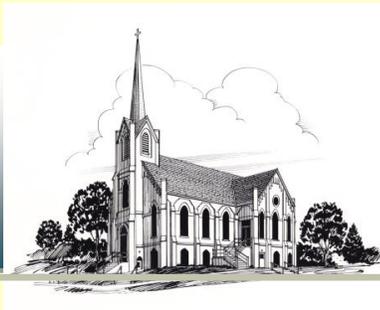


# THE SPIRE



February 2021  
Volume 9, Issue 2

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

Psalm twenty-seven is a beautiful psalm and part of it reads, "One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek, that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life."

This is a psalm of David in which he expresses his great desire to spend time with God and enjoy his company. It is a reminder of why David was called "a man after God's own heart," and it can be a reminder of the close fellowship we can have with God as we live in a relationship with him.

An old hymn has the words, "My God and I go through the fields together, we walk and talk as good friends should and do." We can indeed walk with God, and as we do so we can bring him our concerns and know he loves us and is available to help us with whatever burden we might be experiencing. He can be the friend that stays closer than a brother.

As we trust in Jesus, may this winter season be an opportunity to freshly seek a close relationship with God, enjoy his fellowship, and let him be that friend which stays closer than a brother in our lives.

God bless,  
Pastor Mark

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### FEBRUARY 2021 SPECIAL DAYS

**Some of the special days  
celebrated in February are:**

- Black History Month — Feb 1-28
- Groundhog Day — Feb 2
- Boy Scout Sunday — Feb 7
- Transfiguration Sunday — Feb 14
- Valentine's Day — Feb 14
- Presidents' Day — Feb 15
- Ash Wednesday — Feb 17

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**Thank You** to everyone who came on Saturday morning, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 to help "un-decorate" the church.

**If you would like to donate Thrivent dollars** to First Ev. Lutheran Church, please notify Thrivent by the end of March.

**LOOKING FOR A VBS COORDINATOR FOR 2021!** Please join us in thanking Alissa Bousquet for her many years of service as our VBS Coordinator. She will be stepping down, and so we are now actively searching for a replacement. If interested, please contact Pastor Mark or Nate Anderson.

**The Annual Congregational Meeting of First Evangelical Lutheran Church** was held on Sunday, January 31, 2021 following the worship service and Church Council met after meeting. Thank you to all who attended!

**The offering envelopes** for the 2021 year are located in the multipurpose room. Please take them home with you. Contact Tess or Vanessa if you did not receive yours.

**Get your order in** for a delicious ham, turkey, cheese and lettuce **sub sandwich** for Super Bowl Sunday. Served with chips and a fresh baked cookie. Order ahead and pickup Sunday February 7<sup>th</sup>. 11 to 1. Drive thru only at the **Swedish Heritage Center**. Free will donation Please call (402)685-5652 or (402)380-9744 to place your order.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

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**Sunday School classes** resumed Sunday Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021. We will be having our Valentine's Day Party February 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday school has resumed. We will sing February 14, March 28 (**Palm Sunday**), April 11<sup>th</sup> and May 9<sup>th</sup> (**Mother's Day**).

## CONFIRMATION NEWS

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**Confirmation** will meet on February 3 and 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. and on February 24<sup>th</sup> from 7:30-9:00 p.m.

## BIBLE STUDY NEWS

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**Youth Group** will be meeting every Wednesday 7:00 p.m. A meal will be provided. It is open to all current Junior and Senior High students in the community.

**Men's Bible Study** is on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 9:00 AM.

**Growing Together** – We meet at 11:00 a.m. Sunday mornings. We are looking at Genesis. For more information contact Nancy Johnson or Pastor Mark. Everyone is welcome.

## THANK YOU'S

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Jacque and I would like to thank everyone for your kind words of sympathy and support in the loss of my dad. We also thank you for the cards, memorials, flowers, and plants in his memory. We feel blessed to be part of this caring family of faith. We will miss my dad but we look forward to seeing him in heaven again someday.

