

PLATTE, SD

Trinity Lutheran Church

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2024

A Non-threatening Entry into Discipleship

And he (Jesus) said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Matthew 4:19

Whenever I want to see a "deer in the headlights" look come over the congregation, all I need to do is to remind them that they've been called to make disciples. Perhaps, the lost look I see on people's faces is merely their confusion over what a disciple is. It seems that no matter how often we talk about the subject, people are still unclear about what a disciple is and how they are made.

At Trinity, we want to have a biblical definition of what a disciple is, so we rely on Matthew 4:19 to clarify things. According to what Jesus says in this verse, **A disciple is:**

- 1. First and foremost, a follower of Jesus.**
(*"Follow me..."*)
- 2. Second, someone who is being transformed by Jesus.** (*"I will make..."*)
- 3. Third, someone who is on mission for Jesus.**
(*fishers of men*)

Hopefully, when you read that definition, your first reaction is, "That's me! I **am** a follower of Christ, and I **know** I am being transformed by His Spirit, so that I **can lead others to Christ**. Own the title of disciple. Live in its power and its calling, and acknowledge the fact that you, along with every other believer on earth, have lots of work to do.

This article is about how you can live out your call as a disciple in a way that is not only non-threatening but is also fun and enjoyable. This is an invitation for you to join a small group at Trinity, and, in the process, begin to be both discipled and to help disciple others. How does that work? Let me explain.

Every small group—at Trinity or anywhere else—is always composed of people at various stages in their Christian walk. Some will have walked with the Lord for most of their lives and be very spiritually mature, while others will have just begun their walk and have much to learn. In between those two groups, will be people of varying degrees of spiritual maturity. What happens in small group ministry is almost organic, as longtime Christians disciple others simply by modeling Christ and showing how to grow in spiritual disciplines like, prayer, Bible study, and evangelism. But as the group continues to meet, the less spiritually mature begin to grow and find their voices to encourage, uplift, and strengthen others as well.

The great thing about small group ministry is that it allows us to disciple and be discipled without feeling uncomfortable. How is that possible? Because the members of your group quickly become friends, and you don't feel self-conscious or ill at ease sharing your heart with them. Small groups quickly become a place in which praying with and for one another becomes second nature.

Here are five benefits of participating in small groups:

- 1. Connection.** Small groups provide small intimate relationships where people suddenly feel they belong and are valued.
- 2. Impartation.** You don't just learn about Christ's love or compassion or unity or hospitality, you experience those things as others in your group extend those blessings to you, and you, in turn, extend those same blessings to them.

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3. **Support & encouragement.** Small groups do wonders in providing godly comfort, wisdom, guidance, and encouragement. Leaving a small group should always leave you feeling like you've just had a little kiss from heaven.
4. **Growing confidence.** As you share life with your small group, reading and discussing scripture, praying together, and simply telling others of the ways you've seen God at work in your life, both you and the members of your group grow in confidence.
5. **Accountability.** When small groups are functioning correctly, we see their members holding one another accountable through loving correction.

Life Groups will be held in members' homes. The masks people wear at church tend to come off in the privacy of a home. The group will decide if they will have one permanent location or rotate from week to week from one member's home to another. Groups should meet weekly for 1-1/2 to 2 hours. I understand there will be weeks when people are not able to attend due to sickness, travel, work, etc. But if you commit to attending as often as possible, you will quickly discover the blessings attached to Life Groups.

Each meeting will have a component of study, sharing and prayer, and fellowship. Each group will determine what this looks like. The group Peggy & I were part of in Longview began with fellowship. We shared a light meal or snacks while catching up on the previous week. Starting with fellowship, allowed people who were running late to be there for the time of study, sharing, and prayer. We usually met for two hours, with 45 minutes devoted to fellowship, 45 minutes devoted to study, and 30 minutes devoted to sharing and prayer. Each group can structure their time together as they wish, but each should spend a similar amount of time in fellowship, study, and sharing and prayer.

