

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 34 ISSUE 2 FEBRUARY 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

Do you love God? Really. Think about it. We say we do. But do we love God?

I can say yes now. But there have been times in my life where I must confess that I did not love God. This is due not so much to God, but to my flighty emotions and struggles with life. Yes, I have always trusted in God and there is love in trust. But affectionately? Emotionally? Reverently? Fearlessly? Truly love God?

Matthew 22:37 (ESV): "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." Quoted from Deuteronomy 6:5 (ESV): "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might."

I can recall times in my life when I was struggling to figure things out—especially in my teens and twenties. High school. College. Seminary. Direction in life. Relationships. Trying to figure out who I was and what I wanted to be doing. Often, things just didn't go right—or should I say, they were not going the way I wanted them to or expected them to. Honestly, there were times when God seemed far off. I felt like He didn't care. Why didn't I get my way? Why did life have to be so hard?

We want to blame God for things being so hard (just like Adam did back in the Garden). But God is not at fault. It is our faulty perspectives. We want to blame His Word so that we don't have to admit that we are faulty. We say His Word is just too hard to understand.

But I know better now. God's Word and God's words are clear. He is pretty direct when it comes to His commands. It is me that doesn't like His commands. His commands are not hard to understand—but they are hard to do. I rebel against them. But God's commands and His Word are truly good. And I have come to know that He really does love me and He really does want what is good for me. I may not always love Him. But He does love me. So, I do love God. God has loved me into loving Him. 1 John 4:10 (ESV): "In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins." "Propitiation" is that Jesus' death for my sin has appeased the anger of God against me and now God is in favor of me because of Christ. God truly loves me. 1 John 4:19 (ESV): "We love because **He first loved us.**"

February is the month of Valentine's Day. And Valentine's Day reminds us of love. We certainly love our spouses and family, but most of all, we are to love God. He does love you. He shows you how much when Jesus was on the cross. For you. Jesus died and rose to life again in love to save you from an eternity separated from the One who truly, completely, and forever loves you. God loves us first, and this enables us to love Him back. And then, we can truly love others. God gave Himself in love for you in Christ who did do all of God's commands perfectly and with truly pure love for The Father. His commands and will truly are good; and they are good for me and you.

1 John 3:1 (ESV): "See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are [the children of God loved by God]." For more about God's love, read the First letter of John.

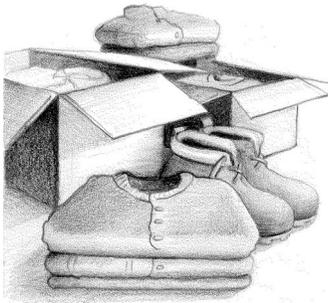
God grant that you know His love for you in Christ and that His love enables you to love Him. God's peace be with you. Love in Christ, Pastor Toensing



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).

Clothes for those in need



LENTEN ANNOUNCEMENT FROM PASTOR

It's All About Jesus, Peter, and Me



Our Lenten theme for 2020 is “Jesus, Peter, and Me.” In this series we consider how it is all about having a right relationship with our Savior Jesus. We will look at some sinful and worldly elements that show up in Peter that we can identify with also. The same things that worked on Peter also show up in our own struggles with the sinful flesh. These issues can stand in the way of a right relationship with God. But our Savior never gives up. Jesus continually calls us to Himself and His mercy just as He did with Peter. For Jesus, Peter, and me it's all about ... Pride, Complacency, Misunderstanding, Distant Discipleship, the Company we Keep, Denial, Cleansing, Death ... and Life. Join us for all these worship services.

FEBRUARY Birthdays

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Drew Trautman
- 3 Dan Murphy
- 4 Brad Davis
- 6 Shelley Toensing
- 7 Adam Hughes
- 10 Kirk Johnson
- 11 Angie Louch
- 12 Jenna Keim
- 13 Erin Bell, Olivia Pomajzl
- 14 Tory Dello
- 16 Jace Ourada, Melissa Persing, Allan Reetz
- 17 Jordyn Adam, Del Reiss
- 18 Ryan Meinke, Shari Melk

- 20 Susan Vosika
- 23 Camryn Adam
- 24 Dolyne Meinke
- 25 Steve Schultz
- 26 Cierra Hensley, Megan Korbel
- 27 Bonnie Bleich, Linda Eggert, Cindy Nitzel
- 28 Peggy Bojanski, Matt Ellingson

