

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN LCMS, REV. WILLIAMSON, VACANCY PASTOR
11400 WEST PANAMA ROAD, CRETE, NE 68333



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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.

VOLUME 35 MAY 2017

FACES OF REFORMATION



Johannes Gutenberg Born: 1395 Died: 1468 | Mainz, Germany

Gutenberg's invention helped spread the ideas of the Reformation to the masses

Could Johannes Gutenberg have known when he first conceived the idea of moveable type that it would contribute to the spread of the Reformation and the Renaissance and lead to the education of all levels of society? One might question his presence in the "Faces of the Reformation" series. But considering that his presses printed not only Luther's 95 Theses but also the papal indulgences that sparked Luther's polemic

pen, it seems fitting that he should be included.

Gutenberg was born about 1395 as the son of a metalsmith, and he became acquainted with the printing business at a very young age. His invention of the moveable type press made the mass production of books a reality that would change the world. By 1450, his new invention was operating. As with most new ideas of this scale, the road was not smooth. In 1446, Johann Fust, Gutenberg's financial backer, won a lawsuit against him regarding repayment of the funds. Gutenberg's employee and son-in-law, Peter Schoffer, testified against him. Before this lawsuit was finalized, Gutenberg had printed a Latin Bible that contained 42 lines of Scripture per page. This "42-line Bible" is known as the Gutenberg Bible. The press for the Bible, Gutenberg's masterpiece, along with a second book containing only Psalms, was lost to Fust in the court case. The Psalter was published after the court case with no mention of Gutenberg; only Fust's and Schoffer's names appear as the printers.

Gutenberg never really bounced back financially from losing his press to Fust. He set up another printing press and continued to print, but because he did not put his name in the books and papers he produced, it is not known how much was produced as he competed with his old press shop. In 1465, an honorific title was bestowed on Gutenberg in recognition for his invention. This was accompanied by a salary that supported him until his death three years later. Gutenberg is often thought of as a contemporary of Luther, but in fact he died 15 years before Luther was born. In Paul's letter to the Ephesians, he declares that "we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them" (Eph. 2:10). The stage was set for the coming battle between Luther and his followers and the pope and his supporters.

The Reformation has often been called the war of pamphlets. Pamphlets, the quickest and most economical form of printing with moveable type, had been around for decades before Luther started to employ them, but the volume of pamphlets increased as much as one-thousandfold in the first few years after Luther nailed the 95 Theses to the church door. Printing shops sprang up all over Germany, and many came to Wittenberg like moths to a flame. Even the artist Lucas Cranach partnered in a printing business there.

Gutenberg's invention made books more obtainable for the first time in history. The book that helped codify the German language and that was used as a tool in teaching reading was Luther's German Bible. For the first time, Germans could read the Scriptures in their own language at a cost that was within reach for the common man.

Surely Gutenberg would have been amazed at the world-altering events that resulted from the works planned in advance for him to do.

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

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.

NEW PASTOR CONTACT INFO

If you would like to share any prayer requests or information with Pastor Toensing prior to his arrival, you may email him at pastortoensing@gmail.com

FROM THE ELDERS

Exciting things are happening at St. John! We look forward to Pastor Toensing, his wife Shelley, and son Steven moving to Nebraska. In preparation there was a good group of workers on Saturday, April 22, for a workday at the parsonage. Thank you to all who helped. A lot was accomplished, but more volunteers are needed for a follow up workday to finish a few projects. Watch your bulletin for the schedule.

We'd also like to thank all who have kept the church alive and active during the vacancy. By the involvement shown by you, it serves as a great welcome to Pastor and his family as they see we are an active church ready and willing to serve.

Jot down these dates of several upcoming events:

June 4 – Appreciation lunch for Pastors assisting in the vacancy

June 11 – Installation of our new Pastor at 2:00 p.m.

June 25 – Ladies Tea Party with Shelley Toensing

We also look forward to Confirmation and celebrating our confirmands becoming adult members of our church. Please keep them in your prayers as they go through this most important time in their life.

In His Service,

St. John Lutheran Elders

MAY BIRTHDAYS & BAPTISMS

BIRTHDAYS

1 Chris Hollman
 2 Joshua Shore
 3 Darleen Dittmer, Brady Hestermann
 5 Kristen Nyhoff
 6 Ellie Koch
 7 Beau Hartman, Lisa Nelson, Arlyn Wohl
 10 Ken Behrens, Becky Dittmer
 12 Terry Reetz
 13 Elliott Reitz, JoAnn Renner, Brent Wohl
 15 Marvin Nitzel
 16 John Reitz
 17 Doug Karl, Shirley Vosika
 18 Ron Kalkwarf
 20 Diane Kahle
 21 Noreen Wild
 23 Andrea Pomajzl
 25 Marlene Wagner
 26 Kirk Miller, Ethan Sublett
 27 John Haufle, Tyler Stehlik

29 Michael Ellingson, Michael Gropp,
 Calen Homolka, Alex Munro
 30 Dylan Wagner
 31 Bob Renner

BAPTISMS

2 Brad Kalkwarf, Taylor Reetz
 4 Butch Mehl, Jennifer Meinke, Victoria Slama
 6 Andrew Ellingson, Christina Rezac, Frank Slama, Sami Weber
 10 Dennis Kattau
 12 Deb Nyhoff
 14 Jason Jordan, Kristi Reetz
 15 Lee Miller
 16 Jerome Kalkwarf, Dean Prochnow
 17 Barry Doiel, Dominick Hensley, Chris Kirkpatrick, Lillian Kubicek, Janice Reetz
 18 Becky Dittmer, Chris Hollman

22 Arlyn Wohl
 23 Ellie Koch, Brent Wohl
 25 Rollo Schultz, Karen Tiedeman
 26 Jessica Trautman
 27 Terry Reetz, Terry Stehlik
 28 Ron Kalkwarf, Josh Shore, Kaylie Brethouwer

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Or Brent Wohl 440-6843

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER GROWTH

Schedule at a Glance

Worship Service (Sundays)	9:00 a.m.
Sunday School (Sundays, ending May 7)	10:30 a.m.
Bible Class (Sundays)	10:30 a.m.
Midweek Classes (Wednesdays, ending May 3)	6:30 p.m.
Elder's Meeting (May 1)	7:30 p.m.
Lutheran Women in Mission (May 16)	7:00 p.m.
Ladies Aid Meeting (May 31)	2:00 p.m.
Men's Bible Study (May 9)	7:00 p.m.

LADIES AID MINUTES

The St. John Ladies Aid met on April 26, 2017. We opened the meeting by singing "The Day of Resurrection". Carol Brinkmeyer led us in a Bible Study based on Esther, chapters 5, 6 and 7. We will finish our study of Esther in our May meeting.

Roll call was taken with ten members present. The minutes from last month were read and approved. The treasurer's report was given and also approved.

OLD BUSINESS: JoAnn Renner is going to check further into how we can help with the "Water for Haiti" project.

Carol Brinkmeyer suggested that we review our call list that we use for food for funerals, receptions, etc. We will discuss this further at our May meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: Donna Hillgren said that she and Jolene Reetz are willing to have a craft fair and pot luck dinner sometime in October. She suggested the proceeds could go for a scholarship fund.

Carol brought up having a reception for Pastor Toensing's installation on June 11. We will finalize plans at our May meeting.

Donna Hillgren celebrated a birthday on April 16. The birthday song was sung. Diane Kahle provided the refreshments for today's meeting. Carol Brinkmeyer will be the hostess at our next meeting, May 31. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer and common table prayer.

Shirley Reetz, secretary

PLEASE JOIN US for quilting day on Thursday, May 5, 2017, from 9:30 am to 2:00 pm. Please join us any time during those hours. Please bring something to share for lunch and bring a scissors. No sewing experience necessary. The quilts are primarily donated to Orphan Grain Train and most go to the orphanages in Russia and the Baltic nations. Thank you for your help with this project.

THOSE SERVING DURING THE MONTH OF MAY

DUTY	May 7	May 14	May 21	May 25	May 28
Organist	Jayne VanAsperen	Jolene Reetz	Jayne VanAsperen	Jolene Reetz	Jolene Reetz
Elders	Brent Wohl	Ken Tesar	John Reitz	James Walker	Terry Dittmer
Greeters	Barb Meinke & Fran Sieck	Mr. & Mrs. Gary Meinke	Mr. & Mrs. Dave Musil		Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Nitzel
Acolytes	Rylee Pospichal & Elliot Reitz	Maggie Wohl & Ted Muff	Nick Hollman & Colton Homolka	Aaron & Jacob Meinke & Mercedes Kvasnicka	Mara & Skye Hoyer

