

# The JOURNEY — Walking Daily with Jesus

## From the Pastor's Desk

*Philippians 4:6-7: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."*

Have you ever had a crisis going on in your life when some well-meaning friend says in a defeated tone, "All you can do is pray."? I have heard the same words shared in gatherings of Christians who are speaking of someone who has a grave need. Too often, the statement, "All you can do is pray," is spoken with a certain lack of conviction or hope. The problem is that they are not making this statement with the assurance that these words command.

Too often, even we who are followers of Jesus, find that when we are faced with a trial or are going through some tribulation, our first order of business is to attempt to fix the situation ourselves. We are a pretty stalwart people whose first instinct is to be like the Little Red Hen who says, "I'll do it myself." It is only when our self-sufficiency has failed to resolve our crisis do we finally sigh in resignation, "Oh well, all we can do is pray."

You see, the problem with this statement is that we have the emphasis all wrong! Since our dependence is on ourselves, we find that even when we fail, we only seem to be able to turn our troubles over half-heartedly half to Jesus. With the wrong emphasis, the words really do not bring much comfort at all...they lack power and conviction, and faith.

The truth is, "ALL we can do is pray!" Prayer is our calling on God. Through Jesus Christ, prayer is us having direct access to our loving Father. He is the creator of all, He cares for all, and He watches over all of His children. Jesus tells us in Matthew 10: *"Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows."*

We are not to be anxious about anything, *"but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."* We should be a church that believes in the power of prayer, because brothers and sisters in Christ, ultimately "ALL we can do is pray!" And it is enough. For as we read in 1 John 5:14, *"And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us."*

In Jesus' name.

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## Mission and Outreach

Thank you for your generous donations for the Personal Care Kits. We were able to put together 34 kits. That is 10 more than we have done in the past. Baby Care kit items were collected in May. We will be putting those kits together in July.

We have been having great turnouts for Snacks and Facts. Snacks and Facts will be taking a break from June through August but we will be back on September 8th with Pat Keller and history about Birchwood.

The Women's Tea will take place on Saturday, June 27th at 11:00 am. Our guest speaker will be Gaye Lindfors, and her topic will be "Getting My Ducks in a Row...or Not." A sign-up sheet is on the Welcome Center.

Thank you for your constant support. You are the reason we can be effective in our community and world.



**member**

**The Women's Tea will be June 27th @11:00am**  
**Speaker: Gaye Lindfors will be speaking "Getting Your Ducks in a Row...or Not"**



### VBS NEWS!

**DECORATING:** Rainforest Falls VBS starts June 15, but we need to transform the church sanctuary into a Rainforest Falls. So, join us after worship, June 14 to decorate. And join us on Monday, June 22, at 9 am.

**VBS CELEBRATION:** We will have a Post-VBS Celebration of ice cream sundaes, Friday, June 19, at 3:30 pm. JOIN US!!

## Women of Trinity – May Happenings

**Our last meeting of spring before enjoying the summer months!**

**We're making plans for a fun service project in the fall – Celebration Kits! We'll put together fun items for a party, including a cake mix and frosting, plates, napkins, balloons and bubbles and wrap up the kit for Neighbor-to-Neighbor to give away. Plan to bring your best party ideas to the August meeting!**

**Many thanks to Cindy Rubin for purchasing updated kitchen utensils, including knives, measuring cups, spatulas and tongs!**

**Remember to send your Secret Sister a card or note, just to let her know you're praying for her! The Big Reveal will be in October!**

**The Women's Tea is June 27<sup>th</sup>, and Elaine Ploessl sent around a sign-up for various treats needed for the event.**

**Many thanks to all who volunteered for cleaning up our portion of Highway 48 in Birchwood! The pizza following was a definite thank you for work well done!**

**Bring your irons! We will need many hands to make light work in cleaning the sanctuary chairs on July 8 at 10am. The irons will be used to remove wax on the chair cushions from the Christmas Eve service. Please join us!**

**If you have Miracle Whip or Mayonnaise jar lids, Donnarae Carrell will collect them for projects used at the Barron County Fair.**

**Our summer potluck schedule is upon us! Service Committees will set up, serve and clean up during the potluck. If you're not sure of your committee, please check the WOT Handbook.**

**May 31: Service Committee 2**

**June 28: Service Committee 1**

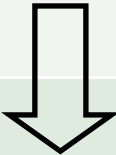
**July 26: Service Committee 2**

**Aug 30: Service Committee 1**

**There will be no meeting in June or July, however August will have a full agenda as we prepare for the September Rummage Sale in September and all the events of Fall!**

**CALLING ALL WOMEN OF TRINITY! Our next meeting is August 12, 2026, at 3:00pm! Please join us for fellowship, support of our sisters and our church, and planning future events!**

