



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
1314 E Lexington Blvd • Eau Claire WI 54701-6434
2020, November Newsletter—Vol. LXVI No. 006



Worship Update Online Only Beginning November 1

It has been so much fun meeting together for drive-in parking lot worship these past two months, but it's had a few technological and visual challenges. Starting November 1, we will return to online only worship live from our worship center. These services can be accessed live from our website, Facebook, or YouTube channel. They will also continue to be available for viewing later on YouTube.

With daylight savings time that day, we will also "fall back" to worship times of 8:15 A.M. (traditional worship) and 9:45 A.M. (praise band worship) to better accommodate our Sunday school schedule once we can be in person again. Once the Eau Claire Health Department moves to Level E clearance, we will communicate timing and health practices that will be needed to begin holding in-person worship on-site. Thank you for your patience in this time of disruption in our former routines.

All Saints Sunday

Both services November 1 give honor to God for the faithful people who have gone before us. In generous love, God has provided us with the saints, and in worship we'll include a visual remembrance of our family and friends who have died in the past year. All Saints is a wonderful festival to recall the people who have died in faith and passed along to us a legacy into the future.

Christmas Sharing Project

Trinity is excited to provide food, clothing, gifts, and other household items to families in the Eau Claire/Altoona area. This year we will be partnering with the Beacon House, Robbins Elementary School, and North Star Middle School. Gift tags with specific family information will be available ONLINE starting November 11. You will have the opportunity to choose items, purchase and wrap the listed items, print a confirmation email for your item(s), and drop the items off at Trinity during specific drop off hours. Stay tuned for drop off times!

We know that shopping may be difficult during this time, but there are many online options available. If you decide shopping is not a good option for you, please consider giving a monetary donation which will go toward purchasing non-perishable food for every family. Please visit our website starting November 11 (www.trinity-ec.org) to choose a gift tag, provide a monetary donation toward food purchases, and find specific gift drop off times!

For more information, contact Sara Reed at 715.832.6601 or sarar@trinity-ec.org

Interim Food Pantry Coordinator Needed

Trinity needs an Interim Food Pantry Coordinator. Sharry Hebert skillfully led the pantry for several years, and her departure has left a void in our ministry to the food insecure of our community. An efficient system and large group of dedicated volunteers have enabled our pantry to safely meet the growing demand for food caused by the pandemic. Now we need an Interim Coordinator to help carry on that leadership as the Food Pantry Committee and elected leaders discern how best to more closely integrate the pantry into the future mission of our congregation. We are looking for someone with good people skills to coordinate volunteers, organizational skills to manage big picture details, and a heart for serving God through feeding the hungry. The commitment would be approximately 20–25 hours per week. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Patrick at patrick@trinity-ec.org or call his cell at 507.779.4991.



Dear Friends:



When we think about faithfulness, our first experience of it may be in the loving relationship of our parents. We may see it demonstrated through a close friend. Faithfulness is a requisite attribute in a loving marriage. For some, faithfulness is seen in the eyes of a beloved dog or cat in their lives. All of our worldly examples of faithfulness, while wonderful, often break down at some point. Who is truly faithful? There is none but God. God is faithful to us, and we are called to mirror that faithfulness to God and our neighbors.

Faithful Together is not only a great way to live our lives, but it is also the theme of our annual stewardship pledge drive. We will kick it off on November 1 which is All Saints Day, and it will wrap up on November 15. Our pledge drive takes off as we recognize the faithfulness of those who have gone before us and helped to build a firm foundation at Trinity. The pledge drive concludes just prior to Thanksgiving, a season when we take stock of the many ways we've been blessed in the past year.

The reality is that the world happenings in 2020 have made it an especially difficult time for some to feel deeply thankful. Fear of disease and loss of connection caused by isolation was a new reality for many starting back in March. We had to lock up our church buildings and learn new ways of being faithful together even when we were apart. Many have lost jobs and livelihoods, while others have lost their health and even their lives.

And yet, through it all, God is faithful and has provided pathways for us to continue being faithful together.

- Worship services shifted to an online format for the safety of all members.
- Our food pantry pivoted operations to safely serve the growing need for food in our area.
- We successfully completed a call to Pastor Tom electronically, and we welcome his ministry.
- Faith formation efforts became creative in equipping families to learn and grow from home.
- Safe protocols were established to deliver the essential service of Noah's Ark preschool.
- Members continued to faithfully support God's mission at Trinity financially. Thank you!

