

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN LCMS, REV. WILLIAMSON, VACANCY PASTOR  
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.

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## FACES OF REFORMATION



### Forming a Reformer - The Parents of Martin Luther

Hans & Margarethe (Lindemann) Luder

Hans Luder: 1459–1530

Margarethe (Lindeman) Luder: ?–1531

Hans Luder (Luther) was the son of a peasant farmer. Due to inheritance laws, he was not eligible to come into the land of his father. He left his home village in Möhra to work in Eisleben, where Margarethe gave birth to a son. According to the Catholic tradition, they had the baby baptized the next day, November 11, which also was the Feast Day of St. Martin of Tours. Thus he was christened Martin. While he was still a baby, the family moved to Mansfield. One can assume that Hans was a smart, hard-working

man. He advanced from a common laborer in the copper mines to the owner of his own copper mine. Before 25 years had passed, he owned at least six mines and two copper smelters and was a member of Mansfield's city council. A peasant he was born, a businessman he became. Some of this rise may have been due to the fact that Margarethe (also called Hanna) was from a respected family in Eisenach. It is probable that her family loaned the money necessary for Hans to buy his own copper mine. Copper mining was a risky profession. Like today's small business owners, they were not affluent, but hard working and frugal. Because Martin was from a family of both farmers and businessmen, he was acquainted with their struggles and could write on the condition of their lives with some accuracy.

Hans and Margarethe loved their children, but were strict in their parenting. Strictness seemed to be the order of the day. Years later Martin recalled receiving a beating from his mother so severe it drew blood. (His crime was taking a nut without permission.) School in Mansfield was equally strict. Beatings for not knowing the assigned lessons were common. The end of the week brought more beatings for any behavioral infractions recorded during the week. His lesson was learned: all transgressions must be atoned for. It is little wonder Martin advocated for education reform and treated his own children so tenderly.

He finished his last four pre-university years in Eisenach, staying with Heinrich Schalbe, a family friend on his mother's side. Schalbe treated him like a son, causing Martin to recall those years as much more pleasant. Stories of the young Martin as a poor, practically orphaned school boy singing for his supper seem to be more legend than fact. It may stem from a time when school children sang in the streets during holidays and were often rewarded with small treats.

In 1502 Martin finished a baccalaureate degree at the University of Erfurt, and by January 1505 he completed his master's degree. His future looked bright and his parents were optimistic about their sacrificial investment in his education. But God had other plans for Martin's life, and a lightning storm on July 2, 1505, played a hand in the turn of events. Caught in a severe storm and fearing for his life, Martin vowed to become a monk. This was more than a simple "foxhole prayer." For Martin it was a solemn oath to God. By September he had given away his possessions and joined the Augustinian monastery in Erfurt. Hans' plans for his son were crushed. It was many years later when Hans and Martin made peace with the young boy's decision. Before he died, Hans left a sizable donation to the University of Wittenberg, where Martin taught.

**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.

## LYF NEWS

The LYF will host their Valentine's Dinner on Th Sunday, February 19th after Sunday school. The main dishes are lasagna with bread and a chicken dinner with steamed vegetables and a baked potato. A salad and desert is provided with both meals. The cost is \$10 per person and a kid meal is free. The sign up sheet is on the table in the narthex. \*\*Youth set up for the Valentine's dinner will be

## LAMBS OF CHRIST PRESCHOOL NEWS

**Jesus Loves Me-** Many of us learned the hymn "Jesus Loves Me" as young children. During the month of February we think of love and sharing love with others. As Christians we know that we can love others because Jesus first loved us. Jesus loved us so much that he took our sins to cross and rose on Easter to proclaim the victory over sin.

**New Young Three's Class-** We have 3 children in our Young Three's class that started in January. We meet Tuesday afternoons from 12:30 -3:30. This class is available to those who turned three after July 31st, 2016. Please, contact the preschool for more information if you have a child interested in joining the class.

**2017 – 2018 Enrollment-** Lambs of Christ will begin taking enrollment for Members of Bethlehem, St. John's, Current families, and alumni families on Sunday, February 12 at the Pancake Feed. Open enrollment will begin on Monday, February 20th. A Sneak Peak into Preschool will be held for the M/W/F class on Wednesday, March 8th and for the T/Th class on Thursday March 9th. Please RSVP to Preschool if you would like to join us for a Sneak Peak Event.

**Chili Feed and Raffle-** The annual hili Feed and Raffle will be held on Sunday, February 12th from 10:00 – 12:30 at Bethlehem. Please join us for lunch followed by the drawings. The menu includes Chili, Chicken Noodle, Hotdogs, Cinnamon Rolls etc. The preschool board is currently collecting items for the raffle. If you have an item you would like to donate for the raffle please contact Cindy Hoyer, Michelle Wittstruck or Rhonda Beethe.

**\*Rhonda Beethe, Teacher, 826-4375, lambsofchristcrete@gmail.com**

## LADIES AID MINUTES

St. John's Ladies Aid met on January 25, 2017. Since we had no meeting in December, we held our regular meeting and Christmas Party with a pot luck luncheon. After lunch Carol Brinkmeyer led us in a Bible Study on Hannah. Roll call was taken with eleven members present. Minutes from the November meeting were read and approved. The treasurer's report was given, and a summary from 2016 was handed out by Janice Reetz.

**OLD BUSINESS:** President Darleen Dittmer reported on the funeral luncheon for Dale Kouba. She thanked everyone for helping and for food donations. A thank you note was read from the family of Dale Kouba.

**NEW BUSINESS:** A sign up sheet was passed around for providing meeting refreshments in 2017. An anniversary was celebrated by Marvin and LaVonne Nitzel. Hostess for February will be Darleen Dittmer.

After the meeting, we were entertained by Christmas jokes, Christmas music and Christmas games provided by Irene Reiss and Marilyn Nast.

The meeting closed by reading "A Shepherd's Tale" provided by Carol Brinkmeyer.  
Shirley Reetz, Secretary

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS & BAPTISMS

### BIRTHDAYS

1 Drew Trautman  
3 Dan Murphy  
4 Brad Davis  
7 Adam Hughes  
10 Kirk Johnson  
11 Angie Louch  
12 Jenna Keim  
13 Olivia Pomajzl  
14 Tory Dello  
16 Jace Ourada, Melissa Persing, Allan Reetz  
17 Jordyn Adam, Del Reiss  
18 Ryan Meinke, Shari Melk

20 Susan Vosika

23 Camryn Adam

24 Randy Adams, Dolyn Meinke

25 Steve Schultz

26 Cierra Hensley, Megan Korbel

27 Bonnie Bleich, Linda Eggert,  
Cindy Nitzel

28 Peggy Bojanski, Matt Ellingson

29 Gary Rezac

### BAPTISMS

1 Joy Kouba

2 Arlin Pomajzl

4 Paul Beck

7 Adam & LaShalle Hughes

8 Angela Dello

9 Rev. Art Brinkmeyer

10 Dan Meinke

11 Vivian Kirkpatrick

12 Skye Hoyer, Irene Reiss, Denise Slama

13 Kyle Shore

16 Mersadies Kvasnicka, Robert Kvasnicka

19 Ryan Lee

21 Nicole Reetz

22 Jessica McBride

23 Brad Davis

24 Jenna Keim

26 Deanna Eggert

**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN  
CHURCH –LCMS**

11400 W. Panama Road, Crete, NE 68333  
4 miles East & 2 miles South of Crete  
www.stjohnkramer.org

Office: 826-3883  
secretarystjohn@hotmail.com  
Rev. Mark Williamson, Vacancy Pastor  
402-782-1802, mwmson56@yahoo.com

For emergency Pastoral care,  
Rev. Haynes 440-5546,  
haynes1213@aol.com  
Or Brent Wohl 440-6843

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 (February 7)	6:00 p.m.
Lutheran Women in Mission (February 21)	7:00 p.m.
Ladies Aid Meeting (February 22)	2:00 p.m.
Men’s Bible Study (February 14)	7:00 p.m.

**FROM THE ELDER’S**

Greetings from the Elders

It has been a very interesting start to the New Year. With all the snow-storms and Ice storms so far this year . I wanted to thank everyone who pushed snow, spread Ice melt and cleaned up the ice melt to insure that everyone that traveled to church on Sunday mornings and the Wednesday evenings was able to not slip and fall on their way in. The call process is still moving forward after the first call being turned down . I pray that our second attempt will be more fruitful. God will provide a Shepard for our

flock here at Saint John’s in his time . Thanks to Pastor Williamson and Pastor Haynes for keeping us going during this time of vacancy. I also want to thank all of the members that allowed their name to stand on the ballot for church office and look forward to working with them in the coming year. Installation of officers will be on February 5th. Do not worry spring will be coming soon and we will be busy mowing our lawns and planting our fields. But until then stay warm and pray often!

Gods Blessings from the Elders

**PLEASE JOIN US** for quilting day on Thursday, February 2, 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 FEBRUARY**

DUTY	February 5	February 12	February 19	February 26
<b>Organist</b>	Jayne VanAsperen	Jolene Reetz	Jayne VanAsperen	Jolene Reetz
<b>Elders</b>	John Reitz	Ken Tesar	Brent Wohl	Terry Reetz
<b>Greeters</b>	Mr. & Mrs. Darren Weber	Mr. & Mrs. Wally Wild	Carol Brinkmeyer & Marilyn Nast	Mr. & Mrs. Roger Brunelle
<b>Acolytes</b>	Aaron & Jacob Meinke & Madison Persing	Olivia & Hugo Pomajzl	Rylee Pospichal & Maggie Wohl	Ashlyn & Jordyn Adam