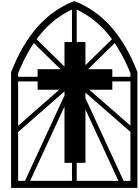


ST. JOHN LUTHERAN LCMS, REV. MAYNARD L. TOENSING, JR.
11400 WEST PANAMA ROAD, CRETE, NE 68333



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 31 ISSUE 10 OCTOBER 2017

FACES OF REFORMATION

Martin Luther (Last Days)

Born: Nov. 10, 1483 | Eisleben, Germany
Died: Feb. 18, 1546 | Eisleben, Germany

An Outlaw and International Hero Who Commended Himself and the Church of the Reformation to Christ's Mercy

In later life, Martin Luther had become internationally known. Despite his return to Wittenberg from hiding at the Wartburg, Luther remained an outlaw due to his condemnation at Worms. However, Saxony was isolated enough that he was safe from the emperor so long as he remained there. Thus, his role became one of providing guidance to others.

Luther adopted a new role as leader of a new church body. He discovered that many of the laity was ignorant of his reforms. After translating the Bible into German, he wanted the laity to be able to engage with it. Therefore, he wrote his Small and Large Catechisms in order to provide good theology that the laity could understand, an entry point into the Scriptures, and right order and behavior.

In this period, Luther also had to address theological problems. In addition to his continued challenges with Rome's response to the Reformation, he also faced other reformers who transformed his ideas to their own ends.

First, Luther clarified the relationship of the church and the state. Due to the Peasants' Revolt, he was faced with a theological question of how "social" his Gospel needed to be. Luther responded by developing his two kingdoms theology. This theology holds that we must distinguish clearly between God's Kingdom of Power and His Kingdom of Grace. Christians should act in society according to their consciences — which are informed by their faith — but Luther did not believe that the church should dictate government policy.

Second, Luther had to address competing views of the Lord's Supper. Luther had successfully refuted the "transubstantiation" view of the Roman church, but the issue was confused by the view that the soul fed on Christ only spiritually, as Calvin later popularized. Others argued that the Sacrament only "represented" Jesus' body. This caused Luther to insist on the real presence, emphasizing that while transubstantiation was in error, it did not mean the solution to that error was to separate the Sacrament from Jesus altogether. Instead, he remained bound to the clear words of Christ, "This is my body."

Third, Luther addressed the problem of good works. Some reformers twisted Luther's doctrine of being justified by grace without works to mean that good works were, in fact, a hindrance to salvation. This caused Luther to argue continually that good works are the proper result of faith. We are justified by faith alone, nevertheless, Christians should lead a sanctified life.

Luther became an internationally important figure. Wittenberg was a destination for young thinkers, and Luther was a hero to many. Students began taking note of everything he said; his publications were spread widely, and princes asked him for advice. Luther was least comfortable with this last political role. He was not a skilled politician and would sometimes be too aggressive in his responses.

Luther's role later in life was to encourage and to instruct. He remained resolved and consistent in his thought, despite feeling pressure from all sides. He was simultaneously heroic in his faith and human in his failings.



PLEASE HAVE ALL INFORMATION OR ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTER TO CHRIS HOLLMAN 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.

FROM PASTOR

Dear Friends,

Names. There are some portions of Scripture where there are a lot of names. Each name is for a person that God cares about. God cares about you. God knows your name—you are important and precious to Him. His own name is to be honored and rightly used (see the Second Commandment).

You are important to me. I have been trying to learn your names. I have found that I still need to think on many; some are starting to become second nature. But, if I try to get your name and get it wrong—tell me and correct me. It helps me to get it right sooner. And I do want to get your name right. Some names stick right away. Some—I don't know why—just take a while. And sometimes I will momentarily forget your name even though I know it.

Of course, the more I see you and can call you by name, the better I will get your name. So, I would be glad to see you in worship often where we receive the precious gifts God delivers to us.

God knows you and your name. You are a precious lamb of His flock because of Jesus who brings us into harmony with the Father. As your pastor I look forward to getting to know you, to know you better, to call you by name, and to serve you faithfully as we share the love of Christ together.

In Jesus' name, *Pastor Toensing*

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS & BAPTISMS

October Birthdays

- 1 Ken Kastanek
- 2 Bruce Miller, Gary Renner
- 4 Barry Doiel, Mindie Hughes, Nathan Patak
- 6 Jarod Mundt
- 9 Amber Johnson
- 10 Hannah Ochs, Dale Wohl
- 12 Bryce Kalkwarf
- 15 Maynard Hessheimer, Dianne Kouba
- 16 Joe Kalkwarf, Jaclyn Ourada
- 19 Scott Brunelle, Jerad Reetz, Abigail Scott, James Walker
- 21 Sean Murphy
- 22 Michelle Kvasnicka

- 23 Donna Brunelle, Chloe Davis, Levi Mehl, Bruce Tiedeman, Trevis Trautman
- 24 Gwen Kalkwarf

- 25 Raelyn Morava, Alexandria Tremblay
- 26 Jerry Ferguson Jr., Slane Kvasnicka
- 27 Ellen Miller
- 28 Jeff Tremblay
- 29 Fran Sieck
- 30 Kourtney Tarnick

- 8 Joshua Wohl
- 9 Genie Dittmer, Brianna Williams
- 12 Garrett Mehl
- 14 Kirk Miller, Ted Muff
- 16 Jim Ellingson
- 17 Randy Adams
- 18 Austin Weber
- 19 Jarod Mundt
- 21 Lynn Meinke, Gary Renner
- 24 Mindie Hughes
- 25 Cinder Johnson, Kirk Johnson
- 29 Colton Homolka
- 30 Wayne Eggert
- 31 Dianne Kouba

October Baptism dates:

- 2 Chris Reetz, Shane Renner
- 3 Brady Hestermann
- 4 Linda Lee, Dewayne & Henry Slama
- 7 Marilyn Weidner

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LADIES AID MINUTES

St. John Ladies Aid met on September 27, 2017. We opened the meeting by singing the Doxology, "Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow". Shelley Toensing led us in Bible Study on "A Fountain of Blessings". We ended Bible Study with prayer and singing the hymn, "Come Thou Fount of every Blessing". Roll call was taken with twelve members present. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. The treasurer's report was given and approved.

OLD BUSINESS: The plans for Reformation Sunday are pretty well completed. We discussed taking the flowers from our church basement to Bethlehem after next month's Ladies Aid meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: JoAnn Renner said the linens under the candlesticks on the Altar are

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER GROWTH

Schedule at a Glance

Worship Service (Sundays)	9:00 a.m.
Bible Class (Sundays)	10:30 a.m.
Midweek Classes (Wednesdays)	6:30 p.m.
Elder's Meeting (October 2)	7:00 p.m.
Evangelism Committee Meeting (October 3)	7:00 p.m.
Quilt Days (October 5)	9:30 - 2:00 p.m.
Men's Bible Study (October 10)	7:00 p.m.
Lutheran Women in Mission (October 17)	7:00 p.m.
Ladies Aid Meeting (October 25)	2:00 p.m.

getting very thin and needs replacing. There is also some communion ware that may need replacing. Carol Brinkmeyer will check into what needs to be replaced and where to go to replace them.

Marilyn Nast was hostess in September and LaVonne Nitzel will be our hostess for October.

Linda Pomajzl celebrated a birthday in September, and anniversaries were celebrated by Ray and Bonnie Bleich, Freddie and Olga Weidner, Wally and Noreen Wild, Del and Irene Reiss and Elmer and Darleen Dittmer.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer and the common table prayer. Shirley Reetz, Secretary

PLEASE JOIN US FOR QUILT DAYS on Thursday, October 5, 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 OCTOBER

DUTY	October 1	October 8	October 15	October 22	October 29
Organist	Jayne VanAsperen	Jolene Reetz	Jolene Reetz	Jayne VanAsperen	
Elders	Ken Tesar	Terry Reetz	Terry Dittmer	John Reitz	
Greeters	Mr & Mrs Roger Koch	Mr & Mrs Mike Langfeldt	Mr & Mrs Glen Louch	Mr & Mrs Tim McDermott	Reformation Services at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Crete 10:00 a.m.
Acolytes	Aaron & Jacob Meinke	Madison Persing & Elliott Reitz	Mara Hoyer & Hugo Pomajzl	Rylee Pospichal & Maggie Wohl	

Choir Opportunity – Reformation Service – October 29

Do you like to sing? Please join the St. John/Bethlehem choir for the special service on October 29 at Bethlehem at 10 a.m. Rehearsal will be on Monday, October 9, at 7 p.m. at St. John in the lower level. Monday, October 16, at 7 p.m. at Bethlehem in the balcony and Monday, October 23 at 7 p.m. once again at Bethlehem in the balcony. This is a great opportunity to praise our Lord in song. Please join us!

St. John Choir

Please watch the Sunday bulletins for information on the choir rehearsals beginning in November.

Joint Reformation Service at Bethlehem Lutheran, October 29

Please make note of the Reformation service, October 29. There will be no worship, Sunday School or Bible Study at St John that Sunday. We will be participating with Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Crete. Worship will be at 10:00 am, with Holy Communion. There will be a luncheon following. We pray that this joint venture between St. John and Bethlehem will give witness to the unity we share as Lutherans in our community. We pray that it may be a blessing for us to see the working relationship we share with our brothers and sisters in the faith at Bethlehem. Thank you.

Bake sale, Craft Fair and Soup Dinner

Our church is having a bake sale, craft fair, and soup dinner on Nov. 11 from 10:00 to 1:00 and Sunday Nov. 12 after church. We will also have our cookie bar! Please be thinking and working on something you can donate for this money raising event. This year the proceeds will go to the Concordia Scholarship fund. If you have any questions call Donna Hillgren at 402-826-0939 or Jolene Reetz at 402-826-3287.

FROM THE ELDERS

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Another Fall season is among us and Sunday school has started for our youth. We still need volunteers to help so if you like crafts, science, playing games or baking, please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex or let Pastor Toensing or a Board of Education member know.

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied service.—I Peter 4:10

So please consider passing on your knowledge and talents to our children of the congregation. Please join us on Sunday, October 29, for a Reformation service being held at Bethlehem in Crete at 10 am and remember there will be no Sunday service that day here at St. John. Please show your support to the L.Y.F. and their new leaders, Adam & Lashalle Hughes, by attending this year's upcoming events. Also encourage our young adults to be involved in L.Y.F. and to attend youth Sunday school being taught by Tim McDermott. We also want to thank the Board of Education for their hard work and support of the youth group, VBS, Sunday school and Midweek.

God Bless,
The Elders

BOARD OF EVANGELISM

Evangelism Committee meeting is October 3 at 7:00 p.m. The congregation is invited to attend where the continuation of the book, "5 Things You Can Do to Witness Christ" will be studied. This book encourages believers to realize what we have in Christ and to see that our witnessing is part of our way of life. Witnessing is not following a program, but living out the gracious gifts God gives in our relationships and in helping us build new relationships where we can share the love of Christ. Members of St. John are invited to join the Evangelism Committee in reading this small book and learning about witness from what we know and believe in worship. Books are currently available for \$8.00.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Men's Bible Study - The Men's group continues the video series entitled, "A Man Named Martin: Part 1 - The Man". Martin Luther's Spirit-inspired grasp of justification through faith was the cornerstone of the Reformation. His faith-tested and tried by the fires of religious oppression-remains a standard of Christ-centered endurance for believers today. Learn more about the German reformer in the first of this three-part series from the Lutheran Hour Ministries. The men of St. John meet at 7:00 p.m. each 2nd Tuesday of the month. Our door is always open to new attendees, with guests equally welcomed. See you on Tuesday, October 10th!"

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

All women are invited!

Mark your calendars now and plan to join us on the afternoon of October 8th for the Lincoln Zone LWML Fall Rally to be held at Lutheran Family Services. Our guest speaker Joel Stoltenow, Development Officer at Lutheran Family Services will share news of some exciting new programs they are offering.

The theme Love One Another 1 John 4:7 will fill the afternoon. Registration is Free, but if you want to support LFS, a tax deductible voucher will be available for your \$5 donation.

We will plan a car pool from St. John, talk with Sandi Karl for more details. 402-440-8887

LAMBS OF CHRIST

The children in our preschool are between the ages of 3 to 5. If you think back 3 to 5 years has your life changed much? If you would ask that same question to the children and their families I'm sure you would get an answer of yes. The babies that were born just a few years ago are now young children exploring their environment. They were born babies who communicated through crying and now they can speak, draw and some can even write their name. The babies you held in your arms are now running, climbing and jumping. Children who were baptized just a few short years ago can now share the news that Jesus loves them and that they love Jesus. This month we have the Bible story of Abraham and Sarah and how God blessed their family with the baby Isaac. As a part of our school day we will learn we too were once babies given to our parents as a special gift from God. God has given us families to care for us. Being a part of a family is not always easy and sometimes we need to forgive each other as Christ has forgiven us. The children will be introduced to the letters of B, N, F, and Q. We will also learn about fires safety and have a visit from the Crete Fire Department. The preschool will again hold a pancake brunch as a fundraiser for the program on Sunday, October 15 at Bethlehem. We will serve pancakes after Service until 12:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. The preschool will sing as a part of the Service and put on a short program at 11:15. This will also be the kickoff to some fundraisers from Pampered Chef, Scentsy, and Thirty One. Thanks for all of your support. We will host a carnival game along with the Evangelism team at the Crete Pumpkin Festival on October 8. Our game will be a cookie walk. We are looking for donations of home-made cookies and people to work the booth. If you can help please sign up in the narthex.

Rhonda Beethe, Teacher 402-826-4375 lambsofchristcrete@gmail.com

LYF NEWS

October LYF News

With the arrival of late summer comes the inauguration of a new school year. We also begin to see the reformation process beginning for our LYF group here at St. John. It is with immediate observation, by our newest LYF leadership volunteers, to have found energy and helpful exuberance fully represented in this group of LYF members. The experience and helpful attitude shared by several seasoned LYF members are an encouragement to the adult sponsors, and a wonderful example for the younger LYF members moving forward.

All members of St. John should heartily enjoy and appreciate the active participation our youth find in their congregational engagement. For some, there may be seen but brief moments of visual acknowledgment. However, behind the scenes there are plans being made, preparations accomplished, work performed, follow-up conversations held, and throughout – sprinklings of group hesitation on a variation of expected success.

The LYF sponsors ask all members to be mindful of our youth and their activities. Provide them feedback. Get to know them. If you don't know their name, ask them. Keep them in your prayers and with God's help, encourage them to succeed with your ongoing support in all ways pleasing to Him. In short, be there for them. And, if they belong to you, bring them to church on Sunday so they can be there for the rest of us.

Below is a list of forthcoming LYF activities currently in the works for October. The LYF would like to remind everyone to drive safely home from church always, but especially on Sunday, October 8th as the LYF will begin combing the roadside near St. John with their bi-annual, roadside-clean up event. In your wave of encouragement, pray for God's constant protection when driving by.

Upcoming LYF Activities:

- LYF Roadside Cleanup Event: Sunday, October 8th at 10:30 a.m.
- LYF Planning/Setup Meeting: Sunday, October 22nd at 10:30 a.m.
- LYF "Trunk or Treat" Decorate/Setup: Thursday, October 26th at 5:45 p.m.
- LYF Sponsored "Trunk or Treat": Friday, October 27th at 6:30 p.m.
- LYF Party & Lock-in: After the "Trunk or Treat" Event on Friday, October 27th at 8:30 p.m.

LYF Sponsored "All Hallows—Trunk or Treat" Family Event

The LYF will be hosting an annual "Trunk or Treat" event for families and kids of all ages. The event is currently planned for Friday evening, October 27th beginning at 6:30 p.m. Of course, weather permitting, the congregation is invited to take part by lending a helping hand in decorating their vehicle trunks or pickup beds for the kids. They will traverse their way through a candy collecting extravaganza playing games and collecting treats along the way!

The LYF ask that members of St. John also assist by donating treats in factory sealed packaging. Through the month of October, please look for a plastic tote marked, "Trunk or Treats" somewhere in the church building in which to place your helpful donation of goodies. Adult members are also asked to consider volunteering their time during the event to help with games and guide kids along. Please contact Adam or Lashalle Hughes at 402.304.0580 or adam_hughes93@yahoo.com.