

The JOURNEY — Walking Daily with Jesus

Pastor's Article

John 1: 43-51: *"The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.' Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Phillip found Nathaniel and said to him, 'We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.' Nathaniel said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.' Jesus saw Nathaniel coming toward him and said of him, 'Behold, and Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!' Nathaniel said to him, 'How do you know me?' Jesus answered him, 'Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.' Nathaniel answered him, 'Rabbi, you are the son of God! You are the king of Israel!' Jesus answered him, 'Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these.' And he said to him, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, And the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.'"*

I suppose that there are some questions that can only be answered as "Come and See." How about, "What does it feel like to go ice fishing when it is 24 degrees below zero?" "Well, come and see." Or, "How does that soup taste?" "Hmm, come and see." And, of course, we have Nathaniels sarcastic: "Jesus of Nazareth? Can anything good come our of Nazareth?"

Now, instead of getting into a heated debate with him, Philip merely answers, "Come and see."

It seems we have situations like this as well, don't we? And more than a few of them involve Jesus. For instance, if someone asks you why you go to church, and starts arguing with you about whether that's a good thing or not, you can take the bait and go into an unwinnable argument, or you can simply say, "Come and see." That kind of stops the argument doesn't it? If they come, great, they will either like it or they won't. But they will make up their own minds. So you won't have to wonder if something you said turn them off to the Lord!

Even as a pastor, when someone starts an argument with me about Jesus, I just give them the facts: "I believe that Jesus Christ is God himself, become human being. I believe that he suffered and died on purpose to set you and me free from the power of evil. And I believe he rose from the dead and is still alive today. If you want to know more about him, you can read about him in the gospels. See what you think. Make up your own mind. "Come and see!"

The challenge we find is that any who will take the time to read through the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, and still not believe in Jesus, well, they are going to be a tough cookie to break. But it is not our responsibility to change someone's mind! It is the Holy Spirit who will keep working on them. In the meantime, I'll carry on like someone who just found a wonderful new restaurant or a new sport. I'll tell people briefly about Jesus and simply add "Come and see."

In Jesus name, Amen.

Pastor Dan

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From the Council President:

We have heard and saw a video about Stephen Ministry recently. This is an update on what Stephen Ministry is and why we are creating this ministry team here at TLC.

Stephen Ministry is a ministry that gives one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people experiencing grief, health issues, divorce, spiritual crisis, job loss, infertility, or other life difficulties. We all have gone through some of these life challenges or at least know of someone who is. We do not talk about these challenges much. Would it not be nice to have someone in our congregation come along side us to talk about our feelings, pray with us and just listen?

Stephen Minister Training equips participants with essential caring and relating skills. Trainees learn how to listen to, care for, and walk with those going through challenging times in life.

Stephen Ministry is named after Stephen, one of seven elders selected to help provide care to the early church in Acts 6. The reason these appointments were necessary was the apostles were busy caring for church member's needs, taking them away from their real ministry of preaching and teaching. This is the exact reason we need trained Stephen Ministers to help with pastoral care of our brothers and sisters in our church and community.

Pastor Dan told me he has identified at least twenty-one people in need of Christian caregiving. Far too many for a full-time and a part-time pastor to provide for caregiving needs. If you get notifications for prayer requests on the TLC prayer chain, you see the great need for prayer and care for those hurting people.

Besides meeting our congregation and community needs, the Stephen Ministry mission fits perfectly with our mission. The Stephen Ministry's mission statement is "To equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ" (Ephesians 4:12-13).

Listen to what our Constitution says about Congre-

gational Care: "Congregation Care shall have responsibility for recruiting, training and sending out members to assist the pastor with pastoral care of congregation members; may include visiting persons who are hospitalized, homebound or in nursing homes; shall see to the recording and delivery of audio recordings of worship services, offering grief support and other kind of assistance to persons in need."

Additionally, here are two responsibilities of the Congregation listed in the Constitution. "The Congregation shall provide pastoral care and assist all members to participate in this ministry. The congregation shall challenge, equip, and support all members in carrying out their calling in their daily lives and in their congregation."

Stephen Ministry is not a stand-alone ministry. Its mission and vision are that missing puzzle piece that fits perfectly with our calling from Christ. Presently Pastor Dan and Diane Hubbard have finished training as Stephen Ministry Team Leaders. Gelene Tabor and I will complete Stephen Ministry Team Leader training in early February. Team Leaders are responsible for recruiting, selecting, and training Stephen Ministers. The Stephen Leaders match up those in need of caregiving with the appropriately trained Stephen Minister and give guidance, encouragement, and spiritual support to the Stephen Ministers in supervision small groups.

