

The JOURNEY — Walking Daily with Jesus

Now is the Time to Build a Strong Faith

As we journey into August, we continue to feel the strain of Covid-19 and hope it will fade. We still need to take precautions as we meet at church. Some still are home-bound and we hope and pray you are all doing well. I would like to encourage you to build up your faith, even during these days when "Spiritual growth" is difficult.

Here are some suggestions for growing stronger spiritually:

Count Your blessings: Look for your blessings through people, scripture, and nature.

Speak words of kindness: Speak words that encourage and build up. As you build others up, you will be blessed!

Spend time in prayer: Pray the scriptures; *23rd Psalm; Philippians 4:6-7; Mark 11:22-25*

Reach out to others: Extend kindness to someone who really needs a friend.

Be grateful: Start each day with a prayer of thanks for a new day. End each day with a prayer of gratitude, even if you have had a tough day.

Find spiritual fellowship: Find someone who would like to reflect on things of the Lord. Share your faith & Scripture. Encourage each other and pray for your concerns.

Serve: Look for ways to serve either at church or in the community. Get involved!

Be alone from the crowd: (We have found this to be easier during Covid-19, haven't we?)

Just be alone with you and God. *Psalm 45:10 Be still and know that I am God.* Listen, and then give Him your cares and burdens. Remember His promises. He rewards those who seek Him. *Hebrews 11:6*

Spread God's love: Ask God to make you a blessing. Let His kindness be in your smile and actions.

Strive for excellence: The Bible tells us: "Whatever you do, do well" (Ecclesiastes 9:10). Be the best that you can be at wherever God has placed you.

Meditate on Scripture: The Bible is loaded with verses of comfort, encouragement, and wisdom. Make it a habit to read and study your Bible in a regular, disciplined way. Highlight verses that speak to you. Meditate on those words. Memorize some of the passages so you can recall them when you need them.

Choose to be joyful. Select joy over despair, love over hate, forgiveness over revenge; growth over stagnation. Remember that a crisis can bring the best in us as we trust in the Lord.

Pray: For the call committee; those who are sick; those who are struggling; families, children; Trinity church; your community; our country & president and the list goes on!

Please know that we miss you, love you, and are praying for you!

Love and prayers,
Pastor Barb Kleven



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President's Message

Dear brothers and sisters of the family of God,

I don't know about you but many times I receive some of the most inspirational times listening or singing to Christian songs and hymns. There is something special about worshiping and praying through music.

Desiringgod.org tells us the Bible contains over four hundred references to singing and fifty direct commands to sing. The longest book of the Bible, the Psalms, is a book of songs. And in the New Testament we're commanded not once, but twice, to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to one another when we meet (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16). Jesus himself sang songs with his friends the night before his crucifixion. Martin Luther is quoted saying, "Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world." Music and singing are important to God.

This spring Kari Jobe, Cody Carnes and two pastors from Elevation Church met to write music. In the middle of that session the Holy Spirit came upon them and led them to write "The Blessing."

This song is based on Numbers 6:24-27 and other scriptures. You'll recognize this as the benediction we receive at the end of each of our worship services. The writers of this song intend people to sing this song as a blessing over their families, their children and their children's children. This is especially important during these times of change brought upon us by COVID-19 and other stresses of the times.



This song has gone viral. Churches all over the world have joined in praying this song over their families, cities and countries. On YouTube, I counted 19 cities or countries around the world that had churches organize the praying of The Blessing. Some of the locations may surprise you: Lebanon, Zimbabwe, Qatar, Hawaii, Arab World.

Below are the lyrics of "The Blessing":

The Lord bless you. And keep you. Make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May The Lord turn His Face toward you. And give you peace.

May His favor be upon you. And a thousand generations. And your family and your children. And their children, and their children. May His presence go before you. And behind you, and beside you. All around you, and within you. He is with you; He is with you. In the morning, in the evening. In your coming and your going. In your weeping and rejoicing. He is for you. He is for you.

You can find a version of The Blessing at the following link. <https://youtu.be/uZ55mDL7dAO>

I propose TLC join these other churches from around the world in praying and singing for the blessing of our families and communities.

Jim McGraw

August WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	Aug 2 (8:30 AM)	Aug 2 (10 AM)	Aug 9 (8:30 AM)	Aug 9 (10 AM)	Aug 16 (8:30 AM)	Aug 16 (10 AM)	Aug 23 (8:30 AM)	Aug 23 (10 AM)	Aug 30 (8:30 AM)	Aug 30 10 AM
GREETERS		Eleanor Kuula		Sue Svitak		Kathy Thom		Eleanor Kuula		Rose Cutsforth
USHERS	Dave Dakins Rolf Kleven	LeRoy Brensel	Di & Kyle Hubbard	Wally Thom	Karen & Bob Scott	LeRoy Brensel	Jim & Cindy McGraw	Pat Mackey	Wes & Char Mohns	LeRoy Brensel
COMM. ASSTS		Joanne Schilling		Kathy Thom		Kathy Thom		Brenda Mackey		Kathy Thom
READER	Donnarae Carrell	Donnarae Carrell	Dianne Buxton	Dianne Buxton	Sue Capra	Donnarae Carrell	Dianne Buxton	Dianne Buxton		Marcia Kampf

CALL COMMITTEE INFO

MEMBERS. Your Call Committee is comprised of the following dedicated member: Chair Di Hubbard, Secretary Joanne Schilling, Mike Capra, Rose Cutsforth, Mike Rubin, Julie Sunderland, and Tom Svitak.

