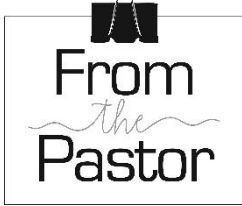


## NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2023

**Being Made New in the New Year**

***And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new."***

*Revelation 21:5a*

The words Jesus spoke in Revelation 21:5a pertain to the new heaven and the new earth He will create when He returns to bring His Father's Kingdom to fulfillment. The stain and brokenness of sin will be wiped away and creation will be returned to the glory it knew before the fall of man.

That is the context of that scripture reading, and yet, I believe Jesus is making that statement day in and day out, declaring He is daily making all things new for those who love and follow Him. He wants us to know He has a good plan for every one of our days. Toward that end, I want to give you two scriptures to lead and guide you through this new year.

***Lamentations 3:22-23: The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.*** Every morning, as you get out of bed, let the truth of this scripture passage wash over you. Wake up remembering God's love is steadfast, which means it is faithful, constant, ongoing, and unfailing. As the scripture says, God's love never ceases. He loves us with a constancy and consistency that fills our hearts with peace and assurance.

God's mercies never come to an end. His compassions never fail us. He is always ready to give us what we need, whether it's forgiveness, encouragement, comfort, wisdom, or discernment. His mercies are new every morning, which means to me, God has something new and unique for us in each new day. He doesn't want us living in the blessings of yesterday or yesteryear. Each day, He wants us to lay hold of the

unique blessings He has for us in that day. When we live in the moment with God, we will be more aware of His love, His peace, His joy, His presence, and His faithfulness. Remember God always keeps His promises, so we can utterly rely on what His Word tells us.

***Ephesians 4:22-24: You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.***

This is another passage that lends itself well to early morning examination. As you take off your pajamas, imagine you are taking off your old self, removing all the guilt, temptations, shame, regrets, and disappointments of your sinful nature. If you take a shower before putting on your clothes, let the water washing over you remind you of the waters of baptism and how our sinful nature was crucified with Christ in baptism. Then, as you put on your fresh, clean clothes, imagine you are putting on the garments of righteousness given to us by Jesus. Though we ourselves are imperfect sinners, Christ has given us the perfection of His righteousness. When our Father in heaven looks at us, He sees us through the lens of His Son, the stain of our sins has been washed away and we are in right standing with God.

I'm convinced if we keep these two scriptures in the forefront of our thinking, 2023 will be the best new year we've ever experienced.

Praying your 2023 is truly blessed!

Love, *Pastor Dave*

## Church Council Minutes

Trinity Lutheran Church Council met Monday, December 19, 2022.

Present: Kyle Meyerink, Shirley Johnson, Mike Konechne. Tonya Standy, Ryan Lantz, Jim Holter, Tom Boltjes and Randy Tegethoff.

Absent: Pastor Dave Martin, Jeff Engebretson, Liz Spawn and Jan DuFrain

The meeting was called to order by President Kyle Meyerink and he led with prayer.

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

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

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The treasurer's report was reviewed, Tom made a motion to approve, Randy seconded it and the motion carried.

### **TRUSTEE'S REPORT**

There is a slight sewer smell – sounds like this is always an issue, especially if it gets cold.

### **DEACON'S REPORT**

Visits are being done and bulletins are being sent out.

### **PASTOR'S REPORT**

We reviewed Pastor Dave's report.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

We reviewed a quote for the sound system from CommTech, Kyle will try to get someone for at the next meeting to go over this. We will also be keeping the organ because we are still using it.

Sounds like the nominating committee has candidates for most positions except vice president.

We reviewed and made some changes to the proposed budget for 2023, Tonya made a motion to approve, Ryan seconded it, the motion carried.

We discussed extending the worship area of the altar, Jim said Aaron Reiser is cutting all the boards he needs and Mike thought he had some carpet to cover this.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Pastor would like to attend the LCMC Convention along with someone else from the congregation.

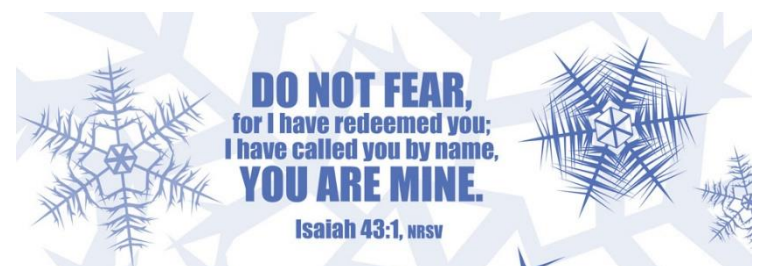
We talked about a possible mission trip to Mazahua Mission the summer of 2023. They will contact Dan Daum about details.

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

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Tonya Standy



## From the WOW Co-Presidents

*Pearl Feiok & Dee Rasmussen*

### Happy New Year 2023,

We will be getting the booklets/study guide out to you as soon as we can due to storm/sickness things are taking longer. We will be studying Exodus, chapters 1 -15. If it is decided there is another study that follows that finishes Exodus next year. There is a study guide for each circle to pass on to the next lesson leader. Here is an introduction to our lessons:

The Exodus narrative is a continuation of the story begun in Genesis. Genesis tells about God's work to make a new nation through which he will bless all peoples (Gen 12 : 1-3) Exodus continues that story by showing how God proceeds to work out his plan, over many long years to make that nation into his chosen people, from whom the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ, would come (Matt. 1).

Part one of this study focuses on the first 15 chapters of Exodus, which make up one of the most memorable stories in the Bible. These chapters reveal the character of God and many of his attributes. They celebrate God as the deliverer of his people. The remaining chapters of Exodus (featured in Part 2 of this study) then describe how God makes his people into a nation unlike any other\_\_\_ not for the purpose of being different, but ultimately to show God's love to the world.

Taken as a whole, the narrative of Exodus mirrors the redemptive plan of God for his children, even today. It gives us a fascinating glimpse of God's purpose throughout history \_\_ to provide a divine mediator, Jesus Christ, who frees people from slavery to sin and leads them into full life with God forever (John 8:34-36, 10:10).

We hope that you all enjoy studying Exodus starting the New Year.

## WOW Treasurer’s Report

<b>Balance on Hand 11/23/2022</b>	<b>\$ 6131.42</b>
Soup supper donations	\$ 100.00
Circle Offerings	\$ 65.00
<b>Expenses:</b>	
Circle Books	\$ -331.32
Fleece & Quilt Backing	\$ -307.65
Benevolences (\$500 each)	\$ -4000.00
Feeding South Dakota	
Platte Food Pantry	
Steve Walters	
Tom & Mary Espland	
Victor & Lori Selemani	
New Hope	
Platte Youth Group	
Entrust (Jim & Lynn Blasé)	
The Platte Enterprise – soup supper ad	\$ -165.00
<b>Balance on Hand 12/26/2022</b>	<b>\$ 1492.45</b>



### Bible Study Groups

**WOW January – February Mission Project:**  
Laundry products for Helping Hands Food Pantry

**Martha Bible Study Group**  
meets Thursday, January 19 at 7 pm  
Lesson 4 “God is With You in the Dark”

**Priscilla Bible Study Group:**  
meets Thursday, January 17 at 9:00 AM  
Studying Lessons 1 in new book  
Lesson Leader: Shirley Johnson  
Hostess: Paula Nelson

**Hannah Bible Study Group:**  
meets Thursday, January 17 at 1:30 PM  
Studying Lessons 1 in new book  
Lesson Leader: Karen Dimick  
Hostess: Caroline Butler

## TASTY CREATIONS

Make this yummy treat to remember what happened on each day of Creation.

### What you need:

- 6 large pretzel rods
- Candy melts (white, chocolate and blue)
- Green sprinkles
- White or star-shaped sprinkles
- Fish crackers
- Animal crackers
- Adult help



### What you do:

1. With help, melt the three colors of candy melts in separate dishes. Microwave for 30 seconds at a time, stirring until soft.
2. Decorate one pretzel for each day of Creation:
  - Dip half in white and half in chocolate to show light and darkness.
  - Dip half in white and half in blue to show separation of the atmosphere.
  - Dip half in chocolate, add green sprinkles and dip half in blue to show land, plants and water.
  - Dip in chocolate and add white or star sprinkles to show the stars.
  - Dip in blue and add fish crackers to show sea life.
  - Dip in chocolate and add animal crackers to show land animals.
3. Share the Creation story – and the snack – with a friend!

# MISSION Update

Trinity Lutheran's mission fund has designated funds to Melanie Lubinus' missionary team to help Venezuelan refugees in Costa Rica. Here's the latest update:

***Thank you for supporting Venezuelan refugees in Costa Rica financially and in prayer!*** For several months, thousands of Venezuelans have entered Costa Rica as they seek asylum. They are staying on the streets in tents and shelters until they are able to move onto the next part of their journey. Thanks to your generosity, we have been able to bless them with prepared meals, provisions, hygiene products, water bottles, jackets, socks, clothing and more. - Melanie Lubinus ([mjlubinus@hotmail.com](mailto:mjlubinus@hotmail.com))

Here is a report of what we were able to do with your generous donation:

- 20 jackets (kids, adults)
- 2 cases of water
- 7 lunches
- 4 packs of socks
- 4 bags of ready-to-eat food and essential items (4 families)
- 4 cases of peanuts
- 2 changes of clothes for 10 people
- Individually living expenses 2 weeks while waiting for work
- 4 nights of accommodations
- 2 bus tickets to Panama (as they return to Venezuela)
- Wages for 2 for cooking and delivering meals to other refugees (1 day)

No Sunday School on January 1 – Christmas Break

No Sunday School on January 29 – Annual Meeting



## This Month's Birthdays

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

1/2	Caitlin DeGroot	1/4	Natalie Severson	1/15	Bonnie Ringling	1/23	Emersyn Hermanek
1/2	Isabelle Suits	1/5	Lori Chambers	1/16	Morris Johnson*	1/24	Scott Dingus
1/2	Ridley Nelson	1/5	Maggie Huizenga	1/16	Randy Tegethoff	1/25	Cash Lantz
1/3	Logan DeVries	1/6	Brooks Timmerman	1/19	Sophia Nelson	1/25	Kip Nelson
1/3	Greysen Wollman	1/10	Spencer DeHaan	1/20	Adele Holter*	1/26	Laila Wollman
1/3	Jeanne Kott	1/10	Stacy Severson	1/21	Diane Gilbertz	1/29	Louie Johnson
1/4	Baleigh Nachtigal	1/13	Ruth Gruenig*	1/21	Tessa VandenHoek	1/31	Nick Holter
1/4	Avery DeVries	1/14	Alisha Nachtigal	1/22	Camden DuFrain	1/31	Isabel Meyerink
1/4	Collin Engebretson						

## Communion

### January 1 & 15

Shirley Johnson  
Jan DuFrain  
Kyle Meyerink

## Ushers

1—Andrew Nachtigal & Brad DeVries  
8—Andrew Nachtigal & Brad DeVries  
15—Chad Johnson & Jason Huizenga  
22—Chad Johnson & Jason Huizenga  
29—Jeff Olsen & Kyle Meyerink

## Coffee & Cookies Servers

1—No Cookies (New Year's Day)  
8—Bev Antonsen, Cheri Antonsen, Casey Bailey  
15—Vickie Boltjes, Donna Boysen, Caroline Butler  
22—Joyce Carter, Lori Chambers, Marsha Cutler  
29—No Cookies (Annual Meeting/Potluck)

## High School Sunday School begins Alpha Course

The High School Sunday School will be starting the **Alpha Youth series on Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>**. Students, please plan to attend and engage in conversations about your faith, life and purpose. Parents, please encourage your students to attend our congregations' Sunday School program. This is a unique program that will empower our youth's faith walk.