Additionally, the leaders are responsible for communicating, publicizing, and updating our congregation and communities about the Stephen Ministry. Cindy Rubin, Dan Dahl, Sue Janetski, and Gelene Tabor are just beginning their training as Stephen Ministers. Training Leaders Diane Hubbard and Pastor Dan are providing this comprehensive Christian caregiving training. These faithful, caring and committed people will be trained through twenty class sessions to provide emotional and spiritual care and support to both congregation members and non-members alike. They will learn and use many other skills, such as processing feelings, maintaining boundaries, assertive communication, praying, sharing scripture, and remaining process-oriented in the caring relationship. A foundational part of their training is the Stephen Minister as the caregiver. God is the cure giver. Ste-

phen Ministers are conduits that bring God's love, faithfulness, compassion, and healing to their care receivers.

I was trained as a Stephen Minister at a previous congregation. The excellent training, practicing caregiving situations and support and sharing in my supervision group prepared me for entering my first caring relationship. I witnessed God working through caring relationships and it built up my faith. I will be sharing my testimony in the future, so stay tuned.

Stephen Ministry provides a Biblical solution to caring for people who are hurting. Galatians 6:2 says, "*Bear one another's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ.*" 1 Thessalonians 5:11 says, "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up." Stephen Ministry helps congregations put these verses into action.

As I mentioned above, all members of TLC have roles in this important ministry. The ways the entire congregation can support this new and exciting ministry is to be on the lookout for people going through hard times that could benefit from meeting with a Stephen Minister; consider being a Stephen Minister in the future and most importantly is to pray for the Stephen Training Leaders and Trainees as they journey through the development of caregiving skills and practices.

You may contact Pastor Dan or myself at jimmy-mac6979@gmail.com or cell 612-859-3046 if you have questions about Stephen Ministry.

Faithful God, as we begin a new training class of Stephen Ministers, we ask you to guide our Stephen Leaders and our Stephen Minister trainees through this equipping experience. Bless our trainees' learning, give them dedicated hearts and open minds, nurture the community they are forming, and walk with them now and throughout their ministry. In your name we pray. Amen.

Jim McGraw





FEBRUARY-SUNDAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS



	Feb 2 9:00a	Feb 9 9:00a	Feb 16 9:00a	Feb 23 9:00a
GREETERS	Terri Freeman	Karen Brantner	Karen Scott	Joanne & Eldon Kvale
USHERS	Rob Freeman Wally Thom	Tom Svitak Mike Capra	Kevin Ploessl Wes Mohns	Janet Schieffer NEED
COMM. ASSTS	Dan Dahl	Ellen Ehrich	Pat Mackey	Joanne Schilling
READER	Kathy Thom	Gloria Widiker	Dan Dahl	Eric Anderson



2/11 Penny Iverson
 2/12 Joanne Kvale
 2/13 Rolf Kleven
 2/14 Leona Olson
 2/20 Elaine Ploessl
 2/24 Alyce Tracey
 2/25 Gelene Tabor



SAVE THE DATE
11th Annual Women's Retreat

Rooted to Grow

*Speaker: Michelle Rayburn
(returns from 2023)*

April 4-5, 2025

**Forest Springs Camp & Conference Center
Westboro, WI**

More info coming in late January
Questions! Joanne Schilling, 715-651-4875

Snacks & Facts

2 pm, Tue. 2/11/25

Veterans Affairs officer Adam Smith will be speaking about services available to Veterans.



VA

U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Meeting

NEXT MEETING OF . . .

Birchwood Food Pantry Open.Feb. 3 & 17, 10:30-12:30pm
 Worship & Music Team.Feb. 3, 9:00am
 Women of TrinityFeb 8, 10:00am
 Trinity Council MeetingFeb 18, 6:30pm

JANUARY 2025 Message from Your Associate Pastor

As we remember February as LOVE month, a familiar song comes to mind that many of us remember entitled- "*What the World Needs Now is Love Sweet Love*" released in 1965, when the United States was deeply divided over the war in Vietnam. Right now, as our nation is so deeply divided on Biblical values many people protest that we are not "one nation under God"! Our nation needs the amazing love of Jesus like never before.

During this "LOVE month" I'm reminded of another song, "*AMAZING LOVE*", that so beautifully expresses the acceptance and LIFE that inspires joy in honoring Jesus as KING. The following lyrics/ were written by Chris Tomlin. Let us take a moment to reflect on this "*AMAZING LOVE*" that God has for us in sending His Son, Jesus, to be forsaken and condemned so that we might be forgiven and have abundant life. Let us also take time to pray for our nation that many will come to know this "*AMAZING LOVE*" that brought our Savior to take our sins in His body on the cross that we might die to sin and live for righteousness.... 1 Peter 2:24

May God's peace, love, and joy be yours today and always!

In His love, Pr. Barb

AMAZING LOVE

YOU ARE MY KING

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken
I'm accepted, you were condemned
And I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
Because You died and rose again

Amazing love, how can it be
That You, my King, should die for me?
AMAZING LOVE, I know it's true
And it's my joy to honor You
In all I do, to honor You

YOU ARE MY KING!

Women of Trinity — 2024 Year in Review

WOW! The 2024 year flew by with so many opportunities for outreach, growth, and fellowship! It's great to look back on all that happened and to anticipate a new year of ideas, fun, and ways to serve our dear Lord and His community.

☐ The Women of the Word retreat was held in Camp Forest Springs on April 5 - 6. Trinity Lutheran ladies and other women across Wisconsin met to be refreshed in God's Word!

☐ In May, many of us participated in deep cleaning the sanctuary and worked to keep beautiful that which God has blessed us!

☐ Also in May, we began holding one church service year-round and enjoyed summer outdoor worship service and a potluck on the last Sunday of June-August!

☐ WOT supported Mission and Outreach in the Mother's Day Tea held in June. It was a beautiful event, well supported in the community, with an inspirational speaker.

☐ Vacation Bible School held great involvement from WOT and was a tremendous week full of high energy, great teaching, and love for these precious children!

☐ The Annual Rummage Sale was September 6 and 7 and was extremely successful! Proceeds from the sale allowed Women of Trinity to financially assist the many organizations we support! Thanks to all who made it happen!

☐ Also in September was the TLC Ministry Fair. Women of Trinity provided goodies for the Continental breakfast.

☐ Our first Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Packing event was held in October. It was a wonderful time of fellowship, and we were thrilled to pack 41 boxes this year.

☐ October also held the Secret Sister luncheon, now in its 2nd year. Women who had been paired up with another sister in the church to pray for and support throughout the year had opportunity to meet each other. The gathering was a tremendous blessing for everyone.

☐ Trunk or Treat was, of course, at the end of October, and it was great fun to see so many children come through our parking lot.

☐ Our Lefse Making event was held in November with great participation, so much laughter, and a lot of lefse for sale! Many thanks to Karen Scott for organizing this great event!

(Continued on page 5)

FELLOWSHIP 2025

2024 was certainly a fun year of fellowship with brunches, potlucks and crafting. My apologies go out to the Trinity "fellows" for the unintentional exclusion of fellowship events, namely crafting. This year we will continue with the brunches & potlucks.

There is interest in starting up game nights. Mark your calendar for the following upcoming Fridays of the month as game nights beginning at 6 pm: February 21, March 21 and April 11. The games that are chosen will be fun yet easy. Signup sheets will be placed in the narthex for snack provisions and general headcount.

Should you have additional fellowship ideas, please share them with me.

Trinity's 2024 craft sales during Christmas in Birchwood were very well received so the decision has been made to do this again in conjunction with the December Christmas Fest chili luncheon.

THANKS to all who provided homemade crafts which made for a great variety! **Please ponder your gift(s) as I am now asking YOU to make and provide homemade items for this year's craft sales rather than schedule crafting sessions.**

We will not include edibles as these conflicts with the lefse and cookie sales. Christmas oriented items sell well but crafts need not be limited to Christmas. Thank you for your considerations. We have an entire year to make fun stuff in the comfort of our own homes (rather than fellowship events)! Unsold items will either be returned to you or held for future sales, your choice.

Your Sister in Christ, Sue Svitak

GAME NIGHTS AT 6 PM (bring a friend!)

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 21

MARCH 21

APRIL 11

"LET US THINK OF WAYS TO MOTIVATE ONE ANOTHER TO ACTS OF LOVE AND GOOD WORKS. AND LET US NOT NEGLECT OUR MEETING TOGETHER, AS SOME PEOPLE DO, BUT ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER, ESPECIALLY NOW THAT THE DAY OF HIS RETURN IS DRAWING NEAR."
HEBREWS 10:24-25



(Continued from page 4)

☐ Trinity Lutheran participated in the Birchwood Village Christmas Fest and Chili Lunch again this year with great involvement by WOT. This year we had multiple tables of crafts created by church members throughout the year, which were hugely successful. Posters throughout the Fellowship Hall depicted who were the recipients of the sale proceeds.

