

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 35 ISSUE 2 FEBRUARY 2021

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

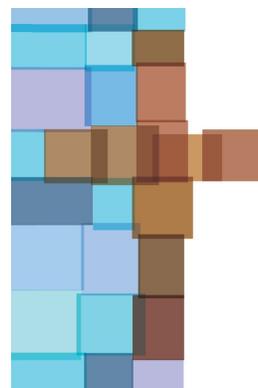
Recently I came across a quote by Toyohiko Kagawa. Toyohiko Kagawa was a Japanese Christian who lived in the early part of the 20th century. One of the quotes he is known for is: *"I read in a book that a man called Christ went about doing good. It distresses me that I am so easily satisfied with just going about."*

The book is certainly the Bible. And Christ was a man as well as being God, as the Scriptures profess. And Christ did go about doing good. The good that Jesus went about doing was the will of God, His Father. The good that Jesus did was the good that we should be doing. Obeying the commandments of God; loving God with all our heart and loving our neighbors as ourselves.

Jesus not only "went about doing good," but He is the good. He is the good and precious gift from God that secured our salvation. He is the Lamb of God who fulfilled all the will of the Father and gives us the credit. He is the good One of God who gave His life in His incarnation, obedience, prayer, suffering, death, resurrection and ascent to heaven, all in order to save us and give us life through the forgiveness of our sins.

Kagawa writes: "It distresses me that I am so easily satisfied with just going about." In one sense, YES! We have been saved by Christ so that we might be "just going about". Christ has fulfilled all for us and for our salvation in Himself. This should not be distressing, as Kagawa wrote, but a blessing. This is to our joy. We have been saved by the going about and doing good of Jesus Christ.

But, Kagawa is also right in his distress. What are you doing in response to the great salvation you have in Christ? Are you loving your neighbor? Are you just going about in a rush and not taking time for praise and meditation and prayer and worship? But don't be distressed about that or any failures regarding the "just going about" you do. For **Christ has done all good for you so that you can go about** in His grace and love and salvation. Your contentment and joy is in Christ—always and only in Christ. He is the source of all comfort and joy as He did all that is good and right FOR YOU. And when you take hold of all that Christ has done, and is doing for you now, you will certainly be led by His Word and His spirit to do more than "just going about". For Your life is in Christ—now and forever (Col. 3:3; Gal. 2:20).
Yours in Christ, Pastor Toensing



...the life
I now live
in the flesh
I live by
faith in
the Son
of God,
who
loved me
and gave
himself
for me.

Galatians 2:20, NRSV

https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/403969.Toyohiko_Kagawa

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



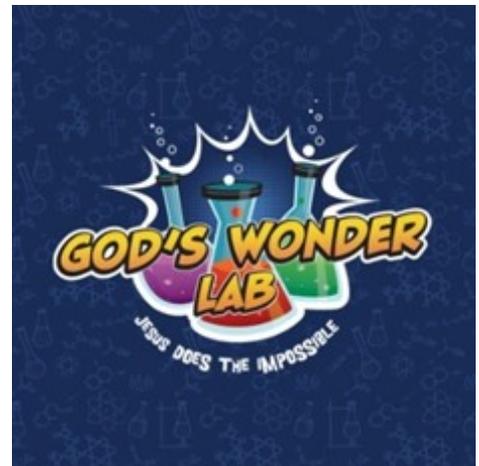
Clothing for Orphan Grain Train:

We can once again send gently 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). People's City Mission will take anything including toys and shoes.

SAVE THE DATE FOR VBS!

Save the date! Mark your calendars for July 18 -22 as we're excited to start planning an in-person 2021 VBS. This year we will explore God's Wonder Lab and learn how Jesus Does The Impossible. We're looking for group leaders and dinner volunteers...if you're interested in helping please call, text, or email Kaylie Brethouwer.

Kaylie Brethouwer
4028269432
Kaylieb1@icloud.com



FEBRUARY
BIRTHDAYS

& *Baptisms*

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
9 Rev. Art Brinkmeyer, Thea Heusinkvelt

11 Vivian Kirkpatrick
12 Skye Hoyer, Denise Slama
13 Kyle Shore
16 Bryan Bell Jr, Mersadies Kvasnicka, Robert Kvasnicka
19 Ryan Lee, Castyn Ziemann
21 Nicole Gierhart
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**

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER GROWTH

Schedule at a Glance

Worship Services (Sundays 8:30 am & 10:00 am)

Sunday School (Sundays 9:30 am to 10:15 am)

Midweek/Confirmation Classes (Wednesdays 6:30 pm)

Ash Wednesday Worship (February 17 at 6:00 pm & 7:30 pm)

Quarterly Voters' Meeting (Monday, February 1 at 6:30 pm)

Evangelism Committee Meeting (date and time to be announced)

Elders' Meeting (February 8 at 6:30 pm)

Quilting Group (February 9 at 9:30 am to 2:00 pm)

Lutheran Women in Mission (February 16 at 7:00 pm)

Ladies Aid Meeting (next meeting to be announced)

ELDERS NOTES

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

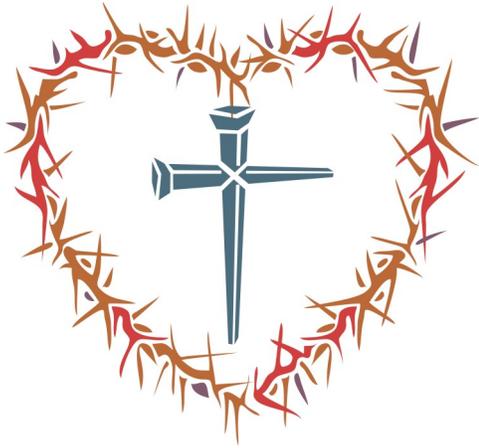
The elders would like to extend thanks to the nominating committee and to all those who've volunteered to help with elected positions in the church. Keep in mind there are lots of other ways to serve without being in an elected role as well. It takes a lot of people to keep the church running smoothly. And remember that even if you feel incapable of serving, for health or other reasons, you can still fill an important role in the church, you can pray. Pray for our pastor and members, our government officials, Christians around the world, and those in need. We also often fail to pray for the unconverted. It is those who really need our prayers the most.

Remember Lenten services will begin with Ash Wednesday on the 17th of February. There will be two services that evening. 6pm with masks and 7:30 will be mask optional. The other Lenten services will be at 7:30 with masks required.

Our congregation is also in the process of reviewing our church by-laws. All of our boards and committees are currently reviewing each of theirs and see if there are modifications that would be in order. As many have served on various boards and committees in the past your input wouldn't be rejected as well. Suggestions could be directed to a current member of that board/committee.

In Christ's love,

The elders of St John's



Lent, the church-year season that begins on Ash Wednesday, is a time of penitence and spiritual renewal. Some people give up a luxury or vice during Lent as a form of self-denial; others undertake a project that benefits others.

The point isn't to denigrate ourselves or to see how much we can do without. Instead, Lent helps us reflect on Jesus' death. As Timothy Keller writes in *The Reason for God*: "The Christian Gospel is that I am so flawed that Jesus had to die for me, yet I am so loved and valued that Jesus was glad to die for me. This leads to deep humility and deep confidence at the same time. It undermines both swaggering and sniveling. I cannot feel superior to anyone, and yet I have nothing to prove to anyone. I do not think more of myself nor less of myself. Instead, I think of myself less."

St. John members:

There will be a Voters' Meeting on Monday, February 1, at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Sanctuary and you are asked to please wear a mask.

Gary Meinke, President



Concordia University, Nebraska News

For all high school students and their families, Concordia is holding a series of virtual open houses throughout February to learn more about the university's academic and co-curricular programs and the college admissions process. The free sessions begin at 7 pm Central and registration is required.

Monday, Feb. 1	Luke Scholars, Concordia's Honors Program
Monday, Feb. 8	Art
Thursday, Feb. 11	Early Childhood Education
Monday, Feb. 15	Director of Christian Education (DCE) Program
Tuesday, Feb. 16	Elementary Education
Thursday, Feb. 18	English as a Second Language
Monday, Feb. 22	Biology/Nursing
Wednesday, Feb. 24	Special Education

Go to <https://cune.elluciancrmrecruit.com/Apply/Events> to find the registration links.

A university of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Concordia University, Nebraska offers degrees in more than 100 undergraduate and graduate programs, is recognized as a Top 40 and Best Value university in the Midwest by US News & World Report, and is the leading provider of church workers in the LCMS. Learn more at www.cune.edu