



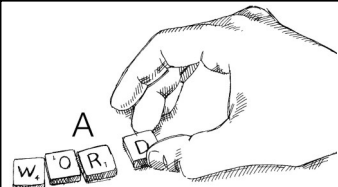


# Trinity & Westridge

Monthly Newsletter for Members & Friends



 **APRIL**    **2025**



from the  
Pastor

Greetings brothers and sisters in Christ,

I hope this month's newsletter finds you well and in good spirits. We are now more than half way through the Lenten season and preparing for Holy Week and Easter.

Personally, I find myself needing the reminder to slow down and not get too ahead of myself. It's too easy, as a pastor, to want to jump ahead and begin the preparations for Holy Week and Easter Sunday. It's too easy to brainstorm all the ways we could make things "bigger and better". However, it's also quite humbling

to put myself in the shoes of those who lived in biblical times who did not know what was to come. The people who had no idea that the events about to transpire and unfold before their eyes would lead to the most momentous occasion in biblical history. If we were to put ourselves in their shoes, the next few weeks would look and feel very different to say the least...and there is some beauty in that. A humbling reminder to slow down and remain focused on our spiritual task at hand. We are being encouraged this season to evaluate where in our lives we are distracted from God. What distracts us from seeing and seeking God in our daily lives. A tangible action to put this spiritual concept into action is by giving up those distractions and replacing them with practices that nourish your faith. This is a spiritual discipline to help us remember to keep the main thing the main thing.

I gave up playing a silly game on my phone that had become too easy to play and habitually a distraction in my life. In my valiant attempt to refrain from playing this game, I know I have fallen short a few times, but I'm also growing in my self awareness of just how much time I was allowing this game to take off my day. I'm also learning how easy it was for me to get sucked into the game by subconsciously pulling it up on my phone and playing it without even realizing it until I was already deep into it. It blew my mind. So, while I have fallen short, I am grateful to have challenged myself in this way. Does this resonate with you in any way? Are you finding moments of learning and self discovery during this Lenten season? What has been helping you ground yourself in the moment?

As we go through the remaining weeks of our time in Lent, I invite us to continue to practice our spiritual disciplines and strive to seek God in new and familiar spaces. There are going to be various interactive and spiritually reflective opportunities provided to everyone between now and Holy Week and you can find all of those details in the newsletter calendar and during announcement time each week during worship. I encourage you to participate in whatever helps you draw closer to Christ and nourish your faith.

Take care, my family in Christ,

Pastor Caitlin



Holy Week  
Worship &  
Activity  
Schedule

April 12—Madison Community Easter Egg Hunt, Memorial Park, 3 pm

April 13—Palm Sunday, Westridge 9 am, Trinity 11 am

April 17—Maundy Thursday, 7 pm at Westridge

April 18—Good Friday VBS, 1-4 pm at Westridge

Tenebrae Service at Trinity, 7 pm

April 20—Easter! 7 am—Madison Community Sunrise Service, Madison Arts Center

9 am—Worship at Westridge

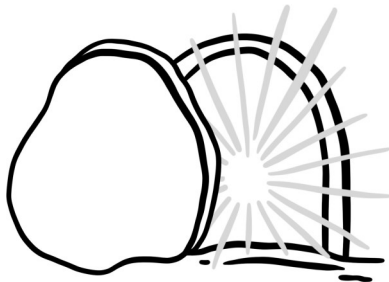
10 am—Easter Egg Hunt at Trinity

11 am—Worship at Trinity

## Update to Lenten Wednesdays



- April 2—Confession & Repentance  
Westridge
- April 9—Anointing Service  
First Church
- April 16—Walking the Stations of the Cross  
First Church



Hope is Alive



If you or someone you know (they do not need to be a member of Trinity or Westridge) would like to receive one on one care from a Stephen Minister, call the church office or Deb Ussey, 402-649-2330.

## Bible Study

Monday—2 pm—at Westridge  
Thursday—4:30 pm—at Little Lyon Coffee Co.  
These will follow same lessons so if you can't make it to one—you can go to the other.  
All are welcome to join this study!

Please remember to let Pastor Caitlin know if you are sick, hospitalized or otherwise in need of pastoral care. She wants to care for us in times of struggle, but she can't do that if she doesn't know! Share joys with her too!!



- ✝ Larry Ramsier, February 22
- ✝ Joan Smith, March 3

## Please offer PRAYERS for those in our church families (as of 3-26-2025)

- ◆ **Those in need of healing of the body, mind & spirit:**  
T: Helen Finkral  
W: Jim Koch, Lavonne Nightengale
- ◆ **Those facing cancer:** W: Kelly Koch                      T: George Tollman
- ◆ **Those who are at home & in care facilities & all care givers:**  
Home: (W) Sharon Carlow                      Nebraska Veteran's Home, Norfolk: (W) Vern Hepker  
Meadows: (W) Rev. Dillon Hess, Lee Peterson, Mabel Siegert, Mavis Miller, Velda Long  
                    (T) Jerry McCallum  
Heritage of Bel Air: (T) Dorothy Reigle (W) Leon Chapman  
St. Joseph's, Norfolk: (W) Fran McAllister  
Heritage of Fountain Point T Shirley Neidig, Dave Plugge, Phyllis Trine



### 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.*

**Facebook:** Trinity UMC & Westridge United Methodist Church  
**Websites:** madisontrinityumc.org & norfolkwestridgeumc.org

### 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



# TRINITY NEWS

We are looking for volunteers on Sunday mornings at 10:00-11:00 am to be an extra adult during Children's Church. If you are interested or have questions talk to Naomi, 402-649-5582.

A sign up sheet will be available soon!!



