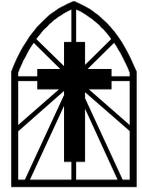


ST. JOHN LUTHERAN LCMS, PASTOR JOSHUA HAYES  
11400 WEST PANAMA ROAD, CRETE, NE 68333



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 4      APRIL 2015

## TAKING UP THE CROSS IN YOUR DAILY LIFE

*And [Jesus] said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me" (Luke 9:23).*

These words are about the daily life of the Christian. They are about vocation. Our vocations are our places and roles in life, where God has put us and called us to love Him and love our neighbor. This happens in the home, in the church, and in our communities.

Luther called the various vocations God has given us "the masks of God." What he means is that God hides in our daily lives. God himself gave us our vocations, so we do God's work when we faithfully fulfill our callings. A pastor once paraphrased Luther on this topic as follows: "God himself will milk the cows through him whose vocation that is. He who engages in the lowliness of his work performs God's work, be he lad or king. To give one's office proper care is not selfishness. Devotion to office is devotion to love, because it is by God's own ordering that the work of the office is always dedicated to the well-being of one's neighbor."

This should impress upon us the importance of whatever we do in life. Often I have heard an elderly

person in a nursing home complain that they are useless and worthless. They have forgotten this comforting doctrine of vocation. They are still called by God to serve others: by praying for them, by giving advice to those younger than they are, by simply being there for others to serve them. Another example might be stay-at-home moms who lament the loss of their "real jobs." They have forgotten their vocation. Their work of loving, protecting, serving, and guiding their children is a high calling. Indeed, the calling of mother is the highest calling without exception. Just think, the person most blessed in all of human history, the person closest to God, indeed the person who by God's grace carried the Savior in her womb, was a mom: the Blessed Virgin Mary. Her carrying of Jesus sanctified and redeemed motherhood to the highest level.

The truth beneath our complaints—whatever they may be—is that the cross is in our vocations too. This is how God teaches us to deny ourselves and take up our cross daily and follow Jesus (Luke 9:23). Daily life requires a Christ-like sacrifice, sometimes even pain. Losing sleep for a newborn, sweating in the cold to free a wife's snowed-in car, finishing the laundry only to find most of it is dirty again—these things take their toll, not to mention the heart-

ache of trying to love a strong-willed teen, to pray for an unfaithful spouse, or to care for a loved one whose mind is near gone. All of this suffering could be avoided if you were to abandon the life God has given you to live. But "we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them" (Eph. 2:10).

How shall we bear these crosses? Where does our help come from? In order to find joy and contentment in our vocations we *must know* that our Father is pleased with our service. He delights in it and counts it as perfect, holy, and blessed for the sake of Jesus' cross. Yes, we may find some aid in the good gifts of this world God has given us: helpful advice from others, books, and experts. However, these only treat the symptoms. For true healing and strength we must return to our first calling as Christian, to our Baptism. Here we may bear these crosses, but only because Christ has born them for us. Ultimately we must walk by faith, and trust that our crosses, our vocations, our offices, will be sanctified by Jesus and will one day be glorified.

Happy Easter,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pastor Hayes". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a dark ink.

**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](mailto:cathy-atchurch@hotmail.com) with your email address. Thank you for going GREEN!

## HEALTHY HABITS: DON'T FORGET THE HELMET!

Spring is in the air and as of the writing of this newsletter article, we have been blessed with some beautiful spring days! So what does this mean? It means it's time to break out those bicycles that have been stored away for winter and get out and have some family fun! But along with dusting off those bicycle seats, blowing up the tires, and making sure the brakes are in proper order, there is one other important thing to check off the "to do" list....your bicycle helmet. Let's look at some important facts. According to *safekids.org, Bicycle, Skate and Skateboard Safety Fact Sheet (2014)* quotes:

- three out of four kids in the U.S. ride a bicycle
- Approx. 55% of children don't always wear a helmet while bicycling
- Except for the automobile, bicycles are tied to more childhood injuries than any other consumer product.
- **Helmet use is the single most effective way to reduce bicycle-related fatalities.**
- Helmets reduce the risk of head injury by at least 45%, brain injury by 33%, facial injury by 27%, and fatal injury by 29%. One study suggests that helmet use can reduce the risk of head injury by 85% and severe brain injury by 88%.
- A child who rides with companions wearing helmets or adults in general is more likely to wear a helmet himself.

