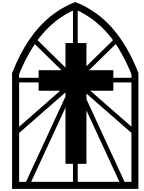


ST. JOHN LUTHERAN LCMS, REV. MAYNARD L. TOENSING, JR.  
11400 WEST PANAMA ROAD, CRETE, NE 68333



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 39 ISSUE 8 SEPTEMBER 2017

## FACES OF REFORMATION



Johannes Bugenhagen - Luther's friend and pastor who made Reformation theology practical for churches Born: June 24, 1485 | Wollin, Germany (formerly Pomerania) Died: April 20, 1558 | Wittenberg, Germany

Johannes Bugenhagen is famous for his role as the pastor at the Wittenberg city church, St. Mary's, which made him Martin Luther's pastor and confessor. Bugenhagen first encountered Luther's writings to refute them. Instead, Luther's words convinced Bugenhagen, who moved to Wittenberg to study in 1521. He embodied Luther's theology and was the first priest in Wittenberg to get married. In 1523 he became the pastor of St. Mary's and developed a close relationship with Luther. He performed the marriage of Luther and Katie in 1525 and preached at Luther's funeral in 1546. Bugenhagen, Luther, Justus Jonas and Philipp Melanchthon com-

prised the inner circle of the Wittenberg reformers. Bugenhagen sided with Luther against John Agricola on Christian freedom, and was the first in Wittenberg to oppose Zwingli's theology of the Lord's Supper.

Although Bugenhagen is most famous for his role as Luther's pastor, his lasting contribution is the way he applied Luther's theology as an administrator of churches in northern Germany and Scandinavia. Bugenhagen applied Luther's theology, which was written to address specific theological issues in the climate of the Reformation, to the daily life of individual churches. He developed proper practices for individual churches and pastors to follow. He balanced the theological directives that defined the Reformation (e.g., justification by faith) with the ordinary practices necessary for the functioning of a healthy church. Bugenhagen published several church orders (Kirchenordnungen) which were copied and became manuals for Reformation churches.

Bugenhagen made theology relevant to congregants. He translated Luther's Bible into Low German to make it more accessible, and created a harmony of the Passion Narrative to make it easier to memorize for devotional life. His church orders addressed practical elements of how rites should be established for weekly use. For example, he applied Luther's theology of the Lord's Supper to everyday congregational life: to whom it should be distributed, the proper preparation for the Sacrament, and when to excommunicate someone. Further, he used the principle of adiaphora (things neither commanded nor forbidden) to allow for accommodation of cultural practices in balance with the truth of the Gospel. While he agreed, for example, that the Gospel should be preached in the vernacular, he also allowed the singing of occasional songs in Latin if the youth were studying it in school and needed practice.

Bugenhagen emphasized the importance of the church in society. He emphasized education in German and Latin, so that the laity might receive the value of Luther's principle that they should have access to the Bible and theology. Bugenhagen applied Luther's two-kingdoms theology as he provided guidance for pastors and churches to serve the community through care for the sick, education and proper interaction with the governing authorities. This practical balance, which Bugenhagen championed, of maintaining the integrity of Lutheran theology while making it relevant and accessible to the laity is an ongoing challenge for all Lutherans to this day.

**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,

The summer is coming to an end and boy has it been quite full of events. I have now been among you for three months and it has been exciting to learn about you and to get to know you. Shelley and Steven and I have been warmly received by you all. We have been tremendously blessed by your care and support and sharing of gifts. We are truly grateful for your kindness and generosity.

I am very encouraged by this congregation's desire to receive the gifts of God in worship and sacrament and study of God's Word. What a blessing it has been to begin my work here with caring Elders, support and involvement and participation in missions, excited educators in VBS, SS, and midweek, various groups committed to study and service and mission. There are plans to look to the future and improve the mission and ministry of St. John. And I am blessed to be partnering with you in all of this to God's glory and the salvation of souls in Jesus Christ.

And there is more to do—there will always be more to do. Jesus said, "For you always have the poor with you." (Mark 14:7) There are the poor in spirit and there are the earthly poor. The mission of Christ is to seek and to save the lost (Luke 19:10) and the poor in spirit (Matthew 11:5) and to care for those in need. God help us to continue doing what we can to serve one another and to see to the needs of others in the love of Christ.

