

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 1 JANUARY 2024

Dear Saints in Christ,

A blessed New Year to you. May God's grace for you be abundant, His love overflowing, and His presence known according to His Word.

This year we will be celebrating 150 years as a congregation. It's nice when our families enjoy time together when someone in the family has a birthday. As a congregation we have the opportunity to celebrate this big anniversary together. I encourage everyone to join the celebrations we have throughout the year.

During the life span of St. John Lutheran Church there have been many who have attended, participated, and served. Many changes have been experienced in the world and in the life events of the congregation and its members. But one thing remains constant: the Gospel of Jesus Christ. God's grace for His people in the birth, life, suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus to bring salvation to sinners is the same message of God to all generations. And that is what unites us together now, with all past/passed members, and with all Christians of all time.

Our celebration of St. John's 150th Anniversary is the celebration of our common faith in Jesus Christ and our blessing to have received God's gift of salvation. As we join in thanksgiving and praise to God for all His good gifts, we pray that He would bless our year of celebration. Let us come together in praise of our God who has blessed all our generations and united them in His Son and brought us together in one family in Christ Jesus.

To God be the glory. Amen!

God's Blessings to you, 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).

PLAYGROUND FUNDRAISER

The Playground committee will be selling church **t-shirts for \$25** and **sweatshirts for \$30** during the month of January. The proceeds will go towards the playground project. More information to come soon!



JANUARY
BIRTHDAYS

&

BAPTISMS

BIRTHDAYS

1 Arlin Pomajzl
3 Blythe Dewey
4 Tom Nyhoff
5 Lyndsey Williams
6 Marilyn Nelson
7 Patricia Prochnow, Julie Reetz, Jeana Scholz
9 Skye Hoyer
11 Denise Slama, Castyn Ziemann
12 Bryan Bell, Jr
13 Joy Kouba
15 Barb Hansmeyer
16 Jessica McBride, Estelle Reetz
18 Logan Adam, Nick Hollman
19 Matt Walker

20 Nick Ellingson
23 Anne Fletcher, Kelby Feddern
25 Matt Karl
26 Angela Dello
27 Harry Meinke, Kyle Shore
28 Savannah Hensley
29 Sherry Davis
30 Brian Persing, Arya Thompson, Kyler Ladman
31 Dave Eggert

BAPTISMS

1 Steve VanAsperen, Fred Weidner
3 Tanna Nitzel, Lynette Reetz June
4 Aaron Meinke

7 Ellen Miller
8 Jayne VanAsperen
10 Lilian Underwood
12 Chris Williams
14 Joe Kalkwarf, Don Rejcha
16 Melissa Gash
19 Troy Henning, Barb Meinke
20 Marilyn Nelson, Lyndsey Williams
21 Doug Kattau, Scott Murphy
23 Jeana Scholz
27 Estelle Reetz
28 Matt Walker, Seth Brethouwer, Liam Lee
29 Dan Meinke, Andrew Munro, Kent Nelson, Heath Moravek
31 Titan Wagner

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.



That All May Know Him

LYF LOCK-IN

Beginning Friday, January 5, 7:00 pm. Ending Saturday, January 6, 7:00 am.

The evening will include a ton of fun! Games, scavenger hunt, taking down Christmas decorations, taco/nacho bar, movie and more games!

An email with details will be sent to youth parents. If you do not receive the email, contact Pastor or Shelley.

Hope to see all of our youth there!



LADIES AID MINUTES

St John Ladies Aid met on December 20, 2023 for a brief meeting following the Advent morning service and luncheon hosted by the Ladies Aid. There were approximately 25 in attendance for the meal.

Pastor Toensing showed the ladies the new white stole that was purchased with Ladies Aid funds. It will be dedicated at the Sunday service December 24th.

A motion was made to accept Gwen Kalkwarf as a new member. Motion was seconded and passed. Welcome Gwen!

A motion was made to nominate Bonnie Bleich as new secretary. Motion was seconded and passed.

Thank you Deb Walker for being our past Secretary and accepting the position of President!

Pastor Toensing installed Deb and Bonnie to their new positions.

Next meeting will be held January 29, 2024.

Bonnie Bleich, Secretary

BELL FAMILY DONATIONS

An account has been established at Pinnacle Bank in Crete for the benefit of Little Bryan B. Any financial help would be appreciated. Please make checks to Bryan Bell, with a note that the account number is *1618. You can leave or send checks to church, or mail checks to Pinnacle Bank, 143 E 13th St, Crete, NE 68333. Please keep little Bryan and Bryan and Erin in your prayers.



Dear Members of St. John,
We are looking to see if there might be one or more of our members who would be willing and able to manage our church website. There are items that would need attention weekly and monthly. We know this needs someone who has the skill and the time for this.

Please contact Glen Louch or Pastor with questions if you might consider this task.

MAIN STREET LIVING updates for January, 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.

January 7, 2024...10:30 AM - Rev. Thomas Goodroad, pastor at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Lincoln, presents a message titled “Where God Meets Man”. This sermon is based on Matthew 2:1-12.

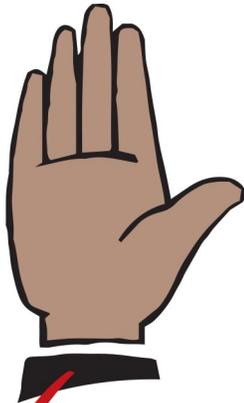
January 14, 2024...10:30 AM - Vicar Jacob Garrison at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Lincoln, presents a message titled “Jesus Fully Fills Our Lacking”. This sermon is based on John 2.

January 21, 2024...10:30am - Rev. Jim Lamb from Lutheran Family Service in Fort Dodge, IA & Sioux Falls, SD presents a message titled “The Trinitarian Value of Human Life”. This sermon is based on Isaiah 43:1.

January 28, 2024...10:30 AM - Rev. Tyler Hauptmeier, pastor at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Doniphan, presents a message titled “On The Way To The Promised Land”. This sermon is based on Mark 1:21-28.

**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN
CHURCH –LCMS**

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**VOTERS
MEETING**

**JOIN US FOR THE
QUARTERLY VOTERS'
MEETING ON
JANUARY 28**

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.
Elders' Meeting (January 8)	7:00 p.m.
Quilting Group (January 9 & 23)	9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Lutheran Women in Mission (January 16)	10:00 a.m.
150th Anniversary Committee (January 16)	6:30 p.m.
Church Council Meeting (January 22)	6:30 p.m.
Quarterly Voters' Meeting (January 28 following Worship Svc)	
Ladies Aid Meeting (January 31)	2:00 p.m.

Dear Friends, thank you for all the kind cards and gifts we have received from you this Christmas. Your kindness and generosity are truly a blessing. We pray God's blessings upon you as we enter the New Year. May God guide and keep you in Jesus Christ and His grace always. In Christ's love, Pastor and Shelley Toensing



THOSE SERVING DURING THE MONTH OF JANUARY

DUTY	1/7/2024	1/14/2024	1/21/2024	1/28/2024
Organist/Pianist	Ellen Miller	Jayne VanAsperen	Ellen Miller	Jayne VanAsperen
Elders	Todd Hoyer	John Reitz	Gary Meinke	Phil Hughes
Greeters	Marilyn Nelson & Marianne Tesar	Dean & Patricia Prochnow	Kelly & Kristi Reetz	Terry & Julie Reetz
Acolytes	Amy Hollman		Paisley Williams	



St. John Lutheran 150th 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

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