



February 2024

Trinity Lutheran Church
 499 4th Ave. NW
 Valley City, ND 58072
 (701)845-3837
"Love God. Love Others."
Email:
 trinitylutheranvc@bektel.com
Website:
 www.trinitylutheran-valleycity.org



**Evangelical Lutheran
 Church in America**
 God's work. Our hands.

Worship

Sundays, 10 a.m.
 Holy Communion on first &
 third Sundays

Sunday School

Sept. 10th—May 19th
 9-9:50 a.m.

Bible Study

Tuesdays: 10:30—11:30 a.m.

Pastor:

Rev. Diane Krumm
 Email: ptlc@bektel.com
 Cell: (701)840-7548

Office Manager:

Rochelle Triebold
 Hours: 9 a.m.-3 p.m., M-Th
 Closed on Fridays

Treasurer/Expenses:

Kaneia Kinney

Offerings Secretary:

Karen Magnuson

Custodians:

Jerry & Michelle Dahl

Trinity Tidings



*"...we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it
 may be made clear that this extraordinary power
 belongs to God..."*
II Corinthians 4:7

I remember watching TV shows where the hero wore a white hat and the villain twirled a moustache. In these shows, the heroes were above reproach and always won in the end. The villains always lost – often because of their own greed or pride. There was something comforting about these shows. I knew who was who and what to expect from them. And I could rest assured that good would somehow triumph over evil. While I may wish for all people to be as easily categorized as the characters in these TV shows, I know they are not. We are imperfect people living in an imperfect world. So, too, were the people in the Bible.

Our theme for this Lent is "Turning the World Around: Bible Anti-Heroes and Villains." We will meet a few anti-heroes in the Bible – people who do not fit the stereotype of heroes – perhaps because they engaged in some questionable acts or were lacking in a few virtues. And we will hear about at least one character who is downright despicable. In their stories, we will see God at work turning the world around.

In his letters to the church at Corinth, Paul was challenging the notion that certain people were better Christians because of their ability to speak in tongues or experience visions. In fact, Paul said that God's power is often more clearly seen when we are weak. We are like clay jars – fragile, chipped, cracked. Yet God chooses to pour into his people the treasures of his mercy and justice. What flows from us, then, is not our greatness, but God's. The power of our words and actions come from God, not us. God is turning the world around. Making what is weak, strong. Wise, foolish. Despised, precious. And bringing to destruction the forces that seek to destroy God's creation.

As we journey through Lent and come to Christ on the cross, we see most clearly how God turns the world around – turning death into life. Along the way, we will encounter Jael, Leah, Nicodemus, Satan, and others. Through them, we will discover that, because the power does belong to God, we can see ourselves, one another, and the world in the way that God does, and we can rest assured that good has and will triumph over evil.

Blessings on your journey this Lent.
 Pastor Diane



Mid-Week Lenten Service Schedule

This year we will be having guest preachers from several area churches share in our services.

The pastors will do a little traveling, but individual congregations' schedules remain the same. This year's theme is "Turning the World Around: Bible Anti-Heroes & Villains." Participating pastors are: James Desai (Faith); Diane Krumm (Trinity); Sharayah Robinson (Kathryn, Nome, Fingal); and Kyle Symanski (Our Saviors). This is a wonderful opportunity to meet other area pastors and share the journey to Christ's cross together.

Trinity Lutheran Schedule for Mid-Week Lenten Services:

Feb 14: 6:30 Ash Wednesday/Holy Comm. (Pr. Diane)

***Feb. 21** – 6:30pm Service (Pr. Diane)

***Feb. 28** – 6:30pm Service (Pr. Kyle)

***Mar. 6** – 6:30pm Service (Pr. Jamie)

***Mar. 13** – 6:30pm Service (Pr. Sharayah)

***Mar. 20** – 6:30pm Service (Pr. Diane)

Mar. 28 – Maundy Thursday/Holy Comm. (Pr. Diane)

Mar. 29 – Good Friday (Pr. Diane)

*(*Meal served beginning at 5:15 p.m.; no meal on Ash Wed.)*

A Visit to the Border: A Humanitarian Crisis

On Thursday, Feb. 1 at 7 pm, Nancy Farnham will present "A Visit to the Border: A Humanitarian Crisis" at the Barnes County Museum on Central Avenue in Valley City. The presentation is free, and co-sponsored by *What in the World Is Going On?* and the Barnes Co. Historical Society.

