

PLATTE, SD  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
**NEWSLETTER**

DECEMBER 2023

### ***Celebrating Advent***

On Sunday, December 3rd, the season of Advent begins. It is the first season of the Christian Church year, leading up to Christmas and including the four preceding Sundays. The definition of the uncapitalized word *advent* means the arrival of a notable person, thing, or event. Advent within the Christian Church celebrates the arrival of the long-awaited Messiah in a manger in Bethlehem over 2000 years ago. Advent also looks forward with great anticipation to the second coming of Christ, whose arrival will usher in the coming of the Kingdom of God in all its fullness.

As we celebrate Advent here at Trinity, I pray we would celebrate Christ's coming in three powerful ways. First, we would celebrate His birth, taking special notice of Jesus's great humility and love. My hope is that as we reflect on Christ's humility, that we would be moved to live out Philippians 2:1-8: ***So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, <sup>2</sup> complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup> Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*** Let us celebrate the birth of Jesus by putting the interests of others ahead of our own interests and by letting His love shine out of us daily.

Second, I pray we would be mindful of the mighty way Christ comes daily into the lives of those, who love Him and trust Him, in the person of the Holy Spirit. As we celebrate Advent, let us not do so complacently. Rather, let us daily hunger after every good thing the Lord has for us in each day. May we all begin our mornings, inviting the Holy Spirit to come and lead us in the way we are to live.

Third, I pray we would daily reflect on the second coming of Christ, realizing that with each passing day His return becomes more imminent. May we live out our lives as people who are looking forward to our Master's return. May we daily be doing the work of Christ so at His return, He finds us ready and can say to us, ***"Well done, good and faithful servant."***

Advent and Christmas are wonderful seasons. I pray that as we journey through each season, that the Lord will draw you and your family ever closer to Him. I pray you will feel His presence, know His love, walk in His peace, abide in His joy, and live out His goodness.

Wishing you and yours a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Love in Christ,

Pastor Dave

A CHRIST-CENTERED  
**CHRISTMAS!** 

## Church Council Minutes

Trinity Lutheran Church Council met Monday November 20, 2023

**Present:** Pastor Dave, Jim Holter, Mike Gilbertz, Donna Boysen, Tom Boltjes, Carey Hoffman, Shirley Johnson, Alisha Nachtigal and Ryan Lantz.

**Absent:** Tony Schrank, Jan DuFrain and Kyle Meyerink.

The meeting was called to order by President Jim Holter and Pastor Dave led with a devotion and prayer.

**Secretary's Report:**

The secretary's report was reviewed, Ryan made a motion to approve, Mike seconded it, the motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:**

The council reviewed the treasurer's report. Donna made a motion to approve, Tom seconded it, the motion carried.

**Trustee's Report:**

Ryan spoke with Jeff Marten and he will not be able to paint the fireside and council rooms. Ryan will now reach out to Amanda Groon to see if she would be interested. It was also reported that a water heater in the kitchen needed to be replaced.

**Deacon's Report:**

Visits are being done and bulletins are being sent out.

**Pastor's Report:**

We reviewed Pastor Dave's report. There was a motion from Ryan to give the pledged money from the October mission offerings to the Go Fund me account to purchase firewood and supplies for the Nenookaasi Healing camp in Minneapolis. Tom seconded the motion, the motion carried. There was also discussion on the community alpha event. Shirley made a motion to use some of the Qualm memorial money towards this event, Carey seconded it, the motion carried.

**Old Business:**

No old business to report.

**New Business**

Discussion was held on moving the bank account at BMO to First Fidelity Bank. Jim Holter, Alisha Nachtigal and Wendy Wollman would be the signers on the account. Donna made a motion to move the account, Tom seconded it, the motion carried.

Ryan made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Carey seconded it.

We closed with the Lord's prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carey Hoffman



## From the WOW Co-Presidents

*Pearl Feiok & Dee Rasmussen*

### Will Praise Your Name

Day after day after day,

You have been faithful to me.

Day after day after day, I have known Your grace.

Day after day, week after week, year after year,  
I will declare Your glory, I will declare Your  
greatness, I will praise Your name.

Day after day after day, You are my Savior, my  
Friend, Day after day after day, I am not alone,  
Day after day, week after week, year after year,  
You will be right beside me.

You will be here to guide me.

I will praise Your name.

Yes, I will praise Your name. Day after day.