God bless you for caring for your pastor and his family. I pray that I may serve you faithfully in the Gospel of Christ. And God grant that we expand and grow Christ's mission to love and teach, to worship and receive God's gifts, and to share what we have with others. In the love of Christ, Pastor Toensing

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS & BAPTISMS

### BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Dave Wagner
- 3 Aubrey Shore
- 4 Vivian Kirkpatrick
- 6 Natahsa Ellingson
- 8 Janice Reetz , Paisley Williams
- 9 Karla Renner
- 10 Blake Yost
- 13 Cheyenne DuBray, Bruce Nitzel, Kelly Reetz
- 14 Tonya Clark
- 15 Genie Dittmer, Tim McDermott, Linda Pomajzl
- 16 James Doiel, Wayne Eggert, Taylor Shore
- 18 Chris Reetz, Marilyn Weidner

- 20 Josh Wohl
- 22 Charles Slama
- 23 Abbie Reitz
- 25 Brady Ellingson
- 26 Chris Kirkpatrick, Shane Renner
- 27 Madison Hefner-Kattau, Brianna Williams
- 28 Austin Weber
- 30 August Wendelin
- 10 Sheila Church, Aubrey Shore
- 12 Mara Hoyer, Miriam Weber
- 13 Kelli Jordan, Chauncey Ziemann
- 16 Austin Adams, Diane Gropp
- 17 Karen Bachman
- 18 Blake Yost
- 21 Kelly Reetz
- 24 Bruce Nitzel, Abbey Reetz
- 25 Bailey Stougard, Conner Slama
- 27 Paisley Williams

### BAPTISMS

- 2 Hannah Rethmeier, Marianne Tesar
- 4 Jennifer Reetz, Terry Meinke
- 7 Ray Bleich, Shirley Reetz
- 8 Michael Reiss
- 28 Madison Hefner-Kattau
- 30 Natasha Ellingson, Taylor Shore, David Wagner

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**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 (September 7)	7:00 p.m.
Lutheran Women in Mission (September 19)	7:00 p.m.
Ladies Aid Meeting (September 27)	2:00 p.m.
Men’s Bible Study (September 12)	7:00 p.m.
Quilt Days (September 7)	9:30-2:00 p.m.
Evangelism Committee Meeting (September 5)	7:00 p.m.

**LADIES AID MINUTES**

St John Ladies Aid met on Wednesday August 30, 2017. We opened the meeting by singing “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”. Pastor Toensing led us in Bible Study on “Living with Chronic Pain”.

Roll Call was taken with eight members present. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. The Treasurer’s Report was read and approved. Old Business: A correction on the dates of the Craft Fair was given. It will be November 11th and 12th. New Business: A motion was made by Janice Reetz and seconded by Joann Renner to accept Shelly Toensing as a member.

We are asked to bring food for the meal which will be held at Bethlehem October 29th Reformation Services being held there at

10:00 a.m. A sign-up sheet will be placed on a table in the narthex. Pastor also said they are asking for volunteers to be greeters at the Reformation Service. Birthdays celebrated in August was Shirley Reetz.

Barb Meinke was hostess in August and Marilyn Nast will be our hostess in September.

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

Shirley Reetz, Secretary

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR QUILT DAYS** on Thursday, September 7, 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 SEPTEMBER**

DUTY	September 3	September 10	September 17	September 24
<b>Organist</b>	Jolene Reetz	Jayne VanAsperen	Jayne VanAsperen	Jolene Reetz
<b>Elders</b>	Terry Dittmer	Terry Reetz	John Reitz	Ken Tesar
<b>Greeters</b>	Darleen Dittmer & Diane Gropp	Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Eggert	Mr. & Mrs. Troy Henning	Mr. & Mrs. Todd Hoyer
<b>Acolytes</b>	Rylee Pospichal & Elliott Reitz	Maggie Wohl & Ted Muff	Nick Hollman & Colton Homolka	Mara & Skye Hoyer

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## HURRICANE HARVEY HELP

Hurricane Harvey has been devastating to south Texas with its incredible rainfall amounts. The people of south Texas will need help recovering and rebuilding for a long time. As God has blessed us we have the opportunity to be a blessing to others. We join with our brothers and sisters of the LCMS in providing care to those in need. A special appeal is made to help those in Texas through our Synod's office of World Relief and Human Care.

By phone: 888-930-4438

By text: Text "LCMSHARVEY" to 41444 Online at: <https://www.lcms.org/givenow/hurricane>

By mail: make a check payable to "The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod" or "LCMS". Write the gift designation on the memo line of your check (Disaster Response Hurricane) and send to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Mission Advancement

P.O. Box 66861

St. Louis, MO 63166-6861 You can find President Matthew Harrison's letter here: <https://blogs.lcms.org/2017/lcms-president-harrison-synod-at-work-with-texas-district-toward-hurricane-harvey-relief>

If you are on Facebook, here is where you can find updates on our Synod's work: <https://www.facebook.com/TheLCMS/>

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## FROM THE ELDERS

Summer is winding down & it won't be long we will be too cold ... Sounds like a farmer... Never happy... I didn't win the lottery and don't think anyone from our congregation did either..But as Pastor said in one of his sermons, The good Lord does provide us with what we need and every gift does come from him. We all have won the best lottery we could have won or given, that is the gift of heaven.

Hope everyone has enjoyed their summer, it soon will be fall and the words "Jesus is the reason for the season" is only around 90 days way.

The Elders

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## 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. The Men's group is learning more about the German reformer in the first of this three-part series from the Lutheran Hour Ministries. The group meets 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 September 12th!

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## BOARD OF EVANGELISM

Continuing at their September 5th meeting at 7:00 p.m., the Evangelism Committee will read and study a book entitled, "5 Things You Can Do to Witness Christ." 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. You are invited to join this board in following along in this small book while learning about our witness in the world from what we know and believe in worship. Books are \$8. Please join us for this study time.

### St. John Time & Talent Survey

The St. John Evangelism Committee would like to invite individual members of our congregation to **PREVIEW** the "Time & Talent Survey" found inserted in this newsletter or received alongside your electronic version of the newsletter. There will be time available following the Worship Service on September 24th in which to complete and submit the survey. The hope is to reach as many members as possible during the next couple months, thereby collecting as much information about your desire and ability to assist, and be assisted by, the congregation in the future. Please help make this endeavor a success. Thank You—Board of Evangelism

Next Evangelism Committee Meeting with group study; congregation invited, Tuesday, September 5th at 7:00 p.m. Board meeting minutes found at <http://www.stjohnkramer.org/evangelismboard.html>.

## LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

**REMEMBER** what fun that new box of crayons brought? Plan now to join us for an evening of "adult coloring" on Tuesday Sept. 19th at 7:00 PM. Supplies will be provided but feel free to bring your own colored pencils or markers if you prefer. All women are invited for this fun night of fellowship and "coloring."

**AS YOU ARE PROBABLY AWARE**, the LWML has given Christmas gift bags to our shut ins and widows for a number of years. This year we would like to tweak the gifting to become more personal. Instead of making the bags all the same, and often with things recipients may or may not use, we want ideas for something they personally would like to have. We are also reducing the number of bags given to only those who are actually unable to get out. Please help us find meaningful gift ideas and share your thoughts with Sandi Karl or Judi Korte. Thanks!

## LAMBS OF CHRIST

**Shine for Jesus** We have had a great start to our school year as we shine for Jesus. Currently we have 9 students in our T/Th class and 3 in our M/W/F class. We are hoping to enroll more students as year progresses. The children started the year learning about the sun and how God created the whole world. A special emphasis will be placed on How God made each one of us and how he continues to bless us. Some skills we will work on this month are shapes, and colors. I am challenging the PS-4 to begin to recognize some color words. Since our current PS-4 class is smaller we will also be doing lots of extra Science experiments.

**Meet and Greet Picnic** You are invited to join us for the Meet and Greet Picnic. The Picnic will be held on Monday, September 25th at 6:00 PM in the City Park. The Preschool will provide hotdogs, chips and table service. Please bring a salad or desert to share and join in the fun.

**Help us Share the News** We still have space available in our Monday/ Wednesday/ Friday in our PS-4 class and in our Tuesday / Thursday PS-3 class. If you know of someone who is looking for a preschool please let us know.

**Preschool Calendar:** Monday, Sept. 4th, No School Labor Day, Thursday & Friday, Sept. 21 & 22, No School Parent Teacher Conferences, Monday, September 25th Meet and Greet Picnic 6:00 PM at Crete City Park, Sunday, October 15th Preschool Pancake Brunch at Bethlehem 10:00 AM- 12:30 PM

## PARISH NOTES

### **Chalice in use for Holy Communion**

The Chalice will be in use for Holy Communion beginning September 17th. The Chalice is also called the common cup. As we celebrate the Lord's Supper, Pastor will distribute the wafer, then the assisting Elder will offer the individual cups, and then Pastor will have the chalice. May God bless us as we continue to receive this Sacrament in faith for the forgiveness of our sins. Praise God for giving us this holy meal in which He gives us Himself for our greatest need.

### **CHURCH PICNIC SEPTEMBER 10th!!!**

St. John congregation you are invited to the annual Teacher Appreciation and Sunday School Kickoff picnic following the first day of Sunday school and LYF beginning at 11:30am. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. The main dish will be provided. Your support of the Youth programs at St. John are greatly appreciated! Thank you , Cathy Hollman, Tammy Homolka and Marla Musil

### **Adult Bible Class**

The Sunday morning Adult Bible class will offer a number of studies this year. We will be doing four to six week sessions. For September and October we will take a new look at some Old Testament figures and stories—we will follow the lessons that the Sunday School children will be following. See if you can figure out the Biblical figures and stories by these titles: No Fireworks? Den of Lions. Building Wisdom. Engulfed and Enraged. God Provides. Burning Water? Hot but Not! We will add a new feature to Bible Class: Q & A time. You will have opportunity to ask a question of Pastor. Questions can be submitted anonymously and Pastor will do his best to answer questions. The members of the Bible Class would also like to make an opportunity for everyone to attend. They have suggested nursery care for those with young children. If you have a child not yet of Sunday School age and you would like to attend Bible Class, would you please let Pastor know. Also, if you would be willing to provide child care during Bible Class, please let Pastor know.

### **Midweek and Confirmation begins September 13th**

Pastor Toensing is looking forward to getting to know his 7th and 8th grade students and sharing the love of Christ with them in Confirmation class. Tim McDermott is excited to continue with our 5th and 6th graders. We have so much to enjoy in God's awesome creation and in the revelation of His Son Jesus. Please pray for our youth and their instruction in the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ. Initial meeting is at 6:30 p.m. on September 13th for all Midweek students grades 4-8.

### **Martin Luther Movie Showing at the Isis Theater in Crete October 22nd, 3pm**

The movie: "Martin Luther: The Idea that Changed the World" will be showing at the Isis Theater in Crete on October 22nd, at 3:00 pm. Tickets will be available through the church office. Tickets are \$11 each. The theater will only show the movie if 100 tickets are sold. Please notify Pastor or the church office by October 8th. Pastor Toensing will be accepting your payment.

### **Joint Reformation Service at Bethlehem Lutheran, October 29th**

Please make note of the Reformation service, September 29th. There will be no worship at St. John that Sunday. There will be no Sunday School 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. There will be more information in the October newsletter and please check the Sunday bulletins for updates. We would like to have three greeters (or pairs of greeters) for the Reformation service at Bethlehem. If you are willing to assist with this, please let Pastor Toensing know. Thank you.

### **Thank you to Blythe**

We thank Blythe Dewey for her service to our congregation as church office secretary for the last nine months. We were blessed to have her take over during the vacancy and she made a smooth transition for Pastor Toensing in his first months. We pray God's blessings on Blythe and her family as she steps away from her position with us to give attention to her growing family. Thank you, Blythe. With deepest love in Christ and thanksgiving for your work, the congregation of St. John.