

## **December 2017**

Greetings from your pastor and partner in ministry!!

We made it through another great year of shared ministry! I like to think the Advent season is both a time of reflection and anticipation. Earlier in the year we received a note in the suggestion box expressing concern over worship participation. The council and I discussed it and felt an overall assessment of the congregational ethos might help us better understand how to better lead the congregation. The survey put out over the summer revealed a lot about our strengths and growth areas. This fall we made some changes to the services that reflect the survey revelations. Most notably we decided not to introduce any new praise songs for the year, chose more familiar hymns, and adopted the Narrative Lectionary in replacement of the Revised Common Lectionary. Members have appreciated the changes and we hope to make any more necessary changes in the months ahead. After all, hope is the true reason for the season. In this season of Advent, we eagerly anticipate the coming of our Lord because in him all things are made new. He brings new excitement and opportunities to our ministry. He brings new life! We don't know where the new year will take us but if we allow Christ to lead us, be assured that he'll only help us to thrive.

At least we have an idea of how this month will lead us according to the calendar. Our kids will be rehearsing for the Christmas program on both Wednesdays and Sundays. I still want to meet with the confirmation kids for the weekly lessons as well as their rehearsals so please plan on us meeting for the full hour and a half on the Wednesdays. I'm confident the kids will be well-prepared for the performance on the 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. With Christmas Eve falling on a Sunday this year, we'll have a day filled with worship opportunities. We will have our monthly communion service in the morning and our traditional candlelight service in the evening. Come back on Christmas morning for another communion service. My family will be away on vacation from Dec. 26-Jan 02 so there will be our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Christmas Hymn Extravaganza Service on New Year's Eve. We'll have plenty of holiday songs and cheer to celebrate the 12 days of Christmas.

Our Lord comes to us yet again and we rejoice in his coming. I pray you take the time to reflect on how he has blessed you in the last year and how you would like him to bless you in the year ahead. All things are possible with Christ!

Advent/Christmas blessings to you all!

Pastor Koos

**Pastor's Report**  
**November 2017**

You've got to appreciate Nebraska's temperate weather! In the middle of November and we're back into the 50s for the foreseeable future following a frigid Halloween...definitely not in Minnesota anymore! And just in time for hunting season. God is good to us Nebraskans!

Indeed, God has been good to our shared ministry over the last month. I was able to make 4 visits, lead 4 worship services included the chapel at the Wilber Care Center, participate in 3 text studies and 2 men's bible studies, teach 4 bible studies, 1 Sunday school class, and 2 confirmation classes, and supervise 1 committee meeting. It was a privilege to attend the annual barbershop contest in St. Louis along with my fellow Homestead Harmonizers. It's always a pleasure to share services with the good people of Soap Creek and our most recent service was particularly special as we gathered to celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation. This year's fall theological conference also commemorated the anniversary and was very enriching for us leaders in the Lutheran church. I had fun taking the confirmation class to both a Halloween party at the Mosaic Homes in Beatrice and a night of bingo at the Wilber Care Center. It's good to break up the weekly routine and get the students out into the community. I enjoyed teaming our choir with several local choirs for a hymn fest celebrating the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary. I met with fellow campus ministers and board members of the Nebraska Lutheran Campus Ministry for our annual gathering and we had a fruitful discussion on our collective mission and vision. Finally, I was blessed with the opportunity to marry a young couple from Kansas, Steven and Mallory, and foresee a bright future for them. All in all, a busy month of ministry heading into a busy Advent/Christmas season. So much to be thankful for!!

