

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN LCMS
11400 WEST PANAMA ROAD, CRETE, NE 68333



Come to the cross and learn of God's great love for all His people. There is friendship, fellowship, and the gift of God's word of forgiveness.

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 37 ISSUE 4 APRIL, 2023

Dear Fellow Saints in Christ Jesus,

“If” is a word that might express doubt or uncertainty. It can give evidence of a lack of faith. What if it all this stuff about Jesus is not true? Paul addressed this in his letter to the Corinthians:

1 Corinthians 15:12-14: “Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.”

However, Paul, with certainty, proclaims in 1 Corinthians 15:20: “But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.”

Our faith is not in vain. Life lived in faith in Jesus is not worthless or uncertain. Life is wonderful, a gift from God to be lived in holiness and with great blessing. Yes, life can be hard; it is sometimes very difficult; full of trouble; and often frustrating. The fault is our own—our own sin and sinfulness. We ruin what God made good.

When we turn in faith to God and trust in Him we receive the peace of sins forgiven. We hold on boldly and confidently to His assurance of eternal life given by Him in Baptism. We find that God the Holy Spirit moves us and strengthens us to live as God calls us with purpose and meaning and blessing in His Word and in faith.

Jesus' death was not in vain—it paid the penalty of all our offenses against God—our failures to do as He commands and our failures of crossing the lines we are not to cross in disobedience. Jesus did suffer on account of our sin and die for us. And to seal the deal He was raised to life again! He lives! His payment for our sin was accepted and our debt is paid—in full. He is risen! He is risen, indeed. Alleluia! Rejoice in your salvation. No more “ifs”—it is finished in Jesus who died but is alive now and forever. Amen.

Pastor Toensing



PLEASE HAVE ALL INFORMATION OR ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTER TO CHRIS HOLLMAN BY 25TH, THANK YOU!

Clothing for Orphan Grain Train: We can once again send used clothing to Orphan Grain Train. When leaving clothes in the drop box outside the church by the back door, please mark them for either OGT or PCM (People's City Mission).

BOARD OF ED UPDATES

- There will be no Sunday School on Easter Sunday. We hope you enjoy spending the day with your families.
- The last day of **Midweek classes** will be **May 3rd**. We'll celebrate with a pizza party and games. More details to come :)
- **Vacation Bible school** will take place July 23rd through the 27th in the evenings at church. Our theme this year is "**Weird Animals**". VBS registration is now available on the church website. We've started planning for a really fun week!

FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT....

LINCOLN LUTHERAN CHOIR...In Concert. "Finding Extraordinary in the Ordinary". Sunday, April 23 @ 3 pm, Grace Lutheran Church, Lincoln



April &
BIRTHDAYS

BAPTISMS

BIRTHDAYS

1 Kian Morris
2 Lilian Underwood
3 Jennifer Meinke
7 Cari Henning
8 Victoria Slama
11 Charlie Slama
12 Amy Hollman, Lillan Kubicek, Debra Wendelin
13 Jessica Trautman
14 Kaylie Brethouwer
16 Donna Hillgren, Christopher Ladman, Brandee Samples, Sami Weber
17 Lee Miller

20 James Haufle,
Christina Rezac
21 Kristi Reetz
22 Dean Prochnow
23 Dominick Hensley
27 Dan Underwood
28 Kourtlynn Reetz
30 Pastor Maynard Toensing

BAPTISMS

1 Linda Eggert, Verna Schultz
2 Jolene Reetz, Waylon Graff
3 Addilyn Brethouwer
4 Bradley Jr., Hugo, & Olivia Pomajzl, Susan Vosika
7 Cindy Hoesche,
Steven Toensing

9 Isaac Meinke
12 Marla Musil, Kurt Reetz
13 Bruce Miller,
15 Amy Hollman, Travis Shore
16 Cheryl Langfeldt
17 Maggie Wohl
20 Jerry Ferguson
21 Marlow Meinke
22 Jordyn Adam
24 Donna Hillgren,
Drew Trautman
26 Kian Morris
29 Alice Poole, Jaxon Trautman,
Rylyn Trautman
30 Brandee Samples

OUR MISSION Share the Joy of His News by growing inward through God's Word, Sacraments and fellowship and by growing outward through words, actions, and mission outreach.



**That All May
Know Him**



LADIES AID 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Help the ladies of St. John Ladies Aid commemorate their 100th anniversary! Be our guest for coffee, a short program, and lunch on Sunday, April 23rd, 2023 in the Fellowship Hall after Worship Service.

LADIES AID MINUTES

St. John Ladies Aid met on March 29, 2023, after worship and lunch was served for those congregation members attending worship.

Roll call was taken with 15 members present. The minutes of the February 2023 meeting were read and approved. The treasurer's report was given.

We received a newsletter from Rev Gerald & Heidi Paul.

There was discussion on whether to order new linen cloths or have someone sew new ones. The Altar committee will look into having the linen cloths sewed. Money out of Gerald Reetz's memorial will help pay for this expense.

A motion was made to clean the kitchen on April 11 at 9 am. Seconded and passed.

The Altar needs to be painted. We will table the discussion on this for now as Pastor Toensing will be discussing this with the elders.

An announcement has been placed in the bulletin to have congregation members purchase Easter Lilies to adorn the Altar.

Diane Kahle shared the order of activities for the anniversary celebration on April 23. For the final time, we went over how each committee was proceeding with their duties.

Deb Walker celebrated a birthday in March. The birthday song was sung.

The hostess for April will be Deb Walker.

We closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

Deb Walker, Secretary



We are making our effort to recycle. Any cardboard boxes or cardboard anything can be taken to church office or Pastors' office and we will see that they get recycled. I am also taking the paper to recycle site. There is a tub to the right of the printer in church office. Thank you all for your help in our efforts!

LYF NEWS

LYF SPONSORED EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 1 at 10 am

(youth group meets at 9 am)

Thank you all for your support by donating candy for this event.



EASTER BREAKFAST BETWEEN SUNRISE WORSHIP AND 9:00 AM WORSHIP SERVICES. This is sponsored by LYF and other church volunteers. Please note the writeup in church bulletins and this Newsletter.

LYF SPONSORED ROADSIDE CLEANUP ON SUNDAY, APRIL 16, FOLLOWING WORSHIP SERVICE



There is a signup sheet in the Narthex soon. We are asking for congregation support on the Roadside Cleanup...please help out and support our LYF. Thanks to all of you!

FROM THE ELDERS

THE LORD IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!!

As we enter the Easter Season, let us all rejoice in the fact that Jesus has died for us. And through that, all who believe in Him have forgiveness of sins.

The LYF group is having an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April at 10:00 am. We need to thank the LYF and the sponsors for setting this up for the children. It will be a fun time!

We will have many opportunities to worship Him in the following weeks. First is Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holy Week, when our children will be singing for us. Following will be Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and then two Worship Services on Easter Sunday. An Easter Breakfast will be served between the two worship services on Easter Sunday. A special thank you goes out to the volunteers helping our LYF group to put this together.

Let us also thank the ones who made the cemetery fence happen. The people who did the planning, the people who did the work and the families who donated the memorial money to pay for it. It has been a group effort indeed! As soon as the gates get here and are installed, it will really make a big improvement to the looks of St John Lutheran Cemetery.

The Elders of St. John

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CHURCH –LCMS**

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www.stjohnkramer.org
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pastortoensing@gmail.com



SAVE THE DATE!

Quarterly Voters' Meeting will be Sunday, April 30 following worship services

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER GROWTH

Schedule at a Glance

Worship Service (Sundays)	9:00 a.m.
Sunday School/LYF/Adult Bible Class (Sundays)	10:15-11:15 a.m.
Midweek Classes (Wednesdays)	6:30 p.m.
Elders' Meeting (April 3)	7:00 p.m.
Quilting Group (April 11 & April 25)	9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Evangelism Board Meeting (April 17)	2:00 p.m.
Lutheran Women in Mission (April 18)	10:00 a.m.
Church Council Meeting (April 24)	6:30 p.m.
Ladies Aid Meeting (April 26)	2:00 p.m.
Quarterly Voters' Meeting (April 30) following worship service	

Palm Sunday Worship Service with Communion April 2 at 9:00 am
Maundy Thursday Worship Service with Communion April 6 at 7:00 pm
Good Friday Tenebrae Worship Service April 7 at 7:00 pm
Easter Sunrise Worship with Communion April 9 at 6:30 am
Easter Worship with Communion April 9 at 9:00 am



Easter breakfast between sunrise service and 9am service. Food provided includes: pancakes, eggs, ham, biscuits and gravy. There are 2 sign-up sheets in the Narthex. One sheet for side dishes, fruit, and pastries and the second sheet for volunteer shift work 6:00 - 8:00am for set-up and serving and 8:00 - 10:00am for serving and clean-up. Any donations and time volunteered is greatly appreciated. (Sponsored by LYF and other church volunteers)

THOSE SERVING DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL

DUTY	April 2	April 9	April 16	April 23	April 30
Organist/Pianist	Ellen Millier	Ellen/Jayne	Jayne VanAsperen	Jayne VanAsperen	Jayne VanAsperen
Elders	Todd Hoyer	Troy Henning	Gary Meinke	John Reitz	Dolyn Meinke
Greeters	Dave & Marla Musil	Need Volunteers	Marilyn Nelson & Marianne Tesar	Brian & Melissa Persing	Larry & Linda Pomajzl
Acolytes	Easton Brethouwer	Kian Morris 6:30 am Amy Hollman 9 am	Paisley Williams		Easton Brethouwer

Puzzle!

Use the code to uncover the angel's message in Matthew 28:7 (NIV).

K1 G S2 P H3 F R4 I C5 E Y6 L
W N M D O U Z A Q T B J

“ “ H

3 5 3 4 2

4 4 2 5 1 3 4 3 2

5 3 6 2 6 4 2

4 1 2 4 2

1 3 4 1 1 4 3 5 4 2

3 3 6 3 3 4 1 6 3

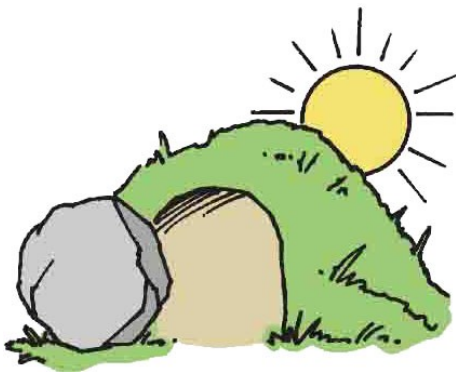
1 4 6 4 6 5 5

6 3 5 4 5 6 3 3

, ”

1 4 6 6 2 5 5 3 4 2

Answer: “He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.”



Join us this Easter

Puzzle!

Using the code, complete this passage based on Ezekiel 34.

CODE

ABCDEFGHIJKLMN OPQRSTUVWXYZ
ZYXWVUTSRQPONMLKJIHG FEDCBA

“As a _____ looks after his
H S V K S V I W

_____ when _____ is
H X Z G G V I V W U O L X P S V

_____ them, so will I _____ after my _____
D R G S O L L P H S V V K

I will _____ them and _____ them.
I V H X F V K Z H G F I V

I will _____ for the _____ and bring back
H V Z I X S O L H G

the _____ . I will _____ up the _____
H G I Z B H Y R M W R M Q F I V W

and _____ the _____ . You are my
H G I V M T G S V M D V Z P

_____ ... and I am your _____ .”
H S V V K T L W



Answer: shepherd, scattered, flock, he, with, look, sheep, rescue, pasture, search, lost, strays, bind, injured, strengthen, weak, sheep, God