Thanks to some expense control and the faithful support of our members, we hope to end this year in pretty good financial shape. As we look forward to next year and the ways God is leading us into a new future, we ask that we all be *Faithful Together* in that mission. Your financial pledge may just be one aspect of being *Faithful Together*, but it's an important one. Your pledge helps us to plan how we can be *Faithful Together* in the coming year. Please take time to consider where your family is at this time and how God is calling you to steward God's gifts. Then watch your mail for the envelope which includes your pledge card for 2021. Please complete the pledge card with the level to which you can commit for 2021 and mail it back to Trinity. You may also submit your pledge online at trinity-ec.org. If you give online, please review that level and see if there is need of an adjustment in that amount. Pledges in any amount are needed and appreciated.

God is indeed faithful, and we are *Faithful Together* with our fellowship in Jesus Christ! Thank you!

God's peace,
Pastor Patrick

From Pastor Tom

The month of October was a busy one for the Children, Youth, and Family ministry team at Trinity. We kicked off our Take Out Box offering for kids, we ate until we were stuffed with the Noah's Ark fundraiser at Chipotle, our newly reorganized confirmation program started online, our 10th graders affirmed their baptisms, we had a drive by trunk or treat, and much more. This whole month has left me feeling exhausted, but at the same time my heart is full. There is one word to describe how I feel looking back at the previous month, and that is thankful.

Later in November, we will all celebrate Thanksgiving in the United States. It is a holiday where friends and family gather for a meal, each other's company, and chances are to watch some football as well. But more than anything else, we all gather to give God thanks for the bounty of blessings that we have received. But I often wonder, do we really name what we are thankful for or do we just say a quick prayer and dive into the turkey, gravy, stuffing, mashed potatoes, and other foods that make us want to take a nap?

I think we are called to embody thankfulness this time of year, especially during a pandemic. When we overflow with thankfulness, it shows in everything: speech, attitude, and actions. We are first thankful to God and then thankful for our family, job, church, friends, coaches, neighbors, and even our boss. Instead of saying thanks once a year, perhaps we might personify this holiday year round. Maybe then we can live into one of Paul's most prized passages, "Whatever you do, whether in speech or action, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus and give thanks to God..."

Pastor Tom





CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY

Noah's Ark News

Greetings!

November...a month for special thankfulness! Here are some things we are thankful for at Noah's Ark this fall:

- **A** Apples for picking, investigating, painting, reading and singing about.
- **P** Peacemaking abounds all around us as we learn to work together!
- **P** Pandemic precautions...handwashing, mask wearing, toy washing, room cleaning.
- **L** Leaves all around...discovering God's painting brings us joy in red, yellow, and orange.
- **E** Everyone coming together to support Noah's Ark at our Chipotle Fundraiser...thank you!
- **S** Sunshine days together in God's beautiful fall world!



While routines are different in these first months of 2020, we have much to be thankful for, especially the precious children we spend our days with at Noah's Ark! May we all find blessings to count and give our thanks to God!

In Peace,

Marlee Knickerbocker, Preschool Director

First Communion Recognition

Congratulations to these children and their parents for participating in a recent First Communion class via Zoom. We welcomed them and their families to the Lord's Table on Wednesday, October 21: Sydney Johansen, Avery Kreiner, Brynn Keprios, Lila Riley, James Monson, Emelia Benedict, and Sierra Gullikson.

Children's Ministries Take-Out Pick Up

Join us at Trinity on Sunday, November 29, from 8:00 A.M.–10:30 A.M. to pick up your monthly takeout box! Contact Sara Reed, Director of Children's Ministries, to register for a take-out box at sara@trinity-ec.org

COMPASS Electives

The following electives will be offered during the month of November.

- Movie Study: *White Savior* with Heather Day
- Experiential Learning: *Praying in Color* with Ashley Olson
- Bible Study: *Food in the Bible* with Pastor Tom
- Independent Study: *Calendar of Kindness and Gratitude*

Sign-ups will be available on Monday, October 26, at 5:00 P.M.

