

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>

August 2016 - September 2016
Volume XXXI Number 4

of

LOVE

Pastor's Corner

My daughter Heidi and I went backpacking last week. It was the first time in 25 years. Heidi and I went to the

Bighorn Mountains west of Buffalo, Wyoming. It took us about 3 hours to hike from the trailhead to Lake Helen where we camped for three nights. That lake is located in the Cloud Peak Wilderness Area and sits at an elevation of about 10,000 feet.

From my previous backpacking trips about 25 years ago, I remembered that it was nice to have a walking stick as you hike. My Dad has a nice selection of walking sticks that he let us borrow. A walking stick is helpful in several ways when one is hiking.

First, it helps steady a person as they walk. The trail that we walked on was well traveled. Most of the time, it was a nice dirt trail, but stretches of it were covered with rocks or had exposed tree roots sticking up. Sometimes, because of fatigue, my legs and feet would not lift high enough to clear those things and I would stumble. The 40 pound pack on my back made such stumbling more of a challenge, but my walking stick helped me to stay upright.

Second, I would use my walking stick to check out stones that I was thinking about stepping on when I was crossing streams. I learned the importance of that as I shared in my sermon last Sunday. (If they didn't move after being poked with my stick, they would most likely not shift if I stepped on them.)

Third, I used my walking stick to brace myself when coming down the trail from Lake Helen. Descending the mountain is a challenge mostly because it feels like you are constantly bracing yourself against the pull of gravity against your own body weight and the weight of the pack. The walking stick helps with that—especially when you need to take a bigger step down from a rock onto the trail.

In thinking about the different ways that the walking stick was helpful to me for steadying, checking unsteady rocks, and for bracing oneself, I realized

that God's word is like a walking stick. How? First, the Holy Spirit uses it to steady us when we are tempted. In his letter to the Ephesian Christians, the Apostle Paul talks about the putting on the whole armor of God that we may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. (Ephesians 6:11) One of the pieces of armor that he mentions is "the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." (Ephesians 6:17)

The devil, the world, and our old sinful nature tempt us to think that sinful behavior is okay. When we experience the consequences of our sins, sometimes they tempt us to think that our sins put us out of the reach of God and His forgiveness and love. With the law in His word, the Lord steadies us when we are tempted to think sinful behavior is okay. He uses His word to call us to repentance when we've been going astray. With the Gospel, He steadies, reassures and comforts us with the certainty of His steadfast love for us in and because of Jesus Christ when, in the face of our own sins, we are tempted to doubt that love.

Second, God's word is like a walking stick in that it helps us to evaluate what other people are telling us about God to see whether it conforms to what He has revealed about Himself and His ways. John talks about doing this in his first epistle. "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world." The word "spirit" here is a reference to people who are talking about God. When someone makes a claim about God, we should compare what they say with God's holy word, the Bible. Does it fit or conform with what God says or not? If it does, that's great! If it doesn't, we should reject what they say because it is unsteady and may cause great harm to our faith.

Third, when we are being pulled down by the weight of our guilt or the gravity of grief, the Holy Spirit uses the Gospel like a walking stick to brace us. That's what God uses the good news about Jesus and His death and resurrection to do—to encourage and

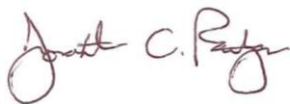
comfort us that in Christ, through repentant faith alone in Him, we are forgiven all of our sins, we are spiritually alive and we have a heavenly home awaiting us. With that good news, the Holy Spirit enables us to continue and grow in denying ourselves, taking up our crosses, and following our living Savior Jesus in faith no matter the difficulties and challenges and potential stumbling blocks that we encounter in this earthly life.

As we begin a new program year, I pray that you and I will grow in making use of God's word certainly on Sunday morning with worship and Bible study, but also in our everyday lives. It would be great to carry your Bible with you wherever you go. I would certainly encourage you to take it along with you as well as a devotional resource such as Portals of Prayer when you go on vacation or when you travel for work.

Because it's not always convenient to do so, I encourage you to commit God's word to memory. Start with the "Verse of the Week". There's one printed each week on the back of the bulletin. You can use the activity sheets to help you prayerfully reflect on the verse as well and apply it to your life. Don't see this as a memory assignment like you experienced in confirmation instruction. See it instead as food that the Holy Spirit uses to feed your faith and keep you following your living, loving Savior no matter the challenges that come your way on the "trail" of this life.

God's continued blessings to you!

In Christ,



Pastor

Colossians 3:16, ESV: *"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God."*



Coming Events:



August 12-14: Lutheran Marriage Encounter



August 21: Rally Day



August 22: First day of Preschool



August 24: Confirmation Orientation



September 19: Voters' Meeting



We will soon be receiving another \$1000 award check from SunMart and the 'Support Our Schools' program. Thank you for all your diligence in saving and turning in those SunMart store receipts! Thank you to Vivian & Jerry Oestmann for processing all those receipts for us!

