

Please take this FOCUS with you as it cannot be passed on.

Week of 11.28.21

We can recycle but we can't reuse ☺

CHRIST LUTHERAN
CHURCH



1871-2021
150 Years - Rooted In Christ

Christ Lutheran Church

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

FOCUS

Today is the First Sunday in Advent

Scripture for today: Jeremiah 33:14-16 + 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 + Luke 19:28-40

Pastor Carretto's sermon "Behold, A Branch Is Growing" is based on Jeremiah 33:14-16

**** ABOUT OUR WORSHIP DURING ADVENT** - Our normal rotation of liturgy (using Divine Service 1, 2, 4, and occasionally 3, as well as Vespers and Matins) for the traditional services (5:30 and 8:00) will be put aside during the season of Advent and we will turn to Divine Service 5. While many of the spoken responses in this order of worship are familiar, it allows us to utilize some of the little-used songs from the back of the hymnal in the category of "liturgical hymns", giving us a chance to explore our hymnal and learn some alternate tunes for our liturgy. This is being introduced this weekend. We hope you enjoy this "simple to sing" liturgy for the season of Advent as we prepare for the celebration of the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ.

**** ANGEL TREE** - Once again, the Christ Lutheran Board of Christian Nurture is sponsoring the Angel Tree Project. This project gives people the chance to share with children who have a parent that is in prison, and who may not have as bountiful a Christmas as many of us. If you decide to participate in this project, choose an angel from the trees in the narthex, and purchase a gift for the child listed. Information about age, clothing sizes, and gift suggestions are given on it. Plan to spend about \$15 to \$20 on the gift. Wrap the gift, attach the top part of the angel, and return it to the church office by December 17. Let's do what we can to make Christmas better for these children.

MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICES

Wednesday, December 1 at 12:15 & 6:30 p.m.

"Wait Upon the Lord with Faith"

Supper served 5:00-6:15 p.m.

UNITING TO GROW CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FOR CLS

At this time of Thanksgiving, we are very grateful for the generous people of the Christ Lutheran community that have supported the *Uniting to Grow* Capital Campaign. We reached another milestone in our campaign last week as the campaign pledge total exceeded \$5 million. The total currently stands at \$5.15 million. That represents 94% of our Celebration Goal and 74% of our Challenge Goal of \$7 million. In addition to Christ Lutheran members, pledges have come from members of other Lutheran churches, parents, school alumni and local businesses. This has truly become a campaign with the kind of widespread support that we had hoped.

We are grateful to every family or individual that has made a pledge so far. However, we still have a fairly significant number of members who have not made a pledge decision yet. As our community winds down this important effort, we'd like to ramp up the level of participation. If you haven't had the chance to join us in supporting this campaign, it's not too late. On December 4 and 5, during all services, we will celebrate Commitment Weekend. This event allows us to honor the many families who have helped Christ Lutheran reach this point in the campaign, while offering everyone a final chance to invest in the future of our school. Please prayerfully consider supporting this critical effort. No gift is too small! In order to build our new gym, multipurpose center, band area and more, we need your help. Join us for Commitment Weekend next weekend.

The Mission Statement of Christ Lutheran Church



Share God's Word – Share His Love – Do It Now!

BIBLE STUDY MENU

SUNDAY		
ACTS	9:15 a.m.	Fellowship Hall (Carretto)
MONDAY		
Bible Stories	7:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall (Carretto)
WEDNESDAY		
Church Denominations	9:30 a.m.	Fellowship Hall (Moreno)
THURSDAY		
Men's Bible Study – "Armor of God"	6:30 a.m.	Fellowship Hall (Moreno)

MORE BIBLE STUDIES AVAILABLE

** **MONDAYS** – Join Pastor Carretto for "Bible Stories". You've read the Bible's familiar stories from the time that you were a small child. This Monday night Bible Study gives you the chance to see these stories in a new light and with new depth! We'll take one story a week. Join us Mondays at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall for "The Rest of the Story".

