

The JOURNEY — Walking Daily with Jesus

Dear Trinity family,

I miss seeing many of you during this time of ‘Social distancing,’ and hope and pray you are doing well. As we face these troubling times, we have, as an anchor for our soul, the refuge and hope we have in our Lord Jesus Christ. (Hebrews 6:19) He comforts us through His Word, through our Sunday Worship services, through the weekly women’s and men’s bible studies, and other small group gatherings. For those of you who would like to hear the sermon for each week, you can go to Trinity’s YouTube channel to find my sermons there. (See page 6 for the exact link to the YouTube channel.)

Also, there can be no greater consolation than the comfort and strength we get through God’s Word. Take a few moments to meditate on the following Scriptures and let them sustain you in the days ahead:

“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?”— Psalm 27:1

The Lord will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.”— Deuteronomy 31:8

“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.”—Psalm 23:4

“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”—Lamentations 3:22-23

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”—John 14:27

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”—Psalm 46:1

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort.”—2 Corinthians 1:3

In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”—John 16:33

...even the darkness is not dark to You; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with You oh Lord.”—Psalm 139:11-12

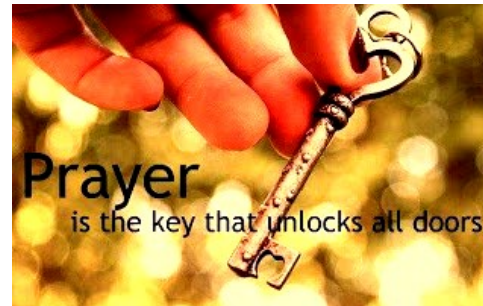
“Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! For the Lord has comforted his people and will have compassion on his afflicted.”—Isaiah 49:13

“Cast your burden on the Lord, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved.”—Psalm 55:22

“No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”—Romans 8:37-39

Please know that I am here for you! I am just a phone call away! If you have any needs or concerns, please contact the office at 715-354-3790 or my number: 715-834-9988.

God bless and keep you!
He loves you, and so do I!
Pastor Barb Kleven



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President's Message

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ's family,

At the August Council meeting, we made decisions related to TLC's Coronavirus Protocol. We decided that we will continue to follow CDC and health experts' recommendations require face masks for worship services with physical distancing. Following CDC guidance, if anyone has health conditions that wouldn't allow the use of masks, these people are exempt from wearing a face mask but must practice physical distancing. Small groups consisting of 10 or less members who practice physical distancing may opt for optional face masks.

We also have canceled events that invite our communities to our facility. September 13 is Rally Sunday and the Men's Pancake Breakfast will be replaced with a continental breakfast to take place before the 10 am Worship Service. Rally Sunday will be the start of Sunday School. Fall Fest will be replaced with planning for a Spring Fling Festival. The concern was the number of volunteers available to work for the Fall Fest and the number of people attending. We will still hold Trunk or Treat for the kids, on October 31. Hopefully, circumstances will be different for us to hold a community celebration in the spring.

Your Council makes its decisions based on what is best for all members of our congregation. Philippians 2:4 (AMP) states it best:

*Do not merely look out for your own personal interests,
but also for the interests of others.*

There is debate on both sides of how to deal with the Coronavirus. I recently heard Pastor Andy Stanley preach on controversies within the church. Whether it's the coronavirus or political issues, his premise was that the church shouldn't be concerned on who is right but we should be united in following the mind of Christ.

Here's what the Bible says in Philippians 2:1-2 (AMP):

Therefore if there is any encouragement and comfort in Christ [as there certainly is in abundance], if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship [that we share] in the Spirit, if [there is] any [great depth of] affection and compassion, make my joy complete by being of the same mind, having the same love [toward one another], knit together in spirit, intent on one purpose [and living a life that reflects your faith and spreads the gospel—the good news regarding salvation through faith in Christ].



Our one purpose is our mission statement. With that in mind, things continue to happen at TLC.

- ✦ We are holding the 8:30 am outdoor Worship service until after Labor Day, and the 10 am Worship service.
- ✦ Pastor Barb and Joanne Schilling continue to produce sermons on YouTube.
- ✦ The Altar Guild is faithfully providing communion elements and fulfilling their tasks.
- ✦ Two women's and the men's Bible Studies continue to meet.
- ✦ The Pastoral Partners assist Pastor Barb on visiting shut ins and giving communion to them.
- ✦ Ashley, Pastor Barb and Cindy Rubin have made plans for Sunday School, Confirmation and the Youth Group.
- ✦ Outreach and Missions, under the leadership of Karen Hayes, is answering the call for aid from Lutheran World Relief and the residents of Beirut, Lebanon. The quilts and health kits that Beirut families were to receive were destroyed in the recent explosion. Quilts and health kits will be delivered to LWR in South St Paul.
- ✦ The quilting group will reconvene and start to make more quilts.
- ✦ The TLC Call Team has been putting in many hours meeting and interviewing pastoral candidates. They are making good progress on selecting TLC's next pastor.
- ✦ The Executive Committee and Julie worked on keeping the church employees working and paying our bills during the Coronavirus outbreak.

- ✦ Thanks to you for faithfully giving your offering during this trying time.
- ✦ The other good news is we received a totally forgiven loan under the Federal Stimulus Payroll Protection Program.
- ✦ Donnarae and Betty, our faithful custodians, continue keeping our facility clean and disinfected.

Continue to pray for those physically affected by the Coronavirus and that we will draw closer to God during this time looking forward to the time we can all return to church.

May the God of grace and love bless you and your families.

Jim McGraw

September WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	Sept 6 (8:30 AM)	Sept 6 (10 AM)	Sept 13 (10 AM)	Sept 20 (10 AM)	Sept 27 (10 AM)
GREETERS	Dave Dakins Rolf Kleven	Brenda Mackey	Terri Freeman	Sue Svitak	Mike & Cindy Rubin
USHERS		Pat Mackey	Rob Freeman	Tom Svitak Wally Thom	LeRoy Brensel
COMM. ASSTS		Brenda Mackey	Kathy Thom	Joanne Schilling	Kathy Thom
READER	Karen Hayes	Sue Capra	Donnarae Carrell	Cindy Rubin	Marcia Kampf

CALL COMMITTEE INFO

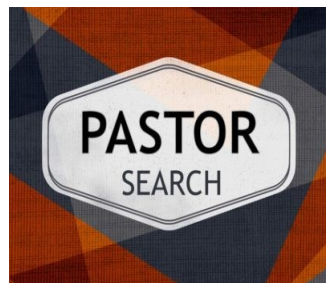
MEMBERS. Your Call Committee is comprised of the following dedicated member: Chair Di Hubbard, Secretary Joanne Schilling, Mike Capra, Rose Cutsforth, Mike Rubin, Julie Sunderland, and Tom Svitak.

UPDATE.

- ✦ The Committee has met about fourteen times since June first.
- ✦ The Call Committee has sent information and requests for applications out to LCMC churches and pastors and used the LCMC site to solicit applications.
- ✦ Joanne Schilling prepared the information video on TLC.
- ✦ We received and reviewed over ten applications
- ✦ We completed six first interviews
- ✦ We have interviewed about 4 viable candidates thus far.
- ✦ We have completed some second interviews and are now working to obtain background checks on the lead candidate.

Next steps include setting up a visit, either in person or virtually, that will include a meet and greet with the congregation as available and the opportunity to preach a sermon and check out the Birchwood area.

We have notified the Executive Committee that we are closing in on the decision to pursue an individual and that an offer package should begin to be prepared.



TLC FINANCIAL UPDATE

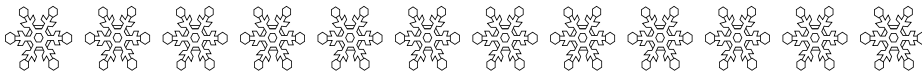
Through July 2020

Year to date our congregational income is about \$88,000 versus an income plan of \$109,000, resulting in a shortage of \$21,000. Being closed has had a large impact on giving and on special fund raising activities.

Our expenses are down from plan approximately \$38,000 due to the closure and with Pastor Jorgensen's leaving. Thus our financial position has actually improved by nearly \$17,000 since year-end 2019. Additionally, our Covid Virus Paycheck Protection Plan Application Loan (used to cover expenses during the closure) forgiveness request has been turned in. If successful, it will result in an additional \$11,000 in income.

We must continue to be diligent in our giving, however, as we expect that with the reopening and costs associated with a new pastor, expenses will increase in the second half of 2020. With winter coming, our gas winter pre-fill of \$4040 was paid. A Propane challenge is kicking off to help offset this large expense. (See page 4 for more information about the challenge!)





