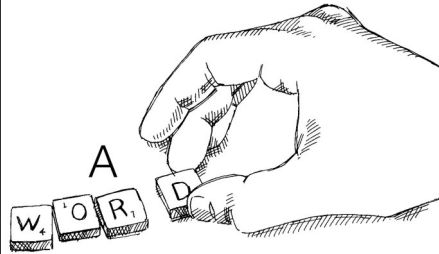


Trinity & Westridge

Monthly Newsletter for
Members & Friends



2024



from the
Pastor

Greetings Church Family,

What a wondrous transition from March to April we had this year with celebrating the Risen Christ. I pray that everyone was able to take away something meaningful from our Lenten journey and finding their own ways to kneel at the altar before God. Let us take a moment to celebrate the work we have done individually and collectively as a community, but not forget that our work is not done. Now that we have done the work of diving into self discovery, it is now time to start the application process. I encourage you to ask yourselves, "how am I being called in ministry?" Has something come to mind? An idea, a thought process? A hobby? Are you being called to an area of ministry in the church or out in the community? Whatever you are feeling led to consider, lean into it and ask questions. Explore the potential because you never know what God has in mind for you. There is always room for opportunity, growth, and nourishment. I am thrilled to be on this path with you all and I am certainly looking forward to what is in store for us this spring!

Be kind and gracious. Be welcoming and loving. Be the neighbor that God asks of us. May the Lord bless you and keep you and make his grace to shine upon you.

Shalom,
Pastor Caitlin

TRINITY UMC

506 S. Main Street, Madison NE 68748
(402) 454-2514

Worship: Sunday at 11 AM

The Grace Place: Welcoming all who seek his presence and grace. Come find God.

WESTRIDGE UMC

2000 W. Norfolk Ave, Norfolk NE 68701
(402) 371-9630

Worship: Sunday at 9 AM

Growing in Faith, in Love & in Community

Rev. Caitlin Bentzinger

cell (402) 326-1131
office (402) 454-2514

Parish Assistant:

Crystal Ketelsen (402) 454-2514

Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday & Thursday:
9am - noon & 1 pm - 4 pm

Parish Email:

trinitywestridgeparish@gmail.com

Facebook: Trinity UMC & Westridge United Methodist Church

Websites: madisontrinityumc.org & norfolkwestridgeumc.org

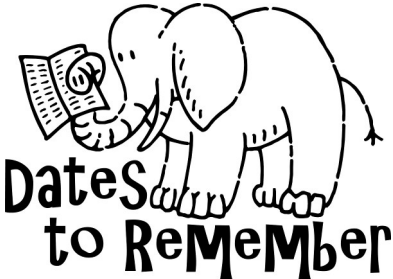
Please remember to let Pastor Caitlin know if you are sick, hospitalized or otherwise in need of pastoral care. Share your joys with her too!!



Sign up to help during Worship!

Sign-up sheets are at each church for reading scripture, lighting candles (not just for kids!), ushers/greeters and communion. Choose how many you wish to do.

If walking/standing up front is not possible and you would still like to read the scripture—we have microphones so you can read where you are!



May 29—Red Cross Blood Drive at Westridge
 June 6-9—Annual Conference at Kearney
 June 11-15—Trinity VBS
 July 14-19—Westridge VBS



Deaths in Our Church Family

✝ Betty Bove, March 6



Please offer PRAYERS for those in our church families (as of 03-29-2024)

- ◆ **Those in need of healing of the body, mind & spirit:**
T: Dana MacLaren Garringer, Dave Plugge
W: Francie Walton, Marcy Coover
- ◆ **Those facing cancer:** W: Greg Hansen, Kelly Koch
- ◆ **Those who are at home & in care facilities & all care givers:**
Home: (W) Sharon Carlow, Helen Flesner Nebraska Veteran's Home, Norfolk: (W) Vern Hepker
Meadows: (W) Rev. Dillon Hess, Helen Finkral, Lee Peterson, Mabel Siegert, Mavis Miller, Velda Long, Clair & Vera Grudzinski
(T) Jerry McCallum
Heritage of Bel Air: (T) Dorothy Reigle, Sondra Reigle (W) Leon Chapman St. Joseph's, Norfolk: (W) Fran McAllister
Madison House: (W) Joyce Greenough Countryside Home, Madison: (T) Daryl Hubbard
Heritage of Fountain Point T Shirley Neidig, Dave Plugge



