

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 34 ISSUE 11 NOVEMBER 2020

Dear Fellow Saints in Christ,

I have often had difficulty with authority figures—I don't know why. I was always afraid to go and see professors when I was in college and at the seminary. I have often been intimidated by any in authority. Perhaps that's just part of the character make up of a nerdy little city boy.

The highest authority of all is God Himself. God: King of kings, Creator of the universe, Lord of all that is. And yet Jesus, the Son of God, came to earth to be just like me in my humanness in order that He might live, die, and rise ... for me. He became sinner for me and took on my curse (2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 3:13). I am incredibly humbled that the Lord God Almighty, the Son of God, Jesus Christ, stoops down to my lowness and sinfulness and cares for me so very much that He was willing to suffer on the cross for my sins. I know I don't deserve it, but He did it—for me and for you.

And now, Jesus invites you and me to call Him "brother". He is brother to us so that we can know His Father to be our Father. God, who rules all things, is pleased to call you and me His child(ren).

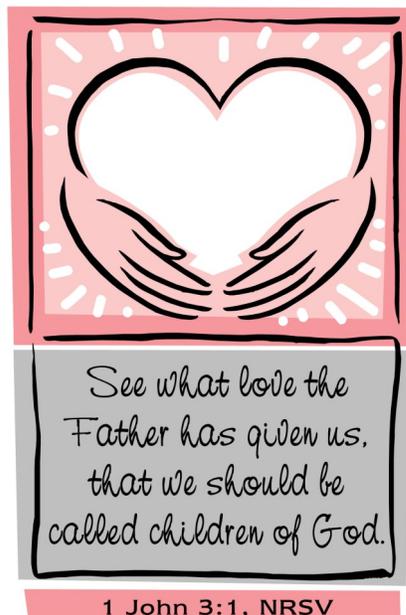
Recently I read through the four Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. And in this last reading I was struck by the number of times Jesus refers to His Father. The closeness of that relationship was in everything that Jesus said and did. Jesus invites you and me to know the Father in the same loving, compassionate, caring way. St. Paul talks a bit about this in Romans 8:15 and Galatians 4:6; we are allowed to call Him "Abba". This is like saying, "Daddy." Trusting, loving, dearest Daddy. For one who has difficulty with authority figures, to call GOD "Daddy" ... it's a little bit hard to get used to; but this is what Jesus and the Father invite us to know—to realize that we are His dearly beloved children.

Jesus teaches us to pray: "our FATHER". As close as Jesus is to His Father, He wants us to have that same closeness with God the Father as well. Jesus' suffering and death on the cross and His resurrection to life have brought you and me to the Father—and Jesus is pleased to call us His brothers and sisters (see Hebrews 2:11, 12, 17). And The Father is now OUR Father, our Dad; we are His beloved children and as close as a father to a child can be.

This is what the work of Christ has done for us: 1 John 3:1 (ESV): "See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are." Rejoice that you ARE, now and forever, a child of the Father. Thank you, Jesus.

God grant you the joy of Christ your brother and the comfort of the Father's love for you.

In God's Peace, Pastor Toensing



1 John 3:1, NRSV

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 gently 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).



REV. DR. GERALD AND HEIDI PAUL

As of September 29, 2020, we at St. John Lutheran have adopted the Rev. Dr. Gerald and Heidi Paul in their career mission work in the Cayman Islands. As a pastor and church planter, Gerald works with local church leaders at Safe Harbour Lutheran Church to reach out to the people of the Cayman Islands with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Gerald also seeks to serve the Cuban refugee population on Grand Cayman, and he supports Concordia the Reformer Seminary in the Dominican Republic as an adjunct professor. In her role, Heidi supports the mission efforts and is exploring the possibility of starting a preschool for local children.

Gerald's birthday is April 19 and Heidi's is November 28. Their Wedding Anniversary is July 4.

The Official Adoption Agreement for the Direct Support of our Missionaries in the Cayman Islands is located on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

Please pray for Gerald and Heidi as they serve the Lord in the Cayman Islands and throughout the Caribbean. Let us give thanks that they are ministering to God's children in this part of the world.



