

The JOURNEY — Walking Daily with Jesus

Our Romans epistle study, that began earlier this year on Memorial Day weekend, will be put on hold until 2020 in order to celebrate the coming Messiah. However, it's my hope that we don't lose sight of what the Apostle Paul was teaching. Our last Sunday before Thanksgiving, we looked at the most practical section of Paul's letter to the believers in Rome. It is true, all scripture is useful for teaching and guidance, but this section of Romans chapter 12 could easily be described as **"How to Really Love Others"**. The writer of the Message version, Eugene Peterson, does a wonderful job of putting Paul's words into everyday language. He interprets verses 9-21 to read:

Keep a smile on your face!

Love from the center of who you are; don't fake it.
Run for dear life from evil; hold on for dear life to good.

Be good friends who love deeply; practice playing second fiddle.
Don't burn out; keep yourselves fueled and aflame.
Be alert servants of the Master, cheerfully expectant.

Don't quit in hard times; pray all the harder.
Help needy Christians; be inventive in hospitality.
Bless your enemies; no cursing under your breath.

Laugh with your happy friends when they're happy; share tears when they're down.
Get along with each other; don't be stuck-up.
Make friends with nobodies; don't be the great somebody.

Don't hit back; discover beauty in everyone. If you've got it in you, get along with everybody. Don't insist on getting even; that's not for you to do. "I'll do the judging," says God. "I'll take care of it." Our Scriptures tell us that if you see your enemy hungry, go buy that person lunch, or if he's thirsty, get him a drink. Your generosity will surprise him with goodness. Don't let evil get the best of you; get the best of evil by doing good.

Live in a way that *really* loves! As we enter this season of Advent, let these words of instruction guide you. Love God by loving others; all others. Give thanks in all things. Bless your friends, family, church, and neighbors as He has richly blessed you. In Jesus name. Amen?

Pastor Jack

WHAT'S INSIDE

Pastor Jack's Column	1
Letter from 2020 Council President	2
Women's Thursday Morning Bible Study	3
Thursday Evening Group Bible Study	3
Women of Trinity Happenings	3
Truck or Treat	3
	4
	4
Worship Assistant Schedule - January	4
January Birthdays	4
	5
	5
	5
	5
	6
	6
	6
Calendar	7

A Letter from the Council President

Happy and Blessed New Year to all! Each year, we make New Year's resolutions to make changes in our lives. Eating healthier. Exercise more. Spend more time with family and friends. Pray and read Bible more. Be more content. As Trinity Lutheran Church (TLC) starts its new year we look forward to the new and exciting things God will do in our lives.



How do we make these things happen? Everything we do at TLC should be related to our God-Given mission statement. Our mission statement is printed on each worship bulletin and is recited at every Council meeting. Our mission statement is: "We are a community brought together through God's Grace and love, which seeks to grow in knowledge and faith in Jesus Christ, and reaches out in word and action to our community and beyond with the Good News of Jesus' love."

If we break this statement down, it reads, "we are a community brought together, which seeks to grow and reach out..." I believe we are more than a community. Scriptures say we are family.

"Be devoted to one another with [authentic] brotherly affection [as members of one family], give preference to one another in honor." Romans 12:10

"But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God." John 1:12-13.

As a church family, we follow the instruction and leading of our Father and look to the needs of our brothers, sisters and community. We do this by serving God and his church. Each of us have been given finances, talents, skills and experiences that can be used for the needs of the church.

Paul tells us "For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same functions so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them." Romans 12:4-6.

Each of you are needed and wanted for the proper and desired functioning of TLC. Without your talents and service, we can't operate efficiently and effectively. This reminds me of a Christmas past when our family worked together on a large picture puzzle. We finished using all the available puzzle pieces but were missing one piece to complete the puzzle. We all looked everywhere for that missing puzzle piece but couldn't find it. We all had that empty feeling that we worked so hard on the puzzle but couldn't complete it. The funny part of this story is months later my mother came



and told us she found the missing piece. She had put the missing piece in her apron as she was preparing our dinner that Christmas. ***Are you our missing puzzle piece?***

I strongly urge each of you to prayerfully consider what ways you can serve TLC. Feel free to contact Pastor Jack, Committee chairs or Council members for information about ways you could serve TLC. Help us complete our picture. As always, pray for TLC, Pastor Jack and the Council. Ask that we would seek humility, wisdom and discernment in seeking God's plan for our church. Pray with expectation and assurance that God will answer our prayers.

"In the morning, Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly." Psalm 5:3 NIV.

Brothers and Sisters, Grace and Peace to you all,

Jim McGraw

BIBLE STUDY

WOMEN'S MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

The Women's Monday Night Bible Study will reconvene beginning Jan 6 at 6:30 pm. We would love for you to join us !!!

WOMEN'S THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Christianity & Action, Do you want to be a part of it? The Women's Thursday morning bible study will begin a new study in James December 5, at 9:30am in the Trinity room!! JOIN US!!!

THURSDAY EVENING GROUP BIBLE STUDY

Thursday evening Bible study is underway. Join us at 6:30pm in the Trinity room, as Di & Kyle Hubbard lead use through the book of Acts. Everyone is Welcome!! For more info contact Kyle @ 715-790-1401 or Di @ 941-893-0311.



WORSHIP & MUSIC TEAM MEETING TIME CHANGE

The Worship and Music Ministry Team meeting time has been changed. The next monthly meeting will be on January 6, at 11 am in the Trinity Room.



WOMEN OF TRINITY HAPPENINGS.

- We held our meeting on Saturday, December 7, in the Fellowship Hall.
- We met on that date to enable working women to attend the meeting.
- The Altar Guild roster for 2020 has been completed and will appear in the WOT Service Book, 2020.
- Altar Guild person for January is Sharon Dhein.
- A BIG THANK YOU TO KAREN SCOTT for organizing the lefse-making this year.
- The 2020 Service Book will be put together the first of January, so all changes should be turned into the office before by the end of December.
- We voted on the disbursements for our end of the year gifts, and they will be distributed to:
 - ✦ Staff Gifts for the six employees of Trinity Lutheran Church
 - ✦ Birchwood Food Pantry
 - ✦ Pregnancy Help Center, Rice Lake
 - ✦ Timber Bay, Birchwood, new building
 - ✦ Benjamin's House, Rice Lake
 - ✦ EMBRACE, Ladysmith
- We have already donated \$1000 toward the cost of the new doors to the Fellowship Hall, and \$529 to pay for the new dishwasher in the kitchen.
- During the months of January, February, and March, 2020, we will be meeting on the second Saturday of each month, starting at 10 a.m.
- Our WOT group served the December 11 Advent Meal
- **The dishwasher is now in place, and working well. It should be noted to run the cycle on "one hour wash."**
- We made up 20 cookie boxes (all homemade cookies and candy!) and distributed 15 boxes to be delivered to meals on wheels recipients, and 5 boxes for people in our own church community.
- We enjoyed a great potluck meal after our meeting.
- At our next meeting on January 11, we'll have another potluck lunch, and have Melinda Pedersen as our speaker. She's employed by Kinship in Rice Lake, and will update us on worthy charities in Rice Lake.



JOIN US ON JANUARY 11 AT 10 AM

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	January 5 (10 AM)	January 12 (10 AM)	January 19 (10 AM)	January 26 (10 AM)
GREETERS	Betty Blanch	Wes & Char Mohns	Kevin & Julie Sunderland	YOUTH
USHERS	LeRoy Brensel Rob Freeman	Di & Kyle Hubbard	Wally Thom LeRoy Brensel	YOUTH
COMM. ASSTS	Pat & Brenda Mackey	Wally & Kathy Thom	Leo & Mary Diehl	YOUTH
READER	Zach Beffa	Karen Hayes	Dianne Buxton	YOUTH
Altar Guild	Sharon Dhein	Sharon Dhein	Sharon Dhein	Sharon Dhein



Join the Choir...
You'll Be Glad You Did!

It's "snowbird season" and that means many of our regular choir membership will soon be heading for warmer climes.

SO WE NEED YOU!

If you sing the hymns from the pew, then you can sing a choir anthem from the choir loft!!

Easier songs have been planned for the spring to accommodate our smaller choir. So come join us! For more information, call Joanne Schilling at 715-651-4875.

Happy Birthday!

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Sue Capra 1/1 | Gloria Sibley 1/17 |
| Jill Pedersen 1/1 | Norm Jastram 1/21 |
| Lilly Gottwald 1/2 | Lee Flora 1/21 |
| Colette Sandow 1/2 | Carly Pedersen 1/23 |
| Andy Hedman 1/3 | Amy Roppe 1 /24 |
| Eric Flora 1/5 | Maryann Cowans 1/25 |
| Leo Diehl 1/9 | Rodney Levake 1/25 |
| Andy Janetski 1/12 | Shay Sunderland 1/25 |
| Madyson Schultz 1/15 | Jerry Chasteen 1/27 |
| Morgan Hayes 1/16 | John Carlstrom 1/28 |
| Desiree Jasper 1/30 | |
| Bob Hayes 1/31 | |

A HUGE THANK YOU TO EVERYONE IN THE TRINITY CANTATA CHOIR FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK THESE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS. THE GLORIOUS STORY OF CHRISTMAS WAS WELL-RECEIVED BY ALL WHO HEARD YOUR BEAUTIFUL VOICES!

JOANNE SCHILLING

Being a Communion Assistant . . .

