



JANUARY 2017 NEWSLETTER

Keeping the Faith
for 40 years
1976 ~ 2016

Sunday Worship – The Season of Epiphany

Explore the Bible (Joshua, Judges)

Our Explore the Bible readings will explore Israel's final days under Joshua's leadership where Joshua challenges Israel with these words: "then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve." Judges is the next Old Testament book that follows the book of Joshua. After the people of Israel settled into the Promised Land the generation after Joshua forgot the Lord and began to adopt the pagan practices of the Canaanite people which led to a reoccurring four-stage cycle of sin-suffering-supplication-salvation. This period of Israel is described as a time where "all the people did what was right in their own eyes" because Israel had no king. (Sounds very similar to our culture and society today which will make our sermon study a timely topic.) (Personal study guides again are available in the back for continued study and discussion with others – suggested donation cost per book is \$10.)

January 1 – Joshua 22:1-8 – "Are You 'All In'?" **1st Sunday of Christmas**

The rewards of faithfulness come with an expectation of continued obedience.

January 8 – Joshua 24:14-28 – "Challenged" **Baptism of Our Lord Sunday**

Faithfulness grows through reflection, evaluation, and renewed commitment to God.

January 15 – Mark 10:46-49 – "Value All" **2nd Sunday after Epiphany**

Jesus values all people.

January 22 – Judges 2:11-19 – "Rebellion's Cycle" **3rd Sunday after Epiphany**

God brings righteous judgment on His rebellious people, with the goal of their repentance.

January 29 – Judges 4:4-10, 12-16 – "Willing Servants" **4th Sunday after Epiphany**

God restores His people to freedom using faithful and willing servants.

Change the World School of Prayer

Monday at 7 PM (January 9, February 13)

Our last two Change the World School of Prayer teaching sessions will be held on Monday, January 9, and Monday, February 13, beginning at 7 PM. On January 9 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 February 13 we will watch our 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 also encourage you to take a postcard in the back of the church and continue praying for revival in our congregation and the region.)

PASTOR STEVE'S LETTER: "HOSPITALITY AS A WAY OF LIFE SUSTAINS COMMUNITY"

Each month we have been 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." In the past three newsletters we have talked about "Truth-Telling," "Gratitude," and "Promise-Making/Promise-Keeping." Our fourth and final critical practice to sustain our life as a community is our practice of hospitality. By hospitality, we are not talking about what happens after worship in the fellowship hall with coffee and donut holes or an industry of restaurants and hotels. The practice of hospitality is a sign that a community is alive and isn't afraid to invite others to live with us. Hospitality taps into "the deep human longing to belong, find a place to share one's gifts, and be valued" according to Christine Pohl. The practice of hospitality reflects a willingness on the part of the community of people to "be open to others and to their insights, needs, and contributions." In fact, hospitable communities are "incomplete without other folks."

Hospitality is truly at the heart of the Christian life where a person is "drawing from God's grace and reflecting God's graciousness with those around him/her." In hospitality we "respond to the welcome that God has offered and replicate that welcome in the world." When we regularly offer this kind of hospitality to strangers, we quickly discover how important the other three critical practices are. Living and speaking truthfully "are central to the vulnerability and transparency associated with welcoming people into our lives and communities." But living truthfully also depends on the practice of fidelity or promise-keeping that we will do what we have promised. Together, truthfulness and promise-keeping create a "trustworthy environment into which we can welcome strangers and within which it is safe to be vulnerable." And unless hospitality is grounded in gratitude, the practice of hospitality "quickly becomes grudging (1 Pet. 4:9)." Hospitality, however, is NOT easy, and guests are not always pleasant or grateful. In order to maintain hospitality over the long haul, our gratitude "needs to be cultivated in response to the love and grace of God." These other three practices are not only necessary but they will be tested and refined many times. If a community is sustained over time by these practices, people will "learn how to speak the truth in love, keep their promises, and renew their gratitude." So if any envy, deception, grumbling, and betrayal appear, these attitudes will destroy any community and undermine hospitality. To counteract these destroying attitudes, it is absolutely necessary that the community uses the gifts of "discernment, confession, and forgiveness."

Hospitality and shared meals fill the pages of Scripture – from Abraham and Sarah's welcome of the strangers/angels in Genesis 18 to Jesus' invitation to come and eat with anyone who opens the door to Him in Revelation 3:20. In fact, Jesus separates the "sheep" from the "goats" based on whether we have welcomed, fed, and clothed the least of those among us (Matthew 25:31-46). The earliest Christians understood the importance of hospitality. They ate together so that the poor could be fed and worshiped in their homes. The central practice of the church in the first 1500 years was hospitality. During the Late Middle Ages, hospitality came to be identified with lavish entertaining by the rich and powerful which served to reinforce power and influence. In the recent decades, attention to hospitality (both its theological and human importance) has again been recognized. As noted earlier, hospitality has long been an important practice of the church in welcoming strangers in our midst. But what makes someone a stranger? Strangers are "people without a place, disconnected from life-giving relationships and networks." Whether they literally have a place to stay or not, a stranger is one who does not have

PASTOR STEVE'S LETTER: *(CONTINUED)*

“a place where they can contribute something, or where they are valued.” Because hospitality is part of what it means to be human, every human “flourishes in the context of welcome.”

In light of this important and necessary practice of being and becoming a hospitable and welcoming community, I will be meeting with our Welcome and Hospitality Ministry Team to discuss this whole area of “welcome” with them. Far too often we come to Christ the Servant assuming everyone has been here before. Imagine you are attending Christ the Servant for the very first time. What would you need to know? What would make you feel welcome? Would you know where to go and how to get there? What about our worship service? What would I need to know? Would there be parts of the worship I feel left out (not knowing what to do next)? These and other questions we will be discussing to evaluate our hospitality. If you would like to be a part of this discussion, please contact me. We could have a conversation around a cup of coffee or you could share your thoughts with the Welcome and Hospitality Ministry Team. Let's be on the lookout for guests and “welcome” them as we would any guest coming to our house for a visit.

Welcoming those who long to belong,

BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION
Monday, November 21, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Steve Jessen, chairman, at 6:30 p.m. Members present: Warren Bennett, Jan Puls, Wanda Muhs, Richard Hillrichs, Pat Witte; Budget Review Committee members Arlynn Boelman and Dean Hoffart. Richard offered the opening prayer.

Membership/Stewardship report — Pat Witte

Pastor is making visits. Pastor will ask someone from St. Paul's [our Thrivent representative, Jeff Jensen] to come to our Dec. 4 meeting to explain Simply Giving. Steve asked what kind of report we would get to track member giving.

Personnel report — Richard Hillrichs

Personnel committee needs to meet again to see if they want to do an evaluation. Pastor Garry handed out evaluations Thursday night and yesterday after worship. Pastor Garry suggested 8-12 people be added to this ministry team.

Property report — Wanda Muhs

Water has been shut off to the sprinkler [power at picnic shelter also turned off]. Carpet in the daycare will be replaced Dec. 7 so Danita will use the fellowship hall and youth room; reminder that all changes to the physical structure require board approval. Arlynn mentioned a child abuse case nearby and asked if we have insurance on our center; the answer is yes. Wanda wants the deck at the parsonage included in next year's budget. Need to decide on size, material (composite), and have a dollar amount to work with. Steve wants the fascia here painted and rotted areas replaced; too late this year so needs to be budgeted.

Financial report — Steve Jessen

General income \$26,174 for October; of that, \$1,402 was designated giving, \$20,113 general expenses; balance \$4,658. YTD we are \$8,821 behind in what we've taken in compared to what we've spent. Arlynn asked if we've repaid any of the money we borrowed; the answer is no. There is \$11,187 in savings, approximately \$7,000 in the endowment fund, and \$33,900 in checking. We need to bring in \$21,000 every month to meet our budget. It was suggested that we let the congregation know and ask them to give extra before the end of the year to make up the deficit. Motion by Jan to accept to the financial report for October, seconded by Warren. All in favor, motion carried. Motion by Richard to have a fund drive in December for the purpose of raising additional money to help satisfy our general fund to take care of our 2016 budget problems, seconded by Arlynn. Discussion followed. Steve then called for a vote. All in favor, motion carried. Pat will draft a letter to the congregation.

The proposed budget for 2017 was distributed. A special meeting was scheduled for Monday, November 28, at 6:30 p.m. to finalize the budget so it can be presented to the congregation after worship on Sunday, Dec. 4.

Next meeting: Monday, December 19, 6:30 p.m. Motion by Wanda to adjourn, seconded by Jan.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Rogers, Administrative Assistant

BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION

Monday, December 19, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Steve Jessen, chairman, at 6:45 p.m. Members present: Warren Bennett, Judy Carstens, Wanda Muhs, Jan Puls; Richard Hillrichs, absent. Warren offered the opening prayer.

Membership/Stewardship — Judy Carstens

Letters were sent to absentees as well as visitors. Online giving has been tabled due to lack of interest. Job descriptions for this committee were given to Charlie Skoglund. Pastor is doing his own calling; Pat will start calling in January.

