

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 36 ISSUE 8 AUGUST 2022

### Prayer: A Ship or a Boat?

Do you know the difference between a ship and a boat? I used to think it was just a matter of size—a ship was bigger, a boat was smaller. But it's actually more specific than that: a ship is a vessel that has its own boat. That's right; a ship always has a smaller vessel, a boat, that it carries until it's needed—for example, when the ship is sinking, a lifeboat. Now, a lifeboat is a very good thing, but the fact is that most ships never need their boat that way. Most ships go their entire sailing life without ever using the lifeboat. Almost all the time, you do your sailing in the ship.

Is prayer a lifeboat, or is it a ship?

"Pastor, would you pray for me? The doctor says I have a tumor."

Absolutely, yes, and Pastor does. Even when it may appear all hope is lost, the ship is sinking, God answers prayer, and it may be his will to work a miracle, to spare one's life. Prayer can be a lifeboat.

But God's intent in giving us the gift of prayer isn't that we wait to pray until all seems lost. God intends that prayer be an every-day, every moment part of the Christian life, including when life seems to be clear sailing, a pleasure cruise. The fact is that God rights the ship, keeps the world on an even keel, by the prayers of his Church. The saints on earth and in heaven are constantly praying, and God is constantly answering—with good weather, good crops, good health, and all sorts of things we might take for granted. God invites us to pray about everything every day, not just as a last resort.

It's like the difference between a ship and a boat. The ship—constant, daily prayer—also has a boat, like that life and death prayer Abraham brought before the Lord (Gen 18:22–33). But God invites us to sail every day, pray every minute, in the ship.

Robert J. Pase, Midland, TX (CPR:CPH, 2016)



**NEVER STOP  
PRAYING.**

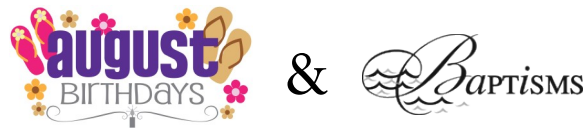
**1 THESSALONIANS 5:17**

**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).

## LWML MISSION PROJECT

The people's city mission help center services about 674 kids a week. There is a great need for backpacks for kids, youth and adults, and also for school supplies for the coming school year. The LWML is collecting donations for the following school supply items: **crayons, colored pencils, pens, pencils, sharpeners, markers, erasers, highlighters, rulers, safety scissors, notebooks, folders, calculators, glue sticks and pencil boxes.** Please help us by donating and giving these kids a good start to the school year.



### BIRTHDAYS

2 Jason Jordan  
 5 Sara Moravek  
 10 Abbey Reetz, Kade & Stella Eggert  
 12 Amanda (Rezac) Thompson  
 13 Ray Bleich, Michael Reiss, Kristi Reitz  
 14 Todd Hoyer  
 15 Hannah Rethmeier  
 17 Eric Ellingson, Mara Hoyer, Madison Persing  
 18 Sheila Church, Marianne Tesar  
 19 Shirley Reetz, Darren Weber  
 20 Diane Gropp

21 Jim Ellingson

22 Terry Meinke, Kristine Muff

25 Garrett Mehl

26 Mike Langfeldt

28 Brad Kalkwarf,  
Miriam Weber

31 Donald Rejcha

### BAPTISMS

2 Leahh Anderson,  
LaVonne Nitzel

3 Erica Sublett, Briggen Reetz

8 Ashley Walker

10 Wayne Hansmeyer

11 Christopher Ladman, Tyler Stehlik, Easton Brethouwer

13 Alexandra Weber

19 Kyle Ochs, Axel Heusinkvelt

20 Elyana Lee

21 Gloria McDermott

22 Sara Moravek

23 Brad Pomajzl, Kristi Reitz

27 Kira Wohl, Anton Slama

29 Madison Persing

30 Ariana Munro, Amanda (Rezac) Thompson

**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.



**BIBLES...** Please bring your old and **not being used Bibles and Christian books** to be sent overseas for mission work. A tote is in the entry way. For more information, go to [lovepackages.org](http://lovepackages.org) Thank you for your generosity.

### FELLOWSHIP

The Elders would like to encourage fellowship among our members. One way will be to have treats being served again after church in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a signup sheet in the kitchen for people who would like to bring treats. We plan to start serving the **first Sunday in August.**

### LADIES AID MINUTES

St. John Ladies Aid met on July 27, 2022, with Janice Reetz as hostess. We sang hymn #609 "Jesus Sinners Doth Receive" and then Pastor Toensing led us in a Bible study on "The Lost Sheep" from Luke 15.

Roll call was taken with 9 members present. The minutes of the May 2022 meeting were read and approved. The treasurer's report was given.

The strawberry shortcake served after the Ascension Day service was a success.

The cookbook materials were mailed and received by Morris Press Cookbooks. It should take 3-5 weeks for them to send us a proof to read over. It was motioned and seconded to charge \$15 for each cookbook. We will decide at a later date whether to pick up the completed cookbooks in Kearney to save on shipping charges.

Ladies Aid members signed up for the committees that they would like to help with for the anniversary celebration.

It was discussed to have a Ladies Night Out. It was motioned and seconded to contact Mike Wolverton at Veterans and Friends to pick a date the last week of September to host Ladies Night Out.

Donna Brunelle will be the hostess for August.

Linda & Wayne Eggert, Shirley & Elmer Reetz and Diane & Ken Kahle celebrated anniversaries in June. Barb Meinke, LaVonne Nitzel and Janice Reetz celebrated birthdays in July and Pastor Art & Carol Brinkmeyer celebrated an anniversary. We sang the birthday song.

We closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer and common Table Prayer.

Deb Walker, Secretary



Friendship Sunday August 14<sup>th</sup> , 9:00 am

**“Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing”, 1 Thessalonians 5:11. Friendship Sunday is August 14<sup>th</sup> at St Johns and we invite everyone in the congregation to bring a friend to church this day! This is a wonderful opportunity for fellowship with our friends and our community as well as showcasing our beautiful church and introducing to our community the amazing church and congregation that we have. This is a non-communion Sunday. Pastor will be incorporating his sermon to reflect on friendship and we will be handing out visitor information as well as a small gift at the end of the service. As a note to our congregation this day and every day, please feel free to introduce yourselves to all guests and visitors. We hope to see you and your friends August 14<sup>th</sup>!**

**Yours in Christ, The Evangelism Board**

## FROM THE ELDERS

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We want to give a heart felt “Thank You!” to all who volunteered their time and talents to make this years VBS a successful ministry outreach for our children. An immense amount of time and effort goes into making these events happen, and while it’s done to help strengthen the children’s faith, and not for recognition, know that your efforts are very much appreciated. Again, Thank You!

Even though the first day of VBS has not come as this is being written, we have faith that VBS will transpire and trust that the above statement will be true when it is read. We trust that those who said they would put on VBS, did. Our trust in God allows us to believe in the evidence of things not seen. Just as those of you who have given your time to the children may never personally witness their spiritual growth, you have faith that it will. Through trust in Gods word, you rely on your faith. Faith without trust is not faith. Belief in God’s word without reliance ON God’s word is hollow.

As we struggle with everything from life’s everyday challenges to the conflicts and strife of the world as a whole, let us not forget to celebrate our many blessings. The birth of a child (congratulations Bryan and Erin!). A faithful spouse. The promise of the rainbow.

Pray. Trust in God’s word. Rely on God’s word. Have faith in Him. Rejoice!

In Christ’s love, The Elders of St. John

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**OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER GROWTH**

**Schedule at a Glance**

Worship Service (Sundays)	9:00 a.m.
Bible Class (Sundays)	10:30 a.m.
Elder’s Meeting (August 1)	6:30 p.m.
Evangelism Board Meeting (August 8)	8:30 a.m.
Quilters Group (August 9)	9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Lutheran Women in Mission (August 16)	10:00 a.m.



**NEED FOR GREETERS!** We all want the world and our lives to get back to normal. We discussed this at the Quarterly Voters’ Meeting and felt that a Greeters Schedule will be a good start. Someone to meet and greet our members as well as any visitors to make all feel welcome. If you would like to add your name to the schedule we used in the past (or need to have your name removed), please contact Chris in the church office as soon as possible.

The Elders would like to see if there is interest from our youth (Pre-K to 12<sup>th</sup> grade) to start being more involved with greeting before church services. One option is that they are with family members such as grandparents, parents or siblings. The other option is if they would be willing to be paired with other members of the congregation who do not usually greet by themselves but would like it if someone would help them. With involving the kids, it opens up the opportunity for the congregants to get to know them better and the children to be more familiar with the members. It also allows participation in the church service and serving our Lord. Please respond to Chris if this is something that you and your family would be interested in doing. If so, we would be able to set up a schedule.

**Thank You and God Bless., The Elders of St. John**

**THOSE SERVING DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST**

DUTY	August 7	August 14	August 21	August 28
<b>Organist/ Pianist</b>	Ellen Miller	Ellen Miller	Jayne VanAsperen	Jayne VanAsperen
<b>Elders</b>	Phil Hughes	Dolyn Meinke	Troy Henning	John Reitz
<b>Greeters</b>				
<b>Acolytes</b>	Paisley Williams		Ethan Sublett	



July 13, 2022

Dear Friends, *at St. John-Kramer*

Greetings in the Name of our *RISEN* Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who was, who is and who is to come, amen. We pray your summer is going well and you are finding time to rest and enjoy this season while Jesus remains the focus and center of your life.

We have great news to share, in spite of the situation that still troubles us in Russia. By God’s work and guiding hand, we are still able to do His work of serving the children, elderly, the hospitals and the women in the prisons, in Russia and the Baltic countries. With your continued offering they are still receiving hygiene products, medicines, vitamins, etc. From the bottom of our hearts, **THANK YOU!**

During this difficult time in that part of the world, we ask, please keep our coworkers living there in your prayers. To help you with this they are: Nikolai and Valentina, Alla, Tatianna, Rutte, Renta, Valentina, Pastor Arvydas and Pastor Artis. We also ask you to remember in your prayers the many at the Orphan Grain Train who help us do the work and of course you, our sponsors.

In case you don’t know, a small group of us will be traveling to the Baltics, to visit our orphanages, one of our Women’s Prisons and where the OGT sends containers. It will be a blessing to see them and reconnect face to face with our coworkers in those countries. We may even be able to see some from Russia that are able to travel to the Baltics. As always, we will send you some pictures of your orphanage as we receive them from our coworkers.

**THANK YOU** for your partnership in this mission and your continued prayers, especially since things have not changed much for our coworkers in these countries. Please know you are in our prayers as we thank God for each of you.

Your humble servants and friends,

Pastor Ron Benson

*Hopefully we will see some of you at the OGT  
Karen Reehl Tiedeman  
Convention in NORFOLK - Sept  
9-10.*

“I will not leave you as orphans;  
I will come to you.” John 14:18

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