

The JOURNEY — Walking Daily with Jesus

WHAT'S INSIDE

From the Pastor's Desk

December 2024 Journey

“He who testifies to these things says, ‘Surely I am coming soon.’ Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.” (Revelation 22: 20-21, ESV)

As I am writing this note I realize that we are one week away from Advent. This season is one in which this world is looking for the coming of the baby Jesus. They will sing of “Peace on earth, Goodwill toward men,” without understanding that the “peace” that they seek is really delivered at the cross, where God and people are finally reconciled with each other.

As believers, we must admit that the “incarnate Christ,” that is, God coming to walk among us as Man, is a miracle which is fully worthy of our focus during this season of Advent. God’s perfect gift, Jesus Christ, “God with us,” is truly a wonder to behold.

But the greater event that we look forward to during this Advent season is Christ’s return to take His Church from this earthly realm and bring us to that great wedding feast with Him in heaven. And Jesus is coming! He has promised this in the last few words of Scripture, *“Surely I am coming soon.”* This is the coming of Jesus that we await as we look to that Day when *“...the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore, encourage one another with these words.”* (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18)

So, in this Year of Our Lord, 2024, you and I will again be blessed to spend time celebrating the arrival of God’s plan for our salvation, found in the first coming of His promised Son, And as we sing “Joy to the World,” let us also echo the plea of the Apostle John in Revelation 22: *“Come, Lord Jesus!”*

“The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all.” May you have a blessed Advent, and a very Blessed Christmas. Amen.

In Christ, Pastor Dan

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From the Council President:

On my journey through the Bible, this week's readings brought me to the Old Testament prophets that lived during the time of the return of the Jewish exiles to Jerusalem and the rebuilding of the temple. These prophets and priests were not only led to rebuild the physical church building but felt it led to building up the people's faith through the reading of The Word. What can we learn from these prophets? We know that scriptures are eternal. They were written many years ago but also pertain to our times. Romans 15:4 explains this. "For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. "

Here is what stirred my heart. "Then spake Haggai the LORD's messenger in the LORD's message unto the people, saying, I am with you, saith the LORD. And the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and did work in the house of the LORD of hosts, their God, "Haggai 1:13-14 KJV

The Holy Spirit stirred up the church leaders. He stirred up the priests and He stirred up the congregation to do God's work in the church. Best of all, God was present working right alongside helping them.

I see daily evidence of these same things happening at Trinity Lutheran Church in Birchwood, Wisconsin. The Holy Spirit has and continues to stir us. I see new members and visitors in worship. I see our ministry teams and volunteers bring new events and activities to minister to those both in our church and outside. I witness the anointing of the Holy Spirit on the preaching and shepherding from our pastors. And I see a difference in all of you.

As we celebrate Advent and Christmas, I am thankful for family and friends. I am thankful for all who make our worship meaningful and uplifting. Thanks for all of you who make Trinity Lutheran Church warm, inviting and a place visitors like to return to. I am thankful for the prayers of this congregation and God's faithfulness to answer our prayers. I am thankful that TLC is ministering to the lost and hurting. And most of all I am thankful for what we all heard at our baptism, "Child of God, you are sealed with the Cross of Christ forever."

After the COVID pandemic, many Christian brothers and sisters (exiles) have not returned to their churches. We all miss them and hope they return to their churches. We also know many of our neighbors have never heard the great news of Christ's love and grace for them. May the Holy Spirit stir up their hearts.

During this time of celebrating Advent and Christmas, let us make it a time of sharing our faith. A time of inviting family, friends, and neighbors to join us for Christmas Worship Services. A time of tradition. Listening to the great music of the Christmas Canata. The fun of singing Christmas Carols at the Christmas Eve service. A time of gathering together.

"Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever! Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom He has redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south." Psalm 107

Have a Happy and Blessed Christmas,

Jim McGraw



DECEMBER-SUNDAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS



	Dec 1 9:00a	Dec 8 9:00a	Dec 15 9:00a	Dec 22 9:00a	Dec 29 9:00a
GREETERS	Terri Freeman	Char Mohns	Karen Scott	Alyce Tracey	Marcia Kamp
USHERS	Wally Thom Rob Freeman	Wes Mohns Janet Schieffer	Janet Schieffer Kevin Ploessl	Steve Tracey Janet Schieffer	Wally Thom
COMM. ASSTS	Dan Dahl	Ellen Ehrich	Pat Mackey	Joanne Schilling	No Communion
READER	Kathy Thom	Eric Anderson	Gloria Widiker	Tabor Grandchildren	Ellen Ehrich
Advent Candle	Chad & Bailly Prebble	Kathy & Wally Thom	Pat & Brenda Mackey	Jackie & Dan Healy	



12/1 Sue & Tom Svitak



12/5 Stacy Kolodzinski
12/6 Betty Blanch
12/6 Wally Thom
12/13 Rolf Kleven
12/14 Eldon Kvale
12/15 Amber Beffa
12/16 Karen Scott
12/18 Donna Willis
12/27 Ellen Ehrich
12/29 Joan Fuller

Snacks & Facts

2 pm, Tue. 12/10

The ARDC will be speaking on
Mental Health First Aid.



Coffee, Cinnamon Rolls, Chili, Cornbread and Crafts— OH MY!!

During the Birchwood Christmas Fest on December 7, Trinity Lutheran Church will be selling coffee and cinnamon rolls starting at 9 AM, with chili and cornbread plus desserts starting at 10:30 AM. Crafts will also be available for a free-will donation.



Meeting

NEXT MEETING OF . . .

Birchwood Food Pantry Open.Dec. 2 & 16, 10:30-12:30pm
Worship & Music Team.Dec. 2, 9:00am
Women of TrinityDec. 14, 10:00am
Trinity Council MeetingDec 17, 6:30pm
Men's Ministry of TrinityDec. 19, 6:30pm

Message from our Associate Pastor Barb

“THEY WERE AMAZED!” Luke 2:17 & 18

“¹⁷ When they had seen Him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

What a spectacular event when the shepherds spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child. All who heard it WERE AMAZED! Their MESSIAH was born!

Perhaps the very sheep that the shepherd were attending to in the field that night were to be used as the sacrifice to atone for their sins!

The words of Charles Wesley’s hymn, Come Thou Long Expected Jesus, tells of the wonderful strength and hope that we have in our Savior, Jesus Christ.

*Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.
Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.*

This hymn reminds us that Jesus came to free us from our fears and sins so that we can find rest in Him! He brings the greatest hope, desire, and joy. The birth of Jesus is still amazing, just as it was for the shepherds! In His birth, God came to earth to become a man to live as a human, be tempted in every way as we are tempted, yet without sin.

During this Christmas season, let us find peace in remembering the real meaning of Christmas. JESUS IS the REASON for the SEASON. He came:

To reveal His love and to save Sinners John 3:16; 1 Timothy 1:15
To dispel darkness- John 12:46 & save those who are lost.
To Bear Witness to the Truth- John 18:37
To Destroy the Devil and His Works Hebrews 2:14 1 John 3:8
To Give Eternal Life- John 6:51
To Bring Great Joy- Luke 2:10 & peace- Ephesians 2:14-18
To Die a be a Ransom for Many- John 12:24-27; Mark 10:45
To Bind Up Broken Hearts and Comfort those who Mourn- Isaiah 61:1-3
To Satisfy Our Deepest Thirst- John 4:13-14

Have a blessed and wonderful Christmas!
Pastor Barb

Women of Trinity – November Happenings

What a vibrant and energetic church we are blessed with! So many wonderful Fall and Christmas events are coming up.

Thanks to everyone who participated in our first Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Packing event – whether you donated items, packed a box, sent a shipping donation or prayed for the children! It was a wonderful time of fellowship, and we were thrilled to pack 41 boxes this year. The boxes will go to the collection center, Maranatha Church, in Rice Lake during their receiving dates of November 18-25. From there the boxes go to Illinois and then to the country designated. We will follow our shoeboxes and will let you know the country to which they are assigned. Please pray for the children who receive a box to know the love of Jesus!

We are in high gear for the annual Christmas Fest Chili Lunch and Craft Sale! We will be purchasing the ingredients and plan to meet December 4th to cook and set up the Fellowship Hall. Many thanks to Dan and Sherry Berekvam for donating the delicious cinnamon rolls and to Thrivent for their donation at the event! Cindy Rubin will set out a sign-up sheet for the various volunteer roles – please consider donating your time to this wonderful event. All proceeds go to the organizations that Women of Trinity support!

Upcoming Dates of Note:

December 4 – Make chili and set up for Christmas Fest Chili and Craft Sale at 9am
December 7 – Christmas Fest Chili and Craft Sale
A poster will be created to show the many organizations WOT donate to from the proceeds of these sales.
December 7 – Red Cedar Choir Concert at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church at 2pm and 7pm.
December 10 – Snacks and Facts at 2pm (ADRC’s Julie Bever will present on “A Healthy Mind” – perfect for this busy season!)
December 14 – WOT Meeting followed by pizza!
We will fill cookie boxes for shut-ins and set up for the Bake Sale
December 15 – Bake Sale
December 15 – Christmas Cantata at 2pm with dessert reception and Bake Sale

CALLING ALL WOMEN OF TRINITY! Our next meeting is December 14th at 10:00am! Please join us for fellowship, support of our sisters and our church, and planning future events!

*Women
of
Trinity*



Stewardship

At the Trinity Lutheran Church Thursday Bible Study, entitled Divine Drama, we recently reviewed how we relate to the world that God has created. God created heaven and earth, and all things. He created each one of us. The entire world still belongs to God, as does each of us...we are His...our minds, our bodies, our families, and all our things. Everything we have is a blessing from God.

Luke 12:16-21 (Good News Translation)

¹⁶ Then Jesus told them this parable: "There was once a rich man who had land which bore good crops. ¹⁷ He began to think to himself, 'I don't have a place to keep all my crops. What can I do? ¹⁸ This is what I will do,' he told himself; 'I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, where I will store the grain and all my other goods. ¹⁹ Then I will say to myself, Lucky man! You have all the good things you need for many years. Take life easy, eat, drink, and enjoy yourself!'

²⁰ But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night you will have to give up your life;

The question is: we all will leave behind our earthly goods. What we have been given to use, including our bodies, will remain here until after we die.

If we have been blessed with good lives, wealth and riches, we should recognize that all these blessing have been given to us to use, and to share.

As we head into the Christmas season, count, and share, your blessings.



Make Quilt Tops at Home

Do you enjoy sewing but aren't able to join us on Mondays for quilting? Here's your chance to get involved at home and still make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate.

If you're interested in sewing blocks together, grab a bag with the pre-cut squares (5-1/2" or 10-1/2") and follow the included directions. Once sewn together, return the finished top to one of the quilters or to Julie in the office. We'll then add batting¹ back it, stitch it closed, tie it, and add it to the rest of the beautiful quilts sent to Lutheran World Relief.

We'd love to have you be a part of the quilting group, even if you're not able to join us in person.

Quilting is held every Monday throughout the year in the Fellowship Hall starting at 9 a.m. If, by chance, you're able to join us and plan to stay into the afternoon, bring a lunch.

Mark your calendars for the Christmas Concert, *The Ballad of Bethlehem*, on December 15, at 2 PM at Trinity Lutheran Church. Ballads can tell the meaningful stories of our faith through music. The timeless story of Christmas is alive once more in this stunning cantata that dramatically moves from a recollection of ancient prophecies through the quiet manger scene to its joyous conclusion. This season, let this folk-like energy bring the birth of Christ to you. "O sing a ballad of Bethlehem. I want to hear it once more. I love that story so often told to generations before."



HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR JESUS!

The season of Advent, meaning “the coming” or “the arrival” of our Lord Jesus Christ, begins December 1.

The plan was made during our Worship and Music Team meeting to pull Christmas décor out of storage and stage it in the respective locations for decorating. This happens immediately after the service on December 1.

