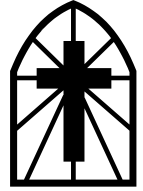


ST. JOHN LUTHERAN LCMS  
11400 WEST PANAMA ROAD, CRETE, NE 68333



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 39 ISSUE 1      JANUARY 2025

Happy New Year, dear Saints of God at St. John,

I wish you a very blessed year filled with God's grace and gifts. As we give our Lord thanks for His mercy and blessings in the last year, so we are assured of His grace for us in Jesus Christ in this New Year.

Each year brings its own challenges and opportunities. How blessed we were to celebrate our 150<sup>th</sup> year as a congregation last year. As last year focused on that celebration. This year I would like to see our congregation make an emphasis on growing in Christ Jesus our Lord. A good text that reminds us of this is 2 Peter 3:18 (ESV): "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

We are to grow – not only in grace, but in all things. St. Paul writes, "Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ" (Ephesians 4:15 ESV). We grow in "every way." We grow in the body with good health. We grow in wisdom and understanding. We seek to grow in our spiritual lives. And we care for our mental and emotional health. Caring for ourselves and each other in our whole personhood is God-pleasing and beneficial. We are to be good stewards of our time, and treasures, and talents, but that also includes a fourth "T": the temple of our body.

I will be looking to encourage our leaders and boards to consider and pray about how we can all grow in all the ways God invites us to as we care for ourselves, our families, our community. If you have thoughts and ideas on things we can do as congregation to encourage growth, please let me know.

Our life is a wonderful gift from God. So, we should treasure it and care for it. Just as we take care of so many things, we should take care of the spiritual, physical, and mental aspects of our body and life. The Son of God came into flesh – a body just like ours – in order to redeem us and save us from all the sinful brokenness in our lives and bodies. He cares for us in body and soul and He calls us to take good care of our bodies and lives. And He will raise us up into heaven in our bodies, renew and restore them, and we will live in eternity with Him. Let us grow every way as God cares for you, His dear child.

May God's peace rest upon you in Christ Jesus.  
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 THANKYOU!**

LYF youth and friends had a lock-in on New Years Eve. We had devotions, took down Christmas decorations and then went to Lincoln for food, arcade games and bowling at Sun Valley Lanes. We made it back to church to finish off the night in a lock-in. **THANKYOU** to everyone that made this possible—Bryan Bell (Erin stepped out of this one to take care of the kids), Emma Hoyer, Pastor & Shelley Toensing



**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

&

**BAPTISMS**

**BIRTHDAYS**

- 3 Blythe Dewey
- 6 Marilyn Nelson
- 7 Julie Reetz, Jeana Scholz
- 9 Skye Hoyer
- 11 Castyn Ziemann
- 12 Bryan Bell, Jr
- 13 Joy Kouba
- 16 Estelle Reetz
- 18 Nick Hollman
- 19 Matt Walker
- 23 Kelby Feddern
- 25 Matt Karl
- 27 Harry Meinke, Kyle Shore

- 30 Brian Persing, Arya Thompson, Kyler Ladman
- 31 Dave Eggert

**BAPTISMS**

- 1 Steve VanAsperen, Fred Weidner
- 4 Aaron Meinke
- 7 Ellen Miller
- 8 Jayne VanAsperen
- 19 Troy Henning, Barb Meinke
- 20 Marilyn Nelson
- 21 Doug Kattau, Scott Murphy
- 23 Jeana Scholz
- 27 Estelle Reetz

- 28 Matt Walker, Seth Brethouwer, Liam Lee
- 29 Kent Nelson, Heath Moravek
- 31 Titan Wagner



**Celebrating You on Your Special Day**

## FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY

# *That's Amore'* DINNER

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 11:00 A.M.**

**ADULTS: \$15    AGE 4-10: \$10    3 & UNDER: FREE**

**PLEASE SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX BY FEB. 2**

## MENU

APPETIZER & CAESAR SALAD  
CHOICE OF LASAGNA OR CHICKEN PARMESAN  
GREEN BEANS & HOMEMADE BREAD  
DESSERT

*What better way is there  
to love your friends  
than to share the love of Jesus*

**SPONSORED BY YOUTH GROUP & EVANGELISM BOARD**

## LADIES AID MINUTES

St John Ladies Aid met on December 18, 2024 for a brief meeting following the Advent morning service and luncheon hosted by the Ladies Aid. There were 26 people served at the luncheon.

Roll call was answered by 9 members. The minutes of the November meeting were read and approved. The treasurer's report was read. It was reported that 9 more cookbooks have been sold. We still have several copies available for purchase at \$10.00 each.

A thankyou note was passed around from Fran Sieck in appreciation of the poinsettia that was delivered by Janice Reetz as a shut-in gift from the Ladies Aid.

Deanna Eggert celebrated a birthday this month. The anniversary song was sung for Deb and James Walker in celebration of their anniversary.

Next meeting will be held January 29, 2025, with Deb Walker serving as hostess. We closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

Bonnie Bleich, Secretary

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## MAIN STREET LIVING updates for January, 2025

"Main Street Living" is a liturgical worship service broadcasting a different local pastor each Sunday morning. It airs along with the classic Lutheran Hour program, "This is the Life". Both can be viewed on KLKN Channel 8 (Lincoln) & WOWT Channel 6.2 (Omaha) Visit [www.mainstreetliving.com/lincoln](http://www.mainstreetliving.com/lincoln) to view current and past episodes.

**January 5 10:30 am...Rev. Merle Mahnken, pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Schleswig, IA,** presents a message titled "Growing in Wisdom". This sermon is based on Luke 2:40-52.

**January 12 10:30 am...Rev. Sam Handschke, pastor at Faith Lutheran Church in Pierre, SD,** presents a message titled "God's Beloved". This sermon is based on Isaiah 43:4.

**January 19 10:30 am... Rev. Jim Lamb from Lutheran Family Service in Fort Dodge, IA & Sioux Falls, SD** presents a message titled "The Trinitarian Value of Human Life". This sermon is based on Isaiah 43:1.

**January 26 10:30 am...Rev. David Viggers, pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Odebolt, IA,** presents a message titled "Swimming Upstream". This sermon is based on Luke 4:16-30.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER GROWTH

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN  
 CHURCH –LCMS  
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 secretarystjohn@hotmail.com  
 www.stjohnkramer.org  
 Rev. Maynard Toensing, Jr.  
 pastortoensing@gmail.com

**Schedule at a Glance**

Worship Service (Sundays)	9:00 a.m.
Sunday School/LYF/Bible Class (Sundays)	10:30 a.m.
Midweek Classes (Wednesdays)	6:30 p.m.-7:45 p.m.
Elders’ Meeting (January 6)	7:00 p.m.
Quilting Group (January 14 and 28)	9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Evangelism Board Meeting (January 20)	2:00 p.m.
Church Council Meeting (January 20)	6:30 p.m.
Quarterly Voters’ Meeting (January 26) following Worship Svc	
Ladies Aid Meeting (January 29)	2:00 p.m.

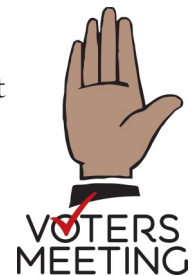
**FROM THE ELDERS**

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As the excitement of December 25<sup>th</sup> subsides, we enter into ‘dull’ January, don’t forget that Christmas is not over! Christmas has just begun. The twelve days of Christmas will be celebrated, ending with Epiphany on January 6<sup>th</sup>, and even then, the joy of celebrating the birth of our Savior can and should remain in our hearts. So...Merry Christmas!

Our Voters’ Meeting will be held on **January 26<sup>th</sup>** after church. Even if you are not currently a Voting Member, please feel free to attend. Maybe you will decide to become a Voter, maybe not. Either way you are welcome to attend!

Blessings from the Elders



**THOSE SERVING DURING THE MONTH OF JANUARY, 2025**

DUTY	1/5/25	1/12/25	1/19/25	1/26/25
<b>Organist/Pianist</b>	Jayne VanAsperen	Ellen Miller	Jayne VanAsperen	Ellen Miller
<b>Elders</b>	Todd Hoyer	Doug Karl	John Reitz	Troy Henning
<b>Greeters</b>	Brent & Heidi Wohl	Rev. Art & Carol Brinkmeyer	Terry & Genie Dittmer	Wayne & Linda Eggert
<b>Acolytes</b>	Amy Hollman		Easton Brethouwer	

O Lord, let my  
 New Year's resolution  
 be to **follow you**  
**more closely**  
 and to  
**trust in your**  
 loving guidance.

# Puzzle!

Use the grid to discover what James 5:13-18 advises when challenges loom.

	A	F	L	P	T
	C	H	N	R	W
	E	I	O	S	Y

P

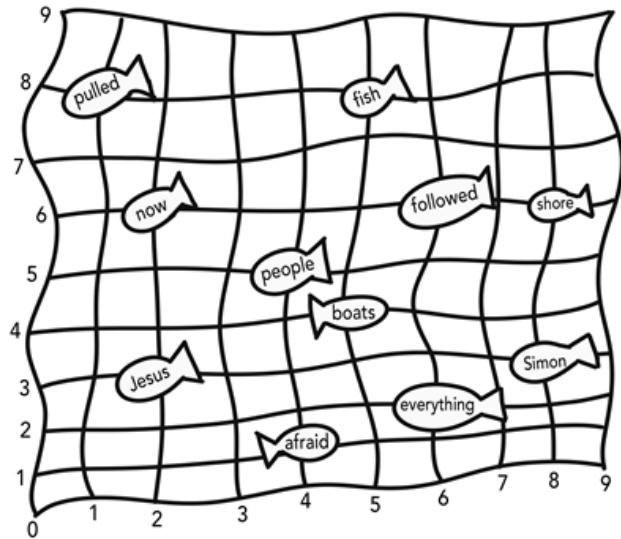
Answers: Pray in faith. Pray for each other. Pray earnestly.



## FISHING DIRECTIONS

When fishermen obeyed Jesus and let down their nets, they caught so many fish that their boats began to sink! Simon Peter fell at Jesus' knees. What happened next?

Directions: Use the coordinate clues to locate the correct words and complete Luke 5:10-11 (NIV) below. The first number in each clue pair goes across, and the second number goes up.



Then Jesus said to                     , "Don't be                     ; from                       
(2, 3) (8, 3) (4, 1) (2, 6)  
 on you will                      for                     ." So they                      their  
(5, 8) (4, 5) (1, 8)  
                     up on                     , left                      and                      him.  
(5, 4) (8, 6) (6, 2) (6, 6)

Luke 5:10-11, NIV

Answers: Jesus, Simon, afraid, now, fish, people, pulled, boats, shore, followed, everything, followed