

The JOURNEY — Walking Daily with Jesus

From the Pastor's Desk

"Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets." (Matt 22:36-40)

In order to test our Lord, the religious leaders of His time asked Him which was the greatest of the commandments. This seems like a fair question, doesn't it? We all want to know which of the important Laws we are to follow. But these leaders really couldn't have cared less about His answer. Their only motive was to catch Jesus saying something which would allow them to discredit Him. Jesus, aware of their deceit, stops them in their tracks with His answer:

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." Yes, to love God is the greatest thing we can do! After all, He is our creator. He sustains us daily by His Words and by the Sacraments. God loves us so much that he gave His only begotten Son for us. Of course we should Love Him for all that He is, and for all that He does for us.

But Jesus doesn't stop there. He Says, *"And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and Prophets."* This seems easy as well, doesn't it. We all have learned the Golden Rule since we were kids: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

But, what about those people who violate the laws and the morals with which you hold so dearly, who live their lives seemingly oblivious to God's commands? In so doing, they often find that there are often consequences for their actions. Now, as they face the results of their sins, they often find that they are lost and alone, and they need help. Too often, this world turns its back on those who are in need. So, what are we as the Church to do?

Years ago, my Grandma told me that at the age of 16 she had become pregnant. She was a member of a Lutheran Church, so she sought some comfort from her church, seeking some kind words and assistance. What did the Church do? They kicked her out of the congregation. Why? Because she was a sinner! She had had sex outside of marriage. She told me, "When I needed the church the most, they turned their back on me. I was left all alone." As a pastor, I found this appalling and heartbreaking. The actions of that congregation led her to being wary of anything Christian. Sometimes, we Christians, who have been forgiven for so much, can tend to be some of the most unforgiving people.

Was this situation one in which the Church was justified in ignoring my grandmother? No! If we as a church were to start tossing out anyone who sinned, we would end up not only with empty pews, but many empty pulpits. Who did Jesus come to save? In Mark 2:17, Jesus says, *"I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."* Christ's Church does not rejoice when a person faces the consequences of their sins. Instead, we walk with them, love them, and we share the love of Jesus with them.

Jesus died on a cross for sin. *"[Jesus] is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world."* (1 John 2:2, emphasis mine) There is a world full of people who need to hear of Christ's forgiveness which is for them as well.

Where can we start? How about with the little ones? We are free in Christ to share the Good News with the children in our community, and it just so happens that this summer's Vacation Bible School starts on June 16. If you feel a tug on your heart to share Jesus with children and would like to participate in this outreach in our community, please contact Joanne Schilling at 715-354-3790.

In Christ, Pastor Dan

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From the Council President:

April 27 was a great day for TLC. We commissioned 3 Stephen Ministry (SM) Leaders and 6 Stephen Ministers. This new ministry will assist our pastors with caring for members of our church family who are experiencing a life crisis. We all know someone in our midst who could benefit from meeting with one of our trained Stephen Ministry Caregivers. The following article entitled *Four Human Needs That Every Congregation Must Meet* written by David A. Papp is very pertinent to our ministering to our congregational needs.

Stephen Ministries St. Louis has conducted decades of research with tens of thousands of people, both inside and outside the church, to learn why they are drawn or not drawn to Christian congregations. We've asked people in many different ways, "What motivates you to connect—or not connect—with a particular Christian congregation? What deep needs or longings do you have that are important for a congregation to fulfill?" This extensive research provided clear answers that helped us identify four primary needs or longings that people look to the church to meet:

- 1. **Spirituality:** to know and be known by God, to feel loved and accepted by God, to worship God and demonstrate love for God—a need shared by all, even those who have no religious affiliation.*
- 2. **Community:** to know and be known by other people seeking spirituality together, to feel loved and accepted by others, strengthening, and supporting one another.*
- 3. **Care:** to have people who will help bear life's burdens on behalf of the spiritual community, to receive care and support without judgment or criticism.*

*4. **Service:** to make a difference in the lives of others through the ministry of a caring spiritual community.*

How well a congregation meets these four needs is a significant indicator of its overall health and ability to be in mission with Jesus. These needs provide a blueprint for how a mission-minded congregation can plan and structure its entire ministry. Leaders of missional churches readily recognize that spirituality, community, and service are significant factors for pursuing their mission. But these congregations haven't always realized that providing Christian care is also an integral part of its mission and purpose.

Pastor Dan and the SM leaders met to discuss the caring needs of our congregation and quickly discovered the need far exceeds the ability to provide quality Christian care for church family. We cannot expect our pastors alone to provide this Christian Care. After all, we are called to be a priesthood of all believers. Trinity is off to a good start trying to fulfill these voids that both members and visitors are looking for in a church. The newly commissioned Stephen Ministers will work to fill the care and service parts where they can.

Here is where you come in. Each member at TLC has a part in growing this caring ministry. We need you to cover the new Stephen Ministers and Leaders with your prayers.

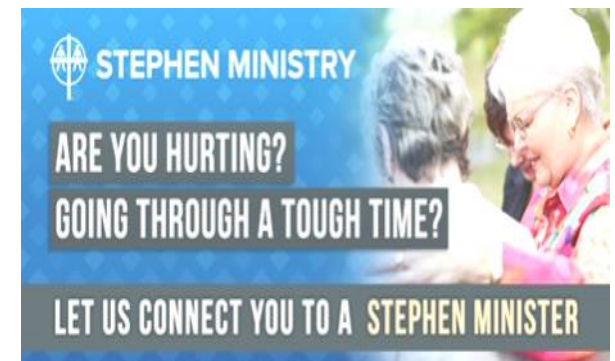
Additionally, we need to train new Stephen Ministers. The SM Leaders are praying that the Holy Spirit will put the desire in your heart to become a new SM caregiver. We will be offering the second Stephen Minister training course in the fall. You only need love, compassion, and empathy to make a good Stephens Minister trainee. The casual and fun training sessions do a great job of preparing caregivers to provide the

necessary care that our brothers and sisters need. The Stephen Ministry Leaders and the SM small groups continue to pray for, always support, and nurture all Stephen Ministers. SM are the caregiver, God is the cure giver. Pray that the Holy Spirit will raise up new caregivers for those in need. Join me in praying the following prayer in your daily prayer time.

Lord Jesus, when you looked out at the crowds of people, you had compassion on them and prayed to your Father to send laborers out into the field. Guide us now as we look for people willing to train and serve as Stephen Ministers. Help those with the gifts for this ministry to hear your calling and step forward so that we may reach out with compassion to those who need it most. In your name and by the power of your Spirit, we pray. Amen.

If you want further information about the Stephen Ministry here at TLC, feel free to contact Pastor Dan, Jim McGraw, Diane Hubbard or Gene Tabor.

Jim McGraw





JUNE-SUNDAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS



	June 1 9:00a	June 8 9:00a	June 15 9:00a	June 22 9:00a	June 29 OUTDOOR Service 9:00a
GREETERS	Terri Freeman	Joanne & Eldon Kvale	Alyce Tracey	Steve & Jo Ann Miner	Kathy & Wally Thom
USHERS	Rob Freeman Wally Thom	Kevin Ploessl NEED	Mike Capra Steve Tracey	Wes Mohns Tom Svitak	
COMM. ASSTS	Dan Dahl	Ellen Ehrich	Pat Mackey	Joanne Schilling	
READER	Kathy Thom	Cindy Rubin	Sue Capra	Eric Anderson	
					Dianne Buxton Or Donnarae



6/1 Bob Scott
6/1 Janet Schieffer
6/1 Steve Miner
6/8 Dianne Buxton
6/19 Sharon Gary
6/20 Carol Addington
6/24 June Bibeau
6/25 Karen Brantner
6/29 Tom Svitak



6/11 Jo Ann & Steve Miner
6/ 19 Caitlin & Steve Janetski
6/23 Karen & Bob Scott
6/30 Elaine & Kevin Ploessl

Women's Tea

On June 28 at 11:00a. Missions & Outreach will be hosting their Women's Tea. Six Dollars for the Luncheon. Please sign up at the Welcome Center. The guest speaker is Gaye Lindfors and her topic is "God, Girlfriends and Chocolate."

BRUNCH POTLUCK

Calling all Lutherans!

You are invited to join in fellowship for our BRUNCH style potluck on June 29 immediately following the outdoor 9 am service.

A sign-up sheet is at the Welcome Center in the narthex (lobby) to allow for a variety of dishes to share and for opportunity to help.

To ease the kitchen efforts, please bring any hot style meal items FULLY cooked. A quick re-warm in the oven is manageable.

Thank you! Women of Trinity Service Group #2 will host this month.

(If you don't know which Service Group you are in, pick up a Women of Trinity Handbook on the Welcome Center counter).

All other helpers are greatly appreciated!



Meeting

NEXT MEETING OF . . .

Birchwood Food Pantry Open. **June 2 & 16, 10:30-12:30pm**
Worship & Music Team. **June 2, 9:00am**
Christian Life Meeting. **June 2, 10:30 am**
Women of Trinity **No Mtgs June & July**
Trinity Council Meeting **June 17, 6:30pm**

From Your Associate Pastor

The month of June brings such renewal with beautiful flowers, full green leaves on the trees, and pleasant temperatures that enhance more time outdoors to enjoy God's creation. This renewal inspires so many fun summer activities that might include boating, fishing, gardening, outdoor games, and exercise.