November BIRTHDAYS & BAPTISMS

BIRTHDAYS

1 Haylee Jarchow, Chauncey Ziemann
 3 Roger Brunelle
 6 Kay Jordan, Gerald Reetz
 7 Mersadies Kvasnicka
 8 Gwendolyn Dewey, Eric Dewey Jr., Jaxon Hollman
 9 Dawn Smith, Lewis Clark, Kelsie Warta, Olga Weidner, Heather Wendelin
 10 Teagan Kalkwarf,
 12 Andrew Kahle, Kasey Murphy
 15 Carol Brinkmeyer, Ed Skillet, Natalie Hughes-Hardt
 16 Jeff Meinke

19 Brad Hestermann, Amy Munro, Knox Korb
 22 Judy Wohl
 23 Caleb Markey
 25 Thea Heusinkvelt, 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
 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
 24 Jaxon Hollman
 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.

NEWSLETTER

The August-September Newsletter from Rev. Joe and Deaconess Dr. Jennie Asher is located on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Anyone who would like a copy, please let Chris in the Church Office know.

Also, please see the letter from Mission Central on page 6 of this Newsletter.

SAVE THE DATE!!!
St. John Children's Christmas Program
Sunday, December 13 at 2:00 pm



LADIES AID MINUTES

St. John's Ladies Aid met on October 28, 2020, with LaVonne Nitzel as hostess.

We began with singing "I Am Trusting You Lord Jesus". Pastor Toensing led us in prayer and a Bible study entitled, "Heroes of the Faith: *Mary and Martha*"

Roll call was taken with 5 members present. The minutes of the September meeting were read and approved. The treasurer's report was given.

Diane reported that Janice purchased 5 totes for storing the holiday decorations for the church. Those have now been filled and placed in storage.

We discussed the Covid-19 pandemic situation. Due to the rise in the number of cases in our area at the present time and the regulations that would keep us from our usual holiday activities, a motion was made and passed to cancel Ladies Aid meetings until January, 2021.

Normally, we hold election of officers in November for the following year. We will continue with our current officers until we meet again in January, 2021.

A motion was made and passed to make our Christmas time donations as usual. Janice Reetz will also purchase Christmas gifts for our shut ins.

Jess Eggert and Dianne Kouba had birthdays in October. LeRoy and Donna Hillgren celebrated an anniversary.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer and the Table Prayer.

Diane Kouba, acting secretary



Pancake Fundraiser

Thank you so much for your wonderful support for our annual pancake fundraiser. We had a great turn out and everyone enjoyed the amazing food as always. We appreciate all of the food donations and those that came to join to eat and fellowship. We did not have all of the preschool children at church but those that were able to make it did a great job singing.

Prayer Partners

I am still in need of 8 prayer partners, I am sure that with Covid not everyone has been able to see our bulletin board with all of their pictures and family information. You can call me or Kerry in the office and we can let you know who is still in need if you are not comfortable coming in person. I am asking that if you feel so moved you sign up to be a partner. I am really hoping that before the holidays all the children will have someone special praying for them.

Garage Sale

We will be holding the annual garage sale on Friday and Saturday November 6 and 7. If you have donations please make sure you bring them in this week, this year we will not be accepting adult clothing. Baby and childrens clothing are welcome.

November Activities

We will spend the month continuing to meet with both Pastors for chapel. We will be focusing on all that God provides and all that we have to be thankful for. Practice will begin for our Christmas program. It will be held on Monday night December 14th at 6:00 pm. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us.

God's blessings, Miss Kathy lambsofchrist@gmail.com 402/826-4375

Thankfulness, studies show, has multiple physical, mental and emotional benefits. Psychologist Robert Emmons calls gratitude "fertilizer for the mind" because of its powerful effects.

He admits gratitude isn't always easy — especially when life throws us curveballs (see the year 2020) — but says it can be most helpful during and after difficulties. Emmons suggests reframing challenges using thankfulness-based language. Ask, for example: Though I wasn't grateful for the experience at the time, how can I be now? What lessons did I learn, and how did I grow as a person?

Throughout his letters, the apostle Paul reframes his extensive sufferings and urges us to do the same. "Give thanks in all circumstances," he writes, "for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 5:18, NIV).



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**That All May
Know Him**

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER GROWTH

Schedule at a Glance

Worship Services (Sundays 8:30 am, 10:00 am, 6:00 pm)

Thanksgiving Day Worship Services (8:30 am & 10:00 am)

Sunday School (Sundays 9:30 am to 10:15 am)

Bible Study (dates to be advised)

Midweek/Confirmation Classes (Wednesdays 6:30 pm)

Elders' Meeting (November 2 at 6:30 pm)

Evangelism Committee Meeting (November 3 at 6:00 pm)

Quilting Group (November 10 9:30 am to 2:00 pm)

Lutheran Women in Mission (November 17 at 7:00 pm)

Ladies Aid will not meet in November and December, 2020

FROM THE ELDERS

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Remember that October is and was **Pastor Appreciation Month!** I'm not sure why it's just one month—but our Pastor should be appreciated year round for all he does to keep things going as smooth as possible for all the members and families at St. John Lutheran Church.

On another topic—please VOTE NOVEMBER 3rd! Yes, you are only one vote. But it's our Christian and American privilege as citizens to vote. Please study the candidates and the platform they are representing.

We should support those who stand for pro-life. We should watch out for the promotion of groups and Pro-Socialism ideas and platforms. Some groups are seeking to disrupt law and order and Socialism will work in opposition to our Christian faith and beliefs—closing churches and setting up government as “god”.

Please spend some time to study and research the political candidates and their platforms.

IT'S YOUR COUNTRY—IT'S YOUR VOTE!

We need to keep in mind that God is in control—we just need to do the right things that God has given us the ability to do.

God Bless,

The Elders





Missionaries Gary Thies & Rev. Brent Smith
Mission Development Counselors

MISSION CENTRAL

Gary & Maxine Thies Mission Foundation
Serving the Lord Jesus and representing the
office of National & International Mission
of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

Gary.Thies@lcms.org
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Phone 703-713-2851



40718 Highway E-16 Mapleton, Iowa 51034
Website www.missioncentral.us

The Honorable Missionaries at St. John Lutheran Church
Attn: Pastor Toensing, Head Missionary
11400 W. Panama Rd
Crete, NE 68333

Our dear Co-workers for Christ at St. John ~

What a blessing to receive your gift of love for the support of our missionaries and their work of sharing the good news of our dear Lord Jesus! Thank you so much. So many congregations and individuals still don't realize that these missionaries have to raise their own support, and without the Lord sending folks like you, we couldn't keep the missionaries in the field. Your gift is more of a blessing than you realize or understand!

We still have so many folks visiting Mission Central nearly every day! It's a JOY to have people come here and see what the Lord has done with HIS old set of farm buildings. In a time like this we MUST always remember the words of **Psalm 121:7-8: "The Lord will keep you from all harm - He will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore!"** What a comfort that is. The other day we had a group of young people here and an 8th grade girl, while in the barn for a tour, asked, "Missionary Gary, how do we know what we Christians believe is right and all other religions are wrong?" What an easy question to answer! We are the only religion in the entire world that has a "risen and resurrected" Son of God! No other religion has someone that came back from the dead, who lives and appeared to over 500 people at one time plus 12 individual appearances that are recorded for history in the Bible. Jesus lives, and told us because I live you too will live. We don't have to be afraid because this old world is NOT OUR HOME! Thank you, Lord, for giving us Jesus!

Pastor Toensing, thank you so much for allowing us to shift your support from the Asher family who are completing their ministry in Germany to provide this \$1,000 gift to our newest missionaries, Pastor Gerald and Heidi Paul, who are called to the Cayman Islands. The people in the Cayman Islands have been praying and praying for a missionary to come and establish a church there and for Heidi to start a preschool for the children. This is the very best gift you could have sent at "just the right time". The Paul family was here in September and I interviewed them and took their picture in my office. Please pray for these new missionaries. God bless you and keep you each day.

We wanted to enclose just a few pictures so you could see what goes on at this MIRACLE PLACE. We will be so happy when we can schedule more and more regional events for our dear missionaries as they come home on their furloughs. We have two events coming up as you can see from the pictures. Such special friends come and we always take their picture in our office with our Boss in the background. We would love to have you come and visit also. Just give us a phone call here at the Lord's Mission Central and we will be so happy to welcome you here! Please know how much you are loved and appreciated. We will SEE YOU LATER!

Your Co-worker for Christ, *Old Missionary Gary*

At Mission Central, we make the Lord's Mission very, very personal. God's staff of 97 volunteers help make this happen. You know exactly where your gift is going, and we only work with restricted gifts!