



# August 2015



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

**SUMMER MIDWEEK WORSHIP AND BIBLE STUDY!**  
 Wednesday evenings  
 Church Sanctuary 7:00 p.m.  
*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!*

**The Brown Bag Book Bunch**  
 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays at noon  
 We're finishing the *Unbroken* at the June 10<sup>th</sup> 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.



**GRADUATE RECOGNITION**  
 We recognized our 2015 high school graduates during the worship on July 26<sup>th</sup>. *Julian Laursen, Taylor Lindeman, Kaylee Reimers and Mackenzie Wolf* (not pictured) were given blankets inscribed with their Confirmation Verse from 2011 (thanks to the *Comfort Care*), \$500 scholarships (thanks to the Family of Christ Scholarship committee) and a devotional calendar to encourage them in their future college adventures!

RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:  
**TURN IN YOUR ARTICLES EARLY!**  
 R E M I N D E R :  
**DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES IS**  
**August 24, 2015**

<u>Family of Christ</u>	
Pastor	John Gosswein
<b>Church Council</b>	
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
<b>Committee Chairs</b>	
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



- 8/01 Nigel Holmes
- 8/02 Randy Scarrow
- 8/03 Bob Nicklasson
- 8/04 Dominic DeJonge
- 8/08 Levijames Hunt-Anderson
- 8/10 Adriane Juel
- 8/12 Hannah Straatmann
- 8/13 Sadie Byrne
- 8/16 Chuck Frye
- 8/16 Konnor Kelch
- 8/16 Taegan Gifford
- 8/17 Erika Anderson
- 8/17 Tim Kotschwar
- 8/17 Jami Wulf
- 8/19 Jason Kile
- 8/18 Chris Denton
- 8/18 Sarah Hollander-Brill
- 8/19 Taylor Lindeman
- 8/20 Lois Adamson
- 8/20 Barbara Einspahr
- 8/20 Ken Petersen
- 8/20 David Wiebe
- 8/21 Magdalena Denton
- 8/21 Evilynn Holmes
- 8/24 Julie Garaffa
- 8/24 Patricia Candy
- 8/24 Nancy Straatmann
- 8/25 Tami Frye
- 8/26 Mark Brill
- 8/27 Arieta Engleman
- 8/28 Katie Fiscus
- 8/29 Denise Christensen
- 8/30 Dusty DeBoer
- 8/31 Austin Adamson



- Chris & Shelly Hove 8/02
- Roy & Alisa Reynolds 8/03
- Jerome & Barbara Einspahr 8/12
- Gaynor & June Collison 8/29
- Rev. John & Judy Gosswein 8/30



The next quarterly unit gathering at FOC will be October 11<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are needed to plan this fall gathering? Please contact our present Unit Coordinator, Lois Adamson.

July 12, 2015 Quarterly Notes

All 14 participants were welcomed. Lois and Judy moved the picnic to the church basement due to extreme heat. Grace was shared & picnic lunches were eaten along with lots of personal updates regarding family and friends.

The Business was started by Judy who shared an invitational letter from Midland College received by Sue. The letter challenged us to assist with their goal of \$1 million to provide a Perpetual Chair for a Campus Pastor position. The college had to recently give up their campus pastoral presence due to survival budget cuts. We agreed to send \$25.00, plus half of today's offering. Peggy will ask our FOC Treasurer to prepare a check and she will complete the donation form and send it to Midland College as soon as possible.

The next items of business included 2 Synodical events that our ladies have an opportunity to participate in:

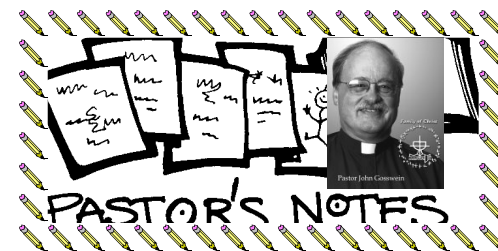
**A Saved to Serve opportunity in Hebron, NE, the weekend, July 31 to August 2, at Blue Valley Lutheran Homes;** The Registration cost is \$39 and forms with more information are available by the Welca display at FOC and online at the NSW0 website. You receive faith growth, WELCA relationships, and a T-shirt.

