St. John's Lutheran Church, Cordova, Nebraska

November 2026 Newsletter

Pastor Shawn Kitzing
Interim Pastor



"Serving Christ in Our Communities, Nation and the World"

Welcome

Join Us for Worship Services Sunday at 9:00 a.m. or on Facebook

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From the Elders:

Thankfulness in All Circumstances



November. We all know what this month brings - Thanksgiving! A time for our nation to pause and give thanks to God, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, for His many blessings: family, friends, good health, employment, food, shelter, and the freedom of democracy, including its opportunity to elect leaders that represent us in fruitful service to each other as good neighbors. These and countless other everyday gifts are blessings we often take for granted. Yet, as Lutherans, we recognize that even these wonderful gifts barely begin to impart the immeasurable depth of God's mercy, grace, and forgiveness.

We also know that earthly life also brings circumstances for which giving thanks is not so easy: health concerns, financial struggles, broken relationships, disappointments, overwhelming responsibilities, and uncertainty about the future. Even the lengthening process of our calling a new pastor may test our patience. Should we give thanks during these difficult times, too?

The Apostle Paul writes in **1 Thessalonians 5:16–18**, *"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you"* (ESV).

Worthy of note, Paul calls us to give thanks in all circumstances, not necessarily for all circumstances. We wouldn't consider illness, grief, or hardship blessings in themselves, nor pretend that our troubles do not hurt. Rather, we are called to trust our Lord who holds us in His hands and maintains His promises through both joy and sorrow. He is present not only when life is going well, but also during sleepless nights, family disagreements, financial worries, and uncertain days. Our circumstances may change, but His faithfulness does not.

Romans 8:28 reminds us that "*for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose*" (ESV). This does not mean everything that happens is good. It means that nothing is beyond God's ability to work for our good and His purposes. Through difficult experiences, He can teach us patience, deepen our compassion, and lead us to depend more fully on His grace.

In reading scripture, we are reminded that people of faith have always faced hardship. Job suffered devastating losses, Joseph was betrayed by his brothers, and the disciples experienced fear and uncertainty. Their stories teach us that faith does not mean a life without trouble; it means we do not face our troubles alone.

Above all and in all, we look to Jesus. At the cross, what appeared to be a defeat became the means of our salvation. The suffering of Good Friday gave way to the joy of Easter morning. **(Continued on the bottom of Page 2)**

Hymn Sing Sunday November 1

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!

Elders Meeting

The next scheduled meeting for the Board of Elder's will be Thursday, November 5, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Men's Bible Study

Saturday, November 7th at 7:30 a.m.

The Men's Group Bible Study is scheduled to meet again on Saturday morning, November 7th at 7:30 a.m. The guys will continue devoting its attention to St. Paul's letter to the Galatians. This is a great opportunity to open, research, and share God's Word to be encouraged and strengthened by His promises. Contact any of the Elders for additional information.

Small Group Study

Wednesday, November 11th at 1:30 p.m.

Join Us for Small Group Study. We are continuing our study of Lee Strobel's book, *The Case for Christ*.

We meet on Wednesday, November 11th at 1:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please read Chapters 7 and 8 as we will be discussing these at the meeting.

Visit our website:
https://stjohnscordova.com

Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service



There is planned a Wednesday, November 25th Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Join us this evening for a time of thankful reflection on what the Lord continues to offer as blessings for our lives today, and much, much more for the life to come.

Thanksgiving Eve Youth Soup Supper, Bake Sale & Craft Fundraiser

On Wednesday, November 25th at 5:30 p.m., the Youth Group will host a Soup Supper, Bake Sale and Craft Fundraiser prior to our Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service.

No Confirmation Classes

on Wednesday, November 25th.

Youth to Decorate Church for Christmas

The Youth will decorate the church for the Christmas season Sunday, November 29th after the fifth Sunday potluck.

Children's Christmas Practices

Our Children's Christmas Program will be Sunday, December 20th at our 9:00 a.m. service. Children are practicing songs and reading lines during Sunday School opening.

Honoring Faithful Service

On Veterans Day, we give thanks for the men and women who have served our country with courage, sacrifice, and devotion. As Christians, we honor their service, pray for veterans, active-duty military members, and their families, and remember that God is our refuge and strength. May we honor their sacrifices with grateful hearts and a renewed commitment to serve others with love and humility.

Note From the Elders
"Be Thankfulness in All Circumstances"

(Continued from the first page)

Through Christ, we have the assurance that God can bring hope from despair, life from death, and forgiveness from our own involvement in this earthly disarray.

So, when we gather around with family this Thanksgiving, let's rejoice in God's many blessings while remembering those who grieve, face illness, struggle financially, or quietly endure burdens others may not see. May we offer them not only our prayers, but also compassion, encouragement, and loving support.

