

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 9      SEPTEMBER 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

## THE WORLD NEEDS YOU!

Yes, all of you—you who believe and confess in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. The world needs you.

All around us we see the destructive works of darkness and unbelief. Many current issues plague our world, our nation, and our communities. And it seems to be digressing because more and more people are not abiding in the Word of God. Many who claim to be Christian are falling away the foundation of Christ and the Church. Moving away from the Light, moves one toward darkness. When someone distances himself or herself from the Word of God and does not continue to gather together with fellow Christians in worship and study, the further one falls from the Rock that gives a sure foundation for life and faith. Because so many have departed from worship and from hungering after the Word of God and receiving the Lord's Sacraments, they slip further toward darkness and become part of that darkness.

Jesus tells you and me that we are the light that can dispel the darkness—that is, it is the Light of Christ Jesus that shines in and through us.

Matthew 5:14–16: "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

As you receive God's Word in worship, as you confess your sins and receive forgiveness from Christ through His death and resurrection for you, as the Word of God shapes and forms your faith, as you receive the Lord's Sacrament of the Altar, you become His lights to the world. And the world needs you.



The world needs your good character. The world needs your wisdom that is learned from the fear of the Lord (Proverbs 3). The world needs you to be its salt (Matthew 5:13). The world needs your witness of what is true and right and good in God's creative works. Where you work, at home, on the side of the ball field or the court, where you dine, where you shop—wherever you go, you hold in you the light of Christ Jesus that so many in the world need. They need to see and to know your joy in salvation and the peace you have in the forgiveness of your sins in Jesus Christ.

Yes, many will scoff. Many will reject. Many will dismiss. Many will ridicule. And some might even oppose you with violent words and harmful actions. But stand firm in your faith (1 Peter 5:9) for you know the One Who has saved you and Who has eternal life stored up for you. He is your rock and your light. And with His Light, you are a light to the world. Live to shine the light of Christ in you out into the world because that light is what the darkened world needs. The world needs Christ. Christ is the light in you. The world needs you.

God's Blessings to you, 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).

**ADOPT-A-CHAIR**  
 Sunday School needs 12 small chairs for their new classroom, so we are looking to cover the cost with a special "Adopt-a-Chair" plea. If you are willing, please take a tag from the "giving tree" in the narthex and contribute that amount for one chair. Thank you for supporting our children and our youth education.

*Pastor and Board of Education staff.*



### BIRTHDAYS

1 Dave Wagner  
 2 Samantha Wagner  
 3 Aubrey Hollman  
 4 Vivian Kirkpatrick  
 6 Natahsa Ellingson  
 8 Janice Reetz ,  
 Paisley Williams  
 9 Karla Renner  
 10 Blake Yost  
 11 Petra Dewey  
 13 Cheyenne DuBray, Bruce Nitzel, Kelly Reetz  
 14 Tonya Clark  
 15 Genie Dittmer, Linda Pomajzl, Holland Hollman  
 16 James Doiel, Wayne Eggert, Taylor Shore

18 Chris Reetz, Marilyn Weidner  
 19 Travis Eggert  
 20 Josh Wohl  
 22 Charles Slama  
 23 Abbie Feddern  
 25 Brady Ellingson  
 26 Chris Kirkpatrick, Shane Renner  
 27 Madison Hefner-Kattau, Brianna Williams  
 28 Austin Weber

### BAPTISMS

2 Hannah Rethmeier, Marianne Tesar  
 4 Terry Meinke  
 7 Ray Bleich, Shirley Reetz

10 Sheila Church, Aubrey Hollman, Kyler Ladman, Kaydence Shore, Claire Shore, Elliott Shore  
 12 Mara Hoyer, Miriam Weber  
 13 Kelli Jordan, Chauncey Ziemann  
 16 Austin Adams, Diane Gropp  
 17 Karen Bachman  
 18 Blake Yost, Bryan Bell III  
 21 Kelly Reetz  
 24 Bruce Nitzel, Abbey Reetz  
 25 Bailey Stougaard, Conner Slama  
 27 Paisley Williams  
 28 Madison Hefner-Kattau  
 30 Natasha Ellingson, Taylor Shore, David Wagner



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**SEPTEMBER 23**

## LADIES NIGHT OUT

The Ladies Aid is sponsoring **LADIES NIGHT OUT** on Tuesday, September 26 at the Crete VFW Club at 6:00 p.m. Sign-up sheets will be available in the Narthex. Cost will be \$14, paid in advance.



## LADIES AID MINUTES

St. John Ladies Aid met on August 30, 2023, with Donna Brunelle as hostess. Pastor Toensing led us in prayer, hymn #560 "Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast Blessed" and then a Bible study entitled "Your Sins Have Been Forgiven" from Luke 7:48.

Roll call was taken with 11 members present. The minutes of the July 2023 meeting were read and approved. The treasurer's report was given.

The set up of tables for funerals will be coordinated by Gary Meinke and Dolyn Meinke along with the elders if needed.

The ice cream sundaes served at VBS went well. It was very much appreciated.

