

This page turner follows Lucy and Mickey on an unforgettable journey living with cancer and a bipolar condition. It is truly a love story with all the feels that ends beautifully.

Gloria Crossman, Trinity Library Committee Member



Celebrate Dr. Seuss's Birthday

Sunday school classes are invited to visit the library on Sunday, March 1. Members of the Library Committee will be on hand to help check out books and distribute prizes. Stop by and see the library decorated for Dr. Seuss, and check out one of the 40 plus Seuss books in our collection.



Received in January Memorials & Gifts

Memorial Fund

- In memory of Evelyn Smieja: Erik & Kim Hill Phelps
- In memory of Chuck Erickson: Pat Garber, Char Finseth

Library

- In memory of Don Mertig: Suzanne & Mark Becker, Lori Juneau, Bob & Mary Schoenknecht
- In memory of Chuck Erickson: Lori Juneau, Bob & Mary Schoenknecht
- In memory of Jean Heike: Bob & Mary Schoenknecht

Trinity Book Club

- In memory of Don Mertig: Sharon DeRusha

Food Pantry

- In memory of Elaine Voss: Sharon DeRusha
- In memory of Pam Creydt: Mark & Marti Hofer, Dan & June Creydt

Prayer Shawls

- In memory of Don Mertig: Kurt Jacobson

Children's Bible Fund

- In memory of Jean Heike: Clif & Doris Husberg
- In memory of Oliver Christian: Bob & Mary Schoenknecht

Blessing for Healing

On Sunday, March 29, our worship will include a blessing for healing. We offer this acknowledging that God's Spirit has the power to bring wholeness. Jesus performed many different acts of healing, and the Church has continued these practices as a part of its ministry in Christ's name. In the praying for healing, we offer to God what is burdensome to us, believing that God accepts us and that we are embraced in God's goodness, care, and concern. Come and worship on March 29, and bring your friends with you.

Fill Empty Bowls

Feed My People Food Bank is committed to ending hunger in our community, but they can't do it alone! Join them in supporting local children, families, and seniors who struggle with hunger by attending Feed My People's Empty Bowls event on Thursday, March 5, from 11:00 A.M.–7:00 P.M. at The Florian Gardens. Enjoy delicious soups made by local restaurants, breads, beverages, and desserts. For a donation of \$20, you will receive your meal and take home a beautiful handcrafted bowl by UW-Eau Claire art students, area high school students, and other local potters. The meal without the bowl can be purchased for \$8.00. Children 10 and under are free. Tickets are available at Feed My People (www.fmpfoodbank.org) or at the door the day of the event.

Circle Listings

Deborah

Thursday, March 19, 9:30 A.M. Trinity
Hostess: Helen Mateski
Leader: Rose Sipple

Martha/Mary

Tuesday, March 17, 6:30 P.M. Trinity
Hostess: Dianna Miller
Leader: Group

Miriam

Wednesday, March 18, 9:30 A.M. Trinity
Hostess: Bev Tamke
Leader: Group

Ruth

Tuesday, March 17, 1:30 P.M. Trinity
Hostess: Char Finseth
Leader: Group

Women's Day of Renewal

The Women's Day of Renewal will be held on Saturday, April 25, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Eau Claire from 9:00 A.M.–1:00 P.M. Come and hear Julie Court speak about her faith. It's a day to feel spirited and refreshed. Come early for a Spa Surprise. Cost is \$13 and includes lunch. Free Childcare will be provided. Registration sheets are on the Women's Board. If you have questions, contact Jacki Johnson at 715.864.1489.



Come join the group! Quilting pros and novices alike are invited to join at any time. The group meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays each month at 9:00 A.M. in Trinity's lobby. Sew a quilt, and give the everlasting warmth and comfort of God's love! Join us March 10 and 24.



CARE & CONCERN

▲ Health Ministries

Dear Trinity Members,

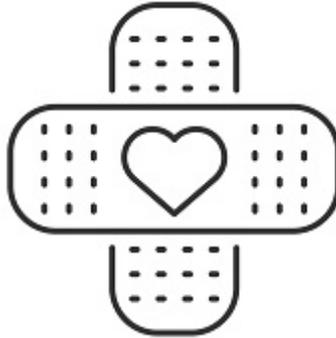
Ash Wednesday was February 26, the beginning of the Lenten Season. The focus this year is "We Are Church Together." 1 Corinthians 12:4 *"Now there are a variety of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and a variety of activities, but the same God who activates all of them in everyone."* Verse eight goes on to list the variety of talents we have been given.

