

# Guild Calendar

February 2026 ~ No meeting

March 4, 2026 at 1:30pm  
Garden theme project  
Snacks ~ Vi B-L

April 8, 2026 at 1:30pm  
Get ready for the rummage sale  
Snacks ~ Roberta L.

Saturday April 25, 2026  
Black Creek Village Wide Rummage  
Sale ~ in the east entrance (and  
hopefully outside), limited clothes and  
furnishings, includes bake sale

Wednesday May 6, 2026 at 1:30pm  
Program ~ Planning the coming year's  
thank you projects (for our fire fighters  
& EMTs)  
Snacks ~ Judy

## It's Important To Laugh (or groan)...

How much do rainbows weigh?  
*Not much...they're pretty light.*

Why does it take pirates so long to  
learn the alphabet?  
*They spend years at C.*

Why shouldn't you fundraise for  
marathons?  
*They'll take the money and run.*

What's the best outfit to wear on  
February 2nd?  
*A two-two.*

## Next Wisconsin Election Tuesday April 7th

**Check your voter registration &  
ballot information with your village  
or town clerk or at [myvote.wi.gov](http://myvote.wi.gov)**

***Thank you to everyone who  
braved the cold & stayed after  
worship on Sunday January 25th  
for our congregational meeting.***

***Your prayers & participation  
are what make our  
congregation so wonderful.***

## Stock The Pantry Shelves

"When I was hungry, you fed me."  
Matthew 25.35

### February Focus Item CEREAL



Our pantry families go  
through a lot of cereal ... any  
brand, any size box or bag is  
wonderful. If you are able to help  
with any additional items or  
monetary donations to our  
pantries (please put "food  
pantry" in the memo).



## Readers & Greeters Schedule

There are a few blanks ... if you're interested in filling in, talk with Pastor Moira

### Sunday February 1 ~ Communion

Reader Jan Rohloff  
Greeters Mike & Connie Rohloff  
Trevor & Sarah Rohloff

### Sunday February 8 ~ choir sings

Reader TBA  
Greeters TBA

### Sunday February 15 ~ kids sing

155th Anniversary ~ Karneval (bring your favorite sweet treats to share after worship)  
Reader Lindsay Seefeldt  
Greeters Steve & Lindsay Seefeldt

### Sunday February 22 ~ Lent 1

Reader Emma Holz  
Greeters Duane & Carol Henke

### Sunday March 1 ~ Lent 2, Communion

Reader Bob Menning  
Greeters Bob & Carla Menning  
Keith Kruse  
Gary Vander Linden

### Sunday March 8 ~ Lent 3

Reader TBA  
Greeters Keith Kruse & TBA

### Sunday March 15 ~ Lent 4, kids sing

Reader Audrina Bohn  
Greeters Mark Hooyman  
Lisa Waterstradt

### Sunday March 22 ~ Lent 5

Reader Isaac Schmidt  
Greeters Joe & Sue Biese

### Sunday March 29 ~ Palm Sunday

155th Anniversary ~ special music with "The Band" for worship  
Reader Ehtan Bohn  
Greeters Ryan & Stephanie Julius

## **SCRIP NEWS ... Thanks**

Thanks to your purchases, we earned \$561.64 last year. Now let us help you with your usual monthly expenses like gas, groceries & dining out plus gift giving for the birthdays, graduations & thank yous.

Questions? Talk with Pat or Brandi Schomisch

## St. John's UCC Black Creek Council Meeting Minutes ~ January 20, 2026

- Present were Sally Dickinson, Lisa Waterstradt, Connie Rohloff, Sue Biese, Brian Holz, and Pastor Moira Finley; Trevor Rohloff was absent
- The meeting was called to order by Sally and Pastor Moira gave a prayer
- Minutes of the December 2025 meeting were reviewed; motion to approve by Brian, second by Sue; motion passed;
- The December financial secretary & treasurer's reports were reviewed; motion to approve by Sue, second by Connie, motion passed;
- Pastor Moira reviewed her report including the Christmas program, Christmas Eve, a wedding, funeral, and plans for the upcoming Lent & Easter season as well as time away in June & July;
- Membership ~ considering a new picture directory in conjunction with the 155th anniversary;
- Christian Education & Youth Group ~ next meeting February 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm
- Worship & Music ~ the Lenten series will be Wednesdays February 25 through March 25 with food at 5pm, discussion & prayer at 6pm, and choir practice at 7pm, all upstairs in the Gathering Room;
- Building & Grounds
  - Sanctuary light – the rear center light is out again; Brian is investigating (*note – Brian took care of fixing the wiring and replacing the burned out upper bulbs*)
  - West door (north) needs to be checked, lower seal replaced, and bottom lock pin checked; Pastor Moira has reached out to a door company that services our kind of doors and is waiting to hear back;
  - Thermostats ~ we have three that are not programable and we discussed changing them;
  - Sanctuary Clock ~ the previous one fell and a new digital one has been acquired with a remote Denis Shepard will install;
  - Clock ~ keeping good time, one part still to be replaced;
  - Plastering – continuing to work on finding a new contractor;
  - Banner Stand – Mark Shepard from Trinity has completed the second stand and now we need to reorganize that storeroom and decide what banners to keep, repair, or replace;
  - East entrance sign ~ needs a few traces of bricks repaired; Trevor is working on it;
  - Lawn Mowing – need to coordinate power to the shed;
  - Fire alarm panel at west entrance ~ does not serve any purpose (per the state inspector), will disable and work towards removal;
- Cemetery ~ nothing to report
- Endowment ~ nothing to report

- Stewardship ~ we will make a demonstration video about online giving;
- Guild ~ met January 7 to do a gratitude project for the workers at Good Shepherd; next meeting is March 4<sup>th</sup> for another Good Shepherd thank you project;
- Garden Project ~ nothing to report
- SCRIP ~ nothing to report
- Parish Relations ~ nothing to report
- Memorial Projects List ~ the Council is keeping a list of projects & dreams;
  - tree replacement & west parking lot landscaping (above ground planters) ~ Spring 2025
  - narthex bathroom ~ water is turned off and preparation for painting has begun; *(note – Joe Biese has since replaced the ceiling fan and light, and checked the wiring in the bathroom; Trevor has coordinated the replacement of the shut off valves)*
  - AED (external defibrillators) ~ Sarah Rohloff is working on this;
- Continuing Business ~ Church Banking ~ the organ fund will remain at BMO; the only thing we have yet to move to Fox Credit Union is the internet/phone
- Continuing Business ~ 155<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Project ~ meet on Thursday 1/22
- Continuing Business – Wisconsin Conference Leadership Forward; three year goal of \$3,000; need to tell the stories of why this is important and consider the proceeds of the 2026 Fall Festival to go towards this goal;
- Continuing Business ~ Congregational Meeting ~ Sunday January 25, 2026
- We reviewed the books, found a few corrections to be printed on an additional page, and prepared for the meeting
- Prayers and thanks were shared;
- Motion to adjourn the meeting by Lisa, second by Brian, motion passed
- The meeting ended with the Lord’s prayer.
- Next meeting: February 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm
- Respectfully submitted, Pastor Moira Finley

The December 2025 Financial Secretary & Treasurer’s reports discussed & approved at the January council meeting were included in the year-end reports presented in the annual meeting book so they are not reprinted here.

If you have questions, or would like a copy of the annual meeting book mailed or e-mailed to you, please be in touch with Pastor Moira.

## *From Pastor Moira's Desk...*

January seems to have taken a long time this year. We've been in the grip of bitter cold that seems to just get inside our bones, and our spirits, and make things hard. Other parts of the country are dealing with record ice and snow, many folks still without power after almost a week. Schools have closed, furnace repair folks have been super busy. I'm not sure if the skin on my hands will ever recover, and I think, someday like June, my feet might be warm all day again. Part of it is just how January goes in Wisconsin, and part of it is that there is a lot going on in our lives and in the world. Without any support from our allies, the United States invaded Venezuela and kidnapped their president and his wife to bring them to trial on drug and gun charges. Immigrations & customs agents have been deployed to several major cities in large numbers. That deployment in Minneapolis has, as just about everyone knows, resulted in the deaths of two people, mass protests, a fair amount of inflaming rhetoric from every side, and a lot of uncertainty about how we might find our way forward to build the communities we truly want to live in.

Like most of us, I have a lot of opinions about what's going on, and I am grateful to all who have reached out to talk with me about their thoughts about this moment in the life of our country. We won't all agree. It would, at least to me, be rather scary if we did. We have different life experiences, passions, and interests that all shape how we look at the world. We were each created, by God, to be who we are, and I am grateful for those differences and that diversity. It makes the world so much more interesting.

But what we share, my friends, is our faith in Jesus, the baby born in a barn, greeted by the lowly shepherds and foreign visitors with strange gifts; the infant carried to Egypt to live as a refugee, far from Herod's murderous rage; the man who would walk the shores of Galilee, call simple fishermen and a tax collector among others to be his first disciples; the man who would heal, and welcome everyone, who would reach out to those who had been pushed to the sides of society, who would not judge, but would offer love and hope and compassion wherever he went; the man who would sit at table with the low and the mighty alike, and who would teach us about the vision for God's table, a place where there is a seat for everyone, without exceptions. We share our faith in the man who taught that we are to love God, and others, and ourselves; to care for our neighbors and strangers; and who said that his disciples would be known not by their theologies, but by how much they love in this world.

I know for certain that God is with us in these days, and I know that the fullness of God's kingdom can come. But I also know that God expects us to do our part to help create that world, a world of peace, abundance, and hope for all people, and all creation. God expects us to be following in the path that Jesus showed us, the path of welcome and love, of generosity and justice. I'm pretty sure that we have bumpy days ahead of us, but I know that together, sharing all our wonderful differences and diversity, together as Jesus' disciples we can do our part, where we are, to create a world we want to live in, and we will be proud to leave for those who will come after us.

*In hope, peace, and grace, Pastor Moira*

## **Lent, Holy Week & Easter Opportunities**

### **Ash Wednesday ~ February 18th**

Worship with communion, receiving of ashes & time for reflection  
as we begin our Lenten journey together  
Trinity at 5pm & Black Creek at 7pm

### **Wednesday Lenten Worship ~ February 25th through March 25th (5 weeks)**

Join us for fellowship, food, discussion & prayer about our life of faith.  
We'll be upstairs in the Gathering Room & Sanctuary.  
5:00pm ~ heavy snacks (sandwiches, cheese & sausage, desserts)  
6-6:45pm ~ discussion & prayer  
7pm ~ choir practice

### **Palm & Passion Sunday ~ March 29th**

Worship at all three parish churches at the usual time  
as we remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem & the last week of his earthly life.  
Special music at Black Creek with "The Band" for our 155th Anniversary year

### **Maundy Thursday ~ April 2nd**

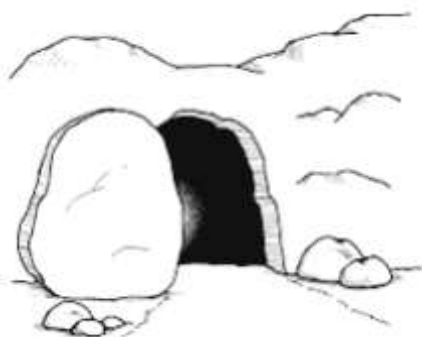
Remembering the last meal Jesus shared with his disciples ~ Black Creek at 7pm

### **Holy Friday ~ April 3rd**

Remembering Jesus' arrest, trial & crucifixion ~ Cecil at 6pm

### **Easter Sunday ~ April 5th**

Celebrating the good news of the resurrection  
Worship with communion  
*Breakfast sign-ups will be available soon!*



**Tri-Jo AT Trinity** ~ Worship at 8:30am with breakfast after  
**Black Creek** ~ Breakfast at 8:30am and worship at 10:15am

# Save the dates for our 155<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events...



## **Sunday February 15<sup>th</sup> ~ Mardi Gras (Karneval in German)**

Bring your favorite sweet treat to share after worship before Lent begins

## **Sunday March 29<sup>th</sup> ~ Gospel & Bluegrass Band for Palm Sunday**

Join us with The Band (Cheryl & Keith Barneson) for worship and music

## **Sunday April 26<sup>th</sup> ~ Growing In Faith**

Celebrating baptism, confirmation & our Christian education with this year's Confirmation students

## **Sunday May 31<sup>st</sup> ~ Honoring Our Ancestors**

Remembering our Founding Families & tending to our church cemetery

## **Sunday June 28<sup>th</sup> ~ United In Love**

Celebrating weddings and renewal of vows

## **Sunday July 26<sup>th</sup> ~ Building Blocks of the Past, Present & Future**

Looking back at our historical buildings, remodeling, and more

## **Sunday August 30<sup>th</sup> ~ 155<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Worship**

Join us for worship and a semi-catered\* fellowship meal

*(\*we'll order chicken and some fixings, and pies, but we'll need other things too!)*

## **155<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Committee**

Sue Biese, David Tesch, Jan Rohloff, Steve Hanson, Pastor Moira

# Online Giving

We have set up online giving with Breeze, our church software company. You can give with an electronic check or a credit/debit card, much like you might pay monthly bills online. You can set up monthly (recurring) giving, and designate for special funds and projects as well. If you've been paying by bank check (auto drafts), or sending checks to church, this is another wonderful option. It's a great way to make sure your contributions get to church while you are traveling or unable to attend in person. There is a small percentage based fee for giving through a credit/debit card and you can add to your giving to offset that fee. There is no fee for giving by electronic check. Contributions accumulate and are transferred into the church accounts on a weekly basis. So if you give on Wednesday, it goes into the church accounts on Friday and will be credited in the giving for the following Sunday. When you've made your offering you will receive a confirmation email which will come from Breeze (our church finance management software). We'll have an explanatory video available soon, but in the meantime, if you'd like help, have questions, or need more specific instructions, Pastor Moira & Lizzie Tesch are more than happy to help. **To give visit: <https://stjbcucc.breezechms.com/give/online>**

## Parish Celebrations ~ for all three churches

*If your special day is incorrect let Pastor Moira know.*

### February Birthdays

1st ...	Leo Halvorson	13th ...	Bradley Holz
2nd ...	Char Scheel		Ryan Schomisch, Jr.
	Aubrey Stevens		Trevor Rohloff
3rd ...	Lindsay Seefeldt	14th ...	Adam Holz
4th ...	Greg Stapel	15th ...	Steve Felton
6th ...	Tom Hutchcraft	17th ...	Stephanie Boettcher
	Hadley Seefeldt	21st ...	Sam Reif
	Maggie Seefeldt	25th ...	Sue Biese
	Justin Schmidt	26th ...	Austyn Neubert
7th ...	Nancy Mitchell		Nate Seefeldt
9th ...	Bonnie Vander Linden	27th ...	Keegan Hooyman
	Jim Rucci		Raphi Jochman
11th ...	Krissy Zuleger		Steve Seefeldt
12th ...	Ruby Grutza	29th ...	Rachel Wegner

### February Anniversaries

5th ...	Chad & Ady Szczepanski Zurko
7th ...	Duane & Carol Henke
8th ...	Char & Stu Scheel

# February 2026

How to reach Pastor Moira: phone 715-851-3080  
email [pastormoira73@gmail.com](mailto:pastormoira73@gmail.com)

**Pastor's In The Office**  
Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays  
Please call/text to make sure

**Sunday Schedule:** Trinity ~ Worship 8:45am  
Black Creek ~ Sunday School 9am & Worship 10:15am  
Cecil ~ Worship 4pm

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <i>Communion</i>  <i>SCRIP Order</i>	2  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;">Key to locations: BC = St. John's Black Creek T = Trinity C = St. John's Cecil A = Ascension Lutheran</div>	3	4  6:30pm BC Choir	5  6:30pm BC Christian Ed	6	7
8  <b>Trinity Annual Meeting</b>  BC Choir sings  NO Worship at Cecil	9  4pm BC Confirmation	10  2pm T New Hope Circle  6:30pm BC Council	11  4-6pm A Pantry  NO Choir practice	12  5:30pm T Council	13	14  9-11am A Pantry
15 BC Kids sing BC Youth Group  BC 155th Anniversary Karneval Celebration	16  <i>President's Day</i>	17	18  <b>Ash Wednesday</b>  Trinity 5pm  Black Creek 7pm	19  9am C Closet work day	20	21
22  First Sunday of Lent	23  4pm BC Confirmation	24  Noon-3pm C Closet	25  <b>Wednesday Lenten Worship</b> 5pm Food 6pm Prayer & Conversation 7pm Choir	26  6:30pm BC Anniversary Committee	27	28  <i>Tomorrow... Second Sunday of Lent Communion SCRIP Order</i>

February  
2026

"The purpose of this congregation is to be a faith community promoting the kingdom of God through worship, teaching, and action ... get ready!"

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**Wisconsin Conference UCC**  
[www.wiucc.org](http://www.wiucc.org)

**United Church of Christ**  
[www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org)



## 155th Anniversary ~ Karneval Celebration Sunday February 15th

Join us for the German version of Mardi Gras.

We'll have some traditional German desserts, but we hope you'll bring your favorite sweet treats to share.

Donuts, cookies, candy bars, cake, pie ... whatever you enjoy!

After worship in the Gathering Room upstairs

And start looking through those shoe boxes and albums for pictures of baptisms, confirmations, weddings, and other events from the life of the church. We'd also welcome baptismal, confirmation, and marriage certificates, and other things like worship bulletins too. We're working on a timeline, and an anniversary memory book and we need whatever you'd be happy to share with us (pictures and other things will be copied, scanned, and returned to you).

*Anniversary Committee: Sue Biese, David Tesch, Jan Rohloff, Steve Hanson*

