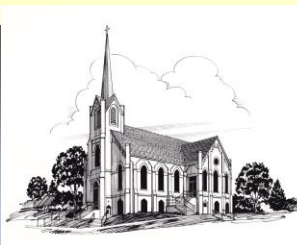


# THE SPIRE



April 2016  
Volume 3, Issue 4

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## Pastor's COLUMN

By Rev. Mark Eldal

In Ecclesiastes it says God has put eternity in the heart of man. This is a reminder of something we instinctively seem to feel, which is that somehow we were made for more than this life, that somehow we were created to live forever.

This inner instinct is reinforced by many promises in scripture which speak of eternal life and the promise of a heavenly home. Yet, it is most resoundingly confirmed in the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

This was such an amazing event that it astounded the disciples and changed their lives forever. It would also change the lives of over five hundred other people who saw the resurrected Lord.

And of course, it can forever change our lives. For we have the promise that as we trust in Jesus as our Savior, we can share in his victory over death and we can live in the assurance that God has a heavenly home for us.

This promise can give our lives meaning because we know that the love and kindness we give and receive in this life can be remembered through eternity, and the relationships we have in Christ can go on through eternity.

The resurrection of Jesus and his promise of eternal life can also give us hope in the present. For the same power that raised Jesus from the dead can give us new beginnings in this life, as we trust in him.

Thus, as we continue to remember the resurrection of Jesus may we delight in the meaning and hope it can give us in him.

God Bless,

Pastor Mark

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### April 2016 Special Days

Some of the special days celebrated in April are:

🌱 Earth Day — April 22

👤 Administrative Professionals or Secretaries Day — April 27

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The Pathfinders Chorus** is having a Barber Shop Beach Radio on April 1 and 2<sup>nd</sup>. Shows at 7:30 pm Friday and 2:00 pm and 7:30 p.m. Saturday. For more information, contact Darrell Denker (402-380-3231) or check out the Poster in the multipurpose room.

There is still time to sign up for Camp Carol Joy Holling. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Mark or Tess in the office for details.

Please join us in thanking the Burt County Brass Quintet for their gift of music on Palm Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. Members of the Burt County Brass Quintet are Gary Fugman and Jim Groth, trumpets; Lisa Muntzenberger, frenchhorn; Jess Watson, trombone and Viktor Sundleaf, tuba.

Thank you to: Jim and Judy for all their hard work creating the presentation on the screen for us on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter; the Youth and their Parents for serving Easter breakfast; Julie Johnson for her help with the breakfast; Bryan Bohn for playing the organ and leading the Choir; the Choir for their anthem; those who have provided special music for our worship services and Instrumentalists: Cindy Blanc on the piano; Jared Mulder and Zakk Lierman on the trumpets.

**SPRING CLEANING??** Don't forget the sewing group. They love blankets, sheets, mattress pads, material, embroidery floss, or sewing thread and live bodies to help!



Sunday School sang on March 20<sup>th</sup> (PALM SUNDAY) and after church they had an Easter egg hunt. There was no Sunday school on Easter morning, March 27. Sunday School resumes on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. We plan to sing April 17<sup>th</sup> and May 8<sup>th</sup> for Mother's Day. There will also be a spring outing on April 17, details to follow.

If anyone is interested in helping teach Sunday School next year, please let me know.



We welcome into membership Kendall Annalise Bennett through holy baptism on Saturday, March 19, 2016 at First Evangelical Lutheran Church. She was born on January 2, 2016 in Atlanta GA. Her parents are Mackenzie Milks and Freddie Bennett. Her sponsors are Chelsea and Owen Schernikau. Her grandparents are Georgia and P.D. Stibor. **CONGRATULATIONS KENDALL!!!**

## BIBLE STUDY NEWS

**YOUTH GROUP** will meet from 6:30-8:30 p.m. every Wednesday. The study group is open to all current Junior and Senior High students in the community. As always, a meal will be provided.

**FRIDAY NIGHT PUB** will start in the fall. We are always 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 9:00 a.m.

**KOINOINA BIBLE STUDY** is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 6:00 p.m.

**GROWING TOGETHER BIBLE STUDY** has been studying the book of Mark through the ministry of Jesus up to his final entrance into Jerusalem. After a brief Lenten break we are ready to pick up where we left off. Our approach to the study is changing, so if you haven't joined us before, this would be the perfect time to start! We will use the remainder of the book of Mark to learn a new technique in studying scripture - homiletics. The goal of homiletics is to help you understand and apply the content of the Bible passage to daily living. Our first session will be on Wed, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm at church. We will be covering Mark 10:1-31. If you have questions or are interested in joining the group, you can reach Nancy Johnson at [njohnson40299@gmail.com](mailto:njohnson40299@gmail.com). We look forward to seeing you!

