

## CONNECTION NEWSLETTER

### PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Our season of Advent includes the lighting of the Advent candles in worship. Each week has a different theme.

We begin in Hope. Don't all beginnings anchor themselves in hope? Even the difficult beginnings?

The second candle represents Peace. Sin and conflict divide us in so many ways. May we seek peace and pursue it, always. (Ps. 34:14)

We pause in the third week for Joy. It's called "**Gaudete**" (gaw DAY tay) Sunday; the Latin word means "Rejoice." I hope the beautiful poem here inspires you to see the joy all around us.

We mark Love as our fourth week of Advent. Advent is the preparation for the coming of Christ, who is God's love in human flesh. Love is "the greatest of these," and God has abundant love for us.

May you be blessed with Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love in these days of waiting and anticipation.

*Pastor Sherri*

*The poem was shared on an excellent website for scripture study: "Journey with Jesus." Brad Reynolds is a photographer and artist in residence at Gonzaga University in Washington.*

### FIND US ONLINE!

Check out our  
updated websites:

[tripolischurch.org](http://tripolischurch.org)



Worship Video

[ebenezermn.wordpress.com](http://ebenezermn.wordpress.com)



Worship Video

Both churches are on  
Facebook

### **Gaudete** by Brad Reynolds

Because Christmas is almost here  
Because dancing fits so well with music  
Because inside baby clothes are miracles.  
Gaudete  
Because some people love you  
Because of chocolate  
Because pain does not last forever  
Because Santa Claus is coming.  
Gaudete  
Because of laughter  
Because there really are angels  
Because your fingers fit your hands  
Because forgiveness is yours for the asking  
Because of children  
Because of parents.  
Gaudete  
Because the blind see.  
And the lame walk.  
Gaudete  
Because lepers are clean  
And the deaf hear.  
Gaudete  
Because the dead will live again  
And there is good news for the poor.  
Gaudete  
Because of Christmas  
Because of Jesus  
You rejoice.



### Remember in our prayers

*God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1*

- All who are ill, receiving treatment, preparing for or recovering from procedures; all caregivers
- The people of Ukraine and Gaza and many others whose lives are marked with war and unrest
- Those experiencing uncertainty with jobs or food or home insecurity

# Scripture readings

## December 7

Isaiah 11:1-10 From David's line, a ruler bringing justice and peace  
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 "May the righteous flourish; let there be an abundance of peace."  
Romans 15:4-13 Live in harmony, welcoming one another  
Matthew 3:1-12 A voice cries: Prepare the way of the Lord

## December 14

Isaiah 35:1-10 The desert blooms as God's people return from exile  
Psalm 146:5-10 "The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down."  
Luke 1:46b-55 "My spirit rejoices in God my Savior."  
James 5:7-10 Patience until the coming of the Lord  
Matthew 11:2-11 The forerunner of Christ

## December 21

Isaiah 7:10-16 The sign of Immanuel  
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 "Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved."  
Romans 1:1-7 Paul's greeting to the church at Rome  
Matthew 1:18-25 A God near at hand

## December 24

Isaiah 9:2-7 Light shines: a child is born for us  
Psalm 96 "Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad."  
Titus 2:11-14 The grace of God has appeared  
Luke 2:1-14 [15-20] God with us

## December 25

Isaiah 62:6-12 God comes to restore the people  
Psalm 97 "Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the honest of heart."  
Titus 3:4-7 Saved through water and the Spirit  
Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20 The birth of the Messiah revealed to shepherds

## December 28

Isaiah 63:7-9 Israel saved by God's own presence  
Psalm 148 "The splendor of the Lord is over earth and heaven."  
Hebrews 2:10-18 Christ shares flesh and blood to free humankind  
Matthew 2:13-23 The slaughter of innocent children



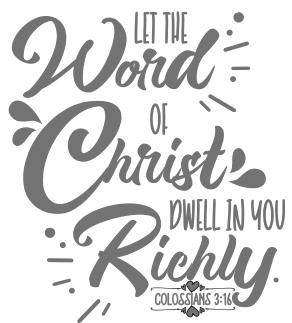
## Advent Wednesdays Supper and Worship

December 3: Tripolis  
December 10: Ebenezer

Our worship will include a soup meal beginning at 6:15 followed by worship beginning at 7pm.

See sign-ups in Narthex if you can help with our meal.

December 17: We will help lead worship at Bethesda, Willmar, at 2pm. We will not have an evening service that day.



## SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Our churches have special designations for loose offerings during the year. Here are the selected recipients for the remainder of 2025

### Tripolis

**Thanksgiving:** World Hunger

**Advent:** Food for the Poor

**Christmas:** Habitat for Humanity

### Ebenezer

**Thanksgiving:** World Hunger

**Advent:** Lutheran Social Service

**Christmas:** Bethesda

If you'd still like to give a Thanksgiving offering, either use the specific Thanksgiving envelope or make the intention clear with a note on your check or cash gift.

