

March 2017

Greetings from your pastor and partner in ministry!!

We have a busy month ahead with the kickoff of Lent being on the first day of the month. Remember to come out for Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 p.m. on March 1. The following week we will begin our traditional five weeks of Lenten services on Wednesdays. There will be a light supper at 5:30 p.m. with service at 6:00 p.m. This year's themes will explore Jesus being the "Lamb of God" as declared by John the Baptist in John 1:29. The schedule will look like this:

March 08: "Behold, the Lamb of God"
March 15: "The Lamb Who Takes Our Place"
March 22: "The Lamb Who Redeems Us From Slavery"
March 29: "The Passover Lamb of Whom We Partake"
April 05: "The Triumphant Lamb We Worship"

Pastor Cathy Burchett and Mary Garrison will share the responsibility of the messages. If you can't make it to the Wednesday service, there is another service on the following Thursday at the United Methodist church at 10:00 a.m. Also, our first communion class will start on Sunday, March 12, from 4:00-5:00 p.m. All 5th graders are invited to participate.

When I met with the Worship Committee last month, we discussed how to prepare for the Lutheran church's 500th anniversary of the Reformation at the end of October. We thought it would be good to crack open Luther's Small Catechism and re-learn his teachings. We have gifted each family a copy of the catechism and placed it in your mailbox here at church. I will dedicate one sermon each month (2nd Sunday) to flushing out Luther's thoughts. This schedule looks like this:

March: Ten Commandments (part 1)
April: Ten Commandments (part 2)
May: Apostles' Creed
June: Lord's Prayer
July: Baptism
August: Lord's Prayer
September: Confession/Forgiveness
October: Blessings

Finally, we are excited to be introducing a new method of giving offerings: electronic giving. We are using a popular program through Thrivent called "Simply Giving." By providing your bank account info, your offerings can be automatically transferred weekly, biweekly, or monthly to the church's bank account. No more hassle with envelopes! Speak with Pastor Koos, Duane Wollenburg, or Jenn Uher if interesting in giving.

Exciting ministry kicking off this month that I hope you have a chance to take advantage of. Hope to see you around the church!

Many blessings,

Pastor Koos

SERMON TITLES FOR MARCH

March 05: "One Man's Obedience"

March 12: "One Man's Faith"

March 19: "One Man's Peace"

March 26: "One Man's Revelation"

Trinity Lutheran Church Minutes

December 21, 2016

I. Call to order

Chairperson Brian Nelson called to order the regular meeting of the Trinity Lutheran Church Council on December 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, and Jesse Gronemeyer, Adam Wollenburg, 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 Joel that the minutes be approved. Motion carried.
- b) Treasurer's Report: A copy of the monthly treasurer's report indicated a balance of \$7,164.18 as of November 30, 2016. The report was not approved pending further clarification and information.
- c) Investments Report: The investment balance is \$36,862.20.
- d) Pastor's Report: See included report.
- e) Memorial Report: The memorial balance is reported to be \$39,165.14. As of this date, the Thrivent contribution for the electric piano has not yet been received.
- f) Suggestion Box: None submitted
- g) Committee Reports:
 - 1. Social Committee reported no additional plans at this time.
 - 2. Worship Committee reported services are scheduled for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and a Hymn Fest with lay readings for New Year's Day. The Praise Choir will perform on the second Sunday of the month.
 - 3. Parish Education reported completion of the Children's Christmas Program which was rescheduled to December 21st due to inclement weather.
 - 4. Property Committee had no news to report.

III. Old Business

- a) The budget meeting for 2017 is scheduled for January 4, 2017 at 8:00 P.M. with Lois Wattjes, Jenn Uher, Duane Wollenburg, Pastor Koos, and Brian Nelson expected to be in attendance.

IV. New Business

- (a) The Annual Meeting of Trinity Lutheran Church will be held January 22, 2017 following the Sunday service.
- (b) Pastor will be taking the confirmation class to the Middle School Gathering January 14th and 15th in Grand Island, NE. There will be seven students in attendance, including one student from Peace Lutheran with Peace Lutheran being responsible for that student's fees.
- (c) Pastor will be attending the Firsts Call Theological Conference at the Benedictine Center in January.

- (d) There was a motion by Adam and a second by Jesse to pay the Website dues. The motion carried.
- (e) There was a motion by Adam and a second by Jesse to change the title of the Sinking Fund to Capital Improvement Fund. The motion carried.
- (f) There was a motion by Adam and a second by Joel to move \$21,715 from the Memorial Fund to the Capital Improvement Fund. This amount represents the remainder of a \$25,000 donation to the Memorial Fund to be used for capital improvements. The motion carried.
- (g) There was a motion by Adam and a second by Joel to purchase a replacement dishwasher for the parsonage at a maximum cost of \$500. The motion carried.
- (h) There was discussion regarding possible measures to increase clarity of the treasury report. The council treasurer and the financial treasurer will continue to work to finalize that process.
- (i) There was a motion by Duane and a second by Joel to have the nominating committee add a one year council position to the ballot. The motion carried.

