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Worship Series: Conspire! Nov. 29 - Dec. 28

Remember the classic song "Christmastime is Here" made famous by the children's chorus in the Charlie Brown Christmas movie? It's a great song that harkens to the sweetness of the season. There is a kind of bliss this season offers that makes us forget about the troubles of the world. Advent helps us get lost in so much of what is good in this season, the celebrations, presents, lights and family gatherings. This year feels different, though. Our world seems so out of control. From the Ebola outbreak to the terrorist concerns of ISIS, the events of our world are enough to instill fear in us all. Where is God in all of this – especially during this holy season? Don't we especially long for that feeling of bliss in these days?

One thing that helps us gain perspective is to consider the world in which Jesus was born. God's chosen people, Israel, had been regularly beaten down by a succession of empires. The Assyrians, Babylonians and Persians each had



Current Udoro Church structure to be replaced.

Conspire Gifts: Advent Giving

GOD CONSPIRED TO CHANGE THE WORLD. How? Through a baby! God did not come with a display of power, but rather in a most intimate and vulnerable way. God's method was to seek change in that which was small, beautiful and very personal. God acted person-to-person, giving to others in rich and meaningful ways.

How about we conspire together with God? Our response should be one of working together in response of our world today. Let's be counter-intuitive and go against the grain! Instead of responding in ways that point to hopelessness, like taking, getting and consuming, wouldn't it be magnificent to conspire with Jesus through our giving, sharing and loving? God conspires to change the world by being one of us. In Jesus, God is compassionate and generously present. God calls us to do the same. This Christmas let us make hope-filled decisions. Conspire to change the world through worship, prayer and acts of generosity.

Through our Conspire Gifts giving opportunties, we hope to provide funding to complete the construction of the new Udoro Church as well as support other important ministry partnerships. Join us in celebrating Christmas by giving beyond ourselves. After all, Christ commands us to love our neighbor as much as ourselves. Let's celebrate His gift by giving away as much as we spend on ourselves as we share the new hope we find in the manger. The baby Jesus will be born into our hearts again.

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Church family support and news

FIRST STEPS BAPTISM CLASS

The next First Steps Baptism Class is Sunday, Dec. 21 at 11am in the church office Conference Room. This is for those wanting to be baptized or have their children baptized at Sheridan.

WEDDINGS

Interested in holding your wedding at Sheridan? Visit sheridanlutheran.org/weddings. Contact s.powell@ sheridanlutheran.org for scheduling or other questions.

HOSPITAL VISITS

Members of the visitation team make daily visits to Lincoln area hospitals to offer support, encouragement and prayer. Call the church at 402-423-4769 to schedule a visit. Please do not rely on the hospital to notify the church.

If you have a baptism, birth, wedding, sympathy or other milestone to share, please call the church office at 402-423-4769. We'd be happy to share your news with our church family in the monthly Scroll. Submissions are due by the 15th of the month.

Births

Nora Irene Bahm daughter of Tausha & Andrew; Addison Marie Houston daughter of Joel & Stacey; Bo Rick Jackson son of Abby & Travis; Ember Sage Lindsay daughter of Whitney & Tom; Everett Jaxon Lusero son of Sarah & Cody; Dennison Charles Pitner son of Melissa & CJ.

Baptisms

Cayden Tyler Minzel, son of Tisha & Marcus; **Ryla Nicole Powers** daughter of Nick & Tiffany; **Livia Opal Wilcox** daughter of Andy & Emily.

With Sympathy

Margaret Henninger family on the death of sister Hazel Claar;

Keith (Tish) Hughes family on the death of mother/ grandmother Arnell Hughes; For those grieving or planning funerals Please contact Susie in the church office at 402-423-4769.

Pastoral care

Contact the church office at 402-423-4769 during business hours: 8am-5pm; Monday-Friday. In case of emergencies (death of a loved one or if immediate assistance is needed) after hours call 402-423-4769 and press option 4.

Mike (Janece) Nelson on the death of mother Erma Nelson; Brooke (Brian) Adam and Staci (Derek) Deger families on the death of grandmother Gertie Runyan;

- Sandi (Kevin) Peters family on the death of father/ grandfather Robert Svoboda;
- Lynn (Sherrill) Echternkamp on the death of mother Ann Watson.

