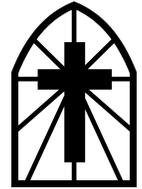


ST. JOHN LUTHERAN LCMS
11400 WEST PANAMA ROAD, CRETE, NE 68333



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 CHURCH NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 30 ISSUE 5 MAY 2016

FAREWELL

Pastors are expendable. I don't mean they are unnecessary. God has instituted and commanded the Office of the Holy Ministry. A congregation *must* call a pastor or it is no congregation at all. I also don't mean that a congregation can dispose of its pastor. Only the pastor who has disqualified himself by persistent false teaching, scandalous living, or persistent and willful dereliction of duty may rightly be removed from office. What I mean is that no individual pastor is Jesus. Though each pastor is unique, he is, at the end of the day, God's instrument for the ministry Jesus continues to work among his people. The pastor is expendable. Another can take his place. If this were not so, then the apostolic church would have died with the apostles. But the church is apostolic—she continues to have the apostolic preaching and teaching through the ministers who succeeded them.

This is why we dress pastors the same and also why they wear vestments during the services. We adorn the office Jesus established with titles ("pastor," "reverend," "minister," etc.) and

garments. In so doing we hide the man and his person. Paul calls pastors "soldiers of Christ" (2 Tim. 2:3). Soldiers also dress alike. When one falls or leaves the field of battle, the next one steps in and the work continues all the same.

This is what Paul means when he wrote to the Corinthians: *What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building* (1 Cor. 3:5–9).

Pastors are "God's fellow workers" but it is God who does the work. The departure of a pastor is a significant event in the life of a congregation. But whether we hate to see the man go or not (no pastor will be personally loved by every parishioner), it is important that we realize that there will be no change in the ministry Jesus

works in our midst, provided that we continue to congregate around the pure preaching and the Sacrament. Neither he who plants (old pastors) nor he who waters (recent pastors) is anything, but only God who gives the growth.

My family and I will treasure our time here and remember you in our prayers. The reality is that you never needed me personally, you only need the Word and Sacraments. I will miss you all. But the greater reality is that we believe in the communion of the saints. We shall always be one body in Christ, united in one Lord, one faith, one baptism.

Peace to you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Steve". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

LADIES AID MINUTES

St. John Ladies Aid met on April 27, 2016, with Diane Kahle serving as hostess. President Darleen Dittmer called the meeting to order. The meeting opened by singing the hymn, "Chief of Sinners Though I Be". Carol Brinkmeyer led the Bible Study on "Naomi, The Ultimate Mother-in-Law".

Roll call was taken with eight members present. The minutes of the last meeting were read and

approved. The treasurer's report was given and approved.

OLD BUSINESS: The Ascension Day Service will not be held this year due to Pastor Hayes accepting a call to Colorado.

NEW BUSINESS: Carol Brinkmeyer up-dated the call list we use for funerals. A motion was made and seconded the Ladies Aid will provide salads, sandwiches, chips, drinks, and desserts for funerals. Motion was passed.

An April birthday was celebrated by Donna Hillgren.

Next month we will hold our meeting at Crete Manor with Darleen Dittmer as hostess. Lorine Fangmeier will celebrate her 91st birthday in May.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer and table prayer.

Shirley Reetz, secretary

LAMBS OF CHRIST PRESCHOOL NEWS

The Preschool children will be taking a trip to the Lincoln Children Zoo on April 27. We will use this special trip to kick off our theme about Zoos. What kind of animals do you see at a zoo? How do the zoo keepers care for the animals? These are just a few of the questions we will asking and finding out the answers to in class this month. The children have begun reviewing all of the letters and numbers we have learned this year.

We will be saying goodbye to another class of preschool students on Monday evening May 16th. We would like to invite the members of Bethlehem and St. John's to celebrate the achievement of our students. A hotdog supper will be served between 6:10 and 6:45 pm in the fellowship hall. Followed by a special graduation program in the church sanctuary at 7:00 pm or shortly thereafter following Monday evening worship service. All of the preschool children will be participating in the program. Please RSVP the preschool at 402-826-4375 if you are planning to attend the hotdog supper.

We have had a great beginning to our 2016-2017 enrollment. If you know of families interested in a preschool for their child have them contact Rhonda Beethe at 402-826-4375. The preschool is offering a new afternoon class (12:15-3:15) Monday through Thursday for children ages 3 and 4. We have some excellent information available to them to help with their decision. They are also welcome to come by the preschool for a tour and to see a preschool class in action.

MAY BIRTHDAYS & BAPTISMS

BIRTHDAYS

1 Chris Hollman
2 Joshua Shore
3 Darleen Dittmer, Brady Hestermann
5 Kristen Nyhoff
6 Ellie Koch
7 Beau Hartman, Lisa Nelson, Arlyn Wohl
9 Lorine Fangmeier
10 Ken Behrens, Becky Dittmer
12 Terry Reetz
13 Elliott Reitz, JoAnn Renner, Brent Wohl
15 Marvin Nitzel
16 John Reitz
17 Doug Karl, Shirley Vosika
18 Ron Kalkwarf

20 Diane Kahle
21 Noreen Wild
23 Andrea Pomajzl
25 Marlene Wagner
26 Kirk Miller, Ethan Sublett
27 John Haufle, Tyler Stehlik
29 Michael Ellingson, Michael Gropp, Calen Homolka, Alex Munro
30 Dylan Wagner
31 Bob Renner

BAPTISMS

2 Brad Kalkwarf, Taylor Reetz
4 Butch Mehl, Jennifer Meinke, Victoria Slama
6 Andrew Ellingson, Christina Rezac, Frank Slama, Sami Weber

10 Dennis Kattaw
12 Deb Nyhoff
14 Jason Jordan, Kristi Reetz
15 Lee Miller
16 Jerome Kalkwarf, Dean Prochnow
17 Barry Doiel, Dominick Hensley, Chris Kirkpatrick, Lillian Kubicek, Janice Reetz
18 Becky Dittmer, Chris Hollman
22 Arlyn Wohl
23 Ellie Koch, Brent Wohl
24 Lorine Fangmeier
25 Dale Kouba, Rollo Schultz, Karen Tiedeman
26 Jessica Trautman
27 Terry Reetz, Terry Stehlik
28 Ron Kalkwarf, Josh Shore, Kylie Brethouwer

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.

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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 (May 1)	Following Worship Service
Lutheran Women in Mission (May 17)	7:00 p.m.
Ladies Aid Meeting (May 25, at Crete Manor)	2:00 p.m.

FROM THE ELDER'S

Greetings from the elders,

What a busy month it has been and is going to be in the coming months. It has been a great Quarter for growth here at St. John. We have celebrated 4 baptisms, 2 confirmations and 8 new members have joined the congregation! But we have also had some down turn also. Most of you are aware that Pastor Hayes has accepted the call to Colorado and his last day serving the congregation was on April 24th. This now leaves us in vacancy! The board of elders has been busy working with the circuit visitor on filling our vacancy. It will happen God will take care of us. The word that we need to use is patience! The call

process will take time to complete and at the end God will provide the man to lead or congregation forward into the future. Please keep Pastor Hayes and his family, the church council, Circuit Visitor and all the workers of this congregation in your prayers to keep everything flowing and working smooth during this time of vacancy. The Board of Elders will keep everyone informed to the progress in the status of vacancy and the call process. It is not doom and gloom but us moving into the next chapter of our lives here at St .John.

May God's Blessings be with all of you! The Elders

VBS 2016 JULY 10TH - JULY 14TH

REGISTRAION FOR CHILDREN & VOLUNTEERS COMING SOON!

Created in Christ is our VBS theme this year. Answering the teachings of pop culture concerning identity -- that Self identity has no relation to a family, community, or biologically physicality -- this VBS teaches Christian identity as (1) first rooted in God's created order, (2) then stained by the fall, but (3) redeemed in Christ. The Bible teachings of this VBS are all from Genesis 1-4 and show how things of the created order, ruined by the fall, are redeemed and restored in Jesus Christ.

THOSE SERVING DURING THE MONTH OF MAY

DUTY	May 1	May 8	May 15	May 22	May 29
Organist	Jayne VanAsperen	Jolene Reetz	Jayne VanAsperen	Jolene Reetz	Jayne VanAsperen
Elders	Brent Wohl	Terry Reetz	Tim McDermott	Roger Koch	Ken Tesar
Greeters	Mr. & Mrs. Roger Brunelle	Mr. & Mrs. Terry Dittmer	Darleen Dittmer & Diane Gropp	Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Eggert	Mr. & Mrs. Troy Henning
Acolytes	Maggie Wohl & Ashlyn Adam	Colton Homolka & Madison Persing	Elliott Reitz, Oliva & Hugo Pomajzl	Mersaides Kvasnicka & Maggie Wohl	Ashlyn Adam & Colton Homolka