

December 2014

Greetings from your pastor and partner in ministry!!

The air is crisp, snow has fallen, and we've started a new church year. As we wait for the birth of our Lord and Savior, we look back on all our blessings in the past year and look forward to all the blessings awaiting us in the year ahead. It can be fun to read in the magazines and papers the "greatest of (year)" lists during this time of year. All the best music, best films, best quotes, best world events, and best people are but a few of the lists one can find. I like to look at them and remember what I was doing and where I was at when they first rose to cultural awareness. I also learn of many songs, films, people, and events that everyone else seemed to be aware of except me. I can lose track of mainstream culture and need these "greatest of" lists to plug me back into the larger culture.

It's easy to stray away from the group from time to time. We can find ourselves caught up in work or family or friends or co-workers or school or health issues. Before long, we find ourselves away from the group and wondering where life has taken us. We are blessed to have a God who not only knows where we've gone off to but will go after us and bring us back in the fold. Our God loves each of us so very much that He is willing to go after the lost sheep among us. God is our great Shepherd, gathering, protecting, and feeding us as we go through our lives. We rejoice for the coming of the Son this month who shepherds us and keeps us united as one body.

The "greatest of" lists can re-connect us with the larger culture but it's also good to make personal lists during this time to remember all the blessings each of us experienced in the last year. At the top of my list is the opportunity I received to serve our congregation. Almost 10 years ago, I heard a faint calling into ministry that I could never have imagined would lead me to serve such a generous and caring congregation. The first 6 months of service have been such a joy that I'm eagerly anticipating what the year ahead has in store for us. No matter what we encounter together, know that I'm honored and privileged to serve our community.

Advent blessings,

Pastor Koos

Treasurer's Report November 19, 2014

Balance as of 10/15/14		\$24,999.26
Income		\$10,169.26
Interest		\$2.56
Pastor's Salary	\$2,778.66	
Secretary Wages	\$357.57	
Organist	\$400.00	
Custodial Salary	\$495.76	
Payroll Taxes	\$1,608.07	
Treasurer's Salary	\$193.94	
Mileage	\$435.68	
Health Insurance	\$210.00	
Misc. Water Softener	\$25.00	
Bulletins	\$134.55	
Offering Envelopes	\$312.48	
Communion Supplies	\$35.50	
Baptism Supplies	\$18.50	
Postage & Freight	\$69.88	
Office Supplies	\$81.50	
Office Equipment	\$150.99	
Village Utilities Church	\$201.27	
Village Utilities Parsonage	\$216.73	
Natural Gas Church	\$159.17	
Natural Gas Parsonage	\$46.25	
Miscellaneous	\$150.00	
Telephone Church	\$135.26	
Telephone Parsonage	\$34.50	
Sunday School	\$244.86	
Confirmation	\$460.00	
Worship	\$227.90	
Choir	\$26.94	
Church Maintenance	\$743.44	
Lawn & Landscape	\$150.00	
Transfer to Benev. Savings	\$910.00	
Total Expenses:		\$11,014.40
Balance as of 11/19/14		\$24,156.68
Benevolence (Savings Account)		\$11,384.30
Sinking Fund (Savings Account)		\$6,502.17
Property Projects (Amount included in General Fund)		\$12,195.05
Continuing Education (Amount included in General Fund)		\$898.33

Trinity Lutheran Church

November 19, 2014

Present: Pastor Koos, Tim Garrison, Jessi Damrow, Doug Damkroger, Larry Pieper, Chuck Holtmeier, Brad Garrison, Chris Woerner, Darin Mahloch, Jenn Uher.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Tim Garrison. Pastor lead in devotions.

Reports:

Secretary: Minutes were approved.

Treasurer: \$24,156.68 as of 11/19/14, Approved. The topic of the Sunday School and Bible school checking accounts was brought up, right now we only have one person authorized to sign on both of those accounts. We will add the Sunday School Superintendent (for 2015 that will be Nate Morrissey) to both of these accounts. We will also have these statements sent to Jenn Uher to review as a form of checks and balances for these accounts.

Investment: \$35,745.92 as of 11/19/14

Pastors Report: Pastor Koos has had a busy month consisting of the following: 4 Confirmation classes, led 3 Bible studies, 14 visits to Hospitalized and shut in members, 4 text studies, 1 baptism, 2 youth group meetings, led in a service at Beatrice Good Samaritan Center and a service at the Wilber Care Center, officiated over 1 wedding.

Suggestion Box: None

Social: Tim said on January 18th they are planning a Pitch tournament and will be inviting area churches. On February 15th they will be organizing a trip to see a Nebraska Woman's basketball game.

Parish Ed: Tv's with DVD players have been purchased by the Sunday School for each Sunday School class room.

Property: Lois and Larry Wattjes have transplanted some of the plants from the parsonage to the Church, and they will be taking care of these, a big Thanks to them for doing this. The thermostat in the first few classrooms and the restrooms is extremely hot and don't seem to be working right. Chris will take care of having someone take a look at this.

Old Business:

Candy Sacks for Sunday School: Motion was made by Jessi, 2nd by Brad for the offering on the first Sunday in December to go to the Sunday School for money for the Candy Sacks, motion passed.

5 Year Plan: It was brought up that we look into doing some handicap pews, possibly in the middle sections of the pews in the future.

Video System: We have been looking into a Video System (projector and screen) for the front of the Church. We can get the cost close to \$10,000 and we have been contacted by an individual who is willing to pay for this entire project. Motion by Chuck, 2nd by Chris to go ahead with the Video System Project, motion passed. Hopefully we can have this project completed after the first of the year.

Website: Is up and going, there have been pictures added and Sermons are available on there also.

Praise Choir: Pastor reported that they are still in the process of getting things worked out, they will look at a few less songs and go from there.

Credit Card: We will be getting a credit card thru the bank for Pastor to use when ordering materials etc.

Kirchoff Benefit : \$2297.00 was raised at the joint Service with Soap Creek. Pastor will take the check to them.

New Business:

Constitution Update: Pastor presented a letter he received from the Synod Attorney regarding the Bylaws to our Constitution. He stated that our Bylaws have not been approved because they do not agree with the Constitution. Pastor and Tim will check into what we need to do to get this corrected and go from there.

Ushers & Greeters List: Chris will come up with a list for next year.

Budget: Chris, Tim, Jenn and Pastor will work on this.

Middle School Gathering: Pastor will be taking 9 of the 12 Confirmation students to a retreat on January 17th and 18th.

Annual Meeting will be held January 25th after Church Service.

December Meeting/Christmas Party will be December 10th and Tim Garrisons at 6:30 p.m.

Motion by Chuck, 2nd by Larry to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Communion Assistant for November 30th will be Chuck Holtmeier.

Jessi Damrow

Secretary

OFFICE HOURS

OFFICE HOURS FOR PASTOR KOOS

Tuesday - 1pm to 5pm

Wednesday & Thursday - 8:30am to 5pm

Friday & Saturday - 8:30am to Noon

Sean Koos, Pastor

Church Office # 683-3225

Parsonage # 683-2425

Cell Phone #402-806-6878

Email: pastorkoos@gmail.com

OFFICE HOURS FOR SECRETARY

Barb Nelson, Secretary

Monday & Wednesday - 5pm to 6:30pm

Church email: tlcdewitt209@gmail.com



Church Council will meet on Wednesday, December 10th at Tim Garrison's home at 6:30 p.m.



OUTREACH VISITATION

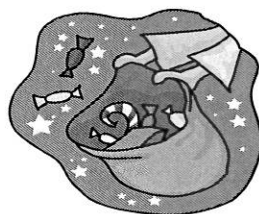
All members of the Congregation will be asked to remember the home bound and those in need of visitation during your month assigned. Service List Leaders and Circle Chairperson are responsible for contacting facilities to set up visitation dates and/or times for playing bingo or other planned activities.

December -- Service List #5

Announcement

Holidays are here which means annual meeting will follow in January. Please get your reports in order and to the church office by Monday, January 12, 2015. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

Annual meeting will be Sunday, January 25, 2015 following the worship service.



