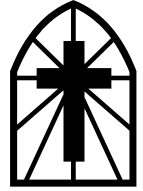


ST. JOHN LUTHERAN LCMS
11400 WEST PANAMA ROAD, CRETE, NE 68333



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 38 ISSUE 11 NOVEMBER 2024

Enough Hours in the Day???

Dear fellow redeemed in Christ Jesus,

Are there? Are there enough hours in the day? We have all likely heard and repeated the statement, "There just aren't enough hours in the day." Or "So much to do, so little time." But Who created the time we have? Who made the days we live in? I came across a quote in one of my resources of a pastor reflecting on this very thing and I appreciated his assessment and perspective. Here it is:

"God knows what he wants me to accomplish. After all, I am his under-rower and his servant. If he knows what needs to be done and presumably knows how long it will take, it is reasonable for me to assume he will allot the right amount of time to accomplish his purposes." That being the case, I came to the astonishing conclusion that there are exactly the right number of hours in the day to accomplish what God wants to achieve. Not to believe this is to banish God to the ranks of the Egyptian taskmasters who demanded that the Israelites make bricks without straw. . . . The issue then became for me not so much an intense, frustrated, never-ending attempt to meet every need on the horizon, but a sensible approach to filling the hours with . . . responsible living. (*CPR* 1997, *D. Stuart Briscoe*)

God is holy and perfect, and He said about His creation, "It is good." Therefore, His construction of time in days of 24-hour periods is a gift to be used wisely and with good stewardship. We should then consider each day a gift, each new day filled with His mercies (Lamentations 3:22-23), and by the wisdom we gain from God, us our time wisely and for good. God calls us to use all His gifts wisely, graciously, joyously, and generously.

I admit that I am not the perfect steward of time I should be. In sinfulness, you and I don't always make the best use of our time. How thankful we are, then, for the mercy God shows in forgiving us our misuse of time. And then, He gives us another. Today is a new day. Today is another gift from God. Today is another day in which His mercies flow, His love is poured out, His gifts are given. God help us to receive time as a gift and by His grace and use it wisely and with responsible living for His glory and the benefit of those we serve.

Peace to you in Jesus Christ,

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).

SAVE THE DATE...

The Children's Christmas Program will be on Sunday, December 15 during the 9:00 a.m. Worship Service.



November
BIRTHDAYS

&

BAPTISMS

BIRTHDAYS

1 Chauncey Ziemann
3 Roger Brunelle
6 Kay Jordan
8 Gwendolyn Dewey, Eric Dewey Jr., Jaxon Hollman
10 Teagan Kalkwarf
12 Andrew Kahle, Kasey Murphy
15 Carol Brinkmeyer, Ed Skillett
16 Jeff Meinke
19 Brad Hestermann, Knox Korbel
22 Judy Wohl
25 Sharon Wendelin

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

BAPTISMS

1 Trevis Trautman
2 Abbie Feddern
3 Jerad Reetz
10 Donna Brunelle
18 Fran Sieck
20 Sean Murphy
22 Cheyenne DuBray
24 Jaxon Hollman
25 Jeff Meinke

29 Kay Jordan,
Gwen Kalkwarf



**Celebrating You
on Your
Special Day**



St. John Lutheran 150th Anniversary

“The Lord’s faithfulness continues

November Food Pantry Gathering

In thanks for the many blessings throughout our 150 years, we are collecting non-perishable food items for the Blue Valley Community Action Food Pantry during the month of November. Food collection bins are under a table in the narthex and inside the back door.

Anniversary Cross

If you have not signed a colored block of wood that will be used to make an anniversary cross, please do so in the narthex by **November 10**. This includes signing one for young children and babies who can’t do so themselves as well.

Thank You

Thank you to all who helped plan, prepare, serve and participated in our October 13 celebration. It was a wonderful day!

Pictorial Directory

If you did not have a picture taken and have not yet turned in a picture for the pictorial directory, the last day to do so is **November 10**.

Closing of our Anniversary Year

The final celebration of our anniversary year will be on Sunday, **December 29** during the worship service. There will also be a chili/soup luncheon served.

FROM THE ELDERS

Sheep versus Goats

Let's review some definitions of these two animals.

Sheep: They have a reputation of being cute, senseless and needy; sheep are followers. Jesus referred to himself as the Good Shepherd, and His sheep will follow Him. Sheep trust their shepherd.

Goats: They have a reputation of being ornery, stubborn, and independent. They will eat anything, and they cannot be led.

Read Matthew 25:31-33. Here Jesus shares how He will separate the sheep, (those who follow him,) from the goats, (those who while on this earth have rejected him.) But the bible tells us that His sheep are blessed and they will inherit what Jesus has prepared for them; while those who reject Jesus (the goats) will have eternity apart from God.

So... are you a Sheep? Or a Goat? Our earthly life time is short; Study God's Word, Trust God's Word, Believe in God's Word – and live your life accordingly.

To God Be All The GLORY!

The Elders

MAIN STREET LIVING updates for November, 2024

"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.

