

# The Church Mouse

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

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



February

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



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# From the Pastor's Desk

## PASTORAL PONDERINGS.....

February 2020 Newsletter

*For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.*

Jeremiah 29:11(NRSV)

Life is hard. There are so many things that happen that effect a person both physically and emotionally. Life can change in a heartbeat. One minute one may be sad the next over joyed. One minute one may be overjoyed the next crushed with sadness. We can go to the a doctor's appointment and nothing happens, no surprises, relief. We can go to a doctor's appointment and with one word our lives can be turned upside down. We may be relationships that excite us, help us to grow, filled with love and respect. We may be relationships that are full of abuse, no love, no respect. There are times in life we can control, we can make choices, we can respond. There are times in life when we are out of control, our choices are influenced by illness. Life is hard. Yet in the midst of this hard life, in the midst of all the emotions and physical hardships we have the Lord.

We have the Lord. In the midst of the chaos, we have the Lord. In the midst of the heartache, we have the Lord. In the midst of the celebrations, we have the Lord. We have the Lord that promises us that there is a plan; A plan for our welfare, not for our harm, a plan with hope.

I know for some of us, we stand and challenge those words. How can God have a plan? My daughter just died. I was just told I have cancer. I am getting abused. My spouse won't seek help. How can the Lord have a plan!? I wish I could explain it. I wish I could give you the answers you are seeking, answers that sooth the troubled heart and spirit.

When Jeremiah spoke the words in verse 11, the people he was speaking to were going through a very hard time. There was chaos. There was death. There was hopelessness. Yet, God spoke these words through Jeremiah to give reassurance, hope. God wanted the people to know that God was still active, still planning, still with them.

God speaks to us through Jeremiah's words today. God wants to remind us to have faith. God has plans for us and knows them. God has plans for our welfare and not to harm us. We have a God whose plans give us hope. They are plans that were sealed as a New Covenant with the Body and Blood of Christ; sacrificed on the cross, raised from the dead. Jesus gave up His life that we may have hope, life, love, a future!

Life is hard at this time, but this time is only temporary. We walk this journey with our eyes on the Lord. We walk this journey in anticipation of life eternal. We walk this journey moment by moment, day by day with faith that God holds us in the palm of those mighty hands. We walk this journey remembering Jeremiah 29:1 *For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.*

God's blessings in the midst of the journey  
Pastor Ethan

A decorative logo for February Birthdays featuring a glass jar filled with various cookies and a small tag, with the word "February" written in a large, elegant cursive font and "BIRTHDAYS" in a smaller, simple sans-serif font below it.

# February BIRTHDAYS

6...Pam Canady

7...Billey Kenley

8...Lexi Shuck

12...Emma Andersen and Steve Brockman

14...Abby Schendt

18...Gavin Kinnaman

21...Lana Horst and Makensie Crumbliss

22...Madison Shaw and Kyle Shaw

24...Kellie Feistner

A decorative logo for February Anniversaries featuring a cluster of various cookies, with the word "February" written in a large, elegant cursive font and "ANNIVERSARIES" in a smaller, simple sans-serif font below it.

# February ANNIVERSARIES

6...Dennis and Karen Shuck

16...Joe and Kathy McReynolds

17...Lon and Pam Urbauer

25...Jeff and Lisa Overturf



\*If you have anything to add or delete from the bulletin, please call the church and leave it on the answering machine or leave Lisa a note in her drawer at the church. Thanks.

- February 2...Ground Hog Day!  
 11:00 Pastor Ethan preaches/Communion/potluck  
 3...12:00 Congregate meal  
 5...10:00 coffee at the church  
 7:00 Bible Study at The Church of the Plains  
 9...11:00 services with Pastor Bill  
 10...12:00 Congregate meal  
 12...10:00 coffee at the church  
 14...Valentine's Day!  
 16...11:00 services with Pastor Ethan  
 17...Presidents Day!  
 12:00 Congregate meal  
 19...10:00 coffee at the church  
 7:00 Session meets  
 20... 9:00 Comforters meet  
 23... **9:30 services with Pastor Ethan**  
 24...12:00 Congregate meal  
 26...Ash Wednesday! Lent Begins!  
 10:00 coffee at the church

**Attendance in January**

January	5-40
	12-29
	19-43
	<u>26-43</u>
Average:	39

**Communion Servers**

Dan and Jeanette Shaw  
 Communion: 34

**Ushers and Greeters:**

- February 2...Garry and Mary Steele/Communion servers also  
 9...Dan and Jeanette Shaw  
 16...Ken and Nancy Overturf  
 23...Van and Melanie Aschenbrenner



HSM Ash Wednesday Worship Service will be held at Salem Lutheran Church beginning at 7:00 pm. At the printing of this newsletter, the rest of the midweek schedule had not been set. Please keep your eyes and ears open for the midweek Lenten schedule, it will be made known once is has been discussed at council meetings. Please let your lay leadership know your feelings on the Lenten schedule.

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### **THE SPIRIT LEADS! THE ADVENTURE BEGINS!**

We begin our adventure as the Spirit leads us to study God's word as HSM! We will meet at the Church of the Plains on Wednesday, February 5 at 7:00 pm. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 26th. At the printing of this newsletter, the Lenten schedule had not been set in stone. The meeting place for the March 4th bible study will be announced as the Lenten schedule is figured out. As you contemplate your busy schedules, please pray about attending this bible study: Let the Spirit lead you and God will get you to the place God wants you to be!

At this time, the bible study will deal with surrendering to God's will, God's promises in a round about way. Also, at this time, this theme will also be carried throughout the midweek gatherings if midweek gatherings happen.

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# *Thanks*

The annual meetings are over. A brand new year has begun. Thanks to everyone who responds to God's call to let the Spirit lead and to be active members in God's Church, you are appreciated! God uses you to bless. God blesses you as the Spirit leads. Prayers will continue to be lifted up that we continue to put the Church in God's hands and let the Spirit lead!

# 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.

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## SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP for JANUARY and FEBRUARY

Date	Clay Center UCC	Edgar Presbyterian	Salem Lutheran
2-2-20	9:30 Pastor Ethan	11:00 Pastor Ethan	9:30 pulpit fill
2-9-20	11:00 Pastor Ethan	11:00 pulpit fill	9:30 Pastor Ethan
2-16-20	11:00 pulpit fill	11:00 Pastor Ethan	9:30 Pastor Ethan
2-23-20	11:00 Pastor Ethan	9:30 Pastor Ethan	9:30 pulpit fill
3-1-2020	11:00 Pastor Ethan	11:00 fill	9:30 Pastor Ethan
3-8-2020	11:00 fill	11:00 Pastor Ethan	9:30 Pastor Ethan
3-15-2020	9:30 Pastor Ethan	11:00 Pastor Ethan	9:30 fill
3-22-2020	11:00 Pastor Ethan	11:00 fill	9:30 Pastor Ethan
3-29-2020	UNION SERVICE 10:30 a.m. at Edgar, Presbyterian (COTP)		

Please note: the worship schedule rotates beginning the first Sunday of February and the early service changes to 9:30 a.m.

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## HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2020 ANNUAL MEETING

**Sunday, January 19, 2020**

The Annual Meeting of Salem Lutheran Church was held immediately following worship on Sunday, January 19, 2020, convening at 11:30 a.m. Council members present were Norris Eitzmann, Jaynie Spirk, Dave Gebers, Steve Bargaen, Jim Smith, Jim Jensen, parish secretary, Carol Mueller, and Pastor Ethan Feistner. Council absent: Cheryl Mohler. Forty-eight voting members were present.

Dave Gebers, Council President, called the meeting to order.

### **Election:**

Motion by Chuck Tuttle, second by Julie Meyer, to accept all nominees and declare them unanimously elected without a paper ballot, motion carried by voice vote.

Results of the election were:

Council: 3-year term – Diane Gebers, Max VanSkiver, and Janice Smidt

Worship Ministry: no election, no nominees

Christian Education: no election, no nominees

Building and Grounds Committee: 3-year term – Cole Epley

1-year term – Dale Frahm

Evangelism and Family Life Ministry: no election, no nominees

Audit Committee: 3 year term – Rosemary Anderson

Convention delegates: 1-year term – Steve and Deb Trout

Nominating Committee: 1-year term – Tammy Frahm-Thayer, Ethan Epley, Sherry Gebers

Mutual Ministry, congregation's representative: 1-year term – Alfred Hanson

Blue Valley Delegates: 1-year term - Jim Jensen and Chuck Tuttle

Heartland Shared Ministries Coordinating Council: 4-year term – Margene Eitzmann

### **Minutes and Reports:**

The minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting and the Special Congregation Meeting held on November 17, 2019 were reviewed, motion by Chuck Tuttle, second by Steve Bargaen, to approve all minutes and reports as written, carried by voice vote.

The treasurer's report was reviewed by Norris Eitzmann who explained all investments, interest from the investments, the Trust funds and the General Funds accounts. Balances as of 12-31-2019 of the Trust fund of \$35,170.87 and the Current Expense fund of \$31,448.41 were reported. Motion by Jim Jensen, second by Chuck Tuttle, to approve, motion carried by voice vote.

### **Pastoral Report:**

Pastor Ethan provided a written report in the Annual Report that he encouraged all to read. He proposed two new activities for Heartland Shared Ministries, a monthly Bible study rotating between the three churches and the possibility of a pictorial directory. He expressed his gratitude to the congregation for all the improvements at the parsonage and for all kindnesses shown to he and his family during the past year.

Pastor Ethan also spoke about a grant received to provide for youth activities after ball games at the Lawrence-Nelson High School. A total of \$1,250 in matching funds needs to be raised at Salem by June. To date, a total of \$775.00 has been raised.

**New Business:**

- It was noted that additional study still needs to be done in revising the ministries and committees. The Council will consider the matter. (continued)

**Budget:**

The Budget was considered as a whole. The proposed budget for 2020 includes the Pastoral Ministry Budget of \$45,000.00; Programs and Facilities budget of \$35,835.00; and the Mission Share Budget of \$5,000.00 for a total of \$85,835.00. Motion by Chuck Tuttle, second by Ruth Epley, to approve the entire budget, carried by voice vote.

**Endowment Fund Interest:** the Council recommends the designation of the 2019 Endowment Fund interest of \$278.60 to the Brodstone Memorial Hospital fund drive to establish local chemotherapy treatment. Motion by Deb Troudt, second by DeAnna Tuttle, to accept recommendation, carried by voice vote.

**Other:**

Carol Mueller explained the financial report included in the Annual Report for the Heartland Shared Ministries. She also explained that it was necessary for each congregation of HSM to approve the new worship schedule for the coming year. Motion by Carol Mueller, second by Ruth Epley to accept new worship schedule, carried by voice vote.

Dave Gebers thanked Teresa Meyer and Sherry Gebers for securing Thrivent Team cards which paid for the purchase and installation of new garage doors and remote openers for the parsonage.

Dave Gebers and Jim Smith were thanked for their service to the Council as well as all the retiring members of the ministries/committees.

**Adjournment:**

Motion by Chuck Tuttle, second by Jim Jensen, to adjourn, motion carried by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 12:07 p.m. The meeting was followed by a pot luck lunch in the Fellowship Hall.







**Clay Center UCC** – Donna Carns, Dick Bedlan, Vince (Nanette’s brother), Louis Reasland (Sharon’s brother), Patricia Miller (Sharon’s sister), the After School Program and Leaders, Prairie Association, flood victims, first responders, and military.

**Salem Lutheran** – the family of Steve Kile, Emmet Gentry, Jon Wulf, Irvin Schleufer, Bruce Freitag, Cammie Frietag, Kip Musgrave, Jerry Horst, Pastor Ivan Dean, the Shroyer and Bohlen families, Tate Ross, Jim Jensen, Wyatt Smidt, Jim Richardsen (brother-in-law of Kevin Wulf); Kirby Marr (brother-in-law of Ps. Ethan), Brent Jensen, Louise Schultz, Julie Schleufer (daughter-in-law of Irvin and Murlene), Carly Gebers, Vaden Kramer, and Terry Bargaen (Cheryl Mohler’s brother).

**Church of the Plains** – Kendall Schendt, Jean Swanson, Dan Fisher, Jerry Horst, Clark and Deb Stertz, Mary Gunn, Lana Horst, Vergene Gunn, Peg Schlichtman, Kip Musgrave, Jeanette Shaw, and all who are having surgeries and those being tested for cancer.

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