New Members

Please welcome these New Members to our Sheridan family who joined in November: Ed & Joni Bennett; Mike & Sue Butte; Janice Fellows; Andrea, Lela & Frances Harter; Zachary, Susan & Mitchell Hill; Brenda McGinn; Rich, Michelle, Jonathon & Krista Oetken; Maureen Samuelson; Gary & Holly Zemke.

Third Grade Bible Recipients

Fifteen third graders recently attended a Faith Stepping Stones workshop on the Bible and received their Bibles in worship on the weekend of October 20 &21: Madison Bach, Soren Bostrom, Karsten Dames, Ryan Hendrickson, Ashlynn Kasik, Alexis Kittelson, Owen Laessig, Maddux League, Kimbal McClure, Peyton McMurray, Addi Palmer, Ava Schmit, Maguire Stanton, Megan Waters and Hadley Weyers.

Thanksgiving Eve Worship Wed., Nov. 26; 7pm

Come for a meaningful night of worship and a pie social. Bring your friends and family to give thanks to God as the season of Thanksgiving unfolds.

Following worship, stick around for the pie social and share in fellowship. All proceeds from the Pie Social will help build a safe, affordable home for a family in El Salvador.



Alternative Christmas Giving: Conspire Gifts



As a faith community, celebrating Jesus' birth is who we are. Jesus commanded the church to be the light in the world so that all people would know his promises (Matthew 28). This year is no different! We will proclaim the promise that God has come into the world. We will celebrate Jesus' birthday! Throughout the four weeks of Advent we prepare our hearts and homes to celebrate God's gift of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We celebrate this season of giving in our faith community and remember the needs of others. Sheridan provides opportunities to give to special mission projects serving the needs of those at home and globally.

Following Thanksgiving, you may place your gift in the special offering envelopes labeled "Conspire Gifts" located in the pews or at the Welcome Center. You may also give online at the website below. These financial gifts are invited to be above and beyond year-end giving to Sheridan. If you give in honor of someone, stop by the OneSent Market for a recognition card to place under the tree.

For more information on this year's Conspire Gifts giving opportunities, visit: sheridanlutheran.org/advent-giving.

done horrific things to Jerusalem and to "God's house." Herod had been appointed the "King of the Jews" and in his old age he heard rumors about a "newborn king." His response was to wreak more havoc on an already beleaguered people.

Philip Yancey described the world Jesus was born into as:



"a sinister place with a somber past and a fearful future." This sounds pretty familiar in these days.

But here's the deal, God conspired to change the world through a baby! His method was to seek change in that which was small, beautiful and very personal. God acted person-to-person, giving to others in rich and meaningful ways. This Advent, we can conspire with God and have the baby Jesus born into our hearts again.

NOVEMBER 29 & 30 "PLANNED" – ISAIAH 9:2-7 DECEMBER 6 & 7 "PARTICIPATION" – LUKE 1:39-49 DECEMBER 14 "COMMUNICATION" – MARK 1:1-8 DECEMBER 20 & 21 "FULFILLMENT" – LUKE 1:2-7 DECEMBER 27 & 28 "TOGETHER" – MATTHEW 2:1-12

October 2014 Financials:

INCOME

General Fund	\$106,040	
Mission	\$13,562*	
Sunday School YTD	\$1,940	
Building Fund YTD	\$318,040	
*includes Noisy Offering-see page 6		

BUDGET General Fund \$125,000

October 2014 attendance:

	WED	WKND	WKLY
October 4/5	264	1,065	1,329
October 11/12	330	893	1,223
October 18/19	309	1,028	1,337
October 25/26	290	1,008	1,337
2014 average		1,008	1,307
2013 average		1,144	1,454

Thanksgiving Office Hours

In observance of Thanksgiving, the church office will be closed Thursday, November 27 and Friday, November 28. Happy Thanksgiving!

Collection Sunday

Bring needed items the first Sunday of the month:

CLINIC WITH A HEART is in need of personal care items such as shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste and body soap.

