OKTOBERFEST CELEBRATION SET FOR OCTOBER 8

Come join us October 8, for the Oktoberfest Dinner and Celebration at the Birchwood School Commons (cafeteria), for the benefit of the Birchwood Food Pantry. Doors open at 5 pm, and the meal service begins at 5:30 pm.

Enjoy a home-cooked German dinner of slow roasted pork cooked over charcoal and wood, homemade German potato salad, sauerkraut with apples and sweet onions, applesauce with cinnamon, fresh baked buns, German chocolate cake or German apple cake served with vanilla bean ice cream and caramel sauce, with choice of apple cider and coffee. Pork prepared by Phat and Black BBQ.

Tickets are now on sale at the church office, Monday through Thursday, 9 am – 3 pm. Tickets are $8 in advance, $9 at the door, and $5 for children age 10 and under.

This dinner is a benefit for the Birchwood Food Pantry, which has been serving the Birchwood area and making a difference since 1975. Begun by the Lions in 1975, they moved to the Birchwood Senior Center in 1995. Outgrowing the Senior Center in 2012, they moved to their current location on Main Street in Birchwood.

Since June, Trinity women, Food Pantry board members and volunteers have been busy selling raffle tickets at area events and food pantry bake sales. The community support has far surpassed expectations. Tickets are available at Trinity Lutheran Church, at the Food Pantry, and the night of the event. Raffle ticket prices are 3 for $5.

Don’t miss this opportunity to be the lucky winner of the beautiful quilt (entitled “Northern Summer”) made, pieced and hand appliqued by Ginger LaMotte, Birchwood, WI, and long-arm quilted by Laura Wertwijn, Owatonna, MN, and an original watercolor painting “Bayfield Harbor,” by Paul Oman, Amery, WI.

You are also invited to be part of the silent auction and bid on prizes including season tickets to the Northern Star Theater in Rice Lake, pontoon rental, hand-crocheted afghan, signed 2016 Packer football, signed 2016 Viking football, and many fun-themed baskets. The raffle drawing winners will be announced at 7 pm, along with the silent auction winners. Timber Bay Kids will provide meal service and entertainment for this event.

Helpers Needed! Your help is needed! Approximately 46 people are needed to help make this a success. Some jobs are just an hour long, others are more involved.
**Pastor Jon’s Column – “Following”**

Being a follower is not something we encourage in America. No college commencement speaker has ever congratulated the graduates on becoming the “followers of tomorrow.” Nobody makes sweeping biographical history films about great world followers. Nobody gives awards to recognize the contributions of community followers. Nobody frames their résumé to highlight where they exercised strong “followership” in their work. Nobody’s heart swells with pride when a fellow parent comes up to them and says, “You know, your kid is a real follower.”

For that matter, they don’t create places called The Center for Christian Followership. And Seminaries train leaders, not followers. In fact, when “following” comes up at all, it’s usually negative. Don’t be a follower, be a leader. Don’t follow the crowd. Being a follower is weak and passive. It is for people who can’t think or act for themselves. Being a follower is for losers. I’ve thought about that countless times over the years, because often I realize that I’m not a very good follower. And I live in a culture of others who are not very good at following. That’s somewhat odd, because the first thing we teach our children at a very young age is to follow. “Follow daddy down to the basement.” “Follow Mommy out to the garden.” We teach them games like “Follow the leader” and “Simon Says” and “Captain May I?” And we are pleased when they follow well. Then it ends! We don’t want our children to be followers, we want them to be leaders. “Don’t follow the crowd - be a leader!” we tell them. Who’s the leader on your team? Lead by example. Be a servant leader. There is a magazine called Leadership. And it’s all very understandable to me; being a leader is considered in our society to be an indicator of success, strength and prosperity. Being a follower is considered weak, disappointing and boring. And I think it’s always been that way.

And it was then that Jesus told them the secret to leadership in the Kingdom. “If you are going to be leaders,” Jesus tells them, “then you must deny yourself, take up the cross, and follow.” It all seemed so backwards to them, that they should have to deny themselves (whatever that meant), and take up the cross (they knew exactly what that meant!), and to be followers. And yet, this is precisely what Jesus expected of them — that they would deny themselves — that they would set aside their own selfish wants and wishes, and pursue what was best for the group. And when Jesus spoke of the cross, they learned that being a disciple would mean hardship, and sacrifice, and possibly even death. And finally, the disciples learned that Jesus wanted them to follow him…to imitate him…to love the people that he loved, and to trust the God that he trusted.

I must tell you that the disciples didn’t really get it until after the Resurrection. Finally then, they understood what Jesus was saying — that to be in his company, he required people to set aside their personal agendas, and to be willing to suffer, and to live life like him, because this life is not the end. When Jesus rose from the dead, it all made sense to the disciples. In fact, — self-denial, taking up a cross, and following Jesus — became the way they lived… and the way they died. Every one of them.

But what about us? We who are 2000 years removed from his words that day, what would Jesus say to us about what he expects from Christian people? In reality, the expectations have never changed. The way they play out in this contemporary age of ours might look different, but still today, Jesus is saying “If anyone wants to follow me, let them deny themselves, take up a cross, and follow me.” So what DOES that mean in 2012? What does it mean to deny oneself? Does it mean that we leave home and family and friends and occupation in order to be a disciple? Not necessarily. But it does suggest that we leave our baggage behind, that we leave behind our insistence that it is our way or the highway. That’s what “denying oneself” means, and it goes against the grain of this present culture.

Author Anthony Campolo says our attitudes start at a very early age. He brought his son to the first day of school and the principal was addressing the parents in this way: “Here at the Ding Dong School, we like to think of each child as a little flower, whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

Luke 14:27
“WALK BY FAITH” EXERCISE IS BACK!

“WALK BY FAITH” EXERCISE CLASS: It’s that time again! The Walk and Worship series kicked off again on September 19, with Leslie Sansone in a high energy, high calorie burn in home walking workout. If you can walk, you can follow this workout designed to help you create a healthier, fitter, more spiritual self. This 30-minute, 2-mile walk features inspirational music that will keep your body and soul motivated as you explore the powerful union of fitness and faith. We welcome everyone and hope that you consider joining us Mon-Wed-Fri, 4:15 pm in the Fellowship Hall as we walk our way to fitness, and fellowship our way into the spirit of wellness that God gives to us!

A Special Congregational Meeting was held September 18, to approve and adopt revisions for the Constitution for Trinity Lutheran Church. As a result of the Supreme Court action concerning same-sex marriage and to avoid successful lawsuits to both the congregation and to the pastor, revisions were drafted to update our constitution and bylaw language to reflect a scriptural understanding on marriage.

With 54 congregants registered for the meeting, the revisions passed with a majority vote. A second vote will be taken at the Annual Congregational Meeting, November 6, at which the revisions must pass by 2/3 of the congregants.

The revision to the constitution passed 51 to 3, and the two revisions to the bylaws passed unanimously. Copies of these revisions are available on the table in the Narthex.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN HAPPENINGS

- The September 15 meeting was called to order by President Marcia Kampf in the Fellowship Hall at 11:03 am., with eleven women present.
- A prayer and devotions were led by Barb Kleven, who appropriately gave a devotion on “The Cross.”
- Jeanne Dahly reported on Altar Guild and reminded us we are now on fall and winter schedule. Everything is going well, and only one person is needed from Labor Day to Memorial Day on Altar Guild. October Altar Guild person is Lea Heath.
- Outreach person not present, but they fed the Timber Bay Kids September 12, at the Birchwood Senior Center (spaghetti). The Back to School Backpack and school supply needs continue.
- We take monthly donations at our meeting, and decided to alternate every three months giving this money to be used for the Wednesday night meals at church for our kids, and the Monday night meal for Timber Bay kids.
- An update on the Oktoberfest Community Dinner and Raffle was given by Jean Jastram and Dianne Buxton, co-chairs for this event. October 8 is coming fast, and committees, lists, etc. are being made. This is the event at which the raffle drawing for the quilt and watercolor will be held, plus we’ll have a silent auction, a 50/50 auction, and a complete, delicious, home-cooked German meal.
- Our speaker for the day was Dona Switzer from Saving Grace Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, who spoke on yard crosses. She brought two ladies with her who help with this ministry, and two examples of crosses. Using a yard cross is a silent message that we believe in Jesus Christ. With a minority of people demanding we remove any reference to God from public community, state, and federal places, we need to put our Christian statement out there. We are hoping someone in the congregation will take up this ministry and soon there will be yard crosses in all our yards.
- The Prayer Shawl Ministry will begin the fourth Sunday of this month, thanks to Marcia, who will give a Temple Talk, and get some kits made up with yarn, and instructions in crocheting or knitting. Anyone who doesn’t knit or crochet is encouraged to donate $15 towards the cost of yarn, as three skeins are needed for one prayer shawl. Carol will start a log book which will be kept in the same plastic bin as the prayer shawls, so we know who has received a prayer shawl.
- Positions open for 2017-18 Women of Trinity include: President and Vice President. Dianne will stay on as Secretary, and Marcia will volunteer to do the Treasurer’s job. These jobs will be posted in the Journey and the Sunday bulletins. We need someone by November so the 2017 books can be made up and distributed.
- Our next meeting is October 20, at 10:45 am.
- After a wonderful lunch, provided by our ladies, we listened to the talk on Yard Crosses. This is truly a wonderful ministry!
unique and special, one which blossoms and grows in its own special time.” The problem is, the kid grows up thinking she is so special that she’s the only one that matters. Then she gets a job at McDonalds, or General Motors, or Andersen Windows. I guarantee you Joe Rosell does not give this speech to the new hires: “Here at Andersen Windows, we like to think of each employee as a little flower, unique and special, one which blossoms and grows in its own special time.”

