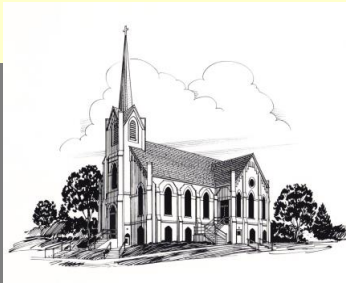


THE SPIRE



January 2017
Volume 5, Issue 1

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Pastor's COLUMN

By Rev. Mark Eldal

The month of January, of course, marks the beginning of a new year. Perhaps when a new year begins we may become reflective as we think about the past, what the new year might bring, and the passage of time.

As we reflect on the passage of time we can have confidence in one thing, which is we have a God who is the Lord of time.

Because God is the Lord of time, he can bring healing to our past if there has been disappointment. God can also bring forgiveness for sin and failure in the past and in this way give us a new beginning in him.

Because God is the Lord of time we can also have peace regarding the future. We can echo the words of David when he would write "my times are in your hands." We can know that whatever may come in the new year God can be with us in Jesus.

Thus, as we enter a new year and contemplate the passage of time, we can be at rest. As we trust in Jesus, he can give us peace regarding the past and the future.

May we enter the new year with the peace that only God can give in Jesus.

God bless,

Pastor Mark

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We thank everyone at First Lutheran for your greetings, cards, and gifts this past Christmas season. We really appreciated them. We are always moved by your thoughtfulness and kindness. We trust you had a wonderful Christmas and may you have a blessed new year.

Sincerely,

Mark and Jacque

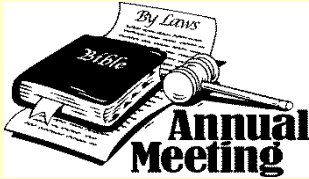


ANNOUNCEMENTS



Winter Coat Drive. The Women of the Word (WOW) are planning a winter coat, mitten, and hat drive. We are going to try to keep these items in the area as there is a desperate need here. Please bring all gently used coats in any size, hats and mittens or gloves.

Come one, Come All!! Help is needed to take down the Christmas Decorations at the church on Saturday January 7th, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.



The Annual Meeting will be held January 22nd, 2017 at 10:45 a.m. with a Soup Dinner to follow.

Please contact Darrell Denker if you are interested in participating in any of the church committees.



All information needed for each committee's annual reports needs to be turned into Tess in the office by January 6, 2017 to make it into the Annual Report.

The offering envelopes for the 2017 year will be located in the multipurpose room. Please take them home with you.



We thank everyone who has contributed their talents to our Christmas Eve worship service:

- ☞ Natalie Bromm for her children's sermon.
- ☞ Jim and Judy Nelson for presenting the service on the screen.
- ☞ Mia Linder, Jenna Bromm and Tate Penke for their singing.
- ☞ Larinda Canarsky Collette and Krissa Wallerstedt Schoenert for the flute and piano duet.
- ☞ The Choir for their song.
- ☞ Zak Liermann and Jared Mulder for their brass accompaniment.
- ☞ Bryan Bohn for directing the Choir.
- ☞ Cindy Blanc for her accompaniment with the piano.
- ☞ Billye Pearson and Bryan Bohn for being the organists.
- ☞ Dan Tanksley and Tess Johnson for operating the sound system.
- ☞ All others who have assisted with our Christmas Eve Services.



Thank you to everyone who donated poinsettia to beautify our Church for Christmas! They are as listed below:

In Memory of:

- ☞ Pete and Lois Schmidt from Kent & Brenda Andersen, their children & grandchildren
- ☞ Donald J. Andersen from Patsy Andersen and family
- ☞ Darlene Wagner from Cal and Sara Anderson and family
- ☞ Our Loved Ones from Ed and Connie Anderson
- ☞ Daryl and Amy Bromm from Shirley Bromm
- ☞ Jacob Johnson from Spencer Bromm
- ☞ Karen Carstensen from Jack Carstensen & family
- ☞ LaRita Lindstrom, Jean Easton, and other loved ones from Carl and Julie Easton
- ☞ Jessica Hughes from Mark and Jacque Eldal
- ☞ Garland Erickson from Florence Erickson and family
- ☞ Charles "Chuck" Frahm, and Garrett Frahm from Clara Frahm & family
- ☞ Jacob Johnson, Bill Voss and Harry Goodrich from Bonnie Goodrich
- ☞ Mr. & Mrs. Virgil Lane, Mr. & Mrs. Albert C. Johnson, Mr. & Mrs. Otto Dinklage from Jon and Chloe Johnson
- ☞ Jacob Johnson, Bill Voss, Harry Goodrich & in celebration of all our grandchildren from Mark and Jill Johnson
- ☞ Leonard Canarsky Sr., LeRoy & June Jenkins, Loren & Helen Bundy, Walter & Dorothy Jorgensen, Walter Jorgensen Jr., Janet Jorgensen, Hobart Watts and Jon Kevin Jorgensen from Jim and Leann Jorgensen & family
- ☞ Stan & Marianne Johnson & LaRita Lindstrom from Jay and Diane Lindstrom & family
- ☞ Bob Lindstrom from Marlene Lindstrom & family
- ☞ Veda Hansen from Scott and Valerie Lindstrom & family & Vern Hansen
- ☞ Parents & loved ones from Roger and Marge Maller
- ☞ Our parents from Tom and Phyllis Meyer
- ☞ Maurice and Margaret Moderow from Roger Moderow family
- ☞ Ruth and Oliver Wise & Bernice and Harold Nelson from Rachel and Gordon Nelson
- ☞ Grandma Joyce Zimmerly Bromm from Mark, Jodi, Lane, Kara, & Johnna Peterson
- ☞ Eric Benedict, Dave Benedict from Steve Peterson family
- ☞ Del Peterson from the family of Del Peterson
- ☞ My Father, Son, & all friends (Large pink rose plant) from Sharon Peterson
- ☞ Jim & Carolyn Lutes, Leonard & Ardell Poppe from Gene and Nancy Poppe
- ☞ Gary Rosenboom, Marlin & Pernilla Jensen from Karen Rosenboom
- ☞ Chuck Rogers and Ross Peterson from Greg and Deanna Ray
- ☞ Pat Seagren (wife, mother, & grandmother) from Pat Seagren's family
- ☞ Remember Grandpa Harold & in celebration of Marissa Kay's 1st Christmas from The VonEssen farm gang
- ☞ James Wallace from Dorothy Wallace & Don and Sarah Wallace and family
- ☞ Our parents, Vernon K and Lillian Johnson, from Richard and Janet Reckmeyer & Glenn and Sharon Krueger
- ☞ Elroy & Eunice Johnson from Larry, Kenny, Laurine and their families.
- ☞ In honor of our grandchildren Owen, Ian, Noah and Emersyn from Dale and Linda Jones
- ☞ Daytonn Benne, Robert and Lila Jones, Louise Jones & Jacob Johnson from Dale and Linda Jones
- ☞ Loved Ones by LaVerne Osterndorff
- ☞ Vernolt Moseman by Pat Moseman

~AND~ Merry Christmas from Pelan's Funeral Home

If you purchased a poinsettia to decorate our church, please feel welcome to take them home with you.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Alicia Isner
- 2 - Mitchell Lindstrom
- 3 - Linda Carlson
- 6 - Dorothy Larson (105th)
- 7 - Leonard Canarsky, Lisa Fredrickson, Jay Johnson,
Julia Wuestewald
- 8 - Tyler Frederickson, Chad Linder
- 9 - Ronald Badje, Marylin Baker, Lisa Stover
- 11 - Tony Bromm, Carson Miller
- 12 - Brooke Van Horn, April Van Horn, Noah Anderson
- 13 - Justin Corwine, Jarvis Guill, Melinda Johnson,
Gary Powell, Tye Penke
- 15 - Patsy Andersen
- 16 - Will Johnson, Jennie Johnson, Paul Kruse, Brent Linder
- 17 - Frank Johnson, Jeanette Blanc
- 19 - Gerron Elsasser, Karen Karstens, Mia Linder, Ruth Blomenkamp, Lillian Ehlers
- 22 - Emmy Bousquet, Roger Nelson, Heidi Johnson
Michael Kloth, Jack Kloth, Lauren Kloth
- 23 - Joe Larson, Harold Lindstrom
- 24 - Brady Jorgensen, Eric Trout
- 26 - Rebecca Moderow
- 27 - Eunice Persson,
- 28 - Lillian Mueller, James Schrock
- 29 - Arlene Carper, Lane Peterson
- 30 - Garrett Pearson
- 31 - Isaiah Larson, Larry Paulson



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 4- Natalie & Jennings Johnson
Greg & Nancy Johnson
- 5 - Mark & Jacque Eldal
- 6 - Robert & Jane Moseman
- 16 - Donald & Sarah Wallace
- 27 - Gordon & Shirley Olson



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

We met Wednesday, December 7th at 5:30 p.m. for our annual Christmas party. We practiced our program music for an hour and ate at 6:30. Drinks and dessert were provided. Our program was on December 11th during the 9:30 am Worship Service. **What a great turn out!!**

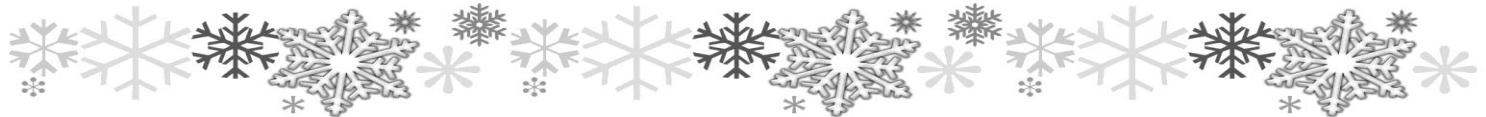
Thank you again parents who bring your children to Sunday School and weekly practices, and those of you who have donated food, or your time helping. We really appreciate it. A big thank you to Jill Johnson and Cindy Blanc for their service with our children at First Lutheran Church!

Another big thank you to the teachers that volunteer weekly. It is a huge commitment that does not go unnoticed.

Happy New Year! Sunday School will resume on January 8th, 2017. We will sing next on February 12th. Mark your calendars and Happy New Year!

Blessings,

Angie



BIBLE STUDY NEWS

YOUTH GROUP meets every Wednesday of the month from 6:30-8:30 pm. A meal is provided. It is open to all current Junior High and Senior High students in the community. There is a sign-up sheet in the multipurpose room for anyone who wishes to donate for the treats.

FRIDAY NIGHT PUB. We started "the Pub" again and it will be after home games. We are looking for volunteers to help us chaperone. Please contact Connie Larson (402)380-5101 or Tess Johnson (402)380-5660, if you are interested.

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

Koinoina Bible Study is the 3rd Sunday at 6:00 p.m.

Growing Together Bible Study Series - One of the benefits of being a small group is flexibility. We need to make a few adjustments with vacation schedules, so we did not meeting during the month of December, but will begin again in January.



CONFIRMATION NEWS

Confirmation will meet January 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th.

IN OUR PRAYERS OF CONCERN PLEASE INCLUDE:

Elaine Gregg (Sandy Husars's Mom), Lois Messerschmidt, Moe Johnson, Teresa Rogers, Jack Carstensen, Ed Anderson, Kenny Pearson, Mel Wietzenkamp, Roberta Anderson (Joan Johnson's Niece), Sharlene Grindle (Keri Thomsen's mom), Nancy Moate, Dean Brudigam, Stacy Long, Alissa Bousquet, Jess Kroger, Ron Badje, Arizona Riecken, Marilyn Bures, Lincoln Nobel Hangman, Andy Kruse, Landon Johnson, Oliver Nimmo, Delwin Benne, and Grace Meints, the families of Robert Moate, Del Peterson, Don Johanson and Muriel Rabe, all of our servicemen and women, our shut-ins, and our youth ministry.



Sandy Mallette--685-6131
Shirley Olson--685-6047



SEWING MEETINGS START AGAIN JAN. 9, 2016
SEWING GROUP MEETS every Monday & Tuesday morning at 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

W.O.W. MEETINGS- JANUARY - 2017

- Jan. 4.....Bingo @ O.H. 9:30 AM
- Jan. 9Executive Meeting 9:00 AM
- Jan. 11Group Meetings 9 AM, 2 PM, 5 PM
- Jan. 22Devotions @ 2:30 p.m. Hannah
- Bingo..... Ruth
- Clean Kitchen ...Ruth



DORCAS SOCIETY - January 5, Noon Luncheon@ Oakland Heights
January 25, 2:00 P.M.@ Oakland Heights

January 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 9:30AM COMMUNION SERVICE 10:30AM FELLOWSHIP NO SUNDAY SCHOOL NEW YEAR'S DAY	2 6:00PM EVANGALISM COMMITTEE MEETING 7:00PM CHURCH COUNCIL MEETINGS	3 7:30PM A.A. MEETING	4 9:00AM MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 9:30AM BINGO @ OAKLAND HEIGHTS 6:30PM - 8:30 P.M CONFIRMATION AND YOUTH GROUP 7:00 PM CHOIR PRACTICE	5 8:00PM N.A. MEETINGS	6	7 5:30PM WORSHIP SERVICE
8 9:30AM WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30AM FELLOWSHIP & SUNDAY SCHOOL	9 8:30AM SEWING GROUP 9AM WOW EXECUTIVE MEETING	10 8:30AM SEWING GROUP 7:30PM A.A. MEETING	11 9AM 2 PM, 5PM WOW GROUP MEETINGS 6:30PM - 8:30 P.M CONFIRMATION AND YOUTH GROUP 7:00 PM CHOIR PRACTICE	12 8:00PM N.A. MEETINGS	13	14 5:30PM WORSHIP SERVICE WEDDING
15 9:30AM CONTEMP/PRAISE SERVICE 10:30AM FELLOWSHIP & SUNDAY SCHOOL 6:00PM KOINONIA MEETING	16 8:30AM SEWING GROUP MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY	17 8:30AM SEWING GROUP 7:30PM A.A. MEETING	18 9:00AM MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 6:30PM - 8:30 P.M CONFIRMATION AND YOUTH GROUP 7:00 PM CHOIR PRACTICE	19 8:00PM N.A. MEETINGS	20	21 5:30PM WORSHIP SERVICES
22 9:30AM WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30AM FELLOWSHIP & SUNDAY SCHOOL	23 8:30AM SEWING GROUP	24 8:30AM SEWING GROUP 7:30PM A.A. MEETING	25 2:00 P.M.DORCAS SOCIETY -@ O. H. 6:30PM - 8:30 P.M CONFIRMATION AND YOUTH GROUP 7:00 PM CHOIR PRACTICE	26 8:00PM N.A. MEETINGS	27	28 5:30PM WORSHIP SERVICE
29 9:30AM WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30AM FELLOWSHIP & SUNDAY SCHOOL CHOIR SINGS	30 8:30AM SEWING GROUP	31 8:30AM SEWING GROUP 7:30PM A.A. MEETING				



**First Evangelical Lutheran Church
Oakland, Nebraska**

The church council met December 5, 2016 at the home of Pastor Eldal. In attendance were Greg Johnson, Sam Schmidt, Carl Magnusson, Cheryl Denker, Karl Lundquist, Jim Pelan, Mona Tanksley, Carole Johnson, Sandy Husar, Rachel Wise, Jon Seagren, and Tom Meyer in addition to Pastor Eldal.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. Pastor presented his report for the month of November. There was no treasurer’s report available.

Old Business: J. Seagren gave an update on the remodeling project of the Sunday School room noting that work should be completed next week. There was a discussion on types of flooring that could possibly be installed at a later date. Greg reported that he has contacted Olson Plumbing regarding the furnace/air conditioner installation and noted that due to the time of year, the project will be delayed until next year. A proposal will be put together before the end of the year and sent to Betty Starr requesting grant money from her foundation. Items included in the grant will be hearing devices, an AED and money to repair the sign on the west side of the church. Jim explained the problems with the sign and potential ways to repair it were discussed. He is currently waiting for a quote on one option to repair it. Other options will be researched.

New Business: Property Committee - J. Pelan noted that it has been reported to him that there are some areas on the southeast part of the building where the outside stucco is beginning to crack. We discussed putting some money away for future expenditures if we need to repair the outside of the building. The replacement door for the southwest entrance will soon be painted and then be installed by Lindy Glass. It was reported that there is a problem with some of the lights in the basement blinking so these will be checked.

The Evangelism Committee reported that a social media group has been formed who will be posting items/announcements more frequently on Facebook. In January, there will be a praise service and a contemporary service and the committee is currently looking at ways to involve the children in the praise service. The schedule for evangelism committee meetings for next year has been set.

The annual meeting for the congregation will be January 22, 2017. Council members who will prepare soup are Jim Pelan, Carole Johnson, Sandy Husar and Karl Lundquist.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned with all saying the Lord’s Prayer.

Mona Tanksley, Secretary

December Attendance	
3 & 4	160
10&11	236
17&18.....	57
24	355
25	30

December Finances	
Regular	\$12,735.00
Christmas	\$10,070.00
Designated	
Wed Night Youth	\$100.00
Sunday School	\$20.00
Supplies	\$75.00
Memorial	\$60.00
MISC. (Bible&Poinsettia)	\$2,923.88
TOTAL	\$25,983.88

THIS MONTH USHERS

January 2017 Ushers

Jan 1st: Sam Schmidt, Roger Moderow, Jerry Benne and Ian Lundquist
 Jan 8th: Norm Case, Larry Johnson, Travis Thomsen and Colton Thomsen
 Jan 15th: Dr. C Seagren, Norm Case, Garrett Seagren and Wyatt Seagren
 Jan 22nd: Norm Case, Clare Wiltse, David Jones and James Unwin
 Jan 29th: Jim Nelson, Dr. Charlie Seagren, Jarod Mulder and Perry Rogers

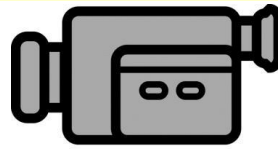


January 2017 Greeters

Jan 1st: Linda Carlson and Mary Alice Pearson
 Jan 8th: Keri Thomsen and Karen Rosenboom
 Jan 15th: Janelle Seagren and Shirley Lowe
 Jan 22nd: Julie Jones and Audrey Unwin
 Jan 29th: Susan Mulder and Marissa Mulder



Jan-17 1 - Ayden Lierman
 8 - Mia Linder
 15 - Ellen Magnusson
 22 - Carson Thomsen
 29 - Jonathan Dixon
 Feb 5 - Ashten Rennerfeldt



Video

Jan-17 1 - Aiden Jorgensen
 8 - Ayden Lierman
 15 - Mia Linder
 22 - Ellen Magnusson
 29 - Carson Thomsen
 Feb 5 - Jonathan Dixon



1st - Dan Tanksley
 8th - Tess Johnson
 15th - Tess Johnson
 22nd - Jim Pelan
 29th - Dan Tanksley
 5th - Dan Tanksley



Organist

1st - Bryan Bohn
 8th - Billye Pearson
 15th - Bryan Bohn
 22nd - Bryan Bohn
 29th - Bryan Bohn
 5th - Bryan Bohn

COFFEE SERVERS

Karen Ahrens and Brenda Andersen
 Ann Anderson and Connie Anderson
 Rosemary Anderson and Sara Anderson
 Karen Blanc and Alissa Bousquet
 Nancy A Bromm and Natalie Bromm

DATE

Sunday, January 1, 2017
 Sunday, January 8, 2017
 Sunday, January 15, 2017
 Sunday, January 22, 2017
 Sunday, January 29, 2017



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

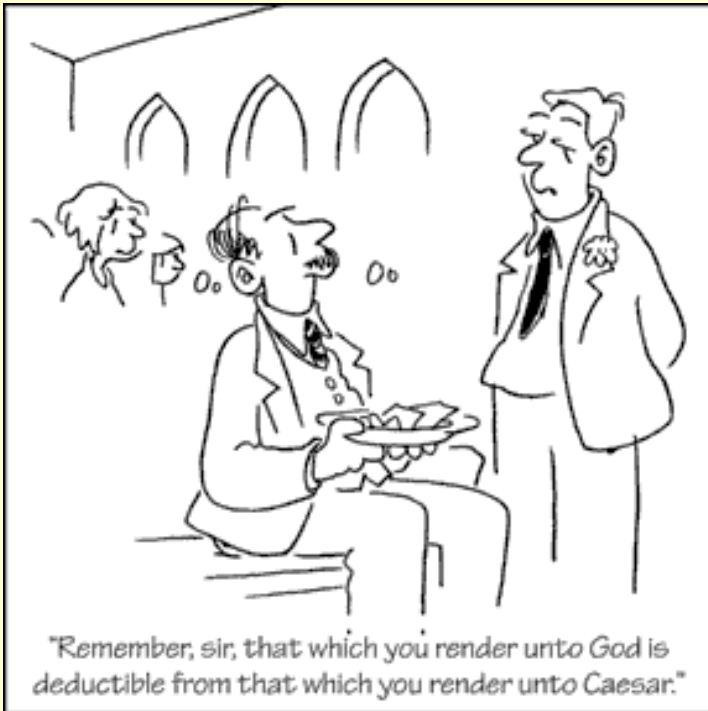
January 2017 Special Days

Some of the special days celebrated in January are:

- ❄ New Year's Day – January 1, 2017
- ❄ Epiphany – January 6, 2017
- ❄ Martin Luther King Jr. Day – January 16, 2017



CHRISTIAN HUMOR TO TICKLE YOUR LIFE



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

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

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

January
2017

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www.firstlutheran-oakland.com

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