

# Trinity & Westridge

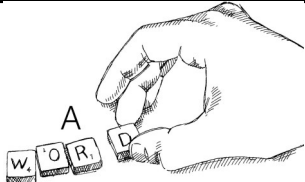
Monthly Newsletter  
for Members & Friends



# march



# 2026



A  
W O R D  
from the  
Pastor

Dearest Church Family,

Lent is a season many Christians set aside to slow down, reflect, and draw closer to God as we prepare our hearts for Easter. The forty days invite us to remember the journey of Jesus - his time of prayer, sacrifice, and faithful trust in God. In the midst of our busy schedules and daily responsibilities, Lent gently calls us to pause and consider how God is present in both our joys and our struggles.

During this season, we are encouraged to practice prayer, fasting, and acts of generosity. These practices are not about perfection or checking off spiritual tasks. Instead, they help us make space—space to listen for God’s voice, space to care for others, and space to renew our faith. Lent can be a time to let go of habits that weigh us down and to embrace practices that lead us toward compassion, hope, and deeper connection with one another.

Lent also reminds us that faith is lived out in community. As we walk this journey together, we carry one another’s burdens, celebrate moments of growth, and support those who need encouragement. Small steps—sharing kindness, reaching out to someone who feels lonely, or offering a prayer for someone in need—can become powerful expressions of God’s love in the world.

This Lent, consider choosing one meaningful practice that helps you grow spiritually. You might commit to attending weekly worship during Lent, setting aside a few minutes each day for prayer or Scripture, serving in a ministry of the church, or supporting a local outreach effort. I invite you to take this step intentionally and walk through this season as a church family.

May this Lenten season renew our hearts, deepen our faith, and prepare us to celebrate the hope and new life that Easter brings.

In Christ’s Love,  
Pastor Caitlin

See page 2 for Lent  
and Easter worship  
and activity 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

# Trinity/Westridge Parish and First UMC Lenten Schedule

## March 4th—Lamentation & Hope

Worship at Trinity at 5 pm

Worship at First UMC at 7 pm

Youth meal—6:30 pm Youth activity—7:30 pm

## March 11th—Anointing Service

Worship at Trinity at 5 pm

Worship at Westridge at 7 pm

Youth meal—6:30 pm Youth activity—7:30 pm

## March 18th—Holy Communion

Worship at Trinity at 5 pm

Worship at First UMC at 7 pm

Youth meal—6:30 pm Youth activity—7:30 pm

## March 25th—Confession & Repentance

Worship at Trinity at 5 pm

Worship at Westridge at 7 pm

Youth meal—6:30 pm Youth activity—7:30 pm

## 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



## Madison Community Easter Egg Hunt

March 28, 2 pm  
Memorial Park



**Easter Sunday**  
Children's Church

at 10 am will include an Easter  
Egg Hunt!!!



# 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





## It is time to think about Church Camp!

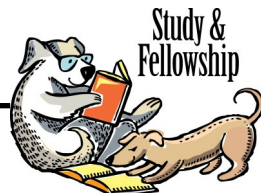
Do you like animals? There are camps for **YOU!** Do you like to explore outside? There are camps for **YOU!** How about water & swimming or sports & team games? There is a camp for **YOU!** Do you have gifts and skills you would like to explore and learn how to use to glorify God? You guessed it—there 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)

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 2-27-2026)

- ◆ **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. With the cold/freezing weather here, please keep in mind to put items that can handle freezing temps- dry food and hygiene items please. 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              |       |



## UMCOR Sunday

**March 15, 2026** is the One Great Hour of Sharing which is one of the 6 Special Sundays Celebrated in the United Methodist Church. Gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing lay the foundation of all the United Methodist Committee on Relief work by covering the costs of doing business. This means all contributions designated for specific programs can go 100 percent to those programs because UMCOR's basic expenses are covered.



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.



# TRINITY NEWS

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

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



2026 Budget: \$154,590						
Weekly average needed:		\$2,973				
Monthly average needed:		\$12,883				
2025 average Monthly Offerings		\$4,700				
	Actual Offerings	Over/ (Short)	Rental Income	Rental Expense	Interest Income	Budget Over/(Short)
January	\$5,713	(\$7,170)	\$4,862	(\$1,353)	\$790	(\$2,871)
February	\$4,306	(\$8,577)	\$4,862	(\$1,353)	\$656	(\$4,412)
Totals	\$10,019	(\$15,747)	\$9,724	(\$2,706)	\$1,446	(\$7,283)
	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						

Trinity serves the Food Pantry in October—the sign up sheet will be at church soon!

February 17, 2026, 6 pm  
Present were Rev. Caitlin, Shannon Konken, Kim Wilkerson, Sherry Hake, Jan Hake, Jon Moyer, Crystal Ketelsen and Kevin Pearson. Rev. Caitlin brought the meeting to order with a humorous devotion.  
Sherry Hake brought the meeting to order with a devotion, "Loving Through Loss".  
Minutes from the last meeting were read and approved.  
Treasurer's Report: Shannon Konken presented the monthly expenses along with 2026 budget. One of the CDs is reaching its maturity date. Jon Moyer motioned to move the amount of that CD to the Reitz account, Jan seconded; motion carried.  
Old Business: Smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors have been replaced. They are good for 10 years.  
Pastor Caitlin: Silent Auction is coming together. Sermon Series is in the making.  
Mission Team: Reimbursement requests have been paid. Next meeting is April 15<sup>th</sup>. Kevin found Jo Lux's Missions binder so now can pick up where we left off.  
SPPRC: Next meeting is April 8<sup>th</sup>, 6 pm at Westridge.  
Community Service: Food Pantry will be in April.  
Trustees: The astragal and door sweeps on the south door need to be replaced. Estimated cost of those items is \$178.36 and Kevin can install them. Kim Wilkerson motioned to approve getting these items, Jon Moyer seconded; motion carried. To fix the east basement entry the cost will be \$408 to replace moldy and broken plaster.  
Next meeting will be March 17, 2026 at 6 pm.  
Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.

# Westridge News

## Westridge Sunday Coffee Hour



March—April—May—June 2026

March 1	Shelly, Peg & Dave Scarf
March 8	Tina & Mike
March 15	Deb, Karen & Lavonne
March 22	Sue & Wayne
March 29	"Covered Dish"
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, February 10 with 6 ladies present. Mary led devotions from the Upper Room. A discussion was had about when asked to pray for someone when is the right time. The author suggests saying "Got A Minute" then praying right then.

With the theme being the 250 years since our nation was established, Mary had facts about George Washington that were read by each one present.

LaVonne served a Valentine Day treat. The next Ruth Circle meeting will be Tuesday, March 10, 2026, 1:30 p.m. at the church. Deb will lead devotions and Karen will bring treats. March is when we celebrate St. Pat's day, each one is asked to share facts or special St. Pat's day celebrations.

We welcome new faces, see you March 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. at the church.

If anyone would like to donate candy, small toys/trinkets etc. Please have to the church by Palm Sunday. We will stuff eggs after church on Palm Sunday. Everyone invited to help!

And let Sam or Deb know if you want to help with our Egg-Cellent Easter VBS!



## CHURCH FINANCES

2026 Budget—\$105,509

Average offering needed per week—\$2,029

Offering received: January—\$4,480.20

February—\$3,566.70

Total received to date: \$8,046.90

Should have received: \$16,232 (8 weeks x \$2029)

Amount BEHIND budget—\$8,185.10



Westridge is scheduled at the Norfolk Community Food Pantry March 2nd—13th. It is 9:30-11:30 Monday—Friday. If you haven't signed up and wish to let Jerry Ketelsen know—402-851-0337.



**Are you counting your steps?**  
**We started our Journey on Ash Wednesday!**  
(February 18th)

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

Each week we will announce in church and post on Facebook where we are. 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.

Watch for a map of our steps on the back bulletin board at Westridge.

Westridge Church Council

February 23, 2026, 7 pm

Attendees: Pastor Caitlin, Crystal Ketelsen, Linda McMeekin, Lisa Heitman, John Heitman, Deb Ussery, Sam Zoucha, Khloe Zoucha, Anthony Ketelsen, Sue Andreasen, Dave Scarf, 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 addition of Dave Sieler to the list of who has safe deposit box keys.

**Finance report** was presented. Had lots of discussion regarding income and spending. Lisa will be using Rummage Sale proceeds to pay bills at this time. Lisa requested getting a debit card to pay regular recurring monthly bills-this would reduce postage and check costs. Sue Andreasen moved to get a debit card for the purpose of paying bills, Sam Zoucha seconded; motion carried. Church Council approved removing Sue Sieler as administrator at Elkhorn Valley Bank and adding Lisa Heitman to that position.

**Old Business:** The idea of hiring a bookkeeper will be set aside at this time and will be readdressed if/when needed.

**Pastor Caitlin:** We are doing Wednesday Lent services with First Church again this year. Ash Wednesday attendance was 117, of which 30 were youth. Pastor Caitlin is working on personal thank-you notes for memorial gifts for both churches. She is also working on her visitation list.

**Children/Youth:** Youth group on February 4th had 14 in attendance; they played Heads Up, & made bookmarks for nursing home residents. After lent Youth Group will be meeting 6-7:30 pm. Khloe Zoucha reported on the Winter Retreat at Elkhorn Hills UMC. The theme was "Feeling Invisible" and service projects were a part of time. Khloe also reported that both food and money are needed for the Free Little Food Pantry. A list of suggested items will be in March newsletter. Sunday School recently heard about David & Goliath and then talked about 'strong words'. The kids are talking about how to make the Sunday School room more "theirs" such as adding comfortable seating like bean bags etc. Easter VBS will be Friday, April 3.

**SPPRC:** No report.

**Trustees:** At their February 16th meeting they discussed all the different lights in the church. New lights for the west side of the church have been chosen and will be purchased soon. Next Meeting will be March 16th at 7 pm.

**Memorials:** No report.

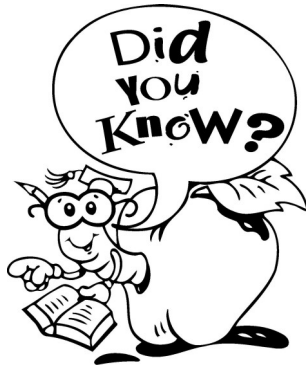
**Healthy Congregations:** No report.

**Ruth Circle:** Next meeting will be March 10th, 1:30 pm at the church.

**New Business:** An updated directory combined with a cookbook is being planned in conjunction with All Saint's Day. More information will be shared when available. Also discussed possibility of fundraising meals, either at the church or at a restaurant that does the percentage of sales during a set time for non-profits.

Next meeting will be Thursday, March 19, 2026, 7 pm.

Submitted by Crystal Ketelsen, Church Council Secretary.



## Thea's Little Library

Thea's Little Library is located by the front (west) door of Trinity UMC.

### What is a Little Free Library?

It's simple: **Take a book, share a book.** This free book exchange operates on a honor system of trust and generosity.

- **No Late Fees:** You can keep a book as long as you like or pass it on to a friend.
- **Open 24/7:** The library is always open for those late-night reading cravings or early morning strolls.
- Books do need to be for ages 6 and above because we also sponsor Dolly Parton's Imagination Library for Madison and that send books to kids through age 5.

When you are out and about—stop and take a look! Making books available to as many people as possible is necessary to our community.

Little Free Libraries are popping up all across the country—help us make this one a true blessing to Madison!



Youth Group February 4



# SILENT AUCTION

## Trinity United Methodist Church

Help us care for our stained glass windows while treating yourself to some fun goodies!!!

Auction will begin Sunday March 8th at 10 am and go to Thursday, March 19th at 5 pm. The church will be open each weekday during that time. If you need to come in the evening, please call and we can make arrangements!

A preview of all auction items will be on Facebook on March 6th.

A few of the selections are pictured below.

Spread the word and thank you for supporting our church and our beautiful stained glass windows!





# Healthy Recipe

from the Westridge Healthy Congregation Team  
**OVERNIGHT SAUSAGE AND EGG CASSEROLE**  
Makes 12 servings

### Ingredients:

- 1 12 oz package bulk light turkey and pork sausage
- 3 8 oz cartons (3 cups) refrigerated or frozen fat-free egg product, thawed
- 1/2 cup nonfat sour cream
- 1 1/2 teaspoons dry mustard
- 1 teaspoon instant minced onion
- 3 cups cubed French bread (4 to 5 slices)
- 4 oz (1 cup) shredded reduced-fat sharp Cheddar cheese
- Paprika

### Directions:

1. Spray 13x9 inch (3 quart) baking dish with nonstick cooking spray. In medium nonstick skillet over medium heat, cook sausage until no longer pink. Drain well; set aside.
2. In large bowl, combine egg product, sour cream, dry mustard and onion; blend well. Stir in bread cubes, cheese and sausage. Pour into sprayed dish; sprinkle with paprika. Cover with plastic wrap. Refrigerate at least 4 hours or overnight.
3. Heat oven to 350°F. Uncover dish; bake 45-55 minutes or until center is slightly puffed and knife inserted in center comes out clean.

### Nutrition Information:

1 serving: Calories 1160 (Calories from Fat 60); Total Fat 7 g (Saturated Fat 4 g); Cholesterol 20 mg; Sodium 520 mg; Total carbohydrate 9 g (Dietary Fiber 0g, Sugars 2g); Protein 14 g  
**Percent Daily Value\***: Vitamin A 10%; Vitamin C 0%; Calcium 10%; Iron 10%

**Exchanges:** 1/2 Starch; 2 Lean Meat

\*Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet.

# Puzzle!

Search for these words that are all associated with the Lenten journey.

- crown donkey hosanna penance Pilate sins
- colt crucifixion forsaken kiss prayer suffer
- confess death Gethsemane lots repent thorns
- cross denial Golgotha palms silver vigil

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