

December 2015

Greetings from your pastor and partner in ministry!!

With the Advent season comes a whole slew of mixed emotions for many of us. If you're young, you're probably looking forward to either the gifts under the tree or the break from school. If you're of working age, you might be looking forward to the year-end bonuses. If you're older and retired from school and work, perhaps you are celebrating another year of good health and family support. But what about those who don't fall in these celebratory categories? What about the unemployed or underemployed? What about the non-schooling and overworked? What about those whose health and/or families are rapidly declining? What do they have to look forward to this season?

Yes, the year of 2015 is coming to an end along with all its trials and tribulations. But the Advent season serves to remind us of new beginnings. Christ is being born anew in our lives. This means hope and love are being born anew in our lives! Christ comes into our lives and creates new understandings and opportunities. Christ comes into our world of joys and sorrows and brings hope. Whether you're celebrating or anxious this holiday season, be glad that Christ comes yet again to walk with us in the year ahead.

There are a few things to keep in mind about church life this month. Our Sunday school classes will be rehearsing for the annual Christmas program on Dec. 20. Our confirmation classes will be exploring the meaning of Advent and Christmas. We will break from all classes during the last 2 weeks of the month and resume in January. The Christmas Eve service will begin at 6:30 p.m. and there will be a 10:00 a.m. communion service on Christmas Day. My family and I will be taking our last week of vacation between Dec. 28 and Jan. 4 with a possible Christmas hymn fest on Jan. 3.

Jesus is being born anew...hope is being born anew!! Let us thank God for the blessings of this year and hope for the blessings of the year to come.

Many blessings,

Pastor Koos

### Pastor's Report

I would gladly keep these 50-60 degree days all through the winter! Alas, I fear the colder weather is just around the bend. But what a pleasant couple months it has been though. Yet another thing to add to the list of things to be thankful for this year. We can't forget the blessings God has bestowed on us in the last year in spite of the spring flooding and summer hail storm. My family and I continue to feel blessed with rich friendships, fruitful schooling/work, and gracious support from our congregation and community. Thank you for all for making it such a special year!

Over the last month, the fruits of our shared ministry have been plentiful. I led 6 worship services including both chapel services at the Good Samaritan Center in Beatrice and the Wilber Care Center, made 14 visits on members, guided 4 confirmation classes including both a Halloween party at the Mosaic Center in Beatrice and bingo night at the Wilber Care Center, participated in 4 committee meetings, attended 4 pastors text studies, taught 2 Bible studies, and oversaw 2 youth group gatherings as well as the monthly parent study group. I even managed to feed my artistic creativity by taking another class through SCC, this time a 6-hour Saturday class on stained glass. Be sure to peek in my office sometime to see the panel I created that's hanging in front of my window. What a bizarre technique soldering is!!

God has no doubt blessed each of us this year. Please take the time in the week ahead to give Him praise and thanksgiving as you set about celebrating the feast with family and friends.

Many blessings upon you!

Pastor Koos

# ***Trinity Lutheran Church Minutes***

October 21, 2015

## **I. Call to order**

Chairman Chris Woerner called to order the regular meeting of the Trinity Lutheran Church Council on October 21, 2015. Pastor Koos presented his report, but was unable to complete the meeting due to illness.. Personal devotions were held. Members in attendance were Chris Woerner, Brian Nelson, Jane Stokebrand, Randy Wollenburg, and Chuck Holtmeier.

## **II. Reports**

- a) Secretary's Report: A copy of the previous minutes was presented. It was moved by Randy and seconded by Brian that the minutes be approved. Motion carried
- b) Treasurer's Report: A copy of the monthly report indicates a balance of \$ 21,712.46 as of October 21, 2015, Report was reviewed and approved
- c) Pastor's Report: See included report.
- d) Memorial Report indicates a balance of \$19,951.77 as of this meeting date.
- e) Suggestion Box: One signed entry was received and discussed.
  - 1. It was requested by Darcy Baker that the Sunday School treasury would pay for the children's Christmas sacks this year; with the loose offering for the first two Sundays in December to be donated to a Food Pantry. This designation for 2015 only. There was a motion by Randy and a second by Chuck to approve this request. The motion carried.
- f) Committee Reports:
  - 1. Social Committee reported a successful Tailgate party at Tri County Schools in September.
  - 2. Worship Committee reported that the Praise Service will be held on the third Sunday in November.
  - 3. Parish Education and Youth Group Ministries reported that Sunday School is under way for the current school year with all positions filled.
  - 4. Stewardship/Finance/Budget reported no concerns or updates.
  - 5. Property Committee reported that estimates for repairing the parsonage roof are expected from James Pittman and Curt Van Eperan. Wilber Window has submitted a bid for replacement of the parsonage windows at a cost of \$689.88. Property committee is continuing to look for windows that could be opened.

