

Trinity Tower

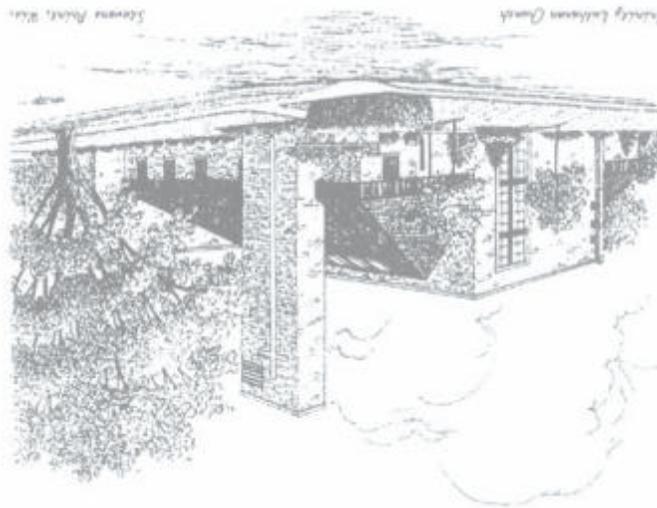


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OCTOBER 2021



Dated material

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TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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PASTOR CLAY'S COLUMN



Returning With Joy

When the Stewardship Committee met several months ago to determine the theme for this fall's stewardship program, we quickly settled on Returning With Joy. We anticipated that by this fall, we would have a much more normalized plan for indoor worship. Then, the Delta variant struck and it slowed down most organizations and made them rethink re-opening plans. We have had to do the same. On the positive side, we are now having two complete worship services indoors at 9 am and 10:45 am. We are asking people to be masked and seated with safe distancing. I am grateful to all who are attending and doing their part to keep us all safe. Yet, this is not the joyful return we had hoped for. That will happen one day, and we pray that it is soon.

In the mean time, people are expressing a number of concerns. I am always grateful for honest input and feedback. Please continue to communicate with me regarding any ongoing concerns. Let me address two things here.

First, what is going on with our Sunday School, our Confirmation program, and our youth ministry? These are things that Todd Lewis is working diligently on. He is talking with the Sunday School team, assessing when they feel it is safe and right to re-convene our weekly school. As of now, the decision is to remain prudent and err on the side of safety. Many parents are saying that they simply do not want to expose their children to risk. As we all know, children are not yet allowed to be vaccinated. Regarding Confirmation, Todd is beginning classes this week. They will be held with safe distancing in the Sanctuary at 6:30 on Wednesday evenings. All will be masked and safety procedures will be in place. Perhaps the hardest thing to handle for Todd are the youth ministry activities. Some our youth are vaccinated and eager to do things together. Some are not and their parents make it very clear that they don't want their youth involved in events that bring the youth together in close proximity. Todd has been holding some out door events and is staying in touch with the youth as much as possible.

One of the biggest youth ministry concerns is next summer's National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis. At this point the event is still on and Lutheran youth all over the

nation are hoping to attend. Todd is watching things closely and hopes that our youth will be part of the event. Of course, vaccination rates, infection rates, and parents concerns for their kids remain a constant concern. To learn more about the youth plans, please take a look at Todd's articles in this month's Tower.

Finally, many are concerned that by having strict protocols for worship, we may be losing congregation members to other churches with more liberal attendance policies. This may be the case, but I have only received notice from one elderly member who wishes to transfer their membership to another Lutheran church. Their decision was more about the policy stance of the ELCA, though worship was also mentioned. If you know of anyone that is on the fence about remaining a member of Trinity, please encourage them to speak to me directly. I would like to allay their fears and discuss what is best for them.

As for our stewardship campaign and our re-opening plans: we are still eager to celebrate our **return with joy**. I am deeply grateful to all of you who have supported our ministry through the pandemic. Our financial picture has remained amazingly strong, and our new campaign is focusing on ways that we can continue our vital mission to serve God in witness, worship, and service in our beautiful community.

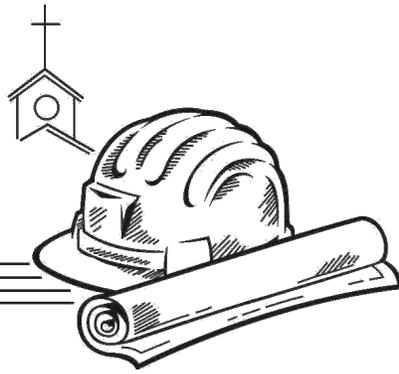
~Pastor Clay



Confirmation Day—October 31

It's been Trinity's tradition to hold **Confirmation on Reformation Day** and we are doing so again this year. There will be two services that morning: at 9 am and 10:45 AM. Confirmation will take place at the second service only. As we have 10 confirmands and their families to safely accommodate in the sanctuary, we are asking for this one Sunday that congregation members who desire to worship in-person, attend the 9:00 service. You can still share in Confirmation and this significant moment in the faith lives of our young people by joining the 10:45 AM livestream on our Facebook page or Trinity's website. We appreciate your understanding and look forward to this special Sunday.

B & G NEWS



UPKEEP

- A water softening system has been installed for the dishwasher. It will help decrease lime build-up and save on detergent.
- The north first floor hallway and the north west landing have new flooring!
- WPS installed a new gas meter. This was done on the east side of the building. This brought us up to code. Then we made a wooden box to encase the underground pipe line.
- We have 2 new exterior doors! You may have noticed one of them is door #2. It is on the west side of the building and has the mail slot. The other is door #6. It is on the north east corner of the building. Take a walk around the outside of the building and check them out!
- Lever door handle locks are gradually being installed throughout the building. They are more easily used and permits accessibility for all. This year we did the church office.
- The booster heater is in the kitchen. It increases the washing water's temperature bringing it to the required temperature for sanitization. The booster heater's circuit board needed to be replaced.
- The two ash trees outside the south entrance have been treated for the Emerald Ash Borer.
- Please ring the doorbell! The south entrance and the TLC&P entrance have a security camera. If you come to the church during the week please ring the doorbell and someone in the church office will buzz you in. Thanks for your cooperation.
- Fall clean-up will be happening soon. Please watch the Wednesday weekly



message for the date and time. Then join us with your rake!

Enjoy the Fall splendor, The Building & Grounds Committee



TRINITY QUILTMAKERS

It is common for people to say, "I wonder where these quilts that we make go?" One of the countries that LWR helps is Ukraine. Too many families in Ukraine lack adequate shelter or heat - making frigid winters unbearable. Between December 2019 and March 2020, your warm quilts helped to reach 16,000 people including mothers, refugees and disaster survivors. To express their gratitude, Rashkov and her children drew pictures and wrote: "We are thanking God for your great work." I would add my thanks to the ladies of this church who come to make these quilts. And I think we would agree that we have a good time doing it.



Last week eight people got together and assembled 117 Baby Care Kits. Then we ran out of t-shirts and sleepers. If we can come up with more shirts and sleepers we will make more layettes before they need to be shipped out on October 23.

Everything is coming together as we get Quilts, Baby Care Kits, School Kits and Personal Care Kits ready for shipment. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to these projects for Lutheran World Relief.

Work days in October are Tuesday, October 12 and Thursday, October 28. LWR Quilts are highly regarded throughout the world because of their quality and consistency. Join us in the Chapel Area as we work together making quilts that bring comfort to the less fortunate.

~Lois Hagen

GLOBAL LOCAL OUTREACH

During October our cash grocery donations will go to Operation Bootstrap. Operation Bootstrap helps citizens of Portage County get back on their feet in a variety of ways including providing clothing and equipment to start a new job, bus passes to work, prescriptions, and housing.



The money we donate this month will be used to purchase the basic foods needed to complete a nutritious meal – eggs, milk, raw vegetables, and fresh fruit. Those funds will also be used to purchase personal hygiene products such as shampoo, soaps and deodorant as needed, along with cleaning supplies.

~Janet Swiston

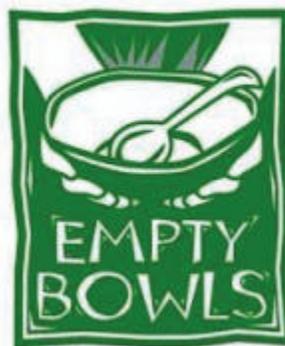
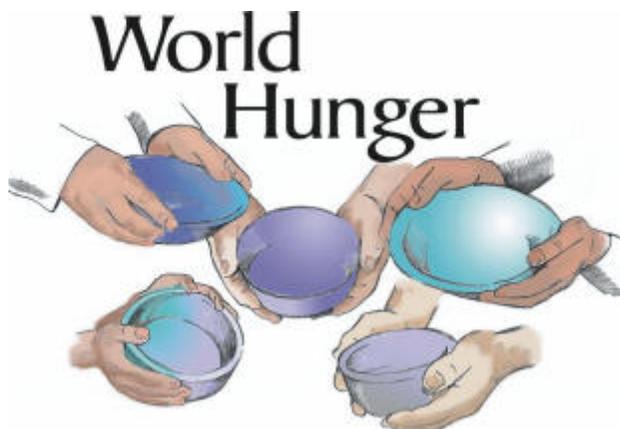
ELCA WORLD HUNGER

736 million people in the world live in extreme poverty. That's 10% of the world's population living on less than \$1.90 a day. ELCA works with people throughout the world to come up with sustainable solutions that get at root causes of hunger.

An example of that comes from Kan Su, Myanmar. Members of savings and loan cooperatives provide microloans that help women start their own small businesses that help them earn a steady income and support their families.

You make this ministry possible by your contributions. Be sure to indicate which group you wish to support on your contribution envelope. Thank you for your help.

~Global & Local Outreach Committee



Empty Bowls and October Loose Change

Most of us have several food options every day—either we have plenty in our pantries or the resources to buy what we desire. Yet, that is not the case for all in our community. Empty Bowls is an annual community event intended to raise money for the

local Hunger and Poverty Prevention Partnership. While the actual community event will be suspended for 2021, the fundraising need continues! Our Loose Change collection for the month of October will be dedicated to Empty Bowls. While donations were graciously given despite the suspended event, the most recent years have resulted in a fundraising effort that was short of the usual outcome. Your generosity is appreciated. As a special opportunity, Trinity Lutheran Church will have bowls for those who wish to donate \$10 or more to this important cause.* These bowls are each unique and a great keepsake created by local potters, community members, and students! Please support Empty Bowls in October with your loose change. Know that your contributions support the Hunger and Poverty Prevention Partnership in our local community.



*Reach out to Todd Lewis to make arrangements for a special donation and collect a locally crafted bowl.

~Global & Local Outreach Committee and Trinity Youth

There are three ways you can donate:

1- Include your donation in your offering envelope. (Write the amount in the box labeled "other.")

2- Or on the memo line of your check simply indicate the amount of your offering you would like to benefit to Inter-faith Food Pantry.

3- You can also do an online donation

through **GIVEPLUS⁺** on our website.

Confirmation Program Happenings at Trinity

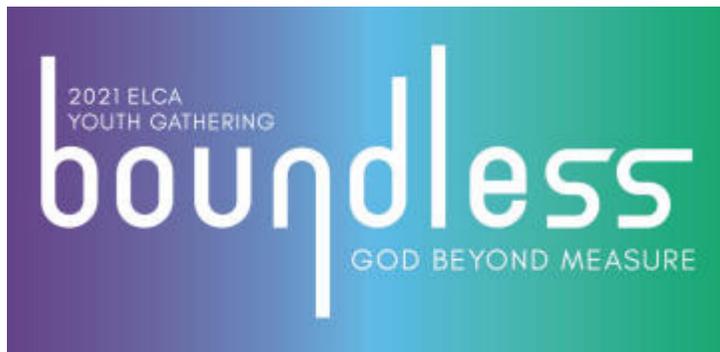


Confirmation sessions for first and second-year students (7th-8th graders) kick off on Wednesday, October 6th at 6:30 PM in Trinity's sanctuary. This year

we will be exploring Luther's Small Catechism (The Ten Commandments, The Lord's Prayer and The Apostles' Creed). Our hope is to continue to meet in person each week as long as it is safe to do so. We will be wearing face masks and spreading out as much as possible for our time together. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please reach out to Todd anytime.

