



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

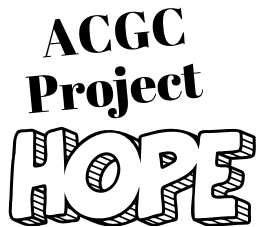
There is a lot of darkness in the story of Jesus' last days. The Garden at Gethsemane is dark; Peter denies Jesus in the dark; Judas hands Jesus over to the authorities in the night. Darkness descends over the whole land from noon to 3 while Jesus dies on the cross.

It has been a challenging winter and spring for our world. It often feels dark. Our conflicts cast shadows, making it difficult to see others as God's beloved and to remember we are called to love all neighbors.

The hope and joy of Easter is that *God doesn't wait* for the darkness to lift to fulfill God's most holy promise. Our Easter reading from John begins: "Early on the first day of the week, *while it was still dark...*" The tomb is already empty as the morning light ascends. Christ had risen indeed.

May this be a word of hope and joy this Easter season: Day or night, darkness or light: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; God's mercies never come to an end.

Pastor Sherri



Formerly the "backpack" project, Project Hope provides assistance to those in need in our area. Some funds are directed to families in the ACGC school district through grocery vouchers. We also support food shelves, Lutheran Campus ministry, and other concerns as brought to our board. Ebenezer & Tripolis are assigned to provide the \$1800 monthly support in May. Please write checks to your respective church with "Project Hope" in the memo. Deadline is April 26.



Keep in Our Prayers

Our families, community, country, and world:
All whose lives are disrupted by the wars in Iran and Ukraine;
those injured and grieving families of those killed.

All caregivers.

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

Russ Klint and Jeff Freeman, receiving treatment for cancer;
Family of Rick and Kathy Johnson, their daughters Lindsay
Rossow and Kelly Hargus, recently killed in a car crash.
Daughter Kassie and son-in-law Eric, recovering from injuries.

*Happy
Easter!*

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

Special Offerings
For Easter services, loose offerings and special envelopes are directed accordingly:
Ebenezer:
Habitat for Humanity
Tripolis:
Water's Edge Ministries

scripture readings

April 5

Acts 10:34-43 God raised Jesus on the third day

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24 "This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."

Colossians 3:1-4 Raised with Christ to seek the higher things

Matthew 28:1-10 Proclaim the resurrection

April 12

Acts 2:14a, 22-32 Christ's resurrection: the fulfillment of God's promise to David

Psalms 16 "In your presence there is fullness of joy."

1 Peter 1:3-9 New birth to a living hope through the resurrection

John 20:19-31 Beholding the wounds of the risen Christ

April 19

Acts 2:14a, 36-41 Receiving God's promise through baptism

Psalms 116:1-4, 12-19 "I will call on the name of the Lord."

1 Peter 1:17-23 Born anew through the living word of God

Luke 24:13-35 Eating with the risen Christ

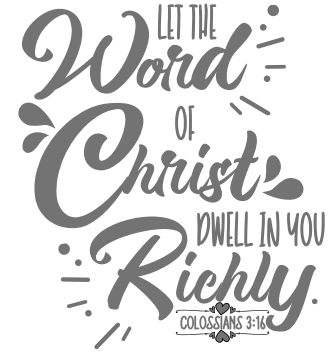
April 26

Acts 2:42-47 The believers' common life

Psalms 23 "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want."

1 Peter 2:19-25 Follow the shepherd, even in suffering


John 10:1-10 Christ the shepherd



Thank you for all the cards I received and the prayers that were sent during my recent surgery. The support and encouragement was amazing, and I want to tell you the power of your prayers work! Appreciate it so much!
Tom Gustafson

Light of the World
An Ecumenical Evening Prayer

Sunday, April 19,
7pm
Hope Presbyterian
Church, Spicer
Fellowship
afterward



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



Open House Announcements

If you would like your graduation open house in the May newsletter, please email the information to the church by April 20. We would love to include senior pictures.

TRIPOLIS CALENDAR

Thursday, April 2: 2pm Women's Bible Study
7pm Maundy Thursday Worship at Ebenezer

Friday, April 3: 7pm Good Friday Worship at Tripolis

Sunday, April 5: 7:30am Easter Early Worship at Tripolis
Light breakfast to follow

9:30am Easter Worship at Ebenezer
11am Easter Worship at Tripolis

Thursday, April 9: 9am Quilting

Saturday, April 11: 8:30am Spring Brunch & Quilt Raffle

Sunday, April 12: 9:30am Sunday School
11am Worship at Tripolis

Monday, April 13: 6:30pm Bridal shower planning meeting

Tuesday, April 14: 7pm Church Council Meeting at Ebenezer

Sunday, April 19: 9:30am Sunday School
11am Worship at Tripolis

Monday, April 20: Newsletter Article Information Due

Wednesday, April 22: Confirmation Presentation night with dessert

Sunday, April 26: 9:30am Sunday School
11am Worship at Tripolis (Confirmation Sunday)

