

The JOURNEY — Walking Daily with Jesus

From the Pastor's Desk:

“Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” Isaiah 43:19

Just when we think that everything is going our way, we get thrown a curveball. We have been doing ministry just fine for the past three years and now: Pastor announces that he is retiring. We are again entering the wilderness, the unknown. Who will guide us? Who will fill the void? Things have been going so well. What will happen to Trinity?

I believe that this is a time of challenge, not defeat! We have an opportunity to look at new ways of doing ministry, instead of depending on the traditional methods. The days of saying of ministry, “Well, that is what we pay pastor to do” are coming to an end, not only here at Trinity, but church wide.

We have an opportunity to learn to do ministry in new ways. We can now find new ways to get more of the congregation involved in the “doing” of ministry. It is already happening! We have liturgy assistants who help to lead us in worship. We have Ministry Team Leaders who come to the table with visions for how their teams can “do” ministry for Jesus. Prayer is becoming central to our congregation! And we are finding that when we focus on prayer, God answers.

We have the opportunity to step forth in faith and to reimagine how God can use each of us in this place called Trinity Lutheran Church to expand Christ's Kingdom. How is the ministry going to look in the future? I am not sure, but I can assure you that it is going to look different to what it has in the past.

We know that fewer and fewer people are coming into the ordained ministry. Churches are waiting for much longer periods of time to find new pastors. This is the new reality in church work, especially following COVID. But God tells us, *“Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”*

Jesus has promised us that the “gates of hell shall not withstand” the mission of His church. (Matthew 16:18) The church of Jesus Christ shall prevail, even against the gates of hell. How is Jesus going to do that with us? I'm not sure, but as we come together to do ministry in new ways, Trinity Lutheran is going to be a part of something life changing for the community, and for the world. In Jesus name.

Pastor Dan

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Letter from Trinity President

RTTF Planning Team Update

You may ask what RTTF is? It is the *Roadmap to The Future*. No, Doc Brown and Marty McFly from “Back to the Future” movie fame are not on our team. They went back to the future. TLC is following God’s Roadmap to move forward into the future and do His Kingdom work here. At the 2023 Annual Congregational Meeting, we formed a strategic planning team to draft a plan to determine what TLC will look like in 1, 3 and 5 years from now and how to get there. That is the *Roadmap to The Future*.

The Planning Team’s immediate priority now is to provide for pastoral succession after Pastor Dan’s retirement in May 2025. The two scenarios we are working on is: 1) calling a new full-time pastor or 2) agreeing to Pastor Dan’s proposal to serve in a 3/4 part-time capacity. The goals, action items and completion dates are being set to draft a plan for this succession. One of the important goals is to present the plans to the congregation once the Planning Team has completed that draft.

The Planning Team’s first meeting held on January 30, was to begin the planning process by listing TLC’s strengths and weaknesses. From these lists, we identified ministry opportunities and threats that might prevent us from moving forward with these opportunities. Some additional opportunities might be created if we can strengthen our weaknesses. At the second meeting, held on February 13, we listed duties and responsibilities contained in Pastor Dan’s contract.

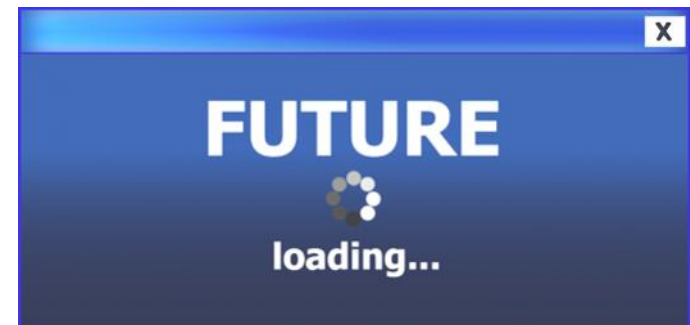
Future team tasks will be to categorize which contract duties only the pastor can do and which duties congregational members can do. It may look like this planning process is like any other organization. That is not the case. We are infusing our efforts with prayer. We are praying for the Holy Spirit’s guidance, wisdom, empowering and courage. We hold on to the promises in God’s Word. *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight.”* [Proverbs 3:5-6] You will notice we are praying for courage from God as we plan for the future of His church. Charles Stanley, in

a sermon entitled “The Courage to Face Difficult Tasks,” describes the courage and boldness God promised to give Joshua after God told him to lead Israel into the promised land. Imagine the uncertainty and fear that Joshua felt leading Israel into unknown territory. Listen to what God is instructing Joshua to do. *“Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel. Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, just as I promised to Moses.”* [Joshua 2b-3]

