

The JOURNEY — Walking Daily with Jesus

PASTOR JACK'S COLUMN

“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” – Ps. 119:105

It's been nearly a year and a half since I received a phone call from my son, asking if I'd send him some uplifting scripture or devotional-type encouragement each day. It was a Sunday evening, and he was just getting back from another weekend escapade with his college buddies in Lacrosse. Driving back on his own, he called me from his car to share that he wasn't feeling good about the direction his life was taking or the focus on which his time was being spent. He knew he was meant for more. I was grateful for his vulnerability with me, and his mature self-reflection. This was a great opportunity for both of us.

I agreed to send him scripture every day, if he agreed to read it. I suggested we start in the book of wisdom; Proverbs. He liked that idea. We didn't start from the beginning; it was the 17th of the month, so we began there. One chapter per day. Proverbs is great for this, especially between fathers and sons, as there's timeless wisdom passed and an accountability that lands on both ends. The YouVersion Bible app on my phone also allowed me to easily switch between different translations. This helped make the text more relevant when needed.

I'd simply “copy and paste” the scripture to my phones text window, add a few thoughts on its meaning, and close with a personal encouragement. He just had to read it. Sometimes he'd comment, sometimes he was silent. Always he assured me he was reading. A couple weeks went by, and my oldest son discovered our texts. I was pleased when he asked if he could also be part of this daily Scriptural sharing. I made the same deal with him, and created a group text. Not long after, my youngest son graduated from Navy boot camp; this meant he now had access to his cell phone. Yep! He too asked if he could join the group!

My sons are all in their 20's. As I write this, we've just concluded Revelation. We've gone through over a dozen books in the Bible like this, in no particular order; occasionally by chapter, most times a few verses each day. Sometimes I regret that I didn't start this sort of interaction earlier. Then again, each time I close my message and text, “I love you boys”, I simply give thanks that we started this process at all. In 2019, I challenge you to begin your own practice of sharing God's word. Maybe it's with a friend or family member, or maybe it's with a brother or sister in Christ. Either way, I'm confident God will be honored, and you'll see fruit. My son was seeking Godly guidance, and I was blessed to be the one from whom he chose to receive it. Who will you share the Good News with?



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Ever wonder where the LARGE Christmas Cactus in the wicker basket came from? It lives in the narthex of our church during most of the year. However, when the carolers have taken over the corner spot during the Christmas season, it's often moved into the hallway between the Fellowship Hall and the narthex. It produces large pink cactus blossoms, and will start producing buds sometime around Thanksgiving. This is due to the lack of sunlight, reminding the cactus it's time to bloom. If you look at it closely, you'll see that it has stems larger than your thumb. It has been around for over 100 years. Dianne Buxton received it from her aunt Iva who received it from her mother. It deserved a larger space than what was available at Dianne's house. Therefore, Dianne donated it to the church. Some say it's a nuisance, some say it's beautiful. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Maybe age has it's privileges. We also have another smaller Christmas cactus, with pink blossoms, on a table in the narthex.

WOMEN OF TRINITY HAPPENINGS

- ◇ Provided Altar Guild support for all church services. Jeanne Dahlby, support person.
- ◇ Prayer Shawl Ministry successfully managed by Marcia Kampf. Prayer shawls made and given out to over 20 persons. Every fourth Sunday of the month is designated as Prayer Shawl Sunday.
- ◇ 2018 Women of Trinity Service Book published with new duties outlined.

- ◇ Two funeral luncheons served by service committees.
- ◇ Fourteen summer refreshment meals served between outdoor service and indoor service.
- ◇ A new service, originated by president Ginger LaMotte is in practice: 'Step Out and Serve.' Each month focuses on a community project.
- ◇ Farewell present to Pastor Joan Scheffler, who has served our church well, twice.
- ◇ A sizable donation given toward the new front door of the narthex.
- ◇ A kitchen inspection and cleaning program was implemented.
- ◇ The church library is maintained and updated.
- ◇ The prayer chain has a new prayer chain starter, Sue Svitak.
- ◇ Made and served Lenten meals, meals for Wednesday night teens, and Advent meals.
- ◇ Donations made every month at our meetings go toward meals for Timber Bay and L.I.G.H.T. keepers.
- ◇ New Busy Bags for children to use during the church service were made and stocked for our church kids.

