

The JOURNEY — Walking Daily with Jesus

From the Pastor's Desk

This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. (1John 4:10, NLT)

Here we are in February...already! Valentine's Day is coming, and Lent is right around the corner. With these two events, this can really be considered the month of love.

With Valentine's Day, we celebrate the love that we have for our spouse, our parents, our children, or any loved one. A friend of mine referred to this day as a "Hallmark Holiday." He did this because the day is all about getting cards and gifts for our loved ones. I think he is missing the point, however. It is not a bad thing to set aside a day for this purpose, even though I believe we should be showing our love for others far more often than once a year.

As we get into Lent, we find ourselves in a time of preparation for Easter. It is during this season that we can look at "*real love*." This season is about the love that God has for you! He loved you so much that he gave His only beloved Son to die for you, so that your sins would be taken away from you and carried to the cross by Jesus. God did this so you would not have to suffer eternal separation from Him. Because Jesus died on the cross, your sins are gone, and you can now know real love: forgiveness of sin and eternal life with God the Father.

May your February be a blessed month, a month in which you can celebrate the love of someone that you care deeply for. And may you also know the certainty of God's love for you, revealed in His Son, Jesus Christ.

Blessings,

Pastor Dan

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What Is Trinity Lutheran Church Stewardship?

The Greek word “oikonomous” or “steward,” is used throughout scriptures to refer to different things, including managing money and possessions. “Stewards” also defines Christians tasked with spreading the message of God (1 Corinthians 4:1).

So Stewardship is about Doing and Contributing.

One of the best-known biblical examples of good and bad stewardship is the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-28). Here, a man entrusts different amounts of money to three servants. Two servants manage the money to increase the value, while one hides it away and basically does nothing.

All our members are a part of the mission of our church, not merely funders of it. Giving is about how we are contributing to God's work, in many ways.

Monetary support is needed to cover the costs of the church and its missions. Our mission statement: We are a community brought together through God's grace and love, which seeks to grow in knowledge and faith in Jesus Christ, and reaches out in word and action to our community and beyond with the Good News of Jesus' love.

We are blessed with a great building and facility. Upkeep is a necessary component of the life of our church. Our largest activity in 2025 was to replace the roof on the sanctuary. We rose to the occasion spectacularly.

For service at our church, we have many people involved in the day to operations which help us present ourselves to the community and beyond. Our staff; pastor, assistants, ushers readers, administrator, counters, choir, and women and men's groups all contribute to our mission. Our outreach brings others to our church, via holiday church services, Trunk or Treat, concerts, Vacation Bible School, Snacks and Facts, bible studies, and quilters. Many people work hard to make these items successful.

Thanks to everyone who contributes in any way to TLC. Let's take our stewardship into 2026 with enthusiasm and make it a means to spread God's word.



FEBRUARY-SUNDAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS



	Feb 1 9:00a	Feb 8 9:00a	Feb 15 9:00a	Feb 22 9:00a
GREETERS	Terri Freeman	Joann & Eldon Kvale	Brenda Mackey	Cheri Anderson
USHERS	Rob Freeman Wally Thom	Wes Mohns Mike Capra	Kevin Ploessl Need	John Schieffer Tom Svitak
COMM. ASSTS	Dan Dahl	Ellen Ehrich	Pat Mackey	Joanne Schilling
READER	Kathy Thom	Gloria Widiker	Donnarae Carrell	Cindy Rubin



2/11 Penny Iverson
 2/12 Joanne Kvale
 2/13 Rolf Kleven
 2/15 Amber Beffa
 2/20 Elaine Ploessl
 2/24 Alyce Tracey
 2/25 Gelene Tabor



ATTENTION EVERYONE!

Anyone interested in ordering a TLC logo garment from Land's End, you have until February 18, 2026. Please see Julie with questions or assistance in placing order.
 Thank you. WMMT



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.

Meeting

NEXT MEETING OF . . .

Birchwood Food Pantry Open. Feb 2 & 16, 10:30a-12:30p
 Worship & Music Team. Feb 2, 9:00a
 Christian Life Meeting. Feb 2, 10:30a
 Women of Trinity Feb 14, 10:00a
 Trinity Council meeting. Feb 17, 6:30p



Chili Contest

**A Chili cook-off will be held
Sunday, February 22, 2026
at 11:00am.**

**Bring your winning chili in
crockpots.**

Sampling and judging of the chili by all.

