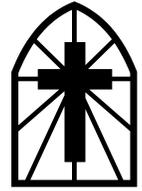


ST. JOHN LUTHERAN LCMS
11400 WEST PANAMA ROAD, CRETE, NE 68333



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 33 ISSUE 6 JUNE 2019

Dear Friends in Jesus,

Rejoice in the opportunity for Godly giving.

God gave first and most and best. God gave us His Son to live, suffer, die and rise again to save us from our sins. John 3:16. It is from God's hand that we have everything we have. Our give our offerings in joyful response to God's gifts to us in Christ and for giving to us our daily bread.

2 Corinthians 9:7: "Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 1 Corinthians 16:1-2: "Now about the collection for God's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made."

How not to give: Do not give to the budget. The church does not collect "dues". Do not give what you have left—the Lord despises leftovers. Do not give last. Do not give from guilt—you cannot pay off God with money for your guilt is already forgiven by God's mercy in Christ. Do not give sparingly; see 2 Corinthians 9:6. Do not give begrudgingly.

How to give according to the Word of God and in faith: Give your offerings to God (we do this through the congregation; the church then is to be a good steward of these gifts and use them for ministry). Our offerings are given in thanksgiving to God for His gifts to us, so give thankfully. Give first—determine a portion/percentage you will give from your income and give it first. Give thoughtfully. Give purposefully/intentionally. Give prayerfully. Give regularly. Give cheerfully. Give in response to God's grace in Jesus. Give from faith. Give the best. Give to God. Give sacrificially—consider the widow that Jesus praised who trusted God to take care of her—Mark 12:41-44. Give a portion to God in faith from all that God has given to you.

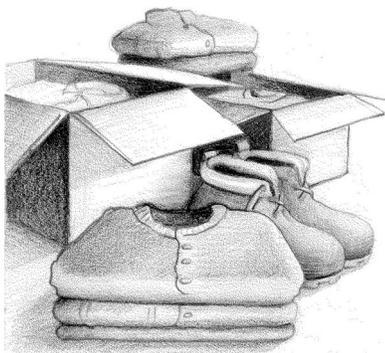
God gives you everything you have: your stuff, yes, but even more: your breath and life itself. Life is from God and all is to be used for godly living under His grace. God gave you life as human being. God sent Jesus to save your life from hell. You are His by creation and you are His by redemption. Give rightly and God will bless you—I know as I have experienced it myself. God has given you salvation from your sin in Jesus. **Your sin is forgiven in Christ who gave Himself for you and Who gives you eternal life and all that you need in life now. Praise God in Christ Jesus.**

In God's grace, 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



ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN FISH FEED

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Location: Kramer Hall, Kramer, NE



Sponsored by St John Lutheran Church, Kramer, NE

11:00 AM—12:45 PM on July 7, 2019

Fish-Potatoes-Onions-Salads-Desserts-Drinks-Rolls

Free Will Offering for Orphan Grain Train

All proceeds will go to Operating & Shipping

We will accept good clean clothing, shoes, toys, quilts, non-breakable housewares, school supplies and health items

Supplement funding by Thrivent Financial

& BAPTISMS

BIRTHDAYS

2 Wendi & Austin Haufle
3 Terry Dittmer
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
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 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.

PREPARE FOR BLAST OFF!

VBS 2019 is fast approaching...registration forms are available in the narthex for kids and volunteers. Come join the fun **July 21-25, 5-7:30pm!** If you have any questions, contact Kaylie Brethouwer.



Photo's Wanted – Picture Perfection Unnecessary

As the Evangelism Committee works in conjunction with the Church office to develop, publish and distribute an updated Membership Photo Directory this Fall, there is practicality in the use of the very same photo's recently placed on the narthex family photo board to be used within the printed directory itself; albeit, in thumbnail form. If we've failed to take you, or your family's, photo as of yet, please reach out to one of the Evangelism Committee members (Tim McDermott, Bonnie Bleich, Deb Walker or Carol Brinkmeyer) and they will happily capture your image on a Sunday morning to be used for both these purposes.

Members are equally invited to send their digital photo's (or replacement photo's – if you'd like to use another) for use in the 2019 Photo Directory via email to Tim at nebraskatim@gmail.com. The Evangelism Committee has set July 31st as their target date to obtain as many member photo's as hoped.

For those unaware of the pragmatic approach to the development of an in-house directory at this time, the committee would like to point attention further down the road in celebration of St. John's 150th Anniversary. This would be an ideal place in time to plan a professional publication, using a company such as "Lifetouch" to schedule professional sittings for family photos, while incorporating valued historical data and images into this special Anniversary Edition in 2024.



LADIES AID MINUTES

St. John Ladies Aid met on May 30, 2019, with Dianne Kouba as hostess. The meeting opened by singing the hymn, "Be Still, My Soul". Pastor Toensing led us in Bible Study on "Less Stress". Pastor led us in prayer after Bible Study.

Roll call was taken with eight members present. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. The treasurers' report was given and accepted.

OLD BUSINESS; Ladies Night out was held at 9th Street grill on April 30. There were twenty-four ladies present. It was a fun night and good food.

We will provide cookies for the Crete Blood Drive on June 18. Please bring cookies to the VFW. It will be open at 9:00 in the morning.

NEW BUSINESS: The Ladies Aid will serve lunch for the funeral of Maynard Hessheimer on May 30. The funeral will be at 10:30.

The fish boil will be held on July 7, 2019. There will be a sign-up sheet later for anyone wishing to bring food.

Birthdays were celebrated in May by Darleen Dittmer, JoAnn Renner, Diane Kahle and Noreen Wild. The birthday song was sung. Pastor and Shelley celebrated their wedding anniversary on May 30.

The hostess for June will be Carol Brinkmeyer. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer and common table prayer.

Shirley Reetz, secretary.



Members of St. John Lutheran Church,

“We are so thankful for your support of our **WATER 4 HAITI MISSION**. Your gift will enable us to continue well repairing, drilling, and sanitation projects.

Your generosity, interest and prayers are much appreciated as we share God’s love through the giving of fresh, clean water. We are blessed,”

The Water 4 Haiti Board Members
And People of Haiti

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Evangelism Committee will hold its next regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, June 4, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. All members of St. John are encouraged and welcomed to attend. This committee’s open meeting begins with a Bible Study, as taken from Concordia Mission Society’s “Good News” periodical, prior to the business meeting. Current topics of discussion include the publication of a 2019 Membership Directory, preparation for the 2019 Doane University Downtown Walk and the early development of a reachable family & children’s book depository in partnership with the Pastor and the Board of Education.

Clear-headed faith

Most often ... worry is a lack of confidence in life, in its purpose, in God. Faith in life, in God, is native to the human spirit. ... Worry is faith in reverse. Not only because most of the things we are anxious over never come to pass, but also because, when we worry, the most obvious things to do in our situation are overlooked. We should relax our tension by trusting God and putting at the disposal of that trust a clear head.

—Howard Thurman, Deep Is the Hunger

2019 GRADUATES

Emma Hoyer—Crete High School

Hannah Rethmeier—Crete High School

Bailey Stougaard—Crete High School

Drew Trautman—Wilber-Clatonia High School

Samantha Weber—Crete High School

Aubrey (Shore) Hollman—Northwest Missouri State University

Ashley Walker—Doane University with a Bachelor of Arts in Special Education



Graduations bring a commencement, or beginning, of new things.

In 1990, Dr. Seuss published *Oh, the Places You’ll Go!* This popular graduation gift tells in Seuss’ inimitable style of all life’s possible ups and downs, twists and turns. There will surely be excitement and slumps, fun and loneliness, purpose and confusion. And, yes, fear: “There are some [things], down the road between hither and yon, that can scare you so much you won’t want to go on.”

The sheer determination of the storybook’s life-traveler moves him beyond trouble and fear. **But God’s children don’t have to go it alone.** Life cannot take us anywhere God hasn’t been first. Furthermore, he walks beside us on every winding path and around every corner.

Graduates — and all Christians — can trust in the promise of Joshua 1:9 (NIV): “*Be strong and courageous ... for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.*”

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER GROWTH

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 Crete, NE 68333
 4 miles East & 2 miles South of Crete
 Office: 826-3883
 secretarystjohn@hotmail.com
 www.stjohnkramer.org
 Rev. Maynard Toensing, Jr.
 pastortoensing@gmail.com

Schedule at a Glance

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| Worship Service (Sundays) | 9:00 a.m. |
| Bible Class (Sundays) | 10:30 a.m. |
| Ladies Bible Study (June 1) | 10:00 a.m. |
| Elders Meeting (June 3) | 6:30 p.m. |
| Evangelism Committee Meeting (June 4) | 7:00 p.m. |
| Men’s Bible Study (June 11) | 7:00 p.m. |
| Lutheran Women in Mission (June 18) | 7:00 p.m. |
| Ladies Aid Meeting (June 26) | 2:00 p.m. |

FROM THE ELDER’S



Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Another school year has ended and the Elders would like to thank the many volunteers and school board members that have helped with Sunday school and Confirmation classes. We would also like to thank our LYF leaders for the job they have done all year long. The Church will again be sponsoring the annual fish boil that will be held at Kramer Hall on Sunday, July 7, from 11:00 A.M to 12:45 P.M Please plan on attending to support the many missions that the Orphan Grain Train does for everyone. Summertime has begun and many will be gone for vacations and sporting events. If you are out of town and not able to attend Sunday worship services, please consider attending a LCMS Church near you. God Bless, The Elders.

THOSE SERVING DURING THE MONTH OF JUNE

| DUTY | June 2 | June 9 | June 16 | June 23 | June 30 |
|-----------------|---|--|---|---|--|
| Organist | Jayne VanAsperen | Ellen Miller | Jayne VanAsperen | Jayne VanAsperen | Jayne VanAsperen |
| Elders | Todd Hoyer | Terry Dittmer | James Walker | Mitch Homolka | Gary Meinke |
| Greeters | Mr & Mrs Tim McDermott, Barb Meinke, Fran Sieck | Mr & Mrs Gary Meinke & Mr & Mrs Dave Musil | Mr & Mrs Marvin Nitzel, Marianne Tesar, Diane Kouba | Mr & Mrs Brian Persing & Mr & Mrs Dean Prochnow | Mr & Mrs Del Reiss & Mr & Mrs Bob Renner |
| Acolytes | Nick Hollman & Ted Muff | Madison Hestermann & Mersadies Kvasnicka | Jacob Meinke & Jordyn Adam | Katelyn Novak & Cole Novak | Colton Homolka & Hugo Pomajzl |