

PLATTE, SD

# Trinity Lutheran Church

# NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2024

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## *Living Like Jesus*

***“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. <sup>12</sup>My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.*** John 15:9-12 (NIV)

I often marvel at the lavish love of Jesus Christ and wonder how He loves so extravagantly. The answer is revealed clearly in the text above. Jesus remained in His Father’s love by obeying His Father’s commands. The more Jesus obeyed, the more He experienced His Father’s love.

This isn’t to say that Jesus had to earn His Father’s love. God the Father loved His Son unconditionally. He loved Him with an unfailing, unchanging love. The Father’s love was constant and consistent. It was an always and forever type of love. But the Father delighted in His Son’s obedience because, in His obedience, Jesus displayed His great love for His Father. When Jesus obeyed His Father, it was love in action.

Jesus tells us we will remain in His love if we simply obey His commands. When we come to that place of truly loving Jesus, that is the desire of our hearts. We want to please Him. We want Him to delight in our obedience. Things that seemed so hard to do out of duty or will power, suddenly become almost effortless when they flow out of love.

We don’t have to earn Christ’s love; it is His nature to love unconditionally. But when our love for Jesus compels us to obey Him, we become more aware of the relationship of love we have with Him. Love goes from conceptual to experiential. In our obedience, our

love for Christ and His love for us become real and life-giving. Things we struggled to do in our own strength, become so much easier as love becomes our motivation—not duty.

Jesus didn’t tell us to live this way so our lives would become burdensome and difficult. He told us to live this way so that His joy would be in us, and our joy would be complete. This is what so much of the Christian church in America has failed to discover. Placing their personal desires above their Savior’s, they have missed out on the love and joy He wants them to experience out of obedience.

Jesus doesn’t ask us to do anything He won’t also equip us to do. So, the next time you attempt to obey Christ’s commands, take the time to pray first. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you the wisdom, discernment, and perseverance necessary to obey. Then, take the plunge and seek to obey Him. You will be surprised at how pleasurable it can be to do what Jesus commands.

His ultimate command is spelled out in ***John 15:12: Love each other as I have loved you.*** If you haven’t experienced the love of Christ in your life, perhaps it’s because you haven’t invited Him into your life. If that’s the case, you can never obey John 15:12 because you don’t have His love within you with which to love others. Invite Jesus to be Lord of your life and discover how much easier it is to obey Him, because now you have His love and His Spirit within you.

Wishing you a life filled with the outrageous love and joy of Jesus,

*Pastor Dave*

## Church Council Minutes

Trinity Lutheran Church Council met Monday, March 18, 2024

**Present:** Pastor Dave, Mike Gilbertz, Donna Boysen, Carey Hoffman, Scott Dingus, Alisha Nachtigal, Jan DuFrain Tom Boltjes, Tony Schrank and Jim Holter.

**Absent:** Scott VandenBerge and Jason Huizenga.

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

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

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

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

The council reviewed the treasurer's report. Discussion was had on setting the mission fund offering plate in the narthex after the service or passing it separately from the general fund offering plate. It was decided to put the mission fund offering plate in the narthex after the service. Carey made a motion to approve the treasurers report, Jim seconded it, the motion carried.

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

Changing tables will be ordered and installed soon and LED bulbs will be put in next week.

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

Visits are being done and bulletins are being sent out.

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

We reviewed Pastor Dave's report. Pastor Dave was very pleased with the church members for their help at the Messiah in the Passover at Trinity. 77 people attended the program.

### **Old Business:**

Extended Altar-Discussion was had on adding an altar platform to make more room for the praise team. We would replace all the carpet on the altar. Tom made a motion to go ahead with the altar project, Carey seconded it, the motion carried.

Painting project- Tony made a motion to have Amanda paint the fireside bathroom with the extra paint that was left over, Tom seconded it, motion carried.

### **New Business:**

No new business.

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

We closed with the Lord's prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Carey Hoffman



## From the WOW Co-Presidents

*Tricia Meyerink & Marla Tegethoff*

### April Showers

A familiar cliché is “April Showers Bring May Flowers”. True, it does bring much moisture or rain needed to refresh and grow dry dormant foliage, flowers, trees, grass, as well as filling up the brooks and rivers.

In the natural, this is evident to see, but it also represents truth in the spiritual sense by filling up or refreshing our soul which comes from “knowing” Christ by the Spirit of God. We must water our “soul wells” by abiding in Jesus, reading His Word, and giving praise. He refreshes us in the season of dryness; appearing lifeless in the wilderness.

Jesus is the Living Water that flows through you to restore your soul ( mind, body, will and emotions). When our vessel or well is full, we then supply the overflow fragrance of love, kindness, hope, freedom, truth, mercy, joy, and compassion to others. We do this by our behavior in actions, and words, for those who need it.

If you are feeling dry in your soul, then drink from the Living Water and fill your well up by spending time with Jesus, the Word of God. Are you full? Then let the excess flow to others. Could it be that your neighbor, friend, homeless person, widow, orphan, family member, church leader, or even your co worker may need some extra living water from you?

Let the April Shower of Gods mercy bring life and growth to yourself and others around you. Will you tell those who are dry and thirsty where to get this fresh clean life giving well water?

