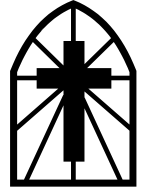


ST. JOHN LUTHERAN LCMS  
11400 WEST PANAMA ROAD, CRETE, NE 68333



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 5 MAY 2023

Dear Saints of St. John,

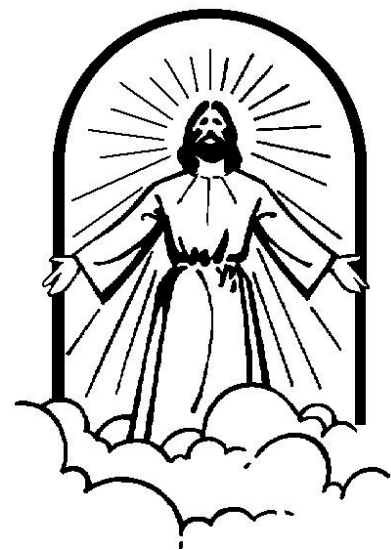
On May 18<sup>th</sup> we observe the Ascension of our Lord. This event occurred 40 days after Jesus' resurrection from the dead. The ascension of Jesus is something we don't often consider as a main celebration of the church, but it most definitely is part of Jesus' saving work. Brian Saunders gives us an illustration of the ascension:

The marathon, the most historic event in the Olympics, is 26.2 miles long. Olympic champions will complete this grueling race in something over two hours. (Regular folks—who are still to be commended big time!—will take three hours or more.) When the Olympic winner crosses the finish line in the stadium, he or she grabs their national flag and runs another lap, waving the flag for all to see who won. That's called the victory lap. It could be said that on two occasions Jesus took a victory lap. First, upon his descent into hell after his crucifixion and resurrection as he declared his victory over Satan. Second, at his ascension. Today, Jesus demonstrates to all creation that he is Lord and master, as well as King and Victor, for the sake of all righteousness (Ps 47:5). (Brian Saunders, Cedar Rapids, Iowa)

It is very helpful to consider the ascension as a victory lap. And that victory was for us and for our salvation. Jesus defeated sin, death and the devil for us. Now, through faith in Jesus Christ, we are assured that we have the gift of eternal life.

So we are blessed to celebrate and observe the ascension of our Lord in worship on May 18<sup>th</sup>. Let us praise our Lord together for all He has done for us.

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).

## 2023 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School will take place July 23rd through the 27th in the evenings at church. Our theme this year is “Weird Animals” - Where Jesus’ Love is One-of-a-Kind! VBS registration is also now available on the church website.



&



### BIRTHDAYS

1 Chris Hollman  
 2 Joshua Shore  
 3 Darleen Dittmer,  
 Brady Hestermann  
 6 Ellie Koch  
 7 Lisa Nelson, Arlyn Wohl,  
 Carsyn Ziemann  
 8 Claire Shore  
 10 Ken Behrens,  
 Becky Dittmer  
 12 Terry Reetz  
 13 Elliott Reetz,  
 Brent Wohl  
 14 Coen Ziemann  
 15 Marvin Nitzel  
 16 John Reitz  
 17 Doug Karl, Shirley  
 Vosika, Anton Slama  
 18 Ron Kalkwarf  
 20 Diane Kahle

22 Jessie (Dittmer) Graff  
 23 Andrea Pomajzl  
 25 Marlene Wagner  
 26 Kirk Miller,  
 Ethan Sublett  
 27 John Haufle,  
 Tyler Stehlik  
 29 Michael Ellingson,  
 Michael Gropp, Alex Munro  
 30 Dylan Wagner  
 31 Bob Renner

### BAPTISMS

2 Brad Kalkwarf, Taylor  
 Ziemann  
 4 Butch Mehl, Jennifer  
 Meinke, Victoria Slama  
 6 Andrew Ellingson,  
 Christina Rezac, Frank Slama,  
 Sami Weber

8 Kourtlynn Reetz  
 12 Deb Nyhoff  
 14 Jason Jordan, Kristi Reetz  
 15 Lee Miller  
 16 Jerome Kalkwarf,  
 Dean Prochnow  
 17 Dominick Hensley,  
 Chris Kirkpatrick, Lillian  
 Kubicek, Janice Reetz,  
 Pastor Maynard Toensing  
 18 Becky Dittmer,  
 Chris Hollman  
 22 Arlyn Wohl  
 23 Ellie Koch, Brent Wohl  
 26 Jessica Trautman,  
 Carsyn Ziemann  
 27 Terry Reetz, Terry Stehlik  
 28 Ron Kalkwarf,  
 Josh Shore,  
 Kaylie Brethouwer

## LADIES AID MINUTES

St. John Ladies Aid met on April 26, 2023, with Deb Walker as hostess. We sang “What A Friend We Have in Jesus” and Diane Kahle led us in a Bible study entitled “Transformed” from Galatians 2:20.

Roll call was taken with 8 members present. The minutes of the March 2023 meeting were read and approved. The treasurer’s report was given.

We received the following correspondence: a thank you card and donation from the Wendelin family for serving at the funeral of August Wendelin; an Easter postcard from Main Street Living; a card and donation from Dave & Sue Dawson, JoAnn Renner’s niece, in memory of JoAnn with their regrets about not attending the anniversary celebration and we passed around a newspaper article about the anniversary celebration.

The anniversary celebration went very well! Thank you to everyone for their part in making this event a success.

The kitchen was cleaned. Thank you to all those who helped.

Sandi Karl volunteered to sew some new altar cloths. Thrivent money and Gerald Reetz’s memorial money will help pay for this. There was discussion on whether to use gold leafing on the altar cloths. We will look into the price on that.

We will serve strawberry shortcake after the Ascension Day worship service on May 18.

Rev. Gerald & Heidi Paul will be with us June 11 & 12. A supper will be served for them on June 12. Ladies Aid may be asked to help supply food. We will find out more information at our next meeting.

Donna Hillgren and Pastor Toensing celebrated birthdays in April and Roger and Ellie Koch celebrated an anniversary. We sang the anniversary song to Ellie.

The hostess for May will be Dianne Kouba.

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

Deb Walker, Secretary

The Ladies Aid would like to thank the members of St John and especially Pastor Toensing for making our 100th Anniversary celebration a success. We thank God who has blessed us with the opportunity to serve St John Lutheran Church all these years.



## LYF NEWS

**LYF SPONSORED ROADSIDE CLEANUP...** We are going to try this again. Hopefully, there will be much better weather for this project. We are now scheduling it for **May 7, following Worship Services.** We are asking for congregation support on the Roadside Cleanup. A signup sheet is in the Narthex. **Please help out and support our LYF.** Thanks to all of you!



### Our May Family Event will be a May Mayhem!

It will include a little bit of everything May!  
 A little May Day, a little Cinco de Mayo, a little Mother's Day,  
 a little Memorial Day and More!  
 You won't want to miss a moment of this evening of mayhem.

The meet up will begin with a meal at 5:30.

The menu will be messy Mexican fair (tacos and more).

The merriment will then continue with many amusements and maybe a little mischief!

So that we can plan for enough food and supplies, please sign up in the narthex at church or let Pastor or Shelley know you will be attending by Thursday, May 18.

We hope you can make it!



**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN  
CHURCH –LCMS**

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4 miles East & 2 miles South of Crete  
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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 and LYF on summer break	
Bible Class (Sundays)	10:30 a.m.
Midweek Classes on summer break	
Elder’s Meeting (May 1)	7:00 p.m.
Quilting Group (May 9 and May 23)	9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Lutheran Women in Mission (May 16)	10:00 a.m.
Ladies Aid Meeting (May 31)	2:00 p.m.

**FROM THE ELDER’S**

School will soon be out and summer family vacations will soon be starting. The farmers are busy in the fields, trying to get their crops planted. Busy times for all of us!

But just because it is summer, we must not forget about our St. John church family. Thank you to the Sunday School teachers, Midweek teachers and LYF leaders who have donated their time and talents to our youth. We also have Vacation Bible School taking place from July 23 to July 27...teachers, helpers and volunteers are always in demand.

May 29 is Memorial Day.. The Hallam American Legion will be doing military honors at the Kramer Community Cemetery at 9:00 a.m. and at the St. John Cemetery at 9:15 a.m. Let us all show our appreciation to the Hallam American Legion by being present for this military ceremony.

The Elders of St. John

**THOSE SERVING DURING THE MONTH OF MAY**

<b>DUTY</b>	<b>May 7</b>	<b>May 14</b>	<b>May 18</b>	<b>May 21</b>	<b>May 28</b>
<b>Organist/Pianist</b>	Jayne VanAsperen	Jayne VanAsperen	Ellen Miller	Ellen Miller	Ellen Miller
<b>Elders</b>	Phil Hughes	John Reitz	Dolyn Meinke	Troy Henning	Gary Meinke
<b>Greeters</b>	Dean & Patricia Prochnow	Kelly & Kristi Reetz		Terry & Julie Reetz	James & Deb Walker
<b>Acolytes</b>	Cheyenne DuBray			Amy Hollman	

## MIDWEEK STUDENTS' HYGIENE KIT PROJECT

Success! We have completed the Orphan Grain Train Hygiene Kits Project. We would like to thank our St. John family for their generous donations as well as a Thrivent Action Team gift card—we put together 71 Kits! The LYF and the volunteers that hosted the Easter Breakfast have also donated the free will offering so we are hoping to finish off with a grand total of 90 Hygiene Kits and still have enough to pay for the shipping. We had a busy time organizing and assembling but the end product made it all worth while and knowing that our efforts will help others in need is the best ever! Thanks to all of you!

Kian—Cheyenne—Paisley—Amy—Easton—Kyler

2022/2023 Midweek Students

