

Pastor's Report
November 2016

What a delight to have the autumn that never ends! And I thought I had lived in places with rather unpredictable weather. Strange days in Nebraska...

By God's grace the ministry keeps plugging away somewhat predictably though. Over the last month I was able to make 10 visits, lead or co-lead all 4 worship services including the joint service at Soap Creek, participate in 1 committee meeting, direct 3 Bible studies here at Trinity and 2 Bible studies at the Southeast Community College campus in Beatrice, guide 2 Sunday school classes, 4 confirmation classes, and 1 adult Bible study, attend 4 pastors' text studies, and lead the chapel service up at the Wilber Care Center. I wasn't able to lead the chapel service at the Good Samaritan Center in Beatrice because I needed to attend an all-day campus ministry meeting in Lincoln. All the campus leaders throughout the state were there and it was extremely helpful to hear the variety of ministries happening on the different campuses. I was delighted to sing with the Barbershop choir at a Veteran's Day tribute in Sterling. Finally, I was able to keep up my painting with another Bob Ross class through the Southeast Community College.

In the days ahead, remember to be mindful of all the blessings God has given us over the last year. I know our household has much to give thanks for this season: good health, good work, good schooling, good families, and a good church community. We are especially blessed that Jo's mom and sister will be coming down from Wisconsin to celebrate Thanksgiving with us and will stop in the Twin Cities to pick up Tori. It'll be good to have Tori home since she left in June. God is indeed a good and gracious God!

Many blessings to you,

Pastor Koos

December 2016

Greetings from your pastor and partner in ministry!!

It's hard to believe we're already into the Advent season. In just a few short weeks, we'll celebrate yet another year of welcoming Jesus into our lives and our hearts. Jesus is born anew and with him comes new hope. I pray each of you will reflect on how you want Jesus to guide you in the year ahead. Are there broken relationships you need his help in repairing? Is your career or job in need of revitalization? Does your health need a fresh jolt of energy? Jesus can help in all these areas and many others. More importantly, Jesus **WANTS** to help. All we need to do is believe in him and keep him at the center of our lives. You'd be amazed at all the positive changes in your life once you let Jesus lead the way!

At the close of each year, I like to reflect on the highlights from the year. In the spring, we celebrated the graduation of my first confirmation class here at Trinity. During the summer, we rejoiced over 50 years of shared ministry in our church building and the kids had fun at the Camp Noah event. This fall a new group of students began in the confirmation class. Our weekly Bible studies made some changes to become more relevant with our members. The Praise choir introduced some new songs as they head into their third year of leading in worship. Our adult study continued with Chip Ingram's teachings on spiritual transformation. A new bi-weekly men's study group has been a strong addition to our programming. The brass band has lifted our spirits this holiday season with their contributions to worship. Indeed, the ministry has been rich and rewarding.

But as we head into the Christmas season, let us be particularly mindful of two events on the schedule: our children's Christmas program on 12/18 at **5:30 p.m.** and our Christmas eve service at **6:00 p.m.** Our children will be rehearsing twice a week (Sundays, 8:45-9:45 a.m. and Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m.) through Advent so they should perform a show you won't want to miss! Try to remember the "reason for the season" and keep Jesus' birth at the forefront of your traveling/shopping/giving/feasting.

Advent/Christmas blessings to you all!

Pastor Koos

Trinity Lutheran Church Minutes

October 19, 2016

I. Call to order

Chairperson Brian Nelson called to order the regular meeting of the Trinity Lutheran Church Council on October 19, 2016. Pastor Koos led the group in devotions. Members in attendance were Pastor Koos, Duane Wollenburg, Brian Nelson, Jane Stokebrand, Lois Wattjes, Joel Kaelin, and Randy Wollenburg.

II. Reports

- a) Secretary's Report: A copy of the previous minutes was presented. It was moved by Duane 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 \$12,410.76. There was a motion and a second that the report be approved. The motion carried. There was extended discussion on the state of the church's finances. There was a motion by Duane and a second by Joel to pay \$6,250 as 50 per cent of the payment from the Fiftieth Anniversary donations to the Nebraska Lutheran Campus Ministry. The motion carried. No payment has yet been made to the other designated beneficiary, Nebraska Synod Disaster Relief Fund
- c) Investments Report: The investment balance is \$37,035.31.
- d) Pastor's Report: See included report.
- e) Memorial Report: Balance of Memorial Fund to date is \$20,521.37.
- f) Suggestion Box: None submitted
- g) Committee Reports:
 - 1. Social Committee reported no additional plans since the previous meeting.
 - 2. Worship Committee reported the purchase of an electronic piano at a cost of \$2,800 with payment provided by Thrivent.
 - 3. Parish Education and Youth Group Ministries reported the first committee meeting for that group was held on the third Sunday of the month.
 - 4. Property Committee reported that work on the parsonage basement has been completed to include bathroom walls and trim around the windows. The underground sprinklers for the parsonage and church have been drained and winterized. It was reported that one exterior church light currently is not functioning.

