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FEBURARY 2015

PASTOR ANTHONY'S RIPPLES

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

A couple years ago when our older son was about 6 months old, Stephanie and I began saying the Lord's Prayer as part of his night time ritual. We began doing this because anytime is a good time to pray the Lord's Prayer, and we also did this in order to begin teaching him how to pray our Lord's Prayer. Our son is now 2 ½ years old and he is beginning to recognize that when he hears: "Our Father, who art in heaven..." that he is to fold his hands and pray. This makes me so proud as a parent and as a pastor. But a couple of months ago I realized that at my son's bedtime, I was saying the Lord's Prayer but I wasn't praying the Lord's Prayer. Has that ever happened to you? Have you ever simply said the Lord's Prayer because it is a routine or a habit for you, but you weren't actually focusing on the words that were coming out of your mouth? I'm going to guess for most of us the answer is yes. When things like the Lord's Prayer are recited so frequently (every worship service), it gets committed to our memory (which is a good thing), but then we also begin saying the prayer without even thinking about what it is that we are saying.

"...a couple of months ago I realized that at my son's bedtime, I was saying the Lord's Prayer but I wasn't praying the Lord's Prayer."

Beginning in February, we are going to change that. Starting on Ash Wednesday (February 18th), we are going to begin our focus during Lent on the Lord's Prayer. This prayer that Jesus taught his disciples is only 70 words long, but most of us are saying the 70 words in the Lord's Prayer, not praying those 70 words to God. Each week during our

Mid-week Lenten Eve worship service (including Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday), we will focus on a small portion of our very well-known Lord's Prayer. By focusing on a small phrase of the prayer, I hope that this will help all of us (including myself) gain a better understanding of the words that routinely come out of our mouths when we begin saying "Our Father, who art in heaven..."

As we begin the 40 days of Lent, may we turn our focus to our own prayer life and how Jesus would like us to pray. During Lent we will not sing or say Alleluia, but rather focus on our sin and how we have fallen short of God's glory. We have all made mistakes and have turned our focus away from God from time to time (including saying, but not praying the Lord's Prayer). Let's come before God this Lent confessing our sins and praying for God's merciful forgiveness.

In Christ,

Pastor Anthony

PASTOR ERIC'S RIPPLES

The early followers of Jesus spent much time in the temple...praising God. (Acts 2:46-47)

This means that one of the things they were doing was praying. We have talked about sharing, rejoicing and fellowshiping, now we want to look at prayer.

God really wants us to pray. It is how we maintain a close relationship with God. And so a lot of our worship is prayer. And so we pray around our meals. And so we pray when we need help, and for our family and friends. And so we pray in the morning and we pray in the evening. James writes, "Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them..." (James 5:13-14)

When my dad was getting quite weak from cancer people would come by and visit him. One time one of them was going to pray for him and he told my dad to sit down so he would not get too tired. My dad told him he was going to stay standing and that his friend should remember that God hears short prayers just as good as long ones. This reminds me of what Jesus said right before he taught the disciples how to pray, "When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him" (Matthew 6:7-8)

So we don't need to pray long prayers listing all our needs and requests. On the other hand, Jesus would sometimes go off by himself to pray for hours at a time. "One of those days Jesus went out to a mountain to pray, and spent the night praying to God." (Luke 6:12) What sort of prayers was Jesus praying? Talking to God, thinking about God, listening to God, daydreaming? Probably all of these things. And, what it did was refresh him, strengthen him, guide him and motivate him. Our lives can be so full, and busy and complicated with so many distractions and commitments how can we possibly spend much time in prayer or even focus or concentrate for very long? And yet, if we don't, how can we order and prioritize the complexity. How do we get refreshed and motivated? And where do we get guidance and strength?

Lately for my daily prayer time it has been helpful to focus in five areas: 1...confession. 2...people. 3...praise/thanks. 4...church/world. 5...listening in silence, picturing God in my mind, waiting for a word. Each day is different in terms of which subject takes up more of the time, and which subject I start with and end with. And yes, some days (many days) I forget and most days I don't even make it to the end, but like I used to say to my kids, don't be like me.

Pastor Eric



Wednesday, February 4th 5:30 – 7:30 pm
Korte's Bar and Grill in Welcome
319 Dugan St S. (on the south side of Welcome, by the ball fields)

February Worship Schedule

Sunday Worship Services

Date	St. Peter – 8:30 am	Trinity – 10:30 am	Waverly – 10:30 am
February 1 – Communion <i>Altar Color: Green</i>	Pr. Anthony	Pr. Eric	Pr. Anthony <i>Potluck Meal following Worship</i>
February 8 <i>Altar Color: Green</i>	Pr. Anthony	Pr. Anthony	TBA <i>Pr. Eric at continuing education course</i>
February 15 <i>Altar Color: White</i>	Pr. Eric	Pr. Eric	Pr. Anthony
February 22 - Communion <i>Altar Color: Purple</i>	Pr. Eric	Pr. Anthony	Pr. Eric

Special Worship Services

Date	St. Peter	Trinity	Waverly
Wednesday, February 18 <i>Ash Wednesday w/Holy Communion Altar Color: Purple</i>	<i>Joint Worship at Waverly</i>	<i>Joint Worship at Waverly</i>	Worship @ 7:00 pm <i>Pr. Anthony preaching</i>
Wednesday, February 25 <i>Lenten-Eve Altar Color: Purple</i>	Worship @ 7:00 pm <i>Pr. Anthony preaching</i>	<i>Joint Worship at St. Peter</i>	<i>Joint Worship at St. Peter</i>

WINE, WOMEN & the WORD

Tuesday, February 17th 6:00 – 8:00 pm
 At MaryAnn Debus' house—22 Circle Drive, Welcome Hwy 263 N in Welcome, Turn West at Guide St, go straight and its the first house on your right. Grey color.

