



THE SPIRE

First Ev. Lutheran Church, 201 N. Davis, PO Box 152, Oakland, NE, 68045
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Pastor's COLUMN

By Rev. Mark Eldal

In II Timothy four, Paul writes Timothy from prison. Paul isn't certain what lay before him but from his prison cell he encourages Timothy to "do your best to come before winter."

As one reads these words they seem to have a sense of poignancy about them. One senses that perhaps Timothy would have warm clothing for Paul and that Paul might also be concerned about Timothy traveling in the winter.

In each case one senses the coldness of winter, and the struggles it can bring.

However, as cold as winter can become, even colder yet, can be the winter seasons of life that can descend upon our souls.

As we live in a fallen world that is not all that God intended it to be, we may experience times of struggles, discouragement, and loss. We may encounter poor health, the discouragement of an unrealized dream, or possibly the loss of a loved one, and as we do it may seem as though winter has come to our lives.

Yet, the good news is that just as spring follows winter in the year, and new life and warmth comes, God can bring springtime to our souls and give us hope and peace again. He can be at work helping us, encouraging us, and comforting us. He can be restoring our souls, so that even in the winter of our discontent, we can sense the coming of spring and new life.

Thus, in the winter seasons of life, God can bring a new springtime of healing, hope and peace.

As we trust in Jesus, may we trust in him to minister to us in the winter of our lives, and bring warmth to our souls.

God bless,

Pastor Mark

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FEBRUARY 2018 SPECIAL DAYS

Some of the special days celebrated in February are:

- Black History Month – February 1-28
- Groundhog Day – February 2
- Boy Scout Sunday – February 4
- Transfiguration Sunday – February 11
- Ash Wednesday – February 14
- Valentine's Day – February 14
- Presidents' Day – February 19

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank You to everyone who came on Monday morning, January 15th, 2018 to help "un-decorate" the church.

The Annual Congregational Meeting of First Evangelical Lutheran Church was held on Sunday, January 28, 2018 following the worship service. There was a soup dinner following the meeting and Church Council met after the soup dinner. Thank you to last year's new council members for providing the soups and items for this meal!

Sunday School classes resumed Sunday Jan. 7th, 2018.

Enjoy a Baked Potato Bar lunch this Sunday, Feb. 4th from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Swedish Heritage Center. Free will donation.

Please join us for Ash Wednesday Service February 14th - 7:00 PM (No Luncheon Following)

Please join us for Lenten Services starting February 21st @ 6:30 PM (Luncheon will be served afterwards.)

There are sub-sandwiches available again for Super Bowl Sunday as a fundraiser, at a cost of \$4/sandwich. The forms are located in the multipurpose room and inside the bulletin. Please fill out and place in the offering plate.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Note Change: We will sing Feb. 18 instead of Feb. 11

We will be having our Valentine's Day Party February 18th!

Our last Pay-It-Forward for Lee Schinck was \$350. We will not have a February Pay-It-Forward.

BIBLE STUDY NEWS

YOUTH GROUP meets every Wednesday of the month. It is open to all current Junior High and Senior High students in the community. Starting February 21st during the Lenten season, the youth group and confirmation will meet after the Lenten service beginning at 7:30 p.m. There is a meal after the Lenten services.

FRIDAY NIGHT PUB. "Luther's Pub" is after home games. We are looking for volunteers to help us chaperone. Please contact Connie Larson (402)380-5101 or Tess Johnson (402)380-5660, if you are interested.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY is on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 9:00 am.

CONFIRMATION NEWS

Confirmands will meet February 7th, 21st and 28th. Starting February 21st during the Lenten season, the youth group and confirmation will meet after the Lenten service beginning at 7:30 p.m. There is a meal after the Lenten services.



Linda Carlson and Laurie Schold



SEWING MEETINGS EVERY MONDAY AND TUESDAY MORNINGS
8:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m.



