

# ***The JOURNEY — Walking Daily with Jesus***



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL DATES AT TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH ARE SET!! The dates are June 15-19, from 12:30-3:30 pm. This year's theme is RAINFOREST FALLS. At Rainforest Falls, kids explore the nature of God—discovering who God is and how much he loves them! Kids participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, make and devour yummy treats, experience one-of-a-kind Bible Adventures, collect Bible Memory Buddies, and test out sciency-fun experiments they'll never forget. Plus, kids will learn to look for evidence of God all around them through some-

thing called God Sightings. Each day concludes with a Canopy Closing that gets everyone involved in living what they've learned.

Kids at Rainforest Falls will join a mission effort to provide families in Central America with fruit trees that feed kids and provide income for parents.

Registration for VBS is for children aged 3 (by Sept 1, 2025 & potty-trained) through 5th grade (that is, entering 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.

Our online registration site will be active soon. To register as a participant or a volunteer, go to <https://www.myvbs.org/tlc2026>. Questions? Call the church office at 715-354-3790.

## WHAT'S INSIDE

|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| VBS                                | 1 |
| Mission & Outreach                 | 2 |
| WOT                                | 2 |
| Save the Date                      | 2 |
| Worship Assistants                 | 3 |
| May Birthdays & Anniversaries      | 3 |
| Lions Donation                     | 3 |
| Next meeting of....                | 3 |
| Financial Scams                    | 4 |
| Message from Associate Pastor Barb | 5 |
|                                    | 5 |
| Stephen Ministry                   | 6 |
| Calendar                           | 7 |

## Mission and Outreach

Thank you for your generous donations for the Personal Care Kits that will be going to Lutheran World Relief (LWR). M&O will be putting the Kits together for shipment in October. The Personal Care Kits provide much-needed self-care and critical germ fighting tools for people in need.

During May, M&O will be collecting for the LWR Baby Care Kits. The Baby Care Kits help a baby get off to a good start in life with basic baby care supplies.

We have been having great turnouts for Snacks and Facts.

In March we had Nature's Edge Center out to talk about therapy programs utilizing animal assistants, hippo-therapy (horse), horticulture and more.

In April we had Winged Freedom Raptor Hospital out to talk about their program of striving to rescue, rehabilitate and release wild raptors.

Snacks and Facts will host Aura Lea Carroll who is a Master Gardener. She will be speaking on gardening myths, and she will lead us in a "Make and Take" project. Please join us May 12th at 2:00pm.

The Women's Tea will take place on Saturday, June 27th at 11:00 am. Our guest speaker will be Gaye Lindfors, and her topic will be "Getting Your Ducks in a Row...or Not." A sign-up sheet will be on the Welcome Center in mid-May.

Thank you for your constant support. You are the reason we can be effective in our community and world.



## SAVE THE DATE

**The Women's Tea will be June 27th @11:00am**  
**Speaker: Gaye Lindfors will be speaking "Getting Your Ducks in a Row...or Not"**

## Women of Trinity

- Women of Trinity met on April 8<sup>th</sup> at 3pm. The new meeting time seemed to be a success having 15 women attending.
- Appreciation was expressed to everyone who assisted with the Seder dinner. It was a wonderful evening with so many positive comments.
- Appreciation was extended to everyone who assisted and contributed baked goods for the Palm Sunday bake sale. The bake sale raised \$395 with a generous donation of \$200 for a total of \$595. A total of \$595 has already been contributed to the kitchen's electrical box.
- After working on several meals in the kitchen, WOT will be replacing some of the kitchen tools.
- During our meeting in September or October WOT would like to do a service project. We have two ideas but would love some more. Please bring your ideas to the next meeting.
- If you are a knitter, we are running low on prayer shawls. We will provide the yarn and instructions.
- The Women's Tea is scheduled for Saturday, June 27 at 11:00 a.m. Gaye Lindfors will be our speaker, and her topic will be "Getting Your Ducks in a Row...or Not. In mid-May, you'll find a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center.
- WOT would like to thank the Men's Ministry for a delicious Easter brunch.

Please join us on Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 3pm for our next meeting.

***Women  
of  
Trinity***



## ATTENTION

The Women of Trinity Meetings have **changed**

Mark your calendars for the second  
 Wednesday of each  
 Month at 3:00p

Hope to see you there!!

