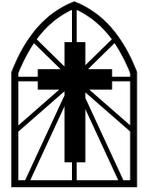


ST. JOHN LUTHERAN LCMS, REV. MAYNARD L. TOENSING, JR.
11400 WEST PANAMA ROAD, CRETE, NE 68333



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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.

VOLUME 38 ISSUE 7 AUGUST 2017

FACES OF REFORMATION



Nikolaus von Amsdorf - Luther's faithful friend and defender Born: Dec. 3, 1483 | Torgau, Germany Died: May 14, 1565 | Eisenach, Germany

Born to a noble Saxon family, Nikolaus von Amsdorf first studied theology in Leipzig and then was one of the first students at the newly founded University of Wittenberg. There, he obtained his master's degree and a position as a professor. He also often served as rector. He was trained in and taught scholastic theology until he was won for the Reformation by his colleague Martin Luther, whom he accompanied to the Leipzig Debate and the Diet of Worms. His friendship with Luther would be the most definitive aspect of Amsdorf's theological activity. After visiting Magdeburg with Luther in 1524, Amsdorf was encouraged by Luther to take a call there, where he served for nearly two decades. In Magdeburg, he battled radicals and Papists through his sermons and simply worded pamphlets, and he was instrumental in turning the city and surrounding areas into a bastion for Lutheranism.

At the behest of his prince, John Frederick, and against the wishes of the emperor, Amsdorf was made bishop of Naumberg-Zeitz in 1542. Due to the opposition of the clergy in his bishopric, he met with little success and was frustrated in his work. After the Smalcald War broke out in 1546, Amsdorf was driven from his position. Following John Frederick's capture by imperial forces at the battle of Mühlberg, Amsdorf served for a short time as counselor to his prince's sons in Weimar. Thereafter, Amsdorf retired to Magdeburg, where he was a leading voice against the compromises made by Melancthon and his followers to the Augsburg Interim imposed upon Saxony by Emperor Charles V.

From 1552 on, Amsdorf lived in Eisenach, where - though retired, he was engaged in matters of church and academia, including the founding of the University of Jena. Until his death in 1565, he was involved in a number of theological controversies and prodigiously published polemical works. Among the most famous of these controversies was his dispute with Georg Major, who argued that "good works were necessary for salvation." Amsdorf pushed for the other extreme and claimed that "good works" were detrimental to salvation, by which he meant those "good works" that are seen as contributing to salvation. Amsdorf's writing, though it seeks to reproduce Luther's legacy, is simple, unoriginal and lacks the depth and intensity of Luther's work. In some cases, Amsdorf missed the subtlety of Luther's theology, as can be seen in Amsdorf's systematic treatment of predestination, which is similar to the views of Calvin's followers. Nevertheless, Amsdorf's almost singular focus on the exclusive action of God in Christ for our salvation and the prestige he enjoyed as a close friend of Luther's kept the Lutheran movement from drowning in a sea of compromise in the tumultuous years that followed Luther's death.

PLEASE HAVE ALL INFORMATION OR ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTER TO BLYTHE DEWEY 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.

FROM PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

At a recent men's Bible study, we read a passage that was filled with names—most were unfamiliar and hard to pronounce. It was Jeremiah 36. In Matthew chapter one and at the end of Luke chapter 3 you will find genealogies of Jesus with lots of names. If you go to the book of Numbers, such as chapter 26, you find a census was ordered. And there you will find many names and an accounting of the numbers of their clans. Such long lists of names are hard to work through. And you say, "So what?"

Well, they are in the Bible—God's Word—so that must mean something. It does. God is interested in individuals. God knows all of His children by name and loves every one of them. As you come across such lists of names, consider that God knows your name. He knows you as an individual. He knows you intimately and He loves you—even though He knows everything about you, yet He loves you and wishes to be in communion with you. You are loved by Him and He knows you and He knows your name—you are not a number to God. You are His redeemed child in Christ Jesus.

Christ Jesus is the Son of God who came to live, suffer, die and rise again for every single person—for every sinner. Jesus came to be your individual Savior—yes you—and to bring you into communion with God. God calls you out of sin and calls you to faith in Jesus. As you believe in Jesus, your sins are forgiven, and you are adopted into God's family to be His own, dearly loved, child. God then knows you intimately. He is able to know every one of His children intimately and individually. That is what all the names in the Bible should tell us. God knows the names of all His children and God knows your name and He loves you in Jesus Christ. God grant that you remain in faith in Jesus Christ as live as the child of God that you are. —Pastor

