

The JOURNEY — Walking Daily with Jesus

ENTERING MINISTRY AS YOUR SHEPHERD

It's surprising, amazing, and a great blessing to answer the call to be the temporary interim pastor at Trinity. Just a year ago last fall, I graduated from Beyond the River Pastoral Academy after 3 1/2 years of training, so I could help out where needed in rural communities where supply pastors are few and far between and also help in assisting where needed at Trinity in teaching Bible studies and anything else.

I remember when Rolf and I started attending Trinity Lutheran Church 31 years ago when we first purchased our little cottage on Red Cedar Lake. It was quite nice to just sit in the back of the church and relax after being burnt out in ministry at our former church where I was involved in teaching children in Sunday School and mid-week classes, singing in the adult choir, directing children and youth choirs, VBS music, Women's groups, funeral chairman, superintendent of Sunday School, pastoral assistant and such. When Rolf retired in 2009, we built a permanent new home on Red Cedar and moved here and got involved in the community and at Trinity. Rolf started coaching Birchwood High School's golf team (he's starting his 11th year this March) and helps with the Basketball team and has served as past vice president and president on Trinity's council. I got involved in being past chairman of the Worship and Music Ministry Team, leading a prayer group and women's bible study at Trinity, as well as singing in the choir. Rolf and I both found out that it's more blessed to give of our time and talents, so we got involved serving in various ways here at Trinity. *(It is more blessed to give than to receive. - Acts 20:35.)*

Rolf and I have gotten to know so many precious brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus here at Trinity. As I start my new role as temporary interim pastor of Trinity church, I'm so very thankful for all the encouragement, warm hugs and prayers I have received here at Trinity. I trust in the Lord to lead and guide me as I strive to preach and teach His Word. We have an excellent council and we will work and pray together asking God to lead us through the challenges and ministry that awaits us. Jesus is head of the church and we believe He will guide, strengthen, and give us wisdom in leading our congregation. *"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."* - Romans 8:28

In Christ's love and service,
Pastor Barb Kleven



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President's Message

What to look for in a Church?

That is the title of the commentary in The New Believers Bible for Acts 2:42-44,47. The scripture reads :

"All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity — all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

Acts 2:42,44-47 NLT

Listen to what the commentator says:

The first century church turned the world upside down with its message. What made the early church so dynamic was the commitment of its members to follow Christ wholeheartedly. When you look for a church to attend, make sure it has these five characteristics of a healthy church.

1. Look for a Church that meets regularly. The early church didn't view the church as a social club, but as a place for devoted fellowship and valuable instruction. We miss out on a tremendous blessing when we neglect meeting together with God's people. When we are spiritually weak, we should not run from church but to church.

2. Look for a Church that places high value on Bible Study. The first-century Christians devoted themselves to the apostles' teachings. The apostles' teachings on the life and ministry of Jesus eventually became the Gospels portion of the New Testament. Studying the Bible is important to every Christian's spiritual growth. Without Bible Study, Christians cannot know and understand God's commands and truth.

3. Look for a Church that is a Place of Corporate Worship and Prayer. The early church recognized the importance of corporate worship and prayer. Corporate Worship focused their attention on the praiseworthy character of God and gave them an opportunity to express their thanks to God. Corporate Prayer allowed them to express their thanks as well, but it was also an opportunity to seek God together and present their



requests before him as a body.

4. Look for a Church that looks after its members. The early believers shared food, clothing, and housing with each other. The Bible reminds us to care for fellow believers who are in need. See 2 Corinthians 9:1-15.

5. Look for a Church that is growing. Church growth is not our responsibility but God's. If we do our part as a church, God will do his. We see proof of this in Acts 2:47.

The early Christian believers created a community using these five characteristics. These characteristics are what people are looking for when seeking a new church or looking for when deciding to return to TLC. These characteristics are good goals TLC should be striving for in the

next few years. The Council and Ministry Teams need your help to give us your thoughts on how to reach these goals. On March 20-21, we have trained church assessors coming to conduct individual conversations with each of you to gather information on what skills our new pastor will need and how to improve in the five areas listed above. Please sign up for an individual appointment at the Welcome Center to give your opinions and suggestions in a confidential non-threatening conversation with friendly-caring people. This is your opportunity to take ownership of your membership in your church. If the timing of the appointments doesn't work out for you, we will have questionnaires that you can pick up at the Welcome Center. Once completed you can turn them in to the church office.

