

THE SPIRE



December 2017
Volume 5, Issue 11

First Ev. Lutheran Church, 201 N. Davis, PO Box 152, Oakland, NE, 68045
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Pastor's COLUMN

By Rev. Mark Eldal

One of the amazing aspects of God's ministering in our world is how he repeatedly takes the initiative to come to us in our lives.

We see this in the very beginning, when, after Adam and Eve sin and hide from God, God himself, takes the initiative to come to them and restores them to relationship with himself. We see this in the life of Abraham, when God takes the initiative to call Abraham and then promise him land and descendents. We see this in the life of Israel as God raises up prophets to bring the people of Israel back to him when they begin drift away from him.

And most importantly, we see God taking the initiative to enter our world in the person of God the Son, live among us, and then die and rise, so we might be forgiven and live in a relationship with him now and through eternity.

This is of course, what we remember at Christmas. We remember Jesus taking the initiative to come to us as a little baby and then go on to accomplish his saving work through his life, death and resurrection.

Wonderfully, this same Jesus still takes the initiative to come to us. He comes to us individually, through the Holy Spirit, to dwell in our hearts as we trust in him as our Savior and Lord.

This Christmas season may we celebrate Jesus taking the initiative to enter our world and bring salvation to all who put their faith in him, and may we celebrate that this same Jesus takes the initiative to knock on our hearts door and come into our hearts as we trust in him.

God bless,

Pastor Mark

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December 2017 Special Days

Some of the special days celebrated in December are:

- ❄ First Sunday of Advent — December 3
- ❄ Second Sunday of Advent — December 10
- ❄ Third Sunday of Advent — December 17
- ❄ First day of Winter — December 21
- ❄ Fourth Sunday of Advent — December 24
- ❄ Christmas Eve — December 24
- ❄ Christmas Day — December 25
- ❄ New Year's Eve — December 31

ANNOUNCEMENTS

On All Saints Sunday we remembered and celebrated that we are bound with the saints of every age. Please join us in remembering all those who have passed in the last year.

On Sunday, November 19th the coffee and rolls during fellowship were in honor of Darrell and Cheryl Denker's 50th Wedding Anniversary. **CONGRATULATIONS DARRELL AND CHERYL!!!**

Please join us for Christmas Eve Services at 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.

Be sure to check out our bulletin board updates in the coming weeks for volunteering opportunities.

FESTIVAL OF TREES.. Please join Oakland Women's Club at the City Auditorium on Sunday, December 10th from 11:30-2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10/person! Please support our Women's Club and Happy Holidays! We can't wait to see you!

REMINDER-OC Close Up Bake Sale and Spaghetti Feed at the Vet's Building on Sunday, December 3rd 11:00 am - 1:00 pm. Proceeds from the Spaghetti Feed will benefit Oakland's 150th Anniversary Bash in 2018. Afterwards, attend the Swedish Heritage Center's Santa Lucia Festival!!! Refreshments at 4:30 p.m., Santa Lucia Processional at 6:00 p.m. and Burt County Brass Concert at 6:45 p.m. Hope to see you! What a fun-filled day for Oakland!!!

On Monday morning November 7th at 8:30 a.m, the sewing ladies packed 98 quilts for Lutheran World Relief, 15 quilts for the Lydia House, 20 quilts for the Orphan Train, 21 from Lutheran Family Services, 23 quilts to the Sienna Francis House, 17 quilts to the Open Door Mission, 5 quilts to Houston Texas Hurricane Relief Victims. In addition, the WOW groups provided the items to fill hygiene kits. **WHAT AN AMAZING ACCOMPLISHMENT!! They truly appreciated all of the help packing and lifting the heavy boxes.**

The Quilters will have a Christmas Brunch on Dec. 5th at 9:00 am and that will be the last quilting day through the holidays.

Several students received their first communion at First Lutheran on Wednesday, November 22nd during the Thanksgiving Eve Service. They were: Gabi Linder, Hannah Deemer, Kara Peterson, Johnna Peterson, Carter Bousquet, Grant Seagren and Brayden Selk.



ALL WOMEN OF THE WORD are invited to Christmas pot-luck on Wednesday, December 13th at noon. We will be having an Executive Meeting on Monday December 11th at 9:00 a.m.

FRIDAY NIGHT PUB. The "Luther's Pub" dates for the remainder of the year will be: December 8th. We have a few volunteers signed up to help us chaperone. If you would be interested in helping, the signup sheet is located in the multipurpose room. If you have any questions, please contact Connie Larson (402)380-5101 or Tess Johnson (402)380-5660.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

- Dec 6, 13, 20 - CONFIRMATION - at 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
- NO CONFIRMATION Dec. 27 or Jan. 3

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The attendance at Sunday School is amazing! Our Sunday School kids are doing great and are excited to perform. Please continue to play the cd's as our time left is limited. Our theme this year is CANDLES OF CHRISTMAS! We only have one Sunday left for program practice and ATTENDANCE IS GREATLY ENCOURAGED!!!

Dates to remember:

- **Sunday, December 3rd at 10:30 a.m.** practice for our Christmas Program.
- **Wednesday, December 6th at 5:30 p.m.** practice for our Christmas Program. Supper will be served!
- **Sunday, December 10th at 9:30 a.m.** is our Christmas Program. The children need to be at the church no later than 8:45 a.m. **I will need parents to sign up to help dress kids in costumes, undress kids after the program, serve coffee and rolls, etc.** We welcome all families, grandparents, etc. to gather in the basement after the program for coffee and rolls!!!
- **Sunday, January 7th, 2018-** Sunday school will resume.

¹⁶ Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:16-17

~Angela R. Rennerfeldt

BIBLE STUDY NEWS

YOUTH GROUP will be meeting every Wednesday from 6:30-8:30 p.m. A meal will be provided. It is open to all current Junior and Senior High students in the community.

YOUTH GROUP MEAL SIGN UP SHEET - We have added a Youth Group Meal Sign Up Sheet to the bulletin board. We are looking for volunteers to provide a meal, side dish or dessert every Wednesday night for 25-30 students throughout the school year. If you cannot provide a meal, but are willing to contribute funds to help cover the cost of meals please let Pastor Mark or Tess know of your willingness to donate funds. For planning, we would like to have volunteers sign up for meals, side dishes, dessert or donations at least a month in advance.

Men's Bible Study is on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month.

Growing Together - Pastor Mark is finishing his study on the first chapters of Genesis. Following this, Nancy Johnson will be leading a new study. The study will begin at 11:00 a.m. Sunday mornings. Everyone is welcome.

THANK YOU's

- To our sewing group for all the beautiful quilts they make during the year! So blessed each fall when they adorn our church!!
 - **Thank you to all the people who helped decorate the church for the Christmas Season on Wednesday, November 29th and to those who helped bring the decorations down from storage.**
-



IN OUR PRAYERS OF CONCERN PLEASE INCLUDE:

Dr. Charlie Seagren, Laurie Schold, Lee Schinck, Tony Kochel (Hilda Benne's nephew-in-law) Jeannie Tanksley, Scott Krutilek, Bonnie Goodrich, Krissa Schonert, Jerry Seick, Janice Johnson, Roger Maller, Nancy Poppe, Mel Swenson, Joe Keaschall, Alejandro Zeller, Pat Jorgensen, Oliver Nimmo, Moe Johnson, Nancy Moate, Stacy Long, Arizona Riecken, Lincoln Nobel Hangman, Andy Kruse, Landon Johnson, Delwin Benne, and Grace Meints, the families Ramona Benson and Laverne Osterndorff, Karen Brand, our shut-ins, and our youth ministry.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Brandon Bollinger, Teresa Rogers,
Timothy Slatt, Keri Thomsen
- 4 - Luryn Andersen
- 5 - Natalie Bromm
- 6 - William Ahrens
- 7 - Lura Johanson
- 8 - Rex Baldwin
- 10 - Betty Hanna
- 11 - Tricia Heineman, Bailey Pelan,
Roxanne Lundquist
- 13 - Donna Peterson-Keesling
- 14 - Timothy Dame, Darrell Denker,
Clare Wiltse, Garrett Seagren
- 15 - Valerie Lindstrom
- 16 - Ed Anderson
- 17 - Betty Homes,
Natalie Johnson-Anderson
- 19 - Mark Peterson, Jaxen Jorgensen
- 22 - Norman Wallerstedt, Peyton Miller
- 24 - Calvin Moseman
- 25 - Amber Shelley-Futhey
- 26 - Diane Lindstrom, Justin Beck,
Landon Ehlers
- 27 - Tiffany Johnson
- 28 - Miles Lindstrom
- 29 - Lesley Wonka-Vigneri
- 30 - Jennings Johnson, Norm Johnson
- 31 - Chloine Johnson, Travis Thomsen



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 - Dave & Laurie Schold,
Jim & Judy Nelson,
Kent & Joan Johnson
- 6 - Scott & Amy Krutilek
- 17 - Roger & Patti Moderow
- 19 - Alan & Renae Johnson
- 21 - Dick & Patty Miller
- 22 - David & Kathy Pearson
- 23 - Leonard & Laurie Canarsky
- 27 - Jerry & Roberta Seick
- 28 - Roger & Dee Bailey
- Ken & Kay Elsasser
- 29 - Jordan & Heidi Johnson
- 31 - Tracy & Paula Denton,
Tony & Casey Moseman

FIRST EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH IS PART OF LCMC, Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ.

To find information regarding our synod - <http://www.lcmc.net/>

Please check out our updated website: www.firstlutheran-oakland.com

We are now on Facebook as well... come see our page...

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/First-Lutheran-Church-Oakland-NE/308938792621977>

Please get your email address in to Tess or Vanessa in the office to be signed up for our Right Now Media service.

To Email our church - firstlutheranchurch_152@q.com



First Evangelical Lutheran Church Oakland, Nebraska

The church council met November 6, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. with the following persons present: Greg Johnson, Linda Jones, Nathan Anderson, Tom Meyer, Sandy Husar, Carole Johnson, and Mona Tanksley. Pastor Eldal was also in attendance.

Devotions were given by Mona followed by Pastor presenting his report for the months of September and October. In discussing the LCMC convention, it was felt it would be nice to have a list of other LCMC congregations in our area available as a resource in the Spire or posted on a bulletin board. A thank you was read from Pastor thanking all for the gift given to him for Pastor Appreciation Sunday. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The treasurer's report was reviewed and discussed. Year to date the expenses exceed income by \$15,323.

A thank you was read from the WOW organization expressing their appreciation for the Reformation Dinner served by the council. The money received from that meal, \$434.00, will be used for a special project yet to be determined.

Old Business: Property Committee: Linda shared the information she has received regarding the remodeling of the kitchen area north of the annex. She has met with a Dorcas member and they have begun discussions on potential plans. There was also discussion on coffee makers to replace what we currently have. There was discussion about who is responsible for raking leaves in the church lawn, shoveling snow and putting out ice melt. We will look into this. We also will check with Sean Linder regarding winter maintenance on the sprinkler system.

New Business: The Evangelism Committee met October 25 and discussed ways of involving more people in the decorating of the church for Christmas. Consideration is being given to decorating on Wednesday night, November 29 and having the youth assist and following with a soup supper.

Other items discussed were the Christmas Eve services, the annual meeting that will be January 28, 2018 and the need for committees to meet prior to the annual meeting. The next meeting will be at Pastor and Jacque's home December 4 at 6:00 pm. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned with all saying the Lord's Prayer.

Devotions for December - Carole Johnson

Communion Helpers Dec 2 - Arla Ogden

Dec 3 - Greg Johnson

Mona Tanksley, Secretary

November Attendance

| | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| 4 & 5 | 176 |
| 12 & 13 | 165 |
| 19 & 20 | 176 |
| 23 (Thanksgiving Eve)... | 83 |
| 26 & 27..... | 132 |

November Finances

| | |
|---------------|---------------------|
| Commitments | \$18,455.35 |
| Designated | \$ 50.00 |
| Coffee Fund | \$ 111.00 |
| Sunday School | \$ 34.00 |
| Thanksgiving | \$ 1,100.00 |
| Memorial | \$ 35.00 |
| Misc | \$ 187.00 |
| TOTAL | \$ 19,972.35 |



Dorcas is invited to attend the WOW potluck on Dec. 13th.

Sheri Slatt – 685-5627

Roxanne Lundquist –380-0026

Tom Wallerstedt - 402-260-9023



SEWING GROUP will have a Christmas Brunch on December 5th at 9:00 am. All who have helped quilting during the year are welcome. The quilters will resume their activities after the first of the New Year.



WOMEN OF THE WORD (WOW):

Each Group set their own dates for Christmas Celebrations

December 6.....Bingo @ O.H. 9:30 a.m.Hannah

December 10.....Devotions @ O.H. 2:30 p.m.....Ruth

December 11Executive Meetings 9:00 a.m.

December 13Noon Potluck, Ruth Serves, Hannah Program

Clean KitchenHannah

- We are collecting fall and winter clothing for the Open Door Mission.
- **FOOD BANK DONATIONS** - We continue to collect non-perishable products, but did you know if you would prefer to give a monetary donation it is as simple as leaving a check at our local bank.
- **Ladies Day Out** - In Nov. and Dec. we will be going to places that have great holiday decorating ideas. If you are interested contact Connie Anderson at 402-685-5329.



Poinsettia for Christmas. If you would like to purchase a poinsettia from Allie's Flower Shoppe to decorate the sanctuary of church, you can complete a flower order form (enclosed in this newsletter), and include a check for \$16 made out to First Lutheran Church. You may bring this to church or send them in the mail to First Lutheran Church, PO Box 152, Oakland, NE 68045.

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

In Memory/Honor of:

You may also give this form to Tess in the office or leave in the offering plate on Sunday. Thank you!

December 2017

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|--|---|-----|-----|-------------------------------------|
|  | | | | | 1 | 2 5:30PM COMMUNION SERVICE |
| 3 9:30AM COMMUNION/ CONTEMPORARY SERVICE 10:30AM FELLOWSHIP & SUNDAY SCHOOL | 4 7:00 PM CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING | 5 7:30PM A.A. MEETINGS 9:00 AM QUILTERS BRUNCH | 6 9:00AM MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 9:30AM BINGO @ OAKLAND HEIGHTS 6:30PM -8:30 P.M. YOUTH GROUP & CONFIRMATION 7:00 PM CHOIR PRACTICE | 7 | 8 | 9 5:30PM WORSHIP SERVICE |
| 10 9:30AM PRAISE SERVICE & SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM 10:30AM FELLOWSHIP- IN THE BASEMENT | 11 9:00AM WOW EXECUTIVE MEETING | 12 7:30PM A.A. MEETINGS | 13 12:00 PM WOW POT LUCK LUNCHEON 6:30PM -8:30 P.M. YOUTH GROUP & CONFIRMATION 7:00 PM CHOIR PRACTICE | 14 | 15 | 16 5:30PM WORSHIP SERVICE |
| 17 9:30AM WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30AM FELLOWSHIP NO SUNDAY SCHOOL | 18 | 19 7:30PM A.A. MEETINGS | 20 9:00AM MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 6:30PM -8:30 P.M. YOUTH GROUP & CONFIRMATION 7:00 PM CHOIR PRACTICE | 21 | 22 | 23 NO SERVICES |
| 24 9:30AM WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30AM FELLOWSHIP NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 5PM & 10PM CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES | 25  | 26 7:30PM A.A. MEETINGS | 27 2PM DORCAS SOCIETY MEETING @ O.H. 6:30PM -8:30 P.M. YOUTH GROUP NO CONFIRMATION 7:00 PM CHOIR PRACTICE | 28 | 29 | 30 NO SERVICES |
| 31 9:30AM WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30AM FELLOWSHIP NO SUNDAY SCHOOL NEW YEAR'S EVE |  |  | | | | |

USHERS

THIS MONTH

December 2017 Ushers

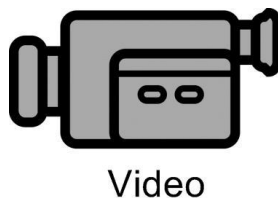
3rd - Roger Moderow, Sam Schmidt, Carl Magnuson and Jay Lindstrom
 10th - Sunday School Program - N. Case, L. Johnson & Confirmation Class Members
 17th - Norm Case, Curt Mallette and Cody Mallette
 24th - Norm Case, Clare Wilste, Jerry Benne and Vincent Lindstrom
 Christmas Eve Early Service - Tim and Sheri Slatt Family
 Christmas Eve Late Service - Scott and Val Lindstrom Family
 31st - Larry Johnson, Roger Moderow, Carl Easton and Jonathan Dixon

December 2017 Greeters

3rd - Joan Magnuson and Diane Lindstrom
 10th - Sunday School Program - Confirmation Class Members
 17th - Beverly Peterson and Sandy Husar
 24th - Linda Carlson and Mary Alice Pearson
 Christmas Eve Early Service - Tim and Sheri Slatt family
 Christmas Eve Late Service - Scott and Val Lindstrom Family
 31st - Julie Easton and Tess, Jamie and Lyndsey Johnson



Dec. 3 - Grant Seagren
 10 - Brayden Selk
 17 - Connor Guill
 24 - Aiden Jorgensen
 24 - Ayden Lierman
 31 - Gabi Linder
 Jan 7, 2018 - Mia Linder



Dec. 3 - Carter Bousquet
 10 - Grant Seagren
 18 - Brayden Selk
 24 - Connor Guill
 24 - Aiden Jorgensen
 31 - Mia Linder
 Jan 7, 2018 - Gabi Linder



Dec 3 - Bryan Bohn
 10 - Cindy Blanc
 17 - Bryan Bohn
 24 - Bryan Bohn
 31 - Bryan Bohn



Dec 3 - Jim/Dan
 10 - Tess Johnson
 17 - Dan Tanksley
 24 - Tess J/ Dan Tanksley
 31 - Jim Pelan

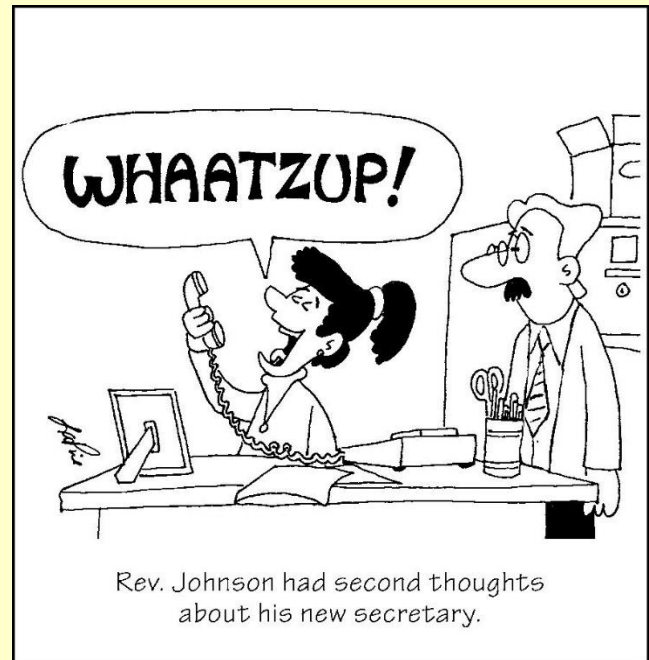


Karen Ahrens and Brenda Andersen
 Downstairs with the Youth After Christmas Program
 Connie Anderson and Rosemary Anderson
 Sara Anderson and Karen Blanc
 Michelle Case and Janice Case

Sunday, December 3, 2017
 Sunday, December 10, 2017
 Sunday, December 17, 2017
 Sunday, December 24, 2017
 Sunday, January 7, 2018

Thank you for your help in these important areas.
If you can't be here, please find someone to take your place.

CHRISTIAN HUMOR TO TICKLE YOUR LIFE



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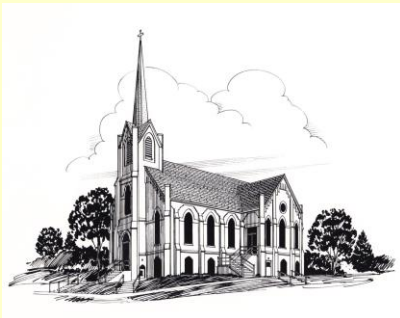
E-Mail:

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We are committed to providing
spiritual enrichment to ALL who
seek the Lord.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.firstlutheran-oakland.com

