

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 36 ISSUE 6 JUNE 2022

Dear Fellow Saints,

Did anyone ever tell you that you were the “apple of their eye?” Did you know that God calls YOU the apple of His eye?

A teacher gave apples to the children in her class. “Look at your apple closely,” she said. “Notice the color, spots, blemishes, bumps, and how the stem points. Close your eyes and picture your own apple and everything about it.” After a little time, the teacher collected the apples in a basket and laid them out on the top of her desk, mixing them thoroughly in the process. Then she said, “Come and pick out your apple.” Every one of the 30 pupils in her class picked out his or her particular apple.

Each one of us is unique, just as is every apple. We all have our bumps, spots, shades of color, and differing stems. God can pick each of us out of a million people. He has chosen us to be His own precious apples, and He cares for us, just as He chose Israel to be His holy nation in ancient times. That's what Moses told the people of Israel, “He guarded him as the apple of his eye” (Dt 32:10).



This image is also found in Psalm 17:8. This image of the apple of my eye is 3500 years old! It is an image that gives us comfort that God affectionately cares for you and me. But even more so, because Jesus Himself is the apple of the Father's eye. And Jesus gave His life in love and sacrifice to save us from our sins. Jesus Christ lived righteously and gave His life unto the punishment of death for us, then rose and ascended into heaven in glory.

Since we are now saved, we have each become the apple of God's eye. All God's love and compassion and forgiveness and grace are extended to you because of Jesus. What joy and peace that you, me, and all believers are the apple of God's eye.

Peace in Christ, Pastor

**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 Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Thank you all so much for the wonderful acknowledgement of the 30 years God has blessed me in serving as a pastor--and five years so far here at St. John. Thank you for the cards and gifts, for the cake, and for all the blessings of thanks and encouragement. May God bless you as we grow together in faith, worship our Savior Jesus, and serve one another in love. Pastor Toensing

## BIRTHDAYS

2 Wendi & Austin Haufle  
 3 Terry Dittmer  
 4 Emma Hoyer  
 6 Susan Tremblay  
 7 Greg Kalkwarf, Ella Jo Hughes  
 8 Verna Schultz,  
 9 Devon Reitz, Dewayne & Henry Slama  
 12 Madison Hestermann, Kelli Jordan  
 13 Garrett Reitz  
 14 Jeff Hollman, Verna Louch  
 17 Roger Koch, Hunter Persing  
 19 Theodore Muff, Jacob Wohl  
 20 Trevor Wagner  
 21 Kimberly Scott  
 23 Ariana Munro, Morgan Wohl  
 24 Kyle Ochs  
 25 Dave Musil, Elmer Reetz  
 28 Cinder Johnson



&



29 Steve Vanasperen, Victoria Rethmeier  
 30 Patricia Behrens, Cindy Hoyer, Heath Dewey

## BAPTISMS

1 Tonya Clark, Rylee Pospichal  
 3 Doug Karl  
 4 Nick Ellingson, Michael Ellingson, Diane Kahle, Kenneth Kastanek  
 5 Irelynn Kirkpatrick, Shirley Vosika  
 7 Ken Behrens, Darleen Dittmer

8 Gwendolyn Dewey, Eric Dewey Jr., Jessie (Dittmer) Graff  
 9 Carsyn Ziemann, Samantha Wagner  
 11 John Haufle, Lane Wendelin  
 13 Coen Ziemann  
 15 Caleb Markey, Charlie Slama  
 19 Andrea Pomajzl, John Reitz  
 20 Greg Kalkwarf  
 22 Elliott Reitz  
 24 Emma Hoyer, Bob Renner  
 25 Michael Gropp  
 28 Terry Dittmer, Verna Louch

## VBS REGISTRATION



Join us July 24-28 from 5:00 pm to 7:45 pm for a fun week filled with lessons, crafts, science experiments, music, games and lots of yummy food! There is a VBS registration form in the Narthex and also online. There is also a volunteer sheet for anyone who wishes to help. Helpers are always needed to make this a success.

## LADIES AID MINUTES

St. John Ladies Aid met on May 25, 2022, with Marianne Tesar as hostess. We opened with hymn #915 "Today Your Mercy Calls Us" and then Pastor Toensing led us in a Bible study on "The Unmerciful Servant" from Matthew 18:21-35 and the Lord's Prayer.

Roll call was taken with 10 members present. The minutes of the April 2022 meeting were read and approved. The treasurer's report was given.

Diane Kahle talked a little about some of the decisions the cookbook committee has made on the look of the cookbook.

All the food is accounted for to serve the strawberry shortcake at the Ascension Day service on May 26.

Work is being done on an updated call list for funerals. We may send out a survey asking those members who would be willing to provide food for funerals.

