

The JOURNEY — Walking Daily with Jesus

“But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, His has risen, as He said. Come, see the place where He lay.”

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As you are reading this, we are days from Easter Sunday, that glorious time of the year when we again use that familiar greeting: “Christ is risen!” And the congregation responds, “He is risen indeed!” This celebration is the highlight of the Church year. Without it, we would not even be the Church!

The season of Lent has passed, and during this past time we have been looking toward the Cross. We have been anticipating Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. We spend a great deal of time in the season of Lent, because during it we are fully reminded of our sinful nature. And we are again reminded that when Jesus went to that Cross on Good Friday, that we were the very people who helped to put Him on that Cross. Jesus went there because of our sin, yours and mine.

But then, on that glorious Easter morning, following the three days of heavy hearts after Good Friday, we find an empty tomb. The Jesus Christ who was laid in that grave is no longer there. Many of us still look for Him there, but, as the angel declares to us, *“He is risen, as He said!”*

We peer into that tomb, but it is as the angel said, *“He is not here...”* We often look for Jesus, and we think that He is hidden from us. But then we come to the places where He has promised that we would find Him. We find Jesus in the Scriptures. We find Jesus in the Sacraments, as He promised, *“This is my body, given for you. This is my blood, shed for you.”* We find Jesus in the preached Word. And we find Jesus as we gather together with our brothers and sisters in Christ. For Jesus has promised, *“For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I as well.”* (Matthew 18:20)

It is in these places that we will see Jesus, the real Jesus of the Bible. He is not hiding! *“He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.”* (Apostles’ Creed)

May this Resurrection Day be a reason for real rejoicing for us this year. For “Christ is risen!” “He is risen indeed!” He is no longer dead, He is alive, and preparing a place for you in His Father’s house. And all God’s people said, “Amen.”

Blessings, Pastor Dan

WHAT’S INSIDE

Letter from Pastor Dan	1
Letter from Council President	2
Treasures Report	3
Women of Trinity Happenings	3
Weekly Text Studies with Pastor Dan	4
Next Meeting Of.....	4
April Birthdays	4
Worship Assistants	4
Women's Monday Night Bible Study	4
Calendar	5



President's Message

At the 2020 RightNow Leadership Conference, Dr Brian Lorrirtz made a presentation called **The Strange Love of Jesus**. Dr Lorrirtz teaches that in Hosea 3 -God is upset with Israel. God tells Hosea, Israel my bride is a serial adulterer. She is sleeping with many gods. All sin is adulterous. They always look for things outside of God's realm. God could divorce Israel but he won't out of love, righteousness and mercy.

Brian's son was the shooting guard on an AAU youth basketball team. At games they would sit near a lesbian couple whose son was the other guard. Brian and his wife were uncomfortable with the gay couple holding hands and other things that go with their gay relationship. Brian decided since the sons were on the same team, they would exchange phone #s and try to be friendly. On the way home from a game, Brian's wife asked, what if God is asking us not to change the gay family but just love them? You can't change anyone. Only God can. Brian and his wife asked the gay family to dinner to get to know each other better. When people asked what Brian did for a living, he said he works for Jesus Christ and happen to be a pastor and he helps people find fulfillment in life through Jesus Christ. The atheist gay couple got up in anger and started to leave but decided to stay. A few weeks later when they all got together again, the gay couple said they didn't know many men and surprisingly asked Brian to mentor their son. Brian agreed. There was fall-out from his congregation. An elderly woman from Brian's church called Brian and asked, "is my pastor keeping company with gays?" She claimed, the Jesus she knows wouldn't do this. Brian answered that the Jesus he knows hung around with all sorts of people including tax collectors and prostitutes.

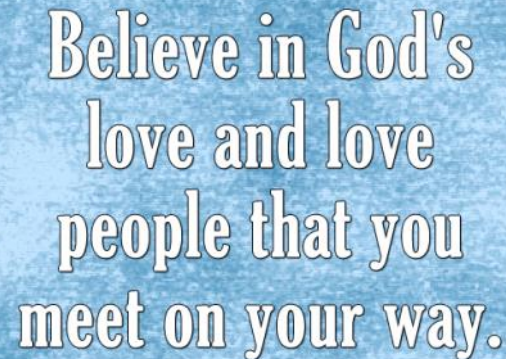
Back to Hosea's parable. God selected Gomer, a prostitute to be

Hosea's wife. Even after Gomer had left Hosea and was back committing adultery, God told him to go again and ask her back. God forgives us every day. Hosea had to give everything he had to redeem Gomer. Sound familiar? Christ gave everything to redeem us. It's costly to be in relationships that are strange. God doesn't ask us to be tolerant. We just need to love. The gay couple asked Brian to officiate a recommitment ceremony at the couple's 5th anniversary. Brian told them he loved them but couldn't do the ceremony. People won't except truth until they experience grace. God's kindness leads to repentance. At times do we see ourselves as Gomer?

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13: 34-35

The world knows who we are by how we love people. It no coincidence that love is the leadoff batter in the Fruits of The Spirit in Galatians 5:22.

One of the desires of TLC is that we would see church growth. Church growth experts claim that having a new sanctuary, a great worship band or a fancy coffee hour doesn't bring people to the church. When asked visitors said they came because friends or family members invited them. How we do this is to establish loving and caring conversations with those people we are led to invite to church. The Holy Spirit does the rest. Additionally, people are attracted to a church where the members outwardly show love to one another. Just as God commands in John 13. This may require us to show the strange love that Jesus and Brian showed.



Believe in God's
love and love
people that you
meet on your way.

Jim McGraw

Monthly Treasurer's Report - February 2021

February 2021 results were less positive than desired; with our income below plan because services were cancelled for another two weeks due to the China Virus.

Income for February was lower than plan by \$3,774. Recorded expenses for February were also lower than plan, by \$1,089.

Thus, recorded income was \$2,663 less than expenses for February.

For the year, TLC has brought in \$10,430 less than has been spent.

Income is \$8,065 less than plan year to date, primarily due to the closures, and expense is \$2,409 more than plan, primarily due to the timing of some labor expenses.



If you are not able to attend church in person, please mail or drop off your offerings to the church office!

**Trinity Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 8
Birchwood, WI 54817**



Women of Trinity Happenings—

-Our meeting was held on March 20 in the Fellowship Hall with 9 women in attendance.

-The January Secretary report was accepted as corrected. The Treasurer report was accepted as written. There was no February meeting due to church closure.

-Altar Guild—Dianne Buxton was in charge for March and Cindy Rubin for April.

-Correspondence—Thank you's were received from The Family House, Benjamin House, Haiti's Children and Birchwood Food Pantry. There was a letter from the child sponsored in Haiti and information on the April women's retreat in Westboro.

-5 women will be attending the women's retreat at Camp For-est Springs,

-The Women of booklet will be

-No student served at this time.

-Group will meet to update funeral/event plan.

-Craft group is on hold due to Covid. Will consider having a booth at the Birchwood Bluegill Winter Festival to sell items.

-Cards to shut-ins will be sent for Easter.

-Will revisit the kringle sale for a future event.

-Discussion of rummage sale in September. Perhaps rent a storage space to store items until that time.

-Funds approved for adding a closet to pastor's office.

-Discussed memorial garden and other plantings.

-The kitchen 8 cup coffee pot will be replaced.

-Women of Trinity Lutheran Church-Trinity Lutheran Church Women will be the title on the service booklet to align with the organizational name in the constitution.



be attending the treat at Camp For-Westboro Trinity service finished this week. meals are being

Next meeting will be Tuesday evening, April 13 at 6:30 PM.

April WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	April 4 (10 AM)	April 11 (10 AM)	April 18 (10 AM)	April 25 (10PM)
GREETERS	Kathy & Wally Thom	Betty Blanch	LeRoy Brensel	Kathy & Wally Thom
USHERS	Wes Mohns Rob Freeman	LeRoy Brensel Tom Svitak	Wally Thom Pat Mackey	Kyle Hubbard Kevin Sunderland
COMM. ASSTS	Kathy & Wally Thom	Karen Scott June Bibeau	Kathy Thom Brenda Mackey	Gelene Tabor Sue Svitak
READER	Karen Hayes	Dianne Buxton	Gloria Widiker	Donnarae Carrell

Women's Monday night bible study is held in the Trinity room at 6:00 pm.

We welcome all women at Trinity and the community to join us.

I look forward to the wonderful fellowship and friendship we have in Jesus.

God bless you!
Barb Kleven 715-834-9988



- | | |
|--|---|
| Jeremy Lobitz 4/2
Aurora Kolodzinski 4/5
Karisa Scribner 4/5
Donna Soper 4/5
Josh Brantner 4/7
David Dakins 4/9
Kaitlyn Roppe 4/10
Todd Hogen 4/11
Corbin Nordback 4/13
Mark Soper 4/13
Adam Anderson 4/14
Bradey Gottwald 4/14 | Amber Brantner 4/15
Brayden Anderson 4/17
Jody Anderson 4/17
Sharon Dhein 4/17
Don Subrt 4/17
Jim Gronberg 4/21
Chris Iverson 4/26
Selene Johnson 4/27
Pat Brenn 4/30
Kris Gottwald 4/30 |
|--|---|

WEEKLY TEXT STUDIES WITH PASTOR DAN

Want to help focus Pastor's sermon? Then come to the weekly text studies on Mondays at 1 pm, where Pastor and those present will dive into the Scripture texts for the coming Sunday.

Copies of the Scriptures are available outside Pastor's office door. Pick one up and join the text study



Meeting

NEXT MEETING OF . . .

- Birchwood Food Pantry Open 10:30-12:30pm. April 5, 17, 19**
- Worship & Music Team 10 am, Apr. 5**
- Women of Trinity 10am, Apr. 13**
- Trinity Council Meeting 6:30 pm, Apr. 20**

April 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2 OFFICE CLOSED	3
4 EASTER 10a - Worship	5 9:00 Quilters 10:00 WMMT Mtg 10:30a-12:30p—Food Pantry Open 1:00 pm Text Study 6p—Women's Bible Study-Trinity Rm 7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	6	7 5:30p-The Cross	8 10:00a—Women's Bible Study	9 OFFICE CLOSED	10
11 10a - Worship	12 9:00 Quilters 1:00 pm Text Study 6p—Women's Bible Study-Trinity Rm 7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	13 Women of Trinity Mtg - 6:30 pm	14 5:30p-The Cross	15 10:00a—Women's Bible Study	16 OFFICE CLOSED	17 10:30a-12:30p—Food Pantry Open
18 10a - Worship Love Fund/Food Pantry Offering	19 Journey Deadline 9:00 Quilters 10:30a-12:30p—Food Pantry Open 1:00 pm Text Study 6p—Women's Bible Study-Trinity Rm 7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	20 6:30p - Council Meeting	21 5:30p-The Cross	22 10:00a—Women's Bible Study	23 OFFICE CLOSED	24
25 10a - Worship Prayer Shawl Sunday	26 9:00 Quilters 1:00 pm Text Study 6p—Women's Bible Study-Trinity Rm 7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	27	28 5:30p-The Cross	29 10:00a—Women's Bible Study	30 OFFICE CLOSED	

Trinity Lutheran Church
501 E. Chetac Ave
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**APRIL SHOWERS BRING
MAY FLOWERS**



The JOURNEY

April 2021

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Daniel Tabor—Pastor

Julie Sunderland, Parish Administrator

Ashley Beffa, Youth & Family

Joanne Schilling, Choir Director

Betty Blanch & Donnarae Carrell, Custodians

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Sunday School 10 am (Sept - May)
Office Hours 8 - 11:30 am, 12:30 - 3:00pm (M-Th)
Bulletin deadline 9 am Tuesdays
JOURNEY deadline Monday - 3rd week of the month

SUNDAY WORSHIP THIS MONTH

04/4 - 10:00 am Easter Worship
04/11 — 10 am Worship w/ Communion
04/18 — 10 am Worship w/ Communion
— Love Fund Offering
04/25 — 10 am Sunday Worship w/
Communion- Prayer Shawl Sunday



KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

Debbie Davis	Joyce Lambrecht	Ro Sackmann
Barb Fegan	Rebecca Langham	Carter Sackmann
Annette Gentile	Ed Leader	Timothy Wallace
Dan Gowan	Lora	Elaine Yndestad
Andy Hedman	Sharon Mackey	Kathy Paquette
Barb Hinderman	Rusty Morrell	Donna Willis
Eunice Kuntz	Jim Pravda	
Roy Kuula	Tracy Reid	
Joan Kuula	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.