

Northwest Hills Church 9334 Fort Street, Omaha NE 68134 Phone: 402 572-8392 Fax: 402 572-8394 www.northwesthills.com

Alex Wolf, Pastor Jim Skrobo, Associate Pastor Suzy Parsons, Director of Christian Education Cheryl Morehouse, Office Administrator

Vol. 47 No 12 November 19, 2019 Barb Renicker, Choir Director Ruth Negus, Organist and Accompanist Sarah Baird, Nursery Attendant Nate & Rita Merriam, Custodians

December 2019

December 1	9:30 a.m. Worship, Communion, Sunday School - 19A: Practice for Christmas Program! Youth Stay with Family in Sanctuary 10:30 Fellowship Time—C 10:30 Budget Meeting—Rm. 119 10:45 Bible Study—L "Book of Revelation"
December 8: Newsletter Deadline	9:30 a.m. Worship: Children's Program "The Night the Animals Sang" 10:30 Fellowship Time - C 10:30 Budget Meeting—Rm. 119 10:45 Bible Study—L "Book of Revelation"
December 15 Cantata	9:30 a.m. Worship: Cantata "Have You Heard?" Sunday School - 19A 10:30 Fellowship: Sarah Circle Bake Sale—C 10:30 Congregational Meeting—S 4:30-8:00 PM Youth carpool to Christmas Dinner & Ice Cream in Old Market
December 22	9:30 a.m. Worship Sunday School - 19A "Jesus' Birthday Party!" EPIC Youth: Help With Jesus' Birthday Party! 10:30 Fellowship: Sarah Circle-C
December 24th Christmas Eve	5:00 PM Family Service 11:00 PM Candlelight Service
December 29	9:30 a.m. Worship: Christmas Sunday Fun Day! Sunday School - 19A EPIC Youth "Submerge" —19D 10:30 Fellowship-C: hot chocolate, cider & cookies

Deadline for articles/information for the monthly newsletter is usually the second Sunday for the next month's newsletter. Thank you in advance for your contributions!



Thank you from the Church and Ministry Committee:

"We want to thank all of you who helped with the Hanging of the Greens on November 24th. With

all of your help we were able to complete a task that otherwise would not have been accomplished.

You are all very much appreciated and we sincerely thank each and every one of you. We are wishing you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!"

MEETING UPDATES

CHURCH COUNCIL will not meet in December. The next Church Council meeting will be a dinner meeting in the Fellowship Hall with new members on Thursday, January 9, 2020 at 6:00 PM..

MEN'S MINISTRY 1st Saturday Breakfast will be at 9:00 AM December 7th at the N. 90th Street Village Inn.

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION: meeting will be held Thursday, December 5th at noon in the Fellowship Hall. This will be our Christmas Party and will be a catered luncheon. There will be no meeting in January or February.

CIRCLES

Hannah Circle will have their annual Christmas luncheon at Tussey's Casual Grill, 9229 Mormon Bridge Plaza, Tuesday, December 10th at 11:30. Ladies will order from a special menu; each will pay for their own meal. If you need to carpool from church, let Lois know at 402-572-6792.

There will be no Hannah Circle meetings in January or February. The first meeting in 2020 will be March 17th at 1:15 in the Fellowship Hall.

We had a very good Food Pantry collection in October: 136 cans of vegetables, 35 stuffing, 27 mashed potatoes, 26 pasta/rice sides, 67 soup, 6 cans of onions, 13 misc. health items for a total of 310 items! Great job Hannah Circle! Friends and anyone interested in joining Hannah circle are welcome. Any questions, contact Lois, 402-572-6792.

Ruth Circle had their Christmas Party November 30th, and will not meet until Monday, March 16th at 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Questions? Call Ginger Morelock, 402-312-5126.

Sarah Circle will meet offsite for a Christmas luncheon in December. Regular meetings will normally be held the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM in Room 119 starting January 14th or as announced. Please call Terri Burright at (402) 659-6913 if you have questions.



SINGLES & FRIENDS!

The Pathfinder Chorus will perform one concert Sunday, December 15th at 4:00 PM at the Salvation Army Kroc Center, 2825 "Y" Street, Omaha. Tickets will be on sale soon, proceeds to benefit the Salvation Army Kroc Center. This concert has been held in the past at St. Andrew's Church and is a Singles & Friends tradition. Let's support them again this year. Ticket information will be updated when available.

CANASTA CLUB will meet on Thursday, December 19tht at 10 AM in Room 128. Please bring a sack lunch and be ready to play at 10:00 AM. Team #3 (Pat and Kathy) will serve dessert. If you have any questions, please call Judy Intlekofer at 402-292-1060.



DID YOU KNOW Northwest Hills has a **DVD Lending Library**? (in Room 119). We are looking to build up our selection of DVDs and would appreciate your donations. Questions? Please call Nan Schwers, 402-571-0546. Thank you!

DID YOU KNOW

You can watch the Sunday Sermon on YouTube? If you ever have to miss a Sunday due to illness or being out of town, you can still watch/listen the message!

Also, Northwest Hills Church has its own Facebook Page as an electronic outreach to the community! Spread the word and "like" our Page!





"Before I tell you what happened, Mom, remember...The Lord will never give you more than you can handle."

SIX LITTLE STORIES WITH LOTS OF MEANINGS

- 1. Once all villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer, all the people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella. That is faith.
- 2. When you throw babies in the air, they laugh because they know you will catch them. That is trust.
- 3. Every night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning, but still we set the alarms to wake up. That is hope.
- 4. We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future. That is confidence.
- 5. We see the world suffering, but still, we get married and have children. That is love.
- On an old man's shirt was written a sentence: "I am not 80 years old; I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience. That is attitude.

Have a happy day and live your life like these six stories. Remember: good friends are the rare jewels of life, difficult to find and impossible to replace!!

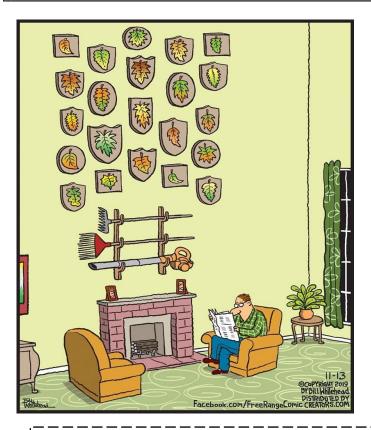


and boxes of Cookies.

When your Jeep is just as upset as you are about the weather







BUDGET HEARINGS

Informational meetings on the 2020 Church Budget will be held on **Sunday, December 1st and 8th**, following worship in room 119.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held after the worship service and Christmas Choral Cantata on **Sunday, December 15th.** We will vote on committee nominations, the 2020 budget, and the renting of our facility by the Omaha Chin Christian Church.



Prayer chain requests can be called to Lois Gapen at (402) 572-6792 or the church office at (402) 572-8392.

Thank you for your kind

responses regarding updating our prayer list. Please continue to let us know of any changes so that we can update our list and assure that the prayers going out weekly are the most current and urgent needs expressed. Thank you in advance. The ongoing list is below:

Continued Prayer Requests: Dirk Huston (Janet Delehoy's nephew), Karen Vrtiska (friend of Janet Delehoy), Nancy Norton (friend of Carol Scott), Bob Gardner (Janet Delehoy's daughter's, friend), Andrew and Michael Guilliams (Bev Ambrosius' nephews), Sandy Christopherson, Pearl Christopherson, Ivan Vrtiska, Al Cummings (Janet Delehoy's brother), Sharon Marchese (Kathleen Hammond's sister), SuEllyn Negus, Carol Scott, Lynn Hammond, Ed Lippincott, Drew Botsakos, Jim Taylor, Kathleen Hammond, Marla Wilson (Sue Miller's sister-in-law's sister), Mary LaHood, Dianne Hasch (Dianna Cupps' friend), Barb Karstens, Connie Klaumann, Carol Beaty, Bonnie Tuttle, Jackie Andis

<u>On-Going Cancer Treatment</u>: Mike Lambert, Mary Larson, Patricia Gename (Mary Hinman's daughter), Sharon Kirby (Janet Delehoy's sister-inlaw), Dick McCoy, Gail Schroeder, Pam Dutton, Dave Merriam, Anita Sohm, Sue Day, Robert Baker, Sharon Cook (cousin of Carol Scott), Evelyn Walton, Sharon McNutt (Ruth Negus' friend's sister), Betty Benskin, Ingrid Kerfoot (friend of Sherry Mitchell), Janette Metzler (Carol Beaty's sister), Judy Intlekofer, Bill Owens, Naomi Hawkins, Naunie Labaugh



FAMILY FARE RECEIPTS

We're continuing on with this collection: because of your faithfulness in turning in receipts, Family Fare has sent a check for \$1,000 to Project Hope! \$1,000! THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU! This is a ongoing Share Omaha Project. Keep those receipts coming!

HY VEE RECEIPTS are also now being collected to benefit the Preschool. We save HyVee receipts dated September 1 through December 31, 2019 and will turn them in, and HyVee cuts a check for a percentage of the sales to benefit the preschool!

Wednesday 10 AM, Library Bible Study: we will continue to meet December 4th, 11th, and 18th and continue our study of the Old Testament prophets. Come join us! *The Wednesday morning Bible studies will then be on hiatus during January and February. We will resume our Wednesday morning Bible studies in March.*

Sunday Bible Study will meet on Sunday, December 1st and December 8th. At 10:45 AM, Library, on the Book of Revelation. All are welcome! We will then resume the Sunday morning Bible Studies on Sunday, January 12, 2020.



A huge **THANK YOU** to the Northwest Hills family for your generous contributions to the Holy Cross Lutheran Church Food Pantry during the month of November! They did exceed their goal and met the Thrivent Financial challenge and received the promised \$500 cash! On November 21st, Rohn Collins, Pantry Director, stated: "Because of your generosity, we are providing turkeys and Thanksgiving sides to 80 families! I was and still am in total shock over the amount that was collected (as of November 21st, NWH collected 822 items!). I was more amazed at the friendly response I received each time I went to pick up the baskets on Sunday. Such a generous bunch and all were excited about providing for others. I have all of you in my prayers and hope you know that we would not have been able to provide for this many families without your help."

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We're once again entering into one of my favorite times of the year. Our senses are being overrun by all the decorations, twinkling lights, Christmas specials on television, overflowing stores and malls, cookies and candies...and I absolutely love it!

Probably one of the most common problems during the Christmas rush is no time for rest. We're always on the go from one event to the next, and our Christmas to-do list never seems to end. And then there's Jesus. I admit, sometimes I wrap myself in all the Christmas hoopla that I neglect to prepare myself for the real reason for the season. But how can we prepare ourselves to experience Jesus in the midst of all his holiday chaos? One way the church prepares for Jesus is when we gather around the Advent wreath and candles.

The season of Advent is the time of preparation for Christmas. The name of this season is taken from the Latin word *adventus*, which means "coming." The observation of Advent can be traced to the 300's A.D. and it gradually developed into a season that stretches across the month of December. During Advent we celebrate Christ's birth while awaiting his return in all his glory. In anticipation, we light candles to prepare for the coming of the Light of the world. The Advent wreath originated in Germany in 1839. A Lutheran minister working with a children's mission took 20 red candles and 4 white candles and placed them inside a wheel of a cart. The red candles were lit on weekdays and the white candles were lit on Sundays. Eventually, the wreath became 4 purple or blue candles wrapped in evergreens with a white candle in the middle. Every Sunday of Advent one more candle is lit until all four candles shine bright to announce the birthday of the Jesus. The middle white candle is then lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day to symbolize the arrival of the Lord.

The symbols of the Advent wreath have deep meaning. Most important is the symbolism of light. The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the coming light of Christ into the world. The round wreath symbolizes the eternity of God, who has no beginning or end. In the ancient world, purple dye was expensive and often the color of royalty. The blue/purple candles symbolize how Jesus is our true King. The pink colored candle comes from a medieval tradition in which the third Sunday of Advent was to be a joyful break in the middle of a quiet, reflective season. The evergreens that make up the wreath last throughout winter and symbolize God's gift of everlasting life.

This is just one way to prepare for the coming of Jesus. No matter how we choose to celebrate the season of Advent and Christmas, may we remember the majesty and love of Jesus, who entered our chaotic world to bring hope, peace, joy, life and light and will one day do so again. May each of you and your family have a wonderful and merry Christmas.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Alex





Christmas Sunday Fun Day!

After the hustle and bustle of the Advent and Christmas season, we'll all more than likely need some down time. On Sunday, December 29th, you are invited to come to church in your Christmas pajamas (please be appropriate) for a simple service and we'll all enjoy a cup of hot chocolate or cider afterwards with cookies. It'll be a nice, calm Sunday for the whole family!

POINSETTIAS

We are taking orders for Poinsettias to decorate the church for Christmas. Order forms are available on the round tables in the Commons. If you would like to order a Poinsettia in memory OR in honor of someone, please fill out an order form and attach it to your check for \$10.00 made payable to Northwest Hills Church. Please make a note on the memo line "for Poinsettias," and submit it to the church office by December 8.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Sunday, December 8th "The Night the Animals Sang" Come support the children as they present this wonderful program during the morning service.



CHORAL CANTATA - DECEMBER 15 "Have You Heard?"

Mark you calendars and plan on bringing and inviting others to join us for glorious singing proclaiming the great news! Come and join with the choir as we prepare for Christ's birth.

WOMEN'S WEEKEND OUTING AT MAHONEY January 30-February 2, 2020

All women of the church are welcome for a fun and relaxing weekend at Mahoney State Park January 30 through February 2. Call Terri Burright at (402) 659-6913 or Jan Jacobsen (402) 660-4718 to make your reservation or if you have any questions.

MEMORY TREES

The church's Memory Trees are the decorated trees in the Commons area. The decorations for these trees are ornaments given in memory of a loved one. New ornaments may be placed in the basket in the Commons area. Please be sure to complete **in detail** the information sheet about the ornament so it can be permanently recorded in a "Memory Tree" book. After the Advent and Christmas Season these ornaments are carefully stored and will be brought out each year to be hung on these special trees. Should you have any questions, please contact Sherry Mitchell at (402) 498-3597.

HATS, GLOVES, MITTENS AND SCARVES EAR MUFFS, THICK WARM SOCKS!

Donations will be collected in a special area in the Commons through November 24. Sarah Circle will be donating these items to an area school to help keep the children warm during this cold winter. If you have any questions, please contact Terri Burright at (402) 659-6913.



October 30th: making mini pumpkin pies with family after the Preschool Fall Parade! Yummy!





Two shakes of spice, a splash of milk, stir 25 times in the bowl.....we learn how to follow directions as a family...





Stirring with daddy ...

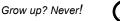




Eating our creation: the best part!



Ta-dah! Here I am, world!









Northwest Hills Preschool

We have such a great group of students this year!! It's so joyful to hear them at work and play!!

Conferences were held late October and all parents attended. "Work at home" sheets were given out to parents to work with their child. The parents seemed to really like it and we will continue that on a monthly basis.

The Preschool had a Fall Parade on October 30th where the preschoolers trick-or-treated upstairs after the Bible study. They then paraded for their parents downstairs and had a family gathering where parents worked with their children to make mini pumpkin pies. Everyone had a great time.

We will be having a Christmas program with the preschoolers on December 18th during preschool. The last day of preschool before Winter break is December 20th. Preschool will resume on January 7th.

Some of the units we worked on last month involved making boats to see if they would float. We sent up a pretend store where the kids could shop for Thanksgiving items. We talked about what we are thankful for.

The first Wednesday of each month the kids come up to the Sanctuary for a brief church service. It includes music and dancing, a short message given by Pastor Alex, and a prayer.





Sunday School (PK-5th Grade)

Sunday School is held for PK-5th grade children. Kids exit with Suzy after the Children's Moment. This month will be a lot of fun, holiday programs and family activities to enjoy!

Sunday School Offering: The Sunday School classes take an offering each Sunday. The kids will decide what annual mission they want their offering to go to.

Sunday Funday!! Bring a friend to church with you!! The 2nd Sunday of each month invite a friend to church/Sunday School/ Youth Submerge, we will have special treats and prizes!

This month is our Children's Christmas Program! Bring your friends so they can enjoy "The Night the Animals Sang"



Thank you to Inga Mehlenbacher, Rick Scofield, Barb May, Laurie Salonen, and Margaret Scofield for their help making the Youth Pancake Breakfast such a great success. The youth used the proceeds to purchase items for their Shannondale Missouri adopted family.

— Suzy

MARK YOUR 2020 CALENDARS: <u>Winter Retreat</u> at Calvin Crest: January 17-19



<u>Spaghetti Dinner</u>! Set up February 8th; Dinner February 9th



PECEMBER

Kids PK-5th Grade Happenings

December 1	Sunday School: Practice for the Christmas Program	9:45 a.m.
December 7	Christmas program practice!	10-11 a.m.
December 8	Christmas Program TODAY!	9:45 a.m.
December 13	Fun Friday! Join us for dinner and holiday activities!	6-8 p.m.
December 15	Sunday School	9:45 a.m.
December 22	Sunday School: Jesus' Birthday Party!	9:45 a.m.
December 29	Sunday School	9:45 a.m.





6th~12th Grade

December 1	No Youth Bible Study—Join your families for communion.	9:45 a.m.
December 8	Come support the younger kids in their Christmas program!	9:45 a.m.
December 15	Choir Cantata: enjoy Christmas through song and music! Christmas Dinner in Old Market: meet at church at 4:30 to carpool to Old Chicago; then ice cream at Ted & Wally's. Back at church by 8:00 PM	9:45 a.m. 4:30-8:00
December 22	Help out with Jesus' Birthday Party during Sunday School	9:45 a.m.
December 29	Join your families for worship.	9:45 a.m.

DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
union - S	7	3	4	5	9	7 9:00 AM Men's
Sunday School - 19A 10:30 Fellowship - C 10:30 Budget Mtg.—119			10 Bible Study-L	12 Women's Association		Breaktast: Village Inn N. 90th
Ible Study-L		7:00 Scouts - FH	6:00 Choir-128	Christmas Party—C		10-11 Children's Practice—S
	6	10	11	12	13	14
9:30 Worship: Children's Program: "The Night the Animals Sang"		11:30 Hannah's Circle, Christmas Luncheon	10 Bible Study-L			
10.30 renowsing - C 10:30 Budget Mtg—119 10:45 Bilds Study—L MEWCK ETTER DEADI INF		@ Tussey's	6:00 Choir-128		6-8 PM Fun Friday (up to 5th	
		7:00 Scouts - FH			Grade) - FH	
	16	17	18	19	20	21
e.su worsnip - cantata "Have You Heard?" 10:30 Fellowship—Sarah Circle			10 Bible Study-L 11:15 Preschool	10:00 Canasta Room 128		
Bake Sale– C 10:30 Annual Congregational Meeting		7:00 Scouts—FH	Christmas Program—S		7:30 PM Auto Club—FH	
4:30-8 Youth Christmas Dinner in Old Market			6:00 Choir-128			
	23	24	25	26	27	28
e.so worsnip - s Sunday School - 19A: Jesus' Birthday Party! EPIC Youth: helb with Jesus'		5 PM Family Service	CHRISTMAS Office closed	Office Closed		
Birthday Partyl 10:30 Fellowship– Sarah CirC 10:45 Bible Study–L		11 PM Candlelight Service				
	30	31	NEW YEAR'S DAY			S: Sanctuary
Christmas Sunday Funday! Wear your PJs!			Office Closed			C: Commons L: Library FH: Fellowship Hall

NORTHWEST HILLS CHURCH 9334 FORT STREET OMAHA NE 68134

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DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3	Pat Mollak	11	Emerson Renicker	21	Pearl Christopherson	26	Mike Mehlenbacher
5	Dawne Sobocinski	15	Isabella Finister	21	Rich Mollak	26	Sunny Massa
5	Irma Green	15	Mark Loehr	21	Layla Meador	28	Andrew Robinson
5	Bonnie Tuttle	16	Jodee Mann	21	Angie Myers	29	Deb Shafer
6	Breeyen Svacina	16	Halle Meador	22	Lorna Robinson	30	Jean Barker
7	James Kohtz	17	Jeff Morton	24	Robert Dolezal	30	Joanne Mears
8	Naomi Hawkins	17	Kyle Hurt	24	Inga Mehlenbacher	30	Elliott Scofield
9	Bernie Hurt	18	Andersen Buckley	24	Doug Roberts	31	Richard Putzstuck
10	Corwin Miller	20	Gary Kuti	26	Carol Westlake	31	Bev Ambrosius

10 Byron Christensen

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 19 John and Shirley Spencer
- 27 Calleen and Michael Callahan