On February 13 I saw those words put into action right here in the Trinity Room. We hosted a Valentine Luncheon for our seniors, with about 83 people attending. There were great cooks, awesome food prep, inspiring musicians and singers, motivated dish washers, decorators, and drivers who all worked together to make the event a very special time for everyone. Many gifts, same Spirit! We have a variety of groups/activities for seniors at our church. Each serves different purposes and goals. The Friendship Group combines socializing with service projects, speakers, and trips. Social Seniors go to a restaurant once monthly to enjoy good food and conversation. We have an exercise group focused on staying healthy, a Mahjong group (that definitely exercises the brain), quilters, music, four Women's Circle groups, Text Study, and the list goes on. This list reflects exactly what Paul was writing about. Trinity has one large group of wonderful Seniors; each one of us blessed by the Holy Spirit with different gifts and talents, interests, and needs. Come join the activities or groups that call to you.

I am going to feature two groups each month that our senior members might enjoy, starting with those more focused on socialization; then onto service groups.

- **Friendship Group** • Wednesday, March 11, at 10:00 A.M. in the Chapel. Everyone is welcome! This month they are making St Patrick's Day cards for our homebound, assisted living, and nursing home members. All you need to know is how to color within the lines! You learned that in kindergarten or first grade. Those who are interested will go out for lunch afterwards. The Friendship group has received a grant from Thrivent for \$250 to use for supplies for children's birthday bags for the Food Pantry which they periodically assemble.
- **Social Seniors** • Thursday, March 26, at 11:30 A.M. at Dooley's Pub, 442 Water Street (corner of Water and 5th Street). This is an Irish themed restaurant and bar. Most entrees are \$10 or under. Please sign up at Clipboard Central when the date is closer so we can let the restaurant know approximately how many will be coming.

Vicki Dueringer
Parish Nurse



Perinatal and Infant Loss Class

Trinity has been asked to field test a series from Spark House, and Pastor Mary Kaye and Parish Nurse Vicki Dueringer will host the sessions on four Sunday afternoons—March, 15 and 29; and April 5 and 19—from 2:00 P.M.–3:30 P.M. in the chapel. Please contact either Vicki or Pastor Mary Kaye with questions. We hope you will join us for thoughtful reflections, a safe place to share difficult feelings and thoughts, and reminders that God is with us through it all. Additional opportunities to care for families with these losses will happen later, including a remembrance service in the fall.

▲ Social Concerns

It's Friends of Flynn Fund Drive Time!

Donations are being sought this month to help fund the Friends of Flynn efforts. Our goal is to raise \$6,100 or more this month. You may already give to this wonderful community service mission through your weekly or monthly gifts. Others donate through memorial gifts and/or make donations of books, school supplies, and more. All gifts and donations are greatly appreciated.

There are many monetary expenses of this mission, and we use the month of March to raise additional funds to support this work. Friends of Flynn provides Weekend Meals through Feed My People, and our financial contribution to these meals is about \$7,000 a year. We also purchase shoes, clothing, books, sunscreen, and more to help support the basic needs and education of the children at Flynn. More than 50% of the children at Flynn qualify for free or reduced meals and need our support. Thank you in advance for your consideration and generosity in giving to Friends of Flynn.



Knitting in Prayer

Prayer Shawls, Pocket Prayer Shawls, and Prayer Beads are available from Trinity to be given to friends, neighbors, and coworkers experiencing a challenging time due to health concerns, death, or other major life events. If you are in need of any of these items, please contact Vicki Dueringer, Parish Nurse, at vickid@trinity-ec.org or 715.832.6601 ext 208.

If you can assist by knitting prayers shawls or pocket prayer shawls, please contact Cindy Beck at cindy@trinity-ec.org or 715.832.6601 ext 201 for more information on how to get started.

In the Mail,

Dear Friends of Flynn,

Happy New Year! It is hard to believe 2020 is here, and the school year is halfway through. Already your congregation has provided 807 bags of food to students struggling with hunger at Flynn Elementary, an accomplishment we couldn't achieve without you. Your kindness is not something we take for granted. Thank you for taking action against local childhood hunger by sponsoring, packing, and delivering weekend kids' meals. We look forward to the rest of the school year.

In gratitude,
Amanda

Vacation Bible School

VBS is scheduled for July 27–31 from 8:45 A.M.–12:00 P.M. Join us this summer to explore five Bible stories about our amazing God and what God has built! The cost is a suggested \$25 donation per child. VBS is for children who are three through sixth grade. The Kickoff Event is Sunday, July 26, at the 9:45 A.M. worship service. Online registration begins on Monday, March 2, at 8:00 A.M.



