



YOUR FCC CONNECTION

APRIL 2024

## Pastor Pennys 2 Shekels

The roar of the crowd, the excitement and thrill of the moment. The King is Coming! The King is Coming! The shouts rang out. The Pharisees scolded Jesus and said make this stop and he replied, If I tell them to stop, these very stones will cry out. What had just happened?

Could it be the Messiah? But he came in on a Donkey like King Solomon humble, not like King David on a white horse. What did all of this mean?

Jesus spoke as one with authority, did signs and wonders, miracles and healings like none that had ever come before him. His popularity was climbing by the minute and the disciples were right there in the midst of the chaos, the hype, the joy, the anxiety, the fear, the trepidation. They knew that all of their lives were on the line by going back into the Holy City. How does one prepare for the unknown?

There was no way to prepare for what was to happen. Jesus spent the whole week trying to get through to them, he told them plainly what was to happen, they didn't get it. Or did they and they just desperately did not want to hear it, and spent those precious few moments in denial and hope for another way. They spent the night of Pesach eating and drinking, singing psalms and reflecting on the night's festivities, tucking in their hearts that Jesus the Messiah, washed their feet. He broke bread and ushered in a new covenant that they were not fully grasping. They were human, the spirit was willing but the flesh weak. All they had to do was stay awake and they couldn't. Like the olives that are pressed three times until no more oil is left, Jesus went and prayed 3 times until it says his sweat was like blood. He had poured out all he had.

The frenzy, the chaos as the disciples were startled by the dim light of torches, the shouts and shadows of soldiers winding their way up that steep road where days earlier Jesus had just traveled on the back of a donkey. The chaos continued with a corrupt circus trial bent on a guilty verdict. His disciples scattered, scared and doing whatever it took to stay hidden and alive.

All of this led up to the unthinkable. The brutality, the inhumane torture the public display of humiliation. All while the same crowd that had yelled Hosanna! Now shouted "Crucify Him!", or watched in silent horror. As Yeshua hung on a cross in public display at the top of the hill, he endured the pain and agony of not just the physical but the overwhelming spiritual weight of sin. From the beginning of time until his coming again, all sin from all the ages rested on his shoulders.

This King, this Son of God, hung on the cross with a crown of thorns all blood bled out for 6 hours. When the Temple High Priest sacrificed the last lamb, he raised his arms and declared, "It is Finished." And the shofar blew. On that hill, Jesus hearing the sound of the final shofar with arms outstretched said, "It is finished." And died.

This was not in the disciple's plan, what had just happened? They gave up their lives to follow who they were just sure was the Messiah, the Son of God, but now what? What would they do? What would they tell their families and friends? How could they have been so sure and yet were they wrong?

As Christians we know that the story does NOT end with Jesus still hung on the cross. In fact, it does not end when he was laid in the tomb and the large hard stone rolled in front. Where was the Joy? Where was the Hope? Where was the answer to their questions?

The Morning of First Fruits. Early in the Morning, Mary and others went to the tomb to put spices on Yeshua's body, but the most phenomenal thing had happened! The big, heavy, cold stone was rolled away. Soldiers were lying like dead men on the ground and angels were there to Tell the Good News! "Christ is not here He has risen just like he said!"

Jesus, Yeshua is the First Fruits. Because of his death and resurrection, the final atonement was made for all and because he is consecrated, we too are all consecrated in and through him. It is in our Risen Savior that a **New Covenant** is established. It is through him that our **Joy is Restored**. Our **Hope is made New** and **Our Salvation** belongs to Him.

If you are finding yourself in a time of chaos, or overwhelming circumstances; maybe you have blended into the crowd and lost your voice; if you are feeling hopeless and searching for answers, know that you are not alone. Christ left his throne in glory to become man so we can relate to him. He felt joy, sadness, pain, heartache, weariness, love, companionship and even shed tears like you and I. Yet the enemy did not win, Jesus conquered the grave, sin and death and he did it all for YOU! He made a way to cross the great divide to the Father. He became that bridge, he became the atonement for each of our sins. And he became the salvation for all who will accept the free gift.

***Jesus said "I am the door, I am the way the truth and life. No one comes to the Father, except through me."***

If you have not accepted his free gift, I encourage you to do so and do it today. We are never guaranteed a tomorrow. And if you have, Go tell your family and friends. The only thing you can take from this world to heaven is another person.

Happy Resurrection Day & First Fruits

Shalom

Pastor Penny

Churches across Nebraska were shocked and saddened by the sudden passing of our Regional Minister, Rev. Chris Morton, who passed away in Lincoln on March 10, 2024.

A Memorial Service will be held at Bethany Christian Church in Lincoln on April 3rd at 11:00 am.

Rev Morton leaves behind his partner, Julie and his son and daughter, Luc and Amy. Cards of sympathy may be sent to:

Julie Jones  
2523 Winding Way  
Lincoln, NE 68506



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.