Pastor Mark and Jacque



**Linda Carlson and Laurie Schold**

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**SEWING MEETINGS**

**EVERY MONDAY AND TUESDAY MORNINGS**

**8:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m.**

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## Women Of the Word

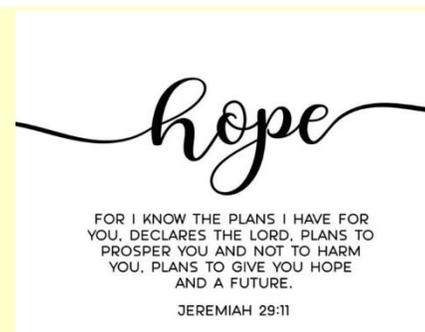
I am praying that the start of 2021 finds you healthy. It has been some time since the last communication regarding our WOW group. With great faith in the COVID-19 vaccines and their increased administration, I am encouraged that we will soon be able to resume our meetings.

With that said, the Executive Committee has made the careful decision to continue the suspension of the meetings. The current CDC recommendations encourage the use of masks and social distancing of at least 6 feet. These requirements would make it more difficult to hear, which is already a concern that many members share without them. We could open the meetings to those who would choose to participate with these measures in place. However, as the curriculum is shared amongst all members, this would exclude several from participating.

As most of you have already heard, Pastor Mark's father, Gerald Lee Eldal, passed away in Minnesota on January 3, 2021. The executive committee unanimously elected to send a memorial. Pastor and Jacque were given a sympathy card with a monetary donation to be directed to the place of their choosing.

Again, we will continue to monitor the situation and make our decisions based on the health and safety of our members and their families. We thank you for your continued patience and understanding.

Danielle Pelan  
Co-Coordinator



**Dorcas Society**  
**Postponed until further notice**

## CARD SHOWERS



On February 12, 2021 **Dorothy Wallace** will turn **90**. Her family would like to shower her with cards. You can address your card to: Dorothy Wallace, c/o Oakland Heights, 207 S. Engdahl Ave., Oakland, NE 68045.

On February 24, 2021 **Beverly "Jean" Richards** will turn **95**. Her family would like hold a card shower for her. Please send cards to Jean Richards, 1638 Harwood Street, Lincoln NE 68502.



**WHAT AN AMAZING MILESTONES!!!**

**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

- 2 – Wendi Anderson  
 4 – Lois Schneekloth, Javar Larson, Myesha Larson  
 5 – Garrett Klausen, Raymond Satee  
 6 – Denise Enstrom, Carl Magnusson,  
 7 – Louden Pelan  
 8 – Carolyn Magnusson  
 9 – Elizabeth Moderow, Sara Anderson  
 10 – Tammy Deemer, Amy Rost, Helen Murray  
 11 – Merlin Anderson, Leon Uman  
 12 – Daniel Tanksley, Dorothy Wallace (90), Wrenley VonEssen  
 13 – Jeremiah Johnson, Tom Mallette, Vernelle Nelson, Brittany Sznajder-Murray  
 16 – Dorothy Miller, Bryanna Olson, Perry Rogers, Sarah Wallace  
 17 – Arista Findlay, Joan Magnusson, Sharon Peterson  
 18 – Brian Stover, Sally Johnson  
 19 – Patrick Wonka  
 20 – Mona Tanksley  
 21 – Darrell Schneekloth  
 22 – Wyatt Seagren  
 24 – Adilen Rennerfeldt,  
     Beverly "Jean" Richards (95)  
 25 – Joshua Deemer  
 26 – LaVerne Kellner  
 27 – Kathy Pearson  
 28 – Don Johnson

**FEBRUARY****FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

- 1 – Jon and Chloine Johnson  
 3 – Ben and Linda Murray  
 12 – Alan and Tammy Schinck  
 19 – Delwin and Sandra Slatt  
 20 – Vern and Lucetta Jensen  
 21 – James and Audrey Unwin

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

Earl Miller, Sara Anderson, Paul Anderson, Caleb Peterson, Connie Peterson, Haylee Werth (Doc and Bev Peterson's Great Granddaughter), Denise Hall Salzbrenner (Phil and Judy Hall's daughter), Landon Johnson, Jane Stucky, Jackie Kirkpatrick (Julie Gershon's mother), Bill Johnson, Suzanne Johnson, Denise Enstrom, Bill Dix, Jody Faith, Ed Anderson, Pat Moseman, Deloris Nielsen, Tony Kochel (Hilda Benne's nephew-in-law), Stacy Long, Lincoln Nobel Hangman (Julie Gershon's nephew), our service men and women and all those deployed to foreign countries, rescue workers, and law enforcement officers and our shut-ins, and our youth ministry.

# FEBRUARY – 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 9:30AM WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30AM FELLOWSHIP & SUNDAY SCHOOL	1 8:30 AM SEWING GROUP	2 8:30 AM SEWING GROUP 7:30 AM A.A. MEETING <b>GROUND HOG DAY</b>	3 9:00AM MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 6:30PM -8:30 P.M. CONFIRMATION & YOUTH GROUP	4 7:30 AM N.A. MEETING	5	6 5:30PM COMMUNION SERVICE
7 9:30AM COMMUNION SERVICE 10:30AM FELLOWSHIP & SUNDAY SCHOOL	8 8:30 AM SEWING GROUP <b>LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY</b>	9 8:30 AM SEWING GROUP 7:30 AM A.A. MEETING	10 6:30PM -8:30 P.M. CONFIRMATION & YOUTH GROUP	11 7:30 AM N.A. MEETING	12  <b>VALENTINE'S DAY</b>	13 5:30PM WORSHIP SERVICE
14 9:30AM YOUTH SERVICE 10:30AM FELLOWSHIP & SUNDAY SCHOOL	15 8:30 AM SEWING GROUP <b>PRESIDENT'S DAY</b>	16 8:30 AM SEWING GROUP 7:30 AM A.A. MEETING	17 9:00AM MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 7:00 P.M. ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE 7:30 YOUTH GROUP <b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b>	18 7:30 AM N.A. MEETING <b>WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY</b>	19	20 5:30PM WORSHIP SERVICE
21 9:30AM WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30AM FELLOWSHIP & SUNDAY SCHOOL	22 8:30 AM SEWING GROUP	23 8:30 AM SEWING GROUP 7:30 AM A.A. MEETING	24 6:30 P.M. LENTEN SERVICE 7:00 – 9:00 P.M. CONFIRMATION 7:00 P.M. YOUTH GROUP	25 7:30 AM N.A. MEETING	26	27 5:30PM WORSHIP SERVICE
28 9:30AM WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30AM FELLOWSHIP & SUNDAY SCHOOL						



**First Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Oakland, NE**

The church council met Jan 4, 2021 at 7:02pm. Members in attendance were Pastor Eldal, Nathan Anderson, Sam Schmidt, Mike Blanc, Susan Mulder, Tom Meyer, Clendon Rost, Kathy Pearson, Brad Bousquet and Keri Thomsen. Devotions were given by Keri Thomsen. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The Treasurer's report, presented by Sam Schmidt, was reviewed and discussed. The December Profit & Loss statement reflected month-to-date income exceeded expenses by \$7,163.65. Year-to-date net income exceeding expenses by \$39,541.98. There were no corrections or additions and approved as stated.

Pastor Mark presented his report for the month of December.

Committee Reports: None

Old Business: None

New Business:

1. Dahlquist Gift: Mike Blanc motioned to use the \$25,000 anonymous gift for audio visual improvements per their wishes with the remaining funds directed to the Outreach Fund. Second was made by Clendon Rost. Vote taken and ayes carried the vote, motion passed.
2. Annual Meeting: A date for the meeting was discussed with the 31<sup>st</sup> of January being set for the annual meeting. The traditional soup lunch will not be served due to COVID safety.
3. Vacation Bible School: Brad Bousquet relayed Alissa's announcement that she was retiring from Vacation Bible School Coordinator duties. Alissa said that she would be available to help the oncoming coordinator in the transition.
4. Nathan thanked the outgoing council members, Tom Meyer and Sam Schmidt for their faithful service.

Feb Communion: Clendon Rost

Meeting adjourned at 8:06pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Regular Monthly Meeting:

Feb 1, 2021 at 7:00pm

Mike Blanc, Secretary

### January Finances

Regular	\$13,437.00
<b>Designated</b>	
Building Use	\$200.00
Annual Meeting	\$135.00
	<small>-Oakland Min. Assn</small>
Technology	\$500.00
Supplies-Coffee	\$189.00
Memorial - Technology	\$1,570.00
Sunday School	\$ 35.00
Wed. Nite Youth	\$200.00
Scholarship	\$150.00
Misc.	\$ 70.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$16,451.00</b>



## PASTORAL ACTS – 2020

### BAPTISMS

#### **We welcomed into membership through holy baptism:**

**Macklynn Kate Onken** on January 26, 2020. Macklynn is the daughter of Nicholas and Katie Onken. She was born on September 24, 2019. Her sponsors are Justin and Courtney Onken, Ryan Brehmer and Regan Zach, Kyle and Sydnee Gutzmann and Alex Brehmer.

**Rena Rae Lindstrom** on Saturday, August 22 at 5:30 p.m. at First Evangelical Lutheran Church. Her parents are Miles and Lauren Lindstrom. Her sponsors are Dustin and Karen Lindstrom. Rena was born November 7, 2019. Her grandparents are Jay and Diane Lindstrom of Oakland, NE. Her great grandfather is Vincent Lindstrom of Oakland, NE. **WELCOME Rena!!!**

**Wrenley Elyce VonEssen** through holy baptism on Sunday, August 30 at 9:30 a.m. at First Evangelical Lutheran Church. Wrenley was born February 12, 2020. Her parents are Dexter and Ashton VonEssen. Her sponsors are Jacelyn Teter and Alexis VonEssen. Her grandparents are Jim and Tammy VonEssen, Cory & Emily Claussen, Courtney Teter, Chris & Amy Teter. Great grandparents of the couple are Linda VonEssen and the late Harold VonEssen, Roger & Karen Claussen, Mike & Cheryl Kindschuh, Steve & Connie Bell, Stuart Teter, Jerry & Cathy Dorfmeier and Willie & Joann Schlecht. **WELCOME Wrenley!!!**

**Brigz Booker Bland** on Sunday, September 13 at 11:00 p.m. at First Evangelical Lutheran Church. Brigz was born July 29, 2020. His parents are Jessica and Theo Bland. He joins two brothers Brooks and Benson. His sponsors are Joshua Bohling, Janelle Kaiser, Josh Stockdall and Jen Stockdall. **WELCOME Brigz!!!**

### CONFIRMATIONS

**FIVE OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE completed their confirmation class:** Lillian Ehlers, Anisten Rennerfeldt, Kyler Case, River Wallerstedt, Samantha Canarsky. Due to the covid virus there was not a ceremony and they will go through the ceremony with this year's confirmand. We're grateful for their faithfulness to be involved in this educational ministry. We're also grateful for Pastor Mark, Jan Wiltse, Mark and Jean Schaferman, Sara Wallerstedt, Clendon Rost and the parents of our confirmands for all their help with confirmation this year.

### WEDDINGS

**We extend our Congratulations** and ask for God's blessing on Spencer Bromm and Laura Rumbaugh. They were joined in holy matrimony at on April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Spencer is the son of Tony and Nancy Bromm. Laura is the daughter of Jeff and Lisa Rumbaugh. **CONGRATULATIONS MR & MRS BROMM!!**

**We extend our Congratulations** and ask for God's blessing on Morgan Corwine and Tegan Yardley. They were joined in holy matrimony at on May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at First Ev. Lutheran Church. Morgan is the son of Bob and Carla Corwine. Tegan is the daughter of Todd and (the late) Amy Yardley and Jennifer Meadows. **CONGRATULATIONS MR & MRS CORWINE!**

**We extend our Congratulations** and ask for God's blessing on Tiegán Case and Kaley Enstrom. They were joined in holy matrimony at at First Ev. Lutheran Church on November 21, 2020. Tiegán is the son of Gary and Tammy Case and Kaley is the daughter of Dan Enstrom and Lisa Enstrom. **CONGRATULATIONS MR & MRS CASE!**

## FUNERALS

### **We commended into God's Hands:**

#### **At the First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Oakland with Pastor Mark Eldal officiating:**

- James Peterson      – **Funeral Service** – Monday, December 7, 2020  
 Judy Nelson        – **Memorial Service** – Wednesday, October 28, 2020  
 Aloma Forsburg    – **Memorial Service** – Friday, October 16, 2020  
 Duke Wagner       – **Funeral Service** – Thursday, September 3, 2020  
 Dick Miller        – **Memorial Service** – Thursday, August 27, 2020  
 Barb Teague        – **Memorial Service** – Saturday, May 23, 2020  
 Marian Moseman   – **Funeral Service** – Tuesday, May 19, 2020  
 Marlene Lindstrom – **Funeral Service** – Saturday, March 14, 2020

#### **At Moser Memorial Chapel, Fremont Ne with Pastor Mark Eldal officiating:**

- Kent Mallette       – **Memorial Service** – Saturday, September 19, 2020

#### **At Craig Fire Hall, Craig, NE with Pastor Mark Eldal officiating:**

- Lee Schinck        – **Memorial Service** – Saturday, July 18, 2020

#### **At Craig Cemetery, Craig NE with Pastor Mark Eldal officiating:**

- Larry Hille         – **Memorial Service** – Saturday, June 27, 2020

#### **At Oakland Cemetery, Oakland NE with Pastor Mark Eldal officiating:**

- Jesse and Liz Crump – **Graveside Service** – October 5, 2020  
 Aileen Ruszczyk    – **Memorial Service** – October 30, 2020

#### **At Pelan Funeral Services, Oakland NE with Pastor Mark Eldal officiating:**

- Marilyn Baker      – **Funeral Service** on Monday November 30, 2020

#### **At Oakland Cemetery, Oakland, NE with Pastor Mark Eldal officiating:**

- Lloyd Lindquist    – **Memorial Service** on Friday, June 5, 2020

#### **At First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Oakland, NE with Pastor Mark Eldal officiating:**

- Chris Taylor        – **Memorial Service** on February 22, 2020

\*Other congregational members lost during the COVID pandemic still waiting services.

- Clara Frahm         – **Memorial Service will be held at a future date**  
 Richard Tomasek   – **Memorial Service will be held at a future date**

