

First Christian Church

love all • live spiritually • rejoice in hope • show hospitality
A Movement for Wholeness in the Capitol Neighborhood



430 S. 16th St.
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508
402.475.4289

Messenger



Rev. Dr. Karen Moritz, Pastor
Cheryl Judds, Administrative Assistant
Elaine Parman, Care Ministries Volunteer

Mark W. Miller, Director of Music Ministries
Sara Lugn, Stephen Ministry Leader
Church Website: fcllincoln.org

Volume 68, No. 24
December 13, 2018
Church E-mail: info@fcllincoln.org



Advent Celebrations continue at First Christian Church

Sunday, Dec. 16 - 10:30 am

A Festival of Lessons & Carols

Participate with us in a journey toward Christmas through scripture and music.

Disciples Women Bake Sale

Held in the Parlor following worship. Find delicious holiday treats to purchase & support Disciples Women.

Monday, Dec. 24 - 6:00 pm

Christmas Eve Worship

Come hear the Christmas story anew. This candlelight service will feature scripture, choir and handbells.

Love Your Church



Again this year, our faith giving theme has been to "Love Your Church". On December 30, we will observe our final 5th Sunday of the year... our faith giving Sunday. Let's share our love with a special gift to the church at the end of the year. While you're making your list of gifts to buy, add First Christian Church to the top of your list. Your love can help make a difference in the life of our church!

Mark Your 2019 Calendars



We hope you'll join the Torch Team for the 2nd annual "Sunday Funday, Games and Grub", following worship on **Sunday, Jan. 13th**. More details to follow soon!

And on **Saturday, Feb.**

2nd, there will be a **CHURCH LEADERSHIP Leadership Retreat** for all those in leadership roles at FCC in 2019. It will be held from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Lutheran Family Services Center, 2301 'O' St. Watch for more information coming in January, but please save the date now!



2018 CHRISTMAS SPECIAL OFFERING

Our finest gifts supporting the ministries of our Region.

Your gift to the Christmas offering supports the work of your Region (Christian Church in Nebraska), sustaining the life of our church. **It will be received again this Sunday, Dec. 16.** You will find more information on your bulletin insert, or go to <https://disciples-missionfund.org>. Thank you for providing your finest gift.

Pastor's Corner

Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." - Luke 1:38

This year we're exploring Advent through the eyes of Mary, the Mother of Jesus. In our daily devotional *I Am Mary* Carol Howard Merritt invites us to traverse these weeks of preparation by pondering things from Mary's perspective. On Wednesday nights we're also looking at things from Mary's point of view as we watch the video presentations of Adam Hamilton and read his book *Not a Silent Night*. The thing that really strikes me about all this material, is the reminder that God came into the world through a young woman from a small town in an outlying province of the Roman Empire. God didn't come into the world in a serene and orderly way. God came into the world through a small child born in a manger full of noisy, smelly and loud animals. Despite the hymns that portray a silent night, it was probably full of crying, braying, and all sorts of different noises.

Despite our best preparations, God still comes into our world and our lives in the midst of chaos and noise. Life is often messy and unpredictable. The beauty of God's Advent through Immanuel, is this awareness; God comes to us in the midst of the noise and the messiness. God embraces us as we are, not as we wish we were. Hopefully we are each able to find some peace and serenity during this sacred season, but if not, don't worry because the point of this season is that God comes. God comes to us wherever and however we are. All we need to do is have the faith of Mary and respond as she did by saying "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."

May we have the courage of Mary to invite God into our noisy and messy lives. God is with us, Immanuel!

May the blessings and chaos of this season be with us all,

Pastor Karen



I want to thank everyone for making my birthday such a blessing. Well, perhaps I should say, for making my birthday week such a blessing. Thank you so much for your beautiful cards, lovely gifts, and gracious thoughts. Thank you to the Membership Team for hosting the Coffee Fellowship on the 2nd of December and to Elaine Parman and Friends for providing our Snack Supper on the evening of the actual day. Although it was technically a "Day of National Mourning" all of you made it a real time of joy for me.

With heartfelt thanks,
Pastor Karen

January Act of Kindness



In January our Act of Kindness will support *Cedars Street Outreach & Youth Opportunity Center* located at 318 S. 13th Street.

