

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church

Palmer, Kansas 66962

Rev. John Werner, Pastor

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Mrs. Sheila Stuenkel, Organist

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Member - Linn Lutheran School Association

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Phone: (785) 348-5792

Principal & Teacher: Mrs. Kelsey Hatesohl; Teachers: Mrs. Laura Stunkel, Mrs. Laurel Wurtz, Mrs. Renae Bott, & Mrs. Amy Duever

February 1, 2026

Septuagesima

Welcome to St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church. If you are a guest or visitor with us today, we welcome you and invite you to come and worship with us again. Please take the time to introduce yourself to Pastor Werner, and we hope to see you again soon.

Remember that the Worship Service begins when you enter. As the Music for Meditation begins, you are invited to join in quiet, preparation time for worship. Before the service, speak to the Lord; during the service, let the Lord speak to you; after the service, speak to one another.

Liturgy - Divine Service Setting Four (pg. 203)

Opening Hymn: 869 "With the Lord Begin Your Task"

Hymn of the Day: 555 "Salvation unto Us Has Come"
(vv. 2 & 6 - Men; vv. 3 & 7 - Women)

Distribution Hymn: 617 "O Lord, We Praise Thee"

Distribution Hymn: 618 "I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table"

Distribution Hymn: 744 "Amazing Grace"

Distribution Hymn: 566 "By Grace I'm Saved"

Closing Hymn: 693 "O Holy Spirit, Grant Us Grace"

Prayer Requests

Please text or call Pastor Werner at (612) 716-4753 to submit prayer requests.

Prayer requests will remain for 2 weeks unless you specify a length of time.

Angie Reinert, Loren Bott, JoAnn Ohlde, & Gladys Stone (nursing home);

Annette Bott (cancer); **John Bott** (mission trip to Nicaragua)

Acolyte today - Avery Ohlde

Acolyte Feb. 8 - Briette Bott

Ushers today - *Evan Bott, Daniel Nabors, Kingston Voelker, & Liam Voelker

Ushers Feb. 8 - *Noah Thalmann, Cash Stunkel, Greysen Ohlde, & Samuel Bott

Fellowship Hour LYF serving today - Zac & Sophia Hiltgen

Fellowship Hour LYF serving Feb. 8 & Feb. 15 - Noah Thalmann & Lucious Petesch

- LCMS memory verse challenge: **2 Timothy 2:13** - "If we are faithless, He remains faithful — for He cannot deny Himself"

Upcoming Events

Feb. 1 9:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
10:45 a.m. Adult Bible Class & Children's Sunday School

Feb. 4 5:30 p.m. Midweek/Confirmation

Feb. 8 8:30 a.m. Men's Chorus Rehearsal (new members welcome!)
9:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion

10:45 a.m. Adult Bible Class; NO Children's Sunday School

Feb. 11 5:30 p.m. Midweek/Confirmation
7:00 p.m. Men's Club Meeting

Announcements

- This morning we celebrate the infant baptism of Devyn Kate Hynek, daughter of Tyson and Kaitlin Hynek, born on January 16th. Her sponsors are Tyler and Lesly Ohlde.
- Bethlehem Lutheran Church Bremen will be having their annual Pancake Supper **today**. Serving from 4:30pm - 8:00pm. Freewill Donation.
- **Linn Lutheran School News:**
 - **Sun., Feb. 8** - 1st-8th grade Linn Lutheran students will sing at Zion. Please have your children to Zion basement at 9:15am to warm-up. Children will sing and then join parents for the church service.
 - **Sun., Feb. 15** - PTL SKATING PARTY!!! at Rolla-Rena Skate Center (1133 S. 6th St. Beatrice, NE); \$6.00 per skater 5:30-7:30pm; concession stand available to purchase items. All are welcome to join Linn Lutheran School for this annual night of fun!!!
 - **Monday, Feb. 16** - NO SCHOOL; **Thursday, Feb. 26** - 11:30am dismissal-no lunch served; **Friday, Feb. 27** - NO SCHOOL - Just Linn Lutheran; Linn Public in session
- **Linn Lutheran Preschool Enrollment for 2026-27** - Preschool enrollment for Linn Lutheran will open on Friday, Feb. 13 at 8am for St. John & Zion members & returning students. Incoming students must be 3 years old by Aug. 31, 2026. Parents may call the school at 785-348-5792 or come to the school office that morning. No early enrollment accepted. Enrollment will open to the public starting on March 23, 2026. Questions, please contact Preschool teacher- Laura Stunkel or call the school office. Friday, Feb. 13 Enrollment Open for: 1. Linn Lutheran Preschool returning students; 2. Association member church families (St. John & Zion); 3. Current Linn Lutheran Families; The aforementioned list (#1-3) have priority until March 23, 2026. After that date, enrollment is open to the entire community and is based on first come, first serve basis. 4. Live within the USD#223 boundaries; 5. Live beyond USD#223 boundaries.
- **Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) Sunday is TODAY, Feb. 1st**: The special offering for Lutheran Hour Sunday supports LHM, which is a trusted resource in global media that equips and engages a vibrant volunteer base to passionately proclaim the Gospel with people around the world. LHM partners with churches and individuals to carry the Good News of Jesus into more than 60 countries, including places where foreign missionaries cannot enter. Here at home, you can find The Lutheran Hour on radio stations nationwide, SiriusXM's Family Talk channel, or your favorite streaming provider. Together. One family. Connected in Christ.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His Table those who trust His words, repent all sins, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily, according to Holy Scripture, do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, are asked to refrain from communing with us until such a time as they are properly instructed.