Winter 2020 Propane Challenge

Although it is hard to picture, winter will soon be upon us! In preparation for the cold weather, we paid our Propane Winter Fill in August which was \$4040. As you can imagine, \$4040 puts a big hole in our finances.

But, good news, as we did last year, we have had several members offer a challenge grant to the congregation to help us pay this large bill.

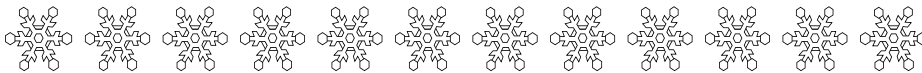
We have had half - \$2020 - offered as the matching amount. So, for every dollar that our congregation provides to the fund, a dollar will be matched from this matching amount.

Participation is easy. Add a check to your envelope or send a check directly to Julie in the office and the amount will be credited to your number and be added to the fund.

We will track the challenge progress as we did last year, with a chart in the narthex and updates in the Journey and bulletins.

The good news is that by the time this winter fill season is complete, the year 2020 will be over! And we will be on to happier times!

Help Dig us out of the hole



HANDS-ON-BIBLE SUNDAY SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

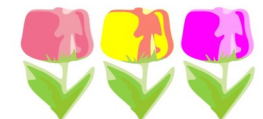
Children learn bible stories, enjoy hands on activities, and sing traditional songs!

Services start at 10:00 am

(children released after communion)

**Birchwood Trinity Lutheran Church -
501 E Chetac Ave**

Autumn is here, so let's think Spring! Daffodil and tulip bulbs available from Trinity Church's flower garden. The bulbs can be picked up at Trinity, please help yourself.



Make a free will offering if you choose.

Why "Christian" and not "catholic"?

We have noticed for some time now that the Apostles Creed has been changed from "catholic" to Christian. In the Red Hymnal which was the Lutheran hymnal before our present Green Hymnal (LBW), the Apostles creed used "Christian" rather than "catholic." Also, in the Luther's Catechism used by our confirmation class, the word "Christian" is used rather than "catholic." Even though "catholic" means the universal Christian church and not the Catholic church, Pastor Barb prefers the original "Christian" wording so therefore we have changed the wording in the Apostles Creed.

NEXT MEETING OF . . .

- Birchwood Food Pantry Open10:30-12:30pm, Sept 7, 19, 21**
- Worship & Music Team 10 am, Aug 31**
- Women of Trinity 7:00pm Sept 1**
- Trinity Council Meeting6:30 pm, Sept 18**



WORSHIP AND MUSIC TEAM UPDATE

“Have faith in the LORD your God and you will be upheld; have faith in his prophets and you will be successful.” (2 Chronicles 20:20)

Dear Trinity Family,
Seems simple enough, have faith and you will be successful. Keeping life simple this year has challenged each and every one of us. It has challenged every aspect of our lives, personally and spiritually.

I have found that it is necessary to keep a good perspective on what I am accountable for and what is the Lord's plan for me. I remind myself daily to have faith, to keep the faith, and to PRACTICE the faith.

Staying clear on how to keep safe from Covid-19 is a daily job. It works its way into daily prayer time, devotions, Bible study, Sunday services, raising our youth, our jobs and supporting our congregation and leaders of Trinity Lutheran Church.

When Council meets monthly, Covid-19 is a large piece of agenda discussion. We met on August 18, 2020 and following discussion, this is the recent update regarding Covid-19 in relation to our Trinity family.

Indoor services in the sanctuary will remain set up for social distancing, masks will be required. Exemptions to masks per state of Wisconsin mandate indicate masks are to be optional if there is a medical condition in which individuals have trouble breathing. The State of Wisconsin Emergency order #1, in accordance with CDC guidance has a list of exemptions as found in Section 2, i. ii. iv. As follows:

- ✦ Children between the ages of 2 and 5 are encouraged to wear a mask when physical distancing is not possible. The CDC does not recommend masks for children under 2.
- ✦ Individuals who have trouble breathing.
- ✦ Individuals with medical conditions, intellectual or developmental disabilities, mental health conditions, or other sensory sensitivities that prevent the individual from wearing a face covering.

To get the complete emergency order information use this site:

<https://dci832c741skk.cloudfront.net/assets/files/17970/emo01-facecoverings.PDF>

Trinity will be providing Sunday School this year. The children will be socially distanced during the Sunday School time, masks will be optional. Teachers will wear masks.

Confirmation (The Cross) will practice social distancing. Family groups of youth will sit together, just socially distanced from other family groups. Masks are optional.

