

April 2016

Greetings from your pastor and partner in ministry!!

We made it! We survived yet another winter! God was good to southeast Nebraska this year. Hardly any snow and moderate temperatures. With winter behind us, we can resume ministry here at Trinity full speed ahead. The snow birds who left us at the beginning of January will slowly return as the days become consistently warmer. Worship attendance will rise for a couple months until the summer vacations/sports get underway. Spring and autumn are great transitional times, filled with eager expectations of what adventures lay in store for summer and winter.

Speaking of transitional times, this month we celebrate twelve of our young adults getting confirmed. Confirmation is a ritual of affirmation and encouragement for the kids. They've been given the spiritual tools to center them and help them overcome the challenges that life will throw at them in the years ahead, particularly in their high school years. They will be tempted to fall away from their relationships with God and it is our responsibility as an entire congregation to help keep them connected. Contrary to popular belief, one doesn't graduate from church life altogether once he/she is confirmed! Confirmed youth are a vital part of our congregational family and their struggles are our struggles as well. We need their perspectives and insights into our world. Confirmands, you need your congregational family as well. It has nurtured, protected, and guided you with kindness and wisdom throughout the years and wants to continue doing so for years to come. Stay connected in way or another with your church family.

Soon the mowers will be roaring and kids will be laughing and playing again. Give thanks for a new season kicking off and all the budding joys of spring. God has been good to us and will continue being good to us.

Many blessings,

Pastor Koos

Pastor's Report
March 2016

Spring is in the air! The days are getting longer (especially with the help of daylight savings time!) and consistently warmer. Not that bad of a winter this year. Let's pray for a mild spring, summer, and fall.

The ministry around here is starting to thaw out and showing renewed vigor as well. I was able to make 7 visits to shut-in/regular members, participate in 3 Lenten devotional services, lead 4 worship services, guide 2 youth group gatherings, attend 3 pastor text studies, participate in 4 committee meetings, lead 3 1st communion classes and 3 confirmation classes, participate in another NE Lutheran College Ministry board meeting, lead a parent study group, and lead both chapel services at the Good Samaritan Center and Wilber Care Center. I had a great time bringing a group of kids to this year's "Live It Up!" conference in Lincoln. We formed a committee to start planning for our 50th anniversary celebration to be held this summer on July 10. The DART committee formed a subcommittee that met this last month to start allocating some of the relief funds for last year's flooding. I officiated at 2 funerals (Wollenburg and Petrcek) this month. This year's rural ministry conference in Dubuque, IA was particularly insightful on ministry for veterans in small towns and a new theology called "remnant theology." The World Day of Prayer service is always a joy to attend and the ladies from all 3 congregations here in town lead a good service. Finally, the confirmation kids and I had a fruitful time going around town to collect canned goods for the homeless.

Speaking of confirmation kids, please hold this group of confirmands in prayer over the next month as they finish up the 2-year program. They've been an energetic group that I will miss meeting with each week. A couple bumps in the road but overall a good, generous group that I'll be eager to watch as their faith unfolds in the years ahead.

Many blessings,
Pastor Koos

Trinity Lutheran Church Minutes

February 17, 2016

I. Call to order

Chairperson Brian Nelson called to order the regular meeting of the Trinity Lutheran Church Council on February 17, 2016. Pastor Koos led the group in devotions. Members in attendance were Pastor Koos, Duane Wollenburg, Brian Nelson, Jane Stokebrand, Jesse Gronemeyer, Randy Wollenburg, Delva Smith, Lois Wattjes, and Joel Kaelin.

II. Reports

- a) Secretary's Report: A copy of the previous minutes was presented. It was moved by Joel and seconded by Jesse that the minutes be approved. Motion carried.
- b) Treasurer's Report: A copy of the monthly treasurer's report was presented. It was moved by Jane and seconded by Randy that the report be approved.
- c) Pastor's Report: See included report.
- d) Memorial Report: Balance of Memorial Fund to date is \$19,268.45.
- e) Suggestion Box: None available.
- f) Committee Reports:
 1. Social Committee reported on the women's UNL basketball game attended February 14, 2016 at 3:00 P.M.
 2. Worship Committee reported meeting regarding the services for Ash Wednesday and Lenten services. Services will be held on Wednesday evenings at Trinity Lutheran Church with a light supper served at 5:30. Services will also be held on Thursday mornings at the DeWitt Methodist Church at 10 o'clock A.M. It was also reported that our bishop will be available to celebrate Trinity Lutheran's 50th anniversary.
 3. Parish Education and Youth Group Ministries reported on plans for the Community VBS program. The Noah group will provide the program July 25th through July 30th with costs, accommodations, and site coordination provided by DART funds. Trinity Lutheran will provide the facility. There was a motion by Jesse and a second by Delva to approve the project. The motion carried.
 4. Property Committee reported the handicapped pews have been installed. Some lengths of carpet strip need to be installed. Estimates for those will be provided by All Floors of Crete.

Old Business

- a) Thrivent has donated \$1,100 toward payment for the handicapped pews. There was a motion by Lois and a second by Randy that Trinity Lutheran will pay additional costs not covered by Thrivent. The motion carried.
- b) Brian will contact Jordan Isaacson with Brotherhood Insurance to confirm the insurance coverage.
- c) Members who wish to serve on the 50th Anniversary Committee should sign up with a meeting to be scheduled for the first part of March.
- d) Purchase of the postage permit will be retained. The Newsletter will be available by email or as a mailed paper copy. Pastor Koos will send a mass email to allow members to select an email copy if appropriate. If not a paper copy will be provided via U.S. mail.

- e) There was a motion by Jesse and a second by Delva to contact Innovation Siding and Windows for the installation of two functional windows with screens as well as an egressed window for the parsonage basement not to exceed \$2,500. Brian will make that contact.

III. New Business

- (a) Pastor presented an estimate of costs for the Festival of Homolitics to be held in Georgia. Although he found the event quite informative last year, he will decline the invitation this year due to costs.
- (b) Pastor Koos plans to install a board outside his office to note new members and the newly baptized.
- (c) There was discussion of allowing Alcoholics Anonymous meetings to be held at Trinity Lutheran on Tuesdays. Further discussion was tabled until the next meeting.
- (d) There was discussion of looking into the possibility of installation of a fax line for the church office. Further discussion was tabled until the next meeting.
- (e) Thrivent has offered to cover the cost of a lawn mower. Further discussion was tabled until the next meeting.
- (f) Following discussion of the number of bulletins to be purchased, there was a motion by Lois and a second by Joel to purchase 100 instead of 150 weekly bulletins. The motion carried.
- (g) There was discussion of paper products and fixtures for the restrooms which will be revisited in approximately 6 months.
- (h) Discussion was held regarding private piano lessons provided by Erin Blake at the church. There was a motion by Duane and a second by Lois to find out how this impacts insurance and to discuss the issue further at the next meeting. The motion carried.

Adjournment: There was a motion by Jesse and a second by Randy to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. In conclusion of the meeting, Pastor Koos led the group praying the Lord's Prayer.

The next council meeting will be held on March 16th at 8 P.M.

Communion Assistant for February 28th will be Joel Kaelin.

Respectfully submitted,
Secretary, Jane Stokebrand

Church Treasurer's Report february 29, 2016.xlsx - Sheet1

Balance as of 1/31/16	\$20,282.93
Income	\$9,389.21
Interest	\$1.39

01-00	Pastor's Salary	\$3,420.74
01-01	Treasurer's Salary	\$199.75
01-02	Secretary Salary	\$413.96
01-03	Organist	\$375.00
01-04	Custodial Salary	\$510.62
01-06	Pension Fund	\$1,299.66
02-00	Mileage	\$116.54
02-01	Health Insurance	\$420.00
02-02	Misc. Water Softener	\$84.00
03-00	Bulletins	\$134.55
04-00	Postage & Freight	\$283.78
04-02	Office Supplies	\$88.16
04-04	Office Equipment	\$150.99
05-00	Village Utilities Church	\$191.17
05-01	Village Utilities Parsonage	\$170.39
05-02	Natural Gas Church	\$897.30
05-03	Natural Gas Parsonage	\$157.34
08-00	Telephone Church	\$142.80
08-01	Telephone Parsonage	\$34.50
09-02	Confirmation	\$28.68
09-05	Continuing Education Pastor	\$408.78
11-00	Church Maintenance	\$50.00
06-01	Transfer to Benev. Savings	\$910.00

Total Expenses:	\$10,488.71
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Balance as of 2/29/16	\$19,184.82
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Benevolence (Savings Account)	\$18,540.20
Sinking Fund (Savings Account)	\$421.92
Property Projects (Amount included in General Fund)	\$18,177.80
Continuing Education (Amount included in General Fund)	\$164.55

Bank Balance 3/15/16	\$29,052.10
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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

We are looking to fill 3 volunteer positions

Youth Leader

Kids Music Director

Camp Noah Site Coordinator

Please talk with Pastor Koos if you have questions about the positions and would like to volunteer

Our newsletter is being mailed out through the mail service and through the electronic e-mails. If you no longer want to receive a paper copy please let the church office know and we will take you off the mailing list.