This program seeks out runaway, homeless and at-risk youth, ages 13 - 21 in our city. They connect with these individuals in a variety of ways and places where they are living. The Street Outreach teams search places such as abandoned cars and buildings, under bridges and overpasses, around dumpster sites and other locations known to be hideouts. When they locate someone they offer them a backpack full of items such as bottled water, non-perishable food items, personal hygiene products, blankets and a safe place to get a hot meal during the week.

As the youth begin to trust the Street Outreach teams and come to the brick and mortar location on S. 13th Street for a hot meal, self service laundry and a warm safe place to relax, they are introduced to all of the programs and resources our city offers such as safe housing options and assistance with filling out the paperwork, filling out job applications, medical care, getting their GED and many other opportunities they are not aware of nor understand how to negotiate.

FCC's Outreach Team offered to collect new hats, scarves, gloves, mittens and socks during the month of January and the director of the Street Outreach program was ecstatic.

As you are out finishing your Christmas shopping or out scouring the after Christmas deals, please pick up one or two of the items listed above and put them in the collection barrel.

Thank you for your generous support of our Acts of Kindness!

Your Outreach Team:

*Dana Berger, Kathy Harris, Gary Larsen,
Tom Mason & Elaine Parman*

A Story from Your Global Ministries December 2018



“New Hope”

He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. -- Isaiah 2:4

Advent is a time to turn toward Bethlehem and behold the occupants for whose sake the savior was born, those who still live under occupation, denied their freedom, dignity and independence. Advent calls all who espouse justice and peace to allow the people of Bethlehem to rejoice at Christmas by working for the restoration of their dignity, freedom and independence.

God is love, not a god of armies and wars, nor a god who orders one people to oppress another, nor a god that strips one people of their land and gives it to another. This is a season for refugees. Jesus took refuge in Egypt as a child when he escaped the oppression of the powerful of that time. Jesus walks today among the crowds of refugees; he walks with them and for them, teaching, healing, granting life and directing the attention of the strong to stop killing and displacing people. Jesus tells the leaders of the world to sheathe their swords and turn them into tools for life, as the prophet Isaiah said.

We are given new hope, despite the cruelty of human against human, regardless of wars and ongoing death and hatred in the land of God. Indeed, because death is commanding hearts and injustice is escalating, we need new light and hope to come from the hearts of all believers in the Christmas message. Then the joy of Christmas will be fully realized in Bethlehem, where God’s mystery still touches the Earth alongside human oppression and the pain of the oppressed.

H.B. Patriarch Michel Sabbah is the Latin Patriarch Emeritus of Jerusalem and Co-Author of the Kairos Palestine Document. To read the full message, go to:

www.globalministries.org/

kairos-palestine-announces-its-christmas-alert-2018

FCC Book Club



Book Club will meet again on **Saturday, Jan. 12, 9:30**

am at Cheryl Judds’ home. Our discussion book is **“A Wrinkle in Time”** by Madeleine L’Engle. All FCC members and friends are welcome to join in any of the book discussions! If you have any questions about the book club, please contact the church office.



STEPHEN MINISTRY

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

-- Philippians 4:6

A Note of Thanks to FCC



Thank you for your generous support of the Lincoln/Lancaster CROP Hunger Walk. Your sponsorship of the t-shirts brings the event into the public eye and gives another incentive to the walkers. Your faithfulness to this cause is appreciated. Thank you for the 2018 sponsorship.

Sally Mason, CROP planning team member

Find us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/fcc.lincoln.neb>



Be sure to check out our Facebook page each week for great information about coming events and Sunday worship services, including scripture references.

Lincoln FCC Calendar of Events

Sunday, Dec. 16 - 3rd Sunday of Advent

Christmas Special Offering

- 9:00 am Boom Team Rehearsal - 2nd floor toddler room
- 9:30 am Children's Sunday School (gr. 2 - 6) - 2nd floor classroom
- 9:30 am Seekers Adult Class - Library
- 10:30 am **LESSONS & CAROLS WORSHIP** - Sanctuary
- 10:45 am Worship & Wonder (ages 3 - 7) - 2nd floor classroom
- 11 am, 1 pm, 4 pm CCC Meetings - Library
- 11:30 am **Disciples Women Bake Sale** - Parlor

Monday, Dec. 17

- 5:30 pm CCC Meeting - Library
- 7:00 pm Child Guidance Center Basketball - Gym

Tuesday, Dec. 18

- 7:00 pm Child Guidance Basketball - Gym

Wednesday, Dec. 19

- 5:30 pm Snack Supper - Parlor
- 5:30 pm **Adult Advent Study, "Not a Silent Night"** - Library
- 6:15 pm Youth Group Meeting - 3rd Floor Classroom
- 6:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal
- 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, Dec. 20 - 7:00 pm Child Guidance Basketball - Gym

Sunday, Dec. 23 - 4th Sunday of Advent

- 9:30 am Children's Sunday School (gr. 2 - 6) - 2nd floor classroom
- 9:30 am Seekers Adult Class - Library
- 10:30 am **WORSHIP** - Sanctuary
- 10:45 am Worship & Wonder (ages 3 - 7) - 2nd floor classroom
- 11 am, 1 pm, 4 pm CCC Meetings - Library

Monday, Dec. 24 - Church Office Closed

- 6:00 pm **Christmas Eve Worship** - Sanctuary

Tuesday, Dec. 25 - Merry Christmas!

Church Office Closed

Wednesday, Dec. 26 - Cheryl Judds on Vacation

No Evening Activities

Thursday, Dec. 27 - 7:00 pm Child Guidance Basketball - Gym

Sunday, Dec. 30

- 9:30 am Children's Sunday School (gr. 2 - 6) - 2nd floor classroom
- 9:30 am Seekers Adult Class - Library
- 10:30 am **CHRISTMAS CAROL SING IN WORSHIP**
Join us in the sanctuary for a festive service where you can request your favorite carol!
- 10:45 am Worship & Wonder (ages 3 - 7) - 2nd floor classroom
- 11 am, 1 pm, 4 pm CCC Meetings - Library



Tuesday, Jan. 1 - Happy New Year!

Church Office Closed

Wednesday, Jan. 2

- 1:30 pm **Martha Group Meeting** - Jill Carpenter's home

Thursday, Jan. 3 - 7:00 pm Child Guidance Basketball - Gym

Those Serving in January



10:30 am Worship

Elder:

- Jan. 6 D'Arcy Blosser Jan. 20 Kathy Harris
- Jan. 13 Connie Calver Jan. 27 Gary Larsen

Deacons:

- Jim Christ, Dan Cowger, Scott Dietrick,
Wayne Duncan, Susan Pallas-Duncan,
Vince Ortega

Communion Prep: Wayne Duncan & Susan Pallas-Duncan

Ushers / Greeters:

- Jan. 6 Jared & Nichole Calver
- Jan. 13 Doug & Jessica Effle
- Jan. 20 Elaine Parman
- Jan. 27 Carla Pinneo

Hallway Hospitality:

- Jan. 6 James Berger Jan. 20 Mike Carlin
- Jan. 13 Rich Calver Jan. 27 Tom Mason

Coffee Fellowship Hosts:

- Jan. 6 **Need Volunteer**
- Jan. 13 Stephen Ministers
- Jan. 20 Foundation
- Jan. 27 Music Ministries

Homebound Communion Teams: (Jan. 13)

- D'Arcy Blosser & Jim Christ
- Connie Calver & Dan Cowger
- Kathy Harris & Scott Dietrick
- Gary Larsen & Vince Ortega

Sunday, Jan. 6 - SCRIP Orders Due

- 9:00 am Boom Team Rehearsal - 2nd floor toddler room
- 9:30 am Children's Sunday School (gr. 2 - 6) - 2nd floor classroom
- 9:30 am Seekers Adult Class - Library
- 10:30 am **WORSHIP** - Sanctuary
- 10:45 am Worship & Wonder (ages 3 - 7) - 2nd floor classroom
- 11 am, 1 pm, 4 pm CCC Meetings - Library

Monday, Jan. 7 - Noon Messenger Deadline

- 7:00 pm Child Guidance Basketball - Gym
- 7:00 pm **Deborah Group Meeting** - Beth Zager's home

Tuesday, Jan. 8 - 9:00 am Staff Meeting - Conference Room

- 11:00 am El Centro Fitness Class - Gym
- 7:00 pm Child Guidance Basketball - Gym

Wednesday, Jan. 9 - Evening Activities Resume

- 5:30 pm Snack Supper - Parlor
- 5:30 pm **Adult Study, TBA** - Library
- 6:15 pm Youth Group Meeting - 3rd Floor Classroom
- 6:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal
- 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, Jan. 10 - Messenger Mailed

- 7:00 pm Child Guidance Basketball - Gym