

Jesus
Christ is
the same
yesterday,
today, and
forever.
Hebrews
13:8

January 2025 Monthly Newsletter



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



Hello, my wonderful church family and friends!

As we step into another year, I find myself wondering the same thing many of you may be thinking: Who keeps pressing the fast-forward button on the calendar? It feels like we just blinked and suddenly 2026 is here. But even when the years seem to run faster than our feet can follow, we can hold on to this promise: “*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever*” (Hebrews 13:8).

Let me begin by wishing each one of you a very Happy New Year! May the Lord fill this year with His peace, His guidance, and His strength. Even when life feels uncertain, God reminds us, “*Do not fear, for I am with you... I will strengthen you; I will help you*” (Isaiah 41:10). Let this be our encouragement as we walk into a new season of life and ministry.

As your pastor, my heart is full of gratefulness as I look back at 2025. First, I thank God for watching over us through every challenge and blessing. His faithfulness has carried us, protected us, and shaped us throughout the year.

I am also deeply grateful for our church staff members, whose hard work, dedication, and collaboration have been a gift to our ministry. Thank you for serving with joy, creativity, and a heart for the Gospel.

My appreciation also goes to our church leadership team and our Bible Study teachers. Your guidance, faithfulness, and willingness to work together have strengthened our church family and helped us grow.

To all our church members, I say thank you from the bottom of my heart. Thank you for your commitment, your giving, your ministries, and the many ways you show love to this community. Every act of service, every prayer, every smile, and every effort helps build the Kingdom of God right here among us.

Below, I would like to lift up some of the key points from my Annual Report, celebrating what God has done among us:

Over the past year, Trinity Methodist Church has seen God’s hand at work in many ways. Worship attendance has grown, Sunday School and Monday Bible Study are full of energy, and the contemporary worship service has become a united and Spirit-filled ministry. We celebrated strong mission involvement, especially Operation Christmas Child with 514 boxes, and we improved communication, facilities, caring ministries, and leadership participation. The congregation has responded positively to biblical and clear preaching, and we rejoiced in community outreach and a joyful mission trip to Cuba. Pastoral care through visits, funerals, prayer, and Holy Communion has continued to be a central part of the ministry.

Looking ahead, my dream is to help more members move from simply attending church to actively becoming disciples of Jesus. Strengthening adult and youth ministries, expanding mission engagement, improving giving, and continuing leadership and discipleship training are key goals.

As we begin this new year, here are the scriptures and sermon themes for January:

January 4, 2026: John 1:(1–9), 10–18 — *Hymn Sing*

January 11, 2026: Matthew 3:13–17 — “*Stepping Into God’s Will*”

January 18, 2026: John 1:29–42 — “*Pointing to Jesus*”

January 25, 2026: Matthew 4:12–23 — “*A Turning Point*”

As we close this message, I leave you with these words of promise: “Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him, and He will act” (Psalm 37:5).

May this new year be filled with God’s presence, God’s power, and God’s peace. I look forward to what the Lord will do among us in 2026.

In Jesus’ service,

Rev. Mulongo Mpoyo

Stewardship and Finance Offering

Hello Church Family, this month, we are going to look at the fourth of five questions on Giving to God from the ‘New Living Translation – New Believer’s Bible’. How should you view material wealth?

The answer: Accumulating wealth should never be a high priority because it is eternally worthless.

Matthew 6:19-34 - ¹⁹ “Don’t store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be. ²² “Your eye is like a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is filled with light. ²³ But when your eye is unhealthy, your whole body is filled with darkness. And if the light you think you have is actually darkness, how deep that darkness is! ²⁴ “No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.”

²⁵ “That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life - whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn’t life more than food, and your body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds. They don’t plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren’t you far more valuable to him than they are? ²⁷ Can all your worries add a single moment to your life? ²⁸ “And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don’t work or make their clothing, ²⁹ yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. ³⁰ And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly



care for you. Why do you have so little faith? ³¹ “So don’t worry about these things, saying, ‘What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?’ ³² These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. ³³ Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need. ³⁴ “So don’t worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today’s trouble is enough for today.

