

## CONNECTION NEWSLETTER

### PASTOR'S MESSAGE

December's Advent and Christmas seasons focus on waiting and celebration. Epiphany is a time to watch God's work through Christ be revealed. This feels fitting, right now, as we might wonder how God can be working in the troubling events around us. A recent letter from Bishop Dee Pederson of our Southwestern Minnesota Synod addressed these difficulties. Her words can guide us on our continued journey to live, work, and worship together with hope and trust.

*Pastor Sherri*

Dear church, I know that everyone in your congregation does not agree on what [our current events] mean or what should be done. As one called to shepherd God's people and bear faithful witness with love, gentleness, wisdom, and courage, I see the many contexts in which you live. I see pastors wrestling with Scripture, loving their people, and seeking to speak faithfully in these days. I see neighbors going out of their way to care for others. I see faithful members of our congregations taking seriously their daily work in emergency services and local law enforcement. I see congregations who know there are no easy answers free of tension. I am convinced Scripture provides some direction—and that this is not what God intends for this world.

- Isaiah calls us to be "repairers of the breach."
- Micah teaches: "Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God."
- Jesus leaves no ambiguity: "Love your neighbor as yourself."
- Each week we pray, "Thy will be done on earth as in heaven."

You are beloved children of God. As followers of Jesus, we are given faith practices to sustain us in times of tension and challenge:

- Prayer, worship, singing, learning, serving, generosity, and community.
- The Ten Commandments to protect us and our neighbors and temper our rhetoric.
- Bible study and our Lutheran confessions to ground us.

Even when we disagree about many things, we hold on to our Christian and civic responsibilities. ...We are church together. *Grace and Peace, Bishop Dee Pederson*



### Keep in Our Prayers

Our community and country, that all are safe; that all are kind  
Students, teachers, and all school staff, navigating difficult times

All in public service or office; that all lead with compassion  
People in Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan, and Syria and other places of war  
Jean Carlson (mother of Brooke Simenson), struggling with cancer

The Gruis family as they grieve the death of Kelly's mother Murlene Gruis  
All receiving treatment or recovering from illness or injury; all caregivers

# Scripture readings

## February 1

*Micah 6:1-8* The offering of justice, kindness, humility

*Psalm 15* "Lord, who may abide upon your holy hill?"

*1 Corinthians 1:18-31* Christ crucified, the wisdom and power of God

*Matthew 5:1-12* The teaching of Christ: Beatitudes

## February 8

*Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]* The fast God chooses

*Psalm 112:1-9 [10]* "Light shines in the darkness for the upright."

*1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]* God's wisdom revealed through the Spirit

*Matthew 5:13-20* The teaching of Christ: salt and light

## February 15 (Transfiguration Sunday)

*Exodus 24:12-18* Moses enters the cloud of God's glory on Mount Sinai

*Psalm 2* "You are my son; this day have I begotten you."

*2 Peter 1:16-21* The apostle's message confirmed on the mount of transfiguration

*Matthew 17:1-9* Revelation of Christ as God's beloved Son

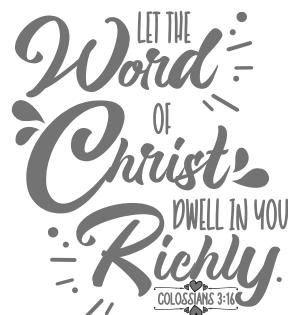
## February 22

*Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7* Eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil

*Psalm 32* "Mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord."

*Romans 5:12-19* Death came through one; life comes through one

*Matthew 4:1-11* The temptation of Jesus in the wilderness for forty days



Register your team and  
download a pledge form at  
[CentraCare.com/Bowl-For-Hospice](http://CentraCare.com/Bowl-For-Hospice).

All proceeds benefit local hospice  
patients and their families.

