

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 32 ISSUE 8 AUGUST, 2018

Dear Fellow Redeemed.

It is a great joy to be redeemed. But it's not easy. It is not easy living or trying to live the way we should. The world with its easy ways and strong temptations lures us from the hard path of walking in God's ways (Matthew 7:13; Colossians 2:8). Satan is real and is really after us, seeking to devour us (1 Peter 5:8). And our own sinful selves—we are constantly subjected to the temptations of the flesh (James 1:14). Walking the right way is difficult. Nowhere in Scripture did God say it would be easy.

In getting ready for a sermon recently I came across this verse again from Ephesians 4:15 (ESV): "Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ." "Speaking the truth in love." How do you do that when someone you love is doing something wrong? Sure, in parenting young children, we get it. But ... when it's a brother or sister in Christ? When it's a grown family member that is not living by the ways that God calls us to? It is very hard to tell a grown person that they are not doing what is right according to God's decrees.

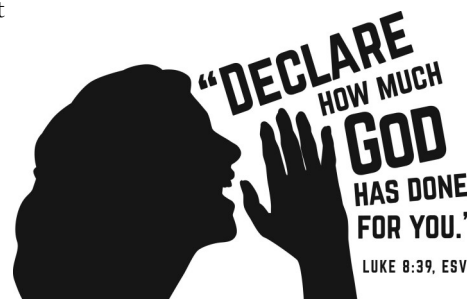
But ... that is what we are to do. In 2 Timothy 3:16–17 (ESV): "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." I know I have failed in this. I have let my fears get the better of me. I don't want the conflict. I don't want to speak a harsh word. But ... if we are true to the Word of God and truly seek to walk in the way of faith and life with Christ ... we must, sometimes, do the hard work of speaking the truth. But we do so in love.

The love part is that we speak what we need to say so that those walking in worldly ways might wake from their spiritual slumber. We speak so that the danger of dying apart from Christ might be changed—that those in the wrong might repent of their wrong and find reconciliation with God through Christ. Then Christ will empower us and them to live as we are called to live (Ephesians 4:1). How we relate to God must be on God's terms according to His Word—not in how we want it to be according to our sinful ways.

We should speak out against abortion and for life. We should speak against euthanasia ("mercy killing/suicide") which is murder of the self (5th Commandment). We should speak against pornography and the kind of language that demeans marriage and God's gift of intimacy. We need to teach our children about the Lord's creation of family and not to follow the ways of sexual immorality. We should encourage one another toward faithful worship and study of God's Word. God and His ways are to be first and foremost in all of our life.

Therefore, we first need to repent ourselves for not speaking as we ought. Let us fall in repentance before our Lord in admitting that we have kept silent in difficult situations. Then, receive God's mercy for you. You and me—we are baptized and forgiven. We have God's mercy and we rejoice that when sinners repent, God forgives (Psalm 51:17) because Jesus has suffered our punishment for us (2 Corinthians 5:21). Now, let us be bold and courageous to "speak the truth in love." Why? So that, as Scripture says, we all might "grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ (Ephesians 4:15)." God grant that He keeps us always in Christ and following the road that leads to eternal life: Jesus Christ.

In the love of Christ, Pastor Toensing



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 in the drop box outside the church by the back door, please mark them for either OGT or PCM (People's City Mission).

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD:

100 shoeboxes have been claimed and will be filled with gifts and the love of Jesus! Thank you to everyone who took a box! Please remember to review the list of ideas and unacceptable items,



to pray for the child who will receive your gift, and to enclose \$9 to help cover shipping. To make your box extra special, add a picture and a note! Please return boxes to the collection bin in the narthex by September 30. (If you are unable to fill a box you received, please return the empty box to the collection bin at church so that it can still be used.)

If you did not get a box, you may still contribute items. Just put items in a plastic bag and place it in the collection bin. LWML will find boxes for them.

We would also welcome financial donations to help with fulfilling the shipping donation or for more items for boxes. There is a box for monetary donations on the table in the narthex.

It is our prayer that through these boxes, 100 children will hear the Good News of Jesus and further spread His love and hope to their families and communities! If you have questions, please contact Carol Brinkmeyer or Shelley Toensing or visit samaritanpurse.com. Thank you for your overwhelming support of this project!



BIRTHDAYS

2 Jason Jordan
5 Sara Sublett
10 Abbey Reetz, Kade & Stella Eggert
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 Dohmen
25 Garrett Mehl
26 Mike Langfeldt
28 Brad Kalkwarf, Miriam Weber
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
20 Elyana Lee
21 Gloria McDermott
22 Sara Sublett
23 Brad Pomajzl, Kristi Reitz
27 Kira Wohl, Anton Slama
29 Madison Persing
30 Ariana Munro, Amanda Rezac

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**

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

The August Evangelism Committee meeting is scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 7th. Members of St. John continue to be invited to the near completion of the book, "5 Things You Can Do to Witness Christ". This study 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' opportunities provided to us. We can find "witnessing" when living out the gracious gifts God gives in our connections with those around us and in helping build new relationships where sharing the love of Christ is of great importance. Please join us if you can.

