

Sunday Worship 8:00 & 10:00 AM
Online 9:00 AM

www.trinitylomira.org
300 Church St.
Lomira WI 53048
920-269-4411



May 2021/ Monthly Newsletter of TUMC-Lomira

UPCOMING SERMON SERIES FOR MAY 2021

This month, we'll be continuing on in our series called 'GOD LOVES YOU.' So, what does that mean? In what ways does God really love us? We'll continue to answer those questions and many more as we work our way through this series in May. Please plan on joining us for the rest of this series as we learn together all you ever wanted to know about God's incredible love for YOU! Here are the remainder of these messages for the month of May:

- May 2– Mary Balson Preaches “Abide-Apart-Ask” -John 15:1-8
- May 9 (Mothers Day)– God Loves You Even When You Don't Love Him! – Luke 15:11-32
- May 16 – God Loves You When He's Correcting You! – Proverbs 3:11-12
- May 23 – God's Love Will Never Let You Go! – Romans 8:35-39

And we'll then start a new series on Memorial Day weekend, Sunday, May 30, with a focus on WORSHIP. Again, please join us if you can for the remainder of the 'GOD LOVES YOU' series. Once again, if there's anything that is universally needed right now, in the world we live in, it's the fact that God does indeed love us ... and nothing can separate us from that LOVE!

Growing together in faith... *Pastor Rom*

An Important Announcement from SPRC Chairperson Kathy Drexler

Good Morning! I am Kathy Drexler, Chairperson of the Staff Parish Relations Committee, commonly called the SPRC. Today is Sunday, April 25, 2021.

A life in ministry is a calling. Ministers once called and ordained devote their lives to the congregations that they are sent to serve. Rom and Jane know very well that ministry is not a 9-5 job. Pastor Rom, like most pastors, is on call 24-7. Right now, as Rom and Jane battle stage 4 pancreatic cancer, Rom needs a break from 24-7 ministry. He needs to take care of himself. Jess and the leadership team will tell you that it is not easy for him to admit that he needs a break.

Fortunately, the United Methodist Church understands the strains that life in ministry can put on a person. They offer ministers a 3 month Renewal leave after a minister has served for 7 years. Rom has requested this leave for the months of May, June and July. The SPRC met on April 13th and the Church Council met on the 15th. Both groups unanimously approved this leave request for Rom. We emailed a formal leave request to our District Superintendent. On Monday, April 19th we received word from Kate Jones, our DS, that a 3 month renewal leave for Pastor Rom has been approved. This leave will start May 1st and run through July 31, 2021.

We are very fortunate that Pastor Mary Balson, from FDL, has agreed to serve Trinity during Rom's 3 month leave. The SPRC, Jess, and the Leadership Team met with Mary on Wednesday, April 21st. We had a long discussion that night and we began to put a plan of action into place. I know that you will join me in welcoming Mary and doing everything we can to assist her for the next 3 months. Mary's first service with us will be next Sunday, May 2nd.

The terms of the leave state that Trinity UMC will continue to pay Rom his full salary during the leave. The SPRC Chair is gathering needed Trinity documents to apply for a Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation Clergy Leave Grant. This grant is intended to financially assist congregations with the added expenses involved with providing pastoral care and worship leadership while the pastor is participating in a renewal leave. The bottom line is that this grant pays Mary a small salary to take on these duties during the 3 month leave. When this grant request is approved there should be no added expense to Trinity.

Please continue to keep Pastor Rom and Jane in your prayers. Pray for the best possible scenario as the Pegram's get answers to a lot of medical questions this week. Add some prayers for Pastor Mary as she steps in to meet the spiritual needs of our congregation. The staff and the church leaders would also benefit by having you lift us up in your prayers. Trinity has been through a tough 14 months with Covid shutdowns, then Rom's health concerns, trying to open safely for indoor worship, and now installing an interim pastor. We are a resilient group! With God by our side and in our hearts we can handle any challenge! Thank you!

