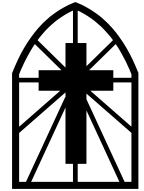


ST. JOHN LUTHERAN LCMS
11400 WEST PANAMA ROAD, CRETE, NE 68333



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 32 ISSUE 7 JULY, 2018

But This I Know ... Christ is My Savior

Some of you have heard me say, "The more I learn the more I learn how much I don't know." It has been said before and by others, yet I don't know if it has ever been originally attributed any one person. Anyway, it is true.

Books, publications, emails, blogs, magazines, periodicals—there is so much to read. There is so much information available. So much to try to keep up on. And here you are reading yet another article. There are many valuable things to read; and from your reading to learn.

But in all the items there are to read, there really is nothing that truly feeds the soul like God's Word. Those writings that flow from and proclaim the living Word of God such as the Small Catechism are rich for us too. There is no way we will ever learn everything good that there is to know. Consider what John wrote:

"Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written." (John 21:25 ESV)

Consider that Jesus is God and that God made everything. **EVERYTHING!** Consider the wealth of information in everything that is made. I found this about the human genome on a NOVA online PBS web page:

"With the flurry of media attention surrounding the race to sequence the genome, it often seems as if the myriad genome facts and news items floating around could fill up a couple of telephone books. If you feel bombarded, imagine how the decoders feel: **If written out, a human genetic code would fill the pages of 200 1,000-page New York City telephone directories.**" [emphasis mine] (<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/genome/facts.html>)

And that is the information on just the DNA in one human being! The differences between human beings is very small, so much of the information would be repeated, but there is that much DNA information for each person. Add to that every different animal and plant on the planet and their codes. Include all inanimate objects. Then, try to add anything and everything in universe—which God knows and we can barely see. And then, include the mathematics and physics involved in the movement of every single thing with every variable considered from the mystery of bees in flight to category 5 hurricanes. And what about all of God's knowledge and awareness of every single person's history since creation. And then, the history of every animal and plant and all of creation in general. And then ... well, I hope you see, it goes on and on. If everything Christ, the Son of God, "through whom also He created the world" (Hebrews 1:2), has ever done were written down ... the galaxy could not contain the books that would be written.

But we do have some of the things Christ has done written for us in the Word of God. And these are sufficient for us to know of our creation and our redemption in Christ. God's Word tells us of His love and His desire to be in communion with the children of man. Our Savior came to live, die and rise again to save us and bring us into His reign. St. John says,

"Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." John 20:30–31 (ESV)

May God's Word, as you hear it and read it and study it, bring you joy in Christ Jesus, the Son of God, whose death and resurrection saves you from your sin.

Peace 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 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).

YOUTH NEWS

SAVE THE DATE: JULY 22-26, PLUNGE INTO VBS 2018!

At Splash Canyon VBS, your children learn God keeps His promises on life's wild ride! They'll look into the Bible, God's Holy Word, and explore five Bible accounts where our faithful God keeps His promises to be with us and gives us life and hope through Jesus, our Savior.

VBS kids will sing at church Sunday, July 29.

EVANGELISM NEWS

The July Evangelism Committee meeting is scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 3, 2018. Members of St. John continue to be invited to our continuation through the book, "5 Things You Can Do to Witness Christ". This study encourages each of us to realize what we have in Christ and to see that our witnessing is part of our daily walk in life – as we each have 'evangelism' opportunities given to us. We can find "witnessing" when living out the gracious gifts God gives in our connections with others and in helping build new relationships where we can share the love of Christ. Please join us if you can.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY - "A MAN NAMED MARTIN - THE MOVEMENT"

God was at work in the Reformation. Fierce debates over Scripture, church doctrine, and late medieval church practice led to theological positions articulating salvation as God's grace in action, with man being left to add nothing to his own salvation. In 'A Man Named Martin - Part 3: "The Movement"', our Men's Bible Study group at St. John will see how the Reformation transformed European society and, eventually, left a profound impression around the globe. The Bible Study, fellowship and great discussion are offered to all on Tuesday, July 10, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.



BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Harlow Dewey
- 3 A. J. Ellingson, Lisa Rejcha, Sherry Rezac
- 5 Janice Reetz
- 6 Terry Stehlik
- 9 Hugo Pomajzl
- 10 Les Korte, Linda Lee
- 11 Sandi Karl, Marilyn Nast
- 12 Hope Hoyer, Gary Meinke, Erica Sublett
- 13 Trevor Nitzel
- 15 LaVonne Nitzel
- 16 Lynn Meinke
- 19 Lisa Shore
- 20 Leahh Anderson, Karen Bachman, Ashley Walker
- 21 Alexandra Weber
- 23 Briggen Reetz

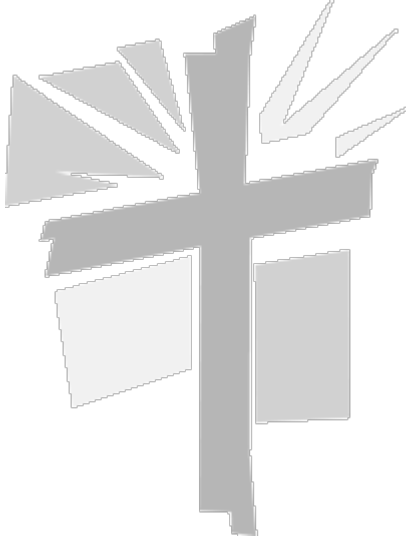
- 24 Megan Behrends
- 25 Wayne Hansmeyer, Frank Slama, Bailey Stougard
- 26 Joe Hoesche
- 29 Barb Meinke, Aleece Reetz
- 31 Brad Pomajzl

BAPTISMS

- 1 James Haufle, Jeff Hollman, Heath & Harlow Dewey
- 3 Brian Poole, Jacob Wohl
- 4 Wendie & Austin Haufle, Marvin Nitzel
- 5 Roger Koch, Tessa Miller
- 7 Amanda Easley
- 8 Devon Reitz, Marlene Wagner

- 9 Ella Jo Hughes
- 10 James Doiel, Cindy Hoyer
- 11 Victoria Rethmeier
- 12 Sherry Rezac
- 13 Calen Homolka
- 14 Eric Dewey, Lydia Lee, Morgan Wohl
- 15 Ethan Sublett
- 16 Trevor Nitzel
- 18 Elmer Reetz, Garrett Reitz
- 19 Dylan Wagner
- 20 Lisa Rejcha
- 22 Wally Wild
- 24 Shawna Heusinkvelt
- 25 Les Korte, Janice Reetz
- 27 Gary Meinke
- 28 Sandi Karl
- 29 Olga Weidner
- 30 JoAnn Renner

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.



LAMBS OF CHRIST PRESCHOOL

Summer Break... Lambs of Christ Preschool is currently on Summer Break. If you need to reach someone at the preschool office please call 402-826-4375 and leave a message. I will be checking the messages on a regular basis. The first day of school for the 2018 – 2019 school year will be Monday, August 20th.

Preschool Garage Sale... We would like to thank everyone who made donations and or came shopping to the Garage Sale. We were able to raise over \$1,500 for the preschool.

Popsicles on the Playground... We had a great time at "Popsicles on the Playground" in June. I will be hosting another "Popsicles on the Playground" event on Tuesday, July 31st at 6:30 PM. In the case of inclement weather we will meet in the classroom. Registration materials will be available at this event.

Enrollment for the 2018 – 2019 School year... We are currently accepting enrollment for the 2018 – 2019 school year. Contact Rhonda Beehe at the preschool by calling 402-826-4375 or e-mail me at lambsofchristcrete@gmail.com.

LADIES AID MINUTES

St. John Ladies Aid met on June 27, 2018, with Barb Meinke as hostess. The meeting opened by singing "O Father, All Creating". Pastor Toensing led us in Bible Study on "Holy Vow!! Keeping your word and being Faithful". Roll call was taken with ten members present. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved and the treasurer's report was given.

OLD BUSINESS: The Pastor's Conference that was to be held on June 26 was postponed. It has been scheduled for August 28. Linda Eggert and Diane Kahle will serve lunch for the conference. The Fish Feed will be held on July 8. A sign up sheet was passed around for salads and desserts. Lots of helpers showed up to clean the kitchen of the Church. Everything looks great! Dianne Kouba thanked everyone for bringing cookies for the Bloodmobile.

