TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

NOVEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Coming Soon: Advent
The season of Advent begins Sunday, November 29th! 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, and Wednesday at 6pm for worship as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Emmanuel, "God with us."

From the Pastor's Desk
Thanksgiving invites us to gather around the table, share a meal, and give thanks for the many ways God provides for us. For some, the table is full of family, familiar traditions, and laughter. For others, the holidays can be a reminder of loneliness, grief, or feeling left out. What might it look like to leave an open spot at your Thanksgiving table?

Perhaps it means inviting a neighbor who lives alone, welcoming someone new to the community, or reaching out to someone whose family lives far away. It might mean making room for a conversation with someone whose life experiences differ from your own. Sometimes, the simplest invitation can become a powerful expression of God's love.

As Lutherans, we believe that God's grace is a gift we receive, not something we earn. We are welcomed by Christ, not because we have everything figured out, but because God's love is freely given. That same grace shapes how we welcome others.

At the communion table, we are reminded that God's invitation extends beyond the boundaries we create. We come as we are and are fed by grace.

This Thanksgiving, may gratitude move us beyond counting our blessings to sharing them. Consider leaving an open spot at your table—not just for one more person, but as a reminder that there is always room for God's love to be shared.

Happy Thanksgiving!
Pastor Patrick and Pastor Tom

WITH GRATITUDE

Offering Update as of September 30, 2026

- Amount Budgeted to Date: $305,621
- Amount Received to Date: $222,971
- Expenses to Date: $259,988
- Deficit/Surplus: -$37,017

3 Ways to Give at Trinity:

- 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.

DO YOU RECEIVE THE WEEKLY E-MAIL BLAST FROM TRINITY?

Scan the QR Code to receive Trinity's weekly e-mail blasts. This is a great way to stay up to date with all that's going on at Trinity.

POST IN THE NEWSLETTER OR WEEKLY BULLETIN

Scan this QR Code and fill out the "Communications Request" Form. This can be used to add info to:

- Newsletters
- Bulletins
- E-News Blasts
- Trinity Website
- Social Media

FRIENDS OF FLYNN

The school year at Flynn is off to a great start.

Our community contact this year is Ann Yourek, who serves as the Social Worker for both Flynn and Manz Elementary schools. Ann is working closely with the Friends of Flynn committee on meeting the needs of Flynn's children and families.

Flynn Food Pantry: With the expertise help from Sue Marczinke, we have reorganized the Flynn food pantry to improve the process. The food pantry is serving 25 families this year. FOF committee is supplementing the Feed My People food order with food purchases from Sam's Club. Ann gets $250 monthly to supply basic food needs for those 25 families. The FOF committee members along with a few other volunteers, bag and label food and stock the pantry shelves weekly. In addition to the food pantry, FOF also supplies snacks for each classroom on a "as needed" basis.

Bomba socks: We receive from the Bomba company donations of socks that we distribute to each student at Christmas along with a book. The extra socks are used for the Christmas Sharing project.

As we do each year, FOF will do a book giveaway in December to each student before Christmas vacation. You will see a book donation display in the church lobby in November. The students are always so excited to receive their very own new book!



11TH ANNUNAL ADVENT TEA

December 1, 2026
2:00pm - 4:00pm in the Trinity Room

Good Food, Great Fellowship, and entertainment by Cathy Reitz & 7 Swing!

If you are interested in making fancy sandwiches or holiday cookies for the event, please sign up in Clipboard Central! Please call Sheila Running (715-832-9686) or Sue Brumberg Schaefer (715-834-3598) with questions.

ANNOUNCEMENT CENTRAL

Red Cross Blood Drive at Trinity



Thursday, November 5, 2026
Time: 12:00pm - 6:00pm
Location: Trinity Lobby
Mark Your Calendars
Sign Up at redcrossblood.org

FRIENDSHIP GROUP MEETING

Wednesday, November 11, 2026
Time: 10:00am
Location: Room 208

TRINITY SERVES THE COMMUNITY TABLE

Thursday, November 12, 2026
Volunteer Sign Up in Clipboard Central

ADRC BOOK CLUB

Loving Someone With Dementia
Mondays: October 12 - November 16
12:00pm in the Fireside Room

GRIEF AND LOSS SUPPORT GROUP

Location: Trinity Lutheran Church - Fireside Room
Time: 10:00am - 11:30am
Dates: Third Wednesday of each month (November 18, 2026)

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. Facilitated by individuals through ARDC.

LEFSE MAKING AT TRINITY

Friday, November 20: 4:00pm - 6:00pm (Peel/Cook/Rice Potatoes)
Saturday, November 21 8:30am - 1:30pm (Dough/Griddle/Fold/Pack)
Sign Up in Clipboard Central

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE / HOLY COMMUNION CELEBRATION

Wednesday, November 25 at 6:00pm

TRINITY OFFICE CLOSED

Office Closed Thursday, November 26 & Friday, November 27

LIBRARY TIDINGS

NEW BOOKS

Four New Fiction

***The Birthing Tree* by Amanda Peters**
From the bestselling author of The Berry Pickers comes an unforgettable novel about a woman confronting buried family truths and memories of young love after her grandmother's death leaves her to guide her community's future. (FIC PET)

***Partita* by Barbara Kingsolver**
Pulitzer Prize winner Barbara Kingsolver's incisive, heartfelt novel explores class barriers, the risks of ambition, and the enduring connection between life and art. (FIC KIN)

***God's Country* by William Kent Krueger**
This action-packed mystery novel by William Kent Krueger is a major installment in his popular Cork O'Conner series. Note the book recommendation for this month for more information. (FIC KRU)

***The Lion Women of Tehran* by Marjan Kamali**
This sweeping historical novel explores friendship, betrayal, and redemption across three transformative decades in Tehran, Iran. (FIC KAM)

Picture Books

***Dia de Los Muertos* by Roseanne Greenfield Thong**
It's time to celebrate the Day of the Dead. Readers will discover a cultural tradition featuring cloth-draped altars adorned with marigolds and flickering candles, while music fills the streets. They can also practice Spanish vocabulary as the town honors its dearly departed through this time-honored custom. (++ 394.2 THO)

***Millie Fleur Saves the Night* by Christy Mandin**
This delightfully peculiar story encourages readers to find beauty in the darkness and overcome their fears of the night. It can also be read as a story about caring for the Earth. (++ FIC MAN)

***The Bakery Dragon and the Fairy Cake* by Devin Elle Kurtz**
Running a bakery is no cakewalk for a tiny dragon with a big sweet tooth. Tummy rumbles turn to belly laughs in this feel-good picture book. (++ FIC KUR)

***Three Cheers for Kid McGear!* by Sherri Dusket Rinker**
A timeless tale of perseverance and overcoming obstacles, Three Cheers for Kid McGear!, will resonate with readers and listeners of all ages. (++ FIC RIN)

A Graphic Novel

***A Cartoonist's Guide to Acts* by Steve Thomason**
This all-ages graphic novel retells the book of Acts, following Jesus' disciples in the years after his resurrection. (+ 226.6 THO)

NOVEMBER BOOK RECOMENDATION

Book Recommendation from
Bob Schoenknecht, Trinity Member and
Reader of Mysteries and Thrillers

God's Country
by William Kent Krueger

William Kent Krueger's God's Country, is the twenty-first installment in the Cork O'Connor series. The plot follows Cork O'Connor into the harsh wilderness of the Boundary Waters as he relentlessly pursues two very violent criminals to rescue a kidnapped friend. During his search, Cork struggles with his internal feelings about good and evil as he tries to catch the criminals and keep others safe. The book is fast-paced and beautifully written and I had a hard time putting the book down once I got started. William Kent Krueger does an exceptional job of describing the beauty of the Boundary Waters area. One caution: parts of the story become quite gruesome as the Kennedy brothers seek to find their hidden treasure and make their escape to Canada. Overall, this is a strong continuation of the Cork O'Connor series, and I enjoyed it.

PAGE TURNER BOOK CLUB
NOVEMBER 2026

THE FORTY YEAR KISS
by local author Nicholas Butler

We will meet on Monday, November 16 at 6:30 in room 208. Nick will be our guest that evening to discuss his book.

A Forty Year Kiss is a moving novel about love, forgiveness, and second chances, told through the lives of Charlie and Vivian; former spouses who reconnect in later years after decades apart. Butler unfolds a powerful reflection on missed opportunities, enduring affection, and the redemptive strength of vulnerability. I highly recommend it!



CARE & CONCERN

November is National Family Caregivers Month

If you are a caregiver; thank you and know your time, work, and love are greatly appreciated. If you know a caregiver, the following articles are ideas on what you can do to help support the caregivers in your life.

The following is written by Allison Breininger from her website, The Negative Space. I have worked with Allison over the past several years to help raise awareness for our caregivers in our congregation. This writing is powerful. It is an abbreviated version. Go to thenegativespace.life for the full article.

Be Present For Your Friends This Holiday Season

This year as you plan your get togethers, think about the needs that may be in your guests' negative space. Don't seat your sister who recently had a miscarriage next to your obviously pregnant co-worker. Have a quiet space available for your friend who is chronically ill to rest if needed. Have hand sanitizer around to support your friend who is immune compromised. These small gestures will show your friends that you see them, that you are working to meet them where they are, and that you value their presence at this event and in your life.

An easy way to help people be together with less pressure is to put in your party space things like an already started puzzle or coloring books with colored pencils. These simple items give folks something to do with their hands and their eyes, allowing them to be around others without feeling like they have to talk. Both are activities that people can do for a few minutes or for hours at a time, alone or with others, while talking or silent, and at any age or ability level. They are activities that lower stress levels and induce the same state as meditating, which may be just what a person at a family gathering needs.

How can you show appreciation to a family caregiver?

To observe National Family Caregivers Month 2024, here are five things you can do to encourage and support a family caregiver in your life. However you choose to show appreciation to a family caregiver during family caregiver awareness month, make a special effort to make life a bit easier for the family caregivers you know.

What can you do to help a caregiver?

- Provide respite care. If it's once a week or just once — period — caregivers can benefit greatly from a break from their work. Spend a morning with their loved one while they run errands or take some time for themselves. The gift of your time is priceless.

- Check-in regularly: Let them talk about their experiences without offering advice or casting an opinion. Let them know that you see the work they are doing and the value it brings to the family and community. Remember, you don't have to fix their problems, just being able to talk openly and without judgment is often the support they need.

- Be specific with your offers. Avoid saying "let me know if you need anything." Instead, make a specific offer of help. When caregivers are overwhelmed, it can be difficult to ask for help, so the more specific you can be, the better.

- Help with chores: Bring a meal, clean the house, help with laundry, do yard work, or tackle any other life tasks that are hard for caregivers to get to. This helps ease their burden and makes them feel supported.

- Keep inviting them: Even if you know they can't attend an outing or gathering, continued invitations will make a caregiver feel less isolated and let them know that you are thinking of them and value their presence. And you never know when they might be able to make it happen!

- Offer encouragement: A thoughtful card or text message, or even a small gift, can show that you recognize the gift of their service. Be positive about how you appreciate their efforts and see what a great job they're doing.

CARE & CONCERN

Blood Drive

Trinity's last blood drive for the year is Thursday, November 5 from noon-6:00pm. The goal is 30+ units donated. Please donate on November 5th or go to the Red Cross website to find a donation site on a different day. Sign-up at redcrossblood.org to schedule an appointment.

Advent Reflections

Saturday, December 5 we will meet in the Fireside Room from 9:30-10:30 for Advent Reflections. The theme this year is "Until the Dawn." This is a time for meditation, sharing, and reflecting on the Advent messages of hope, peace, joy, and love, along with a creative project. Everyone is welcome!

Healing Service

Our last Healing Service for the year is Sunday, November 29 at both services. Please join us for this special time of blessing and prayer.

Lefse Making

Please join our group of really fun people to make lefse on Friday, November 20 late afternoon and/or Saturday morning, November 21 to make lefse. You do not have to be Norwegian to join the fun. We have very experienced lefse makers who will teach you the fine art of lefse making. You can sign up at clipboard central.

Election Day

November 3rd is election day. Please vote. It is extremely important for the future of our State and Country.

Vaccine Reminder

Get your influenza and Covid vaccines this month if you haven't done so already!

A PERSONAL UPDATE FROM PASTOR TOM

Many of you know that, in addition to serving as a pastor at Trinity, I have spent time coaching football at Eau Claire Memorial. After much thought and reflection, I have decided to step down from my role as head football coach of the Old Abes. Coaching has been a meaningful part of my life, offering opportunities to build relationships with young people, work alongside dedicated coaches, and help student-athletes grow in character, resilience, and leadership. This past season brought its share of challenges, but it also reminded me that some of the most important lessons in life happen when things don't go according to plan. Showing up for one another, finding ways to grow, and continuing to care for each other matter far beyond the scoreboard. I look forward to continuing our ministry at Trinity and being present with my family in the days ahead. Thank you for the many ways you continue to support and encourage me as I seek to live out my God given vocations.

CAREGIVER CORNER

NOVEMBER: THE MONTH OF GRATITUDE

"Let gratitude be the pillow upon which you kneel to say your nightly prayer. And let faith be the bridge you build to overcome evil and welcome good." – Maya Angelou

Gratitude is a thankful appreciation for what an individual receives, whether tangible or intangible. With gratitude, people acknowledge the goodness in their lives. In the process, people usually recognize that the source of that goodness lies at least partially outside themselves. As a result, being grateful also helps people connect to something larger than themselves as individuals — whether to other people, nature, or a higher power.
"Gracious God, thank you!"

In psychology research, gratitude is strongly and consistently associated with greater happiness. Gratitude helps people feel more positive emotions, relish good experiences, improve their health, deal with adversity, and build strong relationships.

People feel and express gratitude in multiple ways. They can apply it to the past (retrieving positive memories and being thankful for elements of childhood or past blessings), the present (not taking good fortune for granted as it comes), and the future (maintaining a hopeful and optimistic attitude). Regardless of the inherent or current level of someone's gratitude, it's a quality that individuals can successfully cultivate.

TRUNK OR TREAT SUCCESS!



Trunk or Treat was a big success this year. Thank you to everyone that set up their trunks and to those that donated candy. We had an amazing turnout!

Total Attendance: 815 people
Trick or Treaters: 455 Kids

NOVEMBER CORNER CUPBOARD

Events

- Luke 3:11 was in the main parking lot on October 13 distributing winter clothing items to those visiting the food pantry. They will also be here at Trinity on November 12 from 1-3 pm, if you know of anyone needing winter clothing items please share this date with them.

- Thanks Lou Kelsey, Bev Fishbaugher, and Mary Karker for distributing bags of snacks and candy to all the kids at Trunk or Treat representing the Food Pantry.

- Volunteers distributed treat bags to all guests during Halloween week.

Activity / Financial

- Number of families served - 6,500
- Current dedicated account balance - $58,500
- Average number of families served each week - 167
- Total food costs for year of 2026 - $42,000
- Total pounds of food distributed - 210,000

MEMORIALS & GIFTS

Memorial Fund:

In Memory of Phyllis Grohn
- Dan & Joy Fritz

Food Pantry:

In Memory of Jane Hartman
- Scott & Nathan Hartman

In Memory of Lynn Peterson
- Steve & Sue Marczinke

In Memory of Janet Karker
- Ronald & Marilyn Thompson

In Memory of Ron Misselt
- Barb Misselt

Trinity Choir:

In Memory of Yvonne Nixdorf
- Nathan & Jennifer Louris
- Greg & Patricia Chambers

Scholarship Singers:

In Memory of Yvonne Nixdorf
- Bob & Mary Schoenknecht
- Carolyn Berg

CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILY

Faithful Fellowship: Family Faith Formation

Faithful Fellowship (formerly First Sundays) will be held on Sunday, November 1, from 8:50-9:45 a.m. in the Trinity Room. All families are invited!

Faithful Fellowship is a time for families to come and learn, play, and interact with each other while growing in their faith. Regular Sunday School classes will NOT be held. Instead, adults should come with their children to Faithful Fellowship.

Holy Communion Instruction

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. in classroom 208. 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 25 at 6:00 p.m. Please register for Holy Communion Instruction at: www.trinity-ec.org/register.

No Faith Formation Classes

There will be no Connections or Confirmation classes on Wednesday, November 25, and no Sunday School class on Sunday, November 29. Have a GREAT Thanksgiving!

High School Youth Group

Current high school students are invited to come to Trinity for some fellowship, faith, and fun on the first and third Wednesdays of each month! On November 4, our activity is to be determined, but on November 19, we will be having a Friendsgiving potluck. All high school students (grades 9-12) are welcome!

To stay up to date on things happening with Trinity's youth group, youth are invited to join the Group Me group chat by scanning the QR code. For more information about the youth group, please contact Katie Conner at katie@trinity-ec.org.

Christmas Wreath Fundraiser

We are taking orders for Christmas Wreaths and Door Swags from Baroka's Wreaths from November 1-18. 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 pick up in the Trinity courtyard on Wednesday, December 2 from 5:00-6:00 p.m. and Sunday, December 6 after each worship service. Profit from this fundraiser goes toward the youth attending the ELCA Youth Gathering from June 28-July 2, 2027.

YOU'RE INVITED!
Noah's Ark Taco Fiesta Fundraiser

Tuesday, November 10
4:00–7:00 p.m.
Trinity Room



Mark your calendars for our annual Noah's Ark Preschool Taco Fiesta! Join us for a taco supper, children's activities, and our silent auction. It's a great chance to enjoy some good food, catch up with friends, and support our preschool.

Our silent auction baskets will feature three fun themes this year: "Dinner Is Done," "Cozy Up and Unwind," and "Let the Good Times Roll." The auction begins at 4:00 p.m. and ends promptly at 7:00 p.m., when the basket winners will be announced.

Tickets: $5 for ages 2–12 and $10 for ages 13 and older. Tickets are available in the church office or at the door.

We hope you'll join us for a fun evening with the Noah's Ark and Trinity families. Thank you for your continued support of our preschool and the children and families we serve!

ADVENT FUNFEST 2026

Sunday, December 6, 2026
2:00pm - 5:00pm in the Trinity Room

This event is intergenerational and intended for children as young as 2 years old to adults as old as 102. Activities will include craft projects, cookie decorating, plate making, and more. Most activities are no cost, though plate making is $10 per plate.

Join us for a great afternoon of fun!
All are welcome!

Volunteer at Advent FunFest! Volunteers are needed to oversee craft projects, help as a kitchen assistant, make desserts to share, and more! Please sign up at the Advent FunFest table in the lobby on Sunday mornings or at Clipboard Central by Sunday, November 29. Please contact Vicki Dueringer at parishnurse@trinity-ec.org with any questions.

NOAH'S ARK PRESCHOOL & EARLY CHILDHOOD ENRICHMENT

Greetings!

November is a time to slow down, spend time with the people we love, and remember all the things we have to be thankful for. At Noah's Ark, we continue to focus on peacemaking and finding ways to show God's love through our words and actions. As we enjoy all the fun that fall brings, we're also talking with the children about kindness, friendship, and being thankful.

This month, our fall fun reminds us of the word THANKS!

T – Thankful for the special gifts God has given each of us.
H – Helping our friends and finding ways to be kind.
A – Appreciating the little things that make each day special.
N – Noticing all the wonderful things God has created.
K – Keeping kind words and caring hearts at the center of our friendships.
S – Sharing God's love with the people around us.

We are so thankful for our Noah's Ark families and the joy your children bring to our days. It is a blessing to watch them learn, grow, build friendships, and discover new things. We hope this November brings your family many opportunities to enjoy time together and remember the little things that make life so special.

In Peace, Kim Dewey

Early Childhood Enrichment Class
Winter/Spring Session

We have just a few spots remaining in our Winter/Spring session of Music and Movement! Classes meet on Wednesdays from 10:30–11:30 a.m.

If you have a little one who would enjoy joining us, please contact Kim Dewey at 715-832-6601, ext. 205, or kim@trinity-ec.org.



CHRISTMAS WREATH SALE

On Sale from November 1 - 18
Sunday Mornings in the Lobby or Online

Wreaths Available:
24" Wreath - $30.00
30" Wreath - $38.00
36" Wreath - $52.00
Door Swag - $22.00

Wreath Pick Up will be Wednesday, December 2 at 5:00-6:00 p.m. and Sunday, December 6 after each worship service at Trinity in the courtyard.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Bruce & Jackie Christ

Bruce is a Real Estate Appraiser and Jackie is a retired nurse who is presently working to open her parent's farmhouse as an Airbnb. Bruce is a big football fan, and Jackie is working on the Airbnb. They both like to spend time with friends and family. What first interested them about Trinity is that their daughter, Heather Kedrowski and family are members. They attended several worship services and really liked the church. People are very friendly and inviting.



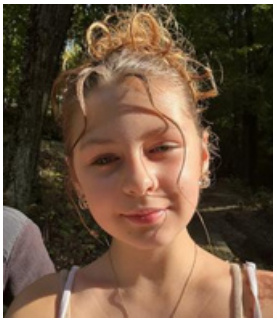
Beth Dimka

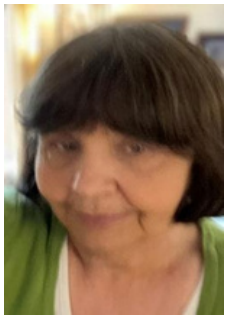
Bethis a retired teacher but still subbing. Her interests include reading, gardening, and sports.



Susan Hassemer & granddaughter Alexandria (12)

Susan is a retired teacher from the Chippewa Falls Public Schools. She taught English for 35 years. For fun she likes to read, go to movies, spend time with family and friends, and go for walks. Alex is a 7th grader at Northstar Middle School. She plays tennis, swims and will be in track this spring. What first interested Susan about Trinity was that her son and his family attend church here and she felt very welcome and comfortable here.





Dianne Christopherson and son Will Gorgen

Dianne is a retired nurse.She enjoys reading and playing word games. Will's hobbies include listening to music and riding bike. What first interested them in Trinty was Pastor Jack Olson at the Classic.





Peter & Marcia Movrich

Peter and Marcia are retired. Marcia works a few hours a week at a clothing store in the mall. They do a lot of golfing, ballroom dancing, Packer, Brewer and Badger games.
Peter and Marcia celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary in January. They became interested in joining Trinity after attending Christmas Eve services and already know quite a few members.



Tyler Wagner & Jamie Dimka and daughter Cooper (16Mos)

Both Tyler & Jamie teach at Manz Elementary. Tyler teaches 5th Grade and Jamie teaches 4th grade. They enjoy spending time with friends and family, going for walks in the neighborhood, and relaxing at home. What first interested them about Trinity is that they were looking for an ELCA church after moving to Eau Claire. The proximity of Trinity to their home drew them to attending a service.



"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 Eau Claire, WI 54701

PASTORS

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Grace Park
Early Childhood Enrichment Teacher
Jody Anderson
Early Childhood Enrichment Teacher

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Don Peterson

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Dawn Paul - Ext. 214
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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.**