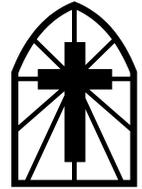


ST. JOHN LUTHERAN LCMS  
11400 WEST PANAMA ROAD, CRETE, NE 68333



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 5 MAY 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

St. John writes in his Gospel, John 20:30-31:

"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 wrote this about his gospel, but these words also apply to the entire written Scriptures—from Genesis to Revelation. We do believe that what God has given us in the Bible is HIS Word, God's Word, given to us that we might know Him and our salvation in Christ Jesus. It is good and right that we call it God's Word.



"THESE ARE WRITTEN  
SO...that by  
**BELIEVING**  
you may have  
**LIFE**  
IN HIS NAME."  
JOHN 20:31, ESV

And it comes to us in the words of men. God made us and gave us our abilities. He invented and gave us language and words. With words we think and communicate. We can hear and read God's Word in the language of man. Can we say that the Bible is "man's word"? In a way, yes. This can help us to respond to some people in our witnessing who claim that the Bible was written by men. We can say, "Yes, it was. By God's inspiration."

In the creeds we confess our faith in Jesus Christ as the God-Man. Jesus is truly God. He is the Second Person of the Trinity. He is the Son of God. And He is also Man. Born of woman. God who took on the flesh of human kind. God became man in order to be man's perfect substitute in the payment of sin on the cross. Jesus Christ is both God and Man in one person.

So, we can say the same about Holy Scripture. God inspired men to write His teachings and revelations and proclamations and historical accounts of God's relationship with people. The Bible books were written by men in the language of man. (Hebrew and little Aramaic and Greek are the original languages.) But these words, declared and inspired by God, are God's Word to us. It is, therefore, both God's Word and man's word, just as Jesus is both God and Man in one person.

Jesus Christ is Himself the Word of God in the flesh. He came among us to pay for our sin and reconcile us to the Father. The Holy Spirit helps us to believe this "Good News", the Gospel. So, as we read the Bible, God leads us to see what is written there, so that, as John wrote, "you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." Jesus is your God, King, Lord, and Savior. He came to earth in the flesh that we who are flesh would be saved by His life, suffering, death and resurrection. God grant you opportunities to share the Gospel of salvation in Jesus Christ, who gives you life everlasting in His Name. Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

In the love of 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 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).

## LAMBS OF CHRIST PRESCHOOL

### Special Visitors/ Visits

We had a special visit from (Tiny) the lamb. He was the cutest and most tame lamb ever. Thank you to the Maas's for taking the time and effort to share this with our students. We were also able to take both morning classes to the library. We had a nice story time and were able to play at the city park.

### May Activities

We have some fun things planned for May including a tour of Foodmart and a bike day. We also will be preparing for our Graduation night .Please feel free to join us on Monday May 20th at 6:00 for a hotdog meal ( if you plan to join us please let me know so we have enough hotdogs prepared ) followed by our graduation ceremony at 7:00 pm.

### Registration for 2019-20

Registration is open for the next school year. We will have a MWF class and a T/Th class. We are hoping to add a lot of new friends next year. Please feel free to call and visit with me about our program if you have any questions. I can be reached at the school 402-826-4375 or 402-826-0611.

Gods Blessings, Kathy Oelschlager

[lambsofchristcrete@gmail.com](mailto:lambsofchristcrete@gmail.com)



## & BAPTISMS

### BIRTHDAYS

1 Chris Hollman  
2 Joshua Shore  
3 Darleen Dittmer, Brady Hestermann  
4 Katelyn Novak  
5 Kristen Nyhoff  
6 Ellie Koch  
7 Lisa Nelson, Arlyn Wohl  
10 Ken Behrens, Becky Dittmer  
12 Terry Reetz  
13 Elliott Reitz, JoAnn Renner, Brent Wohl  
15 Marvin Nitzel  
16 John Reitz  
17 Doug Karl, Shirley Vosika, Anton Slama  
18 Ron Kalkwarf

20 Diane Kahle  
21 Noreen Wild, Axel Heusinkvelt  
23 Andrea Pomajzl  
25 Marlene Wagner  
26 Kirk Miller, Ethan Sublett  
27 John Haufle, Tyler Stehlik  
29 Michael Ellingson, Michael Gropp, Calen Homolka, Alex Munro  
30 Dylan Wagner  
31 Bob Renner

### BAPTISMS

2 Brad Kalkwarf, Taylor Ziemann  
4 Butch Mehl, Jennifer Meinke, Victoria Slama

6 Andrew Ellingson, Christina Rezac, Frank Slama, Sami Weber  
8 Kourtlynn Reetz, Grayden Easley  
10 Dennis Kattau  
12 Deb Nyhoff  
14 Jason Jordan, Kristi Reetz  
15 Lee Miller  
16 Jerome Kalkwarf, Dean Prochnow  
17 Barry Doiel, Dominick Hensley, Chris Kirkpatrick, Lillian Kubicek, Janice Reetz, Pastor Maynard Toensing  
18 Becky Dittmer, Chris Hollman  
22 Arlyn Wohl  
23 Ellie Koch, Brent Wohl  
25 Rollo Schultz, Karen Tiedeman  
26 Jessica Trautman  
27 Terry Reetz, Terry Stehlik  
28 Ron Kalkwarf, Josh Shore, Kaylie Brethouwer

**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!

Our 2019 VBS program is **Miraculous Mission: Jesus Saves the World**. Lift off for an intergalactic adventure and learn about God's plan of salvation from creation to the cross! VBS 2019 is fast approaching...registration forms are available in the narthex for kids and volunteers. Come join the fun July 21-25, 5 to 7:30pm!



### EVANGELISM COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Evangelism Committee will hold its next regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, May 7, 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.

## FROM THE ELDERS

Another Easter has been celebrated. Thanks to Pastor for a very good Lenten Service series. The sound effects added so much to the meaning of the service. Also, thank you to the choir, pianist, organist, and all the special groups that added to the Lenten and Easter Services.

The Sunrise Breakfast was great—good food and fellowship. Thanks to our youth group and all the volunteers that helped put it together—what helps the church is a lot of people doing and adding things to assist and add value to the church and services.

But the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior is something we should celebrate each and every day—not just once a year at Easter. With all the issues that are happening in the world...building "the wall", the abortion issues, the flooding in our state, the loss of loved ones, health and family concerns and many more not listed, it may seem like things are out of control! But our God has a plan—sometimes it is hard for us to understand all that is going on, but we need to stay strong in our faith to God and our Savior Jesus Christ. I found a list of sayings from Abraham Lincoln...they can be applied to our current life.

### **Food for Thought**

You cannot help the poor by destroying the rich.

You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong.

You cannot lift the wage earner up by pulling the wage payer down.

You cannot further the brotherhood of man by inciting class hatred.

You cannot build character and courage by taking away people's initiative and independence.

You cannot help people permanently by doing for them, what they could and should do for themselves.

Just some "food for thought"!

God's Blessings, The Elders

### Always with us

Forty days after Easter, we celebrate Jesus' ascension into heaven. This occurred 10 days before Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus' followers, as he had promised.

Jesus' ascension reminds Christians that although his body couldn't remain present everywhere, we can universally experience his spiritual presence. In fact, Jesus' final words to his disciples — and to us — contain this key promise: "I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20, ESV).



### LYF NEWS

Thank you to our St. John LYF, to Adam and LaShalle Hughes-Hardt and all the volunteers for sponsoring the Easter Egg Hunt and the Easter Breakfast. We want all of them to know their hard work is much appreciated. The final project before the summer break is Roadside Cleanup Day following worship services on Sunday, May 5.

### Just for pun!

- Every calendar's days are numbered.
- A boiled egg in the morning is hard to beat.
- If you've seen one shopping center, you've seen a mall.
- Acupuncture is a jab well done.
- A man's home is his castle, in a manor of speaking.
- Does the name Pavlov ring a bell?
- Reading while sunbathing makes you well red.
- When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I.
- A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.
- The worker who fell into an upholstery machine is fully recovered.
- Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead-to-know basis.

## LADIES AID MINUTES

St. John Ladies Aid met on April 24, 2019, with JoAnn Renner as hostess. The meeting opened with prayer and singing the hymn, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus".. Pastor Toensing led us in Bible Study on Matthew 6:25-34,

Roll call was taken with nine members present. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved, and the treasurer's report was given. A thank you card was received from the family of Gary Rezac for the memorial gift.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Our Ladies Aid will provide cookies for the Crete Blood Drive which will be held in June.

Ladies Night Out will be held at 9th Street Grill on April 30 at 6:00P.M. The menu will be Chicken Fettuccini or Lasagna, salad, roll, dessert and drinks, or you can order off the menu.

Ladies Aid will again serve strawberry shortcake after the Ascension Day service. A sign-up sheet was passed around for bringing food.

April birthdays were celebrated by Donna Hillgren and Pastor Toensing. The birthday song was sung. The hostess in May will be Dianne Kouba. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer and common table prayer.

Shirley Reetz, secretary

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**OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER GROWTH**

**Schedule at a Glance**

Worship Service (Sundays)	9:00 a.m.
Sunday School and LYF—Summer Break	
Bible Class (Sundays)	10:30 a.m.
Midweek Classes—Summer Break after May 8	
Elders Meeting (May 6)	6:30 p.m.
Evangelism Committee (May 7)	7:00 p.m.
Men’s Bible Study (May 14)	7:00 p.m.
Women’s Bible Study (May 4)	10:00 a.m.
Lutheran Women in Mission (May 21)	7:00 p.m.
Ladies Aid Meeting (May 29)	2:00 p.m.

**LADIES’ BIBLE STUDY**

Ladies’ Bible Study is starting now and open to all women of St. John (and bring a friend, if you like). There were more votes to have our study time on Saturday mornings. We will meet monthly and will have our first meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 4th, at church--downstairs in the fellowship hall. Coffee, water and study booklets will be provided. So bring your Bible and join us for a study of the **Fruit of the Spirit**.

**BIBLE CLASS...ONE HIT WONDERS**

There are a few books in the Bible that are short; five of which are only one chapter long. And there are some single chapters throughout the Bible that seem to stand out. There are also some people in the Bible that were instrumental in a single story. The Sunday Bible Class will be taking time for a quick look at some “One Hit Wonders”. Over the next couple of months, we will take a look at some single chapters or single books with one chapter or even just a few short stories. In May our study will explore Obadiah, Deborah (Judges 4), Philemon, and “The Fourth Man in the Fire” (Daniel 3). All are invited.

**THOSE SERVING DURING THE MONTH OF MAY 2019**

DUTY	May 5	May 12	May 19	May 26	Ascension Day May 30
<b>Organist/Pianist</b>	Jayne VanAsperen	Ellen Miller	Jayne VanAsperen	Jayne VanAsperen	Ellen Miller
<b>Elders</b>	Terry Dittmer	Todd Hoyer	James Walker	Roger Koch	Gary Meinke
<b>Greeters</b>	Mr & Mrs Wally Wild and Mr & Mrs Terry Reetz	Mr & Mrs Art Brinkmeyer and Mr & Mrs Wayne Eggert	Mr & Mrs Roger Brunelle and Mr & Mrs Terry Dittmer	Mr & Mrs Glen Louch, Darleen Dittmer, Diane Gropp	Mr & Mrs Roger Koch
<b>Acolytes</b>	Katelyn & Cole Novak	Mersadies Kvasnicka & Colton Homolka	Hugo Pomajzl & Calen Homolka	Jacob Meinke & Jordyn Adam	Skye Hoyer & Kian Morris

# HEART LIGHT

This Mother's Day, make a bright gift for someone special in your life.



## What you need:

- Scissors
- Cardstock
- Tape
- Mason jar
- Primer paint
- Acrylic paint (3 colors)
- Paintbrushes
- Battery-operated tea light
- Paper and pen
- Hole punch
- Twine

## What you do:

1. Cut out two cardstock hearts and tape them to the jar sides, near the bottom.
2. Paint the entire jar with primer paint. Let dry.
3. Paint splotches of acrylic paint over the primer. Let dry. Remove the heart shapes.
4. Place the tea light in the jar.
5. Write a note that says, "Mom, you're the light of my life!" Punch a hole in one corner of the note, thread twine through the hole and tie the note around the jar's neck.



## Joys of motherhood

- A hug for no reason.
- Belly laughs.
- The light-bulb moment when your child understands something you've been trying to teach them.
- Smiles and giggles.
- Mud pies.
- Arms raised in the air after a big accomplishment.
- Hearing Scripture and prayer from your child's lips.
- Quiet moments on the couch.
- Reading aloud together.
- A family meal filled with conversation and laughter.
- Watching your child be kind to another.
- Recognizing a moment you'd like to freeze in time.
- A child's look of surprise and joy.
- A quiet conversation that heals a wounded heart.
- The words "I love you" — and a sticky kiss.

Thanks, Mom!

At his graduation, a young man tasked with giving a speech began reading from some notes. "I want to talk about my mother and the wonderful influence she had on my life," he said. "She's a shining example of parenthood, and I love her more than words can ever do justice."

The graduate then paused, appeared to struggle a moment and looked up at the audience with a mischievous smile. "It's really hard to read my mom's handwriting," he said.