

# Hilltop Highlights

A Monthly Publication of First Presbyterian Church

## Sea La Luz

The Menaul School in Albuquerque is one of the college-prep High Schools that our denomination has supported since the 1800's. In fact, part of the money we collect in our Christmas Joy offering helps fund this and many other schools. "Sea La Luz" has been their motto for many years now. "Sea La Luz," Spanish for "Be The Light." It is a reminder to the students that they are being prepared to take their places in society to point to the light of the Gospel that Christ has entrusted to them.

Many years ago, before railroad crossing gates, flagmen were employed to warn people that a train was coming. They used a flag by day and a lantern by night. One very dark night, at a dangerous crossing there was a terrible accident. A lawsuit followed and during the trial, the flagman was called to the witness stand. The prosecuting attorney asked him, "On the night of the accident, when you saw the car approaching, did you wave your lantern?" Yes, I waved the lantern," he answered. The attorney asked a second time. "Did you wave the lantern?" Again, the flagman relied, "Yes, I waved my lantern." The case seemed to hinge on this one statement. A third time the attorney asked, "When the car approached, did you wave your lantern?" A third time the flagman said he did indeed wave his lantern.

Ultimately, the railroad won the case. Later, the defense attorney said to the flagman, "The prosecuting attorney really had me worried when he kept asking if you had waved the lantern." "Well," said the flagman, "what worried me was that he might ask, "Was the lantern lit?!"

I think that the take-home is this: you can yell and shout and wave your arms and jump up and down all you want. It won't make a bit of difference if no one can see you. And if your lantern isn't lit, then you may as well stay home. In the Gospel of John, Jesus says, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12). Christ also tells us that "we are the light of the world. Let your light so shine before all people that they may see your good deeds and give glory to our Father in heaven." We, as followers of Christ are called to "Sea La Luz" or maybe more accurately, to live lives that reflect the light of Christ that is in us.

I keep thinking of the many ways that you, as the congregation of First Pres have been a light to this community over the summer. Whether by the amazing job you have done in providing clothing and school supplies for the children of our community this summer or by the really outstanding VBS experience that we had last week, none of it was possible without the many, many large and small ways that each one of you gave of your time and your treasure and your talent.

Peter tells us that our purpose in life is to "show forth the praises of him who called us out of darkness and into His marvelous light."

As always, each and every one of you astound me with the bold and generous ways that you shine Christ's light into our community. My hope for you is that you will "Sea La Luz" now and every day of your life.

Your in Christ, *Pastor Mike*



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## We Keep in Our Prayers

- ◆ Prayers for Gary Marks as he awaits a new kidney.
- ◆ Prayers for Jeanette McLaughlin receiving cancer treatment.
- ◆ Prayers for Becky Baruth and her family as she is being treated for cancer.

## Bakersplus.com

We just received the first quarter of 2018 rebate from Bakers for **\$206.22**, this is wonderful but down about 40%. So if you have not registered **First Presbyterian Church #84241** under your Baker's Plus card Community partner tab, please do so. This does not affect any other rewards you receive from Baker's.

## Financial Information

	<u>June</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income	\$16,521.87	\$201,096.78
Expenses	<u>\$24,393.38</u>	<u>\$187,479.45</u>
Difference	< \$7,871.51	\$13,617.33



# Happenings

## Intergenerational Sunday School

9:00 AM Sunday, August 12

We are going to be making a membership tree which will involve every active church participant. Come join us.



**Come Ring With Us!** Westminster Bells will begin rehearsals Tuesday, August 21st at 7:00pm, and we need some helping hands. Please consider sharing your musical gifts and come join the bell choir! Middle school students through adults

are welcome, no prior experience is necessary. If you can read music, we'll teach you the rest! Contact Liane Kirmis for more information at 402-296-5751.

Help us make a joyful noise to the Lord!



