

January 2018

Greetings from your pastor and partner in ministry!!

It's the start of a new year and there are some exciting things to look forward to in the year ahead. We'll be getting back to our Narrative Lectionary this month after taking a break from it during the Advent season. We tried it out for three months last fall (Sept.-Nov.) and I got the impression you were all receptive to it. We were working through the Old Testament before we jumped into the Advent season and we'll be dedicating the next 15 weeks to the wisdom of the book of John. I'm eager to get back to the alternate lectionary. Also, I mentioned back in September that our Praise Choir won't be introducing any new songs for a whole year to allow us to get comfortable with the songs already introduced in the prior 3 years. Unfortunately, this doesn't give our Praise Choir any new challenges. Beginning this month, the Praise Choir will perform new songs during the offering on the Praise Sunday (1st Sunday of the month). The congregation won't be expected to sing along but simply to enjoy the performances. We've got to give that Praise Choir something to look forward to each month!

Speaking of looking forward, I see on the calendar that we have 3 marriages scheduled for this year (March, August, October). At the end of April, hopefully I'll be confirming 6 students I've been teaching the last 1.5 years. I've decided to not allow any more 6th graders in the 2-year program and limiting participants to only 7th and 8th graders. I'm sorry if this inconveniences any parents of upcoming 6th graders who were hoping to enroll their children earlier rather than later. With any luck, we'll have the Homestead Harmonizers back to perform sometime in the summer. Their performance last July was very special.

These are exciting things to look forward to this year. This month I'll be taking a group of confirmation students to the annual Middle School Gathering in Omaha so we will have a guest preacher on the 14th. All are invited to attend our annual meeting after service on the 21st. We need everyone's participation to ensure a successful year ahead!

Many blessings,

Pastor Koos

Pastor's Report
December 2017

This is always a busy month of the year, both in the church and outside of it. I love planning all the services and building messages that will sustain us through another Advent/Christmas season but boy, oh boy, it is exhausting! Thank goodness God plays a big part in making it all come together. Without Him, I think I'd be lost in it all...as would we all. Needless to say, the ministry has been rich this month. I was blessed with opportunities to make 5 visits, lead or co-lead 8 worship services including both chapel services, the Thankoffering service, and a community service, teach 3 confirmation classes and 3 bible studies, and participate in 4 pastors' text studies and 2 men's bible studies.

It's fun to see the Advent/Christmas season unfold in the 4 weeks after Thanksgiving. What made this season particularly special for me were the 2 concerts I participated in with the Homestead Harmonizers, one in Beatrice and another in Lincoln. Those boys can sure sing! I pray something makes your season unique this year. Praise God for coming to us yet another year as a little baby. May He bless us with another rich year of ministry.

Advent/Christmas blessings,
Pastor Koos

Trinity Lutheran Church Minutes

November 15, 2017

I. Call to order

Vice-Chairperson Brian Scherling called to order the regular meeting of the Trinity Lutheran Church Council on November 15, 2017. Pastor Koos led the group in devotions. Members in attendance were Pastor Koos, Brian Scherling, Joel Kaelin, Cody Wollenburg, Jesse Gronemeyer, Yvonne Rahe and Amy Stokebrand

Reports

- a) Secretary's Report: A copy of the previous minutes was reviewed. Corrections were made. Yvonne made a motion and it was seconded by Jesse that the minutes be approved with the corrections. Motion carried.
- b) Treasurer's Report: A copy of the monthly treasurer's report indicated a balance of \$4,921.46 as of October 31, 2017. The available cash balance is \$2,044.31. Joel made a motion to accept the report and it was seconded by Cody. Motion carried.
- c) Investments Report: The investment balance as of October 27, 2017 is \$42,107.73.
- d) Pastor's Report: See included report.
- e) Memorial Report: The memorial balance is reported to be \$12,785.45 as of October 25, 2017.
- f) Suggestion Box: Nothing to report
- g) Committee Reports:
 - 1. Social Committee had no report.
 - 2. Worship Committee reported that the Thankoffering service will be November 19th at 10:00 am with a Community Thanksgiving Service at the Episcopal Church at 3:00 pm with a coffee to follow. Advent Season begins on December 3rd. The Brass Band will play on the Advent Sundays of December 3rd, 10th and 17th. The Children's Christmas Program Service will be December 17th at 5:30pm.
 - 3. Evangelical Committee had no report.
 - 4. Parish Education reported that the Sunday School is working on the Christmas Program.
 - 5. Youth Group is discussing fundraising ideas for their next trip.
 - 6. Property committee nothing to report.

