

# The JOURNEY — Walking Daily with Jesus

## From the Pastor's Desk

August 2023

*“Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.”*(Matthew 10: 29-3, ESV)

As many of you know, I worked for many years in a profession in which one witnesses many things which shock the senses. The result of those years in law enforcement is that there are not too many things which shock me anymore. I thought that I had pretty much seen it all, until I witnessed the power of this verse from Matthew firsthand this week.

As Gelene and I were driving South from Birchwood on Highway 48, we were approaching the The Narrows bridge. We could see a fawn in the middle of our lane, running as fast as its little legs could carry it. There was traffic approaching in the opposite direction, so I slowed so as not to startle the little thing into oncoming traffic. The fawn clearly did not know which way to go to escape from that bridge. It went left, then right, then turned in circles. Then, much to our surprise, the fawn jumped over the side of the bridge. That old police instinct to help kicked in, and I stopped to see if I could render any aid. The area where the fawn had jumped was not over the water, but over the rocky embankment.

As I was searching for the fawn, I held little hope that it would be alive, but if it was injured, I would render what aid I could. Very much to my surprise, I found the fawn lying in some brush, quite alert, almost as if it was lying where its mom had left it. The fawn was focused on my every move. As I approached, the fawn sprang to its feet, scampered up the hill, and was gone.

Gelene shouted from the top of hill that the fawn had run into the woods. She had seen no signs of injury: no limp, no obvious broken bones. It was an amazing thing, nothing short of a miracle. The hand of God was clearly upon the little fawn that day.

When you and I are overwhelmed by the pressures of life, we sometime struggle to find the right direction to go for escape. We run to and fro, seeking relief for ourselves while forgetting that God knows what we are going through. He has not lost sight of you. He is with you. The Bible tells us that God will never leave you, reminding you, *“Cast all your anxiety on him [Jesus] because he cares for you”* (1 Peter 5:7, NIV). Remember, you have much more value to God than that fawn, or many sparrows.

In Christ, Pastor Dan

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## Letter from Trinity President

The TLC Leadership Team consisting of the Pastors, Council and staff continues to work on reaching out and staying connected to all members of the TLC family. That includes new members, long-time members, inactive members and members who have stopped gathering with us for some unknown reason. The newest initiative created by the joint effort of the Evangelism, Missions and Outreach Teams, Pastors Dan and Barb and the church staff is to contact the inactive members listed on the TLC membership roster. Pastor Barb and Gloria Widiker have been calling those members for whom we have phone contact information. We will be sending out a letter to those that we could not contact by phone. The intent of this exercise is two-fold.

1. Update and draft an accurate church roster. This is important for determining if we have a quorum at our annual and special meetings and times when we need to send out congregational letters.
2. Have current contact information for all members so we can stay in touch with them on a regular basis.

These regular contacts would be used to inform members of upcoming TLC events, listen for any needs, concerns, or prayer requests they might have. Just to have a nice visit with them to find out how they are all are doing. We want to let everyone know how much we love and care for our body of Christ. The means to accomplish these regular congregational contacts is being called the Phone Calling Tree.

1st Corinthians 12 tells us that all who believe and are baptized are a part of the body of Christ. God has composed the body that there would be no division, *“but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together”* (vv. 24-26).

Jesus also gave us The Two Great Commandments in Matthew 22:37 -39. *“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind”*. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: *“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”* Love is mentioned 714 times in the Bible, yet “giving” or “possessions” is mentioned

2,172 times. This tells us how important giving is to Jesus. In a recent edition of Thrivent magazine, they gave examples how to give to others. How to show our compassion and love for TLC and our neighbors.

**Giving of things:** monetary support, giving tangible gifts. **Hospitality:** - open and welcoming or helping people feel accepted without judgement. **Giving of self:** - give emotional/relational support- being there for someone through compassionate listening, verbal encouragement, and support. **Volunteering service-** helping through unpaid labor.

With these things in mind, we will need Phone Tree Callers once we get the tasks listed above completed. Each Phone Tree Caller would be assigned a few TLC members they would call about 4 times a year. The time commitment is small. These non-threatening calls will be friendly conversations telling members of upcoming TLC events, asking if the member has any need, concern, or prayer request. I know from personal experience that many of you would be great as a Phone Tree caller. You are good at conversing with one another. You have love and compassion for one another, and you put these things into action. In addition, these same skills and passions are needed to give visits to those going through difficult times. The need is great in our aging community, and we need your help. We cannot expect our pastors to meet all the needs of our congregation. In Acts, the Christian Church assigned volunteers to do various tasks in the church to free up the apostles to do the things they were called to do. Contact Pastor Barb or the Church Office if you are feeling led to step out in faith to help with these initiatives.

God of love, you have provided for our every need out of your abundant bounty.

Grant us grateful hearts that we may give generously to those in need and thereby show your love to the world around us. Amen

Jim McGraw





## August WORSHIP ASSISTANTS



	Aug 6 8:30a	Aug 6 10:00a	Aug 13 8:30a	Aug 13 10:00a	Aug 20 8:30a	Aug 20 10:00a	Aug 27 8:30a	Aug 27 10:00a
<b>GREETERS</b>	Barb & Rolf Kleven	Alyce Tracey	Wes & Char Mohns	Sue Svitak	Jim & Cyndi McGraw	Brenda Mackey	Kathy & Wally Thom	Joanne & Eldon Kvale
<b>USHERS</b>	↓	Steve Tracey LeRoy Brensel	↓	Tom Svitak Mike Capra	↓	Wally Thom LeRoy Brensel	↓	LeRoy Brensel Rob Freeman
<b>COMM. ASSTS</b>	↓	Ellen Ehrich	↓	June Bibeau	↓	Pat Mackey	↓	Joanne Schilling
<b>READER</b>	Di Hubbard	Dan Dahl	Jimmy K	Sue Capra	Barb Kleven	Eric Anderson	Dianne Buxton	Dianne Buxton



<b>Brent Anderson</b> 8/1	<b>Sharon Ivers</b> 8/16
<b>Colleen Gindt</b> 8/4	<b>Shanna Darkow</b> 8/29
<b>Ron Nelson</b> 8/6	<b>Steve Janetski</b> 8/29
<b>Katelyn Bratvold</b> 8/8	<b>Rose Cutsforth</b> 8/31
<b>Ginny Hurckman</b> 8/12	<b>Mark Larson</b> 8/31
<b>Skyler Robotka</b> 8/13	
<b>Sandi David</b> 8/14	
<b>John Schieffer</b> 8/15	

### CHOIR & PRAISE TEAM REHEARSALS START SEPTEMBER 6

DO YOU SING IN THE PEW?! Then join the Choir or Praise Team! We need NEW VOICES in the Trinity Choir and Praise Team! NO AUDITIONS! And you don't need to be able to read music . . . We'll make sure you learn your part! If you are high school age or older, just show up on September 6, at 7 pm. The returning members will make you feel very welcome! Rehearsals usually run from 7 - 8:30 pm, and the choir sings the first and third Sundays of each month.

The Praise Team will rehearse at 8 pm, September 6. They lead the music on the second Sunday of each month and will start on September 10. Questions? Call Joanne Schilling, 715-651-4875



#### NEXT MEETING OF . . .

- Birchwood Food Pantry Open.** . . . . . **Aug 7, 21-10:30-12:30pm**
- Worship & Music Team.** . . . . . **Aug 7, 10:00a**
- Women of Trinity** . . . . . **Aug 12, 10:00**
- Trinity Council Meeting** . . . . . **Aug 13, 6:30p**
- Men's Ministry of Trinity** . . . . . **Aug 17, 6:30 pm**



**A letter from our associate Pastor Barb**

Ah-h-h-h! These are refreshing summer days- being outdoors, enjoying the serenity of the lakes and rivers, watching loons and eagles, the occasional splash of a fish, being in awe of the beautiful sunrises and sunsets, and the breath-taking view of the expanse of the stars, planets, and moon.

Each day God speaks to us through His creation! Psalm 19 talks about the heavens declaring the glory of God! God’s Word brings refreshment to us! - Verse 7 & 8 says that God’s law revives the soul and makes wise the simple, and it makes the heart rejoice. His commands enlighten our eyes, and His judgements are true and righteous, more desirable than fine gold and sweeter than honey. God’s Word refreshes like the great outdoors and strengthens us!

Read Psalm 23

Isaiah 4:31: *but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.*

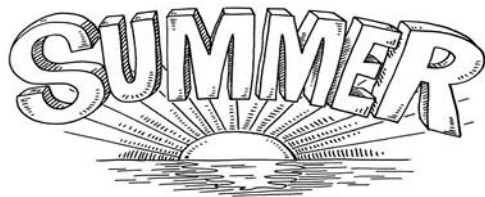
Isaiah 58:11 *And the LORD will guide you continually and satisfy your desire in scorched places and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail.*

*Be still and know that I am God- Psalm 46:10*

Be refreshed by God’s creation and His Word! He has plans for you for hope and a future!

