

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 3 MARCH 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Muddling through the “Good, Right, and True”

Not many years ago, a Lutheran pastor was putting his children to bed. One was banging on the bathroom door, appealing to her brother to let her in. “Stop that!” the father called out. To his son in the bathroom, he said, “Open the door. We’re all waiting to get in and brush our teeth!” When the father came closer to the door, he could hear that the water in the sink was running much stronger than necessary. So he called out again, “Son, open the door and turn off that water!” No response. The father got serious. “Son, open the door or I’ll take it off the hinges myself!”

Soon after, the father, the daughter, and now a small crowd gathered on the outside of the door to see what was going on inside. A hand was heard on the doorknob, the lock was clearly released, and the door began to open. To the surprise of all, water flooded every corner of the bathroom. The father yelled at his three-year-old son, “Where did all of this water come from?” From chin touching chest, and a thoughtful expression on his brow, he slowly looked up and answered his father and pastor, “God?” Immediately, the father’s stern demeanor and high shoulders relaxed into a more casual posture. “I guess that’s true, son,” he said. With siblings now laughing behind him and attempting to keep the smirk off his own face, the father continued, “Water does come from God, but the mess came from you!”

Paul exhorts the Ephesians in Ephesians 5:8-9: “*For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true).*”

Though we are to walk as children of light, it’s a challenge for sinners to put good and right and true together all at the same time, isn’t it! We often end up standing ashamed like the little three-year-old drowning in his own mess.

Yes, we make the mess. We want to hide our sins from everyone. But God sent His Son to die for our mess of sin. And in Holy Baptism we receive forgiveness for all our sins. Praise and thank God for His unending love and the forgiveness of sins we have in Christ Jesus.

(Nathan Sherrill, Council Bluffs, Iowa; slightly adapted from Concordia Pulpit Resources, Concordia Publishing House copyright 2022; used with permission by purchase.)

In Christ’s love, Pastor Toensing



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



Scholarship Fund

SCHOLARSHIP

A scholarship is available for any St. John member who will be attending a Synodical college and plans to enter full time church work.

Scholarship information and applications are available from the church office or from Pastor Toensing.

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).



March &

BIRTHDAYS



BIRTHDAYS

1 Deb Ourada
4 Titus Scholz
6 Jacob Meinke, Conner Slama
8 Deb Nyhoff, Deb Walker
10 Eric Dewey, Addilyn Brethouwer, Willa Hughes
11 Tessa Petereit, Ryan Strufing
13 Butch Mehl
15 Taylor Ziemann, Chris Williams
17 Andrew Ellingson, Marlow Meinke, Lane Wendelin
19 Larry Pomajzl, Jolene Reetz
20 Bradley Pomajzl, Jr.

21 Sandra Reiss, Steven Toensing
23 Cindy Hoesche, Isaac Meinke, Maggie Wohl
25 Jerry Ferguson, Cathy Hollman
27 Marla Musil, Alice Poole
29 Jaxon Trautman, Rilyn Trautman
31 Cheryl Langfeldt, Kurt Reetz

BAPTISMS

2 Tory Dello
5 Logan Adam
6 Angie Louch
8 Shelley Toensing
9 Ryan Meinke

11 Nick Hollman, Katelyn Novak
12 Dave Eggert, Jerry Ferguson Jr., Dolyn Meinke, Allan Reetz
13 Camryn Adam, Del Reiss
14 Steve Schultz
15 Megan Korbel
16 Jace Ourada
17 Kade Nelson
19 Deb Walker, Arya Thompson
21 Peggy Bojanski
22 Titus Scholz
25 Glen Louch, Jacob Meinke, Blythe Dewey
26 Deb Ourada
29 Matt Ellingson, Ken Kahle, Willa Hughes
30 Joe Ellingson, Dan Underwood

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.



BOARD OF ED UPDATES

Hello families! Just a few updates for the rest of the Sunday School/Midweek year.

- The children will sing in church as part of the worship service on Palm Sunday, April 2nd. They will be practicing these songs in Sunday School and Midweek over the next few weeks.
- The last day of Midweek classes will be May 3rd. We'll celebrate with a pizza party and games. More details to come :)
- Vacation Bible school will take place July 23rd through the 27th in the evenings at church. Our theme this year is "Weird Animals"...registration will be available soon!

