

# The Living Word

"And the Word became flesh and lived among us  
and we have seen his glory." John 1.14a (NRSV)

The newsletter of  
Trinity United Church  
of Christ of Rural  
Shiocton, Wisconsin  
and St. John's United  
Church of Christ of  
Cecil, Wisconsin



Working together to serve God in northeast Wisconsin, and throughout the world.

Volume 16 Number 1

March, April & May 2017

## Holy Week & Easter Worship Opportunities

**Palm & Passion Sunday ~ Sunday April 9th ~ worship at the usual times**

Join us as we welcome Jesus into Jerusalem &  
think about what the final week of his earthly life will bring

**Maundy Thursday ~ Thursday April 13th ~ worship at Trinity at 7pm**

A time to think about Jesus' teaching about communion & community

**Holy Friday ~ Friday April 14th ~ worship at St. John's at 7pm**

Thinking together about Jesus' arrest, trial, and crucifixion, and waiting with heavy hearts.

**Easter Sunday ~ Sunday March 27th**

Trinity

Worship at 7:30am & breakfast following worship

St. John's

Breakfast at 8:30am & worship at 9:45am

At both churches, please look for the sign-up sheets for things needed for Easter  
breakfast, and we hope everyone will bring baked goods & fruit to share.

**This newsletter is produced on paper that contains 100% post-consumer recycled content.  
When you're finished with it, please recycle. Together we can conserve our precious natural resources.**

### Return mail to

Tri-Jo Parish U.C.C.  
W6712 County Road F  
Shiocton, WI 54170

**Rev. Moira Finley**  
**pastor & teacher**

(715) 851-3080  
pastormoira73@gmail.com

### Trinity United Church of Christ

4 miles west of Highway 47 on County Road F Telephone (920) 525-2132

We are a faithful, caring, supportive, and helpful community church  
that brings people of all ages together to worship and serve God.

### St. John's United Church of Christ

On beautiful Shawano Lake Telephone (715) 745-2195

We are a Spirit-filled congregation that welcomes and accepts people  
of all ages, races, and backgrounds to worship, learn, and serve God in the world.

## **From Pastor Moira...**

What can I say? Thank you doesn't seem to be enough for all the generosity, and kindness, and love you shower on me. You were most amazing with birthday and Christmas gifts back in December, and then there was the fabulousness of my fifteenth anniversary celebration on Sunday February 26th. I'm not sure how it has already been fifteen years that we've been together, but time is strange that way; it zips by us while we are busy living, and loving, and sharing our lives with each other. When I was ordained my pastor told me that if I gave this ministry everything I had, and loved you with all my heart, then it would work out. He was right because, despite challenges and growing edges, we are still here, together, working, and learning, and living out the love of the gospel. When I tell people about our parish (and I do like to brag about you) they're often amazed by the work we do - the food pantry and the clothes closet - and they are astonished at how much we can do when, in the eyes of the world, we don't have enormous attendance, or staggeringly large budgets. I tell folks it's because we have heart, and we love each other, we are committed to one another, and to the call made so clear in Jesus' words in Matthew 25, to care for the least of those, the ones who struggle, the ones who are grieving, or in need of kindness, or food, or clothes, or just a moment of peace. I said in worship on the 26th that when I was younger the Peace Corps slogan was "the toughest job you'll ever love" and that's how I feel about ministry - it's hard, and oh so incredibly rewarding. You all, every single part of our parish, members and friends, you make it that way and for that I am deeply grateful. I hope to return a bit of the thanks to you on Celebration Sunday, May 21st, to say thank you to everyone who makes our parish the place it is. We have a super hero theme this year. I'll be sporting my new Wonder Woman shorts and if you're brave enough (or maybe it's crazy?) I'd love to see your costume too. Or maybe just a t-shirt with the Superman logo? And perhaps you're really brave and you'll dress up as The Greatest American Hero (a TV show from my childhood). For that, there will be a significant reward!

And now, a few words as we are in the first days of Lent. This is often seen as a season of denial, with people giving up things like chocolate, or soda, or surfing the internet. That kind of fasting can be good, but only if you replace it with other things that help deepen your life of faith, and only if you are choosing the fast because you want to grow as a Christian rather than simply because you think you're supposed to. I wonder all of this because I've never been particularly good at the lenten fast. It's a long season, forty days plus Sundays, and somewhere about half-way through I always fail in my plan to give up the soda, or start every morning with twenty minutes of prayer, or whatever it was my plan was. But maybe that's the point - Lent is a long season, a journey of more than one moment, a marathon rather than a sprint. We have time, time to think, and breathe, and feel more. We have the opportunity to try things - fast from soda for one week, and the internet another - to succeed at them, and then to try something else. We could add that twenty minutes of prayer to our evenings one week, and then try another spiritual practice the next. For this lent I'm going to try being a little more gracious with myself, allowing space, and time to watch the earth unfold in its soon to be springtime glory; to notice the people around me; to cut back on the sweets (because I overdid when I was away in January and my body will be happier), but also to savor every meal no matter how simple; to watch a few more sunrises, or more realistically sunsets; to count birds at the feeder outside my window and not feel guilty for the time I spend watching the squirrels and chipmunks vie for seed; to find the love, the kindness, the goodness in the world even as I continue to challenge the powers that would try to divide us. I pray that we might all pace ourselves, take our time, during this season, allowing Jesus' life and ministry to fill us, to challenge us, to comfort us, to question us, to motivate us. I pray that we might all be gentle with ourselves, not laying burdens on ourselves because it's lent, but allowing our hearts and minds and spirits to open, to expand, to grow, to let go of what we no longer need, and to embrace the new places and new things God is showing us. May this season be one of growth, and hope, and faith.

**Peace and many blessings, *Pastor Moira***

## March 2017 ~ Tri-Jo Parish U.C.C.

How to reach Pastor Moira: Phone (715) 851-3080 E-mail: [pastormoira73@gmail.com](mailto:pastormoira73@gmail.com)  
 Usual Sunday Schedule: Trinity worship at 8:45am and St. John's worship at 10:45am

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
<b>5 SCRIP</b>  First Sunday of Lent	6	7  Loaves & Fishes board meeting, 10am	8  Confirmation, 5:45pm at Pastor Moira's house	9 Tri-Jo Council meeting at Trinity, 7pm  Trinity meets at 6:30pm; St. John's after the joint meeting	10	11 Daylight Savings begins tomorrow ... set your clocks AHEAD one hour before bed so you're not late to church
12  Second Sunday of Lent	13	14	15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Hope Circle, 9am</li> <li>• Loaves &amp; Fishes distribution, 5-7pm</li> <li>• Community Meal, 5:30pm</li> </ul>	16	17	18  Loaves & Fishes distribution, 9-11am
19  Third Sunday of Lent	20	21	22  Confirmation, 5:45pm at Pastor Moira's house	23  Community Closet work day, 9am	24	25
26  Fourth Sunday of Lent	27	28  Community Closet distribution, noon - 3:30pm	29	30	31	April 1

## April 2017 ~ Tri-Jo Parish U.C.C.

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 <b>SCRIP</b> Fifth Sunday of Lent	3	4	5 Confirmation, 5:45pm at Pastor Moira's house	6	7	8
9 Palm & Passion Sunday	10 St. John's Consistory at Pastor Moira's house, 7pm	11 Loaves & Fishes board meeting, 10am	12	13 Trinity Council, 5:30pm  Maundy Thursday worship at Trinity, 7pm	14 Holy Friday worship at St. John's, 7pm	15
16 <b>Easter</b>  <b>Trinity</b> Worship 7:30am Breakfast after  <b>St. John's</b> Breakfast 8:30am Worship 9:45am	17	18	19 • New Hope Circle, 9am • Loaves & Fishes distribution, 5-7pm • Community Meal, 5:30pm • Confirmation at 5:45pm	20 Community Closet work day, 9am	21	22  Loaves & Fishes distribution, 9-11am  Northeast Association meeting, all day at Ripon
23 Break The Silence Sunday	24	25 Community Closet distribution, noon - 3:30pm	26	27	28	29
Loaves & Fishes fundraiser at the Red Barn						
30 Worship at Good Shepherd, 1:30pm						

# May 2017 ~ Tri-Jo Parish U.C.C.

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 <b>SCRIP</b>	8 St. John's Consistory, 7pm at Pastor Moira's house	9 Loaves & Fishes board meeting, 10am	10 Confirmation, 5:45pm at Pastor Moira's house	11 Trinity Council meeting, 5:30pm	12	13
14 Mother's Day  Confirmation class leads worship at both churches	15	16	17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Hope Circle, 9am</li> <li>• Loaves &amp; Fishes distribution, 5-7pm</li> <li>• Community Meal, 5:30pm</li> </ul>	18 Community Closet work day, 9am	19	20 Loaves & Fishes distribution, 9-11am
Pastor Moira at a Taize Retreat in Minnesota						
21  <b>Celebration Sunday</b>  <b>Superhero Theme!!!</b>	22	23 Community Closet distribution, noon - 3:30pm	24 Confirmation, 5:45pm at Pastor Moira's house	25	26	27
28	29 Memorial Day	30	31	June 1	June 2	June 3 Tomorrow... Pentecost & Confirmation

