

January 2016

Greetings from your pastor and partner in ministry!!

We're heading into the coldest month of the year. It always seems to come as a jolt right after the warming season of Christmas. Yes, it's a new year with all its uncertainties. Will it be hotter outside than last year? Will there be spring flooding? Will there be summer hailing? Will the crops give a better yield? Will our health stay strong? Who's going to be newly baptized? Who will leave us to go to our heavenly home? How fruitful will our shared ministry be this year? So many questions, so much uncertainty. For some this will be cause for great anxiety. For others this unknown quality of the year ahead is exciting. Regardless of our questions and feelings, we are reassured knowing the God will walk with us through it all. God will be with us, guiding and protecting us. God will sustain us and challenge us. Oh, what a blessing to be in relationship with such an awesome God!

As for our shared ministry this month, we have a couple events to look forward to. First, I will be taking the confirmation kids up to Lincoln the weekend of the 16th-17th for an annual Middle School Gathering. Several youth from 6th-8th grades will be meeting at Sheridan Lutheran for an overnight event filled with worship and activities. The kids and I had a great time connecting with other kids when we went last year and we're confident it'll be just as rewarding this year. Remember, our congregation's annual meeting will be held after service on Jan. 24 and all are invited to stick around to hear about the current state of our congregation. I will be handing out this year's home visitation schedule. I greatly enjoyed getting out to meet many of you last year and am hoping to catch up with you and meet new members. I haven't done the numbers but I suspect I was able to visit about 40% of the congregation last year. I'd love to see that percentile go up as I pray our small community has warmed up to me and my family a little more after serving 18 months here at Trinity. Thank you to all of you who welcomed me into your homes already. Finally, I hope to start up a new weekly blog posting on our church's website. I'm not much of a "blogger" but I'd like to get more use out of our website. Maybe you will be interested to read my weekly ponderings.

Let us not be anxious about what's in store for the year ahead. We'll take it month by month and give thanks for all of God's blessings along the way.

Many blessings to you!

Pastor Koos

Trinity Lutheran Church Minutes

November 18, 2015

I. Call to order

Chairman Chris Woerner called to order the regular meeting of the Trinity Lutheran Church Council on November 18, 2015. Pastor Koos led the group in devotions. Members in attendance were Pastor Koos, Chris Woerner, Adam Wollenburg, Brian Nelson, Jane Stokebrand, Randy Wollenburg, and Chuck Holtmeier, and Darin Mahloch

II. Reports

- a) Secretary's Report: A copy of the previous minutes was presented. It was moved by Chuck and seconded by Randy that the minutes be approved. Motion carried
- b) Treasurer's Report: A copy of the monthly report indicates a balance of \$ 11, 849.98 as of November 18, 2015, Report was reviewed and approved.
- c) Pastor's Report: See included report.
- d) Memorial Report indicates a balance of \$18,713.56 as of this meeting date.
- e) Suggestion Box: One signed entry was received and discussed.
 - 1. Roy and Peggy Scherling have requested that Bibles be available to worshippers. They are to be placed on the table at the back of the church.
- f) Committee Reports:
 - 1. Social Committee reported is to meet November 19th to plan upcoming events.
 - 2. Worship Committee reported on attempts to conserve time during the communion service. Continuous communion has contributed to a decrease in service time.
 - 3. Parish Education and Youth Group Ministries reported no concerns at this time.
 - 4. Stewardship/Finance/Budget reported there will be a meeting January 7, 2016 to include Pastor Koos, Chris, Brian, and Jenn to update the budget

Property Committee reported bids by Innovations Siding and Window for repairs to the parsonage to include the options of steel gutters at \$2,380; aluminum gutters at \$2,040; and gutter guards at \$2,380. Also considered were window well covers as opposed to gutter guards. Brian also presented bids for three basement windows in the parsonage to be placed at an estimated \$2,550. Brian reported on a cracked window in the fellowship hall with a suggestion to replace the pane as opposed to the entire window. Brian will follow up on these items. Brian reported on estimates for the parsonage roof to include James Pittman Construction at \$14,000, MWR at \$16,000, and Curt Van Eperan at a cost of \$4,000 for labor with an estimated \$4,000 for product for an estimated total of \$8,000.

Old Business

- a) The first draft of the Constitution was returned with additional information provided by Attorney William Biggs. There were some additional updates since 2013 which were incorporated into the document. There was a motion by Darin and a second by Chuck to approve the changes. The motion carried.
- b) WELCA has offered to fund the purchase of handicapped pews to be installed by Ratigan Shottler. However, it has since been determined that the four pews can be funded by Thrivent Choice Dollars for a total of \$1,107.
- c) Discussion for replacement of paneling and shelving in the parsonage was discussed. This will be pursued through the DART project.

- d) A proposal by Richter's Heating and Cooling was presented to service the heating and cooling systems for both the church and the parsonage one time per year at a cost of \$495. There was a motion by Brian and a second by Chuck to approve this proposal. The motion carried.
- e) The Vitality Survey for the Synod was addressed. Council members will fill out the survey on line and Chris will compile the data.
- f) The Mission Share/ Benevolence for the upcoming year was discussed. There was a motion by Adam and a second by Randy to continue last year's amount of \$10,812. The motion carried.

III. New Business

- (a) Jordan Isaacson presented a review of property insurance coverage provided through Brotherhood Insurance. He provided an outline of coverage and offered options to be considered for the future.
- (b) Observation of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation is scheduled to be observed in 2017. Volunteers for the planning committee are needed. Adam will discuss this event with the Worship Committee.
- (c) As discussed at the last meeting the Portico Benefits package for Pastor Koos was signed by Chris to remain the same as last year.
- (d) There was discussion regarding a possible contribution from Trinity Lutheran to DART. Further action was tabled to determine financial needs of DART.
- (e) Pastor Koos requested vacation time for December 28, 2015 to January 4, 2016. The request was granted.
- (f) It was noted by Brian that the west door of the church has sometimes remained unlocked following the Sunday service. It was decided to emphasize that information on the usher information letter.
- (g) There was a request from Camp Carol Joy Holling for funding to the Faithfully Forward Campaign regarding construction on the camp. The request will be posted on the church bulletin board.

Adjournment: There was a motion by Darin and a second by Adam to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried.

Lord's Prayer: In conclusion of the meeting, Pastor Koos led the group prayed the Lord's Prayer.

Next Council Meeting: December 8th at 6:00 pm. to be held at the Woerner home.

Communion Assistant for November is Jane

Respectfully submitted,
Secretary, Jane Stokebrand

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

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 27th 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 #2

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.

Trinity Lutheran
Annual Meeting will be held
on Sunday, January 24, 2016,
following the worship service.

WORSHIP & ATTENDANCE

11/29/15	85	12/24/15	201
12/6/15	120	12/25/15	37
12/13/15	103	12/27/15	89
12/20/15	112		

DECEMBER OFFERING

Date	General	Benev.	Property
11/22/15	2132.71	25.00	10.00
11/29/15	1945.00	25.00	.00
12/6/15	3027.00	125.00	.00
12/13/15	2072.00	10.00	7.00
12/20/15	1609.00	50.00	7.00
12/24/15	1263.00	.00	.00
12/25/15	310.00	.00	.00

SERVICE LEADERS FOR JANUARY

DATE	SCRIPTURE READER	ACOLYTE	GREETERS	COMMUNION SET UP
				COMMUNION ASSISTANT
January 3 rd	Arlyn Parde	Kanin Baker	Ron & Cindy Wollenburg/ Jean Placek	
January 10 th	Lois Wattjes	Tyson Baker	Ron & Cindy Wollenburg/ Jean Placek	
January 17 th	Karen Wollenburg	Krayten Uher	Ron & Cindy Wollenburg/ Jean Placek	
January 24 th	Derrick Damrow	Elsie Woerner	Ron & Cindy Wollenburg/ Jean Placek	
January 31 st	Barbara Nelson	Morgan Stokebrand	Ron & Cindy Wollenburg/ Jean Placek	Amy Stokebrand & Angie Baker

HEAD USHER: Ron Wollenburg

USHERS: Byron Beerenstrauch, Tom Koch, Cody Wollenburg

OUTREACH VISITATION: Service List #2

*Live Simply
Love Generously
Care Deeply
Speak Kindly*

JANUARY 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Pastor Koos is on vacation 12/28 through 01/03/16					1 Happy New Year!	2
3 HYMN FEST AT 10 AM	4 Tie Blankets for LWR 9 am to Noon weather permitting	5 Pastor Text Study at 10 am	6 Confirmation meets at 6:30 pm Budget meeting 8 pm	7 Bible Study 10 am	8	9
10 Sunday School meets 8:45 am Youth Group meets 8:45 am Praise Choir meets at 9 am PRAISE SERVICE AT 10 AM	11	12 Pastor Text Study at 10 am	13 Confirmation meets at 6:30 pm	14 Good Samaritan Chapel Service 10:30 am Worship Committee meets at 7:30 pm	15	16 Middle school gathering 10 am
17 Sunday School meets 8:45 am WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10 AM (Guest Preacher) Return from middle school gathering at 2 pm	18 Shalom Circle meets at 7 pm	19 Theological Conference 10 am	20 Conference ends at noon Confirmation meets at 6:30 pm	21 Bible Study 10 am	22	23
24 Sunday School meets 8:45 am Youth Group meets at 8:45 am WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10 AM Annual Meeting following service	25 Newsletter Articles are Due	26 Pastor Text Study at 10 am	27 Confirmation meets at 6:30 pm Church Council meets at 8 pm	28 Bible Study 10 am	29	30
31 Sunday School meets 8:45 am Youth Group meets at 8:45 am COMMUNION SERVICE AT 10 AM						

January 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

3 Dave Hicks Trey Koch Wanda Slama John Stokebrand	4	5 Tina Holtmeier Harold Stokebrand Jenna Essman	6 Lincoln Koos	7	8 Arlene Scherling	9 Vicki Little Bailey Wollenburg
10 Brittany Johnson	11 Julie Hippen	12	13	14 Matt Friesen RJ Wollenburg	15	16
17 Travis Rahe	18	19 Kaden Koch	20 Sandi Klostermeier Donna Stokebrand	21	22 Jill Hardy	23 Larry Bartles
24 Ann Wollenburg	25 Tommy Zwiefel	26 Jack Garrison	27 Yvonne Rahe	28	29	30 Eleanor Morrissey
31 Kelly Smith						

Hope

Hope Circle
December 8, 2015

Hope Circle's Christmas gathering was held on December 8, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. at Legends in Clatonia. Eight members were present. Prayer friends were revealed.

Jean Placek
Sec./treas.

*Thank you to the following for providing
the beautiful poinsettia plants for the
sanctuary*

*Eldon and Jane Stokebrand
Jim and Joyce Holtmeier
Beverly Banks*

*Brian and Bobbie Scherling
Alan and Jan Dunn*

*Arlene Scherling
Brian and Amy Stokebrand
Duane and Pat Wollenburg
Sharon Rehm
Pastor and Joanna Koos
Larry and Shari Pieper*

*WELCA
Ervin and Beryl Beerenstrauch*

WELCA

There will not be a WELCA Board meeting in January 2016.

Shalom

Shalom Circle met on December 14 at the home of Karen Wollenburg for our annual Christmas Pot Luck and Prayer Partner Gift exchange.

Karen read an interesting article on "SELF ON THE SHELF"

Our members reported visiting their shut-in's and bringing them poinsettias.

