

The Church Mouse

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

Office: 402-224-5905
December 2018

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



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

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Visit our website: www.churchoftheplains.org

December Pastor Ponderings

Heartland Shared Ministries
December 2018 Newsletter
Pastor's Pondering's

3A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Isaiah 40:3 (NRSV)

...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. Luke 2:10-11 (NRSV)

It is December already. It is time for us to prepare for and celebrate the coming of Jesus the Messiah! Yes, I know that you may already know those facts. Yes, I do realize that your lives are very busy, some may say hectic. Yes, I do realize that some of you may be going through some things that you really don't feel like preparing or celebrating. Yes, it may be that time of year when you may be missing a loved one and/or loved ones and the hole it leaves in your heart and life seems to grow. This time of year, seems to really bring all of those emotions to the front of our lives moving our hearts.

I think it is for all of those reasons plus some that I haven't mentioned yet that moves us to prepare and celebrate the coming of Jesus. It is Jesus whose birth gives us hope in the midst of whatever may be going on in our lives. It is the birth of Jesus that started the journey to the cross and the resurrection which helps us through the loss of loved ones knowing we will be with them again. It is preparing for the coming of Jesus the Messiah that gives us hope that all the darkness in this world now and in the time ahead has been and will be defeated. The Holy Spirit leads as we prepare for and celebrate the coming of Jesus the Messiah giving us light in our hearts and faith to lean and hold on to with an emotion that can't be understood at times.

It is December already. It is time for us to prepare for and celebrate the coming of Jesus the Messiah! May the Holy Spirit lead us all that we may appreciate and be strengthened as we continue on the journey, a journey God blesses. In the midst of whatever you may be going through, may the Holy Spirit move that the Light of the Messiah may shine in the midst of it and grace, hope, love and forgiveness may engulf us. Let the Spirit lead!

God's blessings and peace
Pastor Ethan

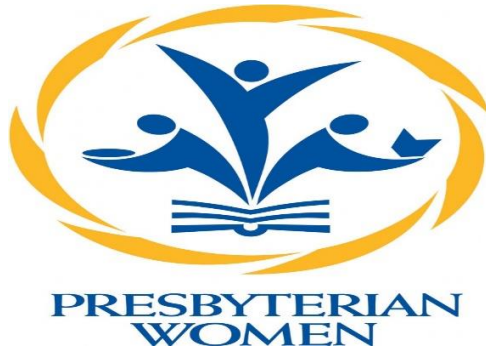
A blessed Advent and a Merry Christmas be to all! Kellie and I give thanks to God for calling us here to the Heartland Shared Ministries! Thank you for all the gifts you have shared with us to help us in this new call, God has used you to touch our hearts and lives! We look forward to celebrating Jesus birth with all of you and to join with you in the mission God has called us to do. May God bless our time together, may the Spirit lead and may all have a blessed Advent and a very Merry Christmas!

God's blessings
Pastor Ethan and Kellie

Each congregation of the Heartland Shared Ministries will be having Christmas Eve Worship Services with Pastor Ethan leading the service. The Schedule is as follows:

Salem Lutheran Church Worship with Holy Communion and Candlelight 5:00 pm
The Church of the Plains Candlelight Service 7:00 pm
UCC of Clay Center with Holy Communion and Candlelight 9:00 pm

Let's get together to praise and worship the King of Kings and Lord of Lords! Emmanuel, God with us!
The real reason for the season!



November 2018 Presbyterian Women's Report

Church of the Plains Presbyterian Women's group met November 1st in the Fellowship Hall. Moderator Dixie opened the meeting by reading a poem called "Give Lavishly, Live Abundantly". The poem was found in a book of poems that originally belong to Minnie Jay, a long time Edgar resident.

Darlene gave the opening prayer and Pastor Ethan gave Devotions. The roll call question "Has there ever been a time when you would have liked to wave the white flag of surrender and give up?" was answered by eight members. Pastor Ethan gave the lesson "Surrendered". Plans were made for the Comforters group to go to Maryland House in Hastings on Dec 6th to present quilts and other needed items to the residents living there.

It was announced that our annual Christmas luncheon will be held December 13th at the church.

Soup Supper plans were discussed and finalized.

The 2018 Thank Offering was collected and will be sent in by Nancy O.

Melanie served a delicious lunch on a beautifully decorated table.

Moderator, Dixie Osborne



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Birthdays in December

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

December Anniversaries

12-21-1994 Dean and Janet Hansen

*Please let Lisa know if she is forgetting anyone. Thanks

{ CALENDAR }

OF EVENTS

*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.

November Attendance

Communion Servers

November 4- 44

11-44

18-Service was at UCC

25-Snow Day-Services canceled

Average: 44

Announcements:

December 2...11:00 Don Canady preaches/Potluck/decorating of the tree

1:30 to 4:00 Christmas at the Museum/2:00 Heartland Shared Ministries meeting, Edgar

3...12:00 Congregate meal

6...Comforters go to Maryland House

9...11:00 Pastor Ethan preaches/Congregational Cooperation meeting following services

12...6:00 p.m. Deacon's meeting at Nancy Overturf's house

13...12:00 Presbyterian Women have their Christmas Party

16...11:00 Pastor Ethan preaches/Children's Christmas Program

19...7:00 Session meets

23...11:00 Don Canady preaches

24...7:00 Candle light Christmas Eve Service

25...JESUS' BIRTHDAY!

30...11:00 Pastor Ethan preaches

Ushers and Greeters:

December 2...Deloris Springer and Darlene Shaw/Communion

9...Joe and Kathy McReynolds

16...Van and Melanie Aschenbrenner

23...Garry and Mary Steele

30...Dan and Jeanette Shaw

IMPORTANT NOTICE! As we contemplate our budgets, how God has blessed us with so much, let's not forget how God has blessed us with The Church of the Plains. It is only through the sharing, the giving back to God, the gifts of time, talents and treasures that The Church of the Plains stays open and active in our lives and the life of this community. The Church of the Plains spread sheet may be in the red for now but the Holy Spirit is at work, and the Call will be answered. Thanks for sharing what God has given and being good stewards as you answer God's call to be the Church!





INTERESTED in STARTING/SPONSORING a JR. HIGH YOUTH GROUP?

Is the Holy Spirit calling you to start/sponsor a Jr. High Youth Group? Pray about it and let the Spirit lead! If you are interested in starting a Jr. High Youth Group, please contact Pastor Ethan.



Please email all reports to the church by January 10th
(churchoftheplains@gmail.com)

Annual report meeting with be January 20th

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.

A blessed Advent and a Merry Christmas be to all! Kellie and I give thanks to God for calling us here to the Heartland Shared Ministries! Thank you for all the gifts you have shared with us to help us in this new call, God has used you to touch our hearts and lives! We look forward to celebrating Jesus birth with all of you and to join with you in the mission God has called us to do. May God bless our time together, may the Spirit lead and may all have a blessed Advent and a very Merry Christmas!

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SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP for DECEMBER and JANUARY

Date	Clay Center UCC	Edgar Presbyterian	Salem Lutheran
12-2-18	9:00 Pastor Ethan	11:00 pulpit fill	11:00 Pastor Ethan
12-9-18	9:00 Pastor Ethan	11:00 Pastor Ethan	11:00 pulpit fill
12-16-18	9:00 pulpit fill	11:00 Pastor Ethan	9:00 Pastor Ethan
12-23-18	9:00 Pastor Ethan	11:00 pulpit fill	11:00 Pastor Ethan
12-30-18	9:00 pulpit fill	11:00 pulpit fill	11:00 pulpit fill
*(Pastor Ethan on vacation 12-30-18)			
1-6-19	9:00 pulpit fill	9:00 Pastor Ethan	11:00 Pastor Ethan
1-13-19	9:00 Pastor Ethan	11:00 pulpit fill	11:00 Pastor Ethan
1-20-19	9:00 Pastor Ethan	11:00 Pastor Ethan	11:00 pulpit fill
1-27-19	9:00 pulpit fill	11:00 Pastor Ethan	9:00 Pastor Ethan

PRAYER CONCERNS

Clay Center UCC – Jane Skolaut, Louis Reasland (Sharon’s brother), Sherrie McBride, Ruth Watts, Sandy Denten, Shaun Johnson.

Salem Lutheran – Vergene Gunn, Cyndi Schoof, Murlene Schleufer, Shirley Peters, Ruth Watts, Deb Troutt, Irvin Schleufer, Tom Blackburn, Raile and Sierra, Krew Anderson, Sandra Dickison, Kylee Essink, Burton Thomsen, Vaden Kramer, and Terry Bargaen.

Church of the Plains – Kendall Schendt, Jean Swanson, Dixie Tripe, Bryan Taylor, Lindsey Escritt, Owen Looper, Nelva Mays, Martha Wacker, Robin, Cyndi Schoof, Vergene Gunn and the Candy Jensen family.

