

January 2015

Greetings from your pastor and partner in ministry!!

With the start of a new year comes a whole new batch of fears and expectations. We can't help but ask ourselves, "What does this year have in store for me?" Some of us are glad to be done with last year. There were trials and heartaches that are better looked at in the rearview mirror. Some of us are anxious about what the year ahead has in store. Will the job keep providing work and a steady source of income? Will the broken relationships be restored? Will the health stay strong through another year? Such questions can be a great source of anxiety. Whether glad or anxious, we can be reassured through God's Word. The prophet Isaiah says, "Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint (Isa 40:28-31)." We might feel tired looking back on 2014 or looking ahead to 2015 but know that God will strengthen us.

Let us not forget that it has been an exciting first 6 months of ministry here at Trinity. We laid the foundation for our shared ministry and incorporated several new additions to the congregation (i.e. Praise Choir, adult Bible study, different liturgical setting, parent group study, church website) with a few more to come (screen/projector). God has stirred up our congregation and sees great things coming out of our small community! There will be a couple new ministries starting up as well. First, we want to highlight our shut-in members with a "shut-in-member-of-the-month" program. Members will be photographed and interviewed and non-shut-ins will be invited to respond and ask questions. I shouldn't be the only one privileged to see and converse with our shut-ins each month! Second, I am going to make a schedule for dinner or dessert or coffee or tea or whatever gatherings with all the households in our congregation. I want to have an opportunity to meet one-on-one with most of you in the year ahead. You can expect to hear more about these 2 ministries in the weeks ahead.

We've had a good start of shared ministry and I have faith we can keep it going. Let us take comfort in Paul's words to the Philippians, "I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me (Phil 4:12-13)."

Many blessings,

Pastor Koos

**Treasurer's Report
December 10, 2014**

Balance as of 11/19/14	\$24,156.68
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Income	\$7,893.55
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Interest	\$1.13
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Pastor's Salary	\$1,389.33
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Organist	\$375.00
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Custodial Salary	\$495.76
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Treasurer's Salary	\$193.94
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Mileage	\$294.56
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Health Insurance	\$210.00
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Misc. Water Softener	\$25.00
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Postage & Freight	\$58.88
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Special Benevolence	\$2,297.00
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Telephone Parsonage	\$34.50
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Sunday School	\$285.55
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Youth Group	\$192.00
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Church Maintenance	\$200.66
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Transfer to Benev. Savings	\$910.00
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Total Expenses:	\$6,962.18
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Balance as of 12/10/14	\$25,089.18
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Benevolence (Savings Account)	\$12,669.30
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Sinking Fund (Savings Account)	\$12,331.41
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Property Projects (Amount included in General Fund)	\$13,072.05
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Continuing Education (Amount included in General Fund)	\$898.33
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Trinity Lutheran Church

December 10, 2014

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

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

Reports:

Secretary: Minutes were approved.

Treasurer: \$25,089.18 as of 12/10/14, Approved.

Investment: N/A

Pastors Report: Pastor Koos has made 10 visits, 1 committee meeting, 3 text studies, 2 bible studies and 2 baptisms since last meeting. Pastor will be moving the parent Bible study to the first Sunday of the month so more of the Sunday School teachers can attend with Care a lot being that Sunday. Constitution update: Pastor replied to the attorney as to what we need to do and has not heard anything back yet.

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.

Property: The thermostat in the Church has been fixed.

Old Business:

5 Year Plan: Possible doing some work in the sanctuary, handicap pews, refinishing pews.

Video System: The video system at the front of the Church will be installed in January and will be approximately 6 foot by 10 foot.

Ushers and Greeters List: Chris will be working on this.

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: Tim, Chris, Pastor and Jenn will meet at 8:00 p.m. on January 7, 2015.

Annual Meeting is January 25th after service, All reports need to be turned into Barb by Monday January 12, 2015.

New Business: Christmas Tree- will be put up this weekend and decorated Sunday the 14th after Church Service.

Carpet Cleaning: Carpets in the Kitchen, and fellowship hall need to be cleaned. Chris will contact someone to do this.

