

Greetings to all who are reading this page/article/column. I couldn't decide what exactly to call it. I think of it as more of a column than a report for the monthly newsletter. I like to give my thoughts on what is going on, what I'm seeing, what I'm thinking, and I welcome your feedback at any time. I'm Pastor Travis Panning. I'm the new guy on the block, but not as new as some new ones would be. I've been serving as the Pastor up at First Lutheran Church in Wilber for the past 8 years, and I've been to Trinity many times, but it's always as a guest of the pastors who were serving here at the time. We get together for text study every Tuesday. I've served in this cluster of churches, the Homestead Cluster, my entire 13-year career. Professional ministry is my first and only career. My first call was at State Line Lutheran Church south of Wymore (2006-2011). At that time, it was Pastor Ken Kramer serving here, and then 5 years ago Pastor Sean Koos came to serve here. With both of them, I've known and cherished the professional relationships that were available to me. Especially Pastor Koos. He is a good friend of mine. He was there for me during some challenging times and I enjoyed his collaboration on a Bible Study that he was a part of that I led up in Wilber.

As this congregation begins to explore what its future will look like, I will strive to stay neutral. I do have a bias, but I don't trust shortcuts. There is procedure in place for a reason, and it would be easy to jump to what appears to be an easy solution. We need the congregation to be sure of its decision on its own footing. That process is the Call Process, and it includes some great opportunities for the congregation to do some self-evaluations. The more we know about ourselves, the better.

To restate what the official situation is: I'm serving here as the Transitional Minister during the transition from the last pastor to the new one. Those contracts are 6-month contracts, and it will be revisited in June when we can extend it or change the agreement. In a departure from norms, I do have the opportunity to move into the regular call here. Usually, the procedure dictates that the transitional minister is ineligible to then become the regularly called pastor. This is because the transition for a congregation is a time of doing some honest reflection, some "spring cleaning," and this is more efficiently done by someone who can maintain objectivity. But with the shortage of clergy available, that kind of objectivity may be more of a luxury as time moves along. The challenge before us will be whether or not we're able to treat the transition as the opportunity for open evaluation and reflection on existing ministry that it is.

After my first six weeks here, I am impressed with many facets of the congregation. One of those facets is that I deeply enjoy Bible study, so the availability of regular bible study on Wednesday morning is exciting to me. That's where my passion is. The Bible is our story, our origin story. It is the product of God walking with his people over the course of around 1500 years or so. That's a lot of lifetimes of experiences, lessons learned, failures made, and it's all been condensed down into this message, this narrative collection that God has a heart for the world he has made, that he sees it is broken, and he has a plan for restoring the world back to himself. We continue that plan today. The men's bible study is 2nd and 4th Wednesday mornings of the month at 6:30. The open bible study is every Wednesday morning at 8:30. You're all invited to come.

There are also opportunities in my opinion. The overall church is currently redefining itself as it moves away from many of the modes that have kept it running literally for centuries. The church is having to ask itself What Is Our Purpose after all those generations of mixing with political purposes, after banking on fear or guilt to line people up in pews, after defining itself and defending itself largely over and against competing church bodies. In my opinion, the church has an opportunity to be getting more back to its roots. Those roots, to me, are all drawing from Jesus, from the story about Jesus, from the example that he set for us, from the disruptive force that he was in the trajectory of the world.

The church has been changing lives for the better for 2000 years. God isn't done with her yet. It might not look like it has before, nor does it have to. How can we be the church in the year 2020 in De Witt, NE at Trinity Lutheran Church? Let's find out together!

Peace,

Pastor Panning

Trinity Lutheran Church Minutes

December 18, 2019

I. Call to order

Chairperson, Mike Holtmeier called to order the regular meeting of the Trinity Lutheran Church Council on December 18, 2019. Members in attendance were Tim Garrison, Karen Wollenburg, Steve Garrison, Deb Schwan, Jane Stokebrand, Mike Holtmeier, Nathan Morrissey, Brian Smidt and Pastor Panning.

Reports

- a) **Secretary's Report:** A copy of the November Council minutes, the Special Council Meeting of November 19, the Special Council Meeting of Nov 5, 2019, the Special Council Meeting Dec 2, 2019, and Special Meeting of the DeWitt/Wilber Council were reviewed. There was a motion by Tim and a second by Deb to approve the minute. Motion carried.
- b) **Treasurer's Report:** A copy of the monthly treasurer's report indicated a balance of \$6958.15. Because the position of Treasurer of Council will be changing there was discussion of the amount of \$1,000, which is grant money to be distributed to Parish Education to be divided between the Care-a-Lot, Confirmation, and the mentor program.
- c) **Investments Report:** Tim reported the investment account to be \$57,102.84.
- d) **Memorial Report:** Nate reported a balance of \$16,366.63.
- e) **Suggestion Box:** None.
- f) **Committee Reports**
 1. **Spiritual Life and Growth**
 - a) **Social Committee:** Nothing new to report.
 - b) **Worship Committee:** Karen reported that the committee will meet sometime after Pastor Panning begins his ministry at Trinity Lutheran.
 - c) **Evangelical/ Stewardship:** Nothing new to report.
 2. **Youth Development**
 - a) **Parish Ed/VBS:** This committee did not meet in December, but is scheduled to meet in January.
 - b) **Youth Group Committee:** Brian reported that the Youth Group completed a service project in December serving at the People's City Mission. They are planning another Mission Project for July 5th through 10th. The group is selling pies to be delivered before Christmas to raise funds for that Project.
 - c) **Confirmation:** Mike noted that the committee will need to meet with Pastor Panning.
 3. **Care, Management and Overview**
 - a) **Property:** Tim reported on an estimates by EppConcrete and Tillotson Co. to make necessary maintenance to the parsonage due to water concerns. The EppConcrete bid came in significantly lower with a final payment of \$8,350.00 and a down payment of \$835.00 due at bid acceptance. The council discussed that the reverse osmosis system in the parsonage should be cancelled. Culligan Corp. will be notified. Tim has also made inquiries into hiring a cleaning company to clean the parsonage. There is some furniture left at the parsonage. Dispersion of that property is scheduled to be addressed at the Annual Meeting.
 4. **Evangelical Report:** Nothing new to report.
 5. **Pastor's Report:** The Council reviewed an email sent to Mike by Zachary Powers. Pastor Koos had personally hired him to set up the Power Point for our services. He will continue to provide that service through the month of December and Trinity Lutheran will pay for that out of church funds. Pastor Panning will take over that duty when he begins his contract. Pastor Panning will require a refurbished Mac Projector set up to do

this at a cost of approximately \$350. Pastor Koos had personally been paying Zach Powers \$50 per week for that service.

II. Old Business :

1. Nothing.

III. New Business

1. There was a motion by Brian and a second by Deb to pay the remaining budgeted amount of \$3,000 to Mission Share of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. (ELCA).
2. There was a motion by Karen and a second by Nate to accept the Letter of Agreement for Transitional Ministry for Pastor Panning. Following discussion to remove question marks and strike outs present in the document, as well as, the specification of the pay date to be the last day of the month, the motion carried. Payment will be made to First Lutheran of Wilber in the form of reimbursement.
3. There was a motion by Tim and a second by Steve to accept the Model Constitution as approved by the 2019 Church Wide Assembly and to recommend it for approval at the Annual Meeting. The motion carried.
4. There was a motion by Karen and a second by Nate to accept the six remaining members who have volunteered for the Call Committee. The motion carried. The Call Committee consists of Liz Poessnecker, Nancy Mahloch, Josi Remmers, Chris Woerner, Tom Koch, and Arlyn Parde.

There was a motion by Brian and a second by Nate to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. In conclusion, Pastor Panning led the group in praying the Lord's Prayer..

Reminders: The Annual Meeting will be held January 19th and the next church council meeting will be January 22, 2019 at 8 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Church Council Secretary, Jane Stokebrand

Treasurer's Report		December 31, 2019	
	Bank Balance as of 11/30/19		\$6,958.15
		<u>Income</u>	<u>Outstanding</u>
	Offering	\$22,920.25	
	Bank Account Transfer	\$1,900.00	
	Other Deposits	\$0.85	
	Total Income		\$24,821.10
		<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Outstanding</u>
01-01	Financial Secretary's Salary	\$206.24	
01-03	Organist Salary	\$300.00	
01-04	Custodial Salary	\$490.62	
01-06	Pension Fund, Housing & SECA - Portico	\$532.01	
01-07	Supply Pastor	\$1,350.00	
02-00	Mileage	\$203.00	
02-02	R/O	\$27.00	
02-03	Culligan Water Supplies	\$16.50	
02-04	Insurance - Portico	\$86.68	
03-1	Offering Envelopes	\$247.93	
04-02	Office Supplies	\$123.44	
04-04	Office Equipment	\$136.57	
05-00	Village Utilities Church	\$98.71	
05-01	Village Utilities Parsonage	\$167.13	
05-02	Natural Gas Church	\$306.72	
05-03	Natural Gas Parsonage	\$64.11	
06-01	NE Synod ELCA Benevolence	\$3,000.00	
06-03	Bank Fees	\$20.00	
06-04	Vanco E-giving Fees	\$42.55	
06-05	Bank Transfer	\$259.00	
07-01	Devotional Books	\$72.50	
07-04	Technology	\$140.00	
08-00	Telephone Church	\$173.47	
09-06	Worship	\$9.96	
11-00	Church Maintenance	\$1,394.43	\$1,394.43
11-02	Organ	\$450.00	
11-03	Lawn Maintenance	\$201.14	
11-04	Parsonage	\$42.60	
	Total Expenses		\$10,162.31
	Previous Months Checks that Cleared		\$343.10
	Available Cash as of 12/31/19		\$21,273.84
	Outstanding Checks		\$1,394.43
	Reconciled to Balance on Bank Statement 12/31/19		\$22,668.27
		<u>Deposits</u>	<u>Disbursements</u>
	Other Accounts:		<u>Account Balance</u>
	Benevolence (Savings Account)	\$135.87	\$1,900.00
	Capital Improvement Fund (Savings Account)	\$2.46	\$0.00
			\$4,896.92
	<u>ICVF Grant Funds Deposited 9/1/19 TLC General fund</u>		<u>Disbursements</u>
09-00	Care-A-Lot		\$0.00
09-02	Confirmation (Mentor)		\$333.33
09-02	Confirmation (Liz)		\$333.34
			\$0.00
			\$1,000.00



Worship Committee will meet February 19 at 5:30 pm

WELCA board will meet Sunday, February 2 following the service

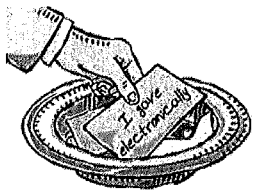
Hope Circle is TBA

Church Council will meet on Wednesday, February 19 at 8:00 pm

Shalom Circle will meet on Monday, February 17 at 7:00 pm



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. **February – Shalom Circle**



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
12/29	55	\$3600.00	\$25.00	-	\$235.00
1/5	110	\$3251.00	\$25.00	\$10.00	\$135.00
1/12	92	\$705.00	\$25.00	\$10.00	\$640.00
1/19	84	\$985.00	\$25.00	-	\$230.00



PASTOR TRAVIS PANNING

Trinity/DeWitt: 683-3225

First/Wilber: 821-2846

Cell Phone: 239-5291

Email: pastorpanning@gmail.com

OFFICE HOURS:

Wednesday/Friday 9am-12noon at Trinity/DeWitt

Thursday/Saturday 2pm-5pm at First/Wilber

SECRETARY - JENN UHER

Church: 683-3225

Email: tlcdewitt209@gmail.com

Cell: 402-245-8198

OFFICE HOURS

Monday 5pm-6:30pm

Wednesday 10am-12noon

(Updated Hours will be posted on Office Door)

Service Leaders For **FEBRUARY**

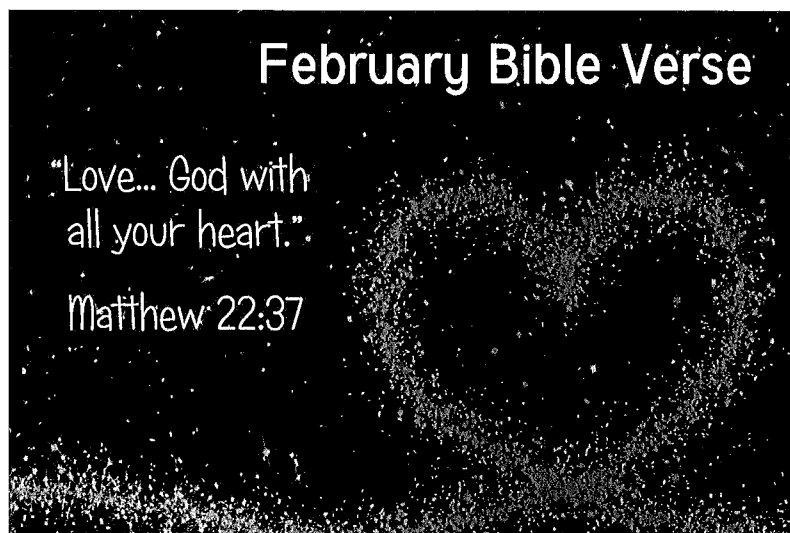
DATE	SCRIPTURE READER	ACOLYTE	GREETERS	COMMUNION SET UP
				COMMUNION ASSISTANT
February 2	Karen Wollenburg	Henry Holtmeier	Eugene & Karen Wollenburg Arlyn Parde	
February 9	Morgan Stokebrand	Braxton Karl	Eugene & Karen Wollenburg Arlyn Parde	
February 16	Kanin Baker	Blaine Brown	Eugene & Karen Wollenburg Arlyn Parde	
February 23 (Communion)	Barb Nelson	Garrett Smidt	Eugene & Karen Wollenburg Arlyn Parde	Jana Muehling Cindy Wollenburg
February 26 Ash Wednesday Communion	Doug Stokebrand		Eugene & Karen Wollenburg Arlyn Parde	Cindy Wollenburg Karen Wollenburg

HEAD USHER: Adam Wollenburg

USHERS: Darin Muehlling, Jordan Muehling, Josh Muehling, Bruce Rahe, Ron Hinzman

OUTREACH VISITATION: Shalom Circle

CURRENT SERVICE GROUP: Group 3
Duane & Pat Wollenburg/Chuck & Tina Holtmeier



FEBRUARY 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 <i>"Jairus' Daughter Healed"</i> Care-A-Lot 9:45 am (Breakfast & Bingo with elders) PRaise SERVICE AT 10:30 AM (Noisy Offering) WELCA Board following the service (Green)	3	4	5 Men's Bible Study 6:30 am Bible Study 8:30 am Confirmation 6:30 pm	6	7	8
9 <i>"Death of John the Baptist"</i> Sunday School 9:15 am WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10:30 AM (Children's Bells) (Green)	10	11	12 Bible Study 8:30 am Confirmation 6:30	13	14	15
16 <i>"What Defiles"</i> Sunday School 9:15 am Adult choir 9:30 am WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30 AM (Adult Choir) (Green)	17 Shalom Circle 7:00 pm	18	19 Men's Bible Study 6:30 am Bible Study 8:30 am Worship Committee 5:30 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Church Council 8:00 pm	20	21 NEWSLETTER ARTICLES ARE DUE	22
23 <i>"Transfiguration"</i> Sunday School 9:15 am Youth Group 9:15 am Adult Choir 9:30 am COMMUNION SERVICE 10:30 AM (Children's Choir) (White)	24	25	26 Bible Study 8:30 am Confirmation (TBA) Ash Wednesday (TBA) (Purple)	27	28	29

FEBRUARY 2020

<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>
						1 Colton Placek
2 Mitch McDougall	3 Mallory Chavez Joyce Holtmeier	4 Logan Brown Ashley Rowden	5 Lisa Nelson	6 Beryl Beerenstrauch Lucy Morrissey	7	8
9 Katie Carel	10 Dorothy Mahloch	11	12	13	14	15 Byron Beerenstrauch
16 Dan Scherling	17	18	19 Miley Garrison	20	21 Gary Niemeier	22 Brix Remmers
23	24 Herb Rehm	25	26 Lyle Fink Darin Muehling Oakley Pospisil Brian Smidt	27 Preslie Murray	28 Hank Damkroger Kevin Thornburg	29

Please keep Anna Wollenburg, Jim Burger, Jack Garrison, Marge Badman, and Tina Groathouse 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, and click the green OFFERING button and follow the instructions.

NOTE: New Sunday times – Sunday School/Care-a-lot will meet at 9:15 am and Sunday Worship Services will now be held at 10:30 am.

Gordon Schuerman is missing a brownish/black Dockers leather coat (gloves in the pockets) that someone might have taken by mistake. Please just check and make sure you didn't take the wrong coat by accident. Thanks.

We are still in need of some Ushers/Greeters for the year. Please talk to Tim Garrison or Jenn Uher if you would like to volunteer.

ATTENTION THRIVENT MEMBERS, it is the time of year to designate your Choice Dollars that have accumulated until December 31, 2019. You have until March 31, 2020 to call 1-800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" to designate your Choice Dollars to our church. These are rewards earned on your accounts and if you do not call they stay in the Thrivent Financial Company account for them to use. These funds help procure items for our own church. For the 2019 year we used \$5,000 from this fund to pay the insurance deductible for the bell tower. Thank you to all 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

WELCA has decided to go with the ventilated black chairs from ULINE. We are asking for any contributions from our TLC members as each chair will cost approximately \$30.00. If you would like to contribute to the chairs and chair dollies, please give your donation to Linda Schuerman or Pat Wollenburg and please make checks payable to WELCA.

Women's Bible Study is being held every 2nd and 4th Sunday from 7:30-8:30 am. Contact Penny Holtmeier at pennyholtmeier@yahoo.com with questions.

"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!

Adult Choir will be take a break and resume on Sunday, February 16 at 9:30 am and continue thru May 3.

Sunday, January 26 - DeWitt United Methodist Church will be hosting their Creamed Chicken & Biscuit Dinner from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. Free Will Donation with proceeds going to the DeWitt Contingency Fund. Take-outs are Available.

Sunday, February 2 the DeWitt Legion Auxiliary is hosting a soup luncheon from 11-1 pm at the Legion Club. Serving chili soup, potato soup, sandwiches, and desserts. Free will offering accepted to help fund Auxiliary projects. Everyone is welcome!

Sunday, February 9 –Soup Supper will be held in the Zion Lutheran Church, rural Pickrell's Parish Hall. The soup will be served at 5:00, and the entertainment will begin at 7:00. There will be a freewill offering. This year's beneficiary is Jackson Grenemeier. Jackson is 5 years old and attends Freeman Public School. Jackson was critically injured in a car/pedestrian accident last June. He is the son of Eric and Christina Grenemeier of Adams. His Grandparents are Paul and Shellie Remmers of Pickrell, and his Great Grandparents are Larry and Darlene Remmers of Pickrell.

Hope Circle

No Report. Did not meet.

Lutheran Men in Mission

LMIM

Self-Esteem: Made in the Image of God (Study 49). This month we will meet on February 12 and 26 at 6:30am. February 12 Topic 3 and February 26 Topic 4. Come join us!

Shalom Circle

The January Shalom Circle meeting was cancelled due to extremely cold temperatures. Lois will then give a brief summary at the February 17th meeting of Lesson 1 from the Gather magazine. Karen will give Lesson 2 as scheduled as well as provide snacks for the group. Since February is Shalom's special friend Melvin's birthday, Bev will go ahead and get either movie tickets or a Dairy Queen gift card to send to him from our group. Shalom Circle has visitation for February, so members are encouraged to visit shut ins if possible, over the month.

WELCA

WELCA Board will meet February 2 after the service

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 Dankroger

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