

PLATTE, SD

# Trinity Lutheran Church

# NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2024

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## *Preparing Our Hearts for Lent*

I think it's so appropriate this year that Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Lenten Season, falls on Valentine's Day, a day on which we focus on those we love. While it's important to let your spouse, your children and grandchildren, your parents and grandparents, and your friends know you love them, isn't it even more important to let God know we love Him? May this be the Lenten Season we truly give our hearts to God.

**What is Lent?** Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and runs through Holy Saturday. It is forty days long, not counting the six Sundays in Lent. The number 40 represents the number of days and nights that Jesus fasted and was tempted by the devil in the wilderness. The Lenten Season is meant to be a time of reflection and self-examination for Christians. It is marked by fasting, self-denial, prayer, and moderation. Lent is intended to lead us to confession and repentance, a closer relationship with Jesus Christ, and a greater heart for the needs of others.

**What is the significance of Ash Wednesday?** Ash Wednesday is a day devoted to confession and repentance. Within most Ash Wednesday services is something referred to as the **Imposition of Ashes**, a time when the congregation comes forward to be marked with ashes by the pastor and whoever might be assisting him.

Ashes have long been symbolic of confession and forgiveness. Long ago, it was the custom during repentance to dress oneself in sackcloth and to sit in ashes and dirt. The sackcloth, which would be roughly equivalent to burlap today, was scratchy and uncomfortable. It symbolized the discomfort and pain

that sin brought to our lives. The dirt and the ashes had a dual symbolism. First, the dirt and the ashes symbolized our humble beginnings—the fact that God had created Adam from the dirt and upon his death he would return there. (“Ashes to ashes, dust to dust.”) Second, as people confessed and repented before the Lord, they would pick up the dirt and ashes and pour it over themselves to symbolize the stain sin creates in our lives.

We put the ashes on our forehead to remind us we are sinners in constant need of God's forgiveness. The ashes remind us of our human nature—that we were created by God's hand, that we are mortal beings, and that we must constantly rely on Him to lead us to repentance. The sign of the cross on our foreheads reminds us of God's great love for us and the fact that we are forgiven by Christ's great sacrifice on our behalf.

In most Lutheran churches, when you receive the imposition of ashes this is spoken over you: ***“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”*** While those words are certainly true, they do little to inspire change in us. That's why when you receive the ashes on Ash Wednesday, you will have these words spoken over you: ***“The kindness of the Lord has led you to repentance.”*** The sentiment expressed in that statement comes from ***Romans 2:4 (The Living Bible): Don't you realize how patient he is being with you? Or don't you care? Can't you see that he has been waiting all this time without punishing you, to give you time to turn from your sin? His kindness is meant to lead you to repentance.***

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## Church Council Minutes

Trinity Lutheran Church Council met Monday January 10, 2024

**Present:** Pastor Dave, Jim Holter, Mike Gilbertz, Donna Boysen, Carey Hoffman, Shirley Johnson, Alisha Nachtigal, Tony Schrank, Jan DuFrain and Kyle Meyerink.

**Absent:** Tom Boltjes and Ryan Lantz

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, Alisha made a motion to approve, Tony seconded it, the motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:**

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

**Trustee's Report:**

Tony received an estimate of \$1200-\$1500 from Schuman Electric to switch all the lights in the fellowship hall to LED. Kyle made a motion to go ahead with Schuman Electric replacing all the lights in the fellowship hall, Mike seconded it, the motion carried.

**Deacon's Report:**

Visits are being done and bulletins are being sent out.

**Pastor's Report:**

We reviewed Pastor Dave's report.

**Old Business:**

Painting project-Amanda Groon is wondering when she can start on the painting project. The council would like her to start as soon as possible.

**New Business:**

Nominating Committee-The council reviewed the list given to us by the Nominating Committee. The nominees were as follows: Vice-President-Scott Vandenberg, Trustee-Scott Dingus, Deacon-Jason Huizenga, Board of Education-Dan Daum, Mission Committee-Darcy DuFrain, Camping Committee-Wendy Wollman, Memorial Committee-Mary Ringling, Parsonage Committee-Aaron and Nikki Reiser and Nominating Committee-Jonna DeHaan. Tony made a motion approving the list of nominations, Carey seconded it, the motion carried.

2024 proposed budget-Mike reviewed the budget with the council. Alisha made a motion approving the proposed budget, Jan seconded it, the motion carried.

Changing stations-There was a request for changing stations to be put in the main restrooms. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

Projectors-There was discussion on replacing the bulbs for the current projectors or upgrading to Tv's. More information will be brought to the council next month.

Tony 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

*Tricia Meyerink & Marla Tegethoff*

### Showing Christ-Like Love on Valentine's Day

***"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters."***

***-1 John 3:16***

It's that time of year again, when the stores are filled with red and pink candies, stuffed animals and heart-shaped boxes of chocolates. Some people look forward to Valentine's Day each year, while others are impartial or may even dislike it.

No matter how you feel about this holiday, as Christians, we are called to love at all times. Why? Because God first loved us. He sent His son, Jesus, to die for our sins so that those who believe in Him may have eternal life.

Romans 5:8 says, "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." While we were undeserving, God showed love to us. Therefore, we are to show love to others.

When it comes to true love, we can look to the life of Jesus as our example to follow. His love was shown through His actions and in the way He lived. For example, He served others and always did so with a humble attitude. This can be seen in John 13 when Jesus washed His disciples' feet.

In addition, the love of Jesus was not selective, as He walked among men and spent time with those who were considered outcasts by society. This can be seen in Luke 19 when Jesus empathizes with Zacchaeus, a tax collector who was looked down upon by others.

True love is not solely based on attraction or our emotions. Rather, true love is an action. 1 John 3:18 says, "Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth." There are many ways to show love to others in our daily lives, such as by taking time out of our busy schedules to care for someone else. Acts of true love do not have to be extravagant – they can be

## WOW Treasurer's Report

Balance on Hand January 1, 2024	\$ 2318.94
Deposit	\$ 550.37
Martha Group	\$ 313.37
Priscilla (Dec)	\$ 37.00
Mount-Smith Funeral Home (Adele Holter Funeral)	\$ 200.00
Dividend	\$ 0.34
Balance on Hand before Disbursements	\$4938.19
Deposit	\$ 130.00
Hannah Bible Study (Dec)	\$ 80.00
Hannah Bible Study (Jan)	\$ 50.00
Balance on Hand January 31, 2024	\$ 2999.65

### WOW Feb Mission Project

Laundry products for Helping Hands Food Pantry

### Bible Study Groups

#### **Martha Bible Study Group:**

meets Tuesday, February 6 at 7:00 PM  
beginning new Bible Study on the Gospel of Luke by Lisa Harper

#### **Priscilla Bible Study Group:**

meets Thursday, February 15 at 9:00 AM  
Studying Lesson 1 in new Bible Study Book  
Lesson Leader: Shirley Johnson  
Hostess: Paula Nelson

#### **Hannah Bible Study Group:**

meets Thursday, February 15 at 1:30 PM  
Studying Lesson 2 in new Bible Study Book  
Lesson Leader: Peggy Martin  
Hostess: Caroline Butler

as simple as encouraging someone when they are down or being a good listener.

So, let this Valentine's Day serve as a reminder of the importance of showing Christ-like love to others. Remember that true love is selfless and sacrificial. Ultimately, when we show this kind of love to others, we point them to Christ.

*By Lauren Abraham*

Feb	Greeters	Ushers	Communion Servers	Cookie/Coffee Servers
4	Mick & Sharon Warejcka	Jeff Olsen & Kyle Meyerink	Donna Boysen, Alisha Nachtigal, Tony Schrank	Peggy Martin, Erynn Meyerink, Tricia Meyerink
11	Jay & Deb VanDerWerff	Jeff Olsen & Kyle Meyerink	No Communion	Alisha Nachtigal, Donna Nelson, Nicki Nelson
18	Joyce VanderHam & Bonnie Ringling	Eldon Qualm & Toby Qualm	Donna Boysen, Alisha Nachtigal, Tony Schrank	Allie Nelson, Paula Nelson, Susan Nelson
25	Jim & Sue Vanderboom	Eldon Qualm & Toby Qualm	No Communion	Jackie Olsen, Vicky Pavlis, Dee Rasmussen

### This Month's Birthdays

- |                         |                      |                         |
|-------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 2/1 Austin Severson     | 2/16 Shannon Knudson | 2/20 Joan Hoversten*    |
| 2/3 Reed DuFrain        | 2/16 Robert Hoffman  | 2/21 Wendy Qualm        |
| 2/3 Emily VandenHoek    | 2/17 Hayden Strand   | 2/23 Austin DuFrain     |
| 2/6 Richard Gustad*     | 2/17 Kordell DeHaan  | 2/23 Joel Olson         |
| 2/8 Troy Kirsch         | 2/19 Haley Hoffman   | 2/24 Donna Boysen       |
| 2/9 Carson Vanden Berge | 2/19 Brad DeVries    | 2/26 Terry Boysen       |
| 2/10 Jan DuFrain        | 2/20 Leo Nelson      | 2/26 Mary Lee Erickson* |
| 2/14 Todd Strand        | 2/20 Maley DeHaan    | 2/27 Kyler Strand       |
| 2/14 Hayes DeVries      |                      |                         |

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

### February Mission Offering – God’s Way Christian School

The February mission fund offering will be designated towards the God’s Way Christian School and will be taken Sunday, February 18. **God’s Way Christian School serves the orphans and vulnerable children in an informal settlement in Morogoro, Tanzania. Through the transformative Gospel, GWCS is nurturing a generation in the knowledge of Christ.**

The rapid growth has prompted an urgent requirement to expand our enrollment capacity. Presently, the school operates from rented buildings, and expansion within this space is not feasible. To comply with Tanzanian law and ensure continuity, we must construct our own facility. The local community has already contributed by purchasing some required cement, but there's still much work ahead. The first phase of construction is \$70,000. Please join us in supporting this ministry who serves orphans and vulnerable children. Checks can be written out to “Trinity Lutheran Church” or you can give online through Breeze and choose “Mission Fund.”



## Installation of New Church Council

**The Church Council installation will be during worship on Sunday, February 4.**

President: Mike Gilbertz, Vice President: Scott Vanden Berge, Past President: Jim Holter

Secretary: Carey Hoffman, Treasurer: Alisha Nachtigal

Deacons: Jan DuFrain, Donna Boysen, Jason Huizenga

Trustees: Tom Boltjes, Tony Schrank, Scott Dingus

## Platte Community Alpha

**There's Still Time to Sign Up for Platte Community Alpha.** We had 18 people show up for our Alpha "Sneak Peek" on January 21st and are open to growing. The course officially begins February 4th at 6:30 PM at New Hope Christian Camp and Retreat Center. If you would like to be a part of it, please fill out one of the registration forms found on the devotional table in the narthex and drop the completed form in the box on Pastor Dave's door.



## Join us for our Soup Supper on Feb 7



Join us for our **Soup Supper on Wednesday, February 7.** We will be serving homemade soups, sandwiches and desserts from 5-7 pm in our fellowship hall. We hope you can make it! The proceeds for the soup supper will be donated to our local Wings and Hope.

## Martha Bible Study Groups begins new Bible Study

**Martha Group** is going to ring in the New Year by starting a new Bible Study on the Gospel of Luke. The presenter is Lisa Harper. It will be the same format - a video, small group time and then personal studies between sessions. Our first session will be **TUESDAY, FEB 6TH @ 7PM** in the Fireside Fellowship room. Hoping you will join us!

Mary Ringling is placing a bulk order of study guides, if you would like me to order you one let her know. The study guide will also come with a code to access the video, which will be nice if you can't make it a session at least you can still watch the video. The cost of the study guide/code is \$12.50.

## Sleep in Heavenly Peace Quilting Project

On Monday February 12, we will be putting quilts together for our Sleep in Heavenly Peace project. We have 20 some tops sewed so will have a busy day starting at 10 AM. Come when you can and leave when you must. We will certainly appreciate your help. You do not need to be able to sew but if you can tie a knot you can help. A noon luncheon will be provided.



## Lenten Services to Begin February 14th



February 14<sup>th</sup> is not only Valentine's Day, but also Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of the Lenten season. To celebrate, we will be holding two services that day. The first will be held at Twilight Vista at 2:00 PM. During this service, we will: sing several Lenten songs, learn about the significance of ashes, be able to receive the imposition of ashes, read three scriptures, have a short message, pray, share Holy Communion, and fellowship with the residents.

Our second service of the day will be at TLC at 6:00 PM. The order of service will be like the service at Twilight Vista, but we will not have Holy Communion. We are meeting early so our service does not interfere with that night's Senior High Youth Group.

Beginning Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 PM, we will alternate Monday Lenten services between Avera Care Center and Twilight Vista. These services will be like the Ash Wednesday service at Twilight Vista but will not have the teaching on ashes or the imposition of ashes.

## Lenten Worship Service Times

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Time:</u>	<u>Location:</u>
Wednesday, February 14 <sup>th</sup>	2:00 PM	Twilight Vista
Wednesday, February 14 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 PM	Trinity Lutheran
Monday, February 19 <sup>th</sup>	2:30 PM	Avera Care Center
Monday, February 26 <sup>th</sup>	2:30 PM	Twilight Vista
Monday, March 4 <sup>th</sup>	2:30 PM	Avera Care Center
Monday, March 11 <sup>th</sup>	2:30 PM	Twilight Vista
Monday, March 18 <sup>th</sup>	2:30 PM	Avera Care Center
Monday, March 25 <sup>th</sup>	2:30 PM	Twilight Vista

## Preparing Our Hearts for Lent *continued from page 1*

God knows our struggles with sin. He isn't surprised by them, and He isn't trying to cause us pain or embarrassment by reminding us of them. Quite the opposite, God is seeking to set us free from our sins by leading us to confession and repentance. There's nothing magical about the imposition of ashes. Those who are marked with them are not spiritually better than those who are not. But there is something powerful when we come together as a congregation with repentant hearts and admit our sinfulness to God and to one another. There is something powerful in wearing the ashes on our forehead, admitting we are sinners in desperate need of the forgiveness of our

Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. There is something very powerful about baring our souls before God—being completely honest and vulnerable before Him—confessing all that stands between us and Him—and turning from those sins back to Him.

Come join us for an Ash Wednesday service February 14<sup>th</sup>—either at Twilight Vista at 2 PM or at Trinity at 6 PM—and let the kindness of the Lord lead you to repentance. I hope to see you there as we begin our journey through Lent.

In Christ's love,  
Pastor Dave