

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 35 ISSUE 7 JULY 2021

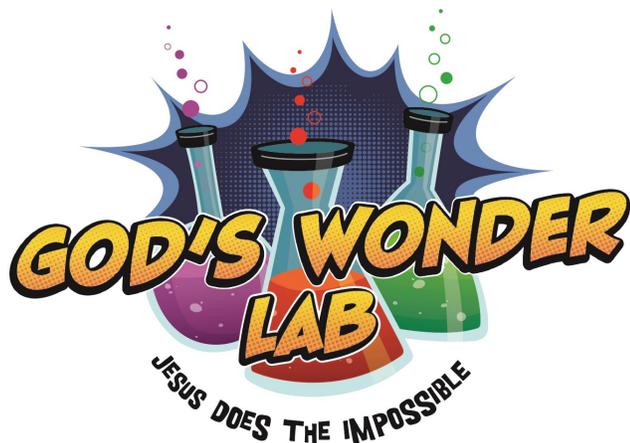
**EFFECTIVE JULY 4, 2021**

**WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 a.m.**

**ADULT BIBLE CLASS will follow Worship Service in the Fellowship Hall**



Our Church Family



**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN**

**VBS 2021**

**JULY 18-22**

**5 PM TO 7:45 PM**

**SIGN UP AND JOIN IN THE FUN!**

**WE'RE HAVING A RALLY DAY!**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH!**

Outdoor Worship Service

Sunday School & Bible Class Kick-off

Potluck Dinner

Games & fun for everyone!

Details to come, but mark your calendars!



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

### No Defending *This* Rebellion!

Two hundred forty-five years ago today (that's almost 250!), the signers of the Declaration of Independence knew what they were doing: they were rebelling against the authorities that Romans 13 says God established and placed over them. And they knew they owed the world an explanation: "When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation." They then give a lengthy list of tyrannies King George III of England had inflicted on them: "He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good. . . . He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people. . . . He has obstructed the Administration of Justice. . . . He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone" and so on and so on and so on. So there! Reasons the Founding Fathers felt justified declaring independence. We could argue whether we were right to rebel like that or not, but we celebrate it every year, and God has certainly rained countless blessings down on our country ever since.

We all make long, long lists of reasons we just had to rebel against God by this sin here or that sin there—the way every American does, the way Israelites in Ezekiel's day did (Ezek 2:3), and the way every other citizen of the world in every age has been doing since the beginning. They won't wash; we've got no case. You can't defend this rebellion. God's no tyrant. He never does us anything but good. Whether these United States will confess or not, let us as God's people confess our rebellions, our sins, to him. Because he is merciful, and in Christ Jesus, his declaration is always forgiveness.

*Carl C. Fickenscher II, Fort Wayne, IN; Concordia Pulpit Resources, Copyright © 2021 Concordia Publishing House 3558 S. Jefferson Ave., St. Louis, MO; cpr@cph.org. Used by permission with purchase.*

In Christ, Pastor Toensing



#### BIRTHDAYS

1 Harlow Dewey  
 3 A. J. Ellingson, Lisa Rejcha,  
 Sherry Rezac  
 5 Janice Reetz  
 6 Terry Stehlik  
 9 Hugo Pomajzl  
 10 Les Korte, Linda Lee  
 11 Sandi Karl  
 12 Gary Meinke, Erica Sublett  
 13 Trevor Nitzel  
 15 LaVonne Nitzel  
 16 Lynn Meinke  
 19 Lisa Shore  
 20 Leahh Anderson, Karen  
 Bachman, Ashley Walker  
 21 Alexandra Weber

23 Briggen Reetz  
 24 Megan Behrends  
 25 Wayne Hansmeyer, Frank  
 Slama, Bailey Stougaard  
 26 Joe Hoesche  
 29 Barb Meinke, Aleece Reetz  
 31 Brad Pomajzl

#### BAPTISMS

1 James Haufle, Jeff Hollman,  
 Heath & Harlow Dewey  
 3 Brian Poole, Jacob Wohl  
 4 Wendie & Austin Haufle,  
 Marvin Nitzel  
 5 Roger Koch, Tessa Petereit  
 8 Devon Reitz, Marlene Wagner  
 9 Ella Jo Hughes

10 James Doiel, Cindy Hoyer  
 11 Victoria Rethmeier  
 12 Sherry Rezac  
 13 Calen Homolka  
 14 Eric Dewey, Lydia Lee, Morgan  
 Wohl  
 15 Ethan Sublett  
 16 Trevor Nitzel  
 17 Trevor Wagner  
 18 Elmer Reetz, Garrett Reitz  
 19 Dylan Wagner  
 20 Lisa Rejcha  
 24 Shawna Heusinkvelt  
 25 Les Korte, Janice Reetz  
 27 Gary Meinke  
 28 Sandi Karl  
 29 Olga Weidner

**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.

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pastortoensing@gmail.com

## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER GROWTH**

### **Schedule at a Glance**

Worship Service (Sundays)	9:00 a.m.
Bible Class (Sundays) following Worship Service	
Evangelism Committee Meeting (July 6)	1:30 p.m.
Constitution/By-Law Committee (July 7)	6:30 p.m.
Church Council Meeting (July 12)	6:30 p.m.
Quilting Group (July 13)	9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Elder's Meeting (July 13)	6:30 p.m.
Vacation Bible School (July 18-July 22)	5 p.m.– 7:45 p.m.
Lutheran Women in Mission ( July 20)	7:00 p.m.
Ladies Aid Meeting (July 28)	2:00 p.m.

