

November 2016

Greetings from your pastor and partner in ministry!!

There's a lot of energy in the air as the leaves are scrambling to turn their colors and the farmers are eager to bring in the harvest. You can tell that nature has worked hard for 6 months and it just wants to take a rest. It is fun to see how the hawks and the deer are excited to glean from the harvested fields. One more big push and everything can settle in for the winter snooze. With the harvest season comes a time of celebration. Pretty soon the kids will be rehearsing for the Christmas program. I've already heard the brass choir rehearse songs to be played throughout the advent season and the adult choir rehearse a Christmas Eve cantata. How exciting to hear and see such joyous energy both in the church and outside of it!

But it is a joyous energy that isn't without a cost. The farmers will tell you they put in a lot of time and energy and money into making the harvest such a success. There are a lot of resources that go into making this time of year so joyous for so many people. Indeed, it almost seems like the rest of the year is spent preparing for these times of celebration. But we mustn't forget the cost of this time of celebration. Our church community has a lot of exciting ministries going from the adult bible study to the adult/praise/kids choirs to the Sunday school classes to the shut-in member outreach to weekly worship services. There is a lot of time and energy and money that is expected to make all these ministries succeed.

Alas, our monetary giving has been a little low in the last few months. Over the coming weeks, we need to consider how to improve our financial giving to our church. It was discussed at length at last month's council meeting. A couple things were brought up that the congregation needs to be aware of. First, every month a portion of the giving is automatically set aside to go towards synod benevolence. Whatever is collected in the basket that is specially marked as "benevolence" is considered above and beyond what we already give to synod through the automatic deductions. Second, perhaps we might consider setting up automatic weekly giving or "e-giving." For a fee, we can use a program that allows members to give without being at worship services. Better allocation and giving options have potential to grow our giving.

God has blessed us with so much this year and we need to be mindful of how best to manage our blessings. Let us honor God for all the blessings in our congregational giving.

Blessings to you,

Pastor Koos

Pastor's Report
October 2016

My, oh my, what a heat wave we've been blessed with over the last week! Just when I was beginning to feel like I understood Nebraska seasons we have this strange weather. I'm still thawing out from my seven winters in Minnesota so, by all means, keep the warm days coming! Of course, this keeps the leaves from turning and I do like to see all the color. Oh well, keep the warm days coming...

The ministry is back in full swing this month. I was able to make 9 visits on our shut-in members, teach 4 Bible studies, 2 Sunday school classes, 1 adult study class, and 4 confirmation classes, participate in 3 pastor text studies and 1 committee meeting, and lead 6 services, including the Episcopal service next door and the chapel service at the Good Samaritan Center in Beatrice. Several of the local pastors and I met at TriCounty to discuss school activities for the year. I offered the 3-week class for a new member and inducted him during the Sunday worship service. Brian Nelson, Lois Wattjes, and I attended the synod's annual "Discipleship Days" gathering at Peace Lutheran in Plymouth to discuss stewardship. The Wednesday Bible studies in the SCC cafeteria have kicked off and I'm becoming more of a presence on the campus. I was blessed to be able to get away and attend not only the synod's fall theological conference in Kearney but also an annual Barbershop Chorus contest in Cedar Rapids, IA. There were 13 choruses in the Midwest conference that competed and I think our rousing renditions of the "Monster Polka" and "Transylvania Mania" were the most entertaining, if not technically superior to what the other choruses presented. What a fun group of guys to sing with!

Blessings,

Pastor Koos

Trinity Lutheran Church Minutes

September 21, 2016

I. Call to order

Chairperson Brian Nelson called to order the regular meeting of the Trinity Lutheran Church Council on September 21, 2016. Pastor Koos led the group in devotions. Members in attendance were Pastor Koos, Duane Wollenburg, Brian Nelson, Jane Stokebrand, Lois Wattjes, Joel Kaelin, Randy Wollenburg, Jesse Gronemeier, and Adam Wollenburg.

