

# The Word on the (F) Street

## Consider These Opportunities for Your Growth:

Jeff Heerspink, Pastor

Every new year is a new chance to do something different. I want to encourage you to consider, and pray about three great options for personal growth, to see if God might be calling you too one of these areas. Each is a prime opportunity to learn and grow in a way that transforms you and shapes the kingdom of God.

**Financial Peace University:** It's not just about getting out of debt. It's about saving an emergency fund. It's about savings for college, retirement, and a home. Should you even buy a home? You will learn in a delightfully funny and entertaining way about your money. Dave Ramsey weaves an amusing set of stories to help us learn about personal finance. It's personal because God's plans for us, and our plans for us, are just that... personal, individual, unique. Sign up today and get the big picture of money and how it works. It's so much more than simply getting out of debt! <https://www.financialpeace.com/groups/1063252?c=ccf> Cost is only \$55 for those who are a part of "F" Street Church. Childcare is provided.

**Lincoln School of Ministry:** The Lincoln School of Ministry was designed to help equip the local church to engage in ministry at the local level. For some, they may take a trimester for an area of min-

istry they want to learn more about. For others, it is a yearlong journey, and for some, it is a preparation for more schooling to come. This trimester is the Ministry Trimester, with the focus on practical things for ministry. This includes: Communication, Christian Care Giving, and Evangelism. The classes are on Thursdays, and begin on Jan. 3, at the Redeemer Building (745 D Street). The cost is \$100, and applications are in the back of church, or online at [fstreetchurch.org](http://fstreetchurch.org)

**Perspectives:** Perspectives allows you to hear from 15 different instructors over the course of 15 weeks. It is for believers from all walks of life. Hear how God has been, and continues to work, through the world. Learn more about God's kingdom and his glory. Find out what your part is in this exciting movement. No matter who you are or what you do, Perspectives will help you learn how to live for God's kingdom. These classes will be held at City Light Church, 2820 O Street. They are held on Monday nights, starting January 14, from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Cost is \$250. To register go to:

<https://class.perspectives.org/>



### Calendar for December 2018

2nd: Sunday Service  
4th: 6am Prayer; 7:30pm Freedom Through Christ  
5th: 6pm Youth Group  
6th: 6:30pm FoodNet; **Happy Birthday Joshua Dicter**  
8th: **Happy Birthday Jordyn Schmeekle**  
9th: Sunday Service  
11th: 6am Prayer; 7:30pm Freedom Through Christ  
12th: 6pm Youth Group  
13th: 6:30pm FoodNet  
15th: **Happy Birthday Aspen Tripett**  
16th: Sunday Service; **Happy Birthday Toby Pierce, Silas Richard**  
18th: 6am Prayer; 7:30pm Freedom Through Christ; **Happy Birthday Katharen Wiese**  
19th: 6pm Youth Group; **Happy Birthday Rebecca Ham**  
20th: 6:30pm FoodNet  
22nd: **Happy Birthday Caleb Heerspink, Linda Morgan**  
23rd: Sunday Service; **Happy Birthday Chance Triplett**  
24th: **Christmas Eve**  
25th: **Christmas Day**  
26th: Youth Group  
27th: 6:30pm FoodNet  
30th: Sunday Service

*Please keep us up to date on birthdays & anniversaries! If you aren't sure that we have your information, talk to Jane Mailand or simply fill out a Welcome Card and hand it to her. In addition, if your address, phone, or email has changed, let Jane know.*

## Shape Groups

### **Solid Ground, Men's Study:**

Mondays, 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the Redeemer Bldg., 745 D St.

### **Community Group:**

Tuesdays, 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the Redeemer Bldg., 745 D St.

Each session begins with a potluck.

### **Connection Group:**

Thursdays, 7:00-9:00 p.m. at Keith Morrissey's home, 1750 Prospect. Contact Keith at 402.525.4897

### **Women's Group:**

Saturday mornings at the Meadowlark Coffee Shop, 1624 South St.

## Transportation Team: Looking For New Member

One of our Transportation Team members has moved away, and we need to replace him! Are you willing to drive the church van once a month, to allow other people to come to "F" Street Church?

Our goal is to use the church van to pick up people at their homes, then arrive at the church between 9:45 and 10:00 a.m. After the service, they will be returned home.

Qualifications for being a Transportation Team member:

- Must have a current Nebraska driver's license
- Reliability, friendliness, the ability to work positively with others
- Report for duty unimpaired by drugs or alcohol
- Available to drive people to church (and home again afterward) at least once every month. (approximately 8:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m. availability the day you drive)

If interested, please call or text Tad at 402-802-0597.

