

The JOURNEY — Walking Daily with Jesus

From the Pastor's Desk

March 2025

“But he said to them, ‘It is I, don’t be afraid.’ Then they were willing to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the shore where they were heading.”

We all face storms in our lives. Yes, this number includes even pastors can teachers. None of us escapes the storms which come upon us in this sin-filled world.

These disciples were facing the winds of trial. By their own strength they were rowing against that wind and the waves. They might have felt that they were making a little headway, but the reality was that they are in the middle of a wind tossed lake, miles from the shore, and safety. It is dark, there is no motor, no GPS, and no Coast Guard to rescue them.

Then, they see Jesus. Instead of rejoicing at the sight of their Master, they are terrified. He is walking on the water, and they don’t understand. They see Jesus, but they don’t believe. They didn’t trust that this One who walks on water is there, for them. Despite the presence of the Lord, the disciples continue to trust in their own efforts, in their own strength, to get through the trial. Just as we tend to do.

But then the Word breaks forth through all of the barriers of fear and self-reliance. With the Word of God, *“It is I; don’t be afraid,”* comes a *“peace which surpasses all understanding”* (Phil. 4:7, ESV) It is a peace which breaks through the storms of life, calming fears, bringing faith, *“guarding your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.”*

How often do we strive against the winds and waves of this life? How often do we see Jesus, yet in fear, fear of finding that we are not as strong as we might want to believe, we strive to keep Jesus out of the boat...out of our lives?

“It is I; don’t be afraid,” Jesus says. Trust in His Word, for God’s Living Word is *“the Way, the Truth and the Life.”* The Word of God, Jesus, has defeated the things of this world which have held us in their grasp since the Garden: sin, death, and Satan. Jesus defeated all of these through His cross and resurrection. The grave could not hold Him back from rescuing you from the winds and the waves which assail you. You, the one whom Jesus loves.

What storms are you facing right now? To you, Jesus says, *“It is I; don’t be afraid.”*

Blessings, Pastor Dan

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Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour on March 9.

From the Council President:

The first week in February, Gelene Tabor and I finished our 20 hours of Stephen Ministry Leader training. During the zoom meetings we had breakout sessions with other leadership trainees. We met with people of all ages, different churches and people with different gifts and skills. What stuck out was everyone had the same goal. To become the best Stephen Ministry leader for their church as possible.

To accomplish this goal, every trainee had to participate in each training session and be mentally and physically present. Also, when we participated in small group exercises each participant had a part to do.

It was heartwarming to witness these brothers and sisters in Christ passion for building up the church and love for one another. We developed deep bonds with these other leaders.

Soon our four Stephen Ministers and Leaders will hit the ground running delivering this caregiving ministry. But this special and much needed ministry is not their ministry alone. It is not only up to them to deliver this program. It is not only Pastor Dan's ministry; it is not only the Council's ministry. It is this entire congregation's ministry. We all have a part to make this ministry successful. Each and every one of us.

"From Christ the whole body [the church, in all its various parts], joined and knitted firmly together by what

every joint supplies, when each part is working properly, causes the body to grow and mature, building itself up in [unselfish] love." Ephesians 4:16 AMP

Your support and participation in your Stephen Ministry are needed. Please acknowledge and affirm Cindy, Sue, Dan, and Gelene as they finish their training to be Christian care givers. Do the same for our Stephen Leaders, Pastor Dan, Gelene, and Di Hubbard.

As we look to the future, we will be looking to hold another training class in the fall. If the Holy Spirit has touched your heart to become a care giver to a person going through tough times, contact any Stephen Leader for more information. Keeping current with your offerings also helps fund this special program.

Most of all, pray for the Holy Spirit to lift up each of our Stephen Ministers as they enter into their caring relationships. Pray for wisdom and discernment for the Stephen Leaders as they match care receivers to care givers. Pray that God will bring wholeness and healing to each of these caring relationships.

"I am convinced and confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will [continue to] perfect and complete it until the day of Christ Jesus [the time of His return]." Philippians 1:6 AMP

Compassionate Lord, you showed us by example how to love and care for one another.

As we begin the Stephen Ministry in our congregation, make your caring presence known in our hearts. Help us to hear your call to service and witness. Help us to see ways to use this caregiving ministry to bring your healing love to people within and outside our congregation. Reveal to us your presence as we care and serve. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Jim McGraw





MARCH-SUNDAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS



	Mar 2 9:00a	Mar 9 9:00a	Mar 16 9:00a	Mar 23 9:00a	Mar 30 9:00a
GREETERS	Terri Freeman	Karen Brantner	Joanne & Eldon Kvale	Jackie & Dan Healy	Cheri Anderson
USHERS	Rob Freeman Wally Thom	Wally Thom Kevin Ploessl	Kevin Ploessl Wes Thom	Mike Capra Tom Svitak	Janet & John Schieffer
COMM. ASSTS	Joanne Schilling	Ellen Ehrich	Pat Mackey	Joanne Schilling	Dan Dahl
READER	Kathy Thom	Sue Capra	Brenda Mackey	Gloria Widiker	Eric Anderson



3/16 Don Fuller
3/17 Donnaræ Carrell
3/24 Kyle Hubbard
3/25 Char Mohns
3/25 Margaret Buchanan
3/28 Jeff Bemis
3/31 Diane Hubbard



3/17 Char & Wes Mohns
3/29 Barb & Rolf Kleven



Snacks and Fact Tuesday March 11th at 2pm

- Wendy Loy, Associate Dean of Continuing Education will discuss what is available at Northwood Technical College
- Everyone Welcome!
- Join us in a short Devotion.
- Dessert and Coffee will be served!



**PSST! VBS TRUE
NORTH IS COMING!
JUNE 16-20!**

MeetiNg

NEXT MEETING OF . . .

Birchwood Food Pantry Open. Mar. 3 & 17, 10:30-12:30pm
Worship & Music Team. Mar. 3, 9:00am
Women of Trinity Mar 8, 10:00am
Trinity Council Meeting No Meeting

March 2025 Journey Newsletter message from our associate pastor.

As we enter the month of March, most people instantly think of St. Patrick's day. When I think of the simple legend of St. Patrick sharing his faith by telling the story of the Triune God by using the Shamrock to explain the Trinity, I am reminded of the faithful witnesses that have been in my life to inspire my faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

My grandparents were a wonderful witness of God's love and faithfulness. I remember hearing my grandpa Hjemboe preach at his church in Strum, WI. He had immigrated from Norway and faithfully ministered God's Word. Then my Grandpa and Grandma Nelson that lived in Eau Claire where my family lived faithfully attended church and were an inspiration to my siblings and me. My Grandma Nelson brought my 2 sisters and me to the hospital which was walking distance from their home. She would always have a little basket filled with Get Well cards, fruit and gum. As we went from room to room visiting people that she knew, she would always give them a cheery greeting and then have my sisters, and I sing "Jesus loves Me" to them. They always responded with a warm welcome when we came. Then there was one lady that we visited that had a roommate that hadn't had any visitors or get-well cards. My grandma simply excused herself from the room and found some blank cards in her basket, signed them, came back in the room, and placed them on the table for the lady to open each day of the week.

Then there was an elderly man named Ed, who I had known most of my life who in his younger years sang in our church choir with my mom and dad when I was growing up. He had a wonderful tenor voice and sang with great enthusiasm. Years passed by and my sisters and I visited him at a nursing home, hoping to cheer him up by singing hymns together. He had just turned 90 and we found him sitting outside in a wheelchair. He was overjoyed to see us and smiled when we told him we wanted to sing for him. He smiled brightly as he took out a little black book from a pocket on the side of his wheelchair. His face lit up as he told us how he would sit and copy his favorite hymns from a hymnbook and write them in his little black book. He explained how he felt God's peace and power as he wrote the words to each hymn down. His little book was thick with many pages filled with hymns that he had meticulously written by hand.

He opened his book, and we sang page after page of the glorious hymns together with Ed that had sustained his faith throughout his life. As we sang the familiar hymns, our eyes blurred our vision as we saw tears streaming down Ed's face. After heart-felt hugs we waved goodbye to Ed and felt blessed as we walked away and turned around to see his warm smile and gentle wave. The following week after visiting Ed, we heard that he had passed away. My sisters and I sang at his funeral. His son told us that since our visit his dad wore a constant smile until he died. We were so blessed to share faith together with Ed through song.