**Choir Begins-**We need MORE Singers! I know there are more singers out there. If you've been taking a break from choir, please rethink this and join us when we start rehearsals in August. The choir picnic will be on Wednesday, August 22 in Fellowship Hall and rehearsals will start on Wednesday, August 29. We are a fun group and we make some pretty good music, so come and check us out! Making a Joyful Noise, Alice

**Join us for Ladies' Lunch-** We are meeting on the **Fourth Thursday** of each month at noon. In August we are going to meet at "ATomMik Cafe" on August 23rd. Make your reservation by calling the church office at 402-291-1104 or e-mailing [admin@bellevuefpc.org](mailto:admin@bellevuefpc.org).



**Directory Photos:** If you did not get an opportunity to have your photo taken for the church directory last year now is the time. You can also have your photo retaken if you do not like your current photo in the directory or just would like an updated one. Please sign up at the table in the Library for a setting time on Sunday, August 26th. We must have at least 15 reservations for this to take place.





The Arrows to Aerospace parade will be marching down Mission Avenue on

**Saturday, August 18th.**

This is a great opportunity to show people the spirit and mission of First Presbyterian Church.

The Fellowship Committee is looking for volunteers to help decorate the float on Friday evening the 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm, after decorating, the helpers all go to LaMesa for Dinner. If you plan on helping decorate the float and go to LaMesa please call Rick Holbert so he can make reservations for the correct number of people at 402-291-7637.

We also need CHILDREN, YOUTH and ADULTS, to participate in the parade. We need people to ride on our float and people to walk alongside. Please meet at the church no later than 8:30am on Saturday morning wearing your church shirt if you have one.

**Let's show our community what a strong, exciting church we are!**

If you can participate please place your name on the sign up sheet in the library.



## Calvin Crest 60th Anniversary Fun Day

Help us celebrate [60 years of incredible ministry](#) on August 25, 2018 at Calvin Crest.

The 60th Anniversary Family Fun Day is free to attend. There will be opportunities to purchase snacks, t-shirts/hats and raffle and silent auction items. Calvin Crest will also accept free-will donations to support this great ministry.

### Schedule of Activities (May vary based on interest)

#### Saturday, August 25, 8:00 AM-5:00 PM

8 :00 AM Fun Run/Walk

8:00 AM-4:59 PM Silent Auction/Raffle Prizes

10:00 AM-4 :00 PM Hayrack Ride Every hour on the hour

10:30 AM Group (Guided) Hike

10:00 AM- 5:00 PM:

Pool	Sand Volleyball
Human Foosball	Frisbee Golf
Trails	Maze
Playground	Hammocks
Gaga Ball	Screaming Eagle (age limit),
Archery (age limit)	Fire Pits
Basketball	Crafts/Tye-Dye
Face Painting	Balloon Animals
Bounce House	Dunk Tank

10:00 AM-5:00 PM Indoor games: Bingo, Board Games etc.

11:00 AM Facilitator-run Field Games (kickball, elbow tag, etc.)

12:00 Lunch

1:00 PM Facilitator-run Field Games

2:30 PM Group Hike

3:00 PM Facilitator-run Field Games

\*NOTE: Events may be altered or changed. This is the most current information.



**Picnic Areas open all day with live entertainment including choirs, bands, dancers, etc.**



Worshipping, learning, and serving together in the name of Jesus



## Kick-off Sunday September 9th

### 9:00am– Sunday School classes for all ages

We'll start the day with a short intergenerational gathering in the Parlor/Library which will include donuts, coffee and juice. It's a chance for all of our Sunday School participants children, youth and adults to come together and celebrate the upcoming year of classes. Following our gathering, each class will go to their rooms for their regular lesson.

### 10:30am Worship

All of our Christian Education volunteers will be commissioned during the worship service.

**Starting September 9th-Worship will begin at 10:30 am.  
Sunday School for children and adults will begin at 9:00 am.**

## Crossroads Connections Dinner



Crossroads Connection ministers to current inmates at Omaha Work Release Center and provides social services to former inmates who are transitioning to outside life. They conduct a weekly Sunday evening worship service attended by inmates, former inmates, sponsors and volunteers. Providing the meal and worship service is an outreach that our congregation has participated in for many years.

In September our event is on **Sunday, September 9th.**

This is an excellent outreach to volunteer for because you decide what level of participation interests you.

- We need salads and desserts for the meal. These can be prepared ahead of time and delivered to the church on the day of the event.
- We also need help preparing the meal. The time commitment varies based upon the meal.
- You can also go with us to serve the meal. We meet here at the church at 5:00 pm and carpool to the location of the dinner. We usually return by 9:00 pm.

Thank you for your support of this ministry over the years and in the future!



**The Presbyterian Women's Evening Bible Study** group will resume on September 13, 2018, at 7pm. We will meet at the home of Jane Noden, 2011 Washington. We meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday each month, September thru May, at 7pm. We will use the Presbyterian Women Horizons Bible Study '*God's Promise: I Am With You*' by Amy Poling Sutherland. As we follow this study journey through scripture, we will ask, how does God's promise of presence change us and the way we live? We welcome new participants to join us. Contact Marsha Holbert at 402.639.3695 to get a study book and further details.





## Children's Ministry



Linda Reffert

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way, from donating food or money, to teaching, to helping, to decorating for VBS. It is a huge project to put on VBS and it ended up involving the vast majority of our church, I do believe! I was sick and

overwhelmed in the last weeks leading up to VBS and we would have been sunk without so many people stepping forward. So, thank you and God bless you!

Did you get a chance to see the canyon and waterfall set in Fellowship Hall? Wasn't it wonderful! I happened to mention to Jean Jacobson that I needed a waterfall and wasn't sure where to begin. Her eyes lit up and before you know it, she and Landy had created a set that I never even dreamed of. And best of all, it comes apart so that we can reuse it in the future.

We had 77 kids register for VBS this year. That's a record during my tenure here and it was awesome! Some of the kids are ours, some don't come during the school year but always come for VBS. And some have never been here before. Our volunteers were wonderful about making each child feel welcome and loved. Thanks to donations, I was once again able to offer Bibles to any children who said they did not have a Bible in their home that they could read. I am not sure just yet how many Bibles I will give away by the end of the week, but I've got to tell you that between the love the team is sharing and the Bibles we send home, God's love is being shared in powerful and long-lasting ways! I wish you all could see the joy of kids running up the steps to get here in the mornings. And the look of wonder on their faces when we give out Bibles!

I don't have many dates to share with you this month. It's our time to shift gears and get all the curriculum, supplies and scheduling in place for fall. We have our last Intergenerational Sunday School coming up on Sunday, August 12th. It's a Membership project that people of all ages can help with and I am hoping for a good attendance that morning at 9 AM because all willing class

participants are going to be offered big and small ways to ultimately give EVERY active participant at our church a chance to help. This project is doable for pretty much all ages, so please join me in the Parlor that morning.

Sunday School will kick off for all ages on Sunday, September 9th. I am still looking for some help once or twice a month for 20 minutes or more. I would love to have my generation or the next one above me involved with kids in Sunday School. There is so much wisdom and perspective in older generations that the kids can really benefit from. So, please don't tell yourself you are too old. I'd love to talk to you about possibilities!

WOW and Illuminate will kick off on Wednesday, September 12th. I am thankful to be fully staffed for WOW. I need to check with the Kitchen crew but we are staffed for teachers and table parents and shepherds. Our first Family Movie Night will be Sunday, October 14th at 5 PM and we will be showing Paddington 2.

Finally, I want to encourage you to invite someone to join you at church or Sunday school or Bible Study this year. All the research I have seen shows that the very best advertising a church can do is personal invitations from participants. I think we have a lot to offer and I hope you can think of people who might enjoy being a part of our church and who would grow closer to God through their experience.



## Youth Fellowship (YF) News



Shelli Dart

*"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ." – Colossians 3:23-24*



The spiritual gift of flexibility was put to the test changing our destination for our Sr High Mission Trip the week before we left. John & I ended up being the only adults able to go on the trip and 14 hours was too long of a drive with only 2 drivers so we selected Noble, Oklahoma as our destination. We repaired a trailer home damaged by flooding 3 years ago. There were holes through the floor, damage to the drywall and roof. We ripped out the floor in places replacing the subflooring, then did overlay and installed wood flooring. The kids learned how to use nail guns, saws, and all sorts of fun things. They worked hard and so well together as a team that we finished 1 1/2 days early and had a fun day at an area waterpark. I am so proud of how well they all got along, worked together and made sure the work was done beautifully.



The scripture quote comes from day two of working. The homeowner Rose was up and working each day but there was another couple that stayed in bed until around lunch time each day. I didn't learn until later that the man was grumpy with the kids for making noise so "early" when they were fixing up his home. He was ungrateful and unkind. I was also frustrated to see dirt and ashes on the new floor when we came back so we had to sweep before we could work. I've

used the reminder to work like you are working for God rather than people in the past and thought it was perfect for this occasion. We read it in 6 different translations just to make sure it stuck with us and it really did help us focus back on doing a good job instead of being frustrated with a seeming lack of appreciation. The day we finished Rose told me I had a beautiful family and should be so proud of the kids' hard work, kindness, and compassion. She said they were a blessing and walked away crying. I didn't interrupt her to correct her but since we're all a church family they were kind of my kiddos, right? I could not have been prouder of them.



August we are starting to get back into the swing of things. Please make note of the activities listed below. It will be nice to get back to semi normal although it seems summer has flown by. Wishing you Blessings. Shelli



### August Youth Events

- August 5 Serve at Open Door Mission 4:30 - 7:30 pm
- August 12 Intergenerational Sunday School 9:00 - 9:45 am
- August 19 Back to School Lake party 3:00 - 6:00 pm
- August 24&25 MRV Calvin Crest Retreat  
6:00 pm Friday to 2:00 pm Saturday





~ August 2018 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 7p Troop 467	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> Pantry Sunday 10a Worship Service 11a Deacons Mtg (VVR) 4:30p Youth Active Service/Open Door Mission 7p Venture Crew 26	<b>6</b> Lawn Team 1 1:15p Heritage Ridge 2p Harmony Court 2:45p Richmond Village	<b>7</b> 10:30a Staff Meeting (CR) 6p Mission Mtg (VVR)	<b>8</b> 9a P.E.O. (VVR)	<b>9</b> 6p Building & Grounds Mtg (CR) 6:30p Membership (VVR) 7p Troop 467 7p Worship Mtg (CR)	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 10a Women's Book Club (VVR)
<b>12</b> Undie Sunday 9a Inter-Generational Sunday School 10a Worship Service	<b>13</b> Lawn Team 2	<b>14</b> 5:30p Christian Education Mtg (L)	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 7p Troop 467	<b>17</b> 5:30p Float Decorating	<b>18</b> 8:30a Arrows to Aerospace Parade
<b>19</b> 10a Worship Service 11a Fellowship Mtg (VVR)	<b>20</b> Lawn Team 3 7p Venture Crew 26	<b>21</b> 7p Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>22</b> 6p Choir Picnic (FH)	<b>23</b> 12p Ladies Lunch (AtotMk Cafe) 7p Session (VVR) 7p Troop 467	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> Next Sunday Pantry Sunday 10a Worship Service 12p Directory Photos	<b>27</b> Lawn Team 1	<b>28</b> 7p Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>29</b> 7p Choir Rehearsal	<b>30</b> 7p Troop 467	<b>31</b>	<b>Notes:</b>

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## August Birthdays:

1 Sara Renner	17 Nancy Worm
2 Florence Maurer	17 Kathryn Robertson
3 Morgan Fenster	18 Nancy Shultz
4 Mattie Carver	18 Linda Reffert
4 Matt Fenster	19 Gary Marks
6 Steve Tamayo	21 Mary Lehr
7 Noelle Kilpatrick	21 Carl Seaman
7 JoAnne Nielsen	22 Sue Howard
11 Gene Cash	22 Dave Norton
11 Suzanne Zipse	22 Mary Jo Schiefelbein
12 Elliott Rose	23 Walt Griffiths
12 Steve Renner	25 Betty Cash
13 Dan Wilson	25 Marilyn Parker
15 Val Jean Hansen	26 Mike Elliott
15 Dan Robertson	28 Denise Seaman
15 Don Glenn	29 Dan Clark
16 Marylou Hegarty	29 Blake Urwin



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