

March 2019

Greetings from your pastor and partner in ministry!!

With the start of spring this month, we can rejoice that we survived another winter together. This one was particularly harsh with snow and ice and frigid temperatures persistently keeping our kids home from school and our snow removal crews busy. Let us offer a collective sigh as we head into more agreeable weather.

I'm excited to head to Dubuque early in the month for the annual Rural Ministry Conference. It's always fruitful to visit with colleagues from around the country similarly called into this unique ministry. The season of Lent kicks off on the first Wednesday with Ash Wednesday. I'll begin my 5-week first communion class the following Sunday with 3-4 students. Remember that throughout Lent we will resume our Wednesday evening light suppers/services. This year's sermon series will explore the various "I Am" statements Jesus makes in the gospel of John as a way of preparing us for who exactly we are celebrating on Easter. If you miss the services, you can always head next door to our Methodist neighbors on Thursday mornings for repeated services. Thank you, Pastor Ed and Mary, for continuing to bring meaningful messages.

Our Sunday readings will have us look at several more of Jesus' parables from Matthew's gospel. His parables are tricky sometimes but they offer profound wisdom for deeper reflection.

Hope to see more of you around the church with the spring thaw!

Many blessings,

Pastor Koos

Pastor's Report
February 2019

Can we get a break from the weather already?! What a blustery, snowy month we've had. Thankfully it hasn't disrupted our ministry together. As cold and miserable it's been outside, our ministry is nice and warm and plugging away. I was able to make 7 visits, lead 6 services including the Wilber Care center and Episcopal services, participate in 1 committee meeting, 2 men's Bible studies, 5 pastor text studies, and 2 choir practices, and teach 5 Bible studies and 5 confirmation classes. It was a great time taking a handful of our confirmation kids to this year's Middle School Gathering in Kearney. I had a little more responsibility since I became part of the synod's planning team for the event but the kids and I had a good bonding experience together. Thank you for letting us get away that weekend.

Blessings,
Pastor Koos

Trinity Lutheran Church Minutes

January 16, 2019

I. Call to order

Chairperson Mike Holtmeier called to order the regular meeting of the Trinity Lutheran Church Council on January 16, 2019. Pastor Koos led the group in devotions. Members in attendance were Pastor Koos, Steve Garrison, , Karen Wollenburg, Tim Garrison, Brian Smidt, and Jane Stokebrand.

Reports

- a) Secretary's Report: A copy of the previous minutes was reviewed. Steve made a motion and it was seconded by Brian that the minutes be approved. Motion carried.
- b) Treasurer's Report: A copy of the monthly treasurer's report indicated a balance of \$19,373.17 and a benevolence balance of \$587.54 as of December 31, 2018. Tim made a motion to accept the report and it was seconded by Karen. Motion carried.
- c) Investments Report: The balance was reported at \$4,850.56 as of December 31, 2018.
- d) Pastor's Report: See included report. There was a request for transfer by Eric Stokebrand and Thomas Stokebrand to Christ Lutheran Church, Louisville, NE. Tim made a motion and Steve seconded the motion to grant the transfer. The motion carried. Pastor requested four vacation days for the upcoming year to include June 23rd, August 4th, October 13th, and December 29th. Pastor will be attending the Rural Ministry Conference March 3rd through 5th.
- e) Memorial Report: The balance was reported at \$17,889.57 as of December 31, 2018
- f) Suggestion Box: There was nothing to report.
- g) Committee Reports: Committees were assigned as follows.
 1. Social Committee Nate , Tim, and Jane
 2. Worship Committee: Karen Wollenburg. Karen also reported on worship committee events for the past month.
 3. Evangelical/ Stewardship Committee: Deb Schwann, and Lana Hager
 4. Parish Education/VBS Committee : Mike Holtmeier . Mike also reported that since there is no one elected to the position of Sunday School Superintendent, that program will be headed by a committee with input from the Parish Education Committee and Pastor Koos.
 5. Confirmation Committee: Mike Holtmeier, Tim Garrison, Pastor Koos. Mike presented an update on the Confirmation process, as well as, the Mentoring program.
 6. Youth Group Committee: Brian Smidt
 7. Property Committee: Tim Garrison and Steve Garrison. It was reported that the bell tower should be repaired in February or March. Also, landscaping to north of the fellowship hall will be continued , as well as, removal of thorny bushes on the west side of the church. Lawn mowing of the church will continue to be contracted to the Arlyn and Elaine Parde.

II. Old Business

- a) The "Wedding Cleanup" protocol for couples wishing to be married at Trinity continues to be under review.

III. New Business

- a) Council Members signed up for Communion Assistant for the current year. See included.
- b) Lawn care for the church and parsonage was discussed. There was a motion by Karen and a second by Tim to contract with Courtney's, who was the provider last year. The motion carried.
- c) The heating and air conditioning service was discussed. There was a motion by Brian and a second by Tim to continue to use Richter's Service of Seward for twice a year maintenance at a cost of \$545. The motion carried.

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

Church Council Secretary, Jane Stokebrand

Bible Study Questions
Wednesdays, 8:30 a.m.
March 2019

03-06-19 *Matthew 18:15-35*

1. What are some reasons why Christians are afraid to go and tell to other Christians how they have sinned against them?
2. What are some reasons why you should first go alone to your brother to confront him about his sin?
3. How many times did Peter think was enough to forgive a person? Why do you think Peter used that number?
4. Do we need to forgive a person if they haven't asked for forgiveness yet?
5. What is the kingdom of heaven like in these verses?
6. What lesson can we learn from the parable?
7. What happens if we don't forgive people that need to be forgiven? (*Matthew 6:15*)
8. Is it more loving, kind, gracious, or even more Christian to just forget it when someone sins against you? Why or why not?
9. What if the person in the process of being put under church discipline decides to leave the local church and join himself with another church, do we have any responsibility to warn that other church about the past situation? Why or why not?
10. What is communicated to us by Jesus when he uses the words "bind" and "loose." In the context of church discipline, what does it mean to bind, and what does it mean to loose (v. 18)? How does the church bind and loose people?

03-13-19 *Matthew 20:1-16*

1. What is fair? What is the difference between fairness and judgment?
2. What is our *human* concept of fairness all about?
3. Does our reward change based on the level of the sin? *Romans 3:19-20, 6:23*
4. Does our reward change based on the level of our righteousness?
5. How does *Thessalonians 3:10* compare to our parable? Why? (*Verses 8-13*)
6. Can you think of any other places in the Bible where people felt that they weren't being dealt with fairly? *Exodus 16:2-15; Numbers 16:41-42*
7. What does God say about grumbling? *Luke 5:30-31; 1 Corinthians 10:9-10; Philippians 2:14-15*
8. Why should I go the extra mile for someone if my reward is the same as someone who doesn't do much of anything? Why do good if God accepts us already?
9. Was this some kind of new teaching that Jesus was giving them? *Deuteronomy 24:14-15*
10. What point is being made by the saying in verse 16? *Matthew 19:28-30; Luke 14:7-14*

03-20-19 Matthew 22:1-14

1. Jesus said that the kingdom of heaven is like the banquet described in this story. If this is so, who do you think the king in the story represents? Who is the son? Who would the guests represent?
2. Why do you think Jesus used the idea of a banquet to represent heaven?
3. The Bible says that God extends an invitation to us. He is knocking at the door waiting for us to invite him into our lives. If people are like the guests in the story, what kind of responses could we expect to God's invitation?
4. If the wedding represents God's kingdom, what kind of people will be part of God's kingdom according to this story?
5. What do you think would be appropriate clothing for the kingdom of heaven? How do you think one might obtain such clothing?
6. Jesus concludes his story by saying, "Many are called, but few are chosen." What do you think Jesus intended this statement to mean in regard to the kingdom of heaven?
7. The religious leaders of Jesus' time rejected his teaching and his authority. The common people, including social outcasts, sinners, and prostitutes, heard him gladly. How do you think these people might have interpreted what Jesus was saying in this story?
8. What do you think was the main point of this story?
9. What do you think Jesus wanted to accomplish by telling it?
10. What type of person would need to hear this story?

03-27-19 Matthew 25:1-13

1. What is the kingdom of heaven like according to this parable?
2. Who do the 10 virgins represent?
3. Why were 5 of the virgins considered wise? Why were the other 5 considered foolish?
4. Why didn't the wise virgins share their oil with the foolish virgins?
5. How long would it be before the bridegroom came? What might those who are waiting for Him be tempted to do?
6. What is the most important planning and preparing we can do for the future?
7. What is the consequence of being unprepared for Christ's return?
8. What will be the reward for being prepared to greet Christ when He does return?
9. Trying to predict the time of Christ's return is foolish ... why? See Matthew 24:37-51.
10. In the Bible's 'big picture', what preparation is essential for anyone to enter the wedding banquet with the bridegroom (Jesus)? See John 3:3-7 and 6:65.

Treasurer's Report January 31, 2019

Bank Balance as of 12/31/18			\$19,373.17
		<u>Income</u>	<u>Outstanding</u>
Offering		\$13,273.98	
Other Deposits		\$248.74	
Total Income			\$13,522.72

		<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Outstanding</u>
01-00	Pastor's Salary	\$3,611.54	
01-01	Financial Secretary's Salary	\$203.17	
01-02	Secretary Salary	\$471.08	
01-04	Custodial Salary	\$490.62	
01-05	Payroll Taxes	\$1,688.67	
01-06	Pension Fund, Housing & SECA	\$1,301.91	
01-07	Supply Pastor	\$125.00	
02-00	Mileage	\$201.22	
02-01	HSA	\$210.00	
02-02	R/O	\$27.00	
02-03	Water Supplies	\$33.00	
03-05	Communion Supplies	\$55.15	
04-02	Office Supplies	\$24.99	
04-04	Office Equipment	\$150.99	
05-00	Village Utilities Church	\$209.83	
05-01	Village Utilities Parsonage	\$167.55	
05-02	Natural Gas Church	\$571.13	
05-03	Natural Gas Parsonage	\$137.37	
06-04	Vanco E-giving Fees	\$44.15	
08-00	Telephone Church	\$172.61	
08-01	Telephone Parsonage	\$34.50	
09-00	Sunday School	\$200.00	
09-05	Continuing Education	\$299.98	
11-00	Church Maintenance	\$66.63	
11-03	Lawn & Landscape	\$111.14	
11-05	Property Insurance	\$3,030.50	

Total Expenses			\$13,639.73
Previous Months Checks that Cleared			\$11,000.00
Available Cash as of 1/31/19			\$8,256.16
Outstanding Checks			\$1,718.21
Reconciled to Balance on Bank Statement 1/31/19			\$9,974.37

	<u>Deposits</u>	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>Account Balance</u>
Other Accounts:			
Benevolence (Savings Account)	\$135.00	\$0.00	\$722.54
Capital Improvement Fund (Savings Account)	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$3,722.32



Worship Committee will meet on Wednesday, February 27 at **5:00** pm

WELCA board will meet Sunday, March 10 following the service

Hope Circle will attend Shalom Circle on March 11 at 9:00 am

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

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



Eileen Damkroger is our Tried-and-True Treasure for March/April. 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. **MARCH – Service Group 2**



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
1/27	76	\$1690.00	\$25.00	\$5.00	\$495.00
2/3	91	\$1048.00	-	-	\$420.00
2/10	68	\$690.00	\$50.00	\$5.00	\$570.00
2/17	74	\$885.00	\$25.00	\$10.00	\$1074.00



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 **MARCH**

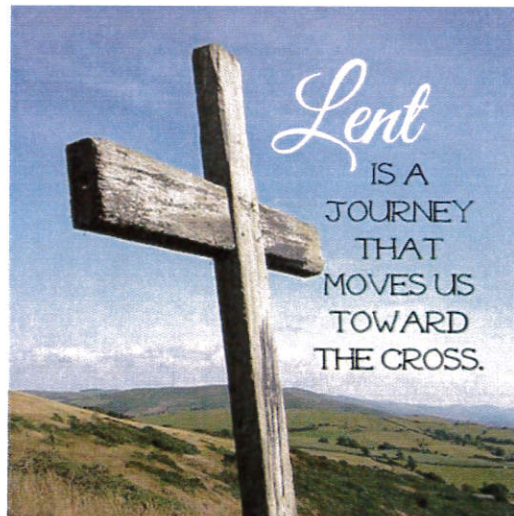
	SCRIPTURE READER	ACOLYTE	GREETERS	COMMUNION SET UP COMMUNION ASSISTANT
March 3	Kanin Baker	McKenzie Smith	Liz Poessnecker/ Larry & Shari Pieper	
March 6	Doug Stokebrand	McKenzie Smith	Liz Poessnecker/ Larry & Shari Pieper	Yvonne Rahe/ Tracy Karl
March 10	Kynlee Uher	Elsie Woerner	Liz Poessnecker/ Larry & Shari Pieper	
March 17	Jane Stokebrand	Cooper Stokebrand	Liz Poessnecker/ Larry & Shari Pieper	
March 24	Krayten Uher	Gage Heller	Liz Poessnecker/ Larry & Shari Pieper	
March 31	Arlyn Parde	Josh Muehling	Liz Poessnecker/ Larry & Shari Pieper	Tracy Karl/ Amy Stokebrand

HEAD USHER: Chuck Holtmeier

USHERS: Mark Roesler, Darin Mahloch, Jesse Gronemeyer, Bob Schwan

OUTREACH VISITATION: Service Group 2

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



MARCH 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<i>Pastor Koos will be gone March 4 & 5 at Theological Conference.</i>					1 WORLD DAY OF PRAYER	2
3 "Transfiguration" Care-A-Lot 8:45 am Praise Choir 9:00 am PRAISE SERVICE 10:00 am WHITE	4 (Pastor Gone)	5 (Pastor Gone)	6 "Who Is the Greatest" Men's Bible Study 6:30 am Bible Study 8:30 am Worship Committee 5:00 pm NO CONFIRMATION ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE 7:00 pm PURPLE	7	8	9
10 "Forgiveness" Sunday School 8:45 am Adult choir 9:00 am WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 am WELCA Board following service First Communion Class 4:00 pm PURPLE	11 Hope Circle 9:00 am	12 Pastor Text Study 10:00 am	13 Bible Study 8:30 am Light Supper at 5:30 followed by Lenten Service Confirmation 6:30 pm	14 Good Samaritan Chapel 10:30 am	15	16
17 "Laborers in the Vineyard" Sunday School 8:45 am Episcopal service 9:00 am WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 am First Communion Class 4:00 pm PURPLE	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 Light Supper at 5:30 followed by Lenten Service Confirmation 6:30 pm Church Council 8:00 pm	21	22 <u>NEWSLETTER</u> <u>ARTICLES</u> <u>ARE DUE</u>	23
24 "Wedding Banquet" Sunday School 8:45 am Adult Choir 9:00 am WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 am First Communion Class 4:00 pm PURPLE	25	26 Pastor Text Study 10:00 am	27 Bible Study 8:30 am Light Supper at 5:30 followed by Lenten Service Confirmation 6:30 pm	28	29	30
31 "Bridesmaids" Sunday School 8:45 am Youth Group 9:00 am Adult Choir 9:00 am COMMUNION SERVICE 10:00 am First Communion Class 4:00 pm PURPLE						

MARCH 2019

<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>
					1 Eleanor Schwan	2
3 Johanna Koos Sonja Workman	4 Macy Wollenburg	5 Bonnie Schuerman	6	7	8	9
10 Janice Dunn Paizley Weber	11 Peggy Scherling	12 Tracy Karl Ron Hinzman Aimee Wollenburg	13 Kanin Baker	14 Lana Hager Jeff Hatcliff Axley Strouf Chelsea Tietjen	15	16 Arlyce Albert
17	18 Christine Roesler	19 Crewe Wollenburg	20 Marjorie Badman	21	22 Carson Bagwell Richard Wollenburg	23
24 Fred Koch Zed Adams	25 Tom Koch Krayten Uher	26	27 Janelle Pieper	28 Kenzi Scherling Zach Schuerman	29 Jayne Pieper	30 Roy Scherling
31 Alyssa Brown						

Please keep Don Smith (Delva Smith's Father), Whitney Rahe, Gerald Kotas (Connie Scherling's brother in law), Jim Burger (Donna Garrison's Father) and Denise Michel **in your prayers.**

Starting Sunday, March 3, we will be introducing a new addition to our Sunday Praise Worship Service: the noisy offering. Children are invited to come forward during the offering and place any loose coins members may have in their pockets or purses into the bucket. The idea is to create as much NOISE as possible with this donation as well as engage our young ones in the service. Please consider contributing as you are able. Thank you. Pastor Koos

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.

Cleanliness may not actually be next to godliness, but it certainly helps a person feel more human. When families find their homes destroyed, or must flee for their safety, soap and a towel rarely make the cut for what they can carry. Arriving in a refugee camp or other place of safety, they are scared, vulnerable and dirty from travel. The simple items included in a Personal Care Kit provide much needed self-care, critical germ fighting, and the chance to regain dignity amidst situations of fear and uncertainty. **We will be collecting items for Personal Care Kits during Lent.** I will have a box in the back of the church the following Sunday's. March 10 – Lightweight Towels (approx. 27x52), March 17 – Soap, March 24 – Nail Clippers, March 31st – Combs (wide tooth), April 7th – Towels. Clean hands, good grooming, bright and shining smiles, you can help bring them about through the gifts of Personal Care Kits. Thank you, Connie Scherling

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, March 10 – Tri County Football Fundraiser Luncheon from 11am-1pm at the Plymouth Community Center. Serving Spaghetti, Garlic Bread, Salad and Desserts. Free Will Donation.

Sunday, March 24 – Tri County Legion Baseball Fundraiser Meal from 11am-1pm at the Plymouth Community Center. Serving pancakes, sausage, muffins, coffee cake, fruit and drink. Free Will Donation.

Sunday, April 7 – TLC VBS Baked Potato Bar Fundraiser from 11am-12:30 pm. to raise funds to offset cost of Carol Joy Holling conducting our VBS this year. Sign up sheets for donations will be on the counter in the entryway. Contact Josi Remmers for more information.

Hope Circle

No Report.

Lutheran Men in Mission

Lutheran Men in Mission - March

We are finishing 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! March 6 – Topic 5 "Lagging Behind" Jonah 1: 1-17 (Jonah runs away from God's call) & 2 Timothy 1:1-2:13 (No fear). March 20 – Topic 6 "Worrying About God's Will" Exodus 4:1-17 (Moses isn't sure) & Matthew 6:19-34 (Don't worry). As always coffee is provided. Our meetings run on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday from 6:30-7am. All are welcome.

Shalom Circle

Shalom met with 7 members and 1 guest from Hope Circle present. Liz stated that she had ordered a dozen baptismal napkins from Ann Freese in order to be prepared for upcoming baptisms. Connie will let us know what items will be collected for mission gathering soon. March 1st will be World Day of Prayer at the Episcopal Church with details to come later. The Valentine's that members singed at the last meeting were mailed to our congregation's shut-ins and service members. Lent Services will begin on March 6th. Services will be Wednesday nights at 6:00 with a light supper at 5:30. On Thursday the services will be at 10:00 am at the Methodist Church. The Spring Gathering will be on March 23rd at Auburn's St. Paul's Church from 10am-3pm with a cost of \$18.00. Our church will be hosting it next year. Our church usually sends a tangible offering. Linda has ordered new cards to replenish our supply in the fellowship hall for interested members to choose from. Members will work on baptismal banners next month. The next meeting will be March 18th with Arlyce as hostess and Bible Study. Prayer concerns were announced from Sunday's bulletin. Bible Study was called "Meeting with Jesus-By Night and Day" with Karen as leader. Thank you, Karen, for taking charge of the meeting in Pat's absence. Sec./Treas. – Bev Plihal

WELCA

- WELCA Board will meet March 10 following the service

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS...

SERVICEMEN

SSG – Brock Johnson

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