

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 35 ISSUE 3 MARCH 2021

Dear Fellow Redeemed,

Lent is a season in which we refrain from our "alleluia's", spend time in reflection of Jesus' passion (suffering and death), spend additional time in prayer, and give alms (contribute to help the poor).

Anything that we "give up" is NOT meant for us to suffer, for Christ has already suffered for us. What we "give up" should rather be more of a replacement—we give up one thing for another. We give up TV time or app time in order to spend time in prayer. We give up a favorite treat in order to give that money we would spend on ourselves and instead give it for those in need. True, Biblical fasting is actually more about attention to what we have received and what we should do. It is the sorrow of the heart over sins (repentance), and, as we have received mercy from God, we show mercy to others. Read about fasting in Isaiah 58 and Matthew 6:16-18.

For Lent, reflect on Jesus' suffering and death. Consider what Jesus "gave up". He gave up His very life for you. We very easily complain about having to give up some comfort or some luxury. But Jesus made no complaint when His life was given up for you. He loved you so much He was willing to be lifted up to the cross and die for you on account of your sins. Consider these verses on God's giving Christ to you or Christ Jesus being given up for you for your Lenten devotional consideration: John 3:16; Roman 8:32; Galatians 1:3-5; Ephesians 5:2; 1 Timothy 2:5-6.

Jesus was the replacement for you—He died for you on account of your sins. Doing some replacement by which you leave something of your liking to give time in devotion, prayer and mercy, is a good way to observe Lent. Again, it is not about making yourself suffer some loss or luxury. It is about remembering what God gave for you and what He gives to you through Christ. Christ gave Himself over to death that He might pay for your sins. Then, in His resurrection to life, He gives you eternal life. Praise God! Amen.

In Christ's love, Pastor



*For God so loved
the world that he
gave his one and
only Son....*

JOHN 3:16, NIV

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).



Lent 2021 Midweek theme: Return to the Lord

Dr. Martin Luther teaches regarding the FOURTH part of Baptism: “What does such baptizing with water indicate? It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.” Repentance is to be daily. Each day we repent and seek God’s forgiveness. Lent is especially a time of penitence and prayer and almsgiving. The theme for our midweek worship this year is: “Return to the Lord.” It is a call to repentance. The result of repentance: the joy of our salvation in Jesus. The good news is that God forgives our sins in Christ Jesus. We repent (with God’s help) and we receive the gifts of forgiveness, life, salvation, and hope in the Word and promises of God. Please join us for worship—in-person or online.

Based on the series by Rev. Kevin Scott Golden, PhD, pastor, Village Lutheran Church, Ladue, Missouri; Concordia Pulpit Resources, copyright © 2018 Concordia Publishing House.

Lenten Midweek 3: Return to the Lord, Who Will Restore You, Jeremiah 15:19–21

Lenten Midweek 4: Return to the Lord, Who Will Raise You Up, Hosea 6:1–6

Lenten Midweek 5: Return to the Lord, Who Does Not Change, Malachi 3:6–12

Lenten Midweek 6: Return to the Lord, Who Does Not Tire of Calling You, Amos 4:6–13

These remaining Midweek Lenten Worship Services will be at 7:30pm mask and signup required (will be streamed).



BIRTHDAYS

1 Deb Ourada
4 Titus Scholz
6 Jacob Meinke, Conner Slama
8 Deb Nyhoff, Deb Walker
10 Eric Dewey, Addilyn Brethouwer, Willa Hughes
11 Tessa Petereit, Ryan Strufing
13 Butch Mehl
15 Taylor Ziemann, Chris Williams
17 Andrew Ellingson, Marlow Meinke, Lane Wendelin
19 Larry Pomajzl, Jolene Reetz
20 Bradley Pomajzl, Jr.
21 Sandra Reiss, Steven Toensing

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

BAPTISMS

2 Tory Dello
5 Logan Adam
6 Angie Louch
8 Shelley Toensing
9 Ryan Meinke
11 Nick Hollman, Katelyn Novak
12 Dave Eggert, Jerry Ferguson Jr., Dolyn Meinke, Allan Reetz

13 Camryn Adam, Del Reiss
14 Steve Schultz
15 Megan Korbel
16 Jace Ourada
17 Kade Nelson
19 Deb Walker
21 Peggy Bojanski
22 Titus Scholz
24 Noreen Wild
25 Glen Louch, Jacob Meinke, Blythe Dewey
26 Deb Ourada
29 Matt Ellingson, Ken Kahle, Willa Hughes
30 Joe Ellingson, Dan Underwood

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.



That All May Know Him

BOARD OF EDUCATION NEWS

The spring Easter Egg hunt will be **March 27 at 10am** on the church grounds. We're accepting candy donations-must be individually wrapped and peanut free. Donations can be placed under the table in the narthex. **Bring your friends!**



Save the date! Mark your calendars for **July 18-22** as we're excited to start planning an in-person 2021 VBS. This year we will explore God's Wonder Lab and learn how Jesus Does The Impossible. We're looking for group leaders and dinner volunteers...if you're interested in helping please call, text, or email Kaylie Brethouwer— Kaylieb1@icloud.com .

LADIES AID MINUTES

St. John Ladies Aid met on February 24, 2021, with Diane Kahle as hostess. Pastor Toensing led us in prayer and a Bible study entitled, "Courageous Heroes of the Faith: Mary and Martha" and then we sang hymn #408 "I am Trusting You, Lord Jesus".

Deb Walker was installed as secretary.

Roll call was taken with 5 members present. The minutes of the October 2020 meeting were read and approved. There were no meetings in November 2020, December 2020 or January 2021. The treasurer's report was given.

Thank you cards were passed around from Melissa Behnk & family, Verna Schultz & family, Kate Kattau and the Vosika's. Thank you also to Janice Reetz for purchasing Christmas gifts for the shut ins.

A new piece of linen for the Altar without "Alleluia" was picked out by Linda Eggert and Pastor and ordered.

Funeral meals were discussed. At this time, the Ladies Aid will serve up the food which will consist of sandwiches they prepare, potato and macaroni salads that are purchased, small bags of chips and dessert on a plate. This may change depending on COVID-19 restrictions in the future.

The hostess list was passed around.

The Ladies Night Out will not take place as of right now.

The 100th anniversary will take place in 2023. In 2022, we need to start working on a cookbook and planning other activities such as a meal.

Roger and Donna Brunelle celebrated an anniversary in February and Shelly Toensing, Bonnie Bleich and Linda Eggert celebrated birthdays. Marvin & LaVonne Nitzel, Larry & Linda Pomajzl and Dave & Deanna Eggert celebrated anniversaries in January.

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

Deb Walker, Secretary

God bless us as we look to receive God's gifts in worship during this season of Lent and into Easter. Here are the worship times for Holy Thursday and Good Friday:

Maundy Thursday

6:00pm mask required

7:30pm mask optional

Good Friday

6:00pm mask required

7:30pm mask optional

Easter Worship



In order to give as many members as possible opportunity to attend worship for Easter, there will be four worship services.

6:00am mask required

7:15am mask optional

8:30am mask required

9:45am mask optional



The sun will rise at 7:04am in our area on Easter morning, so services are planned to try to provide sunrise services as close to sunrise as possible for both mask preferences. These worship services will be planned to keep within a 45-minute time period, allowing 30 minutes in between services for egress, cleaning, and entrance. We pray that these worship offerings will please most and provide an opportunity for you to be in worship for Easter.

MAIN STREET LIVING

To All:

I just wanted to make you aware of an outstanding presentation that will air during the Main Street Living time slot on **Palm Sunday, March 28**. It will air on the station in your area that normally airs the This is the Life program as well as the worship service. Please tell your friends and co-workers.

Dutch Te Slaa, Executive Director
Main Street Living

John leaped for joy in his mother's womb when Mary visited Elizabeth. Experience that joy for yourself on The Eternal Rock Tour – Palm Sunday March 28, 2021. The program will also be available on the Main Street Living web site: www.mailstreetliving.com as of Saturday evening, March 27.

**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN
CHURCH –LCMS**

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OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER GROWTH

Schedule at a Glance

Worship Services (Sundays 8:30 am & 10:00 am)

Sunday School (Sundays 9:30 am to 10:15 am)

Midweek/ Confirmation Classes (Wednesdays 6:30 pm)

Lenten Worship Service (Wednesdays 7:30 pm)

Evangelism Committee Meeting (March 1 at 1:30 pm)

Elders' Meeting (March 2 at 6:30 pm)

Quilting Group (March 9 at 9:30 am to 2:00 pm)

Lutheran Women in Mission (March 16 at 7:00 pm)

Ladies Aid Meeting (March 31 at 2:00 pm)

FROM THE ELDER'S

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

We are having Lenten services each Wednesday evening at 7:30, masks are required for attendance. Those services will also be live streamed.

Thank you to all those who are serving in rolls on/in the various church offices and boards. It takes the service of many to keep the church running smoothly. Thank you also to the nominating committee and the excellent work they did.

We are currently looking at the constitution and bylaws of our congregation, especially the bylaws, for possible changes. If anyone has any suggestions please get them to Tim Mcdermott, Gary Meinke, or Todd Hoyer.

With the arrival of lent we focus on the days leading up to the crucifixion and resurrection. Although society may focus more on Christmas it is really good friday and easter that are pinnacle of christian holidays, the perfect atoning sacrifice of Jesus and his victory over the grave. May we focus on them throughout the year.

In the love of the Christ, The elders

Thank you to the following Board Members for volunteering to be contact person for your Board:

Todd Hoyer—Board of Elders

Carol Brinkmeyer—Board of Evangelism

Dave Eggert—Board of Trustees

Kaylie Brethouwer—Board of Education



Orphan Grain Train Wish List

1. Prayers for God's blessings on this ministry.

2. Volunteers

- Call the warehouse to schedule your volunteer time
- We sort clothes and medical equipment year-round.

3. Cash donations to pay for shipping, because:

- The average cost to ship a box of donated goods is \$11;
- The average cost to sponsor a full shipping container overseas is \$9,000.

4. Infants' supplies

- Cloth and Disposable Diapers
- Layettees
- Stuffed toys

5. Medical Equipment and Supplies

- Bed and bath linens
- Sheets
- Disposable gowns and gloves
- Hospital beds (*hand-crank with vinyl mattresses*)
- Prosthetic limbs
- Walkers, wheel chairs, crutches and canes
- Stethoscopes, blood pressure cuffs, & otoscopes
- Call our office for additional needs and requirements.

6. Hygiene Supplies (kit instructions on website)

- Sanitary products for women
- Toothbrushes
- Diapers for adults and babies
- Towels and washcloths
- Bar soap
- Combs

7. School Supplies (kit instructions on website)

- Back-packs (*student sizes*)
- New coloring books, crayons etc.
- New ballpoint pens and pencils
- Writing paper and notebooks
- Sports equipment such as soccer balls, bats, baseballs, ball gloves and uniforms

8. Clothing (*gently used or new*)

- Infant, children's, women's and men's clothes
- Shoes clean and wearable
- **New underwear (only)**—all ages and sizes
(*Customs officials will levy fines if used underwear is sent in our shipments.*)
- Socks (*good used or new*)

**PLEASE BRING CLOTHING TO THE
WAREHOUSE IN PLASTIC BAGS.**

9. Quilts, comforters, blankets, towels, washcloths

- All sizes are needed
- We ship quilts, blankets & comforters year-round

10. Miscellaneous Items

- Bicycles
- Sports Equipment (soccer balls, basketballs, baseball equipment, shoes, goals, etc.)

Call OGT Home Office for additional assistance.

Bring or send clothing and other in-kind donations to Norfolk, Nebraska, or the regional branch nearest you. Orphan Grain Train work centers and warehouses are listed at www.ogt.org under "**OGT Locations.**"

Lincoln Collection Center

4817 N. 56th Street
Suite #10
Lincoln, NE 68504

Hours of Operations:

First & Third Tuesday – 1:00 to 3:30 PM
Third Wednesday – 9:00 to 11:30 AM
Second Thursday – 9:00 to 11:30 AM
Fourth Thursday – 9:00 to 11:30 AM and 1:00 to 3:30 PM
First, Third and Last Saturday – 9:00 to 11:30 AM

For more information:

Steve Sirek
Cell: 402-416-1972
sbsirek@gmail.com
Kathy Carter
Cell: 402-416-8953

Please send checks and money orders payable to:

**Orphan Grain Train
P.O. Box 1466
Norfolk, NE 68702-1466**

To contribute by credit card, click "Donate Now" at:

www.ogt.org

For more information about Orphan Grain Train, visit our Facebook page, **Orphan Grain Train, Inc.**