BARNABAS COMMUNITY is

in need of all sizes of good condition winter coats, hats and gloves/mittens. Cash donations are always welcome and needed to meet immediate needs. Please mark all financial contributions "Clinic with a Heart" or "Barnabas Community."

Mission: Be a community of Christ's faithful followers, who have been called by God to love deeply, grow spiritually and share abundantly!

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think about it.



SLC offers educational programs for children and adults. For a full listing of programs, visit us online at sheridanlutheran.org or call the church office.

An Advent Retreat

Sat., Nov. 29; 8:30 - 10:30am; Chapel Register: p.forsberg@sheridanlutheran.org Prepare your heart and mind for the holy anticipation of Advent. Catch your breath before the stress of the holidays begins. Come for a directed, guided retreat to help you to sink in and discover what you really want and receive the encouragement and tools you need. This retreat is led by the Prayer Ministry Team.

Wednesdays @ the Well

Wednesdays; 5-7:30pm

Info: sheridanlutheran.org/wednesdaysthe-well

Come experience our midweek evening event intended for the whole family to build community and be a part of the family of faith at Sheridan. Find the education opportunities as well as the weekly menu on our Wednesdays @ the Well website or church calendar. Because of the Christmas holiday, Wednesdays @ the Well will not meet Dec. 24 & 31.

Parent Talks

Wed., Dec 3 & 10; 6:30pm; Room 111 Join Pastor Michelle as she shares information on topics especially pertinent to parenting in the 21st century. Parents in all stages of parenting are encouraged to participate in the discussion.



Christmas Memories Worship: A Future With Hope

Sat., Dec. 13; 5:30pm

For many the Christmas season is filled with joy, but for those whom this will be the first Christmas without a loved one, Christmas can feel sad and tough. We are setting aside space and time to remember loved ones we've lost and receive the care of God's eternal embrace. You, your family, and friends are invited to a special Christmas Memories worship with candle lighting, prayer stations, and Holy Communion. This will be the only Saturday evening worship on Dec. 13. We hope this special time of healing and remembrance will help the light of Jesus birth shine upon your life.

Living in Christ's Presence

Wed., Dec. 3 & 10; 6:30pm; Room 646 Info: e.bostrom@sheridanlutheran.org Join Pastor Eric as he continues to facilitate a DVD study series for adults. This study is based on Dallas Willard's last book, "Living In Christ's Presence." Each class stands alone, and new people are always welcome.

Wednesdays @ the Well Christmas Celebration Service

Wed., Dec. 17; 6-7:30pm; Worship Center Info: a.barrett@sheridanlutheran.org Experience a special Christmas Celebration service on the last Wednesdays @ the Well before Christmas! This evening will be an interactive and family-based worship with performance pieces from the children's Christmas Program and Cantata, as well as special music provided by WAM and the youth praise band. Following worship, stay for cookies and fellowship time with a freewill offering to benefit Haiti VBS.



Women of Faith

August 28-29, 2015; Pinnacle Bank Arena Info: sheridanlutheran.org/wof15 Women of Faith will be back in Lincoln at the Pinnacle Bank Arena next summer! Enjoy a fun faith-filled weekend celebrating God's love through inspirational speakers and praise music by nationally-known artists. Sheridan has three group leaders with blocks of discounted seats together so you can enjoy this amazing event with your Sheridan friends. Contact Sheridan's group leaders: Mary Palmer, Deb Payne and Melinda Stanton to order premium seat tickets for the discounted price of \$85. Deadline to order discount tickets is Jan. 15, 2015.

Don't Miss It: Family Christmas Celebration

Sunday, Dec. 7; 2-6pm

Waffleman tickets: \$6/adult, \$5/children; craft wristbands: \$5; Program DVDs: \$5 Info: sheridanlutheran.org/family-christmas-celebration

Each Advent, friends and families of Sheridan gather for an afternoon full of waffles, crafts and Children's Christmas Programs.

Visit sheridanlutheran.org/family-christmas-celebration to volunteer (adults, families, small groups are needed to lead crafts), pre-order craft wristbands and Waffleman tickets, download Shoebox Gift directions and to find a complete schedule for the day.

Pre-order tickets and wristbands by Dec. 3. Tickets are also available the day of the event.