III. Old Business

- a) The painting of the parking lot lines has been completed, and work on the unattached garage is pending.
- b) There was a motion to accept Lonnie Groathouse as a member of Trinity Lutheran Church. The motion carried.
- c) The required constitutional revisions will be available for review and will be voted on by the congregation after church on November 6, 2016.
- d) Pastor reported a productive Fall Conference meeting.
- e) The benches for outside the church have been purchased and are expected after Thanksgiving.

IV. New Business

- (a) Pastor Koos requested and was granted vacation from December 26th to January 1st.
- (b) There was discussion regarding developing a New Member packet to be designed for people interested in joining Trinity Lutheran Church.
- (c) Brian will contact John McGary about the Christmas tree for the church.

Adjournment: There was a motion by Lois 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.

Secretary, Jane Stokebrand

Treasurer's Report October 31, 2016

Balance as of 9/30/16	\$1,230.24
Income	\$13,317.00
Interest	\$0.55

Pastor's Salary	\$3,420.74
Treasurer's Salary	\$199.75
Secretary Salary	\$264.18
Organist	\$150.00
Custodial Salary	\$510.62
Payroll Taxes	\$1,591.95
Pension Fund	\$2,656.78
Mileage	\$361.80
Health Insurance	\$210.00
Misc. Water Softener	\$120.50
Postage & Freight	\$58.72
Copies From Copy Machine	\$196.77
Office Equipment	\$150.99
Village Utilities Church	\$364.25
Village Utilities Parsonage	\$306.15
Natural Gas Church	\$25.94
Natural Gas Parsonage	\$28.91
ELCA Benevolence	\$6,500.00
Telephone Church	\$159.59
Worship	\$44.50
Choir	\$30.85
Church Maintenance	\$100.68
Lawn & Landscape	\$607.14
Repairs to the Parsonage	\$115.00
Transfer to Benev. Savings	\$910.00

Total Expenses:	\$19,085.81
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Balance as of 10/31/16	(-\$4538.02)
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Benevolence (Savings Account)	\$10,170.01
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 11/16/16	\$6,263.11
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SERVICE LEADERS FOR DECEMBER

DATE	SCRIPTURE READER	ACOLYTE	GREETERS	COMMUNION SET UP
				COMMUNION ASSISTANT
December 4 th	Mike Holtmeier	Morgan Stokebrand	Ron & Cindy Wollenburg/ Verdell & Priscilla Koch	
December 11 th	Arlyn Parde	Karli Scherling	Ron & Cindy Wollenburg/ Verdell & Priscilla Koch	
December 18 th	Lois Wattjes	Elsie Woerner	Ron & Cindy Wollenburg/ Verdell & Priscilla Koch	
December 24 th Christmas Eve		Tyson Baker	Ron & Cindy Wollenburg/ Verdell & Priscilla Koch	
December 25 th Christmas Day	Karen Wollenburg	Mallory Chavez	Ron & Cindy Wollenburg/ Verdell & Priscilla Koch	Darcy Pohlman/ Nancy McDougall

HEAD USHER: Mike Holtmeier

USHERS: Tim Garrison, Hunter Garrison, Turner Faxon, Tom Koch, Craig Wollenburg

OUTREACH VISITATION: Service List #8

*Faith is not about everything
turning out okay. Faith is about
being okay no matter how things
turn out.*

DECEMBER 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>Pastor will be on vacation December 26th through January 1st</i>						
4 Program Practice at 8:45 am Care-A-Lot meets at 8:45 am Adult study group at 8:45 am Praise choir meets at 9 am PRAISE SERVICE AT 10 AM WELCA Transitional Board meeting following service (old and new)	5	6 Pastors Text Study 10 am	7 Men's Bible Study at 6:30 am Bible study at 8:30 am Christmas program supper/practice at 6 pm Band practice 7:30 pm	1 Worship Committee meets at 7:00 pm	2	3
11 Adult choir meets at 8:45 am Program Practice at 8:45 am Youth Group meets at 8:45 am WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10 AM	12 Hope Circle's Christmas Gathering 11:15 at RJ's Shalom Circle Christmas Gathering at Liz Poessnecker's home at 6:30 pm	13 Pastors Text Study 10 am	14 Bible study at 8:30 am Christmas program supper/practice at 6 pm Band practice 7:30 pm	15	16	17
18 Program Practice at 8:45 am Adult choir meets at 8:45 am WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10 AM Children's Program 5:30 pm Soup supper following program	19	20 Pastors Text Study 10 am	21 Men's Bible Study at 6:30 am Bible study at 8:30 am Service at the Wilber Care Center 10 am Band practice 7:30 pm Church Council at 8 pm No Confirmation	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 6:00 pm
25 Merry Christmas COMMUNION SERVICE 10 AM	26	27	28 No confirmation	29	30	31

December 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Kathy Holtmeier Zach Rahe Cooper Stokebrand	2 Arlin Schuerman	3 Analee Schuerman Derrick Damrow Carter Holtmeier
4	5 Arlyn Parde	6 Kerrie Schuerman Oakley Strouf	7	8 Kyler Placek	9 Jean Malchow	10
11 Jeff Rahe Nathan Schneider Allen Hatcliff	12 Connie Scherling	13	14 Logunn Baker	15 Deb Schwan	16 Chris Badman Sam Garrison Shae Watjes	17
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

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,
December 21st 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 #8

Please started working on your items for the Annual Report. Items are due in the church office by Friday, January 6th.



There will be no LWR work days in Dec. We will begin Jan. 2nd, 2017 weather permitting.

Donations for Pastor Koos' Christmas gift will be collected at Farmers Cooperative in DeWitt and at First State Bank in DeWitt. Please have your donations there by Wednesday, December 21st.

WORSHIP & ATTENDANCE

11/6/16	98
11/13/16	74
11/20/16	83
11/27/16	87

NOVEMBER OFFERING

Date	General	Benev.	Property
11/6/16	2460.50	150.00	.00
11/13/16	1684.00	.00	.00
11/20/16	2579.00	10.00	.00
11/27/16	1331.50	75.00	.00



Hope Circle

November 14, 2016

Hope Circle met at Kathy's home on November 14, 2016, with 6 members present. Kathy was hostess. Shirley opened the meeting by asking each of us to share one thing we are especially thankful for this season.

Jean gave a Treasurer Report. We then discussed what options we have for donations this year, but we will make a final decision next month.

Kathy and Shirley visited the Martin Luther Exhibition that is temporarily at the Minneapolis Institute of Art. They told us it included many personal possessions of Martin Luther (robes, Bibles, etc.) and even the pulpit he preached from at the St. Andrew's Church. This will all be returned on January 15, 2017, to the Luther House at Wittenberg, Germany. The 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation will be celebrated in 2017.

Shirley told us the LWR blankets and kits were delivered to Lincoln and that the Care-A-Lot kids helped load the boxes.

Shirley led the Bible study entitled "Paul and the Power of Failure," based on passages from Acts and from 1st and 2nd Corinthians.

Our Christmas gathering will be held at RJ's in DeWitt on December 12th.

Shirley closed the meeting with a special Thanksgiving prayer and the Lord's Prayer.

Jean Placek

Sec./Treas

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



Shalom Circle met on November 21.

Minutes were read and approved.

NO reports from Mission Growth or Mission Community. Bev reported on Mission Action that we should remember our friend Melvin Luksik at Mosaic. It was decided to give him a \$15.00 Gift card to Dairy Queen.

Karen gave the WELCA report.

Lois reminded us that the celebration of 500 years of THE REFORMATION will take place in 2017.

Connie led the HYMN STUDY with "He Leadeth Me" by Dr. Joseph Gilmore and "Come Ye Thankful People Come" by Henry Alfred. The group sang these from the hymnal. Pat was our hostess.

Our next meeting will be Our Christmas party on December 12 at the home of Liz and we will also reveal our PRAYER PARTNERS for the year. Members signed up for their POT LUCK choices for the meeting. Our Christmas Party will begin at 6:30 p.m.

We closed the meeting with THE LORD'S PRAYER

Secretary/Treasurer

Shirley Wollenburg

Thank so much to all who helped load the pickups for LWR distribution. There were

153 School Kits

136 Layettes

38 health kits

30 blankets

7 sewing kits

Your donations and hard work is very much appreciated!

