

Family of Christ Council Minutes  
November 8, 2016

Present: Pastor John, Cheryl Hedstrom; Peggy Nelson; Chris Denton; Lance Knoedler; John Marsh; Connie Fie  
Absent: Lanny Johnson  
Pastor John opened the meeting with reading of Psalm 98 reminding us that no matter what happens in life, God will ultimately bring the world to righteousness and justice.

**Minutes:** Cheryl opened the meeting with request for review of the October minutes. Council reviewed the draft. Discussion was held on the formation of the building team. The Team will be meeting in the next couple of weeks. They will be reporting on their discussion as plans go forth. October minutes were approved.

**Treasurer Report:** Peggy noted the \$250 Comfort Care allocation is still to be added to the Balance Sheet by Class. With plans for sale of the van, Peggy asked if the State Farm insurance premium of \$123.76 should be renewed. Motion made to pay the premium since there may be occasional use until the sale. (John M/Chris). October 2016 Statement of Financial Income and Expense shows expenses totaling \$10,757.62 with a *net income of \$3,049.18*.

**Pastor’s Report:** 9th grade confirmands were Skyler Krull, Brian Fahnholz and Avery Collison. He reported on the following commitments:

- **Budget:** Will meet between church services. Members: Jane David, Bob Grabenstein; Jantha Jameson; Steve Koenig and Peggy Nelson.
- **Stewardship:** Members: Bob Grabenstein; Jantha Jameson and Steve Koenig (tentative)
- **Nomination:** Members: Joni Weed, Barb Laursen; Jane Behrhorst. They will be charged with naming nominees for synod assembly as well as the next nominating committee.
- **Property:** Pastor John asked Cheryl with assistance in e-mailing the members of the committee. Members: Lanny Johnson; Mike Deboer; Jane David; David Wiebe; Brad Anderson; Gary Straatman; Bob Grabenstein; Cheryl Hedstrom; Peggy Nelson; Marshall Nelson.

Pastor John noted items he would like to put forth to the budget committee: He would like to revisit idea to engage with some deacon interns as well as expansion of the evangelism team. He invited other items to be put forth from the Council.

**Ministries Coordinator Report:** Barb reported the new model for Fellowship with Care Teams is working well. Care Team 1 helped with Trudy Kotschwar’s funeral and Team 2 with George Lane’s. Habitat for Humanity and Jubilee meals were served during October. Thanks was noted to Nona Svoboda and Joyce Albers who put the 7 teams together and handled the funeral dinners.

Lance noted he will put an ad for sale of the van on the Kearney Exchange.

**New Business:**

- Worship and Evangelism committees have met. Evangelism has been discussing possibility of having a live nativity at the property in southeast Kearney and putting out the invitation to Christmas Eve services.
- Pastor John asked the council if the congregational meeting should be held at the Harman Park activity center and for input on a date. Tentative date at Harmon park activity center is January 29.
- Lance asked if there is a possibility of offering a shuttle for transporting children to Sunday school. Pastor John suggested targeting FOC families with the possibility of reaching out to other families later on. Lance volunteered to drive. A trial run with start November 20.

The meeting was closed with the Lord’s Prayer.  
Respectfully submitted,  
**Connie Fie**

Christmas Caroling  
at the Buffalo County Jail



Our annual sharing of the Christmas message at the BC Jail on December 18th. 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 8, please call (236-7704) or email (pr.john.foc@gmail.com) if you intend to carol with us.**



**Our NOISY OFFERING**

In November and December, we have traditionally allowed our *Noisy Offering* gifts to go towards Lutheran World Relief where we purchase barnyard animals for farmers in impoverished countries. Let’s see – we’ve done *water buffalo, sheep, cows, rabbits*. *What will we be sending this year?*

**ADVENT MIDWEEK WORSHIP**

*Wednesday, Nov. 30, Dec. 7, Dec. 14*

**Evening worship services at 6:15 p.m.**

*Potluck supper (Soup, Sandwich or dessert) at 7 p.m.*

What does this (Christmas) mean?  
Let’s analyze the Christmas themes of our creed, the Jesus is  
*Truly divine/truly human...  
Conceived by the Holy Spirit...  
Born of the Virgin Mary...*



**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 continuing *Night* by Elie Wiesel, meeting on December 14<sup>th</sup>. Copies are available at the church. Come join us!

**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.

Family of Christ	
Pastor	John Gosswein
<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 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	
Worship	Pr Harold Laursen

RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:

**TURN IN  
YOUR ARTICLES  
EARLY!**

R E M I N D E R :

**DEADLINE FOR  
NEWSLETTER  
ARTICLES IS**

**Dec 26, 2016**



12/02 Jasmyrn Knoedler  
12/04 Jodi Bendfeldt  
12/05 Vanessa Gifford  
12/05 Jon Laursen-Roesler  
12/08 Addison Peterson  
12/12 Lyn Knoedler  
12/14 Skyler Krull  
12/14 Carol Leth  
12/14 Kurt Nelson  
12/14 Ken Reifenrath  
12/15 Ashley Nielsen  
12/21 Misty Beeler  
12/21 Jason Plambeck  
12/22 Lynn Tacha  
12/23 Eric Stenehjem  
12/24 Mitzi Gifford  
12/27 Del Kotas  
12/28 JoAnn DeJonge  
12/28 Alaina Larsen



Anniversaries  
12/02 Jason & Shawna Plambeck  
12/06 Shane & Jodi Bendfelt  
12/19 Myron & Iola Fougeron  
12/26 Del & Marian Kotas  
12/26 Joel & Connie Fie  
12/29 Brad Anderson & Kelle Hunt



**Sunday Disciples’ Kids**

We are practicing for the Children’s Christmas program during the Sunday Disciples Hour (see info below). It will be gifted on Sunday, 11:00 service, December 18<sup>th</sup>. Parents, Grandparents, Everyone is invited to:

**Jingle All the Way**

However, we need your children, grandchildren, foster kids, nieces, nephews from 4yrs – 5<sup>th</sup> graders. **Practices continue Sundays in Nov. through Dec. 11 at 9:45 – 10:50a.m.** Final rehearsal is on Saturday, Dec.17<sup>th</sup> at 10:00a.m. Each child is asked to wear their Christmas or Sunday clothes for the program. Any costumes will be provided.

**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:*

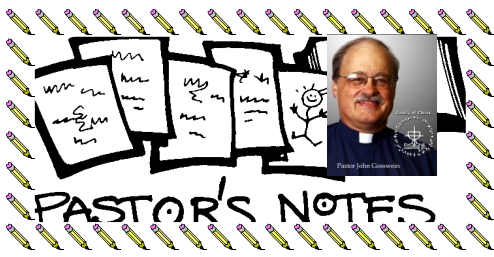
**6 p.m.** *(interpreted for the hearing impaired)*  
**& 9 p.m.**

**On the weekend of December 31/Jan 1 –**  
*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.*

**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).

**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.*



**Tidings of Comfort and Joy**

God rest you merry, gentlemen, Let nothing you dismay,  
For Jesus Christ our Savior Was born upon this day,  
To save us all from Satan's power When we were gone astray:  
*O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

The lovely carol is sometimes misheard as *God* just giving peace to *merry gentlemen*. But notice the comma, which alters the meaning, turning it into a blessing: *God* provide your joy (merry), *people!*

The holiday season can stir deep emotions within each of us. Many children greet the advent of Christmas with joy and excitement, whereas those who have lost loved ones during the past year may find great sadness in the very same event. Thankfully, our God meets us wherever we are, both physically and emotionally. The Advent stories give voice to the complex situations and emotions with which we greet the coming Messiah and use the reactions of those who first received the news of Jesus’ birth (Zechariah, Joseph, Mary, and the shepherds) to do so. These verses acknowledge responses of fear, confusion, doubt, and curiosity, while the coming of Jesus promises comfort and joy for all of us. *I have adapted this from a resource (Sunday and Seasons) and invite you to find some time (perhaps one per week) and space (maybe around an advent wreath, lighting one candle each week) to share these verses and prayers.*

**Week 1: The Angel speaks to Zechariah’s fear** (read Luke 1:5-20)

**Reflective moment:** use this time to invite participants to jot their fears anonymously on notecards. These fears could be blessed and exchanged for use as prayer petitions  
**Prayer:** *O God who brings comfort and joy, when fear overwhelms us and we cannot see a way out, speak to our fear. Calm our troubled hearts and provide peace in our fearful world. In Jesus’ name we pray.*

