

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, CORDOVA, NEBRASKA

July, 2026 Newsletter

Rev. Shawn Kitzing
Interim Pastor



“Serving Christ in
our Communities,
Nation and World”



Join us for Worship
Services Sundays at
9:00 a.m. or on
Facebook.

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A Note From the Elders

As we celebrate the 250th anniversary of our nation this month, we give thanks to God for all the liberties we enjoy and for the generations who have lived before us. The founders of our country sought to secure freedoms that allow us to gather, worship, serve our neighbor, and to speak God's truth in love. These freedoms are not ends in themselves, but gifts entrusted to us.



Martin Luther wrote:

"I will, therefore, give myself as a Christ to my neighbor, just as Christ offered Himself to me."

Our blessings that we have been given in our country call us to responsibility. We should help and care for widows and the orphans, pray for those in authority, and love our neighbor as ourselves.

Mark 12:28-31

One of the teachers of religious law was standing there listening to Jesus debate. He realized Jesus had answered well, so he asked, "Of all the commandments which is the most important?"

Jesus replied,

"The most important commandment is this: Listen, O Israel! The Lord your God is the one and only Lord. And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all of your strength. The second is equally important: Love your neighbor as yourself. No other commandment is greater than these."

On this milestone anniversary, may we remember that our ultimate allegiance is to Christ. Let us commemorate America's 250th year not only with gratitude for the past, but also with a renewed commitment to be faithful and to work diligently to help out in our own communities of Cordova, Crete, Exeter, Friend, Seward, and Wilber (wherever we live, work, or attend school) and to show Christ's love to all people.

From The Elders

Hymn Sing Sunday July 5th

Hymn Sing Sunday is every first Sunday of the month. Come early at 8:50 a.m. and pick out your favorite hymn and sing with us!

Church Council Meeting

There will be a Church Council meeting on Wednesday, July 15th at 7:00 p.m.

All members of the Church Council should attend.

Those members include: the President, Treasurer, Circuit Forum Representative, Pastor, and all members from each elected Board (Elders, Trustees, Finance and Education.)



Potluck & Quarterly Voters' Meeting

We will have our July voters' meeting on Sunday, July 19th. There will be a potluck lunch after Sunday School, and the voters' meeting will follow lunch. Everyone is welcome.

All members over the age of 18 are encouraged to attend the voters' meeting.

St. John's Vacation Bible School July 27-31, 2026 from 5:00-8:00 p.m.



Join us for a **Tropical Trek** where we will learn how Jesus came to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10)! As we traverse fun and exciting places, like a dormant volcano and island caves, we'll discover how God finds us and helps us in every challenge we face.

Register Now for "Tropical Trek" VBS!

You can sign up your child or children in two ways:



Online: Register at vbsmate.com/stjohnslutherancordova

In-Person: Pick up a paper registration form on the table by the west door.

Vacation Bible School Food Lists

Food donations are needed for Vacation Bible School July 27-31st. The food donation sign-up sheets are on the table in the fellowship hall. Thank you for your generous support. — Norm Lutz

VBS Upcoming Events

- **VBS Volunteer Meeting:** Tuesday, July 21st at 7:00 p.m.
- **Commissioning of VBS Volunteers:** Sunday, July 26th during the morning worship service.
- **Decorating & Volunteer Lunch:** Sunday, July 26th. Join us for decorating following Sunday School and Bible Class. A light meal will be provided for all volunteers! Many hands make light work.
- **VBS Closing Program:** Friday, July 31st at 7:45 p.m.

Questions? See Norm for details!

Lifting Up Our Children: VBS Prayer Requests

Vacation Bible School is just around the corner, and we need your prayers! This year, we want to surround every child and volunteer in prayer. Please pray for open hearts, meaningful friendships, and safety for everyone involved. Thank you for investing in our next generation!

VBS Mission Project

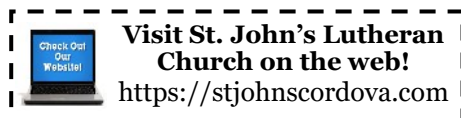
We are also looking for ideas for our Mission Project for VBS. If you have any ideas, talk to a Board of Education member or Norm.

Ice Cream Truck

Cool treats are coming back to St. John's!



We are thrilled to host the ice cream truck during VBS on **July 29th from 6:00-8:30 p.m.** This community-wide event is open to everyone, so bring your friends and neighbors for a fun summer evening!