The Mexico-U.S. border is in the news daily. Attendees of this talk and powerpoint will be able to hear first hand from Farnham what the situation is like at the border. She will share information about what she saw and heard while at the border, including her experience at shelters in Mexico, visits with local people who live and work along the border wall, and the people she met at the wall who had just crossed into the U.S.

Farnham decided to go on this trip, which took place Oct. 24-30, 2023, because there is so much in the news about the south border and she wanted to see first-hand what was happening at this time. She had been on a previous border trip in Oct. 2019 which went to El Paso, TX and Juarez MX and was greatly affected by what she saw and heard at that time. She wanted to see what had changed since 2019 and what was happening at a different location along the border.

Farnham travelled to the southern border with a group of 11 people from ND and MN. The ND Eastern Synod of the ELCA and the United Church of Christ Global Justice Advocacy Team organized the trip.



Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits

From Feb. 1st—March 15th, we will be collecting personal care items for Lutheran World Relief:

Bath towels (full size, dark colors, 52"x27")

Toothbrushes (individually wrapped)

Bar soap (prefer Dial, Zest, or Dove brand)

Nail clippers

Please place your NEW donated items in the designated basket in the Gathering Area. Thank you!!!



The next breakfast fundraiser for Casa de Fe will be **Sunday, Feb. 11th, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** All are welcome!

This is a free-will offering breakfast with all proceeds benefitting Casa de Fe, a children's orphanage in Shell, Ecuador.



**BENEFIT FOR
NOAH GURROLA ASTORGA
(OWNER OF LA CITA RESTAURANT)
VALLEY CITY EAGLES CLUB
FRIDAY, FEB. 23RD, 5-8 P.M.**

Free-will offering Taco Bar: (5 to 7 p.m.)

Silent Auction, Bake Sale

50/50 Raffle, Meat Raffle, Wine Pull

Noah has been ill, spending a considerable amount of time in and out of the hospital, since April 2023. His sole source of income is his restaurant that he has been unable to operate consistently since becoming ill. The proceeds are to help Noah with expenses. Lets help him get back to doing what he loves and what the community misses!

Donations may also be made at Dacotah Bank in VC under the Noah Gurrola Astorga Benefit.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:

Thank you to our Sunday school kids and Confirmation students for making our 2023 Christmas Program a success!

Sunday school (PreK-gr. 6) will meet three Sundays in February (4, 11, & 25th) and will continue our discussion of Old Testament stories.

Youth events:

- Thurs., Feb. 15th, 5:30-8:30 p.m.: Pizza & Movie night @ TLC for Kndg-gr.6. Invite a friend! RSVP via Sign up Genius that will be shared via email.
- Fri., Feb. 16th: Lazer Snow-tubing event in Detroit Lakes for gr. 7-12 youth; 3 p.m. departure from Faith Luth. Info/cost/sign up link was emailed to families on 1/29.
- No Senior High Youth lunch @ OSLC on Monday, Feb. 19th, due to President's Day holiday.
- No Kids Club at Faith on Wed., Feb. 21 (gr. 4-6).

Confirmation Corner — February 2024

Beginning in February (and going through all of April), it is TLC's turn to host Confirmation class for grades 7-9 youth from TLC, Faith, and OSLC. That means we will need to provide a light meal/snacks for our students. **We would greatly appreciate any donations to help with the purchase of these!** Donations can be left in the church office or given to Rebecca Westman or Pr. Diane.

Confirmation class schedule for **Wednesdays, 6:30— 8p.m. @ Trinity Lutheran Church:**
Feb. 7th: Class

Feb. 14—March 28: Students are to attend mid-week Lenten services @ 6:30 p.m.
(No regular classes during Lent; regular classes will resume on 4/03, after Easter)



Pr. Diane will be meeting with 5th Graders to learn about the sacrament of Holy Communion on Wednesdays, Feb 7, 14, and 21. **First Communion Sunday will be March 3rd.** If you or someone you know is interested in attending classes, please contact Pr. Diane.

In the past, First Communion has been on Maundy Thursday (the day we associate with Jesus beginning the sacrament of Holy Communion). Maundy Thursday service is a somber service which ends with the stripping of the altar (as we reflect on Jesus being stripped of his glory and life when he died on the cross) and everyone leaving in silence. The seriousness of the service makes it challenging for the whole congregation to celebrate this milestone with our youth. Having First Communion on a Sunday – allows for this. We tried this out last year and it worked well.



Our next book club selection is **The Midnight Library** by Matt Haig. If you would like a book ordered for you (approximately \$14) please contact the church office by **Feb 7th**. Please read the entire book and we will meet **Thursday, March 7, 2024** at 5:30 p.m. to discuss it.



"Created To Be"

ELCA Youth Gathering – New Orleans – July 2024

Carson Johnson, Mara Crowe, Sara Crowe, and Ellen Anderson are joining youth from Valley City and all around the USA to attend the ELCA Youth Gathering. In the next few months, you will have a variety of ways to support them as they prepare for their trip and this opportunity to grow in faith.

Just in Time for Valentine's – Chocolate Bars, Hot Chocolate, and Tea Sale. Give your Valentine a special treat this year and support our youth in the process. Items are on "sale" for free-will donations. Suggested Donations: Candy Bars \$3; Hot Chocolate \$6; and Tea \$4. Equal Exchange Products purchased with a Thrivent Action Card.

Stock Sale: Invest in Our Youth's Faith Life – Purchase a "stock" and receive a post card from youth while they are at the Gathering.

"A Night in New Orleans" Dinner – March 3rd

Tickets will be available in the coming weeks. Enjoy a multi-course meal featuring recipes from New Orleans. Cost: \$25 for adults and \$15 for children 11 years old and younger.

To purchase any of these items, please contact the church office or a participating youth. Please make your checks out to Faith Lutheran Church and put in the memo line: Youth Gathering – Trinity. Thanks for your support!!



Family/Friends of Patricia "Pat" Bayley (died 12/23/23 in Fargo; funeral was 1/05/24 @ TLC); Madonna Bacher-Slack, Nicole Wieser, LeRoy Magnuson, Sandie (Dahl) Mielke (Jerry's sis), Nicole Gordon (Julie Yokom's niece), Chad Henningsgard; Casa de Fe orphanage; **Others in need/tragedies**; our ELCA **EaND SYNOD/Bishop Tessa Moon-Leseth**; our **ELCA/Presiding Bishop Rev. Elizabeth Eaton**; our missionaries; military men/women; **Our Synod Partner: Central African Republic; Peace (Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Ukraine, Israel, Palestine)**



Feb. 8 Giving Hearts Day

Help someone.

Giving Hearts Day was started in 2008 by Dakota Medical Foundation & Impact Foundation as the region's first one-day virtual fundraising event. Donors can easily give to various charities on Giving Hearts Day with just a few minutes of time.

We are hoping you will help us fuel our Eastern ND Synod's ministries and mission to "live in love as we equip, challenge and serve God's people" by making a gift on Giving Hearts Day **on Feb. 8th**. Here's how:

On (or before) Thursday, Feb. 8th:

1) Head to www.givingheartsday.org/#/charity/379

2) Choose Eastern ND Synod (& other charities)

3) Make your gift. We are the living, breathing, heartbeat of Jesus Christ in the world today.

If you prefer to mail a donation to the Eastern ND Synod, please mail your check **before 2/03** to:

EaND Synod, P.O. Box 2019, Fargo, ND 58107

(please write GHD in the memo line, and date your check 2/08/24)

VITAL CHURCH SESSIONS: EaND Synod staff is hosting two sessions on worship. The first one, on Feb 18, from 2pm to 5pm, "Cultivating Worship" reviews the history and traditions around worship and explores new worship practices that will further foster participation, faith practices, and creativity. On February 25, from 2pm to 5pm, "Word & Proclamation" ponders a variety of practices and tools for use during the sermon time, particularly when the pastor is gone. Participants can attend either or both of these sessions, which will be held via Zoom. To register, visit eandsynod.org, click on "Events" and then "Vital Conversations."



FOOTSTEPS OF PAUL TOUR: Join Bishop Tessa Moon Leseth and members of the Eastern ND and Western ND Synods on the trip of a lifetime retracing the footsteps of the Apostle Paul. We will travel to Greece and Turkey on Oct. 15-26, 2024. For more information, visit eandsynod.org, click on "Events", and then "Footsteps of Paul Tour."