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS & BAPTISMS

BIRTHDAYS

2 Jason Jordan
5 Sara Sublett
10 Abbey Reetz
12 Amanda Rezac
13 Ray Bleich, Michael Reiss, Kristi Reitz
14 Todd Hoyer
15 Hannah Rethmeier
17 Eric Ellingson, Mara Hoyer, Madison Persing
18 Sheila Church, Marianne Tesar
19 Shirley Reetz, Darren Weber
20 Diane Gropp

21 Jim Ellingson

22 Terry Meinke, Kristine Muff

23 Jennifer Reetz

25 Garrett Mehl

26 Mike Langfeldt

28 Brad Kalkwarf, Miriam Weber

30 Donna Kastanek

31 Donald Rejcha

BAPTISMS

1 Hope Hoyer

2 Leahh Anderson, LaVonne Nitzel

3 Erica Sublett, Briggen Reetz

7 Marilyn Nast

8 Ashley Walker

10 Wayne Hansmeyer

11 Christopher Ladman, Tyler Stehlik, Easton Brethouwer

13 Alexandra Weber

19 Kyle Ochs

21 Gloria McDermott

22 Sara Sublett

23 Brad Pomajzl, Kristi Reitz

29 Madison Persing

30 Ariana Munro, Amanda Rezac

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OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER GROWTH

Schedule at a Glance

Worship Service (Sundays)	9:00 a.m.
Bible Class (Sundays)	10:30 a.m.
Elder’s Meeting (August 7)	7:00 p.m.
Lutheran Women in Mission (August 15)	7:00 p.m.
Ladies Aid Meeting (August 30)	2:00 p.m.
Men’s Bible Study (August 8)	7:00 p.m.
Quilt Days (August 3)	9:30-2:00 p.m.
Evangelism Committee Meeting (August 16)	6:15 p.m.

LADIES AID MINUTES

St. John Ladies Aid met on Wednesday, July 26, 2017. We opened the meeting by singing "In the Cross of Christ I Glory". Pastor Toensing led us in the Bible Study on "The Spirituality of the Cross".

Roll call was taken with nine members present. Jolene Reetz and Paisley were our guests. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. The treasurer's report was given and approved.

OLD BUSINESS: The Fish Boil was held on July 9 was a success. Darleen thanked everyone for the food that was brought in. The procedures for funerals have been posted on the refrigerators in the kitchen.

Donna Hillgren announced that the craft fair will be held on November 9th and 10th. There will be a cookie exchange, crafts and a bake sale. Lunch will be served on Saturday and on Sunday after church.

We were invited to attend a salad supper at Messiah Lutheran Church in Lincoln. It will be held on August 2nd, from 6:45 to 8:45. Jane Bedient from the Comfort Dog Ministry will be the guest speaker. Messiah is located at 1800 So. 84th Street.

Birthdays celebrated in July were Janice Reetz, Marilyn Nast, LaVonne Nitzel and Barb Meinke. The birthday song was sung. Pastor and Carol Brinkmeyer celebrated their anniversary on July 28th.

Dianne Kouba was hostess in July and Barb Meinke will be our hostess in August.

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

Shirley Reetz, Secretary

PLEASE JOIN US FOR QUILT DAYS on Thursday, August 3, 2017 from 9:30 am to 2:00 pm. Please 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 primarily donated to Orphan Grain Train and most go to the orphanages in Russia and the Baltic nations. Thank you for your help with this project.

THOSE SERVING DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST

DUTY	August 6	August 13	August 20	August 27
Organist	Jayne VanAsperen	Jolene Reetz	Jolene Reetz	Jayne VanAsperen
Elders	John Reitz	Ken Tesar	James Walker	Brent Wohl
Greeters	Mr. & Mrs. Wally Wild	Carol Brinkmeyer & Marilyn Nast	Mr. & Mrs. Roger Brunelle	Mr. & Mrs. Terry Dittmer
Acolytes	Colton Homolka & Hugo Pomajzl	Rylee Pospichal & Eliott Reitz	Maggie Wohl & Nick Hollman	Aaron Meinke & Jordyn Adam

HEALTHY HABITS

Tragedy struck a family in Des Moines this past week when their 18 day old baby died from Herpes Simplex 1 virus. This is the virus that causes blisters to form around the mouth and lips, commonly known as "cold sores." This is a nuisance virus for an adult but for a baby it can mean serious disease or even death. Babies do not have the ability or immunity to fight this virus and if infected the virus can attack the brain or other organs. One quick kiss is all it takes to pass the virus on. It is imperative that we all work together to protect these vulnerable babies. So, what can we do? NEVER hold or kiss a baby if you have a cold sore. If the mother is the one affected, she should wear a mask until the cold sore has scabbed over and is no longer oozing. Others should simply stay away while infected. Anyone who is going to hold a newborn should wash their hands with soap for at least 30 seconds. If you have any symptoms of a cold don't visit. There are prescription medications, such as Zovirax, available to fight the cold sore. Ask your doctor about these. They will usually limit the duration of the disease and also make it less painful. Parents: If you see any blistering on your baby, especially around the mouth or eyes, call the doctor at once. Don't take a chance of ignoring a sick infant. Let's prevent any tragedies like the one in Des Moines.

FROM THE ELDERS

Dear brothers & sisters in Christ

VBS, Sunday school picnic & school starting... all signs summer is coming to an end. We have had a very blessed summer, the gift of a new shepherd & some nice rains.

Pastor would like to make our youth in the congregation one of his priorities, any help or suggestions would be great.

With that in mind, we are in need of a person or persons to help lead the Youth Group.

If anyone knows of members who have not attended church for a while or anyone that does not have a church family, please invite them to hear Gods word from our new Shepard! If you need help, please talk to pastor or any of the Elders.

Thanks & enjoy the rest of summer!

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Men's group here at St. John will start another video series. The first undertaking in this new 3-part series is entitled 'A Man Named Martin: Part 1 - The Man'. It will likely take 4 or 5 months to cover each of the three parts.

"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 videos themselves are short enough to allow ample time for discussion and Bible study. The St. John Men's group meets at 7:00 p.m. each 2nd Tuesday of the month. Our door is always open to new attendees, while guests are equally welcomed. See you on August 8th!

BOARD OF EVANGELISM

Beginning at their September meeting, the Evangelism Committee will read and study the book "5 Things You Can Do to Witness Christ." This book encourages believers to realize what we have in Christ and to see that our witnessing is part of our way of life. Witnessing is not following a program, but living out the gracious gifts God gives in our relationships and in helping us build new relationships where we can share the love of Christ. You are invited to join us in reading this small book and learning about witness from what we now and believe in worship. Books are \$8. Please let Pastor or Tim McDermott know if you will join us for this study.

ST JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH QUARTERLY VOTER'S MEETING JULY 24, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 8:04 p.m. by President Troy Henning. Pastor Toensing led us in a prayer.

We welcomed Pastor Toensing as a new voting member.

The minutes were read and approved as corrected.

Treasurer's Report

Balance Forward 4/01/2017 \$86,376.43

Plus Regular Receipts \$29,545.46

Plus Mission Receipts 2,983.00

Balance Plus Receipts 118,904.89

Less Regular Disbursements \$39,880.28

Less Mission Disbursements 3,656.07

Ending Balance 7/30/2017 \$75,368.54

Treasurer Meinke pointed out a few special expenditures included in the report:

Church beautification \$795 for the cemetery directory

Annual convention assessment of \$1.20/communicant member totaling \$379.20

Parsonage repairs \$10,688.07(some of items are included below)

Propane cost \$1,160 one year contract

VGL desktop \$ 700.00 new finance computer

Drake Refrigeration 1,300.00 refrigerator in parsonage

Royal Carpet 785.00 steam cleaning parsonage

Allied 6,250.30 moving van

Alltech Electric 255.00 units repair parsonage

Midland duct cleaning 445.00 units repair parsonage

Culligan 620.00 water softener repairs parsonage

Schaeffers 662.00 dishwasher parsonage

Home Depot 544.97 supplies-paint parsonage

Ace Hardware 6,080.00 mower

The Treasurer's report was read and approved with correction of spelling of a few names from memorial listing.

Elders' Report

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

Baptisms: 1 Ella Jo Hughes on July 9

Confirmations: 3 Ashlyn Adams, Drew Trautman, and Olivia

Pomajzl on May 7

Weddings: 1 Jeana Rezac and Matt Schulz

Funerals: 0

Release: Kourtney Tarnick to non-LCMS church

Transfers in: 3 Pastor Maynard, Shelly, and Steven Toensing

Elders have been in discussion with Pastor Toensing regarding idea of bringing back use of the common cup. Will be on agenda for next meeting.

Discussed Fish Boil held on Sunday, July 16. There were 81 in attendance and \$1,750 was donated.

On July 30, our church will be celebrating Pastor Toensing's 25th anniversary of his pastoral ministry. The Elders will be smoking hamburgers and hot dogs. Asking congregation members to bring dessert or a side dish. We'll have outdoor games set up.

ST JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
 QUARTERLY VOTER'S MEETING JULY 24, 2017
 CONTINUED...

Pastor Report

Pastor Toensing shared that he feels blessed and grateful. Asked that we be patient with him as he is still learning names. He looks forward to having more conversations with people as he gets to know everyone. Reports that Sunday morning Bible Class has been a blessing and has been so well attended that we are running out of room in the basement.

Pastor commented that the celebration of his 25th year in the ministry is not about him but about the opportunities for God to work through His church.

Pastor feels he is a team player and is enjoying working with the elders and being involved in VBS. Asked that if there are new people, we need to reach out to them with a special invitation to get involved.

Pastor reports that he has one person in instruction class, a student from Doane College, looking forward to another baptism in August, Elyana Lee (Ryan Lee's daughter), and also a wedding coming up (Musil). He plans to visit one cell group a month for the four existing cell groups and hopes that we might be able to start more groups.

Pastor plans to get to all shut ins on a monthly basis. Asked that congregation members help him out by pointing out visitors. Also to please let him know when someone is in the hospital. This is a high priority for him. Pastor will not have office hours but is available at any time. He will make time to meet. He indicated some ways he intends to appropriately meet with people. He will work with all groups to provide a safe environment for our children while at church.

He will be getting a new 402 number as of August 1. This number will be in the bulletin on Sunday.

Board of Education

Marla Musil reports that approximately 28 children are currently in attendance at VBS. Thank you to the families for bringing them. Currently thinking of ideas for Sunday School.

Trustees Report

Dean Prochnow and Les Korte reported several projects and concerns. In the church, the Narthex cooling was checked. The guy checked it out and said it has a 2 ton compressor and is cooling. He did some repairs as there was some bare wires. The sanctuary seems to be cooling fine.

Discussed need of heating/cooling in the parsonage. After reviewing three different options a motion was made to replace the whole unit with a cap of \$6,000. The trustees will present bids at the elders meeting along with specs. Seconded and carried.

Noted that the water softener was repaired and suggested that we need to replace the filter every six months.

The area north of the parsonage is in need of cleaning. He stated someone would be willing to clear the area out and bury it for free which would include cutting the elm trees. Concern was expressed with clearing the entire windbreak.

Discussed some sidewalks are shrinking down. Dean suggested they could do mudjacking for the sidewalks instead of replacement.

With some of the cleaning needs outside, it was thought that we could schedule a clean up day. Trustees will schedule.

Cemetery

We've received a request from the family of Marvin Henning. Since he was a veteran, the family would like to put a marker on the grave. This marker would be 12 x 24 and 4 inches high. There was concern about the height, but Pastor Art Brinkmeyer suggested they drop it lower so it can be mowed over. This was agreeable to all and Troy will reach out to let the family know.

LYF

We are thankful for the service of Jenna and Ashley for leading the group, but they are stepping down. We need new leaders. If interested or you know of anyone who is interested, get ahold of the Board of Education or Troy Henning.

Memorial Committee

Todd Hoyer reports they would like to make an addition to the items on the memorial list of the Concordia University Church Scholarship fund. Motion was made to add this to the list, seconded, carried.

Evangelism Committee

Tim McDermott reports that the committee is working on the following projects:

- 1) Welcome folders. Have put together 50 and asked that if anyone sees visitors to hand them out. Located in the Narthex.

ST JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
QUARTERLY VOTER'S MEETING JULY 24, 2017
CONTINUED..

2) Survey of Time and Talents. Will be asking each person to fill out.

3) Doane College is having a downtown tour on Saturday, August 19. Churches and businesses will be setting up booths in the City Park. The committee will be setting up a booth and give out various handouts.

4) Talked about an opportunity that Pastor Toensing would lead a study called "Five Things You Can Do to Witness Christ." This is a study from Concordia Publishing House. All church members will be invited for this five session study.

Next Evangelism Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 16. All are invited to participate.

Unfinished Business

Discussed idea of adding a fellowship hall. A committee was formed consisting of Tim McDermott, Dolyn Meinke, and Dean Prochnow. If anyone else is interested, get in touch with one of the committee members.

Karen Tiedeman reported on behalf of the Scholarship Fund Committee, consisting of herself, Marla Musil, JoAnn Renner, Gloria McDermott, Trish Prochnow, and Marilyn Nast. They will be meeting again to put together parameters of the scholarship.

New Business

President Henning announced that Blythe Dewey is resigning as Church Secretary in early September so we are needing a new Secretary. Please contact Troy or one of the elders if interested.

It was brought up that when any of the boards meet, they should contact the church secretary so it can be put on the church calendar.

Pastor Toensing brought up a few needs in regard to his salary:

1. Clarify the Housing/Furnishings allowance

2. Include a Professional Expense account to be separated out from his salary. This would allow Pastor, when purchasing wedding gifts, cards, subscriptions to include them as deductions for taxation purposes. A motion was made, seconded and carried to designate \$100 for this purpose.

3. Pastor also requested that a realtor put together a letter of fair rental value regarding the parsonage. Terry Dittmer volunteered to locate someone.

Roll call was read showing 38 members present and one guest.

Marianne Tesar

Secretary