February 4.....Devotions @ O.H. 2:30 p.m. ...Hannah
February 7Bingo @ O.H. 9:30 a.m. ...Ruth
February 12... ..Executive Meeting 9 a.m.
February 14.....Group Meetings 9 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.
..... Ash Wednesday Service - 7:00 p.m.
February 21.....Lenten Service....Young Adults Serve
February 28.....Lenten Service....Ruth Serves



Women of the Word



DORCAS SOCIETY

Dorcas Society
February 28th @ 2:00 p.m. @ Oakland Heights



IN OUR PRAYERS OF CONCERN PLEASE INCLUDE: Laurie Canarsky, Carter Anderson, Marian Moseman, Barb Harney, Dan Tanksley, Jacob Deemer, Harley Nelson, Robert Johnson, Dick Lowe, Hannah Brudigam, Judy Hall, P.D. Stibor, Merna Pierce (sister-in-law of Carole Johnson), Dr. Charlie Seagren, Laurie Schold, Lee Schnick, Tony Kochel (Hilda Benne's nephew-in-law), Bonnie Goodrich, Krissa Schonert, Janice Johnson, Nancy Poppe, Mel Swenson, Joe Keaschall, Alejandro Zeller, Pat Jorgensen, Oliver Nimmo, Moe Johnson, Stacy Long, Arizona Riecken, Lincoln Nobel Hangman, Andy Kruse, Landon Johnson, and Grace Meints, the family of Nancy Moate, our shut-ins, and our youth ministry.

FEBRUARY - 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 GROUND HOG DAY	3 5:30PM COMMUNION SERVICE
4 9:30AM COMMUNION SERVICE 10:30AM FELLOWSHIP & SUNDAY SCHOOL	5 8:30 AM SEWING GROUP	6 8:30 AM SEWING GROUP 7:30 AM A.A. MEETING	7 9:30AM BINGO @ OAKLAND HEIGHTS 6:30PM -8:30 P.M. YOUTH GROUP 7:00 PM CHOIR PRACTICE	8 6:30 PM BOY SCOUTS MEET	9	10 5:30PM WORSHIP SERVICE
11 9:30AM CONTEMPORARY SERVICE 10:30AM FELLOWSHIP & SUNDAY SCHOOL	12 9:00AM WOW EXECUTIVE MEETING 8:30 AM SEWING GROUP LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY	13 8:30 AM SEWING GROUP 7:30 AM A.A. MEETING	14 9AM & 5PM WOW GROUP MEETINGS 7:00 PM ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE VALENTINE'S DAY	15 6:30 PM BOY SCOUTS MEET	16	17 5:30PM WORSHIP SERVICE
18 9:30AM PRAISE SERVICE 10:30AM FELLOWSHIP & SUNDAY SCHOOL	19 8:30 AM SEWING GROUP PRESIDENT'S DAY	20 8:30 AM SEWING GROUP 7:30 AM A.A. MEETING	21 9AM MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 6:30 PM LENTEN SERVICE 7:30 P.M. YOUTH GROUP & CONFIRMATION 8:00 PM CHOIR PRACTICE	22 6:30 PM BOY SCOUTS MEET WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY	23	24 5:30PM WORSHIP SERVICE
25 9:30AM WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30AM FELLOWSHIP & SUNDAY SCHOOL	26 8:30 AM SEWING GROUP	27 8:30 AM SEWING GROUP 7:30 AM A.A. MEETING	28 2:00PM DORCAS SOCIETY MEETING @ O.H. 6:30 PM LENTEN SERVICE 7:30 P.M. YOUTH GROUP 8:00 PM CHOIR PRACTICE			



First Evangelical Lutheran Church
Oakland, Nebraska

The church council met January 8, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were Greg Johnson, Tom Meyer, Linda Jones, Sandy Husar, Sam Schmidt, Karl Lundquist, Mona Tanksley, Jim Pelan, Jon Seagren and Pastor Eldal.

After devotions were given by Greg, the minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. Pastor presented his report for the month of December. The Treasurer's report was reviewed and discussed.

Old Business: Property Committee - It was noted that Nathan repaired the exterior door under the south stairs where the trash is stored. There was discussion about having an exterminator come to see what can be done to eliminate the rodent problem. It was suggested that the bins used for food bank donations have the lids placed on them. Also, we want to encourage people when taking out trash to please place the bags in the trash cans. We will see about getting a light installed under the steps where the trash cans are stored. It was reported that Max Christensen checked out the electrical outlet that was in question by the altar. He found it to be in good repair but did suggest using a power strip when plugging in Christmas lights. The dimmer switch in question was also found to be in good working order. Pastor reported that a new headset has been purchased and that the sound and clarity are better. The speaker on the south wall of the sanctuary will be checked to see that it is at the angle it should be. Jim has repaired a couple areas of stucco on the exterior of the building. Other items discussed included the problem of getting a wheelchair through the doorway leading to the elevator upstairs, the possible need for a railing on the ramp downstairs leading from the elevator and the need for light bulbs in the parking lot to be replaced.

