

***The JOURNEY** — Walking Daily with Jesus*

Another wonderful telling of the Christmas Story!
SS KIDS SHARE "THE STABLE WHERE JESUS WAS BORN"

The Sunday School children once again put together an AWESOME program this year — *The Stable Where Jesus Was Born*. But just to beat past years' accomplishments, Theresa Stanley, her assistants and the children did it with just ONE rehearsal and presented it on December 20, to 130 people.

Thanks to the many parents for helping, and special thanks go to: Missy Robotka, Melinda Pedersen, Donnarae Carrell, Dianne Buxton, Joanne Schilling, Cindy Westphal, Pastor Jon, Trent and Stanley for their commitment to the Christmas Program this year.



WHAT'S INSIDE

Children's Christmas Program Pics	1
Pastor Jon's Column	2
TLC Women's Happenin's	3
The "Article Table"	3
Luther Park Delegates Needed	3
New Precept Bible Study	3
5th Sunday Potluck	4
Volunteer Opportunities	4
TLCW Jan Mtg Speaker	4
Council Mtg Date Change	4
Thank You from Pastor & Kathy	4
VBS Planning Tm Mbrs Needed	4
Gorman Hayes Family	4
Prayer Items	5
Different Mid-week Advent Services	5
Adopt-A-Family Thanks	5
Christmas Music Festival Recap	5
Jan Worship Assistants	6
New Video Bible Study series	6
De-Decorating Help Wanted	6
Jan Birthdays and Prayer List	6
January Calendar	7

PASTOR JON'S COLUMN

As I look back upon the past year – and to my life in ministry with you in this community, I have taken time to think – To think about church – our church, other churches, all the different denominations, styles, and charms of church. To all the different ministry styles I read about and hear about – those I hear about as I meet pastors and parishioners alike from other churches. Many times I will hear someone say, "I attend my church because it is so cool!" (Whatever their definition of "cool" church happens to be.) I realized that there was a time in ministry when I wanted to be cool.



Maybe I am just getting old. I have nothing against contemporary churches with contemporary music. I was the Pastor of one that worked to blend contemporary and traditional music at my previous call. Lord knows I love playing the guitar and banjo! Amazingly, and against current trends, the musicians there were made up of people over 40. In many "contemporary" settings you would be hard pressed to find a musician in those churches over 25.

Here at Trinity, we are blessed to have such wonderfully gifted musicians and singers. It is a real blessing to be able to support a wonderful choir, and all of the special music represented by people of all ages. I love Saturday nights thinking about the message God is having me prepare for you – and Sunday Mornings when we gather together to share the God's Word! But, we are not a "cool" church. Let's face it. There may be some people in our church who are "cool," but, that is not our defining characteristic.

To begin with we are not a "cool" church, and won't be – because the Pastor is not cool. I'm in my mid-fifties. I was going to say middle-aged, but since I'm probably not going to live to be 110, I am not middle-aged any more. I do have tattoos that might

speak of someone who is "cool," but they are black with age; gotten while "serving" in a time long ago. I gave up long ago attempting to use profanity in order "to relate."

And I won't be doing sermon series on such topics as "Enhancing Your Sex Life," "How To Get a Hot Spouse," "Jesus Just Wants to be Your Friend," or any other such shallow garbage I have come across over the past few years. We won't be giving away door prizes at Easter just to get people to come to church. I won't be using sermon illustrations about the Kardashians, Rhian-na, or Miley Cyrus. I am going to quote Bonhoeffer and Barth and C.S. Lewis even if many of you in the congregation don't know who they are. I hope to teach you. We will have different Scripture readings during worship (Old Testament, Psalms, Epistles (letters), and Gospel) – and we will continue to use corporate prayers and readings. I am not going to dumb down theology or pretend there are simple answers to our complex lives.

You see – Jesus wasn't cool. I know he had a beard and wore sandals, but he wasn't cool. He didn't hang out in the cool places with the cool people. I can't really say with a straight face that Jesus was "nice." Compassionate – yes, passionate – check, empathetic – ok, faithful – without question. But "cool" - "nice?" Well, I am afraid the dirty, broken, uncultured people Jesus hung out with would feel out of place in "cool" churches. Churches have never been filled with cool people. They are filled with people who desperately need God and forgiveness and each other – sometimes they are filled with people who haven't figured that out yet. Sometimes churches are filled with – oh, oh – wait for it – *Hypocrites!!!* (Number one on the list of reasons why people say they do not come to a church!) All of which are just the kind of people Jesus works to reach out to. You know what kind of people Jesus never reached out to in scripture? "Cool" people!

