November 2026
Pastor Tim Burke

# Trinity-Kemper

## PASTOR'S PAGE

*One of the great advantages of a personal relationship with God is to seek His guidance in our life. But how often do we do this with sincerity and intention? When was the last time you prayed, asking for God's help in making the right choice or giving direction before you commit to something? We are instructed in scripture to wait for the Lord. Psalm 119:114 says, "You are my hiding place and my shield; I wait for your word." I think we often feel we don't have time to wait for the Lord's response. Yes, we may throw up a prayer before Him as we run out the door; but do we give Him time to answer?*

*In 1967 Charles Hummel wrote a short pamphlet entitled, Tyranny of the Urgent. He talked about how business, the urgent, often robs us of things of greater value, the important. We might think that back in the 1960's things were much slower and less hurried. But the trend Hummel observed then is far more pronounced today. With all the modern conveniences available to us today you would think we should have time to relax and reflect. But it seems to have had the opposite effect. Instead of technology serving us, it seems that we serve it. The urgent overshadows what's truly important.*

*There is a movie entitled Shadow Lands. It's the story about the life of C. S. Lewis. In it the conversation turns to the then modern telephone. Lewis's brother, Warnie, says, "Ring, ring, ring; hurry, hurry, hurry; such dreadful things!" This resonates with me. Once I stood at the counter at an auto parts store and was interrupted three times while the parts man answered the phone. Even though I made the effort to drive to the parts store and stood before him, it seemed the guy on the phone was more important than me. I thought I should go out, sit in my pickup, call the store, and then go in and get my parts. Ironically, we would think it quite rude to cut in line ahead of the person that was there before us, but for some reason if that same person calls on the phone, it's acceptable. Technology skews our sense of value. But I digress!*

*Perhaps more than ever it is important that we set aside time every day to spend with the Lord. We might refer to this as the devotional life. It's a time given to reading his word and prayer and nothing else. A time when we interrupt the urgent and focus on what's really important. We are told that even Jesus went away by Himself to pray. If Jesus thought this was needed, how could we think it less.*

*I can honestly say that spending time with the Lord has never made my day less productive. It has had the opposite effect. It has demonstrated the truth Isaiah expressed (40:31), "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." Maybe the exhaustion you have been experiencing is trying to tell you something. You don't need to hurry up but rather slow down. Remember, if you run ahead of the Lord, you walk alone.*

*Pastor Tim*

# Hymn History: Count Your Blessings

***"Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:"* – Psalm 103:1-2**

Johnson Oatman, son of Johnson and Rachel Ann Oatman, was born near Medford, N.J., April 21, 1856. His father was an excellent singer and always loved to hear Johnson sing the songs of the church. He joined the Church at age 19. A few years later he was granted a license to preach the Gospel. For many years he would serve as a local preacher.

Beyond his preaching ministry, Oatman worked in the business world. With his father's passing, Oatman would take over the family insurance business. He is remembered today not for his wealth but for the mighty hymns he composed.

As one contemporary writer put it, "*While Mr. Oatman does not fill any particular pulpit, yet he daily preaches to a larger congregation than the pastor of any church in the land. For through the medium of sacred song he preaches the Gospel to 'all the world, and to every creature.'*" It is estimated that Oatman wrote around 200 hymns a year throughout his ministry. In all, he penned a staggering 5,000 hymns of the faith.

In 1897, Oatman's most influential hymn, *Count Your Blessings*, was published in the hymnal *Songs for Young People*. It became an immediate sensation. For this hymn served as a mighty reminder to think about all God has done. The impact of this hymn cannot be overstated.

One day, in 1902, the famous evangelist Gyspy Smith was visiting an infirmary for children. He relates his experience in his autobiography:

*At the request of…my host, I visited the infirmary. Most of the patients had been carried out on to the lawn for a sun bath. I spoke a few words to them, and then Mr. Penny said: "Before Mr. Smith goes, won't you sing something for him?" "Yes, sir," said a little girl.*

*"What will you sing ?" said he. "Count your blessings," was the reply.*

*Immediately I was deeply touched and impressed. Here was I in full enjoyment of health and of many priceless benefits of God, yet I had never counted my blessings. It had never occurred to me so to do. I felt sure that thousands of others had been guilty of the same omission.*

*Many of us, alas! are never so happy as when we are talking about our miseries. The sweet song fastened itself upon my heart and soul. I sing it at my meetings very frequently…Wherever one might go in the streets, in the trams, in the trains someone was humming or whistling or singing, 'Count your Blessings.'"*

Even in his lifetime, Oatman was privileged to see the great ways in which God used his hymn. No doubt, the message of this song was a lesson Mr. Oatman had learned for himself. There is great spiritual health in taking time to simply count your blessings. Rehearse all that God has done for you. As you do this, your eyes quickly move from yourself to your Savior. The truth is that none of us deserve any of the blessings God gives us. So today, stop and take time to praise the Lord for all He has done in your life.

*Count your blessings, name them one by one;*
*Count your blessings, see what God hath done;*
*Count your blessings, name them one by one;*
*Count your many blessings, see what God hath done.*

**Church Council**
September 15, 2026

**Present:** Virginia Roberts, Betty Jorgensen, Steve Johnson, Eileen Johnson, Pastor Tim, Amy Sines, Tyson Sines, Dale Cramer, Colleen Vandegrift, Linda Johnson, Wanda Warwick, Absent: Diane Deselms

**Prayer:** Pastor Tim led the council in prayer.

**Minutes:** Colleen made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Betty and the council voted to approve the motion.

**Financials:** Mandy Anderson emailed a packet of information on the financials. It was shared with the council. Council noted the grant money had been received from Economic Development for the marquee and deposited in the Star Premiere account. Wanda discussed the CD that is maturing at Waypoint Bank. Diane and Wanda had spoken to Jane Foster and determined the best path forward was to have the interest that has accumulated from the initial CD pulled off and deposited in the General Fund. The CD will be held at a negotiated rate which will be better than starting with a new CD. Mandy will be asked to write a check from the General Fund to the Star Premiere account for the same amount as the interest gained, which will give the Church more of a cushion with funds for any unanticipated problems. Colleen adjusted a motion to approve the financials from Mandy and to approve the option of taking the interest from the initial CDs moving forward. Betty seconded the motion and it passed.

**Betty:** Betty reported that the sprinkler system is being marked in her yard and progress will happen soon!

**Mission Giving:** Wanda suggested a youth project that Pastor Tim has shown interest. The funds would need to be assigned to the Youth Group so the Pastor can take the group to Denver to work in the Operation Christmas Child regional center. This would be a mission project that starts at the church level with the congregation participating, children helping pack boxes and finally the youth working at the final stage before the boxes are shipped overseas. Dale made a motion to assign the Mission Giving for the month to the Youth Group and a second was made by Colleen. The motion passed.

**Yandas:** Due to health, Greg of Yandas was not able to come to the church this week. He is rescheduling to have someone here possibly next week to check on our sound system. Pastor Tim is requesting a third remote microphone for use at Christmas. Colleen made a motion to have the system repaired and a third microphone purchased. Linda seconded the motion and it passed.

**Grace Bible:** Steve announced that Trinity has been approached about sharing our facility with Grace Bible. It would involve two different services with each of the respective pastors. One service early, shared Sunday School at 10 and Trinity service at 11 am.
Comments from members of the Administrative Council: Sunday School a plus; Past cleaning issues; Liability insurance; Expenses to split; Increased amount of cleaning for Courtney; No merger; Structure in a written policy; The Lord knows the way and all we have to do is follow; Speak to congregation and ask for input; Tim is committed to Bartley so changing Trinity service won't work; The issue will be addressed with the congregation after services on September 20 and continue to be presented until some conclusion is reached.

**Security Grant:** Pastor Tim received information about watching for emails that will give more answers to the Church.

**Next Meeting:** October 20, 2026

**Sunday November 22**

Save the date! Cambridge will celebrate November potluck after services on November 22. Potluck will be soup and sandwiches. After enjoying this light meal together, we will then prepare the church for the season ahead - Hanging of the Greens! Watch the upcoming bulletins for more information. Please come prepared to enjoy time together as a church family! We will needthe help of many people to dress our church for the season!

Kemper will decorate November 22 after Services and during fellowship! Please come and help make our churches beautiful!

## Mission Giving

Trinity Community Church will donate to the Big Give this month for the CASA program. During the Big Give a monetary gift is matched and this gives the church a chance to make a difference for the CASA program. Thank you for helping make a difference!

***Lord, Thank You That you Are;***

***Strong*** when I am weak.
***Present*** when I feel alone.
***Wisdom*** when I don't know what to do.
My ***guide*** when I feel lost.
***Hope*** when I lose confidence.
***Faith*** when I have none.
***Peace*** in the midst of the storm.
***Manna*** when I am hungry.
***Rest*** when I am restless.
My ***defender*** when I am accused.
My ***protector*** when I am attacked.
My ***strong tower*** when I am overwhelmed.
My ***provision*** when I am broke.
My ***healer*** when I am sick.
My ***friend*** when I have none.
My ***comforter*** when I am afraid.
***There*** when I call.
Thank you that you are ***my everything.***

Thank you to all who have helped with our Operation Christmas Child giving. We have received gifts from Bartley Sisters in Christ, Kemper Memorial Church and many individuals for the cost of shipping. It is one of my favorite Missions to see kids feel the love of complete strangers and to learn about Jesus! Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

Wanda

Thank you to Julie Hansen, Charlene Colson's daughter, for donating several large pieces of fleece for the Prayer Blanket project. It is a blessing that Bartley and Cambridge Churches participate in this project!

# The Story of Operation Christmas Child

**How did an idea about a shoebox turn into a worldwide gift-giving sensation?**

As we look forward to celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, Operation Christmas Child is also marking a birthday. This year marks 32 years since Samaritan's Purse began collecting shoeboxes filled with gifts for hurting children around the world.

In 1993, a man in England asked us to collect Christmas gifts for children in war-torn Bosnia. I called a church in Charlotte, where Pastor Ross Rhoads invited his congregation to fill showboxes with children's gifts, and they overwhelmed us with 11 thousand boxes – so many that the church ran out of room to store them. I'll never forget Ross telling me, "Franklin, this is obviously something the Lord has blessed."

From the start, Operation Christmas Child has always dedicated to sharing the Gospel, and the Lord has blessed us with an abundance of gift boxes – 244 million over 32 years.

Around the world, a whole generation of children have grown up after coming to know Jesus through Operation Christmas Child.

The boxes that are collected are shipped to many countries around the world. Each box will have a book about Jesus for the children to learn and study. Many of the recipients will remember these gifts for years to come.

After sharing the story of the Good Samaritan, Jesus said "Go and do likewise." That is the mission of Samaritan's Purse—to follow the example of Christ by helping those in need and proclaiming the hope of the Gospel.

Franklin Graham

Our kids at work packing boxes for others. The photographer forgot to take a couple other pictures. Missing from the pictures are Addison, Easton and Hazel!

***What are you thankful for…..***

My mom and my dad…
My mama…..
My teddy Beary and my family…
My mommy and Daddy and Lincoln….
Thankful for my God, my family, my friends, my eyesight, my hearing and all the blessings…..
Salvation and the free gift of grace….
Salvation through the shed blood of Jesus, our church, family and friends, good health…..
Thankful for a church full of friends…….
I'm thankful God woke me up and gave me another day, my family, friends and a wonderful church…..
Sunday School teachers…..
Bible Study leaders….
Del and his Sunday morning thoughts…..
Patty for her care in our kitchen….
Church musicians…..
Our Pastor….

**Bartley Sisters in Christ** met October 7, with five members present. President Pam Downer opened with the Purpose. Charlene Colson gave devotions. Minutes of the previous meeting and a treasurer's report were presented.
Announcements included an update on member LaNora Palmateer. She had fallen recently and is in Holdrege Christian Homes. Members sent a card and talked to her on the phone. We are keeping her in our hearts. Jerry Kautz, who provided the church and others with organs for musical enjoyment, was also sent a get-well card. Pastor Appreciation Month was discussed and gift cards were given by the Church.
Operation Christmas Child: As in previous years, we will provide postage for this mission project. Sisters and the Church donated to this project.
The next meeting will be November 11, at 2 pm. Share treats and bring your own drink.
The annuals Veteran's Day program will be that morning at Southwest High School.
Pam shared thoughts from Ruth Bell Graham to close the meeting.

# Daylight Saving Time Ends!!!

## *Remember to reset your clocks*

## *November 1*

## *Fall behind!*

# November 2026

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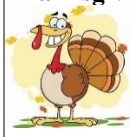
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1**<br>Daylight Saving Time ends.<br>Bartley-9:45 am Fellowship at 10:45am<br><br>Fellowship at 10<br>Sunday School 10am<br>Cambridge-11 am | **2** | **3** | **4**<br>Bible Study 5pm<br><br>Youth Group 7pm | **5** | **6** | **7** |
| **8**<br>Bartley-9:45 am Fellowship at 10:45am<br><br>Fellowship at 10<br>Cambridge-11 am<br><br>Friends Giving at 5 pm | **9**<br>Elizabeth Circle at 12 pm | **10** | **11**<br>Sisters in Christ 2pm<br><br>Cambridge Circles at 4 pm<br><br>Bible Study 5pm<br>Youth Group 7pm | **12** | **13** | **14** |
| **15**<br>Bartley-9:45 am Fellowship at 10:45am<br><br>Fellowship at 10<br>Sunday School 10am<br>Cambridge-11 am | **16**<br>Outreach at 9:30am | **17** | **18**<br>Bible Study 5pm<br>Youth Group 7pm<br>Lois Circle 7 pm | **19** | **20** | **21** |
| **22**<br>Bartley-9:45 am Fellowship at 10:45am<br><br>Fellowship at 10<br>Cambridge-11 am<br><br>**Soup & Sandwiches Hanging of the Greens after services** | **23** | **24** | **25**<br><br>Youth Group 7pm<br>Lois Circle at 7pm | **26**<br>**Happy Thanksgiving!**<br>  | **27** | **28** |
| 29<br>Bartley-9:45 am Fellowship at 10:45am<br><br>Fellowship at 10 | **30** | | | | | |

Shoe Box Collection Nov. Monday 16-20

**Cambridge Circles** will have a short meeting on November 11 at 4 pm. Come with ideas for gifting the funds we have in reserve.

The Outreach Committee is always an active group at Trinity! This year they organized goodies for the Trick & Treat kids for Halloween. The Elizabeth Circle got involved packing 150 bags for the children.

## Change of Time

The Burke/Benson families have invited church friends to the Foundation Homestead for a time of Friends Giving.
Date: November 8
Time: 5 pm

Bring the fixings…
Meat will be provided.

*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

Pastor Tim's e-mail:
Trinitypastor@swnebr.net

10:00 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship

### Kemper Memorial Church

9:45 am Worship
Followed by Fellowship

**November**

2 Cody Vandegrift
3 Donna Pearson
Debbi Runner
Reese tenBensel
Gavin tenBense
5 Carla Potts
Lexie Sines Taylor
6 Keller Ruf
10 Burton Burton
Kim Cramer
Keegan Benson
13 Dale Cramer
Ryan Cramer
17 Jenna Ebbers Bell
19 Charlene Colson
20 Pam Downer
21 Lindsey White
Braden Jones
22 Daryl Brown
25 Jim Jackson
27 Tyler Brooks

**Happy Anniversary**

November 20
Don & Aneta Harding

November 23
Ken & Georgia Dutt

November 25
Rod & Suzi Mollring

November 26
Dale & Jan Cramer

November 28
Dean & Gloria Liess