

Pastor's Report
October 2019

What a month of shared ministry! I'll reiterate this in my final November newsletter article but what a ride it has been serving alongside you these last 5+ years. Thank you so very much! You've graciously supported me as I've begun my parish ministry. My family and I will forever treasure your imparted wisdom and the many opportunities to grow in faith and leadership. I'll leave the details of that wisdom and opportunities for the newsletter article but know that none of it was possible without the strong dedication and faith of this congregation.

Our shared ministry has settled after last month's kickoff to the program year. The choirs, Sunday school, and confirmation classes are all plugging away fruitfully. I was blessed with opportunities to lead 5 worship service including both chapel services, make 3 visits, participate in 1 committee meeting, 1 men's Bible study, and 1 text study, and teach 2 Bible studies and 4 confirmation classes. This year's Fall Theological Conference was especially momentous as I shared the news of my change of call with my colleagues. They were all terribly excited for me and gave me great encouragement. Oh, how I will miss the support of such encouraging colleagues but am confident the new call will offer equally supportive relationships. I gave an abbreviated new member class for one person, Wendy Sullivan, and her family. She is eager to connect with this congregation and its Lutheran heritage having come from our Episcopalian neighbor, St. Augustine's. Finally, thank you for letting me get away to attend the Fall Oblate Retreat at Christ the King Priory in Schuyler. It is always a treat to gather with my Benedictine friends and take a breather from life.

Blessings,
Pastor Koos

November 2019

Greetings from your pastor and partner in ministry!!

It's difficult to believe that this is the last time I will have the opportunity to offer a reflection as your pastor. This month, I'm leaving you to serve another congregation and my heart breaks. You have been a rock in my life and the lives of my family these last 5+ years. We've grown so much together that it's hard to imagine growing without you. 15 weddings, 37 baptisms, 32 funerals, and 29 confirmations is a good shared ministry. Thank you for entrusting me with all these major milestones in your lives of faith. And thank you for walking with me as I've established a firm foundation for my ministry. We've tried many new ministries together, some that failed and others that succeeded. The praise choir, Bible studies, and worship formats all had major changes that I think strengthened our congregation. The confirmation program tried some things (added 6th graders, "Here We Stand" curriculum, overall structure) that weren't quite as successful but we quickly adapted and incorporated some helpful improvements. I think the congregational survey from 2017 offered some useful feedback and alleviated mounting frustrations. I was saddened by those who chose to leave our congregation but gladdened by those who joined it. I was pleased by our congregation's commitment to financial stability. All in all, I think our shared ministry was a great success and I will forever be grateful for it.

Though I am resigning my leadership, the ministry of Trinity Lutheran in DeWitt, NE *will* carry on. The future may be uncertain but this congregation has a lot of strong leaders and a secure framework. I am confident that the NE synod will do everything it can to ensure the further success of this congregation. The call process will be a timely process but that is for the benefit of this congregation. It deserves strong pastoral leadership and, like all good things, it'll take time to identify such leadership. Be faithful and assured that God will walk with you through the process. You've heard me preach it over and over: our God is a good and gracious God. He *WILL* provide for you...maybe not what you want but certainly what you need. Know that you will all be treasured in my heart as my ministry carries on just in a different context. Whoever comes after me is lucky to have you!

Blessings,
Pastor Koos

Trinity Lutheran Church Minutes

September 19, 2019

I. Call to order

Chairperson, Mike Holtmeier called to order the regular meeting of the Trinity Lutheran Church Council on September 19, 2019. The regularly scheduled meeting was postponed until September 19th. 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, Nathan Morrissey, and Jane Stokebrand. Guests in attendance were Bev Plihal, Lois Wattjes, Doug Stokebrand, Harold Stokebrand, and Pastor Rick Johnson, St Paul's Soap Creek Lutheran Church.

