

First Trinity Lutheran Church February 2024

First Trinity Lutheran Church Lutheran Church– Missouri Svnod 402 East Main, PO Box 540 Bloomfield, NE 68718 Office: 402-373-4797

E-mail:

ftlcsec@gpcom.net

Sunday School

Sunday 4:00pm

Worship Times

Sunday 5:00pm

*Communion 1st & 3rd

Website:

firsttrinitylutheranchurch.com

Please check out the FTLC Facebook page for service times and event updates!



FTLC Ash Wednesday Service

Pastor Bartens and the elders are working on finalizing the time and date for our Ash Wednesday worship service. Please watch the weekly bulletin and Facebook page for updates.

Installation of Officers

We will have the installation of offices for newly elected officers (Elders, Trustees, Board of Finance, Sunday School

Board, Stewardship) at 5:00pm during worship service on February 4th. Installation of Officers





FTLC Invites all mothers & sons to join them in the FTLC Fellowship Hall at 6:00pm on Sunday, February

18th for a game night! There will be some games available but feel free to bring one of your favorites!



The Family Discipleship and youth group will host a **BINGO** night and Potluck supper following worship service on February 4th (around 6pm).

All are invited to attend this time of fellowship. If you have any questions please contact Bridget Kuchar.

LET US REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS...

LET US REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:

- [†]Janet Kirk, Shiree Whipple, Vince Vanness, Janice Jeannoutot, Susan Craft, Dana Bruegman, Jo-Ann Jensen, Julie Lush Watson, Shirley LaBelle, Kim Miller, Vicki Ketelsen, Dawn Hefner, Jerry Butler, Wayne Brewster, Don Kaiser, Cory Langner, Deb Sonnichsen, Kay Repenning, & Brian Brewster.
- [†]Our men and women who serve our country. (Levi Kisker, Matthew Bobby Jr., Terron McLean and Jackson Reeves.)
- †Missionaries: Pastor Samuel Bobby and his family, Pastor Andrew Fedder and family, & John Wolf and family.

†Families of Vonnie Beckmann and Kenny Erbst.

Dear Friends in Christ,

This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful. But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. (1Corinthians 4:1-4)

I remember when my brother Sam preached at my ordination and installation service here at First Trinity 10 ½ years ago. His encouragement to me in his sermon was that I shouldn't strive to be a good pastor, but, rather, I should strive to be

a faithful pastor, a faithful steward of the mysteries of God. For the Scriptures do not command pastors to be good, but, above all else, to be faithful—faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the ministry of that Gospel where God has called you. Sam said other things in the sermon, but this point is what has always stuck with me above all else.

In these past 10 ½ years, I have thought about this message many times. And, in the past few months of contemplating and accepting a call away from First Trinity, it has led me to ask a question of myself, "Have you done this in your time here?" "Have you faithfully fulfilled the calling of your office?" "Have you been faithful as a steward of the mysteries of God—the preaching the Gospel in truth and purity, the administration of the sacraments, and in pastoral care have you served with the love of Jesus Christ for his sheep, the people at First Trinity?"

The most I can answer is that I think that I have tried. But I am sure that there are times when I have failed, times when I let the old flesh keep me from doing something that I was supposed to do or saying something that I was supposed to say. Pastors are all too human, take it from me. And yet, to all of this, all I can do is ask your forgiveness and throw myself on the mercies of our faithful and forgiving Lord.

It is faith in the Lord's calling, the Lord's promises, the Lord's work, even despite our own failures and failings, that keeps a Christian, including Christian pastors, from falling down the dark hole of despair and doubt. It is with this same faith that I have concluded that the Lord is calling me to a new path. It may not make much sense from the outside, but I am confident that it is the Lord's will for the ministry entrusted to me as it is guided by the power of the Spirit.

For you folks at First Trinity, I want to express my heartfelt thanks for the great blessing you have been to me and my family during our time here. I started this letter, as I have started many letters, addressing you as "Friends in Christ." That title is not something I write lightly, for the Lord has not just blessed me as a pastor these past years with faithful and generous parishioners, but He has blessed my whole family with delightful friendships that I hope continue even after my time serving here comes to an end.

In terms of a final thought, I would encourage you all to hold fast to the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and His sacraments which are the means by which we journey through this life and into the next. Pastors come and pastors go, but the Word of the Lord, even the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, will endure forever. That Word is the Word of God's grace and forgiveness and love for you. This Word is something that will never leave you nor forsake you, a word of comfort in midst of doubt or strife. Hold fast to the Gospel and know God's good and gracious will for you in all things.

God's richest blessings to all of you in Christ,

Pastor Bobby





A Little by Way of Introduction



As your vacancy pastor, I thought I would write just a little by way of introducing myself. I grew up on a farm just south of Steeleville, IL. We had dairy until I was ten and then Dad's main crop was alfalfa hay (small square bales). Following high school, I spent four years in the U. S. Army as a generator mechanic. Following the army, I returned to Steeleville, worked at a lumber yard/farm supply store and attended college to get an associate's degree in industrial electricity. (A degree I never put to use, but it did give me enough college credits to enter the Alternate Route program at the seminary.) After graduating college, I moved to Effingham, IL and went to work on the shipping dock for a small family-owned factory. I married my wife, Elaine, on October 3, 1992. In December of 1994, I started with Sherwin Williams as a warehouse tech at their distribution facility in Effingham and stayed there as a warehouse tech for the next 22½ years. In July, 1995, we bought a house in Newton, IL where we lived

until moving to Ft. Wayne to attend seminary in 2017.

Elaine is from Columbus, IN. She has an accounting degree from Indiana University and an elementary education degree from Concordia-Seward. She taught at Lutheran schools in Florida and Indiana until we got married, since then she has had a variety of jobs.

In June, 2017, I entered the Alternate Route program at Concordia Theological Seminary-Ft. Wayne, IN. The Alternate Route program is a certificate program for older students who don't have a bachelor's degree, but have significant leadership and teaching experience in their congregation. I spent two years on campus during which time I had to take all of the required coursed that MDiv students take with the exception of Hebrew. I was sent to Grace-Neligh and Trinity-Elgin in the summer of 2019 on a convertible vicarage. I was ordained and installed at Grace in June, 2020 and have served those two congregations as their pastor since that time.

Elaine and I have two sons. The older, Emmett, and his wife, Jaimie, have two children, Annie and Matthias, and are expecting their third in July. Emmett is an associate pastor at Bethany Lutheran Church in Naperville, IL. Our younger son, Faron, is married to Olivia, and they live in Jefferson City, MO. They are expecting their first child at the beginning of March. Faron works as an archivist for the state of Missouri.

I look forward to serving as your vacancy pastor and getting to know the people of First Trinity. I know the distance will be a little bit of a challenge, but we'll figure out a way to make it work. I pray that our Lord Jesus Christ will bless our time together and that He will bless the call process so that all goes smoothly. If you have any pastoral needs, please do not hesitate to call me.

RECENT OFFICAL ACTS AT FTLC:

01/09/2024 Transfer Out: Kelsey, Laikyn, & Lainey Chaffin

01/09/2024 Transfer Out: Katie Milne, Harper Bartos-Kumm & Hayes Milne

01/25/2024 Funeral for Vonnie Beckmann (08/27/1949-01/19/2024) [Rev. Jacob Bobby]

01/25/2024 Transfer Out: Rev. Jacob, Sara, Adeline, Beatrice & William Bobby

01/27/2024 Funeral for Kenny Erbst (08/31/1928-01/22/2024) [Rev. Jacob Bobby]

First Trinity Lutheran Church Quarterly Voter's Meeting

January 21, 2024

Chad Vanness called the meeting to order, and Pastor led us in opening prayer.

Secretary's Report: presented in printed form. Motion by Kris Vanness to approve, seconded by Perry Broders. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: present in printed form. Danelle gave basic explanations regarding Missions fund, specifically with Memorials, and there is a new fund for fellowship hall flooring started as people have given money designated for that purpose. Motion by Craig Vanness to approve, seconded by Katie Reicks. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: finished up his final round of shut-in facility visits. Spent a week in St. Louis at the Seminary recently. His final service with us here is 1/21/24. He spoke with Melissa Wagner about doing Facebook postings, she will handle those when he leaves. He has given all the Bloomfield Cares information to Pastor Terry from St. Mark's as he is now the main point of contact for that group. Pastor thanked the congregation as a whole, he has felt very blessed to serve here, he and his family appreciate everything we have done together this past 10 years. He is thankful to have been here and had this opportunity with us.

Elder's Report: Pastor has spoken with the Elders and with the recent weather, family things here in town and their house in Yankton not being quite ready to move in yet, it was agreed upon that the Bobby's will be allowed to stay in the parsonage until more favorable conditions to move. Pastor will assume all utility expenses during this time. Asked for discussion, there was none. Pastor Janke is our Circuit Pastor, he has met with the Elders and will help navigate us through the call process in our Pastoral needs search. There are steps we will have to follow as a congregation to provide us and the candidate(s) with the best information we can regarding our profile. We can call from the field, or wait and call a new graduate. These options will all be studied carefully by the Elders and they will give their recommendations regarding the call process as they happen.

It is the recommendation of the Elders to give a 3.5% raise to both the secretary and custodian for their work in the church. Motion by Allan Lemke to follow that recommendation, seconded by Perry Broders. By verbal vote, motion passed.

Slate of candidates to fill open Board of Directors positions: Elders: Kevin Mackeprang and Nick Stelling Trustees: Allen Jeannoutot and Jody Mach Finance: Perry Broders and Dan Hoppe Sunday School: Brooke Schmeckpeper and Hannah Schmeckpeper There were no further additions to the slate, motion by Rod Repenning to accept the slate as presented. Seconded by Craig Vanness. By verbal vote, motion passed. It was noted that Selma Pena will also be helping in the Sunday School with the other teachers.

January 28th we will take down the greens after 5:00 service, help would be appreciated.

Pastor Norlyn Bartens is our vacancy pastor, he will be conducting services on Sunday evenings at 5:00pm. Sunday School and Confirmation classes will be held at 4:00pm. Dawn Hefner will have her 5th and 6th grade classes on Wednesdays for the time being, but then will move to the Sunday time slot as well. Ash Wednesday and Lent services are yet to be determined. With the vacancy Pastor, it is unknown at this time what his schedule will allow between the congregations he is serving. Updates about all church activities, services, and all need-to-know information will be posted on Facebook. If you know someone who doesn't have that access, please make sure to pass on the information to them during this time of transition. Please also pay close attention to the weekly bulletins and monthly newsletters for information as well. It is very important during this time for congregational involvement in all capacities. Please feel free to speak with an Elder if you have questions or would like to use your time and talents to serve the church in any way.

Stewardship: No report.

Trustees: After the Bobby family moves out of the parsonage, there will be a small group who will do a walk through with Pastor about things that need updated, fixed, etc. so we can work on getting it ready for our next Pastor.

Finance: End of year tax statements are ready for pick up in the back of church.

Fair Stand: Presented in printed form. It was a really good year, and all expenses were paid.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Pastor said this is the time when we usually make our annual contribution to Bloomfield Cares, if that is something we want to continue. Expenses in general have increased, so there is always a need. He said that Grossenburg's gave a large donation which has helped ease the burden of increased need. Motion by Rod Repenning to donate \$1,200.00 to Bloomfield Cares from the general fund, seconded by Karen Peters. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn by Perry Broders, seconded by Kris Vanness. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Danelle J. Miller



Thank you for assisting in Worship. If you are unable to attend on the Sunday you are scheduled please find a replacement for that service.

Elder of the Month: Tom Reicks

Greeters

- 4 Lonnie & Jolene Greckel
- 11 Brian & Amy Eisenhauer
- 14 Dan & Joan Hoppe
- 18 Jill & Brian Brewster
- 25 Dawn & Jason Hefner

Acolytes

- 4 Piper & Parker Stelling
- 11 Raegan Ketelsen & Autumn Yonke
- 14 Ajay & Kyler Jensen
- 18 Millie Reicks & Maliyah Schmeckpeper
- 25 Charleigh Mach & Anthony Kauth

Readers

- 4 Jarrett Sauser & Molly Miller
- 11 Sharon Peters & LuAnn Jessen
- 18 Katie Reicks & Karen Sonder
- 25 Eric & Danelle Miller

Ushers

- 4 Youth Ushers
- 11 Curt & Kay Vanness, Mark & Karen Stelling
- 18 Alan & Karen Sonder, Richard & Kathy Eisenhauer
- 25 Dan Hoppe, Eric & Molly Miller, and John Hoffman

Video

- 4 Kyle Lamprecht & Casey Jeannoutot
- 11 Tom Reicks & Layne Warrior
- 18 Richard Eisenhauer & Avery Bargman
- 25 Kyle Lamprecht & Tiernee Freeman

Board of Finance

- 4 Charles Yeager & Dan Hoppe
- 11 Shane Greckel & Perry Broders
- 18 Kyle Lamprecht & Steve Schulz
- 25 Charles Yeager & Dan Hoppe





THE LUTHERAN HOUR: FEBRUARY 2024

February 4

"Nature Abhors a Vacuum"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler What fills the heart that has no room to forgive? (Ephesians 4:32)

February 11

"What Is Evangelism?"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler How do you encourage someone to receive the gift God has for them? That's what evangelism is all about.

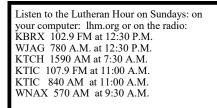
(Mark 9:7-8)

February 18

"Redeeming DIY" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler (Mark 1:12-13)

February 25

"When Winning Is Losing" Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. John Nunes (Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16, Psalm 22:23-31. Romans 5:1-11, Mark 8:8-27)





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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 9:00am Thrivent Rep	7	3 Hall Reserved
4 4:00pm Sunday School & Youth Disci- pleship 5:00pm Communion Worship 6:00pm Potluck/BINGO	5 6:30am Men's Bible Study	ω	٦	8 9:00am Thrivent Rep	σ	10
11 2:30pm Communion at BGSC 4:00pm Sunday School & Youth Disci- pleship 5:00pm Worship	12 6:30am Men's Bible Study	13	14 Ash Wednesday (TBD)	15 9:00am Thrivent Rep	16 8:30am Orphan Grain Train	17
18 2:30pm Communion at Mainview 4:00pm Sunday School & Youth Disci- pleship 5:00pm Communion Worship	19 6:30am Men's Bible Study	20 2:00pm Ladies Aid	21	22 9:00am Thrivent Rep	23	24
25 4:00pm Sunday School & Youth Disci- pleship 5:00pm Worship	26 6:30am Men's Bible Study	27	28	29 9:00am Thrivent Rep		

Caring for My Neighbor

If any of the Ten Commandments might tempt us to think that keeping the Law is easy, it would be the Fifth Commandment. After all, how hard is it to get through life without murdering somebody? The vast majority of people can handle that!

But Jesus famously blows up this notion by pointing out that the command, "you shall not murder," goes much deeper — down to the heart.

You have heard that it was said to those of old, "You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment." But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, "You fool!" will be liable to the hell of fire. (Matt. 5:21–22)

Hatred and disdain come from the same sort of crookedness of heart as murder. With both murder and hatred, you look down on another person and think them of little worth.

In the Small Catechism, Luther also points out that every "do not" in the commandments also includes a "do this:" "We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body but help and support him in every physical need" (SC, Fifth Commandment, emphasis added).

We are not called merely to avoid evil; we must also do positive good.

So when Jesus drew near to us and became our neighbor by taking up our humanity, He came not only to avoid harming us, but He came to positively help us, bless us and serve us.

We are now called to show the love to our neighbors that Christ showed to us. Your neighbor is yet another gift that God has given you that requires your stewardship. We are called to show mercy, to be kind, to love and serve our neighbor. One aspect of this stewardship is financial: our neighbors need us to support the church's work so that they can hear the Gospel and come to faith. Our neighbors need the church's alms and mercy work. Our neighbors need our faithful service in all we do in the name of Christ.

-LCMS Stewardship Ministry www.lcms.org



God-shaped Hole

Have you ever neared the completion of a jigsaw puzzle, only to discover that a piece or two is missing? That's an apt visual for what it's like to live without God. Blaise Pascal, a 17th-century philosopher, observed: "There is a Godshaped vacuum in the heart of each man which cannot be satisfied by any created thing but only by God the Creator, made known through Jesus Christ."

Centuries earlier, St. Augustine proclaimed "Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in thee." And in the Old Testament, the writer of Ecclesiastes expounded on the meaninglessness of

earthly striving and material pursuits. Only God's Spirit can fill our emptiness and satisfy our eternal longings.

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full," says Jesus in John 10:10 (NIV). He alone provides the solution for emptiness. What comfort to be filled with — and to find our fulfillment in — our Savior!



Decisions, Decisions

In the Word

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight (Proverbs 3:5–6).

Of the Word

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (Jeremiah 29:11). How wonderful it is to know that God has a plan for my life!

When I am faced with important decisions, I know the Lord has a plan for me. I may spend hours or even days agonizing over what to do when what I really need to do is spend more time in prayer and reading God's Word, which will guide my decisions.

Although I may not be sure of where He is sending me, I can be certain that He is my Guide. In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps (Proverbs 16:9). The Father hears my prayer for wisdom, and the Holy Spirit guides my actions. I can trust that God will make my path straight.

Walking with my Lord

Lord, please guide me through my days and help me to stay on the path You have chosen for me. Through Your Word, give me the wisdom to make decisions in accordance with Your will. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Mustard Seed: Living as a Woman in Mission. Author: Dianna Jenkins. 21/32 ©2009 Lutheran Women's Missionary League, 801 Seminary Place Ste. L010, St. Louis, MO 63105. www.lwml.org

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Ladies Aid Minutes:

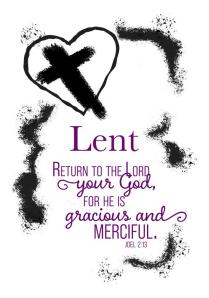
Ladies Aid did not meet during January due to weather. The next meeting is February 20th at 2:00pm.

Learning to forgive

Forgiveness is great in theory, and it's a wonderful blessing to receive. But granting forgiveness can be another story. As C.S. Lewis said, "Everybody says forgiveness is a lovely idea until they have something to forgive." Likewise, forgiveness doesn't simply happen over time, as forgetting often does. Instead, it's "an act of volition," said Simon Wiesenthal, "and only the sufferer is qualified to make the decision."

Because forgiveness has many spiritual, emotional and even physical benefits, the secular world is taking notice. Colleges now offer classes about forgiveness skills and strategies. "You practically never hear sermons on forgiveness that are practical and give clear instructions on how to approach it," Professor Robert Enright tells the Washington Post.

Graduate student Shyanne Sporrer says a forgiveness class helped her realize the danger of holding grudges. "Forgiving does not mean you are giving up power," she says. "On the contrary, when you forgive, you are the person who is in control. By forgiving, you can empower yourself to move forward from the anger and resentment to be a better version of yourself."





<u>Birthd</u>	<u>ays:</u>	
2/4	Raegan Ketelsen	13
	Grace Poppe	8
2/5	Curt Mackeprang	
2/6	Lance Freeman	
	Laurel Rose	
	Autumn Yonke	14
2/7	Joleen Kumm	
2/8	Dawn Hefner	
	Conner Wilson	
2/11	Kelly Rose	
	Bev Vanness	
2/12	Kristy Hanefeldt	
2/13	Doris Mackeprang	
	Jeff Schmeckpeper	
2/15	Craig Erbst	
	Jeff Holtz	
	Clint Kauth	
2/16	Tony Kauth	
2/17	Sherry Mach	
2/19	Cassie Hennings	
2/20	Ruth Howder	
	Casey Jeannoutot	18
2/25	Kyler Jensen	13
2/26	Renae Kauth	

Jessica Loseke Mark Stelling

2/28 Elise Mackeprang 11

l	
Anniversaries:	
February 2nd	
Leon & Rita Beckmann	50
February 14	
Aaron & Jessi Warrior	22
February 16	
Don & Shirley Schulz	66
February 17	
Dennis & Jill Doerr	28
February 29	
Tony & Renae Kauth	16





2/1	Debi Freeman
	Lori Houska
	Bryon Schuett
2/3	Thomas Kolessa
2/5	Kris Vanness
2/6	Leon Beckmann
2/7	Skylynn Adams
2/9	Trevor Ketelsen
2/16	Karen Sonder
2/17	Joleen Kumm
2/19	Richard Eisenhauer
	Shirley Schulz
	Layne Warrior
2/21	Steve Smith
2/23	Karen Broders
	David Eisenhauer
	Kenna Ketelsen
2/26	Evelyn Beckmann
	Dennis Doerr
2/27	Roben Schmeckpeper
2/28	Khloe Kelly

THANK YOU...

- [†] To the individuals and families that help with lawn care, snow removal & flowers.
- [†] To the elders and families who host fellowship on Sundays!
- ⁺ To the worship attendants and the Sunday school teachers and aides.

[†]Anyone who would like the opportunity to serve the Lord by volunteering their time can call the church at 373-4797.

FIRST TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH 402 EAST MAIN PO BOX 540 **BLOOMFIELD. NE 68718**

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In grateful response to God's grace and empowered by the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacraments, the mission of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod is vigorously to make known the love of Christ by word and deed within our

churches, communities, and the world. -LCMS Mission Statement



A prayer for Lent

Dear Christ, hasten to me. Release me from my sins. Free my arms from the chains of evil, that I may embrace you. Lift the scales

of ignorance from my eyes that I may see you. Why do you delay? What are you waiting for? You are my God and my Lord, you are my refuge and strength, you are my glory and my hope. In you I put my trust. Dear Christ, hasten to me.

—Aelred of Rievaulx (12th century)



Bible Quiz

Use one word (perhaps in different forms) for all the blanks to complete this Scripture passage:

"Dear friends, let us _____ one another, for _____ comes from God. Everyone who _____ has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not _____ does not know God, because God is A. believe

B. help

C. love D. forgive





CROSS OF ASHES — On Ash Wednesday, as Lent begins, worshipers' foreheads are often marked with ashes in the sign of the cross. The ashes traditionally come from burning palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday. In the Old Testament, ashes were a sign of mourning and repentance. Today, some worshipers wipe off the ashes before leaving church, to symbolize being cleansed from sin by Jesus' death; others

wear the ashes the rest of the day, carrying the cross of Christ into the world. Reciting Genesis 3:19 often accompanies the placement of ashes: "You are dust, and to dust you shall return."

The realm of the impossible

The wonderful thing about praying is that you leave a world of not being able to do something and enter God's realm, where everything is possible. He specializes in the impossible. Nothing is too great for his almighty power. Nothing is too small for his love.

-Corrie ten Boom

10