**REMEMBER ITEMS FOR THE FOOD
PANTRY**

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

- **Old VCR tapes were taken to the Salvation Army. Old library books were taken to Burwood Books.
- **THANK YOU to those who brought display items for Advent Sunday.
- **THANK YOU to those who purchased poinsettias.
- **New WELCA Board members will be invited to attend the meeting on December 4th.

We are having a special Advent candle lighting at each worship service. Volunteers are needed for December 4th, 11th and 18th. Please talk with Pastor Koos if you are interested in volunteering.

Caroling at the Wilber Care Center on Wednesday, December 21st. Meet in the south activity room at 10 am.

2017 offering envelopes are available in your church mailbox at the back of the church. If you did not receive a box and would like one, please contact the church office.

**Christmas program practice starts
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30th from 6:30
to 7:30. A meal will be served for your
child from 6:00 to 6:30. A full schedule
will be handed out at the first practice.**

**The Christmas program will be Sunday,
December 18th at 5:30.**

**Please let Amber Koch know if your child
will be attending the Christmas program.
You can email Amber at
frednamber@windstream.net or text or
call her at 402-239-5378.**

Thank you!!

Service Groups 2 and 3 will be serving at the soup dinner following the Children's Christmas program on December 18th.

Our Tried and True Treasure for November and December is Herb Rehm. Please feel free to write on his poster located by the church bulletin board.

Bible Study Questions
Wednesdays, 8:30 a.m.
December 2016

12/07/16 Matthew 11:2-11

1. Who was John the Baptist?
2. Why did John the Baptist doubt that Jesus was the Christ?
3. Why did Jesus give the two disciples an indirect answer?
4. How can we overcome doubt in our lives?
5. What was Jesus' witness concerning John?
6. Why did so many fail to believe John and Jesus?
7. What do you learn about John? Who is more important? How important do you believe that John is?
8. Explain in both the literal and metaphorical senses: "the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, and the dead are raised." John asked Jesus if he was "the one who is to come." Jesus answered with the above statement. The people who came to John were seeking the deepest desires of their hearts. How was Jesus' response an answer to those desires?
9. John the Baptist might have expected a mighty one and was confused at the gentle, healing Jesus. Does God always come into your life the way you expect? Explain.
10. Who are the prophets in your life? Why is listening just as important for a prophet as speaking?

12/14/16 Matthew 1:18-25

1. What happened in this family? What were the unusual things that happened? What do you think about that?
2. What do you learn about Joseph? What did he want to do? Why did he want to do that? What do you think about what he wanted to do?
3. What happened? What should Joseph do? Why should he do that? What was unusual about that? (v. 20)
4. What did the *messenger tell Joseph? Why should Joseph call the baby 'Jesus'? What does the name 'Jesus' mean?
5. Why did all those things happen? What do you think about that? (v. 22)
6. The *prophet had said that something would happen. What would happen? Look at the verses in chapter 1. Which verse (or verses) are about the *virgin that would have a baby? Which verses are about 'a son'? Which verses are about his name?
7. What happened? What do you think about that? (v. 24)
8. What do you learn? What do you think about that? (v. 25)
9. Have you "prepared room" for Jesus Christ during this season?
10. Are their disruptions in your life that are causing you fear? What are they?

12/21/16 John 1:1-14

1. Was Christ ever created? (John 1:1) How does this differ from what evolutionists say about the materialistic view of the world?
2. What practical difference does this 'belief' make in people's lives?
3. What part of John 1:1 helps us to know that God was never lonely? How is it that human social needs derive from here? (John 1:1)
4. Is Christ Jesus God? What are humanists able to do because they do not acknowledge a Creator God? (John 1:1)
5. Some people say that they don't owe God anything. But He is their Creator. What are at least four things people owe God and will one day stand accountable for? (John 1:1-4)

6. How has God given each of us a witness of His light? (John 1:4,9) What does this practically mean?
7. Hopelessness challenges all of us at times. Do we need to be concerned that the darkness will extinguish the light? (John 1:5)
8. How did John the Baptist (the witness) differ from other famous men? How come he in the end minimized ministry rather than expanding it? (John 1:6-8)
9. How does Jesus Christ relate to the existence of the world? (John 1:10)
10. How does the deity of Jesus Christ make a difference on your lives?

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)
Alfred Wollenburg and Bob
Wollenburg (Brothers of Don
and Otto Wollenburg)

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

