

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 12 DECEMBER 2022

## ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

### Family Life: Midweek Advent Services and Christmas Eve

Everyone needs godly wisdom when it comes to family relationships. That's why, as we begin a new church year, we plan to learn from the families connected with our Lord's birth. This includes Joseph, Mary, and Jesus, along with Zechariah, Elizabeth, and John. These families faced infertility, frustration, loss, misunderstandings, death, and so much more. Sermon plans are as follows:



Advent 1 – **Two Families** (Luke 1:5–25)

Advent 2 – **Our Way** (Luke 1:57–66) Dec 7 10:30 am & 6:30 pm

Advent 3 – **A List!** (Matthew 1:1–17) Dec 14 10:30 am & 6:30 pm

Advent 4 – **Open the Door** (Matthew 1:18–20) Dec 21 10:30 am & 6:30 pm

You are encouraged to be a part of these worship services. *Your family is worth time and investment in God's word!*

**Christmas Eve—Whoever Takes the Son Gets It All** (Matthew 1:21-25)

**December 24 at 6:00 pm**



**Christmas Day Worship Service with Holy Communion**

**December 25 at 9:00 am**



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).



## Children's Program

### CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

December 11, 2022 at 9 am during the Sunday Worship Service

Christmas cookies and punch to follow in the Fellowship Hall.. Intergenerational activities for all!



December  
BIRTHDAYS

&

BAPTISMS

#### BIRTHDAYS

1 Tim Reetz  
4 Deanna Eggert  
5 Austin Adams  
9 Irelynn Kirkpatrick  
10 Rylee Pospichal  
11 Gloria McDermott  
13 Lydia Lee, Janice Mehl, Aaron Meinke, Travis Shore  
15 Melissa Gash, Justin Hollman  
16 Kade Nelson, Barb Shore  
18 Doug Kattau, Elliott Shore  
19 Lynette Reetz June  
20 Andrew Munro  
21 Ryan Lee, Dan Meinke  
22 Rev. Art Brinkmeyer, Tanna Nitzel, Liam Lee

23 Jerome Kalkwarf  
27 Kaydence Shore  
28 Kent Nelson  
29 Glen Louch  
30 James Samples  
31 Troy Henning, Scott Murphy, Titan Wagner

#### BAPTISMS

4 Heather Wendelin  
6 Lewis Clark  
7 Carol Brinkmeyer  
8 Nathan Patak, Alayna Poole  
9 Ed Skillett  
10 Cathy Hollman  
11 Darren Weber  
12 Brad Hestermann, Kristine Muff, Dave Musil

15 Tim Reetz  
17 Kasey Murphy  
18 Charles Slama  
19 James Walker  
20 Bryce Kalkwarf  
22 Alexandra Tremblay  
23 Teagan Kalkwarf  
24 Madison Hestermann  
25 Kasen Wagner  
26 Judi Korte  
29 Knox Korbel

**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.



The Ladies Aid now has plenty cookbooks! **Think "Christmas"!** These cookbooks would make nice Christmas gifts. For your convenience, we will have them available in the narthex each Sunday in December. Thank you for your support of our cookbook project.



Thank you for all of your thoughts and prayers for my father over the course of his cancer these last seven months. We are at peace knowing that he is now at rest in heaven. God says in Psalm 116:15, "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." When we can arrange it, our family will gather together in Illinois next year for a memorial service. Thank you for your compassionate cards and memorials. Memorials will be going first to the Child Development Center at Grace Lutheran Church in Paris, Illinois. With appreciation and love, Pastor and Shelley and family

## LADIES AID MINUTES

St. John Ladies Aid met on November 30, 2022, with Bonnie Bleich as hostess. Pastor Toensing led us in prayer, a Bible study "The Ten Virgins" from Matthew 25 and hymn #516 "Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying".

Roll call was taken with 10 members present. The minutes of the October 2022 meeting were read and approved. The treasurer's report was given.

Marianne Tesar was installed as Vice-President of Ladies Aid.

We ordered more cookbooks since we will be selling them for the next 2 years for the Ladies Aid anniversary celebration and our church's 150th anniversary.

A motion was made to have our December meeting on December 21 and to host a luncheon for the members who attend the morning advent worship service. Seconded and passed.

A motion was made to buy poinsettias for the altar. Seconded and passed. An announcement will be put in the bulletin for members to purchase their own poinsettias to beautify the altar.

A motion was made to give Christmas donations to the same groups as we did in 2021 and to buy Christmas presents for our shut-ins. Seconded and passed.

Carol Brinkmeyer and Olga Weidner celebrated birthdays in November. We sang the birthday song to Carol.

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

Deb Walker, Secretary

## Help us find our new District Treasurer!

*Congregations are asked to consider sharing the information below:*

The Nebraska District LCMS is seeking a full-time treasurer to manage the business affairs of the district and assist the district president in caring for the financial matters of district congregations and workers. The Nebraska District Treasurer is an integral leader of the district and district ministries. The Treasurer is the primary guide for the District Board of Directors in helping them fulfill their fiduciary duties on behalf of the congregations of the district. The position requires both a firm accounting capacity and a kingdom perspective. We seek to be careful stewards of God's gifts and work to make the greatest impact on our world with His grace, therefore the Treasurer is a person of faith and witness as we make every effort to build up our congregations and workers in their gospel ministries. This work includes assisting the district president in caring for the financial matters of district workers and congregations and their treasurers. As business manager for the district office and staff, the treasurer also helps care for those working deployed and in the office.

Learn more at <https://ndlcms.org/jobs/>

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## FROM THE ELDERS

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

'Tis the season as Advent has begun. Please attend the services being held on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 am or the evening ones at 6:30 pm. The Children's Christmas Program will be during the Sunday, December 11, worship service. Please show our children the support and encouragement of our congregation. The Christmas Eve Service will begin at 6:00 pm and Christmas Day Worship Service with Holy Communion is at 9:00 am. This is a very busy time of the year for everyone attending events centered around the holidays but a very special time to spend with family and friends. As we will all celebrate the nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we rejoice in the peace, joy and love of his salvation. Have a blessed holiday season.

The Elders



**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN  
CHURCH –LCMS**

11400 W. Panama Road  
Crete, NE 68333  
4 miles East & 2 miles South of Crete  
Office: 826-3883  
secretarystjohn@hotmail.com  
www.stjohnkramer.org  
Rev. Maynard Toensing, Jr.  
pastortoensing@gmail.com

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.  
 Advent Midweek Worship (Wednesdays) 10:30 am & 6:30 pm  
 Elder’s Meeting (December 5) 6:30 p.m.  
 Quilting Group (December 13) 9:30 a.m.—2:00 p.m.  
 Nominating Committee (December 13) 6:30 p.m.  
 Lutheran Women in Mission (not meeting in December)  
 Evangelism Board (not meeting in December)  
 Ladies Aid Christmas Luncheon (December 21) following 10:30  
 a.m. Midweek Advent Service.  
 Christmas Eve Worship Service (December 24) 6:00 p.m.  
 Christmas Day Worship (December 25) 9:00 a.m.



**A Prayer for Christmas** by Wilda English. God bless Wilda English for sharing these words with the world. May they continue to inspire many!

God grant you the light in Christmas, which is faith;  
 the warmth of Christmas, which is love;  
 the radiance of Christmas, which is purity;  
 the righteousness of Christmas, which is justice;  
 the belief in Christmas, which is truth;  
**the all of Christmas, which is Christ.**

*(Used with permission from churchart.com)*

**THOSE SERVING DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER**

DUTY	12/4/22	12/11/22	12/18/22	12/24/22	12/25/22
<b>Organist/Pianist</b>	Jayne VanAsperen	Jolene Reetz	Jayne VanAsperen	Jayne VanAsperen	Ellen Miller
<b>Elders</b>	John Reitz	Troy Henning	Phil Hughes	James Walker	Phil Hughes
<b>Greeters</b>	Chris Hollman & Linda Eggert	Dean & Patricia Prochnow	Kelly & Kristi Reetz	James & Deb Walker	Need Volunteer
<b>Acolytes</b>	Cheyenne DuBray		Amy Hollman		Kian Morris

# Puzzle!

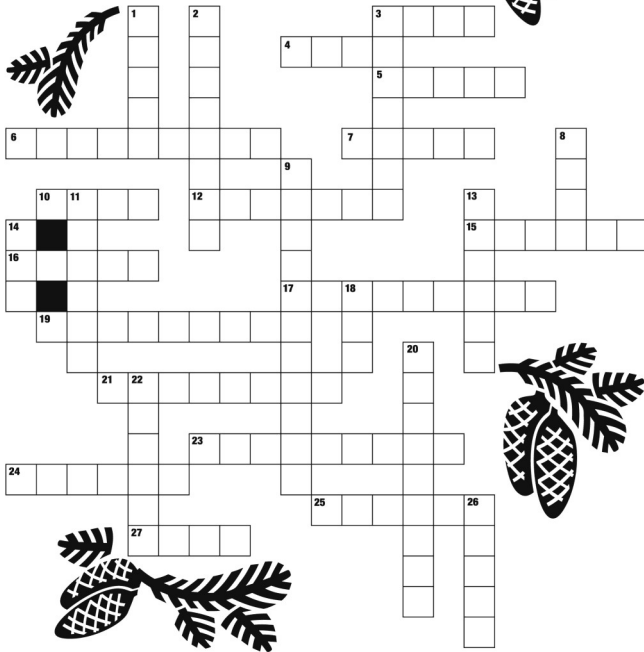
Take a break from Christmas preparations to complete this seasonal crossword.

**DOWN**

- 1. song
- 2. keeper of sheep
- 3. Anointed One
- 8. a gift of the magi
- 9. red plants
- 11. coming
- 13. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_
- 14. 12th month (abbrev.)
- 18. B&B
- 20. a form of holly
- 22. heavenly messengers
- 26. he ordered the slaughter of the innocents

**ACROSS**

- 3. wise men
- 4. author of the most famous Christmas account
- 5. red-suited gift-giver
- 6. of Ephrathah
- 7. presents
- 10. Gabriel came to her
- 12. has a red nose
- 15. "Messiah" composer
- 16. northern little helpers
- 17. patron saint of children
- 19. made flesh
- 21. home for Mary
- 23. tree decorations
- 24. crib
- 25. he was a carpenter
- 27. a nova



Answer: DOWN 1. carol, 2. shepherd, 3. Messiah, 8. gold, 9. poinsettias, 11. Advent, 13. Christ, 14. dec, 18. inn, 20. mistletoe, 22. angels, 26. Herod; ACROSS 3. magi, 4. Luke, 5. Santa, 6. Bethlehem, 7. gifts, 10. Mary, 12. Rudolph, 15. Handel, 16. elves, 17. Saint Nick, 19. incarnation, 21. Nazareth, 23. ornaments, 24. manger, 25. Joseph, 27. star

# Puzzle!

Use the code to complete Isaiah's prophecy about Jesus, our Savior.



CODE:

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

10 23 13      17 14      6 18 21 21

11 14      12 10 21 21 14 13

6 24 23 13 14 1 15 4 21

12 24 4 23 2 14 21 24 1

22 18 16 17 3 8      16 24 13

14 5 14 1 21 10 2 3 18 23 16

15 10 3 17 14 1      25 1 18 23 12 14

24 15      25 14 10 12 14

I S A I A H 9 : 6 , N I V

Answer: And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6, NIV