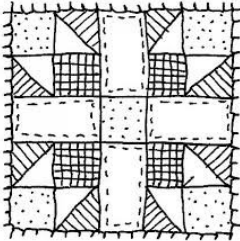
Anniversaries celebrated in June were Elmer and Shirley Reetz, Ken and Diane Kahle and Wayne and Linda Eggert. JoAnn Renner will be our hostess for July. We closed with the Lord's Prayer and the common table prayer. Shirley Reetz, Secretary

BUILDING COMMITTEE UPDATE

The committee is currently working through some introductory meetings with potential architects for a proposed church Addition. The committee will gain a better understanding of the phases involved, costs to design and hopefully learn enough to share general construction cost estimates based solely upon general information. It is likely that in order to begin a realistic, workable plan/concept upon the direction of our membership, the Voters will need to discuss and provide initial funding to begin the preliminary design phase. Members can check the church website for updates or organized committee meetings as we progress. It is the hope of the committee to have enough information gathered by the next Voters meeting allowing for a continued, forward movement.

QUILTERS NEWS

PLEASE JOIN US for a quilt day on Thursday, June 7, any time from 9:30 am to 2:00 pm. No sewing experience necessary. Bring a scissors and something to share for lunch. Enjoy the fun, fellowship and friendship while making quilts to send to the orphanages in Russia. Thanks!



MORE LWML NEWS...First the OGT Fish boil will be held on Sunday, July 8th for lunch. As in years past we have been asked (along with the Ladies Aide) to help provide the salads & desserts. I believe there will be a sign up sheet in the narthex this week so if you can help with that it would be appreciated!

· Next... our Nebraska South District convention is rapidly approaching and we need to get our Voting Delegate registration in ASAP. If we can get it sent by July 15th there is an "Early Bird" discount of \$15. Daughters of the King—Sisters in Christ is the theme; September 14-15, 2018 at the Younes center in Kearney. Technically we are to have 2 delegates and 1 alternate registered. Please let me know if you are able to serve our society in this way As Soon As Possible. All the info may be found in the summer issue of "The ECHO" which is on line @ www.lwmlnesouth.org

· Quilting... please NOTE that Karen will be making a second trip to Russia this year in October so please do what you can to help make sure we have plenty of quilts to send with her.

FROM THE ASHERS

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings from Germany! We pray that this finds you all well and enjoying summer activities. We are enjoying some sunshine here in Southwest Germany! Please check our latest newsletter to keep you informed of some of the activities happening here. We are keeping very busy and enjoying the Lord's service in this place. Thank you for your continued prayers and support which makes it possible for us to remain here.

As always, if you have any questions or comments on the newsletter (or if you just want to let us know how YOU are doing!), we would love to hear from you.

Blessings in Christ,
Joe and Jennie

Deac. Dr. Jennie J. Asher
LCMS Missionary
Online Learning Facilitator

to learn more about our work and to pledge support, please visit www.lcms.org/asher
The most recent Newsletter from the Ashers is located in our Newsletter basket as well as the bulletin board in the Narthex. Please feel free to take a copy of their Newsletter

LWML NEWS

LWML MITE BOX NEWS...."Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold." We have made a push to help support this fiscal biennium Mite Goal. Our nickels and dimes and even pennies gathered last Sunday, June 24 added to \$287.73! At our monthly meeting, the Mite Box gathered was \$140.09. Both checks were mailed by June 25, 2018 to total \$427.82.

These are some of the Mission Grants for our Mite Box donations :

Shipments to Baltics-Orphan Grain Train...Scholarships...Mission Central...

