

# The JOURNEY — Walking Daily with Jesus

## Pastor's Corner, July 2023

There is a lot of conversation today about the role of the Church in our world. When I am writing of church, what I am referring to is the Body of Christ, the gathering of those who believe in, and worship, "...Jesus Christ and him crucified" (1 Cor 2:2).

The crux of the problem, as I see it, is that much of the church today sees itself as far more holy and righteous than the rest of the world in which we live. We mistakenly speak and portray the lie that says this world would be much more loving and filled with peace if everyone else would just be like us. We say, "Live like us, be like us, worship like us, then there will be peace on earth." We try to ram our self-righteousness down the throat of the world.

The Apostle Paul writes: "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves" (Phil 2:3).

I recently read a meditation written by a Lutheran theologian named Chad Bird. It is titled "Vulnerability and the Church," and as I read the words, and as I shared them with the staff at Trinity, each of us was struck by what the church really is. Pastor Bird writes:

" A little bit of vulnerability among Christians would go a long way toward giving a witness to the world about what the church is really here for.

Jesus didn't found a gym where we can go and flex our biblical biceps in front of mirrors so everyone sees how hard we've worked at being holy. He didn't create a virtual spiritual reality where we can gather together with like-minded virtual reality users and talk about things of virtually little importance.

Christ founded a church, which is a little bit hospital, a little bit mental ward and a little bit weekly reunion of sinners who've made a mess of their lives. It's a place where self-proclaimed righteous people who have it all together will be bored because there's nothing for them there. Church is for real sinners who really sin with other real sinners, for here they find the Friend of Sinners, Jesus the Christ."

We are sinners in this place called Trinity. But we live under the promises of forgiveness of sin, salvation and eternal life found in Jesus. "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast"

(Eph 2: 8,9). We have the good news of Jesus Christ. As Christians, let us gladly share that news with this world. In Jesus' name.

Pastor Dan

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### Letter from Trinity President

Recently my mother-in-law had serious respiratory issues, was admitted to the hospital and then to hospice care before passing away. While still at home she talked about her not living too much longer. The Holy Spirit put her situation on my heart. I prayed that He would give me an opportunity to talk to her one-on-one about her faith in Christ's saving power.

Of course, sharing our faith is always a stressful thing to do. I did not want to embarrass her or have this subject affect our relationship. I had a fear of failure and not knowing the right things to say, but I had this sense of urgency to have this discussion. I prayed that God would give me boldness and courage to share God's promises with her.

We were given that time a few weeks later when I could ask her if she believed she was going to Heaven. I shared God's love for her by reading John 3:16 and Psalm 139. Amazingly she was open to having this discussion with me. I sensed she almost expected it. The rest was up to God.

Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 3: 6-7 on this subject. "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So, neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow."

It is not our responsibility for spiritual growth. We are only the messengers. Over the next few weeks, I could fall back on my own experiences with my mother's time in palliative care and hospice. I remembered the prayers and Bible verses we read at my mother's bedside. The same prayers and Bible verses were read at my mother-in-law's bedside 15 years later.

God provides all that we need. *"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all*

*things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you."* John 14:26.

Scary words like evangelism and witnessing are nothing more than sharing God's Word and our own experiences he gives us. Just as we talk to friends and family about things happening in our lives, we should be comfortable talking about Jesus and what amazing love, grace, and peace he has for us. Then sit back and let the Holy Spirit do His work.

The apostle John wrote in 1 John 1 about sharing his experiences he had with Jesus. "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—." Just as John shared his experience with us, let us share what we have heard, seen, and how we have been touched by Jesus.

I have heard it said that we may be the only Bible that some friends, neighbors, and community members will see or hear. Sharing what we have heard through sermons, Bible studies and personal prayer time is an urgent call from Jesus.

The reason I am sharing this very personal time with all of you is the Holy Spirit placed TLC and the Birchwood community on my heart. It is Jesus' desire that all people be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. We have been given the command to go out into the world and make disciples and teach them to observe all the things Jesus has commanded us to do. Please pray for those in our community who need to hear the Good News of Christ and that the Holy Spirit would show us ways to reach them.

**Jim McGraw**



**June WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

	July 2 8:30a	July 2 10:00a	July 9 8:30a	July 9 10:00a	July 16 8:30a	July 16 10:00a	July 23 8:30a	July 23 10:00a	July 30 8:30a	July 30 10:00a
<b>GREETERS</b>	Wes & Char Mohns	Terri Freeman	John & Janet Schieffer	Betty Blanch	Karen & Bob Scott	Brenda Mackey	Cyndi & Jim McGraw	Joanne & Eldon Kvale	Janet & John Schieffer	Marcia Kampf
<b>USHERS</b>	↓	Rob Freeman Mike Capra	↓	LeRoy Brensel Steve Tracey	↓	Wally Thom Rolf Kleven	↓	Mike Rubin LeRoy Brensel	↓	Wally Thom <b>NEED</b>
<b>COMM. ASSTS</b>	↓	Dan Dahl	↓	Kathy Thom	↓	Pat Mackey	↓	Joanne Schilling	↓	Kathy Thom
<b>READER</b>	Donnarae Carrell	Sue Capra	Eric Anderson	Jimmy Kolodzinski	Karen Hayes	Gloria Widiker	Dianne Buxton	Cindy Rubin	Ellen Ehrich	Ellen Ehrich

**Happy Birthday**

Jerry Janetski 7/1  
 Collin Krance 7/1  
 Ian Krance 7/2  
 Grace Kotel 7/2  
 Hannah Hayes 7/3  
 Melinda Pedersen 7/5  
 Robert Gindt 7/6  
 Wyatt Sunderland 7/9  
 Don Zillmer 7/9  
 Eric Anderson 7/11  
 Joshua Brown 7/11  
 Karen Hayes 7/11

Chuck Ede 7/12  
 Alijah Braden 7/13  
 Jake Deutsch 7/13  
 Missy Robotka 7/13  
 Sue Svitak 7/13  
 Linda Zillmer 7/13  
 Anna Leamy 7/14  
 Otto Nordback 7/18  
 Adara Glenz 7/23  
 Ken Raether 7/27  
 Kevin Sunderland 7/31

**SUMMER WORSHIP!** Summer worship is under way. We have TWO services, the outdoor service at 8:30 am, and indoor service at 10 am.

If you come to the outdoor service, bring a lawn chair and (depending on the temperature) a jacket! In event of inclement weather (or too cold!), the early service will be held in the sanctuary.

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP** will be held between the two services to keep our congregation "connected." So, stay a little later after the early service or come a little early before the late service and share a cup of coffee and a little snack with your Trinity Family members!



Meeting

**NEXT MEETING OF . . .**

- Birchwood Food Pantry Open. . . . . 10:30-12:30pm July 3, 17**
- Worship & Music Team. . . . . No Meeting**
- Women of Trinity . . . . . No Meeting**
- Trinity Council Meeting . . . . . No Meeting**
- Men's Ministry of Trinity . . . . . July 20, 6:30 pm**

### A letter from our Associate Pastor Barb

Summertime is busy, fun and goes by fast! Our Stellar “Shine Jesus’ light” Vacation Bible School was so amazing and inspirational for all who came!

Thank you to everyone who took part. A special thanks to Gelene for her exuberant leading of the opening and closing VBS songs and doing the daily skits with astronaut, Rob Freeman, a hit with everyone! A huge thank you to Joanne Schilling for all the organizing, and to all the crew leaders and those who helped with all the decorating, craft, games, and food, making this a wonderful experience for all! Let us all remember to pray for the children who came to VBS, for the light of Jesus to continue to shine in their lives!

For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ.” *2 Corinthians 4:6*

...but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true,” and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. *Ephesians 5:6-10*

God bless your summer, keep you safe and cause you to SHINE for Him!

Pastor Barb Kleven



STELLAR VBS was an out-of-this-world cosmic quest full of light years of faith-building fun! There were moments of crazy fun in the Mickey Wey skits, the Closing experiments, and the wonderful songs. And there were incredibly moving times when we saw the Holy Spirit in action as children learned about Jesus’ love. So when someone asks if all the work and expense is worth it, the answer is a resounding YES!!

We had 28 participants ranging from PK to grade 5 and over 25 volunteers during our week, June 12-16. During the week, the kids learned about a mission project to send bibles around the world through Operation Kid-to-Kid, a partnership between World Vision and Group Publishing VBS program. A \$12 donation for Operation Kid-to-Kid provides a language-appropriate Bible, plus connects recipients with discipleship opportunities that help them grow in faith. We had an anonymous donor offer to match the kids’ donations and between them enough was raised to purchase 28 bibles – one per VBS participant! That sounds like a God Sighting!

And to make it all even more stellar, another anonymous donor purchased a Children’s Bible for each of our VBS participants! God is Good!

Many, many, many thanks to all those volunteers, to the Lions Club for their donation, to members of the Trinity Family who donated towards purchasing supplies, to the children for their donations and to the anonymous donors for their generosity.

A very special Thank You to the Decorating Team – Sue and Tom Svitak, Wally Thom, Rob Freeman, Mike Rubin – the décor was incredible! This year’s set pieces will be used by First Lutheran Church in Rice Lake when they launch STELLAR VBS, July 30 – Aug 3.

### 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

July 30 - Pot luck after 10:00am service - see you there!!





We have prayer shawls for family and friends in need of prayer. We believe that this is a special way of showing those hurting that they're surrounded by warm, caring and compassionate people. If you like knitting stop by and pick up a kit to knit. Contact Marcia Kampf or Julie in the Church office.



**Women of Trinity**

June was a busy month for Trinity: the women's tea, vacation Bible school, and our church picnic. All were a great start to the year. Now we are ready for the lazy days of summer!?

At our May meeting Women of Trinity determined they would not meet in the months of June and July. Our next meeting will be August 12, at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. I would like to extend an invitation to all the women in our congregation to attend. Our organization is about fellowship and finding ways to support our church. We enjoy keeping old traditions alive and starting new ones. Please consider attending a meeting to see what we are all about.

Looking ahead to the fall we have our annual rummage sale scheduled for September 8 and 9. Start setting aside those items you plan to donate. We will start accepting donations on Sunday, September 3. You may drop your things off at the Fellowship Hall. Other events happening later are our lefse making and selling and the Christmas bake sale.

Enjoy your summer!

Cindy Rubin  
WOT President

**CPR/AED Class**

Trinity recently held a CPR/AED class with a wonderful turn out of 20 participants. Trinity has an AED unit in the Trinity room and it is awesome that we have 20 certified people who know how to use it!

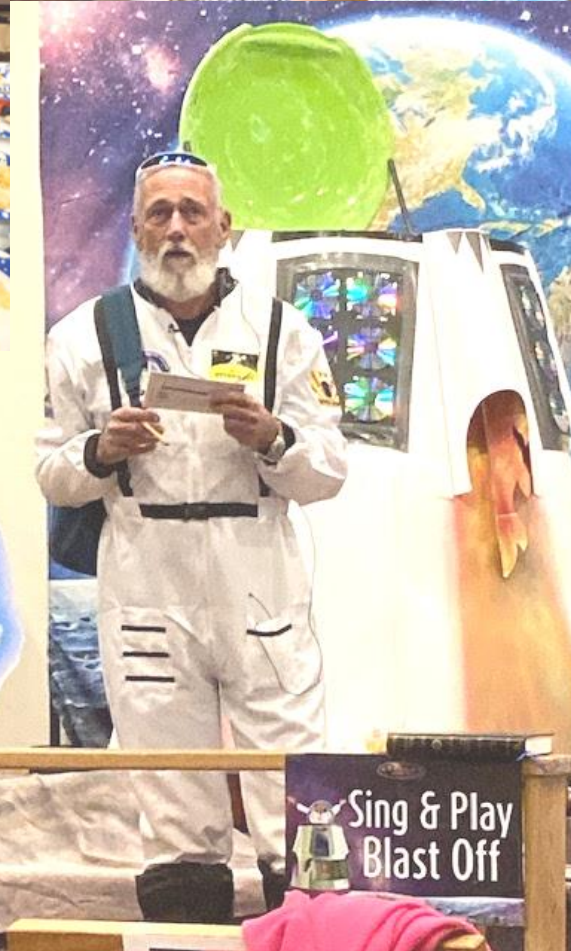


The Women's Tea held in June had a fantastic turnout with 50 women in attendance.

Joining together in fellowship and inspiration they enjoyed guest speaker Michelle Rayburn and an assortment of delightful eats!

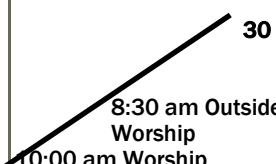
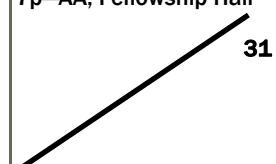


Join us for the 5th Sunday pot luck, bring a dish to pass and enjoy the delicious food, following the 10:00 service!!



Sing & Play  
Blast Off

# July 2023

<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>
						1
<b>2</b> 8:30 am Outside Worship 10:00 am Worship	<b>3 OFFICE CLOSED</b> 9:00a Quilters 11:30a-12:30p—Food Pantry Open 3:30p <b>NO</b> Women's Bible Study  7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	<b>4 OFFICE CLOSED</b>  Happy 4th of July	5	6  No Women's Bible Study	7  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	8  <b>NO</b> Women of Trinity Meeting
<b>9</b> 8:30 am Outside Worship 10:00 am Worship	10 9:00a Quilters  3:30p Women's Bible Study  7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	11	12 6:30a Men's Bible Study	13  No Women's Bible Study	14  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	15
<b>16</b> 8:30 am Outside Worship 10:00 am 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 <b>Journey Deadline</b>	19	20  10:00a Women's Bible Study	21  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	22
<b>23</b> 8:30 am Outside Worship 10:00 am Worship	24 9:00a Quilters 3:30p Women's Bible Study  7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	25  6:00p - Birchwood Historical meeting	26  6:30a Men's Bible Study	27  10:00a Women's Bible Study	28  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	29
<div style="text-align: right; margin-right: 10px;"><b>30</b></div> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <div style="text-align: center;">                     8:30 am Outside Worship 10:00 am Worship Pot Luck after service                 </div>	<div style="text-align: right; margin-right: 10px;"><b>31</b></div> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>					

Trinity Lutheran Church  
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**HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!**



# **The JOURNEY**

## **July 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*

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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 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**

- July 2 — Outdoor Worship w/Comm. @ 8:30 am  
Worship w/communion @ 10 am
- July 9 — Outdoor Worship w/Comm. @ 8:30 am  
Worship w/communion @ 10 am
- July 16 — Outdoor Worship w/Comm. @ 8:30 am  
Worship w/communion @ 10 am
- July 23 — Outdoor Worship w/Comm. @ 8:30 am  
Worship w/communion @ 10 am
- July 30 — 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.