**Then fill your bowl with your favorite chili and
enjoy lunch and fellowship!!**

**Any questions contact or
call**

**Cheri Anderson
715-821-1789**



"If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace, be warmed and filled, without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith, by itself, if it does not have works, is dead'" James 2:15-17.

I want to take this opportunity to remind members of Trinity Lutheran, and to inform those who receive "The Journey," of a service which is available to our brothers and sisters in Christ here in Birchwood. We call it the "Comfort Closet," and it is a service available to provide emergency food/sundries to anyone in the community who is facing an urgent situation which is impacting their access to food/sundries.

Birchwood has a wonderful food pantry, and this "Comfort Closet" is not intended to replace their services in any way. We make available a small amount of "non-perishables" to assist people in need until the food pantry can be contacted. This closet is available during the times that the church office is open: Monday through Thursday, 8:00-11:30 and 12:30-3:00 pm. The Narthex is also open 8:00 am – 10:30 on Sundays. If you have an emergency need, please contact Pastor at 715-416-4966.

The "Comfort Closet" usage is not limited to Trinity Lutheran! We would like to make it available St. John's Catholic Church, Birchwood United Methodist Church, and Long Lake Lutheran Church as well.

Women of Trinity Happenings

Well Hello Winter! We are in the land of cold—snow—warm up—really cold—ice—rain—more snow!! This weather keeps you guessing!

The women had their meeting on Saturday, January 10. Items of note include:

No meeting in March, therefore cards sent to shut-ins typically sent in March will be prepared at our February meeting and sent before Easter

A sign-up sheet to bring treats for the staff of Birchwood Public School is on the Welcome Desk in the narthex. We are doing our own Teacher Appreciation the week of February 9-13. Details are on the sign-up sheet.

Calling all members! Our annual kitchen cleaning is January 20 and 21. Committee 1 is scheduled for 1/20, Committee 2 for 2/21. Cleaning begins at 9:00 a.m. Please help if able, "many hands make light work". Your committee assignments are found in the WOT booklet.

We are considering a change in the day of the week we have our monthly meeting. We will discuss further and make a decision at our February meeting. A Wednesday, 3:00 p.m. time is being considered.

Our next meeting is
February 14
at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

**Women
of
Trinity**



From Barb Kleven, Associate Pastor

YOU ARE GOD'S BELOVED!

THEREFORE, AS GOD'S CHOSEN PEOPLE, HOLY AND DEARLY LOVED, CLOTHE YOURSELVES WITH COMPASSION, KINDNESS, HUMILITY, GENTLENESS AND PATIENCE. Colossians 3:12-

Many times, we can look at ourselves more in a negative way than in a positive way. The truth is that we're God's beloved on our worst day and in our worst moment.

We live in a world where people strive for recognition and validation, and it's mind blowing to think that we can be loved just as we are. In Christ, BELOVED is exactly what we are. It's not based on our accomplishments or merit or charm, but on what Jesus has done for us on the cross. *God LOVED US SO MUCH that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life!* John 3:16. This means that we are chosen of God and made holy because of what Jesus has done..... WE ARE HIS BELOVED! We need the Holy Spirit to let that sink in and help us to believe this truth!

When we realize how beloved we are to God, we can begin to see how beloved others are also! Having this mindset changes how we interact with the world around us and gives us God's perspective rather than our own human thinking. It changes how we treat others or how we talk to our loved ones even when we are tired and stressed.

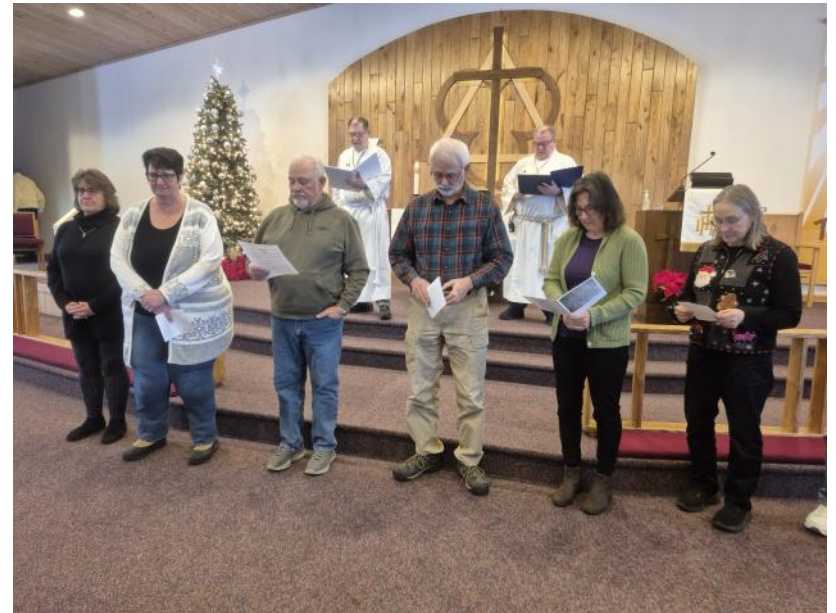
By the power of the Holy Spirit, as God's chosen and His beloved, we can "put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience", because we are beloved and valued by the One who matters most.

