

The JOURNEY — Walking Daily with Jesus

From the Pastor's Desk

As I write this note, I am exactly 2 weeks post-operative: and I am blessed to report that I am doing very well! I want to use this public forum to thank everyone for their prayers, and for their assistance with meals. (I also appreciate the fact that no chickens have been harmed in the preparation of said meals.) And I give special thanks to those who have been ensuring that the ministry of Trinity, including the weekly worship, continues in my absence!

Even though I have witnessed answered prayer many, many times in my life, I am still awed by the grace and mercy of our loving God as He reveals Himself to us in answered prayer. Some will make prayer into a Law, saying that we must pray because God will not do anything for us without our asking Him, Still others will say that since God is going to do His will, with or without our prayers, suggesting that, somehow, our prayers are fruitless. Each will then ask, "Why should we even bother to pray."

Luther gives us several instances in the Small Catechism in which God gives blessings, even without our prayers. For example, in the explanation of the second petition of the Lord's Prayer, we read, "The kingdom of God comes indeed without our prayer, of itself. But we pray in this petition that it may come to us also." Similarly, as we pray for God's will to be done in the third petition we read, "The good and gracious will of God is done indeed without our prayer. But we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also." And lastly, as we pray for our daily bread in the fourth petition, Luther tells us, "God gives daily bread, even without our prayer, to all wicked people; but we pray in this petition that He would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving."

In John, Chapter 14, Jesus tells us why we should pray, even though God knows what we need before we even ask, He says that we pray "...that the Father may be glorified in the Son"(v 13b).

Prayer is not so much about the words that we use when we pray. It's not about how flowery they are, nor is it about how deeply theological they may sound. Prayer is really about faith in the One to whom we pray. It is about faith that God alone provides all good things according to His will. And He does these things so that we may see, and believe, that He alone is the God who saves. To God be the glory!

May you have a blessed Thanksgiving, and we will see you at worship.

Pastor Dan

WHAT'S INSIDE

Letter from Pastor	1
Message from our Council President	2
Worship Assistants	3
November Birthdays & Anniversaries	3
Apparel	3
Next meeting of....	3
TLC Spotlight	4
Annual Meeting	4
Trunk or Treat	5
WOT	6
Stephen Ministry	6
Missions & Outreach	6
Calendar	7



With Thanksgiving celebrations coming up this month, we as a congregation have a lot to be thankful for. We received a miraculous number of answers to prayers for physical and emotional healing. We experience inspiration from biblical teaching and beautiful music from our talented choir and pianists, each week during our wonderful worship services. We are all so thankful for the number of young families and children that give us joy and laughter in church. Especially during the Children's sermons. Of course, we anticipate each week of coming together to meet our brothers and sisters in Christ.

This year Trinity Lutheran Church has also been blessed financially with the funding of the church roof project and the sale of our vacant lot. We thank you all for your generosity and support on these projects. These new funds will give us the opportunity to move forward on projects to maintain, renovate and enhance our sanctuary, fellowship hall, grounds, and parsonage.

The Operations Team and the Council have identified unbudgeted projects that we will be using these funds for.

- Updating the church sound system- this will eliminate the need for Pastor Dan and others using microphones to mute and turn on their mics. This could be done with a new sound board.

- Renovating the kitchen. Install additional electrical circuit panels and replace cracked kitchen flooring. If you have ever helped make Lefse or served at an Easter Breakfast, you saw extension cords strung around the kitchen floor to avoid blowing electrical circuits.

- Pay for grinding tree stumps at the Parsonage.

- Future replacement costs for church siding, Fellowship Hall and Parsonage roofs.

- Future replacement of Fellowship Hall chairs and tables.

- Increase funding for world and local missions.

You can see most of these projects are necessary in keeping our church a beautiful modern building for the enjoyment of our members and visitors. The other and more important part of our mission is what we do by physically and financially supporting our ministry teams in fulfilling our vision statement. **"To be a people that know, love and share Christ."**

Our monthly Financial Reports show that our giving is lagging behind our 2025 congregational-approved budget. TLC has made major strides this year in many areas. I'm hoping and praying that we would finish strong and be able to fulfill our mission in 2025 and beyond. I know this sounds like Buzz Lightyear's line in the Toy Story movie, ***infinity and beyond***. Isn't that the purpose of the church? The present world is hurting and needs the church to give them the hope, peace, love and saving grace of Jesus Christ.

TLC's basis for financial giving is faith-based. It is between you and God. 2 Corinthians 9:7 says, "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

Please join me in praying that the Holy Spirit will give us guidance in areas of our giving. Give thanks to God for all His present and future blessings. Have a Blessed Thanksgiving.