**The 2015 NSW0 Biennial Convention** is at 1<sup>st</sup> Lutheran Church in Lincoln on Sept. 18-20. The theme and keynote speaker, plus more information is available in "Expressions," the NSW0 newsletter which has been placed in the Welca display. Barbara Laursen, one of our PMAs, shared that she usually goes at her own expense. Lois Adamson is interested in being our delegate. We decided to pay the registration fee of \$90 for a delegate. Lois is interested and will keep us posted on her availability.

**Annual turnover of 2 Unit Leaders** involves an election at our upcoming October 2015 gathering. Judy explained that Lois and Elizabeth Laursen Roesler had originally volunteered to be the Co-Coordinators in January 2015. Lois became the sole Coordinator due to unexpected conflicts with Elizabeth's availability on weekends. Elizabeth will be contacted for the Coordinator position first. Barbara Laursen did offer to take a leadership role in 2016. (For clarification: The 2-year positions of Treasurer and Assistant-Coordinator are available. The Assistant-Coordinator has the opportunity to move into the Coordinator position her second year.)

**The New Church** was the program topic by Jane David. Jane shared her experience as Council President, getting the Council and Building Committees organized and informed for Stage 1 decisions. She circulated a listing of 19 meetings and site visits that were necessary to buy land south of Highway 30. Final Closing on the land was July, 2013. Also in Phase 1, 4 Committees were formed: Planning & Vision, Communications, Finances, and Site Building. They met and discussions were summarized and publicized. In Phase 2, The Church & Community Self Study has been divided into 4 parts and 4 leaders have been chosen to facilitate each topic: Community Study- Vickie Schaepler, Congregational Study- Stephanie Straatmann, Maps & Demographics- Brad Anderson, and Influential Relationships- RaNae Cernik. In closing, Jane strongly encouraged each of us to get involved if we really want a new church: Talk to the council members, ask to participate on the Capital Campaign team, and/or be more proactive in one of the Church Self Study groups.

A closing prayer adjourned out July 2015 gathering.  
Submitted by Judy Gosswein



Last month, we had 10 confirmation students (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders) attend at Carol Joy Holling. I wrote this article originally for the *Kearney Hub* right after I returned, but decided it would be good to reprise with our *All in the Family* – as a reminder that your prayerful and generous participation makes these neat experiences possible (and *thank you* for that!).

It always amazes me that the same young folk who wouldn't wash dishes at home can have lively 'kitchen parties' together, or that they can live without phone or Facebook for a week. Naturally there are some who dive right into the camp atmosphere with delight and excitement; others are more reticent and apprehensive. Regardless, at the end of the week they are all sharing excitedly their highs and lows, with one particular repeated question: *did you make it on the high ropes course?* The picture shows one group of students assisting each other across the gaps between the towers – not for the faint



of heart, although very safely done!

Our Confirmation study theme (done with 7 churches, 45 students and 6 pastors) was titled *Superheroes*. Yes, we used the panoply of mythic characters from the big screen as a jump off for a study of Biblical characters. A simple guessing game began to hint at the commonalities:

- "Who sometimes had uncontrollable anger, sometimes being used for great justice?" (Hulk/*Samson*).
- Ironman, somewhat repentant of his past selfishness and using all his resources for a reluctant good, could compare with *Jacob* in Genesis. The youthful questioning of identity in Peter Parker (Spiderman) was an echo of *Jeremiah's* complaint that he was 'just a youth' when God called him.

