

# The Church Mouse

Rev. Ethan Feistner  
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Office: 402-224-5905  
November 2020

Sunday School 10:00 am  
Worship: 11:00am



**Church of the Plains**  
407 North C Street  
Edgar, Ne 68935



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# From the Pastor's Desk

## Pastor's Pondering's.....

*I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus,....*  
1 Corinthians 1:4 (NRSV)

Since it's November, the month of the Thanksgiving Holiday, my thoughts contemplate giving thanks. In the midst of such an un-normal 2020, one may have a hard time with giving thanks. In the midst of life in general, the ups and downs, and everywhere in between, it may be hard to give thanks. As I contemplated, I came upon the bible verse of 1 Corinthians 1:4. A bible verse that struck my heart and life at this time.

In the midst of such an un-normal year, I give thanks to God for the grace of God given to you. In the midst of heartache and sorrow, I give thanks to God for the grace of God given to you. In the midst of so many unknowns or of so many things that one does not have control of and/or over, I give thanks to God for the grace of God given to you.

I give thanks to God because that grace has carried you through such tough stuff. I give thanks to God for that grace because it has helped you get through minute by minute, hour by hour, day by day. I give thanks to God because that grace has shown forth in your lives; in your laughter, in your tears. A grace that doesn't depend on our actions or any strength of ours, but is totally a free gift from God to you.

God's grace abounds no matter what we are going through at any time. God's grace engulfs us no matter how far away we may seem from God. God's grace shines forth in the midst of the darkest moments, the darkest days. It is a grace that reminds us of the love God has for us. A love that took on our sin, our pain, our sorrow, our death to the cross and died with all of it. Then, we the darkness thought it had won, grace rose up from the dead to proclaim us victors, righteous, forgiven, loved beyond belief. In the midst of such tough times, in the midst of what may seem as chaos, God's grace has got us all! God's grace proclaims us God's children! God's grace gives hope!

So, this November and always when the Spirit leads, I will give thanks to my God for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus. A grace that God uses to witness to me and so many others.

With a thank filled heart!  
Pastor Ethan

Thanks to everyone who shared gifts of kind words, cards, financial gifts, and all the many other ways you made me feel appreciated during clergy appreciation month this October. Kelly and I are truly blessed being here at the heartland shared ministries. Thank you for making us always feel appreciated and special. Thanks for all you do, continue to let the spirit lead us all as we do what God wants us to do

Thank you  
Pastor Ethan



I would like to thank my church family for their prayers and concerns for Marcia during her illness and passing. Thank you to Pastor Ethan for being at the hospital the day of her death, his comforting words to Nick and Ashley and his visits and many prayers. Darlene Shaw

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**Pastor's Visits**

If you want Pastor Ethan to visit you, please give him a call on his cell phone 1-402-879-5097. In the midst of the Coronavirus, he is cutting back on visitation. If you call him, he would be happy to come to visit just let him know.

**Phone Calls**

In the midst of the social distancing, let's not forget to keep in touch with one another. A good way is through the phone. Let the Spirit lead and if you get that nudge, give that person a call to check to see how they are doing. We are here for one another.

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**Food Pantry  
Donations Needed**

**Clay County Food Pantry**

Items Most Needed: canned soup, box macaroni and cheese, box meals, cereal, canned fruit, ...Any meat items (hot dogs, hamburger, lunch meat, etc.) \*Any other non-perishable items are acceptable as well.

\*Thank you for your much needed donations! The food will go to help those in need in our Clay County Community, it is greatly appreciated!

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**Tithes and  
offerings**

**Pray about your giving**

It is a hard time for all financially and in other ways also. As you pray about how your funds are best spent as stewards of what God has given, please don't forget the churches of the Heartland Shared Ministries. Even though we haven't met face to face at the churches, and offerings haven't been gathered, bills continue to arrive and need to get paid. Let the Spirit lead and direct and thanks for sharing your time, talents and treasures—gifts from God—for the people of God!



# Calendar of Events

- November
- 1... 9:30 livesteam for Salem/no service at the church  
9:30 services at U.C.C.  
11:00 services in Edgar
  - 3... ELECTION DAY!
  - 4... 10:00 coffee at the church
  - 8... 9:30 services at Salem  
11:00 livestream for Edgar/no service at the church  
11:00 services at U.C.C.
  - 11... VETERAN'S DAY  
10:00 coffee at the church
  - 15... 9:30 services at Salem  
11:00 services at Edgar  
11:00 livestream at U.C.C./no service at the church
  - 18... 7:00 Session meets  
10:00 coffee at the church  
8:00 Session meets
  - 22... 9:30 livestream at Salem/no services at the church  
9:30 services in Edgar/election of officers  
11:00 services at U.C.C.
  - 25... 10:00 coffee at the church
  - 26... THANKSGIVING
  - 29... 9:30 services at Salem  
9:30 livesteam at Edgar/no services at the church  
11:00 services at U.C.C.

## Attendance:

October 4-16  
11-25  
18- 3  
25-24

Average: 17



## **BIRTHDAYS in NOVEMBER**

- 1...Lola Biltoft
- 2...Mike Rieger
- 9...Sandra Nienkamp
- 10...Shirley Horst
- 11...Melody Cox
- 16...Dawson Kucera and Megan Schaefer
- 17...Greg Shuck
- 23...Alberta White
- 24...Caroline Shutter
- 26...Alan Claycamp and Rowan Kucera
- 27...Connor Shuck
- 28...Vergene Gunn

## **ANNIVERSARIES**

- |                |                           |      |
|----------------|---------------------------|------|
| November 20... | Steve and Cheryl Brockman | 1993 |
| 27...          | Dan and Jeanette Shaw     | 1982 |

# NEWS from the HEARTLAND SHARED MINISTRIES

Each month news, announcements, schedules, and other information that will be of interest to all the congregations of Heartland Shared Ministries will be included in each church's newsletter.

In order to start meeting in person: Each sanctuary and fellowship hall will have to be marked out for physical distancing (at least 6 feet apart for all except households, etc.) and for 75% occupancy. All hymnals/bibles/books will need to be removed from the worship area. Fellowship before and/or after worship hasn't really been discussed. I guess it will be up to each church keeping in mind physical distancing.

Ushers/Deacons will need to be wearing face coverings if bulletins are going to be handed out.

The guidance from the health districts are still stressing that people with under health issues/ age not meet to worship in person. Face coverings will not be required but will be strongly recommended, if not for covid for the influenza that will be coming around soon.

All of these things will take some time getting used to and we will run into some bumps in the road. However, I believe we will be a stronger HSM as we worship using the same order of service, gather together to watch a live stream or continue to watch it from home. God is at work!

Let the Spirit lead!!!  
Pastor E



## **HSM Prayer Concerns**

George and Theresa Bruce, Sharon Reiland, Del Klover, Ruth Livgren, Donna, Betty, Vince, Chance, Linda, Dale, Cody, Louis, Carolyn, Donnie, Emmet, Bruce, Cammie, Glen, Kip, Jerry, Pastor Ivan, Pastor Stuart, Glen M, Marcia, Jim J., Jim R. Carolyn S, Kirby, Brent, Marc, Louise, Carly, Vaden, Deloris, Jean, Dan, Clark and Deb, Lana, Vergene, Peg, Bill, Kaylee, Linda, Kyler, Megan, Joan, Norma, Martha W, Mildred J, Sharon R, Barb J, Deloris S, Barry M., Marc S., the Gunn family, the election, and all who are having surgeries and those being tested for cancer, first responders and military, the health of our country and medical staff.

\*\*\*Please help the secretaries to keep these lists up to date. Let us know if there are any changes to the prayer list by leaving a message on the church answering machines and we will be glad to add or take off anyone from the list. Thank You!