OFFICE HOURS FOR SECRETARY

Barb Nelson, Secretary

Monday & Wednesday - 5pm to 6:30pm

Church email: tlcdewitt209@gmail.com



Church Council will meet on Wednesday,
April 20th 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.

April -- Hope Circle

Service List # 7 up next

WORSHIP & ATTENDANCE

2/28/16	109
3/6/16	94
3/13/16	92
3/20/16	88
3/24/16	115
3/25/16	43

MARCH OFFERING

Date	General	Benev.	Property
2/28/16	1407.00	25.00	.00
3/6/16	1617.00	135.00	.00
3/13/16	1769.25	25.00	.00
3/20/16	851.00	.00	.00

APRIL 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Confirmation "Box City" 7 pm	2
3 Sunday School at 8:45 am Praise Choir practice 9 am PRAISE SERVICE AT 10 AM WELCA Board meets following service	4 Tie Blankets for LWR 9 am to noon	5 Pastor Text Study 10 am	6 Confirmation at 6:30 pm	7 Good Samaritan Chapel Service 10:30 am Worship Meeting at 7:30 pm	8	9
10 Sunday School at 8:45 am Youth Group at 8:45 am Adult Choir at 8:45 am WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10 AM	11 Hope Circle meets at 9 am	12 Pastor Text Study 10 am	13 Confirmation at 6:30 pm	14 Bible Study at 10 am	15	16
17 Sunday School at 8:45 am Adult Choir at 8:45 am Episcopal service at 9 am WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10 AM	18 <i>News/letter</i> articles are due Praise Choir practice at 5:30 pm Shalom Circle meets at 6:30 pm	19 Pastor Text Study 10 am	20 Chapel Service at Wilber Care Center 10 am Confirmation at 6:30 pm Church Council at 8 pm	21 Bible Study at 10 am	22	23
24 Sunday School at 8:45 am Youth Group at 8:45 am COMMUNION SERVICE AT 10 AM Confirmation during worship service	25 Praise Choir practice at 5:30 pm	26 Pastor Text Study 10 am	27	28 Bible Study at 10 am	29	30

April 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 John Chavez Cordell Koch	2
3	4	5	6 Karen Wollenburg	7 Tim Garrison Kathy Rahe	8 Don Schmidt	9 Tera Stokebrand
10 Jim Essman	11 Blake Bergmeier	12 Hannah Holmeier	13 Kyle Thernes	14 Larry Beerenstrauch Jack Holmeier Lois Watjes	15	16
17	18 Beverly Banks Jeremy Placek	19	20 <i>Owen Mc Dougall</i>	21 Pastor Sean Koos Ann Novak	22	23 Jodi Hicks Shane Parker
24 Kimber Engel	25 Scott Friesen Thomas Stokebrand Jenn Uher	26	27 Aiden Kaelin Macie Kaelin Marvin Zimmermann	28	29 Larry Pieper	30

SERVICE LEADERS FOR APRIL

DATE	SCRIPTURE READER	ACOLYTE	GREETERS	COMMUNION SET UP
				COMMUNION ASSISTANT
April 3 rd	Liz Poessnecker	Logan Brown	Don & Shirlie Wollenburg / Vic & Bonnie Schuerman	
April 10 th	Tim Garrison	Kanin Baker	Don & Shirlie Wollenburg / Vic & Bonnie Schuerman	
April 17 th	Bev Plihal	Zach Kuhn	Don & Shirlie Wollenburg / Vic & Bonnie Schuerman	
April 24 th Confirmation	Mike Holtmeier	Tyson Baker	Don & Shirlie Wollenburg / Vic & Bonnie Schuerman	Chelsea Tietjen & Deb Schwan

HEAD USHER: Rick Mangus

USHERS: Sam Kirchoff, Madison Kirchoff, Jessi Gronemeyer, Shane Parker, Logunn Baker

OUTREACH VISITATION: Hope Circle

Current Service Group: Service Group #7 (Ron and Cindy Wollenburg/Jean Placek)

Church is not
something you go to,
it's a family you
belong to.



Tie Blankets for LWR
will meet on Monday,
April 4, at 9 am to
noon



MaKenzie Renee Parker was baptized March 13th.
Parent is Shelby Parker.



Thank you for the cards, the prayers,
and cards after nt knee repair surgery.
Linda K. Schuerman

May God guide our youth as they begin their
journey of learning in a deeper understanding of
their faith. These children have received their
first communion: Jurgen Baker, Tyson Baker,
Carter Holtmeier, Connor Lantz, Karli Scherling,
Elsie Woerner, and Jack Hopkins.