James Unwin reported on the Outreach Committee meeting and their recommendations as to where the interest money might be distributed. The total interest money to be disbursed is not definite yet but will range between \$29,000 and \$30,000. The council approved the recommendations of the committee.

The Evangelism Committee had no report.

The budget for 2018 was reviewed and discussed after which a motion was made by Jon to approve the 2018 budget in the amount of \$198,500. Motion seconded by Sandy and carried.

It was reported that four people have agreed to run for church council, but the Outreach Committee is still in need of candidates to be elected.

There was discussion about getting a space heater for use in the north Sunday school room. The possibility of getting some bat insulation installed in the ceiling upstairs was also discussed.

The annual meeting will be January 28 immediately following the worship service. We plan to discuss the idea of decreasing the number of council members to nine over a three-year period. Council members preparing the soup are Jon, Susan, Linda and Nathan.

There was some discussion of remodeling the north kitchen area off of the annex. The idea of widening the door to the room was also considered as part of the project.

Pastor reported he will be on vacation January 16-22. Curt Hiline and Steve Hoden will be covering in his absence.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned with all saying the Lord's Prayer. The next meeting will be held immediately after the annual meeting.

Mona Tanksley, Secretary

January Attendance	
6 & 7	155
13&14	109
20&21	97
27&28	160

January Finances	
Regular	\$11,108.00
Designated	
Building Use	\$ 50.00
Pay It Forward	\$348.00
Annual Meeting- S. Embury	\$200.00
Supplies-Coffee	\$155.00
Sunday School	\$ 16.00
Wed. Nite Youth	\$395.00
Misc.	\$119.00
TOTAL	\$12,391.00

PASTORAL ACTS – 2017

BAPTISMS

We welcomed into membership through holy baptism:

Travis Earl Penke, Saturday at 5:30 p.m. January 28, 2017 at First Evangelical Lutheran Church. His parents are Jason and Kylie Penke. His sponsors are Bob & Kelly Abrahams, Russ and Krissy Ozenbaugh, Eric and Natalie Schilling. Travis was born December 7, 2016. He joins two brothers, Tate and Tye.; **WELCOME TRAVIS!!!**

Alivia Mae Bittner, February 11, 2017 at First Evangelical Lutheran Church. Her parents are Derek and Angela Bittner. Her sponsors are Jennifer & Thomas Maleshafske ad Deb and Kery Kopecky. Alivia was born October 25, 2016. She joins two sisters, Clara and Adrianna. **WELCOME ALIVIA!!!**

Avery Shea Elsasser, February 11, 2017 at First Evangelical Lutheran Church. Her parents are Gerron and Kristin Elsasser. Her sponsors are Trent and Kiersten Elsasser. Avery was born December 5, 2016. **WELCOME AVERY!!!**

Jeremiah Craig Johnson, Sunday at 9:30 a.m. April 30, 2017 at First Evangelical Lutheran Church. His parents are Natalie and Jennings Johnson. His sponsors are Selena Johnson and Dan and Mackenzie Kahlandt. Jeremiah was born February 13, 2017. **WELCOME JEREMIAH!!!**

Parker Drake Onken on Sunday, June 18, 2017. Parker was born on January 30, 2017. His parents are Nicholas and Katie Onken. His sponsors are Justin Onken and Sydnee, Alex, and Ryan Brehmer. **WELCOME PARKER!!!**

CONFIRMATIONS

THREE OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE confirmed their faith Sunday, April 23, 2017: Marissa Mulder, Ashten Rennerfeldt and Carly Stewart. We're grateful for their faithfulness to be involved in this educational ministry. We're also grateful for Pastor Mark and **Jean Swanson** and the parents of our confirmands for all their help with confirmation.

WEDDINGS

We extend our congratulations and ask for God's blessing on:

Elisa Huebert and Sam Schmidt who were joined in holy matrimony at First Ev. Lutheran Church on January 14, 2017. Sam is the son of Tim and Rosa Schmidt. Elisa is the daughter of Jay and Renae Huebert. **CONGRATULATIONS MR & MRS SCHMIDT!!**

Jennie Johnson and Stewart Harbin who were joined in holy matrimony at First Ev. Lutheran Church on April 15, 2017. Jennie is the daughter of Johnnie and Melinda Johnson. Stewart is the son of Lyn Harbin and the late William Harbin. **CONGRATULATIONS MR & MRS HARBIN!**

Laura Morris and Adam Johnson who joined in holy matrimony at First Ev. Lutheran Church on May 27th, 2017. Laura is the daughter of Gary and Deb Morris. Adam is the son of Greg and Nancy Johnson. **CONGRATULATIONS MR & MRS JOHNSON!!**

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. **CONGRATULATIONS MR & MRS CASE!!!!**

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. **CONGRATULATIONS MR & MRS GUENTHER!!**

FUNERALS

We commended into God's Hands:

At the First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Oakland with Pastor Mark Eldal officiating:

FUNERALS and MEMORIAL SERVICES

Lorna Olson – Memorial Service - Jan. 21, 2017
Donna Johnson– Memorial Service Apr. 1, 2017
Darlene Husen- Funeral Service -Apr. 6, 2017
Merl Jeffrey Richards – Memorial Service - May 20, 2017
Mildred Sandquist - Funeral Service - May 30. 2017
Ed Hanna – Funeral Service - Aug. 1, 2017
Marie Crom – Funeral Service - Aug. 24, 2017
Fauniel Paulson – Memorial Service Aug. 22, 2017
Ron Badje – Funeral Service – Aug. 31, 2017
Karen L. Brand – Funeral Service – Nov. 22, 2017
LaVerne Osterdorff – Funeral Service – Dec. 1, 2017
Joshua C. Mulder – Funeral Service – Dec. 27, 2017

At Westside Cemetery, NE with Pastor Mark Eldal officiating:

Roger Saf – Graveside Committal – Apr 6, 2017

At Oakland Cemetery in Oakland, NE with Pastor Mark Eldal officiating:

James Frahm – Graveside Service – May 8, 2017

At West Admah Cemetery in Hooper, NE with Pastor Mark Eldal officiating:

Joyce Nelson – Graveside Committal – Aug. 22, 2017

At Lyons Cemetery in Lyons, NE with Pastor Mark Eldal officiating:

Barbara Swanson – Graveside Committal – Aug 26, 2017

At Craig Cemetery in Craig, NE with Pastor Mark Eldal officiating:

Ramona Benson – Graveside Committal – Nov. 11, 2017

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

4 - Lois Schneekloth, Javar Larson, Myesha Larson
 5 - Raymond Satree
 6 - Denise Enstrom, Carl Magnusson,
 7 - Louden Pelan
 8 - Carolyn Magnusson
 9 - Elizabeth Moderow, Sara Anderson
 10 - Tammy Deemer, Amy Rost, Helen Murray, Betty Rogers
 11 - Merlin Anderson, Leon Uman
 12 - Karla Shelley, Daniel Tanksley, Dorothy Wallace
 13 - Tom Mallette, Vernelle Nelson, Brittany Sznajder-Murray
 16 - Dorothy Miller, Bryanna Olson, Perry Rogers, Sarah Wallace
 17 - Joan Magnusson, Sharon Peterson
 18 - Brian Stover, Sally Johnson, Dick Lowe
 19 - Patrick Wonka
 20 - Mona Tanksley
 21 - Darrell Schneekloth
 22 - Wyatt Seagren
 24 - Adilen Rennerfeldt, Beverly Richards
 25 - Joshua Deemer
 26 - LaVerne Kellner
 27 - Kathleen Pearson
 28 - Don Johnson



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

1 - Jon and Chloine Johnson
 12 - Alan and Tammy Schinck
 19 - Delwin and Sandra Slatt
 20 - Vern and Lucetta Jensen
 21 - James and Audrey Unwin



Ushers for Wed Night Lenten Services

Feb 14th - Ash Wed Garrett and Wyatt Seagren
 Feb 21st - Brayden Selk and Grant Seagren.
 Feb 28th - Connor Guill and Ayden Lierman
 Mar 7th - Carson Thomsen and Jonathan Dixon
 Mar 14th - Aiden Jorgensen and Carter Bousquet
 March 21st - Grant Seagren and Carson Thomsen

USHERS

THIS MONTH

USHERS - Sunday Mornings

Feb 4th - Sam Schmidt, Roger Moderow, Merlin Anderson
 Feb 11th - Norm Case, Larry Johnson, Ron and Andrew Brudigam
 Feb 18th - Norm Case, Cal Anderson and Derek Bittner
 Feb 25th - Norm Case, Clare Wiltse, David Deemer and Sam Schmidt
 Mar 5 - Sam Schmidt & Roger Moderow,

GREETERS



Feb 4th - Rosemary Anderson and Mary Alice Pearson
 Feb 11th - Delaney Brudigam and Stephanie Rokusek
 Feb 18th - Sara Anderson and Angela Bittner, Adriana, Clara & Alivia
 Feb 25th - Elisha Schmidt and Tammy, Joshua and Hannah Deemer

ACOLYTES



Feb	4	Hannah Deemer
	11	Kara Peterson
	14	Johnna Peterson (Ash Wed)
	18	Carter Bousquet
	21	Grant Seagren (Lent)
	25	Brayden Selk
	28	Connor Guill
Mar	4	Aiden Jorgensen



VIDEO

Feb	4	Jonathon Dixon
	11	Johnna Peterson
	14	Kara Peterson (Ash Wed)
	18	Hannah Deemer
	21	Carter Bousquet (Lent)
	25	Grant Seagren
	28	Brayden Selk (Lent)
Mar	4	Connor Guill

ORGANISTS



Feb.	4 th	- Bryan Bohn
	11 th	- Billye Pearson
	18 th	- Ruth Wallerstedt
	25 th	- Bryan Bohn
Mar.	4 th	- Bryan Bohn



SOUND

Feb.	4 th	- Tess Johnson
	11 th	- Tess Johnson / Jim Nelson
	18 th	- Tess Johnson / Rachel Nelson
	25 th	- Jim Pelan
Mar	4 th	- Tess Johnson

FELLOWSHIP SERVERS THIS MONTH



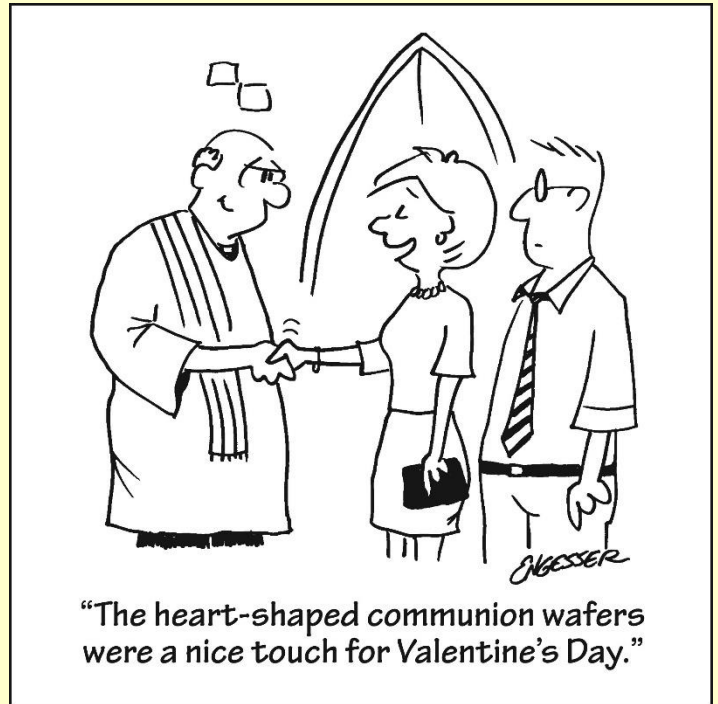
Cheryl Denker and Paula Denton	Sunday, February 4, 2018
Becca Bedrincek and Judee Dix	Sunday, February 11, 2018
Betty Dixon and Julie Easton	Sunday, February 18, 2018
Teresa Egbers and Julie Ehlers	Sunday, February 25, 2018
Jacque Eldal and Joanna Going	Sunday, March 4, 2018

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

CHRISTIAN HUMOR TO TICKLE YOUR LIFE



"Remind me never to ask the Youth Group to help fold the church bulletins again."



"The heart-shaped communion wafers were a nice touch for Valentine's Day."

First Ev. Lutheran Church
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Feb 14th - 7:00 PM - Ash Wednesday Services

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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



**FIRST EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH IS PART OF LCMC,
Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ.**

To find information regarding our synod –
<http://www.lcmc.net/>.

