

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 11 NOVEMBER 2021

Dear Fellow Saints in Christ,

November is the month we think about Thanksgiving. Along with truly being thankful to God for His blessings, we think about getting together with our families. After all, our family is a blessing from God.

But thanksgiving is not a one day or weekend event. God blesses us every day and thanksgiving is a Christians every day prayer and praise. At a pastors' conference several years ago, Dr. John Kleinig reminded us how we so often look at the mistakes we made or the things that went wrong. We don't consider the many things that go right. At a recent church worker conference, Dr. Beverly Yahnke shared statistics that we have 12,000 to 60,000 thoughts a day—and 80% of them are negative. But I like to think about something that Dr. Kleinig said. Although we may not see it, from God's perspective and by His work, **there are billions of good things that are happening for us each day.**



In everything  
give thanks.

1 Thessalonians 5:18, NASB

We realize and comment that we take so much for granted. Perhaps there are billions of things we take for granted—billions every day. Consider: what does it take to sustain this world, our lives, and all of creation? God is doing a lot of good to keep evil at bay and He is faithfully keeping the universe in order. He does that for us. Not only that, but there are angels watching over us always. Many good things are working for our blessing but we just don't or can't see them. God is good. And gracious. Consider the Word of God: Exodus 34:6 (ESV): *"The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness."* And: Lamentations 3:22-23 (ESV): *The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.*

Dr. Kleinig is probably right—there are billions of things going right for us every day! We just don't think about it; maybe because it's impossible for us to consider them all; perhaps we are too busy glumly brooding on what goes wrong. But if there are billions of good things going right for us, we should be able to think about a lot of good. And if we do that, how would our day change if 80% of the 12,000 – 60,000 thoughts we have each day were positively good instead of negative?

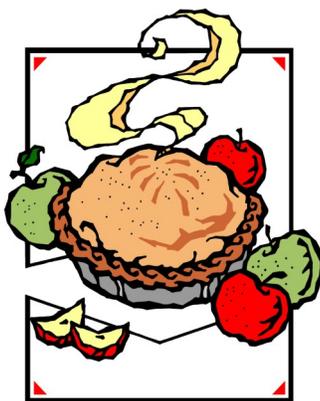
We can begin by considering what is going on that is right for us that we can see, or think about. And it begins with faith in God, trusting His Word and promises—which are all good for us. Then, be thankful. And from thanksgiving flows generosity. The one who receives mercy is merciful. The one who has received in abundance gives generously. God is truly merciful, gracious, forgiving, faithful, good, just, kind, etc. And since He is all of these good characteristics, then we can be sure, as His redeemed children in Christ, that **we are the recipients of His mercy, grace, forgiveness, faithfulness, goodness, justice, kindness, etc.**

This is what we have in Christ Jesus, who was given for our salvation. All we have or need we have in Christ. When our hearts and minds are in Him, we will be strengthened in our faith daily and we will have joy in His blessings each day. Thankfulness and generosity come from being blessed by God and receiving His gifts first. We are truly and tremendously blessed in Jesus Christ.

With thanksgiving to God for all His gifts, 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).



## LYF NEWS

### Thanksgiving Pies

LYF will again be selling and making pies for Thanksgiving. Choices are pumpkin, apple, cherry and pecan. Pies are \$10 each and will be available for pick up on Sunday, November 21 at church. Please sign up for pies on the sheet in the narthex.

The youth would also be grateful for donations of pecans, dark corn syrup, cherry pie filling, sugar, crisco, evaporated milk, eggs and butter. Donations can be placed in the kitchen any time. Thank you for supporting our youth with this fundraiser!

A big thank you to Linda Eggert for helping with this project this year! If you would like to help with pies on Saturday, November 20, all help is welcomed!



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, Olga Weidner, Heather Wendelin  
10 Teagan Kalkwarf  
12 Andrew Kahle, Kasey Murphy  
15 Carol Brinkmeyer, Ed Skillett  
16 Jeff Meinke  
19 Brad Hestermann, Amy Munro, Knox Korbel

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 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.