Noah's Ark News

Greetings from Noah's Ark Preschool and the Early Childhood Enrichment classes!

February was a month filled with love! We celebrated and shared love with friends, family, and God. God fills our hearts with love, and then we share that love with others.

We hosted our annual Noah's Ark Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on February 25. It's a wonderful opportunity for the Noah's Ark community and the Trinity congregation to come together for fellowship. It was a fun evening complete with delicious food, kid's activities, and our annual art stroll showcasing the beautiful artwork the children at Noah's Ark create.

Our registration process for the 2020–2021 school year is underway. We look forward to our returning children as well as welcoming new children and families to Noah's Ark in the fall. Continue to keep our registration process in your prayers as we work to share God's love and word with young children and their families.

March will bring more fun days together with our children, celebrating each one's differences, learning to be peacemakers, and continuing to grow in God's love!

In peace,
Marlee Knickerbocker

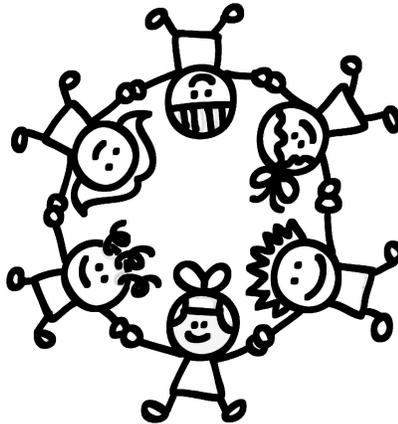
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY

▲ Children

Summer!

It's time to mark your calendar for 2020 Summer Day Camps! Summer brochures have been mailed, and registration is online. Check out our website for more information. Online Registration will open March 2 at 8:00 A.M. at www.trinity-ec.org/children_summer_camps.phtml

- Great Pretenders: June 8–11
- Camp Come and Play: Session One June 8–11; Session Two July 6–9
- Cook and Book: July 6–9
- Master Chef: June 22–25
- Luther Park Day Camp: June 15–18
- Vacation Bible School: July 27–31





No Children's Programming

Just a reminder that there will be no programming the week of March 23. Have a wonderful and safe spring break.

Open Gym

On Tuesdays, through March 17, from 10:00 A.M.–11:30 A.M. the Trinity Room will be open for parents, grandparents, or caregivers and their young children (toddlers—preschool) to come together to use our equipment in a large safe space. The area

will be supervised, and a story time and snack will be offered during the last half hour. Members, friends of members, and non-members are welcome to attend. No registration is required for Open Gym. The cost per session is \$3 for one child, \$2 for each additional child from the same family.



High School Counselors & Middle School Volunteers Needed

Trinity's Summer Day Camp Ministry is looking for high school counselors (completing grades 9–12) and middle school volunteers (completing grades 6, 7, or 8) to assist with Day Camps in June and July. For more information and to apply, visit Trinity's website at trinity-ec.org/children_staff.phtml Applications must be received by Friday, May 1.

- For additional information on Noah's Ark Preschool and Early Childhood Enrichment programming, please contact Marlee Knickerbocker at marlee@trinity-ec.org or call 715.832.6601, ext 205.
- For additional information on Summer Day Camp programming, please contact Pastor Mary Kaye Ashley at marykaye@trinity-ec.org or call 715.832.6601, ext 217.

▲ Youth

Middle School Youth Game Night

Do you want to celebrate Friday the 13th? Do you enjoy a little friendly competition with your friends? Do you love hanging out with Ashley? Please join Ashley on Friday, March 13, from 6:00 P.M.–8:00 P.M. in the Trinity Room for a creepy night of fun and games.

High School Breakfast

All high school students are invited to have breakfast with Ashley on Saturday, March 21, at 10:00 A.M. at Altoona Family Restaurant. It will be a fantastic morning of food, fun, and fellowship.

No Club 78 or Club 9 Programming

Just a reminder that there will be no programming on Wednesday, March 25. Have a wonderful and safe spring break.

Luther Park Recharge

The last Luther Park Recharge for the school year is April 3–4 and is for all youth in grades 3–12. This retreat is 24 hours of camp to recharge faith through faith discussion, music, friends, and activities. This year's theme is *Created by God*. The registration cost is \$80 and includes programming from 7:00 P.M. Friday until 7:00 P.M. Saturday. Included in the cost are meals, lodging, and a Recharge t-shirt. Register online at www.lutherpark.org or call 715.859.2215. Scholarships are available if needed. Let Ashley know when you are registered.



