



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
1314 E Lexington Blvd • Eau Claire, WI 54701

JUNE 2026 NEWSLETTER

PASTORAL SABBATICAL REMINDER

Beginning May 18, Pastor Tom entered a season of sabbatical. This is a sacred time set apart for rest, renewal, and growth away from the daily responsibilities of congregational life. Sabbaticals are an important practice in the life of the church, allowing pastors to return refreshed, renewed, and equipped for continued ministry.

During this time, Pastor Tom will be fully stepping away and will not be responding to texts, emails, or phone calls. We honor this boundary as part of the sabbatical's purpose — creating space for intentional reflection and renewal.

We trust in God's ongoing work among us and give thanks for the opportunity for both pastor and congregation to grow in this season. Please keep Pastor Tom in your prayers during this meaningful time.

WE ARE HIRING! COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR!

Trinity is hiring for a full-time Communications Coordinator position. For more information or a job description, please contact Dawn Paul at 715-832-6601 or dawn@trinity-ec.org.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 27-30 • 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

For kids who turn 4 by 9.1.2026 through those completing grade 5

This summer, we invite children to experience the Lord's Prayer through the theme "On Earth as in Heaven!" We will learn together the connections between prayer and service in the world, focusing especially on feeding others, having good health, quality education, and peace. Vacation Bible School is a time to learn Bible stories, sing songs, make new friends, play games, create art, and spend time outside exploring all that God has given us! Suggested donation is \$25 per child. Register on our website by July 1 to guarantee a t-shirt.

WITH GRATITUDE

Offering Update as of April 30, 2026.

- Amount Budgeted to Date: \$1,052,830
- Amount Received to date: \$979,850
- Expenses to Date: \$938,860
- Deficit/Surplus: \$40,990

Trinity offers three giving options:

- Scan the QR code
- Text "GIVE" to 715.468.6800
- Click GIVE on www.trinity-ec.org



Trinity Food Pantry Hours: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, 1:30–3:00 p.m.

Praise in the Park

Sundays this summer at 10am at Pheonix Park. Trinity leads worship on June 7, July 5, and August 3.

NOAH'S ARK REGISTRATION OPEN NOW!!

We currently have just a few openings for 4-year-olds in our afternoon classes! Available options include our Monday–Thursday PM class as well as our Tuesday and Thursday PM class.

If you are interested in registering your child or would like more information, please contact Kim Dewey at **715-832-6601 ext. 205** or email kim@trinity-ec.org.

We would love to welcome new families to our Noah's Ark Preschool community!

MEMORIALS & GIFTS

Friends of Flynn:

In memory of Gloria Anderson from Erik & Kimberly Hill Phelps.

In memory of Ginny Lein:

- Justin Seltzer & Christy Shields
- Jim & Lynn Gullicksrud
- Tim Anderson

Library: In memory of Gloria Anderson:

- Barbara Lee
- Loreen Juneau
- John & Amy Reents
- Dennis & Susan Wepler
- Richard & Susan Cochrane

Bible Fund:

- In honor of Easton Wehling's Confirmation from David & Mary Larson.

Noah's Ark: In memory of Gloria Anderson:

- D & B Skogan
- Richard & Brenda Walker

Food Pantry:

In memory of Glen Tamke from Neil & Mary Nelson.

In memory of Jim Husby from Alfred & Sarah Cardwell.

In memory of Jim Husby from Steve & Sue Marczinke.

In memory of Don Hangartner:

- Steve & Sue Marczinke
- Gary & Sharon Birkenmeier
- Clarice Gardow

In memory of Gloria Anderson:

- Roger & Marilyn Engen
- Bruce Weegman
- James & Marilyn Bollinger
- Neil & Mary Nelson
- James & Laura Ball
- John & Judy Jax
- Elizabeth Brenden
- Shawn & Heather Kapanke
- Ronald & Susan Seningen
- Kim Walker
- Geraldine Geary & Laurie Clary
- Ronald & Terrie Dulitz
- Richard & Laurie Clary
- EM & JC Ellenson
- Don Market
- Mildred Winters
- Karen Metzgar

ANNOUNCEMENT CENTRAL

FRIENDSHIP GROUP

The Friendship group will meet Wednesday June 10, at the Down to Earth Garden Center (6025 Arndt Ln). We will browse the greenhouses and Ben, the owner, will have a short presentation at 11 am on the patio. We will have lunch at the cafe. Come check out the flowers! See you there!

