



ALMA LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

January 2020

August 4th, 2019. Can you believe that we started our official partnership in the Gospel just 4 months ago, as I am writing this?! It feels like to me, when in cartoons they are trying to show that a significant time has passed they just roll a clip of all the pages of the monthly calendar. I think this is the norm for any first call pastor as they try to find their bearings and learn the ins and outs of their congregation. It is in these short months that I am ever grateful for your hospitality and your grace. You have made Katherine and me feel at home. Yes, a jump from Papillion wasn't that far geographically, but it was our first real change in life. You have fed and fed us, and even kept us caffeinated! You welcomed us into your church family and made sure that there was a place at the table for the both of us. You have demonstrated God's abundant grace, as I have slipped up here and there...learning what and how you all are used to things happening. I hope that these two things continue in our partnership in the gospel together. I hope that this is something that we each practice in our relationship together and in our relationship with those around us. These are two things that are evident in the life and ministry of Jesus. It is in these two things that one can root themselves in Christ. The fact that our short 4 months together have already brought this about, I have faith that it can even grow stronger...find itself even more rooted in Christ in 2020. All of this aside, Katherine and I could not be happier and more excited that this is where we landed for our first call. Looking forward to jumping into the new year with you all, and seeing what all is going to unfold in front of us! Thank you, and God bless!

Cheer, Pastor Quinlan

Go and Tell The Story

By Brenda Rivas, Nebraska Synod Communications Manager

"The thing to do, it seems to me, is to prepare yourself so you can be a rainbow in somebody else's cloud. Somebody who may not look like you. May not call God the same name you call God... But be a blessing to somebody." —Maya Angelou

As the end of the year approaches, we get ready for Christmas and to welcome a new year. From an early age I thought the fact that Christmas and New Years are so close together always made sense. For me, it is more than just about celebrating the birth of Christ and having the chance to embrace the promise of a new year. It is about more than mere resolutions. It is about the chance of getting a fresh start and finding new ways of seeing Christ in our everyday lives. It is about opening ourselves up to the love and grace Christ shares with us through others. About taking another step towards living in His example to love each other, to give a little bit of grace and forgiveness to ourselves and everyone else, and to share our blessings with those who need them as much or even more than we do.

This end of the year celebration of Christ's birth can signal the end of one chapter in our lives and the beginning of another. It can be how we step away from our mistakes, our anger, our sorrow, and other negative things in our lives. And how we walk towards more positive ones that can bring new blessings; that can lead us into becoming new blessings for others. So, this year let's get ready for new beginnings with a smile on our faces and some hope in our hearts.

ACTIVITIES

Children's Sunday School - 9:30am every Sunday except the 1st Sunday of the month. Ages 3 years old through 8th grade. Meets in the basement of the church. Contact Moriah Nygren for more information.

Adult Sunday School - Meets at 9:30am every Sunday except the first Sunday of the month. Meets in the room behind the altar. Contact Doug Gustafson for more information.

Youth Group - For 7th grade through 12th grade. Contact Megan and Weston Engel for more information.

Faith Circle (MGM) - Meets the third Thursday at 1:30pm @ Bethlehem in Wahoo. Contact Angie Johnson for more information.

Chat & Sew - Meets the 1st Tuesday at 8:30am. Contact Sharon Hollst or Lana Krumpus for more information.

Book Club - Location and date varies. Contact Viki Miller for more information.

Choral and Bell Choirs -

Practices are held on Wednesday evenings. Contact Angie Johnson to join.

Upcoming Dates

December 24, 9:00 pm, Christmas Eve Worship

January 5, 10:15 am, Epiphany Service at Grace

January 12, 2020 - 150th anniversary worship - Bishop Maas joining

Marriage Encounter Nebraska

Lincoln, Nebraska

February 14, 2020 @ 8:00 pm - February 16, 2020 @ 5:00 pm

Enrich your relationship with your spouse at a Marriage Encounter Lincoln Nebraska experience!

The casual, "unplugged" atmosphere of this weekend experience will enhance your time together so that you and your spouse can use these precious 44 hours to get away from jobs, chores, and kids to learn and practice unique, loving, and effective communication techniques that will help you discover a new, more joyful way to live.

INCLUDED IN YOUR EXPERIENCE

Two nights (Friday & Saturday) lodging for you and your spouse at the Holiday Inn Express at Lincoln Airport.

Three (3) meals on Saturday (breakfast, lunch, dinner), and two (2) meals on Sunday (breakfast and lunch) each for you and your spouse.

All program materials used during your experience as well as access to resource materials following your experience.

We want your Marriage Encounter Lincoln Nebraska experience to be as stress-free as possible for the two of you, so we have already negotiated a contract for your lodging and meals. You only need to pack your bags and show up!

COST

\$100/couple non-refundable application fee paid at time of application using a credit/debit card.

\$235/couple (making this all-inclusive retreat only \$117.50/person!) for lodging and food. This payment is required at time of application using your credit/debit card, or can be paid offline by check. Financial assistance may be available for those in need. Please contact us prior to applying

<https://godlovesmarriage.org/event/marriage-encounter-lincoln-nebraska/>



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BUDGET

As of 12/19/19

Income: \$76,958.91

Expenses: \$66,315.72

Balance: \$10,643.19

World Hunger 2019: \$558

INFORMATION

Pastor's Email

Pastor Quinlan Koch

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Secretary's Email

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Facebook - Search for "Alma Lutheran Church" and "Alma Lutheran Educational Ministries"

MISSION STATEMENT

Disciples by grace, Growing in faith, Living our hope, Sharing God's love.