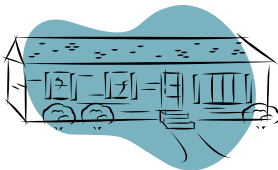


ANNUAL BLESSING OF HOMES
Saturday, January 14



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 14 (weather permitting), call the church office or sign up in the church entry area.

OUR THANKS

At the last midweek Advent service, Cheryl Hedstrom (our council president). We want to thank the congregation for the gift of the movie tickets (anyone knowing us realize we’ll use them!). Thank you!

John and Judy Gosswein

And thanks to Pr. Rachel Ziese Hacker (Campus Lutheran) for filling in for Pr. John on the weekend of Dec. 31/ Jan. 1, as well as everyone else who shared in the worship that weekend. *Special appreciation to our donors to Campus Lutheran for making this ‘give your pastor a day off’ possible!*

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.*

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
Church Council	
President	Cheryl Hedstrom
Vice President	Lanny Johnson
Secretary	Connie Fie
Treasurer	Peggy Nelson
Financial Secretary	Jane David
Members at Large	Chris Denton
	John Marsh
	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	
Worship	Pr Harold Laursen

RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:

TURN IN
YOUR ARTICLES
EARLY!

RE M I N D E R :

DEADLINE FOR
NEWSLETTER
ARTICLES IS

Jan 23, 2017



WOMEN OF THE E.L.C.A. WINTER RETREAT
SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 2017
ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
1515 S. Harrison St., Grand Island, NE

THEME VERSES – LUKE 10:38-41
Jesus at the home of Mary and Martha

ACTIVITIES:	
8:30 Registration & Coffee	
9:00 Opening Remarks	
Keynote Speaker*	
Bible Study with Bishop Maas	
Skit and a LIVE BAND!	
3:00 Safe Travels	

*Keynote Speaker Dr. Heather Goertz is an occupational therapist with 20 years of experience in community and mental health in addition to having 10 children. She will share information on foster care and adoption as well as Mary & Martha.

OFFERING TO: Safe-T, the Salvation Army Safe Program

REGISTRATION by January 17, 2017

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ E-mail _____

Home Church _____ Conference _____

Send \$18.00 fee made payable to NSWO to:
Sandy Terry - 1461 2nd Ave. Ct. - Fremont, NE 68025-5317
sterry9415@yahoo.com 402-957-4480

JANUARY 29th

Now it's a tradition! For our FIFTH year we'll gather in January at the **Hammon 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 lunch.

Let's do it again! On **JANUARY 29th, Sunday morning at 10 a.m.** – plan to be at the same Activity Center. We will be **canceled 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 2016 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*.

AND...to have more time to *fruitfully discuss some of the agenda issues of the 2016 year – budget, building and elections*, we invite you to come to the **Adult forum on January 22nd** (the week before), where we can have more in-depth discussion. Again, don't fret! All items will be on the floor on the 29th – 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 29th.

It sounds like food is in order for the 29th ! 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*!



- 1/02 AJ Fie II
1/03 Conan Gifford
1/07 Zackery Einspahr
1/08 Marshall Nelson
1/08 Brandon Pierce
1/09 Sam Carey
1/09 Nancy DeBoer
1/09 Natalie Laughlin
1/13 Camden Zulkoski
1/14 Jacob Keel
1/15 Susan Grove
1/16 John Marsh
1/17 Carol Dannels
1/17 Henry Denton
1/17 Andrew Fie
1/18 Jane Behrhorst
1/18 Amanda Cernik
1/19 Derv Barner
1/19 Steve Duennerman
1/23 Kegan Fiese
1/23 Zander Fiese
1/24 Ashley Salinas
1/25 Paul Bartels
1/26 Dorthea Dieken
1/28 Chris Hove
1/31 Brent Anderson



- 1/12 Eric & Jodi Stenehjem
1/21 Rick & Judy Tschirren
1/22 Blaine & Ruth Stewart
1/29 Darrel & Joyce Albers

Family of Christ Lutheran Church Minutes – December 13, 2016

Present: Pastor John, Cheryl Hedstrom, Peggy Nelson; Chris Denton; Connie Fie

Absent: Lanny Johnson, John Marsh, Lance Knoedler

Pastor John opened the meeting with reading from Isaiah 2 verses 1-5.

Minutes: November 8 minutes were read and approved. (Peggy / Chris)

Treasurer Report: Peggy reviewed the Financial Income and Expense Statement noting a total income in General Fund of \$17,102 with expenses of \$10,125.42 November 2016. There was \$6,983.60 net income (including interest) in November with a net income of \$37,479.11 for the period of January – November 16. Capital Campaign shows a balance of \$150,071.40 on November 30, 2016. Peggy reported the budget committee met to draft proposed 2017 budget figures. The draft was reviewed with discussion on possible revisions. It was noted the proposed budget will be presented at the congregational meeting on January 29.

Pastors Report:

Pastor John asked for approval of gifting of Buffalo Bucks to staff and musicians. Council approved.

Information has been sent to the nomination committee.

The building possibilities team will be meeting in the next couple weeks.

Church tax exemption form was given to Cheryl for signature

Pastor John noted members of Team B constructed the outdoor nativity scene.

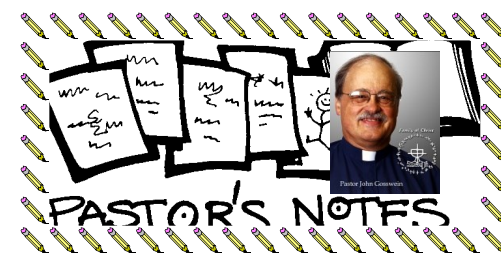
Ministries Coordinator Report: Barb L. reported she has been keeping up with the ICON Program, getting worship workers, birthdays and anniversaries ready for publication in the newsletter. She is also working on a revised Time and Talent form.

Pastor John asked for council input on looking into the possibility of having worship services sent to monitors in the nursery and basement area.

Congregational Meeting will be held at Harmon Park activity center on January 29.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,



In Memoriam, Dr. Paul Welter

For a number of months, I had the following introduction to my column:

*Dr. Paul Welter and I have shared in just frequent enough coffees and conversations that we've realized a common thread in our stories. Paul knows the value of 'letting the children come to' Jesus, and has had profound understanding of what we learn through children. He has **convinced** me that I need to write some of the experiences and learnings of our participation in the life at*

Bethphage Village. We've come to appreciate that, while we initially seek to teach these young at heart, we ultimately come to learn through their eyes. Thus, I would like to use this newsletter as an attempt to put some stories into print – and welcome your insights and comments.

I said *convinced*. Paul actually had invited me over for coffee one day and did something friends can get away with: he *chastised* me; “John, you need to write your stories down. You have a calling from God to share these insights.” All of this was said without ever raising a voice – just with that smile, twinkle in the eye and that discerning glance up that saw right through to the core. This loving counselor knew how much my ministry (and theology) was shaped through work with individuals (Curiously, Paul died almost 13 years to the day of our son's death.)

In 2009, Dr. Welter shared in a Lenten series with us, based on his writings “*What would Jesus ask?*”. While having that conversation series with him in our crowded church basement, he shared one of his favorite songs with us. Commonly known as *Simple Gifts*, the Shaker hymn is actually a dance...which Paul had us do:

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free
'Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,
And when we find ourselves in the place just right,
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.
When true simplicity is gained,
To bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed,
To turn, turn will be our delight,
Till by turning, turning we come 'round right.

There was giggling as he taught us, and we did this humble dance, turning around, young and old, with this sprite-ly and gangly servant of God. He had engaged us on a journey of comprehending *repentance*, a big word with simple Biblically roots in *turning*. A word that usually frightens, he had engaged us in humble laughter so that we participated in *turning to see God's grace*.

This was truly a part of this beloved pastoral psychologist's ministry: with disarming simplicity people would open their hearts and lives, release shame and find humility, love and respect, 'til by turning ('returning', repenting), they 'came round right.' Paul never appeared condescending, judgmental or critical; instead, he invited all of us to perceive how we are *children of God* invited to *receive the kingdom of gracious love*.

I'll miss this dear friend, but cherish all we were able to receive and share with Dr. Paul. And give thanks for this marvelous child of God.