## **Old Business**

- a) A special meeting regarding constitution revision updates was held on October 18, 2015. Discussion was led by Chair Chris Woerner and Pastor Koos. There was a motion by Time Garrison and a second by Galen Plihal to accept the revised constitution. The motion carried.
- b) WELCA has offered to fund the purchase of handicapped pews to be installed by Ratigan Shottler.
- c) Discussion of the insurance payment to Pastor Koos for the deck canopy was noted to be a cost of \$240.56. There as a motion by Brian and a second by Chuck to reimburse that amount. The motion carried.

### **III. New Business**

- (a) The Worship Planning Tool software used with the overhead service presentation was discussed. There was a motion by Randy and a second by Chuck to approve payment of the annual subscription fee. The motion carried.
- (b) The Nebraska Synod Fall Discipleship Days was discussed with follow up scheduled for the next meeting.
- (c) After discussion of Portico Benefits, which is a benefit package for pastors, will remain the same as last year.
- (d) Continuation of the Baptismal Medallions was discussed. There was a motion by Brian and a second by Randy to continue that presentation. The motion carried.
- (e) Brotherhood Insurance is scheduled to make a presentation on property insurance at the next meeting.

**Adjournment:** There was a motion by Chuck and a second by Brian to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried.

**Lord's Prayer:** In conclusion of the meeting, the group prayed the Lord's Prayer.

Next Council Meeting: November 18th at 8:00 pm.

Communion Assistant for October is Darin.

Respectfully submitted,  
Secretary, Jane Stokebrand

## Treasurer's Report November 18, 2015

Balance as of 10/21/15		\$15,059.92
Income		\$8,840.06
Interest		\$1.10
Pastor's Salary	\$3,320.74	
Secretary Salary	\$359.59	
Organist	\$300.00	
Custodial Salary	\$510.62	
Treasurer's Salary	\$193.94	
Mileage	\$341.55	
Health Insurance	\$210.00	
Misc. Water Softener	\$27.00	
Bulletins	\$144.90	
Offering Envelopes	\$320.59	
Postage & Freight	\$107.96	Newsletter & stamps
Office Supplies	\$399.00	Church Windows Support System
Office Equipment	\$150.99	
Village Utilities Church	\$207.20	
Village Utilities Parsonage	\$219.09	
Natural Gas Church	\$47.77	
Natural Gas Parsonage	\$25.24	
Miscellaneous	\$2,548.06	Pastor's Portico Benefits
Telephone Church	\$130.63	
Telephone Parsonage	\$34.50	
Worship	\$395.00	Augsburg (Sundays & Season Subscription)
Choir	\$9.45	Music
Church Maintenance	\$564.97	Heating/Cooling Maintenance, Cleaning Supplies, Storage Unit
Lawn & Landscape	\$220.00	Parsonage Lawn Mowing
Repairs to the Parsonage	\$352.31	Patio Canopy, Milius (water leak parsonage)
Transfer to Benev. Savings	\$910.00	
Total Expenses:		\$12,051.10
Balance as of 11/18/15		\$11,849.98
Benevolence (Savings Account)		\$14,143.39
Sinking Fund (Savings Account)		\$421.87
Property Projects (Amount included in General Fund)		\$18,129.80
Continuing Education (Amount included in General Fund)		\$573.33

# ***SERVICE LEADERS FOR DECEMBER***

DATE	SCRIPTURE READER	ACOLYTE	GREETERS	COMMUNION SET UP
				COMMUNION ASSISTANT
December 6 <sup>th</sup>	Barbara Nelson	Madison Kirchoff	Harold & Jean Malchow	
December 13 <sup>th</sup>	Jane Stokebrand	Jurgen Baker	Harold & Jean Malchow	
December 20 <sup>th</sup>	Tim Garrison	Karli Scherling	Harold & Jean Malchow	
December 24 <sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve	Liz Poessnecker	Carter Holtmeier	Harold & Jean Malchow	
December 25 <sup>th</sup> Christmas Day	Bev Plihal	Jordan Muehling	Harold & Jean Malchow	Nancy McDougall/ Jodi Hicks
December 27 <sup>th</sup>	Mike Holtmeier	Drey Heller	Harold & Jean Malchow	Jodi Hicks/ Lois Wattjes

**HEAD USHER:** Tim Garrison

**USHERS:** Mike Holtmeier, Hunter Garrison, Jeff Rahe, Zach Rahe, Fred Koch

**OUTREACH VISITATION:** Service List #3

*Every struggle in your life has shaped you into the person you are today. Be thankful for the hard times, they can only make you stronger...*

# DECEMBER 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Pastor will be on vacation December 28 through January 3rd.		<b>1</b> Pastors Text Study 10 am	<b>2</b> Confirmation meets at 6:30 pm	<b>3</b> Bible study at 10 am Worship Committee meets at 7:30 pm	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> Sunday school at 8:45 am Parent's study group at 8:45 am Praise choir meets at 9 am <b>PRAISE SERVICE AT 10 AM</b> WELCA Board following service	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Pastors Text Study 10 am Hope Circle's Christmas Gathering at 11:30 am at Legends Council party at Woerners' at 6 pm	<b>9</b> Confirmation meets at 6:30 pm	<b>10</b> Good Samaritan worship 10:30 am	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> Adult choir meets at 8:45 am Sunday school at 8:45 am Youth Group meets at 8:45 am <b>WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10 AM</b>	<b>14</b> Shalom Circle Christmas Gathering at Karen Wollenburg's home at 6:30 pm	<b>15</b> Pastors Text Study 10 am	<b>16</b> Confirmation meets at 6:30 pm	<b>17</b> Bible study at 10 am	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> Sunday school at 8:45 am Adult choir meets at 8:45 am <b>WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10 AM</b> Children's Program 5:30 pm Soup supper following program	<b>21</b> Praise choir practice at 5:30 pm	<b>22</b> Pastors Text Study 10 am	<b>23</b> No confirmation	<b>24</b> No Bible Study Christmas Eve Service at 6:30 pm	<b>25</b> Merry Christmas COMMUNION SERVICE AT 10 AM	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> <b>COMMUNION SERVICE AT 10 AM</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> No confirmation	<b>31</b> No Bible Study		

# December 2015

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



# OFFICE HOURS

## OFFICE HOURS FOR PASTOR KOOS

Tuesday - Friday - 1pm to 5pm

8pm to 12am

Saturday - 1pm to 5pm

Sean Koos, Pastor

Church Office # 683-3225

Parsonage # 683-2425

Cell Phone #402-806-6878

Email: [pastorkoos@gmail.com](mailto:pastorkoos@gmail.com)

## OFFICE HOURS FOR SECRETARY

Barb Nelson, Secretary

Monday & Wednesday - 5pm to 6:30pm

Church email: [tlcdewitt209@gmail.com](mailto:tlcdewitt209@gmail.com)



Church Council will meet on Wednesday,  
December 16th 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.

December -- Service List #3

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 11, 2016. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

It is that time again to start planning for next year's ushering and greeter schedule. This is a great way to serve. There are sign-up sheets in the entry way. Please place your name by a month that would work well for you. This list will remain up for the month of November. If you have questions, please contact Brian Nelson.

## **WORSHIP & ATTENDANCE**

11/1/15	89
11/8/15	132
11/15/15	76
11/22/15	86

## **NOVEMBER OFFERING**

Date	General	Benev.	Property
11/1/15	2230.00	100.00	10.00
11/8/15	2048.00	.00	20.00
11/15/15	1559.00	75.00	10.00

## ***Keep in your Prayers***

### **SERVICEMEN**

SSG – Brock Johnson  
4305 N. 60<sup>th</sup>  
Lincoln, NE 68507

IT1 Matthew Friesen  
USS FORT WORTH (LCS-3)  
Unit 100228 Box 19  
FPO FP 96665

Darin Bartlett, Mary Garrison Son.

His address is:

Darin Bartlett  
PSC2 Box 10723  
APO, AE 09012

His email is:

Bartlett\_Riley@yahoo.com

Matt Friesen's Home address:

Meighen Friesen  
2770 Daniel Avenue  
San Diego, CA 92111

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

Ada Nolte  
Haven Manor  
730 Larkspur Dr. Apt.#16  
Hickman, NE 68372

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

Elaine Erdmann  
2211 Sunset Dr. Apt. #112  
Beatrice, NE 68310

George Scherling  
2073 County Rd X  
DeWitt, NE 68341



### **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:

Eileen Damkroger  
Jack Garrison  
Doug Damkroger  
Sharon Rehm  
Roger and Karen Rahe  
Alice Wollenburg  
Laura Stanek  
Lori Bessler

Our Tried-and-True member's poster is posted by the church bulletin board. Please feel free to write on this poster for George Scherling

Cards can be sent to Alice Wollenburg c/o Peggy Birky  
516 Road 16  
Strang, NE 68444



Hope Circle

November 9, 2015

Hope Circle met on Monday, November 9th, at Kathy's, with 5 members present.

Shirley opened the meeting with some information found in the Gather magazine concerning church activity for people with disabilities. We discussed ways to make our church more accessible for wheelchairs, etc.

Jean gave a Treasurer's Report. It was decided that we would give \$65 to sponsor a radio broadcast and a \$30 gift certificate to our special friend for Christmas.

The Thanksgiving Service will be on November 22nd. We plan to tie blankets again on January 4th weather permitting.

Shirley stated Pam Garrison helped Cara Heller with the Care-A-Lot program assembling kits, packing blankets, etc. There was also a work day on November 2nd, and materials for blankets were measured, etc.

There will continue to be a box in the kitchen for bingo prizes for the Care Center, and we encourage church members to contribute to this.

Shirley asked us to remember our veterans and also our prayer friends. She read a thank you note from Sharon from the memorials, etc. received for Gerald.

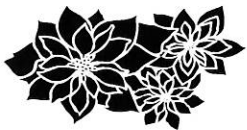
We plan to go to the Legends in Clatonia on December 8th for our Christmas gathering.

Shirley led the Bible study titled "Tempo Giusto," based on several passages from Luke.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Jean Places

Sec./treas.



Hope Circle Christmas gathering will be Tuesday, December 8th at 11 a.m. at Legends in Clatonia. Prayer friends revealed.



Shalom Circle met on November 16.

Bev delivered lap robes to the Beatrice Manor. Eileen Damkroger received one of these. She is in Room 51 at the Rehab at the manor. A Thank you was read. Our Christmas giving was decided and we will take poinsettias to our shut-ins.

Some other projects were decided also and a gift card will be given to our Special person at Mosaic.

Our next years Bible Lessons were finalized and we will have the lessons on Our Favorite hymns. Liz has furnished some books on this to help us out.

THANKOFFERING service will be Nov. 22 with the basket being out for two weeks. ADVENT service will be Nov. 29 with WELCA members having miniature Christmas trees on display with their name and explanation of the tree ornaments.

Our circle members are encouraged to bring BOOKS and STICKERS for the kitty bags to our January meeting or place them where supplies are.

Baptism and Communion banner patterns were shown. We will work on some of these in January.

Our circle CHRISTMAS GATHERING pot luck will be Dec. 14 at 6:30 p.m at the home of Karen Wollenburg. Sign up sheets were passed around for casseroles, salads and desserts. Our PRAYER PARTNER gift exchange will take place at that meeting also.

Pat served as our hostess and finished the last chapters of Revelations for our Bible Study.

Meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Sec/Treas.

Shirley Wollenburg



LWR Work Day in November was attended by 4 Ladies. Donated fabric was sorted for making blankets in 2016. There will be no work day in December. The next work day will be January 4th, 2016 weather permitting. Thanks to all for your time this past year.



**Advent Celebration, Sunday, November 29th.** This year's theme will be miniature decorated Christmas Trees. Enjoy refreshments and the displays. Can set up on Saturday, November 28th from 2-4pm.



There will be a sign up sheet for cookies and volunteers in the entry way to help when Santa and his Reindeers will be in town on Saturday, Dec. 12th from 9-11am.



Thank You all for the prayers, cards, and phone calls since my knee replacement surgery and during my time of recovery. The cards and calls have truly brightened my days. Therapy is going well, and we hope to worship with you again soon.

Happy Thanksgiving to you all!!

Alice Wollenburg

Thank you to Linda (Mrs. Marvin) Schuerman for the beautiful harvest display at the front of the church.



Rachel Irvine at the Salvation Army wants to share an opportunity for service—ringing at the kettles throughout town; She is scheduling the kettles now and welcomes the help! Her contact information is: office phone 402-223-3341; cell 402-213-6534; [Rachel\\_Irvine@usc.salvationarmyorg](mailto:Rachel_Irvine@usc.salvationarmyorg).

**REMEMBER ITEMS FOR THE FOOD PANTRY**