

Elmwood Christian Church

November 2019

"Good News from your Pastor!"

"Come, ye thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home; all is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin; God, our Maker, does provide for our wants to be supplied; come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home. All the blessings of the field, all the stores of gardens yield, all the fruits in full supply, ripened 'neath the summer sky; all the spring with bounteous hand scatter o'er the smiling land, all that liberal autumn pours from its rich o'erflowing stores. These to thee, our God, we owe, source whence all our blessings flow; and for these our souls shall raise grateful vows and solemn praise. Come, then, thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home; come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home." (blue Chalice Hymnal, #718, Come, Ye Thankful People, Come, by Henry Alford).

Harvest home where all is safely gathered in... Last night was our first snowfall of the season and I dare say that our farming families have been working triple time trying to get all their grain out of the fields and into storage before the first snowflakes fell.

I happened to be at the Community Center for Monday night meal in community when I looked out and noticed the beautiful white prisms beginning their slow drift downwards, then a little quicker, and then in earnest. We didn't get much more than a dusting, maybe 1/2". Still, it was enough to quiet the combines and the grain trucks as the evening wore on. I imagine the farmers were concerned for the grain that they were unable to get to prior to the new moisture, but I also imagine they were thankful for the small break from their frenzied work the last couple of weeks.

I know I saw one farmer who is a member of our church post on Facebook that the snow offered him the opportunity to rest and be thankful to see the beautiful landscape. Truly, all praise to God, it is beautiful.

This farmer's thankfulness took me a little by surprise, though, I guess. I wasn't expecting to see him post such simple and genuine thankfulness on FB, and it was refreshing after seeing all of the hate and other yuck that goes through that newsfeed and many others. His thankfulness refreshed my soul and made me feel thankful for him and for his thankful

heart. I imagine God was appreciative for a little gratefulness, as well, because I think we sometimes forget to thank God for our blessings.

As we move towards Thanksgiving later this month, a time when we traditionally sit down with our family and friends and offer heart-felt thanksgiving for the life that God has granted us, life full of ups and downs, may our spirits rejoice as genuinely and as simply as the farmer who noticed the beauty in the landscape instead of feeling the urgency of needing to get his remaining grain in. May we take some intentional time each day and really notice the bounty that God has graced our lives, and the world, with in spite of all of that which would cause us to miss seeing the blessings and worry and stress instead.

Dear Church, I am very thankful for all of you and all of the blessings God has bestowed upon me this November 2019. May God add rich blessings of love and good will to you and yours this Thanksgiving month as well, and may your hearts feel the power and the warmth of the Holy Spirit in your homes and hearths. Stay warm!

See you in church!

Love, Pastor Dianna

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Colossians 3:15 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.

Psalms 46: 1-3 (NRSV)

God is our refuge and strength, a very present^{1a} help in trouble. ² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; ³ though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. Selah (which means, "pause, and calmly think of that)

"...These to thee, our God, we owe, source whence all our blessings flow; and for these our souls shall raise grateful vows and solemn praise. Come, then, thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home; come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home."



November Serving Schedule

Fellowship~~Penny, Judy, & Jayne

December~~Angie & Jan

Communion~~Mary

December~~The Day Family

	11/3	11/10	11/17	11/24
Greeters:	Kris	Mary	Dean & Judy	Deb
Worship Leader:	Anne	Gus	Judy	Carolyn
Elders:	Jayne/ Kris	Scott / Brandon	Judy / Jim W.	Scott / Jayne
Deacons:	Carolyn – Deb	Tom – Dean	Mario – Deb	Tom – Glenn
	Anne – Gus	Kurk – Anne	Glenn – Carolyn	Mario – Dean
Acolytes:	Lily & Marion	Lily & Sophie	Tucker & Marissa	Jeffery & Marion

November Birthdays 9 – Tom Day 14 – Brenda Vogt 20—Pastor Dianna Clark

20—Finley Lenz 23—Mikaela Collins 25—Jeffery Day

Anniversaries 7—Carolyn & John Golden

Elmwood Christian Church 402-994-2355
 311 North Fifth Street Box 281 Elmwood, NE 68349
 Services: Sunday School 9 a.m. Worship 10 a.m.
 Facebook: Elmwood Christian Church DOC
 Website: elmwoodchristianchurch.weebly.com

Bits and Pieces 402-994-5755 Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 9:00 – 4:00
 Wednesday 9:00 – 12:00 Friday 9:00 – 5:00 Closed on Monday

Pastor Dianna Clark 402-297-5217 livingwatersgal@gmail.com

Office Hours Wednesday 9- 12 Thursday 5 - 6:30

Monday and Tuesday are Pastor Dianna's days off.

When you would like prayers for yourself, family, or friends, please call or send a note to Pastor Dianna. We will activate the Prayer Chain and have many hearts joined in prayer.

- 11/6 CWF 7:00 p.m.
- 11/10 Bits & Pieces Open 1:00 – 4:00
Support E-M Scholarship program
- 11/10 Pancakes and More!!
7-1 Elmwood Fire Hall
Proceeds to American Legion Projects
- 11/11 Veterans Day Programs
HS 10:00 Elementary 1:00
- 11/13 Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- 11/27 Community Thanksgiving Service
7:00 p.m.

Thanksgiving
is a day when we pause
to give thanks for
the things we have.



"Veterans Day"
is a day when we pause
to give thanks to the
people who fought for
the things we have.

And now a word from our sponsor:

Life is a coin. You can spend it as you wish, but only once . . . God

Christian Women's Fellowship October 2, 2019

President Carolyn Golden opened the meeting with the CWF prayer. Those present were Carolyn Golden, Judy Douglas, Mary Peterson, Jenifer Irons, Deb Lenz, Jan Backemeyer, Shirley Schulz, Pastor Dianna Clark, Joann Hill, and Kris Shrader. The meeting was at Judy's home in Lincoln.

Judy gave the lesson from Acts 1: 1-11. The book was written by Luke. His purpose in writing Acts was to preserve the stories of Jesus, defend the Christian faith from those who would try to destroy it, train up new believers, and confirm God's plan of salvation is fulfilled from the Old Testament.

There were several prayer requests. The minutes from September were approved as read. The treasurer's report gave a balance of \$1856.87 in checking and \$359.16 in Operation Santa.

Old Business: Carolyn thanked the ladies for providing cookies for Trent Shrader's presentation and for the help cleaning the store room. Deb has a wheeled cart that she is willing to give to the church for extra storage and an easy way to move things to and from the storage room.

New Business: Carolyn reported that Micki Clements had contacted her about serving the bank holiday dinner as a buffet. The group agreed it was something they could do. Brenda sent a note asking if we could send a donation to Ben and Sierra (Ronhovde) Belton to help with their foster children. It was decided to send \$150. Kris mentioned that information for the Operation Santa letters will be collected by the end of the month.

Community Report: Oct 5-Harvest of Harmony parade; Oct 7-blood mobile; Oct 13-thrift store open, Waffleman at the fire hall; Oct 18-20-mission work in Hastings; Oct 27-Trunk or Treat at the church from 2-4; chicken noodle dinner at Murray; Oct 28-VB subdistricts; Oct 31-Halloween and football playoffs.

The meeting was closed with the CWF benediction. Judy served refreshments. The next meeting is Wednesday November 6 at 7 p.m. Deb has the lesson and Kris is the hostess.

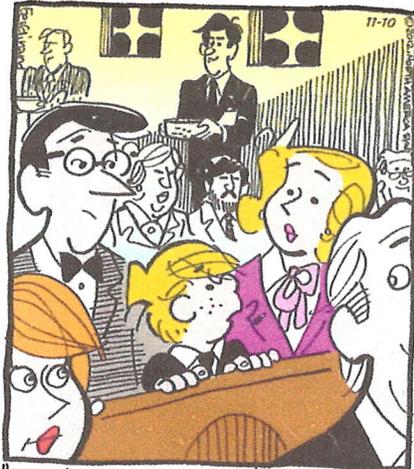
Respectfully submitted ~ *Kristyn Shrader, Secretary*

For the Beauty of the year, for the Friends that we hold dear,
for new Blessings on the way, let's be Thankful for today.

"ALLELUIA" is God's way of saying "HURRAY"

Attendance and Offering

10/6	27	\$	647.30
10/13	33	\$	882.60
10/20	39	\$	554.30
10/27	26	\$	455.75



"WOW! IT TAKES FOUR MEN TO COLLECT ALL THE MONEY!"

Bits and Pieces

October

Sales	\$ 3896.96
Commission	\$ 974.24
Rent	\$ 400.00
Labor	\$ 50.00
Phone	\$ 58.04
Trash (3 months)	\$ 150.00
Clothes to Lincoln	\$ 88.00
Paper Products	\$ 8.00
Clothing Rack	\$ 15.00
Op Santa Donation	\$ 100.00
Balance	\$ 2053.68

Elmwood Christian Church General Fund Report

	September	Y-T-D 2019
Total Income	\$ 2,803.99	\$ 31,093.31
Expenses:		
Mission	\$ -	\$ (1,010.00)
Building & Maintenance	\$ (972.02)	\$ (9,234.21)
Miscellaneous	\$ (352.12)	\$ (1,652.84)
Parsonage	\$ (130.60)	\$ (1,554.25)
Pastor	\$ (3,716.51)	\$ (36,265.63)
Sunday School	\$ -	\$ (365.93)
Total Expense	\$ (5,171.25)	\$ (50,082.86)
Shortage	\$ (2,367.26)	\$ (18,989.55)
Thrift Store Transfers		
Regular	\$ 200.00	\$ 1,800.00
Extra to cover expenses	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 19,000.00
Building Fund Transfers	\$ -	\$ -
Other Transfers	\$ 132.00	\$ 132.00
Total	\$ 3,332.00	\$ 20,932.00
Cash Over/(Short)	\$ 964.74	\$ 1,942.45

Randy Willey, Treasurer

The Master's Hand

'Twas battered and scarred,
and the old auctioneer
Thought it scarcely worth his while
to waste much time on the old violin,
But held it up with a smile:
"What am I bidden, good folks," he cried,
"Who'll start the bidding for me?"
"A dollar, a dollar"; then, "Two!"
"Only two? Two dollars, and who'll make it
three? Three dollars, once;
three dollars, twice; going
for three ..." but no.

From the room far back, a gray-haired man
Came forward and picked up the bow;
Then, wiping the dust from the old violin,
And tightening the loose strings,
He played a melody pure and sweet
As a caroling angel sings.

The music ceased, and the auctioneer,
With a voice that was quiet and low,
Said; "What am I bidden for the old violin?"
And he held it up with the bow.

"A thousand! And who'll make it two?
Two thousand! And who'll make it three?
Three thousand, once, three thousand, twice,
And going, and gone," said he.

The people cheered, but some of them cried,
"We do not quite understand what changed it's worth?"
Swift came the reply: "The touch of the master's hand."

And many a man with life out of tune,
And battered and scarred with sun,
Is auctioned cheap to the thoughtless crowd,
Much like this old violin.

A "mess of pottage," a glass of wine;
A game; and he travels on.
He is "going" once, "going" twice,
He's "going" and almost "gone."

But the Master comes, and the foolish crowd
Never can quite understand
The worth of a soul and the change that's wrought
By the touch of the Master's hand.

