



# St. John's Newsletter

February 2019



## “White as Snow”

**“Come now, let us reason together,” says the Lord. “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool. (1 Corinthians 3:11 - EHV)**

It's been a relatively tame winter so far this year—as far as snow fall is concerned. Although as I write this letter the snow is falling, turning the entire landscape a glistening white. We might dislike snow because it causes the roads to become slippery and thus dangerous; we also must clear our sidewalks and driveways and maybe even our cars. It may be a nuisance at times, but snow, of course, is a blessing from God that has multiple benefits. Perhaps, first and foremost, snow, when it melts in the spring will add moisture to the ground which will help farmers as they plant their crops. Snow also provide hours of free fun for children of all ages as they go sledding, ride snow mobiles, or make snowmen. Snow is also beautiful to look at—much better than ugly brown grass and leafless trees.

That is the picture that the Lord uses in the verse above. Except the ugliness isn't the brown of dormant grass, but the redness of our sin-stained hands. Like a spaghetti stain on a white t-shirt, is our sinful nature and our wicked actions in the eyes of the Lord. In context the sin the Lord is addressing is empty formalism—that is, going through the motions in worship. It is coming to worship because that is what is expected of us or doing so to appease God. We all know the worship services so well that we can say the Creed, pray the Lord's Prayer, or sing the songs of the liturgy without giving them a second thought. It's not like we try to let our minds wander—but we get lazy over time and it could happen that we are simply going through the motions. And when we do that we are just like stampeding cattle that mindlessly follow the one in front of them. And what can we do about it? Nothing. During our whole life we have to carry around the guilt of our sins—like a murderer must carry around the guilt of killing someone for the rest of his life. There is no amount of scrubbing we can do to remove this stain; we cannot remove the guilt of all our sins.

So the Lord promises us forgiveness. Even though our hands are stained red with the guilt of all our sins, he cleanses us through the blood of Jesus, shed on the cross for us. Because of our sins, our hands were scarlet—but not anymore. Christ has made them as white as snow. Through his death and resurrection Christ removed the guilt of all our sins. The sin that stained our hands is no longer present. We are no longer the poor horrible sinners that we once were, but we are now pure and innocent in God's eyes. He takes our crimson hands and makes them white like wool. He has completely removed the sin that made our hands red and he covers us in the righteous white robes of his perfection making us pure and holy in the eyes of the Lord. That is the grace of our Lord—we deserve nothing from him but punishment, instead he took our punishment upon himself and washes us clean by a gift of his grace!

Here in Wisconsin we are used to snow—it's something we tire of quickly. But snow in Israel is a rare thing—it typically only snows in Jerusalem once every few years. So it is always exciting and something that is cherished—watching that pure white snow covering up a dead and ugly world. The same thing can be said of Christ's work of covering up our sin-stained hands with his righteous robes—may we never tire of, but rejoice always, with our entire hearts, in his love in covering over our sins!

Pastor Frey

### ALTAR GUILD

Judy Schroeder 470-1559  
Katie Rickert 734-6830  
Monica Minzlaff (763) 691-3676  
Donna Pomeroy 851-3140

### GREETERS

8:00	Mitch & Ginger Kobussen	2/3
10:30	Charlie & Rose Miller	
8:00	Dennis & Kristine Neumann	2/10
10:30	Betty Randall & Diane Schabo	
8:00	Bill & Katie Rickert	2/17
10:30	Janice Bates & Sheryl Hill	
8:00	Gary & Kathy Schabo	2/24
10:30	Nancy Bruhn & Eileen Defferding	

**NEW MEMBER WELCOME** On Sunday, February 10, we will welcome the new members that joined us since January 2018. We will have a potluck meal with chicken catered in. Please sign up on the sheet in the entryway if you plan to come, and then just bring a dish to pass. Come and welcome the following new members: Brent Gonnering, Dawn Herzig, Amanda Beyer, and Scott and Darla Presteen and children: Mary, Timothy and Michael.

**WOMEN OF FAITH BIBLE STUDY & LWMS** All ladies of the congregation are welcome to come for Bible study, LWMS updates and fellowship on Tuesday, February 12 at **1:00 p.m.** in the lower level of church. Moms are welcome to bring their children.

**LWMS** Some might ask what exactly is the LWMS. LWMS stands for "Lutheran Women's Missionary Society." The mission of LWMS is to gather together the women of the WELS who seek to promote the spreading of Jesus to the many missions in the United States and around the world.

All ladies of St. John can be members of the LWMS. Each month we hear brief reports at our Women of Faith gathering where we hear about the mission work being done and how we can support these missions with our prayers and in many other ways. Please join us as we hear of God's many blessings through LWMS. If you have any questions or would like more information about LWMS, please contact Kathy Schabo.

**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY** All men of the congregation are welcome to attend Bible study on Tuesday, February 19 at 9:00 a.m.

**LUTHERAN PIONEERS** The Pioneers will meet Sunday, February 17 at 2 pm in the church basement to learn about weather safety and make pop-bottle tornadoes. If you have any questions about Pioneers, please contact Sarah Ziesemer.

**CHURCH COUNCIL** The new members of the council are: **Scott Mahnke – Secretary** and **Jason Presteen – Trustee.** **Tim Springstroh** has been confirmed as **Treasurer** for another year. The other council men are: **Kris Wilson – President, Andy Raschka – Vice President, Jay Minzlaff – Mission Treasurer** and **Kevin Voight – Trustee.** We thank **Thomas Appelt**, outgoing secretary and **Nick Clevon**, outgoing trustee for their years of service.

**ST. JOHN REPRESENTATIVES** At the annual meeting, **Ken Klemp** and **Duane VanderZanden** were confirmed as the FVL representatives and **David Dahl** was confirmed as the WLIM (Wisconsin Lutheran Institutional Ministries) representative. **Pastor Gartner** and **Pastor Frey** will serve as synod representatives. A listing of representatives for St. John teams/committees is enclosed.

**SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS** St. John is contributing to:

- Vietnam World Mission - \$3,500
- India WELS Orphanage - \$3,000
- Foundation Lutheran Church, Falcon, CO - \$3,500

Sunday School contributions are being given to:

- Thoughts of Faith
- Mission to the Children
- Hope Center

**APPLE VALLEY FOOD PANTRY** The pantry collection will be Sunday, February 3. All Crackers, canned pasta, cookies, rice, canned fruit, boxed and canned potatoes, frostings, hamburger helper, diapers and baby items and paper toweling are needed. Thank you for your continued support.

**EXERCISE CLASS** will continue to be offered during February on Sunday evenings from 6:00 to 6:45 pm. All women members are welcome to come to this class. Julia Miller, a certified fitness instructor, leads the class.

We will be doing different types of exercises to see what our members like or want. Julia modifies the exercises to your fitness level. There is no fee to join this class. We will have a weekly sign-up sheet in the back of church. Please bring a water bottle and a mat. If you have any questions, contact Julia Miller at 920-419-7096.

## February 2019

### **ORGANIZATION OF WELS LUTHERAN SENIORS (OWLS)**

The OWLS is a national program for the enrichment of WELS seniors. This year, the OWLS will meet on Feb. 12, May 14, Aug. 13 and Nov. 12. The meetings provide the opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth through devotions and topics of interest for seniors.

All seniors are invited to join us on February 12 at NOON for lunch at the Golden Corral, 1169 N. Westhill Blvd in Appleton. Each one will be responsible for the cost of their buffet lunch. Following the lunch we will have a speaker from the Bargain Garden thrift store. You are encouraged to bring a small item to donate to the store.

**SISTERS IN CHRIST** Join us for the 19<sup>th</sup> Pathways to Christ Retreat on March 8-10 at LaSure's Hall in Oshkosh. The 2019 theme is "I have learned the secret of being content", Phil. 4:11-13. On Friday night we will begin the retreat with a presentation by Jarrod Pfarr focusing on "Believe and Be Love". On Saturday our three speakers; Naomi Schmidt, Julie Karula and Nicole Smith will keep us focused on our journey to contentment. On Sunday Pastor Leon Ehlert will share with us a Bible Study and then lead us in worship. Sound intriguing? You may download registration forms and more information from our website: <http://pathwaystochrist.org>. If you don't have internet access, ask the church office to provide you with a brochure.

**CAMP BIRD FOR LUTHERANS** Registration is now open! Registrations are now being accepted for Camp Bird. Camp Bird for Lutherans is a youth camp for children in grades 5-8. It is located near Crivitz in Marinette County on Sand Lake. The price for each child is \$150 per week. Swimming, canoeing, boating, hiking, challenge course, kickball, volleyball, archery, handicraft, campfires, Bible study, games, camp songs and many other activities are waiting for you this year! Three weeks are available in July:

\*Sunday July 7 – Friday, July 12

\*Sunday July 14 – Friday, July 19

\*Sunday July 21 – Friday, July 26

For more information or to download the registration form, please visit [www.campbird.org](http://www.campbird.org).

**CAMP PHILLIP** 2019 Summer camp registration is open for Camp Phillip, W9944 Buttercup Ave., Wautoma, WI 54982. Go to [www.campphillip.com](http://www.campphillip.com) to learn more about Camp Phillip. To sign up for a Camp Phillip summer camp program, go to [www.campphillip.com/registration](http://www.campphillip.com/registration). Receive \$20 discount for full week camps by registering before March 1.

**2018 Annual Contribution Statements** The statements are on the counter in the entryway of church.

**LOOKING AHEAD** Midweek worship services will be at 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday during Lent beginning with Ash Wednesday, March 6. If you want to help with providing refreshments before the morning service, a sign-up sheet is in the entryway or you may talk to one of the pastors or Nancy in the church office.

Also, we are in need of volunteers to organize and help with a few Lent Suppers this year. We will coordinate with the groups for planning and purchasing food. The volunteers are to help prepare and serve the meal and clean up after the meal. If you want to help, a sign-up sheet is in the entryway or you may contact Nancy in the church office at 733-1307.

Make plans to join your fellow members of St. John and their guests for an evening of **roller skating/blading on Sunday, March 10 from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. at Skate City** in Kimberly. The cost will be \$5.00 per person including skates. To reserve the rink, a minimum of 70 people need to attend.

St. John and Eternal Love are scheduled to work at the **Apple Valley Food Pantry on Sunday, March 10**. The Apple Valley Food Pantry is located at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 129 S. Mason Street, Appleton. You will be contacted about helping if you chose to volunteer at the Apple Valley Food Pantry when you completed your fellowship service sheet last fall. ***If you did not sign up to help and you'd like to help with loading and unloading heavy bags of groceries, please contact Jane Liebert or Pat Schabo.***