UPDATE. We are happy to announce that the TLC Call Committee has had the opportunity to interview two Pastors this week. We have three additional candidate interviews scheduled for next week.

We are continuing to take applications and request your patience while we go through this process.

We also ask for your continued prayers and support while we continue the Call process. Our Committee is dedicated to finding the best fit for Trinity and our community.

If you have concerns or questions, please contact the Call Committee for our direct attention.

Prayerfully, Di Hubbard
TLC Call Committee Chair



Call
Committee

TLC FINANCIAL UPDATE

Through June 2020

Year to date our congregational income is about \$77,000 versus an income plan of \$93,000, a shortage of \$16,000. Generous giving while we were closed helped a lot, even though we still fell short of plan.

Our expenses are still down from the plan approximately \$35,000 due to the closure. Thus our financial position has improved by nearly \$19,000. However, we expect that with the reopening and costs associated with a new pastor, expenses will increase in the second half of 2020, so we must continue to be diligent in our giving.

Additionally, our Paycheck Protection Plan Application Loan Forgiveness Request has been turned in. If successful, it will result in an additional \$11,145 in income.



Golly Gracious Sakes Alive! Look Whose Family is Growing from Four to Five!

Thank you to all for
your generosity!
The Beffas



It's a boy



Do you have a green thumb? We need help tending the gardens, pulling weeds trimming etc. If you would like to help out, please contact Di Hubbard at 941-893-0311.

UPDATE US PLEASE!!!

We would like to keep you updated with all that is going on at Trinity. Periodically we send out emails to the membership and want to make sure you are included. Council members have been calling to update our membership records so please take the time to respond.

You can email tlcbircwood@gmail.com and let us know your email address, update your phone and mailing address, so we can keep in touch.

Or call Julie at the office
715-354-3790

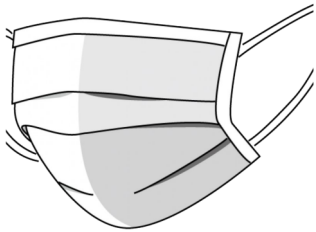
NEXT MEETING OF . . .

- Birchwood Food Pantry Open.10:30 am, Aug 1, 3, 15, 17, 29,31**
- Worship & Music Team.10 am, Aug 3**
- Women of Trinity.7:00pm Aug 4**
- Trinity Council Meeting6:30 pm, Aug 18**



Remember our friends in the nursing homes. When we can't visit face to face because of the Covid-19 virus, we can still send them our thoughts and prayers in a letter or card. Besides they LOVE getting mail!!!

WORSHIP AND MUSIC MINISTRY TEAM INFO



Ever so slowly, we are returning to church for services, studies and even events. Covid-19 has impacted all of us, but we continue to move forward, taking the precautions necessary to keep us all safe. It is so wonderful to see each of you as you return when you feel you are ready.

Worship assistant duties have been modified.

We continue to need Greeters, Ushers, Communion Assistants and Readers.

Each position has changed as follows:

Early Service: Two people provide greeting, ushering and communion assisting duty. A separate person is asked to do the reading. Masks are optional.

Second Service: Masks are required for indoors.

One person greets: Wears a mask, gives a verbal greeting, provides a "squirt" of hand sanitizer to congregant as they proceed to the sanctuary. 1-2 persons for ushering. We have been doing fine with one person as usher as the average attendance has been 20 or less. Usher hands out the bulletin, congregant finds seat that is marked for social distancing. Usher provides direction for communion, dismisses congregants at end of service starting from the back. The offering is taken as we exit the sanctuary by placing them in the basket near the door.

Communion: One person assists with Communion. Pastor offers the blessed bread, assistant motions to wine and offers the blessing. Assistant provides

a "squirt" of hand sanitizer after Communicant disposes of their wine or grape juice cup.

Reader: May remove mask when reading at the pulpit. Readings are sent out either by postal mail or email prior to Sunday.

Thank you everyone for assisting. As we are returning slowly, the number of assistants available is fewer. Those of you who have so graciously assisted have been asked more frequently to provide assistance and this will likely be the situation for a while yet.

Each month, the Council is updated and discussion ensues regarding the Covid-19 precautions taken at Trinity. At this time, wearing masks indoors and social distancing is required. Outdoors, masks are optional, social distancing is practiced.

Thank you Everyone,
Your Sister in Christ, Kathy Thom

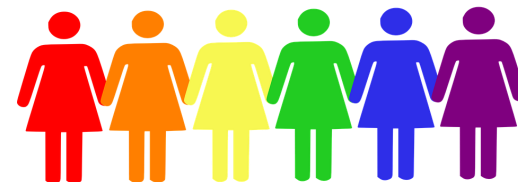


WOMEN OF TRINITY

The Women of Trinity held an informal meeting on July 7, at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Since this is the first time we had met since the onset of corona virus restrictions, we didn't have a formal meeting. It was an opportunity to catch up with each other for those who attended.

