

# The JOURNEY — Walking Daily with Jesus

## From the Pastor's Desk:

*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.* (Hebrews 13:8, ESV)

As I draft this article the sun is shining in the office window. The brightness fills the room with a warmth which fill one's heart with a gladness after a long, dreary, snowless winter. Yet, the weather professionals are saying that this is going to change. This sunshine may be going away for a few days as a large snowstorm brings winter back into our lives. You have likely heard the saying, "You are in Wisconsin. If you don't like the weather, just wait a moment, it will change."

Lent, the time that we focus on God's Law, and on our failure to keep it perfectly, has come to an end. It has been a time of contrition and absolution in preparation for Holy Week. Easter, the time that we hear of all that Our Lord went through in order to secure our salvation, is just days away. We heard of His betrayal by one of His own disciples. We heard of His betrayal by the religious leaders whose task had been to point the people to Jesus, their Messiah. And we heard of Jesus's death on a cross, His three days in the tomb, and finally, His resurrection three days later.

The cross and resurrection changes everything for you and me. Jesus rising from the now empty grave moves us from "dead men walking" into "New creations" (2 Cor 5:17). What a glorious change! Our lives changed from being people under the burden of the Law, to children of God who walk under freedom of the Good News of Christ and Him crucified (1 Cor, 1:23). Jesus has changed us into Gospel people.

Unlike the Wisconsin weather, our status as God's children will not change. The condemnation of sin, death, and the devil no longer have power over us. We are now brothers and sisters of Jesus, a people made that way by the mercy and grace of that same Jesus. And "*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.*"

In Christ, Pastor Dan

## WHAT'S INSIDE

From Pastor's Desk	1
Letter from Trinity President	2
Worship Assistants	3
April Birthdays	3
Snacks & Facts	3
Next meeting of....	3
From Pastor Barb's Desk	4
Fellowship Craft Project	4
Word Search	5
	5
VBS	6
PowerPoint Techs Wanted	6
WMMT	6
Calendar	7



## Letter from Trinity President

At last year's Leadership Team Working Sessions, we used the book, *Autopsy of a Deceased Church - 12 Ways to Keep Yours Alive* as a resource for discussion. The author, Dr Thom Rainer is president of Life Way Christian Resources. Dr Rainer is a respected researcher and pastor. Dr Rainer has helped churches grow, reverse the trends of decline, and has analyzed churches that have died.

I certainly do not think TLC is on a decline but as our congregation ages, this resource will help us plan. One of the chapters the Leadership Team studied was *The Preference-Driven Church*. In the churches researched in this chapter the members focused on their own preferences when making decisions. The desired way to make decisions in the church is by seeking God's instruction in His Word and prayer. In his letter to the Philippian church, Paul wrote: *"complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."* (Philippians 2:2-4 ESV) This instruction is extremely important when we do long term planning for TLC. We need to count God's wisdom more significant than ours. We may need to humble ourselves to do this. *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."* (Isaiah 55:8-9)

God's ways are higher than our ways because His ways are always part of a bigger plan. We see only our small piece of the puzzle; God sees the finished work. We see a portion of the jumbled back of the tapestry; God is the Weaver at the loom. When our desire is to live in step with His plan, we can have confidence that, even when bad things happen, God is in control. God's priorities are the magnification of His glory and the expansion of His kingdom (Psalm 97:6; Luke 8:1). When God's glory and God's kingdom are our priorities, we learn to rejoice that His ways are higher than our ways (1 Corinthians 10:31).

<https://www.gotquestions.org/my-ways-are-higher-than-your-ways.html>

Did you hear that? God's priorities are the magnification of His glory and the expansion of His Kingdom. God must be first in everything we do. To be a people who love, know, and share Christ more. That is our vision for the future. What is your vision for TLC? Have you had a God sighting today? Do you sense His presence in your heart? Do you see and feel God in nature, in worship, in Pastor Dan's teaching, in the hymns we sing, in the scripture readings, in answer to prayer, in other Christian brothers and sisters, in the lives of those in need? Do you see unfulfilled needs of those in our congregation and/or community? Do you sense God wanting you to use your gifts more to glorify Him and increase the territory of His Kingdom? Please pray with all your heart, soul, and mind for the Holy Spirit to reveal to us the steps to fulfill God's plan for this church. Lord, give us strength and boldness to glorify His name and expand his kingdom. The world needs to hear from us. While writing this article, I felt led to share the lyrics from the song *Way Maker*.

*You are here, moving in our midst. I worship You; I worship You. You are here, working in this place. I worship You; I worship You.*

*Way maker, miracle worker, promise keeper. Light in the darkness, my God. That is who You are.*

God does missions through His church by His power.

Jim McGraw



**APRIL WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

	<b>Apr 7 10:00a</b>	<b>Apr 14 10:00a</b>	<b>April 21 10:00a</b>	<b>April 28 10:00a</b>
<b>GREETERS</b>	Terri Freeman	Sue Svitak	Brenda Mackey	Alyce Tracey
<b>USHERS</b>	Rob Freeman Wally Thom	Tom Svitak Mike Capra	Janet & John Schieffer	Steve Tracey Rolf Kleven
<b>COMM. ASSTS</b>	Dan Dahl	Ellen Ehrich	Pat Mackey	Joanne Schilling
<b>READER</b>	Kathy Thom	Sue Capra	<b>NEED</b>	Ellen Ehrich



Donna Soper 04/05  
 Rory Kolodzinski 04/05  
 David Dakins 04/09  
 Lou Sandow 04/12  
 Sharon Dhein 04/17  
 Chris Iverson 04/26



Carol & Ken Raether 04/23

*Dessert and Coffee will be served!*

**Snacks and Facts**  
 Second Tuesday at 2 pm  
**Maria Johnson** from Point of Renewal will  
 Do a presentation on  
**Acupuncture and holistic healing**  
**April 9, 2024, at 2 pm**  
 Trinity Fellowship Hall  
 Join in a short Devotion.  
 Everyone Welcome!

Upcoming in May - Cellphones

***NEXT MEETING OF . . .***

**Meeting**

**Birchwood Food Pantry Open . . . . . Apr 1 & 15, 10:30-12:30pm**  
**Worship & Music Team . . . . . Apr 8, 10:00am**  
**Women of Trinity . . . . . Apr 13, 10:00 am**  
**Trinity Council Meeting . . . . . Apr 16, 6:30 pm**  
**Men's Ministry of Trinity . . . . . Apr 18, 6:30 pm**

**From Pastor Barb's Desk**



“April showers bring May flowers!” It’s exciting to anticipate seeing the buds and smell fragrant blossoms on trees and see fresh new blades of green grass. Rain refreshes and brings beauty to the earth. We feel revived!

Here at Trinity, since Pastor Dan and Gelene have come, we have been experiencing more refreshment and breakthrough as far as member’s being involved in our church. Men and women are revived in our Bible studies and our other involvements here at Trinity, and there is a growing anticipation of “What’s next?”

Even when we face challenges, God can refresh us like those April showers. This can be an amazing time for us as we begin to view church in a whole new way... more like the early church, where each person had a special role in ministry. Each of us needs to ask ourselves, “What does this change mean for me?” Perhaps it means getting to know others here at Trinity and become

more involved!

Just as the earth is revived with April showers, many here at Trinity are experiencing God’s love and refreshing presence as we gather for worship, attend Bible Studies, and enjoy fellowship in our Men’s and Women’s groups and singing in choir. We are being revived as we grow in our faith in Jesus and fellowship with one another.

Repentance and refreshment go hand in hand: In Acts 3:19, Peter said, *“Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.”*

*Lord, Awaken your church to be in awe and wonder of Your grace and mercy through Jesus Christ. Draw us close to you and to each other. May Your love and grace refresh us so that we can bring refreshment to others! In Jesus’ name, amen.*

*Grace and peace to you!*

*Pastor Barb*

**FELLOWSHIP EVENT  
CRUSHED TIN CAN WALL PLANTERS  
THURSDAY MAY 2, 2024**

**Join in the fun of creating crushed tin can wall planters! Repurposing is greatly in vogue. Di Hubbard will be hosting this event and it’s sure to be something new, fun, pretty and sell-able!**

**When: Thursday, May 2**

**Time: 1-3 pm**

**Where: Fellowship Hall**

**Di will provide supplies and teach us how to create these beautiful wall vases enhanced with faux flowers and/or greenery. It is our desire you donate your finished piece to the Christmas sale however, it is not mandatory. A sign-up sheet will be placed in the Narthex.**

**A short snack break will be provided.**

**Jesus did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many (Mark 10:45). When we value the Giver over gifts and serve Him with them, we are blessed to delight in Him forever. (James Banks).**



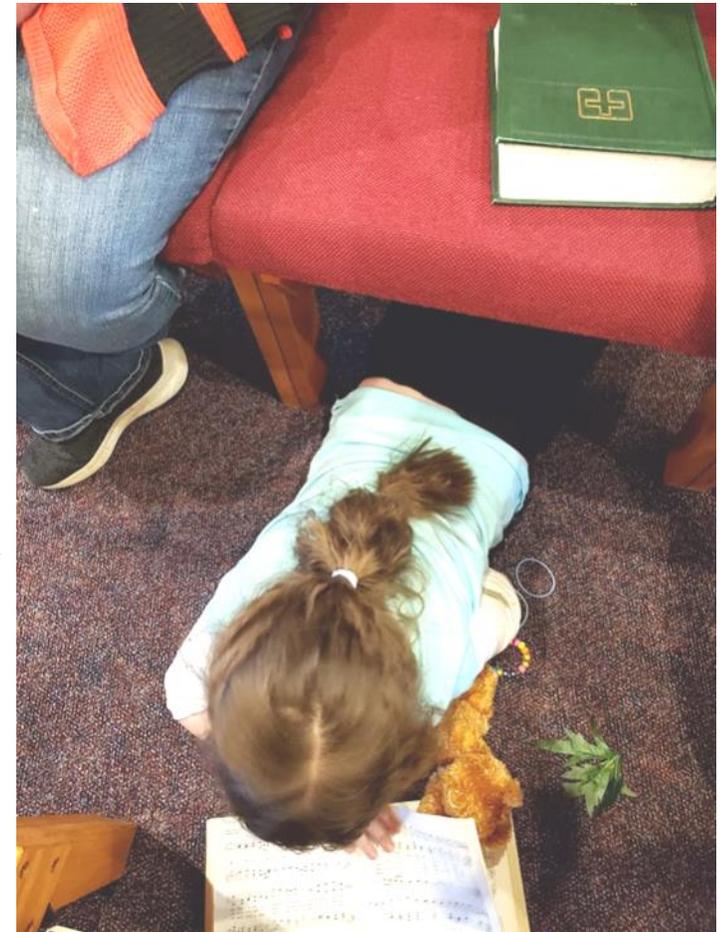
Find the words in the bible verse below

Luke 23:46 NIV

Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands  
I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his  
last.

E Q F N B Y E C D F  
T B Z Q R S C V L A  
I H W H E N A O O T  
O K I I A O L I U H  
C L A S T H L C D E  
Y O U R H H E E U R  
S U M F E A D F T J  
M T Y M D I N T O E  
U V G W I H A D V S  
S P I R I T A K S U  
L F E O Y E N H I S

# Whatever makes you Comfortable





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.

Registration forms will be available at the church and online at [www.myvbs.org/tlcvbs](http://www.myvbs.org/tlcvbs). The cost is \$10 per child, and no more than \$20 per family. Scholarship funds are available so that every child can take part in VBS.

**Volunteers.** We need YOU to volunteer to serve as station leaders and assistant station leaders to lead the different stations, and crew leaders and assistants to guide the children from station to station. Please consider volunteering! A Volunteer Sign-up Board will be located in the narthex soon.

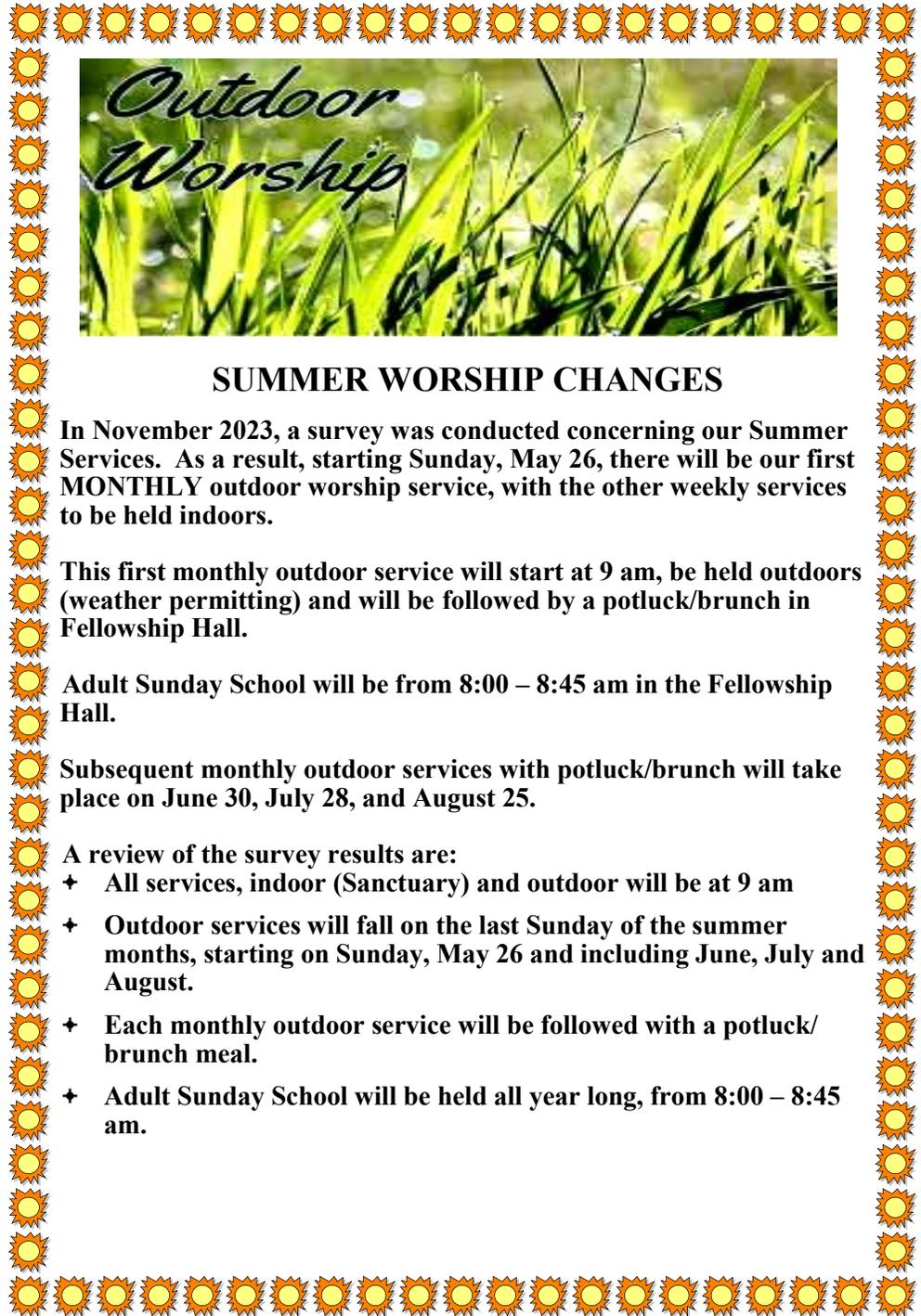
**Donations.** We have received a generous \$450 donation from the Lions Club but will need additional funds. A donation board will be located in the narthex soon. We thank you in advance for your donations.

**Decorating Sundays.** We invite young and old to help create some of the decorations on select Sundays. Stay tuned for more info on those dates and times. Come help us! For more info, contact Joanne Schilling at 715-651-4875 or the church office at 715-354-3790.

**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.



**SUMMER WORSHIP CHANGES**

In November 2023, a survey was conducted concerning our Summer Services. As a result, starting Sunday, May 26, there will be our first MONTHLY outdoor worship service, with the other weekly services to be held indoors.

This first monthly outdoor service will start at 9 am, be held outdoors (weather permitting) and will be followed by a potluck/brunch in Fellowship Hall.

Adult Sunday School will be from 8:00 – 8:45 am in the Fellowship Hall.

Subsequent monthly outdoor services with potluck/brunch will take place on June 30, July 28, and August 25.

A review of the survey results are:

- + All services, indoor (Sanctuary) and outdoor will be at 9 am
- + Outdoor services will fall on the last Sunday of the summer months, starting on Sunday, May 26 and including June, July and August.
- + Each monthly outdoor service will be followed with a potluck/brunch meal.
- + Adult Sunday School will be held all year long, from 8:00 – 8:45 am.

# April 2024

<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>
	<b>1</b>  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 6:30a Men's Bible Study 7p TLC Choir Rehearsal	<b>4</b>  10a Women's Bible Study	<b>5</b>  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 10a Worship w/ communion	<b>8</b> 9:00a Quilters 10a WMMT Mtg 10:30a-12:30p—Food Pantry Open 3:30p Women's Bible Study 7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 6:30a Men's Bible Study 7p TLC Choir Rehearsal 8p PT Rehearsal	<b>11</b>  10a Women's Bible Study	<b>12</b>  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>13</b>  10a WOT Mtg
<b>14</b>  10a Worship w/ communion	<b>15</b> 9:00a Quilters  3:30p Women's Bible Study 7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	<b>16</b>  2p Snacks and Facts 6:30p Council Meeting	<b>17</b> 6:30a Men's Bible Study 11:00a Missons mtg 7p TLC Choir Reh	<b>18</b>  10a Women's Bible Study  6:30p Men's Ministry Mtg	<b>19</b>  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>  10a Worship w/ communion  Love Fund/Food Pantry Offering	<b>22</b> 9a Quilters 10:30a-12:30p—Food Pantry Open  3:30p Women's Bible Study  7p AA, Fellowship Hall	<b>23</b> <b>Journey Deadline</b>	<b>24</b> 6:30a Men's Bible Study 7p TLC Choir Reh	<b>25</b>  10a Women's Bible Study	<b>26</b>  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 10a Worship w/ communion  Prayer Shawl Sunday	<b>29</b> 9:00a Quilters  3:30p Women's Bible Study  7p AA, Fellowship Hall	<b>30</b>				

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

**FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED**

Non-profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 3  
Birchwood, WI  
54817

**JOIN US FOR SNACKS AND FACTS  
TUES APRIL 9 @ 2:00 PM  
PRESENTATION ON ACUPUNCTURE  
AND HOLISTIC HEALING**



# **The JOURNEY**

## **April 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**

**(715) 354-3790 ♦ (715) 416-4966 (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	Tuesday - 3 <sup>rd</sup> week of the month
Pastor's Office Hours	Mondays (8 am–3:00pm) Wednesdays (8–11:30 pm) other days by apt.



### **April Worship Services**

**Apr 7 — Worship w/communion @ 10 am**

**Apr 14 — Worship w/communion @ 10 am**

**Apr 21 — Worship w/communion @ 10 am**

**Apr 28 — 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.