SHROVE “SUNDAY” (Mardi Gras)

Sunday, February 15th

In celebration and preparation for the upcoming Lenten season, we will be having a pancake breakfast before/after worship at all three Circle of Faith congregations. Traditionally the day before Ash Wednesday (the beginning of Lent), Christians would feast and enjoy pancakes or other rich, fattier foods. This day before Lent has a few different names, including “Shrove Tuesday”, “Pancake Day”, and “Mardi Gras”. This year we will be holding this celebration 2 days prior!

At St. Peter

8:30 am – Worship w/burying the Alleluia
 9:30 am – Pancake Breakfast and burning of last year's Palm branches

At Trinity and Waverly

9:15 am – Pancake Breakfast and burning of last year's Palm branches
 10:30 am – Worship w/burying the Alleluia



****Remember to bring your Palm branches from Palm Sunday last year. We will burn them to make the Ashes for the upcoming Ash Wednesday Worship Service.**

Mid-week Lenten Eve Worship Series

The Lord's Prayer is one of the most widely known prayers in the world, and yet do you know what you are praying for when you open your mouth to say: "Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name..." For many of us we no longer think about the words in this prayer – we just say them out of habit. During the 40 days of Lent this year we will be studying and learning about each line of the Lord's Prayer. You are invited to join us for our mid-week worship services where we will focus on a particular line of the Lord's Prayer each week.



Ash Wednesday, February 18th – *Our Father who are in heaven. Hallowed be thy name.*

Wednesday, February 25th – *Thy kingdom come.*

Wednesday, March 4th – *Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*

Wednesday, March 11th – *Give us this day our daily bread.*

Wednesday, March 18th – *And forgive us our trespasses...who trespass against us.*

Wednesday, March 25th – *And lead us not into temptation. But deliver us from evil.*

Maundy Thursday, April 2nd – *For thine is the kingdom...forever and ever. Amen.*

Lenten Eve Schedule (excluding Ash Wednesday & Maundy Thursday)

5:30 pm – 6:45 pm Supper

6:30 pm – 6:55 pm WOW (Pre-K thru 6th Grade Bible Time)

7:00 pm – 7:45 pm Holden Evening Prayer Worship

Evening Meals during Lent

We will again have a meal before the Mid-week Lenten Eve Worship services. This year all Lent Worship services (excluding Sunday services) will be joint services, rotating throughout the parish. Below is the schedule and assigned host congregations.

Ash Wednesday, February 18th – Waverly (no evening meal)

Wednesday, February 25th – St. Peter

Wednesday, March 4th – Trinity

Wednesday, March 11th – Waverly

Wednesday, March 18th – St. Peter

Wednesday, March 25th – Trinity

Maundy Thursday, April 2nd – St. Peter (no evening meal)

Good Friday, April 3rd – Waverly (no evening meal)

Easter Vigil, April 4th – Trinity (no evening meal)

FAMILY CONFIRMATION OUTING

Wednesday, February 11th

5:30 pm Supper at Pizza Ranch, Fairmont - 6:30 pm Bingo with Goldfinch Residents



For our February Family Confirmation Night, we will be traveling to Fairmont to play BINGO with the residents at Goldfinch. We will begin at 6:30 pm in the main dining room at Goldfinch. We will conclude no later than 8:00 pm. For those who are interested we will meet at Pizza Ranch to eat beforehand. Please let Pastor Anthony or Pastor Eric know if you need a ride. At least one parent is still expected to attend with your student.

WEATHER CANCELLATION POLICY CIRCLE OF FAITH



While we believe in the importance of regular worship and bible study, we also value the lives of our brothers and sisters in Christ. Therefore, the following policy is in place for all of the Circle of Faith Parish congregations when the weather deems it necessary to cancel or postpone events at any of our churches.

In the event of severe weather conditions or other emergency conditions, the Lead Pastor will make any final decision on closing the parish office, canceling or postponing events. For situations that effect a weekday and the status of the parish office, the Lead Pastor will contact all Circle of Faith Parish pastors and employees. A decision will be made based on the current and future forecasted weather conditions.

For weekday events:

A decision regarding morning activities will be made no later than 7:00 am.

A decision regarding afternoon activities will be made no later than 10:00 am.

A decision regarding evening activities will be made no later than 3:00 pm.

For Sunday Worship:

A decision will be made no later than 6:00 am.

To make an educated decision regarding Sunday morning worship, the Lead Pastor will consult with all Circle of Faith Parish pastors as well as each church council president. Each council president is encouraged to contact at least two (2) members of their council (preferably ones who live in different areas of the parish) in order to get a fairly clear picture of the road conditions. Each council president will report to the Lead Pastor along with their recommendation on the status of the worship services. The Lead Pastor makes the final decision. In the event that the Lead Pastor is on vacation or the position is vacant, the Associate Pastor and the Parish Council President will jointly make the final decision. If one of the Circle of Faith Parish congregations cancel, all worship services in the parish are cancelled.