Trinity's third-year Confirmation group and parents will gather on Monday, October 11th at 6:30 PM to go over details on their "Mentor Year" experience. This meeting will also be in the sanctuary..

Ten Trinity young people will celebrate their Confirmation (Affirmation of Baptism) at the 10:45 worship service on Sunday, October 31st. This service will be live-streamed so others in the congregation may share in this special moment in their lives and faith.



Trinity's path to the "boundless," the ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis next summer is becoming a little clearer. Youth currently in grades 8-12, who are interested in being a part of this incredible week (with up to 30,000 others), along with their parents, are invited to join us for a special informational meeting on Sunday, October 10th at 12:30 PM in the sanctuary. We're hoping to share plans, not only on our group's preparations for the Gathering, but details on our time together in the Twin Cities (Sunday, July 23rd-Friday, July 29th, 2022). Please let me know if you are able to attend this meeting, have any questions or if you are unavailable that day, but would still like additional information. Hope to see many of you on the 10th! Thanks-Todd

TRINITY LIBRARY

Trinity Library is open and ready for readers! The almost 100 books purchased or donated to the Trinity Library during the past year and a half are being readied for check out and reading. Many are already on display or on the library shelves, more are being added each month.

Adults might want to check out Caste by Isabel Wilkerson, The Orphan Master's Son by Adam Johnson, or On the Brink of Everything by Parker Palmer.

Books for intermediate readers include Babysitter from Another Planet and What Lane.

A couple of primary books for reading or being read to are The Good Egg and The Power of Henry's Imagination. In celebration of Little Free Libraries we added Little Libraries, Big Heroes.

Now that we are back inside for Sunday worship and some committee meetings be sure to stop by the library and...
FALL INTO A GOOD BOOK!
Sybil Strupp for the Library Committee

Living Lutheran Magazine is the monthly periodical of the ELCA. It included news, devotional articles, study guides and other useful information. If you would like to be added to Trinity's renewal, not is the time. Special envelopes for the 2022 renews are available at the welcome center. The group rate fee per annual subscription is only \$9. Please do not include your fee with your Sunday offering; use the special envelopes. To be included in the renewal, your \$9 must be received by Monday, November 1st.



| THANK YOU KICKSTARTER SUPPORTERS FOR HELPING ME MAKE A SHRUGGING OF THE SHOULDERS |

MITCH McVICKER

DOVE AWARD WINNING SINGER-SONGWRITER

IN CONCERT

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13th

6:30 PM

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

1410 ROGERS STREET

STEVENS POINT WI

-a free-will offering will be received-

Face coverings are required



Attendance is limited. Please contact Todd to RSVP or for more info.

Bible Quiz

Hebrews 11 is called the Hall of Faith because it's a partial list of ancestors who lived out their belief in God. Who is named in this chapter?

A. Adam, Eve and Seth
 B. Abel, Enoch, Noah and Sarah
 C. Moses' parents, Moses and Rahab
 D. Deborah, Bathsheba and Huldah
 E. A and B
 F. B and C
 G. C and D



Answer: F



The Stewardship Committee wants to begin sharing the many kinds of contributions that Trinity members make to our ministry and mission. The goal is to thank people and tell others what they have done. Enjoy our Thank and Tell Corner.

- For our dedicated volunteers who run the slides and livestream for our Worship Services.

- Thank you to Sarah Wolf for her exceptional organization of Trinity's fall Stewardship program.
- Thank you to Gail Pucci and Bill Taugner and their teams as they have resumed worship services at our residential care facilities.
- Thank you to Trinity members and friends for keeping our "Little Free Pantry" so well stocked.
- Thank you to Joanne Joseph for all her help in the office with bulletins and song sheets each Friday.

Relief and Development

We are a church that rolls up our sleeves and gets to work. **Thank you** for being part of ELCA actions.

One billion of our neighbors — that's one in seven people in our world today — live in poverty. As members of the ELCA, we are called to respond. Working through **Lutheran connections** in the United States and around the world, we start by listening to the needs of our neighbors and getting their ideas to help break the cycle of hunger and poverty. Then we partner with them to make their dreams and hopes a reality. From health clinics to microloans, water wells to animal husbandry, food pantries to soup kitchens, we work together to support innovative solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty.

The ELCA has a long history of **being present in communities**, working to help and serve where the needs are greatest. Participating in this work that God calls us to in the world compels us to be attentive to complex and changing situations, as well as to the **importance of both** immediate relief and ongoing, long-term assistance for our sisters and brothers and the communities in which they live.

Our relief and development work is pursued and accomplished through a variety of **bold, active ministries and initiatives**:

[ELCA World Hunger](https://elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/ELCA-World-Hunger) <https://elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/ELCA-World-Hunger>

[HIV and AIDS Ministry](https://elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/HIV-AIDS-Ministry) <https://elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/HIV-AIDS-Ministry>

[Lutheran Disaster Response](https://elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response) <https://elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response>

[Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service](https://elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Immigration-and-Refugee-Services) <https://elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Immigration-and-Refugee-Services>

Each effort **strives for justice, peace and change in the world**, and draws its strength and effectiveness from working in partnership with others who share a common vision **of serving and loving our neighbor** and restoring and reconciling communities in Jesus Christ's name.

Dear friends,

With a median age of 19.7 in 2020, Africa's population of 1.3 billion is the youngest in the world. Currently, around 60% of Africa's population is younger than 25 years, and more than a third are between 15-34 years of age.

In Africa ... there is a weak link between higher education levels and better job prospects. Hardly any (1%) of the 15-24 year olds in sub-Saharan Africa participate in vocational education programmes.

<https://mo.ibrahim.foundation/sites/default/files/2020-08/international-youth-day-research-brief.pdf>

The Evangelical Lutheran Development Service in Zimbabwe (LDS), which is supported by ELCA World Hunger funding, is working to change that trend.

Lawrence was born and brought up in rural Zimbabwe. After finishing high school at 18 years of age his chances of going on to further his education were limited due to the family's precarious financial situation. There are no vocational colleges in the area and few job opportunities. Some of the youth are exposed to alcohol and substance abuse or consider crossing illegally to neighboring South Africa to look for work.



When Lawrence's mother enrolled as a member of the local Community Learning and Demonstration Centre, he accompanied her to a dialogue meeting discussing opportunities for youth to be trained in various skills. This is when he enrolled in a bricklaying course.

Lawrence went along with nine other youth to a vocational training center in a neighboring district. The Lutheran Development Service equipped all ten youth with a builders' start-up kit. Lawrence performed exceptionally well in both theory and practical work.

Due to the COVID-19 induced lockdown, the training center had to close and the youth returned home. Lawrence however did not give up but volunteered to assist the local community in the construction of a hall. This helped to sharpen his skills as he was working alongside a professional builder. The future was looking bleak but the project re-kindled hope and confidence.

Lawrence commented, "I accepted an offer of being trained as a builder because I wanted to keep my mind busy and to acquire new skills that had the potential of improving my life rather than to remain idle and end up doing things I will regret. I am now able to do bricklaying which I thought I would never be able to do in my life."

ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response programs continue to support sustainable development projects in Southern Africa to assist companion churches as they work to mitigate the impact of poverty, climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic in the communities they serve.

Thank you for your prayers, support and your participation in God's mission locally and globally.

Yours faithfully, Rev. Dr. Philip Knutson

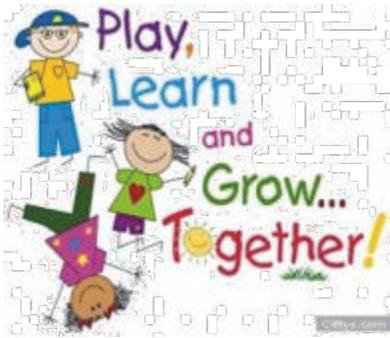
ELCA Regional Representative - Southern Africa / Johannesburg, September 22, 2021

My blog page address is: <https://southernafricanconnections.wordpress.com/>

Please visit my [fundraising page](#). (Note: This fundraising page is set up for individuals' gifts only.)

If you are donating on behalf of a congregation or organization, please visit [ELCA.org/MissionaryGiving](https://www.elca.org/MissionaryGiving) for online giving.

TLC PRESCHOOL



The learning center has been busy with back to school activities. We have a new group of 4k children that started and they all have the excitement of going to school for the first time. All the children have really enjoyed the new

playground climbers that are on the playgrounds.

We have been updating all the classrooms with new equipment and learning activities. Teachers accomplished several things during our teacher work day, cleaning rooms, organizing equipment and supplies and preparing for the new school year.

~ Amy Kurkowski

Trinity Lutheran Church offers Scouts BSA Troops for both boys and girls in grades 6 - 12. Scouting uses an outdoor program mentored by adults who provide a positive role model to help youth become better citizens and servant leaders.

For information regarding Troop 293 for Boys contact:
Bob Glennon at ScoutmasterT293@charter.net

For information regarding Troop 9293 for Girls contact:
Dave Wagner at Scoutmaster9293@gmail.com

Boo Bag Fundraiser!



Unfortunately, we are unable to do our trunk or treat event again this year, so since the Santa packs were such a big success last year we are going to do a Halloween pack fundraiser this year instead of trunk or treat. The packs will sell for \$10.00 each and all proceeds will go to our fundraiser account. We need to update our musical instruments, and dramatic play areas so we will use it for those items.

The Items included in the Boo Bags are

- Halloween Stamper
- Glow in the dark ring
- Halloween card game
- Glow in the dark pumpkin necklace
- Halloween Tattoo
- Halloween Activity book
- Halloween color your own tote bag
- Halloween craft magnet
- Halloween craft picture frame

Please call Amy 715-344-2227 by October 1st so we can order the items, we plan to have the bags ready for pickup on October 15th.

**FROM OUR CHURCH RECORDS THROUGH THE
MONTH OF AUGUST 2021**

	12-MONTH BUDGET	ACTUAL
Envelope Offering	521,984.66	355,847.48
Loose Offering	5500.00	1,425.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	690.84
World Hunger	0.00	1,520.00
Seasonal Offering	10,750.00	3,646.25
Receipts (YTD)	541,242.66	361,568.52
Disbursements	565,310.50	338,481.58
Net (+/-)	(24,067.84)	23,086.94
Receipts (Month)		35,791.10
Disbursements		44,462.70
Net (+/-)		(8,671.60)



	12/31/19	12/31/20
Baptized Membership	1076	1064
Confirmed Membership	789	783

Amazon Smile. . . Another way to support Trinity's ongoing Youth and Family programs. Are you an Amazon.com shopper? When placing your upcoming Christmas orders visit www.smile.amazon.com instead and select Trinity Lutheran as the charity you support. It's quick and easy and 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible items will be donated back to our ministry. AmazonSmile features the same selection of products, low prices and convenience as the regular site with the added benefit of supporting community organizations. Happy shopping!



**CONTACT
information**



email at trinity@trinitysp.com, or call 715-344-2869.

If you need to update your contact information like address, email, phone number please contact the church office by mail,

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

1410 Rogers Street • Stevens Point, WI 54481

CHURCH OFFICE

Phone..... (715) 344-2869
 Hours Weekdays 8:00 am-4:00 pm
 Answering Machine (715) 344-2869
 Fax..... (715) 344-9123
 Sunday Worship..... 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
 Middle Hour..... 9:30 a.m.
 Wednesday Worship 6:30 p.m.
 All Committee Night Tuesday, March 3 at 7:00 p.m.
 Church Council..... Monday, March 23 at 6:30 p.m.
 Trinity Website www.trinitysp.com
 Twitter @TrinityinPoint

CHURCH STAFF

CONTACT

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 Heidi Corcoran, Coordinator of Worship and Arts592-3594
 Matt Buchman, Conductor of Choirs & Praise Band.....498-3633
 Barb Towey, Organist Emerita.....341-1825
 Amy Kurkowski, TLC&P Director.....344-2227
 East Central Synod website/e-mail.....ecsw.org

CHURCH COUNCIL

HOME

Tina Peters, President.....341-6570
 Jeff Martin, Past President.....341-9619
 Edey Ray, Vice President592-6607
 Donna Watson, Secretary341-7424
 Sue Acaley, Treasurer345-9935
 Kristen Bean, Building & Grounds340-5438
 Jon Houtman, Christian Education342-4491
 Roberta Holthusen, Christian Life & Growth341-0807
 Megan Espe, Communication830-9434
 Diane Witte, Global/Local Outreach.....295-0121
 Jeff Martin, Personnel.....341-9619
 Joel Lemke, Stewardship572-0259
 Amy Kurkowski, TLC&P344-2227
 Diane Witte, Worship295-0121
 Vacant, Youth & Family Ministry.....

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																	
																																																							
3 9:00 a.m. Indoor worship in our sanctuary with limited attendance. 10:45 a.m. Indoor worship in our sanctuary with limited attendance. 10:45 a.m. Online Worship-Facebook Live and Website	4 1:00 p.m. Service Broadcast 95/984 6:30 p.m. Charity Circle 6:45 p.m. Troop 293	5 10:00 a.m. Whispering Pines Service 10:00 a.m. Worship Committee 1:00 p.m. Service Broadcast 95/984 6:30 p.m. Pack 9293 7:00 p.m. All Committee Night 7:00 p.m. GLO Committee	6 11:00 a.m. Willow Brooke Service 5:00 p.m. Online Worship-Facebook Live 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Begins 8:00 p.m. Service Broadcast 95/984	7 8:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 11:00 a.m. Northcrest Service 1:00 p.m. Dimensions Living	1	2																																																	
10 9:00 a.m. Indoor worship in our sanctuary with limited attendance. 10:45 a.m. Indoor worship in our sanctuary with limited attendance. 10:45 a.m. Online Worship-Facebook Live and Website	11 1:00 p.m. Joy Circle 1:00 p.m. Service Broadcast 95/984 6:00 p.m. B & G Committee 6:30 p.m. Informational Meeting With 3rd year Confirmation Students & Parents	12 9:00 a.m. Quilters 1:00 p.m. Service Broadcast 95/984 6:30 p.m. Pack 9293	13 5:00 p.m. Online Worship-Facebook Live 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Concert 6:30 p.m. Mitch McVicker 8:00 p.m. Service Broadcast 95/984	14 8:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Riverview Lodge Service 11:00 a.m. Northcrest Service 1:00 p.m. Dimensions Living 1:00 p.m. Wellington Service	15	16																																																	
17 9:00 a.m. Indoor worship in our sanctuary with limited attendance. 10:45 a.m. Indoor worship in our sanctuary with limited attendance. 10:45 a.m. Online Worship-Facebook Live and Website	18 1:00 p.m. Service Broadcast 95/984 6:30 p.m. Executive Committee 6:45 p.m. Troop 293	19 TOWER DEADLINE 9:30 a.m. Nursing Home Services 12:00 p.m. Lunch Bunch at Mission Coffee House in Plover 1:00 p.m. Service Broadcast 95/984 1:30 p.m. Library Committee	20 5:00 p.m. Online Worship-Facebook Live 6:30 p.m. Confirmation 8:00 p.m. Service Broadcast 95/984	21 8:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 11:00 a.m. Northcrest Service 1:00 p.m. Dimensions Living	22	23																																																	
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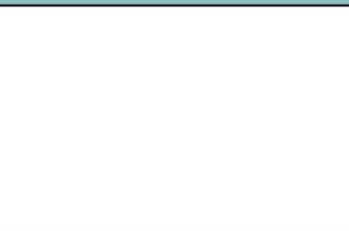
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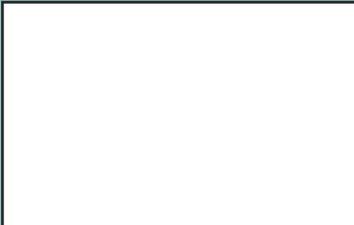
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