

First Ev. Lutheran Church, 201 N. Davis, PO Box 152, Oakland, NE, 68045  
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(402) 685-5764

## Pastor's COLUMN

By Rev. Mark Eldal

Christmas is a special time of the year as we remember the birth of Jesus into our world and experience the joy of celebrating that birth.

Yet, when Christmas comes and goes, we may find the peace and joy of that season beginning to fade.

However, this is where the good news of Christmas can have its effect. For as we enter the new year we can remember that just as Jesus entered our world and lived among us, he can still be with us through his Holy Spirit.

As we trust in Jesus, we can live in a daily relationship with him and experience his presence. In this relationship we can also know our times and future are in his hands and this can give us peace.

Thus, as we enter the new year and the feeling of the Christmas season begins to fade, may we remember that in his coming, Jesus would enable us to live in a relationship with him and in so doing experience his presence and peace.

God bless,

Pastor Mark

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We thank everyone for their cards, gifts, and greetings this past Christmas season. We really appreciate everyone's thoughtfulness and kindness. We trust you had a blessed Christmas and may God be with you in a special way in the 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 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.



**All information needed for each committee's annual reports** needs to be turned into Tess in the office by January 8, 2016 to make it into the Annual Report.

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



**The Annual Meeting will be held January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 10:45 a.m. with a Soup Dinner to follow.**

**Please contact Tom Meyer, Darrell Denker or Travis Thomsen** if you are interested in participating in any of the church committees.

**The offering envelopes for the 2016 year will be located in the multipurpose room. Please take them home with you.**



**Thank you for your generous donations to the Buddy Pack Backpack program.** Financial donations can be stretched and stretched with our food partners to benefit dozens of Oakland-Craig students. What a blessing this church and it's members are to our local children!

~ Kate Richards, Director

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

- ☞ Jennie Johnson for her children's sermon.
- ☞ Jim and Judy Nelson for presenting the service on the screen.
- ☞ Ashten Rennerfeldt, Adilen Rennerfeldt, Bailey Pelan, Isaah Stucky, Jenna Bromm and Luke Blanc for their singing.
- ☞ The Choir for their song.
- ☞ Zak Liermann, Isaah Stucky, Garret Seagren, 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:

- ☞ Jacob Johnson, Wilbert Voss and Harry Goodrich by Mark & Jill Johnson
- ☞ Our parents by Tom & Phyllis Meyer
- ☞ Elroy and Eunice Johnson, Carolyn Johnson & Loved Ones by Larry, Tess Johnson & family
- ☞ Joesph Forks, Fern(Landholm) Forks and Myron and Sybel Slatt by Ed & Vivian Forks
- ☞ Bill Voss, Harry Goodrich and Jacob Johnson by Bonnie Goodrich
- ☞ Mr. & Mrs. Virgil Lane, Mr. & Mrs. Albert C. Johnson, Mr. & Mrs. Otto Dinklage by John & Chloe Johnson
- ☞ Loved Ones by Vernelle and Harley Nelson
- ☞ Vernon K & Lillian Johnson by Richard & Janet Reckmeyer and Glenn & Sharon Krueger
- ☞ Rolland and Edla Anderson by Larry Dean Anderson
- ☞ Brad Peterson and Russell Wagner by Lee and Sharon Peterson
- ☞ Garland Erickson by Florence Erickson and family
- ☞ Dr. Harold Blanc and Herb Begeman by Max & Cindy Blanc and Family
- ☞ Bob Lindstrom by Marlene Lindstrom and Family
- ☞ Doris Anderson by her family and in celebration of Gavin Johnson's 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday by Grandma Carole
- ☞ Grandpa Harold VonEssen and in celebration of the Farm Gang's Kellen Michael's 1<sup>st</sup> birthday.
- ☞ Leonard Canarsky, Sr., Loren & Helen Bundy, LeRoy and June Jenkins, Walter Jorgensen & Janet Jorgensen, and Diane Burt by Jim & Leann Jorgensen Family
- ☞ Darlene Wagner by Cal & Sara Anderson
- ☞ James Wallace by Dorothy Wallace and family
- ☞ Pat M. Seagren (Wife, Mother & Grandmother) by Dr. Charlie Seagren Family
- ☞ Our family past and present by Don & Candace Johnson
- ☞ Loren & Helen Bundy, Leonard G. Canarsky, Keith Canarsky and June & LeRoy Jenkins by Leonard & Laurie Canarsky
- ☞ Loved Ones by David, Kathy & Garrett Pearson
- ☞ Dayton Benne, Bob & Lila Jones, Louise Jones & Jacob Johnson by Dale & Linda Jones
- ☞ Jacob Johnson by Frank & Janice Johnson
- ☞ Jessica Hughes by Mark & Jacque Eldal
- ☞ George & Leona Guill & Ryan Guill by the Guill Family
- ☞ Russell Vanderworker by Neal Vanderworker
- ☞ Vernita Vanderworker by Neal Vanderworker
- ☞ Tyler Anderson, Maynard & Virgie Anderson, Les Sivertson, & Wayne Becker by Ed & Connie Anderson
- ☞ Julia Anderson by Jennifer Anderson
- ☞ Carolyn Lutes and Leonard Poppe by Gene and Nancy Poppe
- ☞ Chuck Rogers and Ross Peterson by Greg and Deanna Ray
- ☞ Clare and Alma Wiltse, Walter and Bernice Niedringhaus by Clare and Jan Wiltse
- ☞ Amy and Daryl Bromm by Shirley Bromm
- ☞ Veda Hansen by Scott Lindstrom family and Vern Hansen
- ☞ Maurice Moderow by Roger and Patti Moderow
- ☞ Allison Grace Penke by Jason, Kylie, Tate, and Tye Penke
- ☞ Karen Carstensen by Jack Carstensen
- ☞ Nancy Wallerstedt by Norm Wallerstedt
- ☞ Delwin Anderson by Eileen Gustafson and family
- ☞ Gary Rosenboom by Karen Rosenboom and family
- ☞ Gene Johnson by Rachel, Adam, Britton, Evan & Joel Peterson

