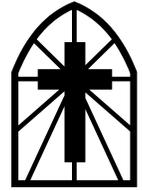


ST. JOHN LUTHERAN LCMS
11400 WEST PANAMA ROAD, CRETE, NE 68333



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 2 FEBRUARY, 2018

LOVE SHOWS IT

Dear St. John Saints.

I love you. I do. Yes, I'm saying that because Valentine's Day is coming. And Valentine's Day is a time for expressions of love. Usually, Valentine's Day is thought to be an expression of romantic and affectionate love.

But there is a love that is greater and deeper than that. Consider God's love for us. The Bible is clear that God loves and that God is love. But God's love is not just an affectionate love for us. God's love goes much deeper. God shows love—He doesn't just say it. God shows His love in keeping His promises. He promises to grant you what you need today: food, shelter, water, clothes, family, and friends. If you have these—God has fulfilled His promises to you.

But God's love is also shown to us in mercy and forgiveness. God gave up His most precious and beloved Son to death for you to save you from your sins. The sacrifice of Jesus on the cross for you is the greatest love every. John 3:16 (ESV): "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." God's love is so much more deeper and foundational than a simple expression of affectionate love. God's love is according to His decision and will to love us.

Consider when couples are married. The groom and the bride make vows (promises) to each other. To uphold those promises to be faithful and to love in all situations is a love that goes way beyond affection; it goes to will and choice and decision. Husbands and wives are faithful when they keep their promises made on their wedding day. And if we are honest, we know that spouses might not always feel loving or affectionate. But when we are true to our vows, by choice, by our will, because we once said so, that is love. And from love that is the intent of the will affectionate love is kindled and renewed daily.

This reminds us of and reflects our relationship with God. God loves us by His will and by keeping His vows to us faithfully. And He doesn't just say; He shows love. He puts His love into action by taking care of us and this world every day. God put His love into action when Jesus did the love of the Law for us. Jesus showed us God's love by suffering and dying in our place for sins. God fulfills His promises and will fulfill them when this world ends and He takes us into eternal life with Himself.

We show love for God not by saying so, but by keeping His commands. The summary of the 10 Commandments is love—love for God and love for each other. Love doesn't just say it. Love does it. It shows it by actions. So, I pray that we show each other love by loving each other—really showing love for each other in our actions. And if you want to see what true love is this month as you prepare for Valentine's Day, look to the cross. The cross, where Jesus died for you to save you from your sins—that is true love. True love is sacrificial. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, died to save you. True love shows it. And God shows love for us in Jesus and He continues to show it by His wonderful gifts to us each and every day. First, in the forgiveness of our sins, and then in His blessings to us each and every day.

I love you. But more than that—so much more—God loves you—and He shows you in Jesus.

In Christ Who loves us,

Pastor Toensing

PLEASE HAVE ALL INFORMATION OR ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTER TO CHRIS HOLLMAN BY 25TH, THANK YOU!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR

QUILT DAYS on Thursday, February 1, 2018 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. Thank you for your help with this project

HEALTHY HABITS:

OH NO! NOT THAT STUFF AGAIN!

Yes, it's true. The H3N2 is back with a vengeance. Nebraska is in the red alert zone for the flu. (Flu refers to respiratory influenza, not stomach upsets.) This year's flu vaccine is only about 32% effective. However, if you got a flu shot and you get the flu, you should get a lighter case than if you didn't get the shot. Symptoms include fever ☐, chills, headache ☐, muscle aches, fatigue, runny nose or nasal congestion ☐, sore throat and cough. The symptoms of a cold come on slowly while the flu hits suddenly. The most vulnerable people are young children, those over age 65, those with other medical conditions such as heart disease, cancer or diabetes, and those receiving certain medications, such as chemotherapy.

What can you do? Avoid crowds and especially people with any symptoms. Wash, wash, wash your hands! Wash them as soon as you return home from anywhere. Stay home if you are sick. You are able to pass the virus from about 24 hours before you have symptoms until at least 24 hours after you are fever free. This means no fever without the help of medicine. Cover your cough but not with your hand. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue, discard it and go wash your hands. Or cough into the crook of your elbow. If you cover your mouth with your hands and then touch anything, or shake hands with someone, your germs are now on them. No one wants your germs any more than you want theirs. **REMEMBER:** Elbows up to cover those coughs. Stay healthy.

