The Tripity Truppet
July 2023
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"I hope you will put up with me in a little foolishness. Yes, please put up with me! I am **jealous** for you with a **godly jealousy**. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him. But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the Spirit you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough."

² Corinthians 11: 1 - 6

"I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse!" Galatians 1: 6 - 9

What does the Race to the Moon have to do with "OUR" Faith?

Scripture is the gift for us in which Jesus ss disclosing to the readers about Himself, His character, will, and behavior, and thereby revealing about the Father. But the Bible also has application for our living as it speaks through conditions and events of the Church as it was growing to understand what this Jesus means to all of creation.

So does knowing about trajectory? It's defined as - *the path followed by a projectile flying or an object moving under the action of given forces*. So, in faith, our trajectory is the path we (the projectile or object) are moving "under the action" (our baptism sets in motion) of given forces (our baptism, called and sent nature, as fueled by God's words and the sacraments). Trajectory is not a mistake, but a clearly figured and checked set of equations, considering all know and anticipated challenges to that object moving from point A to B. Trajectory can be a mistake if it would involve something setting something else in motion with no anticipated plan, just random action, like um, let's say a big bang.

I'm amazed that humans were gifted by God to calculate and complete the missions in space that lead to the eventual pinnacle of men walking on the moon. Trajectory is still calculated and checked as we travel in space, fly to vacations, drive to work... What affect could a small, insignificant variation have on the trajectory into space? Missing the moon by miles and miles.

Those working diligently to reach the moon checked and rechecked their calculations to reach their intended goal. Why is not so with people of the church? Scripture records, the reformation bears witness, and many heresy meetings to clarify the faith of scripture have been a part of the life of the church. Throughout scriptures, Old and New Testament, writers warn, encourage, and flat-out command God's people to study, dig, and grow in knowledge of the Word of God, so that we might not be lead astray, tossed about, overcome, or dragged away.

And yet most of the Church is biblically illiterate and under, if not mis, reads the Bible. Out of context quotes of scripture are tossed about as the norm and most have combined, squashed, and created "other Gospels that they live by" and teach others to do as well. Today, as Paul said to the Corinthians, no one seems to find this alarming, troubling, or much less eternally dangerous. But in the Bible, they did. Any Gospel other that the Gospel can have eternal ramifications if the "crux" of faith is to believe in Jesus. If mine isn't Him, then what?

Paul, as any under shepherd, in Godly jealousy strives for God's people to always attend to the truth of the Gospel, and its application to our lives. He unapologetically writes to the people he is presenting to God of the dangers of their actions, or in action, falling into false gospels. They are doing so because of false and persuasive teachers that play on false commands and charismatic teachings that sound so good they have to be from God or would be God approved. "Cleanliness is next to Godliness" ...sorry not in there.

In concern for them in 2 Corinthians he tells the people he is afraid that like Eve they are being led astray and in Galatians he declares that those doing this should be cursed by God for this false teaching. How does he work to correct and readjust their trajectory – teaching and reading in scripture together and note that it is not a single person he is writing to, but the whole church. Together they must become aware, together they must study, together they must learn and assist each other to reset course. ...*continued*

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As we are about to enter into a new cycle of being the church after Labor Day, we need to be willing to challenge ourselves and be challenged by God's word, to grow in faith, realize where we like sheep have gone astray, and stand still in God's word long enough together so that the Shepherd can come and call us to where He wants us? One piece here is markedly missing, our study of God's word

together. Together, through our hearing and sharing, the Holy Spirit uses our words to help one another stay on "target" as it challenges and convicts us, we hear and wrestle with God's word, never demanding an answer but letting the Word dwell richly in our hearts as we READ, MARK, and INWARDLY DIGEST it.

A month ago, we had a wonderful visitor. A young single over the road truck driver wandered into out worship. It was Sunday, he said, and I needed to find a place to worship. God called him into our midst. It was a great blessing to talk with him after worship as he had questions of the faith and our congregation. You could hear and see his confidence in the faith and yet his desire to know and understand. Some were blessed to be here when he made the statement that he had to be reading the bible and in the word. He said, "I'm reading and suddenly I realize that I am sinning. God shows it to me so I can be changed." That is course correction.

That is God, adjusting our trajectory as we are moving "under the action" of baptism through the given forces of our baptism, called and sent nature, fueled by God's words and the sacraments. Trajectory is not a mistake, but a clearly figured and checked set of equations, considering all know and anticipated challenges to that object moving from point A to B. That is God through His word and Church together correcting and recorrecting the trajectory of life so what has begun in baptism will reach its desired destination, eternal life in Christ Jesus. As Paul also said, "I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace." *Philippians 1: 6-7a*



Confirmation Team Building Event -

Friday August 4, 2023. Finish the Summer off on a HIGH note. 8th grade (second year) confirmation students and 7th grade incoming students. We are going to have supper at Jimmy John's in Council Bluffs and then off to Tree Rush Adventure at Fontenelle Forest in Bellevue, NE. We will be meeting at the Church and Departing no later than **5 PM**, a bit earlier will certainly help. Our climbing times in The Glow in the Park is at 6:45 and 7 for 3 hours. We will return directly to the church hopefully home between **11 and 11:15**. PLEASE check your calendar, and get back to Pastor Matt ASAP so that I can finalize reservations. Looking also for 5 adults who would be willing to drive and climb (just like the Pastor). Hope you will make time for this kick off event.

My First Bible Class

offered normally to students going into 3rd grade Sunday School, will be offered for 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students who have not yet received a bible or who would like the extra training and skills to navigate the bible. Each student will be presented with an Adventure Bible in worship upon completion of We will meet two Saturthe classes. day mornings in a row in August, the 19th and the 26th starting at 9:00 am until noon. The 19th there will be some light breakfast foods and on the 26th we will have some pizza to celebrate the completion of the classes. 1 Parent, or Surrogate Parent (grandparent or trusted adult) is asked to participate with the student to be able to share and to work with them after classes. Please register with Pastor Matt by August 1 so materials can be acquired.

An Invitation to Serious Faith I will strive to... PRAY daily WORSHIP weekly READ the Bible SERVE at and beyond Trinity Be in RELATIONSHIP to encourage spiritual growth in others GIVE of my time, talents & resources



Weekend of	Total Attendance	Total Gifts Received
05/28	162	2452.00
06/04	103	4350.00
06/11	107	3570.00
06/18	95	1485.00



This 4th of July the youth group will be helping with a game on main street to help support our communi-

ty. We'll be in charge of a game called "Chuck
the Chicken" from 10 a.m. till 1 p.m. Youth group
– if available to help that day, please contact Sue!
Stop by and see us on the 4th!

July/August Volunteer Schedule

Communion BreadBetty Oehlertz & Denise YoungCommunionReva Bylund, Jerry Conroy, Jim HansenScriptures & PrayersAmber JohnsonAcolytesKatie JohnsonSupportJim HansenSunday, July 9th, 9:30 a.m.Communion BreadBetty Oehlertz & Denise YoungCommunion Set UpRonda Holst, Reva BylundCommunionKaren Hansen, Jeff Harder, StephanieScriptures & PrayersGreg PetersenAcolytesEvan HarderSupportDale KrohnSunday, July 16th, 9:30 a.m.Communion BreadBetty Oehlertz & Denise YoungCommunion Set UpRonda Holst, Reva BylundCommunion BreadBetty Oehlertz & Denise YoungCommunion Set UpRonda Holst, Reva BylundCommunion Set UpRonda Holst, Reva BylundCommunion BreadBetty Oehlertz & Denise YoungCommunion Set UpRonda Holst, Reva BylundCommunion BreadBetty Oehlertz & Denise YoungCommunion Set UpRonda Holst, Reva BylundCommunion BreadBetty Oehlert		
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	Scriptures & Prayers	Amanda Holst
Support Gary Soetmelk	Acolytes	Emery Brockhoff



Indescribable Joy of Giving - Chapter SIX – Rev. Dona Johnson

THE INDESCRIBABLE JOY OF GIVING

fave you ever wondered why the Bible says that "God loves a cheerful giver"? God loves a joyful giver because such givers are investing in heaven, and such an investment pays eternal dividends. How would you feel if you knew the person who gave you a special gift was in fact resentful or irritated that they gave it to you? You sure wouldn't feel any joy in receiving it. For many, giving of our time, talents and treasures may seem like a total chore, a duty void of any joy because of a fear there isn't enough. Henri Nouwen once said, "Every time I take a step in the direction of generosity, I know I am moving from fear to love." For many others giving is pure joy — they see their life with God in terms of abundance. How do you generally approach giving? How vou and I approach giving demonstrates the conditions of our hearts and our spiritual life.

Joy Is Trusting God

Jesus said, "These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full" (John 15:11). God's joy is in us. It is overflowing. Christian joy is not based solely on feelings, and it cannot be taken away. Jesus also said, "Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full" (John 16:24). The joy that God gives us is not at the mercy of the world but is independent of the world. When giving is generous in congregations, there is a consistent message of trust among leadership that God is enough. This trust is a fundamental precondition; through it, a culture of scarcity can be transformed into an ever-expanding culture of generosity.

In the Old Testament, when the tabernacle was being built, people were asked to trust God's promises, to give and receive great joy! They got so caught up in the joy of their heavenly investments there was no more fear and they had to be "restrained" from giving more (Exodus 36:1-7). Imagine for a moment if giving was so generous and joy so overflowing in your congregation that you had to tell those who gave to stop giving! In the building of the tabernacle, we see how the act of giving becomes a joyful act of worship, an expression of one's own experiences of and trust of God's love and care.

Generous Living A Matter of the Heart

In 2 Corinthians 9:6-11, Paul insists that no one is ever a loser through generosity. Giving is like sowing seeds. Those who sow with a sparing hand cannot hope for anything more than a meager harvest, but those who sow with a generous hand will in time reap a generous return. The New Testament is never afraid of the reward motive. Living within the commands and teachings of our Lord makes us not so much wealthy in material things as it makes us rich in the heart — rich in love, rich in friendships and rich towards God. Paul hoped that ultimately giving would be an act of worship, glorifying God and leading to growth in the giver. Luther said, "We can mark our lack of faith by our joy; for our joy must necessarily be as great as our faith."

God loves a cheerful giver because a giver can't be cheerful unless his or her heart is fully open towards God. Joy comes from God. It is a spiritual gift (Galatians 5:22). There is an unbreakable connection between what I offer to God and the state or attitude of my heart. If I am stingy with money towards God, then that says something about how I think about God and how I trust God. If I am reluctant to give my time and talents to serve others, it says something about how seriously I take the Great Commission and my own discipleship. If I am hesitant to sacrifice things that already belong to God (my life, my time, my spiritual gifts, my talents and all my wealth and material possessions), then it speaks volumes about the condition of my own heart and where I find my security in this world. 1Chronicles 29:9 reminds us that true giving is a spiritual practice. In the end, the offering was more than a material one, for its substance already belonged to the Lord. The real offerings were spiritual, matters of the heart — a sincere motivation to honor God and a readiness to give.

Joy can only come from a heart set on things above, not on earthly things. In today's world, there seems to be a shortage of joy. Giving is often stripped of the spiritual and seen as purely transactional. When I purchase an item or service, I expect to get something back in return. If what I purchase doesn't meet my expectations or I am not happy with it, then I might ask for a refund or withhold payment. That is how the world's economy works. But in God's economy, the motive for giving is not fueled by the expectation of getting something back but is driven solely by what God has already given us in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Through the work of the Holy Spirit, joyful giving becomes purely transformational. Every time we give generously, our hearts are opened, and we become God's image bearers. Because God gives first. We give to God and others because God first moves the human heart to give. God gives us both the substance to give and the spirit in which to give it. Giving then becomes a joyful sacrifice rather than a reluctant obligation. When a person's heart trusts God to provide for every need, then he or she feels free to give, is eager to give, and looks for every opportunity to give abundantly.



July 01	Margery	Petersen
July 02	Куа	Hargens
July 02	Kristi	Nielsen
July 02	Daniel	Pattee
July 04	Lane	Nelson
July 05	Faith	Guyer
July 05	Nolan	Guyer
July 05	Stella	Rold
July 05	Amber	Scott
, July 05	Jordan	Young
, July 06	Lilah	Partlow
, July 07	Kyle	Jorgensen
July 08	Everleigh	Anzalone
July 08	Jerod	Johnson
July 08	Maryellen	Luth
July 11	Brenda	Кау
July 11	Luke	Sternberg
July 13	Eleanore A.	-
July 16	Cash	Freeman
July 17	Burke	Pattee
July 18	Johnni	Pattee
July 19	Timothy	Kramer
July 15		
July 19	Retty	Oehlertz
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The Grace of Giving

In 2 Corinthians 9:8, Paul uses the word *autarkeia*, which means "having all sufficiency," and, being properly self-sufficient, having all we need within through the indwelling of Christ. Having all we need in Jesus Christ — love, mercy, an abundance of forgiveness, and eternal life — we are then content and satisfied to live on less, so that others might live abundantly. Then we are defined not by how much we have but by how much we give away. It is so often true that we want so much for ourselves that there is nothing left to give others, but our significance and sufficiency are found in Jesus alone. Not only that, it is not us but God who gives us the spirit in which to give — all grace. For when we give, it does something for others, it does something in us and it brings us into the very heart of God. And thus, the joy of giving is all the more transformational.

While visiting several rural parishes in Tanzania, I was amazed that the people who were very poor by the world's standards were extremely rich in joy. Their churches were humble structures — no windows or doors, no chairs, let alone electricity or music or audio-visual equipment — but their hearts were filed with joy. The songs they sang were joyful and put me to shame. They gave us gifts: hard-boiled eggs, bags of beans and rice — all of great value to them. In my mind's eye, I still see them hugging our Jeep and waving goodbye. No, they were not secure in the riches of the world, but they were rich in the joy of our Lord. To this day, I find their joy indescribable. Their joyous generosity convicted me, filled my heart with hope and transformed my own outlook on joyful giving.

Engage

- 1. Describe a time when you gave generously and it gave you great joy. Describe a time when you received a generous gift. What happened inside you?
- 2. Is giving a transformational experience for you, filled with joy, or is it more transactional, like a duty or
- obligation? When you give, do you give with the mindset of "pay the bills," or do you give to embrace your
- congregation's vision? What's the difference? Openly discuss.

3. Read Exodus 36:1-7, and imagine for a moment that in your own congregation, God's people gave so

- much of their time, talents, and wealth that you had to tell them to stop giving you had more than
- enough. Is this level of generosity possible? Why or why not? What may be some barriers?

4. Name a few ways you joyfully celebrate generosity in your congregation.

- **Prayer** Heavenly Father, as the psalmist says, you open your hand and satisfy the thirst and hunger of every living thing. We give and are filled with joy at all the generous blessings of grace and provisions you daily provide us. Holy Spirit, open our hearts to the indescribable joy of giving, stir us to see giving generously as a heavenly investment which can be used now to help our neighbor and build up Christ's Church, and empower us to give abundantly, sacrificially, and joyfully as God's chosen priesthood. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.
- "A joyous heart is an offering pleasing to God. For there is no sacrifice lovelier and more pleasing than a cheerful heart, joyful in the Lord." Martin Luther

TRINITY'S FIVE & DIME



Welcome to "Trinity's Five & Dime". This section is dedicated to stories, experiences, and devotionals where together we can share God's spiritual candy. Glory be to God for the opportunity to share with you some thoughts, experiences, and scripture regarding our everyday lives. Praise and glory to God for his never changing word, faithful love, and countless blessings. May his life-giving word nourish us and strengthen us as we strive to fulfill the purposes, He has for us. Amen. Neil Paulsen

...Don't you know that I have loved you to such an extent that I sent my Son to take your place and your judgement so that you never need to fear judgement on that final day? Don't you know that I have made this available to you? Why would you hide from all that?



