

Trinity

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
1314 E Lexington Blvd • Eau Claire WI 54701-6434
2020, September Newsletter—Vol. LXVI No. 004



For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many are one body in Christ... Romans 12:4-5

Dear friends in Christ,

Paul's words to the Romans are such a great reminder to us today. At a time when we haven't been able to gather together in person, we are reminded that Christ's body is not a building. We each are members with differing gifts and talents that make up the body of Christ, God's church on earth. In these past several months, we have demonstrated in so many different ways how God's mission at Trinity is not halted just because we can't be in the building. God's mission at Trinity continues to be lived out through all of us, wherever we find ourselves serving God in that mission.

It was so great to see how Sharry and the food pantry volunteers barely skipped a beat in serving the food insecure in our community. These dedicated folks found safe and creative ways to meet the growing need for food for families who had lost jobs and other safety nets due to the pandemic. Trinity folk continue to "serve in Christ's love" at the Community Table and assist the homeless in our community through the Beacon House and Sojourner House. Our support to our staff, the synod, and other benevolence partners never wavered even though our worship services and all other faith formation activities went online. It's amazing to see all the ways God has been active in the midst of this disruption.

Our elected leaders have done a superb job of supporting the ministry of Trinity during this time. The Executive Committee has met online all but one Tuesday night since March to provide input and leadership support to me and our staff. While the decision to do ministry exclusively online was not universally appreciated, we knew it was the only way we could ensure that we did not cause the COVID-19 virus to spread through our activities. At the same time, we've found innovative ways to honor worship, baptisms, and funerals without endangering the health of those we serve.

Sure, we all want to gather for worship in person. We all want to gaze upon the smile of our church family members and worship God in the manner with which we've become accustomed. And while that may not be possible yet in the foreseeable future, we continue to find faithful ways of living out God's mission. Marlee and the Noah's Ark preschool staff have made major adjustments to ensure safe operations for fall kickoff. Wednesday night and Sunday morning faith formation has gotten a major makeover

through the CYF team that will equip students and families to grow on their faith journey whether in person or online. Our plans for a Rally Day Drive-in worship present a unique way to worship and receive the Lord's Supper "together" safely, even though it's not quite the same as years past.

Friends, we really are one body in Christ. We may look different, have different gifts and talents (functions as Paul puts it), and participate in God's mission from different settings, but we are all one together. If you have a need, please let me know. If your neighbor has a need beyond your ability to help, please let me know. If you have time and capacity to help in ways you're not doing now, please let me know. We will find answers together as Christ's body on earth. We are still Trinity. We are still church. We are still church together for the sake of the world. You are in my prayers daily!

Peace,
Pastor Patrick





From the Church Council

Trinity Friends,

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the Executive Committee, in coordination with Trinity pastors and staff, has worked to ensure our congregation continues to realize its mission—serving in Christ's love and sharing the Good News. We have looked at various ways we might be able to engage and come together again to share this Good News that still respects the orders put in place by the Eau Claire City-County Public Health Department. We know that Trinity is really not just the church building with the ski-slope roof—it is the people. It has been so difficult these past months for Trinity's people to not be able to physically come together as a community to worship. We have heard your yearnings for togetherness as well as your concerns about safety. We know we need to continue to identify creative new ways to connect as we move through this time of pandemic and begin to heal in its aftermath.

To this end, we have some good news to share with you today! On September 13, Rally Sunday, we will hold drive-in worship services in Trinity's west parking area. Think "Gemini Drive-in" meets the Sacred Service. Three services will be offered, as well as an opportunity to share the Lord's Supper together. More information about this worship experience will be shared in the coming days. We are planning a meaningful (and even fun!) form of worship that we hope to offer regularly until the time we can meet inside the Trinity building again (or, at least, until it starts snowing). We hope that you will make plans to attend one of Trinity's drive-in services on September 13. No one will need to hide in the trunk to get in and popcorn is welcome!

Food Pantry Thank You

We would like to thank all the students who came forward to pack bags for the food pantry when the request went out: Annika Meyer, Brittany Meyer, Eli Daniels, Will Whitis, Jack Glaser, Leah Olsen, Keith Olsen, Mary Fedie, Anna Fedie, and Kayla Fridlund.

They put in numerous hours filling our clients' food orders and giving back by serving those who are hungry in our area. We can't thank EVERYONE enough for all of the time donated to Trinity's food pantry. You will all be missed. Good Luck in school this coming year.

Kwik Trip Drivers Needed

We are in need of volunteer drivers to pick up donated food from area Kwik Trips each week for Trinity's Food Pantry. Please email Sharry Hebert at sharry@trinity-ec.org, please include your cell number.



Friends of Flynn School Supply Drive

The Friends of Flynn committee exists to support children at Flynn Elementary School so that all students are able to learn as much as possible. This year may be unlike any we have experienced before but the needs of children and families are still significant as we go into the 2020–2021 school year.