** **WEDNESDAYS – THE BIBLE** - Join Pastor Moreno from 9:30-10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The current focus is on "Church Denominations".

** **THURSDAYS** – "Equipped – The Armor of God for Everyday Struggles" Men's Bible Study. 6:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Led by Pastor Moreno.

** **TUESDAY MORNING MEN'S BREAKFAST STUDY** takes place every other Tuesday morning, at 7:00 a.m. at First Choice Catering (1110 S. 9th Street). The next study will be Tuesday, December 7. Topic: James.

** **2022 LUTHERAN BIBLE INSTITUTE – BIBLE 101** is scheduled for Sundays, January 9, 16 and 23 (30), from 1:30-4:30 p.m. God offers hope in His holy love letter. Come and see. The Institute will be held Grace Lutheran Church, 416 West Park Avenue.

Our Stewardship of Time

In Worship 11/21/21 448
Communed 218

Our Stewardship of Treasure

Received 11/21/21 \$ 23,893

Your generosity and continued support during this time of restrictions is greatly appreciated.

Hospitalized

Known to be hospitalized this past week:
at FRHS – no one listed.

If you or a family member are hospitalized,
please notify the Church Office.

LIFE QUOTE: "Creation is preaching a message about its Creator. He is wise. Kind. Brilliant. Powerful. Limitless. Combine those qualities with His reckless love for us found on the cross, and you have a God who can strengthen trembling hearts and weak knees. You have a Creator worth worshipping." Rev. Mike Novotny, *Time of Grace – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*



STEPHEN MINISTRY

Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble.

1 John 2:10

**** 150TH ANNIVERSARY CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS** If you didn't have a chance to order a 150th Anniversary Christmas ornament, you can still purchase one while our extra supply lasts! The cost is \$12 for each ornament. This would be a great way to remember the 150th Anniversary, and the ornaments would make great gifts! Find us in the narthex after services to purchase one (or more).

**** PARENT PARTNERS** – a project of the Christian Nurture Board, is seeking “experienced” parent volunteers who would be willing to partner with “new” parents in our church. Simply put, you would reach out to and support brand new parents as they begin their journey in raising Christian children. Contact the church office to leave your name and receive further information.

MUSIC NOTES

**** CELEBRATION CHOIR** – During Advent, Celebration Choir rehearses on Thursdays, at 6:30 p.m. in the Church sanctuary. High school youth on up are welcome. Questions – contact Starla in the Church Office 371-1210. We will be working on Advent and Christmas pieces during coming weeks.

**** MUSICIANS NEEDED FOR 10:30 SERVICE** – Willing to play guitar, keyboard, drums? 10:30 Praise Team needs you. Please contact the church office for further information.

Mission Memo ... Pray for Church Workers Around the World & in our Community

Lutheran Hour Ministries International is supported by Servants of the Savior (SOS) as we are a Lutheran Laymen's League (LLL) and Lutheran Hour Ministry (LHM) organization. Lutheran Hour Ministries was founded in 1917. "Bringing Christ to the Nations and the Nations to the Church" is their motto. There are 1 million listeners to the Lutheran Hour each week. Lutheran Hour Ministries engages people digitally, through mass media, by lay people reaching out to others, and by sharing the Gospel at home and to the world. 51 million are reached with the Gospel each week. **Pray that many people will be welcomed into the kingdom of heaven with the bold message of Lutheran Hour Ministries.**

**** S.O.S. BIG EVENT IS VIRTUAL** - Due to concerns about Covid, the Christ Lutheran SOS group is again doing their BIG EVENT virtually. This fundraiser supports Missionaries, Orphan Grain Train, scholarships for sons of the congregation for seminary school, CL youth mission events, Lutheran Hour Ministries, and Priozersk Russian Orphanage. Thank you for your support of this endeavor. Donations may be dropped off or mailed to the church office.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

**** SUNDAY SCHOOL** is filled with Bible lessons and fun activities to help your child grow spiritually. Please come join us! Email Cori Woltmann, Director of Christian Education with any questions. cwoltmann@clnorfolk.org We meet at the school at 9:15 a.m.

In coming weeks, we will be working on songs for the Sunday School Christmas Service, scheduled for December 15 at 6:30 p.m. Character actors, narrators and scripture readers, as well as Angel Choir members are needed. If your student is interested in participating, please contact Cori or Starla in the Church Office for permission forms for your child. Rehearsals will begin this week – Mondays and Wednesdays after school at 3:30 p.m.

YOUTH FOCUS

** **CONFIRMATION** (7th & 8th grade) has begun. 7th grade meets at the school (Room 131). 8th graders gather in the Chapel.

** **HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY** – meets at 9:15 a.m. every Sunday in Room 205 (Resource Room) at CLS.

** **WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH GROUP** - We are having a blast hanging out and spending time in God's Word at youth group. All are welcome, and bring a friend! Grade 7 & 8 is 6:30-7:30 p.m., and 9-12 is 7:45-9:00 every Wednesday. Meet by the grass at Christ Lutheran Church!

** **QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUTH EVENTS?** - Do you have a question about a youth event, or want to start receiving text notifications about our youth ministry? Email Cori Woltmann, Director of Christian Education at cwoltmann@clnorfolk.org, or send a text @ 507-456-5380.

LUTHERAN HIGH NORTHEAST

Educating for Life + Promoting the Faith



Lutheran High Northeast

2010 N. 37th St. Norfolk, NE 68701
Office 402-379-3040 Fax 402-379-8340
Email info@lhne.org Web www.lhne.org

** **CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE** - We are so thankful to announce that our capital campaign pledges have reached over \$2,000,000! We are past our halfway point. Our students are getting excited to have an opportunity to get their hands dirty in welding, small engines, and other vocational laboratories. A big THANK YOU for all of your prayers as we continue in this process.

** **NEBRASKA YOUTH BEEF LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM** - LHNE Junior Justus Searight was selected to attend the Nebraska Youth Beef Leadership Symposium in Lincoln last weekend where he met 44 other Nebraska high school students. The symposium is designed to introduce youth to career opportunities and current issues in the beef industry, as well as offer education and practice in the use of leadership skills.

** **ONE ACT NEWS** - Congratulations to the One Act Cast & Crew for their performance last Saturday. Acting awards were given to: Esther Molina, Micah Goedeken, Ruth Zimmerman, Katy Nichols, Adriana Faust, & Zachary Baumann. Great job!

** **LHNE FINALS WEEK APPROACHING** - Please keep LHNE students in your prayers as they finish up semester projects, reports, and prepare for their semester exams.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

** **AUDIO/VISUAL** - We have installed new audio/visual Live Stream equipment for the broadcasting of our worship services. If you are interested in videography, this would be an excellent way to use your skills, or learn a new one. Training is provided. Contact the Church Office for more information.

** **CLICKERS NEEDED** - We need your help. Would you like to learn how to be a clicker (screen operator) for the worship services? We need you! Openings are available for all services. There is an urgent need. Please contact Lynn in the office and she will get you started on your journey in serving Christ Lutheran. Lynn's email is lwalmsley@clnorfolk.org. Training is provided.

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR WEEKS OF NOVEMBER 28, 2021

Please remember the following in prayer during the coming week. You may also want to send a card or note to those on this week's prayer list to let them know they are being thought of.

