



November 2015



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday Disciples 11:00am Worship	2	3	4 9:00am Wed Weeders 5:30pm Confirmation 7:30pm Choir	5 7:00pm Bible study	6	7 6:00pm Worship
8 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday Disciples 11:00am Worship	9 9:30am Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Women's Bible Study	10 7:00pm Council Meeting	11 9:00am Wed Weeders 12:00pm Book Bunch 5:30pm Confirmation 7:30pm Choir	12 7:00pm Bible study	13	14 8:00am Hole in Roof Gang Habitat Meal 9:00am Comfort Care 6:00pm Worship
15 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday Disciples 11:00am Worship	16	17	18 9:00am Wed Weeders 5:30pm Confirmation 7:30pm Choir	19 7:00pm Bible study	20	21 6:00pm Worship
22 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday Disciples 11:00am Worship	23	24	25 9:00am Wed Weeders 12:00pm Book Bunch 7:00pm Community Thanksgiving (First Lutheran)	26 	27	28 8:00am Hole in Roof Gang Habitat Meal 9:00am Comfort Care 6:00pm Worship
29 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday Disciples 11:00am Worship	30					

BUILDING UPDATE #3

Where are we at in the building process on the land at 15th and M? In this month's update, Everything else in this list is where we were last month; in the meantime, 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**. 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.

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)*

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 agency we would borrow from (for at least a 10 year loan) is *Mission Investment Fund*. Jane David ***could definitely use willing assistants***, volunteers from the congregation to pull together information for the study which 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. In addition, we are using the Adult Forum on Sunday morning to study the *history of church buildings: why did church architecture develop into various styles?* *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

Nov 23, 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



November Birthday's

Bethany Krull	11/01
Aimee Knoedler	11/01
Sarah Zulkoski	11/03
Cheryl Hedstrom	11/04
Bryan Sall	11/06
Reiley Wieland	11/06
Brad Anderson	11/07
Tyson Klingelhofer	11/07
Gary Sitzman	11/08
Sharon Duennerman	11/09
Rachel Reimers	11/09
Tom Hedstrom	11/09
Donna Montgomery	11/10
Dietrich Wagner	11/12
Trudy Kotschwar	11/12
Jacob Wagner	11/13
Seth Brandt	11/18
Judy Gosswein	11/18
Kali Linner	11/18
Audrie Anderson	11/18
Linda Peterson	11/19
Paul Wagner	11/19
Kormick Linner	11/21
Sue Sands-Buss	11/21
Randy Skiles	11/26
Katie Nelson	11/29
Dave George	11/30



November Aniversaries

Bryan & Candy Kuntz	11/12
Dave & Susan Grove	11/27
Stasha & Jake Shields	11/27

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

November 1 , 2015

Do you have a loved one who has died that you wish to remember in our listing of ‘all saints’? All Saints Sunday is a time to reflect on those whose lives have impacted us with the gifts and grace of God. More than a remembrance of those who have died, it reminds us of the ‘communion of saints’, the ongoing Body of Christ present in history and in eternity. During the service we remember those who died during this past year (from November 2014), specifically whom we remembered through our own local funerals.

You are invited to add the names of any persons significant to you through family or friendship. Send us and email or call the church office before November 1st. Please spell their name.

NOISY OFFERING

For the next two months, our *Noisy Offering* will be supporting *Team-Mates* – the mentoring program founded in Nebraska by Tom and Nancy Osborne in 1991, supporting and encouraging school aged youth. Bryan Kuntz explains in a video interview: *The goal of the program is to see youth graduate from high school and pursue post-secondary education. To reach this goal, youth meet one hour per week with a caring adult who serves as a mentor. Mentors are volunteers from the community who have dedicated themselves to making a difference in the life of a young person. The TeamMates Mentoring Program currently provides a mentor for over 7,000 youth across Nebraska, Iowa, as well as California.*

Kearney has a very strong program but as always, there are unmet needs. There are a few ways you can get involved if interested.

1. *Volunteer to mentor a young person for one hour a week.*
2. *Register to walk in the TeamMates one hour walk fundraiser coming up in October.*
3. *Contribute to the noisy offering in October and the church will designate those funds to the local TeamMates program.*

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Wednesday, November 25th –

First Lutheran Church

Worship at 7 p.m.

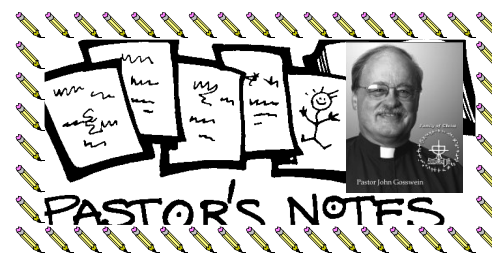
Combined choir rehearsal at 6 p.m.

What can you bring? Our offering will be canned or boxed items that we can give to the Jubilee Center (along with any monetary gifts!).

You can also bring a pie! We’ll have a fellowship afterwards, and all extra pies will go to the community thanksgiving dinner on Thursday.

PASTORAL SERMON REMORSE

There are times that I’m driving home from church services and have fleeting thoughts and doubts about what I preached that day. Did you know that pastors do that? We do have our regrets and wonderings, particularly how people hear various statements.



Consider what I said on October 25th ... here are the comments from my notes:

Remember when I shared, from my Tanzania conversations, how we Americans don’t perceive as much ‘miracle’ and healing as they seem to in their worship services and prayers? The Tanzanian said, **“You Americans just don’t need Jesus as much. You have everything you need.”**

At first that bothered me, but as I explored it, I have come to recognize a germ of truth – perhaps we do become *blind* in our own self sufficiency and safety nets. Maybe more *voyeurs* of what Jesus is about rather than disciple?

- We don’t exactly have parents clamoring to get their children into Sunday school, or adults crying out to belong to Bible study.
- Our sanctuary isn’t necessarily filled to the brim
- We do get rather lax in our gifts and donations.
- I don’t have people zealously seeking to teach confirmation SS.
- Or having time to serve in Habitat, Jubilee and other service programs
- Do we find that our calendars and day planners become just congested enough that any ‘Jesus parade’ is something we’d prefer to see on the evening news? Does devotional time get shoved to the side?

And if Jesus were to ask “what do you want me to do for you?” – we’d probably say “don’t put yourself out, Jesus. We’ve got it covered.”

O.k. My ‘second thoughts’ were that I came off a little harsh. My intent wasn’t to call the congregation lazy; we have truly ‘stepped to the plate’ every time there has been a need. Nor was it to motivate through guilt; we do want people to volunteer out of joy in service and opportunity to grow in faith.

At the same time, I do see people overwhelmed by conflicting obligations, pressures of schedule, stress of limited personal and family time. Couple this with our media connected/disconnectedness, we have more time to *watch* Jesus and less time to be *disciples of Jesus*.

So, I thank you for those times you’ve taken the *risk of discipleship*, and seen participation in your ‘life in Christ’ as more than watching a passing Jesus parade – but jumped into the path with Bartimaeus (Mark 10 – the subject of that sermon). With a rousing “Jesus, have mercy!!”, you risked *giving more, taking more time to learn and worship and grow and share*. And there have been numerous occasions that I have witnessed that faith in action.

And thanks for faithful listening to sermons.

On the bright side – two people, following the service, *risked* asking about how they could help lead the Sunday confirmation students.

Wow. Thanks, Lord!

Have joy in Christ!

Pastor John

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.

ALL SAINTS!