Our mission statement is *"We are a community brought together through God's grace and love, seeking to grow in faith and knowledge in Jesus Christ, and reaching out in word and action to our community and beyond with the good news of Jesus' love."*

Each of you are needed and wanted in the TLC community. Continue to pray with us that God will transform TLC into the community God wants us to be. With God's help we can turn our world upside down just as the first century Christian Church did.

Your partner and brother in Christ,

Jim McGraw

PIECING TOGETHER THE JOYS OF FAITH

The 7th Annual Women of the Word Retreat is Calling YOU! Get away from the busyness of life as you relax with sisters-in-Christ, share laughter and stories, and spend time with God. This year's retreat will feature Sue Engebrecht, who collects bits and pieces.

After Sue transforms bright-colored fabric into snuggly quilts, the leftover scraps ignite her imagination to create whimsical items. Patchwork passion galore. Scraps of paper or restaurant placemats become a place to record a slice of conversation or a memory. Then there's the sparkle of glass. Diverse textures and colors beg to be broken and designed into catchers of light.

But by far, Sue's favorite activity is wandering through Scripture, collecting nuggets of God's wisdom, encouragement, and guidance. The subject we will explore together is finding joy on our journey of faith.

In addition, attendees will assemble a craft project and a mission project (please bring fabric scissors or rotary cutter, and a cutting mat).

The retreat will be held at Forest Springs Camp, in Westboro, WI, April 24-25. This beautiful facility is situated about 100 miles away from Birchwood, along the rustic glacial ridge of north central Wisconsin and offers a wonderful opportunity to unplug, have fun, learn and grow.

The deadline for registration is March 15. Cost is \$90 per person and covers one night's lodging, breakfast, lunch and snack on Saturday, use of the facilities, and retreat materials. Registrations are due by March 15! Each room can accommodate 4 people.

Brochures are available at the Welcome Center.

Women of Trinity Happenings.....

- ✦ We held our meeting on Saturday, February 8, in the Fellowship Hall
- ✦ March Altar Guild person is Dianne Buxton.
- ✦ Discussion was held about the 7th Annual Women's Retreat in April. See article to the left.
- ✦ The two vacant offices for our group have been filled:
 - ◇ Secretary: Susan Janetski
 - ◇ Vice President: Di Hubbard
- ✦ The memorial garden needs some serious work. Sincere thanks to June Ehrich, who started the garden years ago in honor of her husband, Bud, and Sandi David, who worked in the garden with June for countless years. The bushes are overgrown and some remodeling needs to be done. Di Hubbard will spearhead this project with her husband.
- ✦ Service Committee #1 needed a third person to co-chair, and Joanne Schilling stepped up to help.
- ✦ Confusion exists on who orders supplies for the kitchen, and how supplies are paid. Di Hubbard will look into this and report back.
- ✦ There's a new Women of Trinity Archives Display on a table in the Fellowship Hall, which was put up by Cindy Rubin, our president. Each month she will feature a new fact or recipe, drawn from notes of the past from our organization. This month there's a really good recipe on a chocolate eclair dessert. Be sure to check it out!
- ✦ Lenten meals will start soon with the first meal being served on March 4th. These are often simple meals of soup, etc. Our group will serve the March 18th meal, and Joanne Schilling will coordinate the meal.
- ✦ We will be having a **Racine Kringle Fundraiser**. Anyone being a fan of this delicious pastry, will recognize that the Racine Kringles are THE BEST!! Kathy Thom will spearhead this fundraiser, with Di Hubbard and Eleanor Kuala helping her. An article on that appears on page 4.
- ✦ Barb Kleven, our new interim pastor, closed the meeting with a talk about how we might better connect church members, and how we can get to know one another better.
- ✦ Note from Dianne Buxton: It has been an honor to serve as secretary to the Women of Trinity for the many years, but it's time to step down and let someone else serve. I am grateful to Sue Janetski for taking this position.



Our next meeting will be held Saturday, March 14, in the Fellowship Hall, starting at 10 a.m. All women who attend our church and are interested in serving others are invited to attend.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	March 1 (10 AM)	March 8 (10 AM)	March 15 (10 AM)	March 22 (10 AM)	March 29 (10 AM)
GREETERS	Jackie & Dan Healy	Kathy & Wally Thom	Sue & Tom Svitak	Ashley & Zach Beffa	Terri & Rob Freeman
USHERS	John & Janet Schieffer	Rob Freeman LeRoy Brensel	Kevin & Julie Sunderland	Jimmy Kolodzinski LeRoy Brensel	Char & Wes Mohns
COMM. ASSTS	Rolf Kleven Wally Thom	Mary & Leo Diehl	Kathy & Wally Thom	Jeanne Dahlby J. Schilling	Kolodzinski Family
READER	Zach Beffa	Melinda Pedersen	Gloria Widiker	Dianne Buxton	Marcia Kampf
Altar Guild	Dianne Buxton	Dianne Buxton	Dianne Buxton	Dianne Buxton	Dianne Buxton



Yumminess in the form of a good cause!

A yummy treat idea is coming your way from the Women of Trinity.

Racine Danish Kringles will be made available for Trinity to enjoy as an awesome treat and raise some funds for our church.

This fundraiser idea was presented to WOT recently and given a thumbs up as to a very tasty product as well as well as being affordable and well received.

The Kringles are produced in Racine, Wisconsin and are very good. We have had them and can speak from experience. These will be offered for sale starting around April 18, and will be here in time for Mother's Day. They would go wonderfully with Mother's Day Brunch. Please watch for details and feel free to ask any questions.

You may contact Kathy Thom at 715-296-0114.



WORSHIP AND MUSIC (WMMT)

The Lenten and Easter season is quickly approaching. This season is the ultimate paradox of our Christian faith. The ultimate Sacrifice becomes Life eternal with our Lord and Savior. We receive grace blessings of renewed life, joy, and unconditional love.

WMMT has begun to plan and implement midweek services, Holy week services and Sunday services to prepare and remind us of these awesome gifts which we are about to receive.

Midweek services will provide a time of participation in small groups, music and fellowship. Youth and adults will share together during this season with the assistance of mentors to show all of us the way, the truth and the light. Please watch for details and plan to participate, and invite others.. It is an awesome opportunity to grow in faith.

Plans are also being made for a special Maundy Thursday program on April 9 – so check out next month's Journey for more info.

WMMT meets next on March 9, 2020 at 11:00 at Trinity.

Your Sister in Christ,
Kathy Thom/WMMT



- | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Bill Gilgenbach 3/2 | Donnarae Carrell 3/17 | Char Mohns 3/24 |
| Lila Larsen 3/4 | Amy Dakins 3/17 | Nicholas Wisti 3/25 |
| Chrissy Gottwald 3/5 | Lea Heath 3/19 | Jeff Bemins 3/28 |
| Afton Baribeau 3/7 | Jacob Rurup 3/19 | Dustin Nap 3/28 |
| Taylor Robotka 3/7 | MacKenzie Jenkins 3/20 | Jeff Roberts 3/28 |
| Landen Gindt 3/8 | Beth Jutila-Ufferman 3/20 | Tanner Jasper 3/29 |
| Erin Gustafson 3/8 | Bev Skar 3/20 | Savanah Levake 3/29 |
| Tom Olson 3/10 | Karen Dolen 3/21 | Carol Chasteen 3/30 |
| Kirby Brunclik 3/11 | Eunice Kuntz 3/21 | Jenelle Lee 3/31 |
| Dallas Applebee 3/12 | Jamie Skar 3/22 | Noah Lobitz 3/31 |
| Jeanne Sweeney 3/15 | Daniel Moline 3/24 | Diane Hubbard 3/31 |
| Don Fuller 3/16 | | |



