

The JOURNEY — Walking Daily with Jesus

From the Pastor’s Desk:

I have heard many times that “The church needs to be like the Church of the Book of Acts.” It is an interesting thought actually. But the question begs to be answered with another question: “What was the Church of Acts like?”

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” (Acts 42-47, ESV)

First and foremost, the Church of Acts gathered together to hear God’s word proclaimed and to partake in the Sacrament of the Altar. Daily! That’s pretty cool. No complaint from me on this one.

Next, everyone was together and had everything in common. I am not so sure that this one would work in the church today.

Then we read that the people of the Church of Acts sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. In today’s society I am sure that quite a few church members, and their financial advisors, might have something negative to say about this.

The part of this description of the Acts church which jumped out at me, though, is that they gave to anyone who had need. This is the purpose for the survey attached to this issue of the Journey. You see, we as church leadership really cannot tell what the needs of the congregational members are unless we hear from the congregation.

Our church membership is by and large an older population, as is our community of Birchwood. As a church, the Body of Christ, we are called to assist our members as we can. At a minimum, this help could mean helping them to find resources which might aid them in meeting their needs.

The leaders of the Mission and Evangelism Teams, and myself met with a representative of the Barron County ADRC (Aging and Disability Resource Center) to discuss Trinity Lutheran Church assisting in providing for needs in our community. ADRC’s response was that we need to begin with determining the needs of our congregation first. This made sense as our congregation is actually a reflection of the demographics of the community. Based on ADRC’s recommendation, we are turning to you to help us in that process.

You will find a survey enclosed in this Journey. It is very simple to complete: check the boxes for each statement which applies in your life. Then, mail the completed survey to the church. You can also place it in the “church” mailbox on the Visitors Desk.

May each of you know that the assurance of “Christ...crucified” is *for you* this Easter season.

Pastor Dan

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****SURVEY INSERT****



Letter From Trinity President

During Lent, I was thinking about the emotions Jesus' followers went through at the loss of their teacher, mentor, and friend. Then I remembered on the night of his arrest Jesus promised his disciples that the Father would send a helper, the Holy Spirit. Where did that thought come from?

“But the Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengthener, Standby), the Holy Spirit, Whom the Father will send in My name [in My place, to represent Me and act on My behalf], **He will teach you all things. And He will cause you to recall (will remind you of, bring to your remembrance) everything I have told you.**” John:14.26 (AMP). In the last couple of Journey articles I shared what I had learned about listening to God better. The Holy Spirit completes the circuit of hearing God's personal message to us through our Bible reading, the spoken word and prayer. It's much like connecting our Wi-Fi to our computers or smartphones. The message is there but until we power up the signal we cannot see or hear the message. The Holy Spirit provides the power in making our connection to what God wants to tell us. We need all three. God's Word, prayer and the Holy Spirit that resides in all believers.

“The Holy Spirit will give you insight into what you are reading and furthermore, will help you recall what you've read in Scripture. He brings to your mind understanding and truth. Have you ever had one of those moments when you were in a situation and a Scripture verse you read or memorized years ago popped into your head, encouraging you in that moment? That was the Holy Spirit reminding you of what you had been taught. He empowers you with understanding and the ability to recall important verses that apply to your life. The Holy Spirit also guides us in our prayers. “Likewise, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words,” Romans 8:26. Sometimes I have no words. Or I have so much to say that I'm not sure where to start. Ever experience that? Sometimes we don't have to have the right words—the Holy Spirit knows just what to say. Lean into Him and allow Him to express to the Father what needs to be said.” *What is the Holy Spirit &*

10 Supernatural Ways He Empowers You, Brittany Rust Crosswalk.com“

The Spirit's primary vehicle for moving and speaking in our lives is the Scriptures. The Spirit works in us to shape us into being the kind of people God wants us to be, because then we will do the things God wants us to do. Almost every time we see the phrase “will of God” in the Bible it refers to shaping our moral character in response to the gospel. I'm not sure this is the kind of thing you can put a percentage on, but I'd say that about 99.4 percent of God's direction for us can be found in the Bible. The Spirit conforms us to Christ's character (Rom. 8:29; 12:1-2) and helps us walk the paths of wisdom (Prov. 2:20-22). As we do, we accomplish the will of God.” *6 Ways We Experience the Holy Spirit, J.D. Greer, December 2, 2014*