Adjournment: There was a motion by Adam 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.

Church Council Secretary, Jane Stokebrand

Trinity Lutheran Church
Annual Meeting
January 22, 2017

Call to Order

The Annual meeting of Trinity Lutheran Church was held following the church service on January 22, 2017. Chair-person Brian Nelson called the meeting to order and Pastor Koos led the devotions.

Annual Meeting and Semi-Annual Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the previous Annual Meeting and Semi-Annual Meeting were presented. There was one correction to the Annual Meeting minutes (January 2016) to include the election of Lois Wattjes as treasurer of the Trinity Lutheran Church Council. There was a motion by Mike Holtmeier and a second by Steve Garrison to approve minutes as amended. The motion carried.

Ballots

The ballot was presented. There was a motion by Tim Garrison and a second by Lois Wattjes to accept the ballot as presented. Ballots were marked and collected for counting.

Reports

The Annual Pastor's report was presented by Pastor Koos . See included report. The outgoing Council Chairperson report was presented. See included report The Treasurer's report was presented. There was a motion by Steve Garrison and a second by Connie Scherling to accept the report. The motion carried. The Memorial Report was presented indicating a balance of \$17, 454.31. Randy Wollenburg reported that there had been a donation to the memorial fund of \$25,000 to be used for capital improvements. For this reason the council voted to establish a Capital Improvement Fund to account for that donation. That account has a current balance of \$21,715.00.

Old Business

The first item of old business was a request for follow up by Darcy Baker regarding the benches which were to be purchased to be installed in front of the church. Duane Wollenburg reported that they have been ordered and a down payment made. They were expected to be delivered in the fall. However, due to a backorder they have not yet arrived. The second item of old business was a question by Liz Possenecker regarding payment of funds from the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Church which were designated for contributions to the Nebraska Lutheran Campus Ministry and the Nebraska Synod Disaster Relief Fund. Chairperson, Brian Nelson, and Vice-Chairperson, Duane Wollenburg, indicated that partial payment has been made and the rest will be paid. The third item of old business regarding the notification of members being put on the ballot was raised. Following discussion indicating some nominees may have not been notified, it was decided to refer to the Constitution for clarification. The fourth item of old business was raised by Arlene Scherling in regard to a desire for more communication and opportunities for fellowship within the Trinity Lutheran Church community. Travis Garrison was recognized for the donation of labor and materials for repairs to the parsonage basement.

New Business

The first item of new business was presentation of the Budget for 2017. Following discussion there was a motion by Steve Garrison and a second by Arlyn Parde to accept the budget as presented. The motion carried. The second item of new business was presentation of the Mission Share Goal for 2017. Following discussion there was a motion by Lois Wattjes and a second by Mike Holtmeier to approve the Mission Share Goal. The motion carried. The third item of new business was a thank you to outgoing council members and council chairperson for their services and contributions to Trinity Lutheran Church.

Results of Balloting

Council Members: Byrone Beerenstrauch and Yvonne Rahe for two year terms. Cody Wollenburg for a one year term.

Church Council Secretary: Amy Stokebrand

Assistant Sunday School Superintendent: Josi Hoesche

Auditing Committee: Pam Garrison

Nebraska Synod Assembly Delegate: Bev Plihal

Following report of the balloting there was a motion by Mike Holtmeier and a second by Adam Wollenburg to destroy the ballots. The motion carried

The meeting was concluded with Pastor Koos leading the group in recitation of the Lord's Prayer. There was a motion by Tim Garrison and a second by Steve Garrison to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Stokebrand/ Church Council Secretary.

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

03/01/17 Matthew 4:1-11

1. Have you ever been hammered by Satan and/or temptations? If so, how did you handle them?
2. Why do you suppose the Spirit led Jesus to be tempted?
3. How important is being loyal to your family and friends? What about your loyalty to God?
4. Satan tried all of his efforts and abilities to convince Jesus to serve him. What might Satan do to get you to serve him?
5. Satan will attack us, which we should expect! So, do you? Why would some Christians believe they do not have to worry about persecution or hardships?
6. What can you do to stop Satan's threats and indictments from being appealing to you?
7. Does the fact that when we receive the Spirit, Satan will come and try to attack all that he can cause fear in you? What can you do to alleviate that fear with faith and assurance?
8. Read James 1:12-15. How does this verse tie into Matthew and your life?
9. Satan's chief job is to try to rob us from what God gives. You have the power to stop him! What is that power, and how do you or can you use it?
10. Christ has overcome Satan with the power resources and abilities we have available to us. Thus, we too can overcome tribulations and temptations, even from Satan himself. How can this be a comfort to you?

03/08/17 John 3:1-17

1. What important group was Nicodemus part of? Why did he visit Jesus at night?
2. If Nicodemus had been caught talking to Jesus in this way, he could have lost his position in the Sanhedrin and possibly worse. Why do you think he took the risk?
3. In verse 5 Jesus says we must be "born of water and Spirit," what does that mean? (*Isaiah 44:3-5; Ezekiel 36:24-27*)
4. How does it benefit us? (*Titus 3:3-7*)
5. How does "new birth" differ from the belief of many who say they are "born again?"
6. Nicodemus is confused. He thinks he is saved because he has already been born a Jew. What does Scripture have to say about that? (*Matthew 3:9; John 8:39; Romans 9:6; Matthew 23:13-15*)
7. What does the comparison to wind (the same word for spirit) and a born-again believer mean?
8. Why must we be born again? (*Job 14:4; Romans 7:18; Psalm 51:5*)
9. New life has often been equated to be the same as having a new heart. What does Scripture have to say? (*Genesis 8:21; Exodus 7:14; Deuteronomy 5:28-29; 8:14; Isaiah 29:13; Jeremiah 17:9*)
10. Why would verses 16 & 17 have been shocking to Nicodemus, a member of the Sanhedrin?

03/15/17 John 4:5-42

1. What do you know about being physically thirsty?
2. What do you think it means to be spiritually thirsty?
3. What are the attributes of thirst that you think make it a good metaphor for spiritual yearning?
4. Read John 4:5-42. What do you learn about God, Jesus, or humans from looking at the larger narrative? What questions do you still have?
5. In John 4:34, what do you think Jesus means when he says "my food is to do the will of the one who sent me and to complete his work?"
6. How do you think we are like the woman at the well? Where are we? What are we looking for?
7. "For Jews use nothing in common with Samaritans," the Gospel says. But the woman at the well was a

- Samaritan. How did Jesus handle this problem, and also the gender issue at the well?
8. When was the only other time Jesus mentions his thirst? Do you think it was the same thirst?
 9. Why did the woman leave her jar and go into town to tell everyone what had happened?
 10. What does "living water" mean to you? For what do you thirst?

03/22/17 John 9:1-41

1. What was significant about Jesus healing this blind man?
2. What did Jesus do to the blind man?
3. Why do you think he spat on the ground?
4. In the beginning of the Gospel, the blind man was simply a man on the street. By the end of the Gospel he was thrown out of the synagogue for defending Jesus. What changed him into a disciple?
5. Read John 9:1-7. What prominent belief about sin and sickness did Jesus' disciples allude to concerning the blind man? How does Jesus' response deal with their ideas?
6. Read John 9:8-12. What is the struggle of the people upon seeing the man healed? What is his testimony about Jesus? What does this tell us about talking about Jesus?
7. Read John 9:13-17. The Pharisees added rules for keeping the Sabbath. How did these rules influence their opinion of Jesus? What does this tell us about how religion (i.e., man-made rules to gain favor with God) can get things, and Jesus, wrong?
8. Read John 9:18-23. Why are the healed man's parents afraid? What does their response tell us about following Jesus and the relationships with have with others?
9. Read John 9:24-34. How does the healed man demonstrate a growing boldness in standing up for Jesus? Why is his defense a strong one?
10. Read John 9:35-41. How do we know that the healed man in believing Jesus receives him as more than just a man? In light of what has happened in John 9, what truth does Jesus point to about himself in v. 39?

03/29/17 John 11:1-45

1. Why did Jesus not go to Lazarus immediately when he found out that he was sick?
2. Many people ask, "Where is God" when they are undergoing times of intense trial and difficulty. What does this section say about where He is?
3. What application can we take from John's statement in verse 5, "Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus"? Especially as it regards our own suffering and loss?
4. Are there points in your life where you've asked God for something and He didn't give it to you? Have you ever kept asking for that thing until you felt you crossed a "point of no return"?
5. Should we expect God to always come through and work a miracle in these kinds of circumstances? Why or why not?
6. What are some practical examples of "resurrection" and "life" in you life?
7. Compare and contrast the reactions of Mary and Martha. How and why are they different? Is there one that we should try to be like more than the other? Why or why not?
8. The criticism of verse 37 is characteristic of the most common criticism leveled by most people against God. They tend to say that in light of the pain experienced in this world, God either does not care about our suffering or can't do anything about it. If either case were true, He would not be God. How does this story answer that criticism?
9. Is it okay to mourn for a loved one that we are confident will be resurrected in the last day? Why or why not?
10. What kinds of situations do people face which might cause them such despair that they feel like dried, dead bones?

