

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN LCMS
REV. MARK WILLIAMSON, VACANCY PASTOR

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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.



VOLUME 31 ISSUE 10 OCTOBER 2016

FACES OF THE REFORMATION



Martin Luther (the Early Years) Author of the 95 Theses which sparked the Reformation.

Luther was raised by God-fearing parents who sacrificed to give their son an education. Planning to become a lawyer, Martin Luther entered the University of Erfurt. (His courses in grammar, logic and rhetoric provided the tools Luther later used to study and interpret Scripture.) Law was a profession that was not only respected but would also ensure his ability to care for his parents in their later years. One day Luther was caught in a violent thunderstorm. He prayed to St. Anne, promising to become a monk if his life was spared. This was not a promise he took lightly. Much to the disappointment of his father, Luther shed his worldly life to enter the Augustinian monastery.

It was here that Luther fasted and prayed, constantly seeking to live a perfect and holy life for God's approval. This attempt to live a holy life included visiting and revering holy relics. There were relics that were reputed to be a splinter from the cross, or a branch from the burning bush, the hair of this saint or a piece of cloth from that one. Even Luther's trip to Rome, a city filled with more relics than any other in Europe, could not put his soul at ease. He could never be good enough for this righteous God. Despair set in. Luther's vicar (or priest), Johann von Staupitz, brought him to Wittenberg where he could mentor Luther more closely.

Luther began an in-depth study of the Bible while teaching at the University of Wittenberg. He continued this study after finishing his doctorate, believing that the Bible was more important than the teachings of the Church Fathers. In 1514, while studying Paul's letter to the Romans in his tower room, he finally saw the pure Gospel. He realized that sinners are saved not through good works but by the gift of God through faith. This insight into the Gospel and the assurance of his salvation gave him the confidence to overcome the challenges he would soon face.

The challenges began in the form of a man named Johann Tetzel. Tetzel was sent to Wittenberg to sell indulgences. After penitents confessed their sins, a priest might assign works of satisfaction as part of absolving sins. At first, indulgences were granted to Crusaders willing to sacrifice all in defense of the Church. Those who could not go could support the effort financially and also receive an indulgence, or pardon from sin.

This was so lucrative that the practice was soon used to raise funds for churches and hospitals, even infrastructure. Frederick the Wise would display his relics on All Saints Day, Nov. 1. The faithful could pay homage to the relics, pay money to Frederick and everyone would be happy at the end of the day; sins forgiven, revenues up. The three parts to penance changed from contrition, confession and absolution to contrition, confession and contribution.

Luther's concern was that there would no longer be any sense of true contrition. If sinners could receive pardon from all sins, then they could spend the rest of their lives not worrying about the statuses of their souls. He must protect his flock from this dangerous practice.

On Oct. 31, 1517, Luther posted his 95 Theses on the Castle Church doors, seeking a scholarly debate on the sale of indulgences. Although he wrote them in Latin, they were surreptitiously translated into German and distributed throughout the land, sparking the events that began the Reformation.

**St John Lutheran Church
Quarterly Voters Meeting
July 25, 2016**

The meeting was called to order by President Gary Meinke at 8:00 and an opening prayer was given by Pastor Williamson. The minutes of the April 25, 2016 meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer's Report:

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Balance Forward 4/01/16 | \$44,610.86 |
| Plus Regular Receipts | 33,231.84 |
| Plus Mission Receipts | 2,360.00 |
| Balance plus Receipts | 80,202.70 |
| Less Regular Disbursements | 20,189.36 |
| Less Mission Disbursements | 4,145.00 |
| Ending Balance 6/30/16 | \$55,868.34 |

The Treasurer's report given by Wayne Eggert was read and approved.

Elders Report:

Brent Wohl reported that there will be two weddings taking place in March of 2017 at the church. It was also reported that the use of the common cup has been suspended for now, but will be brought back in the future.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Williamson reported that Pastor Haynes has made visits the second week of the month to the shut-ins and has also given them communion and has handed out crosses which were made in Seward. Pastor Williamson reported that at the Board of Elders meeting on June 16, 2016 he was asked to be our vacancy pastor.

Pastor says he is becoming comfortable with the services and being here in general. He reported that services are planned through August, but that he will not be here the first week of September and that Pastor Koch will be here that day.

Pastor Williamson reported that he attended the Fish Boil, the July 11th Elders meeting, the LWML meeting and that he was planning on attending Ladies Aid on Wednesday and that he also attended the service that Pastor Ahlman spoke at. He also said he might be able to attend evening cell groups. The in-

stallation for Reverend Bensen will be held on Sunday July 31st at 3p.m. Pastor reported that work with Cathy is going well and also thanked the organists for their work.

Board of Education:

Cathy Hollman reported that Vacation Bible School was a success with approximately 25 kids in attendance each of the five evenings with six non-members attending. Sunday school will start on September 11 followed by a Teacher Appreciation Picnic. The meat will be provided, with the congregation bringing a covered dish. Cathy reported that there is need of a 4th grade Midweek teacher for the second half of the year. Midweek classes will start on Wednesday September 14.