Summer Stretch 2020

GATHER together to learn from the Bible and one another, SERVE our community with our time and presence, and PLAY together through activities and fun. Summer Stretch gives youth who have completed grades 5, 6, 7, or 8 a safe, healthy place to belong where they can contribute to the community and socialize with their peers. Summer Stretch dates are July 16, July 21, July 23, August 4, and August 6. The registration deadline is June 1. Registration information may be found at the Toolbench.

- For additional information on Youth Ministries programming, please contact Ashley Olson at ashley@trinity-ec.org or call 715.832.6601, ext 209.



Luther Park Summer Camp

Spots are filling up fast, so get registered today! Ashley invites all children and youth who will have completed grades K–12 to attend camp at Luther Park Bible Camp in Chetek, WI this summer. Ashley will be at Luther Park Week Four, which is July 5–10, and she really hopes you are able to join her! If that week does not work for you, please find a week that does...you will LOVE IT! Check out www.lutherpark.org to learn more about Luther Park Summer Camps and to register.

▲ Family

Faith Formation in the Early Years "Why Brains Matter"

Join developmental expert Dawn Rundman for a helpful session on brain development, faith formation, and what parents, grandparents, and other caregivers can do to support faith in young children. Dawn pairs scientific research findings with practical suggestions to help equip caregivers with ways to weave faith into daily life.

Dawn will present in the Trinity Room on Sunday, March 8 at 3:30 P.M. Childcare is available, but with openings. Sign up for childcare by March 3 at Clipboard Central. This event is co-sponsored by Trinity Women's Giving Circle, Children's Ministries, and Noah's Ark Preschool.

Walking the Labyrinth as a Family

A labyrinth has a single path winding toward the center which is visible anywhere from the circuit's perimeter. Each step takes you closer to its center.

Walking the labyrinth can give you a sense of clarity, peace, and serenity. You can pray as you walk the labyrinth or just walk in silence. Walking the labyrinth can help you reconnect to God. For children, depending on age, the experience may be focused on walking at a slow pace, being mindful of each step and thought they have, saying a prayer as they walk, and what it feels like to enter the labyrinth, follow the path, reach the center, and then leave the labyrinth.

A labyrinth can teach you about your feet and about the rhythm of your breath and heartbeat. Some walkers identify the twists, turns, and center of the labyrinth with the twists, turns, and center of their own lives.



- Stage 1: *Releasing*. As you start your journey toward the center of the labyrinth, begin to release your thoughts and concerns.
- Stage 2: *Receiving*. When you reach the center, stay there as long as you wish, meditating.
- Stage 3: *Returning*. Once you return from the center and leave the labyrinth, you are ready to integrate back into everyday life with heightened spiritual awareness.

Whether you walk a labyrinth for stress reduction, problem-solving, or spiritual transformation, remember that there is no right or wrong way to journey on this path. The possibilities are endless.

Trinity's Labyrinth dates are:

- Wednesday, March 25, from 2:00 P.M.–8:00 P.M.
- Thursday, March 26, from 9:00 A.M.–8:00 P.M.
- Friday, March 27, from 9:00 A.M.–4:00 P.M.
- Sunday, March 29, from 8:00 A.M.–1:00 P.M.
- Monday, March 30, from 9:00 A.M.–8:00 P.M.
- Tuesday, March 31, from 9:00 A.M.–8:00 P.M.

Walking the Walk

In a labyrinth, let your walk unfold on its own. Don't try to make something happen. If you are seeking a more structured experience, here are three stages of walking the labyrinth:

"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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Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Assistant;
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Wednesday Kitchen Coordinator
Ashley Olson ashley@trinity-ec.org
Youth Ministry Director
Marlee Knickerbocker marlee@trinity-ec.org
Noah's Ark Director; Early Childhood Enrichment
Coordinator, Noah's Ark Teacher
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Jennifer Wiltgen
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Callie Larson

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Sharry Hebert sharry@trinity-ec.org
Food Pantry Coordinator

Worship & Music Ministry

Dr. Frank Watkins frank@trinity-ec.org
Worship & Music Director
Brian Pressler—Organist, Worship Music Leader
Gary Rambo—Trinity Choir
Ryan Poquette—Trinity Tollers
Kris Pressler—Worship Music Leader
Andy Hofer—CrossWord Youth Band
Jeanne Cooper—God's Little Singers
Corrine Gransee Paral—Jesus And Me, Impact Choir

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IT/Ministry Assistant

World Missions

Jabneh Christian Academy, Grange Hill, Jamaica
Blantyre Lutheran Parish, 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 April Newsletter is March 16.