



**Family of Christ Church Council Minutes  
April 12, 2016**

Present: Pastor John, Cheryl Hedstrom, Peggy Nelson; Lanny Johnson; John Marsh, Lance Knoedler, Connie Fie. Absent: Chris Denton

The meeting was called to order by President Cheryl Hedstrom and devotions by Pastor John with the reading of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm from *The Message*.

March minutes were approved with corrections. (Lanny/John).

The Financial Report was reviewed and approved. The car sold for \$4100 and the money was deposited in general funds. Lanny suggested the funds from the sale be put in a designated fund for tracking purposes. PJ noted the capital campaign expenditures are close to \$10,000 including Pastor Meier's transportation and publishing of materials. Peggy also noted Shannon had not been paid in November. Motion was made (John/Lanny) to pay the November bill.

**Pastor John's Report.**

PJ will be attending the Boundaries workshop in Lincoln Friday, April 22. He has finalized the Michigan trip for Mosaic from May 22 with a return on May 29. Rachel from Campus Lutheran will cover the weekend services in his absence.

An information pamphlet on the Youth trip to the Voyageurs Canoe boundary waters canoe trip with St. Luke's youth from August 5 to August 13 was given.

Discussion on the format of the commitment cards for the capital campaign was held. Lanny noted he had been asked if the cards were just for the capital campaign or could parishioners use it for general stewardship. It was proposed to have categories printed on envelopes with the FOC logo and a numbering system to indicate family household, Categories for giving will be Capital Campaign; general; other. Simply Giving was also discussed as an option members can use.

Volunteer coordinator report was distributed. Barb reported she spent a lot of time on the Capital campaign and other information needed for the Campaign.

Cheryl asked if a stewardship committee needed to be set up after the Capital Campaign. Pastor John noted a couple of the members on Capital Campaign have a desire to serve on stewardship.

PJ received an e-mail from Mission Builders concerning the tentative 2017 date. The representative will be coming through Kearney May 5. Information was passed on to Lanny.

A new inquirers' group will begin April 24 with 6 p.m. dinner.

Lance reported he needs to find a source for determination of the van's value. PJ suggested contacting Rod Behrhorst who might be able to give a value.

Discussion on activities suggested to promote more involvement of young people in the church was held. PJ noted space constraints have been a factor and possibly rental of a facility may be an option. Motion was made (John/Lanny) to adjourn. Meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Fie  
Recording Secretary

**CONGRATULATIONS**

May be in order for some graduating either college or high school this year. Contact the church so we can make sure they are listed in May! (BTW, this could also include those who may have graduated in December, and we haven't acknowledged.)

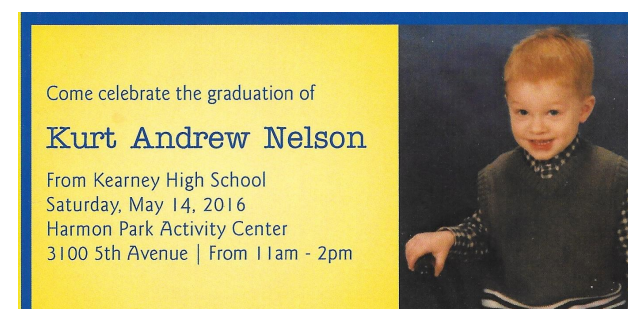
**HOLE-IN-THE-ROOF GANG**

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.

**CONTINUED PRAYERS**

for **Lupe Carranza**, at Madonna Rehabilitation in Lincoln  
**CONDOLENCES**

To Deb Middleton at the sudden accidental death of her sister *Becky* in Idaho.



**RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:**

**TURN IN  
YOUR ARTICLES  
EARLY!**

**R E M I N D E R :**  
**DEADLINE FOR  
NEWSLETTER  
ARTICLES IS**

**May 23, 2016**

Family of Christ	
Pastor	John Gosswain
<b>Church Council</b>	
<u>President</u>	Cheryl Hedstrom
<u>Vice President</u>	Lanny Johnson
<u>Secretary</u>	Connie Fie
<u>Treasurer</u>	Peggy Nelson
<u>Financial Secretary</u>	Jane David
<u>Members at Large</u>	Chris Denton John Marsh Lance Knoedler
<b>Committee Chairs</b>	
Education	Judy Gosswain
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	
Worship	Iola Fougeron



**CONGRATULATIONS** to our 2016 high school graduates

Kurt Nelson  
Erika Anderson +  
Sam Carey (*now in Holdrege*)

From College: we know that **Anna Nelson and Rachel Buss** will be moving on from UNK to further academic pursuits.

And **Brett Schaepler** graduates from the Pharmacy program at University of Nebraska Medical Center! Way to go!

{Did we miss any? Let us know about any graduations this season!}

*Interested in joining the church?  
Or learning more about your faith life and walk?*  
**INQUIRER'S SESSIONS**

Will be starting early in May. They are offered each 6 months – with gatherings around a dinner, conversation about faith, our beliefs, the church, church life and disciples' lives. 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, May 1st 6 p.m.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL .. June 20 -23, 6:00 – 8:30p.m. with kids' meal 5:30 – 6:00p.m.**  
Family of Christ is the host church this year. Judy Gosswein (FOC), Libby Clark (St.Lukes) and Julie Tye (First Presbyterian) are planning our 2016 VBS. Yes, we have a third Kearney congregation joining us! We are asking our station leaders and assistants to meet together at Family of Christ on Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30a.m. Last year we enjoyed crossing over into Thailand. This year we have ordered the *Cross Culture VBS, NORWAY!* The online registration option will soon be available for parents to use. Paper-registration forms are available in the church office.



- 5/02 Candy Kuntz
- 5/02 Julian Laursen
- 5/03 Isabella Sanchez
- 5/05 Erica Keel
- 5/07 Lanny Johnson
- 5/10 Joyce Albers
- 5/12 Jacob Einspahr
- 5/12 Kathy Glause
- 5/12 Tammy Lindeman
- 5/12 Stephanie Duennerman
- 5/15 Patty Reifenrath
- 5/18 Deb Wagner
- 5/19 Brandon Wagner
- 5/20 Jerry Milligan
- 5/21 Molly George
- 5/23 Nicole Carey
- 5/23 Kelsey Frye
- 5/25 Lou Carranza
- 5/26 Jane David
- 5/26 Amy Fahnholz
- 5/31 Cindy Grabenstein



- 5/1 Sam & Jami Wulf
- 5/6 Ron & Elaine Anderson
- 5/10 Charles & Vickie Schaepler
- 5/13 Lance & Amy Knoedler
- 5/14 Barbara & Gary Sitzman
- 5/15 Micheal & Julie Tveit
- 5/24 Randy & Nancy Straatmann
- 5/30 Charles & Amy Wolfe

Notably, after that congregational meeting several things happened: our congregational giving increased; we have held a commitment stewardship event for the first time in years; we have begun speaking *more specifically* about what costs are involved in certain programs to encourage greater responsibility. *For example:* we certainly are affording Vacation Bible School! June 20-23<sup>rd</sup> is when we host it, with St. Luke's Episcopal and First Presbyterian; what was presented in our budget was a realistic look at how much it costs for a VBS program – and an invitation for stronger support.

One thing I have learned in my ministry (sometimes through my neglect) – if *we don't talk about the need and pray about the opportunity*, it won't be accomplished.

**Are we losing members because our current outreach focus is on money for a new building?  
*Not to my awareness!***

I know some are (patiently) aware how a capital campaign can have lots of information (letters, conversation, focus during worship) within this short span of time; we will be finishing in May. I do hope, and pray, that all of us realize we are seeking God's guidance *together*, not attempting to lay 'guilt' on any one, but calling *all of us* to consider our responsibilities in discipleship together. As should be evident through the temple talks and the material shared, we are discussing our *total stewardship* while we consider and ask God's guidance on facility questions. I truly appreciate our capital campaign team for keeping the conversation to our *total stewardship* as Family of Christ.

**Are the people on the southeast side of Kearney (whom we invited in our canvass last spring) willing to come to FOC in its current location?** Yes. But how much of an invitation have they received?

We had a well-received canvass of the SE side of Kearney, which helped our volunteers hear and see some of the community. Well-received: each household was very interested in *our church being in their neighborhood*. There were also *many* households who were *unchurched* – and we know that one invitation isn't necessarily going to 'persuade' them. Hmm, maybe we should consider how we can invite families for this year's VBS?

**Do we need patience and planning with long term goals?** Absolutely. The capital campaign is a step forward, with many prayerful steps to follow.

**Will Pr. John be disheartened if we don't build during his tenure as pastor?** No!!

I am pastor of *Family of Christ* – a people gathered together by the Holy Spirit to represent the larger Body of Christ in the world. It's the *building* of that Body, not a *building*, that is focus of my ministry. **Yes**, I would love for us to be able to move beyond the limitations of our current facility; I personally think we have allowed our current facility (a lovely and holy space) to limit our mission; we should be asking the Spirit's creative guidance to open our eyes to the Christ ministry we can do, rather than be complacent, confined, or limited.

Grace and peace!  
Pr. John

**FOR THE BIRDS...**

**Thanks** to Bob and Gayle for putting together such a neat idea ... wren houses for each family! We had a beautiful event for all ages on Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup>.



Jesus taught us 'why worry? Consider the birds of the air; seek first the kingdom of God!' After that, everyone got to assemble and decorate the bird houses. It was delightful!





## Our Family in Christ: Growing and Building in

COMMITMENT CELEBRATION  
WEEKEND:  
May 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>

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

NON-PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Grand Island, Ne  
Permit 118

Returned Service Requested

WONDERFUL! THRILLING!

On the weekend of April 16/17, 43 pledges, totaling \$290,000 were made for our congregation's *Growing and Building in Faith*.

This week, letters have been sent to households not present, offering opportunity for additional pledges to be made. We need \$300,000 more in pledges to go over our goal of \$600,000. To reach 50% of that aggressive goal has been truly a blessing. This is a wonderful affirmation of the mission and ministry God has called us to do.

We ask all members to invite all friends to join in this effort. If you have not yet made a pledge, please use a card from the pew or obtain a card from an usher or at the church office. With full participation, we can reach the goal of \$600,000!

Giving to the *Growing and Building in Faith* can begin in May. You will receive special offering envelopes for your gifts to **Our Family in Christ; Growing and Building in Faith**. For those who choose to use the *Simply Giving* automated withdrawal program, we will give explanation on how you may enroll and adjust it.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

### Pastor Pen: Capital Questions

First, allow me to express thanks to God for our Family of Christ willingness to prayerfully enter into our capital campaign *Our Family in Christ: Growing and Building in Faith*. The initial weeks of response (and there is still time to join in!) is recorded elsewhere in this newsletter. In the meantime, the campaign has elicited some questions that deserve honest reflection. I know that my answers can sometimes be too long.. ;) .., so I will try to be brief, and then elaborate!

**Does a new building define our faith?** *No.*

To quote a pastor friend of mine, "It's not the building, it's the building; it's not the *noun*, it's the *verb*." That's a great line – expressing that we don't want to be centrally focused on bricks and mortar *building*; rather, we use this whole moment in our prayerful deliberation to *build* an awareness of how Jesus is calling us to minister. Our ministry together is better defined by our *name* – *Family of Christ* than a structure.

**Should we consider prayerful focus on our current mission, with the trust that the money will come for any building?** *We need prayerful and challenging focus on our stewardship for our mission, and for decision to build.*

**Will the general needs of our church be met as money is pledged to the building?** *Yes. We anticipate even better meeting of needs as people recognize we need stewardship for present and future.*

**What happens to the money pledged and gathered if we decide we cannot build at this time?** *All monies donated will be placed in a restricted fund for future building purposes.*

**Can we afford to build a church if we can't afford Vacation Bible School?** *We can and are affording VBS!*

We have needed to have stewardship conversation among ourselves for quite some time. It is easy to become complacent, individually and as a congregation. Our budget conversations at the annual meeting in January were making a point that we had allowed our giving and our ministry to become static; we *had not been asking ourselves to support, sustain and adapt our ministries*, but merely allowing things to 'happen as they had before'. We needed to *ask and involve* the congregation in the ministry we all do.

## Worship Workers for May 2016

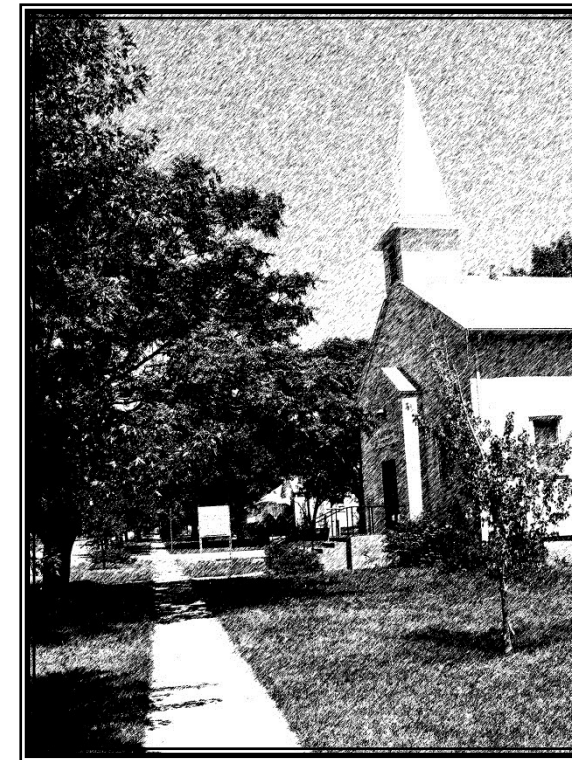
Sun. 8:30am	Fougerons	Marshall Nelson	Jane David	Vickie Schaepler		
Sun. 11am	Lois Adamson	Lois Adamson	Barbara Sitzman	Connie Fie	Lois Adamson	Lois Adamson & Peg Buettner
May 7&8	Communion Prep	Communion Asst.	Worship Asst.	Lector	Counter	Greeters
Sat. 6pm	Byran Sall	Joni Weed	Kelly Hauff	Dan Kossman		Joni Weed
Sun. 8:30am	Fougerons	Linda Peterson	Jane David	Linda Peterson		
Sun. 11am	Sue Sands-Buss	Deb Middleton	Barb Laursen	Mitzi Gifford	Layne Knoedler	Bob & Cindy Gra-benstein
May 14&15	Communion Prep	Communion Asst.	Worship Asst.	Lector	Counter	Greeters
Sat. 6pm	Bryan Sall	Gary Buehner	Joyce Albers	Laura Buehner		
Sun. 8:30am	Fougerons	Jane David	Jane David	Jane David		
Sun. 11am	Sue Sands-Buss	Nancy DeBoer	Layne Knoedler	Nancy DeBoer	Rod & Jane Beh-rhorst	Mike & Nancy DeBoer
May 21&22	Communion Prep	Communion Asst.	Worship Asst.	Lector	Counter	Greeters
Sat. 6pm	Bryan Sall	Ken Petersen	Kelly Hauff	Kelly Hauff		
Sun. 8:30am	Fougerons	Cheryl Hedstrom	Jane David	Cheryl Hedstrom		
Sun. 11am	Sue Sands-Buss	Gayle Miller	Harold Laursen	Mitzi Gifford	Lois Adamson	Tom & Janet Boyd
May 28&29	Communion Prep	Communion Asst.	Worship Asst.	Lector	Counter	Greeters
Sat. 6pm	Bryan Sall	Kelly Hauff	Kelly Hauff	Joyce Albers		
Sun. 10:00am	Fougerons	Patty Reifenrath	Jane David	Ken Reifenrath	Layne Knoedler	Ken & Patty Rei-fenrath



# May 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday Disciples 11:00am Worship	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 9:00am Wed Weeders 5:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Youth 7:30pm Choir	<b>5</b> 7:00pm Bible Study	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 10:30 VBS Meeting 6:00pm Worship
<b>8</b> 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday Disciples 11:00am Worship	<b>9</b> 7:00pm Women's Bible Study	<b>10</b> 7:00pm Council Meeting	<b>11</b> 9:00am Wed Weeders 12:00pm Book Bunch 5:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Youth 7:30pm Choir	<b>12</b> 7:00pm Bible Study	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 8:00am Hole in Roof 9:00am Comforters 6:00pm Worship
<b>15</b> 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday Disciples 11:00am Worship	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 9:00am Wed Weeders 5:30pm Confirmation Family Night 7:00pm Youth 7:30pm Choir	<b>19</b> 7:00pm Bible Study	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 6:00pm Worship
<b>22</b> 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday Disciples 11:00am Worship	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 9:00am Wed Weeders 12:00pm Book Bunch 7:00pm Youth	<b>26</b> Jubilee Supper at Holy Cross 5:30pm 7:00pm Bible Study	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 8:00am Hole in Roof 6:00pm Worship
<b>29</b> 10:00am	<b>30</b> Memorial Day	<b>31</b>				



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Issue 5

## All in The Family

SWING TO SUMMER SCHEDULE  
*REMEMBER .. we change the service times from Memorial Weekend through Labor Day Weekend!*

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

But **SUNDAY MORNING** will be at **10 a.m.** during the summer Sundays!  
(We don't have Sunday School, but we'll be having the 'children's church' during the one service )  
**This year, the change occurs on May 29th**—we'll keep warning you during the May services!

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

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E-mail: [familyofchristkearney@gmail.com](mailto:familyofchristkearney@gmail.com)  
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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: Barb Laursen  
(Mon, Wed, Fri 9:30am-12:30pm)

### 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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