☐ The TLC Bake Sale was held in December with incredible support from WOT in the way of cookies, bars, and cakes. We also packaged trays of treats for those receiving Meals on Wheels, shut-ins, and people needing some encouragement.

☐ The Second Annual Cantata Community Reception was held this year after the Christmas Cantata and was a terrific success. Thanks to the Janetskis for their donation of a quilt for the Silent Auction, with the winner being announced at the Cantata. The presence of the Holy Spirit was truly felt in the joy and fellowship at the reception!

☐ We also were made aware of comforters from the Best Western Hotel being disposed of, so Janet Schieffer coordinated many organizations receiving comforters.

So, JOIN US!! We pray, we laugh, we plan, we cook, we raise money to support missions and

outreach in the community and abroad, and we love each other as only a sister in Christ can! If you haven't joined a meeting before – make this the year!

Every second Saturday at 10am we meet in the Fellowship Hall!

God's blessings on your New Year!





Trinity Holds Appreciation Breakfast

Four Corners Police Appreciation Breakfast was held at Trinity Lutheran Church to honor and thank Birchwood Police Chief Adam Brunclik and the officers in Washburn, Barron, Rusk and Sawyer counties as well as their spouses! Thanks to all who participated!



THANKS TO THE CANTATA CHOIR

Our wonderful Trinity Cantata Choir presented an awesome performance of *The Ballad of Bethlehem* by Pepper Choplin on December 15. I received many compliments from those in attendance – such as “what impressive sound from only 14 singers!” Indeed!

Thank you to each member of the choir for the many hours of practice that you put into this work and for the gift card to Two Sisters store!

If you couldn't attend, visit our FB page or YouTube channel to watch a video of the performance: <https://youtu.be/49lfTBfAqfc>

Joanne Schilling, Choir Director

Word Search

DIRECTIONS: Find and circle the vocabulary words in the grid. Look for them in all directions including backwards and diagonally.



APOSTLES
BAPTISM
BIBLE
CATHOLIC
CHRISTIANITY
CREEDS
CROSS
GOSPEL
JESUS

JOHN
LARGEST
LUKE
MARK
MATTHEW
MESSIAH
MONOTHEISTIC
NAZARETH
NEW TESTAMENT

OLD TESTAMENT
ORTHODOX
PRAYER
PROPHECY
PROTESTANT
RESURRECTION
SALVATION
SCRIPTURES
TRINITY

February 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 8a Text Study 9a Worship w/ communion	3 9:00a Quilters 9a WMMT Mtg 10:30a Christian Life Mtg 10:30a-12:30p—Food Pantry Open 3:30p Women's Bible Study 7p AA, Fellowship Hall	4 11:30 Mission & Outreach	5 6:30a Men's Bible study 7p Choir Rehearsal 8p PT Rehearsal	6 10a Women's Bible Study 6p Divine Drama	7 OFFICE CLOSED	8 10a WOT Mtg
9 8a Text Study 9a Worship w/ communion	10 9a Quilters 3:30p Women's Bible Study 7p AA, Fellowship Hall	11 2p Snacks & Facts	12 7p Choir Rehearsal	13 10a Women's Bible Study 6p Divine Drama	14 OFFICE CLOSED	15
16 8a Text Study 9a Worship w/ communion Love Fund/Food Pantry Offering	17 9a Quilters 10:30a-12:30p—Food Pantry Open 3:30p Women's Bible Study 7p AA, Fellowship Hall	18 6:30p Council Meeting Journey Deadline	19 6:30a Men's Bible study	20 10a Women's Bible Study 6p Divine Drama	21 OFFICE CLOSED	22
23 8a Text Study 9a Worship w/ communion Prayer Shawl Sunday	24 9a Quilters 3:30p Women's Bible Study 7p AA, Fellowship Hall	25	26	27 10a Women's Bible Study 10:30a Blood Mobile 6p Divine Drama	28 OFFICE CLOSED	

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

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**Snacks & Facts
2 pm, Tue. 2/11/25**

Veterans Affairs officer Adam



The JOURNEY February 2025

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Rev. Daniel Tabor—Pastor

Pastor Barb Kleven—Associate Pastor

Julie Sunderland, Parish Administrator

Joanne Schilling, Choir Director

Donnae Carrell, Custodian

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	9am
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.



February Worship Services

Feb 2 — Worship w/communion @ 9 am

Feb 9 — Worship w/communion @ 9 am

Feb 16 — Worship w/communion @ 9 am

Feb 23 — Worship w/communion @ 9 am

Text Study sessions at 8 am

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

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

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