

# The JOURNEY — Walking Daily with Jesus

From the Pastor’s Desk

December 2021 Journey

Pastor Dan

*“Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace to help in time of need.”* (Hebrews 4: 14-16)

As I write this, we are still preparing for Thanksgiving. As much as I treasure this holiday and the time that it brings with family, I really look forward to the Advent season which follows. Advent is all about waiting and anticipation. For children, the waiting and anticipation tends to focus on Christmas and the gifts that they will receive. For many of us, the waiting and anticipation is for Christmas and the gift which God gave to us by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, born of a virgin, born in a stable.

As we have been discussing in our last few sermons of the Church year here at Trinity, this same Jesus whose virgin birth we celebrate at Christmas, is the same Jesus who went to the cross for our sins in the season of Lent and is the same Jesus who rose again in the season of Easter. Today, as believers, we anticipate the return of our Lord on the Last Day. For Christians, this Second coming of Jesus is the real reason for the Advent season. We are waiting in eager anticipation for Jesus Christ to return to bring us to into His presence for all eternity. Revelation 19:7-9 tells us of this great time: *“Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure”—for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.”*

As our emphasis in this time of Advent we will be going through a series of services which will help us to better focus as we “Wait upon the Lord”. Each Wednesday during this season we will look at different attitudes we hold as we anticipate the Lord’s coming again. We will begin this series with waiting upon the Lord with Faith, then with Hope, follow by Rejoicing, and finally, with Gratitude.

Each Wednesday evening service will begin with a fellowship meal at 5:30, followed by the 6:30 service. Please take time to join us this Advent season as we “Wait upon the Lord” together.

In Christ,

Pastor Dan

## WHAT’S INSIDE

From Pastor’s Desk	1
Letter from Trinity President	2
Trunk or Treat	3
Weekly Text Studies with Pastor Dan	4
Next Meeting Of.....	4
December Birthdays	4
Worship Assistants	4
Advent Happenings	4
Red Cedar Choir Concert	4
Fundraiser	5
Cantata	5
Advent Candle Lighting	5
Thanksgiving Service	5
Women Of Trinity	6
WMMT	6
Adopt-A-Family	6
Calendar	7



### A Letter from Council President

At the TLC Leadership Retreat last spring, Council members, Pastor Dan, Gelene Tabor, Julie Sunderland and Joanne Schilling came up with a new vision statement. “To be a people that, know, love and share Christ” Gelene did a fantastic job of facilitating the brainstorming sessions that will lead us to a 5-year plan for our ministry teams. During those sessions we answered these 5 questions.

1. What are the needs of the Congregation?
2. What are the barriers to reaching those needs?
3. Where does God want us to work?
4. Where do we see God leading us?
5. What will the church look like in 5 years?

The common themes for the answers to these questions was sharing Christ with family, friends and community and equipping the church to share Christ with others effectively.

The answers for “Where Does God Want Us to Work “are:

- + Congregational Health- Emotional, Physical, Spiritual
- + Outreach
- + Inviting
- + Where He puts Us-Community
- + Get out of our comfort zone

It is crucially important for the health of the church to have a strong evangelism program. This program allows the church to nurture new believers with teaching into a personal relationship with Christ, strengthens mature Christians to be the light and salt in our community and brings in new members into God’s Kingdom. Evangelism can be a scary thing to many. Evangelism is the English term for the act of communicating the gospel, an act of sharing the Good News.

The Evangelism Ministry Team, Pastor Dan and the Council will be working on a plan to equip us all to reach out to share Christ with others. Our new vision is for us all to *know, love and share* Christ.

During this Christmas season we can share Christ by making visitors feel very welcome at TLC. We can pray for those we know who don’t know Christ and that the Holy Spirit will put people in their lives to lead them to Christ. We can invite family, friends and neighbors to join us for Advent and Christmas worship services. We can share Christ with words in the Christmas cards we sent out. May God bless you and your families as you celebrate Christ’s birth and look forward expectantly to His return.

Yours in Christ,

Jim McGraw





# Trunk or Treat & Scarecrows

The Winner ↓↓





## DECEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	Dec 5 (10:00 am)	Dec 12 (10:00 am)	Dec 19 (10:00 am)	Dec 26 (10:00 am)
<b>GREETERS</b>	Alyce & Steve Tracey	Alyce & Steve Tracey	Joanne & Eldon Kvale	Char Mohns
<b>USHERS</b>	John Schieffer Tom Svitak	John Schieffer Tom Svitak	Wes Mohns Mike Rubin	Wes Mohns Mike Rubin
<b>COMM. ASSTS</b>	Jim & Cyndi McGraw	Brenda Mackey Julie Sunderland	Brenda & Pat Mackey	Joanne Schilling Kathy Thom
<b>READER</b>	Karen Hayes	Karen Hayes	Cindy Rubin	Cindy Rubin



Kevin Kotel 12/02	Eldon Kvale 12/14
Tyler Marcinske 12/03	Cody Rurup 12/15
Bob Skar 12/03	Karen Scott 12/16
Stacy Anderson 12/05	Donna Willis 12/18
Betty Blanch 12/06	Brian Russ 12/20
Wally Thom 12/06	Pete Baribeau 12/24
LeRoy Brensel 12/08	John Will 12/26
Logan Saldana 12/10	Joan Fuller 12/29
Judith Ede 12/12	Brody Rurup 12/30

### Advent and Christmas Happenings

<b>NOV 28</b>	<b>1st Sunday of Advent – Worship w/Communion @ 10 am</b>
<b>DEC 1</b>	<b>Mid-week Advent Service @ 6:30 pm (Meal @ 5:30 pm)</b>
<b>DEC 5</b>	<b>2nd Sunday of Advent – Worship w/Communion @ 10 am</b>
<b>DEC 8</b>	<b>Mid-week Advent Service @ 6:30 pm (Meal @ 5:30 pm)</b>
<b>DEC 12</b>	<b>3rd Sunday of Advent – Christmas Cantata/Communion @ 10 am</b>
<b>DEC 15</b>	<b>Mid-week Advent Service @ 6:30 pm (Meal @ 5:30 pm)</b>
<b>DEC 19</b>	<b>4th Sunday of Advent – Worship w/Communion @ 10 am</b>
<b>DEC 22</b>	<b>Mid-week Advent Service @ 6:30 pm (Meal @ 5:30 pm)</b>
<b>DEC 24</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship w/Communion @ 6:30 pm</b>
<b>DEC 25</b>	<b>Christmas Day Worship w/Communion @ 9 am</b>
<b>DEC 26</b>	<b>1st Sunday after Christmas – Worship w/Communion @ 10 am</b>



The Red Cedar Choir Christmas Concerts will be held at 2 pm and 4 pm on Sunday, December 5. The concerts are at St. Joseph's Church in Rice Lake.



#### NEXT MEETING OF . . .

<b>Birchwood Food Pantry Open. . . . .</b>	<b>10:30-12:30pm Dec 6, 20</b>
<b>Worship &amp; Music Team. . . . .</b>	<b>.10 am, Dec 6</b>
<b>Women of Trinity . . . . .</b>	<b>10 am, Dec 11</b>
<b>Trinity Council Meeting. . . . .</b>	<b>6:30 pm, Dec 21</b>



**THE CANDY CANE STORY FUNDRAISER**

Purchase a mug or wreath to bring hope to others this Christmas. Great for shut-ins, neighbors, friends, co-workers, teachers, and others this Christmas.



Proceeds support The Cross Youth Ministry trip to the Creations Museum and Ark Encounter.

Bring joy with this a Christmas mug filled with hot coco mix, spoon covered in chocolate and crushed peppermint, candy cane with the candy cane story bookmark, and a Christmas edition devotion book. **Only \$10 each!**

Decorate anyone's home with these unique candy cane wreaths. Includes 18 peppermint candy cane, snowflake ornament, red ribbon door hanger, and candy cane story tag. **Only \$5 each**

Orders Due by December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ ORDER DETAILS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 MUGS + \_\_\_\_\_ WREATHS = \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL

Pickup Between December 19<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> @ Trinity Lutheran Church

Mail To: Trinity Lutheran Church, PO Box 8, 501 E Chetac Ave, Birchwood

**Advent Candle Lighting**

Sunday, November 28<sup>th</sup> is the start of the wondrous and joyful Advent season. We begin to anticipate the coming of our Lord and Savior, the birth of Jesus. This is a wonderful opportunity to light an Advent candle during Sunday service.