Many blessings,  
Pastor Koos

# **Trinity Lutheran Church Minutes**

October 18, 2017

## **I. Call to order**

Chairperson Duane Wollenburg called to order the regular meeting of the Trinity Lutheran Church Council on October 18, 2017. Pastor Koos led the group in devotions. Members in attendance were Pastor Koos, Duane Wollenburg, Lois Wattjes, Brian Scherling, Joel Kaelin, Cody Wollenburg, Jesse Gronemeyer and Amy Stokebrand

### Reports

- a) Secretary's Report: A copy of the previous minutes was reviewed. Lois made a motion and it was seconded by Jesse that the minutes be approved. Motion carried.
- b) Treasurer's Report: A copy of the monthly treasurer's report indicated a balance of \$1,898.08 as of September 30, 2017. The available cash balance is \$1,813.08. Joel made a motion to accept the report and it was seconded by Brian. Motion carried.
- c) Investments Report: The investment balance as of September 29, 2017 is \$41,684.95.
- d) Pastor's Report: See included report.
- e) Memorial Report: The memorial balance is reported to be \$12,134.51 as of September 30, 2017. The church received a memorial from the Roger Rahe family.
- f) Suggestion Box: There was a note that the 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration project still needs to be fulfilled. It was noted that our commitment has already been fulfilled.
- g) Committee Reports:
  1. Social Committee had no report.
  2. Worship Committee reported that Mandy Schmidt will also play the piano and organ for worship. The Children's Christmas Program will be Sunday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm with a soup dinner to follow. Sunday School Superintendent Jana Muehling decided on the Christmas program called "New Star." Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm will be a Mass Choir at St. John's Lutheran Church in Beatrice in celebration of the 500<sup>th</sup> year of the Reformation. A joint service with St. Paul Lutheran will be on the 29<sup>th</sup> with the children and adult choir along with communion. Thankoffering Service will be on Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> with Analee Schuerman leading. The Thanksgiving Community Service will be Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> at the Episcopal Church. The Christmas Eve service will be at 6:00pm and Christmas Day communion service at 10:00 am. Regular communion will be Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>.
  3. Evangelical Committee will send out follow up letters to visitors of our church.
  4. Parish Education nothing to report.
  5. Youth Group met and elected officers for the year and are looking at getting t-shirts made.
  6. Property committee reported that the insurance company requested a second bid for the AC unit project. Brian received the second bid and will forward to the insurance company so no action was taken until he hears if insurance will cover the unit.

## **II. Old Business**

- a) The Photo Directory was revisited to remind everyone to make their appointments to get their pictures taken soon. No pictures will be taken after Thanksgiving.

- b) The joint service on Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> with St. Paul Lutheran was discussed and Pastor Rick suggested that the loose offering go to the ELCA Disaster Relief Fund. Lois made motion and Cody seconded with the motion carried. Coffee and rolls will be served before church that morning.

### **III. New Business**

- (a) It was decided that the Christmas tree will be put up and decorated on the first Sunday in December.
- (b) The church's computer's operating system was reviewed. The church's computer support system uses the standard Windows program for \$399 for 12 months of service. The premium support is \$499 for 12 months. Brian made a motion to continue to purchase the standard at \$399 and Jesse seconded. Motion carried.
- (c) A Pie Fundraiser was discussed with the funds to go to the Youth Group so Pastor will visit with Kelly Smith about getting this underway.
- (d) Discussed the new membership transfers for Jim Workman and the Jay and Jamie Weber family which includes children Paizley, Blakely and Maddox. Jesse made the motion to approve the new members and Lois seconded it with the motion carried.
- (e) Pastor reported that he goes to the First Lutheran Church in Wilber for Bible Study. He mentioned that it is very fruitful and informative and there is great opportunity for more members to attend if interested.
- (f) A discussion was held about the policies of the confirmation class and what is expected of each student to earn enough point requirements to be confirmed.

There was a motion by Brian and a second by Jesse to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. In conclusion of the meeting, the council recited the Lord's Prayer.

