



Northwest Hills Church
 9334 Fort Street, Omaha NE 68134
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 www.northwesthills.com

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

Vol. 48 No 01
 January 2, 2020

Barb Renicker, Choir Director
 Ruth Negus, Organist and Accompanist
 Sarah Baird, Nursery Attendant
 Nate & Rita Merriam, Custodians

January 2020

<p>January 5</p> 	<p>9:30 a.m. Worship, Communion, Sunday School - 19A: Youth Stay with Family in Sanctuary 10:30 Fellowship Time—C 10:30 “Undecorating the Church” 1-4 Chin Church—S</p>
<p>January 12: Newsletter Deadline</p> 	<p>9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 Fellowship Time - C 10:45 Bible Study—L “Book of Revelation” 1-4 Chin Church—S</p>
<p>January 19</p> 	<p>9:30 a.m. Worship Sunday School - 19A 10:00 Youth return from Calvin Crest Retreat 10:30 Fellowship—C 10:45 Bible Study—L “Book of Revelation” 1-4 Chin Church—S</p>
<p>January 26</p> 	<p>9:30 a.m. Worship Sunday School - 19A EPIC Youth 10:30 Fellowship-C 10:45 Bible Study—L “Book of Revelation” 1-4 Chin Church—S</p>



SAVE THE DATE!
2020 Youth Spaghetti Dinner!
Sunday, February 9th,
Seating times are
4:30 PM and 6:30 PM
in the Fellowship Hall.





\$7.00 per adult
 \$5.00 for ages 3-10 years old.
 Children 3 and under free!



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!



"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!" Church & Ministry Committee

 "Thank you EVERYONE for your generous donations of hats, scarves, earmuffs, and mittens taken to a local school to keep children warm this winter as they brace against the cold. Your thoughtful items of warmth will not only warm these children physically, but will warm their souls, knowing that there are kind folks out in the community that care about them. You are all blessings!" — Sarah Circle

 "Thank you for your concerns, calls, cards, prayers and memorials at the passing of our son, Garry Emerson." — Barb & Emerson Renicker

 "Thank you to my church family for all the calls, cards, prayers, and acts of love shown to me while I was in the hospital. I wasn't able to send out Christmas cards this year, but wish you all a blessed belated Merry Christmas!" - Babe McDaniel

 "Thank you to Dennis Burrignt, Rick Scofield, Ardell Reuter, Weylon White and the CE Committee for ALL their help with the Children's Christmas Program. And THANK YOU to Patti Mollak, Sherry Mitchell, Inga Mehlenbacher, and Rick and Margaret Scofield for helping out with Fun Friday Pajama Party. All the kids had a super good time!" —Suzy Parsons

 "Thanks to all of the volunteers who helped with the taking down and putting away of all of the Christmas Decorations, The Memory Tree Ornaments, The Giving Tree, and The Christmas Tree Ornaments. You are an awesome church family. Your help was greatly appreciated! To those who delivered poinsettias to the homebound: you brought great joy to those unable to be out and about this time of year. You are truly a blessing to them!" - Church & Ministry Committee

MEETING UPDATES

CHURCH COUNCIL 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 Jan. 4 at the N. 90th Street Village Inn.

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION: There will be no meeting in January or February.

**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 Burrignt at (402) 659-6913 or Jan Jacobsen (402) 660-4718 to make your reservation or if you have any questions.

CIRCLES

Hannah Circle 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. Almost 100 items were donated in November to the Food Pantry! Great job Hannah Circle! Friends and anyone interested in joining Hannah circle are welcome. Any questions, contact Lois, 402-572-6792.

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

Sarah Circle 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 Burrignt at (402) 659-6913 if you have questions.

CANASTA CLUB will meet on Thurs. January 16th at 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a sack lunch and be ready to play at 10:00 AM. Team #5 (Annie and Fritzie) 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!



A lovely thank you letter from the Pastor at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, one of our community partners:

December 9, 2019

*Northwest Hills Church
9334 Fort Street
Omaha, NE 68134*

Dear Member of Northwest Hills Church,

We can't tell you how much we appreciated our support for The Holy Cross Food Pantry. We were overwhelmed with the response we received from all of you. The total donation count for the month of November was 803 items.

The generous donation of both food items, and money provided by members of your congregation will go a long way to helping us provide food for families in need.

Because of your donations, 105 families were provided with a Thanksgiving dinner.

Thank you once again for your generous contributions. It means the world to us, and to the families it provided for. You have made a real difference in the lives of the people we all serve.

*God's Peace to you,
Pastor Jim
James C. Killough, Pastor*

Singles & Friends!

January Activity:

Soup, Supper and Games!
Saturday, January 18th, 4:00 PM
Fellowship Hall



Save the date and bring in the New Year with a warm soup supper gathering! Let's share mouth-watering appetizers, soups and desserts. Drinks are provided. Then join in with fun, entertaining games like Farkle, Dominos, Five Crowns and more! Ginger Morelock and Lisa Burnham are Hostesses.

Singles and Friends is open to all Church members, friends, single or not! Feel free to call Ginger at 402-312-5126 for any questions.



Come join the festivities!

BAD WEATHER

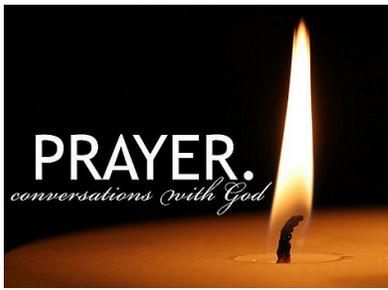
Should very severe weather (dangerous travel and/or frigid temperatures) cause Northwest Hills to cancel a Sunday service, there will be three sources used to communicate a closure to you by 8:00 AM that morning:



- 1) The three major local television channels (WOWT NBC-6, KMTV-CBS-3, and KETV ABC-7) will have a continually updating scroll of closures at the bottom of the screen. Look for Northwest Hills under "church closures"
- 2) Facebook post
- 3) Email

Although we'd love to see you and fellowship with you at church, please always choose caution and personal safety regarding attendance, even if services are NOT cancelled. If there is a concern regarding walking and

driving in the white stuff and frozen patches, we'd rather you be safe and snuggled up at home rather than taking a chance of a fall or accident. We love you and care about you!



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, Mary LaHood, Dianne Hasch (Dianna Cupps' friend), Barb Karstens, Connie Klaumann, Carol Beaty, Jackie Andis

On-Going Cancer Treatment: Mike Lambert, Mary Larson, Patricia Gename (Mary Hinman's daughter), Sharon Kirby (Janet Delehoy's sister-in-law), 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, Janette Metzler (Carol Beaty's sister), Judy Intlekofer, Bill Owens, Nannie Labaugh



Decorating Christmas cookies! Everyone's favorite! Sherry Mitchell and Pat Mollak helping out with the Fun Friday activities on December 13th in the Fellowship Hall.



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 an ongoing Share Omaha Project. Keep those receipts coming!

HY VEE RECEIPTS: a big **THANK YOU** to everyone that saved and submitted HyVee receipts dated September 1 through December 31, 2019. We will let the congregation know the amount Northwest Hills Preschool will benefit as soon as that is calculated!

The Wednesday morning Bible studies are on hiatus during January and February. We will resume our Wednesday morning Bible studies in March. Watch the bulletins and newsletter for our fresh new start date!

Sunday Bible Study All are welcome! We will resume the Sunday morning Bible Studies on Sunday, January 12, 2020.



Making angels out of coffee filters in our pajamas! Who knew Fun Friday could be so much fun?!?



The magical pancake-makers in the kitchen on Fun Friday: Rick and Margaret Scofield!

FROM PASTOR ALEX WOLF

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

Well, another holiday season flew by and another year has come and gone. Although this time, it's a bit different. Along with the change in year, another decade has come and gone. That boggles my mind. Wasn't the year 2000 only like ten years ago? No? Oh!

As I think about the last ten years, a lot has happened in my life. I give my (young) age away when I say I graduated from high school ten years ago. Within that time, my dad and a grandfather have passed away, I graduated college and seminary. I was called to be your pastor. I moved from small town Stanton, Nebraska to Omaha to Chicago and then back to Omaha. I traveled to quite a few states, Japan, and Nepal. When I really look at the past ten years, I see how God has been working in my life, preparing me for and placing me in service to Christ and his church. What do you see when you look back on the last year; the last decade? Where can you see God's fingerprints in your life? Where does it appear God is working now? Where do you think God will lead you in the year and decade to come?

That last question can be scary to answer. Most of the time we don't know how God is working in our lives at the moment. Abraham, Moses, David and the nation of Israel didn't know exactly what God was doing in their lives most of the time. Jesus' disciples didn't quite understand even with the Messiah in their presence. But when we all look back, we can often see the work of God. I've heard it said hindsight has 20-20 vision. Despite the people of God's inability to see what God had in store for them, they trusted in God's plan.

As we enter a new year and a new decade, I hope each of us can look back and praise God for how he has led us and provided for us this far. Let us also keep a lookout for what the Holy Spirit is currently doing among us and where the Spirit is leading us. What is God doing right now in your life, in the life of your family and friends, here at Northwest Hills Church? Where is God taking you, them, and us? May we all pray for 20-20 vision, as we look in the past and look forward.

God be with you and may you have a blessed 2020!