**Thank you to everyone who donated Easter Lilies to beautify our sanctuary Easter. They are as listed below:**

- ✝ Cal and Sara Anderson and family - In memory of Darlene Wagner
- ✝ Ed and Connie Anderson - In memory of their loved ones
- ✝ Carl and Julie Easton - In memory of LaRita Lindstrom and others
- ✝ Mark and Jacque Eldal - In memory of Jessica Hughes
- ✝ Florence Erickson - In memory of Garland Erickson
- ✝ Randall Guill - In memory of George, Leona, and Ryan Guill
- ✝ Frank and Janice Johnson - In memory of Jacob Johnson
- ✝ Jon and Chloe Johnson - In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Lane, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Johnson, and Mr. and Mrs. Otto Dinklage
- ✝ Larry, Tess, Jamie, and Lyndsey Johnson - In memory of Elroy and Eunice Johnson and Carolyn Johnson
- ✝ Roger and Suzanne Johnson - In memory of Marvin and Lillian Johnson and Bud Johnson
- ✝ Jay and Diane Lindstrom - In memory of Stan and Marianne Johnson and LaRita Lindstrom
- ✝ Marlene Lindstrom and family - In memory of Bob Lindstrom
- ✝ Scott and Valerie Lindstrom and family and Vern Hansen - In memory of Veda Hansen
- ✝ Tom and Phyllis Meyer - In memory of our grandchildren
- ✝ Dr. Charlie Seagren and family - In memory of Patricia Seagren
- ✝ Clare and Jan Wiltse - In memory of Walter and Bernice Niedringhaus and Clare and Alma Wiltse
- ✝ Dorothy Wallace and family - In memory of James Wallace

**After the Sunday Service you are welcome to take the Lilies you have purchased home with you. Thank You!**

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### **BUS TRIP**

We have purchased 40 tickets to see "Under the Streetlamp" at the Holland Center on Thursday, May 19th. The price of the tickets is \$44 per person. We will be eating at Farmer Brown's in Waterloo before the show. The prices for the meal range from \$12 to \$22 which includes coffee or tea, salad, potato, buns, and main course. The tip is included in the price (only the tax will be added). A chartered bus will leave the parking lot at 4:00. The charge for the bus is to be determined.

"Under the Streetlamp" is a concert celebrating classic hits of the radio from the 50's, 60's, and 70's. It features harmonies and dance moves that will take us back to an era of snakeskin suits and flashy cars. The stars of the show are four critically acclaimed stars of stage and screen. They are all known for their involvement in the show "Jersey Boys".

If you want to reserve ticket, you must call Candace Johnson at (402)685-5718



**Joan Magnusson and Jacque Eldal**

## SEWING MEETINGS EVERY MONDAY AND TUESDAY MORNINGS

8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.



April 3.....Pastor Mark's Birthday  
 April 6.....9:30 a.m. Bingo @ O.H. ....Ruth  
 April 11..... 9:00 a.m. Executive Meeting  
 April 13 ..... 9:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. Group Meetings  
 April 24..... Devotions @ O.H. 2:30 p.m. ...Hannah  
 Clean Kitchen ...Hannah



**Dorcas Society - April 27<sup>th</sup> @ 2:00 p.m. @ Oakland Heights**

## IN OUR PRAYERS OF CONCERN PLEASE INCLUDE:

Chuck Frahm, Vivian Forks, Morris Fleishman, Marilyn Bures, Moe Johnson, Ed Forks, Alissa Bousquet, Lincoln Nobel Hangman, Janelle McClusky (Donna Preston's Daughter), Janis Nelson (Gordon Nelson's Sister), Vernelle Nelson, Andy Kruse, Bill Johnson, Sandra Johnson, Don Andersen, Landon Johnson, Oliver Nimmo, Delwin Benne, and Grace Meints, all of our servicemen and women, our shut-ins, and our youth ministry.





## First Evangelical Lutheran Church Oakland, Nebraska

The church council met March 7, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present: Greg Johnson, Jim Pelan, Sandy Husar, Carl Magnusson, Cheryl Denker, Rachel Wise, Jon Seagren, Carole Johnson, and Mona Tanksley. Also in attendance was Pastor Eldal.

The meeting began with Carole Johnson doing devotions. Pastor Eldal then presented his report of his February activities. The Profit and Loss statement for February was reviewed.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

**Old Business:** The new phone system has been installed and is working well. As discussed previously, the heating system is approximately 30 years old and if parts would be needed for repair, they are no longer available. Cheryl reported that she has contacted Vern Zessin who said the building is currently heated with five furnaces and a replacement cost would be around \$20,000. This will be further discussed with thought given as to how to proceed.

**The Evangelism Committee** met prior to the council meeting. They discussed ways of outreach to visitors. The need for volunteer services was discussed in areas such as preparing youth meals and running the audiovisual equipment for services. The youth "stepping stones" timeline has been established and activities for each grade level were explained that will carry through the child's life from infancy to high school. The use of social media (Facebook and our web page) were discussed and Cheryl agreed to head up a committee that will be made up of three to five people to expand this.

The Evangelism Committee has talked about ways to better utilize space in the building where the youth can meet. Consideration is being given to removing a wall between two adjoining class rooms upstairs to enlarge an area that could accommodate the group. Jon will meet with a contractor to discuss what would be involved in removing a wall. If possible, volunteers from the congregation could do the demolition. The insulation will also be discussed. The need for furnishings and audiovisual equipment was also considered.

Cheryl agreed to be the contact person to assist with the Gary Rosenboom Memorial Scholarship that will be given to a graduating senior this spring.

Jim Pelan reported for the **Property Committee** on his findings regarding fire extinguisher maintenance and inspection. He noted that our insurance company has no requirement that the extinguishers be inspected. We currently have nine of them in the building and the cost for inspecting them would be \$394.00. Jim will do some further checking on costs for inspection /replacement.

**New Business:** It was noted that the refrigerator in the store room may need to be replaced. The gate by the air conditioner needs attention. It was agreed to hire the Seagren boys to mow the church lawn this summer. Cheryl will notify the man who mowed last year that we will no longer need his service. The timer for the outside lights has been replaced and we will get a bid to replace the lights on the poles. There was discussion regarding purchasing some new furniture for Pastor's office and that possibly Thrivent money could be used for this project. A new lamp will be the first purchase and storage furniture and a chair will be added later. Jim Pelan thanked those who helped with a recent funeral for a non-member.

Devotions for April 4 - Jon Seagren

Communion Helpers - Maundy Thursday - Carole Johnson

April 2 - Arla Ogden

April 3 - Sandy Husar

The next meeting will be April 4 at 7:30 pm. The meeting adjourned with all saying the Lord's Prayer.

Mona Tanksley, Secretary

### March Attendance

2 .....	76
5 & 6.....	196
9 .....	78
12 & 13 .....	138
16.....	77
19 & 20.....	194
24 (Maundy Thur).....	61
25 (Good Friday).....	57
27 (Easter).....	304

### March Finances

Regular .....	\$ 9,632.00
Easter .....	\$ 5,410.00
Lenten.....	\$824.00
<b>Designated</b>	
Coffee Fund.....	\$111.00
Holy Week.....	\$851.00
Sunday School.....	\$ 10.75
Nourish The Children	\$598.50
Youth Breakfast...	\$276.00
Misc.....	\$276.00
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$18,886.25</b>



## April's Birthdays

- 1 - Katie Miller
- 2 - Mark Johnson, Jamison Johnson, Peter Kruse
- 3 - Mark Eldal, Sandy Husar, Janice Johnson, Marian Moseman, Clara Bittner
- 4 - Bernice Persson, Elaine Peterson, Janelle Guill-Muller
- 6 - Zachary Denton, Dona Nelson, Anden Schold, Sierra Kloth
- 8 - Austin Jorgensen
- 9 - Johnnie Johnson, Nolan Magnusson
- 10 - Robert Andrews, Tara Miller, Taryn Kloth
- 11 - Brad Heineman, Donna Johnson
- 12 - Carson Thomsen, Merle Karstens, Bonnie Larson, Marty Nelson, Clay Olson, Ivy Johnson
- 13 - Kara Peterson, Johnna Peterson
- 17 - Braeden Case, Roger Moderow, Jean Satree, Robert Johnson
- 18 - Mike Selk, Ann Anderson, Jacob Dixon
- 19 - Jennifer Ahrens
- 20 - Jane Moseman, Sabrina Rost
- 21 - Brad Bousquet, Roberta Sieck, Wayne Uman
- 22 - Brian Magnusson, Deanna Ray
- 23 - Cole Christofferson
- 24 - Ashley Denton
- 27 - Judee Dix, Nathan Johnson, Nancy Johnson
- 28 - Nathan Larson
- 29 - Myrna Swanson
- 30- Vivian Forks