Somewhere along the way we began to think that we had to convince people that

Jesus was cool and church is cool to get them to come. We especially go there when it comes to trying to capture the imaginations of youth, or as we wrestle with "bringing in more members." Well, church is NOT cool. Sometimes it's just a mess. But, God calls us to corporate worship and to each other. So we come, in all our "uncoolness." You see, geeks are welcome! Fashions zeros are welcome too. People who don't know what Twitter is, are welcome (good news for me). People who feel underserving, unloved, over loved, happy, sad, neurotic, sane – all of us awkward, broken, folks are welcome.

There was a time when I wanted to be cool. Now, I just want to be real.

Happy New Year –
Janitor/Pastor Jon



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN HAPPENIN'S

We held our December meeting on the 17, in the Fellowship Hall with fifteen women attending.

Donations were received from three funerals, and a private donor.

Lefse Sales brought in \$340, and the Bake Sale, which featured Christmas cookies and baked items, held December 5 and 6, brought in \$353. A HUGE thanks to all those lefse makers and all those who brought in items for the bake sale.



In December we disburse our hard-earned money for two things: Christmas gifts to the five employees at church, and donations to deserving charities. The charities that will be receiving gifts this year are: Homme House Foundation, Doctors Without Borders, Trinity Love Fund, Benjamin's House, the Time Out Shelter (in Ladysmith), LAMP (pilots who fly and distribute Bibles and resource material in northern Alaska), and a new charity, which was created this year: the Trinity Youth Mission/Camp Scholarship. Altogether, the total amount of money given by the Women of Trinity in 2015 totals \$3,550.00.

We will be having a Salad Luncheon in 2016 with a tentative date set on August 9th. A speaker for this event is in the works.

A co-chairperson was needed for Service Committee 3 to serve with

Donnarae Carrell, and Barb Hinderman graciously stepped forward to fill this position.

There will be a September Community Dinner held in 2016, at the high school, and this is being planned. More information later.

Altar Guild person for January is Sharon Dhein.

Jeanne Dahlby, Altar Guild Chairperson, reported she has people lined up to serve on Altar Guild every month for 2016, with addi-

tional help for the busy summer months.

The next meeting is Thursday, January 21, with the meeting starting at 10:45 am, with a delicious hot lunch to follow. Special speaker after the meeting and luncheon is our very own Joanne Schilling. Every third month we serve a lunch and have a speaker. All women are invited, and will not want to miss out on this special day.

After the December 17 meeting we packed up 24 boxes of cookies for shut-ins, and arranged for delivery of same. Many thanks to those women who brought in cookies for this specific purpose! Not only are you great bakers, you have BIG HEARTS! Those that received them were most grateful, and happy. The Christmas Spirit lives within you!



The "Article Table"

I would like to call your attention to the small table set up in the narthex, just to the side of the bathroom entrance. On it are various articles that you may find of interest.

The articles found there will cover a multitude of topics — church matters, theology, healing and wholeness - with many devoted to daily faith/life application. I invite you to take a look at them and take what you like. New articles will be set out weekly!

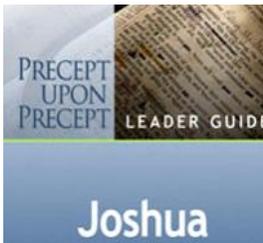
Pastor Jon

DELEGATES NEEDED FOR LUTHER PARK ANNUAL MTG



Luther Park Bible Camp will hold its Annual Meeting on Saturday, January 23. The meeting will begin at 10 am, at the Camp which is located on 944 24 1/4 Street, Chetek. Our congregation is a member and entitled to send three voting delegates. An important vote at this meeting is the second required vote for the potential sale of land for the Director's house.

If you are interested in attending as one of our voting delegates, please contact the church office.



The Precept Bible Study group will be starting a new study on the book of Joshua: Conquering Your Enemies (7 lessons) beginning January 7, at 6:30 pm. Extra study guides have been ordered, so if anyone would like to join the group, they'd love to have you come! God said, "Be strong and courageous!

