

# The JOURNEY — Walking Daily with Jesus

## From the Pastor's Desk

### December 2022 Journey

*“He who testifies to these things say, ‘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 the world is looking for the coming of the baby Jesus. We as believers must admit that the “incarnate Christ,” His coming to walk among us as God/Man is a miracle that we focus on as well in Advent. God’s perfect gift, Jesus Christ, “God with us,” is truly a wonder to behold.

But the true event that we look forward to this Advent season is Christ’s return to take His Church from this earthly realm and bring us to that great wedding feast 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, we spend time this season celebrating the fulfillment of God’s plan of salvation for us found in the first coming of Jesus Christ. *“Immanuel, (which means, God with us.)”* as we read in Matthew 1: 23, is the promise that God has indeed come to walk among us, as one with us. Let us all 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, P.D.

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### Letter From Trinity President

We are already in Advent season and one of my favorite things about Advent is the symbolism of the Advent wreath and the lighting of the candles. As usual I went online to one of my trusted websites, Crosswalk.com to read about the subject. Laura Ritchie wrote *The Advent Wreath & Candles - Meaning, Symbolism and History*- November 2, 2021. The first candle symbolizes **hope** and is called the "Prophet's Candle." The prophets of the Old Testament, especially Isaiah, **waited in hope for the Messiah's arrival**. The purple color symbolizes royalty, repentance, and fasting. The second candle represents **faith** and is called "Bethlehem's Candle." Micah had foretold that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, which is also the birthplace of King David. The second candle is also purple to symbolize **preparation for the coming king**. The third candle symbolizes **joy** and is called the "Shepherd's Candle." To the shepherd's great joy, the angels announced that Jesus came for humble, unimportant people like them, too. In liturgy, the color rose signifies joy. This candle is colored pink to represent **joyfulness and rejoicing**. The fourth candle represents **peace** and is called the "Angel's Candle." The angels announced that Jesus came to bring peace—**He came to bring people close to God and to each other again**. This color is also purple to represent the culmination of love through the Messiah.

You will notice in the descriptions of the symbolism of these candles, we both look back at Jesus coming at Christmas but also the expectation of His second coming. We can really relate to the hope, love, joy, and peace that the shepherds, wise men, angels and especially Joseph and Mary felt at the fulfillment of prophecy at Christ's birth. Scripture tells us Christ's second coming will be so much greater for us. Most pastors and bible scholars will tell us that we are very close to the Second Coming. Some say this is the end times, but this is a false term for

Christians. God's Kingdom is eternal, never ending. The Advent wreath in the form of a circle represents the never-ending Kingdom of Heaven.

If you are like me, we tend to celebrate the past and not so much the future. History and tradition do led us to a better future. With the promise of Christ's coming just around the corner, it is the church's purpose to prepare for and tell others of His eminent return and His gathering of all the believers to Heaven. We do that through the ministries here at TLC. At the Annual Meeting in November, the members were urged to fill out the Time and Talent sheet and return them to the church office. It is crucial that we have volunteers to work in the various ministries we have at TLC. Even if you are physically unable to serve on some ministry roles, there are some church needs you can help us out with. If you have questions about a ministry, contact the ministry leader or the church office. A Council Roster is posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex with contact information. Many people have told Pastor Dan, Council members and myself that they feel the Holy Spirit moving at TLC. God has given each of us unique and wonderful gifts of talent, skills, and finances for the advancement of His Kingdom now and into the future. May God bless TLC and each one of us as we do our part in fulfilling His vision and plan.

**Jim McGraw**



**December WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

	<b>Dec 4 10:00 am</b>	<b>Dec 7 6:30 pm</b>	<b>Dec 11 10:00 am</b>	<b>Dec 14 6:30 pm</b>	<b>Dec 18 10:00am</b>	<b>Dec 21 6:30 pm</b>	<b>Dec 24 Christmas Eve 6:30 pm</b>	<b>Dec 25 Christmas Day 10:00 a</b>
<b>GREETERS</b>	Terri Freeman		Joanne & Eldon Kvale		Brenda Mackey		Connie Dahl	Betty Blanch
<b>USHERS</b>	Rob Freeman Wally Thom	NEED 1	LeRoy Brensel Need 1	Need 1	Wes Mohns Need 1	Need 1	LeRoy Brensel Mike Capra	Janet & John Schieffer
<b>COMM. ASSTS</b>	Kathy Thom		No Communion		Pat Mackey		June Bibeau	Joanne Schilling
<b>READER</b>	Sue Capra	Donnarae Carrell	Eric Anderson	Need	Gloria Widiker	Ellen Ehrich	Dan Dahl	Gelene Tabor



Jackie Rich 12/02  
 Kevin Kotel 12/02  
 Tyler Marcinske 12/03  
 Bob Skar 12/03  
 Jason Ivers 12/04  
 Stacy Kolodzinski 12/05  
 Anne Gilbertson 12/06  
 Lauren Gustafson 12/06  
 Betty Blanch 12/06  
 Wally Thom 12/06  
 LeRoy Brensel 12/08

Logan Saldana 12/10  
 Eldon Kvale 12/14  
 Cody Rurup 12/15  
 Karen Scott 12/16  
 Donna Willis 12/18  
 Brian Russ 12/20  
 Pete Baribeau 12/24  
 John Will 12/26  
 Joan Fuller 12/29  
 Brody Rurup 12/30



The Church office will be closed on Dec. 26, 2022 in observance of Christmas, & also on Jan 2, 2023, in observance of New Years.



Do you have insurance through Thrivent Financial? Please consider directing your 'Choice Dollars' to Trinity Lutheran Church. 2202 Choice Dollars can be directed now and must be done before March 31, 2023.

Meeting

**NEXT MEETING OF . . .**

**Birchwood Food Pantry Open . . . . . 10:30-12:30pm Dec 5, 19**

**Worship & Music Team . . . . . Dec 5, 10:00 am**

**Women of Trinity . . . . . Dec 9, 10:00 pm**

**Trinity Council Meeting . . . . . Dec 13, 6:30 pm**

**Men's Ministry of Trinity . . . . . Dec 15, 6:30 pm**



## Men's Ministry of Trinity

The last month of the year, where has this year gone. However, our ministry can say we have been busy with our gifts the Lord has blessed us with. I recently read a sign in a local restaurant that read “Your talent is God’s gift to you, what you do with it is your gift to God” no truer words have been spoken. As the men's ministry continues to realize our potential, we also are humbled by the greatest gift of all, the forgiveness of our sins.

This year has brought together the men of our church family in many different ways. We have worked together in the acquisition and moving of a garage which will become an intricate part of future outdoor activities and much needed storage. The prep for the foundation is in place but the weather will delay the concrete pour, probably until spring. We have removed and replaced the two main sidewalks leading into the sanctuary and fellowship hall which will be a much safer entry into the building. Let’s not forget we have cooked and served meals in the fellowship hall which is a little out of our wheel house but together we made it happen with happy heart.

As we prepare for the winter weather there is a need for snow shoveling at the church. Kevin Sunderland is putting together shoveling teams to take on a week at a time. The more teams, the less times your team will need to shovel. Consider being part of the snow men and contact Kevin or Julie in the office.

The Christmas season is approaching and many activities are taking place at the church, like Advent meals, Advent services, Church decorating, gift giving and the most important event of all, the birth of our Savior. Become part of the church family and feel the joy that makes Trinity Lutheran so wonderful.

Merry Christmas and have a blessed New Year.  
Yours in Christ,  
Wally Thom



## Christmas Fest

Christmas Fest will be held at various places in downtown Birchwood on Saturday Dec 3, from 10-3 pm. Trinity Lutheran will be hosting some of the vendors in the fellowship hall. The Women of Trinity will be selling chili, cornbread, chips and bars during the event. Come join us !



The Trinity Cantata Choir has been rehearsing the past two months on a Christmas musical, *Lead Me Back to Bethlehem*. The musical will be performed on Sunday, December 11, at the 10 am worship service, with a Bake Sale before and after the service.

Written by Pepper Choplin, it leads us through this Bethlehem story using carols, familiar folk songs with new seasonal texts, and original music and narrative. Rediscover the joy, peace, and love that Christmas offers to all of us.

### ADOPT -A-FAMILY

Hopefully by the arrival of the Journey in your mailbox the Adopt-A-Family tree will be sitting in the narthex! On its Charlie Brown branches will be hanging many paper ornaments. On those ornaments will be a child's gender, age and that child's wished-for present. Each family has the same shaped ornament. The tags are important! It's about the only way we have to keep track of who gets what. The family's presents are brought to the school and then the parents are in charge of taking our "tags" off and putting their own on with their child's name on it.

**Presents need to be under the tree in the narthex AT THE VERY LATEST: Sunday, December 18th!**

I've said the same thing every year and for many years only because it is true! TRINITY never fails when it comes to giving!

I feel up to the challenge and I hope the rest of Trinity feels the same. Again, ALL presents (with "our tag" taped on them) must be here at the church no later than Sunday December 18.



**Congratulations & Welcome to our new members who joined Trinity**  
**Sherri Berekvam, Margaret Buchanan, Jennifer Larson**

*The Red Cedar Choir Presents:*

**“A Merry Little Christmas”**

*Beth Joosten, Director*  
*Barbara Lancaster, Pianist*

*Also featuring:*  
*Holiday Brass, Bethany Belles, & Guest Instrumentalists*

**Sunday, December 4, 2022**  
**2:00 & 4:00 p.m.**  
**St. Joseph’s Catholic Church**  
**111 West Marshall Street**  
**Rice Lake, WI**  
**Free Will Donation**

Hubbard Middle School Eau Claire BARRON COUNTY

### Women of Trinity Annual Christmas Bake Sale

Mark your calendars for December 11 as that is the date of our annual Christmas bake sale. (Also, the performance of the Cantata is this day.)

We will be accepting contributions of baked goods on Thursday, December 8, between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., which are the office hours. Items may also be dropped off Friday morning, December 9, at 10:00. We will be preparing the goodies for sale on Friday after our December Women of Trinity monthly meeting.

Please accept my thanks for your generous contributions. Proceeds go to funding our end of year donations to area charities.

Blessings to all, Cindy Rubin  
WOT President





### *Women of Trinity*



#### Women of Trinity Happenings—November, 2022

Lefse making will be November 18 and sold before and after church on 11/20

Chili lunch during Christmas Fest on December 3<sup>rd</sup>

Women of Trinity will serve the Advent meal on December 7<sup>th</sup>

Christmas bake sale will be December 11. Items need to be a church on the 8<sup>th</sup> or on the 9<sup>th</sup> after 9:30.

December meeting will be moved to Friday, December 9 to accommodate cantata practice on December 10<sup>th</sup>. Bake sale set up will be done after the meeting followed by a potluck.

Cookie trays for shut-ins will be prepared on December 15<sup>th</sup>.

Will be considering a service project to be done in February.

**BAKE SALE AND WOT MEETING.** The Women of Trinity monthly meeting has been rescheduled for Friday, Dec. 9, at 10 am, due to the final cantata rehearsal on Dec. 10. After the meeting, the Bake Sale will be set up, so please stick around to help out.

### **WHERE ARE THE ANNOUNCEMENTS?!!**

Wondering where the announcements and other information went to in the bulletin? Due to rising paper costs, the bulletin has been shortened to one page, with references to hymn numbers and other wordage posted in the power point slides projected at the front.

Some information that previously was included in the bulletin will now be displayed in the power point slide show and posted on the bulletin board near the Sanctuary entrance:

- Worship Assistants for the current and following Sundays
- Attendance and offering numbers for previous Sunday
- Weekly calendar

### **BIBLE STUDIES**

- ♦ Men's Bible study will be held on Wednesdays, at 6:30 am in the fellowship hall.
- ♦ Women's Thursday morning Bible study meets at 10:00 in the Trinity room all women are welcome! The next study on Driven Heroes of the Faith will begin Nov 3.
- ♦ Monday Women's Bible study will be taking a hiatus from Nov 28-Dec 26, during the Advent season. They will resume Jan 2, 2023.
- ♦ Adult Sunday school - currently studying The Spiritual Realms.



## December 2022

<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>
				1  10:00 Women's bible study	2  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	3  Christmas Fest 10-3 pm
4 8:30a Adult Sunday School 10a - Worship	5 9:00a Quilters 10:00a - WMMT Mtg 10:30a-12:30p—Food Pantry Open  7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	6	7  6:30a Men's Bible Study 4:30 The Cross youth 5:30 Advent Meal 6:30 Service 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	8  10a Women's Bible study	9  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>  Women of Trinity Mtg 10:00 am	10
11 8:30a Adult Sunday School 10a - Worship-Cantata & Bake sale	12 9:00a Quilters  7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	13  6:30p - Council Meeting	14  6:30a Men's Bible Study 4:30 The Cross youth 7:00 <b>NO</b> Choir practice	15  10a Women's Bible study 6:30p Men's Ministry Mtg	16  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	17
18 8:30a Adult Sunday School 10a - Worship  Love Fund/Food Pantry Offering	19 9:00a Quilters 10:30a-12:30p—Food Pantry Open  7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	20  <b>Journey Deadline</b>	21  Men's Bible Study 4:30 The Cross youth 7:00 Choir practice	22  10a Women's Bible study	23  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	24  Christmas Eve service 6:30
25 8:30a Adult Sunday School Prayer Shawl Sunday 10a - Worship Christmas Day	26  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>  9:00 a Quilters 7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	27	28 6:30a Men's Bible Study NO Choir Rehearsal	29  10a Women's Bible study	30  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	31

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

**FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED**

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

**Christmas Cantata**  
**Sunday Dec. 11 - 10:00am**



# The JOURNEY

## December 2022

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**

*Rev. Daniel Tabor—Pastor*

*Julie Sunderland, Parish Administrator*

*Joanne Schilling, Choir Director*

*Betty Blanch & Donnarae Carrell, Custodians*

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

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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 - 3<sup>rd</sup> week of the month  
Pastor's Office Hours Mondays (8 am—4:30 pm)  
Wednesdays & Thursdays (8—11:30 pm)

### Advent and Christmas Services

NOV 27 1st Sunday of Advent – Worship w/Communion @ 10 am  
Nov 30 Mid-week Advent Service @ 6:30 pm (Meal @ 5:30 pm)  
DEC 4 2nd Sunday of Advent – Worship w/Communion @ 10 am  
DEC 7 Mid-week Advent Service @ 6:30 pm (Meal @ 5:30 pm)  
DEC 11 3rd Sunday of Advent – Christmas Cantata  
DEC 14 Mid-week Advent Service @ 6:30 pm (Meal @ 5:30 pm)  
DEC 18 4th Sunday of Advent – Worship w/Communion @ 10 am  
DEC 21 Mid-week Advent Service @ 6:30 pm (Meal @ 5:30 pm)  
DEC 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship w/Communion @ 6:30p  
DEC 25 Christmas Day Worship w/Communion @ 10 am

### KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

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

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