Dear Trinity Family,

A question was recently posed to me regarding assisting with Communion. Someone asked, "Do you need training to be a Communion assistant?"

I responded with something like this, "Assisting with Communion requires belief in our Lord and Savior, and to have a clean heart."

The next day, I continued to discern this question. I surfed the "bible net" and I spoke with a faithful, well equipped Trinity family member at length, in hopes of discovering a more substantial answer.

Delving into this discernment forced me to dig deeper, to look for an answer that might bring clarity and understanding. The answer, of course, is not black and white. It is way more exciting than that.

My initial response of believing and having faith is an important and necessary requirement. I found, as I looked inward, a pure heart that comes from confession and forgiveness is a major player.

As I shared this message with my husband, Wally, he added that he finds a closeness to this family as many share the message of humble thankfulness for their salvation through this Sacrament, all with eye contact and an Amen. It's another path to building a close relationship with Jesus Christ.



During discussion with our Trinity sister, it was revealed to me that Peace from our Lord and Savior shows up as the Major, Major wondrous gift and blessing. Thank you Lord.

I pray this may answer such an important question, or perhaps provide encouragement for each of you to delve in for yourselves. This is what I receive as I assist with Communion and to have this affirmed each and every time I assist, well, it feels like the most awesome graduation from any training ever offered.

Remember, "THIS IS THE BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST, GIVEN AND SHED FOR YOU."

May God bless each and everyone of you and bring you Peace.

*Your Trinity sister,
Kathy Thom*



'Tis the Season



Lefse... It's What We Do!!



NEXT MEETING OF . . .

- **Birchwood Food Pantry Open.10:30 am, Jan 4, 6, 18, 20**
- **Worship & Music Team. 11 am, Jan 6**
- **Mission & Outreach.11 am, Jan 8**
- **Trinity Lutheran Church Women.10 am, Jan 11**
- **Trinity Council Meeting 6:30 pm, Jan 21**

JANUARY 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	2 9:30a—Women's Bible Study 6:30 -Group Bible Study at Trinity	3 OFFICE CLOSED	4 10:30a-1:30p -Food Pantry Open
5 9:30 am - Coffee 10am—Worship	6 11a—WMMT mtg 9:30a — Quilters 10:30a—Food Pantry open 6:30p— Wmns Bible Study 7p - AA, Fellowship Hall	7	8 11a—Missions Meeting 5:30—The Cross 7p—Trinity Choir 8p—Praise Team rehearsal	9 9:30a—Women's Bible Study 6:30 -Group Bible Study at Trinity	10 OFFICE CLOSED	11
12 9:30 am - Coffee 10am—Worship	13 9:30a—Quilters 6:30p— Wmns Bible Study 7p - AA, Fellowship Hall	14	15 5:30—The Cross 7p—Trinity Choir	16 9:30a—Women's Bible Study 6:30p—Group Bible Study at Trinity	17 OFFICE CLOSED	18 10:30a-1:30p - Food Pantry Open
19 Love Fund/Food Pantry 9:30 am —Coffee 10am—Worship	20 Journey Deadline 9:30a—Quilters 10:30a —Food Pantry Open 6:30p—Wmns Bible Study 7p —AA, Fellowship Hall	21 6:30 pm Council Meeting	22 5:30—The Cross 7p—Trinity Choir	23 9:30a—Women's Bible Study 6:30—Group Bible Study at Trinity	24 OFFICE CLOSED	25
26 Prayer Shawl 9:30 am — Coffee 10am—Worship	27 10am Journey Assembly 9:30a — Quilters 6:30p—Wmns Bible Study 7p - AA, Fellowship Hall	28	29 5:30—The Cross 7p—Trinity Choir	30	31 OFFICE CLOSED	

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Birchwood, WI 54817

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The JOURNEY

January 2020

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Jack Jorgensen, 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

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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 of 3rd week of the month

SUNDAY WORSHIP THIS MONTH

1/5 – 10am Worship w/ Communion
1/12 – 10am Worship w/ Communion
1/19 – 10am Worship w/ Communion - Love Fund/Food Pantry
1/26 – 10am Worship w/ Communion-Prayer Shawl Sunday

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

Vicki Busick	Ed Leader	Ro Sackmann
Debbie Davis	Lora	Carter Sackmann
Barb Fegan	Sharon Mackey	Collette Sandow
Annette Gentile	Rusty Morrell	Cindy Schaan
Dan Gowan	Leonard Nysted	Timothy Wallace
Andy Hedman	Fred Peck	Elaine Yndestad
Eileen Koefel	Jean Petersen	Carol Addington
Bill & Eunice Kuntz	Jim Pravda	Walter Radomski
Roy Kuula	Tom Reed	
Bill & Joyce Lambrecht	Tracy Reid	
Rebecca Langham	Bill Rice	

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