When we see ourselves as God sees us, we can see others in the same way!

You are God's beloved!
Pastor Barb

For God so lo**V**ed the world
that he g**A**ve
His on**L**y begotten Son
that who**E**ver
believes i**N** him
shall no**T**
per**I**sh but have
everlasti**N**g
lif**E**.

John 3:16



Installation of the new Council Members who were elected for the new term. (left to right)

Alyce Tracey-Fellowship and Growth, Elaine Ploessl-Missions & Outreach, Mike Capra-Vice President, Eric Anderson-President, Cheri Anderson-Fellowship & Growth, Sue Janetski - Secretary



stephen MINISTRY®

Our trained Stephen Ministers, Cindy Rubin, Sue Janetski and Dan Dahl have been meeting needs for care to members of our TLC Family for many months now, and we thank God for the gift of their ministry. Their training has given them the knowledge and skills to provide one-to-one care for people in our congregation and community. Pastor Dan and the Stephen Ministry Leadership Team have identified a lengthy list of brothers and sisters that need Christian caregiving. This need to provide caregiving can be accomplished through trained Stephen Ministers. To provide care for each of these members we will need more trained Stephen Ministers. The Stephen Ministry Leadership is hoping to plan for a new training class soon, and we encourage you to give some thought and prayer to becoming a Stephen Minister.

What do Stephen Ministers do? Stephen Ministers listen, accept, care, and walk with a person who is going through a difficult time. They provide support—prayer, Scripture, forgiveness, unconditional acceptance—in appropriate ways to meet the needs of the care receiver. A central idea in Stephen Ministry is that Stephen Ministers are caregivers, while God is the Cure giver. In other words, Stephen Ministers provide care in a way while trusting God to bring healing and wholeness to the hurting person. Stephen Minister's role is to care and to listen, standing by the person and ministering to their spiritual needs as God works through the relationship to bring hope and healing to the care receiver. Stephen Ministers are not alone in this caregiving ministry. They are supported by other Stephen Ministers and Leaders in a small group setting but most of all by the Holy Spirit.

You may have the gifts to provide care through Stephen Ministry for someone who is struggling. So, how does someone become a

Stephen Minister? The first step is to pray. God has called each of us to ministry. Prayer is one way we learn what ministry God is calling us to do. As you pray, ask God whether Stephen Ministry is the right ministry for you. Continue to pray as you search your heart for God's direction for you.

In past issues of the Journey Newsletter, we have shared several testimonies from active Stephen Ministers. They shared the personal benefits they had from being a Stephen Minister. Here is one of those testimonies. *"Becoming a Stephen Minister has drawn me closer to God by allowing me to be Christ's presence to another person. It's made me part of a loving, caring family of Stephen Ministers and Stephen Leaders who support each other in their ministry."* Frank, U.S. Navy (Retired) Ballwin, Missouri

Having gone through the Stephen Ministers Training, I know you would learn a lot, have a lot of fun, and experience deeper spiritual growth. This comprehensive training will prepare you to provide excellent caregiving for those in need. What greater way to serve Christ and His church. I'm excited about finding out who God will bring together in our next training class. To find out more about this opportunity, please contact our Stephen Ministry Leaders, Pastor Dan, Gelene Tabor, or Jim McGraw.

1 Peter 4:10: "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

Jim McGraw, Stephen Ministry Leadership Coordinator

February 2026

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

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Snacks & Facts
Feb 10 @ 2:00p
Topic: Fraud
Police Chief Adam Brunclik



The JOURNEY **February 2026**

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

Feb 1 — 9:00a worship service w/communion

Feb 8 — 9:00a worship service w/communion

Feb 15 — 9:00a worship service w/communion

Feb 22 — 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.