

THE SPIRE



January 2018
Volume 6, Issue 1

First Ev. Lutheran Church, 201 N. Davis, PO Box 152, Oakland, NE, 68045
www.firstlutheranchurch-oakland.com, firstlutheranchurch_152@q.com

(402) 685-5764

Pastor's COLUMN

By Rev. Mark Eldal

Time is an interesting thing to contemplate. In one sense, we cannot imagine life without it. Yet, Scripture seems to indicate that time is part of creation, and that in some mysterious way God exists above time.

Thus, the name God takes for himself when Moses encounters him at the burning bush, is "I am." By his very name he indicates he is the self-existent one, that he simply "is", and is above time.

Since, God is above time, and he created it, he is also then Lord of time. This is good news, for it means that he is also then the Lord of our "times."

David would write in Psalm 31, that his "times" were in God's hands.

In the same way, we can know that as we enter 2018 our "times" and our lives can be in God's hands.

We do not know what the coming year will bring, but as God holds us in his hands we can enter it with peace. We can know that nothing will be able to separate us from his love in Jesus Christ.

As we trust in Jesus, may we daily rest in his loving watchful care as we begin a new year.

God bless,

Pastor Mark

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Pastor's Column	1
Announcements	2
Poinsettia Listing	3
Birthdays and Anniversaries	4
Sunday School, Bible Studies & Confirmation	5
Prayers of Concern, Altar Committee	6
& Sewing Meetings, W.O.W. & Dorcas Society	6
The Calendar	7
Church Council Minutes	8
Ushers, Greeters, Acolytes	9
Video, Sound, Organists & Coffee Servers	9
Christian Humor to Tickle Your Life	10



We thank everyone at First Lutheran for your greetings, cards, and gifts this past Christmas season. We really appreciated them. We are always moved by your thoughtfulness and kindness. We trust you had a wonderful Christmas and may you have a blessed new year.

Sincerely,

Mark and Jacque



ANNOUNCEMENTS



COAT DRIVE

Winter Coat Drive. The Women of the Word (WOW) are planning a winter coat, mitten, and hat drive. We are going to try to keep these items in the area as there is a desperate need here. Please bring all gently used coats in any size, hats and mittens or gloves.

Come one, Come All!! Help is needed to take down the Christmas Decorations at the church on Saturday, January 13th, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.



The Annual Meeting will be held January 28th, 2018 at 10:45 a.m. with a Soup Dinner to follow.

Please contact Darrell Denker if you are interested in participating in any of the church committees.



All information needed for each committee's annual reports needs to be turned into Tess in the office by January 15, 2018 to make it into the Annual Report.

The offering envelopes for the 2018 year will be located in the multipurpose room. Please take them home with you. Contact Tess or Vanessa if you did not receive yours.



THANK YOU'S

- To our sewing group for all the beautiful quilts they make during the year! So blessed each fall when they adorn our church!!
- **Thank you to all the people who helped decorate the church for the Christmas Season on Wednesday, November 29th, to those who helped bring the decorations down from storage and those who made the soups, cookies and ornaments. We had a really, great turn out. Good times, good food and good fellowship!! What a fun night!**
- Jim and Judy Nelson for hosting the coffee and rolls on Sunday morning in honor of their 56th Wedding Anniversary!



We thank everyone who has contributed their talents to our Christmas Eve worship service:

- ☞ Jim and Judy Nelson for presenting the service on the screen.
- ☞ Mia Linder, Tate Penke, the Sunday School Children and Tom Meyer for their singing.
- ☞ The Choir for their song.
- ☞ Cindy Blanc for her accompaniment with the piano.
- ☞ Bryan Bohn for being the organist, choir director and accompaniment.
- ☞ Dan Tanksley and Tess Johnson for operating the sound system.
- ☞ All of those who assisted with the Christmas Eve service.

Thank you to everyone who donated poinsettia to beautify our Church for Christmas! They are as listed below:

- ☞ Gene & Nancy Poppe - In memory of Jim & Carolyn Lutes, Leonard & Ardell Poppe, & Jerry Anderson
 - ☞ Loren & Julie Ehlers & family - In memory of John Wilken, Harold Robinson, & Lionel Ehlers
 - ☞ Johnnie & Melinda Johnson - In memory of Doc Blanc & in honor of Natalie & Jeremy Guenther's wedding
 - ☞ Frank & Janice Johnson - In memory of Grandson Jacob Johnson
 - ☞ Bonnie Goodrich - In memory of Jacob Johnson, Bill Voss, & Harry Goodrich
 - ☞ Tom & Phyllis Meyer - In memory of our parents
 - ☞ Clare & Jan Wiltse - In memory of Walter & Bernice Niedringhaus & Clare & Alma Wiltse
 - ☞ Rachel Wise - In memory of Harold & Bernice Nelson & Ruth & Oliver Wise
 - ☞ Mike & Karen Blanc - In memory of Jerry Wallerstedt, Dr. Buck Blanc & Dave Guenther
 - ☞ Mark & Jacque Eldal - In memory of Jessica Hughes
 - ☞ Jon & Janelle Seagren & family - In memory of Pat Seagren
 - ☞ Dorothy Wallace & family - In memory of James Wallace
 - ☞ Spencer Bromm - In memory of Jacob Johnson
 - ☞ Scott & Valerie Lindstrom & family - In memory of Veda Hansen
 - ☞ Florence Erickson - In memory of Garland Erickson, Becky Paulsen & Pat Hanselman
 - ☞ Carl & Julie Easton - In memory of Rita Lindstrom & Jean Easton
 - ☞ Max & Cindy Blanc - In memory of Herb Begeman & Dr. Harold Blanc
 - ☞ Neal Vanderworker - In memory of Russell & Vernita Vanderworker
 - ☞ Cal & Sara Anderson - In memory of Darlene Wagner
 - ☞ Richard & Janet Reckmeyer & Glenn & Sharon Krueger - In memory of our parents, Vernon K. & Lillian Johnson
 - ☞ Jack Carstensen & family - In memory of Karen Carstensen
 - ☞ Roger & Patti Moderow - In memory of Maurice & Margaret Moderow
 - ☞ Kent & Brenda Andersen & family - In memory of Donald Andersen & Pete & Lois Schmidt
 - ☞ The VonEssen Farm Gang - in memory of Grandpa Harold
 - ☞ Jon & Chloe Johnson - In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Virgil Lane, Mr. & Mrs. Albert Johnson, & Mr. & Mrs. Otto Dinslage
 - ☞ Marlene Lindstrom & family - In memory of Bob Lindstrom
 - ☞ Don & Candace Johnson - In memory of Loved ones
 - ☞ Karen Rosenboom - In memory of Gary Rosenboom & Pernilla & Marlin Jensen
 - ☞ Dale & Linda Jones - In memory of Dayton Benne, Robert & Lila Jones, Louise Jones, Jacob Johnson
 - ☞ Dale & Linda Jones - In honor of their grandchildren, Owen, Ian, Noah, & Emersyn
 - ☞ The Johnson Family - In memory of Jacob Johnson, Bill Voss, Harry Goodrich with love from
 - ☞ Mark & Jill Johnson - In celebration of our Grandchildren - Georgia, Ivy, Graham, Margot, Dean, Jeremiah, Jack & Hazel
 - ☞ In memory of our Loved Ones - Jim & Leann Jorgensen & Family
 - ☞ Larry & Tess Johnson & Family - In memory of all our loved ones
 - ☞ Her Family - In memory of LaVerne Osterdorff
 - ☞ Shirley Bromm, - In memory of Amy Jo Bromm & Daryl Bromm
- ~AND~**
- ☞ Merry Christmas from Pelan's Funeral Home & Allie's Flower Shop

If you purchased a poinsettia to decorate our church, please feel welcome to take them home with you.



We extend our Congratulations and ask for God's blessing on Tanner and Kylee Case who were married Saturday, December 16, 2017 at First Ev. Lutheran Church. Kylee is the daughter of David & Deb Ibsen and Brent and Jeanne Hurlbert and Tanner is the son of Gary and Tammy Case. **CONGRATS Kylee and Tanner!!**

We extend our Congratulations and ask for God's blessing on Natalie and Jeremy Guenther who were married Saturday, December 23, 2017 at First Ev. Lutheran Church. Natalie is the daughter of Tony and Nancy Bromm and Jeremy is the son of Brian and Ann Guenther. **CONGRATS NATALIE AND JEREMY!!**

Birthdays and Anniversaries

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Alicia Isner
- 2 - Mitchell Lindstrom
- 3 - Linda Carlson
- 6 - Dorothy Larson
- 7 - Leonard Canarsky, Lisa Fredrickson, Jay Johnson, Julia Wuestewald
- 8 - Tyler Frederickson, Chad Linder
- 9 - Marylin Baker, Lisa Stover
- 11 - Tony Bromm, Carson Miller
- 12 - Brooke Van Horn, April Van Horn, Noah Anderson
- 13 - Justin Corwine, Jarvis Guill, Melinda Johnson, Gary Powell, Tye Penke
- 15 - Patsy Andersen
- 16 - Will Johnson, Jennie (Johnson) Harbin, Paul Kruse, Brent Linder
- 17 - Frank Johnson, Jeanette Blanc
- 19 - Gerron Elsasser, Karen Karstens, Mia Linder, Ruth Blumenkamp, Lillian Ehlers
- 22 - Emmy Bousquet, Roger Nelson, Heidi Johnson
Michael Kloth, Jack Kloth, Lauren Kloth
- 23 - Joe Larson, Harold Lindstrom
- 24 - Brady Jorgensen, Eric Trout
- 26 - Rebecca Moderow
- 27 - Eunice Persson
- 28 - Lillian Mueller, James Schrock
- 29 - Arlene Carper, Lane Peterson
- 30 - Garrett Pearson
- 31 - Isaiah Larson, Larry Paulson



- 4- Natalie & Jennings Johnson
Greg & Nancy Johnson
- 5 - Mark & Jacque Eldal
- 6 - Robert & Jane Moseman
- 13- Sam & Elisa Schmidt
- 27 - Gordon & Shirley Olson



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday school will resume the 7th of January. Hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and are enjoying their Christmas Break! Thank you parents for all the extra help making our Christmas Program a success! We are hoping to have special music on January 14th.

We will be doing a Pay-It-Forward for Lee Schinck who is enduring medical expenses. Our December P-I-F was nearly \$1000 so thank you everyone. I had an unexpected need come to my attention, so we helped a family in our community with their heat and water bills.

Our February Pay-It-Forward will continue to help pay for Buddy Pack Christmas gifts. This year each kid in our community will receive a stocking hat and with

These temperatures, it is a much needed gift. We sing again February 11, 2018.

"It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35

I am facilitating a survey for the JH and High School kids to see if there is a need for a SUNDAY SCHOOL from 10:30-11:30 on Sunday mornings-Please answer the questions below if you have an age appropriate child

1. Would your son/daughter be interested in this?
2. How many Sundays a month would your son/daughter prefer?
3. Ideas for the curriculum (examples discussing the meaning of the sermon after church is over, learning how to read the bible, etc)

This is just an idea I am throwing out there. If there is enough interest, I will move forward on making this happen.

Thanks, and Happy New Year, Angie



BIBLE STUDY NEWS

YOUTH GROUP will be meeting every Wednesday from 6:30-8:30 p.m. A meal will be provided. It is open to all current Junior and Senior High students in the community.

YOUTH GROUP MEAL SIGN UP SHEET – We have added a Youth Group Meal Sign Up Sheet to the bulletin board. We are looking for volunteers to provide a meal, side dish or dessert every Wednesday night for 25-30 students throughout the school year. If you cannot provide a meal, but are willing to contribute funds to help cover the cost of meals please let Pastor Mark or Tess know of your willingness to donate funds. For planning, we would like to have volunteers sign up for meals, side dishes, dessert or donations at least a month in advance.

Men's Bible Study is on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month.

Growing Together –Genesis. Nancy Johnson is leading a study, "Gods at War". The study begins at 11:00 a.m. Sunday mornings. Everyone is welcome.



CONFIRMATION NEWS

Confirmation will meet January 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th & 31st.

IN OUR PRAYERS OF CONCERN PLEASE INCLUDE: Harley Nelson, Robert Johnson, Dick Lowe, Hannah Brudigam, Judy Hall, Ewald Dalquist, P.D. Stibor, Merna Pierce (sister-in-law of Carole Johnson), Todd Cull, Dr. Charlie Seagren, Laurie Schold, Lee Schinck, Tony Kochel (Hilda Benne's nephew-in-law) Bonnie Goodrich, Krissa Schonert, Janice Johnson, Roger Maller, Nancy Poppe, Mel Swenson, Joe Keaschall, Alejandro Zeller, Pat Jorgensen, Oliver Nimmo, Moe Johnson, Nancy Moate, Stacy Long, Arizona Riecken, Lincoln Nobel Hangman, Andy Kruse, Landon Johnson, Delwin Benne, and Grace Meints, the family of Joshua Mulder, and Laverne Osterndorff, our shut-ins, and our youth ministry.



