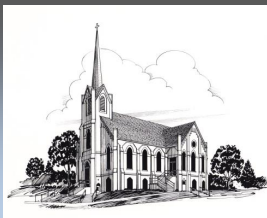


# THE SPIRE



December 2015  
Volume 3, Issue 11

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## Pastor's COLUMN

By Rev. Mark Eldal

As we enter the Christmas season we know this time of year can bring special blessing to our lives.

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.

The giving of these gifts can remind us of the ultimate gift that was given many years ago, the gift of God's Son. Wonderfully we can also know that this gift 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 invite Jesus into our lives by faith, we receive the most precious gift that has ever been given.

For as we receive the gift of Jesus we receive the gift salvation. With this gift of salvation we receive the forgiveness of our sins, eternal life, and the promise of God's presence in our lives.

Thus, the most precious gift given at Christmas was the gift of Jesus who would come to bring salvation to all who would receive him.

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

God bless,

Pastor Mark

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### December 2015 Special Days

Some of the special days celebrated in December are:

- ❄ Second Sunday of Advent — December 6
- ❄ Third Sunday of Advent — December 13
- ❄ Fourth Sunday of Advent — December 20
- ❄ First day of Winter — December 21
- ❄ Christmas Eve — December 24
- ❄ Christmas Day — December 25
- ❄ New Year's Eve — December 31

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Join us for the annual December trip.** This year we are going to the Holland Center to see the Celtic Tenors on Wednesday, December 2nd. Before the show we will enjoy a meal at Jack and Mary's Restaurant. The bus will leave around 3:45. The cost of the show ticket is \$31.25 + bus ticket@\$13 + meal = \$60. You may reserve your ticket (50 available) by contacting Candace Johnson at [402-685-5718](tel:402-685-5718).

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

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

**Thank You:** To our youth for leading services on Sunday morning November 8<sup>th</sup> and Pastor Greg Gahan for leading services on Saturday evening, November 7<sup>th</sup> and Joel Rathbun for leading services on Saturday evening, November 14<sup>th</sup>.

**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.

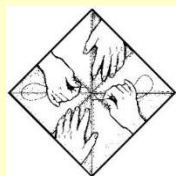
**Thank you to all the people who helped decorate the church** for the Christmas Season on Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. and to those who helped bring the decorations down from storage.

**Please join Oakland Women's Club Annual Oakland Tour of Homes** on Sunday, December 6 from 12-4p.m. Tickets sold at Gramma B's on north Main Street. Please support our Women's Club and Happy Holidays!

**Please join Oakland Women's Club** for a free toy giveaway benefiting local children in need this holiday season. We have hundreds of toys to choose from ranging from infant to elementary age. If you or someone you know would benefit from this unique opportunity, please call [402-677-6202](tel:402-677-6202) or [402-689-6414](tel:402-689-6414) to make a shopping appointment today. Merry Christmas!

**If you need to fill your holiday spirit-o-meter,** why don't you come out to see the play "Happy Hollandaise" sponsored by the Community Theatre? This play will be at the Oakland City Auditorium on Dec.4, 5 & 6 - at 7:00 p.m. Come out and support your community!

**The sewing ladies packed 130 quilts** for Lutheran World Relief and **71 quilts** for the Open Door Mission on Monday morning November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8:30 a.m. In addition, the WOW groups provided the items to fill **56** school kits. WHAT AN AMAZING ACCOMPLISHMENT!! They truly appreciated all of the help packing and lifting the heavy boxes.



**If you are unable to give of your time, but would like to donate monetarily ...for every \$1 you give to the LWR Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund, someone in need receives \$8 worth of essential personal items.** Costs to ship one item: Mission Quilt - \$2.25; School Kit - \$1.40; Personal Care Kit - \$2.65; Fabric Kit - \$1.00; Baby Care Kit - \$1.30; Soap (18lb. carton) - \$11.60... so ... \$100 would help send: 44 quilts, 71 school kits, 37 care kits, 100 fabric kits, 76 baby kits, 8 cartons. If you want to donate directly to LWR this is the address: Lutheran World Relief, Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund, PO Box 17061, Baltimore, MD 21198-9832. Be sure to note "Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund" in the memo line.

**The Quilters will have a Christmas Brunch** on Dec. 8<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: Ashten Rennerfeldt, Marissa Mulder, Callie Stewart and Carly Stewart.



**ALL WOMEN OF THE WORD** are invited to Christmas pot-luck on Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at noon. We will be having an Executive Meeting on Monday December 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.



The WOW women have been saving loose change all year, their "Thankful Offerings." These offerings will be collected at the November group meetings and given to the Oakland-Craig Backpack Organization, which distributes backpacks to students filled with food items for needy families for the weekend. Twenty backpacks are distributed each school weekend feeding 54 children. If anyone in the congregation could possibly assist the Backpack Project, please place your contribution in the Backpack Box near Pastor's greeting location at the front of the sanctuary. This is a wonderful way to share how THANKFUL we are for our many blessings!

**CAN you contribute? Of course you CAN!!!** Instead of trying to bring food items for the local food pantry to our worship services on the last weekend of the month, the WOW women are asking the congregation to bring items whenever they CAN, no matter the date. In addition to CANned foods, CAN you bring hygiene items and boxes of pasta & casserole mixes? There will be collection tubs beneath the coat rack in the annex. As a congregation, we CAN do this!!!



## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Thank you parents for getting your children to Sunday School. It is such a blessing to have so many voices. We have sent home cd's with all the songs for our program so please get those into your vehicles so the kids can rehearse! Reminder we have **No Sunday School** this Sunday November 29 for Thanksgiving.

We will practice on **Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30 pm** with supper at 6:30 p.m. **FAMILIES INVITED!!!**

We will practice on **Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:30-11:30** and again on **Wednesday December 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm** with supper at 6:30 **FAMILIES INVITED!!!**

Signup sheets will be passed around during these two practices for parents to volunteer helping get the kids dressed, undressed, tables wiped, etc. Please try to get your children to these last 3 practices as we need the practice.

We will perform our Christmas program on Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am. Have kids to church by 8:45a.m. to get them in their costumes. We will have rolls and coffee for parents, and grandparents in the basement following the program!

Sunday School will dismiss for the Christmas break and we will start again on January 10<sup>th</sup>.

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

Blessings,  
Angie Rennerfeldt



## **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 school kids 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 are not meeting during the month of December, but will begin again in January.



We welcomed in to membership Jason, Heather, Garrett and Gracie Klausen during our Sunday morning service on November 22, 2015.



### **IN OUR PRAYERS OF CONCERN PLEASE**

**INCLUDE:** Dale Jones, Jeanne Lydick (Vanessa Nelson's sister), Janis Nelson (Gordon Nelson's Sister), Fauniel Paulson, Andy Kruse, Jeff Richards, Kedron Koehler, Darlene Husen, Bill Johnson, Warren Gregg, Sandy Abney, Tara Wallesen, Sandra Johnson, Wilma Neitzke, Don Andersen, Landon Johnson, Lillian Mueller, Donna Johnson, Kaylee Fujan, Vernelle Nelson, Bill Dix, Allen Schrock, Charlie Ray, Rich Tomasek, Oliver Nimmo, Delwin Benne, Joseph Vandry, Grace Meints, and all of our servicemen and women, our shut-ins and our youth ministry.



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Brandon Bollinger, Teresa Rogers,  
Timothy Slatt, Keri Thomsen
- 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
- 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
- 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/>*

*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 2, 2015 with Cheryl Denker calling the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. In attendance were Jan Wiltse, Carl Magnusson, Sandy Husar, Mona Tanksley, Jim Pelan, Sam Schmidt, and Rachel Wise-Nelson. Nancy Johnson was present and reported on the LCMC conference she attended in Dallas.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and a motion was made by Carl to accept them. Motion seconded by Sam and carried

**The Evangelism Committee** report was given by Rachel who reported on their meeting which was held earlier this evening. The sign in tablets will be placed in the pews by next week and attendees will be asked to write their names in the books. A bookmark has been made and will be given to visitors by either the ushers or the greeters. This bookmark provides information on church service times. A welcome packet will be sent to visitors as well as a note acknowledging their visit. It was reported that the youth group will be in charge of the worship service next Sunday. There was discussion about having the council members help regularly with ushering and greeting.

**The Property Committee** reported that the television has been installed in the multipurpose room. Electrical work will be done to conceal the cords connected to the TV. It was also reported that we have not received a bid for caulking the windows nor has the bid been received for the painting that is needed in some areas. The glass for the top of the organ is now in place. The carpets in the downstairs were cleaned last week. Carl replaced the plastic window well cover that was broken. Jim posted a sign in the elevator with instructions for its use.

**Old Business:** Thanks to Jan Wiltse for taking care of the gift card given to Pastor on Pastor Appreciation Sunday. A thank you was sent to the Dorcas organization for their contribution towards the purchase of the new television. It was noted that Vanessa Nelson has begun working in the office. The money left in the parking lot and organ funds has been transferred to the memorial account. It was decided to sell the brown tables that were in the multipurpose room. If interested in purchasing one, please contact Cheryl. Cheryl has talked to the mayor regarding the problem of semis and buses that have been parking in our parking lot. She was informed that in order to stop them from doing this, we must post a sign stating the weight limit allowed. Cheryl thanked those who have helped to provide food for the Wednesday night youth group. It was reported that Pastor is checking on the new phone system.

**New Business:** The finance committee will plan a meeting to work on the budget for next year. The financial statement was reviewed noting we are \$5700.00 behind our budget through 10 months. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned noting that the next meeting will be December 7<sup>th</sup> and will be held at Pastor and Jacque's home at 7:00 p.m.

**Communion Helpers:** December 5 – Arla Ogden

December 6 – Mona Tanksley

Mona Tanksley, Secretary

### November Attendance

31 & 1.....	175
7 & 8 .....	175
14 & 15 .....	149
21 & 22 .....	199
25(Thanksgiving Eve) ..	81
28 & 29.....	134

### November Finances

Commitments	\$16,898.00
Building Use	\$ 230.00
Designated-Bus Trip	\$ 1,814.45
Designated - HS Youth	\$ 90.00
Designated-Coffee Fund	\$ 225.50
Sunday School	\$ 56.80
Thanksgiving	\$ 2,279.00
Memorial	\$ 520.00
Misc	\$ 695.75
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$22,809.50</b>



**Dorcas Society Potluck - December 30<sup>th</sup> @ 12:00 p.m.**

**Dorcas is invited to attend the WOW potluck on Dec. 10<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.



**Each Group set their own dates for Christmas Celebrations**

December 2.....Bingo @ O.H. 9:30 a.m. ....Ruth  
 December 7 .....Executive Meetings 4 p.m.  
 December 9 .....Noon Potluck, Mary Serves, Ruth Program  
 December 27 .....Devotions 2:30 p.m.....Ruth.  
 Clean Kitchen .....HS Youth



**Poinsettia for Christmas.** If you would like to purchase a poinsettia from Sue'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:




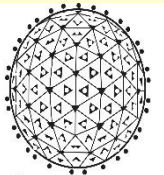
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You may also give this form to Tess in the office or leave in the offering plate on Sunday. Thank you!

# December 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	30 8:30AM SEWING GROUP	1 8:30AM SEWING GROUP	2 9AM MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 9:30AM BINGO @ OAKLAND HEIGHTS 5:30 P.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM PRACTICE / PIZZA PARTY 6:30 - 8:30 P.M. - Youth Group & 8:00PM CHOIR PRACTICE	3 8:00PM N.A. MEETINGS	4	5 5:30PM COMMUNION SERVICE
6 9:30AM COMMUNION & CONTEMPORARY SERVICE 10:30AM FELLOWSHIP AND SUNDAY SCHOOL 11AM BIBLE STUDY	7 9:00AM SEWING GROUP BRUNCH 4:00PM WOW EXECUTIVE MEETING	8 9 AM SEWING GROUP CHRISTMAS BRUNCH	9 12:00PM WOW GROUPS CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON 5:30 P.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM PRACTICE / CHRISTMAS PARTY 6:30 - 8:30 P.M. - Youth Group & CONFIRMATION 8:00PM CHOIR PRACTICE	10 8:00PM N.A. MEETINGS	11	12 5:30PM WORSHIP SERVICE
13 9:30AM WORSHIP SERVICE & SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM 10:30AM FELLOWSHIP AND SUNDAY SCHOOL 11:00AM BIBLE STUDY	14 NO SEWING GROUP	15 NO SEWING GROUP	16 9AM MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 6:30 - 8:30 P.M. - Youth Group & CONFIRMATION 8:00PM CHOIR PRACTICE	17 8:00PM N.A. MEETINGS	18	19 5:30PM WORSHIP SERVICE
20 9:30AM SERVICE 10:30AM FELLOWSHIP AND SUNDAY SCHOOL 11:00AM BIBLE STUDY CHOIR SINGS	21 NO SEWING GROUP	22 NO SEWING GROUP	23 6:30 - 8:30 P.M. - Youth Group	24  <i>Christmas Eve</i> <b>WORSHIP</b> <b>5 PM &amp; 10PM</b> <b>Worship Services</b>	25  <i>Christmas</i> <b>Day</b>	26 NO WORSHIP SERVICE
27 9:30AM WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30AM FELLOWSHIP AND SUNDAY SCHOOL 11:00AM BIBLE STUDY	28 NO SEWING GROUP	29 NO SEWING GROUP	30 6:30 - 8:30 P.M. - Youth Group & CONFIRMATION	31  <i>New Year's Eve</i>		





## THIS MONTH USHERS

### December 2015 Ushers

Dec 6<sup>th</sup> - Cal Anderson and Larry Johnson  
 Dec 13<sup>th</sup> - Youth group  
 Dec 20<sup>th</sup> - Darrell Denker and Greg Johnson  
 Dec 24<sup>th</sup> - Early Service - Tim Slatt and Tony Bromm  
 Dec 24<sup>th</sup> - Late Service - Greeter and Usher Gordon Nelson  
 Dec 27<sup>th</sup> - David Jones and Ian Lundquist

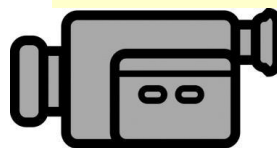


### December 2015 Greeters

Dec 6<sup>th</sup> - Sara Anderson and Tess, Jamie and Lyndsey Johnson  
 Dec 13<sup>th</sup> - Children's Christmas Program  
 Dec 20<sup>th</sup> - Cheryl Denker and Nancy Johnson  
 Dec 24<sup>th</sup> - Early Service - Sherry Slatt and Nancy Bromm  
 Dec 24<sup>th</sup> - Late Service - Rachel Wise-Nelson  
 Dec 27<sup>th</sup> - Julie Jones and Sandy Husar



Dec 6 - Braeden Case  
 13 - Zoe Linder  
 20 - Colton Thomsen  
 24 - Selena Johnson  
 27 - Wyatt Seagren  
 Jan 3 - 2016 - Ashten Rennerfeldt



Video

Dec 6 - Ian Lundquist  
 13 - Braeden Case  
 20 - Zoe Linder  
 24 - Colton Thomsen  
 27 - Selena Johnson  
 Jan 3, 2016 - Wyatt Seagren



Dec 6 - Bryan Bohn  
 13 - Cindy Blanc  
 20 - Bryan Bohn  
 24 - Bryan Bohn  
 24 - Billye Pearson  
 27 - Billye Pearson



Dec 6 - Jim/Dan  
 13 - Tess Johnson  
 20 - Dan Tanksley  
 24 - Tess J/ Dan Tanksley  
 27 - Jim Pelan

### FELLOWSHIP SERVERS THIS MONTH



LeAnn Jorgensen and Delaney Brudigam  
 Kylie Penke and Hannah Hyslop  
 Rachel Wise-Nelson and Judy Nelson  
 Billye Pearson and Katie Selk  
 Karen Ahrens and Connie Anderson

Sunday, December 6,  
 Sunday, December 13  
 Sunday, December 20  
 Sunday, December 27  
 Sunday, January 03, 2016

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