BAPTISMS

- 1 Joy Kouba
- 2 Arlin Pomajzl
- 4 Paul Beck
- 7 Adam & LaShalle Hughes-hardt
- 6 Angela Dello

FEBRUARY Baptisms

- 9 Rev. Art Brinkmeyer
- 11 Vivian Kirkpatrick
- 12 Skye Hoyer, Irene Reiss, Denise Slama
- 13 Kyle Shore
- 16 Bryan Bell Jr, Mersadies Kvasnicka, Robert Kvasnicka
- 19 Ryan Lee, Castyn Ziemann
- 21 Nicole Reetz
- 22 Jessica McBride
- 23 Brad Davis
- 24 Jenna Keim
- 26 Deanna Eggert

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**

Mission Central News

Plan now to take a group from your congregation out to visit Mission Central in Mapleton, Iowa to hear from these missionaries. Click on the blue links to learn more about each missionary and how you can support them with your giving and prayers. The links for each missionary's name will take you to their listing on the LCMS website.

March 21, 1:00—Rev. John and Anita Clausing, Tanzania

May 23, 1:00—Deaconess Carol Halter, Hong Kong

June 13, 1:00—Rev. Eric Stinnett and Family, Ethiopia

July 25, 1:00—Matt and Dee Dee Wasmund & Family, Korea

August 29, 1:00—Rev. Dr. Mark Rabe and family, Ethiopia

Main Street News

The last months we have addressed the first two petitions of our motto: Locally Produced. Regionally Recognized. The third part of the motto is that we have “a message for the world”. It is this message we need to proclaim to the world. Tell others about our broadcasts. Local listings on Channel KLKN Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m.

Feb. 2-Rev. Tyler Hauptmeier-St. Paul Lutheran Church, Doniphan

Feb. 9-Rev. Chris Hazzard-St. Paul Lutheran Church, Minden

Feb. 16-Rev. Micah Gaunt-Peace Lutheran Church, Hastings

Feb. 23-Rev. Clint Poppe-Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Lincoln

LADIES AID MINUTES

St. John Ladies Aid met on January 29, 2020, with Darleen Dittmer as hostess. The meeting opened by singing "You are the Way; Through You Alone". Pastor Toensing led us in Bible Study on Hezekiah.

Roll call was taken with seven members and two guests, Deb Walker and Donna Brunelle, present. Donna and Deb have now joined Ladies Aid. The minutes of the November meeting were read and approved. There was no meeting in December. The treasurer's report was given.

Thank you notes were passed around from Pastor and Shelley, Marge Meinke and Kate Kattau.

Olga Weidner agreed to take over the call list for funerals.

Diane Kahle purchased a new calendar for signing up to put flowers on the altar.

A hostess sign up sheet was passed around.

Motion was made to host a luncheon after our Lenten Service on March 25. Seconded and passed.

Motion was made to table discussion on Ladies Night Out until the February meeting. Seconded and passed.

Anniversaries celebrated in January by Marvin and LaVonne Nitzel, Larry and Linda Pomajzl and Dave and Deana Eggert.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer and common Table Prayer.

Shirley Reetz, secretary

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.



Scholarship Fund

LYF NEWS

The LYF will host their annual Valentine's Dinner on Sunday, February 16 at 11:30 a.m. after Bible Class and Sunday School. You have a choice of lasagna with (Carol Brinkmeyer's famous homemade) bread or (Lisa Shore's famous) chicken with steamed vegetables and roasted potatoes. This year both meals will begin with Caesar salad, and you will get to finish your meal choosing from several decadent desserts. The cost is \$10 per person. Please sign up with one of the youth or on the sheet in the narthex. The last day to sign up is Sunday, February 9. Thank you in advance for supporting our youth!



LAMBS OF CHRIST PRESCHOOL

We will be busy this month in and out of the classroom. Our annual Chili fundraiser will be held on Sunday February 9th 10-1230. We will again be having great food and prize drawings if you have anything you would like to donate for the drawing you may drop it off in the office or here at the school. We appreciate all the support we have been blessed with. The children will be singing in church and at the meal.

Dental Health

We will be learning about dental health this month and will have a special guest coming into the classroom to teach us the best ways to do this.

Parent /Teacher conferences

Conferences will be held on February 9 & 10. I am looking forward to sharing with the parents how well everyone is doing.

Valentine Parties

Each class will be having a party to celebrate the special day.

