

CHRIST THE SERVANT LUTHERAN CHURCH, LCMC
1976 — CELEBRATING 40 YEARS! — 2016

FEBRUARY 2016 NEWSLETTER

LENT BEGINS FEBRUARY 10TH (ASH WEDNESDAY)

Our theme for our Lenten journey this year is **Living Lent: As People of the Resurrection**. Each midweek service will focus on one word to consider while living Lent as Easter people. As we journey again with Jesus we will be watching for these signposts along the way: **Ponder, Purpose, People, Proclaim, Praise, Pain, Palms, Prayer, Passion and Paradise**. Each service will help us see that we are always alive in Christ, who died and was raised. Each service will begin at 7:00 p.m. with Lenten suppers before and coffee and fellowship afterwards. Please join us again as we retrace the steps of Jesus to the cross and on to the empty tomb, watching for these signposts along the way.

February 10 (Ash Wednesday) – Imposition of Ashes and the Lord's Supper – Luke 5:27-32

Our Ash Wednesday service is based on the word **PONDER** and reminds us that Lent is a time to ponder our relationship with God and with one another and to discover the love of God seen in the cross and empty tomb.

February 17 – Luke 19:1-10

This service is based on the word **PURPOSE** and reminds us that Lent is a time to find God's purpose for our lives, fulfilled in our redemption by Jesus, who seeks to the lost and gives us new life.

February 24 – John 10:14-18

This service is based on the word **PEOPLE** and reminds us that we are called to be among the people in this world. People matter to God; He sent Jesus to save them. People should matter to us; we are sent to love them.

Lenten Suppers

Wednesday evenings beginning February 10

Before each mid-week Lenten service a free-will offering supper will be served in the fellowship hall between 6:00 and 6:30 p.m. by various groups and organizations in our congregation. These meals have become a great time for fellowship with other members and a chance to meet other members around a meal. Our first meal will be served by our youth on Ash Wednesday (February 10) and then served by other groups for the next five Wednesdays. Easter is March 27 this year. A list of the menus will be posted along with the group that is serving. Please join us and bring your family and friends with you!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PASTOR STEVE'S LETTER	3
PASTOR MATT'S LETTER	4
YOUTH CALENDAR	5
HEALTH MINISTRY	6
BIRTHDAYS, ETC.	7
MEETING MINUTES	8-10
CALENDAR	11

Worship Schedule:

Sunday School 8:45 a.m.

Worship 10:00 a.m.

Lent begins February 10

Ash Wednesday

Mid-week services
7 p.m. Wednesdays
(meal at 6:00 p.m.)

SUNDAY WORSHIP: EXPLORE THE BIBLE (MATTHEW 1-13)

We will conclude our study and sermon series on the first thirteen chapters of the gospel of Matthew during the month of February. We will examine some of the key teachings of Jesus as it pertains to living in the Kingdom of God. We will be challenged once again by Jesus to live lives that reflect the coming Kingdom of God within us. A few copies of the personal study guide are available on the back table for you to use in expanded personal and group settings during the week (suggested donation is \$5).

February 7 – Matthew 9:35-38; 10:1-8 – “In His Service”
Transfiguration Sunday

February 14 – Matthew 11:20-30 – “An Open Invitation”
1st Sunday in Lent

February 21 – Matthew 12:38-42 – “What's the Sign?”
2nd Sunday in Lent

February 28 – Matthew 13:1-13 – “Access Granted”
3rd Sunday in Lent

Sunday Dramas

During Lent on Sundays

During our worship on the Sundays of Lent, we will be hearing short testimonies (3-4 minutes each) of biblical characters that either walked with Jesus as His disciples or were witnesses to an event in Jesus' life when He turned His face toward Jerusalem. Members of our congregation will portray a certain character in a short engaging monologue to help us enter into the mind of each person. We will be having 8 short dramas through Easter Sunday. Please join us as we learn what it meant to walk with Jesus.