In Christ's love,

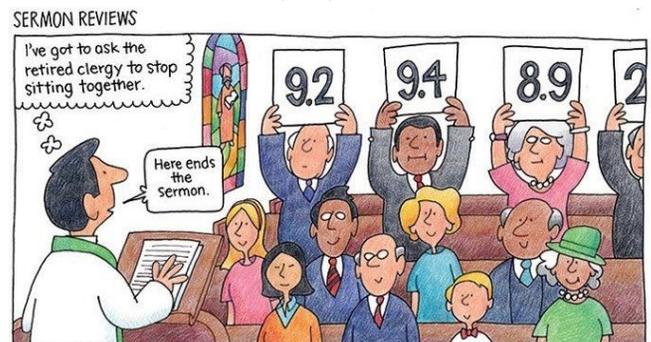
Pastor Alex



“Everyday Church” Winter 2020 Sermon Series

Believe it or not, church is more than a one hour weekly gathering on Sunday mornings. Church truly begins after the closing prayer and we return to our work, school or play. Join us on Sundays this winter as we read through 1 Peter and explore how this community of Jesus we call the church impacts our everyday lives!

- January 5: 1 Peter 1:1-12 “Everyday Gospel”
- January 12: 1 Peter 1:13-2:10 “Everyday Living”
- January 19: 1 Peter 2:11-25 “Everyday Citizens”
- January 26: 1 Peter 3:1-12 “Everyday Families”
- February 2: 1 Peter 3:13-22; 4:12-19 “Everyday Suffering”
- February 9: 1 Peter 4:1-11 “Everyday Behavior”
- February 16: 1 Peter 5:1-5 “Everyday Leadership”
- February 23: 1 Peter 5:6-11 “Everyday Encouragement”



Why We Sing Together **

by Bobby Fischer, Interim Contemporary Worship Coordinator, Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church

Have you ever wondered why we sing in church? Is it necessary to sing every time we gather? It's okay for those who enjoy singing, but what if you don't? Maybe you don't prefer the type of music being sung in churches today. Perhaps you are worried someone next to you will hear your singing voice and think less of you as a person. Here's where we often miss the point about singing in church. It's not about us! The Bible contains more than 400 references to singing throughout its pages. Singing in church isn't exclusive to only "elite" Christians gifted with the pipes to sing all the high notes. Scripture commands us to sing to the Lord, and His glory compels us to do so.

Ephesians 5:18-19 says, "Be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart." This verse addresses the vertical and horizontal nature of singing together in church. It is vertical because singing is an act of service to our Lord, who deserves all praise. It is horizontal because we sing to encourage one another and to lift each other in love. We are not called to perform. We are all on level ground when we sing, entering the presence of Jesus together. There is immense power when the "Bride of Christ," the church, gathers together as one voice. There is also great responsibility in such an act. We need our brothers and sisters in Christ. Through imperfect people, encouragement will come from addressing one another in song, even if the singing itself isn't perfect. Unity and support are why standing and merely listening to worship music in church instead of singing with the church aren't enough. That fosters independence when what the church needs most is interdependence.

If you didn't realize already, singing in church matters! If that wasn't enough, here are a few more reasons to lift your voice:

1. Our God sings. Matthew 26:30 says that before Jesus was given up to death, he sang with his disciples.
2. Singing engages our memory. The songs we sing can shape, form, and remain with us. They act as an anchor and reminder in joyful times and dark times.
3. Singing engages our emotions. While we never worship emotions, they can be a powerful tool to help us engage further in worship. Music is an outlet for emotions and can compel us to give of ourselves to the Lord.
4. Singing is an extension of seeing. When we see God at work in our lives and the lives of others, we have a desire to praise Him for what He has done. Singing is a means of entering the presence of the Lord with joy and thanksgiving.
5. Singing is a weapon in battle. We cannot face giants with our strength alone. All we can do is call upon the name of Jesus and watch Him fight our battles. His name is the only answer. His presence is the only offense we need.

Scripture tells us that all of creation is singing. The mere existence of the wind, water, and mountains is a testament to the greatness of God. We, as people, made in the image of God, have a special privilege and calling. We can praise God with our lives but also with our literal song. Such a gift is one to be joyfully used. So lead with a fire in your bones, be bold in your worship. Be a part of the power that is the church united in song!

** As a worshipper, I really enjoyed this article that was in my home church's newsletter, and wanted to share with my extended church family here at Northwest Hills...enjoy! Cheryl Morehouse



One of our preschool families...



Happy Holiday smiles all around...



They all sang so beautifully!
Moo, moo, moo and
Bah, bah, bah!



**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.

Northwest Hills Preschool

The kids worked hard the month of December...they made cards, ornaments, and cookies in their Christmas Workshop. The Preschool Christmas Program was held on December 18. They sang songs for their parents and grandparents with refreshments being served after the program.

