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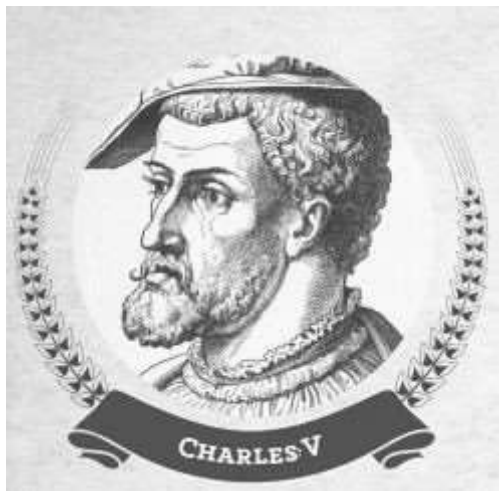


Come to the cross and learn of God's great love for all His people. There is friendship, fellowship, and the gift of God's word of forgiveness.

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 37 ISSUE 6 JULY 2017

FACES OF REFORMATION



Charles V - The Emperor who risked all to suppress the Turks and Lutheran Princes

Born: Feb. 24, 1500 | Ghent, Belgium Died: Sept. 21, 1558 | Yuste, Spain

Some people inherit silverware; Charles V inherited most of Western Europe. Unfortunately, most of Western Europe was at war within and without when he took the crown at age 20.

When Charles was six, his father died. Charles' mother, known as Joan the Mad, was mentally unstable. Thus, Charles was raised by his aunt in France.

When King Ferdinand of Spain, Charles' grandfather, died in 1516, Charles was named King of Spain at age 16, giving him charge over Spain as well as the newly-discovered land in the New World. When Emperor Maximilian, Charles' other

grandfather, died in 1519, the two main contenders for the title of Holy Roman Emperor were Charles and Francis I of France. Since Charles had deeper pockets with which to gain the electors' favor, in 1520 he was elected over Francis, who never ceased to give Charles political trouble during his reign. Because war with both France and the Turks took most of his attention, the growing Protestant movement was pushed to the back burner.

Charles had been emperor only a few months when the Diet of Worms was held in 1521, where Luther famously said that he would not and could not recant. Charles issued the imperial Edict of Worms labeling Luther an outlaw with a price on his head. Even though Charles, a devout Catholic, thought he was carrying out the wishes of the pope, the pope was offended by Charles' action, since the pope had already excommunicated Luther. The Emperor was continually caught between the Catholics and the Protestants, and spent the rest of his reign trying to reconcile the two within his lands. Although the Diet of Speyer in 1526 had tolerated the Reformation, Ferdinand, acting as the regent of his brother, Charles, pursued less conciliatory measures at the Second Diet of Speyer in 1529, declaring Catholicism to be the religion of all imperial lands. The Lutheran contingent at the Diet protested this arrangement, leading to the use of the name "Protestant".

Charles called for another Diet in 1530, this time in Augsburg. Due to the Edict of Worms, Luther was not able to attend, but rather traveled with Melancthon and others as far as Coburg. On June 25, the Augsburg Confession, a statement of Lutheran doctrine signed by the assembled princes, was read before Charles V. The Reformation now had teeth; the princes were willing to use the sword to defend the uninhibited proclamation of the Gospel in their lands. Charles was facing down a conflict that would result in more than a century of devastating wars that would eventually erode and lead to the dissolution of the Empire.

Charles attempted to resolve the religious differences in his territories, but it was not until the 1555 Peace of Augsburg that this goal became a temporary reality. It was decided that the individual territories could determine their religion. This was negotiated by Charles' brother, Ferdinand. Charles abdicated his throne in 1556 and Ferdinand became the next emperor. Charles spent the last two years of his life near a monastery in Yuste, Spain.

FROM THE ELDERS

Brothers and sisters in Christ,
Greetings and God's blessings to all of you from the Elders. We hope you are enjoying your summer as we look forward to a busy July! While summer includes many activities, please remember to make weekly worship a part of your regular summer schedule. The annual fish boil will be held Sunday July 9th after the church service at the Kramer Hall from 11:30 to 1pm. Please come and enjoy a delicious meal & fellowship while supporting the Orphan Grain Train. VBS is scheduled for July 23rd – 27th this year with the picnic following church service on July 30th. Please consider volunteering your time and skills. In addition to your own children, please be thinking of others to invite. This is a wonderful opportunity for children to have fun while learning about Jesus. Finally, a warm welcome to our new Pastor and his family. Please keep them in your prayers as they begin a new journey with us. As there are many new names and faces for them to learn, remember to wear your name tags! Thanks be to God for guiding us through our vacancy, and praise God for blessing us with our new Pastor and his family!