# Birthdays & Anniversaries

**If your special day is not listed, or is incorrect, please let Pastor Moira know.**

## Happy Birthday on March...

1st ... Betty Pues  
Eileen Potasnik  
10th ... Libby Bonnin  
11th ... Al Grutza  
Rick Piechocki  
12th ... Jim Shulze  
13th ... Alexis Reif  
16th ... Mason Demerath  
18th ... Tom Wegner  
20th ... Elliot Peeters  
23rd ... Joe McCarthy  
28th ... Deb Peeters  
30th ... Tammy Krull

## Happy Anniversary on May...

8th ... Carol & Roger Pludeman  
19th ... Vi & Tom VanSwol  
20th ... Betty & Wayne Pues  
25th ... Leona & Carl Schinke

## A special thank you...

Michelle Hert did an amazing job coordinating worship on Sunday January 22nd while Pastor Moira was away, and an even more incredible job providing the delicious lasagna lunch for everyone as a thank you to the folks from Trinity who make the work of St. John's possible. We are all so grateful to be together in this life of faith. Thank you Michelle for your generous heart, and spirit, and for your delicious cooking skills.

## Happy Birthday on April...

2nd ... Doug Hoppe  
3rd ... Arbutus Schneider  
Annie Karstedt  
6th ... Alex Carpenter  
9th ... Jim Ziegler  
Kyle Schneider  
Anna Seifert  
10th ... Steve Schmidt  
Carla VanDeraa  
11th ... Mary Shepard  
13th ... Corina Wegner  
15th ... Mike Knapp  
Abby Demerath  
20th ... Dan Zuiches  
Miranda Rohm  
21st ... Wayne Ort  
26th ... Gloria Bonnin  
27th ... Shirley Bergsbaken  
27th ... Carl Schinke

## Happy Birthday on May...

3rd ... Ron Baxter  
Julie Reif  
Benjamin Baxter  
5th ... Leona Schinke  
Linda McGlin  
6th ... Mary Lou Olson  
7th ... Stacey Krull  
9th ... Donna Shepard  
12th ... Taylor Zuiches  
14th ... Ava Hess  
16th ... Ruth Schinke  
18th ... Bill Westphal  
Karla Blumreich  
21st ... Lorraine Bisterfeldt  
Nancy Carpenter  
26th ... Ron Stapel  
29th ... Reuben Schaezel  
Jennifer Erb

# *At Home Bible Study*

## **Sunday March 5th ~ First Sunday of Lent**

Genesis 2.15-17, 3.1-7      Psalm 32      Romans 5.12-21      Matthew 4.1-11

## **Sunday March 12th ~ Second Sunday of Lent**

Genesis 12.1-9      Psalm 121      Romans 4.13-25      John 3.1-17

## **Sunday March 19th ~ Third Sunday of Lent**

Exodus 17.1-7      Psalm 95      Romans 5.1-11      John 4.1-42

## **Sunday March 26th ~ Fourth Sunday of Lent**

1 Samuel 16.1-13      Psalm 23      Ephesians 5.8-20      John 9.1-41

## **Sunday April 2nd ~ Fifth Sunday of Lent**

Ezekiel 37.1-14      Psalm 130      Romans 8.1-17      John 11.1-53

## **Sunday April 9th ~ Palm & Passion Sunday**

Psalm 118.19-29      Matthew 26.30-56      Matthew 27.11-61

## **Thursday April 13th ~ Maundy Thursday (worship at Trinity at 7pm)**

Psalm 116      John 13.1-38

## **Friday April 13th ~ Holy Friday (worship at St. John's at 7pm)**

Psalm 22      John 18.1-19.42

## **Sunday April 16th ~ Easter Sunday**

**Trinity worship at 7:30am with breakfast to follow**

**St. John's breakfast at 8:30am with worship at 9:45am**

Acts 10.34-43      Psalm 118      Colossians 3.1-4      John 20.1-18

## **Sunday April 23rd ~ Break The Silence Sunday**

Isaiah 43.1-7      Psalm 121      Luke 8.42b-48

## **Sunday April 30th ~ Third Sunday of Easter**

Acts 2.37-42      Psalm 116      1 Peter 1.17-23      Luke 24.13-35

## **Sunday May 7th ~ Fourth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 2.42-47      Psalm 23      1 Peter 2.20-25      John 10.1-10

## **Sunday May 14th ~ Fifth Sunday of Easter; Mother's Day**

**Confirmation class leads worship at both churches**

Acts 17.22-31      Psalm 66      1 Peter 3.13-22      John 14.15-21

## **Sunday May 21st ~ Sixth Sunday of Easter**

**Celebration Sunday with a Super Hero Theme!!!**

The scriptures are still a surprise to everyone (including Pastor Moira)

## **Sunday May 28th ~ Seventh Sunday of Easter**

Acts 1.1-14      Psalm 68.1-10      1 Peter 5.6-11      John 17.1-11

## Easter Flower Dedications

Please look for the order forms at both churches OR send your information to Pastor Moira by email ([pastormoira73@gmail.com](mailto:pastormoira73@gmail.com))

If you want the church to purchase flowers for you, the cost is \$16. Please specify either lilies or tulips, and make checks payable to "Lisa's Flowers"

Remember to include your dedication ... in honor of something or someone special in your life, in remembrance of a loved one, in celebration of an important event.