This little bit of encouragement that my sisters and I gave Ed is a reminder that each one of us has a gift of comfort to share with others that can make a huge difference. It may not be a song, but it can be with a simple, "How are you?", or sending a cheery card or making a phone call or greeting someone new at church. We are blessed to be a blessing. And remember, if you have children or grandchildren, they are watching you and will learn from you!

Beloved, let us love one another for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.... 1 John 4:7 &8

Grace and peace be with you,
Pr. Barb

Mission and Outreach

January 10th was the Police Appreciation Breakfast. Six officers and one wife attended. The breakfast was well received, and we believe we will have a higher attendance next year. May 2nd we will have a Fireman/EMT appreciation breakfast.

January 14th Snacks and Facts was the Birchwood Historical Society. We had 32 attendees, which was the highest so far! February 11th we had Adam Smith from Veterans Affairs Washburn County speak about various services available to veterans. March 11th will be Wendy Loy speaking about continuing education at Northwood Technical College.

On February 19th, 35 quilts were shipped to the Palisades Lutheran church in Pacific Palisades, California. The area around the church was destroyed by fire, yet the church still stands. The quilts will be given to children around junior high age to help comfort them during this difficult time of loss.

The Women's Tea will be on June 28th. Gaye Lindfors will be speaking on "God, Girl Friends and Chocolate". Save the Date!

We collected baby items for Lutheran World Relief Baby Care kits in February. If you find baby items during the summer please bring them in. Everything for LWR will be shipped in October so we can always add to our donation. Mid-March we will begin to collect Personal Care kits.

Personal Care kits contain:

Bath towel Bath sized soap bars Tooth brush Comb Metal nail clipper

Thank you all for your kindness in giving. Through our community services and working with Lutheran World Relief we are touching the lives of many people.

Respectfully submitted for Mission and Outreach by,
Elaine Ploessl



**BEAUTIFY THE
SANCTUARY WITH
EASTER LILIES
\$10/plant**

Please help beautify the Sanctuary for EASTER with faux lilies!!

Order your white lily

In Honor of OR In Memory of loved ones.

Form available in the Narthex — attach payment and return to the church office or place in the offering basket by April 10.

The faux lilies will be cared and stored at Trinity

{Easter bulletin will list donors and honorees/memorials}

Call Julie at 715-354-3790

Order By April 10

JOIN US IN FELLOWSHIP ON GAME NIGHT

Come join in fun for an adults evening out! Games will be easy to learn/play, fun and noncompetitive...meaning there are NO PRIZES. Snacks will be provided. A variety of games will be on hand and if you would like to host a game table, please bring that game with you. Consider bringing your friends too!

You ask, WHEN are these dates so I can place them in my calendar?

**Fridays at 6 pm on March 21 and April 11
in Fellowship Hall**

LENTEN AND EASTER SERVICES

Our Mid-week services continue at 6:30 pm on Wednesdays.

Lenten, Holy Week, and Easter Services are as follows:

Mid-week Lenten Services

Mar 5 — Ash Wednesday Lenten service @ 6:30 pm

Mar 12 — Mid-week Lenten service @ 6:30 pm

Mar 19 — Mid-week Lenten service @ 6:30 pm

Mar 26 — Mid-week Lenten service @ 6:30 pm

Apr 2 — Mid-week Lenten service @ 6:30 pm

Apr 9 — Mid-week Lenten service @ 6:30 pm

Holy Week Services

Apr 13 — Palm Sunday Worship w/communion @ 9 am

Apr 17 — Maundy Thursday w/communion @ 6:30 pm

Apr 18 — Good Friday Worship @ 6:30 pm

Easter Services and Brunch

Apr 20 — Easter Sunrise Worship w/communion @ 6:30 am

Apr 20— Easter Brunch at 7:30 - 8:30 am

Apr 20 — Easter Celebration Worship w/communion @ 9:00 am

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**

**Register by MAR 14 to save money!!
See brochures on Welcome Center**

THE HAND OF THE LORD

Whether tightening a bolt, crocheting, or typing on a computer, there is so much that we do with our hands. The Greek physician Galen called them *the instrument of instruments*. Indeed, hands are instruments that can do a great deal of things. Hands can be used to heal or hurt, work or wreck, build or break, seize or surrender, and on and on. Hands are so often central to the ways we interact with the world that they have also become figurative symbols of power, control, craftsmanship, and possession. We daily speak of hands in many phrases, such as “Lend a hand,” “Things are out of hand,” “Working together hand in glove,” and “Close at hand.” Moreover, in our modern era of robotic, machine, and computer processing, adding “hand” as a prefix to many words can often communicate something that is personal and intentional. Labeling something as handpicked, handwritten, or handmade adds a personal touch and significance. Our Creator has bestowed on us these amazing instruments.

It is no surprise that mentions of hands appear all over the Bible as God’s Word speaks to us in ways that we can understand. All things are the work of the hand of the Lord (Psalm 102:25). The Lord’s hand is referred to over two hundred times in the Old Testament. The Lord’s hand is active in creation, power, control over happenings of the world, judgment, and salvation. The hand of the Lord was upon Ezekiel when He gave him a vision (Ezekiel 3:22), and the hand of the Lord was against the Philistines in the days of Samuel (1 Samuel 7:13). The hand of the Lord is both Law and Gospel.

Perhaps surprisingly, specific references to the “hand of the Lord” are not all that frequent in the New Testament. However, it is precisely in the New Testament where the hand of the Lord takes on literal meaning. The One through whom all things were created took on real, literal hands in His incarnation (John 1:1–14). We have several examples throughout Scripture

that speak of the way that Christ used His hands alongside His life-giving words to bring forgiveness, life, and salvation. The work of Christ’s hands helps us to see the merciful and personal way that He has condescended to us. He has given us something to grasp, even as He holds us. Jesus used His hands to save drowning Peter, to feed the multitudes, to touch those who were unclean, to stop a funeral procession in its tracks, to lift up Jairus’s daughter, and to bless the children. The hand of the Lord has come to us in Jesus.

On the other hand, the literal and figurative actions of mere human hands in the Bible are often the means of our own sin. After all, our own Lord was “delivered into the hands of men” (Luke 9:44). However, on a greater level, we know that it was the hand of the Lord at work all along, most especially in His crucifixion. Christ laid down His life of His own authority as He allowed Himself to be delivered into the hands of sinful men (John 10:18). His hands were pierced for the sins of the world. His hands rested on Holy Saturday. Yet, on the third day, He rose again. He now holds us in His hands, and no one can snatch us from His hand (John 10:28). Our Lord has hands, real hands. Jesus has accomplished all that we need. Amazingly, He takes our manipulative, distorted, self-serving hands and restores them into useful hands for His purposes, both to literally use them in service and to make our whole lives into His instruments of witness, service, and praise.

2025 Concordia Publishing



March 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	5 6:30a Men's Bible study 6:30p Ash Wed. Service 7p Choir Rehearsal 8p PT Rehearsal	6 10a Women's Bible Study 6p Divine Drama	7 OFFICE CLOSED	8
9 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS 8a Text Study 9a Worship w/ communion	10 9a Quilters 3:30p Women's Bible Study 7p AA, Fellowship Hall	11 11:30 Mission & Outreach 2p Snacks & Facts	12 6:30 p Lenten Service 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 Journey Deadline	19 6:30a Men's Bible study 6:30p Lenten Service 7p Choir Rehearsal	20 10a Women's Bible Study 6p Divine Drama	21 OFFICE CLOSED 6p Game Night	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 6:30p Lenten Service 7p Choir Rehearsal	27 10a Women's Bible Study 10:30a Blood Mobile 6p Divine Drama	28 OFFICE CLOSED	29
30 8a Text Study 9a Worship w/ communion	31 9a Quilters 3:30p Women's Bible Study 7p AA, Fellowship Hall					

Trinity Lutheran Church
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**Snacks & Facts
2 pm, Tue. 3/11/25**



The JOURNEY March 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

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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.



March Worship Services

Mar 2 — Worship w/communion @ 9 am

Mar 9 — Worship w/communion @ 9 am

Mar 16 — Worship w/communion @ 9 am

Mar 23 — Worship w/communion @ 9 am

Mar 30 — Worship w/ communion @9:00 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.