A short, more detailed explanation of our Confessional practice is available from our Ushers or Elders. If you would like to learn more about the Sacrament of the Altar and our confessional position, I would be happy to visit with you.

-Rev. John Werner, Pastor, St. John Ev. Lutheran Church

In preparation for Holy Communion, you may use the following statements as part of your self-examination:

- I admit that I am a sinner. (**1 John 1:8-10**)
- I believe that Jesus Christ is my only Lord and Savior from all sin, from Satan and death. (**Acts 4:10-12; John 14:6**)
- I desire to live as God wants me to. (**John 14:15; 1 John 2:6**)
- I am sure of my eternal salvation because Jesus died for me and rose again. (**John 3:16; Romans 8:14; & 1 John 5:11-12**)
- I believe the Risen Christ is really present in Holy Communion and that with the bread and wine I receive His Body and Blood. (**Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 4:22-24; 1 Cor. 10:16-17; Luke 22:17-20**)
- I forgive those who have wronged me.

Morning Prayer

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.



Introit (*Psalm 18:1-2a, 27, 32, 49; antiphon: vv. 5-6a*)

The cords of Sheol en- | tangled me;*
the snares of death con- | fronted me.
In my distress I called up- | on the Lord.*
From his temple he | heard my voice.

I love you, O | Lord, my strength.*

The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my de- | liverer.
For you save a humble | people,*
but the haughty eyes | you bring down.
[You have] equipped | me with strength*
and made my way | blameless.

For this I will praise you, O Lord, among the | nations,*
and sing | to your name.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

The cords of Sheol en- | tangled me;*
the snares of death con- | fronted me.
In my distress I called up- | on the Lord.*
From his temple he | heard my voice.

Collect for Septuagesima

O Lord, graciously hear the prayers of Your people that we who justly suffer the consequence of our sin may be mercifully delivered by Your goodness to the glory of Your name; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Old Testament Reading: *Exodus 17:1-7*

1 All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the Lord, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. 2 Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.” And Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?” 3 But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?” 4 So Moses cried to the Lord, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” 5 And the Lord said to Moses, “Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. 6 Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink.” And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. 7 And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the Lord by saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

Gradual (*Psalm 9:9-10, 18-19a*)

**The Lord is a stronghold for the oppressed,
a stronghold in times of trouble.**
And those who know your name put their trust in you,
for you, O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek you.
For the needy shall not always be forgotten,
and the hope of the poor shall not perish forever.
Arise, O Lord!
Let not man prevail.

Epistle Reading: *1 Corinthians 9:24-10:5*

24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. 25 Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. 26 So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. 27 But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

1 I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, 2 and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, 3 and all ate the same spiritual food, 4 and all

drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. 5 Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 20:1-16*

1 [Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. 2 After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. 3 And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, 4 and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ 5 So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. 6 And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ 7 They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ 8 And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.’ 9 And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. 10 Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. 11 And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, 12 saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ 13 But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? 14 Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. 15 Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’ 16 So the last will be first, and the first last.”

As We Gather...

The people of Israel contended with the Lord in the wilderness (Exodus 17:1-7). They were dissatisfied with His provision. In the same way, the first laborers in the vineyard complained against the landowner for the wage he provided them (Matthew 20:1-16). They charged him with being unfair, but in reality he was being generous. For the Lord does not wish to deal with us on the basis of what we deserve but on the basis of His abounding grace in Christ. The first—those who rely on their own merits—will be last. “For they were overthrown in the wilderness” (1 Corinthians 10:5). But the last, those who rely on Christ, will be first. For Christ is the Rock (1 Corinthians 9:24-10:5). He is the One who was struck and from whose side blood and water flowed that we may be cleansed of our sin.

Grace Alone

Catechetical Review

Christian Questions with Their Answers

Prepared by Dr. Martin Luther for those who intend to go to the Sacrament

After confession and instruction in the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, the pastor may ask, or Christians may ask themselves these questions:

1. Do you believe that you are a sinner?

Yes, I believe it. I am a sinner.

2. How do you know this?

From the Ten Commandments, which I have not kept.

3. Are you sorry for your sins?

Yes, I am sorry that I have sinned against God.

4. What have you deserved from God because of your sins?

His wrath and displeasure, temporal death, and eternal damnation. *See Romans 6:21, 23.*

5. Do you hope to be saved?

Yes, that is my hope.

6. In whom then do you trust?

In my dear Lord Jesus Christ.

- The Clay County Arts Council is presenting an organ recital concert on **February 22 at 2pm** at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Clay Center. The concert will be performed by Dr. Tyler Boehmer, who is the primary organist for the "Messiah" annual presentation at Bethany College in Lindsborg. Dr. Boehmer will be performing a variety of music styles on the newly renovated Reuter pipe organ at St. Paul. This concert has been underwritten by private donations and will be FREE to all attending.

The Sunday of Grace Alone



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