The Evangelism Committee will also be gauging interest in an opportunity by which members can participate in an "Every One His Witness" workshop. This would likely be a multi-week, lessoned group environment designed to equip disciples of Jesus Christ in sharing the Gospel within their everyday lives with people whom God has placed them into varying relationships. Lesson context modules are built on the core module of applying the LASSIE approach (Listen, Ask, Seek, Share, Invite and Encourage) to specific witnessing contexts. More will be shared, and invitations extended at the upcoming Voters meeting.

The Evangelism Committee also hopes to plan our participation in the Doane University "Community Tour" to take place toward the end of August, by which we can meet new Doane students and seek ways to connect with them in the invitation to Sunday worship services. -

LADIES AID MINUTES

St. John Ladies Aid met on July 25, 2018, with JoAnn Renner as hostess. The meeting opened by singing, "What Wondrous Love is This".

Pastor Toensing led us in Bible Study followed by prayer. Carol Brinkmeyer led the meeting since Diane Kahle had a previous commitment. Roll call was taken with eight members present. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved and the treasurer's report was given.

OLD BUSINESS: The Fish Feed was held on July 8th with a good turnout.

NEW BUSINESS: Carol asked what we would like to have in the new fellowship hall if we should get one. Most ideas were what we would like to have in the kitchen.

Birthdays were celebrated in July by Janice Reetz, Marilyn Nast, LaVonne Nitzel and Barb Meinke. An anniversary was celebrated by Pastor and Carol Brinkmeyer. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer and the common table prayer.

Shirley Reetz, Secretary

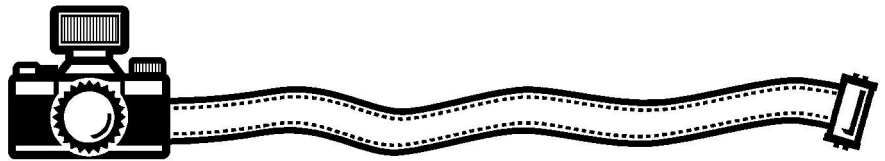


BUILDING COMMITTEE

The committee is planning for a progress update and an anticipated request for funding to support architectural services in progressing through the Preliminary Design Phase (Phase I) for a new Addition to the church facility. Members can check the church website for updates or organized committee meetings. It is the hope of the committee to provide congregational members meaningful information allowing for continued, forward movement upon the August Voters meeting.

ARE YOU CAMERA SHY?

Would you rather be on the backside of the camera taking the picture, instead of getting your picture took? Well, the Evangelism Committee has a job for you! The Evangelism Committee is looking for those who can group couples, families or any solo member of St. John into photo files as they enter or exit the church on Sunday mornings, collect names of those in the shot and share the digital files with the Evangelism Committee. The Committee in turn, will prepare the photos for printing and subsequently mount them on a "Church Family" bulletin board in the narthex. We need the help of all those willing to grab some shots each Sunday until we've compiled a unique collection of joyous smiles as they start their week in the comfort of God's Word. For those interested, please contact Bonnie Bleich, 826-5455; bleich17401@gmail.com.



LWML NOTES

The "Piece Makers" have been very busy working on quilts to send with Karen Tiedeman in October for the new Hannah House. Special thanks to everyone who has donated supplied, joined us for quilting day and worked on sewing at home. We couldn't do it without the help of you all. But now comes the fun part! Be sure to join us for worship on September 9th when all the quilts will be displayed before they are sent to Russia. Once these quilts are done we will go back to making cot size quilts again for the orphanages.

The quilt project is in need of help with supplies for the quilts. Each quilt is filled with something to increase the warmth. If you have old blankets, mattress pads, drapery, etc, we can use them for filling. They should be clean but it is ok for them to be stained, worn or even with holes in them, since they will be completely covered up. Whatever you can donate will be appreciated! Place items in the quilt box in the narthex. Your donations are always welcome and needed.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY - "A MAN NAMED MARTIN - THE MOVEMENT"

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 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 offered to all on Tuesday, August 14 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. As this series is nearing its end, we will likely also to be discussing our next topic of study. Please join us for participation and your suggestions.

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OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER GROWTH

Schedule at a Glance

Worship Service (Sundays)	9:00 a.m.
Sunday School (will begin in September)	10:30 a.m.
Bible Class (Sundays)	10:30 a.m.
Midweek Classes (BEGINS August 29)	6:30 p.m.
Elder's Meeting (August 6)	6:30 p.m.
Men's Bible Study (August 14)	7:00 p.m.
Lutheran Women in Mission (August 21)	7:00 p.m.
Ladies Aid Meeting (August 29)	2:00 p.m.

FROM THE ELDER'S

Building faith in our community starts young. We saw that this past week as our youth had the opportunity to attend Vacation Bible School. 16 children had the pleasure of learning about Jesus Christ and how God is with us and keeps his promises to us on life's wild ride. We like to extend a big "thank you" to everyone who helped with the program this year, whether it be as a teacher, helper, or donator of snacks.

VBS alerts us that our normal school year is just around the corner as Midweek and our fall Sunday School will be starting soon. If you are available to be involved in this important ministry, please contact a school board member.

We rejoiced with the Brinkmeyer family as they celebrated Pastor Art Brinkmeyer's 55 years of service as either a Lutheran teacher and pastor. As said in the dinner this past Sunday, him and Carol continue to serve and we are fortunate to have them in our midst.

Many people are taking vacations during these summer months. Be sure to include a visit to a local Lutheran church and witness how Christ is active in other areas.

The Elders

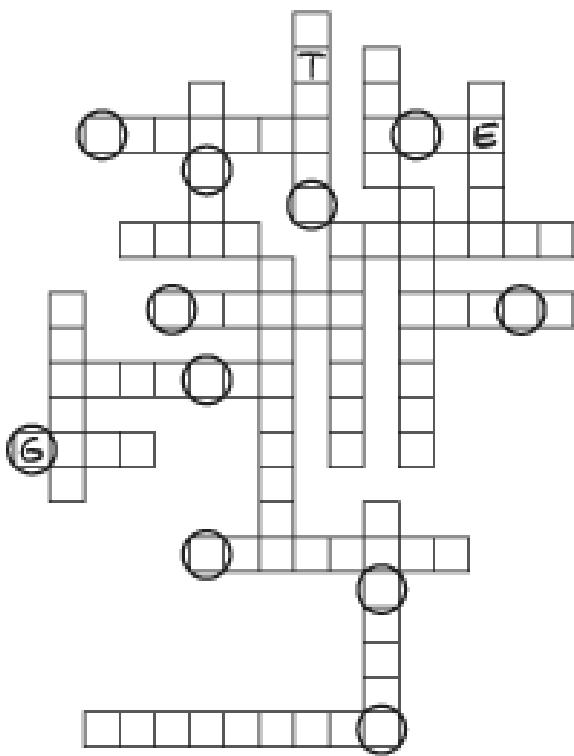
THOSE SERVING DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST

DUTY	Aug 5	Aug 12	Aug 19	Aug 26
Organist	Jolene Reetz	Jolene Reetz	Jayne VanAsperen	Jayne VanAsperen
Elders	James Walker	Ken Tesar	Terry Dittmer	Todd Hoyer
Greeters	Mr & Mrs Bob Renner and Mr & Mrs Elmer Reetz	Mr & Mrs Terry Reetz and Mr & Mrs Rollo Schultz	Mr & Mrs Byron Shore and Mr & Mrs Ken Tesar	Mr & Mrs James Walker and Mr & Mrs Brent Wohl
Acolytes	Jordyn Adam & Ted Muff	Hugo Pomajzl & Rylee Pospichal	Skye Hoyer & Mersadies Kvasnicka	Nick Hollman & Jacob Meinke

Puzzle!

Followers of Jesus have dual citizenship. To discover where you dwell, fill in these Bible-time places. Then write the circled letters in order (left to right, top to bottom) on the blanks below.

Tyre	Berea	Galilee	Damascus
Cana	Lycia	Ephraim	Philippi
Rome	Athens	Ephesus	Bethlehem
Gaza	Kedesh	Corinth	Jerusalem
Sidon	Sychar	Iconium	



Answer: God's kingdom

RECIPE CORNER

We have been including recipes in the last few issues—don't know your feelings on that so if you have any feedback, please share with Chris Hollman. This month's recipe is from Alli Novak and Erica Sublett (Chris Hollman's granddaughters).

BUTTERHORNS

- 1 cup butter, softened
 - 1 (12 oz.) carton cottage cheese
 - Dash of salt
 - 2 cups flour
 - Frosting: 2 Tbsp butter melted till lightly browned
 - 2 tsp milk (or more as needed)
 - 1/2 tsp vanilla
 - 2 cups powdered sugar
- Cream butter and cottage cheese with mixer till blended; beat in salt and flour till smooth. Cover and refrigerate overnight or 4 hours. Divide into 3 parts, form into balls. On lightly floured surface, roll flat into circles 12" in diameter. Cut into 12 pie shaped wedges. Roll each wedge from wide to small end. Place on greased cookie sheet with tips turned under. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes or till lightly browned. While they bake, mix frosting. Spread over top of slightly warm rolls. Cool completely. Store in covered container.

Love's lesson

A new school year promises new adventures, challenges and friends — as well as new classes, homework and lessons. But the most important (and simplest) lesson we can learn is summed up by 19th-century hymn writer Jane Eliza Leeson:

**Savior, teach me day by day
love's sweet lesson to obey,
sweeter lesson cannot be,
loving him who first loved me.**

The most famous verse in the Bible [John 3:16] begins "For God so loved the world that he gave" It's a generosity verse. I say you can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving. If you want to become a loving person, you have to learn to give. You spell love G-I-V-E.
—Rick Warren