The church councils review their selections annually. The list for 2026 special offerings will be in the yearbook.

Both women's groups also designate gifts from funds they raise each year to various organizations.



# TRIPOLIS CALENDAR

Wednesday, December 3: 6:15 soup supper followed by 7pm worship at Tripolis

Thursday, December 4: 2pm Rachel Bible Study

Sunday, December 7: 9:30am Sunday School

11am Worship at Tripolis

Tuesday, December 9: 7pm Church Council Meeting at Ebenezer

Wednesday, December 10: 6:15 soup supper followed by 7pm

worship at Ebenezer

Thursday, December 11: 9am Quilting

Sunday, December 14: 9:30am Christmas program prep

11am Worship at Tripolis (Children's Christmas Program)

Wednesday, December 17: 2pm Advent worship at Bethesda, Willmar

\*No lunch or evening worship at our churches

Sunday, December 21: 11am Worship at Tripolis

(Winter break for Sunday School)

6pm Beer & Hymns at Handle Bar, Atwater

Poinsettia forms due

Monday, December 22: Newsletter Information Due

Wednesday, December 24: 4pm Christmas Eve worship at Ebenezer

Thursday, December 25: 10am Christmas worship at Tripolis

Sunday, December 28: 10am worship at Tripolis

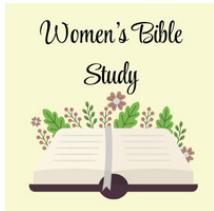
(Winter break for Sunday School)



Poinsettia orders:  
Forms will be in the narthex  
to order poinsettias to  
decorate our space.



Everyone is welcome to post  
holiday photos on the bulletin  
board! They'll be up until  
January 4.



Tripolis Women's  
Bible Study will  
meet on December  
4 at 2pm at Tripolis.



Women's  
Meeting on  
Saturday,  
January, 31  
9:15 AM—social  
10:00 AM—  
short meeting

BH  
&  
HANDLEBAR,  
ATWATER 6 PM  
DECEMBER 21  
Beer & Hymns

## Tripolis Members on Duty

### **Council Members**

Pam Vruwink & Angela Dahlberg

### **Ushers**

Cal & Barb Freeman

### **Altar**

Ruth Aurand, Angie Dahlberg,

Dawn Fostervold

## Tripolis Worship Leaders

### **December 7**

Musician: Paula Grahn

Lector: Matt Wattnem

Acolyte: Eliza Stegeman

### **December 14**

\*Christmas Program, 11am

Students and teachers, please come  
for costumes and rehearsal at 9:30

### **December 21**

Musician: Mary Gruis

Lector: Mike & Jeanette Jacobson

Acolyte: Dom Dahline

### **December 25**

Musician: Paula Grahn

Lectors: Gruis & Morrison families

Acolyte:

### **December 28**

Musician: Dana Vruwink

Lectors: Ruth Aurand, Deb Wodash

Acolyte:

#### What can be recycled?



The ACGC REACH class collected  
1000 pounds of plastic for a  
playground bench! Collections  
continue for a second bench. You  
can help by dropping off your clean  
plastic items in the bin in the back  
room at Tripolis.

# EBENEZER CALENDAR

Wednesday, December 3: 6:15 Soup supper followed by 7pm worship at Tripolis

Sunday, December 7: 9:30am Worship at Ebenezer

Tuesday, December 9: 7pm Church Council Meeting at Ebenezer

Wednesday, December 10: 6:15 Soup supper followed by 7pm worship at Ebenezer

Sunday, December 14: 9:30am Worship at Ebenezer  
\*Potluck Lunch to follow

Wednesday, December 17: 2pm Advent worship at Bethesda, Willmar  
\*No lunch or evening worship at our churches

\*Stay tuned for details on a plan to go Caroling afterwards.

Sunday, December 21: 9:30am Worship at Ebenezer

Monday, December 22: Newsletter Information Due

Wednesday, December 24: 4pm Christmas Eve worship at Ebenezer

Thursday, December 25: 10am Christmas worship at Tripolis

Sunday, December 28: 10 Worship at Tripolis

## Ebenezer Worship

### Leaders

#### **December 7**

Musician: Betsy Hallberg

Lector: Karen Oswood

#### **December 14**

Musician: Betsy Hallberg

Lector: Nancy Kaehler

#### **December 21**

Musician: Kristine Benson

Lector: Andrew Benson

#### **December 24, 4pm**

Musician: Kristine Benson

Lector: Dan Hallberg

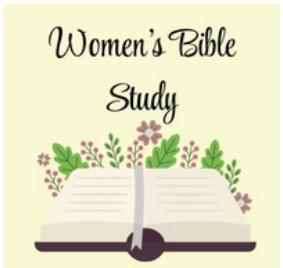
#### **December 28, 10am**

Worship is at Tripolis

Lectors: Deb Wodash,  
Ruth Aurand



Everyone is welcome to post  
holiday photos on the bulletin  
board! They'll be up until  
January 4.

