

# The JOURNEY — Walking Daily with Jesus

## From the Pastor’s Desk:

*“But as for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, and he will stand upon the earth at last. And after my body has decayed, yet in my body I will see God! I will see him for myself. Yes, I will see him with my own eyes. I am overwhelmed at the thought!” (Job 19:25-26, NLT)*

Grace and peace to you from God the Father and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! For me, our proclamation of these words as a congregation during the Easter season is one of the highlights of this time of year. To announce together that the tomb is empty, and that Christ is “indeed” risen is at the very center of this Christian faith. All of the other doctrines to which we hold as truth fail without the resurrection.

(Personal note: Please do not be offended by my use of vague pronouns in this illustration. I use them in respect to the privacy of the person of whom I am writing.) I have been blessed to be spending some time with a family member who has been going through cancer treatments. It has been an honor to have this person trust me enough to open the book of their life to me, exposing the good and the bad. And it has been a humbling experience to share the good news of Jesus with them. This loved one is a seeker, one who isn’t sure what they believe in, but who understands that there is Someone who has been watching and guiding their life. In discussing this Someone, I was blessed to talk about the “unknown god” which Paul spoke of in Acts 17:23.

This loved one was baptized many years ago, and now, as we talk of faith matters, it is an honor to share the words of our Savior, Jesus Christ in Mark 16:16: *“Whoever believes and is baptized shall be saved...”* (ESV) I pray that the Holy Spirit will open eyes and ears to produce the gift of Faith in this heart.

The empty tomb of Christ, for the believer whom the Holy Spirit has called, is a message of hope and a message of assurance. It is God’s assurance of forgiveness of sin, assurance of salvation, and the assurance of eternal life with Jesus. It is this hope to which Job clings, despite all the attacks and thefts that Satan inflicted upon him. Though he lost family, health, and friends, still Job proclaims the very assurance that you and I have, and which we can share with those who are in need of comfort: *“But as for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, and he will stand upon the earth at last. And after my body has decayed, yet in my body I will see God! I will see him for myself. Yes, I will see him with my own eyes. I am overwhelmed at the thought!”*



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In Christ, Pastor Dan



## Letter from Trinity President

Over the last months, church staff and volunteers by phone and letter reached out to church members that had not worshipped or fellowshiped with us in a while. Thanks to that effort we were able to create a church roster that is more accurate of our TLC body today. We still asked these 2 questions: 1) why have many church members not come back to church after the pandemic? And 2) why have all church attendance go down regardless of denomination? I found the answer online and in scripture. Charles Stanley's sermon "Together in the Christian Life", has some answers to these questions. Listen to what Pastor Stanley wrote in 2022.

"Many professing Christians say that they don't really and truly need to be a part of a church because they can live their Christian life fine without a church. But does that mean that the church is no longer important? Does it mean that it is not important that you and I be a part of a fellowship? Let me ask you a question, is that the will of God? You may say, Well, for me, it's the will of God. Well, is that what the Word of God says? Well, I don't know about that part but I just know that I can't live it without the church. This is what the Word says, "let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." Hebrews 10:22-25. So, what I want you to see is this, this twenty fifth verse is the strongest verse in the New Testament, concerning the assembling of Christians together. God created the church. Not only for instruction and worship and evangelizing the world, but also for our protection. We need one another. To protect us from being swayed and pulled away from Almighty God Himself. That is, when they cease to come to church, before long, when you go looking for them, here's what you find, they not only have drifted away from church, they drift away from God. Now over twenty-five times in the New Testament Paul talks about our relationship to one another. So, I'm just going to read you a few of them. Listen to what He says. He says, we are to first of all, love one another, build up each other, forgive one another, accept one another. Encourage each other, serve one another, be patient with one another, kind to each other, devoted to each other, admonishing each other. Comforting one another, stimulating one another, confessing to one another, fellowshiping with one another. The church is all about relationship. And so, when He says, forsake not the assembling of yourselves together, what He was doing? He was admonishing us to be wise about how we live our life in

relationship to Him and our relationship to each other. And the impact all of us together can have on the world. We are to assemble ourselves together; we are to worship as a body. Well, look at what the church does. For example, the first thing we are to do and that is we meet together and we worship. So, what do we do by worship? Well, we sing, and we praise the Lord and give Him thanks for the good things that He's done for us. We pray and recall His blessings in our life. Make our requests, we give of our finances in obedience to Him, and so and what do we do? We fellowship with each other. A second thing is this, and that is, He wanted us to assemble together because He wants us to have instruction in the Word of God. Let me ask you a question, without any Biblical instruction in your life, how much truth would you know? If it was just left up to you to read the Bible and figure it out. Now, you say, well, does that mean that we can't study the Word of God without having a pastor? No, I'm not saying that. I'm simply saying this, that the Word of God says that we're responsible for reading and studying and praying of the Scripture and interpreting it properly. Jesus says this in the twelfth chapter of Romans that the church is the Body of Christ. That is, when He left and ascended, He left His followers as His physical living body. We are the Body of Christ. That is, it's our hands now through which He works, our eyes through which He sees, our ears through which He hears, and it's our life through which He works. We are His body. This is the church (Trinity Lutheran Church).

