



FEBRUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER



February Sunday Worship

A Time of Repentance, Preparation and Redirection

Beginning in the month of February we will start the season of Lent as we descend from the Mount of Transfiguration (where Jesus shines as the glorious Son of God) into the valley on the road to Jerusalem and a cross on Calvary. We will hear once again our Lord's final words and actions as He comes to fulfill the will of the Father. As we journey with Jesus to Jerusalem, our calendar begins and ends with an interesting twist. Ash Wednesday begins on February 14 (Valentine's Day) and Easter Sunday is April 1 (April Fools' Day). Join us for worship as we travel with His disciples to Jerusalem for the passion of our Lord.

February 4 – (Mark 2:2-9) – **Transfiguration of our Lord**
Christ is revealed as God's beloved Son

February 11 – (Mark 1:6-15) – **Lent 1**
The temptation of Jesus

February 18 – (Mark 8:31-38) – **Lent 2**
The passion prediction

February 25 – (John 2:13-22) – **Lent 3**
The cleansing of the temple

Lent Begins on February 14

Wednesdays (6 PM – Meal; 7 PM – Service)

Lent begins on Wednesday, February 14, with our Ash Wednesday service with the Imposition of Ashes upon our foreheads, reminding us that we are mortal beings living a finite time on this earth. Although death comes to all, we are not without hope and promise. Our sin continues to separate us from God and others. As disciples of Jesus we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor. On this evening you will be called once again to seek the disciplines of Lent – repentance, fasting, prayer and works of love. Before each service, you are invited into the fellowship hall for a free-will offering meal and fellowship. The youth will serve a spaghetti meal with French bread on February 14 and then other groups and organizations will provide the meal.

(continued)

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

Our theme for our mid-week Lenten services this year is **“Anxious for Nothing: Finding Calm in a Chaotic World.”** Our resource will be the latest book by Max Lucado with the same title. Max Lucado shares inside this book cover these words: “It’s a low-grade fear. An edginess, a dread. It’s a wind that won’t stop howling. It’s not so much a storm as it is the certainty that one is coming. Always . . . coming. The anxiety has reasons. We worry. We even feel anxious about feeling anxious.” Sound familiar? Don’t fret. We all encounter anxiety, but how we deal with it is another story. Using the familiar passage of Philippians 4:4-7, we will discover some key mile markers along the road to peace and calm. Is God sovereign over our circumstance? Is He mightier than our problems? Does He have answers to our questions? According to scripture, the answer is yes, yes, and yes! We can trust Him and we can “be anxious for nothing.”

Adult Faith Formation Opportunities

Three Different Opportunities to Grow
(Samples of each are available for your review on back table)

Last August Pastor Steve presented his adult faith formation metaphor and design he had been developing with the guidance of VantagePoint3 in Sioux Falls, S.D., and a guiding coalition team with a few members of Christ the Servant. Using our mission statement as a way of life in living out our Christian faith, we are utilizing the three main verbs of our mission statement for being a congregation – called, transformed, and sent. Using our baptismal identity with the triune God, as we “abide” in the Father we are “called,” as we are made “alive” in the Son we are “transformed”, and as we “abound” in the Spirit we are “sent.” Three critical questions are constantly being asked of all members: (1) How are you hearing the call of God upon your life? (2) How are you growing? (sharing life together), and (3) How are you serving and investing in others? In order to help you process these questions, we are offering three different opportunities and time commitments for you to consider:

Growing Up (7 conversations): Meeting either Mondays or Tuesdays at 7 PM

(cost: \$11)

Experiencing God (12 lessons): Meeting on Sunday evenings at 7 PM beginning

February 25 (cost: \$12)

The Journey (3 manuals – each with 7 sessions): Meeting on Thursday evenings

beginning March 1 (Total cost: \$250 for 3 manuals and 3 books – can pay 1/3 each manual)

Growing Up (7 conversations) – Several groups of 2-8 people gathered last fall to have conversations around three questions: (1) Who is God? (2) Who Am I? and (3) What Am I To Do with My Life? Those who participated had positive comments about meeting together with others to discuss these three questions. This booklet has been revised from 8 conversations to 7 conversations: A Growing Person, Knowing God, Being Known by God, What’s Defining You Nowadays, Life Together, Uncovering Something More, and An Apprenticed Life. Each of these 7 conversations moves from Reflection to Conversation to Prayer. Each conversation will conclude with the practice of converting your thoughts into a written prayer.

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Experiencing God (12 lessons) – This popular course has had a very significant effect upon many of our members over the last 20 years concerning their Christian understanding of who God is and how God is always at work around us, inviting us to join Him in what He is already doing. During the course, you will learn the 7 Realities of Experiencing God. Each lesson involves homework on 5 days during the week. Each lesson will include a review, meeting in quads for discussion and prayer, and viewing a short video presentation.

The Journey (3 separate manuals = 22 sessions total) – This course is for the committed who want to meet with others to explore more deeply the three questions of Growing Up: who is God, who am I, and what does God desire to do through me? This group will meet with Pastor Steve on a weekly basis with each manual (with a break into between each manual). You will walk together with 4-8 other people for six months with regular study, reflection, Bible reading, and prayer. You will be introduced to the invaluable relationship of spiritual mentoring with another person at least twice a month. The Journey is based on three foundations: biblical, personal, and relational.

*** Each of these opportunities is being offered to fit your schedule and time commitment at this time. Watch for bulletin inserts and the back table to sign up. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Steve.

Mid-week Lenten Themes

“Anxious for Nothing”

All of us could use some calm in our busy, hectic lives. With our daily schedules and life circumstances, anxiety also comes with it. While we can't eliminate all anxiety, it doesn't have to dominate and control our lives. During this Lenten season we will be examining Paul's exhortation and promise in his letter to the church in Philippi where he writes:

“⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸ Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-- if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-- think about such things. ⁹ Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me-- put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you”

During our mid-week Lenten services we will be using the acronym C.A.L.M. to help us experience “the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds.” We will seek to **C**elebrate God's goodness, **A**sk for God's help, **L**eave our concerns with Him, and **M**editate on good things. Applying this acronym to your life will not only change your outlook on life, but you will be empowered to overcome your anxieties and fears in life.

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Sunday, February 11 - Transfiguration (Introduction to Mid-week Lenten theme)

Message: "Less Fret, More Faith"

C.A.L.M. business carrying card given to all

Lenten Devotion Booklet – "Finding Peace in Lent" (reflections on St. Francis Peace Prayer)

February 14 – Ash Wednesday

Message: "Rejoice in the Lord's Mercy"

("Guilt freezes the soul. Grace calms it.")

Wednesday, February 21

Message: "Rejoice in the Lord's Sovereignty"

("You can't run the world, but you can entrust it to God.")

Wednesday, February 28

Message: "Rejoice in the Lord Always"

("God uses everything to accomplish His will.")

Wednesday, March 7

Message: "Contagious Calm"

("Anxiety is needless because God is near.")

Wednesday, March 14

Message: "Prayer, Not Despair"

("Peace Happens when people pray.")

Wednesday, March 21

Message: "Great Gratitude"

("Christ-based contentment turns us into strong people.")

Sunday, March 25 - Palm Sunday

Message: "God's Peace, Your Peace"

("You may be facing the perfect storm, but Jesus offers the perfect peace.")

March 29 – Maundy Thursday

Message: "Think About What You Think"

("Your problem is not your problem but the way you see it.")

March 30 – Good Friday

Message: "Cling to Christ"

("We bear fruit by focusing on God.")

Sunday, April 1 – Easter

Message: "Cling to Christ"

("We bear fruit by focusing on God.")

Pastor Steve's Letter: "Lent: A Time to Reclaim Time with the Lord"

Once again we are approaching one of my favorite seasons of the year. No, it is not Spring; although I do look forward to witnessing the earth come to life again as the grass turns green and the leaves begin to grow on the trees. No, one of my favorite seasons of the church year is Lent (40 days before Easter, excluding the Sundays). Life for me slows down (even though I have more services to plan and sermons to preach) as I focus MORE on the cross and the WHY of why Jesus had to die on a cross for me. In the midst of my busy life, my mind is able to slow down during this season (and my prayer is this is true for you or will become true for you). That is why I pray you will take time to walk with me again to the cross with Jesus with Philippians 4:6-7 as our guide. As you consider adding another service into your already busy life, let me help you reconsider "adding" this hour into your life at the mid-week day of your week. The following is a reading that was shared at the Women's Via de Cristo weekend I recently attended: "**Busyness: Our Greatest Obstacle.**" The reading goes like this:

Now imagine . . . to put obstacles in our lives, Satan called a worldwide convention of demons. In his opening address he said, "We can't keep Christians from going to church. We can't keep them from reading their Bibles and knowing the truth. We can't even keep them from forming an intimate relationship with their Savior. Once they gain that connection with Jesus, our power over them is broken."

"So let them go to their churches. Let them have their covered dish dinners. BUT . . . steal their time, so they don't have time to develop a relationship with Jesus Christ."

