

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 7 JULY 2023

Perhaps you know these following words from the offertory in Divine Service Setting Three:

Psalm 51:10–12 (ESV)

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

Oh, to have a clean heart. To have a heart that rests in the peace of God. Oh, to have a heart not troubled by the troubles of the world. Sin. The devil. Our range of emotions and frustrations. Joys and sorrows. The journey of life on earth in this fallen world is one of trials. And we are affected in our whole persons: body, soul, and spirit (emotions). The body is not divided from the soul. Emotions are certainly affected by the health of the body. Our spirit and faith are tested by the pains and sorrows of the body and our mental health. The whole body is one connected being—body, soul, and spirit.

In the last decade our church—the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and its districts—has made an effort to address the mental health of our congregations and our church workers. Studies and counselors and retreats and many other resources have been provided to our church workers and their health—spiritual, mental, and physical. It is good that we care for the whole person.

Mental health is also something we need to think about for ourselves and for our neighbors in the world. The COVID-19 pandemic really affected a lot of our mental health. Although there has been a greater emphasis to recognize the issues of mental illness, the provision of resources still seems to be lacking. Some efforts are being made.

But the stigma of mental illness and mental well-being also needs to be overcome. Many of us still would not want to admit that we suffer with mental and emotional difficulties. But we do in greater and lesser degrees. What can we do?

First, let's recognize that we are whole persons, and that body and mind are intimately connected. Second, admit that we and others may sometimes suffer mental and emotional difficulties. Third, we pray for those who suffer and where we can and where we know we offer support—loving, brotherly/sisterly compassion, and show of care.

And then, let's recognize where our help begins. And the first place is with God and the treasures of His gifts; yes, His Word and Sacraments. The Word of God gives us identity: You are a child of God through Jesus Christ. God has adopted you as His child in Holy Baptism. In great love for you, God assures you of the forgiveness of your sins in the Lord's Supper. "It is truly meet (good), right, and salutary ..." Salutary means "healthful." It is healthful and healthy that we give God thanks and that we receive His gift of a new mind in faith and the sustaining of a wonderful relationship with our Father. In the Lord's Supper we take into our bodies the true body and blood of Jesus Christ. This is good for us in our whole being—good for our body, good for our soul, good for our mind. God saves us as a whole person. We are His.

God has redeemed us to be His own. We are His. He seeks to make us right. The work is in process now through His Word and Spirit as He seeks to create in us a new heart and daily renew our spirit with His love and grace. May God's Word dwell in us that we might know Him and His love. And where we struggle in life, or if we know others are struggling, let us turn to God, pray for one another, and let us be bold to search out help when we need it. We seek doctors out when our bodies are not well. Let us also be bold to seek out help when we are suffering emotionally. We can be thankful for those professionals that can assist us in our mental well-being. And we continue to pray as the psalms teach: "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me."

In Christ's Love, 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).

Hospital Visit

There are circumstances in life that might land someone in the hospital. As your pastor, I consider it a high priority to visit when one of our members is in the hospital. But I might not always get the message. Sometimes people forget. Sometimes you might assume that someone else will let me know. If I should know that someone is in need of a pastoral visit in the hospital, please let me know. I would rather get five calls or messages letting me know than none. Thank you. Pastor



JULY
BIRTHDAYS

&

BAPTISMS

BIRTHDAYS

1 Harlow Dewey
3 A. J. Ellingson, Lisa Rejcha,
Sherry Rezac
5 Janice Reetz
6 Terry Stehlik
9 Hugo Pomajzl
10 Les Korte, Linda Lee
11 Sandi Karl
12 Gary Meinke, Erica Sublett
13 Trevor Nitzel
15 LaVonne Nitzel,
Bryan Bell III
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 Petereit
8 Devon Reitz,
Marlene Wagner

9 Ella Jo Hughes
10 James Doiel, Cindy Hoyer
11 Victoria Rethmeier
12 Sherry Rezac
14 Eric Dewey, Lydia Lee,
Morgan Wohl
15 Ethan Sublett
16 Trevor Nitzel
17 Trevor Wagner
18 Elmer Reetz, Garrett Reitz
19 Dylan Wagner
20 Lisa Rejcha
25 Les Korte, Janice Reetz
27 Gary Meinke
28 Sandi Karl

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.



VBS 2023

Join us July 23-27 from 5:00 pm to 7:45 pm for a fun week filled with lessons, crafts, music, games and lots of yummy food! Our theme this year is **“Weird Animals”** - Where Jesus' Love is One-of-a-Kind! VBS registration is also now available on the church website. There is a volunteer sheet in the Narthex for anyone who wishes to help with meals.

LADIES AID MINUTES

St. John Ladies Aid met on June 28, 2023, with Marianne Tesar as hostess. Pastor Toensing led us in a moment of silence in memory of Olga Weidner, prayer and then a Bible study entitled “Lord, Teach Us to Pray” from Luke 11:1.

Roll call was taken with 9 members present. The minutes of the May 2023 meeting were read and approved. The treasurer's report was given.

We served 97 at Olga Weidner's funeral. Thank you to everyone who helped serve and bring food.

The linen fabric came in for the new cloths which will go underneath the candles on the Altar. Sandi Karl will pick up the fabric and make the new cloths. The Altar linen has not been delivered yet.

The Fish Boil went well. Thank you to everyone who provided food.

Diane Kahle talked to the Crete News to see when the article for our anniversary celebration would be in the newspaper. She was told it would be anytime this year. There was no commitment to putting the information in any time soon.