Preschool will be on break until January 7th. We will gear up for some more learning and winter fun!!

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



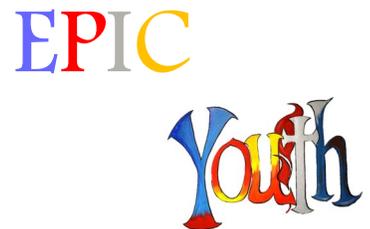
*PJ PARTY on the last day of preschool for the semester!
Friday, December 20, 2019*



*Enjoying a time of fellowship with family after the Preschool
Christmas Program on December 18th.*



*Pastor Alex and Suzy serving up those cookies after the
Preschool program...*



**EPIC YOUTH
WINTER RETREAT
CALVIN CREST!**

January 17th—19th

Meet at church at 5:30 for a quick pizza dinner before we head to Calvin Crest. We will return to the church Sunday around 10:00 AM. Please let Suzy know if you plan to attend.

JANUARY

Kids PK-5th Grade Happenings

January 5	Sunday School: Traveling with the Wisemen back to Bethlehem.	9:45 a.m.
January 12	Sunday School: Stories of Faith—Adam & Eve	9:45 a.m.
January 19	Sunday School: Stories of Faith—The Big Flood	9:45 a.m.
January 26	Sunday School: Stories of Faith—Daniel and the Lions	9:45 a.m.



EPIC Youth

6th~12th Grade

January 5	No Youth Bible Study—Join your families for communion.	9:45 a.m.
January 12	EPIC Youth 19D	9:45 a.m.
January 17-19	Winter Retreat at Calvin Crest. Meet at church at 5:30 for a quick pizza dinner before we head to Calvin Crest. We will return to the church Sunday around 10:00 AM. Please let Suzy know if you plan to attend.	5:30 PM 10:00 AM
January 19	Returning from Calvin Crest Retreat.	10:00
January 26	EPIC Youth 19D	9:45 a.m.

SAVE THE DATE(S): February 8th Prepare for the Spaghetti Dinner;

February 9th: Spaghetti Dinner!



JANUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 NEW YEAR'S DAY Office Closed 12-4 Chin Church S & FH	2	3	4 9:00 AM Men's Breakfast: Village Inn N. 90th
5 9:30 Worship/Communion-S 10:30 Fellowship - C 10:30 "Undecorating the Church" 1-4 Chin Church—S	6	7 Preschool starts again 7:00 Scouts - FH	8 6:30 Choir-128	9 6 PM Church Council Dinner & Mig—FH	10 6-7 Chin Church rehearsal—S	11
12 9:30 Worship, SS, EPIC Youth 10:30 Fellowship—C 10:45 Bible Study—L 1-4 Chin Church—S NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	13	14 7:00 Sarah Circle-119 7:00 Scouts—FH	15 6:30 Choir-128	16 10:00 Canasta-FH	17 5:30 Youth Leave for Calvin Crest Winter Retreat 6-7 Chin Church rehearsal—S	18 4:00-8:00 Singles & Friends Soup Supper—FH
19 9:30 Worship, SS, 10:00 Youth return from Calvin Crest 10:30 Fellowship—C 10:45 Bible Study—L 1-4 Chin Church—S 1-4 Scofields—L	20	21 7:00 Scouts—FH	22 6:30 Choir—128	23	24 6:00 Chin Church rehearsal—S	25
26 9:30 Worship, SS, EPIC Youth 10:30 Fellowship—C 10:45 Bible Study—L 1-4 Chin Church—S	27	28 7:00 Scouts—FH	29 6:30 Choir—128	30 Women's Retreat to Mahoney (through Feb. 2nd)	31 6:00 Chin Church rehearsal—S	S: Sanctuary C: Commons L: Library FH: Fellowship Hall

**NORTHWEST HILLS CHURCH
9334 FORT STREET
OMAHA NE 68134**

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JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



1 Elaine Jones	9 Jim Vincent	16 Annette Carlin	25 Terry Markuson
3 Mary Bilger	10 Barb May	19 Dennis Ressett	26 Jaime Robinson
4 Lawrence Buckley	10 Kaya Conrad	20 Peter Massa	27 Trent Beal
5 Lisa Hall	11 Babe McDaniel	20 Joyce Oleson	27 Riley Svacina
6 Jaime Barker	11 Lois Gapen	21 Karsen Browne	28 James Vincent
6 Jennifer Weatherly	13 Roger Schwers	21 Jean Murch	29 Lois Blankenship
8 Adam Johnson	13 Sharon James	21 Alice Larson	29 Keith Browne
9 Dennis Burrigh	13 Angela Lane-Jacobs	21 Marilyn Walton	31 Catherine McIntosh

NO JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES