

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.net>

February 2016 - March 2016
Volume XXXI Number 1

of

LOVE



“What Sounds Do You Make?”

Someone that I know used to have a car that sounded like the muffler needed to be fixed. When the person would be driving up to church, I could hear them before they ever arrived because of the loud sound of their vehicle. Simply by the sound, I knew who was pulling up to church.

In thinking about this, I wonder whether people recognize us—who we are and Whose we are as baptized believers in Jesus Christ—by how we sound and what we do. Do they see us as sheep who listen to and follow the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ, according to His word? Do they see us live the love that He has first shown to us? Do they see us serving others in love as Jesus did? Do they see or hear us confess to each other, say that we’re sorry, and forgive one another from the heart as God has first forgiven us in Christ?

Sadly, people don’t always see us doing these things that go along with faith in Jesus. He said, *“If anyone would come after me let him deny himself and take up His cross and follow me.”* (Matthew 16:24, ESV) Sometimes, they see us do and hear us say things that may cause them to conclude that we are not just in the world but of the world—living according to its ways and by its standards. (John 17:14-19) Doing so compromises our witness to our living Savior and also puts our faith at risk. Lord, have mercy upon us for the times when we have done so!

To fix a car with a loud muffler, we take it to a mechanic who can fix it for us. But what can we

do when we’ve been giving off sounds and actions that have followed the sinful ways of the devil, the world, and our own sinful nature? The Holy Spirit inspired the apostle, John, to tell us about God’s “fix” for sinners like us. 1 John 1:8-9, ESV: *“If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

God’s “fix” is for us to confess our sins to Him and He will forgive us and cleanse us from all of the sinful things that we’ve done, thought, and said that have hurt others and that have not helped to keep His name holy. With Isaiah we admit, *“All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.”* (Isaiah 53:6, ESV)

That “him” spoken of by Isaiah is Jesus Christ who was *“wounded for our transgressions”*. (Isaiah 53:5, ESV) As the sinless Son of God, Jesus took the punishment we deserve from God for all of the loud, obnoxious noises that we’ve made and actions that we’ve done that have hurt others and caused them to question Who we follow.

Because of His death on the cross and His glorious resurrection, Jesus has made possible renewing, cleansing forgiveness that comes to us as a free gift from our ever-faithful and gracious God. That forgiveness restores us to a status that we do not deserve and that we cannot earn. Isaiah 1:18, ESV: *“Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow;*

though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool."

What is the effect that our living Lord desires from us with His forgiveness received through faith alone in Him as Savior? He wants us to grow in trust in Him and His gracious work for us at the cross and empty tomb and in living according to His word in such a way that people will recognize us for who we are and Whose we are. Jesus doesn't want this to be just an outward show but rather genuinely connected with our God-given faith in Him, so that people see by our words and actions (not just at church) that we follow Him.

Based on His word, we follow Jesus the Christ knowing and believing that He is the promised Savior, true God and true man, Who has died and risen from the dead in order to save us. The Holy Spirit enables us to believe that and to grow in living our confession of faith by being gracious with and forgiving of each other and in loving and serving each other.

That is the life that Martin Luther talks about in his explanation in the Small Catechism to the question, "What does such baptizing with water indicate?" He said, "It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever."

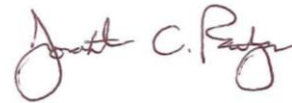
While that is for each and every day of the year, that is a specific focus of the Lenten season that will begin with Ash Wednesday on February 10th. This penitential season is about admitting to the Lord who we are as sinners and growing in trust in Jesus Christ as the One who has dealt with our sins in the way that we need. (John 1:29, John 14:6)

I pray that during this upcoming Lenten season, the Holy Spirit will enable you and me to grow in making those sounds, doing those actions, and thinking those thoughts that are consistent with following our Good Shepherd according to His word, so that people will know Whose we are as

we witness to Him Who laid down His life for us and Who has taken it up again for us—Jesus!
Amen!

God's continued blessings to you!

In Christ, our Savior,



Pastor Rathjen

John 1:29, ESV: "The next day he (John the Baptist) saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, 'Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!'"