.Donna Goertzen , Louise Hack, Lee & Val Jones, Bob & Sharon Nunnenkamp, Rob Nunnenkamp, Helen Nowka, Jim Ptacnik, Tanna Skarniak, Mary Jacobs, Stacey Holloway, Karren Radcliff, Stacey Friesen, Jason Wilson, John Schulz, Marlene Flodman, Mark Shaneyfelt, Gena Waterman-See, Marti Engert, Skip Plock, Lee Hutchison, Carla, The Family of Rev. Chris Morton.

**We also pray for all those in our congregation and beyond who may be suffering from 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 ([lindap@hamilton.net](mailto:lindap@hamilton.net) or 402-631-9422 or [fcc@hamilton.net](mailto:fcc@hamilton.net)) I will see that your requests are shared – as well as updates as they are received.

When I am out of town and/or unavailable, Tanna will be handling the e-mail requests. You may contact her at 308-391-9054 ([eagleskarn@gmail.com](mailto:eagleskarn@gmail.com).)

### OH BABY (OR BABIES)

Lori Comer shares that she has 15 great grandchildren—5 girls and 10 boys, The latest additions are:

Nolan Claussen, parents Gerad and Taylor; Grandparents Jay and Deb-Comer Claussen, Great-Grandma, Lori Comer. Nolan was born on December 27, 2023.

Fabra Maye, parents Jacob and Shaunie (Comer) Gaspari; Grandparents Dennis and Jill Comer; Great Grandma, Lori Comer. Fabra was born on March 10, 2024

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!!!

MARLENE FLODMAN would like to thank everyone for the love and support she has received since moving to Westfield Quality Care and after the death of her dear friend, Arlo Friesen. She especially thanks Pastor Penny for the service and for being with the family during Arlo's last days in Lincoln. She has a new address to share with everyone:

Marlene Flodman,  
Westfield Quality Care—1313 1st St.—Aurora 68818  
Room 401

DEACONS / ELDERS / COMMUNION PREP

**Apr. 7**

Elders: Dick & Pat Phillips  
Deacons: H Enderle, D Enderle, C Parker  
Communion Prep: Pat Phillips

**Apr 14**

Elders: Dick & Pat Phillips  
Deacons: T Willis, C Enderle, M Paz  
Communion Prep: Linda Ptacnik

**Apr 21**

Elders: Dave & Jean Sanderson  
Deacons: Nunnenkamp, Nunnenkamp, Forsman  
Communion Prep: Bonita Forsman

**Apr. 28**

Elders: Anderson & Nielsen  
Deacons: Weinrich, Dorsey, See  
Communion Prep: Jean VanBibber

Parents: Our Youth is scheduled to fill the 5th Sunday of the month. Please be sure to have them to church a little early for a walk-through.

**If you cannot serve on your Sunday, please get someone to replace you.**

*If you are comfortable with it, it is satisfactory if only One Elder offers prayers and serves.*



APRIL BIRTHDAYS / ANNIVERSARIES

Apr 2 Thad Moe  
Apr 6 Crystal-Dorsey-Newman  
Apr 11 Steve Anderson  
Apr 14 Cindy Weinrich  
Apr 19 Butch Furse  
Apr 21 April Campbell  
Apr 21 Pastor Penny Schulz  
Apr 22 George Goertzen  
Apr 23 Hallie Enderle  
Apr 24 Ardis Jacobs  
Apr 24 Sarah Enderle  
Apr 26 Broderick Enderle  
Apr 26 Maxine Hurlburt  
Apr 27 Marcus Skarniak  
  
Apr 18 Walt & Ardis Jacobs

**BIBLE STUDY**

**AFTERNOON Bible Study**

**April 9, 16, 23, 2024**

**Lisa Harper 8-Week Study**

**Wonderful Words of Luke**

**\*\*Will not meet the 1st Tuesday of the Month**

**Meet at the Senior Center—2:00 PM**

**CWF LADIES**

**Tuesday April 2, 2024  
2:00 PM—Senior Center  
Study Lesson—Help is Here!  
By Max Lucado**

**Pastor Penny**

**Cell Phone: 402-440-4605**

**Email: [pastorpennys2cents@gmail.com](mailto:pastorpennys2cents@gmail.com)**

**Website: [fccaurorane.org](http://fccaurorane.org)**

**You Tube: First Christian Church of Aurora NE**

**Facebook: First Christian Church of Aurora NE**

**For Inspirational Messages, go to YouTube Penny Schulz**

Our Disciple Women's Retreat will be held on Saturday, April 20, 2024 at the Southpoint Christian Church, 7010 Helen Witt Dr, Lincoln NE 68512. We will be carpooling to Southview Christian Church, 2040 S. 22nd St. for lunch.

Our speaker will be Rev. Abigail Conley, pastor of Southpoint Trinity Chapel Churches. She was able to attend the DW Women to Women mission trip to Japan and South Korea last September and will share her experiences with us.

Our Mission service project will be Lincoln Hygiene Network who works with 25 non-profits throughout Lincoln, including the Voices of Hope, spousal abuse and sexual assault victims center. If you would like to participate, the Lincoln Hygiene Network is in need of the following high need products: Shampoo, Conditioner, Deodorant, Soap/Body Wash, Toothpaste/Toothbrush, Feminine Hygiene Products, Lotion, Disposable Razors, Chapstick, Q-Tips.

