

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN LCMS, PASTOR JOSHUA HAYES
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 NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 29 ISSUE 3 MARCH 2015

SAVED IN HOPE

As Christians we are often confused. We come to church and hear about a loving God who has saved us at the price of his only Son; who has rescued us from sin and death; who has delivered us from Satan's domain of darkness into the light of Christ. Then we go out and find the world and our lives much the same as before. Pain, sickness, strife, sin, loneliness, dissatisfaction, funerals, war, worry, and doubt still afflict us. What gives?

Martin Luther was very fond of Romans 8:24. Most translations do not translate this one little sentence as literally as they should (the *NASB* translation does it best). It reads: "For we are saved in hope." What does this mean?

Some context helps. In this passage Paul is speaking about how God's salvation does not exempt Christians from suffering in this life. We must suffer with Christ now to be glorified with him and receive the inheritance (8:17). This is not a matter of us earning our salvation because of our suffering—Jesus' suffering alone earned our salvation. Paul means that as we live out the gift of salvation we will continue to suffer until Jesus comes again or calls us home. We must await

that day with patience (8:25), and patience literally means "to suffer."

Does this mean that God's promises are not true or that he ignores our prayers? Is all that good stuff in the Bible about being rescued from sin and death untrue? Are we not really saved? Is Jesus not the Great Healer? Is Christianity of no use? Not at all. This is where Romans 8:24 helps our understanding. For now, we are saved *in hope*. Sins still beset us. Pain still befalls us. We bury our dead in tears. But at the last, our salvation will be made visible and every disease of body will be healed, the dead in Christ will be raised to life, and the Father himself will wipe away all our tears.

Here's what Luther says about Romans 8:24: "When the Son of God reveals Himself to us in glory, our renewal will be in reality and perfect life, not in hope. Meanwhile, because we believe in Christ, we are saved and righteous in hope. We are not now saved in actuality but only in faith, as Paul says: 'You are saved in hope' [Rom. 8:24]. Thus our regeneration is only started. In the life to come we shall be perfectly regenerated when our body has died and put on immortality [1 Cor. 15:53]."

St. Paul put it this way (1 Cor. 15:19): "If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied." If we expect that our salvation is primarily for having it good in this life, then we have missed the point. We must look and hope for our health, joy, and peace to be completed at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. We should not expect this life to even compare with life after the resurrection. Only when we realize this will we be able to receive with thanksgiving whatever gifts and relief God may give us in this life when and where he pleases as he works it all together for our eternal good.

We are saved in hope, and what a hope it is!

Peace to you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Hayes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

CLOTHING FOR ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN: We can once again send used clothing to Orphan Grain Train. When leaving clothes at the back door, please mark them for either OGT or PCM (People's City Mission).

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER please consider receiving your monthly newsletter via email to conserve and save paper. Please contact Cathy Hollman at the church office 826-3883 or cathyatchurch@hotmail.com with your email address. Thank you for going GREEN!

HEALTHY HABITS: WAKE UP CALL

If you have had blood work drawn and your doctor says your blood sugar is a "little high", then this column is for you. A fasting blood sugar (drawn after not eating for 12 hours) of 100-125, taken on two separate occasions, indicates a prediabetes condition. A level less than 100 is normal and a level over 125 is full blown Type 2 Diabetes. 79 million Americans over the age of twenty are in this prediabetes range. Increased age is a factor so those over 65 are at highest risk.

This is a warning sign to tell you there is still a good chance you can turn it around. Your pancreas makes the hormone insulin, which is responsible for maintaining a healthy blood sugar. During prediabetes, insulin resistance occurs and your pancreas struggles to do its job. Here is how you can help:

1. Lose weight. Even losing 5-10% of body weight will reduce your chance of getting Type 2 Diabetes.
2. Exercise for 30 minutes a day on five days a week. Try cycling, swim-

ming, or walking. Start out with 15 minutes and work your way up. If you have not been active, see your doctor before starting an exercise program.

3. Strive for a healthier diet. Avoid high glycemic foods (foods that quickly put sugar in your blood stream) such as refined foods, white bread, pasta, white rice, cake mixes, soft drinks, and alcoholic beverages. Include lots of whole grain foods, low fat foods, and vegetables. Drink water. Reduce serving sizes. Increase fiber foods.

Aim for small changes in your lifestyle that are easy to do. Making those changes now can prevent the many complications of diabetes, such as organ damage to kidneys and heart. Start now and see how much better you can feel!

For more comprehensive information go to www.webmd.com. A good glycemic index can be found at health.harvard.edu.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS & BAPTISMS

BIRTHDAYS

1 Deb Ourada
6 Jacob Meinke
8 Deb Nyhoff, Deb Walker
10 Eric Dewey
11 Tessa Miller, Ryan Strufing
12 Beth Kvasnicka
13 Braxton Hartman, Butch Mehl
15 Taylor Reetz, Chris Williams
17 Andrew Ellingson, Marlow Meinke, Lane Wendelin
18 Dale Kouba
19 Larry Pomajzl, Jolene Reetz
20 Bradley Pomajzl, Jr.
21 Sandra Reiss

23 Cindy Hoesche, Isaac Meinke
Maggie Wohl
25 Jerry Ferguson, Cathy Hollman
27 Marla Musil, Alice Poole
29 Dennis Kattau
31 Cheryl Langfeldt, Kurt Reetz,
Whitney Tesar

BAPTISMS

2 Tory Dello
5 Logan Adam
6 Angie Louch
9 Ryan Meinke
11 Nick Hollman
12 Dave Eggert, Jerry Ferguson Jr.,

Dolyn Meinke, Allan Reetz
13 Camryn Adam, Del Reiss
14 Steve Schultz
15 Megan Musil
16 Jace Ourada
17 Kade Nelson
19 Deb Walker
21 Peggy Bojanski
24 Noreen Wild
25 Glen Louch, Jacob Meinke
26 Deb Ourada
29 Matt Ellingson, Ken Kahle
30 Joe Ellingson, Dan Underwood

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

Contact information for Pastor Hayes
Church Office: 826-3883
Cell: 418-4980
Email: Joshua.hayes@gmail.com

LENTEN SERVICE DUTIES

Wednesday, March 4:

Pianist: Ellen Miller
Elder: Brent Wohl
Greeters: Mr. & Mrs. Brian Persing
Acolytes: Aaron Meinke & Madison Persing

Wednesday, March 11:

Pianist: Ellen Miller
Elder: John Reitz
Greeters: Mr. & Mrs. Bob Renner
Acolytes: Olivia Pomajzl & Devon Reitz

Wednesday, March 18

Pianist: Ellen Miller
Elder: Brent Wohl
Greeters: Mr. & Mrs. Byron Shore
Acolytes: Sami Weber & Ashlyn Adam

Wednesday, March 25

Pianist: Ellen Miller
Elder: Jeff Meinke
Greeters: Mr. & Mrs. Ken Tesar
Acolytes: Emma & Mara Hoyer

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.

HOLY WEEK SERVICE SCHEDULE

March 29th, PALM SUNDAY: 9am, Divine Service with procession of palms

THE SACRED TRIDUM

The Sacred Triduum, or "Three Days" is one service spread over three days which follows the Last Supper, passion, death, and resurrection of Christ. It culminates in the Vigil of Easter where the Easter Proclamation is first announced.

April 2nd, Maundy Thursday Divine Service: 7:00 p.m.

April 3rd, Good Friday Chief Service: 7:00 p.m.

April 4th, The Great Easter Vigil: 7:00 p.m.

FEAST OF THE RESURRECTION April 5th

Easter Sunrise Divine Service 6:30 a.m.

Easter Breakfast sponsored by LYF: 7:30 a.m.

Easter Divine Service: 9:00 a.m.

LADIES AID MINUTES

St. John's Ladies Aid met on February 25, 2015, with Darleen Dittmer as hostess. The meeting opened by singing the hymn, "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross". Pastor Hayes led us in prayer and the Bible Study on Matthew 15:21-28, "The Faith of a Canaanite Woman".

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

OLD BUSINESS: President Olga Weidner thanked all the people

that helped at the funeral of Pete Hollman. Thank you notes were read from Pastor and Diane Hayes and family and Elmer and Darleen Dittmer.

Diane Hayes asked to borrow cups, saucers, serving trays (the tiered kind), and white or spring looking table clothes for the Tea on April 12.

Celebrating birthdays in February were Bonnie Bleich and Linda Eggert.

Barbara Meinke is the hostess for March.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer and table prayer.

Shirley Reetz, secretary

LAMBS OF CHRIST PRE-SCHOOL NEWS

By: Rhonda Beethe

Chili Feed and Raffle

The Preschool's annual Chili Feed is Sunday, March 8th. Please join us between 10:00 – 12:30 for some great chili and all the fixings. Plus come and check out all of the items in our special Raffle. The Children will be singing at the 9:00 am Service at Bethlehem and at the Chili Feed at 10:30 and 12:00 noon. Thanks for your support!

The Lions and Lambs of March

Will March come in like a lion or like a lamb? This old saying will lead us in a discussion of opposites. Plus it will give us the opportunity to track our changeable weather. We will be focusing on the letters of f, b, j and w. During Jesus Time we will learning about how Jesus healed both a deaf and blind man. We will end the month of with the story of Zacchaeus and how God forgives us for all our sins.

**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN
CHURCH -MS**
 11400 W. Panama Road
 Crete, NE 68333
 4 miles East & 2 miles South of Crete

PHONE:
 Pastor: 418-4980
 Office: 826-3883

PASTOR'S EMAIL:
 Joshua.hayes@gmail.com

CATHY'S E-MAIL:
 cathyatchurch@hotmail.com
 www.stjohnkramer.org

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER GROWTH

Schedule at a Glance

Worship Service (Sundays)	9:00 a.m.
Sunday School (Sundays)	10:30 a.m.
Bible Class (Sundays)	10:30 a.m.
Midweek Classes (Wednesdays)	6:30 p.m.
Elder's Meeting (March 2)	7:00 p.m.
LYF (March 15)	Following Worship Service
Lutheran Women in Mission (March 24)	7:00 p.m.
Ladies Aid Meeting (March 25)	1:30 p.m.

FROM THE ELDER'S

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are well into the Lenten season so please attend the services that are being held on Wednesdays at 10:30 am and 7:30 pm.

The Elders would like to thank the youth group for their hard work of painting the new cemetery sign and also for putting on a very nice Valentine's dinner. Please show your support whenever you can to our young adults since they are a blessing to our church. Please join us for the Holy Week services which begins on Sunday, March 29, with the Palm Sunday service at 9

am and continues with Maundy Thursday worship on April 2 at 7 pm, Good Friday worship on April 3 at 7 pm, Easter Vigil worship on April 4 at 7 pm, and ending with our Easter worship services at 6:30 and 9 am on April 5.

The youth group will be serving breakfast on Easter morning immediately following the sunrise service.

This is a time of year to be with family and friends so please attend the worship services to hear of the salvation our Lord has given us.

God Bless, The Elders

The family of Pete Hollman would like to say a special thanks to our family at St. John Lutheran Church. Pastor Hayes had a special service that meant a lot to each of us. Thanks to Jolene for the music and to all the families that donated food for the lunch. The Ladies Aid did a great job of putting the lunch together. We are grateful for friends like you at this time of sorrow.

Chris Hollman & family

THOSE SERVING DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH

DUTY	March 1	March 8	March 15	March 22	March 29
Organist	Jayne Vanasperen	Jolene Reetz	Jolene Reetz	Barbara Leising	Jayne Vanasperen
Elders	Roger Koch & Tim McDermott	Tim McDermott	James Walker	Jeff Meinke	John Reitz
Greeters	Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Nitzel	Mr. & Mrs. Del Reiss	Mr. & Mrs. Rollo Schultz	Fran Sieck & Barb Meinke	Mr. & Mrs. James Walker
Acolytes	Emma & Mara Hoyer	Kylie & Cassidy Meinke	Elliott Reitz & Bailey Stougaard	Morgan & Maggie Wohl	Kylie & Cassidy Meinke & Aaron Meinke