On Wednesdays for confirmation, Women of Trinity will provide a simple meal, do the set up, serve and clean-up. Masks and gloves will be worn and surfaces used will be sanitized.

The Council has voted to have Trunk or Treat on October 31, as this can be held outdoors, and, of course, masks are likely to be worn! Or not, depends on your costume!

It was recommended to the Council by WMMT: All education programs at Trinity Lutheran Church will follow the same protocol for safety as the Birchwood Public School system to the best of the programs' ability.

The motion was made, and the vote passed unanimously.

The Sanctuary at Trinity has been marked to promote safe social distancing. It is estimated that the sanctuary could safely hold 45-50 persons. Safe back-up seating would include chairs set up in the narthex. Extra-large overflow could safely sit in Fellowship Hall.

Trinity's janitorial staff has been dedicated to diligently sanitizing and cleaning during this time of the pandemic. All groups that have begun to meet at Trinity have been adhering to social distancing and mask wearing under the guidelines of group size of 10 people or less. The group then determines if masks are optional or not. Each group is asked to sanitize tables, chairs, etc. when their meeting concludes.

As the Fall season approaches, I am hopeful that we can continue to resume, and regrow. In other words, “Have faith in the Lord your God and you will be upheld; have faith in his prophets and you will be successful.”

Your Sister in Christ,
Kathy Thom

CHOIR AND PRAISE TEAM UPDATE

Normally, this month's Journey newsletter would carry an article about the start of Choir and Praise Team rehearsals. But, alas, I have made the decision to postpone the start of rehearsals until sometime in 2021.

I have been watching the research on singing during the pandemic. Singing increases the spread of aerosols beyond the prescribed, 6-foot “safe” distance and even throughout the room, and therefore potentially increases the spread of COVID.

That does not mean there will not be Special Music during the worship service! Solos, duets, and trios, as well as instrumentalists will be scheduled to provide music. If you are NOT a regular member of the choir or praise team, and would like to provide Special Music, please contact me at (715) 651-4875.

Joanne Schilling
Choir Director



WOMEN OF TRINITY NEWS

- *We held our meeting on Tuesday, August 4th in the Fellowship Hall
- *September Altar Guild person is Sue Capra
- *Kringle fundraiser will be tabled until next spring.
- *Memorial Garden needs attention. A workday is being planned.
- *Fall Festival on October 17th. A food booth will be planned. (NOTE: this is now cancelled.)
- *Annual Rummage Sale will be cancelled for 2020 due to Covid concerns.
- *Meals for youth attending "The Cross" will be provided by WOT. There will be a sign-up sheet. Meals will begin September 23rd.
- *Pastoral Partners ministry information was provided by Pastor Barb Kleven. She is looking for additional volunteers. She will provide training.
- *A card and pocket prayer shawl will be sent to Birchwood High School graduates who have been involved with Trinity activities. Ida Jahnke will make the cards and pocket prayer shawls. Thanks Ida.
- *Our next meeting will be Tuesday, September 1, at 7 pm.



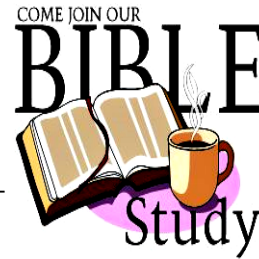
Trinity still needs your offerings, Please mail or drop them off at church!

THURSDAY MORNING WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study has just begun the study of *John's Letters* by Ron Blankley, on July 23, at 10 am.

If you are interested in joining them, please contact:

Marcia Kampf at 715-354-3048.



- David Dhein 9/1
- Jenny Dahl 9/3
- Dee Cartwright 9/5
- Linda Schuh 9/5
- Steven Kotel 9/8
- Connie Larson 9/8
- Kelsie Lavalieri 9/8
- Victoria Lindow 9/8
- Tate Nordback 9/8
- Rocky Strand 9/10
- Becca Hedman 9/12
- Logen Gindt 9/12
- Ida Jahnke 9/15
- Chris Smith 9/15
- Mariah Lightner 9/16
- Missie Anderson 9/17

- Brad Ivers 9/17
- Onalee Boumeester 9/18
- Edward Leader 9/19
- A. Kolodzinski 9/20
- Lucas Gindt 9/21
- Stan Dahl 9/22
- Abigail Harder 9/22
- Barb Kleven 9/22
- Fred Peck 9/25
- Ginny Johnson 9/26
- Ryan Liermann 9/26
- Kyle Roppe 9/26
- Lauren Brunclik 9/29
- Payton Schultz 9/30