Christmas Wreath Sales

We will be taking orders for Christmas Wreaths and Door Swags from Baroka's Wreaths from November 1–15. Orders and payment will need to be completed online at www.trinity-ec.org. Wreaths and swags will be available for pickup at Trinity on Tuesday, December 1, from 5:00 P.M.–6:00 P.M. and Wednesday, December 2, from 6:30 P.M.–7:30 P.M. This fundraiser raises money for the youth scholarship fund which assists youth attend various ELCA and Trinity sponsored events.

Youth Make Affirmation of Baptism

Confirmation is a pastoral and educational ministry of the church that is designed to help baptized children identify with the life and mission of the adult Christian community. It is celebrated in a public rite. On Sunday, October 25, the following high school youth publicly affirmed their baptism in worship: Lily Adkins, Evan Ambourn, Kimberly Balts, Alayna Brantner, Connor Brown, Isabelle Campbell, Brianna Fletcher, Gavin Gerber, Natalie Gruna, Jackie Halverson, Ian Hazen, Marley Hughes, Benjamin Kelly, Benjamin Kuenkel, Abbey Liddell, Austin Loasching, Ryan Long, Kendra Mangus, Berlyn Mastin, Kate Mohr, Fletcher Myhre, Leah Nelson, Keith Olsen, Ella Patenaude, Lexis Pedersen, Evan Peterson, Morgan Presler, Trae Schaefer, Delaney Scherf, Zoey Southard, Mason Stoik, Keane Thompson, Ryan Thompson, Thomas Tomesh, Nicholas Tumaniec, Brandon Wiley, Carmel Winkler, and Owen Wolniak.

CARE & CONCERN

Beacon House

Trinity will provide meals for the Beacon House November 1–5. Please contact Diane Fritz at 715.835.5021 to find out what meals are needed and where and how to drop them off at the Beacon House. Thank you!

Friends of Flynn

The Friends of Flynn is a Trinity mission project to support the children at Flynn Elementary School located on Lee Street. The committee meets to identify the unmet needs of the students that we can address, and we assist them with anything needed. For example, we just completed a request for school supplies for students, and we thank you for your assistance in this endeavor. We also work with the staff and supply snacks needed for the children during the week, as well as supporting the weekend meals program through Feed My People. A large portion of funds of your donations go toward Weekend Meals. The children at Flynn receive many gifts from our congregation including “forever” books at Christmas. We have also donated boots and snow pants to the students with your help. The students know where these gifts come from and are very thankful to our congregation for them.

Due to Covid-19, this year is different for all of us. It's stressful for everyone. Students throughout the district are learning differently this year, some are 100% virtual learners while others are blended, going to school in person two or four days a week and virtual the remaining days. The Friends of Flynn Committee is asking you, the congregation, to remember the staff, the students, and their families in your prayers during these unpredictable times.

Thank you to all who participated in the recent request to provide school supplies for our students at Flynn Schools. The following is a note from the school:

On behalf of the students and staff at Flynn Elementary School, please accept our heartfelt gratitude for the snacks and school supplies you provided for the students.

Many of our students have benefited from all that you have done for us. You play an important part in our school and your support is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership with Flynn. Thank you from all of us at Flynn Elementary.

We recently heard from Flynn's partnership coordinator the need for child size masks.

From Jessica, "Students are struggling to keep masks on if they are too big..." If you are a person who likes to make masks, please consider making them for Flynn Students. Remember to make them child size - put the finished masks in a marked bag for Flynn School and drop them off at Door # 1. We will see that they get to the school.

Thank you from the members of Trinity's Friends of Flynn Committee

Dear Trinity,

I thought it would be interesting to look at last year's November Newsletter to see what I had written. One of the things I wrote was that life had been pretty calm. Well, that sure changed!

Let's start with COVID-19. I feel it is around us more now than it was in March. In the beginning, I knew no one who had it. Now, my grandson tested positive last week, and members of our congregation have tested positive (some right after attending a drive-in service). I have a good friend who is a nurse at one of the local hospitals; beds are filling up. She had three admissions one evening of people with COVID-19 symptoms. So, no matter what anyone tells you or what you hear on Social Media; wearing masks, physical distancing, and washing hands DO protect you and those you love.

Flu shots...get one! You can get influenza and COVID-19 at the same time. Having two respiratory viruses at once would be a dangerous experience for just about anyone. Having either influenza or COVID-19 does NOT make you immune to the other. This year, more than ever, you need to get the flu vaccine.

Protect your mental health. Watching debates, the news about hurricanes and fires, political ads, etc. are enough to cause anger, depression, frustration, hopelessness, and more. First, shut off the TV and get off of Social Media. Go for a walk, write down what you're grateful for, think about three positives in your day. Then, remember this from Isaiah 41:10—"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

God is with us no matter what election results are, no matter what virus is out there, no matter what the weather brings. GOD IS RIGHT THERE WITH US EVERY MINUTE OF EVERY DAY. THANK YOU GOD!

Vicki Dueringer
Parish Nurse



Prayer Ministry

We pray that God's gift of salvation through Jesus Christ will bring comfort and hope to: Mark & Marti Hofer and Family upon the death of Mark's sister, Deborah Kay Hill; Pat Garber upon the death of her sister-in-law, Betty Garber.

You may make prayer requests for the Prayer Link by calling Corinne Gransee Paral at 715.839.9173 or Peggy Larson at 715.832.7307

Preventing Seasonal Flu

The first and most important step in preventing flu is to get a flu vaccine each year. Flu vaccine has been shown to reduce flu related illnesses and the risk of serious flu complications that can result in hospitalization or even death. CDC also recommends everyday preventive actions (like staying away from people who are sick, covering coughs and sneezes and frequent handwashing) to help slow the spread of germs that cause respiratory (nose, throat, and lungs) illnesses, like flu.



Memorials & Gifts

Memorial Fund

- In memory of Joan Harris: Joyce Rogers
- In memory of Joseph Dow: Barb Tischer, Stan Hillestad
- In memory of Clifton Husberg: Dee Maug
- In memory of Jean Hanson: Ken & Gloria Anderson

Children's Bible Fund

- In memory of Nathan Mollidrem: Bob & Mary Schoenknecht
- In memory of Clifton Husberg: Bob & Mary Schoenknecht, Barb Tischer, Arlene Martinson, Jane Reinl, Pam Ulness, Irene Stutlien and Family, Carla Brandrup
- In memory of Joseph Dow: Rose Sippel
- In memory of Alice Gunderson: Rose Sippel

Food Pantry

- In memory of Roman Fritz: Bob & Mary Schoenknecht, Deanna Schlieve, John & Marsha Arnette, Rodney & Debra Ellifson, Dennis & Norma Bohman, Paul & Joye Twesme, George & Lynne McLeod, Jerry & Joanne Dow, LeRoy & Carolyn Johnson, George & Donna Albrecht, Hans & Kimberly Perlich, Ronald & Rosalie Verdeggen, Kenneth &

Karen St. Louis, James & Karen McCrody, Keith & Rita Rodenberg, Donna Wagner Backus, Leslie Foster, John & Andree Biles, Lyle & Margaret Rasmussen

- In memory of Elaine Pomerening: Bob & Mary Schoenknecht
- In memory of Joseph Dow: Ed & Mary Elworthy, Doug & Joan Smith
- In memory of Patricia Carriveau: Diane Carriveau, Bill & Diane Burdt
- In memory of Erin VanStelle: Dianna Miller
- In memory of William Grokowsky: His Family
- In memory of Clifton Husberg: Marty Fisher Blakeley, Mae & Jill Benedict, Paulette Coyle, Mr. & Mrs. Jan Deetz, Mr. & Mrs. Billie Helte, Julie Morse, Susan Miller, Sharon Palmer, Karen Tazebiatowski, Delores Boley & James Schroeder, Mr. & Mrs. Curt Conrad, Pat Tasse

Library

- In memory of Joseph Dow: Bob & Mary Schoenknecht, Ron & Mary Doering, Paul & Amber Moltzau
- In memory of Alice Gunderson: Bob & Mary Schoenknecht, Paul & Amber Moltzau
- In memory of Clifton Husberg: Leatrice Solberg, Barbara Larson, Anna Jordan, Barb Lee, Lila Johnson

Endowment Trust:

- In memory of Joseph Dow: Jon & Maureen Homstad

"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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Gary Rambo—Trinity Choir
Ryan Poquette—Trinity Tollers
Andy Hofer—CrossWord Youth Band
Jeanne Cooper—God's Little Singers
Corinne Gransee Paral—Jesus And Me, Impact Choir

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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 December Newsletter is November 16.