Contact Kathy Thom, (715-296-0114) or call Trinity, (715-354-3790) to sign up. As an individual, family members, or as friends, it's a wonderful way to celebrate and anticipate this joyous season.

Please call or check the sign-up sheet at the visitor's center at Trinity and choose your date.



Thank you.  
 Your Sister in Christ,  
 Kathy Thom



## Women of Trinity Lutheran Church HAPPENINGS

The November 13 meeting had 10 women in attendance.

### Ongoing items:

- Cards to shut-ins/members not able to come or are South for the winter. Cards to be sent in March, June, September and **December** meetings
- Need to "welcome" new women members to WOT
- Discussed the Welcome Packet given to new members - include info on WOT?
- Could provide daycare for our meetings. Would need to know in advance if there is a need.
- Kitchen cleaning—table until January to pick dates.
- Continue to review the WOT yearly booklet. Look for members unable to assist at this time and incorrect contact information. Joanne to work with Julie on handbook.

### Old Business:

- The Pink Box project event was successful. Thanks to Di Hubbard for coordinating this.
- Lefse will be made on 11/18 and sold on 11/21 before and after service

### New Business:

- Christmas bake sale is scheduled for December 12. Set up will be December 11 after the WOT meeting at 10 AM. Baked items may be brought to the meeting. There will be a potluck meal after the meeting.
- WOT will serve the meal for the 12/1 Advent service.
- Cookie boxes for shut ins will be assembled on December 16<sup>th</sup> after Bible Study.
- WOT will pay for the winter bouquet outside of church.
- Meals are organized for the youth until the start of Advent meals.
- Will need a co-chair for the annual Garage Sale with Cindy Rubin.

Next meeting will be 12/11 at 10 AM.

**Women of  
Trinity**



## Worship Assistants Scheduling Change

Over the past year, the members of Trinity who have stepped up to serve as worship assistants (greeters, ushers, readers, communion assistants) have done so with flexibility and dedication. You are very appreciated for your assistance. Thank you.

The challenges of a COVID world have affected each of us in one way or another. We have all risen to this challenge and with the help of God and prayer, we are continuing to successfully meet the challenges.



**New Scheduling System.** We will be setting up the worship assistants calendar to cover TWO months at a time, and assign people to two consecutive weeks. This means assistants will be scheduled **every other** month. Hopefully, this gives additional flexibility to people for scheduling other events in their lives! (NOTE: Some exceptions may occur when our winter people head South.)

All assistants will have a list of other available assistants to contact in order to switch if you are not available.

**Volunteers Wanted!** If you are not currently serving as a worship assistant, please consider doing so. Contact Kathy Thom (715-296-0114 or [wkthom1@gmail.com](mailto:wkthom1@gmail.com)) if you are interested or want additional info.

## ADOPT -A-FAMILY

Hopefully by the arrival of the Journey in your mailbox the Adopt-A-Family will be sitting in the narthex! On its Charlie Brown branches will be hanging many paper ornaments. On those ornaments will be a child's gender, age and that child's wished for present. Each family has the same shaped ornament. The tags are important! It's about the only way we have to keep track of who gets what. The family's presents are brought to the school and then the parents are in charge of taking our "tags" off and putting their own on with their child's name on it.

I've said the same thing every year and for many years only because it is true! TRINITY never fails when it comes to giving! I realize this year will be challenging in many ways. Online shopping which has been the easiest in the past, will probably have its own issues this year. I feel up to the challenge and I hope the rest of Trinity feels the same.

ALL presents (with "our tag" taped on them) must be here at the church no later than Wednesday December 15. Questions? Call Karen Hayes - 715 651 9000.