II. Reports

- a) Secretary's Report: A copy of the previous minutes was presented. It was moved by Lois and seconded by Randy that the minutes be approved. Motion carried.
- b) Treasurer's Report: A copy of the monthly treasurer's report indicated a balance of \$10,6700. There was a motion by Jesse and a second by Joel that the report be approved. The motion carried.
- c) Investments Report: The investment balance is \$36,885.22.
- d) Pastor's Report: See included report.
- e) Memorial Report: Balance of Memorial Fund to date is \$20,519.40.
- f) Suggestion Box: None submitted
- g) Committee Reports:
 - 1. Social Committee reported plans for October 23, 2016 to attend the Community Players production of "Steel Magnolias" at 2:30 in the afternoon. A hayrack ride is scheduled for November 13, 2016 from 2:00 to 4:00 to be followed by chilli, cider, and cookies at the church from 4:30 to 5:30. A Lincoln Stars hockey game will be held January 28, 2017. A card tournament and game day are planned for February 26, 2017.
 - 2. Worship Committee reported an updated schedule for music to include selections of a Christmas Cantata and the possibility of a brass band for preludes for Christmas.
 - 3. Parish Education and Youth Group Ministries reported that enough Sunday School teachers have volunteered to provide five groups of classes with two teachers per class. Monthly Sunday School committee meetings were initiated in August. The Care-A-Lot program will have a new focus this year to include a mentor and mentee approach. This will be held the first Sunday of the month during the Sunday School hour.
 - 4. Property Committee reported that the bathroom walls and trim in the parsonage basement are yet to be completed. There is a light not functioning on the east side of the church which will be replaced. Property committee will determine if there is any warranty on that item.

III. Old Business

- a) The painting of the parking lot lines is scheduled.
- b) There was a motion by Adam and a second by Jesse to purchase materials from Sack Lumber for insulation and siding for the free standing garage at the parsonage. Jesse will head that project.
- c) Installation of speakers in the chapel was tabled for the time being.
- d) The financial secretary will submit the final payment of \$10,000 to James Pittman for the church roof.

- e) Payment of donations from the Fiftieth Anniversary celebration will be tabled until the next meeting.

IV. New Business

- (a) There was a motion by Lois and a second by Adam to grant transfers out for Maci Hicks and Heather (Schwan) Baker. The motion carried.
- (b) Pastor Koos reported that Mr. Bill Biggs from the ELCA has contacted the church indicating there are some new required amendments that need to be made to our constitution after the ELCA Model Constitution was recently amended. These minor changes were discussed and will be submitted to the synod.
- (c) A New Member class is scheduled to begin September 21th.
- (d) There will be a joint service with Soap Creek Church on October 30th at Soap Creek. Communion service for October will be moved to Sunday the 23rd.
- (e) Pastor Koos requested and was granted time off for October 7th and 8th to participate in a Homestead Harmonizer performance in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Pastor will be back for Sunday service.
- (f) The weekly adult Bible study will be rescheduled to Wednesdays from 8:30 to 9:30 to accommodate the needs of participants. Pastor will include questions in the News Letter as preparation for the classes.

Adjournment: There was a motion by Duane and a second by Randy to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. In conclusion of the meeting, Pastor Koos led the group in praying the Lord's Prayer. The next council meeting will be held on October 19th at 8:00 P.M. Communion Assistant for October 23rd is Joel Kaelin..