As Pastor Stanley said, fellowship and your relationship with God and one another are important. As we meet in worship, Bible Studies, and small groups we establish Christian relationships, we get to know one another better, we pray for one another and we stay connected. We also hope that family, friends and neighbors could have these relationships too. If the Holy Spirit puts someone on your heart, please invite them to join us in fellowship. In an effort to stay connected to the entire congregation, the Council created a Phone Tree List. Nine Council members agreed to be Phone Tree Callers. A few times each year you will be contacted either in person at church or by phone to see how you are doing, notify you of upcoming events and see if you have prayer requests. Just a friendly neighborhood chat from a brother or sister who loves and cares about you.

Have Blessed Spring, your brother in the TLC family.

**Jim McGraw**



**MAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

	<b>May 5 10:00a</b>	<b>May 12 10:00a</b>	<b>May 19 10:00a</b>	<b>May 26 9:00a Outdoors</b>
<b>GREETERS</b>	Terri Freeman	Char Mohns	Brenda Mackey	Kathy Thom
<b>USHERS</b>	Rob Freeman Wally Thom	Wes Mohns John Schieffer	Steve Tracey Mike Capra	Wally & Kathy Thom
<b>COMM. ASSTS</b>	Dan Dahl	Ellen Ehrich	Pat Mackey	Joanne Schilling
<b>READER</b>	Kathy Thom	Gloria Widiker	Sue Capra	Dianne Buxton



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**



*Happy Anniversary*

Jeanne Dahlby    5/18 Wayne Palm      5/24 Joann Miner       5/26 Cheri Anderson   5/27 Julie Sunderland 5/28 Ruth Clausen     5/31	Dan & Connie Dahl   5/30
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**MAY 26 BRUNCH POTLUCK**

**Calling all Lutherans!**

**This is one of those things we do best: EAT TOGETHER!**

You are invited to join in fellowship for our potluck-style BRUNCH on May 26, immediately following the outdoor 9 am service.

A sign-up sheet will be available in the narthex mid-May to ensure a variety of dishes to share. The WOT Service Committee #1 will assist with setting up the food, serving and clean-up.

To ease the kitchen efforts, please bring any hot-style meal items **FULLY** cooked. A quick re-warm in the oven is manageable.



# Meeting

**NEXT MEETING OF . . .**

- Birchwood Food Pantry Open . . . . . May 6 & 20, 10:30-12:30pm**
- Worship & Music Team . . . . . May 6, 10:00am**
- Women of Trinity . . . . . May 4, 10:00 am**
- Trinity Council Meeting . . . . . No Meeting**
- Men's Ministry of Trinity . . . . . May 16, 6:30 pm**

**From Pastor Barb's Desk**

As we anticipate the beautiful blossoms and flowers that come in May, we spend more time outside in the fresh air being refreshed as we see new green buds on the trees, and new life all around us. This is a picture of the reviving we find in the refreshment that comes through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and in the cleansing and restoration we find in reading His Word.

Just as the beauty of spring progresses with "spring green" leaves, bright yellow daffodils, and colorful tulips, the beauty of faith in Jesus comes alive as God's Word brings "Christlike" transformation and cleansing of our souls as we take time to daily read it. Depth of wisdom and knowledge of God comes through knowing His Word! Take time to be refreshed as you read God's Word:

- God's Word:
- Is our source of faith! - Romans 10:17
- Guides and equips. - 1 Timothy 3:16-17
- Cleanses our hearts. - John 17:17
- Gives the strength to overcome! - Psalm 29:11

- Transforms the mind. Philippians 4:8
- Is our spiritual food. - Matthew 4:4
- Brings spiritual growth. - 1 Peter 2:2
- Brings victory over temptation. - Psalm 119:11
- Brings joy and blessing. -Proverbs 8:34; Luke 11:28
- Purifies. - John 17:17
- Examines the heart. - Hebrews 4:12
- Comforts. -Romans 15:4
- Brings victory and healing- Ephesians 6:17; Proverbs 4:20-22
- Brings assurance and joy. - 1 John 5:13; Psalm 19:8

"Lord, refresh our hearts as we renew our spirit with the instruction, and encouragement that You give us in Your Word. Enlighten our hearts that we may know what is the hope to which You have called us and know the many blessings you have given us through Your Son, Jesus. In His name we pray amen.

