

The JOURNEY — Walking Daily with Jesus

Pastor's Corner,

"I lift my eyes up to the hills. From where does my help come?" Psalm 121:1

As some of you may know, Psalm 121 is one of my favorite scriptures. The words are powerful when we're in distress. They provide hope and promise in times of trouble.

In ancient Israel, the soldiers would keep their eyes on the hills during a battle. They did this knowing that, when the time was right, warriors mounted on war horses would swoop down from the hills to bring them a much-needed boost of strength to win the fight.

In Jerusalem, the people would look up to the hills, to the temple. The position of the temple over the city was a constant reminder that the people of Israel were the chosen people of God. They would trek up the hill to offer sacrifices or to celebrate one of the festivals. As I have found in hiking in the mountains, when one labors to climb the mountain, the eyes often look up, seeking the final goal and the end of the labor. So, too, when climbing to the temple, the people would often look up to see the place where they would come to worship the Lord.

In this time of Lent, and with the rapid approach of Easter, we lift our eyes to the hills as well. We look for Jesus, who came riding down the hill for us. He came riding down from the hills, not on a warhorse, but on a lowly donkey. He comes to us as the Son of God, who chose to become incarnate as one of us.

We then look to the hills, where we see His cross. The cross which Jesus willingly took as his own in order that He would rescue us from the power of sin and death. And we now rejoice as we look to the cross, because what was once an instrument of death, stands empty, the tomb in which they laid Jesus is empty as well. We don't look for Him there, because, as the angels announce: *"He is not here, His has risen, just as he said."* (Matthew 28:6)

We now keep our eyes lifted to see our goal, the triumphant return of our Savior, Jesus Christ, to call us home. There, *"He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore."* (Rev. 21:4)

Have a joyous and blessed Easter. "Christ is risen; he has risen indeed!"

Pastor Dan

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From the Council President:

With Easter Week coming up soon, I prepared by reading *The Man on the Middle Cross- A 7-Day Easter Reading Plan* by Pastor Alister Begg.

Pastor Begg is the senior pastor of Cleveland's Parkside Church. He is the voice behind the Christian preaching and teaching ministry, Truth For Life, which broadcasts his sermons daily to more than 1,800 radio stations across North America. He is also the author of several books.

I felt led to share the devotional introduction by Pastor Begg with you. This introduction was both humorous, thought-provoking, and reminded me of the proper response of how I was saved.

Here are Pastor Begg's words: Jesus was crucified between two convicted criminals and those criminals both heard the words of Christ, yet they responded very differently. The first dying man regarded the cross as a contradiction. He concluded that because Jesus was on the cross, He was no Savior. So, he ridiculed the man on the middle cross: "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" (Luke 23:39). But the second man saw the cross as confirmation. He recognized that because Jesus was on the cross, He must be the Savior.

"Without preaching the cross all day and every day, we will very, very quickly revert to faith plus works as the grounds of our salvation. If you were to die tonight and you were getting entry into heaven, what would you say? If I would answer or you would answer in the first person, we have gone wrong. Because I ..., because I believed, be-

cause I have faith, because I.... Loved Ones, the only proper answer is in the third person. Because He, because He...

Think about the thief on the cross. I can't wait to find this fellow in Heaven to ask him, "how did this shake out for you? Because you were cussing the guy (Jesus) out with your friend (the other thief). You've never been to a Bible Study; you've never been baptized. You didn't know anything about church membership. Yet you made it! How did you make it?"

That's what the angel in Heaven must have said. You know, "What are you doing here? "The thief said, "I don't know" The angel said, "Excuse me I'll get my supervising angel." The Supervising Angel said, "We've just got a couple of questions for you. First of all, are you clear on the doctrine of justification?" The thief said, "I've never heard of it in my life." The supervising angel continued "What about the doctrine of scripture?" The thief just had a puzzled look on his face. The angel in frustration asked, "on what basis are you here? "The thief answered, "the man on the middle cross said I could come."

