

The JOURNEY — Walking Daily with Jesus

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus,

"I thank God every time I remember you." Philippians 1:3

You have continually been in my thoughts and prayers in a greater way as I have served here at Trinity.

Since the last Sunday in February I have had the privilege of being your interim pastor and I would like to share some of the things I did for the "first" time, and some of the blessings I have experienced:

This was my first time:

- Being an interim pastor; having my own office other than at home, officiating at a funeral; officiating at a gravesite burial; giving a sermon every Sunday (except 1) for 8 months and having the honor of sharing a closer connection with each of you as the shepherd of the flock.

The blessings I have experienced:

- Getting to know and appreciate how the custodians keep everything so clean and tidy, and the operations men and women that keep our church so beautifully maintained inside and out. Thank you, Betty & Donnaræ and everyone who helps. (Special thanks to Wally for all you do!)
- Working with Julie Sunderland and appreciating how well she oversees the church office with all the many details that entails. How she takes time to visit and care for people that come in. Thank you, Julie.
- Seeing the wonderful concern and planning that our church council does with the many "behind the scenes" hours they spend; and also, the prayers and hours that the call committee spent in finding our new pastor, Pastor Dan Tabor. Thank you, Council, and call committee (with special thanks to Jim McGraw and Di Hubbard for your leadership.)
- Seeing how the Worship committee chairperson conscientiously and carefully plans protocol for Covid-19 so we can meet safely for worship and assigning worship assistants each month. (thank you, Kathy); our sanctuary is beautifully decorated each season (thank you Sue Svitak & Tom), and how thoughtfully organized our communion is set-up (Thank you, Jeanne); and all the people who help in assisting at Beffa and Cindy Rubin with overseeing the Education of Youth and Family, Marcia Kampf in diligently leading women's Thursday Bible Study. (Thank you, Cindy for your careful planning and attentiveness as president of our Women of Trinity)
- Having Joanne oversee volunteers for our power point, sound system, and special music for worship, and our faithful talented pianists. Thank you, Joanne, Dianne, and Donnaræ.
- Having such a loving, caring congregation that is so willing to lend a hand and share a word of encouragement.
- My heart is full of thanksgiving and praise for each one of you and the opportunity I have had to serve the Lord by serving you as Interim pastor.
- And now we anticipate and greet with open arms our new pastor and his wife, Pastor Dan Tabor and Gelene. God bless them as they settle into the parsonage, and God bless us all as we look forward to serving God together and sharing the Good news of Jesus Christ to our community and beyond. *"May the Lord of peace give you peace at all times and in every situation."* 2 Thessalonians 3:16

Love and prayers, Pastor Barb Kleven

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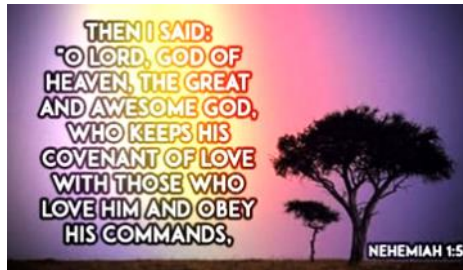
President's Message

Powerful Prayer

During these times of change we all are concerned with what is happening to our divided country, our family's future, and changes within God's church. What can we do to fight these times of fear and anxiety? What can we do to heal the division within our nation? How can we make positive changes in our families and church? Nehemiah and Israel had similar problems back when they were in exile. Before doing anything else Nehemiah's first step was to cry out to God in fervent prayer.

As part of the one-year devotional program by wordpress.com, Bob Dellinger wrote *Powerful Prayer: Nehemiah 1- Bible in a Year Blog*. Dellinger tells the story of Nehemiah and what we can learn from him.

Prayer is powerful. Prayer pleases God. Yet prayer is neglected, even in my own life. The book of Nehemiah demonstrates a formula for prayer that



moved a king, overcame great opposition, and rebuilt a city.

Then I said: "O LORD, God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and obey his commands, let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night

for your servants, the people of Israel." Nehemiah 1: 5-6.

Nehemiah prayed because of the heart-breaking news he heard about the sad state of the rebuilding effort in Jerusalem. It had been 90 years since the first exiles had returned to Jerusalem, 70 years since the temple had been rebuilt, and 10 years since Ezra had arrived and stemmed the slide of the people into assimilation with the pagans around them. Yet the news which Nehemiah heard was that the returned exiles were in great trouble and disgrace and unprotected because there were no walls around the city.

Nehemiah prayed with emotion. He prayed out of a broken heart and had been weeping for his disgraced brothers. **Aren't our prayers most fervent when we pray with the sense of great need and anguish?**

Nehemiah prayed after fasting. Fasting is not a prerequisite to prayer, but **Jesus himself said that the combination of the two had the power to overcome difficult situations.**

His prayer invoked the character of God. Nehemiah's prayer described and praised God at the same time (great and awesome God). It then made God's character the foundation of **God's response to the prayer (the one**

who keeps his covenant of love with those who love and obey him).

