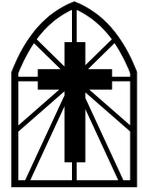


ST. JOHN LUTHERAN LCMS  
11400 WEST PANAMA ROAD, CRETE, NE 68333



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 32 ISSUE 11 NOVEMBER 2018

Dear Saints in Christ,

I do it. I know that I do it. I've probably done it to you. But I'm really trying not to do it anymore. What is it that I do that I think I shouldn't keep on doing? I have discovered that I often try to get the last word ... in conversations, in ending phone calls, sometimes but not always in emails, but definitely in texting. I've noticed it on my own. No one pointed it out to me. In the last three months or so, though, I have noticed it in myself. A lot.

I want to be the last to say goodnight or goodbye or throw in a "God-bless" at the end of a phone call. I want to be the last to say I love you. I have unnecessarily texted back a response on a text when I really did not need to. Even when someone says "thank you" I find myself saying, "no, thank YOU" or just "thank you". Why do I need to do that? Do I really thank you or am I really just trying to be the better person and making sure I get the last "thank you" in?

I don't know why I do this—or didn't. Internet psychology articles say that it has to do with a desire to win an argument. Or it has to do with ego. Perhaps it comes from wanting to be in control. As I have considered the take of such internet psychology I must admit that I cannot argue against those assessments. I DO want to be in control. I DO want to win. I think I can be egotistic. Okay, I am. All of these flow from the fact that I am a sinful human being.

But, like I said, I've noticed that I do this. Now, I'm trying to change that. I'm trying to leave things at the end where I don't have to have the last word. I'm trying not to seek to be in control or to try to win. I'm trying to put my ego in check. I am repentant of such self-centeredness. And now on to victory.

My victory is in Christ. For in Jesus Christ I have forgiveness. And in Christ God has the last word. The work that Jesus did for my salvation has been made complete in Christ's death for me. On the cross, just before He died His earthly death, He said, "It is finished." He had suffered in His body the wages of my sin. He had been damned and suffered Hell on my account while He hung there upon the tree. And then, He said, "It is finished." (John 19:30) EVERYTHING that was necessary for my salvation from my sin, including my self-centeredness, was covered in the life, passion, death and resurrection of Jesus our Lord.

God gets the last word. Not me. In Revelation 22:13 (ESV): "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." He has the first Word – He made us. He sustains us our whole life through. Jesus Christ is the Omega (last letter of the Greek alphabet), the last, and the end—that is, everything is complete in Him. It also says in Romans 11:36 (ESV): "For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen."



So, God really is the One Who gets the last word. And through Jesus Christ, I receive forgiveness and mercy. And so do you. Jesus is the last word for you too.

In God's peace, 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).

### CHRISTMAS CAROLING

LWML is sponsoring Christmas Caroling on December 2, following the Ladies Aid Craft Fair Luncheon.

**EVERY-ONE** is invited to join—including children, youth and families.



## LAMBS OF CHRIST PRESCHOOL NEWS

### Pumpkin Festival

The festival was a success. The Lamb's entry in the Scarecrow completion won first prize. Thank you to all who helped in any way with the booth at the festival. It is a group effort that makes these things a success. Your donations of cookies and time are truly appreciated.

### Pancake Feed

Our annual pancake feed was well attended in spite of the snowy day. Thanks again for the ongoing support that you give us!

### Prayer Partners

I am glad to announce that all of the children now have a partner. Thank you for being a Christian role model for our preschool children.

### November Activities

We will be spending time observing the continued fall season and all the ways that we all blessed and thankful for all God's blessing as the Holiday approaches. Also the children will be collecting food for the food pantry during the month.

### Save the Date

PreSchool Christmas Program is December 9 at 6:00 pm  
Gods Blessings, Kathy Oelschlager  
[lambsofchristcrete@gmail.com](mailto:lambsofchristcrete@gmail.com) 402/826-4375

## LYF NEWS

Thanks to one and all who participated and helped with this year's Trunk or Treat, the party for the children and for the LYF LockIn. Good times were had by all!

Next on our list is the LYF Thanksgiving Pies for sale now through November 11. The order sheet is in the Narthex. Please help support the LYF any way you can. Thanks.

## BIRTHDAYS

1 Haylee Shore, Chauncey Ziemann  
3 Roger Brunelle  
6 Kay Jordan, Gerald Reetz  
7 Mersadies Kvasnicka  
8 Gwendolyn Dewey, Eric Dewey Jr.  
9 Dawn Smith, Lewis Clark, Kelsie Warta, Vicky Ochs, Olga Weidner, Heather Wendelin  
10 Teagan Kalkwarf, Irene Reiss  
12 Andrew Kahle, Kasey Murphy  
15 Carol Brinkmeyer  
16 Jeff Meinke



19 Brad Hestermann, Amy Munro  
22 Judy Wohl  
23 Caleb Markey  
25 Robert Kvasnicka, Alayna Poole, Sharon Wendelin  
26 Ken Kahle  
27 Fred Weidner  
28 Judi Korte  
29 Jayne Vanasperen

## BAPTISMS

1 Trevis Trautman  
2 Abbie Reitz  
3 Jerad Reetz  
7 Abigail Scott

8 Maynard Hessheimer,  
10 Donna Brunelle, Scott Brunelle,  
Jaclyn Ourada  
13 A. J. Ellingson  
17 Brady Ellingson, Eric Ellingson  
18 Fran Sieck  
19 Chloe Davis  
20 Tim McDermott, Sean Murphy  
22 Cheyenne DuBray  
25 Jeff Meinke  
26 Kelsie Warta, Gerald Reetz  
27 Slane Kvasnicka, Kourtney Tarnick  
29 Kay Jordan, Gwen Kalkwarf

**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.



Do you like to sing? Here is your opportunity! On November 4 choir rehearsals will begin at 8:20 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall every Sunday morning until Easter. Please join us for this special opportunity to serve the Lord.

### Men's Bible Study - "Reel to Real"

In a new Lutheran Hour Ministries' Bible study entitled "Reel to Real", the Men's group at St. John continue their look at the similarities between adventures with the fishing reel and our real life with families and friends. This series was created to be a fun and relaxing discussion starter. The fishermen in this video series share their thoughts, but the feedback and comments in our group are what's key for this study. Most importantly, you don't have to own a boat to enjoy the company and conversation. Wade into the water on Tuesday, November 13th at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

### ANNUAL CRAFT AND BAKE FAIR

Come and join in on the fun at the Annual Craft and Bake Fair, Saturday, December 1 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Crafts and baked goods—come buy your favorite cookies from our



super cookie bar! Bring a friend with you and enjoy some coffee with a cookie or cinnamon roll. On Sunday, December 2 following the worship service, we will have a soup dinner.

### LADIES AID MINUTES

St. John Ladies Aid met on October 31, 2018, with LaVonne Nitzel serving as hostess. The meeting opened by singing "Praise to You and Adoration". Pastor Toensing led us in prayer and finished our Bible Study on Hypocrites.

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

**OLD BUSINESS:** Christmas gifts for the shut-ins were discussed. It was decided that Janice would take care of getting them.

**NEW BUSINESS:** A questionnaire was handed out from the building committee concerning what we would like to keep and any improvements might be needed if we build another facility. These questionnaires need to be handed in by November 11. A motion was made and seconded to move our December meeting to December 19th. Our Christmas party will be held after the Advent Service. We are inviting members of the Congregation to join us for lunch after the church service.

The current officers will continue their jobs for another year, except for the Altar Committee. We thank JoAnn and LaVonne for the good job they have done on this committee.

Dianne Kouba celebrated a birthday in October and Leroy and Donna Hillgren celebrated an anniversary in October.

Janice Reetz will be hostess in November. We closed with the Lord's Prayer and the common table prayer.

Shirley Reetz, Secretary

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS

Thank you to everyone who has returned an Operation Christmas Child box! LWML has done the final preparations of the boxes and we will be sending them off on Sunday, November 11. **IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO RETURN BOXES** if you still have one. We are also still welcoming financial donations to aid with shipping. It is our prayer that through these boxes, 100 children will hear the Good News of Jesus and further spread His love and hope to their families and communities! Thank you for your overwhelming support of this project!



## EVANGELISM COMMITTEE NEWS

The November Evangelism Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 6th. Members of St. John are also invited to be a part of a new topic of discussion based upon a Concordia Mission Society "Good News" periodical entitled, "Baptize & Teach: Curriculum #1" from this an earlier Publication. More information will be shared at the meeting. Please join us if you can.

The Evangelism Committee continues to be in the midst of the "Every One His Witness" workshop. This multi-week workshop is designed to equip disciples of Jesus Christ in sharing the Gospel within their everyday lives using the LASSIE approach; Listen, Ask, Seek, Share, Invite and Encourage. If you missed the opportunity to sign up for this workshop, please let one of the Evangelism Committee members know that you would be interested in taking part in another offering at a later date.

## BUILDING COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Building Committee will continue to meet in discussion of preliminary plans developed by the architect to further hone them for a future presentation to church members. A secondary survey has been forwarded to Boards/Groups in the congregation to further assist the development of a final set of products. Both preliminary designs are a continued work in progress. Potential meeting dates will be posted on the church website as deemed opportunistic.

## DISASTER RELIEF

**DISASTER RELIEF...**With all the hurricanes and tropical storms that are beating up the United States and other countries, here are a couple of organizations we can donate through in love for those affected:

**ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN**, P O Box 1466, Norfolk NE 68702-1466...Direct Deposit option or online "Give Now" option go to <http://www.ogt.org/help/donate.html>

**LCMS HUMAN CARE**, make checks payable to: The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, P O Box 66861, St Louis MO 63166-6861...or see options online at <https://www.lcms.org/how-we-serve/mercy/disaster-response>

Another option for Thrivent members.... Thrivent will match up to \$1 million in personal donations made through Thrivent.com to specific disaster relief organizations helping with the recovery efforts. Thrivent will pay the processing fees for these donations, so 100 percent goes to help\*. Eligible members can also direct Thrivent Choice Dollars®. Visit the Disaster Response page on **Thrivent.com** for details.

## YOUTH NEWS

The Children's Christmas Program will be Sunday, December 9 at 3 p.m. There is a signup sheet in the Narthex. Practice for the program will be during Sunday School beginning November 4.



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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**

Choir Rehearsal (Sundays)	8:20 a.m.
Worship Service (Sundays)	9:00 a.m.
Sunday School & LYF(Sundays)	10:30 a.m.
Bible Class (Sundays)	10:30 a.m.
Midweek Classes (Wednesdays)	6:30 p.m.
Elder’s Meeting (November 5)	6:30 p.m.
Men’s Bible Study (November 13)	7:00 p.m.
Lutheran Women in Mission ( no meeting in Nov)	
Ladies Aid Meeting ( November 28)	2:00 p.m.

**FROM THE ELDER’S**

As the year is moving to the last two months, we have a lot for which to be thankful. Yes, we all pay more taxes than we like to but we have a free society where we have the RIGHT TO VOTE—not all nations have that RIGHT and opportunity. So, study the candidates and pick the ones that have the right ideas on major issues such as supporting our school system and the other concerns we deal with.

Stay involved with the church—Bible Studies—Cell Groups—Sunday School—LYF—Men’s Bible Study—Ladies Aid—LWML—Advent Services, which will be starting before you know it. These are just a few of the many ways to study and learn more about God’s Word.  
 The Elders

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

All Saints’ Day      November 1  
 Veterans Day        November 11  
 Thanksgiving Day    November 22

**SAVE THE DATE:**

Christmas at Concordia: Celebrating 125 Years of Music  
 November 30-Dec 2...visit [cune.edu/125](http://cune.edu/125)  
 2019 LCMS Life Conference Jan 17-19, 2019 ...visit [lcms.org/life](http://lcms.org/life)

**THOSE SERVING DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER**

DUTY	Nov 4, 2018	Nov 11, 2018	Nov 18, 2018	Nov 22, 2018	Nov 25, 2018
<b>Organist</b>	Jayne VanAsperen	Jolene Reetz	Jayne VanAsperen	Jayne VanAsperen	Jolene Reetz
<b>Elders</b>	Gary Meinke	Terry Dittmer	James Walker	Roger Koch	Todd Hoyer
<b>Greeters</b>	Mr & Mrs Gary Meinke and Mr & Mrs Elmer Reetz	Mr & Mrs Marvin Nitzel and Mr & Mrs Terry Reetz	Mr & Mrs Brian Persing and Mr & Mrs Dean Prochnow	Mr & Mrs Rollo Schultz	Mr & Mrs Del Reiss and Mr & Mrs Bob Renner
<b>Acolytes</b>	Jordyn Adam & Jacob Meinke	Hugo Pomajzl & Kian Morris	Katelyn & Cole Novak	Ted Muff & (need another volunteer)	Colton & Calen Homolka

## QUARTERLY VOTERS' MEETING OCTOBER 14, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by President Troy Henning. Pastor Toensing led us in prayer.

A motion was made and seconded to accept four new members: Bonnie Bleich, Isaac Meinke, Abbie Reitz, and Garrett Reitz. Motion carried. The minutes were read and approved.

### Treasurer's Report

Balance Forward 7/01/2018	\$61,299.09
Plus Regular Receipts	36,377.79
Plus Mission Receipts	1,355.00
Balance Plus Receipts	99,031.88
Less Regular Disbursements	36,162.75
Less Mission Disbursements	4,205.63
Ending Balance 9/30/2018	\$58,663.50

### Elders' Report

Head Elder James Walker reports the following statistics for the quarter:

Baptisms: August 19 Axel Orval Heusinkvelt  
Release Out (LCMS) August 5 Whitney Peterson

### Pastor's Report

Pastor reports that now vacations are over, he looks forward to putting some things together including:

- Lutherans for Life did not get done in September. Will plan for November.
  - Always need to work on visits. This will be a continuing effort.
  - Long-term work and effort on: Board of Education structure and goals; Stewardship; and Readers are still being studied.
  - Pastor has enjoyed his time with Sunday School and Youth and will continue to devote time to them monthly.
  - Pastor reports that Midweek is going well and continues.
  - Everyone His Witness workshop going well. Hopes to have two next year with more people committing to it. Bible Studies are a great joy; Pastor appreciates the congregation's dedication to study of God's Word in ...
    - Evangelism committee
    - Ladies Aid
    - LWML
    - Cell groups
    - Sunday morning
    - Men's Bible study
  - Pastor is doing monthly chapels for Lambs of Christ preschool
  - Worship continues to go well.
- Plans for Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas are underway. Pastor says it is a joy to continue to serve.

### Board of Education

Tammy Homolka reports they had a lot of volunteers for Sunday School this quarter. Now they will be needing volunteers for the period of January through May. They are getting ready for the Christmas program and will meet this Thursday night (October 18).

### Trustees' Report

They mowed lawn. A committee was formed to decide on pew cushion colors. Comment was made that there are a few pews that are excessively squeaky.

### Cemetery Report - No report

### Youth Group

Adam Hughes-Hardt reports they had a trip to Roca on October 13. They will be setting up for Trunk or Treat on October 25 for the event on October 26<sup>th</sup> along with the lock in. Pick up of trash October 21. The Youth Group will be getting T-Shirts to wear at different events. Youth Group will once again be making pies for Thanksgiving.

### Evangelism Committee

Tim McDermott reports that since the August, 2018 Voters meeting, committee time was spent studying God's Work, in discussion and planning of varying topics. The following are reported:

- During monthly meetings, the Committee concluded discussion of the book (5 Things you can do to Witness Christ.) They are now working on other choice options in preparation for future meetings that may include segments from the Concordia Mission Society "Good News" periodical.
  - 2020 Church Directories—Discussing if this is when we will have another photo directory. Tim says that will make it five years since our last directory.
  - Membership Photo Board – The Committee has found several members to capture photos before recent Sunday services. The photos are currently being gathered and cropped for printing. Then the Committee will label each photo and mount on a new photo board in the narthex. A church member has been kind enough to supply the work to furnish the bulleting board.
  - "Everyone His Witness". The new Evangelism workshop has begun its multi-week class schedule meeting one night per week for six weeks. As of the date of this Voters' Meeting the group currently has two classes completed.
  - The Church website statistics are being reviewed and shared at each meeting. This will help the group to visualize the growing connection found through reported unique, monthly visits to the site.
- Doane University 2018 Downtown Tour. The event took place on Saturday morning, August 18<sup>th</sup>. A display table was set up in the Crete City Park by 11:00 a.m. The students were greeted and provided our congregational invitation to Sunday worship and support while provided with a snack and informational

hand-outs. We were not able to distribute the pens. Tim recognized that Hunter Persing helped out and that it was much appreciated.

#### **Memorial Committee**

Dolyn Meinke reports that a Brass Rail will be installed in the balcony and was purchased using Lillian Hackstock's memorial. There are a few memorials that have been earmarked to be used towards the pew cushions including Lillian Hackstock, Marie Wohl, and Lisa Dello. It was noted that money will first come from the fund set up for this. Dolyn said we have a lot of small memorials that can be used as well.

#### **Old Business**

**Building Committee:** Tim McDermott reports that since the August Voters meeting, the Building Committee continues to progress toward a project plan for the Voters Assembly's consideration.

Requests have been sent out to various Church Boards for description of wants/needs and will continue to field them for discussion.

