

LABORS

Worship time:
9:00 a.m.
Adult Bible
Study: 10:15
a.m.

Trinity Lutheran Church and Preschool
634 Alden Drive
Auburn, Nebraska 68305
(402) 274-4210
Web: <http://www.trinityaubne.org>

December 2016 - January 2017
Volume XXXI Number 6

of

LOVE

“Cling to Jesus”

Pastor's Corner

Some of you know that I've been working to paint our house. That project has been about 4 years in the making. Between all of the work to get things cleaned up and ready to paint and the application of the paint to the different surfaces, a painting project like this sure is a lot of work.

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow for the beautiful weather that He's provided this Fall! The warm, dry conditions have been ideal for painting. Praise God that our painting project has gone well with no problems or accidents and that it is nearly at an end!

As I've been doing the cleanup work, one of the things that I've done is to wash down the siding with a special cleaning agent and a pressure washer. One of the things that I've noticed in using the pressure washer is how hard it is to get spider webs off of the siding. With the pressure put out by the washer, one would think that it would be easy to blast those webs off of the house and out of corners. Not so! Generally speaking, a brush is needed to get rid of those webs.

The clinging, durable nature of those spider webs is a good picture of how God wants our faith in Him to be “so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.” (Ephesians 4:14) In spite of the temptation of the devil, the world, and our sinful flesh, the good news is that no one can snatch us out of the hand of our loving Good Shepherd, Jesus. (John 10:28) But the temptations that the unholy three put out can certainly make it look pretty good to go our own way and not cling to the Lord.

Only the Holy Spirit can enable us to repent of our sins and believe in Jesus Christ as “the way, and the truth, and the life”—the only way to heaven. Only

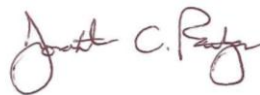
the Holy Spirit by His sanctifying work through God's word and sacraments can enable us to cling to Jesus amid the wind and waves of this earthly life. Only the Holy Spirit can give us that durable faith that weathers the storms of this life and remains faithful until death.

As we prepare to remember and celebrate the coming of Jesus in flesh and blood, I pray that you and I will always cling only to Jesus—trusting that only because of Him and His redeeming work, you and I are completely and fully forgiven, that we are at peace with God, and that we have a heavenly home awaiting us.

How comforting that Jesus doesn't let go of us! Don't let go of Him! He is your only hope for this life and for eternity. Amen!

God's continued blessings to you and your families!

In Christ,



Pastor Jon Rathjen

Revelation 2:10, ESV: *Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.*

Acts 4:12, ESV: *And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.*

John 10:27–28, ESV: *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.*



Coming Events:



December 2 – 4, Christmas at Concordia, Seward, Nebraska



December 3: Christmas Bazaar, 8:00 - noon



December 16: Trinity Lutheran Preschool Christmas Program, 6:30 p.m.



December 17: Men’s Matins at Trinity, 7:30 a.m.



December 18: Trinity Sunday School Program, 7:00 p.m.



You don’t want to miss the Trinity Lutheran Church Christmas Bazaar!

Plan to stop by the church Saturday morning, December 3rd, and bring your friends along! There will be lots of Christmas cookies and baked goods, crafts, and vendors. Where else can you find lots of special items for your Christmas gift list, as well as goodies that will save you from baking?! All bazaar proceeds benefit missions (local missions and seminary student) of Trinity Lutheran Church.



Be sure to pick up your family’s Directory Address/Phone update in the church narthex!!



Christmas Worship calendar:

- ✧ **November 30 at 7:00P.M. – Midweek 1 Advent Service: “How Shall I Greet You?”**
- ✧ **December 7 at 7:00P.M. – Midweek 2 Advent Service: “Advent’s Fiery Preacher”**
- ✧ **December 14 at 7:00P.M. – Midweek 3 Advent Service: “Not Another Advent”**
- ✧ **December 21 at 7:00P.M. – Midweek 4 Advent Service: “We Still Need Him, Our Immanuel, Our Jesus”**
- ✧ **December 24th at 7:00P.M. – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: “God’s Answer For Our Fears”**
- ✧ **December 25th at 9:00A.M. – Christmas Day Service: “The Savior Is Here! Now What?”**



Everyone is invited and encouraged to come share a meal at 5:30 p.m. on the Midweek Service evenings!

Our menu for this year is as follows:

- ☆ November 30: Shredded pork sandwich
- ☆ December 7: Chili and/or broccoli cheese soup
- ☆ December 14: Sloppy Joe sandwich
- ☆ December 21: Scalloped ham & potatoes

Warm fellowship and hot food are a great way to start each evening of this special worship season.

