



## **Pastor's Page**

The story of one's life is a detailed account as to how we got to where we are at the present time. To a great extent this can be reduced to the choices that we've made along life's journey. Certainly, there are times when circumstances thrust upon us directions that we would not have otherwise chosen. But there are also times when circumstances open before us opportunities of great benefit where choice alone would not have taken us. But overall circumstances have far less influence on the course of our life than do our choices.

There are some choices we make, we may call them bad choices, when we lack all the necessary information to make a good choice. Probably the worst choices we make are those choices which circumvent future choices. That is to say, choices that rob us of future opportunities, choices that have consequences that follow us indefinitely, choices that limit, if not eliminate, opportunities we might have otherwise had. I read a study many years ago that said that a girl that gets pregnant at 16 has 70% of all her life choices made for her. I personally believe that is an overstatement, but it does emphasize the importance of good choices.

There are also choices that delay. Choices that we look back on which occupied our time but didn't get us where we thought we were going. Like getting stuck in the snow, our tires are spinning but we're not going anywhere. A research study done just last year found that only about 30% of college graduates end up working in their field of study. Another study found that 42% of college graduates end up working in a job that doesn't require a college degree. Studies of this kind typically do not reveal potential benefits that can't be measured-- such as that of maturity, or happiness, or discovering that your field of study wasn't what you wanted to do after all, but it exposed you to a subject more fitting to who you are.

But what if there was a choice you could make, though it may not erase past decisions from our memory, but a choice that overrides every past choice you have made. Think of the promise that was made in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things have passed away, behold new things have come." One of the things that doesn't change when a person comes to Christ is their past. But what does change is how we define it. It might be compared to the grain of sand that enters the shell of a clam. Initially it is an irritant and because the clam can't get it out, it begins to cover it with nacre, the same substance that coats the inside of the clam shell. In this process what began as an irritant becomes something of great value. In the same way God doesn't change our past He uses it for His glory.

One of the ways this happens is when we take our bad choices, our pain, our hurt, and give it all to Him. And as He supplies opportunity, we can invest those lessons learned into the lives of others, and most importantly how they too can become 'new creatures' in Christ! As a result we not only enjoy the benefits of His blessing, we also become the proof.

*Pastor Tim*

## Thank You

Dear Trinity Community Church

Thank you for donating to the Camp Floyd Rodgers walk. The donations help the camp run and allow for scholarships for students in need. Camp was amazing this year, and I am so glad I got to attend!

Sincerely,  
Ella Hyke

Ladies of the Church,

Thank you for remembering me with the Prayer Blanket!

Ron Hansen

If you are receiving this newsletter in the mail and have an email account, please call and share your email. The cost of postage has jumped again. Every penny helps!

HOLDING  
ON TO GOD'S  
PROMISES  
EVERYDAY.

@MyBibleAndGod

Whoever brings blessing will be enriched,  
and one who waters will himself be watered.  
PROVERBS 11:25



### Mission Giving for Trinity Community Church for the month

Teammates will receive a blessing from the congregation for the month of August. It will help offset costs of background checks done for the program.

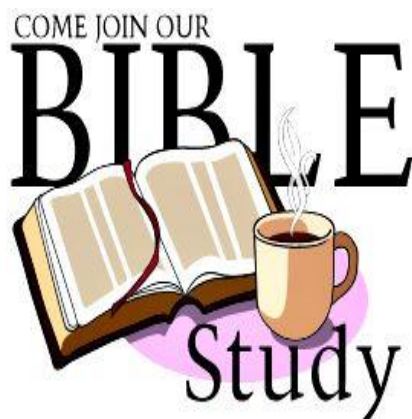


**POTLUCK will be back in September! We all hope to enjoy cooler weather and a special time to share together. We are asking for helpers each month to set up and clean after dinner. It will be wonderful to have time together to share our summer news with each other! Please advise if you would be willing to help.**

## Bible Study is starting again!

Join us for Bible study, discussion and fellowship. We meet on Wednesdays from 5 to 6 pm. Most of our past studies have lasted 8 to 10 weeks. The first meeting will be Sept. 9 at 5pm and will be an organizational meeting.

We would love to see you there!



***Please say an extra prayer for our students as they head off to college!***

*Heavenly Father, please be with these students as they go where they do not know.*

*As they seek to grow in knowledge, we ask that they grow in faith.*

*As they start to conquer the world, we hope that they conquer their fears.*

*As they strive to find their place, we pray that they find You.*

*Please go where we cannot, protect when we cannot, give strength that we cannot, and bring them safely home.*

*Amen*



Backpack Sunday with some of our youth!



Outreach visiting our friends at ALF!

Thank you to the group for your faithful service! They visit every month and spend time with the residents there. Treats are always provided and devotions shared with the group.

**Bartley Sisters in Christ** will resume meetings on September 9 at 2:00 pm. Program Focus is the Backpack Program for Southwest Elementary School. Bring your own snacks!

Hopefully everyone is excited and ready to get back together and enjoy some fellowship time together. Looking forward to seeing everyone after a long hot summer!

## “Hymn of Promise”

“Hymn of Promise” is a 1985 anthem and later a congregational hymn by composer Natalie Sleeth. Sung to her tune PROMISE, it uses images of hidden transformation to express Christian hope, resurrection, and trust in God’s unseen future.

“Hymn of Promise” is a modern Christian hymn about hope that is present before it can be seen. Natalie Sleeth uses patterns familiar from creation and human experience to point toward a theological conviction: God can bring fulfillment from what appears incomplete, life from death, and resurrection from the grave. The hymn does not deny waiting, uncertainty, or mortality. Its strength is the way it holds opposites together—hidden and revealed, ending and beginning, death and life—without pretending that believers can see the whole of God’s work in advance. Hope rests in God’s future rather than in present visibility. This makes the hymn especially useful at Easter, funerals, memorial services, and times of transition. It can offer comfort without reducing grief to easy optimism, because its deepest claim is not that every difficult circumstance will quickly improve, but that Christian hope finally rests in God’s resurrection power.

Natalie Sleeth conceived “Hymn of Promise” first as a choral anthem in early 1985. C. Michael Hawn’s account records that it was performed at Pasadena Community Church in St. Petersburg, Florida, during a festival concert devoted to Sleeth’s music. The anthem therefore entered public use before its 1986 copyright and publication by Hope Publishing Company.

Sleeth later explained that the work grew from several converging reflections: the death of a friend, the contrast between life and death, the movement from winter to spring, the Christian movement from Good Friday to Easter, and a paradoxical line from T. S. Eliot about endings and beginnings. These were not separate illustrations added afterward; together they formed the conceptual framework of the anthem. The song’s central idea is therefore best understood as transformation held within divine mystery rather than as a simple nature poem.

The hymn is sometimes described as though it had been written because Sleeth’s husband, Ronald, was already dying of cancer. The chronology is more careful than that. According to Hawn, Sleeth composed the anthem before Ronald Sleeth was diagnosed with the terminal malignancy that soon took his life. After hearing the piece, he asked that it be sung at his funeral. His death gave the anthem an intensely personal association with bereavement and resurrection hope, but it was not the original cause of its composition.

### Biblical Foundations

John 12:24 provides one of the hymn’s clearest biblical parallels. Jesus uses the image of a grain falling into the earth and dying before bearing fruit, joining death and new life in a single image. That pattern closely supports the hymn’s use of hidden natural processes as signs of a future not yet visible.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 gives the biblical language of seasons and appointed times. The hymn likewise treats human life as lived within times of waiting, emergence, loss, and fulfillment. The point is not that every season is emotionally equivalent, but that human beings do not control the whole pattern.

Romans 8:24-25 directly supports the hymn’s theology of unseen hope. Christian hope concerns what is not yet fully visible and therefore requires patient waiting. This is one reason the hymn can speak honestly in grief: it does not require present circumstances to look like the promised future.

First Corinthians 15:42-44 and 15:54-57 provide the strongest resurrection framework. Paul uses the language of sowing and rising to describe bodily resurrection and concludes with God’s victory over death through Jesus Christ. These passages keep the hymn’s imagery anchored in Christian resurrection rather than in an impersonal cycle of nature.



### Setting up Students for Success

The TeamMates mentoring program has had a profound impact on thousands of students since 1991. This unique one-to-one, school-based program was founded as a way to help students stay in school, improve scholastic performance, and acquire life skills. With TeamMates, students have someone in their corner to serve as a positive role model and a caring adult friend. We believe students don't need a mentor, they DESERVE a mentor.

Dr Tom and Nancy Osborne started the Mentoring Program in 1991 with 22 University of Nebraska-Lincoln football players and 22 Lincoln middle school students.

The Cambridge Chapter was established in 2008 and currently has 56 matches, with more mentees waiting for a mentor to volunteer. The program provides a \$500 scholarship to all graduating mentees. Weekly time is set aside to meet with your student and fun activities are held throughout the year.

The program serves all students in grades 3 through 12 and adheres to national standards for mentoring. Topics and activities are centered on the student's interests and preferences. Meetings with the students are not about education, but about developing life skills. Mentors are matched with a student based on shared interests and hobbies.

If you are interested in taking part in the program, please talk to Amy Sines, Lisa Dutt or call the school office. There is literature in the Narthex!

### Church Council

**July 21, 2026**

**Present:** Virginia Roberts, Mandy Anderson, Amy Sines, Linda Johnson, Dale Cramer, Colleen Vandegrift, Pastor Tim, Wanda Warwick

**Minutes:** Minutes were presented and a motion to accept them was given by Colleen with a second by Linda. The motion passed.

**Financials:** Mandy presented her statements for accounts. She has the payroll tax ready and Linda signed it with her so it can be sent into the State. A bill was paid to Magnify for the new marquee. A check was also given to Pastor Tim for his work moving the iron for the marquee to Cambridge. Colleen made a motion to accept the report with a second by Dale. The motion passed. The checks for the Pastor, Courtney and Wanda will be picked up in Arapahoe. The bank is not interested in direct deposit.

**Gift:** Dale presented the idea of giving a gift to Betty Jorgensen for her 40 plus years of service as the church treasurer. A motion was made by Colleen to proceed with the gift. A second was given by Dale. The council passed with motion with one dissent from Amy Sines. The church will get Betty's agreement before we continue.

**Security Update:** The company providing information on a security grant, is working and catching up with papers. In the meantime, they suggested that the church apply for the 2026 grant. If the 2025 grant comes through they will just throw away the new application for 2026.

**Mission Giving:** Some ideas were presented but the one the council chose was Rory Smith. Rory is the 10-year-old great granddaughter of Patty Johnson. She was just diagnosed with leukemia. Linda made a motion to send \$500 to the family and a second was provided by Colleen. The motion carried.

**Marquee:** The marquee is finished and currently Virginia is compiling all the receipts so that they may be presented to the Economic Development Council.

**Todd Becker Foundation:** The Becker Foundation will have a follow-up meeting here at the church on February 17. They request a donation and Grace Bible will help cover the amount.

**Chamber of Commerce:** The council discussed the benefits of being a Chamber member. Currently there are no churches that belong. They have a small number of members, and they have lunch together at the Senior Center. Council opted to pass on the idea and may address it later.

**Next Meeting:** August 18, 2026

**Addendum:** The gift offered to Betty Jorgensen was accepted. It is a lawn sprinkler system to be installed possibly at the end of August. The proposed quote came in at \$7371.20. In discussing the idea, it was suggested that had the church paid Betty \$50 per month over the last 40 years, it would have added up to \$24,000. This gift is to help her with her recovery and life going forward. We pray that it gives her some help in her daily life and care of her yard where she fell recently while moving sprinklers.

**A year ago the church invited Eric Nelson to speak during the message time. It is always good to look back at where we have been and what we have learned. Do you remember his message? Are we working on our goals and exclaiming our love for our Savior? Do we complain about the little things without looking ahead at all the Lord has provided for us? Trials and hardships are not meaningless. — they are part of God's discipline to shape us for His purposes and to help us grow in holiness. Remember your fortunes and look to God and praise him for what he has given you!**

## **Guest Speaker**

On September 21 Trinity is sponsoring Eric Nelson to come and speak to our congregation.

In December of 1983, on a cold, snowy, windy day in Wyoming, the life of Eric Nelson changed forever.

He was an electrical contractor having started his own business (Arrow Electric) in Douglas, Wyoming, five years prior. He was working on his first high-line job when he came into contract with live conductors on a 34,500-volt power line that he had just energized.

Little did he realize at that moment that the life he had thoroughly enjoyed would come to a severe end. For several years following his accident, he wished that he would have given up and died instead of fighting -- fighting for a life that would hold such pain, suffering, despair, anger and depression; depression that would lead to attempts at suicide.

Eric lost both of his arms above the elbow as a result of his accident. In his emotional story he shares how he drifted into the darkest valley of his life and the years it would take to heal. But, by the grace of a loving God, he would recover and thrive with a new outlook on life. With the primary lesson learned that his feelings of worthlessness were a lie and that his significance was not found in his hands but in who his heavenly Father said he was.

Eric's testimony is raw and honest. It is full of laughter and tears. His goal is never to glorify himself, but to exclaim the love and power of a redeeming Savior and give all glory to him.



**Psalms 19:1** The heavens declare God's glory, reminding us that even nature's changing colors point to His handiwork.



| September 2026                                                                                   |                                  |         |                                                                                |                            |        |          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------|----------|
| Sunday                                                                                           | Monday                           | Tuesday | Wednesday                                                                      | Thursday                   | Friday | Saturday |
| \                                                                                                |                                  | 1       | 2<br>Youth Group at 7pm                                                        | 3                          | 4      | 5        |
| 6<br>Fellowship 9:45<br><br>Bartley fellowship after services<br><br>Communion Sunday            | 7                                | 8       | 9<br>Sisters in Christ 2pm<br><br>Bible Study at 5pm<br><br>Youth Group at 7pm | 10                         | 11     | 12       |
| 13<br>Potluck<br><br>Fellowship 9:45<br>Sunday School<br><br>Bartley fellowship after services   | 14<br>Elizabeth Circle at 12 pm  | 15      | 16<br>Bible Study 5 pm<br><br>Youth Group 7 pm<br><br>Lois Circle 7:30pm       | 17<br>Bingo at ALF 2:30 pm | 18     | 19       |
| 20<br>Fellowship 9:45<br>Sunday School for the littles!<br><br>Bartley fellowship after services | 21<br>Outreach at ALF at 9:30 am | 22      | 23<br>Bible Study 5 pm<br><br>Youth Group at 7 pm                              | 24<br>Bingo at ALF 2:30 pm | 25     | 26       |
| 27<br>Fellowship 9:45<br>Sunday School<br><br>Bartley fellowship after services                  | 28                               | 29      | 30<br>Youth Group 7 pm                                                         |                            |        |          |





Some of our Prayer Blanket Friends making blankets and taking care of others!

Meals on Wheels delivery this week!! It's a great service!



Thank you to everyone who helped deliver the month of August!

Sunday school for the primary grade children will start on September 20 at 10 am. We are anxiously looking forward to seeing the little ones.



Invite a friend to join us

## Worship Services

### Trinity

## Community Church

620 Penn Street  
PO Box 310  
Cambridge, NE 69022

(308) 697-4352  
[trinityoffice@swnebr.net](mailto:trinityoffice@swnebr.net)

9:45 Fellowship

Sunday School at 10 am

11:00am Worship

## Kemper Memorial Church

9:45 am Worship  
Followed by Fellowship



## & Birthdays Anniversaries

### September

|    |                  |    |                  |
|----|------------------|----|------------------|
| 1  | Bane A Johnson   | 18 | Rod Horst        |
| 3  | Josh Holtze      | 19 | Diane Deselms    |
|    | Jason Ellicott   | 21 | Kimmie May       |
|    | Don Farley       |    | Pat Downer       |
| 4  | Erin Randolph    | 23 | Olivia Taylor    |
|    | Virginia Roberts | 24 | Chris Borland    |
| 5  | Colleen Johnson  | 27 | Austin Wineland  |
| 6  | Penny Johnson    | 29 | Destry Jorgensen |
| 9  | Chloe Besler     | 30 | Cort Fiene       |
| 10 | Julie Carpenter  |    | Darren Huxoll    |
|    | Gloria Hilton    |    | Emily Mollring   |
|    | Jason Benson     |    |                  |
|    | Asa Burke        |    |                  |
| 12 | Judy Jackson     |    |                  |
| 15 | Ken Dutt         |    |                  |
| 16 | Drew Holtze      |    |                  |
|    | Capri Sayer      |    |                  |
| 17 | Patricia Sayer   |    |                  |
|    | Brad Borland     |    |                  |

### Happy Anniversary

September 3  
Tim & Deb Burke

September 10  
Dave & Andela Taylor

September 12  
Jake & Makayla Kessler

September 15  
Dave & Kathy Benson

September 19  
Troy & Pam Westadt