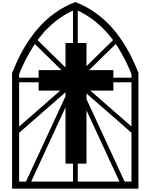


ST. JOHN LUTHERAN LCMS
11400 WEST PANAMA ROAD, CRETE, NE 68333



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 11 NOVEMBER 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Revisit the Catechism

Martin Luther wrote: "It is not many books that make people learned or even much reading. It is, rather, a good book frequently read, no matter how small it is, that makes a person learned in the Scriptures and upright." (Letter: *To the Christian Nobility of the German Nation*)

This is certainly true of the catechism—Luther's Small Catechism. The catechism is an excellent go-to book to help us understand the Word of God. It is a teacher and school in the basics of the Christian faith. It is often the first place pastors go to when looking at a text for a sermon. It is a tremendous resource that helps to explain what the Word of God says.

A few situations lately have confirmed the catechism as a great resource for our understanding of faith and life. This is true in the current conflict in the middle east. There are Christians and Christian groups that think about Israel in ways different than what the Bible teaches. When it comes to the Biblical understanding of who the people of God are, the Word of God tells us that it is believers—those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior and God—and they are found all over the world.

In the Apostles' Creed we confess: "I believe in ... the Holy Christian Church, the communion of Saints." These are two ways of saying the same thing. The Small Catechism explanation teaches:

What is the Church? It is the Body of Christ—that is, all people whom the Spirit, by the Means of Grace, has gathered to Christ in faith throughout the world.¹

The Church is people who believe in Jesus Christ. It is NOT an earthly nation. The chosen people of God are a spiritual entity of those who believe in Jesus Christ. The promise to them of paradise is resurrection to heaven forever. The kingdom of God is not a location either. The kingdom of God is Christ's reign through His Word in His Church—His body with Him as the head and believers as the body of Christ. This too the Catechism helps us to understand.

So, two good books to read often: the Bible, God's Word, and the Small Catechism. May God's Holy Spirit grant you faith and wisdom as you read, study, and inwardly digest God's Word.

God's Blessings to you, Pastor Toensing

¹Luther, [*Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation*](#), (St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House, 2017), 206.

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

NEWS & NOTES....

The Treasurer will soon be printing Offering Envelopes for 2024. Please let the Church Office or the Treasurer, Kristi Reetz know if you want to discontinue your envelope use; or, if you have not been getting envelopes and would like to begin using them, please advise us. The Church Council is meeting to discuss the giving options on the 2024 offering envelopes.

Bible Study on the Arab/Israeli Conflict

Rev. Nabil S. Nour, 4th Vice-President of the LCMS, who was born in Nazareth, has written a detailed Bible study about the root of the conflict in the Holy Land. Congregations and individuals are invited to use this study, making as many copies as needed. Download it at https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NU0MyfAFgCiK-vk0HgyBvgjfEpJ_tQw/view Or contact Pastor and he can send you the link in an email. If you would prefer it in print, Pastor would be happy to provide that for you as well.



BIRTHDAYS

1 Chauncey Ziemann
 3 Roger Brunelle
 6 Kay Jordan
 7 Mersadies Kvasnicka
 8 Gwendolyn Dewey, Eric Dewey Jr., Jaxon Hollman
 9 Dawn Smith, Lewis Clark, 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 Robert Kvasnicka, Alayna Poole, Sharon Wendelin

26 Ken Kahle
 27 Fred Weidner
 28 Judi Korte
 29 Seth Brethouwer, Jayne Vanasperen

BAPTISMS

1 Trevis Trautman
 2 Abbie (Reitz) Feddern
 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 Sean Murphy
 22 Cheyenne DuBray
 24 Jaxon Hollman
 25 Jeff Meinke
 27 Slane Kvasnicka, Kourtney Tarnick
 29 Kay Jordan, Gwen Kalkwarf



**Celebrating You
 on Your
 Special Day**

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

MERCY MEALS FOR MAUI



Mercy Meals of Lincoln and Thrivent invite you to a **meal packing event**. Event details: Saturday, November 18, 10 am to 6 pm, Messiah Lutheran Church, Lincoln. Volunteer to help pack 100,000 life-saving meals. **You can register for a two-hour shift**

to help reach the goal of packing all 100,000 meals donated by the Thrivent Member Network.

Contact Terry Dittmer for more information and he will help you to register or reserve your spot...<https://MercyMealsforMaui.eventbrite.com>

LADIES AID MINUTES

St. John Ladies Aid met on October 25, 2023, with LaVonne Nitzel as hostess. Pastor Toensing led us in prayer, hymn #414 "Tis Good, Lord, to be Here" and then a Bible study entitled "This is My Beloved Son... Listen to Him" from Matthew 17:5

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

A motion was made to set up a table at the Methodist Church in Hallam on November 4 to sell cookbooks. Seconded and passed.

Marianne Tesar will be the third member to call for funeral food.

The Altar Committee, Janice Reetz, Marianne Tesar and Deb Walker have all agreed to continue their jobs for another year. Diane Kahle will be resigning as president. Unless someone volunteers to be president, next month we will put together a nominating committee to find a replacement.

Since our November meeting will be after Thanksgiving, we will stick with the Nov 29 meeting date.

A motion was made for the Ladies Aid to host a dinner after the worship service on April 28, 2024, when Pastor Lyle Hansen will be our guest pastor as part of our 150th anniversary celebration schedule for the year. Seconded and passed.

Dianne Kouba and Donna Brunelle celebrated birthdays in October. We sang the birthday song to Donna. Donna & LeRoy Hillgren celebrated an anniversary.

The hostess for November will be Carol Brinkmeyer.

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

Deb Walker, Secretary

OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED FOR 2024

President

Vice President

Secretary

Finance Secretary

Finance Board (Need 3)

Board of Elders (Need 3 of which 2
can be re-elected)

Board of Trustees (Need 2 of which 2
can be re-elected)

Board of Education (Need 1)

Board of Evangelism (Need 1)

Cemetery Board (Need 2)

Please prayerfully consider these
needed positions as the Nominating
Committee are getting nominations.

LYF NEWS

Trunk or Treat was a SUCCESS!

Thanks once again to all the volunteers that made the indoor activities fun for both the kiddos and the adults! All of the costumes were a BIG success! And another big thanks for all the people that braved the cold temperatures to decorate their cars & trucks & trailers???? It was a fun time for all!

The next LYF sponsored project is Roadside Cleanup.

We are planning (weather permitting) to do the Roadside Cleanup this Sunday **November 5** following Worship Service. Any and all volunteers are needed for this Roadside Cleanup commitment.



MAIN STREET LIVING updates for November, 2023

“Main Street Living” is a liturgical worship service broadcasting a different local pastor each Sunday morning. It airs along with the classic Lutheran Hour program, “This is the Life”. Both can be viewed on KLKN Channel 8 (Lincoln) & WOWT Channel 6.2 (Omaha)

Visit www.mainstreetliving.com/lincoln to view current and past episodes.

November 5, 2023

10:30 AM - Rev. Paul Warneke, pastor at Christ & St. Paul Lutheran Churches in Nebraska City, presents a message titled “What is a Saint?”. This sermon is based on Revelation 7:9-17.

November 12, 2023

10:30 AM - Rev. Zachary Courie, pastor at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Wahoo, presents a message titled “Render to God”. This sermon is based on Matthew 22:15–22.

November 19, 2023

10:30 AM - Rev. Adam Moline, pastor at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Lincoln, presents a message titled “Important People”. This sermon is based on Matthew 9:18-26.

November 26, 2023

10:30 AM - Rev. Lawson Short, pastor at St. Peter Lutheran Church in North Bend, presents a message titled “Watch, Stay Awake”. This sermon is based on Matthew 25:1-13.

**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN
CHURCH –LCMS**

11400 W. Panama Road
Crete, NE 68333
4 miles East & 2 miles South of Crete
Office: 826-3883
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 /LYF/Adult Bible Class (Sundays) | 10:30 a.m. |
| Midweek Classes (Wednesdays) | 6:30 p.m. |
| Evangelism Board Meeting (Nov &) | 9:00 a.m. |
| Special Church Council Meeting (Nov 7) | 6:30 p.m. |
| Elders' Meeting (Nov 7) | 7:00 p.m. |
| Quilting Group (Nov 14 & 28) | 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. |
| 150th Anniversary Committee Meeting (Nov 14) | 6:30 p.m. |
| Lutheran Women in Mission (Nov 21) | 10:00 a.m.. |
| Ladies Aid Meeting (Nov 29) | 2:00 p.m. |

FROM THE ELDER'S

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

We are approaching the season of many special services, beginning with Thanksgiving. It often becomes kind of cliché to give thanks but we should all take the time to truly do so. Not only are we some of the most blessed people in the world based on material things, health care, etc but as Christians we are eternally blessed. The comfort that comes from assured salvation is no small matter and one to be truly thankful for.

The nominating committee is busy trying to fill those positions needed in our congregation. Please prayerfully consider accepting if contacted, or consider reaching out to the committee or pastor if you would like to take a role in helping the congregation.

In Christ's peace, The Elders

THOSE SERVING DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

| DUTY | 11/5/23 | 11/12/23 | 11/19/23 | Thanksgiving Day | 11/26/23 |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Organist/Pianist | Ellen Miller | Jayne VanAsperen | Jayne VanAsperen | Jayne VanAsperen | Ellen Miller |
| Elders | John Reitz | Phil Hughes | Gary Meinke | Dolyn Meinke | Todd Hoyer |
| Greeters | Terry & Genie Dittmer | Wayne & Linda Eggert | Chris Hollman | <u>Need Volunteers</u> | Todd & Cindy Hoyer |
| Acolytes | Cheyene DuBray | | Amy Hollman | <u>Need Volunteer</u> | |



St. John Lutheran 150th Anniversary Celebration

St. John will be joyfully celebrating it's 150th Anniversary all through the 2024 year. The theme for our 150th Anniversary celebration comes from Psalm 100:5, "The Lord's faithfulness continues through all generations." Many activities are being planned for the year.

Our formal Anniversary Celebration will be held on Sunday, October 13, with Dr. Rev. Sommerfeld preaching for our 9 a.m. service and a meal following. Mark your calendars now for this special day.

In the meantime, we invite you to the first two events of the year.

On the first Sunday of 2024, January 7, our worship service will include a kick off of our celebration year. We will have some special moments during the service as we dedicate our year to this special celebration. Worship will be followed with a soup and cinnamon roll luncheon.



On Sunday, February 25, we will be blessed to have Concordia's Men's Chorus with us providing special music during worship that morning. We will be recognizing our teen/young adults generation on this day as well. Following worship, you are welcome to join us for a brunch potluck immediately after the worship service. We simply ask you to bring a breakfast/brunch item to share. Hot dishes are especially helpful.

**"The Lord's faithfulness continues through all generations."
Psalm 100:5**