Now, that is the only answer. And if I don't preach the gospel all day and everyday then I will find myself beginning to trust myself, trust my experiences which is part of my fallenness as a man.

If I take my eyes off the cross, I can only give lip service to its efficacy, while at the same time living as if my salvation depends on me. And as soon as you are there, it will lead you to either abject despair or a horrible kind of arrogance, and it is only the

cross of Christ that deals with both.

With the dreadful depths of despair and the pretentious arrogance of man that says you know, "I can figure this out" and I'm doing wonderfully well. No, because the sinless savior died, and my sinful soul is counted free. For God the Just is satisfied to look upon Him and pardon me. That's why Luther said, most of your Christian life is outside of you. In this sense: we know that we're not saved by good works. We're not saved as a result of our professions, but we're saved as a result of what Christ has achieved."

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—not by works, so that no one can boast." Ephesians 2: 8-9

As I'm reminded of the joy of the resurrection of Christ on Easter, I also am reminded of the physical and emotional pain, rejection, and loneliness that Christ went through for us on Good Friday. I'm also reminded of those in our congregation and communities that are experiencing these same things. They are the mission field of this church. Please share the incomparable love and grace of Christ with them.

Happy and Blessed Easter.
Jim McGraw





APRIL-SUNDAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS



	Apr 6 9:00a	Apr 13 Palm Sunday-9:00a	Apr 20 Easter sunrise - 6:30a	Apr 20 Easter - 9:00a	Apr 27 9:00a
GREETERS	Terri Freeman	Joanne & Eldon Kvale	Kathy Thom	Karen & Bob Scott	Sue Svitak
USHERS	Rob Freeman Wally Thom	Wally Thom Kevin Ploessl	John Schieffer	John Schieffer Kevin Ploessl	Tom Svitak Wes Mohns
COMM. ASSTS	Dan Dahl	Ellen Ehrich	Pat Mackey	Ellen Ehrich	Joanne Schilling
READER	Kathy Thom	Dan Dahl	Donnarae Carrell	Dianne Buxton	Ellen Ehrich



4/5 Donna Soper
4/5 Rory Kolodzinski
4/9 David Dakins
4/12 Lou Sandow
4/26 Chris Iverson



4/23 Carol & Ken Raether
4/28 Mary & Jeff Arvesen

Dessert and Coffee will be served!

SNACKS AND FACTS

Second Tuesday at 2pm

Liza Lane, Domestic Violence Program Coordinator, will present information about Embrace

April 8th, 2025, at 2pm
Trinity Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall
Birchwood, WI

Join in a short Devotion.
Everyone Welcome!

Coming up on May 13th, 2025
Danielle Hendrix
with
Rice Lake Pregnancy Help Center



**PSST! VBS TRUE
NORTH IS COMING!
JUNE 16-20!**

Meeting

NEXT MEETING OF . . .

Birchwood Food Pantry Open. Apr. 7 & 21, 10:30-12:30pm
Worship & Music Team. Apr. 7, 9:00am
Women of Trinity Apr. 12, 10:00am
Trinity Council Meeting Apr. 15, 6:30pm

From Your Associate Pastor

After a long, cold winter, we can now enjoy the refreshment of Spring! In the beauty of this transformation, let us ponder what the transforming power that the resurrection of our Lord and Savior means for us today. Just as the freshness of Spring brings brand new blades of grass, leaves, and precious new life all around us, the resurrection of our Lord Jesus is a refreshing message to our lost and broken world. Jesus became a living sacrifice that our lives can be washed, sanctified, cleansed, transformed and free from guilt and shame.

The resurrection of Jesus from the dead is a powerful witness of the amazing love and transformation that our Heavenly Father has brought in sending His Son to take all our sins in His body on the cross. Because of this we have become a New Creation in Christ Jesus! 2 Corinthians 5:17



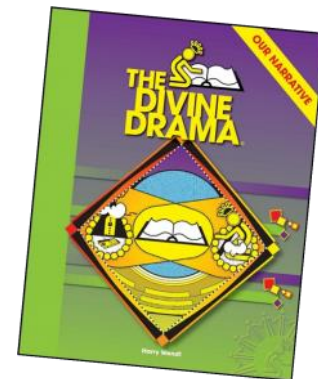
Just as the sweet spring rain washes away the dirt and the grime of winter, the resurrection brings much joy in knowing that our sins have been washed away, and that we're cleansed, and redeemed by the blood of the Lamb! This transformation is like the metamorphosis process that changes a caterpillar into a butterfly! In Christ, we have this new life, as we are justified by faith in what He has done for us on the cross! Romans 5:1-11

As we look to God's Word to find out what this resurrection power of God has done and continues to do in our life, we find over 8,000 promises waiting for us to discover and embrace the amazing refreshment and abundant life that they bring. Just as Spring continually brings new life all around us, God's new life of forgiveness and truth brings rivers of living water that cleanses our soul, and satisfies our spiritual thirst with His, hope, assurance, refreshment, and direction. John 7:38; 2 Timothy 3:16

Be blessed, be refreshed!
HAPPY RESURRECTION DAY!
Your Associate Pastor Barb

DIVINE DRAMA CLASS STARTS MAY 1

"The Divine Drama: Our Narrative" focuses on exploring the core Christian teachings and doctrines, like the Trinity, sin and grace, the Church, prayer, stewardship, and the end times, by delving deeper into the key themes and stories presented in the Bible's overarching narrative ("The Divine Drama") and applying them to everyday life.



- Classes start Thursday May 1, at 6:30 pm.
- The cost of the books will be \$10.

You're Invited to an Easter Concert presented by the:

Blue Hills Chorale

"Come Find His Rest"

Sun, April 6th, *SS. Peter & Paul Catholic Church*
Weyerhaeuser, WI 2:00 p.m.

Wed, April 9th, *Nathaniel Lutheran Church*
Bruce, WI 7:00 p.m.

Sat, April 12th, *Hope Lutheran Church*
Ladysmith, WI 1:00 p.m.

Sun, April 13th, *Heyde Center for the Arts*
Chippewa Falls, WI 2:00 p.m.

Refreshments will be served after the concert
There will be a free will offering during the performance



**BEAUTIFY THE
SANCTUARY WITH
EASTER LILIES
\$10/plant**

Please help beautify the Sanctuary for EASTER with faux

lilies!! Order your white lily

In Honor of OR In Memory of loved ones.

Form available in the Narthex — attach payment and return to the church office or place in the offering basket by April 10.

The faux lilies will be cared and stored at Trinity
{Easter bulletin will list donors and honorees/memorials}

Call Julie at 715-354-3790

Order By April 10

FUN AT GAME NIGHT!

Please join us in fellowship for the next game night. There will be great conversation and fun, GUARANTEED! April will be the final preplanned game night for the 1st half of 2025. Come for fellowship, stay for the fun and snacks.



**APRIL 11, 6 PM
FELLOWSHIP HALL**

There is consideration for game day afternoons this autumn to accommodate those who may not drive at night so please stay tuned for further information later this summer.

“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.” Eph 4:3

LENTEN AND EASTER SERVICES

Our Mid-week services continue at 6:30 pm on Wednesdays.
Lenten, Holy Week, and Easter Services are as follows:

Mid-week Lenten Services

Apr 2 — Mid-week Lenten service @ 6:30 pm

Apr 9 — Mid-week Lenten service @ 6:30 pm

Holy Week Services

Apr 13 — Palm Sunday Worship w/communion @ 9 am

Apr 17 — Maundy Thursday w/communion @ 6:30 pm

Apr 18 — Good Friday Worship @ 6:30 pm

Easter Services and Brunch

Apr 20 — Easter Sunrise Worship w/communion @ 6:30 am

Apr 20 — Easter Brunch at 7:30 - 8 :30 am

Apr 20 — Easter Celebration Worship w/communion @ 9 am

Upcoming 2025 Stewardship Activities

By now many in our congregation are aware of the upcoming needs for Trinity Lutheran Church to replace the roof over a major portion of our church.

We have seen the results of roof leaks on the ceilings in several areas, and the shingle deterioration is noticeable to a person walking outside.

Estimates and planning are underway now by our operations team.

This will be a major undertaking for our congregation, and we expect the work will take place after several years of fund raising.

Starting this spring we will start informational and fundraising activities.

Please think about how you can help in this important effort.

Thank you
Mike Rubin - Stewardship

Stephen Ministry

Trinity Lutheran Church (TLC) in Birchwood has recently begun Stephen Ministry, a new and exciting ministry that will allow it to reach out to more people with one-to-one Christian care. Through Stephen Ministry, a team of TLC's members, known as Stephen Ministers, has been equipped to provide quality Christian care to people facing a variety of life difficulties. Some of the situations in which Stephen Ministers provide care include the loss of a loved one, divorce, unemployment, medical crisis, and other life crises.

On Sunday April 27, TLC will be commissioning four members as Stephen Ministers and four Stephen Ministers Leaders. These caregivers will serve under the leadership of Pastor Dan Tabor and the Stephen Leaders at TLC. We are all excited about the way Stephen Ministers will expand the caring ministry. They will help our pastoral staff provide the quality of ongoing care people need for the duration of their crisis. For example, in a grief situation, an individual often receives a great amount of care in the immediate weeks after their loved one dies but as time goes on, they may not get the care they need. With Stephen Ministry a grieving person will receive quality care for as long as needed.

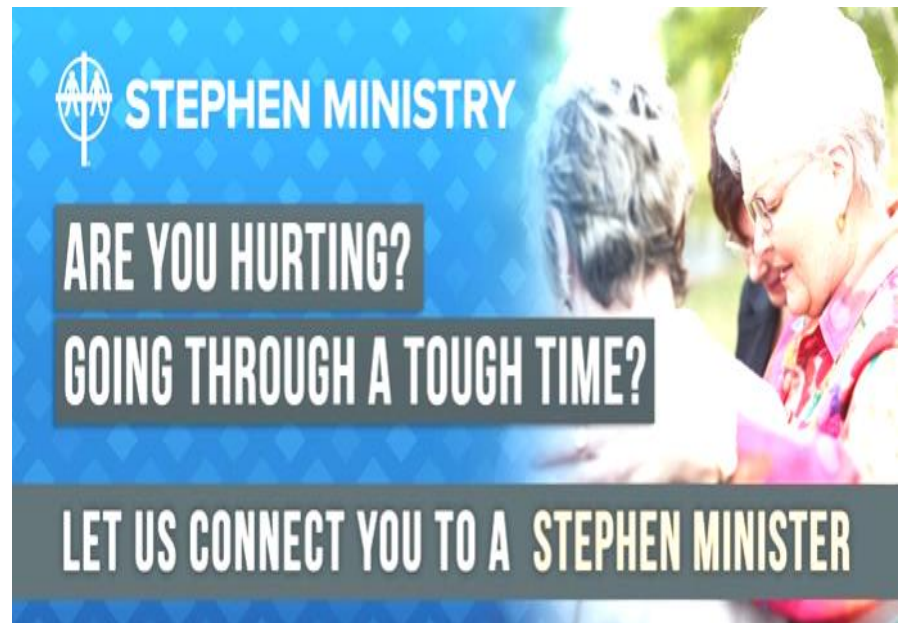
Before commissioning, TLC's Stephen Ministers received in-depth training in Christian caregiving skills, covering topics such as active listening, distinctively Christian care, feelings, confidentiality, and crisis theory, as well as ministering to people in specific situations such as divorce, grief, and medical crises. After they begin providing care, Stephen Ministers continue to meet twice a month with their Stephen Leaders for continuing education and supervision as they strive to offer the highest-quality Christian caregiving.

A major emphasis of Stephen Minister training and supervision is on confidentiality. Stephen Ministry is a confidential

ministry; those receiving care can be sure that their identity and what they talk about in the caring relationship will remain private.

The people at TLC are excited about this new dimension of their ministry. TLC expects their Stephen Ministry to be a source of warmth, care, and blessing for many years to come, enabling the entire congregation to grow as a nurturing community where people are cherished and cared for and their needs taken seriously, all in the name of Jesus Christ.

If you are interested or have questions about Stephen Ministry at TLC, please contact Jim McGraw at (612) 859-3046. If you know someone who needs care and support, you can call Pastor Dan Tabor at (715) 416-4966 or Di Hubbard at (941) 893-0311.



April 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 6:30a Men's Bible study 6:30p Lenten service 7p Choir Rehearsal	3 10a Women's Bible Study	4 OFFICE CLOSED	5
6 8a Text Study 9a Worship w/ communion 10:30a What It Means to Be a Lutheran	7 9:00a Quilters 9a WMMT Mtg 10:30a Christian Life Mtg 10:30a-12:30p—Food Pantry Open 3:30p Women's Bible Study 7p AA, Fellowship Hall	8 2p Snacks & Facts	9 6:30a Men's Bible study 6:30p Ash Wed. Service 7p Choir Rehearsal 8p PT Rehearsal	10 10a Women's Bible Study	11 OFFICE CLOSED	12 10a — WOT Mtg
13 8a Text Study 9a Palm Sunday Worship w/communion 10:30a What It Means to Be a Lutheran	14 9a Quilters 3:30p Women's Bible Study 7p AA, Fellowship Hall	15 11:30 Mission & Outreach 6:30p Council Meeting	16 7p Choir Rehearsal	17 10a Women's Bible Study 6:30p Maundy Thursday Service	18 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30p Good Friday Service	19
20 Easter 6:30a Sunrise service 7:30 Easter Breakfast 9a Worship w/ communion Love Fund/Food Pantry Offering	21 9a Quilters 10:30a-12:30p—Food Pantry Open 3:30p Women's Bible Study 7p AA, Fellowship Hall	22 Journey Deadline	23 6:30a Men's Bible study 7p Choir Rehearsal	24 10a Women's Bible Study	25 OFFICE CLOSED	26
27 8a Text Study 9a Worship w/ communion Prayer Shawl Sunday	28 9a Quilters 3:30p Women's Bible Study 7p AA, Fellowship Hall	29	30 7p Choir Rehearsal			

Trinity Lutheran Church
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Join Us for Easter
Worship!



The JOURNEY April 2025

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Rev. Daniel Tabor—Pastor

Pastor Barb Kleven—Associate Pastor

Julie Sunderland, Parish Administrator

Joanne Schilling, Choir Director

Donna Rae Carrell, Custodian

501 E. Chetac Ave ♦ PO Box 8 ♦ Birchwood, WI 54817

(715) 354-3790 ♦ (715) 416-4966 (Pastor's cell)

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JOURNEY Editor ♦ Julie Sunderland ♦ tlcbirchwood@gmail.com

Sunday School	9am
Office Hours	8 – 11:30 am, 12:30 - 3:00pm (M-Th)
Bulletin deadline	9 am Tuesdays
JOURNEY deadline	Tuesday - 3 rd week of the month
Pastor's Office Hours	Mondays (8 am—3:00pm) Wednesdays (8—11:30 pm) other days by apt.



Sunday Worship Service Services

Apr 6 — Sunday Worship w/ communion 9:00 am

Apr 13 — Palm Sunday Worship w/communion @ 9 am

Apr 20 — Easter Sunrise Worship w/communion @ 6:30 am

Apr 20 — Easter Brunch at 7:30 - 8:30 am

Apr 20 — Easter Celebration Worship w/communion @ 9:00 am

Apr 27 — Sunday Worship w/ communion 9:00 am

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

Debbie Davis	Tracy Reid	Donna Willis
Andy Hedman	Bill Rice	
Ed Leader	Ro Sackmann	
Lora	Carter Sackmann	
Sharon Mackey	Timothy Wallace	

In the military: Rigil Christensen, and all those serving in the military.