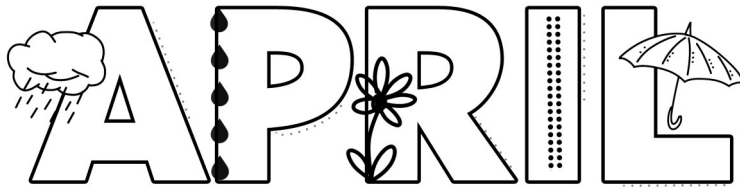


Trinity & Westridge

Monthly Newsletter for Members & Friends



2026



Easter Greetings Church Family,

As we journey through these final days of Lent, we find ourselves standing at the threshold of something both familiar and profoundly new. Lent has invited us into reflection, repentance, and renewal—a season of turning our hearts again toward God. And now, as the shadows of Good Friday give way to the radiant hope of Easter morning, we are reminded that resurrection is not only a moment in history, but a promise that continues to unfold in our lives today.

Easter proclaims that new life is always possible. What once seemed finished, God is still redeeming. What felt heavy is being lifted. What appeared uncertain is being made new. This is the good news we carry—not just in word, but in the way we live, love, and move forward together as Christ's body in the world.

It is in this spirit of resurrection and new beginnings that I share some personal news with you. In the rhythm of our United Methodist tradition, this season also brings a time of transition. I have received a new appointment and will be serving another congregation in the coming months. This news comes with a mixture of emotions. My time here has been deeply meaningful, and I am profoundly grateful for the ways we have grown together in faith, served our community, and walked alongside one another through both joys and challenges. You have shaped me as a pastor and as a person more than I can fully express.

At the same time, I trust in the movement of the Holy Spirit that guides our steps—even when the path leads us into the unknown. Just as Easter reminds us that God is always bringing forth new life, I believe that God is already at work preparing what comes next—for me, for you, and for this church.

In the weeks ahead, there will be time to celebrate, to remember, and to say goodbye well. But for now, I simply want to say thank you. Thank you for your faith, your generosity, your kindness, and your willingness to be the church in such a beautiful and authentic way.

As we approach Easter, may we hold fast to the hope that defines us: that in every ending, God is already writing a new beginning.

With gratitude and hope,
Pastor Caitlin

See page 2 for Holy
Week Schedule!

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



Holy Week Schedule

April 1st—Stations of the Cross

All parish worship at First UMC
walking the stations of the cross at 7 pm.
youth meal—6:30 pm

April 2—Maundy Thursday

7 pm—Worship at Trinity

April 3—Good Friday

1-3 pm—Easter VBS at Westridge
7 pm—Worship at Westridge

April 5—Easter Sunday

Madison Community Sunrise Service
7:30 am at Madison Arts Center
9 am—Worship at Westridge
10 am—Easter Egg Hunt at Trinity
11 am—Worship at Trinity

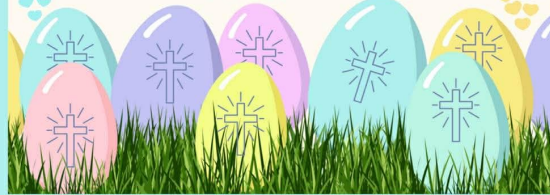
WESTRIDGE UMC INVITES YOU TO AN EGG-CELLENT EASTER VBS

GAMES | BIBLE STORIES | FUN | EGG HUNT

FRIDAY, APRIL 3RD

1:00-3:00 PM

2000 W NORFOLK AVENUE



Easter Sunday
Children's Church
at 10 am will include an Easter
Egg Hunt!!!



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

Talk to our Camp Ambassador, Naomi, from Trinity about discounts, Camp Scholarships or any other questions you may have!!

Early Bird
Registration
Discount deadline
is April 1

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



Bible Study

Monday—2 pm—at Westridge
Thursday—4:30 pm—at Little Lyon Coffee Co.
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!!



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 Ussery, 402-649-2330.

Please offer PRAYERS for those in our church families (as 3-27-2026)

- ◆ **Those in need of healing of the body, mind & spirit:**
T: George Tollman
W: Betty Walz, Reta Clark, Judy West
- ◆ **Those facing cancer:** W: _____ T: George Tollman
- ◆ **Those who are at home & in care facilities & all care givers:**
Home: W Sharon Carlow
Meadows: W Rev. Lee Peterson, Mavis Miller, Velda Long T Jerry McCallum
Heritage of Bel Air: W Leon Chapman
St. Joseph's, Norfolk: W Fran McAllister Stanton Care Center W Reta Clark, Betty Walz
Heritage of Fountain Point T Shirley Neidig, Phyllis Trine W Elaine Fuller





Free Little
Pantry

Remember our mini
pantry at Westridge!
It has seen a lot of action.
Thank you for your support.

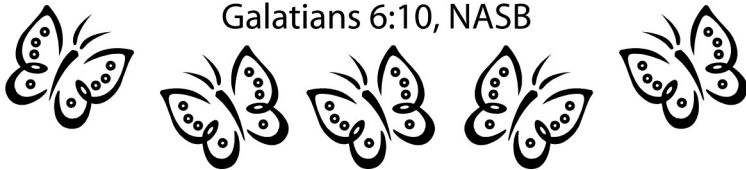
Suggested Items for the Free Little Food Pantry at Westridge

Meat Packets—Tuna, Chicken, Beef, Pulled Pork	Cereal		
Peanut Butter	Soup	Jello Cups	Pasta
Trail mix	Boxed Meals	Dried fruit	
Hamburger or Tuna Helper	Stuffing	Popcorn	
Beans (dried or canned)	Canned Fruits	Crackers	
Rice Cups or Boxes	Bread	Rice or Pasta Packets	
Granola Bars	Oatmeal	Ramen Noodles/Noodle Cups	
Applesauce (cups, pouches, or plastic jars)	Breakfast Bars		
Individual Wrapped Snacks (cookies, bars, Rice Krispies, animal crackers)			
Baby Food (puffs, rice snacks, plastic containers of baby food)			
Pop-tarts	Small Bags of Chips	Fruit Cups	
Pretzels	Hormel Meals	Pudding	
Individual Boxes of Raisins	Canned Meals and Pasta		
Instant Mashed Potatoes	Pasta Sauce in a Can		
Canned Vegetables	Macaroni & Cheese (individual and boxes)		
Jelly/Jam (plastic jar)	Pancake Mix	Fruit Snacks	



Let's do good to all people.

Galatians 6:10, NASB



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, Crystal Ketelsen at 402-454-2514.



Dave Plugge's Celebration of Life will be Saturday, May 23, 2026, 10:30 am at Trinity.

TRINITY NEWS



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

Budget Information for the Newsletter - Trinity United Methodist Church

2026 Budget: \$154590

Weekly average needed: \$2,973
Monthly average needed: \$12,883
2025 average Monthly Offerings: \$4,700



Church Finances

	Actual Offerings	Over/ (Short)	Rental Income	Rental Expense	Interest Income	Budget Over/ (Short)
January	\$5,713	(\$7,170)	\$4,862	\$1,353	\$735	(\$2,871)
February	\$4,306	(\$8,577)	\$4,862	(\$1,353)	\$735	(\$4,334)
March						
Totals	\$10,019	(\$15,747)	\$9,724	(\$2,706)	\$1,525	(\$7,205)

	Actual Expenses	Over/Short	Rental Income	Rental Expense	Interest Income	Actual Over/ Short
January	\$10,723	(\$5,010)	\$4,862	(\$1,353)	\$818	(\$683)
February	\$11,511	(\$7,205)	\$4,862	(\$1,353)	\$710	(\$2,986)
March						
Totals	\$22,234	(\$12,215)	\$9,724	(\$2,706)	\$1,528	(\$3,669)



March 24, 2026, 6 pm

Present were Rev. Caitlin, Shannon Konken, Scott & Kim Wilkerson, Sherry Hake, Jan Hake, & visitor Macy Hake.

Sherry Hake brought the meeting to order.

Minutes from the last meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer's Report: General account was overdrawn on Monday, \$10,000 was moved from Dover Farm Account to the general account. We need to figure out a signer for online banking.

Old Business: Silent Auction was a success; we raised over \$4,000. Next fundraiser idea – end of May – homemade ready to go meals to sell in the community. Preparations will be made to collect recipes and get order forms ready by mid-April/early May.

Pastor Caitlin: Sermon Series: "All things new" will start on Easter Sunday and go through Trinity Sunday (May 31, 2026). Mission Trip payments of \$125 for High School and \$25 for Middle School are due. Pastor Caitlin and Kevin Pearson are still working on our 2026 financial housekeeping goal. We are almost finished and hope to be back on track by May.

Mission Team: Discussion was had about sending \$1000 with Macy Hake to purchase and send supplies to Nebraska Ranchers to help with the wildfire tragedy. Kim Wilkerson moved as such and Jan Hake seconded, motion carried.

SPPRC: Met March 21st at 4 pm with District Superintendent to announce Pastor Caitlin's reappointment. Next meeting is April 8th, 6 pm at Westridge.

Community Service: 4th of July Preparations will be made in April during Food Pantry.

Trustees: no report

Next meeting will be April 21, 2026 at 6 pm.

Westridge News

Westridge Sunday Coffee Hour

April—May—June 2026



April 5	Lisa & Jen
April 12	Linda & Faye
April 19	Carol & Francie
April 26	Dohmens
May 3	Steph & Samantha
May 10	Rick & Mary
May 17	Mary Ann & Sharon
May 24	Sue, Crystal & Jerry
May 31	“Covered Dish Brunch”
June 7	Shelly, Peg & Dave
June 14	Tina & Mike
June 21	Deb, Karen & Lavonne
June 28	Sue & Wayne

Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle met Tuesday, March 10 with 10 ladies present. Deb led devotions from the Upper Room. The theme was “Diving Deeper”. Karen served treats. Boxes were packed for the college students. Ruth Circle will be having a bake sale with the Rummage Sale May 1 & 2, 2026. All donations of baked good are welcome. The next Ruth Circle gathering will be Tuesday, April 14, 2026. We will meet at Black Cow Fat Pig at 11:30 for lunch and fellowship. New faces are welcome for a time of friendship.



CHURCH FINANCES

2026 Budget—\$105,509
 Average offering needed per week—\$2,029
 Offering received: January— \$4,480.20
 February—\$3,566.70
 March 4 wks—\$6,831.35
 Total received to date: \$14,878.25
 Should have received: \$24,348 (12 weeks x \$2029)
 Amount BEHIND budget—\$9,469.75
 Note: Only 3 weeks we received average needed/week.



See Calendar for drop-off times.



FOOD PANTRY Volunteers

Westridge served the Norfolk Community Food Pantry March 2—13. We served 90 families with 12 people serving!



Are you counting your steps?

We started our Journey on Ash Wednesday! (Feb. 18th)

We are doing it a bit different this time- we are starting in Bethlehem and walking where Jesus walked.

Steps can be turned in to Deb or Sam on Sunday mornings, or by text or email, or Facebook! Our goal is to follow Jesus' footsteps and end up in Jerusalem for a fun walk/run in September. You can turn in steps or distances.

Westridge Church Council

March 19, 2026, 6 pm

Attendees: Pastor Caitlin, Crystal Ketelsen, Linda McMeekin, Lisa Heitman, John Heitman, Deb Ussery, Sam Zoucha, Khloe Zoucha, Anthony Ketelsen, Sue Andreasen, Rick & Mary Christensen, Jerry Ketelsen

Linda McMeekin called the meeting to order; Pastor Caitlin opened with prayer.

Minutes from the January meeting were read and approved with the correction of Deb Ussery was not in attendance in February.

Finance report was presented. Discussed continued income shortage. Elkhorn Valley Bank has received the documentation needed to make Lisa Heitman administrator of the account and they will call her to complete this. Report was placed on file for audit.

Old Business: none

Pastor Caitlin: Lenten services are going awesome with great attendance. Youth portion also going well with good attendance. Holy Week will start with Saturday Evening service at Trinity as it is a 5th Sunday weekend; Palm Sunday will be regular worship at Westridge & Trinity and our 5th Sunday Potluck at Westridge; Wednesday is All Parish Worship at 7 pm at First Church, the theme is Stations of the Cross with 3 groups – stationary, walking and youth; Maundy Thursday Worship will be at Trinity at 7pm; Good Friday Worship will be at Westridge at 7 pm; Easter Sunday will be regular worship times and Westridge will have a baptism that day!! We will also have a baptism the following Sunday – Praise God! Pastor Caitlin stated that her iPads were both out of date and the mini – which is what she uses at gravesides, weddings, funerals etc – does not work at all. She proposed to Church Council a cost split with her paying ½ and each church paying ¼. Sue Andreasen moved that Westridge pay for ¼ of the cost of a iPad mini with the funds coming from Memorials, Sam Zoucha seconded, motion carried. She is planning on working with each church and setting short-term goals; going from survival to thriving.

Children/Youth: Still needing candy or other small items for the Easter Egg Hunt at Easter VBS on Good Friday. The eggs will be stuffed after church/brunch on Palm Sunday. Jack Crosier will be going on the Senior High Mission trip.

SPPRC: No report. Next meeting April 8, 6 pm at Westridge.

Trustees: The lights that were chosen for the west side of the church are out of stock; different ones will be picked out. Next Meeting will be April 22nd at 7 pm.

Memorials: Vern Hepker's memorials were designated for "fun items" for the children and youth.

Healthy Congregations: The steps are coming in for our Walking with Jesus Journey. Deb Ussery and Karen Goetsch will be attending the Healthy Congregations Retreat.

Ruth Circle: Mary Christensen asked if there are Sundays that we do not want a Coffee Hour, ie Easter or if Christmas falls on Sunday. It was discussed and consensus was to have Coffee Hour on Easter, and if there is ever a Sunday we do not want it to let her know as soon as possible so the serving schedule can be adjusted. Next meeting will be April 14th, 11:30 am at Black Cow Fat Pig.

New Business: None.

Next meeting will be Thursday, April 23, 2026, 6 pm.

YOUTH ACTIVITY MARCH 11



YOUTH ACTIVITY MARCH 11