Nov 3, 10:30 am...Rev. Jared Hartman, pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Wisner, NE, presents a message titled "Eternal Blessings". This sermon is based on Matthew 5:1-12.

Nov 10, 10:30 am...Rev. John Gierke, pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church in West Point, NE, presents a message titled "Trusting through the Testing". This sermon is based on 1 Kings 17:7-16.

Nov 17, 10:30 am...Rev. Ray Greenseth, pastor at Messiah Lutheran Church in Murdo, SD, presents a message titled "He's Coming". This sermon is based on Daniel 12:1-3.

Nov 24, 10:30 am...Rev. Brady Finnern, President of the Minnesota North District LCMS in Baxter, MN, presents a message titled "We Will See". This sermon is based on Mark

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OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER GROWTH

Schedule at a Glance

- Worship Service (Sundays) 9:00 a.m.
- Sunday School/LYF/Bible Class (Sundays) 10:30 a.m.
- Midweek Classes (Wednesdays) 6:30 p.m.-7:45 p.m.
- Board of Education Meeting (November 2) 9:00 a.m.
- Elder’s Meeting (November 4) 7:00 p.m.
- Board of Evangelism Meeting (November 6) 9:00 a.m.
- Quilting Group (November 12) 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- Ladies Aid Meeting (November 20) 2:00 p.m.

Thanksgiving Day Worship Service 9:00 a.m.
With Holy Communion (November 28)

ONLINE GIVING

The online giving page is now available for use. The church is charged a fee for any debit/ credit card transactions. There is a box to mark if you would like to help cover that extra fee. It is set to add 3% to the transaction. There is no fee if the contribution comes directly from your bank account. Either can be set up for one time or monthly transactions. Do not give your credit card or bank account information to Wayne or Lisa and ask them to do it. They are not allowed to. If you have any questions please ask Glen, Wayne or Lisa.



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THOSE SERVING DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

DUTY	11/3/24	11/10/24	11/17/24	11/24/24	11/28/24
Organist/Pianist	Ellen Miller	Ellen Miller	Jayne VanAsperen	Jayne VanAsperen	Ellen Miller
Elders	Phil Hughes	Troy Henning	Doug Karl	Gary Meinke	Todd Hoyer
Greeters	Todd & Cindy Hoyer	Glen & Verna Louch	Gary & Lynn Meinke	Dave & Marla Musil	NEED VOLUNTEER
Acolytes	Easton Brethouwer		Amy Hollman		VOLUNTEER

Excerpt from letter from Rev. Dr. Russ Sommerfeld

Greetings from Concordia University, Nebraska where God's grace pours forth abundantly, never in vain. 1 Corinthians 15:10

"I am writing to express my gratitude for the privilege of serving as the preacher of God's Word at your 150th anniversary worship service on October 13, 2024."

"Please also accept my deep appreciation for the gift of a beautiful Lord's Supper wood carving. It is unique among the mementos of Nebraska congregation anniversaries I have received over the years."

.....
 .(This is just a small portion of the letter we received from Rev. Sommerfeld. The complete letter is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.)

LADIES AID MINUTES

St. John Ladies Aid was called to order on October 30th, 2024 by President Deb Walker. We sang Hymn # 735 "Have No Fear Little Flock". Pastor Toensing led us in prayer followed by bible study entitled, "You are Treasured".

Roll call was answered by 11 members. The minutes of the September meeting were read and approved. The Treasurers report was read.

Deb passed around a thankyou note received from the family of Steve Schultz for the memorial gift sent by Ladies Aid.

Diane Kahle reported the sale of one cookbook at the 150th Anniversary dinner at Hallam. Discussion followed about reducing the price of the cookbooks. It was decided to change price from \$15.00 to \$10.00. Diane has volunteered to attempt selling some of the books at the Methodist Church during the November 9th, craft fair in Hallam.

The Ladies Aid are very grateful to the Reetz family for the new refrigerator purchased with memorial funds from Lynette June funeral. There was discussion as to the placement of the old refrigerator.

Discussion was held concerning the officers for 2025. The following will retain their present offices:

Deb Walker – President

Marianne Randall - Vice President and funeral contact person

Bonnie Bleich – Secretary

Janice Reetz – Treasurer

Bonnie Bleich stepped down from altar committee and Chris Hollman volunteered to fill that position. Altar Committee now consisting of Linda Eggert, Deanne Eggert and Chris Hollman.

It was decided that the November meeting will be moved to the 20th, due to Thanksgiving.

Hostess for our November meeting is Carol Brinkmeyer. Pastor Toensing will be on vacation on that date. We will begin a Bible study called "Golden Fruit" lead by Marianne Randall.

After discussion it was decided to discontinue an assigned Welfare Committee.

Celebrating birthdays this month was Diane Kouba, Donna Hillgren, and Gwen Kalkwarf.

Celebrating anniversaries in October were Gwen & Bill Kalkwarf and Donna & LeRoy Hillgren.

The Birthday and Anniversary songs were sung.

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

Secretary,

Bonnie Bleich