

PLATTE, SD

# Trinity Lutheran Church

# NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2024

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## *You Either Are or You Aren't*

I was looking through some old papers the other day, when I ran across a quote from a former pastor of mine. He was fond of saying, "Being a Christian, is like being pregnant—you either are or you aren't." Then he would talk about the multitudes of women around the globe who had a baby growing within them and were at that moment completely unaware of the fact. As the baby grows within them, they become increasingly aware of their pregnancy, but at the very beginning, they are clueless.

There is only one way to get pregnant, and we all know the formula. A sperm must fertilize an egg, and then conception begins. That's the only way to do it. Gathering with a bunch of pregnant women regularly won't get the job done, though it may greatly encourage a woman to begin the process.

So it is, with Christians. There is only one way to become one, and that is by inviting Jesus Christ to be Lord of your life. It doesn't magically happen just because you gather regularly with people who are Christians. Though that can go a long way toward leading a person to the Lord, becoming a Christian only happens when the person asks Christ to be his or her Lord & Savior.

I know from personal experience exactly what my former pastor was saying. He was encouraging everyone who was still trying to meet Jesus by osmosis, to come to their senses and finally invite Him into their lives as their Lord and Savior.

The moment I invited Christ into my life everything changed! I knew with certainty that Father, Son, and Holy Spirit were exactly who the Bible said they were. I knew with certainty that the Bible was the inerrant

Word of God. I knew I was forgiven, saved, and loved beyond my wildest imagination. I knew I was a beloved child of God with an inheritance that cannot be taken from me. I knew I was filled with the Holy Spirit, and as such, was empowered to live in the fruit of the Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit. I knew I had a calling in life and that my life was now full of meaning and purpose.

Growth in the Holy Spirit is like the baby growing within a mother's womb. The more the baby grows, the more aware the mother becomes of the treasure she is carrying. Likewise, the more a Christian grows in the Holy Spirit, the more aware he or she becomes of the glorious treasure they have in Christ and through Christ.

So, ask yourself, "Am I really a Christian, or am I simply going through the motions?" You should know immediately. Truly walking with Christ is life-changing and life-giving. Going through the motions is dead and sucks the life out of going to church.

The very good news is that it is easy to make your faith alive. It comes simply by doing what John tells us in **John 1:11-13: He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.**

Praying that you know with certainty you are a Christian,

Love, Pastor Dave

## Church Council Minutes

Trinity Lutheran Church Council met Monday, September 16, 2024

**Present:** Donna Boysen, Alisha Nachtigal, Jan DuFrain, Jim Holter, Mike Gilbertz, Scott VandenBerge and Scott Dingus.

**Absent:** Jason Huizenga, Tony Schrank, Carey Hoffman, Pastor Dave Martin and Tom Boltjes.

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Gilbertz.

### **Secretary's Report:**

The secretary's report was reviewed, Scott V made a motion to approve, Jan seconded it, the motion carried.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

The treasurer's report was reviewed, Jim made a motion to approve, Scott D seconded it, the motion carried. Scott V made a motion to make the Building Fund an interest bearing account at First Fidelity bank, Donna seconded it, the motion carried.

### **Trustee's Report:**

They are waiting on Reiser's to replace the ceiling tiles in Fellowship Hall that were damaged from the recent wind.

They haven't heard anymore on the roof situation with Summit. It is still between the insurance companies.

All 3 changing tables are installed and ready to use.

### **Deacon's Report:**

Visits are being done and bulletins are being sent out.

### **Pastor's Report:**

We reviewed Pastor Dave's report.

### **Old Business:**

There was no old business.

### **New Business:**

Scott V made a motion to accept the quote from Severson Heating & Air to replace the AC units and gas furnaces in the sanctuary, Scott D seconded it, the motion carried.

Alisha made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Jan seconded it, motion carried.

We closed with the Lord's prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Alisha Nachtigal

## From the WOW Co-Presidents

*Tricia Meyerink & Marla Tegethoff*

### Harvest Time

The Israelites were in a wilderness. Egypt was behind them, yet they could only imagine their future. In this time of transition, God told Moses that He would bring them into a land where they were to gather before Him three times a year. One of these times was the Feast of Harvest (or Tabernacles). As they sowed seeds, they were to gather together the firstfruits of their labors and bring them to God. If they had sown nothing, they would have reaped nothing. But, for all who had faithfully sown seeds, God *promised* that they would reap the *rewards of their faithfulness*.

