



# Trinity Lutheran Newsletter

April 2024

## MISSION STATEMENT:

Baptized believers *sent* into God's world  
to *share* God's love and grace.

### Trinity Lutheran Church

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### Panel Drive Update:

We currently have \$47,218 (need to verify) of the \$79,000 needed to replace the sanctuary roof. This is amazing progress from where we started! If you know of any fundraisers or grants we could apply for, let us know.

## This Month at TLC

- April 7 10:00 AM Council Meeting
- April 19-20 Synod Assembly
- April 28 9:00 AM KidZone Led Worship

## Wednesdays:

- 9:30am Bible Study on the book of Daniel
- 1:00pm Sewing Group
- 3:30pm KidZone
- 6:00pm Confirmation

## Hymn of the Month:

#933 ACS

Day of delight and beauty unbounded, tell the news, the gospel spread! Day of all wonder, day of all splendor, praise Christ risen from the dead! Sing of the sun from darkness appearing; sing of the seed from barren earth greening; sing of creation, alleluia! Sing of the stream from Jesus' side flowing; sing of the saints in water made holy; sing of salvation, alleluia!

## We Pray ....

For those battling cancer: Doug Dahlke-continuing treatment. We pray for Barb Allner-upcoming shoulder surgery; Kelly Anderson; Diane Riediger; Ed Kunkel (Barb's son)-still dealing with problems; Kelly Martin; those in addictions/recovery; all who are grieving; victims of COVID -19, extreme weather and natural disasters, violence and domestic abuse.

## From the Pastor...

### **HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED!!!**

The Easter message NEVER gets old! The life-giving truth of Jesus Christ's life, death, and resurrection is not merely Good News – it's the BEST NEWS. With this reality we rejoice in the life-giving and life sustaining news that we have already received new life in Jesus Christ. It's life that is a gift to everyone who believes in Jesus Christ as their savior.

I have heard people say that it's news that's too good to believe. It's news that our society attempts to question because there are no hoops to jump through in order to receive the gift of grace. It doesn't make "sense" to those who are caught up in the belief that people have to EARN forgiveness. Why would God grant forgiveness/grace without having conditions to earn it? Isn't that considered "Cheap Grace"?

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German theologian and pastor well-known for his unyielding faith even in face of his imminent death in a German prison near the end of World War II, wrote a book entitled The Cost of Discipleship where he outlines what it means to follow Christ in a modern world beset by a dangerous and criminal government. This is not to compare our government with Nazi Germany but it outlines the view of living a life of discipleship. There are many obstacles to living a life of discipleship but with God's guidance we can continue to grow stronger daily.

This is the beginning of the Easter Season. The season of New Life – of renewed optimism – of taking seriously Jesus' command that we heard on Maundy Thursday, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are disciples, if you have love for one another."

What do you think would change for you if you took seriously Jesus' command? How do you think your perspective on world events might be altered? We will never know unless we become intentional in our everyday encounters with others.

**PRAYERS FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES THAT THIS EASTER MARKS A LASTING ENTHUSIASM FOR YOUR ONGOING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS – AND ALL GOD'S PEOPLE!**

In Christian Love & Fellowship,

Pastor Jane

## We Celebrate!

### April Birthdays:

- 4 – Livvy Brosamle  
Faith Stamm  
Jessica Cross
- 5 – Dylan Malm
- 7 – Lindsay Green  
Koral Ann Jepsen  
Corey Lloyd
- 8 – Kati Steffen
- 9 – Lauren Locke
- 12 – Jeremy Cross  
Reed Mitchell
- 13 – Axton Lindgren  
Shaylee Ruhrer  
McKenna Flaugh
- 14 – Rick Steffen
- 15 – Staci Schweder
- 16 – Dolores Benedix
- 17 – Lane Benedix  
Jodi Kleemeier  
Max Molland
- 19 – Wendy Ruhrer  
Bryan Alfredson
- 20 – Carsen Coulter
- 21 – Brady Butters
- 23 – Hunter Koehn
- 25 – Marty Riediger  
Keely Steffen
- 28 - Nick Wahlberg

### April Anniversaries:

- 6 – Jon & Deb Wilcke (1985)
- 7 – Mark & Wendy Kennedy (1990)
- 8 – Mike & Gail Ploen (1978)
- 16 – Chad & Michelle Willer (2005)
- 27 – Phillip & Joyce Sanderson (1968)
- 28 – Norman & Michaela Peterson (2001)

## We Serve TLC in April

- Organist: Ruth Chartier
- Altar Guild: Roger & Susan Christiansen
- Scripture Reader: Denny Bain
- Offertory Accountants: Steve & Lisa Rippke
- Tech Assistants: Rebecca Brockhaus

## We Appreciate and Thank You!!

Our thanks to:

- All March worship assistants.
- A huge thank you to Kim Steffen for completing and submitting our MRHD Grant Application to fund the new roof!
- Everyone who participated in the Easter festivities and donated items for the bake sale!

## Membership Task Force

The council has decided to assemble a task force responsible for reviewing and updating the roster here at Trinity Lutheran to the best of their abilities. Please let Blake Stratton know if you want to be on it.

# Trinity's Table—Recipe Book

In an effort to raise more funds to put towards the new sanctuary roof, Trinity Lutheran's Council has decided to put together an updated cookbook called "Trinity's Table." The last time we put together a cookbook was in 1993! We are asking for members current and past to submit recipes for our cookbook! All recipes must be turned in by June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. How can you turn in recipes? However you feel most comfortable!

1. Email [tlchurchmerville@gmail.com](mailto:tlchurchmerville@gmail.com) with your recipe.
2. Handwritten or typed recipes can be mailed to the church at PO Box 239, Merville, or can be brought to the office in person!

-Please make sure that ingredients are listed in order used and make sure all ingredients are included in the directions.

-Include all amounts and container sizes. Use parentheses to separate amounts.

Example: 2 (8-oz.) cans.

-Abbreviate measurements in the ingredients list but spell them out in the directions.

-Be consistent!

-Include temperatures and all cooking, chilling, baking, or freezing times.

-Submit recipes to the office exactly as you want them to appear.

-Recipes can have more than one contributor. If it is in memory of someone, please give us your name and their name, and preferably the years they were born and died.

-Label your recipe as one of the following: Appetizers and Beverages, Soups and Salads, Vegetables and Side Dishes, Main Dishes, Breads and Rolls, Desserts, Cookies and Candy, This and That

Please let us know the following about your recipes as well. This will be indicated next to the title using symbols.

-Award winning, freezes well, gluten free, heart healthy, holiday, hot and spicy, in memory of, kid recipe, quick and easy, or slow cooker. The following is an example of how the recipe will appear:

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## CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES † (Very Best)

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Blake Stratton  
Lucille Rippke; 1915-2004

½ c. margarine	1 tsp. baking soda
½ c. shortening (I use crisco)	½ tsp. salt
½ c. white sugar	¾ c. brown sugar
1 egg	2 c. flour
1 tsp .vanilla	2 c. chocolate chips

Beat together ½ cup margarine and ½ cup shortening. Add ½ cup sugar and beat again. Add the egg, 1 teaspoon vanilla, 1 teaspoon baking soda, and ½ teaspoon salt, beating after each addition. Stir in 2 cups flour, then add 2 cups of chocolate chips and stir. Chill the dough. Once chilled, preheat the oven to 350°. Drop by the teaspoon full onto a cookie sheet. Bake for 8 minutes.

If you have any questions, please see Blake Stratton, Sadie Stratton, Jill Stratton, Ruth Chartier or Deb Wilcke.

## TLC Trinity Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes—February

**Date:** Sunday, February 11, 2024

**Present:** Blake Stratton, Deb Wilcke, Jill Stratton, Sonia Locke, Roger Christiansen, Susan Christiansen, Denny Bain, Casey Stratton, Lynn Morgan, Pastor Jane Johnston, Irv Martin, Dave Christiansen, Patti Christiansen, Peggy Hopp, Jan Stroman, Rebecca Brockhaus, Gloria Healy

**Opening Prayer / Devotion** - Blake

**Annual Planning:** Council discussed the life cycle of the church, where we think we are, what things Trinity is willing to try. Committees worked together to set goals.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 11:15AM by President Blake Stratton.

### Pastor's Report

#### Announce:

- Call committee update - Synod staff meeting Tuesday, Feb. 13th with council from another congregation about the possibility of sharing a pastor.
- Synod / ELCA updates
  - Synod Assembly: April 19 & 20th in Council Bluffs
- Additional announcements
  - First Communion Dates - looking at the beginning of April
  - Wiatel Grant - received \$250 and WIATEL will match so \$500 towards roof

#### Discuss/Follow-Up:

- Church building / Parsonage Items List on next page
- Bell wiring - hold off until new sound system is installed
- Panel Drive Update - over half way there
- Sound System Update - check was dropped off and supplies were ordered. We will need to purchase an Ipad to run the new system.
- Constitution - Review - no new updates
- Membership List Update - Drafting Letters - 2024 Focus Point?
- Money Market Account Update - currently getting 5% interest
- Confirmation Camp - Early Bird Registration by the 28th
- Designate Lent Offerings (Includes Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday)
- Motion made - see decide section
  - Synod Assembly Offering - motion made, see decide section
  - Bank Account Access Update - motion made, see decide section
  - Church Spring Cleaning
  - MRHD Grant Opens March 1st - We will apply for the roof
  - Additional discussion items
    - Social Outreach Committee, Rebecca & Gloria asked about labeling this as a group that will reach out to those in need OR be the "go to" group if you know someone who needs something.

## **Decide:**

- Motion made by Roger Christiansen, seconded by Casey Stratton, to designate Lent offering to our companion congregation in Tanzania & the Warming Shelter (split 50/50). Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion made by Casey Stratton, seconded by Roger Christiansen, to send \$450 (requested amount) for Synod Assembly offering. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion made by Roger Christiansen, seconded by Sonia Locke, to change access to the bank accounts as printed. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion made by Jill Stratton, seconded by Susan Christiansen, to establish a Social Outreach Committee. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion made by Denny Bain, seconded by Casey Stratton, to approve January Council Meeting Minutes. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion made by Casey Stratton, seconded by Denny Bain, to approve January Treasurer's Report. Motion passed unanimously.
- Next Council Meeting will be Sunday, March 10, following worship.

**Adjourn** : Motion made by Denny Bain, seconded by Sonia Locke, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:07PM.

**Closed with the Lord's Prayer**