Sunday, February 14 – John the Baptist

John the Baptist may have never set out to talk much, but listen as he describes ending up with a front row seat to the beginning of Jesus' ministry.

Sunday, February 21 – Simon Peter

After being put in his place, Peter recounts being called “Satan” and how he realized that the one needing saving wasn't Jesus, but himself.

Sunday, February 28 – Temple Cleansing

Widowed and just wanting to worship, a woman describes the scene at the temple when Jesus drove out the money changers and the kind of rescue that meant for her.

PASTOR STEVE'S LETTER: "THE ROAD NOT TAKEN"

One of the amazing things about traveling in a car in the United States is that we have so many different ways to reach our destination. When I am in a hurry I will take the quickest and fastest way. When I have more time I will take a more scenic route – roads that most travelers don't travel because the speed limit is slower and you have to travel through many small towns. And sometimes I will break my routine and take a totally different route – sometimes traveling through neighborhoods and back roads I have never ridden. Life on the highway is quite amazing because we have so many roads upon which we can travel and so many destinations from which we can choose. There is literally no way we can travel on all the roads we have in the United States. Each journey in itself can be an adventure.

However, when it comes to life, would it surprise you to know that there are only two roads upon which people travel. Jesus calls them "gates," but I would like to think of them as "roads" or "paths." One is narrow while the other is wide. One is easy while the other is more difficult. One is traveled by most while the other is traveled by few. One leads to destruction while the other leads to life (see Matthew 7:13-14). The road Jesus is talking about is the life that either follows Him or the life that is lived independent of Him. Robert Frost, in his poem "The Road Not Taken," begins with these familiar words: "Two roads diverged in a yellow wood, And sorry I could not travel both, And be one traveler, long I stood, And looked down one as far as I could." And then he ends with this important conclusion: "Two roads diverged in a wood, and I — I took the one less traveled by, And that has made all the difference."

Jesus, at the conclusion of His Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7), makes the same comparison as Robert Frost does in his poem. In life there are only two paths upon which we can travel and only one will make all the difference (following Jesus with ALL our heart, soul, mind and strength). Sadly, most people take the wide road because it is all about ME—my wants, my desires, my goals, my satisfaction. This road caters to the SELF (which was the reason for The Fall in Genesis 3 – wanting to be our own god, making our own decisions of right and wrong, all the while promoting the self. It is attractive. It is appealing. It fills churches with a prosperity gospel which tells you all will be fine, you will be successful; you can live a pain-free life, etc. However, Jesus came to save us from this false teaching and false sense of fulfillment. Our fulfillment comes only from God the Father through His Son. That is why God twice spoke from the heavens and said: "This is my beloved Son. Listen to Him" (at Jesus' Baptism and Jesus' Transfiguration).

Jesus goes on to compare traveling on these roads to two people building a house. One builds his/her foundation on the sand (easy to do with little work and sacrifice), while the other builds his/her foundation on rock (hard to do requiring lots of labor and work). Our human nature is to take the easy road and hope for the best. But storms do and will come into our life (whether economic, relationships, health, etc.). And then the question will be: how strong is our foundation? Can you survive the storms that will sweep you away with worry, fear, and defeat? However, Jesus promises, if you have built your foundation on the rock (meaning, taking the time to know Jesus and who He truly is), you will not only survive these storms in life but your relationship with Jesus will only grow stronger. Jesus also says at the conclusion of His Sermon on the Mount that simply saying, "Lord, Lord" may not be enough. Both builders heard the words of Jesus, but only one put them into practice. Hearing is the beginning of faith but doing what Jesus says is the KEY to a life lived with confidence and joy. The apostle Paul would later say: *"for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength."* (Philippians 4:11-13)

So in conclusion, upon which road are your feet traveling this year? Upon whom or what are you building the foundation of your life? Jesus came to show us the way and the life and the truth. The path may not seem as well-worn as the other. It may seem difficult and appear like you are traveling all alone at times. But be assured, Jesus' last words to us were: "And lo, I am with you to the close of the age." (Matthew 28:20)

On the road again with Jesus — traveling with Him to Calvary!

Pastor Steve

PASTOR MATT'S LETTER TO THE CONGREGATION

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.” John 3:16-17

How quickly things turn from white to red, as far as decorations go, that is; moving from the white of Christmas and now already seeing Valentine's Day stuff everywhere I go. I'm beginning to believe we live by holiday in this country. Back to the point: when I think of Valentine's Day I always think of Charlie Brown, and him standing on his tiptoes every day hoping and longing for a Valentine from that little Red Haired Girl. You can feel such a sense of longing and then almost crushing despair when he gets to the mailbox and opens it to see nothing; nothing at all. Perhaps you remember that feeling from your younger days? Today the PC machine has attempted to alleviate this feeling of sadness by requiring each child to bring valentines for every person in their class, no question; the challenge being that true love can never be required.

I have also always loved the image of God's Word being a huge valentine for each of us. The whole book, 66 books in one, focused on the love of God for me through Jesus Christ and Him right at the center of it all. At the heart of the gospels that set of verses quoted above; often referred to as the Gospel in a nutshell, but I have learned that you cannot separate John 3:16 from 17. The two must be quoted together all the time. Listen to the love letter of verse 17. In verse 16 God's love is clear through Jesus for everyone. Still, so often we stand like Charlie Brown on our tiptoes looking for some sign of love from God, and so often we get dismayed or crushed because we don't seem to find it from Him. Verse 17 reminds us, when we feel unlovable before God, that His love is for ME. Even better, when we get those feelings like Jesus is only trying to point out my sin, looking at verse 17, I can realize that it is out of love for ME that He reminds me and shows me, who I'm being so I can grow back toward Him.

I feel sadness for all those who miss out on the depth of this love and this Valentine sent for us, because they never get to learn the true, limitless love of Jesus for them, because they never study and read the Bible. But, this is why God's love is so amazing, for everyone. Despite our not showing up in His mailbox, He keeps sending the love. That is perhaps why though I appreciate deeply John 3:16-17 as the clearest example of God's love, I have learned in my study and reading that the true Gospel in a nutshell is the Parable of the Prodigal Son. The son walks away, doesn't come back, and stays away for what seems a very long time; but, when the son finally realizes his need for the Father's love and learns through experience that in his father's house he will be nourished and cared for, he comes home.

What is the Father's response? No condemnation, nor judgment, and not even a lecture; when the son realizes his need to come home from a long way off, he sees his father standing on the house porch looking for and waiting for him as he has done every day since the son left. As he approaches he sees the Father's hands open and longing for him. As he gets closer, his Father doesn't wait any longer for him, but runs to the son to grab him, hold, him, reclaim him, and to start a major celebration on his account. That is the Gospel in a nutshell, experienced. For every time of wandering and every wandering heart, God is already waiting, longing, looking to see if they will come home to him. Quite a love letter indeed. A love letter that never requires love, but longs for us to respond to God.

God's love to you all.

Pastor Matt

YOUTH CALENDAR

SUPER BOWL SUBS are going on sale again in January to support the Youth Group. Please see a youth group member and place your order for sub sandwiches for the Super Bowl and beyond. (They freeze and thaw quite well) We're holding prices steady even though inflation is on the rise so you can get your subs for the still unbelievably low price of \$4.75 for one or \$21.50 (A 10% discount) for packs of 5 subs you can still get the same high quality and delicious subs you've come to know and love. Please see a youth group member to place your orders, and if you would like to help them out by selling to those you work with ... perhaps there is a ransom that can be arranged. Subs will be made Saturday February 6 and can be picked up in the afternoon after 4:30 pm.