Introducing Mary Balson

May I introduce myself. My name is Mary Balson. I am a Licensed Local Pastor and a trained Intentional Interim Pastor. I will be providing pastoral support to Trinity UMC during Pastor Rom's Renewal Leave.

I was born and raised in Fond du Lac. The oldest of six children, my parents were Oliver and Dorothy Zinkgraf. I graduated from L.P. Goodrich High School, UW-Oshkosh (BS) and the University of Iowa (MA).

I taught physical education for 33 years. One year for the Little Wolf School District (Manawa), three years for the Kiel School District and twenty-nine years for the Campbellsport School District. During those years I taught various combinations of grades 1-12 and started the girls' athletic programs, coaching volleyball, basketball and track and field.

In 1982 I married Owen Balson and joined him, his 15-year-old son, Robert, and his mother, Frances, on the Balson Family farm just south of Fond du Lac on Highway 175. As a city girl, I soon learned what it meant to be a farmer's wife. Owen and I both worked off the farm. We spent early mornings, evenings and weekends taking care of our herd of beef cattle, as well as working the land, planting, and harvesting the crops on our 80-acre farm.

Owen and I sold 70 acres of our land and our cattle in the mid 90's. We retired from our respective jobs in 1998 and spent time caring for our two grandchildren, developing hobbies that we loved, and traveling to various parts of the U.S. and Canada. Additionally, I became active in Bible studies and numerous leadership roles at Covenant UMC, and I volunteered at Chegwin Elementary School one day a week.

In August of 2006 Owen passed away due to complications from a triple bypass heart operation after spending 97 days in intensive care. The weeks and months following Owen's death were challenging. Fortunately for me the members of my Disciple Bible Study Class, my family and friends offered great support during this period and soon the days and weeks got brighter.

It was at the 2007 Annual Conference of the Wisconsin United Methodist Church that I first felt the call to ministry. While sitting at my table during the first worship service of the Annual Conference, I watched as persons feeling the call to ministry step forward upon hearing Bishop Lee's request to do so. As I sat there, I suddenly felt that I was to get out of my chair and step forward as well. Confused and reluctant I held myself in my chair, as I had an

Continued...



argument in my head with God. I was able to give God all sorts of reasons why I should stay in my chair. I never did go forward, but through the days that I was at Annual Conference thoughts of pursuing the ministry kept coming to me. By the end of that week, after conversations with my pastor and several friends, I decided to attend the Inquiring Candidates Retreat and eventually my answer was YES!

Following the candidacy process, lay speakers training and licensing school I received my first appointment to the River Valley Charge in the Chippewa District in 2009. Located along the Mississippi and Chippewa Rivers, I served the churches in Pepin, Alma and Arkansaw for four years. Living in that area of Wisconsin was a delight and the experiences I had were both challenging and joy-filled.

In the spring of 2013, I was asked to take an appointment as an “Intentional Interim” pastor serving the Randolph – Courtland Charge. I attended training sessions at Lake Junaluska, NC to prepare me for the variety of challenging situations I would face in that appointment, as well as future appointments.

I served Randolph – Courtland for two years bringing a chaotic situation back to normalcy. At that point I reached the age of retirement. I was retired for 2 ½ months and then was appointed to Wesley UMC in Sheboygan for the remainder of the appointment year. That was followed by another 2 ½ month retirement followed by 21 ½ months at Wesley UMC in Oshkosh. In 2018 I was appointed to serve First UMC in Campbellsport and in October 2019 I took on the challenge of serving Eureka UMC until June 30, 2020.

I have had numerous connections to Lomira over the years. As a coach at Campbellsport High School, I led countless teams that competed with Lomira in the Flyway Conference. As a wife I came to know more about Lomira through my mother-in-law Frances Bentley Balson who grew up on the former Bentley Farm on the corner of Hwy 175 and Highway 49. Frances’ sister Alice also married a Balson, Leonard Balson, and they raised their family of Neil, John, Linda, and Janice in Lomira. Then there were all those parts runs I made to Schraufnagel Implement to keep our equipment working during harvest season. In addition, I participated in a Circuit sponsored mission trip led by Pastor John Hobbins to Whispering Pines Camp. The group, including adults and youth from Lomira, Oakfield and Covenant UMC’s, spent the week on clean up, paint up and fix up projects. Currently my great-grandchildren are commuting from Fond du Lac to Lomira to attend high school and middle school.