HEALTHY HABITS

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, amongst all of the cancers, skin cancer is the most common cancer in the United States. Approximately 9,000 people die of this every year. What's so alarming to discover, is that the rates of skin cancer continue to increase despite the fact that we know how to prevent it. The most preventable cause of skin cancer is exposure to ultraviolet light from the sun or artificial means like that of tanning beds. The two most common types of skin cancer are basal cell and squamous cell carcinoma. These two types are highly curable, however can be very expensive to treat and possibly disfiguring. The third type and most dangerous is melanoma which can cause death. Ultraviolet exposure causes more than 90% of the melanomas diagnosed in the United States. So, what is the answer to this critical problem? Prevention is the key! We need to understand that tanned skin is damaged skin. How do we protect ourselves? Wear a broad-spectrum sunscreen with at least an SPF of 15 or higher when going outdoors, even on cloudy days. Wear wide-brimmed hats, sunglasses, and protective clothing. Utilize shade during mid-day hours. Avoid sun-bathing and indoor tanning. These are all simple strategies that we can utilize to prevent a potential dangerous or even deadly cancer. Let's all step up to the plate and be good role models to our friends and family and let's help wipe out this potential devastating cancer! In the narthex, place your name in the box to have a chance to win a basket full of goodies to help prevent skin cancer. The winner will be announced in the next newsletter in Healthy Habits. Good luck!

Reference: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Preventing Melanoma (2015, June 2). Retrieved April 19, 2017, from <https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/melanoma/index.html>

LAMBS OF CHRIST

Last Day of Preschool

The current preschool year will end on Monday, May 15 for the Monday / Wednesday / Friday class. The last day for the Tuesday / Thursday class and the Tuesday afternoon class will be on Tuesday, May 16.

Preschool Graduation & Achievement Celebration

The Preschool Graduation & Achievement Celebration will be on Monday, May 15th at 7:00 PM at Bethlehem. You are invited to join us for a hotdog supper at 6:00 PM. All are welcome to join us for this special event.

2017 – 2018 Enrollment

Open Enrollment has begun at Lambs of Christ Preschool. If you know of a child who is of preschool age please contact the preschool so that we can send information about our preschool to them.

Preschool Garage Sale

The annual preschool garage sale will be held June 2 & 3. If you have items to donate we ask that you bring them the week before the garage sale. (We are sorry, but we have limited storage space to store items) Tell your friends and family to come and shop our many treasures.

Rhonda Beethe, Teacher

402-826-4375, lambsofchristcrete@gmail.com

A PEAK PERFORMANCE BOARD OF EVANGELISM

He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things? - Romans 8:32

Climbing Mount Everest is the apex of adventure. Daniel Mazur hiked Everest seven times and is considered one of the world's best climbers. However, Daniel is best known for an Everest trek that went a different direction. Mazur recruited a local Sherpa named Jongbu as a guide for this 2006 trip. Andrew Brash and Myles Osborne each paid \$20,000 to join them. Sherpas like Jongbu lead expeditions to the 29,035-foot summit with expert knowledge and skill. Their proficiency is essential, especially in the "death zone" above 26,000 feet where oxygen levels are too low to sustain life. Hikers breathe oxygen from bottles there. Without it, bodily functions weaken. Loss of consciousness and death often follow. Everest's other hazards include severe cold, snow, ice, high winds, and hidden crevasses. Injuries often turn fatal because rescuers in these extreme conditions literally risk their own deaths. The 2006 climb started well for Mazur's team, but two hours from the summit they saw a bright yellow flash. It was a man! Sitting alone near a 10,000-foot drop and hallucinating, Lincoln Hall had no equipment, sleeping bag, food, or water. He had discarded his hat and gloves and tied his jacket around his waist. Twelve hours earlier, Lincoln's guides thought he died, so they left him. They called his wife to say he hadn't made it. The team realized that Lincoln had frostbite, dehydration, and cerebral edema, a severe form of altitude sickness that causes brain swelling. They had a choice: radio for help, hope rescue arrived in time, and keep climbing; or stay until rescuers arrived. Staying would deplete supplies and end their ascent. Daniel's team didn't hesitate. They called and waited. They shared oxygen and provisions, even tethering Lincoln to the mountainside to keep him safe. The team gave up the summit to save a life. Without Christ, we live in a desperate state, much like Lincoln. Lost, alone, delusional, sinful, unable to help ourselves, we need a Savior. In love, God sent His own Son to pay for our sins on the cross. He raised Jesus to life and gives all who believe in Him new life and forgiveness of sin. God the Father gave up His Son to save our lives. Prayer: Lord, You rescued me from sin and death. You restored my soul. Help me walk before You in the land of the living and serve You with joy. Praise the Lord! Amen.
