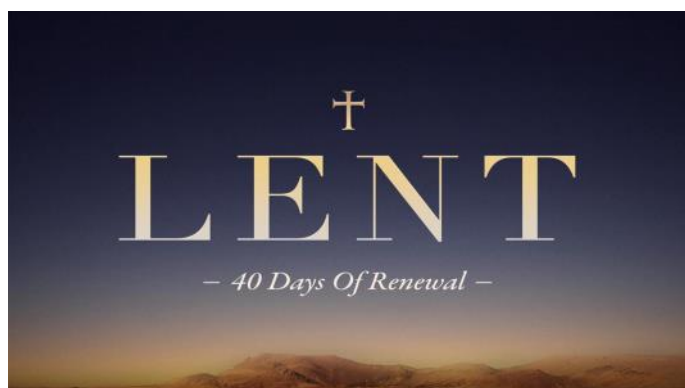


A look ahead at our Lent service schedule:

- Ash Wednesday 2/14, 7:00 pm
- Weekly Wednesday Night Lent Services 7:00 pm (2/21, 2/28, 3/6, 3/13, 3/20)
- Palm Sunday Service 3/24, 9:00 am
- Maundy Thursday 3/28, 7:00 pm
- Good Friday 3/29, 7:00 pm
- Easter Morning Service 3/31, 9:00 am





Dear Beloved Trinity Methodist Church Family,

As we embark on this beautiful month of February, I am reminded of the countless blessings that surround us. We must take a moment to thank God for the gift of life and the many blessings He grants us each day. So, let us open our hearts to His love and grace.

February brings with it two significant events that hold special places in our hearts. Valentine's Day, a day dedicated to celebrating love, reminds us of the love we share with one another, and the love God has for us. It's an opportunity to cherish our relationships and express our affection for one another.

Additionally, on February 14, 2024, we will gather for our Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 pm, marking the beginning of the Lenten season. Lent is a time of reflection, repentance, and spiritual growth. During this season, we will come together each Wednesday at 7:00 pm for Lenten services.

This year, our Lenten Service meditations will focus on exploring Trinity Methodist Church's Vision: LOVE, GROW, and SERVE. These three simple yet profound words guide us in our journey of faith:

LOVE: We are called to love both God and people, just as Jesus teaches us in Matthew 22:37-38 and 39-40. Love is at the core of our existence, and it is through love that we reflect God's image in our lives.

GROW: We are encouraged to grow intentionally, as emphasized in Ephesians 3:17 and 2 Peter 1:2. Growth leads us to maturity in our faith, deepening our relationship with God.

SERVE: We are inspired to serve others, just as Jesus did (Matthew 20:26b-28). Through service, we meet the needs of those around us and help them experience God's love for themselves.

These three principles, LOVE, GROW, and SERVE, remind us of our purpose as a church community. We are here to love unconditionally, to grow continuously in our faith, and to serve selflessly. It's that simple, yet it carries deep meaning and purpose.

Throughout the month of February, we will explore key Scriptures and sermon titles that align with our Lenten journey:

February 04: Mark 1:29-39, "Looking for Jesus."

February 11: Mark 9:2-9, "Mountaintop Experience."

February 18: Mark 1:9-15, "Leaving Home."

February 25: Mark 8:31-38, "Deny Yourself, Take Up the Cross, and Follow Me."

As we dig into these passages, let us contemplate the significance of Jesus' life and teachings, and how they guide us on our own paths of love, growth, and service.

As we enter the Lenten season, I pray that our Lord will richly bless your contemplation on the sorrowful and remorseful character it holds. May you find solace in reflecting on God's great love for all of us through the suffering, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Let this season be a time of spiritual renewal and drawing closer to God.

May the love of Christ fill your hearts abundantly in February and throughout the year. Together, as a church family, let us embrace LOVE, GROWTH, and SERVICE as our guiding principles and live them out in our daily lives.

In His love and grace,

Rev. Mulongo Mpoyo



## Stewardship and Finance Offering

All, I would first like to apologize for my clerical error. When calculating the numbers for the end-of-year report I had given Pastor, I misread some information. This caused me to give him incorrect figures for the end-of-year statement letter that you all received. I was trying to calculate a realistic budget shortfall by removing the UMC apportionments from the equation since those were being paid through disaffiliation and I gave Pastor a shortfall number of -\$1,319 to use. Where my mistake came from, is I had gotten in a habit of always seeing the budget number listed as a shortfall. This time it was not a shortfall it was an **OVERAGE** of \$38,581. This was due to the generosity of many present and past members to end the year. So, we ended 2023 on a very high note financially.

We have taken some of this overage and paid off the A/C's portion of the LOC. This wonderful abundance of giving will also allow us to make improvements to our church this coming year. The SF team will be able to put a few projects in play that have been set aside due to Covid years and Disaffiliation. The 2 main projects we are tackling are upgrading the speaker system throughout the entire church, and we will be implementing a "Pew Project" that will involve the members of Trinity. There will be some other projects we will be funding this year, décor changes coming to the church, we need a new furnace in the parsonage, and we are assisting in maintenance and repair to our music programs. We are having the carpets cleaned in all the Sunday School rooms, the connections room, the fireside room, and the offices. Thank you to the Education Committee for offering to fund the carpet cleaning. Thanks be to God for all the blessings he has provided to Trinity, and blessings to all its members.

*Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life. – 1 Timothy 6:17-19 NLT*

*Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine. – Proverbs 3:9-10 NLT*

SF Committee Chair  
Josh Marschie



### Handbell practice

- Returns on February 21
- Due to Wednesday night Lenten services, **handbell rehearsals will move to 5:00 pm for the next five weeks (Feb 21—March 20)**
- We need more ringers to keep the bell choir afloat and would welcome hearing from you if you are interested. Please contact the church office and Jill will share Clarice Drummond's contact information.

### Ten ways to love

1. Listen without interrupting. (Proverbs 18)
2. Speak without accusing. (James 1:19)
3. Give without sparing. (Proverbs 21:26)
4. Pray without ceasing. (Colossians 1:9)
5. Answer without arguing. (Proverbs 17:1)
6. Share without pretending. (Ephesians 4:15)
7. Enjoy without complaint. (Philippians 2:14)
8. Trust without wavering. (Corinthians 13:7)
9. Forgive without punishing. (Colossians 3:13)
10. Promise without forgetting. (Proverbs 13:12)



# Who's in the Pews?

Ever wonder who you're sitting next to at church? Want to know a little more about them and their faith journey here at Trinity? If so, this "new" contribution may answer a few of your burning questions.

Read on to find more out about **"Pete and Kathy Drexler."**



## 1) Tell me a little about your childhood. Where are you from, etc.

**Kathy**—I grew up on the NE side of Oshkosh as the oldest of five children. My dad, Harlan Quandt, taught HS physical education, coached the varsity baseball team, and retired as a colonial in the US Army Reserve. My mother, Lilly, had been a legal secretary but became a stay at home mom. My sister, Deb, was next in birth order, followed by three brothers, Steve, Dave and Bob. We lived 2 blocks from our elementary school and 3 blocks from our church. We faithfully attended St. Andrew's Lutheran Church and sat in the back pew because my brothers had trouble sitting still and being quiet. Mom sang in the church choir. We were a new church plant in the early 1960's and my dad was head of the building committee. Later he served more than one term as church council president. I attended Sunday School classes, 3 years of confirmation classes every Saturday morning, sang in the youth choir, and faithfully attended Luther League (youth group). My parents sent me and my sister to Pine Lake Bible camp for a week in the summer. That wonderful experience is where 12 year old me realized that I was a Christian.

**Pete**—I grew up on the west side of Oshkosh and am the middle child with 3 sisters and 1 brother. My dad worked in the printing industry and my mom was a homemaker. I attended Sacred Heart Catholic Church and grade school.

## 2) Tell me about your family now.

**Kathy**—Pete Drexler grew up on the west side of Oshkosh. We had both been attending Oshkosh High School but we didn't meet until our second year together in high school. We dated for 4 years, went to different colleges (me UW- Oshkosh, Pete UW - Stout) and married in 1976 when I graduated. We landed in Lomira in the fall of 1979 when Pete was hired to teach graphic arts and coach the baseball team at Lomira HS. I got my dream job teaching elementary physical education in Lomira in 1983. We both taught for over 30 years. We adopted our daughter, Sara, in 1985. We built our house in Brownsville in 1991 and we have been privileged to call the School District of Lomira and the Lomira/Brownsville area our home ever since.

**Pete**—I attended Oshkosh High School until my senior year when the name of the school changed to Oshkosh West HS. I am part of the first graduating class from the school in 1973. Kathy also attended Oshkosh High where we met my junior year. She was a senior! It was a big deal for a junior boy, to date a senior girl! Kathy and I married in 1976, I graduated from UW Stout in 1978. After teaching 1 year in Waukesha I was hired to teach Graphic Communications and coach the varsity baseball team at Lomira HS in 1979. Kathy started teaching elementary physical education in Lomira in 1983. Our adopted daughter, Sara, came into our lives in 1985. She currently resides in Colorado Springs.

## 3) What is your favorite thing to do?

**Kathy**—Combining my family and sports provides me with the greatest joy. Sara and I attended all of Pete's Lomira HS baseball games and she served as his stat girl for 6 years. Pickle ball, paddle boarding, bicycling, golf, and watching Packer games with Pete currently top my list of favorite things to do.

**Pete**—There are a lot of things ranking as favorites, and most of them involve sports.

## 4) What is the biggest lesson you've learned in life?

**Kathy**—Lead your life with a goal of pleasing God in everything you say and do. A goal of pleasing all involved human beings is impossible to attain.

**Pete**—On a difficult to answer question, take a breath, pause, and think before you speak. If you take enough time, the person you are talking to will think you didn't understand them and repeat themselves. Every moment is helpful in tough situations.

### 5) What is your biggest blessing/s?

**Kathy**—My biggest blessing is the love of God. Tied for my next biggest blessing would be the love of my husband and good health.

**Pete**—My biggest blessing is my family.

### 6) What is your favorite memory?

**Kathy**—In 2013 my sister, two of my brothers, their spouses, Pete and I went on a 12 day land and cruise trip to Alaska. The 8 of us booked a guided white water rafting trip down the Nenana River. The weather was perfect, the trip was exciting but not overly frightening. The Australian guide was fun and my family worked together as a team during a trip that all of us will remember for a lifetime.

**Pete**—My favorite memories are the annual Eagle River Resort vacations with family.

### 7) What brought you to Trinity?

**Kathy**—Fran Coulter is responsible for bringing us to Trinity. Fran served as the Lomira High School administrative assistant when Pete started teaching at LHS. Pete must have mentioned to Fran that we were looking for a church. Fran told Pete that Trinity UMC just got a dynamic new minister named Rev. Roger Clapp. When we walked into Trinity on that first Sunday morning we were welcomed by people we knew from school like Irene Hayes and Jerry and Patty Burmeister. Other people in church were also welcoming. I remember folks saying to Pete, “ Aren't you the new graphic arts teacher? “ Fran was correct about Pastor Roger being a dynamic preacher. Roger was also a wonderful man. He recruited me to be a member of the SPRC before I knew what was happening. We joined Trinity in 1980 and we have been here ever since.

**Pete**—Fran Coulter is responsible for bringing us to Trinity. I worked at the high school with Fran and told her that we were looking for a church. Fran suggested Trinity and we decided to give a few services a try. Kathy was Lutheran, I was Catholic, and then we became Methodists.

### 8) What do you want to see more of at church?

**Kathy**—I believe that God wants us to be more than just members of Trinity who come to church on Sunday's at 9:00. God wants a relationship with us. He wants us to pray with out ceasing. He wants us to read the Bible daily and to count on the Holy Spirit to help us understand what we are reading. In order for each of us to truly experience all the blessings that God has in store for us, we need to move from being church members who occupy a pew, to church disciples who are working to further God's kingdom. Trinity Methodist Church could become a church “on fire” for God if we strive to become his disciples.

**Pete**—Our disaffiliation has brought about many positive changes at Trinity. It is exciting to envision where the church is heading in the near future.