Peace be with you!  
 Pastor Barb



**Easter Glory!!**

## Women of Trinity

### Women of Trinity – April Happenings

**Happy Spring! So much is going on already in our church – it's an exciting time!**

**The 2024 Service Booklet has been published! Please get your copy and review it to ensure the information is correct.**

**Operation Christmas Child will be happening in the fall. If you need to sacrifice and buy more shoes (!), be sure and save your shoeboxes!**

**We are looking for a childcare provider for the WOT meetings as we have moms with kids who would like to participate. If you know of any volunteers, please let someone from WOT know!**

**Join us for a DEEP CLEANING of the SANCTUARY! It's a privilege to worship in such a beautiful space, so bring your vacuum and cleaning supplies May 16<sup>th</sup> at 10 am. Many hands will make light work!**

**May 26 begins our one service year-round with a potluck to follow. The Service Committees will take turns organizing the potluck and cleaning up afterwards. Service Committee 1 will be in charge of the May potluck.**

Upcoming Dates

- May 16 – Sanctuary Deep Clean
- May 26 – Outdoor Worship Service and Potluck, Service Committee 1 to serve
- May 31 – Dheins' funeral service, Service Committee 2 to serve
- June 1 – Women's Tea with speaker Michelle Raeburn
- June 10-14 – Vacation Bible School. Still needing Crew Leaders!
- September 21 – The Pregnancy Help Center Baby Shower Event

**Calling ALL Women of Trinity! Our next meeting is May 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am! Please join us for fellowship, support of our sisters and our church, and planning future events!**



### HELP NEEDED PLEASE

The women of Trinity will meet May 16, 10:00 a.m. to provide a deep clean to the sanctuary. We will vacuum the pew chair fabric and polish the wooden backs, the entire carpet will get vacuumed, we'll wipe window sills & clean windows. Trinity has two vacuum cleaners and if you're available to help, we ask you to bring your vacuum as well. Thank you in advance if you can help.

*"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord." 1 Peter 4:10-11*

## VBS PROP PREP

Calling all Lutherans! Yes, we eat well together and can also do this together too! Please join as able to help make, paint & assemble props for Vacation Bible School. Direction and supplies will be provided and no artistic talent is needed.

When: Thursdays, May 16, 23, 30  
Time: 1-4 pm Where: Fellowship Hall  
Please come dressed as if to paint.



*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. 2 Corinthians 13:14*

**Dessert and Coffee will be served!**

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Join us for an Informational Gathering on Smart Phones

Jason Morse from Jadewolf Technology will present and answer questions about Smart Phones.  
**May 14, 2024, at 2 pm**



**Jadewolf**  
TECHNOLOGY

Trinity Lutheran Church  
Fellowship Hall  
Birchwood, WI  
Join us in a short Devotion.  
**Everyone is Welcome!**  
No Snacks and Facts in June

**Second Tuesday at 2pm**



The Birchwood Lions Club donated \$450 to Trinity Lutheran Church for the 2024 SCUBA Vacation Bible School program to be held June 10-14, from 12:30-3:30 pm. Accepting the donation from Tom and Sue Svitak is the SCUBA VBS Planning Team comprised of Gelene Tabor, Rob Freeman, Wally Thom, Cindy Rubin, Sue Svitak, and Joanne Schilling. For more information about SCUBA VBS, go to [www.myvbs.org/tlcvbs](http://www.myvbs.org/tlcvbs) or call the church office, at 715-354-3790.



We're going on a splash-tastic adventure for SCUBA VBS where kids dive into friendship with God! The fun and faith-filled week launches kids under the sea where they'll explore what it means to have a friendship with God! SCUBA VBS will take place June 10-14, from 12:30 to 3:30 pm.

Registration forms will be available at the church and online at [www.myvbs.org/tlcvbs](http://www.myvbs.org/tlcvbs). The cost is \$10 per child, and no more than \$20 per family. Scholarship funds are available so that every child can take part in VBS.

**Volunteers.** We need YOU to volunteer to serve as station leaders and assistant station leaders to lead the different stations, and crew leaders and assistants to guide the children from station to station. Please consider volunteering! A Volunteer Sign-up Board will be located in the narthex soon.



**Donations.** We have received a generous \$450 donation from the Lions Club but will need additional funds. A donation board will be located in the narthex soon. We thank you in advance for your donations.

**Prop Prep.** Please join as able to help make, paint & assemble props for Vacation Bible School. Direction and supplies will be provided and no artistic talent is needed. Sessions will be on Thursdays, May 16, 23, and 30; from 1-4 pm, in the Fellowship Hall. Come dressed to paint!



*The VBS build team has started main set projects — the boat, fish, coral rocks, whale frame. Having way too much fun!*



## SUMMER WORSHIP CHANGES

### Spring Has Sprung, Change is Happening at Trinity

May 26, 2024 marks the day of a Spring happening at Trinity as we begin our service changes. Back in November, we conducted a survey proposing these changes. 33 Trinity members out of 44 voted "YES" to try a new service schedule.

Here's a refresher on those changes starting May 26:

- ◆ Adult Sunday School: 8:00-8:45 am in Fellowship Hall
- ◆ Service start time will be **9:00 am throughout the year.**
- ◆ On May 26, and last Sundays of June, July and August, the service will be **OUTDOORS**, weather permitting. (It will be held indoors during inclement weather.) Following the outdoor services, there will be a potluck-style Brunch.
- ◆ The outdoor service will include continuous communion.

The Women of Trinity service committees will assist with set up/serving and clean-up of our meal. Of course, ALL are encouraged to provide a dish to pass as able.

We encourage you to bring your own outdoor lawn chair. If unable, chairs will be available.

The Fifth Sunday Potluck will continue, therefore a Potluck will also take place Sunday, September 29, 2024. This will be a wonderful wrap up to the summer.

*Galatians 6:10: Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.*

Your Sister in Christ, Kathy Thom



# May 2024

<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>
			1 6:30a Men's Bible Study 7p TLC Choir Rehearsal	2 10a Women's Bible Study 1-3:00 Fellowship Can Craft	3 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	4 10a WOT Mtg
5 10a Worship w/ communion	6 9:00a Quilters 10a WMMT Mtg 10:30a-12:30p—Food Pantry Open 3:30p Women's Bible Study 7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	7	8 6:30a Men's Bible Study 7p TLC Choir Rehearsal 8p PT Rehearsal	9 10a Women's Bible Study	10 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> Council Workshop	11 Council Workshop
12 10a Worship w/ communion	13 9:00a Quilters 3:30p Women's Bible Study 7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	14 2p Snacks and Facts	15 6:30a Men's Bible Study 11:00a Missons mtg 7p TLC Choir Reh	16 10a Deep Clean Sanctuary-NEED Everybody's help 10a Women's Bible Study 6:30p Men's Ministry Mtg	17 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	18
19 10a Worship w/ communion  Love Fund/Food Pantry Offering	20 9a Quilters 10:30a-12:30p—Food Pantry Open 3:30p Women's Bible Study 7p AA, Fellowship Hall	21 <b>Journey Deadline</b>	22 6:30a Men's Bible Study 7p TLC Choir Reh	23 10a Women's Bible Study	24 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	25
26 9a Worship w/communion <b>OUTDOORS</b>  Potluck Brunch following service  Prayer Shawl Sunday	27 9:00a Quilters 3:30p Women's Bible Study 7p AA, Fellowship Hall	28	29 6:30a Men's Bible Study 7p TLC Choir Reh	30 10a Women's Bible Study	31 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>  Dhein Funeral	

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

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**JOIN US FOR SNACKS AND FACTS  
TUES MAY 14 @ 2:00 PM**



# **The JOURNEY**

## **May 2024**

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**

*Rev. Daniel Tabor—Pastor*

*Pastor Barb Kleven—Associate Pastor*

*Julie Sunderland, Parish Administrator*

*Joanne Schilling, Choir Director*

*Betty Blanch & Donnarae Carrell, Custodians*

*501 E. Chetac Ave ♦ PO Box 8 ♦ Birchwood, WI 54817*

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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	Tuesday - 3 <sup>rd</sup> week of the month
Pastor's Office Hours	Mondays (8 am—3:00pm) Wednesdays (8—11:30 pm) other days by apt.



### **May Worship Services**

**May 5 — Worship w/communion @ 10 am**

**May 12 — Worship w/communion @ 10 am**

**May 19 — Worship w/communion @ 10 am**

**May 26 — Outdoor Worship w/communion @ 9 am**

**Pot luck brunch to follow service**

#### **KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS**

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

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