Do not tremble or be dismayed." Increase your faith in God who has put you in His grip and will never let you go! This study will charge you up and encourage you to press on! For more information, contact Barb Kleven at 715-834-9988.

FIFTH SUNDAY POTLUCK — JAN 29

Seems like we just had one, doesn't it! We did! But, if you're like many of us, this is our favorite meal: POTLUCK DINNER!

You've heard of boiled dinners, BBQ dinners, but POTLUCK DINNERS ARE THE BEST!

So, on Sunday, January 31, a day that's guaranteed to be cold and miserable, bring your favorite dish to pass and share it with your church friends. What's provided are the plates, utensils, milk, coffee, and cold drink.

We always get a great variety of food, and it is all so GOOD! Mark this on your calendar...don't forget! Come join us in fellowship and food.



We've been praying for Gorman Hayes, brother of Lisa Bratvold, who is battling cancer. It's always nice to have a visual image of those for whom we pray, so here is a picture of Gorman and his family: wife Mila, daughter Isis, and sons Isaac and Indigo. Our prayers continue!!



We need YOU for some opportunities to help out:

- ◆ Help one of our senior parishioners learn how to navigate the World Wide Web — let Pastor Jon know
- ◆ Help count weekly offerings — let Dave Webster or church office know
- ◆ Help give the Children's Message on Sunday mornings — let Pastor Jon know

COUNCIL MEETING DATE CHANGE

The monthly Council meetings will be held on the 2nd TUESDAY of each month.
January's meeting will be held at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, January 12.



TLCW JANUARY MEETING SPEAKER

The Trinity Lutheran Church Women (TLCW) will hold their January meeting on Thursday, January 21, starting at 10:45 am, in the Fellowship Hall. After the meeting, a lunch will be served, complete with salad, soup, and desserts.



After lunch a special speaker for the day, our very own Joanne Schilling, will give us a talk on her faith life journey. All women are invited to attend this meeting. A luncheon is held every third month, with a speaker, and it's a very rewarding day. Please plan to attend.



Thank you, thank you, and thank you!
Kathy and I thank everyone for their kindness, cards, gifts, yummy treats, and warm wishes over the Christmas season! We are blessed as God's children and honored by your presence and friendships in our lives! May the Holy Spirit guide you to take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ in this new year!

Pastor Jon and Kathy Paquette



VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL PLANNING TEAM WANTED

Preview kits will soon be ordered for this year's Vacation Bible School (VBS), which takes place the week after high school graduation — June 6-10, 2016. This wonderful outreach program touches the lives of Trinity's children as well as those of many Birchwood children who have no church family.

But we need a VBS Planning Team to help select the curriculum and to plan other key elements of this program. If you feel called to serve on this team, or would like more information, please contact Joanne Schilling. WE NEED YOU!

prayer

PRAYER CHAIN: We need more participants in our Trinity Prayer Chain. If you feel called to become a member of our prayer chain, please contact Donnarae Carrell at 715-354-7916.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER SESSION: In order to prevent a conflict with the new video Bible Study series beginning on Thursdays, the weekly Intercessory Prayer Sessions will move back to Tuesdays, at 9 am. Come join us in lifting up our church, community, and individuals in prayer. Luke 18:27 — *"The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."*



A HEARTFELT THANK YOU

Once again, YOU, the wonderful people of Trinity gave from your hearts! We helped the Birchwood Future Business Leaders of America with their annual Adopt-A-Family program and adopted four of the 30 families for the Christmas season.

In the words of Sara Waldron, FBLA Advisor, "Once again, we did it! We pitched in together to make Christmas just a little bit brighter for many of our families. A million times thank you to everyone who helped make this program a success once again!"

A different Mid-week Advent service . . .

Stones will shout!



Our mid-week Advent services were a bit different this season! Using the theme "Stones Will Shout," we separated into inter-generational Rock Groups and shared our week's highs and lows, prayed together, and blessed one another (above right). We saw cute skits by the Confirmation Youth, sang songs and heard a personal life-line story from three different people: Robert Heath, Fred Peck, and Tara Stanley (pictured above left). Hopefully, the experience was meaningful and Spiritual for all who participated!



The Christmas Quartet, above (Dianne Buxton, Florence Evitch, Joan Fuller, and Janet Schieffer), joined various other musicians at the 6th Annual Christmas Music Festival on December 5. This informal event attended by 41 people was a festive closing to the Birchwood Christmas Festival and raised \$139 for the Food Pantry.

Before and after the Music Festival, the TLC Women held a yummy Bake Sale to raise funds for various outreach and scholarship efforts.

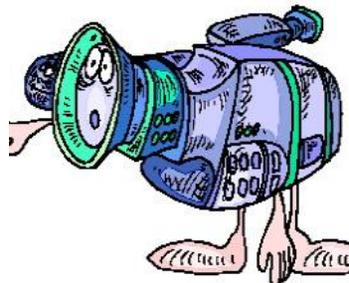
What a wonderful way to start the Christmas Holiday Season! Thanks to all who helped or participated!



JANUARY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS					
	JAN 3	JAN 10	JAN 17	JAN 24	JAN 31
Greeters	Marcia Kampf	Wally & Kathy Thom	Marcia Kampf	Tom & Sue Svitak	<i>PLEASE SIGN UP</i>
Ushers	John & Janet Schieffer	Pip & Cindy Gilgenbach	John & Janet Schieffer	<i>PLEASE SIGN UP</i>	<i>PLEASE SIGN UP</i>
Communion Assts	Rolf & Barb Kleven	NO COMMUNION	Dave & Mary Webster	NO COMMUNION	
Reader	Donnarae Carrell	Barb Kleven	Joanne Schilling	<i>PLEASE SIGN UP</i>	<i>PLEASE SIGN UP</i>

NEW VIDEO SERIES OFFERED FOR MEN & WOMEN

The regular women's Bible study held at 9:30 am on Thursdays is taking a few months off. In the interim, Pastor Jon will be offering several Video Series/Studies in its place beginning on Thursday January 7, at 9:30 am. It will be open to all, men and women. No experience necessary! Materials will be provided!



HELP!

Love those Christmas decorations, but now it's time to DE-DECORATE! Come help us Monday, January 4, at 10 am.

Wally Thom, Sue Svitak and Norm Jastram (left) assembling the Nativity Scene.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Jill Pedersen 1/1 | Jordan Berg 1/10 | Carly Pedersen 1/23 |
| Lilly Gottwald 1/2 | Andrew Janetski 1/12 | Klaresse Applebee 1/24 |
| Kim Rich 1/2 | Rolf Jostad 1/12 | Amy Roppe 1/24 |
| Colette Sandow 1/2 | Alan Pedersen 1/12 | Maryann Cowans 1/25 |
| Kimberly Will 1/2 | Madyson Schultz 1/15 | Rodney Levake 1/25 |
| Andy Hedman 1/3 | Joey Rauch 1/17 | Shay Sunderland 1/25 |
| Adam Robotka 1/3 | Gloria Sibley 1/17 | Jerry Chasteen 1/27 |
| Eric Flora 1/5 | Shirley Dunwiddie 1/19 | Travis Miller 1/28 |
| Abigail Birdsill 1/5 | Gavin Stanley 1/19 | Foster Dunwiddie 1/29 |
| Rigil Christensen 1/7 | Norm Jastram 1/21 | Bob Hayes 1/31 |
| Patti Johnson 1/8 | Lee Flora 1/21 | |
| Leo Diehl 1/9 | Dave Lhotka 1/23 | |



IN OUR PRAYERS

- | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 - Kevin Kotel | 14 - Roy Kuula | 27 - Jonathan Lane |
| 2 - Kirk Kotel | 15 - Barb Lallaman | 28 - Katherine Lane |
| 3 - Steve Kotel | 16 - Butch Lallaman | 29 - Kimberly Lane |
| 4 - Steven Kotel | 17 - Bill Lambrecht | 30 - Tharin-James Lane |
| 5 - Ken Krattiger | 18 - Joyce Lambrecht | 31 - Lauren Langenhahn |
| 6 - John Kristensen | 19 - Ginny LaMotte | |
| 7 - Karl Kristensen | 20 - Jim LaMotte | |
| 8 - Kayla Kristensen | 21 - Eric Landes | |
| 9 - Lou Anne Kristensen | 22 - Jeff Landes | |
| 10 - Dean Kruegel | 23 - John Landes | |
| 11 - Richard Kuula | 24 - Pam Landes | |
| 12 - Eleanor Kuula | 25 - Cassandra Lane | |
| 13 - Joan Kuula | 26 - Jessica Lane | |



JANUARY 2016

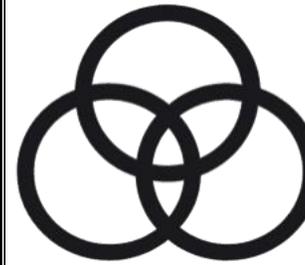
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 HAPPY NEW YEAR! OFFICE CLOSED	2 10:30a-1:30p - Food Pantry Open
3 2ND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS 9a - Choir Warmup 9:30a - <i>COFFEE TIME</i> 10a - Worship w/Communion	4 9:30a - 2pm - Quilters 9a - Worship & Music Mtg 10a - Christmas Décor Take-down 10:30a-1:30p - Food Pantry Open 7p - AA, Fellowship Hall	5 9a - Intercessory Prayer Session	6 9a - Staff Mtg 6:30p - Confirmation 7p - Trinity Choir Reh 8p - Confirmation Youth Rehearse w/ Praise Tm 8:30p - Praise Tm Reh	7 9:30a - Video Series Study 6:30p - Women's Precept Study 6:30p - Men's Bible Study	8 OFFICE CLOSED	9
10 BAPTISM OF OUR LORD 9:30a - <i>COFFEE TIME</i> 10a - Praise Worship	11 9:30a - 2pm - Quilters 7p - AA, Fellowship Hall	12 9a - Intercessory Prayer Session 6:30p - Council Mtg	13 9a - Staff Mtg 6:30p - Confirmation 7p - Trinity Choir Reh	14 9:30a - Video Series Study 6:30p - Women's Precept Study 6:30p - Men's Bible Study	15 OFFICE CLOSED	16 10:30a-1:30p - Food Pantry Open
17 2ND SUN AFTER EPIPHANY 9a - Choir Warm-up 9:30a - <i>COFFEE TIME</i> 10a - Worship w/Communion Love Fund & Food Pantry Offerings	18 Journey Deadline 9:30a - 2pm - Quilters 10:30a-1:30p - Food Pantry Open 7p - AA, Fellowship Hall	19 9a - Intercessory Prayer Session	20 9a - Staff Mtg 6:30p - Confirmation 7p - Trinity Choir Reh	21 9:30a - Video Series Study 10:45a - TLCW Mtg 6:30p - Women's Precept Study 6:30p - Men's Bible Study	22 OFFICE CLOSED	23 10a - Luther Park Annual Mtg
24 3RD SUN AFTER EPIPHANY 9:30a - <i>COFFEE TIME</i> 10a - Worship	25 9:30a - 2pm - Quilters 7p- AA, Fellowship Hall	26 9a - Intercessory Prayer Session	27 9:30a - Journey As- sembly 6:30p - Confirmation 7p - Trinity Choir Reh	28 9:30a - Video Series Study 6:30p - Women's Precept Study 6:30p - Men's Bible Study	29 OFFICE CLOSED	30
31 4TH SUN AFTER EPIPHANY 9:30a - <i>COFFEE TIME</i> 10a - Worship <i>5TH SUNDAY POTLUCK</i>						

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

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

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**FIFTH SUNDAY POTLUCK
 JANUARY 31**



The *JOURNEY* JANUARY 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 ♦

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 - 3:00pm (M-Th)
 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

- 1/3 10 am Worship w/Communion — 2nd Sun after Christmas
- 1/10 10 am Worship — Praise Worship — Baptism of the Lord
- 1/17 10 am Worship w/Communion — 2nd Sun after Epiphany
- 1/24 10 am Worship — 3rd Sun after Epiphany
- 1/31 10 am Worship — 4th Sun after Epiphany—5th Sunday Potluck

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

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

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

- Birchwood Food Pantry. 10:30 am, Jan 2, 4, 16, & 18
- Worship & Music Team. 9 am, Jan 4
- Congregational Council. 6:30 pm, Jan 12
- Outreach Committee. 1 pm, Jan 18
- Trinity Lutheran Church Women. 11am, Jan 21