

The JOURNEY — Walking Daily with Jesus

Psalm 119: 81-83 *“My soul longs for your salvation; I hope in your word. My eyes long for your promise; I ask, “When will you comfort me?” For I have become like a wineskin in the smoke, yet I have not forgotten your statutes.”*

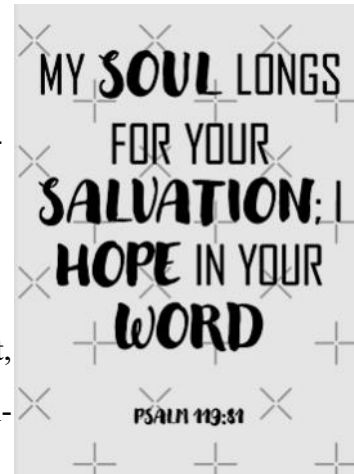
As we continue our march through winter, and through the season of Lent, I am reminded of just how much time we spend in waiting. We wait for spring, and with the length of the daylight increasing, it seems we long even more for the warmth and the new life of that season. These winter days make us look forward to the promises of Spring. We are chomping at the bit to say, *“See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth, the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land. The fig tree forms its early fruit; the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance.”* Song of Solomon 2: 11-13.

Going through Lent we tend to hear a bit more about our sin, especially as we get closer to Holy Week. It is during this week that we really focus on the darkness of the sin that held us so tightly in its grip and once separated us from God. It is also during this week that we see the promises fulfilled which remind us of what Jesus went through for us: the beating, the cross, the death, and the burial in a borrowed grave. During Lent, we are reminded that Jesus went through all of these things, for us! It was our sin which required Jesus to go through these trials.

When we feel the depth of our sin, we cry out with the Psalmist, *“My soul longs for your salvation; I hope in your word.”* You see, just as we have the promise of spring, we also have the promise of “the forgiveness of sin, salvation, and eternal life” fulfilled in the work of Jesus during the first Holy Week. And, even with that darkness of Holy Week, we have the promise of the Resurrection that has been given to us already. Because of the promise of the empty grave, we go through Lent knowing that our longing for comfort from the darkness of sin is ours. This comfort was fulfilled so clearly in the Resurrection of Jesus.

As we go through Lent, we will again hear of these things. But, because of the work of Jesus Christ through the cross and the grave, we are reminded that the promise of salvation is already ours! And our hope is sure because of God’s Word. In Jesus’ name.

Lenten Blessings, Pastor Dan



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President's Message

Your TLC Leadership Team is preparing to draft a vision action plan for the next few years. This action plan will give us a roadmap on how to fulfill our mission statement and The Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). We have had many challenges recently to work through but they may even open up new opportunities to reach out to families, friends and our communities.

Jennie Allen, author, speaker and founder of IF: Gathering, presented "Clear, Simple and Bold: The Ways We Lead Ourselves and Other People Out of the Chaos" at the 2020 RightNow Leadership Conference. I thought this was pertinent to the times we are in and would be valuable to all. Even though this talk was directed to pastors and church leaders, it is valuable for us all. We are all leaders. Leaders of families, leaders of businesses, leaders of church and community groups. Ms. Allen talked about the church losing its focus. Instead of focusing on ministry, we worry about budget, buildings, pandemic and divisions in the church. Ms. Allen says we need to lead with a simple, bold and clear message. We need to hear what's true and real in coming out of this spiral we are experiencing. Her talk highlighted 5 points on how to lead people out of chaos.

The Spirit of God is real and required. We need to teach people on the power of the Holy Spirit and how to access it. Zechariah 4:6 "So he said to me, 'This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty.'" We need to experience the same presence of the Holy Spirit that the early church saw at Pentecost.

We need to believe in a supernatural God. The Spirit of God changes lives. **You are not a victim.** These times are not just bad luck. God is in control and he can use our suffering for his glory. Having joy and hope in bad times is a good witness to the secular world. We are called to be salt and light of this world. Daniel lived in a dark culture but didn't lose his focus on God. He refused to conform to his present culture. He remained true to God. Romans 12:2 tells us "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." We all know how the story ends for us. Our focus should be on eternity in Heaven.