# Happy Birthday!



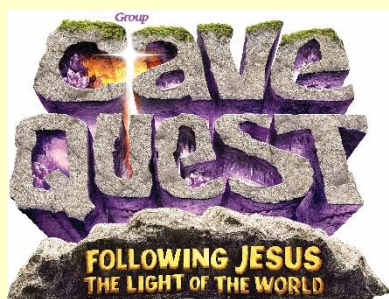
- 1 - Dan & Mona Tanksley
- 10 - Tim & Annie Magnusson
- 12 - Kevin & Julie Wuestewald
- Brad & Lela Heineman
- 17 - Gary & Joann Powell
- 23 - Bob & Jerri Case
- 25 - Richard & Mary Strom
- P.D & Georgia Stibor
- 27 - Mike & Cynthia Johnson

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!!** VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL will be May 23-27<sup>th</sup>. Alissa Bousquet is once again going to coordinate VBS. However, due to her chemotherapy treatments she is requesting a little extra help this year.

The theme this year is “**Cave Quest - Following Jesus, the Light of the World**”. It will be led by Nicole Swanson and Luke Hansen. We will still need helpers to assist the leaders. These will include: teachers, kitchen help and crafts. All helpers will be greatly appreciated.

In addition, we will also need host family for the young man. They will be here from Sunday evening, May 22<sup>nd</sup> through Thursday night May 26<sup>th</sup>.

Please find the registration form below which needs to be filled out for each child. These forms may also be found in the multipurpose room. If you have any further questions, please contact Alissa at 402-380-2301.



### **VBS Registration Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Finished: \_\_\_\_\_

T-Shirt Size : \_\_\_\_\_

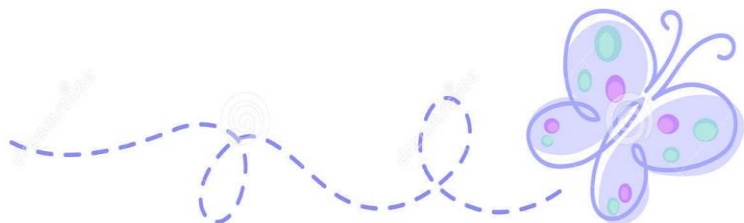


Parent/Guardian Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Medical Concerns: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# APRIL 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1  <b>APRIL FOOL'S DAY</b>	2 5:30PM COMMUNION SERVICE
3 9:30AM COMMUNION SERVICE 10:30AM FELLOWSHIP & SUNDAY SCHOOL	4 8:30AM SEWING GROUP 7:00PM CHURCH COUNCIL MEETINGS	5 8:30AM SEWING GROUP 7:30PM A.A. MEETING	6 9:00AM MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 9:30AM BINGO @ OAKLAND HEIGHTS 6:30PM -8:30 P.M. CONFIRMATION & YOUTH GROUP	7 8:00PM N.A. MEETINGS	8	9 5:30PM WORSHIP SERVICE
10 9:30AM WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30AM FELLOWSHIP & SUNDAY SCHOOL	11 8:30AM SEWING GROUP 9:00AM WOW EXECUTIVE MEETING	12 8:30AM SEWING GROUP 3:45PM GROWING TOGETHER BIBLE STUDY 7:30PM A.A. MEETING	13 9:00AM, 2:00 PM, 6:00PM WOW GROUP MEETINGS 6:30PM -8:30 PM CONFIRMATION & YOUTH GROUP	14 8:00PM N.A. MEETINGS  	15	16 5:30PM WORSHIP SERVICE
17 9:30AM CONTEMPORARY SERVICE 10:30AM FELLOWSHIP & SUNDAY SCHOOL 6:00PM KOINONIA MEETING <b>SUNDAY SCHOOL            SINGS</b>	18 8:30AM SEWING GROUP	19 8:30AM SEWING GROUP 7:30PM A.A. MEETING	20 9:00AM MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 6:30PM -8:30 PM YOUTH GROUP 7:00PM GROWING TOGETHER BIBLE STUDY	21 8:00PM N.A. MEETINGS	22       <b>EARTH            DAY</b>	23 5:30PM WORSHIP SERVICES
24 9:30AM WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30AM FELLOWSHIP & SUNDAY SCHOOL	25 8:30AM SEWING GROUP	26 8:30AM SEWING GROUP 3:45PM GROWING TOGETHER BIBLE STUDY 7:30PM A.A. MEETING	27 6:30PM -8:30 PM YOUTH GROUP	28 8:00PM N.A. MEETINGS  	29	30 5:30PM WORSHIP SERVICE

