

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

Week of 12.19.21

**We can recycle but we can't reuse 😊**



# Christ Lutheran Church

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

# FOCUS

**Today is the Fourth Sunday in Advent**

**Scripture for today: Micah 5:2-5a + Hebrews 5:5-10 + Luke 1:39-45**

Pastor Carretto's sermon is "Bethlehem – the Town of Promise" based on Micah 5:2-5a

**\*\* IN THE 8:00 SERVICE** – The final preservice musical selection is by a CLS 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Saxophone Trio – Aubrey Bryant, Matthew Bazyn, and Caysen Lauver. They will be playing "Angels We Have Heard on High."

**\*\* BAPTISM** – Cashton Alexander Moats, son of Samuel and Whitney Moats, is being baptized in the 10:30 service this weekend. Cashton was born October 20, 2021. Sponsors are: Aaron and Breanna Peterson.

## CHRISTMAS / NEW YEAR WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**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)

**\*\* HOLIDAY HOURS:** The Church Office will be closed on Friday, December 24, and will close at noon on Friday, December 31, 2021. Our sincere wishes for a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year.

**\*\* NEBRASKA GRANT STABILIZATION ACT** - In early November the State of Nebraska announced that stabilization funds were going to be made available to childcare providers across the state. The goal of this funding was to help steady the uncertain footing that most childcares currently operate under. Helping Hands application was submitted immediately and on December 7, 2021 we were awarded \$132,400. This means that the rate increases hesitantly passed on to families can be tabled until the end of our fiscal year. Remaining funds will be used keeping good stewardship and the future of the ministry in mind.



The Mission Statement of Christ Lutheran Church

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

## BIBLE STUDY MENU

<b>SUNDAY</b>		
ACTS	9:15 a.m.	Fellowship Hall (Carretto)
<b>MONDAY</b>		
Bible Stories	7:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall (Carretto)
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>		
Church Denominations	9:30 a.m.	Fellowship Hall (Moreno)
<b>THURSDAY</b>		
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. 9<sup>th</sup> 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 12/12/21 .....	459
Communed .....	126
Advent Midweek 12/8/21 .....	177

### **Our Stewardship of Treasure**

Received 12/12/21 ..... \$ 27,576

***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; in Omaha –Steve Stortz.

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

**LIFE QUOTE:** "In carols of Christmas, you'll sometimes hear more than gladness that the Child is born on Christmas. You'll hear of deliverance: 'Born that man no more may die. Born to raise the sons of earth ...' There is much to ponder before, during, and after Christmas. Let the meaning of Christmas fill our hearts with anticipation, wonder, and thanksgiving for many days! For death's days are numbered because of a birth—the birth of the Key of David." *James M. Kushiner, Fellowship of St. James – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*



***Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.***

Ephesians 4:32

## **UNITING TO GROW CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FOR CLS**

The Steier Group presented our campaign Final Report this past week and we are extremely pleased to report that the campaign total has surpassed \$7.6 million. Thank you to everyone who has helped make this possible. As we mentioned last week, costs for the project have increased and we will need every dollar that we can raise to complete this project. If you have not made a pledge yet, please consider making a pledge to this effort. Your gift in any amount will help us build and furnish this new addition to our school. Please mail in the pledge card you received in the mail or stop by the church office to make your pledge. You can also call us at (402) 371-1210.

For those of you that have made a pledge to the campaign, you may want to consider setting up the payment of your pledge online. You can do this by clicking the GIVE button in Faithlife. Or, if you don't have a Faithlife account, you can go to [clnorfolk.org](http://clnorfolk.org), click on the Christ Lutheran Church box and click on GIVING in the upper right hand corner of the screen. When the giving screen comes up you can click on ADD OR CHANGE FUNDS to change it to the "Uniting To Grow Campaign." Setting up recurring payments online saves time and effort for you and the church staff.

## **MUSIC NOTES**

\*\* **CELEBRATION CHOIR** – Final rehearsal for Christmas Eve will be held Thursday, December 23, at 6:30 p.m. in the Chapel.

\*\* **MUSICIANS NEEDED FOR 10:30 SERVICE** – Do you like to sing along to one of our local Christian radio stations? Many of the songs you hear there are being used in our 10:30 Sunday service. We would love for you to use your talents to lead worship! Please contact the church office if you would like to sing, play piano, drums, guitar or bass.

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

**Servants of the Savior (SOS)** continues to support an orphanage in Russia, gives additional funds to missionaries who visit us, and provides a needed product to Mercy Meals. SOS members volunteer at Orphan Grain Train, prepare food packages for distribution in Norfolk, and provide the Lutheran Hour Ministries tracts in the narthex for the congregation. **Help the Big Mission Event proclaim the joyful news, "Jesus is our Savior." Please reply with your donation to the Big Mission Event by December 31.**

## **YOUTH FOCUS**

\*\* **CONFIRMATION** (7th & 8th grade) has begun. 7<sup>th</sup> grade meets at the school (Room 131). 8<sup>th</sup> 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. During Advent, we are meeting as one group immediately after the Advent service.

\*\* **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](mailto:cwoltmann@clnorfolk.org), or send a text @ 507-456-5380.

## **CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**

\*\* **THANK YOU** to all the students who participated in the Sunday School Service this past week. What a wonderful way to proclaim the Good News of Christ's birth and His love for us. Special thanks to the character actors, narrators, scripture readers and Angel Choir and directors for their dedicated time to extra rehearsals.

# LUTHERAN HIGH NORTHEAST

Educating for Life + Promoting the Faith



## Lutheran High Northeast

2010 N. 37<sup>th</sup> St. Norfolk, NE 68701  
Office 402-379-3040 Fax 402-379-8340  
Email [info@lhne.org](mailto:info@lhne.org) Web [www.lhne.org](http://www.lhne.org)

**\*\* MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR** - The LHNE Faculty & Staff would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We are so thankful for the opportunity to educate the amazing students at LHNE. We pray that our students take some time to enjoy celebrating CHRIST's birth with their families! We are looking forward to a great year in 2022!

**\*\* NEW LHNE COACHES ANNOUNCED** - LHNE is excited to introduce our new coaches that were just recently hired. Mr. Ryan Kollbaum will be our Spring Golf Coach, Mr. Chad Miller will be our new LHNE/NC Girls Soccer Coach, and Ms. Bri Swan will be our new Silver Talons Dance Coach.

**\*\* LHNE ONE ACT PLACES 6<sup>TH</sup> IN THE STATE** - Our One Act cast and crew placed 6<sup>th</sup> in the state last week in the C1 State Championship. Students had steep competition and had a great time performing. Micah Goedecken, Esther Molina, Nathan Sievert, and Ruth Zimmerman earned Outstanding Performer awards.

**\*\* MOCK TRIAL HEADED TO STATE** - The LHNE Mock Trial A team is headed to state! Both the A & B teams competed at our regional Mock Trial Competition on December 7 and the A team earned 1<sup>st</sup> place in their region and will be advancing to the state competition in early January!

## PRAYER REQUESTS FOR WEEKS OF DECEMBER 19, 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, 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 the families of Gary Miller and Norma Jean Stueve, called to Eternal Rest.
- For those celebrating birthdays of 80 years or more including: Celia Siecke (12/19), Tom Bland (12/25), Allen Schwartz (12/25), Robert Vogel (12/26).
- 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.