



NOVEMBER 2016 NEWSLETTER

Celebrating 40 years
1976 ~ 2016

40th Anniversary Celebration Sunday, November 20

Christ the Servant will be celebrating its 40th Anniversary as a congregation on Sunday, November 20. The first worship service was held on November 21, 1976, at the Veterans Home Chapel (the old Eby Building) and the first service in our present building was held on June 18, 1978. Since then we have gathered over 2,100 times to worship God on Sundays and special services. We are gathering to celebrate our history and give thanks to God for His faithfulness on Sunday, November 20. Please note our schedule for the day! Invite former members and guests to join us!

- 8:45 AM Sunday School Hour – a time of fellowship and welcoming
- 10:00 AM Celebration Worship – Pastor Mark Vander Tuig
(Service Coordinator of LCMC will bring our message)
- 11:15 AM Meal and Fellowship Time
(Serving ham, scalloped potatoes, green beans)
- 12:30 PM Program – “Remembering of Past -- Envisioning Our Future”

Sunday Worship – A Variety of Experiences November

As we continue to gather for worship (“not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another. . .” – Hebrews 10:25), I don’t believe there is a more diverse month of worship than the month of November. We begin with All Saints (where we remember those who have died in the Lord), listen to Peter’s second letter (“make every effort to add to your faith . . .”), gather for a special worship to celebrate our 40th Anniversary as a congregation (remember to thank God on Thanksgiving Eve), and then begin our season of Advent (the second coming of Jesus). Can you say: “Wow?” Worship is more than a habit, it is encountering the living God and resurrected Christ in some of most meaningful moments of our life journey. Please join us along with other members and worshipers to glorify God and remember all His benefits!

November 6 – 2 Peter 1:3-11 – “Being Useful” **All Saints Sunday**

God’s Word is trustworthy in all ways
We will remember all our saints who died in the past year

November 13 – 2 Peter 1:12-21 – “With Trust” **Consecration Sunday**

God’s Word is trustworthy in all ways.
Stewardship Ministry Team Sunday – “Simply Giving”

November 20 – 2 Peter 2:1-3/Jude 16-25 – “On Guard” **40th Anniversary Service**

God’s Word is the only standard of truth in our world
Guest Preacher: Pastor Mark Vander Tuig (Service Coordinator of LCMC)

November 27 – 1 Peter 4:11-19 – “With Anticipation” **1st Sunday of Advent**

A believer’s hope is in the return of Jesus
We anticipate Jesus’ return as we prepare for Christmas

Change the World School of Prayer

Mondays – November 14, December 12 – 7 PM

Our next Change the World School of Prayer teaching session will be held on Monday, November 14, beginning at 7 PM. We will be reviewing and discussing Lesson Six: *The Prayer Warrior's Praise Life* where we will understand 12 realities of a praise life. On December 12 we will watch the last teaching: *The Prayer Warrior's Marching Orders*. Dick Eastman (founder of Every Home for Christ) has taught his "Change the World School of Prayer" for 40 years and is putting his teaching sessions online. We gather at the church to listen to his teachings each month and pray after each of his three segments. You are welcome to come to any of the teachings. If you cannot attend, you can watch his teachings online at www.ehc.org/CTWSOP and click "Watch on Demand" and listen to each session. You can either download a lesson or order a student book. We are watching these videos in preparation for our 40th anniversary as a congregation. (We also encourage you to take a postcard in the back of the church and begin praying for revival in our congregation and region.)

Adult Sunday School Class

"Testing of Your Faith"

(Sundays at 9 AM in the Sanctuary)

Pastor Steve is leading a DVD series and discussion on the testing of our faith. The class is meeting during the Sunday school hour in the sanctuary as we continue to explore the Biblical truths about what happens when God sends a test of faith into your life, and how to stand firm and allow God to bless you through these tests when they come. In this study you will discover transformational truths about: (1) why we are tested, (2) the five wrong responses to tests, (3) how we are to live while being tested, (4) how to trust God and have peace during trials, (5) how every Christian can build his or her faith during a test, and (6) how to successfully pass a test of faith.

Monthly Senior Ministry

1st Tuesdays at 11:30 AM

November 1

Our Seniors met in the fellowship hall on Tuesday, October 4, for a noon meal, fellowship, and to learn a Bible study method that is used by Every Home for Christ called The Discovery Method. This biblical study is used by millions around the world once they have been introduced to Jesus and want to learn more about Him as a disciple and follower. The Bible is built mainly around stories (70%) so we learned how to understand the Biblical story using the Discovery Process and the Application Process. Each process is built on three parts. Discovery: (1) Know the Story – characters, actions, detail? (2) Understand the Story – emotions, choices, motives? and (3) Discover the truths – right thoughts and actions, loving God, loving others? Application: (1) Rebuke the past ("Have I always lived according to this biblical truth, (2) Correct the present ("If my past behavior does not match up to biblical truth learned, then what must I do to correct my current behavior?", and (3) Train for the future ("What must I do to prepare myself to always live according to this new biblical truth?")

