

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 34 ISSUE 10 OCTOBER 2020

The Devil is Defeated in Christ Jesus

The devil is real. He is an adversary of God. He is a deceiver. The devil is even okay if you don't believe in him. Many Americans and about a quarter of those who claim to be Christian don't believe in the existence of the devil. According to God's Word, the devil is a real entity. He is not a force or a symbol of evil. He is a real personal entity. He seeks destruction and chaos. He seeks to destroy all that is good and he looks to twist and skew and frighten and influence everyone away from God by any means possible.

In the Second Article of the Creed in the Luther's Small Catechism, Luther writes: "... our Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil."



There is only one God: God. God the Trinity: three persons in one God. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This is what we confess we believe in the three creeds (Apostles', Nicene, Athanasian).

The devil is NOT an opposing god or an evil force. God created angels to be His servants to His created people. But the devil, who was an arch-angel, rebelled against God. Other angels also fell and followed the devil, also known as Lucifer, Satan, and other names. And now this created being who fell away from God and rebelled against God is seeking to lead the world into chaos, sin, and unbelief.

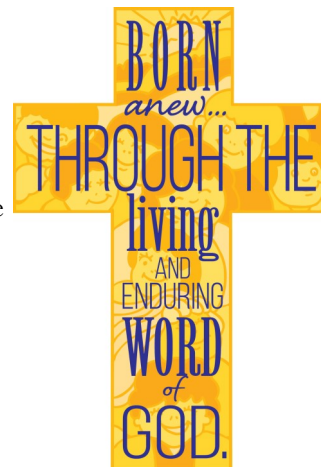
When we believe in the existence of the devil, we are believing what the Word of God says about him. And we know that we need to resist him. It is because of the devil that Adam and Eve sinned and therefore a Savior was needed. The eternal Son of God took on human flesh in order to fulfill all righteousness for us, suffer for our sins by suffering the punishment of hell we deserve, and overcoming the power of the devil. We believe in the resurrection of Christ, that He lives, and that He is returning some day to end this fallen world and take all who believe in Christ as Savior to heavenly bliss forever.

We believe all that the Word of God teaches. It teaches and proclaims our salvation in Christ Jesus from sin, death, and the power of the devil. So, yes, there is a devil. Hell is real. But Christ Jesus has saved us from the devil and from hell. How sweet this good news becomes when we realize what we have been saved from. How wonderful it looks to be headed for heaven because of Christ instead of bound for hell because of our sin. We pray for God to strengthen our faith and keep us in Jesus and resist the devil's attempts to draw us away from Christ.

I pray continually that you find comfort in the assurance of Jesus' life, death and resurrection victory for you over your sin, the grave, the devil. I pray that you find your eternal comfort and life in Christ gave His all to save you and me. God keep you always in Christ Jesus. Amen.

In Christ, Pastor Toensing

(For Bible verses for this article see: Colossians 1:13-14; 1 John 3:8; 1 John 5:19; Genesis 3; Matthew 4:1-11; 1 Peter 2:24; 1 Peter 5:8-9; Jude 6; Ephesians 6:12; Hebrews 2:14; 1 Corinthians 15:57 and all of 1 Corinthians 15; see also Luther's Small Catechism, 2nd Article of the Apostles' Creed.)



1 PETER 1:23, NRSV

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 gently 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). People's City Mission will take anything including toys and shoes.

LYF NEWS:

THANK YOU to the LYF Group for Roadside Cleanup on Sunday September 27. Also a HUGE thanks goes out to Adam and Lashalle Hughes-hardt and several other adult volunteers! And, from the way I heard it, thanks to Pastor Toensing and Shelley as they watched Natalie and got the lunch ready for the hungry workers! A great team effort for this project.



A lesson in appreciation

During a church anniversary celebration, a pastor overheard a group discussing various congregational leaders over the years. His ears perked up when an older member said, "Whenever someone asks which of our pastors I liked best, my answer is always, 'The one we have at any given time is my favorite.'"

What a relief for the pastor to hear — and what a great lesson for Pastor Appreciation Month. **God sends each shepherd to us with a specific set of spiritual gifts and then works through those gifts to bless us.**



October
BIRTHDAYS

& BAPTISMS

BIRTHDAYS

1 Ken Kastanek
2 Bruce Miller, Gary Renner
4 Barry Doiel, Mindie Hughes, Nathan Patak
6 Jarod Mundt
8 Jess Eggert, Cheryl Skillett
9 Amber Johnson
10 Hannah Ochs, Dale Wohl
12 Bryce Kalkwarf
15 Dianne Kouba
16 Joe Kalkwarf, Jaclyn Ourada, Elyana Lee
18 Kasen Wagner
19 Scott Brunelle, Jerad Reetz, Abigail Scott, James Walker

21 Sean Murphy
22 Michelle Kvasnicka
23 Donna Brunelle, Chloe Davis, Levi Mehl, Bruce Tiedeman, Trevis Trautman
24 Gwen Kalkwarf
25 Raelyn Morava, Alexandra Tremblay
26 Jerry Ferguson Jr., Slane Kvasnicka
27 Ellen Miller
28 Jeff Tremblay
29 Fran Sieck
30 Kourtney Tarnick

BAPTISMS

2 Chris Reetz, Shane Renner

3 Brady Hestermann
4 Linda Lee, Dewayne & Henry Slama
7 Marilyn Weidner
8 Joshua Wohl, Petra Dewey
9 Genie Dittmer, Brianna Williams
12 Garrett Mehl
14 Kirk Miller, Ted Muff
16 Jim Ellingson
17 Randy Adams
18 Austin Weber
19 Jarod Mundt
20 Travis Eggert
21 Lynn Meinke, Gary Renner
24 Mindie Hughes
25 Cinder Johnson, Kirk Johnson
29 Colton Homolka
30 Wayne Eggert
31 Dianne Kouba

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**

LIFE CHAIN 2020

In Lincoln, Life Chain 2020 is on "O" Street, Sunday, October 4 from 2:30 to 3:30 pm. I have a letter from Lincoln Right to Life that indicates the **location for St John Lutheran Church will be on O STREET, NORTH SIDE 20TH TO 21ST.**

Contact Dean Cook, Lincoln Right to Life Board Member with any questions at dean.lrtl@gmail.com

Message from District—Due to COVID-19, the Life Chain 2020 event has two official dates: Sunday, October 4 and Sunday, November 1. To find a Life Chain near you, visit <https://lifechain.org/events-groups/> and fill in your state and city. You might also contact the pro-life group in your area or try a search for "life chain your city & state." **In Seward, the Life Chain will be Sunday, October 4, from 2:00 – 3:00.** Meet at the west side of the Courthouse Square.

St John Harvest Donations

Farmers, you can make donations of grain to the church at either AGP or Farmer's Cooperative. When making such donations, verify the correct St John Lutheran church is receiving the donation. Farmer's Cooperative account number for our church is 111690. At AGP, make sure the church address is 11400 West Panama Rd Crete NE. There are several St John churches at AGP. Please notify the Treasurer, Finance Secretary or President of grain transferred to the Church account so timely sales can be made.

LADIES AID NOTES

St. John's Ladies Aid met on September 30, 2020, with Diane Kahle as the hostess.

We opened the meeting with Hymn #722, "Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me". Carol Brinkmeyer lead us in a devotion entitled "Peace" from 1 Samuel 1:2-30.

Roll call was taken with seven members present. The minutes of the last meeting on February 26, 2020, were read and approved. The treasurer's report was given.

Thank you cards were read from the families of Irene Reiss and Marge Meinke.

President, Diane Kahle, told us about a notebook we received from the Robert Renner family which contains notes from the times JoAnn Renner served as Ladies Aid President. We will keep this notebook for it's wealth of information.

We discussed the holiday decorations created by Irene Reiss and used in the church basement. A motion was made and approved to purchase totes to store these decorations. Janice Reetz will purchase 5 totes for now and purchase more if needed.

Hostess for October will be LaVonne Nitzel.

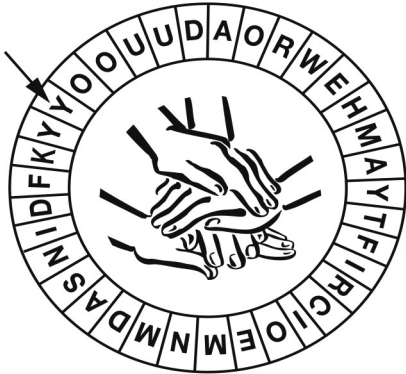
Linda Pomajzl celebrated a birthday in September. Anniversaries celebrated in September were Ray and Bonnie Bleich, Fred and Olga Weidner and Wally and Noreen Wild.

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

Dianne Kouba, acting secretary

Puzzle!

Beginning at the arrow and moving clockwise, write every other letter on the spaces below to discover what Jesus says about his friends.



“ Y _____

_____”

JOHN 15:14, NIV

Answer: "You are my friends if you do what I command." John 15:14, NIV

LWML NEWS

SPECIAL LWML NEWS

LWML Sunday – October 11 and Undie Sunday

St. John LWML is revising the Undie Sunday program. Orphan Grain Train will send to needy people, men’s, women’s, boy’s, and girl’s **all sizes underwear and socks**.

We ask for your help with this project. A box is in the narthex for your donations is available.

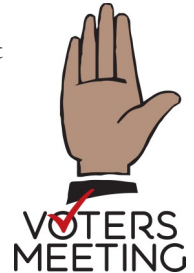
The LWML thanks you for your help.

St. John members:

There will be a Council meeting on Monday, October 19th, at 7 p.m. There will be a **quarterly Voter’s meeting on Monday, October 26th at 7 p.m.**

You are asked to please wear a mask at both of the meetings.

Gary Meinke, President



LAMBS OF CHRIST PRESCHOOL

Adjusting to our new routine...We have had a great month of September at preschool the children are settled into the schedule and are learning so much! We always have a best moment of the day that brings a smile to all of our faces. It may be a funny statement from a child or the way they can retell our bible lesson of the week. .

October events...I will be holding parent /teacher conferences on Tuesday and Wednesday October 6th and 7th. The firefighters will be visiting us this month. The way we do it this year will have to be different because of covid, but we are thankful they can still teach the children important information. We will end the month with a Halloween party which the children really look forward to.

Pancake Feed...Sunday October 18th will be the annual pancake feed from 10-12 in the fellowship hall. The children will be singing in church that morning also, I hope that you can join us for worship, great food and fellowship.

Prayer Partners...We still need prayer partners for some of our children please consider signing up. It is super easy we just ask that you keep that child and family in your daily prayers.

Thank You...Thanks as always for the continued support of the Preschool which allows us to touch lives in such positive ways.

God’s Blessings, Kathy Oelschlager lambsofchrist@gmail.com (402)826-4375)

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OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER GROWTH

Schedule at a Glance

Worship Service (Sundays 8:30 am, 10:00 am, 6:00 pm)
Sunday School (Sundays 9:30 am to 10:15 am)
Bible Study (dates to be advised in October)
Midweek/Confirmation Classes (Wednesdays 6:30 pm)
Elders' Meeting (October 12 at 6:30 pm)
Quilting Group (will meet Oct 6 and Oct 20 9:30 am to 2:00 pm)
Evangelism Committee Meeting (October 13 at 6:00 pm)
Lutheran Women in Mission (October 20 at 7:00 pm)
Ladies Aid Meeting (October 28 at 2:00 pm)
Church Council Meeting (October 19 at 7:00 pm)
Quarterly Voters' Meeting (October 26 at 7:00 pm)

FROM THE ELDERS

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

What a different year this has been! The Covid issue has caused and brought a lot of changes. Church services are not as normal as last year. Cell groups, Vacation Bible School and many other functions have been changed and altered to comply with the new health recommendations given to us.

It's harder for the Pastor and the Elders to keep in touch with all our members---**so don't be afraid to call any of us with your concerns and ideas to make things better.**

On another topic---please VOTE NOVEMBER 3rd! Yes, you are only one vote. But it's our Christian and American privilege as citizens to vote. Please study the candidates and the platform they are representing.

We should support those who stand for pro-life. We should watch out for the promotion of groups and Pro-Socialism ideas and platforms. Some groups are seeking to disrupt law and order and Socialism will work in opposition to our Christian faith and beliefs—closing churches and setting up government as “god”.

Please spend some time to study and research the political candidates and their platforms---maybe watch more than one news station to see the way the media can promote or tear down our presidential candidates.

IT'S YOUR COUNTRY---IT'S YOUR VOTE!

We need to keep in mind that God is in control---we just need to do the right things that God has given us the ability to do.

God Bless, The Elders

