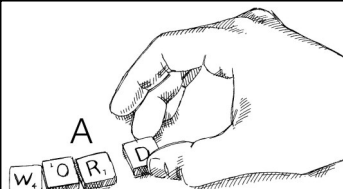
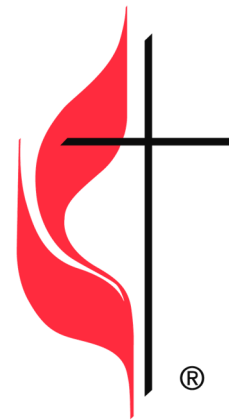




# Trinity & Westridge

Monthly Newsletter for  
Members & Friends

# 2025



from the  
Pastor

Happy New Year Everyone!

We have made it through another wonderful year of Advent, Christmas, and now we welcome 2025 into our lives. Call me cheesy, but I've always been one of those people that loves looking at photos from the previous year and reflecting on what happened in the last 365 days. What made me grow? What brought me joy? What lessons did I learn? Who did I meet on along the way? And who did I surround myself with? Do you do this too?

What reflections have you made in this season? I've always thought of this time as a moment when the Holy Spirit invites us into a season of reflection to discover and reflect on the ways we have been nourished and the ways in which we have had to grow through our hardships. The fascinating part is that we can see that everyone's experience is different, but yet we all go through the same pruning process. While it's important to reflect, may we also remember to not dwell on the past. We say thank you to 2024 for what we have learned and look ahead to what 2025.

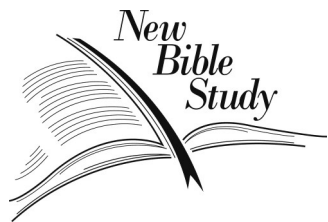
What I love most about the new year is this universal understanding that we all deserve a reset as well as a moment in time to establish new goals, fine tune previous goals, and determine where we wish to see growth in our lives. What I find most interesting though is that, most often, this concept involves making both minor and significant changes in our lives and if there's one thing we know best about humanity it's that we don't often like change. Yet, there is something within us that comes about this time of year where we ponder what could happen in such a positive light. I have to believe that this is an act of the Holy Spirit working amongst us and within us to soften our hearts to embrace the beauty of change to see a better future for ourselves and those around us. So, I invite you all to join me in leaning into this movement of embracing change, envisioning what we can do today to have better tomorrows, and setting goals for 2025. We will be seeing some changes occurring within our communities and I want to encourage us, as a church family, to remain positive and embrace them together, even when we feel hesitation. Our committees from the involvement fair go into effect now and this will be a significant change with new voices, new ideas, new relationships to build, but ultimately this is allowing us to expand our ministries to better serve the community as a team. With that being said, one example of change that we will experience will occur during the months where there is a 5th Sunday. I am also happy to announce that we are re-introducing Saturday night services on the weeks where there is a 5th Sunday. On the weekends where there is a 5th Sunday, Trinity will host the Saturday evening service and Westridge will host the Sunday morning service. Everyone is welcome to pick whichever service best fits their spiritual needs and I promise that we will have fun with this. Westridge hosts brunch after service on 5th Sundays and during the warmer months Trinity will have outdoor Saturday night services where our fur babies and family members will get to join us for worship! I know this will be a change for us, but I am confident that together we will adapt to this newness and see what God has in store for us in accommodating the needs of our communities.

So, here's to 2025 and all the ways we will see God at work through us, amongst us, and helping us to grow closer to Him and one another.

May God bless you and keep you in this new season of life.

Peace,

Pastor Caitlin



### Bible Study

Monday—2 pm—at Westridge  
 Thursday—4:30 pm—at Trinity  
 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!

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.

### On Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup> we will celebrate Human Relations Day.

On Human Relations Day, we partner with other UMC congregations in a special offering to support neighborhood ministries through Community Developers, community advocacy through United Methodist Voluntary Services and work with at-risk youth through the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Programs. Our gifts work together for the common good, building community and sharing God's love.

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!



- ✝ Janie Witzel, December 5
- ✝ Mary Ann Novotny, January 3



### Please offer PRAYERS for those in our church families (as of 1-03-2025)

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

T: Gene Trine

W: 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, Gene & 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



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

# TRINITY NEWS



**Surprise Sled Day  
 in January**  
 Date and location to  
 be determined!



## Community Meal

January 26th, Noon—1:30 pm  
**“Soups”**  
 Invite family, friends, neighbors to  
 come enjoy good food and fellowship!



**Ad Board Meeting Minutes 12/16/2024**

Pastor Caitlin opened the meeting at 6:09 pm with prayer. Present were Jan Hake, Kevin Pearson, Jon Moyer, Pastor Caitlin and Crystal Ketelsen.  
 Minutes were read & approved.  
 Finance: Crystal Ketelsen presented a report generated by Cruise & Associates. Jon Moyer made a motion to move \$5,000 from Dover Farm account to the General Fund, then transfer what is needed for Mission Shares to the Apportionments account. Kevin Pearson seconded. Motion carried.  
 Pastor Caitlin: Blue Christmas Service went very well—approximately 60 attended. Need to pay Philip Clay \$200 honorarium. Offering was \$174: 1/2 to Arts Center=\$87, other 1/2 split between the churches=\$43.50 each.  
 Anthony Ketelsen will put together a proposal for building a computer for the office. Need to buy a laptop for the Sanctuary.  
 Revs. Neil & Bridget Gately plus others from First Church, Norfolk will be dressing as Santa & his singing elves and caroling at Bel Air, St. Joe's and The Meadows on December 18th. Pastor Caitlin and Charlie will be joining them.  
 Missions: Cindy Degroot reported to Jan Hake via phone call. Paid \$3,000.00 to Bonnie Schultz for Faith Regional Cancer Treatment Bags. There is a note in each bag stating that it was provided by Trinity United Methodist Church.  
 Education: Christmas Eve Service with Christmas Pageant will be at 4:30 pm on December 24. The program will be awesome!  
 Next meeting is on January 21, 2025 at 6 pm. Meeting adjourned at 7:09 pm.

Come join us for  
**First Thirteen Wednesdays**

6 pm is supper, 6:30-7:30 pm activity. Next event is Wednesday, **January 8**. Fun for everyone, kids, young (including those young at heart!) and/or families!

# Westridge News

Westridge Methodist Church Council Dec. 5, 2024

Present: Wayne and Sue Andreasen, Deb Ussery, Dave and Sue Sieler, Dave Scarf and Pastor Caitlin. The Meeting was called to order by Sue Andreasen at 7:10.

The minutes were read and approved. The treasure report was handed out and approved. Deb Ussery made a motion if we need to take money out of the rummage sale to pay for 2024 mission shares, it was seconded by Dave Scarf. Motion carried.

Went over the 2025 budget Wayne Andreasen made a motion to approve the 2025 budget, it was seconded by Deb Ussery, Motion carried.

It was brought to our attention that we have a T.V. for the sanctuary and that the screen will be taken down and put up in the next few weeks.

New business: Mitten tree is set up please take a mitten and buy gifts. The gifts need to be back to the church by the 15th. The gifts will be delivered to Parent to Parent the week of the 15th.

Pastor Caitlin gave us updates on items going on with our church. Blue Christmas will be December 15, 2024, at 6:30. Lots of good things will be going on for this service.

Christmas Eve services will be at Trinity Methodist church at 4:30, with the Christmas program.

The Lenten services will be with First Church. The involvement fair was a great success. Rev. Caitlin will be getting in touch with each person who signed up.

Ruth Circle will be meeting December 9, 2024, at Perkins at 11:30.

Deb Ussery reported on the Thanksgiving meal. It was a huge success around 100 were served.

Wanted to remind us of that VBS will be December 21, 2024 from 1-4 P.M.

Memorial committee reported that they have bought ten tablets for the children that can be used during the service. They are for all different ages not all the same so will have different programs that are for age related.

Dave Scarf asked about what was happening with the dishwasher and washer machine at the parsonage. Rev. Caitlin reported that they are working on the project.

Next meeting will be January 8 th , 2025, at 7:00 at the church.

Pastor Caitlin led us in closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.  
 Peggy Fox



Thank you to everyone who helped with Project Mitten Tree. Many kids had smiles on Christmas because you were willing to buy some presents.

## Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle gathered Monday, December 9, 2024, 11:30 a.m. at Perkins for their Christmas Party. There were 10 ladies who enjoyed good food and fellowship. The next Ruth Circle meeting will be Tuesday, January 14, 2025, 1:30 p.m. at Westridge Church. Peggy will bring treats. Everyone is welcome.

**Westridge Sunday Coffee Hour**  
 January—March 2025

January 5	Lisa & Jen
January 12	Karen, Linda & Faye
January 19	Shirley & Francie
January 26	Dohmens
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”

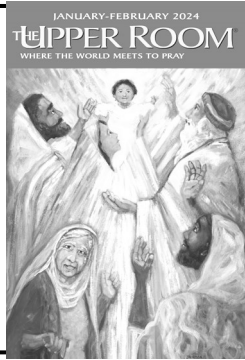
# Westridge News Continued

## Upper Room Devotionals.

The new yearly is \$9.00, which can be included with your offering as long as it is clearly marked that it is for the Upper Room.

If you are not currently receiving an Upper Room and would like one, please let the parish office know and you will be added to the list.

There is a sign up sheet at church—if you are unable to get to church call the office and Crystal will be sure to get you signed up! Mailing these out is NOT a problem—so if you want an Upper Room—PLEASE let us know!



Christmas VBS at Westridge





Blue Christmas Service Memory Candles



### 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!



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.