His prayer emphasized the relationship with God. Nehemiah emphasized (1) that he was subordinate to God as a servant (2) that the Israelites were God's people.

His prayer confessed the sins of himself and his people. He was general in his admission of guilt, then specific in admitting that the people had not kept the law of Moses.

His prayer recalled the promises of God. I continue to see overwhelming evidence that this is crucial to answered prayer. Nehemiah reminded God of his promise that if his exiled people returned to him in obedience, he would redeem them and bring them back to the Promised Land.

His prayer was specific. He asked that God would give him success with the king, in order that the king would support his mission to rebuild Jerusalem.

After Nehemiah prayed, **he still had to step out in faith to bring his plan** before the king. The king could have charged Nehemiah with divided loyalty, but instead he responded with whole-hearted favor. Nehemiah's method of praying unleashed all of God's influence and molded the will of the king.

Sometimes I find myself reciting common prayers and confession of sin without thinking of what I'm praying for. Jesus reminds us that the Pharisees prayed repetitive prayers with empty phrases. James tells us, the prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. Join me in being more disciplined in our prayer life. Fervently and powerfully pray following the Nehemiah model.

May the God of grace, hope and love guide us through prayer and Bible Study toward his will for our lives.

Jim McGraw



November WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	November 1 (10AM)	November 8 (10 AM)	November 15 (10 AM)	November 22 (10 AM)	November 29 (10AM)
GREETERS	Di & Kyle Hubbard	Karen & Bob Scott	Terri & Rob Freeman	Pat & Brenda Mackey	Eleanor Kuula
USHERS	Tom Svitak Wally Thom	LeRoy Brensel Kyle Hubbard	Wally Thom LeRoy Brensel	Rolf Kleven Mike Rubin	The Sunderland's
COMM. ASSTS	Sue Svitak Kathy Thom	Rolf Kleven Kathy Thom	Jim McGraw Kathy Thom	Brenda Mackey Barb Kleven	Sue Svitak Kathy Thom
READER	Donnarae Carrell	Sue Capra	Gloria Widiker	Dianne Buxton	Joanne Schilling

***“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?” Isaiah 43:18-19***

Dear Trinity Family,

Here we go again. Change has become part of our daily lives. It is certainly keeping us on our toes and pushing us forward.

I am grateful for the changes. We are now anticipating the arrival of our new Pastor and his wife. I am grateful for Pastor Barb, for the immense effort she has demonstrated to keep the Trinity Family worshipping.

These are prime examples of change, but we have definitely had to put in much work and effort to continue our transition due to these changes. We will continue to see and implement changes at Trinity. We are asked not to dwell on the past, but observe what new things God might be laying before us. We must have trust that He is going to provide for and take care of us.

As the new Pastor arrives in the midst of a pandemic, I am feeling equipped by these verses, Isaiah 43:18-19. I believe it is reminding us that what we did in the past will now be forever different. A new Pastor is likely to introduce changes in our worship, and certainly Covid has and will continue to bring changes. We can do this!

I pray that our Trinity Family can meet these challenges head on, with joy and love for one another, and to receive the renewal from Our Lord that he offers us each and every day.



God bless you all.

Your Sister in Christ, Kathy Thom

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"!!!!



TRINITY WELCOMES ITS NEW PASTOR NOVEMBER 15



Pastor Dan Tabor, joined by his wife, Gelene, will be the new pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Birchwood. His first service will be on November 15, at the 10 am worship service.

Born in St. Paul, MN, his family relocated to Wisconsin and he graduated from Suring High School, in Suring, WI.

Prior to formally entering the ministry, served in the U. S Army as a military police officer, as a police officer for 17 years in Minnesota, and in the Army Reserve as a Military Intelligence officer.

He received a Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Administration from Northwestern University, St. Paul, MN; a Masters of Arts in Management from Doane College, Crete, NE; and a Masters of Divinity from St. Paul Lutheran Seminary.

Pastor Dan and Gelene like to hike, fish and camp. They have 5 children and 11 grandchildren (with one more on the way.) Three of the children still live in the Twin Cities, while two live in the Washington DC area.



GETTING THE PARSONAGE READY FOR THE TABORS!



WEBSITE PAYPAL DONATE BUTTON

We've added a PayPal DONATE ONLINE button to the Trinity website!!

Now, visitors to our website and others who are out of the Birchwood area can make donations online thru PayPal. PayPal accepts major credit cards, debit cards, and PayPal.

In addition, we have received a PayPal card reader to use for fund-raising events when attendees may wish to pay using a credit or debit card.