Family and Youth Ski Retreat

March 7-13; Rainbow Trail Camp, Hillside, CO Info Meeting: Wed., Dec. 3; 7:30pm; Room 111 Info: sheridanlutheran.org/spring-breakretreat-ski

Join members of the Sheridan family in Colorado for an opportunity to grow in faith and fellowship with each other. This trip is open to all ages and families, and will include time at Monarch Mountain as well as several activities on site at Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp. Registrations with full payments are due February 1. If you are interested, please plan to attend the informational meeting.

Christmas Sunday School for Twos

Sun., Dec. 7 & 14; 9:45am; Room 113 Register: sheridanlutheran.org/eventregistration

Children ages 2 and 3, but not yet in Sunday School, are invited to explore and experience the Christmas story along with their parents during this special Sunday School class. Join us both Sundays to learn about the Christmas Story through stories, crafts and music. To ensure enough supplies, sign up at the Welcome Center or online at sheridanlutheran. org/event-registration by Wed., Dec. 3. Contact Beth at b.jessen@ sheridanlutheran.org with questions.

Holiday Education Schedule

Info: j.hestermann@sheridanlutheran.org There will be no Sunday education classes on Dec. 21 or 28. Also, there is no Wednesdays @ the Well meal, worship or education on Dec. 24 & 31. Sunday classes resume Jan. 4. and Wednesdays @ the Well classes resume Jan. 7.

Christmas Eve Nursery Volunteers Needed

Wed., Dec. 24; 2:30, 4:00 or 5:30pm Sign up: sheridanlutheran.ivolunteer.com Please consider volunteering your time to serve in the nursery for one of the Family Celebration Christmas Eve worship services. We would ask that you arrive 25 minutes prior to the service, and be available to stay 15 minutes following the service. Contact Beth at b.jessen@ sheridanlutheran.org with questions.

High School Youth Group

Wednesdays; 6:30pm; Great Room North Sundays; 6:30pm; Great Room Info: c.mcdaniel@sheridanlutheran.org All high school students are invited to youth group both during the Wednesdays @ the Well education hour and on Sunday nights. Join Cameron for Bible Study, discussion and fellowship each week.

Middle School & High School Handbell Ringers

Rehearsals: Tuesdays; 6:45pm; Music Room Info: gkterps@gmail.com

All middle school and high school students are invited to ring bells with the Adult Bell Choir for worship on Dec. 20 & 21. Rehearsals are Tuesday evenings, Dec. 2, 9 & 16. Previous bell ringing experience, or the ability to read music, is helpful but not mandatory. Please email Gretchen with any conflicts or questions.

Middle School Youth Christmas Party

Sun., Dec. 7; 5:45pm Cost: \$10 gift limit; wrapped Info: c.mcdaniel@sheridanlutheran.org Come celebrate the Christmas season with the middle school youth group immediately following the Family Christmas Celebration at 5:45 pm. Pizza will be provided. Please bring one wrapped weird, wild or wacky gift for the gift exchange.

High School Youth Christmas Party

Sun., Dec 21; 6:30pm Cost: \$10 gift limit; wrapped Info: c.mcdaniel@sheridanlutheran.org Join the high school youth group on December 21 from 6:30-7:45 for an evening full of Christmas festivities and a one-of-a-kind gift exchange. Please bring one wrapped weird, wild or wacky gift for the gift exchange.

High School Youth Lock-In

Mon., Dec. 29 - Tues., Dec. 30; Cost: \$40 (until Dec. 17); \$50 Info: c.mcdaniel@sheridanlutheran.org Come spend the night with the high school youth group! A portion of the night will be spent "locked-out" at a surprise location before returning to church for the remainder of the event. Take advantage of the early bird price, sign up online today at sheridanlutheran.org/high-school.

VBS and Noisy Offering Buys Water Well



Through the children of our Sheridan community, 2014 VBS offering and the noisy offering of the summer and fall has funded one clean water well in a developing country through Lutheran World Relief. We are thankful for the generosity of our Sheridan children and their families so an entire community will have access to water!

