

The JOURNEY — Walking Daily with Jesus

Teach us to Pray

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

“Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray...” Luke 11:1

We are coming into the New Year, fast and furious. By the time you read this, it is possible that you have already blown your resolutions for the year. But that seems to be the way that New Years resolutions tend to go...

One resolution that I tend to make each year is that I promise to spend more time in prayer. Prayer is our greatest weapon against the fiery darts of the evil one, yet we just don't seem to take the time to get down on our knees before our Creator and seek His guidance for the day.

The disciples were challenged in their prayer lives as well. They just did not know how to pray, or so it would seem by their request: *“Lord, teach us to pray...”* We, too, have this same request. The Lord's prayer found in Matthew 6, and in Luke 11, are Jesus' own words showing us how we should pray. And these words of our Lord are as relevant today as they were when He first spoke them.

We are told in 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18, *“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”* We can come to God in prayer, in every occasion, for everyone, for any reason. That is our privilege as children of our heavenly Father. Jesus tells us in John 16: *“In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God.”*

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC) will be holding their annual Three Days of Prayer, January 5-7. I ask that you join me in a daily time of prayer: for confession, for petition, and for vision. We will have details and resources to guide you in your time of prayer. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity. Watch for further details.

May God's peace be with you in this New Year.

In Christ,

Pastor Dan

WHAT'S INSIDE

Letter from Pastor Dan	1
Letter from Council President	2
Missions & Outreach	2
Worship Assistants	3
Women's Monday Night Bible Study	3
Pay Pal	3
Pastor's Text Studies	3
Trinity's YouTube Channel	3
Monday Night Women's Bible Study	3
Thank you Decorators	4
Mission - Gladys Mungo	5
Christianity, Cults & Religions-Bible Study	5
Safe-Distancing Choir Rehearsals	5
Next Meeting Of . . .	5
Women of Trinity Minutes	6
WOT Bake Sale Thank You	6
January Birthdays	6
Calendar	7



President's Message

Time of Reflection and Meditation

Lord, I call upon You; hurry to me. Listen to my voice when I call to You. Let my prayer be counted as incense before You; The lifting up of my hands as the evening offering. Psalm 141:1-2

It's that time of year that we look to new things in our personal lives. New Year, new beginnings, new bodies, new habits. Just as we look to new things in our personal lives, we need to plan for the new things God wants to do at TLC and in Birchwood.

As part of the December Council meeting, TLC's leadership team participated in a time of worship, song and reflection led by Pastor Dan and Gelene Tabor. The intent of the time of consecration was to seek God's Will (plan and purpose) for our church for the new year and in the future. Pastor Dan's meditation was based on Psalm 19 and the key verse for the night was verse 14: *"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer."* Sound familiar? Pastor Dan prays this verse before giving us his sermon each Sunday.

After the time of song and Pastor Dan's mediation, each leadership team member searched out a quiet corner in the sanctuary for private reflection and prayer. Pastor Dan gave us a few questions to help guide our time of reflection on Psalm 19.

1. What in creation fills you most with a sense of Gods glory?
2. What hidden fault or willful sins come to mind?
3. Do any of these faults or sins prevent your communication with God?
4. Is prayer an intentional emphasis at Trinity?

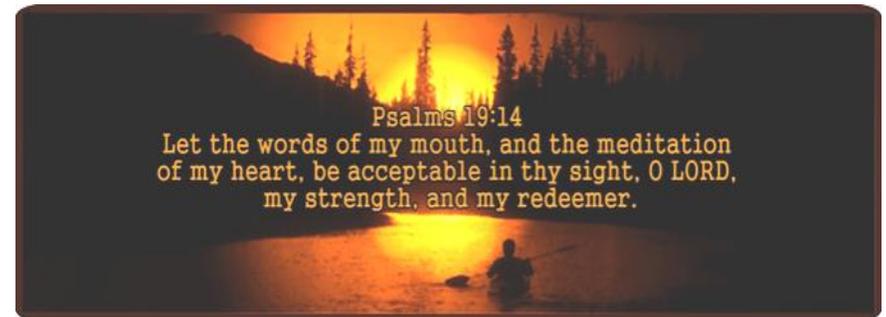
When we came back together to discuss our time of reflection, we shared some answers to Questions 3 and 4. Here are those answers:

- We don't spend enough time being silent and listening for what God wants to say to us. Finding a quiet secluded spot makes it easier to listen to God.
- Prayer should be directed to God, not to impress those listening to us pray. We do not need eloquent words, religious buzz phrases or long repetitive prayers for God to listen to our prayers.
- God wants to have an intimate close relationship with us. Just like little children had with Jesus. Jesus said let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.

