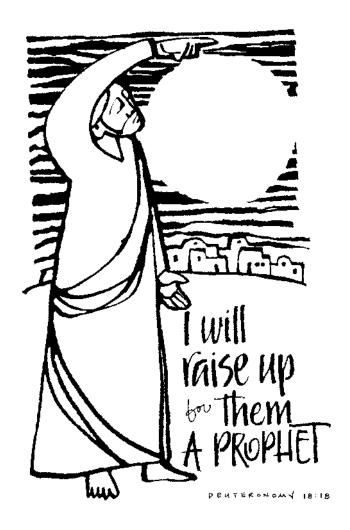
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany January 28, 2024



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church & School 8781 Brunswick Road Minocqua, WI 54548

(715) 356-2255 E-mail: Trinity@trinityminocqua.org Website: www.trinityminocqua.org

TRINITY Ev. LUTHERAN CHURCH

MINOCQUA, WISCONSIN

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany January 28, 2024



From Jordan to Calvary Absolute Authority

"Epiphany" comes from a Greek word that means "reveal." Today, if someone says, "I had an epiphany," he means he had some extremely important, life-changing revelation. Within the Church Year, that is the purpose of the season of Epiphany—to reveal important truths about Jesus Christ, truths that will indeed change your life.

Authority is the power to determine what happens, the ability to give direction or even commands. Authority is limited. Authority is limited in duration. Parents have authority over their children until they grow up and move out. Authority is limited in scope. A governor has authority over the people of his state only, not the neighboring state. Authority is limited by levels. A manager has authority over employees unless the company owner—a higher authority—demotes him.

This week we see that there is one man—only one!—who has absolute authority. There is no one, not even the demons, who is outside his authority. As the Son of God there is no higher authority than Jesus. And his authority is everlasting. But here is the best part of this epiphany: Jesus graciously uses his absolute authority for our benefit and blessing.

To God alone be the glory!

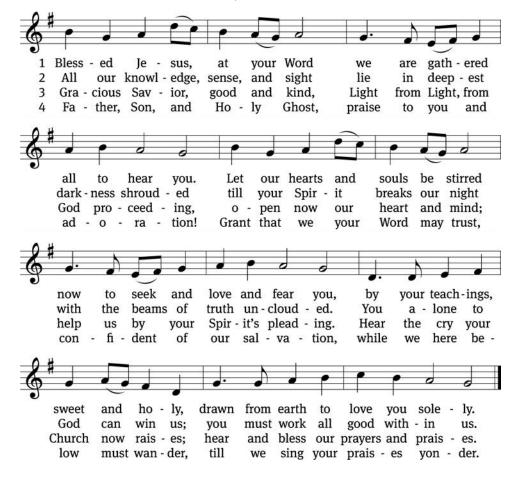
Pastor Stephen Luchterhand

Welcome to all—both guest and member alike! May our gracious God fill your heart with joy, peace, and hope through the message of forgiveness in our living Savior, Jesus Christ!

- If you are in need of restrooms, they are located on the left as you leave church.
- Parents please use the welcome center or church fellowship hall to quiet an upset child.
- Please silence all cell phones and devices before worship.
- Please limit your conversations in the sanctuary and narthex.
- Please do use the welcome center to greet one another.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP: SETTING TWO

OPENING HYMN: 919 "Blessed Jesus, at Your Word"



Text (sts. 1–3): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; (sts. 1–3): Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619–1684; (st. 4): tr. unknown, alt.; (st. 4): Geistreiches Gesang-Büchlein, Berlin, 1707 Tune: Johann R. Ahle, 1625–1673, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

Please stand.

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

CONFESSION

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins

and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY Kyrie

In peace let us pray to the Lord.