Jeremiah 29:11.

Pastor Barb Kleven



**Up Coming Events**

**Monday’s - Women’s Bible study 3:30pm**

**Wednesday’s - Men’s Bible study 6:30 am 1st & 3rd**

**Wed. in summer**

**Thursday’s - Women’s Bible study 10:00 am**

**TLC Annual Rummage Sale**

Our annual rummage sale will be held this year on September 8 and 9. We will be accepting items you wish to donate starting September 3. We will be looking for volunteers to help with set up and helping with the actual sale and clean up. There is much to do to make this sale a success and remember many hands make light work. The men’s and women’s groups conduct this effort, sharing workload and proceeds. The funds we raise are used to support area nonprofit programs. We typically make yearly donations to the Birchwood Food Pantry, The Rice Lake Pregnancy Help Center, and other entities. It is a gift from God to be able to lend support to areas of need in our church from the fruits of our labor also. Please be looking for a sign up sheet for workers in a few weeks, and start gathering unneeded items for donation. Thanks for your support!

Cindy Rubin - **WOT President**



The Men were busy again preparing for the garage slab. I think they picked the hottest day of the year. GREAT JOB GUYS!!



# What a difference a day makes!



## *Women of Trinity*



### Women of Trinity

Our next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, August 12. We will meet at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All women of the congregation are invited to attend.

Our annual rummage sale is scheduled for September 8 and 9. We will be accepting items for donation starting Sunday, September 3. The next few weeks would be a good time to search through closets and storage areas for items to donate. Please remember we do not accept electronic items (computers, laptops, TVs, etc.). If you have questions about something you'd like to donate please contact me. The rummage sale is a joint venture between the men's and women's groups, so everyone may be involved! Be looking for the volunteer sign up board in late August.

I hope everyone is having an enjoyable summer. It seems this is the peak of the flower season! Soon the farmer's markets or your own garden will be loaded with fresh produce. Enjoy!

I am looking forward to gathering again for our monthly meetings.

Sincerely,  
Cindy Rubin  
WOT President  
[cinrubi81@gmail.com](mailto:cinrubi81@gmail.com)





# Bluegill Fest



# August 2023

<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>
		1	2 6:30a Men's Bible Study	3 10:00 Women's Bible Study	4 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	5
6 8:30 am Outside Worship 10:00 am Worship	7 9:00a Quilters 11:30a-12:30p—Food Pantry Open 3:30p Women's Bible Study 7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	8	9	10 10:00 Women's Bible Study	11 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	12 10:00 Women of Trinity Meeting
13 8:30 am Outside Worship 10:00 am Worship	14 9:00a Quilters 3:30p Women's Bible Study 7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	15	16 6:30a Men's Bible Study	17 10:00 Women's Bible Study 6:30p Men's Ministry Mtg	18 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	19
20 8:30 am Outside Worship 10:00 am Worship Love Fund/Food Pantry Offering	21 9:00a Quilters 10:30a-12:30p—Food Pantry Open 3:30p Women's Bible Study 7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	22 <b>Journey Deadline</b>  6:00p - Birchwood Historical meeting	23	24 10:00 Women's Bible Study	25 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	26
27 8:30 am Outside Worship 10:00 am Worship	28 9:00a Quilters 3:30p Women's Bible Study 7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	29	30	31 10:00 Women's Bible Study		



Trinity Lutheran Church  
501 E. Chetac Ave  
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# The JOURNEY

## Aug 2023

**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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*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 - 3 <sup>rd</sup> week of the month
Pastor's Office Hours	Mondays (8 am—4:30 pm) Wednesdays & Thursdays (8—11:30 pm)

### Sunday Worship Services

**Aug 6— Outdoor Worship w/Comm. @ 8:30 am**  
Worship w/communion @ 10 am

**Aug 13— Outdoor Worship w/Comm. @ 8:30 am**  
Worship w/communion @ 10 am

**Aug 20— Outdoor Worship w/Comm. @ 8:30 am**  
Worship w/communion @ 10 am

**Aug 27— Outdoor Worship w/Comm. @ 8:30 am**  
Worship w/communion @ 10 am

### **KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS**

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

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