II. Old Business

- a) It was reported that about 100 families so far have taken their pictures for the Photo Directory. The plan is to have the directory to members by end of March.
- b) Brian gave an update on the Air Conditioning unit. He heard back from the insurance company and we will receive a check towards a new unit. Discussion was held to discuss our options but no action was taken.
- c) Jesse will get the Christmas Tree and will have it ready to be decorated on December 1st.

III. New Business

- (a) Jesse made a motion and Yvonne seconded the motion to use the loose offerings on the 1st and 2nd Sundays of Advent to go towards the Children's Christmas Bags. Motion carried.
- (b) Donations to Pastor's Christmas Gift may be made until December 21st. Give Donations to the Church secretary.
- (c) Pastor discussed his Christmas vacation schedule. He will leave the 26th and be back on the 2nd. Hymnfest will be on the 31st since Pastor will be gone and Communion will be the 24th instead of the 31st.
- (d) Signup sheets for ushers and greeters will be posted for congregation to sign up when they want.
- (e) End of year church reports need to be submitted in early January.
- (f) Budget meeting will be in January for 2018.

There was a motion by Joel 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.
January 2018

01-03-18 John 1:35-51

1. What was Jesus saying to Simon in changing his name?
2. Simon (short for Simeon) means "hearer." What was the change in becoming Cephas (Aramaic) or Peter (Greek) meaning "rock"?
3. Why is the discussion about Nazareth significant? ("Branch" Jer. 23:5-6)
4. Read verses 35-39. Why did two disciples of John follow Jesus? What do you think they were looking for? When Jesus saw them following, what did he say to them? What might he have meant?
5. How did they answer? Why did they want to know his address? (How were they different from the men who came to John in 1:19,22?) What was Jesus' invitation? What kind of relationship did Jesus want to make with them?
6. How many mentions of "seeing" did you find in this passage?
7. List six names or descriptions of Jesus given in this text. What does each one tell us about the identity of Jesus?
8. What do these two events teach about belief? About the importance of an invitation to "Come and see"?
9. How might Jesus' statement about the angels ascending and descending on the Son of Man relate to Gen. 28:10ff?
10. How is Jesus the ladder from heaven to earth, and earth to heaven? (John 3:10-21; 14:6; Acts 4:12)

01-10-18 John 2:1-11

1. What strikes you about Jesus' response to his mother's request in John 2:4? What about Mary's response in verse 5?
2. What does "my hour" mean in verse 4 and how does it tell us about how Jesus viewed his mission on earth?
3. Why did Jesus choose to use the stone water jars which were designated for the "Jewish rites of purification" (v.6) to hold the wine he created?
4. What kind of quality was the wine? How do we know from the text that this was the case? What does this tell us about who Jesus is and what he has come to do?
5. What instructions did Mary give to the servants? Why would Jesus choose to use servants to be a part of the miracle instead of His disciples?
6. How do the signs and miracles Jesus performs prepare the way for his ultimate display of his glory in his death and Resurrection?
7. What are the characteristics of someone God will use?
8. Verse 11 tells us the disciples believed as a result of seeing Jesus' sign. Why do you think Jesus cared more about the disciples seeing and believing his glory than making known to the other wedding attendees what he had done?
9. Throughout Scripture, what are other moments when God has performed a sign to reveal himself and his power?
10. Why might John be interested in telling us that this story about Jesus is Jesus "first" sign? The other three Gospel writers (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) make other miracles Jesus' first miracle and in fact don't even mention Jesus' turning water into wine. So what motive might the Fourth Evangelist have in including this story as his "first" miracle or sign of Jesus?

01-17-18 John 2:13-25

1. Did Jesus make it a habit of being in Jerusalem for the Passover? Read John 6:44 and 11:55. In John, how many Passover celebrations does Jesus attend?
2. Was it wrong to provide a service for buying sacrificial animals and exchanging currency for people who were from out of town? What was really going on that caused Jesus to react the way he did?
3. Was the temple area supposed to be used for selling animals and exchanging money? What was supposed to take place in this area of the temple?
4. What did Jesus do in reaction to what he found in the temple? Did Jesus get angry? Did Jesus react appropriately to his anger?
5. When you see people exploiting others, does it make you angry? When you see people preventing others from accessing God, does it make you angry? Why would God be angry about these things?
6. Did Jesus have other opportunities to get angry with people? Who does Jesus get most angry with during the course of his life? Read Matt. 23:13-36.
7. How did Jesus react to people who mistreated him and to those who wanted to harm him? Read Luke 23:32-43. When people mistreat you and intend to harm you, do you get angry, and how do you react? As you strive to be like Jesus, how should you react?
8. Do the Jews understand what Jesus is saying? When Jesus says "Destroy this temple, and I will rebuild it in three days," what is he really saying?
9. What was Jesus' purpose in coming into the world? Read John 2:4 and John 2:19. Is there any connection between Jesus' statement about his "hour" and when he says "Destroy this temple"?
10. When Jesus cleanses the temple and redefines the temple, what message should we come to understand about the importance of the temple (our bodies) today? Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20.

01-24-18 John 3:1-21

1. What are some of the facts we can gather about Nicodemus from v. 1-2?
2. Jesus' initial response doesn't seem to go with the flow of the conversation. Why would he respond the way that he did?
3. According to Jesus, what is his identity and purpose?
4. What does an individual's lifestyle look like if they truly believe in Jesus and follow him?
5. What happens to those that do not believe in him?
6. What do dark and light represent in this context?
7. How can someone come into the light?
8. Why is it that people in the darkness don't move into the light?
9. According to Jesus, what must happen in order to have eternal life and enter into the kingdom of God?
10. How would you compare your own search for God with Nicodemus? More straightforward? More intellectual?

01-31-18 John 4:1-42

1. Why did the Pharisees knowing about Jesus' baptizing so many people have to do with him leaving?
2. Didn't Jesus normally stand up to the Pharisees and even condemn their practices? Why is he different here?
3. What was the Samaritan woman's reaction? How did she perceive Jesus' request? What does this tell us about Jesus' intention?
4. How did Jesus answer her question in verse 10?

5. How did Jesus answer her second question? Does this teach us anything about how to deal with people when we are sharing about God with them?
6. How would you describe the life of the Samaritan woman after her conversation with Jesus (v 26 onward)? What did she do? How had she changed?
7. Who were the Samaritans and why was there tension between the Samaritans and the Jews?
8. Why did the Samaritans worship in a different place than the Jews? What was Jesus' view of their worship?
9. What can we know about the woman from her conversation with Jesus and from the time of day she chose to go get water?
10. What were three barriers that Jesus set aside when he engaged the woman in this conversation?

Treasurer's Report		November 30, 2017		
	Bank Balance as of 10/31/17			\$4,921.46
		<u>Income</u>	<u>Outstanding</u>	
	Offering	\$8,208.80		
	Other	\$5,085.05		
	Total Income			\$13,293.85
		<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	\$478.45		
01-03	Organist	\$375.00	\$75.00	
01-04	Custodial Salary	\$510.62		
01-06	Pension Fund, Housing & SECA	\$1,285.13		
02-00	Mileage	\$252.89		
02-01	Health Insurance (HSA)	\$210.00		
02-02	Water Softener Reimbursement (R/O)	\$27.00		
03-01	Offering Envelopes	\$226.83		
03-03	Communion Supplies	\$80.94		
04-00	Postage & Freight	\$57.28		
04-04	Office Equipment	\$150.99		
05-00	Village Utilities Church	\$312.27		
05-01	Village Utilities Parsonage	\$253.23		
05-02	Natural Gas Church	\$86.07		
05-03	Natural Gas Parsonage	\$33.24		
06-01	Benev. Transfer	\$917.00		
06-02	ELCA Benevolence	\$477.61		
07-04	Tech. License & Upgrades	\$105.49		
07-04	Tech. License & Upgrades	\$70.00		
07-04	Tech. License & Upgrades	\$399.00		
08-00	Telephone Church	\$169.71		
08-01	Telephone Parsonage	\$34.50		
09-00	Sunday School	\$358.52		
10-00	Choir	\$47.09		
11-00	Church Maintenance	\$99.10		
11-03	Lawn & Landscape			
	Total Expenses			\$10,664.55
	Previous Months Checks that Cleared			\$2,877.15
	Available Cash as of 11/30/17			\$4,673.61
	Outstanding Checks			\$75.00
	Reconciled to Balance on Bank Statement 11/30/17			\$4,748.61
		<u>Deposits</u>	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>Account Balance</u>
	Other Accounts:			
	Benevolence (Savings Account)	\$1,027.00		\$6,991.09
	Capital Improvement Fund (Savings Account)	\$15.00	\$5,000.00	\$24,938.44



Worship Committee will meet on Wednesday, January 10 at 8:00 pm

WELCA board will meet Sunday, January 14 following the service

Hope Circle meeting TBA

Shalom Circle will meet Monday, January 15 at 7:00 pm

Church Council will meet on Wednesday, January 17 at 8:00 pm

Confirmation will every Wednesday in January at 6:30 pm



DICK WOLLENBURG is our Tried-and-True Treasure for January-March.

Please feel free to write on his 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. **JANUARY - Service List #1**



**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, locate the link to our online giving page and follow the instructions.



Date	Attendance	General Offering	Benevolence Offering	Property Offering	E-Giving Offering
11/26	76	\$1370.00	\$50.00	-	\$200.00
12/3	122	\$1827.00	\$25.00	\$5.00	\$400.00
12/10	115	\$1215.00	\$25.00	\$5.00	\$441.25
12/17	92	\$5200.00	\$25.00	\$5.00	\$200.00
12/24	63	\$1385.00	\$10.00	-	-
12/24	138	\$205.00	-	-	-
12/25	34	\$275.00	-	-	\$525.00



PASTOR SEAN KOOS

Church: 683-3225 Parsonage: 683-2425

Cell Phone: 402-806-6878

Email: 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

Cell: 402-245-8198

OFFICE HOURS

Monday & Wednesday 5pm-6:30pm

(Updated Hours will be posted on Office Door)

Service Leaders For **JANUARY**

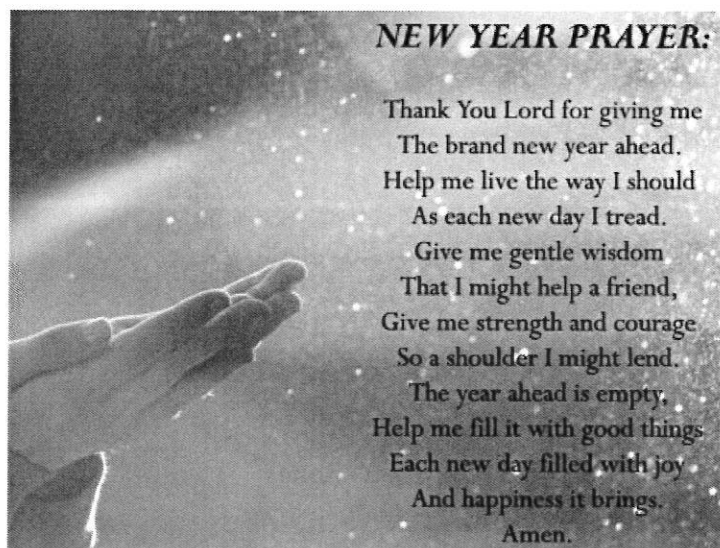
DATE	SCRIPTURE READER	ACOLYTE	GREETERS	COMMUNION SET UP
				COMMUNION ASSISTANT
January 7	Tim Garrison	Kanin Baker	Brian & Barb Nelson Galen & Bev Plihal	
January 14	Dominic Smith	Gage Heller	Brian & Barb Nelson Galen & Bev Plihal	
January 21	Liz Poessnecker	Josh Muehling	Brian & Barb Nelson Galen & Bev Plihal	
January 28	Cooper Smith	Elsie Woerner	Brian & Barb Nelson Galen & Bev Plihal	Shari Pieper & Nancy McDougall

HEAD USHER: Kyle Wollenburg

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

OUTREACH VISITATION: Service List #1

Galen and Bev Plihal / Ron and Cindy Wollenburg



JANUARY 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Happy New Year!	2 Pastor Text Study 10:00 am	3 Men's Bible Study 6:30 am Bible Study 8:30 am Confirmation 6:30 pm	4	5 ANNUAL MEETING REPORTS DUE Budget Meeting 7pm	6
7 Care-A-Lot 8:45 am Adult Bible Study 8:45 am Praise Choir 9:00 am PRAISE SERVICE AT 10:00 AM	8	9 Pastor Text Study 10:00 am	10 Bible Study 8:30 am Confirmation 6:30 pm Worship Committee 8:00 pm	11 Good Samaritan Chapel Service 10:30 am	12	13 Middle School Gathering
14 Middle School Gathering Sunday School 8:45 am WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10:00 AM <i>(Guest Preacher)/(Children's Bells)</i> WELCA Board following Service	15 Shalom Circle 7:00 pm	16 Pastor Text Study 10:00 am	17 Men's Bible Study 6:30 am Bible Study 8:30 am Wilber Care Center Chapel 10:00 am Confirmation 6:30 pm (Service Project)	18	19	20
21 Sunday School 8:45 am Adult choir 8:45 am Episcopal Service 9:00 am WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 AM <i>(Adult Choir)</i> ANNUAL MEETING FOLLOWING SERVICE	22 NEWSLETTER ARTICLES ARE DUE	23 Pastor Text Study 10:00 am	24 Bible Study 8:30 am Confirmation 6:30 pm Church Council 8:00 pm	25	26	27
28 Sunday School 8:45 am Youth Group 9:00 am COMMUNION SERVICE 10:00 AM <i>(Children's Choir)</i>	29	30 Pastor Text Study 10:00 am	31 Bible Study 8:30 am Confirmation 6:30 pm			

JANUARY 2018

<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>
	1	2 Liz Poesnecker Norman Stokebrand	3 Trey Koch Wanda Slama John Stokebrand	4 Makenzie Parker	5 Jenna Essman Tina Holtmeier Harold Stokebrand	6 Lincoln Koos
7 Mackenzie Herbst	8 Arlene Scherling	9 Vicki Little Bailey Wollenburg	10 Brittany Johnson	11 Julie Hippen	12	13
14 Matt Friesen Rj Wollenburg	15	16	17 Travis Rahe	18	19 Kaden Koch	20 Sandi Klostermeier Donna Stokebrand
21	22 Jill Hardy	23	24 Larry Bartels Ann Wollenburg	25 Tom Zweifel	26 Jack Garrison	27 Garrett Smidt Yvonne Rahe
28	29 Brynlee Bergmeier	30 Eleanor Morrissey	31 Kelly Smith			

Please pickup your **Poinsettia** at church if you purchased one. They are on the kitchen counter.

Pastor will be on vacation Tuesday, December 26 – Tuesday, January 2.

The sign-up sheets for **2018 Ushers & Greeters** are on the counter in the church entryway. Please sign up by December 31. Call the church office at 402-683-3225 or email Jenn at tlcdewitt209@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Reports for the Annual Report are due Friday, January 5. They can be turned in to the church office or emailed to tlcdewitt209@gmail.com.

Pastor & the Confirmation class will be gone January 13/14 at the **Middle School Gathering** in Omaha. We will have a guest preacher on Sunday January 14.

Annual Meeting will take place after the service on **January 21.**

The **DeWitt American Legion Auxiliary will be holding a soup dinner** at the Legion building on **January 21.** Soup, sandwiches and dessert will be served. A free will offering will be taken.

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

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

Hope Circle

On December 11 Hope Circle met at Legends in Clatonia with 5 members present. Prayer partners were revealed. The next meeting plans are TBA. Jean Placek - Sec./Treas.

Lutheran Men in Mission

First and third Wednesday every month 6:30am with coffee and snacks provided. In January we begin a new study on Attitude Adjustment: Down but not out. This series mixes in Old and New Testament readings to help men with several obstacles that may arise. We usually have around 7-10 show up each time, but would love to have more as we will lose some members over winter. It's a nice informal conversation to help strengthen our relationship and discipleship with God. Hope to see some new faces in 2018! January 3: "Pressures" – Daniel 3:1-30 Three men and a furnace & 2 Corinthians 1: 1-11 Pressure beyond our ability to endure. January 17: "Demands" – Numbers 11:4-34 Moses and his "cry babies" & 2 Corinthians 11:16-33 Paul's boasting.

Shalom Circle

SHALOM CIRCLE met on Dec. 11 at the home of Shirlie Wollenburg for their annual Christmas Party. After a delicious potluck dinner brought by the guests, a very short business meeting was held and the PRAYER PARTNER gift exchange was held and we revealed our secret Prayer Partners. The next meeting will be January 15 at 7:00 pm with Liz Poessnecker as hostess and leading bible study. Sec/Trea. - Shirlie Wollenburg

WELCA

Thankoffering totaled \$235.00

Please note all the changes in the 2018 Yearbook

Meeting for new WELCA officers will be January 14, 2018

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS...

SERVICEMEN

SSG – Brock Johnson
4305 N. 60th
Lincoln, NE 68507

Darin Bartlett
IN TRANSITION; RELOCATION

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 13th St.
Geneva, NE 68361

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

George Scherling
Wilber Care Center
611 N Main
Wilber, NE 68465

Eileen Damkroger
RR2 Box 43
DeWitt, NE 68341

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