For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



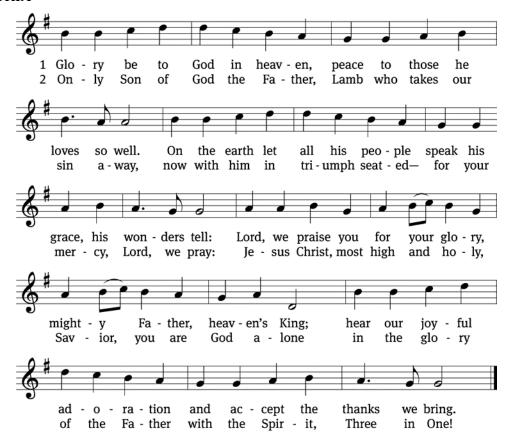
For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



GLORIA



Text: Michael A. Perry

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Tune: Public domain

THE WORD

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, look with mercy on our weaknesses, and in all our dangers and needs stretch out the right hand of your majesty to help and defend us; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

FIRST LESSON

Deuteronomy 18:15-20 (EHV)

Moses prophesies that the LORD would raise up another prophet who would speak with all the authority of God himself.

¹⁵ The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brother Israelites. Listen to him.

¹⁶ That is exactly what you asked from the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly. You said, "Do not let me hear the voice of the LORD my God anymore, and do not let me see this great fire again, or I will die."

¹⁷Then the LORD said to me, "They have done well by saying what they said. ¹⁸ I will raise up a prophet for them from among their brothers, like you, and I will put my words in his mouth, and he will speak to them everything that I command him. ¹⁹ Anyone who will not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name, I myself will call him to account. ²⁰ Any prophet who presumes to speak something in my name that I have not commanded him to speak or who speaks something in the name of other gods—that prophet shall die."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

TRINITY CHILDREN: "Yet Not I, But Through Christ In Me"

What gift of grace, is Jesus my redeemer, There is no more for heaven now to give. He is my joy, my righteousness, and freedom, My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace

To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus, For my life is wholly bound to His. Oh how strange and divine, I can sing: All is mine! Yet not I, but through Christ in me

The night is dark but I am not forsaken, For by my side, the Savior He will stay. I labor on in weakness and rejoicing. For in my need, His power is displayed.

To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me, Through the deepest valley He will lead. Oh the night has been won, and I shall overcome! Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven, The future sure, the price it has been paid. For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon, And He was raised to overthrow the grave.

To this I hold, my sin has been defeated, Jesus now and ever is my plea. Oh the chains are released, I can sing: I am free! Yet not I, but through Christ in me. Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

Words and Music: Michael Farren, Rich Thompson, Jonny Robinson Text: © 2018 City Alight Music. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 712324

SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 3:1-6 (EHV)

As great as Moses was, Jesus is worthy of infinitely greater honor. For only Jesus has absolute authority.

Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, focus your attention on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess. ²He was faithful to the one who appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in God's whole house. ³In fact, Jesus is worthy of greater glory than Moses, in the same way that the builder of a house has more honor than the house. ⁴For every house is built by someone, and God is the one who built everything.

⁵ Moses was faithful as a servant within God's whole house by testifying to the things that would be spoken. ⁶ But Christ is faithful as a Son over God's house. We are his house, if we hold on firmly to our confidence and the hope about which we boast until the end.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPELACCLAMATION Revelation 22:13

Alleluia. The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority. Alleluia.

GOSPEL Mark 1:21-28 (EHV)

Jesus demonstrates absolute authority. Even his enemies, the demons, have to obey him.

²¹ Then they went into Capernaum.

On the next Sabbath day, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. ²² They were amazed at his teaching, because he was teaching them as one who has authority and not as the experts in the law. ²³ Just then there was a man with an unclean spirit in their synagogue. It cried out, ²⁴ "What do we have to do with you, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!"

²⁵ Jesus rebuked the spirit, saying, "Be quiet! Come out of him!"

²⁶ The unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions, and after crying out with a loud voice, it came out of him. ²⁷ Everyone was so amazed that they began to discuss this with each other. They said, "What is this? A new teaching with authority! He even commands the unclean spirits, and they obey him!" ²⁸ News about him spread quickly through all the region of Galilee.

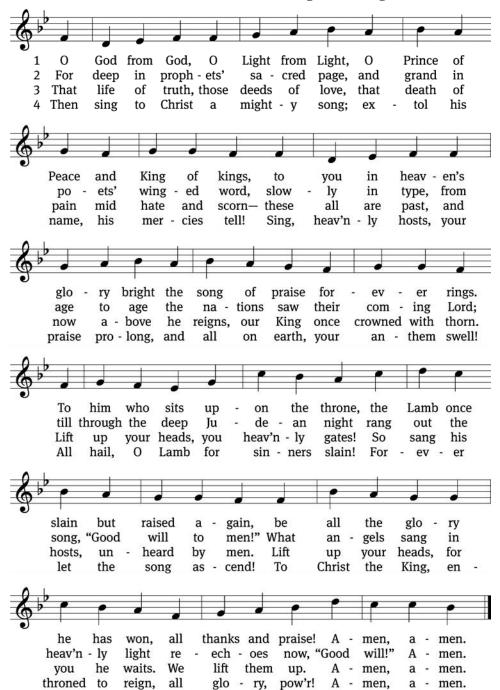
The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please he seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY: 629 "O God from God, O Light from Light"



Text: John Julian, 1839-1913, abr., alt.

Tune: Johann Störl's . . . Schlag- Gesang- Und Noten-Buch, Stuttgart, 1744

Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Jesus > Moses

Please stand.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Please be seated.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Eternal Lord, give us peace as we ponder the good news that you forgive our sins in Christ. Lead us to see clearly the path you have laid out for us.

Work in us so that we believe and live the Word we have heard today.

Provide courage and compassion to all who preach and teach your Word. Fill them with a love like yours as they proclaim your grace to us and all people.

Move us to love all ministers of the Word wherever they serve.

Guard and guide the families of our congregation. Lead husbands and wives to love each other with commitment, respect, and patience. Help parents to grasp the eternal value of keeping their children close to Jesus all their lives. Grant joy to those who are single, and make them a blessing to others.

Protect us from the temptations that surround us; give us pure hearts and minds.

Provide wisdom and insight to those who make laws and set policies. Give us respect for those who protect us from crime. Lead us to value the rights of our fellow citizens and to defend those who cannot defend themselves.

Bless our land with peace and prosperity so that the gospel may be proclaimed to all.

Give us passion to share the story of your love with our family and friends. Overcome unbelief, and open the hearts of people everywhere to believe the good news that Jesus has forgiven their sins and opened the gates of heaven.

Fill us with joy over every sinner who repents and comes to trust in you.

Extend your healing power to those who are sick and suffering in body or mind. Give patience and compassion to all who care for the sick and dying.

Lift the eyes of the distressed to your love in Christ.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Gracious God, you govern and direct all things and you love all people. Hear our prayers, spoken and silent, and answer them in your wisdom and grace.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

FRIENDSHIP REGISTERS

Please sign the friendship registers at the ends of the pews during the musical selection.

HYMN: 639 "God Has Spoken by His Prophets"



- 1 God has spo-ken by his proph-ets, spo-ken his un-chang-ing Word,
- 2 God has spo-ken by Christ Je-sus, Christ, the ev-er-last-ing Son,
- 3 God is speak-ing by his Spir it, speak-ing to our hearts a gain,



each from age to age pro-claim-ing God, the one, the right-eous Lord. bright-ness of the Fa-ther's glo - ry, with the Fa-ther ev - er one; in the age-less Word de - clar-ing his own mes-sage, now as then.



In the world's de-spair and tur-moil one firm an-chor holds us fast: spo-ken by the Word in-car-nate, God from God, be-fore time was; Thro' the rise and fall of na-tions one sure faith is stand-ing fast:



God is King, his throne e - ter - nal, God the first and God the last. Light from Light, to earth de-scend-ing, he re-veals our God to us. God a - bides, his Word un-chang-ing, God the first and God the last.

Text: George W. Briggs, 1875-1959, alt.

Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879

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Tune: Public domain

Please stand

PRAYER

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

Please he seated

CLOSING HYMN: 931 "Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise"



Text: John Ellerton, 1826–1893, abr. Tune: Edward J. Hopkins, 1818–1901 Text and tune: Public domain

X

Serving God and Us Today

Presiding Minister: Pastor Stephen Luchterhand

Organist: Hymnsoft

Choir: Trinity School Children

Last Weekend's Worship Attendance

• 168 (Sunday—132; Monday—36)

Stewardship Encouragement from Scripture

"He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion" (2 Corinthians 9:10,11).