Our thanksgiving does not depend on everything going right, but on the goodness and faithfulness of our Lord, who remains with us through every season of life. The greatest blessing is not a life free from trouble, but the assurance that, through Christ, we belong to a loving and faithful Savior to receive the grace of God which sustains us.

As the familiar hymn reminds us, "*Now thank we all our God, with hearts and hands and voices*" (LSB #895), may our hearts, hands, and voices express gratitude in every season of life.

Happy "year-around" Thanksgiving! May our Lord God and Savior bless you with grateful hearts and steadfast trust in Him—in good times and in difficult times alike. - The Elders

November Birthdays and Baptism Birthdays

November Birthdays

Steve Vavra	November 2
Tressa Beckler	November 5
Linda Woolsey	November 6
Lisa Krasser	November 8
Rachel Vossler	November 9
Cody Zumpfe	November 11
Tyler Brandt	November 12
Sarah Vyhnalek	November 13
Deb Chase	November 14
Diane Henke	November 14
Tedd Mayer	November 17
Ryan Sharp	November 19
Lavonne Evans	November 20
Beth Hoffman	November 21
Kylie Miller	November 24
Ella Vyhnalek	November 24
Crystal Hankel	November 25

November Birthdays Continued

Tyler Wullenwaber	November 25
Carson Stokebrand	November 26
Brandon Eastin	November 27
Tommy Brandt	November 28
Felice Woodburn	November 28
Owen Vyhnalek	November 30

November Baptism Birthdays

Marilyn Hayek	November 1
Courtney Ryan	November 1
Victoria Woodburn	November 1
Cindy Brandt	November 9
Emmett Beckler	November 10
Rick Schwisow	November 12

November Baptism Birthdays Continued

Tim McDermott	November 20
Sarah Bartolo Mateo	November 24
Jo Hawley	November 25
Tedd Mayer	November 25
Betty Zelenka	November 25
Mason Vyhnalek	November 27
Myles Vyhnalek	November 27
Dave Jurgensen	November 28
Rachel Vossler	November 28
Linda Woolsey	November 30

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

Serving in God's House in November

November Acolytes

Dylan Anderson	November 1
Devin Anderson	November 8
Jorge Hernandez	November 15
Teddy Weber	November 22
Reed Pulliam	November 29

November Lectors

Thad Weber	November 1
Chris Effken	November 8
Joel Gifford	November 15
Owen Vyhnalek	November 22
Drew Woodburn	November 29

November Ushers

Thad, Gehrig, & Teddy Weber	November 1
Wayne, Trenton, & Joel Vossler	November 8 & 15
Steve, Owen, Mason & Myles Vyhnelek	November 22 & 29

Communion Assistants

Tim McDermott & Brian Brahmstedt	November 1
Norm Lutz & Brian Brahmstedt	November 15
Bruce Rogers & Brian Brahmstedt	November 29

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

Jane Lutz
Legacy Square
1621 Front Street
Henderson, NE 68371

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

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

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

Lutheran Hour Radio Programs

November 1, 2026
"What We Will Be"
Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
What we will be has not yet appeared. But even now, we are God's adopted children, through faith in Christ. 1 John 3:2

November 8, 2026
"The Survivor Tree"
Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
Trees play a prominent role in the Bible. Hear how the tree of Christ's cross leads us back to the Tree of Life. Luke 13:6

November 15, 2026
"Fruitful Trees"
Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Glenn Nielsen. The tree of Christ's cross bore life-giving fruit. Genesis 1:11-12; 1 Peter 2:24

November 22, 2026
(No Information for this date as of now)

November 29, 2026
"Advent Hopes and Dreams" with Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Chad Lakies. The season of Advent is a time for hopes and dreams, but it is also about living through an ongoing letdown. Matthew 24:36-44

The Lutheran Hour can be heard every Sunday on:

- Omaha KFAB 1110 FM at 6:30 a.m.
- York-KAWL 1370 AM at 7:30 a.m.
- York-KAWL 103.5 FM at 7:30 a.m.
- Lincoln KLCV 88.5 FM at 8:00 a.m.

Advent Is Almost Here: Prepare Your Heart

The season of Advent begins November 29! Join us each week in worship throughout November and December as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ, celebrating the hope, peace, joy, and love of the season.

Delivery Of Lutheran Witness

Beginning November 1st, we will no longer receive issues of the Lutheran Witness at our homes. Instead, we will receive a bulk shipment of each of these at church, which will be placed on the table in the Fellowship Hall. Members may pick them up from there.

This is in an effort to cut down on shipping costs and to determine how many are actually needed and being read.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Collection For the York Hope Rescue Mission

We are having the collection of coats, sweatshirts, caps and mittens/gloves for men, women and children in December as part of our Christmas project this year. They may be new or slightly used.

Please place them in the containers under the tables on the east side of the fellowship hall.

Dorcas LWML

The Dorcas LWML met on October 6 with seven members present. Janet gave the opening devotion, and Jeana led us in prayer. We studied the Bible study from the Quarterly "Humble Service." We recited the LWML Pledge.

Minutes were read and approved. The treasurer's report was read. We received $100 for helping serve the Larry Krasser funeral. There are two new confirmands, and Margaret and Jeana will become their Prayer Pals.

We discussed the clothing drive for the Orphan Grain Train in November.

We decided to collect coats, sweatshirts, caps and mittens/gloves for men, women and children for the York HOPE Rescue Mission in December.

We closed with prayers. Lunch was served by Janet.

November Clothing Drive for the Orphan Grain Train

We will be collecting used clothing for the OGT during November. They can use clothing for men, women and children.

Please make sure what you donate is clean and in good condition.

Place items in the last classroom on the right (east) and label "for the OGT".

Finding God in the Quiet Season

As November arrives, the world around us begins to grow quieter. The colorful leaves have fallen, the days grow shorter, and nature settles into a season of rest. We, too, may find ourselves entering a quieter time of year, with more opportunities to pause, reflect, and listen for God's voice amid the busyness of everyday life.

In Psalm 46:10, we are reminded, "Be still, and know that I am God." These words invite us to slow down and remember that God is with us in every season. Even when life feels uncertain or our days seem ordinary, His presence remains constant. As we move through November, may we take time to notice the blessings of quiet moments, offer a word of encouragement to someone who needs it, and rest in the assurance that God's love never changes. The seasons may come and go, but His faithfulness endures forever.

Lydia LWML Minutes

Lydia LWML met on October 5 for devotions, prayer, and fellowship.

The September minutes were approved with noted corrections.

The Concordia Bible Study meal was a success, serving approximately 105 students and adults. Leftover meat and cookies will be saved for future meals and member outreach. Christmas card sales continue through October 25.

Members were reminded to keep Dorcas, Young Mothers, and Confirmation Prayer Pals in their prayers. Plans were also discussed to reach out to members who have been absent, offering visits and fellowship. Chrismon assembly supplies are ready, and the group discussed upcoming Advent meals and ways to recognize the men who serve our church.

The Bible Walk is scheduled for October 25, and the York Zone Fall Rally will be held October 11 at Emmanuel Church in York, Nebraska.

Upcoming events include the Camp Luther Women's Retreat November 6–8 and the Cookie Walk on December 13.

The next Lydia LWML meeting will be November 2 at 6:00 p.m.

"The Well" Monthly Bible Study

Wednesday, November 18, 2026, at 1:30 p.m.

All are invited to take join around The Well for Bible Study to be held each 3rd Wednesday of the month at 1:30 p.m. here at the church. If you are of interest and would like additional information, please contact Tim McDermott or Margaret Witte for questions about the group. There is plenty of room at The Well as this group currently takes nourishment in the words of St. Paul found in his letter to the Philippians.

Bulletin Deadlines: Thursday at 10:00 a.m.

Newsletter Deadline
for the December newsletter: November 16th

November 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 *Communion* Hymn Sing 8:50 Church 9:00 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Class 10:30 a.m.	2 Lydia LWML 6:00 p.m.	3	4 Dorcas LWML 2:00 p.m. Confirmation 4:00-5:45 p.m.	5 Elders Meeting 6:00 p.m.	6	7 Men's Bible Study 7:30 a.m. Spencer Gibson & Kaley Steager Wedding
8 Church 9:00 am Sunday School and Bible Class 10:30 a.m. Trustees meeting	9	10	11 Small Group Study 1:30 p.m. Confirmation 4:00-5:45 p.m.	12	13	14
15 *Communion* Church 9:00 am Sunday School and Bible Class 10:30 a.m.	16 *Newsletter deadline*	17	18 The Well Monthly Bible Study 1:30 p.m. Confirmation 4:00-5:45 p.m.	19	20	21
22 Church 9:00 am Sunday School and Bible Class 10:30 a.m.	23	24	25 No Confirmation Thanksgiving Eve Service 6:30 p.m.	26 *Thanksgiving Day*	27	28
29 *Communion* Church 9:00 am Sunday School and Bible Class 10:30 a.m. Youth Group decorate the Christmas tree 5th Sunday Potluck	30					

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Our Website:
https://stjohnscordova.com

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Have We Forgotten God?

We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven; we have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity; we have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation has grown.

But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own.

Intoxicated with unbroken success we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us.

It has seemed to me fit and proper that God should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged, as with one heart and one voice, by the whole of the American people. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November as a day of Thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens.

— Abraham Lincoln, 1863 proclamations of a National Day of Fasting and a National Day of Thanksgiving

