



July 2016



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

OUR HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR RECOGNITION

We've had a tradition of using one of our summer Sundays as a more casual forum for recognizing our high school seniors and graduates -- Our 2016 students: Kurt Nelson, Sam Carey and Erika Anderson⁺. How about July 10th as a date to recognize these students this past year, and celebrate with a cookie and lemonade reception on the front lawn?

The Brown Bag Book Bunch 2nd & 4th Wednesdays at noon

We're finishing the *Unbroken* at the June 10th 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.

HOLE-IN-THE-ROOF GANG

The guys continue meeting on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays at 8 a.m. If you know of anyone (single mom, widow, handicapped, senior) who could use some assistance with a project around the house – give a call to the church: 236-7704. The guys have been assisting with the church basement renovation, but are available for some other types of project!

NOISY OFFERING!

THE NOISY OFFERINGS through Easter will be designated to the special *Lutheran World Relief* health kits. In weeks to come we will also be gathering health items (soap, towels, etc). More details will be forthcoming for our *Baskets of Promise* Lenten offering.

RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:

TURN IN
YOUR ARTICLES
EARLY!

R E M I N D E R :

DEADLINE FOR
NEWSLETTER
ARTICLES IS

July 22, 2016

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



- | | |
|------|-------------------|
| 7/01 | Coleen Brill |
| 7/01 | Charles Schaepler |
| 7/01 | Rick Tschirren |
| 7/02 | Blaine Stewart |
| 7/06 | Peggy Riemers |
| 7/08 | Karter Bendfeldt |
| | |
| 7/09 | Clinton Brill |
| 7/12 | Riley Kishkunas |
| 7/14 | Ron Anderson |
| 7/14 | Nona Svoboda |
| 7/15 | Carley Collison |
| 7/16 | Eva Einspahr |
| 7/16 | Bob Grabenstein |
| 7/16 | Brady Kuntz |
| 7/16 | Skylar Kuntz |
| 7/17 | Dave Grove |
| 7/18 | Tessa Gifford |
| 7/20 | Myron Fougeron |
| 7/21 | Phyllis Sawyer |
| 7/23 | Luke Fisher |
| 7/23 | Julie Tveit |
| 7/25 | June Collison |
| 7/25 | Mike DeBoer |
| 7/25 | Lance Knoedler |
| 7/26 | Madison Wulf |
| 7/27 | Joel Gosswein |
| 7/27 | Gary Straatmann |
| 7/28 | Rebecca Albers |
| 7/29 | Kaylee Reimers |
| 7/29 | Paislee Fiese |
| 7/29 | Kathy Morrow |
| 7/29 | Kayden Linner |
| 7/30 | RaNae Cernik |
-
- | | |
|------|------------------------|
| 7/11 | Tom & Cheryl Hedst |
| 7/15 | Rod & Jane Behrhorst |
| 7/17 | Chris & Ashlea Denton |
| 7/18 | Chuck & Tammy Fry |
| 7/20 | Ronnie & Tammy Sanchez |
| 7/28 | Harold & Barb Laursen |



(Not just) YOUTH TRIP TO MINNESOTA BOUNDARY WATERS

Family of Christ (and St. Luke's Episcopal) youth are planning a trip to the northern Minnesota Boundary Waters. It's a phenomenal experience in God's creation, canoeing and portaging through the lakes and forests. BUT ... *it's not just for*



youth.

We can bring 16 people (altogether) to take the excursion in canoes with 2 guides – and we want to open it to any other adults for the experience.

We leave *Friday August 5th*, stay at a church overnight *Friday and Saturday in Minneapolis/St. Paul*, and arrive at *Lutheran Camp Vermillion Sunday afternoon*. They escort us into the *Boundary Waters Canoe Area Monday morning*



through *Friday noon*.

Our return trip will include an overnight stay in southern Minnesota, returning to Kearney on Saturday evening, August 13th.

\$500 pays for everything: *Voyageurs Canoe experience (outfitting and guide), travel, food (with snack and quick lunch exceptions on Friday the 5th and Saturday the 13th).*

If you are interested, talk with Pr. John quick!



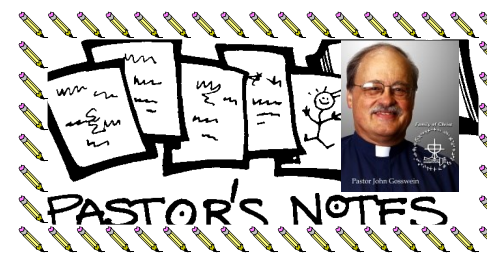
Family
of
Christ
Lutheran

1. Thanks to all who have shared commitments – we are above \$300,000 in our total 3 year promise! And we have received individual gifts that have significantly increased that figure.
2. You may still fill out a commitment card – place it in the offering or mail it to the church.

3. **Offering envelopes** for families who prepared a commitment card will be available in the entry area. *Our apologies – the envelopes have taken longer than we anticipated to print.*

4. For those who are enrolled in *Simply Giving*, you may take one of the forms in the entry area, fill it out with adjustments, and turn it in to the church office. *Anyone is welcome to enroll in Simply Giving, using the same form.*

5. Please note: All offerings designated henceforward through **building or building and land or Capital Campaign (CC)** will be gathered in a (restricted) account for the **Growing and Building in Faith**.



Several months back I engaged in another 'sticky' conversation at the jail. Several inmates wanted to know 'why should we follow Jesus? His path takes us to the bummer side of life – a cross. We would prefer the crown now rather than later in glory!' (I often find the inmates ask questions that some of us *think but don't verbalize!*).

We pursued the discussion from another direction. When I asked 'what have you been *enslaved to?*', the variety was remarkable. Naturally alcohol, drugs, relationships' came up readily, followed by money and 'getting even'. Several shared how we could be enslaved to 'good things', too. One said 'I have a child that I've given everything to, but she's becoming a brat. Her freedom makes her a little god in our house.' Our discussion then turned to how, when we become the center of our universe, and use our freedom only in selfish and self serving ways, we actually become enslaved.

The Bible understands freedom from a different perspective. We are free to be servants of God (rather than chained to other 'idolatrous' objects). That sounds contradictory; we usually assume 'freedom' to mean 'I am master of my own life and destiny, obliged to no one.'. **That sounds good, but it ain't Biblical!** Jesus invites us to (freely) become disciples of him. The Apostle Paul later 'upgrades' the word to 'servant' with the understanding that we need a direction for our freedom.

Over the summer, we will be hearing passages in worship where Jesus calls us to *discipleship*. Those banners in the front of the church have the 'disciplines' on them (they are there for you to meditate on when you get bored with the sermon!). It really is a good time for self-evaluation!

Do I use my time to

1. Pray frequently
2. Study Scripture diligently
3. Worship regularly
4. Invite others often
5. Pass on the faith (raise other disciples)
6. Serve others *for God's sake*
7. Give freely of time, talents and resource.

By the way, the inmates in the study really did come to a conclusion that we're lousy with unrestricted freedom – and that discipline helps us truly find joy in life. How about you?

Joy in Christ!
Pastor John

CONGRATULATIONS:

- To Tessa (Gifford) & Adam Barney on the birth of triplets (!) on June *Cora, William and Oliver* on June 4th.

SUMMER MIDWEEK WORSHIP AND BIBLE STUDY!

Wednesday evenings

Church Sanctuary Study 7:00 p.m.

For 2016: We'll tackle a Gospel – *the story of Jesus told by Mark!*

Mark, possibly the first gospel written, invites us into discipleship with Jesus, constantly asking the question "Who is this One...who calms the sea, heals the blind, raises the dead, and invites us to take a cross and follow him?" That is a question for ALL ages and disciples!

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!

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.

SMALL GROUPS TO CONSIDER VISITING...
(you can contact the church office for any more information!)

Aside from the Sunday School, Youth, and Adult forums on Sunday morning, there are other times you may want to consider connecting in your faith growth>

WEDNESDAY WEEDERS They meet every Wednesday morning at 9 a.m., and take up tasks around the church (once in awhile they take a field trip, too!), and then gather for prayer and devotion at 10:30 in the basement. Oh, it's not only 'open', they appreciate anyone coming to share!

HOLE IN THE ROOF GANG The guys meet on the second and fourth Saturdays at 8 in the morning. After having some devotions and donuts, they generally pick up a project to work on together – whether it be around the church, or for a household task that someone has requested (especially for persons in need), or supplying.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY have their Bible studies in three gatherings during the second week of the month: Monday morning at 9:30 a.m., or Monday evening at 7 p.m.

COMFORT CARE uses their sewing skills to make *prayer blankets, baptismal banners and new banners for the sanctuary* (among other things!). They meet on the 2nd Saturdays at 9 in the morning (sometimes coming in early enough to share with Hole-in-the-roofers discussion and donuts!). **Will not meet in June, July or August.**

BROWN BAG BOOK BUNCH The noontime book group is discussing the book Unbroken. Just come on one of those **2nd or 4th Wednesdays** at noontime (bring a lunch if you desire!). We finish by about 12:45 – no, you don't need to 'enroll', but we'd love to have you share in the discussion!

PRAYER GROUP gathers during the school year at about 6 p.m. in the sanctuary on Wednesdays to offer prayers. Yes, the do need to keep focused on the prayers while the confirmation group gets noisy in the basement. But, that's a great time for confirmation parents to pray for their kids. And pastor.



OUR THANKS to all who helped us bring our cross-cultural experience to NORWAY this year, June 20-23rd. We learned that, *whatever life brings, GOD IS GOOD! We had help with three churches – First Presbyterian, St. Luke's Episcopal, Family of Christ Lutheran.*

Let's see if we can name the assistance! We had helpplanning a super VBS experience, 'cool' Nordic decorating,

- feeding great suppers and wonderful Nordic eats,
- lively games and activities,
- learning experiences in Bible and faith,
- energy in song and celebration,
- caring and faithful guidance in all the crews,
- and marvelous fellowship across the three churches.
-

What a super time! *Just a great reminder that GOD IS GOOD!*

AND we're already talking about VBS 2017 – A Passport to Peru. *First Presbyterian will be our host congregation during the second week of June.*



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

Returned Service Requested

Worship Workers for July 2016

July 2/3
Sat. 6:00 pm
Communion Prep: Bryan Sall
Communion Asst: Ken Petersen
Worship Asst: Joyce Albers
Lector: Dan Kossmann
Greeters:

Sun. 10:00 am
Communion Prep: Lois Adamson
Communion Asst: Lois Adamson
Worship Asst: Jane David
Lector: Jantha Jamison
Greeters: Lois Adamson & Peg Buettner
Counter: Lois Adamson

July 9/10
Sat. 6:00 pm
Communion Prep: Bryan Sall
Communion Asst: Laura Buehner
Worship Asst: Joyce Albers
Lector: Laura Buehner
Greeters:

Sun. 10:00 am
Communion Prep: Fougerons
Communion Asst: Marshall Nelson
Worship Asst: Layne Knoedler
Lector: Mitzi Gifford
Greeters: Tom & Janet Boyd
Counter: Layne Knoedler

July 16/17
Sat. 6:00 pm
Communion Prep: Bryan Sall
Communion Asst: Dan Kossmann
Worship Asst: Kelly Hauff
Lector: Kelly Hauff
Greeters: Joni Weed

Sun. 10:00 am
Communion Prep: Fougerons
Communion Asst: Deb Middleton
Worship Asst: Harold Laursen
Lector: Gayle Miller
Greeters: Bob & Cindy Grabenstein
Counter: Rod & Jane Behrhorst

July 23/24
Sat. 6:00 pm
Communion Prep: Bryan Sall
Communion Asst: Kelly Hauff
Worship Asst: Joyce Albers
Lector: Joyce Albers
Greeters:

Sun. 10:00 am
Communion Prep: Fougerons
Communion Asst: Nancy DeBoer
Worship Asst: Barbara Sitzman
Lector: Nancy DeBoer
Greeters: Mike & Nancy DeBoer
Counter: Lois Adamson

July 30/31
Sat. 6:00 pm
Communion Prep: Bryan Sall
Communion Asst: Joni Weed
Worship Asst: Kelly Hauff
Lector: Joyce Albers
Greeters:

Sun. 10:00 am
Communion Prep: Fougerons
Communion Asst: Nona Svoboda
Worship Asst: Layne Knoedler
Lector: Connie Fie
Greeters :Nona Svoboda
Counter:

Family of Christ Church Council Minutes
June 14, 2016 – 7:00 p.m.

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

Pastor John's gave the devotion with a reading from Isaiah Chapter 64 followed by prayer.

Minutes: Motion was made (Pastor John/John) to approve the May minutes. Minutes approved.

The **Financial Report** was reviewed. Peggy noted the City of Kearney bill for water seemed excessive. Inquiry into the explanation of this will be made. Peggy reported she checked with the bank into putting the Capital Campaign funds into a savings account. Pastor John suggested Mission Investment Fund as an option. It was noted there is a higher interest rate with Mission Investment Fund and checks for building can be written directly from the deposits. Motion (Lanny/John) was made to deposit Capital Campaign funds with Mission Investment Fund. Motion carried.

Pastor's report:

- Pastor John reported there are currently 10 confirmation students going to camp. He is currently arranging transportation.
-
- Vacation Bible School will be held at FOC with St. Luke's and First Presbyterian June 20-23.
-
- Gary Straatman and Lois Adamson represented FOC at the Synod assembly
-
- First Lutheran has invited FOC for a work day September 11 with lunch after the Sunday service. Pastor Dave DeFreese will preach. PJ has given a tentative yes.
-
- PJ will be performing three weddings this summer.

Ministries Coordinator report:

Barb Laursen's report was reviewed. It was noted three funerals and the Jubilee Dinner were served in May and she expressed appreciation for the help. She suggested Teams of about 10-12 people be responsible for different fellowship areas. This will provide opportunities for more congregants to be involved and not leave responsibilities for just a few. Motion was made (PJ/Peggy) to approve the report.

Old Business: Pastor John has proposed formation of two teams to discuss creative building options and evangelism relationship with south east Kearney.

Team A (Creative Building): Three year pledges are currently between \$350,000 to \$400,000. Discussion has been held on how to go forward with church building. The Team will explore and develop ideas for phasing the building project, alternative and less costly building materials, etc. The goal would be to present their findings to the congregation in the Fall.

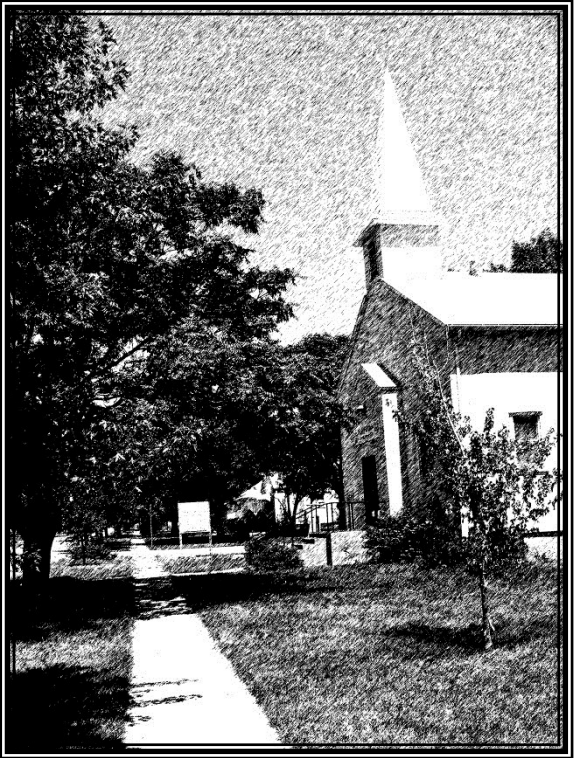
Team B (Evangelism to SE Kearney): This team would explore processes to rebuild and refocus on educational opportunities. It has been suggested an event could be held at Hammer Park across from the building site with a band, games, mini service. Options for rental of a facility for developing a Wednesday evening program will be addressed.

Motion made (PJ/Lanny) to form two teams to report their findings and options in September to the FOC congregation. Motion carried.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Fie
Recording Secretary



Family of Christ Lutheran Church
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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: 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

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Issue 7

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 Sunday service.)

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