**Week 2: The Angel speaks to Joseph’s confusion** (read Matthew 1:18-25)

**Reflective moment:** create two collages from newspapers and/or magazines—one of confusing world events and one of clarifying and hopeful messages.  
**Prayer:** *O God who brings comfort and joy, when the world baffles us with conflicting messages and puzzling events, speak to our confusion. Comfort us with the knowledge that you are with us in times of clarity and times of confusion. In Jesus’ name we pray.*

**Week 3: The Angel speaks to Mary’s doubt** (read Luke 1:26-38)

**Reflective moment:** engage those present in a conversation about which articles of faith or passages of the Bible they find the most difficult to believe and what they know to be true.  
**Prayer:** *O God who brings comfort and joy, when our faith waivers and we question your word, speak to our doubt. Comfort us with your promises and renew our trust in you. In Jesus’ name we pray.*

**Week 4: The Angel speaks to the Shepherds’ curiosity** (read Luke 2:8-20)

**Reflection:** do some wondering together. Tell the birth narrative by heart, and in the style of Godly Play ([www.godlyplayfoundation.org](http://www.godlyplayfoundation.org)), pose the following questions at the end of the story: “I wonder what part of the story you like best?” “I wonder what part of the story is the most important?” “I wonder what part of this story is especially for you this year?”  
**Prayer:** *O God who brings comfort and joy, when we wait with anticipation of what will come, speak to our curiosity. Comfort us with your surprises and give us hearts that are thankful for all that you provide. In Jesus’ name we pray.*

May your Advent be blessed with tidings of comfort and joy!  
Pr. John



**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!

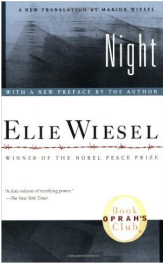
**HOLE IN THE ROOF** The guys continue meeting on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays at 8 a.m. If you know of anyone (single mom, widow, handicapped, senior) who could use some assistance with a project around the house – give a call to the church: 236-7704. .

**WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY** have their Bible study the second week of the month: Monday evening at 7 p.m. all are welcome.

**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!). **Comfort care will not meet in December**

**BROWN BAG BOOK BUNCH**

**Wednesday (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>) at 12 noon** – The *Brown Bag Book Bunch* is reading *Night* by Ellie Wiesel this month; a survivor of the Nazi concentration camps, Wiesel wrote a tremendous historic, social and religious insight into suffering and hopelessness. Come join us; it’s never too late to be part of the engaging discussion. **ACTU-ALLY – with the Christmas week making life busy, we’re not meeting on the December 28th.**



**CROSSWAYS Classes Available**

Want to dig deep into the Bible’s big story?  
Have you wished you could understand the Scriptures in the larger narrative?



*CROSSWAYS* may be the program for you. The course is a two-year adventure in studying the Bible (40 units on the Old Testament, 20 on the New Testament message). With a thorough study of each biblical book and 147 full-page illustrations, you will work through the Scriptures in detail. The overall theme stresses *grace* as the key word, and *Jesus* as Interpreter of all Scripture, and our *servanthood* as a response to grace.

The course will be offered on  
Thursday evenings, starting in January, excluding summer  
at Family of Christ Lutheran Church.

Cost: \$65 for the material (financial help is available). Call 236-7704 and leave your name and telephone number, or e-mail [familyofchristkearney@gmail.com](mailto:familyofchristkearney@gmail.com)

*By the way – it could be a great present to give someone interested in truly exploring the riches of the Bible!*

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**

**Worship Workers for Dec 2016**

**Dec.3/4**

**Worship Assist:**

Sat: Kelly Hauff  
Sun: 8:30 Jane David  
11:00 – Barbara Sitzman

**Lector:**

Sat: Dan Kossmann  
Sun: 8:30 Linda Peterson  
11:00 Gayle Miller

**Greeters:**

11:00 Lois Adamson  
Peggy Buettner

**Communion Assist:**

Sat: Joni Weed  
Sun: 8:30 Linda Peterson  
11:00 Lois Adamson

**Communion Prep:**

Sat: Bryan Sall  
Sun. 8:30 Fougerons  
11:00: Lois Adamson

**Offering Counter:**

Lois Adamson

**Dec.10/11**

**Worship Assist:**

Sat: Joyce Albers  
Sun: 8:30 Jane David  
11:00 Layne Knoedler

**Lector:**

Sat: Joyce Albers  
Sun: 8:30 Vicki Schaepler  
11:00 Ken Reifenrath

**Greeters:**

11:00 Bob & Cindy  
Grabenstein

**Communion Assist:**

Sat: Ken Petersen  
Sun: 8:30 Jane David  
11:00 Patty Reifenrath

**Communion Prep:**

Sat: Bryan Sall  
Sun: 8:30 Fougerons  
11:00 Sue Sands Buss

**Offering Counter:**

Layne Knoedler

**There will be a Sign Up  
Sheet for Christmas Eve  
Services.**

**Dec.17/18**

**Worship Assist:**

Sat: Joyce Albers  
Sun.8:30- Jane David  
11:00 – Barbara Sitzman

**Lector:**

Sat: Laura Buehner  
Sun: 8:30 Peggy Nelson  
11:00 Jantha Jamison

**Greeters:**

11:00 Tom & Janet Boyd

**Communion Assist:**

Sat: Laura Buehner  
Sun: 8:30 Marshall Nelson  
11:00 Deb Middleton

**Communion Prep:**

Sat: Bryan Sall  
Sun: 8:30 Barbara Bowers  
11:00 Sue Sands Buss

**Offering Counters:**

Rod & Jane Behrhorst

**Worship times –**

**Dec. 24 -6 & 9pm**

**Dec. 25 – 11am**

**10am Fellowship**

**Dec. 31 6pm**

**Jan. 1 11am**

**Dec. 25**

**Worship Assist:**

11am Harold Laursen

**Lector:**

11am Connie Fie

**Greeters:**

11am Nona Svoboda

**Communion Assist:**

11am Nona Svoboda

**Communion Prep:**

11am Fougerons

**Offering Counter: ?**

**Dec. 31/Jan. 1**

Sat. Kelly Hauff

Sun11:00 Barbara Sitzman

**Lector:**

Sat: Kelly Hauff

Sun 11:00 Gayle Miller

**Greeters:**

Sun. 11:00 Lois Adamson

**Communion Assist**

Sat: Ken Petersen

Sun. 11:00 Lois Adamson

**Communion Prep**

Sat. Bryan Sall

Sun. 11:00 Fougerons

**Offering Counter**

Lois Adamson



# December 2016



## December 2016

8:30  
9:45  
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Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 2 3  
6:00pm Worship

4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
8:30am Worship  
9:45am Sunday Disciples  
11:00am Worship  
9:00am Wed Weeders  
5:00pm Confirmation  
6:15pm Advent Worship  
7:00pm Advent Supper  
7:00pm Youth  
7:30pm Choir  
4:00pm Adriane Juel & Justin Madsen Wedding (Campus Lutheran)  
8:00am Hole in Roof  
6:00pm Worship

11 12 13 14 15 16 17  
8:30am Worship  
9:45am Sunday Disciples  
11:00am Worship  
7:00pm Women's Bible Study  
7:00pm Council Meeting  
9:00am Wed Weeders  
12:00pm Book Bunch  
5:00pm Confirmation  
6:15pm Advent Worship  
7:00pm Advent Supper  
7:00pm Youth  
7:30pm Choir  
6:00pm Worship

18 19 20 21 22 23 24  
8:30am Worship  
9:45am Sunday Disciples  
11:00am Worship  
Childrens Christmas Program  
6:30pm Caroling at Jail  
9:00am Wed Weeders  
6:00pm Candle Light-Worship  
9:00pm Candle Light Worship

25 26 27 28 29 30 31

## ALL IN THE FAMILY

December 2016  
Volume 32  
Issue 12



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

Phone: 308-236-7704  
E-mail: [familyofchristkearney@gmail.com](mailto:familyofchristkearney@gmail.com)  
Web: [www.familyofchristkearney.org](http://www.familyofchristkearney.org)  
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 1:30-3:00pm)  
Ministries Coordinator: Barbara 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 Disciples  
11:00am Worship



**CONFIRMATION CLASS at JUBILEE CENTER**  
*Thanks for your help on Sunday, Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>!!!*  
The class assisted in putting out Christmas items, and had a devotion – courtesy of Jill Peterson and Gary Straatmann.

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