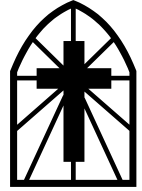


ST. JOHN LUTHERAN LCMS
11400 WEST PANAMA ROAD, CRETE, NE 68333



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 CHURCH NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 32 ISSUE 4 APRIL, 2018

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; LCMS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter Article – April 2018 (adapted)

Our Father in heaven sent His Son, Jesus, to be our savior. His atoning sacrifice is the first fruits of all the dead, a pleasing aroma to His Father – and ours – so that His perfect life and death count for all who believe in Him. He claimed us as His own children in Holy Baptism. He sustains and strengthens our faith with His Holy Word and His Body and Blood. As new creatures, who have put on Christ, we bear good fruit. We do the good works prepared for us, which He makes known to us in His Word.

By faith then, trusting in the Word of God, we do what He says because He does not lie and always keeps His promises. For “without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him” (Heb. 11:6).

And so the Lord promises: “Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine” (Prov. 3:9-10).

How do we honor the Lord with the wealth that God has given us in His generosity? By giving it generously to those whom the Lord has called us to love and support: your family, your society, and your church. And His promise is that in so doing, you will never lack. Our Lord Jesus Him-self gives us similar promises in the New Testament. He says, at the conclusion of the parable of the talents, “For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance” (Matt. 25:29).

In His sermon on the mount, Jesus says: “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matt. 6:19–21). God does re-ward temporal faithfulness in temporal matters with temporal blessings. It's no quid pro quo. It's all from God's grace, His fatherly divine goodness and mercy.

Our Father in heaven loves to bless those who bless others. He loves to give to those who give freely and generously. In fact, he challenges us to challenge Him: “Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need” (Mal. 3:10).

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 at the back door, please mark them for either OGT or PCM (People's City Mission).

HEALTHY HABITS:

WE HEAR ALOT about memory loss as we age. We all have our moments of misplacing our keys or wandering around a parking lot looking for our car. But when it becomes more significant we worry about dementia for our loved one or yourself. Here are some ways you can keep your memory working well longer.

Keep physically active. Go for a walk, ride a bicycle, play golf or go for a swim. Physical activity keeps the blood flowing to your brain which brings a fresh supply of oxygen to the brain cells. Stop smoking. Smoking brings carbon dioxide to your brain.

Eat a healthy diet. Feed your brain cells with Omega 3 fatty acids found in fish and nuts. Eat at least five fruits and vegetables each day, lean protein and whole grains and avoid too much alcohol. Excessive alcohol causes confusion and may lead to the actual loss of brain cells. Avoid processed foods. If it comes in a box, it's probably not good for you.

Exercise mentally too. Work crossword puzzles, learn to play an instru-

ment, take a class, play cards, read a book, learn another language. These activities exercise your brain and keep it sharp.

Socialize often. Join a group at St. John or in the community. Go to Ladies Aid, LWML, quilting, men's Bible Study, or join a cell group. Keep in touch with family and friends. People living in isolation are more apt to experience memory loss.

Keep healthy. See your doctor if you are having any health problems. Follow the guidelines given you for managing diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure or cancer. Any of these conditions can affect your memory.

Get plenty of sleep. Most older adults need 7-8 hours each night. If you have sleep disturbances talk to your doctor.

These guidelines will help keep you healthy and that gives your memory the best chance to stay alert. For more information go to

<www.mayoclinic.org>

APRIL BIRTHDAYS & BAPTISMS

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Kian Morris
- 2 Lilian Underwood
- 3 Jennifer Meinke
- 7 Cari Henning
- 8 Victoria Slama
- 9 Rollo Schultz
- 11 Charlie Slama
- 12 Amy Hollman, Lillan Kubicek, Debra Wendelin
- 13 Jessica Trautman
- 14 LaShalle Hughes, Kaylie Brethouwer
- 16 Donna Hillgren, Christopher Ladman, Brandee Samples, Sami Weber
- 17 Lee Miller
- 19 Karen Tiedeman
- 20 James Haufler, Christina Rezac

- 21 Kristi Reetz
- 22 Dean Prochnow
- 23 Dominick Hensley
- 26 Shawna Heusinkvelt
- 27 Dan Underwood, Grayden Easley
- 28 Kourtlynn Reetz
- 30 Pastor Maynard Toensing

BAPTISMS

- 1 Linda Eggert, Verna Schultz
- 2 Jolene Reetz
- 3 Addilyn Brethouwer
- 4 Bradley Jr., Hugo, & Olivia Pomajzl, Susan Vosika
- 6 Haylee Shore
- 7 Cindy Hoesche, Steven Toensing
- 8 Gary Rezac
- 9 Isaac Meinke

- 10 Braxton Hartman
- 12 Loren Beck, Marla Musil, Kurt Reetz
- 13 Bruce Miller, Whitney Tesar
- 15 Ken Tesar, Amy Hollman, Travis Shore
- 16 Cheryl Langfeldt
- 17 Maggie Wohl
- 20 Jerry Ferguson
- 21 Marlow Meinke
- 22 Jordyn Adam
- 23 Milo Kvasnicka
- 24 Donna Hillgren, Drew Trautman
- 26 Kian Morris
- 29 Alice Poole
- 30 Brandee Samples

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.

LAMBS OF CHRIST PRESCHOOL

Looking for Spring... The past few weeks we have watched our caterpillars grow and change into chrysalis and now we are waiting for butterflies to appear. This is a reminder of how Jesus arose from the grave and now lives. During the month of April we will be reminded that Jesus is always with us. We will look at his creation and learn more about plants, the weather, and about our earth.

Grandparents Day... The children celebrated Grandparents Day with their Grandparents on March 19th and 20th. We had over 30 grandparents join us for a day of preschool. We started our day with Chapel with Pastor Benson followed by snack time. We then came to preschool to make bunny magnets for our grandparents. We ended the day with story time and special performances. A great time was had for all.

Preschool Open House... Lambs of Christ will be holding an Open House for prospective students on Monday, April 16th. This open house will be held from 5:30 – 7:00 PM at the Preschool. Miss Rhonda and Miss Kathy will be here to share information about Lambs of Christ.

MENS BIBLE STUDY

God was at work in the Reformation. Fierce debates over Scripture, church doctrine, and late medieval church practice led to theological positions articulating salvation as God's grace in action, with man being left to add nothing to his own salvation. In *A Man Named Martin - Part 3: "The Movement"*, our Men's Bible Study group here at St. John will see how the Reformation transformed European society and, eventually, left a profound impression around the globe. The Bible Study, fellowship and great discussion are also free! Come join us on Tuesday, April 10, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at St. John. We welcome all!

BUILDING COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Building Committee will continue to meet at irregular times throughout the next few months. Meeting times will vary in relation to the progress and process needed to discuss and continue developing forward movement to obtain useful information for our congregation. We hope soon to invite the congregation to a presentation meeting that will allow the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) to display demographic information helpful in our moving forward with a building project involving a ground-level Fellowship Hall, new enlarged kitchen, expanded lower-level space for education, storage and other related meeting/project rooms. Stay informed as this committee posts meeting synopsis information on the church website,

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

The April Evangelism Committee meeting is scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 5, 2018. Members of St. John are always invited as we continue working through the book, "5 Things You Can Do to Witness Christ", with reading and open discussion. This book encourages each of us to realize what we have in Christ and to see that our witnessing is part of our daily walk in life – as we each have 'evangelism' to do. We find "witnessing" when living out the gracious gifts God gives in our connections with others and in helping build new relationships where we can share the love of Christ. There are a couple more of these \$8.00 books still available when you join us. Check our Evangelism Committee page on the St. John's website for updates on all Evangelism Committee activity and plans.

VBS NEWS

SAVETHE DATE: JULY 22-26, PLUNGE INTO VBS 2018!

At Splash Canyon VBS, your children learn God keeps His promises on life's wild ride! They'll look into the Bible, God's Holy Word, and explore five Bible accounts where our faithful God keeps His promises to be with us and gives us life and hope through Jesus, our Savior.

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 can make accommodations for you and your well-being.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR QUILT DAYS

The next Quilting Day will be Thursday, April 5 from 9:30 am to 2:00 pm. Join us any time during those hours. Please bring something to share for lunch and bring a scissors. No sewing experience necessary! The quilts are donated to Orphan Grain Train and most go to the orphanages in Russia and the Baltic nations. Since we just completed 25 quilts to send to Russia with Karen Tiedeman, we can start a new batch for the next trip! Thank you for your help with this ongoing project.

MARCH LADIES AID MINUTES

St. John Ladies Aid met on March 28, 2018, with Darleen Dittmer substituting for Irene Reiss as hostess. The meeting opened by singing, "O Bless the Lord, My Soul". Pastor Toensing led us in Bible Study on, "Pass the Salt, Living a Blessed Life."

Roll call was taken with ten members present. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved and the Treasurer's report was given.

Old Business: Diane Kouba volunteered to be a caller for funerals. Donna Hillgren made a motion to have the Ladies Night Out on Monday, April 23 at 6:00 p.m. at The Brew House in Crete. Janice Reetz seconded. Motion carried. A sign-up sheet will be placed in the narthex.

New Business: Maundy Thursday, after the service, the Ladies Aid will decorate the Fellowship Hall for Easter.

Celebrating a March anniversary was Bob and JoAnn

Renner. It is their 65th wedding anniversary.

Hostess for April will be Donna Hillgren. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer and the table prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Carol Brinkmeyer (Acting Secretary)

**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN
CHURCH –LCMS**

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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.
Elder’s Meeting (April 2)	6:30 p.m.
Lutheran Women in Mission (April 17)	7:00 p.m.
Ladies Aid Meeting (April 25)	2:00 p.m.

FROM THE ELDERS

Greetings brothers and sisters in Christ...The elders would like to thank the youth that helped with both the egg hunt and the Easter breakfast, both went very well. We pray that these young people will grow to take on ever growing roles in our congregation and the broader church.

This month we will welcome new confirmed members into our congregation. The confirmands will be reading their essays during the service on Sunday the 15th. Confirmation will be the following Sunday, the 22nd. Please welcome them into adult membership. The elders would also like to thank those who’ve taken the time to help with the midweek classes these young Christians have attended over the past several years.

We realize it’s a ways off but keep in mind the annual fish boil to benefit orphan grain train on July 8th. We know the grain train is held close to the heart of many in this congregation.

With the Lent and Easter season behind us let us not forget to continually reflect on the sacrifice our Lord made for us. A verse from one of the hymns at a Lenten service this past month states it well:

In life no house or home, My Lord on earth might have,
In death no friendly tomb, But what a stranger gave.
What may I say? Heav’n was his home;
But mine the tomb Wherein he lay.

The elders.

THOSE SERVING DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL

DUTY	April 1 6:30 am	April 1 9:00 am	April 8	April 15	April 22	April 29
Organist	Jolene Reetz	Jolene Reetz	Jayne VanAsperen	Jolene Reetz	Jayne VanAsperen	Jolene Reetz
Elders	James Walker	Roger Koch	Todd Hoyer	Gary Meinke	Ken Tesar	Terry Dittmer
Greeters	Mr & Mrs Todd Hoyer & Mr & Mrs Terry Dittmer	Mr & Mrs Roger Koch & Mr & Mrs Troy Henning	Mr & Mrs Wayne Eggert, Barb Meinke & Fran Seick	Mr & Mrs Mike Langfeldt & Mr & Mrs Dave Musil	Mr & Mrs Jeff Meinke & Mr & Mrs Marvin Nitzel	Mr & Mrs Brian Persing & Mr & Mrs Dean Prochnow
Acolytes	Elliott Reitz, Madison Persing, Rylee Pospichal	Maggie Wohl, Ted Muff, Jordyn Adam	Mara & Skye Hoyer	Elliott Reitz & Ted Muff	Maggie Wohl, Katelyn Novak, Mersadies Kvasnicka	Nick Hollman & Jacob Meinke

SIN AND SALVATION IN A SEA OF RELATIVISM: IDEAS TO HELP YOU WITNESS TO JEWS OR ANYONE ELSE

By Ruth Rosen; © Copyright Jews for Jesus; from the September 2017 Jews for Jesus quarterly. Reproduced with permission.

The Yom Kippur service includes a prayer known as the Al Chet (pronounced “all KHET”). It’s a lengthy recitation of sins, each beginning with a letter of the alphabet. This theoretically helps worshipers to confess their sins from A to Z. A person may not have committed all of the sins mentioned in the prayer, but at least they are not in danger of leaving anything out!

For many Jewish people, this will be the only time of year when the idea of sin is given much thought. Dr. Heshy Friedman, a Jewish faculty member at Brooklyn College, gives a typical assessment of how Jewish people are taught to regard sin in his article, I’m Sorry.* He writes, “Judaism emphasizes ‘healthy guilt’—where you maintain the sense that you’re a good person, while acknowledging that in this case you used bad judgment and made a mistake.”

How different this is from the words so painfully and poetically articulated by King David, as he recognizes his sin as evil (Psalm 51:4) and something that has been a part of his nature from birth (v. 5).

Unbiblical as a typical Jewish view of sin may be, it is no different from how the secular culture all around us treats the problem of sin. The difference is that religious Judaism recognizes, as King David did, that any “mistake” made against another person is also made against God. Say the word “sin” to the average person and they might expect a lecture on all kinds of do’s and don’ts. Such lectures have no traction on a mind made morally mushy as it swims through a sea of relativism.

This weak understanding of sin makes it difficult for people, Jewish or otherwise, to see a need for salvation. If you have found that to be the case when you try to share the gospel, you might find that people are more likely to see their sin if you speak frankly about your own. And by that, I don’t mean a recitation from A to Z of all the evil things you have thought, said or done!

When I talk to people about my sin, it’s usually something like: “If I’m honest, by nature, I don’t like the idea of God being God. It means Someone Else knows

better than me what I should or should not do. It means that Someone Else has a right to want things for me and from me that may be different from what I would choose. And finally, it means any relationship I could possibly have with God has to be on His terms, not mine.”

Normally at this point, heads are nodding, wry smiles appear. They can relate to my “natural” dislike of all these things.

At that point you can go to Genesis 3 to show how these feelings began when the first man and woman were not content to believe God or depend on Him for the knowledge of good and evil. I usually add, “Believing that lie that God was somehow trying to cheat us while ascribing to ourselves rights that are uniquely His, that is what the Bible calls sin, and it’s behind all other sins. Sin twists our view of ourselves and makes us see God as less than God. How could you have a relationship with me if I treat you as less than human? No more can God have a relationship with anyone who treats Him as less than God. And everything bad and unjust between people begins with our broken relationship with God.”

By humbly describing our own natural inability to give God the trust and worship He deserves, we can help others recognize the problem of sin that separates all people, themselves included, from Him. That helps build a platform for telling the wonderful story of God’s merciful love and gracious solution in Jesus.

Author’s Note: I’m not advocating that we shy away from recognizing specific behaviors as sin. But in witnessing to people who don’t have a basic understanding of sin, it’s helpful to start with the root of the problem.

***aish.com/sp/pg/Im_Sorry.html**

Pastor Toensing’s note: Jews for Jesus is not associated with the LCMS. Apple of His Eye (AOHE) Mission Society, however, is a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) that seeks to proclaim Jesus Christ as Savior to the Jewish people.

<https://jewsforjesus.org>

<http://www.appleofhiseye.org/>