We then did a Bible study on "Do Not Worry" based on the story when Jesus and the disciples were in a boat when a terrible storm arose (Mark 4:35-41). We used the discovery and application questions and had a great engaging study where everyone was able to give their input. We learned that this type of Bible study is one that anyone could lead with others. At our next gathering in November we will be learning the 12-Step Prayer Program from Every Home for Christ that was developed by Dick Eastman that can be a guide as we seek to pray daily in our own "Gap" room. Come and join us for this informative and practical time of teaching and application. The two keys to maturing in our faith are Prayer and God's Word.

PASTOR STEVE'S LETTER: "Embracing Gratitude as a Way of Life Sustains Community"

Each month we are examining four critical practices that make living in community not only necessary but when expressed make for a beautiful community that attracts others. These necessary practices are (1) Truth-Telling, (2) Gratitude, (3) Promise-Keeping, and (4) Hospitality according to Christine Pohl in her book "Living in Community: Cultivating Practices That Sustain Us." Last month we talked about "truth-telling" so in the month where we observe a day to "give thanks" (Thanksgiving Day), let us look more closely at "Embracing Gratitude as a Way of Life." Most of us do fairly well with occasional expressions of gratitude to God. We give thanks for our health, families, salvation, daily food, and unexpected blessings. But embracing gratitude as a "way of life" is more—it is a picture of our heart—a body, a life—pulsing every heartbeat with gratitude. If we really understand our lives as "redeemed by costly grace", then our primary response can only be gratitude. It becomes the CENTER of the Christian life. Karl Barth (theologian) wrote that grace and gratitude "belong together like heaven and earth. Grace evokes gratitude like the voice of an echo. Gratitude follows grace like thunder [follows] lightning."

The word "gratitude" comes from the Latin *gratia*, which means "grace" or "graciousness." Similarly, in Greek, grace (*charis*) and thankfulness, thanksgiving or gratitude (*eucharistia*) share the same root. If grace and gratitude are so central and belong together, why are they not more prominent in how we live? A couple reasons why gratitude is not at the center of our Christian life are entitlement and unrealistic expectations. With an entitlement mentality we are lured into the false and dangerous thinking that we deserve to be heard and that somehow our voice is more important than others. And when situations don't go our way or our voice is not the voice that is followed, complaint and frustration rise within us. Or ingratitude can raise its ugly head once we start focusing on the flaws of a community. There are always things about a community or congregation that will disappoint us, and because our expectations for the church are high, disappointment and frustration can run very deep. When we yearn for some ideal of church, it's easy to grow increasingly dissatisfied with what we have. Thus, there is always a tension between being grateful for what we have AND striving for excellence.

Although writers in the Christian and philosophical traditions have given substantial attention to gratitude (and gratitude is central in Scripture), gratitude as a central way of life has been mostly overlooked as a needed practice for community life. Gratitude is so vital because it sustains communities that are holy and good. Far too many communities are being plagued with an epidemic of complaint, envy, presumption, and dissatisfaction which undermine human relationships. These forms of ingratitude are deadly: "they kill community by chipping away until participants long to be just about anywhere else." (How many former CTS members do you think have left our congregation for this very reason? More than you realize if you have ever talked with them about their reasons for leaving.) Christine Pohl writes here these words: "While gratitude gives life to communities, ingratitude that has become established sucks out everything good, until life itself shrivels and discouragement and discontent take over." The apostle Paul understood the communal importance of gratitude when he encouraged the early Christian congregations to see that at the center of their life together was "giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Eph. 5:20). Ingratitude toward God and human beings is a terrible thing, but it often comes dressed in other clothing—restlessness, concerns for self-fulfillment or

PASTOR STEVE'S LETTER: *(CONTINUED)*

entitlement, and irritation at not being properly valued or recognized. And once a "culture of complaint" is established, it spreads through communities and affects everyone!

Perhaps a quote by Dietrich Bonhoeffer can remind us why gratitude and appreciation are so needed in a congregation when both are in short supply in society.

"We pray for the big things and forget to give thanks for the ordinary, small (and yet really not small) gifts. How can God entrust great things to one who will not thankfully receive from Him the little things? If we do not give thanks daily for the Christian fellowship in which we have been placed, even where there is no great experience, no discoverable riches, but much weakness, small faith, and difficulty; if on the contrary, we only keep on complaining to God that everything is so paltry and petty, so far from what we expected, then we hinder God from letting our fellowship grow according to the measures and riches which are there for us all in Jesus Christ." (Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*, p. 29)

Kevin Rains (Vineyard Central Church, Cincinnati, Ohio), after being reduced to tears when he read Bonhoeffer's quote, wrote these words in response:

"I can only imagine if this advice was heeded by even a fraction of a local church—the effects could be revolutionary. How many times have I wished I were somewhere else where God was REALLY moving? How many times have I longed to be in a more beautiful place (with mountains or an ocean) and abandon the urban neighborhood where I live? How many times have I fantasized about the perfect fellowship where everyone got along like a perfect family? What this boils down to is spiritual pornography . . . creating a mental fantasy of a perfect place or people and not recognizing the good things all around me. This spiritual porn is my nemesis. It's poison. Thankfully, the antidote is available and accessible: equal parts of gratitude and affirmation."