Please continue saving SunMart receipts to work toward our next \$1000 check – let's see if we can get to our next check in 6-12 months!.

(Also, we have confirmed with our local store that bar codes from "Our Family" products will no longer be redeemed due to the merger with SpartanNash foods.)



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:

Amber Meyer
Judith Ruskamp
Sarah Bogdanoff
Merri Johnson

Superintendent -

Board of Elders:

*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

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}

August 2016-September 2016

ELDERS

August	September
07 – Tim Becker	04 – Eric Bohling
14 – John Ackerman	<i>Labor Day weekend</i>
21– Troy Barker	11 – Dan Buman
<i>Rally Day</i>	18 – Mike Zaruba
28– Tim Becker	25 – John Ackerman

ORGANISTS

PIANISTS

	Vicki Ackerman Merri Johnson Sandy Wilson
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ALTAR CARE

August	September
Charlotte Stelling	Merri Johnson
Linda Schultz	Susan Johnston

ACOLYTES

August	September
07 – Madison Pingel	04 – TBA
14 – Angel Tanderup	<i>Labor Day weekend</i>
21 – Madison Pingel	11 – TBA
28 – Kyra Becker	18 – TBA
	25 – TBA

All BOARDS
Meeting
August 14, 2016
at 10:30 a.m.

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), Dawn Collin, Wes Hardin (husband of Ken Riley's niece), Dominic Herrera (Kim Kieler's great nephew), Donna Hoadley (Merri Johnson's sister), Ida Kuhlmann, Jerry Oestmann, Linda Oestrich (Vicki Ackerman's aunt), Rae Osenbaugh (Merri Johnson's daughter-in-law's mother), Pat Payvandi (family member of Bev & Harold Moyer), Tammy Pinnow (wife of Melissa Buman's cousin), Loyal Rippe, Kellan Schlichtman (Vicki Ackerman's nephew), Deb Sisco (Erin Fisk's mother), Clint Thomas (Tim Becker's uncle), Emily Zech (Pat Collins' daughter), and all others in special need.
- ✚ **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)
- ✚ **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), Sonia Madrideo (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), LaVerta Schultze, Rosanna Tanderup (Rich's sister-in-law), Pam 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).
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- ✚ **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), 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 Gatuoth); 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, Drew Clarke, Danielle Gauchat, Wyatt Gauchat, Tyler Hasselbring, Rachel Hinrichs, Kelsey Jacobsen, MacKenzie Larson, Zachary Larson, Mallory Parrish, Lauren Pelchat, Mason Pelchat, Heidi Rathjen, Micah Rathjen, Scott Riley, Christine Ruskamp, Laura Ruskamp, Cassie Severs, Robyn Tetrick, Tori Tetrick, Hannah Wilson, 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 Vicar Timothy Wells who has been called as the new pastor), 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

Watch for new information in the directory update to be released soon!

ANY CHANGES IN YOUR FAMILY?

Please notify the church office of any change in address or phone number for you or your family members.

Be sure we have your current information!

Thank you!



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!



Confirmation

Another year of Confirmation will begin with Orientation on August 24, 2016. There will be some changes to our confirmation program this year. Letters are being sent to all involved and more details will be coming soon.



KoHK CORNER

New Fun... New 'Faces'

This year we began a new summer program for school-aged children designed to keep the students active over summer with crafts, picnics, the library, and swimming! Our kids enjoyed the variety of activities and the summer flew by quickly for everyone!

We also kicked off our new "Friendly Faces" program. The program's main goal is to develop friendly, caring relationships with KoHK parents and families with the prayer that these families will have increasing contact with God's word through KoHK and the Trinity congregation. Volunteers from Trinity Lutheran Church greet the parents each Wednesday from 3:30-4:30 p.m. as they come to pick up their children. Keep our volunteers in your prayers:



Judith Ruskamp, Lori Parrish, Jane Spear, Susan Johnston, and Led Dirksen

Space at KoHK is limited! If interested in enrolling your child, please contact Director Allie Graf at (402) 274-1424 or at kohkdaycare@gmail.com.

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 Scene of a Construction Party!

Members of the Trinity congregation came together to renovate the playground area at KoHK. This hardworking group cleaned up the remnants of the shredded rubber material and put down fresh new wood chips, a much more play-friendly ground surface. They also built new fencing to expand the playground, and spruced up a picnic table with fresh paint. Special thanks to all who participated, and to those who brought power tools, construction equipment and materials.

The new area was completed just in time to accommodate new playground toys donated by the congregation! Director Allie Graf says the kids are loving the new toys and the new play area and are excited every day to get outside! Thank you Trinity!



Les Dirksen, Jim Parrish and Pat Collins work to clean up the edges. Eric Bohling uses his tractor and loader to prepare the area for the new wood chips.



Rochelle Collins and Erin Fisk are the painters while Samuel Ackerman helps to evenly distribute the new wood chips.

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

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

Our Preschool anticipates a booming start to this coming year, with 20 children registered to begin the year. Praise God from Whom all blessings flow! The hard work of our staff will assure another year of joyous learning to get ready for kindergarten, and more importantly learning about Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

We will be welcoming a new Assistant Teacher at Preschool this year, Heather Schultz. We're happy to have you with us, Heather! Heather has already been working at Kids of HIS Kingdom daycare and has previous experience working with daycare children.

Welcome, Augers!

On June 26 we were happy to welcome Rev. Ed and Deaconess Cherie Auger. Pastor Auger preached during worship. He and Cherie talked with the children during Sunday School opening and then gave a presentation to the adults and youth about recent developments in the Lord's work in Honduras and Nicaragua. The morning was topped off with a congregational potluck. Please continue to pray for the Augers.



National Youth Gathering *In Christ Alone*

Our youth worked hard to raise the funds to attend 2016's National Youth Gathering in New Orleans. They sold pies, pastries and kitchen knives. El Portal and Pizza Hut hosted fundraisers. Easter breakfast and Father's Day treats as well as a full pancake breakfast raised donations. There was also a bake sale and car wash! Over \$4,000 was collected for the trip.

Those going to the Gathering also participated in a number of Bible studies to get them ready for what they would experience. Our prayers went with the participants: Amelia & Zachary Becker, Rachel Bohling, Hannah & Micah Rathjen, Elaina Riley and Kassidy Zaruba. And our gratitude to the adults accompanying them: Stacy Zaruba, Angie & Tim Becker, and Lisa Rathjen. Praise God from Whom all blessings flow for keeping them all safe!

They will be giving a presentation about the Gathering in the coming weeks. Please watch for details.





Baptism

Cooper Rodney Crotty was baptized during worship on Sunday, June 26th! Cooper is the son of Brett and Emily Crotty, and the little brother of Ava.



We welcome Cooper as a baptized member of Trinity Lutheran and pray that the Holy Spirit will bless him with growing faith in Jesus as Savior so that he follows Him in faith all the days of his life.

Cooper also was the first Trinity Lutheran Church recipient of a Faith Box. The Faith Box is to serve as place to keep baptismal and confirmation certificates as well as resources used to help the child grow in faith in the Triune God - - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - - during their childhood.



ICE CREAM SOCIAL

The ice cream social in June was a very much appreciated treat on a hot summer evening! Generous donations for homemade ice cream, pies and cakes collect just over \$700 toward the LLL Student Scholarship Fund. We are grateful for the opportunity to gather in fellowship together and with our neighbors in the community.



Dennis Wittmann, Marlene and Wayne Dietrich, and Rich Tanderup (Tim Becker and Gray Maddox, not pictured) gathered Saturday morning to make the ice cream.

Sunday afternoon there was more teamwork to get everything ready for serving...



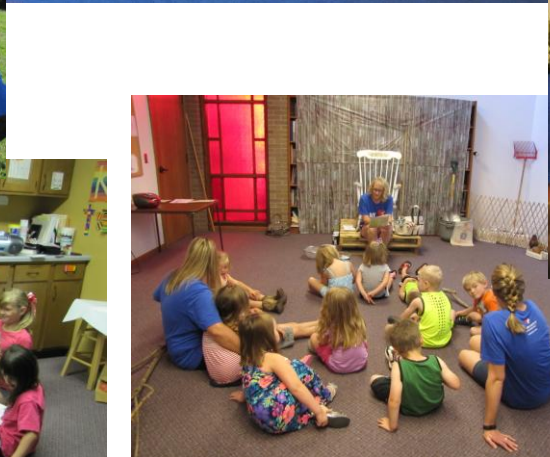
Susie Williams, Sondra Benjamin and Marlene Dietrich cutting pies and cakes.



Rich Tanderup and Gary Maddox are ready to dish-up!

Barnyard Roundup VBS, June 6 – 10 was a week of incredible activity!!

This year's theme of "Barnyard Roundup" was one that even our smallest participants could relate to and plug-in to. We had about 35 students here each day. A list of 31 individuals who helped in some way was printed in our June 12 worship bulletin, but it seems everyone at Trinity had a hand in the success... either working with the children, preparing materials and food, setting up or cleaning up, or praying for those conducting the activities. We simply say thank you to Trinity congregation for your continued support of our little ones! We give a special thank you to our Directors: Chantelle Wilke and Amber Meyer – job well done!



PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW!