**Next meeting is May @ 3:00p**



## MAY - SUNDAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS



|                    | May 3<br>9:00a            | May 10<br>9:00a               | May 17<br>9:00a             | May 24<br>9:00a        | May 31<br>9:00a            |
|--------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>GREETERS</b>    | Terri Freeman             | Cheri Anderson                | Eldon & Joanne Kvale        | <b>NEED</b>            | Marcia Kampf               |
| <b>USHERS</b>      | Rob Freeman<br>Wally Thom | John Schieffer<br><b>NEED</b> | Tom Svitak<br>Kevin Ploessl | Janet & John Schieffer | Steve Tracey<br>Wally Thom |
| <b>COMM. ASSTS</b> | Ellen Ehrich              | Ellen Ehrich                  | Pat Mackey                  | Joanne Schilling       | Joanne Schilling           |
| <b>READER</b>      | Kathy Thom                | Eric Anderson                 | Barb Kleven                 | Brenda Mackey          | Barb Kleven                |



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



5/30 Connie & Dan Dahl



A Shout Out and Thank You to the Birchwood Lions Club for supporting the Trinity Lutheran Church Vacation Bible School for yet another year. Thank you for your support!

# Meeting

### NEXT MEETING OF . . .

**Birchwood Food Pantry Open. . . . . May 4 & 18, 10:30a-12:30p**  
**Worship & Music Team. . . . . May 4, 9:00a**  
**Christian Life Meeting. . . . . May 4, 10:30a**  
**Women of Trinity . . . . . May 13, 3:00p**  
**Trinity Council meeting. . . . . May 19, 6:30p**

Maundy Thursday was a bit different this year at Trinity as we held a Christian Seder Meal and Service rather than the traditional worship service.

An Ad-hoc committee of Cheri Anderson, Elaine Ploessl, Cindy Rubin, Joanne Schilling, Julie Sunderland, Kathy Thom and Pastor Dan Tabor was formed to plan the event.

Thirty-nine attendees participated in the Passover seder - the order of service - learning the Passover story of deliverance from bondage through the elements of the Passover meal which were placed on the ceremonial seder plates: parsley (karpas), bitter herbs (maror), roasted egg (chagigah), and sweet apple mixture (charoseth).

Midway through the seder, a buffet meal was served of lamb meatballs, Moroccan spiced chicken thighs, Passover rolls, potato latkes, extra charoseth, tossed salad and matzo. Dessert was pieces of baklava



### From Barb Kleven, Associate Pastor

Blooming landscapes, warm temperatures. Those of us who survived the bitter cold of winter intensely and eagerly look forward to enjoying the warm weather activities, along with the green landscapes, budding trees, and colorful and fragrant flowers.

The beauty of spring comes on the heels of what is the most glorious celebration the world will ever know, the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. He is the One that can take the bitterness of sin along with helplessness and hopelessness and bring forgiveness and new life through His death and resurrection.

Because He lives, we can face each day with the anticipation of living in hope, victory and blessing and the assurance of salvation and eternal life.

The beauty of the Resurrection brings:

- **Hope in Darkness:** providing the assurance that suffering and death are not final.
- **Reconciliation & Justification:** That demonstrates that Christ's sacrifice was sufficient to atone for our sin, bringing fellowship with God.
- **Personal Transformation:** Beauty for ashes.

A Living Savior: Jesus lives to make intercession for us with a promise of abundant life.

Here at Trinity Lutheran Church, we have been experiencing that abundant life with gathering for worship praising God with

singing, prayer, scripture reading, sermon and communion. For a closer, caring connection we have Men's and Women's ministry groups, Bible studies, quilting, choir, those who take care of our building and grounds, children's ministry, and pastoral and Steven's ministry.

Be refreshed! Join the restorative blessing of connecting with other brothers and sisters in Christ in the Christian fellowship that fosters a deeper connection with others, spiritual growth, accountability and a sense of belonging and support. Being involved here at Trinity Lutheran is a refreshing place to love and be loved.

Grace and peace be with you!

Pastor Barb





stephen  
MINISTRY®

## Let the Truth Be Told

Recently I was listening to the song *Truth Be Told*, a Christian Contemporary song performed and written by Matthew West. West wrote this song as a reminder to himself that he is a fallen human being, and nobody expects him to be perfect. Instead, he needs to be authentic with other people and honest with God, who knows his heart anyway. I had listened to this song many times but didn't take time to really listen to the lyrics. Here is a lyric from that song.

*Lie number one, you're supposed to have it all together, And when they ask how you're doing Just smile and tell them, "Never better". ... And when it's out of control I say, "It's under control", but it's not. And you know it. ... I don't know why it's so hard to admit it. When being honest is the only way to fix it.* These lyrics are what our Stephen Ministry Leaders hear when we ask people in our congregation going through difficult times, "How are you doing?" Experience shows us when people are willing to talk about their issues with caring Christian's friends, God will be present and healing can begin. Our Stephen Ministry is not comprised of only the trained Stephen Ministers or even the Stephen Ministry leaders, it is the entire congregation of Trinity that can make it successful. As the church we fulfill Christ's mission for taking care of "his flock."

*Hebrews 10:24 is a command for the whole church. God did not call us to be isolated; we need each other and should actively participate in each other's lives. For this reason, the writer of Hebrews tells us not to "neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near" (Hebrews 10:25, NLT). Christian fellowship provides us with encouragement and accountability. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works" (NKJV). A key word is consider.*

*To consider others means thinking about their needs before our own. In Philippians 2:4, the apostle Paul writes, "Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others" (ESV). Looking to the interests of others is how we can care for and consider one another. The question is not only "What do I need?" but "What does my brother or sister need?" An effective way to consider others is by asking them how they are doing and actually listening to the response. When someone is in need, we can practice loving one another by tangibly meeting the need (1 John 3:18). We can step outside our comfort zone and encourage one another to love and good works in ways that we would not naturally pursue. We can be encouraged as we see others living out godly values in different, creative ways. The outcome is a community that reflects God's heart. In this community, we are participants, not spectators, so we must continue to urge one another to trust and obey Christ as we await His return. (<https://www.gotquestions.org/love-and-good-works.html>)*

As a participant in this congregation, our Stephen Leaders are asking you to:

1. Pray for the trained Stephen Ministers, their care receivers, and the caring relationships.
2. Pray that the Holy Spirit would touch the hearts of people in our congregation to see the great need in our congregation and consider becoming Stephen Ministers.
3. Ask Jesus if He is asking you to step out of your comfort zone to give care to His people in need.

If you have any questions or need more information about our wonderful TLC Stephen Ministry program, contact Pastor Dan, Gelene Tabor, Brenda Mackey, or me.

Your brother in Christ, Jim McGraw, Stephen Ministry Leadership

## May 2026

| <b>SUNDAY</b>                                                                                                                               | <b>MONDAY</b>                                                                                                                              | <b>TUESDAY</b>                    | <b>WEDNESDAY</b>                                                                                    | <b>THURSDAY</b>                            | <b>FRIDAY</b>              | <b>SATURDAY</b> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
|                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                            |                                   |                                                                                                     |                                            | <b>1</b><br>OFFICE CLOSED  | <b>2</b>        |
| <b>3</b><br>6:30a Easter Sunrise service<br>7:30a Easter Breakfast<br>9a Easter Worship w/<br>communion                                     | <b>4</b><br>OFFICE CLOSED<br>9a Quilters<br>10:30a-12:30p—Food<br>Pantry Open<br>7p AA, Fellowship Hall                                    | <b>5</b>                          | <b>6</b><br>8:30a Prayer<br>1:00p TLC Choir Reh                                                     | <b>7</b><br>10:00a Women's<br>Bible Study  | <b>8</b><br>OFFICE CLOSED  | <b>9</b>        |
| <b>10</b><br>8a Text Study<br>9a Worship w/<br>communion                                                                                    | <b>11</b><br>9a Quilters<br>9a WMMT Mtg<br>10:30a-12:30p—Food<br>Pantry Open<br><br>2:30p Women's Bible<br>Study<br>7p AA, Fellowship Hall | <b>12</b><br>2:00p Snacks & Facts | <b>13</b><br>6:30a Men's Bible<br>study<br><br>8:30a Prayer<br>1:00p TLC Choir Reh<br>3:00p WOT mtg | <b>14</b><br>10:00a Women's<br>Bible Study | <b>15</b><br>OFFICE CLOSED | <b>16</b>       |
| <b>17</b><br>8a Text Study<br>9a Worship w/<br>communion<br>Love Fund/Food Pantry<br>Offering                                               | <b>18</b><br>9a Quilters<br>10:30a-12:30p—Food<br>Pantry Open<br>2:30p Women's Bible<br>Study<br>7p AA, Fellowship Hall                    | <b>19</b><br>Journey Deadline     | <b>20</b><br>8:30a Prayer<br>1:00p TLC Choir Reh                                                    | <b>21</b><br>10:00a Women's<br>Bible Study | <b>22</b><br>OFFICE CLOSED | <b>23</b>       |
| <b>24</b><br>8a Text Study<br>9a Worship w/<br>communion<br>Prayer Shawl Sunday<br><b>31</b><br>8a Text Study<br>9a Worship w/<br>communion | <b>25</b>                                                                                                                                  | <b>26</b>                         | <b>27</b><br>8:30a Prayer<br>1:00p TLC Choir Reh                                                    | <b>28</b><br>10:00a Women's<br>Bible Study | <b>29</b><br>OFFICE CLOSED | <b>30</b>       |

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

Non-profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 3  
Birchwood, WI  
54817

**Snacks & Facts**  
**May 12 @ 2:00p**  
**Topic: Gardening Myths**  
**w/ Aura Lea Carrell**



# **The JOURNEY**

## **May 2026**

**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)**

**♦ 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 <sup>rd</sup> 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 3 — 9:00a worship service w/communion**

**May 10 —9:00a worship service w/communion**

**May 17 —9:00a worship service w/communion**

**May 24 —9:00a worship service w/communion**

**May 31 —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.