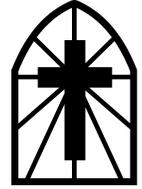


ST. JOHN LUTHERAN LCMS, REV. MAYNARD L. TOENSING, JR.
11400 WEST PANAMA ROAD, CRETE, NE 68333



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 31 ISSUE 11 NOVEMBER 2017

ROLL OUT THE SCROLL

Dear St. John Saints in Christ Jesus,

I am truly blessed and grateful for the work God is doing in our congregation through His redeemed children. As I work among you, dear brothers and sisters in Christ, I see your faith in Christ overflowing in love. Love is faith in action. I appreciate the work of our boards and committees and groups. I appreciate the participation of many in Bible studies and worship. I enjoy seeing so many people committed to the ministry of this congregation. You are giving. You work among one another serving. I see and hear the positive attitudes. And there is love and concern for one another. I am thankful to God for you and your service.

Such acts and service of love reflect the service and love of our Savior, Jesus Christ. There is no greater service and act of love than the sacrifice that God made for us on the cross. St. John tells us that God is love. And God shows us that true love is action. Love does not just say, "I love you." True love has hands and feet—that is, love is not a feeling, but acts that serve another. The Son of God taking on human flesh and living according to God's law for us was an act of love. Jesus, giving Himself up to suffering and death on the cross was the greatest act of love. And Jesus being raised on the third day was an act of love which shows His acceptance of Jesus' sacrifice for us and the desire to give us life eternally.

God continually shows love by giving us what we need as His creatures. He put all things in place in creation and sustains them in their ways. The planets run their courses and we have sunshine each day. The seasons continue by the hand of God. God provides rain and sun and all that makes the plants that grow for food for us. God gives life and wisdom to man that he might use his skill to build and to provide services that help fill the needs of others. And for all these things we are thankful.

November brings the wonderful celebration of a national day of thanksgiving. I'm certain that you have heard this before, but hear it again: thanksgiving should be every day, not just once a year. When I think of thanksgiving and of Thanksgiving, I think about rolling out the scroll. I picture a scroll hundreds of feet long with a never ending list of everything to thank God for. I could spend a whole day doing nothing but listing off things that I am thankful for. True thanksgiving, thanking God for all His blessings, is something that will never end. God is so gracious and kind and full of love—and He is willing to act on my behalf. Jesus—on the cross. The Lamb of God sacrificed for my sin is the act of love that deserves our eternal thanks.

I pray you have a month and a time of thanksgiving that recognizes the true Giver of all gifts. The sacrifice of Jesus that saves us from sin and death is the greatest act of love for which we should be eternally thankful. Roll out the scroll and thank God for all His blessings to you.

In Christ's Love, Pastor Toensing

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

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.

LYF News

The youth would like to thank St. John for helping the LYF plan and execute a successful, enjoyable "Trunk or Treat" event for the kids and their families on October 27th. The LYF will continue to meet each Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. for Bible Study and/or Activity meetings as needed. November 5th will see the LYF hold their annual election of officers, now that previous meetings brought forth nominations for consideration.

The LYF would also like to invite members to give thought to placing orders for a Thanksgiving pie. There will be a sign-up sheet located in the narthex in which to place orders. The youth are considering Apple, Pumpkin, Pecan and Cherry. The cost will be \$10 per pie. Plan to pick them up on Sunday, November 19th or after the Thanksgiving Day worship service. We encourage all our members to keep the teens, and all youngsters, in prayer always.

Men's Bible Study

The Men's group continues the video series entitled, "A Man Named Martin: Part 1 - The Man". Martin Luther's Spirit-inspired grasp of justification through faith was the cornerstone of the Reformation. His faith-tested and tried by the fires of religious oppression-remains a standard of Christ-centered endurance for believers today. Learn more about the German reformer in the first of this three-part series from the Lutheran Hour Ministries.

The men of St. John meet at 7:00 p.m. each 2nd Tuesday of the month. Our door is always open to new members, with guests equally welcomed. See you on Tuesday, November 14th!

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS & BAPTISMS

November Birthdays

1 Haylee Shore, Chauncey Ziemann
 3 Roger Brunelle
 6 Kay Jordan, Gerald Reetz
 7 Mersadies Kvasnicka
 8 Gwendolyn Dewey, Eric Dewey Jr.
 9 Dawn Smith, Lewis Clark, Kelsie Warta, 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

November Baptism Dates

1 Trevis Trautman
 2 Abbie Reitz
 3 Jerad Reetz
 7 Abigail Scott
 8 Maynard Hessheimer,
 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
 25 Jeff Meinke
 26 Kelsie Warta, Gerald Reetz
 27 Slane Kvasnicka, Kourtney Tarnick
 29 Kay Jordan, Gwen Kalkwarf

**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN
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OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER GROWTH

Worship Service (Sundays)	9:00 a.m.
Bible Class-Sunday School (Sundays)	10:30 a.m.
Midweek Classes (Wednesdays)	6:30 p.m.
Elder’s Meeting (November 6)	7:30 p.m.
Evangelism Committee Meeting (November 7)	7:00 p.m.
Quilt Days (to be announced)	9:30 - 2:00 p.m.
Men’s Bible Study (November 14)	7:00 p.m.
Lutheran Women in Mission (November 21)	7:00 p.m.
Thanksgiving Day Service (November 23)	9:00 a.m.
Ladies Aid Meeting (November 29)	2:00 p.m.

LADIES AID MINUTES

The Ladies Aid met on October 25, 2017, with LaVonne Nitzel serving as hostess. The meeting opened by singing the hymn, "Lord Jesus, Think on Me". Pastor Toensing led us in Bible Study on Psalm 139:23a "Search me, O God and know my heart". Roll call was taken with 12 members present. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. The treasurer's report was given and approved. Janice Reetz read a thank you note from the family of Elmer Dittmer. Darleen Dittmer thanked everyone for working at the funeral and for all the food that was brought in. The committee for the funeral was Janice Reetz, Linda Eggert, Dianne Kouba, JoAnn Renner, LaVonne Nitzel, Shelley Toensing, and Shirley Reetz. The Ladies Aid thanks everyone that helped set up before the funeral and cleaning up afterwards. It was greatly appreciated. Carol Brinkmeyer obtained information on Altar Covers from Concordia Publishing House. It was decided to get the linen and dacron Altar Covers. We will need two 10X27 cloths which will go under

the candles, and one 14X18 cloth with a three inch embroidered cross to go under our gold cross. JoAnn Renner and LaVonne Nitzel will check into getting a piece of thin, clear plastic to protect the linens from spills. Everyone, please remember the craft fair will be held on November 11 and 12. Everyone is invited to bring crafts, food and cookies for the occasion. NEW BUSINESS: A motion was made and seconded that the Ladies Aid should send a \$100 donation to the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod Human Care for disaster relief. Motion carried. Names drawn for the nominating committee were Darleen Dittmer, Diane Kahle and Shirley Reetz. An October birthday was celebrated by Dianne Kouba and Leroy and Donna Hillgren celebrated an anniversary. The birthday song was sung. Janice Reetz will be the hostess for November. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer and common table prayer. Shirley Reetz, Secretary

LWML PROJECT: The LWML is collecting 2018 calendars for the prisoners in Lincoln. The calendars CANNOT have metal spiral binders. A box is available in the narthex for your donations. We appreciate your help. Watch the newsletter for more LWML projects in the future. Thank you to all of you help us with these special projects.

THOSE SERVING DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

DUTY	Nocember 5	November 12	November 19	November 23	November 26
Organist	Jolene Reetz	Jayne VanAsperen	Jolene Reetz	Jayne VanAsperen	Jayne VanAsperen
Elders	John Reitz	James Walker	Terry Dittmer	Terry Reetz	Brent Wohl
Greeters	Mr & Mrs Gary Meinke	Mr & Mrs Dave Musil	Mr & Mrs Marvin Nitzel	Chris Hollman	Mr & Mrs Brian Persing
Acolytes	Colton Homolka, Mersadies Kvasnicka & Aaron Meinke	Hugo Pomajzl & Madison Persing	Mara & Skye Hoyer		Aaron & Jacob Meinke

Evangelism Committee Meeting & Study

The November Evangelism Committee meeting is scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 7th. Members of St. John are invited to attend as we continue working through the book, "5 Things You Can Do to Witness Christ", with reading and open discussion. This book encourages believers to realize what we have in Christ and to see that our witnessing is part of our daily walk in life. Witnessing is found when living out the gracious gifts God gives in our connections with others and in helping us build new relationships where we can share the love of Christ. There are several of these books still available when you join us. Books are currently \$8.00.

Building Committee Update

The newly formed Building Committee would like to thank all our members who've taken the time to consider and provide vital information within an earlier provided survey in helping form a unified plan when considering expressed current and future needs associated with the church facility. The committee will continue to accept the return of additional survey's and wish to schedule a November meeting in order to discuss and build upon the priorities that members have shared leading up to this meeting. Please watch your church bulletin or visit the Building Committee page on the church website, stjohnkramer.org for ongoing updates.

Bake sale, Craft Fair and Soup Dinner

Our church is having a bake sale, craft fair, and soup dinner on Nov. 11 from 10:00 to 1:00 and Sunday Nov. 12 after church. We will also have our cookie bar! Please be thinking and working on something you can donate for this money raising event. This year the proceeds will go to the Concordia Scholarship fund. If you have any questions call Donna Hillgren at 402-826-0939 or Jolene Reetz at 402-826-3287.

Gluten-Free Wafers; Wine with Less Alcohol

We wish to care for one another in the Church. We are thankful for better medical and health knowledge. We understand that there are some people who benefit from a gluten-free diet and some who are sensitive to alcohol. There are gluten-free wafers that are made for use in the Lord's Supper and there is wine available that goes through a process that removes most of the alcohol. Pastor and the Elders would like to offer these if there is a need among any of us in the congregation. If you would like gluten-free wafers or wine with far less alcohol content, would you please let Pastor or an Elder know so that we

FROM THE ELDERS

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

With the month of November starting with the observance of All Saints Day, we take time to reflect on the people that have passed away this year but knowing that we have been blessed to have had them in our lives. "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." Psalm 116:15. Sunday school classes still need volunteers for activities so please consider signing the sheet located in the Narthex as to how you can help. The Thanksgiving day service will be held at 9:00 a.m. If you have not already, this is a good opportunity to invite friends and family to our service to share in the word of our Lord. Have a happy Thanksgiving and God Bless.

The Elders

LAMBS OF CHRIST

The Preschool will be answering the question what makes a Community? During the month of November we will be learning about the people and places that make up our community. A special guest this month will be Deputy Hudiburgh from the Saline County Sheriff's Department and his K-9 partner. We also want to be helpers in our community by bringing food for the food pantry. Our Jesus Time Bible Lessons are about God protecting the children of Israel as they travel through the desert. We learn that God gives us many people to care for us. The letters we are working on this month are C, K, and W as well as numbers 4, 5, 6.

We would like to thank everyone who came and supported us at the pancake feed. We truly thank you for your generous gifts. Currently we also have fundraisers with Pampered Chef, Scentsy and Thirtyone. If you wish to purchase items from our fundraisers please look for a display with order forms at Bethlehem and St. John's.

The preschool children will be presenting a Christmas Program on Sunday, December 10th at 3:00 PM all are invited to come for this special event.

Our Scarecrow won 2nd place in the People's Choice Award at the Pumpkin Festival. Thanks to everyone who voted for us.

ST JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

QUARTERLY VOTER'S MEETING OCTOBER 23, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. by President Troy Henning. Pastor Toensing led us in a short reading and prayer. The minutes were read and approved.

Treasurer's Report The Treasurer's report was read and approved.

Treasurer's Report Balance Forward 7/1/2017 \$75,368.54

Plus Regular Receipts 46,995.53

Plus Mission Receipts 1,375.00

Balance Plus Receipts 123,739.07

Less Regular Disbursements 35,714.79

Less Mission Disbursements 7,121.18

Ending Balance 9/30/2017 \$80,093.10

Lynn Meinke made some additional comments on Treasurer's Report:

- Memorial money from Lillian Hackstock went for Last Supper painting
- The Receipt of \$235 for Lambs of Christ Mission Project will be followed by a disbursement in January where we'll match funds.

Elders' Report

Head Elder Brent Wohl reports the following statistics for the quarter:

Baptisms: 3 – August 20 Elyana Alice Lee

August 27 Anton Va'Clav Slama

August 27 Kira Wohl (Baptism was at Bethlehem Lutheran - Crete)

Weddings: 1 – September 9 Kelsie Musil and Timothy Warta

No Confirmations, Funerals, new members, and no transfers out or in

Brent reports that there will be a joint Reformation Service this Sunday, October 29 with Bethlehem Lutheran, Crete. He asked for anyone who could help set up to meet on Wednesday, October 25 at Bethlehem. He asked for assistance afterward to haul tables and chairs back to St. John.

Brent also mentioned we have been blessed with Pastor Toensing. The Common Cup is now in place with 30-40 people using the common cup each service.

Pastor Report

Pastor Toensing reports several items:

- Joint Reformation service will be held Sunday, October 29, 2017, at Bethlehem Lutheran in Crete at 10:00 a.m. There have been months of planning and he extended thanks to Pastor and Carol Brinkmeyer for representing the congregation and assisting in the planning. They will also be participating and some of our ladies are helping with meal preparations. Some of our men are helping with set up. Rev. Roger Henning will be the guest preacher. Rev. Henning has been to Germany, and the service will include pictures he took. If offerings are in St. John envelopes, they will come back to St. John. Loose plate offering will be sent to Mission Central (Gary Theis)
- In September we began regular use of the chalice at communion services.
- A new flagon has been purchased and will be dedicated on November 5.
- Pastor attended the Nebraska District All Church Workers Conference in Lincoln on October 19 and 20. Keynote addresses, sectionals, and topics included Leadership skills, Domestic Violence resourcing, and related issues. Pastor felt it was well worth attending.
- Pastor has begun to learn more about the circuit and district. He attended the first of the Circuit pastors' meetings in September. Rev. Rich Snow, Nebraska District President, was present and led a discussion on worship practices in our congregations.
- The LWML Lincoln Zone Rally was held at Lutheran Family Service/Health 360. Pastor will visit more with Joel Stoltenow, the LFS Development officer about their ministry and resourcing.
- The Nebraska District is engaging in a capital campaign for the renovating of the district office and University Chapel in Lincoln. The services of a development consulting firm, Steier Group, has been secured. A representative will be visiting Pastor this week and Pastor has also shared names of a few congregational members for the consulting firm to contact as well. The District is looking for broad input from the congregations.
- In August we had about 65 visitors in our church parking lot for the total solar eclipse. Pastor opened the front door for restroom use. We had visitors from Omaha, Iowa, Minnesota, New York, Wisconsin, and Oklahoma. A good number were fellow LCMS church go-ers—including one retired pastor. Also noted that some gave donations totaling \$165. Pastor sent it to LCMS Human Care for hurricane and fire victims.
- Pastor has started doing chapels for the preschool at Bethlehem.
- We received a letter from Gary Theis and Brent Smith from Mission Central. Joe and Jenny Asher, our missionaries, will be speaking at Mission Central and invites us to come and meet them. This will be held February 17, 2018, at 1:00 p.m. at Mapleton, Iowa.
- Official acts included two Baptisms in August, one wedding in September, and one funeral in October.
- Reports that Erin, who has been receiving instruction, has finished her studies and will be confirmed sometime in November.

Board of Education

1. Sunday School. Many changes have been made to the way Sunday School is managed. We meet as a large group in the conference room for snack, then move to the sanctuary for music, and meet back in the conference room for Bible Story. The children are then split into two groups for additional rotations; mainly consisting of craft and snack. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex to try to encourage members of the congregation to volunteer, although not many have offered their time so far. Thanks to those people who have volunteered their time to help support the Sunday School program and the Board of Education. It is greatly appreciated. The Sunday School rooms have been reorganized and revitalized. Thanks to the Board and a few volunteers. Christmas program practice will be starting on November 5. Still will do two rotations approximately 30 minutes total. Practice will be scheduled for 30 minutes. They are looking for Christmas craft rotation volunteers. The Christmas Program is scheduled for December 10 at 6:00 p.m.
2. Midweek. Pastor teaches the older group, Tim McDermott teaches the 5th and 6th grade group, and Ellen Miller does the music. Each Wednesday a parent volunteer helps Tim supervise his group.
3. LYF. Tim teaches the LYF lessons to the group every other week. Adam and Lashalle Hughes-Hardt are the new sponsors for LYF activities and they meet on the other weeks. The Board of Education thanks them for taking on this task and offers their assistance with upcoming events. All Hallow's Eve party is on Friday, October 27 beginning at 6:30 p.m. followed by Truck or Treat. All are invited to come to the parking lot and decorate your trunk and hand out treats to the kids. The LYF lock-in will follow the festivities.

Trustees Report

Les Korte reports on several.

- The Heating and Air Conditioner have been installed in the parsonage and they came in under the budgeted \$6,000
- The Parking lot was leveled
- Mowing and miscellaneous cleanup, and changing bulbs
- Worked on Safety lights and exits.
- The organ stopped working correctly after this last Sunday so had someone come and work on it
- A new garage door opener was installed at the parsonage

· Noted they are looking at the Front door of the church to make repairs.

Cemetery Report

No report.

Memorial Committee

Dolyn Meinke noted the Last Supper painting was purchased with Lillian Hackstock's memorial and new altar coverings were purchased with Dale Kouba's memorial.

Evangelism Committee

Tim McDermott reports they are meeting monthly and going through the book "5 Things to Witness Christ." There are three more lessons and are inviting all to attend. The next meeting is November 7. Doane College had a welcome day in August where handouts were distributed. Brian and Erin, who are also Doane students, assisted with this. The Committee is currently working on the Time and Talent surveys. They hope to get every board informed of interest expressed so they can reach out to these people.

Unfinished Business

Tim McDermott reports that surveys on the Fellowship Hall are still coming in. He noted that so far there have been no negative responses from the first 14 that have returned the survey. They've had four meetings so far and will make a spreadsheet to collect all the reportable information. The surveys were sent out to 312 people age 12 and above. Tim also shared that Nate Meyer from Lutheran Extension Fund can do a demographic survey to see potential growth in our area.

New Business

We are looking for a lay delegate for the Circuit Forum which will be held before convention June 15-16. The date for the Forum wasn't specified but thought to be in December. A motion was made, seconded and carried to select Lonnie Jacobson as Circuit Visitor. He assisted considerably with St. John during our call process.

Pastor Brinkmeyer announced that choir practice will begin on November 5 and encouraged our participation. He commented that this practice is held in the basement by the piano and because of the current setup with the long tables, it does not allow space to set up chairs for the choir members. He moved that we purchase two new round tables so there would be room for the choir. This motion was amended to three round tables. Seconded and carried. Trustees will purchase the tables.

The meeting was adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

There were 43 members present and one guest.

Marianne Tesar, Secretary

Healthy Habits

Are you getting enough ZZZ's?

Are you or persons in your family getting enough sleep? Isn't it normal to be "sluggish" all the time? So, what if I don't get enough sleep, it's just how life is. Isn't that why God created coffee? No, No, No!!! Sleep is very important to all of us of all ages and if not enough is gotten, it can have lasting health effects. So, how do you know how much you should get? According to the Centers for Disease Control, the following is suggested per The American Academy of Sleep Medicine and the Sleep Research Society recommendations:

Infant (4-12 months) 12-16 hours per 24 hours (including naps)

Toddler (1-2 years) 11-14 hours per 24 hours (including naps)

Pre-school (3-5 years) 10-13 hours per 24 hours (including naps)

School Age (6-12 years) 9-12 hours per 24 hours

Teen (13-18 years) 8-10 hours per 24 hours

Adult (18-60 years) 7 or more hours per night

What types of effects can happen to our health as a result of lack of sleep? According to the CDC, "you may be at an increased risk for obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure, coronary heart disease and stroke, poor mental health, and even early death". What might seem like an ongoing joke with friends or fellow coworkers about our lack of ZZZ's, truly isn't a laughing matter. It's serious stuff. And who doesn't feel better after a full night of sleep? I sure do! And the older I get, the more I value it too! So, do what you got to do to get that sleep in! Put away the electronics early in the night, make your home a cool comfortable temperature, slow down on the caffeine business, and exercise routinely! If the above suggestions don't help, be sure to contact your doctor for further recommendations. Happy sleeping ya'all!

Reference: Are you getting enough sleep? (2017, April 24). Retrieved August 24, 2017, from <https://www.cdc.gov/features/sleep/index.html>

Trivia Question: Name a bad habit that we as adults or adolescents do that increases our risk for an eye infection when we wear contacts. Put your answer along with your name in the box in the Narthex for a chance to win a prize! Stay tuned for the answer!