Women's Bible  
Study  
Ebenezer Women's Bible Study Group will not have its monthly Bible Study in December. Instead, we will host the Ebenezer Christmas Potluck on Sunday, December 14th



### **Ebenezer Blessing Box**

Thank you to Zarnotts for serving as caretakers in November. Redepennings will oversee the supplies in December. See sign-up in narthex to help out in future months.

## EBENEZER MEMBERS ON DUTY

### **Council Member**

Karen Deisting

### **Ushers**

Jon Lindstrand

Aaron Peterson

### **Greeters**

Deb & Tom Wodash

### **Altar**

Deb & Tom Wodash

### **Flowers**

Joan Peterson

## Thank You

Thank You to all who participated in our Salvation Army Angel Tree Project! An assortment of gifts for 20 children was delivered to the Salvation Army to distribute to children in the surrounding community. What a great way to generously sharing God's love!

## **Potluck Lunch!**



**Ebenezer Christmas Potluck Lunch** will be held **Sunday, December 14th**

following the worship service. This is always a wonderful time for delicious food and great fellowship. The free-will offering will be designated to the ELCA World Hunger "Good Gifts." Through the Good Gifts offering we can purchase animals for "God's Global Barnyard."

Hopefully, we can donate several animals to families in need throughout the world. (If you are unable to be present on December 14 and would like to donate, please make a check out to Ebenezer WELCA and give it to Marilyn.)  
Everyone is invited to participate.

# December

## Happy Birthday

### TRIPOLIS BIRTHDAYS

2 Warren Carlson  
4 Odin Larson  
5 Tanya Johnson  
5 Hunter Sharp  
9 Trista Knoll  
9 Kendall Swenson  
10 Adam Bosch  
10 Dana Vruwink  
13 Samantha Schliep  
16 Hannah Morrison  
16 Josiah Holien  
16 Brooke Simenson  
18 Luke Heaton  
20 Cathy Pregler  
20 Isaiah Anderson  
22 Loren Carlson  
23 Diane McClain  
24 Kristi Schmidt  
26 Austin McClain  
27 Robert DeKraai  
29 Jesse Lefever  
30 Andrew Ziebarth

### EBENEZER BIRTHDAYS

4 Mark Latterell  
4 Deb Wodash  
8 Luke Garwick  
8 Sue Johnson  
9 Cailey Titrud  
9 Brittany VanDerBill  
11 Rod Lanners  
12 Anthony Stern  
13 Devon Titrud  
17 Dale Latterell  
19 Jan Lambert  
20 Larry Eickhoff  
20 Leo Wodash  
27 Jamie Carlson  
27 Ruth Ann Norling  
29 Chad Stark  
31 Sven Johnson

## Happy Anniversary

### TRIPOLIS ANNIVERSARIES

13 Mark & Cathy Pregler  
18 Rick & Mary Dahline

### EBENEZER ANNIVERSARIES

None

# Merry Christmas



Joint Council Minutes  
Tripolis and Ebenezer Churches  
Tuesday, October 14, 2025

Members: Craig Aurand, Jeanette Jacobson, Frank Ziebarth, Pam Vruwink, David McClain, **Angela Dahlberg**, Jim Oyen, **Wayne Zarnott**, Eric Struck, Karen Deisting, Mary Redepenning, Betsy Hallberg, Karen Oswood, Tom Wodash, Pastor Sherri Larson.  
Members absent in **BOLD**.

Ebenezer Vice President, Eric Struck, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Approval of Agenda: Motion made by Jeanette Jacobson, seconded by Karen Oswood to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Devotions: Tom Wodash led devotions.

Secretary's Report: Reviewed September 9, 2025, joint council minutes with no additions or corrections. Motion to accept by Karen Oswood, seconded by Mary Redepenning. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor shared a recap of September's events and activities. The website improvements have been completed.

LYO Report: Ditch cleanup was recently performed with 16 kids participating.

Old Business: None

New Business: Each council will give Pastor their input on the draft funeral policy.

Motion to adjourn by David McClain, seconded by Karen Deisting. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Hallberg, Secretary

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Ebenezer Church Council Meeting Minutes  
October 14, 2025

Members: **Wayne Zarnott**, Tom Wodash, Eric Struck, Karen Oswood, Betsy Hallberg, Karen Deisting, Mary Redepenning. **Members absent in BOLD**.

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by Vice President, Eric Struck. The Agenda was approved as written.

Secretary's Report: Minutes from the September 9, 2025, meeting reviewed. Motion to accept as written by Mary Redepenning, seconded by Karen Oswood. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: The finance reports were reviewed. Motion by Mary Redepenning, seconded by Tom Wodash, to approve finance reports as written subject to audit. Motion carried.