While we have our reading of the names of those who died during this past year, there is still time to place the name of a loved one on our All Saints Litany (read during the prayers at the services). **You may send the name of a family member or friend who died – not necessarily during this past year – to this email address by Saturday, noon.**

THE WEDNESDAY WEEDERS

We will once again be having a raffle for 3 DECORATED FALL BASKETS. This year the baskets will include a ‘one of a kind’ set of four themed place mats designed by Arleta Engleman. The monies raised will be used to help purchase a sculpture to be placed in a prayer garden. Tickets are \$1 each or 5 for \$3. Thank you for your support!!

SUNDAY MORNING DISCIPLES

Adult forum will be 5th of a series on building churches through the ages – focus on various aspects of church architecture, the theology represented, and opportunity for discussion in our building plans. High School group will meet as usual. The rest of the students from 4 yrs. – Confirmation will begin practice for the Christmas Program.

2015 CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
“Star of Love” practice begins November 1st.

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“Star of Love” practice begins November 1st.

To Ben Middleton (and Amy) on the birth of a baby boy on Oct 27th. Name: hmm, Sparkles is the name Ben's giving out ;).

- To Laura Buehner, on the death of her father, Pr. Harold Gronstal
- To Randy Sawyer, on the death of his wife, Jan
- To Stacia Zimmerman, on the death of her husband Justin

2015 International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day
Saturday November 21, 2015 10:30am-3:00pm
First Baptist Church North Campus 1617 West 39th St
Kearney, NE

Wednesday (2nd and 4th) at 12 noon – The *Brown Bag Book Bunch* is preparing for their next book adventure, and you can join in the choosing. We'll be finishing *Team Of Rivals* this month...and it's never too late to be part of the engaging discussion.

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

Returned Service Requested

Worship Workers for October 2015

Nov. 7-8	Communion Prep	Communion Asst.	Worship Asst.	Lector	Acolyte	Counter	Greeters
Sat. 6pm	Bryan Sall	Kelly Hauff	Kelly Hauff	Kelly Hauff			
Sun.8:30am	Iola Fougeron	Jane David	Jane David	Linda Peterson	Avery Collison		
Nov.14-15	Communion Prep	Communion Asst.	Worship Asst.	Lector	Acolyte	Counter	Greeters
Sat.6pm	Bryan Sall	Ken Petersen	Joyce Albers	Don Kossmann	Kathryn Reynolds		
Sun.8:30am	Barb Bowers	Cheryl Hedstrom	Jane David	Vickie Schaepler	Bryan Fahnholz		Tom & Cheryl Hedstrom
Sun.11am	Sue Sands/Buss	Nona Svoboda	Barbara Sitzman	Connie Fie	Dominique White	Rod & Jane Behrhorst	Dave & Lorma Wiebe
Nov. 21-22	Communion Prep	Communion Asst.	Worship Asst.	Lector	Acolyte	Counter	Greeters
Sat.6pm	Bryan Sall	Kelly Hauff	Kelly Hauff	Kelly Hauff	Kormick Linner		
Sun. 8:30am	Iola Fougeron	Linda Peterson	Jane David	Linda Peterson	Sydney Peterson		
Sun. 11am	Sue Sands/Buss	Barb Laursen	Harold Laursen	Jantha Jamision	Mackinzie Krull		Dave & Lorma Wiebe
Nov. 28-29	Communion Prep	Communion Asst.	Worship Asst.	Lector	Acolyte	Counter	Greeters
Sat. 6pm	Bryan Sall	Joyce Albers	Joyce Albers	Joyce Albers			
Sun. 8:30am	Iola Fougeron	Jane David	Jane David	Jane David	Brooke Anderson		Tom & Cheryl Hedstrom
Sun.11am	Sue Sands/Buss	Nancy DeBoer	Barb Laursen	Nancy DeBoar	Sam Reimers	Layne Knoedler	Dave & Lorma Wiebe

CHURCH COUNCIL

Family of Christ Council Meeting Minutes....October 13, 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.

Pastor Report:

Barb Laursen will be stepping into the role of Ministries Coordinator and Joni Weed will be setting up and maintaining social media and other electronics at FoC.

Pastor John will be attending a theological conference from 10/19/15 – 10/21/15.

Pastor John requested a vacation weekend in November 11/21/15 - 11/22/15. The council approved this request.

Ministries Coordinator report:

No report at this time.

New Business:

Peggy Nelson has been nominated and approved to fulfill Ron Sanchez's term as Treasurer for the FoC church council.

A nominating committee (consisting of 4 members) needs to be appointed to elect members for the church council. A budget committee (consisting of 3-4 members) needs to be appointed to work through the church budget. These appointments should occur by 11/10/2015.

Old Business:

Pastor John will drive the church car to Axtell when not transporting confirmation students. The car has been sitting and needs to hit the open road!

The Education Committee continues to try some combined breakfast experiences for Sunday time, in conjunction with regular Sunday school programing on most weeks.

The church council needs to secure the services of Mission Builders with a \$500.00 fee.

The Stewardship Key Leaders will need to be contacted for their contract.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

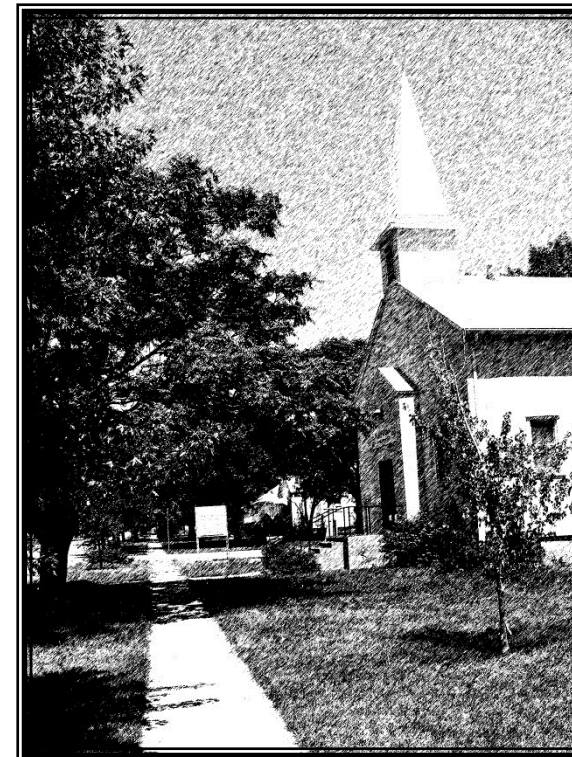
INQUIRER'S SESSIONS

are offered each 6 months – 4 gatherings around a dinner – to talk about faith, our beliefs, the church, church life and disciples' lives. This is also the opportunity to learn about Family of Christ and consider joining with us in discipleship. We meet at 6 p.m. around a supper, and finish our discussions by 8 p.m. If you are interested, give a call to the church. (By the way, we can make child care available – just give us a call: 236-7704).

First session: Sunday, November 15th, 6 p.m.

BLESSING OF THE ARK ANIMALS

From our October *Breakfast Bible Experience*, we are STILL taking pictures of our pets for the ARK that is on the basement wall! **SEND** your pictures of your PETS together; **send us pictures of your pets - email, Facebook or Instagram.** You can even send pictures from your phone to 308-293-5201 **and we'll add them to the ark.** We had a brief blessing, but will have a blessing later during the **November 14/15** regular worship services - and put all those pets on the screen, too.



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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All in The Family



STARS OF LOVE... is the title of our **2015 Christmas Program!** 4 year old student through Confirmation students are to participate. Our

high school students are also invited to create a video for our program. **The Sunday practices begin during the Disciples of Christ hour, 9:45 - 10:45, on November 1st and will continue each Sunday until the program on December 20th.** Each year we tell the wonderful story of Christ coming into our troubled world. God has provided the backdrop of stars to bring light into the darkness, a Savior whose boundless love stays close beside us each and every day.

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