**JUNE - SUNDAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

	<b>June 7 9:00a</b>	<b>June 14 9:00a</b>	<b>June 21 9:00a</b>	<b>June 28 9:00a Outdoor service</b>
<b>GREETERS</b>	Terri Freeman	Cheri Anderson	Sue Svitak	Jim & Cyndi McGraw
<b>USHERS</b>	Rob Freeman Wally Thom	Wes Mohns Steve Tracey	Tom Svitak Kevin Ploessl	
<b>COMM. ASSTS</b>	Dan Dahl	Ellen Ehrich	Pat Mackey	
<b>READER</b>	Kathy Thom	Eric Anderson	Brenda Mackey	Kathy Thom



6/1 Bob Scott  
Janet Schieffer  
6/3 Kevin Ploessl  
6/8 Diane Buxton  
6/19 Sharon Gray  
6/20 Carol Addington  
6/24 June Bibeau  
6/25 Karen Brantner  
6/29 Tom Svitak



6/19 Steve Janetski & Caitlin Nimm  
6/23 Bob & Karen Scott  
6/30 Kevin & Elaine Ploessl

We have had a lot of new faces in church. We are asking to help make it easy on them. Wear your name tag and go up and introduce yourself!



trinity lutheran church

Your Name



# Meeting

**NEXT MEETING OF . . .**

<b>Birchwood Food Pantry Open. . . . .</b>	<b>June 1 &amp; 15, 10:30a-12:30p</b>
<b>Worship &amp; Music Team. . . . .</b>	<b>June 1, 9:00a</b>
<b>Christian Life Meeting. . . . .</b>	<b>June 1, 10:30a</b>
<b>Women of Trinity . . . . .</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Trinity Council meeting. . . . .</b>	<b>None</b>

## 7 Reasons to Become a Stephen Minister



Is God calling you to become a Stephen Minister? In Stephen Ministry, members of our congregation are trained and equipped to meet once a week, one to one, with someone going through a difficult time. Stephen Ministers provide a caring presence, a listening ear, and comforting words—supporting care receivers throughout their journey. There are many reasons people become Stephen Ministers. Here are a few reasons to think about as you prayerfully consider whether Stephen Ministry is the right place for you to serve.

As a Stephen Minister, you will . . .

**Make a real difference in the lives of people who are hurting.** Stephen Ministers walk alongside people going through life challenges like grief, divorce, a medical crisis, job loss, and more. They offer care, support, and encouragement, connecting hurting people with Christ's healing love during the hardest times in their lives.

**Help our congregation ensure that no one suffers alone.** Caring for one another is a hallmark of the Christian faith. As a Stephen Minister, you will play a crucial role in helping our congregation carry out that mission so that, even if we can't take away their pain, those who are suffering know our church truly cares.

**Learn what to say and do—and what not to say and do—to care effectively for people who are suffering.** Stephen Minister training teaches highly practical caregiving and relational skills that equip and empower you with everything you need to effectively care for others. In addition to preparing, you for caring ministry, these skills can help you deepen and enhance relationships in all facets of your life—with family, friends, coworkers, and others Galatians 6:2 “Bear one another's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ.

**Be involved in meaningful ministry that uses your spiritual gifts.** Serving as a Stephen Minister gives people an opportunity to put their spiritual gifts into action—gifts such as

faith, mercy, compassion, and encouragement. Ministry that draws on your gifts is personally fulfilling and touches people's lives in powerful ways.

**Deepen your faith as you see God at work through your ministry.** Providing care while trusting in God is at the core of Stephen Ministry. Stephen Ministers regularly say how their faith deepens as they experience training, learn to use distinctively Christian caring tools, and witness God at work in the lives of their care receivers.

**Be part of a group of caring Christians who support each other as they care for those who are hurting** One of the blessings of being a Stephen Minister is being part of a community of people who care, all of whom lift one another up as they strive together to provide the best possible ministry. The strong relationships you'll form are both rewarding and a great source of support. 1 Thessalonians 5:11 “Therefore encourage one another and build up each other.”

**Join a worldwide tradition of caring ministry.** Congregations all over the world use Stephen Ministry—and have trained hundreds of thousands of Stephen Ministers who have gone on to care for millions of hurting people. It's this ongoing tradition of “Christ caring for people through people” that you'll join as a Stephen Minister.

**Next steps:** If this article piqued your interest in our Stephen Ministry, contact one of the Stephen Ministry Leaders. They are Gelene Tabor (218) 576-9939, Brenda Mackey, (715) 296-6369 and Jim McGraw (612) 859-3046. They would be happy to give you more information about the ministry. No pressure or commitment for just asking questions. TLC will be starting our next Stephen Minister Training Class on June 29th.

