

January 2019

Greetings from your pastor and partner in ministry!!

It's the start of a new year and I think it's always a good to reflect on our shared ministry of the prior year and look forward to the planned shared ministry of the year ahead. Last year was a full year, at least according to the numbers. Together we celebrated the union of 5 couples (Wollenburg, Hardin, Van Buren, Oliver, Remmers) through holy matrimony, entrusted the souls of 8 members and non-members (Goodwin, Pieper, Stokebrand, Scherling, Miller, Koch, Wollenburg, Garrison) to our Lord, and welcomed 7 young and old people alike (Rowden, Miller, Hopkins, Remmers, Oliver, Pieper, Tietjen) to the body of Christ through the baptismal waters. We were unable to attract any new members unless you consider the newly married non-members as "members through marriage," which I happen to regard them. So we actually gained 5 new members through marriage which means we lost 8 but gained 12 members. We didn't confirm any of our youth but we made some great improvements to the program in curriculum and overall structure. 3 of our young ones received communion for the first time while another 9 received their first Bible. Our Vacation Bible School attracted over 60 kids from the community and our Sunday school classes continue to grow in size. Pretty awesome year!

Looking at the year ahead, we've got much to look forward to. We currently have 4 weddings scheduled in Feb (Jameson/Wollenburg), June (Hubbert/Holtmeier and Barnts/Howell) and July (Thernes/Barnard)...4 new members! In April, 5 of our young ones will receive their first communion while 5 more will receive their first Bibles. 11 of our youth have been graciously adaptable to all the changes we've made with the confirmation program last year and I look forward to confirming all of them at the end of April. In the fall, 3 of our youth will begin the new and improved confirmation program. God only knows who we'll lose or gain but I'm excited for all the growth in faith of our members. I can only assume our Vacation Bible School will again be amazing and our Sunday school program will remain strong. Thank you to everyone, members and non-members alike, for helping make our shared ministry together so rich and rewarding!

Many blessings,

Pastor Koos

Pastor's Report
December 2018

I can't believe the year is coming to an end. This fall has flown by as we've incorporated several changes with the confirmation program and worship services. I feel very hopeful for the ministry in store for 2019 and I pray you do as well.

The last month has kept the frenetic pace going. I was blessed to share in 7 visits, 6 worship services including the Thankoffering service and community service with our Methodist and Episcopal neighbors, 2 committee meetings including one with the Middle School Gathering Planning Team, 3 pastor text studies, 4 regular bible studies, and 2 men's bible studies, 4 choir practices, 4 confirmation classes, and 2 bible studies at First Lutheran in Wilber. Thank you for letting my family and I get away over the Thanksgiving break to visit with out-of-state family. Quite the return drive through that blizzard! Luckily school was canceled and we could take shelter in a hotel for the night. It was great welcoming Layla Miller to our congregation through the baptismal waters. Finally, always a joy to celebrate the season with our kids' Christmas program. Thank you, Josi, Mandy, all the Sunday school teachers, and all the parents for making it a delight!

Christmas blessings to you all,
Pastor Koos

Trinity Lutheran Church Minutes

November 14, 2018

I. Call to order

Chairperson Brian Scherling called to order the regular meeting of the Trinity Lutheran Church Council on November 14, 2018. Pastor Koos led the group in devotions. Members in attendance were Pastor Koos, Brian Scherling, Mike Holtmeier, Steve Garrison, Karen Wollenburg, Yvonne Rahe, Deb Schwan and Amy Stokebrand

Reports

- a) Secretary's Report: A copy of the previous minutes was reviewed. Mike made a motion and it was seconded by Karen that the minutes be approved. Motion carried.
- b) Treasurer's Report: A copy of the monthly treasurer's report indicated a reconciled and available cash balance of \$3,845.17 as of October 31, 2018. Steve made a motion to accept the report and it was seconded by Yvonne. Motion carried.
- c) Investments Report: The investment balance as of October 26, 2018 was \$50,447.49.
- d) Pastor's Report: See included report. Pastor's vacation will be November 19-25th. The 2019 Middle School Gathering is Jan. 19 & 20th for confirmation.
- 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 reported that they will be doing Advent Surprises each Sunday such as coffee & cookies and crafts. Still trying to finalize each week.
 - 3. Evangelical Committee sent out thank you's for visitors.
 - 4. Parish Education/VBS will purchase gifts for the Sunday School kids for Christmas.
 - 5. Youth Group reported that Pie Sales will be ending soon with delivery the next week. They will be going to the People's City Mission in December to serve.
 - 6. Confirmation Committee will be having a meeting soon to see how the year is going.
 - 7. Property committee reported that Richters Heating & Air came to do the Bi-annual checkup and 3 of the 4 roof top furnaces were not working so they were fixed at a cost of \$3,003. Plymouth Electric came to look at the control panel for the Bell Tower but they cannot fix it so it will have to be replaced. We received a quote from another company that specializes in Bell Towers. The first option is to fix the Tower so the bells continue to ring at a cost of \$6-7,000 plus the cost of installing a new control panel for \$1,500. The other option is to fix the Bell Tower so the bells and music play again and that would be about \$20,000. Our insurance deductible is \$5,000 so then insurance would cover the rest if we filed a claim. Mike received a quote on how much it would cost to put a stairlift to the balcony and it would be \$5-6,000. We will look into this project down the road.