There is a need for conformity. There is a need to leave our personal wants and wishes at the door, and to work together for what is best for the group. That’s what it means to “deny oneself” in our day. In fact, Jesus called the Church “a body.” And only when the body is working together toward a common goal, only then is the body functioning properly.

Jesus also told his disciples that they must take up a cross. In the first century, crosses were only used for one thing: death. The implication of Jesus is clear: there will be hardship for the Christian. If someone told you otherwise, they were lying to you. If we take seriously our Christian faith, we will be called to make difficult choices. If we take seriously our Christian faith, some people will reject us, and may even be persecuted. We may never have to die for our faith, but we may be made to feel very uncomfortable. Here’s a litmus test for you: do the people at work, or at school, or in your neighborhood know that you go to church? Do you hide that simple fact for fear that, if they knew, it would change the way they treat you? If that is the greatest cross you are bearing in your Christian life, then your life is charmed. Because there are others in this world who, if they admit to being followers of Jesus, will lose their house, their job, and possibly even their family, or even their life. And still, they profess their faith. Finally, Jesus says that we are to follow him. Does that mean that we are to follow...or are we supposed to FOLLOW?

When the Brewers or the Packers are still in the playoff hunt every game they win or lose will have an impact at the end of the season, so they have attracted a lot of attention. Somebody says “I follow the Brewers,” or “I follow the Packers.” Do you know what that means? They tune in for the pre-game show and study the lineups and injury reports. They watch every pitch of every inning of every game; every down of every quarter played. They read the box score the next morning in the paper so that they thoroughly comprehend everything that happened between the lines. The word “fan” comes from the root word “fanatic” and this illustrates why.

So, do you follow Jesus Christ in this manner? Do you study scripture to learn who Jesus was, and what he did, and all that he said? Have you read the Old Testament to understand what the prophets said of him hundreds of years before his birth? Have you read books to understand what scholars have said about Jesus in the centuries since his death? This may be what it means to “follow” Jesus. And if you did all of this, would our world call you a “fan” or would you be a “fanatic?”

But maybe “to follow” means to imitate him, to try to be like him in everything you say and do in this world. You may not have done so well at the “walking on water” thing, but when it comes to loving people, or being fair in business, or being courageous when it comes to defending the weak; in all of this, you try to follow Jesus. A couple more things... and then I’m through. You see, leaders are always supposed to lead, even if they don’t know the way. And that’s a dangerous thing, because if the leaders go in the wrong direction, it can be a disaster. That happens in corporations, and it happens in governments, and it can even happen in churches.