BIRTHDAYS & BAPTISMS

February Birthdays

1 Drew Trautman
3 Dan Murphy
4 Brad Davis
6 Shelley Toensing
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 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

February Baptismal Dates

1 Joy Kouba
2 Arlin Pomajzl
4 Paul Beck
7 Adam & LaShalle Hughes
6 Angela Dello
9 Rev. Art Brinkmeyer
11 Vivian Kirkpatrick
12 Skye Hoyer, Irene Reiss,

Denise Slama
13 Kyle Shore
16 Mersadies Kvasnicka, Robert Kvasnicka
19 Ryan Lee, Castyn Ziemann
21 Nicole Reetz
22 Jessica McBride
23 Brad Davis
24 Jenna Keim
26 Deanna Eggert

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.

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).

LYF NEWS

The LYF will host their Valentine's Dinner on Sunday, February 11 at 11:30 a.m. after Bible Class and 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. The sign up sheet is on the table in the narthex. The last day to sign up is Sunday, February 4. **LYF set up for the Valentine's Dinner will be on Saturday, February 10 at 9am.**

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

The February Evangelism Committee meeting is scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 6, 2018. Members of St. John continue to be invited to attend 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 several of these \$8.00 books still available when you join us.

LAMBS OF CHRIST PRESCHOOL

Lambs of Christ Preschool, as in years past, will be holding a **Chili Feed and Raffle**, which will take place in the fellowship hall of Bethlehem Lutheran Church on Sunday, February 18 from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm. This is an event for the entire community and we extend an invitation for you to attend. 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 (Preschool Board Member contact person). We ask that all gifts/donations be ready for pickup on or before February 14. All monies raised from your tax deductible donation will go directly to the preschool to benefit the boys and girls.

Thank you for your continued support and hope to see you on February 18!

LADIES AID MEETING MINUTES

The Ladies Aid Meeting Minutes for January 31, 2018 meeting will be in the March Newsletter. We will post them online when available.

Additional Picture Directory Order

The Evangelism Committee would like to gauge interest expressed by members of St. John in obtaining a replacement, additional copy, or perhaps did not receive an earlier one, of the last 2015 Photo Directory. The Committee is also interested in any feedback in determining ideas for a future edition – it is learned that LifeTouch now has a process to develop an 'updateable' picture directory too. Please connect with any Evangelism Committee member or drop a note in the Evangelism mailbox relative to this subject.



Lent will begin this month. Ash Wednesday is February 14th. This season we will consider the wisdom and help we have in suffering from ... The Book of Job: Blessed Be the Name of the Lord! One of the Bible's greatest wisdom books is the book of Job. This Lent we will explore this magnificent composition that is numbered among the greatest literature of all time. The sermon themes will help us dig deeply into Job's central message and supporting truths.

We all suffer—personally and privately. We also suffer in more public ways. A husband loses a job. A child gets divorced. A parent dies. And now, thanks to the media, we are able to see and experience more and more of the world's catastrophes and suffering. We need the book of Job, now, more than ever.

Martin Luther asserted that "Job is magnificent and sublime as no book of Scripture." Others have called Job "the Shakespeare of the Bible." The early Christian scholar Jerome perhaps put it best when he called the book of Job an "eel," since the more one tries to contain it, the slipperier it becomes! The purpose of our Lenten emphasis is to learn how to apply Job to our lives so that the book becomes less like an eel and more like a loving companion through life's dark valleys. Preaching plans are as follows:

Ash Wednesday Flying Blind (Job 1:1–12)

Lent 1 Sweet Surrender (Job 1:13–21)

Lent 2 Learning to Lament (Job 3:1–26)

Lent 3 It Is Enough (Job 14:1–14)

Lent 4 Understanding How It All Works Together (Job 23:1–17)

Lent 5 God Speaks in the Storm (Job 38:1–11)

Maundy Thursday On Earth Is Not His Equal! (Job 41:20–34)

Good Friday Tearing Down the Spite House (Job 42:7–9)

The Resurrection of Our Lord I Know That My Redeemer Lives! (Job 19:23–26)

Job's most famous statement appears in 19:25, "I know that my Redeemer lives." Christ is alive. He has conquered death and the grave. His word is sufficient. His grace is enough. His love brings comfort and healing. And this Lent these gifts come to us through the book of Job.

LENTEN SERVICE DUTIES

Ash Wednesday, February 14 10:30 am & 7:30 pm

Organist: Jolene Reetz

Elder: Terry Dittmer

Greeters (7:30 pm): Mr & Mrs Roger Koch

Acolytes (7:30 pm): Elliott Reitz & Hugo Pomajzl

Wednesday, February 21 10:30 am & 7:30 pm

Pianist: Ellen Miller

Elder: Terry Dittmer

Greeters (7:30 pm): Mr & Mrs Mike Langfeldt

Acolytes (7:30 pm): Jordyn Adam & Mersadies

Kvasnicka

Wednesday, February 28 10:30 am & 7:30 pm

Pianist: Ellen Miller

Elder: James Walker

Greeters (7:30 pm): Mr & Mrs Glen Louch

Acolytes (7:30 pm): Mara & Skye Hoyer

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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.
Ash Wednesday & Lenten Services (Wed)	10:30 am & 7:30 pm
Elder’s Meeting (February 5)	6:30 p.m.
LYF	Following Worship Service
Lutheran Women in Mission (February 20)	7:00 p.m.
Ladies Aid Meeting (February 28)	2:00 p.m.

FROM THE ELDER’S

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you to all of the newly elected officers that will be serving and to those that are done with their terms. We appreciate your dedication and service. Please show your support for our LYF by signing up for the Valentine’s dinner being held on Sunday, February 11. Also remember, everyone is invited to Bible study on Sundays following the worship service. Please come enjoy treats, conversation with friends and the study of God’s Word. Lent is upon us and the Ash Wednesday service will begin the season on February 14 at 7:30 p.m. Let us come together and be strengthened by the gifts of the Word and Sacrament. God Bless,

The Elders

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

In February, we will continue with the Gospel of Mark. The current plan will be on February 4, 11 and 18, we will look at Mark. Then, on February 25, we will look at a requested topic of interest. Please join us for all these studies. Read up on Mark and come with your questions. And if you have any suggestions for topics of study or interest, please let Pastor Toensing know.

THOSE SERVING DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

DUTY	Feb 4	Feb 11	Feb 18	Feb 25
Organist	Jayne VanAsperen	Jolene Reetz	Jayne VanAsperen	Jolene Reetz
Elders	Ken Tesar	James Walker	James Walker	Ken Tesar
Greeters	Mr & Mrs Roger Brunelle	Mr & Mrs Terry Dittmer	Mr & Mrs Wayne Eggert	Darlene Dittmer & (need volunteer)
Acolytes	Mersadies Kvasnicka & Ted Muff	Aaron & Jacob Meinke	Rylee Pospichal & Maggie Wohl	Kaitlyn Novak & Colton Homolka

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The St. John Men's Bible Study group continues with a Martin Luther based video series, "A Man Named Martin". The men will begin the second part of this historical, interesting series: "Part II - The Moment". Martin Luther's Spirit-inspired grasp of justification through faith was the cornerstone of the Reformation. This second part of the series examines the errant teachings and wayward traditions of the Late Medieval Church that eventually sparked the Protestant Reformation, a theological overhaul set in motion most notably by Martin Luther's nailing of the 95 Theses to the church door at Wittenberg.

As a follow-up Bible study to the first, "A Man Named Martin-Part 1: The Man", this three-session Bible study takes a close look at the widespread teachings of the late Medieval Church that were superfluous to the Bible or not scripturally grounded. Among them were purgatory, penance, celibacy, prayers for the dead, transubstantiation, the treasury of merits of Christ, devotion to Mary and the rosary, the institution of the papacy, and the one most often linked to the Reformation: the sale of indulgences. The men's group meets at 7:00 p.m. each 2nd Tuesday of the month. Our door is always open to new members, with guests equally welcomed. See you guys on Tuesday, February 13!

TRIP TO MISSION CENTRAL ON FEBRUARY 17, 2018

Missionaries Rev. Joe and Jennie Asher, who we support through Mission Central, will be speaking at the Mission Central location in Iowa on February 17. We have some of our members signed up and would like to see if there are any others with an interest in a group trip that day to travel to Mapleton, Iowa, and hear and meet our supported missionaries. Mission Central is also assembling items in a Creation Theater. The Ashers are serving in Kaiserslautern, Germany. Please let the church office know if you are interested in this group trip. And please keep Rev. Joe and Jennie Asher in your prayers.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

From Diane Hayes - wife of Pastor Joshua Hayes

Sausage Barley Soup

1 lb. Italian sausage

1 small onion, chopped

1 clove garlic, minced (I use dried, jarred garlic)

2 -3 carrots, sliced

2-3 celery ribs, sliced

48 oz. low-sodium chicken broth/stock

1 cp. pearled barley *

Brown sausage in large pan. Add onion and garlic and cook until onions begin to soften. Add carrots and celery and cook briefly. Transfer this to slow cooker. Add remaining ingredients and cook on low, 4-6 hours.

*If you use Instant Pearled Barley, add during the last hour of cooking!