Yours in Christ, The Elders

FROM PASTOR

To our new and dear church family,
We cannot begin to express how blessed and warmly welcomed we have felt since accepting the call. Your generosity began before we even moved with contacts and messages welcoming us and offering prayers on our behalf. There was a tremendous amount of work done on the parsonage that helped make it home for us. Since arriving we have been welcomed with an installation service and reception, a tea for Shelley, and filling-the-food-pantry shower. We are grateful not only for your generosity, but for the time and effort put into all of these. Many of you have reached out personally with a welcome gift or with food; some of you stopped by just checking on things; and a number of you have been helpful in answering our many questions. We are thankful for the help of the trustees with a number of needs at the parsonage since we arrived. To say that we are thankful is an understatement. We are truly humbled and blessed! Above all we thank God who brought us here and we look forward to working and living among you to worship and serve our Lord Jesus Christ.

In humble gratitude,
Pastor, Shelley and Steven

PLEASE HAVE ALL INFORMATION OR ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTER TO BLYTHE DEWEY BY 25TH, THANK YOU!

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.

JULY BIRTHDAYS & BAPTISMS

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Harlow Dewey
- 3 A. J. Ellingson, Lisa Rejcha, Sherry Rezac
- 5 Janice Reetz
- 6 Terry Stehlik
- 8 Phyllis Wendelin
- 9 Hugo Pomajzl
- 10 Les Korte, Linda Lee
- 11 Sandi Karl, Marilyn Nast
- 12 Hope Hoyer, Gary Meinke, Erica Sublett
- 13 Trevor Nitzel
- 15 LaVonne Nitzel
- 16 Lynn Meinke
- 19 Lisa Shore
- 20 Leahh Anderson, Karen Bachman, Ashley Walker
- 21 Alexandra Weber
- 23 Briggen Reetz

- 24 Megan Behrends
- 25 Wayne Hansmeyer, Frank Slama, Bailey Stougard
- 26 Joe Hoesche
- 29 Barb Meinke, Aleece Reetz
- 31 Brad Pomajzl

BAPTISMS

- 1 James Haufle, Jeff Hollman, Heath & Harlow Dewey
- 3 Brian Poole, Jacob Wohl
- 4 Wendie & Austin Haufle, Marvin Nitzel
- 5 Roger Koch, Tessa Miller
- 7 Amanda Easley
- 8 Devon Reitz, Marlene Wagner
- 9 Ella Jo Hughes
- 10 James Doiel, Cindy Hoyer

- 11 Victoria Rethmeier
- 12 Sherry Rezac
- 13 Calen Homolka
- 14 Eric Dewey, Lydia Lee, Morgan Wohl
- 15 Ethan Sublett
- 16 Trevor Nitzel
- 18 Elmer Reetz, Garrett Reitz
- 19 Dylan Wagner
- 20 Lisa Rejcha
- 22 Wally Wild
- 24 Shawna Doiel
- 25 Les Korte, Janice Reetz
- 27 Gary Meinke
- 28 Sandi Karl
- 29 Olga Weidner
- 30 JoAnn Renner

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OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER GROWTH

Schedule at a Glance

Worship Service (Sundays)	9:00 a.m.
Bible Class (Sundays)	10:30 a.m.
Elder’s Meeting (July 10)	7:30 p.m.
Lutheran Women in Mission-Annual Prayer Service (July 18)	7:00 p.m.
Ladies Aid Meeting (July 26)	2:00 p.m.
Men’s Bible Study (July 11)	7:00 p.m.
Vacation Bible School (July 23-July 27)	5:00-7:30 p.m.
Quarterly Council & Voter’s Meeting (July 24)	7:30 & 8:00 p.m.

LADIES AID MINUTES

The St. John Ladies Aid met on Wednesday, June 28, 2017. We opened the meeting by singing "How Great Thou Art". Pastor Toensing led us in the Bible Study on Judges, chapter 13; the birth of Sampson.

Roll call was taken with ten members present and two guests, Jolene Reetz and Shelly Toensing. The minutes from the last meeting were read and approved and the treasurers' report was given and approved.

OLD BUSINESS: Carol Brinkmeyer discussed the procedure we follow when the Ladies Aid serves for funerals, Copies of this procedure will be made and copies will be kept in the kitchen. Anyone interested in checking this out is welcome to read it. If there are any questions or suggestions, please feel free to ask anyone in Ladies Aid.

A sign up sheet for bringing salads or desserts for the Fish Boil was passed around. The Fish Boil

will be held on July 9th at Kramer Hall. If you would like to bring your food to the church, someone will take it to the hall. There is a sign up sheet in the hall way.

A thank you note was read from Andrea Pomajzl for serving at her sons funeral.

