

CONNECTION NEWSLETTER

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Blessings and peace to you this new year. I am so grateful for the beautiful services in our churches in Advent, at the Christmas program, on Christmas Eve, on Christmas, and as planned for December 28. What a gift to gather, to hear the story, to reflect on God's love.

In the church and in the world, the days up to Christmas feel rushed and hectic; it is good to pause now, to seek quiet. In his Christmas Eve children's message, ELCA Bishop Yehiel Curry reflected on the "whispers" of Christmas. Here is the core of his message:

"Whispers are quiet, gentle, almost like a secret. You have to lean in close to hear them. And I wonder if it's possible for the heavens to whisper at Christmas?"

"One silent night, far away, in a town called Bethlehem, the stars twinkled brighter than ever. And the angels were there, too. It was as if the whole sky was whispering: 'Something wonderful is happening.' ...The heavens weren't shouting. They weren't making a big noise. They were whispering, because whispers make us stop, listen and pay attention. Sometimes we think God only speaks in loud voices or through big miracles. But Christmas reminds us that God often whispers. God whispers love and kindness and peace. ...So, this Christmas, listen closely. The heavens are still whispering: 'Jesus is here. God loves you. Share that love with the world.'"

"God often whispers," Bishop Curry said. What a blessing! Isn't it true a whisper can be the most noticed sound? Especially in a sanctuary, a classroom, a theatre, or a concert hall. Whispers break in with persistence, when something *must* be said; many whispers can't wait another moment.

Whether whispered or proclaimed, may the unwavering call of Christmas be heard clearly: God calls us to share love, kindness, and peace. Always. Many in our world and community are in great need right now; may we be emboldened with courage to speak, to serve, to act, to help those in need. God, Emmanuel, is with us.

Pastor Sherri



To read the entire text of Bishop Curry's message, visit the ELCA website. The video of the message is available directly here:





Tripolis
LUTHERAN CHURCH



Worship Video



Ebenezer
Lutheran Church



Worship Video

FIND US ONLINE!
Both churches are on Facebook
Check out our websites:
tripolischurch.org
ebenezermn.wordpress.com

Scripture readings

January 4

Jeremiah 31:7-14 Joy at the gathering of God's scattered flock

Psalm 147:12-20 "Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion."

Ephesians 1:3-14 The will of God made known in Christ

John 1:[1-9] 10-18 God with us: the incarnation of the Word

January 11

Isaiah 42:1-9 The servant of the Lord brings justice

Psalm 29 "The voice of the Lord is upon the waters."

Acts 10:34-43 Jesus' ministry after his baptism

Matthew 3:13-17 Revelation of Christ as God's servant

January 18

Isaiah 49:1-7 The servant brings light to the nations

Psalm 40:1-11 "I love to do your will, O my God."

1 Corinthians 1:1-9 Paul's greeting to the church at Corinth

John 1:29-42 Revelation of Christ as the Lamb of God

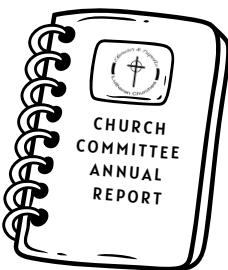
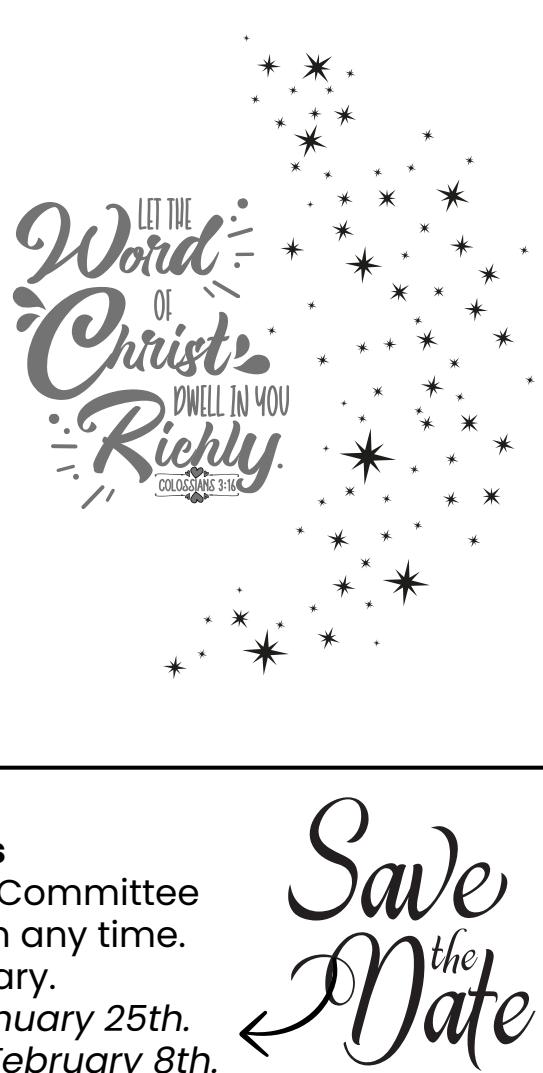
January 25

Isaiah 9:1-4 Light shines for those in darkness

Psalm 27:1, 4-9 "The Lord is my light and my salvation."

1 Corinthians 1:10-18 Appeal for unity in the gospel

Matthew 4:12-23 Revelation of Christ as a prophet



Annual Reports and Annual Meetings

The year is quickly coming to a close. Committee Reports may be emailed to the church any time. Please email financial reports in January.

Tripolis annual meeting is Sunday, January 25th.

Ebenezer annual meeting is Sunday, February 8th.

Save
the
Date



2026

Camron McClain Memorial Scholarship

2026



Applications for the Camron McClain memorial scholarship are available on the table by the mailboxes. This scholarship is available to members of Tripolis and Ebenezer that will graduate high school in 2026 and will be attending college in the fall of 2026. The selection committee for the scholarship are people who knew Camron well and are not members of Tripolis or Ebenezer. All eligible seniors are encouraged to apply. Applications are due March 31.

SUNDAY
SCHOOL NEWS

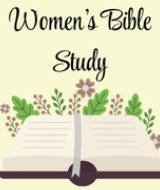
Sunday School
resumes at
Tripolis on
January 4.



Class will resume during Sunday School on January 4. Looking ahead, we will have a "Table Talk" with students, parents, and mentors on Wednesday, Feb. 4, from 6:30-8.

TRIPOLIS CALENDAR

Sunday, January 4: 9:30am Sunday School
11am Worship at Tripolis
Tuesday, January 6: 7pm Church Council Meeting at Tripolis
Thursday, January 8: 9am Quilting
2pm Rachel Bible Study
Sunday, January 11: 9:30am Sunday School
11am Worship at Tripolis
*Tripolis Annual Report Informational Due Evening, time TBD: Light of the World
Evening Prayer at First Presbyterian.
Friday, January 16: 8:30am Hobby Retreat at Tripolis
Saturday, January 17: 8:30am Hobby Retreat at Tripolis
Sunday, January 18: 9:30am Sunday School
11am Worship at Tripolis
Monday, January 19: Newsletter Information Due
Sunday, January 25: 9:30am Sunday School
11am Worship at Tripolis (Potluck dinner to follow)
*1pm Annual Congregational Meeting
Tuesday, January 27: 9am Quilting
Saturday, January 31: 9:15am Social
10am Tripolis Women's Meeting



Tripolis Women's Bible Study
will meet on
January 8th at 2pm at Tripolis.

SAVE THE DATE

Our Lakeland Conference Assembly will be on February 1. Location and more details TBD.

HOBBY RETREATS

JOIN US!

NOVEMBER 14-15
FEBRUARY 20-21

JANUARY 16-17
MARCH 13-14

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 Members on Duty

Council Members

Frank Ziebarth, Jeanette Jacobson

Ushers

Ron & Carmen Swenson

Altar

Charisse Hoffenkamp,
Jennifer Wattnem

Tripolis Worship Leaders

January 4

Musician: Paula Grahn

Lector: Lisa Ziehl

Acolyte: Brady Fostervold

January 11

Musician: Mary Gruis

Lector: Knolan Wattnem

Acolyte: Odie Larson

January 18

Musician: Mary Gruis

Lector:

Acolyte: Brody Stegeman

January 25

Musician: Dana Vruwink,

Tom & Marlys Gustafson

Lector:

Acolyte: Cody Stegeman



Thursday, January 8, 9am
Tuesday, January 27, 9am

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

What can be recycled?



ACGC REACH class is still collecting plastic to recycle for a playground bench. You can help by dropping off clean plastic items in the bin in the back room at Tripolis.

Ebenezer Calendar

Sunday, January 4: 9:30am Worship at Ebenezer

Tuesday, January 6: 7pm Church Council Meeting at Tripolis

Sunday, January 11: 9:30am Worship at Ebenezer (coffee hour to follow)

Evening, time TBD: Light of the World Evening Prayer at First Presbyterian.

Friday, January 16: Hobby Retreat at Tripolis

Saturday, January 17: Hobby Retreat at Tripolis

Sunday, January 18: 9:30am Worship at Ebenezer

Monday, January 19: Newsletter Information Due

Thursday, January 22: 9am Do-Be Doers

Sunday, January 25: 9:30am Worship at Ebenezer

*Ebenezer Annual Report Information Due

EBENEZER MEMBERS ON DUTY

Council Member

Eric Struck

Ushers

Steve Lang

Eric Struck

Greeters

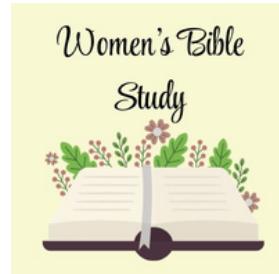
Daryl & Karen Deisting

Altar

Linda Cuchna, Laura Odland

Flowers

Naomi Struck



The Ebenezer Women's Bible Study Group take a break for January and February. Bible Study will resume in March. Please refer to upcoming notices in the newsletter and bulletins for further information.

**Do-Be-Doers
Quilting
Thursday,
January 22,
9am**



SAVE THE DATE

Our Lakeland Conference Assembly will be on February 1. Location and more details TBD.

ELCA Good Gifts



Thank You!! The Ebenezer Women would like to thank everyone for the delicious food we all enjoyed at the Christmas Potluck following worship on December 14. The free-will offering received was designated for ELCA "Good Gifts". We received \$400 and were able to purchase 4 Piglets, 3 Goats, 10 Chicks, and 2 Roosters for God's Global Barnyard. A BIG Thank You to everyone for your generosity in helping families living in poverty around the world.



Ebenezer Blessing Box

Thank you to Redepennings for serving as caretakers in December and January. Donations of dried goods are especially helpful during the winter months.

Ebenezer Worship

Leaders

January 4

Musician: Kristine Benson

Lector: Krista Peterson

January 11

Musician: Kristine Benson

Lector: Kevin Miller

January 18

Musician: Kristine Benson

Lector: Mary Redepenning

January 25

Musician: Kristine Benson

Lector: Carol Benson

Thank you

- Thanks to those who helped host our Advent service meal in December.
- Thanks to all who decorated and put decorations away, who served in any of the many December services. Thanks to musicians and readers, greeters and ushers.

January



Happy Birthday

TRIPOLIS BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Kathy Vruwink
- 2 Carrie VanEpps
- 2 Jensen Davis
- 3 Mary Gruis
- 4 Marlys Alinder
- 4 Jaden Bartley
- 6 Dean Johnson
- 6 Dan Jeseritz
- 6 Noah Sause
- 7 Sara Peterka
- 8 Rhonda Holien
- 9 Peter Swenson
- 9 Paul Swenson
- 12 Jacob Lefever
- 13 Russell Klint
- 13 Ron Swenson
- 13 James Oyen
- 14 Carrie Larson
- 15 Mike Grahn
- 15 Joshua Gort
- 15 Jacob Grahn
- 16 Russ Schliep
- 18 George Habermann
- 19 Janell Holien
- 20 Greg Oevermann
- 22 Angela Swenson
- 23 Cassidy McClain
- 23 Brandon Mason
- 30 Sherri Larson

EBENEZER BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Chaz Lindstrand
- 4 Haley Lang
- 4 Betty Lanners
- 4 Christopher Stark
- 5 Paul Oswood
- 6 Todd Wodash
- 7 Anika Bolland
- 7 Steve Lindstrand
- 7 Charles Lindstrand
- 10 Gretchen Lindstrand
- 15 Mariah Johnson
- 23 Scott Johnson
- 23 Zack Wodash
- 25 Amber Hoeper
- 25 Holden Lindstrand
- 29 Dianne Robison
- 30 Sherri Larson
- 31 Madeleine Oswood

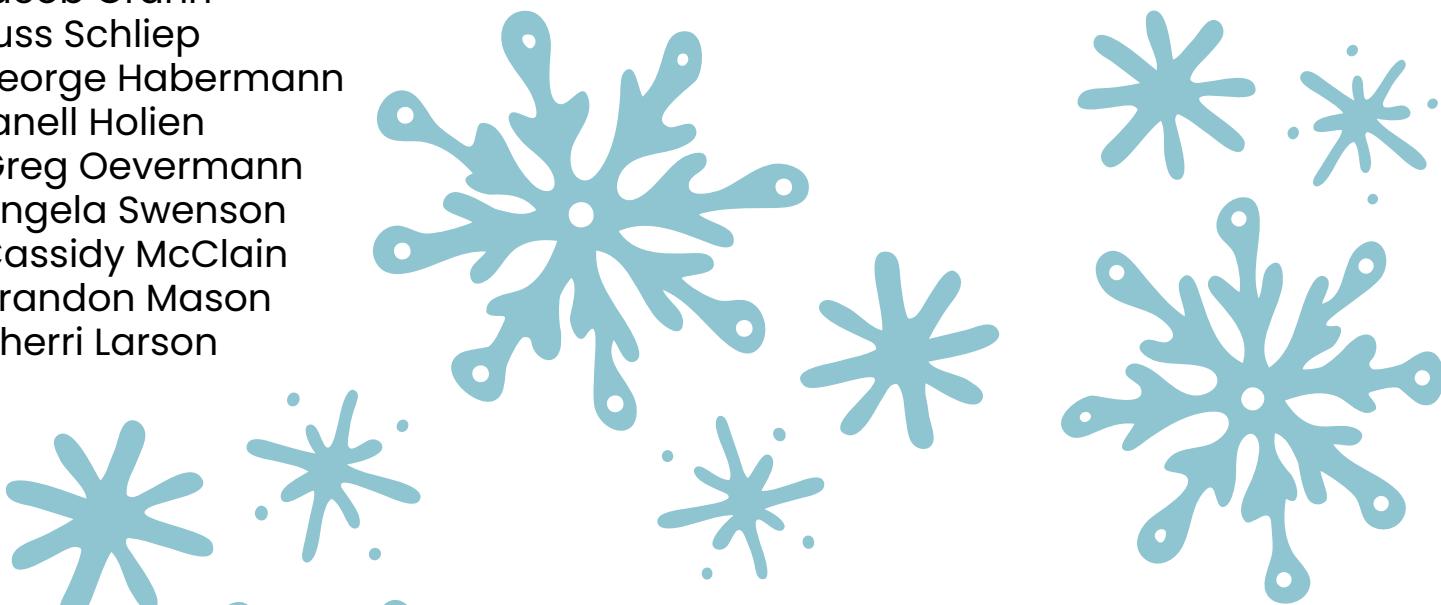
Happy Anniversary

TRIPOLIS ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 Ryan & Dawn Fostervold
- 25 Dan & Laura Jeseritz

EBENEZER ANNIVERSARIES

- None



Joint Council Minutes
Tripolis and Ebenezer Churches
November 11, 2025: Location – Tripolis

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

Tripolis President, Frank Ziebarth, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Approval of Agenda: Motion made by Mary Redepenning, seconded by Pam Vruwink to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Devotions: Led by Pam Vruwink

Secretary's Report: Reviewed and approved the October 14, 2025 joint minutes. Motion by Jeanette Jacobson, seconded by David McClain to approve the minutes as written. Motion carried.

Paster's Report: Paster shared a recap of events and actives since the last meeting and upcoming events.

LYO Report: Poultry Bingo meal on November 21 at Kandiyohi Civic Center

Old Business: None

New Business: Pastor Housing Allowance will stay where it currently is for 2026 at 70% of total compensation.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Karen Deisting, seconded by Mary Redepenning. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Angie Dahlberg, Secretary

Ebenezer Church Council Meeting Minutes
November 11, 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 President, Wayne Zarnott.

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

Secretary's Report: Minutes from October 14, 2025, meeting reviewed. Motion to accept as written by Karen Oswood, seconded by Karen Deisting. Motion carried.

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

Old Business:

- Motion by Karen Oswood, seconded by Mary Redepenning, to approve the Funeral Policy subject to changes regarding food served at a funeral to be provided by the family. Motion carried.

New Business:

- Discussion on worship details: Offering plates will continue to be kept by the sanctuary doors rather than passing them (Motion by Karen Deisting, seconded by Mary Redepenning), and we will pray the traditional Lord's Prayer during worship (Motion by Betsy Hallberg, seconded by Karen Deisting). Motions carried.
- We received a letter from Acuity Insurance giving us the opportunity to purchase Terrorism Insurance Coverage. Motion made by Betsy Hallberg, seconded by Mary Redepenning, to decline this coverage.

Committee Reports:

CR1 – Worship and Music - Mary Redepenning

Communion assist - November Council person on duty – Mary Redepenning

Communion assist – December Council person on duty – Karen Deisting

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

CR3 - Community Building/Outreach and Service Ministries - Karen Oswood – We provided a meal to Campus Lutheran Ministry on October 21 and served approximately 170.

CR4 - Memorial Gift Committee - Karen Deisting - no report

CR5 - Property - Betsy Hallberg, Eric Struck – no report

CR6 - Policy - Wayne Zarnott – Reviewed and discussed Funeral Policy as noted above in Old Business.

Ebenezer minutes continued

Karen Oswood will provide devotions in December.

Adjournment: Motion by Karen Oswood, seconded by Mary Redepenning, to adjourn meeting. Motion carried. Next Meeting at Ebenezer on Tuesday, December 9, 2025.

Respectfully Submitted,
Betsy Hallberg, Secretary

Tripolis Church Council Meeting
November 11, 2025
Location – Tripolis

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

Members absent in **BOLD**

President, Frank Ziebarth, called the meeting to order at 7:28 pm

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

Secretary's Report: October 14, 2025 meeting minutes were reviewed with no additions or corrections made. Motion made to approve the October meeting minutes by David, seconded by Jeanette. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: No report

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Christian Education – Jeanette Jacobson: Sunday school will soon start practice for Christmas program.

Worship/Music – Pam Vruwink: Worship and music is planned through advent and the committee will be meeting soon to plan further out.

Community Building – Craig Aurand: No report

Youth – Jim Oyen: Poultry Bingo meal on November 21 at Kandiyohi Civic Center

Memorial – Angie Dahlberg: No report

Finance/Stewardship – Frank Ziebarth and Craig Aurand: No report

Property – David McClain: Septic system has been pumped.

Old Business

Review Funeral Policy updated draft. A motion to approve the update funeral policy was made by Jeanette and seconded by David. Motion carried.

New Business

Offer Plates: It was brought up to consider returning to a more traditional offering of passing the offering plates again. A motion to start passing the offering plates, unless a present health concern prevents from doing so, was made by Jeanette and seconded by Jim. Motion carried.

United for Neighbors fundraising (Vinje): Vinje Church had sent a communication to local pastors and ministries with local resources for communities to consider donating. It was discussed that the church should have a resource sheet available to provide to people who may be in need of assistance of local organizations someone could contact.

Thank you for Allied Grain: The council signed a thank you card for Allied Grain.

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

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Angie Dahlberg, Secretary

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