This feast reminds us that our lives are *filled* with seeds. Seeds of love and kindness, finances and wealth, talents and resources. Sadly, some limit God’s blessing by not sowing from the resources He has given them. But those who are faithful can expect to receive a harvest.

During this harvest season, we are reminded that we cannot reap a harvest unless we sow seeds and water them. Then we must wait and be patient. There may be times when it seems that nothing is growing, that we might not reap a harvest. But, all the while, *God’s principles remain true*. He promises that, *IF* we are faithful, we *WILL* experience a harvest.

Have you been sowing seeds with your time, talent, and treasure? If you have been faithful, God will reward you, and you will receive a harvest for your faithfulness and obedience. Trust in Him today, and rejoice. It’s harvest time!

## WOW Mission Project

For October, the WOW groups will be helping make fleece blankets for Family Connections. Priscilla and Martha Bible Study Groups are asked to put together at least 10 Health Kits and Hannah Group is asked to donate Toilet Tissue - these two items will be going to Needy Nook in Marty, SD and Tanta's House.

## Treasurer’s Report

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Balance on hand Sept 1, 2024             | \$3530.45 |
| <b>INCOME</b>                            |           |
| Deposit: Arnie Larson funeral            | \$500.00  |
| Deposit: Hannah Bible Study \$58.00      | \$105.00  |
| Priscilla Bible Study \$47.00            |           |
| Dividend                                 | \$0.29    |
| <b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>                     |           |
| County Fair (Sunday School kickoff meal) | \$293.71  |
| Dutch Oven Bakery (SS Kickoff meal)      | \$60.64   |
| Balance on hand September 30, 2024       | \$3781.39 |

## Bible Study Groups

### Martha Bible Study Group

meets Monday, October 14 at 7:00 PM  
Session 8 - A Tale of Two Rooms

### Priscilla Bible Study Group:

meets Thursday, October 17 at 9:00 AM  
Studying Lesson 10  
Lesson Leader: Deb VanDerWerff  
Hostess: Dee Rasmussen

### Hannah Bible Study Group:

meets Thursday, October 17 at 1:30 PM  
Studying Lesson 10  
Lesson Leader: Peggy Martin  
Hostess: TBD



### Health Kits:

(10 or more from Priscilla & Martha groups)

- ✓ 1 Bath Towel (new or slightly used)
- ✓ 1 Washcloth
- ✓ 1 Bar New Soap (bath sized-wrapped)
- ✓ 1 Toothbrush (in wrapping)
- ✓ 1 Tube of Toothpaste (5-7 oz size)
- ✓ 1 Wide-tooth Comb
- ✓ 1 Metal nail clippers
- ✓ 1 small box of Band-aids
- ✓ 1 Shampoo & Conditioner

\*Wrap items in towel and tie with ribbon or yarn  
\*Kits will be donated to the “Needy Nook” in Marty, SD

| Oct | Greeters                    | Ushers                                | Communion Servers                            | Cookie/Coffee Servers                              |
|-----|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| 6   | Jeff & Dawn<br>Konstanz     | Randy Tegethoff<br>& Foster Tegethoff | Tony Schrank, Jason<br>Huizenga, Jan DuFrain | Connie Kirsch, Dawn<br>Konstanz, Jeanne Kott       |
| 13  | Mike & Estelle<br>Konechne  | LeRoy Severson<br>& Jeff Konstanz     | No Communion                                 | Traci Kott, Mary Beth Kuiper,<br>Gladys Kuipers    |
| 20  | Jeremiah & Tori<br>Konechne | LeRoy Severson<br>& Jeff Konstanz     | Tony Schrank, Jason<br>Huizenga, Jan DuFrain | Carla Lantz, Peggy Martin,<br>Erynn Meyerink       |
| 27  | Sunday School<br>Kids       | Sunday School Kids                    | No Communion                                 | Tricia Meyerink, Alisha<br>Nachtigal, Donna Nelson |

## This Month's Birthdays

|       |                  |       |                    |       |                  |
|-------|------------------|-------|--------------------|-------|------------------|
| 10/1  | Tana Huizenga    | 10/13 | Monte Wagner       | 10/26 | Averi Tegethoff  |
| 10/2  | Benton DuFrain   | 10/13 | Shawna Strand      | 10/27 | Deb VanDerWerff  |
| 10/2  | Traci Kott       | 10/14 | Brinslee Nelson    | 10/27 | Kathy Holter     |
| 10/4  | LaRae Severson   | 10/15 | Rick Johnson       | 10/27 | Bob Struck       |
| 10/5  | Sarah Hoffman    | 10/17 | Wallce Warejcka    | 10/27 | Kristi Wagner    |
| 10/5  | Adam Warejcka    | 10/20 | Laura Vanden Berge | 10/29 | Vickie Boltjes   |
| 10/6  | Jeff Engebretson | 10/22 | Taylor Schrank     | 10/30 | Jeff Olsen       |
| 10/8  | Katie Holter     | 10/25 | Joyce Carter       | 10/31 | Grayson Qualm    |
| 10/9  | Erynn Meyerink   | 10/25 | Oakley Kott        | 10/31 | Estelle Konechne |
| 10/11 | Joel Foxley      | 10/25 | Dani Meyerink      | 10/31 | Jaxen Wollman    |
| 10/11 | Lucas Suits      | 10/25 | Karis DuFrain      | 10/31 | Eldon Qualm      |
| 10/12 | Ramsey DeHaan    | 10/26 | Jennifer Severson  |       |                  |

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

## October Mission of the Month

Hurricane Helene left a path of devastation across the Southeast, from the coast of Florida to the mountains of North Carolina. Helene tore through western North Carolina, dumping extreme rainfall (up to 2 feet) and causing terrible flash flooding. Some parts of the area are in ruins.

**We have decided to designate the October mission fund offering to those affected by Hurricane Helene. This offering will be taken Sunday, October 13.** We will send the funds to Samaritan's Purse to be used where most needed. Checks can be written out to Trinity Lutheran Church; please note mission fund on check or envelope.

Samaritan's Purse U.S. Disaster Relief staff members are on the ground in five locations. They are partnering with local churches to field teams who are helping hurting homeowners in Jesus' Name. Volunteers are assisting to mud out homes, cut downed trees, tarp roofs, and remove debris to help families get through this historic crisis.

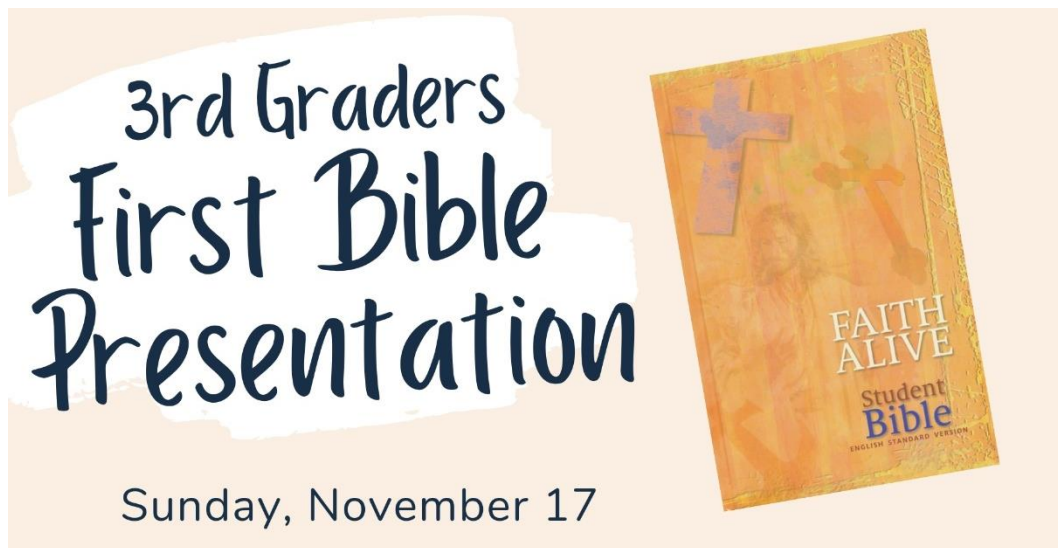
Please pray for all communities along the path of this massive storm as they recover. More than 140 storm-related deaths have been reported with many people still missing; please keep affected families in your prayers as well.

## October is Pastor Appreciation Month

October is Pastor Appreciation is a great opportunity to minister to those who minister to us. Please take a moment to let Pastor Dave and Peggy know how much we appreciate all their work at here at Trinity and the Platte area. A short note, gift, smile or a heartfelt “thank you” can be a great encouragement to thank them for their faithful service and devotion to God.

## First Bible Classes start for 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders

Bible Instruction for all third graders will begin Wednesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, and will meet weekly on Wednesdays through November 13<sup>th</sup>. Classes will be held in the North Overflow Room and will run from 3:45 to 5:00 PM. If possible, we would like to have a parent, grandparent, or other family member accompany each child to help them in our journey through God’s Word. A light snack will be served each session. Please let Pastor Dave know if your child has any dietary restrictions. Also, please confirm with the office that your child will be attending and who will accompany them. Bible presentations will be made Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup> during the worship service.



## Children’s Worship Sunday is October 27

**The next Children’s Worship Sunday is Sunday, October 27.** The Sunday School students will be participating in the worship service through ushering, the Children’s Sermon, reading Scripture, and special music.

**"NOISY OFFERING"...**The Sunday School kids will be taking their next “noisy offering” also on October 27. If any other parents, grandparents or congregation members have any loose change laying around and would like to contribute, please give it to a child to put in the bucket or feel free to put it in yourselves. Thanks so much for helping our youth understand the importance of giving back to the Lord for all we do receive. Board of Ed – Carla, Karis, Dan

[ENCOURAGE]  
ONE ANOTHER,  
AND ALL THE  
MORE AS YOU  
SEE THE DAY  
DRAWING NEAR.

HEBREWS 10:25, ESV



## More About Life Groups

**#1** As we prepare to launch Life Groups at Trinity, I invite you to be open-minded. I pray first, that you would not seek to load your Life Group with people you already know. It's fine to have one or two people you know well in your Life Group but be willing to be stretched a little and make room for some people you don't know. You might just make some great new friends in the process. Also, be open to a variety of ages in your group. We always benefit when multiple generations are involved.

**#2** Make sure you have at least ten people in your Life Group and no more than twelve. Why such restrictive numbers? We want at least ten people in each Life Group because there will invariably be times when one or more people are missing from your group due to illness, business, vacations, family matters, etc. If our group is smaller than ten, a couple of absences can greatly restrict discussion. If our group is larger than twelve, it becomes difficult for everyone to be able to share equally.

**#3** Consider grouping with your spouse. Why? Because your family benefits when both spouses are being fed spiritually. Usually, wives are more open to seeking spiritual growth than husbands are, so your invitation for your husband to group with you might just make the difference in his becoming involved in a Life Group. But sometimes it's the husband who convinces his wife to become involved, so couples talk to one another. This doesn't mean you can't have singles in your group. In fact, I encourage you to have a blend of couples and singles in your group.

**#4** Put in the time! Resolve to meet weekly for a minimum of one and a half hours to a maximum of two hours. No one will be able to attend every meeting, but if the group meets weekly, everyone should be able to make enough meetings to ensure everyone grows closer to the Lord and closer to one another. Less than an hour and a half is insufficient for what we are trying to accomplish, while exceeding two hours may cause some people to drop out.

**#5** Have a structure to your group. I recommend each Life Group have three components: fellowship, Bible study, and sharing and prayer. I've always found it advantageous to start with fellowship as this allows group members to get caught up on what their week has been like. The casual nature of the fellowship time also helps ease the problem of people arriving at different times. People can come at different times without feeling like they've missed out on something important. We would meet for two hours with 45 minutes devoted to fellowship, 45 minutes devoted to Bible study, and the last 30 minutes devoted to sharing and prayer. You can structure your group however you like, but I would suggest either beginning or ending with fellowship.

**#6** Within your fellowship time, figure out what you're going to do about food and drinks. They aren't required, but I've never met a group who didn't appreciate the chance to visit over some snacks. Talk it over with your group members and decide what your group will do regarding food and drink.

**#7** Have one or more people within your group who are willing to host the group at their home. It doesn't matter if one person always hosts, or the hosts vary weekly. What matters is that your group always meets in a home. Masks tend to fall off quickly when groups meet in the privacy of a home.

**#8** Have one person, who is willing to serve as the facilitator of the group, with at least one backup for those weeks the regular facilitator can't attend. The facilitator is not a teacher, simply someone who is leading the group through Bible study and the discussion questions surrounding it.

**#9** Be open to using the previous week's sermon as the core curriculum for the group. I believe you will find the previous week's scripture readings and the discussion questions quite engaging if you give it a chance.

**#10 Signing up.** We will post sign up sheets for every day and every night of the week. If you are willing to host and have a particular day or night that works best for you, grab that sheet, put the time that works for you, along with your address on that sheet, sign your name and any others, who've agreed to join you, and wait as God moves others to fill out Your Life Group.

I am praying for a great openness among our congregation to get these Life Groups up and running. Be blessed as you take on this adventure. **Love in Christ, Pastor Dave**