HIKE FOR THE HOMELESS

Mark your calendars, the 23rd annual Hike for the Homeless will be August 18th at River Prairie in Altoona. Registration for the hike begins at 5pm and the hike starts at 6pm. There will be a 1 mile or 2.8 mile option. All money earned will support families in the Chippewa Valley.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Trinity's next blood drive is Thursday, June 18th from 1-6:30 pm. Sign up at redcrossblood.org to donate. We are 110 units away from our yearly goal. Just one more reason to donate... did I mention homemade treats!

CONFIDENT DEMENTIA CAREGIVER SERIES

Sponsored by ARDC and lead by Lisa Wells, Dementia Care Specialist from Eau Claire County ADRC.

Location: Trinity Lutheran Church- Room 303

Time: Tuesdays from 1-2:30 pm

Dates: Fourth Tuesday of each month

- June 30th topic: "Let's Go Upstream," preventing and preparing for emergencies and crisis.

GRIEF AND LOSS SUPPORT GROUP

Location: Trinity Lutheran Church- Fireside Room

Time: 10-11:30 am

Dates: Third Wednesday of each month

This supportive and compassionate group is designed for older adults who are navigating grief and loss in any form; death, changes in health, loss of independence or other life transition. This group meets every month, with the next meeting on June 17th. Facilitated by individuals through ARDC.

LIBRARY TIDINGS

NEW BOOKS

Yesteryear by Caro Claire Burke. This satirical novel is about a “tradwife” influencer who wakes up in the 1800s, forced to live the harsh pioneer life she only pretended to portray online. It follows protagonist Natalie as she navigates a new reality, questioning if it's a hoax or something more sinister. The book explores themes of fame, faith and influencers. Readers might want to look up the term “tradwife”. (FIC BUR)

Judge Stone by Viola Davis and James Patterson. This legal thriller is about a Black judge in a small Alabama town presiding over a controversial abortion case involving a 13-year-old-girl. The novel explores hot-button issues, such as abortion, justice, racial and political conflict, with strong characters and courtroom drama. (FIC DAV)

The Lions' Run by Sara Pennypacker. *The Lions' Run* is a middle grade historical fiction novel about Lucas, an orphaned boy in Nazi-occupied France who finds courage and joins the Resistance. He teams up with Alice and they help save animals, uncover local secrets, and protect a Jewish family – exploring themes of friendship, bravery, and quiet resistance. (+ FIC PEN)

The Good Shepherd and the Stubborn Sheep by Hannah E. Harrison. This picture book for young children is a story that captures the essence of Psalm 23, showing the importance of trusting God in a fun and meaningful way. The book was donated to our library in memory of Ginny Lien, a long time Noah's Ark Preschool teacher, who would have enjoyed sharing this story with her students. (++) FIC HAR)

MEMOIR RECOMMENDATION

Mailman by Stephen Starring Grant. (B GRA)

When the Trinity Library Committee decides it's time to go shopping for new books, we look at various book lists to see what is new or coming out soon. I kept noticing a new memoir called *Mailman*, so on a recent shopping trip I placed the book “on the table” for consideration. It passed and I read it! Yes, the author, Stephen Grant, at the age of 50 became a rural letter carrier for the USPS in Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains. The teaser on the book jacket says “*Mailman* is a true tale of snow, rain, heat, the gloom of night, rogue dogs, crazy customers, the Amazon wars, a midlife crisis, and rediscovering America.” I invite you to check this one out and learn something new about America's least understood treasure. I did.

Mary Schoenknech
Trinity Library Committee Member

JUNE CORNER CUPBOARD

EVENTS:

The final count is in from the Reverse Lent calendars food donations. Thanks to all of you just over 620 pounds of food was collected and distributed this spring!

It's officially planting and growing season in Wisconsin. Please consider planting extra and donating any extra produce this summer to the food pantry. Our guests appreciate fresh products!

COMMUNITY:

Robbins Elementary School hosted their 5th annual food drive and collected 2160 pounds of staple food items for the food pantry shelves. They delivered all food collected, and Fifth Grade students came to the pantry to weigh, sort and shelve all of the donations. Thank-you all from Robbins Elementary for choosing Trinity Food Pantry!

First Presbyterian Church on Rudolph Rd continues to host monthly food drives delivering over 470 pounds of food this year!

MAY ACTIVITY/FINANCIAL:

- Number of families served: 3,000
- Average number of families served each week: 170
- Total food costs for 2026: \$19,000
- Dedicated account balance: \$56,800
- Total pounds of food distributed: 102,000

Sue Marczinke
Food Pantry Coordinator

CAMP COME & PLAY

June 22-24 • 9:15-11:15 a.m.

