

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 6 JUNE 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

A couple was walking through the mall when they passed an eye-care/opticians office. And he said to her, "You should get your eyes checked."

"No," she said, "my eyes are fine and have been for years."

"Please. I care about you. Get your eyes checked." So she did.

The optician, after the exam, came out and said, "You need glasses. If you were to take your driver's exam right now you would fail the vision test."

She was just short of being shocked. She was very surprised.

Frames were picked and lenses ordered. When she wore her glasses she was amazed at how much she could see clearly. She had taken her eyesight for granted. Her eyes had been bad and she did not even know it.

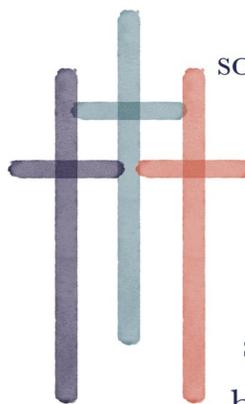
This is how the Law and the Spirit work to help us see that we need Christ Jesus and salvation in Him alone. St. Paul writes in Romans 3:20: For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. Or in Romans 7:7: Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, "You shall not covet."

You see, we do not know what we do not know. We don't see a need for salvation in Christ Jesus if we are not sinners. We cannot see our sin if the Law does not show it to us. And it is God the Holy Spirit who helps us to see our sin through the Law that we might be humbled and led to repentance of our sin.

THEN: the Gospel comes; the Good News is proclaimed: Jesus Christ died for you to save you from your sin and sinfulness. Like the woman in denial about her poor eyesight, so are we in darkness without God. It takes the measure of the Law like an eye exam that measures our sight to reveal to us that our sight is poor. Like the woman with poor eyesight we may be shocked to find that we are sinful and dim of sight, blind even, when it comes to God. But when we get past the shock (and the humbling), we are helped to see: glasses for eyesight; God's Good News in Christ for our salvation. And the Holy Spirit gives us faith—faith to see Jesus.

Thank God that He has worked to help us see the Law in its stark reality: we are sinners. But rejoice even more for God shows us our Savior, Jesus Christ. In Him we have forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. God helps us to repent of our sin and then to see Christ our Savior clearly. Rejoice in the faith-sight you have been given by God in Christ Jesus who saves you. Amen!

In Christ's Love, Pastor Toensing



For God
so loved the world,
that he gave
his only son,
that whoever
believes in *him*
should not perish
but have *eternal life*.

John 3:16

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).



REV. GERALD AND HEIDI PAUL, our sponsored Missionaries from the Cayman Islands, will be here at St. John on **Monday, June 12**. We will have a pot luck dinner starting at 6:00 pm and Rev. Paul will start his presentation about his mission work in the Cayman Islands at 7:00 pm. Please plan on joining us to welcome them and learn of their work.



JUNE
BIRTHDAYS

&

BAPTISMS

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

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.



S'MORES & MORE!

Our June Family Fellowship Event will be on Friday, June 23, at 6:00 p.m. The evening will include a hot dog cookout, Jesus time, games, a quick service project that everyone can help with, s'mores and more!

Hot dogs, s'mores (and the fixin's) and drinks will be provided. Please bring a side to share. And please bring roasting sticks. We will have the picnic tables out, but you may bring a camp chair for sitting outside if you'd like.

Please sign up at church or let Pastor know by **Sunday, June 18** if you'll be attending so we can have a count for food.

Plans will be adjusted as needed for the weather.

Everyone is welcome to join us for s'more family fun!

LADIES AID MINUTES

St. John Ladies Aid met on May 31, 2023, with Dianne Kouba as hostess. We sang hymn #496 "Holy Spirit, Light Divine" and Pastor Toensing led us in a Bible study entitled "The Spirit Will Teach You All Things" from the Good News magazine.

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

The strawberry shortcake served after the Ascension Day service went well.

The linen top for the altar and the linen to make new altar cloths have been measured and ordered. Pastor also needs a black and a white stole. A motion was made to purchase a black and a white stole with the symbol Pastor needs on each of them that will come out of Ladies Aid treasury. Seconded and passed.

The altar repairs will be done by the trustees and elders. The gold leafing on the altar would be too costly and would probably need to be done by an artisan so we will not do that at this time.

There has been no new information on the supper for Rev. Gerald & Heidi Paul on June 12. It sounds like the Louch's are taking care of this.

The Fish Boil will be June 25. Diane Kahle will find out if Ladies Aid needs to help provide food.

As of yet there has been no article in the Crete News about our anniversary celebration so Diane Kahle will contact them to see when this will be included in the newspaper.

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

The hostess for June will be Marianne Tesar.

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

Deb Walker, Secretary



Orphan Grain Train Fish Feed

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Hosted by

St. John's Lutheran Church

11400 Panama Rd

Crete, NE 68333

11:00 AM—1:00 PM on Sunday, June 25th

At Kramer Hall

Fish-Brats-Potatoes-Onions-Salads-Desserts-Drinks

Free will offering for Orphan Grain Train General Operating

We will accept good clean clothing, shoes, toys, quilts, non-breakable housewares, school supplies & health items.

Supplement funding by Thrivent Financial

FROM THE ELDERS

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you to those who joined the Youth Group as they walked the roadsides to do our semi-annual clean up. The extra help makes the work go much faster.

Please help us welcome Gerald and Heidi Paul on the evening of June 12th. Please join us for a potluck meal and to hear about their mission work in the Cayman Islands. This is an opportunity you don't want to miss!

We are excited to once again be sponsoring the Orphan Grain Train fish boil. We are planning this for June 25th after Church service at the Kramer Hall. Please consider attending for fellowship, food and to help raise money for their mission work.

Finally, please continue praying for God to send rain to our state as needed in order for us to have a bountiful harvest!

Blessings from the Elders

**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN
CHURCH –LCMS**

11400 W. Panama Road
Crete, NE 68333
4 miles East & 2 miles South of Crete
Office: 826-3883
secretarystjohn@hotmail.com
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.
Sunday School & LYF (summer break)	
Bible Class (Sundays)	10:30 a.m.
Midweek Classes (summer break)	
Constitution/ByLaw Committee Meeting (June 2)	1:00 p.m.
Elders' Meeting (June 5)	7:00 p.m.
Quilting Group (June 13 & 27)	9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
LWML Meeting (June 20)	10:00 a.m.
Evangelism Board Meeting (June 20)	2:00 p.m.
Ladies Aid Meeting (June 28)	2:00 p.m.

LWML DONATION

The LWML will be collecting diapers and wipes to be donated to the Crete Sixpence Program. This program is designed to give parents and soon to be parents the opportunity to bond and develop strong relationships with their infants, and support early child learning, and serves as a resource for support. One way they help parents is to supply diapers and wipes to those in need.

We will be collecting donations until the end of June.

2023 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



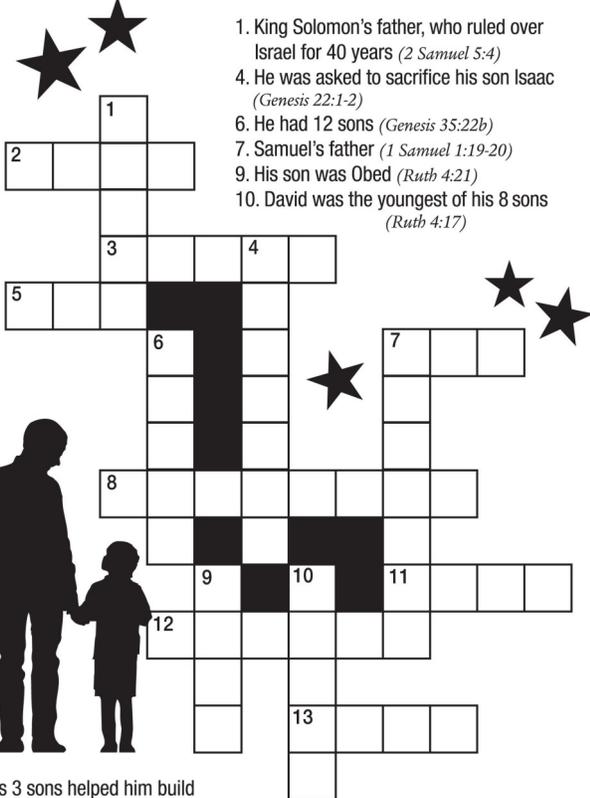
Vacation Bible School will take place **July 23rd through the 27th** in the evenings at church. Our theme this year is **“Weird Animals”** - Where Jesus' Love is One-of-a-Kind! VBS registration is also now available on the church website.

THOSE SERVING DURING THE MONTH OF

DUTY	6/4/23	6/11/23	6/18/23	6/25/23
Organist/Pianist	Ellen Miller	Ellen Miller	Jayne VanAsperen	Jayne VanAsperen
Elders	Phil Hughes	John Reitz	Troy Henning	Todd Hoyer
Greeters	Brent & Heidi Wohl	Bryan & Erin Bell	Rev. Art & Carol Brinkmeyer	Roger & Donna Brunelle
Acolytes	Paisley Williams		Easton Brethouwer	

Puzzle!

Complete this crossword with names of biblical fathers.
Use the references for help, if needed.



1. King Solomon's father, who ruled over Israel for 40 years (2 Samuel 5:4)
4. He was asked to sacrifice his son Isaac (Genesis 22:1-2)
6. He had 12 sons (Genesis 35:22b)
7. Samuel's father (1 Samuel 1:19-20)
9. His son was Obed (Ruth 4:21)
10. David was the youngest of his 8 sons (Ruth 4:17)

2. His 3 sons helped him build an ark (Genesis 6:10)
3. His youngest son, Jacob, tricked him into giving away a birthright (Genesis 27:30)
5. The Father of our Lord (Ephesians 1:3)
7. His sons were not like Samuel; they were wicked (1 Samuel 2:12)
8. David's best friend and the father of Mephibosheth (2 Samuel 9:6)
11. Father of Cain, Abel and Seth (Genesis 4:25)
12. He was married to Mary, mother of Jesus (Matthew 1:20-21)
13. Father of Jonathan; Israel chose him as their first king (2 Samuel 9:6)

Answer: DOWN 1. David, 4. Abraham, 6. Jacob, 7. Elkanah, 8. Jonathan, 11. Adam, 12. Joseph, 13. Saul

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 |
| NADAB | JOSEPH |
| HUR | MANASSEH |
| CALEB | EPHRAIM |
| ABRAHAM | SAUL |
| ISHMAEL | JONATHAN |
| ISAAC | DAVID |
| ESAU | SOLOMON |
| JACOB | |

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

Happy Father's Day!