**Sunday, February 7, 2021 - Communion**

Coffee, Greeting &amp; Usher - Cheryl &amp; Darrel Denker

Coffee, Greeting &amp; Usher - Clendon, Amy, Preston, Sabrina and Celeste Rost

Head Usher - Roger Moderow and Sam Schmidt

Reader - Sandra Johnson

Sound - Dan Tanksley

Screen - Adilen Rennerfeldt

Acolyte - Jaxen Jorgensen

Video - Corbin Guill

Sat. Night Pianist - Ruth Wallerstedt

Sun. Morning Organist - Bryan Bohn

**Sunday, February 14, 2021 - Youth Service**

Coffee, Greeting &amp; Usher - Travis, Keri, Colton, Carson and Mia Thomsen

Head Usher - Brad Bousquet

Screen - Ashten/Anisten Rennerfeldt

Reader -

Sound - Tess Johnson

Acolyte - Gretchen Seagren

Video - Jaxen Jorgensen

Sat. Night Pianist - Billye Pearson

Sun. Morning Organist - Billye Pearson

**Wednesday, Feb. 17 - ASH WEDNESDAY**

Head Usher -- Brad Bousquet

Sound - Tess Johnson

Acolyte - Garrett Klausen

Video - Jaxen Jorgensen

Ash Wednesday Accomp. - Bryan Bohn

**Sunday, February 21, 2021**

Coffee, Greeting &amp; Usher - Danny, Jeanie, Piper, Colton &amp; Brody Tanksley

Coffee, Greeting &amp; Usher - Dan and Mona Tanksley

Head Usher - Larry Johnson

Reader - Patty Miller

Sound - Dan Tanksley

Screen - Lillian Ehlers

Acolyte - Bailey Pelan

Video - Garrett Klausen

Sat. Night Pianist - Danny Bedrnnicek

Sun. Morning Accomp - Bryan Bohn

**Wednesday, February 24 - Lenten Service**

Head Usher - Larry Johnson

Sound - Dan Tanksley

Acolyte - Braylon Anderson

Video - Bailey Pelan

Lenten Service Accomp. - Bryan Bohn

**Sunday, February 28, 2021**

Coffee, Greeting &amp; Usher - Josh, Sara, River, Grace and Emma Wallerstedt

Coffee, Greeting &amp; Usher - Mike, Katie, Brayden and Chloe Selk

Head Ushers - Clare Wiltse

Reader - Mona Tanksley

Sound - Tess Johnson

Screen - Tess

Acolyte - Ostern Heineman

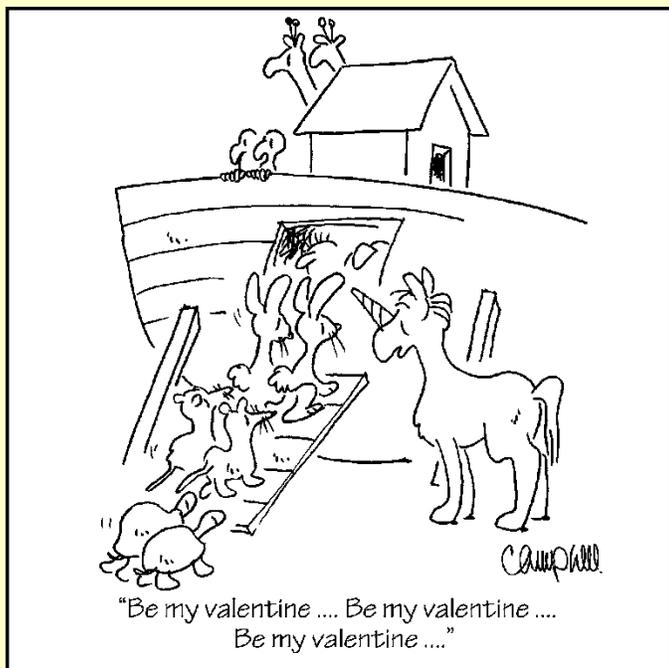
Video - Braylon Anderson

Sat. Night Pianist - Carter Anderson

Sun. Morning Accomp. - Bryan Bohn



# CHRISTIAN HUMOR TO TICKLE YOUR LIFE



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

**Phone:**  
 402-685-5764

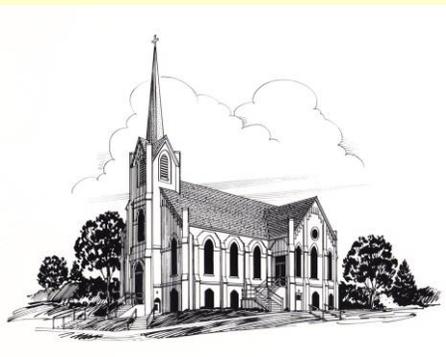
**Fax:**  
 402-685-5183

**E-Mail:**  
[firstlutheranchurch\\_152@q.com](mailto:firstlutheranchurch_152@q.com)

## RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Feb 17<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 PM - Ash Wednesday Services

Non-Profit  
 Organization  
 Permit No. 11  
 Oakland, NE  
 68045



**FIRST EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH IS PART OF LCMC,  
 Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ.**

*To find information regarding our synod -*