For kids who turned 3 between 9.1.2025 and 8.31.2026

Children will have an opportunity to play with other children their age in a safe, caring environment. They will hear Bible stories, participate in related activities and take time to share a treat. Camp Come & Play meets in the Noah's Ark Preschool classroom and is a great precursor to preschool. Cost is \$45.

Spaces are limited, so register early!

FRIENDS OF FLYNN

The Friends of Flynn Committee sincerely appreciates the generous support of all who have donated to the Friends of Flynn throughout this school year.

Your support provides:

- Food for the Flynn Family Food Pantry
- Snacks for every classroom to ensure all students can have a daily snack
- Snacks for 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students during the Forward Exams.
- Staff appreciation treats for all teachers and staff at the end of the school year.
- Lots of Books - so every student receives a new book to take home for the summer

Contributions to this ministry are accepted and greatly appreciated any time throughout the year. Checks should be made payable to Trinity Lutheran Church with the memo: Friends of Flynn.

Again, a special thank you to all that have donated. It is greatly appreciated by the committee, but especially the Flynn students, teachers and staff.

WOMEN'S GIVING CIRCLE

Many of you may not know about the Women's Giving Circle and it's mission. The WGC is a group of individuals who have established a donor advised fund within Trinity's Endowment Trust to support non-profit organizations in our community and within Trinity through grants.

As women in our faith community, the WGC is an opportunity to leverage our gifts by giving together. When we collaborate, we can be more effective; we can do more than one individual. Since 2015, the WGC has granted \$77,787 to a variety of programs; including TLC Food Pantry, various projects within Trinity, Red House of Hope, Children's Dental screening, English Language Learning, and many more.

You can join the Women's Giving Circle by paying an annual, tax-deductible membership fee of \$250.00 by June 30th. In the fall, the Board reviews the applications and awards the grants.

NOAH'S ARK PRESCHOOL & EARLY CHILDHOOD ENRICHMENT CLASSES

"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." Luke 18:16

Happy summer from Noah's Ark Preschool and the Early Childhood Enrichment classes! Our school year has come to a close, and we have enjoyed celebrating all of the learning, growth, and special memories made throughout the year. As we head into summer, we send our children out into God's beautiful world with hearts full of joy and wonder. We hope families will have many opportunities to enjoy God's creation through the eyes of young children.

In Peace,
Kim Dewey
Noah's Ark Director and ECE Coordinator

ECE REGISTRATION FOR THE 2026-27 SCHOOL YEAR

Registration for Fall 2026 and Spring 2027 Early Childhood Enrichment classes is now open.

- **Music and Movement:** Wednesdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
 - A parent/child class for children who are 18 months-36 months at the start of the session. A fall and spring session is offered.
- **Come and Play:** Tuesdays and/or Thursdays, 9:15-11:15 a.m.
 - A drop off class for children who are two years old by September 1, 2026. A Fall and Spring session is offered. Children may be registered for one or two days each week.

Brochures with additional information are available in the Children's Ministries office and on our website. For more information or to register, please contact **Kim Dewey at 715.832.6601 ext. 205 or kim@trinity-ec.org.**

THANK YOU

Thank you for supporting Noah's Ark Preschool through your Down to Earth Flower orders. We hope you enjoy your beautiful plants throughout the summer season!

CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILY

PLAYGROUND PLAYTIME

Thursdays • June 11-July 23 • 10:00-11:00 a.m.

No Playtime on July 2

Invite your friends to enjoy Trinity's fenced-in playground area together! The playground has a sandy surface, so there is plenty of opportunity for digging as well as exploring the playground equipment. Trinity also has a few trikes and cars for little ones to drive! This playground is best for ages 6 and under, but older siblings are also welcome. No registration is needed. Caregivers must stay with and supervise children at all times.

VBS VOLUNTEERS

Adults and students in grade 6 and older are encouraged to participate in Vacation Bible School (July 27-30) as volunteers. Volunteers are needed in a variety of areas including STEAM, snack/kitchen, nursery, and more! Middle school volunteers will be paired with a high school counselor and a small group of children. Watch for a volunteer sign-up coming later this spring!

HIRING: VBS COUNSELORS

Current high school students (completing grades 9-12) can apply to work as small group leaders during Trinity's Vacation Bible School (July 27-30). Students will lead a small group of children for four mornings during VBS and will have a required training on July 23. Students will be paid a stipend at the end of VBS unless they prefer to volunteer their time. Application forms are available online at trinity-ec.org/register and are due by June 1.

