

The JOURNEY — Walking Daily with Jesus

From the Pastors Desk

“It is finished” (John 19:30. ESV)

I have been pondering these words of Jesus for quite some time. Those of you who have attended Bible Studies with me know that these three words of Jesus are the primary reason that I now follow the Lutheran understanding of the Scriptures. In my lifetime, I have belonged to several Christian faith traditions. In none of the traditions which I followed did I ever find assurance that I was saved. Each faith would demand that its followers would live their lives in a certain manner, or follow specific rules or regulations, so that they would earn God’s good graces, and earn their way to heaven.

It was not until I came to understand what Jesus meant when He said *“It is finished”* that I learned what true assurance was.

I once read a book titled “done.”, by Pastor Cary Schmidt. Pastor Schmidt’s premise was that there are only two religions in this whole world: “Do” and “Done.” The “Do” faiths always keep their followers busy with things which they must do in order to gain God’s approval, and thus earn ‘heaven.’

The ‘Done’ religion means just what the word says. “DONE. Finished. Complete. Full. Ended. Ready. Accomplished. Fulfilled, Perfected.” (quoted from *done*. pg. 18). And this is exactly what Jesus accomplished on the cross. *“It is finished.”* Everything that is needed so that you can have forgiveness of sin, salvation, and eternal life with God has been accomplished by His Son, Jesus Christ.. There is nothing that you can do to earn these things. Jesus has done it all, for you. Now that is true freedom!

In Jesus’ name

Pastor Dan

WHAT’S INSIDE

From Pastor’s Desk	1
Letter from Trinity President	2
Worship Assistants	3
August Birthdays & Anniversaries	3
Potluck	3
Next meeting of....	3
Choir	3
Creamed Corn Recipe	4
Stephen Ministry	4
VBS Wrap-Up	4
A Note from Pastor Barb	5
Women’s Tea	5
The Spotlight	6
Calendar	7



From the Council President:

On June 24th, the Benn Family sang Lauren Daigle's song "Rescue" on NBC's America's Got Talent show. The performance was beautiful and brought the judges and the audience to tears. The Benn's backstory was that their house, neighborhood and city were destroyed in the Eaton Canyon wildfire in California. Even though this family had gone through this loss, heartache, and dark times, they offered this song of hope and faith. Listen to the lyrics to this song as Jesus speaks to people going through hard times.

You are not hidden. There's never been a moment you were forgotten. You are not hopeless. Though you have been broken. Your innocence stolen. I hear you whisper underneath your breath. I hear your SOS, your SOS. I will send out an army to find you. In the middle of the darkest night. It's true, I will rescue you. There is no distance that cannot be covered. Over and over. You're not defenseless. I'll be your shelter. I'll be your armor. I hear you whisper underneath your breath. I will never stop marching to reach you. In the middle of the hardest fight. It's true, I will rescue you.

According to SongTell.com, the song Rescue conveys themes of hope, salvation, and the promise of support during life's darkest moments, emphasizing that no one is forgotten, and help is always available.

As I listened to this song, I thought of what was happening with the Kerr County Texas flooding and the dark times they are going through. The main theme in this song is *I (Christ) will send out an army to find you. In the middle of the night, He will rescue them. Christ has sent out an army of rescue workers to Texas including The Red Cross, Salvation Army, Samaritan's Purse, Convoy of Hope, and many more organizations. We are part of that army. We may not be physically able to go on-site to help the flood victims and their families. We can pray for their healing and recovery, and we can donate funds to the Texas Flood Relief. TLC serves as a collection site that sends your donations directly to local churches to aid physical, economic, and spiritual aid to those in need.*

This song also speaks out to those friends and family in our congregation and community that are going through times of pain, hopelessness, and darkness. If that is you, reach out for help.

You are not alone. Christ never leaves you or forsakes you.