When people enter to our congregation to worship and gather together, what spirit pervades our conversation and actions? If someone was to sit down by you in worship or in a conversation after worship, what attitude would they hear from you? May we make our goal to be what Paul writes in Colossians: "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him" (Col 3:17).
NEXT MONTH: Promise-Keeping

In Every Situation Give Thanks to God!

PASTOR MATT'S LETTER:

*The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth. He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He will also hear their cry and will save them. **Psalm 145:18-19***

Father's Day will never be the same. Now, I know many of you have experienced the loss of one or both parents, and there are many who have not; but I am just admitting that facing Thanksgiving and the "holidays" without someone for the first time is always a challenging task. But Father's Day; that seems to be stuck in my head right now. And the other word that comes to mind is failure. Even worse is that I have that same word with my mother's passing. Perhaps I am not alone. The fact is we have all heard it said, "you never know what you have until it's gone."

Now it is different with my dad. With mom, I just was too young, too "busy," too yeah, in other words I had too many excuses and I just didn't comprehend the value of learning about my mom's life. I missed out on something with my mom and for years I wrestled with that, but with Dad, even Becky knew this was a challenge. Who would I talk to now? He and I had been engaged for years and yet I will admit in the majority of my life outside of middle school, I was "too whatever" also with my dad. But when I was young and in the past 18 or so years, he had been my go-to person. When, as a kid, I would wake up in the middle of the night from a dream about losing my parents, my dad was always the one who would get up, go out to the living room with me and talk. I would ask about heaven and what it would be like and my dad helped me, from the Bible and not the cultural ideas of heaven, understand that when we would be there it would be together as a family worshiping God and sharing in His love. Now of course that is paraphrasing, but to a kid who was asking questions like, "In heaven will you know me?" it was to the same point.

Why those questions came – I don't know. Why I kept looking to be assured – I don't know. But, what I do know is that my dad knew God, his faith, and the Bible clearly enough that he would share life with me. I say all this to note, that I stopped asking questions when I became "too whatever." But as I began at the seminary, and began looking at my kids – the value of questions became more important. Without asking the question no information would be offered and the implied opportunity for bonding and relationship is lost. I have heard so many people say, "I wish I could have asked about ..." and yet I still didn't ask as I should. Even after my experience with my mom... I still didn't. Why? Because: first, somehow I always assumed my dad would be around, second, because I didn't take the time and make it happen, and finally, because I didn't have the questions that could have changed my life and developed our bond.

The psalmist reminds us that God is longing, waiting, and is present to hear the voice of each and every one of His children if they will but call upon Him as He should be called upon; in His will and in His way with humility and truth. God, our Father, neither slumbers nor sleeps and will never pass away. It really is a relationship that is worth our building our bonds with and taking the time to grow. God is here to hear, and we are sought after to come. Looking at what a relationship can become with God then reminds me also how valuable the relationships are that are around us in family, neighborhood, and congregation but how so often we don't tend that growing and don't teach our kids and young people to grow this as well from an early age.

So I will give you a few questions, that now I wish I could ask my dad, but I will have to ask some of you. So you can also ask them of others and together we can be bound together in the relationships and unity that God so intended and longs for in His Church and world. I have more, just come and ask, and sit awhile and talk.

- *What did you have as a child that kids today don't have?*
- *Think of some relatives that have passed away in the last few years. What would they be doing right now if they were with you?*
- *What was the hardest thing you went through as a child? How did you overcome it?*
- *If you could go back to one day in your childhood, which day would that be? Why?*
- *How are you most different from your parents and grandparents? How are you the same?*

God is always near. And because of Jesus so is my dad.

Blessings on your journey,

Thank You - from Pastor Matt for the get well cards, memorial, and remembrances that came throughout a couple of tough months from surgery to the passing of my father. Each card that came reminded us of the love of God's community and God's assuring presence in a difficult time.

2 Cor. 1:3-4 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.

YOUTH CALENDAR

Sunday School Exploration of the Bible

A time of Gathering happens from 8:45 to 8:50 a.m. in the fellowship hall and then all the classes break out into their learning areas. This year as we continue digging deeper into the Word we are moving our focus to look into more of the Epistles beginning in 1 Peter. We want to thank all those who are serving the kingdom giving their time and talents to pass on the faith to our youth. Please thank these individuals for their service to Our children:

3 and 4 year olds, and Kindergarten Fern Zechmann

1st through 3rd Grade Amanda Cyboron

4th through 6th Grade Judy Carstens,

Jr. High and High School Mary Weich, Greg Moen, Charlie Skoglund, and Brian Anderson

Acolyte Training

Any youth who are wishing to be a part of the ministry of the congregation will need to attend a meeting and training after worship on **Sunday, November 27th** for no longer than 1 hour. This will be for **all** acolytes, even those who have been doing it, to discuss new directions and to talk about their role and this important ministry of worship for the congregation. **Please let Pastor Matt know that your child will be attending.**

Wednesday at the Pit

It's time to go indoors and prepare for the winter rest of God's creation. To prepare ourselves and to share in fellowship and songs of Thanksgiving, we are going to light the last fire of the year on **Friday, November 4 beginning at 5 p.m.** The youth will again provide the meat and buns, plus plenty of hot chocolate, decaf coffee and s'mores fixin's. Bring a friend, bring your family, bring a chair and a blanket as we sit out under the stars and watch the fire and the church together warm our hearts and minds for Jesus. Please let Pastor Matt know prior to November 3 if you will be attending and how many will be coming.