FATHER'S DAY- JUNE 21

On Father's Day, we give thanks for the fathers and father figures who encourage, support, teach, and care for those around them. Whether through quiet acts of kindness, guidance, or simply being present, their impact is deeply meaningful.

We wish all fathers and father figures a joyful and blessed Father's Day

LUTHER PARK BIBLE CAMP

Trinity children and youth are invited to join us for a fun week at summer camp! Trinity encourages students to attend Luther Park Bible Camp during Week 3, June 21-26, 2026.

Campers stay in cabins and experience the wide variety of fun and activities available at Luther Park. Kids will engage in creative Bible studies, worship, campfires, and meaningful small group discussions, along with swimming, games, and developing community with new and old friends.

Check out the Luther Park website at www.lutherpark.org to learn more about Luther Park summer camps and to register. Scholarships are available to Trinity kids – just enter the code TLEC when registering for a 25% discount off one week of camp

SUMMER STRETCH

June 29-July 2 • 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
For kids completing grades 6-8

STRETCH YOURSELF!

Summer Stretch is a ministry for middle school youth, led by high school youth! We meet for a short week in the summer and do service projects throughout the community each morning, then participate in a (top secret) just-for-fun activity each afternoon. On the last day of Summer Stretch, we will go on a full-day surprise trip to somewhere fun! The cost for Summer Stretch is \$125, which includes all activities, a t-shirt, some meals, and admission to our full-day surprise trip. Students may need to bring their own meals some days. Register by June 1.

ADULT VOLUNTEERS:

Volunteer drivers will be needed to transport kids between activities each day. Please contact Katie Conner if you are able to drive.

SUMMER STRETCH ASSISTANTS:

Youth who have completed grades 9-12 may serve as assistants for the week. They will lead small groups and help in other ways. The cost is \$65, which includes admission to our full-day surprise trip.

Grounded in Connection

A SUMMER SERIES EXPLORING
OUR CONNECTION TO GOD
AND TO ONE ANOTHER

ADAPTED FROM CHURCH ANEW

Peter

Peter betrays Jesus, damaging their relationship, by denying him three times during his arrest and trial. There are many ways that relationships can be damaged, and each of us have hurt and have been hurt by loved ones. After his resurrection, Jesus seeks to repair his relationship with Peter by asking him to reaffirm his love as many times as he denied him. Healing and repair is a mutual process of honesty, accountability, forgiveness, and recommitment.

John 18 & 21

Being in community can be difficult. Feelings get hurt, betrayal, heartache, and pain sometimes happen in community. Even though Peter denied Christ three times, Jesus invites him back into community. In the dome in which God reigns no one is disposable. No one is thrown away. All are welcome back into the fold. All who are hungry are invited to come and eat.

Road Trip Activities

- In this week's story, the disciples get a miraculous catch of fish -- 153, to be exact! Pick something to count and see how high you can get. Or get your family together and take turns counting -- how fast can you get to 153?
- Breakfast bingo: Summertime breakfasts can be different from our schooltime breakfasts. Maybe you eat something different, or with different people, or in a different place. Check off all your breakfast experiences this summer.
- SPARK Bible p. 462

Questions for Connection

- What lessons did you learn about healing and forgiveness growing up? How has your understanding changed over time?
- What are some of the essential steps towards healing a damaged relationship?
- Tell someone about a time when you had to seek forgiveness for some pain or harm you had caused in a relationship. What did you do to try and repair the connection?
- Guilt and shame are powerful emotions that tell two different stories – guilt says “I’ve done something wrong” and shame says “There’s something wrong with me.” How have you seen shame impact people and relationships and what are some antidotes to shame that can restore someone to community?

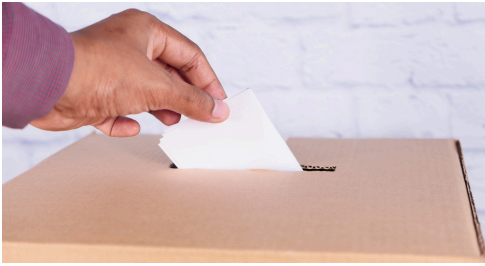
Grounded in Connection

A SUMMER SERIES EXPLORING OUR CONNECTION TO GOD
AND TO ONE ANOTHER

ADAPTED FROM CHURCH ANEW

Milk	In a car	With a fork	Pizza	Bread
Sitting on a picnic blanket	Cereal	Donut	Cooked on a campfire	Oranges
On a plate	Pancakes	With people who love you	Eggs	Yogurt
In a restaurant	On a beach	Apples	In a bowl	On a boat
Fish	Smoothie	Toast	On a plane	With a spoon

There are 5 things from the disciples' breakfast with Jesus. Can you find them? Did the disciples get bingo?



