



# Ebenezer & Tripolis

## Lutheran Churches

VOLUME 14 ISSUE #9

SEPTEMBER 2026

## CONNECTION NEWSLETTER

### PASTOR'S MESSAGE

How do these long summer days seem to go by so quickly?

What a great August we've had! Both churches stepped up to throw big parties with food and fellowship. The Corn and Brat Feed at Tripolis was back after a summer off in 2025 (when we installed new carpet.) It felt as if we had not missed a beat. We had great weather and attendance. Our only regret: we forgot to take pictures!

Ebenezer's Community picnic was also a big success. In its fourth year, it feels already like a beloved tradition. It's fun to see so many community members and to have kids enjoy the bubbles, books, and temporary tattoos. We honored bus drivers with a special appreciation gifts. It's such a blessing at both events to have our members both attend and help each other.

I am excited for fall, and I feel especially nourished by some recent gatherings. I had a few days at Shalom Hill Farm as both a presenter and guest, and the beautiful prairie setting is so calming and renewing. I also finished the one-year "Prairie Fire Preaching" program. A group of 20 or so pastors spent the year reflecting on the pastor's life. We learned from a wide variety of speakers, including pastors, preachers, writers, and theologians. We also collected the wisdom of musicians and artists, a teacher of the Dakota language, a basketball coach, a poet, two restaurant owners, a corporate fundraiser, and a "viral" influencer. We shared worship, music, games, and hikes, and charted our journeys with photos. Our meetings started and ended with bubbles and the squawking of a loud rubber chicken; we laughed a *lot*.

I'm looking forward to some new activities this fall, supported by grants from our Southwestern Minnesota Synod. We'll again have our women's retreat in November. We'll also schedule a series of food and conversation events (Thanks to Frank and Suzanne for teaching me the German word "Stammtisch" as an inspiration). We are excited to give Bibles to our children, and to have a few fall meals and other opportunities for fellowship in Christ's name.

How blessed we are to live in Christian community and to lean on our unity in Christ for encouragement and meaning.

*Pastor Sherri*



### REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

*Note: we print names of individuals and specific needs only when requested.*

The Latterell family asks for prayers for Mona and Laverne as they struggle with health concerns.

We pray for Barb Freeman as she recovers from surgery.

May God comfort Dianne and Steve Robeson on the tragic death of their grandson, Landin.

We pray for our 2026 grads, who will begin new adventures this fall, including college, work, and training programs. May God bless all students and school staff.

We hold in prayer those in our community who face difficult health or personal struggles, for those experiencing grief and loneliness, and for any living or working in dangerous places. We pray for those enduring war and unrest, and those facing uncertain financial or housing situations. We pray for unity in Christ even amidst diverse experiences and opinions. May God inspire us to reach out however we can to those in need, in Christ's name.

**OCTOBER CONNECTION DEADLINE: MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21**

## September 6

*Ezekiel 33:7-11* The prophet's responsibility to warn the people

*Psalms 119:33-40* "I desire the path of your commandments."

*Romans 13:8-14* Live honorably as in the day

*Matthew 18:15-20* Reconciliation in the community of faith

## September 13

*Genesis 50:15-21* Joseph reconciles with his brothers

*Psalms 103:[1-7] 8-13* "Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy."

*Romans 14:1-12* Accepting diversity in the community of faith

*Matthew 18:21-35* A parable of forgiveness in the community of faith

## September 20

*Jonah 3:10—4:11* God's concern for the city of Nineveh

*Psalms 145:1-8* "The Lord is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love."

*Philippians 1:21-30* Standing firm in the gospel

*Matthew 20:1-16* The parable of the vineyard workers

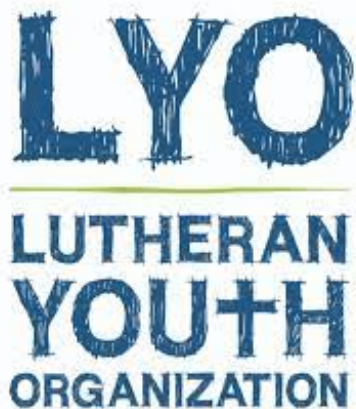
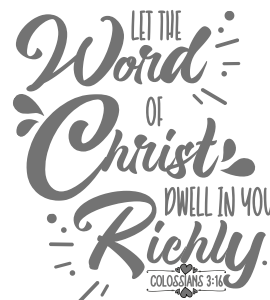
## September 27

*Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32* The fairness of God's way

*Psalms 25:1-9* "Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love."

*Philippians 2:1-13* Christ humbled to the point of death on a cross

*Matthew 21:23-32* A parable of doing God's will



## Twins Game: September 27, 2pm



We've secured a limited number of seats for the last home Twins game. Please let Jim or Fostervolds know right away if you want to attend. This is an LYO event, but others can join as we have tickets.



We'll partner with Bethel Lutheran in Willmar if any students currently in 8<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade want to attend. Let Pastor Sherri know!



We've applied for a spot on this year's "Serve Boldly" mission trips, organized by Water's Edge Ministry. Stay tuned to hear if we got in, whether we'll head to Madison or Milwaukee, and when. Students currently in 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade are eligible.

Confirmation is for students entering 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grades. Classes are on Sunday mornings in Sunday School. We also have several Wednesday sessions with Pastor, beginning with a **meeting and dessert with parents on September 30 from 6:30-8pm**. Mark calendars also for the next meeting and meal with students, parents, and mentors on October 28.



2026 grads Micah and Tristin in their NDSU dorm room. Note their quilts from Tripolis! 

## Tripolis Worship Leaders

### **September 6**

9:30am worship at Ebenezer

### **September 13 at 11am**

Worship is at Atwater Threshing Days at 8am, with several worship leaders from our congregation.

### **September 20 at 11am**

Musicians: Dana Vruwink,  
Tom & Marlys Gustafson  
Lector: Mary Gruis

### **September 27 at 11 am**

Musician: Paula Grahn  
Lector: Jeanette Jacobson

## **Tripolis Members on Duty**

### **Council Members**

Ron Swenson, Pam Vruwink

### **Ushers**

Matt & Jennifer Wattnem

### **Altar**

Joyce Helmke, Laura Jeseritz

## **ATWATER THRESHING SHOW**

**SEPTEMBER 12-13**

**7AM-4PM**

Enjoy the show over the weekend. Many of our members are involved. Join us for Worship on Sunday at 8am in the church there.

Tripolis musicians lead worship; there is no other worship at Tripolis that day. Ebenezer will have worship at 9:30am.

**SUNDAY  
SCHOOL NEWS**

Sunday School will start on September 20. Our new start time is 9:45am. We are planning a "rotation" style program this year, where students will study each story for multiple weeks through games, music, crafts, lessons, and videos. We need help from any interested youth and adults to "Shepherd" our students in these activities through the year, whether for just 1-2 weeks or for a longer time.

# **TRIPOLIS CALENDAR**

Thursday, September 3: 7pm Rachel Bible Study

Sunday, September 6: 9:30am Shared worship at Ebenezer

Tuesday, September 8: 6:30pm Church Council Meeting at Tripolis

Thursday, September 10: 9am Quilting

Sunday, September 13: 8am Atwater Threshing Days Worship

Thursday, September 17: 10am-4pm Worship and Music (and others) Retreat Day at St. Benedict's

Sunday, September 20: 9:45am Sunday School Rally Day

11am Worship with potluck afterward

Monday, September 21: Newsletter Information Due

Tuesday, September 22: 9am Quilting

Sunday, September 27: 9:45am Sunday School

10:30am Meet to leave for Twins game

11am Worship

Wednesday, September 30: 6:30pm Confirmation meeting and dessert for students and parents

↖ *Note change from yearbook's date*

**REMEMBER!**

**POTLUCK  
LUNCH  
AFTER  
WORSHIP ON  
SEPTEMBER  
20.**

*Women's Bible  
Study*



Tripolis Women's Bible Study will meet September 3rd at 7pm at Tripolis. Paula is leading and Kathy is serving.

