

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



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ST. JOHN LUTHERAN NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 29 ISSUE 2 FEBRUARY 2015

THE WONDERFUL WORKS OF GOD: THE LAW

We hear them telling in our own tongues the wonderful works of God (Acts 2:11).

In order to rightly hear the Bible and preaching, every Christian should have a basic understanding of the distinction between Law and Gospel. In short, the Law is whatever God wants us to do; the Gospel is whatever God does for us in Christ. This month, we'll focus on the Law.

The first mistake one could make is to think Law = Bad, Gospel = Good. On the contrary, the Law of God is good and wise (see Psalms 19 and 119). The Law shows us God's will for our lives. God's Law is good for us. For example, God values life, so he prohibits murder in all forms. God values marriage, so he wants us to honor and protect it. God is not out to ruin our fun or be a cosmic killjoy. In fact, God is the very giver of joy and all good things.

Because of sin, however, our hearts and minds are corrupted and upside down. The Law brings the knowledge of sin (Rom. 3:20). In telling us what we should do, it also points out that

we haven't done it, not all the time, not all the way, and not with our whole hearts. This is the main purpose of the Law. It exposes our sin and need for a savior. Without the Law we wouldn't understand our need for the Gospel. The Law itself is good, but it is bad news for sinners. Only in the Gospel can we sinners find the Good News we need.

The Law restrains the wickedness of man so that we do not utterly destroy ourselves. It shows our sin and teaches us what we are supposed to be doing. Christians need to hear the Law preached because we need to be reminded of our need for a savior but also because we need to learn more about God's will for our lives. Unless people are taught, they will not automatically abstain from their Baptism know that abortion kills a baby. It just isn't obvious to everyone apart from the clear Word of God. Sadly, when God's Law is ignored then all fear of God and accountability for our actions is also ignored. Sadly we see this in our world and in our own hearts.

Another big mistake is to think that the Law can save or help us become saved. We see problems

around us and are tempted to think: "If we could only get people to shape up and behave, then things would be better." They might be, but only on the outside and only for a short while. Hearts would still be far from God, and sinners would still be without a savior. The Law can never save. It always condemns sinners.

Take the example of speeding. If we are driving too fast and see a police officer (the Law) what will we do? We'll slow down, of course, but only for a short while. Soon we will be back to speeding if that is our heart's desire. The Law can change our outward behavior for a while, but it doesn't change the attitude in our heart. Only the Gospel of Jesus dying for us can change our hearts and convert us to God.

Thanks be to God the Law is not his only or final word. He also gives us the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Peace to you,

Handwritten signature of Pastor Hayes in black ink.

ST. JOHN QUARTERLY VOTERS MEETING JANUARY 26, 2015 MEETING MINUTES

President Terry Dittmer called the meeting to order at 8:05 pm.

Pastor Hayes led us in an opening prayer.

Rollo Schulz made a motion to accept Cheryl Langfeldt and Gloria McDermott as new members. Seconded and passed.

Minutes of the October 27, 2014 Voters Meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Lynn Meinke handed out a report for the fourth quarter of 2014 and also the annual report for 2014. The report for the fourth quarter is as follows:

Balance Forward 10/01/14	\$41,415.39
Plus Regular Receipts	\$53,976.41
Plus Mission Receipts	\$ 2,807.46
Balance Plus Receipts	\$98,199.26
Less Regular Disbursements	\$58,814.96
Less Mission Disbursements	\$ 5,376.02
Ending Balance 12/31/2014	\$34,008.28

The annual report is as follows:

Balance Forward 1/1/14	\$ 36,026.63
Plus Regular Receipts	\$189,152.16
Plus Mission Receipts	\$ 12,820.01
Balance Plus Receipts	\$237,998.80
Less Regular Disbursements	\$180,065.14
Less Mission Disbursements	\$ 23,925.38
Ending Balance 12/31/2014	\$ 34,008.28

A transfer of \$1,909 from the Lillian Hackstock memorial was made to pay for paramounts and vestments and \$20,907.29 was transferred in to pay for the remaining balance on the parking lot, cemetery and roof. The general budget still needs to be repaid \$8,011.27 for the roof and cemetery. The Thanksgiving service offering of \$634 was sent to Crete Cares. Brent Wohl made a motion to accept \$13,789.66 as the mission pledge for 2015 which is 10% of the 2014 receipts. Seconded and passed. Glen Louch made a motion to give \$400 of the money received from the 2014 Children's Christmas Program, Christmas Eve services and Christmas Day service to Lutheran Family Services. Seconded and passed. Troy Henning made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as given. Seconded and passed.

Elder's Report:

James Walker reported the following:

Funerals:

October 30, 2014 Lorraine Mundt

Transfers Out

November 9, 2014 Verlin, Pat & Lynette Holle to St. John Lutheran Church in Seward
December 2, 2014 Karen Beranek to Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Pleasant Dale

Annual Reporting was 7 baptisms, 7 confirmations, 2 weddings, 4 funerals, 10 new members, 5 releases, 8 transfers out, 4 transfers in

Pastor's Report:

Pastor would like to thank all the officers who are finishing up, the officers that are continuing on and our newly-elected officers. He reported there are 423 total baptized members on the roster and 265 active members. There have been an average of 116 members present on Sunday mornings and an average of 16 members attending the Wednesday even-

ing services. The Wednesday evening average total doubles during Lent and Advent. Ash Wednesday is February 18. The theme for the Lenten services is the 7 Penitential Psalms. Lenten services will be at 10:30 am and 7:30 pm. Please pray for Pastor Hayes and his family as he is always praying for all of us.

Board of Education:

Pastor reported that midweek is going well but there has been low attendance for Sunday School. VBS planning will start soon.

Trustee's Report:

Dolyn Meinke reported that the cemetery fence is installed. Dean Prochnow is working on the burial plot maps on the computer. The cemetery gate sign that was rebuilt by Brent Wohl and painted by the youth group is ready to be put back up. The fence around the air conditioner has been straightened. General maintenance has been done.

No Cemetery Report

Youth Report:

Ashley Walker reported that in October they had a lock-in with a snowball fight. Their Halloween party was attended by 20-30 kids. In November they sold apple, pumpkin and pecan pies for Thanksgiving. In December they decorated the church for Christmas. An upcoming event is the Valentine's Dinner on Sunday, February 15. Abbie Reitz was selected as head usher and Garrett Reitz was selected as assistant usher. Ashley, Jeana and the youth would like to thank the congregation for their continued support throughout the year.

Evangelism Report:

Carol Brinkmeyer reported that the visitation program is set up – there are 6 members which consists of 3 Evangelism committee members and 3 church members. They are working on the new member packets. They are trying to figure out what to include in those packets. The visitor packets are done and are being handed out on Sundays. When they are done working on making revisions on the church directory it will be given to Cathy to distribute. They would like to do a pictorial directory. Pastor and Cathy will get estimates from different companies pertaining to the pictorial directory.

Memorial Report:

Dolyn Meinke reported that all families have been called and all but three (Lillian Hackstock, Gladys Schlichtemeier, Lisa Dello) have put their money towards paying for the concrete and roof.

Election of Officers:

Ballots were handed out by the nominating committee and the assembly voted. Roger Brunelle motioned to suspend the one-year rule for new members to hold office. Seconded and passed. The results of the balloting were as follows:

President: *Gary Meinke

Vice-President: *Terry Dittmer

Secretary: *Kay Jordan

Treasurer: Glen Louch

Finance Secretary: *Wayne Eggert

Finance Committee: *Gloria McDermott, *Karen Tiedeman, *Patricia Prochnow

Board of Elders: *Tim McDermott, *Roger Koch, Jeff Meinke, James Walker, John Reitz and Brent Wohl

Board of Trustees: *Dolyn Meinke, *Troy Henning, Bob Renner and Dean Prochnow

Board of Evangelism: *JoAnn Renner, Ellie Koch, Carol Brinkmeyer

Board of Education: vacant for now,

Melissa Persing, Diane Hayes

Cemetery Committee: *Mike Langfeldt, *Mitch Homolka, *Kenneth Kahle, Julie Reetz and Brian Persing

(*Newly elected)

There was a tie among the nominees of the Cemetery Committee. Terry Dittmer motioned to accept all three nominees on the cemetery committee. Seconded and passed. Pastor reminded all newly elected and continuing committee members that the Installation of Officers will be this Sunday, February 1, 2015.

Old Business:

Dean Prochnow is working on the burial plot maps.

New Business:

A letter from Rev. Christopher Ahlman was read thanking us for actively supporting his mission.

For the staff salary discussions, Pastor and Jolene Reetz were excused from the meeting. Terry presented to the voters the salary recommendation from the Council for the church secretary, organist/pianist and the custodian's salaries which is a 1.4% increase for the organists and custodian. They are as follows:

Secretary – currently \$750 monthly – will remain the same

Organist/pianist – currently \$60 per service – increased by \$3 to \$63 per service

Custodian – currently \$435 monthly – increased by \$10 to \$445 monthly
Discussion followed. Lee Miller made a motion to accept the Council's recommendation on the salaries. Seconded and passed.

Then Terry presented the Council's recommendation for Pastor's salary which is as follows:

His current salary is \$36,000 – the council recommends a salary of \$36,500 which came from the recom-

mended base salary from the Synod for 2015 of \$31,510 with the following additions: \$1,600 for years of service (4) at \$400 per year, \$900 for advanced degree credit hours (30 hours at \$300 for every 9 credit hours) and \$2,490 for meritorious service. His education allowance of \$500 annually and housing allowance of \$540 monthly will stay the same. Pastor's HSA account was funded at \$3,000 for 2014. The council recommends \$4,000 for Pastor's HSA for 2015. Discussion followed. Delbert Reiss made a motion that we increase Pastor's salary to \$36,500 and increase his HSA account to \$4,000. Seconded and passed.

Resolved, that St. John Lutheran Church, as a standing resolution to remain in force and effect until such time as amended or revoked, hereby authorizes and establishes a housing allowance for Pastor Joshua Hayes at any time serving it in the amount of \$6,480 per year.

John Reitz will spearhead the Auditing Committee. The other two members will be finalized within the next week.

Roll Call showed 36 members present and 4 guests. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer at 9:20 pm.

Deb Walker
Council Secretary

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 with your email address. Thank you for going GREEN!

HEALTHY HABITS: I'VE FALLEN AND I CAN'T GET UP!

With winter weather still amongst us, it is important to address the prevention of falls on slick sidewalks and snow covered driveways, however there are other potential causes of falls that warrant to be addressed. Although a simple fall may seem harmless, the potential injury from a fall can be devastating. Let's look at the statistics:

- 1 out of 3 adults aged 65 and older have a fall each year.
- Falls are the leading cause of fatal and non-fatal injuries amongst older adults
- Fall-related fractures among women are more than twice those for men.
- Men are more likely than women to die from a fall.
- Over 95% of hip fractures are caused by falls. 1 in 5 hip fracture patients die within a year of their injury. 1 in 3 patients with a hip fracture who lived independently before the fracture remain in a nursing home or rehab facility a year after their fracture.
- In 2012, the average cost of a hospital stay for a fall injury was over \$34,000.

Ideas in which may be helpful to prevent falls are:

- When getting up from a sitting position, get up slowly and take a few moments to get your bearings before walking.
- Exercise regularly and include in your exercise mild weight bearing exercises.
- Have your eyes checked
- Reduce hazards in your home like installing grab bars in your bathroom, railings at stairways, getting rid of your throw rugs, walk with good shoes on while preventing from walking bare footed around your home, and improve the lighting in your home.

Accidents are not the only cause of falls. There may be other health conditions that may be contributing to a fall. In this instance, **please** talk to your doctor. So many times, many people who fall are fearful for discussing this with their doctor and family. **Prevention** is incredibly important as the potential outcome from a fall can be life changing. Resource: cdc.gov

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS & BAPTISMS

BIRTHDAYS

3 Dan Murphy
4 Brad Davis
9 Tricia Novak
10 Kirk Johnson
11 Angie Louch
12 Jenna Musil
13 Olivia Pomajzl
14 Tory Dello
16 Karen Beranek, Jace Ourada, Melissa Persing, Allan Reetz
17 Jordyn Adam
18 Ryan Meinke, Shari Melk
20 Susan Vosika

23 Camryn Adam
24 Randy Adams, Dolyn Meinke
25 Steve Schultz
26 Cierra Hensley, Megan Musil
27 Bonnie Bleich, Linda Eggert, Cindy Nitzel
28 Peggy Bojanski, Matt Ellingson
29 Gary Rezac

BAPTISMS

1 Joy Kouba
2 Arlin Pomajzl
4 Paul Beck
6 Angela Dello
9 Rev. Art Brinkmeyer

10 Addison Meinke, Dan Meinke
11 Matt Karl, Vivian Kirkpatrick
12 Beau Bachman, Ethan Eggert, Skye Hoyer, Irene Reiss,
Denise Slama
13 Kyle Shore
16 Mersadies Kvasnicka, Robert Kvasnicka
19 Ryan Lee
21 Nicole Reetz
22 Jessica Galbreath
23 Brad Davis
24 Jenna Musil
26 Deanna Eggert, Tricia Novak

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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.

LENTEN SERVICE DUTIES IN FEBRUARY

Ash Wednesday, February 18:

Pianist: Ellen Miller
Elder: James Walker
Greeter: Mr. & Mrs. Darren Meinke
Acolytes: Devon Reitz & Sami Weber

Wednesday, February 25:

Pianist: Ellen Miller
Elder: Brent Wohl
Greeter: Mr. & Mrs. Dave Musil
Acolytes: Morgan & Maggie Wohl

LAMBS OF CHRIST PRESCHOOL NEWS

By: Rhonda Beethe

National Lutheran Schools Week January 25th – 31st Lambs of Christ Preschool joined with Lutheran schools across the country to celebrate the blessings of Lutheran Schools. We would like to thank you for supporting our preschool. Without you Lambs of Christ Preschool would be unable to operate. Join me in thanking God for our Lutheran Schools. **Grandparents Day** The preschool will be inviting their grandparents to join them for a day of preschool. The Tuesday/Thursday class will host their grandparents on Thursday, February 26th. The Monday/Wednesday/Friday class will host their grandparents on Friday, February 27th. The day will include a special chapel service at 8:45 followed by a special craft and snack time. Grandparents may spend the whole preschool day or the part that fits into their schedule. **Chili Feed** The Preschools annual Chili Feed is Sunday, March 8th. We will have a silent auction at this event to help us meet our program expenses. If you have an item or service you would wish to donate for the silent auction please contact Michelle Wittstruck, Cathy Hollman or Rhonda Beethe. Items can be large or small. **A study of the stars** In early January the preschool students studied the stars. We had so much fun learning about outer space. The two week study was highlighted by making space backpacks for our star journeys.

LADIES AID MINUTES

St. John's Ladies Aid met on January 28, 2015, with Linda Eggert as hostess. The meeting opened by singing "Blest Be the Tie That Binds". Pastor Hayes led us in prayer and the Bible Study on Colossians 4:7-18. After the Bible Study, the 2015 officers were installed.

Roll call was taken with nine members present. The minutes of the November meeting were read and Crete Cares had been added to the list of Christmas donations. The treasure's report was given. We did not have a meeting in December.

OLD NEWS: Thank you notes were read from Crete Cares, Ministry to the Armed Services, Lutheran Family Services and Orphan

Grain Train. Marilyn Nast delivered forty pounds of food to Blue Valley Community Action.

NEW BUSINESS: Diane Hayes attended our meeting and wants to host a Tea on Sunday, April 12 at 4:00p.m. for the members of LWML and the Ladies Aid.

Irene Reiss donated twenty-five soup bowls to the church.

December birthdays were celebrated by Deanna Eggert and Pastor Brinkmeyer. January anniversaries were celebrated by Marvin and LaVonne Nitzel, Dave and Deanna Eggert and Larry and Linda Pomajzl. Darleen Dittmer will be the hostess for the meeting in February. We closed with the Lord's Prayer and table prayer.

Shirley Reetz, secretary

LADIES QUILTING

Please join us for a quilting event on Thursday, February 5, at 9:30am. We will be cutting squares of donated fabric, piecing squares together, and tying quilts. No sewing experience is necessary! Bring a scissors and one covered dish or whatever you have to share for lunch. We will put them all out for a mini potluck lunch. We will plan to work from 9:30 am to about 2:00 pm but come when you can and leave when you need to. The quilts are donated to local groups such as the People's City Mission or other charities or to Orphan Grain Train for distribution throughout the USA and the world. Everyone is welcome and we hope you will join us for this worthwhile project.

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OPPORTUNITES FOR FUTHER 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 (February 2)	7:30 p.m.
LYF ()	Following Worship Service
Lutheran Women in Mission (February 17)	7:00 p.m.
Ladies Aid Meeting (February 25)	1:30 p.m.

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

As we begin this new year of 2015 we reflect back on the accomplishments of 2014. The Evangelism Committee has had a rewarding 2014.

1. They updated the VBS banner.
2. They made visitor packets to hand out.
3. They set up a visitation schedule and implemented the program.
4. They worked with the elders on the plans for the 140th anniversary of St. John
5. They still plan to put together a new member's packet and are deciding what materials to place in this packet.

We thank Marilyn Nast for her service to the Evangelism Committee for the past two years.

The Evangelism Committee

FROM THE ELDER'S

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ, Valentine's Day is not far off so make sure to get your reservations made for the LYF annual Valentine's Dinner on Sunday, February 15, after Sunday School and Adult Bible Study. This isn't just a great meal but a way for you to support our youth for their activities throughout the year. Please sign up in the Narthex before or after church or let Ashley Walker or Jeana Rezac know by February 8.

Please join us for Ash Wednesday worship that will be held on February 18 at 7:30 pm with communion. Lenten services will then continue on Wednesday evenings through March.

Congratulations to all the newly-elected council members. A huge thank you to the former council members who dedicated their time and efforts for our church.

God Bless,
 The Elders

THOSE SERVING DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

DUTY	February 1	February 8	February 15	February 22
Organist	Jayne Vanasperen	Jolene Reetz	Jayne Vanasperen	Jolene Reetz
Elders	John Reitz	Jeff Meinke	Roger Koch	Brent Wohl
Greeters	Mr. & Mrs. Mike Langfeldt	Mr. & Mrs. Glen Louch	Mr. & Mrs. Tim McDermott	Mr. & Mrs. Gary Meinke
Acolytes	Emma & Mara Hoyer	Kylie & Cassidy Meinke	Olivia Pomajzl & Bailey Stougard	Elliott Reitz & Ashlyn Adam