Loose Offering on Sunday, December 6th will go for Childrens Christmas Candy Sacks

WORSHIP & ATTENDANCE

11/2/14	115
11/9/14	158
11/16/14	77
11/23/14	132

OCTOBER OFFERING

Date	General	Benev.	Property
11/2/14	2596.00	125.00	27.00
11/9/14	2112.00		17.00
11/16/14	1350.26	60.00	7.00
11/23/14	1780.00	25.00	877.00

SERVICE LEADERS FOR DECEMBER

DATE	SCRIPTURE READER	ACOLYTE	GREETERS	COMMUNION SET UP
				COMMUNION ASSISTANT
December 7 th	Lois Wattjes	Hannah Holtmeier	Marvin & Linda Schuerman	
December 14 th	Bev Plihal	Zach Kuhn	Marvin & Linda Schuerman	
December 21 st	Derrick Damrow	Alyssa Brown	Marvin & Linda Schuerman	
December 24 th Christmas Eve		Jordan Muehling	Marvin & Linda Schuerman	
December 25 th Christmas Day	Barbara Nelson	Hannah Holtmeier	Marvin & Linda Schuerman	Eunice Mahloch/ Lois Wattjes Tim Garrison
December 28 th	Jane Stokebrand	Krayten Uher	Marvin & Linda Schuerman	Lois Wattjes/ Stacey Paxton Tim Garrison

HEAD USHER: Tim Garrison

USHERS: Mike Holtmeier, Hunter Garrison, Jeff Rahe, Mitch McDougall, Zach Rahe

OUTREACH VISITATION: Service List #5

*Ah, dearest Jesus, hold Child,
Make thee a bed, soft, undefiled
Within my heart, that it may be
A quiet chamber kept for thee.*

DECEMBER 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Worship Committee meets at 6:30 pm	3 Confirmation meets at 6:30 pm	4 Bible study at 10 am	5	6
7 Kids Program Practice at 8:45 am Youth Group meets at 8:45 am Adult choir meets at 8:45 am WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10 AM WELCA Board following service	8 Hope Circle's Christmas Gather- ing at 11:30 am at Legends Shalom Circle Christmas Gather- ing at Lois Wattjes' home at 6:30 pm	9	10 No Confirmation	11 Good Samaritan worship 10:30 am	12	13
14 Adult choir meets at 8:45 am Kids Program Practice at 8:45 am Youth Group meets at 8:45 am WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10 AM	15	16	17 Confirmation meets at 6:30 pm Council Christmas Party at Tim Garrison home	18 Bible study at 10 am	19	20
21 Adult Class meets at 8:45 am Kids Program Practice at 8:45 am Adult choir meets at 8:45 am Episcopal service 9 am WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10 AM Children's Program 5 pm Potluck following program	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Service at 6:30 pm	25 Merry Christmas COMMUNION WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10 AM	26	27
28 COMMUNION WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10 AM	29	30	31			

December 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p>1</p> <p>Kathy Holtmeier Zach Rahe Cooper Stokebrand</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Arlin Schuerman</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Analee Schuerman Derrick Damrow Carter Holtmeier</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Arlyn Parde</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Kerrie Schuerman Oakley Strouf</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Jean Malchow</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Jeff Rahe Nathan Schneider Allen Hatcliff</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Connie Scherling</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14</p> <p>Logunn Baker</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Deb Schwan</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Sam Garrison Shae Wattjes</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Brandy Garrison</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Shirley Saathoff</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Kenny Hager</p>
<p>21</p> <p>Brian Stokebrand</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Don Sobotka</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Harriet Schneider</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Blaine Brown Sharon Rehm</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Gage Heller</p>
<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Jim Holtmeier Michael Friesen Verdell Koch</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Sage Holtmeier</p>			

Hope

Hope Circle November 10, 2014

Hope Circle met on Monday, November 10th, at Kathy's home with 6 members present. Kathy was hostess and served a delicious breakfast.

Shirley opened our meeting with an article from a pamphlet concerning giving thanks to God.

Next month we will meet at Legends in Clatonia on December 1st for lunch for our Christmas gathering. Shirley stated that Leonard and Bev Plihal each took a load of kits and blankets to Lincoln last week for the ingathering. The Care-A-Lot children helped load the vehicles with the boxes for Lutheran World Relief, and this was much appreciated. On November 3rd 10 people tied 20 blankets. We will not tie blankets again until next year.

On Advent Sunday the seniors in our congregation will be honored. Also, we are encouraged to take any special bells we have to display that Sunday. There will be coffee and rolls furnished by the WELCA Board, and each senior will be presented with a flower.

