



SEPTEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER



Summer Worship

The month of September

During the month of September we return to Setting Two in the Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW) on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. We end our summer worship on Labor Day weekend and begin our fall activities with our Rally Day on September 9. We continue to follow Jesus in the gospel of Mark. We will see Jesus teach, heal, and remind us that He came to suffer and die on the cross for the sin of the whole world. Our preaching texts will be readings from the book of James. Join us as we return to the godly habit of gathering to worship with the family of God at Christ the Servant each and every Sunday.

September 2 – (Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23) **Pentecost 15**

Preaching Text – James 1:17-27 (Be doers of the word)

Labor Day weekend

September 9 – (Mark 7:24-37) **Pentecost 16**

Preaching Text – James 2:1-17 (Faith without works is dead)

Rally Day – Sunday school begins

September 16 – (Mark 8:27-38) **Pentecost 17**

Preaching Text – James 3:1-12 (Dangers of the unbridled tongue)

September 23 – (Mark 9:30-37) **Pentecost 18**

Preaching Text – James 3:13—4:8a (The wisdom from above)

September 30 – (Mark 9:38-50) **Pentecost 19**

Preaching Text – James 5:13-20 (Prayer and anointing in the community)

Sunday School Rally Day

September 9

Join us at 9 a.m. in the fellowship hall for a time of fun and introduction to the coming year. Amanda Cyboron will be our large-group teacher this year, with small groups for discussion and activities built around our Bible stories. We hope you will join us for a time of fellowship and encouraging our Sunday school children, teachers, and staff with your presence and support.

Pastor Stephen J. Lund

1100 East Benjamin Avenue, Norfolk, NE 68701
Office hours 8:30-4:30 Mon-Thur, 8:30-12:30 Fri
Worship 10:00 a.m. Sunday, 7:00 p.m. Wednesday

402.379-1775
christtheservant@cableone.net
Sunday school at 9:00 for all ages

Opportunities to Help Grow Your Faith

Where is the Spirit leading you this year?

Adult Sunday School – Sunday mornings at 8:30 a.m. (option: form own small group during week)

In a recent study, the Barna Research Group revealed a stunning statistic that continues to reverberate throughout the evangelical world. Only 9% of professing Christians have a biblical worldview. Most people today – unfortunately, *most people* – don't seem to think there is any universal standard of absolute truth. However, **The Truth Project** believes differently. A biblical worldview is “based upon the nature, character, and being of God as it is expressed in God's Word (the Bible) and His creation. It becomes the foundation for a life system that governs every area of existence.” *The Truth Project* focuses on the big, basic issues of human life: the existence of God, the nature of reality, the existence and knowability of absolute truth, and the moral and ethical implications of these and other primary questions. All this will be examined in 12 lessons in this DVD presentation and discussion with a study guide for each participant. Each lesson will take 3 Sundays to cover so the class will meet for the entire school year.

Please note: if you would like to form your own small group, let Pastor Steve know and additional DVDs can be ordered.

Wednesday Night Alive – Wednesday nights (begins at 6:15 p.m.)

WNA is designed to be a cross + generational event where the entire congregation comes together in the middle of the week to share a meal and participate in the Four Keys of Vibrant Faith: (1) Caring Conversations, (2) Devotions, (3) Service, and (4) Rituals and Traditions. The evening will begin with a free-will offering meal at 6:15 p.m. (*we need volunteers to help prepare and serve the meal*), followed by either an informal worship and devotion/message/testimony or interactive activity.

The Journey – Small group of 8-12 people on Thursday evenings

For those who want to jump into the deep end and explore what God is up to in your life, this is the course for you. *The Journey* is a 6-8 month commitment with Pastor Steve which involves reading through 3 manuals and 3 books, writing a life narrative, discovering your spiritual gifts, forming your values and key biblical passages, and writing a personal vision statement. The commitment level is HIGH: reading the material, studying 3-4 hours a week, meeting weekly for 6-8 months (weekly attendance is critical – no more than 3 absences), and purchase of the manuals and books (\$250).

This may not be the right time for you now, but for those of you who want to truly examine your faith and seek what God is up to in your life (regardless of your age), THIS IS THE COURSE AND TIME FOR YOU!!! Sample copies of the manuals are on the back table for review. If interested, contact Pastor Steve.

Personal Study and Devotions (Alone or with 2-3 others)

There are ample resources to use to grow in faith with others. Faith development is done best in groups versus alone. Find a resource on your own and invite 2-3 others to gather with you and begin meeting. If you are having difficulty finding a study, contact Pastor Steve for suggestions.

Pastor Steve's letter to the congregation: "He Must Increase, but I Must Decrease"

How is your reading of John's gospel aloud going this summer? Have you read the whole gospel yet? Are you re-reading it again? If not, it is not too late to begin. The gospel of John has some wonderful stories of people who encountered Jesus on a personal basis and afterwards, their lives were never the same. Isn't it amazing how Jesus does that with a life that opens up to His presence and words? One of the early stories told by John is the coming of John the Baptist to prepare the way for Jesus' coming. His calling is a calling of preparation which requires a repentance and change of heart so that the people will be able to receive the teachings and life that Jesus will bring as the promised Messiah of the Old Testament. In the beginning John the Baptist's ministry was wildly successful. Mark's gospel tells that "the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him, confessing their sins" (Mark 1:5) and were baptized by John in the Jordan River. John the Baptist even has the privilege to baptize Jesus when Jesus came to him. It had to be an exciting time for John to see so many people responding to his ministry. Unfortunately, most people were coming out of curiosity since a prophet of God had not appeared for nearly 400 years. So the people were ready to do whatever he told them to do (i.e. mob mentality – follow the crowd and do what they do).

But things suddenly change in chapter three of John's gospel. Jesus is now baptizing people and John the Baptist's influence is diminishing. A group of Jews came and asked John the Baptist in so many words: "Are you concerned that Jesus is growing in more popularity than you?" Expecting John to explode with some jealous rage, John the Baptist replies: "He (Jesus) must increase, but I must decrease." What an incredible reply of faith—the longer I live the more I need to point others to Jesus and not to me. John's response is the point of my message to you this month as we begin another fall of renewed activity and opportunities for you to grow closer to Jesus. **Is Jesus becoming more evident in your life or is the "self" more evident in your life?** In order for Jesus to become evident in life (the goal of being a Christ follower), we have to die to self more and more so that the new creation in Christ might grow within us. This is and always has been the paradox of life—in order to live (truly live) we must die to our own selfish and self-centered ambitions. I found it interesting how other Bible translations interpreted John's response in John 3:30.

Today's English Version (TEV): "He must become more important, while I become less important."

New International Version (NIV): "He must become greater; I must become less important."

Phillips Modern Version (PMV): "He must grow greater and greater, and I must become less and less."

Jerusalem Bible (JB): "He must grow greater, I must grow smaller."

New English Bible (NEB): "As he grows greater, I must grow less."

Living Bible (LB): "He must grow greater and greater and I less and less."

The Message Bible: "This is the assigned moment for him to move into the center, while I slip off to the sidelines."

Did you hear a constant theme in each of these translations? As a Christian believer and follower, Jesus must be more important in our daily lives so that He is growing greater and greater within us while at the same time you and I are growing smaller and become less and less. This idea of becoming less and smaller is not a diminishing and degrading of self but a filling up of Jesus and the Holy Spirit in our lives so that all we say and do gives glory to God.

As Jesus said it in the Sermon on the Mount: "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16) These words were spoken over you when you were baptized. Right from the beginning of our Christian walk, we are told that we are to bring light to Christ (He must increase and we must decrease). And John the Baptist is totally fine with this call upon his life. In fact, John says he is "full of joy" and that his joy is "complete" in knowing that his life pointed people to the living hope of the world, that is, Jesus alone!

So as we begin our fall activities and our summer rest is over, let me ask you a question: "How are you going to decrease self and grow greater in Jesus this fall?" What disciplines, courses, actions, etc., will you involve yourself in so that Jesus will become greater and greater in you? Will you sign up or attend activities at Christ the Servant? Will you develop a discipline at home? Will you be accountable to another person (a mentor) who will help and guide you in this direction? Will you attend a certain spiritual retreat to get you back on track? Will you sign up for a Journey group and truly dig into and explore these questions: Who is God? Who am I? And what is God up to in my life?

In the next few weeks you will be reading about a lot of opportunities that will assist you in allowing Jesus to become greater and greater in life (more important, more in the center of your life) as you become less and less (moving more to the sideline of your life). The invitation will always be there. Someone may personally invite you to come or attend but no one will force you (not even Jesus or the Holy Spirit). Jesus never ran after people, He simply invited people to come and "follow Him" and "learn" from Him. And the end result is always JOY – the joy of the Lord will become your strength and your song if you let Him increase in you. As always you can remain where you are and even let the "self" increase and be at the center of your life. And if you truly listen to Jesus, life does go very well when we only increase self and it often ends tragically or simply becomes a lonely life.

So what will it be? Will this fall become the moment you seek to decrease self and increase Jesus or will you stay where you are? As I have learned, you cannot go with God and stay where you are. For those who engage more in this "increasing" Jesus in their lives, you will begin a new adventure where the apostle Paul says: God will "do immeasurable more than all we ask and imagine, according to his power that is at work within us" (Ephesians 3:20), that is, Jesus becoming a greater and greater part of who we are and what we do and say.

Awaiting to grow greater in Christ with you,

Pastor Steve

Christ the Servant Council Meeting
July 16, 2018, 6:30 p.m.

Present: Pastor Steve, Warren Bennet, Jan Puls, Steve Jessen, Doug Witte, Emily Svitak, Steve Freese, Deb Olson, Al Boelman, Richard Hillrichs

Absent: Steve Morton

Steve Jessen opened with a devotion on keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, not on the organization of church, from "My Utmost for His Highest".

Pastor Steve began by going over the agenda, which will typically be sent out prior to the meeting.

Doug moved to approve the minutes from the board of spiritual oversight. Deb seconded, and the motion was approved. Warren moved to approve the minutes of the board of administration. Jan seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Suggested terms of office were discussed.

-Doug asked if the renewal of offices should be in April, because of the placement of the annual congregational meeting. The constitution states nothing as to electing times/dates.

-Doug moved to accept the congregation terms of office as presented. Steve Freese seconded. Motion was approved.

Discussion of Liaison with Ministry Teams:

-The role of the council member in being the liaison is not to necessarily attend all the meetings, but just to be there to check in and be able to communicate between the committee and the council.

-Doug raised that the constitution, in appendix A, states committees as follows: worship, fellowship, church finance, stewardship, discipleship, outreach, and property. The question is raised of which committees should be had.

- Pastor Steve moved to keep the current names as listed on Appendix A.

-Doug moved that the dialog about the liaisons and ministry teams would be tabled until the next meeting to be discussed then in the old business. Warren seconded. Motion carried.

- Worship – Emily Svitak

-Fellowship – Deb Olson

-Discipleship – (This position will be tabled until Steve Morton is asked.)

-Outreach - Al Boelman

-Property – Warren Bennett

-Stewardship – Steve Freese

-Childcare Oversight – Doug Witte

- Church Finance – Jan Puls, Kathy Rogers

Jan Puls moved to appoint Greg Moen as financial secretary. Steve Freese seconded. The motion carried.

Doug raised the consideration of looking at the system that is used for finances when the fiscal year ends.