Respectfully submitted,
Secretary, Jane Stokebrand

Treasurer's Report September 30, 2016

Balance as of 8/31/16		\$15,787.22
Income		\$7,454.60
Interest		\$0.79
Pastor's Salary	\$3,420.74	
Treasurer's Salary	\$199.75	
Secretary Salary	\$272.51	
Organist	\$300.00	
Custodial Salary	\$510.62	
Pension Fund	\$2,656.78	
Mileage	\$378.00	
Health Insurance	\$210.00	
Misc. Water Softener	\$120.50	
Postage & Freight	\$58.74	
Office Equipment	\$285.85	
Village Utilities Church	\$641.59	
Village Utilities Parsonage	\$389.26	
Natural Gas Church	\$26.53	
Natural Gas Parsonage	\$36.00	
Copyright License	\$208.00	
Telephone Church	\$159.59	
Telephone Parsonage	\$69.00	
Sunday School	\$531.67	
Confirmation	\$16.66	
Continuing Education Pastor	\$341.94	
Worship	\$67.49	
Church Maintenance	\$49.61	
Lawn & Landscape	\$120.00	
Repairs to the Parsonage	\$10,031.54	
Transfer to Benev. Savings	\$910.00	
Total Expenses:		\$22,012.37
Balance as of 9/30/16		\$1,230.24
Benevolence (Savings Account)		\$15,550.01
Sinking Fund (Savings Account)		\$422.07
Property Projects (Amount included in General Fund)		\$18,177.80
Continuing Education (Amount included in General Fund)		\$0.00 (-\$106.23)
Bank Balance 10/18/16	\$12,410.76	

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

Summer Hours

Monday - 5pm to 6:30pm

Wednesday - 6:15pm to 7:15pm

Church email: tlcdewitt209@gmail.com



Church Council will meet on Wednesday,
November 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.

Sunday, November 6th, Trinity Lutheran members will be voting on revisions to the constitution in a short meeting following the worship service. Copies of the constitution with the revisions are available in the entry way.

Boxes for LWR will be loading on Sunday, November 6th about 9:30 a.m. Would appreciate lots of help. There will be no LWR work days in Nov. and Dec. We will begin Jan. 2nd, 2017 weather permitting.

WORSHIP & ATTENDANCE

10/2/16 102

10/9/16 73

10/16/16 83

10/23/16 98

OCTOBER OFFERING

Date	General	Benev.	Property
9/25/16	2478.00	35.00	.00
10/2/16	2077.00	125.00	.00
10/9/16	1229.00	.00	.00
10/16/16	1149.00	60.00	
10/23/16	2362.00	25.00	

Bible study questions
Wednesdays, 8:30 a.m.
November 2016

11/02/16 Luke 6:20-31

1. What is surprising about the statement that Jesus makes? Would you consider being poor to be a blessing?
2. Compare this with Matthew 5:3. What does Jesus emphasize in the Sermon on the Mount? What might this tell us about the kind of poverty that Jesus is referring to?
3. Read James 1:9-10. What does James tell the poor man (lowly) to glory in (rejoice in)? What does he tell the rich to glory in? How would these two exhortations relate to the passages in Matthew and Luke?
4. Is Jesus promising that all the world will be fed? What is the promise to those who hunger? When will this promise be received?
5. If we follow Christ with all our hearts, will everyone like us (1 Timothy 3:12; John 15:18-20; John 17:14; Philippians 1:28-30)?
6. How does Jesus tell them to respond when they are persecuted? What are the two reasons he gives them? How do rewards motivate us to live for Christ even when we are suffering?
7. Why does Jesus pronounce a "woe" upon the rich? Would it be fair to say that they have gotten all they are going to get (if they do not have Christ)?
8. What does he say to those who are full? Does this mean that we cannot eat and be full? What is he referring to?
9. Is laughter wrong? Why does James say that we should mourn rather than laugh? How is this related to what we have studied in this passage?
10. Why should we beware when people speak well of us? What does this make us think about ourselves? What is the danger of listening to men's praises (Romans 16:18; Proverbs 29:25; John 9:22)?

11/09/16 Luke 21:5-19

1. What is Jesus responding to in verse 6 and why does He respond this way? How do we fall into that same trap?
2. What are the two purposes for Jesus telling His disciples about the end times? Two temptations that people fall into when talking about the end times is to set out to predict when it is going to happen or to be worried that it is going to happen at all. How does Jesus address this and do you fall into either of these categories?
3. Why does Jesus respond with a warning instead of direct answer in verse 8? What two things does Jesus say will not be signs that the end is near? What does this say about people who claim to know that the end is near?
4. What two things will begin to fall apart as we approach the end? What does verse 9 say about the suddenness of the end? Why does Jesus tell us not to fear?
5. Talk about what sparked Jesus' reply. What is Jesus saying about admiring too closely the things of this world? What is the tendency for us to be awed by this world?
6. What shift does Jesus make in verse 12? What does Jesus promise will happen? How quickly does this begin to happen (Acts 5:17)?
7. What different things does Jesus prophesy will happen? Scan through Acts and write down an occurrence that each one of these comes through.
8. Jesus says not to "prepare before hand" (NASB) upon how we are to answer. Does this mean that we are not to study and have a defense for our faith when asked (Romans 12:2; 2 Timothy 2:15; 1 Peter 1:13)? If so, what does Paul and Peter mean in these verses? If not, what might Jesus mean?

9. Betrayal by friends, relatives, or anyone is hard, if not devastating. What example does Jesus present for us about how to handle betrayal? Do you look to Christ when you feel betrayed? Are Jesus' words sobering or encouraging? Why?
10. Have you ever been betrayed? Do you still have bitterness?

11/16/16 Luke 23:33-43

1. Have you ever been betrayed? Do you still have bitterness?
2. What does it mean to you to be more "human"?
3. At the heart of the Christian story is conflict - the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Jesus was not afraid of conflict. He often embraced it as a tool for instruction and growth. For the Christian, then, the issue is not whether there is conflict, but whether the inevitable conflicts are instructional and growth-producing. How might that lesson apply to your life? The life of the church?
4. What was the purpose of the criminal on the cross next to Jesus in this story?
5. How can this text speak to Americans, unaccustomed to language of being ruled by a "king"?
6. Think about our leaders today; what is the chief weakness of contemporary leadership?
7. Are the expectations of our contemporary leaders realistic and healthy? Why or why not?
8. A well known contemporary Christian speaker calls Jesus his "commander and chief"? How does that adaptation of the phrase "Jesus is Lord" strike you? What might it say about who Jesus really is?
9. What makes leading as Jesus calls us to different from common expectations of leadership?
10. What does the thief on the cross who defended Jesus in Luke 23:39-43 teach us about Christian leadership?

11/30/16 Matthew 3:1-12

1. **3:1** What happened? When did it happen? Where did it happen?
2. About what did John teach? What do you learn about God?
3. What had Isaiah said that John would do? What do you think about that?
4. What do you learn about John's clothes? What do you learn about what John ate?
5. Where did people come from, to see John?
6. What did the people do? What did John do when they did that?
7. Who came to where John was *baptising people? What did he tell them? (Use your own words to say it.) What might be the reason why he said those things?
8. What should those people do? What do you think about that?
9. Why should people not decide their own value from who their *ancestor is? What might be the reason why John said this about Abraham? What do you learn about God?
10. What do you learn about how John *baptised? Who will *baptise after him? Whom will he *baptise? How will he *baptise them?

NOVEMBER 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Area Pastors Text Study Group 10 am	2 Men's Bible study 6:30 am 8:30 am Confirmation 6:30 pm Worship Committee meets 8 pm	3	4	5
6 All Saints Sunday Sunday School meets 8:45 am Care A Lot meets at 8:45 am Praise Choir meets at 9 am Adult Bible study at 8:45 am	7	8 Area Pastors Text Study Group 10 am	9 Bible study with Pastor Koos at 8:30 am Confirmation meets at 6:30 pm	10 Good Samaritan worship 10:30 am	11	12
13 Sunday School meets 8:45 am Adult Choir meets at 8:45 am WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10 AM	14 Hope Circle meets at 9 am	15 Area Pastors Text Study Group 10 am	16 Men's Bible study 6:30 am Bible study with Pastor Koos at 8:30 am Chapel service at the Wil- ber Care Center 10 am Confirmation 6:30 pm Church Council 8 pm	17	18	19
20 Sunday School meets 8:45 am Adult choir meets at 8:45 am THANKOFFERING SERVICE AT 10 AM	21 Newsletter articles due Shalom Circle meets at 7 pm Praise Choir at 5:30 pm	22 Area Pastors Text Study Group 10 am	23 No Bible Study No confirmation	24 God's Blessings on this Thanksgiving Day. Give Thanks to the Lord always	25	26
27 Sunday School meets 8:45 am Youth Group meets at 8:45 am Adult choir meets at 8:45 am COMMUNION SERVICE 10 AM ADVENT BEGINS	28 Praise Choir at 5:30 pm	29	30 Confirmation meets at 6:30 pm			

November 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Roberta Aden Jamie Beerenstrauch	2 Kelly Bagwell Austin Barnts Steve Klostermeier	3	4 Jim Miller Elsie Woerner	5 Priscilla Koch Christa Holtmeier Amber Koch
6	7	8	9	10 Ervin Beerenstrauch Vic Schuerman	11 Velda Jensen	12 Cindy Wollenburg Maddox Smith
13	14 Karli Scherling	15	16 Cayden Kropp Bennett Reck	17 Dean Thernes Morgan Stokebrand Samantha Koos	18 Celena Chavez	19 Cody Wollenburg
20 Harold Aden Madison Kirchoff	21 Baylee Kropp	22 Ron Wollenburg Baylon Klostermeier Zachary Kuhn	23 Natalie Wollenburg Mary Holtmeier	24	25	26 Brian Rahe Karen (Mike) Rahe
27 Mike Rahe	28	29	30 Kristi Rahe Kerri Thornburg			

Adult choir is resuming practice each Sunday morning at 8:45 am. We invite anyone who would like to join us, please come! We will be doing easy fun music this fall and are going to work on two cantata pieces for the Advent/Christmas season! Please consider this. We will be rehearsing through December and then take a break after Christmas until Lenten season!

Sunday School Parents:

Just a reminder that the kids are participating in the worship services. Children's sermons are held every Sunday except for communion Sunday. On the 2nd Sunday of the month, they ring bells and on the 4th Sunday of the month they sing a song or two that they have been working on in opening.. Please let your kids participate in these activities.

WELCA HIGHLIGHTS

**November 20th is Thankoffering Service

**Lutheran World Relief item will be delivered November 7-10th

**Starting in January, we will be collecting new and used (clean, bindings attached) blankets. We are asking they be at least 60"x80". There will be a tub in the coat room.

**Advent Sunday will be November 27th at 9 a.m. Please bring a Christmas dish, platter, place setting, mug, candy dish, etc. to display.

**A poinsettia signup sheet will be available as soon as we get more information.

Hope you all have had a chance to look in the church library and see the new shelving and rearrangement. A big thank you goes to Liz P., Mary G. and Karen W. for taking the time to clean and update the library.

WELCA will again be sponsoring an Advent display and fellowship time on Sunday, Nov. 27th at 9:00 AM. This year's display will feature Christmas dishware. This could include a place-setting, serving dish, candy dish, mug, pitcher, etc. We ask if you choose to share items for display that you please write on a 3x5 card your name and any pertinent information about the items. You may setup the items the day before or that Sunday morning. Please come and join us for coffee and refreshments to kick off our Advent season.

A signup sheet for purchasing poinsettias for our Christmas season will be coming out soon. Please watch for it! We will again be purchasing them from the Tri County FFA. More info will be on the signup sheet.



Please welcome Lonnie Groathouse to our church. He joined our church October 16th.

Jackson Ray Slama was baptized on October 2nd. His parents are Jeremy and Heather Slama.

