

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 9 SEPTEMBER 2020

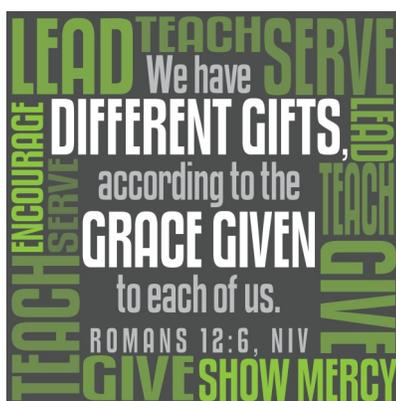
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

like lasagna. All kinds of different things layered together to make a good bite of food. Layers of noodles; and sauce—the more the better, but it can't be too much; meat; ricotta cheese and mozzarella too! One summer when I was a camp counselor the cook made a meatless lasagna for everyone because one staff member was a vegetarian. I think it was made with spinach instead of meat. It was one of the most delicious lasagnas I had ever eaten. I can think of eight main ingredients that go into making lasagna, but there are more depending on the sauce you use and the spices you add. All those different ingredients, in the right measure, and layered out, go into making a wonderful meal.

I think of that right now with the Church: St. John congregation along with our district and our Synod and the whole body of Christ made up of all believers. In our congregation, we have people with many gifts and abilities and all are brought together by God for our blessing. In the whole Church of God, people of all nationalities are brought together through faith in Jesus Christ in God's Church. We might be separated by space or time but we are all one in the Lord.

We are worshiping at different times and even different places: church, home, nursing home, and maybe some have even joined us from other states or from ships or military bases as our worship does go out online. If not ours, then the Lutheran Hour or other church's worship feeds online—by live-stream or recording.

As we worship at St. John in separate worship times and with different measures yet we are one congregation. We are called by God to love one another; to serve each other and work side-by-side with each other. This is all for the purpose of praising God and giving witness of saving faith in Christ. We pray for one another and we encourage one another in our calling as God's people. Each person does their part—as given by God—to contribute to the whole and for the benefit of others.



Romans 12:4–6 (ESV): For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them.

Anyway, I was thinking about lasagna and praying for you, dear brothers and sisters in Christ.

In God's peace, 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 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).



ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN

Orphan Grain Train is rolling into Lincoln, NE. this September at our new location 4817 N. 56th Street Suite #10. We are looking for support in many ways including volunteers, leaders, and donations. During the month of August, we are training volunteers and setting up this facility with a grand opening in September. If you would like more information please contact Grant Schmidt at gschmidt@ogt.org or Bruce Sutherland at bruce@ogt.org or call OGT toll free 877-371-7393. We are excited for this new location and thank you for supporting OGT!

And did you know: 98.2% of all donations go toward OGT's mission, only 1.8% goes toward administrative and marketing costs. Charity Navigator, America's premier independent charity evaluator, ranked OGT #6 out of approximately 9,000 rated charities in the US for relying solely on private contributions. OGT does not accept government grants or federal funding!



September & BAPTISMS

BIRTHDAYS

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| 1 Dave Wagner | 18 Chris Reetz, Marilyn Weidner | 7 Ray Bleich, Shirley Reetz |
| 2 Samantha Wagner | 19 Travis Eggert | 8 Michael Reiss |
| 3 Aubrey Hollman | 20 Josh Wohl | 10 Sheila Church, Aubrey Hollman |
| 4 Vivian Kirkpatrick | 22 Charles Slama | 12 Mara Hoyer, Miriam Weber |
| 6 Natahsa Ellingson | 23 Abbie Reitz | 13 Kelli Jordan, Chauncey Ziemann |
| 8 Janice Reetz, Paisley Williams, Cole Novak | 25 Brady Ellingson | 16 Austin Adams, Diane Gropp |
| 9 Karla Renner | 26 Chris Kirkpatrick, Shane Renner | 17 Karen Bachman |
| 10 Blake Yost | 27 Madison Hefner-Kattau, Brianna Williams | 18 Blake Yost |
| 11 Petra Dewey | 28 Austin Weber | 21 Kelly Reetz |
| 13 Cheyenne DuBray, Bruce Nitzel, Kelly Reetz | 30 August Wendelin | 24 Bruce Nitzel, Abbey Reetz |
| 14 Tonya Clark | BAPTISMS | 25 Bailey Stougard, Conner Slama |
| 15 Genie Dittmer, Tim McDermott, Linda Pomajzl | 2 Hannah Rethmeier, Marianne Tesar | 27 Paisley Williams |
| 16 James Doiel, Wayne Eggert, Taylor Shore | 4 Terry Meinke | 28 Madison Hefner-Kattau |
| | | 30 Natasha Ellingson, Taylor Shore, David Wagner |

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



Sunday school will begin September 13 following the 8:30 a.m. worship service. Approximately from 9:30-10:15 a.m. No opening singing at this time. Class will be held in the Fellowship Hall where social distancing can be maintained and masks will be required except during snack time. We hope to provide a sense of familiarity and comfort to the children (and parents) during a not-so-typical start to the school year. The Board of Education will be alternating teaching each week. If you would like to volunteer to teach or assist a teacher of a Sunday school class please contact a member of the Board of Education. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns. God's Blessings -St. John Board of Education, Cathy Hollman, Kaylie Brethouwer, and Ashley Walker.

Support University Lutheran Chapel – and See Your Gift Doubled

The Lienemann Foundation is the latest to add its support by matching new gifts and pledges to the University Lutheran Chapel in Lincoln up to \$200,000. “We are most grateful for the support that the Lienemann Foundation trustees have placed in us and we encourage anyone who has been touched by the important ministry at University Chapel to give their support,” said the Rev. Richard Snow, Nebraska District president.

The District launched the Building Together, In Christ. For Mission. Capital Campaign in 2017 to support renovation of the District Office in Seward and the University Chapel in Lincoln. Security and accessibility were key issues behind both renovation projects. Both had gone decades without any substantial improvements.

Thanks to the support of 76 district congregations, 605 individuals and 6 foundations, the campaign has reached nearly \$3 million in gifts and pledges. The cost for both renovation projects, which were completed last year, was over \$6.0 million.

To make a donation by check, please note chapel renovation on the memo line and mail your check to:
Nebraska District LCMS
Campaign
PO Box 407
Seward, NE 68434

You can also donate online at <http://www.ndlcms.org/pledge/>, or contact Joyce Bruha at joyceb@ndlcms.org with questions.

LYF NEWS

LYF will be doing road clean up on **Sunday, September 20, following the 10:00 worship service.** We need some adult volunteers to help supervise and with pick up. The more we have, the faster it goes. After road clean up, LYF will meet for lunch and some activities and planning.



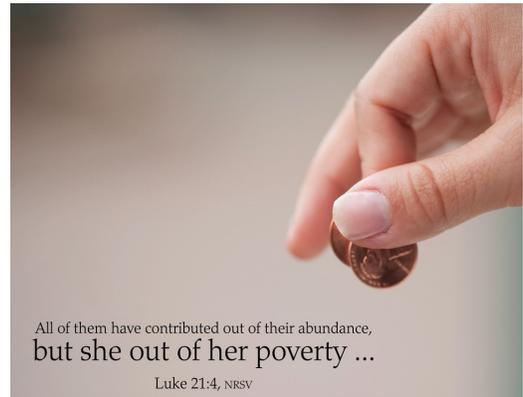
LWML NEWS

MIGHTY MITES MONTH

During the month of September, LWML is encouraging all congregation members to join in mite contributions.

Based on the Biblical account of the widow's mite (Luke 21:1-4), mites are offerings above and beyond the support an individual gives to their congregation.

Mite Box contributions are used to support mission and ministry efforts throughout the world. These Mite Box offerings have funded over 100 million dollars in mission grants since the LWML was organized in 1942. Today we have mite boxes for every family, and special mite boxes for children. We invite and encourage your participation in offering your mites during the month of September. Your mite boxes can be emptied into the large mite box in the narthex and then taken home to fill again.



2021 Convention Call for Nominations

The Nominations Committee for the 2021 Nebraska District Convention is seeking nominations of candidates for the following offices, boards, and committees: Secretary of the District, Constitution Committee, Nominations Committee, Board of Regents (Seward), and Synod Committee for Convention Nominations. The Committee invites nominations from the circuit visitors, ordained ministers, commissioned ministers, lay members, circuit forums, and congregations of the District.

By means of this announcement, the invitation to submit names is herewith extended to all in the Nebraska District LCMS who are interested. Please use the online form, "Recommendation for Nomination," which you can find at our District Convention website. The Committee requests that names be forwarded to the District Office between July 15 and October 11, 2020.

A legacy of faith

National Grandparents Day became an official observance in 1978, thanks largely to the lobbying efforts of Marian McQuade, a West Virginian who had 15 children and 43 grandchildren during 60 years of marriage.

The purpose of National Grandparents Day, celebrated on the first Sunday after Labor Day, is threefold: to honor grandparents, to give grandparents an opportunity to show love for their children's children and to help children become aware of strength, information and guidance older people can offer.

Grandparents — and, in this mobile society, surrogate grandparents — also serve as examples of how to endure challenges with God's help. Elders describe how God remains present, faithful and steadfast throughout the years. As Psalm 145:4 (NIV) says, "One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts."

**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN
CHURCH –LCMS**

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pastortoensing@gmail.com

VACATION!

Pastor Toensing and Shelley will be on vacation September 24 through October 7. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact an Elder—James Walker, Terry Dittmer, Todd Hoyer, Roger Koch, Mitch Homolka, or Dolyn Meinke.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER GROWTH

Schedule at a Glance

Worship Service (Sundays 8:30 am, 10:00 am, 6:00 pm)
Sunday School (beginning September 13 9:30 am to 10:15 am)
Bible Study (September 13 2:00 pm)
Midweek Classes (Grades 6-8 weekly on Wednesday 6:30 pm)
Elder's Meeting (next meeting October 5 at 6:30 pm)
Quilting Group (will meet Sept 8 and Sept 22 9:30 am-2:00 pm)
Lutheran Women in Mission (September 15 7:00 pm)
LYF Roadside Cleanup (September 20 following 10:00 am Worship Service)

FROM THE ELDERS....

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

A Confirmation ceremony is an important rite for many as they start their spiritual journey. And whether you're the parent, a child about to experience Confirmation, a relative, or even someone who has recently decided to confirm their faith— it's important to recognize the significance of the event.

I recognized this significance on August 16th and was extremely proud of our four St. John confirmands.

The verse below seems appropriate for what i witnessed that evening.

"God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good." – Genesis 1:31
God Bless, The Elders

Bible Study

There will be a **Bible Study on September 13 at 2pm**. We will meet in the church, mask required, as we do for church. Bring your own Bible and pen--if you want to take notes. Please feel free to submit any topic suggestions or Bible questions to Pastor. More times will be planned for studies in October.