Motion by Brad, 2nd by Chuck to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was followed by a meal, hosted by Tim and Pam Garrison.

Communion Assistant for December 25th and 30th is Tim Garrison and Communion Assistant for January 25th is Chris Woerner. The January council meeting will be Wednesday January 28th at 8:00 p.m.

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,
January 28th at 8pm



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.

January -- Service List #4

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. Reports can be emailed into the church by emailing us at tlcdewitt209@gmail.com Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

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

Recordings of our worship services have been posted on Youtube and linked to our website along with the sermon

WORSHIP & ATTENDANCE

11/30/14	125
12/7/14	124
12/14/14	96
12/21/14	113
12/24/14	177
12/25/14	65

DECEMBER OFFERING

Date	General	Benev.	Property
11/30/14	1793.00	225.00	17.00
12/7/14	2904.00	125.00	27.00
12/16/14	2034.00	25.00	17.00
12/21/14	1866.00		17.00

SERVICE LEADERS FOR JANUARY

DATE	SCRIPTURE READER	ACOLYTE	GREETERS	COMMUNION SET UP
				COMMUNION ASSISTANT
January 4 th	Tim Garrison	Dominic Smith	Harry & Jean Malchow/ Jean Placek	
January 11 th	Liz Poessnecker	Drew Garrison	Harry & Jean Malchow/ Jean Placek	
January 18 th	Sarah Roesler	Mallory Chavez	Harry & Jean Malchow/ Jean Placek	
January 25 th	Bev Plihal	Turner Faxon	Harry & Jean Malchow/ Jean Placek	Stacey Paxton & Amy Stokebrand

HEAD USHER: Randy Wollenburg

USHERS: Byron Beerenstrauch, Tom Koch, Gary Niemeier, Bryan Paxton, Ethan Paxton, Cody Wollenburg

OUTREACH VISITATION: Service List #4

*Be on your guard;
stand firm in the faith;
be courageous; be
strong. Do everything
in love.*

JANUARY 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Happy New Year!	2	3
4 Care A Lot meets at 8:45 am Sunday school meets at 8:45 am Parent Group Study at 8:45 am PRAISE SERVICE AT 10 AM WELCA Board meets following service	5 Tie Blankets for LWR 9 am to Noon weather permitting Worship Committee meets at 7 pm	6	7 Confirmation meets at 6:30 pm Budget meeting 8 pm	8 Good Samaritan Chapel Service 10:30 am	9	10
11 Sunday School meets 8:45 am Youth Group meets 8:45 am Episcopal worship service 9 am WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10 AM	12	13	14 Confirmation meets at 6:30 pm	15 Bible Study 10 am	16	17 Middle school gathering at St. Paul Lutheran in Grand Island leave at 8 am
18 Sunday School meets 8:45 am WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10 AM Return from middle school gathering at 3:30 pm Potluck following service followed by a pitch tournament	19 Shalom Circle meets at 7 pm	20 Pastor gone	21 Confirmation meets at 6:30 pm Pastor gone	22 Bible Study 10 am	23	24
25 Sunday School meets 8:45 am Youth Group meets at 8:45 am COMMUNION WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10 AM Annual Meeting following service	26 Newsletter Articles are Due	27	28 Confirmation meets at 6:30 pm Church Council meets at 8 pm	29 Bible Study 10 am	30	31

January 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Liz Poessnecker Norman Stokebrand	2 Dave Hicks Trey Koch Wanda Slama John Stokebrand
					8 Arlene Scherling	9 Vicki Little Bailey Wollenburg
4 Tina Holtmeier Harold Stokebrand Jenna Essman	5 Lincoln Koos	6 Ethan Paxton	7 Matt Friesen RJ Wollenburg	15 Jill Hardy	16 Larry Bartles Ann Wollenburg	17 Brittany Johnson Travis Rahe
11	12	13	14	22	23	24
18 Kaden Koch	19 Sandi Klostermeier Margaret Nickel Donna Stokebrand	20	21	29	30	31
25 Tom Zwiefel	26 Jack Garrison	27 Yvonne Rahe	28		Eleanor Morrissey	Kelly Smith

As the end of the WELCA year winds down the Mission Action area had not slowed but sped up with the gracious giving of our congregation. The question on everyone's minds this year has been: so how did we do? Did we meet the 500,000 LWR quilt goal?

LWR learned a lot throughout this campaign, and one of those lessons was how tricky it is to count quilts and kits on a calendar-year basis. The warehouses continued to process quilts and kits from fall ingatherings (or collections) through the end of May. We also know that many quilters who have spring ingatherings donated their 2013 quilts in the spring of 2014. So LWR had to choose a cut-off date, and it landed on the number at the end of May 2014 with a total of 485,931 total quilts. This is by far the most quilts ever donated to LWR in a one year period.

So how did Trinity Lutheran Church do? Here are some numbers for our efforts to the community and LWR picture:

28 Lap robes were donated to area centers

397.5 lbs of food to area pantries

LWR Efforts:

98 Baby Kits

6 Shaving Kits

39 Personal Care Kits

95 Blankets

146 School Kits

With our winter clothing drive we have distributed 5 large cartons and 4 blankets to the Peoples City Mission in Lincoln. This drive will continue through the end of December. It's my hope that we can take up another large load of winter goods to them again at the first of the year

The congregation of Trinity Lutheran is so very giving and all efforts for the above mentioned items are greatly appreciated by those who are on the receiving end. I thank all who donated their time and gave supplies for these quilts and kits. A very special thank you to all who tie blankets, to Leonard Saathoff, Galen and Bev Plihal and the Care-A-Lot kids for packing up and taking to Lincoln all the LWR blankets and kits. To Lois Wattjes and Shirley Saathoff for helping get the food to the Wilber Pantry at times. Also thank you to all who furnished gifts for the Giving Tree kids.

Our church has very much to be proud of. Keep up God's Good Work Everyone!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pam Garrison". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Pam Garrison, Mission Action.

Join us for a potluck lunch and pitch tournament on Sunday, January 18th. The sign up sheet is in the church entry way. Please sign up by January 10th.

Your 2015 offering envelopes are available in your church mailbox at the back of the church. If you did not receive one and would like one, please talk to Barb Nelson.

Burke William Hardy was baptized on October 12th. He is the son of Ben & Jill Hardy.

Towson Tanner Bartels was baptized on November 23rd. He is the son of Tanner & Melissa Bartels.

Congratulations to Sadye Wollenburg and Michael Pospisil, Jr on their marriage. They were united on October 25th.

Jeremy & Jackie Placek are the proud parents of a son, Kyler Scott Placek, born December 8th.

DeWitt Bloodmobile is coming February 15, 2015 at the DeWitt Community Center from noon to 6 p.m. Watch the bulletin for more details..... Please contact Pam Garrison if you know that you'd like to donate to get your appointment set up early!



SHALOM CIRCLE held their annual Christmas Party/Prayer Partner Gift Exchange on December 8 at the home of Lois Wattjes.

A short business meeting was held
5 boxes of clothing were taken to Peoples City Mission
Discussion was made on the cleaning of the kitchen carpeting.
Linda Schuerman agreed to be the new person ordering cards for WELCA

It was moved and seconded that we donate \$20.00 to the contingency fund for the churches.

Lois gave a humorous reading on "You Know You're A Lutheran"

After the meeting we enjoyed a very delicious pot-luck meal brought by the members and also had our Prayer Partner Gift Exchange.

Thank you to Lois for being a Great Hostess.

Secretary/Treasurer
Shirley Wollenburg

REMEMBER ITEMS FOR THE FOOD PANTRY

Holy Cross Women of the ELCA: Soup luncheon fundraiser Sunday, January 11, 2015 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 19th and Garfield. Homemade soups along with homemade desserts will be served. Free will donations will be accepted with proceeds going to support Mother-to-Mother, Salvation Army and Lutheran Family Services.

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:

Leonard Holtmeier

Roger Rahe

Elaine Erdmann

Nancy Mahloch