



# CHRIST THE SERVANT LUTHERAN

## JANUARY 2020

### Happy Birthday

Katelyn Hall	Jan. 1
Mick Kullbom	Jan. 4
Warren Bennett	Jan. 6
Emilee Olson (13)	Jan. 15
BJ Koeppe	Jan. 16
Tara Peters	Jan. 17
Tammy Buckendahl	Jan. 22
Jacob Svitak	Jan. 24
Nita Meyer	Jan. 25
Lucas Petersen (12)	Jan. 25

THANK YOU to everyone who gave poinsettias:

Duane & Shirley Theil in memory of their parents  
Lonnie & Margaret Svitak in memory of loved ones  
Gary & Mary Weich in memory of God's family members  
Jerry Hayes  
Jo Roberts in memory of our dads, H.B. Morton and E.F. Roberts  
Judy Carstens in memory of loved ones  
Mike & Nell Finkral in celebration of the Savior's birth  
Vern & Tama Krause in memory of our parents  
Danita Broders & family in memory of my dad and grandpa John  
Don & Mary Ann Knee in memory of loved ones  
Linda & Amanda Cyboron in memory of Dean and my parents  
Dennis & Linda Miller in memory of Dennis' parents and Linda's dad  
Arlynn & Sharon Boelman in memory of our parents and brother  
Chuck & Jeanne Nicholson in memory of loved ones  
Steve & Mary Lund in memory of our parents

### JANUARY WORSHIP SERVANTS

#### Acolytes

5	Ethan Wolfe
12	Elizabeth Broders
19	Austin Wolfe
26	Colin Broders

#### Coffee

5	Al and Sharon Boelman
12	Mike and Nell Finkral
19	Dean and Doris Hoffart
26	BJ and Sharon Koeppe

#### Communion Assistants

5	<i>(no communion, pastor gone)</i>
12	Margaret Svitak, Linda Shaffer
19	<i>(no communion, pastor gone)</i>
26	Michelle Anderson, Megan Phillips

#### Greeters

5	Connie Atkinson
12	Broders family
19	Steve and Julie Freese
26	Steve and Darla Jessen

#### Ushers

5	Warren Bennett, Danita Broders
12	Wendell Hahne, Greg Moen
19	Steve Morton and Jo Roberts
26	Chuck and Jeanne Nicholson

#### Lectors

5	Judy Carstens
12	Emily Svitak
19	Richard Hillrichs
26	Emily Svitak

## **Sunday Worship – Epiphany**

A Season of Making Christ Known

The season of Epiphany (the manifestation or appearance of a deity) is a season that varies in length (due to the beginning of the Lenten season). This year we will have a longer season (6 Sundays) where we will hear stories from Matthew with Jesus as the revealed Lamb of God who begins teaching with Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7). We live in a world that still needs to see the light of Christ revealed in His followers today. Join us as we seek to reflect the light of Christ and reveal Him (epiphany) to others around us.

January 5 – (Matthew 2:1-12) **Epiphany of our Lord**

Christ revealed to the nations  
Richard Hillrichs preaching

January 12 – (Matthew 3:13-17) **Baptism of Our Lord**

Christ revealed as God's servant  
Potluck Sunday

January 19– (John 1:29-42) **Epiphany 2**

Jesus revealed as the Lamb of God  
Emily Svitak preaching (Pastor at Men's Via de Cristo weekend)

January 26 – (Matthew 4:12-23) **Epiphany 3**

Christ revealed as a prophet

February 2 – (Matthew 5:1-12) **Epiphany 4**

The teaching of Christ: Beatitudes

**\*\*\* Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 26**

### **Groundhog Eve's Day Game Night**

Saturday, February 1 (beginning at 5 PM)

On the eve of Groundhog's Day you are invited to a game night at Christ the Servant. We will have a pitch and cribbage tournament as well as a chili cook-off competition. It will be a fun evening of games, fellowship, and food. There will be prizes again for the top 3 winners in both competitions. Please bring other games to play and enjoy with your family and our church family. Feel free to bring other cookies, snacks and refreshments to share with the chili. There will be sign-up sheets for the cribbage and pitch tournaments. We will have some fun with our theme "Groundhog Eve's." The evening will be a fundraiser for the Tanzania travel fund to help bring 10 members from the Msaranga Mandaka Parish next October to the United States. Watch for more details in the Sunday bulletin and our Facebook page.

