

## **Trinity Lutheran Church Minutes**

October 16, 2019

### **I. Call to order**

Chairperson, Mike Holtmeier called to order the regular meeting of the Trinity Lutheran Church Council on October 16, 2019. Members in attendance were Pastor Koos, Tim Garrison, Karen Wollenburg, Steve Garrison, Deb Schwan, Jane Stokebrand, Lana Hager, Mike Holtmeier, Pastor Koos, Pastor. Megan Morrow, Nathan Morrissey, and Brian Smidt.

The first order of business was discussion of the transition period involving the process of Pastor Koos taking a new call. A pot luck dinner will be held following the Sunday Service on November 10<sup>th</sup> with service group 7 serving. Mike said he would be responsible for securing a plaque to commemorate the service of Pastor Koos to Trinity Lutheran Church. As per discussion with Pastor Koos the last pay period will end as of the November 15<sup>th</sup> pay period and the Health Savings Account will be paid at a prorated amount.

### **Reports**

- a) Secretary's Report: A copy of the previous minutes was reviewed. There was a request by Mike to amend the minutes from stating "pre confirmation to confirmation process" in regard to the Suggestion Box question about the testing process for confirmation. There was a motion by Tim and a second by Steve to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried.
- b) Treasurer's Report: A copy of the monthly treasurer's report indicated a balance of \$7,647.18.
- c) Investments Report: Tim reported the investment account to be \$54,855.25.
- d) Memorial Report: Nothing new to report.
- e) Suggestion Box: None.
- f) Committee Reports
  1. Spiritual Life and Growth
    - a) Social Committee: The tailgate party scheduled for October 11, 2019 has been cancelled due to that game being moved to the Beatrice facility.
    - b) Worship Committee: Karen reported that the committee has met with events as follows: November 24<sup>th</sup> is scheduled for Thank Offering Sunday. Reformation Sunday will be October 27<sup>th</sup> with the Soap Creek congregations being our guests. Pastor 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. In addition Mandy Smidt and Kathy Stokebrand are tentatively planning a duet presentation.
    - c) Evangelical/ Stewardship: Nothing new to report.
  2. Youth Development
    - a) Parish Ed/VBS: Mike reported that Sunday School staff has requested a lock on the door to the storage room. It was suggested that a key be provided on site as there may be a breaker box located in that room. It was brought to the attention of the council that, according to the Trinity Lutheran Constitution section C 13.06 CR 2015B, neither the chair nor the vice chair can serve on the Parish Education Committee. Mike relinquished his position on that committee and called for a volunteer to complete the year. Jane offered to serve in that position.
    - b) Youth Group Committee: Brian reported that Kelly Smith has submitted a plan of activities to extend through next summer.
    - c) Confirmation: Mike presented a summary regarding the Confirmation Committee meeting held in September. There was discussion regarding who would serve as the Wednesday evening instructor for confirmation class. No decision was made.

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. A conference call is planned to include Tim, Mike, and a representative from Thrasher to secure the quote. Tim, also reported that the furnace has been inspected and repairs have been made, or will be made, at a cost of \$673. Snow removal will be implemented by the property committee. The malfunction of the toilet in the men's room at the church has been serviced by both Lamel and Wilber Plumbing.
  - b) There was information presented regarding a grant application available through the Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA) for capital improvements. Upon further review, it was determined that the church would not be eligible for that grant as it concerned handicap accessible concerns that have already been addressed.
4. Pastor's Report: See included. Pastor reported that Wendi Sullivan has completed the new member class, but requests no formal recognition be conducted. There was a motion by Tim and a second by Deb, to accept the Sullivan family as members of Trinity Lutheran Church. The motion carried.