**"SAVE THE DATES" FOR THESE  
FUN FALL TRADITIONS!**



**Fall Fun Night  
Saturday, October 17**

Hayride will leave at 4:30pm  
Potluck supper at about 6:30pm

Join us for a night of fun  
and fellowship.  
All are welcome!!

Home of  
Keith & Cathy McClain  
9863 135th St SE  
Lake Lillian



# EBENEZER CALENDAR

Sunday, September 6: 9:30am Worship at Ebenezer  
Tuesday September 8: 6:30pm Church Council Meeting at Tripolis  
Sunday, September 13: 9:30am Worship at Ebenezer  
Tuesday, September 15: 4pm Women's Bible Study  
Thursday, September 17: Retreat Day at St. Benedict's  
Sunday, September 20: 9:30am Worship at Ebenezer  
Coffee fellowship following worship  
Monday, September 21: Newsletter Information Due  
Thursday, September 24: 9am Do Be Doers  
Sunday, September 27: Twins game with LYO  
Sunday, September 27: 9:30am Worship at Ebenezer



September Coffee Fellowship will be on September 20. (It's usually the second Sunday, but we shift it because many choose to go to Atwater Threshing Days)

## Ebenezer Worship Leaders

**September 6 at 9:30 am**  
Musician: Betsy Hallberg  
Lector: Deb Wodash

**September 13 at 9:30 am**  
Musician: Betsy Hallberg  
Lector: Lori Martin

**September 20 at 9:30 am**  
Musician: Kristine Benson  
Lector: Dan Hallberg

**September 27 at 9:30 am**  
Musician: Kristine Benson  
Lector: Marilyn Zarnott

## Ebenezer Members on Duty

**Council Member**

Karen Oswood

**Ushers**

Dan Hallberg & Wayne Kaehler

**Greeters**

Virgil Valentine and Kevin Miller

**Altar**

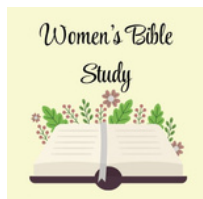
Marilyn & Wayne Zarnott

**Flowers**

Naomi Struck



The Community Building Committee would like to thank everyone who helped make the Community Picnic a great success! We couldn't do this without everyone's help in sharing God's love in fellowship with our friends in Christ.



**Tuesday, September 15th at 4:00 pm.**

The Ebenezer Women's Bible Study Group will hold its monthly Bible Study on Tuesday, September 15th at 4:00 pm at church. We will use a new study guide focusing on women of the bible. Copies have been ordered for the group. The Bible Study Leader is Betsy Hallberg and lunch will be provided by Karen Deisting. All Ebenezer women are invited to attend.



**THANK YOU!**

## Annual Church Cleaning

The kickoff date for church cleaning at Ebenezer will be Monday, September 14. Church doors will open at 9:00 a.m. Information and work assignments have been placed in church mailboxes or mailed. If you are unable to clean on the kickoff date, please arrange a time that works for you and complete your assigned area by September 30. Thank you for your willingness to help! Everyone's contribution is appreciated!

## Ebenezer Blessing Box

Thanks to Deb and Tom Wodash for their help keeping the blessing box stocked in August. We are grateful for Nancy Bruggers for volunteering to be the caretaker in September.



# September:

*Happy Anniversary*

*Happy Birthday*

## **TRIPOLIS ANNIVERSARIES**

3 Riley & Sarah Gustafson  
7 Patrick & Judith Riley  
8 Ron & Carmen Swenson  
9 Sherri Larson & Kevin Miller  
10 Russ & Sue Klint  
15 Ben & Susan Dahline  
19 Tony & Dana Vruwink  
22 Ron & Karol Markfelder  
22 Loren & Debra Carlson

## **EBENEZER ANNIVERSARIES**

4 Chris & Amanda Stark  
9 Sherri Larson & Kevin Miller  
12 Greg & Cindy Gonnella  
16 Jim & Mary Hawkinson  
18 Kara & Michael Nilius  
22 Wayne & Marilyn Zarnott  
28 Aaron & Krista Peterson  
30 Tom & Deb Wodash

## **EBENEZER BIRTHDAYS**

1 Savannah Lindstrand  
1 Kay Oveson  
2 Emma Oswood  
3 Mark Lindstrand  
7 Naomi Struck  
7 Elisha Ziehl  
8 Brian Lindstrand  
9 Mason Lindstrand  
12 Shari Reynolds  
12 Ryan Stene  
14 Larry Redepenning  
17 Jane Brouillette  
17 Alysha Cuchna  
19 Barb Backlund  
19 Carol Benson  
21 Mavis Bengtson  
25 Logan Lindstrand  
27 Daryl Deisting  
27 Donna Kashmark  
28 Raegan Erickson  
29 Joshua McGillivray  
30 Eric Struck  
30 Sharon Latterell

## **TRIPOLIS BIRTHDAYS**

1 Daniel Beck  
1 Jennifer Johnson  
1 Cooper Simenson  
2 Hailey Sharp  
3 Ruth Aurand  
5 Jim Ziegler  
5 Laura Jeseritz  
5 Matt Wattnem  
7 Charlotte Jeseritz  
9 Tony Vruwink  
10 Kyle Bosch  
12 Grant Peterka  
13 Mary Saue  
15 Carrie Rasmussen  
15 Marlene Visser  
15 Ron Markfelder  
16 Bailey Sunquist  
17 Michelle Beeman  
17 Cameron Narragon  
18 John Beeman  
18 Drew Lindquist  
19 Cora Heaser  
21 Hunter Dahline  
26 Paul Hanson  
26 Katelyn Mason  
27 Joyce Helmke  
28 Justin Bosch  
29 Stephanie Freed  
30 Eva Schliep  
30 Brady Holien  
30 Cole Holien  
30 Caidence Shoultz

Joint Council Minutes  
Tripolis and Ebenezer Churches  
Tuesday May 12, 2026  
Location – Tripolis

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

Members absent in **BOLD**

Tripolis President, David McClain, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was reviewed. Motion to approve as written was made by Eric seconded by Deb. Motion carried.

Devotions: Led by Jeanette

Secretary's Report: Reviewed and approved the April, 2026 joint minutes. Motion by Pam, seconded by Aaron to approve the minutes as written. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Confirmation, senior Sunday were both beautiful gatherings. Last week of Sunday School at Tripolis this week. Summer schedule begins June 7th. One outdoor service is scheduled at Capital Hill this summer on July 21st.

LYO Report: Ditch cleaning was done on May 3rd. Determined to not participate in the mission trip due to low participation. Will look at alternate options.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Motion to adjourn meeting by Eric, seconded by Mary, Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted, Lisa Ziehl  
Tripolis Secretary

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Tripolis Church Council Meeting  
Tuesday May 12, 2026  
Location – Ebenezer

Members: Angie Dahlberg, Jeanette Jacobson, David McClain, Jim Oyen, **Ron Swenson**, Pam Vruwink, and Lisa Ziehl

Members absent in **BOLD**

President, David McClain, called the meeting to order at 7:20 pm

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was reviewed. Constitution, bylaws, synod review of policies, and Sewer update added to old business. Motion to approve the updated agenda was made by Jeanette seconded by Jim. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report: April 2026 meeting minutes were reviewed. Motion made to approve the March meeting minutes by Angie, seconded by Pam. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: No Report

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Christian Education – Jeanette Jacobson: VBS planned for June 7-10, 2026 5:15 – 7:30, picnic for all families on final evening. Low numbers currently registered.

Worship/Music – Lisa Ziehl: meeting scheduled for May 17th

Council Members on Duty –

- May: Angela Dahlberg & Pam Vruwink
- June: Ron Swenson & Pam Vruwink

Community Building – Pam Vruwink: Desert for confirmation presentation

Youth – Jim Oyen: Knowing we have cancelled the mission trip, would like to look at other options.

Memorial – Angie Dahlberg: flower planting scheduled next week

Finance/Stewardship – David McClain and Jeanette Jacobson: no updates

Property – Ron Swenson:

- Field was planted this week.
- AV system is set to be installed in the month of July when services are being held in Ebenezer
- Elevator parts are ordered

Old Business

Sewer Update: 2 bids for full replacement, due to the cost it will require a congregational meeting and a vote, notification to go out this week. Meeting to be prior to service Sunday May 31st 10:30 AM

Marriage Policies: updates in process, not complete for review

Review of Constitution: updates in process, not complete for review

Review of Committee Duties/Responsibilities:

- Add descriptions of the following committees Library Committee, Head Ushers, Nominating Committee

Review of Bylaws which address specific dates of congregational meetings

New Business

None

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

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Lisa Ziehl, Tripolis Council Secretary

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Ebenezer Church Council Meeting Minutes

May 12, 2026

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

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

Approval of Agenda:

A motion was made by Karen Oswood, seconded by Deb Wodash, to accept the agenda as written. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report: Minutes from April 14, 2026, meeting reviewed. Motion to accept as written by Karen Oswood, seconded by Deb Wodash. Motion carried.

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

Old Business:

- Church Property Insurance: Insurance premiums have increased substantially over the recent years. Tom Wodash stated he will contact other agencies for quotes.
- Disbursement of the \$500 Daily Bread grant: Half will be designated for Project Hope and half to the Blessing Box.

New Business:

- Property Concerns: Reminder was issued that the council person on duty is responsible to ensure that both the front and back doors are locked after church services.
- Review of Wedding/Marriage Policy: Additional changes were proposed. Still under review.

Committee Reports

CR1 - Worship and Music - Mary Redepenning Worship planning is done through August 2nd.

Communion assist – May - Council person on duty – Aaron Peterson

Communion assist – June - Council person on duty – Mary Redepenning

Communion assist – July - Council person on duty – Deb Wodash

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

CR2 - Children/Youth/Christian Education: - Konnie Carity – VBS is being held at Ebenezer June 7-10.

CR3 - Community Building/Outreach and Service Ministries – Deb Wodash -- Sign-up sheets available in the narthex for opportunities to volunteer for June 7-10 VBS suppers and June 12th KIDD supper.

CR4 - Memorial Gift Committee – Karen Oswood - No Report

CR5 - Property – Aaron Peterson, Eric Struck – Replacement windows for the pastor's study have been ordered. Other maintenance issues have been accomplished.

CR6 - Policy – Tom Wodash - Wedding/Marriage policy still under review

Mary Redepenning will provide devotions in August (No meeting in June or July).

Adjournment: Motion by Eric Struck, seconded by Aaron Peterson, to adjourn meeting. Motion carried.

Next Meeting at Ebenezer on Tuesday, August 11th

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Redepenning, Secretary

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

## CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

**SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER**

# September Schedule

Sunday, September 6, 9:30am Shared Worship at Ebenezer

Sunday, September 13 8:00am Worship at Atwater Threshing Days  
9:30am Worship at Ebenezer

Sunday, September 20 9:30 am Worship at Ebenezer  
Coffee fellowship after worship  
9:45am Sunday School at Tripolis  
11am Worship at Tripolis  
Potluck after worship

Sunday, September 27 9:30 am Worship at Ebenezer  
9:45am Sunday School at Tripolis  
11am Worship at Tripolis

Note this third Sunday coffee fellowship; Note change in Sunday School start time

