



First Ev. Lutheran Church, 201 N. Davis, PO Box 152, Oakland, NE, 68045
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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

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December 2019 Special Days

Some of the special days celebrated in December are:

- ❄️ First Sunday of Advent — Dec 1
- ❄️ Second Sunday of Advent — Dec 8
- ❄️ Third Sunday of Advent — Dec 15
- ❄️ First day of Winter — Dec 21
- ❄️ Fourth Sunday of Advent — Dec 22
- ❄️ Christmas Eve — Dec 24
- ❄️ Christmas Day — Dec 25
- ❄️ New Year's Eve — Dec 31

ANNOUNCEMENTS

On All Saint's 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.

On Tuesday morning, November 5th at 8:30 a.m. the sewing ladies packed 86 quilts for Lutheran World Relief, 63 quilts for the Lydia House, 26 quilts to the Sienna Francis House, 38 quilts to the Open Door Mission, 18 quilts for the Fremont Shelter and 36 quilts for the Orphan Train. In addition, the WOW groups provided the items to fill 57 School Supply bags for the Orphan Grain Train. Our quilting ladies have made 250 quilts in the last year! This is the most they have ever created. **They truly appreciated all of the help packing and lifting the heavy boxes.**

Several of our confirmation youth were able to receive their first communion at First Lutheran on Wednesday, November 27th during the Thanksgiving Eve Service. Those able to attend were: Ostern Heineman, Nolan Magnusson, Corbin Guill, Bailey Pelan, Jaxen Jorgensen, Braylon Anderson, Adilen Rennerfeldt, Garrett Klausen.

Everyone is invited to our German Candlelight Service on December 7th @ 5:45 p.m.

The annual Santa Lucia Festival is on Sunday, Dec. 8th. All students grades 3-12 are welcome to take part in this cultural experience. If interested, please message or contact Deb Anderson at 402-380-9458 or tada@abbnebraska.com. Gud Jul!

ALL WOMEN OF THE WORD are invited to a Christmas pot-luck on Wednesday, December 11th at noon. We will be having an Executive Meeting on Monday December 9th at 9:00 a.m.

Spaghetti Feed - Oakland Chamber is holding a spaghetti feed fundraiser on December 8th from 11-1:00 p.m. at the Vet's Building. Free will donation to support Oakland community projects.

The Quilters will have a Christmas Brunch on Dec. 16th at 9:00 am and that will be the last quilting day through the holidays.

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The attendance at Sunday School is amazing! Our Sunday School kids are doing great and are excited to perform. Please continue to play the cd's as our time left is limited and ATTENDANCE IS GREATLY ENCOURAGED!!!

12/7 - 10-11am Sunday School Practice-This will be our last practice and dress rehearsal before our Christmas Program.

12/8 - Sunday School Christmas Program during church at 9:30 am **Please have your kids to the church basement by 9:00 a.m. for costume prep.**

I will need parents to sign up to help dress kids in costumes, undress kids after the program, serve coffee and rolls, etc. Please email me back what you can do to help! Thank you in advance for your help!

Coffee Servers & Roll Servers: _____

Start Coffee in basement before church starts: _____

Dress Costumes (before church 9 am): _____

Undress Costumes (after church 10:30 am): _____

Donate safety pins for costumes: _____

We welcome all families, grandparents, etc to gather in the basement after the program for coffee and rolls!!!

This will be our pay-it-forward Sunday. We gave \$1000 to Alli Keogh and family in October, and over \$600 to Miracle on Oakland Avenue in November. We plan to be using this pay-it-forward to Tom Wallerstedt.

12/24 - Sunday school kids will perform one song- "Out of the Bethlehem Sky" with Preston Rost at the Christmas Eve service starting at 5PM. Kids can sit with parents and will be called up during the service.

1/5 - Sunday School Class will resume.

2019 -20 Teachers

Preschool -Angie Rennerfeldt

K & 1st - Angela Bittner

2nd - Sara Wallerstedt

3rd - Connie Larson

4th - Clendon Rost

5th & 6th - Andy Rennerfeldt

6th (last Sunday of the month) - Bev Peterson

Music: Cindy Blanc and Jill Johnson

Luke 2:1-7 - The Birth of Jesus

² In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while^{l,j} Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

- Dec 4, 11, 18 - CONFIRMATION - at 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m
- NO CONFIRMATION Dec. 25 or Jan. 1, 2020
-

BIBLE STUDY NEWS

YOUTH GROUP will be 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.

YOUTH GROUP MEAL SIGN UP SHEET - We have added a Youth Group Meal Sign Up Sheet to the bulletin board. We are looking for volunteers to provide a meal, side dish or dessert every Wednesday night for 25-30 students throughout the school year. For planning, we would like to have volunteers sign up for meals, side dishes, dessert or donations at least a month in advance.

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

Growing Together - We meet at 11:00 a.m. Sunday mornings. We are looking at familiar stories from the old testament. For more information contact Nancy Johnson or Pastor Mark. Everyone is welcome.

THANK YOU'S

- To our sewing group for all the beautiful quilts they make during the year! So blessed each fall when they adorn our church!!
- Thank you to all the people who helped bring the decorations down from storage.
- To all those who have provided food and served the meal for our youth group on Wednesday nights.
- To our choir for the gift of their voices on Sunday mornings.



IN OUR PRAYERS OF CONCERN PLEASE

INCLUDE: Connor Guill, Derek Bittner, Dr. Charlie Seagren, Mattie Aubert (Arlene Carper's great-niece), Arlene Carper, Jody Faith, Judy Nelson, Ethan Johnson, Ed Anderson, Clara Frahm, Karen Johnson, Tammy Case, Pat Moseman, Don Lagge, Joan Meade (Hilda Benne's sister-in-law), Rojane Linder, Krissa Schonert, Denise (Hall) Salzbrenner, Deloris Nielsen, Tony Kochel, Stacy Long, Lincoln Nobel Hangman, Andy Kruse, Landon Johnson, our service men and women, and all those deployed to foreign countries, the families of Frank Johnson and Deloise Pearson, our shut-ins, and our youth ministry.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Brandon Bollinger, Teresa Rogers,
Timothy Slatt, Keri Thomsen
- 4 - Luryn Andersen
- 5 - Natalie Bromm-Guenther, Avery Elsasser,
Natalie Johnson
- 6 - William Ahrens
- 7 - Lura Johanson
- 8 - Rex Baldwin
- 9 - Selena Johnson
- 10 - Betty Hanna
- 11 - 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,
Travis Penke
- 19 - Mark Peterson, Jaxen Jorgensen
- 22 - Norman Wallerstedt, Peyton Miller
- 24 - Calvin Moseman
- 25 - Amber Shelley-Futhey
- 26 - Diane Lindstrom, Landon Ehlers
- 27 - Tiffany Johnson
- 28 - Miles Lindstrom
- 30 - Jennings Johnson, Norm Johnson
- 31 - Chloine Johnson, Travis Thomsen



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 - Kent & Joan Johnson
Jim & Judy Nelson,
Dave & Laurie Schold,
- 6 - Scott & Amy Krutilek
- 16 - Tanner and Kylee Case
- 17 - Roger & Patti Moderow
- 19 - Alan & Renae Johnson
- 21 - Dick & Patty Miller
- 23 - Leonard & Laurie Canarsky
- 23 - Jeremy and Natalie Guenther
- 27 - Jerry & Roberta Seick
- 28 - Ken & Kay Elsasser
- 29 - Jordan & Heidi Johnson
- 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/>

Please check out our updated website: 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>

To Email our church - firstlutheranchurch_152@q.com



**First Evangelical Lutheran Church
Oakland, Nebraska**

The church council met November 4, 2019 at 7:06 p.m. Members in attendance were Pastor Eldal, Nathan Anderson, Sam Schmidt, Mike Blanc, Linda Jones, Kathy Pearson, Clendon Rost, Susan Mulder, Brad Bousquet, Jon Seagren, Keri Thomsen and Tom Meyer.

Prior to devotions, Kyle Penke and her German foreign exchange student, Jennifer Karge presented Jennifer’s idea for a service of lights for the upcoming holiday season. Details of the service are being planned by Jennifer.

Devotions were given by Keri Thomsen.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The Treasurer’s report was reviewed and discussed. Month to date expenses exceeded income by \$-1,764.79 (Deficit). Year-to-date expenses exceeded income by \$-4,528.79 (Deficit). There were no corrections or additions and approved as stated.

Pastor presented his report for the month of October.

Committee Reports: None

Old Business:

1. Safe: Installation is on the pending list.
2. Movie Night: Clendon reported that movie night was a success with approximately 50 in attendance. ‘Mary Poppins Returns’ was shown with popcorn, lemonade and candy provided.
3. Saturday Evenings: Pastor has lined up piano players for November.
4. Sign: The sign is in and installation is planned for November 12th with training to follow.
5. Constitution Amendments: Nathan presented proposed changes to the constitution. The council discussed the changes. Clendon motioned to implement the proposed changes to the constitution. Tom Meyer seconded. Vote was taken and motion passed.

New Business: Brad noted that the risers on the front church steps are showing cracks and suggested further investigation.

Dec Communion Assistant: Mike Blanc

Dec Meeting Devotion: Mike Blanc

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm with the Lord’s Prayer.

Next Regular Monthly Meeting; 2 Dec, 2019 @ 7:00 PM with dinner hosted by Pastor Mark and Jacque in their home prior to the meeting.

Respectfully,

Mike Blanc, Secretary

November Attendance	
2 & 3	181
9 & 10.....	133
16 & 17	161
23 & 24	184
27 (Thanksgiving Eve)...	119
30 & 1	162

November Finances	
Commitments	\$20,370.84
Designated	
Church Sign	\$ 350.00
Quilting Postage	\$ 20.00
Coffee Fund	\$ 141.00
Sunday School	\$ 16.00
Thanksgiving	\$ 2,925.00
Misc	\$ 430.00
TOTAL	\$ 24,458.84



Dorcas is invited to attend the WOW potluck on Dec. 11th.



DECEMBER 2019

Sandy Mallette
Shirley Olson
Tom Wallerstedt - 402-260-9023

JANUARY--2020

Elisabeth Linder
Roxanne Lundquist



SEWING GROUP will have a Christmas Brunch on December 16th 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.



WOMEN OF THE WORD (WOW):

Each Group set their own dates for Christmas Celebrations

December 4 Bingo @ O.H. 9:30 a.m.Hannah
December 9 Executive Meetings 9:00 a.m.
December 11Noon Potluck, Ruth Serves, Hannah Program
Clean KitchenHannah

- **WOW Luncheon** - The WOW groups will hold their PotLuck Luncheon at 12:00 on December 11th in the annex of our church. The program is going to be a special look into Advent. **All ladies of our church are invited to join us for this fun event!**
- **Fifty-five back packs full of school supplies** were delivered to the Orphan Grain Train for distribution to needy students in the United States and throughout the world. Thanks to the quilting ladies for sewing the bags!






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

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

December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						30 5:30PM COMMUNION SERVICE
1 9:30AM COMMUNION SERVICE 10:30AM FELLOWSHIP & SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:45 AM CHOIR PRACTICE	2 8:30-NOON SEWING 7:00 PM CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING	3 8:30-NOON SEWING 7:30PM A.A. MEETINGS	4 9:00AM MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 9AM Bingo @O.H.– Group Ruth 10AM WOW Groups@ B. Stromquist's 2:00PM- Church Decorating Begins 5:30PM-Hanging of the Greenery 6:00PM-Community Soup Supper 7:00 pm – Youth Group & Confirmation	5	6	7 10: 00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM PRACTICE 5:45PM GERMAN CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
8 9:30AM SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM 10:30AM FELLOWSHIP- IN THE BASEMENT 10:45 AM CHOIR PRACTICE	9 8:30-NOON SEWING 9:00AM WOW EXECUTIVE MEETING	10 8:30-NOON SEWING 7:30PM A.A. MEETINGS	11 12:00 PM WOW/DORCAS SOCIETY POTLUCK LUNCHEON 6:30PM -8:30 P.M. YOUTH GROUP & CONFIRMATION	12	13 LUTHER'S PUB	14 5:30PM WORSHIP SERVICE
15 9:30AM WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30AM FELLOWSHIP 10:45 AM CHOIR PRACTICE NO SUNDAY SCHOOL	16 9:00 AM QUILTERS BRUNCH	17 NO SEWING 7:30PM A.A. MEETINGS	18 9:00AM MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 6:30PM -8:30 P.M. YOUTH GROUP & CONFIRMATION	19	20	21 5:30PM WORSHIP SERVICE
22 9:30AM WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30AM FELLOWSHIP NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:45 AM CHOIR PRACTICE	23	24 4:30 PM CHOIR PRACTICE 5PM & 10PM CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES	25 	26	27	28 NO SERVICES
29 9:30AM WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30AM FELLOWSHIP NO SUNDAY SCHOOL No CHOIR PRACTICE	30	31 				

CHURCH DUTIES FOR DECEMBER 2019**Sunday, December 1, 2019**

Coffee, Greeting & Usher - Connie, Myesha, Javar and Elijah Larson
 Coffee, Greeting & Usher - Loren, Julie, Landon, Lillian and Logan Ehlers
 Coffee - Patty Moderow
 Communion Helper - Mike Blanc
 Head Usher - Roger Moderow and Sam Schmidt
 Reader- Amy Denker
 Sound -Dan Tanksley
 Acolyte - Braylon Anderson
 Video -Bailey Pelan

Sunday, December 8, 2019 - SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Coffee Servers in the Basement
 Greeting & Usher - Confirmation & Youth Group
 Greeting & Usher - Jason, Kylie, Tate, Tye and Travis Penke
 Head Usher- Larry Johnson
 Sound - Tess Johnson
 Acolyte - Ostern Heineman
 Video- Braylon Anderson

Sunday, December 15, 2019

Coffee, Greeting & Usher - Tony, Casey, Colton and Marysa Moseman
 Coffee, Greeting & Usher - Bob and Jane Moseman
 Coffee - Carole Johnson
 Head Usher - Gordon Nelson
 Reader - Mona Tanksley
 Sound - Dan Tanksley
 Acolyte - Samantha Canarsky
 Video - Ostern Heineman

Sunday, December 22, 2019

Coffee, Greeting & Usher - Karl, Roxanne and Ian Lundquist
 Coffee, Greeting & Usher - Chad & Elisabeth Linder Family
 Coffee - Pam Linder
 Head Usher - Clare Wiltse
 Reader - Betty Hanna
 Sound - Tess Johnson
 Acolyte - Bailey Pelan
 Video - Samantha Canarsky

Tuesday, December 24, 2019 - Christmas Eve Service

Early - Greeting & Usher - Tim and Sherri Slatt
 Greeting & Usher - Ashlie, Dylan and Everett Mieth
 Head Usher - Gordon Nelson
 Sound - Dan Tanksley
 Acolyte - Lillian Ehlers
 Video - Bailey Pelan
Late - Greeting & Usher - Tess, Jamie and Lyndsey Johnson
 Head Usher - Larry Johnson
 Sound - Tess Johnson
 Acolyte -

Sunday, December 29, 2019

Coffee, Greeting & Usher - Scott, Val Lindstrom
 Coffee, Greeting & Usher - Jay and Diane Lindstrom
 Head Usher - Clare Wiltse
 Reader - Sandy Husar
 Sound -Tess Johnson
 Acolyte - Anisten Rennerfeldt
 Video - Lillian Ehlers

Sunday, January 5, 2020

Coffee, Greeting & Usher - Phyliss and Tom Meyer
 Coffee, Greeting & Usher - Rachel and Gordon Nelson
 Head Usher - Roger Moderow and Sam Schmidt
 Reader - Beverly Peterson
 Sound - Dan Tanksley
 Communion Helper -
 Acolyte - Adilen Rennerfeldt
 Video - Anisten Rennerfeldt

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

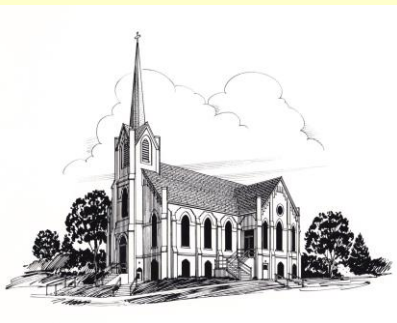
CHRISTIAN HUMOR TO TICKLE YOUR LIFE



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.firstlutheran-oakland.com

