

Pastor's Report
August 2019

What a flurry of activity to get in before the kids headed back to school this month! Thank you again for letting my family and I get away for a vacation in Michigan. Relaxing lakeside with a book in one hand and fishing pole in the other was exactly what my soul needed.

The ministry was rich over the last month. I was blessed with opportunities to make 9 visits, lead 5 worship services including the chapel service at Good Sam in Beatrice, participate in 1 committee meeting and 1 men's Bible study, attend 4 pastor text studies, and lead 3 Bible studies. The Thernes wedding went well and I'm excited for their new life together. As God would have it, two days later I swung the complete opposite way emotionally in leading the Straub funeral out at Soap Creek. To balance it all out, God threw in a couple baptisms (Wollenburg, Garrison). What a rich month for new beginnings and endings! Finally, it was good checking in with the congregation at the semi-annual meeting. The finances are looking solid and the ministry consistent. Good job, Trinity members!

Pastor Koos

September 2019

Greetings from your pastor and partner in ministry!!

Some of you may have been hearing whisperings about discussions over our affiliation with the ELCA. Let me be the first one to set the record straight. We, like many congregations, continue to struggle with a lack of growth, at least according to the numbers. Worship attendance, financial giving, and education participation all appear stagnant. We lose members to death or transfer but we also gain members through baptism, wedding, and transfer. It has been suggested that perhaps our affiliation with the ELCA is what is holding us back from numerical growth. Maybe the values of our community are not best represented by the ELCA but we won't know unless we discuss. Who we are as Christians, who we are as Lutherans, and who we are as ELCA Lutherans are all important questions to ask in forming our identity and purpose and growth can't happen without a firm identity and purpose. We ought not be afraid of engaging the questions. Let us be open to the Spirit's work in our council as it determines how best to address the lack of numerical growth.

Otherwise, September is always an exciting month of the year with the program year kicking off. The Sunday school classes, kids' and adult choirs, and youth group all resume after a long, summer break. You'll note that the worship service on Kickoff Sunday will be particularly full as we'll be installing the Sunday school teachers and blessing both the kids' backpacks and the Bibles for the 1st graders. Be sure to stick around for the potluck meal following the service in celebration. Our fall new member class will start on the last Sunday so be sure to let any interested people know. Again, always helpful to orient new members about who we are as Lutherans, Nebraska Lutherans, and Trinity Lutherans.

Hope to see you around the church!

Blessings,

Pastor Koos

Trinity Lutheran Church Minutes

July 17, 2019

I. Call to order

Chairperson Mike Holtmeier called to order the regular meeting of the Trinity Lutheran Church Council on July 17, 2019. Pastor Koos led the group in devotions.

Members in attendance were Pastor Koos, Steve Garrison, Tim Garrison, Brian Smidt, Lana Hager, Deb Schwan, Mike Holtmeier, Karen Wollenburg, and Jane Stokebrand.

Reports

- a) Secretary's Report: A copy of the previous minutes was reviewed. Tim 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 \$8,994.33.
- c) Investments Report: Tim reported the investment account to be \$55,094.50.
- d) Pastor's Report: See included report.
- e) Memorial Report: No Report
- f) Suggestion Box: Nothing to report
- g) Committee
 1. Spiritual Life and Growth
 - a) Social Committee: Nothing new to report.
 - b) Worship Committee: Nothing to report.
 - c) Evangelical/ Stewardship: Nothing new to report.
 2. Youth Development
 - a) Parish Ed/VBS: Nothing to report.
 - b) Youth Group Committee: Painting of the west Sunday School room pending.
 - c) Confirmation: Nothing new to report.
 3. Care, Management and Overview
 - a) Property: Tim reported a small amount of water in the basement of the parsonage. Property committee removed and dried the rugs. A small amount of water was found in the church basement; a sump pump needs to be replaced. The leaky toilets in the parsonage were fixed and the pilot light on the water heater in the church has been relit.
 4. Pastor's Report: See included.
 - a) Pastor presented an application, written by Bev Plihal, for the grant program from the synod presented at the last meeting. If granted this will supply funds for education projects.
 - b) Pastor presented information on a Nebraska Synod Road Show to be held August 24th in Adams.
 - c) The combined Mission Festival with Soap Creek Church will be held October 27th at Trinity Lutheran Church.

II. Old Business

- a) None

III. New Business

- a) The requirements of the wedding policy are applied and Jodi Wolfstiech will rent the church for a renewal of vows ceremony.
- b) Chair Mike Holtmeier and Vice Chair Tim Garrison brought information regarding the continuation or severance of ties for Trinity Lutheran Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. Tim and Mike presented information with the suggestion that it be brought to attention at the Semi Annual Meeting. As this was new information for the council members, after discussion, it was decided to do further study before making any recommendations to the congregation.

There was a motion by Tim and a second by Karen to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. In conclusion of the meeting, Pastor Koos led the council in recitation of the Lord's Prayer.

Reminders: Next church council meeting will be August 21st at 8 P.M.

Communion Assistant for July is Jane Stokebrand

Church Council Secretary, Jane Stokebrand

Special Congregational Meeting of Trinity Lutheran Church

A special congregational meeting was held on May 19, 2019 following the Sunday church service. The meeting was called to order by Mike Holtmeier with a quorum present. Mike presented two proposed changes to the constitution of Trinity Lutheran Church. The first was to abolish the position of assistant Sunday School superintendent. The second was to adopt changes required by the synod. These changes have been made available to the congregation by means of paper copy and digital copy. There was a motion by Tim Garrison and a second by Steve Garrison to adopt the changes. The motion carried. There was a motion by Pam Garrison and a second by Penny Holtmeier to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Stokebrand
Church Council Secretary

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

09-04 Genesis 2:4b-25

1. Have you previously noticed that Genesis contains two creation accounts? What are the different (but complementary) messages that they communicate?
2. What is the full implication of God being given a name (Lord/Yahweh) in chapter 2? How does this differ from other religions and/or worldviews?
3. How does humankind differ from other parts of creation? What does it mean to be a living being?
4. If God breathing life into us means that we are able to relate and serve him, how can we do this?
5. While we are given much freedom, it is clear that humankind is also accountable to God. Do you think Christians find it hard to submit to God's authority?
6. What is the expectation of man in the garden? Take some time to explain both responsibilities described in verse 15.
8. How do these verses remind us of the dignity of all work? (Reading vv.1-3, you might also like to reflect on the implications for rest.)
9. How does the joining of man and woman honor God and enable humanity to flourish?
10. Why do you think that marriage is so important in the Bible and the ultimate symbol of Christ and the Church?

09-11 Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7

1. What does this story teach us about Abraham's character?
2. Why does Sarah laugh to herself, and why do you think she then lied about it?
3. When our prayers are not answered the way we want, what are our typical responses? Why?
4. Did Abraham know that he was showing hospitality to the LORD at first? Why is hospitality so important?
5. Who should we show hospitality to? What should we do to be ready to show hospitality?
6. Is anything too hard for the LORD? What difference should the answer to this question make in your prayer life? What difference should the answer to this question make as it pertains to your trust in the promises of God?
7. Who were the visitors? What was Sarah promised?
8. What does this story tell us about the meaning of marriage?
9. What does this story tell us about the meaning of family?
10. What does this story tell us about God?

09-18 Genesis 32:22-30

1. In v. 22, Jacob continues to send everyone and everything in front of him. How do you think this reflects on his character?
2. In v. 23, a mysterious man shows up and begins to wrestle Jacob. This is not a turn most of us would have predicted. Why do you think this is a fitting twist to the story?
3. The mysterious man disables Jacob to stop him from wrestling, but he does not heal his wound. Why do you think the man disables Jacob, and why doesn't he heal him afterward?
4. The man renames Jacob, "Israel" because he had "struggled with God and with humans and have overcome" (Israel literally means, "wrestles with God"). Jacob lost the match, so in what way did he overcome?
5. "Israel" would come to be used as the name for all of Jacob's descendants, and can even apply to those who are "grafted" into that family through Jesus (Rom. 11:24). Why do you think that is significant? What does it tell us about the sort of relationship God values?
6. This passage does not identify the man as "God." But, Jacob concludes that it is God, why?
7. What benefit was God seeking to impart to Jacob when He injured Jacob's hip? (vs 25)
8. In what sense did Jacob "prevail" over the Angel of the Lord (vs. 28)? How do we "win" in our struggles with God?
9. Why does the Angel of the Lord refuse to discuss His name (vs. 29)?
10. Have you ever "wrestled" with God? About what? What was the outcome?