Trustees Report:

Dolyn Meinke reported that the church grounds and cemetery have been mowed a few times, the air conditioner has been fixed, the ceiling fans have been oiled, Bob Renner has repaired the mower and that the parsonage is in good condition, but will need some general maintenance in the future.

Cemetery committee:

Chris Hollman reported that the irrigation system in the new berm is not working. Mitch Homolka will check with the company to see what they can do. Dean Prochnow is checking with a friend of his to see if he can help with surveying the new part of the cemetery.

Youth Group Committee:

Ashley Walker reported that they held the Easter Egg Hunt and had the Senior Dinner. They will start up again in August.

Evangelism Committee:

Ellie Koch reported that the sign they used for Vacation Bible School got trashed and will be looking for something new and better for future use. Maybe combining signage they can use for VBS, Advent and Lent. She also reported that they were working on getting together to go on an evangelism visit to the shut-ins

Old Business:

Tim and Gloria McDermott will be attending the Rural and Small Town conference November 3-6, 2016. Their motel room will be paid for by a grant, but the congregation will reimburse them for fees and mileage.

New Business:

The call committee has put together a report on the surveys and Gary Meinke will turn it in to District President Snow. Deadline for names submitted is the 1st Sunday of September.

There are three names submitted for a call as Pastor for St John Lutheran Church. They are as follows:

- (1) Pastor Adam Snowberger from Grand Island
- (2) Pastor Michael Heckman from Texas
- (3) Pastor Wiest from Our Redeemer in Lincoln

It was reported that there are approximately 43 vacancies in our district. Vacancy Pastor James Haynes name has also been submitted as a candidate to be our pastor.

Pastor Brinkmeyer asked to speak on behalf of the Lambs of Christ Preschool. He first reported that he was six days away from being done serving as vacancy pastor at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Crete. Then he asked that we consider financially supporting the preschool. Because of declining enrollments and giving the teacher a much deserved raise. Wayne Eggert suggested we do a matching fund with congregation donations (with a fiscal year end \$1000.00 cap) like we do for Karen Tiedemans mission project. A motion was made and seconded to table this till the next meeting as we need to have an explanation of the program from Michelle Wittstruck and Rhonda Beethe.

There were 41 members present. The meeting was adjourned and we closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Kay Jordan, Secretary

LADIES AID MINUTES

The St. John Ladies Aid met on Wednesday, September 28th, 2016. Carol Brinkmeyer concluded the study of Sarah. We will start to study Martha and Mary next month. Roll call was taken with ten members present. The minutes of the August meeting were read and approved. The treasurers report was given and approved.

OLD BUSINESS: Marilyn Nast reported that there were gifts left over from the Sunday School picnic. It was decided to donate these gifts to Blue Valley.

NEW BUSINESS: Dianne Kouba asked if the Ladies Aid would be willing to donate cookies and deviled eggs to the Crete Area Bloodmobile. A sign-up sheet was passed around, and the ladies signed up to bring the cookies and eggs. The bloodmobile will be held October 18 at the VFW in Crete. The food can be brought to the VFW between 9:30 A.M. and 11:00A.M.

A September birthday was celebrated by Linda Pomajzl. Anniversaries in September were Fred and Olga Weidner, Ray and Bonnie Bleich, Dale and Dianne Kouba, Wally and Noreen Wild, Del and Irene Reiss and Elmer and Darleen Dittmer.

Marilyn Nast provided refreshments for today. Next month the hostess will be LaVonne Nitzel.

The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer and the common table prayer. Shirley Reetz, secretary

TIME TO SING!

Choir will begin rehearsals on Sunday, November 6. We invite you to join us and encourage our high school students also. We rehearse from 8:20 – 8:50 a.m. each Sunday morning from the first Sunday in November thru Easter Sunday. Come and praise our Lord with music.

LAMBS OF CHRIST PRESCHOOL NEWS

Family, Fall, and Fire Safety will all be themes in October this year. In Jesus time we will have the Bible Events of Joseph and his brothers, Moses and The twelve spies report. We will learn how are families are blessing but also how to forgive each other. Right now plans are being made for fire-fighters to visit and a field trip to Crete Market.

Pumpkin Festival, Lambs of Christ will have scarecrow on display at 10th and Main Street. We will also be hosting a Cookie walk along with Bethlehem for a carnival game. Please join us at the Pumpkin Festival for all of the Fun. Sunday, The Pumpkin Festival is downtown Crete on October 2 between 11:00AM and 4:00PM

Pancake Feed Lambs of Christ will be holding their annual Pancake Feed On Sunday October 23. We will be serving pancakes, sausage and all the fixings from 10:30 AM -12:30 PM. Please join us in support of Preschool Mission. Children will sing at Bethlehem at the 9:00 AM Service and again at the Pancake Feed.