- ◇ 200 page markers were made for the new Bibles in our sanctuary.
- ◇ Annual Rummage Sale in September held. Lunch served. Big success.
- ◇ Visits were made by small groups of members to Embrace in Ladysmith, Benjamin's House in Rice Lake, and Pregnancy Help Center in Rice Lake. This helped us determine our end of the year donations.
- ◇ Lefse and Bake Sales held in December. All Lefse and baked goods were made by loving hands.
- ◇ 20 Christmas Cookie Boxes made up and delivered to friends of Trinity.
- ◇ End of the year donations were made to:
 - *Birchwood School Angel Fund
 - *Warming House (Family House), Rice Lake
 - *Timber Bay and L.I.G.H.T. Keepers, Birchwood
 - *EMBRACE, Ladysmith
 - *Benjamin House, Rice Lake
 - *Birchwood Food Pantry
 - *Pregnancy Help Center
 - *Six paid staff members of Trinity

NEXT MEETING OF . . .

- Birchwood Food Pantry Open. 10:30 am, Jan 5, 7, 19, 21**
- Worship & Music Team. 9:30 am Jan 7**
- Mission & Outreach. 10:00am Jan 10**
- Trinity Lutheran Church Women. 11:00 am, Jan 17**
- Congregational Council 7:00 pm, Jan 15**

HELP UNDECORATE THE CHURCH!

Volunteers are needed to “undecorate” the church on Wednesday, January 4 at 9am. Any questions, please contact Sue Svitak at 715-651-3299.

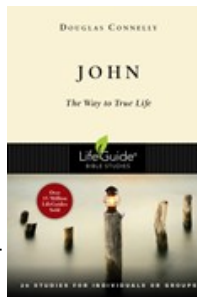


WOMEN’S MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Women’s bible study will be meeting Monday evening in January beginning January 7 at 6:30pm. We will be studying John, chapters 16 and 17 on the 7th and 14th. The last two Mondays we will start the first 2 chapters of John. All women are welcome! Join the joy of learning God’s Word! Any questions, contact Barb Kleven at 715-834-9988

WOMEN’S THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Thursday morning bible study will not be meeting again until Thursday, January 3. They will continue their study of John. In this study guide on John, Douglas Connelly urges you to take a fresh look at Jesus. Here is the opportunity to establish—or renew—your faith in the One who offers true meaning, true belonging and true life. If you wish to join this group and would like a study guide, please contact Marcia at 715-354-3048



THURSDAY GROUP FAITH STUDY

Beginning Thursday January 10, 2019, we will **RESTART** our study on the book of Revelation, using a study from RightNow Media called Revelation: The Hope of Glory with Dr David Platt. God gives to His people a stunning picture of the glory of Christ and of God’s sovereign rule over history. Revelation warns of eternal judgment for those who side with Satan and pursue the system of the world. The church, on the other hand, is called to persevere in the midst of persecution so that we might obtain our reward in a new heaven and a new earth where we will enjoy God forever.

Since we had only gotten through a few video’s in this series before taking a break for the holidays, we will be **RESTARTING FROM THE BEGINNING!** Please join us at 6:30 in the Trinity Room - all our welcome!!

PRAY FOR YOUR PASTOR

For Protection from deceitfulness of sin- Be watchful! - (1 Peter 5:8)

Pray that he would have a proper fear of God and be watchful.

Father, protect and guard my pastor from the deceitfulness of sin and from the attacks of Satan. Give her/him the strength to endure temptation, fears, doubts, or accusations, and the ability to stand firm and strong to preach the Word.

REMIND APP

People are encouraged if they have not done so to download the remind app! This will allow you to receive reminders and updates as needed. To do so text, **@tlcbir** to number 81010. Please call the office if you have any questions.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS NEEDED

Once again, there were too few names to run the Worship Assistants chart. So please stop by the Welcome Center and sign up — **WE NEED YOU!**



RIGHTNOW MEDIA

If you wish to receive access to RightNow Media, please email the church office. RightNow Media is like the Netflix of Bible study videos. You will have FREE access to thousands of video resources to help you with parenting, marriage, discipleship and more. It includes content for all ages and stages of life.

CHOIR MEMBERS WANTED

It’s “snowbird season” and that means many of our regular choir membership will soon be ,or have already , heading for warmer climes.

So we need YOU!

If you sing the hymns from the pew, then you can sing a choir anthem from the choir loft!! Easier songs have been planned for the spring to accommodate our smaller choir. So come join us! For more information, call Joanne Schilling at 715-651-4875.



TRINITY YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY

We had some wonderful community events in Birchwood this December! During Christmas Fest, Santa was in town, firetruck rides were provided, and Pastor Jack joined others to lead prayer at the Village Rest Park: Tree Blessing, Lighting of the Love Light Tree, and singing Christmas carols. Following the lighting of the tree some stayed for hot coco and smores around a hot fire!



“If I do not have love, I gain nothing.”
1 Corinthians 13:3

In response to our challenge to “Live as He Lived. Be third.” Over 20 volunteers came to Birch Haven Manor on the **third Sunday** of December! Children, youth, and adults brought with them the joy of Christmas through fresh baked cookies, gift wrapping tenants doors, and caroling in the community room and halls. Many residents joined in and appreciated



our efforts to bring the Christmas spirit! More blessings were passed along when all extra wrapping paper and tape collected for the event was then donated to the Birchwood Schools for their Adapt a Family Program.

Trinity Lutheran Church organizes a fellowship or serving event on the third Sunday of each month. This month, we invite our congregation, community friends, and family to **join us in fellowship for bowling on January 20th!** Check-in around noon at Rand's Bowling in Rice Lake. Inform them you are with Birchwood Trinity Lutheran. **Trinity Youth & Family will cover the cost of our first 2 games!** You may also order food, beverages, and rent shoes (\$1.25 per pair). Questions? Please contact Ashley Beffa (715) 790-1491



THE CROSS YOUTH MINISTRY

On December 19th, the **third** Wednesday of the month, The Cross Youth and Confirmation students brought helping hands to the Birchwood School custodians by putting on gloves and providing a thorough cleaning of the seats in the high school gymnasi-



um. Kids had fun together; serving and knowing their efforts would benefit the entire school.

This January 16th, the **third** Wednesday, The Cross will host a FREE movie night in our Fellowship Hall! Our feature film will be *To Save a Life*. It follows the real-life struggles of high school students discovering what living a life that honors God really looks like. Watch the trailer on YouTube. Delicious free popcorn provided, along with the option to purchase a variety of concession foods, with proceeds supporting the Youth's Mission Fund.



YOUTH RETREAT

Don't Forget! Register your student for a weekend youth event geared for middle and high school students praising God with music by Peder and Allison Eide along with speaker Pastor Andrea Paulson at the 2019 LCMC Regional Youth Event. **We are accepting registrations through January 20th.** Cost: \$145 for 2 nights lodging at the Three Bears Resort (includes waterpark pass) in Warrens, WI. Partial scholarships can be provided upon request. Questions? Please contact Ashley Beffa, Youth and Family Ministry Coordinator (715) 790-1491.

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

100,000 meals packed by 500 volunteers are needed for Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) at the Rice Lake Mobile Pack site in January 2019. Birchwood Trinity Lutheran has a rare opportunity to serve in an effort to help make a huge difference in the lives of thousands of children in need around the world. FMSC is a Christian non-profit organization committed to feeding God’s starving children hungry in body and spirit. Please sign-up to help fill the 21 registered volunteer spots; January 26th from 2pm to 4pm located at the Rice Lake High School. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex or register on our Facebook Event page. Sign-up is required to participate!