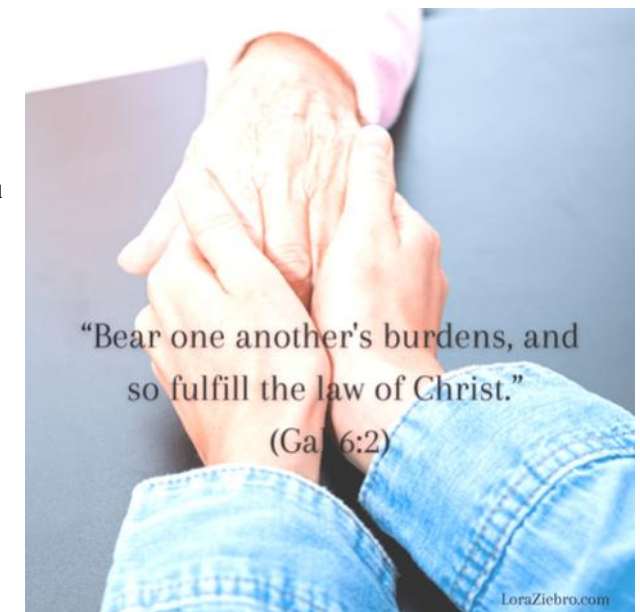
Trinity Lutheran Church is here for you. Our pastors are here for you. The Prayer Team is here to lift your requests up to Christ.

The TLC Stephen Ministry is here for you. A few Sundays ago, Pastor Dan talked about Galatians 6:2 "Bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ." It is TLC's mission to provide

care and support for our hurting members. Our Stephen Ministry potentially can assist with fulfilling this care. Unfortunately, at present we have many more people in our midst needing one to one Christian care than we have trained Stephen Ministers. The graphic shows how TLC's Mission is perfectly aligned with the actions of our Stephen Ministry. Each of these mission-focused actions can be found in our church constitution.

Fulfilling the goal of being able to give care to all those in need is up to every member of TLC. We are praying that the Holy Spirit will inspire members to become Stephen Minister Care Givers. The rest of us can support this ministry in prayer and financially. We need to build up Christ's Army here at TLC. Onward Christian Soldiers.

Jim McGraw





AUGUST-SUNDAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS



	Aug 3 9:00a	Aug 10 9:00a	Aug 17 9:00a	Aug 24 OUTDOOR Service 9:00a	Aug 31 9:00a
GREETERS	Terri Freeman	Joanne & Eldon Kvale	Brenda Mackey	John & Janet Schieffer	Dan & Jackie Healy
USHERS	Rob Freeman Wally Thom	Kevin Ploessl Steve Tracey	Tom Svitak Mike Capra		Kevin Ploessl NEED
COMML ASSTS	Ellen Ehrich	Dan Dahl	Pat Mackey		Ellen Ehrich
READER	Kathy Thom	Gloria Widiker	Sue Capra		Eric Anderson



8/12 Virginia Hurckman
8/14 Sandi David
8/15 John Schieffer
8/31 Rose Cutsforth



8/5 Kevin & Julie Sunderland
8/17 Scott & Hannah VanGilder
8/21 Eldon & Joanne Kvale
8/28 Mike & Sue Capra

SINGERS! Mark your calendars for **SEPT 3**, for our first choir rehearsal for the fall. If you sing in the pew, you are welcome to sing in the choir. Rehearsals are from 7 – 8:30 pm. The choir sings on the first and third Sundays of the month and the Praise Team sings on the second Sunday. Questions? Call Joanne Schilling at 715-651-4875.

BRUNCH POTLUCK

Calling all Lutherans!

You are invited to join in fellowship for our BRUNCH style potluck on **Aug 24** immediately following the outdoor 9 am service.

A sign-up sheet is at the Welcome Center in the narthex (lobby) to allow for a variety of dishes to share and for opportunity to help.

To ease the kitchen efforts, please bring any hot style meal items FULLY cooked. A quick re-warm in the oven is manageable.