If it is deemed necessary to postpone or cancel a(n) event(s) at Circle of Faith Parish, the following methods of communication will be utilized:

Radio

1370 AM – KSUM (Fairmont)

98.1 FM & 1560 AM – KBEW (Blue Earth)

1190 AM – KKOJ (Jackson)

Facebook – Circle of Faith Parish's page

Website – www.circleoffaithparish.org

Waverly Lutheran & St. Peter Lutheran phone tree

Due to the unpredictability of the weather, the procedure for making decisions is subject to change. Sometimes a situation will make it necessary to close, cancel or postpone events without advanced warning.

Even if a church related event is still taking place, please be smart and make your own decision to be safe.

Please talk to a Parish Council Member or a Pastor if you have any questions, suggestions or concerns about Circle of Faith's Weather Cancellation Policy.

Circle of Faith
Parish Council Meeting Minutes
December 18, 2014

Meeting was called to order at Legends in Ceylon, at 8:13 pm by President Steve Williamson. Other members present: Marilyn Cheever, Jody Franck, Jon Helvig, Joel Rabbe, Kirsten Rabbe, Jon, Saxen. Staff present: Pastor Anthony Christoffels, Pr. Eric Midthun.

Kirsten Rabbe presented the Secretary's report for the November 17, 2014 Parish Council meeting. Motion by Jody Franck, seconded by Jon Helvig, to approve the Secretary's report as presented. Motion passed.

Joel Rabbe will email the November 2014 Operating Statement to the Parish Council. Motion by Jon Saxen, seconded by Marilyn Cheever, to approve the Treasurer's report, subject to review. Motion passed. Email any questions to Joe.

PASTORS' REPORTS

Pastor Anthony Christoffels

. Pr. Anthony will be on vacation from 12/25/14 – 1/1/15. Carl will preside at Trinity on 12/28/14. Next, Pr. Anthony "put our carrots on the table." Literally! Thanks, Marilyn, for our favorite saying.

OLD BUSINESS

Insurance update

Jon Helvig reported that the information is in the hands of the "interpreter." He will report back when he gets the information.

NEW BUSINESS

Pastoral Designated Housing Allowance

Motion by Jon Saxen, seconded by Jon Helvig to approve the 2015 Pastoral Designated Housing Allowance as presented. This amount is strictly each pastor's individual choice, but needs to be recorded in the minutes in the form of a motion. Motion passed.

Medical Expense Reimbursement Plan

Pr. Anthony explained the IRS's change of heart in medical insurance reimbursement. The interpretation of the Affordable Care Act changed, and we were not notified of the change until fall, 2014. This change resulted in an additional expense of \$460 for Pr. Anthony, based on Circle of Faith's contribution to his health insurance. Note: Jon Saxen has requested that we keep on file in the office a denial of medical insurance. Pr. Anthony will provide that. Motion by Jon Helvig, seconded by Kirsten Rabbe to reimburse Pr. Anthony for the 2014 additional tax liability. Motion passed.

Motion by Jon Saxen, seconded by Jon Helvig, to approve the 2015 Medical Expense Reimbursement Plan for Circle of Faith Parish. Note: the Parish Council will have to do this every year in December. Pr. Anthony is currently our only full time employee, so this currently only affects him. Motion passed.

Candidate update – Changes in Parish Council

2015 candidates for Parish Council will be Karen Helvig from Waverly, and Deb Phillip from Trinity. Both congregational councils have approved these candidates, and they will be voted on at their congregations' annual meetings. St. Peter is still working on a candidate.

Thank you to Jon Helvig & Joe Rabbe, Liz Stahl, and their families, for the time dedicated to Circle of Faith for the past five years!

Steve thanked the Council – and wished everyone a Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year.

The next Circle of Faith Parish Council regular meeting will be January 13, 2014, 6:00 pm, at Trinity in Welcome. Motion by Joel Rabbe, seconded by Jon Saxen, to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 pm. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Kirsten Rabbe
Secretary

Meeting was called to order at Trinity Lutheran at 6:05 pm by President Steve Williamson. Other members present: Merle Burmeister, Marilyn Cheever, Jody Franck, Jon Helvig, Joel Rabbe, Kirsten Rabbe, Jon Saxen, Liz Stahl. Staff present: Pastor Anthony Christoffels, Pr. Eric Midthun. Steve introduced Deb Phillip, Trinity's incoming Parish Council member.

Agenda: Pr. Anthony added one agenda item. Motion by Jon Helvig, seconded by Merle Burmeister, to approve agenda with one additional discussion item added by Pr. Anthony. Motion passed.

Pr. Anthony presented devotions based on Acts 2:41-47. Definition of fellowship: association amongst those who share an interest. What we all have in common is Jesus. It is because of Jesus that we are here. Our service here is because of this one common interest, as are our weekly worship services.

Kirsten Rabbe presented the Secretary's report for the December 18, 2014 Parish Council meeting. Corrections made: remove Merle Burmeister from attendees list, change adjournment time to 9:00 pm. Motion by Jon Saxen, seconded by Jody Franck, to approve the Secretary's report as corrected. Motion passed.

Joel Rabbe presented the December 2014 Operating Statement to the Parish Council. Motion by Jody Franck, seconded by Liz Stahl, to approve the Treasurer's report as presented. Motion passed.

PASTORS' REPORTS

Pastor Anthony's report

Pr. Eric will be at Continuing Ed in February for a week, including Sunday, February 8, 2015. We will need pulpit supply at Waverly for that Sunday. The parish council will explore pulpit supply options.

PRESENTATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PARISH

Joe presented the 2014 Operating Statement and 2014 Budget vs. Actual for Circle of Faith Parish. Joe also presented the 2015 Proposed Budget, recapped by category. Jon Saxen presented the Annual Audit of the Accounts for the Finance Committee. Jon reviewed all the reconciliations since February of 2013, and ran calculations of Bank Statements reconciliations. Up until now, voided checks were destroyed. In the future, Jon will ask the Parish Administrators to keep voided checks for the year, destroy them only after the audit. Motion by Marilyn Cheever, seconded by Jon Helvig to approve the audit as presented. Motion passed.

We watched Circle of Faith Parish 2014 Year in Review.

OLD BUSINESS

Insurance update

Jon Helvig presented the insurance update. Current vulnerabilities: COF has no liability coverage at all. Only coverage is through the individual congregations. Pastors are employed by Circle of Faith, which in turn contracts them to the congregations. Example of a potential issue: if one of our pastors went to the school to offer a prayer, and was hurt, we have no coverage. We also have no directors and officers coverage, and no sexual misconduct coverage. It would add \$500-1000 to the year to the Parish budget to add this coverage. Even though each congregation has listed Circle of Faith as an additional insured, it still doesn't completely cover our liability. Also, currently each congregation has it's own work comp policy. Maybe in the future, COF could offer one work comp policy, covering all the employees of COF and each congregation (pastors, parish administrators, custodians and organists) which could save each congregation money each year. Question: Would this policy cover our bulletin runners? Answer: These people are actually getting things for each congregation, so would be covered under the congregation's insurance. Discussion on exploring, at some point in the future, a joint policy covering all three congregations. Current issue: Circle of Faith Parish needs coverage. Joe suggested adopting one of the policies that that Jon brought as an example for the time being. Then the congregations can evaluate whether they would like to explore any additional coverage or a joint policy in the future. Would need to send it out for bids, which would require someone putting together a bid package. Blanket policy. Motion by Joel Rabbe, seconded by Jody Franck to accept option #2, including sexual misconduct/ molestation coverage for Circle of Faith Parish. This policy can be re-evaluated down the road, and changed at any time, but for the time being, we would be covered. Steve asked Jon Helvig to help the congregations put together a bid package, and be a liaison to the congregations as we evaluate insurance coverage for the future. May or may not be feasible to change congregational insurance policies, just an exploratory process. Congregations suggested contact Roger Rezac at St. Peter, and Bocky Borchardt at Trinity to discuss. The insurance bid would be itemized by location. A joint policy could a) avoid disputes among the various insurance companies in case of a claim, b) provide a joint deductible, and c) may cost less overall. However, there are equally persuasive arguments against a joint policy. Jon Helvig agreed to work with the congregations to assess options. Motion passed. Jon will get this insurance policy bound for Circle of Faith, and Jon Saxen will be the new contact person for that policy in the future.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Parish Calendar and Synod Events

Motion by Kirsten Rabbe, seconded by Jody Franck to add the Southwestern Minnesota Synod Assembly dates for 2015 & 2016 to the parish calendar. Their dates are June 12-14, 2015, and June 11-13, 2016. Motion passed.

Lenten Schedule – Wednesday evening Lenten services will rotate among the congregations, with a meal before each service. 5:30 pm meal, 6:00-6:45 learning time, 7:00 worship. Pr. Eric & Pr. Anthony may offer an adult bible study from 6-6:45, this option still being explored. WOW (Worship on Wednesdays) will be “on the move”, rotating between the churches with the Lenten services with a 6:00 or 6:15-6:45 pm learning time for the children.

Discussion on Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday services. After exploring options, the council recommended having joint services on for these two days at 7:00 pm. As with our Lenten services, the pastors will rotate them among our congregations each year. This will move First Communion for our young people from Maundy Thursday to Palm Sunday. Good Friday will be a joint service. This year, Circle of Faith and Partners in Ministry (Trimont) will offer a joint Easter Vigil worship service on Saturday evening at Trinity in Welcome.

Easter Sunday schedule: Trinity – 7:00 a.m., breakfast follows. Ceylon 8:30 a.m., Waverly at 10:30 a.m.

SWMN ELCA Bishop's meeting of all Area Parishes together will be Tuesday, January 27th at Synod office in Redwood Falls. Let Pr. Anthony know if you can attend.

Equipping Congregations will be held on Saturday, February 28th 8:30-3:30 pm, in Willmar. \$150 for the entire parish. As anyone who has ever attended will tell you, this is an amazing event, that both empowers and informs. Anyone interested in attending, please contact Pr. Anthony.

Parish Council Orientation/February Meeting

Pr. Anthony explained that Circle of Faith will hold an orientation for all Parish Council members at our February meeting. This will be to help define and differentiate parish vs. congregational responsibilities, and will be part of February meeting. Meeting will start at 6 pm, and because the meeting will be longer than usual, there will be no church council meetings that night. All Parish Council members, and Congregational Presidents will be included in this meeting. (Late note: supper will be served at this meeting.)

Proposed Parish Council Monthly Work Plan

Kirsten presented the proposed Parish Council monthly work plan. This places the requirements of the Parish Agreement into a calendar oriented format, listing items to be prepared and those to be presented each month.

