

The JOURNEY — Walking Daily with Jesus

From the Pastor's Desk:

"But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead...' (Mt. 28:5-7a, ESV).

For me, 3:00 a.m. is the time to ponder things. Last night's thoughts revolved around the power of the resurrection. By the time you receive this Journey we should be well into Holy Week, where we again explore the arrest, trial and crucifixion of Jesus. By the time we come to the end of our Good Friday service, we can almost feel the weight of Christ's afflictions on our own shoulders. We can feel the grief as we hear the news that Jesus has died and has been placed into the grave.



But then comes Easter, where we hear again of the Good News that the tomb is now empty. Jesus is alive, "Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!" The resurrection shows us that the grave could not hold Him. The resurrection confirms that death's hold over us is broken. And this resurrection, my brothers and sisters in Christ, is key to the Christian faith. The Apostle Paul reveals just how crucial the resurrection is to our faith in 1 Corinthians ¹⁵, *"If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is worthless, and so is your faith."* (vv 13-14, ESV).

The Good News of the resurrection is that through this empty tomb, Jesus has now opened the door for you and me to have real hope: hope in the forgiveness of sin, salvation and eternal life. The resurrection confirms that these promises of Jesus are not only real, but that they are for you!

I pray that you have a blessed Easter.

Pastor Dan

WHAT'S INSIDE

From the Pastor's Desk	1
Snacks & Facts	2
Women's Tea	2
Holy Week	2
WOT	2
Cambridge	2
Worship Assistants	3
April Birthdays & Anniversaries	3
Prayerful Giving	3
Next meeting of....	3
March Council Highlights	3
Financial Scams	4
Message from Associate Pastor Barb	5
VBS Rainforest Falls	5
Stephen Ministry	6
Calendar	7



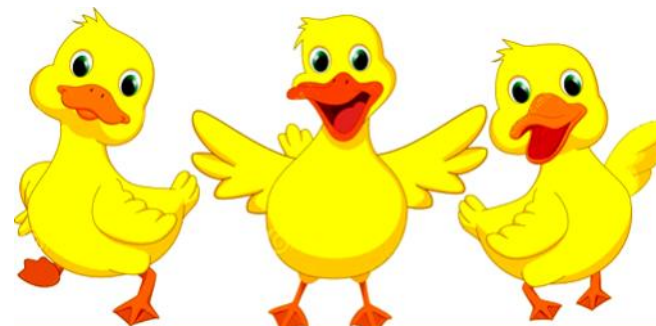
Snacks and Facts Tuesday, April 14th at 2pm.

- Dr. Kim Ammann from Winged Freedom Raptor Hospital will speak about striving to rescue, rehabilitate and release wild raptors.
- The raptor hospital takes care of eagles, hawks and owls.
- If you would like to bring a donation to benefit the Raptor Hospital they could use liquid laundry detergent, dryer sheets, and paper towels.

SAVE THE DATE

The Women's Tea will be June 27th @11:00am

Speaker: Gaye Lindfors will be speaking "Getting Your Ducks in a Row...or Not"



ATTENTION

The Women of Trinity Meetings have **changed**
Mark your calendars for the second Wednesday of each
Month at 3:00p

Hope to see you there!!

Next meeting is April 8 @ 3:00p



*Women
of
Trinity*



Holy Week Services

April 2 - Maundy Thursday - Seder Meal - 5:30p

April 3 - Good Friday - 6:30p

April 5 - Easter Sunrise Service @ 6:30a

April 5 - Easter Breakfast 7:30a

April 5 - Easter Day Celebration service @ 9:00a

Looking for people to help with the Cambridge service on Sundays at 1:30p in Rice Lake.

These people would assist the residents in turning to the correct pages of their songbooks.

There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Narthex.

Mileage will be reimbursed.





APRIL - SUNDAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS



	April 5 6:30a Easter Sunrise	April 5 9:00a Easter Service	April 12 9:00a	April 19 9:00a	April 26 9:00a
GREETERS		Marcia Kampf	Dan & Jackie Healy	Eldon & Joanne Kvale	Char Mohns
USHERS	John Schieffer	Mike Capra John Schieffer	Wally Thom Kevin Ploessl	Tom Svitak Rob Freeman	Wes Mohns Kevin Ploessl
COMM. ASSTS	Dan Dahl	Ellen Ehrich	Ellen Ehrich	Pat Mackey	Joanne Schilling
READER		Sue Capra	Kathy Thom	Eric Anderson	Ellen Ehrich



4/5 Donna Soper
4/5 Rory Kolodzinski
4/9 David Dakins
4/12 Lou Sandow
4/15 Glen Cutsforth
4/19 Beau VanGilder
4/26 Chris Iverson



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

PRAYERFUL GIVING

- Did you know we voted to Increase our budget by 5% for 2026?
- That means we need to increase our congregational giving by at least 5% or more.
- Simply give a nickel more for every dollar you donate to Trinity!
- Please prayerfully consider increasing your giving by 5% or more.



March Church Council highlights

- ✦ A Christian Seder meal is planned for April
- ✦ Waiting on bids for kitchen electrical remodeling
- ✦ Overhead outlet has been installed in the Fellowship Hall
- ✦ Personal Care kit items are being collected
- ✦ April Snacks & Facts will be presented by Winged
- ✦ Freedom raptor rescue
- ✦ A bake sale will be held on Palm Sunday. Funds collected will go toward the kitchen electric.
- ✦ Women of Trinity meeting time is changed to the 2nd Wednesday at 3 pm

Meeting

NEXT MEETING OF . . .

Birchwood Food Pantry Open. Apr 6 & 20, 10:30a-12:30p
Worship & Music Team. Apr 6, 9:00a
Christian Life Meeting. Apr 6, 10:30a
Women of Trinity Apr 8, 3:00p
Trinity Council meeting. No April mtg

STOP FINANCIAL SCAMS



Protect yourself. Protect your money.

A message from the Wisconsin Department of Justice,
Division of Criminal Investigation



Before you withdraw cash

If someone is asking you to take out a large amount of money, **pause**. You may be in the middle of a **SCAM**.

Ask yourself:

- Are you being pressured to act quickly?
- Is someone on the phone telling you what to do right now?
- Were you told to lie to the bank staff, or to family, about why you need the cash?
- Were you told not to talk to anyone about this or keep it a secret?
- Are you afraid, confused, or unsure?

If you can answer **"yes"** to any of these questions – **STOP**.
Don't hand over your money.

What might be happening

Scammers often pretend to be:

- Law enforcement or government (IRS, Social Security, "court," "warrants")
- Tech support
- Bank staff
- A family member or romantic partner "in trouble"

Scammers can sound convincing, but they are not who they claim to be.

Cash, gift cards, cryptocurrency, wire transfers, are all **red flags**.

Remember

A real government official will never ask you to withdraw money.

What to do next

You are not alone.
Help is available right now.

Call for help:

- Wisconsin Elder Abuse Hotline (833) 586-0107
- Medicaid Fraud & Elder Abuse Unit (800) 488-3780
- DATCP Consumer Protection Hotline (800) 422-7128

If you or someone you know is in
immediate danger, CALL 911.

So, you think you aren't vulnerable? I did, and boy, was I wrong! Last month, I fell to a scam and almost lost \$7,000.

It started with a text from my primary bank asking if I had authorized a \$1000 Zelle payment. I replied "No," and immediately had another text, from my bank, stating a special fraud agent would be contacting me shortly.

The phone rang, and I fell prey to a very smooth-talking, convincing "special agent" by the name of George. Oh, he was special, alright!

George proceeded to walk me through a host of actions to safeguard my debit cards at my primary bank, my local bank, my PayPal account and my Venmo account. He did this by sending me temporary usernames and passwords that would be activated by me providing my actual usernames and passwords. And then he made a slurry of denied transactions through my various accounts but ending with one successful transfer. . . to his debit card.

When he told me I had to call my primary bank and tell them I had authorized two transactions in the total amount of \$5000 and couldn't tell them I was working with him, I finally got suspicious. (Ok, so I was slow.) His reply to my question why, was that he was investigating employees in the bank!

Long story short, both banks opened investigations into this. Those text messages looked real but were from George's cell phone, not the normal 5-digit number that usually comes with official notifications. I received all my money back. And now, with new bank accounts, new checks, new passwords everywhere, I am a wiser person today. But I want to share my story because it can happen to anyone! The flyer shown with this article was posted at the teller cage at Dairy State Bank. I wish I had seen it before my adventure with George.

Please take heed!

Joanne Schilling

From Barb Kleven, Associate Pastor

Ephesians 1:3-14

April is the marvelous time in the year when we in Wisconsin experience the melting of the snow and the anticipation of the green grass and beautiful gardens and fun outdoor activities that come with each passing month.

My husband and I have the joy of living on the lake where the refreshing beautiful sparkling blue playground of water becomes a happy place to kayakers, boaters, swimmers and fishermen, and those that just like to sit casually on the dock dangling their feet in the water.

The Good News of God's love is refreshing, just like spring! In fact, the Bible says that He has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places! *Ephesians 1:3-14*. In Christ Jesus, we have access to these blessings! As Christians we have two natures: an earthly nature and a spiritual nature. These two natures bring tension; because of the two perspectives they bring: an earthly perspective and a heavenly perspective.

The heavenly perspective, is awakened by the truth of God's Word that analyzes the spiritual roots of earthly problems, examines our hearts, exposes sin, and guides us into repentance, leading us into the fresh green pastures of revival, quenching our spiritual thirst. We need to "SEE" from this heavenly perspective in order to be revived, strengthened, and renewed each day so our earthly nature doesn't

cloud our view of who we are in Jesus.

God's Word gives us a heavenly perspective and guides and sustains us through His Word:

† *Psalms 119:105* - "Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. It brings understanding to the simple". *Psalms 119:130*, and gives us the "spiritual food that we need to overcome the difficulties that life brings".

† *Matthew 4:4*.

† May this spring bring great refreshment as we bask in the sunlight and the invigorating delight of fresh green buds, dew-kissed grass, and blossoming trees. And may we also remember the refreshment we get from God's Word: *Jeremiah 31:25* - He satisfies the weary soul; *Matthew 5:6* - He blesses those who hunger and thirst after righteousness; *Acts 3:19* - He refreshes and

† *forgives those who repent and turn to Him*.

Peace be with you!

Pr. Barb Kleven



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL DATES AT TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH ARE SET!! The dates are June 15-19, from 12:30-3:30 pm. This year's theme is RAINFOREST FALLS. At Rainforest Falls, kids explore the nature of God—discovering who God is and how much he loves them! Kids participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, make and devour yummy treats, experience one-of-a-kind Bible Adventures, collect Bible Memory Buddies, and test out sciency-fun experiments they'll never forget. Plus, kids will learn to look for evidence of God all around them through something called God Sightings. Each day concludes with a Canopy Closing that gets everyone involved in living what they've learned.

Kids at Rainforest Falls will join a mission effort to provide families in Central America with fruit trees that feed kids and provide income for parents.

Registration for VBS is for children aged 3 (by Sept 1, 2025 & potty-trained) through 5th grade (that is, entering 5th grade). If they are older than 5th grade, we encourage them to volunteer as an Assistant Crew Leader!

Volunteers to be Crew Leaders and Assistant Crew Leaders are needed to guide a small group (crew) of about 5 kids from one station to the next.

Our online registration site will be active soon. To register as a participant or a volunteer, go to <https://www.myvbs.org/tlc2026>. Questions? Call the church office at 715-354-3790.



stephen
MINISTRY®

The Story Behind Stephens Ministry-A Conversation with the Founder-Part 2

This article contains excerpts from an interview conducted by Peter Rosenberger- Author & Radio Show, Host of Hope for the Caregiver. His guest was Rev. Kenneth C. Haugk, Ph.D. Founder & Executive Director- Stephen Ministries St. Louis.

A Personal Experience with Stephen Ministry

Peter: *The reason this show exists is for the 65-million-plus caregivers just in the United States. How are you seeing that level of need impact the work that you guys are doing?*

Ken: *Stephen Ministers care for people who are grieving, who are homebound, who are divorced and separated, and so on. But one type of care receiver that people may not think of is someone who is involved in a caregiving relationship themselves. Stephen Ministers care for caregivers.*

Peter: *And you were the recipient of care from a Stephen Minister yourself. What was it like for you to have put so much into this ministry, and then to have it coming back and caring for you?*

Ken: *My wife was diagnosed with ovarian cancer, and she lived for three and a half years. And during that time, I was her primary caregiver. I had a Stephen Minister, and it sure was helpful just to get those feelings out and have somebody listen to me.*

Peter: *As a caregiver for three decades myself now, I think sometimes people think, "Well, you've created this program, so therefore you're the*

expert on it." And I've got a radio show, but people forget that we need this ourselves. The reason we say these things and do these things is because we are also preaching to ourselves. We need this coming back on us. That had to have been deeply moving for you to have a Stephen Minister come alongside you during that time.

Ken: *Yes, it was very, very moving.*

We were all brought up to be strong, self-sufficient, independent people. We tend to think that if we ask for help, it is a sign of weakness. This is especially evident of us, men. Right. So, we try to keep our struggles hidden, deep inside. However, that's not God's plan. Galatians 6:2 says, "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." God wants us to care for others—and allow others to care for us in our time of need. If Pastor Ken and Peter, who are Christian caregiving professionals needed someone to come alongside to help them through their tough times, we should reach out for help when we need it. If you're sad or struggling inside, don't suffer alone. Ask for help. That includes anyone in leadership, our pastors, any council member. If you need pastoral care contact Pastor Dan, Pastor Barb, or me.

As the church, each of us should be on the lookout for anyone in need. Sometimes all the care they need is someone to listen to and show them the love of Christ. TLC stands for Trinity Lutheran Church but also stands for tender loving care.

Jim McGraw, Stephen Ministry Leader Coordinator jimmy-mac6979@gmail.com

Jim McGraw, Stephen Ministry Leadership Coordinator

April 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 6:30a Men's Bible study 8:30a Prayer 1:00p TLC Choir Reh	2 10:00a Women's Bible Study	3 OFFICE CLOSED	4
5 6:30a Easter Sunrise service 7:30a Easter Breakfast 9a Easter Worship w/ communion	6 OFFICE CLOSED 9a Quilters 10:30a-12:30p—Food Pantry Open 7p AA, Fellowship Hall	7	8 8:30a Prayer 1:00p PT Reh ONLY 3:00p WOT mtg	9 10:00a Women's Bible Study	10 OFFICE CLOSED	11
12 8a Text Study 9a Worship w/ communion	13 9a Quilters 9a WMMT Mtg 10:30a-12:30p—Food Pantry Open 2:30p Women's Bible Study 7p AA, Fellowship Hall	14 2:00p Snacks & Facts	15 6:30a Men's Bible study 8:30a Prayer 1:00p TLC Choir Reh	16 10:00a Women's Bible Study	17 OFFICE CLOSED	18
19 8a Text Study 9a Worship w/ communion Love Fund/Food Pantry Offering	20 9a Quilters 10:30a-12:30p—Food Pantry Open 2:30p Women's Bible Study 7p AA, Fellowship Hall	21 Journey Deadline	22 8:30a Prayer 1:00p TLC Choir Reh	23 10:00a Women's Bible Study	24 OFFICE CLOSED	25
26 8a Text Study 9a Worship w/ communion Prayer Shawl Sunday	27	28	29 8:30a Prayer 1:00p TLC Choir Reh	30 10:00a Women's Bible Study		

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

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 3
Birchwood, WI
54817

Snacks & Facts
April 14 @ 2:00p
Topic: Winged Freedom Raptor
Hospital



The JOURNEY

April 2026

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Rev. Daniel Tabor—Pastor

Pastor Barb Kleven—Associate Pastor

Julie Sunderland, Parish Administrator

Joanne Schilling, Choir Director

Donnae Carrell, Custodian

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

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

♦ trinitylutheranbirchwood.com ♦

♦ tlcbirchwood@gmail.com ♦

JOURNEY Editor ♦ Julie Sunderland ♦ tlcbirchwood@gmail.com

Adult Sunday School	8am
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

**Apr 5 — 6:30a Easter Sunrise worship service
w/communion**

Apr 5 — 7:30a Easter Breakfast

Apr 5 — 9:00a Easter worship service w/communion

Apr 12 —9:00a worship service w/communion

Apr 19 —9:00a worship service w/communion

Apr 26 —9:00a worship service w/communion

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

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

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