

The JOURNEY — Walking Daily with Jesus

From the Pastor's Desk:

“But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works. Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works” (James 2:18).

The Lutheran church dating back to the time of the Reformation has been accused of teaching that ‘good works’ are not important in our lives as Christians. As Trinity Lutheran becomes more active in meeting the needs of others in our community, I am hearing reports that our neighbors here in Birchwood are noticing “how busy” our congregation has become doing good things for them. But, with these reports from community members I find myself pondering this charge often levied against the Lutheran teachings on these ‘good works.’

I believe that some of the confusion surrounding ‘good works’ centers around a misinterpretation of the words of the Apostle Paul in Ephesians 2, *“For by grace you have been saved by faith; and this is not your own doing. It is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast”* (ESV). People seem to focus on the phrase “not a result of works” and deduce that good works are not important in our living out a Christian faith.

James, the brother of our Lord Jesus, would clearly challenge the vilification of good works by many Lutheran Christians. In our verse for this month, James tells us of the importance of our doing good work for our neighbors. We do these things to “show” our faith in Jesus Christ to the world around us.

As Lutherans, we believe and teach that our good works do not bring us salvation. It is only through faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God, that we have forgiveness of sin, salvation, and eternal life. Jesus alone lived the sinless life that we could not live on our own. Only He was the perfect sacrifice, dying on a Roman cross for our sins, claiming them as his own. It is faith in Christ alone which has brought us salvation.

The result of this saving faith in Jesus is that we now do good work for those around us. We can’t help ourselves! These good works just flow from us, and they bless our neighbors so that they might see our faith in action and give glory to God.

So I thank all of you who actively live out your faith in our community. The community is noticing! Praise be to God! In Jesus name.

Pastor Dan

WHAT'S INSIDE

From Pastor's Desk	1
Letter from Trinity President	2
Worship Assistants	3
July Birthdays & Anniversaries	3
Potluck Brunch — July 28th	3
Next meeting of....	3
From Pastor Barb's Desk	4
Mission & Outreach	4
Stewardship	5
Snacks & Facts	5
VBS Wrap-Up	5
VBS	6
Calendar	7



Letter from Trinity President

At the Leadership Workshop in May, the Leadership Team discussed ways to meet the needs of our congregation and community. A couple of action items that came out of prayer and discussions were the creation of a Stephen's Ministry program at TLC and scheduling a Ministry Fair in August.

"Stephen Ministry offers a proven and effective way to organize, equip, and supervise a team of congregation members—called Stephen Ministers—to provide high-quality, one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people in the congregation and the community experiencing life difficulties.

Care receivers are individuals in the congregation or community who are going through a crisis or life difficulty. Potential care receivers first meet with a pastor or Stephen Leader, who assesses their needs for care and matches them with a Stephen Minister. The caring relationship lasts for as long as the need persists.

Stephen Ministry supports your pastor by deepening, expanding, and extending the caring capacity of your church. A trusted and competent team of Stephen Ministers, along with a pastor, provides ongoing care for more people than the pastor could provide alone. This also frees your pastor to invest more time in other important ministry. (www.stephensministries.org)

Personally, I have served as a Stephen Minister in my previous congregations. I agreed to serve as a Stephen Minister when asked by my pastor. I did not know what I was getting into. I did not think I had the skills or gifts to be a good caregiver, but through the training, encouragement from other caregivers and the help of the Holy Spirit, I gained the confidence and skills I needed to serve as a caregiver. Sometimes, we just need to step out in faith and serve where there is need.

There is a great need for Christian caregiving in our congregation and in our community. This morning as I was writing this article I received an email from the Church Leaders Prayer Network. Below is the verse and prayer they sent to me. This email didn't come to me by chance. It is what the Holy Spirit wanted me to share with you. The Galatians 6:2 verse is the same verse Stephen Ministry is built on.

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2

Prayer: Heavenly Father, I thank You for my brothers and sisters in my church community. Thank You for individual uniqueness and giftings, and for the Holy Spirit that unifies us through Christ Jesus. ... I lift before You Father, those in my church community who are weighed down with cares and burdens too great for them to bear. (Pause and pray for those the Holy Spirit brings to mind.) May we at TLC become those who reach out to those who are burdened with cares of all kinds or who have fallen away, become discouraged or doubtful in their faith journey. May we truly learn to carry each other's burdens. Help us this day to walk in love with one another that we might love Your church as You do, Lord Jesus. I ask these things in Your great name. Amen.

If you have any questions about the Stephen's Ministry program we are starting at TLC, contact Pastor Dan, myself or click on this link. <https://www.stephenministries.org/stephenministry/default.cfm/917?mnbsm=1>

Please prayerfully consider becoming a Stephen Minister.

The Ministry Fair we are planning in August will be a fun and informative event. Each ministry team will have an area in the Fellowship Hall to tell you what their ministry does and who serves on that team. It will be a good time to communicate to you how each ministry serves TLC, our communities and world. It should be a fun time with activities, free will drawings and fellowship. Once we schedule the date and time for the ministry fair, we will let you know. Keep an eye out for future announcements for both of these two important events.

Jim McGraw



JULY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	July 7 9:00a	July 14 9:00a	July 21 9:00a	July 28 9:00a <i>Outdoors</i>
GREETERS	Terri Freeman	Joanne & Eldon Kvale	Alyce Tracey	John & Janet Schieffer
USHERS	Rob Freeman Wally Thom	Mike Capra <i>Jim McGraw</i>	Steve Tracey <i>Wes Mohns</i>	
COMM. ASSTS	Dan Dahl	Ellen Ehrich	Pat Mackey	Joanne Schilling
READER	Kathy Thom	Sue Capra	Donnarae Carrell	Gloria Widiker



Jerry Janetski 7/1
Wyatt Sunderland 7/9
Eric Anderson 7/11
Karen Hayes 7/11
Sue Svitak 7/13
Ken Raether 7/27
Kevin Sunderland 7/31

Lou & Colette Sandow 7/9
Mike & Cindy Rubin 7/18
Wally & Kathy Thom 7/21
Kyle & Diane Hubbard 7/27
Tom & Maryann Cowans 7/30

July 28th BRUNCH POTLUCK

Calling all Lutherans!

This is one of those things we do best: EAT TOGETHER!
You are invited to join in fellowship for our potluck-style BRUNCH on July 28th, immediately following the outdoor 9 am service. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex, to ensure a variety of dishes to share. The WOT Service Committee #1 will assist with setting up the food, serving and clean-up.

To ease the kitchen efforts, please bring any hot-style meal items **FULLY** cooked. A quick re-warm in the oven is manageable. Did you know? The power of fellowship is not just socialization or spending time together; **It is the biblical command to support and motivate each other in the faith.** In fellowship, we find the strength that comes from unity as the body of Christ.



Meeting

NEXT MEETING OF . . .

- Birchwood Food Pantry Open July 8 & 22, 10:30-12:30pm**
- Worship & Music Team No Meeting until Aug 5, 10:00am**
- Women of Trinity No Meeting until Aug 10**
- Trinity Council Meeting No Meeting**
- Men's Ministry of Trinity July 18, 6:30pm**

**A letter from our Associate Pastor
The Call to Adventure**

Matthew 19:14 Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

I had the opportunity to be involved once again in our 2024 VBS teaching scripture in the "Sticky Scripture" video room also known as our children's nursery. Each of the 4 groups eagerly participated in learning God's Word and at the end of the week brought home the Gospel of John where they read and learned 5 different scriptures and marked them in their "John" Bible book. It is wonderful to see children learn scripture and eagerly look for Bible verses in their Bibles.

Please pray for these children that they will continue to love learning God's Word and let it guide their lives. Also, pray for their parents and grandparents to continue bringing their children and grandchildren to church where they can learn more about Jesus.

God's Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Psalm 119:105. We need God's Word to

guide us daily through life's difficulties. It brings peace, hope, comfort, guidance, correction, teaching and training. (2 Timothy 3:16)

We need to be an example to the world by letting the LIGHT of God's Word shine in and through us!

Here's a Bible challenge that I am recently doing: Each day I am reading a chapter in Proverbs, the book of wisdom.

There are 31 chapters in the book of Proverbs. Each chapter brings much wisdom to live by, and oh, what a difference it makes! Read a chapter in Proverbs with the corresponding day on the calendar and you can read through the book of Proverbs in one month. Then go back and re-read it the next month and the next. You'll be surprised how much wisdom it brings as you apply it to your life.

May God give you a safe and blessed summer!

In His love,

Barb Kleven



**Mission and Outreach
Women's Tea**

On June 1st Mission and Outreach held the Women's Tea. Michelle Rayburn was the speaker for the second year in a row. Fifty seven women from the community attended.



Gathering donations for Embrace

Embrace is a women's shelter. Their mission and vision is to end violence, inspire hope and provide unwavering support to all people affected by domestic and sexual violence by engaging our community in safety, partnership and liberation.

During the month of July, Mission and Outreach will be collecting items to benefit Embrace in Spooner. We will have lists of their needs on the table in the Narthex. The kids quilts that Karen Hayes makes will also be given to Embrace. The quilts will go to the children of the mothers entering the shelter.

Stewardship

Church stewardship matters a lot. It is through church stewardship that the gospel can be spread, lives can be changed, people can be brought to God, and communities can be impacted for the better. As church members, we are all called to faithfully steward the gifts that God has given us. Whether it's our time, talents, or finances, we use them wisely and generously to further His kingdom and bring glory to His name.

Our ministries include Evangelism, Education, Youth and Family activities, Missions and Outreach, Worship and Music, and Women's and Men's Ministries. Our gifts also support the operations of the church, including salaries, utilities, and upkeep and repairs.

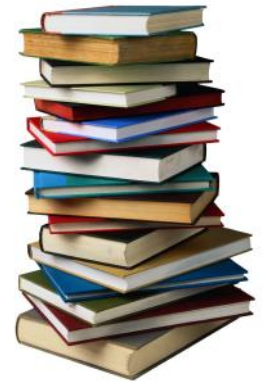
So the next opportunity you have to give your tithes and offerings, remember that it is more than just a financial transaction. It is an act of worship and obedience, and an opportunity to make a difference in our church, our community and the world.

Mike Rubin



Join us for **Snacks and Facts** on July 9th @ 2:00p. Lindy from the Rice Lake Public Library will let us know all of the awesome things the library has to offer. Believe it or not, there are more than just books!

July 9th at 2pm



SCUBA VBS was a thrilling underwater journey where kids experienced the ever-flowing, never-ending love of God! There were moments of crazy fun in the Sydney Shores skits, **WOW! Moments** in the Closing experiences, faith-building, sciency-fun activities at Imagination Station and the wonderful songs. And there were incredibly moving times when we saw the Holy Spirit in action as children learned about Jesus' love. So, when someone asks if all the work and expense is worth it, the answer is a resounding **YES!!**

We had 28 participants ranging from PK to grade 5 and over 25 volunteers during our week, June 10-14. During the week, the kids had the opportunity to bless countless families in Honduras, helping them have access to one of life's most basic resources: clean water through Operation Kid-to-Kid, a partnership between World Vision and Group Publishing VBS program. A \$5 donation for Operation Kid-to-Kid will help provide clean water for a kid for nearly two years! Each day the kids brought their donations and at the end of the week \$210 was collected. Enough to provide clean water for a kid in 42 villages!! That sounds like a God Sighting!

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

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!





Our Week with VBS. Thanks God!



We had a **WHALE** of a time
at **SCUBA VBS!!**



July 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 9:00a Quilters 10:30a-12:30p—Food Pantry Open 3:30p NO Women's Bible Study 7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	2	3 6:30a Men's Bible study	4 OFFICE CLOSED Observation of July 4th	5 OFFICE CLOSED	6
7 9a Worship w/communion	8 9:00a Quilters 3:30p NO Women's Bible Study 7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	9 2:00p Snacks & Facts	10	11 10a Women's Bible Study	12 OFFICE CLOSED	13
14 9a Worship w/communion	15 NO Quilters 10:30a-12:30p—Food Pantry Open NO Women's Bible Study 7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	16	17 6:30a Men's Bible study	18 10:00a Women's Bible Study 6:30p Men's Ministry Mtg	19 OFFICE CLOSED	20
21 9a Worship w/communion Love Fund/Food Pantry Offering	22 9a Quilters 3:30p NO Women's Bible Study 7p AA, Fellowship Hall	23 Journey Deadline 6:00p Birchwood Historical Society Mtg	24	25 10a Women's Bible Study	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27
28 9a Worship w/communion Outdoors Brunch to follow worship Prayer Shawl	29 9:00a Quilters 3:30p No Women's Bible Study 7p AA, Fellowship Hall	30	31			

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

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED



**JOIN US FOR SNACKS & FACTS
JULY 9 @ 2:00P**

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The JOURNEY

July 2024

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Rev. Daniel Tabor—Pastor
Pastor Barb Kleven—Associate Pastor
Julie Sunderland, Parish Administrator
Joanne Schilling, Choir Director
Donnae Carrell, Custodian

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Sunday School	9am (Sept – May)
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.



July Worship Services

July 7— Worship w/communion @ 9 am

July 14 — Worship w/communion @ 9 am

July 21 — Worship w/communion @ 9 am

July 28— Outdoor Worship w/communion @ 9 am

Pot luck brunch to follow service

Outdoor Worship is the Last Sunday of the Month during July & August

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

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

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