

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

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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.

VOLUME 29 ISSUE 11 NOVEMBER 2015

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR

Christians have probably always brought flowers to adorn God's house and, specifically, the altar. Even in the temple of the Old Testament God commanded certain holy items to be fashioned out of gold but shaped like flowers (for example, the lampstand). Even Jesus used the lilies of the field to remind us of God's love and ongoing care for us (Matt. 6:25–34).

Flowers, of course, serve a decorative purpose, even as they do in the home. How much more should we decorate the house of God where He gathers us to receive His Word and Sacrament. Flowers express joy, hopefulness, and do not distract from the altar but enhance it if they are appropriately arranged.

Beyond their decorative purpose, flowers are also a symbol to us of the resurrection—both Christ's and ours. Therefore the highest use of flowers comes at Easter when the lilies even seem to announce the wonderful news: "Christ is risen!" Throughout the year, every Sunday is a "little Easter," for we worship and re-

ceive the Lord's gifts on the day He rose from the dead because we too share in His resurrection through Holy Baptism. Thus flowers are encouraged for all Sundays, feasts, and days in the church year, but not for Lent. Even as we forgo the alleluias for a time to build anticipation for Easter, so we also make minimal use of decorations in Lent in anticipation of the restoration of all things at Easter. The use of flowers in Advent may also be restrained in anticipation for Christmas.

Ideally flowers and all things in the Lord's house should be genuine and not artificial. Though sometimes circumstances may warrant the use of convincing artificial plants, the use of "fake" things in the Lord's house can detract from the truth of what is proclaimed and the genuineness of the Christian faith. In other words, to surround the true things of the Lord (His true Word, His true body and blood) with fake things is usually out of place.

Finally, many churches have the

laudable custom of sending the altar flowers home with someone or sending them to a person who is sick, mourning, hospitalized, or homebound. In this way the congregation shares Christian concern for those for whom it has prayed in the Divine Service.

If you wish to place flowers on the altar at any appropriate time during the church year, or for an anniversary or other special occasion, please coordinate with the altar committee: LaVonne Nitzel and Diane Kahle.

Peace to you,



AN ACT OF THANKSGIVING

Bring non-perishable food items
for Blue Valley Family Center.
Please leave them in the entryway.
Thank you for sharing!

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 cathy-
atchurch@hotmail.com with
your email address. Thank you
for going GREEN!

**PLEASE HAVE ALL INFOR-
MATION OR ARTICLES
FOR THE NEWSLETTER TO
CATHY HOLLMAN BY
25TH, THANK YOU!**

HEALTHY HABITS: DISASTERS

In September's newsletter we discussed how to make your own first aid kit for emergencies. This month we will complete the information on emergency preparedness. In addition to your first aid kit you will need the following items in a natural disaster (tornado, snow storm, etc.) or a man made disaster (terror attack, war, electrical grid failure, etc.):

One gallon of water per person per day. Store at least three days worth and rotate every six months. Food that does not spoil and can be eaten cold, such as dried fruit and vegetables, canned meat, canned puddings, crackers, nuts, and cereal. Rotate every six months and check outdates regularly. Manual can opener. Radio - battery powered or a hand crank variety. Be sure to include extra batteries. Cell phone with charger. Hand crank battery chargers are also available at camping supply stores or on the Internet. Flashlight and batteries. Soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes. Towels, pillows, and blankets for each family member. Mylar blankets are available for less than a dollar at camping stores and online. They fold down to the size of a deck of cards but have amazing heat-saving properties. (Space age technology). Cash. Bible, devotion book, books, puzzles, and games to keep everyone occupied. Hearing aid batteries, eyeglasses, any other medical equipment you need. Maps of the area and the state. Copies of important papers such as birth certificates, insurance cards, medical records, social security cards, etc. Put these in a waterproof bag to protect them. Some people store in the basement freezer or refrigerator.

Place these items in your tornado safe room so they will be there when you need them. Don't try to grab them on your way to the safe room. For more information go to <emergency.cdc.gov> and remember to BE PREPARED.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS & BAPTISMS**BIRTHDAYS**

1 Haylee Shore
3 Roger Brunelle
6 Kay Jordan, Gerald Reetz
7 Mersadies Kvasnicka
8 Gwendolyn Dewey, Eric Dewey Jr.,
Dillion Samples
9 Dawn Smith, Lewis Clark, Kelsie
Musil, Vicky Ochs, Olga Weidner,
Heather Wendelin
10 Teagan Kalkwarf, Irene Reiss
12 Andrew Kahle, Kasey Murphy
15 Carol Brinkmeyer
16 Jeff Meinke

19 Brad Hestermann, Amy Munro

22 Judy Wohl

23 Caleb Markey

25 Robert Kvasnicka, Alayna Poole,
Sharon Wendelin

26 Ken Kahle

27 Fred Weidner

28 Judi Korte

29 Jayne Vanasperen

BAPTISMS

2 Abbie Reitz

3 Jerad Reetz

7 Abigail Scott

8 Maynard Hessheimer, Rodney Strufing

10 Donna Brunelle, Scott Brunelle, Jaclyn
Ourada

13 A. J. Ellingson

17 Brady Ellingson, Eric Ellingson

18 Fran Sieck

19 Chloe Davis

20 Tim McDermott, Sean Murphy

22 Cheyenne DuBray, Dillion Samples

25 Jeff Meinke

26 Kelsie Musil, Gerald Reetz

27 Slane Kvasnicka, Kourtney Tarnick

29 Kay Jordan, Gwen Kalkwarf

HOLIDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

November 29: Thanksgiving Day Service 9:00 a.m.
 December 2, 9, & 16: Advent Service 10:30 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.
 Christmas Eve: Service with Lessons & Carols 6:00 p.m.
 Christmas Eve: Communion Candlelight Service 11:00 p.m.
 Christmas Day: Service with Communion 9:00 a.m.
 New Year's Eve: Service with Communion 6:00 p.m.

Thanksgiving Service Duties
November 26th 9:00 a.m.
 Organist: Jayne VanAsperen
 Greeters: Mr. & Mrs. Roger Koch
 Elder: Tim McDermott

LAMBS OF CHRIST PRESCHOOL NEWS

As we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving the children will participate in activities that remind them of the many gifts God gives them. In response of God's gifts to us we will share some of those gifts with others by collecting food for the food pantry. Plus have fun with food and those crazy turkeys. The letters for the month will be c, k, e, and h.

We would like to thank everyone who came and made donations to our pancake fundraiser. Lambs of Christ could not exist except for the many donations from the congregations and people like you. Thanks for all you do!

We had 172 people participate in our cookie walk mostly children at the Crete Pumpkin Festival. The preschool entered the scarecrow contest and our scarecrow is out the light post in front of Food Mart. A great time was had by all. I would like to thank everyone who helped especially the Bethlehem Board of Evangelism.

Make plans to join us for our Christmas Program on Sunday, December 6 at 3:00 PM. The children will present "A Count Down till Christmas" in the Bethlehem Church Sanctuary. Please join us for cookie reception after the program in the fellowship hall. All are welcome! Rhonda Beethe, Teacher 402-826-4375 lambsofchristcrete@gmail.com

FROM THE ELDERS

From the Elders

You are doing something really, really important. We know it's not easy. We see some of you with your arms full and being tugged in multiple directions, and we can assume you came to church already tired. We perceive a wince as your child cries and you anxiously pull things out of your bag of tricks in an attempt to quiet them. You may even cringe when your little one asks an innocent question in a voice that might not be an inside voice – let alone a church whisper. We can recall for ourselves your tension as you beg your child to just sit, to be quiet as you feel everyone's eyes falling upon you. Yet, know this - not everyone is looking, but we know it feels that way. Parenting is tiring. Often..., very tiring.

From time to time you might even have questioned your efforts. Perhaps you sometimes leave church more exhausted than fulfilled. But also, know this – what you are doing is so important.

When you and your entire family are here, the church is filled with a joyful

noise. When you are here, the Body of Christ is fully present in a nurtured, special way. When you are here, we are reminded of family. The coming together in worship – as members of St. John, we find welcoming hearts ready and eager to share God's Word and Sacrament together. When you are here, we have hope that these pews won't be empty in 10 years when your kids are old enough to sit quietly and participate in worship. We know that they are learning how and why we worship now, before it's too late. Because of you, they are learning that Divine Worship, Sunday-School, Midweek and Bible Class are important.

We know how hard it is to do what you're doing, but we want you to know it matters. It matters to us. It matters to our children to not be alone in the pew. It matters to the congregation to know that families care about their faith and the love of Christ, to see young people, to see them active and involved, and on those weeks when you can't see the little moments, it really, really matters to your children.

It matters that they learn that worship is what we do as a family in faith, that the study of God's Word, along with their worship, is

significantly important. Together as a body of believers we teach them that they are seen right here and right now as valued members of our church. It matters that children learn that they are an integral part in this place of worship, that their prayers, their songs, the small seeds they pick up from week to week in Sunday School, and even their badly-timed (or perfectly-timed, depending on who you ask) cries and whines are a joyful noise – because it means they are present.

We know it's hard, but thanks be to God that He has provided you parents with strength and patience when performing the faithful duty of bringing yourself and your children to church, Sunday-school and Bible Class. Our time together each week brings a fountain of opportunity for our entire family to grow and be nurtured in Christian faith. Please know that your family – even if it comes with noise, struggle, commotion, and joy – are not simply tolerated, but are a VITAL part of the continuing spiritual growth of this congregation. May God continue to bless our church family – in each and every way!

**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN
CHURCH -MS**

11400 W. Panama Road
Crete, NE 68333
4 miles East & 2 miles South of Crete

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Office: 826-3883

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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.
Midweek Communion Service (Wednesdays)	5:45 p.m.
Elder's Meeting (November 2)	7:00 p.m.
LYF ()	Following Worship Service
Lutheran Women in Mission (November 17)	7:00 p.m.
Ladies Aid Meeting (November 18)	1:30 p.m.

LADIES AID MINUTES

The St. John Ladies Aid met on Wednesday, October 28, 2015, with Dianne Kouba filling in for President Olga Weidner. The meeting opened by singing the hymn, "Behold a Host, Arrayed in White". Pastor Hayes led us in prayer and the bible study on Galations 4:1-10.

Roll call was taken with 12 members and one guest, Jolene Reetz, present. The September minutes were read and approved and the treasurer's report was given.

OLD BUSINESS: A thank you note was read from the Gladys Schlichtemeier fami-

ly. They also donated two crockpots to the Ladies Aid for church use.

The Altar Committee reported that Ellie Koch has agreed to make use of the old altar cloth.

NEW BUSINESS: The LWML has asked the Ladies Aid to help with the purchase of a wheel chair for the church. A motion was made and seconded to help with this purchase. Motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded to move our November meeting up a week to the 18th, because of Thanksgiving. Motion carried.

On November 1st, the church will be col-

lecting non-perishable foods for the Blue Valley Family Center.

JoAnn Renner volunteered to decorate the altar for Thanksgiving.

There was one birthday in October, Dianne Kouba, and Donna and LeRoy Hillgren celebrated an anniversary on the 28. The birthday song was sung.

The hostess for next month will be Donna Hillgren. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer and the table prayer.

Shirley Reetz, secretary

THOSE SERVING DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

DUTY	November 1	November 8	November 15	November 22	November 29
Organist	Jolene Reetz	Jayne VanAsperen	Jayne VanAsperen	Jolene Reetz	Jolene Reetz
Elders	Roger Koch	Brent Wohl	James Walker	Jeff Meinke	John Reitz
Greeters	Mr. & Mrs. Glen Louch	Mr. & Mrs. Tim McDermott	Mr. & Mrs. Wally Wild	Mr. & Mrs. Gary Meinke	Mr. & Mrs. Dave Musl
Acolytes	Elliott Reitz, Madison Persing, & Olivia Pomajzl	Morgan & Maggie Wohl	Ashlyn Adam & Colton Homolka	Mara & Skye Hoyer	Mersadies Kvalsicka & Aaron Meinke