



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 NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 29 ISSUE 8 AUGUST 2015

A PASTORAL WORD ON MARRIAGE, PART 2

Jesus answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate" (Matt. 19:4-6).

Last month I discussed the SCOTUS ruling on homosexual "marriage" and why such "unions" are not simply immoral but impossible. This month I want to discuss how Christians can and should respond now that we live in a land whose laws on marriage do not reflect reality.

First the negative: The church should not try to take over the state's role, *even if the state is doing a poor job*. The Christian church is not out to right every wrong in the world and make everybody behave. The state's job is to punish the wicked and protect the innocent on earth (Romans 13). The church's job is not to police sin but to proclaim repentance and forgiveness of sins in Jesus' name. We know that this world has been fundamentally broken by sin. It is dying. We are under no illusions. We expect suffering and falsehood, war and disasters, persecution and disease to persist until Jesus comes back. There is no law, political candidate, or action group that will stop this world from its God-ordained end. The

only way out, the only salvation is the blood of God's Son who will raise us up on the Last Day to life everlasting.

Second the positive: We should care. We should care because we care about people in body and soul. We care about how people live their lives and about moral issues because the church must proclaim repentance and forgiveness of sins in Jesus' name. Repentance requires that we call sin for what it is. Forgiveness requires that we direct those who repent to Christ who truly removes the condemnation for sin that stands against us and who gives us his Spirit so that we lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity.

You see, it is not about being "right" or winning an argument. It's about speaking the truth in love *to help our neighbor*. The most unloving thing anyone can do is affirm people in their sins, and act as if there will be no divine Judge to face at the end. God had strong words for the false prophets in the days of Jeremiah who cried, "Peace, peace!" when there was no peace. We do not want people to continue in the lie that all is well with God when it is not. That doesn't help our neighbor one bit. And if we began to believe our own lie, what then? Could it not lead to the loss of our own faith?

Churches who compromise the truth of God's Word will not be in a posi-

tion to help those who are broken by the destruction this will reap upon society and family life. But Churches who refuse to be "enablers" of our world's addiction to sin will be able to help a broken society when it hits rock bottom.

On the other hand, churches who harden their hearts and say "to hell with them all" will not be in a position to help and preach repentance and forgiveness in Jesus' name either. We too have our own sins for which we are forgiven daily and much. The plight of the homosexual is, in fact, the same as the plight of the heterosexual. Therefore we can speak the truth, remain firm and steadfast, and still be compassionate and loving.

May the Holy Spirit preserve His good work in us through the power of God's Word that we remain steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord our labor is not in vain; He will work it out. Come soon, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Peace to you,

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

CLOTHING FOR ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN: We can once again send used clothing to Orphan Grain Train. When leaving clothes at the back door, please mark them for either OGT or PCM (People's City Mission).

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER please consider receiving your monthly newsletter via email to conserve and save paper. Please contact Cathy Hollman at the church office 826-3883 or cathy-atchurch@hotmail.com with your email address. Thank you for going GREEN!

YOUTH EDUCATION NEWS

Midweek classes will begin on Wednesday, September 2nd at 6:30 p.m.. Parents are asked to come to the first session.

Fall Sunday School will begin on September 13th with a pot luck teacher appreciation picnic. There will be an announcement in the bulletin about this soon, and invitations will be going out to all teachers and substitutes.

LADIES AID MINUTES

St. John Lutheran Ladies Aid met on July 29, 2015, with JoAnn Renner as hostess. The meeting opened by singing "I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus". Pastor Hayes led us in prayer and the Bible Study on Luke 16:1-8: "The Parable of the Dishonest Manager."

Roll call was taken with twelve members present and one guest, Jolene Reetz. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved and the treasurers' report was given.

OLD BUSINESS: Marilyn Nast, Diane Kahle and Ellie Koch have gone through all the banners and checked them out. There are some that we can

no longer use and we are hoping to find someone who would be interested in them.

NEW BUSINESS: It was decided that our meeting next month will be held at Crete Manor at 1:30 on August 26. Finger foods will be served.

Birthdays celebrated in July were Janice Reetz, Marilyn Nast, LaVonne Nitzel and Barb Meinke. The birthday song was sung. Pastor and Carol Brinkmeyer celebrated their anniversary on July 28.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer and the table prayer.

