The JOURNEY — Walking Daily with Jesus

Mark your calendars for FEBRUARY 27 . . . 6TH ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF AND TALENT SHOW

<u>Calling all Chili Lovers!</u> The annual Chili Cook- Off and Talent Show will be held Saturday, February 27, at Trinity Lutheran Church. Public sampling of and voting for the top three chili entries will take place from 5:30 to 6:15 pm, followed by the opportunity for "seconds" until 6:45 pm, when the winners will be announced and awarded priz-

es. Salads, vegetable tray with dip, homemade bars and cookies, and all the "extras" for the chili will be provided after the sampling. The Talent Show begins at 7 pm.

Interested Chili cook-off competitors should pick up an entry form at Trinity Lutheran Church and return it to the office by February 21. Competing chefs are asked to bring 5 quarts of their special recipe chili to the church Fellowship Hall no later than 5 pm for the sampling.

<u>Calling all Peformers!</u> Interested performers for the Talent Show should pick



up an entry form at the church and return it to the office by February 21, in order to be listed in the program handout. Please note, the Talent Show will be performed in the church sanctuary, so use discretion, please, when choosing your performance.

A free-will offering will be held, with the donations split between the Birchwood Area Love Fund and Food Pantry.

For more information or to receive an entry form via mail or email, please contact the church office at 715-354-3790 or send an email to trinitybirchwood@centurytel.net.

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PASTOR JON'S COLUMN - The Radical Hospitality of Jesus - "Come and See"

³⁵ The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. ³⁶ When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!" ³⁷ When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. ³⁸ Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?" They said, "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?" ³⁹ "Come," he replied, "and you will see." *John 1:35-39a*

Imagine this scenario – you have been very busy. Several visitors have just left your home leaving you with lots of clearing and clean-up to do – There is hardly anything in the fridge or the cupboards, and you are tired. You decide that to-day you are going to rest. Tomorrow you will go shopping and do the housework – not today. So you make yourself comfortable and settle down to watch the Packer game.

An hour later you are the doorbell rings. You – to say the least, are disturbed. You open the door to find yourself met by huge smiles. Dear friends have dropped in for a surprise visit; they have brought their teenage children with them.

How do you respond? How do you feel? How are you going to offer them the hospitality they are seeking? Are you able to say come in, take me as I am? I guess it may depend on the type of person you are, but I suspect that none of us would turn them away. The challenge they are presenting us with is not one of inconvenience, but rather one of hospitality and how we might offer it

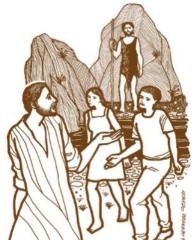
I was recently reminded of an encounter I had many years ago at my first church. Like Trinity, the church hosted Alcoholic Anonymous meetings. On that night I had attended and, with the meeting over, went into the parking lot where I noticed a man standing alone near a rusty car. I introduced myself. As we talked, he learned I was the pastor there as well. He sighed and told me how long he had intended to

"get back to church." I invited him to worship.

With that he began to tell me the story of his life. It was a familiar string of regrets and loss that accompany addiction. We shared a bit more with each other and said, "Good night."

As I was walking to my car, he called out to me, "Did you mean what you said?"

"About what?" I asked.



"Did you mean that I could come to this church?"

You know, only in the last couple of years has it dawned on me that he had told me his life's story as a response to my invitation. From the experience of many other encounters since then, I have come to believe that the telling of his story was a polite way of explaining why he couldn't take me up on my offer. He felt he wasn't "clean enough" to be included in our congregation. I never saw him again. I wish my response to his questions had been more direct. I wish I had simply repeated the words of

Christ. I wish I had said, "Come and see."

"Come in, take me as I am." If we might struggle to extend such a welcome to our friends or family who drop by for a surprise visit, how might we welcome people into the church? Can we respond with Jesus words to those who followed him ... "Come and see?

Jesus' call to follow him, to "come and see," turned out to be a characteristic of his ministry as he welcomed prostitutes and tax collectors, touched lepers and even dead bodies – the kindness of Jesus was controversial. He demonstrated distain towards the secular and religious limits of social propriety for his hospitality knew no limit. It was not just indiscriminate: it was wide open kindness. He received Pharisees and sinners alike.

His welcome was gracious. He shared words

and relationship – he had nothing else to give as fancy meals were provided by others, and yet somehow Jesus was the host bringing the love of God to the conversation – surrounding his hearers in grace, giving and receiving at the same time.

Come and see Jesus invitation is central to life in Him. Through his generous, almost promiscuous hospitality, Jesus reenacts the gracious presence of the Triune God. We live not in a world of divisions ruled over by a supreme being, but in a universe tightly bound and called into being by the God who desires intimacy with us. Divine hospitality lies at the heart of creation. It is also the source of our redemption. For we are invited to join the eternal dance – a dance that knows no limits as more and more people are welcomed to join, to catch the heartbeat rhythm of life ... Come and see

We do not need to hide behind masks of social niceties, or laden tables. Jesus challenge to us is to open our hearts to him and to others, to respond to his invitation, Come and see, and then, in turn to extend that invitation.

We live in a world where suspicion of everything is prevalent, even in the quiet township of the Birchwood area ... The Church by contrast is trying to create an open door, inviting the young, the old, the broken, the poor, the lifelong member and the newest seeker and recognizing them as valuable. Our invitation is simple;

Come and see

Come and see ... you are welcome, come and see By issuing the invitation we create an open door, extend a welcome and provide the possibility of a new relationship, one where we may find ourselves changed by the God who meets us in unexpected people, and finds us in unexpected places. After all, if we ourselves are going to issue the invitation to someone – maybe we need to clarify for ourselves just who it is we are inviting them to "come and see."

So I offer the invitation to you this day. "Come and see"...

Janitor/Pastor Jon

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN HAPPENIN'S

- Our January meeting was held January 21, in the Fellowship Hall with only ten women attending, but low attendance is expected in our cold months because so many travel to warmer climates
- ◆ Several "thank you" notes were received and read by President Marcia

Kampf for the donations given them in December. We even received one "thank you" note from someone who received one of the 24 Christmas cookie boxes we sent out.





◆ The February Altar Guild person is Virginia Johnson.

- ◆ We were reminded to consider attending the LCMC Women's Retreat April 29 - 30 at Forest Springs Camp, Westboro, WI.
- ◆ This Lenten season, five pre-service meals will be served, and our group gareed to consider serving two to

three of those meals. The chairs of the service committees would be responsible for implementing the meals.

◆ There is no urgent business pending, and so many women will be "south" in February, so we will not hold a meeting until March 17. We serve a luncheon every third month, so in May

we'll have another luncheon and look forward to a master gardener giving a talk and demonstration on "how to assemble an outdoor planter."

After adjournment we enjoyed a delicious lunch of hot soup, homemade rolls, salad, and bars, and then gathered in the sanctuary. Joanne Schilling gave a talk on her walk in faith, using her skills with PowerPoint to illustrate her life. It was a wonderful, interesting talk, and we thank you for sharing this part of your life with us, Joanne.

NO MEETING IN FEB!!

WALK BY FAITH EXERCISE CLASS

We are offering a new exercise class beginning Tuesday, February 2. Classes will be initially held on Tuesday and Thursday each week at 5:45 pm. We will be using an exercise video from the series WALK BY FAITH SERIES

"Walk by Faith."

Walk and Worship with this series from Leslie Sansone in this 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 30minute, 2-mile walk features inspirational music that will keep your body and soul motivated as you explore the powerful union of fitness and faith.



Meet the case of energetic veteran walkers who have all been a "witness to fitness." This class is open to everyone. men, women, children - even Pastor Jon can do it! And he will be there as well!

Please consider joining us Tuesdays and Thursdays, at 5:45 pm sharp 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!

In Christ - Kathy Paquette



BAKERS NEEDED FOR FOOD PANTRY BAKE SALES

As many of you are aware, the Birchwood Food Pantry has had some fabulous bake sales these past three years - thanks to the donations of many - plus the following of folks who wait for our sales each time! This year, however, the Pantry is in need of a few more bakers. Many whom they have counted on before are no longer able to help out.

The Bake Sales will run from May through September, on the 2nd Saturday of each month: May 14 - June 11 - July 9th -August 13 - September 10. In addition, there will be one

on July 4, in Mikana.

If you can donate for two or three of these, it would be so appreciated! Items can be dropped off at the Pantry on the Friday before the sale from 4 - 6 pm or brought in the morning of the sale from 7 - 8 am. They will price the items for you. Kindly give Charlotte Snarski a call at 715-354-7077, if you'd like to help!

HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH

Save the evening of Wednesday, February 10, to attend a free concert and faith witness event with MANIC DRIVE VIP at the Rice Lake Elks Hall, 6-9 pm. See the bulletin board for further details about this Tuf Ministries event.

LET'S GO WITH GOD!

www.tufministry.org

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FELLOWSHIP & GROWTH CHAIRPERSON ASKS FOR EVENT CO-ORDINATORS

First, a little background on the council position for Fellowship & Growth. Ten years ago this was a new position on church council. Since then, Sue Svitak and Joanne Schilling have each served two-year terms, and I (Dianne Buxton) am on my sixth year as chairperson. Last year we held nine events, and over 120 people volunteered to help with those events.

This is an important committee, because it brings people together and lets people have fun together. The intent of an event is not necessarily to raise money, although a benefit for someone or something may fall into that category. Most of the time we try to break even with expenses, which makes our church treasurer very happy.

Fellowship & Growth is really, at minimum, a twoperson committee, because a lot of hours are required. One person is not enough, so I'm seeking help from our congregation members. On the Welcome



Center in the narthex, is a red binder which is identified as "Fellowship & Growth Activities and Guidelines." Please take a look at it and see if there are any events you would consider chairing or co-chairing. I am stepping back from being chairperson and instead becoming a coach.

It should work like this: About 6-10 weeks before an event occurs, that event, guidelines for chairing it, and a sign-up sheet for whomever is willing to chair or co-chair it, will be in that red binder. I am willing to help with any publicity, announcements, etc., but the planning and effort needed to make that event a success will depend on the chair and/or co-chairs. I, like so many other congregational members, am willing to volunteer to make any event a success. This way, more people will be involved and be contributing. If no one volunteers as a chair or co-chair, that event will not be held.

The first event in 2016 is the Fifth Sunday Potluck on

(See FELLOWSHIP on page 5)

LENTEN SOUP SUPPER HELP NEEDED

We will be serving a Soup Supper at 5:30 pm before the five Mid-week Lenten services after Ash Wednesday. Volunteers are needed who would be willing to make a pot of soup ahead of time for the weekly event. The TLC Women's service committees have already signed up to handle three of the weeks. The remaining weeks needing soups are February 24 and March 9.

Our goal is to have three soups per week available for each meal. No participation at the meal or service is required!!! Just make your soup and get it to the church by the day you have signed up to bring it. (Pastor Jon is



also willing to pick it up!) We will do the rest!!!

A sign-up sheet is posted at the Welcome Center in the Narthex. Please consider making this a most yummy event.

And COME ENJOY SOUP EACH WEDNESDAY!

HELP PICK OUR VBS!

The Preview Kits will arrive next week for the 2016 Vacation Bible School (VBS), which takes place the week after high school graduation — June 6-10.

A meeting will be held after worship on February 14, to look at the kits and select one for this year's VBS.

Anyone is welcome to join us to discuss the programs and help make the selection.

If you feel called to serve on this team, or would like more information, please contact Joanne Schilling.