Free-will offering will benefit our Childhood Development missions: Kids of HIS Kingdom and Trinity Lutheran Preschool!

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
 634 Alden Drive
 Auburn, Nebraska 68305
 274-4210

email – trinityaub@windstream.net
<http://www.trinityaubne.net>

Officers: EFFECTIVE JULY 1

Chairman - *Dennis Wittmann
 Secretary - *Susan Johnston
 Treasurer - *Tim Becker
 Financial Secretary - *Jim Parrish

Board of Childhood Development:

*Dennis Wittmann
 Erin Fisk
 Rochelle Collins
 Emily Crotty

Board of Education:

* Judith Ruskamp
 TBA
 Sarah Bogdanoff
 Merri Johnson

Superintendent -

*John Ackerman

*Troy Barker
 Tim Becker
 Eric Bohling
 Dan Buman
 Michael Zaruba

Board of Evangelism: *Stacy Zaruba
 Karen Kamtz
 Lori Parrish

Board of Stewardship: *Rich Tanderup
 Rod Penfield
 Eric Wilke

Board of Trustees: *Jerry Ruskamp
 Rick Fritz
 Gary Kamtz

Trinity Foundation: Brian Meyer
 Melissa Buman
 Paul Hinrichs
 Gary Kamtz
 Dan Buman

Cemetery Committee: Daryl Stutheit
 Kurt Stutheit
 _____TBD

Auxiliary Presidents:

Luth. Laymen's League - Richard Tanderup
 LWML - Angie Becker
 Trinity Youth Group - Zachary Becker

Church Staff

Pastor - *Rev. Jonathan Rathjen
 Secretary - Laurie Clark

*Denotes Board of Directors member

**Proposed Congregational Goals
 for 2016-2017**

- 1) Promote engaging relationships and connections in the community (esp. Preschool and KOHK parents) to share the saving love of Jesus.
- 2) Promote engaging relationships and connections inside the congregation to share the saving love of Jesus.
- 3) Utilize, to maximum potential, the website to communicate with the community and the congregational members, allowing the boards to use the website to maximize the potential of completing their goals

December 2016-January 2017

ELDERS

December	January
04 – Dan Buman	01 – Tim Becker
07 <i>MW Advent 2 (7:00pm)</i>	08 – Eric Bohling
11 – Mike Zaruba	15 – Dan Buman
14 <i>MW Advent 3 (7:00pm)</i>	22 – Mike Zaruba
18 – John Ackerman	29 – John Ackerman
21 <i>MW Advent 4 (7:00pm)</i>	
24 <i>Christmas Eve (7:00pm)</i>	
25 – TBA Christmas Day	

ORGANISTS

Loretta Kerchal

PIANISTS

Vicki Ackerman
 Tyne Chaney
 Merri Johnson
 Sandy Wilson

ALTAR CARE

December
 TBA

January
 TBA

ACOLYTES

December	January
04 – Sam Ackerman	01 – Dariane Stutheit
07 – Chloe Curry	08 – Angel Tanderup
<i>MW Advent 2 (7:00pm)</i>	15 – Kyle Becker
11 – Angel Tanderup	22 – Kyra Becker
14 – Chloe Curry	29 – Madison Pingel
<i>MW Advent 3 (7:00pm)</i>	
18 – Dariane Stutheit	
21 – Chloe Curry	
<i>MW Advent 4 (7:00pm)</i>	
24 – TBA	
<i>Christmas Eve (7:00pm)</i>	
25 – TBA Christmas Day	

Voters' Meeting
December 19, 2016 at
7:00 p.m.
Watch for the agenda to be posted!

Cut out and put somewhere that you will remember to pray regularly and often in your devotional prayer time for these people:

On-Going Prayers

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, ESV

- † **Healing and strengthened faith in Christ for those who are ill:** Eric Adams (friend of Eric Bohling), Nate Becker (Tim Becker's brother), Alivia Birdsley (John Birdsley's granddaughter), Amelia Becker, Harold Bickford (friend of Trinity members), LeRoy Caspers (friend of the Hawley family and others), JR Chaney, Marshall Clark (Jim & Sharon Clark's grandson), Cheryl Dirksen (Les' daughter-in-law), Diane Drew (Gary Kamtz's sister), Marvin Green (friend of Hawleys), Wes Hardin (husband of Ken Riley's niece), Catherine Hawley (Chuck Hawley's mother), Dominic Herrera (Kim Kieler's great nephew), Donna Hoadley (Merri Johnson's sister), Karen Kamtz, Sanna Manders (Sadie (Johnson) Vercauteren's sister-in-law), Jerry Oestmann, Linda Oestrich (Vicki Ackerman's aunt), Rae Osenbaugh (Merri Johnson's daughter-in-law's mother), Tammy Pinnow (wife of Melissa Buman's cousin), Loyal Rippe, Hank Schaart (friend of Trinity members), Rev. Robert Schermbeck, Kellan Schlichtman (Vicki Ackerman's nephew), LaVerta Schultze, Deb Sisco (Erin Fisk's mother), Fredrick and Carolyn Tietjan (Vick Ackerman's uncle and aunt), Clint Thomas (Tim Becker's uncle), Emily Zech (Pat Collins' daughter), and all others in special need.
- † **Our missionary family:** Dominican Republic: Rev. Ed and Deaconess Cherie Auger. Pray that the Lord will watch over, bless, and provide all that is needed for this missionary family as they make the transition to serving in the Dominican Republic. Pray also that He will keep them safe and healthy and give them encouragement as they are separated from their family. Finally, pray that the Lord will enable them to be a blessing to the seminary students, pastors, and deaconesses whom they help to teach and equip in the Latin American region.
- † **Others in foreign missions:** Papua New Guinea: Rev. Martin & Marie Dicke as they prepare to go to Papue New Guinea; Nova Scotia: Rev. Charles, Deborah, Olivia & Sophia St-Onge; Dominican Republic: Rev. Joel, Clarion, Slav, Sergei, Andrei Fritsche and Bill, Nicole, Kiersten, & Karissa Lohmeyer; Africa Radio Ministries: Rev. John & Kathy Duitsman; Mongolia: Rev. David, Rachel, Julia, Timothy, Daniel & Esther Baker; Southeast Asia: Rev. Charles, Cheryl, Caleb, Caitlin, Carissa, & Cassie Ferry; Kenya: Shara Cunningham and Julie McManus; Germany: Rick, Marla, Courtney & Jonah Steenbock, and Rev. Dr. Christopher, Elizabeth & Thomas Ahlman; Taiwan & the Philippines: Sean Harlow; Nicaragua: the people, pastors and deaconesses of the Lutheran Church—Nicaragua Synod: Rev. Junior Martinez and the members of the mission congregation at La Paz, Honduras; the mission congregation at Comayaguela, Honduras; and the emerging mission at Choluteca, Honduras.
- † **Encouragement, strengthened faith and healing for those with long-term illnesses:** Kate Blaylock (Linda Jacobsen's mother), Jill Bloss (friend the Ackermans), Lee Bogle (Randy Bogle's brother), Gary Boham (Pat Maddox's brother-in-law), Ruth Bohling, Greg Brandt (Brother-in-law of Pam Tetrick), Neena Cipolla (Janet and Chuck Hawley's granddaughter), Aaron Clark (son of former members), Myrna

Corbin, Ethel Currier (Heather Lowrance's Grandma), Myrna Fredrick (friend of Jane Stutheit), Susan George (Vicki Ackerman's sister), Donna Gottula (friend of Trinity members), Gale Haun (Kamtz family friend), Maryann Kalkwarf (friend of Lori Parrish), Paul Koehler (cousin of Becky Lueders, Eric Bohling, Sandy Wilson, and Dale Bohling), Ida Kuhlmann, Sonia Madridejo (relative of Jane Stutheit), Patty Mason (Linda Schultz's sister), Cindy Meyers, (Pat Collins' niece), Bev Moyer, Elaine Riley (Ken's sister), Nora Marie (infant relative of the Riley family), Scott Riley, Dick Schlichtmann (Vicki Ackerman's dad), Sally Schneider (Becky Lueders' cousin), Rosanna Tanderup (Rich's sister-in-law), Pam Tetrick, Robyn Tetrick, Jerry Thede (neighbor of the Bentons), Ann Virtucio (Jane Stutheit's sister), Joy Virtucio (Jane Stutheit's sister), Justin Williams (friend of Hawleys and Hasslebrings).

- † **Preaching stations or subsidized congregations:** Zion, Crookston (Rev. Greg Hinners); Lamb of God, Hickman (Rev. Luke Russert, vacancy pastor); Sandhills Ministry [Bingham Lutheran, Bingham; Faith, Hyannis; Shepherd of the Hills, Hyannis] (Rev. Andy Safarik)
- † **The Friendly Face Program:** Pray that the Holy Spirit will bless this effort by volunteers from Trinity to build caring relationships with the families who bring their children to Kids of HIS Kingdom daycare, and use it to nurture a growing faith-connection with Jesus, their loving Savior.
- † **Those in the armed forces:** Dillon Becker (Tim's nephew), Bob Bogle (Randy & Kay's son), Jake Bruss (fiance of KoHK daycare worker Sophia Fox's cousin), Alex Chase (son of Becky Lueders' friend, Tammy Chase), Guy Cipolla, Brody Clark (Kim Kieler's son), Aaron Fisk, Luke Gifford (son of Rev. Dan & Katy Gifford), Trey Hightower (friend of Trinity members), Rev. Matt Mortenson, Chris Pelchat, Scott Rathke (Becky Lueders' cousin), Chris Riley (Ken's nephew), Matt Riley (Ken's nephew), Rev. Pat Riley (Ken's brother), and Andy Roepke.
- † **Ethnic congregations/ministries:** Cristo Cordero de Dios, Grand Island [Hispanic congregation] (Rev. Salvador Ferrero); Ministry to Muslims, Omaha (Emad and Shireen Tawadrous, missionaries); African immigrant ministry (Rev. Eddie Mekasha); Peace International Friendship Center, Omaha (Rev. Jim Haack, director); Sudanese Ev. Lutheran Church, Omaha (Rev. Peter Gatkuoth); Jesus Es el Senor (Jesus is Lord), Omaha (Rev. Obdulio Felix); Lord of Lords Sudanese Lutheran Church, Omaha (Rev. Leroy Gerner, vacancy pastor); Jesus Our Savior Lutheran Outreach, Winnebago (Rev. Ricky Jacob).
- † **Seminary students we support or who have connections with our congregation:** Rev. Tim Prince as he finishes an advanced degree at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis; Zachary Courie at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana as he prepares to be a pastor. Rev. Mashon Asaki from Nigeria as he works on his doctorate at Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne. Pray that the Lord would bless the learning process for these men so that they will be well prepared to serve Him as pastors and in other ways. Pray also that the Lord will bless their families with all that they need—physically, emotionally and spiritually.
- † **Trinity Lutheran Preschool & Kids of HIS Kingdom Childhood Development Center** that the Lord will continue to bless these missions of our congregation and bring more students to hear about the saving love of Jesus.
- † **Our college students** – Madison Anderson, Sydni Barker, Tyler Barker, Blair Benton, Quintin Boden, Laura Butler, Drew

Clarke, Danielle Gauchat, Wyatt Gauchat, Tyler Hasselbring, Rachel Hinrichs, Kelsey Jacobsen, MacKenzie Larson, Mallory Parrish, Lauren Pelchat, Heidi Rathjen, Micah Rathjen, Scott Riley, Christine Ruskamp, Cassie Severs, Robyn Tetrick, Tori Tetrick, and Nadine Yoesel—that God would bless their studies and other activities. Pray also that they take time during the school year to feed their faith by listening to God’s Word in personal devotions and in attending worship services so that by the Holy Spirit’s work they will continue to trustfully follow Jesus and be comforted by the Good News of His ongoing love, care and forgiveness for them.

- ✠ **New congregations (within 5 years):** Cross of Christ, Aurora (served by Rev. Timothy Wells), and Life Church Lutheran, Lincoln (served by vacancy pastor Rev. Bill Steinbauer)
- ✠ **New ministry starts (not yet congregations):** Columbus Lutheran Hispanic Ministry [joint ministry of Peace, Immanuel, 1C] (Sergio Puente, missionary); River of Life, Grand Island [satellite of Trinity, GI] (Rev. Jack Gillam/Rev. Adam Snoberger); The Edge, Holdrege [ministry of Mt. Calvary, Holdrege] (Rev. Kenton Birtell); 211South, Lincoln [satellite of Christ, Lincoln] (Rev. Jeff Scheich/Rev. Carl Grulke); LifeStory, LaVista [satellite of Beautiful Savior] (Rev. Ryan Brons)

Circuit Reformation Program

About 70 people participated in the Circuit Reformation Program at St. John Lutheran Church, Tecumseh. Pastor Jason Wolter led a brief study with background information about Martin Luther. After the study, we watched the movie, “Luther.” Following the movie, the St. John Youth Group served a delicious meal.



Confirmation

Six youth and two adults attended the Nebraska District LCMS Jr. High Youth Gathering in Kearney on November 12th – 13th. The theme verse for the gathering was Acts 4:12: “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.” The gathering focused on the new identity we have in Christ that God gives us in Baptism. It also focused on bringing the good news about Jesus to others around us so that by the Holy Spirit’s power they know Him and believe Him as Savior.

Special thanks to Tim and Angie Becker for serving as chaperones for this event. Praise God from Whom all blessings flow for safe travel and an enjoyable time!

Reformation Activities at Concordia

Concordia University, Nebraska will host nine guest speakers as well as special musical and theatrical presentations as part of the 500th Reformation Anniversary Celebration. Speakers will present on a variety of topics related to the Reformation. Following each lecture, there will be time to ask questions as well as meet the presenter. All presentations are free and open to the public. Additional information about the 500th Reformation Anniversary is available online at reformation.cune.edu, and there is a brochure next to the kitchen window. This is a great way for your family to observe this special event throughout 2017!



Poinsettias

Help decorate Trinity Lutheran Church this Christmas to celebrate our Lord’s birth! Purchase a poinsettia to be placed in the sanctuary during the Advent and Christmas season.

- Poinsettias will be ordered and purchased in a group, and you may select the donation/size you would like to contribute:
 - \$5 \$10 \$15 \$20
 - or *any amount* is appreciated!
- Make checks payable to Trinity Lutheran Church, and indicate “Poinsettia” in the memo line.
- Payments may be turned in to Pat Maddox anytime, but need to be received **no later than Sunday, December 4th** to incorporate the poinsettias into our Christmas preparations.
 - *If you would like to make your donation in thanks to the Lord for a loved one, either living or deceased, please turn that information in to Pat with your donation*

Any questions, please contact Pat Maddox at 402-274-3580



KoHK CORNER

KoHK Welcomes a New Director!

KoHK recently said ‘Goodbye’ and sent well-wishes with Allie Graf as she moved to a new position teaching with the Humboldt Public Schools.

Taking over as our new Director of *Kids of HIS Kingdom* is Heather Schultz. Heather previously served our mission as the Assistant Teacher at *Trinity Lutheran Preschool*. She comes to her new role with experience and enthusiasm for the daycare mission.



Heather Schultz

Drop by and meet Heather at KoHK – see the following information for times!

Come & See Our Growing Daycare Mission in Action!

Please come and tour Kids of HIS Kingdom (1320 20th Street) Mondays – Thursdays, 8:00 – 10:30 AM, or 2:00 – 3:30 PM. Just as a picture is worth a thousand words, you can best feel the energy of our growing daycare by experiencing it! We have added new faces to our daycare family of children. Come and see HIS Kingdom in the faces of the little children who believe in Jesus!

Now they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them. And when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. But Jesus called them to him, saying, “Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.”

Luke 18:15–17



KoHK Welcomes VOLUNTEERS!

Please contact Heather Schultz (402-274-1424) to see if there is something you can help with involving various tasks at our daycare mission.

Examples:

- ✝ Assisting staff with various childcare and activities
- ✝ preparing snacks
- ✝ Cleaning
- ✝ Occasional repairing/sewing of toys

Thank you Trinity members for your prayers for these missions of our congregation and to all who have helped the Preschool and Daycare missions of our congregation with gifts of time, talents and financial resources!



Trinity Lutheran Preschool

Fall has been the perfect opportunity to study trees, branches, and leaves. During Fire Prevention Week the students spent the days learning about Fire Safety. They enjoyed a visit from the Auburn Volunteer Fire Department. We’ve also been working on the letters T, C, I, the numbers 1-5, the color orange, and squares. We also enjoyed having some pretty awesome visitors. Officer Kadavy came and spoke with the kids, they all got badges and got to sit in the back seat of the police car. ☺ Then we had Mr. Eberly come with his truck and talked about what he did for a living. He hauls meats and different things to Colorado. The kids loved honking the horn! They couldn’t believe how big the inside of the truck was, “It had its own kitchen, Miss Kim!” The kids had a blast and talked about hauling bad guys to jail and maybe a cow or two if the weather stays good. In November we are working on the letters B, D, E, the numbers 6 & 7, the color red, and triangles!

Kim Kieler, Director



Trunk or Treat!

Friday, October 28th
5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Here's a little taste of the fun...



Lots of hungry guests thought those hot dogs smelled good!!



Families enjoying food and fellowship at Trinity!



Trunk-or-Treating was BUSY!!



Psalm 27:1, ESV:
*The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold
of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?*



A whole new meaning to "Tail-Gating"!

Trinity Women's Event... "Days for Girls" Project!

Women of our congregation gathered in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, October 5 to support this project which provides washable, reusable feminine hygiene products to girls who have no access to these products, or cannot afford to purchase them.

Kits were assembled that contained underwear, washable absorbent liners and carrying bags. Many hands made light work of the sewing and assembly of these kits.



Acts 9:36, ESV:

Now there was in Joppa a disciple named Tabitha, which, translated, means Dorcas. She was full of good works and acts of charity.

PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW!