

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 CHURCH NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 30 ISSUE 4      APRIL 2016

## WHERE DID THE EASTER EGG COME FROM?

*The following is an excerpt from Pr. Joseph Abrahamson, "Redeeming Holy Days from Pagan Lies—Easter 2," (2013).*

Where did the Easter Egg come from?

There are several traditions which converge to bring us the Easter egg. And there is some modern nonsense that really has nothing to do with the use of eggs at Easter.

First, there is a sculpture on the Persepolis of ancient Iran of a line of people bearing gifts on the New Year day celebration on the Spring equinox. One of the many different gifts carried by the people in this sculpture appears to be an egg. This was carved by the old pagan Zoroastrians from ancient Persia (modern Iran).

From this sculpture modern pagans have conjectured that Christians stole the idea of using eggs at Easter from the ancient Zoroastrians. The problem is that none of the writers in the ancient Christian church mention this tradition where they came into contact with Zoroastrians.

Still, the modern neo-pagans and wiccans assert that the egg is an ancient sign of fertility. That seems as bright a claim as saying that water is wet.

Of the traditions that actually do contribute to Christianity using eggs in the Easter celebration there are three to consider.

First: In the celebration of the Passover meal, which Christ celebrated the night before He was crucified, a roasted whole egg is placed as one of six food items on the Passover plate. The egg,

called Beitzah symbolizes the Passover sacrifice that was offered in the Temple in Jerusalem and was then eaten as part of the meal on Seder night. The egg was introduced to the Passover meal after the Temple was destroyed in 70 A.D. The egg was the first dish served at Jewish funerals in the time of Christ's ministry on earth. The egg was also used as a symbol of mourning the loss of the Temple where the Passover Lamb was sacrificed. It is usually eaten dipped in salt water which symbolizes the bitter tears of the people.

Early Christians in the first and second century continued to celebrate the Passover along with the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Primarily the Passover was celebrated because of Christ's institution of the Lord's Supper.

Second: the season preceding Easter is called Lent. The season of Lent is a fast... In both the eastern and western Church this meant fasting from meat and bird flesh—including eggs. Eggs were used to break the Lenten fast on Easter Morning. In preparation for this breaking of the fast the eggs were decorated to commemorate the sacrifice of Jesus Christ as the Paschal Lamb of God Who takes away the sins of the world. The breaking of the shell became a symbol of Christ's rending of the tomb.

Indeed, the use of decorated eggs to celebrate Christ's resurrection on Easter morning is so widespread across the world and so closely tied with the spread of Christianity that one cannot

call it anything but a Christian tradition. But that doesn't keep the neo-pagans and modern commentators from trying to claim that Christian's "stole" this so-called "pagan" tradition...

## LADIES AID MEETING MINUTES

St. John Ladies Aid met on March 30, 2016 with JoAnn Renner as hostess. The meeting opened by singing "What a Friend We Have in Jesus".

Carol Brinkmeyer led us in the Bible Study on "Eve-mother of all the living".

Roll call was taken with 12 members present. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved and the treasurers report was given.

Old Business: The Ascension Day Service will be discussed next meeting.

Bob and JoAnn Renner celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary in March.

Diane Kahle will be hostess in April. We closed with the Lord's Prayer and table prayer.

Shirley Reetz, secretary

## FROM THE ELDERS

Greetings from the elders

Spring has sprung and we find ourselves busy with all the things that go along with it. We get busy this time of year with the start of field work applying anhydrous, filling ditches, fertilizing our yards and yes sharpening those mower blades. It is a great a wonderful thing caring for God's creation! Let us all be thankful for all the blessings that He showers upon us.

April finds many things happening in our church. We will have a guest Pastor on April 3<sup>rd</sup> as Pastor visits the Church in Colorado that he has been called to. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers as we go through this process. Secondly Confirmation will be on Sunday April 24<sup>th</sup>. We have two confirmands this year Devon Reitz and Morgan Wohl. Please keep these two in your prayers also.

If you have anything you want posted on the website for your committee or board please send it to Tim McDermott and he will gladly post it for you.

Happy spring to you and get outside and enjoy God's marvelous creation!

The elders

## HEALTHY HABITS: HOME REMEDY FOR COLDS AND SORE THROATS

Ginger tea is known for its healing properties. When you have a cold or sore throat this will really soothe it. Ginger has been used for thousands of years as an immune booster and anti inflammatory. It is a natural antiviral and it can reduce both pain and fever.

At the first sign of a cold, mix up some tea and drink it 2-3 times a day. The sooner you have some the better it works. Here is the recipe.

Steep a teabag in one cup of boiling water for three minutes. Remove teabag and add the juice of half a lemon. Use fresh fruit not bottled juice. Grate a fresh ginger root. Use about a half teaspoon of grated ginger and add to the tea. Then add a tablespoon of honey. Raw honey is best but any honey will do. Stir to dissolve the honey and add 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon. Cinnamon acts as an antiseptic and kills viruses. Cover with plastic wrap and allow to steep a few minutes. Drink. If you don't like the taste adjust the ingredients until you do, especially using more honey. Try this the next time you feel a cold coming on. Chicken soup is always good too.

### **SAVE THE DATE: VBS 2016 is set for July 10<sup>th</sup> through July 14<sup>th</sup>!**

**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.

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS & BAPTISMS

### **BIRTHDAYS**

1 Kian Morris  
2 Lilian Underwood  
3 Jennifer Meinke  
8 Victoria Slama  
9 Rollo Schultz  
11 Charlie Slama  
12 Amy Hollman, Lillan Kubicek, Debra Wendelin  
13 Jessica Trautman  
14 LaShalle Hughes  
16 Donna Hillgren, Christopher Ladman, Brandee Samples, Sami Weber  
17 Lee Miller  
19 Karen Tiedeman

20 James Haufle, Christina Rezac

21 Kristi Reetz

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 Gary Rezac

9 Isaac Meinke

10 Braxton Hartman

12 Loren Beck, Marla Musil, Kurt Reetz

13 Bruce Miller, Whitney Tesar

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

26 Kian Morris

29 Alice Poole

30 Brandee Samples

**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 11)           | 7:30 p.m.                 |
| LYF ( )                              | Following Worship Service |
| Lutheran Women in Mission (April 19) | 7:00 p.m.                 |
| Ladies Aid Meeting (April 27)        | 2:00 p.m.                 |

**LAMBS OF CHRIST PRESCHOOL NEWS**

God sends us the gift of rain each spring. This April the children will be observing the clouds and how God uses them to water His creation. The children will also be observing how God provides for us by giving us plants that grow. Watching small plants grow from seeds is one of God's great miracles of life.

We will end the month of April by taking a field trip to the Lincoln's

Children Zoo to learn more about the animals God gave us.

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.

Rhonda Beethe, 826-4375  
 lambsofchristcrete@gmail.com

**THOSE SERVING DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL**

| DUTY            | April 3                                     | April 10                   | April 17                        | April 24                              |
|-----------------|---|----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Organist</b> | Jayne VanAsperen                            | Jolene Reetz               | Jayne VanAsperen                | Jolene Reetz                          |
| <b>Elders</b>   | Roger Koch                                  | John Reitz                 | Brent Wohl                      | Ken Tesar                             |
| <b>Greeters</b> | Mr. & Mrs.<br>James Walker                  | Mr. & Mrs.<br>Darren Weber | Mr. & Mrs.<br>Wally Wild        | Carol Brinkmeyer<br>&<br>Marilyn Nast |
| <b>Acolytes</b> | Mersadies Kvasnicka<br>&<br>Madison Persing | Olivia<br>& Hugo Pomajzl   | Devon Reitz<br>&<br>Ashlyn Adam | Elliott Reitz<br>&<br>Colton Homolka  |