

The JOURNEY — Walking Daily with Jesus

Most of you know that I text my sons, each of them living in different states, daily. This practice was born out of a request from our middle son, August. But, it has been an incredible blessing that's allowed the four of us to remain connected, even at a distance. Scripture is sent daily, as we go through one book in our Bible after another, verse by verse. Also sent are light-hearted stories, family news, or moments of mentoring and reminiscing.

Believe it or not, many who are reading this have likely been referenced in one or more of our conversations as well! (Never breaching confidentiality, simply seeking to guide some worthy, young, Christian men in a world that is too often out of control.) Last week I shared a text that was sent from a congregation member to me, asking, "If there was one thing you hoped I had learned under your teaching and preaching, what would it be?"

This was a timely request, as it came a few days after my announcement of accepting a new call. I thought about it for a short time, but soon typed a determined and sincere reply. I imagine those who attend church gatherings regularly or listen online will not be surprised by my answer. I responded:

"The value of Scripture: Truth is found within, cover to cover. It is important to teach this to younger generations, raising them to really know our God and Savior."
I added, "Jesus explains, in Matthew 15:1-9, that true worship of God our Father rises out of a knowledge of scripture."

As I prepare to leave the area, I think of other things I'd hoped to teach, offering final words of guidance. "Keep reading your Bible" would seem to cover it all! I also continue to ask for your prayers in my time of transition. The role I'm stepping into, and the company I'll work with

are truly breaking new ground with their ministry model. It's life as a servant that I haven't seen before, neither have any I've spoken with.

Please pray that I remain faithfully focused on His mission, that I connect the unchurched with believers willing to mentor, that we serve and do all things to the glory of God our Father in Heaven. I'd love to share more with each of you. Our website **FortressProject.org** will soon make our mission and progress very clear. Our Face Book page will be updated regularly too.

I will pray for Trinity during your time of transition. I will pray this church remains faith-filled, Bible preaching, and service orientated. I will pray for your future pastor; that they are a worthy watchman (Ezekiel 33:7-9), prayed for, sincerely loved, and finds their home in Birchwood. I will pray, as we did at our recent council meeting, that there is peace and unity within our congregation. I will pray for the diligence of our new leadership and sincere thanks that I got to be part of this beautiful church.

The text continued: (You had to know there was more!)

In Luke 10:27 Jesus summarized the most important commands in response to the scribe's question, "What must I do to have eternal life?" I've taught this as...
"Live as He lived. Be third."

The only way I can know how Jesus lived is through familiarity with the Bible. Read and do!

With love from your Christian brother,
Pastor Jack Jorgensen

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President's Message

Things are changing at Trinity Lutheran Church. On January 12th, Pastor Jack told us that he was accepting another call. This announcement came as a surprise to us all. This change is uncomfortable for many of us, but doesn't need to be all negative. Pastor Jack has answered a calling from God to take a new path. Now it is up to us to listen for the new direction God's is calling us to travel.

Isaiah 43:19 promises that as God leads us in a new direction He will provide the path we are to go. *"Listen carefully, I am about to do a new thing, Now it will spring forth; Will you not be aware of it? I will even put a road in the wilderness, Rivers in the desert."*

The other thing that has changed was the creation of a new 2020 Council. God has called this group of brothers and sisters "for such a time as this." It is not by chance that each of your Council members answered God's call to serve TLC this year. We have many challenges before us, but at our installation we promised God and you to uphold TLC's Constitution and fulfill our mission statement. In return you, the congregation, promised to support us and come alongside of us in ministry. There is one more crucial part. We all said we will do these things with God's help. How can we go wrong!

The 2020 TLC Council is already working on planning for the future. Lutheran Congregations in Ministry for Christ (LCMC) and Intentional Interim Ministry groups strongly suggests:

1. selecting an interim pastor to guide us through this time of transition and change.
2. taking time "to engage congregational leadership in weighing mission-critical questions about their own identity, present circumstances and resources, and where God is calling them in the future."

These two verses from Proverbs give us the guidance we need through this time of planning.



The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance and advantage, But everyone who acts in haste comes surely to poverty. Proverbs 21:5

We should make plans—counting on God to direct us. Proverbs 16:9 TLB

When Jesus appeared to the apostles after his resurrection, Jesus told them to wait and stay put in Jerusalem and he would send them the Holy Spirit. During this waiting time the apostles and Christ followers continually met together for prayer. Once the Holy Spirit came upon them at Pentecost the church grew from 120 to over 3000. Today almost one-third of the world's population claims to be Christian. Such is the power of the Holy Spirit that is still with us today. I would suggest we follow the path that the early Christians took. Continue to meet together and pray until God reveals his plan for TLC to us. Come Holy Spirit.