Listening to the discussion of the leadership team, my conclusion is prayer is intentional at TLC. We have an active prayer chain; prayer is emphasized at small group meetings and congregational members pray for those prayer concerns listed in the bulletins but we could do more. Some things to consider are the startup a midweek intercessional prayer group, provide confidential individual prayer after worship services and teaching on what the Bible says about prayer.

I would recommend you all to try this personal time of meditation and reflection on Psalm 19 and try to answer the four questions above. I pray that the words of our mouths and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable in God's sight. We do this by seeking and doings God's will not ours.

Your brother in Christ, Jim McGraw



Missions & Outreach

Trinity once more heard the call and answered. The generosity of those who took tags off the Adopt a Family Christmas tree enabled children from five families to have a better Christmas.

In a year when "normal" ceased to exist in the world around us, you, (as a congregation) managed to display the Joy of Giving.

May the Hope and Love that the manager symbolizes give you Peace. Thank you for your continued support.

January WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	January 3 (10 AM)	January 10 (10 AM)	January 17 (10 AM)	January 24 (10 AM)	January 31 (10 AM)
GREETERS	Rose Cutsforth	Karen & Bob Scott	Eleanor Kuula	Brenda & Pat Mackey	Sue Svitak
USHERS	LeRoy Brensel Wally Thom	John Schieffer Dave Dakins	Mike Capra Rob Freeman	Char & Wes Mohns	Wall Thom Tom Svitak
COMM ASSTS	Kathy Thom Julie Sunderland	Joanne Schilling Sue Svitak	Barb & Rolf Kleven	Kathy Thom Brenda Mackey	Di & Kyle Hubbard
READER	Cindy Rubin	Donnarae Carrell	Sue Capra	Zach Beffa	Karen Hayes

WOMEN'S MON NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Women's Monday night bible study will resume on January 4, 2021 at 6:00 pm.

We will be reading and discussing the following texts for Sunday, January 10, 2021:

- Genesis 1:1-5
- Psalm 29
- Romans 6:1-11
- Mark 11:4-11

We welcome all women at Trinity and the community to join us.

I look forward to the wonderful fellowship and friendship we have in Jesus.



God bless you!
Barb Kleven
715-834-9988

WEBSITE PAYPAL DONATE BUTTON

We've added a PayPal DONATE ONLINE button to the Trinity website!!

Now, visitors to our website and others who are out of the Birchwood area can make donations online thru PayPal. PayPal accepts major credit cards, debit cards, and PayPal.

In addition, we have received a PayPal card reader to use for fund-raising events when attendees may wish to pay using a credit or debit card.

Trinity is charged the standard rate for a PayPal nonprofit business account of 2.9% + \$0.30 for each domestic transaction. Therefore, we recommend that



PASTOR'S TEXT STUDIES

Beginning January 4, at 9 am, Pastor Dan will hold a weekly text study of the Lectionary Readings for the following Sunday.

These studies will last about 1 1/2 hours. Bring your Bible and dive into the Scriptures with Pastor Dan!



TRINITY YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Trinity needs EVERYONE to subscribe to our YouTube channel!! Watching the sermon videos on our Facebook page (and liking it) isn't the same!



And watching one of our sermon videos on the channel IS NOT subscribing, either.

You MUST click on the "Subscribe" button to actually subscribe.

Here is the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrIQB6cj0IYNImHer9EuOEA>

IF WE GET 100 SUBSCRIBERS, OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL LINK WILL SAY "TRINITY LUTHERAN"!!!!!!

DECK THE HALLS



THANKING ALL DECORATORS

WOW – Repeat performance!
The Sanctuary, Narthex and front yard are beautiful. To all who enter or drive past the church is shared TRUTH in the birth of JESUS CHRIST and the REMINDER of HIS second coming.

