



July 2015



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9:00am Wed Weeders 7:00pm Bible Study & Prayer	2	3	4 6:00pm Worship
5 10am Worship	6	7	8 9:00am Wed Weeders 12:00pm Book Bunch 7:00pm Bible Study & Prayer	9	10	11 8:00am Hole in Roof Gang 6:00pm Worship
12 10am Worship	13 9:30am Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Women's Bible Study	14 7:00pm Council Meeting	15 9:00am Wed Weeders 7:00pm Bible Study & Prayer	16	17	18 6:00pm Worship
19 10am Worship	20	21	22 9:00am Wed Weeders 12:00pm Book Bunch 7:00pm Bible Study & Prayer	23	24	25 8:00am Hole in Roof Gang 6:00pm Worship
26 10am Worship	27	28	29 9:00am Wed Weeders 7:00pm Bible Study & Prayer	30	31	

There will be a meeting of the WELCA on Sunday, July 12, at Nina Hammer Park, right after church. Jane David, former council president, will be presenting information about the new church. The park is located at 14th and M streets. There will be a special offering for the church at Midland college. So, grab some lunch, for yourself, and meet us in the big shelter about 11:30. We will have tea and water there.

The Brown Bag Book Bunch
2nd & 4th Wednesdays at noon

We're finishing the *Unbroken* at the June 10th gathering ... and be determining their next book to read together! Come on in; visitors are welcome, and you may find yourself engaged in a neat discussion on some enthralling topics. 12 noon to about 12:45.



Check out the QR code... does it get you to Family of Christ's website??

NOISY OFFERING!

THE NOISY OFFERINGS through Easter will be designated to the special *Lutheran World Relief* health kits. In weeks to come we will also be gathering health items (soap, towels, etc). More details will be forthcoming for our *Baskets of Promise* Lenten offering.

RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:
TURN IN YOUR ARTICLES EARLY!
RE M I N D E R :
DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES IS
July 23, 2015

Family of Christ	
Pastor	John Gosswein
Church Council	
President	Mike DeBoer
Vice President	Lanny Johnson
Secretary	Chris Denton
Treasurer	Ronnie Sanchez
Financial Secretary	Jane David
Members at Large	Cheryl Hedstrom Dave Wiebe Lance Knoedler
Committee Chairs	
Education	Judy Gosswein
Fellowship	Svoboda, Albers, Peterson
Evangelism	Julie Garaffa
New Properties	Brad Anderson
Church Properties	Lynn Tacha
Youth Group	Deb Middleton
Ministries Coordinator	Tamara Sanchez
Publication Secretary	Maury May
Stewardship	
Mutual Ministries	Vickie Schaepler
Worship	Iola Fougeron



Coleen Brill	7/01
Charles Schaepler	7/01
Rick Tschirren	7/01
Blaine Stewart	7/02
Colleen Brandt	7/04
Peggy Reimers	7/06
Karter Bendfeldt	7/08
Clinton Brill	7/09
Riley Kishkunas	7/12
Ron Anderson	7/14
Winona Svoboda	7/14
Carly Collison	7/15
Skylar Kuntz	7/16
Brady Kuntz	7/16
Bob Grabenstein	7/16
Dave Grove	7/17
Tessa Gifford	7/18
Myron Fougeron	7/20
June Collison	7/25
Mike DeBoer	7/25
Madison Wulf	7/26
Joel Gosswein	7/27
Gary Straatmann	7/27
Rebecca Albers	7/28
Kaylee Reimers	7/28
Kathy Morrow	7/29
Mark Brandt	7/30
Kayden Linner	7/30
RaNae Cernik	7/31
Lacy Journey	7/31



Tom & Cheryl Hedstrom	07/11
Rod & Jane Behrhorst	07/15
Chris & Ashlea Denton	07/17
Chuck & Tami Frye	07/18
Ronnie & Tamara Sanchez	07/20
Harold & Barb Laursen	07/28



THAILAND TREK VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



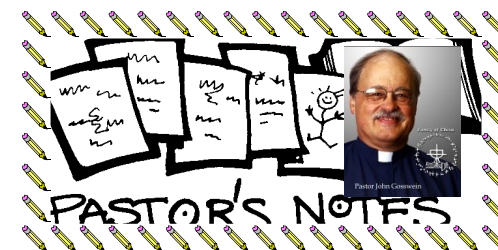
Special thanks to all the volunteers who served in this year's Vacation Bible School, held at St. Luke's Episcopal Church from June 8 through 11th. Our adventure shared that God's love is for everyone (Believe it!), while seeing and learning how faith is active in the life of Thailand. The food, games, learning, music, decorations, art, drama, stories and excitement were worth it! Thanks, all, for another successful VBS year!

HOLE-IN-THE-ROOF GANG

The guys continue meeting on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays at 8 a.m. If you know of anyone (single mom, widow, handicapped, senior) who could use some assistance with a project around the house – give a call to the church: 236-7704.

SUMMER PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY and DESSERT!

Wednesday evenings
Summer 2015: GENESIS and Beginnings
 Church Sanctuary
 Bible Study 7:00 p.m. (with dessert following)
Come when you can ... don't worry about 'intruding'. The prayers and the study are intended to give us opportunity for fellowship and growth, and are informal!



GO AND ANNOUNCE, "THE KINGDOM IS NEAR"

Several of the Gospel lessons during July will remind us of Jesus sending out the disciples in pairs to surrounding cities. His instructions told them to go out with simplicity: no tracts or messages, no condemnations or invitations, and welcome the hospitality of the community. If they were not well received, 'shake the dust off their shoes' and continue forward. But they were to bring the *good news of the kingdom's presence* with peace and healing. The disciples returned, we are told, with excitement at what they heard and

witnessed.

Several weeks ago, we sent teams into southeast Kearney – the first of several visits we intend to make. We went out with a simple message. Our attempt was not to convert or cajole, just to listen. After introducing ourselves ('*We're from Family of Christ Lutheran, and plan to build out where that sign is on Ave M*'), we asked a question: *what could we pray for in the community or in your household?*

Yes, there were moments of silence – but a vast number of the houses we visited started to share: *thanksgivings for family, prayers for healing, concerns for neighbors who were struggling, some history of their own faith journeys.* We really didn't intend to say much about Family of Christ; we listened to them and brought their concerns back to our congregational prayers. Yet most were curious and genuinely glad that a church is planning to build in the neighborhood.

During these days of polarizing and politicizing issues, I wondered if someone was going to ask "what does your church think about *fill in the blank* (sexuality issues, health care, racism, etc)? Yet seldom did any of the 'hotbutton' issues come up. Most were obviously appreciative to talk about their own difficulties in the road of life with someone willing to listen. Maybe people are tired of being *canvassed* and *surveyed*, or *fractured into parties and ideologies*. By and large, many are busy with their own struggles and journeys to be faithful – to their family, Lord, job and community.

It was usually after sharing their own concerns that the question would be asked, "what church are you from?" Yes, there is *hunger* for community that will encourage us all in healing, faithfulness, reconciliation, hope, forgiveness and peace.

AND we plan to risk doing this again. Interested in being part of Jesus' ongoing 'sending disciples out?'
 Grace and peace!

Pr. John

Family of Christ now has a WELCA chapter!
 As stated in our constitution, our purpose is "as a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world." Our commitment also comes from the constitution. It is "to accomplish the purpose of Women of the ELCA, women in this unit shall commit themselves to

- come together for study, support, and action;
- participate in the ministry of Women of the ELCA beyond the congregation;
- support financially the total program of Women of the ELCA; and
- designate leadership that shall be in communication with the synodical and churchwide women's organization."

We meet on a quarterly basis, January, April, July, October. We usually meet right after church, have a bit to eat, a business meeting, a program, and a chance to share with other women in the church family.

CONGRATULATIONS TO GRADUATES

We've had a tradition of using one of our summer Sundays as a more casual forum for recognizing our high school graduates. And, picking a Sunday in July could be a great time – before they begin heading off for their college adventures. How about July 19th as a date to rejoice with the graduates during worship, and celebrate with a cookie and lemonade reception on the front lawn? *Our 2015 graduates are Taylor Lindeman, Julian Laursen, Kaylee Reimers and Mackenzie Wolf.*

Family of Christ Lutheran Church
 1319 5th Avenue
 Kearney, NE 68845

Returned Service Requested

PASTORAL LETTER FROM BISHOP EATON

BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON, presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America wrote this letter to congregations on the recent tragedies in Charleston, S.C.

It has been a long season of disquiet in our country. From Ferguson to Baltimore, simmering racial tensions have boiled over into violence. But this ... the fatal shooting of nine African Americans in a church is a stark, raw manifestation of the sin that is racism. The church was desecrated. The people of that congregation were desecrated. The aspiration voiced in the Pledge of Allegiance that we are “one nation under God” was desecrated.

