

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 10      OCTOBER 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Did you know that St. John has a mission statement? Some of you do know, but many of you may not be aware that we do have a mission statement. I do not know when it was put together and adopted, but here it is:

Sharing The Joy Of His News by growing inward through God's Word, Sacraments and Christian Fellowship; and by growing outward through words, actions, and mission outreach.

Notice: **S**haring **T**he **J**oy **O**f **H**is **N**ews ... the first letters of each word are: St. John.

If some of our longer time members could tell me about the process by which this statement came into place, I would love to hear about it from you. I found it on a business card and at times it has been on the back of our bulletins.

It still holds true. We do have joy in our salvation in Jesus Christ. We do seek to share the Good News of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ who saves us from our sins.

As the mission statement indicates, there is a time of internal (inward) growth as we gather for worship, hear God's Word proclaimed, receive the Sacraments, study God's Word together, and encourage one another in Christian fellowship.

Then, as we grow in our faith and in knowledge of God's grace for us in Jesus Christ, we seek to reach outward to others. We do this in two ways: first by our personal witness of faith in Jesus. We give witness of Christ as we faithfully live according to God's grace and by His Word—beginning in our homes and with our family. When we go to work, attend school, participate in community events, we then have the opportunity to make personal witness of our faith to others by what we say, how we say it, and by how we act. We should always be ready to share our hope and faith (1 Peter 3:15).

We also give witness as we contribute to Gospel-centered mission organizations. Some of our financial gifts help cover the expenses of pastors and missionaries, such as Rev. Paul in Grand Cayman. We can also support other mission central missionaries or support the education of future pastors and teachers at our seminaries and universities. Other gifts help to provide food, water, clothing, and other earthly life essentials to those affected by hurricanes, earthquakes, fires, floods, tornadoes, etc. And when we care for the needs of the body, we can share the love of Christ to many in need. This we do through human care organizations such as Orphan Grain Train, LCMS Human Care, Lutheran Church Charities Comfort Dog ministry, and others. And we can give our support to those who promote the sanctity of life and care for those in pregnancy needs so that little preborn lives can be saved.

**We are all blessed so that we might be a blessing to others**, just as God told Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3). A mission statement is brief statement that helps give focus to what an organization is all about. Such mission statements began in the church, but I'm sure you have noticed that many organizations in the consumer world have also adopted mission statements.

We have a mission statement. It would be good for us to keep it mind so we remember what we are to be about as the children of God who have been saved in Jesus Christ. Share the Joy of His News!

God's Blessings to you, Pastor Toensing

*Blessed  
to Be a  
Blessing*

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

### 150th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE...

The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 17, at 6:30 p.m.** in the conference room. Plans continue to grow for the 2024 events!

See you there, Carol Brinkmeyer



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).

**ST. JOHN'S 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY FUND** has been established. Plans are being made for our Anniversary celebration. Donations would be very much appreciated to get our many plans in place. If you would like to give toward this fund, please mark your offering envelopes accordingly.



October  
BIRTHDAYS

&

BAPTISMS

#### BIRTHDAYS

1 Ken Kastanek  
2 Bruce Miller, Gary Renner  
4 Mindie Hughes, Nathan Patak  
6 Jarod Mundt  
8 Cheryl Skillet  
9 Amber Johnson  
10 Dale Wohl  
12 Bryce Kalkwarf  
15 Dianne Kouba  
16 Joe Kalkwarf,  
Jaclyn Ourada, Elyana Lee  
18 Kasen Wagner  
19 Scott Brunelle, Jerad Reetz,  
Abigail Scott, James Walker  
21 Sean Murphy  
22 Michelle Kvasnicka  
23 Donna Brunelle, Chloe  
Davis, Levi Mehl,  
Trevis Trautman  
24 Gwen Kalkwarf

25 Raelyn Morava,  
Alexandrea Tremblay  
26 Jerry Ferguson Jr.,  
Slane Kvasnicka  
27 Ellen Miller  
28 Jeff Tremblay  
29 Fran Sieck  
30 Kourtney Tarnick

#### BAPTISMS

2 Chris Reetz, Shane Renner  
3 Brady Hestermann  
4 Linda Lee, Dewayne &  
Henry Slama  
7 Marilyn Weidner  
8 Joshua Wohl, Petra Dewey  
9 Genie Dittmer,  
Brianna Williams  
12 Garrett Mehl  
14 Kirk Miller, Ted Muff  
16 Jim Ellingson

17 Randy Adams,  
Holland Hollman  
18 Austin Weber  
19 Jarod Mundt  
20 Travis Eggert  
21 Lynn Meinke,  
Gary Renner  
24 Mindie Hughes  
25 Cinder Johnson,  
Kirk Johnson  
30 Wayne Eggert  
31 Dianne Kouba

**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.



**That All May Know Him**

## LWML NEWS

LWML SUNDAY is October 8, 2023



In October, the LWML will celebrate 81 years as an organization of the LCMS. One of the major goals is to collect mites used to fund mission projects. Please consider picking up a mite box and putting your loose change in it. From time to time, dump your mite box change into the large mite box in the narthex. Thank you for your support for the LWML.

## LADIES AID MINUTES

St. John Ladies Aid met on September 27, 2023, with Bonnie Bleich as hostess. Marianne Tesar led us in hymn #770 "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" and then a Bible study entitled "A Walk with a Friend" from Galatians 5:16.

Roll call was taken with 7 members present. The minutes of the August 2023 meeting were read and approved. The treasurer's report was given.

We had a nice meal and fellowship for Ladies Night Out. Thanks to everyone who helped make this event a success.

LWML made the Christian cards that were dropped off at the nursing homes in Crete and were handed out to each resident.