Like the refreshment that spring brings to us each year, the Holy Spirit brings amazing revival into our lives. Pentecost commemorates the coming of the Holy Spirit and is celebrated 50 days after Easter. This year, Pentecost is celebrated on June 8th! Pentecost happened when the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles and other followers of Jesus and is seen as the birth of the church. The Holy Spirit empowered the disciples to do the same things that Jesus did! Oh, what wonderful things the Holy Spirit does for us as believers in Jesus Christ in playing an essential role in our lives.

The Holy Spirit:

- Reveals Jesus, God's thoughts and helps us to understand Scripture - John 15:26; 1 Corinthians 2:10-11
- Brings unity-Ephesians 4:3
- Comforts - 1 Thessalonians 1:6; Romans 15:13
- Is our helper - John 14:26
- Seals our salvation and is a sign that we belong to God-Ephesians 1:13
- Empowers us to live a life pleasing to God and transforms us - Acts 1:8; Galatians 5:16-18
- Intercedes for us - Romans 8:26-27
- Gives us strength and wisdom -1 Corinthians 2:12-13
- Brings joy and peace - Romans 15:13; Galatians 5:19-26
- Regenerates and renews us - Titus 3:5
- Gives us spiritual gifts, enabling us to serve God and others -1 Corinthians 12:4
- Assists us in prayer - Jude 1:20

Prayer: Heavenly Father, Thank You that You offered Your Son, Jesus, on the cross that my sins might be forgiven. Thank You for the power of Your Holy Spirit that draws me close to You and helps me to do what honors you the most. Grant me strength and courage to live my life for You. Through the power of Your Holy Spirit, free me, fill me, and use me for Your glory! In Jesus' name, amen.

Peace be with you!
Pr. Barb

Stephen Ministers: The After People

People often ask, "What exactly is a Stephen Minister?" One way to put it is that Stephen Ministers are the *After People*.

Stephen Ministers are there:

... *after* the phone call you hoped you'd never get.

... *after* the divorce papers are served and the bottom falls out of your life.

... *after* the funeral, when everyone has left and the emotions you've held at bay come crashing in on you.

... *after* the doctor says, "I'm sorry, but there's nothing more we can do."

... *after* the nursing home director shakes your hand and says, "Welcome to your new home."

... *after* the last child honks the horn, waves, and drives away—and the house suddenly seems empty.

... *after* the gavel goes down, the handcuffs go on, and your loved one is led away.

... *after* the baby arrives, demanding more of you than you ever dreamed possible.

... *after* you find a pink slip with your final paycheck.

... *after* your family and friends have heard your story one too many times, but you still need to talk it out.

Stephen Ministers are the "After People." They are ready to come alongside you—or your friends, neighbors, coworkers, or relatives—and provide comfort and support for as long *after* as needed.

www.stephenministries.org

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ROOF PROJECT

Stewardship Update - TLC Roof Replacement Update

We are making good progress on our efforts to raise the funds needed to re-shingle the roof of the sanctuary, entry and narthex areas.

As of last Sunday we had about one-third of the \$40,000 needed. We have other funds in the “matching bucket ready to match the donated funds as we approach \$15,000.

The teams have met to look at means to get everyone involved in the effort, whether by helping with the contacting and contractor or by continuing to raise funds.

Please prayerfully consider helping us meet this challenge.

Thank you. Mike Rubin, Stewardship



Women of Trinity – May Happenings

Our last meeting of spring before enjoying the summer months!

The April service project of making filled potholders was greatly appreciated by Mine, Yours, and Ours, the Lutheran Thrift Store in Rice Lake. Potholders will be sent to Embrace in Ladysmith in June along with donations from the Mission and Outreach Team. We pray these gifts will be a blessing to someone in need.

Teacher Appreciation Week was the first week in May, and we discovered the teachers were nearly inundated with treats from a grateful community. This next school year we will choose a week in October to shower the teachers with love so that they know appreciation year-round.

Remember to send your Secret Sister a card or note, just to let her know you're praying for her! The Big Reveal will be in October!

The Women's Tea is June 28th, and Elaine Ploessl sent around a sign-up for various treats needed for the event.

Our summer potluck schedule is upon us! Service Committees will set up, serve and clean up during the potluck. If you're not sure of your committee, please check the WOT Handbook.

May 25	Service Committee 1
June 29	Service Committee 2
July 27	Service Committee 1
Aug 24	Service Committee 2



There will be no meeting in June or July, however August will have a full agenda as we prepare for the September Rummage Sale on September 5 and 6 and all the events of Fall!

CALLING ALL WOMEN OF TRINITY! Our next meeting is August 9, 2025, at 10:00am! Please join us for fellowship, support of our sisters and our church, and planning future events!

Trinity Lutheran Church Spotlight

Each month we will highlight a TLC member and learn more about them - their background, any hobbies or little-known facts they might like to share!



Name: Gelene Tabor
Place of Birth: Manhattan, KS (the little apple!)
of Siblings: 1 sister, 2 step-brothers, 2 step-sisters
How did you meet your spouse? Hot tub at Ft. Huachuca, AZ!
How long are/were you married? 34 years
Kids (or nieces/nephews)/Grand/Great-Grands: 5/17.5/0

What are some jobs you've had? Army Commander during Desert Storm, Climbed roofs as an insurance adjuster, homeschool teacher

Hobbies: Hiking, Gardening, Reading

Fun Fact: Own an 80-acre farm in KS



Name: Cindy Rubin
Place of Birth: Rugby, North Dakota
of Siblings: 5
How did you meet your spouse? First day of college found out he and my roommate were from the same home town.
How long are/were you married? 44 years this July
Kids (or nieces/nephews)/Grands/Great-Grands: 2/4

What are some jobs you've had? Office manager, store manager, preschool

teacher, special ed teacher, grade six teacher

Hobbies: Reading, baking, playing with grandchildren

Fun Fact: Rugby, ND, where I was born is the Geographical Center of North America!

APPRECIATION BREAKFAST

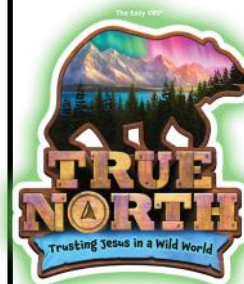


On May 3, Mission and Outreach hosted a Four Corner's Emergency Service District breakfast for their employees, volunteers and spouses. They had 18 attend along with Pastor and the Mission and Outreach team. They served a nice spread of food and each received a gift bag.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION IS OPEN!! This year's theme is True North, like the ultimate Alaskan adventure where northern lights glow over majestic mountains, racing rivers, and glistening glaciers. The dates are June 16-20, from 12:30-3:30 pm.

As kids trek the tundra of TRUE NORTH VBS, they'll explore how easy it is to lose sight of what's true in our wild world today. Pointing

them toward Jesus, TRUE NORTH VBS shows them that he is a faithful friend we can always trust. He's our True North! kids discover what it means to trust Jesus in a wild world! TRUE NORTH VBS is filled with awesome Bible-learning experiences kids see, hear, and touch! Hands-on science experiments, team-building games, unforgettable Bible songs, and tasty treats are just a few of the standout activities that help faith flow into real life.



Registration for VBS is for children aged 3 (by Sept 1, 2024 & potty-trained) through 5th grade. If they are older than 5th grade, we encourage them to volunteer as an Assistant Crew Leader!

Volunteers to be Crew Leaders and Assistant Crew Leaders are needed to guide a small group (crew) of about 5 kids from one station to the next.

To register, go to <https://www.myvbs.org/truenorthvbs/>

June 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 8a Text Study 9a Worship w/ communion	2 9:00a Quilters 9a WMMT Mtg 10:30a Christian Life Mtg 10:30a-12:30p—Food Pantry Open 3:30p Women's Bible Study 7p AA, Fellowship Hall	3	4 6:30a Men's Bible study	5 10a Women's Bible Study 6:30p Divine Drama	6 OFFICE CLOSED	7
8 8a Text Study 9a Worship w/ communion	9 9:00a Quilters 3:30p Women's Bible Study 7p AA, Fellowship Hall	10	11	12 10a Women's Bible Study 6:30p Divine Drama	13 OFFICE CLOSED	14
15 8a Text Study 9a Worship w/ communion	16 9a Quilters 3:30p Women's Bible Study 7p AA, Fellowship Hall	17	18 6:30a Men's Bible study	19 10a Women's Bible Study 6:30p Divine Drama	20 OFFICE CLOSED	21
22 9a Worship w/ communion Love Fund/Food Pantry Offering	23 9a Quilters 10:30a-12:30p—Food Pantry Open 3:30p Women's Bible Study 7p AA, Fellowship Hall	24 Journey Deadline	25	26 10a Women's Bible Study 6:30p Divine Drama	27 OFFICE CLOSED	28
29 8a Text Study 9a OUTDOOR Worship w/ communion 10:30 Potluck Brunch Prayer Shawl Sunday	30 9a Quilters 3:30p Women's Bible Study 7p AA, Fellowship Hall					

Trinity Lutheran Church
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 Birchwood, WI 54817

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Join us for Outdoor
 Worship & Potluck



The JOURNEY

June 2025

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)

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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.



SUNDAY WORSHIP

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

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

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

June 22 — 9:00a worship service w/communion

June 29 — 9:00a OUTDOOR worship service

(weather permitting) Pot luck to follow service

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.