Fall Fest has been cancelled due to continuing Covid concerns

MISSIONS & OUTREACH

I had received an email from Jim that alerted me to the fact that a warehouse of LWR in Beirut had been part of the bombing and that all quilts and all kits had been destroyed before they could be distributed. After calls to LWR warehouse in St Paul I found out that due to Covid their collecting days and times have been shorten. They accept quilts and any kits Monday-Thursday, 10AM to 4 PM. I read all the info I had where it said only completed kits would be accepted. I knew we had an abundance of bars of soap and I tried to find out if they would take the soap in this instance. After a few calls to offices that I assumed were in St Paul, I was finally able to leave a message about the extra soap. My call was returned within a couple of hours by a person in the head office in Maryland! They will in this one instance, accept the bars of soap but that is all. Since collection of health kit items was put on hold, we were surprised that we were able to put 20 Personal Health Kits together. There were 44 quilts that were finished and they were boxed up. Production was cut short by Covid also. At this time I'd appreciate someone to volunteer driving to St Paul to deliver quilts and kits to the warehouse., The quilters will be starting back on the first Monday after Labor Day which is Sept 14th. I received a letter 8/24 from Gladys Mungo. Her summer time of raising funds and securing funds for sponsorships wasn't possible this year due to the Covid. They actually have been in lock down since 2018 due to political unrest. Gladys herself has been having health problems and was back in Wisconsin Aug 2019-Jan 2020. This summer she has had other health issues. Children have missed most of the 2019/2020 school year. They had less than 90 days of school due to political lock down and the Covid lock down. Classes resumed Aug 10, 2020 to finish the 2019/2020 school year. They will go until the end of October. They will start the 2020/2021 school year in November. Gladys will be returning later this month. She asks that we continue our financial support as well as continued support through prayer. I'm sure this letter was written before hurricane Marco hit Haiti over the weekend. **Karen Hayes**

September 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 WOT Meeting 7:00pm	2	3 10:15a—Women's Bible Study	4 OFFICE CLOSED	5
6 8:30am Outdoor Worship 10am - Worship	7 LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED 10:30a-12:30p—Food Pantry Open 6:30p—Call Cmte Meeting 7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	8	9	10 10:15a—Women's Bible Study	11 OFFICE CLOSED	12
13 Sunday School Begins 10am - Worship	14 Journey Deadline 6:30p—Call Cmte Meeting 7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	15 6:30 pm Council Meeting	16	17 10:15a—Women's Bible Study	18 OFFICE CLOSED	19 10:30a-12:30p –Food Pantry Open
20 10am - Worship Love Fund/Food Pantry Offering	21 10:30a-12:30p—Food Pantry Open 6:30p—Call Cmte Meeting 7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	22 Journey Assembly	23	24 10:15a—Women's Bible Study	25 OFFICE CLOSED	26
27 10am - Worship Prayer Shawl Sunday	28 6:30p—Call Cmte Meeting 7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	29	30			

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

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

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SUNDAY SCHOOL STARTS
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
SEPTEMBER 13



The JOURNEY
September 2020

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Pastor Barb Kleven—Interim 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 ♦ (715) 834-9988 (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

SUNDAY WORSHIP THIS MONTH

9/6 — 8:30am Outdoor Service & 10am Worship w/ Communion
 9/13 — 10am Worship w/ Communion
 9/20 — 10am Worship w/ Communion Love Fund/Food Pantry
 9/27 — 10am Worship w/ Communion
 Prayer Shawl Sunday-Need a prayer shawl see Julie in the office

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

Carol Addington	Rebecca Langham	Ro Sackmann
Vicki Busick	Ed Leader	Carter Sackmann
Debbie Davis	Lora	Nancy Seffinga- (Soper/Hayes niece)
Barb Fegan	Sharon Mackey	Timothy Wallace
Annette Gentile	Rusty Morrell	Elaine Yndestad
Dan Gowan	Leonard Nysted	Giamore Lapacinski- Pradera -(Soper's Nephew)
Andy Hedman	Fred Peck	
Barb Hinderman	Jim Pravda	
Eileen Koefler	Walter Radomski	
Eunice Kuntz	Tom Reed	
Roy Kuula	Tracy Reid	
Joyce Lambrecht	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.