Mother Emanuel AME’s pastor, the Rev. Clementa Pinckney, was a graduate of the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, as was the Rev. Daniel Simmons, associate pastor at Mother Emanuel. The suspected shooter is a member of an ELCA congregation. All of a sudden and for all of us, this is an intensely personal tragedy. One of our own is alleged to have shot and killed two who adopted us as their own.

We might say that this was an isolated act by a deeply disturbed man. But we know that is not the whole truth. It is not an isolated event. And even if the shooter was unstable, the framework upon which he built his vision of race is not. Racism is a fact in American culture. Denial and avoidance of this fact are deadly. The Rev. Mr. Pinckney leaves a wife and children. The other eight victims leave grieving families. The family of the suspected killer and two congregations are broken. When will this end?

The nine dead in Charleston are not the first innocent victims killed by violence. Our only hope rests in the innocent One, who was violently executed on Good Friday. Emmanuel, God with us, carried our grief and sorrow – the grief and sorrow of Mother Emanuel AME church – and he was wounded for our transgressions – the deadly sin of racism.

I urge all of us to spend a day in repentance and mourning. And then we need to get to work. Each of us and all of us need to examine ourselves, our church and our communities. We need to be honest about the reality of racism within us and around us. We need to talk and we need to listen, but we also need to act. No stereotype or racial slur is justified. Speak out against inequity. Look with newly opened eyes at the many subtle and overt ways that we and our communities see people of color as being of less worth. Above all pray – for insight, for forgiveness, for courage.

Kyrie Eleison.
 The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
 Presiding Bishop

CONGRATULATIONS:

- To Kelsey Frye on the birth of *Willow Charlotte Frye* on June 21st!
- And to Katie (Bittman) & Aaron Fiscus on the birth of *Matthew Alexander* on June 5th!

NOISY OFFERING!

For the summer – our noisy offering will be designated through Mosaic International, specifically to assist in purchasing in ministries visited by Cheryl and Lois on their recent trips. The funds will buy *sewing machines* for home industries among the families in Moshi Tanzania, and wheel chairs for children.

Worship Workers for July 2015

	Communion Prep	Communion Asst.	Worship Asst.	Lector	Acolyte	Counter
July 4-5th						
Sat 6pm	Bryan Sall	Kelly Huaff	Kelly Huaff	Kelly Huaff		
Sun 10 am	Iola Fougerson	Lois Adamson	Barb Laursen	Connie Fie	Kellen Kelch	Lois Adamson
July 11-12						
Sat 6pm	Bryan Sall	Ken Peterson	Joyce Albers	Joyce Albers		
Sun 10 am	Iola Fougerson	Patty Reifenrath	Layne Knodler	Ken Reifenrath	[????]	Layne Knodler
July 18- 19						
Sat 6pm	Bryan Sall	Kelly Huaff	Kelly Huaff	Laura Buehner		
Sun 10 am	Iola Fougerson	Brett Sanchez	Harold Laursen	Jantha Jamison	Jeremy Sanchez	Rod & Jane Behrhorst
July 25-26th						
Sat 6pm	Bryan Sall	Dusty DeBoer	Joyce Albers	Dan Kossman		
Sun 10 am	Iola Fougerson	Nancy DeBoer	Jane David	Nancy DeBoer	???	Ronnie Sanchez

Family of Christ Council Meeting Minutes.....June 09, 2015

Pastor John opened with a devotion that included that video shown during church service on June 7th. President DeBoer called the meeting to order. There were 7 members present.

Treasurer Report: the balance sheet and the budget were approved by council.

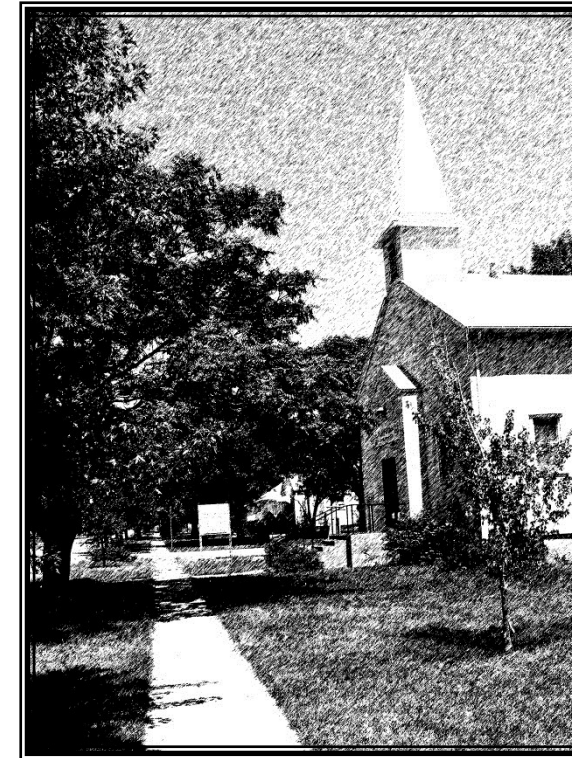
Pastor Report: Pastor John discussed the door to door outreach near the site of the new church, which was well received. He also shared a conversation with Bill Graves (of Mission Builders) who approached him recently regarding the new church. Bill indicated that the church should begin dialogue with Mission Builders if they intended to use their services. The council agreed to open conversations with Mission Builders regarding the possibility of working together to build the new church. Pastor John discussed adding Kelly Hauff to the list of drivers for church vehicles as a new ministry, which council approved. A new grief curriculum will be acquired to support related ministries. New church members who have completed Inquirer's will be welcomed to the church in July.

Ministries Coordinator report: The report indicated that the Ministries Coordinator would be meeting with the Education Team and Pastor John on new ways to engage members. The Ministries Coordinator report was accepted by council.

New Business: The church council plans to have further discussions for recommendations regarding church vehicle usage. Until that time it is recommended that vehicles be used in town for church business and ministries only. The council also plans to engage in discussion with the capital campaign group at a future council meeting.

Old Business: It was decided that families are welcome to use the church facilities for celebrating birthdays or anniversaries, but the church would not provide funds for the celebration.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.



Family of Christ Lutheran Church
1319 5th Ave
Kearney, NE 68845

Phone: 308-236-7704
 E-mail: familyofchristkearney@gmail.com
 Web: www.familyofchristkearney.org
 Pastor e-mail: pr.john.foc@gmail.com
 Pastor: John Gosswein
 (Office Tu,W, F Afternoons)
 Publications Secretary: Maury May
 (Office: Tu, We, Thur 1:30-3:30pm)
 Ministries Coordinator: Tamara Sanchez
 (Tues & Thur 10:00am-1:00pm)

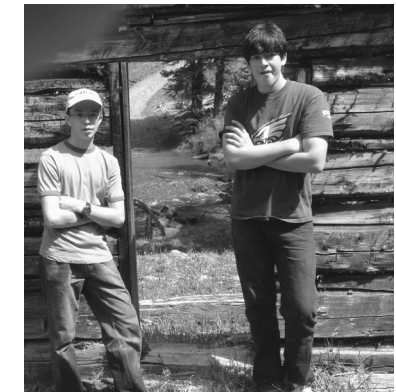
WORSHIP SERVICES:

Saturday: 6:00p.m. Evening Worship
 (signed for the Hearing Impaired)

Sunday: 10:00am Worship

July 2015 –Volume 31
 Issue 7

**All in The
 Family**



YOUTH TRIP TO COLORADO

From June 18th through 24th, Family of Christ youth had a chance to visit out in Colorado. After staying at a church in Denver, they had a gracious invitation to stay in Breckenridge in a condo. There they explored *treasures*, with some backpacking (pictured are Brett and Matt at the *finally found* ghost town of Dyersville), geocaching, and Biblical studies around the theme of *what do you treasure? What does God treasure?*

Thanks to Deb and PJ for escorting and being part of the youth excursion for 2015!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Pastor's Notes	3
Birthday's and Anniversaries	4
Summer Schedule	3
Calendar	7
Worship Workers	8

KEARNEY WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S August 30th



FAMILY OF CHRIST TEAM

SIGN UP AT CHURCH during August
 or at alz.org/walk. REGISTRATION IS FREE.

Family Fun Day from 11:30-1:00, lunch provided by Runza, walk to begin at 1:00.

PETERSON SENIOR CENTER, YANNEY PARK, KEARNEY, NE 68845

JOIN THE FUN WALKING AND/OR DONATE TO THE CAUSE. DOGS MAY JOIN THE WALK FOR CANINE CONTESTS. THEY ARE REQUIRED TO BE ON A LEASE AT ALL TIMES.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION TALK WITH: VICKIE SCHAEPLER, 236-5686, OR BARB

SITZMAN, 233-2536. THERE WILL BE INFORMATION AT CHURCH OR SIGN UP CARDS THERE TOO, DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST.