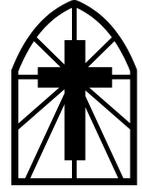


ST. JOHN LUTHERAN LCMS, REV. MAYNARD TOENSING, JR.
11400 WEST PANAMA ROAD, CRETE, NE 68333



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH 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 36 ISSUE 5 JUNE 2017

FACES OF REFORMATION



Thomas Müntzer - Twisting the Reformation into a violent rebellion

Born: circa 1485 | Died: May 27, 1525

Thomas Müntzer was convinced that authentic Christianity was possible only through the charismatic action of the Holy Spirit upon the human heart. All other doctrine was secondary to this experience of the Spirit. He further argued that any theology that did not emphasize this view on every point should be rejected. This radical position led him to oppose the other reformers and even to inspire a violent revolt.

Müntzer was a priest who spent a brief time with Luther in Wittenberg. While there, he accepted many Reformation ideas. He then served in Zwickau, Prague and Allstedt. He used his influence as the local priest to inspire radical social reforms. In these reforms he separated himself from Luther's theology because he felt Luther did not go far enough. In addition to studying with Luther, Müntzer was influenced by the German mystics, who focused the Christian life on the imitation of Christ's suffering and dying. He coupled this idea of imitation with Luther's early writings that stressed the internal turmoil (*Anfechtung*) of the individual in the process of justification. Müntzer argued that this internal turmoil was the prerequisite to meeting the Holy Spirit "in the pit of the soul" (*Seelenabgrund*). This meeting was the only way one could receive true faith and thereby be a true Christian. Müntzer, therefore, based his faith upon the Spirit alone, independent of outside influences — like Scripture, Baptism or doctrine.

This focus on the Spirit divided Christians. Müntzer argued that only those who received the Spirit in their hearts were the elect and in true communion with God. These true Christians were more likely to be laity than clergy, since he opposed treating clergy as the mouthpieces or instruments of God in any way. He argued that the reformers who valued church offices were proclaiming a simulated faith that was a hindrance to people's actual salvation. He thought every Christian must tear down this simulated faith before one could discover the authentic faith in the Spirit.

Müntzer's focus on the Spirit led him to radical conclusions. He thought the role of the elect was to purge evil from the world in order to hasten the second coming of Christ. He expected that many would resist these reforms and that this new order needed to be instituted forcibly. To accomplish this task, he asked that the governing authorities be guided by the Spirit and set up a Christian theocracy to transform the world through force. Since the current governors were not doing this, Müntzer established the "league of the elect" to change the world through illegal and violent means. This league led a violent revolt against the current society and attempted to unseat ecclesiastical and government offices. In 1525 Müntzer was caught, tried and beheaded for his role in the revolt.

Müntzer exemplifies the danger of taking one element of theology, isolating it from its context, and twisting it to meet one's own needs.

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

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.

PASTOR TOENSING CONTACT INFO

If you would like to share any prayer requests or information with Pastor Toensing prior to his installation, or need Pastoral care June 11th and beyond, you may email him at pastortoensing@gmail.com or call phone number (708)-250-9482 .

FROM THE ELDERS

Brothers and sisters in Christ, greetings and God's blessings to you!

We have a very busy June planned so please watch your calendar. As a thank you to those who helped to lead our church during the vacancy we will be having an appreciation lunch on June 4th. Thanks and blessings to Pastors Williamson, Brinkmeyer, and Haynes for all their dedicated work.

We are very excited to prepare for the Installation of Pastor Toensing on Sunday, June 11th at 2:00 pm. We thank God for answering our prayers and at last the day is nearly here. A luncheon will follow the installation and we hope to have a full church.

There are a few events coming in July to keep in mind: The annual Orphan Grain Train fish boil will be on July 9th and Vacation Bible School is scheduled for July 23rd thru the 27th. More information will be coming.

Thanks be to God for guiding us through our vacancy, and praise God for blessing us with our new Pastor and his family!

Yours in Christ,

The Elders

JUNE BIRTHDAYS & BAPTISMS

BIRTHDAYS

2 Wendi & Austin Haufler
 3 Terry Dittmer, Ken Tesar
 4 Emma Hoyer
 6 Susan Tremblay
 7 Elmer Dittmer, Greg Kalkwarf
 8 Verna Schultz,
 9 Devon Reitz, Dewayne & Henry Slama
 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 Kimberly Scott
 23 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, Heath Dewey

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 Gwendolyn Dewey, Eric Dewey Jr.
 11 John Haufler, Lane Wendelin
 15 Caleb Markey, Charlie Slama
 19 Andrea Pomajzl, John Reitz

20 Greg Kalkwarf
 22 Elliott Reitz
 24 Emma Hoyer, Bob Renner
 25 Michael Gropp
 26 Elmer Dittmer
 28 Terry Dittmer, Verna Louch
 30 Margie Kvasnicka

**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN
CHURCH –LCMS**

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www.stjohnkramer.org

Office: 826-3883
secretarystjohn@hotmail.com
Rev. Mark Williamson, Vacancy Pastor
402-782-1802, mwmson56@yahoo.com

For emergency Pastoral care,
Rev. Haynes 440-5546,
haynes1213@aol.com
Or Brent Wohl 440-6843

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER GROWTH

Schedule at a Glance

Worship Service (Sundays)	9:00 a.m.
Bible Class (Sundays)	10:30 a.m.
Elder’s Meeting (June 5)	7:30 p.m.
Lutheran Women in Mission (June 20)	7:00 p.m.
Ladies Aid Meeting (June 28)	2:00 p.m.
Men’s Bible Study (June 13)	7:00 p.m.

LADIES AID MINUTES

The St. John's Ladies Aid met on Wednesday, May 31, 2017. The meeting opened by singing the hymn, "Eternal Father, Strong to Save". Carol Brinkmeyer led us in the Bible Study on Esther. Today we completed the Study on Esther. Roll call was taken with eleven members present. The minutes of the April 26 meeting were read and approved. The treasurer's report was also given and approved. OLD BUSINESS: The installation reception that will be held on June 11 was discussed. The cakes for the reception will be baked by Donna Hillgren and decorated by Janice Reetz. Diane Kahle volunteered to make a centerpiece for the cake table. JoAnn Renner will purchase the plates, cups, napkins and silverware, and Darleen

Dittmer will bring punch, nuts and mints. We decided to get the basement set up for the reception after church on Sunday, June 11. Carol brought copies of the call list we use for funerals and a list of procedures we need to follow. We will work on this more at next months meeting. Birthdays celebrated in May, were Darleen Dittmer, JoAnn Renner, Diane Kahle and Noreen Wild. The birthday song was sung. The hostess today was Carol Brinkmeyer. JoAnn Renner will be our hostess in June. The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer and the common table prayer.

Shirley Reetz, Secretary

PLEASE JOIN US for quilting day on Thursday, June 1, 2017, from 9:30 am to 2:00 pm. Please 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 primarily 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.

THOSE SERVING DURING THE MONTH OF JUNE

DUTY	June 4	June 11	June 11 (2pm)	June 18	June 25
Organist	Jayne VanAsperen	Jolene Reetz	Jayne VanAsperen	Jayne VanAsperen	Jolene Reetz
Elders	Terry Reetz	John Reitz	James Walker	Terry Dittmer	Brent Wohl
Greeters	Mr. & Mrs. Brian Persing	Mr. & Mrs. Dean Prochnow	Mr. & Mrs. Tim McDermott	Mr. & Mrs. Del Reiss	Mr. & Mrs. Bob Renner
Acolytes	Elliott Reitz, Jordyn Adam & Madison Persing	Mara Hoyer & Hugo Pomajzl	Elliott Reitz & Nick Hollman	Rylee Pospichal & Maggie Wohl	Nick Hollman & Jordyn Adam

HEALTHY HABITS

SUMMER TIME and the living is easy, or so says the song. But, one thing not so easy is avoiding ticks. We are told it will be a bad tick season because of the mild winter we enjoyed.

Ticks are present anywhere outdoors but especially in tall grass and tree areas. They will crawl on your legs as you walk through the grass or drop on your shoulder or head from a tree branch. Then, they crawl around until they find a good place to attach to your skin and proceed to suck your blood. ICK! Unfortunately, they aren't satisfied with a blood meal alone and often leave behind a disease they carry, such as Lyme disease or Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever.

To protect yourself wear long sleeves and long pants when you're out in nature. Tuck your pant legs into long socks. Wear shoes. No sandals or flip flops. Wear light colored clothing so the ticks are easy to see and you can remove them before they attach. Spray your clothing, not your skin, with a tick repellent containing Deet. When you get home, immediately remove your clothing and check your skin. Standing in the shower or bathtub while you check allows you to catch any that may fall off and try to crawl away.

To remove an attached tick, use a tweezers and grab it as close to the skin as possible. Gently pull it out and place it in a zipper bag. If you smash it in the open you may get some of the viruses they carry sprayed on you. It will die in the plastic bag and then, if you do get sick, you'll have a specimen to show the doctor. Do not use a match head or Vaseline to try to get the tick to withdraw. Those things can actually cause the tick to eject its germs into you. Cleanse the affected skin area with mild soap and warm water. Apply an antibiotic ointment to prevent local infection. If the head does not come out with the tweezers, see your doctor.

For more info go to <www.mayoclinic.com>. Here you will find how to identify different tick species and symptoms of illness. Take these precautions and enjoy an easy-living summer.

LAMBS OF CHRIST

2017 – 2018 Enrollment

Open Enrollment has begun at Lambs of Christ Preschool. If you know of a child who is of preschool age please contact the preschool so that we can send information about our preschool to them.

Preschool Garage Sale

The annual preschool garage sale will be held June 2 & 3. If you have items to donate you may bring them to Bethlehem between 9:00 – 2:30. If you need set up another drop off time, contact Rhonda at 402- 826-4375. You may shop the garage sale Friday, June 2nd 8:00 am – 6:00 PM or Saturday, June 10th, 8:00 AM – 12:00 noon

VBS

You are invited to join Bethlehem Lutheran Church's Vacation Bible School Program June 12th - 16th. Children PS- 6th grade will be part of "Mighty Fortress, in Jesus the Victory's Won! We will begin each day at 9:00 AM with dismissal at 11:45 AM. Sign up today at vbsmate.com/bethlehemcrete or return the registration form attached to this e-mail.

Rhonda Beethe, Teacher

402-826-4375, lambsofchristcrete@gmail.com

BOARD OF EVANGELISM

You are ... members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the chief cornerstone. - Ephesians 2:19-20

A Solid Foundation

Cemented in truth, our Christian faith does not depend on the flimsy foundation of human opinion or approval.

Instead, members of God's household have a foundation of the prophets and apostles with Christ as the cornerstone. This says that the first believers in Jesus got in on the ground floor. Even more, it tells us on what our faith is built: Christ Jesus.

And it tells who provides evidence that Jesus is who He said. The prophets foretold what the Messiah would be and do. The apostles testify that Jesus fulfilled every prophecy. Not one prophecy, not most, but all. This true knowledge about Jesus, this faith in the Savior who died to set us free, is the foundation for members of God's household.

We can trust Christ, the solid rock. Wise people build their house here (Matthew 7:24).

Holy Spirit, thank You for the Bible, which shows Jesus my Savior. Keep me in this true faith forever. Amen.

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH QUARTERLY VOTER'S MEETING APRIL 24, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. by President Troy Henning. Pastor Williamson led us in a short reading and prayer.

The minutes were read and approved.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report was read and approved.

Treasurer's Report

Balance Forward 1/1/2017 \$73,217.77

Plus Regular Receipts 34,032.40

Plus Mission Receipts 2,237.00

Balance Plus Receipts 109,487.17

Less Regular Disbursements 18,954.67

Less Mission Disbursements 4,156.07

Ending Balance \$86,376.43

Terry Meinke noted that there was a \$50 gift card that was given to Pastor Williamson and \$170.93 lodging expense for Pastor Toensing's visit.

Elders' Report

Head Elder Brent Wohl reports the following statistics for the quarter:

Baptisms:

February 19 Castyn Ziemann

Confirmations:

April 23 Trevis Trautman

Weddings:

March 11 Shawna Doiel and Kenny Heusinkvelt

March 25 Taylor Reetz and Chauncey Ziemann

Funerals:

February 24 Bernadean Strufing held at Lincoln Memorial. Pastor Brinkmeyer served as the Pastor

March 3 Marvin Henning (brother of Carol Brinkmeyer)

April 8 Dillon Samples

New Members:

Trevis Troughtman

No transfers out and no transfers in.

On June 4th there will be a meal put on by the elders for everyone involved with the vacancy, including Pastor Haynes, Williamson, Brinkmeyer, Jacobsen, and Griser

Pastor Toensing's installation will be held on June 11th at 2:00 p.m. President Snow will be putting the service together. The Ladies Aid were asked to serve a luncheon after the installation.

A gift card will be given to Pastor Benson for his help with the Doiel/Heusinkvelt wedding and funeral for Dale Kouba.

Brent received an email from Pastor Toensing asking for more specifics on prayers. Brent asked for update on following people who are in our prayers.

· Dave Duntz. Renners reports that he has throat cancer. The tumor is shrinking and he is taking chemo and radiation.

· Diana Penrose. Sandi Karl reports that Diana is Luke Karl's mother in law who has a brain tumor in which she has had several surgeries. Radiation is to begin end of May.

· June Reehl, · Shawn Stuggard – migraines, · Wally Wild – Had knee surgery, · Donna Kalkwarf – Alzheimers, · Donna Kastanek - cancer, Shut-ins include: · Milo Kvasnicka, · Marge Meinke, · Albert Vosika, · Maynard Hessheimer

Pastor Report

Pastor Williamson reports that Pastor Haynes is doing visitation. His email is haynes1213@aol.com.

There was a benefit for Donna Kastanek this past Sunday. Pastor Haynes will be visiting her.

There will be an invite sent to Bethlehem for the installation of Pastor Toensing plus all congregations in the circuit area. All members in those congregations are invited.

Pastor Williamson reports that he appreciates all the support he has received during his time as our vacancy pastor. He is overjoyed with all the work and Bible classes that has been happening. He is hoping that the new Pastor is invited to cell groups so he can see what is going on. This will help him get used to us and understand our needs. Pastor Williamson says he has been very busy through Lent and Easter. He is now concentrating on confirmation which will be May 7. Essays will be read April 30. The elders and he have discussed Ascension service to be held on May 25 at 7:30 with communion. He will hang around until June 11.

President Henning thanked Pastor for his service.

Board of Education - No report.

Trustees Report

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH QUARTERLY VOTER'S MEETING APRIL 24, 2017 CONTINUED....

- The toilets in the church were repaired.
- Cleaning day at the parsonage produced a good crew. Some things still need to be done so will schedule a follow up day on May 6. Items completed included replacement of dishwasher; Culligan replaced filter in reverse osmosis system and got sulver smell out. Duct cleaning and shampoo still needs to be done.

Cemetery Report - No report.

LYF

Ashley Walker reported on activities which included:

- Valentines Diner
- April Easter Egg Hunt and Breakfast after service
- May 21 will be the highway cleanup
- Ashley Walker and Jeana Rezac will be leaving the Youth Group at the end of May. There needs to be new leaders.

Memorial Committee – no report

Evangelism Committee

Tim McDermott reported on the Evangelism Committee's meetings. The items discussed are as follows:

- They have reviewed what has been done, and what we can continue to do. They see a need for a better website and newsletter and indicated they would concentrate efforts on improving these resources. A letter was submitted to the St. John Board and Council Members on this topic and is included in the minutes.
- Talked about sending out and updating time and talents survey
- Visitor Packets. Only found one packet and are talking about creating new packets.
- Brought up sign out front and asked if there was an LED light. It was noted that Roger Koch took it for updating.
- Noted that Pastor Toensing might have connections with Ongoing Ambassadors for Christ and talked about canvassing area to invite
- May 18 is next meeting

Unfinished Business

500 Year Reformation celebration. Looking for volunteers to help Brinkmeyers on working on this event.

Fish Boil is scheduled for July 9. James Walker is heading the event.

Financial Audit was completed by John Reitz, Terry Meinke, Verna Louch, and Marianne Tesar and was found to be in order.

New Business

President Henning reports that Pastor Toensing's furniture will be delivered around May 23 – 25. His son, Steven, is staying with

grandparents in the Lincoln area and will be moving in around that time. Shelley, Pastor Toensing's wife, will be coming memorial weekend.

Concordia Scholarship. The committee met to discuss. However, before making decisions they need to know how much money can be designated to this scholarship. They will be meeting again and talk about guidelines.

The LWML is planning a Tea Party on June 25 with Shelley Toensing as the guest of honor. All ladies of the congregation will be invited.

Reported on Cemetery Directory project. At this point there would be 367 people listed. The committee consisting of Terry Dittmer, James Walker, and Lee Miller has used as a model the directory that is located at Cook, Nebraska. It will sit on a 6 x 8 slab. Most of the funding is coming from Sandy Miller's memorial. The precast order is in process. Terry Dittmer will get the brick. We are looking at a 4-6 week timeline.

Fellowship Hall. Tim McDermott brought up that there has been \$26,149 in the building fund for some time. The purpose of the building fund is for new construction. He offers that a fellowship hall on ground level would be advantageous that would be connected to the church. This area could be repurposed for youth and a kitchen in the new area for holding events. This will be brought up again at the next meeting.

The lawn mower broke down and a new lawn mower is needed. It was suggested that it have an hourly meter so we know when to change oil, blades, etc. It was moved and seconded to buy a new 0 turn radius mower with at least a 48" deck not to exceed \$6,000.

The playground equipment was brought up to see if there was a possibility of moving closer to the church. This might be a problem because the laterals in place may make it restrictive.

The meeting was adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

There were 39 members present and 1 guest.

Marianne Tesar

Secretary