



First Ev. Lutheran Church, 201 N. Davis, PO Box 152, Oakland, NE, 68045  
[www.firstlutheranchurch-oakland.com](http://www.firstlutheranchurch-oakland.com), [firstlutheranchurch\\_152@q.com](mailto:firstlutheranchurch_152@q.com)

Office - (402) 685-5764  
Fax - (402) 685-5183

## Pastor's COLUMN

By Rev. Mark Eldal

As we enter the Christmas season we know it is a special time of year filled with blessing.

Many people will attend Christmas gatherings with family and friends, and there may also be the joy and blessing of giving and receiving gifts that can have special meaning.

Yet, the ultimate blessing we experience this time of year is the remembrance of a special birth many years ago, and as we remember this birth we can know this birth is God's precious gift to us.

This gift of course, is Jesus, and he was given for each one of us individually.

When the angel appeared to the shepherds he specifically said the birth of Jesus, was "for you," for each one of us; and as we accept this gift, as we receive Jesus into our lives by faith, we receive the most precious gift God could give.

For in Jesus we receive the gift of God's presence. Jesus would be "Immanuel," which means "God with us." In the gift of Jesus God comes to be with us.

As we receive the gift of Jesus, we also receive the one who can save us from sin and death. When the angel announced the birth of Jesus he was described as the Savior. As we trust in this Jesus to be our Savior he can bring us forgiveness and eternal life.

Thus, the most precious gift given at Christmas is Jesus, for in him God comes to us and saves us from sin and death.

During this Christmas season, may we delight in and freshly receive the gift of Jesus and all that this gift means.

God bless,  
Pastor Mark

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Pastor's Column	1
Announcements	2
Confirmation	3
Sunday School	3
Bible Study News	3
Thank You's, Prayers of Concern, Birthdays and Anniversaries	4
Church Council Minutes	5
Dorcas Society,	6
Altar Committee & Sewing Meetings & W.O.W.	7
Poinsettia Form	7
The December Calendar	8
Ushers, Greeters, Acolytes	9
Video, Sound, Organists and Coffee Servers	9
Christian Humor to Tickle Your Life	10



### December 2016 Special Days

Some of the special days celebrated in December are:

- ❄ Second Sunday of Advent — December 4
- ❄ Third Sunday of Advent — December 11
- ❄ Fourth Sunday of Advent — December 18
- ❄ First day of Winter — December 21
- ❄ Christmas Eve — December 24
- ❄ Christmas Day — December 25
- ❄ New Year's Eve — December 31

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

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.

Please join Oakland Women's Club Annual Oakland Tour of Homes on Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> from 12-5 p.m. Tickets sold at the Methodist Church. We have six houses this year, plus the Methodist Church! Tickets are \$10/person.! Please support our Women's Club and Happy Holidays! We can't wait to see you!

**REMINDER-Spaghetti Feed at the Vet's Building this Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> 11:00 am - 1:00 pm.** Proceeds to benefit Oakland's 150th Anniversary Bash in 2018. Afterwards, attend the Swedish Heritage Center's Santa Lucia Festival!!! Wine and hor'dourves at 4:30 p.m., Burt County Brass Concert at 6:30 and Santa Lucia event at 7:30 p.m. Hope to see you! What a fun-filled day for Oakland!!!

On Sunday December 4, from 12 PM to 3 PM there will be a soup luncheon fundraiser (w/drink & dessert) for Jeff and Alicia Nebuda and Family at the Nielsen Center in West Point.

On September 21st Alicia gave birth to triplets. Knowing they would be bringing only two of them home is hard enough, but to find out that one of the other boys has microcephaly Encephalomalacia (twin to twin transfer). They now have unforeseen medical bills so soon after having the boys. We're trying to raise enough money to help with the deductible and other medical bills. All proceeds will go to Jeff and Alicia for medical expenses and to help with in-home therapy for Zadden. Any donations may be dropped off at the O'Hana Studio in West Point.