Anniversaries celebrated in June were Elmer and Shirley Reetz, Ken and Diane Kahle and Wayne and Linda Eggert. The anniversary song was sung.

JoAnn Renner provided the refreshments for today's meeting. Dianne Kouba will be our hostess for our July meeting. We closed with the Lord's Prayer and the common table prayer.

Shirley Reetz, secretary

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE OGT FISH BOIL You are invited to fellowship at Kramer Hall on Sunday, July 9th from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Please join us at our fish feed. Not only will you enjoy a tasty meal, but you will have an opportunity to share in the ministry of giving and caring for many of God’s children who are in great need.

THOSE SERVING DURING THE MONTH OF JULY

DUTY	July 2	July 9	July 16	July 23	July 30
Organist	Jolene Reetz	Jayne VanAsperen	Jolene Reetz	Jayne VanAsperen	Jolene Reetz
Elders	John Reitz	Terry Dittmer	James Walker	Ken Tesar	Terry Reetz
Greeters	Mr. & Mrs. Rollo Schultz	Mr. & Mrs. Byron Shore	Mr. & Mrs. Ken Tesar	Mr. & Mrs. James Walker	Mr. & Mrs. Darren Weber
Acolytes	Colton Homolka & Mersadies Kvasnicka	Skye Hoyer & Ted Muff	Mara & Skye Hoyer	Aaron & Jacob Meinke	Ted Muff & Madison Persing

HEALTHY HABITS

The winner to last month's drawing for fun in the sun gift basket is Terry Dittmer! Thanks to all who participated! This month's article will focus on another safety issue while having fun in the outdoors, and that is of tick bite prevention. There are many diseases caused by ticks, one of which is a familiar one called Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever caused by the bacterium Rickettsia. In the US, this bacterium can be spread by an infected tick to humans by means of American Dog Tick, Brown Dog Tick, and Rocky Mountain Wood Tick. According to the Center for Disease Control, symptoms include fever, headache, abdominal pain, vomiting, muscle pain and possibly a rash. If you were to experience any of these symptoms, see your physician right away as it can cause severe illness or even in some cases, can be fatal. Best defense of preventing this illness is to attempt to avoid being bitten. The CDC recommends the following: · Avoid wooded and brushy areas with tall grasses · When walking the trails, walk in the center of them · Use repellent that is appropriate for you and your family. You may go to the following website for recommendations: <https://www.epa.gov/insect-repellents/find-insect-repellent-right-you> · Shower as soon as possible when coming in doors, perform a full body check! · Examine your clothing, gear, and pets. Summer is for outdoor fun so it is really important to protect yourself and your family against this potential illness. You may go to the CDC website for further information and recommendations on how you may protect yourself and your family.

Next trivia question: The frequency of reported cases of Rocky Mountain spotted fever is highest among males or females? Enter to win in the drawing for next month! Box is again in the narthex. Winner will be announced next month in Healthy Habits.

Reference: <https://www.cdc.gov/>

LAMBS OF CHRIST

Preschool Garage Sale

We would like to thank everyone who donated and shopped at the Preschool Garage Sale. We raised \$1,134.55 to help support the preschool mission. This is a record amount for the garage sale fundraiser. Clothing that did not sale was donated to the Orphan Grain Train Mission.

Summer Break

The Preschool is on summer break. If you need to speak to someone at the preschool please call Bethlehem Lutheran Church 402- 826-4359 or e-mail us at lambsofchristcrete@gmail.com Thanks

School Starts

Preschool will begin on Monday, August 21 for the M/W/F class and Tuesday, August 22 for the T/Th class. An Open House for students in the M/W/F class will be held on Wednesday, August 16th at 6:30 PM. The T/Th class will have an Open House on Thursday, August 17th at 6:30 PM.

Rhonda Beethe, Teacher

402-826-4375, lambsofchristcrete@gmail.com

VBS

Our church is hosting an exciting Mighty Fortress Vacation Bible School on July 23rd to 27th, from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. A meal will be provided by volunteers from 5:00 to 5:30. It will be a great time for kids to grow in faith as they explore God's Word. The children will sing on Sunday, July 30th.

We pray that Mighty Fortress gives us opportunities to introduce children and their families to Christ and our church. We hope to help our own children grow in their faith in Jesus and to reach out to children in our neighborhood. This makes VBS a key outreach ministry in our congregation and local community.

Please feel free to donate, volunteer, and bring your children to join with us for the fun!