God's Blessing's, Kathy Oelschlager



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OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER GROWTH

Schedule at a Glance

Worship Service (Sundays)	9:00 a.m.
Sunday School/LYF/Bible Class (Sundays)	10:30 a.m.
Ash Wednesday Services (February 26)	10:30 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Midweek/ Confirmation Classes (Wednesdays)	6:30 p.m.
Ladies Bible Study (February 1)	10:00 a.m.
Elder's Meeting (February 3)	6:30 p.m.
Evangelism Committee Meeting (February 4)	7:00 p.m.
Men's Bible Study (February 11)	7:00 p.m.
Lutheran Women in Mission (February 18)	7:00 p.m.
Ladies Aid Meeting (February 26)	2:00 p.m.

THE ELDERS

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

To all the people that have served the Lord in a church office or a committee this year, thank you for volunteering your time and effort. With Valentine's Day approaching, please support the L.Y.F. by attending their annual Valentine's Dinner on Sunday, February 16, following Bible Class. Adult Bible study is being held every Sunday after worship. We have a lot of talented members volunteering their time to teach class this year so please attend. The word "lent" has its origin in the same root as one of the German words for "spring," which is Lenz. As nature awakens from the death of winter, so the Christian finds newness of life in Christ, rising from sin's death. Lenten services will begin on February 26, Ash Wednesday, at 7:30 pm.

God Bless,

The Elders

THOSE SERVING DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

DUTY	FEBRUARY 2	FEBRUARY 9	FEBRUARY 16	FEBRUARY 23	ASH WEDNESDAY
Organist/Pianist	Jayne VanAsperen	Jolene Reetz	Jayne VanAsperen	Jolene Reetz	Ellen Miller
Elders	Terry Dittmer	Roger Koch	Todd Hoyer	Mitch Homolka	James Walker
Greeters	Mr & Mrs Wayne Eggert and Mr & Mrs Glen Louch	Mr & Mrs Tim McDermott and Mr & Mrs Dave Musil	Mr & Mrs Marvin Nitzel and Mr & Mrs Brian Persing	Mr & Mrs Dean Prochnow and Mr & Mrs Del Reiss	Mr & Mrs Todd Hoyer
Acolytes	Ted Muff & Jacob Meinke	Colton Homolka	Kian Muff & Calen Homolka	Madison Hestermann	Skye Hoyer & Hugo Pomajzl

Puzzle!

First, write the opposite of each listed word. Then transfer letters to the correct numbered blanks to discover Jesus' messages about love.

cool	1 2 3 4	soft	20 21 22 23
under	5 6 7 8	old	24 25 26 27 28
out	9 10	after	29 30 31 32 33 34
large	11 12 13 14 15	false	35 36 37 38
quiet	16 17 18 19		

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14 5 6 7	35 20 7	15 17 36 23	24 5 18 8	28 17 23
1 9 35 20	2 16 14	24 5 18 3	20 7 13 8 35	2 10 23
1 9 35 20	13 14 16	24 17 37 36	11 5 18 14	2 27 19
1 9 35 20	21 15 16	24 17 18 36	11 35 3 30 10 28 35 20	
2 10 23	1 9 35 20	21 14 16	24 5 37 8	4 9 10 23
21 27 23	16 32 6 7	24 5 18 22	10 34 9 28 20 29 17 33	
13 11	24 25 26 22 11 7 14 31			

”

Answer: warm, over, in, small, loud, hard, young, before, true; "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind" and "Love your neighbor as yourself." Luke 10:27, NIV

Puzzle!

Use the clues to discover these four-letter answers. When read from top to bottom, the first letters reveal a phrase related to the children of Israel's wilderness experience.



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1. Camping shelter _____
2. To track wild game _____
3. Home to Adam and Eve _____
4. Middle Eastern tree _____
5. A form of precipitation _____
6. To follow commands _____
7. Martha's sister _____
8. A false god _____
9. Israel's first king _____
10. Valley in 1 Samuel 17 _____
11. Unable to hear _____
12. Smaller than an ocean or sea _____
13. Jezebel's husband _____
14. Mount climbed by Moses _____
15. Morning's light _____

Answers: 1. tent 2. hunt 3. Eden 4. palm 5. rain 6. obey 7. Mary 8. idol 9. Saul 10. Elah 11. deaf 12. lake 13. Ahab 14. Nebu 15. dawn. The promised land