LENTEN CALENDAR

Feb 26 Ash Wednesday Worship 6:30 pm (No Meal)
Holy Communion w/ Imposition of Ashes

Lenten Meal 5:30pm
Mar 4 Mid-Week Lenten Service 6:00 pm

Lenten Meal 5:30pm
Mar 11 Mid-Week Lenten Service 6:00 pm

Lenten Meal 5:30 pm
Mar 18 Mid-Week Lenten Service 6:00pm

Lenten Meal 5:30 pm
Mar 25 Mid-Week Lenten Service 6:00pm

Lenten Meal 5:30 pm
April 1 Mid-Week Lenten Service 6:00pm



CRAFT EXTRAVAGANZA

Enjoy crafting, fun and fellowship? Join us won't you, look for times in the bulletins. Supplies will be provided. The craft item that you will be making will be displayed the week ahead on the Welcome Center. Sign up or RSVP to Di Hubbard so she can plan for supplies.



LILIES FOR EASTER

Please help make our Sanctuary beautiful for EASTER with lilies!! Order your white lily *In Honor* or *In Memory* of loved ones.

Just fill out form, attach payment, and return to the church office or place in the offering basket by **MARCH 29**.

NOTE: 15 plants have been pre-ordered, so order yours early!

Take plants home after the 2nd Easter service, APRIL 12.



We Want YOUR Opinion

During the past several years, the sacrament of Holy Communion has been located in two different places in our worship service sequence. We previously placed communion late in the service, after the Scripture readings and sermon. Currently, we have communion early in the service, before the Scripture readings and sermon.

The Worship and Music Ministry Team is considering returning to the previous placement and requests **YOUR** input on which placement is most desirable. The March *Journey* newsletter will include a postcard which can be used to provide your input. If your household has 2 opinions, mark the card as such.

Please return the card by mail (make sure you place a stamp on it!) or in person by **March 8**.



5TH SUNDAY POTLUCK

March 29th is a Potluck Sunday!!

Bring a dish to pass and we will have fellowship with good eats following worship. Watch bulletin for more details!



OUTREACH

Lent is a 6-week period of time used to prepare for Easter. We, as Christians, are to be quiet and thoughtful when preparing ourselves for Easter.

Certain traditions for years have reminded us of what Lent is. We think of a time of repentance, doing penance and alms-giving or giving to charities. We are challenged to give up some of the things we might otherwise do for pleasure and deny ego. Or do we handle self-denials in much the same way we go about sticking to New Year's resolutions?

I see Lent as one of biggest challenge we are presented with to "Live Third!"

Trinity's Outreach Committee project for the month of March will be collecting items for "Project Promise Personal Care Kits" for LWR (Lutheran World Relief)

These kits are shared with people who have lost everything from a natural disaster or life-threatening violence. **Give hope with a bar of soap!**

The "Baskets of Hope" will be set up in the narthex starting Ash Wednesday and collecting will continue until Palm Sunday. There are 5 items needed for a complete kit. There will be a list of items needed and the week they will be collected. This is only a suggestion. Feel free to give any item when it is convenient for you.

Any personal/health care items donated that are not on LWR list will be given to the BW Food Pantry.

I'm not sure if many people actually know what LWR is or does.

It was founded in 1945. LWR is an international, non-government organization focused on sustainable developmental projects, disaster relief and recovery. Originally formed to help those whose homes and lives were devastated by WWII in Europe.

Kits of Care give families around the world some of life's essential as a reminder they are not alone. They assist in cases of chronic poverty and conflict to drought and typhoon.

Making quilts and/or kits strengthens fellowship within the congregation. At present there are only 2 quilters that are members of Trinity! But we can witness our faith to our community.

Cleanliness may not actually be next to godliness, but it certainly helps a person feel more human.

When families find their homes destroyed or must flee for their safety, a towel and soap is rarely taken with. Arriving in a refugee camp or any safe place they are fearful, vulnerable and dirty. The simple items that are in Personal Care Kit provide much needed self-care, critical germ fighting plus a chance to regain their dignity despite being in a place of uncertainty.

We are challenged to live third and what better time to give than Lent!

Karen Hayes

HEALTH KITS DONATION SCHEDULE

- March 1** – One light-weight bath-size towel (52"x27"), dark color recommended.
- March 8** – Two bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping.
- March 15** – One adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging or a business-size envelope.
- March 22** – One sturdy comb.
- March 29** – One metal nail clippers (attached file optional.)
- April 5** – One light-weight bath-size towel (52"x27"), dark color recommended.



NEXT MEETING OF . . .

- Birchwood Food Pantry Open. 10:30 am, Mar 7, 9, 21, 23**
- Worship & Music Team. 11 am, Mar 9**
- Mission & Outreach. 11 am, Mar 11**
- Women of Trinity. 10 am, Mar 14**
- Trinity Council Meeting 6:30 pm, Mar 17**

MARCH 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4 <i>Lenten Meal 5:45 pm</i> Lenten Worship 6:30pm 7:15p -Trinity Choir rehearsal 8:15p—PT Rehearsal	5 9:30a—Women's Bible Study	6 OFFICE CLOSED	7 10:30a-1:30p -Food Pantry Open
8 9:30 am - Coffee 10am - Worship	9 9:30a — Quilters 10:30a—Food Pantry open 11a—WMMT mtg 7p - AA, Fellowship Hall	10	11 11a—Missions Meeting <i>Lenten Meal 5:45 pm</i> Lenten Worship 6:30pm 7:15p -Trinity Choir rehearsal	12 9:30a—Women's Bible Study	13 OFFICE CLOSED	14 WOT-Meeting 10:00 am Fellowship Hall
15 9:30 am - Coffee 10am - Worship Love Fund/Food Pantry Offering	16 9:30a—Quilters 7p - AA, Fellowship Hall Journey Deadline	17 6:30pm Council Meeting	18 <i>Lenten Meal 5:45 pm</i> Lenten Worship 6:30pm 7:15p -Trinity Choir rehearsal	19 9:30a—Women's Bible Study	20 OFFICE CLOSED	21 10:30a-1:30p - Food Pantry Open
22 9:30 am - Coffee 10am - Worship Prayer Shawl Sunday	23 9:30a—Quilters 10:30a —Food Pantry Open 7p —AA, Fellowship Hall	24 Journey Assembly	25 <i>Lenten Meal 5:45 pm</i> Lenten Worship 6:30pm 7:15p -Trinity Choir rehearsal	26 9:30a—Women's Bible Study	27 OFFICE CLOSED	28
29 9:30 am - Coffee 10am - Worship 11 am 5th Sunday Potluck	30 9:30a — Quilters 7p - AA, Fellowship Hall	31				



Trinity Lutheran Church
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Birchwood, WI 54817

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**WOMEN OF TRINITY MEETING
MAR 14 @ 10 AM, FELLOWSHIP HALL**



The JOURNEY March 2020

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Pastor Barb Kleven—Interim 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

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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

3/1 – 10am Worship w/ Communion
3/8 – 10am Worship w/ Communion
3/15 – 10am Worship w/ Communion – Love Fund/Food Pantry
3/22 – 10am Worship w/ Communion – Prayer Shawl Sunday
3/29 – 10am Worship w/Communion – 5th Sunday Potluck

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

Vicki Busick	Lora	Timothy Wallace
Debbie Davis	Sharon Mackey	Elaine Yndestad
Barb Fegan	Rusty Morrell	Carol Addington
Annette Gentile	Leonard Nysted	Walter Radomski
Dan Gowan	Fred Peck	Gialle Lapacinski-Pradera – 7 mo- (Soper's Nephew)
Andy Hedman	Jim Pravda	Nancy Seffinga- (Soper/Hayes niece)
Eileen Koefel	Tom Reed	
Eunice Kuntz	Tracy Reid	
Roy Kuula	Bill Rice	
Bill & Joyce Lambrecht	Ro Sackmann	
Rebecca Langham	Carter Sackmann	
Ed Leader	Cindy Schaan	

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