Proposed Technology Fund

Pr. Anthony noted that we have a lot of technology that we run in our office. Things need to be replaced every few years. Pr. Anthony proposed that we set up a separate fund for the technology upgrades as they are needed. After some discussion, it was decided the incoming Parish Council will address this need. Steve and Pastor will review this, and make a recommendation to the council next month.

Discussion – Committee Assignments and Officers for 2015.

Decided that current officers will hold their responsibilities until the February meeting, when new officers will be elected from the Parish Council. This sets a precedence for each year to come.

Discussion item – same sex marriage.

As there are differing views on this concept in each of the three congregations, and sometimes differing views within a single congregation, we discussed how each congregation could make their own decision on this issue, and still respect the ability of the other congregations to make a different decision. Emphasis was placed on avoiding a split in the parish, or in one congregation, based on this issue. We recognize the strong feelings on both sides of this issue. We also recognize that while Circle of Faith congregations may share some things, each congregation is still autonomous, and free to make their own decision on this matter. We need to respect the differences in our congregations, and allow ourselves to learn from each other. President Steve commended the Council on the high level of discourse, and the professional manner in which the discussion was held.

On behalf of Circle of Faith Parish, President Steve thanked Jon Helvig, Joe Rabbe, and Liz Stahl for the time they have dedicated to Circle of Faith for the past five years! In August 2010 this journey began. There have been at least 60 meetings that all members have attended. Steve thanked them for their contributions, insight, and dedication. “You set a great example.” The council concurred.

The next Circle of Faith Parish Council meeting will be February 10, 2014, 6:00 pm, at Trinity in Welcome. This meeting will include orientation for the Parish Council, and there will be no Congregational Council meetings that evening. Motion by Jon Helvig, seconded by Jon Saxen, to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 pm. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Kirsten Rabbe
Secretary

February 2015

Seminarian's Letter Home

To the membership of Circle of Faith Parish:

Greetings to you all from Evanston, IL! Seems like we're back in familiar territory, doesn't it? On February 18, we come back to the place from which we try to flee, and to which we always must return – Ash Wednesday, the forty days we call Lent. Try though we may to escape this journey into the wilderness with Christ, we can't get away from it. And it always starts with those haunting, scary words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." So much for our sharing, our rejoicing, and our fellowship now, if all we have left is to turn to dust and ashes.

Ancient Christians knew the power of ashes well, and often used them as a sign of penitence, as we do today. But they had another symbol that went with it. On many early Christian graves, you can see carvings of a mythical bird called the phoenix. According to legend, this bird, when its time came to die, would build a nest of cinnamon twigs, which it would then set on fire. From the ashes, in time, a new phoenix – a beautiful bird with spectacular red and gold feathers - would be born. One early writer named Clement of Rome said that the phoenix was put on tombs to claim our hope of resurrection. After all, he says, if a *bird* can live again after dying so utter a death, then why can't we, through the grace of God?

On the night before Easter, be sure to come when Circle of Faith and Partners in Ministry celebrate together, for the first time for many of us, the liturgy we call the Easter Vigil. On that night, what begins on Ash Wednesday ends in a powerful opposite. What begins in ashes will end in new flame. What begins in desert and fasting will end in a generous splash of baptismal water, and a feast of everlasting life. What begins in silence will end in alleluia. What starts in the cold and dark of winter will find its end in the bloom of spring. You won't want to miss something that wonderful. Until then, we face Ash Wednesday and our first steps into Lent with hope. To dust and ashes we shall return and from them, by the mercy of God, we shall, like the phoenix, rise again one day.

Walking with Christ into the Lenten desert, we pray for God's blessing, using these words:

Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all, that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen. [ELW, Ash Wednesday]

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Your fellow member and pilgrim,
Carl P. Rabbe, M.Div.

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Trinity Lutheran www.facebook.com/trinitylutheranwelcome
Waverly Lutheran www.facebook.com/waverlylutheran

ST. PETER RIPPLES



November 23, 2014

Meeting was called to order by President, Jody Franck. Attending were Angie Schmidt, Keith Franck, Jeannine Rasmussen and Pastor Eric.

Secretary's Report was reviewed. Motion was made by Keith Franck to approve the Secretary's report, seconded by Angie Schmidt. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report was reviewed. Motion made by Angie Schmidt to approve the Treasurer's report, seconded by Keith Franck. Motion passed.

Benevolence Report was read and approved.

Old Business:

- *Jeremy took care of getting the down spouts replaced and caulking up the back door.
- *The new Bibles are here.
- *Nominating committee is still working on finding replacements for the council.
- *Still looking for replacements for Marilyn and myself (Jody) on the parish council.
- *Fixed the furnace in the entryway of the church.

New Business:

- *Taking down Christmas decorations on Saturday the 29th at 9:30.
- *Motion was made by Keith Franck to have Angie Schmidt take over as Sunday school Superintendent, seconded by Jeannine Rasmussen. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Jody Franck, Pres.



January 15, 2015

Meeting called to order. Members present were Jody Franck, Keith Franck, Dale Leiding, Jeremy Wink, Roger Rezac and Lois Duncan.

Secretary's Report submitted by Jody Franck was read and approved for November 2014.

Treasurer's Report was read and approved.

Benevolence Treasurer's Report—none.

Pastor's Report—none

New Business:

- *Council went over budgets from both the Parish Council budget and St. Peter's budget. Jody wanted the council to see the budgets before the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 18th.
- *It was brought up that the septic tank was probably going to have to be dug up to fix the bathrooms problems. Also the roof and bell tower problems were never fixed. It was decided to get professional bids to fix them. The septic tank and roof and bell tower were tabled for a future council meeting. These two projects were not included in the 2015 Budget.

No other business the meeting was adjourned.

Council Secretary, Lois Duncan

St. Peter Lutheran Church Annual Meeting Minutes—January 18th, 2015

Meeting called to order by Pastor Anthony following Sunday Worship followed by devotions and prayer.

Secretary's Report—Gave chance to read through. Motion was made and seconded to accept 2014 Annual Meeting Minutes.

Treasurer's Report—Reviewed and Motion made and seconded to accept the 2014 Treasurer's report. Also reviewed was the 2015 Budget for St. Peter Lutheran Church. Took time for questions and explanations. Motion was made and seconded to accept the budget. Also reviewed was the budget for the Circle of Faith Parish.

Benevolence Treasurer's Report—Reviewed and motion was made and seconded to accept report. Balance on hand is \$651.63 as of December 31, 2014.

Pastor's Report—Pastor Anthony updated us on upcoming events and the fact that there will be no Bible Study this year. He also stated the Kristin Rabbe put together a video of the year in review. He also stated the reason there was an increase in the pastor's salary and about health insurance etc.

Nominating Committee Report—The following positions have been accepted for the next year. Benevolence Treasurer (1 Year Term) - Kathy Bremer, Deacon (3 Year Term) - Keith Franck, Trustee (3 Year Term) - Dean Koehler, Secretary (1 Year Term) - Linda Bakke. No one was appointed to the Parish Council Member which was a 2 year term.

Old Business—

New Business—The Parish Agreement needs to be undated to include some new items. Also there was discussion on forming a committee to update the Constitution which is very outdated. The council size also might need to be changed. Jody Franck and Pastor Anthony will start going through and see what changes need to be made. We need two delegates to send to the Synod Assembly at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter in June. The 12-14 specifically. There will be an election for Bishop at that time. We could also send 6 delegates to go to St. James for the conference Assembly on Sunday, February 8th.

At this time the video was going to be shared but it didn't work out so the Annual Meeting was adjourned.



February meeting: Feb. 4th at 1:30 pm.

Hostesses: Sherry Schmidt and Rosemary Saggau

Bible Study: In our January study, we reflected on what it means to turn our hearts back to God to receive forgiveness and learning to forgive others. In this session we consider the role of God's word and whether conversion is real and lasting.

Quilting as gotten off to a good start. As of the first 2 days we have 28 made with 2 more days left in January. Our work days for February are the 11th & 12th and the 25th & 26th.

We will do cookie plates for the shut-ins at the next meeting.

Muriel reports our treasury balance at \$974.00. We voted to donate \$100.00 to the "Kids Against Hunger" campaign.

February Altar Care: Jeannine

Next work detail: Group I

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me."
Love, Jeannine

Sunday	Ushers
February 1	Jeff Petschke and Larry R Schmidt
8	Darrell and Muriel Klentz
15	LeRoy and Janice Franck
22	Tom and Rose Hovick
March 1	Bob Nelson and Larry W Schmidt

TRINITY RIPPLES



Trinity Lutheran Church — January 13, 2015

Meeting called to order at 7:50 pm by President Henry Borchardt. Opening devotions were by Pastor Eric. Members present: President Henry Borchardt, Pastor Anthony, Pastor Eric, Jean Schock, Eileen Morrow, Mary Ann Frerichs, Jon Saxen, Velma Schaal, Larry Phillip, and Liz Stahl.

Pastor's Report: There are two upcoming meetings scheduled. An Equipping Congregations for Today meeting will be held Saturday February 28th from 8:30 until 3:30 in Willmar for anyone interested in attending. The cost is \$150 per parish. Please let Pastor Anthony know if you would like to attend. The next one for the Pastor is a Bishop's Gathering for multipoint parishes on Tuesday January 27th from 9:30 until noon at the Synod Office in Redwood Falls.

Secretary's Report: Jon moved to accept the report. Velma Schaal seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Jean Schock moved to accept the report. Liz Stahl seconded. Motion carried.

Financial Secretary Report: Mary Ann Frerichs moved to accept the report. Jon Saxen seconded. Motion carried.

Youth & Board of Ed: WOW will be held prior to Lenten Services. More details will follow.

Deacon's Report: none

Trustee's report: The work on the handicapped bathroom will be addressed in the spring.

Old Business:

-A motion was made by Jean Schock and seconded by Eileen Morrow to approve Deb Philipp to be our Parish Council member.

-Discussion was held on Usher duties and responsibilities. There will be a job duty sheet made up and given to the ushers as well as a laminated one to be available for reference. Henry is working on creating the list.

New Business:

-Discussion was held on Church Policies.

-The next council meeting will be changed due to the Circle of Faith Parish's extended meeting on that same evening.

We will hold a joint Council Meeting/Council Orientation on Monday February 16th at 6:30 pm. All council members are urged to attend this meeting since there were many changes made in the council structure.

-Minor changes will be made to the Lenten services. This year Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services and all weekly Lenten services will be held jointly through all 3 churches, starting at 7 pm. The schedule is being worked on. This year we will also have a joint Easter Vigil Service at our church on April 4th starting at 6:30. Joining us for this service will also be Pastor Stephanie's churches from Trimont. Easter Sunday services will be held for our church at 7 am.