II. Old Business

- a) We will look into our policies for when there are weddings held at the church and what the cleanup protocol is.
- b) Brian will visit with Pastor for his six month review.

III. New Business

- a) The church's Windows computer program is up for renewal for \$399 per year. Mike made a motion and Deb seconded to renew for the next year. Motion carried.
- b) Steve made a motion that the loose offering collected during the first 2 Sundays of Advent will go towards the Christmas sacks for the kids. Yvonne seconded it and the motion carried.
- c) Collections for Pastor's Christmas Gift will be taken until December 21st.
- d) Brian and Bobbie will host the Council's December meeting and Christmas party at their home on December 19th at 7:00pm.
- e) Children's Christmas Program will be December 16th at 5:30pm. Communion Worship Service will be December 23rd. Christmas Eve service will be at 6:00pm and Christmas Day Service with communion at 10:00am. Hymn Fest will be December 30th at 10:00am since Pastor will be gone.
- f) The Council discussed the possibility of buying an artificial tree in the future. It will be discussed with the congregation.
- g) The Usher/Greeter signup sheet will be put out for members to sign up for the month they prefer.
- h) The Bell Tower project was discussed again that we would just fix the bells and not the music. Mike made a motion to fund the deductible of the Bell Tower with Memorial Funds. Karen seconded it and the motion carried.

There was a motion by Mike and a second by Steve to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. The next meeting will be December 19th at 7:00. 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 2019

01-02-19

NO BIBLE STUDY!!

01-09-19 Matthew 3:1-17

1. "The Kingdom of Heaven is here." This phrase is found in Matthew. Luke and Mark refer to the "Kingdom of God". "Heaven is a substitute for the name of "God". Jews avoided the use of the name of God out of reverence. Should we avoid the name of God?
2. The idea of God's Kingdom is central to the teaching of Jesus and is mentioned 50 times in Matthew alone. What did it mean to those who heard it at that time? What do you understand it to be? How is God's rule evident today?
3. Read the accounts in Mark 1:1-11 and Luke 3:1-22 and compare with Matthew. What are some similarities and some differences between recordings?
4. John the Baptist was another fulfillment of a prophecy in the O.T. (See Isaiah 40:3). How did John the Baptist "prepare the way for the Lord?" and "make straight paths for him"?
5. Who was supposed to come before the Messiah? – see Malachi 4: 5,
6. Who did Jesus say John the Baptist was? – See Matthew 17: 11-13.
7. What did John say about himself? See John 1: 21 – 27.
8. Why did Jesus want to be baptized by John, since John's baptism was for the repentance of sins? See II Corinthians 5:21.
9. How does John the Baptist mark the end of an era? What is the new era?
10. Verse 16. Jesus was equipped for his ministry with the Holy Spirit. Did Jesus not have the Holy Spirit before this event?

01-16-19 Matthew 4:1-17

1. How is temptation a struggle for us all? Have you had specific times during which temptation was more of a problem? Without necessarily sharing the details, why was this the case and how did you respond to it?
2. How do you see the baptism of Jesus (especially the declaration of his sonship) and his temptation in the wilderness linked? In what way is the Holy Spirit involved in both?
3. Do you think it is true that where there is spiritual baptism that there is also spiritual battle? Do you have an examples that you could share?
4. What is temptation? How would you describe it simply to a child or someone who isn't a Christian?
5. In what way was the temptation in the wilderness a test of Jesus' vocation? How is it a test of our vocations as Christians?
6. Is being tempted a sin?
7. When identifying the enemy – the devil – how dangerous is it to either over-believe or underbelieve in his existence?
8. How does Jesus' time of testing compare to that of Israel in the wilderness (you may wish to have a look at Deuteronomy 8:5)?
9. Reading verses 3-9 again, identify as a group the three key ways in which the devil tempted Jesus. What is at the heart of each of these temptations?
10. Identify as a group how Jesus responded to each of the temptations. Identify and discuss each of the Scriptures that he quotes to the devil.

01-23-19 Matthew 5:1-20

1. Each beatitude consists of two parts. What are these parts? Do ALL the consequences come to all those considered blessed? Or does a particular consequence follow a particular characteristic?
2. What does it mean "to be blessed"? Look up the word "bless" in an English dictionary.
3. Why is it necessary to be aware of your spiritual poverty before you can become a Christian?
4. Is the Kingdom a geographic empire or the sphere of God's reign? What trouble would a proud person have submitting to a reign?
5. How does this sort of gentleness contrast with the world's ideal? How is humility important to Christlikeness?
6. How can an intense desire for righteousness put you at odds with the world? What sort of righteousness is Jesus talking about, do you think? What promise are we given?
7. According to 5:7 and 6:14-15, will God be merciful to us if we don't show mercy? Why or why not, do you think? How does mercy agree with or run counter to the world's standards?
8. WHY can people with a pure heart see, know, and discern God? Why can't "chronic" sinners see God? How do we obtain the pure or clean heart that Jesus describes?
9. In what way was Jesus a peacemaker? In what ways can we be peacemakers? Why is peacemaking so God-like that those who practice it are termed "sons of God"?
10. Why do you think Jesus made each of these Beatitudes a paradox?

01-30-19 Matthew 6:7-34

1. In 6:7-8, Jesus again issues a positive and a negative command. What are they?
2. If, as 6:8 states, God knows what you need before you ask Him, why should you ask Him at all?
3. Does Jesus intend the prayer in verses 9-13 to be a prayer that we repeat word for word when it's time to pray? Or did He give it as a model prayer that serves as a pattern for our prayers?
4. What is the significance of Jesus teaching us to pray to God as our Father? Why does He mention "who is in heaven"?
5. How does one store up treasures in heaven? What advantage does this have over accumulating earthly possessions?
6. How can you tell what your heart treasures the most?
7. How many times in this passage are we told not to worry or be anxious?
8. In verses 25-30, Jesus talks about food and clothing. What is the point that He is making?
9. Jesus compares worry to "little faith". What are some ways that worry undermines faith, specifically in the area of making a living and paying the bills?
10. The things a person worries about reveal something about that person. What?

Treasurer's Report November 30, 2018

	Bank Balance as of 10/31/18			\$3,845.17
		<u>Income</u>	<u>Outstanding</u>	
	Offering	\$8,163.75		
	Other	\$52.78		
	Total Income			\$8,216.53
		<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	\$348.57		
01-04	Custodial Salary	\$490.62		
01-06	Pension Fund, Housing & SECA	\$1,301.91		
01-07	Supply Pastor	\$125.00		
02-00	Mileage	\$396.76		
02-01	HSA	\$210.00		
02-02	R/O	\$27.00		
02-03	Water Supplies	\$53.75		
03-04	Baptismal Supplies	\$55.21		
04-00	Postage	\$106.80		
04-04	Office Equipment	\$150.99		
05-00	Village Utilities Church	\$199.19		
05-01	Village Utilities Parsonage	\$195.75		
05-02	Natural Gas Church	\$73.08		
05-03	Natural Gas Parsonage	\$40.13		
06-01	Benev. Transfer	\$600.00		
06-04	Vanco E-giving Fees/Return	\$46.30		
07-04	Technology	\$584.00		
08-00	Telephone Church	\$172.60		
08-01	Telephone Parsonage	\$34.50		
09-02	Confirmation	\$270.00		
09-06	Worship	\$395.00		
11-03	Lawn & Landscape	\$261.14	\$150.00	
	Total Expenses			\$9,923.47
	Previous Months Checks that Cleared			
	Available Cash as of 11/30/18			\$2,138.23
	Outstanding Checks			\$150.00
	Reconciled to Balance on Bank Statement 11/30/18			\$2,288.33

		<u>Deposits</u>	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>Account Balance</u>
	Other Accounts:			
	Benevolence (Savings Account)	\$710.00		\$10,885.05
	Capital Improvement Fund (Savings Account)	\$5.00		\$3,811.93



Worship Committee will meet on Wednesday, January 9 at 5:30 pm

WELCA board will meet Sunday, January 6 following the service

Hope Circle will attend Shalom Circle in January and February

Church Council will meet on Wednesday, January 16 at 7:00 pm

Shalom Circle will meet on Monday, January 14 at 7:00 pm



Ervin & Beryl Beerenstrauch are our Tried-and-True Treasure for January - 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. **JANUARY – Service Group #1**



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
11/25	No Church	-	-	-	\$460.00
12/2	87	\$1150.00	\$50.00	-	\$110.00
12/9	120	\$2531.00	\$25.00	\$255.00	\$860.00
12/16	97	\$2220.00	-	\$35.00	\$210.00



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**

	SCRIPTURE READER	ACOLYTE	GREETERS	COMMUNION SET UP COMMUNION ASSISTANT
January 6	Maddox Smith	Cooper Stokebrand	Galen & Bev Plihal/ Brian & Barb Nelson	
January 13	Lois Wattjes	Jackson Kirchoff	Galen & Bev Plihal/ Brian & Barb Nelson	
January 20	Morgan Stokebrand	Ashlynn Brown	Galen & Bev Plihal/ Brian & Barb Nelson	
January 27 (Communion)	Bev Plihal	McKenzie Smith	Galen & Bev Plihal/ Brian & Barb Nelson	Becky Kaelin/ Pam Garrison

HEAD USHER: Ron Wollenburg

USHERS: Byron Beerenstrauch, Mitch McDougall, Cody Wollenburg, Tom Koch

OUTREACH VISITATION: Service Group 1

CURRENT SERVICE GROUP: Service Group #3 (Duane & Pat Wollenburg/Chuck & Tina Holtmeier)

A Prayer for the New Year

Lord, Whether we're leaving behind a year
of joy and blessing or trials and difficulties, we
pause to give thanks.

We thank You that You are always with us every
single day of every single year.

Please remind us of Your presence in the year
ahead, even when life is busy.

We are so thankful that we serve a God who
makes things new and gives us the grace of
fresh starts and new beginnings.

Be glorified in our lives this year.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

JANUARY 2019

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

JANUARY 2019

<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>
	1	2 Liz Poessnecker 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 Jennifer Badman Eric Bartels 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 keep Marge Badman, Jim Burger (Donna Garrison's Father), Ervin Beerenstrauch, and Denise Michel **in your prayers.**

Pastor Koos will be on vacation from Wednesday, December 26 – Wednesday, January 2.

2019 Offering Envelopes & WELCA Books are in your mailbox. Please pick them up.

Reports for the Annual Report are due Friday, January 4. They can be turned in to the church office or emailed to tlcdewitt209@gmail.com. **The Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 13 immediately following the service in the Sanctuary.**

The 2019 Usher/Greeter Sign-Up sheets are on the counter in the entryway. Please consider volunteering for these positions.

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!

Our 2018 WELCA Thankoffering total came to \$430.00. A big thank you to all who so generously gave for the many blessings that are bestowed upon us. Also, thank you to Yvonne, Pam, Linda and Karen for being a part of the Thankoffering service at church. Karen W. - Mission Community

Let us all be thankful for all that we have by bringing items for the Food Pantry Cart in the entryway. Items are taken to DeWitt's Food Pantry and what they can't use is taken to St. John's Food Pantry in Beatrice.

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/

January 6 is Epiphany which traditionally celebrates the coming of the wisemen. The paramounts are white which is the color of innocence and holiness. The banner which reads Your Light Has Come features the gifts of the Magi. The flowers represent the plants which produce the frankincense and myrrh. The gold represents the gift of gold.

January 13 is the Baptism of Our Lord Sunday. The white paramounts reflect the innocence and holiness of Jesus.

January 20 is the 2nd Sunday of Epiphany. The paramounts are now green, the color of growth. Epiphany's message is Christ's revelation to the Gentiles, thus the use of green-the color symbolic of growth. If you haven't done so, take a few minutes after the service and take a close look at the paramounts and notice the symbols of growth.

January 27 is the 3rd Sunday of Epiphany. The green paramounts remind us that our faith grows even in the midst of winter.

Hope Circle

No Report.

Lutheran Men in Mission

Lutheran Men in Mission – January

New year, new study for the Men's Group. In January we start a series called Gifts and Calling: What is the Will of God for My Life? On January 2 the topic is High Calling and passages are Luke 5:1-11 (Following Jesus) and 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 (God's instruments). On January 16 the topic is Investing Yourself and the passages are Matthew 25:14-30 (Parable of the talents) and Romans 12:1-8 (Using your gifts). As always, study is from 6:30-7am with coffee. Hope to see you there.

Shalom Circle

Shalom Circle met at the home of Pat Wollenburg on Dec. 10 for our annual Christmas Party and the revealing of our Prayer Partners. All but one of the members were present. A small business meeting was held concerning Baptismal Banner and Baptismal Napkins. These will be checked out. A THANK YOU was read from our recent donation for Christmas. Karen reported that \$430.00 was given to the THANKOFFERING SERVICE this year. After the meeting we adjourned to the kitchen for a great POTLUCK supper hosted by Pat and brought in by the members. It was DELICIOUS! Our next meeting should be January 21, 2019 Consult the new WELCA book for hostess and Bible Study leaders. No offering was taken. MERRY CHRISTMAS! Sec./Treas. -Shirley Wollenburg

WELCA

- Both the new and outgoing will meet after church on January 6, 2019

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. 3225
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