

The Church Mouse

Rev. Ethan Feistner
PO Box 465
407 North C St.
Edgar, Ne 68935

Office: 402-224-5905
December 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.....

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Luke 2:8 NRSV

Have you ever wondered what the life of a shepherd was like? Have you ever wondered what the shepherds were going through the night of Jesus' birth?

Were they having a great day? Were they having a tough day? Had they lost any sheep that day? Were they feeling well or were they feeling sick? Did they feel that no one really cared about them? Were they stressed over the amount of money they were getting for their sheep? Were they worried about family members who were sick? Had something happened in their lives that made them feel out of control of their own situations? These were just of the questions that popped into my head. I'm sure they could go on and on.

Of all the characters that we hear about in the story of Jesus' birth, I really like the shepherds. They were common folk going through who knows what. I think I like them because it seems that I can relate to them the most; the common people in the story. People going through so much of what go through each and every day. People that experienced worry, tribulations, joys, sorrows, the feelings of the lack of control over their lives and livelihoods. The feeling that no one really cared about them. Do any of those feelings, and/or thoughts sound familiar this year?

Yet, as they were just doing their thing, living their lives, thinking their thoughts, all of sudden everything changed! As you read the following verses, put yourself in the shepherd's shoes. In the midst of our daily lives, these words remind us that all has changed for us. We are loved. We are not forgotten. God has given a great gift in Jesus who defeated sin, death and the power of the devil. So, read the following verses and may the Spirit lead us to remember and put our faith in a God that has broken into our world with hope, love, and grace!

9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11 to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" 15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." 16 So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. Luke 2:9-16 NRSV

A blessed Advent and Christmas Season to all!
Pastor Ethan

Kellie and I want to wish all of you a very Merry Advent and Christmas! God continues to work through you to be a blessing to us in so many ways. You have touched our hearts and lives with grace, love, kind words, prayers and so many other gifts. We pray God continues to bless our time together as we continue to grow and get to know one another as fellow members of the Body of Christ. Merry Advent! Merry Christmas!— Pastor Ethan and Kellie



**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!



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!

**CHANGE
OF PLAN!**

The Session voted NOT to have the Children's Christmas Program December 13, 2020. The Christian Education Committee is working on having it via YouTube on the 13th.

Session voted NOT to have a Christmas Eve Service.



**Christmas Joy
OFFERING**

Please consider making a donation to the Christmas Joy Offering. We will be collecting on Sunday the 6th and the 13th.

Calendar of Events

December	6...	11:00 services with Pastor Ethan/Christmas Joy Offering
	7...	Pearl Harbor Rememberance Day
	13...	11:00 services with Pastor Ethan/Christmas Joy Offering Youtube Children's Christmas program
	18...	Last day of school for Christmas break
	20...	Live-stream services
	24...	CHRISTMAS EVE!
	25...	CHRISTMAS DAY!
	27...	11:00 services with Pastor Ethan
	31...	NEW YEARS EVE! No candlelight service

Attendance for November:

November	1	15
	8	live stream
	15	17
	22	18
	29	live stream
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Average:	16	



BIRTHDAYS in December

- 3... Kathy Moore
- 6... Georganne Shaw
- 10... Jim Shipley
- 11... Patrick Moore
- 12... Dama Claycamp
- 13... Joel Shuck
- 15... Austin Kinnamon and Darrell Beck
- 20... Charles Watts and Jason Brockman
- 21... Lance McReynolds
- 24... Sara Ninabuck
- 25... Kristin Tripe and Jordan Kucera
- 27... J.D. Horst and Ty Moore
- 29... Cheryl Brockman
- 30... Kenneth Overturf

ANNIVERSARIES

Dean and Janet Hansen 1964

THE CHURCH OF THE PLAINS

Presbyterian Church (USA)

Edgar, Nebraska

November 18, 2020

Pastor Ethan Feistner opened the meeting with prayer.

There was a quorum present including Pastor Ethan Feistner, and Ruling Elders: Robert Crumbliss, Kathy McReynolds, Dan Shaw, Greg Shuck and Dixie Osborne

Elders Excused: Dan Fisher, Ann Watts, Pam Bower, Jack Cox

REPORT OF THE CLERK

1. The Session VOTED to approve Session minutes October 21, 2020.
2. Session VOTED to receive the Clerk's report
3. Session VOTED to Remove the name of Gary Shuck from the roll. Gary passed away July 4, 2020.
4. Session VOTED to remove the name of Mary Gunn from the roll. Mary passed away October 28, 2020
5. Session VOTED to receive the Clerks Report.

MODERATORS REPORT:

1. Session VOTED not to have the Children's Christmas Program December 13, 2020. Christian Education Committee is working on an alternative program.
2. Session VOTED not to have a Christmas Eve Service.
3. Session received Pastor Ethan Feistner's written report.
4. Session VOTED to receive the Moderators report.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT:

1. The Financial Secretary Report was received.

FINANCIAL TREASURERS REPORT

1. Beginning Balance: 10-1-2020 \$ 36,188.94
Income: 3,275.00
Expenses: 4,086.80
Ending Balance 10-31-2020 35,377.14
2. Session VOTED to receive the treasurer's report.

COMMITTEE REPORT:

1. Heartland Shared Ministries Council: 1. Discuss Pastor Ethan Feistner compensation: Increase Pastors salary \$1,500 a year, and offer the Gold Plus health plan. Session VOTED that this recommendation be presented to the congregation for their vote at the annual Congregation Corporation meeting.
2. Personnel Committee: Report received.
3. Heartland Shared Ministries Council: Report received
4. Christian Education Committee: report received
5. Worship and Music Committee: No report
6. Memorial Committee: report received
7. Buildings and Grounds Committee: report received, Discussed replacing sidewalk in front of the church.
8. Congregation Life Committee: report receives
9. Mission and Outreach No received
10. Stewardship and Budget Committee: The per capita for 2021 will stay at \$33.50. The total per capita for 2021 will be \$3,484.00
11. Nominating Committee: Presented the slate of officers to be presented at the annual Congregation, Corporation meeting.

Session class of 2023	Dan Shaw, Preston Hild, Brian Floth
Deacon class of 2023	Kathy Moore, Rita Shuck
Personnel Committee Class 2023	Joe McReynolds
Memorial Committee Class 2023	Deloris Springer
Nominating Committee 2021	Garry Steele, Darren Shaw, Dama Claycamp

11. Session VOTED to receive the committee reports.

MISC. REPORTS:

1. Attendance report for October 4-16: 11-25: 18-3: 25-24 Average attendance 17.
2. Deacons report: report received
3. Receive Misc. Reports

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Session VOTED “If the state closes church worship service, we will close Church of the Plains worship services.
2. Session VOTED to adjourn.

CLOSING PRAYER: Pastor Ethan Feistner closed the meeting with prayer.

NEXT MEETING December 16, 7:00 PM

Clerk of Session
Robert Crumbliss

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

Pastor Ethan will be on vacation from Friday December 25 thru Saturday January 2, 2021. He will pre-record a service that will live-stream on Sunday, December 27, at 9:30 a.m.



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.

Pastor Ethan will do a live service each Sunday on Heartland Shared Ministries YouTube. The live-stream service each Sunday will be at 9:30 a.m. and will originate from the church where Pastor Ethan is preaching on that day. The Church of the Plains will not have in-person worship on the Sundays that the service is by YouTube only.

New YouTube address: The YouTube address to reach the site is:

<https://youtu.be/AfNKBGf5Tns>

*******Notice of Annual Meeting:** The 2021 Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday January 24, 2021, immediately following worship. **All Ministry and Committee reports will be due in the church office by Thursday, January 14th.**

SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP for December and January

Date	Clay Center UCC	Edgar Presbyterian	Salem Lutheran
12/6/2020	9:30 live-stream	11:00 Pastor Ethan	9:30 Pastor Ethan
12/13/2020	9:30 Pastor Ethan	11:00 Pastor Ethan	9:30 live-stream
12/20/2020	11:00 Pastor Ethan	9:30 live-stream	9:30 Pastor Ethan
12/27/2020	9:30 live-stream	11:00 live-stream	9:30 live-stream
	(Pastor Ethan on vacation Sunday, Dec. 27, live stream in all locations)		
1/3/21	11:00 Pastor Ethan	9:30 Pastor Ethan	9:30 live-stream
1/10/21	11:00 Pastor Ethan	9:30 live-stream	9:30 Pastor Ethan
1/17/21	9:30 live-stream	11:00 Pastor Ethan	9:30 Pastor Ethan
1/24/21	9:30 Pastor Ethan	11:00 Pastor Ethan	9:30 live-stream
1/31/21	11:00 Pastor Ethan	9:30 live stream	9:30 Pastor Ethan



HSM Prayer Concerns

Clay Center UCC – Donna Carns, Betty Schueler, Vince (Nanette's brother), Patricia Miller (Sharon's sister), Dale Geweck (Dick Bedlan's brother-in-law), Louis Reasland (Sharon's brother), Dave Sterkel, Eileen Madiston, Linda Bower, Carolyn Shuck, flood victims, first responders and military, the health of our country and medical staff.

Salem Lutheran – the family of Judy Mikkelsen, George and Teraesa Bruce, Eileen Watson (aunt of Marlan Watson and now a resident at the Harvard nursing home), Jim Jensen, Glen Mueller, Kirby Marr (brother-in-law of Ps. Ethan), Brent Jensen, Carly Gebers, Pastor Stuart Sell, and Delores VanSkiver.

Church of the Plains – Jerry Horst, Shirley Horst, Jean Swanson, Dan Fisher, Clark and Deb Stertz, Lana Horst, Vergene Gunn, Bill and Peg Schlichtman, Joan Ulrich, Martha Wacker, Sharon R., Barb J., Barry M., Mark Skinner, 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!

Scripture Readings for the Sundays beginning December 6 and continuing through January 31 are listed on the following pages. The readings are listed for those who wish to follow along in their Bible with the readings while listening to Pastor Ethan on the radio on Sunday mornings or watching the live-stream of the Sunday service.

[Scripture readings for December and January](#)

Sunday, December 6, 2020

[Isaiah 40:1-11](#), *Good news of God's coming to a people in exile*

[Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13](#), *Righteousness shall prepare a pathway for God. (Ps. 85:13)*

[2 Peter 3:8-15a](#), *Waiting for and hastening the day of God*

[Mark 1:1-8](#), *John appears from the wilderness*

Sunday, December 13, 2020

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11, *Righteousness and praise flourish like a garden*

Psalm 126, *The LORD has done great things for us. (Ps. 126:3)*

Luke 1:46b-55 (alternate), *You, Lord, have lifted up the lowly. (Lk. 1:52)*

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24, *Kept in faith until the coming of Christ*

John 1:6-8, 19-28, *A witness to the light*

Sunday, December 20, 2020

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16, *The LORD's promise to David*

Luke 1:46b-55, *You, Lord, have lifted up the lowly. (Lk. 1:52)*

Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 (alternate), *Your love, O LORD, forever will I sing. (Ps. 89:1)*

Romans 16:25-27, *The mystery of God revealed in Jesus Christ*

Luke 1:26-38, *The angel appears to Mary*

Thursday, December 24, 2020, Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7, *Light shines: a child is born for us*

Psalm 96, *Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad. (Ps. 96:11)*

Titus 2:11-14, *The grace of God has appeared*

Luke 2:1-14 [15-20], *God with us*

Sunday, December 27, 2020

Isaiah 61:10--62:3, *Clothed in garments of salvation*

Psalm 148, *The splendor of the LORD is over earth and heaven. (Ps. 148:13)*

Galatians 4:4-7, *Children and heirs of God*

Luke 2:22-40, *The presentation of the child*

Sunday, January 3, 2021

Jeremiah 31:7-14, *Joy at the gathering of God's scattered flock*

Psalm 147:12-20, *Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion. (Ps. 147:12)*

Ephesians 1:3-14, *The will of God made known in Christ*

John 1:[1-9] 10-18, *God with us: the incarnation of the Word*

Sunday, January 10, 2021

[Genesis 1:1-5](#), God creates light God creates light

[Psalm 29](#), *The voice of the LORD is upon the waters. (Ps. 29:3)*

[Acts 19:1-7](#), *Baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus*

[Mark 1:4-11](#), *Revelation of Christ as God's servant*

Sunday, January 17, 2021

[1 Samuel 3:1-10 \[11-20\]](#) *The calling of Samuel*

[Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18](#), *You have searched me out and known me. (Ps. 139:1)*

[1 Corinthians 6:12-20](#), *Glorify God in your body*

[John 1:43-51](#), *The calling of the first disciples*

Sunday, January 24, 2021

[Jonah 3:1-5, 10](#), *Repentance at Nineveh*

[Psalm 62:5-12](#), *God alone is my rock and my salvation. (Ps. 62:6)*

[1 Corinthians 7:29-31](#), *Living in the end times*

[Mark 1:14-20](#), *The calling of the disciples at the sea*

Sunday, January 31, 2021

[Deuteronomy 18:15-20](#), *The prophet speaks with God's authority*

[Psalm 111](#), *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom. (Ps. 111:10)*

[1 Corinthians 8:1-13](#), *Limits to liberty: the case of food offered to idols*

[Mark 1:21-28](#), *The healing of one with an unclean spirit*

