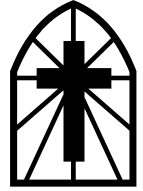


ST. JOHN LUTHERAN LCMS
11400 WEST PANAMA ROAD, CRETE, NE 68333



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 38 ISSUE 4 APRIL 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

How many voices do we hear on any given day? The answer is, "A lot." These voices of people around us offer or give us their advice, information, or opinions on what they think we need or need to know. Then there are the voices of people we listen to on the radio, on podcasts, on TV, and through social media.

Advertising and marketing begin by stating a problem that is known or felt. A storyline is introduced as to how our problem or issue can be resolved by obtaining this or that product. And then we're shown how our life or situation in the future will be better.

There are lots of voices and lots of things offered. Many of them are self-serving motivations and expectations. Some of the voices around us are people we do care about and who care about us. But there are others which are only trying to get us to buy into their ideas or products. So, we start to think about which voices we really should listen to for our good.

Jesus, our Good Shepherd, demonstrates that He is for us and for our benefit. What He wants for us is what caused Him to give His life lovingly for us. He gave His life in place of ours so we could have our greatest spiritual needs met. His voice is one we can trust with our life. And when we follow His voice, He will get us to our heavenly home with the Father.

Now, thinking about different voices, we will hear some in our worship settings this month. We have two young ladies that will be making confirmation of their baptismal faith one Sunday. A guest pastor will share God's Word one Sunday. The voices of witnesses and sponsors at a baptism on another. And a former pastor, Rev. Hansen, on the last. How exciting that we have these other voices giving praise to God for the blessings we receive. They too have heard the voice of the Good Shepherd and share in His grace and love with us.

The best voice of all to listen to is Jesus' voice, our Good Shepherd, who calls us to follow Him. In Him we have salvation, love, wisdom, and our forever home. The love of Christ Jesus be with you always as you hear His voice in His holy Word.

God's Blessings to you, Pastor Toensing



"I am the
good
shepherd."

John 10:11

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).

NEBRASKA DISTRICT MAN FEAST 2024

The men of the Nebraska District, young and old, are invited to Peace Lutheran Church in Grand Island for **Man Feast 2024**. Come for amazing ribs, inspiring music, and join over 500 men as you listen to guest speaker, Darin Kinder of Valiant Ministries. Tickets: \$25; April 7, 5:30pm (Doors open at 5:00) Register here.

that link is: <https://www.peacegi.org/events/detail/man-feast-2024/79470-1712466000/>



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, Erica Alexander
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
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, Ryn Trautman
30 Brandee Samples

GERALD AND HEIDI PAUL MISSION THANK YOU!

Dear Saints at Saint John,

We hear the wonderful Gospel from the Apostle Paul in Ephesians 2:8-9: "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast." This great message we proclaim to people that want to save themselves and/or seek their own ways to eternal life. Christ, who won our salvation for us through His death and resurrection, grants us this faith and strengthens us in faith in Him through His Gospel.

Thank you for your generosity and prayers that make it possible for us to be on the mission field to proclaim this message to the people of the Cayman Islands!

May God richly bless you as you reflect on Christ's Passion for you and for the world!
Your partners in mission,
Gerald and Heidi Paul



LADIES AID MINUTES

St. John Ladies Aid met on March 20th, 2024 after worship and a luncheon that was served to those of the congregation attending the 10:30 morning service. The meeting was called to order, followed with an opening prayer by President Deb Walker.

Roll call was taken with 9 members present. The minutes of February meeting were read and approved with one correction. The Treasurers report was read.

Thank you notes for serving at the funeral along with a donation for the Ladies Aid was received from the family of Kenneth Kahle as a memorial gift.

Marianne Randall is the contact person for funerals and it was decided that we will have two backup funeral contact persons. Diane Kahle and Linda Eggert have agreed to volunteer for those positions. Discussion of Ladies Aid decoration of bulletin board shall be in April. Ellie Koch will be in charge of bulletin board theme.

The birthday song was sung to Deb Walker in celebration of her birthday this month. Marianne Randall will serve as hostess for the month of April.

Secretary, Bonnie Bleich

LADIES AID INVITATION!

On April 28 we are welcoming Pastor Hansen as our guest preacher. The Ladies Aid will be serving lunch after worship that Sunday for Pastor & Colleen Hansen along with congregation members. We hope everyone will join us!





LYF SPONSORED ROADSIDE CLEANUP

We are planning a semi-annual Roadside clean up for Sunday, **April 14**, following worship, **weather permitting**. All help is welcomed and appreciated!

FOR YOUR INFORMATION.....

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is looking for a full time Congregational Administrative Assistant. Wide range of tasks including weekly bulletins and newsletters, scheduling visits for the pastors, answering phones and a variety of other tasks as assigned. Will work closely with the pastors in the administration of the congregation. Candidates need to be friendly, outgoing, and be able to show discretion. Familiarity with Microsoft Office, database software and Google products required. Please submit a resumé or ask questions to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 3825 Wildbriar LN, Lincoln, NE 68516 or email to info@goodshepherdlincoln.org

A big thank you for the volunteers that helped make the Easter Breakfast Event possible. We want to try to keep the tradition going and help out the LYF group at the same time. We decided to use the free will donation for the Bell Family. As of this printing, I don't know how the breakfast went...but I'm going to say it was a success!

thank you

MAIN STREET LIVING updates for April, 2024

“Main Street Living” is a liturgical worship service broadcasting a different local pastor each Sunday morning. It airs along with the classic Lutheran Hour program, “This is the Life”. Both can be viewed on KLKN Channel 8 (Lincoln) & WOWT Channel 6.2 (Omaha) Visit www.mainstreetliving.com/lincoln to view current and past episodes.

April 7, 10:30 a.m...Rev. Thomas Goodroad, pastor at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Lincoln, presents a message titled “Peace”. This sermon is based on John 20:19-31.

April 14, 10:30 a.m...Vicar Jacob Garrison at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Lincoln, presents a message titled “Gathers and Guards”. This sermon is based on John 10:11-16.

April 21, 10:30 a.m...Rev. Brent Horne, pastor at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Malcolm, presents a message titled “A little while (and you will see me)”. This sermon is based on John 16:16-22.

April 28, 10:30 a.m...TBA

**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN
CHURCH –LCMS**

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www.stjohnkramer.org
Rev. Maynard Toensing, Jr.
pastortoensing@gmail.com



**That All May
Know Him**

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER GROWTH

Schedule at a Glance

Worship Service (Sundays)	9:00 a.m.
Sunday School/LYF/Adult Bible Class (Sundays)	10:30 a.m.
Midweek Classes (Wednesdays)	6:30 p.m.
Elders' Meeting (April 1)	7:00 p.m.
Quilting Group (April 9 and 23)	9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Ladies Aid Meeting (April 24)	2:00 p.m.
Church Council Meeting (April 29)	6:30 p.m.

SAVE THE DATE FOR QUARTERLY VOTERS' MEETING
MAY 5, 2024

FROM THE ELDER'S

He is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

With April just begun, it seems too early to already be through the Lenten season and the celebration of Easter. Let us not forget that every Sunday is in celebration of the death and resurrection of our Savior so that we might be saved and have our sins forgiven.

We need to thank the LYF, and all the other volunteers, for hosting an Easter Egg Hunt for the children. Even though the weather was chilly, we still had a good showing and much fun was had. Also, a big thank you to everyone who donated their time and service to allow us to share breakfast together on Easter morning.

Looking forward, please note the dinner and silent auction to benefit baby Bryan to be held on Sunday, April 21st directly after church. We rejoice that he has finally made it back home, but he still has a tough road ahead of him and any support we can give will be much needed.

Also make note, and plan to attend, the voters meeting on May 5th.
The Elders of St. John

THOSE SERVING DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL

DUTY	4/7/2024	4/14/2024	4/21/2024	4/28/2024
Organist/Pianist				
Elders	Todd Hoyer	Phil Hughes	Gary Meinke	Doug Karl
Greeters	Glen & Verna Louch	Gary & Lynn Meinke	Dave & Marla Musil	Larry & Linda Pomajzl
Acolytes	Cheyenne DuBray		Cheyenne DuBray	

HELP NEEDED FOR FUNDRAISER FOR
BRYAN BELL III
PULLED PORK DINNER & SILENT AUCTION



SUNDAY, APRIL 21
10:30 - 1:30
KRAMER HALL

Congregation help is needed to:
Set up, serve and clean up
Provide desserts
Provide auction items

Please sign up at church to help or provide desserts.
Please bring auction items, with donor's name attached, to the meeting room upstairs, preferably by April 14. Last minute items can be brought directly to the hall on April 21.
Questions - contact Shelley Toensing

Direct donations can be made at
Pinnacle Bank - Bryan Bell account #1618
There is also a collection box at church.
All donations will go to little Bryan's medical expenses.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



St. John Lutheran 150th Anniversary

“The Lord’s faithfulness continues through all generations.” Psalm 100:5

April Anniversary Celebration

**Recognition of our 65+ years young
experienced lifers and retired generation**

Sunday, April 28,

Rev. Lyle Hansen as our guest preacher

Ladies Aid will be serving a brisket and pork dinner beginning at 11:30 a.m

Future events

Sunday, June 30 – Recognition of our 40-65 yr old generation

Rev. John Heckmann as our guest preacher

Rev. Michael Heckmann as our guest liturgist

Sunday, July 28 – Recognition of our 0-13 yr old generation

VBS Sunday (this date is tentative)

Brunch potluck

Sunday, August 4 – Recognition of our 25-40 yr old generation

Rev. Joshua Hayes as our guest preacher

Sunday, October 13 – Formal Anniversary Celebration

Dr. Rev. Sommerfeld as our guest preacher

Meal following at Hallam Auditorium

Anniversary Committee: Carol Brinkmeyer (chair), Cindy Hoyer, Glen and Verna Louch, Gary and Lynn Meinke, Marianne (Tesar) Randall, Chris Reetz, Kristi Reitz, Pastor and Shelley Toensing

Church History

Did You Know...

On January 31, 1923, the ladies of the church formed the Ladies Aid. Their mission was to serve the needs of the church including funerals, anniversary celebrations, wedding receptions, public sales and much more. In their current role, ladies aid continues to serve funeral dinners, help with church events, and serve as the altar guild, taking care of altar linens and paraments. Ladies Aid meets monthly for Bible Study and planning. All ladies of the congregation are invited to be part of Ladies Aid.