Our next meeting will be held August 4, at 7:00 p.m. All women of our congregation are invited to attend. We appreciate thoughts our members may have in regards to the advisability of conducting our annual rummage sale. I look forward to seeing you there.

Cindy Rubin



Worship Assistants!!!

If you can help out with reading, greeting, being an usher or communion assistant please contact Kathy Thom or Julie in the church office, or better yet. . .

SIGN UP at the Welcome Center on the Worship Assistant Sheet.





Trinity will be hosting The Red Cross for a blood drive on August 11 from 11am-5pm. The Red Cross will be taking all necessary precautions and taking temperatures to assure your safety. The State has mandated them to continue to take blood donations and we should continue to support this cause.



American Red Cross



Matt Jasper 8/1
 Brent Anderson 8/1
 Andrew Flora 8/1
 Colleen Gindt 8/4
 Julane Boesen 8/6
 Ron Nelson 8/6
 Eric Seelnacht 8/6
 Katelyn Bratvold 8/8
 Chris Suriano 8/11
 Ginny Hurckman 8/12
 Skyler Robotka 8/13

Saige Buchholz 8/14
 Sandi David 8/14
 Zach Liermann 8/14
 Kyle Scribner 8/14
 John Schieffer 8/15
 Sharon Ivers 8/16
 Marie Poulter 8/16
 Mary Subrt 8/18
 Marly Applebee 8/22
 Ken Krattiger 8/28
 Shanna Darkow 8/29
 Steve Janetski 8/29
 Rose Cutsforth 8/31



THURSDAY MORNING WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study has just begun the study of *John's Letters* by Ron Blankley, on July 23, at 10 am.

If you are interested in joining them, please contact:

Marcia Kampf at 715-354-3048.



TRINITY YOUTUBE CHANNEL

In light of the coronavirus, Trinity has created its own YouTube channel so we can upload audios of the weekly sermons (which will now be audios)



The link for it is a long one, but if everyone (and your friends!) visits the link and clicks the "Subscribe" button, maybe we can get the magic 100 subscribers to allow us to change our name to something more user-friendly! Here is the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrIQB6cjOIYNImHer9EuOEA>

ALSO IF YOU HAVE AN EMAIL THAT THE CHURCH OFFICE DOES NOT HAVE PLEASE UPDATE US SO WE CAN KEEP COMMUNICATION OPEN!!



WHERE TO FIND INFO ONLINE

In addition to finding the weekly sermon on our YouTube channel, we are trying to provide our members with information thru various methods. So check out our website and Facebook page.



Website:
 TRINITYLUTHERANBIRCHWOOD.COM



Trinity still needs your offerings, Please mail or drop them off at church!

August 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 10:30a-1:30p –Food Pantry Open
2 8:30am Outdoor Worship 10am - Worship	3 10a—WMMT Mtg 10:30a-1:30p—Food Pantry Open 6:30p—Call Cmte Meeting 7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	4 WOT Meeting 7:00pm	5	6 10:00a—Women's Bible Study	7 OFFICE CLOSED	8
9 8:30am Outdoor Worship 10am - Worship	10 6:30p—Call Cmte Meeting 7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	11	12	13 10:00a—Women's Bible Study	14 OFFICE CLOSED	15 10:30a-1:30p –Food Pantry Open
16 8:30am Outdoor Worship 10am - Worship 10am - Worship Love Fund/Food Pantry Offering	17 Journey Deadline 10:30a-1:30p—Food Pantry Open 6:30p—Call Cmte Meeting 7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	18 Journey Assembly 6:30 pm Council Meeting	19	20 10:00a—Women's Bible Study	21 OFFICE CLOSED	22
23 8:30 am Outdoor Service 10am - Worship Prayer Shawl Sunday	24 6:30p—Call Cmte Meeting 7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	25	26	27 10:00a—Women's Bible Study	28 OFFICE CLOSED	29 10:30a-1:30p –Food Pantry Open
30 8:30am Outdoor Worship 10am - Worship	31 10:30a-1:30p—Food Pantry Open 6:30p—Call Cmte Meeting 7p—AA, Fellowship Hall					

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

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

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54817

DONATE BLOOD
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
AUGUST 11 @ 11-5 PM



The JOURNEY

August 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

(715) 354-3790 ♦ (715) 834-9988 (Pastor's cell)

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♦ 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

SUNDAY WORSHIP THIS MONTH

- 8/2 — 8:30am Outdoor Service & 10am Worship w/ Communion
8/9 — 8:30am Outdoor Service & 10am Worship w/ Communion
8/16 — 8:30am Outdoor Service & 10am Worship w/ Communion
Love Fund/Food Pantry
8/23 — 8:30am Outdoor Service & 10am Worship w/ Communion
Prayer Shawl Sunday—Need a prayer shawl see Julie in the office
8/30— 8:30am Outdoor Service & 10am Worship w/ Communion

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

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

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