***John 4:14 “but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.***

*Published by Kingdom Soul Advocate*

## WOW Treasurer’s Report

Balance on Hand March 1, 2024	\$ 2999.65
Deposit	\$ 1210.00
Hannah Offering (Feb)	\$ 65.00
Priscilla Offering (Mar)	\$ 70.00
Hannah Offering (Mar)	\$ 75.00
Maylou Stanforth Memorial	\$1000.00
Balance on Hand March 31, 2024	\$ 4116.91

### Bible Study Groups

**Martha Bible Study Group:**

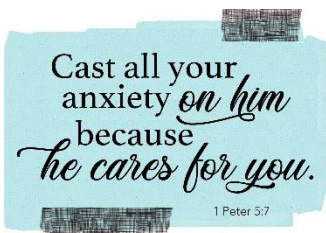
meets Tuesday, April 9 at 7:00 PM  
studying Lesson 3 “Uphill Glory”

**Priscilla Bible Study Group:**

meets Thursday, April 18 at 9:00 AM  
Studying Lesson 4 in new Bible Study Book  
Lesson Leader: Sharon Rommen  
Hostess: Shirley Johnson

**Hannah Bible Study Group:**

meets Thursday, April 18 at 1:30 PM  
Studying Lesson 4 in new Bible Study Book  
Lesson Leader: Caroline Butler  
Hostess: Peggy Martin



**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.

April	Greeters	Ushers	Communion Servers	Cookie/Coffee Servers
7	Todd & Shawna Strand	Lee DeHaan & Spencer DeHaan	Tony Schrank, Tom Boltjes, Jason Huizenga	Stacy Severson, Liz Spawn, Tonya Standy
14	Steve & Liz Spawn	Lee DeHaan & Spencer DeHaan	No Communion	Shawna Strand, Meredith Suits, Sheila Summerville
21	LeRoy & Stacy Severson	Mike Erickson & Dan Daum	Tony Schrank, Tom Boltjes, Jason Huizenga	Marla Tegethoff, Sarah Timmerman, Laura Vanden Berge
28	Kevin & Tara Severson	Sunday School Students	No Communion	Emily VandenHoek, Sue Vanderboom, Joyce VanderHam

## This Month's Birthdays

4/1	Pastor Dave Martin	4/8	Mike Gilbertz	4/15	Kyle Meyerink	4/26	Kade Johnson
4/1	Sue Vanderboom	4/9	Julie Gustad	4/16	Amanda Hermanek	4/27	Jon Hermanek
4/1	Lucy Hegge	4/10	David Carter	4/17	Gary Nelson*	4/29	Bill Hoffman
4/3	Meredith Suits	4/11	Allie Nelson	4/23	Katie Johnson	4/30	Payton Foxley
4/4	Oliver Qualm	4/12	Myron DeGroot	4/23	Chris Nelson	4/30	Abby Vanden Berge
4/4	Kendall Warejcka	4/13	Carey Hoffman	4/24	Erik Holter	4/30	Vera VandenHoek
4/5	Alison Dykstra	4/14	Jodene Foxley	4/25	Jamie Nelson		
4/7	Reganne Engebretson						

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

## April Mission Offering Designated for the Gideons

On April 21st, we will have a presentation from one of our local Gideons sharing with us highlights from their ministry and the ministry of Gideons International. The April Mission Offering we collect that Sunday will be designated to bless our local Gideons. Please give generously as this organization does so much to make the Word of God known throughout the world.

You may write one check to Trinity Lutheran, detailing in your memo how much you wish to donate to the Gideons and how much you wish to give to the General Fund. If giving cash, please give a similar breakdown on your offering envelope. Thank you.

## Children's Worship Sunday

**Children's Worship Sunday:** Please take note that the children's worship Sunday has been moved to Sunday April 28. 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" **April 28** 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



## First Communion Training for 5th Graders Begins April 3rd

Parents and Grandparents of 5<sup>th</sup> Graders, please be aware that Training for First Communion begins Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3:45 PM in Classroom 9. This is the classroom located just south of the Fireside Room. Classes will be held on Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, and Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, and will run from 3:45 PM to 5:15 PM. It is helpful if a parent, grandparent, or some other adult relative or friend can accompany your child, so they have someone with whom to share this learning experience.

Students should bring their *Faith Alive Bibles* with them. I will have a light snack for them each class period, so parents, please let me know if your child has any food allergies. Following completion of the course, students will celebrate their First Communion on Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at our regular morning worship service.

If you have any questions or wish to communicate to me a food allergy your child has, please call or text me at 605-680-9958 or email me at [tlcpastor57369@gmail.com](mailto:tlcpastor57369@gmail.com).

God bless,

*Pastor Dave*



We will have our **annual church cleaning Sunday, April 21 through Saturday, April 27**. Many hands make light work. You will be contacted soon where you what area you will be responsible for. Thank you!

## Last Day of Sunday School Celebration

Sunday, May 12

We will celebrate our last day of Sunday School on Sunday, May 5 with indoor and outdoor games and activities. Note: confirmation class will meet Sunday, May 12th for class.

On Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, our High School Seniors will be presented a quilt made by the ladies of our congregation to congratulate them on their accomplishment.

## QUILT PRESENTATION TO OUR SENIORS



2024

## CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

Sunday, May 19



**Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup> is Confirmation Day.** Blessings to our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students as be confirmed into the faith. Please join us to support and encourage our students and be encouraged yourselves as you hear our confirmands share their Statements of

## New Members' Class Scheduled for Sunday, June 2

Trinity Lutheran Church will be holding a New Members' Class Sunday, June 2nd at 11:00 AM in the Fireside Room. The class will last about 1-1/2 hours and begin with a light lunch. The class will focus on Trinity's values, beliefs, practices, methods, and expectations, and will give you some ideas of ways you might become involved here. Attending the class does not require one to become a member.

If you are interested in attending, please sign up on the bulletin board just outside the Fellowship Hall or email me at [tlcpastor57369@gmail.com](mailto:tlcpastor57369@gmail.com). If you have any questions, you may contact me at 605-680-9958.