

PASTOR'S PAGE

The disciplines of Lent are Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. What can you do to commit to these things in this month?

Let's start with prayer. Can you pray for someone in need? That person might be someone you know well, or someone you sort of know. It might be a political figure, a person in recovery, someone struggling with depression or mental health issues. Prayer is not some magic bullet that will make things all better, likely the people we pray for will continue to face difficult days and hard decisions, but praying for them will bring comfort. Sometimes when we don't know what else we can do, we can pray! We can lift up those in need and put them into God's hands, which can make the days better. Maybe you pray through the directory, praying for each person who is a part of our congregation. Wouldn't that be a good thing to do?

Fasting is another discipline. Maybe we cannot skip a meal, but we could give up that extra cup of coffee, or the cookie that goes with it. Maybe we make a conscious choice to eat more fruits and vegetables rather than processed food. Maybe we have a meatless day once a week. Some people give up soda or chips or chocolate for the season of Lent. It can be that simple, giving up something that leads us into bad habits.

Almsgiving means giving something back. It doesn't have to be a lot, maybe the cost of your extra coffee, or cookie or treat. Maybe we set aside some money each day or week during Lent to give as a special gift to the church or to a cause we care about. It doesn't have to be big, but when all of us give a little, the result can be enormous! Consider even \$5 each week of Lent, that's only \$25, but if more people joined in, the amount would be higher! Maybe your kids could put aside a small amount to give to God. We all need a chance to learn to give to God and to know that our giving helps other people.

Lenten disciplines help us focus on what is important in Lent. We focus not on ourselves, but on others, Could you pray, fast and give more? I think probably all of us need to consider these disciplines!

Lenten Blessings, Pastor Lori

LENTEN WEDNESDAYS



Plan to join us for supper and Lenten worship on the Wednesdays throughout the season of Lent. We will gather at 5:30 for supper, a free will donation is asked. Meals will be provided by the various boards of the church. Afterwards, we will have a brief worship service. This year we are looking for 5 individuals who are willing to do a reading which reflects the experience of being there during Holy Week. The Characters are: Mary Magdalene, Simon of Cyrene, Pilate's Wife, The Centurion and Joseph of Arimathea. If you enjoy drama and reading in front of others, here is your chance. Please let the office know if you are interested.

Meal serving schedule:

- February 25 – Board of Education—meatloaf
- March 4 – Executive Board—baked potato bar
- March 11 – Board of Deacons— pizza
- March 18 – Board of Trustees—enchilada hotdish
- March 25 – Quilters

TIME CHANGE

March 8 is the day we change our clocks for Daylight Savings Time. Move your clocks ahead one hour before bed on the 7th. We would hate for you to miss worship! We will gain more sunlight in the evenings, but mornings will slowly get lighter over time.



WOMEN'S GATHERING

Please save Saturday, March 14, from 10-noon to join in a conversation about what you would like to do as women of the church. Do you want a Bible study, a support group, a chance to do a craft together, make meals that you could share, a book club or reading group, an exercise group, or any ideas you might have. We could have someone teach us how to decorate cookies with royal icing. Do a Mother/Daughter event. We want to hear what you would enjoy doing. You can stop in and leave, bring your kids or not, we will have coffee and snacks to share that morning, but do stop by and let us know if you are interested in doing something. It can be a large or small group activity, maybe not all of you are interested in the same things. We want to give you the chance to be involved and do what you love to do!

COMMUNION SUNDAYS

Having tried a new way to receive Communion during Advent, the Deacons have decided to no longer use the pouring chalice, but to use pre-filled cups of wine/grape juice for Holy Communion. We will have two stations of bread, Pastor Lori and a deacon for Communion Sundays. We are looking for people willing to hold trays of wine. Please sign up to help. Anyone of any age can help with this. See the sign up list on the elevator door. In the season of Lent we will use the kneelers and will still have two breads and two wine trays to serve those who come forward. We always have grape juice in the center of the trays.

Also, we know that some of you cannot make it to worship with us. We are offering you a chance to receive communion with us on Communion Sundays. If you would like to receive a pre-filled wine/wafer cup for communion, please let the office or a deacon know and we will get them to you, or you can pick up the cups from the office. If you live outside the area, we suggest you make sure you have your own bread/wine/grape juice available at the time of communion and join us as we celebrate. If you would like pre-filled cups, we will send them to you for a donation. Questions, please talk to a Deacon.

