

# TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ



## February 2021 Newsletter

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### Softening the Hard Places in My Heart *By Lysa TerKeurst*

*“Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.” Romans 12:15 (ESV)*

When loss happens, bitterness wants to move in. Especially when your personal feelings of loss or emptiness come because of another person’s selfishness or irresponsibility, causing something in your life to never be the same. Now, sorrow has invited a bitterness you didn’t even know you were capable of. I can write about this because I deeply understand this.

But God has been helping me see that sitting in fresh grief can be a good cure for bitterness. This is exactly what happened during a funeral I recently attended. She was young and passed away very unexpectedly.

And this loss ... it opened up a tender place in me I had shut down. And softened those hard places. Conviction about ways my heart had gone a little off-kilter didn’t jackhammer its way through me. It didn’t have to. I just opened myself to grief. I let the weight of loss revisit me. I came out from hiding behind the unfairness of my own situation and felt my hardness be watered by the raw tears of fresh loss. This softening was good for me. Hardened hearts have such a propensity to get shattered. Soft hearts don’t as easily break.

The further we get from the original source of our grief, the more solidified our hardness becomes. Undealt-with hurt and pain hardens like parched soil. And the only way to soften it afresh is for the tears to fall soft and wet and free-flowing once again.

I learned recently about what to do if you have hardened soil that’s difficult to till and you want to prep it so it can grow beautiful plants.

First, you start with a little water ... about a half-inch. You don’t drown it. You let the ground take in the water slowly. Then you let it sit for a couple of days, so the water has time to sink below the surface. After that, you can dig down about 8 inches to overturn the ground below, exposing it to the surface. You then spray the overturned soil with a fine stream of water to soften the surface before raking it and adding compost — organic material once alive, now decomposed. What could have been waste becomes fertilizer.

I am not a gardener of the earth. But all of this seems to be so applicable to my desire to tend to the hard places of my heart. In a spiritual sense, this resonates with how to turn hard bitterness into fertile soil.

You don’t beat bitterness out of someone. You don’t point at and poke it out, or plead with it or provoke it out of someone. You soften the hardness out. And as the softening breaks up the hard ground, you then mix in perspective. Perspective is the best fertilizer there is. What we’ve gone through is not a waste when it fertilizes the softened ground of our hearts, increasing the chances for new life to thrive.

A good farmer knows this isn’t just a one-time event for hardened ground. Each new season, the hardness of the ground needs to be worked on by softening and tilling it again.

The same is true for our hearts. Left unattended, our hearts constantly get walked on and walked over, pounding us into potentially hardened places all over again. So we need to be aware of this to make softening and tilling a regular part of our life. And one of the ways we can do this is found in Romans 12:15, where God reminds us to *“Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.”* It’s easy to assume grieving with others is simply our gift of love and compassion to them. But God can also use those tears to do a good work in us.

I don’t know where your own losses have caused bitterness to move into your heart, sweet friend. And if no one else in this world has been kind enough to say this, I will. I’m so, so sorry for all that’s happened to you.

But your heart is much too beautiful of a place for bitterness, resentment or unhealed pain. And today’s a good day for us all to remember that sitting with someone else in their grief may be exactly what we need to help us process our own.

*Father God, You know how much my heart wants to avoid grief. Help me remember You can use it to soften and till me. Just like a farmer knows what is good for the ground, You know what is good for the human heart. Let this softening in me lead to new life, new fruit and new, beautiful beginnings. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.*

## Church Council Minutes

Trinity Lutheran Church Council met Monday, January 18, 2021.

Present: Jerry Dykstra, Tonya Standy, Lee Hanten, Mike Konechne, Shirley Johnson, Jeff Engebretsen, Spencer DeHaan, Randy Tegethoff and Brad DeVries.

The meeting was called to order by President Jerry Dykstra. Lee led with prayer.

### SECRETARY'S REPORT

The secretary's report was reviewed, Shirley made a motion to approve, Lee seconded it, the motion carried.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

We reviewed the treasurer's report, Lee made a motion to approve, Randy seconded it, the motion carried.

