

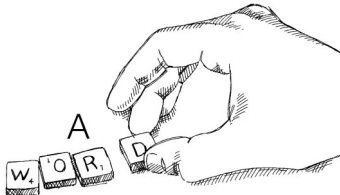
# Trinity & Westridge

Monthly Newsletter for Members & Friends



# February

# 2025



from the  
Pastor

Greetings Everyone!

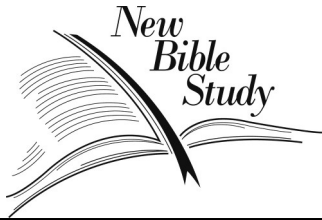
We are entering into February, how is that even possible? A lot has been going on in the life and body of our communities and while the days are long the months are short (it seems like). I first want to make a public apology for not getting emails out to committees. If you signed up for a committee during our involvement fairs in November, please know that you are still on my mind and I have not forgotten. In the month of January we had 4 funerals unexpectedly occur. This means that we, as a church community, gathered together to say our earthly goodbye to four amazing saints who have joined God in heaven to reign in the Kingdom of God. We rejoice in their heavenly gain, but mourn with their loved ones in our physical loss. With having one funeral each week in January and knowing that a funeral takes about a week to plan, organize, and go through, a lot of administrative work gets pushed off in order to prioritize and focus our care and support for the families. With all that being said, I do apologize that I have not had the time to organize committee meetings this month and I greatly appreciate your patience and grace. I am slowly making headway in reaching out to leaders and committees and you should be hearing from me very soon. Just know that we have still hit the ground running in 2025, it has just happened in different ways than what we had initially planned for (and that is okay).

As we enter into February, the month of love (thanks to Valentines Day), I find myself reflecting in 1 Corinthians 13 that says "If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing." What is love if not a gift from God to share with those around us? This month, we are continuing our deep dive into the miracles that Jesus performed in his ministry and exploring the ways in which God has shown us His deep and unconditional love for us through Jesus Christ and the acts of the Holy Spirit. This month, I am feeling encouraged, and I invite you to join me in this spiritual discipline, to examine the ways in which I can express more love to my family, friends, and neighbors. When presented with conflict, maybe stop for a moment and think of how our response can be given in love. When experiencing moments of frustration and anger, let's take a moment to assess how we can love like Jesus to ensure that we are being a good neighbor. Love has the power to transform and transcend us. It allows us an opportunity to take our blinders off and see a bigger picture. It provides us with a chance to deepen our relationships with one another and offer grace in fruitful ways. I invite you to join me in this reflection and put it into love based action. Together, we can continue to show our communities that we mean what we say when we say that we are a Christian community that loves with our whole hearts. Let us work together to give ample room for the Holy Spirit to work within us to do the work that we have been called to accomplish.

On a last note for this month, February will also be a time spent preparing our hearts for what is to come: Lent. A time when we are reminded of what life would be like without the love of Christ expressed to us through the ultimate sacrifice that comes with his death and resurrection. Ash Wednesday is on March 5th this year and I want to share with you some opportunities that will be provided to everyone on that day. Westridge will be doing a collaboration with our neighbors at First UMC this year for Lent and Easter, starting with Ash Wednesday. To ensure that everyone gets their ashes, First UMC will be hosting a 12:00 pm service and Westridge/Trinity will be hosting a 7:00 pm service at Westridge on Ash Wednesday. This is your invitation to pick whichever service works for your schedule and join others in a time of reflection, meditation, and worship with the imposition of ashes. Additionally, I will be at each church, at different times of that day, standing outside for "drive by ashes" for anyone who is on their way to work, on their lunch break, or wants to receive their ashes outside of the traditional service. Times and locations will be determined at a later time, but will be publicized to you as we get closer to March.

I hope everyone has a safe and lovely February. Go in peace loving and serving the Lord, my friends.