The Holy Spirit is not some Being God and Jesus sent to be with us. The Holy Spirit is third person of the Holy Trinity. He was present at the creation of all things; He was present throughout the Old Testament inspiring the prophets and he empowered the early church at Pentecost. He is present today and always with us.

As we apply the things the Holy Spirit shows us through God's Word, we experience the same joy, peace, hope and love that the early Christian church had when they received the Holy Spirit. He is our Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengthener and Standby.

Jim McGraw





April WORSHIP ASSISTANTS



	April 2 10:00 am	April 9 6:30 am	April 9 10:00 am	April 16 10:00am	April 23 10:00 am	April 30 10:00 am
GREETERS	Terri Freeman	Kathy Thom	NEED	Brenda Mackey	Sue Svitak	Betty Blanch
USHERS	Rob Freeman Wally Thom	John Schieffer	John Schieffer Rolf Kleven	Mike Rubin Wes Mohns	Tom Svitak Wally Thom	LeRoy Brensel Mike Capra
COMM. ASSTS	Kathy Thom	Karen Scott	June Bibeau	Pat Mackey	Joanne Schilling	Kathy Thom
READER	Gloria Widiker	Dan Dahl	Ellen Ehrich	Cindy Rubin	Kathy Thom	Sue Capra



Jeremy Lobitz 4/2
Aurora Kolodzinski 4/5
Donna Soper 4/5
Josh Brantner 4/7
David Dakins 4/9
Kaitlyn Roppe 4/10
Todd Hogen 4/11
Corbin Nordback 4/13
Mark Soper 4/13
Adam Anderson 4/14
Bradey Gottwald 4/14
Abrianna Beffa 4/14
Amber Brantner 4/15

Brayden Anderson 4/17
Jody Anderson 4/17
Sharon Dhein 4/17
Don Subrt 4/17
Chris Iverson 4/26
Selene Johnson 4/27
Pat Brenn 4/30
Kris Gottwald 4/30



SECRET SISTERS

Calling all women of the Trinity Family to become SECRET SISTERS! What's a Secret Sister, you ask? She is a sister in Christ who prays for and periodically sends notes or cards of encouragement to another sister in Christ.

All women wishing to participate will receive the name of a woman at our Women of Trinity meeting on April 15. From April to October, you can secretly pray for and secretly send notes/cards of encouragement, either via US mail or in the person's church mailbox. Then, in October, we will have a luncheon and a "Big Reveal" of each woman's Secret Sister prayer partner. At that luncheon, we will draw names, and start the whole program again until the following October!

Look for the sign-up cards at the Welcome Center. Pick one up and put it in the offering plate or drop it off at the church office.

[NOTE: Don't worry if you have to miss the meeting! Make sure to fill out a sign-up card and we'll select a name for you.]



Meeting

NEXT MEETING OF . . .

- Birchwood Food Pantry Open 10:30-12:30pm Apr 3,17**
- Worship & Music Team Apr 3, 10:00 am**
- Women of Trinity Apr 15, 10:00 pm**
- Trinity Council Meeting Apr 18, 6:30 pm**
- Men's Ministry of Trinity Apr 20, 6:30 pm**

A message from Pastor Barb

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ Jesus,

Becoming Trinity's Associate Pastor has been a rewarding experience as I have been calling, visiting, and getting to know members of our congregation. My specific call is to care for our congregational needs. If you or any member that you know is sick, homebound, recovering from surgery, or has some other need, please contact me at 715-834-9988.

As the body of Christ, we are all connected by our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. This means we are also part of each other and so we are called to:

–"not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others." Philippians 2:4

– Helping others- Jesus said-"whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for Me." Matthew 25:40

We have two hands. One hand is for helping ourselves, and the other is for helping others.