## **LADIES AID MINUTES**

St. John Ladies Aid met on June 30, 2021, with Carol Brinkmeyer as hostess. Pastor Toensing led us in prayer and a Bible study on "Courageous Heroes of the Faith: *Noah*" and then we sang "All Who Believe and Are Baptized".

Roll call was taken with 11 members present. The minutes of the May 2021 meeting were read and approved. The treasurer's report was given.

Diane Kahle talked to Dave Eggert on keeping the refrigerators clean and informed Gary Meinke of the upcoming Ladies Aid anniversary in 2023.

There was discussion on Ladies Night Out. It was motioned and seconded to have Ladies Night Out on September 28 at Veterans and Friends. Motion passed.

Pastor brought up a Rally Sunday picnic to be held the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in September. It was motioned and seconded that the Ladies Aid will take responsibility to oversee the potluck. Motion passed.

There was discussion on whether we should publish a cookbook. It was motioned and seconded that the Ladies Aid will get the information together to publish a cookbook. Motion passed. A cookbook committee will be formed in the coming months.

June anniversaries were celebrated by Wayne & Linda Eggert, Elmer & Shirley Reetz and Ken & Diane Kahle. We sang the anniversary song to Diane.

Barb Meinke will be the hostess for July.

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

Deb Walker, Secretary

## FROM THE ELDER'S

### “Summertime, summertime, sum sum summertime...”

*from the Elders*

With its greatest availability of light, the longest day of 2021 reached its peak on Father's Day. The trees have performed their annual makeover with leaves now beautifully green. Field crops appear to grow taller overnight. Vegetable gardens everywhere are springing forth with the anticipation of healthy goodness. And...it has been hot! Summer is here. *“You have fixed all the boundaries of the earth; you have made summer and winter.”* (Psalm 74:17 ESV)

A change of season can bring transformation to our lives as well. What will this summer and the upcoming autumn bring? Will the changing seasons bring immeasurable joy for many years to come? Which season ahead will bring an element of grief or sorrow? Although answers to those questions are unknown to us now, every season can and does bring opportunity to grow in our faith, set or redefine goals, and seek God's purpose and will according to His Word – all while understanding that not every day will be viewed as ideal.

Our warm, bright, and lush summer season appreciated now also brings an abundance of weeds to deal with. They choke out the good in our lives. Winters's cold, long, dark nights can leave us restless or lethargic. Spring, and all seasons for that matter, can bring strong, crippling storms that may prove destructive. Fall ushers in its damp chill, the beginning of a host of seasonal illnesses, and the all too busy, school/sports attention level that often compromises time management decisions for busy families. *“While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.”* (Genesis 8:22 ESV)

But we should not let a change of season bring worries. Nor should we continue hoping for a change in season simply because it is not in our best interest for a particular occasion or best suited for our all-around perfect, self-regulated climate. Rather, the Bible comforts us in knowing that God our Creator ordained each of our four seasons – measured out to us as He reasons. *“It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority.”* (Acts 1:7 ESV)

Our spiritual seasons are somewhat similar. God wants us to see the beauty and blessings within our lives but also trust Him through the difficult, cloudy parts. Our seasons change, but He does not! The world purely rests in the hands of the One who created it. Because of this we can walk boldly through each season because we know He promises to equip, guide, and love us despite our worldly temperature.

Flipping the pages in our calendar, we also see that shifting seasons are very dependable. God's consistency should remind us of His sovereign promises, His creative power, and His timetable. God created seasons and they will last as long as the earth remains. *“He changes times and seasons...”* (Daniel 2:21a ESV)

On a here-and-now note: God continues to provide occasion to build upon our faith with regular worship at St. John. Together we are reminded of what he provides in the gift of His Son Jesus. He has reached out and taken our hand to walk side-by-side with Him, whether in awe along a plush, comfortable path or stumbling over a rocky, degraded hillside. We need to hear it regularly from God's Word, and so do our children! He has planned for the cycles of our existence and knows the timing of each one – beginning to end. So, bring yourself and your family to Worship this summer and be watchful at how God faithfully works throughout your life, in every season.

Our Heavenly Father does not take a vacation from you! In Christ, He continuously and abundantly bestows His grace upon us – every day, in every way. *“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.”* (James 1:17 ESV)