

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

"For God so loved the world (the cosmos) that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."

This beloved and central verse of our scripture is said by Jesus to the doubting Nicodemus in our reading from the first Sunday of Lent. The readings this Lenten season show us how Jesus interacts with the people in the world he was sent to save.

- Nicodemus, a doubting intellectual and religious leader, in the dead of night.
- The Samaritan woman with a storied past at the well in the middle of the day.
- The man born blind, questioned relentlessly by religious authorities who accuse him of maybe never being blind, or not being really healed, because they want to place blame and credit for what they cannot understand about Jesus.
- Lazarus, who is briefly dead, but who rises again at Jesus' command. This miracle us cause for celebration, but instead stirs hatred and anger among religious leaders.

Our Lenten season is sometimes called a "journey to the cross." On this journey, Jesus encounters a variety of people and concerns. He enters into conversation and reflection about their experiences and struggles. Their encounters with Jesus change everything about their lives.

May we open our hearts and minds to this journey for ourselves. God is at work in Jesus, showing us how God is present and active in the lives of the everyday people he encounters. That includes us! May God bless you this Lent with reflection on our living, active, caring, and healing God.

We are blessed to gather on both Sundays and Wednesdays in Lent, to sing and pray and be in worship together. May our gatherings ignite your faith and increase your trust in our God who so loves the world and each one of us.

Pastor Sherri



Keep in Our Prayers

Our community and country

People in Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan, and Syria and other places of distress and war

Jean Carlson (mother of Brooke Simenson), struggling with cancer

Russ Klint, receiving treatment for cancer;

Jeff Freeman, receiving treatment for cancer;

Leon Visser, Bill Hallberg, Myron Bengtson, Mavis

Bengtson, Tom Gustafson

recovering from recent health concerns;

all caregivers

Tripolis
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Ebenezer
Lutheran Church

Worship Video

Worship Video

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

March 1

Genesis 12:1-4a The blessing of God upon Abram
Psalm 121 "I lift up my eyes to the hills; my help comes from the Lord."
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 The promise to those who share Abraham's faith
John 3:1-17 The mission of Christ: to save the world

March 8

Exodus 17:1-7 Water from the rock in the wilderness
Psalm 95 "Let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation."
Romans 5:1-11 Reconciled to God by Christ's death
John 4:5-42 Baptismal image: the woman at the well

March 15

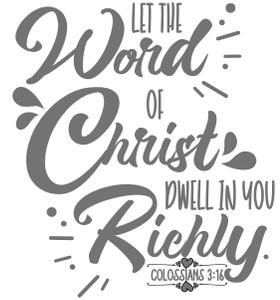
1 Samuel 16:1-13 David is chosen and anointed
Psalm 23 "You anoint my head with oil."
Ephesians 5:8-14 Awake from sleep, live as children of light
John 9:1-41 Baptismal image: the man born blind

March 22

Ezekiel 37:1-14 The dry bones of Israel brought to life
Psalm 130 "I wait for you, O Lord; in your word is my hope."
Romans 8:6-11 Life in the Spirit
John 11:1-45 Baptismal image: the raising of Lazarus

March 29: Palm Sunday

Matthew 21:1-11 Jesus enters Jerusalem
Isaiah 50:4-9a The servant of the Lord submits to suffering
Psalm 31:9-16 "Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit."
Philippians 2:5-11 Humbled to the point of death on a cross



Light of the World
 An Ecumenical Evening Prayer
 Sunday, March 8,
 7pm
 Eagle Lake
 Lutheran Church
 Fellowship
 afterward

First Communion Instruction
 Pastor Sherri and Sunday School teachers will lead a time of activities and instruction for all children (and parents) of both churches on Saturday, March 14 from 9:30am-noon at Tripolis. We will celebrate First Communion with the families in worship on Sunday, March 15. Children/families who already receive communion are also welcome to attend this time of learning and activities.



Camron McClain Memorial Scholarship



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 who will graduate high school in 2026 and will attend college in the fall of 2026. Applications are due March 31.