On Monday, December 2 at 9 am, please come help beautify the church for the many celebrations taking place during the month of December. This will include the main tree, indoor and outdoor mangers, banners, wreaths, poinsettias, etc.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

December 1

- stage all Christmas décor after service

December 2

- decorate the church 9am

Lefse Potatoes, Fun and Fellowship



Adopt-A-Family Christmas Tree

The tree is up and tags for four families are on the tree. Please pick a tag and purchase a gift for a child in need. Wrap the gift and place the tag on the gift. Please return the gifts by Sunday, December 8th. Birchwood schools will pick up the gifts on Monday, December 9th.



We will also have family boxes for each family. We are looking for items the family can share together such as games, hot chocolate and holiday items. If you aren't a shopper, we will have a donation box and will do the shopping for you.

The Adopt-A-Family tree has been a long standing successful outreach program for many years providing a joyful Christmas for children who may not have much this season. Thank you all for continued generosity. We have a very giving and blessed congregation.

Many thanks,

Mission and Outreach



December 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 1st Sunday in Advent 8a Text Study 9a Worship w/communion	2 9:00a Quilters 10 a WMMT Mtg 10:30a-12:30p—Food Pantry Open 3:30p Women's Bible Study 7p AA, Fellowship Hall	3 11:30a Mission & Outreach	4 6:30a Men's Bible study 9:00a Make chili, Christmas Fest set up 6:30p Midweek Advent Service 7:15p Cantata Reh 8:15p PT Rehearsal	5 10a Women's Bible Study 6p Divine Drama	6 OFFICE CLOSED	7 9a—2p Christmas Fest
8 2nd Sunday in Advent 8a Text Study 9a Worship w/communion	9 9:00a Quilters 10 a WMMT Mtg 10:30a-12:30p—Food Pantry Open 3:30p Women's Bible Study 7p AA, Fellowship Hall	10 2p Snacks & Facts	11 6:30p Midweek Advent Service 7:15p Cantata Reh 8:15p Choir Rehearsal	12 10a Women's Bible Study 6p Divine Drama	13 OFFICE CLOSED	14 8a Cantata Rehearsal 10a WOT Mtg Fill Cookie boxes Setup for Bake Sale
15 3rd Sunday in Advent 8a Text Study 9a Worship w/communion Bake Sale 2p Christmas Cantata/ Reception to follow Love Fund/Food Pantry Offering	16 9a Quilters 3:30p Women's Bible Study 7p AA, Fellowship Hall Journey Deadline	17 6:30p Council Meeting	18 6:30a Men's Bible study 6:30p Midweek Advent Service 7:15p Choir Rehearsal	19 10a Women's Bible Study 6p Divine Drama Assemble Journey for January	20 OFFICE CLOSED	21
22 4th Sunday in Advent 8a Text Study 9a Worship w/communion Prayer Shawl Sunday	23 9a Quilters 10:30a-12:30p—Food Pantry Open 3:30p Women's Bible Study 7p AA, Fellowship Hall	24 Christmas Eve Service 6:30p OFFICE CLOSED	25 Christmas Morning Service 9:00a OFFICE CLOSED	26 10a Women's Bible Study 6p Divine Drama 6:30p Men's Ministry Mtg	27 OFFICE CLOSED	28
29 8a Text Study 9a Worship	30 9a Quilters 3:30p Women's Bible Study 7p AA, Fellowship Hall	31				

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

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**ATTEND ADVENT SERVICES
MIDWEEK AT 6:30PM**



The JOURNEY December 2024

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

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.



December Worship Services

- Dec 1 — Worship w/communion @ 9 am**
Dec 4 — Midweek Advent Service @ 6:30pm
Dec 8 — Worship w/communion @ 9 am
Dec 11 — Midweek Advent Service @ 6:30pm
Dec 15 — Worship w/communion @ 9 am
Dec 18 — Midweek Advent Service @ 6:30pm
Dec 22— Worship w/communion @ 9 am
Dec 24 — Christmas Eve Worship @ 6:30pm
Dec 25 — Christmas Day Worship @9 am
Dec 29— Worship @ 9 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.