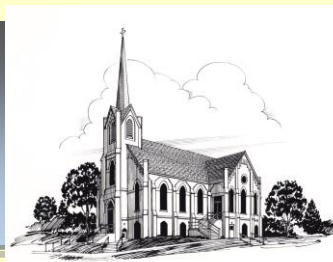


THE SPIRE



September 2019
Volume 7, Issue 8

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Pastor's COLUMN

By Rev. Mark Eldal

On the last Sunday of August, in our gospel lesson, we read of Jesus encountering a woman in the synagogue who was bent over from an ailment. It also describes her as being bound. Jesus then heals her and sets her free.

The encounter Jesus had with this woman was a reminder that sometimes we may experience things in life that weigh us down with burdens and cause us to feel bound in our spirit. Yet like the woman, we can encounter Jesus in worship or other activities at church and he can set us free so we can go home unbound and praising God.

As we enter the fall many of the ministries of this fellowship will begin again and many of us will return to the schedule and routines that we follow for most of the year. When we do so, one of the goals of this fellowship can be that we have fresh encounters with Jesus in which he sets us free from whatever burdens we may carry and we can go forth praising God.

As we trust in Jesus, may the worship services and the ministries of our fellowship provide wonderful opportunities for us to encounter Jesus and to be freshly relieved of the burdens that may weigh us down.

God bless,

Pastor Mark

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Some of the special days celebrated in September are:

- Labor Day — Sept 2
- National Grandparents Day — Sept 8
- Patriot Day — Sept 11
- First day of Autumn — Sept 23



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Our church is celebrating it's 150 Year Anniversary this year. We are planning a party on September 8th, 2019 and compiling a pictorial directory and history of our church. If you would like to serve in some way, have pictures or stories to share please contact Keri Thomsen, Susan Mulder or Brad Bousquet.

CHOIR HAS RESUMED. If you would like to be part of our musical ministry, choir practice is every Sunday, beginning Sep 8th at 8:30 am. (before church)

FRIDAY NIGHT PUB. We have started Luther's Pub again. The dates will be September 6th, September 13st, October 4th, October 11th, December 13th and January 24th. The Pub will be for all Friday night home games. We are looking for volunteers to help us chaperone. Please contact Connie Larson (402)380-5101 or Tess Johnson (402)380-5660.

Jamie Johnson, Katie Miller and Ashley Denton received their scholarships on July 14, 2019. God bless these young women as they begin a new journey in their life!

NEW MEMBERS

We welcomed Mark and Jean Schafersman into membership on Sunday July 21, 2019

BAPTISMS

We welcomed into membership **Ellie Catherine Brakenhoff** through holy baptism, Saturday at 5:30 p.m. July 7, 2019 at First Evangelical Lutheran Church. Her parents are Brad and Brittany Brakenhoff. Her sponsors are Nathan Murray and Leslie Walters. Ellie was born August 15, 2018 at Ohio State University Hospital, Columbus OH. Her grandparents are Helen Murray and James Sznajder and Ron and Sheryl Brakenhoff. Great grandparents are May Taylor and the late Bill Taylor, Sr. **WELCOME ELLIE!!**

We welcomed into membership **Oliver Norman Elsasser** through holy baptism, Saturday at 5:30 p.m. July 7, 2019 at First Evangelical Lutheran Church. His parents are Trenton and Kiersten Elsasser. His sponsors are James and Allison Wallerstedt. Oliver was born March 9, 2019 in Fremont, NE. His grandparents are Gail and Gary Elsasser and Mark and Terry Wallerstedt. Great Grandfather is Norman Wallerstedt and Great grandmother is Marge Elsasser. **WELCOME OLIVER!!**

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Sunday School kickoff will be on September 8th in conjunction with our church's 150th celebration! Just bring yourself, as food and drink is provided! Our first Sunday School class will start on September 15th. Looking forward to another Sunday School year at First Lutheran. **The children will sing on the second Sunday of each month during the Praise Service starting October 13th.**

CONFIRMATION BEGINS - Confirmation will begin on Wednesday, September 11th. It will meet from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. every Wednesday evening. A letter is being sent to confirmands and their families regarding confirmation.

YOUTH GROUP is 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. There is a sign-up sheet in the multipurpose room for anyone who wishes to donate for the meals.

BIBLE STUDY NEWS

Men's Bible Study is on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month.

Growing Together - Small Group meets after church at 11:00 a.m. - Please contact Nancy Johnson (402) 620-5324 if you have questions.



JOAN MAGNUSSON AND JULIE EASTON - September

SEWING MEETINGS begin again on September 3rd at 8:30 a.m.

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



Cleaning out the closets?? Or hitting the rummage sales and see some cheap bedsheets? The Sewing Group would love to have any old drapes, mattress pads, blankets, etc. They can use most anything!! All help is welcome, no one is turned away. **ESPECIALLY HELP TIEING... JUST REMEMBER ANYONE CAN TIE A KNOT!!!**



DORCAS SOCIETY

Dorcas Society - September 25 @ 2:00 p.m. @ First Ev. Lutheran Church

DORCAS NEEDS YOU!!!

Do you ever wonder what the Dorcas Society is? It is the oldest organization within our church! It began in 1880 and derives its name from my consecrated servant of the Lord, namely, Dorcas. Dorcas was a plain everyday person who did good works and charitable deeds because she was a Christian. In the early days, the Dorcas society were the women who serve the lunches after funerals, those who sewed for missions, visited the ill or shut-ins. We have now split off into a couple of groups: those who serve the funerals and those who sew. We appreciate those duties been taken over by these women. However, they are all missing out on one of the greatest parts of the Dorcas society — the fellowship.

We invite you to join us - we meet at the church on the last Wednesday of the month at 2 PM. A short business meeting is held and then Pastor Mark does a Bible study. No "homework" - you don't have to take part in the discussion if you choose not to. A light lunch follows - no pressure. We've been given the bad rap of being the "old ladies" of the church. Several years ago our membership ranged from 55 to 102. There's a lot of wisdom to be shared at this group. Many people say that they are just too busy to join. I ask "Are you really too busy?"

We currently have three members who cherish this group and would love to have you all join us! (If you were wondering where we get all our money for the donations with me to the church improvements you're going to have to come visit us to find out!)



Women of the Word

September 4..... Bingo @ O.H. 9:30 a.m.Ruth
September 9.....Executive Meeting 9 a.m.
September 11.....Group Meetings 9 a.m. & 5 p.m.
September 29.....Devotions@ O.H. @ 2:30 p.m.Ruth
Clean KitchenHannah

- School is not the only thing that is starting; the WOW groups will begin a new Bible study series, **The Twelve Disciples**, a Life Guide Bible Studies by Douglas Connelly. Imagine Jesus having the task of picking twelve men to be his closest followers. Our first meeting will be Wednesday, **September 11 at either 9:00 or 5:00**. The workbooks have arrived and will be in the church annex following Sunday worships. The cost is \$8 and checks need to be made to First Evangelical Lutheran Church.
- The Women of the Word groups meet on the second Wednesdays of each month at 9:00 am and 5:00 pm with Bible study, a yummy treat and a short meeting. New members are most welcome and WOW members need to invite others to join us!
- One of the main projects for the year is **Back Packs** for the Orphan Grain Train. The amazing quilt ladies will again be sewing the backpacks and members will fill them with school supplies to be shared in the USA and throughout the world! The Executive Committee will be stuffing the back packs in October, so the items need to be **turned in by the October meeting**. The items are listed on page 17 of the yearbooks. Anyone who prefers not to shop is encouraged to donate money, which will be used to fill in the gaps of items and assist with payments for shipping. Checks can be made to WOW or to the Orphan Grain Train.
- Hope to see you on September 11th!!
- Also, the **Heartland District Women of the Word Annual Retreat will be Saturday, November 2, 2019 - “Let the Little Children Come Unto Me” at Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church in Smithfield, Nebraska. The Speaker is: Jean Clayton**, author of Sipping the Proverbs. **Other presentations:** Representatives from The Nebraska Family Alliance and MOPS, Dr. Stuart Embry on his work in Haiti, Sex Trafficking awareness. **Hands-on Service Project:** Operation Christmas Child



THANK YOU's:

- Curt Hine, Gary Fugman and Mike Blanc for leading the services during in Pastor Mark's vacation.
- Thank you, Lyndsey Johnson, Myesha Larson, Becca Bedrnick, Darrell Denker, Caleb Peterson, Jared Mulder and Ruth Wallerstedt for the gift of your music on Sunday mornings this summer.
- Women's Groups for the brunch that was held for all the women of the church!
- A special Thanks to Cal Anderson for using his equipment to unload the fruit. Thanks to all those who worked in the rain to get the orders distributed. It was another successful year!!





PRAYERS OF CONCERN

IN OUR PRAYERS OF CONCERN PLEASE INCLUDE: Ed Anderson, Clara Frahm, Karen Johnson, Jerry Seick, Tammy Case, Pat Moseman, Larry Dean Anderson, Jean Satree, Joan Meade (Hilda Benne's sister-in-law), Frank Johnson, Rojane Linder, Krissa Schonert, Denise (Hall) Salzbrenner, Deloris Nielsen, Tony Kochel, Mel Swenson, Stacy Long, Lincoln Nobel Hangman, Andy Kruse, Landon Johnson; the families of Betty Rogers, Lillian Mueller and Brian Koehler; our service men and women, and all those deployed to foreign countries, our shut-ins, and our youth ministry.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 3 - Reg Linder
- 4 - Tate Penke, Danielle Pelan
- 5 - Curtis Johnson, Sandra Johnson, Jerri Case
- 8 - Linda Jones
- 9 - Judy Groene
- 10 - Casey Moseman
- 11 - Jason Penke, Britney Stevenson
- 12 - Luke Blanc, Ayden Lierman, Ava Rennerfeldt,
- 13 - Chad Christofferson, Dr. G.E. Peterson, Brayden Selk
- 14 - Julie Johnson
- 15 - Jim VonEssen
- 17 - Karl Lundquist, Jayden Wobken
- 18 - Nicole Parcel, Julie Lindstrom, Ben Wallace
- 19 - Adam Wallace
- 20 - Vicki Nelson, Samantha Popma
- 21 - Connie Peterson
- 22 - Suzanne Blanc, David Jones, Jim Nelson, Don Wallen, Kenneth Pearson, Preston Rost
- 23 - Larry Osterndorff, Judy Nelson, Barbara Ashton, Boyd Blumenkamp, Cole Blanc, Karen Rosenboom
- 24 - Jay Lindstrom, Ryan Peterson
- 25 - Jane Stucky, Bobby Larson, Bruce Linden
- 26 - Lance Blanc, Mackenzie Kahlandt, Paula Stevenson
- 27 - Nancy Bromm
- 28 - Janna Kloth, Jovi Huntington, Derek Bittner
- 30 - Candace Johnson, Connie Rokusek, Blayke Olson, Kay Elsasser



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 - Mike & Mattie Nelson
- 3 - Russell & Connie Peterson
- 5 - Mark and Jodi Peterson, Nathaniel & Betty Dixon
- 6 - Bill & Karen Ahrens, Harley & Vernelle Nelson
- 7- Bill & Judee Dix
- 10 - David & Tammy Deemer
- 12 - Gerron & Kristin Elsasser
- 17 - Roger & Elaine Peterson
- 19 - Bill & Sandra Johnson
- 23 - Dillon & Kelli Johnson
- 24 - Timothy & Sheri Slatt, Lance & Jeanette Blanc
- 27 - Lonnie & Denise Enstrom, Dan & Mackenzie Kahlandt



First Evangelical Lutheran Church Oakland, Nebraska

The church council met August 5, 2019 at 7:07 pm. Members in attendance were Pastor Eldal, Nathan Anderson, Sam Schmidt, Mike Blanc, Tom Meyer, Linda Jones, Kathy Pearson, Brad Bousquet, Clendon Rost, Jon Seagren and Keri Thomsen. Devotions were given by Tom Meyer. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. The Treasurer's report was reviewed and discussed. Year-to-date expenses exceeded income by \$-5,850.92. There were no corrections or additions and approved as stated. Pastor presented his report for the month of June and July

Committee Reports:

Property - The bid for the basement TV work came in above the previously recognized amount. The board discussed the costs and agreed that the costs were in line with the work done. There was a unanimous consent on the quality of the TV and work. Mike motioned to accept the increase in project costs to complete the basement TV installation. Second by Clendon. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Evangelism - Nathan sat in on the evangelism meeting where it was announced that Mary Alice Pearson would be stepping down. Rachel Weise agreed to head up the effort to establish a signup system, similar to the coffee system, for Ushers and Greeters. Mary Alice's exceptional work on this committee and her zeal to incorporate young and old was recognized.

Old Business:

1. Safe- Brad Bousquet is working to have the safe installed.
2. Marque Sign- Brad motioned to accept the CBS Proposal. Second by Clendon. Vote taken and motion carried.
3. 150-year Celebration - Committee members are Susan Mulder, Keri Thomsen, Brad Bousquet. Nathan recognized the committee for the superb job that is being done for the preparation. The committee noted a fund raiser to sell Christmas Ornaments commemorating the 150-year celebration to support the cost of the church directory.
4. Fire Extinguishers- Mike presented bids from Heartland Fire Protection and Select Fire & Safety. Action was tabled to identify annual maintenance costs.

New Business:

1. Delores Anderson Estate- Nathan announced that the estate left 73 acres of ground to the church. Jay Johnson has farmed the tract for the last 38 years. Details of the acquisition were discussed. Mike motioned that with the receipt of 73 acres from the Delores Anderson estate, the church should continue in the association with Jay Johnson, who has farmed this tract for the last 38 years. Second by Jon. Vote taken and motion carried.

Sep Communion Assistant: Clendon Rost

Sep Meeting Devotion: Jon Seagren

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Regular Monthly Meeting; 9 Sep, 2019 @ 7:00 PM

Mike Blanc, Secretary

July Attendance

6 & 7160
13 & 14 85
20 & 21..... 94
27 & 28.....144

July Finances

Commitments	\$ 12,473.86
Designated	
New Sign	\$ 70.00
Memorial	\$ 60.00
Supplies	\$ 140.00
Misc	\$ 185.00
TOTAL	\$12,928.86

August Attendance

3 & 4..... 126
10 & 11 96
17 & 18..... 97
24 & 25..... 166

August Finances

Commitments	\$ 14,791.93
Designated	
Building Use	\$ 250.00
New Sign	\$ 1,675.00
Memorial	\$ 170.00
Supplies	\$ 218.00
Misc	\$ 177.00
TOTAL	\$17,281.93

September 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 9:30AM COMMUNION SERVICE 10:30AM FELLOWSHIP 10:45 AM CHOIR PRACTICE	2  LABOR DAY	3 7:30PM A.A. MEETING 8:30-12:00 SEWING GROUP	4 9:00 AM MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 9:30AM BINGO @ OAKLAND HEIGHTS 6:30PM -8:30 P.M. YOUTH GROUP STARTS	5	6	7 5:30PM WORSHIP SERVICE
8 9:30AM WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30AM - 150th CELEBRATION & SUNDAY SCHOOL KICKOFF @ Left Field Pavilion GRANDPARENTS DAY	9 8:30-12:00 SEWING GROUP 9:00 AM WOW EXECUTIVE MEETING 7:00 PM CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING	10 8:30-12:00 SEWING GROUP 7:30PM A.A. MEETING	11 9AM & 5PM WOW GROUP MEETINGS 6:30PM -8:30 P.M. YOUTH GROUP 6:30PM -8:30 P.M. CONFIRMATION STARTS PATRIOT DAY	12	13 LUTHER'S PUB AFTER HOME FOOTBALL GAME UNTIL 11PM	14 5:30PM WORSHIP SERVICE
15 9:30AM CONTEMPORARY SERVICE 10:30AM FELLOWSHIP & SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:45 AM CHOIR PRACTICE	16 8:30-12:00 SEWING GROUP	17 8:30-12:00 SEWING GROUP 7:30PM A.A. MEETING	18 9:00 AM MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 6:30PM -8:30 P.M. YOUTH GROUP & CONFIRMATION	19	20 LUTHER'S PUB AFTER HOME FOOTBALL GAME UNTIL 11PM	21 5:30PM WORSHIP SERVICE
22 9:30AM WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30AM FELLOWSHIP & SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:45 AM CHOIR PRACTICE	23 8:30-12:00 SEWING GROUP 1ST DAY OF FALL	24 8:30-12:00 SEWING GROUP 7:30PM A.A. MEETING	25 2:00 PM DORCAS SOCIETY MEETING @ CHURCH 6:30PM -8:30 P.M. YOUTH GROUP & CONFIRMATION	26	27	28 5:30PM WORSHIP SERVICE
29 NO CHOIR PRACTICE 9:30AM WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30AM FELLOWSHIP & SUNDAY SCHOOL	30 8:30-12:00 SEWING GROUP					

Sept 2019 Ushers

1st: Roger Moderow and Sam Schmidt, Church Council Members
 8th: Larry Johnson, Gordon Nelson, Mike Selk and Brayden Selk
 15th: Dr. Charlie Seagren, TBD
 22nd: C. Wiltse, James Unwin, Larry Johnson
 29th: Joe Anderson, Braylon Anderson, Brad Bousquet and Carter Bousquet

USHERS
 THIS MONTH

Sept 2019 Greeters:

1st: Church Council Members
 8th: Katie and Chloe Selk and Rachel Wise Nelson
 15th: Brenda Andersen and Tess Johnson
 22nd: Audrey Unwin, Tess and Lyndsey Johnson
 29th: Alissa, Megan and Caleb Bousquet and Wendi Anderson



ACOLYTES

Sep 1 - Gabi Linder
 8 - Daniel Bedrnick
 15 - Samantha Canarsky
 22 - Kyler Case
 29 - Lillian Ehlers
 Oct 6 - Anisten Rennerfeldt
 13 - Adilen Rennerfeldt
 20 - Nolan Magnusson
 27 - Corbin Guill

VIDEO

Sep 1 - Brayden Selk
 8 - Gabi Linder
 15 - Daniel Bedrnick
 22 - Samantha Canarsky
 29 - Kyler Case
 6 - Adilen Rennerfeldt
 13 - Anisten Rennerfeldt
 20 - Lillian Ehlers
 27 - Nolan Magnusson

Please be aware although confirmation has been completed, it is still a requirement for the confirmand to acolyte and run video through-out the remainder of the summer season.

In September, when the new confirmands start, they will be trained for their duties and will start performing them the first Sunday of October.



Sep 1 - Bryan Bohn
 8 - Bryan Bohn
 15 - Bryan Bohn
 22 - Bryan Bohn
 29 - Billye Pearson



Sep 1 - Dan Tanksley
 8 - Tess Johnson
 15 - Jim/Dan
 22 - Jim Pelan
 29 - Tess Johnson

COFFEE SERVERS

	<u>DATE</u>
Janet Wiltse and Sandy Husar	Sunday, September 1, 2019
Katie Selk and Rachel Wise Nelson	Sunday, September 8, 2019
Brenda Andersen and Julia Wuestewald	Sunday, September 15, 2019
Audrey Unwin and Tess Johnson	Sunday, September 22, 2019
Alissa Bousquet and Wendi Anderson	Sunday, September 29, 2019
Jess Bland and Karen Ahrens	Sunday, October 2, 2019



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



150th Celebration and

Sunday school kick-off
September 8th

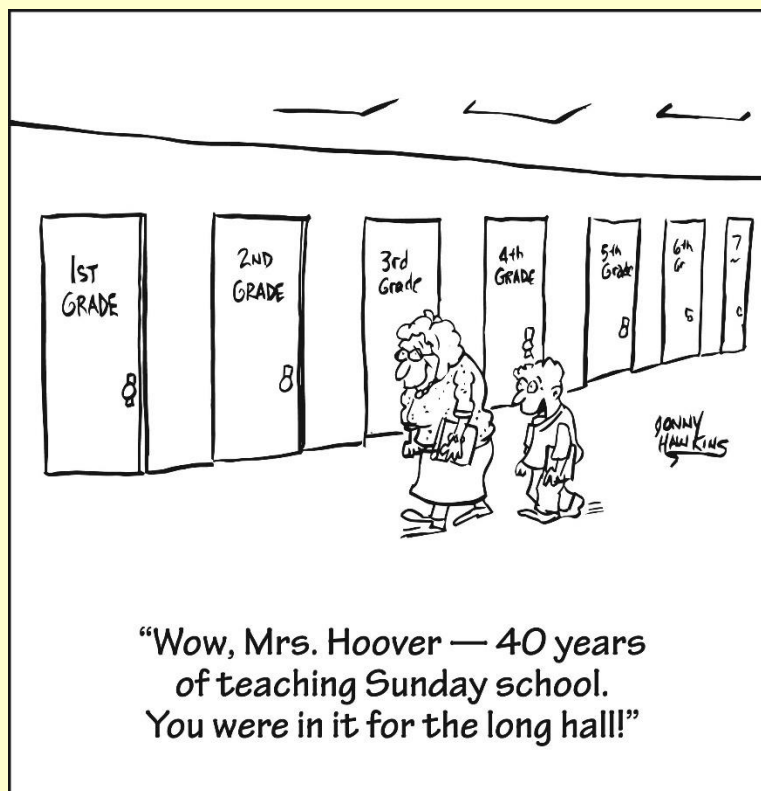
9:30 am Church service
Fellowship to follow at
"left field" fairgrounds

*Grilled Lunch served*games*

*Bouncy Houses*face painting*

*Entertainment featuring:
"Beat Street" quartet

CHRISTIAN HUMOR TO TICKLE YOUR LIFE



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spiritual enrichment to ALL who
seek the Lord.

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