Steve moved forward in the agenda to the Women of CTS. Shirley Theil and Linda Sheppard represented the Women's group. Shirley shared about the June meeting. The question was raised of a non-member being an officer of the women's group. It was suggested that minutes of a meeting could be taken by any one person that attended the meeting could be appointed for that meeting. Shirley asked that for the year of 2018-19, the Women's group would be able to appoint a Secretary, so that the constitution would not have to be changed. Three officers would be installed, with the secretary to be left appointed at every meeting that will report back to the elected officers. Steve Freese moved to allow the women's group to elect three officers for the 2018-2019 year, leaving the secretary to be left appointed at every meeting that will report back to the elected officers. Jan Puls seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Steve Jessen gave a report on Day Camp. On Wednesday, the closing meeting was held and the decision to hold day camp next year was made, and a deposit was put down for it. Future dates were discussed. The last week of June is available for next year.

Dry wall project for sanctuary and fellowship hall will begin mid-August. Worship may be held in fellowship hall for a couple Sundays during. Warren stated that Wanda Muhs is checking with painters and quote of dry walling is being sought.

New Business:

Pastor Steve and Mary's health insurance. Steve and Mary's coverage is ending this month. Coverage is needed until Medicare begins in two months. Cobra payment was at \$929.43/month. On Medicare, the cost will be around \$276/month. (This begins in October.) Medishare Ministries would be \$628/month. After Steve is removed in October, price for Mary's insurance would be \$400/month. Come October, Steve and Mary's combined insurance would be around \$700/month. Steve Jessen's recommendation is that the stipend the Lund's receive at the moment for \$929.43 would continue for the duration of the year, leaving the insurance to be discussed again when that time comes. Richard raised concern of not begin able to have a certainty of coverage. Doug suggested that given the 'stipend' would already be budgeted for, continuing in it for the year would be agreeable, giving time for Steve Lund to make decisions on which avenue he will take and giving the council time until the next calendar year to make decisions. Richard Hillrichs moved to continue giving Pastor Steve the stipend of \$929.43 per month until the end of the year, and then at that time the health insurance situation will be reevaluated and adjusted as needed. Al Boelman seconded. Motion carried.

Doug shared about the church his children go to. The church includes in the bulletin the previous weeks attendance and giving so that members can see and be aware of it. Perhaps this is an idea of how to create awareness of budgetary needs not being met.

Pastor Steve would like to sit with members of council and have a cup of coffee and speak of where they see they direction of the church and such. Doug appreciates the invitation of a congregational Bible study is being offered. Steve Jessen brought up the appreciation of the questions that were placed on fellowship tables.

Pastor Steve went over his report and closed in prayer.

Old Business for next meeting is to finalize committee names and liaisons.

Next meeting is August 20th at 6:30.

Respectfully submitted,
Emily Svitak, Secretary

2018 Income & Expenses		
	July	YTD
Income		
Member Offerings	14,133.15	99,477.36
Non Member Offering	300.00	1,860.00
Coffee Hour Donations	32.21	279.14
Misc (WNA, books, flowers, reimburse)	150.00	2,115.04
Designated Church Property	1,600.00	4,055.26
Designated Memorials	-	2,355.00
Designated Day Camp	10.00	510.00
Designated Missions	192.00	2,117.00
Designated A Cyboron	50.00	390.00
Designated B Cyboron	50.00	350.00
Designated Weich	-	40.00
Designated Rystrom	-	50.00
Designated Day Care/income	4,983.88	31,775.48
Designated Good Samaritan	50.00	350.00
Designated Tanzania & Travel	-	5,146.00
Total	21,551.24	150,870.28
Interest Income	1.24	17.67
Total	21,552.48	150,887.95
Expenses		
Administration	8,334.84	61,391.46
Church Building	2,877.09	26,451.10
Parsonage	546.33	2,694.17
Discipleship	2,250.12	4,669.38
Fellowship/Evangelism	268.01	1,649.55
Church Mission Giving	1,430.00	9,155.00
Local Benevolence	305.72	2,771.68
Stewardship	-	183.64
Worship	3.49	1,907.73
Misc (WNA, books, flowers, reimburse)		722.36
Day Care	5,535.06	40,024.98
Total	21,550.66	151,621.05
Income Statement		
General Income	16,266.60	110,384.47
Less General Expenses	16,015.60	111,596.07
Church General Income	251.00	(1,211.60)
Day Care Income	4,983.88	31,775.48
Less Day Care Expenses	5,535.06	40,024.98
Net Day care Income	(551.18)	(8,249.50)
Net Church Total Income	(300.18)	(9,461.10)
Day Care Income & Expenses		
Income		
Donations & Grants		3,100.00
Other (private fees)	1,764.50	12,569.08
State Reimbursement(fees & food)	3,219.38	16,106.40
Total Income	4,983.88	31,775.48
Expenses		
Payroll Wages	4,670.67	33,011.05
FICA Expense	338.01	2,476.32
Food & Supplies	526.38	3,400.82
Training		95.00
Other		1,041.79
Total Expenses	5,535.06	40,024.98
Day Care Net Income	(551.18)	(8,249.50)