- For those undergoing cancer treatments; and for their families; including: Brian Beeks, Sonia Clark, Sandy Cover, Megan Curry, Joyce Deuel, Bruce Gardels, Gail Gubbels, Bruce Hansen, Stacy (Kesting) Hart, Lynn (Brockman) Heinold, Judy Hilkemann, Kellie (Hoffman) Reyes, Elaine Holmberg, Melvin Jensen, Miriam Krueger, Georgia Lambrecht, Margaret McCutchen, Lisa Meyer, Robert Mock, Bryan Muehlmeier, Amy Neuhalfen, Keith Neuhalfen, Katrina Peabody, Tammy Peisal, Sondra Reigle, Melvin Sanders, Leon Schulz, Jay Sila, Steve Sothan, Nicholle Soukup, Larry Walker, Velda Warneke, Karen Widhalm, April Wiley, Kathy Wolfe, Don Wolff, Colton Wright, Allan Zeitz.
- For those homebound, in care centers, nursing homes, suffering long-term illness; those who face tests, uncertainties about their health, undergoing surgery, or facing difficult times, including: Elizabeth Ambrose, Mike Brockhaus, Shellie Bretschneider, Robert Daughton, Lucille Gesell, Jonathan Glaser, Timothy Hallberg, Nicole Hausmann, Craig Herpy, Joy Henkel, Melody Hulse, EllaMae Jensen, Lois Kapels, Steve Long, Lois Miller, Connie Mock, Jim Papstein, Hazel Pflueger, Renee Praeuner, Diane Pinger, Shelby Reeker, Michelle Reeson, Sandy Schulz, Brayden Vodehnal, James Wagner, Dominic Wolff, Jesse Wright, & a young girl, Taryn, & those undergoing tests/treatments.
- For those celebrating birthday blessings of 80 years or more including: LaVona Kesting (11/29), C.L. Mann (11/29) and Dale Lemm (11/30).
- We pray for all people in authority over communities and countries, all whose decisions affect the health of its inhabitants, and all who are charged to maintain justice within their borders and peace among nations.
- We pray for all who serve the Lord as they care for others – medical personnel and first responders, counselors and advisers, friends and neighbors, professionals and volunteers.
- For grocers, pharmacists, other retailers, and transport personnel who keep their stores open, the shelves stocked and deliver essential needs for all customers.
- That God would raise up a mighty army of believers who would guide our nation back to Christian principles.

PRAYER REQUESTS & PASTORAL NEEDS – If you have a prayer request or a special need that would require pastoral care, please do not hesitate to contact the Church Office (402-371-1210). We will handle needs on an individual basis.

**** DRIVE THRU LIVE NATIVITY** - Christ, Grace, Mt. Olive, and Our Savior in Norfolk are hosting a *Drive Thru Live Nativity* December 11, from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. at Memorial Field Parking Lot, free and open to the public. The *Drive Thru Live Nativity* will include seven scenes from the Christmas story, music, Bible readings, actors, live animals, and giveaway gifts that go along with each scene to help families share the story in their cars and afterwards at home.

If you would like to participate at one of the Nativity stations, you may volunteer by signing up on the following link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0b4baaac2fa0fe3-live> or contact the Church Office.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

In order to be a credible witness for His Lord, the Apostle Paul asked for no special consideration. Willingly he endured beatings, imprisonment, hunger, and whatever else God saw fit to allow. The secret of his joyful service in the name of Christ lies in his faith. *“Sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing and yet possessing everything”* (2 Corinthians 6:10). How small our sacrifices for the sake of the Gospel are compared to Paul's! Let us joyfully serve Christ in whatever way He gives us opportunity.

**Drive Thru
Live Nativity**

Saturday, December 11

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Memorial Field Parking Lot

715 South 1st St.

Sponsored by Christ, Grace, Mt. Olive and Our Savior Lutheran Church Missouri Synod



DECEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Wednesdays, December 1 & 8

Advent Worship 12:15 & 6:30 p.m.

Supper served 5:00-6:15 p.m.

Wednesday, December 15

Advent Worship 12:15

Sunday School Service 6:30 p.m.

(no supper served)

Friday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

4:30 and 8:30 p.m. Traditional

6:30 Contemporary

Saturday, December 25 – Christmas Day

9:30 a.m. Holy Communion

Sunday, December 26

9:30 a.m. Worship

(no Sunday School or Bible Class)

Friday, December 31 – New Year's Eve

5:30 p.m. Holy Communion

No Saturday Worship (New Year's Day)

Sunday, January 2, 2022

9:30 a.m. Holy Communion

(no Sunday School or Bible Class)