



CHRISTMAS SEASON SERVICES

Sunday, December 22

8:15 AM / 11:00 AM Worship Services

9:45 AM Sunday School

Tuesday, December 24

3:30 PM Christmas Eve Service

5:30 PM Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 29

8:15 AM / 11:00 AM Worship Services

** NO Sunday School

HISPANIC CELEBRATION



Hispanic Ministries will have a Christmas Celebration on Sunday, December 22nd beginning at 2:00 in the Fellowship Hall. If you know anyone who would like to attend, please contact Fidel Torres at 402-705-8184.

CHRISTMAS MISTAKE

Each December, I vowed to make Christmas a calm and peaceful experience. I had cut back on nonessential obligations - extensive card writing, endless baking, decorating, and even overspending. Yet still, I found myself exhausted, unable to appreciate the precious family moments, and of course, the true meaning of Christmas. My son, Nicholas, was in kindergarten that year. It was an exciting season for a six year old. For weeks he'd been memorizing songs for his school's "Winter Pageant." I didn't have the heart to tell him I'd be working the night of the production. Unwilling to miss his shining moment, I spoke with his teacher. She assured me there'd be a dress rehearsal the morning of the presentation. All parents unable to attend that evening were welcome to come then. Fortunately, Nicholas seemed happy with the compromise. So, the morning of the dress rehearsal, I filed in ten minutes early, found a spot on the cafeteria floor and sat down. Around the room, I saw several other parents quietly scampering to their seats. As I waited, the students were led into the room. Each class, accompanied by their teacher, sat cross-legged on the floor. Then, each group, one by one, rose to perform their song. Because the public school system had long stopped referring to the holiday as "Christmas," I didn't expect anything other than fun, commercial entertainment - songs of reindeer, Santa Claus, snowflakes and good cheer.

So, when my son's class rose to sing, "Christmas Love" I was slightly taken aback by its bold title. Nicholas was aglow, as were all of his classmates, adorned in fuzzy mittens, red sweaters, and bright snowcaps upon their heads. Those in the front row - center stage - held up large letters, one by one, to spell out the title of the song. As the class would sing "C is for Christmas," a child would hold up the letter C. Then, "H is for Happy," and on and on, until each child holding up his portion had presented the complete message, "Christmas Love." The performance was going smoothly, until suddenly, we noticed her; a small, quiet, girl in the front row holding the letter "M" upside down - totally unaware her letter "M" appeared as a "W". The audience of 1st through 6th graders snickered at this little one's mistake. But she had no idea they were laughing at her, so she stood tall, proudly holding her "W". Although many teachers tried to shush the children, the laughter continued until the last letter was raised, and we all saw it together. A hush came over the audience and eyes began to widen. In that instant, we understood - the reason we were there, why we celebrated the holiday in the first place, why even in the chaos, there was a purpose for our festivities. For when the last letter was held high, the message read loud and clear:

CHRISTMAS LOVE And, I believe, He still is.

NEW DOOR SECURITY SYSTEM

CEI Security and Sound of Hastings has been contracted to update our building security system with cameras and a new non-key entry system. Details are being finalized for all those who will need to know about the non-key entry. This new system for entry doors will be very beneficial when doors are left unlocked or didn't latch properly. Groups planning to use the building will need to communicate with the office when facility use is needed. As with any new system, there could be a few 'glitches' to be worked out . . . so we appreciate your patience. Our date to finalize it is January 6th.

GREETERS

Would you like to be a part of our Welcome Ministry? Greeters are needed on Sunday mornings for the 11:00 service and also as substitutes for either service. Sign up at the Welcome Center or call the church office: 403-463-1441.



December



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 8:15 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Not Alone 1:00 Hispanic Worship/St. 4:00 Wellspring Event 7:00 Young Adult Group	2 6:30 CR Ladies Step St. 8:00 Mens study	3 6:30 AM Mens study	4 6:15-8:00 Youth Group 6:30-8:00 AWANA	5	6	7 7:00 AM Mens study 7:00 Celebrate Rec.
8 8:15 AM/11:00 AM Worship w/communion 9:45 AM Sunday School 1:00 Hispanic Worship/St. 7:00 Young Adult Group	9 6:30 CR Ladies Step St. 8:00 Mens study	10 6:30 AM Mens study 5:30 Elder Board	11 6:15-8:00 Youth Group 6:30-8:00 AWANA	12	13	14 7:00 AM Mens study 7:00 Celebrate Rec.
15 8:15 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Not Alone 1:00 Hispanic Worship/St. 7:00 Young Adult Group	16 6:30 CR Ladies Step St. 12:00-6:00 RED CROSS Blood Drive 8:00 Mens study	17 6:30 AM Mens study 5:30 Health/Wellness 7:00 Property Cmte	18 6:15-8:00 Youth Group 6:30-8:00 AWANA	19	20	21 7:00 AM Mens study 7:00 Celebrate Rec.
22 8:15 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 1:00 Hispanic Worship/St. 2:00 Hispanic Celebration 7:00 Young Adult Group	23 8:00 Mens study	24 Christmas Eve 3:30 PM & 5:30 PM Christmas Eve Services Office Closed	25 Christmas Day  Office closed	26	27	28 7:00 AM Mens study 7:00 Celebrate Rec.
29 8:15 AM Worship ** NO Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 1:00 Hispanic Worship/St.	30 8:00 Mens study	31 New Year's Eve Office closed				



<u>Date</u>	<u>Sparks / T&T Unit</u>	<u>Cubbies Unit</u>	<u>Theme</u>
December 4	Unit 2.1 / Unit 2.2	Bear Hug 11	Buddy Night
December 11	Unit 2.2 / Unit 2.3	Bear Hug 12	Regular Night
December 18	Unit 2.3 / Unit 2.4	Special Day	Regular Night
December 25	No AWANA	No AWANA	Christmas Break



NURSERY SCHEDULE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>8:15 WORSHIP</u>	<u>9:45 SUNDAY SCHOOL</u>	<u>11:00 WORSHIP</u>
Dec. 1	J Johnson/L Smith	D/M Conant	P Engberg/K Drake
Dec. 8	P Aanas/N Fullerton	R Lemke/M Stoeger	A Nordby/D Sass
Dec. 15	V Sidlo/T Huyser	J/E Kautz	K/E Stoeger
Dec. 22	M/P Krueger	M Ostrander	D/M Thompson
Dec. 29	E Baker	No Sunday School	D Hansen/A Hoagland

CHILDREN'S CHURCH SCHEDULE

<u>8:15 AM</u>	<u>11:00 AM</u>
P/A Birky	K/E Stoeger
M Rathje	K/E Stoeger
A Hughes	A Hoagland
P/A Birky	A/D Thayer
M Carriker/E Huyser	E Knott



LIVING NATIVITY EVENT

Come join the members of Christ Lutheran Church as they present the Living Nativity. Experience the sights, sounds and smells of Bethlehem past. Celebrate the story of Christ's birth.
When: Sunday, December 8, between 3:00-7:00 PM
Where: 13175 W. 70th St., Juniata
{Go west on 12th Street past Juniata; go 4 miles after the curve to 70th St. & Prosser Rd.}

Community Praise & Worship Service!

When: Sunday, December 1, 2019
Where: Hastings City Auditorium
Time: 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Guest Speaker:
Pastor Luther Eatman

Special Music by:
Ministry in Motion

Everyone Welcome!

Sponsored by: Hastings Area Men of Promise

12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

One partridge in a pear tree is Jesus Christ.
 Two turtle doves are the Old and New Testaments.
 Three French hens stand for faith, hope and love.
 Four calling birds are the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke & John.
 Five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament.
 Six geese a-laying stand for the six days of creation.
 Seven swans a-swimming represent the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit – Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.
 Eight maids a-milking are the eight beatitudes.
 Nine ladies dancing are the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit – Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control.
 Ten lords a-leaping are the Ten Commandments.
 Eleven pipers piping stand for the eleven faithful disciples.
 Twelve drummers drumming symbolizes the twelve points of belief in the Apostle's Creed.
{Not the meaning of the original song, but a fun way to look at this song.}

- Scott DeWitt, Senior Pastor
- Matt Sass, Adult Ministries Pastor
- Daniel Meade, Student Ministries Pastor
- Nathan Huyser, Children's Ministries & Worship Director
- Edith Wheeler, Office Manager
- Audrey Mars, Receptionist
- Kristy Stoeger, Children's Ministries Assistant
- Sanny Munnell, Bookkeeper
- Steve Atwater, Janitor
- Makenzie Sommerfeld, Computer Tech
- Don Mars, Building & Grounds Maintenance



**EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH
2015 N ST JOSEPH AVE
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