09-25 Exodus 1:8-14; 3:1-15

1. Do you think the king of Egypt was justified in his thoughts about the Israelites? Do we see parallels in our own society and immigration policies?
2. Does the Bible condemn slavery? How should Christians respond to the fact that millions of people around the world are slaves even today?
3. What is significant about the new king's lack of knowledge about Joseph? (read Gen 47:1-10 & Gen 50:1-11)
4. Explain the seemingly contradictory (at least to me) statements by the new Egyptian king "they are too many and too mighty for us" and "Therefore they set taskmasters over them and afflict them with heavy burdens".
5. Considering Moses life, what can we learn about Gods time tables for our lives?
6. What would have happened if Moses had become impatient and decided to do something different, as opposed to waiting on God? (Rom 15:4, 2 Cor 6:4, Col 1:11, 1 Th 1:3)
7. Who else was a Shepard when God placed a call on his life (2 Sam 7:8)
8. Considering the educational level of Moses, what can we learn about his humility in waiting for God?
9. What can we learn about the character of God and our requests of Him? a. What requests can we take to God, and which ones should we try to handle on our own? (Phil 4:6) b. Will God answer all of our petitions? (Rom 8:28)
10. Define the word Oppression. Why is God concerned with His people being oppressed?

Treasurer's Report July 31, 2019

Bank Balance as of 6/28/19			\$10,217.37
		<u>Income</u>	<u>Outstanding</u>
Offering		\$13,528.53	
Other Deposits		\$287.12	
Total Income			\$13,815.65

		<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Outstanding</u>
01-00	Pastor's Salary	\$3,641.08	
01-01	Financial Secretary's Salary	\$206.24	
01-03	Organist Salary	\$375.00	
01-04	Custodial Salary	\$490.62	
01-05	Payroll Taxes	\$1,665.79	
01-06	Pension Fund, Housing & SECA - Portico	\$1,165.98	
02-00	Mileage	\$216.92	
02-01	HSA	\$420.00	
02-02	R/O	\$54.00	
02-04	Insurance - Portico	\$173.35	
03-06	Wedding Fees	\$150.00	
04-02	Office Supplies	\$60.76	
04-03	Copies from Copier	\$321.70	
04-04	Office Equipment	\$149.69	
05-00	Village Utilities Church	\$354.57	
05-01	Village Utilities Parsonage	\$221.66	
05-02	Natural Gas Church	\$43.61	
05-03	Natural Gas Parsonage	\$31.04	
06-00	Miscellaneous	\$40.30	
06-02	Special Benevolence	\$266.00	
06-04	Vanco E-giving Fees	\$44.40	
07-02	NE Synod Assembly	\$350.00	
7-04	Technology	\$85.00	
08-00	Telephone Church	\$172.08	
08-01	Parsonage Phone	\$69.00	
11-00	Church Maintenance	\$109.27	
11-03	Lawn Maintenance	\$222.28	
11-05	Property Insurance	\$3,427.00	

Total Expenses			\$14,527.34
Previous Months Checks that Cleared			\$1,223.04
Available Cash as of 7/31/19			\$8,282.64
Outstanding Checks			\$351.00
Reconciled to Balance on Bank Statement 7/31/19			\$8,633.64

	<u>Deposits</u>	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>Account Balance</u>
Other Accounts:			
Benevolence (Savings Account)	\$75.00	\$0.00	\$1,298.43
Capital Improvement Fund (Savings Account)	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$4,816.98



Worship Committee will meet on Wednesday, September 18 at 5:30 pm

WELCA board will meet Sunday, September 8 following the service

Hope Circle will meet on Monday, September 9 at 9:00 am

Church Council will meet on Wednesday, August 21 at 8:00 pm

Shalom Circle will meet on Monday, September 16 at 7:00 pm



Anna Wollenburg is our Tried-and-True Treasure for September/October. 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. **September– Service Group 6**



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
7/28	110	\$1353.00	-	\$10.00	\$495.00
8/4	54	\$983.00	\$75.00	\$5.00	\$420.00
8/11	55	\$865.00	\$25.00	\$5.00	\$620.00
8/18	106	\$1380.00	-	\$10.00	\$529.00
8/25	81	\$603.00	\$50.00	-	\$495.00



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 **SEPTEMBER**

DATE	SCRIPTURE READER	ACOLYTE	GREETERS	COMMUNION SET UP COMMUNION ASSISTANT
September 1	Payton Smidt	Cooper Stokebrand	Leonard & Shirley Saathoff/ Arlene Scherling	
September 8	Zach Kuhn	Casey Bartunek	Leonard & Shirley Saathoff/ Arlene Scherling	
September 15	Karen Wollenburg	James Kerns	Leonard & Shirley Saathoff/ Arlene Scherling	
September 22	Morgan Stokebrand	Emma Sullivan	Leonard & Shirley Saathoff/ Arlene Scherling	
September 29 (Communion)	Jurgen Baker	Macoy Wollenburg	Leonard & Shirley Saathoff/ Arlene Scherling	Nancy McDougall/ Bonnie Schuerman

HEAD USHER: Brian Stokebrand

USHERS: Morgan Stokebrand, Brent Rahe, Rick Mangus, Jackson Kirchoff

OUTREACH VISITATION: Service Group #6

CURRENT SERVICE GROUP: Service Group #7 (Don & Shirly Wollenburg/Eunice Mahloch)



SEPTEMBER 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
REMINDER! Sunday School will start on Sunday, September 8.						
1 "Sabbath for Community" Praise choir Rehearsal 9:00 am PRAISE SERVICE 10 :00 am GREEN	2	3 Pastor Text Study at 10:00 am	4 Men's Bible Study 6:30 am Bible Study 8:30 am Confirmation 6:30 pm	5	6	7
8 "The Garden of Eden" Sunday School 8:45 am WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 am (Installation of SS Teachers/Blessing of Back-packs/1st Grade Bibles) Potluck Meal WELCA Board following service GREEN	9 Hope Circle 9:00 am	10 Pastor Text Study at 10:00 am	11 Bible Study 8:30 am Confirmation 6:30 pm	12 Good Samaritan Chapel 10:30 am	13	14
15 "Isaac Born to Sarah" Sunday School 8:45 am Episcopal service 9:00 am WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 am GREEN	16 Shalom Circle 7:00 pm	17 Pastor Text Study at 10:00 am	18 Men's Bible Study 6:30 am Bible Study 8:30 am Wilber Care Center Chapel 10:00 am Worship Committee 5:30 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Church Council 8:00 pm	19	20 <u>NEWSLETTER</u> <u>ARTICLES</u> <u>ARE DUE</u>	21
22 "Jacob Wrestles God" Sunday School 8:45 am WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 am GREEN	23	24 Pastor Text Study at 10:00 am	25 Bible Study 8:30 am Confirmation 6:30 pm	26	27	28
29 "Moses and God's Name" Sunday School 8:45 am Youth Group 9:00 am COMMUNION SERVICE 10:00 am New member class 4:00 pm WHITE	30					

SEPTEMBER 2019

<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>
1 Sarah Kramer Mya McDougall	2 Hunter Garrison Jeremy Slama	3 Amy Bowman Bobbie Scherfling Don Wollenburg	4 Jennifer Schuerman	5	6 Maddux Johnson	7 Tammy Thernes
8	9 Towson Bartels	10	11	12 Chase Hardin	13	14 Josi Remmers Dominic Smith
15	16 Brinley Gronemeyer	17 Rayetta Fink Rick Mangus Josh Miller Isabella Woerner	18	19 Adam Wollenburg	20	21 Brian Scherling
22	23	24 Jemma Carel Jana Muehling Barb Nelson Janet Sobotka	25 Chuck Holtmeier Bob Schwan Dennis Jensen Kynlee Uher Pat Wollenburg	26 Whitney Rahe	27 Doug Damkroger Teri Mangus	28 Emily Thornburg
29 Tyson Baker Evelyn Baker	30 Eileen Damkroger Leon Slama					

Please keep Bob Mead (Jack Garrison's nephew), Tina Groathouse, and Denise Michel in your prayers.

Please welcome Sadie Mae Kaelin who was born on August 27, 2019 at 9:26pm weighing 6 lbs. 14 oz and 18.9 inches long. Congratulations to proud parents Joel & Becky and big sister Macie and big brother Aiden.

I'd like to take the time to extend sincere thanks to the ladies of The Shalom Circle, Pastor Koos, and the congregation. The last 6 months have been a roller coaster, to say the least. But the love and support I've received for myself and my family has just been amazing. Thank you for all of the prayers, cards, donations and food. You have all made this journey easier by your kindness. I can only hope, that someday, I am able to give back what has been so generously given to me. From the generous donations to fix our vehicle to the thoughtful prayers and weekly food deliveries, my heart is overwhelmed with gratitude. Thank you from my family to each one of you!! Tina Groathouse & family

I would like to thank all of you for the continued support of the Tri County Area Bloodmobile that the church gives. Thank you to all who donated cookies, to those who donate, to helping get the word out about it. All is appreciated. Pam Garrison

Sunday School will kick off on Sunday, September 8 at 8:45 am. During the service we will be inducting Sunday School teachers, handing out 1st grade bibles, and blessing of the backpacks. There will be a potluck meal following the service. We ask those attending to bring a side dish and all Sunday School students to bring cookies or bars.

Tina Groathouse is undergoing treatments and volunteers are still needed to provide lunches for the family. There is a new sign-up sheet on the entryway counter and ask Lois Wattjes if you have any questions. Thank you!

School Kits - For children whose lives have been disrupted by war or some other disaster, receiving a school kit is a sign that somebody far away cares. We will be collecting items for school kits during the months of July and August. Please remember when you are out school shopping if you can pick up some items. The main items we need this year are – 70 sheet notebooks as each kit requires 4 notebooks. We could also use some crayons, pencil sharpeners and ink pens. There is a tote in back of the church for these items. In September and October, we will be collecting blankets. We could also use some more bath towels and bars of soap for our personal care kits. Thank you - Connie Scherling

We will be continuing the "Noisy Offering each Sunday Praise Worship Service. 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

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, September 1 - Orphan Grain Train Fish Feed at First Trinity Lutheran Church. They are serving fish, potatoes, onions, salads, desserts and drinks from 11:00 am -1:00 pm in the fellowship hall. Free will offering. They are also accepting good clean clothing, shoes, toys, quilts, non-breakage housewares, school supplies and health items.

Hope Circle

The regular meeting of Hope Circle met at the home of Kathy Stokebrand after discovering there was no electricity in the church. Four members were present: Kathy Stokebrand, Shirley Saathoff, Sharon Rehm, and Mary Garrison. We enjoyed a potluck brunch, after opening with The Table Prayer. President Shirley read an article "God Is Our Rock", putting our thoughts in proper mode to our business meeting. Rocks are a stabilizing factor, and God is our only rock. Minutes of the previous meeting can be read in the monthly church newsletter. No corrections. Discussions were held: taking lunches to the Groathouse family, school kits, upcoming blanket project. Yesterday was a busy day in DeWitt with the Gospel Sing and the fundraiser for the ballpark lights...namely 4 bands playing at the ball field. This was enjoyed by many people in the surrounding community. We also discussed the Wednesday Bible Studies. Sharon read an article by Michael Gerson entitled "The Beauty of Amazing Grace." Kathy and Shirley shared leading the Bible study on the book of Esther. Meeting adjourned. Our next meeting will be on September 9th. Analee will be hostess and Sharon will lead the Bible study. Mary Garrison, Secretary Pro Temp

Lutheran Men in Mission

Lutheran Men in Mission - September

We are finishing our series, "Pain and Suffering: Where is God When it Hurts?" Topic 5, Comforted by Others, on Sept. 04 will be from Mark 2:1-12 (Four friends who cared) and 2 Corinthians 1:1-11 (Passing on God's comfort). Topic 6, Things Can Change, on Sept. 18 will be from Job 42:7-17 (Job is restored) and Romans 8:18-27 (The pain and hope). As always, we meet the first and third Wednesday of each month from 6:30-7:00 a.m. Coffee provided. All men welcome!

Shalom Circle

Met Tuesday, August 27 to serve Warren's Table

WELCA

WELCA Board will meet September 8 following the service

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS...

SERVICEMEN

SSG – Brock Johnson

Darin Bartlett

805 Michael Dr.
Whiteman AFB, MO 65305

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