23rd Annual Holiday Boutique

Saturday, October 27 (10 a.m. – 2 p.m.)

Once again we will be inviting the public to our annual Holiday Boutique. The date is set for October 27. Crafters are being invited and plans are being made. As always, the success of this day depends on the members of Christ the Servant – providing food items, helping to prepare and serve the soups, baking pies and breads, setting up the fellowship hall, and cleaning up afterwards. Your invitations and bringing friends is critical to the numbers who come. Watch for sign-up sheets in the back of the church. If you have any questions, please contact either Mary Lund or Margaret Svitak. Thanks!

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PASTORAL ACTS

Transfers Out

Alvina and Holly Heller, May 10, 2018 (St. Luke's, Stanton)

Roger and Karen Peters, August 9, 2018 (St. John's, Norfolk)

Weddings

Ashli Stingley and Kyle Borer (non-members) — July 28, 2018

Andrea Kropf and Andy Petersen (non-members) — August 18, 2018

ATTENTION CTS FAMILY

We need more volunteers on our Membership Care Team for 2019. Would you please consider serving our Lord in this way? We have a notebook telling you about all you can do during the month to recognize people over 75 and all of our shut-ins, and all the names are listed. Then, put in notebook all you do for your month. There are two people on each team. Contact Fern Zechmann for any questions.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We could use more people to serve coffee on Sunday mornings, and two more teams to count offerings once a month. Contact the church office to sign up or for more information.

CARD OF THANKS

Thank you for your thoughts and prayers following my granddaughter Brianna's swimming accident. She has had surgery on her broken nose and is recovering nicely. We feel that no additional surgery will be necessary.

Jan Puls

Thank you to the people who come and give us communion on the weekends, and to the youth group who visited and gave me a lap robe.

Kay Skovsende

Thanks to everyone at CTS for remembering me in so many ways since I have resided at my new home at The Homestead. A special thanks to the Youth Group for their great visit and very pretty lap robe. God is good!

Mona Jean Roberts

Sincere thanks for your donation to Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camps' annual quilt auction. The work, time and creativity you put into each item is truly appreciated. In total, we received \$50,503 in bids and other gifts on Quilt Auction weekend. Your quilt raised \$235. This money enables the camps to continue providing excellent youth and family programs. Thank you for your investment in the work of sharing Christ with so many campers.

Rod Quanbeck, executive director, IOLBC

Women of Christ the Servant
Annual Gathering
June 9, 2018

“Seek the Lord and His strength: seek His presence continually.” Psalm 105:4

The meeting was opened with prayer by Fern Zechmann followed with a brunch being served by board members.

Treasurer’s report of \$2,252.93 was presented by Jo Roberts and approved. An explanation was made about a bill from December that we have not received. Jo will check into this farther.

We received a total of \$739.49 from the Bless and Be Blessed Sale. We need to donate this to a local charity. Suggestions of the Mission and Bright Horizons were made. A suggestion was made that we consider some lesser known charities that we have not donated to in the past. This brought suggestions of our local CASA and FRHS Child Advocacy. A motion that we split the money between these two organizations was made, seconded and approved by the members. A suggestion was also made by Margaret Svitak that in the future we might consider helping out a fund at FRHS for mothers who do not have needed baby items as this does happen.

A notice had been distributed to the women concerning a proposed change to our constitution. The proposed change is under Membership from “All women in the Christ the Servant Congregation will be members” to “All women in the Christ the Servant Congregation who are 18 years of age and over, will be members”. The change was voted on and approved.

A request was made of the group for volunteers who would be willing to be nominated for Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. Shirley Theil and Linda Sheppard will move to Co-Presidents per our Constitution. Volunteers expressed willingness to serve but we aren’t able to fill the slate today. A special meeting will be called in the near future to nominate and elect a full board.

Bible verses were presented and we voted on our choice for our verse for the coming year. Chosen was Romans 8:28 (NIV) And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Meeting was adjourned and we received a special visit from Aunt Ruth (aka Jo Roberts). She did a marvelous job of presenting “Lessons From a Cupcake.” Fern did a demonstration on easy cupcake decorating. We ended with women preparing their gifts for Their Tanzanian prayer sisters and decorating their own cupcakes.

September 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			WEDNESDAY NIGHT ALIVE 5:30 Confirmation 6:15 Meal 7:00 WNA activity/worship Youth group			1 <i>Arlis Lind (b)</i>
2 Pentecost 15 (no adult study) 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee hour Mission/Ministry team <i>Linda Shaffer (b)</i>	3 LABOR DAY (CLOSED) <i>Lonnie Svitak (b)</i>	4 9:30 Stewardship 5:30 Childcare oversight meeting	5 WNA <i>Marie Shafer (b)</i>	6 9:00 PieceMakers 10:00 WCTS board 6:30 MOPS steering	7 5:30 Girl Scouts <i>Blake Moen (b)</i> <i>Dean Hoffart (b)</i>	8 1-3 p.m. Women of CTS Fall Gathering
9 Pentecost 16 RALLY DAY 9:00 Sunday school (no adult study) 10:00 Worship 11:00 Potluck	10 5:00 Hospitality 6:00 Ultreya	11	12 WNA	13 9:00 Agape <i>Doris Hoffart (b)</i> <i>Joe & Kristy Rosberg (a)</i>	14 <i>Arlynn Boelman (b)</i>	15 1-4 p.m. fellowship hall reserved <i>Wendell Hahne (b)</i> <i>Duane & Shirley Theil (a)</i>
16 Pentecost 17 8:30 Adult study 9:00 Sunday school 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee hour 4:00 hall reserved <i>Nicole Roberts (b)</i>	17 6:30 Council mtg.	18 <i>Richard & Cherlyn Hillrichs (a)</i>	19 WNA	20 2:00 Card Club 6:45 MOPS	21 5:30 Girl Scouts	22
23 Pentecost 18 8:30 Adult study 9:00 Sunday school 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee hour	24 7:00 Ultreya	25 7:00 Worship committee	26 WNA <i>Matt Morton (b)</i>	27	28	29
30 Pentecost 19 9:00 Sunday school 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee hour <i>Abbey Buettgenbach (b)</i>			MARK YOUR CALENDARS HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.			

PRAISE FEST 2018

SATURDAY, NOV. 17

Old Fashioned Hymn-Sing

Starting at 12:00pm

Praise Bands from 1:00-8:00pm

*Enjoy Food, Fellowship, and Praise Bands from
many local churches in the area!*

**At Northern Heights
Baptist Church**



**Fundraiser for the
CHRISTIAN CROSS
FESTIVAL**

*For more info visit
christiancrossfestival.org*

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