IT'S CHILI, SOUP & CARD PLAYIN' TIME! That's right, it's back and bigger and better. The Confirmation Class fundraiser Chili AND SOUP Cook-off and Cribbage and Pitch Tournaments with Family Game Night (still gotta find a better name) If you haven't made it before, this is the time to come and see what all the talk is about. Right in the middle of a cold and dreary winter comes a great way to warm up and fellowship with the Body of Christ. Come out, eat some chili AND SOUP, and help to vote for the winner of the coveted GOLDEN SPOONS. Entrance to the chili AND SOUP cook-off is a \$5 entry fee (and a chili OR SOUP) and voting for the best chili and SOUP happens with \$1 bills so head to the bank and make sure you got plenty of singles on hand. We have seen all kinds of chilis over the years and if you are an eater you never loose in this competition. There is also a \$5 entry fee into the Cribbage and Pitch tournaments, each year the competition for the coveted GOLDEN DECK gets more intense. Not a cribbage or pitch player? No problem. Bring a game to play with others and have a blast. SATURDAY January 30th beginning at 5 pm until done! You don't want to miss out on this night.

Sooner than you think - for parents of younger children a special. How do you start to talk to your children about sex? What should you say? When should you say it? Planning conversations with your kids about sex might seem stressful, but it's easier than trying to answer their questions when you're not prepared. Take in and personalize this information for your family and you will find that these conversations serve as tremendous opportunities for strengthening your relationship with your children. In these sessions you will learn not only how to have the big discussion, but also increase your own confidence in discussing difficult topics with your children, strengthen your own confidence, and learn to define your family's mission statement. Please register with Pastor Matt by February 19th. The workbook cost is \$13.00.

Ash Wednesday Fundraiser Dinner for the Youth Group – Wednesday evening beginning at 6:00 pm the Youth Group will provide a dinner for the congregation as a fund raiser for their work. The meal this year will provide Stuffed Pork Loin, Cheesy Garlic Whipped Potatoes, Gravy, Green Beans, Rolls and desserts and beverages. Please come and join us for a meal.

Parents of children eligible for First Communion – Reminder that classes will begin on Wednesday February 17th, 24th, March 2nd, 9th, and 16th beginning at 5pm until 6:15 to 6:30 pm. Please register your child with Pastor Matt as soon as possible.

YOU are needed. As we begin to form the new year of learning and passing on the faith, we need YOU to help and teach a topic for our children and youth. Classes are two or five sessions long and range from 1 to 1 1/2 hours in length. Typically a class leader would teach on Wednesday or Sunday but each class has the flexibility of scheduling in agreement with the teachers and the parents of children. Each class has fully documented information and ideas for class time and the pastors are here to help support and work with you as you prepare and teach. We can even participate with you to help learn the ropes of youth ministry. What is needed most is a heart for Jesus and His children and a desire to pass on your faith.

(continued on next page)

Sunday School Exploration of the Bible — A time of Gathering happens from 8:45 am to 8:50 am in the fellowship hall and then all the classes break out into their learning areas. This year as we continue digging deeper in the Word we are moving our focus to look into Matthew chapters 1 – 13 for the winter, and in the Spring we will dig into the first part of Acts. 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 Korrie Hall

1st through 3rd Grade Becky Bahnfleth and Amanda Cyboron

4th through 6th Grade Judy Carstens, Kristy Rosberg, and Fern Zechmann

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

HEALTH MINISTRY

“I pray that everything may go well with you, and that you may be in good health, as I know you are well in spirit.” (3 John 2)

Heart Disease Facts

- Heart disease is the leading cause of death for both men and women. More than half of the deaths due to heart disease in 2009 were in men.
- About 610,000 Americans die from heart disease each year — that’s 1 in every 4 deaths.
- Coronary heart disease is the most common type of heart disease, killing more than 370,000 people annually.
- In the United States, someone has a heart attack every 43 seconds. Each minute, someone in the U.S. dies from a heart disease-related event.
- Heart disease is the leading cause of death for people of most racial/ethnic groups in the U.S., including African Americans, Hispanics and whites. For Asian Americans or Pacific Islanders and American Indians or Alaska Natives, heart disease is second only to cancer.
- Coronary heart disease alone costs the United States \$108.9 billion each year. This total includes the cost of health care services, medications and lost productivity.