### TRUSTEE'S REPORT

We reviewed the insurance on parsonage and church

### DEACON'S REPORT

Shirley said she is still mailing out bulletins and visiting some of the older members. We discussed using microphones during the annual meeting and not being able to hear music on the live stream. We also discussed pulpit supply.

### SEARCH COMMITTEE

The search committee is looking at one candidate whose spouse is also a preacher, so they each would need a church close together and they are looking at a couple of other candidates that were reviewed before.

### OLD BUSINESS

We will continue to have fellowship following church.

### NEW BUSINESS

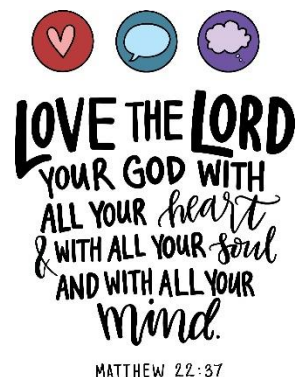
We reviewed the budget for 2021, Lee made a motion to approve the proposed budget, Spencer seconded it, the motion carried.

We reviewed the list of proposed 2021 council, boards and committees.

Lee made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Shirley seconded it.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tonya Standy



## From the WOW Co-Presidents

*Donna Boysen & Chelsey Schrank*

### Bright Hope for Tomorrow

*May your unfailing love be with us, Lord, even as we put our hope in you. Psalm 33:22*

When I say, “I hope my cancer doesn’t come back again,” it’s both a wish and a prayer. But when I say, “God gives me hope for the future,” that is confident assurance in the promises of the God who has never failed me.

Most people hope for a long life, lasting relationships, good health, and happiness. Yet we know that in a matter of minutes, life can be turned upside down and inside out, and it can feel like our hopes are dashed.

For the people of God, hope is drawn from a deeper well. We cannot rely on our own armies and horses—our own resources—to deliver us. The beautiful image is that of the God whose eyes are locked on us, whose love never fails, who is our help and shield. God paints a positive picture of our forever future.

When our hope and trust are firmly connected to our unchangeable God, we know deep in our souls that God’s love will sustain us through this life and into eternity. Even if our struggles return, our hope in God remains. Sometimes our hope falters as we face troubles and heartaches. Renew our hope, strengthen our trust, and help us to embrace your unfailing love and share it with others.

I feel that we, as a nation, have learned many lessons in this pandemic.

Live for today...this very moment! Savor every minute and cherish time spent with your family and friends.

Don’t postpone happiness. Negativity and bitterness will steal the joy from you and your family. Practice seeing happiness in all you do.

## WOW Treasurer’s Report

Balance on Hand 12/23/20	\$ 4682.25
Trinity Lutheran Memorial Committee	\$ 20.00
Feeding South Dakota	\$ 250.00
VanderPol Christian Academy – Pat VanderPol	\$ 250.00
Love Missionary Outreach – Kari Brink	\$ 250.00
Mary Espland	\$ 250.00
Victor and Lori Selemanni	\$ 250.00
Champions House Foundation – Linda DeHaai	\$ 250.00
New Hope Christian Camp	\$ 250.00
Steve Walters Missionary	\$ 250.00
Balance on Hand 1/23/21	\$ 2412.12



### Bible Study Groups:

**Martha Group** will be meeting on Monday, February 8 at 7 pm in the fireside room studying lesson 2 in “Armor of God” by Priscilla Shirer

**Priscilla Circle** will start meeting on Wednesday, February 17 at 7 pm beginning with Lesson 3  
Lesson Leader: Shirley Johnson  
Hostess: Sharon Rommen

**Hannah Group** will be meeting on Thursday, February 18 at 1:30 pm

*\*\*We are once again collecting soap for our Trinity Women Mission Project during the month of February. The soap must be new in its original wrapper. Boxes will be placed in the narthex and the fellowship hall.*

Find new happiness in everyday things...a smile, a hug, a friendly face, a rainbow, a song that touches your heart.

Happiness is looking into the face of a loved one and saying, “I Love You!”

Love—Joy—Peace—Surrender to the Lord!

## This Month's Birthdays

2/1	Austin Severson	2/19	Haley Hoffman
2/2	Clayton Fischer	2/19	Brad DeVries
2/3	Reed DuFrain	2/20	Leo Nelson
2/3	Emily VandenHoek	2/20	Maley DeHaan
2/4	Teresa Nelson	2/20	Joan Hoversten*
2/6	Richard Gustad	2/21	Wendy Qualm
2/7	Hunter Olson	2/21	Tate Wagner
2/8	Troy Kirsch	2/23	Austin DuFrain
2/8	Connie Wagner	2/23	Joel Olson
2/9	Carson Vanden Berge	2/24	Kelby Weisser
2/10	Jan DuFrain	2/24	Donna Boysen
2/14	Todd Strand	2/26	Terry Boysen
2/14	Hayes DeVries	2/26	Mary Lee Erickson*
2/16	Robert Hoffman	2/27	Kyler Strand
2/17	Hayden Strand		



*\*Please remember  
these special 80+ Birthdays  
with a prayer, card or phone call*

## Communion Servers

### February 7

Mike Konechne  
Liz Spawn  
Spencer DeHaan

## Ushers

7—Jeff Olsen & Jackson Olsen  
14—Eldon Qualm & Toby Qualm  
21—Eldon Qualm & Toby Qualm  
28—Darrel Hildebrand & Jim Holter

## Coffee & Cookies Servers

7—Nicole DeVries, Karen Dimick, Darcie DuFrain  
14—Jan DuFrain, Karis DuFrain, Alison Dykstra  
21—Pearl Feiok, Rhonda Engebretson, Diane Gilbertz  
28—Jodene Foxley, Maggie Foxley, Amanda Hermanek

## 2021 Platte Community Lenten Worship Services

Date	Location	Speaker
Sunday, February 21	First Reformed Church	Pastor Drew Hoekema
Sunday, February 28	Trinity Lutheran Church	Pastor Mike De Jager
Sunday, March 7	Bethel Lutheran Brethren Church	Pastor Israel Vasek
Sunday, March 14	Olive Presbyterian Church	Pastor Joel Davis
Sunday, March 21	Christian Reformed Church	Pastor Dave Anderson
Sunday, March 28	Calvary Baptist Church	Pastor Dan Daum






# A famous friendship

In the Bible, Ruth and Naomi are known for their loving friendship.

*Directions: Using the key, fill in the blanks to see what Ruth says to Naomi.*

“

J Q U O W    B C E    X E E  
 J E A A    X E '    U N O    J Q U O W  
 B C E    N L U A    E    J E A A  
 N L U A    B C E A    N W E N A U  
 J E A A    X U    F A  
 N W E N A U    U N O  
 B C E O A    X E    Q  
 F A    X E E    Q



W	A		E	T
B	U	H	D	O
G	R	L	Y	I
N	S	P	M	

”

**RUTH 1:16, NIV**

Answer: "Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God." Ruth 1:16, NIV

## Loving embraces

Express your love and friendship with handcrafted bracelets.



### What you need:

- Adult help
- Bowl of boiling water
- Wide wooden craft sticks
- Glass cup
- Markers, paint or decorative tape

### What you do:

1. Pour about 3 cups of boiling water into a bowl. Soak sticks in the water about 30 minutes.
2. Remove sticks and slowly, gently bend them into a curve.
3. To maintain the shape, place curved sticks inside a glass cup overnight to dry completely.
4. Remove and decorate the bracelets, which make fun Valentine's Day gifts.

**The next Children's Worship Sunday is planned for Sunday, March 7.** The Sunday School will be participating in the worship service through greeting, ushering, the Children's Sermon, reading Scripture, and special music. We hope you can join us! - Board of Ed





begin on **Wednesday, February 10 from 4-5 pm.**

Classes will follow on the next 3 Wednesdays (February 17 & 24 and March 3). The church gives a Faith Alive Student Bible to each third grader. Important Bible verses from each book of the Bible will be highlighted during class with Pastor Dan Daum. One parent is encouraged to attend class with your child to assist in finding verses.

Bibles will be presented in church on **Sunday, March 7** during morning worship.



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# COMMUNION

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First Communion for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders  
will be celebrated on Sunday, February 7  
during morning worship