It is a privilege to be asked to help Trinity UMC and my friend, Rom Pegram during this challenging time. I hope that our time together will go smoothly, and that Rom will return from his renewal leave feeling much better. I look forward to getting to know you and serving God with you in this community. May God add his blessing to our time together.

Mary Balson

Stewardship and Finance

Offering

If Trinity Is Doing Better Financially, Why Are We Behind On Our Budget?



The above question is both reasonable and thought provoking. How can we be doing well and still be behind? The explanation comes down to two things: apportionments, and how they are treated in a budget. First of all what is an apportionment? An apportionment (apportion for others) is monies that a local church pays to their annual conference for the purpose of funding the greater Methodist church. Our apportionment charge makes up a substantial part of our budget. It is second only to salaries as an expense.

Historically, Trinity has been able to make our budget commitment and have fully paid whatever our apportionment charge has been. A little over ten years ago, we no longer were able to raise enough money to make our budget. To counteract that shortfall, we reduced the amount of money that we paid towards our apportionment charge. Over the next several years, our budget shortfalls became worse, and in turn we kept reducing the amount of money we paid towards our apportionment charge to make up for the shortfalls. We bottomed out in 2018. That year we had to borrow money to pay our bills and only paid \$500 towards an apportionment charge of \$34,000. That put us in the bottom 1% of churches paying apportionments in the Wisconsin Conference. Since that time we have been slowly getting back on our feet. In 2020 we paid 20% of our apportionment and ended the year with a positive balance on our books. We have set a goal of paying 25% of our apportionment for 2021.

When the finance committee sets the yearly budget for our church, instead of budgeting the amount of our apportionment that we intend to pay, we use the full apportionment charge that the conference sends us. That difference can be as much as \$25,000. So we can pay the apportionment percentage that we agreed on, have some extra funds left after we pay all our other church expenses, and still be behind a significant amount on our budget.

Our long-term goal should be to have enough member giving to get back to fully funding our financial obligation for whatever denomination that we end up in. The challenge will be to balance this payment with the need to complete the improvements and maintenance projects that were delayed by our tight financial condition of a few years ago. We also need to dedicate a growing portion of our budget for serving God and our community through discipleship. Because when it comes down to it that is the most important reason we have a church.

Gary Jesse
SF Committee Member

Live Streaming Option - Update

We have an update on the live streaming project. Stewardship and finance has contracted the services of Metro Sound & Video to undertake the project. The church has had dealings with this firm in the past and we have been well satisfied with the equipment and services they provide. The cost of the project is \$14,600. The church has applied for a Groat Family Rural Ministry Accessibility Grant. This grant is a bequest from the Groat family through the UMC and is meant to help rural churches improve how they serve their membership. The maximum grant that we were eligible for is \$7,300, which is the amount we applied for.

We are happy to report that John Muentner received word, our grant proposal was accepted and that we will receive a check for \$7,300 shortly. Because of backlogs due to the Covid disruptions, it will be 6 to 8 weeks before Metro Sound & Video will receive the equipment and can begin the installation.

Gary Jesse
SF Committee Member



Announcements

If you know of members graduating from High School, an apprenticeship, technical program or college, please let Jessica in the office know, so they may be recognized in the June newsletter.

920-269-4411

churchofficetumc@gmail.com



Starting in May 16th and going through summer, Trinity will have one Sunday Worship Service at 9:00 AM. Online service will continue as usual.

Thank-You!



BLOOD DRIVE
Donate blood. Save lives.

TUMC Will be hosting a blood drive at the church on Monday May 24th from 12-6 PM.

***The June Newsletter Deadline is May 25th
Please have all of your articles into the church office by noon that day. Thank you!***

Our thanks to all who have been so kind, compassionate, and supportive during these very challenging days of fighting cancer/ chemo treatments, etc. Your cards, notes, texts, and gifts have really encouraged both of us and have carried us through some tough days already. God's blessings to each of you as you continue to be the Church here at Trinity UMC and beyond.

Love, Rom & Jane



Shoebox Project Youth Work Day | Lomira High School Sophomore Class members need to complete volunteer hours for a 2nd semester English class requirement. When we were approached asking if the Shoebox Project needed any help, we were excited to reply... 'Of course!' We were delighted to host a workday for a few students and team members on 4/17.



Owen Unferth



Jaye Zingsheim



Mackenzie Klein



Through our OCC District Leadership we are able to participate in the split of a large bulk purchase. Our team plans to purchase **50** good quality **soccer balls** and **pumps** for a very favorable price! This will make an outstanding 'WOW' shoebox gift for the 10-14 year old boys. If so moved, please consider sharing your blessing to help cover the purchase of these soccer ball with pumps. Thank you!



A soccer field, set-up by relief workers at a Syrian refugee camp, makes the situation a bit more bearable for the children. This space offers an outlet for children to play, socialize with peers, and process the trauma of war and displacement. Don't miss out on the opportunity to touch the lives of boys like these.

If you have **old t-shirts** that are not worthy of handing-down or donating to a local program, please consider donating them to Operation Christmas Child! The t-shirts—**any color, size, or condition**- will be cut-up and braided to make **jump-ropes** for our shoeboxes. This is a great way to upcycle an item that might otherwise be discarded or end up in a landfill.





Sandy Zitlow

May Trinity Shoebox Project Angel



How have you been involved with Trinity's Shoebox Project?

I've been making fleece beanies and mittens for the boxes, along with drawstring pouches for toys and miscellaneous items. I have a few other ideas I want to work on too. I also like to go searching for good deals after the holidays for things to put in the boxes. I'm always looking for the "must-have" items.

Why do you choose to share your time and talents with the Shoebox Project?

I used to sew a lot, and with retiring, I wanted to get back to it. So I asked about some of the items they needed and went from there. I have more time than others, so if there is something I can do to help Amy and Heidi, I'm glad to do it.



How has the pandemic impacted you in a positive way?

When the pandemic hit, I lost my part-time job and had to find something to do. So I cleaned an area in the basement, set up my sewing machine, and got to work. I started sewing for my grandkids, and then Amy and Heidi came up with ideas for what was needed. Now my area is where I go to relax.



What's your favorite memory?

One of my favorite memories is the first time my son, Keith, asked if I could make some cookies for his co-workers and customers at Christmas time. I think I made about a dozen containers that year. The next year my daughter, Nikki, wanted some too. I love doing the baking, but not the packaging. So they all get together one afternoon when I am all done, a week or two before Christmas. They form an assembly line and make up their own containers. I sit back and watch and let them know how many I need. My Grandkids like to get involved and now they make their own too, for their teachers.

What started out at ten containers, is now a tradition and has grown to almost 100 containers and counting! One thing the pandemic **didn't** affect was the number of cookies to be made and handed out.

One thing's for sure—if we could pack food in our shoeboxes, Sandy would be doing the baking!! Thank you so much for all you do, Sandy!!

Sandy has several projects in the works: fleece gloves and hats, small toy bags, and bags for the triangle/golf tee games made by Lee. Follow **Trinity Shoebox Project** on Facebook to stay in touch with what she and others are working on!