2026: ELECTIONS & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

For Lutherans, civic engagement is both **our calling as Christians** and **a responsibility for residents of the United States**.

The ELCA and the Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin (LOPPW) **provide resources and opportunities** to support rostered ministers, congregations, synod offices, seminaries, campus ministry groups, and individuals with civic engagement. Engagement with God's work in the public sphere is based on **careful discernment that transcends partisanship**.

**Any participation by congregations in activities related to the electoral process must be strictly nonpartisan and abide by Internal Revenue Service guidelines.*



Election Dates in Wisconsin:

- **August 11:** Primary Election
- **November 3:** General Election

There are many ways to get involved during an election year. From researching candidates and making a plan to vote yourself to organizing activities such as voter registration drives and volunteering as a poll worker – there are ways for everyone to engage!

Below are resources from the ELCA that can help support your work on this. The back side of this sheet outlines LOPPW's plans for 2026.

ELCA RESOURCES

- Lutherans Engaging in the Electoral Process
- Being a Public Church in the Electoral Process
- ELCA Election Engagement Toolkit (*forthcoming*)
- Prepared to Vote Checklist (*forthcoming*)
- And more!

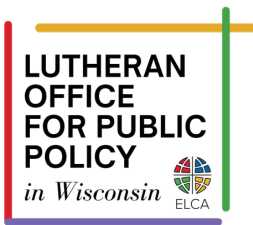
Access these and other resources at:
www.loppw.org/election



EMAIL
KACY.KOSTIUK@ELCA.ORG



PHONE
608-940-1808



ELECTIONS & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT: Events, Opportunities, & Resource Guides

Elections are a season, not a day! Join the Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin throughout this year to learn, engage, and get inspired. A list of anticipated activities is below.



ONLINE EVENTS

Summer 2026

Elections & Civic Engagement: What the ELCA Teaches & How Congregations Can Engage

Fall 2026

The Election is Over, Now What? Post-Election Processing & Ongoing Engagement



OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Training opportunity on civic engagement education for youth – available to rostered and lay leaders who work with young people (*details coming soon*).

In-person presentations from LOPPW at your congregation or to your ministry team (*contact us to arrange one!*).

Blurbs with trusted election information that can be shared in your congregation or ministry team newsletters.



RESOURCES & GUIDES

Civic Engagement Planning Tool (*forthcoming*) – Use this tool to help plan civic engagement activities based on your capacity and goals.

One-page guides for synod teams, congregations, ministries, and individuals (*forthcoming*) – Use these Wisconsin-specific guides to prepare, engage, and identify relevant ELCA resources to support your outreach and activities.

Additional resources on specific topics are also planned. Sign up for our mailing list and visit the Elections 2026 webpage regularly so you don't miss new materials and opportunities!

Visit the LOPPW Elections 2026 webpage to access materials:
www.loppw.org/election



KACY.KOSTIUK@ELCA.ORG



608-940-1808

“SERVING IN CHRIST’S LOVE AND SHARING THE GOOD NEWS”



STAY CONNECTED

Find inspiration, updates, and ministry news on our Instagram & Facebook pages:

- Trinity Lutheran Church
- Children, Youth, & Family Ministries
- Noah’s Ark Preschool



CONTACT & LOCATION

- Phone: (715) 832.6601
- Website: trinity-ec.org
- Location: 1314 E Lexington Blvd
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PASTORS

Patrick Patterson - Ext. 216
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Tom Westcott
On sabbatical May 18 - August 18

CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILY MINISTRY

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Marlee Knickerbocker
Early Childhood Enrichment Teacher

Kelly Bruxvoort
Early Childhood Enrichment Teacher

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Tatyana Roberts
Adult Choir Accompanist

Gary Rambo
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Heidi Wildes
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WORLD MISSIONS

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

- Please submit all articles for the Trinity Tidings electronically via this QR code or on the Trinity website on the “Newsletters” page at the “Communications Request” button.
- All submissions must be your own work. Any copyrighted materials (code, images, or otherwise) must include written permission from the original source.
- Deadline for the Newsletter is the **15th of each month.**