God bless and keep you!

Pastor Barb Kleven 715-834-9988



Remembering Jim Gronberg

Jim Gronberg, a long-time member of Trinity Lutheran church wrote a special letter to Pastor Barb about how much Trinity church and members mean to him how he loves connecting with us, and enjoys reading "The Journey" and keeping up with what is happening here. The evening that I received his kind letter of thankfulness for our congregation, Jim passed away. Those of us who knew him will miss him, but know he is in a better place. God bless Jim Gronberg's family, and the wonderful friendships he made here and throughout his life.

Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints. Psalm 116:15

Mission and Outreach

Embrace Donations

Trinity Lutheran Church is truly blessed to have such a wonderful congregation. It is amazing how many items have been donated for Embrace. On March 7th, Mission and Outreach organized the donations after our meeting. On March 24th we brought the kids quilts and the donations to Embrace. Thank you so much. I am sure Embrace and the children seeking shelter there will be thrilled at your generosity.

Personal Care Kits

The personal care kits are designed to help people coping with poverty, disaster, conflict and more. The kits are a simple and tangible way to offer comfort to those suffering and express love to our neighbors in need.

During Lent we will be collecting items for personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief. Each week during lent we will be collecting a different item.

Week of 2/26 – Light-weighted dark bath-size towels between 20x40 and 27x52 inches

Week of 3/5 – Bath-size bars of soap 8-9oz, two or three per kit

Week of 3/12 – Adult-sized toothbrushes

Week of 3/19 – Sturdy combs

Week of 3/26 – Metal nail clippers

Week of 4/2 – Any of the five items above

If you would rather not go shopping, we will have a cash donation container and the ladies of Mission and Outreach will purchase remaining needed items to finish the kits. Thank you for helping those in need here and around the world, and thank you for the wonderful donations for Embrace. We will deliver the children's quilts made by Karen Hayes along with the donations from the congregation to Embrace on Friday, March 24th. We would also like to thank the congregation for the Personal Care Kit donations. Thanks to everyone for your generous donations.

One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give and only suffers want. Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered. Proverbs 11:24-25





We're going to the MOON for STELLAR VBS! The fun and faith-filled week launches kids on a cosmic quest where they'll have a blast shining Jesus' light to the world! The out-of-this-world adventure is scheduled for June 12-16, 12:30 – 3:30 pm.

Planning is on-going with a Co-Director Team comprised of Joanne Schilling, Cindy Rubin, Wally Thom, Rob Freeman, and Sue Svitak. They'll be reaching out to the Trinity family for help in putting together another awesome VBS. If you're interested in assisting, contact one of them or the church office.



A donation board will be coming after Easter for TLC members to contribute for specific supplies and donation needs.

A BIG THANK YOU to the Birchwood Lions Club for their donation of \$450.00!

Women of Trinity



Women of Trinity

Women of Trinity – April Happenings

The April 15th Meeting will be a BIG day – please join us! We'll start at 10:00am with a short meeting and potluck. And then we will participate in the **Pink Box service project**. For more information on this ministry, please go to: thepinkboxinitiative.org!

The new **Secret Sister program** will be launched! For all women wishing to participate, they will receive the name of a woman either at the meeting or later, if they are unable to attend. From April to October, women will pray for each other and send notes/cards of encouragement. Then, in October, we will have a luncheon and a "Big Reveal" of each woman's prayer partner. Sign-ups for those wishing to participate will begin soon!

Altar Guild for March is Terri Freeman and April is Cindy Rubin. Thanks to all the volunteers for providing Lenten meals on Wednesday nights during Lent!

The Women of the Word retreat at Camp Forest Springs will be March 31 – April 1st. More in the April Happenings on this truly delightful weekend to laugh, share, learn and refresh the spirit!

The Spring Tea, hosted by Mission and Outreach, will be held June 3rd! WOT will assist the team in this wonderful outreach opportunity. Stay tuned for more details!