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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/
Mike Zaruba
Financial Secretary - *Jim Parrish

Board of Childhood Development:

*Dennis Wittmann
Erin Fisk
Allie Graf
Rochelle Collins

Board of Education: *Amber Meyer
Jane Stutheit
Joan Wittmann

Superintendent - Merri Johnson

Board of Elders: *Tim Becker
*John Ackerman
Troy Barker
Ken Riley
Eric Bohling
Michael Zaruba

Board of Evangelism: *Judy Ruskamp
Stacy Zaruba
Karen Kamtz

Board of Stewardship: *Rich Tanderup
Todd Benton
Rod Penfield

Board of Trustees: *Jerry Ruskamp
Rick Fritz
Gary Kamtz

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

Cemetery Committee: Daryl Stutheit
Kurt Stutheit
_____TBD

Auxiliary Presidents:

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

Church Staff

Pastor - *Rev. Jonathan Rathjen
Secretary - Laurie Clark

*Denotes Board of Directors member

Congregational Goals for 2015-2016

- 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) Support Senior Youth Group Development.
- 4) Develop a multi-media/sound system upgrade plan to support the needs of the congregation. [Lead Stewardship]
- 5) Update the congregation's website. {Board of Elders}

February 2016–March 2016

ELDERS

February	March
07 – Tim Becker 10 Ash Wednesday (7PM)	Mike Zaruba 02 – Mdwk Lent 4 (7PM)
14 – Eric Bohling 17 - Mdwk Lent 2 (7PM)	06 – Troy Barker 09 – Mdwk Lent 5 (7PM)
21 – Troy Barker 24 – Mdwk Lent 3 (7PM)	13 – John Ackerman 16 – Mdwk Lent 6 (7PM)
28 – Mike Zaruba	20 – Tim Becker <i>Palm Sunday</i> 24 – Maundy Thursday (7PM)
	25 – Good Friday (7PM)
	27 – Eric Bohling <i>Easter (8:00 AM)</i>

ORGANISTS

Joan Wittmann	Merri Johnson Sandy Wilson Vicki Ackerman
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PIANISTS

ALTAR CARE

February	March
TBA	TBA

ACOLYTES

February	March
07 – Chloe Curry 10 – Joshua Barker 7 PM Ash Wed.	02 – Elaina Riley MW 7 PM Lent 4
14 – Chloe Curry 17 – Joshua Barker MW 7 PM Lent 2	06 – Chloe Curry 09 – Elaina Riley MW 7 PM Lent 5
21 – Chloe Curry 24 – Joshua Barker MW 7 PM Lent 3	13 – Elaina Riley 16 – Joshua Barker MW 7 PM Lent 6
28 – Elaina Riley	20 – Joshua Barker 24 – Elaina Riley Maundy Thursday (7PM)
	25 – Joshua Barker Good Friday (7PM)
	27 – Joshua Barker <i>Easter (8:00 AM)</i>

*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

- ✠ **Our missionary family:** Nicaragua & Honduras: Rev. Ed and Deaconess Cherie Auger. Pray that the Lord will watch over, bless, and provide all that is needed for this missionary family. 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 Holy Spirit will prepare the hearts of those who do not yet believe in Christ Jesus to hear God's word so that they may be brought to faith in Him as their Savior.
- ✠ **Others in foreign missions:** Nova Scotia: Rev. Charles, Deborah, Olivia & Sophia St-Onge; Macau: Sharon Owens, Joanna & Peter; Dominican Republic: Rev. Joel, Clarion, Slav, Sergei, Andrei Fritsche; 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; Dominican Republic: Bill, Nicole, Kiersten, & Karissa Lohmeyer; Taiwan & the Philippines: Sean Harlow; Nicaragua: Rev. Mardo Calero and the members of Jesus Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church in Santa Patricia; and 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; mission congregation at Comayaguela, Honduras; 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), 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), Wendy Engles (Friend of Barb Swanson), Myrna Fredrick (friend of Jane Stutheit), Donna Gottula (friend of Trinity members), Gale Haun (Kamtz family friend), Maryann Kalkwarf (friend of Lori Parrish), Ida Kuhlmann, Sonia Madridejo (relative of Jane Stutheit), Patty Mason (Linda Schultz's sister), Cindy Meyers, (Pat Collins' niece), Roger Moerer (Wyatt Gauchat's Grandpa), Bev Moyer, Elaine Riley (Ken's sister), Nora Marie (infant relative of the Riley family), Scott Riley, Dick Schlichtmann (Vicki Ackerman's dad), LaVerta Schultze, Rosanna Tanderup (Rich's sister-in-law), Pam Tetrick, Carolyn Vickers (friend of Bev Moyer), Ann Virtucio (Jane Stutheit's sister), Joy Virtucio (Jane Stutheit's sister), Cathy Volker (friend of Becky Lueders), 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)
- ✠ **Those in the armed forces:** Dillon Becker (Tim's nephew), Bob Bogle (Randy & Kay's son), Alex Chase (son of Becky Lueders' friend, Tammy Chase), Guy Cipolla, Brody Clark (Kim Kieler's son), Aaron Fisk, 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 Señor (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:** Mark Duerr, seminary student at Concordia Seminary in St Louis; Ben Riley as he returns to the seminary for his final year of studies, and Rev. Tim Prince as he pursues an advanced degree at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. 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, Quintin Boden, Danielle Gauchat, Wyatt Gauchat, Tyler Hasselbring, Rachel Hinrichs, Thomas Hinrichs, Kelsey Jacobsen, MacKenzie Larson, Zachary Larson, Mallory Parrish, Lauren Pelchat, Mason Pelchat, Austin Penfield, Tyler Penfield, Heidi Rathjen, Scott Riley, Christine Ruskamp, Laura Ruskamp, Cassie Severs, Robyn Tetrick, Tori Tetrick, Hannah Wilson, and Nadine Yoessel—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 Vicar 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)