WE NEED YOU!





Youth raising funds for March Retreat

GET SUPER \$7 SUBS FOR SUPER BOWL SUNDAY!!

Show your support for (not the Packers or the Vikings), but the middle and high school youth! Order your sub today! Your \$7 sub will be prepared for you and ready for pick up between 10 - 11:45 am on Super Bowl Sunday, February 7.

Options for subs are turkey, ham, or chicken deli meat (choose 1-2) and mild Cheddar, Swiss or American cheese (choose 1).

Order forms are available at the Welcome Center, and orders must be placed in the Order Box by February 4. You don't need to pay in advance, but envelopes are available for payments to be placed in the Order Box.

This is a fund-raiser for the Youth Retreat in Warrens, WI, March 4-6.

(FELLOWSHIP from page 4)

January 31. As I pointed out in my Temple Talk on January 10, someone was needed to come forth and volunteer to chair this event. The church council, headed by Barb Kleven, volunteered to serve and take care of the Fifth Sunday Potluck. With seven or eight people working together, this will be easy.

The second event is the Chili Cook-Off and Talent Night, Saturday, February 27. Rick and Melody Hedke stepped forward to co-chair the chili cook-off part of event, and Joanne Schilling volunteered to chair the Talent Night part of the event. Rick and Melody will be asking for help in many areas, as well as donations for food. Joanne will be looking for people willing to share their talents with us. Watch for further announcements.

Again, I will routinely put notices for future events in the monthly Journey newsletter and in the Sunday bulletins. The suggested quidelines for those events, and the sign-up sheet for the chair or co-chairs will be in the red binder on the Welcome Center in the Narthex. If you are willing to be a chairperson of co-chair. sign the sheet and leave it in the book, and take the guidelines to put on the event. with you. If anyone has an idea they'd like to pursue that's not listed for 2016, all the better. Let's get it started. Working to serve others is a privilege.



FEBRUARY MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICES

Feb 10	ASH WEDNESDAY Service	6:30 pm
	Communion & Imposition of Ashes	•
Feb 17	Mid-Week Lenten Worship	6:30 pm
	Soup Supper	5:30 pm
Feb 24	Mid-Week Lenten Worship	6:30 pm
	Soun Sunner	5:30 nm



40 Days. Countless Lives Changed.

BASKETS of **PROMISE**

This Lent we're joining Lutheran World Relief's Baskets of Promise campaign. Each week, we'll collect a different item that we'll use to assemble Personal Care Kits that give people around the world tools to stay healthy in life's most challenging situations.

HERE'S OUR COLLECTION SCHEDULE:

FEBRUARY 14

Bars of Soap (4 to 5 oz., any brand, in original wrapping)

MARCH 13

MARCH 6



FEBRUARY 21

Bath Towels (light-weight, maximum 52" x 27", dark color recommended)



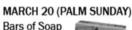
FEBRUARY 28

Toothbrushes (adult size, in original packaging)



attached file optional)

Nail Clippers (metal,





Volunteers Needed for Ad-Hoc Constitution Work Group!

We have begun the work of looking at our constitution and bylaws as we are seeking to include language for our constitution that reflects Biblical principles on family and marriage.

If you are interested in participating on an ad-hoc committee to develop new language for our constitutional documents please let Pastor Jon know. We hope to begin meeting in late February or early March.

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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS NEEDED

The holidays are over, snowbirds are heading south, but we still need Worship Assistants. There weren't enough sign-ups on the sheet to put in the newsletter, so please stop by the Welcome Center and sign up — WE NEED YOU!



FIRST COMMUNION CLASS — MARCH 12

First Communion instruction will be held on Saturday, March 12, at 9 am. If your child has been baptized and you would like for them to participate, please let Pastor Jon know. All ages are welcomed to participate! If you have any questions or concerns please see Pastor Jon.



Congregational Care Ministry Team leader, Joanne Schilling, is looking for **T-L-C-ers** — people who will reach out and give a little Tender Loving Care to those members who are home-bound, hospitalized or in a nursing facility with a phone call, note, personal visit, or communion visit.

If you would be willing to assist in this ministry to keep contact with those unable to come to church, please contact Joanne or Pastor Jon.



LUTHER PT ANNUAL MTG FEB 27

Luther Point Bible Camp will hold its Annual Meeting on Saturday, February 27, at 9 am. The **Board of Directors** and Executive Staff decided to move the meeting from October to February in order



to fully attend to business matters. These include completing a full audit of the organization, re-development of accounting practices, and presentation of a completed schedule for Summer Camp 2016.

Luther Point is located at 11525 Luther Point Road, Grantsburg, WI 54840-8019.

The food pantry is in need of "toiletries" such as tooth paste. shampoo and bars of soap and deodorant. Our numbers of people in need are arowing so



fast at this time that the Pantry is looking for help in helping to provide some of these items. Next time you are at the grocery store, pick up one or two of these items and bring them to church and deposit them in the special basket that will be in the narthex.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Steve Saldana	2/3	Tiffany Rurup	2/13
JoLynn Kotel	2/5	Dan Sorenson	2/13
Jessica Lindow	2/6	Leona Olson	2/14
Helen McClyman	2/7	Billy Strand	2/14
Madeline Swanson	2/9	Kayla Kristensen	2/15
Brien Gindt	2/10	Jean Peterson	2/16
Duke Dahl	2/11	Daryan Schultz	2/16
Penny Iverson	2/11	Spencer Ritchey	2/19
Sherri Seelnacht	2/12	Leah Saldana	2/21
Carol Pedersen	2/12	Amber Heitritter	2/22
Rolf Kleven	2/13	Merlin Johnson	2/23
Catherine Krance	2/13	Samantha Soper	2/23

Ken Dahlby 2/24 2/24 Ben Iverson Scott VandeVoort 2/24 Leigh Nordback 2/27 2/28 Luke Olson



2 - Anna Langosh 3 - Angelica Laone 4 – Bryant Larsen 5 – Lila Larsen 6 - Neda Larsen 7 - Anna Larson 8 - Cindy Larson

1 - Alyssa Langham

9 - Connie Larson

10 - Louis Larson

11 – Mark Larson

12 - Renee Larson

13 - Ron Larson 14 – Jill Lavigne

15 – Jim Lavigne

16 – LaVonne Robole 17 - Roger Robole

18 - Connie Leader

19 - Ed Leader 20 – Jenelle Lee

21 - Kyle Lee

22 - Thomas Lee

23 - Tara Leonard

24 – Dave Lhotka

25 – Bob Liermann

26 – Jeff Liermann

27 - Ryan Liermann

28 – Stephanie Liermann

29 – Zachary Liermann



FEBRUARY 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY			
	1 9:30a - Quilters 9a - Worship & Music Mtg 10:30a-1:30p - Food Pantry Open 7p - AA, Fellowship Hall	2 9a - Intercessory Prayer Session 5:45p - Walk By Faith Ex Class	3 9a - Staff Mtg 6:30p - Confirmation 7p - Trinity Choir Reh	9:30a - Video Series Study 5:45p - Walk By Faith Ex Class 6:30p - Women's Precept Study 6:30p - Men's Bible Study	5 OFFICE CLOSED	6 10:30a-1:30p - Food Pantry Open			
7 TRANSFIGURATION 9a - Choir Warmup 9:30a - COFFEE TIME 10a - Worship w/Communion		9 9a - Intercessory Prayer Session 5:45p - Walk By Faith Ex Class 6:30p - Council Mtg	10 ASH WED 9a - Staff Mtg 6:30p - ASH WED Service 7:15p - Trinity Choir Reh 8:30p - Praise Tm Reh	9:30a - Video Series Study 5:45p - Walk By Faith Ex Class 6:30p - Women's Precept Study 6:30p - Men's Bible Study	OFFICE CLOSED	13			
14 IST SUNDAY IN LENT 9:30a - COFFEE TIME 10a - Praise Worship 11a - VBS Selection Mtg	9:30a - Quilters 10:30a-1:30p - Food Pantry Open	9a - Intercessory Prayer Session 5:45p - Walk By Faith Ex Class	17 9a - Staff Mtg 5:30p - Lenten Soup Supper 6:30p - Mid-week Lenten Service 7:15p - Trinity Choir Reh	9:30a - Video Series Study 5:45p - Walk By Faith Ex Class 6:30p - Women's Precept Study 6:30p - Men's Bible Study	OFFICE CLOSED	10:30a-1:30p - Food Pantry Open			
9:30a - COFFEE TIME 10a - Worship w/Communion Love Fund & Food Pantry Offerings	22 Journey Deadline 9:30a - Quilters 7p - AA, Fellowship Hall	9a - Intercessory Prayer Session 5:45p - Walk By Faith Ex Class	24 9a - Staff Mtg 5:30p - Lenten Soup Supper 6:30p - Mid-week Lenten Service 7:15p - Trinity Choir Reh	9:30a - Video Series Study NO TLCW Mtg 5:45p - Walk By Faith Ex Class 6:30p - Women's Precept Study 6:30p - Men's Bible Study	26 OFFICE CLOSED	5:30p - 6th Annual Chili Cookoff & Talent Show			
28 3RD SUNDAY IN LENT 9:30a - COFFEE TIME 10a - Worship	29 9:30a - Quilters								
	7p- AA, Fellowship Hall								

Non-profit Org

Birchwood, WI U.S. Postage Permit No. PAID

54817

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

Trinity Lutheran Church

Chetac Ave

501

×

Birchwood,

Box

ASH WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 10 @ 7 PM



The *JOURNEY* FEBRUARY 2016

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Jon Paquette, Pastor Cindy Westphal, Parish Administrator Melinda Pedersen. Youth & Family Joanne Schilling, Choir Director 501 E. Chetac Ave ♦ PO Box 8

Birchwood, WI 54817 (715) 354-3790 + (715) 354-3224 (parsonage)

trinitybirchwood@centurytel.net *

JOURNEY Editor ♦ Joanne Schilling ♦ jlschilling@hotmail.com ♦

8:30 am outdoor (Memorial - Labor Day) Sunday Worship

10 am indoor (Year-round)

10 am (Sept - May 21) Sunday School

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

Pastor's Hours 8a-NOON (Mon-Thu) Bulletin info deadline 9 am Wednesdays

JOURNEY deadline Monday of 3rd week of the month

WORSHIP THIS MONTH

2/7 10 am Worship w/Comm — Transfiguration 2/10 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Worship 2/14 10 am Praise Worship — 1st Sun in Lent 2/17, 2/24 6:30 pm Mid-week Lenten Services 2/21 10 am Worship w/Comm — 2nd Sun in Lent 2/28 10 am Worship — 3rd Sun in Lent

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

Jody Kruegel Cleo & Merle Ries Amelia Bill & Eunice Kuntz Buddy Robotka Dave Beaver Helen Beffa Roy Kuula Sue Sachs Roger Blanch Bill Lambrecht Shalom Ministry Team George Crust Ed Leader Charlotte Snarski Annette Gentile Bob Liermann Katie Sorenson Laine Guttenberg Lora & Mary Overgard Jeremy Spahn Ron Hartzell Susan Molin Mary Subrt Brenda Jean Voads Gorman Hayes Lee Namtvedt Jordan Howell Leonard Nysted Sullivan Vogds David Yndestad Becky Hunt Dorothy Perpich Merlin Jahnke Jean Peterson Elaine Yndestad Dean Kruegel Mary Reppe

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

NEXT MEETING OF . . . Trinity Lutheran Church Women. NO MEETING