Calling ALL Women of Trinity! Our next meeting is April 15th, 2023, at 10:00am! Please join us for fellowship, support of our sisters and our church, and planning future events!

JOIN US FOR

EASTER

CELEBRATE OUR SAVIOR

SERVICES @ 6:30 AM & 10 AM

Trinity Lutheran Church * 501 E. Chetac Ave. * 715-354-3790

Facts & Snacks

Join us on April 27 at 1PM in the Trinity Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall. Leslie Bourne of Marshfield Clinic will make a presentation on Advance Care Planning.



A dessert bar will also be provided. What is Advance Care Planning? Imagine a sudden illness or injury left you unable to communicate. You should consider: Whom do I want to speak for me? Does that person know my wishes? How do I give that person legal authority to make decisions for me? Everyone 18 and older should have an advance care plan. Wisconsin is not a 'next of kin' state—that means that family members do not automatically have the right to make health care decisions. Information will be provided and forms can be completed during this session. Follow up sessions can also be scheduled.

Congregational Care Survey

We are taught to love our neighbors and help those in need. To determine the needs of our congregation, we are beginning with the enclosed survey. Please take time to complete the survey and send it in or return to the "church mailbox" that is located on the Welcome Center. Even though you may not feel you have a need now, PLEASE fill out the survey and return it to help us with future informational programs.



Birthday Girls
We had some extra special Birthday celebrations with our sisters in Christ! Donna Rae Celebrated her 90th Birthday and Gelene and Elaine celebrated their 60th Birthday!



April 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 8:30a Adult Sunday School 10a – Palm Sunday worship	3 9:00a Quilters 10:00a WMMT 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 4:30 The Cross youth 7:00 p Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p Praise Team Reh.	6 NO Women's Bible study 6:30pm Maundy Thursday service	7 6:30p Good Friday Worship OFFICE CLOSED	8
9 6:30 am Easter Sunrise Service Easter Breakfast between services 10a – Easter Worship	10 Office Closed	11	12 6:30a Men's Bible Study 4:30 The Cross youth 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	13 No Women's bible study 6:30p Men's Ministry Mtg	14 OFFICE CLOSED	15 Women of Trinity Mtg 10:00 am
16 8:30a Adult Sunday School 10a – Worship Love Fund/Food Pantry Offering	17 9:00a Quilters 10:30a-12:30p—Food Pantry Open 3:30p Women's Bible Study 7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	18 Journey Deadline 6:30p - Council Meeting	19 6:30a Men's Bible Study 4:30 The Cross youth 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	20 6:30 p Men's Ministry of Trinity mtg No Women's bible study	21 OFFICE CLOSED	22
23 8:30a Adult Sunday School 10a - Worship Prayer Shawl Sunday 8:30 Adult Text Study 10:00a-Worship	24 9:00 a Quilters 3:30p Women's Bible Study 7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	25	26 6:30a Men's Bible Study 4:30 The Cross youth 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	27 No Women's Bible Study 1:00 Facts & Snacks Fellowship Hall	28 OFFICE CLOSED	29
30						

Trinity Lutheran Church
501 E. Chetac Ave
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**JOIN US FOR EASTER WORSHIP
6:30 AM & 10:00 AM**



The JOURNEY

April 2023

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Rev. Daniel Tabor—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

(715) 354-3790 ♦ (715) 416-4966 (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 - 3rd week of the month
Pastor's Office Hours Mondays (8 am—4:30 pm)
Wednesdays & Thursdays (8—11:30 pm)

Sunday Worship Services

Apr 2 — Palm Sunday Worship w/Comm. @ 10 am

Apr 9—Sunrise service 6:30am w/Communion

10:00 am Easter Worship w/communion

Apr 16 — Worship w/Communion @ 10 am

Apr 23 -- Worship w/Communion @ 10 am

Mid-Week Services

Apr 6 Maundy Thursday Worship 6:30 pm

Apr 7 Good Friday Worship - 6:30 pm

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

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

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