It was a foil to bring the students to study their own personalities and gifts. They would hopefully realize that God calls us each, knows our strengths and weaknesses, and blesses us with spiritual tools and powers (examples are forgiveness, encouragement, peace, hope). And a little side trip into *X Men* revealed similarities to the way 1 Corinthians 12 reminds us we are a team, a body of individual parts united under the same head, Christ. *"To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."*

From there we could talk about the temptations all 'superheros' and saints face: capability of selfishly misusing power; fear and lack of self value; pride and stubbornness; impatience; lack of accountability. Those are examples of what the youth perceived. They then wrote their personal 'confession of temptation', placing it before the One who 'was tempted in every way as we are', Jesus.

The moment that brought me most gratification was when all were drawing symbols of their personal 'strengths and weaknesses'. It could have been a moment of teasing and putdowns, dangerous to young egos. Instead, most were asking for help from their peers: "what do you see is my strength and weakness?" The responses were generally honest and encouraging. Including for me (you can ask me privately what they saw my 'strength and weakness' to be).

Each year at camp, I am reminded that God continues to raise up great and generous gifts in the church, and there's another crop coming along! Then, at the end of the week, I realize it's time to start preparing for next year.

Hmm. Maybe we'll do *The Hunger Games* and the call of Moses.

Grace and peace!  
Pastor John

SUMMER SCHEDULE

*REMEMBER .. we are in the summer schedule from Memorial Weekend through Labor Day Weekend!*

Saturday worship remains at 6 p.m. (and is interpreted)

**SUNDAY MORNING is at 10 a.m.** during the summer Sundays!

We don't have Sunday School, but we still have 'children's church' during the Sunday service.

**BUILDING UPDATE #1**

Where are we at in the building process on the land at 15<sup>th</sup> and M? We're hoping to give this monthly update to let everyone have information, and offer their availability in helping us in the whole process.

The church council, in the July meeting, had conversation with an ELCA resource for *capital campaigns*, and is considering approval of starting work with Family of Christ in January of 2016. After 3-4 months of planning and training, we could have our campaign to seek *3 year giving commitments* totaling \$300,000-600,000. *If you would like to assist in this vital component, contact Mike DeBoer (308-230-3458)*

- We are starting conversations with *Mission Builders*, the ELCA group that has volunteer contractors and builders who assist churches in building. We are discussing construction start in spring of 2017.
- Jane David is leading teams of volunteers from the congregation to pull together information for the *Mission Investment Fund* (the agency we would be borrowing from for the estimated \$1.5 million). This study analyzes our congregational life, the community growth of Kearney, and potential ministry plans we have for the future. *Contact Jane if you would like to assist in any of the teams: 293-2466*
- Plans and ideas for the church building designed by architect David Wiebe are still in **the narthex**, and any comments or concerns are still being considered.

*Your prayerful and generous support is appreciated.* We will seek to give information regularly as to our progress, and hope we can address most questions: you can contact *Mike DeBoer* or *Pastor John*, or send an email to [familyofchrist-kearney@gmail.com](mailto:familyofchrist-kearney@gmail.com)

**HOLE-IN-THE-ROOF GANG**

It's a gaggle of guys gathering in the basement on 2nd and 4th Saturdays at 8 a.m. After the donuts and devotion, they would love to assist in some project at the home of somebody in need of a project completed... a single mom trying to get a room painted, widow with windows needing repair, a ramp for someone struggling to navigate stairs. Whatever it may be, if you know someone who could use some assistance (they don't need to be a member of the church!) – give a call to the church: 236-7704. We can assess if we can accomplish the task.

**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.

Family of Christ Lutheran Church  
 1319 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
 Kearney, NE 68845

**Returned Service Requested**

**Worship Workers for August 2015**

	<b>Communion Prep</b>	<b>Communion Asst.</b>	<b>Worship Asst.</b>	<b>Lector</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Counter</b>
Aug. 1-2						
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
Aug 8-9						
Sat 6pm	Bryan Sall	Ken Peterson	Joyce Albers Layne	Joyce Albers		
Sun 10 am	Iola Fougerson	Patty Reifenrath	Knodler	Ken Reifenrath	Brooke Anderson	Layne Knodler
Aug 15-16						
Sat 6pm	Bryan Sall	Kelly Huaff	Kelly Huaff Harold	Laura Buehner		
Sun 10 am	Iola Fougerson	Brett Sanchez	Laursen	Jantha Jamison	Nigel Holmes	Rod & Jane Behrhorst
Aug 22-23						
Sat 6pm	Bryan Sall	Dusty DeBoer	Joyce Albers	Dan Kossman		
Sun 10 am	Iola Fougerson	Nancy DeBoer	Jane David	Nancy DeBoer	Jeremy Sanchez	Ronnie Sanchez

# CHURCH COUNCIL

The July 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the church council was called to order by president Mike DeBoer and opened with devotions by Pastor John. The minutes of the last meeting were approved and the treasurer's report was read and approved.

There was no report from Pastor John.

Ministries Coordinator, Tamara Sanchez, reported that she has taken a new job and is working out a new schedule for working at Family of Christ.

Lance reported that the education committee has been meeting and discussing the topics of Sunday School and faith building in our congregation. The next meeting of the committee will be July 28<sup>th</sup> at the church.

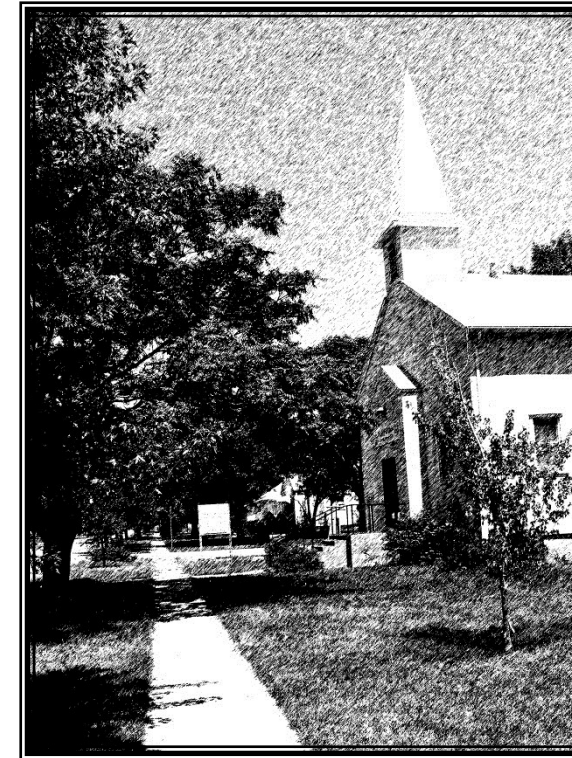
There was a conference call with Michael Meier to discuss assisting FOC with raising funds for building a church. Discussion included how the program works, how long a capital campaign would last, what the length of our commitment would be, what our goal as far as raising funds should be, and what it would cost to work with his organization. The council has decided to discuss it further and make our decision at the next council meeting as we are waiting for more information from Mr. Meier.

It was also decided that if we want the Mission Builders to help with building the church we need to get Family's name on their building list because their time for building is filling up.

To help keep the congregation more fully informed about the building process it was decided short videos will be made to share more current information.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned and we closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Secretary pro tem  
Cheryl Hedstrom



## August 2015 –Volume 31 Issue 8

# All in The Family



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


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 Web: [www.familyofchristkearney.org](http://www.familyofchristkearney.org)  
 Pastor e-mail: [pr.john.foc@gmail.com](mailto: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

**KEARNEY WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S August 30<sup>th</sup>**



**FAMILY OF CHRIST TEAM**

SIGN UP AT CHURCH during August  
 or at [alz.org/walk](http://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.**

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