

PLATTE, SD
Trinity Lutheran Church
NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2023

Finding Rest in Repentance

Ever since mankind fell into sin, God has been seeking to call His wayward children home to Him in repentance. We cannot return to God unless we first turn away from our sin. That is the very meaning of repentance—to turn around or away from our sin and to turn back to the ways of the Lord.

We would be wise to pay attention to what is written in **Isaiah 30:15**: **This is what the Sovereign LORD, the Holy One of Israel, says: “In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it.”**

God is telling the Israelites exactly what they need to have a life of meaning and purpose. He’s informing them what will give them peace and lead them into a strong walk with Him. It begins with repentance, which makes sense if we think about it. We can’t receive what God has for us if we’re walking away from Him. We can’t hear His voice if we’re still listening to the lies and deceptions of the enemy. To understand and receive the good things God has for us, we must first turn away from the sin that has separated us from Him.

If we will take repentance seriously, God promises us we will find rest. How does that happen? I believe it happens when we put God back on the throne of our lives instead of our own wants and desires. When He is allowed to rule over our lives, we come to understand He has a much better plan for our lives than we do. When He’s allowed to take His rightful place in our lives, we discover the things that used to cause us fear and worry no longer do so. That’s because we’ve discovered God is faithful and true. When we turn away from our sin and turn to Him, we discover we can rest in Him and His promises. When we let God be in control of our lives and really trust Him, we discover our lives are much quieter and much more peaceful.

The season of Lent officially began February 22nd, and

with it, Christians everywhere were invited into a time for personal introspection, confession, and repentance. These six weeks, intended for focused self-examination, are intended to remind us of our great need for a Savior and to realize anew the countless blessings we have in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

I pray this will be the year we take the Lenten season seriously. I pray we won’t make this Lent about us giving up coffee or soda or chocolate for forty days. I pray we would rather give up the sins in our lives that keep us at a distance from the Lord. I don’t know what sins the Lord’s asking you to turn away from, but the Holy Spirit does. Why not ask Him to show you what sins are standing as obstacles between Him and you? And why not turn away from them and turn back to the Lord?

I think too often we have the wrong attitude about repentance. I think too often we believe repentance is God’s way of punishing us, when in reality, it is His way of restoring us to relationship with Him. **Rom. 2:4 (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.**

It is the kindness of God that leads us to repentance. He is patiently waiting for each one of us to turn away from our sins and to turn back to Him. His goal isn’t punishment. His goal is forgiveness and restoration. His goal is for each of us to discover anew how good and loving and kind our God really is. Won’t you let this be the Lenten season when you make those discoveries?

Wishing you a blessed Lenten season,
Love in Christ, *Pastor Dave*

Church Council Minutes

Trinity Lutheran Church Council met Monday February 20, 2023.

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

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, Jan seconded it, the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

The treasurer's report was reviewed. President Jim Holter and Alisha Nachtigal need to be added to the signature cards at Edward Jones, First Fidelity and Bank of the West. Kyle made a motion approving the treasurer's report and approving the addition of Jim and Alisha to the signature cards, Tony seconded it, the motion carried.

Trustee's Report:

There was nothing to report.

Deacon's Report:

Visits are being done and bulletins are being sent out.

Pastor's Report:

We reviewed Pastor Dave's report. Pastor Dave will be starting a prayer class on March 23rd. From this a prayer team would be available to pray with people after church. He would like to have a more private area so asked the council if classroom 3 could be used as the prayer room. The council felt this was a great idea.

Old Business:

Extended Altar-Mike Konechne doesn't have any carpet to use in that area. It was talked about using carpet from upstairs. It was decided to hold off for now and Pastor Dave will visit with the worship committee to get their thoughts.

Mazahua Valley Mission-Pastor Dave will visit with the mission board on this.

LCMC Convention-The convention is Oct 1-4 in St. Louis. Pastor Dave and Peggy are planning to attend.