## Christmas at "F" Street Neighborhood Church

As we begin the Advent Season (coming of Christ) at "F" Street Church, it is important for us to keep two things in mind: 1. To love God by making it a priority to **connect** to the greatest gift that could ever be given to us: Christ. 2. To love others by providing places for people to **connect** to the body of Christ in meaningful, tangible ways. We recognize that for some this is a happy season of year while for others Christmas conjures up negative memories, or serves as a reminder of the brokenness in our lives. We hope this year that we can help you to **connect** to Jesus, and **connect** to his family here at "F" Street Neighborhood Church.

### **Sunday's in December:**

**Coffee and Bagels:** We will begin with coffee and bagels as a time for us to **connect** to others in the church and who step in to find warmth and food.

**Worship:** We then have our worship services to **connect** to Jesus. Starting at 10:30 a.m., we have a lot of great parts planned for the services and hope that you will be able to join us and celebrate Jesus.

**Potluck:** After worship, we join together for a potluck meal, where there will be table games and decorations to help you spend time with others to **connect**. This will begin at noon and end at 1:00 p.m. (or when the food runs out). Please bring an abundance of food and have a seat with some old friends, or make some new ones.

## Christmas Caroling



Meet us at the church, 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 11, and we will go out into the community to **connect** with our neighbors - through singing Christmas carols, and handing out gift bags to people in the Neighborhood. We will end our time back at the church, with hot chocolate and cookies. Hope you can be there.

## Christmas Eve/Candlelight Service

Finally, join us on Monday, December 24, for our annual Christmas Eve/Candlelight service at 6:00 p.m. We will be joining with Jacob's Well and the Northern Lighthouse Church to celebrate the birth of Jesus.



## Giving?

Jeff Heerspink, Pastor

What about a gift for Jesus this Christmas season? At the risk of sounding silly, I want to ask if you would consider giving to his church, which the Bible refers to as his body or even his bride. I want you to consider giving to the "F" Street Church, in a sacrificial way, before the end of the year, to help us be prepared for the new year. As a church we have survived, always had enough, always got by. However, in most cases this is due to outside people giving gifts, or outside organizations that have given us grants in order to help us continue in the ministry. As exciting as it is that we continue to survive and see God provide, we want to be more active in providing opportunities for people in our community to connect to the church; to be better prepared to meet the needs of those in our community, and to take care of the gift that we have been given-this beautiful building.

This past year has been an amazing year new ministries. Upcoming, there are more opportunities for us to be a place of acceptance and direction. To help us start the new year, we are setting a goal of \$9,000 in local giving this month (that is giving from our church family). That is about double the average giving per month this year, and would be a great way for us to go into 2019. These gifts can be given through December 31. Last year, when we put this challenge to double our local offering in December, we not only doubled it we beat that by over \$1000. Let's see what God can do in 2019 if we all give.

## Creative Night Out For Women

### Come and Create with the Women of "F" Street

We will make a painting together, step by step, while we enjoy Christmas treats and the company of friends. Fun way to make a gift for someone on your list!

- Thursday, December 6
- 7:00 p.m.
- Redeemer Building
- Materials and drinks provided

Please bring a friend (*college age and up*) and a *snack to share*.



## ATLAS of Lincoln: December Update

Brody M. Van Roekel, Resident Pastor



A couple weeks ago, I was sitting in my office over at the Redeemer building. About mid-morning, a young man came to the door, and I let him in, thinking he was there to see the folks who live in the upstairs apartment. He wasn't, but asked if he could hang out a bit and warm up. The wind-chill that day was barely above zero-degrees, he had been riding his bike down the street and stopped because it was so cold. I offered a water, and he sat down in my office. He said his name was Atem.

That day he had been evicted from his friends' place. Atem had been couch-surfing for a couple months and had been posted up at a buddy's apartment for the previous few weeks. He told me about his time in Lincoln and how he had moved there as a kid, spoke of his appreciation of the city and the people in it, despite his hardships and the coming winter. He asked me about myself and Atlas, and we talked for a while.

We chatted for 10 or 15 minutes. Eventually he finished the water and prepared to move along. We shook hands and he headed to the door, but turned back and gave me a hug. Atem told me that our conversation had been a bright spot in a really bad day. This is my dream for Atlas: Lincoln: to be a place to come when you don't know where else to go. I pray that it can be a place for people to come to feel loved and accepted, a place to come to find truth and direction, a place to come to be seen and heard, even if it's just 15 minutes on a random, bitterly-cold Tuesday. I pray that we might be the hands and feet of Christ in every sense of the verse.

I'm amazed at how little it takes to touch lives for Christ. The God we serve is so big that he moves even in the smallest acts of kindness, which can be amazingly meaningful. Even small acts and brief conversations can shine Christ's bright light for everyone around us.

I hope and pray I get to see Atem again. Even if I don't, I can trust God will move in his life as the Lord does in the lives of so many others.

We need your prayers. You can sign up for our monthly prayer email on our website at <https://www.atlaslincoln.org/get-involved>. As we begin, and continue, to pair clients with mentors, we want to provide a prayer-warrior for each pairing. Mentors are needed. If you are interested in being a mentor, you can contact Brody at 712.441.5403 or [b.m.vanroekel@gmail.com](mailto:b.m.vanroekel@gmail.com). There is a training coming up in a few days. We need you to give. Your donations will make it possible to expand our staff, expand our footprint in the community, and expand our ability to help more people daily. We can offer acceptance and direction to help our brothers and sisters when they fall, but we need your help. Consider supporting Atlas today.

## Security Team

It is true that "F" Street Church has a Security Team. This is simply to provide people to walk around the entire church facility and make sure that there are no problems taking place. Currently, we are rebuilding our security team, and looking for individuals who are willing to serve one Sunday a month. There is an application that you can get from Pastor Jeff if you are interested in being a part of this important team.

## Nursery

The Nursery is a great way to serve at "F" Street Church, and we currently are looking for two additional people to make a complete schedule. This will provide enough help so that each person would serve in the nursery every two months. If you would be willing to fill in as a nursery attendant, please speak with Pastor Jeff to get an application.

## Special Offering for December

This month we are giving to support the work of the Loftis Family in Thailand. They work to connect and share the gospel with those in the area, as well as emotionally care for the needs of the missionaries there. Your support goes to help them stay in Thailand.



# Resident Meditations

Brody M. Van Roekel, Resident Pastor

*Isaiah 9:6 – “For unto us a Child is born...” Isaiah 7:14 – “...call him Immanuel.”*

One of the most amazing aspects of Christmas season, in my opinion, is the reality of the nativity. The God of the universe, who can make and unmake all things, who knows everything, can do anything, and can be anywhere, is brought into the world as the most fragile of beings.

I don't have much experience with babies, but I know enough to know they're pretty breakable and needy. They need their heads held up, they need feeding and changing, basically 24/7 care. God, the one who pinned up the sky, who built the mountains from scratch and dug out the deepest oceans, who paints glorious pictures at sunrise and sunset, came into the form of a *baby*. Why?

There's significance in smallness. God could have come as a conquering war hero. The teachers of the law and priests of Jesus' time expected such a return. However, I don't think into our lives. They called the Christ-child literally God with us, meeting us in smallness.



forceful conquest is the means by which God moves “Immanuel” or “God with us.” The baby Jesus was nativity is one of the defining moments in, not only our us, even when we pushed him away or ran in the op-smallness and significance of a babe. How might today? Is there even a place for smallness in your life?

In addition to the crucifixion and resurrection, the faith, but in the history of the world. God came to posite direction. God came to meet us in the God be meeting you in the smallness of your life What sorts of everyday interactions or events that you pass off as small may be an opportunity to meet other people in a way like God meets us?

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I, too often, pass off the smallness for being small (crazy, right?). The smallness, though, is a “one day at a time,” one kind word to a friend in need, one hour spent a week with someone who's hurting. Those opportunities are everywhere and around us every day. The nativity reminds us to press into the smallness, to crack open those moments and see how the God of the universe moves in them. The thing is not to just do this in the Christmas season, but in every day of every month of every year. Because, just as God came to us in the form of a baby, so too might God be in that “one day at a time,” that one kind word, that one hour. That's Immanuel. That's God with us. That's the significance of smallness.

## Parish Nurses' Corner

Barb Douglas, Parish Nurse

Hello Dear Family at “F” St. Neighborhood Church,

'Tis the season to remember all the blessings God has bestowed on us with throughout the year. I know there are times when it is difficult to think of blessings when our world is turned upside down. However, I would like to share a few ways to be thankful no matter what our situation.

1. Thankfulness is not necessarily based on how great life is or has been lately.
2. Thankfulness is really a state of mind.
3. A way to look at things and situations that bring Jesus into the picture....like being thankful even in the hard times.
4. It may be rather difficult to "think" thankfully about the cold weather, or an illness, or losses of any kind (be it relationships, jobs or health).
5. As human beings we tend to think of being thankful only when we're "happy".

I would like to pass on some thankfulness that most people would not think to be thankful about, at least not usually.

1. Thank you Father for the pain that keeps me home some-times...it gives me more time to talk to you.

2. Thank you Father for being with me through the loss of my family member...your presence helps me when times are especially bad.
3. Thank you Father for letting me know you are near and I can call on you no matter how our relationship has suffered. My bullheadedness keeps us apart.
4. Thank you Father for loving me when I can no longer love myself (no matter what the reason).
5. Thank you Father for remembering me through all the times I have forgotten you.
6. Thank you Father for never turning your back on me, because I'm so terribly weak and continue to make the same mistakes over and over.

I'm sure each of you can think of how God has always been there even when we didn't "feel" like he was. That's an important thing to remember...thankfulness is not a feeling, it's a state of mind. And, blessings are always present in our lives, they may not be seen or felt, but they are ever present to the child of God. Being one of God's children doesn't make us perfect, not even close! It just makes us loved and cherished by the One who is! (Continue on following page)

(Parish Nurses' Corner continued)

So, this Christmas season, let's all try to keep the wonderful blessing of Christ at the top of our Christmas list. Give that blessing to everyone around us, especially those who don't seem to be in that thankful state of mind. The gift of unconditional love, this Christmas, is the most precious and least expensive gift ever given. May each of you receive that gift

100-fold. We love each and everyone of you unconditionally. May the light of Christ and the blessing of his life, death and resurrection remain with you always.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from your Parish Nurse, Barbara Douglas

Following is a delicious recipe for A Merry Cranberry Salad!

### Frozen Cranberry Salad

There are no portion or calories available for this recipe...it's just one of my own personal favorites from my daughter Amy's kitchen. ENJOY! It is delicious.

#### Ingredients:

- 1-12 oz. pkg. fresh or frozen cranberries, thawed
- 1 1/2 c. granulated sugar
- 1-20 oz. can crushed pineapple
- 1-16 oz. pkg. mini marshmallows
- 2 c. whipping cream
- 2 Tbsp. powdered sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 c. chopped walnut (optional)

#### Instructions:

- 1) In a blender, process cranberries until coarsely ground.
- 2) Place cranberries in a bowl and add 1 1/2 c. of granulated sugar, mix well, cover and chill for 1 hour.
- 3) Drain the pineapple, reserving 1/4 c. of the juice.
- 4) In a large mixing bowl, combine marshmallows pineapple and juice. Mix well, cover and chill for 1 hour.
- 5) After chilling, take both the cranberry mixture and the pineapple mixture and mix together. Cover and chill an additional hour.
- 6) In another mixing bowl, beat cream until soft peaks form, then beat in powdered sugar and vanilla.
- 7) Fold cream mixture into pineapple/cranberry mixture, add walnuts if desired.
- 8) Freeze until ready to serve.



## Into the Streets

Brody M. Van Roekel

We've hit the streets a few times in the last month and connected with some awesome people. I regularly see them now, walking around downtown, and am blessed with random conversations on any given day. The vision behind the team remains: to reach people on the street in our city, build relationships, and bless folks with some basic necessity products.

We'll continue to walk streets on Thursday evenings. As the days continue to get shorter, we plan to meet around 5:00 p.m. on Thursdays, at the church, through December. Ideally, this will change as the days get longer again.

If you're interested in beating streets and reaching folks in our community, right where they're at, it's always great to have company. Get ahold of me at 712.441.5403 or b.m.vanroekel@gmail.com and I'll make sure to keep you in the loop.

## 2 Peter

In his second letter to the same group of believers, scattered throughout the north of Asia Minor, Peter defends “knowledge.” Referred to, some fifteen times in the three chapters of this letter, Peter reiterates that knowledge and knowing the word of God are the primary means of growth for the Christian. Pursuing this spiritual maturity was the first line of defense against false teachers and heretics, who sought to tear down the church with unbiblical theology about God. This letter encourages us to consider the importance we give in our own life - of clinging to knowledge of God as it is revealed in scripture. For Peter, the proper knowledge of God could combat the false teachers living amongst the churches he wrote to, and could grow their faith by attending to the word of God.

## Jude

The Bible and tradition suggest that this letter was written by Jesus’ half brother, Jude. The letter is hard to date because of its lack of detail in recounting people and places, but scholars suggest it was most likely written around AD 67 to 80. In this letter, Jude draws on the Bible imagery of Cain killing Abel and the punishment of Sodom and Gomorrah to condemn those who rejected authority and those who sought to please themselves. Believers could stand against those who sought to tear down the church by remembering the teachings of the apostles, building each other up in the faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, and keeping themselves in the love of God. This short, punchy book exhorts us as believers to stand for the truth against error.

## Revelation

Coming from the Greek word for apocalypse, the title of this last book in the Bible provides the backdrop for the end of history and the culmination of God’s plan for life here on Earth. What began in Paradise at the beginning of the Bible ends in Paradise at the close of the Bible. The book is for those who hope in Christ and long for the beauty, hope, and fulfillment of God’s final chapter when the brokenness of sin is healed. We will dwell once again in all of the fullness of God’s presence, no longer separated from Him. While Revelation is a book of hope for the redeemed, it also paints in stunning symbolism the tribulation and judgement of God on those who do not believe. The book of Revelation is God’s final answer action upon sin when pain, tears, and death are no more and for those who have trusted in Christ eternal life is forevermore.

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