Pastor Rick Warren, author of *The Purpose-Driven Church*, wrote an article on "How to Wait Expectantly for God to Answer Prayer." He said wait:

- Wait quietly — *"Let all that I am wait quietly before God, because my hope is in him"* (Psalm 62:5 NLT).
- Wait patiently — *"Be still in the presence of the Lord, and wait patiently for him to act"* (Psalm 37:7a NLT).
- Wait expectantly — *"I wait expectantly, trusting God to help, for he has promised"* (Psalm 130:5 TLB).

And this is so important: you must expect to hear from God. There are so many pastors I talk to who do not expect God to give them a dream or an insight. They don't say that specifically, but their behavior and attitude indicate they are no longer waiting on God.

But waiting is the faith factor. We wait expectantly, and waiting on God is never a waste of time. In fact, it's some of the best time you will ever invest in your ministry.

God bless each of you and God bless Trinity Lutheran Church.

Your brother in Christ,
Jim McGraw

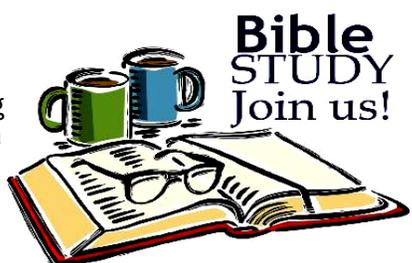
BIBLE STUDY

WOMEN'S MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

The Women's Monday Night Bible Study meets at 6:30 pm. We would love for you to join us !!!

WOMEN'S THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Christianity & Action. Do you want to be a part of it? The Women's Thursday morning bible study will begin a new study in James join us at 9:30am in the Trinity room!! JOIN US!!!



THURSDAY EVENING GROUP BIBLE STUDY

Thursday evening Bible study is underway. Join us at 6:30pm in the Trinity room, as Di & Kyle Hubbard lead us through the book of Acts. Everyone is Welcome!! For more info contact Kyle @ 715-790-1401 or Di @ 941-893-0311.

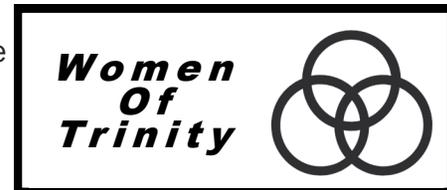
ADOPT AN EASTER LILY

Easter is just around the corner. Adopt a lily in honor or memory of loved ones. Order forms will be placed in bulletins mid-March. Fifteen lilies will be ordered at \$20 each and you may take your lily home after 10 am Easter service.



WOMEN OF TRINITY HAPPENINGS.....

- We held our January 11th meeting in the Fellowship Hall, at 10:00 a.m.
- We're meeting on Saturdays during the first three months of 2020 so there's no need to drive at night.
- February Altar Guild person is Jeanne Dahlby.
- We received several "thank you" cards from those who received a year-end charitable donation from us, or a box of Christmas cookies.
- The December lefse sales brought in \$433, and the bake sale on December 8th brought in \$492.
- We continue to donate money to Timber Bay and our own youth group to use as money toward the dinners that are served.
- Donations of cancelled stamps are still being collected, and June Ehrich will send those to Bote von Bethel in Germany.
- The 2020 Service Book is still a work in progress.
- We voted to donate \$1000 to our church's general fund.
- A presentation by Melinda Pedersen, was given, informing us of her work as director of Kinship, Rice Lake, and how she connects with other worthwhile organizations in Rice Lake. Right now she says there's a need for mentors for one girl and six boys. Contact her if you're able to help.
- At our next meeting, which will be February 8, at 10 am, Barb Kleven, Congregational Care, will talk to us about her plan to "revamp" that part of our church. She's especially looking for a way to involve more men in our congregation.



After our meeting and Melinda's presentation, we enjoyed a delicious salad luncheon.

Women of Trinity next meeting will be February 8 at 10 am in the Fellowship Hall.



