

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN LCMS, REV. MAYNARD TOENSING, JR.
11400 WEST PANAMA ROAD, CRETE, NE 68333



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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.

VOLUME 35 ISSUE 1 JANUARY 2021

FROM THE ELDERS

For the Lord disciplines the one He loves and punishes every son He receives.

Hebrews 12:6

There is a tendency among Christians to view anything unpleasant that happens to them as the result of "spiritual warfare". When a difficulty arises, many immediately ask God to remove their distress. The problem is that their predicament may have nothing to do with Satan or with spiritual warfare. It may appear far more glorious for us to explain our hardships as Satan's determined attacks against us, rather than admitting that we are merely reaping what we have sown and are being disciplined by our heavenly Father (Gal. 6:7).

What is often mistaken as Satan's attack may actually be chastisement from our loving Father. If you have neglected your role as spiritual teacher to your children, God may allow them to fall into sin. If you have been dishonest at work, God may correct you by letting you face the consequences. It would be foolish to pray that God would ease your discomfort. God is disciplining you in order to gain your attention and bring necessary change to your life. How tragic never to make the connection between your problems and God's discipline. God's discipline will not help you if you dismiss it as Satan's doing or spiritual warfare. Not every hardship you face is the chastisement of God, but Scripture indicates that God will discipline you.

If you misunderstand God's chastening, you may actually blame Him for not answering your prayers of failing to protect you from Satan. Meanwhile, God is warning you of the danger you face because of your sin. Are there difficult circumstances in your life? Could it be the discipline of God? God, whose nature is perfect love, will correct you because He has your ultimate good in His heart.

Praise be to God! The Elders

Experiencing God Day by Day

Henry & Richard Blackaby

THANK YOU!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, With deep gratitude I thank you for your Christmas cards, blessings, and gifts you have so generously given to me and my family. I am blessed by God through your kindness and love. May God richly bless and keep you in Christ and grant you a New Year filled with His favor and grace. In the love of Christ, Pastor Toensing and Shelley

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School will resume again this Sunday, January 10, at 9:30 am to 10:15 am. If you are attending the 10:00 am Worship Service, we will send your child to you when Sunday School classes are over.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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SAVE THE DATE!

Quarterly Voters' Meeting is
 January 25th at 6:30 pm

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 Arlin Pomajzl
 3 Blythe Dewey
 4 Tom Nyhoff
 5 Lyndsey Williams
 6 Marilyn Nelson
 7 Paul Beck, Patricia Prochnow, Julie Reetz, Jeana Scholz
 9 Skye Hoyer
 11 Denise Slama, Castyn Ziemann
 12 Bryan Bell, Jr
 13 Joy Kouba
 15 Barb Hansmeyer
 16 Jessica McBride, Estelle Reetz
 17 Kristi Doiel
 18 Logan Adam, Nick Hollman
 19 Matt Walker
 20 Nick Ellingson
 23 Anne Fletcher
 25 Matt Karl
 26 Angela Dello
 27 Harry Meinke, Nicole Gierhart, Kyle Shore
 28 Savannah Hensley
 29 Sherry Davis
 30 Brian Persing
 31 Dave Eggert

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER GROWTH**Schedule at a Glance**

Worship Service (Sundays 8:30 am & 10:00 am)
 Sunday School (Sundays 9:30 am to 10:15 am)
 Midweek/ Confirmation Classes (Wednesdays at 6:30 pm)
 Elder's Meeting (January 4 at 6:30 pm)
 Evangelism Committee Meeting (January 5 at 6:30 pm)
 Quilting (January 12 9:30 am to 2:00 pm)
 Church Council Meeting (January 18 at 6:30 pm)
 Lutheran Women in Mission (January 19 at 7:00 pm)
 Quarterly Voters' Meeting (January 25 at 6:30 pm)

JANUARY BAPTISMS

1 Steve VanAsperen, Fred Weidner
 3 Tanna Nitzel, Lynette Reetz June
 4 Aaron Meinke
 6 Taiden Warta
 7 Ellen Miller
 8 Jayne VanAsperen
 10 Lilian Underwood
 12 Chris Williams
 14 Joe Kalkwarf, Don Rejcha
 15 Hannah Ochs
 16 Melissa Gash, Kate [LaVerna] Kattau
 19 Troy Henning, Barb Meinke
 20 Marilyn Nelson, Lyndsey Williams
 21 Doug Kattau, Scott Murphy
 23 Jeana Scholz
 27 Estelle Reetz, Cole Novak
 28 Matt Walker, Seth Brethouwer, Liam Lee
 29 Dan Meinke, Andrew Munro, Kent Nelson
 31 Titan Wagner

We thank God for the blessing that Rollo Schultz was to his family and to the Church. We praise God for the life Rollo was given and the gift of salvation he received from the Lord. It is heart-breaking that the current pandemic has placed limitations on all of us; however, the service was recorded. By request of the family, Rollo's funeral is available for viewing. The video is currently embedded into the church website upon a new page: <http://www.stjohnkramer.org/rollo/>. In order to view the service, you will need to use this exact link or page search. Anyone who wants/needs the service on a DVD may do so by making that request through the church office. Service bulletins from the funeral will also be available for those who request a copy. Memorials may be sent to St. John Lutheran Church. May God bless and keep us in Christ as we follow the saints before us in their confession and faith in Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior.