

The JOURNEY — Walking Daily with

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Easter Celebration

From the Council President:

God Loves to Use Weak People

It's no problem if you feel you have little to offer God. To illustrate, John 6:8-9 tells us that a little boy offered to the Lord what little food he had (five small loaves of bread and two fish), and the Lord multiplied it into enough food to feed 5,000 men and their families. The point is that you and I may sometimes feel that we don't have much to offer God. But if you offer to God what little you have—your talents, your skills, your spiritual gifts, your time—God can turn these into something magnificent. My friends, I urge you not to wait. Delay no further. Starting today, commit to keeping yourself "plugged in" to Jesus, and offer to Him what little you have. I promise you; He'll use you if you give yourself to Him. He can do things in your life that you could not possibly even imagine. He is able, "through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think" (Ephesians 3:20). Dare to believe that God can do it! (Ron Rhodes Posted on Aug 21, 2018, Harvest House Publishing)

Rich Stearns, President of World Vision U.S. gives us *4 Reasons God Uses Us Fools to Shame the Wise*

1. God uses those who are willing. You've heard the saying, "God can't steer a parked car." We have to start our engines and give God access to us. He will pass over the best and the brightest for the available and obedient.

2. God works in our weakness. We don't like feeling helpless and inadequate, but that is when we depend on him rather than ourselves. The Lord told Paul, "My power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Cor. 12:9), and it is true of us, as well.

3. It is never too late to discover your purpose. Moses was 80 when he liberated the Israelites from bondage. Sarah and Abraham were 90 and 100, respectively, when they became first-time parents in a covenant to create a great people. And of course, Noah was 500 years old when he started building the ark. The results of their actions show that God's timing is perfect. Age is no impediment to being used powerfully by God.

4. All of us have something God can use. Moses had a staff. David a slingshot. A boy had a simple lunch that somehow fed 5,000 people. The question isn't whether what we have is good enough for God—it is whether we will offer what we have for his service.

God has called each of us to join him in his kingdom mission, no credentials required. Inevitably, we'll face a Goliath or an impasse like the Red Sea, and sometimes we'll feel unequal to the task. But the good news is, God's plan doesn't rely on our greatness, but rather on his. He fashioned us in our mothers' wombs and placed us in the world for "such a time as this" (Esther 4:14). And in discovering our purpose, we become the person God created us to be.

Over the years, I have been associated with Trinity Lutheran Church. I have witnessed how the Holy Spirit has worked through the members of this congregation. I've witnessed faithful and committed leaders that have served for many years. I have heard God's inerrant Word preached and taught. I've seen the community and world outreach. I've heard amazing music and choirs. It amazes me that a congregation the size of TLC does so much. But as Pastor Dan says, we still have a lot of work to do.

The need is great. Many people in our area need physical, emotional, and spiritual healing. That is the reason we have started up the Stephen Ministry. We now have 4 trained Stephen care-

givers to give care to those who are hurting in our congregation. Many people in our communities need to hear of the saving grace of Christ. TLC needs to have more members to serve as ushers, scripture readers and projector operators. TLC needs to have more people serving on ministry teams. We need to have more people step up to be church leaders. The intent of having term limits for council positions is to equip more members to be leaders, bring new ideas and prevent burnout of the present council members.

We need everyone here at TLC to join in God's mission. As mentioned earlier we don't have to have extraordinary talent or experience, we just have to have the heart for His mission here in Birchwood and beyond. As Rich Stearns wrote everyone has something God can use. God uses those who are willing. God works in our weakness and its never too late to discover your purpose.

What better witness or testimony is there than when people see God's power at work in our weakness. We can tell them it's not me, but the power of God working through me. Hopefully, they will want what you have.

Jim McGraw





MAY-SUNDAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS



	May 4 9:00a	May 11 9:00a	May 18 9:00a	May 25 OUTDOOR Service 9:00a
GREETERS	Terri Freeman	Sue Svitak	Steve & Joanne Miner	Karen & Bob Scott
USHERS	Rob Freeman Wally Thom	Wes Mohns Kevin Ploessl	Mike Capra NEED	
COMM. ASSTS	Dan Dahl	Ellen Ehrich	Pat Mackey	
READER	Kathy Thom	Gloria Widiker	Cindy Rubin	



The Looney Lutherans are a trio of wacky gals who use music, comedy, and some help from the audience to share their age-old wisdom for living a long and lively life, the Lutheran way. Material is comedic and family friendly, and you don't have to be Lutheran to love it!

Tuesday, May 20 - 1:00pm
Bethany Lutheran Church in Rice Lake
Freewill Offering - Open to the public



5/18 Jeanne Dahlby
5/24 Wayne Palm
5/26 Joanne Miner
5/27 Cheri Anderson
5/27 Gloria Widiker
5/28 Julie Sunderland
5/31 Ruth Clausen



5/30 Connie & Dan Dahl

BRUNCH POTLUCK

Calling all Lutherans!

You are invited to join in fellowship for our BRUNCH style potluck on **May 25**, 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 #1 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. **May 7 & 18, 10:30-12:30pm**
Worship & Music Team. **May 5, 9:00am**
Christian Life Meeting. **May 5, 10:30 am**
Women of Trinity **May 10, 10:00am**
Trinity Council Meeting **No May Meeting**

From Your Associate Pastor

The freshness of spring has come.... slow, but sure! Snow has melted, the temperature is rising, and the ice is out of the lakes. Light green buds are appearing on the trees, and bright colored flowers replace the browns and grays! On the lake we welcome the tundra swans, ducks, loons.

IT'S SPRING!!!

Just like the new fresh blades of grass and beautiful colors of spring, Jesus promised to make *everything* new one day (Revelation 21:5). In the meantime, He gives us promises to help guide us through the difficult twists and turns that life brings.

We all need forgiveness, and as we ask for forgiveness, He promises to forgive us and help us to get back on track with Him. 1 John 1:9-10. Hosea 6:3 says, *"As surely as the sun rises, He will appear; He will come to us like the spring rains that water the earth."*

Sometimes we act and work like everything depends on us, when we need to trust in God like everything depends on Him. Proverbs 3:6 says, *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not unto your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths."*

Our life with Christ is a balancing act between depending on our self and depending on Him. He promises to help us, but also, we need to do our part by believing and knowing and trusting that His promises, like soothing spring rain, will water our dry, parched soul, and make it flourish again.

Deuteronomy 32:2 says, *"Let my teaching fall like rains and my words descend like dew, like showers on new grass, like abundant rain on tender plants."*

God speaks these wonderful words from Isaiah 43:19:

¹⁹ Behold, I am doing a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.

*Lord, let Your Word refresh and
nourish us and make all things new
like the new life that we see coming
forth all around us this spring. In
Jesus' name, Amen.*

Peace be with you!

Pr. Barb



Looking for mountains of fun?

TRUE NORTH
Trusting Jesus in a Wild World

you otter be here!

New friends ▶ Amazing experiments ▶ Creative games
Super-fun snacks ▶ Surprising adventures ▶ Incredible music

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/>

ROOF PROJECT

Trinity Lutheran Church is embarking on an important effort to replace the roof over our sanctuary within the next year. The current roof is old, has been leaking in several areas and the shingles themselves have been weather-worn to the point where they are very thin. To protect the sanctuary from major damage we need to act soon. We are forming teams to address the key actions needed; construction-savvy individuals to manage the contractor, financially knowledgeable people and creative, social people to help us raise the needed funds. If you feel the calling to help in any of these areas please contact Mike Rubin or Julie Sunderland to join the teams.

We have a contractor bid of just under \$40,000. Please consider helping our congregation get this work done by donating to the Trinity Roof Fund. Several members of the congregation have offered to assist in covering some of the cost of the roof replacement by offering a fund-raising challenge to the congregation. They will match donations from the congregation until the target is met. Donations from our congregation need to be in addition to our member's normal ongoing donations.

Please prayerfully consider how you can help our church address this major challenge.



Women of Trinity – Happenings

Welcome to Spring! After a couple of months off, the Women of Trinity are gearing up for a wonderful Spring and Summer!

The April service project was making filled potholders for the women who utilize Embrace crisis services, and for customers visiting Mine, Yours, and Ours, the Lutheran Thrift Store in Rice Lake.

Potholders had baggies sewn into them and were fastened with a button. They held a scripture card and miscellaneous necessities including disposable toothbrushes, flossers, band aids and ointment, lip balm, an emery board, hand wipes, and more. We pray these gifts will be a blessing to someone in need.

The Palm Sunday service included a welcoming of new members with a beautiful reception in the Fellowship Hall afterwards. Thanks to Sue Svitak for organizing a wonderful event!

We're so excited about Easter! Not only will we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, but we will also have an Easter breakfast after the sunrise service and a baptism of Hannah and Beau VanGuilder during the 9am service. Women of Trinity will provide a baby blanket and a prayer shawl to Hannah and Beau, as well as egg bakes and desserts for the breakfast.

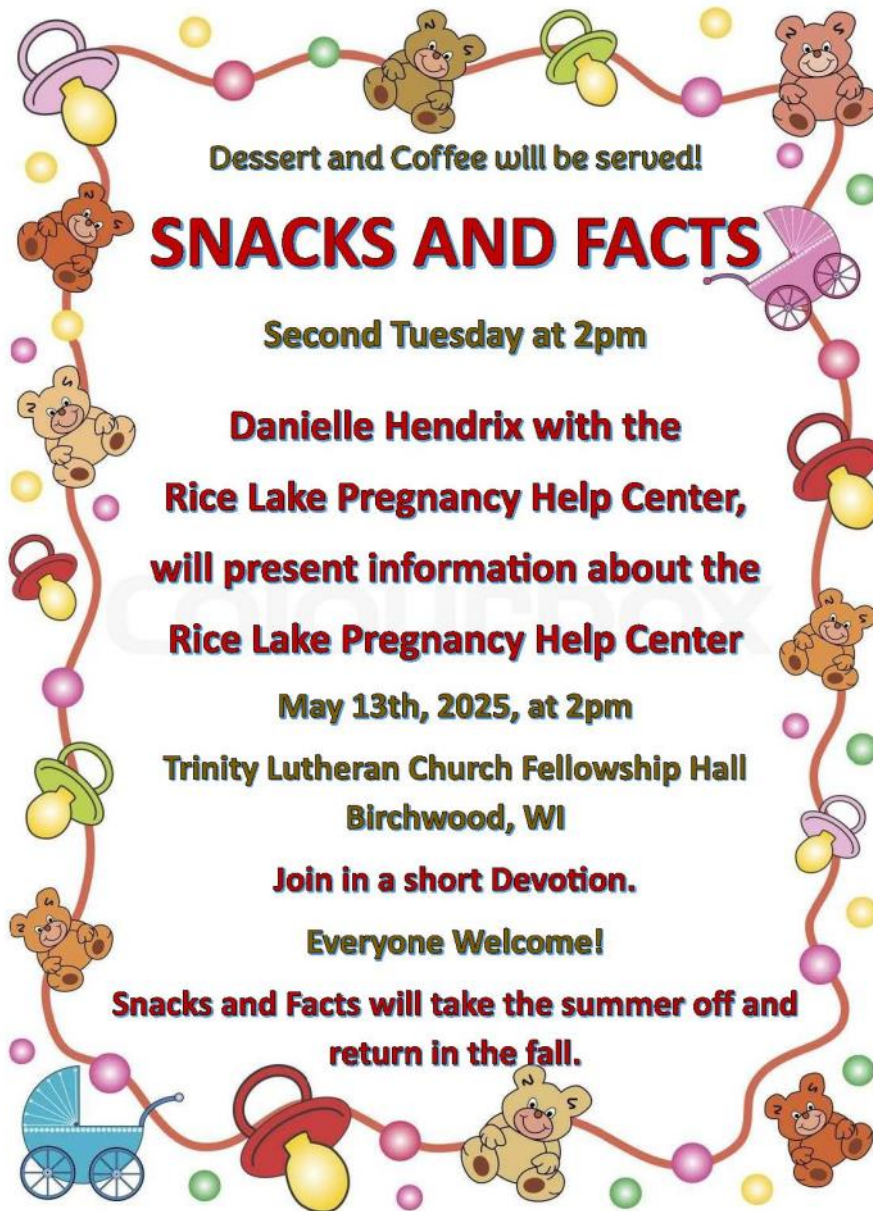
Teacher Appreciation Week is the first week in May, and we are warming up those ovens to bring treats to our wonderful Birchwood teachers on May 5, 7, and 8. Cindy Rubin will create small tents to go with the treats, so they are aware that Trinity Lutheran Church is praying for them.

The Women's Tea is June 28, and Elaine Ploessl will let everyone know of any support that might be needed. Women of Trinity agreed to help offset a portion of the cost of this event.

The playroom/nursery is getting a facelift thanks to Donnarae Carrell! She has gone through the old toys and is requesting donations to outfit the dollhouse. We are so blessed to have children again in our worship service! The Men of Trinity will be requested to destroy the outdated crib currently in there.

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 May 10th, 2025, at 10:00am! Please join us for fellowship, support of our sisters and our church, and planning future events!



Dessert and Coffee will be served!

SNACKS AND FACTS

Second Tuesday at 2pm

**Danielle Hendrix with the
Rice Lake Pregnancy Help Center,
will present information about the
Rice Lake Pregnancy Help Center**

May 13th, 2025, at 2pm

**Trinity Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall
Birchwood, WI**

Join in a short Devotion.

Everyone Welcome!

**Snacks and Facts will take the summer off and
return in the fall.**



STEPHEN MINISTRY

ARE YOU HURTING?

GOING THROUGH A TOUGH TIME?

LET US CONNECT YOU TO A STEPHEN MINISTER

Mission and Outreach

Mission Works

Thank you for your generosity in donating to the Baby Care and Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief. We will be putting the kits together this month and will report the number of kits we will be able to send to LWR in October. We have made 60 adult quilts of which 35 were sent to the Pacific Palisades Lutheran Church in California. These 35 quilts will be given to children entering junior high school. The only thing left standing in the neighborhood after the fire was the church.

Outreach

On May 3, Mission and Outreach will host an appreciation breakfast for the Four Corners Emergency Services and their spouses.

On June 28 at 11am, we will be hosting the Women's Tea featuring Gaye Lindfors. Her topic will be "God, Girlfriends and Chocolate". Please sign up in the Narthex or call the church to make your reservations.

Snacks and Facts

Danielle Hendrix from the Rice Lake Pregnancy Help Center will be the speaker on May 13. Please come out to support the speakers and enjoy some pie and ice cream. Snack and Facts will be taking the summer off and resume in the fall.

May 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 6:30p Divine Drama	2 OFFICE CLOSED	3
4 8a Text Study 9a Worship w/ communion	5 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	6 2p Snacks & Facts	7 6:30a Men's Bible study 7p Choir Rehearsal	8 10a Women's Bible Study 6:30p Divine Drama	9 OFFICE CLOSED	10 10:00a Women of Trinity mtg
11 8a Text Study 9a Worship w/ communion	12 9a Quilters 3:30p Women's Bible Study 7p AA, Fellowship Hall	13 2p Snacks & Facts	14 7p Choir Rehearsal	15 10a Women's Bible Study 6:30p Divine Drama	16 OFFICE CLOSED	17
18 9a Worship w/ communion Love Fund/Food Pantry Offering	19 9a Quilters 10:30a-12:30p—Food Pantry Open 3:30p Women's Bible Study 7p AA, Fellowship Hall	20 Journey Deadline	21 6:30a Men's Bible study	22 10a Women's Bible Study 6:30p Divine Drama	23 OFFICE CLOSED	24
25 8a Text Study 9a OUTDOOR Worship w/ communion 10:30 Potluck Brunch Prayer Shawl Sunday	26 9a Quilters 3:30p Women's Bible Study 7p AA, Fellowship Hall	27	28	30 10a Women's Bible Study 6:30p Divine Drama	31	

Trinity Lutheran Church
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**Snacks & Facts
May 13 @ 2:00p**



The JOURNEY

May 2025

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

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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

May 4 — 9:00a worship service w/communion

May 11 — 9:00a worship service w/communion

May 18 — 9:00a worship service w/communion

May 25 — 9:00a OUTDOOR worship service w/communion

Potluck Brunch 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.