Reports

- a) Secretary's Report: A copy of the previous minutes was reviewed. Amendments included correcting a spelling error and adjusting the number of confirmation students from 6 to 5. There was a motion by Tim and a second by Deb to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried.
- b) Treasurer's Report: A copy of the monthly treasurer's report indicated a balance of \$8,633.64.
- c) Investments Report: Tim reported the investment account to be \$54,145.43
- d) Pastor's Report: See included report.
- e) Memorial Report: Nate reported a balance of \$16,359.86 after reimbursement to the General Fund for the Splash Packs at \$319.88, first grade Bibles at \$153.92, and fifth grade Bibles at \$148.45.
- f) Suggestion Box: There was a signed question in the Suggestion Box regarding whether or not an entry exam is required to begin confirmation class. Chairperson, Mike, as a member of the Confirmation Committee, addressed the question, stating there is testing at the confirmation process level to be successfully completed before beginning confirmation.

g) Committee Reports

1. Spiritual Life and Growth

- a) Social Committee: Nate provided information regarding a tailgate party that could be scheduled for October 11, 2019. Tim had spoken to Mr. Uher, Tri County principal, who approved the event if scheduled. All people attending the football game that night would be welcome to attend at no cost. Council members were in favor of this project and a signup sheet will be provided for congregation members to provide food items to include hotdogs, chili, condiments and chips.

b) Worship Committee: Karen reported that the committee had met with events as follows: Reformation Sunday will be October 27th with the Soap Creek congregations being our guests. Megan Morrow, from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) will be in attendance and serving as the speaker. Coffee, juice, kolaches, and donuts will be served before and after the service. The Sunday School choir will sing and the Soap Creek children's choir will be invited to participate in singing.

The Noisy Offering will be designated for the Bible School fund.

There will be no adult choir in the month of January

- c) Evangelical/ Stewardship: Nothing new to report.

2. Youth Development

- a) Parish Ed/VBS: Mike reported that Sunday School was off to a successful start and there is still a need for teachers.
- b) Youth Group Committee: Pastor reported that the Sunday School room has been repaired.
- c) Confirmation: Confirmation has begun with 4 students enrolled.

3. Care, Management and Overview

- a) Property: Tim reported that he has not yet received an estimate from Thrasher for repairs needed for the parsonage basement. Tim, also reported that the lawn irrigation system has been closed for the year, Mitch McDougal provided material to spray the church lawn for sedge, and that the apple tree in the parsonage lawn will be removed due to rotting apples.

4. Pastor's Report: See included. Pastor requested permission to attend the Fall Theology Conference and the Oblate Retreat both held in October. There was a motion by Lana and a second by Tim to allow Pastor Koos to attend those meetings. Motion carried.

II. Old Business

- a. Old business consisted of the item tabled from last month's meeting; to determine whether or not the council should go forward with the required process for leaving the ELCA. There was a motion by Jane and a second by Lana that Trinity Lutheran Church of DeWitt Nebraska maintain affiliation with the Evangelical Church of America. Discussion was as follows:

Pastor Rick Johnson was present to answer questions and provide insight. He addressed the questions "What does the ELCA do to support us?". Pastor Johnson described some of the items of support to include the Rural Crisis Hotline, Youth Ministry including Camp Carol Joy Holling, Campus Ministry, Tabitha services, and providing access to pastors who have been carefully vetted for service to Trinity Lutheran Church and other congregations, and several other items. Pastor Johnson also provided insight into the information detailed in the State and National Assemblies.

Mike voiced concerns about statements and stances made by leadership of the ELCA and the decline in attendance in protestant congregations in the United States, as well, as in our local church.

Following discussion the motion by Jane and Lana was rescinded with their permission. There was a motion by Brian and a second by Steve that the Trinity Lutheran Church Council cease discussion about severing ties with the ELCA. After further discussion, a vote on that motion was called for by the president. The motion carried without opposition.

III. New Business

- a) Mike presented information from Camp Carol Joy Holling regarding a fund raiser for a new building. No action was taken.
- b) Mike presented a request by WELCA regarding the purchase of new chairs at a cost of \$24 per chair. There was a motion by Tim and a second by Steve to approve WELCA to seek donations for the chairs. For every chair purchased by a congregation member, a chair now owned by Trinity Lutheran Church would be donated to the DeWitt Community Center. Following discussion, Mike called for the vote. The motion carried.
- c) There was a closing statement regarding the need for TLC council members to now come together to seek common ground and to move forward with the work of the church.

There was a motion by Brian and a second by Tim 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 October 16, 2019 at 8 P.M. Communion Assistant for September is Nate Morrissey.

Church Council Secretary, Jane Stokebrand

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

11-06 Hosea 11:1-9

1. How does God picture himself in these verses?
2. How comfortable or uncomfortable are you with maternal metaphors for God, with the "maternal face of God" as one commentator put it?
3. Discuss: "God is every bit as feminine/female as he is masculine/male."
4. How is the love of the LORD our God like a mother's love?
5. What's lost by failing to acknowledge the maternal face of God? What's gained by acknowledging it?
6. If you're a woman: What difference does it make to you to know that God describes himself using maternal figures of speech?
7. If you're a man: What difference does it make to you to know that God related to Israel as a loving, nurturing mother?
8. In Hosea 11:9, God says, "For I am God, and not man—the Holy One among you." What's the point of this contrast?
9. Though God was "not man" when Hosea was written, he became a man about 700 years after Hosea time. Describe how his decision to become a man made it possible for him to fulfill the promise of vss. 9-10.
10. How are we to understand God's heart toward His people in verses 8-11?

11-13 Isaiah 5:1-7; 11:1-5

1. What was the vintner's vision for the vineyard? What did he do to accomplish his vision?
2. What happened when the crop came in? What did the vintner say he would do with the vineyard?
3. What does this parable mean?
4. In this powerful metaphor of the vineyard, what do we learn about the work and character of God?
5. What do we learn about the work and character of humanity?
6. Why is God so angry?
7. What do these verses say about human free choice?
8. (ch. 11) How does the leadership/kingship of this new leader (Jesus) compare to the old leadership of sinful Israel?
9. Where else have we read about the "branch" or "rod" growing out of Jesse – 11:1? List other passages and explain the meaning.
10. List and describe the characteristics of the Spirit that would rest upon Him (v2).

11-20 2 Kings 22:1-20; 23:1-3

1. What do you find surprising/interesting in this passage? Why?
2. What do verses 3-7 tell us about the religious state of Israel? Why is that important?
3. 1 Corinthians 6:19 says our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit (aka. God). How does the state of your temple stack up against the that of Israel's?
4. In verse 8, they "find" the book of the Law. What do you think of the various people's response to the book? What does this say about the state of Israel and God's relationship?
5. Have there been times in your spiritual journey where you re-discover a part of yourself you forgot? Have there been times where you have re-discovered a part of God you forgot? What was that like?
6. Josiah is concerned about God's anger. Why would God be angry with them? What was so important about all the story of Israel?
7. What do you think of Huldah's message to Josiah? Is it gracious? It is challenging?
8. How are the stories we tell ourselves important for guiding how we live out our faith?
9. How can we deconstruct the areas of idolatry and false worship in our lives today? What areas do we place before God?
10. Why is it important for us as Christ-followers to know the Word and to study it? What is the difference between reading it for information and reading it for transformation?

11-27 Jeremiah 33:14-18

1. What does Advent awaken in you?
2. Does anything in your daily life interfere with your Advent spiritual preparation?
3. In this reading Jeremiah reminds people of the Lord's promise to them. How does that promise relate to hope?
4. Why is Advent called the season of hope?
5. Why is hope vital to your life? What would your life be like without hope?
6. What can you do to bring hope to people you know?
7. What promise did God make that should have given great hope to Jeremiah's hearers in these verses?
8. Why is Jer. 33:14-18 so significant and how does it impact our understanding of the end-time?
9. How is one to interpret the promises of Israel's return to its ancient land?
10. Is it foolish to hope for Jesus' return every year?

[illegible]



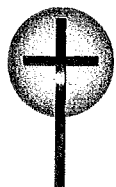
Worship Committee will meet on Wednesday, November 6 at 5:30 pm

WELCA board will meet Sunday, November 10 following the service

Hope Circle will meet on Monday, November 11 at 9:00 am

Church Council will meet on Wednesday, November 20 at 8:00 pm

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



Herb Rehm is our Tried-and-True Treasure for November/December. Please feel free to write on his poster located by the bulletin board



All members of the Congregation will be asked to remember the home bound and those in need of visitation during your month assigned. Service List Leaders and Circle Chairperson are responsible for contacting facilities to set up visitation dates and/or times for playing bingo or other planned activities.

November – Service Group 7



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
9/29	96	\$3330.00	-	\$5.00	\$220.00
10/6	99	\$3530.73	-	-	\$620.00
10/13	98	\$2180.00	\$110.00	\$5.00	\$120.00
10/20	91	\$605.00	\$25.00	\$5.00	\$544.00

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 **NOVEMBER**

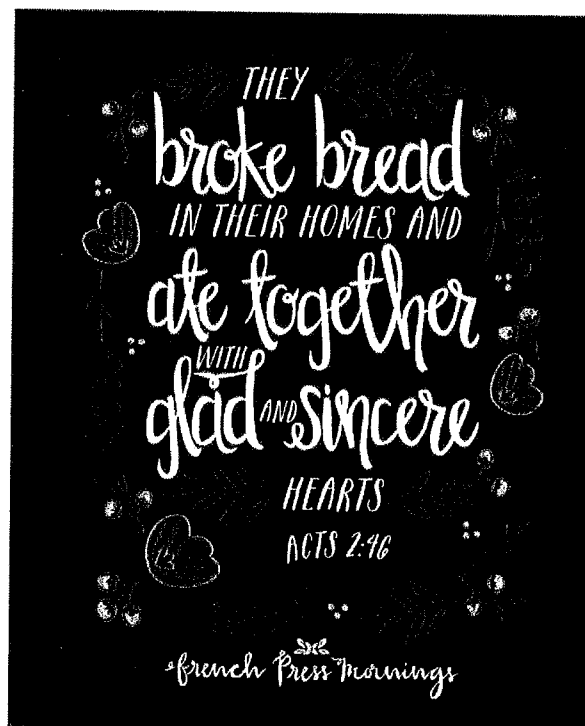
DATE	SCRIPTURE READER	ACOLYTE	GREETERS	COMMUNION SET UP
				COMMUNION ASSISTANT
November 3	Chris Woerner	Garret Smidt	Jack & Kathy Holtmeier/ Verdell & Pert Koch	
November 10	Jane Stokebrand	Keyton Reck	Jack & Kathy Holtmeier/ Verdell & Pert Koch	
November 17	Elsie Woerner	Miley Garrison	Jack & Kathy Holtmeier/ Verdell & Pert Koch	
November 24 (Communion)	Lois Wattjes	Kenzi Scherling	Jack & Kathy Holtmeier/ Verdell & Pert Koch	Jackie Placek/ Marge Badman

HEAD USHER: Chris Woerner

USHERS: Nate Morrissey, Bruce Rahe, Dominic Smith, Maddox Smith, Jay Weber

OUTREACH VISITATION: Service Group 7

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



NOVEMBER 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 <i>"Elijah at Mount Carmel"</i> ALL SAINTS DAY Care-A-Lot 8:45 AM Praise Choir 9:00 AM PRAISE SERVICE 10:00 AM	4 Daylight Savnigs Time WHITE	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 <i>(Reminder to change clocks)</i>
10 <i>"Hosed"</i> Sunday School 8:45 AM Adult Choir 9:00 AM WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 AM (Pastor Koos Final Sunday/Children's Bells) WELCA Board following Service GREEN	11 Hope Circle 9:00 am	12	13 Bible Study 8:30 am Confirmation 6:30 pm	14	15	16
17 <i>"Isaiah's Vineyard Song"</i> Sunday School 8:45 AM Adult Choir 9:00 AM WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 AM (Pastor Kramer) GREEN	18 Shalom Circle 7:00 pm	19	20 Men's Bible Study 6:30 am Bible Study 8:30 am Confirmation 6:30 pm Church Council 8:00 pm	21 <i>Thanksgiving</i>	22 NEWSLETTER ARTICLES ARE DUE	23
24 <i>"Josiah's Reform"</i> NO Sunday School Youth Group to People's City Mission Adult Choir 9:00 AM THANKOFFERING/COMMUNION SERVICE 10:00 AM (Pastor Kramer) WHITE	25	26	27 Confirmation 6:30 pm	28	29	30

NOVEMBER 2019

<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>
					1 Roberta Aden Jamie Beerenstrauch	2 Kelly Bagwell Austin Barnts Jack Hopkins Steve Klostermeier
3	4 Elsie Woerner	5 Priscilla Koch	6	7 Hayden Wickwire	8	9
10 Ervin Beerenstrauch Tina Groathouse Victor Schuerman	11 Velda Jensen	12 Maddox Smith Cindy Wollenburg	13	14 Karli Scherling	15	16 Bennett Reck
17 Samantha Koos Morgan Stokebrand Dean Thernes	18 Celena Chavez	19 Cody Wollenburg	20 Harold Aden Madison Kirchoff	21	22 Baylon Klostermeier Zachary Kuhn Ron Wollenburg	23 Mary Holtmeier Tyler Pieper
24	25	26 Lyric Hoesche Brian Rahe Karen Rahe	27 Mike Rahe	28	29	30 Kristi Rahe Kerri Thornburg

Please keep Marge Badman, Tina Groathouse, and Denise Michel in your prayers.

Tri County Area Blood Drive will be held Monday, October 28 from 12:00 pm – 6:00 pm at the DeWitt Community Center. This mobile is a community service project for Tri County's National Honor Society members.

Trunk or Treat downtown DeWitt will held on October 31 from 5:30-7:00 pm.

Please join our congregation in celebrating Pastor Koos' 5+ years of ministry here at Trinity Lutheran the best way we know how... with a potluck! Please bring a favorite dish for after the service and enjoy some time of fellowship with Pastor and his family. Let's make this a great turnout on November 10th to show our thanks! Service Group 7 is in charge and requesting all attending to bring casseroles, salads, and desserts.

As you are all aware Pastor Koos' last Sunday is November 10th. The following 3 Sundays we have Pastor Kramer lined up to fill in and we hope to confirm our transition pastor (used to be called interim) at the Nov council meeting. In the October meeting we had a nice discussion and presentation with Rev Megan Morrow from the NE Synod on the whole process. We will also meet with a Spiritual Director this November to help assist us in the transition process. There are many steps to complete in this process and the church council will try to move in an efficient manner. Once we get some background information complete, the call committee will be selected by council (by the way we have 8 names for 6 spots so thanks to all the volunteers!) We expect to have some more information to share after the Nov meeting. If you have any thoughts or concerns, please contact myself or anyone on church council. – Mike Holtmeier

We are looking for volunteers to run the tablet during Church Services each Sunday starting November 17. Please let Mike, Tim or Jenn know if you are interested.

The Sunday School Christmas program will be held on Sunday, December 15 at 5:30 pm. Practices will be held on Sundays during Sunday School, November 24, December 8, 11 (Wednesday 6:30-7:30 pm), and 15. Please let Bobbie or Mandy know if your child will not be participating in the program.

Thank you to everyone who supplied school kits and blankets. We will be collecting Food Pantry items during November & December. Thank you, Connie Scherling

Adult Choir News! Choir has started and will be singing during services at the front of the church. We encourage new voices and will be singing easy gospel type songs. Upcoming choir dates are November 10, 17, December 8, 15 all at 9:00 am.

If you are anyone you know in the DeWitt community might be in need of Home Delivered meals during the winter months, please contact Bev Plihal at the Senior Center at 402-683-4325. Meals are available Monday through Friday for a suggested contribution of \$5.00 for individuals 60 and older and would be delivered by a volunteer each day.

"Noisy Offering" will always take place during Praise Sunday Service. Members are encouraged to bring loose coins for the children to collect and bring forward to put in the "Noisy Offering" bucket. Please consider contributing as you are able as all donations go towards VBS 2020!

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/](https://www.facebook.com/tlcdewittne/)

Hope Circle

Hope Circle met at church on October 14, 2019, with 7 members present. Shirley was hostess. Shirley opened the meeting by reading an article entitled "Smoothing the Path for Others," which showed us different ways to help others cope with problems in their lives. Shirley encouraged us to continue sending cards or calling people who have been in our circle in the past and others in our congregation who have birthdays, anniversaries, etc. Jean gave a treasurer report. Shirley reported on the last WELCA meeting. She stated that Connie had a good response for donations for kits to send off in November. Our church will host a conference next March. New chairs for the Fellowship Hall will be purchased soon, and they plan to ask for donations from the congregation for help on that. DeWitt will have another "Trunk or Treat" at the Senior Center on Halloween. They plan to have extra chairs set up so people can just sit and watch even if they don't have treats to offer. Mary asked for prayers for her son, Riley, who will be stationed at Jordan in the near future. Mary also stated that the Episcopal church will not be able to host the Thanksgiving service this year due to clean up problems at their church. Kathy gave the lesson from the Gather magazine entitled "No Hard Feelings- The Ache of Grief," based on Lamentations and Psalm 126. We closed with the Lord's Prayer. Our next meeting will be held at Kathy's on November 11th. Kathy will be hostess and Shirley will lead the Bible Study. Sec./Treas. – Jean Placek