God of mercy, you have blessed us each with unique gifts and called us all to ministry. As we look to train a new class of Stephen Ministers, there are those among us whom you have blessed with gifts of compassion, patience, faith, mercy, and encouragement. Work in the hearts of these individuals so that they may hear and answer your call. We ask this through the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

From Your Associate Pastor

What a wondrous time is spring, when all the trees are budding. The birds begin to sing the flowers start their blooming. That's how it is with God's love, once you've experienced it, you want to sing, it's fresh like spring, you want to pass it on.

Lyrics Kurt Kaiser

My most favorite time of the year, weather-wise, is NOW! The refreshing that it brings remind me of the restoration and beauty that comes when we meet to experience the close fellowship that we find in Bible Studies, and the beauty of Christ-like care that we receive from one another here at Trinity.

Jesus has come to bring new life, hope, love and freedom that comes from forgiveness of sins and His wonderful promises.

**WHAT DOES JESUS PROMISE?**

*He promises forgiveness of sins and everlasting life!* John 4:14

*He promises that He will never leave us or forsake us!* Isaiah 41:10; Matthew 28:20

*He promises to guide us through the power of His Holy Spirit!* John 16:13

*He promises abundant life.* John 10:10

*He promises rest and peace!* Matthew 11:28.

*He promises to answer our prayers and to provide for us!* Matthew 6:33

May you be refreshed as you join us here at Trinity Lutheran for worship, and fellowship that reminds us of all of God's love and care through His Son, Jesus Christ.



Peace be with you!  
Pastor Barb

Ditch Cleaning

A BIG Thank You to all who volunteered to clean our assigned roadways.

It was a great day followed by Pizza for all the volunteers.



Where IS that piece of trash?!!





A Big THANK YOU to all the workers who helped get the Memorial Garden in shape for the season!!



### SNACKS & FACTS

Our last SNF till September was held on May 12, with Master Gardener, Aura Lee Carrell, speaking on gardening myths. Twenty-one people showed up to listen and make a take-and-go project.

Join us September 8, at 2 pm, to hear Pat Keller from the Birchwood Area Historical Society, about history of Birchwood. If you are interested in joining the Society, contact Joanne Schilling. We'd love to have you as a mem-

# June 2026

<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>
	<b>1</b> 9a Quilters 10:30a-12:30p—Food Pantry Open  7p AA, Fellowship Hall	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 6:30a Men’s Bible study  10:30a-4:30p Blood Drive	<b>4</b> 9:30a Women’s Bible Study	<b>5</b>  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 8a Text Study 9a Worship w/ communion	<b>8</b> 9a Quilters  2:30p Women's Bible Study 7p AA, Fellowship Hall	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 8:30a Prayer	<b>11</b> 9:30a Women’s Bible Study	<b>12</b>  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 8a Text Study 9a Worship w/ communion <b>DECORATE FOR VBS AFTER WORSHIP</b>	<b>15</b> <b>12:30p-3:30p VBS</b> 10:30a-12:30p—Food Pantry Open  7p AA, Fellowship Hall	<b>16</b> <b>12:30p-3:30p VBS</b>  <b>Journey Deadline</b>	<b>17</b> 6:30a Men’s Bible study  8:30a Prayer  <b>12:30p-3:30p VBS</b>	<b>18</b>  <b>12:30p-3:30p VBS</b>	<b>19</b>  <b>12:30p-3:30p VBS</b>  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 8a Text Study 9a Worship w/ communion Love Fund/Food Pantry Offering	<b>22</b> 9a Quilters 9a De-Decorate VBS 2:30p Women's Bible Study 7p AA, Fellowship Hall	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 8:30a Prayer	<b>25</b> 9:30a Women’s Bible Study	<b>26</b>  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>27</b>  11:00a Women's Tea
<b>28</b> 8a Text Study 9a Outdoor Worship w/ communion (weather permitting) Prayer Shawl Sunday	<b>29</b> 9a Quilters  2:30p Women's Bible Study 7p AA, Fellowship Hall	<b>30</b>				

Trinity Lutheran Church  
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54817

**Women's Tea**  
**Saturday, June 27 at 11 am**  
**Gaye Lindfors speaking**  
**“Getting My Ducks in a Row...or Not”**



# The JOURNEY

## June 2026

**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  
(715) 354-3790 ♦ (715) 416-4966 (Pastor's cell)

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**JOURNEY Editor ♦ Julie Sunderland ♦ tlcbirchwood@gmail.com**

Adult Sunday School 8am  
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.



### SUNDAY WORSHIP

June 7 — 9:00a worship service w/communion  
June 14 —9:00a worship service w/communion  
June 21 —9:00a worship service w/communion  
June 28 —9:00a worship service w/communion  
Outdoor service-weather permitting

### **KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS**

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

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