Do you hear and feel God leading us to new and better things here in Birchwood? New and uncharted territory. Change, transitions and new things are sometimes difficult and uncomfortable. But here is the good and wonderful part. Listen to God’s promise He gave to both Israel and TLC. *“Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”* [Joshua 1:7-9] God is not only with us always but He is leading us and giving us all the resources we need to journey into the future.

I am looking forward to what TLC will look like. We will keep you informed on our progress and when we schedule the Special Congregational Meeting. Keep TLC and your Leadership Team in your prayers.

Jim McGraw



MARCH WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	Mar 3 10:00a	Mar 10 10:00a	Mar 17 10:00a	Mar 24 10:00a	Mar 31 6:30a/10:00a
GREETERS	Jackie & Dan Healy	Terri Freeman	Brenda Mackey	Joanne & Eldon Kvale	Char Mohns
USHERS	Rolf Kleven LeRoy Brensel	Rob Freeman Wally Thom	Steve Tracey Tom Svitak	Wally Thom LeRoy Brensel	John Schieffer-6:30 John Schieffer-10:00 Wes Mohns-10:00
COMM. ASSTS	Ellen Ehrich	Dan Dahl	Pat Mackey	Joanne Schilling	Janet Schieffer-6:30 Ellen, Joanne, Pat-10
READER	Donnarae Carrell	Kathy Thom	Eric Anderson	Gloria Widiker	Karen Hayes-6:30 Ellen Ehrich-10:00



- Don Fuller 03/16
- Donnarae Carrell 03/17
- Char Mohns 03/24
- Margaret Buchanan 03/25
- Jeff Bemis 03/28
- Kyle Hubbard 03/24
- Diane Hubbard 03/31



Dessert and Coffee will be served!

Snacks and Facts

Second Tuesday at 2 pm
Join us for "Avoiding Bank Fraud"
JoAnn Mertens from Dairy State Bank will present and answer questions.
March 12, 2024, at 2 pm
Trinity Fellowship Hall
Join in a short Devotion.
Everyone Welcome!

Meeting

NEXT MEETING OF . . .

- Birchwood Food Pantry Open Mar 4 & 18, 10:30-12:30pm**
- Worship & Music Team Mar 4, 10:00am**
- Women of Trinity Mar 9, 10:00 am**
- Men's Ministry of Trinity Mar 21, 6:30 pm**
- Trinity Council Meeting None**

A letter from Your Associate Pastor When Winds of Adversity Blow Strong

March winds can blow very hard and strong! When the wind blows really hard, it sometimes seems as if the whole roof might blow off!! One windy day, our son's beautiful crab tree blew over in his front yard, and all the roots were exposed! The strong winds had taken their toll on that little tree, and yet, after it was pulled up, straightened, and anchored with chords and stakes, it stayed healthy and even blossomed!

This brings to mind the winds of adversity that can come into our lives. We each have our own burdens to bear; some are known, and others hidden. When strong winds try to blow us over, can we know that we can still stand strong? When we're brought low and circumstances seem almost too much to bear, can we have the assurance that we can still overcome?

As the family of God, with faith in His Son Jesus and what He has done for us on the cross, we can have the assurance that God is able to help us through any storm. Whether the trouble is physical, mental, emotional, social, spiritual, or financial, our setbacks can lead to valuable experiences that bring unexpected fulfillment and faith building that can leave us even better than before any setback as we depend on God.

Trials can cause us to ask questions and seek answers. It is amazing that in every trial we face, we can find that our sufficiency is found in God through His Son, Jesus. His presence is real in the difficult times when we come to Him and

trust in Him. The promises in His Word lighten our path with hope even in the darkest moments. The prayers and support of our brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus bring strength and support to us, helping us to stand secure with strong chords of love and encouragement.

FIND HELP IN THESE SCRIPTURES:

Philippians 4:13 — *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me!*

1 Corinthians 9:8 — *God is able to make His grace abound to you so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.*

Philippians 4:19 — *And my God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.*

Isaiah 41:10 — *So, do not fear, for I am with You; do not be dismayed, for I am Your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.*

John 27:14 — *Wait for the Lord, be strong and let your heart take courage, wait for the Lord.*

When winds of adversity blow, we can stand strong as our soul is anchored in God's Word and helped with the love of our brothers and sisters in Christ who lift us up.

May God's comfort, peace, and love be with you!

Pastor Barb



BEAUTIFY THE SANCTUARY WITH EASTER LILIES \$10/plant

Please help beautify the Sanctuary for EASTER with faux lilies!!

Order your white lily

In Honor of OR In Memory of loved ones.

Form available in the Narthex — attach payment and return to the church office or place in the offering basket by Mar 24.

The faux lilies will be cared and stored at Trinity

{Easter bulletin will list donors and honorees/memorials}

Call Julie at 715-354-3790

Order By March 24

LENTEN AND EASTER SERVICES

Our Mid-week services continue at 6:30 pm on Wednesdays, with a light meal at 5:30 pm provided sponsors have signed up to provide them!

Lenten, Holy Week, and Easter Services are as follows:

Mid-week Lenten Services

Mar 6 — Lenten Meal @ 5:30 pm

Lenten service @ 6:30 pm

Mar 13 — (T) Lenten Meal @ 5:30 pm — Sponsor Needed!

Lenten service @ 6:30 pm

Mar 20 — Lenten Meal @ 5:30 pm

Lenten service @ 6:30 pm

Holy Week Services

Mar 24 — Palm Sunday Worship w/communion @ 10:00 am

Mar 28 — Maundy Thursday w/communion @ 6:30 pm

Mar 29 — Good Friday Worship @ 6:30 pm

Easter Services and Brunch

Mar 31 — Easter Sunrise Worship w/communion @ 6:30 am

Mar 31 — Easter Brunch between services

Mar 31 — Easter Worship w/communion @ 10:00 am



Mission and Outreach

Continuing through Lent we will be collecting for Lutheran World Relief personal care kits. If you see any good sales, we will be collecting the following items:

- Bath towels between 20"x40" and 52"x27", dark color recommended
- Bath size bars of soap 8-9 oz. in original wrapping
- Comb
- Metal nail clippers
- Adult Toothbrush

LWR Kits are specifically designed to help people coping with poverty, disaster, conflict and more. Whether a kit helps someone to maintain good hygiene, care well for a newborn baby, keep education going during a crisis or learn a new vocation, LWR Kits provide dignity and hope in the direst situations.

WHAT IS STEWARDSHIP?

Stewardship is defined by some as the "use of God-given resources for the accomplishment of God-given goals." Another scholar says that "Stewardship involves relations between an owner, a steward, a resource and the purpose for which that resource is to be used."

In our lives, God is the owner of all things. Resources are everything He has given us. This includes our salvation, our churches, our education, our time, our health, our thoughts and words, all our material things including our homes, cars, families, and finances. It all belongs to Him and He has entrusted it to us for a specific purpose. The purpose? Jesus tells us in Matthew 6:33, after telling us not to chase after the things the world chases after, *"But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."*

God has entrusted many things to us, that He owns, so that we can be busy advancing His kingdom.

This obviously includes missions and evangelism, but it also includes generosity. Jesus is clear in Matthew 25:37-40: *"Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'"*

Consider your blessings and how you can advance His kingdom.

Mike Rubin



February Happenings

Kitchen Cleaning 2024 is scheduled for February 27th with Service Team 2 and February 28th with Service Team 1.

Let's make this wonderful facility that is used to bless so many clean and healthy!

The 2024 Service Booklet will be delayed pending some decisions about the summer services and refreshments – stay tuned! If you have any input or questions, please see Cindy Rubin.

Altar Guild for February is Karen Hayes and March is Terri Freeman.

The Youth Meeting on Wednesday nights is looking for volunteers to provide and serve a simple meal for about 8 participants, starting in April and May. Please see the sign-up in the Narthex.

The Women of the Word retreat at Camp Forest Springs will be April 5th and 6th. This is a truly delightful weekend to laugh, share, learn and refresh the spirit! Please see Joanne Schilling for registration information.

We decided to do Operation Christmas Child this year! Each year, the Billy Graham Association through Operation Christmas Child packs shoeboxes with small toys, games and toiletries to send to children all over the year. In each box is a pamphlet about Jesus and how to know Him. Stories abound about how meaningful these boxes can be to children. More details will follow but the packing event will be October 19th. Start saving your shoeboxes now!

The Secret Sister BIG REVEAL luncheon is scheduled for October 12th after our WOT meeting. Save the date to meet the woman who has been lifting you up in prayer all year long! Sue Janetski has generously offered to donate a quilt for our silent auction this year – thanks, Susan!

Due to absences, we will not meet in March but plan to get together again in April. Please join us!

Calling ALL Women of Trinity!

Our next meeting is April 13th at 10:00am! Please join us for fellowship, support of our sisters and our church, and planning future events!

**Women of
Trinity**





We're going on a splash-tastic adventure for **SCUBA VBS** where kids dive into friendship with God! The fun and faith-filled week launches kids under the sea where they'll explore what it means to have a friendship with God! **SCUBA VBS** will take place June 10-14, from 12:30 to 3:30 pm.

Planning has just begun with a Co-Director Team comprised of Joanne Schilling, Cindy Rubin, Wally Thom, Rob Freeman, and Sue Svitak. They'll be reaching out to the Trinity family for help in putting together another awesome VBS. If you're interested in assisting, contact one of them or the church office. And stay tuned for more information to come!

WORSHIP HELP NEEDED!

Can you push a button?! Then we could use you to volunteer to run the PPT show on Sunday mornings. It is basically a matter of advancing the slides in the PPT program. Training provided!

If you are interested or have questions, please talk to Joanne Schilling, at 715-651-4875.



10th Annual Women's Retreat

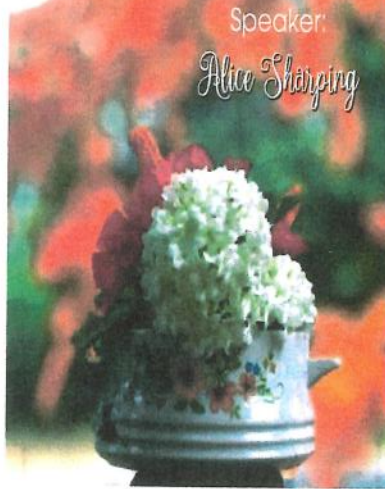
*Beautifully Broken,
Gracefully Mended*

APRIL 5-6, 2024

Forest Springs Camp & Conference Center

Speaker:

Alice Sharping



Questions? Call DJ Miskulin-Hubbard, 941-893-0311
Check out our Facebook page:
Women Of the Word (with butterfly logo)

The Women of the Word (WOW) executive committee invite you to a weekend with other Christian women in fellowship with God, learning, laughing, and relaxing. It will be a time of worship, meeting with the Father, and just sitting back to relax and enjoy the beautiful Northwoods of Wisconsin.

There are several activities planned for you throughout the weekend:

Mission Project

Bring a list of mission project ideas to share with others.

Live Worship Music

Let's all make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

Craft Project

We will make a mosaic keepsake to remember the weekend.

Time

Take a walk around the rustic grounds of Forest Springs ... or take a nap.

Holy Communion

We will conclude our time together with worship & partaking of Holy Communion.

Friday, April 5

4:00 pm Registration
5:00 pm Retreat begins with dinner

Saturday, April 6

8:00 am Breakfast
Lunch & snacks provided
4:00 pm Retreat ends

ABOUT OUR GUEST SPEAKER



Alice Sharping

knew the Lord was taking her in a new direction after 14 years in the English classroom. After living in Mexico a few months, "just helping", the Lord showed her that her call was to missions and domestic outreach to help equip the Saints for Kingdom works and get weapons to Warriors. God has opened doors all over the world to minister in deliverance and healing, preaching the Word, and the prophetic. She is an ordained pastor and a trained inner healing/deliverance minister. Her passion is to see her brothers and sisters set free to expand the Kingdom of God here on earth. She has visited over 25 nations and finds herself always back in the spiritual classroom, ready to receive a new revelation for the battle. Her continuing revelation is that the Most High God is passionate for her and enjoys her company.

Please turn in your forms and payment to Joanne Schilling/the Office to be consolidated and sent in. We will coordinate car-pooling to the retreat.

March 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 OFFICE CLOSED	2
3 10a Worship w/ communion	4 9:00a Quilters 10a WMMT Mtg 10:30a-12:30p—Food Pantry Open 3:30p Women's Bible Study 7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	5	6 6:30a Men's Bible Study 5:30 Lenten Meal 6:30 Lenten Service 7p TLC Choir Rehearsal 8p PT Rehearsal	7 10a Women's Bible Study	8 OFFICE CLOSED	9 NO WOT Mtg
10 10a Worship w/ communion	11 9:00a Quilters 3:30p Women's Bible Study 7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	12 2p Snacks and Facts	13 6:30a Men's Bible Study (T) 5:30p Lenten Meal 6:30p Lenten Service 7p TLC Choir Reh	14 10a Women's Bible Study	15 OFFICE CLOSED	16
17 10a Worship w/ communion Love Fund/Food Pantry Offering	18 9a Quilters 10:30a-12:30p—Food Pantry Open 3:30p Women's Bible Study 7p AA, Fellowship Hall	19 Journey Deadline NO Council Meeting	20 6:30a Men's Bible Study 11:00a Missions mtg 5:30p Lenten Meal 6:30p Lenten Service 7p TLC Choir Reh	21 10a Women's Bible Study 6:30p Men's Ministry Mtg	22 OFFICE CLOSED	23
24 10a Worship w/ communion Prayer Shawl Sunday	25 9:00a Quilters 3:30p Women's Bible Study 7p AA, Fellowship Hall	26	27 6:30a Men's Bible Study 7p TLC Choir Reh	28 10a Women's Bible Study 6:30p Maundy Thurs Worship w/ communion	29 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30p Good Friday Worship w/ communion	30
31 EASTER SUNDAY 6:30a Sunrise Easter Worship w/communion Easter Brunch between 10a Easter Celebration Worship w/communion						

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

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54817

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

**JOIN US FOR SNACKS AND FACTS
TUES MARCH 12TH @ 2:00 PM
PRESENTATION ON BANK FRAUD**



The JOURNEY

March 2024

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Rev. Daniel Tabor—Pastor

Pastor Barb Kleven—Associate Pastor

Julie Sunderland, Parish Administrator

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	Tuesday - 3 rd week of the month
Pastor's Office Hours	Mondays (8 am–3:00pm) Wednesdays (8–11:30 pm) other days by apt.



March Worship Services

- Mar 3 — Worship w/communion @ 10 am
- Mar 6 — Lenten service @ 6:30 pm
- Mar 10 — Worship w/communion @ 10 am
- Mar 13 — Lenten service @ 6:30 pm
- Mar 17 — Worship w/communion @ 10 am
- Mar 20 — Lenten service @ 6:30 pm
- Mar 24 — Palm Sunday Worship w/communion @ 10 am
- Mar 28 — Maundy Thursday w/communion @ 6:30 pm
- Mar 29 — Good Friday Worship @ 6:30 pm
- Mar 31 — Easter Sunrise Worship w/communion @ 6:30 am
- Mar 31 — Easter Worship w/communion @ 10 am

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

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

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