Lincoln Lutheran Choir will again present two concerts this
spring: Sunday, April 10th, 3 pm at St. Paul's Lutheran
Church, Beatrice, NE and Sunday, April 17th, at Grace
Lutheran Church in Lincoln. Brett Epperson continues as
our Artistic Director and Conductor and has selected our
concert them: "For the Beauty of the Earth". It is our hope
that our music will be a meaningful exploration of this
beautiful gift through which God communicates His love
and grace. Please joining us!

REMEMBER ITEMS FOR THE FOOD PANTRY

*Thank you to all the people listed below
who donated an Easter Lily to adorn
our church on Easter Sunday.*

*Beverly Banks
Ervin and Beryl Beerenstrauch
Tim and Pam Garrison
Wanda Jahnke
Pastor Sean Koos and family
Sarah Kramer
Roland and Jean Placek
Arlene Scherling
Harold and Kathy Stokebrand
Duane and Pat Wollenburg
Eugene and Karen Wollenburg
Women of the ELCA*



WELCA HIGHLIGHTS

****Next WELCA Board meeting will be held April 3rd
after church.**

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

World Day of Prayer was held on Friday, March 4, 2016,
at 10:00am at the Episcopal Church. This year the women
of Cuba prepared the suggested program. Adjustments
were made for the DeWitt community and seven local
ladies presented the program....two from each of the
Episcopal, Lutheran, and Methodist churches, and one
representing the Catholic church. Twenty four attended
from our community.....women and men. The collection
of \$125 was sent to the World Day of Prayer USA.
Posters were displayed around town and in the churches.
Cuban songs were substituted with, "Christ For The
World We Sing", "In Christ There Is No East Or West",
and "Jesus Shall Reign Where'er The Sun". Fellowship
time followed the service. I thank all those who
participated in the service and all who attended. The
chairman of the 2017 WDP will be Priscilla Koch of
Trinity Lutheran Church. Mary Garrison, chairman

Hope

Hope Circle did not meet in March. Our next meeting will be held on Monday, April 11th, at 9 am. Shirley Saathoff will lead the Bible study and Beryl Beerenstrauch is hostess.

If you're spiritually alive, you're going to love this!

If you're spiritually dead, you won't want to read it.

If you're spiritually curious, there is still hope!

A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. He wrote: "I've gone for 30 years now, and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons, but for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time, the preachers and priests are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all".

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column. Much to the delight of the editor, it went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now.

In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals.

But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals.

But I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today.

Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

When you are DOWN to nothing, God is UP to something! Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible! Thank God for our physical and our spiritual nourishment!

**IF YOU CANNOT SEE GOD IN ALL,
YOU CANNOT SEE GOD AT ALL !**

**B. I. B. L. E. simply means:
Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth!**

Shalom

Shalom Circle met on March 21. We began at 6:30 to work on assembling the Layette Kits. We assembled 53 kits with the four members present and also cleaned out the Kitty Bags.

A Short business meeting followed.

NO COMMITTEE REPORTS. Karen thanked the members for participating in the "Baskets Of Promise" and also for working on the kits.

The Spring gathering will be April 23 at Fairbury, Ne. beginning at 9:00 a.m. Karen read the itinerary for the gathering and also the schedule for the coming HOLY WEEK..

Prayer concerns were given.

Lois gave the Hymn Study on "The Doxology" and also on "Beneath The Cross Of Jesus" and also served as hostess.

Our next meeting will be AGAIN at 6:30 P.M. to further work on the layettes. We are also to bring bars of GENTLE SOAP such as Ivory, Dove. ect. Shirlie will have the Hymn Study and also serve as hostess.

Secretary/Treasurer

Shirlie Wollenburg

**Portals of Prayer
Devotional Books are
located at the back of the
church. Please help
yourself to a copy.**

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



Additional Prayer requests for

Please continue to keep these
members in your prayers:

Jim and Jeanne Essman and
family as Jim's father, Harold
Essman passed away.

The Garrison families as they
mourn the passing of Eileen
Petracek.

Ervin and Beryl
Beerenstrauch as their son-
in-law, Brad Grummert,
passed away.

Herb Rehm and Sharon
Rehm as their
brother/brother-in-law,
Melvin Rehm, passed away

Family and friends of Roy
Smith who passed away

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

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

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

Janice Buhr
401 S. 22nd Street
Beatrice, NE 68310

Pastor Koos and family
who mourn the passing of
Pastor Koos' grandmother.