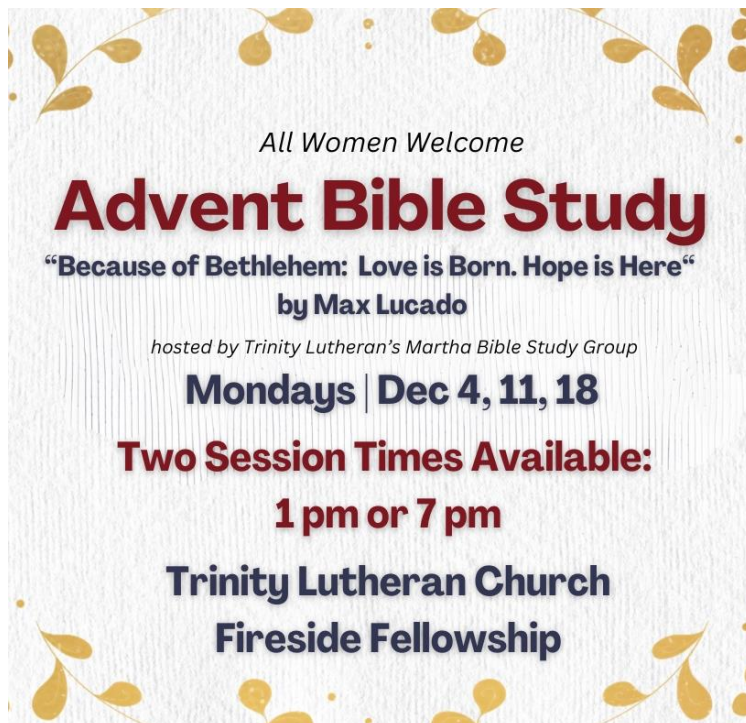
This song has blessed my heart for many years,  
today I pray the words have blessed you as well.

Go with God, this day, and know He is strong for  
you and loves you!

*By Patricia Esquibel Homes*

## WOW Treasurer's Report

Balance on Hand November 1, 2023	\$ 4236.52
INCOME:	
Dividend	\$ 0.32
Maylou Stanforth funeral	\$ 200.00
Balance on Hand November 30, 2023	\$ 4436.84



*All Women Welcome*

## Advent Bible Study

**“Because of Bethlehem: Love is Born. Hope is Here”**  
by Max Lucado

*hosted by Trinity Lutheran's Martha Bible Study Group*

**Mondays | Dec 4, 11, 18**

**Two Session Times Available:**  
**1 pm or 7 pm**

**Trinity Lutheran Church**  
**Fireside Fellowship**

## WOW December Mission Project

### Backpack Project for Helping Hands Food Pantry:

The food pantry committee is trying to fill backpacks of groceries to send home with students. Some of these items would include non-perishable foods such as soup, crackers, canned chicken and tuna, Tuna Helper, Hamburger Helper, breakfast bars, pudding 4-packs, cereal, macaroni and cheese, spaghetti, veggies, or any items that children would like. A tote will be in the fellowship hall so let's fill it up several times.

## Bible Study Groups

### Priscilla Bible Study Group:

meets Thursday, December 21 at 9:00 AM  
Studying Lesson 11 & 11  
Lesson Leader: Deb VanDerWerff  
Hostess: Joyce VanderHam

### Hannah Bible Study Group:

meets Thursday, December 21 at 11 AM  
at 44 Pizza Plus small meeting room  
Studying Lesson 11 & 12  
Lesson Leader: Karen Dimick

Dec	Greeters	Ushers	Communion Servers	Cookie/Coffee Servers
3	Jeff & Rhonda Engebretson	Kevin Nelson & Chris Nelson	Jim Holter, Donna Boysen, Ryan Lantz	Casey Holter, Kathy Holter, Tana Huizenga
10	Frank & Marsha Cutler	Kevin Nelson & Chris Nelson	No Communion	Darla Johnson, Katie Johnson, Melissa Johnson
17	Doug & Lori Chambers	Jay VanDerWerff & David Kott	No Communion	Cookies provided by Sunday School families
24	Dave & Joyce Carter	Jay VanDerWerff & David Kott	Jim Holter, Donna Boysen, Ryan Lantz	No Cookies
31	Terry & Donna Boysen	Tom Boltjes & Ryan Lantz	No Communion	No Cookies

## This Month's Birthdays

*\*Please remember these special 80+ Birthdays with a prayer, card or phone call*

12/2	Peggy Martin	12/14	Chandler Standy	12/22	Sarah Timmerman	12/27	Allie Huizenga
12/6	Casey Hegge	12/14	Brenna DuFrain	12/23	Nicki Nelson	12/29	Blakely Johnson
12/6	Jackie Olsen	12/15	Rhonda Engebretson	12/23	Mary Ringling	12/29	Jim Holter
12/11	Pam Olson	12/16	Steve Spawn	12/23	Allyson Holter	12/29	Kevin Nelson
12/11	Addison Gilbertz	12/19	Tom Boltjes	12/25	LeRoy Severson	12/29	Chase Lantz
12/11	Joyce Vanderham	12/20	Olivia Carda	12/25	Macie Hoffman	12/30	Vera Osness*
12/14	Logan Johnson	12/22	Karen DeGroot				

## The Angel Tree is Up!

*Thank you for helping give joy to a prisoner's kid this Christmas. It starts with a GIFT and leads to lives transformed through JESUS CHRIST. Please choose a "ANGEL" on the tree and mark down on sheets which one you chose. The recommendation is that the gifts be around \$25.*

Return wrapped presents to the library by **Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>** so we can get them mailed to the children by Christmas. Try to put presents in **smallest box possible** to cut down on postage.

## December Mission Fund Offering

If you would like to donate towards the cost of postage to send the Angel Tree presents, **the December mission fund offering will be designated towards this project.** It will be taken on Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> or give to one of the Angel Tree Committee members: Wendy Wollman, Marla Tegethoff or Connie Kirsch



## Please Note: new time for Advent Worship Services at Senior Facilities

Please join us once again for Advent Worship services at our senior facilities on Mondays in December at 2:15 PM. We've moved the start time ahead by fifteen minutes to enable ladies attending the 1:00 PM Advent Study to be able to attend. Each service will begin with a prayer, the singing of several Christmas carols, followed by the reading of three scriptures, a ten-minute (or less) message, and Holy Communion. Following each service, we will fellowship with residents over coffee and cookies. (If you love to bake, maybe that's one way you can bless some of our shut-ins this Advent season.) Please see the worship schedule below for times and locations

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Time:</b>	<b>Location:</b>
December 4th	2:15 PM	Twilight Vista Assisted Living, 211 Iowa St., Platte
December 11th	2:15 PM	Avera Care Center, 601 E. 7th Street, Platte
December 18th	2:00:15M	Twilight Vista Assisted Living, 211 Iowa St., Platte



**Trinity Lutheran's**  
**Sunday School Christmas program**  
**Sunday, December 17 during worship**

Sunday School classes will be practicing  
 Sundays, December 3 & 10 from 10:45-11:45 AM

We will have our regular fellowship time following the program this year  
 and each Sunday School family is asked to bring one dozen goodies to share.  
 Please bring to the church by 9 AM on Sunday, December 17.

## New Member's Class: December 17<sup>th</sup> @ 10:45 AM

If you are interested in becoming a new member here at Trinity or would simply like more information regarding our beliefs, values, and methods, please join us Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:45 AM. Depending on the number of people interested, we will either meet in Pastor Dave's office or the Fireside Room. There will be a light lunch served with the meeting, so please inform us how many will be attending by emailing Pastor Dave at [tlcpastor57369@gmail.com](mailto:tlcpastor57369@gmail.com). The meeting should take about 1 to 1-1/2 hours. Attending the meeting does not obligate you to join.

## Parsonage Open House Slated for December 17

Pastor Dave and Peggy invite you to stop by the parsonage on **Sunday, December 17th**, for a **Christmas Open House**. Join us between the hours of 1:00 and 5:00 PM to check out some of our Christmas traditions and to sample some of our holiday goodies. We had a great time at last year's Open House and hope to do the same this year. We hope to see you there!

Dear Friends in Christ,

In this season of joy, we pray each of you would know the joy that Jesus came to make complete. In this season of peace, we pray each of you would know the peace that surpasses all understanding. And in this season of love, we pray each of you would know how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ. May you get lost in that love!