Thank you 2020 decorators:
Donnarae, Joanne, Pr. Dan & Gelene, Susan, Wally & Kathy, Stanley, Wes, David, Janet, LeRoy, Katrina, Rolf & Barb, Tom & Sue, (and Rob who arrived with good intentions)



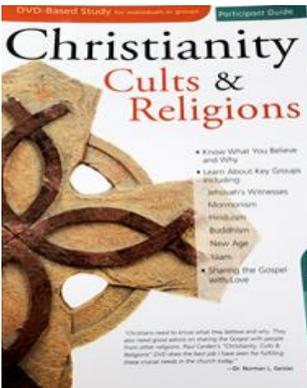
Missions - Gladys Mungo and Haiti's Children, Inc.

Who is Gladys Mungo you ask? She is a missionary who has selflessly served in Haiti the past 13 years. Trinity has been supporting her for many years. Pre-Covid she visited Trinity during her summer furlough and Outreach collected baby items that she then brought back to Haiti upon her return. Her organization is based in Pell Lake Wisconsin. Her passion is the children and trying to change their lives with education. dealing with life at the poverty level means more than making sure children get to school. Their parents simply can't afford the cost of school which includes having a uniform, books and even 2 meals a day! Many families have ONE uniform that children share, so they take turns going to school. The cost of sponsoring a child (\$345) covers school, uniform, books and supplies, and 2 hot meals a day. With Haiti's corrupt government and high exchange rate it's hard to provide for the children. Trinity sponsors one of her children. This year has been a struggle worse I believe, than has been experienced in the United States. When Covid struck people with the virus were hunted down, their homes were burned down and some were even killed. Gladys has also struggled with her own health problems but is ready to return to Haiti.

This is taken from her letter:

"God is gracious and kind to us. His mercy endures forever. Not only does HE gives us what we ask for, HE always gives us what we need and often even far more than what we need and still more than we deserve. I'm thankful for your continued support and prayers for this mission. Thank you for your encouragement and for helping me to be fruitful to so many in Haiti. We are successful in reaching so many because of YOU!"

There is a thank-you and a piece of native art that Haitians make to help support themselves that will be on the bulletin board in the hallway leading into the sanctuary. Please continue to support Gladys with your prayers. For more information about her organization, visit www.haitischildreninc.org.



NEW WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

A new women's Bible study, **Christianity, Cults & Religions**, is starting Thursday, January 21, at 10 am!

Know what you believe and why as we meet in the Fellowship Hall for this 6-week DVD-based study by Professor Paul Carden.

Each session lays out a solid Scriptural foundation for discerning the truth, and dispels common misconceptions and stereotypes. But above all, this study helps you think biblically, so you can share Christ with compassion, clarity and confidence.

Please provide \$5 to Marcia Kampf by January 10, to receive a participant's guide. Julie also has some in the office.

SAFE-DISTANCING CHOIR REHEARSALS

We have managed to have several TLC Ensembles provide special music during the Advent/Christmas season, in addition to the solos, duets, and quartets. So perhaps it is time to ease into safe-distancing choir rehearsals for the entire choir.

Rehearsals will begin on Wednesday, January 13, at 7 pm. We will spread out in the pews to maintain safe-distancing during the rehearsals, and masks will be mandatory.

Instead of singing in the choir loft area, the larger ensemble has been spreading across the front of the Sanctuary, which limits the number to no more than 10 singers. So, depending on the voices needed, you may be asked to not be part of a particular ensemble.

Solos, duets, and smaller ensembles will still be scheduled.

If you have questions, call Joanne at 715-651-4875.



Meeting

NEXT MEETING OF . . .

- Birchwood Food Pantry Open 10:30-12:30pm, Jan. 2, 4, 16, 18**
- Worship & Music Team 10 am, Jan . 4**
- Women of Trinity 10am, Jan. 9**
- Trinity Council Meeting 6:30 pm, Jan. 19**

Women of Trinity Happenings—

-We held our meeting on December 12, in the Fellowship Hall with 18 women in attendance.

-The November Secretary report was accepted as corrected. The Treasurer report was accepted as written.

-Altar Guild—Joanne Schilling will serve for January.

-Correspondence

- A thank you was received from Barb Kleven for the quilt that was presented to her.
- Women of Word retreat will be April 23-24, 2021 at Westboro. Information on charitable organizations that was received will be posted on the bulletin board for review.

-The Christmas Bake Sale will be December 13, before and after service. Set up will be after the meeting today.

-Cookie containers for shut-ins will be filled on Dec 16 at 2 pm.

-WOT council representative is Rose Cutsforth

-Christmas cards will be sent to individuals in assisted living or staying at home due to Covid to let them know that they are not forgotten.