### 9) What is your involvement at church (committees, activities)?

**Kathy**—I am excited about my new role at Trinity as director of Adult Christian Education. I also serve on the Stewardship and Finance Committee and the Nominations Committee. Currently I am a member of the choir, the handbell choir, Caring Ministry, Communion Steward, Women's Bible Study, Mugs and Muffins, and Adult Sunday School Class. I formerly served numerous terms on the SPRC, the Disaffiliation Team, and as a Sunday School Teacher. When I retired from teaching almost 10 years ago, I took a year to determine where I would focus my retirement energy. It became clear to me during that year of discernment that God was calling me to work for him through Trinity Methodist Church.

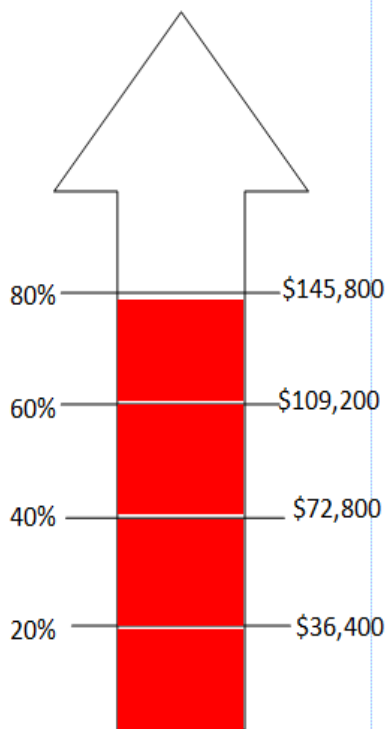
**Pete**—My church involvement includes putting messages on our sign board and being a member of SPRC. I am also involved in the new adult Sunday school class, prayer group, men's group, and enjoy lending a hand on church property outdoor projects. A project I have recently accepted is to teach Pastor Mulongo how to golf.



Goal: \$182,000  
 Money raised: \$141,675  
 Pledged: \$2,975  
 Total to date: \$144,650

## Disaffiliation Fund

Help Us Reach Our Goal



**Balance Needed \$37,350 -**  
 If you can help, contact  
 Bill Buske or Deb Zinnel  
**79% of goal reached as of 1/09/24**



The next **Prayer Group Meeting** is on **February 13 @ 6:00P.M.**

Pastor Mulongo will lead this group and the focus will be on prayer in the Bible.

## Loaves & Fishes

**Our next date for "Loaves & Fishes" is Monday, February 12**

To make the dinner more special, we are requesting a donation of two dozen of your favorite cookies be delivered to church by the afternoon of February 12. Cookies should be bagged in groups of two. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



Mark your calendars for our Young at Heart event hosted on **Sunday, February 11th**. For your enjoyment, the Sunday School kids will sing for us during service that day.



### Mug & Muffins

**Saturday, February 17 @ 9:00am**

Bring a few muffins/ donuts to share. Bring a friend and craft project if you desire, or just come and sit with a cup of coffee, relax and gab.

Looking for individual(s)/families to greet new and existing members before church service on Sundays.

## TRINITY MEN'S GROUP

**Next Meeting—Saturday, February 17 @ 9:00am**

**Future Meeting Dates:**

March 16 April 20 May 18

### Be A Greeter!



If interested, please contact Kasey Todl at 262-689-7711 or [kasey@westphals.com](mailto:kasey@westphals.com).

TMC will be hosting a Blood Bank on Monday February 5th, starting at noon. You can sign up online at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org)





## Trinity Shoebox Project



We are delighted to share that our shoeboxes will bless children in 5... **YES 5!** different countries including 2 on the coast of South America and 3 islands. God did amazing work through us last year.



The **Bahamas** consists of more than 700 islands in the Atlantic Ocean about 50 miles southeast of Florida. Its tropical climate, clear waters, and picturesque beaches attract tourists year-round. Samaritan's Purse began distributing gift-filled shoeboxes in the Bahamas in 2011.



**Grenada** is an island nation located in the Caribbean Ocean just north of Venezuela. An especially small country, it is known for its tourism and the export of bananas, cocoa, and nutmeg. Samaritan's Purse began hosting outreach events for Grenada's children in 2004.



**Trinidad & Tobago** is a multi-island country in the West Indies close to South America. Named after its two main islands, the country also contains several smaller islands. Sugarcane is the country's main crop. Samaritan's Purse began distributing gift-filled shoeboxes there in 2001.

WE SERVE  
THE  
Lord  
BY  
Sharing  
HIS  
Blessings



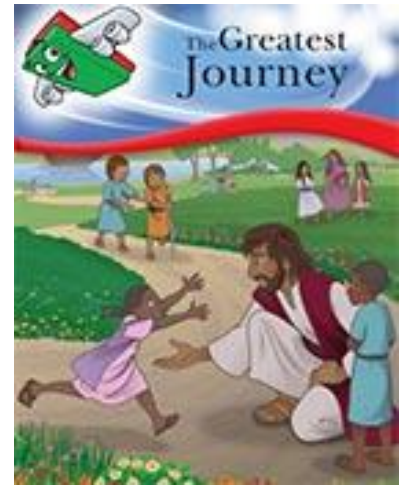
**Guyana** is the only English-speaking country in South America. Located on the northern coast of the continent, the country has strong ties to Caribbean nations that share their language. It's also known for its beautiful rainforests, and produces rice and sugarcane. Samaritan's Purse began delivering Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts to children here in 2000.



**Suriname** is a country on the northern coast of South America. A land of tropical rainforests, Suriname is one of the top producers in the tropics of bauxite, the main ore of aluminum. Formerly a Dutch colony, its ethnic diversity also includes South Asian and African influences. Samaritan's Purse began distributing gift-filled shoeboxes there in 1998.



# What happens AFTER our shoeboxes reach the children?



## The Greatest Journey

After receiving shoebox gifts, many children are invited by the local church to participate in the discipleship program, The Greatest Journey, a 12-lesson course that includes Bible stories and Scripture memorization. The goal of the program is for children to become faithful followers of Jesus Christ in their daily lives as they share Him with family and friends. And it all starts by training local teachers who love kids and are passionate about making disciples. More than 35.4 million children have enrolled in The Greatest Journey since 2009.

*"Through The Greatest Journey, children are invited to trust Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, and they learn how to prayerfully share the Gospel with family and friends."*

—Franklin Graham, President, Samaritan's Purse

## A Graduation Celebration

After completing The Greatest Journey, children attend a graduation celebration and receive a certificate. Most importantly, they are given a Bible that includes the New Testament and selected Old Testament stories. Complete with illustrations, it is often the first copy of God's Word the child, or their family, will own. Family and friends who attend the ceremony hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ. After seeing the transformation in the students, their loved ones' hearts are open to hearing

## Believers Multiply

Since 2009, more than 17.4 million children have reported decisions for Christ while taking The Greatest Journey. These children as well as those who hear the Gospel at shoebox outreach events





# LET US PRAY

## Prayer Concernsaway

- **Mary** (sister-in-law of Pam Hilker) tumor marker has gone up, staying the course to do another blood test in six weeks, March 7th MRI with results on March 13— liver board review in March 01/30
- **Karl Gudex**, Krueger family neighbor, barn fire 01/24
- **Mike Skelton** Hospice care being provided 01/24
- **Kathy Skelton** (wife and caretaker of Mike) appreciates prayers for strength/resilience 01/24
- **David Menzer** (Fred's Brother) recovering at home after hospital stay—pneumonia 01/24
- **Lori Heimann**, friend of Sarah Kretschmer, receiving treatment for colon cancer 1/24
- **Nancy Feucht**, Casey Buske's mother, diagnosed with a rare blood cancer, upcoming bone marrow biopsy 01/14
- **Bruce Dilling**, knee replacement on January 16 01/10
- **Todd Pinnow**, treatment for cancer 01/10
- **Marci Twohig**, started treatment for breast cancer 01/10
- **Jeff Budahn**, friend of Sarah Kretschmer, recovering from a stroke 01/03
- **Robert Hartzheim**, brother-in-law of Victor & Lois Jewson, diagnosed with a rare nerve disease - responding well to taking multiple medications daily /resting a lot 01/03
- **Victor Jewson** heart, left shoulder/arm /diabetic issues 11/29
- **Glen Stewart** (neighbor and good friend of the Alf family) lung cancer 09/10

### TUMC Budget Totals

Year to date needed to meet budget:

\$16,884.00

Received through 1-28-2024:

Budget Shortfall:

\$7,474.03



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 *Carissa Backhaus*  
*Judy Schraufnagel*
- 3 *Emily Schwanke*
- 4 *Peter Buske*  
*Mike Sacotte*
- 6 *Judy Lerch*
- 7 *Zachary Dewhurst*
- 10 *Skylyr Thorn*  
*Cynthia Bryant*  
*Aricka Ullius*  
*Ryan Ullius*  
*Catrina Rambousek*
- 17 *Debbie*  
*Bintzler-Oestreich*  
*Tori Beck*
- 18 *Joel Menzer*
- 20 *Bill Buske*  
*Vickie Renderman*
- 21 *Cathy Wetzel*
- 22 *Jonathan Luedtke*
- 23 *Gene Junger*
- 25 *William Beck*
- 27 *Glenn Eichstedt*
- 28 *Doug Kindschuh*  
*Will Jewson*  
*Finley Sacotte*  
*Marley Sacotte*
- 29 *Deb Janke*

## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 13 *Tom and Syd Henke*
- 20 *Kevin and Jenna Rhein*
- 27 *Todd and Lori Klein*

## The Power of His Love

"But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself." John 12:32 (NIV)

Based on John 12:28-33 (NIV)



R D I E H L T I F E D F M H Q  
E N Q T D F I M P W X D Q E D  
I J R V L S M S O O M N U M N  
M A U E P F E R C G H E A R D  
E O S D R A C X K U R X X M Z  
W Y X G G W E C L E A P K Z E  
M O I J K E T H D D R A W C V  
F X R R J T M N S H O W V W H  
A W E L B F U E V M V A X C T  
T Z W B D H P O N R A O W F B  
H U V O T P E R R T W N I O J  
E D P E H P W A I V I N G C G  
R I W A O I M T V N V K V E E  
C A G L O R I F Y E C M V L L  
W F G B L I F T E D N E Y Q F

WORLD  
ANGEL  
VOICE  
JUDGEMENT

DIE  
HEAVEN  
FATHER  
DRAW

TIME  
MYSELF  
GLORIFY  
EARTH

HEARD  
LIFTED  
PRINCE  
THUNDER

CROWD  
MEN  
SHOW  
NAME



## Golden Club

**Judy Schraufnagel turns 83 on 2/1  
and Gene Junger turns 93 on 2/23!**

Judy Schraufnagel

Gene Junger

1202 Maple Street

P. O. Box 385

Lomira WI 53048

Brownsville WI 53006

**Let's send them lots of birthday wishes!**





**February 2024 TMC-Lomira**

**Adult Bible Study 7:45am**

**Services 9:00am**

**Coffee Connections / Youth Group 10:00am**

**Confirmation Class 10:30am**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 9:00am Women's Bible Study	2	3
4 Communion Sunday 10:15am Cemetery Board Meeting	5 12:00 pm Blood Bank	6	7 6:00 pm Choir 6:30 pm AA & Al-Anon	8 9:00am Women's Bible Study	9	10 10:00 am Food Pantry
11 Young At Heart Service	12 Loaves & Fishes	13 6:00 pm Bible Study	14 6:00 pm Choir 6:30 pm AA & Al-Anon <b>7:00 pm ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE</b> 	15 9:00am Women's Bible Study	16	17 9:00 am Mug and Muffin 9:00am Men's Group
18	19	20	21 5:00 pm Bell Choir 6:00 pm Choir 6:30 pm AA & Al-Anon <b>7:00 pm Lent Service</b>	22 9:00am Women's Bible Study	23	24 10:00 am Food Pantry
25	26	27	28 9:30am Staff Meeting 5:00 Bell Choir 6:00 pm Choir 6:30 pm AA & Al-Anon <b>7:00 pm Lent Service</b>	29 9:00am Women's Bible Study		

**Mulongo Mpoyo, Pastor**

**Church Office: (920) 269-4411**

**Cell (414) 690-5796**

**Office Hours Tues.-Thurs. 9AM-1PM**

**Or by Appointment**

**Email:**

**revmpoyomm@yahoo.fr**

**churchofficetumc@gmail.com**

**WORSHIP SERVICES**

**9:00 AM**

**Church Office Hours:**

**Tues-Thur 9AM-1PM**

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