"This is what I want you to do," said the devil. "Distract them from gaining hold of their Savior and maintaining that vital connection throughout their day."

"How shall we do this?" his demons shouted.

"Keep them busy in the non-essentials of life and invent innumerable schemes to occupy their minds," Satan answered. "Tempt them to spend, spend, spend and borrow, borrow, borrow. Persuade the wives to go to work for long hours and the husbands to work 6-7 days every week for 10-12 hours each day so they can afford their empty lifestyles."

"Keep them from spending time with their children. As their families fragment, soon their homes will offer no escape from the pressures of work!"

"Over-stimulate their minds so that they cannot hear that still, small voice. Entice them to play the radio whenever they drive. Attach them to their phones and keep their TVs, DVDs, CDs and PCs going constantly in their home, and see to it that every store and restaurant plays non-biblical music constantly. This will jam their minds and break that union with Christ."

"Fill their coffee tables with magazines and newspapers. Pound their minds with the news 24 hours a day. Invade their driving moments with billboards. Flood their mailboxes with junk mail, mail order catalogs, sweepstakes, every kind of newsletter, and promotions offering free products, services and false hopes. Keep skinny, beautiful models on the magazines and the TV so their husbands will believe that outward beauty is what is important. Soon they will become dissatisfied with their wives. Keep the wives too tired to love their husbands at night. Give them headaches too! If they don't give their husbands the love they need, they will begin to look elsewhere. That will fragment their families quickly!"

"Give them Santa Claus to distract them from teaching their children the real meaning of Christmas. Give them the Easter Bunny so they won't talk about His resurrection and power over sin and death. Even in their recreation, let them be excessive. Have them return from their recreation exhausted. Keep them busy, busy, busy!"

"And when they meet for spiritual fellowship, involve them in gossip and small talk so that they leave with troubled consciences. Crowd their lives with so many good causes they have no time to seek power from Jesus."

"Soon they will be working in their own strength, sacrificing their health and family for the good of the cause. It will work! It will work!!!"

It was quite a plan! The demons went eagerly to their assignments causing Christians everywhere to get busier and more rushed, going here and there. Having little time for God or their families. Having no time to tell others about the power of Jesus to change their lives.

I guess the question is – has the devil been successful in his schemes? You be the judge.

BUSY – Does BUSY mean . . . B-eing . . . U-nder . . . S-atan's . . . Y-oke?

Now do you understand why Lent is one of my favorite seasons of the church year? Lent refocuses my attention, my mind, my heart, my calendar, my priorities, my relationship with Jesus, my prayer time, etc. I can never become too busy (no matter how good my activities may be) that I do not take time with my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on a daily basis.

Checking the "busy" temperature in my life,

Pastor Steve

December 19, 2017, Board of Administration meeting

Present: Richard Hillrichs, Steve Freese, Warren Bennett, Wanda Muhs, Doris Hoffart, Greg Moen
Absent: Jan Puls

Motion by Steve to approve the minutes of the last meeting, seconded by Warren; motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Parsonage deck fund: Although there haven't been a lot of donations, the ones we have received have been very generous. Some funds have been donated through offerings.

NEW BUSINESS

A request for paid time off was received on behalf of two childcare staff (Danita and Lisa). After discussion, it was clarified that one week of paid vacation is 5 business days and there are to be 6 paid holidays versus the five that were requested. Motion by Warren to approve the request as amended, seconded by Steve; motion carried. Danita will receive 5 days of paid vacation and 6 paid holidays; Lisa will receive 2 days of paid vacation. Holidays are New Year's Day, Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

BILLS TO BE PAID

Century Lumber (soffit and fascia materials) = \$1,339.92

Motion by Steve to approve this bill to be paid, seconded by Doris; motion carried.

REPORTS

Financial report (attached) – Motion by Steve to accept the financial report, seconded by Warren; motion carried. Church Finance: the balance in our checking account was \$33,802.15 as of Nov. 30.

At this time, both boards came together in order for Greg to share his report (attached). It was suggested this information go in the newsletter after approval by the boards at their monthly meetings. Greg discussed his suggested fund balances. Per Doug, there needs to be a motion and second to move money out of an account. Steve offered a motion to approve Greg's second bullet item regarding moving funds, seconded by Warren. After further discussion and clarification, the motion carried.

Greg shared a rough draft of his proposed accounting process. The Board of Spiritual Oversight determines how money from the Holiday Boutique will be distributed, and they need to let Greg know.

Greg suggested moving the money from the endowment fund (less \$3,900 given in memorials) into savings. Endowment means we would only use the interest, leaving the principal. Doug has more information about the endowment account, but he stated that they were intended to be kept separate. This topic will need to be revisited. Richard and Doug will go through the documentation. Doug confirmed that the money in the endowment account came from actual endowments.

The joint board meeting was then dismissed and the regular business meeting resumed.

Property: Wanda brought a request from two members who wish to purchase and donate new, matching stoves for the kitchen. Motion by Warren to approve this request, seconded by Steve; motion carried. This led to some discussion of the kitchen renovation fund; however, as this was not on the agenda and due to the time, this discussion was tabled.

Susan wants to replace the wallboard in the sanctuary with sheetrock. It was noted that there is a crack in the peak where the speakers are (speaker brackets are included in the estimate but not sheetrock). What about painting (likely will need to hire a professional). Susan will talk to her family about this.

Motion by Doris to adjourn, seconded by Steve. Next meeting: January 15, 2018, at 6:30 p.m.

Board of Spiritual Oversight Meeting

December 19, 2017, 6:30 PM

Attendance: Brian Anderson, Linda Cyboron, Steve Jessen, Deb Olson, Doug Witte, Pastor Steve.

Absent: None

Joint Meeting: Both Boards meet together to meet with Greg Moen (Financial Secretary) to clarify accounts and funds; combine some designated funds; and discuss future reporting and accounting procedures.

Opening Devotions: Pastor Steve opened the meeting with devotions and prayer, following by a Bible study on Ephesians (Ephesians 2:11-22).

Approval of November 21 minutes: The minutes were approved as written.

Board Agenda was approved as presented.

Financial Report: The report was received and discussed in the joint meeting.

Congregational Meeting: The budget meeting with the congregation on Sunday, December 17, was reviewed. The proposed budget for 2018 was approved as presented. One topic was raised by one member. It was a request to return the word Christian (in place of “catholic”) in the Apostles’ Creed. The board will discuss this request at our January meeting as to what direction or process should take place.

Discipleship (Doug): Doug reported that the Sunday school Christmas program will be given during the 5 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service using recorded video interviews and a live Nativity scene. Beginning in January (2018) the Sunday school will using a new curriculum from Concordia Publishing House called Cross Explorations (a 3-year cycle through the Bible) which uses a large group/small group weekly schedule (two groups: grade 1-3 and grades 4-6). Junior High and Senior High students will be assisting the teaching. A teacher’s meeting will be held on January 3 to introduce the material to them. Pastor Steve will be offering adult learning opportunities in the New Year: Growing Up, Experiencing God, and The Journey).

Worship (Brian): Brian shared our schedule for Christmas Eve since it falls on a Sunday. Morning service at 10 AM with a 5 PM and 11 PM Candlelight service (5 PM will include the Sunday school Christmas program). W.O.W. worship will begin on January 10 for the Epiphany season (5 Wednesdays) as Lent will begin on February 14.

Outreach (Linda): Linda shared that the Eucharistic ministers has begun bringing communion to our homebound and shut-ins (two teams per Sunday) on December 5. Plans continue for our mission trip to Tanzania next summer. The Mission Ministry Team recommends to the Board that the Mission Fund with the amount of \$8,503.78 be distributed to our missionary families, CTS Little Servants Childcare, and those who will be going to Tanzania this summer (\$600 to each: Joe Rystrom, Aaron & Anna Cyboron, Brandon & Annemarie Cyboron, Jared & Sau Man Weich, Little Servants Childcare, and those going to Tanzania: Brian & Michelle Anderson, Lonnie & Margaret Svitak, Louise Skoglund, Mary Weich, Tara Peters, Emily Svitak, and Amanda Cyboron). This would leave \$103.78 in the Mission Fund. The recommendation was made into a motion by Doug Witte and seconded by Deb Olson. The motion carried.

Fellowship (Deb): The monthly potluck meals after worship will continue on the 2nd Sundays of the month. Our annual Chili-Soup Cook-off and Game Night will be held on Saturday, January 27. Michelle Anderson and Sharel Olson will chair the event (this event is a fund-raiser for the youth). WNA will resume with meals on January 10. A movie night is being planned in February. The Hospitality Ministry Team is requested a joint meeting of all ministry teams on February 4 to discuss clarification of responsibilities for each ministry team.

Pastor Steve: Pastor Steve shared his written report. The report included: Sunday worship (Pastor Steve will be gone on January 7 and 21 – Charlie Skoglund and Richard Hillrichs will lead worship and bring the message; it was motioned by Linda Cyboron and seconded by Brian Anderson to approve this arrangement); Wednesday nights continue to be an important part of spiritual development and caring conversations with confirmation and WNA/WOW; Adult formation groups: Growing Up conversation small groups are concluding (good reports) and plans for New Year include more Growing Up small groups, Experiencing God, and another Journey group; Calling and Caring Ministers: shared how we may need to develop calling and caring ministers just as we have Eucharistic ministers; new Sunday school curriculum: excited to begin a new curriculum with Concordia Publishing House called Cross Explorations (3-year cycle through the bible using a large group/small group format; requests for new video projector: Brian Anderson motioned and Doug Witte seconded that we purchase a new video projector for Sunday school openings (and other fellowship hall events), using the church budget line from Worship and not to exceed \$700. The motion was approved by the Board. (Note: the old video projector constantly overheats and shuts off); new structure: several members have approached the Board wondering if we should have only one Board (or council) instead of two. While two Boards look good in theory, it is not working as well in practice (communication and decision issues). We will talk to the Board of Administration in January and suggest a task force to look into a new constitution and bylaws with one council (date of approval by congregation: July 1); vision group: would still like to form a vision group (one person per decade) to discern our future as a congregation.

Next meeting date: Tuesday, January 16, 2018

Adjournment: We adjourned at 8:30 PM

Closing Prayer was given by Steve Jessen.

BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES

<i>Bob & Susie Lutz</i>	2/2
Doug Witte	2/8
Mary Lund	2/9
Dagney Petersen	2/11
Jeremy Olson	2/12
<i>Roger & Karen Peters</i>	2/12
Millie Drey	2/18
Rhonda Beed	2/19
Korrie Hall	2/19
Deb Olson	2/20
<i>Roger & Donna Young</i>	2/20
Nell Finkral	2/23
Joy Potts	2/25
Jan Puls	2/27
Carter Olson	2/28

God's blessings to everyone celebrating this month!

(If your birthday or anniversary is not listed, please provide the office with the month, day and year.)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are in need of two 2-person teams to count offerings once a month, on the third and fourth Sundays. Please prayerfully consider giving one hour a month of your time. Training will be provided. Contact the church office for more information.

ALTAR FLOWERS

A new flower chart is on the office door. Please use the dry-erase marker to sign up. One bouquet will be ordered unless otherwise specified (the florist will bill you). Each bouquet is \$10 plus tax.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The next Crafting Retreat will be Friday and Saturday, March 23-24, in the fellowship hall.

CARD OF THANKS

Thank you for thinking of me this holiday season! I appreciated the goodie bag, it really cheered me up after my finals. I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season, and have a Happy New Year.

With thanks, Emily

Thank you for the supply bag. I will be thinking of my church family when I use the goodies within.

Derrick

Thank you to the Eucharistic Ministry team for coming out to give me communion, and for bringing the Christmas package.

Kay Skovsende
The Homestead

February 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 9:00 PieceMakers 6:30 MOPS steering committee	2 <i>Pastor out</i> 5:30 Girl Scouts	3
4 8:45 S. school 10:00 worship Fellowship	5	6 6:30 Childcare oversight 6:30 Women of CTS	7 5:30 Confirmation 6:15 WNA meal 7:00 worship 7:45 youth group	8 9:00 Agape Circle	9 <i>Pastor out</i>	10
11 8:45 S. school 10:00 worship Potluck Mission & Ministry	12 5:30 Welcome & Hospitality 6:00 Via de Cristo Ultraya @ CTS)	13	14 LENT BEGINS 5:30 Confirmation 6:00 Lenten meal 7:00 Ash Wednesday service 8:00 youth group	15 2:00 Card Club 6:45 MOPS/MOMS	16 <i>Pastor out</i> 5:30 Girl Scouts <i>Deadline for newsletter articles</i>	17
18 8:45 S. school 10:00 worship Fellowship	19 6:30 Board of Administration	20 6:30 Board of Spiritual Oversight	21 5:30 Confirmation 6:00 Lenten meal 7:00 Lenten service 7:45 youth group	22	23 <i>Pastor out</i> 6:30-11 Movie Night (fellowship hall)	24 11:00-5:00 Baby shower (fellowship hall)
-----MEALS on WHEELS -----						
25 8:45 S. school 10:00 worship Fellowship 7PM "Experiencing God"	26 7:00 Via de Cristo Ultraya @ CTS	27 7:00 Worship committee	28 5:30 Confirmation 6:00 Lenten meal 7:00 Lenten service 7:45 youth group			
-----MEALS on WHEELS -----						