## December 2021

<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>
			2 5:30p—Advent Meal 6:30p—Advent Service 7:15p Cantata Reh 8:15p Choir Reh	2 10p Women's Bible study	3 OFFICE CLOSED	4
5 8:45-9:45a Adult Sunday School 10a - Worship 11:30 Confirmation Class	6 9:00 Quilters WMMT Mtg 10:00 am 10:30a-12:30p—Food Pantry Open 1:00 pm Text Study 7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	7	8 5:30p—Advent Meal 6:30p—Advent Service 7:15p Cantata Reh 8:15p Choir Reh	9 10p Women's Bible study	10 OFFICE CLOSED	11 8:30-10a — Cantata Rehearsal WOT Meeting 10 am
12 8:45-9:45a Adult Sunday School 10a - Worship <b>Christmas Cantata</b> 11:30 Confirmation Class	13 9:00 Quilters 1:00 pm Text Study 7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	14	15 5:30p—Advent Meal 6:30p—Advent Service  NO CHOIR REH	16 10p Women's Bible study  6:30 pm Carpenter's Son's mtg	17 OFFICE CLOSED	18
19 Love Fund/Food Pantry Offering  8:45-9:45a Adult Sunday School 10a - Worship 11:30 Confirmation Class	20 9:00 Quilters 10:30a-12:30p—Food Pantry Open 1p Text Study 7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	21 <b>Journey Deadline</b>  6:30p - Council Meeting	22 5:30p—Advent Meal 6:30p—Advent Service 7:15p Choir Reh	23 10p Women's Bible study	24 OFFICE CLOSED  6:30p Christmas Eve Service	25 9a—Christmas Day Worship Service
26 8:45-9:45a Adult Sunday 10a - Worship Prayer Shawl Sunday 11:30 Confirmation Class	27 9:00 Quilters 1p Text Study 6 p MONDAY NIGHT Women's Bible Study 7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	28	29  NO CHOIR REH	30	31 OFFICE CLOSED	

Trinity Lutheran Church  
501 E. Chetac Ave  
PO Box 8  
Birchwood, WI 54817

**FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED**

Non-profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 3  
Birchwood, WI  
54817

## CHRISTMAS CANTATA DECEMBER 12



## The JOURNEY December 2021

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**

*Rev. Daniel Tabor—Pastor*

*Julie Sunderland, Parish Administrator*

*Ashley Beffa, Youth & Family*

*Joanne Schilling, Choir Director*

*Betty Blanch & Donnarae Carrell, Custodians*

*501 E. Chetac Ave ♦ PO Box 8 ♦ Birchwood, WI 54817*

*(715) 354-3790 ♦ (716) 990-5230 (Pastor's cell)*

*♦ trinitylutheranbirchwood.com ♦*

*♦ tlcbirchwood@gmail.com ♦*

*JOURNEY Editor ♦ Julie Sunderland ♦ tlcbirchwood@gmail.com*

Sunday School 10 am (Sept - May)  
Office Hours 8 - 11:30 am, 12:30 - 3:00pm (M-Th)  
Bulletin deadline 9 am Tuesdays  
JOURNEY deadline Monday - 3<sup>rd</sup> week of the month

### SUNDAY WORSHIP THIS MONTH

12/5 — 10 am Worship w/Communion  
12/12 — 10 am Christmas Cantata w/Communion  
12/19 — 10 am Worship w/Communion — Love Fund Offering  
12/24 — 6:30 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service w/  
Communion  
Dec 25 — Christmas Day Worship w/Communion  
12/26 — 10 am Worship w/Communion  
Prayer Shawl Sunday

### KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

Debbie Davis	Lora	Donna Willis
Annette Gentile	Sharon Mackey	
Andy Hedman	Tracy Reid	
Barb Hinderman	Bill Rice	
Eunice Kuntz	Ro Sackmann	
Roy Kuula	Carter Sackmann	
Joan Kuula	Timothy Wallace	
Ed Leader	Elaine Yndestad	

***In the military:*** Rigil Christensen, Rochelle Fabrizio, Tim Groth, John Hughes, Cody Davis, Bennett Jorgensen and all those serving in the military.