Property report — Wanda Muhs

The bill for new flooring in the daycare rooms was received. There is a difference of \$231.41 between the estimate and invoice; Steve will look into this. We have not received the bill for labor yet. While Wanda is in Texas, property issues should be brought to Warren. Warren will be spraying for bugs.

Motion by Jan, seconded by Wanda, to approve payment to Scranton of \$1,768.97; motion carried.

Financial report — Jan Puls

We have received \$3,700 in response to our December 1st letter to members regarding an anticipated budget shortfall.

Next meeting: Monday, January 16, 2017, 6:30 p.m.

Motion by Warren to adjourn, seconded by Jan. Meeting adjourned at 7:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Rogers, Administrative Assistant

Christ the Servant Lutheran Church
Income & Expenses

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	YTD
Income												
Member Offerings	20,809.00	21,183.55	18,244.75	17,927.85	18,135.00	22,750.66	22,648.50	17,137.50	14,924.66	21,388.54	17,557.05	212,707.06
Non Member Offering	315.00	278.85	623.00	660.00	235.00	175.00	575.00	195.00	100.00	245.00	203.00	3,604.85
Coffee Hour Donations	60.36	43.81	24.00	26.43	37.75	59.12	51.00	62.50	36.50	52.89	18.00	472.36
Holiday Boutique										2,575.25		2,575.25
Designated Reimburse, Church use, misc	718.00	2,327.60	142.00	59.78		641.00	619.00	25.00	297.00	447.00	368.13	5,644.51
Designated Day Camp						172.35	23.00					195.35
Designated Missions	70.00	105.00	145.00	780.00	166.00	385.00	235.00	315.00	395.00	585.00	445.00	3,626.00
Designated A Cyboron	25.00	25.00	45.00	25.00	25.00	135.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	78.00	25.00	458.00
Designated B Cyboron	500.00	500.00	25.00	500.00	500.00	565.00	25.00	500.00	500.00	578.00	475.00	4,668.00
Designated Emily Svitak								600.00	525.00		50.00	1,175.00
Designated Welch			20.00			110.00			20.00	53.00		203.00
Designated Rystrom						90.00				53.00		143.00
Designated Day Care and payments	1,997.35	2,252.32	2,487.32	2,273.59	2,550.61	2,113.01		293.00	1,386.03	6,125.46	12,644.84	34,123.53
Designated Good Samaritan	50.00	50.00		100.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	55.00	50.00	555.00
Designated Tanzania	50.00		150.00		160.00	416.13	100.00	155.00	270.00		150.00	1,451.13
Total	24,594.71	26,766.13	21,906.07	22,352.65	21,859.36	27,662.27	24,351.50	19,358.00	18,529.19	32,236.14	31,986.02	271,602.04
Interest Income	1.73	1.68	4.55		4.18	8.92	2.96	4.54	3.24	1.52	3.1	36.42
Total	24,596.44	26,767.81	21,910.62	22,352.65	21,863.54	27,671.19	24,354.46	19,362.54	18,532.43	32,237.66	31,989.12	271,638.46
Expenses												
Administration	13,535.82	13,550.16	13,306.23	19,521.58	13,712.33	14,387.03	13,750.49	13,497.75	18,448.41	13,309.68	13,601.19	160,620.67
Worship	257.55	115.95	155.85	272.21	167.16	17.98	367.00	10.00	94.63	10.00	10.00	1,478.33
Discipleship	201.49	412.64	520.87	201.91	698.96	1,725.08	280.35	248.09	441.46	581.27	472.07	5,785.19
Parsonage	401.48	198.74	274.45	307.69	351.07	336.48	5,088.35	383.61	998.85	766.59	497.42	9,604.73
Church Building	2,678.56	2,506.80	2,673.75	2,179.04	2,920.34	2,295.52	2,343.71	1,967.29	6,414.72	4,046.65	3,230.76	33,257.14
Fellowship/Evangelism	378.69	1,526.54	218.00	295.72	82.34	1,292.49	1,019.34	97.00	85.47	1,301.88	548.70	6,846.17
Church Mission Giving	100.00	300.00	400.00	400.00	400.00	800.00		870.00	400.00		800.00	4,470.00
Local Benevolence		517.94	928.09	430.44	353.33	979.43	40.00	905.56	314.79	97.75	847.52	5,414.85
Day Care	2,307.98	2,488.06	2,585.62	3,480.87	2,511.63	255.14		566.09	6,436.39	4,749.95	4,974.84	30,356.57
Stewardship						253.46						253.46
Total	19,861.57	21,616.83	21,062.86	27,089.46	21,197.16	22,343.61	22,889.24	18,545.39	33,634.72	24,863.77	24,982.50	258,087.11

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

1/1 Katelyn Hall
1/4 Mick Kullbom
1/6 Warren Bennett
1/15 Emilee Olson
1/16 BJ Koepp
1/17 Tara Peters
1/22 Tammy Buckendahl
1/23 Audrey Polenske
1/25 Lucas Petersen
1/30 Jason Jones

ANNIVERSARIES

1/12 Merlin & Kris Lee

*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

Thank you, thank you for the meals and other treats that were delivered to me on Sunday evening by Pastor Matt, Becky, Linda and Amanda Cyboron, Danita and Elizabeth Broders, Michelle, Micheyla and Katelyn Anderson. I also really enjoyed the Christmas carols. God bless you all.

Marilyn Woolard

Dear Pastor Steve and family, I wanted to thank you for the Hickory Farms package again this year. Christ the Servant has been awesome to me, and I hope to give back in the years to come. I started a new class which will teach entrepreneur training/career readiness through Baylor's MBA program. Keeping busy on top of work. Take care!

Todd Cook

BRIGHT HORIZONS

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

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.

January worship servants

	Communion Assistants	Greeters	Ushers	Acolytes	Lector	Coffee
1						
8	Bob Lutz Scott Krohn	BOELMANS	Doug & Pat Witte	Katelyn	Amanda Cyboron	JAEGERS
15	Linda Cyboron Louise Skoglund	HOFFARTS	Margaret & Lonnie Svitak	Colin	Connie Atkinson	Holly Heller
22	Mary Weich Darla Jessen	JAEGERS	Dallas Puls, Kevin Piske	Zachary	Lu Carter	BOELMANS
29	Charlie Skoglund Gina Krohn	KULLBOMS	Rich & Deb Olson	Delilah & Elizabeth	Brian Anderson	ANDERSONS

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

February worship servants

	Communion Assistants	Greeters	Ushers	Acolytes	Lector	Coffee
5	Becky Bahnfleth Tara Peters	Mary and John Lund	Chuck & Jeanne Nicholson	Hallie Cornelio	Richard Hillrichs	FINKRALS
12	Charlie & Louise Skoglund	Steve Morton & Jo Roberts	Greg Moen Danita Broders	Katelyn	Kay Jaeger	HOFFARTS
19	Michelle & Micheyla Anderson	Roger & Karen Peters	Wendell Hahne Warren Bennett	Colin & Delilah	Judy Carstens	KOEPPES
26	Scott & Gina Krohn	Bill Thoendel & Lu Carter	Steve & Julie Freese	Elizabeth	Lonnie Svitak	Mary Lund

JANUARY 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 <i>Christmas 1</i> 10:00 worship 11:15 fellowship (no Sunday school)	2 Office and childcare center CLOSED	3 6:30 Childcare meeting 6:30 Women of CTS	4 Wednesday Night Alive resumes next week	5 9AM PieceMakers	6 <i>Epiphany of Our Lord</i> 5:30 PM Girl Scouts	7
8 <i>Baptism of Our Lord</i> 8:45 Sunday school 10:00 worship 11:15 potluck	9 5 PM Take down/store decorations 6:30 Embrace Grace 6:30 Welcome & Hospitality team meeting	10 6:45PM Mission & Ministry team meeting	11 5PM Confirmation, FLYTE 6:30 meal 7PM worship 7:30 Youth group	12 9AM Agape Circle	13 Kathy (vacation)	14 Embrace Grace 2-10 PM
15 <i>Epiphany 2</i> 8:45 Sunday school 10:00 worship 11:15 fellowship	16 6:30 PM Board of Administration and Board of Spiritual Oversight meetings	17	18 5PM Confirmation, FLYTE 6:30 meal 7PM worship 7:30 Youth group	19 2PM Card Club 6:45 MOPS/MOMSnexst Jan. 19-22 Women's Via de Cristo weekend	20 5:30 PM Girl Scouts Wedding rehearsal	21 Wedding (Becky Beckmann officiating)
22 <i>Epiphany 3</i> 8:45 Sunday school 10:00 worship 11:15 fellowship	23	24 7PM Worship Committee meeting	25 5PM Confirmation, FLYTE 6:30 meal 7PM worship 7:30 Youth group	26	27 5:30 PM Chili/Soup cook-off & Cards	28
29 <i>Epiphany 4</i> 8:45 Sunday school 10:00 worship 11:15 fellowship	30	31	<p>Jan. 10-12 Pastor Steve in Sioux Falls (VantagePoint³)</p> <p>Jan. 12-15 Men's Via de Cristo weekend</p> <p>Mondays = Pastor Matt's day off Fridays = Pastor Steve's day off Tuesdays = staff meeting at 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>MARK YOUR CALENDARS: MEALS ON WHEELS FEB 6-17</p>			