

# United Church of Christ

## FRIEDEN TIMES NEWSLETTER

January 2018

Happy New Year!!!

It has been good to worship together, especially through Advent and Christmas time. It is good to see the generosity of the people and to see families return and worship together. It's interesting that the church calendar begins with Advent, but our own calendar waits another month before beginning our new year.

It's almost like waiting to see what God is going to do before we can look ahead to what is renewed in our own lives. Considering our calendar is based on a creation by Pope Gregory the XIII in 1582AD; which in reality was only a minor correction from the Julian calendar created by Julius Caesar in 45BC.

The difference between the two calendars is a 0.002% difference. And what that means, is because of the earth's rotation and orbit in our solar system is not perfect, there is a necessary correction to the calendar that must take place. Both Julius Caesar and Pope Gregory XIII knew of this problem. Julius Caesar's correction of the Roman Calendar meant that the calendar would gain one solar day every 128 years. With the correction of the Pope and the creation of Leap Year (next one is 2020), that rate of gain was slowed to every 3,030 years.

I myself am lucky if I can get the kids out of the house at the same time to catch the bus to school each day; I have no idea how these men were able to look up at the stars and figure these things out. But I'm glad they did.

What's more magnificent is the birth of our Lord and the correction upon the course of our lives that is opened to us by this seemingly insignificant birth. And what that means is the

correction of what may seem like innocent mistakes upon our lives; a little selfishness here or there, judgment of one another; anger at other drivers on the road.

The reality is that our course through our lives is generally not a matter of major sins like murder or major crimes or slavery. Those are sins for sure. But it was the monk, Evagrius of Pontus, who poured over the scriptures in the fourth century and first penned the seven deadly sins of human life. They are: gluttony, envy, lust, wrath, greed, sloth and pride. With just the shortest of meditations on each of these, every adult would understand the depth of their impact upon each of us. None of us is immune to these sins or the damage they can do to our lives. And this is why we confess.

As our new year begins on the heels of the old story of the new life of Christ, I would ask us to also realize that the second act of human creation was done because it was not good that we should be alone. In Christ all things are made new (2 Corinthians 5:17), but we are all also part of one body (1 Corinthians 12:15-27) and apart from Christ we can do nothing (John 15:1-5). Like it or not, we need each other. We need the body of believers and the body needs each of us as well. Yes, we all need a course correction here or there, but within the body of Christ that correction makes all the difference.

May God richly bless you as this new year begins. And may we all find more within the body of Christ, our connectedness to each other and to our Lord, than we could possibly find on our own. We are all fearfully and wonderfully made; may the love with which we are created fill our lives abundantly so that it spills beyond our walls and throughout our community, in Jesus's name.

Sincerely,  
Pastor Duane



- You are planning a move, locally or out of town.
- A new baby arrives in your family or in the family of another church member or friend.
- A member of your family leaves home for college or establishes a new residence.
- A church member or friend dies and you think the church could be of assistance.

Thank you to ALL who took time to put up and decorate the Avenue of Trees. And to everyone who decorated the church. What a blessing! Trees and the church decorations will be taken down January 7<sup>th</sup> after the worship service. There will also be a potluck afterward with soup and a few other hot dishes. Please come help and enjoy a meal in Fellowship Hall!

**USHERS for January**

- Jan 7 – Robert Kastner & Ryan Bumann
- Jan 14 – Jerrod Johannsen & Delbert Schmidt
- Jan 21 – Dennis Bumann & Jarrett Bumann
- Jan 28 – Gary Peters & Darrell Brodersen

**GREETERS for January**

- Jan 7 – Zola Friedrichsen & Roy Johnson
- Jan 14 – Jim & April Stender
- Jan 21 – John & Sarah Fineran
- Jan 28 – Paul Outhouse & Shannon Cose

**CANDLE LIGHTERS for January**

- Jan 7 – Kezia & Tommy Mullen
- Jan 14 – Colton Johannsen & Brayton Johannsen
- Jan 21 – Jarret Bumann & Trevor Nemitz
- Jan 28 – Gracie Outhouse & Cierra Kastner

**PLEASE NOTIFY THE CHURCH WHEN**

- Your group or committee plans a meeting or event, so the date and time can be placed on the church calendar and the doors left unlocked.
- A member of your family is admitted to the hospital, so that visits can be made and the Pastor notified.
- Your phone number or email address changes, so that church records can be updated.

**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION will be Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup> following the service of worship at 10:00 a.m. ALL ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE JAN. 5<sup>th</sup>.**

**ABSENTEE BALLOTS**

Please contact the office if you would an absentee ballot. Absentee ballots must be returned to the office no later than January 26<sup>th</sup> in order to be counted for the Annual Meeting.



# JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



## HYMNS ON THE CHIMES

**January 1<sup>st</sup> 9:15 AM** *“Auld Lang Syne”* From the UCC Church

**January 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:15 AM.** *“What A Friend We Have in Jesus”* in memory of Margaretha Carstensen

**January 7<sup>th</sup> 6:15 PM** *“Here I Am, Lord”* in memory of Don & Jo Meyer’s Anniversary from the family.

**January 21<sup>st</sup> 7:00 PM** *“Just a Closer Walk with Thee”* in memory of Ray & Esther Henningsen from David & Cathy Henningsen and family

**January 26<sup>th</sup> 1:00 PM** *“Nearer My God to Thee”* in memory of Leonard & Edna Kastner from the Kastner family

**January 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:15 AM** *“Old Rugged Cross”* in memory of Johann Carstensen

- 
- 1 Austin McMinemee
  - 3 Gary Peters
  - 4 Patti Miller
  - 4 Tommy Mullen
  - 5 Christine Adkins
  - 5 Sheila Ferry
  - 6 Ashley Potts
  - 10 Renae Rusch
  - 10 Glenn Barker
  - 12 Taylor Neubauer
  - 15 Joyce Petersen
  - 16 Chelsea Whitenack
  - 16 Susan Boland
  - 17 Josie Krohnke
  - 18 Evelyn Grau
  - 20 Jett Paulsen
  - 20 Shaun Baker
  - 22 Clinton Kragel
  - 22 April Stender
  - 27 Leon Gosch
  - 27 Gloria Ipsen
  - 28 Luella Braase
  - 29 Lois Jacobs
  - 30 Amber Grau
  - 30 James Streck
  - 31 Larry Wiebers
  - 31 Dean Isaacs
  - 31 Robert Jepsen

### REMINDER:

Please submit your committee annual reports to the office by January 5<sup>th</sup> so that we can prepare the Annual Report. Thank you!!



Evening Guild gave a monetary donation to the Schleswig elementary for Christmas gifting. This is much appreciated by the school!!



## Council Meeting Minutes

December 14, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7 PM. All council members present, along with Duane, Rhonda and Lisa.

Duane opened the meeting with devotion.

First item of business was a letter of resignation from Brian as Council President and as a Council member, effective immediately. Brian left the meeting at 7:30 pm

Vice President Andy then conducted the remainder of the meeting.

Last month's minutes were approved as written.

The financial report was reviewed. Cheri moved and Kevin seconded to approve the financial report as submitted. Motion carried.

The list of outstanding bills were reviewed. Discussion was held on the delay of payment to the Iowa Pension Board until next month. Derek moved and Cheri seconded to delay payment of the Pension Board statement until next month and to pay the remaining bills as presented. Motion carried.

Agenda Item 8 C Proposed by-law changes was then taken out of order.

- i. Jerry moved and Gaylen seconded to remove voting by the Pastor as provided in Article II, Section 2 of the current by-laws. Motion carried.
- ii. Kevin moved and Derek seconded to remove the auditing committee as provided in Article VI Section C of the current by-laws as Gross &

Company provides a review of all accounts as part of their services. Motion carried.

iii. Cheri moved and Derek seconded amending the language in Article III Section 6 to change the word "audit" to "agreed upon accounting procedures" as recommended by Gross & Company. Motion carried.

iv. Gaylen moved and Cheri seconded to amend the cap amount for investments in one institution from 20% to the FDIC insured amount as provided in Article IX Section 3 (C). Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the possible combination of various committees. No action was taken.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**CE** - Patti reported that the Christmas program went well and so did the dinner. The next Sunday School rotation will be starting January 7<sup>th</sup>. The committee also approved the requirement for two signatures on all CE checks. Talsha Johannsen will be added as a signatory for the CE account.

**CSFD** - Derek discussed a couple of scholarship issues that have arisen.

**CSFI** - Due to her resignation effective on December 31, 2017, Vanessa will be delivering all CSFI files to the office. Gaylen has agreed to serve the remainder of Vanessa's term. The committee also approved the requirement for two signatures on all CSFI checks. Lisa will be added as a signatory on the CSFI account.

**Property** - Johnson Propane did work on one of the church furnaces.

**Membership** - nothing to report

**Missions & Outreach** - 51 boxes were filled for Operation Christmas Child

**Spiritual Life** - Kevin thanked the committee for the Christmas decorations

**Stewardship** - Cheri reported on the expenses for the brunch

**General Investment** - nothing to report

**Pastor Report** - submitted, discussed, and approved.

### OLD BUSINESS:

None

### NEW BUSINESS:

A. Proposed budget: Discussion was held on the proposed budget. No action taken on adoption of the budget. Council members will meet on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> to take action on budget.

B. Signing approval for CSFD - see report for CSFD above

C. Proposed by-law changes taken out of order.

D. It was decided again to do absentee ballots for the annual meeting.

E. No action was taken on the possible combination of various committees.

F. No action was taken on the possible change in the number of council members.

G. No action was taken on the possible combination of the CSFD and CSFI committees.

**OTHER:**

Motion was made by Kevin and seconded by Derek to appoint Sandy Lacey to serve the remainder of the term on the council due to the resignation of Jerry Streck and to appoint Judy Strandberg to serve the remainder of the term on the council due to the resignation of Brian Sieren.

The council had previously approved the donation made to the Segebart family by text message and incorporates said approval herein.

Christmas Eve Service will be held at 5:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

--Patti Miller, Secretary

**November, 2017 Income & Expense**

**Income**

Weekly offering	\$ 5,014.00
Loose offering	\$ 417.50
Seasonal offering	\$ 440.00
Misc.offering	\$ 0.00
Checking account interest	\$ .53
Claussen CD Income	\$ 0.00

**Total income**                    **\$ 5,872.03**

**Expenses**

Association dues	\$ 0.00
Insurance & Taxes	\$ 192.73
Janitor supplies	\$ 50.89
Misc expense	\$ 0.00
Music expense	\$ 967.00
Office supplies & expense	\$ 599.75
Pastor expenses	\$ 3,346.60
Repairs & Maint	\$ 205.11
Supplies	\$ 0.00
Support staff salaries	\$ 2,519.25
Utilities	\$ 1,461.78

**Total expenses**                    **\$ 9,343.11**

**Net Ordinary Income**           **\$ (3,471.08)**



December was a busy month in Christian Education!

A big thank you to teachers Shannon Cose, Cheri Streck, Janet Lafrentz and Talsha Johannsen for teaching the "A Baby is Born" rotation. Preparation for the Christmas program, "The First Christmas Present Ever" followed the rotation. Again, thank are expressed to all those who helped in any way with the program. Ever hear the saying "It takes a village to raise a child?" We had a village helping with the program! Not only the CE committee, but high school youth, council members helped set the stage, and we had many people volunteer to help anywhere needed! Special thanks to Josh Boelter for stepping up to take his brother Jake's place in the program when a last minute flu bug bit. Thank you to the Hipnars for lending us the platforms for the program. We had over 25 youth participate in telling the Christmas story on December 10<sup>th</sup>.

The soup luncheon that followed the Christmas program was a success due to the many volunteers that made and served soup and donated sandwiches. Thank you to Candice Bral for making the cupcakes. Again, thank you to those who prepared, served and helped clean up after the soup luncheon.

Special thanks to Linda Reimer for being the organizer behind the soup luncheon. A check for over \$250 has been donated to the Open Cupboard in Mapleton.

Sunday School will resume on January 7<sup>th</sup> with a new start time. We will begin promptly at 9:00 am. Please be there ready to begin at 9:00 am to allow enough time to cover our lessons. We look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year! Invite a friend to come along and as always, we welcome volunteers to help teach the classes.

--Christian Education Committee



## Special Council Meeting Minutes

December 17, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 11:05 am  
Members present were Cheri, Patti, Kevin,  
Gaylen, Andy, Sandy and Judy and Duane.  
Absent: Derek

Duane opened the meeting with prayer.

Discussion was held on the proposed budget.  
Motion made to approve the budget as  
presented by Cheri and seconded by Kevin.  
Motion carried.

The date for the next council meeting has  
been moved to January 18<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting adjourned.

--Patti

## MISSIONS & OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Thank you to everyone that donated to Operation Christmas Child. We were able to show God's love by filling 51 shoeboxes. Also, a special thanks to Wendy Bumann for delivering them and Broadway Dental for the toothbrushes & toothpaste, your years of help are greatly appreciated!!

Santa Claus Day was a great success. It was a beautiful day and lots of people stopped by and ate. To the seniors that helped, the wonderful people that donated pies, desserts and the hamburger we want to say "Thank you so very much." Our success is because of our awesome church family.

Love,  
April Stender