This passage is part of Jesus’ famous sermon on the Mount. Here Jesus deals with possibly the greatest distraction to following him wholeheartedly: wealth. This series of verses gives us at least three warnings about wealth and one prescription to overcome its enslaving effects:



We must watch how and what we store. Verse 19 says that we should not “store up treasures.” The idea here is not simply saving, but stockpiling. Jesus is not condemning saving your resources or providing for your family (see Proverbs 6:6, and 1 Timothy 5:8). He is condemning the accumulative possessions to flaunt or to impress others. We need to be able to enjoy what God has given us without making those possessions our primary ambition.

We must keep our vision clear. While we can enjoy what God gives us, we need to understand that the material things of this world are only temporary. Our personal possessions and investments can be devalued by inflation or deflation, destroyed by natural disasters, or stolen by thieves. That is the problem with making the accumulation of “things” your life’s passion. It is so fleeting, temporary, unfulfilling, and even enslaving. When we don’t have this perspective, we can become easily enslaved to consumption and accumulation. Then we are no longer serving God but money, and our vision is dark, shutting out the light of God’s Word.



We should not worry about material things. Worry is a powerful force that can divide or distract us. You can worry about your future, your job, your health, or even about what others think of you. But Jesus tells you to STOP worrying, because God will always meet your needs. Quite simply, worry is a waste of your valuable time as his servant on earth.

We must put God first in our lives. Our main concern should not be the acquiring of material possessions or prestige. Our primary pursuit should be seeking the reign of Jesus Christ in our lives above all else. It makes a lot of sense to place your temporary needs and worries in the hand of an eternal God. This lesson reminds me of the sermon given to us this past summer by Pastor Esther Somp from Luke 12:16-21. This is the story Jesus told about the ‘rich fool’, who had so much he decided to tear down his barns and build bigger ones to store up all he had. In verse 20 and 21 it says – ²⁰ “But God said to him, ‘You fool!’ You, will die this very night. Then who will get it all?’ ²¹ “Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God.” If you continue reading in the book of Luke 12:22-34 it reads much like our sermon lesson in Matthew

from above. I encourage you to open your Bibles and read this passage in Luke (it will take only a few minutes). It must be a very important lesson that God wants us to learn if Jesus preached it, in depth twice. Around 15% of Jesus’s words and 11 of his 39 parables focused on money and possessions, indicating its importance for us to understand this teaching fully. There are so many others around us that need assistance and all of our missions in our church. It would be wonderful if all our mission groups at Trinity had enough financial support to go above and beyond. Think of the amount of people we could reach and impact their lives through Jesus Christ, with the appropriate amount of support. Think of all the people we could help through our Trinity mission groups, especially in our local communities. The places we could go and the things we could accomplish. When you give to Trinity you are helping these causes and these missions accomplish their goals (Men’s and Women’s group, Caring, Youth, Music, OCC, FMSC). I ask you to pray on this message and give your lives fully to God. God is good all the time, and all the time, God is good.

SF Committee Chair

Josh Marschie

TMC's Sunday School and Youth Group Present:



Starring:

Reverend - Brooklyn Krueger
Leslie - Ellie Alf
Gabriel - Margaret Priesgen
Mary - Veronica Sauer
Joseph - John Krueger
Herod - Gabe Priesgen
Magi - Margaret Priesgen
Star - Aubree Alf
Dragon - Tristin Duley
Animals - Lyric Backhaus, Murphy Stuckart
Angels - Scarlett Heimermann, Teagan Christianson, Madelynn Dahlinger, Aubree Christianson
Shepherds - Clayton Marschie, Gabe Priesgen
Interjecting Kid—Aubree Alf





"What a Par-Tea!"

A big "thank you" to Barb Sauer and Deb Bintzler —Oestreich and all those who helped organize and staff the Christmas Par-tea!

The event was so well planned and ran so smoothly. Everything was delightful, from the "fascinator" contest, to the choir performing, to everyone receiving prizes; the ladies truly appreciated the effort that went into making this event happen!

Thank you Deb and Barb for keeping this tradition going! What a perfect way to kick off the holiday celebration. —Pam





Trinity Holiday Outreach



Through the generosity of others, our **Caring Ministry Team** was able to gift the homebound members they visit a handcrafted wooden angel ornament, a holiday word search, and candy treats. Many thanks to **Dan and Pam Dewhurst** for again providing a tangible expression of love for our senior friends during the holiday season!

Happy New Year from the Trinity Shoebox Project TEAM!



As soon as the last shoebox was packed for 2025, the planning was already underway for the next year. Our bulk shopping team takes advantage of holiday sales, clearance events, loyalty shopping perks, and often travel a route from store to store... the thrill of the chase! Many on our crafting team are already busy with specific project requests. Others are completing tasks to prepare for a project assembly or splitting bulk purchases. Great job all!

If you find yourself with *extra time to give* throughout the year, consider reaching out to see if we can find a project or activity that aligns with your time and talents. *Like to shop?* We can always use **quality** filler (small items)... items you would gift your own family... in any quantity. *Have financial blessing to share?* Please consider a financial donation! Our team gets so much joy from our involvement with OCC that we encourage everyone to consider participating in some capacity. Have a great New Year and please keep everyone involved in the entire shoebox process in your prayers!

Trinity Shoebox Project No Longer Collecting Empty Pill Bottles

Your donations have blessed us with an abundance of empty pill bottles that have been used in the past for fishing kits and other projects. We also shared the excess with our friends at the Hartford Shoebox Project. **Currently, we are no longer using pill bottle for any projects.** *Thank you to all who have donated in the past! We sure appreciated it!*

We did find a non-profit in our area who would be happy to take your pill bottle donations. The **Mix It Up Bakery**, 64 N Mail St in FDL, is collecting empty WASHED OUT pill bottles to donate to **Sandi Paws Rescue**. The pill bottles are the perfect size to send items home with the foster animals. At the bakery, there is a box to the right of the cupcake case where you can drop them off. They thank you in advance for helping their furry, four-legged friends!



Minutes of the December 9, 2025, Trinity Charge Conference Meeting -

submitted by Deb Z

Present: Priscilla Ehlert, Kathy Drexler, Pastor Mulongo Mpoyo, Glenn Wellso, Bill Buske, Wayde Beck, Augie Luedtke, Doug Kiehnau, John Muentner, Pete Drexler, Deb and Lee Oestreich, Clarice Drummond, Debra Zinniel, Karin Kaye

Meeting was called to order by Presiding Elder Karin Kaye at 2:30 pm. Karin then led us in opening prayer and the hymn "What a Friend We Have in Jesus". Karin commented on what an organized and nice packet Jill had prepared.

Reports:

Pastor's Report: Pastor Mulongo stated he had several pages in the pamphlet but gave a brief synopsis of his joys of attendance growth (Karin stated Trinity has the 3rd largest membership of the district), community activities including Spaghetti Dinner and Thanksgiving meal, the church property improvements, the increase in group participation like Adult Bible Study and Children's Sunday School. Karin commented that the ratio of members to the number of Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes exceeded many larger churches. She has heard the Trinity shoeboxes are very well packed. Pastor also mentioned his Thursday sermon previews and Facebook updates are well read and that he feels his mission trip to Cuba helped him grow spiritually.

Membership Report: Debra Zinniel reported that the 14 people listed either passed away or requested to be removed from membership. Karin stated there is no policy or guideline to remove people from membership in the GMC at this time. Debra stated Trinity's procedure includes several phone calls and letter prior to removing someone.

Trustees Report: Karin mentioned she was happy to see we have a child protection policy in place. There is a program called Ministry Safe that we could investigate. Karin likes the improvements to the parking lot and steeple as they look more inviting to people.

Finance Report: Annual Audit was mentioned but Karin was assured we are audited every year. Deb Bintzler-Oestreich mentioned that the Missions Team hosted a September 20th luncheon for people over 80 years old. Everyone looked at the 2026 Budget including Pastoral Compensation and Housing Allowance. A motion was made by Augie Luedtke to pass the Budget and seconded by Doug Kiehnau and thus approved.

Nominations and Leadership Development: It was brought up that Clarice Drummond was appointed as an Alternate Lay Delegate to Annual Conference. The 2026 Church Leadership personnel report was reviewed by everyone in attendance. A motion was made by Bill Buske to approve it and seconded by Doug Kiehnau.

Endorsements: There are no new or renewed Ministerial Candidates or Certified Lay Ministers to report.

Augie Luedtke reported he has 2 new grandchildren; Kathy Drexler stated we are blessed with a Caring Ministry that visits shut-ins and nursing home residents; Deb Bintzler-Oestreich said the Men's Group pays for and arranges transportation for those wanting a ride to church. Debbie is also thankful for our church as it is how she and Lee developed their relationship. Bill Buske is thankful for Shari's recovery. Doug Kiehnau is looking forward to working with the Toys for Tots program. Pastor is blessed with a new granddaughter; Clarice is pleased that all the church ministries are doing well; and Karen is thankful that all her family was able to spend Thanksgiving together.

TMC's Class of 2026 Leadership Team

Church Council	
Position	Name
+Church Council Chair	Bill Buske
+Lay Leader	John Muentner Jr.
+SPRC Chair	Glen Wellso
Finance Chair	Josh Marschie
Treasurer	John Lavarda
Lay Delegate (AC)	Kathy Drexler
Men's Ministry	Pete Drexler
Women's Ministry	
Youth Ministry	John Lavarda
Financial Secretary	Deb Zinniel
Membership Secretary	Mary Muehlius
Director of Christian Education	Tammy Steers
*Trustees Chair	Wayde B. Jeff F. Jeff Z. Dan D.
Missions & Outreach Chair	Lee and Debbie Oestreich
Recording Secretary	Michelle Dahlinger
Memorials Chair	Augie Luedtke
Member at Large	Becky Alf
Member at Large	Pam Dewhurst
Pastor	Mulongo Mpoyo

SPRC Glen Wellso, Chair
Doug Kiehnau
<i>John Muentner Jr. (Lay Leader)</i>
Pete Drexler
Lee Oestreich
Tammy Steers
Carol Dilling
Rev. Mulongo Mpoyo

Trustees
Jeff Faber Co-Chair
Dan Dewhurst Co-Chair
Wayde Beck Co-Chair
Jeff Zingsheim Co-Chair
Mitch Sauer
Owen Unferth
Steve Unferth
Doug Kiehnau
Rev. Mulongo Mpoyo

TMC's Class of 2026 Leadership Team Continued

Stewardship & Finance

Josh Marschie, Chair
 John Muentner, Jr., Lay Leader
 Deb Wiedmeyer
 Kathy Drexler Delegate AC
 Glen Wellso, SPRC Chair
 Deb Zinnel, Financial Secretary
 Bill Buske, Church Council Chair
 Deb Bintzler-Oestreich
 John Lavarda
 Rev. Mulongo Moyo

Mission & Outreach

Lee Oestreich, Co-Chair
 Debbie Bintzler - Oestreich, Co-Chair
 Bill Hammock
 Nancy Hammock
 Heidi Zingsheim
 Amy Unferth

Wills & Memorials

Augie Luedtke, Chair
 Faye Beck

Nominations & Leadership

Pastor Mpoyo, Chair
 Mary Muehlius, Vice Chair
 John Muentner Jr. (Lay Leader)
 Kathy Drexler
 Mary Muehlius
 Becky Luedtke



Thank you to everyone who so graciously donated to the Mitten Tree. God has given each one of us unique gifts, and the love behind the home-made items and those purchased is a wonderful reminder of God's gift to us all. All donations were taken to the Solutions Center to be distributed to those in need.

This year TMC collected:

Hats / headbands - 112
 Gloves - 25
 Scarves - 23
 Hat & Glove Sets - 3

Mug and Muffin & Men's Group meeting dates have been set for the first quarter of the year. Deb Z has graciously accepted the coordination role while Debbie is out of town. Ladies & Gentlemen, please put these dates down on your calendar:



January 17
 February 21
 March 21

All meetings will take place at 9:00am in the Fellowship Hall. The ladies will supply the treats while the men supply the coffee.



Volunteers Needed for our next **Loaves & Fishes** dinner commitment.

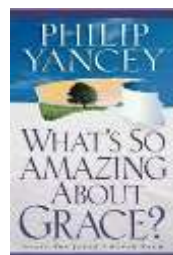
Date: January 26, 2026

Time: 4:00pm

Location: Church of Peace, Fond du Lac
 Please sign up on the volunteer sheet in the Connections Room.

*** **Cookie donations will be needed as well.**

Please bag your cookies in groups of two. Please drop these off @ TMC by 3:00pm on 01/26.



The 2026 Bible Study will run on Mondays, January 5- February 23, from 1:00 - 2:00p.m., and is a continuation of "What's So Amazing About Grace" by Philip Yancey.

There is no requirement to have attended the first session as we will be discussing Grace and its many values as well as how we can bring more grace into our lives and the lives of others. This book contains many stories to help us along that path. I look forward to being a part of your exploration of Grace!!

Please ponder this excerpt over the coming holiday season: **Grace means there is nothing I can do to make God love me more and there is nothing I can do to make God love me less!**

Deb Wiedmeyer Mazza



Community Thanksgiving Dinner



Special thanks to:
Becky Luedtke
Heidi Zingsheim



Thank you to all of our volunteers!
You've made a difference.



- Over 100 Served
- \$1,500 in donations received for the Lomira Food Pantry





Bible Heroes of Faith

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

ABEL
 ENOCH
 NOAH
 ABRAHAM
 SARAH
 ISAAC

JACOB
 JOSEPH
 MOSES
 ISRAELITES
 RAHAB

GIDEON
 BARAK
 SAMSON
 DAVID
 SAMUEL
 PROPHETS

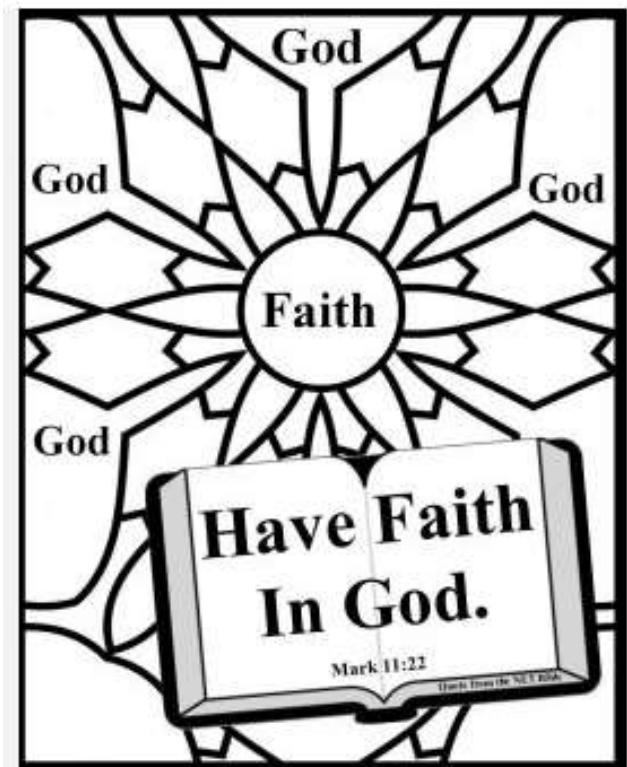
Heroes of Faith

One verse
at a time.

One
problem
at a time.



ONE
DAY
at a
time.





- Judy Stucke, receiving dialysis, having hip surgery January 9th 12/18
- Amy Holzwart, friend of Faye Beck, recurrence of brain tumor and may other complications 12/17
- Tim Colleran, former member Lori (Krug) Colleran's husband, diagnosed with pancreatic cancer - prayers for upcoming surgery in early January 12/09
- Maria Bruggink, niece of Betty Menzer, upcoming reconstructive surgery 12/09
- Judy Bruggink, having additional gallstones broken up this week 12/09
- Donna Plzak-Klein, Mary Kiehnau's mother, health issues 11/25
- Lois Jewson, diagnosed with colon cancer - will need surgery to remove contained tumor 11/18
- David Menzer, Fred's brother, recurrence of cancer 11/11
- Kelly Harmsen, friend of Betty Menzer, doctors have determined chemo is necessary to reduce the risk of recurrence 11/11
- Mike Schroeder, friend of Judy Lerch, diagnosed with Stage IV brain cancer and a mass on his lung; treatment will start with chemo and radiation 09/17
- Kathie Hefter, friend of Deb Bintzler-Oestreich, has aggressive form of bone cancer 09/16
- Gene Junger, returning to St. Francis in Fond du Lac on 08/08

The February Newsletter Deadline is Jan. 23rd. Please have all articles to the church office by noon that day. Thank you!



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Mila Reitz
- 2 Deacon Dean
- 5 Kevin Beck
- Michael Dean
- 7 Tristin Duley
- 9 Vicki Schneider
- 10 Mark Lavarda
- 15 Roger Clark
- Mary Kiehnau
- Mitchell
- Wroblewski
- 18 Daniel Riehbrandt
- 19 Shari Buske
- Mark Hodny
- 21 Penny Beck
- Mark Dahlinger
- 23 Chad Alf
- 25 Randy Faber
- 27 Chris Kuen
- 29 Augie Luedtke
- Madysen Janke
- 31 Kathy Mintner

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 6 Bob & Fran Coulter
- 14 Bill & Michelle Large
- 21 Gene & Dorothy Hake
- 24 Victor & Lois Jewson
- 28 Kevin & Penny Beck



Golden Club

Shari Buske turns 81
on January 19th!
975 Bavarian Court
Oshkosh, WI 54901

Lets send them lots of
Happy Birthday wishes!



TMC Budget Totals

Year to date needed to meet budget:
\$219,606.00

Received through 12/21/25
\$226,486.00

Budget Overage:
\$6,880.00

A SINGLE
PINT CAN
SAVE
THREE LIVES
A SINGLE
GESTURE
CAN CREATE
A MILLION
SMILES



Be a hero
Give blood

You are cordially invited to take a few
minutes out of your day on:

Monday, January 26 to:

Donate Blood and Donate Life

The blood drive is open from
12:00pm—6:00pm in TMC's
Fellowship Hall.

Please sign up at redcrossblood.org

A Prayer for the New Year

Lord, Whether we're leaving behind a year
of joy and blessing or trials and difficulties, we
pause to give thanks.
We thank You that You are always with us every
single day of every single year.
Please remind us of Your presence in the year
ahead, even when life is busy.
We are so thankful that we serve a God who
makes things new and gives us the grace of
fresh starts and new beginnings.
Be glorified in our lives this year.
In Jesus' name, Amen

heathercking.org

January 2026 TMC-Lomira

Adult Sunday School 7:30 AM
 Worship Services 9:00 AM
 Sunday School 9:15 AM
 Coffee Connection/Youth Group 10:00 AM
 Confirmation Class 10:30 AM

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
4 9:00am Hymn Sing Bell Choir Performs	5 1:00pm "What's So Amazing About Grace?" book study	6	7 6:00pm Choir 6:30pm AA 7:00pm Bell Choir	8 6:00pm Girl Scouts	2	3
11 9:00am Communion Sunday Sunday School, Youth Group, & Confirmation resumes	12 1:00pm "What's So Amazing About Grace?" book study	13 5:00pm Girl Scouts 6:00pm Church Council Meeting	14 6:00pm Choir 6:30pm AA 7:00pm Bell Choir	15	16	17
18 9:00am Adult Choir 9:00am Milly Regan Baptism 5:30pm Girl Scouts	19 1:00pm "What's So Amazing About Grace?" book study 6:00pm Stewardship & Finance Meeting	20	21 6:00pm Choir 6:30pm AA 7:00pm Bell Choir	22 9:00am Fiber Arts Group	23	24 10:00am Food Pantry
25	26 12:00pm Blood Bank 1:00pm "What's So Amazing About Grace?" book study 4:00pm Loaves & Fishes	27 5:00pm Girl Scouts	28 6:00pm Choir 6:30pm AA 7:00pm Bell Choir	30	31	

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

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300 Church Street
Lomira, WI 53048
Return Service Requested