TRIPOLIS CALENDAR

- Sunday, March 1: 9:30am Sunday School
11am Worship at Tripolis
- Wednesday, March 4: 7pm Lenten worship at Ebenezer
- Thursday, March 5: 2pm Rachel Bible Study
- Sunday, March 8: 9:30am Sunday School
11am Worship
7pm Light of the World Evening prayer
Eagle Lake Lutheran, Willmar
- Tuesday, March 10: 7pm Church Council Meeting at Tripolis
- Wednesday, March 11: 6pm Pancake supper at Tripolis
7pm Lenten worship at Tripolis
- Thursday, March 12: 9am Quilting
6pm VBS Planning meeting at Tripolis
- Friday, March 13: 8:30am Hobby Retreat
- Saturday, March 14: 8:30am Hobby Retreat
9:30am First Communion Instruction (see p. 2)
- Sunday, March 15: 9:30am Sunday School
11am Worship at Tripolis
First communion for children
- Wednesday, March 18: 7pm Lenten Worship at Ebenezer
- Sunday, March 22: 9:30am Sunday School
11am Worship at Tripolis
- Monday, March 23: Newsletter Article Information Due
- Tuesday, March 24: 9am Quilting
- Wednesday, March 25: 7pm Lenten Service at Tripolis
- Sunday, March 29: 9:30am Sunday School
11am Worship at Tripolis

Tripolis Worship Leaders

March 1

Musician: Mary Gruis
Lector: Ruth Aurand
Acolyte: Odie Larson

March 8

Musician: Dana Vruwink
Lectors: Matt Wattnem
Acolyte: Cody Stegeman

March 15

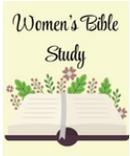
Musician: Paula Grahn
Lector: Jeanette Jacobson
Acolyte: Eliza Stegeman

March 22

Musicians: Tom & Marlys Gustafson, Dana Vruwink
Lector: Angie Dahlberg
Acolyte: Colton Fostervold

March 29

Musician: Dana Vruwink
Lector: Pam Vruwink
Acolyte: Cody Stegeman



Tripolis Women's Bible Study will meet March 5th at 2pm at church. Jeanette will lead; Janell will serve.

Tripolis Members on Duty **Council Members**

Jim Oyen & Angela Dahlberg
Ushers
Craig & Ruth Aurand
Altar
Cathy McClain and Kathy Vruwink

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, KANDIYOHI

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



Confirmation continues on Sundays at 9:30am. students will have important roles in our Good Friday service.



See page 2 for information on First Communion Instruction

TRIPOLIS LUTHERAN CHURCH
SPRING BRUNCH & QUILT RAFFLE
SATURDAY, APRIL 11
8:30-10:30 AM

MEAL INCLUDES: SCRAMBLED EGGS, FRENCH TOAST, SAUSAGE, FRUIT, AND BEVERAGE.

- freewill donation for meal
- quilt raffle tickets \$2

proceeds support local & global missions



Quilting
Thursday, March 12, 9am
Tuesday, March 24, 9am

Ebenezer Calendar

Sunday, March 1: 9:30am Worship at Ebenezer
 Wednesday, March 4: 7pm Lenten worship at Ebenezer
 Sunday, March 8: 9:30am Worship at Ebenezer (coffee hour after worship)
 7pm Light of the World Evening prayer
 Eagle Lake Lutheran, Willmar
 Tuesday, March 10: 7pm Church Council Meeting at Tripolis
 Wednesday, March 11: 6pm pancake supper at Tripolis
 7pm Lenten worship at Tripolis
 Thursday, March 12: 6pm VBS planning meeting at Tripolis
 Saturday, March 14: First Communion instruction (see pg 2)
 Sunday, March 15: 9:30am Worship at Ebenezer
 First communion for children
 Wednesday, March 18: 7pm Lenten Worship at Ebenezer
 Sunday, March 22: 9:30am Worship at Ebenezer
 Monday, March 23: Newsletter Article Information Due
 Thursday, March 26: 9am Do-Be Doers
 Wednesday, March 25: 7pm Lenten Service at Tripolis
 Sunday, March 29: 9:30am Worship at Ebenezer

Information for both churches:

Special Offerings

Our councils recently approved the special offering designations for the year.

For our Lenten season and Holy week, loose offerings on Wednesday will be directed to Hope for our City. Gifts in Lenten Envelopes are designated to Water's Edge Ministries (formerly Green Lake Bible Camp).

When received at Tripolis, gifts are directed to the Willmar Area Food Shelf & Ridgewater College Lutheran Campus Ministry.

Ebenezer Worship Leaders

March 1

Musician: Kristine Benson
 Lector: Karen Oswood

March 8

Musician: Kristine Benson
 Lector: Nancy Kaehler

March 15

Musician: Kristine Benson
 Lector: Andrew Benson

March 22

Musician: Kristine Benson
 Lector: Deb Wodash

March 29

Musician: Kristine Benson
 Lector: Krista Peterson

EBENEZER MEMBERS ON DUTY

Council Member

Tom Wodash

Ushers

Tom Wodash & Larry Eickhoff

Greeters

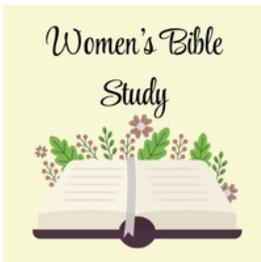
Delton & Joan Peterson

Altar

Nancy Bruggers & Deb Odland

Flowers

Joan Peterson



Women's Bible Study

We are back from our Winter Break! We'll meet on Tuesday, March 17th at 4pm at Ebenezer. The Bible Study Leader is Marilyn Zarnott and lunch will be provided by Karen Deisting. All Ebenezer women are invited to attend.



Do-Be-Doers Quilting
 Thursday, March 26th 9am

Ebenezer Blessing Box

Thank you to Nancy Bruggers for serving as a caretaker in February. The Wodash family will oversee the supplies in March. Donations of dried goods are especially helpful during the winter months. We are so grateful for a recent Synod grant of \$500 to provide food for our blessing box and other food ministries.



MARCH

Happy Birthday

TRIPOLIS BIRTHDAYS

1 Angela Dahlberg
2 Krista Smith
4 Bridger DeKraai
6 Allan Bjornberg
6 Keith McClain
6 Matthew Holien
7 Glen Johnson
9 Michelle Holien
10 Rebecca Hansen
10 Ivy McClain
10 Cheyenne Nelson
14 Dean Larson
15 Nathan Schueller
15 Racquel Carlson
17 Jada Johanneck
21 Cheryl Bosch
26 Cody Simenson
28 Stanley Carlson
29 Lori Howard
29 Calvin McClain
29 Sarah Gustafson

EBENEZER BIRTHDAYS

4 Jennifer Zarnott
10 Karen Deisting
16 Alex Wodash
18 Janice Backlund
19 Toby Gunvalson
19 Myriah Burt
27 Brad Backlund
29 Elsie Kashmark
30 Matt Zarnott
31 Jim Hawkinson

Happy Anniversary

TRIPOLIS ANNIVERSARIES

20 Calvin & Barb Freeman
22 Matt & Jennifer Wattnem
23 Leon & Marlene Visser

EBENEZER ANNIVERSARIES

8 Randy and Emily Garvick



Our youth braved a chilly day for a fun day of tubing Feb. 22!



Joint Council Minutes
Tripolis and Ebenezer Churches
January 6, 2026
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 7pm.

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

Devotions: Led by Frank Ziebarth

Secretary's Report: Reviewed and approved the December 10, 2025 joint minutes. Motion by David McClain, seconded by Jeanette Jacobson to approve the minutes as written. Motion carried.

Paster's Report: Reviewed activities since the December meeting and upcoming January activities.

LYO Report: No report.