Rhonda Beehe, Teacher, 826-4375, lambsofchrist-crete@gmail.com

YOUTH EDUCATION NEWS

A BIG THANK YOU to all who attended and helped with the Teacher's Appreciation and Sunday School Kick off picnic! Despite the windy conditions the food, company and games were a great way to start the new Sunday school year. The Board of Education would like to thank the congregation for their continued support, board members, Missy Persing, Cathy Hollman and Tammy Homolka.

THE ANNUAL ALL HALLOWS EVE PARTY AND TRUNK OR TREAT IS SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY OCTOBER 29TH!

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS & BAPTISMS

BIRTHDAYS

1 Ken Kastanek
2 Bruce Miller, Gary Renner
4 Barry Doiel, Mindie Hughes, Nathan Patak
6 Jarod Mundt
9 Amber Johnson
10 Hannah Ochs, Dale Wohl
12 Bryce Kalkwarf
15 Maynard Hessheimer, Dianne Kouba
16 Joe Kalkwarf, Jaclyn Ourada
19 Scott Brunelle, Jerad Reetz, Abigail Scott, James Walker
21 Sean Murphy
22 Michelle Kvasnicka

23 Donna Brunelle, Chloe Davis, Levi Mehl, Bruce Tiedeman
24 Gwen Kalkwarf
25 Raelyn Morava, Alexandra Tremblay
26 Jerry Ferguson Jr., Slane Kvasnicka
27 Ellen Miller
28 Jeff Tremblay
29 Fran Sieck
30 Kourtney Tarnick

BAPTISMS

2 Chris Reetz, Shane Renner
3 Brady Hestermann
4 Linda Lee, Dewayne & Henry Slama
7 Marilyn Weidner
8 Joshua Wohl

9 Genie Dittmer, Brianna Williams
12 Garrett Mehl
14 Kirk Miller, Ted Muff
16 Jim Ellingson
17 Randy Adams
18 Austin Weber
19 Jarod Mundt
21 Lynn Meinke, Gary Renner, Bernadean Strufing
24 Mindie Hughes
25 Cinder Johnson, Kirk Johnson
29 Colton Homolka
30 Wayne Eggert
31 Dianne Kouba

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OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER GROWTH

Schedule at a Glance

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| Worship Service (Sundays) | 9:00 a.m. |
| Sunday School (Sundays) | 10:30 a.m. |
| Bible Class (Sundays) | 10:30 a.m. |
| Midweek Classes (Wednesdays) | 6:30 p.m. |
| Elder’s Meeting (October 3) | 7:30 p.m. |
| LYF () | Following Worship Service |
| Lutheran Women in Mission (October 18) | 7:00 p.m. |
| Ladies Aid Meeting (October 26) | 2:00 p.m. |

FROM THE ELDERS

"It's STILL all about Jesus"

Open your average world history book and you'll find but a paragraph or two on the Reformation. The event appears a small drop on the timeline, but the Christian Church knows better.

Since the past is best explored through the people who lived it, the Elders at St. John would like to introduce you to a series of men and women passionate about the Reformation re-discovery of the Gospel—either for or against it. These iconic individuals used their unique vocations to create theological and cultural tidal waves beginning in the sixteenth century and continuing today. See how the gracious Word of the Lord had the final word in

bringing the “it’s still all about Jesus” proclamation to the corners of Europe and beyond.

For the months ahead, in counting down to the 500 year anniversary of the Reformation next year, our newsletter and monthly bulletin inserts will spotlight some of those unforgettable faces of the Reformation era who helped promote biblical truth in our understanding of the Gospel. Further information, publications, graphics and Bible studies on the "Faces of the Reformation" can be found through the Concordia Historical Institute at :

<http://concordiahistoricalinstitute.org/>
or the lutheranreformation.org site.
Regardless of the year, 1517 or 2017, it’s STILL all about Jesus.

LWML HIGHLIGHTS

1. The LWML guests were Karen Tiedeman and Marla Musil, who recently returned from Russia and the Baltic nations. They spoke to the extra-ordinary need for the children in the orphanages.
2. Sandi Karl attended the Nebraska South LWML Convention in Kearney. Said took the school supplies we gathered. She also gave us the highlights of the convention.
3. Pastor Williamson has the LWML Sunday service completed for Sunday, October 9.
4. Quilting Day for October will be the 6th from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

THOSE SERVING DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

| DUTY | October 2 | October 9 | October 16 | October 23 | October 30 |
|-----------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Organist | Jayne VanAsperen | Jolene Reetz | Jayne VanAsperen | Jolene Reetz | Jayne VanAsperen |
| Elders | John Reitz | Ken Tesar | Roger Koch | Brent Wohl | Tim McDermott |
| Greeters | Mr. & Mrs. Darren Weber | Mr. & Mrs. Wally Wild | Carol Brinkmeyer & Marilyn Nast | Mr. & Mrs. Roger Brunelle | Mr. & Mrs Terry Dittmer |
| Acolytes | Mara & Skye Hoyer | Aaron Meinke & Madison Persing | Olivia & Hugo Pomajzl | Elliott Reitz & Maggie Wohl | Ashlyn Adam, Col- ton Homolka & Mersadies Kvas- nicka |