



December 2015



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 9:00am Wed Weeders 5:00pm Confirmation 6:15pm Advent Service 7:00pm Potluck Soup/ Sandwich 7:30pm Choir	3	4	5 6:00pm Worship
6 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday Disciples 11:00am Worship	7	8	9 9:00am Wed Weeders 12:00pm Book Brunch 5:00pm Confirmation 6:15pm Advent Service 7:00pm Potluck Soup/ Sandwich 7:30pm Choir	10	11	12 8:00am Hole in Roof 9:00am Comforters 6:00pm Worship
13 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday Disciples 11:00am Worship	14 9:30am Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Women's Bible Study	15 7:00pm Council Meeting	16 9:00am Wed Weeders 5:00pm Confirmation 6:15pm Advent Service 7:00pm Potluck Soup/ Sandwich 7:30pm Choir	17	18	19 6:00pm Worship
20 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday Disciples 11:00am Children's Service 6:00pm Caroling at Jail	21	22	23 9:00am Wed Weeders 12:00pm Book Brunch	24 6pm Candles/Carols/ Communion 9:00 Candles/Carols Communion	25 	26 No Hole in Roof Gang 6:00pm Worship
27 11:00am Worship	28	29	30	31		

BUILDING UPDATE #4

Where are we at in the building process on the land at 15th and M? In this month's update, The council is focusing on the regular processes of the congregational life. We are **developing the budget and nomination committees for our January 2016 congregational meeting**. You can be a part of that discussion – contact Pr. John or Mike DeBoer. We are setting *Sunday, April 17th 2016* as our date to have a **capital campaign**. OUR goal would potentially be raising *3 year giving commitments* totaling at least \$600,000. *If you would like to assist in this vital component, contact Mike DeBoer (308-230-3458)* The church council approved working with *Stewardship Key Leaders*, associated as an ELCA resource for *capital campaigns*. They will work with us in February through April as we work on the campaign together. **Material for study came in from SKL for our 7 congregational leaders – who will start setting up the process in February.** Our response in the capital campaign would give us wisdom (and confidence) to move on the next portions of the building. Our estimates are approaching \$2.5 million for finished building and land.

- Stephanie Straatmann and Jane David gave a report to the council on their evaluation of the congregation. The committee's findings, while still being completed, are that the congregation 1) could do more to reach out into the community with ministry and programming 2) is at a growth plateau both in budget and membership. Their excellent research certainly includes more as they continue to assess for the *Mission Investment Fund* our loan capability. *Contact Jane if you would like to assist in any of the teams: 293-2466* 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 familyofchristkearney@gmail.com

RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:

TURN IN
YOUR ARTICLES
EARLY!

R E M I N D E R :

DEADLINE FOR
NEWSLETTER
ARTICLES IS

Dec 21, 2015

Family of Christ	
Pastor	John Gosswein
Church Council	
President	Mike DeBoer
Vice President	Lanny Johnson
Secretary	Chris Denton
Treasurer	Peggy Nelson
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
Web Resources	Joni Weed
Youth Group	Deb Middleton
Ministries Coordinator	Barbara Laursen
Publication Secretary	Maury May
Stewardship	
Mutual Ministries	Vickie Schaepler
Worship	Iola Fougeron



12/02 Jasmyrn Knoedler
12/04 Jodi Bendfeldt
12/05 Vanessa Gifford
12/05 Jon Laursen-Roesler
12/08 Brooklyn Jackson
12/08 Addison Peterson
12/11 Jacki Dudder
12/11 Lawrence Yates
12/12 Lyn Knoedler
12/14 Skyler Krull
12/14 Carol Leth
12/14 Kurt Nelson
12/14 Ken Riefenrath
12/15 Ashley Frye
12/18 Christina Yates
12/21 Misty Beeler
12/21 Jason Plambeck
12/21 Maya Yates
12/22 Lynn Tacha
12/24 Mitzi Gifford
12/24 Matthew Walters
12/26 Crystal Lichtenberger
12/27 Del Kotas
12/28 JoAnn DeJonge
12/28 Alania Larsen
12/30 Shaun Dorsett
12/31 Gabriello Re



12/02 Jason & Shawna Plambeck
12/06 Shane & Jody Bendfeldt
12/16 Tim & Trudy Kotschwar
12/19 Myron & Iola Fougeron
12/26 Del & Marian Kotas
12/26 Joel & Connie Fie
12/29 Brad Anderson & Kelle Hunt



Midweek Advent Worship
WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED
Wednesday evenings, Dec. 2, 9, 16
6:15 Worship
7 p.m. Potluck Soup, Sandwich and Dessert
**"A shepherd looked to the sky, received a promise
and believed.
His name was Abraham ..."**

So begins ***WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED***, a series of special services for Advent--an insightful twist on what we often consider the traditional "Christmas Shepherds." ***WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED*** considers, week by week, the Old Testament shepherds Abraham, Moses, and David ... and then the Christmas shepherds of Bethlehem.

