

**Pastor's Report**  
**December 2016**

The Advent/Christmas season is upon us yet another year! What a blessing to be able to share it with our small community again. It is a joy to look back on all the ministry we did together over the last year and I'm excited for what God has in store for us in the year ahead. In the 2.5 years that I've been here, I've come to realize that each year has more than enough trials and blessings to make for rich shared ministry. Thank you for supporting both my family and me.

Speaking of rich ministry, the last month providing plenty of it. I was able to make 10 visits, lead 7 worship services including both chapel services and a service at the Episcopal church, attend 2 committee meetings, participate in 5 pastor text studies and 5 bible studies including one for the men's group, oversee 3 Wednesday evening Christmas program rehearsals, and lead 1 adult study group. I've started in with an "oblate" program at the St. Benedict Mission & Retreat Center in Schuyler, NE in which 10 other participants and I meet one Saturday a month for 6 hours of worship/prayer/and book study. It is refreshing to be with the disciplined monks and I appreciate their wisdom for my own spiritual journey. It was great performing with the Homestead Harmonizers for their annual tree lighting/Christmas program/caroling events. Between the Benedictine monks and the local men's singers, my collegiality feels very high these days. As always, it was wonderful seeing the kids in our annual Christmas program. The ice and cold tried to squash their efforts over the weekend but the kids were real troopers coming out on a school night.

You all remain in my prayers this holiday season and I hope for nothing but blessings for you all.

Merry Christmas!!

Pastor Sean Koos

January 2017

Greetings from your pastor and partner in ministry!!

Over the last couple months, I've been meeting with the Benedictine monks up in Schuyler for Saturday retreats. The 90-minute drive up there allows me to gather my thoughts and center myself in Christ. I've come to realize that I need that drive to decompress from my busy life. It's hard getting away from the demands of life for a mere 6-hour retreat! Who knew that family and church life could be so demanding?! But the rewards for simply getting away are priceless. I not only reconnect with our good friend and heavenly Father but I'm able to tap into His time frame just a little. God operates on a completely different schedule than my own. God considers many more factors than I do in accomplishing what needs to be done. God is hard at work all the time, moving and creating new life. It's easy to get lost in the issues of our own lives and forget that someone else is out there working on our behalf. God is always working to create new life and new possibilities for each and every one of us. We simply need to find the time to recognize it. I am blessed to be able to get away for the 6-hour monthly retreats but not everyone is so blessed. This doesn't mean the need to find the time to recognize God's work disappears. We all must find the time, somehow and someway. Perhaps a good walk or a good nap; maybe a good book or a good chore will give us the time we need to re-connect with God and His work. Stay open to whatever "retreat" comes along the way.

This month I won't be able to make it up to meet with the monks. I have to bring the confirmation kids up to Grand Island for the annual Middle School Gathering that weekend (01/14-01/15). But I'll be able to meet there at the retreat center a few days later (01/17-01/18) as my fellow first call pastors and I will be gathering to provide support for each other. Both "retreats" will break up the routine of the monthly ministry a little and allow me to reconnect with God and God's timing. Take the time this month to make time for God. It's the coldest month of the year so life tends to naturally slow down. Use the opportunity to reconnect with our good friend and heavenly Father.

Many blessings,

Pastor Koos

# JANUARY 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1 Happy New Year!</b> <b>HYMN FEST AT 10 AM</b>	<b>2</b> Tie Blankets for LWR 9 am to Noon weather permitting	<b>3</b> Pastor Text Study at 10 am	<b>4</b> Men's Bible Study at 6:30 am Bible Study at 8:30 am Confirmation meets at 6:30 pm	<b>5</b> Bible Study 10 am Worship Committee meets at 7 pm	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Sunday School meets 8:45 am Youth Group meets 8:45 am Praise Choir meets at 9 am <b>PRAISE SERVICE AT 10 AM</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Pastor Text Study at 10 am	<b>11</b> Bible Study at 8:30 am Confirmation meets at 6:30 pm	<b>12</b> Good Samaritan Chapel Service 10:30 am	<b>13</b>	<b>14 Middle                      school                      Gathering</b>
<b>15</b> Sunday School meets 8:45 am Praise Choir meets at 9 am <b>YOUTH HYMN FEST AT 10 AM</b> <i>Middle school Gathering</i>	<b>16</b> Shalom Circle meets at 7 pm	<b>17</b> Pastor Text Study at 10 am	<b>18</b> Men's Bible Study at 6:30 am Bible Study at 8:30 am Wilber Care Center Service at 10 am Confirmation meets at 6:30 pm Church Council meets at 8 pm	<b>19</b> Bible Study 10 am	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> Sunday School meets 8:45 am <b>WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10 AM</b> Annual Meeting following service	<b>23</b> <b>Newsletter                      Articles are                      Due by 5 pm</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Sunday School meets 8:45 am <b>COMMUNION SERVICE AT 10 AM</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Pastor Text Study at 10 am			Pastor gone to Theological Conference January 24-25th	

# January 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Liz Poessnecker Norman Stokebrand	Dave Hicks Trey Koch Wanda Slama John Stokebrand		Tina Holtmeier Harold Stokebrand Jenna Essman	Lincoln Koos	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Arlene Scherling	Vicki Little Bailey Wollenburg	Brittany Johnson	Julie Hippen			Matt Friesen RJ Wollenburg
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		Travis Rahe		Kaden Koch	Sandi Klostermeier Donna Stokebrand	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Jill Hardy		Larry Bartles Ann Wollenburg	Tommy Zwiefel	Jack Garrison	Yvonne Rahe	
29	30	31				
	Eleanor Morrissey	Kelly Smith				

# 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)

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

## 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](mailto:tlcdewitt209@gmail.com)

**Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, January 22nd following the worship service**



Church Council will meet on Wednesday, January 18th at 8pm

## WORSHIP & ATTENDANCE

12/4/16	92
12/11/16	108
12/24/16	162
12/25/16	48

## 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 OFFERING

Date	General	Benev.	Property
12/4/16	2405.00	25.00	.00
12/11/16	2841.00	125.00	.00

January -- Service List #2

# ***SERVICE LEADERS FOR JANUARY***

<b>DATE</b>	<b>SCRIPTURE READER</b>	<b>ACOLYTE</b>	<b>GREETERS</b>	<b>COMMUNION SET UP</b> <b>COMMUNION ASSISTANT</b>
January 1 <sup>st</sup>	Dave Hicks	Jack Hopkins	Galen & Bev Plihal	
January 8 <sup>th</sup>	Barbara Nelson	Jurgen Baker	Galen & Bev Plihal	
January 15 <sup>th</sup>	Jane Stokebrand	Logan Brown	Galen & Bev Plihal	
January 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Tim Garrison	Karli Scherling	Galen & Bev Plihal	
January 29 <sup>th</sup>	Liz Poesnecker	Morgan Stokebrand	Galen & Bev Plihal	Darcy Pohlmann & Nancy McDougall

**HEAD USHER:** Kyle Wollenburg

**USHERS:** Byron Beerenstrauch, Mitch McDougall, Cody Wollenburg, Ron Wollenburg

**OUTREACH VISITATION:** Service List #2

*Always find a reason  
to laugh. It may not  
add years to your life  
but will surely add life  
to your years.*

# Hope

Hope Circle

December 12, 2016

Hope Circle's Christmas gathering was held at RJ's in DeWitt on December 12, 2016, with seven members present. Prayer friends were revealed.

We decided to give \$65 to sponsor a Day One radio broadcast again this year.

Jean Placek

Sec./Treas

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

***REMEMBER ITEMS FOR THE FOOD  
PANTRY***

## **WELCA HIGHLIGHTS**

**\*\*We purchased Christmas gifts for Pastor Koos and Barb.**

**\*\*We gave \$250 to the Village Office to help those in need with their utility bills.**

**\*\*Winter Retreat will be held at St. Paul's in Grand Island on 1/21/17. Registration is due 1/17/17.**

**\*\*Thank you to those who purchased poinsettias. WELCA purchased 2.**

There is sign-up sheets for Ushers and Greeters available out front in the entryway for anyone interested in certain months.

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.

# Shalom

SHALOM CIRCLE met at the home of Liz on December 12, 2016 with All our members in attendance at a POTLUCK SUPPER and PRAYER PARTNER gift exchange.

After the meal a short business meeting followed.

MISSION ACTION report was that we will have three blankets for SENIORS this year.

There were NO COMMUNICATIONS

Karen gave us a report on WELCA NEWS.

PRAYER CONCERNS were given.

The evening was spent in Fellowship and revealing our PRAYER PARTNERS for 2016 and drawing for our NEW 2017 PRAYER PARTNERS.

Our THANKS to Liz for a wonderful evening.

Our next meeting will be January 16, 2017 with Shirly Leading the HYMN STUDY and being hostess.

Sec/Treas.

Shirly Wollenburg

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

## *Keep in your Prayers*

### SERVICEMEN

SSG – Brock Johnson  
4305 N. 60<sup>th</sup>  
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)  
Christina Schuerman  
(Arlyn Schuerman's Daughter)

Richard Wollenburg  
Heritage Crossings  
501 N 13<sup>th</sup> 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

Roger Rahe  
Wilber Care Center  
611 N. Main  
Wilber, NE 68465



**Bible Study Questions**  
**Wednesdays, 8:30 a.m.**  
**January 2017**

*01/04/17 Matthew 3:13-17*

1. Where did Jesus come from? Why? (3:13)
2. How did John react to Jesus' request? (3:14)
3. How did Jesus respond to John's reluctance? (3:15)
4. Why did John seek to prevent Jesus from being baptized? Why did he acquiesce?
5. Why was it important for John to comply with Jesus' request? (3:15)
6. How did the Spirit of God play a role in the baptism of Jesus? (3:16)
7. What was the relationship between Jesus and the Father? (3:17)
8. What is meant by "righteous" and "righteousness?"
9. How did Jesus "fulfill all righteousness" by being baptized?
10. In what ways do you struggle to receive this righteousness?

*01/11/17 John 1:29-42*

1. What are the six titles bestowed on Jesus in this text?
2. Why did John the Baptist call Him "the Lamb of God" instead of "the Messiah"?
3. One of these titles is the Lamb of God. What would the Jews have thought of when they heard this title?
4. How does it make you feel to think of Jesus as a lamb being led to slaughter in your behalf? Do you wonder why you would be worth such a sacrifice?
5. If Jesus takes away the sin of the "world", then why do some people go to hell for their sins?
6. John is several months older, why does he say that Jesus was before him?
7. Spirituality has been called "an assault on the ego." What do these models of humility teach us in our own spiritual lives?
8. Why was John's ministry and baptism crucial for Jesus?
9. What does it mean to be chosen by God? Is being "chosen" something unconditional, one-sided, and/or irrevocable?
10. Because they had been chosen by God, the Disciples lives changed profoundly. How has your relationship with Christ resulted in a change or transformation in your life?

*01/18/17 Matthew 4:12-23*

1. What is the significance of Jesus' words in 4:17 and his actions in 4:2
2. Does it seem strange to you (today) how the first disciples responded to Jesus (4:18-20)? Why or why not?
3. Read Luke 19:10. How does this mission relate to followers of Jesus?
4. Describe your understanding of Jesus' mission. Do you observe the church embodying this same mission today? How so (or not)?
5. What is your confidence level to reaching out to others with the love of Jesus
6. What do you think it takes to be an effective witness to the mission of Jesus?
7. Think about your last day (or week). Who did you encounter? What needs were present?
8. In looking back, do you see opportunities you could have "fished for men" (or women...or families)?
9. How would our church change if we embodied Jesus' mission?
10. How would you change if you embodied this mission?

*(no Bible study on 01/25—pastor will be at a conference)*