

The Window

On a journey with the living Christ; connecting with God, others, and the world.

December 2019

TIS THE SEASON FOR JOY AND LONGING BY ANDY HAMER, PASTOR



Many of you will recognize this image captured during the fire at the Notre Dame Cathedral earlier this year. As the ancient church burned, people noticed the cross shining above the altar. As often happens in the midst of destruction and loss, a deeper light shines out. There is a certain beauty to God's power working in the

brokenness. This image speaks to the lasting power of Christ now and into the future. In John's Revelation, Jesus is referred to as, "The one who was, and is, and is to come." Jesus existed before time began. He entered into our space-time over 2000 years ago, and his Spirit remains to this day. He was and is. Yet, the story doesn't end there. Advent is a time to lean into the 'already, but not yet.' It's a time to consider the gifts that come to us because of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. Simultaneously, we consider what we are missing as we wait for Jesus' return. We challenge ourselves to feel an odd mixture of realized hope and unquenchable longing.

Here and now Jesus works in us – guiding, healing, forgiving, and loving us. He is here working, but his work is not finished. Jesus' return will usher in a new era of wholeness, joy, and love. C.S. Lewis imagines Jesus returning with the words, "The dream is ended – this is the morning." In the blink of an eye the struggle will be over. We will put away our nightmares, our

hatred, and our goodbyes. Forgiveness won't be necessary. Love will be true and easy. Jesus is, and he is to come.

We find this joy and longing in the Church as well. Even as the embers drifted down into Notre Dame's sanctuary, we heard the light of Christ speaking about a different reality. Each of us in the Church is imperfect – all of us lost in our little world of darkness. The light of Christ still shines amongst us. We hear Christ telling us a different story about our God-given worth, and the love we were made to live for each other. When we gather in Christ, we find healing, accountability, love, and encouragement to bring Christ's gifts out into our city. Christ is.

Christ's light shines in and through each church, but someday that light will shine with a whole new quality. When Jesus returns and, "the dream is ended", we will be a community without a shred of darkness. All of us will bring our gifts – each adding a note to the great song. We'll find the perfect balance between good decision making and caring for one another. We'll live and work for the Kingdom without ever losing sight of our King. We'll meet one another's needs, and our first instinct in every situation will be faithful love. Christ is to come.

This season we celebrate the reality of Emmanuel (God with us) – a light that does not dim. Yet, we save some time for longing – time to stare into the darkness and feel the edge of our brokenness. We long for the King's return.

CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

Did you ever wonder where some of the traditions we engage in every Christmas season originated? After some research the following information was gathered:

CHRISTMAS TREES: The evergreen fir tree has traditionally been used to celebrate winter festivals (pagan and Christian) for thousands of years. Christians use it as a sign of everlasting life with God. Fir trees were first used as Christmas trees about 1000 years ago in northern Europe. Other early Christmas trees were cherry or hawthorn plants that were put into pots and brought inside so they would (hopefully) flower at Christmastime. The first Christmas trees were decorated with edible things, such as gingerbread and gold covered apples. Then glass makers made special small ornaments similar to some of the decorations used today. At first a figure of the baby Jesus was put on the top of the tree, but over time it changed to an angel or a star. Christmas trees came to England sometime in the 1830's. They became very popular in 1841 when Prince Albert had a Christmas tree set up in Windsor castle. A drawing of the "queen's Christmas tree" was published and helped Christmas trees become popular in the United States.



CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS: In Victorian times the Christmas tree would have been decorated with candles to represent stars. In many parts of Europe today candles are still used. In 1880 Thomas Edison put some of his new electric light bulbs around the office and in 1882 his colleague Edward Johnson hand-strung 80 red, white and blue bulbs together and put them on his Christmas tree. In 1900 Edison offered bulbs you could rent, along with his lighting system, for use over Christmas. Electric tree lights first became widely known in the USA in 1895 when President Grover Cleveland had the tree in the White House decorated with lights as his young daughters liked them! Due to a number of fires from Christmas trees decorated with candles, Albert Sadacca thought of using the lights in long strings and also



suggested painting the bulbs bright colors like red and green. He and his brothers formed the NOMA Electric Company, which became famous for Christmas lights.

CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS: The Christmas stocking originated in the life of a very wealthy man, Nicholas, who later became a saint. He loved helping the poor, and one day (so the story goes) he wanted to give something to three very poor children in his village. Knowing their father would not approve, he waited until dark, and then threw three bags of gold into their window, and one of the bags landed inside one of the children's socks. The next morning when the father and the children woke up and found the three bags they were overjoyed! This led to the custom of children hanging their own stockings out the night before Christmas in the hopes that Nicholas would give them gifts. Eventually special Christmas stockings were created for this purpose.



CHRISTMAS CANDY CANES: The first recorded "candy stick" comes from 1837 at an exhibition in Massachusetts. They started as straight white sugar sticks and a few years later the red stripes were added. In 1866 they became known as "candy canes" and by 1874 became connected with Christmas.



CHRISTMAS CARDS: The tradition of sending Christmas cards was started in England in 1843 by Sir Henry Cole. He was a government worker who had helped organize the new Post Office Department. Sir Henry wondered how the post office could be used more by ordinary people, so with the help of his friend John Horsley who was an artist, they designed the first Christmas card. The first cards had three panels with the two outer panels showing people caring



CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

for the poor and the center panel showing a family having a large Christmas dinner! Soon cards became popular all across Europe, and usually had pictures of the nativity scene. Christmas cards appeared in the United States in the late 1840s, but were so expensive many people could not afford them. In 1915 John Hall and two of his brothers, created the Hallmark Card Co. and made the price low enough that most people could buy them.

SANTA CLAUS: Nicholas was a bishop who lived in the fourth century in Asia Minor (currently Turkey). He was a very rich man and was also a very kind man who helped the poor by giving secret gifts to people who needed them. Because of his kindness he was made a saint, St. Nicholas, and usually wore red robes. During the Emperor Diocletian persecution St.



Nicholas was put into prison and eventually died. In the sixteenth century, after the reformation, the stories and traditions about St. Nicholas became unpopular in northern Europe. However, someone had to deliver presents to the children at Christmas, so in England he became “Father Christmas” or “Old Man Christmas.” In the early USA this deliverer of presents was called Kris Kringle from the Christkind, and later the Dutch settlers in America took the old stories of St. Nicholas with them and Kris Kringle and St. Nicholas became “Sinterklaas” or as we say “Santa Claus.” In 1881 Harper’s Weekly published artist Thomas Nast’s famous image of Santa, complete with a big red belly, an arm full of toys and smoking a pipe. This Santa was first used in Coca-Cola’s advertisements in the 1920s, but his pipe was replaced with a glass of Coke! Coke has continued to use Santa in their advertisements since the 1930s.

CHRISTMAS WREATH:

Wreaths started with ancient pagans who believed spirits lived in trees and they sheltered the branches of evergreen trees throughout the winter. Early Romans gave gifts of green branches at New Year, bestowing the wish for health and vigor upon friends and family. Eventually, the



branches were shaped into circles, or wreaths, symbols of joy and victory in classical times. The evergreen wreath later became a Christian symbol for Christ’s suffering and ultimate triumph over death. The holly wreath, with its sharp, pointed leaves, first represented the crown of thorns worn by Christ on the cross, the little red berries symbolizing drops of blood. Later, wreaths were formed from a variety of pines and firs, with evergreens embodying eternal life. Largely liberated now from its painful associations, the wreath has additionally become decorative, communicating a sense of joy and a desire for peace.

Whatever your family traditions have become over the years, may you continue to celebrate Christ’s miraculous birth, keeping it central in your heart and mind in our very commercially-orientated society. Have a blessed Christmas.

