

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 2 FEBRUARY 2024

Dear Saints in Christ,

Ash Wednesday is on February 14th. February 14th is also Valentine's Day. Valentine's Day is the day we express our love to those nearest and dearest to us. What could be better than recognizing the greatest love that we receive than God's great love for us in sending Jesus, the Son of God, to save us from our sins.

John 3:16 (ESV): "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."



On Ash Wednesday we recognize our sinfulness and temporal death as we came from ashes and we will return to ashes (Genesis 3:19). But, in the greatest love, Jesus became man, took on our sin, died for all our guilt, and paid our penalty. In His resurrection we find life and the hope of eternal life. All this Jesus did out of love for us – absolutely the deepest and greatest love ever! It seems very fitting to have a day in which love is celebrated on a day we are thankful for the ultimate manifestation of love that saves us and gives us true life and love – a love that will never end.

Valentine's Day plus Ash Wednesday equals Jesus loves you.

Peace and love to you in Jesus Christ. Love in Christ, Pastor Toensing

The Tree of the Cross and Some Trees of the Bible



We begin our penitential season of Lent this month. Our Lenten theme will follow Jesus on His way to the cross where He suffered and died for our sins. To help us walk with Jesus to the cross, our midweek services along with Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter, we will follow a tree theme. Some of the trees of the Bible and their associations will assist us as we make connections to the cross—THE most important tree. 1 Peter 2:24 (ESV): "[Jesus] himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed." Please join us for worship on Wednesdays as we look to the Life-giving tree of the cross upon which our Savior hung. In Jesus we are saved.

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).

Fundraiser for the Bell family

We are hoping to do a fundraiser to help the Bell family with the medical bills they have incurred for little Bryan. We will be holding a meeting to make plans for this on Sunday, February 11 after church, in the meeting room upstairs. We invite anyone who would like to help with these efforts to please come.



FEBRUARY
BIRTHDAYS

&

BAPTISMS

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Drew Trautman
- 4 Brad Davis
- 6 Shelley Toensing
- 7 Adam Hughes-Hardt
- 10 Kirk Johnson
- 11 Angie Louch
- 12 Jenna Keim
- 13 Erin Bell, Olivia Pomajzl
- 14 Tory Dello
- 16 Jace Ourada, Melissa Persing, Allan Reetz
- 17 Jordyn Adam, Del Reiss
- 18 Ryan Meinke, Shari Melk
- 20 Susan Vosika
- 21 Waylon Graff
- 23 Camryn Adam
- 24 Dilyn Meinke, Heath Moravek
- 25 Steve Schultz

26 Cierra Hensley, Megan Korbel

27 Bonnie Bleich, Linda Eggert, Cindy Nitzel

28 Peggy Bojanski, Matt Ellingson

22 Jessica McBride

23 Brad Davis

24 Jenna Keim

26 Deanna Eggert

BAPTISMS

- 1 Joy Kouba
- 2 Arlin Pomajzl
- 7 Adam Hughes-Hardt
- 6 Angela Dello
- 9 Rev. Art Brinkmeyer
- 10 Kelby Feddern
- 11 Vivian Kirkpatrick
- 12 Skye Hoyer, Denise Slama
- 13 Kyle Shore
- 16 Bryan Bell Jr, Mersadies Kvasnicka, Robert Kvasnicka
- 19 Ryan Lee, Castyn Ziemann



**Celebrating You
on Your
Special Day**

Godly Stewardship is: Caring for My Neighbor

If any of the Ten Commandments might tempt us to think that keeping the Law is easy, it would be the Fifth Commandment. After all, how hard is it to get through life without murdering somebody? The vast majority of people can handle that!

But Jesus famously blows up this notion by pointing out that the command, “you shall not murder,” goes much deeper — down to the heart.

You have heard that it was said to those of old, “You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.” But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, “You fool!” will be liable to the hell of fire. (Matt. 5:21–22)

Hatred and disdain come from the same sort of crookedness of heart as murder. With both murder and hatred, you look down on another person and think them of little worth.

In the Small Catechism, Luther also points out that every “do not” in the commandments also includes a “do this:” “We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body but help and support him in every physical need” (SC, Fifth Commandment, emphasis added).

We are not called merely to avoid evil; we must also do positive good.

So when Jesus drew near to us and became our neighbor by taking up our humanity, He came not only to avoid harming us, but He came to positively help us, bless us and serve us.

We are now called to show the love to our neighbors that Christ showed to us. Your neighbor is yet another gift that God has given you that requires your stewardship. We are called to show mercy, to be kind, to love and serve our neighbor. One aspect of this stewardship is financial: our neighbors need us to support the church’s work so that they can hear the Gospel and come to faith. Our neighbors need the church’s alms and mercy work. Our neighbors need our faithful service in all we do in the name of Christ.

LCMS Stewardship Ministry – February 2024

LADIES AID MINUTES

St. John Ladies Aid met January 31, 2024 with Deb Walker as hostess. Pastor Toensing led us in prayer, hymn # 566 “By Grace Alone” and then a Bible study entitled “Don’t I Have the Right to Do What I Want” Matthew 20:15.

Roll call was taken with 9 members present. The minutes of December were read and approved. The Treasurer's report was read. A summary of 2023 disbursements and receipts were distributed to members.

Thank you notes were received from Main Street Living for their Christmas donation, from Fran Sieck and Lee Miller for their Christmas gifts. Pastor Toensing acknowledged and thanked the Ladies Aid for the Christmas gift he and Shelley received.

Marianne Tesar, the Ladies Aid contact person for funerals in the congregation, introduced discussion concerning updating the “call list” for funeral help, with the possibility of asking for volunteers from the rest of the congregation. President, Deb Walker, passed out forms to each member to update their contact information.

Discussion was held concerning the kitchen ovens. One is not working and the other has issues as well. It was discussed to contact trustees as to whether it was possible to repair. It was decided to table the discussion of replacement of ovens until the January 2025 meeting.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to host a luncheon for members & guests that attend the morning Lenten service on March 20th.

Discussion was introduced about Ladies Aid contributing to a family from Mission Central. It was decided to adopt the Roberto and Katie Weber family as our mission family. Ellie Koch will collect and send the free will offering each month.

Deb & James Walker celebrated their anniversary in December and LaVonne and Marvin Nitzel celebrated their anniversary in January. We sang the Anniversary song to Deb and Lavonne.

Ellie Koch will serve as our February hostess.

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

Bonnie Bleich, Secretary

HEALTH NOTES

Warning signs of stroke:

- Sudden weakness in arm, leg or face
- Sudden clumsiness with easy tasks
- Sudden trouble walking
- Trouble speaking or understanding
- Vision changes (double vision)
- Sudden inability to feel part of your body or limbs
- Loss of consciousness
- Vomiting or a severe headache

The word F.A.S.T. can help you remember and recognize warning signs of a stroke.

STROKE *symptoms*

REMEMBER, RECOGNIZE & ACT FAST

F
FACE
Ask them to smile. Does one side look like it's drooping?

A
ARM
Instruct them to raise both arms. Does one arm drift downward?

S
SPEECH
Ask them to say something. Does it sound strange?

T
TIME
If you observe symptoms, call **911** immediately.

Penn Medicine

MAIN STREET LIVING updates for February, 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.

February 4, 10:30 am...Rev. Timothy Gall, pastor at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Pleasant Dale, presents a message titled “Busy Life”. This sermon is based on Mark 1:29-39.

February 11, 10:30 am...Rev. John Schmidt, pastor at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Lincoln, presents a message titled “Restored and Forgiven”. This sermon is based on Luke 18:31-43.

February 18, 10:30 am...Rev. Paul Warneke, pastor at Christ & St. Paul Lutheran Churches in Nebraska City, presents a message titled “When Satan Rears His Ugly Head”. This sermon is based on Mark 1:9-15.

February 25, 10:30 am...Rev. Michael Awe, pastor at Hope Lutheran Church in South Sioux City, NE, presents a message titled “Just in the Nick of Time!”. This sermon is based on Romans 5:1-11.

**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN
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**Ash Wednesday Worship with Holy
Communion—Feb 14, 10:30 am and 7:00 pm**

Midweek Lenten Worship—Wednesdays,
10:30 am and 7:00 pm

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.
Midweek Classes (during Lent-Wednesdays)	6:00 pm-6:45 p.m.
Elder’s Meeting (February 5)	7:00 p.m.
Quilting Group (February 13 and 27)	9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Lutheran Women in Mission (February 20)	10:00 a.m.
Ladies Aid Meeting (February 28)	2:00 p.m.

FROM THE ELDER’S

Greetings in Christ -

We are off to a great start this year with the celebration of 150 years of service to the Lord here at St. John. A new banner has been dedicated that bears the theme of our anniversary celebration, “The Lord’s faithfulness continues throughout all generations” Psalm 100:5, the bell has been rung 150 times, and we have joined together at a delicious soup dinner. Be sure to check out photos from years past on the bulletin boards in the church basement. Mark your calendars for February 18th as the anniversary committee will be recognizing our teens/young adult members and the Concordia Men’s Choir will be singing at our service. We would like to thank the anniversary committee for their work to get the celebration started. Please consider donating to the anniversary fund so more activities can be done throughout the year.

Officers for 2024 were elected at the January voter’s meeting. We would like to thank those who have been elected for helping serve our congregation and we would also like to thank those who have completed their terms.

In His name, The Elders

THOSE SERVING DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

DUTY	2/4/24	2/11/24	Ash Wednesday	2/18/24	2/25/24
Organist/Pianist	Jayne VanAsperen	Ellen Miller	Kathy Porath am Ellen Miller pm	Jayne VanAsperen	Ellen Miller
Elders	Phil Hughes	Troy Henning	Troy Henning pm	John Reitz	Gary Meinke
Greeters	James & Deb Walker	Brent & Heidi Wohl		Rev Art & Carol Brinkmeyer	Roger & Donna Brunelle
Acolytes	Easton Brethouwer			Amy Hollman	



St. John Lutheran 150th Anniversary

“The Lord’s faithfulness continues

February Anniversary Celebration

Recognition of our teen/young adult generation

Sunday, February 18

Concordia Men’s Chorus will be joining us during worship and
will give a short concert during Bible Class/SS hour.

Treats will be served between worship and the concert time.

Future events

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

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

Church History

Did You Know...

St. John began its existence in the early 1870’s under Pastor Traugott Haessler. They met in homes and as they grew they needed a property for a church.

Mr. Franz Schlichtemeier went to the courthouse in Lincoln and purchased the present 40 acres from the railroad. When he came out of the courthouse, a delegation for the Methodist church were going in to purchase the very property Mr. Schlichtemeier now had in his possession.