Dec. '23 & Jan. '24 Memorials

General Fund

In memory of **Pat Bayley**
Given by Bernie & Edna Elsner

In memory of **Ethel Paulson**
Given by Bernie & Edna Elsner

In memory of **Loved Ones**
Given by Leif & Roz Ravnaas

In memory of **Shirley Willson**
Given by her family

In memory of **Elaine Beyer**
Given by Dennis & Sharon Anundson

Memorial Fund

In memory of **Shirley Willson**
Given by Shirley Koslofsky

In memory of **Grace Hansen**
Given by Shirley Koslofsky

Christian Education

In memory of **Elaine Beyer**
Given by Marleen Pytlik

Altar Guild

In memory of **Virginia Sorenson**
Given by Holly (Sorenson) Arps

In memory of **Hattie Noack**
Give by Holly (Sorenson) Arps

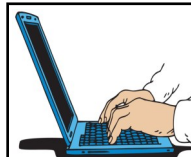
Casa de Fe

In memory of **Pat Bayley**
Given by Pat Beil & Bernie Walters

In memory of **Larry Svenningson**
Given by Pat Beil & Bernie Walters

In memory of **Marge Van Well**
Given by Pat Beil & Bernie Walters

In memory of **Ray McClafin**
Given by Pat Beil & Bernie Walters



Synod E-Newsletter:

You can sign up for Connections E-Newsletter! This newsletter from the synod office will be sent via email and give updates and resources to connect you to the wider church body. **Visit eandsynod.org and click on "E-Newsletter" tab to sign up.**

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS 2024:

Council President: Linda Anderson **Vice Pres.:** Kim Wittenberg **Secretary:** Jennifer Jenness
Other members: Russ Larson, Gene Langemo, Bruce Anderson, Stan Flemmer, Kathy Hoefs

Trinity Council Meeting Highlights – December 19th, 2023

Present: Pastor Diane, Kaneia Kinney, Linda Anderson, Russ Larson, Jennifer Jenness, Gene Langemo, Kathy Hoefs, Stan Flemmer **Absent:** Bruce Anderson, Kim Wittenberg

President Linda Anderson called the meeting to order. Pastor Diane shared a devotion from Acts 1:1-9. No correspondence was received. The agenda, previous minutes, and treasurer's report were approved. Pastor gave her report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Christian Education & Youth – Jennifer:
 - A. Sunday School resumes January 7 after Christmas break
 - B. Confirmation Classes and Kids Club resume January 10
 - C. Book Club meets January 4th at 5:30pm – “Giver of the Stars”
2. Endowment – Russ:
 - A. Distribution amount available in Dec 2023 = \$4,265 (down \$1,260 from 2022)
 - B. See annual meeting report for more information.
 - C. The Endowment Committee is willing to entertain other needs.
3. Global Missions/Outreach/Stewardship – Gene/Linda:
 - A. 125 Community Thanksgiving Baskets (Trinity donated \$1,652)
4. Worship/Music – Kathy:
 - A. Christmas Eve Service – Dec 24th at 4pm with Communion
5. WELCA (Women of ELCA)/Kim:
 - A. Received 2 bids for countertops in the kitchen; 1 for \$18,000 and one for \$10,600. Tabled until we have full bid information with specs.
6. Property/Gene, Bruce & Stan:
 - A. RJ's put in a valve so the outdoor church spigot can be turned off
 - B. The church's new boiler is here and will be installed as soon as possible.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Nominating Committee Report
 - A. Audit Committee will be Sue Martin, Rose Wendt, and Karen Ladbury
 - B. Council Nominations: 3 year: Gary Botner; 3 year: Rob Nelson; and 1 year to complete term – still looking
 - C. Endowment Nomination: Alex Wittenberg willing to serve a 2nd term
2. Annual Meeting Agenda: in progress

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Membership: Council voted to accept Gary Botner and Robert Nelson as members. At her request, Kathy Brobst-Clark remains voting member at Trinity, while associate member at Living Waters Lutheran Church, Fargo
2. Need to name Emergency Contacts for the Barnes County Dispatch Center
3. Budget

Next meeting will be January 9, 2024 at 6:30pm. After a motion to adjourn the meeting was approved, the meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Trinity Council Meeting Highlights – January 9th, 2024

Present: Pastor Diane, Kaneia Kinney, Linda Anderson, Russ Larson, Jennifer Jenness, Gene Langemo, Kathy Hoefs, Stan Flemmer, Kim Wittenberg **Absent:** Bruce Anderson

President Linda Anderson called the meeting to order. Pastor Diane shared a devotion from Acts 6. There were no correspondence. The Agenda and Treasurer’s Report were approved. Pastor Diane gave her report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Because of the holidays, most committees did not meet. Their meeting dates are on the calendar.