Carol Brinkmeyer put together the different committees needed for the anniversary celebration and discussed what duties are under each committee.

We will meet early next month to fix the pew cushions.

Barb Meinke will be the hostess for June.

Darleen Dittmer, Diane Kahle and Ellie Koch celebrated birthdays in May and Pastor & Shelley Toensing celebrated an anniversary. We sang the birthday song.

We closed the meeting with the common Table Prayer.

Deb Walker, Secretary

**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN  
CHURCH –LCMS**

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www.stjohnkramer.org  
Rev. Maynard Toensing, Jr.  
pastortoensing@gmail.com

**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 (June 6)	6:30 p.m.
Ladies Bible Study (June 11)	10:00 a.m.
Quilters Group (June 14)	9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Lutheran Women in Mission (June 21)	10:00 a.m.
Ladies Aid Meeting (June 29)	2:00 p.m.

**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.

**FROM THE ELDERS**

School is out and summer is fast approaching! Soon we will be back to heat and high humidity. With all the cold weather we have had, it feels like we have missed spring!

Congratulations to all the High School graduates. Good luck in all your future endeavors. Vacation Bible School will be here soon. There are a lot of ways for everyone to help and support VBS—from teachers, to helpers, to snacks and meals. We can all help to make this a special time for the kids. Also, thanks to the LYF group and their leaders for the great Easter breakfast. The LYF group also sponsored the Children's Easter Egg Hunt and the Spring Roadside Cleanup. Thanks to the volunteers that assisted LYF in their projects. That's what being a church family is all about!

We have had an old-fashioned church picnic and attempted an outdoor worship service but the weather didn't cooperate. It was an indoor service and church picnic—but just as special (and no bugs involved!).

Memorial Day has come and gone but we all need to thank our veterans for their service.

Please continue to pray and support all of our church family.

God Bless,

The Elders

## QUILTS OF VALOR

The Hallam American Legion Post 294 presented Quilts of Valor to four of our St. John Lutheran fellow members this Memorial Day. They are Dolyn Meinke, Harold Meinke, Roger Koch and Arlyn Wohl. Thank you for your service! (Photo is courtesy of Kristi Reitz)



# Puzzle!

Find the names of these fathers and sons from the Old Testament.

- |         |          |
|---------|----------|
| ADAM    | REUBEN   |
| CAIN    | DAN      |
| ABEL    | ASHER    |
| SETH    | JUDAH    |
| NOAH    | LEVI     |
| HAM     | GAD      |
| SHEM    | NAPHTALI |
| JAPHETH | SIMEON   |
| ELKANAH | ISSACHAR |
| SAMUEL  | ZEBULUN  |
| AARON   | BENJAMIN |
| MADAB   | JOSEPH   |
| HUR     | MANASSEH |
| CALEB   | EPHRAIM  |
| ABRAHAM | SALU     |
| ISHMAEL | JONATHAN |
| ISAAC   | DAVID    |
| ESAU    | SOLOMON  |
| JACOB   |          |

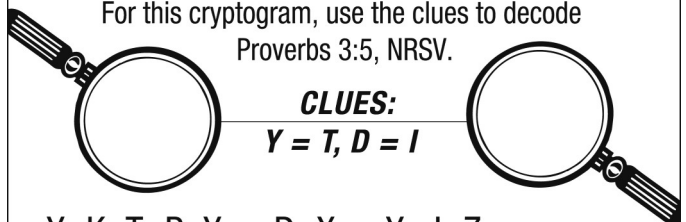
W R D I T T N A H T A N O J Z  
 A L E V I N A D A B E E S K E  
 U E H F O D J A C O B L U B  
 A A E U S R U U H A D U J E U  
 S S H S M A U J A P H E T H L  
 E S N I L A T H P A N R O O U  
 H I O M S S S N R E I L N E N  
 E S E T H M H O A K M E S T E  
 S H A O N I A I H C A A S I H  
 S O L O M O N H C C J M I B P  
 A D A V I D D A D A M N H M E E  
 N I A C M R K A S R E S E L S  
 A B E L A H L G S S M B I O A O  
 M I A R H P E C I T O A N C J

Note: A completed puzzle is in a file called puzzleb\_0622 on this month's CD and on the website, [www.NewsletterNewsletter.com](http://www.NewsletterNewsletter.com).



# Puzzle!

For this cryptogram, use the clues to decode Proverbs 3:5, NRSV.



**CLUES:**  
 Y = T, D = I

Y K T P Y D X Y J Z  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 V Q K R F D Y J O V V  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 C Q T K J Z O K Y, O X R  
 \_\_\_\_\_,  
 R Q X Q Y K Z V C Q X  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 C Q T K Q F X D X P D L J Y.  
 \_\_\_\_\_.

Answer: Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. Proverbs 3:5, NRSV