

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 1 JANUARY 2023

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus,

It is with many thanks that I thank you. All of you serve our Lord in some capacity, so thank you.

But more than that, I thank the Lord for you. Many years ago I recall thanking a fellow Christian woman for the work of service she had done at that congregation. Her reply was something like this: "Please don't thank me. Thank God. What I am able to do I can do because of God's gifts to me. So, please, don't thank me; thank God."

I think she was right. What we are able to do in service to our Lord is only done by God's gifts to us first and foremost. I know that it is true for me. I could not serve as a pastor without the gifts God has given to me: created life and breath; salvation in Jesus Christ; the ability to learn and share the Good News—which I have received through the ears God made and the work Jesus did to save me; the Holy Spirit who helps me to believe and then to do what God's Word calls me to do.

Perhaps we can do both—thank God and thank each other. I thank God for you, and I thank you. And there many thanks to hand out. I thank all who serve as officers of the congregation. I thank everyone who serves on a board or committee. I thank all who volunteer to do things in service when called upon. I thank all who give and donate time and supplies for all that serves our ministry. I thank those paid to provide services for even that is done with a willing and joyful heart for the Lord.

Some work of service is done quite openly and seen by others. But there are many things done quietly and without recognition in love for God and in service to the congregation. There are services rendered that no one sees but God. God knows and God will bless those who serve to serve not seeking recognition. There are many acts of loving service done at church or for the church. But I am certain that there are many things done by our congregation members that are "out there", in daily life, for neighbors, friends, family, and strangers. There are gifts given, time given, compassion given for which only the Lord sees and knows. And for such things, we hear from God's Word:

Matthew 6:2–4 (ESV): "Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you."

So, as we begin this New Year of 2023, we thank God, for God has given us this time. We thank God for the ability to serve Him and each other with our time and love and donations. We thank God for each other—and, we thank each other. I thank all of you for your service of love to God and I thank God for the gifts He has given to you that you use to serve Him and your neighbor.

Most of all, none of this is possible without Jesus Christ, through whom we have been made and through whom we have our salvation. Thank God for Jesus and all that flows from His heart of love. Amen. God bless you all,
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).

thank you

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

JANUARY Birthdays

&

JANUARY 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
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
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.



Mission Opportunities



Dear Members of Saint John Lutheran Church,

Thank you again for your very generous support to the mission work here in the Cayman Islands! Your support and prayers frees us to concentrate on the task at hand, to proclaim the wonderful good news of Christ, and Him crucified for the sins of the world. It is our privilege to bring Jesus to the people living and working here. Thank you for helping us do that!

Wishing you God's continued blessings!

Your partners in mission,
Gerald and Heidi Paul

LYF NEWS



LYF will be hosting its "New years Eve" lock-in on Friday January 6th starting at 7pm and going till 7am on Saturday January 7th. Youth are encouraged/allowed to bring up to two friends. Please let Bryan, Erin or Shelly know if you plan to attend the event and if you plan on being any friends.



Another year for God

Another year is dawning; dear Father, let it be,
in working or in waiting, another year with thee....

Another year of progress, another year of praise,
another year of proving thy presence all the days.

Another year of service, of witness for thy love;
another year of training for holier work above.

Another year is dawning! Dear Father, let it be,
on earth, or else in heaven, another year for thee.

—Frances Ridley Havergal

FROM THE ELDERS

Greetings and Happy New Year! We hope that everyone has had a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year! Thank you to all our children who performed beautifully at the Annual Children's Christmas Program. Thank you to all the volunteers who walked beside our children and helped make this production possible. Also, thank you to the congregation and the community who supported these individuals at the program. It was a full house, what a glorious site to see!

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Nominating Committee for your hard work and dedication as you work diligently to help fill the very important positions within our congregation as we begin the year 2023. If you have been approached and have agreed to the position in which you have been asked to run for, we thank you and applaud you for your willingness to serve. If you are still contemplating on a potential position, please prayerfully consider this opportunity. It truly takes us all to continue the work of the Lord within our congregation. Romans 12; 4-5, "Just as there are many parts to our bodies, so it is with Christ's body. We are all parts of it, and it takes everyone of us to make it complete, for we each have different work to do". We hope that you all have a very blessed 2023!

The Elders

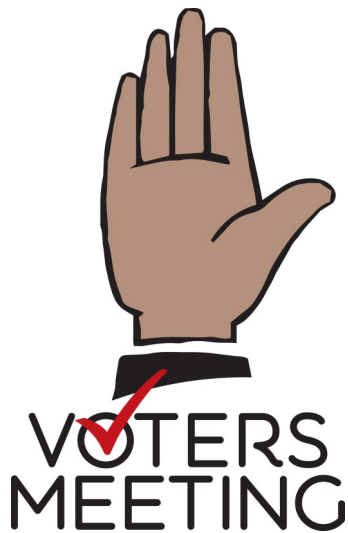
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OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER GROWTH

Schedule at a Glance

Worship Service (Sundays)	9:00 a.m.
Sunday School/LYF/Adult Bible Class (Sundays)	10:15-11:15 a.m.
Midweek Classes (Wednesdays)	6:30 p.m.
Elders' Meeting (January 9)	6:30 p.m.
Quilting Group (January 10 and January 24)	9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Church Council Meeting (January 16)	6:30 p.m.
Lutheran Women in Mission (January 17)	10:00 a.m.
Ladies Aid Meeting (January 25)	2:00 p.m.



SAVE THE DATE!
QUARTERLY VOTERS' MEETING
JANUARY 22, 2023
Following Worship Service

THOSE SERVING DURING THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2023

DUTY	January 1	January 8	January 15	January 22	January 29
Organist	Jayne VanAsperen	Ellen Miller	Jayne VanAsperen	Ellen Miller	Jayne VanAsperen
Elders	Dolyn Meinke	James Walker	Phil Hughes	John Reitz	Troy Henning
Greeters	Chris Hollman	Terry & Julie Reetz	Brent & Heidi Wohl	Bryan & Erin Bell	Rev. Art & Carol Brinkmeyer
Acolytes	Ethan Sublett		Paisley Williams		Kian Morris