**That All May Know Him**

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The members at the July Quarterly Voters' Meeting voted to organize two committees. St John will be celebrating 150 years in October of 2024 and the **150th Anniversary Committee** was formed to prepare for the events.

The other committee is the **Cemetery Beautification Committee** regarding gates and fence. Volunteers are needed!! Please contact Gary Meinke or any Elder.



## LADIES AID MINUTES

St. John Ladies Aid met on October 27, 2021, with LaVonne Nitzel as hostess. Pastor Toensing led us in prayer and a Bible study on "The Talents" from Matthew 25. We sang hymn #783 "Take My Life and Let it Be".

Roll call was taken with 7 members present. The minutes of the September 2021 meeting were read and approved. The treasurer's report was given.

Starting in January 2022 we will begin thinking about what events we should plan for our 150th anniversary and get committees formed.

The cookbook committee will get more serious next month about decisions that need to be made on what the cookbook will look like. We will start publicizing the cookbook in January 2022 and collecting recipes in February 2022.

The Evangelism Board will be changing the picture board in the Narthex to a bulletin board showing pictures of different church groups each month. The Ladies Aid would like to decorate the board in January 2022 to promote the cookbook.

All officers will continue their jobs for another year except vice-president. The Nominating Committee consisting of Ellie Koch and Shelley Toensing will ask for members to be put on the ballot to fill this vacancy.

The November meeting will be moved to November 17 due to the Thanksgiving holiday the week after. We will discuss next month when to have the December meeting.

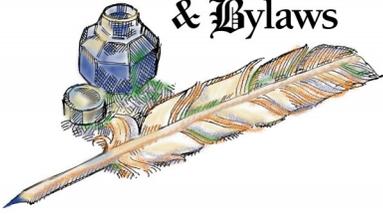
Dianne Kouba, Donna Brunelle and Jess Eggert celebrated birthdays in October. We sang the birthday song. Donna & Leroy Hillgren celebrated an anniversary.

Diane Kahle will be the hostess for November.

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

Deb Walker, Secretary

## Church Constitution & Bylaws



### Constitution & Bylaws Committee Update

Since earlier this year, the Constitution & Bylaws Committee continues to meet monthly to review, discuss, and/or draft proposed changes to each section of the Bylaws. The Constitution itself is also addressed as connections to proposed changes to the Bylaws intersect.

The members of St. John are reminded that proposed alterations to the Bylaws or Constitution will be presented for review to Church Council and to the Voter's prior to any subsequent Voters Assembly in which discussion, further alteration and/or approval can be made.

Upon which, any Voter approved draft of changes in final form would then be forwarded to the LCMS Nebraska District Constitution Committee for its review and acknowledgement. It may be possible that subsequent consideration on the completed, District endorsed Constitution & Bylaws would be warranted at another Voters Meeting; perhaps due to comments offered by the District Committee. Members of St. John can view/download a copy of the updated status draft of the committees' work via the church website, <http://www.stjohnkramer.org>.

### ELDER'S

Now is the time for "THANKSGIVING". However, every day is a time for giving thanks! It's been a good year. We've had good weather. The harvest is going well. The Covid isn't over yet, but things seem to be getting better. We are back to where everyone can worship together, at one service, without barriers between us. So, yes, we do have something to be thankful for!

As we near the end of the year, remember your yearly offerings to God and our church. It is easy to put this off until the last minute.

We pray that God will continue to be with us all.

The Elders of St. John

#### The journey begins at Advent....

When Advent begins on November 28 this year, so does a new church year for liturgical congregations. The church seasons, which correspond to key events in Jesus' life, begin with the four-week Advent period of preparation for our coming Savior at Christmas. After the 12-day season of Christmas is Epiphany, which begins January 6 and continues through Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. That period of preparation culminates in Holy Week, and then Easter marks the pinnacle of every church year. Forty days after the Resurrection we celebrate Ascension, and 10 days after that, the Pentecost season begins; it lasts until Advent, when the cycle begins again.

"Like a great waterwheel," writes Joan Chittister, "the liturgical year goes on relentlessly irrigating our souls, softening the ground of our hearts, nourishing the soil of our lives until the seed of the Word of God itself begins to grow in us, comes to fruit in us, ripens in us the spiritual journey of a lifetime."

## ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH –LCMS

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pastortoensing@gmail.com



## Christmas Program

### OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER GROWTH

Worship Service (Sundays)	9:00 a.m.
Sunday School/LYF	10:30 a.m.
Bible Class (Sundays)	10:30 a.m.
Midweek Classes (4-6 grades on Wednesdays)	6:30 p.m.
Constitution & Bylaw Committee (Nov 9)	6:30 p.m.
Evangelism Board Meeting (Nov 8)	1:30 p.m.
Elders' Meeting (Nov 1)	6:30 p.m.
Ladies Morning Bible Study (Nov 13)	10:00 a.m.
Quilting Group (Nov 9)	9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Lutheran Women in Mission (Nov 16)	7:00 p.m.
Ladies Aid Meeting (Nov 17)	2:00 p.m.
Thanksgiving Day Worship Service (Nov 25)	9:00 a.m.

CHRISTMAS is right around the corner! The Board of Ed has been meeting and we are so excited to start planning our annual Christmas program. This year's program titled "**The Amazing Story of Christmas**", will take place **December 19th at 9:00am during the Sunday morning church service**. We will begin practicing music and assigning parts. Practice will take place at both midweek, and Sunday school. All youth are welcome to participate! If you have any questions feel free to contact any Board of Ed member-Kaylie Brethouwer, Linda Lee, Ashley

### SAFETY COMMITTEE UPDATES

**Fire Drill** - The Safety Committee is currently considering needed equipment and safety measures in the event of a fire. As part of this, we want the congregation to be aware that we will be holding upcoming fire drills.

The Safety Committee is looking to gather a list of people in the congregation who have medical, first aid, and/or CPR training. This is so we would know who could best help should we have a medical emergency during church or a church event. If you are currently certified with any of these, please list it on the form in the narthex or call the church office to have your name added. Thank you.

LAMBS OF CHRIST NEWS

Early enrollment has begun for Lambs of Christ for both Preschool and Child Care for next year. Early enrollment is open from November 1-November 15 for members of Bethlehem and St. John's as well as for current students and alumni families. After November 15 enrollment will be open to the public.

Here is the link to the online enrollment form:

<https://form.jotform.com/212904710510039>

Any questions concerning enrollment can be answered by our Director Brittany. You can contact her by phone at (402) 826-4375 or by email at [lambsofchristcrete@gmail.com](mailto:lambsofchristcrete@gmail.com).

Lambs of Christ Preschool and Child Care

402-826-4375

Website: [lambsofchristcrete.com](http://lambsofchristcrete.com)

Brittany Hovendick | Director

Kathy Oelschlager | Preschool Teacher



# Puzzle!

Complete each friend pair from the Bible, using the verses as hints. Then write the circled letters in order on the blanks below to complete Proverbs 17:17.

David & _____ ○ _____	2 Samuel 15:37
King Agrippa & ○ _____	Acts 25:13
Naomi & ○ _____	Ruth 1:22
Paul & _____ ○ _____	Acts 16:25
Joshua & _____ ○ _____	Numbers 14:6
Peter & _____ ○ _____	Luke 5:8-10
Job & <b>B</b> _____ ○ _____	Job 2:11
Elijah & _____ ○ _____	2 Kings 2:1-14
Zophar & _____ ○ _____	Job 2:11
Jonathan & _____ ○ _____	1 Samuel 18:1
Peter & _____ ○ _____	Luke 5:8-10
Jesus & _____ ○ _____	John 11:20
Jesus & _____ ○ _____	John 11:5
Timothy & _____ ○ _____	2 Timothy 1:1
Jesus & ○ _____	John 11:5
Mary & _____ ○ _____	Luke 1:39-40
Job & _____ ○ _____	Job 2:11
Aaron & ○ _____	Exodus 4:27

“ \_\_\_\_\_ ”  
 \_\_\_\_\_

PROVERBS 17:17a

Answer: Hushai, Festus, Ruth, Silas, Caleb, John, Bildad, Elisha, Job, David, James, Mary, Martha, Paul, Lazarus, Elizabeth, Eliphaz, Moses; A friend loves at all times.