-Annual charitable gifts in the amount of \$1550 were distributed.

-Editing of the 2021 service booklet is underway.

-Information was presented on the possibility of having a Christmas bazaar in 2021 with individuals meeting to make items throughout the year. More information will be provided next month.

-Next meeting—January 9th at 10AM in the fellowship hall.



I am extending a heartfelt thank you to the women of our congregation for the donation of baked goods for our annual Christmas bake sale. You are all so generous and such accomplished bakers. The sale was a success and the funds raised will go towards the yearly giving we do at the end of the year.

Please know that your generosity is appreciated.

Cindy Rubin
Women of Trinity President



Confirmation and the Cross will resume in January - Watch the Bulletin for further Details



- Sue Capra 1/1
- Jill Pedersen 1/1
- Lilly Gottwald 1/2
- Colette Sandow 1/2
- Andy Hedman 1/3
- Adam Robotka 1/3
- Eric Flora 1/5
- Leo Diehl 1/9
- Andy Janetski 1/12
- Rolf Jostad 1/12
- Madyson Schultz 1/15
- Morgan Hayes 1/16
- Gloria Sibley 1/17
- Brad Bratvold 01/20

- Norm Jastram 1/21
- Lee Flora 1/21
- Carly Pedersen 1/23
- Amy Roppe 1/24
- Maryann Cowans 1/25
- Rodney Levake 1/25
- Shay Sunderland 1/25
- Jeffery Arvesen 01/26
- Jerry Chasteen 1/27
- John Carlstrom 1/28
- Travis Miller 1/28
- Desiree Jasper 1/30
- Bob Hayes 1/31



If you are not able to attend church in person, please mail or drop off your offerings to the church office!

**Trinity Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 8
Birchwood, WI 54817**

January 2021						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 OFFICE CLOSED	2 10:30a-12:30p—Food Pantry Open
3 10a - Worship	4 10:30a-12:30p—Food Pantry Open 9a—Pastor's Text Study 10:30a—WMMT Meeting 6p—Women's Bible Study-Trinity Rm 7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	5	6 5:30p-The Cross	7 10a—Women's Bible Study	8 OFFICE CLOSED	9 10a—Women of Trinity Meeting
10 10a - Worship	11 9:00 Quilters 9a—Pastor's Text Study 6p—Women's Bible Study-Trinity Rm 7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	12	13 5:30p-The Cross 7p—Trinity Choir Reh	14 10a—Women's Bible Study	15 OFFICE CLOSED	16 10:30a-12:30p—Food Pantry Open
17 10a - Worship Love Fund/Food Pantry Offering	18 Journey Deadline 9:00 Quilters 9a—Pastor's Text Study 10:30a-12:30p—Food Pantry Open 6p—Women's Bible Study-Trinity Rm 7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	19 6:30p - Council Meeting	20 5:30p-The Cross 7p—Trinity Choir Reh	21 10a—Women's Bible Study	22 OFFICE CLOSED	23
24 10a - Worship Prayer Shawl Sunday	25 9a—Pastor's Text Study 6p—Women's Bible Study-Trinity Rm 7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	26	27 5:30p-The Cross 7p—Trinity Choir Reh	28 10a—Women's Bible Study	29 OFFICE CLOSED	30
31 10a - Worship						

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

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!



The **JOURNEY**

January 2021

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Daniel Tabor—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 ♦ (716) 990-5230 (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 Monday of 3rd week of the month

SUNDAY WORSHIP THIS MONTH

01/03 — 10 am Worship w/ Communion

01/10 — 10 am Worship w/ Communion

01/17 — 10 am Worship w/ Communion — Love Fund Offering

01/24 — 10 am Worship w/ Communion — Prayer Shawl Sunday

01/31 - 10 am Worship w/ Communion

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

Carol Addington	Rebecca Langham	Timothy Wallace
Vicki Busick	Ed Leader	Elaine Yndestad
Debbie Davis	Lora	Giamore Lapacinski-
Barb Fegan	Sharon Mackey	Pradera -(Soper's
Annette Gentile	Rusty Morrell	Nephew)
Dan Gowan	Tim Nysted	Donna Willis
Andy Hedman	Fred Peck	
Barb Hinderman	Jim Pravda	
Eileen Koefler	Tracy Reid	
Eunice Kuntz	Bill Rice	
Roy Kuula	Ro Sackmann	
Joyce Lambrecht	Carter Sackmann	

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