RUMMAGE SALE

WESTRIDGE SPRING RUMMAGE & BAKE SALE



Friday, April 26, 4-7 pm

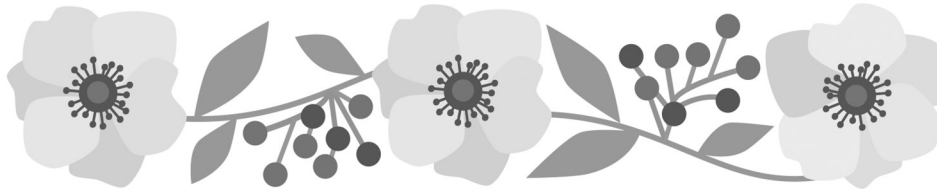
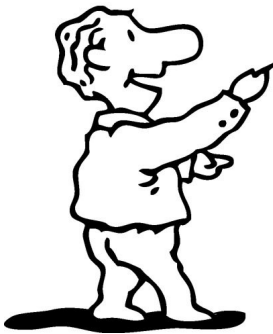
Saturday, April 27, 8 am—2 pm

Drop off times: Monday—Tuesday—Wednesday, 8 am—5 pm

Time to start spring cleaning and finding those things you no longer need or want to bring to the church rummage sale!!! That way there is room for the treasures you will find!

If you have questions or need help getting your items to the church, talk to Sue Sieler (402-750-5112) or Deb Ussery (402-649-2330).

Watch for the helper
sign-up sheet!



Westridge Healthy Congregations "Walk to Bethlehem"

Update on our steps- we have traveled about 18 Million steps! Only about 2 million left to go- keep walking! We might not make it all the way by Easter- BUT Easter is early this year! We are currently traveling through Libya. Keep walking!





Children's Church 10 am
every Sunday.

TRINITY NEWS

Church Council Meeting Minutes

3/20/2024

Sherry opened the meeting at 6:00 pm with devotion & prayer. Present were Caitlin Bentzinger, Sherry Hake, Jan Hake, Kevin Pearson, Jon Moyer and Gretta Mewis.

Minutes were read & accepted from previous meeting with no corrections. Treasurer report was presented & accepted.

Trustees:

Old business: Thrasher is scheduled for the work at the church on April 1st & 2nd. There is work to do before they come (move stuff out of elevator room, Sunday School room & furnace room). Going to ask Thrasher if the work can be postponed for a week or two. Jon reported on DWB's assessment of the parsonage wall. There is a small crack in the wall under the window. Dwb's opinion is that we could leave it alone or place wall stiffeners. We need to ask for a written assessment from dwb. We are waiting on a 3rd bid from Steve Krings before making a final decision.

DWB did suggest that the North station of the sprinkler system be disabled. Tyler said he will work on disabling that station. It is too close to the problem wall of the parsonage. (North side of house)

Mission Team:

Education:

Imagination Library has increased by approximately 10 kids this month. Katie and Caitlin are working together on this project. Caitlin continues to read to kids the 1st Tuesday of every month and Crystal has taken over some of the administrative work.

Report of SPPRC:

Community Service:

Food Pantry in April. Sign up if you can help.

Pastor:

Sunrise Service at 7am Easter morning at the art center. Jan, Kevin, Peg & Andersen Family are hosting. 11 am regular service at Trinity – Serenity is going to be baptized! Pray for Pastor during the busy HOLY WEEK!

Caitlin is going to work on having an online daily devotion that is 5-10 minutes – an encouraging word. She is also working on a weekly Bible study and trying to decide the time of it and if she puts it online.

Need lay representative to go to annual conference in Kearney June 6 – 9th or 10th. Please let her know if interested.

Caitlin & Tyler will be gone May 10 – 15th.

Ad Board:

Discussed lawn service.

Next meeting is on April 17 at 6 pm. Meeting adjourned at 6:58 pm.



The Dolly Parton's Imagination Library monthly book gifting program is here and running for the Madison School District area!! This program is brought to you by the Madison Trinity United Methodist Church, Missions Team and Dolly Parton!! Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is dedicated to inspiring a love of reading by gifting books free of charge to children from birth to age 5, through funding shared by Dolly Parton and local community partners. Inspired by her father's inability to read and write Dolly started her Imagination Library in 1995 for the children within her home county. Today, her program spans 5 countries and gifts over 1 million free books each month to children around the world. "When I was growing up in the hills of East Tennessee, I knew my dream would come true. I know there are children in your community with their own dreams. They dream of becoming a doctor or an inventor or a minister. Who knows, maybe there is a little girl whose dream is to be a writer and singer. The seeds of these dreams are often found in books and the seeds you help plant in your community can grow across the world." -Dolly Parton By mailing high quality, age-appropriate books directly to their homes, she wanted children to be excited about books and to feel the magic that books can create. Moreover, she could insure that every child would have books, regardless of their family's income. How can you register your child? You can enroll your child on-line at imaginationlibrary.com, or through paper forms that will be soon to be found around town then mailed/returned to the church, or in person at Trinity United Methodist Church, 506 S Main St in Madison, NE. If you have any questions about the program, please feel free to reach out to the main program coordinator, Katie O'Brien at 308-672-5767.

Westridge News

Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle met Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at the church. There were 7 ladies present. The Upper Room was used for devotions with discussion "In Gods Time".

Deb served lunch.

The next gathering for Ruth Circle will be Tuesday, April 9, 2024, 1:30 p.m. with Pastor Caitlin hosting at her home in Madison.

Anyone who would like a ride should call Mary at 402-371-9276.

Come join us for **First Thirteen Wednesdays**

6 pm is supper, 6:30-7:30 pm activity. Next event is Wednesday, **April 3.** Fun for everyone, kids, young (including those young at heart!) and/or families!

Westridge Church Council Minutes March 6, 2024

Present: Sue Sieler, Deb Ussery, Dave Scarf, Wayne and Sue Andreasen, Crystal Ketelsen and Rev. Caitlin.

Sue A. called the meeting to order.

Minutes were read from previous meeting and were approved.

Sue S. handed out the treasurer report, we went over it and it was placed on file. The audit is done and has been sent in.

We requested that the trustees look into our funds that is held at Nebr. United Methodist foundation. The trustees reported that after receiving another report it was looking all ok.

New Business:

SPPRC: Will be meeting April 10, 2024, at 6:00 pm.

Trustees: Will be replacing parking lights.

Ruth Circle: Will be March 12, 2024, at 1:30 pm.

Church use Guidelines: Crystal bought the old guidelines for the use of the church for weddings and other church use. We went over the old guidelines. Wayne made a motion that we upgrade our prices for a Wedding usage member to be \$100.00 and non-member \$200.00 use of church beside weddings will be \$100.00 for nonmembers it was second by Dave Scarf. Motion was carried. This will also be at the Pastor's discretion.

Memorial Committee: Pastor Caitlin has told the memorial committee that Brenda Jones – Orma Lang's daughter will do a matching fund of \$2000.00 for a live stream upgrade for a memorial gift. The memorial committee will be sending out a letter for more information regarding the match funds. Wayne has bought some tables to replace the ones that were broken from the memorial funds.

Healthy Community: We are still walking for Bethlehem so make sure that you step into Deb or Sam. Sue Sieler and Deb Ussery have set the date for the spring rummage sale, it will be April 26 and 27, 2024 with drop off dates the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Just for a heads up the fall rummage sale will be in September.

The church council has requested that we have a calendar posted at our church for when the church is in use by members and non-members. Rev. Caitlin will post the information on a calendar that will be on her door. If you would like to use the church, please contact Crystal at the church office and it will be put on the calendar at the church office and also on the one posted at Westridge.

Rev. Caitlin has a friend that is working on creative design for web pages, she will look at ours and give us some ideas on how to make it more informative.

Easter services: Maundy Thursday will be held at Trinity at 7:00 pm with a Last supper service with ending of washing the feet. Good Friday service will be a Tenebrae and will be held at Westridge at 7:00 pm

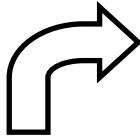
Easter Sunday at Westridge: Sunrise service will be at 7:30 am and the service will lead by the youth group. Breakfast will be after service from 8:00 to 8:45 so come and support the youth and enjoy aebleskiver pancakes. We will also have regular service at 9:00 am.

Pastor Caitlin reports that confirmation class is going very well, and the youth will be helping out with our church services.

Next meeting will be April 3, 2024, at 7:00 P.M. at the church.

Respectfully submitted, Peggy Fox Church Council Secretary

There are lots of things planned at Camp Fontanelle this spring—check the bulletin boards at each church to see what they are!
There is also a wish list of items needed.



It is time to think about Church Camp!



Do you like animals? There are camps for **YOU!**
Do you like to explore outside? There are camps for **YOU!**
How about water & swimming or sports & team games? There is a camp for **YOU!**
Do you have gifts and skills you would like to explore and learn how to use to glorify God? You guessed it—there is a camp for **YOU!**
And **ALL** of these camps teach and encourage you on your faith journey.

Register TODAY!!!! www.campfontanelle.com

Ask about discounts and Camp Scholarships

The friends and memories you make at camp will last you a lifetime!!

Native American Ministries Sunday is April 14!

Native American Ministries Sunday is one of six churchwide Special Sundays with offerings of The United Methodist Church. Native American Ministries Sunday serves to remind United Methodists of the gifts and contributions made by Native Americans to our society. The special offering supports Native American outreach within annual conferences and across the United States and provides seminary scholarships for Native Americans.



Pastor Caitlin with a baby bunny at Easter VBS!