- 1. Property/Gene, Bruce & Stan:
 - A. Church’s small boiler has been replaced. We are waiting on the total cost.
 - B. Church kitchen countertops: still need full specs; Gene will follow up on the lower bid to find out what is covered.
 - C. Ice storm caused branches down and some minor gutter damage at the church.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Nominating Committee Report
 - 1. Audit Committee: Sue Martin, Rose Wendt, and Karen Ladbury will need to meet soon
 - 2. Council Nominations: 3 year – Gary Botner; 3 year – Rob Nelson;
1 year to complete term – Diane Kracht
 - 3. Endowment Nomination: Alex Wittenberg willing to serve a 2nd term.
- B. Emergency Contacts for the Barnes County Dispatch Center: Diane Kracht, Rebecca Westman, and Pastor Diane. Form has been submitted.
- C. Annual Meeting Agenda was finalized.
- D. 2024 Proposed Budget was finalized.
 - 1. Russ moved to increase Pastor salary by 3.5%, Gene seconded; motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Lent begins Feb. 14; pastors will rotate like last year (Faith, Our Saviors, Trinity, and Kathryn/Fingal/Nome)
- B. First Communion Sunday in March during Lent.

Next meeting will be February 13, 2024 at 6:30pm. After motion to adjourn was approved, the meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

“God’s Work. Our Hands.”

Nov. 2023 Financial

Beginning Balance (as of 11/01/23): \$-5,199.75
Income: \$16,845.05
Expenses: \$13,079.96
Ending Balance (as of 11/30/23): \$-1,434.66

Dec. 2023 Financial

Beginning Balance (as of 12/01/23): \$-1,434.66
Income: \$30,358.23
Expenses: \$14,167.18
Ending Balance (as of 12/31/23): \$14,756.39

Dec. 2023 Worship Attendance

3rd: **52** 24th: **151** (Christmas Eve)
10th: **51** 31st: **33**
17th: **110** (Sun. School Christmas prgm)

Jan. 2024 Worship Attendance

7th: **44**
14th: **Canceled, due to weather**
21st: **52**
28th: **60** (Annual Meeting date)



Annual Meeting booklets were distributed at the Annual Meeting (held on Jan. 28) and also emailed to TLC members we have email addresses for, but if you were unable to be at the meeting or prefer a paper copy (rather than email), you may pick one up at the church Monday-Thursday (9 a.m. to 3 p.m.), or on Sunday mornings. They are located on the table just outside the office and also on the table next to the sound system at back of sanctuary. Below are some highlights of the meeting.

Annual Meeting for Year 2023 Highlights

(Congregational meeting held on Sunday, Jan. 28, 2024, following Worship)

- Sound system in sanctuary is fully installed and working well.
- A new Parsonage furnace was successfully installed.
- Going off of council: Gene Langemo, Russ Larson, Jennifer Jenness, and Bruce Anderson. We thank them for their service. Elected to three-year Council terms are Gary Botner and Robert Nelson; elected to one-year Council term is Diane Kracht (completing Bruce Anderson's term).
- Elected to a five-year term for Endowment is Alex Wittenberg (serving second term). Kathy Burchill was elected to complete a term ending in 2028.
- The smaller church boiler was replaced this year. At some point, the larger boiler will need replacing as it is near failing. The church should be proactive and begin planning for its replacement. The TLC Council was given authority to replace the larger boiler, if needed.
- Kitchen countertops in basement: they are showing their age and are cracked in two areas. WELCA received bids for replacement for \$20,000 (from LaValle Flooring) and \$10,600 (from Bob Reiersen) for replacing the tops. This will be put on the TLC "Wish list".
- 140th Anniversary of Trinity Lutheran Church: TLC will be 140 years old in 2024. A planning committee will be formed. Aiming for a celebration this fall.
- Synod Assembly delegates: Synod Assembly will take place June 1-2, 2024, in Fargo at the Holiday Inn. Linda Anderson and Jeanne Wobbema were elected to be TLC's voting members for this year.