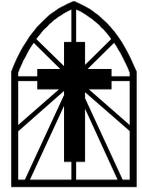


ST. JOHN LUTHERAN LCMS, PASTOR JOSHUA HAYES
11400 WEST PANAMA ROAD, CRETE, NE 68333



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 NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 29 ISSUE 1 JANUARY 2015

LUTHER ON THE IMPORTANCE OF HEARING GOD'S WORD IN THE NEW YEAR

From a sermon Luther gave
in 1532:

Dear friends, you know how earnestly God has commanded everyone to hear and to learn his precious Word, for it cost him much to bring it to the world. He hazarded his prophets for this purpose, indeed, he even sent his own Son into the world and allowed him to be crucified and to die for this. He permitted all the apostles to be persecuted and all Christians to be afflicted for this purpose, and commanded the former faithfully to administer it and the others diligently to hear it. And if there were no other reason for doing this except that it is God's good pleasure and will and strict command, this one reason would be sufficient, for as creatures we owe it to our Lord and Creator to be obedient to him and do this with all willingness as to him who has given us and every day continues to give us so many good things that we shall never be able to thank him sufficiently.

But he does not leave it at that; he does not wish that it be imposed upon us only as a command or to demand it of us as bound in duty, but also promises that great fruits and benefits shall

redound to us thereby and causes it to be proclaimed that in doing this one gives to him his greatest and highest service. For he is a great Lord, whom we serve, who has many and various kinds of service, and we can serve him in many ways; but this one way excels all the rest.

I say this to you in order to admonish you and show you why we should willingly hear God's Word and come to church, not only because it is God's stern commandment, but also because it carries with it the highest promise that it is acceptable to God and the greatest and most loving service we can perform for him, and far excels all other service as the sun exceeds all the stars and the sabbath day or Sunday excels all other common days, in short, as much as God's kingdom surpasses the kingdoms of the world. For here all things are hallowed and especially chosen—the time, the person, the place and the churches—all for the sake of the Word, which makes all things holy to us. [I say this to you] in order that we may take heed and not become so slothful and sluggish, like those shameful, satiated spirits who allow themselves to think that now they have the whole thing and know it all too well and even better than anyone can preach

it to them, or like those others also who are soon fed up and think, "Oh, I've heard that often, why should I have to listen to the same thing over and over again?" They do not know and consider what a great and excellent thing it is and what a sublime service of God this is, which they so shamefully despise or so foully forsake and neglect, and thus provoke God to wrath because they so cocksurely cast his earnest command to the winds and allow his promise to be made void in them, and as much as in them is, impair or even hinder by their example this laudable service of God.

Let us take it to heart then and remember, whenever we preach, read, or hear God's Word, whether it be in the churches or at home through father, mother, master, or mistress, and gladly believe that wherever we can obtain it we are in the right, high, holy service of God, which pleases him beyond all measure. Thus you will be warmed and stirred to love hearing it all the more and God will also grant that it bear fruit, more than anybody can tell. For the Word never goes out without bringing forth much fruit whenever it is earnestly heard, without your being the better for it. Even though you do not see it now, in time it will appear.

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

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).

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

please consider receiving your monthly newsletter via email to conserve and save paper. Please contact Cathy Hollman at the church office 826-3883 or cathy-atchurch@hotmail.com with your email address. Thank you for going GREEN!

ST. JOHN EVANGELISM NEWS

Every Sunday morning you will see a member of the Evangelism Committee in the narthex, there to greet and welcome visitors to St. John. Visitor packets have been prepared by the Committee to give to visitors as they arrive for worship services. The packets include worship time information; various activities and opportunities offered at St. John; a "welcome" message, and a tract.

Several members of our St. John congregation have been visiting our shut-in and homebound members. The visits were suspended for the month of December since we had caroling groups that visited each of these same homes. The monthly visits will resume in the new year. If you are interested in making shut-in visits, please talk with Pastor Hayes or one of the members of the Evangelism Committee for more information. These in-home visits are so appreciated!

The Evangelism Committee meets once a month. We are currently working on preparing new member packets similar to the visitor packets.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & BAPTISMS

BIRTHDAYS

1 Arlin Pomajzl
4 Tom Nyhoff
5 Lyndsey Williams
6 Marilyn Nelson
7 Paul Beck, Patricia Prochnow, Julie Reetz, Jeana Rezac
9 Skye Hoyer
10 Addison Meinke
11 Denise Slama
13 Joy Kouba
15 Barb Munro
16 Jessica Galbreath, Estelle Reetz
17 Kristi Doiel
18 Logan Adam, Nick Hollman

19 Loren Beck, Matt Walker
20 Nick Ellingson
23 Anne Fletcher
25 Matt Karl
26 Angela Dello
27 Harry Meinke, Nicole Reetz, Kyle Shore
28 Savannah Hensley
29 Sherry Davis
30 Cynthia Meyer, Brian Persing
31 Dave Eggert

BAPTISMS

1 Steve Vanasperen, Fred Weidner
3 Tanna Nitzel
4 Aaron Meinke

8 Jayne Vanasperen
7 Ellen Miller
12 Chris Williams
14 Joe Kalkwarf, Don Rejcha
15 Hannah Ochs
16 Melissa Gash, Kate [LaVerna] Kattau
17 Max Novak
19 Troy Henning, Barb Meinke
20 Marilyn Nelson, Lyndsey Williams
21 Doug Kattau, Scott Murphy
22 Pete Hollman
23 Jeana Rezac
27 Estelle Reetz
28 Matt Walker
29 Dan Meinke, Andrew Munro, Kent Nelson

**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN
CHURCH -MS**
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 4 miles East & 2 miles South of Crete

PHONE:
 Pastor: 418-4980
 Office: 826-3883

PASTOR'S EMAIL:
 Joshua.hayes@gmail.com

CATHY'S E-MAIL:
 cathychurch@hotmail.com
 www.stjohnkramer.org

OPPORTUNITES FOR FUTHER 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 (January 12)	7:00 p.m.
LYF ()	Following Worship Service
Lutheran Women in Mission (January 20)	7:00 p.m.
Ladies Aid Meeting (January 28)	1:30 p.m.

FROM THE ELDER'S

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

Last month we visited about Rev. Christopher Ahlman, our missionary in Germany. You may recall that Germany has a large Muslim population and that the German government predicts that Germany will be a Muslim country by 2050 if current trends continue.

The good news is that God has allowed us glimpse of his working through Rev. Ahlman. We recently received a picture of 5 Muslim

men praying in a church in Liepzig, Germany after meeting with Rev. Ahlman.

So is my word that goes out from my mouth:

It will not return to me empty but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it (Is 55:11)

This is a great encouragement to Rev. Ahlman and to us, his supporters. Mission fields come in many forms. Often, the most difficult and sometimes the most dangerous mission

fields can, under God, be the most fertile. The Muslims are certainly an example of such a mission field.

As we are encouraged, we must remember that it is the Lord at work here and that we are merely his willing tools. The most important thing we can do is to continue to pray that God's will be done, not only for Rev. Ahlman but also for those 5 Muslim men.

In His Service,
 the Elders

THOSE SERVING DURING THE MONTH OF JANUARY

DUTY	January 4	January 11	January 18	January 25
Organist	Jayne Vanasperen	Jayne Vanasperen	Jolene Reetz	Jolene Reetz
Elders	John Reitz	James Walker	Roger Koch	Rollo Schultz
Greeters	Mr. & Mrs. Roger Koch	Mr. & Mrs. Todd Hoyer	Mr. & Mrs. Doug Karl	Mr. & Mrs. Roger Koch
Acolytes	Olivia Pomajzl & Devon Reitz	Elliott Reitz, Bailey Stougard & Sami Weber	Ashlyn Adam & Madison Persing	Morgan & Maggie Wohl & Aaron Meinke