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year,

Love in Christ,  
Pastor Dave & Peggy



## Christmas Worship Services

**Dec 24** 9:30 AM Christmas Eve Worship with Communion  
*"The Birth of Jesus"*  
3:00 AM Christmas Eve Worship with Communion  
*"Making the Most of Christmas"*

**25** 9:30 AM Christmas Worship  
*"The Ongoing Gift of Christmas"*



“SOMETHING MORE IN ‘24”

*Bible Study*

**THE GOSPEL OF JOHN**

MONDAY | JANUARY 8  
1:00-2:15 PM  
FIRESIDE FELLOWSHIP

## “Something More in ‘24” Bible Study

**Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup>**, we will begin a Bible Study on the book of John. We will meet from 1:00 to 2:15 PM on Mondays in the Fireside Room. Following an opening prayer, we will start each session by watching one chapter of the book of John on the Visual Bible. Every word spoken on this video is directly from the Bible. There is something powerful about hearing God’s Word and seeing it walked out on the television screen before us. After watching the video, we will read through the chapter and discuss it verse by verse.

There is no need to sign up. Just show up with your Bible. You may find it valuable to bring a pen and a highlighter so you can mark significant passages and make notes directly in your Bible. If you like to make more detailed notes, you may want to bring a notebook, but only your Bible is required.

We recognize there will be days you can’t attend. That’s OK, since each week we will only cover one chapter. You can stay on track simply by reading the chapter you missed before attending the next session. Hope to see you there in January.

## Winter Gear Needed

Missions in Sioux Falls are in need **men’s gloves, socks and stocking hats** for this winter. Also looking for donations of Bibles, devotionals, and Bible Study books for adults, teenagers and children. These items can be placed in the tote in the narthex.

\*We are still collecting other donations but please just seasonal items as they don’t have room to store lots of items. Please bring items to Shirley Johnson’s or Gloria Kok’s garage but call first. session. Hope to see you there in January.

## Prayer: How a Church Becomes Filled to Overflowing with the Holy Spirit

*I am running this article again hoping to generate more interest.*

*I need at least 6 participants per class to make this work.*

*Deadline for sign-up is December 10<sup>th</sup>.*

Jonathon Graf, the founder of *Pray!* magazine, wrote the paragraphs that follow in italics: *How does a church become filled to overflowing with the Holy Spirit of God? There is only one way: through prayer. The Spirit's working doesn't come through gaining Bible knowledge, though that's important. It doesn't come through learning about leadership, though that's important. The Spirit's work doesn't come through dynamic small groups or the latest church growth ideas, though they are important, too. The transforming, life-giving work of the Holy Spirit only comes through powerful prayer. It comes through becoming a prayer-saturated church. How do I know this?*

*Luke 11:5-13 is an interesting passage on prayer. Usually, this passage brings sermons on persevering in prayer. But there is a hidden little message in its powerful thoughts. At the end, Jesus says, "How much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" The passage wasn't about the Holy Spirit; it was about asking for what we need—ask and keep on asking, seek and keep on seeking, knock and keep on knocking. And what do we get as we pray more and more? Luke says we get the Holy Spirit! We get the river of God that flows in and through us.*

More than anything, I want our church to be overflowing with the Holy Spirit of God and growing in our ability to pray. Toward that end, I am inviting you to participate in a class based on a study of *The Prayer Saturated Church* by Cheryl Sacks. I'll be holding classes on Tuesdays, with a morning class offered from 10:00 to 11:00 AM, and an evening class offered from 5:45 to 6:45 PM. The odd evening time is to allow people to take the class and still be able to attend home basketball games.

Please don't exclude yourself from participating in this class. Please don't demean your own ability to pray. Please don't listen to the devil, who will do everything in his power to keep you from being a part of this class. Please *do listen* to the Holy Spirit. Please *do believe* God wants *you* to be growing in your understanding of prayer and your ability to pray. Please *do imagine* what God might be able to do at Trinity if we were to become a prayer saturated church.

There *will be* homework for this class. I will expect everyone to read one chapter of the book per week. There is no written homework, though you might want to jot down ideas the Lords gave you as you read. You may also want to highlight and bookmark sections of the book you found particularly enlightening.

**This class does require you to sign up, as I need to know how many books to order.** Please sign up on the bulletin board just outside the Fellowship Hall. Please indicate what class time you prefer and let's grow together in our understanding of prayer and our ability to pray. I am praying for two decent-sized classes, and I am praying you will be a part of one of them.

Love in Christ,

Pastor Dave



**"The Prayer Saturated Church" Class**

**Tuesdays**  
**beginning Jan 9**  
10-11 am or 5:45-6:45 pm  
*Please sign up on bulletin board*



### Community Alpha

We are working together with Calvary Baptist Church and New Hope Christian Camp to establish a Community Alpha in our area. We believe by working together on this project that we can greatly increase the number of people who will be able to attend Alpha. Though it is only an eleven-week course, Alpha has an outstanding track record for leading unchurched people to Christ and greatly increasing the faith of those who are church.

Calvary will provide childcare for potty-trained three-year olds up to fourth graders. They will furnish a kid-friendly meal each week and provide some sort of activities that will help these kids grow in their knowledge and love of Jesus. We hope that providing free childcare will attract young couples, who otherwise wouldn't be able to attend.

New Hope will allow us to use their facilities free of charge and will help us in developing promotional materials. They will also provide a means of easy online registration. We are hopeful that using a neutral site will help us to attract some people who might be unwilling to attend Alpha at a church.

Trinity's role is to provide the meals for the adults throughout the course, and to provide the leaders and helpers necessary to facilitate the various groups. We would also provide the study guides and host and helper notes needed to run the class.

#### Here are ways you can be involved in Community Alpha:

- Sign up to attend the Community Alpha Course.
- Invite a friend or family member to attend the Community Alpha Course. Think especially of those you know who aren't walking with the Lord. (Their likelihood of saying, "Yes," increases if they find out you are taking part.)
- Serve as a leader or helper for the Community Alpha Course. (If you are willing, the training you receive will equip you to do your job well.)
- Help provide meals for the adult participants. (The key here is to get a few volunteers to work together to prepare and serve the food for one or more classes. Many hands make light work.)
- If you've taken Alpha before, give a testimony at our church or another church informing people of what Alpha meant to you. People are more willing to attend when they hear of the fun others had in their Alpha experience and the impact it had on their lives.
- Pray for Community Alpha and all those involved, including Pastor Dave Anderson from Calvary, Winston LaJesse, the director of New Hope Christian Camp, and me, as we plan and run the course.

Don't hesitate to contact Pastor Dave if you have a question or would like to sign up in some way. His phone number is 605-680-9958. The proposed schedule for Community Alpha is on page 10.

Proposed Alpha Course Schedule Winter/Spring 2024

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Time:</u>	<u>Topic:</u>	<u>Location:</u>
Sunday, Jan. 21st	6:30 PM	“Is There More to Life than This?” <b>Alpha Sneak Peek</b>	New Hope Christian Camp
Sunday, Feb. 4 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 PM	“Who is Jesus?”	New Hope Christian Camp
<b>Sunday, Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> Night Off for Super Bowl</b>			
Sunday, Feb. 18 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 PM	“Why Did Jesus Die?”	New Hope Christian Camp
Sunday, Feb. 25 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 PM	“How Can I Have Faith?”	New Hope Christian Camp
Sunday, Mar. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	6:30 PM	“Why and How Do I Pray?”	New Hope Christian Camp
Sun., Mar. 17 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 PM	“Why and How Should I Read the Bible?”	New Hope Christian Camp
Sun., Mar. 31 <sup>st</sup>	6:30 PM	“How Does God Guide Us?”	New Hope Christian Camp

**Alpha Weekend Away:**

Saturday, April 6 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 AM-6:00 PM		New Hope Christian Camp
Sunday, April 7 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 AM- Noon		New Hope Christian Camp
Sunday, April 14 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 PM	“How Can I Resist Evil?”	New Hope Christian Camp
Sunday, April 21 <sup>st</sup>	6:30 PM	“Why & How Should I Tell Others?”	New Hope Christian Camp
Sunday, April 28 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 PM	“Does God Still Heal Today?”	New Hope Christian Camp
Sunday, May 5 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 PM	“What About the Church?”	New Hope Christian Camp

Evening Schedule

<u>Time:</u>	<u>Activity:</u>	<u>Location:</u>
6:00-6:30 PM	Alpha Leaders' & Helpers' Prayer & Pre-class Meeting	New Hope Christian Camp
6:30-7:30 PM	Meal	New Hope Christian Camp
7:00-7:10 PM	Announcements/Joke/Set-up for video	New Hope Christian Camp
7:10-7:40 PM	Watch Video	New Hope Christian Camp
7:40-8:30 PM	Small Group Time/Video Discussion, etc.	New Hope Christian Camp