GENERATIONS MEAL

Bethlehem has agreed to host a half price meal once a month at Generations this year. In March, the meal is on the 26th and features Smothered Chopped Steak, baked potato, sliced carrots, applesauce, margarine & sour cream, wheat bread and milk. The meal is open to anyone. Please call for reservations at least one day ahead. Call Pam at 507-283-9846 to enjoy a meal. The cost to us is about \$100 each time we host this meal. If you would like to help defray this cost, please make a donation through the offering, designated for the meal site. Thank you!

Generations Senior Meal Site is looking for volunteers to assist with serving their scheduled noon meals. If you enjoy visiting with people and serving others, consider becoming a volunteer. There are needs for dishwasher and dining room volunteers...on a regular and/or intermittent basis. Please call Pam at Generations: 507-283-9846 to volunteer or for additional information! Volunteer schedules allow people to select the days they can serve!

NEWS FROM TUFF

Thank you to the Sunday School children who created special Valentines for the residents of the Tuff home. They were most appreciated and loved!

Tuff Home is starting a new CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant) program this year! The hope is to ensure continuity, accountability of staff and high quality care for the residents.

Facility Improvements over the last year included updating the Chapel, remodeling the whirlpool tub and shower room and adding a double convection oven to the kitchen. A new boiler system has been installed and at the Village Apartments, a new fire panel was put into place after a lightning strike.

The Activities Director, Jocelyn Jacoby was named MN Activities Director of the Year. Congratulations to her! She does a great job with working with the residents.

HOW COULD YOU HELP TUFF HOME?

The Country Store at the Home is looking for donations of various things. Could you donate something? They need: lip balm, lipstick, nail polish, body sprays, hair detangler, hair brush, socks, toothpaste, toothbrushes, hard candies, lotion, large print word searches and seasonal room decorations. There is a collection box in the narthex for your donations. Thanks for helping out!

BUILDING UPDATES:

Just a reminder if you host an event in the basement, please check out the list of things to do before you leave the basement, particularly in the kitchen. Some of them are common sense, like wiping off the counters, but some are reminders so that things will be clean for the next use. Thanks!

Changes are happening with our technology. A new amplifier has been added and we are moving the sound board and everything else upstairs to the balcony. We had to re-do some of the floor to create space for the board and the rest of the equipment. You will still be able to see us on Facebook each week.

FROM THE BOARDS

Trustees – Technology move to balcony in process. Researching insurance companies.

Deacons – Communion serving change.

Education – Youth Room work close to completion!

JOYS AND CONCERNS

+ Congratulations to Nick and Emily Sandager on the birth of a baby girl on February 7. Her name is Joelle Mae and she is having a great time with her older sisters, Addison and Charlotte.

+ Sympathy is extended to Wendy Buss on the death of her Aunt Josephine Eisenbraun in January. Blessed be her memory.

+ Sympathy is extended to Pastor Lori on the death of her sister-in-law in January. She was the wife of her brother who passed away in October. Blessed be her memory.

+ Sympathy is extended to the Doug Boeve family following Doug's passing on Saturday, February 21st at Ava's House in Sioux Falls. The service took place Wednesday, February 25th.

+ Sympathy is extended to the family of Starla Scholten who passed away on February 23, 2026. Blessed be her memory.

+ Addison Swenson is thriving, now weighing 7 lb 6 oz, and has successfully passed all her tests to be discharged. Please continue to keep her family in your thoughts as she continues to develop and grow.

+ Peggy Goettsch has had a significant amount of fluid drained from her body. She continues to be tired and unable to get out much. Please hold her in your prayers.

+ Karin Soehl took a fall at home in February. She is doing alright, just needing a little help walking these days. Thanks for your prayers!

+ Wanda Hoyme had knee replacement surgery in February and is doing well in her recovery.

+ Jim Boeve has moved into the Tuff Home. He is always ready for visitors and a cup of coffee! Stop on by!

+ A knee injury sidelined Abbie Harris at the end of the basketball season.

+ Henzley Rozeboom had a leg infection in February, but is doing better now.

+ Congratulations to Danette and Drew Leenderts, who were both on the Dean's List at SDSU, Brookings, this fall. Danette has finished her coursework and looking for a job.

+ Congratulations to our High School Honor Roll! They are:

A Honor Roll: Mya Erickson, Jayden Kueter, Abby Olson, Hadley Spath, Haven Kerhove-Brandt, and Charlie Wilsey. B Honor Roll: Abbie Harris, Reagan Spath, Karissa Kerkove-Brandt, Auston Olson, Cash Wilsey, Jaquelyn Chapman, Raylan Leuthold, and Remmington Seachris.

- + Congratulations to Abbie Harris who signed a letter of intent to play basketball at Northwest College in Orange City, IA.
- + Congratulations to the HBC Girls Basketball Team who are the Red Rock Conference Champions for the second year in a row!
- + FFA Week was February 21-28. Members who are involved include: Mya Erickson, Jayden Kueter, Reagan Spath, Cash Wilsey and Auston Olson.
- + Thank You to all who participated in the Bingo Night in February. We raised over \$1300 between the meal, bingo and selling leftovers. Great job everyone! Good fun was had by everyone who attended! (There were about 60 people there)
- + Thanks to everyone who gave cans of soup and/or donated to the Food Shelf on Souper Bowl Sunday. We raised \$390 with the matching money. Great job!
- + Just a Word: If you are hospitalized, it is helpful if you let the church office know, or have a family member contact us. We want to care for you, but we cannot do that if we do not know what is happening. Thanks for communicating!
- + Remember to recycle your bulletins on Sunday mornings. We also recycle bottles and cans, so if you are drinking water or soda, please recycle those items. This applies to the basement as well as the main floor!
- + There are several local causes to support, such as the Tuff Country Store, Rock County Food Pantry, HBC Care Closet, school supplies, and Project Love. Donation bins for these groups are available in the entryway-drop off items any time.
- + We are seeking individuals interested in the role of Local Mission Coordinator. There are numerous areas within the community that would benefit from support, and it would be advantageous to have a dedicated person to oversee these efforts. Talk to Pastor Lori if interested, or with any questions

FINANCIAL STATISTICS

Total Income YTD:	\$8076.00
Total Expenses YTD:	\$16,523.32
Income vs Expenses YTD:	-\$8,447.32

We have run into some unexpected expenses as the year began. We have to replace a compressor pump on the geothermal unit. As well as meet our regular bills. For 2026, we need \$16,200 each month to meet our proposed \$194,400 budget. Utilities for the church and parsonage came to just under \$3000 in January alone. Our insurance cost is \$1700 each month. Salaries run \$7500 per month. If you haven't given in awhile, here is your chance. Thanks to all who give regularly to help us meet our budget. We appreciate your continued support. Consider giving on a weekly or monthly basis in the months ahead!



MARCH BIRTHDAY'S

01 - Brenda Beyer

06 - Boyd Leuthold

07 - Jim Boeve

14 - Emma DeJong

Willow DeJong

16 - Marvin Albers

20 - Tripp Nelson

21 - David Swanson

Orv Sundem

22 - Jim Kueter

23 - Brianna Buss

26 - Allie Schowenburg

28 - Donna Carlson



LOOKING AHEAD

Easter Sunday is April 5. We will have service at 7am that day!



Please let the office know if you will be dropping off an Easter Lily in honor/memory of loved ones.



Brochures for Shetek Camps available in the narthex

VBS—July 19-23, 5:30-8 pm.
VBS program, Friday, July 24 at 6 pm



MARCH 2026

Ushers: Joel & Cindy Farrell
Andrew & Krista Hoyme

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9 AM-Tuff Worship w/ Communion 9 AM- Sunday School 10 AM – BLC Worship w/ Communion	2	3	4 9 AM- Quilting 5:30 PM – lent meal – Exec Bd-baked potato bar 6:30 – lent service 7 PM – Full Council	5	6	7 Basement Reserved
8 9 AM – Tuff Worship 9 AM – Sunday School 9 AM – Trustee Mtg 10 AM – BLC Worship *Daylight Savings Begins – Spring forward*	9	10	11 9 AM- Quilting 5:30 PM – lent meal – Bd of Deacons – 6:30 – lent service	12	13	14 10-12 – Women's Gathering
15 9 AM – Tuff Worship 9 AM – Sunday School 10 AM – BLC Worship w/ communion Bd of Ed Mtg following service	16	17	18 9 AM- Quilting 5:30 PM – lent meal – Bd of Trustees – enchiladas 6:30 – lent service	19	20	21
22 9 AM – Tuff Worship 9 AM – Sunday School 10 AM – BLC Worship	23	24	25 9 AM- Quilting 5:30 PM – lent meal – Quilters – 6:30 – lent service	26 BLC Sponsoring half-price meal at Generations	27	28
29 – PALM SUNDAY 9 AM – Tuff Worship 9 AM – Sunday School Singing at Tuff & BLC 10 AM – BLC Worship	30	31				



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