Church Council Secretary, Amy Stokebrand

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

*12-06-17 Mark 1:1-8*

1. Mark says that this is the beginning of the Gospel (Good News). Why do you think he puts the starting point here and not at Jesus' birth?
2. Bearing in mind that for 400 years Israel had not had a prophet what do you think must have been the sentiments of the people on hearing these words?
3. Does Mark's beginning create indifference in us or a sense of expectation?
4. How does this news compare to the news we see on TV every day?
5. Why is it important that the gospel began with prophecy?
6. What Old Testament prophecy did John the Baptist fulfill? *Isaiah 40:3; Malachi 3:1*
7. Given Malachi is the last book of the Old Testament, How does this opening of Mark's gospel affect our understanding of the relationship between the Old and New Testaments?
8. How does the baptism of repentance prepare the way for Jesus? *Deuteronomy 30:19*
9. Why do we need the baptism of the Holy Spirit? Why is it important to realize how the Holy Spirit works in us, with us and through us?
10. What expectations do you have of Jesus' coming?

*12-13-17 John 1:6-8, 19-28*

1. Why should John's message be given serious consideration as the testimony of a well-qualified witness? *Isaiah 40:3; Malachi 4:5; Mark 9: 11-13; Luke 1:15-17, 67-80*
2. Why then did he deny being Elijah?
3. What does this teach us about humility?
4. How does the passage from the Gospel of John affirm God's faithfulness as celebrated in Isaiah? (*Isaiah 61: 1-4,8-11*)
5. John the Baptist is called by God to "make straight the way of the Lord" (Verse 23). What do these words mean?
6. Why would the Jewish leaders have had to ask John the Baptist who he was?
7. How did John respond to the question of the priests and Levites? Did he try to evade their questions? Why?
8. The Gospel of John records other Scriptural witnesses who testify to Christ. Who were they? *John 5:36, 37, 39, 8:14, 18, 15:26*
9. What do you think is meant by light and darkness in the spiritual sense?
10. If humility can be described as looking at yourself as nothing and Christ as everything, how do you rate yourself in terms of humility?

12-20-17 Luke 1:26-38

1. What are some characteristics of Mary that stand out to you and why?
2. How do you think Mary must have felt as Gabriel revealed each fact and characteristic of Jesus?
3. Is there anything different about Mary's question and Zechariah's question earlier in the chapter? Why does Gabriel react differently to Mary's questions than to Zechariah?
4. What were some possible issues that might come up in Mary's life when she submits to God's plan?
5. Was Mary's tendency to contemplate and ponder things a strength or a weakness? Explain.
6. What if anything does this have to do with her humility and submissiveness to God?
7. What would it take for you to spend more time in reflection and contemplation of God and his will in your life?
8. In (Luke 1:32) Gabriel says that Jesus will be "great." Then he describes four things that Jesus will be or have or do. What are they? What is important about these descriptors?
9. What progression do you see in Mary's responses in (Luke 1:29, 34, 38)? How does Gabriel answer her question about how this could happen (v. 35-37)? Have you ever experienced going from confusion to questioning to faith?
10. What do you think the angel's statement in (Luke 1:37) meant for Mary? What could it mean for you today?

12-27-17 NO BIBLE STUDY!!

		Treasurer's Report October 31, 2017		
	Bank Balance as of 9/30/17			\$1,898.08
		<u>Income</u>	<u>Outstanding</u>	
	Offering	\$12,235.86		
	Other	\$1,286.90		
	Total Income			\$13,522.76
		<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Outstanding</u>	
01-00	Pastor's Salary	\$3,446.84		
01-01	Treasurer's Salary	\$199.75		
01-02	Secretary Salary	\$413.96		
01-03	Organist	\$300.00		
01-04	Custodial Salary	\$510.62		
01-05	Payroll Taxes	\$1,625.72	\$1,625.72	
01-06	Pension Fund, Housing & SECA	\$1,285.13		
01-07	Supply Pastor	\$150.00		
02-00	Mileage	\$285.69		
02-01	Health Insurance (HSA)	\$420.00		
02-02	Water Softener Reimbursement (R/O)	\$27.00		
02-03	Water Supplies (Culligan)	\$66.50		
04-00	Postage & Freight	\$57.28	\$57.28	
04-02	Office Supplies	\$204.98		
04-04	Office Equipment	\$150.99		
05-00	Village Utilities Church	\$409.40		
05-01	Village Utilities Parsonage	\$403.31		
05-02	Natural Gas Church	\$25.32		
05-03	Natural Gas Parsonage	\$26.30		
06-01	Benev. Transfer	\$917.00		
06-04	Vanco E-giving Fees	\$61.00		
07-03	Copyright License	\$208.00		
08-00	Telephone Church	\$169.42		
08-01	Telephone Parsonage	\$34.50		
09-00	Sunday School	\$273.42		
09-02	Confirmation	\$41.31		
11-00	Church Maintenance	\$1,229.52	\$1,194.15	
11-03	Lawn & Landscape	\$348.57		
	Total Expenses			\$13,291.53
	Previous Months Checks that Cleared			\$85.00
	Available Cash as of 10/31/17			\$2,044.31
	Outstanding Checks			\$2,877.15
	Reconciled to Balance on Bank Statement 10/31/17			\$4,921.46
		<u>Deposits</u>	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>Account Balance</u>
	Other Accounts:			
	Benevolence (Savings Account)	\$1,052.00		\$5,946.09
	Capital Improvement Fund (Savings Account)	\$19,906.40	\$1,194.15	\$29,923.44



**Worship Committee** will meet on Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 pm

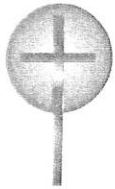
**WELCA board** will meet Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> following the service

**Hope Circle** will meet Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at Legend's in Clatonia

**Shalom Circle** will meet Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at Shirly Wollenburg's

**Church Council** will meet on Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 pm

**Confirmation** will be combined program rehearsal and lesson through Advent (11/29, 12/6, 12/13) from 6:30 – 8:00pm. There will be NO CLASS on 12/20 & 12/27.



**EILEEN DAMKROGER is our Tried-and-True Treasure for DECEMBER.**

Please feel free to write on her poster located by the bulletin board.



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**



**ELECTRONIC GIVING**

Just as you rely upon receiving income on a regular basis, Trinity Lutheran relies on your regular contributions. Trinity Lutheran appreciates the efforts of congregation members to make consistent donations throughout the year. To assist you, the church provides a convenient electronic giving option for setting up regular contributions. To donate, visit the church website at [www.trinitylutherandewitt.com](http://www.trinitylutherandewitt.com), locate the link to our online giving page and follow the instructions.



Date	Attendance	General Offering	Benevolence Offering	Property Offering	E-Giving Offering
10/29	171	\$2042.61	\$25.00	\$5.00	\$200.00
11/5	118	\$2112.05		\$5.00	\$516.25
11/12	77	\$1393.00	\$50.00		\$325.00
11/19	96	\$1699.50	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$525.00



**PASTOR SEAN KOOS**

Church: 683-3225 Parsonage: 683-2425

Cell Phone: 402-806-6878

Email: [pastorkoos@gmail.com](mailto:pastorkoos@gmail.com)

**OFFICE HOURS**

Tuesday- Friday 1pm-5pm & 8pm-12am

Saturday 1pm to 5pm

**SECRETARY - JENN UHER**

Church: 683-3225

Email: [tlcdewitt209@gmail.com](mailto:tlcdewitt209@gmail.com)

Cell: 402-245-8198

**OFFICE HOURS**

Monday & Wednesday 5pm-6:30pm  
(Updated Hours will be posted on Office Door)



# Service Leaders For **DECEMBER**

DATE	SCRIPTURE READER	ACOLYTE	GREETERS	COMMUNION SET UP
				COMMUNION ASSISTANT
December 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Kynlee Uher	Colton Placek	Ron & Cindy Wollenburg/ Verdell & Priscilla Koch	
December 10 <sup>th</sup>	Bev Plihal	Logan Brown	Ron & Cindy Wollenburg/ Verdell & Priscilla Koch	
December 17 <sup>th</sup>	Maddox Smith	Elsie Woerner	Ron & Cindy Wollenburg/ Verdell & Priscilla Koch	
December 24 <sup>th</sup> Communion	Karen Wollenburg	Jack Hopkins	Ron & Cindy Wollenburg/ Verdell & Priscilla Koch	
December 24 <sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve		Payton Smidt	Ron & Cindy Wollenburg/ Verdell & Priscilla Koch	
December 25 <sup>th</sup> Christmas Day	Barb Nelson	Karli Scherling	Ron & Cindy Wollenburg/ Verdell & Priscilla Koch	Jane Stokebrand/ Pam Garrison
December 31 <sup>st</sup>	Jane Stokebrand	Mallory Chavez	Ron & Cindy Wollenburg/ Verdell & Priscilla Koch	Pam Garrison/ Shari Pieper

**HEAD USHER:** Mike Holtmeier

**USHERS:** Hunter Garrison, Tim Garrison, Craig Wollenburg

**OUTREACH VISITATION:** Service List #8

Dan & Connie Scherling/Arlyce Albert



### *True Meaning of Christmas*

Christmas is about to be celebrated this year  
With family and friends that you hold dear  
But is the purpose of this celebration clear  
Or is it seen only as a way to gain more gear?

Foster the meaning true this Christmas time of year  
The remembrance of the baby Jesus dear  
The gift of love given for all to know and share  
So that humanity would no longer need to fear.

You see Christmas is a 'Giving' time of year  
And a time for all to be full of joy and cheer  
For the love and hope given  
That first Christmas time year  
So celebrate this gift so unique and rare.

Spare no cost this Christmas time of year  
Give the most precious, priceless gifts you have to share  
The gifts of Love and Hope to those you hold dear  
For these are real treasures to be enjoyed in every year.

MERRY  
CHRISTMAS

# December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<u>Pastor gone 12/26 - 1/2</u>					1	2
3 Adult Bible Study 8:45 am Coffee Social & Display of Wreaths 9:00 am Praise Choir 9:00 am <b>PRAISE SERVICE AT 10:00 AM</b> Deadline to order Poinsettias	4 Pastor Text Study 10:00 am	5 Men's Bible Study 6:30 am Bible Study 8:30 am Christmas Program Practice 6:30 pm	6 Men's Bible Study 6:30 am Bible Study 8:30 am Christmas Program Practice 6:30 pm	7	8	9 SANTA at Dewitt Legion 9am-11am
10 Sunday School 8:45 am <b>WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10:00 AM</b> (Children's Bells) WELCA Board following Service	11 Hope Circle 9:00 am	12 Pastor Text Study 10:00 am	13 Bible Study 8:30 am Christmas Program Practice 6:30pm	14 Good Samaritan Chapel Service 10:00 am	15	16
17 Sunday School 8:45 am Adult choir 8:45 am <b>WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 am</b> (Adult Choir) CHRISTMAS PROGRAM 5:30 pm	18 <b>NEWSLETTER ARTICLES ARE DUE</b> Shalom Circle 7:00 pm	19 Pastor Text Study 10:00 am	20 Men's Bible Study 6:30 am Bible Study 8:30 am Wilber Care Center Chapel 10:00 am NO CONFIRMATION Church Council Party at Duane Wollenburg's	21	22	23
24 NO Sunday School <b>COMMUNION SERVICE 10:00 AM</b> <b>CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 6:00 PM</b>	25 <b>COMMUNION SERVICE 10:00 AM</b>	26 -Pastor Gone	27 -Pastor Gone  NO CONFIRMATION	28 -Pastor Gone	29 -Pastor Gone	30 -Pastor Gone
31 -Pastor Gone NO Sunday School <b>HYMN FEST 10:00 am</b>	1 -Pastor Gone	2 -Pastor Gone				

# December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 Analee Schuerman	4	5 Arlyn Parde	6 Kerrie Schuerman Oakley Strouf	7	1 Kathy Holtmeier Zach Rahe Cooper Stokebrand	2 Arlin Schuerman
10 Jeff Rahe Nathan Schneider Allen Hatcliff	11	12 Connie Scherling	13	14 Logunn Baker	8 Kyler Placek	9 Jean Malchow
17 Samantha Garrison Shae Wattjes	18 Brandy Garrison	19 Shirley Saathoff	20	21 Brian Stokebrand	15 Aria Rowden Deb Schwan	16
24 Harriet Schneider	25	26 Blaine Brown Tracy Krivan Sharon Rehm	27 Gage Heller	28	22 Don Sobotka	23
31					29 Jim Holtmeier Michael Friesen Verdell Koch	30

**Choir** will practice every Sunday through December 17th.

**WELCA** will be sponsoring a **Gathering of Wreaths** on **December 3**. Everyone is invited to bring a wreath to display. There will be coffee and treats before and immediately after church. More information will be coming later.