Trinity is charged the standard rate for a PayPal nonprofit business account of 2.9% + \$0.30 for each domestic transaction. Therefore, we recommend that members of Trinity drop off or mail their donations to the church (P.O. Box 8, Birchwood, WI) rather than donate online.

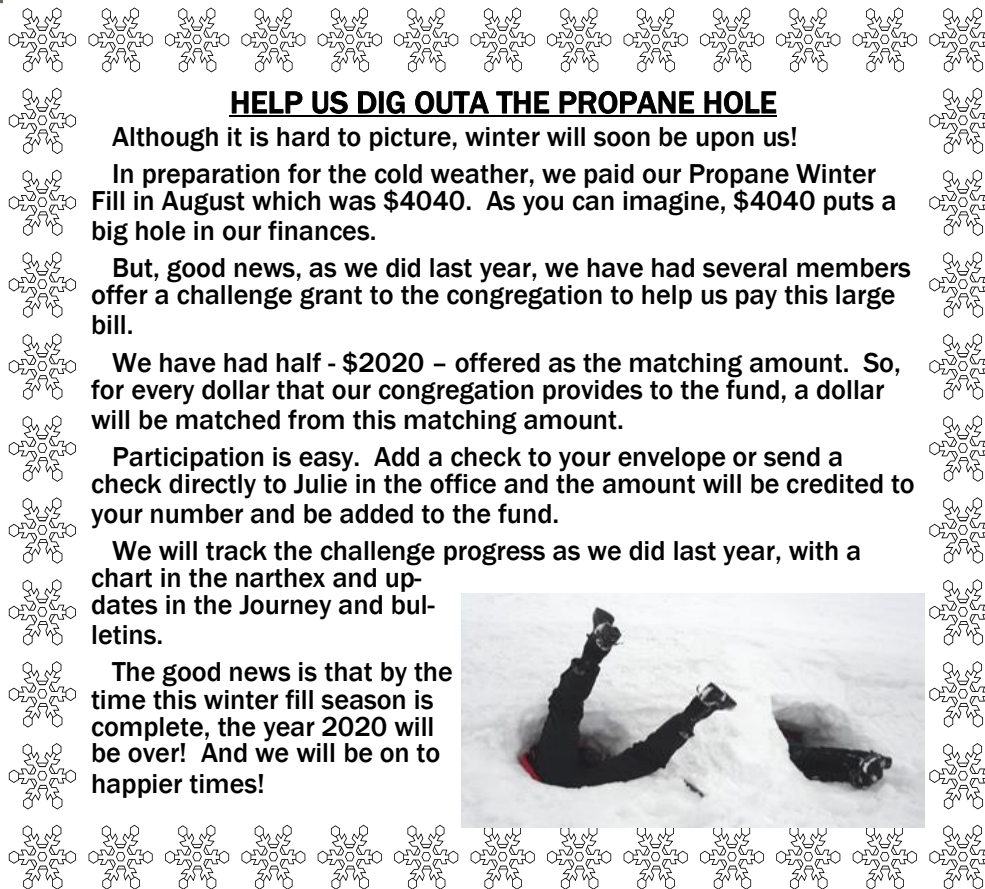


THURSDAY MORNING WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

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.

If you are interested in joining them, please contact:

Marcia Kampf at 715-354-3048



HELP US DIG OUT THE PROPANE HOLE

Although it is hard to picture, winter will soon be upon us!

In preparation for the cold weather, we paid our Propane Winter Fill in August which was \$4040. As you can imagine, \$4040 puts a big hole in our finances.

But, good news, as we did last year, we have had several members offer a challenge grant to the congregation to help us pay this large bill.

We have had half - \$2020 - offered as the matching amount. So, for every dollar that our congregation provides to the fund, a dollar will be matched from this matching amount.

Participation is easy. Add a check to your envelope or send a check directly to Julie in the office and the amount will be credited to your number and be added to the fund.

We will track the challenge progress as we did last year, with a chart in the narthex and updates in the Journey and bulletins.

The good news is that by the time this winter fill season is complete, the year 2020 will be over! And we will be on to happier times!



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**

A LIVE EVENT PAINTING THE WORD

**Painting by Artist & Pastor Paul Oman
Music & Worship by First English Lutheran
November 4, 2020 - 7pm**

Join us as we partner with First English Lutheran church for an exclusive live event "Painting the Word" welcoming nationally recognized painter, Pastor Paul Oman.

Experience a drawn to the word artistic experience where Artist and Pastor Paul Oman will paint a larger-than-life sized mural of the biblical story, On the Road to Emmaus, before your eyes with First English Lutheran Church! This story will unfold artistically, musically and narratively during the event.