Confirmation Fundraiser

Come be filled in worship with God's Good News and then stay to be filled with Good Food provided by the Confirmation Class as their fall fundraiser. We will be serving brunch items like eggs and sausage, a casserole, rolls, biscuits, fruit salad and beverages. Confirmation only does two fundraising events each year and they help to purchase food for the mission and other projects and events. Please come, please eat, and please give with an open and generous heart. Your giving will touch more than just the students. **Sunday, November 6** immediately after worship.

Board of Administration
September 19, 2016

Present: Steve Jessen, Warren Bennett, Richard Hillrichs, Wanda Muhs, Jan Puls; Danita Broders

Opening prayer by Warren. Minutes of the last meeting were approved online and have been published.

Financial report: Reviewed data through the end of August, noting that offerings were down last month.

YEAR-TO-DATE (January-August)	
General income	\$178,360.55
Less general expenses	<u>-168,906.86</u>
Difference	\$ 9,453.69
Less designated	<u>- 11,097.48</u>
Church general total income	<u>\$ (1,643.79)</u>

Motion by Wanda to accept the financial report; seconded by Warren; motion carried.

Bills for approval:

Christen-Brozek-Faltys in the amount of \$1,796 (represents 3 months). Steve explained that the original bid was \$208/month (\$4,200/year) but he misunderstood what was included in their bid, which has resulted in charges being approximately \$250 per month higher. Basically, it is costing us that much to generate the reports that used to be done by financial secretary. His opinion is that it is not worth that much money just for a report if we can do it ourselves. It was noted that it costs \$107 per month for C-B-F to do our payroll and quarterly payroll reports to the IRS. Motion by Richard to not continue to pay \$250 per month and instead go to a self-generated report system, seconded by Jan; motion carried. The bill for work already done by C-B-F was approved for payment.

K&B Construction in the amount of \$4,536 (concrete work). Motion by Richard to approve paying this bill, seconded by Jan; motion carried.

Jan reported that the decision was made to buyout to keep the printer/copier we had been leasing from Toshiba. This board thanked Warren for his donation for this purchase in memory of his wife, Sheryl.

Teen Mom Childcare Program: Danita Broders

Danita reported on the childcare program as well as "Embrace Grace." We are the first organization in the state of Nebraska to offer this program. This is a 12-week program that starts October 10 and is for unplanned pregnancies before the baby is born. The cost is \$30 per girl and they are looking for sponsors. She has a newspaper interview on Wednesday. Danita expressed her desire to become the permanent director of the Childcare Program, and this board unanimously approves of such.

Property: Wanda stated that the deck at the parsonage needs to be replaced, and this is a goal for next year. Steve reported that new windows have been installed at the parsonage. Regarding sod where the sidewalk was removed, Warren stated we could lay the sod ourselves for less than the \$400 estimate from K&G Construction, and offered to look into it. Motion by Jan authorizing Warren to check the price of sod, purchase and install it; seconded by Wanda. Motion carried.

Next meeting date: Monday, October 17, at 6:30 p.m.

Motion to adjourn by Richard, seconded by Warren.

Board of Administration
October 17, 2016

Present: Warren Bennett, Jan Puls, Wanda Muhs, Doris Hoffart, Richard Hillrichs, Steve Jessen, Judy Carstens

Opening prayer by Jan.

Membership/Stewardship: 30% less was given than pledged so there will be no pledge cards this year. Electronic giving through Thrivent includes a \$20 monthly service fee. This will be presented to the congregation on Nov. 15 with a sign-up sheet for those who want to give online.

Finance: reports were not available at the time of this meeting. Property insurance is going up from \$5,448 to \$5,847. Discussed raising the deductible in order to lower the premium. Motion by Jan to leave deductible as is, second by Judy; motion carried.

Property:

- Wanda shared three bids for flooring in two rooms used for childcare (carpet in the sleeping area, laminate in the eating area). Flooring in the center room (play area) does not need to be replaced at this time. No objection to proceeding with this project.
- Warren paid for the sod along the west side of the building where the sidewalk was removed and will be reimbursed.
- Water leaked into the library during a recent heavy rain; gutters need to be cleaned. Fascia needs to be painted or it will rot; probably too late this season but needs to be a priority next spring.
- Water to the fire pit area and the sprinkler system has been shut off.

