



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

NOVEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

Wednesday Advent Series – Pause, Prepare, Ponder

This Advent, we're invited to take a sacred pause — to step away from the rush and noise of daily life and enter a space of quiet reflection and prayerful waiting. We pause to listen for God's voice breaking into our ordinary moments. We also prepare — not just our homes and calendars, but our hearts — to welcome Christ anew. Advent calls us to wake up, to rise in faith and action, to join in God's work of reconciliation, justice, and peace in our world. And we ponder — the great mystery of God made flesh, the fragile hope of a child born for us, and the promise of Christ's coming again to make all things new. Come be renewed in spirit and grounded in grace as we pause, prepare, and ponder together.

Wednesdays in Advent | 6pm | Worship Center

COMING SOON: ADVENT!

The season of Advent begins Sunday, November 30th! Advent is a time of hopeful waiting and preparation as we look toward the celebration of Christ's birth and the promise of Christ's coming again.

In these four weeks leading up to Christmas, we light the candles of the Advent wreath reminding us that even in the midst of darkness, Christ is our light. Join us each Sunday at 8:15am and 9:45am as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Emmanuel, "God with us."

WITH GRATITUDE

Offering Update as of September 30, 2025

- Amount Budgeted to Date: \$315,849
- Amount Received to date: \$220,875
- Expenses to Date: \$257,896
- Deficit/Surplus: -\$37,021

Trinity offers three giving options: Use the QR Code, text "GIVE" to 715.468.6800, or click GIVE on www.trinity-ec.org



RENTAL HOUSE UPDATE

Rental House Remodel Complete and Ready to Rent!

The remodel of the church's rental house has been completed by JDM Construction and Remodeling LLC, and the property is now ready for new tenants! We're grateful for the excellent work done and excited to meet new neighbors.

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



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

As we enter November — a month filled with turning leaves, cooler air, and the aroma of Thanksgiving dinners on the horizon — our hearts turn toward gratitude. Thankfulness isn't just a seasonal theme; it's a spiritual practice that shapes how we see the world and how we live as God's people.

Paul's encouragement to "give thanks in all circumstances" might sound simple, even quaint, until we realize he wrote those words while facing hardship and uncertainty. Gratitude, for Paul, was not dependent on comfort or success. It was an act of faith — a way of seeing the world through the lens of God's grace rather than our own control. In our Lutheran tradition, we understand that all that we have — our lives, our talents, our time, our possessions — are gifts from God's overflowing goodness. Martin Luther wrote in the Small Catechism that God "daily and abundantly provides me with all the necessities and nourishment for this body and life." Gratitude, then, is not a response to perfection or prosperity; it's a response to grace.

During this month of Thanksgiving, we invite you to pause and name what you are thankful for — not only the joys and blessings, but even the challenges that have deepened your faith or drawn you closer to others. In the ELCA, we talk often about being "freed by grace to love and serve our neighbor." Thankfulness frees us in just that way — to see beyond ourselves, to recognize God's presence in community, and to respond with generosity and compassion.

Trinity, we are thankful for you — for your faith, your presence, and your partnership!

Pastor Patrick and Pastor Tom

MEMORIALS & GIFTS

Food Pantry

- In memory of Jane Hartman: Skip, Scott & Nate Hartman; Skip Hartman
- In memory of Tom Burrows: Barbara Lee
- In memory of Judy LaFave: Michael & Debra LaFave; Neil & Mary Nelson
- In memory of Jerry Anaas: Barbara Helland; Jon Skoyen; Lori Engedal; Phyllis Grohn; American Express Transport; Gregory & Diane Weber; Barbara Hardy; Marilyn Hintz; Joanne Erickson; James & Dawn Ulwelling; Susan & John Schultz; Anonymous Donor; Curtis & Lois Bloom
- In memory of Sam Yanakopulos: Lynn Gullicksrud; Robert Jacobson; Sharon DeRusha
- In memory of Richard Milheiser: Sue Marczinke
- In memory of Ilene Zien: Judy & Bob Pielhop
- In memory of Audrey Biles: Dave & Jeanette Suchla

Memorial Fund

- In memory of Tom Burrows: John & Maggie Larson; Ruth Circle
- In memory of Sam Yanakopulos: Pierrette Yanakopulos

Library

- In memory of Judy LaFave: Bob & Mary Schoenknecht

Quilters

- In memory of Sam Yanakopulos: David & Sonia Becker; Doris Henning; Roxanne Berg; Judy Foss; Ginny Yanakopulos

Children's Bibles

- In memory of Tom Burrows: Dickson Family; Dean & Debbie Brovick; Judy Schneck; Donna & Jim; Cheryl & Steve Ohms; Charlotte Finseth; Suzanne LaRoux; Kristi Kastelic; Kathy Litscher; Marge Oleson; Renae Pierce

Music Scholarship

- In memory of Sam Yanakopulos: Karen Marie Hanson

General Fund

- In memory of Sam Yanakopulos: Pat Garber; Sharon DeRusha



LIBRARY TIDINGS

New Books:

***The Boxcar Librarian* by Brianna Labuskes:** Inspired by the fascinating true history of Missoula's Boxcar Library, this novel blends the story of strong, courageous women who survived and thrived in the rough and rowdy West with the power of standing together to fight for workers' lives. Through it all shines the capacity of books to provide connection and light to those who need it most. (FIC LAB)

***The Lost Baker of Vienna* by Sharon Kurtzman:** This historical novel, inspired by the experiences of the author's own family after the Holocaust, is a sweeping saga about survival, loss, love, and the reverberating effects of war. (FIC KUR)

***Something to Look Forward to* by Fannie Flagg:** Joyful and surprising, this novel celebrates how people from all across America cope with adversity and unexpected changes in a confusing world. (FIC FLA)

***Three Days in June* by Anne Tyler:** *This new Anne Tyler novel is destined to be an instant classic as the socially awkward mother of the bride navigates the days before and after her daughter's wedding. Told with deep sensitivity and a tart sense of humor, it is full of the joys and heartbreaks of love, marriage, and family life.* (FIC TYL)

***A Marriage at Sea* by Sophie Elmhirst** *This true story follows Maurice and Maralyn, who quit their jobs, sold their house, bought a boat, and sailed away for adventure. For nearly a year all went well—until a whale knocked a hole in their boat. What ensues is a fight to survive in the wild ocean in a tiny rubber raft. It's a story of endurance, codependence, and the power of love.* (B ELM)

Books for Youth

***The Eyes & The Impossible* by Dave Eggers:** A 2024 Newbery Medal recipient, this story follows Johannes, a dog appointed by three elderly bison to be the "eyes" of the park in which they live. It's a tale of friendship, beauty, and liberation—suitable for readers of all ages. (+ FIC EGG)

***An Elephant in the Garden* by Michael Morpurgo:** The best dog walkers in town are back in the third book of this heartwarming graphic novel series. (+ FIC FAI)

***Paws: Hazel Has Her Hands Full #4* by Nathan Fairbain:** The best dog walkers in town are back in the third book of this heartwarming graphic novel series. (+ FIC FAI)

Books for Young Children:

- ***God Made Us*** by Link Dyrdaahl (++) FIC DYR) God made every animal different, but each is special in its own way, just like us. With beautiful illustrations and a sweet message, this book will delight and inspire young children at story time.
- ***Pete the Cat: Too Cool for School*** by Kimberly and James Dean (++) FIC DEA)
- ***Come Closer If You Dare! Animal Predators Up Close*** by Camilla De La Bedoyere (++) 591 BED) Get close to the most fearsome animals in the kingdom! With incredibly detailed photography and fascinating facts about terrifying predators from around the world, this is a perfect read for fearless children.
- ***The Legend of Spookley the Square Pumpkin*** by Joe Troiano (++) FIC TRO) In this special Halloween story, children learn that Spookley the Square Pumpkin was different- other pumpkins made fun of him until he proved that being different can save the day.