All are welcome, we encourage you to invite friends and family to this miraculous experience. Register and watch! Register

at: https://thrivent.zoom.us/webinar/register/1115978476353/WN_zwvwf4yITc-PcCJmIOzEEQ

NEXT MEETING OF . . .

- Birchwood Food Pantry Open 10:30-12:30pm, Nov 2, 7, 16, 21**
- Worship & Music Team 10 am, Nov 9**
- Women of Trinity 10am Nov 14**
- Trinity Council Meeting 6:30 pm, Nov 17**

Women of Trinity Happenings.....

- ✦ We held our meeting October 10, 2020 with 7 women present.
- ✦ The August secretary's report was reviewed and accepted. We did not meet in September.
- ✦ The treasurer's report was reviewed and accepted. The savings account will be combined with the checking account since it was inactive.
- ✦ Altar Guild—Jeanne Dahlby explained only 12 cups can be in a tray, that is why there are so many tiers. November altar guild person is Karen Hayes
- ✦ Correspondence was received from the young Haitian lady that we sponsor. They have been quarantined for 5 months due to Covid. A letter was received from Gladys Mungo, director of Haiti missions. She has been back in Haiti since August.
- ✦ Joanne Schilling will take over the sending of stamps collected to Bote von Bethel, Germany. Our thanks to June Ehrich who handled that project for many years.

- ✦ Meals for Cross kids continue to be provided. Kathy Thom is doing all the serving and clean up. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex.
- ✦ There will be a Christmas bake sale at church on December 13. Cindy will contact Karen Scott to determine if she will be able to coordinate the making of lefse. We are planning these fundraisers since our annual rummage sale was not held due to the pandemic. These will adversely impact year-end charitable gifts.
- ✦ It was reported that the Herrichs Family is planning to sell their possessions and move to Uganda to start a pregnancy crisis center. Joanne will invite them to give a temple talk and we will take an offering for their cause. Jennifer's parents are Al & Gloria Widiker.
- ✦ Jeanne Dahlby has resigned as our WOT representative on the church council. There was no immediate volunteer to replace her.
- ✦ Our next meeting is Saturday, November 14 at 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall.



Pastor Barb's last sermon before Pastor Tabor arrives is November 8th. Please join us for worship and coffee fellowship directly after the service in the Fellowship Hall to show our appreciation.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Roy Kuula	11/01	Karl David	11/19
Lisa Bratvold	11/02	Jill Lavigne	11/20
Mark Roppe	11/03	Cassandra Sweeney	11/21
Eleanor Kuula	11/03	Mary Arveson	11/22
Susan Janetski	11/09	Marcia Kampf	11/22
Connie Leader	11/11	Becky Christensen	11/23
Michael Hedman	11/12	Jim LaMotte	11/23
Ginger LaMotte	11/12	Emma VandeVoort	11/28
Amber Jutila	11/13	Lane Healy	11/29
Wyatt Gargulak	11/15	Phillip Subrt	11/30
Diane Brensel	11/17		



November 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 10am - Worship	2 10:30a-12:30p—Food Pantry Open	3	4 5:30p - The Cross	5 10:15a—Women's Bible Study	6 OFFICE CLOSED	7 10:30a-12:30p—Food Pantry Open
8 10am - Worship Pastor Barb's last Sunday	9 WMMT Meeting 10:00am 10:30a-12:30p—Food Pantry Open 6p Women's Bible Study-Trinity Rm 7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	10	11 5:30p - The Cross	12 10:15a—Women's Bible Study	13 OFFICE CLOSED	14
15 10am - Worship Pastor Tabor first Worship Love Fund/Food Pantry Offering	16 10:30a-12:30p—Food Pantry Open 6p Women's Bible Study-Trinity Rm 7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	17 6:30 pm Council Meeting	18 5:30p - The Cross	19 10:15a—Women's Bible Study	20 OFFICE CLOSED	21 10:30a-12:30p—Food Pantry Open
22 10am - Worship Prayer Shawl Sunday	23 Journey Deadline 6p Women's Bible Study-Trinity Rm 7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	24 6:30 pm Thanksgiving Service	25 5:30p - The Cross	26 Thanksgiving OFFICE CLOSED 10:15a—Women's Bible Study	27 OFFICE CLOSED	28
29 10am - Worship	30 6p Women's Bible Study-Trinity Rm 7p—AA, Fellowship Hall					

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**PASTOR TABOR'S 1ST
SERMON NOV. 15, 2020**



**The JOURNEY
November 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

SUNDAY WORSHIP THIS MONTH

- 11/01 — 10am Worship w/ Communion
- 11/08 — 10am Worship w/ Communion - Pastor Barbs last day
- 11/15— 10am Worship w/ Communion - Pastor Tabor's first service
- 11/22— 10am Worship w/ Communion -Prayer Shawl Sunday
- 11/29- 10am Worship w/Communion

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.