

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 12 DECEMBER 2023

## Call His Name *Jesus*

An Advent and Christmas Worship Series

This Advent we will celebrate the wonderful name of Jesus as well as other names and titles by which we worship the Child of Bethlehem, our Savior. Our children will be rejoicing and sharing some of Jesus' names with us in their program on December 17th. Our special services will find a great blessing in the Names of Jesus. Join us as we are blessed by our loving God and Lord.

### Advent Worship Week 1

Wednesday, December 6

10:30 am & 7:00 pm

**Name of Jesus: LAMB**

### Advent Worship Week 2

Wednesday, December 13

10:30 am & 7:00 pm

**Name of Jesus: SHEPHERD**

### Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, December 17

9:00 am

**His Name is Jesus**

### Advent Worship Week 3

Wednesday, December 20

10:30 am & 7:00 pm

**Name of Jesus: EMMANUEL**

### Christmas Eve Services

Sunday, December 24

9:00 am & 6:00 pm

**Name of Jesus: SON**

*The same Christmas Eve Service will be held at both the morning and evening worship services, with the exception of the lighting of candles, which will take place in the evening service only.*

### Christmas Day

Monday, December 25

9:00 am with Holy Communion

**Name of Jesus: WORD**



## CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

**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 CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Our Christmas program is approaching quickly. Practice has already begun during Sunday School and Mid-week. Here are important dates for the program. Please make every effort to have children attend.

**Rehearsal** – Sunday, December 3 during Sunday School

**Rehearsal** – Sunday, December 10 during Sunday School

**Full Rehearsal** – Saturday, December 16 at 9:30 a.m.

**Program** – Sunday, December 17 at 9:00

**Worship Service. Children to meet in the basement by 8:45.**

Following the program, we invite you to the basement for cookies and juice and also invite you to stay for a special all family Sunday School.



December  
BIRTHDAYS

&

BAPTISMS

### BIRTHDAYS

1 Tim Reetz  
4 Deanna Eggert  
5 Austin Adams  
9 Irelynn Kirkpatrick  
10 Rylee Pospichal  
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.



## LYF NEWS

Upcoming youth plans...

**Sunday, Dec. 3, after church.** Putting together bags for Christmas program and planning for lock-in, Valentines dinner, etc.

**Sunday, Dec 10.** No LYF this morning.

**Saturday, Dec. 16, 9:30 am.** Christmas program rehearsal. Helpful if you can be there.

**Sunday, Dec. 17,** Christmas Program during church. Special SS/ Youth/family activities after church.

**Friday, Jan 5.** Lock-in.

For the time being, Shelley Toensing will be the contact person for youth events. Please contact her if you have any questions or can't make any of the events.

**Please continue to keep little Bryan and Bryan and Erin in your prayers.**

## LADIES AID MINUTES

St. John Ladies Aid met on November 29, 2023, with Carol Brinkmeyer as hostess. Pastor Toensing led us in prayer, hymn #579 "The Law of God Is Good and Wise" and then a Bible study entitled "Declare the Whole Counsel of God" from Acts 20:27.

Roll call was taken with 8 members and 1 visitor, Shirley Aksamit, present. Shirley would like to be a member of Ladies Aid. A motion was made to accept Shirley Aksamit as a new member. Seconded and passed. Welcome to Shirley! The minutes of the October 2023 meeting were read and approved. The treasurer's report was given.

A motion was made to serve lunch after the Advent worship service on December 20 to those members attending worship. Seconded and passed.

There were 10 cookbooks sold at the Methodist Church in Hallam. We will have cookbooks available to sell at church the next couple of Sundays.

A motion was made to have a funeral committee formed with Marianne Tesar as committee chair who has the authority to ask any Ladies Aid member for help. Seconded and passed.

A motion was made to nominate Deb Walker as President. Seconded and passed. We are in the process of looking for a new Secretary. We greatly appreciate Diane Kahle's service as President for the last several years!

A motion was made to send Christmas donations to the same organizations as last year and to purchase gifts for the shut-ins. Seconded and passed.

We will be asking for poinsettias to adorn the altar. An announcement will be put in the bulletin.

A new stole has been picked out for Pastor Toensing. A motion was made to accept Pastor's suggestion on the stole that was picked out and get it ordered. Seconded and passed.

Carol Brinkmeyer celebrated a birthday in November. We sang the birthday song to Carol.

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

Deb Walker, Secretary



Thinking of Christmas gifts? Cook books are available for purchasing before and after the service Sunday. You may also contact Diane Kahle at 402-641-0922 if you need a cook book.