Directory Update

New Address:

Joel & Kerri Wilson
2421 Whitlow
Auburn, NE 68305

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS? - Please notify the church office. Thank you.

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Don't forget to change your clocks the night of March 12!!

Warm Hearts... Warm House

A group of our men met on a snowy morning at Doug Lueders' farm to gather, cut and transport firewood for a member family. This team worked so well together that several cords of wood are now available to keep them warm while one of them recovers from an upcoming medical procedure.

Eric Bohling, Dale Bohling, Tim Becker, Zachary Becker, Doug Lueders, Dan Lueders, Steve Stangl and Pastor Rathjen donated their labor and tools to do the job. Ariens donated the use of a log splitter, Doug Lueders donated the wood. Thank you to all! Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!



Reaching Out to Inactive Members Seminar

Every congregation has members who, for whatever reason, become less involved in worship attendance and other congregational activities. Reaching out to inactive members is an important part of the mission work that the Lord calls and enables us to do.

To help equip people to reach out to inactive members of their churches, the congregations of the Falls City Circuit are sponsoring an Inactive Ministry Seminar.

- † **Date:** Saturday, February 20, 2016.
(Please note: Bad weather date will be the following Saturday, February 27th, 2016)
- † **Time:** 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. with lunch served.
- † **Location:** Trinity Lutheran Church located at 634 Alden Drive in Auburn, Nebraska 68305.
- † **Presenter:** Rev. Todd Kollbaum, Director of the LCMS Rural and Small Town Mission, will give a practical presentation about reaching out to inactive members.
- † **Cost:** This seminar is being paid for out of the Falls City Circuit Treasury and will also be available to members of area congregations **free of charge**. *A freewill offering will be received to defray lunch expenses.*
- † **Registration: Please register by Friday, February 12, 2016.** There are three ways to register:
 - Fill out the following information and mail it to:
Trinity Lutheran, 634 Alden Drive, Auburn, NE 68305.
 - Send the information by e-mail to: trinityaub@windstream.net
 - Call Trinity Lutheran at (402) 274-4210 with your registration information.





Mark your calendar for Midweek Lenten Dinners & Services, & Holy Week Services:

- ✂ February 10 at 5:30 P.M. – Supper (Chili soup & Potato Cheese soup)
- ✂ February 10 at 7:00 P.M. – ASH WEDNESDAY Service: “Seasons of Needing Forgiveness”
- ✂ February 17 at 5:30 P.M. – Supper (hot ham & cheese)
- ✂ February 17 at 7:00 P.M. Midweek Lent Service: “Seasons of Lifting Up the Lord”
- ✂ February 24 at 5:30 P.M. – Supper (scalloped potatoes & ham)
- ✂ February 24 at 7:00 P.M. Midweek Lent Service: “Seasons of Wondering Who’s In Control”
- ✂ March 2 at 5:30 P.M. – Supper (beef burger, sloppy joe’s & veggie)
- ✂ March 2 at 7:00 P.M. Midweek Lent Service: “Seasons of Seeking God’s Will”
- ✂ March 9 at 5:30 P.M. – Supper (shredded pork)
- ✂ March 9 at 7:00 P.M. Midweek Lent Service: “Seasons of Thanks For Simple Things”
- ✂ March 16 at 5:30 P.M. – Supper (hot beef sandwich)
- ✂ March 16 at 7:00 P.M. Midweek Lent Service: “Seasons of Standing Up To Evil”
- ✂ March 20 – PALM SUNDAY
- ✂ March 24 – Maundy Thursday at 7:00 P.M.
- ✂ March 25 – Good Friday at 7:00 P.M.
- ✂ March 27 – EASTER at 8:00 A.M.