"Lord, teach us to pray" Luke 11:1 (Part 8)



God is seeking people, asking people, to come into a real, living, hope-filled relationship with him. He comes to find lost sinners. Maybe it's someone knocking on the door. Maybe it's something a grandchild says. Maybe it's a friend with a book. Maybe it's someone's life unraveling and them testifying to how Jesus was real and trustworthy and loving all the way through it. However it is that God is coming to you, you need to take hold of the hope he is holding out. You need to ask God to open your hearteyes to it. You are going to live forever. The only question is where. In John 14, verses 1-3, the night before Jesus' death, we find Jesus is comforting his disciples with this promise: "Don't let your hearts" be troubled. Trust in god, and trust also in me. There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am." It is by those words that we know, that if we have placed our trust in Jesus, who has overcome death and now sits at the right hand of the Father; that he is saying to us, "I went to prepare a place for you. I will come back again and get you so that you will always be with me." Let your heart, as well as your head know that Jesus went to prepare a place for you, and that he will come again to take you so that you may be with him. Pastor Alistair Begg recalls that when he was a boy in Scotland, the winters were freezing. And sometimes when he would go out, his father would tell him to be back by a certain time. And when he got back home, he would find that his father had made his bed up for him, and had put a hot water bottle in his bed. His father was ready to welcome him. It was a thrill knowing that in than moment he had a father who loved him. He'd prepared all of that for him, and to say, "Yes, son, I was looking forward to you coming. I knew you would be home soon. I got your room ready for you." This is the hope to which Jesus has called you. This is the hope Jesus came to give you. The life of Jesus, the death of Jesus, the resurrection of Jesus, the ascension of Jesus – each says to us, "I've got your room ready for you." This is the Christian's "certain hope" which provides confidence and excitement. We know our best days are all ahead of us. We know that death isn't the end of the best time of our life; it's the start of it.

Trinity Lutheran Church

Council Meeting Minutes- June 8th, 2023

Kathy Soetmelk called the meeting to order on June 8, 2023 with Eric Sieh, Sue Paulsen, Shela Jacobsen, Pastor Matt, Nicole Krohn, Arla Pickham, and Ryan Winter in attendance. Devotion was led by Kathy Soetmelk. A motion was made by Ryan Winter to approve the agenda with Arla Pickham to second the motion, motion carried. The May council meeting minutes were read and approved in a motion made by Nicole Krohn, seconded by Eric Sieh, and the motion was carried. The treasurer's report will be submitted by Shela Jacobsen once statements are received and will be reviewed. No bills were submitted.

Sue Paulsen, Director of Ministry of Daily Life, shared there are 86 kids registered for VBS. VBS will be held June 26-29, and there is still a need for host homes, snack makers/servers, classroom helpers and people to clean up and restock daily.

Nicole Krohn, Stewardship committee, continues to look into opportunities for stewardship within our broader community. Surveys are continuing to be conducted and gather input from members on how we can create a welcoming atmosphere and possible improvements, with a goal to finish conducting the survey by the end of July. Eric Sieh, Worship committee, is working to develop job descriptions for volunteer roles. A potluck lunch will be held following worship service on Sunday, July 9 to communicate education about worship, discuss our goal of focusing on fellowship and gather feedback as we look ahead to fall. Ryan Winter, Finance committee, is looking to update the list of members who receive offering envelopes, as well as exploring Venmo as an option for giving.

Old business discussion was related to how to use Carolyn Oldenburg's gift left to the church. A motion was made by Ryan Winter to \$1000 from her gift and \$1000 from the general fund to donate to Play Haven Child Care in Walnut. The motion was seconded by Arla Pickham and the motion was carried. The remaining amount of the gift will plan to be used for landscaping in the future. Darren and Nicole Krohn will be attending the NALC Convocation in Oklahoma City August 9-11. Sue Paulsen will attend the portion of the Convocation specific to youth and families, and Pastor Matt and Becky Bahnfleth will also be in attendance.

New business introduced our need for enhanced door security. It has recently been noted that doors have been left propped open or found to be not securely closed at various times. The code to the south door has been updated and Ring doorbell has been activated as an additional security measure. Council members will conduct nightly checks of the building to ensure all doors are properly secured and lights are off; other members may also be asked to assist with this task. Second, the presence of bats has been noted inside the church. Bat removal options, including the cost of bat control companies, will be investigated; we also hope that enhanced door security will aid in the resolution of this issue. Next was discussion of paper shredding, whether to seek out on-site shredding service at a cost or find a business that offers intermittent paper shredding at no cost. Ryan Winter volunteered to take paper for shredding to the next free shred opportunity at Shelby County Savings Bank. Next, a letter from Avoca Main Street Promotions Committee was discussed regarding a fundraiser with games on July 4th. They are looking for volunteers to host a game whose proceeds will benefit the Avoca Veterans Community Center remodel. Sue Paulsen will look into whether LYO could participate and sponsor a game. Next, our two hearing assist devices do not appear to have been working. Their batteries have been replaced and both appear to be working properly at this time. The hearing assist devices are in the drawer in the south side of the Narthex. Lastly, the possibility of updating our exterior marquee sign with a digital sign was discussed to better communicate church events and information with the community. Quotes will be assessed from difference sign companies and the topic will be revisited in future.

The council will continue to read a chapter each month from the book titled *Letters to the Church* and engage in a discussion related to the chosen chapter. Arla Pickham made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ryan Winter, motion carried. The next council meeting will be held on Thursday, July 13, 2023 at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted by Nicole Krohn, Vice President

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 8 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship/ Krummel Baptism	m	4 10 a.m.—1 p.m. Youth Games Downtown Happy 4th of July Office Closed	υ	6 9 a.mBible Study 2 p.m.– TLCW Meeting 4 p.m.–6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry 6:15 p.m. Peace Haven Wor- ship	7 Pastors Day Off	×
9 8 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship Potluck following worship	10	11 8:30 a.m3 p.m. Chris- tian Service	12	13 9 a.mBible Study 4 p.m—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry 7 p.m. Council Meeting	14 Pastors Day Off	15
16 8 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship	17 9:30 a.m. Salem Lutheran Nursing Home Worship	18 Sue Out of Office	19 2 p.mAvoca Nursing Home Worship	20 9 a.mBible Study 2 p.m. Avoca Nursing Home Worship 4 p.m—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry	21 Pastors Day Off	22
23 8 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship	24 Youth Mission Trip Office Closed	25 8:30 a.m3 p.m. Christian Service 10 a.mAllen Place Worship Youth Mission Trip Office Closed	26 Youth Mission Trip Office Closed	27 4 p.m—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry 6 p.m. VBS Closing Program Youth Mission Trip Office Closed	28 Youth Mission Trip Office Closed	29 Youth Mission Trip
30 8 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship Youth Mission Trip	31 Youth Mission Trip					

July 2023

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH 301 N. CHESTNUT STREET P.O. BOX 456 AVOCA, IA 51521-0456

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Trinity Lutheran Church

301 N. Chestnut Street Avoca, IA 51521 (712) 343-2518

For assistance or to leave information, contact the church office at the number shown above. In an emergency, contact Pastor Matt Bahnfleth at (cell) 402-750-8327.

Worship Services Sundays at 9:30 a.m. Holy Communion: Celebrated during each worship service. Sunday School will resume in the fall.