## Preparing Our Loved Ones for the Day God Calls Us Home

As your pastor my greatest desire is that each of you would know Jesus as your Lord and Savior, that you would walk daily in His love, be constantly aware of His close-abiding presence, and have absolute confidence in the salvation He has won for you. In addition, I want your family to be well prepared for the day God calls you home. Toward that end, I will be offering a class called "Legacy of Love" on Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:30 AM that will aid you in the preparation process. The class will consist of two sessions.

In the first session, we will talk about practical steps we need to take to make our death as easy as possible on our loved ones. Things discussed in this session will include:

- The importance of having a last will and testament prepared and filed where our loved ones can find it.
- Having a durable power of attorney.
- Having our desires for medical intervention clearly spelled out.
- And a host of other information your loved ones will need to easily deal with your end-of-life matters.

The second session will deal with planning your Celebration of Life Service so it tells the world what you believed, what songs and scripture you loved, and gives a personal testimony of your faith so your loved ones can be encouraged and uplifted at your service, but also well beyond. There will be helpful handouts at both sessions that will make your preparation much easier. I will gladly do the class if I know I have at least five people who will attend. Please contact me at 605-680-9958 or email me at [tlcpastor57369@gmail.com](mailto:tlcpastor57369@gmail.com) to let me know you are interested.

Love & God bless, Pastor Dave

# ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL Meeting

**Sunday, January 29  
at 10:30 AM**

We will be having a potluck following our annual meeting.  
No Sunday School on Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup> due to annual meeting.

*\*Please bring your report that was mailed to you along to the meeting\**

*Please have reports emailed to the office [tlcplattsd@gmail.com](mailto:tlcplattsd@gmail.com) by **Monday, January 9**. Thank you!*

## Invitation to Alpha at Trinity

On Sunday, January 22nd at 6:30 PM, we will launch our winter Alpha course at Trinity. The evening will begin in the Fellowship Hall with a delicious homecooked meal, followed by a 30-minute video in the Fireside Room, then, close with a small group discussion of the video material in breakout rooms. The small group experience is a key component of the course and members will be permanently assigned to their small group. The closeness that results from spending eleven weeks with the same group of people is just one of the many benefits of taking this course. The Alpha course is a non-threatening, casual investigation of the Christian faith designed to lead course members into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. The videos answer frequently asked questions about Christianity in such an understandable way that many non-believers come to faith through the course and many longtime Christians grow significantly in their faith. A highlight of the course is the Alpha Retreat Weekend, in which members learn about the Holy Spirit and can receive prayer to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Our winter Retreat Weekend will be held March 11-12 at New Hope Christian Camp, Platte. Alpha is open to the entire community. We invite you to invite a friend or family member to attend with you. If you are interested in signing up, or would simply like more information, contact Pastor Dave at 605-680-9958 or email at [tlcpastor57369@gmail.com](mailto:tlcpastor57369@gmail.com)



Peggy and I want to thank our Trinity family for the many ways you brightened our Christmas season. First, we want to thank everyone who attended our Christmas Open House. There's something special that happens when company comes over to a pastor's house. Suddenly, the pastor and his wife seem a little less alien and a little more like everyone else. We had fun showing people around the parsonage, letting everyone see the personal touches we've added and letting them see some of our Christmas decorating traditions. We hope you realized it really does feel like home to us. We also enjoyed sharing conversations and laughter over Christmas goodies, coffee, and cider. We hope we'll have even more visitors next year.

Thanks, as well, for the beautiful cards of encouragement, delicious baked goods and snacks, gift certificates, Chamber Dollars, beef bucks, delicious farm-raised beef and pork, and good old-fashioned cash! You blessed us greatly and let us know in no uncertain terms that we are loved and appreciated. We hope you know how much we love and appreciate each one of you and how happy we are to be here. We're looking forward to a Spirit-filled 2023 and can't wait to see what God has in store for us.

In Christ's outrageous love, Pastor Dave & Peggy