There is a signup sheet for **Poinsettias** in the hallway. The cost is **\$11 each**. Please make checks payable to WELCA and give money to Linda (Gordon) Schuerman. **Deadline to order is December 3**.

**Sunday School** will not be held on November 26, December 24, and December 31. **Christmas Program practice** will begin on Wednesday, November 29 and run every Wednesday from 6:30-7:30 pm and during Sunday School every Sunday until the **Program on Sunday, December 17 at 5:30 pm**. There will be a soup supper following the program and we are asking each Sunday School family to bring ONE dozen cookies. Please let Jana know if your child(ren) will not be attending the Christmas Program.

**FYI! Service Groups 2 & 3** will be serving the Soup Supper after the **Children's Program December 17th!**

The **Care-A-Lot** group has made ornaments to decorate a "giving tree". Please think about donating items that we can take to Blue Valley Community Action for the Wish List Program. Once the tree is up, you can place your items underneath it, we will be collecting items until Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. (Hats, gloves, books and art supplies are just a few great suggestions). Thanks, Cara Heller

**Christmas Cards** are currently on display for sale - take a look!

A sweet little boy of the name **Ryker Pfingsten** has recently been diagnosed with a very rare and serious disease called Neuronal Ceroid Lipofuscinosis! His grandparents are Al and Karen Pfingsten of DeWitt and parents Ross and Amy Pfingsten of Lincoln! This family is going through some really difficult decisions and changes and we would like to help defray medical costs in some way especially around the upcoming holidays! **If you would like to donate**, please do so at **First State Bank in DeWitt!** The account is under Ryker Pfingsten! Thank you so much for your help and support! Happy Holidays and safe travels!

Thank you to everyone who had their photos taken for the **Church Directory**. The deadline for photos has passed. I will not be accepting any snapshots or photos from other photographers. If you did not have your photo taken be sure to complete an information sheet which will be available in the church office until January 1, 2018. I hope to have the directory to the printer by the end of January. If you did not have your photo taken and want a directory you may order one from me. The cost is \$15.83 with tax. Directory orders will be accepted until January 15, 2018. Additional photos may be ordered at any time. The ordering deadline for delivery of photos before Christmas is December 10, 2017. There are still many hours of work left to create the directory. Group photos of organizations and groups will be taken before or after church during December and possibly early January. Since I am involved with teaching Sunday School the time before church will be limited. Watch for schedules in the bulletin. Group leaders may also be asked to notify their group members. It has been an enjoyable experience for me. For some of you, it was connecting with old times and for some of you, it was meeting you for the first time. Thank you to the council for trusting me with the production of the new directory. Blessings to you all, Liz

**Christmas Eve Services:** St. Augustine's Episcopal 4:30 pm, Trinity Lutheran 6:00 pm, First United Methodist 7:00 pm  
**Christmas Day Service:** Trinity Lutheran 10:00 am

If you can't make it to the Bible Study, check out the questions on our Facebook page ...  
[www.facebook.com/tlcdewittne/](http://www.facebook.com/tlcdewittne/)

**ALWAYS CHECK THE BULLETIN BOARD/FRONT WINDOWS FOR UPCOMING EVENTS AND OTHER IMPORTANT CHURCH INFORMATION!!**

## Hope Circle

Hope Circle met at Kathy's home on Monday, November 13, 2017 with 5 members present. Sharon Floth was also present. Kathy was hostess. Shirley opened the meeting with an interesting article concerning veterans. Jean gave a Treasurer Report. Kathy mentioned that November 19 is our Thanksgiving Service. Shirley gave us a report on the last WELCA meeting. She said our congregation donated 29 blankets for our blanket drive. Shirley and Leonard took the kits, etc. to Lincoln last week for Lutheran World Relief. Shirley also mentioned that she visited with Janice Buhr recently and thanked her again for all the work she did through the years buying and putting together the materials for the quilts the circles tied for Lutheran World Relief. We decided to give our special friend, Betty Sharon, a gift card for Christmas. We also decided to sponsor a radio broadcast for Day One again this year. As we need to donate more of our money before the end of the year, we will need to discuss this at our Christmas gathering in December. Shirley stated that the WELCA board is considering purchasing some round tables for the Fellowship Hall. Kathy suggested that black tables would probably be more practical than white ones. Shirley said there will be a sign-up sheet posted again this year for poinsettias for the Christmas season. Earl Mays will supply them, and they will be \$11 each. As there was no other business, the meeting was closed. Shirley led the lesson from the Gather magazine entitled "The Apostles' Creed – I Believe in the Holy Spirit," based on John 20:24-31. Our Christmas gathering will be held at Legends in Clatonia on December 11<sup>th</sup>. We will continue having prayer friends. Jean Placek - Sec./Treas.

## Lutheran Men in Mission

This month we finish up on our study in Discipleship: Being a Man After God's Own Heart with two topics on "Spreading the Word" and "God's Man at Home". Just a reminder these topics are independent of each other and if you haven't been able to make it in the past, you can jump in at any time. We will also be picking a new topic for January at the last meeting. We meet 6:30am on the first and third Wednesday's every month for a half hour with coffee and a snack. All men at all ages are welcome to join!

Dec 6<sup>th</sup> – Spreading the Word: "Don't just stand there" Acts 1:1-11 & "Christ's ambassadors" 2 Corinthians 5:11-6:2

Dec 20<sup>th</sup> – God's Man at Home: "As for me and my household..." Joshua 24:1-27 & "Love like Christ" Ephesians 5:22-6:9

## Shalom Circle

Shalom Circle met on November 20 with 7 members present. Liz opened the meeting and the reading of the minutes were read by the secretary. Discussion was made on Christmas Gifts from the circle. Our Sponsored friend Melvin will receive a movie package and some of the remaining money will go to the Village Office to help. Our circle will individually donate to the Giving Tree that the Care-A-Lot Kids are sponsoring. The Advent Wreath display on December 3 was also discussed. Several other projects were discussed in length. At our January meeting we will be sorting out the closet where the Altar Hangings are located and cleaning out the Kitty Bags. February meeting will be making Church Banners. Prayer concerns were given. Bev led the HYMN STUDY on "I Love To Tell The Story" and "Away In A Manger" and also served as our hostess. Our next meeting will be Our Christmas Party and Prayer Partner Gift Exchange at the home of Shirlye Wollenburg on Dec. 11 at 6:30 p.m.

Sec/Trea. - Shirlye Wollenburg

## WELCA

LWR items were delivered to Lincoln.

Farmer's Market proceeds will be given to the village's Contingency Fund.

Advent Celebration is December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9am. Please display a wreath and include a small description with it.

Sign up for poinsettias; they are \$11.00

WELCA Board will meet December 10<sup>th</sup> (including new board members).

Christmas cards will be available in the card display.

# KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS...

## SERVICEMEN

SSG – Brock Johnson  
4305 N. 60<sup>th</sup>  
Lincoln, NE 68507

Darin Bartlett  
PSC2 Box 10723  
APO, AE 09012

Bartlett\_Riley@yahoo.com  
*(Mary Garrison's Son)*

Matt and Meighen Friesen  
2767 Daniel Avenue  
San Diego, CA 92111

**Please continue to keep these members in your prayers:**

Richard Wollenburg  
Heritage Crossings  
501 N 13<sup>th</sup> St.  
Geneva, NE 68361

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

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