After the Voters approved the funding for the cost of an Architectural Preliminary Plan, the Committee has been provided this and now finds it to be the basis for ongoing discussion.

This initial Schematic (preliminary) design fee for basic services included the following:

Architectural Schematic (preliminary) Design of the building addition.

Design drawings will include: colored images, site plan and floor plan(s).

Approximately two meetings with the church to discuss the design and present it to the congregation as needed.

Preliminary budgeting for construction cost.

The Committee discussed the balance of the provided Preliminary Plan by the architect alongside a secondary option of locating the Addition in an alternate location. The Committee felt that a stopping point would be advisable to ensure the congregation would accept the direction being provided by the Architect—asking for support for the continuing the work of focused discussion and improvements to that concept.

Tim gave a presentation of the work that was done that included pros and cons for the new construction either going north or south of the church. He then made a motion he said was from the Building Committee to support the continued work of the Building Committee in refining and improving the current directional plan provided by the architect, whereby addressing the expressed needs of the congregation, would bring forth a final, preliminary design to be considered for possible approval by the voting membership. Seconded. A vote by ballot was done and the motion failed with 31 members against the motion and 27 members for the motion.

A motion was made to continue with the preliminary design for the north side but get the same design for the south so the congregation can compare. Seconded. Another vote by ballot was done and the motion passed with 56 members for the motion and 6 members against the motion.

#### **New Business**

Troy announced that the nominating committee for the upcoming election in January will be Brent Wohl, Kaylie Brethouwer, and Dolyn Meinke.

Karen Tiedeman share about her recent trip to Russia in support of the Hannah House. She thanked people for their support and reports that the original plans have expanded and they would be working with the directors.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Marianne Tesar, Secretary

## **SERVING THE LORD IN GERMANY**

News from the Ashers

### **Christianity 101**

If it's Tuesday morning, Joe can be found at the U.S. military Correctional Facility teaching a class on "Christianity 101." His students are active duty military who are incarcerated for anything from public intoxication to reckless driving to gang activity. While they await trial or serve a short sentence, Joe has the opportunity to bring God's Word to them. **Read more about this interesting class in the Asher's Newsletter, which has been posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex.**

Please pray for the Ashers:

- Visa renewal process
- Jennie's job search
- Base access application process

Give thanks for:

The many congregations and individuals who pray for us, encourage and support us .





This Advent, LWML is sponsoring a congregation wide Reverse Advent Calendar Project. What's a Reverse Advent Calendar you ask?

The idea behind a Reverse Advent Calendar is simple. First, pick out a sturdy basket, box or bag. Each day, beginning December 1st, as you finish your Advent devotions, add one non-perishable food item to the box. You can add one per family, or one for each member of your family. Then, on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, bring your box of items to church. LWML will deliver them to a nearby food pantry to help restock their shelves after the busy Christmas holiday.

In this special season, as we await the greatest gift we have received, and as we buy gifts for our loved ones, the Reverse Advent Calendar helps us to remember how truly blessed we are and encourages us to share those blessings with others as we wait to celebrate Jesus' birthday. What a great way to serve this Advent!

### **LCMS Life Conference:**

#### **"Joy:fully Alive — Body & Soul"**

Jan. 17–19, 2019; Alexandria, Va. • Register online

You are invited to join the LCMS Life Conference to learn to live in Christ's love amidst a culture of death.

"But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved" (Eph. 2:4–5).

The death and resurrection of Jesus reveals that God loves His creation and grants life as a gift. As His people, we learn to have the same perspective.

Even in a culture that does not share this view, we live and witness to the love of God through our advocacy of life, as we are "Joy:fully Alive — Body & Soul."

The 2019 LCMS Life Conference is scheduled for Jan. 17–19, 2019, at the Westin Arlington Gateway Hotel in Arlington, Va. The conference is open to Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod members and guests.

Featured speakers and sessions will encourage participants in their desire to advocate for life in their congregations and communities, and provide resources and information about how to serve those facing life issues.

The conference will also provide opportunities for devotion and worship, including a Divine Service Friday morning before the march.

"The enemies of life give the illusion of having overwhelming power and resources. We all ask, 'Is there anything I can do that will really make a difference?'" said the Rev. Robert Zagore, executive director of the LCMS Office of National Mission.

"The answer is, come. Come 'learn to live Christ's love amidst a culture of death.' Come learn, come march, come pray. Come and see. The Lord is working through His people."