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

| | February 2 (10 AM) | February 9 (10 AM) | February 16 (10 AM) | February 23 (10 AM) |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| GREETERS | Kyle & Di Hubbard | Dan & Jackie Healy | Pat & Brenda Mackey | YOUTH |
| USHERS | Joanne & Eldon Kvale | Rob Freeman LeRoy Brensel | Rolf Kleven John Schieffer | YOUTH |
| COMM. ASSTS | Leo & Mary Diehl | Jeanne Dahlby Melinda Pedersen | Penny Bemis Wally Thom | YOUTH |
| READER | Donnarae Carrell | Karen Hayes | Travis Soper | YOUTH |
| Altar Guild | Jeanne Dahlby | Jeanne Dahlby | Jeanne Dahlby | Jeanne Dahlby |



It's "snowbird season" and that means many of our regular choir membership will soon be heading for warmer climes.

SO WE NEED YOU!

If you sing the hymns from the pew, then you can sing a choir anthem from the choir loft!!

Easier songs have been planned for the spring to accommodate our smaller choir. So come join us! For more information, call Joanne Schilling at 715-651-4875.



- | | |
|---|--|
| Jessica Lindow 2/6 Helen McClyman 2/7 Madeline Swanson 2/9 Brien Gindt 2/10 Penny Iverson 2/11 Joanne Kvale 2/12 Sherri Seelnacht 2/12 Rolf Kleven 2/13 Catherine Krance 2/13 Tiffany Rurup 2/13 | Leona Olson 2/14 Billy Strand 2/14 Kayla Kristensen-Sundby 2/15 Jean Peterson 2/16 Daryan Schultz 2/16 Spencer Ritchey 2/19 Ken Dahlby 2/24 Scott VandeVoort 2/24 |
|---|--|

WOMEN OF TRINITY MEETING

The Women of Trinity will hold their monthly meeting on Saturday, February 8, at 10 am, in the Fellowship Hall.

This is an important meeting, discussing the needs of Women of Trinity. Barb Kleven, Congregational Care, will give a talk about her plan to revamp her new job. She's especially looking for ways to involve men in our congregation in Congregational Care needs. ♥♥♥♥

Being a Communion Assistant . . .

Dear Trinity Family,

A question was recently posed to me regarding assisting with Communion. Someone asked, "Do you need training to be a Communion assistant?"

I responded with something like this, "Assisting with Communion requires belief in our Lord and Savior, and to have a clean heart."

The next day, I continued to discern this question. I surfed the "bible net" and I spoke with a faithful, well equipped Trinity family member at length, in hopes of discovering a more substantial answer.

Delving into this discernment forced me to dig deeper, to look for an answer that might bring clarity and understanding. The answer, of course, is not black and white. It is way more exciting than that.

My initial response of believing and having faith is an important and necessary requirement. I found, as I looked inward, a pure heart that comes from confession and forgiveness is a major player.

As I shared this message with my husband, Wally, he added that he finds a closeness to this family as many share the message of humble thankfulness for their salvation through this Sacrament, all with eye contact and an Amen. It's another path to building a close relationship with Jesus Christ.



During discussion with our Trinity sister, it was revealed to me that Peace from our Lord and Savior shows up as the Major, Major wondrous gift and blessing. Thank you Lord.

I pray this may answer such an important question, or perhaps provide encouragement for each of you to delve in for yourselves. This is what I receive as I assist with Communion and to have this affirmed each and every time I assist, well, it feels like the most awesome graduation from any training ever offered.

Remember, "THIS IS THE BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST, GIVEN AND SHED FOR YOU."

May God bless each and everyone of you and bring you Peace.

*Your Trinity sister,
Kathy Thom*

WORSHIP & MUSIC MINISTRY TEAM

The Christmas Season at Trinity was brought to life and provided joyful memories, full of reverence and awe of the birth of Our Lord and Savior. Music and décor was lovingly orchestrated, and our services were carefully planned and shared by many.

The Worship & Music Ministry Team (WMMT) has met for January and we are now in the preliminary planning stage to go into the Easter Season. Our hearts are full for the Easter Season to bring our Trinity Family spiritual food for all those that are seeking it.

Being part of this team has provided for me personally a sense of purpose and is a guidance to where I want to go in faith. *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.* Psalm 119:105

I pray that each of us in this family will continue to grow and find strength, patience, and Love, the greatest gift of all. Thank you to everyone who's gift is to serve our Lord through worship assisting. You are much appreciated.

Our next meeting for WMMT is February 3, 2020 at 11 am at Trinity. Thank you.

Kathy Thom WMMT/ Trinity Council.



CRAFT EXTRAVAGANZA

Enjoy crafting, fun and fellowship? Join us February 11 & 25, at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Supplies will be provided. The craft item that you will be making will be displayed the week ahead on the Welcome Center.

Sign up or RSVP to Di Hubbard so she can plan for Supplies.



After service on February 16 we will be having a departure dinner for Pastor Jack in the Fellowship Hall.

Lasagna, chicken alfredo, two salad choices, green bean casserole, garlic bread and dessert.

Will need RSVPs to plan for every one. Look for a sign up sheet in the near future.



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NEXT MEETING OF . . .

- Birchwood Food Pantry Open.10:30 am, Feb 1, 15, 29**
- Worship & Music Team. 11 am, Feb 3**
- Women of Trinity.10 am, Feb 8**
- Mission & Outreach.11 am, Feb 12**
- Trinity Council Meeting6:30 pm, Feb 18**

FEBRUARY 2020

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|--|--|--|--------------------------------|--|
| | | | | | 3 OFFICE CLOSED | 1 10:30a-1:30p – Food Pantry Open |
| 2 9:30 am - Coffee 10am - Worship | 3 11a—WMMT mtg 9:30a — Quilters 10:30a—Food Pantry open 6:30p— Wmns Bible Study 7p - AA, Fellowship Hall | 4 | 5 11a—Missions Meeting 10 a-Northlakes meeting 5:30—The Cross 7p—Trinity Choir rehearsal 8p—Praise Team rehearsal | 6 9:30a—Women's Bible Study 6:30 -Group Bible Study at Trinity | 7 OFFICE CLOSED | 8 10a – WOT Meeting |
| 9 9:30 am - Coffee 10am - Worship | 10 9:30a—Quilters 6:30p— Wmns Bible Study 7p - AA, Fellowship Hall | 11 | 12 5:30—The Cross 7p—Trinity Choir | 13 9:30a—Women's Bible Study 6:30p—Group Bible Study at Trinity | 14 OFFICE CLOSED | 15 10:30a-1:30p – Food Pantry Open |
| 16 PASTOR'S LAST DAY Love Fund/Food Pantry Offering 9:30 am - Coffee 10am - Worship Farewell Meal for Pastor | 17 Journey Deadline 9:30a—Quilters 10:30a –Food Pantry Open 6:30p—Wmns Bible Study 7p —AA, Fellowship Hall | 18 6:30 pm Council Meeting | 19 5:30—The Cross 7p—Trinity Choir | 20 9:30a—Women's Bible Study 6:30—Group Bible Study at Trinity | 21 OFFICE CLOSED | 22 |
| 23 Prayer Shawl Sunday 9:30 am - Coffee 10am - Worship | 24 9:30a — Quilters 6:30p—Wmns Bible Study 7p - AA, Fellowship Hall | 25 | 26 10:am Journey Assembly 5:30—The Cross 7p—Trinity Choir | 27 | 28 OFFICE CLOSED | 29 10:30a-1:30p – Food Pantry Open |

Trinity Lutheran Church
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 Birchwood, WI 54817

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**WOMEN OF TRINITY MEETING
 FEB 8 @ 10 AM**



The JOURNEY February 2020

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Jack Jorgensen, 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
 JOURNEY deadline Monday of 3rd week of the month

SUNDAY WORSHIP THIS MONTH

- 2/2 – 10am Worship w/ Communion
- 2/9 – 10am Worship w/ Communion
- 2/16 – 10am Worship w/ Communion - Love Fund/Food Pantry
- 2/23 – 10am Worship w/ Communion-Prayer Shawl Sunday

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Vicki Busick | Lora | Collette Sandow |
| Debbie Davis | Sharon Mackey | Cindy Schaan |
| Barb Fegan | Rusty Morrell | Timothy Wallace |
| Annette Gentile | Leonard Nysted | Elaine Yndestad |
| Dan Gowan | Fred Peck | Carol Addington |
| Andy Hedman | Jean Petersen | Walter Radomski |
| Eileen Koefel | Jim Pravda | Gialle Lapacinski- |
| Eunice Kuntz | Tom Reed | Pradera - 7 mo- |
| Roy Kuula | Tracy Reid | (Soper's Nephew) |
| Bill & Joyce Lambrecht | Bill Rice | |
| Rebecca Langham | Ro Sackmann | |
| Ed Leader | Carter Sackmann | |

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