

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 12 DECEMBER 2018

It's About Time

You're waiting and waiting for something to arrive. You check the tracking number and follow the movement of your package from vendor to transporter and soon to your front door. And when it arrives, you cry out, "It's about time."

We are on a journey in the days of Advent—a journey in which we know something is coming—no, someONE is coming. But we have to wait ... and wait a little more ... and soon ... He's here! The Advent journey of waiting and watching for Jesus' birth and Christmas is actually a season that instructs us about our life of waiting for Jesus to come the second and final time—but this time in power and glory!

Our Wednesday Advent services will lead us on this journey of watching and waiting for Jesus to come—for His birth AND for His glorious return. The title for our midweek Advent theme is: "It's About Time." Please join us Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. for Matins or 7:30 p.m. for Vespers. The three individual Wednesday titles are:

1. "Wait Till Your Father Comes Home!" (Isaiah 64:1–9)
2. "It's Time to Wake Up!" (Romans 13:11–14)
3. "Something Is About to Happen" (Mark 13:33–37)

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SERVICE SCHEDULE

Advent Services 10:30 am and 7:30 pm on December 5, 12 and 19

Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols Service 6:00 pm **AND** Christmas Eve Holy Communion Candlelight Service 10:00 pm

Christmas Day Service with Holy Communion 9:00 am

New Year's Eve Service with Holy Communion 6:00 pm

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SERVICES & DUTIES

Wednesday, December 5

Pianist: Ellen Miller
Elder: Todd Hoyer
Greeters: Mr & Mrs Brent Wohl
Acolytes: Jacob Meinke & Jordyn Adam

Wednesday, December 12

Pianist: Ellen Miller
Elder: Terry Dittmer
Greeters: Mr & Mrs Wayne Eggert
Acolytes: Hugo Pomajzl & Mersadies Kvasnicka

Wednesday, December 19

Pianist: Ellen Miller
Elder: Terry Dittmer
Greeters: Mr & Mrs Terry Dittmer
Acolytes: Skye Hoyer & Jacob Meinke

Christmas Eve 6:00 pm, December 24

Organist: Jolene Reetz
Elder: James Walker
Greeters: Mr & Mrs Todd Hoyer & Mr & Mrs Roger Koch
Acolytes: Katelyn & Cole Novak

Christmas Eve 10:00 pm, December 24

Organist: Jolene Reetz
Elder: Gary Meinke
Greeters: Mr & Mrs Terry Reetz

Christmas Day, December 25

Organist: Jayne VanAsperen
Elder: Roger Koch
Greeters: Mr & Mrs Mike Langfeldt
Acolytes: Ted Muff & Katelyn Novak

New Year's Eve 6:00 pm, December 31

Organist: Jolene Reetz
Elder: Roger Koch

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).

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

LWML is sponsoring Christmas Caroling on December 2, following worship services and Sunday School.

EVERY-ONE is invited to join—including children, youth and families.



EVANGELISM COMMITTEE NEWS

The December Evangelism Committee will meet again as scheduled on Tuesday, December 4th at 7:00 p.m. Members of St. John are equally invited to join our topical discussions based upon the Concordia Mission Society "Good News" periodical. Our regular meeting will follow.

The Evangelism Committee would also like to thank those who attended the "Every One His Witness" workshop. This multi-week, lessoned group environment began in September and was designed to equip disciples of Jesus Christ in sharing the Gospel within their everyday lives. Participants learned to apply the LASSIE approach (Listen, Ask, Seek, Share, Invite and Encourage) to specific witnessing examples. The Evangelism Committee will continue to look for additional opportunities to embark upon another 6-week session in early 2019.

Men's Bible Study - "Reel to Real"

In continuation of a Lutheran Hour Ministries' Bible study entitled "Reel to Real", the Men's group look at the similarities between our adventures with the fishing reel and our real life with families and friends. This series has proven to be a fun and relaxing discussion starter. The fishermen in this video series share their thoughts, but the feedback and comments in our group are what is key for this study. Most importantly, you don't have to own a boat to enjoy the company and conversation. Join the fishing party on Tuesday, December 11th at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

BUILDING COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Building Committee has worked to provide "group survey evaluations" to church Boards and working groups within our congregation. Many of them are now being completed and returned to the committee. This information will be included along with earlier received membership survey information, discussed with committee members and provided to the architect to be used to better formulate "best suited plans" in consideration of a church Addition. Representatives from each Board/Group will soon be asked to participate in a roundtable or breakout meeting date with the committee and the architects to further ensure that needs are understood and addressed.



BIRTHDAYS

1 Tim Reetz
4 Deanna Eggert
5 Austin Adams
7 LaVerna [Kate] Kattau
9 Irelynn Kirkpatrick
10 Rylee Pospichal
11 Gloria McDermott
13 Lydia Lee, Janice Mehl,
Aaron Meinke, Travis Shore
15 Melissa Gash, Justin Hollman
16 Kade Nelson, Barb Shore
17 Garrett Easley
18 Doug Kattau
20 Andrew Munro

21 Ryan Lee, Dan Meinke
22 Rev. Art Brinkmeyer, Tanna
Nitzel, Liam Lee
23 Jerome Kalkwarf
28 Kent Nelson
29 Glen Louch
30 James Samples
31 Troy Henning, Scott
Murphy

BAPTISMS

4 Heather Wendelin
6 Lewis Clark
7 Carol Brinkmeyer

8 Nathan Patak, Alayna Poole
10 Cathy Hollman
11 Darren Weber
12 Brad Hestermann, Kristine Muff,
Dave Musil
15 Tim Reetz
17 Kasey Murphy
18 Charles Slama
19 James Walker
20 Bryce Kalkwarf
22 Alexandra Tremblay
23 Teagan Kalkwarf
24 Madison Hestermann
26 Judi Korte

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.



*The LORD your God...
will rejoice over you with gladness;
he will quiet you by his love.*

ZEPHANIAH 3:17, ESV

“Joy:fully Alive — Body & Soul”

Jan. 17–19, 2019; Alexandria, Va. • Register online lcms.org/life

You are invited to join the LCMS Life Conference to learn to live in Christ's love amidst a culture of death.

“But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved” (Eph. 2:4–5).

The death and resurrection of Jesus reveals that God loves His creation and grants life as a gift. As His people, we learn to have the same perspective.

Even in a culture that does not share this view, we live and witness to the love of God through our advocacy of life, as we are “Joy:fully Alive — Body & Soul.”

The 2019 LCMS Life Conference is scheduled for Jan. 17–19, 2019, at the Westin Arlington Gateway Hotel in Arlington, Va. The conference is open to Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod members and guests.

LCMS Life Ministry will also participate in the National March for Life in Washington, D.C., on Friday, Jan. 18. Even if you cannot attend the Life Conference, you are invited to join the LCMS at the march.

“Main Street Living”

Main Street Living is a television program that has been airing throughout South Dakota for 17 years. Recently they engaged in expanding into surrounding areas. This program airs in Lincoln on KLKN (channel 8) on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. The program opens with re-mastered episodes of the popular “This is the Life” television series from Lutheran Hour Ministries. The second half hour is a modified Lutheran worship service and features local Pastors from the KLKN broadcast area. A different Pastor from Missouri Synod churches in the area will be featured on the program each week. The prime goal is to offer a worship experience to the many who cannot, will not, or do not attend worship on a regular basis.

LADIES AID MINUTES

The St. John Ladies Aid met on Wednesday, November 28, 2018 with Janice Reetz as hostess. The opening hymn was “What a Friend We Have in Jesus.” Pastor Toensing led the Bible Study, “Let us Pray.”

There were 8 members present. The minutes were read and approved. The treasurer's report was given.

OLD BUSINESS: President Diane Kahle submitted the building committee questionnaire.

Bonnie Bleich, Deanna Eggert and Linda Eggert volunteered to be the Altar committee.

Chris Hollman will purchase the flower calendar for 2019.

Diane Kahle and Janice Reetz will be hostesses for the Christmas Party on Wednesday, December 19. We will have a covered dish and invite the people attending the Advent service.

NEW BUSINESS: We had between 160-170 people for the Ken Tesar funeral luncheon.

It was moved and seconded to give our annual gifts and add “Main Street” for \$20. We will also send \$50 to the Ashers. Motion passed.

The Altar Committee will request poinsettias for the Christmas season.

Birthdays for November were Olga Weidner, Irene Reiss and Carol Brinkmeyer.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer and the common table prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Acting Secretary, Carol Brinkmeyer



ST JOHN'S CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

DECEMBER 9

AT 3:00 PM

These days, the world has forgotten the reason for Christmas. Please join us as we share the true meaning of Christmas—the birth of Jesus Christ, our Savior!



This Advent, LWML is sponsoring a congregation wide Reverse Advent Calendar Project. What's a Reverse Advent Calendar you ask?

The idea behind a Reverse Advent Calendar is simple. First, pick out a sturdy basket, box or bag. Each day, beginning December 1st, as you finish your Advent devotions, add one non-perishable food item to the box. You can add one per family, or one for each member of your family. Then, on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, bring your box of items to church. LWML will deliver them to a nearby food pantry to help restock their shelves after the busy Christmas holiday.

In this special season, as we await the greatest gift we have received, and as we buy gifts for our loved ones, the Reverse Advent Calendar helps us to remember how truly blessed we are and encourages us to share those blessings with others as we wait to celebrate Jesus' birthday. What a great way to serve this Advent!

LAMBS OF CHRIST PRESCHOOL

Thanksgiving Blessings

We had a great November praising God and thanking him for our many blessing. Highlights included collecting food for the food bank, making turkeys, and making individual pumpkin pies.

Preschool Christmas Program

We will be holding our program on Sunday December 9th at 6:00 pm at the church. The children are very excited about it, and I hope that many of you can join us as the children sing about the birth of our savior.

Annual Fundraiser

We are selling Village Inn Pie Cards they are \$15 each or 2 for \$28. They are great for your own holiday table or as a gift. We are also selling Pampered Chef products. You can contact any student or reach out to me at 402-826-0611 and I will be glad to help you with either of these. We will be closing the fundraiser on December 9th. Thank you for your on going support.

December Activities

We will be spending time learning about the birth of Jesus. We will be learning how different families celebrate the holiday and each others family traditions. The class will decorate our room and make a surprise for their parents.

Gods Blessings

Kathy Oelschlager

lambsofchristcrete@gmail.com 402/826-4375

THE PERFECT GIFT

Do you stress about finding just the right gift for everyone on your Christmas list? Does it make the season more a hassle than a joy? Pastor Mike Slaughter reminds us that Christmas isn't about perfect presents for people, as if it were their birthday — or ours. Christmas is about the perfect presence of Immanuel, God with us, through the birth of Jesus; it's his birthday, after all!

In *Christmas Is Not Your Birthday* (Abingdon), Slaughter writes, "How funny that it can be so hard to find gifts that will please certain family members or friends — the people who seem to have everything — and yet it is so clear what the Lord of lords and King of kings wants for his birthday. God wants you — your time, your talent and your treasure — used in service to others."

**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN
CHURCH –LCMS**
 11400 W. Panama Road
 Crete, NE 68333
 4 miles East & 2 miles South of Crete
 Office: 826-3883
 secretarystjohn@hotmail.com
 www.stjohnkramer.org
 Rev. Maynard Toensing, Jr.
 pastortoensing@gmail.com



OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER GROWTH

Schedule at a Glance

Choir Rehearsal	8:20 a.m.
Worship Service (Sundays)	9:00 a.m.
Sunday School/LYF/Bible Class (Sundays)	10:30 a.m.
Midweek Classes (Wednesdays)	6:30 p.m.
Elder’s Meeting (December 3)	6:30 p.m.
Evangelism Committee Meeting (December 4)	7:00 p.m.
Men’s Bible Study (December 11)	7:00 p.m.
LWML Christmas Dinner (December 10)	6:30 p.m.
Ladies Aid Christmas Party (December 19) following Advent Service	10:30 a.m.

FROM THE ELDER’S

Dear Fellow Redeemed

Well, its that time again. The winter solstice holiday formally known as Christmas is upon us. Weeks ago, Google and Amazon started placing ads all around the edges of my computer screen. Based on their all-knowing logarithms, they have pointed out a number of things that they believe I either need and/or want. Now it’s normal for friends and relatives to ask what I want or what I need for Christmas. And, being an individual of advanced years, I usually say that I already have everything I need and most everything I want. But am I really thinking about what I truly need and what I should truly want? Sure, there could be a new red flannel shirt or that new power tool in the back of my mind, but those things just don’t seem so important anymore. Perhaps taking time to remember that this is Christmas and only Christmas brings more clarity to the question. 2,024 years ago, God sent mankind the ultimate gift in the human form of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. HE IS everything we NEED and everything we should WANT! As fellow believers, let us rejoice that we have already received this Special Christmas Gift! And Mary said, *“My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior”* Luke 1:46-47. We wish you all a Joyous and Blessed Christmas!

The Elders

THOSE SERVING DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

DUTY	Dec 2, 2018	Dec 9, 2018	Dec 16, 2018	Dec 23, 2018	Dec 30, 2018
Organist	Jayne VanAsperen	Jolene Reetz	Jayne VanAsperen	Jolene Reetz	Jayne VanAsperen
Elders	Terry Dittmer	Gary Meinke	Todd Hoyer	James Walker	Roger Koch
Greeters	Mr & Mrs Byron Shore & Mr & Mrs Darren Weber	Mr & Mrs Wally Wild, Carol Brinkmeyer & Marilyn Nast	Mr & Mrs Roger Brunelle, Darleen Dittmer & Diane Gropp	Diane Kouba & Chris Hollman	Mr & Mrs Glen Louch & Mr & Mrs Tim McDermott
Acolytes	Nick Hollman & Kian Morris	Skye Hoyer & Ted Muff	Katelyn & Cole Novak	Colton & Calen Homolka	Hugo Pomajzl & Mersadies Kvasnicka

