

The JOURNEY — Walking Daily with Jesus

From the Pastor's Desk:

"But someone will say, 'You have faith, and I have works. Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works'" (James 2:18).

The Lutheran church dating back to the time of the Reformation has been accused of teaching that "good works" are not important in our lives as Christians. As Trinity Lutheran becomes more active in meeting the needs of others in our community, I am hearing reports that our neighbors here in Birchwood are noticing "how busy" our congregation has become doing good things for them. But, with these reports from community members I find myself pondering this charge often levied against the Lutheran teachings on these "good works."

I believe that some of the confusion surrounding "good works" centers around a misinterpretation of the words of the Apostle Paul in Ephesians 2, *"For by grace you have been saved by faith; and this is not your own doing. It is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast"* (ESV). People seem to focus on the phrase "not a result of works" and deduce that good works are not important in our living out a Christian faith.

James, the brother of our Lord Jesus, would clearly challenge the vilification of good works by many Lutheran Christians. In our verse for this month, James tells us of the importance of our doing good work for our neighbors. We do these things to "show" our faith in Jesus Christ to the world around us.

As Lutherans, we believe and teach that our good works do not bring us salvation. It is only through faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God, that we have forgiveness of sin, salvation, and eternal life. Jesus alone lived the sinless life that we could not live on our own. Only He was the perfect sacrifice, dying on a Roman cross for our sins, claiming them as his own. It is faith in Christ alone which has brought us salvation.

The result of this saving faith in Jesus is that we now do good works for those around us. We can't help ourselves! These good works just flow from us, and they bless our neighbors so that they might see our faith in action and give glory to God.

So I thank all of you who actively live out your faith in our community. The community is noticing! Praise be to God! In Jesus name.

Pastor Dan

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Letter from Trinity President

What does it mean to be a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Birchwood, Wisconsin? Is it only coming to TLC on Sundays for worship? I do not think you believe that. Hebrews 10:24-25 tells us *"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."*

Being the church is about worshipping God, caring for one another, ministering to our neighbors, fellowshiping with one another, and spreading God's Word every day of the week. TLC's Vision Statement is, "To be a people who know, love and share Christ."

Should we not also know, love, and share more with each other? The best way to get to know, love and share with one another is to be involved in a small group. **That is where the joy is.**

Jesus spent most of his ministry time teaching, loving, and creating friendships within a small group of followers. Small groups encourage us to explore the Bible and our faith together. It also encourages people to build strong relationships with one another while doing the mission of the church.

Almost every group outside of worship at TLC is a small group. The TLC Council, the Executive Team, the Worship and Music, Missions and Outreach, Education, Youth and Family; Fellowship, Evangelism, Stewardship, Operations, Men's Ministry and Women's Ministry Teams all function as service small groups. In addition, we have Women's, Men's, and Text Bible Study groups. Certainly, room for more.

Joining a Bible Study was the way Cyndi and me were introduced to small groups. It was more than just Bible Study. We did social events together, prayed for one another, went through great joys and sad times. We were a family. You can see there are many opportunities to join small groups at Trinity. Even Birchwood residents recognize all that we do.

Joining in short-term special projects might be something you would like. Just to mention a few projects we have Vacation Bible Study, Women's Afternoon Tea, helping the Men working on various projects, serving in the Bluegill Fest Food Tent, working to keep our facility and grounds looking nice and helping with the fall Annual Rummage Sale. I am sure I have missed many. Keep a watch out for other opportunities as they come up.

As part of an increased communication effort, the Council will be having the Ministry Fair on September 8th. This will give you a fun opportunity to learn more about all the good things going on here at TLC and in our communities. There will be giveaways, contests, and food. And maybe you will find a small group you would like to join.

Ephesians 4:15-16 tells the church, *"Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love."*

May the Holy Spirit lead us to be the whole body of the church. The family called Trinity.

Jim McGraw





AUGUST WORSHIP ASSISTANTS



	Aug 4 9:00a	Aug 11 9:00a	Aug 18 9:00a	Aug 25 9:00a LAST Outdoors
GREETERS	Joanne & Eldon Kvale	Terri Freeman	Brenda Mackey	Wally & Kathy Thom
USHERS	Jim & Cyndi McGraw	Rob Freeman Wally Thom	Rolf Kleven Mike Capra	June Bibeau
COMM. ASSTS	Dan Dahl	Ellen Ehrich	Pat Mackey	Joanne Schilling
READER	Donnarae Carrell	Gloria Widiker	Sue Capra	Eric Anderson



Virginia Hurckman 8/12
Sandi David 8/14
John Schieffer 8/15
Rose Cutsforth 8/31



Ed & Connie Leader 8/1
Julie & Kevin Sunderland 8/5
Joanne & Eldon Kvale 8/21
Jeanne & Ken Dahlby 8/28
Sue & Mike Capra 8/28
Tom & Maryann Cowans 7/30

Join us on September 8th after worship for our Ministry Fair!! Come find out what we are all about. Find a way to serve and give back! Refreshments will be served
See you at the Fair!



August 25th Potluck after our last outdoor Worship Service. The WOT service committee #2 will assist with setting up the food, serving and clean-up.



Meeting

NEXT MEETING OF . . .

Birchwood Food Pantry Open. **August 5 & 19, 10:30-12:30pm**
Worship & Music Team. **Aug 5, 10:00am**
Women of Trinity **Aug 10, 10:00am**
Men's Ministry of Trinity **Aug 15, 6:30pm**
Trinity Council Meeting **Aug 20, 6:30pm**

A letter from our Associate Pastor

1 Corinthians 12:12-27: *For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body.*

This past month my husband and I have been enjoying our garden that overlooks the lake that was planted by our son two years ago. Last year the flowers weren't so remarkable, but this year, after the plants had gotten better established and well-watered by our spring and summer rains, it has become a vibrant symphony of a variety of colors of all shapes and sizes that sway gently in the breeze. As I enjoy and ponder this beauty, I am reminded of how God has made His church into one body with many different members. Each member operates in a unique way and is necessary for the body to function well as we are well watered by God's Word and have close Christian fellowship.

Just like a garden has many different flowers with a variety of colors, each of us is placed here at Trinity Lutheran Church in the body of Christ for a unique function. We function for the purpose that God has intended to bring our different backgrounds and talents to work together to worship our Lord and to glorify Him by serving Him, caring for each other, and bringing His love and the message of His salvation to those around us who don't know Him.



How do we bring the gospel to others that don't know Jesus? It happens just like it happened to the apostle Paul as the Holy Spirit sent him into the world. We pray for the Holy Spirit *"to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Jesus"* Acts 26:18. Paul wasn't ashamed of the gospel of Christ, because he knew that it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes- Romans 1:16

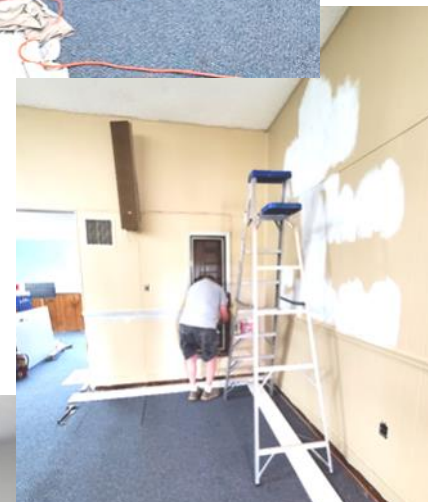
Jesus was not ashamed to bear the burden our sin's in His body on the cross to pay the penalty of our iniquities so we can have forgiveness of sins and a right relationship with our Heavenly Father. He set us free with His shed blood so we can be forgiven and thrive as His beloved church like a well-watered garden shining forth His beauty everywhere we go. "Lord shine your light on us that we may be a reflection of Your love and grace in Jesus' name, amen."

In Christ's Love,
Barb Kleven



Fellowship Facelift

The Fellowship Hall is getting a new facelift, with a fresh coat of paint! Tho the painting group was small they accomplished A LOT of work in preparation for the new carpet that will be installed the week of August 12. It is exciting to see the welcome change and look forward to the completed project!



The outside worship services held the last Sunday of the month followed by a pot luck have been well attended. This Month is the last outdoor service we will have this year, so if you haven't had a chance to attend one, mark your calendar for August 25 @9:00am



AUGUST FELLOWSHIP EVENT CHRISTMAS -THEMED REPURPOSED TINCANS

Please join us as we repurpose tin cans into beautiful table centerpieces or wall hangers. The prior event was received with great enthusiasm and the outcome was beyond beautiful!

We are asking you to look through your Christmas totes for décor items. Such items might include Christmas picks, napkins, berries, greenery, colored wire, beads, ribbon, moss, flowers, mini tree ornaments, really... anything Christmas that would fit the tin cans. These items will need to be received by August 11th to allow Sue and Di to sort through & stage materials for the event.

Anything left over from the event will be donated to the church rummage sale unless you take it home with you at the end of day of the event. You may bring your piece home with you or donate it to the Christmas bizarre held early December. There will be some cans pre-prepped for use and we ask you to bring a can with the bottom removed and pinched together as to form a pocket OR intact for a table centerpiece.

WHEN: August 22

TIME: 1-3:30

**WHERE:
FELLOWSHIP HALL**



Materials such as floral foam, decoupage, paint brushes, glue guns, etc. will be provided. Again, please supply your "fillings" no later than August 11th.

**Questions, please call Sue
715 651 3299.**

Men's Ministry

It has been a while since I added an article in the Journey. As you can see on a weekly basis, we have been teaming up and keeping the grass mowed and trimmed. We are fortunate to have 6 groups of two working on lawn care. However, anyone looking to help with the beautification of the outside, while the flower pots along the road look great, but the rock bedding below the pots need attention. If a few people picked weeds out of the rock a little each day, it would be so appreciated.

Recently the Fellowship Hall was painted which was no easy task but many people helped. The Men's group was there as were other ministry teams. The fellowship was amazing and the lunches were to die for, (those are my words). We have a little left to paint but not for a couple of weeks.

The Men's group will be removing the old carpet and getting rid of that. If anyone is so inclined to help with that contact myself for date and time. The new carpet is scheduled to be installed August 12th and is expected to take 3-4 days. Once the carpet is down any help to install all the base trim and floor registers would be appreciated. Reinstalling trim and floor registers is only a few hours project. Wes drew up a good map of all the placement of the pieces.

This project has been a long-time coming and will be so welcomed.

Another upcoming project is the roof on the lawnmower shed. We will be using the metal we pulled off the walls of the garage that we moved on sight a year ago. Wes Mohns and John Schieffer are coordinating that project. I believe this is coming very soon.

One more final project for this Journey article, POWER. Xcel Energy will be hooking up the power to the refurbished garage the week of August 8th, 2024. The idea is to use the front half of the garage for food and drink serving during any outdoor event we might hold. And that would also provide shelter if needed during those events. With that being said, to keep cost down, any outlet boxes, face plates, 12-2 with ground wire, and ceiling light boxes would be appreciated. Contact me (Wally) if you have any of those things lying around. We don't need all that many so call first before you donate.

Now, MEN, if you haven't been contacted by email or text, then we probably don't have your information. These projects that the men's ministry do are fun, the fellowship is great and it's a wonderful opportunity to get to know your fellow Christian. Send me your contact information at wkthom1@gmail.com and or text me at 715-651-3880.

God Bless and enjoy the summer.
Wally Thom- chairman Men's Ministry



Mission and Outreach

Baby Care Kits

With your generous donations, Mission and Outreach was able to put together 22 baby care kits and along with items that we will give to the Rice Lake Pregnancy Help Center in September.

Embrace women's shelter

During July we will continue collecting items for Embrace in Spooner. We already have some wonderful items I am sure the women will at the shelter will appreciate. Along with those items will be the beautiful kids quilts that Karen Hayes makes all year long.

School supplies

School season is right around the corner. During the month of August, we will be collecting school supplies for Lutheran World Relief and the Birchwood School District.

Snacks and Facts

On July 9th, Lindy from the Rice Lake Public Library gave a wonderful presentation about the library. They have so much to offer it is worth checking out their website, especially if you have young children. There will be no Snacks and Facts in August due to the installation of the new carpet in the Fellowship Hall.

Our upcoming Snacks and Facts will be on September 10th at 2pm with the Washburn County Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC). ADRC is going to give an overview of what they have to offer. Even if you live in a different county stop in to see what the ADRCs have to offer.

October is fire prevention month. Ken George, the Birchwood fire chief, will be speaking on October 8th at 2pm about fire safety.

Baby shower luncheon for the Pregnancy Help Center in Rice Lake

On September 21st we will be hosting a luncheon to benefit the Pregnancy Help Center. Mark your calendars and we will have more information to come.

As always, we couldn't do any of these good works without your support. It is so wonderful when I hear people outside of our church talk about how much we are doing here at Trinity. Our thanks go out to all of you.

Thank you so much and blessings to you all.

Elaine Ploessl



August 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2 OFFICE CLOSED	3
4 9a Worship w/communion	5 9:00a Quilters 3:30p Women's Bible Study 7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	6	7 6:30a Men's Bible study	8 10a Women's Bible Study	9 OFFICE CLOSED	10 WOT Meeting 10:00am
11 9a Worship w/communion	12 Carpet Installed NO Quilters 10:30a-12:30p—Food Pantry Open 3:30p Women's Bible Study 7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	13 Carpet Installed	14 Carpet Installed	15 Carpet Installed 10a Women's Bible Study 6:30p Men's Ministry Mtg	16 Carpet Installed OFFICE CLOSED	17
18 9a Worship w/communion Love Fund/Food Pantry Offering	19 9a Quilters 3:30p Women's Bible Study 7p AA, Fellowship Hall	20 Journey Deadline	21 6:30a Men's Bible study	22 10a Women's Bible Study	23 OFFICE CLOSED	24
25 9a Worship w/communion Outdoors Brunch to follow worship Prayer Shawl	26 9:00a Quilters 3:30p Women's Bible Study 7p AA, Fellowship Hall	27 6:00p Birchwood Historical Society Mtg	28	29 10a Women's Bible Study	30 OFFICE CLOSED	31

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**JOIN US FOR THE LAST OUTDOOR
SERVICE, AUGUST 25 @ 9:00AM**



The JOURNEY **August 2024**

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Rev. Daniel Tabor—Pastor

Pastor Barb Kleven—Associate Pastor

Julie Sunderland, Parish Administrator

Joanne Schilling, Choir Director

Donnae Carrell, Custodian

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Sunday School	9am (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.



July Worship Services

Aug 4— Worship w/communion @ 9 am

Aug 11— Worship w/communion @ 9 am

Aug 18— Worship w/communion @ 9 am

Aug 25— Last Outdoor Worship w/communion @ 9 am

Pot luck brunch to follow service

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.