



YOUR FCC CONNECTION

First Christian Church – Aurora, Nebraska

DECEMBER 2021



Pastor Penny's 2 Cents December 2021

Joy To the World The Lord Has Come, and..... Is Coming Again! We sing this carol every year and usually only at Christmas time, but did you know that this famous hymn is not even a Christmas Hymn per say? Oh, sure it fits and is festive, but the author of this hymn was writing about Christ's true Divinity and second coming. The same is true with the song "The Holy City" which we hear mostly around Palm Sunday. Sometimes our focus is narrow and we look at the world through blinders. We focus only on Christ's birth one time a year, but miss the all-important return of the King of Glory. We have all been guilty at one time or another of waiting until Christmas to "get in the mood" to celebrate and focus on the King of Kings, The Lord of Hosts, The Creator of the Universe, Yeshua the author of Salvation and perfecter of our faith, instead of carrying that joy, excitement and wonder though out the entire year.

As we prepare for the birth of our savior, I am preparing to graduate in 3 weeks from my Biblical Hebrew Class. Well, the first one anyway. What tiny bit I have learned is a drop in the bucket of all that I do not nor probably will ever know in Hebrew. Actually, I am okay with that. God has gifted many with the knowledge to translate and interpret for those of us that could not possibly invest the amount of time it would take to learn it all. But I have developed a great appreciation for those who do. It has also been interesting to read passages and see the deeper meaning that the author intended. Passages and scriptures that I "thought" I knew what it said and meant when read through the original Hebrew language can sometimes be a little different. I love learning new things, seeing old things in a different light and stretching my brain. I love the obscure facts the twists and turns and unpredictable endings that could only be brought about by Elohim (God).

One of these Sundays I will be giving the congregation a Christmas Trivia Quiz. It is fun and very insightful. So many things of the Christmas story we "think" we know and then again maybe not so much. We are never too old to quit learning about the wonders and messages that God has for us. We are never too old to think we know it all and therefore can quit reading our Bibles, or doing an in-depth study into His Word.

God spent millennia preparing for the coming of His son the Messiah, even right up to months before his birth. He continued to prepare to make the paths straight as John went preaching and baptizing that the glory of the Lord was at hand. Even though Jesus came and died making the atonement for all, he promised that he is coming back.

Yes, God has been preparing for the last two millennia again for the arrival of his Son Jesus Christ. Only this time he will not be coming as a baby, but as the King of Glory, the bridegroom coming for his bride. Let us take this time to ponder, wonder, study and most importantly prepare our hearts for His arrival. From our Family to yours, may you have a Blessed Christmas Season.

Shalom,

Pastor Penny



PAUSING FOR PRAYER

God, we come to you today to offer prayers for our family and friends. We ask that you look after them today and keep them safe. For those who are struggling with illness, we ask for healing; for those who are struggling with everyday trials, we ask that you help them to find their way through their problems and hopefully, they will find You.

As you take time for prayer each day, please include:

The family of Carol Burns, Scott, Johnny & Donna Goertzen, De Sandell, Don “Sonny” Hofmeister, Zandee Nelson, Louise Hack, Maddie Manley and her parents, Brock and Kara, Lee and Val Jones, Bob & Sharon Nunnenkamp, Wendy, Gill, Bill Krause, Chantelle Schulz, and Rob Nunnenkamp in your prayers.

We also pray for all those in our congregation and beyond who may be suffering with illness or the stress of a family situation. *We pray for those who suffer in silence that they may feel our prayers.*

If you want to add someone to our prayer list, we don’t need to have a last name or know their situation. They do not have to be a member of our congregation – we pray for all the people. All requests are by permission only. Please contact: Linda Ptacnik (402-694-3297). (lindap@hamilton.net or 402-631-9422 or fcc@hamilton.net) I will see that your requests are shared – as well as updates as they are received.

BIBLE STUDIES & CWF

Monday Bible Study

Dec. 6 – 20, 2021

11:30 – 12:30 pm

Friendship Hall

Bring Your Lunch

Study How Happiness Happens
With Max Lucado

CWF LADIES

Tuesday, December 7th

Ladies Day Out

“Rath’s Café”

12:30 PM

Please bring a small gift (\$10 or under) to share
in a Gift Exchange.

SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS

fccaurorane.org

YouTube First Christian Church of Aurora NE

Facebook First Christian Church Aurora NE

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

Dec 1 Sara Willis

Dec 2 Carol Nunnenkamp

Dec 7 Fern Paider

Dec 11 Pat Phillips

Dec 17 Robertta Dorsey

Dec. 19 Bud Mills

Dec 21 Karren Radcliff

Dec 23 Tanner Enderle

Dec 27 Candance Enderle

Dec 29 Gary (Doc) Hurst

Anniversaries

Dec 15 Dick & Pat Phillips

Dec 24 John & April Campbell

Dec 29 Terry & Pat Willis

Don’t see your birthday or
anniversary listed, give the information
to Linda P. and she will be sure to update
her information.

DEACON / ELDER / COMMUNION PREP

Dec 5

Elders: Anderson / Sanderson
Deacons: Luthy/Luthy/Clark/Clark
Communion Prep: Robyn Cush

Dec 12

Elders: D. Phillips / Anderson
Deacons: VanBibber/Willis/Perry
Communion Prep: Karen Wilshusen

Dec 19

Elders: Jacobs / D. Phillips
Deacons: Forsman/Nunnenkamp/Nunnenkamp
Communion Prep: Carol/Holee Nunnenkamp

Dec 26

Elders: Moe / Jacobs
Deacons: Weinrich/Furse/Furse
Communion Prep: Deb Willis

Offering and Communion will be passed by our Deacons. Individual communion elements will still be at the back door as you enter should you decide you would like to participate that way.

If you cannot serve on your Sunday, kindly find a replacement.

Friendship Hall Reservations:

December 31

A note from Pat Willis and the Food Pantry.

The Food Pantry will be taking monetary donations for the months of November and December. These donations will go towards the Christmas Gift Baskets.

Remember, each dollar donated represents two pounds of food. We ask that you drop your donation in the offering plate at church and it will be delivered to the Food Pantry, or you may mail your donation to: P.O. Box 7 – Aurora, NE 68818.

If you would like to bring a poinsettia to the church in memory of or in honor of a family member or friend, please do so. I believe both floral shops have delivery available to the church as well.

Pastor Scott Taylor, former pastor of the First Christian Church in Grand Island, will be performing a Christmas Concert on Saturday, December 11, 2021 at the First Christian Church in Grand Island at 7:00 pm. The address of the church is 2400 West 14th Street. If anyone would like to go, please contact Tanna Skarniak for a possible car pool (308-391-9054).

Many of you will remember Pastor Scott performing at one of our CWF events. I am sure it will be a fun as well as inspirational concert!

A blonde goes tot the post office to buy stamps for her Christmas cards.

She says to the clerk, "May I have 50 Christmas stamps?"

The clerk says, "What denomination?"

The blonde says, "God help us. Has it come to this?"

Give me 22 Catholic, 12 Presbyterian, 10 Lutheran and 6 Baptists"

Thanks Barb Johnson!!!

A NOTE FROM YOUR WORSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON:

Thanks to all who stayed and help make our sanctuary and friendship hall even more beautiful for Christmas. Many hands make quick work and they were able to enjoy fellowship over a light meal. (*Thank you, Pat Willis, Pat Phillips, and Louise Mills*)

We will be contacting people to participate in the church service with the lighting of the Advent wreath. Thank you, Sandy Anderson, for being our first reader. Also, if you have not picked up your Advent Devotional book, please do so.

We will again include poinsettia plants as part of our Christmas décor. You may donate a plant in memory of or in honor of a loved one or friend. The names will be read in church on December 19th and December 26th.

It is too beautiful for words!!!

Thank you, Karen Wilshusen, for the beautiful quilted banner we now have hanging in our entryway.

You put a lot of work into this piece and it certainly shows.

You must see it in person!!!!

IT IS TIME AGAIN for the All Church Work Book to be published. Please get any changes to Linda Ptacnik so she may begin. Help will be needed (and appreciated) when the time for assembly come around.

New officers – elders – deacons – and communion prep will be in the book which will be available the last week of December.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

We had a very successful Harvest Festival again this year. We have reached the \$15,000 Goal we set for ourselves. We have received \$17,550 as of this writing!!! Your monetary investments, as well as your willingness to share your talents, will bring good things to this church family. We will continue to use these funds to supplement our weekly offerings.

We had a great turn out for our Harvest Festival Dinner held on November 21st in Friendship Hall. Turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, gravy, casseroles and desserts were in abundance and prepared by our FCC family.

A new tradition was begun this day – We filled plates with the bountiful meal and hand-delivered them to our shut-ins who could not attend. The Sunday School kids painted a Christmas ornament which was attached to the plate. A total of seven meals were delivered.

A free-will offering was taken and covered the cost of the birds. **SO MANY PIES!!!!!!**

SUNDAY SCHOOL NOTES:

We are still seeking help to educate our youth...we will be having more children in the coming weeks and can probably break it down into two classes. If you would like to help, please contact Pat Phillips.

We have two groups – the boys are learning the books of the Old Testament – the girls are using their coloring skills to learn Bible verses.

During Sunday School on December 19th, the kids will be delivering cookies to our shut-ins. If you have someone to add to our list of seven, please let Pat Phillips know. We will be asking folks to donate the cookies so be prepared.

A very special Thank You Note to the Sunday School Kids:

To the First Christian Church SS class, teachers and those responsible for getting these kids to church on Sunday:

I want to say thank you for all your help Sunday with the Thanksgiving dinner. You saved us so many steps as you set out the salt & pepper shakers, carried the water pitchers to the table and later back to the kitchen. I could never name everything you did, but you were very busy.

One thing I want to commend you for, and this is HUGE...I didn't see any running or jumping in the church. Everyone stayed "tuned in" to the tasks they were doing at the time...all day long! It was an amazing display of serving God.

Thank you for helping – Thank you for always making us smile!

---Connie Nielsen & All the Church Ladies & Men

From Pastor Rudy Flores, Messiah Lutheran Church:

I wanted to reach out and invite your congregation to join us for worship and sharing of music on December 19th at 9:00 a.m. We would love to have you all come and visit with us and there should still be time to have your regular worship at 10:30.

Editor's Note: The PUCC "PROCLIMATION" Bell Choir will be performing their first performance in 22 months.

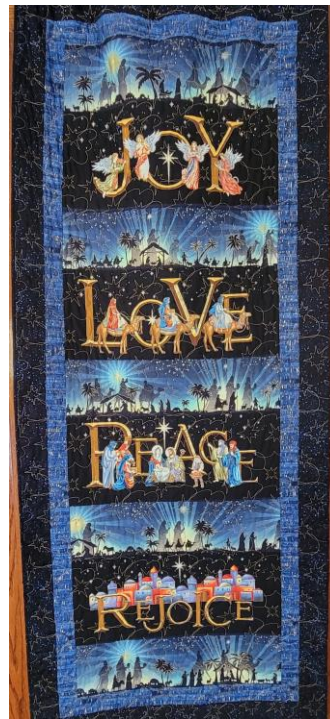




Once again, we have our Memory Tree up in the sanctuary. We have more ornaments to write and will get them placed on the tree soon. If you want to bring a special ornament, please feel free to do so. Pat Phillips will be doing the writing on the new ornaments so get your requests to her as soon as you can.

The memory tree idea came from former members, Dave & Terri Pierce and it has continued for many years now. Thank you Dave & Terri!!

We rang the bells for the Ministerial Association on Saturday, December 4th. Thank you Tanna, Butch, Nancy, Linda, Pat W., and Connie! Hope to get more next year!



QUILT
MADE BY
KAREN
WILSHUSEN



Merry
Christmas