I hope we will have both daytime and nighttime Life Groups at Trinity, and I hope we will have at least a few that are multi-generational. If you are interested in hosting, leading, or simply participating in a Life Group, please let Wendy know by emailing her at tlcplattesd@gmail.com or calling her at (605)-337-3881. We hope to launch Life Groups in early October.

How Will Small Groups Work at Trinity?

Our small groups will be called Life Groups because that's what we will be sharing together. Ideally, they will have 8 to 12 people in them. This ensures that even when a few people might be missing, there should still be enough for a discussion, but not so many that people find it difficult to share. Most groups will be a mix of men and women, couples and singles—but each group can decide on their own configuration. Each group will have a leader. This person isn't a teacher, but a facilitator, who leads the group through a discussion of the previous week's sermon. The group will read the scriptures from the previous Sunday aloud, then answer discussion questions about the sermon. You will be amazed at the insights you gain when a whole group shares their thoughts on a message and the scriptures supporting it.

Community Events

Wednesdays

September 4: **6:30 PM** Awana Fun Fair – Calvary Baptist Church

6:30 PM Junior High Youth Group – Christian Reformed Church

7:15 PM Senior High Kickoff – New Hope

September 11: **3:45 – 5:45 PM** GEMS begins – Christian Reformed Church

Church Council Minutes

Trinity Lutheran Church Council met Monday, August 19, 2024

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

Absent: Jason Huizenga and Tony Schrank.

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

Treasurer's Report:

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

Trustee's Report:

Scott D installed two of the changing stations in the main bathrooms. The third would be installed this week.

Jim Holter is going to talk to Terry Antonsen on a timeline for laying the carpet on the altar.

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:

The usher checklist needs to be updated.

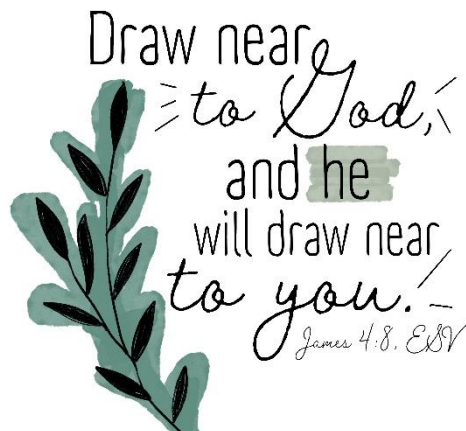
Mike is going to put together a flyer promoting the church to hang up at the campgrounds around the area.

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

We closed with the Lord's prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Carey Hoffman



From the WOW Co-Presidents

Tricia Meyerink & Marla Tegethoff

God, Protect My Child

Your kids are stocked with new clothes, new shoes, and a new backpack full of supplies. It's time to face the fact that school break is over. You may be rejoicing and dancing in the streets! Or perhaps you're sad to see them go back to school. Either way, most parents have a little apprehension about that first day of school.

Will she like her new teacher? Will his friends be in his class? Does she have all the needed supplies? Will he make wise choices?

Today, we encourage you to commit your family to God as this new school begins. Whether they are learning their first letter in Kindergarten or they're 1000 miles away walking into their first college class, God will never leave them.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for this new school year. In a sense, it's a new start for our family. May we look to You for peace to replace our apprehension. Take away those questions and give us a trust in what You are doing in our lives. I commit our family to You and understand that You will never leave us or forsake us. Grow us and increase our faith. In Your Son's name, amen.

WOW Sept Mission Project

For Sept, 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 August 1, 2024	\$3405.12
Dividend	\$0.33
Deposit	\$145.00
Priscilla Offering	\$55.00
Hannah Offering	\$70.00
Balance on hand August 31, 2024	\$3530.45

Bible Study Groups

Martha Bible Study Group

meets Monday, September 9 at 7:00 PM
Session 7 - A Most Radical Restoration

Priscilla Bible Study Group:

meets Thursday, September 19 at 9:00 AM
Studying Lesson 9
Lesson Leader: Paula Nelson
Hostess: Joan Falor

Hannah Bible Study Group:

meets Thursday, September 19 at 1:30 PM
Studying Lesson 9
Lesson Leader: Karen Dimick
Hostess: Caroline Butler



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

Sept	Greeters	Ushers	Communion Servers	Cookie/Coffee Servers
1	Kyle & Tricia Meyerink	Scott Vanden Berge & Steve Spawn	Donna Boysen, Scott Vanden Berge, Scott Dingus	Carey Hoffman & Sarah Hoffman
8	Ryan & Carla Lantz	Scott Vanden Berge & Steve Spawn	No Communion	Casey Holter, Susan Holter, Kathy Holter, Tana Huizenga
15	Doug & Gladys Kuipers	Kevin Nelson & Chris Nelson	Donna Boysen, Scott Vanden Berge, Scott Dingus	Darla Johnson, Hailee Johnson, Lisa Johnson
22	Ryan & Traci Kott	Kevin Nelson & Chris Nelson	No Communion	Katie Johnson, Melissa Johnson, Shirley Johnson
29	David & Jeanne Kott	Randy Tegethoff & Foster Tegethoff	No Communion	Wanda Johnson, Estelle Konechne, Tori Konechne

This Month's Birthdays

9/2	Phyllis Daum	9/15	Ella Holter	9/21	Frank Cutler
9/4	Lee Hanten	9/15	David Kott	9/22	Bohden Schrank
9/4	Jeremiah Konechne	9/16	Zachary Warejcka	9/23	Shirley Johnson*
9/7	Mick Warejcka	9/18	Jay VanDerWerff	9/23	Abigail Konechne
9/10	Kali Vanden Berge	9/18	Skyler Hanten	9/25	Kolbi Hoffman
9/12	Hayes Hermanek	9/19	Toby Qualm	9/25	Ryker Nachtigal
9/13	Wendy Wollman	9/19	Tony Schrank	9/26	Kelly Weisser
9/15	Brooklyn Severson				

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

September Mission of the Month

Our September Mission of the month is designated for Melanie Lubinus and the ministry that she is doing in Costa Rica. Here is an update Melanie gave us that she was able to do with our generosity: The people are always very grateful and ask us to send blessings your way.

This is what we are able to do this round:

- 6 bags of (ready-to-eat) groceries & 10 cases of water
- 15 boxes of peanuts
- 13 sandwiches + oranges
- 7 hygiene packs (socks, soap, toothbrush(es)/paste, washcloth, wipes, bandaids, kleenex)
- Helped repaired glasses for one man
- Helped purchase medicine for one man
- Helped with warm clothes and mattress for one man
- 4 boxes of crayons



We are still going out to the streets weekly. Some weeks we see 4 or 5 families or more, while others we only see one. It's currently inconsistent, but we are thankful for the opportunity to brighten their days and help out a little. We always try to have something special for the kids: coloring sheets and crayons, stickers, a piece of candy etc. Thank you for supporting this ministry! We pray the Lord blesses the church and the individuals who are giving.

We will be taking this offering on Sunday, September 15th. Checks can be written out to Trinity Lutheran Church and note mission fund offering on check or envelope.



Sunday School Kickoff Set for September 8



Everyone is invited to stay following worship for food and fun on Sunday, September 8th! We'll be serving burgers, hotdogs, baked beans, chips and goodies, followed with games and other fun activities!

Parents, grandparents, mark your calendars for September 8th so your kids and grandkids don't miss out on the kick-off to Sunday School.

Confirmation class will once again meet in the North Overflow Room. Class will begin Sunday, September 15th.

Sunday School teacher installation is during worship on Sunday, September 8th.

We still need co-teachers for PRESCHOOL and 5/6 GRADES. *If you feel the Lord is calling you to teach this year, please contact the Board of Ed. Carla Lantz, Karis DuFrain or Dan Daum.* Thank you for helping our youth grow in their faith & walk with God!