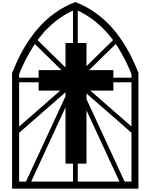


ST. JOHN LUTHERAN LCMS
11400 WEST PANAMA ROAD, CRETE, NE 68333



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 37 ISSUE 2 FEBRUARY 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As Lent approaches you might hear someone talk about giving something up for Lent (fasting). Perhaps you have thought of doing so too. But what is the purpose of giving up caffeine, chocolate, pop or something else like that for Lent? Do you feel you need to suffer something? Do you connect this with something for spiritual growth? I'm not sure what purpose this kind of "giving something up" serves. Lent is not a time to punish one's self with misery by missing something they like.

Now ... if you were to give up a favorite TV show, spend less time online, limit your texting time, and set aside that time for devotion, reading Scripture, and prayer—now you've got something. Time for spiritual reflection and prayer is what true fasting is all about. Fasting in Biblical times was about giving up meals and meal preparation time so that one could devote him/herself to prayer, devotion, or perhaps to have time to do good works of charity for others in need. This manner of fasting does have a purpose.

Giving up your daily pop, coffee, or favorite sweet can serve a good purpose if you take the money you would normally spend on them and give it to those in need (charity). "Almsgiving" is the practice of giving to the poor and has a rich traditional focus during Lent. So giving up treats to contribute to others in need is a good, fasting, devotional practice.

Jesus says in Matthew 6:16-18 (ESV): "And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you."

True fasting is between you and the Lord. It should not be done for pity or for bragging rights. Make the sacrifice of time for prayer and use the sacrifice of some purchases in order to give and be generous to others.

40 days
OF LENT

As you walk through the 40 days of Lent with Christ, rejoice and reflect that He suffered for your sins. He has taken on Himself the misery of sin, death and hell for you. Yes, this is a somber season for reflection on our sinfulness and guilt, but even more to be in awe of God's love and grace. God gave His only-begotten Son to die for you so you can see the generosity of God. Therefore, in faith, respond in generous gifts of love and good works to your neighbor.

God bless you this Lent. As He has been generous to you, God grant that you may be generous toward others. Fast. And if you do, please, don't tell me or anyone else about it. Let your fasting be between you and God alone. But do share the Good News of salvation in Christ Jesus with all, for Christ did walk the way of the cross to save you from your sin.

In Christ's love, 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).



FEBRUARY FAMILY FUN NIGHT will be **Saturday, February 25, 6:30 p.m.** Our entire church family is invited to join us for a February Family Fun Night. There will be –well, we don't want to give away all of the surprise, but there's a **clue** or two in this announcement. You don't want to be a **minute** late, or you might miss something and have to **fish** around to **find** it. There will be some **sweet** fun, loads of laughter and of course, some **Jesus** in it too!!! We promise that you'll **love** it! Just so we have an idea of how many to plan for, please sign up on the sheet in the narthex or let Pastor or Shelley know you'll be coming.



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
21 Waylon Graff

23 Camryn Adam
24 Dolyn Meinke, Heath Moravek
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
11 Vivian Kirkpatrick

12 Skye Hoyer, Denise Slama
13 Kyle Shore
16 Bryan Bell Jr, Mersadies Kvasnicka, Robert Kvasnicka
19 Ryan Lee, Castyn Ziemann
22 Jessica McBride
23 Brad Davis
24 Jenna Keim
26 Deanna Eggert

“BLESSED TO SERVE!”

January 31, 1923—January 31, 2023

The Ladies Aid of St. John Lutheran Church has been blessed by God to celebrate their 100th anniversary on Tuesday, January 31, 2023.

The Ladies Aid requests that the members of St. John Lutheran Church join us on April 23, 2023, as we observe this occasion.

Details of the event will follow

LADIES AID MINUTES

St. John Ladies Aid met on January 25, 2023, with Diane Kahle as hostess. Pastor Toensing led us in prayer, hymn #496 “Holy Spirit, Light Divine” and a Bible study from John 16:14 “The Holy Spirit... Shall Take of Mine and Disclose it to You.”

Roll call was taken with 9 members present. The minutes of the November 2022 meeting were read and approved. The treasurer’s report was given. We received donations from Olga Weidner and Gary Renner for serving at Dennis Kattau’s funeral.

Thank you notes were received from Jolene Reetz for her Christmas gift, Main Street Living for their Christmas donation, Pastor & Shelley Toensing for their Christmas gift card and Gerald & Heidi Paul for the prayers and financial support for their mission work.

Diane Kahle thanked all those who helped with the Christmas luncheon, the Altar Committee for taking care of the poinsettias for Christmas, Janice Reetz for purchasing and distributing the Christmas gifts for the shut-ins and paying the Christmas donations and to all those who helped serve and bring food for the funeral of Dennis Kattau.

The funeral call list was updated by Diane Kahle and Janice Reetz.

The hostess list was passed around.

The sale of cookbooks has slowed down a little. Anyone wanting to purchase a cookbook, please talk to a Ladies Aid member.

Each committee for the anniversary celebration discussed what has been done and what still needs to be done for the upcoming celebration.

Shelly Toensing asked if the Ladies Aid would be ok with the purchase of new ovens for the kitchen that would come out of memorial money. The Ladies Aid was ok with this.

Deanna Eggert celebrated a birthday in December and Deb & James Walker celebrated an anniversary. In January LaVonne & Marvin Nitzel, Linda & Larry Pomajzl and Deanna & David Eggert celebrated anniversaries. The anniversary song was sung to LaVonne and Deb.

Ellie Koch will be the hostess for February.

We closed the meeting with the Lord’s Prayer and common Table Prayer.

Deb Walker, Secretary

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



Valentine Fellowship Dinner

LYF NEWS

LYF VALENTINE DINNER

The dinner will be held on **Sunday, February 19** at 11:15, following Bible Class and Sunday School. Dinner will include drink, salad and dessert. Choose either lasagna, vegetable and garlic bread OR chicken, vegetable and potato. Cost per dinner is \$13.00. **Last day to sign up is Sunday, February 12.** Join us for a delicious dinner!

WORDS OF LIFE FROM THE CROSS

The theme for this year's midweek Lent series is drawn from the seven words of Christ which He spoke from the cross as He offered up His life for the life of the world. Each word imparts a blessing and is a word of Gospel. The messages in this series will expound on these words of Christ, linking them to the fulness of Jesus' words and works recorded in the Gospel as well as the Old Testament prophecies that pointed to Him. Each word of Christ proclaims and delivers something about Him, the Word Incarnate, and delivers His saving death to us that we would trust Him for forgiveness, life, and salvation.

Ash Wednesday is February 22nd. The message that day: The Pardoning Word: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34)



**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN
CHURCH –LCMS**

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secretarystjohn@hotmail.com
www.stjohnkramer.org
Rev. Maynard Toensing, Jr.
pastortoensing@gmail.com

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER GROWTH

Schedule at a Glance

Worship Service (Sundays)	9:00 a.m.
Sunday School/LYF/Adult Bible Class (Sundays)	10:15-11:15 a.m.
Midweek Classes (Wednesdays)	6:30 p.m.
Constitution/By-Law Committee (Feb 9)	7:00 p.m.
Evangelism Board (Feb 10)	2:00 p.m.
Women’s Bible Study (Feb 11)	2:00 p.m.
Elder’s Meeting (Feb 13)	6:30 p.m.
Quilting Group (Feb 14)	9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Lutheran Women in Mission (Feb 21)	10:00 a.m.
Ladies Aid Meeting (Feb 22)	2:00 p.m.

FROM THE ELDERS

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We would like to again thank all our Church members who have donated their time this past year working at all the tasks required for our congregation to function and to everyone who has stepped up to carry those tasks forward for this year. It is only possible for St John Lutheran – Kramer to exist through the prayerful labors and willing service of it’s members. Those that are not serving in an official position, please consider where you could be of service in the myriad of upcoming functions this year. There never seems to lack the need of a couple extra hands.

With that in mind, our youth group is planning the annual Easter breakfast but needs your help. The amount of work required, and the small number of their group, make it impossible for them to do it alone. They need someone to step forward and take charge of planning and enlisting volunteers to set up, serve, and clean up. Please reach out to Brian or Erin Bell to see where you can be of service and share in the abilities that God has given you. God Bless, The Elders

THOSE SERVING DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

DUTY	February 5	February 12	February 19	Ash Wednesday	February 26
Organist/Pianist	Jayne VanAsperen	Ellen Miller	Ellen Miller		Jayne VanAsperen
Elders	John Reitz	John Reitz	Phil Hughes	Dolyn Meinke 10:30 Troy Henning 6:30	Phil Hughes
Greeters	Roger & Donna Brunelle	Terry & Genie Dittmer	Chris Hollman		Wayne & Linda Eggert
Acolytes	Easton Brethouwer		Kian Morris		



HYGIENE KITS

MIDWEEK STUDENTS' MISSION PROJECT

St John Midweek Students are collecting items for hygiene kits for Orphan Grain Train. Items needed are **bath towels, wash cloths, bath-size bars of soap, plastic soap box holders, toothbrushes, sturdy combs, small package facial tissues, and nail clippers.** Bath towels and washcloths should be in **good condition** and dark colors are recommended. All other items must be new. There is a collection container in the narthex at church. We will collect items during **February**. Thank you for helping to provide these basic needs to people in need.

ST. JOHN 2023 ELECTED OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

Installation of Officers and Board Members of St. John will be February 12

President	Glen Louch
Vice President	Terry Dittmer
Secretary	Chris Reetz
Treasurer	Kristi Reetz
Financial Secretary	Lisa Shore
Finance Board	Melissa Persing—Kelly Reetz—Chris Hollman
Board of Elders	Todd Hoyer—Gary Meinke—Troy Henning—Dolyn Meinke Phil Hughes—John Reitz
Board of Trustees	Travis Eggert—Brian Persing—Les Korte—Brent Wohl
Board of Education	Jeana Scholz—Kaylie Brethouwer—Linda Lee
Board of Evangelism	Cari Henning—Marianne Tesar—Sandi Karl
Cemetery Board	Ed Skillett—Tim Reetz—Terry & Julie Reetz