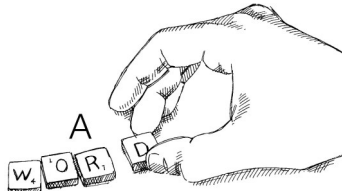


Trinity & Westridge

Monthly Newsletter for Members & Friends



MARCH 2025



from the
Pastor

Grace and peace to you my brothers and sisters,

What a whirlwind of weather changes we have been experiencing these past few weeks. I'm grateful for the snow we received; it was a blessing in disguise to have a few days to work from home and spend a little extra time playing with Charlie in the snow. It has been so much fun experiencing the world through my toddler's eyes. This was his first time getting to put on snow pants and boots and waddle outside to plop in the snow. He was very curious about the white powdery stuff on the ground and more shocked to discover that it was cold and EDIBLE. It was the greatest thing ever besides the hot chocolate and marshmallows that came after we went back

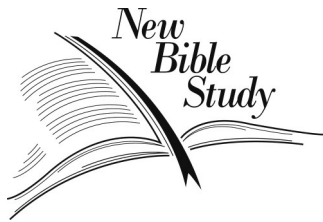
inside. A perfect combination "must have" to complete a perfect snow day. I love a good snow day, but I'm grateful for the warm weather we received the following week to get back into our normal routine, especially with everything we have going on in March to participate in our upcoming Lenten season.

As we can see in our liturgical calendar, Ash Wednesday will be on Wednesday March 5th this year. To kick off our Lenten season, we will have an eventful Ash Wednesday offering a variety of opportunities for everyone to get their spiritual needs met. I'm going to utilize this space in my letter to give a breakdown of what Lent is going to look like and share a bit on the opportunities we are providing this season starting with Ash Wednesday. First, I'm excited to share that we are collaborating with others in our community to engage in a more meaningful Lenten experience. On March 5th (Ash Wednesday), I will be standing outside of Trinity UMC starting at 7 am with Coffee provided by Little Lyon Coffee Co. in Madison to offer "Drive by ashes". For our busy "on the go" folks, everyone is welcome to stop by for coffee and a prayer with the option of receiving ashes before starting their busy day. I will be outside doing this from 7:00 am - 9:00 am and welcome everyone. I will be doing the same "drive by ashes" experience at Westridge from 3:00 pm-5:00p m. Additionally, we are going to be joining our neighbors at Norfolk First UMC in Wednesday night activities and worship. Take a look at the calendar and see what is going on and come join us for worship, fellowship, and service projects throughout the Lenten season. For my parents of youth and children, take a look at the calendar too as there are some slight changes made to our calendar and more opportunities to get involved this month.

Lastly, there are five Sundays in March which means we are having our first 5th Saturday evening worship service and meal! As some of you may remember, this was a "wish" that was put into the dream catchers to have as a worship option on our "Dare to Dream" wish list. On March 29th, Trinity UMC will be having Saturday evening worship and community meal. The community meal will be at Trinity at 5:30 pm with a free will donation to help our youth kids raise money for their mission trips this summer. The theme is St. Patrick's so there will be brats, corned beef, sauerkraut, sides, and desserts. Worship service will follow after the meal at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary. All are welcome to attend either or both. On Sunday, March 30th, Westridge will have Sunday morning service at 9:00 am with potluck brunch to follow at 10:00 am. This is a long-standing tradition that Westridge has had and we would love for everyone to get involved and join in wonderful fellowship after service. I promise I will try to get us out of worship by 10 am sharp ☺ hahaha! To make sure everyone is on the same page, there will only be one service on Saturday and one service on Sunday. Trinity will host worship at 7 pm on Saturday the 29th and Westridge will host worship on Sunday the 30th. The goal is to accommodate our community and provide flexibility to fit the spiritual needs of those we serve in our community.

I know this is a lot of information and I will do my best to share in Sunday worship what is going on each week to help it all make sense. I am so excited to be doing ministry with all of you, trying new ways of outreach, practicing our traditions, emphasizing our rituals, and ultimately creating more meaningful and lasting connections with one another disciples of Jesus Christ. Some of this will be new and experimental and no matter what we will learn from our experience, but I'm ready to jump into this new little adventure with you and see where the Holy Spirit leads us in this Lenten season. Blessings to you all and may God peace be with you.

Sincerely,
Pastor Caitlin



Bible Study

Monday—2 pm—at Westridge
Thursday—4:30 pm—at Little Lyon Coffee Co.
These will follow same lessons so if you can't make it to one—you can go to the other.
All are welcome to join this study!

Please remember to let Pastor Caitlin know if you are sick, hospitalized or otherwise in need of pastoral care. She wants to care for us in times of struggle, but she can't do that if she doesn't know! Share joys with her too!



“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” - MATTHEW 25:35



This UMCOR Sunday, join us in supporting the incredible work of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Your gifts cover UMCOR's operational costs, ensuring 100% of other donations go directly to relief efforts. Together, we can bring hope to those in need worldwide.

UMCOR Sunday is March 30



✠ Willard Kleensang, February 15

Please offer PRAYERS for those in our church families (as of 2-28-2025)

◆ Those in need of healing of the body, mind & spirit:

T: Helen Finkral

W: Jim Koch, Adrianna Dohmen

◆ Those facing cancer: W: Kelly Koch

◆ Those who are at home & in care facilities & all care givers:

Home: (W) Sharon Carlow

Nebraska Veteran's Home, Norfolk: (W) Vern Hepker

Meadows: (W) Rev. Dillon Hess, Helen Finkral, Lee Peterson, Mabel Siegert, Mavis Miller, Velda Long

(T) Jerry McCallum

Heritage of Bel Air: (T) Dorothy Reigle (W) Leon Chapman

St. Joseph's, Norfolk: (W) Fran McAllister

Heritage of Fountain Point T Shirley Neidig, Dave Plugge, Phyllis Trine



TRINITY UMC

506 S. Main Street, Madison NE 68748
(402) 454-2514

Worship: Sunday at 11 AM

The Grace Place: Welcoming all who seek his presence and grace. Come find God.

Facebook: Trinity UMC & Westridge United Methodist Church

Websites: madisontrinityumc.org & norfolkwestridgeumc.org

WESTRIDGE UMC

2000 W. Norfolk Ave, Norfolk NE 68701
(402) 371-9630

Worship: Sunday at 9 AM

Growing in Faith, in Love & in Community

Rev. Caitlin Bentzinger

cell (402) 326-1131
office (402) 454-2514

Parish Assistant:

Crystal Ketelsen (402) 454-2514

Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday & Thursday:
9am - noon & 1 pm - 4 pm

Parish Email:

trinitywestridgeparish@gmail.com



Children's Church
10 am every Sunday
Come for Faith, Fellowship & Fun!

TRINITY NEWS



April is Trinity's Food Pantry Month
Saturdays—9-11 am
Sign up for your shift!!!

Ad Board Meeting Minutes 2/26/2025

Sherry opened the meeting at 6:02 pm with giving God praise for all he does for us and asking him to guide our meeting. Members at the meeting were Shery Hake, Jan Hake, Jon Moyer, Kim & Scott Wilkerson, Justin Kleindienst, Pastor Caitlin & Crystal Ketelsen. Minutes from the January meeting were read and approved.

Crystal Ketelsen handed out a finance report from Cruise & Associates. Discussion was had regarding giving and expenses. Crystal reported receiving a phone call from Frontier Bank on February 19 saying that the church's general account was overdrawn in excess of \$800. Monday was transferred from the Dover Account that day to take care of that and add funds for expenses. Crystal asked Cruise if this was something they tracked and was told they don't work with the balances until the end of the month. Sherry Hake made a motion to continue to look for a different treasurer option, Kim Wilkerson seconded, the motion was passed.

Old Business: Pastor Caitlin needs to get together with Anthony (Tony) Ketelsen to purchase computer parts to get the new office computer built. Pastor Caitlin is working on getting the committees together and moving forward.

Mission Team: The Mission Team has met twice. They will be working on setting up bylaws. They sent two recommendations to the Ad Board to consider: 1-Kim Wilkerson moved to donate \$1,000 to the Christian Cross Festival, Jan Hake seconded, motion was passed; 2-Scott Wilderson moved to match funds with the youth fundraisers for their mission trips; Jan Hake seconded, motion was passed. Right now they have the Community Meals and are looking into income share nights at fast food places and possible flamingo flocking.

Education: Sunday School room is still being worked on.

SPPRC: Meeting is being rescheduled.

Community Service: Madison Ministerial meets soon and will be determining who is doing the Community Sunrise Service. Trinity has the Food Pantry in April.

Trustees: The leak in the furnace room was condensation in the intake/output pipe and has been resolved. Travis is working on the livestream and believes he found the root issue.

New Business: After some discussion it was determined that we need to look into online giving. Crystal will be check to see that the Nonprofit Corporation Biennial Report was done.

Meeting adjourned at 7:07 PM

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 18, 2025, 6 PM



The Dolly Parton's Imagination Library monthly book gifting program is here and running for the Madison School District area!! This program is brought to you by the Madison Trinity United Methodist Church, Missions Team and Dolly Parton!! Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is dedicated to inspiring a love of reading by gifting books free of charge to children from birth to age 5, through funding shared by Dolly Parton and local community partners. Inspired by her father's inability to read and write Dolly started her Imagination Library in 1995 for the children within her home county. Today, her program spans 5 countries and gifts over 1 million free books each month to children around the world. "When I was growing up in the hills of East Tennessee, I knew my dream would come true. I know there are children in your community with their own dreams. They dream of becoming a doctor or an inventor or a minister. Who knows, maybe there is a little girl whose dream is to be a writer and singer. The seeds of these dreams are often found in books and the seeds you help plant in your community can grow across the world." -Dolly Parton By mailing high quality, age-appropriate books directly to their homes, she wanted children to be excited about books and to feel the magic that books can create. Moreover, she could insure that every child would have books, regardless of their family's income. How can you register your child? You can enroll your child on-line at imaginationlibrary.com, or through paper forms that will be soon to be found around town then mailed/returned to the church, or in person at Trinity United Methodist Church, 506 S Main St in Madison, NE. If you have any questions about the program, please feel free to reach out to the main program coordinator, Crystal Ketelsen at 402-454-2514.

Westridge News

Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle met Tuesday, February 11, 2025, 1:30 p.m. at the church. Five ladies gathered for devotions and fellowship. Linda led the devotion discussion on "My Dream Job". Everyone shared the love they had in their jobs through the years. Linda served festive cupcakes for treats.

The next Ruth Circle meeting will be Tuesday, March 11, 2025, 1:30 p.m. at Westridge Church.

Deb will lead devotions and bring treats. We will be packing boxes for the college students.

Looking ahead we will be eating out in April and Pastor Caitlin will host in May.

We are looking forward to welcoming everyone to our group and new faces would be a blessing.



The girls enjoyed visiting with their friend when she visited!



Charlotte reading the story for Sunday School 😊



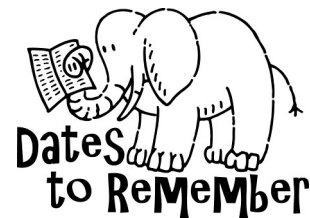
Working together to take the light of Christ out into the world.

Westridge Sunday Coffee Hour

March-April-May-June 2025



March 2	Shelly & Peg
March 9	Tina & Mike
March 16	Deb, Carol & Lavonne
March 23	Wayne & Sue A.
March 30	"Covered Dish"
April 6	Lisa & Jen
April 13	Karen, Linda & Faye
April 20	Shirley & Francie
April 27	Dohmens
May 4	Steph & Samantha
May 11	Rick & Mary
May 18	Mary Ann & Sharon
May 25	Sue, Crystal & Jerry
June 1	Shelly & Peg
June 8	Tina & Mike
June 15	Deb, Carol & Lavonne N.
June 22	Sue & Wayne
June 29	"Covered Dish Brunch"



April 18—Westridge Good Friday VBS
May 2 & 3—Westridge Spring Rummage Sale

Westridge Methodist Church Council**February 5, 2024, 7:06 P.M.**

Present was Dave Scarf, Dave & Sue Sieler, Wayne & Sue Andreasen, Deb Ussery and Rev. Caitlin. No meeting was held in Jan. 2025 – Minutes were read from the Dec. 2024 meeting and was approved with no corrections.

The treasurer report was handed out and was placed on file. Our share of the Blue Christmas was \$46.75. We received a notice from Allo that they are raising our rate by \$17.00 a month and it now will be \$139.00. Sue informed us that the Copy right license is due. Sue informed us that lots of the company's church work with are doing online payment. Sue asked the church council to let her set up online banking. Dave Scarf made a motion to have Sue Sieler set up online banking, Deb Ussery second the motion. The motion carried.

Rev. Caitlin informed the church council that she is working on a grant to help with some improvements for the church.

The conference mission shares for 2025 our \$8,989.00.

Old Business: The meeting date that the council has been meeting was discussed in length. Wayne Andreasen made a motion and Dave Scarf seconded it, to change the date of the council meeting date from the 1st Wednesday to the 1st Thursday of each month. Motion carried. The next meeting will be March 6, at 7:00 P.M.

Calling Post was discussed this is what we use to make phone calls to church members. We changed to Calling Post last year. Rev. Caitlin has reported that they have been getting it up and running and after some testing it should be up and running soon.

If you did not notice the screen has been taken down and the T.V. has been put up and reports have been positive.

New Business: Tablets that were purchased for the children, need to be registered in Amazon to download programs to the tablets. Amazon plus for one year is free after the tablets are registered. The council discussed getting a Amazon Prime account for our church to use towards items that we order, it's \$139.00. A motion was made by Wayne Andreasen and seconded by Deb Ussery that the church get an Amazon account and have Rev. Caitlin and Sue Sieler to work on getting this accomplished. The motion was carried.

Rev. Caitlin reported that the Company, Needle in God, is working on the Paraments. The design, fabric and the measurements are still being worked on, but process is almost finished and we will know the final price for the memorial committee. The quarterly mission share letter will be going out in March and we will be showing the process in a new way to track.

Lent will start on Mach 5th with Ash Wednesday services at First Church at noon. Rev. Caitlin will have designated hours for driving through ashes. There will be some kind of lent Service every Wednesday night during the Lent, it will be a service or a project with First United Methodist Church, Norfolk. More details will be coming in the near future.

Rev. Caitlin is finalizing the middle school mission trip, it will be May 30th through June 1, 2025 in Omaha they will be staying at Camp Fontanelle and then having a fun day at the Henry Doorly Zoo. They are working with Elkhorn Hills UMC. At this time, we will have 12-15 going.

Rev. Caitlin received a letter from the Noon Kiwanis's wanting a youth nomination to recognize from our church to be honor for 2025 Kiwanis Church youth of the year, It will be held on March 25, 2025.

Rev. Caitlin will be having a celebration of the new memorial items in the near future.

Trustees will be needing to paint the trim on the church and the light pole this year. The mower needs to be serviced and they will be looking into getting some lights placed in the back of the church.

Ruth circle will be held February 11, 2025, at the church. They serviced cookies and desserts for Debbie Petersen funeral.

Rev. Caitlin lead us in closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.

By Peggy Fox, Church Council Secretary.



Healthy Recipe

from the Westridge Healthy Congregation Team

Chicken & Spaghetti Squash Alfredo

- 6 oz (cooked weight) chicken breast
- 3 tbsp half-n-half
- 1 wedge light Laughing Cow-plain
- 1 wedge light Laughing Cow-garlic herb
- 1 tbsp parmesan cheese
- 1 small-medium spaghetti squash
(will use 1 1/2 cups once cooked)

Directions:

preheat oven 425°

Cut spaghetti squash in half, remove "guts", place face down in baking dish with about an inch of water, bake for about 25 mins or until easily breaks apart with fork.

Sear chicken breast in a cast iron skillet, then finish in oven (about 5-8 mins).

In a sauce pan whisk the Laughing Cow, cream and parmesan until a sauce is creamy.

Slice Chicken breast and add that and squash to sauce and mix.

Enjoy!

Yields 1 serving

Puzzle!

Search for these words that are all associated with the Lenten journey.

crown donkey hosanna penance Pilate sins
 colt crucifixion forsaken kiss prayer suffer
 confess death Gethsemane lots repent thorns
 cross denial Golgotha palms silver vigil

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