ATTEND “STEPPING ON” AND REDUCE YOUR CHANCES OF FALLING

Learn the best techniques to avoid falls at “Stepping-On”, a researched and proven weekly workshop offered by the Aging and Disability Resource Center



(ADRC). In addition to simple strength and balance exercises taught by a local physical therapist, the workshop provides guest speakers on important topics such as vision loss and its relationship to falls, medication usage and side effects, and community and outdoor safety.

“For older adults , a fall and the resulting health problems and expenses often lead to a loss of independence,” said Peggy Schmidt, Health Promotion Coordinator for Barron, Rusk & Washburn Counties. “This workshop improves your odds of avoiding a fall.”

The next local session will be held:

Wednesday, January 9-Feb 20, 2019
3:00pm–5:00pm

Rice Lake Senior Center State Room
12 W. Humbird St. Rice Lake, WI

All adults age 60 and older are welcome to attend this popular workshop! Registration **required by January 4**. For more information or to register, please contact Peggy Schmidt at 715-537-6225 or mar-garaet.schmidt@co.barron.wi.us or visit www.adrcconnection.org.

SIMPLY GIVING PROGRAM

The Simply Giving Program provides a secure electronic donation solution for individuals to make weekly or monthly offerings to churches and other nonprofit organizations. Please call Cindy in the church office at (715) 354-3790 for more information, or to have an Authorization Form sent to your home. You can also log onto the church website, www.tlcbirchwood.com and signup there by clicking on Resources. When you sign up for Simply Giving, you will receive a free gift or lunch with Pastor Jack! Thank you!

LIBRARY CORNER

So, I'll bet you have a New Year's resolution or two that you are 'thinking' about. How about promising yourself to become more



'acquainted' with your bible. We have a plethora of study guides for your use. Also help and prayer books that will get you thru some tough times. Why not take a few minutes and browse thru our selections? The church is open daily until 3pm and there is a delightful spot to sit by the window and read. We have novels...biographies...please feel free to share with a friend what we have to offer. If you haven't yet looked over our library corner, I encourage you to check it out! Make it a New Year's Resolution! Happy **New Year!**



BEFORE

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

Outreach got an early start this year on the Adopt-a-Family program. Once we received the lists from Birchwood School four of us sat down and read through the wishes and needs of our 5 chosen families. We were determined to not leave until all the tags were filed out and hung on the tree. Four hours later we had accomplished just that!

In record time the tags disappeared! The response was simply amazing. I have heard so many positive comments. Also, tags went so

fast some were disappointed they were unable to pick one. Hmm...makes me wonder if next year we take on one more family! One thing I am sure of is that God works through everyone's heart. The entire Trinity family has shown how to live third. My greatest hope is that every person that bought a present for a random child, now feels the joy of living third. May they be blessed beyond measure!



AFTER



- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Sue Capra 1/1 | Gavin Stanley 1/19 |
| Jill Pedersen 1/1 | Emma Leamy 1/20 |
| Lilly Gottwald 1/2 | Norm Jastram 1/21 |
| Colette Sandow 1/2 | Lee Flora 1/21 |
| Kimberly Will 1/2 | Carly Pedersen 1/23 |
| Andy Hedman 1/3 | Amy Roppe 1/24 |
| Adam Robotka 1/3 | Maryann Cowans 1/25 |
| Eric Flora 1/5 | Rodney Levake 1/25 |
| Leo Diehl 1/9 | Shay Sunderland 1/25 |
| Andy Janetski 1/12 | Jerry Chasteen 1/27 |
| Rolf Jostad 1/12 | John Carlstrom 1/28 |
| Alan Pedersen 1/12 | Travis Miller 1/28 |
| Madyson Schultz 1/15 | Desiree Jasper 1/30 |
| Morgan Hayes 1/16 | Bob Hayes 1/31 |
| Gloria Sibley 1/17 | |



Santa's Helpers (from left to right) Kyle Bratvold, Sara Waldron, Adam Robotka, Jenna Johnson, Taylor Robotka.

JANUARY 2019

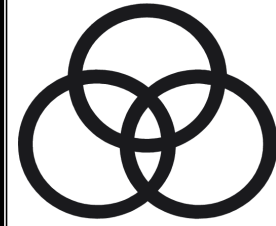
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><i>Altar Guild</i></p> <p>Sharon Dhein</p> 		<p>1</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	2	3	4	<p>5</p> <p>10:30a-1:30p - Food Pantry Open</p>
<p>6 FEAST OF THE EPIPANY</p> <p>9a—Choir Warm-Up 9:30a - COFFEE TIME 10a - Worship w/Communion</p> <p>Money Counters: Jeanne Dahlby & Dave Webster</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9:30a—Quilting 9:30a—W& M Mtg 10:30a-1:30p Food Pantry Open 7p - AA, Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>8</p> <p>2pm—Christian Life Mtg</p>	<p>9</p> <p>10a—Mission & Outreach Mtg 6p—The Cross Youth 7p—Choir Reh</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:30a—Womens Bible Study 6:30p - Group Faith Study</p>	<p>11</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13 BAPTISM OF OUR LORD</p> <p>9:30a - COFFEE TIME 10a - Worship w/ Communion 2019 Council Installation</p> <p>Money Counters: Sue Svitak & Brenda Mackey</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:30a—Quilting 6:30p—Wmns Bible Study 7p - AA, Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>15</p> <p>7:00p - Council Mtg</p>	<p>16</p> <p>6p—The Cross Youth 7p—Choir Reh</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:30a—Womens Bible Study 11a - WOT Mtg 6:30p - Group Faith Study</p>	<p>18</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10:30a-1:30p - Food Pantry Open</p>
<p>20 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany</p> <p>9:30a - COFFEE TIME 10a - Worship w/Communion Love Fund & Food Pantry Offerings 12pm—Bowling , Rands in RL</p> <p>Money Counters: Ruth Clausen & Cindy Westphal</p>	<p>21 Journey Deadline</p> <p>9:30a—Quilting 10:30a-1:30p Food Pantry Open 6:30p—Wmns Bible Study 7p - AA, Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>6p—The Cross Youth 7p—Choir Reh</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9:30a—Womens Bible Study 6:30p - Group Faith Study</p>	<p>25</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany</p> <p>9:30a - COFFEE TIME 10a - Worship w/Communion PRAYER SHAWL SUNDAY</p> <p>Money Counters: Tom Svitak & Mike Rubin</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9:30a—Quilting 7p - AA, Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>10a - Journey Assembly 6p—The Cross Youth 7p—Choir Reh</p>	<p>31</p> <p>9:30a—Womens Bible Study 6:30p - Group Faith Study</p>		

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501 E. Chetac Ave
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Birchwood, WI 54817

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The JOURNEY

January 2019

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Jack Jorgensen, Pastor
Cindy Westphal, 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 21)
Office Hours 8 – 11:30 am, 12:30 - 3:00pm (M-Th)
Bulletin deadline 9 am Wednesdays
JOURNEY deadline Monday of 3rd week of the month

WORSHIP THIS MONTH

- 1/6– 10am Worship w/ Communion
- 1/13– 10am Praise Worship w/ Communion
- 1/20– 10am Worship w/ Communion
- 1/27– 10am Worship w/ Communion

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

Carol Addington	Art Johnson	Jean Petersen
Tom Allard	Eileen Koefel	Jim Pravda
Vicki Busick	Bill & Eunice Kuntz	Tom Reed
Rose Cutsforth	Roy Kuula	Bill Rice
Barb Fegan	Bill & Joyce Lambrecht	Buddy Robotka
Annette Gentile	Rebecca Langham	Ro Sackmann
Dan Gowan	Ed Leader	Carter Sackmann
Laine Guttenberg	Lora	Collette Sandow
Ron Hartzell	Leonard Nysted	Frank & Linda Starca
Andy Hedman	Mary Nysted	Cindy Schaan
McKel Heebink	Betty Orsund	Elaine Yndestad
Becky Hunt	Kathy Paquette	
Merlin Jahnke	Fred Peck	

In the military: Rigil & Randy Christensen, Rochelle & Alex Fabrizio, Eric Bebee, Tim Groth, John Hughes, Cody Davis, Bennett Jorgensen and all those serving in the military.