

The JOURNEY — Walking Daily with Jesus

STEADFAST LOVE OF GOD

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

“Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever.” Psalm 136:1

In this time of Thanksgiving it is always appropriate to count our blessings. Even during these days of Covid 19, when there are so many challenges and changes to endure, I find that it is always good to remember the one blessing which surpasses all others, that is, God’s steadfast love.



When we look at the Psalms we often read of God’s steadfast love. But what does this phrase mean? Steadfast love is God’s grace and mercy poured out on us. Luther describes this love as “goodness in action.” God’s steadfast love is found most clearly in His unwavering devotion to our salvation found in the fulfillment of Christ’s work on the cross.

Gelene and I have much to be thankful for. We are thankful for family. We have been blessed with God’s call to Trinity Lutheran Church. We have been blessed with safe travels to join with you in mission here in Birchwood.

There have been challenges to be sure. But, through it all, we have been blessed by God’s steadfast love. Knowing God’s mercy and grace are ours, given freely for Jesus’ sake, puts the challenges into perspective.

This Thanksgiving, I pray that God’s steadfast love will remain with and in you. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Blessings, Pastor Dan

WHAT’S INSIDE

Letter from Pastor Dan	1
Letter from Council President	2
Missions & Outreach	2
Worship Assistants	3
Advent & Christmas Worship Schedule	3
Trinity’s YouTube Channel	3
Trunk or Treat	4
Shoes in Church Poem	4
<i>Prepare Ye!</i> Advent Midweek series	5
Thursday Morning Women’s Bible Study	5
Bake Sale Dec. 13	5
Propane Challenge MET!!	5
Cancelled Stamps Needed	5
Next Meeting Of . . .	5
Women of Trinity Minutes	6
Family Christmas Tree	6
December Birthdays	6
Calendar	7

President's Message

Let's Talk!

Too many times when something bothers us or when we need help or when we just need someone to talk to, we keep it in and do nothing. That doesn't benefit anyone. Our mission statement says we are a community brought together through God's love and grace. We have a caring congregation willing to support anyone who asks.

God gives us the model for effective communication. We talk (pray), God listens. God speaks and we listen. Communication in the church should be no different. TLC has many ways to communicate your needs, concerns, questions, or suggestions.

They are:

If you have Pastoral Needs or Questions-Speak directly with Pastor Dan.

If you have Council Questions or Issues-Speak directly with me or any member of the Council. You may also contact me or any member of Council. Additionally, you're welcome to attend monthly Council Meetings. We delegate a few minutes at the start of our meetings for you to address the Council.

For specific questions relating to individual Ministry Committees, contact the committee chair

Send prayer requests to Sue Svitak, our prayer chain coordinator if you want prayers for yourself, family, or friends.

Contact Pat Mackey or Karen Scott, TLC Mutual Ministry Committee Members.

The Mutual Ministry Committee is responsible for:

Developing open communication about the expectations, attitudes, and concerns within the congregation, the community, and the staff.

Identifying early warning signs of misunderstandings.

Becoming a "Listening Post" for pastor and people.

Serving as a group where the pastor and staff can test new ideas.

Act as a "sounding board" in time of personal or professional stress.

See the church bulletin board for contact information for all the individuals listed in this article or by asking Julie in the church office.

When communicating with one another, I urge you to follow guidance from God's Word.

Speak the truth in love-Ephesians 4:15a

Pursue peace with everyone-Hebrews 12:14

With all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love. -Ephesians 4:2

Do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Philippians 2:4

As we continue to talk and get to know each other better, we continue to grow and become stronger as a congregation. Hope you and your family have a safe and Blessed Christmas.

Jim McGraw



Outreach met after a long hiatus. It was nice just to meet again. There is just so much that Covid has changed for everybody. It was important for Outreach to keep a tradition going that has been going on for many years at Trinity. That tradition is participation in Birchwood's FBLA's (Future Business Leaders of America) Adopt-A-Family at Christmas.

Since the tradition has gone on for so many years, I made the mistake of assuming that everybody in our congregation understood how the program worked. So hopefully this explanation will help with a greater understanding.

Teachers and counselors at school make suggestions of children/families whose parents for whatever reason are unable to provide presents for them. Then the parents receive a letter from the school and they are asked to fill out suggestions for what the child/children would like or need.

Outreach receives the lists and then as a group we go through the lists and attempt to choose presents for those on the list. When I first started working on this project we took on 4 families. Soon we were up to 5 or 6. Some years we had a last minute or emergency family added. Every year I would make the plea for all the tags to be taken off of our little "Charlie Brown" tree. I was never disappointed! The person in charge of the program at that time would always say that she could always depend on Trinity for coming through. I was very proud of Trinity!

I want people to be aware that by taking a tag, that represents a commitment you are making. If you can't fill the tag for whatever reason, please return it to the tree.

Due to circumstances of this unusual year, Outreach decided to take only 3 families. "Oh ye of little faith" It was decided by school administration that this year children would be the only ones receiving gifts. It had been parents also in previous years.

The tree was put up 11/22 and by the time I left church, there weren't very many tags left on the tree!!

With Pastor Dan's words of his first sermon "Lord have I done enough?" echoing through me, I will be contacting the school to see if Trinity can get more names.

Presents need to be at church Sunday December 20 so the school has time to contact the parents so they have time to get presents home.

Any questions contact me at 715 354 3278. Karen Hayes

DECEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	December 6 (10 AM)	December 13 (10 AM)	December 20 (10 AM)	December 24 (7 PM)	December 27 (10 AM)
GREETERS	Mike & Cindy Rubin	Di & Kyle Hubbard	Karen & Bob Scott	Volunteers needed	Terri & Rob Freeman
USHERS	Wes & Char Mohns	Rob Freeman Wally Thom	Kyle Hubbard LeRoy Brensel	Volunteers needed	Wally & Mike Capra
COMM. ASSTS	Kathy Thom Julie Sunderland	Rolf Kleven Barb Kleven	Wally & Kathy Thom	Volunteers needed	Jim & Cindy McGraw
READER	Marcia Kampf	Dianne Buxton	Donnarae Carrell	Volunteers needed	Sue Capra

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS HAPPENINGS

- NOV 29** 1st Sunday of Advent — Worship w/Communion @ 10 am
- DEC 2** Mid-week Advent Service at Trinity @ 7 pm
- DEC 6** 2nd Sunday of Advent — Worship w/Communion @ 10 am
- DEC 9** Mid-week Advent Service at Trinity @ 7 pm
- DEC 13** 3rd Sunday of Advent — Praise Worship w/Communion @ 10 am
- DEC 16** Mid-week Advent Service at Trinity @ 7 pm
- DEC 20** 4th Sunday of Advent — Worship w/Communion @ 10 am
- DEC 24** Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship w/Communion @ 7 am
- DEC 27** 1st Sunday after Christmas — Worship w/Communion @ 10 am

TRINITY YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Trinity needs EVERYONE to subscribe to our YouTube channel!! Watching the sermon videos on our Facebook page (and liking it) isn't the same!

And watching one of our sermon videos on the channel IS NOT subscribing, either.

You MUST click on the "Subscribe" button to actually subscribe.



Here is the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrIQB6cjOIYNImHer9EuOEA>

IF WE GET 100 SUBSCRIBERS, OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL LINK WILL SAY "TRINITY LUTHERAN"!!!!



Trunk



or



Treat



Shoes in Church

I showered and shaved..... I adjusted my tie.
 I got there and sat..... In a pew just in time.
 Bowing my head in prayer..... As I closed my eyes.
 I saw the shoe of the man next to me..... Touching my own. I sighed.
 With plenty of room on either side..... I thought, 'Why must our soles touch?'
 It bothered me, his shoe touching mine.. But it didn't bother him much.
 A prayer began: 'Our Father'..... I thought,
 'This man with the shoes, has no pride. They're dusty, worn, and scratched.
 Even worse, there are holes on the side!'
 'Thank You for blessings,' the prayer went on.
 The shoe man said..... A quiet 'Amen.'
 I tried to focus on the prayer..... But my thoughts were on his shoes again..
 Aren't we supposed to look our best. When walking through that door?
 'Well, this certainly isn't it,' I thought, glancing toward the floor.
 Then the prayer was ended..... And the songs of praise began .
 The shoe man was certainly loud..... Sounding proud as he sang.
 His voice lifted the rafters..... His hands were raised high.
 The Lord could surely hear.. The shoe man's voice from the sky.
 It was time for the offering..... And what I threw in was steep.
 I watched as the shoe man reached.... Into his pockets so deep.
 I saw what was pulled out..... What the shoe man put in.
 Then I heard a soft 'clink' as when silver hits tin.
 The sermon really bored me..... To tears, and that's no lie.
 It was the same for the shoe man... For tears fell from his eyes.
 At the end of the service..... As is the custom here.
 We must greet new visitors, And show them all good cheer.
 But I felt moved somehow..... And wanted to meet the shoe man.
 So after the closing prayer..... I reached over and shook his hand.
 He was old and his skin was dark.... And his hair was truly a mess....
 But I thanked him for coming..... For being our guest...
 He said, 'My name's Charlie..... I'm glad to meet you, my friend.'
 There were tears in his eyes..... But he had a large, wide grin..
 'Let me explain,' he said..... Wiping tears from his eyes.
 'I've been coming here for months..... And you're the first to say 'Hi.'
 'I know that my appearance.....Is not like all the rest.
 'But I really do try.....To always look my best.'
 'I always clean and polish my shoes...Before my very long walk.'
 'But by the time I get here.....They're dirty and dusty, like chalk.'
 My heart filled with pain..... And I swallowed to hide my tears.
 As he continued to apologize..... For daring to sit so near
 He said, 'When I get here..... I know I must look a sight.'
 'But I thought if I could touch you....Then maybe our souls might unite.'
 I was silent for a moment..... Knowing whatever was said
 Would pale in comparison.... I spoke from my heart, not my head.
 'Oh, you've touched me,' I said.....'And taught me, in part'
 'That the best of any man.....Is what is found in his heart.'
 The rest, I thought,..... This shoe man will never know.
 Like just how thankful I really am.... That his dirty old shoe touched my soul.
 Live each day as your last, for we never know our time here on earth. Love
 and Peace My Friends and remember that it is not how we look on the outside
 but how we look within .

PREPARE YE

Join us for our Advent worship series, **Prepare Ye**. Each week we will contemplate the many ways we prepare ourselves for the coming of the Christ Child on Christmas. In the first week – **PONDER** – we will consider ways in which we can ponder the meaning of the birth of our Savior. Mary serves as a model for us in this pondering in the Annunciation.

In the second week – **PRAY** – we will think about ways in which we can take more time during this season to communicate to our God through prayer as we wait for Christ. Zechariah, who went to the temple to pray, serves as an example for us of how hard that waiting in prayer can be.

In the third week – **PRAISE** – we will celebrate the upcoming arrival of our Savior through songs and shouts of praise as we prepare for him. Elizabeth, in her greeting of Mary, provides a benchmark for rejoicing with others over the good news of salvation in Jesus, even as we wait.

THURSDAY MORNING WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study meets in the Trinity room on Thursday mornings at 10:15 am. They are currently studying the book of Proverbs thru Dec. 17.

If you are interested in joining them, please contact:

Marcia Kampf at 715-354-3048



BAKE SALE AT TRINITY ON SUNDAY, DEC 13

The Women of Trinity will hold their annual Bake Sale before and after the worship service on Sunday, December 13.

Anyone willing to donate baked goods is asked to bring their donations to the church narthex Saturday, December 12, between 10 am and noon.

All money received from the sale goes back to our church, or local charities.



WE'LL BE WARM!

Thank you to all who donated to the 2020 Propane Challenge! YOU matched the \$2020 pledge with your own \$2020! We are out of the hole
Thanks to YOU!!



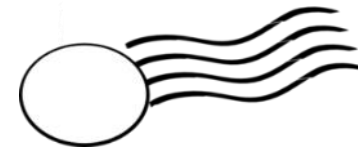
WANTED: YOUR CANCELLED STAMPS

It's time to bring in your saved cancelled stamps and place them in the box on the Welcome Center.



They will be collected and sent to the Bethel Stamp Collection Centre in Germany, which creates valuable jobs for handicapped persons.

You're making a difference!



NEXT MEETING OF . . .

- Birchwood Food Pantry Open 10:30-12:30pm, Dec 5, 7, 19, 21**
- Worship & Music Team 10 am, Dec 7**
- Women of Trinity 10am Dec 12**
- Trinity Council Meeting 6:30 pm, Dec 15**

Meeting

Women of Trinity Happenings.....

- + We held our meeting on November 14 in the Fellowship Hall with 13 women were in attendance.
- + The October Secretary and Treasurer reports were accepted.
- + Altar Guild—several people will share the services in December. 2 new people will be trained for 2021.
- + Correspondence was requests for year end funds from organizations. 3rd Sunday Food Pantry offerings will be held for Nov & Dec and sent in for matching funds.
- + Thanks to everyone who worked in the Memorial Garden. Work will continue in the spring.
- + Meals will be needed for The Cross youth through December.
- + The bake sale will be December 13th. Set up will be on Dec 12 and volunteers will be needed.
- + There will be lefse making at church on 11/19. Joanne Schilling will coordinate and contact Karen Scott for input. There will

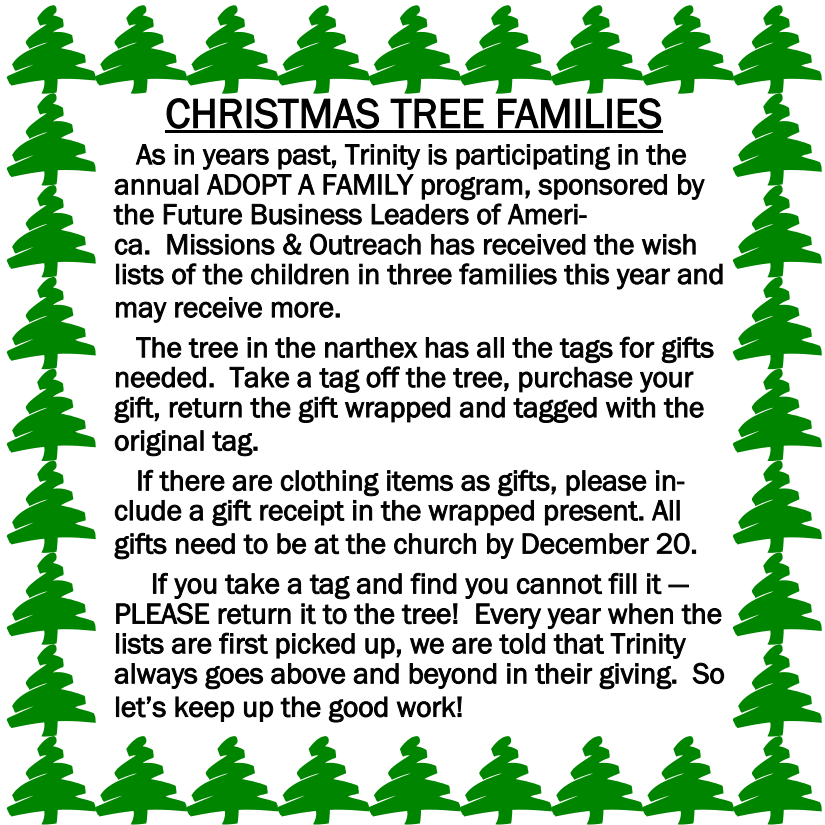
- be sales around Thanksgiving and at the bake sale.
- + The Herrick's have left for Uganda. Joanne will continue to be in contact with them and set up at Zoom meeting to educate us on their mission.
- + Cookies will be given to shut-ins in December
- + Adopt a Family tree will be set up by Nov 22nd
- + Next month the year end charitable donations will be



- decided.
- + Additional names need to be added as signers to the checkbook. Julie Sunderland will be added.
- + Next meeting—December 12th at 10 AM.



December 13th before and after Worship



CHRISTMAS TREE FAMILIES

As in years past, Trinity is participating in the annual ADOPT A FAMILY program, sponsored by the Future Business Leaders of America. Missions & Outreach has received the wish lists of the children in three families this year and may receive more.

The tree in the narthex has all the tags for gifts needed. Take a tag off the tree, purchase your gift, return the gift wrapped and tagged with the original tag.

If there are clothing items as gifts, please include a gift receipt in the wrapped present. All gifts need to be at the church by December 20.

If you take a tag and find you cannot fill it — PLEASE return it to the tree! Every year when the lists are first picked up, we are told that Trinity always goes above and beyond in their giving. So let's keep up the good work!



- Kevin Kotel 12/02
- Tyler Marcinske 12/03
- Bob Skar 12/03
- Stacy Anderson 12/05
- Betty Blanch 12/06
- Wally Thom 12/06
- JoAnn Schupp 12/07
- LeRoy Brensel 12/08
- Cody Miller 12/30
- Brody Rurup 12/30
- Logan Saldana 12/10
- Judith Ede 12/12

- Eldon Kvale 12/14
- Cody Rurup 12/15
- Karen Scott 12/16
- Donna Willis 12/18
- Brian Russ 12/20
- Pete Baribeau 12/24
- John Will 12/26
- Joan Fuller 12/29
- Auston Cherney 12/30
- Cody Miller 12/30
- Brody Rurup 12/30



If you are not able to attend church in person, please mail or drop off your offerings to the church office!

**Trinity Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 8
Birchwood, WI 54817**

December 2020						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 7:00p—Advent Service	3 10:15a—Women's Bible Study	4 OFFICE CLOSED	5 10:30a-12:30p—Food Pantry Open
6 10a - Worship	7 10:30a-12:30p—Food Pantry Open 10a—WMMT Meeting 10:30a-12:30p—Food Pantry Open 6p—Women's Bible Study-Trinity Rm 7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	8	9 7:00p— Advent Service	10 10:15a—Women's Bible Study	11 OFFICE CLOSED	12 10a—Women of Trinity Meeting 10a—noon — Drop-off Bake Sale items
13 10a - Worship 	14 6p—Women's Bible Study-Trinity Rm 7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	15 6:30p - Council Meeting	16 7:00p— Advent Service	17 10:15a—Women's Bible Study	18 OFFICE CLOSED	19 10:30a-12:30p—Food Pantry Open
20 10a - Worship Love Fund/Food Pantry Offering ADOPT-A-FAMILY GIFTS DUE	21 Journey Deadline 10:30a-12:30p—Food Pantry Open 6p—Women's Bible Study-Trinity Rm 7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	22	23	24 OFFICE CLOSED 7p — Christmas Eve Service	25 OFFICE CLOSED	26
27 10a - Worship Prayer Shawl Sunday	28 6p—Women's Bible Study-Trinity Rm 7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	29	30	31 New Year's Eve OFFICE CLOSED		

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

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

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**ADVENT SERVICES
WEDNESDAYS 7 PM**



The JOURNEY

December 2020

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor 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 of 3rd week of the month

SUNDAY WORSHIP THIS MONTH

12/06 — 10 am Worship w/ Communion

12/13 — 10 am Worship w/ Communion

12/20 — 10 am Worship w/ Communion — Love Fund Offering

12/27 — 10 am Worship w/ Communion — Prayer Shawl Sunday

Advent Services on Wed. 7 pm — 12/2, 12/9, 12/16, 12/23

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

Carol Addington	Rebecca Langham	Carter Sackmann
Vicki Busick	Ed Leader	Timothy Wallace
Debbie Davis	Lora	Elaine Yndestad
Barb Fegan	Sharon Mackey	Giamore Lapacinski-
Annette Gentile	Rusty Morrell	Pradera -(Soper's
Dan Gowan	Tim Nysted	Nephew)
Andy Hedman	Fred Peck	Donna Willis
Barb Hinderman	Jim Pravda	
Eileen Koefler	Tom Reed	
Eunice Kuntz	Tracy Reid	
Roy Kuula	Bill Rice	
Joyce Lambrecht	Ro Sackmann	

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