BOOK RECOMMENDATION

***Memorial Days* by Geraldine Books (B BRO)**

One of my favorite authors, Brooks writes a concise, heartrending story about the unbelievable news she gets on Memorial Day, 2019, that her beloved husband, Tony Horowitz, has died on a book tour. He was 60 years old and in apparent good health.

After three years of complex tasks including doing the final writing on the book *Horse* plus doing a book tour for that, she was still left feeling broken and bereft. After 35 happy years of marriage, two sons and a lost life she cannot replace, she flies to a remote island off Tasmania to begin this spare and moving memoir about which she says: "Write the truest thing you know, said Hemingway." Dear Reader, this is it.

Sonnie Jacobson
Trinity Library Committee Member

NOVEMBER FOOD PANTRY CORNER CUPBOARD

The staff from Associated Bank worked a Tuesday afternoon pantry shift and also donated 48 pounds of food. Thank you, Associated Bank, for again choosing Trinity Food Pantry for your community give-back!

Luke 3:11:

Luke 3:11 Ministries will be located in the main parking lot on November 18 and December 9 from 1:00–3:00 p.m. If you know of anyone needing winter clothing items, please let them know about these dates.

Thank you to Lou Kelsey, Bev Fishbaugher, and Kathy Nelson for distributing candy to all the kids at Trunk or Treat, representing the Food Pantry. Volunteers also handed out treat bags to all guests during Halloween week.

If you have extra plastic grocery bags or egg cartons, the Food Pantry can use them! Please place donations in the cart right outside the pantry doors.

Activity/Financial:

- Pounds of food distributed YTD: 210,000
- Total food costs YTD: \$50,000
- Current dedicated account balance: \$40,500
- Number of guests served YTD: 7,000

Sue Marczinke
Food Pantry Coordinator

GRIEF & LOSS SUPPORT GROUP FOR OLDER ADULTS BY THE ADRC:

The next Grief Support Group is Wednesday, November 19th at 10am in the Fireside Room. This group is for not only loss of a loved one, but also loss due to health issues, independence, and loneliness. Everyone is welcome. If the group is too large for the Fireside Room, we will meet in a room with more seating.

CARE & CONCERN

STAYING HEALTHY THIS WINTER:

Germs spread in many ways, including:

1. From hands to food – especially if the food preparer is sick or hasn't washed their hands.
2. Through coughing, sneezing, or touching your face – then touching another person or surface.
3. By children during daily routines – such as changing diapers, wiping their nose, or sharing hugs and kisses before bed.
4. From surfaces and pets – germs can live on countertops, door handles, and even your pet's fur, skin, or scales.
5. From food to hand – uncooked or undercooked meat, poultry, and seafood can carry harmful germs that spread to other foods. Always wash your hands after handling raw meat, and wash fruits and vegetables before eating.

Tips for staying healthy this winter:

- Wash your hands often (or use hand sanitizer).
- Clean your cell phone and other frequently used devices.
- Stay up to date on your vaccines.
- Wear a mask if you're feeling ill or if you are immune-compromised.

GETTING A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP AS WE AGE

As we get older, our bodies produce less melatonin, the hormone that helps us fall and stay asleep. We also produce cortisol, a hormone that supports our stress response. Cortisol levels naturally drop in the evening but begin to rise again after midnight to prepare us for the next day. These changes can make it harder for many of us to get a full night's rest.

Tips for better sleep:

1. Make your bedroom sleep-friendly. Use blackout curtains, a fan or white noise machine, and keep the temperature cool.
2. Eat and drink smarter. Stop caffeine after 2 p.m., finish dinner by 7 p.m., and limit fluids in the evening.
3. Wind down your worries. Going to bed tense can increase cortisol production. Try deep breathing, meditation, or gentle yoga. Write down your worries and how you'll manage them tomorrow.
4. If you're still awake after 20 minutes, get up and do something relaxing. Avoid looking at your phone or tablet, the light from screens can make it harder to fall asleep.
5. If sleep continues to be difficult, talk with your healthcare provider. They can help identify causes and suggest solutions for better rest.

ADVENT FUN FEST

We are bringing back the old Advent Workshop event from 6 years ago. Some of you may remember participating in this event of crafts, decorating cookies, and enjoying treats. This year Advent Fun Fest will be on Sunday, December 7th from 2-5pm in the Trinity Room. Follow the aroma of Bob Schoenknecht's gingerbread cookies baking. This is for children from age 2 and older and adults. There will be numerous craft projects, cookie decorating (and eating), and free creativity tables. There is no cost for supplies, as we received a grant from the Women's Giving Circle.

We do need volunteers to oversee the craft projects. We have craft ideas and supplies if you don't have an idea. Or you can provide your own craft idea for a table. Sign up will be Sunday November 16th, 23rd, and 26th in the lobby or sign-up at clipboard central.

ADVENT REFLECTIONS

TLC will again offer "Advent Reflections" on Saturdays, December 6, 13, and 20 in the Fireside Room from 9:30am to 11:00am. This year's Advent study is from Augsburg Press titled "I Wonder as I Wander". Booklets are ordered. We will follow the same format of a topic.

For each session along with prayer and activity, we could have song if anyone is musical. There is a sign-up sheet at clipboard central, or you can just show up. Bring a friend with you.

SUPPORTING CAREGIVERS

A few years ago, Vicki Dueringer met Allison Breininger, whose husband was diagnosed with a rare disease. As his caregiver, Allison often felt unseen and unsupported, which inspired her to create The Negative Space (thenegativespace@life.com), a resource offering stories and support for caregivers. In one of her reflections, she compares caregiving to sitting in an airplane's exit row—expected to help in an emergency, but without anyone checking if you're able or prepared. Her message is clear: caregiving is physically, mentally, and emotionally demanding, and those who care for others deserve care and understanding, too.

LEFSE MAKING IN NOVEMBER

Please join us for lefse making November 21 and 22. This is a great Scandinavian tradition that we resurrected last year. On Friday evening we peel, cook, and rice potatoes and make the base of the dough. Saturday morning we add flour to the dough, roll out the dough, "fry" the dough and then package the lefse. The lefse will be sold on Sunday, November 23rd with proceeds going to TLC ministry to be decided.

Many hands make light work and we have so much FUN working together. Everyone is welcome. You do not need experience! Sign up at clipboard central.

LADIES OF TRINITY

Save the date: Trinity's 10th Annual Advent Tea is on **Tuesday, December 2, in the Trinity Room from 2-4 p.m.**

Enjoy good food, great fellowship, and entertainment presented by Michelle Rayburn, an author of Christian living books, Bible studies, and essay collections. She also has a weekly podcast and blog, Midlife Repurposed. Her presentation is titled "O Christmas Tea: A Cup of Christmas Peace," which we think you will enjoy.

When Michelle is finished, Warren Petryk (a founding member of The Memories) will inspire us with several Christmas songs. As before, we will see the Noah's Ark Preschool kids, sing a couple of songs, and just have a great afternoon of fellowship.

There is no cost for this event. We will again be looking for people who are willing to make some fancy sandwiches and holiday cookies to share. Please look for the sign-up board in the lobby starting on Sunday, October 19, and continuing through November 23.

Please call Sheila Running (715-832-9686) or Sue Brumberg Schaefer (715-834-3598) with questions.

The quilters have again donated some quilts for a silent auction, with the proceeds going to support future Advent Teas, so please stop and check them out as well.



HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

Current high school students are invited to come together on the first and third Wednesdays of every month for fellowship, faith, and fun! On November 5, our activity is to be determined, but on November 19, we will be having a Friendsgiving potluck. All high school students are welcome!

CHRISTMAS WREATH FUNDRAISER

We are taking order for Christmas Wreaths and Door Swags from Baroka's Wreaths from October 26-November 12. Place your order and pay on Sunday mornings before and after worship or online at www.trinity-ec.org. Wreaths and swags will be available for pickup at Trinity on Wednesday, December 3, from 5:00-6:00 p.m. and Sunday, December 7, 9:00-10:00 a.m. This sale raises money for Trinity youth attending our Adventure Trip to Estes Park, CO in July 2026.

TRINITY BOOK CLUB!

Please join the Trinity Book Club on Monday, November 17 at 6:30 for a discussion on the book "The Quiet Librarian" by Allen Eskins.

Hana Babic is a quiet, middle-aged librarian in Minnesota who wants nothing more than to be left alone. But when a detective arrives with the news that her best friend has been murdered, Hana knows that something evil has come for her, a dark remnant of the past she and her friend had shared. Thirty years before, Hana was someone else: Nura Divjak, a teenager growing up in the mountains of war-torn Bosnia—until Serbian soldiers arrived to slaughter her entire family before her eyes. The events of that day thrust Nura into the war, leading her to join a band of militia fighters, where she became not only a fierce warrior but a legend—the deadly Night Mora. But a shattering final act forced Nura to flee to the United States with a bounty on her head.

Sign up at [clip board central](https://www.clipboardcentral.com). Everyone is welcome!

CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILY

FIRST SUNDAYS

The next First Sunday class will be held on November 2, from 8:50-9:35 a.m. All families are invited! On the first Sunday of each month, regular Sunday School classes will NOT be held. Instead, parents should come with their children to the Trinity Room for faith formation for the whole family. The First Sunday theme for November is "Who is God?"

HOLY COMMUNION INSTRUCTIONS

Children in second grade and higher who have not already participated in Holy Communion instruction are invited to come together on Wednesday, November 19 from 5:00-5:50 p.m. Register at www.trinity-ec.org/register or email **Katie Conner** at katie@trinity-ec.org.

Students will meet with Pastor Tom to learn together about God's love for us and the special gift of Holy Communion. Children are welcome to commune at any time, but there will be a special recognition of their participation in Holy Communion at the Thanksgiving Eve worship service on Wednesday, November 26 at 6:00 p.m.

NO CLASS

There will be no Connections or Confirmation classes on Wednesday, November 26. Have a GREAT Thanksgiving!



COLOR ME

NOAH'S ARK PRESCHOOL AND ECE CLASSES

Greetings!

November... a time to celebrate peace, friendship, and thankfulness! At Noah's Ark, we've been focusing on peacemaking and learning how we can share God's love through kind words and actions. Just like a pumpkin grows with care and light, our hearts grow when we practice peace!

P- Pumpkins remind us that God made each of us special- inside and out.

E- Every day is a chance to practice kindness and forgiveness with our friends.

A- Acts of peace fill our classrooms- sharing toys, helping others, and saying kind words.

C- Caring hearts grow when we listen to each other and work together.

E- Enjoying God's creation as we explore pumpkins, leaves, and all things fall!

We are so thankful for our Noah's Ark families and the joy the students bring each day. May this season remind us all to share peace and thankfulness wherever we go!

In peace,
Kim Dewey

Early Childhood Enrichment Class Winter/Spring Session

We have just a few spots remaining for the Winter/Spring session of Music and Movement, which is on Wednesdays from 10:30–11:30 a.m.

Please contact **Kim Dewey** at 715-832-6601 ext. 205 or kim@trinity-ec.org if interested.

NOAH'S ARK FALL TACO FIESTA FUNDRAISER – TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Date: Tuesday, November 4

Time: 4:00–7:00 p.m.

Location: Trinity Room

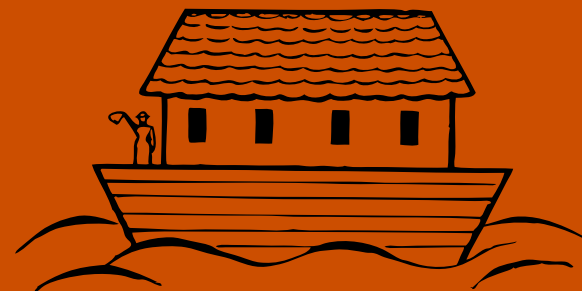
Noah's Ark Preschool will host their annual fall fundraiser supper on Tuesday, November 4, from 4:00–7:00 p.m. Come feast on a great taco supper, meet new and old friends, enjoy children's activities, and participate in our annual Silent Auction.

Themes for the Silent Auction baskets this year are "Family Time," "Treat Yourself," and "Seasonal Celebrations." The Silent Auction begins at 4:00 p.m. and ends promptly at 7:00 p.m., with basket winners announced at that time.

Ticket Information:

- Children (ages 2–12): \$5 in advance, \$5 at the door
- Adults (ages 13 and older): \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door

Come join us and connect with the wonderful Noah's Ark community!



"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 E Lexington Blvd, Eau Claire, WI 54701
Phone: (715) 832.6601 • Fax: (715) 832.6700 • Website: trinity-ec.org

Join us on our Facebook pages for up-to-date information and inspiration for your faith development.

There is a general Trinity Lutheran Church page, plus pages for Children, Youth, and Family Ministries and Noah's Ark Preschool.

Pastors

Patrick Patterson

patrick@trinity-ec.org / 507.779.4991

Tom Westcott

tomw@trinity-ec.org / 612.481.0810

Children, Youth, and Family Ministry

Katie Conner - Ext. 218

Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Director

katie@trinity-ec.org

Emily Kreiner - Ext. 207

CYF Ministry Assistant / emily@trinity-ec.org

Kim Dewey

Noah's Ark Director; ECE Coordinator

kim@trinity-ec.org

Gina Toutant

Noah's Ark Teacher

ginat@trinity-ec.org

Nicole Kaeding

Noah's Ark Teacher

nicolek@trinity-ec.org

Katie Pribnow

Noah's Ark Teacher

katiep@trinity-ec.org

Marlee Knickerbocker

Early Childhood Enrichment Teacher

Kelly Bruxvoort

Early Childhood Enrichment Teacher

Care & Concern Ministries

Vicki Dueringer - Ext. 209

Parish Nurse / vickid@trinity-ec.org

Pat Garber

Visitation Ministry Director / garberpa@uwec.edu

Sue Marczinke - Ext. 211

Food Pantry Coordinator / sue@trinity-ec.org

Worship & Music Ministry

Brian Pressler

Organist / brian@trinity-ec.org

Tatyana Roberts

Adult Choir Accompanist

Sue Jensen

Worship and Music Coordinator / suej@trinity-ec.org

Gary Rambo

Trinity Choir Director / gjrambo@att.net

Heidi Wildes

Trinity Tollers Director / heidi@trinity-ec.org

Andy Hofer

CrossWord Director / andyhofer13@gmail.com

Corinne Gransee Paral

TJC Director / corinne@trinity-ec.org

Haley Corcoran

GLS Director / haley@trinity-ec.org

Buildings & Grounds Team

Don Peterson

Mike Hollars

Ministry Support

Dawn Paul - Ext. 214

Business Director / dawn@trinity-ec.org

Wendy Jaenke - Ext. 202

Front Office Assistant / wendy@trinity-ec.org

Kailyn Dewey

Digital Communications Lead / kailyn@trinity-ec.org

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.**