~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 Canarsky, Merlin (Curly) Nelson
- 2 - Mitchell Lindstrom
- 3 - Linda Carlson
- 6 - Dorothy Larson (104<sup>th</sup>)
- 7 - Leonard Canarsky, Lisa Fredrickson, Jay Johnson,  
Julia Wuestewald, Gordon Olson
- 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 - Delores Carlson, Eunice Persson,
- 28 - Lillian Mueller, James Schrock
- 29 - Arlene Carper, Helen Jean Nelson, 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 9th at 5:30 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 13<sup>th</sup> during the 9:30 am Worship Service. What a great turn out!!



Please join us in a great big thanks to Susan Mulder for her 12 years of teaching Sunday School. Thanks SUSAN!!!

Thank you again for you parents who bring your children to Sunday School and weekly practices, and those of you who have donated food, or your time helping. I really appreciate it. A big thank you to Jill Johnson and Cindy Blanc for their service with our children and 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 10th, 2016. We will sing next on February 8th. 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 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 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

Confirmand will meet January 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>. We will also be doing a service project at Care Corps on January 24<sup>th</sup>. More info to follow.

**IN OUR PRAYERS OF CONCERN PLEASE INCLUDE:**

Larry Dean Anderson, Lincoln Nobel Hangman, Janelle McClusky (Donna Preston's Daughter), Frank Johnson, Janis Nelson (Gordon Nelson's Sister), Vernelle Nelson, Andy Kruse, Darlene Husen, Bill Johnson, Warren Gregg, Tara Wallesen, Sandra Johnson, Wilma Neitzke, Don Andersen, Landon Johnson, Oliver Nimmo, Delwin Benne, Joseph Vandry, Grace Meints, and 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. 4, 2016**

SEWING GROUP MEETS every Monday & Tuesday morning at 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.



**W.O.W. MEETINGS**

- January 6.....Bingo @ O.H. 9:30 a.m. ....Mary
- January 10 .....Devotions 2:30 p.m.....Ruth
- January 11 .....Executive Meeting 9 a.m.
- January 16 .....Group Meetings 9 AM, 2 PM, 6 PM
- Clean Kitchen .....Hannah







**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.



**DORCAS SOCIETY** - January 27, 2:00 P.M. @ Oakland Heights

# January 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						
					1 <b>NEW YEAR'S DAY</b>	2 NO WORSHIP SERVICE
3 9:30AM COMMUNION SERVICE 10:30AM FELLOWSHIP <b>NO SUNDAY SCHOOL</b>	4 8:30AM SEWING GROUP 6:00PM EVANGALISM COMMITTEE MEETING 7:00PM CHURCH COUNCIL MEETINGS	5 8:30AM SEWING GROUP 3:45PM GROWING TOGETHER BIBLE STUDY 7:30PM A.A. MEETING	6 9:00AM MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 9:30AM BINGO @ OAKLAND HEIGHTS 6:30PM - 8:30 P.M CONFIRMATION AND YOUTH GROUP 7:00PM GROWING TOGETHER BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM CHOIR PRACTICE	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 4PM WOW EXECUTIVE MEETING	12 8:30AM SEWING GROUP 7:30PM A.A. MEETING	13 9AM 2 PM, 6PM WOW GROUP MEETINGS 6:30PM - 8:30 P.M YOUTH GROUP 7:00 PM CHOIR PRACTICE	14 8:00PM N.A. MEETINGS	15	16 5:30PM WORSHIP SERVICE
17 9:30AM CONTEMPORARY SERVICE 10:30AM FELLOWSHIP& SUNDAY SCHOOL 6PM KOINONIA MEETING	18 8:30AM SEWING GROUP  <b>MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY</b>	19 8:30AM SEWING GROUP 3:45PM GROWING TOGETHER BIBLE STUDY 7:30PM A.A. MEETING	20 9:00AM MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 6:30PM - 8:30 P.M CONFIRMATION AND YOUTH GROUP 7:00PM GROWING TOGETHER BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM CHOIR PRACTICE	21 8:00PM N.A. MEETINGS	22	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 7:30PM A.A. MEETING	27 2:00 P.M.DORCAS SOCIETY -@ O. H. 6:30PM - 8:30 P.M YOUTH GROUP 7:00 PM CHOIR PRACTICE	28 8:00PM N.A. MEETINGS	29	30 5:30PM WORSHIP SERVICE
31 9:30AM WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30AM FELLOWSHIP& SUNDAY SCHOOL						



**First Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Oakland, Nebraska**

The church council met December 7, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Pastor Eldal. Roger Moderow, vice president, called the meeting to order. In attendance were Kylie Penke, Jan Wiltse, Mona Tanksley, Rachel Wise, Sandy Husar, Sam Schmidt, Jon Seagren, Carl Magnusson, and Greg Johnson.

After devotions were given by Jan, Pastor Eldal presented his report listing his activities for September through November. The minutes of the last meeting were read and a motion was made by Jon, seconded by Sam to accept them.

Pastor thanked all for the gift card he received for Pastor Appreciation Sunday.

**The Evangelism Committee report** was given by Rachel who reported on their meeting held earlier in the evening. She noted that the Wednesday night youth group is going well. Kylie expressed thanks for the food that has been provided by members for these meetings. Ideas for youth group activities were discussed, and the committee will look into this further after the first of the year. It was also noted that the sign in books are being used during worship services. 13 “stepping stones”, which are significant events in the life of a young person’s faith journey, were explained and ways to acknowledge these events were discussed. Jan Wiltse has agreed to post photos of new members, baptisms, etc on the bulletin board.

**The Finance Committee reported** that Carl and Jon will meet soon to work on the budget. The Profit and Loss statement was reviewed. There was discussion about merging the youth accounts as well as having a report of what the balance is in each of the various accounts currently used. Dr. James Unwin arrived at this time and reported on the Outreach Committee meeting that was held this evening. The outreach fund was discussed noting how this money is used. Dr. Unwin reported on the recommendations of the committee explaining how they would like to see the money disbursed. After much discussion, it was decided that we will give Pastor, the council president, and vice president the authority to address immediate outreach needs within our community when needs arise. Also discussed was having Pastor announce to the congregation that they will have an opportunity to financially support an outreach fund that will be used for local needs.

**The Property Committee reported** that the Christmas decorations are up. It was decided to send a thank you to the person who made the wooden hangers used to display the banners. Thanks was expressed to those who helped move the basement furniture at the time the carpets were cleaned.

**Old Business:** Pastor reported on the comparison of phone systems noting features and prices. We currently tabled this topic and will discuss it at the next meeting. Job descriptions will be written for the office personnel to better define the division of duties for each person.

**New Business:** It was reported that Betty Starr is considering a donation to the church from the Normil Foundation. Ideas of projects for her to consider are to be given to Cheryl which will then be shared with Betty. There was discussion about the possibility of presenting a memorial scholarship to one of our seniors. More discussion will be done. The terms of Jim Pelan, Sandy Husar, Jan Wiltse and Roger Moderow will be up in January.

Communion Helper: January 3 - Sandy Husar  
Devotions for Jan. Meeting - Kylie Penke

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

Mona Tanksley, Secretary.

December Attendance	
5 & 6 .....	181
12&13 .....	269
20 .....	168
24 .....	401
27 .....	74

December Finances	
Regular	\$13,465.00
Christmas	\$ 6,121.50
<b>Designated</b>	
BackPack Program	\$ 35.00
Sunday School	\$ 2.80
Supplies	\$175.25
Memorial	\$200.00
<u>MiSC. (Bus Trip &amp; Poinsettia)</u>	<u>\$896.15</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$20,895.70</b>



# THIS MONTH USHERS

## January 2016 Ushers

Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> - S. Schmidt, Roger Moderow, Josh Mulder & Jared Mulder  
 Jan 10<sup>th</sup> - J. Nelson, N. Case, Carl Magnusson and Jay Lindstrom  
 Jan 17<sup>th</sup> - Dr. C. Seagren, N. Case, Tim Magnusson and Chad Linder  
 Jan 24<sup>th</sup> - S. Schmidt, N. Case, Jim Jorgenson and Scott Lindstrom  
 Jan 31<sup>st</sup> - Clare Wiltse, Norm Case, Roger Moderow & Mark Johnson

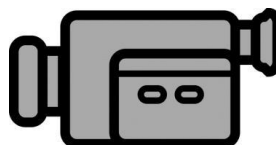


## January 2016 Greeters

Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> - Susan Mulder and Shirley Lowe  
 Jan 10<sup>th</sup> - Joan Magnuson and Diane Lindstrom  
 Jan 17<sup>th</sup> - Elisabeth Linder and Annie, Ellen, Nolan, & Carolyn Magnuson  
 Jan 24<sup>th</sup> - Lee Ann Jorgenson and Val Lindstrom  
 Jan 31<sup>st</sup> - Patty Moderow and Jill and Selena Johnson



Jan 3 - Ashten Rennerfeldt  
 10 - Marissa Mulder  
 17 - Josh Deemer  
 24 - Jared Krutilek  
 31 - Megan Bousquet  
 Feb 7- Lane Peterson



Video

3 - Wyatt Seagren  
 10 - Ashten Rennerfeldt  
 17 - Marissa Mulder  
 24 - Josh Deemer  
 31- Jared Krutilek  
 7 - Megan Bousquet



3<sup>rd</sup> - Dan Tanksley  
 10<sup>th</sup> - Tess Johnson  
 17<sup>th</sup> - Jim/Dan  
 24<sup>th</sup> - Jim Pelan  
 31 - Tess Johnson  
 7<sup>th</sup> - Dan Tanksley



Organist

3<sup>rd</sup> - Bryan Bohn  
 10<sup>th</sup> - Billye Pearson  
 17<sup>th</sup> - Bryan Bohn  
 24<sup>th</sup> - Bryan Bohn  
 31<sup>st</sup> -  
 7<sup>th</sup> - Bryan Bohn

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

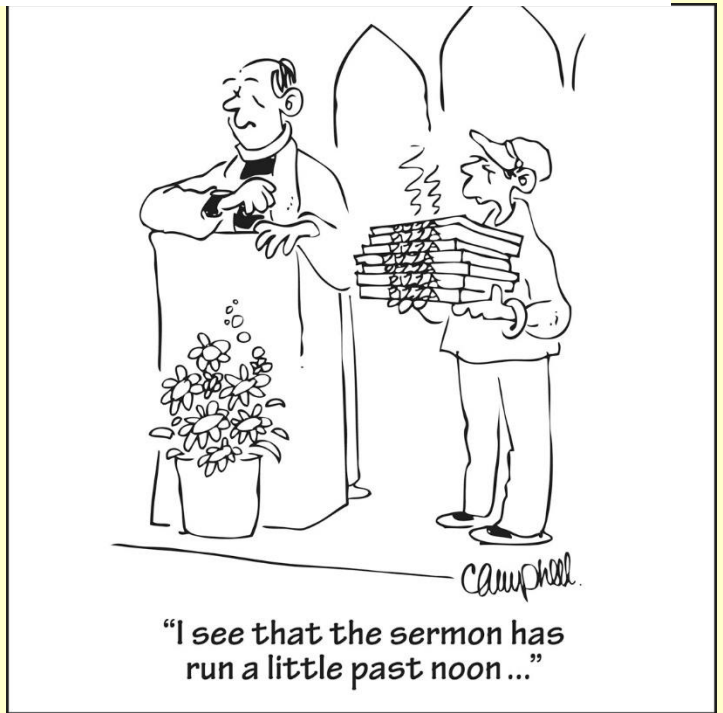
## January 2015 Special Days

Some of the special days celebrated in January are:

- ❄ New Year's Day – January 1, 2016
- ❄ Epiphany – January 6, 2016
- ❄ Martin Luther King Jr. Day – January 18, 2016



# 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

*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

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

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