Time was spent organizing our part of the yearbook for next year.

November 21st is the pancake feed. On November 23rd the Episcopal Church will host the annual Thanksgiving Service for the community at 4:00 p.m. Then on November 27th, Thanksgiving Day, the Methodist Church will host a community supper in the evening. We discussed how we will spend the excess money in our treasury and decided to send a gift certificate to our two special friends and a check to the St. John's Pantry. Our Bible Study was titled "Transformation Takes Time," based on the book of Exodus. Shirley was our Bible study leader.

Shirley closed our meeting with a special Thanksgiving prayer and the Lord's Prayer.

Jean Placek

Sec./Treas.

Shalom

SHALOM CIRCLE met on Nov. 17.

We cleaned out Kitty bags and worked on fringes for the Prayer Shawls

Discussion was made on our Christmas project for the circle.

It was decided to donate money to Tri County Back Pack Project, also each member is to send our sponsored person Melvin a Christmas Card and \$1.00

Connie reported on WELCA business.

Thankoffering Sunday was last week and we will again have the basket out for Nov. 23.

There is a winter clothing drive going on beginning this month.

Our advent season will begin with a display of BELLS and we will also be recognizing our senior citizens on that Sunday. Rolls and coffee will be served by the WELCA Board.

Sign up sheet was passed for our pot luck Christmas party which will be held at Lois' on December 8 at 6:30 p.m. We will also have our Prayer Partner Gift Exchange.

Our Prayer Concerns were many.

We then had our Bible Study on Matthew beginning at Chapter 15 through 17.

Our next meeting after our Christmas party will be held on Jan. 18 with Liz as hostess and our Bible Study beginning at Matthew, Chapter 18

Meeting adjourned

Sec/Treasurer Shirlye Wollenburg

REMEMBER ITEMS FOR THE FOOD PANTRY

10 workers tied 20 blankets for LWR on Monday, November 3rd. The next work day will be in January 2015, weather permitting. Thanks to all this past year for working and donations!!

We will have S.S. Christmas Program Practices on the following dates
(during Sunday School):

November 30th

December 7th

December 14th

December 21st

Program will be Sunday December 21st at 5 p.m. with a potluck following.

Sunday School will provide the main dish, please bring a side dish.

Sunday, December 28th No Sunday School.

Adult Choir will meet each
Sunday through December 21st.
No Choir in January or February.

The results for the WELCA Board members:

Vice President - Karen Wollenburg

Treasurer - Chris Roesler

Mission Growth - Donna Garrison

Mission Community - Priscilla Koch

Nominating Committee - Eunice Mahloch,

Pat Wollenburg, Shari Pieper

1 Corinthians 13 - a Christmas Version

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home, and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend myriad holiday parties, and sing in the choir's cantata, but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child.

Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the husband.

Love is kind, though harried and tired.

Love doesn't envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.

Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way.

Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return, but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails. Video games will break; pearl necklaces will be lost; golf clubs will rust; but giving the gift of love will endure.

Merry Christmas and lots of love to you and yours!

Keep in your Prayers

SERVICEMEN

SSG – Brock Johnson
4305 N. 60th
Lincoln, NE 68507

Matthew Friesen
2770 Daniel Ave
San Diego, CA 92111

Darin Bartlett, Mary Garrison Son.
His address is:
Darin Bartlett
PSC2 Box 10723
APO, AE 09012

His email is:
Bartlett_Riley@yahoo.com

Margaret Nickel
Good Samaritan
401 S. 22nd St
Beatrice, Ne 68310

Jerry Saathoff
Gold Crest Care Center
200 Levi Lane
Adams, NE 68301

Ada Nolte
109 N Quince
DeWitt, NE 68341

Walter & Anna Wollenburg
Wilber Care Center
611 N. Main
Wilber, NE 68465

Evelyn Yost
Heritage Care Center
909 17th Street
Fairbury, NE 68352



Additional Prayer requests for

Please keep the following families in your prayers as they mourn the passing of family members.

Please continue to keep these members in your prayers:

Pat Wollenburg

Grant Jaynes (Marvin & Lois Zimmerman's grandson)

Roger Rahe

Walter Wollenburg

Elaine Erdmann – recovery at her daughters home



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