LADIES AID MINUTES

St. John Ladies Aid met on February 22, 2023, with Ellie Koch as hostess. Pastor Toensing led us in prayer and a Bible study from Luke 1:34 "How Can This Be?"

Roll call was taken with 8 members present. The minutes of the January 2023 meeting were read and approved. The treasurer's report was given.

Thank you notes were received from the Weidner/Kattau family for a memorial and Roxanne Bachman for her Christmas poinsettia. We also received a newsletter from Gerald & Heidi Paul.

A motion was made to host a luncheon for the members who attend the morning Lenten service on March 29. Seconded and passed.

There was discussion about cleaning the kitchen before the anniversary celebration. A date for the cleaning will be decided at our next meeting.

A motion was made to purchase new linen altar cloths and linens that are under the candles. Seconded and passed.

Each committee for the anniversary celebration discussed what has been done and what still needs to be done for the upcoming celebration. We are still working on certain aspects of the worship service. We encourage all Ladies Aid members to please attend the March meeting to finalize the plans for the anniversary celebration.

Shelley Toensing, Bonnie Bleich and Linda Eggert celebrated birthdays in February and Roger & Donna Brunelle celebrated an anniversary. The birthday song was sung.

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

Deb Walker, Secretary



Sunday, March 19

5:00 Dinner - pizza, hot dogs, movie snacks

5:30 Movie - "The Lion of Judah"

Sign up on the sheet in the narthex , or let Pastor know you'll be attending.

Feel free to bring more comfortable seating - like your bean bags or camp chairs.

Come and join the fun!!!

LYF SPONSORED EASTER EGG HUNT

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 1

10:00 am

(Youth group meets at 9:00 am)



The LYF will accept candy donations—they have plenty of plastic Easter eggs—just need individually wrapped candy to fill them by **Sunday, March 26**. Thank you all for your support!

FROM THE ELDERS

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

My heart rejoices in the fact that we never seem to lack an opportunity to extend a "thank you" to a group of members for their service to our congregation, and this month is no exception. With the help of many volunteers, the LYF again put on a wonderful Valentines meal and Pastor and Shelly arranged a church family night. The fellowship, games, scavenger hunt, and laughter made for a very enjoyable evening. Thank you all for your efforts. And thank you also to all who were able to participate.

We are now in the Lenten season with opportunities for worship on Wednesdays at 10:30 am and again at 6:45 pm. In these weeks we focus on the days leading up to, and culminating on, Jesus's suffering and crucifixion. The suffering that Christ endured, not for his own sake but for ours, that he might redeem us and pay for our sins. It is by His grace, not our works, that we receive eternal life. May we focus more on this truth through the entire year.

In Christ's love, The Elders of St. John.

**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN
CHURCH –LCMS**

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MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES

**ARE HELD WEEKLY ON
WEDNESDAYS 10:30 a.m. AND
6:45 p.m. PLEASE JOIN US!**

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 during Lent)	5:30-6:30 p.m.
Women’s Bible Study (March 11)	2:00 p.m.
Elder’s Meeting (March 13)	6:30 p.m.
Quilting Group (Mar 14 & Mar 28)	9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Lutheran Women in Mission (March 21)	10:00 a.m.
Evangelism Board (March 21)	2:00 p.m.
Ladies Aid Meeting (March 29)	2:00 p.m.



HYGIENE KITS

St John Midweek Students are collecting items for hygiene kits for Orphan Grain Train. Items needed are bath towels, wash cloths, bath-size bars of soap, plastic soap box holders, toothbrushes, sturdy combs, small package facial tissues, and nail clippers. Bath towels and washcloths should be in good condition and dark colors are recommended. All other items must be new. There is a collection container in the narthex at church. We will collect items through the month of **MARCH**. Thank you for helping to provide these basic needs to people in need.

THOSE SERVING DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH

DUTY	March 5	March 12	March 19	March 26
Organist/Pianist	Ellen Miller	Ellen Miller	Jayne VanAsperen	Jayne VanAsperen
Elders	Phil Hughes	Gary Meinke	John Reitz	Troy Henning
Greeters	Todd & Cindy Hoyer	Roger & Ellie Koch	Glen & Verna Louch	Gary & Lynn Meinke
Acolytes	Cheyenne DuBray		Paisley Williams	