Treasurer's Report January 31, 2017

Bank Balance as of 12/31/16			\$21,763.13
	<u>Income</u>	<u>Outstanding</u>	
Offerings	\$14,345.00		
Other	\$6,775.71		
Total Income			\$21,120.71
	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Outstanding</u>	
Pastor's Salary	\$3,420.74		
Treasurer's Salary	\$199.75		
Secretary Salary	\$351.55		
Custodial Salary	\$510.62		
Payroll Taxes	\$1,586.09	\$1,586.09	
Pension Fund	\$1,354.68		
Mileage	\$349.38		
Health Insurance (HSA)	\$420.00		
Misc. Water Softener	\$93.50		
Water Supplies (Culligan)	\$32.00		
Postage & Freight	\$57.32		
Copies from Copy Machine	\$293.80		
Office Equipment	\$150.99		
Village Utilities Church	\$205.61		
Village Utilities Parsonage	\$176.23		
Natural Gas Church	\$844.75		
Natural Gas Parsonage	\$129.52		
Special Benevolence	\$6,250.00	\$6,250.00	
Technology	\$140.00		
Telephone Church	\$159.52		
Telephone Parsonage	\$34.50		
Sunday School	\$83.14		
Confirmation	\$124.02		
Choir	\$108.40		
Church Maintenance	\$14.43		
Repairs to Parsonage	\$621.09	\$498.10	
Property Insurance	\$2,969.00		
Transfer to Benev. Savings	\$910.00		
Total Expenses			\$21,590.63
Previous Months Checks that Cleared			\$6,604.11
Available Cash as of 1/31/17			\$13,676.85
Outstanding Checks			\$8,409.19
Reconciled to Balance on Bank Statement 1/31/17			\$22,086.04
	<u>Deposits</u>	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>Account Balance</u>
Other Accounts:			
Benevolence (Savings Account)	\$1,155.00	\$6,250.00	\$1,925.44
Capital Improvement Fund (Savings Account)	\$0.00	0.00	\$22,137.15

SERVICE LEADERS FOR MARCH

DATE	SCRIPTURE READER	ACOLYTE	GREETERS	COMMUNION SET UP
March 1 st	Karen Wollenburg	Jurgen Baker	Lonnie & Tina Groathouse/ Eldon & Jane Stokebrand	Lana Hager Sandi Klostermeier
March 5 th	Dave Hicks	Mallory Chavez	Lonnie & Tina Groathouse/ Eldon & Jane Stokebrand	
March 12 th	Barbara Nelson	Kanin Baker	Lonnie & Tina Groathouse/ Eldon & Jane Stokebrand	
March 19 th	Jane Stokebrand	Logan Baker	Lonnie & Tina Groathouse/ Eldon & Jane Stokebrand	
March 26 th	Tim Garrison	Karli Scherling	Lonnie & Tina Groathouse/ Eldon & Jane Stokebrand	Sandi Klostermeier Wendi Barnts

HEAD USHER: Doug Stokebrand

USHERS: Brad Garrison, Drew Garrison, Chuck Holtmeier, Zach Kuhn, Kevin Thornburg

OUTREACH VISITATION: Service List #5

Current Service Group: Service Group #4 (Liz Poessnecker and Marvin and Linda Schuerman)

Several days without
prayer
makes one weak

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

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 have had to cancel church services a few times. We have not be able to contact some people because we do not have a current phone number or e-mail address. Please let the church office know if your phone number or e-mail have changed since the directory has been printed.

Are you interested in doing e-donations for your offering to the church? If interested, please contact Pastor Koos or the church office know and the Council will look into this service if there is enough interest.

OFFICE HOURS FOR SECRETARY

Jenn Uher, Secretary

Monday - 5pm to 6:30pm

Wednesday - 5 pm to 6:30 pm

Church email: tlcdewitt209@gmail.com

Jenn Uher has accepted the position of church secretary and will take over the position on March 1, 2017.

It has been a pleasure serving as church secretary. Thank you for your kind words. Barbara Nelson



Church Council will meet on Wednesday, March 15th at 8pm

WORSHIP & ATTENDANCE

1/29/17	101
2/5/17	90
2/12/17	107
2/19/17	79

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.

March--Service Group #5

FEBRUARY OFFERING

DATE	GENERAL	BENEV.	PROPERTY
1/29/17	1936	25.00	
2/5/17	1770.50	125.00	
2/12/17	1362.75	35.00	
2/19/17	899.00	25.00	

MARCH 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Wednesday evening Lenten services are held at Trinity Lutheran Church Thursday morning Lenten services are held at United Methodist Church			1 Ash Wednesday service at 7 pm Worship Committee at 8 pm	2	3 World Day of Prayer at 11 a.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church followed by a soup and sandwich lunch	4
5 Adult study group 8:45 am Sunday School meets at 8:45 am Care A Lot meets at 8:45 am Praise choir at 9 am PRAISE SERVICE AT 10 AM	6 Tie Blankets for LWR 9 am to Noon	7 Pastor Text Study at 10 am	8 Light supper at 5:30 pm followed by Lenten service Confirmation at 6:30 pm	9 Lenten Service at 10 am Good Samaritan Service 10:30 am	10	11
12 Sunday School meets at 8:45 am Adult choir meets at 8:45 am Worship Service at 10 am 5th grade communion class 4 pm	13 Hope Circle meets at 9 am	14 Pastor Text Study at 10 am	15 Chapel Service at Wilber Care Center 10 am Light supper at 5:30 pm followed by Lenten service Confirmation at 6:30 pm Church Council meets 8 pm	16 Lenten Service at 10 am	17	18
19 Sunday School at 8:45 am Adult Choir meets at 8:45 am Episcopal service 9 am Worship Service at 10 am 5th grade communion class 4 pm	20 Shalom Circle meets at 7 pm Newsletter articles are due	21 Pastor Text Study at 10 am	22 Light supper at 5:30 pm followed by Lenten service Confirmation at 6:30 pm	23 Lenten Service at 10 am	24	25
26 Sunday School at 8:45 am Adult Choir meets at 8:45 am COMMUNION SERVICE AT 10 AM 5th grade communion class 4 pm	27 Praise choir 5:30 pm	28 Pastor Text Study at 10 am	29 Light supper at 5:30 pm followed by Lenten service Confirmation at 6:30 pm	30 Lenten Service at 10 am	31	

March 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Eleanor Schwan	2	3 Johanna Koos Sonja Workman	4 Macoy Wollenburg
5 Bonnie Schuerman	6	7	8	9	10 Janice Dunn	11 Peggy Scherling
12 Tracy Karl Ron Hinzman Aimee Wollenburg	13 Kanin Baker	14 Lana Hager Jeff Hatchliff Axley Strouf Chelsea Tietjen	15	16 Arlyce Albert Emma Wollenburg	17 Kirk Holtmeier	18 Christine Roesler
19 Crewe Wollenburg	20 Marjorie Badman	21	22 Carson Bagwell Richard Wollenburg	23	24 Fred Koch Zed Adams	25 Tom Koch
26	27 Steve Bergmeier Janelle Pieper	28 Kenzi Scherling Zach Schuerman Jackie Stejskal	29 Jayne Pieper	30 Roy Scherling	31 Alyssa Brown	

Adult choir resumed practicing on Sunday mornings at 8:45 am. We invite anyone who would like to join us in praising God in song to come.

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.

March 12th the kids will ring bells during church

March 26th the kids will sing during church

Lutheran Men in Mission – March 2017

This month we have two more Men in Mission Bible study dates. We are finishing up on our Accountability series.

Date Passages

March 1 Our Need for Correction: 2 Samuel 12: 1-14 & James 5: 7-20

March 15 Our Need for Mentoring: Numbers 27: 12-23 & 1 Corinthians 4: 1-21

Don't worry if you haven't attended before. While the studies all central around the theme of Accountability, each study can be done individually. We meet at 6:30am on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday's each month and last about a ½ hour. Study questions are multiple choice for the most part and the questions foster good discussions. Coffee and snacks provided!

We were also gifted 6 more Master Builders: Bible for Men books from Christ Lutheran in Pickrell, so we are looking to expand! Non-Trinity members are also more than welcome.

Our Tried and True Treasure for February through April is Elaine Erdmann. Please feel free to write on her poster located by the church bulletin board.

Ash Wednesday service will be held on Wednesday, March 1st at 7 pm.

Lenten services will be held during the Lenten season on Wednesday evenings at Trinity Lutheran Church. There will be a light supper at 5:30 pm followed by a Lenten devotional at 6 pm. There will also be a Thursday morning Lenten devotional at 10 am followed by a coffee social held at the United Methodist Church.

Suppers at Trinity Lutheran will be done by a worship committee member and a confirmation student. The following schedule has been set:

March 8th--Barb Nelson and Logan Brown

March 15th--Kathy Stokebrand and Kanin & Jurgen Baker

March 22nd--Liz Poessnecker and Morgan Stokebrand

March 29th--Arlyce Albert and Mallory Chavez

April 5th--Pastor Koos and Jack Hopkins

Attention congregational members, if you have an account with Thrivent Financial and have not designated your Choice Dollars for 2016, please call their office at 1-800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" to see if you are eligible to designate Choice Dollars to our church. These Choice Dollars are rewards earned on your accounts and if they are not designated by your choice, they stay in the Thrivent Financial company account to be designated as they wish. You have through March 31, 2017 to designate Choice Dollars earned for the year 2016.

For year 2016 your Choice Dollars were used to purchase fleece for high school senior blankets, handicapped pews, an electric piano for use in the balcony, and a riding lawn mower for pastor to use at the parsonage.

Hope

Hope Circle met on February 13, 2017, at Jean's home. Jean was hostess.

Annalee opened the meeting. Jean read the minutes of the last meeting and gave a Treasurer's Report.

Annalee reported that this year's World Day of Prayer will be held at our church on March 3rd. There will be a luncheon afterward, and our circles will furnish desserts. Two of our members offered to furnish the sandwiches. The meeting will begin at 11:00 a.m.

The Spring Gathering will be held on March 18th at the Pickerel Christ Church from 8:15 a.m.-2:00 p.m. The theme for this is "Sisters in Christ."

There will be a sign-up sheet in church soon for Easter lilies.

During Lent we will participate again in the "Baskets of Promise" for Lutheran World Relief. They will be collecting soaps, bath towels and toothbrushes.

Ash Wednesday will be on March 1st. Then during lent we will have devotionals at our church on Wednesday evenings and at the Methodist Church on Thursday mornings, starting March 8th.

Jean led the Bible study entitled "Children of God Through Faith," based mainly on the book of Galatians.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Our next meeting will be held on March 12th. Beryl will be hostess and Sharon will lead the Bible study.

Jean Placek

Don and Shirlie Wollenburg are the Great Grandparents of a Baby Girl--Olivia Rose born on February 17 to Brandon and Maizy Wollenburg of Beatrice. Grandparents are Curt and Laurie Wollenburg.



Shalom

Shalom circle met on Feb. 20 with 6 members present.

We worked on assembling KITTY BAGS and also worked on Decorations for the Wilber Care Center. While working on these we had our HYMN STUDY. Shirlie on "Softly And Tenderly" by Will Thomas and Arlyce on "It Is Well With My Soul" by Horatio Stafford.

Liz then conducted our business meeting. The minutes of the December meeting were read and approved as we did not have a January meeting due to an ice storm.

Valentine/Birthday card and \$1.00 were sent to Melvin Luksik

The World Day of Prayer will be March 3. Discussion was made on that meeting and members volunteered to bring food.

Basket Of Promise will again be collected from the members of the church. There is a list in the bulletin of items needed for this project.

WELCA report was given

SPRING GATHERING will be held at Christ Lutheran, Pickrell on March 4.

Prayer Concerns were given

Arlyce served as our hostess.

Our next meeting will be on March 20 with Liz leading the HYMN STUDY and Serving as hostess.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer

Secretary/Treas.
Shirlie Wollenburg

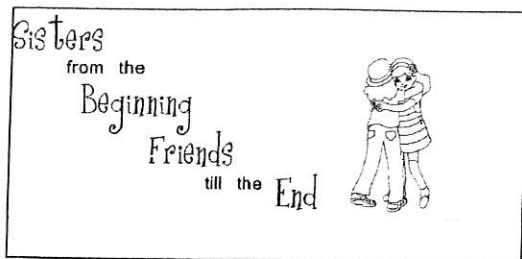


WELCA HIGHLIGHTS

****World Day of Prayer Service** will be held Friday, March 3rd at 11 am at our church. We will serve lunch following the service.

****Southeast NE Spring Gathering** will be held March 18th at Christ Lutheran, Pickrell.

****We will participate in Baskets of Promise** during the Lent season. We will collect soap, bath towels, combs, toothbrushes, and nail clippers.



SISTERS IN CHRIST

"She is strong and graceful, as well as cheerful about the future."

Proverbs 31:25 CEV

Theme Hymn "We Are One in the Spirit"

NSWO SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

SPRING GATHERING

March 18, 2017

Christ Lutheran Church, 2576 E. Cherry Rd., Pickrell, NE

Church is on intersection of East Cherry Road and South 25 Road. From the intersection of Hwy 77 & Pickrell Road go 3 miles east on Pickrell Rd. Turn north on S. 25 Rd for 2 miles. From the intersection of Hwy 41 & S. 25 Rd (about 9 miles west of Adams, NE) go south 4 miles on the blacktop.

AGENDA

Registration begins	8:15
Gathering Music	8:45
Opening	9:00
Program:	Worship & Bible Study
	Speakers from Adult & Teen Challenge and Sister Hugs
	Music by Grace Notes
Closing	3:00

WE SHARE OUR BLESSINGS

Spring Gathering Offering: ½ to CWO

¼ to NSWO

¼ ELCA Good Gifts-

Send a Girl to School



Tangible Offering:

Midland's Blue River Women's Center Adult & Teen Challenge – Needed Items: toilet paper, facial tissue, paper towels, feminine hygiene products, ziplock bags, tin foil, garbage bags, cleaning supplies, laundry detergent, fabric softener, towels of all sizes (bath, hand, washcloth, kitchen).

REGISTRATION

SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE SPRING GATHERING, MARCH 18, 2017

Registration (including lunch) is transferable but not refundable. \$18.00 if postmarked by March 4, 2017; \$20.00 after March 4. Make check payable to NSWO and mail with this form to Sandy Terry, 1461 2nd Avenue Ct., Fremont, NE 68025-5317 (phone 402-957-4480)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail (optional) _____

Church _____

Dietary Concerns _____

World Day of Prayer will be held here at Trinity on March 3, 2017 at 11 a.m. A soup and sandwich lunch will follow the service. Everyone is encouraged to attend. This year's service was written by women of the Philippines and raises the question of justice.

We will be joining Lutheran World Relief's BASKETS OF PROMISE campaign during Lent. The personal care kits give people around the world tools to stay healthy in life's most challenging situations. We would like to be able to complete fifty kits.

- March 5- Bars of soap (4-5 oz., any brand) in original wrapping
- March 12- Bath towels (light-weight, maximum 52" x 27", dark color recommended)
- March 19- Toothbrushes (adult size, in original packaging)
- March 26- Combs
- April 2 -Nail Clippers (metal, attached file optional)
- April 9- Bars of Soap

If you miss the Sunday for a specific item feel free to bring it on a later Sunday.

BASKETS *of* PROMISE

This Lent we're joining Lutheran World Relief's **Baskets of Promise** campaign. Each week, we'll collect a different item that we'll use to assemble Personal Care Kits that give people around the world tools to stay healthy in life's most challenging situations.

Our goal is to assemble 50 LWR Personal Care Kits during Lent.

HERE'S OUR COLLECTION SCHEDULE:

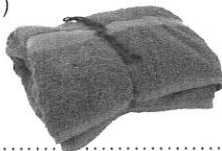
MARCH 5

Bars of Soap (4 to 5 oz., any brand, in original wrapping)



MARCH 12

Bath Towels (light-weight, maximum 52" x 27", dark color recommended)



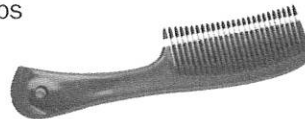
MARCH 19

Toothbrushes (adult size, in original packaging)



MARCH 26

Combs



APRIL 2

Nail Clippers (metal, attached file optional)



APRIL 9 (PALM SUNDAY)

Bars of Soap



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
2767 Daniel Avenue
San Diego, CA 92111



Additional Prayer requests for

Please continue to keep these
members in your prayers:

Marge Badman

Please keep in your prayers
the families of Dennis and
Kathy Rahe. Their mother,
Ada Nolte, passed away on
February 13th..

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

Anna Wollenburg
Wilber Care Center
611 N. Main
Wilber, NE 68465

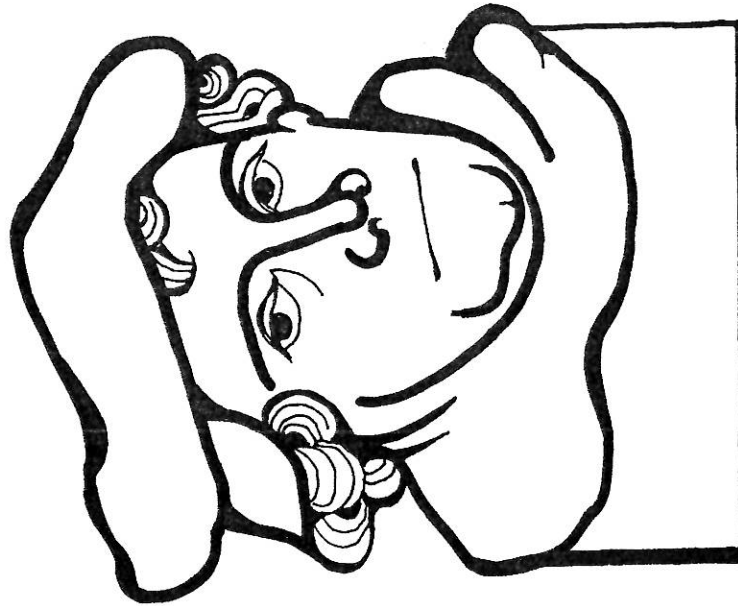
Elaine Erdmann
Good Samaritan
401 S. 22nd, Room 113
Beatrice, NE 68310

George Scherling
2073 County Rd X
DeWitt, NE 68341

Eileen Damkroger
RR2 Box 43
DeWitt, NE 68341

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

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



LUTHER'S PREFACE TO THE SMALL CATECHISM OF 1529*

Martin Luther, to all faithful and upright pastors and preachers: Grace, mercy, and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord.

The deplorable, wretched deprivation that I recently encountered while I was a visitor has constrained and compelled me to prepare this catechism, or Christian instruction, in such a brief, plain, and simple version. Dear God, what misery I beheld! The ordinary person, especially in the villages, knows absolutely nothing about the Christian faith, and unfortunately many pastors are completely unskilled and incompetent teachers. Yet supposedly they all bear the name Christian, are baptized, and receive the holy sacrament, even though they do not know the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, or the Ten Commandments! As a result they live like simple cattle or irrational pigs and, despite the fact that the gospel has returned, have mastered the fine art of misusing all their freedom.

O you bishops! How are you going to answer to Christ, now that you have so shamefully neglected the people and have not exercised your office for even a single second? May you escape punishment for this! You forbid the cup to the laity in the Lord's supper** and insist on observance of your human laws, while never even bothering to ask whether the people know the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, the Ten Commandments, or a single section of God's word. Shame on you forever!

Therefore, my dear sirs and brothers, who are either pastors or preachers, I beg all of you for God's sake to take up your office boldly, to have pity on your people, who are entrusted to you, and to help us bring the catechism to the people, especially to the young. Moreover, I ask that those unable to do any better take up these

* Here Luther advises pastors on how to teach Christian doctrine and use this book.

** In Luther's day only priests received the wine in the Lord's supper.

charts and versions and read them to the people word for word in the following manner:

In the first place, the preacher should above all take care to avoid changes or variations in the text and version of the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, the sacraments, but instead adopt a single version, stick with it, and always use the same one year after year. For the young and the unlettered people must be taught with a single, fixed text and version. Otherwise, if someone teaches one way now and another way next year—even for the sake of making improvements—the people become quite easily confused, and all the time and effort will go for naught.

The dear church fathers also understood this well. They used one form for the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments. Therefore, we, too, should teach these parts to the young and to people who cannot read in such a way that we neither change a single syllable nor present or recite it differently from one year to the next. Therefore, choose for yourself whatever version you want and stick with it for good. To be sure, when you preach to educated and intelligent people, then you may demonstrate your erudition and discuss these parts with as much complexity and from as many different angles as you can. But with the young people, stick with a fixed, unchanging version and form. To begin with, teach them these parts: the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, etc., following the text word for word, so that they can also repeat it back to you and learn it by heart.

Those who do not want to learn these things—who must be told how they deny Christ and are not Christians—should also not be admitted to the sacrament, should not be sponsors for children at baptism, and should not exercise any aspect of Christian freedom, but instead should simply be sent back home to the pope and his officials and, along with them, to the devil himself. Moreover, their parents and employers ought to deny them food and drink

and advise them that the prince is disposed to drive such coarse people out of the country.

Although no one can or should force another person to believe, nevertheless one should insist upon and hold the masses to this: that they know what is right and wrong among those with whom they wish to reside, eat, and earn a living. For example, if people want to live in a particular city, they ought to know and abide by the laws of the city whose protection they enjoy, no matter whether they believe or are at heart scoundrels and villains.

In the second place, once the people have learned the text well, then teach them to understand it, too, so that they know what it means. Take up again the form offered in these charts or some other short form that you may prefer. Then adhere to it without changing a single syllable, just as was stated above regarding the text. Moreover, allow yourself ample time for it, because you need not take up all the parts at once but may instead handle them one at a time. After the people understand the First Commandment well, then take up the Second, and so on. Otherwise they will be so overwhelmed that they will hardly remember a single thing.

In the third place, after you have taught the people a short catechism like this one, then take up a longer catechism and impart to them a richer and fuller understanding. Using such a catechism, explain each individual commandment, petition, or part with its various works, benefits and blessings, harm and danger, as you find treated at length in so many booklets. In particular, put the greatest stress on that commandment or part where your people experience the greatest need. For example, you must strongly emphasize the Seventh Commandment, dealing with stealing, to artisans and shopkeepers and even to farmers and household workers, because rampant among such people are all kinds of dishonesty and thievery. Likewise, you must emphasize the Fourth Commandment to children and the common people, so that they are orderly, faithful,

obedient, and peaceful. Always adduce many examples from the scriptures where God either punished or blessed such people.

In particular, at this point also urge governing authorities and parents to rule well and to send their children to school. Point out how they are obliged to do so and what a damnable sin they commit if they do not, for thereby, as the worst enemies of God and humanity, they overthrow and lay waste both the kingdom of God and the kingdom of the world. Explain very clearly what kind of horrible damage they do when they do not help to train children as pastors, preachers, civil servants, etc., and tell them that God will punish them dreadfully for this. For in our day and age it is necessary to preach about these things. The extent to which parents and governing authorities are now sinning in these matters defies description. The devil, too, intends to do something horrible in all this.

Finally, because the tyranny of the pope* has been abolished, people no longer want to receive the sacrament [of the altar], and they treat it with contempt. This, too, needs to be stressed, while keeping in mind that we should not compel anyone to believe or to receive the sacrament and should not fix any law or time or place for it.** Instead, we should preach in such a way that the people make themselves come without our law and just plain compel us pastors to administer the sacrament to them. This can be done by telling them: You have to worry that whoever does not desire or receive the sacrament at the very least around four times a year despises the sacrament and is no Christian, just as anyone who does not listen to or believe the gospel is no Christian. For Christ did not say, "Omit this," or "Despise this," but instead, "Do this, as often as you drink it . . ." He really wants it to be done and not completely omitted or despised. "Do this," he says.

* Luther's strong language reflects his ongoing struggle with the institutional church of his day.

** In Luther's day all Christians had to commune between Easter and ten days after Pentecost.

Those who do not hold the sacrament in high esteem indicate that they have no sin, no flesh, no devil, no world, no death, no dangers, no hell. That is, they *believe* they have none of these things, although they are up to their ears in them and belong to the devil twice over. On the other hand, they indicate that they need no grace, no life, no paradise, no heaven, no Christ, no God, nor any other good thing. For if they believed that they had so much evil and needed so much good, they would not neglect the sacrament, in which help against such evil is provided and in which so much good is given. It would not be necessary to compel them with any law to receive the sacrament. Instead, they would come on their own, rushing and running to it; they would compel themselves to come and would insist that you give them the sacrament.

For these reasons you do not need to make any law concerning this, as the pope did. Only emphasize clearly the benefit and the harm, the need and the blessing, the danger and the salvation in this sacrament. Then they will doubtless come on their own without any compulsion. If they do not come, give up on them and tell them that those who do not pay attention to or feel their great need and God's gracious help belong to the devil. However, if you either do not urge such participation or make it into a law or poison, then it is your fault if they despise the sacrament. How can they help but neglect it, if you sleep and remain silent?

Therefore, pastors and preachers, take note! Our office has now become a completely different one than it was under the pope. It has now become serious and salutary. Thus, it now involves much toil and work, many dangers and attacks, and in addition little reward or gratitude in the world. But Christ himself will be our reward, so long as we labor faithfully. May the Father of all grace grant it, to whom be praise and thanks in eternity through Christ, our Lord. Amen.