So parents, be persistent in your rules of requiring your children to wear their helmet and be good role models and wear one yourself. Nothing could ruin a beautiful day than a trip to the emergency room. So go on and create those fun family memories but always remember safety first and don't forget the helmet!

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS & BAPTISMS

### BIRTHDAYS

1 Kian Morris  
 3 Jennifer Meinke  
 4 Evelyn Benson  
 8 Victoria Slama  
 9 Rollo Schultz  
 11 Charlie Slama  
 12 Amy Hollman, Lillan Kubicek, Debra Wendelin  
 13 Jessica Trautman  
 16 Donna Hillgren, Christopher Ladman, Brandee Samples, Sami Weber  
 17 Lee Miller  
 19 Karen Tiedeman  
 20 James Haufle, Sandy Miller, Christina Rezac

21 Elizabeth Hansmeyer, Kristi Reetz, Jennifer Schulz

22 Dean Prochnow

23 Dominick Hensley

26 Shawna Doiel

27 Dan Underwood

### BAPTISMS

1 Linda Eggert, Verna Schultz

2 Jolene Reetz

4 Bradley Jr., Hugo, Olivia Pomajzl, Susan Vosika

6 Haylee Shore

7 Cindy Hoesche

8 Karen Beranek, Gary Rezac

9 Isaac Meinke

10 Braxton Hartman

12 Loren Beck, Marla Musil

13 Bruce Miller, Whitney Tesar, Kurt Reetz

14 Cierra & Savannah Hensley

15 Levi Mehl, Ken Tesar, Amy Hollman, Travis Shore

16 Cheryl Langfeldt

17 Maggie Wohl

20 Jerry Ferguson

21 Marlow Meinke, Shari Melk

22 Jordyn Adam

23 Milo Kvasnicka

24 Donna Hillgren

25 Beth Kvasnicka

26 Kian Morris

29 Alice Poole

30 Brandee Samples

## HOLY WEEK SERVICE DUTIES

### Maundy Thursday, April 2

Organist: Jayne Vanasperen

Elder: John Reitz

Greeters: Mr. & Mrs. Darren Weber

Acolytes: Madison Persing & Olivia Pomajzl

### Good Friday, April 3

Organist: Jolene Reetz

Elder: Jeff Meinke

Greeters: Mr. & Mrs. Wally Wild

Acolytes: Devon Reitz & Bailey Stougard

### Easter Vigil Service, April 4

Organist: Jolene Reetz

Elder: James Walker

Greeters: Mr. & Mrs. Roger Brunelle

Acolytes: Elliott Reitz & Sami Weber

**SAVE THE DATE: VBS 2015 is set for July 19<sup>th</sup> through July 23<sup>rd</sup>!** The theme this year is *Camp Discovery, Jesus at Work through Us!* More details to come as the date approaches. Parents please be ready to volunteer for VBS assistance, it takes a lot of support for a successful VBS! Thanks in advance.

## LAMBS OF CHRIST PRESCHOOL NEWS

By: Rhonda Beethe

Jesus gives us new life and we continue to celebrate our new life in Christ the first week of April. The butterfly is often used as a symbol of Christ resurrection so during this week we will study the life cycle of the butterfly. During the rest of the month we will study life on the farm as we take a look at animals and plants that grow on a farm. The letters of the month are w, v, and y.

If you have a child who would be eligible for preschool next year and would like more information about preschool and the registration process please contact the preschool office at 826-4375. Children need to be 3 by September 1, 2015. Early registration for current families, members of Bethlehem and St. John's and alumni families will begin on Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. Enrollment will be open to the Public on Saturday April, 25<sup>th</sup> 9:00 – 11:00 am.

We would like to thank everyone who participated and donated items for our Chili Feed. We were able to raise about \$2,000 for our program. The funds will be used to meet the expenses of the day to day operations of the preschool. A special thanks to the Preschool Board for the time they spent organizing and running the fundraiser.

The preschool will be hosting a Family Fun Event on Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>. The theme is "Sharing God's Love in my Family." The program is planned for families with young children. As a family you will go through 5 stations. You may start this event anytime between 3:00 – 4:30 pm. If your family would like to join us for this event please RSVP to preschool by e-mailing [lambsofchristcrete@gmail.com](mailto:lambsofchristcrete@gmail.com) or calling 826-4375. This Family Event will take the place of the Spring Program.

## LADIES AID MINUTES

St. John Ladies Aid met on March 25, 2015, with Barb Meinke as hostess. The meeting opened by singing "Lamb of God, Pure and Holy". Pastor Hayes led us in prayer and the Bible Study on Hebrews 2:5-18.

Roll call was taken with eleven members present. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. The treasurers report was given.

**OLD BUSINESS:** President Olga Weidner thanked all the ladies that helped at the funeral of Marie Wohl.

The family of Gladys Schlichtemier wanted some ideas on what the Ladies Aid could use. They would like to do something for our group. We discussed some things that would be

helpful to us.

The youth group wanted to know if we would be interested in helping them with church cleaning. A motion was made and seconded to help the youth group clean. Motion passed.

Pastor Hayes asked if we would like to serve dessert for the Ascension Day service on May 14. Motion was made and seconded to serve strawberry shortcake. Motion passed.

Anniversaries for March were Lee and Sandy Miller and Bob and JoAnn Renner.

LaVonne Nitzel is the hostess for April. The meeting closed with the Lords' Prayer and table prayer.

Shirley Reetz, secretary

## FROM THE ELDER'S

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

God's blessings to all of you as we begin to enjoy the warm days of spring. Our annual Easter breakfast will once again be sponsored by our Youth Group. Plan on attending between the Easter morning services, about 7:30am.

This spring we will be placing 'Pro-Life' crosses a mile north of the church on the south east corner. These crosses represent the many lives lost due to the practice of abortion. Please remember in your prayers the many lives impacted by abortion.

A big thank you to the Youth Group and their leaders for decorating flower pots which will be given to the shut-ins of the congregation.

We hope all of you have been enjoying this Easter month. Have a safe and blessed spring!

The Elders

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.
Midweek Classes (Wednesdays)	6:30 p.m.
Elder's Meeting (April 6)	7:00 p.m.
LYF ( )	Following Worship Service
Lutheran Women in Mission (April 21)	7:00 p.m.
Ladies Aid Meeting (April 29)	1:30 p.m.

HOLY WEEK SERVICE SCHEDULE

**March 29th, PALM SUNDAY:** 9am, Divine Service with procession of palms

**THE SACRED TRIDUM**

*The Sacred Triduum, or "Three Days" is one service spread over three days which follows the Last Supper, passion, death, and resurrection of Christ. It culminates in the Vigil of Easter where the Easter Proclamation is first announced.*

**April 2nd, Maundy Thursday Divine Service: 7:00 p.m.**

**April 3rd, Good Friday Tenebrae Service: 7:00 p.m.**

**April 4th, The Great Easter Vigil: 7:00 p.m.**

**FEAST OF THE RESURRECTION April 5th**

**Easter Sunrise Divine Service 6:30 a.m.**

**Easter Breakfast sponsored by LYF: 7:30 a.m.**

**Easter Divine Service: 9:00 a.m.**

**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.

**THOSE SERVING DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL**

DUTY	April 5 (6:30am)	April 5 (9am)	April 12	April 19	April 26
<b>Organist</b>	Jolene Reetz	Jayne Vanasperen	Jayne Vanasperen	Jolene Reetz	Jolene Reetz
<b>Elders</b>	Brent Wohl	Jeff Meinke	Tim McDermott	Roger Koch	John Reitz
<b>Greeters</b>	Mr. & Mrs. Terry Dittmer	Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Eggert	Diane Gropp & Darleen Dittmer	Mr. & Mrs. Troy Henning	Mr. & Mrs. Todd Hoyer
<b>Acolytes</b>	Morgan & Maggie Wohl & Ashlyn Adan	Emma & Mara Hoyer & Aaron Meinke	Kylie & Cassidy Meinke	Madison Persing & Devon Reitz	Olivia Pomajzl & Elliott Reitz