**Saturday, Feb. 7**

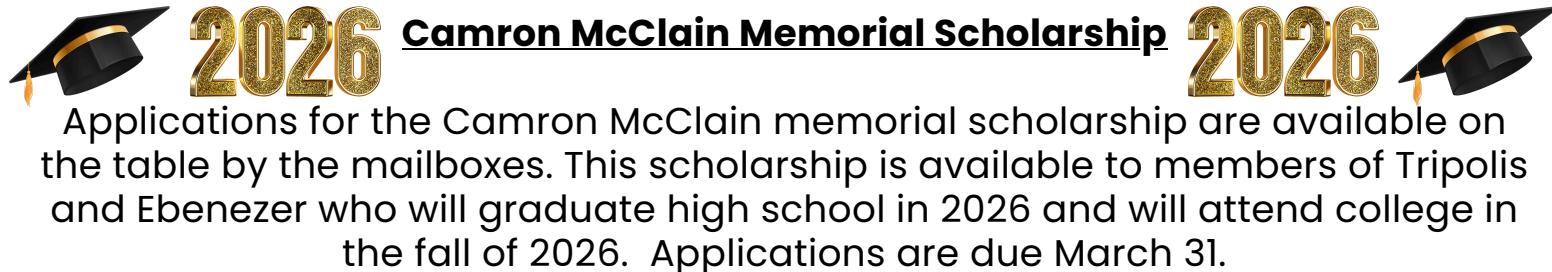
**9:30 am - 1:30 pm**

**Alley on Ash**

19 Ash St. SE, New London

Pledge forms to support our bowlers and  
hospice are in the narthex of each church.

All ages are welcome to this event!



# TRIPOLIS CALENDAR

Sunday, February 1: 9:30am "All Church Sunday School"  
11am Worship at Tripolis  
4:30pm Lakeland Conference Assembly

Wednesday, February 4: 6:30pm Confirmation Table Talk

Thursday, February 5: 2pm Rachel Bible Study

Sunday, February 8: 9:30am Sunday School  
11am Worship: "Camp Sunday"  
12pm Camp House Sunday chili/soup/stew cook off

Tuesday, February 10: 7pm Church Council Meeting at Ebenezer

Thursday, February 12: 9am Quilting

Sunday, February 15: 9:30am Sunday School  
11am Worship at Tripolis

Monday, February 16: Newsletter Article Information Due

Wednesday, February 18: 11:30am Ash Wednesday Worship & Lunch at Ebenezer  
7pm Ash Wednesday Worship at Ebenezer

Friday, February 20: 8:30am Hobby Retreat

Saturday, February 21: 8:30am Hobby Retreat  
6pm Game Night at Tripolis

Sunday, February 22: 9:30am Sunday School  
11am Worship at Tripolis

Tuesday, February 24: 9am Quilting

Wednesday, February 25: 7pm Lenten Service at Tripolis

see Ash Wednesday  
details on next page

## Tripolis Members on Duty

### Council Members

Jeanette Jacobson, Pam Vruwink

### Ushers

Frank & Suzanne Ziebarth

### Altar

Cheryl Alinder, Deb Carlson

## Lakeland Conference Assembly

February 1 at Water's Edge (Green Lake Bible Camp). Registration at 4:30; meal at 5; followed by the meeting and worship.



**Tripolis Women's Bible Study will meet on February 5th at 2pm at Tripolis. Paula will lead; Barb will serve.**

## Hobby Retreat

Please email the church or sign up on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall at Tripolis for the March 13-14 hobby retreat.

Friday 8:30am until you choose to go home  
Saturday 8:30am -5pm  
Meals will be potluck with a group meal ordered in on Friday night.  
Water, coffee, tea and hot chocolate provided.



TRIPOLIS CHURCH  
3248 CO RD 8 SE, KANDIYOH

Please sign up in the fellowship hall at Tripolis or by contacting Cathy M.

## Tripolis Worship Leaders

### February 1

Musician: Paula Grahn  
Lector: Kathy Vruwink  
Acolyte: Claudia Oyen

### February 8

Musician: Tom & Marlys Gustafson, Dana Vruwink  
Lectors: Youth  
Acolyte: Eliza Stegeman

### February 15

Musician: Paula Grahn  
Lector: Barb Freeman  
Acolyte: Dom Dahline

### February 22

Musician: Mary Gruis  
Lector: Kevin Miller  
Acolyte: Colton Fostervold

### February 25, Lenten worship at 7pm

Musician: Mary Gruis



### Quilting

**Thursday, February 12, 9am  
Tuesday, February 24, 9am**



## Camp Sunday: February 8th

We will have a chili/soup/stew cook off after worship as part of our Camp Sunday festivities. Sign up sheets are in the library. Please let Jeanette know by Sunday, February 1 if you will enter your best recipe and/or can bring bars or help serve. The free will offering will support Camp House. That day, we'll share how Tripolis can support all campers with scholarships to attend the camps of Water's Edge/Green Lake Ministries.



"Table Talk" meeting and meal with students, parents, & mentors on Wednesday, Feb. 4, 6:30-8pm



"All Church Sunday School" on February 1, with activities for all ages. (and snacks!)



February 21  
Game Night at Tripolis starting at 6pm  
Bring dish to share and favorite games.

# Ebenezer Calendar

Sunday, February 1: 9:30am Worship at Ebenezer  
Sunday, February 8: 9:30am Worship at Ebenezer

\*Annual Meeting following Worship, with lunch provided afterward

Tuesday, February 10: 7pm Church Council Meeting at Ebenezer

Sunday, February 15: 9:30am Worship at Ebenezer

Monday, February 16: Newsletter Article Information Due

Wednesday, February 18: 11:30am Ash Wednesday Worship & Lunch to follow at Ebenezer

7pm Ash Wednesday Service at Ebenezer

Friday, February 20: 8:30am Hobby Retreat at Tripolis

Saturday, February 21: 8:30am Hobby Retreat at Tripolis

Sunday, February 22: 9:30am Worship at Ebenezer

Wednesday, February 25: 7pm Lenten Service at Tripolis

Thursday, February 26: 9am Quilting

## Lakeland Conference Assembly

February 1 at Water's Edge (Green Lake Bible Camp).

Registration at 4:30; meal at 5; followed by the meeting and worship.

## Ash Wednesday

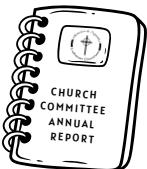
February 18 at Ebenezer: Two services

- 11:30am Worship with soup lunch afterward
- 7pm Worship

Both services will include the imposition of the Ashes and Holy Communion

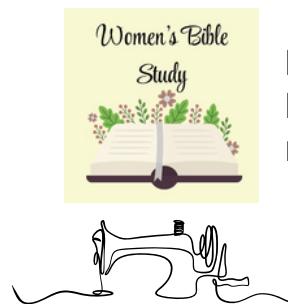


*Our first Lenten service is on Wednesday, February 25, 7pm Tripolis.*



## Annual Meeting

*Ebenezer's annual meeting is Sunday, February 8th immediately following worship. A lunch will be provided after the meeting.*



## Ebenezer Blessing Box

Thank you to Redepennings for serving as caretakers in January. Nancy Bruggers will oversee the supplies in February. Donations of dried goods are especially helpful during the winter months.

## Ebenezer Worship Leaders

### February 1

Musician: Kristine Benson

Lector: Lauri Hennes

### February 8

Musician: Kristine Benson

Lector: Kara Hallberg

### February 15

Musician: Kristine Benson

Lector: Paul Oswood

### February 18 (Ash Wednesday)

**11:30am worship followed by**

**lunch AND 7pm worship**

Musician: Kristine Benson

Various Lectors

### February 22

Musician: Kristine Benson

Lector: Marilyn Zarnott

## EBENEZER MEMBERS ON DUTY

### Council Member

Karen Oswood

### Ushers

Andy VanDerBill

Myron Bengtson

### Greeters

Aaron & Krista Peterson

### Altar

Linda Cuchna, Laura Odland

### Flowers

Naomi Struck

No Women's Bible Study in February. Meetings will resume March 17th.

**Do-Be-Doers Quilting**  
**Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 9am**

# FEBRUARY

## Happy Birthday

### TRIPOLIS BIRTHDAYS

1 Susan Morris  
1 Dawn Anderson  
1 Samuel Gruis  
2 Bernice McClain  
3 Jackie Stegeman  
5 Roy McClain  
5 Porter DeKraai  
6 Colleen Brandt  
6 Julie Beck  
6 Tyler Smith  
6 Derek Mattson  
7 David Isaacson  
7 Kameron Kemerling  
10 Sheila Bosch  
10 Susan Dahline  
10 Adam Ziebarth  
11 Greta Fiskness  
16 Dalen Dahline  
18 Wayne Rasmussen  
19 Amy Schliep  
21 Cindy Priebe  
21 Ryan Schliep  
22 Wayne Knoll  
22 Hali Ziehl  
22 Cody Stegeman  
26 Carmen Swenson  
27 Melissa Smith  
27 Tucker Peterka  
27 Finley Dickerson  
28 Cal Freeman  
28 Bethany Molash

### EBENEZER BIRTHDAYS

6 Derik Peterson  
9 Alyssa Lindstrand  
9 Ashley Lindstrand  
9 Scott Redepenning  
10 Logan McGillivray  
11 Austin Brouillette  
11 Greg Gonnella  
13 Darlene Gustafson  
19 Deb Odland  
19 Joyce McGillivray  
22 Tom Wodash  
26 Devon Titrud  
27 Paul Hoffer

## Happy Anniversary

### TRIPOLIS ANNIVERSARIES

28 Wayne & Wanda Knoll

### EBENEZER ANNIVERSARIES

None



Joint Council Minutes  
Tripolis and Ebenezer Churches  
Tuesday, December 10, 2025 (change of date due to weather)  
7:45 pm at Ebenezer

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

Ebenezer President, Wayne Zarnott, called the meeting to order at 7:45 pm (following Advent services).

Approval of Agenda: Motion made by Karen Oswood, seconded by Mary Redepenning, to approve the agenda as printed. Motion carried.

Devotions: Karen Oswood led devotions.

Secretary's Report: Reviewed November 11, 2025, joint council minutes with no additions or corrections. Motion to accept by Pam Vruwink, seconded by Karen Oswood. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Reviewed activities for November and December.

LYO Report: Jim Oyen reported that approximately 135 people were served at Turkey Bingo on November 21 raising \$1500.

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business: Reviewed the weather-related announcement policy.

The next meeting will be held on January 6, 2026, due to a scheduling conflict.

Motion to adjourn by Frank Ziebarth, seconded by Karen Deisting. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Betsy Hallberg

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Tripolis Church Council Meeting  
December 10, 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 7:45pm.

**Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was reviewed and Organ Repairs, Payroll Management, and Creation Care Team Group was added. Motion to approve the updated agenda was made by Craig, seconded by Angie. Motion carried.

**Secretary's Report:** November 11, 2025 meeting minutes were reviewed with no additions or corrections made. Motion made to approve November meeting minutes by Jeanette, seconded by Jim. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** The treasurer's report will be next month.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Christian Education – Jeanette Jacobson: The Sunday School Christmas program will be on Sunday. Thanks to everyone who has helped get ready for it!

**Worship/Music** – Pam Vruwink: No report.

Council Members on Duty: December is Pam and Angie, January is Frank and Jeanette.

**Community Building** – Craig Aurand: No report.

**Youth** – Jim Oyen: Poultry Bingo meal was on November 21 with good attendance.

**Memorial** – Angie Dahlberg: No report.

**Finance/Stewardship** – Frank Ziebarth and Craig Aurand: Will be meeting in January.

**Property** – David McClain: No report.

**New Business**

**Annual Congregational Meeting:** Will be January 25, 2026 and committee reports are due January 11, 2026.

**Organ Repair:** There was an issue with a key on the organ. It has otherwise been a good organ so was repaired for \$800.

**Payroll Management:** Since payroll is becoming more complex with different laws there was discussion if it should be outsourced to an accounting firm. It would cost \$80 a month to have Anfinson Thompson manage the church payroll. Craig made a motion to outsource payroll to Anfinson Thompson, seconded by Jeanette. Motion carried.

**Creation Care Team:** Calvary had reached out about their Creation Care Team if Tripolis would be interested in starting a similar group. The Creation Care Team is a group focused on caring for God's creation through environmental stewardship. Pam will meet with Jack at Calvary to get more information.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Craig, seconded by Jeanette. Motion carried.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Angie Dahlberg, Secretary

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Ebenezer Church Council Meeting Minutes  
December 10, 2025  
(Change of date due to weather)

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 President, Wayne Zarnott.

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Betsy Hallberg, seconded by Karen Oswood, to accept the agenda as written. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report: Minutes from November 11, 2025, meeting reviewed. Motion to accept as written by Mary Redepenning, seconded by Karen Deisting. Motion carried.

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

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business: There was no new business.

Committee Reports

CR1 - **Worship and Music** - Mary Redepenning – Committee met and has worship services set up through February 15.

Communion assist – December - Council person on duty – Karen Deisting  
Communion assist – January - Council person on duty – Eric Struck

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

CR3 - **Community Building/Outreach and Service Ministries** - Karen Oswood - no report

CR4 - **Memorial Gift Committee** - Karen Deisting - no report

CR5 - **Property** - Betsy Hallberg, Eric Struck – Continue to work on repair of sanctuary fan

CR6 - **Policy** - Wayne Zarnott - no report

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

Next Meeting at Tripolis on Tuesday, January 6, 2026 (new date because of scheduling conflict).

We concluded our meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Betsy Hallberg, Secretary

Connection Newsletter February 2026  
Ebenezer/Tripolis Lutheran Parish  
PO BOX 356  
Kandiyohi, MN 56251

## CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED