Tuesday Night Bible Study

A new Bible study group will be starting on Tuesday evenings at Kevin and Evy Strenge’s home. Please speak with either of them for more information or to let them know if you are interested!

Annual Congregational Meeting

The annual congregational meeting will be held Sunday, January 25th following worship. Annual reports and the 2015 proposed budget will be available at this meeting. Stick around after the meeting for a potluck lunch!

Did you know you can make automatic contributions to the church? Never worry about writing a check or missing the offering plate! Go to www.esthervillepresbyterian.com and click on “make a donation” to give a one-time gift or to set up regular contributions.
Something to **celebrate** at First Presbyterian Church

If you have something to celebrate, let us know so we can share it with our family of faith in next month’s newsletter!

**Birthday Wishes**

Jan 1 - Quinn Shryock
2 - Lois Guastad
2 - Aaron Ruschy
3 - Cyndie Jo Anderson
4 - Russell Stump
4 - Walt Jensen
4 - Kolleen Sorum
6 - Norma Guge
8 - Lavonne Ruschy
9 - Doc Archer
10 - Shirley Brown
10 - Jason Kollasch
10 - Kora Kollasch
11 - Lori Milburn
11 - Jim Willey
14 - Kendyl Ruschy
15 - Dina Poyzer
17 - Diane Swalve
19 - Tyler Strenge
19 - Brent Shatto
20 - Arline Danielson
23 - Mavis Evans
26 - Viola Clabaugh
26 - John Klingbeil
28 - Daniel Donovan
29 - Vera Origer
29 - Marilyn

**Anniversary**

**Congratulations**

Jan 8 - Kevin and Evy Strenge
9 - Merle and Carol Johnson
20 - Russell and Bev Stump

**Way to Go!**

*Thank you and congratulations to all of the recently elected church officers!*

Ruling Elders: Beth Carrico, Lori Donovan, Julie Graves, Emily Origer
Deacons: Mavis Evans, Jan Greig, Cheryl Klingbeil, Paul Moffitt, Evy Strenge

*Thank you to Diane Swalve and Evy Strenge for filling the outdoor pots with beautiful spruce tips!*

Would you be interested in learning how to get rid of debt, manage your money, and live like no one else to give like no one else? The CL/O committee is considering bringing Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University to First Presbyterian Church. If you would be interested in this 9-week course (videos, class discussions, and interactive small group activities), please speak with Pastor Kennen or Evy Strenge.
Committee Happenings

Building & Grounds – Larry met with the insurance adjuster who had come to look at possible roof, soffit, and gutter damages that the facilities may have sustained from the hailstorm back in June. The adjuster will send a response back to us in the coming weeks on what he found, if anything. Aaron will contact an electrician to look into the replacement of some dimmer switches in the sanctuary, in hopes of completion before the Christmas Eve service. The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for Sunday January 11th at 11:45am.

Christian Education – The Committee reviewed a letter from a church member wanting the committee to reconsider its decision of no longer holding the Love So Amazing Sunday School. The committee decided to look at the existing curriculum and to search for any teachers willing to teach. The committee will then decide whether to make a recommendation to session to reinstate the class. The committee made final decisions and plans on the Christmas Program. Practice will be held this Saturday, December 20 from 10:00am-12:00pm with the program being presented during worship this Sunday, December 21. There are approximately 20 children participating in this year’s program. Katie updated the committee on the t-shirts for the PKC children. She is waiting to hear back from Q Custom Designs on prices for different t-shirts, Chad with the front designs, and Liz for the sleeve design. The committee hopes to order the t-shirts in January. The committee decided to order VBS curriculum from the same company that has been used for the past two years. The theme is “Blast to the Past,” and the committee will start the planning process and have a planning session as soon as the materials arrive. The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for Monday, January 12th at 5:45pm. – Katie Hanson, Chairperson

Communications – Session approved to dissolve this committee since the website has been up and running smoothly for about a year. Any questions regarding the website should be directed to Amanda or Chad.

Congregational Life/ Outreach – The Hanging of the Greens on Sunday, November 23rd went very well. The strong organization made everything flow very well. The potluck was an excellent way to begin the event. The committee will consider another Invite A Friend Sunday in preparation for the Easter season. The committee is excited to welcome Jolene Grieving who has decided to join the committee! Olan-Mills will join the committee for its January 2015 meeting to discuss making a new directory. The committee tabled discussion on bringing Dave Ramsey’s Financial Peace University for January. Kennen is invited to gather more information for that meeting should she feel so inspired. The committee discussed sending care packages for the congregation’s college students around exams. Discussion centered on using fundraiser money to cover the cost of the packages and shipping. The committee discussed starting a Bible study. Evy and Kevin will plan with pastors Chad and Kennen to begin a Bible study and fellowship group. The committee decided to host a drive to see the Christmas lights display in Dakota City. The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for Monday, January 19th at 5:45pm. – Evy Strange, Chairperson

Deacons – No report. – Pat Johnson, Moderator

Finance – Statements prepared by Dave Howard LPA Firm were reviewed. As of the end of November income has fallen further behind expenses and the church is now at a deficit over $17,000 for the year. This is not as favorable as was hoped. The deficit to end the year will most likely be near this number, which would be similar to last year. Plans are in place to switch accounting from Dave Howard LPA Firm to in house software after January 1. The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for Tuesday, January 13th at 5:30PM. - Brian Bixby, Chairperson

Generosity Team – The generosity team reviewed the results of the Estimated Giving cards. To-date, 56 cards have been received totaling $84,308.00. The next meeting has been scheduled for February 2, 2015 at 6:30pm. – Lisa Hermanson, Co-Chairperson

Presbyterian Women – At the December 18th PW general meeting, the following were installed by Pastor Kennen: Moderator – Mary Clabaugh, Secretary – Shirley Moffitt, World Service – Jeanne Egeland, Coordinator of Interpreter – Carol Johnson-Miller. There are many thank you’s to mention: Thank you to Elaine Kaltved for putting the slate of officers into nomination, to Pastor Kennen for a wonderful installation service, to Judy Shadle
By the numbers…

Average Worship Attendance
November 2012 – 111
November 2013 – 100
November 2014 – 71

Pastors’ Stats
Text Study Meetings – 3
Nursing Home/Home Visits – 10
Hospital Visits – 3
Home Communion was served on December 7th by Pastors Chad and Kennen and Deacons Janet Anderson and Lavonne Ruschy

Would you appreciate a visit from one of the pastors or your deacon? Schedule a visit by calling the church office or through our website!
www.esthervillepresbyterian.com - 712-362-4772
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## YOUR LEADERS IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

**Ruling Elders** – Brian Bixby, Beth Carrico, Lori Donovan, Julia Graves (Clerk of Session), Katie Hanson, Lisa Hermanson, John Klingbeil, Emily Origer, Bobbi Jo Ruschy, Kevin Sander, Lowell Swalve,

**Deacons** – Pat Johnson (Moderator), Janet Anderson, Mavis Evans, Jan Greig, Elaine Kaltved, Cheryl Klingbeil, Paul Moffitt, Heidi Origer, Lavonne Ruschy, Evy Strenge, Diane Swalve, Georgia Whitehouse.

**Building & Grounds** – Aaron Ruschy (Chair), Jack Bixby, Walt Jensen, Larry Harsin, Kevin Strenge, Carl Ruschy.

**Christian Education** – Katie Hanson (Chair), Liz Bixby, Natalie Brown, Teresa Dalen, Deborah Gruwell, Bobbi Jo Ruschy

**Congregational Life/Outreach** – Evy Strenge (Chair), Sandy Harsin, Paul Moffitt, Shirley Moffitt, Chelsey Moffitt, Dawn Ruschy, Kevin Strenge

**Finance** – Brian Bixby (Chair), Shirley Moffitt, George Shadle, Lavonne Ruschy

**Generosity Team** – Beth Carrico (Co-Chair), Lisa Hermanson (Co-Chair), Janet Anderson, Judy Bixby, John Klingbeil, Kevin Sander, Diane Swalve, Craig White

**Personnel** – Lowell Swalve (Chair), Shirley Moffitt, Aaron Ruschy

**Presbyterian Women** – Mary Clabaugh, Moderator; Sandy Harsin, Treasurer; Val Schroeder, Secretary

**Prayer Chain** – Belva Henrickson, Marilyn Syverson, Velma White, Jean Wiant, Dee Zinnel

**Worship** – Paul Moffitt (Chair), Paula Beaver, Lori Donovan, Mavis Evans, Evy Strenge

**Pastors and Staff** – Chad Ensz, Pastor; Kennen Barber-Ensz, Pastor; Amanda Jorgensen, Administrative Assistant; Andrew Thelen, Organist; Craig Kesler, Custodian

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First Presbyterian Church

723 First Avenue S.
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www.esthervillepresbyterian.com