Shirley Reetz, secretary

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS & BAPTISMS

BIRTHDAYS

2 Jason Jordan
5 Sara Sublett
6 Diane Hayes
10 Abbey Reetz
12 Amanda Rezac
13 Ray Bleich, Michael Reiss, Kristi Reitz
14 Todd Hoyer
15 Hannah Rethmeier
17 Eric Ellingson, Mara Hoyer, Madison Persing
18 Sheila Church, Marianne Tesar

19 Shirley Reetz, Darren Weber
20 Diane Gropp
21 Jim Ellingson
22 Terry Meinke, Kristine Muff
23 Jennifer Hartman
25 Garrett Mehl
26 Michael Langfeldt
28 Justin Henning, Brad Kalkwarf, Miriam Weber
30 Donna Kastanek
31 Donald Rejcha

BAPTISMS

1 Hope Hoyer

2 Leahh Anderson, LaVonne Nitzel
3 Erica Sublett, Briggen Reetz
7 Marilyn Nast
8 Ashley Walker
10 Wayne Hansmeyer
11 Christopher Ladman, Tyler Stehlik
13 Leahh Anderson, Alexandra Weber
19 Kyle Ochs
21 Gloria McDermott
22 Sara Sublett
23 Brad Pomajzl, Kristi Reitz
29 Madison Persing
30 Ariana Munro, Amanda Rezac

**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN
CHURCH -MS**
 11400 W. Panama Road
 Crete, NE 68333
 4 miles East & 2 miles South of Crete
PHONE:
 Pastor: 418-4980
 Office: 826-3883
PASTOR'S EMAIL:
 Joshua.hayes@gmail.com
CATHY'S E-MAIL:
 cathyatchurch@hotmail.com
 www.stjohnkramer.org

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER GROWTH

Schedule at a Glance

Worship Service (Sundays)	9:00 a.m.
Sunday School (Sundays)	10:30 a.m.
Bible Class (Sundays)	10:30 a.m.
Midweek Communion Service (Wednesdays)	6:30 p.m.
Elder's Meeting (August 3)	7:00 p.m.
LYF ()	Following Worship Service
Lutheran Women in Mission (August 18)	7:00 p.m.
Ladies Aid Meeting (August 26 at the Crete Manor)	1:30 p.m.

FROM THE ELDER'S

Greetings,

This month we find ourselves caught up in the Nebraska summer days of no rain and lots of heat and humidity. All the crops are in the fields after this springs above average rain fall and now we find ourselves asking the Lord for more!

July was a busy month around the church for the elders and board of education. The fish boil for Orphan Grain Train was held on July 12th and had a slightly smaller turn

out than last year but still a success. We were able to raise over \$1,400 for Orphan Grain Train including the \$700 in matching funds from Thrivent.

VBS kicked off on July 19th and ran thru the 23rd. We had 22 members in attendance and 8 guests.

Gods blessings to you this month and stay cool!

The Elders

THANK YOU FOR MAKING VBS 2015 A HUGE SUCCESS! Volunteers, leaders, children, parents and Pastor thank you for making this year's VBS a wonderful success! We hope your child had fun and made some new friends. More than anything, we pray your child learned about Jesus, our Savior and Lord, at VBS. Thank you from your St. John Board of Education, Cathy Hollman, Diane Hayes and Missy Persing.

THOSE SERVING DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST

DUTY	August 2	August 9	August 16	August 23	August 30
Organist	Jolene Reetz	Jayne VanAsperen	Jayne VanAsperen	Jolene Reetz	Jolene Reetz
Elders	John Reitz	Tim McDermott	Brent Wohl	Roger Koch	Jeff Meinke
Greeters	Fran Sieck & Barb Meinke	Mr. & Mrs. Ken Tesar	Mr. & Mrs. James Walker	Mr. & Mrs. Darren Weber	Carol Brinkmeyer & Darleen Dittmer
Acolytes	Olivia Pomajzl & Elliott Reitz	Devon Reitz & Ashlyn Adam	Morgan & Maggie Wohl	Mara Hoyer & Aaron Meinke	Kylie & Cassidy Meinke