

# The JOURNEY — Walking Daily with Jesus

## From the Pastor’s desk:

*“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth...And from his fullness we have received grace upon grace.” John 1:16*

Christmas is past and the Year of Our Lord 2023 rapidly approaches. All of the anticipation, the hurried pace, and the hype of the Christmas season is behind us. Now we are moving into the New Year. As we look back on 2022, we find that our lives, both here at Trinity Lutheran and personally, have been full of ups and downs. Covid has, and continues, to affect so many aspects of our lives, and we have been affected by other illnesses as well. Many of us have suffered the death of loved ones. But there has also been much to be thankful for. Ministry continues to open up opportunities. We continue to receive new members into the congregation. We have been blessed in so many ways.

I have found that the message of Christmas, that is, “God is among us,” is a message that provides encouragement, strength and comfort as we look forward to this New Year.

“God is among us” is the message that defines who we are as Christians. No matter what we will face in 2023, it is refreshing to know that all of our struggling to reach God is done. God has come to us, in the flesh. He has walked among us. He has experienced what we experience. As we struggle to find God in the midst of all that this life will bring to us, it is a blessing to know that God has found us. In the person of Jesus Christ. God has *“dwelt among us...And from his fullness we have received grace upon grace.”*(John 1:14, ESV)

“God among us.” What a comforting and encouraging Christmas promise for 2023. We have a God who left the glory that was His to walk among us in flesh and blood. He walked a road which led to a cross, where He took our sins upon Himself as His own, taking our sin and giving us His righteousness. Hear the Word of the Lord for 2023: *“But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.”* (Rom 3: 21-24, NIV)

Gelene and I pray that you will have a blessed New Year.

In Christ,

*Pastor Dan*

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### Letter From Trinity President

On December 11th, TLC members, guests and visitors were treated to an awesome display of choral talent and passion. The sound that came from the choir was strong, harmonious, and joyful. Bartley.com says music is the melody and the language of our hearts. Did you hear what I heard? The performance at the Christmas musical gave me goosebumps and warmed my heart. My emotional reaction was both hearing the inspirational Christmas message in a new way and witnessing how a group of 16 individuals could be in total unison and deliver a personal message to everyone in the sanctuary. Our choir is an analogy of how the church should operate and communicate to those who need to hear about Jesus. The choir is a group of individuals with God-given unique vocal talents working together to present a single message. You have Joanne bringing her talents as director to be able to blend these talents into one single song. Not only do you have 16 individuals working together, you have smaller groups within the choir working together. Sopranos, Altos, Tenors, Basses. This is like the TLC ministry groups working together to reach their individual ministry goals but still meet the ultimate vision of the church. **To be a people that know, love, and share Christ.**

Pastor Dan's strong message put on the closing touch to the message the choir delivered to everyone in attendance. Many of those in attendance may not have heard of the love, grace, and forgiveness of Christ. Some may not have heard it in a long time. Or faithful attendees may have been inspired by the Holy Spirit to a new truth or inspiration. On December 11th, the TLC Choir and Pastor Dan did their job of presenting the loving message of Christmas. But we are all called to share the Good News of Jesus Christ in a harmonious, loving way. One on one encounters with a friend, family member or even a stranger can be more powerful than an inspirational song or message. It is showing people in need we care and love them. All it takes is a listening heart. I know it is daunting to talk to people about Christ and his Good News but we get direction on how to witness to others from the apostle Peter.

"...in your hearts honor Christ, the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect"

1 Peter 3:15

Peter at Pentecost witnessed to the Jerusalem crowd and added 3000 believers to the early Christian church. Who better than Peter to instruct us to be prepared to share with others what Christ has done for us when asked. It is that easy. It is our job to tell others about Christ. It is not our responsibility to save individuals. That is the Christ's job. No pressure on us to perform. We just need to plant the seed. I pray, as the Holy Spirit puts someone on our hearts to share Christ's saving grace with, He would give us boldness to follow through. Just as the choir members on Cantata Sunday all brought their talents together in unity to deliver Gods message, the church is the large choir under the direction of the Holy Spirit producing a sweet, sweet message of Christ's love to the lost.

The Congregational Care and Evangelism Teams will be working with Pastor Dan and Barb Kleven to train individuals in Christian caregiving. If God is calling you to serve in this capacity or if you have interest in Christian caregiving to our aging congregation contact Pastor Dan for more information. We need both women and men for this new and exciting ministry opportunity. Can you feel God moving in this congregation? I can. Can't wait to see what He will do next. Have a very blessed and joyful New Year.