Children's Church  
10 am every Sunday  
Come for Faith,  
Fellowship & Fun!

## Ad Board Meeting Minutes 3/18/2025

Members at the meeting were Sherry Hake, Jon Moyer, Kevin Pearson, Crystal Ketelsen, & Pastor Caitlin. Sherry opened the meeting at 6:00 pm with a prayer.

Minutes of the February 26 meeting were read and approved with a typographical correction.

Crystal Ketelsen handed out the treasurer's report. It was reviewed and approved. Jon Moyer was asked about the check he had put in the offering Sunday (for clarification) and he told us it was from the Madison Foundation that he runs. We expressed our gratitude for his generosity.

Old Business: Pastor Caitlin still needs to get ahold of Anthony Ketelsen regarding computer; committees still in progress—getting them running one at a time. Will get the contact info for the person to contact for potential treasurer.

Pastor Caitlin: Holy Week schedule is reversed from last year—Maundy Thursday is at Westridge and Good Friday is at Trinity. On Easter Sunday the Community Easter Sunrise Service is at the Arts Center, at 10 am Trinity will have an Easter Egg Hunt with regular worship at 11 am. Pastor Caitlin reported she had given Justin Kleindienst permission to turn in hours for working on the Sunday School room.

Mission Team: The check for the Christian Cross Festival has been sent.

Education: Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday; remodeling work moving forward; VBS planning meeting coming soon.

SPPRC has not met yet.

Community Service: Community Meal on March 29th. Trinity works the Food Pantry for the month of April.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM. Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 15, 2025, 6 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](http://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, Crystal Ketelsen at 402-454-2514.

# Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle met Tuesday, March 11, 2025, 1:30 p.m. at the church. Six ladies gathered for devotions and fellowship. Deb led the devotion discussion on "Holy Tears". There was a discussion on when, how we pray, or if it is ok to pray in public. Ruth Circle will be having a bake sale with the rummage sale May 2 & 3, 2025. Deb shared some fun facts about St. Patrick's Day then she served a St. Patrick's Day cake. Following lunch, boxes were packed for our college students.

The next Ruth Circle gathering will be Monday, April 14, 2025, 11:30 a.m. at Perkins for lunch and fellowship. Come join us for food and good conversation. We will look forward to new faces.

# Westridge News



These dishes are looking for their owners! Please claim ASAP!

## Westridge Sunday Coffee Hour

April-May-June 2025



April 6	Lisa & Jen
April 13	Karen, Linda & Faye
April 20	Shirley & Francie
April 27	Dohmens
May 4	Steph & Samantha
May 11	Rick & Mary
May 18	Mary Ann & Sharon
May 25	Sue, Crystal & Jerry
June 1	Shelly & Peg
June 8	Tina & Mike
June 15	Deb, Carol & Lavonne N.
June 22	Sue & Wayne
June 29	"Covered Dish Brunch"



This summer, the Healthy Congregations team is partnering with The Salvation Army to plant a community garden. If you are interested in helping with this project please let Deb or Karen know!

## Westridge Methodist Church Council March 6, 2025, 7:06 P.M.

Present: Wayne and Sue Andreasen, Dave Scarf, Dave and Sue Sieler and Rev Caitlin. The meeting was opened by a Prayer from Rev. Caitlin. The minutes from the last meeting were read and approved for the file. The Treasurer report was handed out and went over and placed on file. The finance audit has been completed for the past year. Sue reported that the online baking is up and going. Old Business: Calling post has been tested for Trinity and Westridge; will be coming soon. Tablets are still being worked on and should be finished up and being used soon. There have been some questions on how to set them up through Amazon as we don't want to do it more than once.

We are still making progress on the paraments. The grant is being worked on. New Business: Start cleaning out your closets and garages as the SPRING Rummage sale will be held May 2nd and May 3rd. Rev. Caitlin is working on Holy Week, and it will be announced in the bulletin. (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday) Easter VBS will be held April 19, 2025. Healthy Congregations and Ruth Circle will be working on care packages for College Students.

Respectfully submitted  
Peggy Fox  
Church Council Secretary



**RUMMAGE SALE**

# WESTRIDGE = SPRING RUMMAGE & BAKE SALE



Friday, May 2, 4-7 pm  
Saturday, May 3, 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!



## Healthy Recipe from the Westridge Healthy Congregation Team Carrot Raisin Salad

- 4 cups grated carrots
- 3/4 cup thinly sliced celery
- 2/3 cup raisins

**Dressing:**

- 1/2 cup nonfat mayonnaise
- 1/4 cup frozen apple juice concentrate, thawed

Combine the carrots, celery and raising in a large bowl. Combine the dressing ingredients in a small bowl, pour over the vegetable mixture. Toss to mix well. Cover the salad and chill for several hours or overnight before serving. 8 servings in this recipe.

Nutritional analysis: Calories 92, Fat 0, Cholesterol 0, Protein 1.5, Sodium 135.

## 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](http://www.campfontanelle.com)

Ask about discounts and Camp Scholarships

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

Talk to our Camp Ambassador, Naomi, from Trinity

# Westridge UMC Easter VBS

April 18, 2025

1:00-4:00 PM

@ 2000 W. Norfolk Ave.

Journey through Jerusalem  
with Jesus!



Join us for snacks and Easter Bible lessons.

Ages 0-18 welcome!

If anyone would like to donate candy and/or prizes for the Easter Egg hunt, please place them in the Sunday school room before Palm Sunday. We will be stuffing the eggs that day after church. (please—no chocolate, it melts!!)



Team work.



"What could I say? They are her most Easterly shoes."



Youth from Trinity, Westridge and First Church doing a craft on Ash Wednesday.