Secondly, we are called to follow like little children. Is it any surprise, then, that Jesus once said “Let the little children come to me, for the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these.” The followers. Finally, I suppose after reading this, you may think its writer is saying he has got leading and following all figured out. Otherwise, why would he speak so boldly about the subject? The fact is, I don’t have it all figured out. Sometimes, I am reduced on a regular basis of wandering down a mountain in the darkness, wondering if my next step is going to send me crashing into the rocks. Sometimes, I remember that there is a Leader out in front of me. He doesn’t have a flashlight, he IS the Light. And sometimes — not often enough, but sometimes — I remember that when I came to faith in Jesus Christ, I never signed up to be a leader. I signed up to be a follower. I can only expect that the same is true for you.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Janitor|Clown|Pastor Jon
LET'S GO AND LEARN ABOUT GOD!

SUNDAY SCHOOL MINISTRY for age 3 through 2nd grade:

LET'S GO AND LEARN ABOUT THE FIRST BOOK OF THE BIBLE! Sunday School is provided in the fellowship hall every Sunday at 10 am and provides children's ministry during worship. Sunday School concludes at 10:30 am. Through reading the Bible, playing games, listening to songs and crafts, we are currently learning that God created our beautiful world! We will soon learn about the first family and importance of following directions! For further information, please contact Melinda Pedersen at 715-296-2073 or the church office at 715-354-3790!

L.I.G.H.T. KEEPERS for youth in grades 3rd - 5th:

LET'S GO AND LEARN ABOUT THE BIBLE! L.I.G.H.T. (Learn In God's House Together) KEEPERS children's ministry provides games, Bible lessons, crafts, a light supper and FUN! It is held Wednesdays (follows the Birchwood School calendar) from 5 pm - 6:30 pm. The program meets in the fellowship hall at Trinity Lutheran Church. This program is free and we look forward to seeing you there! For further information, please contact Sue Jostad at 763-218-3354 or the church office at 715-354-3790.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CONFIRMATION for youth in 6th, 7th or 8th grades:

Each year, our confirmation learning has a major focus. The NEW TESTAMENT is our topic for our bible study. Bring your Bible if you have one or one will be given to you. This group is passionate about learning God's Word, serving God, and celebrating fellowship with one another. For further information, please call Pastor Jon at 920-980-8899 or Kathy at 715-853-9453, or the office of Trinity Lutheran Church!

LET'S GO AND HAVE SOME FALL FUN!

The middle school confirmation youth invite you to join them for some Fall Fun! On Wednesday, October 19! We are leaving the church parking lot at 4 pm and returning at 7:30 pm. Please sign up at the Welcome Center. The cost is $5 and a few dollars for your supper in Spooner after the event. We are hoping to provide transportation! Sign up today and join us!

THE GOSPELS

LET'S GO AND SERVE GOD!

The middle school youth are serving God and you! Please plan to attend worship October 23, as our Worship will be led by our Confirmands! They are excited to be participating and leading us through our worship on that day! The Stewardship Committee has also asked one of our Confirmation Leaders, Kathy Paquette to give her testimony as our message for that day!

The middle school youth are serving God and you! On Wednesday, October 26, the youth will be raking leaves for those in need! Please let Pastor Jon or Kathy know if you or neighbor could use some help. We would be honored and blessed to serve you!
CHRISTMAS CANTATA REHEARSALS START OCT 19

Christmas ALREADY?! Well, yes, for Cantata singers, Christmas is just around the corner — so mark your calendars for OCTOBER 19, at 8 pm, for the first Cantata rehearsal. This is the perfect opportunity for those who aren't able to make the year-long commitment to sing with the Trinity Choir — commit to a short two months — no auditions required!

If you are middle-school age or older, and want to sing in the Cantata Choir, just show up on October 19, at 8 pm, following the regular Trinity Choir rehearsal. So any confirmation class members can join us!

5TH SUNDAY POTLUCK — OCTOBER 30

Yes! It’s time for our favorite meal . . . 5th Sunday Potluck. Right after the Sunday service on Oct 30, meet in the Fellowship Room and enjoy a potluck meal and fellowship with one another. Bring a dish to pass — a casserole, salad, dessert, or whatever creation you’d like to share — to the kitchen before the service for safe keeping, and the servers will make sure it’s out for everyone to enjoy. Plates, utensils, coffee, and a cold drink will be provided.

We also need a couple people to volunteer to hostess and serve the food. Everyone seems to help with cleanup, so no problem there!

With grateful thanks from your Fellowship & Growth Committee, of one.

“JOES WITH JESUS” — NIGHTS OF CELEBRATION!

Thirty-five JWJ’ers came out on September 25, the inaugural night of “Joes with Jesus,” for a celebration of food, song, sharing, and fellowship.

They began with a simple meal of Sloppy Joes, chips, cookies, etc., in the Fellowship Hall and continued there with songs, a scripture or two, prayer, and some songs (with Guitar and Banjo — semi traditional and Contemporary).

More JWJ gatherings are scheduled and everyone is invited to come at 5 pm. And if you find a devotion, meditation, or something from the internet that spoke to you in the past month, please bring it to share that we might discuss it. It will be what WE make of it!

Dates for October through December as follows:

- October 23
- November 27
- December 18 (Christmas Songs!)

So, come and see, come and make it a true fellowship event through your participation. There will be no offering taken and no attendance taken. Just praising God, building relationships, sharing faith, songs old and new. Hmmmm . . . sounds like community to me!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>20th Sunday after Pentecost</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<td>9a - Choir Warm-up</td>
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<td>9:30a - COFFEE TIME</td>
<td>6:30p - Women's Bible Study</td>
<td>6:30p - Bible Study</td>
<td>5p - L.I.G.H.T Keepers</td>
<td>6:30p - Confirmation</td>
<td>5p - Oktoberfest</td>
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<td>10a - Worship w/Communion</td>
<td>7p - AA, Fellowship Hall</td>
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<td>7p - Trinity Choir Reh</td>
<td>8p - Praise Team Reh</td>
<td>Food Pantry Open</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>21st Sunday after Pentecost</td>
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<td>9:30a - COFFEE TIME</td>
<td>8:30a - Outreach Mtg</td>
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<td>10a - Praise Worship w/Communion</td>
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<td>Love Fund &amp; Food Pantry Offerings</td>
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<td>REFORMATION SUNDAY</td>
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<td>WEAR RED!</td>
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The JOURNEY  
OCTOBER 2016  
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Jon Paquette, Pastor  
Cindy Westphal, Parish Administrator  
Melinda Pedersen, Youth & Family  
Joanne Schilling, Choir Director  
Betty Blanch, Custodian  
501 E. Chetac Ave  
PO Box 8  
Birchwood, WI  
54817

Sunday Worship  
8:30 am outdoor (Memorial – Labor Day)  
10 am indoor (Year-round)

Sunday School  
10 am (Sept – May 21)

Office Hours  
8 - 11:30 am, 12:30 - 3:00 pm (M-Th)

Pastor’s Hours  
8a - noon, M-Th

Bulletin info deadline  
9 am Wednesdays

JOURNEY deadline  
Monday of 3rd week of the month

WORSHIP THIS MONTH

10/2  10 am Worship w/Communion
10/9  10 am Praise Worship w/Communion
10/16 10 am Worship w/Communion
10/23 10 am Worship w/Communion — CONFIRMAND LED
10/30 10 am Worship w/Communion — REFORMATION

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

Amelia  
Dave Beaver  
Michelle Bender  
Alice Bhend  
George Crust  
Annette Gentile  
Laine Guttenberg  
Ron Hartzell  
Gorman Hayes  
Deb Healy  
Harry Heath  
Mckel Heebink  
Becky Hunt  
Art Johnson

Eileen Koeferl  
Dean Kruegel  
Jody Kruegel  
Bill & Eunice Kuntz  
Dick Kuula  
Roy Kuula  
Bill Lambrecht  
Bob Langham  
Ron Larson  
Ed Leader  
Lora & Mary Overgard  
Susan Molin  
Lee Namtvedt

Leonard Nysted  
Fred Peck  
Dorothy Perpich  
Gordy Peterson  
Mary Reppe  
Merle Ries  
Buddy Robotka  
Sue Sachs  
Carter Sackman  
Jeremy Spahn  
Ashley Spiller  
Denise Spiller  
Elaine Yndestad

In the military: Rigil, & Randy Christensen, Rochelle & Alex Fabrizio, Kelsey Will, Eric Bebee, Tim Groth, John Hughes, Brian LaGrange and all those serving in the military.

NEXT MEETING OF...

Birchwood Food Pantry  
Outreach Committee  
Worship & Music Team  
Congregational Council  
Trinity Lutheran Church Women