



## *Pastor's Page*

I'm sure we're all aware of what's going on in Minnesota. We might not fully understand what it is that the protesters want or what it is that ICE is trying to accomplish, but at the very minimum we understand that these two groups are not getting along. But it is not sufficient simply to take one position over against the other. It is incumbent upon you, that is you are obligated, to defend the position you take. But to do that we have to think very deeply about the issues that we're facing. Many have described our time as the age of non-reason. By this they mean that we don't think deeply about anything anymore. As a result, we have a more visceral or emotional response to the issues. As a result, people of influence no longer communicate via rational thought or argument but rather they communicate with slogans, symbols and highly edited pictures. These are not intended to engage the mind, they are employed to ignite the emotions and by this move their audience to action. They begin with the conclusion and disregard the argument. They say, "this is how you should feel about this", not "this is how you should think about this".

We are witnessing the results of this in the public forum. People stop listening to one another when they begin to realize they have no rational recourse. As a result, they resort to name calling and labeling their opponent as some social outlier, such as racist or Xenophobic, or some other name that renders their opinion unworthy of being considered. We have become incredibly vulgar in our public exchange. Even at the highest levels of government, we have lost any sense of civil decorum.

So, what becomes of a society that does not respect the ideas of others. Well, it becomes exactly what we're seeing. We are becoming increasingly divided with no apparent solution in sight. But there is a solution that will be forced upon all of us, and nobody will be happy. It will be a solution of desperation. Eric Hoffer, who received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1983, once said, "When freedom destroys order, the yearning for order will destroy freedom." Peace at any price is not peace. This is only abdicating authority to those who are intent and capable of the greatest evil. Francis Schaeffer in speaking about this said, "At this Point the words left or right will make no difference. They are only two roads to the same end. There is no difference between an authoritarian government from the right or the left; the results are the same."

Jeremiah 6:14 says, "They have healed the brokenness of My people superficially saying, 'Peace, peace, But there is no peace'." When a nation that has been established on Christian principles loses that foundation it eventually gives up one of its basic tenets, and that is that man is created in the image of God. When we lose that single perspective, we also lose the value of humanity. Once that's gone, we can treat each other with the utmost contempt and devalue their opinions and their existence as something that's simply inconsequential. Life becomes cheap and expendable. In the words of Paul to the Ephesians, we have become, "Strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace".

*Pastor Tim*

Sometimes I feel like I pray so much that I'll annoy God. But then I think, "I'd rather get to Heaven and have Jesus say, "now there's a familiar voice' than have him say, "it's nice to finally hear from you."

### Wish list at Domestic Abuse

Paper Towels  
Hand lotion  
Lysol  
Baking pans

Toilet Paper  
Hand Soap  
Kitchen trash bags  
Diapers sz 6

Laundry Soap  
Clorox wipes  
Aluminum foil  
Canned food

Dryer sheets  
Glass cleaner  
Pot holders  
Batteries-AA & AAA

### Wish list at Food Pantry

Pancake flour

Pancake syrup

Toilet paper

Food Pantry items go in the Narthex under the counter, and there will be a box by the coat rack for Domestic Abuse.

A BIG thank you from the congregation for those who stepped up to the plate and volunteered to deliver the Meals on Wheels this month. Some days were very cold and windy!! We appreciate all of your support in volunteering for this worthwhile project.



Thank you so much to the kind and thoughtful person who cleaned the snow from the walks last Saturday, January 24.

FYI – We have hired Braydon Miller, who lives next door, to take care of the snow for the rest of the winter.

Thank you so much for the fuzzy blanket! I love it sooo much and just feel so blessed to have it. When I use it I feel wrapped in your prayers and the Lord's miracles and love!

Heidi Downer

*Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for he is gracious, and a song of praise is seemly.  
Psalms 147:1*



## **Church Council**

December 16, 2025

**Present:** Steve Johnson, Amy Sines, Virginia Roberts, Betty Jorgensen, Linda Johnson, Diane Deselms, Dale Cramer, Colleen Vandegrift, Pastor Tim, Wanda Warwick

**Opening Prayer:** Pastor led the Council in prayer.

**Minutes:** Colleen made a motion to accept the minutes as written with a second being offered and the motion passed.

**Financials:** Betty provided the year-to-date financials. With Bartley having turned in the last payment, Betty is confident that there will be enough funds in the general account to pay the insurance in January. The insurance papers have been looked over by Steve, and he is comfortable with the information. Colleen made a motion to approve the report, a second was offered and the motion carried.

**Computers:** The Church laptop had been having some problems, but we cleaned lots of old files and then a company logged in remotely to finish. Currently, it is working fine. Pastor Tim has an older desktop and may need to upgrade. He will look into and research what is best.

**Camera in Sanctuary:** The second camera has been installed. One of the technicians was able to give Pastor information about options for computers that may be of help in looking about a new computer.

**Church Security:** Nothing to report.

**2026 Lay Leadership:** The council will delete the SPRC and scale back how many people are on committees. Diane agreed to stay on Finance Committee.

**Christmas Eve:** Grace Bible has been invited to share in our service. There will be candy bags available for the kids again. Thanks to those that provided!!

**Other Business:** Courtney Stanton has received a bonus at Christmas for the past several years. The Church is very appreciative of Courtney's attention to the church. Dale made a motion to give her \$300 this year. A second was given and the motion carried.

**Next Meeting:** January 20, 2026



Meet LeAnn Harris! LeAnn is a missionary in Kenya, Africa. She has been to our Church twice in the past month and shared her passion for her work and her friends in Africa. She works with a group call Trailblazers Collective. ([trailblazerscollective.org](http://trailblazerscollective.org)) She works educating the needy and providing spiritual and physical help for the people in her region. The group is creating jobs through skills in training and helping the locals learn how to generate some income to gain some financial stability.

At the core of everything the desire is to see people follow Jesus as their savior and to accept the Gospel. The vision is a self-sustaining, faith driven enterprise that teaches spiritual and physical health for the people.

The Church Council has voted to send our Mission funds to LeAnn for the month of January.

## Trinity Men Dessert Auction

February 15, 2026

Hello Everyone – Good News! The men of our church will again hold the Dessert Auction this year on February 15. They will provide a catered meal for everyone and then the fun will begin. It is a great time and so much fun to bid and buy the goodies! Those of us who have attended in the past always enjoyed the atmosphere and excitement!

The meal is provided, so please don't bring potluck food. After lunch, we gather to be a part of the auction of desserts. We ask that anyone who wishes, bring a dessert of some kind to be sold. There will be cookies, pies, cakes and many other things to choose from. There will be an auctioneer. The men will help with the bidding and handing out the goodies to the winning bidder.


Betty has always been our clerk to account for who bid what and collect payment. It is one fun day, and the rewards of the auction are used for the many things that have helped our church keep current and up to date. We are so thankful for the work these men do and that this project provides for our church. The men have plans to use the funds raised to help cover the cost of replacing the carpet in the narthex and down the hallway. Although it appears to be fine, our great cleaner, Courtney, spends time trying to remove the stains. If you have other thoughts, please let us know.

It is a great time together, and we want everyone to join us and enjoy the day with the congregation. Please consider staying and having lunch with us! It will be a great day with lots of fun. This picture was a crowd at the auction from last year.





## February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 Bible Study 5pm Youth Group 7pm	5	6	7
8 Fellowship 10 am Sunday School 10am	9	10	11 Sisters In Christ Bible Study 5pm Youth Group 7pm	12	13	14 
15 Fellowship 10 am Sunday School 10am <b>Dessert Auction with meal provided</b>	16 Elizabeth Circle 12 pm	17 Council at 7 pm	18 Bible Study 5pm Youth Group 7pm Lois Circle 7 pm	19	20	21
22 Fellowship 10 am Sunday School 10 am	23 Outreach at ALF 9:30 am	24 Church Council at 7 pm	25 Bible Study 5pm Youth Group 7pm	26	27	28



## The Best Valentine is GOD

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."*

John 3:16



**98 Years Young  
Elnora Burke**

### The Two Builders (Matthew 7:24-27; Luke 6:46-19)

The Parable of the Two Builders, also known as the Parable of the Wise and Foolish Builders, is found in Matthew 7:24-27 and Luke 6:47-49. In this parable, Jesus illustrates the importance of building one's life on a solid foundation—His teachings.

The wise builder constructs his house on rock, ensuring it withstands storms, symbolizing those who hear and act on Jesus' words.

Conversely, the foolish builder builds on sand, leading to destruction when challenges arise, representing those who ignore His teachings.

The parable emphasizes that true wisdom lies in obedience to God's word, highlighting the consequences of our choices.

This parable serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of a strong spiritual foundation in life!

*Invite a friend to join us*

## Worship Services

### Trinity Community Church

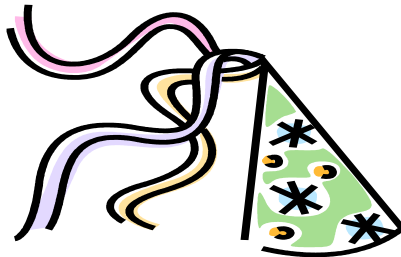
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[trinityoffice@swnebr.net](mailto:trinityoffice@swnebr.net)  
Pastor Tim's e-mail:  
[Trinitypastor@swnebr.net](mailto:Trinitypastor@swnebr.net)

10 am Kids & Adult  
Sunday School

11 am Worship

### Kemper Memorial Church

9:45am Worship  
Fellowship after worship



## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### February

3 Tyler Ruf  
4 Amber Kutnink  
10 Hailey Mollring  
11 Joseph Taylor  
15 Steve Johnson

17 Mary Kay Sexton  
18 Katie Fegley  
Kylie Fegley  
23 Camden J Rice  
25 Vic Knutson  
JoLee Ebbers

### Happy Anniversary

February 1  
Jim & Karla Whipple

February 9  
Jim & Jane Foster

February 16  
Dan & Mary Kay Sexton

February 19  
Ken & Sylvia Harsch

February 22  
Jared and Julie Sayer

If we missed your birthday or anniversary, or have the wrong date, please send us an email or call us and let us know.