

Attendance Last Week: 8:30am - 125 11:00am - 164 Total - 289

During the worship services a NURSERY is available for children ages 2-3 years in Room 113 and under 2 in Room 104.

During 11:00 service: CHILDREN'S CHURCH for 4 yr olds-3rd grade will start together in Room 119. (4 yr olds-Kind. can be picked up at Room 105.) CLIPBOARDS with packets of crayons and papers are available in baskets at the doors for children to use during the services. Please return to the baskets at the end of the service.

☞Here's What's Happening!☜

SUNDAY: ✧Come together to **PRAY** in Room 114 during 8:30 or 11:00 service.
✧10:15-10:40am - "Let the Children Come Unto Me" Children's Sunday School Program in the sanctuary. Everyone is invited!!
✧5:00pm - Family Caroling—meet at the church
✧5:00pm NO Unite (College Ministry) until January 18
✧6:30pm NO College Students' Supper until January 18

THIS WEEK: MON 1:00pm - Staff meeting at the Center
7:00pm - Elder meeting at the Center
TUE 10:30am - Men's Coffee at Augustine's Bakery, 1305 Main
noon - Deadline for items to be in the bulletin and requests for announcements to be made Sunday.
WED NO Heroes For Life (HFL)
NO CIA or Lifeguard
NO E2:10 High School Girls' Bible Study
8:00pm - Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at NOCC. A nursery will not be provided.
THU **Merry Christmas!**
NO Overcomers Outreach
THU-FRI Church Offices closed

NEXT SUNDAY: ▷Communion will be observed in the worship service.
▷11:00am - Combined Worship Service~~NO Sunday School

COMING UP: JAN 1-2 - Church Offices closed
JAN 2-3 - 5:00pm on Friday till 1:00pm on Saturday: Prayer Summit 2009 for High School students in the Youth Center.
JAN 4 - 11:00am Combined Worship Service~~NO Sunday School
JAN 11 - Parent/Child Dedication during services
9:50am New Adult Sunday School Classes begin
JAN 12 - 6:30pm Teams meet for Servant Community at NOCC
JAN 18 - 6:00pm Precepts class begins in Room 119
6:30pm College Student's Supper at Noman & Elizabeth Williams'.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE FOR MORNING WORSHIP SERVICES
Sunday, December 28: 11:00 Combined Worship Service
NO Sunday School
Sunday, January 4: 11:00 Combined Worship Service
NO Sunday School

The Deacon On Call for December 20-26 is Tom Noone. If you have a need and cannot reach the church office, please call Tom.

READING PROGRAM: The Spiritual Life Team wants to encourage everyone at NOCC to be a consistent reader of God's Word. As a growing part of this church, please read Matthew 22-28 this week and discuss with a friend. *Revelation 1:3*

A Caroling We Will Go . . . The Assimilation Team invites you to go Christmas Caroling TODAY at 5:00 pm. Meet at the church to divide into groups, go caroling and return to the church for hot chocolate, cookies and fellowship. Bring your family and friends and let's share the joy of the season with others in Hays! See you there!!! If you have questions, call Noman and Elizabeth Williams.

FROM THE CARE COMPASSION TEAM--The person mailing cards for the month of December is Leslie Hess. If you know of someone who needs a note of encouragement, sympathy or get well, please call her.

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED WHERE YOU WILL SERVE AT NOCC?
Please consider serving with the Outreach Team whose purpose is to help us reach as many people as possible for Christ. If you would be interested in serving on this team, providing a meal or place to stay for out-of-town guests/missionaries, being a prayer warrior or being on an adult mission team, contact Nina McNeal. If you would like an opportunity to serve in this way or others, please fill out the Response Card in the Friendship Book and put in the offering plate today!!

🕯️🕯️🕯️ CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 🕯️🕯️🕯️

On December 24 at 8:00pm a Candlelight Christmas Eve Service will be held at NOCC. Join us for a time of celebrating the birth of Jesus, our Savior and Lord!

THE FINANCE TEAM is asking that anyone planning to do year-end giving to the church to please do so in the offering by December 28 or before 5:00pm on December 30 at the church office. This will insure that your gift will appear on your 2008 giving receipt from the church. Anything **received after December 31** will have to be credited to 2009.

Prayer Summit 2009 for High School Students: January 2-3, 5:00pm on Friday till noon on Saturday. Cost \$15 (includes 3 meals and a 2009 Personal Prayer Journal) This is for students who want to spend some serious time with God!!!! Only those who sign up by TODAY will receive a 2009 Personal Prayer Journal.

NEEDED: Flat bed sheets. Give to Dustin Rupke or Jeff Neher. Will not be returned.

🌸🌸🌸 THANK YOU 🌸🌸🌸

Thank you to Rick & Pam Rogers, Carol Frye's Memorial and an anonymous donor for the funds to purchase the new piano. Praise God for this wonderful instrument to be used to His glory and worship.

Thank you to the NOCC Church family for the wonderful Soup Supper and Family Christmas Program. We raised \$3,000 for our Mission Trips!!! Thank you to all who donated baskets, purchased baskets, shared your talent, and laughed at the jokes! We have a very giving and gracious church family. Thank you for supporting our young people. Thanks to all the high school students who worked hard to make this happen. Thank you Amy Webb for making the soup, Donna McKenzie for the silent auction, and Bryan Noone for being the MC.~~The Lifeguard Leadership Team

PRECEPT STUDY: A seven week in-depth Precept Upon Precept study will begin on Sunday, January 18, at 6:00pm in Room 119. The title of this study is *Becoming A Friend of the Faithful God*, a study on Abraham. If you have a desire to learn God's word intimately, then join us in this powerful study from the book of Genesis. For more information, contact Bob or Karen Barnhart. Sign up sheets are in the Gathering Space today. Sorry, childcare will not be provided.

!!!!Severe Weather Information!!!! When a snow or ice storm occurs, the sidewalks and parking lot can be icy and slick. Due to the shaded areas on the north side of the building, it is difficult to remove those icy surface conditions. The sloped sidewalks at the main northwest entrance of the building are especially difficult to clear off. Under these circumstances, the east doors can always be used as an alternative building entrance. Because the street between the Church and Center may not get cleared by city crews, the parking lot entrance on Oak Street is the best location to enter the parking lot. If services will be cancelled or changed, an announcement will be made on local radio, the church website and the answering machine at the church office!!

PERSPECTIVES ON THE CHRISTIAN WORLD MOVEMENT is coming to Salina on January 14. Perspectives is a 15-week course that will change your heart for the unreached. You will hear guest speakers every week, share about what God is doing in the world, events that you will never hear on mainstream news! You may visit the first 2 classes for free. See more details in the flyer at the Welcome Center. If you have questions, call Nina McNeal or Mary Ann Massey.

What do you want for your marriage? Want some peace? Want to feel close? Want to feel valued? Want to experience marriage the way God intended? Then why not try some "Love and Respect." Beginning on Tuesday, January 6, 2009 at 7:30pm, Dave and Debbie Breeden will be hosting a small group in their home to view and discuss Emerson Eggerich's video seminar, *Love and Respect*. Achieve a brand-new level of intimacy and learn how to: - stop the Crazy Cycle of conflict - initiate the Energizing Cycle of change - enjoy the Rewarded Cycle of new passion. Call Dave Breeden or the NOCC office if you have questions.

📧📧📧 January Ministry Schedules are in your NOCC mailboxes. 📧📧📧

☞PRAYER MINISTRY☜

Week of December 21-27, 2008

Email your request for the PRAYER MINISTRY INFORMATION To nocc@northoak.net.

ADVENT READING:
“OUR DEDICATION TO HIS PURPOSE”

LORD, Your word spoken by the Holy Spirit through men and women like Polycarp, Joan of Arc, the apostles and others before their martyrdom is viable testimony that gives You the glory.

In Acts, upset by the teachings of Stephen, the synagogue of the Freedman, and Cyrenians, and Alexandrians “stirred up the people, and the elders, and the scribes, ...[they] came upon him...and brought him to the council” of the Sanhedrin. Before the high priest, Stephen testified of the God of glory and His leading of the children of Israel through history from the time of Abraham and his descendants, then, also in the wilderness with Moses, and then, with David, “who found favor before God, and desired to provide a dwelling place for the God of Jacob.” [Acts 6: 9; 12; Acts 7; 7:46]

The words of Stephen given by the Holy Spirit angered the crowd. He rebuked them.

You are just like your fathers: You always resist the Holy Spirit! Was there ever a prophet your fathers did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered Him - you who have received the law that was put into effect through angels but have not obeyed it. When they heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him... Full of the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.

He spoke aloud of what he saw. At that moment, he was stoned and cried out with a loud voice, “LORD, lay not this sin to their charge... then fell asleep.” He would become the first martyr of the New Testament. [Acts 7: 52, 55, 60]

We too, are His messengers by the Holy Spirit, to give glory to the name of God whatever our circumstances. We are established, set like a flint, embedded, anchored, rooted in this plan of the Father to bring glory to Himself. We are to embark, undertake, launch, as we discern the voice of God calling out to us to enter into His plan.

I heard the voice of the LORD say, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I: send me. [Isaiah 6:8]

“Lord my God, I trust in you for protection. Save me and rescue me from those who are chasing me. Otherwise, they will tear me apart like a lion. They will rip me to pieces and no one can save me.” [Psalm 7: 1-2]

God Most High protects me like a shield. He saves those whose hearts are right. [Psalm 7: 10]

SERMON NOTES:

Let “A Month of Prayer” be a launching pad for your new life with God in 2009. The NOCC Spiritual Life Team invites you to make January a month of *fasting* and *praying* for a fresh outpouring of God’s Spirit to intensify our love to Christ, deepen our grasp of truth, strengthen our trust in God’s promises, endear to us the word of God, free us from personal vices, enliven family love and faithfulness, embolden our witness to unbelievers, make our personal involvement in worship authentic, move us out in acts of justice as responsible citizens, increase our compassion for the needy, convert the lost in our midst, and make oaks of righteousness out of new saplings.

We would like to keep military personnel and their families in our prayers:
Let the church office know of any NOCC family with deployed family members.

NORTH OAK COMMUNITY CHURCH December 21, 2008
8:30am and 11:00am

“She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”
~~ *Matthew 1:21*

Welcome to North Oak! Thank you for choosing to worship with us this morning. Please take a moment to sign and pass the red Friendship Folder located in each row. All guests are invited to complete the right-hand column of the form.

Prelude Micayla Greathouse
“Come & Worship Medley” JoLeen Cunningham & Loren Groening

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing” (Hymn 277) Congregation
“It Came upon the Midnight Clear” (Hymn 251)
“Angels We Have Heard on High” (Hymn 278)
“O Come, All Ye Faithful” (Hymn 249)

Responsive Reading

Advent Reading and Candlelighting (8:30) Brad & Pam Chatfield
(11:00) Bill Sleigh family

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory” (Hymn 259) Congregation

PARENT/CHILD DEDICATION –

8:30: Jeremy & Stephanie Burkholder~~~~~Isaiah Stephen Burkholder
Chris & Nikki Muench~~~~~Jordyn Christine Muench
Derrick & Heather Schmitz~~~~~Elijah Alan Schmitz
Jason & Laura Staab~~~~~Rachel Madison Staab
11:00: Pete & Andrea Herrera~~~~~Adalyn Diane Herrera
Jeff & Jessica Neher~~~~~Ella Rae Neher
Shawn & Jamie Sterling~~~~~Emily Renée & Gracie Lynn Sterling

Prayer Deacon: Tom Noone

Offertory: “Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring” Joan Crull & Loren Groening
(11:00 service dismiss to Children’s Church: 4 yr olds–3rd grade will start together in Room 119. 4 yr olds-Kind. can be picked up at Room 105.)

Bible Message “God Planned It For Good” Pastor Ken
Genesis 43-45 (Pew Bible page 33)

“O Come, Let Us Adore Him” Congregation
“Joy to the World!” (Hymn 270)

*Postlude

Worship Team: Loren Groening, Pianist; NOCC Orchestra;
Dave Barber, JoLeen Cunningham, Normadine Noone,
Bryan Noone, Monte Smith, Vocalists.

Prayer Counselors: 1st Service – Chris & Mary Copeland
2nd Service – Dwight Vanderlip & Mary Benedict

** If you would like to pray with someone, at the end of the service proceed to the front of the sanctuary and a prayer intercessor will meet with you. You may also use the Response Card in the Friendship Book to let us know of any needs.*

Today’s service is available on cassette or CD for \$1.00 each. Call the church office to order. The message only can also be heard after Tuesday on the website at www.northoak.net.

Following the 8:30 service, you are invited to get a cup of coffee or juice in the Gathering Space and return to the sanctuary for the Children’s Christmas Program.

Adult & Youth Education Classes
All classes meet in the sanctuary for the Children’s Christmas Program
No classes December 28 or January 4
Regular classes begin on January 11 from 9:50-10:50am