Our noisy offering continues each week to help to fund needs at Nuru School. Sheridan members and friends generously funded the building of the Nuru School by giving \$40,000 during the Advent Conspiracy in 2010. Even though the school building is built, there is still much development work that could be done.

A Sheridan member and retired teacher, Judy Sorensen, was able to visit the Nuru School in July. During her visit she witnessed two classrooms that did not have desks and chairs for the children to sit and write their lessons. Imagine going to school and completing writing assignments with no desks to work. Despite the lack of desks and chairs, Nuru School has placed at the top in their region of the exam scores this last year.

All contributions to the noisy offering during worship will go towards the goal of \$2,500 for these desks. The needed desks and chairs are made in a nearby town.

Grandparent's Closet at Barnabas Community

Sat., Dec. 6; noon - 3:30pm Contact: Linda Emmons at 402-202-1164 or lemmons2009@hotmail.com

The Barnabas Community will hold its sixth annual Grandparent's Closet shopping event for low-income grandparents. Gifts are needed for children up to age 16 (toys, games, balls), especially gifts for boys. Gifts can be brought to Sheridan through Dec. 3. Volunteers are needed from noon to 3:30pm to assist grandparents with their selections. Donations of cookies are also needed.

Bibles for Tanzanian Confirmation Students

Info: r.bostrom@sheridanlutheran.org We are collecting donations to help purchase Bibles for Confirmation students in Tanzania. Our goal is to provide a Bible for each of the 171 students in our two sister congregations. Please consider giving a \$10 gift to purchase a Bible. Gifts can be placed in the offering plate during worship and/or turned in to Confirmation leaders during class. Give a great gift this Christmas by placing the word of God in a child's hands. The Bibles will be hand delivered to the Confirmation students in Mudio and Karansi, Tanzania in February 2015. Memo checks: Tanzanian Bibles

Summer 2015 Global Mission Trips

Below are the mission trips for next summer. If you feel called to participate in one of these trips, contact the trip leader to learn more about each unique opportunity.

Haiti VBS Servant Trip

Trip Dates: June 26 - July 3, 2015 Info: r.bostrom@sheridanlutheran.org Cost: approximately \$1,800 Join with other ELCA congregations to provide a summer camp in southern Haiti. More than 300 children in the town of Jacmel will gather to hear of God's love for them. The camp will provide two meals a day, singing, dancing and fun! If you feel called to participate, please come to an informational meeting Wed., Dec. 10 at 7:30pm. Financial gifts to support the camp costs are appreciated!

El Salvador Habitat Trip

Trip Dates: July 25 - August 2, 2015 Cost: approximately \$1,700 Info: elsalvador@sheridanlutheran.org Make a big difference in the life of a Salvadoran family in the Gethsemane neighborhood of the Ahuachapan department as you help build a house with others from Sheridan, working in partnership with Habitat for Humanity. Our partnership is strong and this opportunity for service not only builds houses, but also builds people for the kingdom of God! Must be 16 years old (with a parent/ guardian) or 18 years old or older to participate.



Reserve your tree or wreath today.

Silent auction bidding begins **Dec. 3** and concludes at the end of the **Family Christmas Celebration**

This event provides Sheridan children and youth with camperships for Lutheran summer camps.



A Sheridan Campership Fund Fundraiser

Pre-lit trees available; decorated trees for auction to be on display by Dec. 3 Info: p.forsberg@sheridanlutheran.org

Getting the urge to decorate for Christmas? Consider decorating either a pre-lit tree or a wreath for a silent auction as part of the Family Christmas Celebration. You can purchase your own pre-lit tree or wreath or pick one up from the church office. Thanks to Sheridan's Thrivent chapter for their financial support and providing the undecorated trees for this event.

Funds from the silent auction support the Sheridan Campership Fund which provides assistance to children attending Christian summer camps during the summer. The highest bidders will be announced at the end of the Family Christmas Celebration on Dec. 7.

Lutheran World Relief Quilt & Kit Delivery

Info: lwr.org

Thank you to everyone who donated items for the kits for Lutheran World Relief. Thank you also to everyone who helped assemble and pack the kits and quilts. Through your generosity; 100 quilts, 73 school kits, 21 baby care kits and 70 personal care kits were sent from Sheridan to be used for people in need across the globe. Thank you for sharing abundantly.

Shoebox Gifts

Bring all shoebox gifts to church by Sun., Dec. 7. Place by the trees in the Great Hall. Info: sheridanlutheran.org/familychristmas-celebration

Sheridan is collecting shoebox gifts for the Barnabas Community to give to all children and teens who come to the store on December 13. Everyone is invited to share in this special tradition by putting together a Shoebox Gift. More information and instructions are available online or at the Welcome Center.



Blood Drive at Sheridan

Sat., Dec. 6; 8:30am-2pm; Family Life Center Contact: Sue Alby, 402-660-1188 Donate blood. Sheridan will host a blood drive for the American Red Cross in honor of our military families who serve and protect, sacrificing in so many ways. Sign up for a donation time at the Welcome Center. Please contact Sue Alby at the American Red Cross about availability for donation. Many volunteers are needed for this event, sign up for a volunteer time at the Welcome Center.

Christmas Cantata

Sun., Dec. 14; each worship service Sheridan's Celebration Choir, joined by scripture readers, narrators and a chamber orchestra will present a Christmas Cantata. The cantata titled "I Hear a Prophet Callin"" is a fantastic work with unique sounds including instruments such as an accordion, hammered dulcimer, and penny whistle to the traditional tune "Joy to the World." Please join us for worship on Dec. 14 as we tell the story of Jesus' birth in a new and joyous way.

Cards & Games

Sun., Dec. 21; 12-3pm; Room 111 Info: c.peterson@sheridanlutheran.org Come enjoy a "Christmas Bites" lunch, followed by cards from 1 -3pm. Friends welcome! Rides are available.

Gone for the Winter?

Contact: k.wittig@sheridanlutheran.org If you plan to be away from Lincoln for several months during the winter, please provide the church with the dates you will be gone, as well as your temporary address. This will enable us to send mail directly to you.

Contact us:

Phone: 402-423-4769 Email: info@sheridanlutheran.org Website: sheridanlutheran.org

Church Leadership:

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL President: Brooke Adam Vice President: Becky Ritterbush Secretary: Jeanne McClure Treasurer: Alan Fosler Member At-Large: Richard Becker

Senior Pastor: Greg Bouvier Associate Pastor: Eric Bostrom Associate Pastor: Rhonda Bostrom Associate Pastor: Michelle Oetken Director of Ministries & Discipleship: Kathy Paisley Director of Business & Finance: Jean Poppert Director of Worship Arts: Molly Schmit Director of Children's Ministries: Julie Hestermann Youth Ministries: Cameron McDaniel Communications: Amy Wagner

For a complete staff and council listing, please visit our website at sheridanlutheran.org.

Connect with us: SHERIDAN SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: fb.com/sheridanlutheran Twitter: @sheridanluthlnk Instagram: @sheridanluthlnk

Publication Submissions

Bulletin submissions are due Tuesdays at 5pm. Please email submissions to Genny Straube at g.straube@ sheridanlutheran.org.

January Scroll deadline is Dec. 1 at 5pm. Please email submissions to Amy Wagner at a.wagner@sheridanlutheran.org.

Come and celebrate the birth of the newborn king!

Join us to celebrate the birth of our Savior. Sheridan has five different worship times for you to start the celebration. Invite your family, friends and neighbors to share in this joyous season.



Christmas Eve Worship

Family Celebration Worship with Communion Candlelight Worship with Communion 2:30, 4:00, 5:30рм 7:30рм & 11:00рм

Poinsettias for Christmas

Info: sheridanlutheran.org/christmas-activities

If you wish to purchase a poinsettia in remembrance of a loved one or in celebration of God's grace in your life, forms are available at the Welcome Center or you may order from our website. Poinsettias are \$12. Deadline to order is Sun., Dec. 21.

Mission Market in the OneSent Market

This December, stop by the OneSent Market for unique shopping experience. In addition to Bibles and other books to enrich your spiritual walk, you can also see beautiful handcrafted items from around the globe that come from our Lutheran partner cooperative, SERRV. Your purchase of these great items will guarantee that the artists will receive a livable wage for their work.