At Ease-Veterans, Military...Comfort Dog Satellite Training...Trinity/Hope

Meals for Haiti...Mercy Meals of SW Nebraska...Tuition Assistance-

Winnebago Preschool...His Kids Camp/Camp Luther...Lutheran Books for

Children of Ukraine...NE District Elementary & Secondary Tuition Assistance

...YWR-Lincoln Lutheran Community Outreach

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OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER GROWTH

Schedule at a Glance

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| Worship Service (Sundays) | 9:00 a.m. |
| Vacation Bible School—July 22—26 | 5:00—7:30 p.m. |
| Bible Class (Sundays) | 10:30 a.m. |
| Elder's Meeting (July 2) | 6:30 p.m. |
| Evangelism Committee Meeting (July 3) | 7:00 p.m. |
| Men's Bible Study (July 10) | 7:00 p.m. |
| Lutheran Women in Mission (July 17) | 7:00p.m. |
| Ladies Aid Meeting (July 25) | 2:00 p.m. |

FROM THE ELDER'S

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ:

While we are celebrating Independence Day, we should also take time to celebrate, and be thankful for, our freedom to worship our Lord and Savior. A lot of people in the world don't have this privilege. Thanks be to God!

Summer is also the season for vacations, a time to get away, relax, or visit family, friends or new places, or work around home. St John is also having a BUSY July. In addition to regular services, we have a chance to support Orphan Grain Train by attending the Fish Boil on July 8, help Pastor Brinkmeyer celebrate 40 years of service to our Lord with a potluck on July 22, and join with our yourth as they attend Vacation Bible School the week of July 22. Our VBS youth will be singing for us at the July 29 Worship Service. We hope to see everyone at all of our services and events.

Yours in Christ, The Elders

THOSE SERVING DURING THE MONTH OF JULY, 2018

| DUTY | July 1 | July 8 | July 15 | July 22 | July 29 |
|-----------------|---|--|--|---|---|
| Organist | Jayne VanAsperen | Jolene Reetz | Jayne VanAsperen | Jolene Reetz | Jayne VanAsperen |
| Elders | Gary Meinke | Ken Tesar | Todd Hoyer | Terry Dittmer | Roger Koch |
| Greeters | Mr & Mrs Tim McDermott and Mr & Mrs Jeff Meinke | Mr & Mrs Gary Meinke, Barb Meinke and Fran Sieck | Mr & Mrs Dave Musil and Mr & Mrs Marvin Nitzel | Mr & Mrs Brian Persing and Mr & Mrs Larry Pomajzl | Mr & Mrs Dean Prochnow and Mr & Mrs Del Reiss |
| Acolytes | Skye Hoyer & Hugo Pomajzl | Jordyn Adam & Rylee Pospichal | Nick Hollman & Ted Muff | Mersadies Kvasnicka & Jacob Meinke | Colton Homolka & Katelyn Novak |

PATRIOTIC PARFAIT

On the 4th of July, make this healthy, festive dessert to share with family and friends.

What you need:

- Clear glasses or plastic cups
- Spoons
- Vanilla yogurt
- Cut strawberries
- Fresh blueberries
- Coconut, whipped cream, red and blue sprinkles (optional)

What you do:

1. Place a couple of spoonfuls of vanilla yogurt at the bottom of each glass or cup.
2. Add cut strawberries to cover the yogurt layer.
3. Add more yogurt over the strawberries.
4. Add a layer of blueberries.
5. Repeat the layers until you reach the top of the glass or cup.
6. For extra fun, add coconut, whipped cream and sprinkles. Enjoy!



RECIPE OF THE MONTH

JELLO WATERMELON PRESERVES

from the kitchen of Marilyn Nast

3 cups ground watermelon rind (remove dark green outer edge and discard it)


1 package watermelon, strawberry, or other flavor jello

1 ½ cups sugar

Mix together. Let set overnight, then cook until clear.

Add ½ tsp cinnamon. Cook until thick and syrupy. Refrigerate...Use... Enjoy!

Thank you, Marilyn for your contribution




PUZZLE

Signs of Summer

Jesus told his disciples that fig trees indicate when summer is approaching.

Directions: Complete the Bible verse below by placing the letter pairs from the tree into the correct blanks.



“ ___ w lea ___ th ___ le ___ on
 fr ___ the f ___ tr ___: As s ___ n
 as its ___ igs g ___ te ___ er ___ d
 its lea ___ s co ___ o ___, ___ u
 kn ___ ___ at su ___ er is ne ___.”

Ma ___ hew 24:32, NIV

Answer: “Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near.”
 Matthew 24:32, NIV