Joy and Peace in Christ!

Pr. John

CONGRATULATIONS

- To Justin and Adriane (Juel) Madsen, married on December 10th
- To Julie and Mike Tveit (and brothers Joel and Colt) at the birth of *Talon Becker* on December 12th

CONDOLENCES

- To Candy Kuntz at the death of her father, Mack Hazen, December 10th.
- Dorthea Dieken, on death of her sister Wilhelmina Hinrikus, Dec. 12th.
- Betty Heggemeyer, on death of her sister's husband Myron Flessner, Dec. 16th.



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 2nd and 4th Wednesdays over lunch (12-12:45) in the church basement. They are finishing *Night* by Elie Wiesel on **January 11th**. Next, they will begin *Short Stories by Jesus*, a wise, entertaining and educational look at the parables of Jesus, interpreted with appreciation for the original Jewish audiences (yet still challenging us 2000 years later). 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! *They are taking a brief winter hibernation until January 18th*

THURSDAY EVENING 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.

HOLE IN THE ROOF Men meet the 2nd and 4th 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 2nd Sat. of the month to make handmade blankets for those who are sick or in need of comfort.

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



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

And thanks to Pr. Rachel Ziese Hacker (Campus Lutheran) for filling in for Pr. John on the weekend of Dec. 31/Jan. 1, as well as everyone else who shared in the worship that weekend. *Special appreciation to our donors to Campus Lutheran for making this ‘give your pastor a day off’ possible!*

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 18th. If you would like a copy, why not call (236-7704) or send an email to familyofchristkearney@gmail.com. Thanks, Clint!

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

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

Returned Service Requested

Worship Workers for Jan 2017

Jan.7/8

Worship Assist:

Sat: Kelly Hauff
Sun: 8:30 Jane David
11:00 – Barb Laursen

Lector:

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

Greeters:

Sat: Joni Weed
Sun: 8:30
11:00 Dave Wiebe

Communion Assist:

Sat: Kelly Hauff
Sun: 8:30 Linda Peterson
11:00 Gayle Miller

Communion Prep:

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

Offering Counter:

Lois Adamson

Jan.14/15

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 Bob Grabenstein

Greeters:

Sat:
Sun: 8:30
11:00 Bob & Cindy
Grabenstein

Communion Assist:

Sat: Ken Petersen
Sun: 8:30 Jane David
11:00 Deb Middleton

Communion Prep:

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

Offering Counter:

Layne Knoedler

Jan.21/22

_Worship Assist:

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

Lector:

Sat: Laura Buehner
Sun: 8:30 – Peggy Nelson
11:00 Nancy DeBoer

Greeters:

Sat:
Sun. 8:30
11:00:Mike DeBoer

Communion Assist:

Sat: Laura Buehner
Sun:8:30Marshall Nelson
11:00 Nancy DeBoer

Communion Prep:

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

Offering Counters:

Rod & Jane Behrhorst



January 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday Disciples 11:00am Worship	2	3	4	5	6	7 6:00pm Worship
8 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday Disciples 11:00am Worship	9 7:00pm Women's Bible Study	10 7:00pm Council Meeting	11 12:00pm Book Bunch 5:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm Youth 7:30pm Choir	12	13	14 8:00am Hole in Roof 6:00pm Worship Home Blessing
15 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday Disciples 11:00am Worship	16	17	18 12:00pm Book Bunch 5:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm Youth 7:30pm Choir	19	20	21 6:00pm Worship
22 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday Disciples 11:00am Worship	23	24	25 12:00pm Book Bunch 5:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm Youth 7:30pm Choir	26	27	28 8:00am Hole in Roof No Saturday Worship
29 10:00am One Service @ Harmon Park Youth Center	30	31				

ALL IN THE FAMILY

January 2017
Volume 33
Issue 1



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 1:30-3:00pm)
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



SPECIAL THANKS to the crew who participated in the design and development of our *Living the Nativity*, set up in the south lawn! This includes Gayle, Bob, Tom, Dave, Dennis, Joni, Julie. And PJ. Here are some pictures from our fourth Advent night of some of those willing to 'live the nativity' .

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