

CHURCH OF CHRIST MEETING IN CLEVELAND, MN

January 2016

Vol.34 No.01



MY CHURCH By John Kester, Pastor

A number of years ago I had a friend kind of chide me for referring to the church where I served as “my church.” He reminded me that it was Jesus’ church and not my church. (To him) it sounded like I was claiming some sort of authority when I referred to it as “my church.” I understand the point he was trying to make. I am not the guy who calls the shots for the church I am part of. I do not have executive authority and my voice is just one of many who are part of the congregations I have served. I didn’t have any kind of ownership interest in that church.

But I think he might have misunderstood what I was trying to say when I called the church “my church.” What I meant was this is the place and these are the people I have decided to invest my life with. This is my church because this is where I choose to make my home. In some way, when I become part of a church it is like getting married for me. I make the choice to join my life with a group of people and to work together with them for the good of all. Will there be times I disagree with what they say and do? Of course. Just like in marriage. I do not always agree completely on every decision with my spouse, but we stay together and work together because we promised to do that.

This is how I feel about the church. There are times things happen that I am not happy with, but I stay and I work and I serve because this is my church. These are my people. I love them and I rejoice with them when they celebrate and I mourn with them when they are in pain. They stand by me when life is hard and I do all I know how to do to stand with them in the same way.

Recently a young man stepped forward in Cleveland to say that he wanted to be a member of this church. I was thrilled that he saw something here that he wanted to identify with. I told him that being part of a local church has both rights and responsibilities. When you say this is “my church” you get a voice in saying how things will be done here. But you also accept responsibility to serve among the people who belong to this church. I think he understood what I was saying. He like the idea of belonging to a place he could call his church.

As we enter a new year, my challenge to you is to think about the church you are a part of as “my church.” Don’t think about it this way because you own it or want to control it, but think about the church as “my church” because you love her and you want to serve her and help her grow strong in faith and in numbers. I love the Cleveland church of Christ and I am proud to call her “my church.”

CHURCH OF CHRIST

900 State Highway 99 (507) 931-5924
PO Box 307 clchurch@live.com
Cleveland, MN 56017 www.clevelandchurch.net

OUR HEAD: Jesus Christ
PASTOR: John Kester
CHURCH SECRETARY: Lisa Koppelman

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 am – Bible Classes for 4 Years-Adult
10:00 am – Fellowship Time
10:30 am – Worship Service including Junior Church

Link to prior monthly newsletters
for the Cleveland Church of Christ
http://www.clevelandchurch.net/index.php?p=1_212



Happy New Year

CALENDAR OF EVENTS JANUARY 2016

All events are at the church building unless otherwise noted.

* Indicates an article is elsewhere in this newsletter.

- Jan 1 – New Year’s Day
- Jan 10 – Monthly Building Offering
- Jan 12 – Dorcas Fellowship at 1:30pm *
- Jan 12 – Church Board Meeting at 7:30pm *
- Jan 17 – Congregational Annual Meeting *
- Jan 21 – February newsletter articles due

BIRTHDAYS: January 1- Ethan Muell; 2- Ryan Chadderton, Lois Lloyd, Patti Zuelch; 7- Evan Will; 10- Bill Morsching; 13- Mary Meyer; 16- Clint Godden; 18- Jolene Christensen, 19- Laura Dickie; 24- Kevin Gibbs, Troy Miller; 25- Sam Samuel (missionary son in India); 29- Selena Ely, Ben Strand

ANNIVERSARY: January 8- Dale & Liz Rogers

OUR WINTER STORM POLICY

The Cleveland Church of Christ services will be held in spite of inclement weather. We ask that people use their best judgment about coming to services if the weather is not good.



DORCAS FELLOWSHIP

The Dorcas Fellowship ladies will meet Tuesday, January 12 at 1:30pm at church. All women are invited to come to this.

CHURCH BOARD MEETING

Church board members will meet at the church on Tuesday, January 12 at 7:30pm.



ANNUAL MEETING

Our Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 17, 2015 following the Worship Service. All persons interested my attend this meeting.

Dear Church Family,

The Church of Christ Staff say
“THANK YOU” for the Christmas gifts!



JANUARY 31 APPRECIATION DINNER

Our church elders will be hosting an appreciation dinner for people who have been leaders in our worship service over the past year. We want to say “Thank You” to a group of people that includes our musicians, presiders, communion meditation presenters and children sermon leaders. This dinner will be Sunday, January 31 at 5:00pm at the church.



The past few months have been lots of fun in 7th-12th Youth Group. With a group of 6-10 kids most nights we have had fun playing games, eating food and most importantly, talking about what God want from us. We have discovered that He wants us to love Him with all our hearts, our souls and our minds. We found out He wants us to love our neighbor as ourselves. We learned that He wants us to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with Him. We have had some really good discussions as we thought about what God wants form us.

We are looking forward to a couple of special events in the next few months. On February 12-13 we are looking forward to a youth rally in Kimball, MN called SnoFeast. We are also starting to think about the 30-Hour Famine that is planned for April 9-10. The kids are excited to raise money to support our sponsored child through World Vision. They also have been talking about inviting friend to join us for the 30-Hour Famine.

With Heartfelt Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to the family of Kaylin Schmidt. Kaylin, 18 years old, died at her Mankato, MN home on Monday, November 30, 2015. Kaylin's family included parents Ken Schmidt & Sandra Schmidt, siblings Krysti, Katie, Kelsey, Ken Jr (KJ) & Kole, and grandmother Darlene Schmidt.

Our sympathy is also extended to the family of Dayton Hale who died at his Blaine, MN home on Thursday, December 17. He was 89 years old. Surviving Dayton is his wife Joann and a large extended family. Dayton's funeral was held at the Cleveland Church of Christ.

PHCA is Marking 75 Years!



Pine Haven Christian Assembly near Park Rapids, MN, is celebrating its 75th Anniversary in 2016! Go to the PHCA website pinehavencamp.org and click the "75th" tab. There you can submit your Pine Haven pictures from years past and your favorite PHCA memories to help with the anniversary celebration being planned. The official "Homecoming Weekend" will be July 22-24 with special events planned to mark PHCA's rich history over the last 75 years.



2016 Summer Camp Schedule

Pine Haven Christian Assembly

www.pinehavencamp.org

Based on grades going into Fall 2016

Cleveland is in Zone A

Work Weekend	May 12-14
Fishing Weekend	May 27-30
Ladies Retreat	June 10-12
11th-12th Grade	June 19-25
9th-10th Grade	June 26-July 2
Family Week	July 3-8
5th-6th Grade Zone A	July 17-22
Adult Weekend is 75th PHCA Anniversary HOMECOMING WEEKEND	July 22-24
7th-8th Grade Zone A	July 24-30
Deeper Life	Aug 3-7
Greenhorns (3rd-4th Grade)	Aug 7-10
Family Weekend	Aug 11-14
Motorcycle Weekend	Aug 19-21
Ministry Leadership Retreat	Aug 21-23
Last Chance Camp	Sept 2-5
Weekend Craft Retreat	Sept 15-18



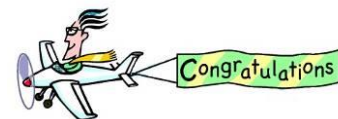
Jade Kester was baptized on Sunday, November 29, 2015 by her pastor dad John. She posed for a picture with her dad, mom Cheryl and big sister Olivia after the service. Jade, may you grow in faith and love. Blessings.



On Sunday, December 13, 2015 we welcomed to our church family Jerry Schmidt and Jacob Schmidt, father & son. So glad to have you join us in Cleveland, Jerry & Jacob!



We rejoice with Lexi Wilson as she gave her life to Jesus and was baptized on Sunday, December 20, 2015. Welcome, Lexi, to God's family!



Ethan Muell received Mankato West High School Shining Scarlet Award for his outstanding achievement in chemistry for the first quarter of the 2015-16 school year. It recognized Ethan's positive attitude, scholastic success and good citizenship.