SERVICE LEADERS FOR NOVEMBER

DATE	SCRIPTURE READER	ACOLYTE	GREETERS	COMMUNION SET UP
				COMMUNION ASSISTANT
November 6 th	Tim Garrison	Logan Brown	Leonard & Shirley Saathoff/ Marvin & Linda Schuerman	
November 13 th	Jane Stokebrand	Jurgen Baker	Leonard & Shirley Saathoff/ Marvin & Linda Schuerman	
November 20 th	Liz Poessnecker	Mallory Chavez	Leonard & Shirley Saathoff/ Marvin & Linda Schuerman	
November 27 th	Bev Plihal	Jack Hopkins	Leonard & Shirley Saathoff/ Marvin & Linda Schuerman	Karen Wollenburg & Darcy Pohlman

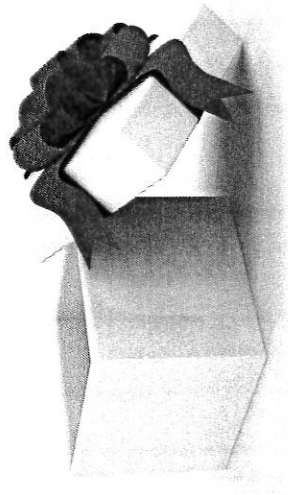
Thanksgiving Service will be held at the St. Augustine Episcopal Church. Please watch bulletins for more information.

HEAD USHER: Derrick Damrow

USHERS: Chris Woerner, Adam Wollenburg, Chad Pohlman, Brent Rahe,
Nate Morrissey

OUTREACH VISITATION: Service List #6

*If God shuts a door, quit banging on it!
Whatever was behind it, wasn't meant
for you. Consider the fact that maybe
He closed that door because He knew
you were worth so much more.*



This year the Care-A-Lot program will participate in Operation Christmas Child. The children will bring items to fill a shoebox (which will be provided) for a boy or a girl in need. If any congregation members would like to donate any items there will be a basket in the Care-A-Lot room for you to place them in, there is also a list of gift suggestions taped to the basket (small toys, school supplies, non-liquid hygiene items, socks, hats). Items should be donated before November 6th. Thank you for considering to participate in this program!

EXPLORE

A Day Retreat
at Carol Joy Holling Camp
for Elementary Kids

Explore is a one-day, nature-themed retreat for 1st-6th graders. Join us as we love and care for the outdoors at Carol Joy Holling Camp!

Saturday, November 12
9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
\$10 per child

*"... God made us alive together
with Christ — by grace
you have been saved."
- Ephesians 2:5b*

Register today at cjhcenter.org/explore

FAMILY advent retreat

Bring your family together to be purposefully present as we prepare for the Christmas season. Through devotion, projects and intergenerational fun, the whole family will be actively engaged in learning about the meaning of the season.

December 2-4, 2016
\$225 per room

Sjogren Retreat Center

Register today at cjhcenter.org/familyadvent

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:

Roger Rahe-is residing at the
Wilber Care Center.
Karen Rahe (Mrs. Roger)
Becky Wolff (Pat
Wollenburg's mom)
Fred & Ruth Drexler (uncle &
aunt of Jan Dunn, Jean
Placek, Gordon Schuerman)

Richard Wollenburg
Heritage Crossings
501 N 13th St.
Geneva, NE 68361

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
RR2 Box 43
DeWitt, NE 68341

Janice Buhr
2211 Sunset Dr. Apt. #225
Beatrice, NE 68310

Herb Rehm
Wilber Care Center
611 N Main
Wilber, NE 68465



HALLOWEEN IN DEWITT

MONDAY OCTOBER 31ST

CHILDREN'S PARADE & TRUNK & TREAT

Children meet at the Senior Center@ 5:15

Parade-5:30, SENIOR CENTER TO FIREHALL

TRUNK & TREAT 5:30-7:30,

FOLLOWING THE PARADE

DECORATED VEHICLES (TRUNKS)

SHOULD BE PARKED CURBSIDE BY 5:30 P.M

IN THE 2 BLOCK AREA ON MAIN ST.

"DeWitt Craft Show"

Sunday "Nov 13th" 9-3

²³⁹⁻⁸⁴³¹⁷
Call Sondra to reserve your

tables. Lunch Served. Door Prizes

Come & do your Christmas

shopping right here in DeWitt.