One of our annual activities is to provide school supplies for children in families that find it difficult to get everything needed. This link http://www.ecasd.us/ECASD/media/District-Site/PDFs/Elementary-School-Supply-List-2020-21_FINAL_1.pdf takes you to the school supply list for elementary schools in Eau Claire. It has been updated to reflect needs of the blended and virtual learning options families have this year. This list can be used if you choose to donate school supplies. Additionally, the staff at Flynn said the highest need items are typically washable markers and facial tissues.

Many families have made it a tradition to shop for school supplies at this time of year, when sales are on, as one way of giving to those in need. Even though the church building isn't open for services, we hope you will still consider donating supplies. Donations may be dropped off at Trinity in the entryway of Door 1 from September 8–11 and September 14–17 between the hours 3:30 P.M.–5:00 P.M. Additionally, donated school supplies may be dropped off during the drive-in service that is being held on Sunday, September 13, at church. The committee members will deliver the supplies safely to Flynn.

Thank you to all who choose to assist students at Flynn by donating school supplies. Best wishes for a safe and healthy fall.



Health Ministries

Greetings from your Parish Nurse. Hasn't this year been one for the ages? I retired from Mayo on Valentine's Day. What timing! Since then it has been nothing but COVID-19 and how do I, our Pastors, and our Trinity staff deal with the pandemic while keeping our treasured Trinity members and families safe and well. In addition to Council, Executive Committee, and others, there is a group that has met weekly since March to find the answers. Those answers change, and the situation changes weekly and sometimes daily. We are still Church; we are still Trinity.

We continue to serve our community with the Food Pantry, Blood Drives, Beacon House, Sojourner House, and Friends of Flynn. Those services may look different, but they are happening. Keep the hungry, the homeless, and everyone in need in your prayers. The Visitation Ministry continues to connect with our homebound members and those living in facilities. We are still Church and doing God's work!

I want to share this devotion from "Jesus Calling" which is so perfect for this time.

"Trust Me in the midst of a messy day. Your inner calm—your Peace in My Presence—need not be shaken by what is going on around you. Though you live in a temporal world, your innermost being is rooted and grounded in eternity. When you start to feel stressed, detach yourself from the disturbances around you. Instead of desperately striving to maintain order and control in your little world, relax and remember that circumstances cannot touch My Peace. Seek My Face, and I will share My Mind with you, opening your eyes to see things from My Perspective. Do not let your heart be troubled, and do not be afraid. The Peace I give is sufficient for you." John 16:33; Psalm 105:4; John 14:27.

Remember: Wash your hands often, use hand sanitizer, wear a mask, maintain a physical distance of 6 feet from others. These behaviors work! Support your Eau Claire Health Department. They are doing an amazing job in a very difficult time. Blessings to all!

Vicki Dueringer
Parish Nurse

Noah's Ark Preschool and the Trinity Early Childhood Enrichment Classes

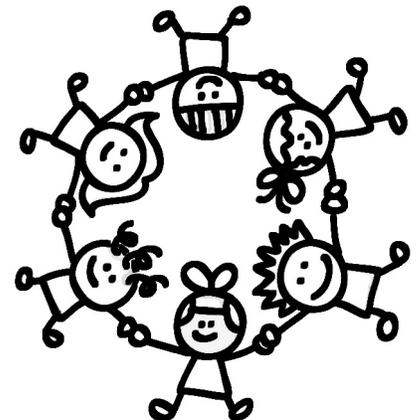
It is with some trepidation that we begin the 2020–2021 school year! Amid the COVID-19 pandemic we have all struggled with what are the right actions to take for the health and safety of our families and loved ones. What is the best way to proceed with school for our children? Families have carefully weighed their options. Each family has had to make the decision that is best for them. At Noah's Ark and the ECE classes, we want what is best for everyone. The best we can do is listen to the science, health experts, and recommendations. We have made the decision to open Noah's Ark Preschool and the preschool age Early Childhood classes. The Eau Claire County Health Department and the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families have been consulted regarding CDC recommendations and best practices for safely opening our facility. We have put many new protocols and procedures into place. We have made our class sizes small with consistent groups, split our

Noah's Ark Preschool classroom into two classroom spaces with the use of a moveable wall, established new cleaning protocols for our rooms and materials, and will be limiting the number of people coming into our building by checking the kids in at the doorways with a temperature check and health screening. We have worked to establish clear communication with our families. All classes will be using a childcare app called *Brightwheel* to assist with our daily communication.

Noah's Ark classes will be starting on Tuesday, September 8. The Early Childhood Enrichment classes will begin the week of September 14. At this time, the two year old Come and Play classes and the parent-child Music and Movement classes are not being held. When we can safely begin those classes we will do so.

We do not know all that the year will bring, but we do know that God will be by our side through all of it. We know that as children come into our space we have researched, studied, and implemented the recommended health and safety guidelines to the best of our abilities. We know that we will work together in caring for, guiding, and cherishing these children as the precious gifts from God that they are. We will work together to become God's peacemakers. Most importantly, God is guiding us and beside us every step of the way! Thanks for supporting us with your prayers for a fun, enriching, and safe year of early childhood programming.

Marlee Knickerbocker
Noah's Ark Preschool Director
Early Childhood Enrichment Coordinator



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

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