TUMC Prayer Concerns

- **Jan Guell** second carotid artery surgery, recovering 4/28
- **Karlene Krueger** cancer 4/23
- **Roy Meyer** declining health 4/23
- **Tina Rawlins** knee surgery 4/26
- **Kimberly Heine** (Karlene Kruegers sister) suffered a stroke 3/23
- **Jen Schramm** (coworker of Sarah K) diagnosed with breast cancer, surgery set for 3/11
- **Joey Donald** (confirmed at Trinity) hit by a car; surgery coming up 3/10, long recovery ahead of him (also he & wife expecting child) 2/28
- **Brent Hilker** (Pam's son) injured during a snowboarding fall 2/27
- **Lauren** (Pam H's niece) broke her ankle while hiking, during treatment discovered she is pregnant and has blood clots, needs daily shots 2/27
- **Pastor Rom** pancreatic cancer 2/4
- **Pastor Scott McMurray** in hospital in Milwaukee area with throat cancer – well into chemo treatments now 1/3
- **Mary Lou Trauba** (Michelle Wroblewski friend) recent stroke 1/25
- **Had Johnson** for heart ailments (tests being run) 12/12
- **Alexis Feucht** a Senior at Campbellsport HS diagnosed with brain cancer. Surgery successful. Radiation to begin soon; more treatment determined from there 10/18
- **Aaron Zuhlke** (friend of Judy Lerch) aplastic anemia (hereditary); needs bone marrow transplant 10/23
- **Cathy Wetzel** diagnosed with stage-4 breast cancer 10/16
- **Karlene Krueger's Mom** diagnosed with breast cancer, surgery in November 10/15
- **Carrie Mueller** (Pronounced Miller; Tina Rambousek's friend) on dialysis for kidneys; will need a transplant 9/14

***Our Prayer list covers for 6-8 months. If you feel someone needs to continue or be placed back on the list, please let Jessica know.
Thank You.***

May Birthdays

- 2 Jackie Eichstedt
- 3 David Luedtke
Cannon Klein
- 4 Annette Michels
- 7 Caleb Toth-Rambousek
- 8 Damon Kavonius
Annie Sacotte
- 9 Owen Casper
- 12 Lila Ebert
- 13 Brian Stoffel
- 14 Isabel Westphal
- 15 Gerry Meyer
- 17 Janet Hesprich
- 21 Doug Kiehna
- 23 Eloise Alf
- 24 Joan Brasch
Andrew Greenfield
- 25 Donna Luther
John LaVarda
- 26 Janice Haefs
Bill Seefeld
Weston Rhein
- 27 Casey Buske
Peter Graf
- 29 Aisha Ullius
- 30 Joel Arndt
Jacqueline Zimmerman
- 31 Deb Wiedmeyer



TUMC Budget Totals

Year to date needed to meet budget:

\$74,834.00

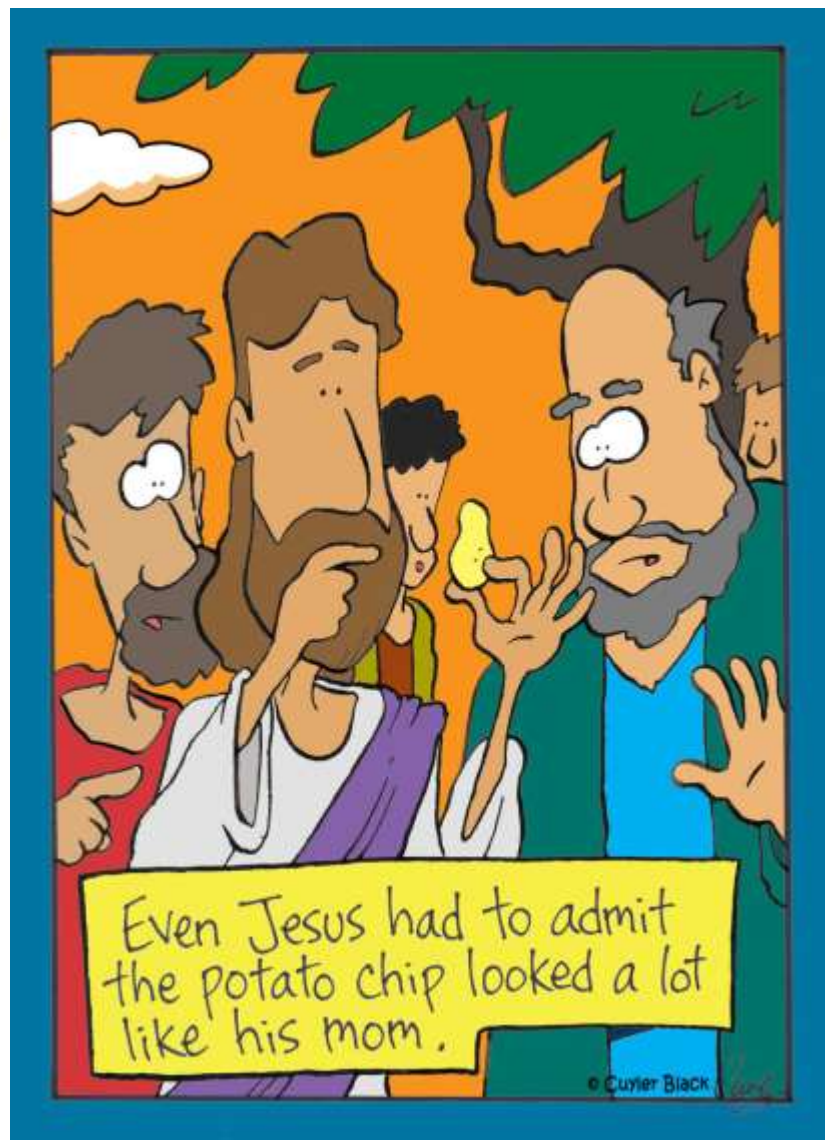
Received through

4-25-2021: \$68,068.00

Budget Shortfall: \$6,766.00

May Anniversaries

- 1 Jeffery & Rebecca Luedtke
- 2 Derek and Nicole Dittberner
- 4 Francis & Annette Michels
- 5 Jonathan & Lisa Luedtke
- 8 David & Michelle Wroblewski
- 9 Gary Jesse & Sandy Porter
- 10 Shawn & Amanda Ditter
- 18 Gerald & Adena Walter
- 21 Randy & Julie Faber
- 24 Glen and Pam Wellso
- 31 Richard & Janice Haefs



Golden Club

We have lots to celebrate this month!

David Luedtke

Turns 90 on 5/3

P. O. Box 86

Eden, WI 53019

Annette Michels

Turns 83 on 5/4

N11656 Butternut Rd.

Lomira, WI 53048

Lila Ebert

Turns 88 on 5/12

1030 North Ave.

Lomira, WI 53048

Joan Brasch

Turns 91 on 5/24

125 Cedar Ridge Dr. Apt S239

West Bend, WI 53095

Donna Luther

Turns 85 on 5/25

9009 Chemstrand Rd.

Pensacola, FL 32514

Janice Haefs

Turns 85 on 5/26

W6277 Forest Rd.

Plymouth, WI 53073

William Seefeld

Turns 83 on 5/26

W3785 Scenic Rd.

Campbellsport, WI 53010

Lets send them lots of Happy Birthday wishes!

May 2021 TUMC-Lomira
Worship Services 8:00 & 10:00 AM
Online 9:00 AM

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Communion Sunday 10:00 am Confirmation Sunday	3	4	5 7:00 am- 11:00 AM Lomira HS AP Testing	6 7:00 am- 11:00 AM Lomira HS AP Testing	7 7:00 am- 11:00 AM Lomira HS AP Testing	8 10-11:00 am Food Pantry
9 MOTHERS DAY	10	11 11:00 am- 3:00 pm Lomira HS AP Testing	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 10-11:00 am Food Pantry
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Rom Pegram, Pastor
Church Office: (920) 269-4411 Parsonage (920) 269-7292
Cell (608) 417-0060
Office Hours Tues.-Thurs. 9AM-12PM
Or by Appointment

Email:
pastorromtumc@gmail.com
churchofficetumc@gmail.com

WORSHIP SERVICES
First Service – 8:00 A.M.
Second Service– 10:00 A.M.
Online– 9:00 A.M.

Church Office Hours:
Tues-Thur 9AM-1PM

Trinity United Methodist Church
300 Church Street
Lomira, WI 53048
Return Service Requested