Discipline not legalism. We need to be faithful over time. John Piper made an analogy about how Jellyfish floats around the sea and is moved about in the waves, while dolphins go and get their food. We shouldn't wait for things to come to us but go out and do kingdom work. The Early Church did miraculous things in a very bad culture. We have become soft and want comfort rather than what God wants. We need strength and boldness. We need to train people to be in the Word every day and to apply it to their lives. Jennie Allen shared a time where she got cynical about things and people. Her friends met with her and held her accountable for her cynicism. We need to be able to correct our brothers and sisters when they are off track. She asked for forgiveness and felt renewed. She stressed the importance of mentors and accountability groups. Even if you are a senior citizen, you can still benefit from a mentor.

Quit dabbling in sin. Self-centeredness, addictions to alcohol, porn, money, sports or any idol can steal our time focusing on God and faith. "No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God." 1 John 3:9.

Only Christ in us is our only hope. Science, politics or medicine aren't our hope. "Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me." John 15:4. Present times shouldn't bring fear. We should show holiness. In closing Jennie Allen shared an Irish Prayer as encouragement and inspiration:

Christ with me. Christ before me. Christ behind me. Christ in me. Christ beneath me. Christ above me. Christ on my right. Christ on my left. Christ when I lie down. Christ when I sit. Christ when I rise. Christ in the heart of every man. Christ who thinks of me. Christ in the mouth of everyone. Christ who speaks of me. Christ in every eye that sees me. Christ in every ear that hears me.

Love God and give Him away. If anyone has ideas for our vision action plan, please contact myself or a Council member. Continue to pray for the Leadership Team as we come up with a Roadmap to the Future. God bless you all.

Jim McGraw

Monthly Treasurer's Report - February 2021

Our January 2021 financial health is less positive than desired. Our income is below the planned amount because of the need to cancel worship services for two weeks due to the Covid Virus, as well as some members unable to attend other services due to illness.

Additionally, recorded expenses for January were higher than the average monthly planned amount due to the timing of some payments.

- ✦ Income Budget for January 2021: \$14,711.25
- ✦ Income Actual for January 2021: \$10,420.32
- ✦ Expense Budget for January: \$14,689.00
- ✦ Expense Actual for January: \$18,186.38

Thus, our recorded income was \$7,766.06 less than expenses.

The council would like the congregation to note that even with the closures, the expenses of our church continue. Use of the Simply Giving program can help even out our church income. Members who don't use the Simply Giving program should consider what they can plan to give weekly, and in situations where they cannot attend, send in their giving to the church office or catch up when they return to services.

Thanks to all members for their continued generosity in 2021.

If you are not able to attend church in person, please mail or drop off your offerings to the church office!

**Trinity Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 8
Birchwood, WI 54817**



MARCH LENTEN SERVICES:

- March 3** Mid-Week Lenten Worship @ 7 pm
- March 10** Mid-Week Lenten Worship @ 7 pm
- March 17** Mid-Week Lenten Worship @ 7 pm
- March 24** Mid-Week Lenten Worship @ 7 pm
- March 28** PALM SUNDAY Worship @ 10 am



Join us for mid-week Lenten services on Wednesdays at 7 pm. The worship services will focus on the Lord's Prayer.

TRINITY YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Trinity needs EVERYONE to subscribe to our YouTube channel!! Watching the sermon videos on our Facebook page (and liking it) isn't the same!



And watching one of our sermon videos on the channel IS NOT subscribing, either.

You MUST click on the "Subscribe" button to actually subscribe.



Here is the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrIQB6cjOIYNImHer9EuOEA>

IF WE GET 100 SUBSCRIBERS, OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL LINK WILL SAY "TRINITY LUTHERAN"!



Paddy is struggling to find a parking space. "Lord," he prayed. "I can't stand this. If you open a space up for me, I swear I'll give up the Guinness and go to mass every Sunday."

Suddenly, the clouds part and the sun shines on an empty parking spot. Without hesitation, Paddy says: "Never mind, I found one!"

Join on Zoom

March 14

7 pm



READY FOR THE VOYAGE OF A LIFETIME?

It's time to start planning this year's Vacation Bible School!! And we need YOU!

At High Seas Expedition, kids explore the mighty love of God on a journey that will change them forever! High Seas Expedition is filled with incredible Bible-learning kids see, hear, touch, and even taste! Bible Point crafts, teambuilding games, cool Bible songs, and tasty treats are just a few of the High Seas Expedition activities that help faith flow into real life. Plus, we'll help kids discover how to see evidence of God in everyday life—something we call God Sightings. Get ready to hear that phrase a lot!

Because of COVID precautions, we will be planning a fun and safe outdoor VBS.

Come see what this year's VBS has to offer and discuss how volunteers make it possible! All are invited to meet via Zoom on Sunday, March 14, at 7 p.m.

Zoom Meeting ID 828 7498 0369 Passcode 789751

Call Ashley Beffa, VBS Coordinator, at (715)790-1491 or email ashleybeffa@gmail.com for questions or to sign up to be a volunteer.



HOW TO DIRECT THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS®

Thrivent Choice® is a program of Thrivent Financial. With Thrivent Choice®, you can recommend where some of Thrivent Financial's charitable outreach funds go. Since 2010, more than \$330 million has been distributed to churches and nonprofits nationwide.

Choice Dollars are the dollars made available to you from Thrivent's charitable outreach funds, based on your eligibility, to designate to the charity of your choice.

Members become eligible for Thrivent Choice based on insurance premiums, contract values and Thrivent volunteer leadership. Members are designated Choice Dollars that they can direct to enrolled charities.

There are thousands of participating organizations. You can direct Choice Dollars to as many participating organizations as you'd like, but you may not direct less than five Choice Dollars to an organization.

Visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice. Or Call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice"

WEEKLY TEXT STUDIES WITH PASTOR DAN

Want to help focus Pastor's sermon? Then come to the weekly text studies on Mondays at 1 pm, where Pastor and those present will dive into the Scripture texts for the coming Sunday.

Copies of the Scriptures are available outside Pastor's office door. Pick one up and join the text study group.



March WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	March 7 (10 AM)	March 14 (10 AM)	March 21 (10 AM)	March 28 (10PM)
GREETERS	Kathy & Wally Thom	Di & Kyle Hubbard	Rose Cutsforth	Mike & Cindy Rubin
USHERS	LeRoy Brensel Rob Freeman	LeRoy Brensel Wally Thom	Wally Thom Kevin Sunderland	LeRoy Brensel Tom Svitak
COMM. ASSTS	Karen Scott June Bibeau	Sue Svitak Kathy Thom	Kathy Thom Julie Sunderland	Brenda & Pat Mackey
READER	Gelene Tabor	Donnarae Carrell	Dianne Buxton	Cindy Rubin

Women's Monday night bible study is held in the Trinity room at 6:00 pm.

We welcome all women at Trinity and the community to join us.

I look forward to the wonderful fellowship and friendship we have in Jesus.

God bless you!
Barb Kleven 715-834-9988



William Gilgenbach
Ivy Kotel
Lila Larsen
Chrissy Gottwald
Taylor Robotka
Alton Baribeau
Landen Gindt
Josephine Will
Dallas Applebee
Jeanne Sweeney
Don Fuller
Donnarae Carrell
Amy Dakins
Lea Heath
Jacob Rurup
Beth Ufferman
Bev Skar
Carol Dolan
Jamie Skar

03/02
03/04
03/04
03/05
03/07
03/07
03/08
03/08
03/12
03/15
03/16
03/17
03/17
03/19
03/19
03/20
03/20
03/21
03/22



Char Mohns 03/24
Jeff Bemis 03/28
Louis Larson 03/29
Diane Hubbard 03/31
Noah Lobitz 03/31
Jenelle Lee 03/31



Words cannot express my appreciation for the prayers and outpouring of love from my Trinity family as I sat by Fred's side. He is no longer in pain or limited by his physical and mental challenges. God has blessed me with our life together and the love of this congregation.

Joanne Schilling

NEXT MEETING OF . . .

- Birchwood Food Pantry Open. 10:30-12:30pm. Mar. 1, 6, 15, 20**
- Worship & Music Team. 10 am, Mar . 1**
- Women of Trinity. 10am, Mar. 13**
- Trinity Council Meeting 6:30 pm, Mar. 16**



Beautify the Sanctuary for EASTER



Please help make our sanctuary beautiful for Easter Sunday? Order a beautiful pot of **White Lilies**

Fill out this form, attach payment and return it to the church office or offering plate by **APRIL 4**.

(We have preordered 8 Lilies, so get your order in)

Plants may be taken home after the Easter service on April 4th.

\$18 per Plant

In Honor/Memory of: _____

Given by: _____

Total # of plants ordered: _____

Total Payment: _____

Questions?

Sue Svitak 715-651-3299

Or

Julie in the office 715-354-3790

COVID CATCH-UP!

We're Back!!! After a four-week closure due to the Covid illness affecting some of our members, we are thrilled to be able to begin to hold services again. Our first service was held on Ash Wednesday and Sunday worship began February 21.



The closure has been financially challenging to Trinity as noted in the Treasurer's report on page 3. Obviously, while we were closed, the opportunity to give was more difficult and our income was reduced to the amount of our Simply Giving program and gifts mailed in to the office. Our budgeted expenses, of course, continued on.

So as you return to worship at Trinity, please take the time to review your personal giving plans and consider helping Trinity catch up as we resume our activities.



American Red Cross

BLOOD DRIVE

MARCH 22

11 am—5 pm

Trinity Lutheran Church

Make your appointment today

Redcross.org

March 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 9:00 Quilters 10:00 WMMT Mtg 10:30a-12:30p—Food Pantry Open 1:00 pm Text Study 6p—Women's Bible Study-Trinity Rm 7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	2	3 5:30p-The Cross 7:00 Lenten Service	4	5 OFFICE CLOSED	6 10:30a-12:30p—Food Pantry Open
7 10a - Worship	8 9:00 Quilters 1:00 pm Text Study 6p—Women's Bible Study-Trinity Rm 7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	9	10 5:30p-The Cross 7:00 Lenten Service	11 10:00a—Women's Bible Study	12 OFFICE CLOSED	13 10a—Women of Trinity Meeting
14 10a - Worship	15 9:00 Quilters 10:30a-12:30p—Food Pantry Open 1:00 pm Text Study 6p—Women's Bible Study-Trinity Rm 7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	16 6:30p - Council Meeting	17 5:30p-The Cross 7:00 Lenten Service	18 10:00a—Women's Bible Study	19 OFFICE CLOSED	20 10:30a-12:30p—Food Pantry Open
21 10a - Worship Love Fund/Food Pantry Offering	22 Journey Deadline 9:00 Quilters 11a-5p—Blood Drive 1:00 pm Text Study 6p—Women's Bible Study-Trinity Rm 7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	23	24 5:30p-The Cross 7:00 Lenten Service	25 10:00a—Women's Bible Study	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27
28 PALM SUNDAY 10a - Worship Prayer Shawl Sunday	29 9:00 Quilters 1:00 pm Text Study 6p—Women's Bible Study-Trinity Rm 7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	30	31			

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

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54817

JOIN US FOR LENTEN SERVICES



The JOURNEY March 2021

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Daniel Tabor—Pastor

Julie Sunderland, Parish Administrator

Ashley Beffa, Youth & Family

Joanne Schilling, Choir Director

Betty Blanch & Donnarae Carrell, Custodians

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

(715) 354-3790 ♦ (716) 990-5230 (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

SUNDAY WORSHIP THIS MONTH

03/03 — 7 pm Lenten Worship
03/07 — 10 am Worship w/ Communion
03/10 — 7 pm Lenten Worship
03/14 — 10 am Worship w/ Communion
03/17 — 7 pm Lenten Worship
03/21 — 10 am Worship w/ Communion — Love Fund Offering
03/24 — 7 pm Lenten Worship
03/28 — 10 am Palm Sunday Worship w/Communion

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

Debbie Davis	Joyce Lambrecht	Ro Sackmann
Barb Fegan	Rebecca Langham	Carter Sackmann
Annette Gentile	Ed Leader	Timothy Wallace
Dan Gowan	Lora	Elaine Yndestad
Andy Hedman	Sharon Mackey	Kathy Paquette
Barb Hinderman	Rusty Morrell	Donna Willis
Eunice Kuntz	Jim Pravda	
Roy Kuula	Tracy Reid	
Joan Kuula	Bill Rice	

In the military: Rigil Christensen, Rochelle Fabrizio, Eric Bebee, Tim Groth, John Hughes, Cody Davis, Bennett Jorgensen and all those serving in the military.