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business: There was no new business.

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Angie Dahlberg, Secretary

Tripolis Church Council Meeting
January 6, 2026
Location – Tripolis

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 7:10pm.

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was reviewed and 2026 Budget, Annual Meeting Agenda, and Farm Tithe was added. Motion to approve the updated agenda was made by Pam, seconded by Craig. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report: December 10, 2025 meeting minutes were reviewed with no additions or corrections made. Motion to accept by Jeanette, seconded by Jim. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report and 2026 budget proposal were reviewed. A motion to submit the report was made by Craig, seconded by David. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Christian Education – Jeanette Jacobson: No report.

Worship/Music – Pam Vruwink: The committee and musicians met and planned to lent. The new committee will meet after the annual meeting to continue planning for the year. The plan is to have summer services at Tripolis the first half of the summer and at Ebenezer the second half.

Community Building – Craig Aurand: No report.

Youth – Jim Oyen: No report

Memorial – Angie Dahlberg: No report

Finance/Stewardship – Frank Ziebarth and Craig Aurand: Met last week and finalized the budget proposal.

Property – David McClain: Will provide an update on the sewer during the annual meeting.

Old Business

Payroll Management: As voted on at the last meeting this is being transitioned to Afinson Thompson.

Creation Care Team: No update at this time and update will be at a future meeting.

New Business

Annual Meeting Agenda: During the meeting there will be a presentation on the sound system and a congregational vote. There will be an update for the congregation on the sewer.

2026 Budget Proposal: The budget proposal for 2026 was reviewed. Craig moved to present the budget at the annual meeting, Pam seconded. Motion carried.

Farm Tithe: There was discussion on tithing a total of \$3,000 of the farm income to Kandiyohi County Food Shelf and Hope for our City. A motion was made by David to tithe \$1,500 of the farm income to the Kandiyohi County Food Shelf and to tithe \$1,500 of the farm income to Hope for Our City, seconded by Jeanette. Motion carried.

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

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Angie Dahlberg, Secretary

Ebenezer Church Council Meeting Minutes January 6, 2026

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 Eric Struck, seconded by Karen Oswood, to accept the agenda as written. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report: Minutes from December 10, 2025, meeting reviewed. Motion to accept as written by Mary Redepenning, seconded by Eric Struck. 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's salary was discussed. Motion by Karen Oswood, seconded by Tom Wodash, to approve the salary package according to Synod guidelines.

Wayne shared correspondence from Harvest Bank with their new fees and schedules; copy will be given to Krista Lindstrand, Treasurer.

Also received a letter from the City regarding possible lead in our water. Discussion was held and no further action needed at this time.

Committee Reports

CR1 - **Worship and Music** - Mary Redepenning – Committee will meet in February

Communion assist – January - Council person on duty – Eric Struck

Communion assist – February - Council person on duty – Karen Oswood

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 – Will be getting estimate from Jeff Miller to replace windows in Pastor's office.

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

Eric Struck will provide devotions in February.

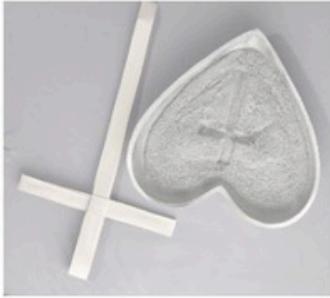
Adjournment: Motion by Karen Oswood, seconded by Eric Struck, to adjourn meeting. Motion carried.

Next Meeting at Ebenezer on Tuesday, February 10, 2026.

Respectfully Submitted,
Karen Deisting, Secretary

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



Wednesday Lenten services
Wednesday, March 4, 7pm Ebenezer
Wednesday, March 11, 7pm Tripolis
Wednesday, March 18, 7pm Ebenezer
Wednesday, March 25, 7pm Tripolis

Tripolis - Sunday School at 9:30am, Worship at 11am

Ebenezer - Sunday Worship at 9:30am

Sundays

March

Worship Schedule

MARCH NEWSLETTER