Bills for approval:

- \$407.50 to JB Construction for labor to install two remaining windows in the basement of the parsonage
- \$553 to Scranton Flooring for purchase of two windows and door face

Motion by Wanda to approve both bills, plus Warren's, second by Richard; motion carried.

Next meeting: Monday, November 21, 2016, at 6:30 p.m.

Motion to adjourn by Richard, second by Warren. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Some notes from September financial results include:

- September had 3 payroll periods for both church and daycare.
- Expenses include church parking lot repairs and parsonage expenses (will come out of property fund).
- The daycare added more infants in September and the state reimbursement from September will not be received until October.

<u>Income & Expenses</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income		
Member Offerings	14,924.76	172,833.90
Non Member Offering	100.00	5,182.52
Coffee Hour Donations	32.00	340.47
Church Use	297.00	427.00
Designated Reimburse		3,754.38
Designated Day Camp		195.35
Designated Missions	445.00	5,581.00
Designated A Cyboron	25.00	355.00
Designated B Cyboron	500.00	3,615.00
Designated Emily Svitak	525.00	1,125.00
Designated Weich	20.00	150.00
Designated Rystrom		90.00
Designated Day Care	1,386.03	15,353.23
Desig. Military Biblesticks		25.00
Desig. Good Samaritan	50.00	400.00
Designated Tanzania	220.00	1,396.13
Total	<u>18,524.79</u>	<u>210,823.98</u>
Interest Income	3.24	31.8
Total	<u>18,528.03</u>	<u>210,855.78</u>
Expenses		
Administration	18,448.41	133,709.80
Worship	94.63	1,458.33
Discipleship	441.46	4,731.85
Parsonage	998.85	8,340.72
Church Building	6,414.72	25,979.73
Fellowship/Evangelism	85.47	4,995.59
Mission Outreach	45.00	8,441.13
Church	400.00	3,670.00
Local Benevolence	314.79	4,469.58
Day Care	<u>6,436.39</u>	<u>20,631.78</u>
Stewardship		253.46
Total	<u>33,679.72</u>	<u>216,681.97</u>

<u>Income Statement</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>YTD</u>
General Income	17,142.00	195,502.55
Less General Expenses	<u>27,243.33</u>	<u>196,050.19</u>
Difference	(10,101.33)	(547.64)
Less Designated	<u>1,785.00</u>	<u>12,932.48</u>
Church General Total Income	<u>(11,886.33)</u>	<u>(13,480.12)</u>
		-
Day Care Income	1,386.03	15,353.23
Less Day Care Expenses	<u>6,436.39</u>	<u>20,631.78</u>
Day care Income	<u>(5,050.36)</u>	<u>(5,278.55)</u>
Church Total Income	<u>(16,936.69)</u>	<u>(18,758.67)</u>
Daycare Income and Expenses		
Income		
Donations & Grants		2,366.12
Other	331.75	2,401.46
State Reimbursement	<u>1,054.28</u>	<u>10,585.65</u>
Total Income	1,386.03	15,353.23
Expenses		-
Payroll Wages	5,496.00	17,848.95
FICA Expense	420.45	1,365.45
Food & Supplies	231.74	792.16
Training	105.00	205.00
Other	<u>183.20</u>	<u>420.22</u>
Total Expenses	<u>6,436.39</u>	<u>20,631.78</u>
Day Care Net Income	(5,050.36)	(5,278.55)

A MESSAGE FROM CHRIST THE SERVANT MEMBERSHIP AND STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM:

On Sunday, November 13, our congregation will recognize our time, talents, and treasures during our worship service for 2017.

In the past, we have used faith promises or pledges to help in our planning for the coming year. While all of our giving is based on faith, this coming year we are inviting you to consider a new way of giving — Simply Giving. Simply Giving is an online giving plan where your offerings will be drawn directly out of your checking account and transferred to our church account. You can decide how often these transactions will occur — weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly.

We are offering this type of giving because we are often gone on numerous weekends during the year. When we return to church the next week, we may find it difficult to give a double offering or more. However, if we had a consistent way to give (especially when we are absent) that would help us maintain our faith promise on a regular basis. Thus, Simply Giving is an excellent way to be regular, consistent and faithful in our giving.

We reviewed last year’s faith promises for this year and compared these faith giving units in the first nine months. While we each intended to fulfill that faith promise, we discovered that these faith promises were behind by 30 percent so far this year. Possibly we were gone many weekends during the summer and absent from worship at Christ the Servant. By using the Simply Giving plan, our offerings during the nine-month period would have been closer to 100 percent. Do you see the potential in giving and ministry opportunities that would occur in our congregation with an increase of 20 to 25 percent with Simply Giving.

While Simply Giving may not be for everyone, we encourage many of you to consider this new giving program at Christ the Servant. This program will cost Christ the Servant \$20 a month no matter how many enroll, so we will be asking you to sign up for this plan. If you have any questions, contact any member of the Stewardship Committee below.

Doris Hoffart (402) 379-0771
Pat Witte (402) 379-4426
Judy Carstens (402) 750-6265

BRIGHT HORIZONS

(Jan/Mar/May/July/Sept/Nov)

Items needed: Yellow ruled pads, steno pads, sticky notes; deodorant, children and adult Tylenol, cough medicine, Band Aids, diapers (all the larger sizes); disinfectants, paper towels, toilet tissue, facial tissue; napkins, hair picks, shampoo, dishwashing liquid, laundry detergent, fabric softener, dryer sheets; gas cards, phone cards, Wal-Mart gift cards, grocery store gift cards.

RESCUE MISSION

(Feb/April/June/Aug/Oct/Dec)

Items needed: Facial tissue, toilet tissue, paper towels, cleaning products, disinfectants, dishwashing liquid, laundry detergent, fabric softener, dryer sheets, diapers (all sizes), deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs, soap, shampoo, Band-Aids, Tylenol, antibiotic ointment, coffee, creamer, sugar, disposable plates and cups, sugar, salt, pepper, flour, cornstarch, ketchup, mustard, chili powder.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

11-6 Jeremy Broders, Ron Hall, Charlie Skoglund
11-11 Pat Sinkbeil
11-12 Rich Jaeger
11-14 Meg Donovan, Izabel Rehan
11-15 Richard Hillrichs, Addilyn Rehan
11-17 Julie Freese
11-19 Zachary Cordner
11-21 Donna Young
11-22 Wanda Muhs, Dallas Puls
11-24 Micheyla Anderson, Rueben Rosberg
11-25 Dennis Miller
11-26 Joan Falke
11-27 Riley Petersen, Heather Quaid

ANNIVERSARIES

11-6 Rich & Deb Olson
11-16 Robert & Rhonda Beed
11-20 Mike & Nell Finkral
11-27 Doug & Pat Witte
11-30 Bill Thoendel & Lu Carter

*God's blessings to everyone celebrating this month!
If your birthday or anniversary is not listed, please
provide the church office with the month, day and year.*

CARD OF THANKS

Bright Horizons would like to thank everybody who made such generous donations of diapers and wipes to our agency during our 2016 Diaper Drive. Because of your kindness, Bright Horizons was able to collect 4333 diapers and 6 packs of wipes for our victims and their families! Our staff truly appreciates all of the continued support, as this makes it possible for us to continue to serve victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Lacy Kimes

I want to send out a special thank you to my cooks: Pastor Steve, Pastor Matt, Wanda Muhs, Lisa Clausen, Wendell Muhs and also to Pastor Steve, Linda Cyboron and Amanda Cyboron for helping set up for the pancake fundraiser as well as serving; also a thank you to Lisa and Hallie Cornelio for helping serve; also a thank you to Allison Clausen and Rita Rudolph for helping. Without the help of you and for those who came to enjoy a yummy breakfast the fundraiser would not have been as good as it was. On behalf of all the kiddos and myself, we appreciate all of you and the support you give to us.

Danita Broders

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⇒ St. John's Lutheran Church (13th St. & Benjamin Ave.) will again be a collection point for Lutheran World Relief Ingathering quilt and kit boxes. Collection dates are Monday, November 7, through Thursday, November 10, from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Volunteers will be available to help during these times. The cost of transportation to the warehouse and overseas is covered by generous donations from individuals and congregations. Contributions toward shipping costs can be turned in at the time of collection. Please make checks payable to **Lutheran World Relief**.

⇒ Thank-Offering jars will be collected this month.

⇒ Help us save money on postage! Check your mailbox in the fellowship hall on a regular basis.

Women of Christ the Servant  
Fall Gathering  
September 10, 2016

*Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Galatians 5:25 NIV*

There were 10 women present including Julie Freese, President; Fern Zechmann, Vice President; Jo Roberts, Treasurer; Linda Shaffer, Secretary. This year's theme was Hang On to the Old Rugged Cross, Perseverance, Keep Afloat!

Business Meeting

Secret Sisters: Julie has put the forms in women's mailboxes and has more forms available, please contact her if interested. Julie is not participating since she holds the master copy.

Fall Gathering: The fall gathering began with devotion and prayer lead by President Julie Freese. Nell Finkral provided brunch that included egg bakes, fresh fruit, muffins and coffee. The food was fantastic! Thank you Nell! The theme for this year is "Hang On To The Old Rugged Cross". There was a donation box for the Food Pantry, women of the church put their donations of canned food items.

Thank Offering Jars: Watch for bulletin for Thank Offering Sunday collection day in month of November. We will vote on which charities we want to donate the money to. Last year's donations was divided up and went to Norfolk Rescue Mission, Bright Horizons and Mercy Meals. Each charity receive 1/3 of the donations.

Holiday Boutique: Holiday Boutique is October 22nd and the Women's Group will be selling the "Keep Christ In Christmas" magnets for \$5.00 each and coffee.

Decorate the Sanctuary: Decorating the sanctuary on December 3rd, we will be decorating 4 trees and there will not be a cookie exchange, come and enjoy fellowship and a meal together.

Women's Night: Because we are headed into the busy season, it was decided by unanimous decision to hold off discussion of this until the Spring Gathering.

Mercy Meals: Will be pushed back to February

Embrace Grace: Linda Cyboron discussed Embrace Grace. It is only \$30.00 to sponsor a Teen Mom for 1 year.

After the meeting the WCTS made prayer boxes out of a variety of craft decorations. Everyone had a great time making these.

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Women of Christ the Servant  
Meeting Minutes  
October 4, 2016

Present: Julie Freese, President; Fern Zechmann, Vice President; Jo Roberts, Treasurer; Linda Shaffer, Secretary

September 8, 2016 minutes were approved online. Julie opened the meeting in devotion and prayer.

Treasurer's Report: Julie deposited \$22 from the Women's Fall Gathering and the new balance is \$1803.48. Fern made a motion to approve the treasurer's report, Linda seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Partner with Women in Tanzania: At 6:45PM the women's board skyped with Margaret Svitak. The discussion was about partnering with women in Tanzania and also having prayer sisters from Tanzania. The one main focus was about how to get more women involved and connected on a different level and getting to know each other better. Maybe we could do Secret Sisters with the women in Tanzania and maybe have women from our church be Prayer Partners with these women. Women from CTS and Tanzania would fill out a card with what their needs are, and prayer requests.

In Tanzania the Pastors walk out of the church at the end of the service and the congregation follows, while they are all singing the last hymn that was played. They then have auctions for the donations and put the money in the women's fund. When Margaret was there she handed out Bible markers and gave to the women in Tanzania to do with what they want, they could give away to another women or use them to auction off for donations. Margaret is purchasing supplies at Hobby Lobby and can use the help making them. Jo suggested making them at the March 4, 2017 Spring Gathering. Julie suggested making bookmarks with our Bible verse on one side and the women of Tanzania Bible verse on the other side. Also, the women of Tanzania choose a different Bible verse each year and maybe we could all share the same Bible verse.

Jo suggested that maybe the women from Tanzania would like the prayer boxes we made at the Fall Gathering and put a prayer inside them, we still have extra supplies to make these prayer boxes. Margaret thought they would travel well and she can take them with her when she goes to Tanzania, since shipping anything there is so difficult. Fern suggested that maybe we make something a little more personal for our new Prayer Partners. Fern is going to look for patterns to make prayer shawls, that we may be able to give our prayer partner.

We are hoping to have prayer partners with these women in January and maybe Skype with them so we can be face to face with our prayer partner for a deeper connection, there is not enough time to get this put together before the end of the year.

Margaret is starting to visit with the women of CTS about being a Prayer Partner before the December Gathering. Fern suggested we put inserts in the bulletins and the mailboxes and put 2 contact names in the inserts

Margaret is asking for help brainstorming, and anyone who has any ideas to contact her.

Embrace Grace: Linda Cyboron is looking for sponsor for Embrace Grace. The cost of being a sponsor is only \$30. The Women's Board discussed being a sponsor, Jo made a motion to be a Sponsor, Linda seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Teen Moms: Danita Broders is making quilts for the children of teen moms for Christmas, and Women of CTS want to help. Danita, Amanda and Lisa are making 13 quilts at \$25 each, totaling \$325 for the supplies and they are going to split the cost between the 3 of them. The women's board discussed what our upcoming expenses are and how much we could afford to donate to help them with the cost. With no big expenses coming up, Fern motioned that a \$300 donation to help with the cost of supplies for these quilts. Jo seconded the motion. Motion carried

Jo suggested we attach bookmarks to each quilt and also that we get pics of the children with their quilts to put on the Women's Board, so everyone can see them.

#### Old Business

Holiday Boutique: Holiday Boutique is October 22nd and the Women's Group will be selling the "Keep Christ In Christmas" magnets for \$5.00 each and coffee will be marked according to each individual item. They will be for sale at a table by the baked goods.

Decorate the Sanctuary: Decorating the sanctuary will be changed from Saturday, December 3rd, to Thursday, December 1st, due to work schedule conflicts. It will start at 6:00 PM with a short meeting and to vote on how the Thank offering money should be divided up. Lu Carter and Amanda Cyboron will be playing music while we decorate the church. Please come and enjoy fellowship and pizza together.

Thank Offering: Thank offering money will start being collected in November. Kathy will put this reminder in the bulletin that the money is taken up to the altar and if someone misses that Sunday, they can give the money to Kathy Rogers, Jo Roberts or Julie Freese.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer.

2016/2017 Events:        December 1-Decorate Sanctuary  
                                  March 4-Spring Gathering  
                                  May 6- Bless & Be Blessed Rummage Sale  
                                  June 3-Annual Meeting

## November worship servants

|           | <b>Communion Assistants</b>       | <b>Greeters</b>      | <b>Ushers</b>                    | <b>Acolytes</b>        | <b>Lector</b>      | <b>Coffee</b> |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| <b>6</b>  | Linda Cyboron,<br>Louise Skoglund | Doug & Pat<br>Witte  | Steve & Julie<br>Freese          | Elizabeth &<br>Colin   | Connie<br>Atkinson | Boelmans      |
| <b>13</b> | Bob Lutz, Charlie<br>Skoglund     | Rich & Kay<br>Jaeger | Steve Morton &<br>Jo Roberts     | Zachary & Colin        | Patrick Olson      | Finkrals      |
| <b>20</b> | Gary & Mary Weich                 | BJ & Sharon<br>Koepe | Margaret &<br>Lonnie Svitak      | Elizabeth &<br>Katelyn | Greg Moen          | Skoglunds     |
| <b>27</b> | Becky Bahnfleth &<br>Gina Krohn   | Rich & Deb<br>Olson  | Warren Bennett,<br>Wendell Hahne | Katelyn &<br>Emilee    | Lu Carter          | Andersons     |

Altar Guild — Mary Ann Knee, Mary Lund

Membership Care — Linda Cyboron (Meg Donovan)

Please make your own trade if you are unable to serve when scheduled, then notify the church office. THANK YOU!

## December worship servants

|           | <b>Communion Assistants</b>     | <b>Greeters</b>         | <b>Ushers</b>                  | <b>Acolytes</b>             | <b>Lector</b> | <b>Coffee</b> |
|-----------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>4</b>  | Michelle & Micheyla<br>Anderson | Brodgers family         | Gary & Mary<br>Weich           | Katelyn A.,<br>Elizabeth B. | Linda Cyboron | Koeppes       |
| <b>11</b> | Becky Bahnfleth,<br>Tara Peters | Dean & Doris<br>Hoffart | Warren Bennett,<br>Dallas Puls | Colin & Zach                | Gina Krohn    | Mary Lund     |
| <b>18</b> | Linda Cyboron and<br>Gina Krohn | Anderson family         | Mike & Nell<br>Finkral         | Katelyn &<br>Emilee         | Jeremy Olson  | Jaegers       |
| <b>25</b> |                                 |                         |                                |                             |               |               |

# NOVEMBER 2016

| Sunday                                                                                                                                                             | Monday                                                                               | Tuesday                                                              | Wednesday                                                                                                                | Thursday                                                                                                                                           | Friday                                                            | Saturday |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
|                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                      | 1<br>11:30 CTS Seniors<br>6:30 Childcare Committee<br>6:30 Women/CTS | 2<br>9:30 Membership & Stewardship team<br>5:00 FLYTE, Confirmation<br>6:30 WNA meal<br>7:00 Worship<br>7:30 Youth group | 3<br>9:00 PieceMakers                                                                                                                              | 4<br>5:00 Bonfire<br>5:30 Girl Scouts                             | 5        |
| <b>6 All Saints Day</b><br>8:45 Sunday school<br>10:00 Worship<br><b>11:30 Confirmation Fundraiser Brunch</b><br><i>End of Daylight Saving</i>                     | 7<br>6:30 Embrace Grace<br>6:30 Senior choir practice                                | 8<br><b>ELECTION DAY</b><br>6:45 Mission & Ministry team             | 9<br>5:00 FLYTE, Confirmation<br>6:30 WNA meal<br>7:00 Worship<br>7:30 Youth group                                       | 10<br>9:00 Agape Circle                                                                                                                            | 11<br>Confirmation Recharge in Yankton thru Nov. 13th             | 12       |
| <b>13 Consecration Day</b><br>8:45 Sunday school<br>10:00 Worship<br><b>11:15 Potluck meal</b><br><b>11:30 Choir practice</b><br><b>6:00 PM Spirit-led worship</b> | 14<br>6:30 Embrace Grace<br>6:30 Welcome & Hospitality team<br>7:00 School of Prayer | 15                                                                   | 16<br>5:00 FLYTE, Confirmation<br>6:30 WNA meal<br>7:00 Worship<br>7:30 Youth group                                      | 17<br>2:00 Card Club<br>6:45 MOPS                                                                                                                  | 18<br><i>Deadline for newsletter articles</i><br>5:30 Girl Scouts | 19       |
| <b>20 Christ the King Sunday</b><br><b>CTS 40th Anniversary</b><br>8:45 Sunday school<br>10:00 Worship<br>11:15 Meal<br>12:30 Program                              | 21<br>6:30 Embrace Grace<br>6:30 Board of Administration                             | 22<br>6:30 Board of Spiritual Oversight                              | 23<br>7:00 Thanksgiving Eve service                                                                                      | 24<br>                                                         | 25                                                                | 26       |
| <b>27 Advent 1</b><br>8:45 Sunday school<br>10:00 Worship<br>11:15 Fellowship<br><b>Acolyte training</b>                                                           | 28<br>6:30 Embrace Grace                                                             | 29<br>7:00 Worship Committee                                         | 30<br>5:00 FLYTE, Confirmation<br>6:15 Soup supper<br>7:00 Mid-week worship<br>8:00 Youth group; Senior Choir practice   | <p><b>MARK YOUR CALENDARS:</b><br/> <b>Dec. 4—Proposed 2017 Budget Presentation/Q&amp;A</b><br/> <b>Dec. 11—Quarterly Meeting/ Pass Budget</b></p> |                                                                   |          |