**Jim McGraw**





## January WORSHIP ASSISTANTS



	<b>Jan 1 10:00 am</b>	<b>Jan 8 10:00 am</b>	<b>Jan 15 10:00am</b>	<b>Jan 22 10:00 pm</b>	<b>Jan 29 10:00</b>
<b>GREETERS</b>	Terri Freeman	Char Mohns	Brenda Mackey	Alyce Tracey	Betty Blanch
<b>USHERS</b>	Rob Freeman Wally Thom	Wes Mohns Mike Rubin	Mike Capra Rolf Kleven	Steve Tracey LeRoy Brensel	LeRoy Brensel John Schieffer
<b>COMM. ASSTS</b>	Kathy Thom	Karen Scott	Pat Mackey	Joanne Schilling	Janet Schieffer
<b>READER</b>	Gloria Widiker	Ellen Ehrich	Sue Capra	Gloria Widiker	Eric Anderson

Do you have insurance through Thrivent Financial? Please consider directing your 'Choice Dollars' to Trinity Lutheran Church. 2022 Choice Dollars can be directed now and must be done before March 31, 2023.



Sue Capra 1/1  
 Jill Pedersen 1/1  
 Lilly Gottwald 1/2  
 Colette Sandow 1/2  
 Andy Hedman 1/3  
 Adam Robotka 1/3  
 Leo Diehl 1/9  
 Andy Janetski 1/12  
 Rolf Jostad 1/12  
 Madyson Schultz 1/15  
 Gloria Sibley 1/17  
 Steven Tracey 1/18

Brad Bratvold 01/20  
 Carly Pedersen 1/23  
 Amy Roppe 1/24  
 Maryann Cowans 1/25  
 Connie Dahl 1/25  
 Shay Sunderland 1/25  
 Jeffery Arvesen 01/26  
 Jerry Chasteen 1/27  
 Bob Hayes 1/31

### What goes up must come down

We will take down and put away all Christmas decor at 10:00 on Monday, January 9th. Please help if able, no sign up sheet. Thank you, Sue & Tom



Trinity Choir and Praise Team rehearsals will kick off again in 2023, so if anyone wishes to join us, come on out! The Choir rehearses weekly at 7 pm, and the Praise Team rehearses on the Wednesday BEFORE the 2nd Sunday of each month, at 8 pm. SO! Both rehearsals will be starting on January 4, 2023. For more information, please contact Joanne Schilling, at 715-651-4875



# Meeting

### NEXT MEETING OF . . .

- Birchwood Food Pantry Open . . . . . 10:30-12:30pm Jan 2, 16**
- Worship & Music Team . . . . . Jan 9, 10:00 am**
- Women of Trinity . . . . . Jan 14, 10:00 pm**
- Trinity Council Meeting . . . . . Jan 17, 6:30 pm**
- Men's Ministry of Trinity . . . . . Jan 19, 6:30 pm**





## Christmas Fest

The Women of Trinity and the Men's Ministry Team of Trinity were busy setting up and getting ready for Birchwood's annual Christmas Fest.

The Men's Ministry assisted the vendors with set-up while the Women of Trinity sold Chili, cornbread and bars

With lots of people turning out for the festivities, a good time was had by all.



*A Blessed Advent  
Season!*





# Potluck Dinner

Join Us for Food, Fun and Fellowship. We are having our 5th Sunday Pot Luck on January 29, following Sunday worship service!



## Women of Trinity



### Women of Trinity—December Happenings

- The annual bake sale will be held Sunday, Dec 11, before and after service
- The Lefse sale made \$400. Christmas Fest Chili meal yielded about \$400.
- Cookies for shut-ins will be packaged after the 12/11 service
- Altar guild coverage for 2023 is in place. Thanks to everyone for a great job
- Donations of \$4000 were distributed to selected charities
- Kitchen cleaning will be January 10(service group 1) and January 11 (service group 2). Start time will be 9 am each day.
- Pink Box service project will be explored with an eye toward the 2/11 meeting
- Yarn and patterns are available to make mini prayer shawls or full size ones.
- After the meeting set up for the bake sale was completed.

### Love Tree

The Love tree again was a showing of generosity that Trinity Lutheran supported many families to bring a Merry Christmas. This year Trinity added a basket of goodies for the whole family to enjoy! We all are so blessed!

- THANK YOU to the Cantata Singers for all your hard work, practicing and making rehearsals in preparation for the Christmas Cantata, Lead Me Back to Bethlehem. I have received many comments on how beautiful and moving it was. And some were amazed at the amount of sound from our small choir! You are awesome! I look forward to making more music in praise to God in 2023.
- To God be the Glory, Joanne Schilling, Choir Director

*thank you!*

### BIBLE STUDIES

- ◆ Men's Bible study will be held on Wednesdays, at 6:30 am in the fellowship hall.
- ◆ Women's Thursday morning Bible study meets at 10:00 in the Trinity room all women are welcome!
- ◆ Monday Women's Bible study is at 3:30 pm in the Trinity room.
- ◆ Adult Sunday school - will begin again Sunday Jan 8 at 8:30 am prior to service.



I cannot say "Thank You" enough to my awesome Choir!! You bless God with beautiful music!! And a huge thank you for the scarf, wine glasses, and gift certificates you gave me at Christmas. Here's to 2023!  
Joanne

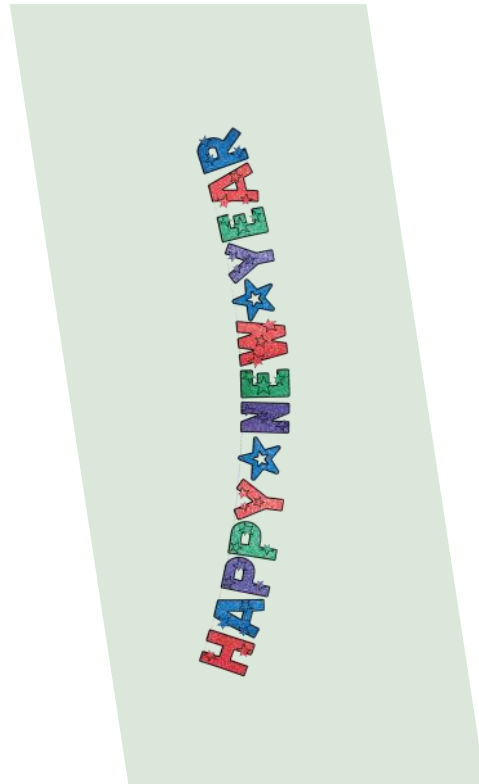
# January 2023

<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>
<b>1</b> 10a - Worship	<b>2</b> <b>Office Closed</b> 10:30a-12:30p—Food Pantry Open 7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 6:30a Men's Bible Study 4:30 The Cross youth 7:00p Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p Praise Team Reh.	<b>5</b> 10:00 Women's bible study	<b>6</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 8:30a Adult Sunday School 10a - Worship	<b>9</b> 9:00a Quilters 10:00a - WMMT Mtg 1:00 p Christian Life Mtg 3:30p Women's Bible Study  7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 6:30a Men's Bible Study 4:30 The Cross youth 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	<b>12</b> 10a Women's Bible study	<b>13</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>14</b> Women of Trinity Mtg 10:00 am
<b>15</b> 8:30a Adult Sunday School 10a - Worship  Love Fund/Food Pantry Offering	<b>16</b> 9:00a Quilters 10:30a-12:30p—Food Pantry Open 3:30p Women's Bible Study  7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	<b>17</b>  6:30p - Council Meeting	<b>18</b> 6:30a Men's Bible Study 4:30 The Cross youth 7:00 Choir practice	<b>19</b> 10a Women's Bible study 6:30p Men's Ministry Mtg	<b>20</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 8:30a Adult Sunday School 10a - Worship  Prayer Shawl Sunday	<b>23</b> 9:00a Quilters 3:30p Women's Bible Study  7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	<b>24</b> <b>Journey Deadline</b>	<b>25</b> Men's Bible Study 4:30 The Cross youth 7:00 Choir practice	<b>26</b> 10a Women's Bible study	<b>27</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 8:30a Adult Sunday School  10a - Worship 5th Sunday Pot Luck	<b>30</b> 9:00 a Quilters 3:30p Women's Bible Study  7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	<b>31</b>				

Trinity Lutheran Church  
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# The JOURNEY

## January 2023

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
Rev. Daniel Tabor—Pastor  
Julie Sunderland, Parish Administrator  
Joanne Schilling, Choir Director  
Betty Blanch & Donnarae Carrell, Custodians  
501 E. Chetac Ave ♦ PO Box 8 ♦ Birchwood, WI 54817  
**(715) 354-3790 ♦ (715) 416-4966 (Pastor's cell)**  
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**JOURNEY Editor ♦ Julie Sunderland ♦ [tlcbirchwood@gmail.com](mailto: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  
Pastor's Office Hours Mondays (8 am—4:30 pm)  
Wednesdays & Thursdays (8—11:30 pm)

## Sunday Worship Services

Jan 1 — Worship w/Communion @ 10 am  
Jan 8 — Worship w/Communion @ 10 am  
Jan 15 — Worship w/Communion @ 10 am  
Jan 22 — Worship w/Communion @ 10 am  
Jan 29 -- Worship w/Communion @ 10 am/ Pot Luck  
to follow service

### KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

Debbie Davis	Lora	Carter Sackmann
Annette Gentile	Sharon Mackey	Timothy Wallace
Andy Hedman	Tracy Reid	Donna Willis
Barb Hinderman	Bill Rice	
Ed Leader	Ro Sackmann	

**In the military:** Rigil Christensen, and all those serving in the military.