In Christ's Love,  
Pastor Caitlin



### 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!



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 remember that our email address is [trinitywestridgeparish@gmail.com](mailto:trinitywestridgeparish@gmail.com)  
The old Frontier address is still active and I check it periodically but not every day. To ensure your email is seen in a timely manner, please use the correct email!  
Thank you—Crystal



- † Eugene "Gene" Trine, January 10
- † David Davenport, January 12
- † Debbie Peterson, January 25

### Please offer PRAYERS for those in our church families (as of 1-31-2025)

- ◆ Those in need of healing of the body, mind & spirit:

T:

W: Sharon Plugge, Shirley Neidig

- ◆ Those facing cancer: W: Kelly Koch

- ◆ 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, Helen Finkral, 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](http://madisontrinityumc.org) & [norfolkwestridgeumc.org](http://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](mailto:trinitywestridgeparish@gmail.com)



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

# TRINITY NEWS

## Ad Board Meeting Minutes

1/21/2025

Sherry opened the meeting at 6:00 pm with devotions Psalm 118:24. Members at the meeting were Pastor Caitlin Bentzinger, Jan Hake (via phone), Tracy Anderson, Kim Wilkerson, and Sherry Hake.

Last Month's meeting minutes were read and approved as presented.

Treasurer Report: was presented and approved. Our mission share goal has been paid in full for 2024.

Old Business: Crystal's son, Tony has presented a proposal of cost to build a computer for Crystal's office. Jan motioned to approve the purchase of parts for \$647.00. Kim seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Pastor Caitlin: Mission trips for high schoolers and middle schoolers are being planned with Elkhorn Hills for this summer. She also continues to schedule committee meetings for members.

Mission Team: Will be meeting soon.

Education: Sunday school room updates as follows: storage and improved shelving is being discussed; the grant money has been received at the church.

SPRC: Meeting at Westridge January 22 at 7 pm.

Community Service: Soup supper will be February 2nd at noon. Tracy Anderson is planning this community meal.

Trustees: There is a water leak in the furnace room. Crystal will call HVAC/plumber. Kim and Scott Wilkerson are being trained to be counters. Door handles on the family bathrooms have been replaced as the old ones were not locking.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 26, 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.

Come join us for  
**First Thirteen Wednesdays**

6 pm is supper, 6:30-7:30 pm activity. Next event is Wednesday, **February 5**. Fun for everyone, kids, young (including those young at heart!) and/or families!


# Westridge News

Westridge Methodist Church Council did not meet in January.  
 Next meeting is February 5<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.

## Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle met Tuesday, January 14, 2025, 1:30 p.m. at the church. Six ladies gathered for devotions and fellowship. The devotion discussion was "choosing to serve". Peggy served treats.

The next Ruth Circle meeting will be Tuesday, February 11, 2025, 1:30 p.m. at Westridge Church. Linda will lead devotions and bring treats. Plans will be made to pack boxes for the college students. Everyone is welcome.



### Westridge Sunday Coffee Hour

February—March 2025

February 2	Steph & Samantha
February 9	Rick & Mary
February 16	Mary Ann & Sharon
February 23	Sue, Crystal & Jerry
March 2	Shelly & Peg
March 9	Tina & Mike
March 16	Deb, Carol & Lavonne
March 23	Wayne & Sue A.
March 30	"Covered Dish"



Westridge is scheduled at the Norfolk Community Food Pantry the first 2 weeks in March: 3<sup>rd</sup>—7<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>—14<sup>th</sup>. It is 9:30 – 11:30 am, weekdays. The sign up sheet will be in church soon!! We need 3 people per day!



# Healthy Recipe

from the Westridge Healthy Congregation Team

## Chicken Broccoli Casserole

- 1 lb chopped fresh broccoli
- 1 1/2 cups cubed cooked chicken meat
- 1 can condensed cream of broccoli soup
- 1/3 cup milk
- 1/2 cup cheddar cheese
- 2 tbsp. dried bread crumbs
- 1 tbsp. melted butter

preheat oven 450  
 cover broccoli with water boil till tender then drain  
 place broccoli in a 9 inch pie pan, top with the chicken  
 mix the canned soup and milk then pour over chicken  
 sprinkle with cheese  
 mix melted butter and bread crumbs and sprinkle over the cheese  
 Bake till bubbly about 15 minutes  
 186 calories per serving



### Westridge Healthy Congregations "Walk to Bethlehem"

We are continuing our Walk to Bethlehem (and on to Jerusalem!)

Remember to keep reporting your steps (or distance and we will figure out the steps for you!). And even if you haven't reported any yet- its not too late!

GUARD YOUR *heart,* FOR EVERYTHING YOU DO *flows* FROM IT.  
 PROVERBS 4:23, NIV

# Puzzle!



Fill in the blanks with the tiny creatures mentioned in each verse (all NIV). Then search for those words in the puzzle below.

- Proverbs 6:6 \_\_\_\_\_
- Psalm 78:45 \_\_\_\_\_
- Matthew 23:24 \_\_\_\_\_
- Judges 14:8b \_\_\_\_\_
- Acts 12:23 \_\_\_\_\_
- Leviticus 11:22 \_\_\_\_\_
- Leviticus 11:22 \_\_\_\_\_
- Deuteronomy 7:20 \_\_\_\_\_
- Exodus 16:20 \_\_\_\_\_
- 1 Samuel 24:14 \_\_\_\_\_
- Isaiah 50:9 \_\_\_\_\_
- Isaiah 59:5 \_\_\_\_\_
- Leviticus 11:22 \_\_\_\_\_
- Leviticus 11:22 \_\_\_\_\_



M	O	T	H	S	G	N	A	T	B	H
A	N	T	A	L	L	C	H	P	E	O
G	R	A	S	S	H	O	P	P	E	R
G	F	C	R	I	C	K	E	T	S	N
O	L	S	P	I	D	E	R	S	B	E
T	E	C	L	O	C	U	S	T	D	T
S	A	E	F	K	A	T	Y	D	I	D
G	F	L	I	E	S	W	O	R	M	S



Answers: ant, flies, gnat, bees, worms, locust, grasshopper, hornet, maggot, flea, moths, spider, katydid, cricket



## Laity Summit 2025

February, 23, 2025 from 1:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. CT  
(12:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. MT)

Laity Summit will begin with Bishop Willson leading us with a devotion encouraging us in our mission, our ministry and our witness relating to Deuteronomy 6:4-9 "Loving God."

- Breakout Session
  - ◊ Living in A Cooperative Parish
  - ◊ Hospitality/Evangelism
  - ◊ Clergy/Lay Partnerships
  - ◊ Creative Connections in the Community for Ministry – Mercy and Justice
  - ◊ Leadership Lab-Youth Group

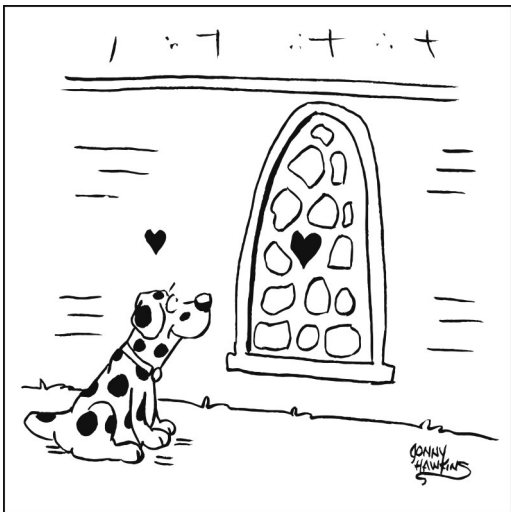
We will conclude Laity Summit with Sending forth, reminders, and Communion. Please have your communion elements ready when we meet together at the Lord's Table.

We are encouraging watch parties.

If you are interested in this talk to Pastor Caitlin!



Westridge Good Friday VBS  
April 18th



 **THE CARING CONGREGATION**  
creating excellence in care ministry

**EASTERN & CENTRAL NEBRASKA DISTRICTS OF THE UMC**

**CARE MINISTRY SEMINARS:**

 **Fri/Sat. Feb 28-March 1, 2025**  
Norfolk First UMC

 **Fri/Sat. March 21-22, 2025**  
Omaha Faith Westwood UMC

**Information & Registration:**  
[thecaringcongregation.com/training](http://thecaringcongregation.com/training)

**Trainer**  
**Rev. Karen Lampe**  
The Caring Congregation