SPIRITUAL CORRESPONDENCE

by Jana Prescott

Deuteronomy 30:19b-20a: *Now choose life...that you may love the Lord the your God, listen to His voice, and hold fast to Him. For the Lord is your life...*



What a truth: the Lord is in each one of our lives! Helping us each to learn, grow and mature as one of His own. It is true in my life as I try to live it each day, and I’m willing to bet in all of your lives. That’s a very hard truth to really accept. I really don’t feel like I’m giving Him all of my life. There are times when I just can’t seem to realize how close to me He truly is. What helps me know that the Lord truly is in my soul are those times when I realize that Jesus is right by my side, helping me to reach out to others instead of just basically ‘hiding.’ I hope all of you can believe in your heart that Jesus is right with you, guiding you through each day. All of us just need to take to heart that He truly is “in our lives”!

SCIENCE & THE BIBLE

Star of Bethlehem: Clearing up Misconceptions

Contrary to what is commonly believed, the Magi did not arrive at the manger on the night of Christ's birth; rather, they found the young Jesus and His mother living in a house (Matthew 2:11). This could have been nearly



two years after Christ's birth, since Herod—afraid that his own position as king was threatened—tried to have Jesus eliminated by killing all male children under the age of two (Matthew 2:16).

It seems that the star was not visible at the time the Magi reached Jerusalem but then reappeared when they began their (much shorter) journey from Jerusalem to the Bethlehem region, approximately six miles (ten km) away. This view is supported by the fact that first, the Magi had to ask King Herod where the king of the Jews was born, which means the star wasn't guiding them at that time (Matthew 2:2). And second, they rejoiced exceedingly when they saw the star (again) as they began their journey to Bethlehem (Matthew 2:10).

After the magi had met with Herod, the star went on before them to the Bethlehem region and stood over the location of Jesus. It seems to have led them to the very house that Jesus was in—not just the city. The Magi already knew that Christ was in the Bethlehem region. This they had learned from Herod, who had learned it from the priests and scribes (Matthew 2:4–5, 8). For a normal star, it would be impossible to determine which house is directly beneath it. The star over Christ may have been relatively near the surface of earth (an “atmospheric” manifestation of God's power) so that the Magi could discern the precise location of the child.

Whatever the exact mechanism, the fact that the star led the Magi to Christ is evidence that God uniquely designed the star for a very special purpose. God can use extraordinary means for extraordinary purposes. Certainly the birth of our Lord was deserving of honor in the heavens. It is fitting that God used a celestial object to announce the birth of Christ since “the heavens declare the glory of God” (Psalm 19:1).



CHILI & CAROLING!

Most of us are now counting the days until Christmas, but as a way to prepare your heart for this most glorious of days, everyone is invited to participate in “Chili and Caroling” on Sunday, December 15, immediately following the second worship service. Who doesn't like to eat, enjoy the company of church family members, and make a joyful noise to celebrate the birthday of Jesus, and this event combines all of these activities and much more.

If you haven't already done so, please sign up on Sunday morning. This will help us with planning, but any and all last minute participants will be warmly welcomed. As God uses you to share the Good News of Christmas, you will be truly blessed!

Pick up a copy of the
2019 Advent Devotional
Guide; may it be a
blessing to you this
Advent season

JOY AND PRIVILEGE OF MEMBERSHIP

by John O'Donovan, Elder of Personnel

When I was in sixth and seventh grade I would spend my Saturdays in the Omaha Public Library. You know the one, the classic one built in 1891 at 18th and Harney Street. I would spend my Saturday mornings enthralled with Edgar Rice Burroughs' books.

You are probably thinking I was a Tarzan fan; not even close. I was deep into his Mars series, all eleven books of it. This series was and still is captivating, full of adventure, a true pioneering work of science fiction. Here is an excellent description of the series:

"With his opening trilogy, considered one of the landmarks of science fiction, Burroughs created a vast and sweeping epic. Captain John Carter of the Confederate Army is whisked to Mars (Barsoom) and discovers a dying world of dry ocean beds where giant four-armed barbarians rule, of crumbling cities home to an advanced but decaying civilization, a world of strange beasts and savage combat, a world where love, honor and loyalty become the stuff of adventure."

