

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



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN 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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BACK TO BASICS: HOME DEVOTIONS

Like car keys, family devotions are easy to lose track of. Advent has come and gone, Christmas is nearly over, and most families have settled back into the routine of the school year. Even if your household is not bustling with the activity of children and young adults, you are still probably taking in a deep breath after the frenzy of Christmas.

Advent and Lent (which will be upon us soon) are times for increased attention to prayer and life rooted in God's Holy Word. If we borrow the image of the solar system, then Sunday's Divine Service is the sun, and all the other days of the week revolve around it and are sanctified by ongoing prayer and time in the Word throughout the week. In this way we are always either going to or coming from the Sacrament of the Altar.

So how did your home and family devotions fare in Advent and Christmas? If you didn't get around to family devotions, ask yourself why. If the dentist asked you whether you brush your teeth daily, would you ever considering answering: "No. I just don't have the time to brush my teeth." Likewise, there is no

person and family who is so busy that they cannot afford to spend even 5 minutes per day in Word and prayer—and this not for the health of their teeth but of their souls!

Some people had strong Christian parents who led the way for them. These people are blessed to have such examples they can follow and imitate. Others did not have parents who spoke openly about their faith or led devotions. They would like to have family devotions, but don't know where to begin. The good news is that family devotions don't have to be complicated. It can be as simple as a reading from the Bible and the Small Catechism and then saying the Lord's Prayer. If parents would read one snippet from the catechism to their children every day from birth (that takes about 30 seconds!) most children would have the entire thing learned by heart before they even started Midweek School! For families that have had no prayer or devotions at all, I usually recommend that they simply start with the Lord's Prayer and build from there. Keep it simple and keep it regular.

If your regular devotions are

more advanced than this, awesome! Consider how you can stay strong and grow stronger in the Word all those days in between Sundays.

And dads, this is not mom's job. This is your job (Eph. 6). Can it be awkward if you are just starting out? Yes. Man up and do it anyway. Real men pray and confess Christ in the home. I was recently reminded of this when a Lutheran layman pointed out a comparison between football and family devotions. He asked, Is it so manly to have time for football but no time for the soul of your wife and children? With football, you are a spectator. How hard is that? You are watching others hitting and being hit from a couch! Want to get in the game? Pick up your Catechism like shoulder pads and helmet, and go find the line of scrimmage in your family's spiritual life. By God's grace, you really can do it!

Peace to you,

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 cathyatchurch@hotmail.com with your email address. Thank you for going GREEN!

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM HEALTHY HABITS

Here are three "resolutions" for your health in 2016:

1. If you smoke, stop. It is a causative component of many different diseases.
2. Stop eating trans fat. It is a major player in clogged arteries and raising bad cholesterol. Read food labels. If it says it contains hydrogenated or partially hydrogenated oils, it's bad. Instead use olive oil, coconut oil, or butter.
3. Avoid germs that cause flu and common cold by wiping the cart off at the grocery store, washing your hands with soap for 20 seconds every time you return home from somewhere, and by covering your own cough with your sleeve. If you cover your mouth with your hand the germs will be spread on anything you touch.

Here's to your health in 2016!

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & BAPTISMS

BIRTHDAYS

1 Arlin Pomajzl
 3 Blythe Dewey
 4 Tom Nyhoff
 5 Lyndsey Williams
 6 Marilyn Nelson
 7 Paul Beck, Patricia Prochnow, Julie Reetz, Jeana Rezac
 9 Skye Hoyer
 11 Denise Slama
 13 Joy Kouba
 15 Barb Munro
 16 Jessica McBride, 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 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
 19 Troy Henning, Barb Meinke
 20 Marilyn Nelson, Lyndsey Williams
 21 Doug Kattau, Scott Murphy
 23 Jeana Rezac
 27 Estelle Reetz
 28 Matt Walker
 29 Dan Meinke, Andrew Munro, Kent Nelson

Please contact Cathy to add or change any birthday or baptism dates! cathyatchurch@hotmail.com

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Church Office: 826-3883
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Email: Joshua.hayes@gmail.com

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.

ALTAR FLOWER CALENDAR

A calendar has been placed in the entryway of the church to reserve a date to place flowers on the altar. If you would like to donate toward flowers, the Ladies' Aid Altar Committee will purchase the flowers and place them on the altar for you. Only live flowers should be placed on the altar. Flowers will not be placed on the altar during the seasons of Advent and Lent. If you have questions you can contact LaVonne Nitzel, JoAnn Renner or Diane Kahle.

Rollo & Verna Schultz will celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary on January 14th. Please join their 5 children, 9 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren by honoring them with a card shower.

Your wishes may be sent to:
9722 W. Sprague Rd.
Crete, NE 68333

LADIES AID MINUTES

St. John's Ladies Aid met on December 30, 2015, for the regular meeting and Christmas Party with a pot luck luncheon. Dianne Kouba led the meeting for Olga Weidner. Pastor shared a devotion and prayers. Marilyn Nast led us in singing Christmas songs.

Roll call was taken with eleven members present and three guests, Diane and Mary Hayes and Lori Aadsen. Minutes from the November meeting were read and approved. The treasurer's report was given.

OLD BUSINESS: Diane Kahle reported that the "Altar Flower Calendar" for signing up to place flowers on the altar has been placed in the hallway of the church.

NEW BUSINESS: A motion was made and seconded that the start time for the meetings be changed to 2:00 p.m. beginning in January, 2016. Motion passed. Thank you notes from those receiving a Christmas donation were passed around for members to read. A sign up sheet was passed around for providing meeting refreshments in 2016.

Deanna Eggert celebrated a birthday on December 4.

Pastor Hayes installed the new officers for 2016 as follows:

President: Darleen Dittmer

Vice President: Dianne Kouba

Treasurer: Janice Reetz

Secretary: Shirley Reetz

Altar Committee: LaVonne Nitzel, Diane Kahle and JoAnn Renner

Welfare Committee: Barb Meinke, Donna Hillgren and Noreen Wild

The 2015 officers were thanked for their service.

Following the meeting we were entertained by reading Christmas jokes provided by Irene Reiss and we played Christmas Bingo.

Diane Kahle, acting secretary

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PASTOR'S EMAIL:
 Joshua.hayes@gmail.com
CATHY'S E-MAIL:
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 www.stjohnkramer.org

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 (January 11)	7:00 p.m.
LYF ()	Following Worship Service
Lutheran Women in Mission (January 19)	7:00 p.m.
Ladies Aid Meeting (January 27)	2:00 p.m.

FROM THE ELDER'S

This years Children's Christmas program was another success. Thanks to all the helpers and to all the kids for a job well done.

This month we have our annual Council/Voters meeting. They are on January 25th, Council meeting first followed by the Voters meeting. Election of Officers will be done. Please prayerfully consider any Offices

that you may have been nominated for. Thank you to those who have served and who continue to serve! Installation of officers will be the following Sunday, January 31.

The Elder of St. Johns

Did you know the bulletin and readings are available via email the Tuesday after Sunday's service? Please contact Cathy to be added to the group email. Also please remember the newsletter and calendar are also available via email. Please consider this option as a way to save paper!

Thank you

cathyatchurch@hotmail.com

THOSE SERVING DURING THE MONTH OF JANUARY

DUTY	January 3	January 10	January 17	January 24	January 31
Organist	Jayne VanAsperen	Jayne VanAsperen	Jolene Reetz	Jolene Reetz	Jolene Reetz
Elder	Jeff Meinke	James Walker	John Reitz	Brent Wohl	Tim McDermott
Greeters	Mr. & Mrs. Roger Brunelle	Mr. & Mrs. Terry Dittmer	Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Eggert	Diane Gropp & Darleen Dittmer	Mr. & Mrs. Troy Henning
Acolytes	Madison Persing & Devon Reitz	Oliva & Hugo Pomajzl & Elliott Reitz	Morgan & Maggie Wohl & Ashlyn Adam	Colton Homolka & Aaron Meinke	Mara & Skye Hoyer