Jon Saxen moved to adjourn, Velma Schaal seconded. Motion carried.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Eileen Morrow, Secretary



Wyatt Elmer Harder was baptized on January 18th. His parents are Amy Feely and Chad Harder. His sponsors are Tayler Hagen, Gage Eggstein, Ryan and Amanda Feely.

Kollyns Yvonne Gerhardt was baptized on January 25th. Her parents are Leah Ehlert and Zac Gerhardt. Her sponsors are Andy Gerhardt, Zac Ehlert, Tim and Renee Newville.

We welcome them into God's family and into our church family.



A couple members at Trinity are interested in starting up a choir for the upcoming Lenten Season. If interested please talk to Marilyn or Pastor Anthony.

Open House Birthday Celebration for
Loren Schultz
90 years young



Sunday, February 15
2:00—4:00 pm
Trinity church basement



During the Lenten season, the mid-week Wednesdays, February 25—March 25, WOW will be held at the church the Lenten service is at. There is a meal provided each Wednesday.

Meal is from 5:30—6:30pm and WOW will run from 6:35—6:55.

Lenten Service will start at 7:00 pm

(Lenten Schedule is on page 4)

There will be no WOW on February 18—Ash Wednesday or April 1 - Holy Week.

SUNDAY	USHERS	COMMUNION
February 1	Robert Swanson and Norm Schley	S-Bob Moffitt H-Lonnie Moffitt
8	Bob and Lonnie Moffitt	
15	Larry and Deb Philipp	
22	Jon and Jen Saxen	?
March 1	Joel and Becky Detert	?

WAVERLY RIPPLES

Waverly Church Annual Meeting
Sunday, January 18, 2015

President Tim Peterson called the 2015 annual meeting to order, 29 members present. Pastor Anthony opened with dialogue, prayer and scripture reading, followed with an opening hymn.

The 2014 secretary's' report was accepted as read with motion by Rosie Atzenhoefer, and second by Bob Olson. Motion carried.

The financial report was given. Total receipts for the year 2014 were \$99,648.74, total disbursements \$95,718.02. Motion by Karen Koeder, second by Jon Helvig to accept the report. Motion carried.

The 2015 proposed budget (\$90,368.00) was presented and reviewed. Motion by Karen Koeder to adopt the 2015 budget with proposal to dedicate any surplus to benevolence. Second by Deanne Gaalswyk, motion carried. The proposed 2015 Circle of Faith budget (\$142,926.00) was presented. Motion by Karen Koeder, second by Sue Rathman to accept the 2015 Circle of Faith proposed budget.

Pastor's Report

~There will be joint services for Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday.

~Lenten services focus is The Lord's Prayer

~ A meal will be served prior to Lenten Services beginning at 5:30 p.m.

~Good Friday worship at Waverly, April 3 @ 7 p.m.

~Members in attendance enjoyed a video review of 2014

Old Business

Constitution revision provisos were presented. Motion by Karen Koeder to adopt Constitution revision provisos as presented, second by Rosie Atzenhoefer. By a show of hands the motion passed unanimously.

Waverly will have a potluck following worship on February 1, 2015 to celebrate the Constitution revision, and become better acquainted with Committee's formed by Constitution revision.

Thank you to the Constitution committee for their work!

Motion by Karen Koeder to accept the 2015 slate of officers and committees nominees as amended, second by Jon Helvig, motion carried. Nominations were unanimously accepted as presented.

New Business

The Parish Agreement has been amended, changing the attendance year from October 1 to September 31 so the budget can be set prior to annual report submission. Motion by Kirsten Rabbe, second by Deb Armbrust to accept the Parish Agreement as presented. Motion carried.

February 8, 2015 is the Watonwan River Conference meeting in St. James. This will start the nominating process for a new Bishop. Six people are needed in attendance from Waverly.

Installation of new officers is Sunday, January 25, 2015.

With no further business, motion to adjourn by Lynette Shaw, second by Susan Rathman. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted, Deborah Schneider



February 1 we will be having a potluck dinner to celebrate our new constitution and to coordinate our efforts working under our new constitution.



Waverly Council Meeting January 13, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Pres. Tim Peterson.

Council members present: Deacons- Rosemary Atzenhofer, Jack Potter, Don Nordstrom. Trustees- Bob Olson, Marleone Williamson. Treasurer- Cliff Armbrust. Vice President- Nancy Nordstrom

Cliff presented the treasurer's report stating we made budget actually \$3900 over. Praise God. Motion to accept the report by Rosemary, seconded by Bob. Motion carried.

Trustees' report included a bid for replacing the middle support in the pews. After discussion, it was tabled until the next Council meeting.

Pastor's report- Youth lock-in at Waverly on January 30. Bill Sanderman and Sue Ryan would like to be married at Waverly on June 6, 2015. Motion by Jack seconded by Bob supporting this celebration of marriage, motion carried.

Motion to adjourn by Bob, seconded by Jack, motion carried.

"A View From My Window"

David, Susan and Lynette, children of Gene Sheppard, are proud to announce a book of their Dad's writing's is available to the public, "A View From My Window". Gene was a member of Waverly Lutheran Church his entire life, whoever knew Gene would remember his humor and faith. When Gene had to go into assistant living his children found so many things Gene had written they decided, with the help of Gene's sister Kay, to have them typed up in book form for the family. It was then decided his writing's were such a part of the church and the community they all felt they should be shared with everyone. There is no profit to be made with this book, it is being sold at cost, \$40 for the hard covered book that includes everything and paperback for \$8 which has just the classics. You can see or buy the books at the Triumph State bank in Trimont, Waverly Church on Face book (View through my window) or by contacting Susan Rathman (639-3036) or Lynette Shaw (728-8614).

Harvest Homecoming 2015 Planning Meeting

Planning for Harvest Homecoming 2015 will kick off with a meeting on Sunday, February 15th, 9:15 a.m. in the church basement, for all HH committee chairs, and anyone else who is interested in lending their ideas and a hand.



Work days we made 19 Quilts and 6 Baby quilts and had 7 workers.
Next work days are Tues. and Wed. Feb. 10 & 11th.

Mary's Circle is Tues Feb. 3rd @ 7 P.M. at Belva Peterson's

Thank you

Rosemary Atzenhofer

DATE	READER	ACOLYTE	CHILDREN'S TIME
February 1	Deb Schneider	Laurie/Brad Sherman	Kendra Helvig
8	Paul Gaalswyk	Tim/Belva Peterson	Tim Peterson
15	Tim Peterson	Mary Lou/Jim Sherman	Pr. Eric
22	Tom Peterson	Jenny/Shane Kuehl	Pr. Anthony
March 1	Muriel Armbrust	Heidi/Brian Clow family	Tom Peterson

February Ushers




Erwin Atzenhofer
Cliff Armbrust

Todd Rathman

Brad Sherman
Phil Bettin



FEBRUARY 2015

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Worship/Comm Potluck dinner for WLC	2	3 7 pm Mary Circle @ Belva Peterson's	4 1:30 pm StP WELCA 5:30 pm Men's Garage @ Korte's, Welcome 6:30 pm WOW-TLC 6:30 pm Confirmation	5	6	7
8 Worship 2:00 pm @ St. James Conference Assembly StP SS WLC SS	9	10 WLC—Quilt Day 6:00 pm Parish Council Mtg	11 WLC—Quilt day StP—Quilt day 2 pm Communion @ Goldfinch 6:00 pm MEAL 6:30 pm WOW-TLC CONFIRMATION 5:30 pm @ Pizza Ranch 6:30 pm BINGO @	12 StP Quilt Day	13	14  Happy Valentine's Day
15 Shrove Sunday Pancake breakfasts WLC—HH 2015 mtg @ 9:15 am TLC 2—4 pm 90th Birthday Celebration	16  6:30 pm TLC Council mtg	17 6:00 pm Wine, Women & the Word @ Mary Ann DeBus 7:00 pm WLC Council mtg	18  Ash Wednesday Service 7 pm @ Waverly	19	20 'Ripples' articles due	21
22 Worship/Comm StP SS	23	24	25 StP—Quilt day 9:30 am Assemble Ripples Mid-week Lenten Service @ St. Peter 5:30-6:45 Meal 6:30-6:55 WOW 7:00 Holden Evening	26 StP—Quilt Day	27	28 3:30 pm @ Willmar—Equipping Congregations for today.

February



2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Terry Muller Cara Hansen	2 LeRoy Franck Kevin Shaw	3 Barb Schmidt <i>Will & Sarah Hecht</i>	4 Josie Clow Henry Borchardt	5 Celeste Bengé Stephen Helvig	6 Phyllis Arndt	7
8 Neil Cheever Emma Koehler	9 Alyx Stahl	10 Joel Hatch	11 John Sherman	12 Mary Lou Sherman Scott Peterson	13 Paul Jensen	14 Carol Chukuske <i>Vernon & Sylvia Handevitd</i> <i>Jim & Mary Lou Sherman</i>
15	16 Loren Schultz Cadence Leiding	17 <i>Jeff & Jody Lueth '35</i>	18 Jay Mulso Chris Meyer	19 Bowdin Bentz	20 Sarah Hecht Elaine Bergemann Brandon Poppe	21 Dale Keck
22 Deb Miller Nichole Smith Connor Malo <i>Susan & Bocky Borchardt</i> <i>Al & Muriel Armbrust</i>	23	24 Sandy Winter	25	26	27 Stephanie Truesdell	28 Janet Saxen



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HYMN OF THE MONTH

As we approach the Lenten season and the time of The Ultimate Sacrifice, this is time to remember the Negro Spiritual “Were You There”. It is a graphic description of the events of Good Friday.

It was likely composed by African-American slaves. It first appeared in 1899 in ‘Old Plantation Hymns’. In 1940 it was included in the Episcopal Church hymnal, making it the first spiritual ever to be published in a major hymnal. It was a favorite of Mahatma Ghandi, and has been recorded by many artists, including Harry Belafonte and Johnny Cash. A quote from W. J. Petersen’s book, “The Complete Book of Hymns” describes it better than any I have ever read: “This hymn, like few others, puts the singer “there”. “Were you there?” We experience the “tremble” as we sing it. It is stark reality. We hear the nails pounded into the cross, we see the onlookers wagging their heads, we smell the burial spices – and we tremble, tremble, tremble.”

In one rendition of the song the negroes had added another final verse: ‘Were you there when He rose up from the dead? Were you there when He rose up from the dead? O! Sometimes I feel like shouting glory, glory, glory! Were you there when He rose up from the dead?’ Doesn’t it make you feel like you WERE THERE feeling the stone rolling away, and you tremble, tremble, tremble.