Thank you! Women of Trinity Service Group #1 will host this month.

(If you don't know which Service Group you are in, pick up a Women of Trinity Handbook on the Welcome Center counter).

All other helpers are greatly appreciated!



Meeting

NEXT MEETING OF . . .

Birchwood Food Pantry Open. **Aug 4 & 21, 10:30-12:30pm**
Worship & Music Team. **Aug 4, 9:30a**
Christian Life Meeting. **Aug 4, 10:30a**
Women of Trinity **Aug 9, 10:00a**
Trinity Council Meeting **Aug 19, 6:30p**



Care Receivers Share How Their Stephen Ministers Made a Difference

Susan

Although my needs changed as I went from wife to caregiver to widow, my Stephen Minister's love and support remained a constant. She was there at every stage of my journey, helping me through some of the most difficult moments of my life—so I could begin to heal.

James

When things seemed like too much to handle, my Stephen Minister brought normalcy and calm. With him by my side, I knew I could make it from one week to the next. I could feel God's presence when my Stephen Minister was there.

Ralph

*My Stephen Minister was a consistent presence walking with me throughout my divorce. He would always show up, **and most importantly, he refused to give up on me.** I'll forever be grateful for the way he changed my life.*

Ashley

When I was with my Stephen Minister, I felt Jesus was with me. I saw the love of God in her eyes while we talked and prayed, and it would fill me with such comfort and peace. It helped me know that I could make it through.

Stephen Ministry is a lay caring ministry being used by more than 13,000 congregations worldwide to increase care and outreach to hurting people.

Through Stephen Ministry, congregations are able to equip and empower a team of laypeople—Stephen Ministers—who provide one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people experiencing grief, health issues, divorce, spiritual crisis, job loss, infertility, or other life difficulties. Since Stephen Ministry began in 1975, millions of people have received care from a Stephen Minister.

Rudy's Slow-Cooker Creamed Corn

As Made by Dave Dakins

Sweet and tender corn in a rich cream sauce is the ultimate side dish. Recipe gently adapted from and with thanks to Bluebonnet Baker.

Servings: 8 servings

Ingredients

Calories: 305kcal

32 ounces frozen corn

8 ounces cream cheese cut into 1" cubes 1/3 cup heavy cream

1/4 cup butter

2 tablespoons sugar

1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

1/4 teaspoon kosher salt be careful not to over salt

Instructions

1. Combine all ingredients in the crock-pot and cook on low for 4 hours. Stir to combine and make sure the cream cheese has completely melted into the sauce.

2. The finished corn will hold nicely on low (or on warm, if your Crock-Pot has that setting) for another hour or two without a problem. Enjoy!



TRUE NORTH VBS at Trinity was the ultimate Alaskan adventure where northern lights glow over majestic mountains, racing rivers, and glistering glaciers. As kids trekked the tundra of TRUE NORTH VBS, they explored how easy it is to lose sight of what's true in our wild world today. Pointing them toward Jesus, TRUE NORTH VBS showed them that he is a faithful friend we can always trust. He's our True North!

We had 34 participants ranging from PK to grade 5 and 30 volunteers during our week, June 16-20. As part of TRUE NORTH VBS, the VBS kids had the chance to raise money to provide brand-new warm clothes and blankets for kids in North America. through Operation Kid-to-Kid, a partnership between World Vision and Group Publishing VBS program. A \$5 donation can provide up to \$70 worth of brand-new warm clothes and blankets for a child in North America! At the end of the week, the kids had donated \$224.00 and at Sunday's worship another \$200.00 was collected in a special offering, for a total of \$424.00.

Many, many, many thanks to all the volunteers, to the Lions Club for their generous donation, and to the children and members of the Trinity Family who donated towards Operation Kid-to-Kid.

A very special Thank You to the Decorating Team – Sue and Tom Svitak, Wally Thom, Rob Freeman, Mike Rubin – the décor was incredible! This year's set pieces will be used by First Lutheran Church in Rice Lake, followed by Chapel Heights Methodist Church in Eau Claire!

From Pastor Barb....

August is here! Summer is going by fast! Some of our Trinity members live on lake property, and we know how busy that can be. It was a delight having our children come and visit during the past two months and enjoy the lake with us.

One very special highlight from this summer was VBS. Our son and family came from Virginia, and their 4 yr. old twins absolutely enjoyed coming to VBS! They are still asking their mommy and daddy to keep playing the inspirational songs that they sang, and they can't wait for next summer to attend! What amazing outreach VBS has been to all of our children! Many thanks to all who made that possible!

I'm grateful for the Bible Studies that have continued throughout the summer here at Trinity. I particularly am thankful for our Sunday morning Bible Study at 8:00 where we read and talk about the Bible texts that are read that very day in our church service! What's really nice about this is that the Sunday texts are available for us to read the week before. You can find them by our church office located in a container hanging on the wall by the Trinity (choir) room. Rolf and I use these texts as devotional readings throughout the week to be familiar with them for the following Sunday. Please consider joining one of our weekly Bible Studies. Studying God's Word strengthens faith and friendships!

It's amazing to see all the people that contribute to making our church grounds beautiful! The men take turns mowing and our lawn always looks well cared for, and aren't all of our flower barrels and entry flowers pretty! A couple of weeks ago I saw one of our members, who had just told

me that she hates working in the sun, working diligently in a sunny spot pulling weeds by our church entryway, because no one had signed up to weed that spot! She wore a cute sun hat and gloves and diligently filled her bucket with pesky, ugly weeds.



Now that part of our entryway looks beautiful! The look of joy and determination on her face made me want to find a bucket and start pulling weeds! It doesn't take much to keep our church beautiful when we all pitch in!!!! Please consider caring for and brightening one of the corners of our church yard for ½ an hour or so. It brings pride and satisfaction to those who volunteer and delight to those who walk by and see how nice it looks! Perhaps you need to find your niche here at Trinity. Come along and find the satisfaction it brings to come along side others to make our church a wonderful place to be inside and out.

Proverbs 11:25

"A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed."

Peace and joy be with you! - Pastor Barb

August 2025

Women's Tea-"God, Girlfriend's & Chocolate

This years women's tea was another great success! Packed full, it was a day with an inspirational speaker, Gaye Lindfors filled with faith, fellowship and food.



Trinity Lutheran Church Spotlight

Each month we will highlight a TLC member and learn more about them - their background, any hobbies or little known facts they might like to share!

Name: Elaine Ploessl

Place of Birth: Palatine, Illinois

of Siblings: 1, my favorite sister Ellen

How did you meet your spouse? I was working in the BioProducts lab at ADM in Decatur, Illinois and Kevin was working in the refinery. Kevin would bring in samples to test. We started talking and he asked me out to breakfast after work on the 3rd shift on July 1st. We were married June 30th, 2006.

How long have you been married? 19 years

Kids? Kevin had two children, Nick and Luke. I am the evil stepmother, in a good way. We have our first grandchild on the way around the end of August.

What are some jobs you've had? I started out at McDonald's when I turned 16 and worked there for 16 years. I worked in retail at Fashion Bug for 2 years and then at Sarah Bush Lincoln hospital for another 2 years. Finally, I ended up at ADM as a lab tech at Bio Products then the lab manager at Vitamin E totaling 19 years. I retired early to take care of my mom (June Ehrich) after she broke her hip.

Hobbies: I enjoy fishing, even if I don't catch anything, quilting on Mondays and the many other church activities I am involved in.

Fun Fact: In high school I played the clarinet and marched in the Rose Bowl parade. In college I had two radio shows. One radio show was on Tuesday morning and the other was a heavy metal show on Friday or Saturday night which I shared with my first husband.



Trinity Lutheran Church Spotlight

Name: Ellen Ehrich

Place of Birth: I was born in Palatine, IL and spent the majority of my life in Chicago and the Chicago suburbs.

of Siblings: Just the one pictured next to me!

Kids (or nieces/nephews)/Grand/Great-Grands: Evil Step-Aunt to 2 young adults - Nick and Luke Ploessl.

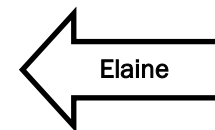
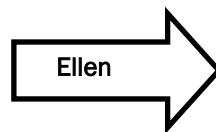
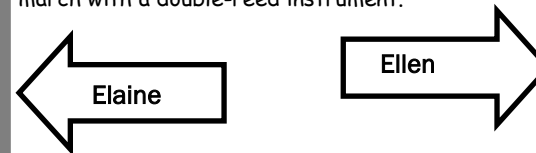
What did you want to be when you grew up? A teacher like most young girls, but I majored in Finance and minored in German. This somehow led me to a life in corporate insurance where I am currently a casualty underwriter insuring Fortune 1000 companies for catastrophic loss.

Where are some places you've traveled? I was blessed to spend a semester in Graz, Austria my senior year of college. This allowed me to also travel to Turkey, Italy, Germany (East and West), Switzerland, and France. Additionally, my high school band was provided the opportunity to play for the Queen of Denmark in Copenhagen.

What are some jobs you've had? The best was working side-by-side with my sister at McDonald's while in high school. I then moved on to making chocolate pizzas for the Long Grove Confectionary my senior year. Great perks - we could eat all the chocolate rejects!

Hobbies: Hmmmm, I've heard that word before, I haven't been spending much time in this area recently. I do enjoy golf and was active with Pilates and spin classes before moving to Wisconsin.

Fun Fact: I won the John Philip Sousa award in high school where I played the oboe. For marching band, I played the cymbals and bells - because you can't march with a double-reed instrument.



August 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 OFFICE CLOSED	2
3 8a Text Study 9a Worship w/ communion	4 9:00a WMMT mtg 10:30 Christian Life mtg 3:30p Women's Bible Study 7p AA, Fellowship Hall	5	6 8:30a Prayer	7 10:15a Women's Bible Study 6:30p Divine Drama	8 OFFICE CLOSED	9 10:00am WOT mtg
10 8a Text Study 9a Worship w/ communion	11 9a Quilters 3:30p Women's Bible Study 7p AA, Fellowship Hall	12 1:00p Stephen Ministry Mtg	13 6:30a Men's Bible study 8:30a Prayer	14 10:15a Women's Bible Study 6:30p Divine Drama	15 OFFICE CLOSED	16
17 9a Worship w/ communion Love Fund/Food Pantry Offering	18 9a Quilters 10:30a-12:30p—Food Pantry Open 3:30p Women's Bible Study 7p AA, Fellowship Hall	19 6:30p Council mtg Journey Deadline	20 8:30a Prayer	21 10:15a Women's Bible Study 6:30p Divine Drama	22 OFFICE CLOSED	23
24 8a Text Study 9a Worship w/ communion Last Outdoor service Potluck to follow service	25 9a Quilters 3:30p Women's Bible Study 7p AA, Fellowship Hall	26 9:30a Blood Mobile 6:00p BAHS mtg	27 8:30a Prayer	28 10:15a Women's Bible Study 6:30p Divine Drama	29 OFFICE CLOSED	30
31 8a Text Study 9a Worship w/ communion						

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

Join us for last
Outdoor Worship &
Potluck-Aug 24



The JOURNEY **August 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)

♦ 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

Aug 3 — 9:00a worship service w/communion

Aug 10 — 9:00a worship service w/communion

Aug 17 — 9:00a worship service w/communion

**Aug 24 — 9:00a Last OUTDOOR worship service
(weather permitting) Potluck to follow service**

Aug 31— 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.