

<div>  </div>						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 6:00pm Worship
3 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday Disciples 11:00am Worship	4	5	6 9:00am Wed Weeders 5:00pm Confirmation 6:30pm Youth 7:30pm Choir	7 7:00pm Bible Study	8	9 8:00am Hole in Roof 9:00am Comforters 6:00pm Worship
10 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday Disciples 11:00am Worship	11 97:00pm Women's Bible Study	12 7:00pm Council Meeting	13 9:00am Wed Weeders 12:00pm Book Brunch 5:00pm Confirmation 6:30pm Youth 7:30pm Choir	14 7:00pm Bible Study	15	16 6:00pm Worship
17 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday Disciples 11:00am Worship	18	19	20 9:00am Wed Weeders 5:00pm Confirmation 6:30pm Youth 7:30pm Choir	21 7:00pm Bible Study	22	23 8:00am Hole in Roof 6:00pm Worship
24 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday Disciples 11:00am Worship	25	26	27 9:00am Wed Weeders 12:00 Brook Brunch 5:00pm Confirmation 6:30pm Youth 7:30pm Choir	28 7:00pm Bible Study	29	30 6:00pm No Sat Worship
31 10:00am Sunday Worship and Potluck At Harmon Park Activity Center						

BUILDING UPDATE #5

Where are we at in the building process on the land at 15<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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.

- The budget committee approached the council with concerns about our needs for 2016: we need to clarify our stewardship with the congregation on our financial needs — not just for building, but also for maintaining program. The council decided to discuss this with the congregation during the budget conversations (in January) AND to use our **Stewardship Campaign** as a time to increase all around stewardship growth in the congregation.

*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)

CONGRATULATIONS

To Joel & Connie Fie on the celebration of their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary! Way to go!



To Ken Peterson, who received a Quilt of Valor for his service in the military

RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:

TURN IN  
YOUR ARTICLES  
EARLY!

RE M I N D E R :

DEADLINE FOR  
NEWSLETTER  
ARTICLES IS

Jan 21, 2016

Family of Christ	
Pastor	John Gosswein
<b>Church Council</b>	
<u>President</u>	Mike DeBoer
<u>Vice President</u>	Lanny Johnson
<u>Secretary</u>	Chris Denton
<u>Treasurer</u>	Peggy Nelson
<u>Financial Secretary</u>	Jane David
<u>Members at Large</u>	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
Web Resources	Joni Weed
Youth Group	Deb Middleton
<u>Ministries Coordinator</u>	Barbara Laursen
<u>Publication Secretary</u>	Maury May
Stewardship	
Mutual Ministries	Vickie Schaepler
Worship	Iola Fougeron



A.J. Il Fie	01/02
Jana Anderson	01/07
Samuel Cary	01/09
Nancy DeBoer	01/09
Natalie Laughlin	01/09
Camden Zulkoski	01/13
Jacob Keel	01/14
Jolene Bartling	01/15
Susan Grove	01/15
John Marsh	01/16
Carol Dannels	01/17
Henry Denton	01/17
Andrew Fie	01/17
Jane Behrhorst	01/18
Amanda Cernik	01/18
Derv Barner	01/19
Steve Duennerman	01/19
Kegan Fiese	01/23
Zander Fiese	01/23
Ashley Salinas	01/24
Ken Smith	01/24
Paul Bartels	01/25
Kyle Brill	01/26
Dorthea Dieken	01/26
Chris Hove	01/28
Aaron Fiscus	01/30
Brent Anderson	01/31



Rick & Judy Tschirren	01/21
Darrel & Joyce Albers	01/29



## ANNUAL BLESSING OF HOMES

Saturday, January 16

This is the season we remember the Wise Men coming to visit Jesus in his home. It has been a tradition from ages past to offer house blessings during the Epiphany season, asking God to use our hospitality in our homes as welcoming of His presence.

Our tradition is to offer a small moment of blessing, particularly to those who have moved into new dwellings or done some extensive work on their homes over this past year. If you are interested in having a simple blessing on your home on January 16 (weather permitting), call the church office or sign up in the church entry area.

## Oct 11<sup>th</sup> WELCA Minutes

A seasonal soup and sandwich luncheon was enjoyed by the few of us present. Though our attendance was low, we ended up with an unexpected purpose. Kandy Pflaster, former Synodical Welca President, was in Kearney and attended our church service. Kandy also accepted our invitation for lunch. In hindsight, Kandy was experiencing a difficult time with the changes in her personal and church life. Kandy's FOC sisters listened and joined her in prayer for healing and a forgiven/renewed mindset to trust God to help her family and show her how to serve the church/Welca in the future. God be praised!

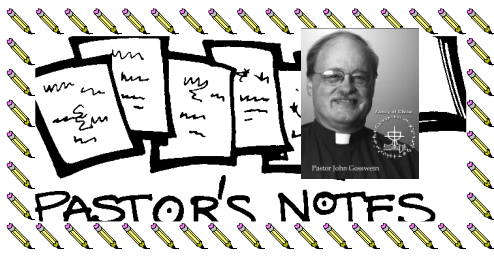
Next, in September, Lois Adamson, Barbara Laursen, and Judy Gosswein attended the Synodical Conference at 1<sup>st</sup> Lutheran in Lincoln, NE. Lois was our delegate and shared her delights and responsibilities in the business/decision making portions of the convention. The election results were shared, resulting in a new Synodical President, new board members, and new delegates to the next Triennial in Minnesota. Barbara and Judy supported Lois with comments and enjoyments of their own. Lois was grateful for the experience of being a delegate to the 2015 Welca Synodical Convention.

For an update on leadership changes, Elizabeth declined the invitation to be the Coordinator for 2016. Lois Adamson agreed to remain our Coordinator for one more year. Though Barbara Laursen has become the Volunteer Coordinator for FOC, she is still willing to be our Treasurer. Judy Gosswein is continuing on as Secretary. A Co-Coordinator should be added. However, the group could vote to accept the 3 leaders (4 leaders may be too many to sustain in a small congregation).



The next FOC Welca luncheon is January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016, after the 11:00 a.m. Sunday service.

Submitted by Judy Gosswein,  
FOC Welca Secretary



## Resolved: I am a child of God

You probably have already set out some resolutions for the new year, and maybe have even broken some. The word *resolution*, while having one sense of *determination* also has another root in *building a case from basic components*. Think back to mathematics, where one *resolved* a puzzle from various specifics. With that understanding, I suggest (and I've suggested it before-last year!) that we base our new year's resolutions on a simple but profound exercise – remembering *whose we are, and what how we are called to live*, before we try changing other habits and diets. The simple and profound idea was suggested by Pastor David Lose (whom I've quoted before).

“Once every day – and it will be easier if it's the same time each day – look in the mirror and say the following: **“I am God's child, deserving of love and respect, and God will use me to change the world.”**

From his experience (and mine, too) “these words are actually rather hard to say and even harder to believe. That why we need to do it every day for the rest of the month. Because the first few time you say it, you're likely not to believe it; that is, all those descriptive things about you...will begin to creep in and voice doubts about what you are confessing.” Some of those negative messages will be like these: “You, a child of God? But what about your failed job or marriage? What about when you disappointed your parents or children? Yeah, maybe God loves you, but you don't really deserve that love, and you're not in a position to change yourself, let alone the world.”

The thing is, all these messages are partially true: we have made mistakes, disappointed the world and ourselves. But what the Christmas message of St. John (read chapter 1 of the Gospel, and all of the letter called 1 John) says is *definitively true* is that Jesus gives each one of us the **“power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.”** And nothing can change that.

That's good stuff – remembering who you are *by nature of God's promise* gives the energy and motivation and purpose to fulfill other *resolutions* that are worthy. It also encourages us to consider our living in light of God's will *for us* and *through us*.

By the way, elsewhere in this newsletter are a list of opportunities for you to grow in your appreciation as a child of God, and your use of spiritual gifts in the world.

God bless you in your new year's resolutions!  
Pr. John

**“I am God's child,  
deserving of love and respect,  
and God will use me  
to change the world.”**

## 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.



Family  
of  
Christ  
Lutheran

JANUARY 31st

It is not a tradition! For the last three years we’ve had gatherings in January at the **Harmon Park activity center** as **ONE congregation in ONE worship service**. Remember? We met at the Center on that Sunday morning, with a worship experience gathered around the tables, conversation and breakfast.

So. Let’s do it again! On **JANUARY 31st, Sunday morning at 10 a.m.** – plan to be at the same Activity Center. We will be **canceling our Saturday evening and early Sunday (8:30) services that weekend** so we

can be ONE church that day. This gives us opportunity to see each other across the services (after all, we are *not* three churches!), fellowship and worship together celebrate the life we shared together in 2015 prayerfully plan towards our next year of activities.

Yes, this will be our annual meeting time, too. But, don’t fret! We’re planning that this need not be dreary discussion, but an exuberant opportunity to rejoice in what God is calling us to be – *Family of Christ*.

You may want to have more time to *fruitfully discuss some of the agenda issues of the 2015 year – budget, building and elections?* To that end, we invite you to come to the **Adult forum on January 24th** (the week before), where we can have more in-depth discussion of budget, elections and business. Again, don’t fret! All items will be on the floor on the 31st – but the council thought we could have good preparatory conversation that week before – and give us time to pray wisely before we gather on the 31st.

***It sounds like food is in order for the 31<sup>st</sup> ! Is there anything we should bring?***

Yes! We’ll provide the dinner settings, drinks and the chicken: we ask you to bring side dishes and/or desserts.

It looks to be another neat and wonderful opportunity to share together, work together, and be *Family of Christ!*

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

No, this isn’t a call for rehearsals for next year! But, thanks to Clint Brill, we have DVD’s available of the program from December 20<sup>th</sup>. If you would like a copy, why not call (236-7704) or send an email to [familyofchristkearney@gmail.com](mailto:familyofchristkearney@gmail.com). Thanks, Clint!

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.*

CONDOLENCES

To the family and friends of Rod Keup, who died just after Christmas. His funeral was on December 30<sup>th</sup>.

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1319 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Kearney, NE 68845

Returned Service Requested

Worship Workers for January 2016

Jan. 2-3-16	Communion Prep	Communion Asst.	Worship Asst.	Lector	Acolyte Volunteer	Counter
Sat. 6pm	Bryan Sall	Joyce Albers	Joyce Albers	Joyce Albers	Volunteer	
Sun.8:30am	Iola Fougeron	Jane David	Jane David	Jane David	Volunteer	
Sun.11am Jan.9-10-16	Lois Adamson	Lois Adamson	Layne Knoedler	Mitzi Gifford	Volunteer	Lois Adamson
Sat. 6pm	Bryan Sall	Kelly Hauff	Worship Asst.	Lector	Acolyte Volunteer	Counter
Sun.8:30am	Iola Fougeron	Cheryl Hedstrom	Kelly Hauf	Dan Kossmann	Volunteer	
Sun.11am Jan. 16-17	Sue Sands-Buss	Deb Middleton	Jane David	Cheryl Hedstrom	Volunteer	
Sat.6pm	Bryan Sall	Ken Peterson	Barbara Sitzman	Barbara Sitzman	Volunteer	?
Sun.8:30pm	Iola Fougeron	Linda Petersen	Worship Asst.	Lector	Acolyte Volunteer	Counter
Sun.11am Jan.23-24-16	Sue Sands-Buss	Nancy DeBoer	Kelly Hauff	Laura Buehner	Volunteer	
Sat.6pm	Bryan Sall	Jennifer Kotschwar	Jane David	Linda Petersen	Volunteer	
Sun.8:30am	Iola Fougeron	Jane David	Harold Laursen	Nancy DeBoer	Volunteer	Rod&Jane Behrhorst
Sun.11am Jan. 31	Barbara Bower	Gayle Miller	Worship Asst	Lector	Acolyte Volunteer	Counter
			Joyce Albers	Joyce Albers	Volunteer	
			Jane David	Vicki Schaepler	Volunteer	
			Layne Knoedler	Tami Frye	Volunteer	Layne Knoedler
			Worship Service at Harmon Park - Annual Meeting-all Worship Workers Volunteer!!			






**Women's Quarterly Gathering**  
Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, at FOC  
Come down after 11 a.m. worship @12:10

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUR DISCIPLESHIP GROWTH**

(This list is by no means complete ... but maybe you would like to consider trying one of these adventures!)

 **BROWN BAG BOOK BUNCH** The Book Bunch meets on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays over lunch (12-12:45) in the church basement. They are just starting *Celebration of Discipline* by Richard Foster – reading the first 4 chapters for **January 13<sup>th</sup>**. Copies are available at the church. Come join us!  
**WEDNESDAY WEEDERS** This faithful group meets almost every Wednesday, gathering at 9 a.m., and then breaking at 10:30 for coffee, fellowship and prayers. Yes, they are ‘weeder’s’ during the appropriate season, but they have so many other ‘hands on’ tasks they enjoy doing around the church – and taking an excursion once in a while. Consider just dropping in to see what they are about!

**WOODWORKING CLUSTER** O.K., we haven’t come up with a snappy name...but we’ve got several people interested in an idea and desire that Gayle Miller has developed. He has (and needs) old lumber that he turns into toys – cute toys to give away. He would love to let this ministry mature – if you may be interested, contact the church office or call Gayle directly! (402)376-5621.

**EXODUS BIBLE STUDY** will be resuming on Thursday evenings in the new year. We meet in the sanctuary from 7 to 8 p.m. (many times sharing a snack after our discussion and prayer), and are, as the name implies, currently in the second book of the Bible. What will we do when we finish Exodus??

**HOLE IN THE ROOF** Men meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays at the church at 8a.m. with a mission to lend a hand with projects for those in need or things needing repair around church. Sunday Scripture is often discussed. Sometimes we work with Habitat for Humanity.

**COMFORT CARE GROUP** meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat. of the month to make handmade blankets for those who are sick or in need of comfort.

**WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY** meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Mon. of the month at 7-8 pm at the church. WELCA meets quarterly after a Sunday Service for a luncheon.

**Family of Christ Council Meeting Minutes....December 15, 2015**

The church council meeting 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.

The council approved purchasing a CD: Grand Fixed rate – 2 years.

**Pastor Report:**The Inquirer’s Group recently completed a study and we anticipate welcoming some new members to worship with us in the near future!

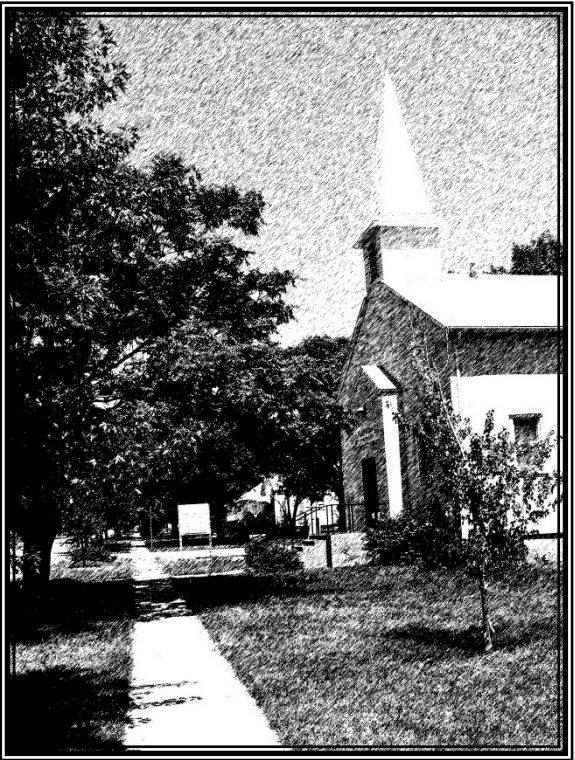
**Ministries Coordinator report:**Barb is updating addresses in the Icon Program.

**New Business:**The Budget Committee recommends revisiting the budget once per quarter and all were in agreement with this recommendation. This quarterly information will be shared with the congregation. The information may be shared with seasonal activities (Easter, VBS, Christmas, etc.) to increase awareness of the importance of stewardship for the ministries of the church.

The next congregational meeting will occur on 01/31/2016 at 10:00 in the Harmon Park Recreation Center.

**Old Business:**Regarding the construction of the new church – Pastor John will be communicating with Stewardship Key Leaders (SKL) regarding the capital campaign and the current financials at Family of Christ. The Council Meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Chris Denton



**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)

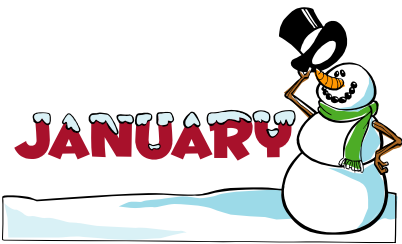
**WORSHIP SERVICES:**

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

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

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Issue 1

# All in The Family



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