****The ladies of the LWML will be hosting our annual prayer service on Tuesday July 18th at 7:00 PM, to be followed with refreshments. The Prayer Service will be held in the sanctuary and is open to the whole family, including men and children. Please join us as we praise the Lord and Celebrate 75 years of the LWML in a relaxed worship setting; "Commending Christ from One Generation to Another." Hope to see many of you there!****

BOARD OF EVANGELISM

Seven Things to Help Connect with Visitors at St. John edited from the original - Cara Meredith at iBelieve.com

It isn't always easy when a new visitor recently moved into our area and had to switch churches – or is looking for a church for the first time in many years. Whether you attended St. John since birth, or just celebrated your one-year anniversary in this church, you can be assured there have been people among you visiting our worship service for the first time. And, no matter how long or how involved you find yourself with the body of Christ it's easy not to see the visitors among you. It can also be easy for those same visitors to somehow be turned away from the church. Are you curious in minimizing this on Sunday morning? Here are a few helpful notes to keep in mind:

1. See them. It's easy to spot visitors: they don't know where they're going, because they don't know what they're doing in this new environment. Whether you're a greeter or the person sitting two seats to the right of them, we need you to see them – seeing is a good part of the battle.
2. Offer them a smile. Now here's the deal: we're Jesus people. We're supposed to be filled with His light, His joy, His love – because this is how the Spirit of God has changed us. So, be brave, meet their hopeful gaze, and give them a genuine grin.
3. Offer them help. It's easy, when we know the routines and the rhythms and the 'know-how's' of a place, to forget that not everyone knows what we know. Chances are, if it looks like a visitor might not know what they're doing, they really don't know what they're doing. So, offer to help them. They will be grateful to you.
4. Introduce yourself. Sometimes we think the business of getting to know newcomers belongs to the Pastor, or some Board members of a church – but that can't be further from the truth. As the body of Christ, we're all the fleshy arms and legs of Jesus, and just as Christ calls us to be the Church, the Church needs you to be as much a witness as church leadership.
5. Remember visitors are persons who want to be known, just like you. It will amaze you how much we can learn about a person in less than a minute's time. That being said, because we humans were and are made for genuine relationship, there's something about another person wanting to really know this visitor that makes them feel known and understood. So, ask them where they hail from. Connect the dots. Be an active listener so you can ask them another question. It'll make someone feel loved and wanted!
6. Pay attention to their boundaries. In one breath, we do want to get to know them, but in the next breath, we should also respect their boundaries. If they are introverted or a private person, they may not want to answer your questions – so be okay with and respect those boundaries. If they choose not to flow with you in conversation, don't take it personally.
7. Make the best attempt to remember their name. Here's the deal: we, as parishioners, oftentimes sit in the same area in a church service. Visitors, who might still be visiting four weeks in, oftentimes sit in the same area in a church service as well. Whether they see you afterwards in the church narthex, or the next week while sitting behind you again, they'll probably remember you, because, to them, you're one of the few representatives of this place. So, remember them. If need be, write down their name on the inside of your Bible or in your cell phone. Build up this name-remembering muscle.

The bottom line: we really can be good neighbors to those who are visiting our church for the first time. We can emulate the actions and compassion of Jesus who welcomed every sinner and saint into his midst. We can take note of the Good Samaritan who noticed the stranger, the one every other passerby ignored and walked right on past. And maybe in doing this, we'll prevent some new visitors from church shopping – because we'll have appropriately welcomed them into Christ's space.

The Evangelism Committee encourages members to consider attending "Prairie Fire: Building Bridges", a workshop to be held at Concordia, Seward, Saturday, August 5, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. More information can be found in the May/June Nebraska District Reporter. The workshop will focus on building "genuine, caring relationships" with people in your community.

Help Send Books to Kids!



Sharing God's Mighty Word is an outreach project that sends Bible-based literature to kids around the US. The project focuses on reaching inner-city kids, Hispanic kids, Native American kids, and kids who are in crisis.

\$10 provides 4 Arch Books

\$15 provides 10 Promise Comic Books

\$25 gives 10 teen devotionals

\$100 sends 30 Spanish coloring books

\$170 provides a VBS starter kit

Sharing Gods Mighty Word

In the small town of Denison, Iowa, a church with few Spanish books struggles to reach out to the Hispanic immigrants who now call the area home. In Mobile, Alabama, an inner-city Lutheran school barely has the Christian curriculum materials it needs to teach its students. In Pilger, Nebraska, kids lose their church and almost everything else in their community during a tornado.

It's not just kids overseas who lack Bibles and other Christian books. It's also kids within the US—and often in our own communities! The kids who go to school with our kids, who live a few houses down, and who live on the other side of town may have never even held a Bible. Sharing God's Mighty Word focuses specifically on delivering Bible-based books to kids in the US. And you can be part of our work!

How?

- Bring in your nickels, dimes, and dollars to help send books to kids. Help meet our goal!
- Visit MightyWord.org for more information to learn about this project and the mission of Concordia Gospel Outreach.

“Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.” —Proverbs 22:6 ESV®