**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, mittens or gloves.

The sewing ladies packed **121 quilts** for Lutheran World Relief and **26 quilts** for the Lydia House and **33 quilts** for the Orphan Train on Monday morning November 7<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. In addition, the WOW groups provided the items to fill **44** school 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. 6<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> during the Thanksgiving Eve Service. They were: Jonathan Dixon, Connor Guill, Aiden Jorgensen, Ayden Lierman, Mia Linder, Ellen Magnusson, and Carson Thomsen.



**ALL WOMEN OF THE WORD** are invited to Christmas pot-luck on Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at noon. We will be having an Executive Meeting on Monday December 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

Rev. Betty Hadley will be celebrating her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on December 13<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to send her a card, her address is: Rev. Betty Hadley, 652 W. 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Apt. 401, Fremont, NE 68025.

**FRIDAY NIGHT PUB.** The "Luther's Pub" dates for the remainder of the year will be: December 9th. 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 14, - CONFIRMATION - at 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m
- NO CONFIRMATION Dec 7, 21, or 28.

## 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 O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM! We only have one Sunday left for program practice ATTENDANCE IS GREATLY ENCOURAGED!!!

### Dates to remember:

- **Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m.** practice for our Christmas Program.
- **Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.** practice for our Christmas Program. Supper will be served!
- **Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> 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, December 18<sup>th</sup>** -Sunday school kids will perform at nursing home at 10:45 a.m. with a Christmas story to be read. Sunday school will be dismissed until the **January 8<sup>th</sup>**.

<sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month.

**Koinoina Bible Study** is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 6:00 p.m.

**Growing Together - Small Group Dates** - Our Growing Together group will not be meeting during December. They are taking a break to celebrate Jesus' birth. They will start again in January. All are welcome to join us. If you have questions or would like to join us, contact Nancy Johnson at 402-620-5324 or [njohnson40299@gmail.com](mailto:njohnson40299@gmail.com)

## THANK YOU's

---

- To all those who have provided food and serving the meal for our youth group Wednesday night.
  - To our Choir for the gift of their voices on Sunday morning.
  - To Thrivent for the wonderful grant to help provide a new Ping Pong table for our Luther's Pub youth.
  - To Joyce Palmer for her Lutheran Family Services presentation on Sunday Morning, Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>.
  - 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 Saturday, November 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. and to those who helped bring the decorations down from storage.
- 

**IN OUR PRAYERS OF CONCERN PLEASE INCLUDE:** Kenny Pearson, Mel Wietzenkamp, Roberta Anderson (Joan Johnson's Niece), Sharlene Grindle (Keri Thomsen's mom), Nancy Moate, Dean Brudigam, Stacy Long, Robert Moate, Jean Korte, Alissa Bousquet, Jess Kroger, Ron Badje, Arizona Riecken, Marilyn Bures, Lincoln Nobel Hangman, Andy Kruse, Landon Johnson, Oliver Nimmo, Delwin Benne, and Grace Meints, all of our servicemen and women, our shut-ins, families of Merlin "Curly" Nelson, Casey Beltz, and Del Peterson 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



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

To Email our church - [firstlutheranchurch\\_152@q.com](mailto:firstlutheranchurch_152@q.com)

Please check out our updated website: [www.firstlutheran-oakland.com](http://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>

We are still encouraging everyone to get their emails into Tess to be signed up for the Right Now Media site. It is a really great resource for Christian Videos.



**First Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Oakland, Nebraska**

The church council met November 7, 2016 at 7:00 pm. In attendance were Greg Johnson, Cheryl Denker, Sandy Husar, Carole Johnson, Karl Lundquist, Tom Meyer and Rachel Wise. The meeting opened with devotions given by Greg Johnson. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. Pastor presented his report for September and October.

**The treasurer’s report** was reviewed. Audrey Unwin, Treasurer, presented the profit and loss statement and facilitated the discussion on the year to year comparison of the budget and expenditures.

**Old Business:** Discussion was held on the donation of Bibles and hymnals to the church. Cheryl Denker moved to accept the donation of the Bibles. Motion was seconded and carried. Rachel Wise moved to request 10 copies of the hymnal and access to the online or digital rights from the donor. Motion was seconded and carried. The exterior door is not yet installed. It will be discussed next month. Discussion was held on the church sign over the entrance. The sign is in soft sandstone and will require additional information for repairing and repainting. Discussion was on seeking a stone mason or someone with similar expertise to provide a recommendation of what options there are for repairing the sign. Greg Johnson reported the electrical work is done in the upstairs classroom and it is ready for use. Finishing work will be explored at a later date. The heating and cooling system updates were discussed. Greg Johnson will follow up with the contractor and report back next month. Pastor has contacted Betty Starr regarding her desire to provide funding for a needed project at church. General needs were discussed.

Additional discussion was held on planning a church cleanup date to discard or donate items no longer needed by the church and to improve organization and evaluate storage needs. Greg will compile a list of group leaders, set a date and plan to get this accomplished before Christmas.

**New Business:** The Evangelism Committee report was provided. Nancy Johnson will be reporting out to the congregation on the information gathered at the Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> Harvest Moon event, the youth stepping stones or faith milestones and on using Right Now Media. Cheryl Denker has volunteered to lead the FLC Facebook team.

The next meeting will be December 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at Pastor Mark and Jacque’s home.

Communion Helper      Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> - Arla Ogden  
                                     Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> - Sandy Husar

Rachel Wise, Recorder

November Attendance	
5 & 6 .....	149
12 & 13 .....	190
19 & 20 .....	167
23 (Thanksgiving Eve) ..	66
26 & 27 .....	144

November Finances	
Commitments	\$16,704.43
Building Use Designated	\$-
Coffee Fund	\$ 129.50
Sunday School	\$ 36.75
Thanksgiving	\$ 3,252.00
Memorial	\$ 1,500.00
Misc	\$ 230.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$21,852.68</b>



Dorcas is invited to attend the WOW potluck on Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>



Shirley Lowe and Elaine Peterson

SEWING GROUP will have a Christmas Brunch on December 8<sup>th</sup> 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.



The WOW Group gives a

Each Group set their own dates for Christmas Celebrations



Women of the Word

- December 7.....Bingo @ O.H. 9:30 a.m. ....Hannah
- December 12 .....Executive Meetings 9:00 a.m.
- December 14 .....Noon Potluck, Ruth Serves, Hannah Program
- Clean Kitchen .....Hannah

Big Thanks to the sewing ladies for making 44 book packs and diapers for 6 layette sets.



**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 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 8:00PM N.A. MEETINGS	2	3 5:30PM COMMUNION SERVICE
4 9:30AM COMMUNION/ CONTEMPORARY SERVICE 10:30AM FELLOWSHIP 10:30AM SUNDAY SCHOOL	5 7:00 PM CHURCH COUNCIL MEETINGS	6 7:30PM A.A. MEETING	7 9AM MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 9:30AM BINGO @ OAKLAND HEIGHTS 6:30PM -8:30 P.M. YOUTH GROUP- NO Confirmation 7:00 PM CHOIR PRACTICE	8 8:00 PM N.A. MEETINGS	9 LUTHERS PUB AFTER BBALL GAME	10 5:30PM WORSHIP SERVICE
11 9:30AM PRAISE SERVICE - SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM 10:30AM FELLOWSHIP- IN THE BASEMENT	12 9:00AM WOW EXECUTIVE MEETING	13 7:30PM A.A. MEETING	14 NOON - WOW LUNCHEON 6:30PM -8:30 P.M. YOUTH GROUP & Confirmation 7:00 PM CHOIR PRACTICE	15 8:00 PM N.A. MEETINGS	16	17 5:30PM WORSHIP SERVICE
18 9:30AM WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30AM FELLOWSHIP 10:30AM SUNDAY SCHOOL GOES TO O.H. TO SING	19	20 7:30PM A.A. MEETING	21 9AM MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 6:30PM -8:30 P.M. YOUTH GROUP-NO Confirmation 7:00 PM CHOIR PRACTICE	22 8:00 PM N.A. MEETINGS	23	24  <b>5PM &amp; 10 PM</b>
25 9:30AM WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30AM FELLOWSHIP 	26	27 7:30PM A.A. MEETING	28 6:30PM -8:30 P.M. YOUTH GROUP - NO Confirmation 7:00 PM CHOIR PRACTICE	29 8:00 PM N.A. MEETINGS	30	31 NO WORSHIP SERVICE 





# THIS MONTH USHERS

## Dec. 2016 Ushers

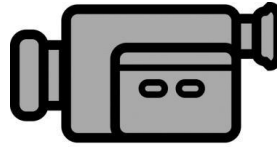
Dec 4<sup>th</sup> - Sam Schmidt, Roger Moderow, Greg Ray and Mark Peterson  
 Dec 11<sup>th</sup> - Norm Case, Jim Nelson and Youth  
 Dec 18<sup>th</sup> - Dr. Charlie Seagren, Norm Case, Dave Schold and Tim Slatt  
 Dec 24<sup>th</sup> Early Service: Bromm Family  
 Dec 24<sup>th</sup> Late Service: Gordon and Rachael Nelson  
 Dec 25<sup>th</sup> - No Ushers.

## Dec. 2016 Greeters

Dec 4<sup>th</sup> : Deanna Ray and Jodi Peterson, Lane, Kara and Johnna  
 Dec 11<sup>th</sup> : Youth  
 Dec 18<sup>th</sup>: Laurie Schold and Sherri Slatt  
 Dec 24<sup>th</sup> Early Service: Bromm family  
 Dec 24<sup>th</sup> Late Service: Gordon and Rachael Nelson  
 Dec 25<sup>th</sup> No Greeters



Dec. 4 - Ashten Rennerfeldt  
 11 - Marissa Mulder  
 18 - Connor Guill  
 25 - Aiden Jorgensen  
 Jan 2017 1 - Ayden Lierman



Video

Dec. 4 - Marissa Mulder  
 11 - Carly Stewart  
 18 - Ashten Rennerfeldt  
 25 - Connor Guill  
 Jan 2017 1 - Aiden Jorgensen



Dec 4 - Bryan Bohn  
 11 - Cindy Blanc  
 18 - Bryan Bohn  
 24 - Bryan Bohn  
 24 - Billye Pearson  
 25 - Billye Pearson



Dec 4 - Jim/Dan  
 11 - Tess Johnson  
 18 - Dan Tanksley  
 24 - Tess J/ Dan Tanksley  
 25 - Jim Pelan

## FELLOWSHIP SERVERS THIS MONTH



Sarah Wallace and Janet Wiltse  
 Katie Selk and Sunday School Parents  
 Rachel Wise and Nancy Wonka  
 Julia Wuestewald and Audrey Unwin  
 Karen Ahrens and Brenda Andersen

Sunday, December 4, 2016  
 Sunday, December 11, 2016  
 Sunday, December 18, 2016  
 Sunday, December 25, 2016  
 Sunday, January 1, 2017

**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



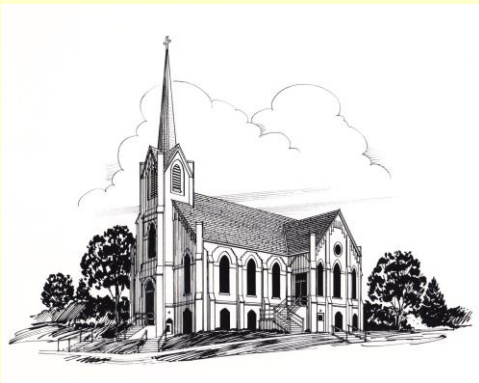
First Ev. Lutheran Church  
 PO Box 152, 201 N. Davis  
 Oakland, NE 68045

Phone:  
 402-685-5764

Fax:  
 402-685-5183

E-Mail:  
[firstlutheranchurch\\_152@q.com](mailto:firstlutheranchurch_152@q.com)

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




---

*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

[www.firstlutheran-oakland.com](http://www.firstlutheran-oakland.com)

---