Lutheran Men in Mission

Lutheran Men in Mission -- November

In November we continue our study on "Coming Home: Pilgrims on Their Way Back." with two topics: "Straying From God" and "Returning to God." November 6 - Jonah 1:1-17 "Jonah takes a cruise" and Romans 7:7-25 "Struggling with sin." November 20 - Jonah 2:1-3:10 "Jonah and Nineveh repent" and Romans 8:1-17 "Living by the Spirit." We start at 6:30 a.m. and it lasts 30 mins. with coffee provided. All men are welcome to join!

Shalom Circle

Five members met before the meeting in order to complete the last of the Personal Care Kits, School Kits, and Infant Kits, as well as to organize the Children's Worship Bags. These kits will then be taken into Lincoln to be sent to Lutheran World Relief. Officers were chosen for the upcoming WELCA 2020 church year with the results as follows: Chairman-Lois Wattjes, Secretary Treasurer-Bev Plihal, Shirly Wollenburg- Card Secretary, Pat Wollenburg-Mission Community, Mission Action-Connie Scherling, and Arlyce Albert-Mission Growth. Members discussed the Spring Gathering which will be held at our church and will be needing volunteers to collect mission donated items from the congregations and to help serve the meal, as well as act as hostesses for our congregation to sign in attendees. Pat will probably put out sign-up sheets closer to the date. Pat also asked for possible ideas for Advent. One suggestion was to sing a few advent songs and explain a little of the history and meaning behind the songs. Another suggestion was to possibly make available little Advent Prayer Booklets to each family. The suggestions will be discussed at the next board meeting. Halloween cards were signed for shut ins as our Circle is also on visitation for this month. Connie gave the lesson from the September Gather Magazine on the Angst of Anger and served wonderful Halloween snacks. Liz will have the November Bible Study and can decide if she wants to do the October or November Gather Magazine lesson either on the Ache of Grief or the Gift of Joy. Pat will serve as hostess in November. Secretary, Bev Plihal

WELCA

WELCA Board will meet November 10 following the service

Congregational Ethics: Members Relating to Former Ministers

We believe that the Holy Spirit is acting when a person is called into ministry. We also believe that the Holy Spirit is acting when it is time for that minister to accept another call; including the call into retirement. How the congregation responds to previous ministers is critical for the health of the congregation and the entire Church. Unhealthy ties to former ministers will negatively impact the congregation's ability to receive the ministry of the ministers that follow.

Congregational members make and maintain loving and caring relationships with their ministers and their family members. Within the realm of friendship, it is appropriate to continue such relationships. Hospitality is always proper. It is not appropriate to engage former ministers in discussions or to seek their advice concerning congregational matters or the current pastor.

Likewise, members should not turn to a former minister at emotional and ceremonial times with expectations that the person will perform any pastoral acts; i.e., weddings, funerals, baptisms, home communions, etc. Such requests immediately put both the current and former minister in very awkward positions. You can show high regard for the pastoral office your former minister held by seeking out the new minister to be your minister.

When a new minister begins to serve, whether called by the congregation or as a transitional minister under contract, it is the responsibility of each member to love the new minister, forgive him/her, and to turn to him/her for pastoral leadership. The concern of not knowing, or being known, by the "new" minister is each member's responsibility to address.

When a minister leaves a congregation, especially in the midst of conflict, it is inappropriate to speak negatively about the former minister and diminish the possibility of her/him moving forward in a new ministry relationship. The challenge is found in Luther's word, "but defend them, speak well of them, and put the best construction on everything" (*The Small Catechism*, 8th Commandment).

As representative of _____ Church, I, _____, Congregation Council President, agree to these congregational ethics and will do my best to share these expectations with the congregation, and to lead by example.

Signature _____ Date _____

over

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS...

SERVICEMEN

Ssg – Brock Johnson

Darin Bartlett

209 W. 6th

Knob Noster, MO 65336

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