Tuesday, April 28: 9am Quilting

Tripolis Worship Leaders

April 5

7:30 and 11am

Musicians: Paula Grahn, Mary Gruis
Lectors: Cathy Schueler (7:30)
Lisa Ziehl (11)

April 12

Musician: Dana Vruwink
Lectors: Matt Wattnem
Acolyte: Dominic Dahline

April 19

Musician: Paula Grahn
Lector: Jeanette Jacobson
Acolyte: Colton Fostervold

April 26--Confirmation Sunday

Musicians: Tom & Marlys Gustafson,
Dana Vruwink, Wendell Nash,
Camy Wenberg
Lector: Confirmation teachers/ mentors
Acolyte: Eliza Stegeman

Tripolis Members on Duty Council Members

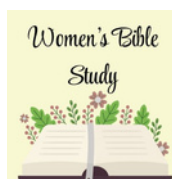
David McClain, Pam Vruwink

Ushers

Keith & Cathy McClain

Altar

Megan Morrison, Dawn Fostervold



Tripolis Women's Bible Study will meet April 2nd at 2pm at the church. (Note the time change from the yearbook.) Barb Freeman will lead; Marlys Gustafson will serve.



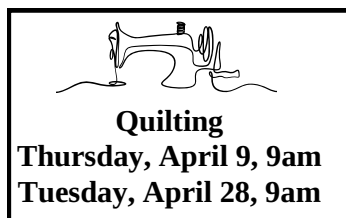
Sunday School continues weekly at 9:30am until our last day, May 17.



There will be a meeting to plan a Bridal Shower for Elizabeth Christanson, bride-to-be of Adam Ziebarth, on Monday, April 13th-6:30pm at Tripolis. Please join us! Contact Marlys Gustafson if unable to attend.



Our mission trip to the Twin Cities for current 6th - 12th graders is scheduled for August 3-6. If you're interested, please tell Jim Oyen or Pastor Sherri by April 19. Also: Stay tuned for our spring ditch clean-up day.



SAVE THE DATE

June 20, 2026: Celebrate 50 years of Love and Laughter with Barb and Cal Freeman. More information to come!



Wednesday, April 22, 6 - 7:30pm. Brady, Cody, and Dom will give their presentations. All are invited; dessert afterward. (Parents and mentors will have a brief meeting afterward)
Confirmation Sunday is April 26 during worship at Tripolis
You are invited to open houses at church for Cody in the fellowship hall after worship, and at Kandi Community Center for Brady. Dom's family will gather at their home.

Ebenezer Calendar

Thursday, April 2: 7pm Maundy Thursday Worship at Ebenezer

Friday, April 3: 7pm Good Friday Worship at Tripolis

Sunday, April 5: 7:30am Easter Early Worship at Tripolis

(light breakfast to follow)

9:30am Easter Worship at Ebenezer

11am Easter Worship at Tripolis

Saturday, April 11: 8:30am Tripolis Spring Brunch & Quilt Raffle

Sunday, April 12: 9:30am Worship at Ebenezer with coffee

fellowship after worship

Tuesday, April 14: 7pm Church Council Meeting at Ebenezer

Sunday, April 19: 9:30am Worship at Ebenezer

Monday, April 20: Newsletter Article Information Due

Tuesday, April 21: 4pm Ebenezer Women's Bible Study

Thursday, April 23: 9am Do-Be Doers

Sunday, April 26: 9:30am Worship at Ebenezer

Ebenezer Worship Leaders

April 2, 7pm

Musician: Kristine Benson

Lector: Kevin Miller

April 5

Musician: Kristine Benson

Lector: Nancy Kaehler

April 12

Musician: Kristine Benson

Lector: Quentin Lindstrand

April 19

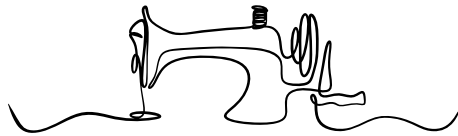
Musician: Kristine Benson

Lector: Lauri Hennes

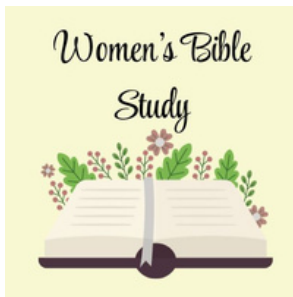
April 26

Musician: Betsy Hallberg

Lector: Dan Hallberg



Do-Be-Doers Quilting
Thursday, April 23rd 9am



The Ebenezer Women's Bible Study Group will hold its monthly Bible Study on Tuesday, April 21st at 4:00 pm. The Bible Study leader is Betsy Hallberg. Lunch will be provided by Nancy Kaehler. The meeting is held at the church. All Ebenezer women are invited.

EBENEZER MEMBERS ON DUTY

Council Member: Konnie Carity

Ushers: Doug Gratz & Wayne Odland

Greeters: Steve & Paula Lang

Altar: Nancy Bruggers & Deb Odland

Flowers: Joan Peterson

Ebenezer & Tripolis
Lutheran Churches

Vacation
BIBLE SCHOOL
VBS

SUNDAY, JUNE 7 - WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10
EBENEZER LUTHERAN CHURCH
3 YRS - 4TH GRADE
5:15-7:30PM, BEGINS WITH A MEAL
WEDNESDAY FAMILY PICNIC: BEGINS AT 6PM

REGISTER
HERE

THIS SHARED MINISTRY EVENT IS
ORGANIZED AND LED BY BOTH TRIPOLIS
AND EBENEZER CHURCHES



Ebenezer Blessing Box

Thank you to the Wodash family for serving as caretakers in March. The Deistings will oversee the supplies in April. Donations of dried goods are especially helpful.

April

Happy Birthday

Happy Anniversary

TRIPOLIS BIRTHDAYS

1 Nevaeh Molash
3 Janeen Clark
3 Jennifer Wattnem
6 Janice Mattson
6 Mitchell Gort
6 Cheyenne Simenson
7 Riley Gustafson
7 Elizabeth Holien
8 Barb Freeman
9 Ethan McClain
10 Teresa Johnson
10 Cheryl Miller
12 Hannah Molash
12 Rachel Grahn
14 Linda Bjornberg
15 Emily Heaser
15 Evan Daigle
16 Pat Bosch
16 Savana Knutson
17 Paula Grahn
18 Julia Lindquist
18 Emilie Ziebrath
18 Tamara DeKraai
19 Steve Mattson
20 Eric Helmke
20 Renee Sharp
21 Ryan Vruwink
21 Tristin Stegeman
22 Tracy Oevermann
22 Payge Swenson
26 Marlys Gustafson
26 Erin Vruwink
30 Brian Peterka

EBENEZER BIRTHDAYS

4 Wyatt Garvick
5 Jim Thompson
6 Mary Redepenning
8 Eloise Siebert
10 Kendra Turbes
12 Andrew Benson
12 Katherine Benson
13 Mary Jane Lindstrand
15 Izaiah Gomez
15 Myla Lindstrand
19 Holly Peterson
22 Bethany Oswood
22 Adrian Titrud
24 Linda Theessen
28 Jason Gunvalson

EBENEZER ANNIVERSARIES

15 Gary and Chris Carlson
16 LaVerne and Mona Latterell
23 Scott and Joyce McGillivray

TRIPOLIS ANNIVERSARIES

5 Jesse & Michelle Smith
11 Matt & Emily Aurand Elfritz
22 Brian & Sara Peterka



**Joint Council Minutes
Tripolis and Ebenezer Churches
Tuesday, February 10, 2026 7:00 pm at Ebenezer**

Members: Angela Dahlberg, **Konnie Carity**, Jeanette Jacobson, David McClain, Jim Oyen, **Aaron Peterson**, Karen Oswood, Eric Struck, Ron Swenson, Mary Redepenning, Pam Vruwink, Deb Wodash, Tom Wodash, **Lisa Ziehl** and Pastor Sherri Larson. Members absent in **BOLD**

Ebenezer President, Tom Wodash, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Approval of Agenda: Agenda items were added. Motion made by David McClain, seconded by Karen Oswood, to approve the revised agenda. Motion carried.

Devotions: Eric Struck led devotions.

Secretary's Report: Reviewed January 6, 2026, joint council minutes with no additions or corrections. Motion to accept by Eric Struck, seconded by Jeanette Jacobson. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Sherri shared that the congregations are working on worship planning for Lent and Easter; will be attending an upcoming education retreat, taking a vacation day on Sunday, February 22nd and a supply pastor will be filling in from Bethel, several recent pastoral visits were conducted.

LYO Report: Jim Oyen reported that the recent Bowl for Hospice event was a success. The youth will be going to Powder Ridge for snow tubing on February 22nd .

Old Business: No old business

New Business:

- Review of Funeral Policy. Members from each congregation were given a copy of the suggested updates to the funeral policy for review.
- Additional stipend for church secretary: Due to the work involved in putting together the church annual reports and yearbooks, a motion was made by Mary Redepenning and seconded by Pam Vruwink, that each church compensate the church secretary by paying an additional 10 hours for these special projects. This compensation will be reflected in the next paycheck. It was noted in discussion the current secretary's contract was reduced to 10 hours per week from 16. This is adequate for regular tasks, but does not cover the additional hours these projects required. As new projects arise throughout the year, additional compensation may be granted after review and approval by the church councils. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn by Eric Struck, seconded by Dave McClain. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Redepenning

**Ebenezer Church Council Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2026 Location - Ebenezer**

Members: Konnie Carity, Aaron Peterson, Karen Oswood, Eric Struck, Mary Redepenning, Deb Wodash, Tom Wodash Members absent in BOLD.

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by President, Tom Wodash.

Approval of Agenda: Agenda items were added: A motion was made Deb Wodash, seconded by Eric Struck, to accept the revised agenda. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report: Minutes from January 6, 2026, 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 Karen Oswood, seconded by Eric Struck, to approve finance reports as written, subject to audit. Motion carried.

Old Business: There was no Old Business.

New Business:

- Church Council Member Assignments: Special Offerings designations, Communion Assistant assignments, and Committee Assignments were reviewed and finalized
- Special Offerings: Clarified that Special Offerings means use of special envelopes and all loose offerings will be designated to a specific charity approved by the Council.

Committee Reports

CR1 - Worship and Music - Mary Redepenning: Committee met on January 21 st and worship services are planned through Easter.

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

Communion assist – March- Council person on duty – Tom Wodash *Continued on next page*

CR2 –Children/Youth Ministries – no report

CR3 - Community Building/Outreach and Service Ministries – Deb Wodash: Committee will be meeting on Thursday, February 12 th to plan upcoming events.

CR4 - Memorial Gift Committee - Karen Oswood: no report

CR5 - Property – Aaron Peterson and Eric Struck: Eric is working with Jeff Miller to schedule replacing windows in the Pastor Sherri’s office. Reviewed other projects the committee is working on.

CR6 - Policy – Tom Wodash: Tom and Deb will review additional modifications to the Funeral Policy as suggested by Pastor Sherri.

Tom Wodash will provide devotions in April.

Adjournment: Motion by Deb Wodash, seconded by Eric Struck, to adjourn meeting. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Redepenning

**Tripolis Church Council Meeting
February 10, 2026 Location – Ebenezer**

Members: Angie Dahlberg, Jeanette Jacobson, David McClain, Jim Oyen, Ron Swenson, Pam Vruwink, Lisa Ziehl
President, David McClain, called the meeting to order at 7:45pm.

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Ron to approve the agenda, seconded by Jim. Motion carried. An amendment to the motion to approve the agenda to add Special Offering to New Business was made by Jeanette and seconded by Pam. Motion carried.

Secretary’s Report: January 6, 2026 meeting minutes were reviewed with no additions or corrections made. Motion made to approve the January meeting minutes by Jeanette, seconded by Ron. Motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report: No report this month.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Christian Education – Jeanette Jacobson: February 1 st there was a multigenerational Sunday School session. Thanks to Paula and everyone else who put together the lesson!

Worship/Music – Lisa Ziehl: No report

Community Building – Pam Vruwink: No report

Youth – Jim Oyen: There were 11 people who attended and 9 bowlers for the Bowling for Hospice event.

Memorial – Angie Dahlberg: No report

Finance/Stewardship – David McClain and Jeanette Jacobson: No report

Property – Ron Swenson: The new Vibrant internet has been installed and is working well.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Special Offering: There was discussion on what the special offering designations should be for 2026 and that the designations should continue to be noted in the newsletter and bulletin. A motion was made by Jeanette to designate special offer for 2026 as the following:

Lenten Services and Holy Week: Willmar Area Food Shelf & Lutheran Campus Ministry

Easter: Waters Edge Ministries

Harvest Festival: Family Promise

Thanksgiving: World Hunger

Advent: Food for the Poor

Christmas: Habitat for Humanity.

The motion was seconded by Pam. Motion carried.

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

Closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angie Dahlberg

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



Worship Schedule
APRIL

Sunday, April 5 Easter Sunday
7:30 and 11 at Tripolis; 9:30 at Ebenezer

Sunday, April 12 Coffee hour after worship at Ebenezer

Sunday April 19

Sunday, April 26 Confirmation Sunday at Tripolis

9:30am Worship at Ebenezer
9:30am Sunday School at Tripolis
11am Worship at Tripolis