# USHERS

THIS MONTH

## Ushers

3<sup>rd</sup>: Roger Moderow, Sam Schmidt, Jerry Benne and Tom Eckhart  
 10<sup>th</sup>: Norm Case, Jim Nelson, Clendon Rost and Clare Wiltse  
 17<sup>th</sup>: Norm Case, Dr. Charlie Seagren, Andy Rennefeldt and Mike Selk  
 24<sup>th</sup> - Confirmation Sunday: Norm Case, Clare Wiltse, Jared Mulder and Garrison Dodge



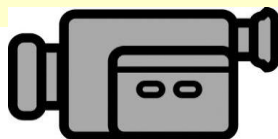
## Greeters

Apr 3<sup>rd</sup>: Linda Carlson and Linda Von Essen  
 Apr 10<sup>th</sup>: Amy, Preston, Sabrina and Celeste Rost and Jan Wiltse  
 Apr 17<sup>th</sup>: Angie, Ashten, Anisten, Adilen and Ava Rennefeldt & Katie, Brayden and Chloe Selk  
 April 24<sup>th</sup> -Confirmation Sunday: Ashley Denton, Jamie Johnson and Katie Miller



## April Acolytes

April	3	Colton Thomsen
	10	Selena Johnson
	17	Marissa Mulder
	24	Ashten Rennerfeldt
May	1	Wyatt Seagren



Video

## April Video

3	Zoe Linder
10	Colton Thomsen
17	Ashten Rennerfeldt
24	Wyatt Seagren
1	Selena Johnson



## April Organists

3 -	Bryan Bohn
10 -	Billye Pearson
17 -	Ruth Wallerstedt
24 -	Bryan Bohn



## April Sound System

3 -	Dan Tanksley
10 -	Tess Johnson
17 -	Dan Tanksley/ Jim Nelson
24 -	Jim Pelan



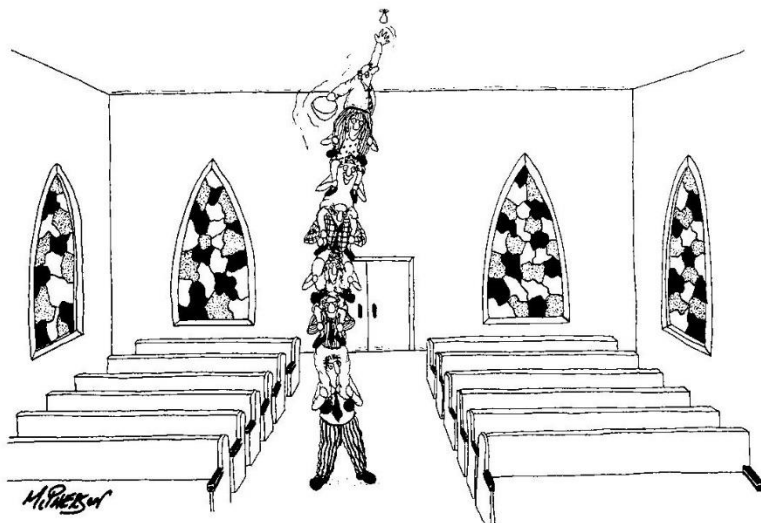
## Coffee Servers

## Coordinators Date of Service

Clara Frahm and Judy Groene	Sunday, April 3, 2016
Lela Heineman and Amanda Huntington	Sunday, April 10, 2016
Sandy Husar and Hannah Hyslop	Sunday, April 17, 2016
Candace Johnson and Carole Johnson	Sunday, April 24, 2016
Julie Johnson and Karen Johnson	Sunday, May 1, 2016



# CHRISTIAN HUMOR TO TICKLE YOUR LIFE



Changing that pesky light in the sanctuary required a team effort by members of the congregation.

© Randy Glasbergen  
glasbergen.com



"I'm enrolling in seminary college so I can learn about miracles, like how to pay off my student loans."

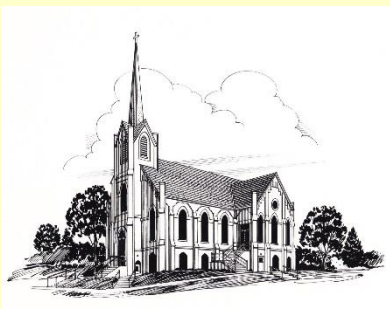
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We are committed to providing  
spiritual enrichment to ALL who  
seek the Lord.



## APRIL 2016



*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

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

**Join us:**  
**Sunday School sings**  
**on April 17<sup>th</sup>**  
  
**Confirmation services**  
**on April 24 at 9:30 a.m.**