

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 6 JUNE, 2018

Dear Saints in Christ,

Many people get their news online today. You can also read blogs that individuals post about topics or thoughts. And in many instances, others can make comments about the stories, news, or blog postings. An article I read a few weeks ago was open to comments. It was a news article about school shootings. Following the article were a number of comments. And in the comments were offers of prayer for those who had gone through such horrific events.

And then there were negative comments about prayer. Some were very derisive of prayer. They questioned about what good prayer was—and some even mocked prayer. It was sad to read. It is sad that many really don't know what prayer is; or they don't really know our gracious and compassionate God; and they certainly did not know the comfort it can bring to those who have suffered tragedy to know that others are praying for them.

Now, not everyone who prays or suggests prayers for others knows the true God. Many people in our world do not believe in Christ as Savior. Many believe in other gods that are not the true God. And they pray to their gods which are not gods.

But among the many who do offer prayer, and who offer it in comments to news articles, and who do say that they will pray – there are many who do pray to the true God and in faith in Jesus and who pray in His name. We welcome and rejoice in the comfort that prayer brings to those fellow believers in Christ who receive these offers, for we and they know the blessing of prayer in Jesus' name.



**NEVER STOP
PRAYING.**

1 THESSALONIANS 5:17

God commands us to pray. Psalm 50:15 (ESV): "... call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me."

God promises to hear us and we are confident that He does hear us. And He hears you just as much as He hears your pastor or any esteemed saint. No one's prayers are any more special to God than any others. God hears you and your pastor's prayers the same. Have such confidence that you know God does hear your prayer and that praying in faith and obedience is pleasing to Him and of great blessing to you.

Prayer helps us to stand against the devil. It helps us to focus on God's commands and will. Prayer also should flow from God's Word and God's Word teaches us how to pray. Prayer – talking to God in words and thoughts – is a wonderful blessing, privilege and good command.

So, it is sad that many do not know or trust in God. Lacking faith, they do not have assurance or comfort from God. But we do. Through faith in Christ and in the command and promises of God in His Word, we can confidently pray and know that God does hear us. So, according to God's Word, 1 Thessalonians 5:17 (ESV): "... pray without ceasing." Peace to you in Christ our Lord.
Pastor Toensing

QUARTERLY VOTERS MEETING

St. John Lutheran Church

Quarterly Voter's Meeting April 30, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 8:10 p.m. by President Troy Henning. Pastor Toensing led us in prayer.

The minutes were read and approved.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report was read and approved.

Balance Forward 1/1/2018	\$72,679.12
Plus Regular Receipts	34,938.08
Plus Mission Receipts	1,944.15
Balance Plus Receipts	109,561.35
Less Regular Disbursements	41,047.41
Less Mission Disbursements	8,524.63
Ending Balance 9/30/2017	\$59,989.31

Lynn Meinke made some additional comments on Treasurer's Report:

Discrepancy from the Audit of \$489.75 that was not on the 4th Quarter or Annual report was just not recorded in Quick Books. A correction was made to reflect that discrepancy. Money was actually in the account.

Elders' Report

Head Elder James Walker reports the following statistics for the quarter ending 3/31/18:

Baptisms: 3 – January 28 – Liam Robert Lee

February 8 – Kase Michael Korbel

March 11 – Katelyn Ann Novak

Funerals: 1 – February 15 – Kase Michael Korbel

New Members – Travis Scott Eggert (Profession of Faith)

No Confirmations, weddings, and no transfers out or in

James reports that the Elders are planning to put together a celebration for Pastor Brinkmeyer's 40 years in the pastoral ministry on July 22 with a pot luck. The Elders will provide meat and everyone else will be asked to bring a side.

Pastor Report

Pastor Toensing reports several items:

- He has been at St. John for 11 months. Feels it is a special place with special people. He looks for opportunities to learn more.
- Worship is going well and he remarked about the wonderful attendance at Bible Study and noted there were 199 people in worship service on Confirmation Sunday. Feels the Trustees and others are showing they value the church property with all the care that he sees going on.
- Noted that it is wonderful to see how much the church family supports missions and asked that we keep it up. Pastor issued a challenge for us to strengthen our missions and programs to younger people and to encourage parents with young children. He asks that we support our Sunday School and consider how we might help it be a positive time for our children.
- A group went to Mission Central and met with our Missionary Family, Rev. Joe and Jenny Asher, in Iowa.
- Gary Meinke and Pastor will be going to the District Con-

vention and are getting ready for it.

- VBS is coming up in July and we need volunteers.
- Please pray for all our mission activities and look for opportunities to serve.

Board of Education

- Sunday School. Last day of Sunday School will be May 13. The Board of Ed will be showing their appreciation to all volunteers that helped with Sunday School, Midweek and VBS over the past school year by serving ice cream sundaes to the congregation following worship service. The LYF will be providing games for the kids as well.
- Midweek. Last day of Midweek will be May 2nd, a pizza party and game night was held last week to end the school year. Congratulated the five students who were confirmed on April 22.
- VBS. Dates are July 22 – July 26. Registration forms for the children will be available soon in the narthex and also on the church website. A sign-up sheet for volunteers will be available in the narthex.

The Board consisting of Cathy, Tammy and Marla thanks the congregation for their continued support.

Trustees Report

- Les Korte reported on several items. There is a need to take out some trees and overall clean up the windbreak around the parsonage as well as a couple of trees around the church. There are three ash trees of which two need to be removed because they are hollow. The third needs to be trimmed. There is a Chinese Elm tree that is falling apart. A couple of the trustees, Dave Eggert and Bruce Tiedeman are willing to work to clean up what they can. Adam Hughes-Hardt and Ken Tesar volunteered to assist as well. Even though Les had reported to Norris that there were trees in the powerlines, Norris has not come to remove them yet. Troy Henning plans to call to follow up on the request. Les Korte moved that trees are to be trimmed up on the North side and the Chinese Elm, and some cleanup of dead trees in the windbreak while keeping the north and west side cedars. Seconded. Motion passed.
- Les brought up that the pew pads are in need of either replacement or cleanup. To replace the pads would cost around \$7000. We may attempt to clean the pads first before replacing them.
- Church cleanup day (inside and outside) is scheduled for May 19. A list of things to be done will be made and posted.
- Parsonage work included screen doors for front door and back door. Landscape rock will be obtained. Les noted that the Toensings will cover the cost of cosmetic fixes in the parsonage; if something is maintenance related then the church will cover.
- Miscellaneous maintenance issues.

Cemetery Report

No report.

Youth Group

Adam Hughes-Hardt reports that during the quarter the Youth Group hosted the Valentines Dinner and the Easter Breakfast. Both went very well. Road cleanup is scheduled for May 20, but may consider May 19 since that is Church clean up day. Tim McDermott continues to teach for the youth group. Noted thanks to all for the support and help.

Evangelism Committee

Tim McDermott reports that since the January Voters meeting the Evangelism Committee met together with its newly reorganized members. Time was spent updating and sharing information with the newest elected members. In continued discussion with the Board of Evangelism are the following topics:

- Continues topical discussion of the book "5 Things you can do to Witness Christ."
- 2020 Church Directories. Planning on updating church directory every five years.
- Membership Photo Board. The Committee is working through the list of church members who've indicated their desire and enjoyment of photography to use those volunteers to take photos of members and their families, process them and then be mounted, with description on the new photo board. James Walker has been kind enough to supply the work to accomplish the new bulletin board in the church narthex.
- Local Evangelism. A discussion was had regarding ways in which our congregation can reach out to local community members in an evangelism effort with press releases for special services and/or other such events in which community members may wish to take notice, such as the newspaper. The conversation then moved toward technology, particularly by way of a social media connection.
- Second Set of Greeters – Both the Board of Evangelism and Elders are attempting to keep an eye on how this progresses throughout 2018. The BoE asks members to provide any feedback in this regard.
- Updated Membership Contact List – The BoE is of the understanding that the church office is getting close to having a final, updated phone/address directory very soon.
- "Everyone His Witness" – The new Evangelism resource was discussed. The BoE has suggested the purchase of this material and currently is under review. St. John can request that half of the cost to offset the cost of the materials can be requested in District grant funds.
- The Church website statistics are being shared at each meeting and are finding growing connections based upon unique, monthly hits to the site.
- The BoE, under a reminder of Pastor Toensing, realized the focus of "in reach", including prayer for our membership, is to be a primary component of the Evangelism Committee.

Memorial Committee

There was a family that would like to designate memorial money to the addition of a rail of some kind in the balcony. There was some discussion that it not obstructs vision and that it would need to be put up according to code. A motion was made to allow the Memori-

al Committee to put up the rail as long as it is up to code. Seconded and carried.

Building Committee

Since the last Voters Meeting in January, the Building Committee has met on a couple occasions to discuss the various pros and cons relative to plan concepts, then proceed with presenting the Demographic Survey and local data information to the congregation using the offering of the District's Lutheran Church Extension Fund representative Nate Meier. This presentation was subsequently held on Thursday evening, April 26.

Another meeting occasion offered the opportunity to meet the Nebraska District Architectural Advisor, Craig Wohlge-muth. A call for this meeting enable the Building Committee to share visualized, basic concepts and congregational input, asked and answered questions, and focused our attention on next steps.

During this meeting, Craig offered to provide a proposal for a master plan, feasibility study based upon receiving an initial area plot diagram. The committee then discussed and plans to develop our own measurements once we invest in the initial survey of the property lines, current building measurements and speak to utility companies and Lancaster County in learning easements and setback distance requirements, etc. James Walker mentioned that acquiring/shooting elevations would be something done ourselves to add to the property area diagram. This information would then be compiled and either provided to Craig for a feasibility study and to a potential architect.

A motion was made to supply the Committee the funds needed from the current Building fund to perform the initial property survey at a cost estimated at \$650. Seconded. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business

It was discussed that each group should keep track of what is spent in their respective areas. We will then collect the information at the end of the year to work up a budget for the church.

Glen Louch and Roger Koch will be exploring options and costs for upgrading our video equipment and will report at next Voter's Meeting.

New Business

President Henning brought up an idea that had been suggested at the Demographic Survey meeting on April 26. To try to accommodate members with younger children, it was discussed to change the meeting time for the Voter's Meeting to a Sunday after the church service. This will be further discussed at the Elder's meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m. and closed with the Lord's Prayer. We celebrated Pastor Toensing's Birthday with singing Birthday song and cupcakes.

There were 41 members present and one guest.

Marianne Tesar, Secretary

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 of the church by the back door, please mark them for either OGT or PCM (People's City Mission).

Supported by the Trustees, and with help by way of a church member donation, there is now an outdoor drop-box dedicated for items in contribution to People's City Mission and/or Orphan Grain Train. This new drop-box is found outside the back door of the church. Members are advised to begin using this box to hold donated items rather than inside the back door at the stairwell. Donations will be picked up and delivered periodically as before.

LAMBS OF CHRIST PRESCHOOL

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.

Lambs of Christ will be holding its annual Garage Sale at Bethlehem Fellowship Hall on Friday, June 22 8:00AM – 6:00 PM and Saturday, June 23, 8:00 AM – 12:00 noon. If you would like to donate items for the sale drop them off at Bethlehem starting Wednesday, June 20th between 9:30 AM – 3:00 PM. Tell your friends and come support Lambs of Christ.

Future, Current and Past students are invited to join us at the Lambs of Christ Playground from 9:30 – 11:00 AM. Children will have the opportunity to meet up with friends and play on the playground. In case of inclement weather we will meet in the classroom. Popsicles will be served to help us cool off after a great time of play. Watch the preschool Facebook page for date to take place in July.

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

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!

JUNE BIRTHDAYS & BAPTISMS

BIRTHDAYS

2 Wendi & Austin Haufle
3 Terry Dittmer, Ken Tesar
4 Emma Hoyer
6 Susan Tremblay
7 Greg Kalkwarf, Ella Jo Hughes
8 Verna Schultz,
9 Devon Reitz, Dewayne & Henry Slama
12 Madison Hestermann, Kelli Jordan
13 Garrett Reitz
14 Jeff Hollman, Verna Louch
16 Milo Kvasnicka
17 Roger Koch, Hunter Persing
18 Wally Wild

19 Theodore Muff, Jacob Wohl
21 Kimberly Scott
23 Ariana Munro, Morgan Wohl
24 Kyle Ochs
25 Amanda Easley, Dave Musil, Elmer Reetz
28 Nicole Anderson, Colton Homolka, Cinder Johnson
29 Steve Vanasperen, Victoria Rethmeier
30 Patricia Behrens, Cindy Hoyer, Heath Dewey

BAPTISMS

1 Tonya Clark, Rylee Pospichal

3 Doug Karl
4 Nick Ellingson, Michael Ellingson, Diane Kahle, Kenneth Kastanek
5 Irelynn Kirkpatrick, Shirley Vosika
7 Ken Behrens, Darleen Dittmer
8 Gwendolyn Dewey, Eric Dewey Jr.
11 John Haufle, Lane Wendelin
15 Caleb Markey, Charlie Slama
19 Andrea Pomajzl, John Reitz
20 Greg Kalkwarf
22 Elliott Reitz
24 Emma Hoyer, Bob Renner
25 Michael Gropp
28 Terry Dittmer, Verna Louch

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.

SPECIAL DATES

Flag Day, June 14

Father's Day, June 17

First day of summer, June 21

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Register now for Splash Canyon Vacation Bible School! Fill out the registration form located on the table in the narthex, it can also be found on the church website. For information, call or email Cathy Hollman at 540-0435, jhollman14@yahoo.com.

Be part of Splash Canyon VBS! Life is full of thrills and spills! We don't know what's around the bend, but God does! At Splash Canyon VBS, God's children of all ages learn the good news is God is with us and keeps His promises to us on life's wild ride! As staff members for Splash Canyon VBS, you have fun and share the Splash Canyon message with the kids! If you can help full or part time, we have many ways to be involved to suit your schedule and interests. Fill out the registration form located on the table in the narthex. For information, call or email Cathy Hollman at 540-0435, jhollman14@yahoo.com.
 Plunge in for VBS fun at Splash Canyon!



LADIES AID MINUTES

St. John Ladies Aid met on May 30, 2018, with Carol Brinkmeyer and Noreen Wild as hostesses. The meeting opened by singing, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus". Pastor Toensing led us in Bible Study followed by prayer.

Roll call was taken with eleven members present. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved, and the treasurer's report was given.

OLD BUSINESS: President Diane Kahle thanked everyone who worked at the funeral of Phyllis Wendelin and passed around a thank-you card from the Wendelin family. She also thanked everyone who helped with the food and serving at the Ascension Day service.

NEW BUSINESS: A motion was made and seconded that the Ladies Aid will bake cookies or bars for the June Bloodmobile. Motion passed. On June 26th, the Circuit Pastors Conference will be held at St. John. A motion was made and seconded that we serve the luncheon. Motion passed.

Birthdays celebrated in May were Darleen Dittmer, JoAnn Renner, Diane Kahle and Noreen Wild. The birthday song was sung. Pastor and Shelley celebrated an anniversary in May.

Barb Meinke will be our hostess for June. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer and common table prayer.

Shirley Reetz, secretary

Ellie Koch has submitted this recipe for any of us to try...It's a COOKIE, that's one of the main food groups!

pudding Cookies

½ cp. butter (no subs.)

½ cp. brown sugar

1 egg

1 pkg. vanilla instant pudding

1 tsp. cream of tartar

1 tsp. baking soda

1 ¼ cp. flour

Cream butter and sugar. Add egg and beat. Whisk together dry ingredients and add to butter mixture.

Shape into walnut-size balls and flatten with fork or glass dipped in sugar.

Bake on parchment lined cookie sheet at 350 degrees for 10-12 minutes.

MISSION NEWS

Dear saints at St. John, Greetings from Kaiserslautern, Germany! We are writing to thank you for your generous support of our work here. Without the support of people like you, we couldn't be here.

Our work with the military community continues to grow, with more than 60 attending worship every Sunday. We are preparing for a retreat where we will plan ways to reach more people as they move in over the summer.

Jennie's work with the formation course for all LCMS missionaries also continues to flourish. Currently we have more than 40 missionaries in Asia who are more than halfway through the course.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers. We pray God's continued blessings for you as you continue to reach out to others! In Christ, Pastor Joe Asher and Deac. Dr. Jennie Asher

LYF NEWS

Road side clean up after church Sunday, June 24. Any extra help would be MUCH appreciated.



OUR GRADUATES

Logan Adam, son of Todd & Holly, is a Crete High School grad

Leahh Carper Anderson, daughter of Andrea Pomajzl, graduated from College View Academy in Lincoln

Madison Jordan graduated from Crete High School on Sunday May 20th. She is the daughter of Kelli Jordan, Granddaughter of Bob and Kay Jordan and Great Granddaughter of Bob and JoAnn Renner

Bradley Allen Pomajzl II, son of Brad & Nicole Pomajzl, graduated from Wilber-Clatonia High School in Wilber

Colbi Marie Reetz, granddaughter of Gerald & Jolene Reetz, graduated from UNL May 5th with a Bachelor of Science and Education and Human Sciences degree and will be teaching 1st grade at Roper Elementary in Lincoln this fall

Estelle Reetz, daughter of Jared & Aleece is a preschool grad

Garrett Reitz, son of John and Kristi Reitz, graduated from Milford High School on May 12th

“The [one] who graduates today and stops learning tomorrow is uneducated the day after.”

—Newton Baker

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OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER GROWTH

Schedule at a Glance

Worship Service (Sundays)	9:00 a.m
Bible Class (Sundays)	10:30 a.m.
Elder’s Meeting (June 11)	6:30 p.m.
LYF Road Side Cleanup (June 24)	Following Worship Service
Lutheran Women in Mission (June 19)	7:00 p.m.
Ladies Aid Meeting (June 27)	2:00 p.m.
Quilting (June 7)	9:30 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
Men’s Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

FROM THE ELDER’S

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

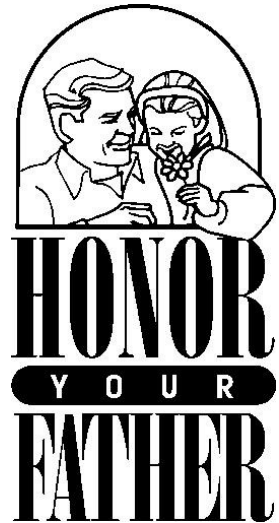
Congratulations and thankful—two important words for June.

Congratulations to all of this year’s graduates—from kindergarten, 8th grade, high school, college, and post-grads. May God bless you and help keep you strong in your faith as you continue your journey in life.

Thankful—as we celebrate Father’s Day, we are thankful for our Heavenly Father and all He has given us and continues to give us for our salvation. We thank Him also for our earthly fathers and pray He gives them strength to guide their families with love and faith.

Please remember these upcoming events: Fish Boil, Potluck honoring Pastor Brinkmeyer, and Vacation Bible School.

The Elders



THOSE SERVING DURING THE MONTH OF JUNE

DUTY	June 3	June 10	June 17	June 24
Organist	Jayne VanAsperen	Jayne VanAsperen	Jolene Reetz	Jolene Reetz
Elders	Gary Meinke	Roger Koch	James Walker	Terry Dittmer
Greeters	Mr & Mrs Wally Wild, Carol Brinkmeyer, Marilyn Nast	Mr & Mrs Roger Brunelle, Darleen Dittmer, Diane Gropp	Mr & Mrs Wayne Eggert, Chris Hollman, Diane Kouba	Mr & Mrs Mike Langfeldt and Mr & Mrs Glen Louch
Acolytes	Skye Hoyer & Jacob Meinke	Jordyn Adam & Nick Hollman	Katelyn Novak & Mersadies Kvasnicka	Colton Homolka & Ted Muff

Puzzle!

Find the missing letter in each alphabet below. Then read the words from top to bottom to discover Israel's promise from Joshua 24:24, NIV.

- ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ _____
- ZYXWVUTSRQPONMLKJIHGFDCBA _____
- ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ _____
- ZYXWVUTSRQPONMLKJIHGFDCBA _____
- ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ _____
- ZYXWVUTSRQPONMLKJIHGFDCBA _____
- ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ _____
- ZYXWVUTSRQPONMLKJIHGFDCBA _____
- ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ _____
- ZYXWVUTSRQPONMLKJIHGFDCBA _____
- ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ _____
- ZYXWVUTSRQPONMLKJIHGFDCBA _____
- ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ _____
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- ZYXWVUTSRQPONMLKJIHGFDCBA _____
- ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ _____
- ZYXWVUTSRQPONMLKJIHGFDCBA _____
- ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ _____
- ZYXWVUTSRQPONMLKJIHGFDCBA _____

Answer: We will serve the Lord ... and obey him.
 Joshua 24:24, NIV

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, June 12, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

EVANGELISM NOTES

The June Evangelism Committee meeting is scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 4, 2018. Members of St. John continue to be invited to attend in our continuation through the book, "5 Things You Can Do to Witness Christ", with reading and open discussion. 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.

Building Committee Update

The committee is currently working to gather preliminary property survey information, elevation measurements and zoning regulations in connection to any and all building Addition possibilities for St. John. As the committee gathers and plots this information onto documented and explainable forms, the next formal committee meeting is expected to be scheduled in early June. At this meeting, discussion and evaluation of possibilities and/or limitations can be derived from the data gathered. This information is then intended to be presented to potential architects in beginning a realistic, workable planning concept befitting the direction of the our membership. Please review your bulletin and/or the church website for updates on planned committee meetings and progress.

LWML PROJECT... LWML has been gathering items for Sixpence in Crete, which is an early childhood learning program for young women and their children. It is funded through the Crete Public School system. At the present time there are 42 children ages new born to three years old in this program. These children and mothers are in need of many items.

Thank you to all who have donated items for babies and mothers in the Sixpence program. We will be extending the giving thru Sunday, June 17. We invite you to join us on Tuesday, June 19 at 7:00 p.m. for a special presentation by Rhonda Burke, the Sixpence Director in the Fellowship Hall. She will explain the program and answer questions. Everyone is welcome