Lessons for Next Sunday (Fifth Sunday after Epiphany)

"From Jordan to Calvary: The Devil's Work Undone"

- Isaiah 40:27-31
- Psalm 103A
- 1 Peter 5:6-11
- Mark 1:29-39

Prayers: If you would like your name on the prayer list, or you have a friend you would like to add, please call or e-mail the church office.

Offerings: You may leave your offering in the basket as you walk out today. You may continue to mail in your offering, give online at www.trinityminocqua.org, or on the Vanco Mobile app. On the app, search for Trinity Evangelical Lutheran or search for Minocqua.

Baptism: Makenna Lee Leinon, infant daughter of Gary & Jessie Leinon, will become a child of God through the waters of baptism during a private ceremony, following our service this morning. "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, because the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Flowers: The flowers, this weekend, are given by Dick & Robin Vanderschaegen, on the occasion of their Wedding Anniversary.

Trinity Seedlings: Trinity Seedlings is a program for children ages 1-3 to come and learn about Jesus. We meet in the school library on the first Friday of the month during the school year. We invite any family who has a 1-3 year old to join us. Invite a friend! Our next meeting will be this Friday, February 2 from 8:30-9:30 am. If you have any questions, please contact Sue Ziebart.

Book Club: Our next Book Club meeting will be on Tuesday, February 20, from 12:00-1:00 pm. We will discuss the book, "Pearl in the Sand" by Tessa Afshar. Make plans to join us!

Marriage Enrichment: Trinity Lutheran Church of the Town of Berlin (located near Merrill, WI) will be having a marriage enrichment event titled "Mysterious Marriage." This event will be led by longtime WELS pastor and marriage enrichment event presenter, Randy Hunter. It will take place at Trinity (near Merrill) on Saturday, February 3, from 9 am to 4 pm. Snacks, refreshments, and a catered lunch will be provided. The cost is \$80 a couple. To register, go to Eventbrite.com and search for "mysterious marriage." If you have any questions or need help registering, call, text, or email Pastor Andy DeGier (pastorandydegier@gmail.com, 920-471-1770).

Pathways to Christ & Men of His Word: There are two different events being held in the Oshkosh area in February and March. One is a women's retreat, Pathways to Christ and one is Men of His Word. If you are interested in either of these events, you can find information on the table in the fellowship hall, in front of the bulletin board next to the treat table.

Snow Shoveling: We are still in need of a few people willing to get a good cardio workout in and shovel the entrances and sidewalks of the church and school during the winter. Maybe someone who got lucky and didn't have to shovel during our early warm winter? Sign-up is for a week at a time. If you wish to or are able, you may sign up for more than one week. This will go through the end of March. If you are willing to help in this capacity, please sign up on the sheet in the fellowship hall.

Flower Chart: The flower chart for 2024 is now available. If you would like to sponsor a bouquet during the year, please sign up in the flower chart binder. For the next few weeks it will be located on the table in the fellowship hall. There are spots available for two per week. Bouquets are \$30. You can sponsor a bouquet to celebrate an anniversary, remember a loved one, or something special in your life. Please put payments in the payment box found to the right of the picture window in the welcome center.





Trinity School Science Fair and Open House

Friday, February 2 3:30-6:00 pm

Join us to visit the school and see the students projects displayed in the classrooms and hallway.

The fair will also be available Sunday, February 4, after worship

Come and see what Trinity students are learning! Support YOUR SCHOOL!

Opportunities to Grow & Serve at Trinity This Week			
Sunday	9:00 am	Worship	
Monday	6:30 pm	Worship	
Tuesday	10:00 am	Worship Committee Meeting	
Wednesday	8:15 am	Midweek Chapel	
v	9:30 am	Quilters	
	12:15 pm	Lunch Break Bible Class	
	4:00 pm	Public School Confirmation & Bible History	
Friday	8:30-9:30 am	Trinity Seedlings	
•	3:30—6:00 pm	Trinity School Science Fair	
Sunday	9:00 am	Worship w/Holy Communion	
y	10:30 am	Bible Class & Sunday School	
Monday	6:30 pm	Worship w/Holy Communion	

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Epiphany season worship centers on the theme, "From Jordan to Calvary," focusing on Jesus' life and ministry from his Baptism in the Jordan River to his transfiguration on the mountain.

- February 4/5 = From Jordan to Calvary: The Devil's Work Undone Sermon Text: 1 Peter 5:8-11 Sermon Theme: "The Devil Made Me Do It!"
- February 11/12 = From Jordan to Calvary: A Glimpse of His True Glory (Transfiguration)

Sermon Text: 2 Kings 2:1-12a Sermon Theme: "The Chariots and Horsemen of Israel!"

A look ahead to the Lenten season...Ash Wednesday is February 14th. On that day we'll have two worship services (4 p.m. & 6:30 p.m., both with Holy Communion). *There will be NO Lenten suppers this year*. The remaining five weeks of mid-week Lent we'll offer one service at 4 p.m. We will be exchanging pulpits with the pastors from: Christ, Eagle River; Zion, Rhinelander; and St. John's, Phelps. Series theme: "God on Trial."

- February 14 (Ash Wednesday) = Text: Job 40:1,2; 42:1-6 "Accusations"
- February 21 = John 18:33-40 "Truth"
- February 28 = Luke 22:47-53 "Restraint"

Bible study opportunities:

- Wednesday "Lunch Break" Bible study (Wednesday, 12:15 1:15 p.m.) "The Problem of Evil and How It Fits into God's Will" continues.
- Pastor's "Wednesday Encouragement" blog, continues to be found on Trinity's Facebook page and on our church website. You can also have this devotion sent to your email each Wednesday.
- Sunday Bible Study (and Sunday School) Sunday School is for children PreK3 through 4th grade. Adult Bible Study is working through the book of Exodus under the theme, "Deliver Us!"

Ministry Updates...

- **High School Teen Group** February Meeting set for Wednesday, February 7th from 6:15-8:00 p.m. Expect dinner, devotion, and diversion (games)!
- **Fellowship Friends Gathering** will take place on Tuesday, February 27th at 1-3 p.m. in the church fellowship hall. We'll enjoy a presentation by a Wildlife Educator from The Northwoods Wildlife Center, a non-profit wildlife hospital in Minocqua.
- Trinity Book Club meets Tuesday, February 20th, from 12-1 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We'll be discussing the book, "Pearl in the Sand" by Tessa Afshar.
- **Be sure to follow Trinity on Facebook.** We're putting content on the page several days each week. The Wednesday blog post can be accessed in three ways (church website, Facebook, email from church office). You can follow our "Where's Marty?" campaign on Facebook and on Instagram at... trinitylutheranminocqua.

God keep you and yours in his gracious care, Pastor Stephen Luchterhand

Jesus > Moses Sermon Notes on Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Series: From Jordan to Calvary

Never been this way before...

Iamaal'a amaataat		
Israel's greatest	:11: 40	
Hall-of-fame : 10, 10, 5, 2 r	nillion, 40	
with God		
No one else like		
- Next up:,,	, etc.	
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Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

www.wels.net

Pastor

Rev. Stephen Luchterhand Cell: (602) 377-0940

Email: stephenluchterhand@gmail.com

Visitation Pastor

Rev. Glenn Schwanke Cell: (906) 869-6101

Email: yooperrev@gmail.com

Worship Schedule Sundays at 9:00 am Mondays at 6:30 pm



Welcome to Trinity

In the name of Jesus Christ, we welcome you to Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church. We especially welcome our guests who have joined us today. If you have any questions during your time with us today, please ask an usher for assistance. If you would like to know more about our church, our teachings, our Christian school (grades K-8), our preschool (3-4 year old) or the studies and programs offered at Trinity, please introduce yourself to our pastor. He would be delighted to speak with you and serve you in whatever way he can.

"Our mission at Trinity Lutheran Church is to teach the Word of God, to train believers for lives of Christian service, and to tell the good news of Jesus Christ to the Northwoods community and to the world."

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(715) 356-2255

E-mail: Trinity@trinityminocqua.org Website: www.trinityminocqua.org

