

February 2019

Greetings from your pastor and partner in ministry!!

Last month was a busy month as we looked back at our shared ministry in 2018 and looked forward to the ministry planned for 2019. The start of a new year is always an exciting time. So many opportunities, so many hopes, so many dreams in looking at the year ahead. And then we come to February, the coldest, snowiest month of the year! Invariably we'll have a crippling snow storm or two before the month is out so brace yourself.

Of course, with the cold and snow comes the great opportunity to warm yourself from fellowship with your church community. We have some awesome ministry in store for us this month. Jesus will teach us how to pray and ease our anxieties, how to love our neighbor, what the kingdom of God is like, and perform arguably his greatest miracle-the feeding of the 5000 people with mere loaves and fishes. Our Bible studies will help us dig deeper into these texts and others so I encourage you to come on out on Wednesday mornings. Later in the month, we'll celebrate the wedding of Bailey Wollenburg to Jameson Hennings. February weddings are the BEST! Jo and I are celebrating our tenth anniversary this month. Thanks, Jo, for being such a steadily loving wife and mother all these years. What a ride it's been, eh?

Plenty of opportunities to forget about the cold and snow outside. Hope to see you around the church!

Blessings,

Pastor Koos

Pastor's Report
January 2019

We finished out 2018 with strong end-of-the-year ministry. As always, the Christmas season was a mad flurry of activity with three services in three successive days to plan for. I felt the celebration was our strongest yet and was pleased with how smoothly everything went. Thank you to all those who helped make it a special season. I even managed to get away and attend the fabulous concert at St. John's Lutheran in Beatrice. What a performance that I would highly recommend to anyone! Otherwise it was a solid month of ministry. I was able to make 5 visits, lead 6 worship services including a chapel service at Good Sam in Beatrice, participate in 4 committee meetings, 2 pastor text studies, and 1 men's bible study, and teach 3 confirmation classes and 1 bible study. Sadly, we entrusted Arlin Schuerman to our Lord right after Christmas. This year's annual meeting was efficient and effective. I met with the Nebraska Lutheran Campus Ministry board for a semi-annual review and that ministry keeps plugging away, albeit sluggishly. Finally, thank you for letting my family and I get away to be with family over the Christmas break. I put more miles behind the wheel than I anticipated but time spent with family was well worth it. Thank you!

Blessings,
Pastor Koos

Trinity Lutheran Church Minutes

December 18, 2018

I. Call to order

Chairperson Brian Scherling called to order the regular meeting of the Trinity Lutheran Church Council on December 18, 2018. Pastor Koos led the group in devotions. Members in attendance were Pastor Koos, Brian Scherling, Steve Garrison, Nate Morrissey, Karen Wollenburg, and Yvonne Rahe.

Reports

- a) Secretary's Report: A copy of the previous minutes was reviewed. Nate made a motion and it was seconded by Yvonne that the minutes be approved. Motion carried.
- b) Treasurer's Report: A copy of the monthly treasurer's report indicated a balance of \$2,288.33 as of November 30, 2018 with available cash of \$2,138.23. Brian explained that a check was written out for \$125.00 to a supply Pastor for the Sunday of November 20, 2019, but church was cancelled due to weather so check amount has since been reimbursed. Steve made a motion to accept the report and it was seconded by Nate. Motion carried.
- c) Investments Report: No Report.
- d) Pastor's Report: See included report. Pastor shared he is currently doing some prison ministry with a non-member individual that was requested of him. Pastor will be attending the Middle School Gathering on January 19th & 20th in Kearney along with 6 youth from our congregation.
- e) Memorial Report: There was no report.
- f) Suggestion Box: There was nothing to report.
- g) Committee Reports
 - 1. Social Committee had nothing to report.
 - 2. Worship Committee discussed and revisited all the activities for "Advent Surprises" for each Sunday of December. Karen also reviewed the Christmas holiday service times.
 - 3. Evangelical Committee reported finding the Trinity picture postcards that can be possibly be used to send out to visitors. Yvonne will check with post office if they can still be utilized.
 - 4. Parish Education/VBS reported that a Sunday School Superintendent nomination name has not yet been found.
 - 5. Youth Group had no report.
 - 6. Confirmation Committee met in November and reported that the program seems to be going well with the new restructuring and mentor program.
 - 7. Property committee reported that all paperwork was turned into insurance for Bell Towner repairs and we have received the insurance payments. The first down payment has been sent in and work will begin in February/March to repair bell and install new control panel.