Sound Equipment-Tom Boltjes is working on this.

New Business:

Painting Sanctuary-Jeff Martin indicated he could do it in March if we let him know soon. He didn't have a set in stone price but indicated it would be between \$2000-\$2500 not including the paint. Ryan made a motion to approve, Kyle seconded it and the motion carried. (In light of new information we will be discussing this further at the next meeting).

Request for a code lock on quilting room door-With many people in and out of the church it was requested to put a code lock on the quilting room door. Tony made a motion to approve, Shirley seconded it, the motion carried.

Communion Schedule-The communion schedule was distributed to the Council.

Request for Greeters-There have been requests to bring greeters back for Sunday morning service. The Council felt this was a great idea. The schedule is already done for 2023. Pastor Dave will talk to Wendy about notifying those on the schedule so we can start right away.

Carey made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Kyle seconded it. We closed with the Lord's prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carey Hoffman

From the WOW Co-Presidents

Pearl Feiok & Dee Rasmussen

How great is Your goodness?

The Psalmist states, His goodness is redeeming, saving, worthy, righteous, honorable, dependable, safe, no debates!

His goodness is great! we agree, ordered for those who are virtuous. Let me ask, are you? Do you revere God? Do you believe He sent His Son to die for you? That He is the way, the only way!

Have you a contrite heart, and have you asked Him to live in you? Do you love Him with ALL your heart, with ALL your soul? Then pray to obey.

Are you now one of those who fear God, and who love God? Praise Him, trust Him and His word, do obey. Follow His way, He will be with you as you travel this sod. It will go well with you, His promise, to this day.

Oh how great is Your goodness, which You have laid up for those who fear You, which You have prepared for those who trust in You in the presence of the sons of men! Psalm 31:19

You are my hiding place, You shall preserve me from trouble. You shall surround me with songs of deliverance. Psalm 32:7

Written by: Patricia Holmes from "40 Days Prayer/Poems"

WOW Mission Project

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.

WOW Treasurer's Report

Balance on Hand January 1, 2023	\$ 1492.45
DEPOSIT (cash donation)	\$ 150.00
DIVIDEND (Dec-Jan)	\$ 0.76
Balance on Hand January 31, 2023	\$ 1643.21

Balance on Hand February 1, 2023	\$ 1643.21
DEPOSIT	\$ 407.00
Hannah Offering	\$ 68.00
Priscilla Offering	\$ 79.00
Hannah Mission Fund	\$ 260.00
Balance on Hand February 28, 2023	\$ 2050.21

Designated Income: Mission Fund	\$ 260.00
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Bible Study Groups

Martha Bible Study Group

meets Tuesday, March 14 at 7 pm
Lesson 5 – God Is With You in the Valley

Priscilla Bible Study Group:

meets Thursday, March 16 at 9:00 AM
Studying Lesson 2
Lesson Leader: Shirley Johnson
Hostess: Mary Beth Kuiper

Hannah Bible Study Group:

meets Thursday, March 16 at 1:30 PM
Studying Lesson 2
Lesson Leader: Peggy Martin
Hostess: Pearl Feiok

SPRINGTIME SNACKS



Whip up a plate of these cute, healthy treats!

What you need:

- Celery sticks
- Cherry tomatoes
- Cucumber circles
- Olives
- Cream cheese spread
- Fresh basil leaves (optional)
- Adult help

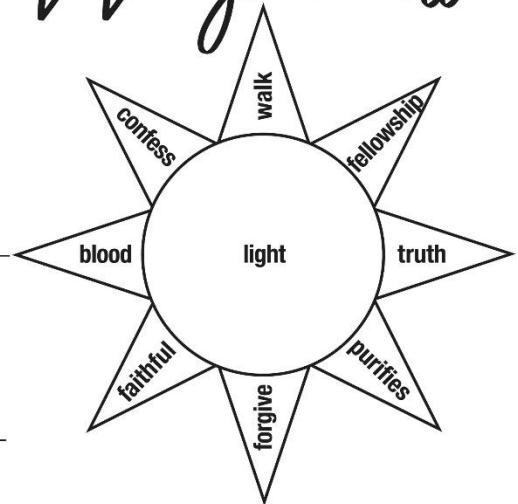
What you do:

1. Have an adult help you wash and cut the veggies.
2. Spread cream cheese inside the celery rods.
3. Place a cucumber circle upright in the cream cheese to make a bug body.
4. Add the tomato as a head.
5. Arrange basil leaves on a plate and place the veggie bugs on them.
6. Making different-shaped bugs with your favorite veggies. Enjoy!

PUZZLE

The light of forgiveness

The Lord is full of mercy and light. What happens when we confess our sins to God?



Directions:

Use the coded shapes to fill in the blanks and complete 1 John 1:7-9, NIV.

But if we _____ in the _____, as he is in the _____,
 we have _____ with one another, and the _____
 of Jesus, his Son, _____ us from all sin. If we claim to be
 without sin, we deceive ourselves and the _____ is not in us.
 If we _____ our sins, he is _____ and just and will
 _____ us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1 JOHN 1:7-9, NIV

Answer: walk, light, light, fellowship, blood, purifies, truth, confess, faithful, forgive

Sunday, March 12: *note date change* Children’s Worship Sunday & Noisy Offering

Sunday, March 19: No Sunday School - Spring Break

Sunday, April 2: Palm Sunday—The Sunday School kids are invited to wave palm branches at the beginning of worship on Palm Sunday.

Birthdays This Month

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

3/1	Regan Hoffman	3/8	Jacoby Severson	3/16	Doug Kuipers	3/26	Jeff Konstanz
3/5	Kade Boltjes	3/9	Bryce Kahler	3/17	Ila Vae Antonsen*	3/27	Tricia Meyerink
3/6	Adrian DeHaan	3/10	Kyler Konstanz	3/17	Matthew Warejcka	3/27	Charlotte Qualm
3/6	Mike Konechne	3/11	Tamera Darling	3/17	Richard Johnson*	3/29	Arnold Larson*
3/6	Heidi Dingus	3/14	Nevaeh Severson	3/17	Pat Walz*	3/30	Donna Hanten
3/7	Parker Bailey	3/11	Joan Falor*	3/22	Caroline Butler	3/31	Aaron VandenHoek
3/7	Thielen DeHaan	3/13	Joseph Gilbertz	3/22	Sharon Warejcka	3/31	Bexley Timmerman
3/8	Mason Schrank	3/15	Tara Severson	3/25	Alan Summerville		

March	Greeters	Ushers	Communion Servers	Cookie/Coffee Servers
5	Tony & Chelsey Schrank	Todd Strand & Bill Hoffman	Tony Schrank, Tom Boltjes, Kyle Meyerink	Alison Dykstra, Rhonda Engebretson, Pearl Feiok
12	Sunday School Kids	Confirmation Students	-----	Diane Gilbertz, Jodene Foxley, Maggie Dyk
19	Lee & Skyler Hanten	Todd Strand & Bill Hoffman	Tony Schrank, Tom Boltjes, Kyle Meyerink	Donna Hanten, Jessica Hegge, Amanda Hermanek
26	Marshall & Mary Ringling	Lee DeHaan & Spencer DeHaan	-----	Valerie Hildebrand, Carey Hoffman, Sarah Hoffman

March Mission Offering – God’s Way School

The Mission Fund offering for March (taken March 19) is designated towards “God’s Way Christian School” in Tanzania. The primary school was just opened on February 1. They currently have 18 students but have a goal of 50 students who are in difficult situations get an education with Christ-centered knowledge. Their website is www.laidlifeorganization.or.tz. Please make checks payable to “Trinity Lutheran Church.”

Some Exciting News about Prayer at Trinity

As a pastor, one of my chief duties is to equip the congregation to carry out the work to which Jesus has called us. One of the things I believe He wants for all His people is that we would all be able to pray effectively and joyfully, and to be able to pray aloud for one another. Toward that end, I am excited to announce a Prayer Equipping Class that will begin meeting on Thursday, March 23 at 6:30 PM in the Fireside Room. This class is open to anyone who would like to attend. But since it is also my job to raise up leaders, I will be inviting members in whom I’ve seen a special gifting for prayer.

The goals of this class are to teach people the biblical truths of prayer, to instruct them how to pray under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and to provide training so they can practice praying with and for one another in a variety of circumstances. At the end of the course, my hope is to have a well-equipped team of prayer warriors, who will be able to provide confidential prayer ministry after worship services at TLC. My intent is to begin this prayer ministry as soon as Confirmation concludes. I hope to have two, two-person teams available after each service to provide prayer ministry for healing, discernment, or anything for which people are seeking prayer. I hope to train enough people so teams can serve on a rotating basis.

I’m also excited to share that the Congregational Council approved turning Classroom 3 (currently unused) into a dedicated Prayer Room. This will provide a quiet, private space for individual or small group prayer throughout the week, as well as providing a more private space for prayer after worship than the sanctuary can provide. I am looking for a couple of comfortable chairs and a small end table or two with which to furnish the room. If anyone has furniture they would like to donate, or would like to purchase the furniture, please call me at 605-680-9958. I will also furnish the room with Bibles, devotionals, and various prayer guides to assist those who are praying, as well as providing anointing oil for those who desire to use it.

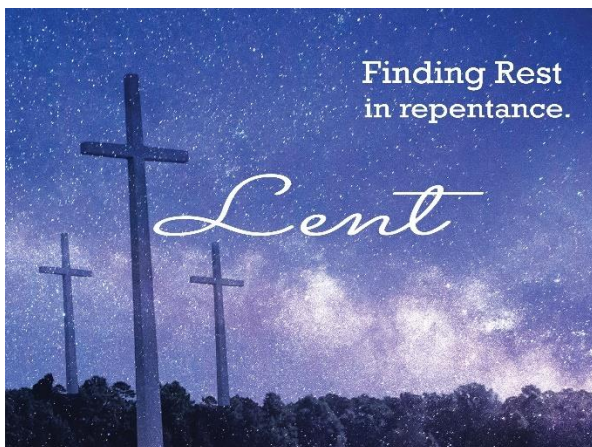
Please take note that the children's worship Sunday has been moved to next Sunday **March 12**. The Sunday School will be participating in the worship service through ushering, the children's Sermon, reading Scripture, and special music. Please contact Carla (222-9733) if your child cannot make it due to the date change.



Children's
Worship Sunday

March 12

"NOISY OFFERING"...The Sunday School kids will be taking their next "noisy offering" **March 12**. 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 – Caitlin, Carla, Karis



In this Lenten season devoid of Community Lenten Services, why not join us Sunday afternoons for a different type of Lenten service? Starting **Sunday, February 26th, at 2:00 PM**, we will begin Lenten services at senior facilities in Platte. **The first will be held at the Avera Care Center.** Services will consist of the singing of Lenten-themed hymns, the reading of three scripture passages, a ten-minute message, the sharing of Holy Communion, and fellowship with the residents. These services provide a wonderful way to bolster your faith while bringing encouragement and joy to some of our senior citizens.

Additionally, these services are a great place for Confirmation students to earn volunteer service hours. Confirmation parents, please make sure you know the service, or services, for which your child has volunteered. Please see the entire schedule below and join us as you are able.

Sunday, March 5th	2:00 PM	Twilight Vista
Sunday, March 12th	2:00 PM	Avera Care Center
Sunday, March 19th	2:00 PM	Twilight Vista
Sunday, March 26th	2:00 PM	Avera Care Center
Sunday, April 2nd	2:00 PM	Twilight Vista