Kaylie Brethouwer requested the Ladies Aid serve ice cream sundaes on the last night of Vacation Bible School. A motion was made that Ladies Aid will provide the ice cream, toppings and bowls for the last day of VBS and Diane Kahle will form a committee to help serve the ice cream sundaes. Seconded and passed.

Wayne & Linda Eggert, Elmer & Shirley Reetz and Ken & Diane Kahle celebrated anniversaries in June. We sang the anniversary song to Diane.

The hostess for July will be Janice Reetz.

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

Deb Walker, Secretary



Help us get the word — and the Word — out

Dear fellow servant of Christ Jesus,

The 2023 LCMS convention gives the entire Synod an opportunity to preach Christ crucified to all people. In advance of the convention itself, and lasting through 2026, the LCMS National Offering will help fund the translation of carefully selected Lutheran evangelism and teaching resources into other languages. This effort is about Jesus Christ — for *all* people.

We would be blessed by your participation. More importantly, there are people who want to know Christ and Him crucified who would be immeasurably blessed by your help.

Your voice and endorsement is so incredibly important, just as you are to the overall mission of our Synod. Together, we preach Christ crucified for all people!

Learn more about the National Offering and quickly access resources by visiting lcms.org/convention/national/offering.

In Christ Jesus,
Mark Hofman
Executive Director of Mission Advancement & Mission Advocate
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

MAIN STREET LIVING UPDATE

“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”. “This is the Life” airs at 10 A.M. and the Worship Services at 10:30 A.M. **Both can be viewed on KLKN Channel 8 (Lincoln) & WOWT Channel 6.2 (Omaha) .**

July 2, 2023...10:30 AM - Rev. Jeffrey Duncan, pastor at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church in Omaha, presents a message titled “Blessed Fulfillment in Christ”. This sermon is based on Luke 1:39-45.

July 9, 2023...10:30 AM - Rev. Raymond Doubrava, pastor at Trinity & Zion Lutheran Churches in Howells & Leigh, presents a message titled “Big Catch or Small Voice: God’s Still There”. This sermon is based on Luke 5:1-11.

July 16, 2023...10:30 AM - Rev. John Schmidt, pastor at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Lincoln, presents a message titled “The Righteous One Is Our Righteousness”. This sermon is based on Matthew 5:20.

July 23, 2023...10:30 AM - Rev. Daniel Wing, pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lincoln, presents a message titled “Suffering ÷ Eternity = 0”. This sermon is based on Romans 8:18-25.

July 30, 2023...10:30 AM - Rev. Scott Porath, pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Eagle, presents a message titled “His Treasured Possession”. This sermon is based on Matthew 13:44-52.

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH –LCMS

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OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER GROWTH

Worship Service (Sundays)	9:00 a.m.
Bible Class (Sundays)	10:30 a.m.
Elders' Meeting (July 10)	7:00 p.m.
Quilting Group (July 11)	9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Church Council Meeting (July 17)	7:00 p.m.
Lutheran Women in Mission (July 18)	10:00 a.m.
Quarterly Voters' Meeting (July 23) following Worship	
Evangelism Board Meeting (July 25)	8:30 a.m.
Ladies Aid Meeting (July 26)	2:00 p.m.

FROM THE ELDER'S

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We have been recently blessed to have had two special opportunities within our church. We thank Gerald and Heidi Paul for sharing with us the details of their mission work in the Cayman Islands. And we were once again able to host fish boil to support the Orphan Grain Train. We thank God for these blessings.

As Independence Day approaches, we take time to be thankful for this 'Nation under God'. We pray that God watches over our nation, keeps us in His care, and guides our leaders and all Americans in the ways that He would have us go.

VBS is fast approaching. It is not too late to register the young people in your life! This is a wonderful opportunity for children to have fun and fellowship with one another while learning more about Jesus.

We wish you all a safe & enjoyable summer! Blessings from the Elders

THOSE SERVING DURING THE MONTH OF JULY, 2023

DUTY	7/2/23	7/9/23	7/16/23	7/23/23	7/30/23
Organist/Pianist	Kathy Porath	Jayne VanAsperen			
Elders	Troy Henning	Phil Hughes	Todd Hoyer	Dolyn Meinke	
Greeters	Terry & Genie Dittmer	Wayne & Linda Eggert	Chris Hollman	Todd & Cindy Hoyer	Glen & Verna Louch
Acolytes	Cheyenne DuBray		Amy Hollman		

Missionaries Rev. Dr. Gerald and Heidi Paul from Grand Cayman joined us on June 12 for a potluck dinner. After the dinner we were treated to a presentation by the Pauls regarding their mission on the island. They talked about how God continues to bless them and the mission. One of the things they are currently working on is to open a Lutheran school so they can provide Christian education to the students.

They also shared with us pictures of some of their members and their worship services. Those who attended thoroughly enjoyed getting to know them personally. We were able to see how God uses the money sent by our congregation to support this mission.

We thank them for taking time out of their busy schedule to share with us. Also, we thank God for His guidance in working through them.



FIRST COME—FIRST SERVED!!!

Board of Ed has cleaned out the SS supply room and has made extra and no longer needed items available for the taking on the long tables in the church basement. There is a mix of too many things to list. There are also some tubs/totes/storage containers available. Take what you want. First come, first served. Deadline is July 16. After that items will be donated and disposed of. Questions - ask Pastor or any Bd. of Ed. member.