Risk Factors

High blood pressure, high LDL cholesterol, and smoking are key heart disease risk factors for heart disease. About half of Americans (49 percent) have at least one of these three risk factors.

Several other medical conditions and lifestyle choices can also put people at a higher risk for heart disease, including:

- Diabetes
- Oversight and obesity
- Poor diet
- Physical inactivity
- Excessive alcohol use

Choosing healthy meal and snack options can help you avoid heart disease and its complications. Be sure to eat plenty of fresh fruits and vegetables.

By living a healthy lifestyle, you can help keep your blood pressure, cholesterol and sugar normal and lower your risk for heart disease and heart attack. A healthy lifestyle includes the following:

- Eating a healthy diet
- Maintaining a healthy weight
- Getting enough physical activity
- Not smoking or using other forms of tobacco
- Limiting alcohol use

Birthdays

- 5th Jayne Bittner
- 8th Doug Witte
- 9th Mary Lund
- 10th Ethan Weber
- 11th Dagney Petersen
- 12th Jeremy Olson
- 18th Millie Drey
- 19th Rhonda Beed
- 19th Korrie Hall
- 20th Deb Olson
- 23rd Nell Finkral
- 24th Danielle Piske
- 25th Joy Potts
- 27th Jan Puls
- 28th Carter Olson

Anniversaries

- Bob and Susie Lutz — Feb. 2
- Roger and Karen Peters — Feb. 12
- Roger and Donna Young — Feb. 20

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

CARDS OF THANKS

Thank you for the delicious dinners provided by Pastor Matt and the Youth before Christmas. God bless you.

Marilyn Woolard

We are deeply moved by the generosity of your church family. Thank you for your donations of either money or an actual pair of new pajamas. Through your generosity and many others in Norfolk, we were able to give needy children a new pair of pajamas. You gave many children a very merry Christmas. God thanks you for being such good servants. Our deepest wishes for a blessed New Year.

The Salvation Army

MOPS/MOMsnext

meets the 3rd Thursday of the month (September-May) at 6:45 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

ALTAR FLOWERS

A new flower chart for 2016 has been posted on the office door. Please sign up for dates when you would like flowers ordered in your name. Each bouquet is \$10.70 (includes tax). The church office will order the flowers, and you will be billed by the Village Flower Shoppe.

DONATIONS

FOOD PANTRY

Following is a list of items always needed: Soda crackers, snack crackers, canned soup, canned vegetables, beans (dry or canned), rice, tomatoes, canned meat, tuna, chicken, Tuna Helper, Chicken Helper, peanut butter and jelly. Laundry soap (powdered or liquid) is also accepted. The Food Pantry serves an average of 325 families each month.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

BRIGHT HORIZONS

Any of the following items can be dropped off at any time during the year: 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

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. Any of these items can be dropped off at any time during the year. Books can also be donated to the Rescue Mission throughout the year to be sold at their annual book sale/fundraiser.

Last Month's Attendance

December 605

Board of Administration Meeting Minutes — January 19, 2016

Present: Greg Moen, president; Steve Jessen, finance Absent: Joan Falke, stewardship; Ginger Beckman, personnel

Greg distributed the agenda for tonight's meeting. A job description is needed for the position of Financial Secretary on the Budget Review Committee. Greg and Steve will develop this.

A member has expressed interest in joining this board. Greg instructed Kathy to email him all job descriptions for the Board of Administration.

Steve distributed the balance sheet as of 12-31-15 and Profit & Loss budget vs. actual for 2015.

Greg identified the need for ongoing fundraising for the childcare program, for which a committee is needed.

Steve reported that we need to adopt the sexual misconduct policy, which needs to be reviewed with all staff and volunteers and training provided. Having this policy in place will have a positive impact on our insurance premium.

Steve contacted Amen Snow Removal and informed them that we now operate a childcare center and it is necessary to clear the parking lot earlier, as well as the sidewalk, before staff and infants arrive. Mr. Amen agreed to do so, and requested that we let him know if we have a funeral scheduled so they can provide snow removal, if necessary, before the service. This will cost more but will also prevent a slip-and-fall claim against our insurance, saving money in the long run.

Items to bring to the joint board meeting for discussion are: 1) sexual misconduct policy, 2) Local Benevolence, and 3) membership renewal in the Chamber of Commerce.

Next board meeting will be Tuesday, February 16, at 6:30 p.m.

#####

Minutes of the January 19, 2016, Joint Board Meeting

Present: Greg Moen, Steve Jessen, Pastor Steve, Pastor Matt, Charlie Skoglund, Linda Cyboron, Margaret Svitak, Mary Weich, Brian Anderson, Becky Bahnfleth

Greg provided a recap of the Board of Administration's meeting.

Mary Weich pitched an idea for fundraising for the childcare program, i.e., we sign up with Nebraska Life magazine and receive 40 percent of their subscriptions. She asked for, and received, our blessing.

Margaret asked if the childcare program can have its own checkbook. Per Steve Jessen, this is not necessary.

Brian asked if the childcare program could qualify for United Way funding, and the answer is yes, we just need to make an annual presentation to them, including the program's budget.

We need to adopt the LCMC employee handbook and sexual abuse policy and document that all staff and volunteers have received the necessary and required training.

The Local Benevolence list was distributed and reviewed. Pastor Matt offered a motion to remove Lutheran Family Services (as there is no longer a local office) and replace it with the Teen Moms Infant Childcare Center Program, and remove Mosaic and replace it with MOPS; Charlie seconded the motion. Following discussion, a voice vote was taken with all in favor; motion passed. At the end of 2016, whatever it takes to complete our obligation to MOPS, which is \$600 per year (\$50 per month), will go to that group, with the remainder going to the Teen Moms childcare program. In addition, we will no longer give \$20 per month to KPNO (Kathy will inform Rhonda Piske). Mary will take the bill from the Norfolk Area Chamber of Commerce to the next childcare oversight committee meeting, who will decide if they think it will be beneficial to the program to continue our membership, and will advise Rhonda Piske of their decision.

Margaret set the agenda for the upcoming board retreat: 1) filling committees; 2) Skype with Pastor Garry; 3) which way is God leading us; 4) task lists; and 5) elections. The schedule is 6 to 10 p.m. Friday, January 29, and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, January 30. Mary will plan the meals.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m. Mary closed with prayer.

Women of Christ the Servant Meeting Minutes
January 7, 2016

Present: Michelle Anderson, President; Julie Freese, Vice-President; Kathy Rogers, Treasurer, Fern Zechmann, Secretary.

Michelle opened the meeting with a devotion and prayer. December meeting minutes have been approved by board members online. Kathy presented the treasurer's report showing a balance of \$1,098.51 as of today. Fern moved that the treasurer's report be accepted. Julie seconded and the motion carried.

Old Business

Living Proof Live with Beth Moore: As of December 31; there are 8 people going.

Magnet Fundraiser: The purchase of the magnets was a donation, so all sales were profit. As of 12/29/15, 65 magnets were sold for a total of \$325. There are still magnets available for sale. Kathy moved that we donate the Tithe of \$32.50 from this to the Youth account along with the \$105.79 remaining from the thankofferings. Fern seconded the motion. This motion passed and the donation is made allowing Pastor Matt to decide how it will be used.

Thankoffering Update: As of December 1st, the total was \$354.06 and this was split in thirds with \$118.02 sent to each of the following: Bright Horizons, Rescue Mission and Mercy Meals. This was voted on at the December 5th Gathering. It was also voted to donate any additional amount to CTS youth. By December 30th an additional \$105.79 was deposited so this is the amount that was specified for the youth. We will still collect thankoffering through January.

Funeral Help: We have not had anyone step up to help at this time. Please be in prayer for someone to help.

Wine, Women, Wisdom:
January 28th - Fern Zechmann
February 25th - Connie Atkinson and Linda Shaffer
March 17th - Hostess needed

December 5th Gathering: 11 women and 2 children were in attendance. Candy Makers Witness bookmarks were handed out. WCTS directories were placed in mailboxes of those not in attendance. Decorating was done and the Sanctuary looked great.

Advent meal: Thank you to all who donated and helped. All money went to the general fund.

New Business

WCTS Update Insert: Went in Bulletins on Sun., January 3. These provided information about a last chance for Living Proof with Beth Moore, thankofferings, and magnets still for sale.

Christmas Décor: Members were informed by e-mail requesting help in taking decorations down on Wed. January 6. Thank you to those who assisted with this. Another tree was donated for use next year.

Women's Night Out: This will be Creatively Fired Canvas Painting on January 16th @ 2pm. We will be painting a cross on canvas with a \$35 charge. Deadline for signup is Wednesday January 13.

Bake Sale: It was decided to schedule this for May Day.

Spring Gathering: Saturday March 5th - Someone is needed to organize.

Table Cloths: Current ones have some stains. This can be taken home and laundered by anyone when needed. Discussion was held regarding looking into purchasing new ones.

The meeting was adjourned and Fern closed in prayer.

2016 Events:
January 16 - Canvas Painting at Creatively Fired, 2 pm
February 2 - Ground Hogs Day Movie/Discussion Night
February 15 - Mercy Meals @ 6:30 pm (at least 20 people needed)
March 5 - Spring Gathering
April 15-16 - Living Proof Live with Beth Moore
Blue Jean Sunday (cleaning) - TBA
May 7 - 3rd Annual Bless and Be Blessed
June 4 - Annual Meeting (VP and Treasurer election)

January 10th Congregational Meeting

President Margaret called the meeting to order at 11:30 and Pastor Steve opened with prayer.

Charlie Skoglund read the first proposal, to offer childcare year-round, and offered a motion to accept the proposal, seconded by Millie Drey. The floor was then opened for discussion. Following the discussion period, Wendell Muhs called for a vote. A ballot vote was taken, and the results were 40 in favor, seven opposed, and three abstained. Proposal 1 passed.

Kathy Rogers read the second proposal, to open up the childcare program to include non-teen mothers, and offered a motion to accept the proposal, seconded by Tara Peters. The floor was then opened for discussion. Following the discussion period, Bob Lutz called for a vote. A ballot vote was taken, and the results were 22 in favor, 24 opposed, and one abstained. Proposal 2 did not pass.

Members were then directed to their mailboxes to find copies of Pastor Garry Seefeldt's report, "Moving Forward." Two flowcharts were distributed showing proposed new teams and where they would fall under board supervision. The boards will discuss at their retreat (Jan. 29-30) whether to bring back Pastor Garry. Members were asked to let the board know of any issues or concerns they would like the board to address at their retreat.

Margaret closed the meeting with prayer at 12:45 p.m.

January 17, 2016 Altar Guild Meeting

Present: Michelle Anderson, Becky Bahnfleth, Nell Finkral, Kathy Rogers

Kathy read from "Meditations for Altar Guild Members." Packets were handed out to those present [and the same was put into mailboxes of those who were absent] containing today's agenda, the monthly Altar Guild and Communion Bread Baking schedule, color Church Year Calendar [a wall calendar, provided by Thrivent, is on the wall in the altar closet], responsibilities of the altar guild, diagram of the layout of the altar, job description [under supervision of the Worship Committee], instructions for stripping of the altar on Maundy Thursday, and a recipe for communion bread provided by Pastor Matt. It was suggested that a copy of the handouts be placed in the altar closet. Those present will gather on Friday, February 12, at 3 p.m. to clean and organize the altar closet. As we cannot locate the original banner photo album, Michelle will take pictures and we will create a new one. The altar guild will serve the Lenten meal on Wednesday, March 9, and it was decided that we would do a potato bar. The next Altar Guild meeting will be in March following the Worship Committee meeting to prepare for Easter. Becky closed the meeting with prayer.

#####

Sing together

A U.S. study on 68 older adults revealed that those who joined a choir were in better health, used less medication, were less lonely, and had fewer falls after a year than a similar group of non-singers. This could in part be due to the impact that singing has on breathing, but the emotional benefits of giving voice in a crowd may be just as important. So if you enjoy it, whatever the quality of your voice, try to find the chance to sing communally, whether in a formal choir, at a family singalong, in church or temple, or in a crowd of thousands at a football game.

Retire Wisely

One hour workshop after worship on February 28

Thrivent is providing free workshops this year at Christ the Servant on various topics of interest. A copy of the workshops with a brief description and the dates are located on the back table in the church. A sign-up sheet for each workshop will be provided to help our presenters know how much material is needed for each workshop. The first workshop is entitled "Retire Wisely" and is designed to help you understand and manage the six risks that all retirees face: outliving your income, inflation, unpredictable events, market volatility, income taxes and rising health costs. Within this workshop all these six risks will be explained and attendees will be given help to understand how to manage them before and after retirement. Please note: Thrivent will not be visiting or calling you without your permission or invite. These workshops are their gift to the church at large.

February 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p>1 <i>Pastor Matt out of office on Mondays</i></p> <p>Office closed</p>	<p>2 <i>Staff meeting Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.</i></p> <p>6:30PM Childcare Oversight meeting</p>	<p>3</p> <p>5PM FLYTE, Confirmation; 7:30 youth group; choir practice</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9AM PieceMakers 6PM Women/CTS 6:30 MOPS steering committee meeting</p>	<p>5 <i>Pastor Steve out of office on Fridays</i></p>	6
<p>7 <i>Epiphany 5</i></p> <p>8:45 Sunday school 10:00 Worship 6 PM Worship</p>	8	<p>9</p> <p>7PM Worship Committee meeting</p>	<p>10 <i>Ash Wednesday</i></p> <p>5PM FLYTE, Confirmation; 6PM Lenten meal; 7PM Midweek service</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9AM Agape Circle</p>	12	13
<p>14 <i>Lent 1</i></p> <p>8:45 Sunday school 10:00 Worship</p>	<p>15</p> <p>6:30PM Mercy Meals</p>	<p>16</p> <p>6:30PM Board mtgs</p>	<p>17</p> <p>5PM FLYTE, Confirmation; 6PM Lenten meal; 7PM Midweek service</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6:45PM MOPS/MOMSnxt</p>	<p>19 <i>Deadline for newsletter articles</i></p> <p>5:30PM Girl Scouts</p>	20
<p>21 <i>Lent 2</i></p> <p>8:45 Sunday school 10:00 Worship</p>	22	23	<p>24</p> <p>5PM FLYTE, Confirmation; 6PM Lenten meal; 7PM Midweek service</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7PM Wine, Women & Wisdom</p>	26	27
<p>28 <i>Lent 3</i></p> <p>8:45 Sunday school 10:00 Worship</p> <p>Retire Wisely— (Thrivent)</p>	<p>29</p> <p>7PM Wild Card</p>		<p><i>Wednesdays during Lent: Youth Group and Senior Choir practice are at 8 PM</i></p>			