There was discussion on where to have the Ladies Night Out in September. A motion was made that Ladies Aid will sponsor Ladies Night Out on September 26 at the VFW at 6 pm. The cost will be \$14 per person, paid in advance, and if the cost is more than that, the Ladies Aid treasury will pay above the \$14 for each participant. Seconded and passed.

LWML would like to hand out cards with a Christian message to all nursing home residents at Tabitha and Garden Square. LWML members will work on these cards at their September meeting and if there are any that did not get completed, Ladies Aid members will finish them up. Carol Brinkmeyer will drop these cards off at the nursing homes and the employees will hand them out to each resident.

The 150th anniversary committee may ask Ladies Aid to help out in some way for the anniversary celebration. There will be more details in the coming months.

August birthdays were celebrated by Shirley Reetz and Marianne Tesar. We sang the birthday song to Marianne.

The hostess for September will be Bonnie Bleich.

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

Deb Walker, Secretary



## RALLY DAY SUNDAY

Rally Day is the day we kick off fall Sunday School. It is coming up on **September 10th**. We thank the Elders for assisting in all things worship and with overseeing the tables.

**Outdoor Worship Service** (*weather permitting*) at 9:00 am—**-please bring your lawn chair or blanket to sit on for the outdoor service.**

**Sunday School, LYF and adult fellowship time** will follow at 10:15 am.

**Potluck Picnic** at 11:00 am—There will be brats and hot dogs provided. The rest of our meal will be a potluck. We thank you in advance for bringing food to share.

**Fun, games and fellowship** 11:30 am. **There will be a cake walk...please bring the goodies for that!**

The Board of Education and the Elders would be happy to receive volunteers to assist them as well. Thank you.

God grant us good weather that day so that we might have a wonderful outdoor day of worship and fellowship.



## MAIN STREET LIVING updates for September, 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](http://www.mainstreetliving.com/lincoln) to view current and past episodes

September 3, 2023

10:30am - “Main Street Living” - Rev. Timothy Gall, Bethlehem Lutheran—Pleasant Dale, NE

September 10, 2023

10:30am - “Main Street Living” - Rev. Gideon Pullmann, pastor at Zion Lutheran & Immanuel Lutheran Churches in Tobias and Daykin, NE

September 17, 2023

10:30am - “Main Street Living” - Rev. Tyler Hauptmeier, St. Paul Lutheran—Doniphan, NE

September 24, 2023

10:30am - “Main Street Living” - Rev. John Schmidt, Good Shepherd Lutheran—Lincoln, NE

## ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH –LCMS

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### 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—7:45 p.m.
150th Anniversary Committee (Sept 5)	6:30 p.m.
Elder's Meeting (Sept 11)	7:00 p.m.
Quilting Group (Sept 12 & 26)	9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Lutheran Women in Mission (Sept 19)	10:00 a.m.
Ladies Aid Meeting (Sept 27)	2:00 p.m.

### FROM THE ELDER'S

Dear friends in Christ,

We've just enjoyed our Friendship Sunday and what a great day of inviting friends to worship with us. As our summer turns to fall, let's make it a "friendly" fall.

Kids - invite someone new to sit with you at lunch or to play with you at recess. A new friend! All of us - visit with your neighbors, talk with someone as you wait in line, continue inviting friends to church.

As we make new friends and continue current friendships, remember who our best friend is - now and forever - Jesus. What a friend we have in Jesus!

Happy fall! The Elders

### THOSE SERVING DURING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

DUTY	September 3	September 10	September 17	September 24
<b>Organist/Pianist</b>	Jayne VanAsperen	<b>RALLY SUNDAY</b>	Jayne VanAsperen	Ellen Miller
<b>Elders</b>	John Reitz	Phil Hughes	Troy Henning	Todd Hoyer
<b>Greeters</b>	Larry & Linda Pomajzl	Dean & Patricia Prochnow	Kelly & Kristi Reetz	Terry & Julie Reetz
<b>Acolytes</b>	Paisley Williams		Easton Brethouwer	



We are starting to plan for the 150th anniversary church directory. We are planning on starting in September to pick a the company that we will contract to take the pictures and publish the directory. If you want to start at the beginning and help with it all or if you are willing to help with any part please let me know. Thank you, Glen Louch

**150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SUGGESTION BOX...** As we now work forward to our year of celebration of our 150th year we ask for suggestions. In the narthex is a suggestion box. We are asking for the following: 1) Please submit names for a guest speaker, 2) Our theme is "**The Lord's Faithfulness continues through all generations**". We encourage your ideas on how to celebrate **each** of the generations, and 3) Ideas for displays, food, etc. are also welcome. The suggestion box will be in the narthex through Sunday, Sept 3. Thank you for your participation.



**150th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE...** The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, Sept. 5, at 6:30 p.m.** in the conference room. Our goal is to start the plans for the 2024 events. See you there, Carol Brinkmeyer

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

Lincoln Right to Life

Help Save Lives in Lincoln

Learn more, get involved, and sign up to pray

[40daysforlife.com/Lincoln](http://40daysforlife.com/Lincoln)