The stories took me to places I never imagined, just like the book I have been reading the last three years. One I recommend you get, read and keep on your library shelf.

Before you get too excited I want to warn you that there are no dry ocean beds, no barbarians, no crumbling cities or strange beasts in this book. It's not even science fiction. But there is plenty to be excited about in it.

I am talking about Part II of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church - the Book of Order. Part I is the Book of Confessions, which can be dealt with in a later article, by someone else.

Here is what you need to know. It is a well organized book with four sections. Which are:

1. The Foundation of Presbyterian Polity
2. Form of Government
3. Directory of Worship
4. Rules of Discipline.

There is a lot of good information in here, too much to cover in a simple newsletter article. So I will whet your appetite with a few factoids and bits of trivia:

- Do you know what the great Ends of the Church Are? (page 5) We do them here at West Hills.
- Do you know the four Categories of Membership? (page 22)
- Any idea on how frequently the Session must meet? (page 49). I think the current Session members would like to adhere to this.

Enough trivia. Initially, I thought reading the Book of Order would benefit me as a member of Session, but what I have really learned is that it will help me understand my role as a member of the church and help me as I seek ways to participate in my responsibilities as a member.

As members of a community of believers we all have "the joy and privilege" of membership in the church of Jesus Christ. As faithful members we have the responsibility of being involved in the ministry of the church including: "participating in the governing responsibilities of the church." (page 21).

While we cannot all be members of Session, the governing body of our church, we need to know what they are charged with (page 48):

- Providing that the Word of God may be truly preached and heard;
- Providing that the Sacraments may be rightly administered and received and
- Nurturing the covenant community of the disciples of Christ.

Beyond attending annual meetings and other congregational meetings we can all have a complete understanding of how our church should operate so that we, as committed, participating members not only see the results of the work of the Session and staff but so that we have an understanding of how and why things happen the way they do.

It is important to know that we as members of the congregation place ourselves under the leadership of the Session and that the Session is responsible to guide and govern the life of the congregation. When we understand this, we can be more deliberate and vested in who leads our church, what role we each want to play in our church and then place our trust in those who we choose for leadership roles.

There is so much more in the Book of Order than I have touched on here. The simple extracts I have used do not do justice to the depth and breadth of this book. Three years ago I had not read this book. Now that I have I can more fully enjoy "the joy and privilege" of being a member of Christ's church with a full understanding of my responsibilities and how as a part of the greater community I can be an active participant in our church.

One last trivia question: Do you know what is on the frieze of the old library building? I do.

FALL BACK PANCAKE BREAKFAST & OTHER MEN'S EVENTS

Never let your toes or your pancakes get cold. There were only hot, delicious pancakes right off the griddle at the WHC annual men's pancake breakfast. This event has been held for about ten years. The menu started with pancakes and sausage and has now expanded to include fresh fruit, eggs, bacon and ham. Ricardo Lopez made eggs with chorizo and they were a hit!

It takes a talented crew to have a successful event. There is the set-up, prep work, working the food line and the drink line. Other gentlemen cook and plate the pancakes, with two more as bacon, ham and egg chefs. A fantastic clean-up crew bustles and hustles to keep everything on the move. Now there is a great core group of gentlemen, with just enough fellows to get the job done.

The Men's Ministry will have a **Men's Game Day** on **Saturday, February 8**, with John Parsons as the speaker. Men will bring their favorite tailgate food to share after a morning of listening, learning and praising God. Wild game dishes will include bear! It's a great event to invite relatives, friends and neighbors. Sorry ladies, men only. The men will be back in the kitchen for the annual fish fry on **Ash Wednesday**. There is always an invitation for more guys to get involved, have fun and lend a hand in the kitchen. **Please contact Tom Pittack at tpittack@gmail.com to volunteer.**



RECIPE OF THE MONTH

PUMPKIN DESSERT

1 yellow cake mix – save 1 cup
½ cup butter
3 eggs
2 cups pumpkin
¾ cup sugar
¼ teaspoon nutmeg
½ teaspoon salt
1 cup milk
2 teaspoons cinnamon
(See ingredients for topping below)

Reserve 1 cup cake mix. Combine rest of cake mix with ½ cup softened butter. Press into 9 x 13 baking pan.

Combine pumpkin, sugar, salt, nutmeg, eggs and cinnamon. Pour over cake mixture.

Combine ingredients for topping. Sprinkle over pumpkin mixture. Bake at 350 degrees for 50-60 minutes or until knife comes out clean from center.

TOPPING:

1 cup cake mix
½ cup sugar
1 teaspoon cinnamon
¼ cup butter
½ cup chopped pecans

RENEW, REFRESH, REGROUP

by Candy Glasgow, Groups Deacon

In our twenty-plus years at West Hills we have participated in many small group activities. When we were looking for a new church home, one of the things that drew us to West Hills was the emphasis on relationships. We have been members of covenant groups, connection groups, Bible studies and mission groups. Each has added to our lives in innumerable ways, bringing us closer to God and other Christians.

As thinking about group activities has evolved, we have found that some other types of groups have come to be many people's connection to West Hills. Music, children's and youth ministries; Wednesday night study groups; mission trip participants; kitchen volunteers; Advent/Lenten study groups; and VBS staff are a few that come to mind.

If the purpose of groups is to develop relationships, to care and pray for each other, and to provide a link to the church, these and other groups can and do fulfill that purpose.

In the near future your Deacons for Groups (Angie Arner, LeAnn Schaefer and myself) will be looking toward the future of West Hills and what it means to be a "group." We would love to have your ideas if you would be willing to share them with us. With new leadership it is the perfect time to assess where we are and where we're going: to renew, refresh and regroup!

NOVEMBER *Session notes*

- Session discussed the subject of meditation from Richard Foster's book, Celebration of Discipline.
- A motion to end the Stewardship Campaign on December 8, 2019 was approved. Pledges will continue to be accepted.
- Four new members were accepted - Joanne and Terry Topolski and Jenn and Scott Julich.
- Children's welcome center will be finished soon. Watch for dates of the open house.
- Experience Christmas on Dec. 6 from 6-8 p.m. Register online at whcomaha.org.

Congratulations to Bill Tate

Bill Tate served the Fighting Illini (University of Illinois) football program as a player and assistant coach during the 1950s and 1960s. In 1952 Bill was named MVP of that year's Rose Bowl game. In 1963, as a coach, Bill helped the team to another Rose Bowl win. In October of this year Bill was honored as a Merit Award Winner by his alma mater. Congratulations, Bill.

MOVIE REVIEW



Moses and the Ten Commandments

This 100 minute DVD entitled, "Moses and the Ten Commandments" is from A&E's award-winning Biography series.

When God tapped Moses to save his people from 2,000 years of slavery, the "reluctant prophet" overcame his own doubts and fears to lead his people into the promised land.

Although Moses was born of Hebrew slaves he was raised and educated in the court of the Pharaoh.

How Moses managed to become the leader of the Israelites and lead his people out of Egypt and through the Sinai desert is all included in this remarkable DVD.

This program presents the story of Moses through beautiful location footage, paintings, artifacts and interviews with biblical experts.

While the fall session of Wednesday Night @ West Hills wrapped up on Nov. 13, let us acknowledge the crew that made the meals happen each week. Thanks to Nancy Chesire, Kathy Kerkhove, Peg Shirley, Trish Mathia, Ron Wells, and Steve Burgess. We appreciate each of you that shopped, cooked, baked, prepped salad, decorated tables, washed dishes and cleaned up each week. You helped to provide a nutritious and delicious meal at a reasonable price. You offered us the opportunity to fellowship midweek and for all of that we can't thank you enough for your dedication to this ministry! The winter session of Wednesday Night @ West Hills will resume on January 8!

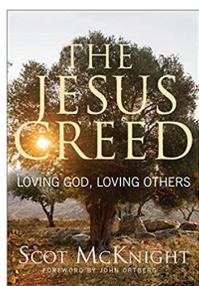
BIBLE TRIVIA QUIZ

(answers on the back page)

How Much Do You Know About Jesus' Birth?

1. Who was King when Jesus was born?
A. Augustus B. Herod C. Josephus D. Cyrenius
2. How many wise men does the Bible say came to visit Jesus? A. two B. three C. four D. it doesn't say
3. Which of the following is not a gift that the wise men brought for Jesus?
A. Gold B. Silver C. Myrrh D. Frankincense
4. Where in the Bible can you find a description of Jesus' birth? A. Mark and John B. All 4 gospels C. Luke and Matthew D. John and Luke
5. What ritual did Jesus undergo when he was eight days old? A. Circumcision B. Birthday party C. Baptism D. Christening
6. What country did the family escape to after they were warned that there was a death threat to Jesus?
A. Arabia B. Syria C. Egypt D. Asia
7. Where did Jesus live as he was growing up?
A. Bethlehem B. Jerusalem C. Jericho D. Nazareth
8. What does the name given to Jesus, Emmanuel, mean? A. God is for us B. God is with us C. God loves us D. God saves us
9. Which Old Testament prophet said, "Behold a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son"? A. Isaiah B. Jeremiah C. Ezekiel D. Daniel
10. What is the name of the angel who appeared to Mary to tell her she would give birth?
A. Michael B. Gabriel C. Raphael D. Uriel
11. When Joseph found out that Mary was pregnant what did he decide to do? A. have her stoned B. divorce her quietly C. take her to another country D. leave her with her parents
12. What relationship did Jesus have with John the Baptist? A. they were cousins B. they were best friends C. they weren't related D. they were uncle and nephew

Book Review



“Spiritual Formation is being discussed by Christians everywhere. Finally, someone asks what it meant to Jesus. The Jesus Creed explains it for everyone.” (Bill Hybels, former senior pastor at Willow Creek Community Church).

“When an expert in the law asked Jesus for the greatest commandment, Jesus responded with the Shema, the ancient Jewish creed that commands Israel to love God with heart, soul, mind, and strength. But the next part of Jesus’ answer would change the course of history. Jesus amended the Shema, giving his followers a new creed for life.” (The Jesus Creed, Paraclete Press).

The Jesus Creed written by Scot McKnight speaks of how Jesus took the age old Shema (Deuteronomy 6:4-9) and added Leviticus 19:18 to reveal that spiritual formation is about the love of God and others.

In this book, we are taken through an exploration of spiritual formation, chapter by chapter.

A spiritually formed person:

1. Loves God by following Jesus and loving others.
2. Embraces the stories of others who love Jesus.
3. Lives out kingdom values
4. Loves Jesus
5. Participates in the life of Jesus.

According to John Ortberg, “The Jesus Creed is both an invitation and a resource to put your spirit into His hands, to dine at the Master’s table. Enough with the preliminaries: time to get on with the main course.”

Our Newest Members

After completing the new member class, Experience the Journey, we welcomed these members to the West Hills Church family on Sunday, November, 24: Scott and Jenn Julich and Terry and Joanne Topolski.



Winter Session of Wednesday Night @ West Hills

Wednesday Night @ West Hills
Will Resume

January 8 - March 18

Dinner Served: 5:30 pm - 6:15 pm

Cost: \$3/adult & children

\$1.50/5 yrs. and younger

The annual Fish Fry is Feb. 26; we will break from the regular dinner and study schedule that week.

One of the new classes beginning January 8 for the winter session of Wednesday Night @ West Hills is a study called “Everything You Need” by Dr. David Jeremiah. In this study Dr. Jeremiah asserts that God equips all believers with everything they need! Drawing from 2 Peter 1:3-11, he explores eight critical tools the Lord provides - diligence, virtue, knowledge, self control, perseverance, godliness, kindness, and love - to help you live boldly and confidently. This class is open to everyone and facilitated by Jan Drake, Maralee Gifford and Gloria Zinn. Stay tuned for more class offerings to be posted in the coming weeks.



Pick up a catalog in Geneva Lounge to see the special giving and serving opportunities available to you and your family this Christmas season!

Servant Sunday; a Westgate Mission

Servant Sunday is an event that is special to our neighbors and congregation members. This year we served thirty-one homes and had sixty-five volunteers. It was a great fall day to be outside enjoying the sunshine and doing God's work. I am going to share some notes written by our homeowners, which will touch your heart as much as it touched mine.

Your angel and mine arrived when my fall yard work was too much for me.

He showed his gift of piety by giving his works of mercy to the needy. Thank you. May God bless his family and his church **Rita Bystrek**

Dear West Hills family,

I need to express my sincerest gratitude for your faithfulness, love and service, to keep me on Servant Sundays and especially this recent service. Your assistance makes it possible for me to stay in my home as I fight health battles. It's a chance to reconnect with old friends and share God's love with each other.

I pray these servants of God each and every one is blessed, 10,000 times apiece for their willingness to assist and stay connected. Many are friends from past Bible study groups. Such a delight to see you again. Team leader Jack Pagel has been helping so long that he knows what to bring and what to do without "my list." They remember Larry and my family and so we also catch up on news from our families.

Larry was part of the Men's Fraternity and had his own Bible study men's group before he passed. The love of Jesus shines in them as they now assist his widow. This is what true love looks like, serving others, helping, assisting and special hugs and prayers.

*May God bless West Hills, and all those participating in any way to serve. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the past and present Servant Sunday volunteers. In His Name, **Connie Fethkenher***

Hello, Each year you come to my house and do so much yard work for me. Thank you. Two of the ladies who helped, Peggy and Rebecca, know my daughter. What a small world. Thanks again and God bless you all.

Barbara Johnson

*Please thank all of the helpers that came Sunday to take care of my yard. The flower garden in the front yard looks great. A special thank you for cleaning the gutters. The front and back yard look great. It was a job well done. Please thank all the people that came. God bless you and all the workers that came to help. **Nieves Reboloso***

***Charlie Wenck**, team leader, said that much work was done and much fun was had. We saw old friends and made new friends and prayed and laughed and worked together. Our crew had a great time. Charlie commented that the homeowners were so kind and thankful, and that made it all worth it. I will definitely do it again.*

***Jack Pagel**, team leader, commented. Jeff/Esther Smith joined me in working at Betty Winters and Connie Fethkenher's houses. There wasn't much to do at Betty's since trees had yet to drop leaves. I told her I would return in a week or so to do her yard and check gutters. There was a lot of work to do at Connie's home and we put in close to two hours. All the requested work was accomplished plus she had a list so we tackled that too - both outside and inside. She (and Betty) was so appreciative and Connie gave us treats to take home. We shared time with both and said prayers of encouragement.*

We will have a spring Servant Sunday, so consider joining us. It is a wonderful time of serving God, by serving others.

Servant Sunday; a Westgate Mission





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 whcomaha.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Advent Series:
*What They Were Looking For;
 We're Looking For*

Dec. 1	The King's Path to Peace	Isaiah 11:1-10
Dec. 8	Overflowing with Life	Isaiah 12:2-6 John 7:37-39
Dec. 15	Tasting Hope	Isaiah 35:1-10 Rev. 22:16-17,20
Dec. 22	The Shepherd	Isaiah 40:9-11 John 10:11-18
Christmas Eve 5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	With Us Informal Family Service Traditional Candlelight Service	Isaiah 7:14 Matthew 1:18-23

Mark your calendar for these upcoming events!

Celebrations
 Join us for a special Christmas event...

Friday, Dec. 13
 11:30 am - 1:30 pm
 Meal & Entertainment
 \$10 per person

Women's quartet will perform all the season's favorites!

Supported Mission: Good News Bears



CHILI AND CAROLING
 SUNDAY, DEC. 15 | 11:30 A.M.

Come and Make a Joyful Noise!



Be a Blessing to our Homebound Family!