



NEWSLETTER



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 Mike Tuschen

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LWML President ... Marlene Johnson

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 Dan Guericke
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President Dean Suelflow

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 Hope Circle
 Brianna Bogenhagen
 Ruth Circle



St. Paul's Lutheran Church and Trinity Lutheran Church are members of the South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

February 2024

Joint Divine Worship Service Schedule for February

Sunday, February 4, 2024 — 5 p.m. at St. Paul's
 Sunday, February 11, 2024 — 5 p.m. at Trinity
 Wednesday, February 14, 2024 — 12 noon at Trinity
 Sunday, February 18, 2024 — 5 p.m. at St. Paul's
 Sunday, February 25, 2024 — 5 p.m. at Trinity

Christian Education

Joint Bible Study – Sunday, February 11, 2024, at Trinity.

Joint Confirmation Class — same location as the Joint Divine Service, 3:45 p.m.

St. Paul's Sunday School — 3:45 p.m. February 4 and 18.

Trinity Release-Time — Wednesdays, 2:15–3:15 p.m.

Lutheran Women's Missionary League

Trinity Hope Circle – February 6, 2024, 2 p.m.
 Trinity Ruth Circle – February 7, 2025, 6:30 p.m.
 St. Paul's Dorcas Circle – February 12, 2024, 2 p.m.

February Events

Trinity Lutherans For Life Annual Meeting — Feb. 21, 2024, 4 p.m.
 Collection for Rosebud Ministry ("Cookies for Utecht's") — Feb. 25.

Serving the Lord's Church in FEBRUARY

TRINITY

Elder David Bogenhagen

Ushers Ben Bogenhagen
 Ron Steffen

Acolyte Brant Bogenhagen

Altar Janice Thiry

ST. PAUL'S

Elder Curt Guindon

Ushers Marv Jira
 Larry Gerlach

Acolyte Tayven Weber

Altar Sandy Tuschen

Scripture Readings

Feb. 4 Isaiah 40: 21–31; 1 Corinthians 9:16–27; Mark 1:29–39
 Feb. 11 2 Kings 2:1–12; 2 Corinthians 3:12–13, 4:1–6; Mark 9:2–9
 Feb. 18 Genesis 22:1–18; James 1:12–18; Mark 1:9–15
 Feb. 25 Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16; Romans 5:1–11; Mark 8:27–38

The **March 2024 newsletter** will be available on or after February 25, 2024. Articles are due Thursday, February 22, 2024.

Please send newsletter/bulletin items to Nancy Bogenhagen at trinitywlsd@gmail.com. **Weekly bulletin deadline is Thursday noon.** Please email me if you prefer your newsletter emailed to you. Thank you!

What Is Church Meant For and What Does It Mean To Be the Church?

During COVID 2020 there were a lot of things said about church that became quite popular on social media and are still popular today. Unfortunately, these popular sayings minimize the importance of going to church. Some of these say things like: “You do not need to be in church, but you need to *be* the church.” It has also become quite popular in our day to justify neglecting church by saying, “church is meant for praising God.” The reasoning is as follows: 1. Church is meant for praising God. 2. I can praise God outside of church. 3. Therefore, going to church is unnecessary. These sorts of popular sayings are a very shallow understanding of church and what church is meant for. Holy Scripture uses several words when referring to church.

HEBREW

קהל (pronounced “ka-hal”) - “**to gather/assemble**” Exodus 12:3, *when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight.*

עֲצֻרָה (pronounced “ah-tsa-rah”) - “**assembly**” Numbers 29:35, *On the eighth day you shall have a solemn assembly.* This is a reference to the Sabbath Day.

GREEK

Ἐκκλησία (pronounced “ek-lay-see-ah”) - “**gathering of people**” Acts 11:26, *For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people.* This word comes from the Greek verb “to call.” God calls people together through His Word.

Συναγωγή (pronounced “soon-ag-o-gay”) - “**assembly**”, “**a gathering**” This is the word for “synagogue.” Jesus attended synagogue all His life. He did not neglect the hearing of God’s Word. When He began His ministry, He would visit the synagogues and teach. The synagogue is where the Jews gathered to hear God’s Word and pray. Acts 15:21, *For from ancient generations Moses has had in every city those who proclaim him, for he is read every Sabbath in the synagogues.*

All of the words used for church in Hebrew and Greek refer to the assembly of believers around God’s Word. This assembly is important to God and all throughout history God has called His people to assemble around

His Word. The Sabbath Day was set apart solely for the purpose of assembling together to hear God’s Word. Gathering together to hear God’s Word and receive the Sacrament is not the invention of pastors or Christians, but this is God’s command. Scripture warns Christians not to neglect this assembly. Hebrews 10:25, *not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

What is church meant for? Yes, church is meant for praising God, but that is not all. Church is the assembly of believers around God’s Word and Sacraments. In His Word and Sacraments God Himself comes to us and teaches us, absolves us, decides disputes, and speaks to us. God speaks, we listen, and then we respond to His grace with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving. The focus of church is not our prayer and praise of God, but it is God coming in our midst with the gift of salvation to which we respond with praise. (When someone gives you a gift you respond with thanksgiving.) The focus of church is God’s Word which blesses us and preserves faith unto life everlasting. Faith is trust in God. Trust is nourished through continuous communication. Hearing God Word is what nourishes that trust/faith. What happens to faith if you stop listening to God’s Word? It dies. Gathering for church is also how we encourage and support each other. By neglecting church, we are also neglecting to love our neighbor who needs our encouragement, care, and support.

Christians may and should praise God in word and deed outside of church, but they should not despise church, they should not despise the assembly of God. This is breaking the Third Commandment which says: “Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy. What does this mean? We should fear and love God that we may not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.” Jesus also wants us to receive the Lord’s Supper faithfully.

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WORD FROM THE CENTER: MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 2024

Welcome to "Word from The Center" MONDAY, a devotional word from the Center of our faith, Jesus Christ, with reflections on His Word. I'm Gregory Seltz. Today's passage is Mark 1:14–15, where the Bible says, *After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"*

NOW IS THE TIME FOR REPENTANT FAITH!

In a Charlie Brown cartoon, little brother Linus is looking very forlorn. He asks big sister Lucy, "Why are you always so anxious to criticize me?" Lucy, looking very self-righteous, replies, "I just think I have a knack for seeing other people's faults." Linus turns indignant. "What about your own faults?" he asks. "I have a knack for overlooking them," says Lucy.

I think Lucy's attitude is an endemic condition of the human heart. What do you think? Be honest now. It is so much easier to see the faults and sins of others, while virtually ignoring the enormous brokenness in ourselves. Human beings tend to judge themselves by their own noble intentions while judging others by their actions. We also have a natural tendency to learn to live with our "pet sins" while becoming extremely irritated and put off by the sins and weaknesses of others. Sin ravages our relationship with God, it devastates our relationships with each other, and it destroys a healthy sense of ourselves. The Bible is clear, "The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). No cryogenic freezing, DNA tinkering, or long-term health program is going to reverse what starts in our rebellious hearts.

Now is the time to realize the sobering news that God will not overlook our sin. He's holy; He cannot abide with sin. But He loves us and doesn't wish for us to be ravaged eternally by our sin. Now is also the time to hear the great news that God, out of love, has done something about our sinful, human condition. **The good news is in the second half of Romans 6:23 – "The wages**

of sin is death, but the gracious gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

The Gospel of Mark gets right to the point, doesn't it? Of course Jesus had to be born, but Mark doesn't spend time retelling the events of Jesus' birth. Mark doesn't even take time to talk about the early years of Jesus' life. What matters most is the public ministry of Jesus. He has come to deal with the universal, eternal problem of the human race. He has come to deal with our sin and the judgment it deserves. He has come to save.

That's why Jesus' message in our reading today is as simple and multifaceted as, "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news." Can He be any more direct or straightforward?

So don't be a "Lucy" who misses out on the good news of Jesus because you're too busy telling yourself that you are just fine the way you are. On the other hand, don't miss out on the good news thinking that you are too much of a lost cause for Jesus either. Jesus came for you, sins and all, to give you His gracious gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation. The question isn't whether you are too terrible a sinner for His grace. The question is, "Is His grace powerful and all-encompassing enough to include you?" The Bible's answer is a resounding, "Yes!"

Sometimes we look in all the wrong places for healing from our brokenness. We look to self-help gurus, smooth talking politicians, and athletic or
(next page)

societal “heroes.” Ironically, even believers often tend to underestimate what Christ has done for us. I’m sure those first disciples had a hard time thinking that Jesus could do much of anything that would ultimately matter, especially the really big things. I know that they would see Him still the storm, feed the hungry, and heal those with diseases. I know that they would see glimpses of His greatness. But then they would also seem Him tired, hungry, and exhausted. They would ultimately see Him willfully hang on a cross and give up His life for us. Little did they know that the hands that were pierced with the nails of the cross were the “hands” that created and shaped the heavens and the earth; they would soon realize that the words of this Jesus of Nazareth were indeed the words of the One who created the heavens and the earth (see John 1:1-3, 14; Colossians 1:16-17).

This very day Jesus Himself calls you to “repent and believe the good news!” The word, “repent,” means “to turn around from the direction you are going.” That means turning away from living life on your terms or on those judgmental “Lucy” terms; it means to be honest with yourself and open your eyes to the Messiah named Jesus. Now is the time for a repentant faith which believes in HIS good news for you and places your very life into the hands of the One who came all the way from heaven to earth to be your Lord and Savior.

PRAYER: Dear Lord Jesus, let Your simple invitation to repent and believe in Your good news move us to confident trust in You **for our very lives, this day and every day! AMEN.**

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God is also the one who sends pastors to teach His Word. Ephesians 4:11, *And He [Christ] gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry for building up the body of Christ...* The *shepherds and teachers* refer to pastors. St Paul writes to the pastors in Ephesus, *Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with His own blood.*

If Christians want “to be church,” then they need to assemble with their fellow Christians around God’s Word and Sacrament where God speaks to us, absolves us, teaches us, and cleanses our consciences of all sin. A Christian cannot claim “to be church” when they neglect the assembly which is what the word “church” means. We also share the Gospel with our family members, friends, and community and invite them to gather with us to be taught by God Himself. We come to church to be taught and blessed by Jesus. The Prophet Isaiah writes of people from all nations gathering around God’s Word in Isaiah 2: *It shall come to pass in the latter days [the time of the New Testament] that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, and many peoples shall come, and say: “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that He may teach us His ways and that we may walk in His paths.” For out of Zion shall go the law, and the Word of the Lord from Jerusalem.*

In Christ, Pastor Jens Jenson

STAY IN TOUCH

Pastor Jens Jenson, Vacancy Pastor

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Recordings of Divine Services: Available on the **YouTube** channel, **Trinity White Lake.**



MAIN STREET LIVING FEBRUARY 2024

All programs are interpreted and closed-captioned for the hearing impaired. For more information visit: www.mainstreetliving.com

Broadcast on KDLT (NBC) channels 5.1 / 46.1

February 4, 2024

10 a.m. "Which Way Grows the Vine" A father struggles to accept the consequences of his actions and setting an example for his son.

10:30 a.m. Rev. Scott

Lemmermann, pastor from Zion Lutheran Church in Canistota, SD presents a message titled "Strength in Weakness" and is based on Mark 1.

February 11, 2024

10 a.m. "Prescription TLC" Injuries after a plane crash cause a couple to seek God for comfort and healing.

10:30 a.m. Rev. Dr. Brian

Mosemann, pastor at Immanuel-St. Paul-First English and Bethesda Lutheran Churches in Menno-Scotland-Parker and Marion, SD presents a message titled "Imperishable Tent." This sermon is based on Mark 9:2-9.

February 18, 2024

10 a.m. "Dangerous Moment" - An affair on a business trip leads to tension at home.

10:30 a.m. Rev. Chris Davis, pastor at Emanuel Lutheran Church in Milbank, SD presents a message titled "The Savior's Voice." This sermon is based on Mark 1:9-15.

February 25, 2024

10 a.m. "Who will tell Lauria?" A family struggles with what to do after their daughter loses her sight in an accident.

10:30 a.m. Rev. Paul Sajban, pastor at Lutheran Church of Our Savior in Windom, MN presents a message titled "The Blessing of Your Denial and Cross." This sermon is based on Mark 8:27-38.



FEBRUARY 2024

- Travis Fink, SP – February 1
- Brant Bogenhagen, TR – February 6
- Ashley Geyer, TR – February 7
- Haleigh Mere Haiar, SP – February 8
- Bernice Kolmann, SP – February 9
- Lane Wesseling, SP – February 10
- John Geyer, TR – February 13
- Rebecca Hoefert Haiar, SP – February 14
- Brent & Andrea Morenz, SP – February 14*
- Deb Pope, TR – February 15
- Kristin Heismeyer, SP – February 18
- Hadley Tobin, SP – February 19
- Griffin Tobin, SP – February 19
- MaKenzie Anthony, SP – February 27

Trinity Lutherans For Life will hold their Annual Meeting Wednesday, February 21, 2024, at 4 p.m. Everyone is welcome!



Special Services Schedule

Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2024
12 noon at Trinity

Maundy Thursday, March 28, 2024
4:30 p.m. at St. Paul's

Good Friday, March 29, 2024
4:30 p.m. at Trinity

Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024
9:30 a.m. at St. Paul's

571 God Loved the World So That He Gave



1 God loved the world so that He gave His on - ly
2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, Who was made
3 God would not have the sin - ner die; His Son with
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son For - gives all



Son the lost to save, That all who would in
flesh and suf - fered death; All then who trust in
sav - ing grace is nigh; His Spir - it in the
sins which you have done; And, jus - ti - fied by



Him be - lieve Should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
Him a - lone Are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
Word de - clares How we in Christ are heav - en's heirs.
Je - sus' blood, Your Bap - tism grants the high - est good.

5 If you are sick, if death is near,
This truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death;
That is the firmest ground of faith.

△ 6 Glory to God the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To You, O blessèd Trinity,
Be praise now and eternally!

Text: Heiliges Lippen- und Hertzens-Opffer, c. 1778, Stettin; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.
Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–93
Text and tune: Public domain







The Story

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Johann Olearius was court preacher at Hale and Weissenfels and a leading theologian of his time. He produced a systematic theology, a commentary on the entire Bible, a great many academic and devotional books, and the most comprehensive hymnal of the period, the *Geistliche Singe-Kunst* (Leipzig, 1671). This hymn appeared in that book in a section of hymns teaching the chief articles of the Christian faith.

The translation by August Crull is found in *Evangelical Lutheran Hymn Book* (1889). It has continued in use, with some alterations, in most Lutheran hymnbooks to the present.

FEBRUARY 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
Pastor on call February 6–8, 2024 Rev. Brian Lemcke, Zion Delmont 605-572-8263						
4  Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany Events at St. Paul's 3:45 p.m. Confirmation/SS 5 p.m. Joint Divine Service	5	6 2 p.m. TR Hope Circle 	7 2:15 p.m. TR Release-Time 6:30 p.m. TR Ruth Circle 	8	9	10
11  Transfiguration of our Lord Events at Trinity 3:45 p.m. Confirmation 5 p.m. Joint Divine Service 6 p.m. Bible Class	12 2 p.m. SP Dorcas Circle 	13	14 Ash Wednesday 12 Noon at TR Ash. Wed. Serv. 2:15 p.m. TR Release-Time	15	16	17
18  First Sunday in Lent Events at St. Paul's 3:45 p.m. Confirmation/SS 5 p.m. Joint Divine Service	19	20	21 2:15 p.m. TR Release-Time 4 p.m. Trinity Lutherans For Life Meeting	22	23	24
25  Second Sunday in Lent Events at Trinity 3:45 p.m. Confirmation 5 p.m. Joint Divine Service 6 p.m. Lenten Supper	26	27	28 2:15 p.m. TR Release-Time	29	<i>O Lord, be gracious to me; heal me, for I have sinned against You!</i> (Psalm 41:4)	