Your brother in Christ, Jim McGraw





NOVEMBER-SUNDAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS



	Nov 2 9:00a	Nov 9 9:00a	Nov 16 9:00a	Nov 23 9:00a	Nov 30 9:00a
GREETERS	Terri Freeman	Sheri Anderson	Karen Brantner	Dan & Jackie Healy	Eldon & Joanne Kvale
USHERS	Wally Thom Rob Freeman	John Schieffer Kevin Ploessl	Wes Mohns Steve Tracy	Wally Thom Tom Svitak	Micke Capra Jim McGraw
COMM. ASSTS	Dan Dahl	Ellen Ehrich	Pat Mackey	Joanne Schilling	NEED
READER	Kathy Thom	Eric Anderson	Cindy Rubin	Kathy Thom	Sue Capra



11/3 Eleanor Kuula
 11/8 Jim McGraw
 11/9 Jeff Iverson
 11/9 Susan Janetski
 11/11 Connie Leader
 11/17 Wes Mohns
 11/21 Brooks Preble
 11/22 Marcia Kampf
 11/22 Mary Arvesen
 11/29 Lane Healy



11/6 Tom & Sue

Hello Trinity Lutheran Church Family

Our Trinity Church narthex is displaying an opportunity to purchase Lands' End clothing printed with our logo: Trinity Lutheran Church LCMC

Pastor Dan has graciously allowed us to display in the narthex some of his wardrobe that has this logo. Land's End clothing is high quality, offers many styles, colors and sizes, and has something for men, women and children. This logo is already established thanks to the Tabors. A percentage discount is available based on the order amount, the bigger the order the bigger the discount.

Those interested, please view online under Lands' End Business Uniforms. A group order will be placed after the first of the year. If anyone is interested in something yet this year, please advise the office. We can be flexible depending on interest.

It's yet another way to get the 'Word' out into the mission field.

Your sister in Christ, Kathy Thom

Meeting

NEXT MEETING OF . . .

Birchwood Food Pantry Open. Nov 3 & 17, 10:30a-12:30p
 Trinity Council meeting. No Meeting
 Worship & Music Team. Nov 3, 9:00a
 Christian Life Meeting. Nov 3, 10:30a
 Women of Trinity Nov 8, 10:00a
 Trinity Annual Congregational meeting. Nov 9, after service

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: Jim McGraw
Place of Birth: Mankato, Minnesota
of Siblings: 1 Brother and 1 Sister

How did you meet your Spouse?

I met Cyndi through a dating service ad in the Twin Cities Reader classified section. My co-workers saw the ad and double dared me to sign up. Boy, was I surprised when I met Cyndi. Thank God I couldn't pass up a double dare.

How long have you been married? 46 years

nieces/nephews: We have 2 nieces, 3 nephews and 1 grand-niece.

What are some jobs you've had? Most of my 40-year career at Mn/DOT was as Chemical Lab Director in the Office of Materials and Road Research. While in that position I was a Committee Chair for the Transportation Research Board and was an Executive Committee member of the National Transportation Product Evaluation Program. Cyndi enjoyed traveling with me when I met with these national committees. She would enjoy touring the meeting cities while I struggled through boring meetings.

Hobbies: Travel, golf, fishing, and wildlife watching.

Fun Fact: I delivered newspapers to Tippy Hedren's grandmother. Tippy Hedren was the actress in Alfred Hitchcock's movies. The Birds and Marnie. Tippy lived the first few years of her life in my hometown.



Name: Joanne Schilling
Place of Birth: Milwaukee WI
of Siblings: One — a twin sister!
How did you meet your spouse? At Headquarters Marine Corps, Washington DC. The old Marine Corps saying is "If the Marine Corps wanted you to have a wife,

they'd issue you one." Guess Fred and I found out where they issued them!!

How long are/were you married? 37 wonderful years. Fred passed away in 2021 after battling Parkinson's Disease and Lewy Body Dementia.

Kids (or nieces/nephews)/Grand/Great-Grands: I have two awesome great niece/nephew, Victoria (16) and Austin (13)

What are some jobs you've had? Waitress, cocktail waitress and hotel housekeeper in college; then 20 years in the Marine Corps as a public relations officer. After retirement, I got a 2nd degree in voice performance and opened a voice studio for five years. I have been the TLC choir director since 2012 — and LOVE IT!

Hobbies: SINGING! Walking in the woods with my rescue dog, Molly. Hiking and snow shoeing.

Fun Fact: I've run two marathons. The first one was to raise funds for the Leukemia Society. Then, just to see if I could do another, I celebrated my 45th birthday by running the Marine Corps Marathon with Fred and my sister, Pat.

Trinity Lutheran Church Annual
 Congregational Meeting will be held
 November 9, following service.



Women of Trinity – Happenings

What a beautiful Fall it's been! We're ready to get into the swing of all things Fall and Christmas!

- The Secret Sister Luncheon was held October 4, after the Women of Trinity meeting and was a wonderful gathering of prayer-full sisters in Christ. Women are paired up and asked to pray for each other throughout the year, occasionally sending notes or cards of encouragement, and the "Big Reveal" was held at our October meeting. Consider being a Secret Sister yourself next year if you haven't participated before! Sign-up postcards are at the Welcome Center.

- Lefse Making will be November 20, starting at 9am, and sales will begin November 23. Karen Scott will acquire the 50 pounds of potatoes (wow!!) and will organize the volunteers – thanks Karen! This is such a fun time, and there's a job for everyone, especially including those who don't even know what lefse is – so join us for laughter and lefse!

- The Christmas Fest will be on December 6. Sue Svitak will get a Thrivent card for \$250 and shop for the chili ingredients. Four volunteers will help make the chili and cornbread on December 5. All craft proceeds will go to the charities that Women of Trinity support, and Sue will organize the craft tables – thanks so much, Sue! If you have crafts for sale, please contact Sue!

- Upcoming Dates:

- ★ Lefse Making – November 20 th .
- ★ Christmas Fest Chili & Craft Fair – Dec 6.
- ★ Christmas Bake Sale – Dec 14, in conjunction with the Christmas Cantata. Set up on Dec. 13, following the WOT meeting and filling shut-in cookie boxes.

CALLING ALL WOMEN OF TRINITY! Our next meeting is November 8, 2025, at 10:00am! Please join us for fellowship, support of our sisters and our church, and planning future events!



stephen MINISTRY®

STEPHEN MINISTRY -

REAL MINISTRY REAL DIFFERENCE

PART 2

(This is Part 2 of the interview with

Steve Feith. Part 1 was included in the October Journey Newsletter)

When I met Steve Feith, I was moved by his story of discipleship, ministry, and transformation. So, I got his permission to share it with you. —Joel Bretscher | Program Director | Stephen Ministries St. Louis

What happened next? I dedicated myself to Stephen Minister training, and I learned a lot. I discovered that you can learn to listen, you can learn about feelings, and you can learn to be a better caregiver. I learned that God is the caregiver, not me. My job as a Stephen Minister is to listen and care—to really try to empathize and understand what the person is going through—and leave the fixing up to God. That last part was tough for me because I've always been a fix-it kind of person. But I've found that it sure takes the pressure off to step back and let God do the fixing. It's also freeing, and it's helped me be more in tune with others. I no longer see people in terms of problems needing to be fixed. I see them as people who are going through a difficult time and need me to walk with them and reflect Christ to them

How many care receivers have you had? Since I became a Stephen Minister four years ago, I've had six care receivers—all men and one at a time, which is how Stephen Ministry works. My care receivers represented a wide range of ages and life situations, and two of them were men with a terminal illness. You've really been doing some significant ministry.

Without breaking confidentiality, can you tell me a little more about serving as a Stephen Minister to the two men who were dying? I had never cared for anyone who was dying before, but with my training, with the Lord's presence, and with a lot of prayer, I found that I could. In each of these relationships, I would meet with my care receiver once a week, and I found that both of these men were very receptive to my ministry. They each needed someone to talk to, someone who "Here I am, a cigar-smoking, straight-talking motorcycle rider. They're not going to want me. I might be a little bit too rough for this." "I've always been a fix-it kind of person," says Steve, who retired from the Navy with the rank of Commander. "But I've found that it sure takes the pressure off to step back and let God do the fixing." I would listen and care—and I was blessed to be that someone. I can't tell you what an honor and a privilege it is to walk with someone in their final days, to have them recount their life story to you, to see Jesus at work in their lives. Both men told me at various times how much my visits meant to them, so I know they benefited a lot. But I've benefited too. It's been very rewarding. Men are sometimes reluctant to reach out for help or to accept help.

November 2025

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

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
Nov 11 @ 2:00p
Topic:
Advanced Directives



The JOURNEY

November 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

(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 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

Nov 2 — 9:00a worship service w/communion

Nov 9 — 9:00a worship service w/communion

Nov 16 — 9:00a worship service w/communion

Nov 23 — 9:00a worship service w/communion

Nov 30 — 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.