II. Old Business

- a) Brian has been reviewing some more of the "Wedding Cleanup" protocol that is handed out to couples wishing to be married at Trinity. Two items on it were discussed more and it was decided to table this matter for the new Council in January.

- b) Our Benevolence commitment of \$11,000 for 2018 will be completed by the end of December.
- c) A new company would like our business for our copier maintenance. Our current contract runs thru September 2019 so this was tabled for later.
- d) Brian reminded us that December 21st is the deadline for turning in monies for Pastor's Christmas gift.

III. New Business

- a) Nate made a motion to accept the transfer of Jim & Denise Miller's membership to Cornerstone Church in Beatrice. Yvonne seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- b) Brian will get together with Mike on taking down of the Christmas tree.
- c) The annual meeting will be moved up a week to January 13, 2019 after church services due to Pastor attending the Middle School Gathering. End of year reports will be due January 4, 2019 in preparation for the annual meeting.
- d) The Council executive committee and Jenn will be meeting Sunday, December 23rd at 8:00 am to plan the 2019 church budget.
- e) The nominating committee of Cara Heller, Larry Pieper, Connie Scherling and Eldon Stokebrand have begun their work on a proposed 2019 election ballot.
- f) Installation of all newly elected church positions will be Sunday, January 27, 2019 during the church service.
- g) The first meeting for the 2019 Council will be Wednesday, January 30, 2019.
- h) We still need people to sign up for being ushers and greeters in 2019.
- i) Brian thanked all Council members for their support and help during this past year.

There was a motion by Nate and a second by Steve to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. The next meeting will be January, 30, 2019 at 8:00 pm. 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.
February 2019

02-06-19 Matthew 7:1-14, 24-29

1. Why does Jesus say we shouldn't judge? Is there ever a time when it is okay to judge?
2. We make all kinds of judgements - decisions every day. We have to determine what is good or bad. Is it wrong to look at a person's lifestyle and see what is damaging so we do not make the same mistakes? How can we deal with personal blind spots?
3. What 3 commands did Jesus give with promises with regard to praying? To whom would these promises apply? Have you experienced these promises? Is this a blank check that you can receive whatever you want?
4. What kind of prayers would Jesus be talking about? What should we ask for? What should we seek for? What are we knocking for?
5. Do you think that we lack God's blessings because we do not obey these verses?
6. What is the narrow gate - the broad gate? How do we enter the narrow gate - the broad gate? Where does it lead to? Why do you think so few people enter the narrow gate?
7. How do we build on a solid foundation? How can we be sure we are building on Christ's foundation? Is it possible to deceive ourselves?
8. How could we be building on sand? What would be the consequence?
9. What are you building your life on? How do you know that is what you are building on?
10. What is your response to Jesus' teaching?

02-13-19 Matthew 13:24-43

1. Is it easy to distinguish between children of God and children of the devil? Matthew 7:21-23
2. At what stage does it become easier to distinguish between the wheat and the weeds (darnel*)?
3. If it's not so easy to distinguish, then how do you know whether you are a child of God? 2 Corinthians 13:5
4. How can we see who the weeds are? Matt 7:15-16, 13:41, 18:6-7; Romans 16:17-18; Hebrews 4:1-2; 1 John 5:12
5. How do we avoid becoming the weeds? John 3:5; Hebrews 3:12-14; 1 Peter 5:8-11; 2 Peter 1:5-11
6. How do you know whether other so-called "Christians" around you are actually Christians? 1 John 3:9-10
7. What should be the basis of our assurance of salvation? 2 Corinthians 13:5
8. Even if one recognizes the weeds, what is the danger in trying to pull them out?
9. What is the application of the concept of not pulling them up but letting them grow together?
10. When will the problem of the "weeds" finally be addressed? Matthew 13:41-42,49, 25:40-41; 1 Corinthians 15:24

02-20-19 *Matthew 14:13-33*

1. How many people had come to this lonely place to see Jesus? Why do you think they followed Jesus to the other side of lake?
2. Can Jesus multiply the gift that we give to others?
3. Why do you think Jesus was in a hurry to get the disciples off? (John 6:14-16) What did Jesus do after He dismissed the crowd?
4. What are some lessons the disciples could have learned from this experience of Jesus feeding the 5000+ people?
5. Why was Jesus praying alone? What kind of issues do you think Jesus was praying about? Do you think Jesus knew what was going to happen that night? How long was He praying?
6. What might have gone through their minds as the disciples battled the storm?
7. Do you think that Jesus can calm our fears? Do you have any fears? What gets rid of fear?
8. What lesson did Peter learn about stepping out in faith? What can we learn from this about stepping out in faith?
9. Even though the disciples obeyed Jesus and got into the boat, they faced a storm. Can we face storms too in life even if we are obedient to the Lord? How did God honor the disciple's obedience? Does God honor our obedience too?
10. What is our motive for coming to God or asking for help from God? Is it to get what we want for ourselves or are we willing to have God do in our lives what He wants to do?

02-27-19 *Matthew 16:24-17:8*

1. What does Jesus expect of us if we want to be His follower/disciple?
2. What is the paradox in Matthew 16:25, 26? What does Jesus mean?
3. In Matthew 16:27 we hear the first time about the second coming of Jesus. What do we learn about it?
4. What do you think Matthew 16:28 means?
5. Why were only Peter, James, and John invited to have this experience? (17)
6. Why do you think the Transfiguration was necessary?
7. Why do you think Moses and Elijah appear on the mountain with Jesus? What are the connections between these three figures? *Exodus 34:4-9; 1 Kings 19:11-14*
8. At this stage of Jesus' ministry, why do you think it is important for Jesus to hear these words from his Father?
9. Which is more important – Jesus' *identity* or his *activity*?
10. Why did Peter want to build a tent? What would you have wanted to do?

Treasurer's Report December 31, 2018

	Bank Balance as of 11/30/18			\$2,288.23
		<u>Income</u>	<u>Outstanding</u>	
	Offering	\$16,460.71		
	Bank Transfers	\$14,003.00		
	Other Deposits	\$3,886.91		
	Total Income			\$34,350.62
		<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Outstanding</u>	
01-00	Pastor's Salary	\$3,582.00		
01-01	Financial Secretary's Salary	\$203.17		
01-02	Secretary Salary	\$350.68		
01-03	Organist Salary	\$225.00		
01-04	Custodial Salary	\$490.62		
01-06	Pension Fund, Housing & SECA	\$1,301.91		
02-00	Mileage	\$292.12		
02-01	HSA	\$210.00		
02-02	R/O	\$27.00		
03-00	Bulletins	\$38.50		
03-01	Offering Envelopes	\$233.86		
04+03	Copies from Copier	\$289.73		
04-04	Office Equipment	\$150.99		
04-05	Accountant Fees	\$30.00		
05-00	Village Utilities Church	\$269.47		
05-01	Village Utilities Parsonage	\$166.25		
05-02	Natural Gas Church	\$268.97		
05-03	Natural Gas Parsonage	\$83.62		
06-01	ELCA Benev	\$11,600.00		
06-03	Bank Fees	\$20.00		
06-04	Vanco E-giving Fees/Return	\$45.35		
06-05	Bank Transfers out	\$1,000.00		
07-01	Devotional Books	\$64.25		
07-04	Technology	\$245.49		
08-00	Telephone Church	\$172.61		
08-01	Telephone Parsonage	\$34.50		
09-06	Worship	\$9.96		
11-00	Church Maintenance	\$6,677.63		
11-04	Parsonage	\$32.00		
	Total Expenses			\$28,115.68
	Previous Months Checks that Cleared			\$150.00
	Available Cash as of 12/31/18			\$8,373.17
	Outstanding Checks			\$11,000.00
	Reconciled to Balance on Bank Statement 12/31/18			\$19,373.17

	<u>Deposits</u>	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>Account Balance</u>
Other Accounts:			
Benevolence (Savings Account)	\$702.49	\$11,000.00	\$587.54
Capital Improvement Fund (Savings Account)	\$2,888.39	\$3,003.00	\$3,697.32



Worship Committee will meet on Wednesday, February 6 at 5:30 pm

WELCA board will meet Sunday, February 10 following the service

Hope Circle will attend Shalom Circle on February 18 at 7:00 pm

Church Council will meet on Wednesday, February 20 at 7:00 pm

Shalom Circle will meet on Monday, February 18 at 7:00 pm



Ervin & Beryl Beerenstrauch are our Tried-and-True Treasure for February.

Please feel free to write on their 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. **FEBRUARY – Shalom Circle**



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
12/23	84	\$2215.00	\$25.00	--	\$795.00
12/24 Christmas Eve	217	\$1738.00	--	--	--
12/25 Christmas Day	42	\$123.00	--	--	--
12/30	51	\$3830.00	--	--	\$110.00
1/6	101	\$3211.00	\$50.00	\$10.00	\$870.00
1/13	110	\$955.00	\$35.00	\$5.00	\$120.00
1/20	76	\$4916.48	\$25.00	\$5.00	\$579.00

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 **FEBRUARY**

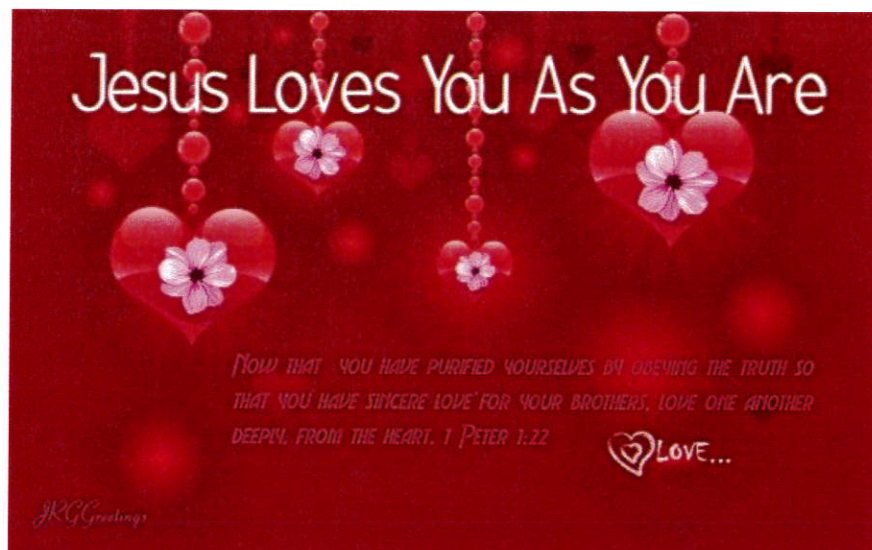
	SCRIPTURE READER	ACOLYTE	GREETERS	COMMUNION SET UP COMMUNION ASSISTANT
February 3	Jurgen Baker	Macoy Wollenburg	Larry & Lois Wattjes/ Eugene & Karen Wollenburg	
February 10	Bev Plihal	Karli Scherling	Larry & Lois Wattjes/ Eugene & Karen Wollenburg	
February 17	Dominic Smith	Tayden Gronemeyer	Larry & Lois Wattjes/ Eugene & Karen Wollenburg	
February 24 (Communion)	Tim Garrison	Colton Placek	Larry & Lois Wattjes/ Eugene & Karen Wollenburg	Pam Garrison/ Yvonne Rahe

HEAD USHER: Arlyn Parde

USHERS: Larry Wattjes, Adam Wollenburg, Darin Muehling, Jordan Muehling

OUTREACH VISITATION: Shalom Circle

CURRENT SERVICE GROUP: Group 4
Liz Poessnecker/Marvin & Linda Schuerman



FEBRUARY 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 "Treasure in Heaven" Care-A-Lot 8:45 am Praise Choir 9:00 am PRAISE SERVICE AT 10:00 AM (Green)	4	5 Pastor Text Study 10:00 am	6 Men's Bible Study 6:30 am Bible Study 8:30 am Worship Committee 5:30 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm	7	8	9
10 "The Golden Rule" Sunday School 8:45 am WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10:00 AM (Children's Bells) WELCA Board following Service (Green)	11	12 Pastor Text Study 10:00 am	13 Bible Study 8:30 am Confirmation 6:30	14 Good Samaritan Chapel Service 10:30 am	15	16
17 "Parables of the Kingdom" Sunday School 8:45 am Adult choir 8:45 am Episcopal Service 9:00 am WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 AM (Adult Choir) (Green)	18 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 Confirmation 6:30 pm Church Council 8:00 pm	21	22 NEWSLETTER ARTICLES ARE DUE	23 Wollenburg/ Hennings Wedding
24 "Feeding 5,000" Sunday School 8:45 am Youth Group 9:00 am COMMUNION SERVICE 10:00 AM (Children's Choir) (Green)	25	26 Pastor Text Study 10:00 am	27 Bible Study 8:30 am Praise Choir 5:30 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm	28	1 (March) World Day of Prayer	2

FEBRUARY 2019

<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>
					1 Colton Placek	2 Mitch McDougall
3 Mallory Chavez Joyce Holtmeier	4 Logan Brown Ashley Rowden	5 Lisa Nelson	6 Beryl Beerenstrauch Lucy Morrissey	7	8	9 Katie Carel
10 Dorothy Mahloch	11	12	13	14	15 Byron Beerenstrauch	16 Dan Scherling
17	18	19 Miley Garrison	20	21 Gary Niemeier	22 Brix Remmers	23
24 Herb Rehm	25 Darin Muehling	26 Lyle Fink Oakley Pospisil Brian Smidt	27 Preslie Murray	28 Hank Damkroger Kevin Thornburg		

Please keep the Jay & Jamie Weber family as they grieve their loss of Maddox, Jim Burger (Donna Garrison's Father), Ervin Beerenstrauch, and Denise Michel **in your prayers.**

Please take a minute and add your Wedding Anniversary to our signup sheet on the entryway counter so that we can update our records. Thanks!