**Deadline to order & submit dedications is Sunday April 9th**

## SCRIP News Order Dates

Thank you for your support of our SCRIP program.

You will be able to order SCRIP on:

**March 5th**

**April 2nd**

**May 7th**

**Select on hand scrip is also available at both churches ... pay & take it with you.**

Questions?

Talk with Chuck & Karla Blumreich

## Break The Silence Sunday April 23rd

In the United States, every 107 seconds someone is sexually assaulted.

The survivors of those assaults are our friends, neighbors, colleagues, and members of our congregation.

They need us to help them speak out, to create a place where they can share their stories without fear, and without judgment.

In worship we will acknowledge the painful reality of rape and sexual violence.

We will hear stories of survivors, trusting in the good news of God's love, and we will commit ourselves to being a listening people, and a people dedicated to changing the reality of violence in the world.

This service may be difficult and challenging.

Some parents may not want their young children to be present.

Please take time to prepare yourself.

Ask God for the strength to open your heart and mind, that we might support all the survivors who are part of our church, our community, and the world.



If you have questions or concerns about the service, or if you would like to help with worship, please talk with Pastor Moira.



## Confirmation News

We have a terrific class of students ~ Eli Hess, Hannah Hutchcraft & Sara Rohm

They have been working, learning, laughing, and eating brownies,  
and soon they'll be ready to share all that they've learned with you.

They will lead worship, and read their statements of faith,  
at both churches on Sunday May 14th.

They will be confirmed (Sara at Trinity & Eli and Hannah at St. John's)  
on Sunday June 4th

Please plan on coming to support them  
as they make these important steps in their journey of faith.

### **We need your help with weekly communion...**

Since we have been celebrating at the communion table together each week we need a bit more help. We need folks who will bring bread to church (the juice and wine are provided), set the elements out, and clean up after. There is a sign-up sheet at church & Pastor Moira will give you a reminder call or text before your date.

"None of us got where we are  
solely by pulling ourselves up  
by our bootstraps.

We got here because somebody -  
a parent, a teacher, an Ivy league  
crony or a few nuns - bent down and  
helped us pick up our boots."

Supreme Court Justice  
Thurgood Marshall

"To love is to be vulnerable.  
Love anything and your heart will  
be wrung and possibly broken.  
If you want to make sure of keeping  
it intact you must give it to no one,  
not even an animal.

Wrap it carefully round with  
hobbies and little luxuries;  
avoid all entanglements.  
Lock it up safe in the casket  
or coffin of your selfishness.  
But in that casket, safe, dark,  
motionless, airless, it will change.

It will not be broken;  
it will become unbreakable,  
impenetrable, irredeemable.  
To love is to be vulnerable."

C.S. Lewis

## **Cecil Community Closet**

### Work Days ~ 9am

March 23rd

April 20th

May 18th

### Distribution Days ~ Noon to 3:30pm

March 28th

April 25th

May 23rd

After distribution on March 28th we will need to put clothes away in boxes, and clean everything up so St. John's can have their Easter breakfast.

Some extra hands would be most appreciated at about 3pm.

We gratefully accept donations of clean, usable clothes in good condition.

We are particularly looking for men's jeans and work clothes, kids clothes in all sizes, and larger sized women's clothes. You can also donate linens (bedding, towels, and such) at any time.

As always, thank you to our amazing volunteers who patiently sort, size, and tag every item.

Deliver to...

## **Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry**

*Thank you for your continued support of our community food pantry.*

*Don't forget to bring your donations to the basket at church!*

*And if you prefer to make a cash donation, look for the envelopes on the bulletin table.*

*In 2016 we had a 26% increase in the number of clients the food pantry served. We expect the number of people in need to continue increasing.*

*Your generous support - through financial gifts, and items in the shopping cart - make this part of our shared ministry possible.*

### Upcoming Board Meetings ~ 10am

March 7th, April 11th, May 9th

### Upcoming Distribution Dates

March 15th, 5-7pm

March 18th, 9-11am

April 19th, 5-7pm

April 22nd, 9-11am

May 17th, 5-7pm

May 20th, 9-11am

Join us on distribution Wednesdays for a community meal (free will offering) beginning at 5:30pm

**This is a three month newsletter.  
Don't recycle it until May is done!**

**March - April 2017**