

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 8 AUGUST 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is not just important to start right, but sometimes, it is vital to the whole and to the ending to start right. For us, as Christians, the beginning is vital. The beginning of all things is God. And He was there to begin all things—to create them and to set all things in place. Himself excepted.

## **Genesis 1:1 (ESV): “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”**

In our world today, to which we are to be witnesses of our faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, it is necessary to hold firmly to God as Creator of all things. That God is Creator sets all life in relationship to Him. He Himself has no beginning, but He began and created all that we enjoy in the world. God is the center; God is the originator; God is the source of all that exists.

Because God is Creator, then it is God who sets forth the laws and rules and the way life is to be lived on earth before Him. God is the source of light and life and purpose. Not only did He say His creation was good, even very good, but we come to know that HE is good. His ways are right. That is what we confess Sunday after Sunday: “I believe in God the Father Almighty, **MAKER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH.**”

God set the rules in His commandments. The summary of the commandments is love: love God and love your neighbor in the way God says is good and right. But we sin against His commandments. Then God shows us His righteousness and His mercy. His righteousness is seen in rightly punishing all sin and sinfulness. See Jesus on the cross. That is God's judgment against all sin. BUT: see Jesus on the cross and you see His mercy—for Jesus is the pure, holy, innocent Son of God who took your place, for you should be on the cross suffering your sin. But God, in mercy, in Jesus the God-Man, took the wrath for sin upon Himself.

The sinful world—not just today, but since the fall of man into sin—rebels against God and His righteousness. The denial of a creator is the refusal to be accountable to God. Mankind wants to be his/her own little god so they can set their own rules. So they get the Ten Commandments out of schools and out of public viewing. They deny the biological gender they were born into and want to determine their own subjective “self,” even to the irrational denial of factual biology. They “follow the science” when it fits their agenda; but then deny good science when it doesn't. Personal choice leads to a denial of God's will and a murder of innocent ones.

“A good beginning makes a good ending” is often attributed to American writer Louis L'Amour. However, this proverb has appeared in some form as early as 600 years ago. Consider this proverb in light of our faith and salvation in Jesus Christ. If God is not the beginner and Creator of all things, then life has no purpose; there are no standards; and only chaos and uncertainty follow. And in God's terms: darkness.

But if you begin with God as Creator, it leads to having a relationship to Him and with Him. If one regards His rules as good and right, then one confesses his/her sin against them. And then, we find the deepest, most wonderful, most gracious love as God reveals His salvation for us in His Son's life, death, and resurrection. This is truth and it is the true Light; for God is Light and Jesus is the Light of the world (John 8:12). Therefore, we have hope in the restoration that is coming in heaven.

Hold firmly to the good and right beginning; then all that follows will run the right course too. “In the beginning ... **GOD CREATED** the heavens and the earth.”

In Christ's Love, 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).



# Blessing of the Backpacks

Sunday, August 6

During 9:00 a.m. Worship Service



August  
BIRTHDAYS

&

BAPTISMS

## BIRTHDAYS

2 Jason Jordan  
5 Sara Moravek  
10 Abbey Reetz, Kade & Stella Eggert  
12 Amanda (Rezac) Thompson  
13 Ray Bleich, 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  
20 Elyana Lee

21 Gloria McDermott  
22 Sara Moravek  
23 Brad Pomajzl, Kristi Reitz  
27 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.



## 150th Anniversary Suggestion Box

As we now work forward to our year of celebration of our 150th year we ask for suggestions.

In the narthex is a suggestion box. We are asking for the following:

- 1 Please submit names for a guest speaker.
- 2 Our theme is "The Lord's Faithfulness continues through all generations". We encourage your ideas on how to celebrate each of the generations,.
- 3 Ideas for displays, food, etc. are also welcome.

The suggestion box will be in the narthex through Sunday, September 3.

Thank you for your participation.

The 150th Anniversary Committee

## FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY AUGUST 27TH



"Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing", 1 Thessalonians 5:11. Friendship Sunday is August 27 at St John 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. Refreshments for all and fellowship following the Worship 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 27<sup>th</sup>!

Yours in Christ, The Evangelism Board

## LADIES AID MINUTES

St. John Ladies Aid met on July 26, 2023, with Janice Reetz as hostess. Pastor Toensing led us in prayer, hymn #681 "Send, O Lord, Your Holy Spirit" and then a Bible study entitled "Sanctify the Holy Day" from Exodus 20:8.

Roll call was taken with 6 members present. The minutes of the June 2023 meeting were read and approved. The treasurer's report was given.

We received a thank you card from the Weidner/Kattau family for serving at Olga's funeral. Olga's memorial money will be given to Ladies Aid. We will be thinking about what to purchase with that money.

Sandi Karl picked up the linen cloth and made 4 mats to go underneath the candles on the Altar. She also made a covering for the little table next to the Altar with the leftover fabric. The Altar linen has not been delivered yet.

Bonnie Bleich and Marianne Tesar will be serving ice cream sundaes for all those in attendance on the last night of VBS.

Diane Kahle will put the leftover dishes from the funeral upstairs where it is easier for members to pick up the dishes.

We still have cookbooks for sale. We will be thinking of places to go to sell them. A farmer's market was a suggestion.

We are starting to plan for Ladies Night Out in September. Diane Kahle will check with the VFW to see if we can hold the event there again this year.

Ladies Aid needs help setting up and tearing down tables & chairs for funerals. Pastor will talk with Gary Meinke about organizing volunteers to help with this.

July birthdays were celebrated by Barb Meinke, LaVonne Nitzel and Janice Reetz. We sang the birthday song to Janice. Pastor and Carol Brinkmeyer celebrated an anniversary in July.

The hostess for August will be Donna Brunelle. We closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer and the common Table Prayer.

Deb Walker, Secretary

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## MAIN STREET LIVING updates for August, 2023

"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](http://www.mainstreetliving.com/lincoln) to view current and past episodes

### August 6, 2023

10:30am - "Main Street Living" - Rev. Brent Kuhlman, Trinity Lutheran - Murdock, NE

### August 13, 2023

10:30am - "Main Street Living" - Rev. Dan Bremer, Grace Lutheran - Grand Island, NE

### August 20, 2023

10:30am - "Main Street Living" - Rev. Benjamin Siebert, Zion Lutheran - Hastings, NE

### August 27, 2023

10:30am - "Main Street Living" - Rev. Craig Niemeier, Zion Lutheran - Worms,, NE

**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN  
CHURCH –LCMS**

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**OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER GROWTH**

**Schedule at a Glance**

Worship Service (Sundays)	9:00 a.m.
Adult Bible Class (Sundays)	10:30 a.m.
Elder's Meeting (August 7)	7:00 p.m.
Quilting Group (August 8 & 22)	9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Evangelism Board (August 15)	8:30 a.m.
Lutheran Women in Mission (August 15)	10:00 a.m.
Ladies Aid Meeting (August 30)	2:00 p.m.

**FROM THE ELDER'S**

As we have come to the close of a successful session of Vacation Bible School, let us give thanks to God for the chance to reach out to the children with His Word. A big thank you to Pastor Toensing, Shelley, the Board of Education, and all the many volunteers who gave of their time and talents to make VBS a successful and fun time for the children. Last, but not least, a thank you to the families that sent their youth to VBS!

The 150th Anniversary Committee has placed a suggestion box in the entry area. Your suggestions/ideas for the celebration would be greatly appreciated. The suggestion box will be in place for all of August. Please also consider a donation to the 150th Anniversary fund so we can enjoy a great celebration and thank God for our 150 years of hearing His Word at St. John Lutheran.

In Christ's Name,

The Elders

**THOSE SERVING DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST**

DUTY	8/6/23	8/13/23	8/20/23	8/27/23
<b>Organist/ Pianist</b>	Jayne VanAsperen	Ellen Miller	Jayne VanAsperen	Ellen Miller
<b>Elders</b>	Todd Hoyer	John Reitz	Gary Meinke	Phil Hughes
<b>Greeters</b>	Gary & Lynn Meinke	Dave & Marla Musil	Marilyn Nelson & Marianne Tesar	Brian & Melissa Persing
<b>Acolytes</b>	Easton Brethouwer		Amy Hollman	

# Puzzle!

Fill in the blanks with the correct words. Then transfer the letters to the numbered boxes below to complete Psalm 107:1, NIV.

- Shape that symbolizes love                                     
31 15 7 18 5
- Part of a stove used for baking                              
12 3 24 39
- Color made by red and yellow                                            
28 42 7 8 27 37
- A present                              
1 32 20 11
- Clothing a girl wears                                            
19 22 43 44 33
- Something you open to go into a room                                            
40 29 17 47
- Opposite of soft (sound)                              
34 17 41 30
- To take a long walk                              
14 2 9 38
- A high body temperature                                     
45 50 49 48 42
- Items used to build or fix things                                            
13 35 21 16 26
- Edge of the sea                                     
10 23 46 51 4
- Home for a bee                              
6 25 36 4

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
23	24	25	26	27	28		
29	30	31	32	33	34	35	
36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43
44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51

Answer: heart, oven, orange, gift, dress, door, loud, hike, fever, tools, shore, hive; Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. Psalm 107:1, NIV



# Puzzle!

Search for and circle all the bold words from Psalm 18:2, which reminds us where we find our strength.

The **LORD** is **MY ROCK**, my **FORTRESS** and my **DELIVERER**; my **GOD** is my rock, in whom I **TAKE REFUGE**. **HE** is my **SHIELD** and the **HORN** of my **SALVATION**, my **STRONGHOLD**.

S T R O N G H O L D T S  
 O L O B K I E Y E J S A  
 R E F U G E I Y N T V L  
 R O G H A R L Q R A Y V  
 S X C T T I M T K K M A  
 H O R N C E Y R A E D T  
 I G F V L O L K E N S I  
 E N F O R T R E S S G O  
 L T U R G Q A C K J Q N  
 D C D E L I V E R E R E  
 K Y U X O C N O O Y Q S  
 X H X A R K L R C N H Y  
 G O D T D K A D K U D X

# GOD ROCKS!