**MIDWEEK
ADVENT SERVICES AND SCHEDULE
Wednesday December 2/9/16**

WORSHIP at 6:15 p.m. (Sanctuary)
SUPPER: Potluck soup/sandwich/ dessert gathering is at **7 p.m. (Fellowship hall)**

CONFIRMATION CLASS (6th, 7th & 8th Grade): during December we meet from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. (We have snack rather than supper).

Wednesday Weeders: Who are we??

As our name suggests we do "weed". And we weed on Wednesdays. We meet every Wednesday at 9:00 during the Spring, Summer, and Fall to care for all the different plants that are in the different beds around the church property. During the different seasons we are planting and weeding and just enjoying the outdoors. We hope you enjoy the various flowers and plants throughout the year. You have also seen the fruit of our labor in the form of gourds for several seasons. We then gather at 10:30 for coffee, fellowship and prayers.

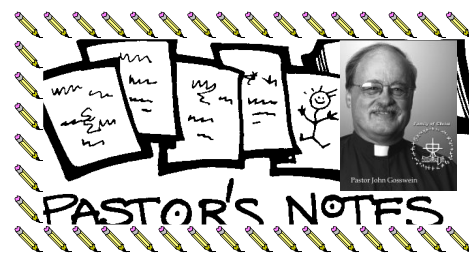
But, weeding is not all that we do. We are a very diverse group with many gifts. There are so many other tasks and activities that keep us busy that "weeding" during some parts of the year becomes a footnote.

The following is just a partial listing of the gifts we share: We clean the kitchen cupboards, defrost the freezers, help prepare crafts for VBS and Sunday School, do some dusting, set up for Lent & Advent Soup & Sandwich suppers, decorate for the change of seasons and holidays, bake cookies for the youth cookie walk, go on field trips, visit shut-ins, send cards to veterans, make banners, serve Inquirers dinners, give gifts and cards to our confirmands, clean the pews, wash windows, pray for our church family and friends...and most of all we enjoy each other's company!! We do stay busy!!

We have moved inside for the winter season and are starting preparations for the Christmas season. We try to do some deeper cleaning and also will begin decorating soon. As you can see our gifts come in all sizes and we would love to have you share yours with us. As the saying goes "Many hands make light work". We would like to take this time to invite you to join us any Wednesday you can from 9:00-10:30a.m. At 10:30 we gather for coffee, refreshments, fellowship, and prayers. (P.S. Lou will have the coffee ready at 9:00!!)

The Wednesday Weeders

CHRISTMAS MUSIC IN THE MALL



You've heard it, too. The music in the malls and the stores, with Christmas themes that have been reverberating since (it seems) Labor Day. Even though I try to not pay attention to them, I find myself humming along, sometimes wondering if I'm being cajoled by guilt. (Yes, I'm in the store because *I have no gift to bring...pa-rum-pa-pum-pum*).

Once in a while I stop and ask, "what is that carol?" Sometimes it's "what are they doing to that song?" Regardless, for the next month we'll be surrounded by the new and old carols, some in redesigned form.

The psalm writers (especially in 96 and 98) encouraged a fresh lyric: *Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things! Sing, all the earth.*" I'm not sure they weren't considering piping in the malls, but they still did intend for the song to go beyond religious sanctuaries, out into the world. And it wasn't that they were demanding *new melodies*, scouring Israel's Hot Top 10 list. Instead, they were confident that even the *old* songs could have a renewal of meaning in people's lives.

We sing Christmas carols because the *first noels* were actually an invasion into the ordinary lives of people. Mary's magnificent song (Luke 1) proclaimed her new comprehension of the Lord's desire to lift humble love over arrogant power. And shepherd's began humming the angelic chorus of peace (an ironic song in the Roman empire!)after that celestial flash mob burst into their routine. The chorus of *Glory to God in the highest* compelled them to scramble from hillside toward lowly manger, and *peace to his people on earth* sent them into a new shepherding. Above all, these Christmas songs brought awareness of God's desire to extend hope and joy into the lives of people. The carols weren't meant to be background in the Jerusalem mall, or *muzak* to calm the holiday anxieties; they packed a punch for those who heard the *new song*.

Perhaps we can pay attention to the carols this season – even in the store -- and see how well we're hearing the true song. I'll tell you what: I'll give a plate of cookies to the first to send me the name of these carols containing this *new hope and joy* message (just send the list of 5 names to pr.john.foc@gmail.com).

1. His *blessings* extend go into all the world (even war-torn Middle East!) *as far as the curse is found*.
2. Feel as though you are under a crushing load? This carol tells of angels stooping towards you: *oh, rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing!*
3. A lullaby reverses the song, asking Jesus to sing over me, and *all the dear children in your tender care*, preparing us *for heaven, to live with you there*.
4. Remember that one that recognizes *hopes and fears in all the years are met* here in this manger, in the dark streets where the Light is born. God's desire? To *impart to human hearts the blessings of his heaven*.
5. And lest death think it has the last word, this carol perceives it as a new birth to a new home: *Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!*

How well do you know them? The words are certainly *hope and joy filled*, and maybe need to be heard anew in the busyness of this hectic season.

I'm so pumped by this idea that I'll risk being a flash mob of one and singing out loud at the store when I perceive a Christmas melody in the air. Care to join me?

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.

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CHRISTMAS EVE
Candles, Carols, Communion
December 24th

Invite your family and friends to a beautiful and rich Christmas experience as we share the story of the Birth around carols and candles. We have two services:

6 p.m. *(interpreted for the hearing impaired)*
& 9 p.m.

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

Returned Service Requested

Inclement Weather Policy


We all know how snow or ice can defeat the weatherman’s predictions. If we must cancel worship services or activities because of a storm, we will post it on the weather postings (found for example on KGFW or NTV) as soon as possible. *We may not be able to change the church answering machine which lists the usual service times.*

Noisy Offering

Our *NOISY OFFERING* through this month. We just completed a 2 month offering to *Teammates*, the mentoring program for youth: our offering for these weeks was **\$341.04**

Traditionally during this Advent/Christmas and Epiphany season (December to February) we give to *Lutheran World Relief* – with our noisy offering purchasing live-stock for families in poorer countries. Remember, we’ve purchased water buffalo and sheep! Let’s give a goat for Christmas...

Worship Workers for December 2015



BROWN BAG BOOK BUNCH

The Book Bunch meets on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays over lunch (12-12:45) in the church basement. They are just starting *Celebration of Discipline* by Richard Foster – reading the first section for December 9th. Copies are available at the church. Come join us!

Dec. 5-6	Communion Prep	Communion Asst.	Worship Asst.	Lector	Acolyte	Counter
Sat. 6pm	Bryan Sall	Kelly Hauff	Kelly Hauff	Kelly Hauff	Kathryn Reynolds	
Sun.8:30am	Iola Fougeron	Linda Peterson	Jane David	Linda Peterson	Sydney Peterson	
Sun. 11am	Lois Adamson	Lois Adamson	Layne Knoedler	Connie Fie	Kellen Kelch	Lois Adamson
Dec. 12-13	Communion Prep	Communion Asst.	Worship Asst.	Lector	Acolyte	Counter
Sat. 6pm	Bryan Sall	Ken Petersen	Joyce Albers	Don Kossmann		
Sun. 8:30am	Iola Fougeron	Cheryl Hedstrom	Jane David	Vickie Schaepler		
Sun.11am	Sue Sands-Buss	Nancy DeBoer	Harold Laursen	Nancy DeBoer		Lane Knoedler
Dec. 19 -20	Communion Prep	Communion Asst.	Worship Asst.	Lector	Acolyte	Counter
Sat. 6pm	Bryan Sall	Kelly Hauff	Kelly Hauf	Kelly Hauff		
Sun. 8:30am	Iola Fougeron	Linda Peterson		Linda Petersen		
Sun.11am	Sue Sands-Buss	Nona Svoboda	Barb Laursen	SS Chms Pgm		Rod & Jane Behrhorst
Dec. 24	Communion Prep	Communion Asst.	Worship Asst.	Lector	Acolyte	Counter
6:00pm	Sign up sheets for both services					
9:00pm						
Dec 26-27	Communion Prep	Communion Asst	Worship Asst.	Lector	Acolyte	Counter
Sat. 600pm	Bryan Sall	Ken Petersen	Kelly Hauff	Don Kossmann		
Sun.11:00am	Sue Sands-Buss	Gayle Miller	Layne Knoedler	Jantha Jamison		Layne Knoedler

CHURCH COUNCIL

The Family of Christ church council met at 7:00 p.m. on November 10, 2015. Pastor John opened the meeting with devotions.

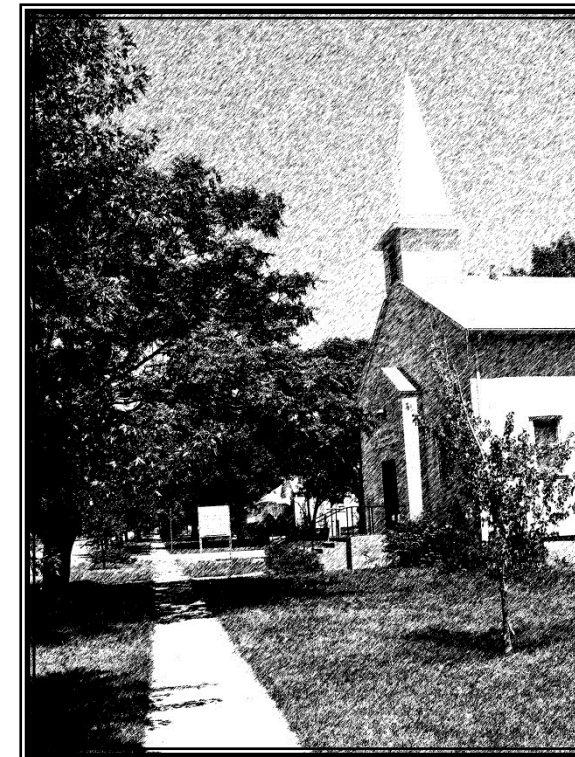
The minutes of the October meeting were approved. The Treasurers report was approved. Discussion on moving funds from the Land and Building Savings to the Mission Investment Fund was moved, seconded and passed.

Jane David and Steph Straatmann presented a report of the committee working on the Congregational Self Study. They updated the council on information being gathered as part of the loan process from the Mission Investment Fund. Information in the report includes membership, financial data, age and gender categories, and programs of the congregation. They reported there is still much information needed to be gathered but there was much information shared.

A budget committee of Jane David, Peggy Nelson, Jan Jamison and Bob Grabenstein has been chosen. A Nominating committee is being formed, but membership is still being determined.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned with the Lords Prayer.

Cheryl Hedstrom



December 2015 –Volume 31
Issue 12

All in The Family



STAR OF LOVE

The children's christmas program practices for are well on schedule. Children 4yrs – 5th gr are still welcome to join us. **Practices continue on Sundays, Dec. 6, 13 at 9:45 – 10:50a.m. Final rehearsal is on Saturday, Dec. 19th at 10:00a.m.** The Christmas Program, Star of Love, is in the 11:00a.m. Service on Dec. 20th. Each child is asked to wear their Christmas or Sunday clothes for the program. A big thank you to: Image & Script taping by Matthew Jamison with Confirmation students; Decorations & Props with Cheryl Hedstrom, Alison Nelson, and Cindy Grabenstein; Music with Judy Gosswein. Thanks to all others who support our 2015 Christmas program.

On the weekend of December 26/27 –

*We will have services at 6 p.m. on Saturday and 11 a.m. Sunday;
there will be no 8:30 worship
There will be a special fellowship time at 10 a.m. on Sunday.*



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

If you wish to donate a poinsettia to the church for the Christmas services, we are purchasing them for \$14 from Kearney Floral. Checks (to Family of Christ) or cash may be left in an envelope at church. *We must order by*

December 6th!

We will also be listing names *in memoriam* if you should wish to list someone in the Christmas bulletin.

Christmas Caroling at the Buffalo County Jail

Our annual sharing of the Christmas message at the BC Jail on December 20th. We'll sing carols, have some cookies and cider, and bringing the message to a ... least likely Christmas place. (Participants really do get a different sense of the Christmas story when it's shared behind the bars!).

We'll be there by 6:30, but invite you to meet at the church at 6 p.m. if you want to 'rehearse'. Participants must be beyond high school age. **Because we are entering the Detention Center, we must have your full name and date of birth presented to the Sheriff's office. BEFORE DECEMBER 6, please call (236-7704) or email (pr.john.foc@gmail.com) if you intend to carol with us.**

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: Barb Laursen
(Mon, Wed, Fri 9:30am-1:00pm)

WORSHIP SERVICES:

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

Sunday: 8:30am Worship
9:45am Sunday School
11:00am Worship

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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