Old Business: None

New Business: Pastor explained the "phishing" scam that recently occurred and the steps taken to advise our members of it.

Committee Reports

CR1 - Worship and Music - Mary Redepenning – Next meeting will be towards the end of November.

Communion assist – October Council person on duty – Betsy Hallberg

Communion assist - November Council person on duty – Mary Redepenning

CR2 - Children/Youth Ministries - Tom Wodash – no report

CR3 - Community Building/Outreach and Service Ministries - Karen Oswood – We will serve a noon meal at Campus Ministry on October 21.

CR4 - Memorial Gift Committee - Karen Deisting - no report

CR5 - Property - Betsy Hallberg, Eric Struck – The committee met on October 13 and continue to make updates and repairs as necessary.

CR6 - Policy – We reviewed the draft funeral policy and members were encouraged to share their suggestions with Pastor.

Karen Oswood will provide devotions in December.

*Ebenezer minutes continued*

Adjournment: Motion by Karen Oswood, seconded by Karen Deisting, to adjourn meeting. Motion carried.

Next Meeting at Tripolis on Tuesday, November 11, 2025.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Betsy Hallberg, Secretary

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Tripolis Church Council Meeting  
October 14, 2025  
Location – Ebenezer

Members: Craig Aurand, **Angie Dahlberg**, Jeanette Jacobson, David McClain, Jim Oyen, Pam Vruwink, and Frank Ziebarth

Members absent in **BOLD**

President, Frank Ziebarth, called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM.

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by David to approve the agenda, seconded by Jeanette. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report: September, 2025 meeting minutes were reviewed with no additions or corrections made. Motion made to approve September meeting minutes by Craig seconded by Jeanette. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Christian Education – Jeanette Jacobson: Farmer appreciation was held on Sunday, October 12 with Sunday School kids making cards and muffins that were shared with members and neighbors.

Worship/Music – Pam Vruwink: group will be meeting soon to plan the next group of services. Pastor Sherri and Barb are planning a special Reformation/All Saints service.

Community Building – Craig Aurand: Pancake Breakfast was held at the Kandiyohi Civic Center on October 11, serving roughly 125-140 people. Cost was \$341, received donations were in excess of the expenses. A Tripolis banner has been made for future use by all.

Youth – Jim Oyen: Adopt-A-Highway ditch cleanup completed in September with 16 volunteers and a pizza lunch.

Memorial – Angie Dahlberg: no report submitted

Finance/Stewardship – Frank Ziebarth and Craig Aurand: no report submitted

Property – David McClain: all carpet and baseboards are complete with lots of help. Found damp sheetrock in the hallway near the bathrooms- they will look at moving out the downspout on the exterior of the building, Dave will check the gutters. A potluck is scheduled for November 9, this would be a good day for building dedication. Pastor Sherri is checking with Cedar Creek Gospel Band to include in the service.

**Old Business**

- Need to look at a new congregational meeting date to make a decision regarding the sound system. This will be included in the annual meeting on January 25.
- Frank has confirmed building changes with the church insurance policy.

**New Business**

- Mike Jacobson received an estimate from Bonnema for a new septic system. Will be pumped sometime this fall, introduced at the annual meeting and can make decisions in the spring at which point another big should hopefully have been submitted.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Pam, seconded by Jim. Motion carried.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Pam Vruwink

Connection Newsletter December 2025  
Ebenezer/Tripolis Lutheran Parish  
PO BOX 356  
Kandiyohi, MN 56251

## CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



# DECEMBER WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

## ADVENT SERVICES

Sunday, December 7th

- 9:30AM Worship at Ebenezer
- 11:00AM Worship at Tripolis

## Wednesday Services

Wednesday, Dec 3rd

- 9:30AM Sunday School at Ebenezer
- 11:00AM Worship at Tripolis

Wednesday, Dec 10th

- 6:15 Soup Supper followed by 7pm Worship at Ebenezer
- 7pm Worship at Tripolis

## Wednesday, December 17th

- 6:15 Soup Supper followed by 7pm Worship at Ebenezer
- 2pm Advent Worship at Bethesda, Willmar. No lunch or evening worship at our churches.

## Christmas Eve: Wednesday, Dec. 24th

4pm at Ebenezer

## Christmas Day: Thursday, Dec. 25th

10am at Tripolis

## Sunday, December 28th

- 9:30AM Worship at Ebenezer
- 11:00AM Worship at Tripolis
- 11:00AM Worship at Tripolis
- 9:30AM Sunday School at Tripolis
- 11:00AM Worship at Tripolis
- Children's Christmas Program

## Sunday, December 29th

- 10am Worship at Tripolis

10am at Tripolis

10am Worship at Tripolis