July Birthdays and Baptism Birthdays

July Birthdays		July Birthdays Continued		July Baptism Birthdays Continued	
Tammy Klenke	July 4	Laura Pulliam	July 27	Quinn Pulliam	July 17
Mike Theis	July 5	Sicily Stoll	July 27	Levi Jurgensen	July 18
Brian Zastrow	July 6	Olivea Swanson	July 29	Cammie Harrison	July 20
Darci McCarter	July 7	Allison Petersen	July 30	Jyllean Beck	July 21
Ivy Casper	July 8	Myretta Whittington	July 31	Jeana Rogers	July 21
Brenda Kranz	July 8			Blake Woodburn	July 22
Derek Anderson	July 22	July Baptisms Birthdays		Madison Theis	July 24
Meghan Hester	July 22	David Hester	July 2	Mitchel Hulse	July 26
Misty Casper	July 25	Crystal Moore	July 5	Steve Vyhnaelek	July 27
Lynn Jurgensen	July 27	April Henke	July 8	Patricia Schwisow	July 29
Kendra Oldehoeft	July 27	Kathleen Zumpfe	July 9	Brian Zastrow	July 29

PLEASE NOTE: If we have missed someone's name and birthdate, or if we missed listing your baptism birthday, please accept our sincere apologies and let the church office know. Thank You!

Serving in God's House

July Acolytes

Kyler Oldehoeft	July 5th
Charlotte Speer	July 12th
Devin Anderson	July 19th
Jorge Hernandez	July 26th

July Lectors

Norm Lutz	July 5th
Brady Pulliam	July 12th
John Chase	July 19th & 26th

July Ushers

July 5th & 12th — Emmett Beckler, Scott Hulse, and Steve Vavra
July 19th & 26th— Norman & Jaxson Brandt and Joel Gifford

Communion Assistants:

July 5	Norm Lutz & Drew Woodburn
July 19	Bruce Rogers & Drew Woodburn

Men's Bible Study Saturday, July 11th, 7:30 a.m.

The Men's Bible Study group will continue meeting on Saturday, July 11th, due to the first Saturday in July being Independence Day. The meeting will begin at 7:30 a.m. The guys have previously concluded a journey through Paul's letter to the Philippians and will now focus attention on a monthly 'Searching Scripture' discussion assisted by recent "Following the Formula" outlined in the Lutheran Witness. This is a great opportunity to open, research, and share our Lutheran Confessions supported by God's Word. Contact any Elder for further information.

July Elders Meeting

The July Elders meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 2nd at 6:00 p.m.

Our Shut Ins

Please remember our shut-in members with visits, "thinking of you" cards and prayers:

Charles & Lavonne Evans
Heritage Crossings
1320 J Street
Geneva, NE 68361

Joyce Schmidt
2830 S 51st Street Ct.,
Unit 3
Lincoln, NE 68506

Carol Sternberg
Hillcrest Shadow Lake
1507 East Gold Coast Road
Papillion, NE 68046

Jane Lutz
Legacy Square
1621 Front St.
Henderson, NE 68371

Pat Schwisow
The Gardens
1405 Hickory Ave. Unit 32
Crete, NE 68333

Lutheran Hour Radio Sermons for July

July 5, 2026
"Bloom Where You're Planted" with Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. Blessing, in a Biblical sense, means God's favor in any circumstance, no exceptions, because there is no place or circumstance in which God does not belong. Genesis 39:21

July 12, 2026
"Knight, Death, and the Devil" with Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. Jesus has triumphed over all the powers of death and hell and He has pledged Himself to be your protector and the armor that you wear. Ephesians 6:12

July 19, 2026
"From Groans to Glory" with Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Glenn Nielsen. A day will come when the grief will end, the groans will be silenced. Jesus will return and the dead in Christ will arise with bodies glorified. Romans 8:21-27

July 26, 2026
"Worth the Wait" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. The certainty that Jesus offers is not theoretical or experimental. It's the certainty of a promise, of a secure relationship. Matthew 13:44

Camp Luther Summer Camps **INCREDIBLE FUN!**

Whatever age you are, and whatever camp session you choose, there is so much fun to be had! Come shoot archery, go canoeing or kayaking, take a swim, play one of our epic night games, munch on some s'mores, go on a night hike, and most importantly, grow in your faith with Bible Studies and campfire devotions!

And our specialty sessions include even more awesome activities. The cost of camp includes all of the above, plus meals and snacks for the week, as well as lodging, materials, and a Camp Luther T-shirt!

For more information, go to <https://www.camluther.org/summer>

Midweek Bible Study Opportunity

There have begun surface conversations on the launching of a mixed-group Midweek Bible Study with days/times yet shaped. If you are of interest in beginning this opportunity, please contact either Tim McDermott or Margaret Witte with suggested input.

Portals Of Prayer Collection

We are collecting copies of Portals of Prayer to share with those who would benefit from this daily devotion. If you have new or gently used copies you no longer need, please bring them to the church. Your generosity will help spread God's message to many.

Lydia LWML

Lydia LWML met on June 1 with seven members present. Grace shared the devotion and prayer.

The treasurer's report was given. Members were reminded to keep Dorcas and Confirmation Prayer Pals in their prayers, and many ladies have also adopted a young mother-to-be as an additional prayer pal.

Plans continue for the Ice Cream Social on June 14, with setup scheduled for June 13. Volunteers and food donations are still welcome. Work is also ongoing to explore framing and storage options for the Chrismos.

Parsonage cleaning and Concordia Bible Study meals remain on hold. After discussion, plans for a Mother/Daughter event and a Ministry to Families event were postponed until 2027.

Looking ahead, the Fifth Sunday Potluck on August 30 will include card games organized by Kendra. The South District Convention will be held September 18-19 in Kearney, and delegates and alternates are still being sought. Due to cost considerations, the Camp Luther Adopt-a-Staff program will not be pursued this year.

Upcoming events include the Ice Cream Social on June 14, the Fifth Sunday Potluck on August 30, the South District Convention on September 18-19, the Camp Luther Women's Retreat on November 6-8, and the Cookie Walk on December 13.

The next meeting will be Monday, July 6, at 6:00 p.m.

Small Group Study: Our Next Book

Our next small group study will be diving into Lee Strobel's *The Case for Christ*. We will be investigating the historical and logical evidence for Jesus. We would love for you to join us as we read and discuss this fascinating journey together!

Please join us Wednesday, July 8th at 1:30 p.m. for this Small Group Study in the Fellowship Hall.

We would love to have you join us for this book!

Dorcas LWML

The Dorcas LWML met with eight members present. Wilma gave the devotions on "Following God's Lead."

Pastor Kitzing led us in prayer and the Bible Study on Genesis 6. We recited the LWML Pledge.

Minutes were read, treasurer's report given, and Jayne reported on cards sent. A thank you note from Crosby was read.

We discussed Hygiene Kits for the OGT and the school supply kits we will be collecting in July-August.

We closed with prayers. Lunch was served by Wilma.

Backpacks and School Supplies for the Orphan Gerain Train



During the months of July and August, the Dorcas LWML will be collecting school supplies for the OGT.

Items Needed:

- 1 backpack
- 1 ruler
- 2 spiral notebooks
- 2 pencils
- 10 sheets construction paper
- 1 eraser
- 1 package crayons (24 count)
- 1 scissors
- 1 pencil sharpener
- 2 glue sticks
- 1 package-colored pencils (12 count)
- 2 pens
- 1 single pocket folder (put paper inside)

You may donate any items needed - you do not need to make a complete backpack. If you would prefer to donate cash, there is a container for that.

Please note:
NO additions, deletions, or substitutions.

DO NOT add money, photos, or personal notes.

DO NOT include items with religious, camouflage, patriotic or military symbols.

DO NOT include plastic bags.

Sat

			1 Dorcas LWML 2:00 p.m.	2 Elders Meeting 6:00 p.m.	3	4 
5 <i>Communion</i> Hymn Sing 8:50 Church 9:00 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Class 10:30 a.m.	6 Lydia LWML 6:00 p.m.	7	8 Small Group Study 1:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall	9	10	11 Men's Bible Study 7:30 a.m.
12 Church 9:00 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Class 10:30 Trustees meeting	13	14	15 Church Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.	16	17	18
19 <i>Communion</i> Church 9:00 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Class 10:30 a.m. Potluck Dinner and Quarterly Voters' Meeting after lunch	20	21 All Vacation Bible School Volunteer Meeting 7:00 p.m.	22	23	24	25
26 Church 9:00 a.m. Commissioning of VBS Volunteers during church Sunday School & Bible Class 10:30 VBS lunch & deco- rating after Sunday School	27	28	29 Ice Cream Truck at VBS 6:00-8:30 pm	30	31 VBS Closing Service 7:45 p.m.	
V A C A T I O N B I B L E S C H O O L 5:00—8:00 P.M.						

St. John's Lutheran Church, Cordova, Nebraska

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St. John's Lutheran Church, Cordova, Nebraska

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Cordova, Nebraska 68330
Phone: (402) 576-3211

Our Website:

<https://stjohnscordova.com>

St. John's Worship Service Time

9:00 a.m. Church Worship
Service

10:30 a.m. Sunday School
and Adult Bible Class



Visit our facebook page.



Address Service Requested

A Prayer for July 4

Almighty and ever-living God, we humbly praise you for the nation in which you have allowed us to live. We cherish its wonder and its beauty. We are thankful for its fruitful lands, its bountiful waters, its great resources and its unlimited opportunities.

We thank you for our founding fathers and mothers, and for their foresight, special wisdom, and steadfast courage in establishing freedom and a lasting document of fairness.

Stir up within each of us the will to be good stewards of all the blessings of the land we love. Amen.