## My Letter to the Congregation: "Rediscovering the Church in the Book of Acts"

As I begin to finish my journey with you as your pastor for over 30 years, I thought I would share with you in my final newsletter articles some thoughts about your future and the future of the church in North America. For more than 1,700 years the church has been modeled on a pastor (shepherd)/teacher model where the pastor's job is to care for the congregation (as a pastor would) and teach and preach from the Bible on Sunday (as a teacher would) and lead and conduct worship on Sundays (administer the sacraments—baptism and the Lord's Supper). This model of church has served the church well but now there is an urgency in the church as only 4% of the youngest generation is showing up on any given Sunday. Over the years we have settled into a style of ministry in which we grew up. However, the church has always needed pioneers to keep our faith fresh, alive, and growing. Many mega churches are sensing that a change is needed (we just can entertain people and hope they keep coming back next Sunday). More and more pastors are looking at the book of Acts and asking this one basic question: If one read only the book of Acts and then attended a church in America, would there be a definite disconnect? Answer: YES! One only needs to read the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter of Ephesians to understand the nature of the church and how it is to function. In Ephesians 4:7-11 Paul describes a five-fold ministry which needs to be self-evident in every congregation if that congregation is going to function as God designed it to be. Not one singular spiritual gift is meant to control a congregation. All five are needed to operate and function in unity and purpose. That means each gift needs to understand its purpose and the needed purpose of the other four gifts. This five-fold ministry is Apostle-Prophet-Evangelist-Shepherd-Teacher (called APEST for short). Historically, the church has primarily been a Shepherd-Teacher (ST) model at the expense of the Apostle-Prophet-Evangelist (APE). If one of these gifts dominates and controls a congregation, the congregation become unhealthy and unbalanced. "If pastoral leaders controls (shepherd), the church will tend to be risk averse, codependent and needy, and overly lacking in healthy dissent and therefore creativity. Such a congregation will lack innovation and will not be able to transfer its core message and tasks from one generation to the next. If teachers and theologians rule, the congregation will be ideological, controlling, moralistic and somewhat uptight. A rationalistic, doctrine-obsessed, Christian Gnosticism (the idea that we are saved by what we know) will tend to replace reliance on the Holy Spirit. These congregations will be exclusive based on ideology like that of the Pharisees." (*The Permanent Revolution* by Alan Hirsch and Tim Catchim, p. 49) The church in America has become a ST institution as the exclusion and gifts of the Apostle-Prophet-Evangelist (APE).

In the coming months I will be expanding on this dilemma (because it is becoming a spiritual crisis in America). In short, we need to welcome the APE's and utilize their gifts in order that we might become the church God designed us to be (not just individuals trying to protect their spiritual gift at the expense of the other four). This month I would like to describe the five-fold ministry gifts that the Holy Spirit gives to the church. These definitions are described by page 8-9 in the book listed above.

- The **apostle** is tasked with the overall vigor, as well extension of Christianity as a whole, primarily through direct mission and church planting. As the name itself suggests, it is the quintessentially missional ministry, as "sentness" (Latin *mission*) is written into it (*apostello* = sent one). Apostles in the generic sense are those sent to pioneer something new, such as turning failing schools around, start a new movement, and are entrepreneurial.
- The **prophet** is called to maintain faithfulness to God among the people of God. Essentially prophets are guardians of the covenant relationship. Prophets tend to be visionaries, but in a very different sense; they often have a keen interest in issues of justice, environmental, responsibility.

- The **evangelist** is the recruiter to the cause, the naturally infectious person is able to enlist people into the movement by transmitting the gospel. Evangelists are particularly gifted at enthusing others about what they stand for and are easy to spot.
- The **shepherd** (pastor) is called to nurture spiritual development, maintain communal health, and engender loving community among the people of God. Pastors are those with a special concern for seeing and affirming what is human within structures and bring healing.
- The **teacher** mediates wisdom and understanding. This philosophical type brings comprehensive understanding of the revelation bequeathed to the church. Teachers are those who are effective trainers and inspirers of learning. They are philosophers, thinkers, people who understand ideas and how they shape human life.

If you have not learned by now, my spiritual giftedness is teacher, followed closely by shepherd/pastor. I am called (just as you are) to display all five spirituals but there is one (followed by a secondary one) that energizes you when you are displaying that gift. As you can see, the church needs APE's to complete our unity and purpose. In the next newsletters I will share about the pioneer gifts (APE) and the settler gifts (ST) and how Christ the Servant might develop and find these five spirituals as you move forward. The Spirit is always at work among us. The question is: are we willing to listen and then follow where the Spirit leads us?

So what are your top two gifts? Which of the five gifts energizes you when you use it? If you do not know, I will have a simple questionnaire that will help you discover it. (They will be on the back table or you can stop in and talk with me.)

Listening to the Spirit as He speaks to the church,

*Paster Steve*

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STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

**Giving provides the funding for our church's mission and ministry.** We give to support the various ministries of our church. Through the giving of our time, talents and money, we enable our church to spread the Good News of Jesus' love and saving grace to both the churched and the unchurched.

RADON TEST KITS

Last year, more than two-thirds of the homes tested in the Elkhorn Logan Valley Public Health Department service area had high radon levels. Radon is a radioactive element from the soil that can collect in homes. It is the leading cause of lung cancer for non-smokers. The Elkhorn Logan Valley Public Health Department has a limited supply of discounted test kits. Stop in one of ELVPHD's three locations (Norfolk, Wisner or Tekamah) or call 402-529-2233 to get your discounted radon test kit for \$8 plus tax while supplies last.

