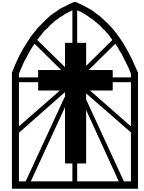


CONTACT INFORMATION FOR

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.



VOLUME 29 ISSUE 7 JULY 2015

A PASTORAL WORD ON MARRIAGE, PART 1

Jesus answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate" (Matt. 19:4–6).

"If you love it so much, why don't you marry it?" That was a joke we used to say as kids. "If you love ice cream so much, why don't you marry it?" It meant nothing, but behind that joke lies a false assumption: marriage is about what I like.

When our culture assumed this, it was a quick slide down to so-called "gay marriage." For many the question became, "Should gays marry if they like each other so much?" not "Can gays marry at all?" A "should" and a "can" are two different things.

One might argue: "Everyone *should* root for the Huskers." That is moral statement, made because people *can* instead root for Michigan. They have that ability. But gay "marriage" is not a *should* question but a *can* question. It is not a question of morality (gasp!) but of possibility. Homosexual *lust* is the moral issue—we sinners *can* do that, though we *shouldn't*. But homosexual "marriage" is a question of possibility: *Can* two of the same sex be united in conjugal union? No, it is impossible. No marriage union arises. The two do not become "one

flesh."

Nothing about marriage has changed, but now the law of the land no longer reflects reality. How did we get here? There are many factors, but consider this. Our culture has been saying for a long time now: "It's just sex." Jesus and the Bible, however, teach that it is through conjugal union (intercourse) that *God* unites man and woman together. The church upholds and honors sex for what it is in reality: God Himself does the uniting through this marital act so that a marriage arises when mutual, public consent is given to live as husband and wife (= "leaving father and mother"). In other words, sex is not a side-benefit to marriage; it is the appointed means through which God makes male and female into one flesh. Even outside of marriage sex is marital in character, though the two are sinning (fornicating) by refusing to take each other as husband and wife, preferring instead to misuse each other for selfishness and impurity.

The point is, sex is never just sex, nor is marriage about what I like or want. It is about God who joins, and I can no more be joined in this way to another man than I can to ice cream. To the joke, "If you love ice cream so much, why don't you marry it?" the answer is: because the only conjugal union that exists in creation is that of male and female.

It's not a *should* question, nor is it about what I want or like. It's about reality.

God's Word is a lamp unto our feet. Through it we see the universe in a more accurate way so that we do not unwittingly walk off a cliff or believe in things that don't exist. Gay "marriage" does not exist, no matter what courts or voters may say. Our society will now relearn the lesson we should have learned as toddlers, that saying "I want it!" does not change our reality.

In part two I will address what the church *can* and *should* do now as we live under laws that do not reflect reality. In the meantime, I recommend two resources above all. Our synod's website, www.lcms.org, and a Lutheran radio show that you can hear live or on-demand at issuesetc.org. There you can hear outstanding interviews with our Synodical President, scholars, lawyers, journalists, and more. I encourage you to check it out.

But I don't want to leave off here, so I will spoil the ending of part two: we preach repentance and faith. Reality has not changed. Marriage is not going anywhere, and neither is Jesus. He is the Savior of the gay, the straight, male, female, sinful preachers, and sinful hearers alike. We will repent for our own sins and point fellow sinners to the only place where there is truth, forgiveness, comfort, and hope: the cross of Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God.

Peace to you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pastor Steve".

QUARTERLY VOTERS MEETING

St. John Lutheran Church Quarterly Voters Meeting of April 27, 2015

President Gary Meinke called the meeting to order at 8:00. Pastor Hayes led us in an opening prayer. Minutes of the January 26, 2015 meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Balance forward 01/01/2015	\$34,008.28
Plus regular receipts	\$35,382.47
Plus mission receipts	\$1,324.83
Balance plus receipts	\$70,715.58
Less regular disbursements	\$35,974.00
Less mission disbursements	\$4,447.42
Ending balance 03/31/2015	\$30,294.16

Elder's Report:

Confirmations:

May 3: Emma Hoyer, Bailey Stougaard and Sammi Weber

Funerals:

February 16 : Pete Hollman

March 2: Marie Wohl

May 6: Sandra Miller

Release's (non=LCMS)

February 19: Tricia, Alli and Max Novak to United Methodist Church

in Dorchester.

February 19: Travis Eggert to First Evangelical Covenant Church in Waverly

Pastor's Report:

We will be placing the Pro-Life crosses on the southeast corner of 114th and Sprague road. Pastor Brinkmeyer is helping Crete Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Pastor Ristvedt's absence. Please pray for Pastor Brinkmeyer, Pastor Ristvedt and the church members. Confirmation will be on Sunday May 3. Emma Hoyer, Bailey Stougaard and Sammi Weber are the 3 confirmands this year. Pastor Roger Henning will fill in on May 10th for Pastor Hayes while he is on vacation with his family. The Ascension Day Service will be Thursday May 14 at 6:30. The Ladies Aid will serve dessert after the service. Wednesday Communion Service will start again on May 27th. Roger Koch will attend the Nebraska District convention in June.

Board of Education:

The vacation Bible School theme from CPH this year is Camp Discovery, Jesus at work through us. Dates are set for July 19-23, 5:15-7:15pm, dinner included. Sign up sheets for children and volunteers are available in the narthex. Cathy is working with Rhonda Beethe, the Lambs of Christ preschool teacher, who is directing the Bethlehem VBS in early June. Bethlehem has the same theme, so Cathy and Rhonda are collaborating on decorating supplies to save on cost.

Wednesday May 6 is the last night of midweek. the kids will watch a video on Martin Luther and eat pizza to finish up the year.

The last day of regular Sunday school is May 17. we will continue Sunday school during the summer using curriculum provided by Lutherans for Life. We plan to only have one class for all ages every week, with LYF members serving as leaders.

Sunday school offerings are for the Heritage Foundation.

Trustee's Report:

Snow was pushed off the parking lot a few times, did some electrical work and checked the elevator, planted grass, mowed grass a few times, the James Walker family installed a new flag pole and Brent Wohl and the youth group painted the cemetery gate sign.

Youth Report:

In January they took down the Christmas decorations and started planning for the Valentine's dinner. In February they had the Valentine's dinner with a great turnout and in March they started planning the Easter Egg Hunt and the Easter Breakfast. We would like to thank the congregation for their support throughout the year.

Evangelism Report:

Rollo and Verna Schultz, Marilyn Nast, Karen Tiedeman, Ellie Koch, JoAnn Renner and Carol Brinkmeyer made 22 visits to church members. Plans are being made to make a new church directory in August. Lorine Fangmeier will turn 90 years old on May 9th and it is asked that we send birthday cards to celebrate the occasion.

Memorial Report:

Dean Prochnow is working on the burial plot maps. Lee Miller is working on a list of the names and dates on the headstones in the cemetery. John Reitz, Marianne Tesar and Terry Meinke audited the books and reported everything looked good. A big thank you to them for doing a great job.

New Business:

A motion was made and seconded to send President Russ Sommerfeld a letter and monetary gift of \$100 to thank him for his years of service as his term ends.

There will be a fish boil on July 12th.

A motion was made and seconded to donate money for Karen Tiedeman's mission trip to Russia. It was voted to match funds up to \$1000.00.

Roll call showed 31 members present.

Kay Jordan

Council Secretary

VBS NEWS

REGISTRATION FOR VBS is open for preschoolers through 8th grade children who will attend VBS from July 19th to July 23rd, 5:15 p.m. to 7:15 p.m., dinner provided. Come along with us as we sing fun songs, do crazy crafts, eat yummy snacks, play awesome games, and *more*. Plus, you'll learn all about Jesus our Savior and how He is at work through us! Can't wait to see you there! Registration forms are located on the table in the narthex. Please call Cathy Hollman 540-0435, or e-mail cathyatchurch@hotmail.com if you have any questions!

BE PART OF CAMP DISCOVERY VBS! God's children of all ages will discover that Jesus is at work through us at *Camp Discovery* VBS, and, every child will hear the Good News that Jesus, their Savior, gives us courage, gives us His wisdom, saves us, gives us faith, and gives us His love to share through His work in us. At *Camp Discovery* VBS, as VBS staff you can live out the theme "Jesus is at work through us" as you share the message and the fun with kids! If you can help full or part time, we have many ways to be involved to suit your schedule and interests. Please call Cathy Hollman 540-0435, or e-mail cathyatchurch@hotmail.com if you have any questions! Join us to see how Jesus is at work through us! Volunteer registration forms are located on the table in the narthex.

VBS 2015: Camp Discovery

Key theme: Jesus at work through us

Key Bible Verse: We love because He first loved us. 1 John 4:19

Each year VBS has a designated mission project. This year's mission is the OGT Back to School Kits. Mission projects provide a way to teach children to respond to God's love by sharing the gifts He gives. Collecting items needed for a specific mission project gives children a tangible way to respond to the love of God and serve their neighbor.

If you wish to donate item(s) please bring them to church and put them in the box located in the narthex. Please have donations to the church by **July 19th**. During the week of VBS the children will be packaging the items. Your donations are greatly appreciated!

OGT Back to School Kits

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> backpacks | <input type="checkbox"/> crayons |
| <input type="checkbox"/> spiral notebooks – any size | <input type="checkbox"/> rulers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> pencils | <input type="checkbox"/> glue sticks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> pens | <input type="checkbox"/> safety scissors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> construction paper | <input type="checkbox"/> washable markers |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> protractors |

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!

HEALTHY HABITS: TRANS FAT

Trans fat has been in the news recently because the FDA removed it from the list of foods "generally regarded as safe". It is to be phased out of the food supply within the next three years. Although authorities knew about its dangers several decades ago, they are just now getting around to doing something about it.

What is it? Trans fat forms when air is whipped into oils causing them to become more solid. Any food label that says it contains hydrogenated or partially hydrogenated oil has trans fat in it. Even foods marked with the signage "zero trans fat" still have it in the food. The government created a loophole for food companies and said if it is less than half a gram per serving it can be labeled as zero.

What does trans fat do to your body? It raises the bad LDL cholesterol and lowers the good HDL cholesterol. It clogs our arteries and fills them with a waxy sticky substance that eventually

blocks them. It first was introduced into our foods in the 1950s and heart disease and strokes have skyrocketed since then.

Which foods have the most trans fat? Foods with the largest amounts of this dangerous fat are:

- Margarine and shortening
- Non-dairy coffee creamer
- Frozen pizza
- Cake mixes
- Canned frosting
- Many peanut butters
- Fast food
- Refrigerated dough, biscuits, and cinnamon rolls
- Microwave popcorn

Until the government gets its act together you can protect yourself and your family by reading food product labels. If it says "partially hydrogenated oil" or "hydrogenated oil" leave it on the shelf.

For more information go to <www.mayoclinic.org>

JULY BIRTHDAYS & BAPTISMS

BIRTHDAYS

- 3 A. J. Ellingson, Lisa Rejcha, Sherry Rezac
- 5 Janice Reetz
- 6 Terry Stehlik
- 8 Phyllis Wendelin
- 9 Hugo Pomajzl
- 10 Les Korte, Linda Lee
- 11 Sandi Karl, Marilyn Nast
- 12 Hope Hoyer, Gary Meinke, Erica Sublett
- 13 Trevor Nitzel
- 15 LaVonne Nitzel
- 16 Lynn Meinke
- 19 Lisa Shore
- 20 Leahh Anderson, Karen Bachman, Cassidy Meinke, Ashley Walker

- 21 Alexandra Weber
- 23 Briggen Reetz
- 24 Megan Williams
- 25 Wayne Hansmeyer, Frank Slama, Bailey Stougard
- 26 Joe Hoesche
- 29 Barb Meinke, Aleece Reetz
- 31 Brad Pomajzl

BAPTISMS

- 1 James Haufle, Jeff Hollman
- 2 Logan Meyer
- 3 Brian Poole, Jacob Wohl
- 4 Wendie & Austin Haufle, Staci McMahon, Marvin Nitzel
- 5 Roger Koch, Tessa Miller
- 7 Amanda Easley

- 8 Devon Reitz, Marlene Wagner
- 10 James Doiel, Cindy Hoyer
- 11 Victoria Rethmeier
- 12 Sherry Rezac
- 13 Calen Homolka
- 14 Eric Dewey, Lydia Lee, Morgan Wohl
- 15 Ethan Sublett
- 16 Trevor Nitzel
- 17 Darren Meinke, Trevor Wagner
- 18 Elmer Reetz, Garrett Reetz
- 19 Dylan Wagner
- 20 Lisa Rejcha
- 22 Wally Wild
- 25 Shawna Doiel, Les Korte, Janice Reetz
- 27 Gary Meinke
- 28 Sandi Karl
- 29 Olga Weidner
- 30 JoAnn Renner

Contact information for
Pastor Hayes
Church Office: 826-3883
Cell: 418-4980
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.

EVANGELISM REPORT

Church Pictorial Directory.

St. John is now preparing a new pictorial directory. The family pictures will be taken August 11-15. We are now asking for volunteers to help during that time. Please consider donating some time to this project.

The Life Touch representative will be here Tuesday, July 7 at 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall to give us the information to make our directory procedure successful. When you sign up to volunteer please keep July 7 available. At that time you can decide what part of the process will work for you.

Thank you all for your anticipated cooperation.

FROM THE ELDERS

Dear Fellow Believers,

Last month we were discussing how the LCMS sends its missionaries out into our sinful world to proclaim God's Word. Each missionary must secure their own funding before they can be deployed overseas. This can be a time of great anxiety for our missionaries. How do they go about getting enough money to keep them in the mission field for at least several years?!

This is where the Nebraska/Western Iowa District LCMS World Missions (aka. Mission Central) organization comes into play. Director Gary Thies and staff of 68 unpaid volunteers work tirelessly to connect individual supporters with individual missionaries. Gary travels all around the Iowa and Nebraska Districts speaking at churches and visiting with individuals in their homes about the opportunities available to them to share the Good News with a fallen world through our missionaries. Gary would say to us that the Lord is

always looking for people who "Get it". And he would say to the anxious missionary, "the Lord ALWAYS provides at Just The Right Time".

The funding is what we call "restricted funds". This means the individual donor specifies the use of the funds. So the money St. John pledges for the support of Rev. Ahlman goes directly to him in total, with no portion of it used for other expenses/overheads. Gary and his staff manage these funds and see that they are sent on to each missionary in a timely manner. It should also be noted that Mission Central is solely supported by volunteers and donations without District or Synod funding. And Director Thies would like you to know that there are actually 69 volunteer unpaid, uncompensated employees at Mission Central.

Gary and his staff also support our missionaries when they return to the States on leave. Previously our missionaries spent much of their leave time, often just a few weeks, traveling to their various supporters around the District to report on their activities

and to secure additional funding. Now they can travel to Mission Central in Mapleton IA, where they are provided lodging and meals and where they can meet with all their supporters all at one time. This gives our missionary and their family leave time for a much needed rest and visitation time with family and friends. Thousands of supporters travel to Mission Central each year to meet with their missionary and get a home cooked Lutheran Church Basement Ladies meal in the bargain.

I would encourage all of you to check out the Mission Central web site at www.missioncentral.us and see wonderful ways the our Lord is blessing our mission work.

Please continue to keep our missionaries Rev. Ahlman and Karen Tiedeman and their families in your prayers.

This is good, and pleases God our Savior who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.
1 Timothy 2:3

In His Service
the Elders

**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN
CHURCH -MS**

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Crete, NE 68333
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:

cathyatchurch@hotmail.com
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 Communion Service (Wednesdays)	6:30 p.m.
Elder's Meeting (July 6)	7:00 p.m.
LYF ()	Following Worship Service
Lutheran Women in Mission (July 21)	7:00 p.m.
Ladies Aid Meeting (July 29)	1:30 p.m.
VBS (July 19-23)	5:15-7:15 p.m.

LADIES AID MINUTES

St. John's Ladies Aid met on June 24, 2015, with Janice Reetz as hostess. The meeting opened by singing "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less". Pastor Hayes led us in prayer and the Bible Study on Galatians 1:1-5.

Roll call was taken with ten members present. The May minutes were read and approved. The treasurer's report was given.

The fish boil will be held on

July 12, at Kramer Hall. Salads and desserts are needed for this meal.

VBS will be held the week of July 19th. Anyone willing to bring snacks and cookies are welcome to do so.

Plans are being made to have a pictorial church directory made. Volunteers are needed to help with this project. A meeting to organize this will be held on July 7th.

Pastor Hayes celebrated a birthday in June. Anniversaries were celebrated by Pastor and Diane Hayes, Elmer and Shirley Reetz, Ken and Diane Kahle and Wayne and Linda Eggert.

Irene Reiss will be the hostess for July. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer and table prayer.

Shirley Reetz, secretary

THOSE SERVING DURING THE MONTH OF JULY

DUTY	July 5	July 12	July 19	July 26
Organist	Jayne Vanasperen	Jolene Reetz	Jolene Reetz	Jayne Vanasperen
Elders	Roger Koch	Tim McDermott	Brent Wohl	James Walker
Greeters	Mr. & Mrs. Del Reiss	Mr. & Mrs. Bob Renner	Mr. & Mrs. Rollo Schultz	Mr. & Mrs. Byron Shore
Acolytes	Morgan & Maggie Wohl	Ashlyn Adam & Mara Hoyer	Aaron Meinke & Madison Persing	Kylie & Cassidy Meinke