## II. Old Business : None

## III. New Business

1. Departure Process for Pastor Koos
  - a) The property committee will conduct a walkthrough of the parsonage upon the departure of the Koos family. They will advise the council of any repairs needed. Property committee will conduct winterization of the parsonage to check the condition of the basement for any water, shut off and drain water, and adjust the thermostat to 50 degrees.
  - b) It was decided to continue the use of the screen and tablet, with the request for volunteers to assist with turning the pages on the tablet. Pastor has been paying for a service provided by Zach Powers to input the Sunday service onto the tablet. Pastor felt the personal cost was worth it to him in time saved. We will continue that service with Trinity now paying the \$50.
  - c) Instruction for the Wednesday night confirmation class is being considered.
  - d) The request for a Call Committee yielded the following responses: Steve Garrison, Liz Poessnecker, Matt Uher, Nancy Mahloch, Josi Remmers, Chris Woerner, Tommy Koch, and Arlyn Parde. Six voting members will be selected at a later date.
  - e) Pastor Megan Morrow, assistant to the bishop, presented the council with an over view of the transition and call processes. An exit interview was completed by the council, Pastor Morrow, and Pastor Koos. Pastor Morrow presented a video, used as part of the Call Process for another church. She also provided council members with a publication entitled, Rostered Leader Transition: A Call to Mission for the Congregation. This highlights items to be completed prior to calling a pastor. Pastor Morrow also presented options for shared ministry and an ecumenical partnership.
  - f) A supply pastor will serve for the next few Sundays with hope of a transition pastor to follow.

There was a motion by Brian and a second by Nate to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. In conclusion of the meeting, Pastor Morrow led the group in closing prayer.

Reminders: Next church council meeting will be November 20, 2019 at 7 P.M. Communion Assistant for October is Tim Garrison.

Church Council Secretary, Jane Stokebrand

Special Council Meeting  
November 5, 2019

A special meeting of Trinity Lutheran Church was called to order on this date by chairperson Mike Holtmeier. Those in attendance were as follows: Nate Morrisey, Deb Schwan, Karen Wollenburg, Steve Garrison, Lana Hager, Tim Garrison, Mike Holtmeier, and Pastor Panning.

Reports: None

Old Business: None

New Business: Pastoral Transitional Process

Chairperson Mike Holtmeier reported that Pastor Kramer has agreed to lead worship Sunday Services for the next three Sundays ( Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>, Nov 24<sup>th</sup>, Dec 1<sup>st</sup>). Pastor Kramer will also teach the confirmation class until the transition pastor is in place. It was brought to the council's attention that Pastor Koos had been conducting a monthly service at the Episcopal Church and that an invitation should be extended to that congregation to join us in worship at Trinity. In the transition, it was suggested that the Shut In Visitation Group be asked to resume visitations.

For the transitional period, it has been suggested by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) that Trinity Lutheran consider a shared ministry with the ELCA congregation in Wilber. Pastor Panning, from Wilber, was present to initiate the possibility of such a plan. Mike presented a proposed agenda from Pr. Morrow with which to guide the meeting. Following discussion, it was the consensus of the group to explore this further and to schedule a joint meeting of the DeWitt and Wilber congregational councils to further discuss this issue.

In conclusion of the meeting, Pastor Panning led the group in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jane Stokebrand  
Council Secretary Trinity Lutheran Church



**Worship Committee** will meet - TBA

**WELCA board** will meet Sunday, December 8 following the service

**Hope Circle** will meet at Clark Jeary in Lincoln with date and time TBA

**Church Council** will meet on Wednesday, December 18 at 7:00 pm

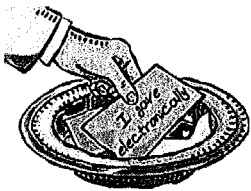
**Shalom Circle** will meet on Monday, December 16 at 6:30 at Linda Kay Schuerman's



**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. **December – Service Group 1**



**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](http://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
10/27	158	\$1040.00	\$25.00	-	\$510.00
11/3	114	\$3869.39	\$25.00	\$5.00	\$135.00
11/10	131	\$1470.00	\$25.00	\$5.00	\$635.00
11/17	91	\$1190.00	\$35.00	\$5.00	\$204.00



**SECRETARY - JENN UHER**

Church: 683-3225

Email: [tlcdewitt209@gmail.com](mailto: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 **DECEMBER**

DATE	SCRIPTURE READER	ACOLYTE	GREETERS	COMMUNION SET UP
				COMMUNION ASSISTANT
<b>December 1</b>	Arlyn Parde	Lucy Morrissey	Eldon & Jane Stokebrand Jim & Joyce Holtmeier	
<b>December 8</b>	Evelyn Baker	Ashlynn Brown	Eldon & Jane Stokebrand Jim & Joyce Holtmeier	
<b>December 15</b>	Kelly Smith	Hayden Woerner	Eldon & Jane Stokebrand Jim & Joyce Holtmeier	
<b>December 22</b>	Bev Plihal	Miley Garrison	Eldon & Jane Stokebrand Jim & Joyce Holtmeier	
<b>December 24</b> Christmas Eve	(several readers)	Kenzi Scherling	Eldon & Jane Stokebrand Jim & Joyce Holtmeier	
<b>December 25</b> Christmas Day	Liz Poessnecker	Garrett Smidt	Eldon & Jane Stokebrand Jim & Joyce Holtmeier	Marge Badman & Sandi Klostermeier
<b>December 29</b>	Tim Garrison	Keyton Reck	Eldon & Jane Stokebrand Jim & Joyce Holtmeier	Marge Badman & Sandi Klostermeier

**HEAD USHER:** Mike Holtmeier

**USHERS:** Doug Stokebrand, Mike Bergmeier, Kanin Baker, Craig Wollenburg, Tyler Pieper

**OUTREACH VISITATION:** Service Group 1

**CURRENT SERVICE GROUP:** Service Group 1 – Galen & Bev Plihal/Ron & Cindy Wollenburg



# DECEMBER 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> "Promise of the Messiah" NO Sunday School Program Practice Praise Choir 9:00 am <b>PRAISE SERVICE 10:00 am</b> BLUE	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Men's Bible Study 6:30 am Bible Study 8:30 am Confirmation 6:30 pm	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> "Isaiah of the Exile" Sunday School Program Practice 8:45 am Adult Choir 9:00 am <b>WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 am</b> (Children's Bells) WELCA Board following service BLUE	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Bible Study 8:30 am Confirmation 6:30 pm Sunday School Program Practice 6:30 pm	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Santa at Legion Club 9am-11am
<b>15</b> "Rebuilding the Temple" Sunday School Program Practice 8:45 am Adult Choir 9:00 am <b>WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 am</b> Sunday School Program 5:30 pm (Soup Supper to follow) BLUE	<b>16</b> Shalom Circle (Linda Kay Schuerman's) 6:30 pm	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Men's Bible Study 6:30 am Bible Study 8:30 am Confirmation 6:30 pm Church Council 7:00 pm	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <u>NEWSLETTER</u> <u>ARTICLES</u> <u>ARE DUE</u>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> "Zechariah's Song" NO Sunday School <b>WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 am</b> BLUE	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Christmas Eve Service 6:00 pm WHITE	<b>25</b> Christmas Communion Service 10:00 am WHITE	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> "Beginning of Good News" NO Sunday School <b>COMMUNION SERVICE 10:00 am</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	Sunday School Christmas Program Practice will be Sunday, November 24, December 8, December 15 at 8:45 am and Wednesday, December 11 from 6:30pm- 7:30pm	Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 19 after the service. Articles for the annual meeting will be due Friday, January 3		

# DECEMBER 2019

<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>
1 Kathy Holtmeier Zachary Rahe Cooper Stokebrand	2	3 Analee Schuerman	4	5 Arlyn Parde	6 Kerrie Schuerman Oakley Strouf	7
8 Miles Klasek Kyler Placek	9 Jean Malchow	10	11 Allen Hatcliff Jeff Rahe Nathan Schneider	12 Connie Scherling	13	14 Logunn Baker
15 Aria Rowden Deb Schwan	16	17 Samantha Van Buren Shae Wattjes	18 Brandy Garrison	19 Shirley Saathoff	20	21 Brian Stokebrand
22 Don Sobotka	22	23 Grayson Pieper	24 Kim Gronemeyer	25 Harriet Schneider	26 Blaine Brown Tracy Krivan Sharon Rehm	27 Gage Heller
29	30 Michael Friesen Jim Holtmeier Verdell Koch	31				

Please keep Thomas Stokebrand, Jack Garrison, Helen Michel Marge Badman, Tina Groathouse, and Denise Michel in your prayers.

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

NO Confirmation on Wednesday, November 27.

The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 19 following the service. Reports will be due Friday, January 3 to Jenn in the church office.

Christmas Eve service will be at 6:00 pm and Christmas Day Communion Service will be at 10:00 am.

The 2020 Usher and Greeter sign-up sheets are on the entryway counter. Please consider volunteering for these positions.

We are looking for volunteers to run the tablet during Church Services each Sunday. 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.

Loose Offering on Sunday, December 1 and Sunday, December 8 will go towards the Sunday School Christmas sacks.

Thank you to Chris Roesler for beautifully decorating the Sanctuary for fall!

Thank you to everyone who so graciously responded to all our Lutheran World Relief Projects this year. We had another successful year, our totals for this year were...50 personal care kits, 36 school kits, 5 baby care kits, 10 blankets, 20 quilts (which 12 were donated to quilts for the Heartland Flood Disaster and 8 to the Orphan Grain Train), 23 lap robes. The boxes were delivered to Lincoln. For the months of November and December we will be collecting items for our local food pantry. Special items needed are toilet tissue, paper towels, and canned fruits and soups. Thank you very much, Connie Scherling

Adult Choir News! We encourage new voices and will be singing easy gospel type songs. Upcoming choir dates are 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!



## Hope Circle

Hope Circle met at Kathy's home on November 18, 2019 with 5 members present. Kathy was hostess. Shirley opened the meeting by reading an article about Thanksgiving and giving thanks. Jean gave a Treasurer report. It was decided to give our special friend, Betty Sharon, a gift card from Walmart again this year. We will sponsor a Day One radio broadcast again this year. We will discuss giving other donations next month. We plan to have our Christmas gathering in Lincoln at the Legacy, where Beryl and Ervin are living. Shirley will check and let us know the date and time to be there. Shirley did not attend the last WELCA meeting but said they have made a decision as to chairs for the fellowship hall. They also discussed the plans for holding the Spring Conference at our church on March 21<sup>st</sup> of next year. Shirley asked us to remember to send cards to Anna and other members of our congregation who are ill or on our "thoughts and prayers" list. Mary asked for prayers for her son, Riley, who is now stationed in Jordan. Shirley led the bible study from the Gather magazine entitled "No Hard Feelings?-Stewarding the Gift of Joy," which is based on Psalms 30 and 150 and Song of Solomon 2. Our next meeting will be our Christmas gathering at the Legacy in Lincoln. We will exchange gifts with our prayer partners at that time. We ended with prayer. Jean Placek, Sec./Treas.

## Lutheran Men in Mission

### Lutheran Men In Mission

December will conclude our study Coming Home: Pilgrims on Their Way Back. Dec 4 – Topic 5: Obstacles in the Road – "Crossing the Red Sea" Exodus 14: 5-31 & "Wrestling with evil" Ephesians 6:10-24  
Dec 18 – Topic 6: A Clean Slate – "Great love, great grace" Luke 7: 36-50 & "True confessions" James 5:7-20  
The Men's Bible study is the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday's each month from 6:30-7. All our welcome and the coffee is plentiful!

## Shalom Circle

### Shalom Circle November Minutes November 18, 2019

Shalom Circle met with 8 members present. Children's Worship Bags were sorted and refreshed for the coming holidays. Thankoffering Sunday is coming up and envelopes are in the church to give to the Thankoffering on Sunday. Connie stated that Lutheran World Relief items were delivered to Sheridan Lutheran in Lincoln. Thank you, Connie, for doing that delivery. Discussion was held on getting new chairs in the Fellowship Hall so Pat will be checking on the best prices for members that might want to purchase some and have the old folding chair then donated to the Community Center. Pat said that Subway sandwiches will be ordered for the March gathering to be held at our church and then salads and desserts could be supplied by members. A suggestion was made to use service groups for serving the meal and then ask for volunteers to be hostesses and collect donated items. The Shalom Christmas meeting will be changed to Linda Kay's home at 6:30 on December 16th with the usual gift exchange and sign up for the food items. Members are to send a Christmas card to Melvin with \$1.00 inside instead of purchasing a Christmas gift for him. Our Treasury will keep the \$25.00 in the kitty to finish out the year and Bev will take the remaining funds over to the Village office to apply to utility bills for several individuals. The January meeting will have Lois as hostess and Bible Study leader. Liz gave the lesson combining The Ache of Grief and The Gift of Joy from the Gather magazine and Pat served the refreshments. Bev Plihal, Secretary

## WELCA

WELCA Board will meet December 8 following the service

# KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS...

## SERVICEMEN

**SSG – Brock Johnson**

**Darin Bartlett**

209 W. 6<sup>th</sup>  
Knob Noster, MO 65336  
[Bartlett\\_Riley@yahoo.com](mailto: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. 33<sup>rd</sup> Street, Apt. 320  
Lincoln, NE 68516

**Eileen Damkroger**

103 N Juniper  
DeWitt, NE 68341

**Herb Rehm**

Wilber Care Center  
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Wilber, NE 68465

**Anna Wollenburg**

Wilber Care Center  
611 N. Main  
Wilber, NE 68465

**Richard Wollenburg**

Heritage Crossings  
501 N 13<sup>th</sup> St.  
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