

The JOURNEY — Walking Daily with Jesus

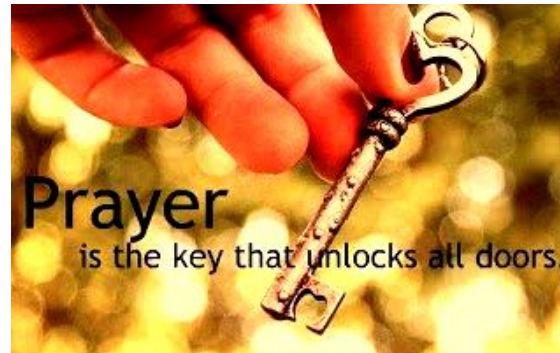
Dear Trinity Family,

What a joy it was to see more of you at our Rally Day Service on September 13. Our continental breakfast before the service was so heartwarming and welcoming as we could gather for the first time for fellowship like we did before COVID-19 hit us. A big thank you to all who provided food and served. True Christian fellowship is so rich and deep. We share each one's burdens and pray for each other's needs.

I thank God for the encouragement, love and help that I have received as your interim pastor. We are in this ministry together; I thank God for you and remember you in my prayers as we look forward to new possibilities and ministry together in the future.

These are exciting days, because we are God's church and He promises that "goodness and mercy follow us every day."

"I have complete confidence that God is able to take care of any situation and provide an answer to any question or problem - He has all the resources of the universe to draw upon in helping each one of us through any type of crisis if we will trust Him." - Charles Stanley



The devastation of COVID-19 turning many lives upside down does not diminish the great and wonderful "rock-solid promises" that God has given us to depend on. Our God is able to do exceedingly above and beyond all that we could ever hope for or imagine. The bad news we hear cannot overcome the Good News that our Lord Jesus Christ has given us. That, in Him, we are more than conquerors. He is our hope, and "This hope we have is an anchor of the soul, a hope sure and steadfast." Hebrews 6:19.

As we wait for our new pastor, let us keep trusting in our Savior's deep and precious love for us, and His ability to shine in and through us in an amazing way.

God bless and keep you!
He loves you, and so do I!
Pastor Barb

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President's Message

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ's family,

In preparation for TLC to welcome a new pastor to TLC, I did some research on what an incoming pastor would like to see.

Crosswalk.com, a Christian website had an article written by Dr. Joe McKeever entitled "Three Things the New Pastor Wants Most." Dr McKeever asked this very question of his incoming pastor. The pastor's response was *"I would love to come into a church that was unified, where everyone loved each other, and they all prayed for the pastor."*

This kind of unity is pictured in Ephesians 4:16: *"From Him the whole body [the church, in all its various parts], joined and knitted firmly together by what every joint supplies, when each part is working properly, causes the body to grow and mature, building itself up in [unselfish] love."*

McKeever says our bodies have hundreds of different parts, none of them resembling the others, but each doing its own work and all working together. The result is not sameness, but harmony. When a body functions as it was intended, the result is a beautiful unity.

A great example of unity within our own congregation was the Pastoral Call Team. This diverse special group of brothers and sisters, came together for a common purpose. Selecting our next pastor. They met together every week for the last five months except weeks when they interviewed candidates. Interview weeks resulted in them meeting several times those weeks. We don't know the number of hours these faithful people put into the call process for us. Their own testimonies displayed how:

- ✦ each individual answered God's Call to serve Christ and TLC
- ✦ they got to know and love one another
- ✦ they each committed substantial time in group and individual prayer



Sounds like the Call Team modeled exactly what a new pastor would like to see in a congregation. They all brought different skills and talents to the group just as Ephesians 4 says. Some did administrative duties, some setup and facilitated Zoom interviews, some were prayer warriors, some drafted interview questions, some contacted and scheduled potential candidates for interviews. When everyone did their job well, they had unity, even though no two individuals did the same thing in the same way.

That's how God has set up His church. It's just fine to have disagreements and we even welcome them, because no one person on a team or in the church has a monopoly on all wisdom. Disagreements helps the leaders to hear all sides of issues and force them to think matters through.

Nothing on earth is more valuable to God than His church. He paid the highest price for it, and he wants it protected, especially from the devastating damage that is caused by division, conflict, and disharmony. If you are a part of God's family, it is your responsibility to protect the unity of where you fellowship. Ephesians 4:3 says, *"Make*

every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."

The incoming pastor in this article had six suggestions on how to protect the unity of the church:

- ✦ *Focus on what we have in common, not on our differences.*
- ✦ *Be realistic in your expectations.*
- ✦ *Choose to encourage rather than to criticize.*
- ✦ *Refuse to listen to gossip.*
- ✦ *Practice God's method of conflict resolution. (listed in TLC constitution)*
- ✦ *Support your pastors and leaders.*

May we model God's Peace, Grace, Love and Unity,

Jim McGraw

October WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	October 4 (10AM)	October 11 (10 AM)	October 18 (10 AM)	October 25 (10 AM)
GREETERS	Sue Svitak	Rose Cutsforth	Pat & Brenda Mackey	Eleanor Kuula
USHERS	Tom Svitak Wally Thom	Mike Rubin LeRoy Brensel	Wes & Char Mohns	Kevin & Julie Sunderland
COMM. ASSTS	Jim McGraw	Kathy Thom	Brenda Mackey	Rolf Kleven
READER	Karen Hayes	Donnarae Carrell	Dianne Buxton	Marcia Kampf

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

MEMBERS. Your Call Committee is comprised of the following dedicated members: Chair Di Hubbard, Secretary Joanne Schilling, Mike Capra, Rose Cutsforth, Mike Rubin, Julie Sunderland, and Tom Svitak.

After months of first and second interviews the Call Committee has chosen one outstanding candidate who was recommended to the Trinity Council. A Special Council meeting was held on September 1, at which the council voted to call a Special Congregational meeting for September 20, for a vote on extending a letter of call to this candidate.

On September 13, a taped sermon by the candidate was presented during the worship service.

On September 15, the Council held a Zoom meeting with the recommended candidate. We were able to field questions from the candidate, his spouse, and Council.

On September 20, the Congregation of Trinity Lutheran Church met and voted 44-2 in favor extending a letter of call to this candidate.

A Call Letter has been sent out to Pastor Daniel Tabor of St. James Lutheran Church in Niagara Falls NY. We are anxiously awaiting his decision. We ask for your Prayers, Patience and Support during this time of transition.

Pastor Tabor has a very impressive resume and has had a lifetime of public service to bring to Trinity. We encourage you to view his information at our church bulletin board or call with questions.

Thank you to the dedicated Call Committee Team members who made a great team.

Any questions please call the Call Committee members or Di Hubbard at 941-893-0311.

For more info on Pastor Daniel Tabor, please see page 4.



TRINITY YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Trinity needs EVERYONE to subscribe to our YouTube channel!! Watching the sermon videos on our Facebook page (and liking it) isn't the same!

And watching one of our sermon videos on the channel IS NOT subscribing, either.

You MUST click on the "Subscribe" button to actually subscribe.



Here is the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrIQB6cjOIYNImHer9EuOEA>

IF WE GET 100 SUBSCRIBERS, OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL LINK WILL SAY "TRINITY LUTHERAN"!!!!!!



MEET PASTOR DAN



My name is Daniel Tabor. I was born in St. Paul, MN, and was raised on the East Side of St. Paul until the 8th grade, when my family moved to Mountain, WI, located about 60 miles north of Green Bay. The town was small, so we did not dare get into trouble because our parents would hear about it before we could even get home to try to deny our actions.

I attended Suring High School, in Suring, WI. We had a very small graduating class, but I still keep in touch with some

of my classmates.

At seventeen, I began training to be a police officer at Alexandria Vo-Tech, but left after one quarter to join the Army. I served as a Military Police officer on several bases in Europe. After my three-year hitch, I returned to Minnesota, where I attended a community college and obtained my Associates in Applied Sciences degree in Law Enforcement. I then began a career as a police officer in the Twin Cities.

I served for about 17 years mostly as a patrol officer but also had duties with the SWAT Team and various undercover assignments. During that time, I went into the Army Reserve where I attended Officer Candidate School and was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the Military Intelligence Corps.

My heart, though, was for ministry, so I left all of these positions in order to attend college so that I could qualify to go to seminary. I received my B.A. in Organizational Administration from Northwestern University, St. Paul, MN, a Masters of Arts in Management from Doane College, Crete, NE, and a Masters of Divinity from St. Paul Lutheran Seminary.

While attending school, I worked with State Farm insurance as an

adjuster in Auto and Fire claims. I was employed with this company for 15 years and took an early retirement in order to take a call to my current congregation in Niagara Falls, NY.

I have been married twice. My first marriage was challenged by my law enforcement career and ended in divorce. Gelene and I have been married for almost thirty years. We met in Arizona while in the military. She was also a Military Intelligence officer.

We have 5 children, 11 grandchildren (with one more on the way.) Three of the children still live in the Twin Cities, while two live in the Washington DC area.

Gelene and I hike, fish and camp. I love to do woodworking and work on projects around the house. Gelene gardens as well. We both very much enjoy cooking.

We have one cat, Nala. She is full Siamese and is spoiled rotten.

I enjoy football and find that my favorite game is the Packers/Vikings game. I enjoy it because, having lived so long in both MN and WI, I really don't care which team wins!

My greatest joy in life is serving our Lord Jesus Christ in whatever capacity He has for me! Faith is the greatest gift that any of us has, and it is a gift from God as we read in Ephesians 2: *"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God."* To proclaim this free gift to sinners who are dying to hear it, is a task where God gives me that great joy.





WHERE: Birchwood Trinity Lutheran
WHEN: Saturday, October 31st
EVENT HOURS: 2:30 – 4:30pm
SETUP TIME: Cars arrive at 1:30pm
SIGN UP YOUR TRUNK, WEAR A COSTUME, AND JOIN THE FUN!

**TRUNK-OR-TREAT IS A SUPER FUN AND FREE COMMUNITY EVENT FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!
 CANDY DONATIONS ARE WELCOME!!
 DROP OFF AT CHURCH WITH JULIE!**



HELP US DIG OUT THE PROPANE HOLE

Although it is hard to picture, winter will soon be upon us!

In preparation for the cold weather, we paid our Propane Winter Fill in August which was \$4040. As you can imagine, \$4040 puts a big hole in our finances.

But, good news, as we did last year, we have had several members offer a challenge grant to the congregation to help us pay this large bill.

We have had half - \$2020 – offered as the matching amount. So, for every dollar that our congregation provides to the fund, a dollar will be matched from this matching amount.

Participation is easy. Add a check to your envelope or send a check directly to Julie in the office and the amount will be credited to your number and be added to the fund.

We will track the challenge progress as we did last year, with a chart in the narthex and updates in the Journey and bulletins.

The good news is that by the time this winter fill season is complete, the year 2020 will be over! And we will be on to happier times!



Please mail or drop off your offerings to the church office!

THURSDAY MORNING WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study meets in the Trinity room on Thursday mornings at 10:15am.

If you are interested in joining them, please contact:

Marcia Kampf at 715-354-3048.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

September thru May



HANDS-ON-BIBLE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children learn bible stories, enjoy hands on activities, and sing traditional songs!

Services start at 10 am (children released after communion)

NEXT MEETING OF . . .

- Birchwood Food Pantry Open10:30-12:30pm, Oct 5, 17, 19**
- Worship & Music Team 10 am, Oct. 5**
- Women of Trinity10am Oct 10**
- Trinity Council Meeting6:30 pm, Oct 20**

PRAISE YOU IN THIS STORM

I was sure by now,
 God, you would have reached down
 And wiped our tears away,
 Stepped in and saved the day.
 But once again, I say amen
 That it's still raining
 As the thunder rolls
 I barely hear you whisper through the rain

I'm with you
 And as your mercy falls
 I raise my hands and praise the God who
 gives
 and takes away

And I'll praise you in this storm
 And I will lift my hands
 That you are who you are
 No matter where I am
 And every tear I've cried
 You hold in your hand
 You never left my side
 And though my heart is torn —
 I will praise you in this storm.

I remember when
 I stumbled in the wind
 You heard my cry to you
 and raised me up again
 My strength is almost gone

how can I carry on
 If I can't find you.
 And as the thunder rolls
 I barely hear you whisper through the rain

I'm with you
 And as your mercy falls
 I raise my hands and praise the God who
 gives
 and takes away

And I'll praise you in this storm
 And I will lift my hands
 For you are who you are
 No matter where I am
 And every tear I've cried
 You hold in your hand
 You never left my side
 And though my heart is torn —
 I will praise you in this storm.

I lift my eyes unto the hills
 Where does my help come from?
 My help comes from the Lord
 The maker of heaven and earth
 I lift my eyes unto the hills
 Where does my help come from?
 My help comes from the Lord
 The maker of heaven and earth.

And I'll praise you in this storm
 And I will lift my hands
 For you are who you are
 No matter where I am
 And every tear I've cried
 You hold in your hand
 You never left my side
 And though my heart is torn —
 I will praise you in this storm
 And though my heart is torn —
 I will praise you in this storm

Casting Crowns Musical Group



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Kathy Thom	10/01	John Kristensen	10/13
Cecelia Larson	10/01	Al Widiker	10/14
Alyssa Langham	10/02	Renee Larson	10/21
Jolene Scribner	10/04	Christian Lindow	10/22
Kenya Anderson	10/05	Dawson Flora	10/22
Kevin Sweeney	10/09	Steve Kotel	10/22
Alex Roppe	10/11	Joanne Schilling	10/24
Benda Mackey	10/12	Mike Rubin	10/26

WOMEN OF TRINITY

The Women of Trinity will hold their October meeting on Saturday, October 10, at 10 am. Please join us, all women are welcome! Hope to see you there.



FOOD PANTRY CLOSED

Due to a COVID-19 outbreak in the Birchwood area, the Birchwood Food Pantry will be closed. The Pantry will re-open again at 10:30 am on October 5.

October 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 10:15a—Women's Bible Study	2 OFFICE CLOSED	3
4 10am - Worship	5 WMMT Meeting 10:00am 10:30a-12:30p—Food Pantry Open 6p Women's Bible Study-Trinity Rm 7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	6	7	8 10:15a—Women's Bible Study	9 OFFICE CLOSED	10 10a — Women of Trinity Meeting—Fellowship Hall
11 10am - Worship	12 6p Women's Bible Study-Trinity Rm 7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	13	14	15 High School Testing 9-11:00am 10:15a—Women's Bible Study	16 OFFICE CLOSED	17 10:30a-12:30p—Food Pantry Open
18 10am - Worship Love Fund/Food Pantry Offering	19 Journey Deadline 10:30a-12:30p—Food Pantry Open 6p Women's Bible Study-Trinity Rm 7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	20 6:30 pm Council Meeting	21 5:30p - The Cross	22 10:15a—Women's Bible Study	23 OFFICE CLOSED	24
25 10am - Worship Prayer Shawl Sunday	26 6p Women's Bible Study-Trinity Rm 7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	27 Journey Assembly	28 5:30p - The Cross	29	30	31 Trunk or Treat 2:30-4:30p TLC parking lot

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

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54817



**TRUNK OR TREAT
OCT 31 @ 2:30-4:30 PM**



The JOURNEY October 2020

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Pastor Barb Kleven—Interim Pastor
Julie Sunderland, Parish Administrator
Ashley Beffa, Youth & Family
Joanne Schilling, Choir Director**

**Betty Blanch & Donnarae Carrell, Custodians
501 E. Chetac Ave ♦ PO Box 8 ♦ Birchwood, WI 54817
(715) 354-3790 ♦ (715) 834-9988 (Pastor's cell)**

♦ trinitylutheranbirchwood.com ♦

♦ tlcbirchwood@gmail.com ♦

JOURNEY Editor ♦ Julie Sunderland ♦ tlcbirchwood@gmail.com

Sunday School 10 am (Sept - May)
Office Hours 8 - 11:30 am, 12:30 - 3:00pm (M-Th)
Bulletin deadline 9 am Tuesdays

SUNDAY WORSHIP THIS MONTH

10/4 — 10am Worship w/ Communion
10/11 — 10am Worship w/ Communion
10/18— 10am Worship w/ Communion Love Fund/Food Pantry Offering
10/25— 10am Worship w/ Communion
Prayer Shawl Sunday—Need a prayer shawl see Julie in the office

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

Carol Addington	Rebecca Langham	Carter Sackmann
Vicki Busick	Ed Leader	Timothy Wallace
Debbie Davis	Lora	Elaine Yndestad
Barb Fegan	Sharon Mackey	Giamore Lapacinski-
Annette Gentile	Rusty Morrell	Pradera -(Soper's
Dan Gowan	Leonard Nysted	Nephew)
Andy Hedman	Fred Peck	
Barb Hinderman	Jim Pravda	
Eileen Koefler	Tom Reed	
Eunice Kuntz	Tracy Reid	
Roy Kuula	Bill Rice	
Joyce Lambrecht	Ro Sackmann	

In the military: Rigil Christensen, Rochelle Fabrizio, Eric Bebee, Tim Groth, John Hughes, Cody Davis, Bennett Jorgensen and all those serving in the military.