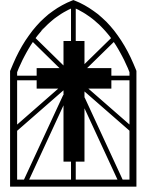


ST. JOHN LUTHERAN LCMS
11400 WEST PANAMA ROAD, CRETE, NE 68333



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 36 ISSUE 2 FEBRUARY 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Last December we saw the finals of the NCAA women's volleyball tournament. In January, the college football championship. February brings the NFL championship to our viewing pleasure. Often, there are parties for such events. There are also watch parties that people hold for big TV shows, like the final episode of some popular series. Whatever the show or the game or other event that people gather together to watch, there are many preparations that go into hosting such an event.

It begins with a decision to host the event. The invitations go out. Then, planning what to get. Buying all the necessities and delegating some preparations to others. And there will be lots of cleaning, too. Then, the mixing, the baking, the cooking, the grilling, the gathering and the event. It can be a lot of work. And some people just love doing all this kind of work in order to host such an event.

This reminds me of a really big day that is coming that will affect the entire human population. In fact, it will impact all of creation. The Last Day, the day of Christ's return to end this world, is coming ... soon. How soon? No one knows except God the Father. But ... there are preparations being made for that day.

But you don't have to do any of the cooking or cleaning or preparing for this big event. God is host. So, God is the one preparing for that day.

The planning? God. The buying? Well, it was Jesus' blood shed on the cross that bought you for that day. The invites? They are constantly going out as God is seeking more and more people to receive His invitation of love and mercy. All the work is done by God. Some has been done. The plan to send the Savior who would die for the sins of the world—that was designed by God. Fulfilling that plan—all of it was accomplished by Jesus Christ, the Son of God, for you. Now, getting ready for heaven? God is working on that too.

By His Word God is preparing hearts to believe in Jesus, giving them hope and faith. He does that by His Word—the Gospel. The Gospel is the good news that Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins.

So, what work do you need to do to get ready for the Last Day? Nothing. You have the Lord's invitation. Jesus did the work to get you the invitation. You are invited. Trusting in God's salvation and in Jesus Christ as your Savior, you are ready for That Day. And the Lord's Supper is a foretaste of the heavenly feast God is preparing. But get this: you can share the invitation. God wants you to share the invite. He has room in His eternal dwellings for everyone. Praise God!

In the Love of Jesus Christ, Pastor Toensing

PLEASE HAVE ALL INFORMATION OR ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTER TO CHRIS HOLLMAN BY 25TH, THANK YOU!

Clothing for Orphan Grain Train: We can once again send used clothing to Orphan Grain Train. When leaving clothes in the drop box outside the church by the back door, please mark them for either OGT or PCM (People's City Mission).



LYF VALENTINE'S DINNER

The LYF sponsored Valentine's Dinner will be held on **Sunday, February 13** following Sunday School and Bible Class. Dinner will include salad, entree, dessert and drink. Entree choices are either chicken or lasagna. Cost per dinner is \$12.50. **Last day to sign up is Sunday, February 6.** Join us for a delicious dinner!



FEBRUARY
BIRTHDAYS

&

BAPTISMS

BIRTHDAYS

1 Drew Trautman
4 Brad Davis
6 Shelley Toensing
7 Adam Hughes-hardt
10 Kirk Johnson
11 Angie Louch
12 Jenna Keim
13 Erin Bell, Olivia Pomajzl
14 Tory Dello
16 Jace Ourada, Melissa Persing, Allan Reetz
17 Jordyn Adam, Del Reiss
18 Ryan Meinke, Shari Melk
20 Susan Vosika

23 Camryn Adam
24 Dolyn Meinke
25 Steve Schultz
26 Cierra Hensley, Megan Korbel
27 Bonnie Bleich, Linda Eggert, Cindy Nitzel
28 Peggy Bojanski, Matt Ellingson

BAPTISMS

1 Joy Kouba
2 Arlin Pomajzl
7 Adam Hughes-hardt

6 Angela Dello
9 Rev. Art Brinkmeyer, Thea Heusinkvelt
11 Vivian Kirkpatrick
12 Skye Hoyer, Denise Slama
13 Kyle Shore
16 Bryan Bell Jr, Mersadies Kvasnicka, Robert Kvasnicka
19 Ryan Lee, Castyn Ziemann
21 Nicole Gierhart
22 Jessica McBride
23 Brad Davis
24 Jenna Keim
26 Deanna Eggert

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.



**That All May
Know Him**

LOOKING FOR RECIPES!

In your mailbox here at church you will find forms for you to use to submit recipes for the new Ladies Aid cook-book. There are 3 of those forms in your mailbox but you are not limited to just 3 recipes! There are more forms available on the table in the narthex. Also, there you will find a drop-box for your completed forms.

Or, you may email or text your recipes to Deb Walker at walker.jamesdeb1@gmail.com

You have through the month of April to submit your recipes. Join us in making this the best church cook-book full of recipes we all can enjoy!



"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God." 2 Corinthians 1:3
Thank you, Jesus, for your comfort in our troubles.

*- Your partners in mission,
 Gerald and Heidi Paul*

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH –LCMS

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Rev. Maynard Toensing, Jr.
pastortoensing@gmail.com

THANK YOU to Duane Aksamit for the donation to St John Lutheran Church of 5 new fire extinguishers. They were given to us from the Daysha Aksamit Memorial Fund.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER GROWTH

Schedule at a Glance

Worship Service (Sundays)	9:00 a.m.
Sunday School/LYF (Sundays)	10:30 a.m.
Bible Class (Sundays)	10:30 a.m.
Midweek Classes (Wednesdays)	6:30 p.m.
Cemetery Special Committee Meeting (Feb 6)	7:00 p.m.
Elders' Meeting (Feb 7)	6:30 p.m.
Evangelism Board Meeting (Feb 7)	1:30 p.m.
Quilting Group (Feb 8)	9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Safety Committee Meeting (Feb 8)	7:00 p.m.
Ladies Morning Bible Study (Feb 12)	10:00 a.m.
Lutheran Women in Mission (Feb 15)	7:00 p.m.
Ladies Aid Meeting (Feb 23)	2:00 p.m.

FROM THE ELDERS

Greetings to all and we hope this writing finds you healthy and enjoying these beautiful winter days God has gifted to us. We would like to take this time to thank all of the church members who have graciously donated their times and talents this past year and to the new members as they join the committees and councils of the church after being elected to serve in various roles here at St John. You have been chosen as a call from the Lord and elected by your peers, this is both an honor and a privilege and we recognize the commitment you have graciously given. We thank you.

On that note, it is also important to recognize that it is not only these members that are responsible for carrying out the tasks and duties of the church. These members are responsible for their chosen offices, however it “takes a village” that truly adds to the success of our church. Please take a moment of reflection of one’s self and see in what ways you can contribute this year. The opportunities are endless. Examples of contribution may be: calling your Board of Education member and surprise them and ask them if you can teach Sunday school next week, call a Trustee and ask how you may help with various maintenance tasks of the church, surprise the Finance Board on an evening of counting money with a plate of cookies, speak with a member of the Evangelism Board and ask if there is a project they need help with, call an Elder and see if there is project that needs to be done within the church that you may be of assistance with, join Ladies Aid, surprise the Cemetery Board one day by showing up with a weed eater, become a mentor to a child in church. The ideas and opportunities are endless. Hebrews 13:16, “Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God”. Please join us in sharing your time and talents as we enjoy another year God has given us.