

Murray Christian Church
PO Box 194, 304 W. Young
Murray, NE 68409-0194

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Pastor Larry & Norma Hammons
Home 267.7465, Cell 297.0999
mcc.larry@windstream.net

Church service Sundays at 9:30 a.m.
Sunday school 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Youth Group 3p (2 & 4 Sun. of month)

Church Secretary, Stacey
Church Office 235.2527
mcc.stacey@windstream.net



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<http://home.windstream.net/church2527/MCC.htm>

From the Pastor

As a part of my Lenten activities I have chosen to read a series of sermons by Dr. Mark McKim. I would like to share with you some of what he wrote. I found it thought provoking and inspiring.

It's strange. Very strange. When people look at the church, what they often see is a bunch of nice, respectable, mainly middle-class folk. Nice. But you know, I don't think that word "nice" even appears in the Bible! But that's what people see, and – let's face it – often that's how we see ourselves: "nice." The ultimate conformists. Often we fit in almost perfectly with our society. Barely a piece of paper could be fit between us and our neighbors who never darken the door of the church. It hardly ever occurs to us that perhaps there are fundamental differences – irreconcilable discrepancies – between what Jesus taught and what we see around us, the way we go about our day-to-day lives.

The setting given for the book of Daniel is of a time when many of God's ancient people, the Jews, were living in exile. No longer did they live in their homeland, where faith was relatively easy. Instead they were surrounded by those who did not accept their convictions and values. There was pressure to assimilate, to "fit in," to be like other nice folk. We have gone from a

time when Christianity dominated the public square to being a minority. We are surrounded by those who do not worship Yahweh – whom we know best in Jesus – who do not share our values and beliefs. We feel the social pressure to keep our Christianity to ourselves, to fit in, to conform. So the book of Daniel, as part of God's word, can speak to us, to our exile.

Nowhere did Jesus tell his followers to go and establish "Christian" nations. Nowhere did he ask his disciples to create whole societies in which there would be social pressure for people to attend church or follow him, or schools that required those who weren't his to pray Christian prayers. Jesus spoke instead about his followers living as a small minority, within the wider society. "Many invisible or hidden... vulnerable to rejection... (The church) is about a little bit of yeast, a candle in the night, a pinch of salt, a little flock."

We must connect with and engage our society in new ways. In an "empire" where there is spiritual hunger, where people are searching, we must quietly invite – not expect, much less demand – but invite people to journey with us, to come, see, and experience what we have found to be true.

Until next month,
Pastor Larry



Please keep in your prayers...

† Rob & Diane Ross †



If you have a graduate from kindergarten, 8th grade, high school, college or someone who earned a post-graduate degree, please notify the church office. We will be recognizing our graduates during worship service on May 15th.

If you are a graduating senior and a member of Murray Christian Church who has been accepted into a college or university, please notify Stacey in the office. You will receive a \$250 scholarship from the church. All you need to do is fill out the brief application!



Thanks to everyone for the cards, phone calls, and get well wishes on Facebook. It reminds me that I am very blessed to have such wonderful friends and to be part of this church family. I am doing better each day. Wow, shingles are a very strange thing to have! Thanks for making my days brighter!
Your friend, *Kathy Dempsey*



CHURCH CLEAN UP DAY!
Sat., April 16 starting at 9 a.m.
We will be cleaning the inside of the church. All help is welcome and needed!

VBS Update!

Vacation Bible School will be June 13-17! We are looking for a coordinator or some willing to co-coordinate, teachers, decorators, Friday Night Bash helpers and teenage volunteers. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Pastor Larry or Stacey in the church office @ 235.2527.

Dear Christian Women,



Spring is a time of renewal, new growth and new life. As Christian women, spring or anytime is the perfect time to join us for a Women's Spiritual Day. These retreats will replace the Spring Flings previously held. Prior to the closing worship and Communion Service, the Blessing Boxes will be received.

This Spiritual Retreat will be held Saturday, April 2 at the Louisville Christian Church. Registration will begin at 8:30 am and the session will conclude at 3:00 pm. Registration fee is \$15.00 and includes lunch. If you plan to attend please contact Janice Hild for reservations by 4:00 Sat., March 26. Please give your Blessing Box money to Minnie Mae by March 30. (She will write one check for the group or you can attend and give the offering yourself.)

The keynote speaker will be Joyce Fuerguson from Scottsbluff. The theme will be "The Servant's Hand." The morning session is entitled Loving Hands (self care) and the afternoon session is Praying Hands (Spiritual renewal).

For more information, contact Janice at 402-235-3895 or see information on the bulletin board at the church. Hope to see you there! If you need a ride, please call.

A Christian's Easter

Rejoice, my soul, for Christ has risen!
Wipe earth's dimness from my eyes!
Bathe my spirit in His Glory
Let my shouts of praise arise!



On that throne in Heaven seated,
Pains of death forever past,
Bands of earth could never hold Him,
Victory has come at last!

See, O world, my Savior rise,
Oh the mystery of His grace,
Through the ages He has loved me,
Now prepares for me a place.

O, my soul, bow down to worship,
Not "Nature's new life every spring,"
But the Christ of resurrection
And the Blessed Hope He brings!

~Marilyn Arbon