### Offering Envelope Changes

Beginning in 2024 the monthly envelopes will have 2 selections - General Budget and Missions. For contributions to the other accounts we have added 12 envelopes. When using these envelopes please select only one account. The choices are: church anniversary fund, scholarship fund and Lambs of Christ. There are also four special holiday envelopes; Easter (mission), Thanksgiving (Crete Cares), Christmas Eve and Christmas Day (Orphan Grain Train). Talk to Glen Louch with questions.

### THANK YOU FROM ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN

A thank you has been received from Orphan Grain Train for the 16 beautiful quilts and 6 blankets. The Lincoln Division of the Orphan Grain Train thanks you for your generous contribution from the heart. We have a great need for quilts and blankets. Thank you, Kathy Carter



QUILTING GROUP

### MAIN STREET LIVING updates for December, 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.

**December 3, 2023** 10:30 AM - **Rev. Raymond Doubrava**, pastor at Trinity & Zion Lutheran Churches in Howells & Leigh, presents a message titled "Wait for the Lord". This sermon is based on Matthew 21:1-9.

**December 10, 2023** 10:30 AM - Rev. Zachary Courie, pastor at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Wahoo, presents a message titled "Watch Yourselves". This sermon is based on Luke 21:25-36.

**December 17, 2023** 10:30 AM - Rev. Dan Wing, pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lincoln, presents a message titled "Carry On". This sermon is based on Isaiah 40:1-11.

**December 24, 2023** 10:30 AM - Rev. Matthew Harrison, president of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, presents a Christmas message.

**December 31, 2023** 10:30 AM - Rev. Dan Bremer, pastor at Grace Lutheran Church in Grand Island, presents a message titled "Jesus Comes to His Temple". This sermon is based on Luke 2: 22-40.

**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.  
 Midweek Classes (Wednesdays) See calendar for Advent times  
 Elders’ Meeting (Dec 4) 7:00 p.m.  
 Evangelism Board Meeting (Dec 5) 9:00 a.m.  
 Quilting Group (Dec 12) 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
 Midweek Advent Worship (Dec 6, 13, 20) 10:30 am & 7:00 pm  
 Children’s Christmas Program Worship Service, Dec 17 9:00 am  
 Christmas Eve Worship Services, Dec 24 9:00 am & 6:00 pm  
 Christmas Day Worship Service, Dec 25 9:00 am

**FROM THE ELDER’S**

Greetings to all as we celebrate this season of the coming birth of our beautiful Savior Jesus Christ! There are many opportunities at St John that helps us to prepare and celebrate for this miraculous birth of our Savior. We invite you to attend as many as you can of the Wednesday Advent Services, Sunday Services, and our Children’s Christmas Service on December 17th. “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6-7.

Thank you to all who have graciously volunteered their time to help make this such a special time for all of us at St. John. Thank you to Pastor for leading us in worship, to the leaders and children of the Children’s Christmas Program, the volunteers that have decorated our beautiful sanctuary, and the countless others that behind the scenes helps us to make this such a special place at St. John. Praise be to God! Merry Christmas, The Elders

**THOSE SERVING DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER**

DUTY	12/3/23	12/10/23	12/17/23	12/24/23 (two services)	12/25/23	12/31/23
<b>Organist/ Pianist</b>	Ellen Miller	Jayne VanAsperen	Jayne VanAsperen	Jayne VanAsperen	Ellen Miller	Jayne VanAsperen
<b>Elders</b>	Todd Hoyer	Gary Meinke	John Reitz	Phil Huges 9 am Dolyn Meinke 6 pm	Troy Henning	Troy Henning
<b>Greeters</b>	Glen & Verna Louch	Gary & Lynn Meinke	Dave & Marla Musil	<b>Need Volunteers for two services</b>	<b>Need Volunteer</b>	Brian & Missy Persing
<b>Acolytes</b>	Paisley Williams	<b>Need Volunteer</b>	Christmas Program		<b>Need Volunteer</b>	Easton Brethouwer



# St. John Lutheran 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

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

The Anniversary Committee continues to plan for celebrating throughout the 2024 Anniversary year. Information and details will be updated monthly. Special events scheduled thus far:

## **Sunday, January 7 – Dedication Sunday**

- Dedicating the year during the 9:00 a.m. worship service
- Soup and cinnamon roll luncheon provided following worship
- No SS, LYF or Bible Class this day

## **Sunday, February 18 – Recognition of our teen/young adult generation**

- Concordia Men’s Choir singing during worship and Bible Class/SS time (Please note date and detail changes from last month’s newsletter.)

## **Sunday, April 28 – Recognition of our 65+ generation**

- Rev. Lyle Hansen as our guest preacher

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

- Rev. John Heckmann as our guest preacher

## **Sunday, October 13 – Formal Anniversary Celebration**

- Dr. Rev. Sommerfeld as our guest preacher
- Meal following at Hallam Auditorium