Carol Brinkmeyer will report at our October meeting on what the 150th anniversary committee suggests Ladies Aid should help with at the anniversary celebration.

There is an event in Hallam in November where we could consider selling cookbooks. We will get more information on this event and discuss this at our next meeting.

Linda Pomajzl celebrated a birthday in September and Ray & Bonnie Bleich celebrated an anniversary. We sang the anniversary song to Bonnie.

The hostess for October will be LaVonne Nitzel.

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

Deb Walker, Secretary



**DATE AND DETAILS TO COME....  
WATCH FOR UPDATE EMAILS  
AND BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **MAIN STREET LIVING updates for October, 2023**

“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”. Both can be viewed on KLKN Channel 8 (Lincoln) & WOWT Channel 6.2 (Omaha)

Visit [www.mainstreetliving.com/lincoln](http://www.mainstreetliving.com/lincoln) to view current and past episodes.

October 1, 2023

10:30 am...Rev. Jeff Bloom, pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Lincoln, presents a message titled “Repent, Turn, and Live”.

October 8, 2023

10:30 am...Rev. Thomas Goodroad, pastor at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Lincoln, presents a message titled “Two Great Commandments”.

October 15, 2023

10:30 am...Rev. Keith Burke, pastor at Faith of Our Fathers Lutheran Church in Rocha, presents a message titled “The Wedding Feast”.

October 22, 2023

10:30 am...Rev. Maynard Toensing, pastor at St. John Lutheran Church in Crete, presents a message titled “Faithful Imitations”.

October 29, 2023

10:30 am...Guest presenter to be announced.

**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN  
CHURCH –LCMS**

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pastortoensing@gmail.com



OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER GROWTH

**Schedule at a Glance**

Worship Service (Sundays)	9:00 a.m.
Sunday School/LYF/Adult Bible Class (Sundays)	10:30 a.m.
Midweek Classes (Wednesdays)	6:30 p.m.-7:45 p.m.
Evangelism Board Meeting (Oct 2)	8:30 a.m.
Elders' Meeting (Oct 2)	7:00 p.m.
Quilting Group (Oct 10 & 24)	9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Church Council Meeting (Oct 16)	6:30 p.m.
Lutheran Women in Mission (Oct 17)	10:00 a.m.
150th Anniversary Committee Meeting (Oct 17)	6:30 p.m.
Quarterly Voters' Meeting (Oct 22) following Worship Service	
Ladies Aid Meeting (Oct 25)	2:00 p.m.

**FROM THE ELDERS**

Brothers and sisters in the Christ,

The LORD granted us beautiful weather for rally Sunday. We've heard many good comments from those attending, both about the service and the good times had afterward.

We know it's a ways off but the youth Christmas program has been scheduled for the 17th of December during regular service time. If you're the parent of a youth we encourage their participation and the lead time should allow family members who are out-of-town and wish to see the program time to schedule for it.

Although it seems the year just began it will soon be that a nomination committee will be selected and they will begin seeking out those willing to serve in various roles in our congregation for next year. Please prayerfully consider reaching out to the committee about positions you'd serve in or truly consider accepting the possibility of filling a position should you be contacted. It takes many people working together for our congregation to operate smoothly. A sincere thank you goes out to those serving.

God's peace be with you, The Elders of St John

**THOSE SERVING DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER, 2023**

DUTY	October 1	October 8	October 15	October 22	October 29
<b>Organist/Pianist</b>	Jayne VanAsperen	Jayne VanAsperen	Ellen Miller	Jayne VanAsperen	Ellen Miller
<b>Elders</b>	Troy Henning	Phil Hughes	John Reitz	Dolyn Meinke	Todd Hoyer
<b>Greeters</b>	James & Deb Walker	Brent & Heidi Wohl	Bryan & Erin Bell	Rev. Art & Carol Brinkmeyer	Roger & Donna Brunelle
<b>Acolytes</b>	Amy Hollman		Paisley Williams		Easton Brethouwer

# Puzzle!

Use the clues to discover the names of some Old Testament prophets. Then unscramble the circled letters to describe what prophets are.

I was called to preach to the people of Nineveh but ran from God instead. (My book is #32 in the Bible.)

— — —  — — —

I spoke God's message when the temple was being built. (My book is #37.)

— — —  — — —

Israel's unfaithfulness to God is compared to my unfaithful wife. (My book is #28.)

— — —  — — —

My book predicts punishment for wickedness and promises comfort. (It is #23.)

— — —  — — —

I had dreams and visions. (My book is #27.)

— — —  — — —

Because of my predictions, I was often in danger and angered officials. (My book is #24.)

— — —   — — —

I was a shepherd from Judah who called people to turn to God and leave their selfish lives. (My book is #30.)

— — —  — — —

My book contains descriptions of strange visions. (It is #26.)

— — —  — — —

PROPHETS ARE \_\_\_\_\_.

Answers: Jonah, Haggai, Hosea, Isaiah, Daniel, Jeremiah, Amos, Ezekiel, Messengers

# Puzzle!

Search for and circle all the bold words from Psalm 18:2, which reminds us where we find our strength.

The **LORD** is **MY ROCK**, my **FORTRESS** and my **DELIVERER**; my **GOD** is my rock, in whom I **TAKE REFUGE**. **HE** is my **SHIELD** and the **HORN** of my **SALVATION**, my **STRONGHOLD**.

S T R O N G H O L D T S  
 O L O B K I E Y E J S A  
 R E F U G E I Y N T V L  
 R O G H A R L Q R A Y V  
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 E N F O R T R E S S G O  
 L T U R G Q A C K J Q N  
 D C D E L I V E R E R E  
 K Y U X O C N O O Y Q S  
 X H X A R K L R C N H Y  
 G O D T D K A D K U D X

# GOD ROCKS!