



Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World

April 2018 Newsletter of Trinity United Methodist Church

***Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding.
Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take. -Proverbs 3:5-6***

Spring is that wonderful time when so many things are happening all at once. In sports, there is March Madness, the beginning of baseball season, even spring football is happening all around the country. Of course there are many plays to watch and artwork of all shapes and sizes to be seen and enjoyed. Even a church Cantata or two can be experienced throughout the spring.

We watch these individuals and think to ourselves, "They are amazing. I wish I could do that. I always wanted to be able to..." We feel so ordinary. We may even label ourselves as average at best. But that is not how God views each and every single one of us. While those others have gifts and talents, God is saying to each of us "I have blessed you with talents and gifts also. I do not call you average." God wants us to be celebrated as well.

You may think you are too old, not educated enough, lacking in the areas that you believe you wish you could achieve something. But if God put it on your heart, God has given you the gifts, and is not going to take them back. Our God is not a God who changes his mind. God created us for a special purpose, and together it will come to pass.

God made you as you are on purpose. God gave you your appearance, physique, personality, all your characteristics: physical, intellectual, emotional and spiritual. Nothing about you is an accident. Don't let people put you down. Yes, you will come against adversity, but remember, every time someone tries to tell you that you are not tall enough, strong enough, smart enough, built to succeed at something, you have God. God says "I have made you as a masterpiece." You are created in the image of God. How can any of us be any less when we realize we are all God's children? We may even say, "Oh I don't look like them, think like them, act like them." You are not supposed to be like them. You are to be you!

Let me invite you to repeat after me, "I AM." What you put after those two words will define who you are. The I AMs that you state will bring either success or failure. Too often we use I Am against ourselves. I am unable or unworthy. When you say "I AM" you are inviting your future into your life. So today, say I Am...

***Blessed
Strong
Talented
Wise
Disciplined
Focused***

When we engage God's will for our lives, the path will be seen, and the journey will be an adventure worth the living.

Grace and Peace ~Matt

Trinity United Methodist Church 8009 Q Street Ralston, NE 68127

Phone: 402-331-4054 <http://www.trinityralston.org> [facebook.com/TrinityRalstonUMC](https://www.facebook.com/TrinityRalstonUMC)

Sunday Worship: Services @ 8:30am & 11am, Sunday School @ 9:45am

Pastor: Rev Dr. Matt Fowler **Associate Pastor:** Rev Curt Copple **Pastor of Congregational Development:** Rev Dr. Bob Folkers
Executive Pastor: Rev Dr. Cole Fowler **Children /Youth Director:** Becky McClanathan
Director of Spiritual Development/Accompanist: Vicki Buras **Choir Director:** Dr. David Galant
Media Director/Worship Leader: Matthew Hindley **Controller:** Penny Holzbauer
Facility Coordinator Koy Potthoff **Administrative Assistant:** Vicky Segers **Building Supervisor:** Judy Slavik

Mission Notes

Our mission team is putting an emphasis on connecting with and supporting local ministries. Because of a young man's dedication to help make birthdays special for children who have health issues or financial hardships, we will sponsor a **toy drive** in April in honor of Simon Jones who lived a "courageous, generous, and uplifting lifetime in 18 short years." He battled an aggressive cancer and began writing an inspirational blog entitled *Simon Says: "Live a Better Life"* by telling others to "find the blessings in what you think is a struggle and use it to make the world a better place." One of his passions was the *Simon Says: Happy Birthday Toy Drive* for Living Hope Food Pantry. As a result the *Simon Says: Live a Better Life Foundation* was created. Themed birthday parties are planned to include paper goods, cake, and toys. Hopefully, through the foundation other non-profits will benefit from this program. Boxes will be provided for donations and we will keep you informed as we near April.

On April 13th, our **Dining for Women** will feature guest speaker Fran Moore, former member of Trinity, who will talk about her trip to Zambia. She will focus on issues like poverty and education for women and girls. We welcome all who would like to hear her talk and if you are already a member, bring a friend.

You all have really been responding to our boat requests, and we certainly do thank you. For April we will **collect pastas and sauces**.

On June 14th, we will be **preparing and serving dinner at Hope Lodge**; this helps provide a home, free of charge, for cancer patients and their caregivers during cancer treatment. Through the "Cooking up Hope" program, volunteer groups can sign up to provide home cooked meals.

Thanks, Trinity members, for all you do!

Judy Dappen
Mission Chair

April Spiritual Development Opportunities:

- **Visioning Trinity: From Here to the Kingdom of God**
 - *What:* Our God-given vision for the future, both today and 10 years from now.
 - *Who:* Anyone who wants to look at our future and our vision.
 - *Curriculum:* Videos, Bible, and Handouts
 - **Sundays, 9:45 - 10:45am in the Sanctuary**
 - Facilitator: Pastor Matt Fowler.
- **Adult Study:** No classes Easter Sunday
 - Facilitators: Marge O'Reilly & Ray Loveland
 - **Sundays, 9:45 - 10:45am in Room 205**
 - Facilitators: Judy Dappen & Pastor Bob Folkers
 - **Sundays, 9:45 - 10:45am in Room 101**

For more information contact Vicki Buras at 402-331-4054 or Vicki.B@trinityalston.org.

Proposed Daycare Vote

If you are on the church's email list, by now you should have received one regarding the plans for a proposed daycare at Trinity. Presentations were given to the congregation on March 18th & 25th. On April 8th, we invite you to take a tour of the downstairs area in order to get a further idea of how a daycare would utilize our building.

Then on Sunday, April 15th, between services at 9:45am, a church conference will take place with its primary focus being on whether to move forward or not with the proposed plans. As stated in the Book of Discipline, anyone who is a member of Trinity is eligible to vote as long as they are present at the time of the meeting.

Before the vote, we invite you to prayerfully consider the proposed daycare. If you have any questions still regarding the daycare or the voting process, please contact the church office, and a member of the staff will be more than happy to help.

Education Notes

Our church is very blessed in the way of being a close-knit family. Everyone is supportive, friendly and kind. Kids have been thriving in Sunday School classes, Wednesday night class and Sunday Youth gatherings. God is all around us and always with us. He shines through and I can feel him. I'm so excited about the Spring and Summer seasons that our church will be going through. It's a fresh new year to grow in faith and be inspired!

I want to thank everyone for their support and prayers for our upcoming youth mission trip, our Easter egg hunt, and our journey through Lent. I'm hoping April will shower us in God's wisdom and strength as we host events, study the Bible, and work with the community. April will bring a few fundraisers hosted by our amazing youth. This will help with costs of our trip, and will be a fun way to work together.

YOUTH FUNDRAISERS



Bowling Fundraiser at Scorz Sports Center.

Sunday, April 22nd, from 1-5pm.

\$15 for three games and shoe rentals!

Please bring your friends and join us for a fun afternoon of bowling!!

Proceeds will go to our mission trip expenses.

Please spread the word for all to join us in our efforts to raise funds as we go to serve others in Colorado Springs this June.

On April 29th, Trinity will be hosting a **potluck** following the I I am service (start around noon). Please bring a dish to share that day. There will be a **pie auction** and a **themed-basket auction**. Baskets are being prepared by youth families and friends and will be thoughtfully put together with clever themes and items.



On April 22nd, the baskets will be in church for members to view and think about. There will also be a brief presentation. You *won't* want to miss out on a chance to purchase one! All proceeds will help with mission trip expenses.

Kids will sing in both services on April 15th.



Youth monthly gatherings:

Sunday, April 8th: **Dinner and a movie:** *Christian Mingle*.

Sunday, April 22nd: **Bowling Fundraiser** at Scorz Bowling.

Other Dates to Remember:

May 6th: **Teacher Appreciation Sunday.**

May 9th: **Last Kids for Christ** (KFC) class, potluck dinner.

May 13th: **Last day of Sunday School.**

May 13th: We will **honor graduates** in service.

Summer Sunday School will take place. More information to come.

June 17-23rd: **Youth mission trip** to Colorado Springs, Colorado.

July 18-20th is **Vacation Bible School** (VBS) with the 22nd being VBS Sunday Fun Day and presentation.



Experience the ride of a lifetime with God!!

Let your light shine!!

Becky McClanathan

April Birthdays

- 4/1 Bev Konruff
4/2 Carolyn Elledge
4/5 Kevin Johnson
Joyce Sramek
4/7 Sandy Johnson
4/8 Autumn Evers
Suzanne Shannon

- 4/12 Jan Gorman
4/13 Marian Iversen
Jeff Lott
Matthew Winkelman

- 4/14 Nancy Gage
Easton Siske

- 4/16 Bill Daugherty
Joshua Hambright
4/18 Jayden McClanathan
Dolores Weber

- 4/19 Madeleine Gregalunas
McKenna Zeller

- 4/20 Luke Wilson-Stepan
4/21 Cathy Bordwell
Nina Henry

- 4/23 Eldon Gustafson

- 4/25 Duane Boruff
Carl Dudzinski
John Fletcher
Ronnie Powell
Doug Rutherford

- 4/26 Evelyn Henderson
Rodney Polivka
Judy Startzer

- 4/27 Nathan Shannon

- 4/30 Harry Weichel

UMW Notes

Tues, Apr 5th	Naomi Ruth Circle	10am
Tues, Apr 10th	Mary Circle	7pm
Thurs, Apr 12th	Esther Circle	6:30pm
Sat, Apr 14th	Spring Salad Luncheon	11:30am
Thurs, Apr 19th	Bingo @ Hillcrest Shadowlake	2pm
Tues, Apr 24th	UMW Executive Board Meeting	6:30pm
Sat, Apr 28th	UMW Sunday Planning Meeting	9:30am

Spring Salad Luncheon

Join the UMW on Saturday, April 14th at 11:30am, for the Spring Salad Luncheon. This year's theme is "Hearts Sing for Spring" with entertainment provided by the Heartlight Choir. Tickets will be on sale now through April 10th for a cost of \$10 per person.

Saturday Book Club

You are invited to join us in Room 205 at 9am on Saturday, April 21st, for fellowship and discussion. This month our selection is *Secret Daughter* by Shilpi Somaya Gowda.

Trinity Methodist Men

The Trinity Men's Group will meet on Saturday, April 28th at 8am. If you are interested in learning more about this group, then contact Steve Gage.

Grant Proposals

The Grant Writing Committee has a form if you would like to submit an idea for a grant. The form is available in the folder in Fellowship Hall on the events bulletin board. Thank you from the Grant Writing Committee.

~Diane Adams, Michelle Christensen, Janis Dwyer, and Dianne Fowler

Spring Cleanup

The Trustees will be holding the annual Spring Cleanup on Saturday, April 7th starting at 8am. If you are able to help, they would appreciate it, as the more hands, the quicker the work goes.

Baptism

Trinity welcomed as a new baptized member Donald William Holzbauer on March 18th.

Ralston Archives

The Frank & Velma Johnson Ralston Archives Museum will be open Sunday, April 15th from 1-3pm. Renew some memories by viewing crochet, tatting, and other handiwork items, as well as your grandfather's hat, perhaps. This will be the last showing of the current displays.

Calendar insert

You will find inserted in this month's Beacon a copy of the current calendar for April. Please check the website (trinityralston.org) for the most up-to-date calendar available. Call the church office at 402-331-4054 for more information, or to schedule your event today.