Pastor out of office on Fridays  
 Office hours 8:30-4:30 Mon-Thurs.  
 Fri 8:30-12:30

# January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	LENT BEGINS FEB. 26		1 New Year's Day (office closed)	2 9 PieceMakers 6:30 Journey	3 6:30 Girl Scouts	4
***** PASTOR STEVE ON VACATION *****						
5 Christmas 2 10 worship 11 fellowship <i>Pastor vacation</i>	6 Epiphany	7	8 6 Confirmation	9 9 Agape Circle 6:30 Journey	10	11
12 Baptism of our Lord 8:45 adult class 9 Sunday school 10 worship 11 potluck	13 <i>Kathy vacation</i> 5 Hospitality 6 Bible study	14 4:30 stewardship	15 6 Confirmation	16 2 Card club 6 MOPS	17 6:30 Girl Scouts	18
S.D. Men's Via de Cristo weekend thru Sunday						
19 Epiphany 2 8:45 adult class 9 Sunday school 10 worship <i>(pastor gone)</i> 11 fellowship	20 6:30 Council	21	22 6 Confirmation	23 6:30 Journey	24	25
26 Epiphany 3 8:45 adult class 9 Sunday school 10 worship 11 fellowship	27 6 Bible study	28	29 6 Confirmation	30 6:30 Journey	31	Game night/ chili feed @ CTS (Saturday, Feb. 1, 5 pm)

Christ the Servant Council Meeting, December 16, 2019, 6:30 P.M.

Present: Pastor Steve, Emily Svitak, Sharon Koeppe, Warren Bennett, Steve Jessen, Doug Witte, Steve Freese, Bob Lutz, Greg Moen (Financial Secretary) Absent: Jan Puls, Steve Morton, Chuck Nicholson

Steve Freese opened the meeting with a devotion and prayer from 'Jesus Calling' on Isaiah 50:4 and 60:2. It touched on making God our first love, and not allowing our lives/schedules/work ethic to come before relationship with Him. We need to be attentive in listening to and seeking Him.

Receiving of Minutes, Financial Reports, Pastor's Report

Doug raised a question about a non-member wedding that will be happening in the future, and whether there is a fee for the use of the building and cleaning fee. Pastor Steve shared about what has been done in the past.

Doug Witte asked if we could receive a copy of the finalized/approved 2020 budget.

Bob Lutz asked why the Adult Education line item was over budget. Pastor Steve shared that it went to materials for The Journey, of which most of the cost is reimbursed by the members of the class.

Sharon Koeppe moved receive the minutes, financial report, and pastor report. Warren Bennett seconded. Motion carried.

Greg Moen: Financial Report

Greg mentioned that there may be a fee to update QuickBooks/Windows. Steve Jessen mentioned that the update for QuickBooks will likely be around \$450.

Our general fund balance is \$57,129. Greg mentioned that it would be nice to spend some of the money in order bless those who volunteer time to Sunday school, organists, etc. with a small gift.

Greg challenged the council to think and ponder on what God may be calling us to do with this blessing. How do we use it? What would God want us to do with that money? Is it to be 'sat' on, or used to His glory? How is He calling us to steward it and move forward in His work.

Doug Witte moved to give December's local benevolence to wherever January's allocated location is, because the Teen Mom Daycare is no longer open to receive December's benevolence. Warren Bennett seconded. Motion carried.

Funds from the Holiday Boutique will be going to Darcy Metschke (\$1,000), and the rest to Tanzania travel (\$3,155.20) in order to help members from Msaranga Mandaka with the cost of coming to Nebraska next year.

Committee Reports

Each meeting council members will give any necessary reports on their respective committee/team. They will be liaisons between the team and council, and also keep aware of the budget for the respective committee.

Transition Team: Emily Svitak/Steve Jessen

Building & Grounds: Warren Bennett

Discipleship: Doug Witte

Fellowship & Evangelism: Chuck Nicholson

Mission/Outreach: Sharon Koeppe/Steve Morton

Stewardship: Steve Freese

Worship: Emily Svitak

Steve Freese mentioned that Linda Sheppard is moving in to leadership of the Stewardship Committee.

Warren Bennett mentioned that he closed the back drive for the winter.

Bob Lutz asked when a call committee will be formed. It was mentioned that the transition team is who finds an interim pastor. Discussion followed with questions on timing of the process with the interim pastor/call committee/full-time pastor.

Audit/Review Committee

There have been no volunteers for the audit/review committee. Steve Jessen asked for any suggestions of specific people. Pastor Steve suggested council members to go through the members list and suggest/ask members. The purpose of this committee is to go through the books and check that the financial reports are accurate.

Items for Next Meeting

Setting a list (monthly) for 2020 local benevolence

Sharon Koeppe closed with prayer. The next meeting is January 20, 2020.

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Designated Giving checking account		General checking	\$49,708.30
Church Emergency fund	8,619.35		
Good Samaritan fund	1,055.00		
Holiday Boutique fund	- 0 -		
Memorials	12,018.42		
Missions/Growth	3,945.71		
Special Projects (kitchen)	5,080.21		
Tanzania Travel	6,244.20		
Worship Fund	2,323.47		
Interest	<u>44.73</u>		
Total	\$39,331.09		