The Care-A-Lot kids will be hosting a breakfast on February 3rd in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30 for their friends that participate in this program. Please plan to attend for muffins and conversation!

ATTENTION THRIVENT MEMBERS, it is the time of year to designate your Choice Dollars that have accumulated through December 31, 2018. You have until March 31, 2019 to do this. 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. Please call their office at 1-800-847-4836 and say, "Thrivent Choice". These dollars help fund items for our own church. Thank you, members, for making this possible. If you have any questions, please contact one of the Advocates – Arlyce Albert 402-239-0127, Shari Pieper 402-821-2733, or Roberta Aden 402-683-4535.

Has anyone **seen or borrowed some of the small wooden plant stands**? These are used on the altar for poinsettias, lilies, etc. Please contact Lois Wattjes if you know where they might be. Thanks!

Adult Choir will take a break and resume on Sunday, February 17th at 9:00 am.

Please check the **Sunday School Bulletin Board** weekly. We will have important dates on there as well as a donation wish list throughout the year. Thanks!

Consider using our **Electronic Giving** and scheduling a recurring contribution to avoid writing checks and preparing envelopes each week! Go to www.trinitylutherandewitt.com, and click the green OFFERING button and follow the instructions.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sunday, February 3: The DeWitt American Legion Auxiliary will be hosting a soup dinner from 11am to 1pm at the Legion building. Potato and chili soup along with sandwiches and dessert will be served. Free will offering.

Monday, February 18: American Red Cross Blood Drive from 12:00 pm to 6:00 pm at DeWitt Community Building, 107 N. Cherry. Contact Pam Garrison at 683-4630 or visit redcrossblood.org and enter TriCountyNebraska to schedule an appointment.

Hope Circle

No Report.

Lutheran Men in Mission

Lutheran Men in Mission - February

We are continuing our series on Gifts and Calling: What Is the Will of God for My Life? this month. It's been a good series so far exploring how to utilize our gifts and talents in God pleasing ways and not just to sit on the sidelines. Faith and Action! February 6 – Topic 3 "Hearing God" 1 Samuel 9:1-10:8 (Samuel anoints Saul) & John 10:1-21 (Listening to the Shepherd's voice) February 20 – Topic 4 "Running Ahead" 1 Samuel 13:1-15 (Saul won't wait) & James 4:13-5:6 (God only knows) As always coffee is provided. Our meetings run on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday from 6:30-7am. All are welcome.

Shalom Circle

5 Shalom members met in January. Lois Wattjes was hostess and gave the Bible study from the Gather Lutheran magazine on Come & See. There was discussion on possibly purchasing chairs to go with the new round tables. Various methods of paying for the chairs was brought up, so that WELCA wouldn't have to cover all the costs. 10 Valentines were mailed to shut ins & servicemen since February was Shalom's visitation month. Members will send Melvin a Valentine & \$1.00. It will soon be time to order more baptismal napkins with several upcoming new babies arriving. Karen will do the February Bible study and serve as hostess. Hope Circle is welcome to attend Shalom Circle in February. Secretary/Treasurer – Bev Plihal

WELCA

- WELCA Board will meet February 10 following the service

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS...

SERVICEMEN

SSG – Brock Johnson

4305 N. 60th
Lincoln, NE 68507

Darin Bartlett

FSC 1501 Box 1205
APO AE 09704
(He's Stationed in Greenland)

Bartlett Riley@yahoo.com

(Mary Garrison's Son)

Matt and Meighen Friesen

CMR 480 Box 487
APO, AE 09128
(In Navy in Stuttgart, Germany)

Please continue to keep these members in your prayers:

Janice Buhr

Villa at Flowing Springs
2211 Sunset Dr. #225
Beatrice, NE 68310

Ervin & Beryl Beerenstrauch

Clark Jeary
8401 S. 33rd Street, Apt. 320
Lincoln, NE 68516

Eileen Damkroger

103 N Juniper
DeWitt, NE 68341

Herb Rehm

Wilber Care Center
611 N Main
Wilber, NE 68465

Anna Wollenburg

Wilber Care Center
611 N. Main
Wilber, NE 68465

Richard Wollenburg

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