Sandy Mallette--685-6131
Shirley Olson--685-6047



SEWING MEETINGS START AGAIN JAN. 8, 2018

SEWING GROUP MEETS every Monday & Tuesday morning at 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.



W.O.W. MEETINGS- JANUARY- 2018

January 3.....Bingo @ O.H. 9:30 a.m.Hannah
January 8.....Executive Meeting 9:00 a.m.
January 10.....Group Meetings 9 a.m., 2 p.m., 5 p.m.
Clean KitchenRuth

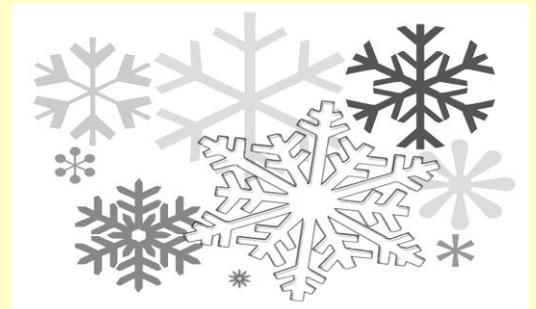


DORCAS SOCIETY

DORCAS SOCIETY - January 31st 2:00 P.M. @ Oakland Heights

January 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 7:30PM A.A. MEETING	3 9:00AM MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 9:30AM BINGO @ OAKLAND HEIGHTS 6:30PM - 8:30 P.M CONFIRMATION 7:00 PM CHOIR PRACTICE	4 8:00PM N.A. MEETINGS	5	6 5:30PM COMMUNION SERVICE
7 9:30AM COMMUNION SERVICE 10:30AM FELLOWSHIP & SUNDAY SCHOOL	8 8:30AM SEWING GROUP 9AM WOW EXECUTIVE MEETING	9 8:30AM SEWING GROUP 7:30PM A.A. MEETING	10 9AM 2 PM, 5PM WOW GROUP MEETINGS 6:30PM - 8:30 P.M CONFIRMATION & YOUTH GROUP 7:00 PM CHOIR PRACTICE	11 8:00PM N.A. MEETINGS	12	13 5:30PM WORSHIP SERVICE
14 9:30AM PRAISE SERVICE 10:30AM FELLOWSHIP & SUNDAY SCHOOL	15 8:30AM SEWING GROUP MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY	16 8:30AM SEWING GROUP 7:30PM A.A. MEETING	17 9:00AM MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 6:30PM - 8:30 P.M CONFIRMATION & YOUTH GROUP 7:00 PM CHOIR PRACTICE	18 8:00PM N.A. MEETINGS	19	20 5:30PM WORSHIP SERVICES
21 9:30AM CONTEMPORARY SERVICE 10:30AM FELLOWSHIP & SUNDAY SCHOOL	22 8:30AM SEWING GROUP	23 8:30AM SEWING GROUP 7:30PM A.A. MEETING	24 6:30PM - 8:30 P.M CONFIRMATION & YOUTH GROUP 7:00 PM CHOIR PRACTICE	25 8:00PM N.A. MEETINGS	26	27 5:30PM WORSHIP SERVICE
28 9:30AM WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30AM FELLOWSHIP & SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:45 – ANNUAL MEETING	29 8:30AM SEWING GROUP	30 8:30AM SEWING GROUP 7:30PM A.A. MEETING	31 2:00 P.M. DORCAS SOCIETY - @ O.H. 9:00 AM MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 6:30 PM-8:30 PM CONFIRMATION & YOUTH GROUP 7:00 PM CHOIR PRACTICE			





**First Evangelical Lutheran Church
Oakland, Nebraska**

The church council met December 4, 2017 at the home of Pastor Eldal. Present were Greg Johnson, Nathan Anderson, Jim Pelan, Sam Schmidt, Tom Meyer, Carole Johnson, Susan Mulder, Karl Lundquist, Mona Tanksley and Pastor Eldal.

After devotions were given by Carole Johnson, the minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. Pastor presented his report for November

The Treasurer’s report through November was reviewed and discussed. It was noted that to date the expenses have exceeded income by \$10,288.87. We discussed the various funds and the possibility of using some of the money in the funds to help pay expenses if necessary. Greg will meet with Audrey and review the accounts that we have.

Old Business: The Property committee again discussed the need to paint the exterior of the church as a project that will need to be done. The problem of cracking stucco was also discussed and Jim will work on repairing this where he can. It was reported that our sprinkler system is winterized by Sean Linder.

New Business: The Property committee discussed the problem of icy walkways and it was felt that all council members should be aware and help by spreading the ice melt when it is needed. Greg and Nathan will check on the doorway into the storage area where the trash cans are stored as it is in need of repair. We also want to encourage all to put trash bags into the containers and not let trash bags set out that might attract rodents. Max Christensen will be contacted to check on an electrical outlet by the altar and the dimmer switch in the annex.

The Evangelism Committee had no new business to report.

The annual meeting will be January 28. The Outreach Committee and Audit Committee will need to meet prior to that and Greg will arrange these meetings. The nominating committee is working to get names on the ballot for church council. Those going off the council are Greg, Sam, Tom and Mona. There was a discussion about decreasing the number of members on the council and this will be discussed further at the annual meeting.

Devotions for January - Greg Johnson
Communion helpers - Jan 6 -Arla Ogden
Jan 7 - Karl Lundquist

The meeting adjourned with all saying the Lord’s Prayer.

The next meeting will be January 8, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Mona Tanksley, Secretary

December Attendance	
2 & 3	164
10&11	225
17&18.....	NA
24 AM	63
24 PM	357
31.....	41

December Finances	
Regular	\$ 15,050.00
Christmas	\$ 7,542.08
Designated	
Use of Church	\$ 200.00
Sunday School	\$ 9.00
Supplies	\$ 56.00
Memorial	\$ 450.00
MISC. (Bible&Poinsettia)	\$1,252.00
TOTAL	\$24,550.08

January 2018



Ushers

- 7th - Sam Schmidt and Roger Moderow, Clare Wiltse and Jason Klausen
- 14th - Norma Case, Larry Johnson, Mark and Lane Peterson
- 21st - Norm Case, Jim Von Essen, Mike Selk and Brayden Selk
- 28th - Norm Case, Clare Wiltse, Gordon Nelson and Chad Linder



Greeters:

- 7th - Jan Wiltse and Heather, Gracie and Garrett Klausen
- 14th - Jodi Peterson and Kara and Johnna Peterson
- 21st - Tammy Von Essen and Carla Corwine
- 28th - Rachael Nelson and Elisabeth, Zoe, Mia and Gabrielle Linder



Acolyte	
Jan-18	7 - Mia Linder 14 - Ellen Magnusson 21 - Carson Thomsen 28 - Jonathan Dixon
Feb	4 - Hannah Deemer



Video

Sound	
Jan-18	7 - Gabi Linder 14 - Ayden Lierman 21 - Ellen Magnusson 28 - Carson Thomsen
Feb	4 - Jonathan Dixon



- 7th - Dan Tanksley
- 14th - Tess Johnson
- 21st - Jim Nelson/Dan Tanksley
- 28th - Jim Pelan
- 5th - Dan Tanksley



- 7th - Bryan Bohn
- 14th - Billye Pearson
- 21st - Ruth Wallerstedt
- 28th - Bryan Bohn
- 5th - Bryan Bohn

COFFEE SERVERS

DATE

Michelle case and Janice Case	January 7, 2018
Delaney Brudigam and Carla Corwine	January 14, 2018
Natalie Guenther and Nancy Bromm	January 21, 2018
Alissa Bousquet and Tammy Deemer	January 28, 2018
Cheryl Denker and Paula Denton	February 4, 2018
Becca Bedrincek and Judee Dix	February 11, 2018



**Thank you for your help in these important areas!
If you can't be here, please find someone to take your place.**

January 2018 Special Days

Some of the special days celebrated in January are:

- ❄ New Year's Day – January 1, 2018
- ❄ Epiphany – January 6, 2018
- ❄ Martin Luther King Jr. Day – January 15, 2018



CHRISTIAN HUMOR TO TICKLE YOUR LIFE



P



First Ev. Lutheran Church
PO Box 152, 201 N. Davis
Oakland, NE 68045

Phone:
402-685-5764

Fax:
402-685-5183

E-Mail:
firstlutheranchurch_152@q.com

**We are committed to providing
spiritual enrichment to ALL who
seek the Lord.**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Non-Profit
Organization
Permit No. 11
Oakland, NE
68045**

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.firstlutheran-oakland.com

Friend us on Facebook