The contact person for questions is Angie Emons, DW Coordinator (402-874-0980) or [dngelaemons@yahoo.com](mailto:dngelaemons@yahoo.com).

Tanna will be attending so if you would like to contribute to the products needed, a basket will be at the back of the sanctuary and she will deliver them.

**WE'RE  
HERE FOR  
PEACE  
AND LOVE**

### OUR SANCTUARY CEILING IS PAINTED AND THE PROJECT COMPLETED

After having roof problems for many years, we finally got a new roof this summer and now Brown Construction has come in and painted the ceiling. Not just covering the "spots" but painting the entire length of the panels.

Thank you to all those who helped move and replace the pews—many hours of manpower—Bud Mills, Dick Phillips, Chawntiel Parker, Heath Enderle and his "crew."

Without the help of our church members, this project could not have been completed. We thank all who came and unbolted, moved, moved again and re-bolted. We so appreciate you!

MANY THANKS to everyone who has been providing cookies to begin (and end) our morning services. Your kind donations are much appreciated by everyone. If someone would like to step up and help out, please get in touch with Linda See or Karen Holloway and they can assist you.

If you drive by the front of the church during Easter, pay close attention to the front doors and the planters.

Connie Nicklasson made some beautiful "wreaths" for the front windows.

Bonita Forsman provided the planters with some spring décor.

All we need now is Spring to show up and stay for awhile!!!

**I WANT TO BE SO  
FULL OF CHRIST  
THAT IF A MOSQUITO  
BITES ME IT FLIES  
AWAY SINGING  
THERE IS POWER IN  
THE BLOOD!**



## FOOD PANTRY NOTES!

The many holiday food drives and donations have our shelves fully stocked with non-perishable items for the next few months. Again, thanks to you!

It is past time for someone else to “take the reins” from our church and be our new representative. It requires a one-hour commitment to work a shift 11:30—1:30 on a Tuesday; 5:30—6:30 on a Thursday evening or a 9—10 commitment on a Saturday morning, plus a quarterly board meeting.

Occasional extra help is requested after food drives to sort donated items; check for outdated items; and put items on the shelves.

I want to help orient you and you could recruit your volunteers.

—Pat Willis



### **Some sights from the Men's Pancake Breakfast on Palm Sunday, March 24th.**

Above Left: Bud Mills, John Seifried, Dave Sanderson, Butch Furse, Dick Phillips, Lowit Enderle.

Lower Left: Lowit explaining something to Pastor Penny before the service.

Upper Right: The “ladies” of the kitchen—just **not** Palm Sunday. Pat Phillips, Sandy Anderson, Dawn Enderle, Pat Willis, Lyn Seifried, Louise Mills, Karen Wilshusen, Nancy Furse and Linda Ptacnik

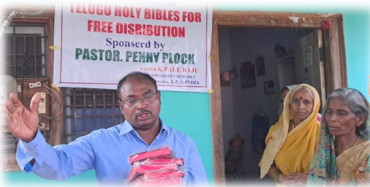
At Left: Heath Enderle and our “Kitchen Superintendent, Lowit Enderle

**THANKS GUYS!** It was delicious as always.

A total of \$140 was received as a free-will offering!



On March 12th, we were impressed by a presentation given from Rebekah Miller from the Chosen People's Ministry as she went through the element for the Seder Meal that our Jewish brothers and sisters have been celebrating for thousands of years. There was no meal with this service, however it was very enlightening, educational and a perfect time to connect with our Jewish roots.



I want to personally thank everyone who donated and contributed to the Bible fund for Pastor Paul in India. Paul has been adding congregations to his fold at warp speed. Muslim and Hindu men and women are coming to Christ in unprecedented numbers and need Bibles. Thanks to your support \$600 was raised and 120 bibles in the Telugu language were purchased and distributed to many many families. You have given the most precious food anyone could give. The word of God that will feed them a lifetime! —Pastor Penny

A COMBINED MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE was held at our church on March 28th. The program, titled "The Room" by Dorothy Vanderlippe, was chosen by the Worship Committee. The "Players" (in order of appearance) were

Pat Willis, John Seifried, Lyn Seifried, Pat Phillips, Dave Sanderson, Pastor Penny Schulz, Nancy Furse, Chawntiel Parker, and special music with Charlie & Pat Phillips.

Thank you to Karen Holloway for preparing the communion for the service.

If you were unable to attend, the entire service can be viewed on our

**Website: [fcaurorane.org](http://fcaurorane.org)**

**You Tube: First Christian Church of Aurora NE**

*Hope you like the little  
Easter poem I wrote.*

The Miracle

Who could imagine  
A wee, tiny babe  
In a far away manger  
Could change the whole world!  
But change it He did  
Since He was God's Son  
And Heaven's Gates opened  
For us here, everyone!  
Such selfless love  
To this world never known  
First cost Him the cross  
On the way to the Throne!!  
— Louise Cain

Someone, going through some cards, sent me a copy of this poem she found—written by Louise Cain. I didn't get a name with the email so I don't know who to thank.....

Undated, but can't you just see her writing it!

Special memories.....