

# THE SPIRE



December 2014  
Volume 2, Issue 11

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## Pastor's COLUMN

By Rev. Mark Eldal

One of the amazing aspects of God's ministering in our world is how he repeatedly takes the initiative to come to us in our lives.

We see this in the very beginning when after Adam and Eve sin and hide from God, God himself, takes the initiative to come to them, and restores them to relationship with himself. We see this in the life of Abraham, when God takes the initiative to call Abraham and then promise him land and descendants. We see this in the life of Israel as God raises up prophets to bring the people of Israel back to him when they begin drift away from him.

And most importantly, we see God taking the initiative to enter our world in the person of God the Son, live among us, and then die and rise, so we might be forgiven and live in a relationship with him now and through eternity.

This is of course, what we remember at Christmas. We remember Jesus taking the initiative to come to us as a little baby and then go on to accomplish his saving work through his life, death and resurrection.

We also remember that through the Holy Spirit he still takes the initiative to come to us, and dwell in our hearts through faith.

This Christmas season may we celebrate Jesus taking the initiative to enter our world and bring salvation to all who put their faith in him, and may we celebrate that this same Jesus takes the initiative to knock on our hearts door and come into our hearts as we trust in him.

God bless,

Pastor Mark

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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



### December 2014 Special Days

Some of the special days celebrated in December are:

- ❄ Second Sunday of Advent — December 7
- ❄ Third Sunday of Advent — December 14
- ❄ Fourth Sunday of Advent — December 21
- ❄ First day of Winter — December 21
- ❄ Christmas Eve — December 24
- ❄ Christmas Day — December 25
- ❄ New Year's Eve — December 31

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

We will be continuing our Sermon Series through Advent on "Finding God in Unexpected Places."

Women's Club - Christmas Tour of Homes, Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> from 12:00-4:00 p.m. You may purchase tickets w/maps at The Swedish Heritage Museum that day, \$10/ticket. Come get in the Christmas spirit while helping the Oakland's Women's Club raise money. Women and men will enjoy the beautiful decorations. Thanks for your support!



**Winter Coat Drive.** The Women of the Word (WOW) are planning a winter coats, mittens, and hats 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 and BLANKETS. Also we are collecting food items for the Oakland Food Pantry in December.

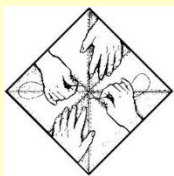
Please join Oakland Women's Club for a free toy giveaway benefiting local children in need this holiday season. We have hundreds of toys to choose from ranging from infant to elementary age. If you or someone you know would benefit from this unique opportunity, please call [402-677-6202](tel:402-677-6202)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



**CHRISTMAS BUS TRIP** - The church is planning a trip to the Holland Center in Omaha on Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> to see the Salem Baptist Church Choir. Come enjoy the harmonious sounds of Omaha's nationally recognized choir. This upbeat Christmas celebration will feature a combination of blended classics and new music intertwined with unforgettable drama and expertly choreographed dance.

The cost per ticket is \$16.50 and the bus ride is \$13.00 per person. Make checks payable to First Lutheran Church in the amount of \$29.50. After the show we will have a meal at Farmer Brown's restaurant which will cost \$10 - \$15. The bus will leave at around 2:00 from the church parking lot. If interested you may sign up with Candace Johnson at church or give her a call at home (402)685-5718. Come join us for an exciting day of fun and fellowship.

Thank you for all the help decorating the church for the Christmas Season on Monday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 a.m.



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 provide the items to fill 56 school kits. WHAT AN AMAZING ACCOMPLISHMENT!! They truly appreciated all of the help packing and lifting the heavy boxes.

The confirmation students received their first communion at First Lutheran on Wednesday, November 27<sup>th</sup> during the Thanksgiving Eve Service. The seventh graders this year are: Jared Krutilek, Megan Bousquet, Lane Peterson, Ian Lundquist, Braeden Case, Zoe Linder, Colton Thomsen, Selena Johnson, Wyatt Seagren and Josh Deemer.



**ALL WOMEN OF THE WORD** are invited to Christmas pot-luck on Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at noon. We will be having an Executive Meeting on Monday December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1:30 p.m.

If you need to fill holiday spirit-o-meter has, why don't you come out to see the play "When Christmas Left Rattler Canyon" sponsored by the Tri-City Community Theatre. This Play will be at the Oakland City Auditorium on Fri, Dec.5 - at 7:00 p.m., Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m., and Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Come out and support your community!



**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 \$15 made out to First Lutheran Church. Please contact Tess at the church office if you would like to donate the poinsettia in remembrance of someone. Sue has graciously offered to care for (watering) all the poinsettias which she delivers. Therefore, please do not water them or they may be overwatered. Thank you!

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

### Parents,

We are working on our Christmas music with only **ONE** Sunday left to practice.

We will meet Wednesday, December 10th at 5:30 for our annual Christmas party. We will practice our program music for an hour and plan to eat at 6:30. Drinks and Dessert will be provided as well! Families are welcome to come eat with us! Look for a signup sheet to volunteer helping dress the kids in their costumes and to help hang up and put costumes away after the program.

We may possibly meet again Saturday morning (December 13<sup>th</sup>) to practice one last time before our Christmas program.

Our program is on December 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am.

December 21<sup>st</sup> is the date we will meet to perform to the Nursing Home / Assisted Living residents. Please bring your children up at 10:30. This should only take 20-30 minutes. No Sunday School through the rest of December.

There will be Children's Church on January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015 with a video and snacks!

Sunday school will resume January 11, 2015!

Blessings,

Angie Rennerfeldt



### IN OUR PRAYERS OF CONCERN PLEASE INCLUDE:

Marlice Sebade, Janice Johnson, Vernelle Nelson, Lauri Carnarsky, Kyle Brand, Bill Dix, Fauniel Paulson, Allen Schrock, Charlie Ray, Gina Culbertson, Robert Johnson, Joel Paulson, Tim Dame, Connie Peterson, Rich Tomasek, Oliver Nimmo, Delwin Benne, Joseph Vandry, Landon Johnson, Gene Hansen, Gail Elsasser, Grace Meints, The Family of Gerald Larson, The Gregg Nelson Family, Thad Nelson serving in Kuwait and all of our servicemen and women, our shut-ins and our youth ministry.

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Brandon Bollinger, Teresa Rogers,  
Timothy Slatt, Ruby Uman
- 5 - Natalie Bromm
- 6 - William Ahrens
- 7 - Lura Johanson
- 8 - Rex Baldwin
- 10 - Betty Hanna
- 11 - Tricia Heineman, 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
- 18 - William Taylor
- 19 - Mark Peterson
- 21 - Doris Anderson
- 22 - Norman Wallerstedt,  
Peyton Miller
- 24 - Calvin Moseman
- 25 - Amber Shelley
- 26 - Diane Lindstrom,  
Justin Beck
- 27 - Tiffany Johnson
- 28 - Miles Lindstrom,
- 29 - Lesley Wonka,
- 30 - Jennings Johnson
- 31 - Chloine Johnson

## 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 3, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. In attendance were Cheryl Denker, Sandy Husar, Rachel Wise, Greg Ray, Jan Wiltse, Kylie Penke, Jon Seagren, Jim Pelan, Carl Magnusson, Mona Tanksley and Pastor Eldal. The meeting began with Kylie giving devotions. Pastor presented his report for October which was accepted by the group. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and a motion to approve them was made by Jon, seconded by Greg and carried.

Finance and Evangelism Committees:

The Evangelism and Financial Committee reports were given by Rachel who reported on the successful fund drive for the organ repair and parking lot replacement projects. Rachel was thanked for her work on this project. We discussed inviting Jerry Oehring, who did the work on the organ, to come when we have the dedication of the organ. Tentative plans are to have this event in January. Jon reported on the property insurance noting that the organ is considered part of the structure of the church as it is built in. Discussion centered on raising the coverage that we currently have, but no decision made. This will be followed up at the next meeting. The financial report was reviewed and discussed noting that year to date, expenses are greater than income.

Music & Worship:

The Music and Worship Committee reported that a leg is broken of one of the piano benches in the basement. Sandy will check on the status of the piano that was to be given away. Kylie reported on the activities of the youth group. We discussed the number of organists and pianists available for services and reported that the recording feature on the organ was used for the choir and this went well.

Property Committee:

The Property Committee reported that the hand rail on the east has been repaired. An area of uneven concrete needs to be ground down at the end of the ramp and this will be done after harvest. It was decided that we will not replace the brown tables in the multipurpose room at this time.

Old Business:

Old Business: It was reported that the communion cards have been received. Samples of other cards were looked at to possibly replace what we are using. Jan was thanked for filling the activity bags for children that are kept at the back of the church.

New Business:

New Business: We are in need of someone to remove snow around the church. Ideas of possible people available were given and Cheryl will check with them. The FCA sent a letter to church requesting a monetary donation to help establish a start-up fund for their group. After discussion, a motion was made by Rachel that we give \$200.00 from the youth fund to the FCA. Motion seconded by Jan and carried. We discussed the idea of having members of the congregation visit fellow members in addition to visits made by Pastor. Further thought will be given to this idea. Greg reported that our DVDs are not working well in the player at the nursing home. It was reported our equipment has all been replaced recently and may not be compatible with theirs.

Communion Helpers:

Communion helpers: December 6 - Arla Ogden  
December 7 - Sandy Husar

Devotions for the meeting December 1- Sandy Husar.

The meeting adjourned with all saying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Mona Tanksley, Secretary

<b>October Attendance</b>
1&2 .....
8&9 .....
15&16 .....
22&23.....
29&30.....

<b>October Finances</b>	
Commitments	\$14,941.00
Building Use	270.00
<b>Designated</b>	
Parking Lot	\$ 300.00
Organ Repair	\$ 800.00
Nourish the Children	\$ 125.00
Sunday School	\$ 20.69
Memorial	\$ 10.00
Misc	\$ 630.23
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$17,709.92</b>



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

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory/Honor of:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please give this form to Tess in the office or leave in the offering plate on Sunday with \$16 if you wish to order the poinsettia from Sue's Flower shop or please attach to the poinsettia when you bring it to church to be used to decorate the church. Thank you!



**Dorcas Society Potluck - December 31<sup>st</sup> @ 12:00 p.m.**

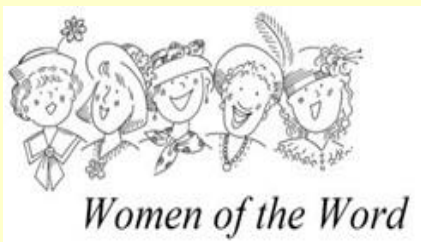
**Dorcas is invited to attend the WOW potluck on Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>**



**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 3.....Bingo @ O.H. 9:30 a.m. ....Ruth
- December 8 .....Executive Meetings 4 p.m.
- December 10 .....Noon Potluck, Mary Serves, Ruth Program
- December 28 .....Devotions 2:30 p.m.....Ruth.
- Clean Kitchen .....HS Youth

# December 2014

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



# THIS MONTH USHERS

## Dec. 2014 Ushers

- 7<sup>th</sup> - Job Egbers, Roger Moderow, Don Johnson and Dale Jones
- 14<sup>th</sup> - Harley Nelson, Norm Case & Mrs. Seagren's Sunday School Class
- 21<sup>st</sup> - Jim Nelson, Norm Case, Darrell Denker and Carl Magnuson
- 24<sup>th</sup> - Early Service - Norm Case, Mark & Jill Johnson Family  
Late Service - Clare Wiltse, Roger Johnson and Gordon Nelson
- 28<sup>th</sup> - Norm Case, Clare Wiltse, Scott and Val Lindstrom's family

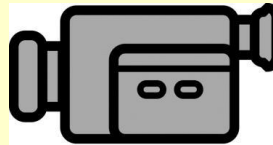


## Dec. 2014 Greeters

- 7<sup>th</sup> - Candace Johnson and Linda Jones
- 14<sup>th</sup> - Mrs Seagren's Sunday School Class
- 21<sup>st</sup> - Cheryl Denker and Joan Magnuson
- 24<sup>th</sup> - Early Service Mark and Jill Johnson Family  
Late Service - Suzanne Johnson and Rachel Wise
- 28<sup>th</sup> - Scott and Val Lindstrom's family



- Dec 7 - Ian Lundquist
- 14 - Braeden Case
- 21 - Zoe Linder
- 24 - Selena Johnson
- 24 - Ian Lundquist
- 28 - Colton Thomsen
- Jan 4 - Selena Johnson



Video

- Dec 7 - Lane Peterson
- 14 - Ian Lundquist
- 21 - Braeden Case
- 24 - Jamison Johnson
- 28 - Zoe Linder
- Jan 4 - Colton Thomsen



- Dec 7 - Bryan Bohn
- 14 - Cindy Blanc
- 21 - Billye Pearson
- 24 - Bryan Bohn
- 28 - Billye Pearson



- Dec 7 - Jim/Dan
- 14 - Tess Johnson
- 21 - Dan Tanksley
- 24 - Tess J/ Dan Tanksley
- 28 - Jim Pelan

## FELLOWSHIP SERVERS THIS MONTH



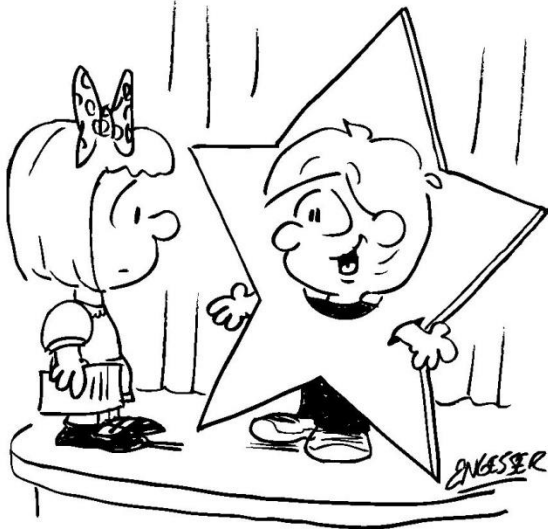
- Dec 7 - Cynthia Blanc, Jo Ann Brudigam, Tess Johnson
- 14 - Delaney Brudigam, Jill Johnson
- Jan Wiltse
- 21 - Kylie Penke, Hannah Hyslop, Cheryl Denker
- 28 - Jeanette Blanc, Tiffany Johnson, Patty Miller
- Jan 4 - Karen Ahrens, Connie Anderson and Tess Johnson

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

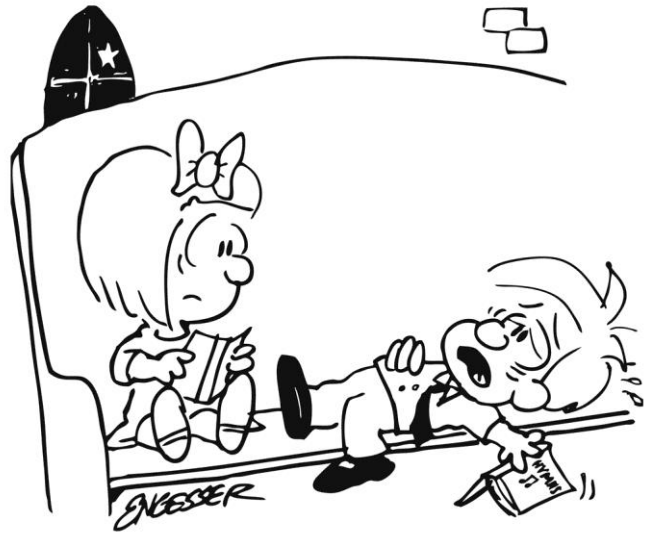


# CHRISTIAN HUMOR TO TICKLE YOUR LIFE

## CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



"I knew someday I'd be a star!"



"That last 'Glo-ooo-oooh-oooh-ooooh-oooh-oooh-oooria' about did me in."

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