MISSION GROWTH: Arlyce read several articles from Bishop Maas .

Liz has made our ADVENT BANNER for the church which is beautiful.

Communications were read.

WELCA BOARD MEETING summaries were given by Karen.

Some discussion was made for an upcoming project that may be of interest to our circle members.

Prayer concerns were given

Our next meeting will be January 18 at the church to work on banners. Karen will serve as our hostess.

We Thank Karen for a wonderful evening.

Sec/Treas.
Shirley Wollenburg

The American Legion Auxiliary is holding a soup and sandwich dinner on January 24th at 11 am at the American Legion building.

Looking for volunteers to help plan a multi-congregational musical event some time in 2016 to celebrate 500th anniversary of Reformation. Please talk with Pastor Koos if you are interested. Thanks!

WELCA NE SYNOD 2016 Winter Retreat Gathering - Jan. 23, 2016

Beauty to Ashes Theme Song

Isaiah 61:3 and provide for those who grieve in Zion- to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness, instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor. NIV

St Paul's Lutheran Church
1414 Harrison Street
Grand Island NE
9:00 to 3:00

Registration with coffee 8:30 to 9:00.

Agenda Summery

Keynote Speaker: Vicki Nielsen, inspirational speaker and singer, she will energize us and how to dump the baggage that holds us back and set us free.

- Bishop Maas will be with us for scripture
- Saved to Serve projects for 2016
- Lunch with Phyllis Erickson
- Several pieces of entertainment
- And a lot of fun and fellowship
- The day offering will be split: 1/2 Lakota Lutheran Scottsbluff & 1/2 Lutheran Service Corps in Omaha

- Registration cost \$18.00 Please mail by Friday January 15, 2016

Registration

Cut off and return to JoAnn Rohrs NSWO Treasurer: 1409 10th St, Auburn NE 68305

Name _____
email _____
Address _____
Town _____
State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____
Church _____
Conference _____
Registration is transferable, but not refundable

Keep in your Prayers

SERVICEMEN

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

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

His email is:
Bartlett_Riley@yahoo.com

Matt and 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

Eileen Damkroger
Beatrice Health and Rehab
1800 Irving
Beatrice, NE 68310



Additional Prayer requests for

Please continue to keep these
members in your prayers:

Doug Damkroger
Roger Rahe
Janice Buhr (Good Samaritan
in Beatrice)
Lori Bessler

DIVORCED?
SEPARATED?
WE CAN HELP

DIVORCE *Care*

FIND HELP
DISCOVER HOPE
EXPERIENCE HEALING

WEEKLY DIVORCE SUPPORT GROUP

WHEN: January 5, 2016 Information/Orientation/Registration

Sessions then run each Tuesday, Jan 12 – Apr 5

6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

WHERE: Wilber Care Center Activity Room (Use south entrance)

611 N. Main St

Wilber, Nebraska

Contact: Kurt & Cindy Kinney

402-741-0851 or 741-0722 (call or text)

kin51@gmail.com

Registration Fee: \$15 for workbook

(Scholarships may be available)

If there is inclement weather please call, text or email for details.

© MMXII DivorceCare. Not for reproduction.



SAVE THE DATE!

Empyrean Trail 5K Run

Presented by Empyrean Brewing Company
& Lazlo's Brewery and Grill

Carol Joy Holling Camp, Ashland, NE

Saturday, February 6, 2016 • 11 a.m.

Check-in begins at 9 a.m.

Come join the winter fun at Carol Joy Holling Camp. This event is packed with adventurous running, wonderful Lazlo's food and amazing Empyrean beer! You don't want to miss this one. Plus, the funds raised from this event support the summer camping programs of Carol Joy Holling Camp. No child is ever turned away from camp because they can't afford the fee. In 2015, more than \$80,000 will be given in camp scholarships!

Register at

www.caroljoyholling.org