The Lenten sermon series this year is “*The Lord’s Prayer: A Prayer for All Seasons*”. This series was written by Rev. Steven H. Albers, of Kirkwood, Missouri.

The tentative menus for each Wednesday Lenten midweek supper are shown above, as well as hot dogs available for each meal.

We hope you will join us for the meal and fellowship at 5:30 PM on each Lenten Wednesday and that you will stay to feed your soul with God’s Word in worship at 7:00 PM.

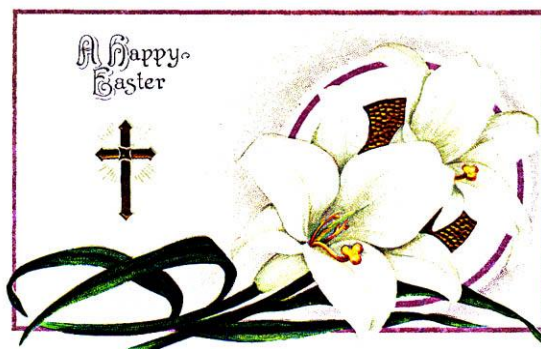


Flowers for Worship

No money was approved in the 2016 budget to purchase flowers for the sanctuary for our worship services. We would still like to have flowers in the sanctuary from time to time. To purchase 2 vases of flowers usually costs \$50-60. We know that’s a lot, so if you would like to help purchase flowers, you can donate any amount at any time. People’s gifts will be combined to purchase flowers as needed. If anyone has flowers that they grow, those are very welcome to be used for bouquets as well! Also, if your donation is in memory of a special occasion (anniversary, birthday, etc.), please provide information to the church office so that it can be printed in the bulletin on the date you’d like. If you have any questions, please see Pat Maddox. Thank you!

Easter Sunday is March 27 at 8:00 AM!

Easter Lilies will be needed for Easter Sunday worship. If you wish to donate any, please watch bulletins for information and pricing. Thank you.





KoHK Friendly Faces

Beginning with Fridays in February, new volunteers will be at Kids of HIS Kingdom Early Childhood Development

Center from 3:30 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. when most parents pick up their children. These volunteers will:

- ✚ Greet/Welcome parents when they arrive to pick up children.
- ✚ Assist with finding children, if needed.
- ✚ Share any reminders/notices, etc. with parents.
- ✚ Remind parents occasionally about the books available in the KoHK resource library.
- ✚ Open doors if needed.

Though these volunteers have passed the same background checks required for KoHK employees, they will not be providing any direct care for the children.

We hope these Friendly Face volunteers will be one more feature of Kids of HIS Kingdom that will be a blessing to our participating families and help build relationships with them.



KoHK Welcomes VOLUNTEERS!

Please contact Allie Graf (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

Thanks to all who have helped the Preschool and Daycare missions of our congregation with gifts of time, talents and financial resources!



Trinity Lutheran Preschool

Of course, Christmas was a *very busy time* at the Preschool!



To the hard work of learning...



was added lots of fun getting ready for the Christmas Program...

All who attended agreed it was a HIT!



"What a friend we have in Jesus... Take it to the Lord in Prayer."



"This little Gospel light of mine, I'm going to let it shine!"



Thank you to everyone who donated funds for the beautiful poinsettias that continued to provide color in the sanctuary throughout January!

The Christmas Bazaar was another wonderful event this year. Many of our neighbors stopped by to purchase special gifts and delicious treats as we all shared the joy of Christmas together! All bazaar proceeds benefit local charities and a seminary student. Thanks to everyone who helped in any way with this year's bazaar!



Corned Beef Feast!



When: Sunday, March 13
4:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Where: Trinity Lutheran
634 Alden Drive, Auburn
Menu: Corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, carrots, onions and, of course, dessert
Cost: Freewill Offering. All proceeds will benefit Kids Of HIS Kingdom Early Childhood Development Center.

Great meal! Great cause!

Watch for Sign-up Sheets!

PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW!