

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 6 JUNE 2015

A NOTE ON HEADSTONES IN OUR CEMETERY

At a recent meeting of the Board of Elders we came across a bylaw that we didn't realize existed. The congregational bylaw on the cemetery reads as follows:

"The cemetery of St. John's Lutheran Church is a private burial grounds, not open to the general public. Only those may be buried there, who, at their death were members of St. John's Congregation. Any other Lutheran of the Missouri Synod may receive Christian burial there provided he/she went to his eternal rest as a member in good standing at his/her home church. The members of St. John's, Kramer, need pay no fee for a grave; however, any other Lutheran desiring burial will be required to pay a fee of \$150 for a grave. Former members of this Congregation, who have transferred their membership and desire burial here, will also be required to the \$150 fee. This fee includes only the permission to have the burial here. The digging of the grave, the closing of the grave, the care and beatifying of the grave itself is not included in this fee. Since the upkeep of the cemetery involves expense, all who have graves here are asked to contribute towards its upkeep.

To avoid possible misunderstanding, all people, before placing a monument in the St. John Lutheran Church Cemetery, must submit the design and wording for the proposed structure to the Board of Elders for approval."

This last part is probably not well known among us. The Elders ask you help inform one another of this rule. Kuncel Funeral Home and the major headstone maker around here have been notified also, but ultimately it is not their responsibility. The burden is on each of us, when planning cemetery arrangements, to take it to the Board of Elders before everything is finalized.

Thankfully this has never really been an issue (at least to my knowledge). Still, it's easy to see the reason and spirit behind the bylaw. The cemetery does not belong to any one of us but to the congregation as a whole and this kind of safe-

guard can help prevent conflict. Each of us needs to guard against a sense of entitlement to the cemetery.

There is, however, an even more important reason. The cemetery itself is a confession of our Christian faith. The word "cemetery" itself is a Greek word that means "sleeping place." We call it a cemetery because we believe that these saints, at rest in heaven with Jesus, will rise bodily on the Last Day in the resurrection of the body. This is why St. Paul constantly refers to the blessed dead as "asleep" (e.g., 1 Thess. 4:13), for when Christ comes their bodies will awake in glory. The words and images we put on our gravestone should reflect our Christian hope, so that we "do not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep" (1 Thess. 4:13-14).

Remember, headstones share our faith with passersby and reflect on the congregation as a whole. Imagine the confusion if someone wrote on his wife's headstone, "Saved because she was such a good person." Not only is this false doctrine that undercuts the Gospel of grace alone, but it would cause people to wonder what kind of teaching and preaching went on in the church. Contrariwise, a good confession such as "At peace with Jesus" or "I AM the Resurrection and the Life," will strengthen mourners with the Gospel.

This bylaw is probably news to most all of us, though it is not new. It's easy to see why the congregation made it and how it serves good order in the church.

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 cathy-atchurch@hotmail.com with your email address. Thank you for going GREEN!

LAMBS OF CHRIST PRESCHOOL NEWS

By: Rhonda Beethe

Saying Goodbye!

Sixteen preschool students will be moving on to Kindergarten next fall. We have had such a great school year! I am so proud of our students and all their accomplishments. We had a wonderful graduation and closing program. We started the evening with a hot dog supper hosted by the preschool board. During our closing program Pastor Hayes gave a wonderful message about the role families play in a child's Christian education. The children sang several songs and received their certificates with pride. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue their educational experiences. I would like to thank you for your support of the preschool this year.

Enrollment for the 2015 – 2016 School Year

We have begun enrolling students for the 2015-2016 school year, if you have a neighbor or friend with a preschool child please share the news about Lambs of Christ Preschool. If you would like a brochure or other information about preschool contact Rhonda Beethe or Michelle Wittstruck.

Farm Field Trip

We had a wonderful time out at the Maas Farm for our final field trip. The children took a wagon ride around the farm followed by the opportunity to hold and pet some baby animals. We would like to thank Roger and Jeannette Maas for hosting us.

Lambs of Christ Rummage Sale

June 12, 1:00 – 7:00 PM & Sat. June 13, 7:00AM – 1:00PM. If you have items to donate please wait to bring them until after church services on Sunday, June 7th. Sorry but we are out of storage space to keep items until sale time. Tell your friends and family and come shopping.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS & BAPTISMS

BIRTHDAYS

2 Wendi & Austin Haufle
3 Terry Dittmer, Ken Tesar
4 Emma Hoyer
6 Susan Tremblay
7 Elmer Dittmer, Greg Kalkwarf
8 Rev. Joshua Hayes, Logan Meyer, Brooke Stanton, Verna Schultz,
9 Devon Reitz, Dewayne & Henry Slama, Ryan Zurcher
12 Madison Hestermann, Kelli Jordan
13 Garrett Reitz
14 Jeff Hollman, Verna Louch
16 Milo Kvasnicka
17 Roger Koch, Hunter Persing
18 Wally Wild
19 Theodore Muff, Jacob Wohl

21 Darren Meinke, Kimberly Scott
23 Staci McMahon, Ariana Munro, Morgan Wohl
24 Kyle Ochs
25 Amanda Easley, Dave Musil, Elmer Reetz
28 Nicole Anderson, Colton Homolka, Cinder Johnson
29 Steve Vanasperen, Victoria Rethmeier
30 Patricia Behrens, Cindy Hoyer, Roger Nelson

BAPTISMS

1 Tonya Clark, Rylee Pospichal
3 Doug Karl
4 Nick Ellingson, Michael Ellingson,

Diane Kahle, Kenneth Kastanek
5 Irelynn Kirkpatrick, Shirley Vosika
7 Ken Behrens, Darleen Dittmer
8 Eric Dewey Jr., Gwendolyn Dewey, Jessie Graft
11 John Haufle, Lane Wendelin
15 Caleb Markey, Charlie Slama
17 Rev. Joshua Hayes
18 Elizabeth Hansmeyer
19 Andrea Pomajzl, John Reitz
20 Greg Kalkwarf, Darcy Meinke
22 Elliott Reitz
24 Emma Hoyer, Bob Renner
25 Michael Gropp
26 Elmer Dittmer
28 Terry Dittmer, Verna Louch

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

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.

YOUTH EDUCATION NEWS

Summer Sunday school has begun! Please join teacher, Diane Hayes, in the Youth Room every Sunday this summer to participate in an all ages summer Sunday school program. Parents, please plan to pick up your kids at 11:20 a.m.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS! VBS VOLUNTEER PLANNING MEETING: JUNE 20TH AT 11:00 A.M. PLAN ON ATTENDING IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER!

**PLEASE CALL CATHY OR EMAIL QUESTIONS TO:
540-0435 OR cathyatchurch@hotmail.com**

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.

LADIES AID MINUTES

St. John Ladies Aid met on May 27, 2015, with Carol Brinkmeyer as hostess. We opened the meeting by singing the hymn, "God Loved the World so that He Gave". Pastor Hayes led us in prayer and the Bible Study on John 3:1-17.

Roll call was taken with nine members and one guest present. The minutes were read and approved and the treasurer's report was given. Noreen Wild, our guest, will be joining Ladies Aid as a member.

OLD BUSINESS: Olga read a thank you note from the family of Sandra Miller. Olga also thanked everyone that worked at the funeral and brought food.

May birthdays were celebrated by Darleen Dittmer, Noreen Wild, JoAnn Renner and Diane Kahle. The birthday song was sung.

Janice Reetz will be hostess for our June meeting. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer and table prayer.

Shirley Reetz, secretary

**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN
CHURCH -MS**
 11400 W. Panama Road
 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.
Elder's Meeting (June 1)	7:00 p.m.
LYF ()	Following Worship Service
LWML Prayer Service (June 16)	7:00 p.m.
Ladies Aid Meeting (June 24)	1:30 p.m.

FROM THE ELDER'S

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, LCMS started sending missionaries 121 years ago. Imagine what it may have been like be called to be a missionary in a foreign country in those times. Travel would be difficult and could take weeks to months. And living conditions could primitive to say the least. And I suspect that the missionary may been on their own to a great degree in solving problems regarding travel, shelter, safety etc. Calling home on your smart phone was not an option! So how does this process work today? The LCMS has an internal organization know as the LCMS World Mission with a staff located in St. Louis and District staff located in

Mapleton, Iowa. It should be noted that the Nebr. District and Iowa West Districts are combined for purposes of World Mission Support.

Just think of all the things that you would have to do to move you and your family to a foreign country for an extended period. There would be passports, visas, permits, travel arrangements, long term lodging, language issues, training in the host country's culture and beliefs, vaccinations, medical care in country, and many other items to consider. This is where the St. Louis staff comes in. They are expert in assisting potential missionaries in all these issues and more. We thank God for the folks in St. Louis and pray

for His continued blessing of their work.

There is one other little detail that the missionaries must attend to and that is raising the long term funding for their financial support during their term of mission work. This is where the staff at LCMS World Missions in Mapleton, Iowa come in. Look for more on this next months news letter.

Please keep our adopted missionary Rev. Ahlman and his family in your prayers.

How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? Romans 10:14 ESV

In His Service,
the Elders

THOSE SERVING DURING THE MONTH OF JUNE

DUTY	June 7	June 14	June 21	June 28
Organist	Jayne Vanasperen	Jayne Vanasperen	Jolene Reetz	Jolene Reetz
Elders	Roger Koch	Brent Wohl	John Reitz	Jeff Meinke
Greeters	Mr. & Mrs. Gary Meinke	Mr. & Mrs. Dave Musil	Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Nitzel	Mr. & Mrs. Brian Persing
Acolytes	Mara Hoyer & Aaron Meinke	Kylie & Cassidy Meinke	Olivia Pomajzl & Devon Reitz	Madison Persing & Elliott Reitz