



St. John's Newsletter



January 2019

"Jesus Is The One Sure Foundation"

**"In fact, no one can lay any other foundation than the one that has been laid, which is Jesus Christ."
(1 Corinthians 3:11 - EHV)**

About 20 years ago, I had a "bird's eye" view of the construction of a new school and Church expansion. Living in the parsonage which was about 30 feet from the new building construction was quite amazing, but one of the things that surprised me the most was how long it seemed to take to pour the foundation for our new school. It took the better part of four months for the foundation to be completely finished. That is almost half of the time it took to finish the whole school.

At first, I asked the question to myself, "Why is it taking so long for them to pour the foundation?" The answer to this question became clear as I watched the walls and second floor being laid on the foundation. The foundation needed to be perfectly laid – solid and plumb, because it needed to hold and support the weight of the whole building. If they would have rushed the foundation, the whole building might have been in jeopardy. The foundation took the longest, because it was the key to whole project.

As we look back on another year closing and our eyes are eagerly looking ahead to a new year, how well have we been building on the true foundation of Jesus Christ and his holy Word? As Christians we also need to have a solid foundation, and there is only one foundation, isn't there? It's Jesus Christ who has been revealed to us in God's holy Word, the Bible. The Bible points out that Jesus Christ is the only foundation for our faith and our life. It's so simple and yet so many times we just don't get it. As we look at our own lives, have we always built our faith and lives on the foundation of Jesus? Have we attended Church as often as possible? Have we attended a Bible Class offered here at St. John's? Have we made use of the Meditations or any other devotion books for the building up of our faith? Do our children regularly attend Sunday School? If we are honest, our lives are not always building on the foundation of Jesus.

These weak foundations become very evident when our faith is put to the test by the devil and this sinful world. For instance: Pastors spend many hours helping people because they are not building their faith or their lives on the foundation of Jesus and his Word. A couple comes for marriage counseling. What's the problem? They were not building their marriage on Jesus. A person who lost their job wonders why their life seems to be falling apart, but before they can even finish telling their story the answer becomes very clear. They weren't building on Jesus. They were building on their career. People have a self-image problem. They feel so worthless. Why? They built their self-image on the foundation of their families, friends and the ideas of this sinful world, instead of the foundation of Jesus and him crucified.

The reason Jesus is our only foundation and is so important becomes very clear to us when we realize that we are all condemned sinners who deserve to die in hell. Jesus invites us to come to the cross for forgiveness where he dismantled all our shortcomings and sins which are built on the wrong foundation. Then with God's help we can build on the true foundation of his grace and his forgiveness and his power -- the power of his saving gospel. That's all that we need.

May we this New Year seek to build on the true and only foundation of Jesus and his Word and always remember that we can do nothing if we aren't always on the solid foundation of Jesus and his saving Word. Let us regularly make use of the many ways that St. John offers us to dig into God's Word so that we don't lose track that, **"Jesus Is The One Sure Foundation!"**

Pastor Mark Gartner

January 2019

ALTAR GUILD

Kathy Schabo 427-2990
Chris Ahrens 358-7633
Doris Kalbus 830-4972
Betty Randall 858-9918

GREETERS

8:00	Chris Ahrens & Lucas Hansen	1/6
10:30	Janice Bates & Sheryl Hill	
8:00	Jeff & Cheryl Bohl	1/13
10:30	Nancy Bruhn & Eileen Defferding	
8:00	Jon & Chris Coenen	1/20
10:30	Larry & Rosalie Greenley	
8:00	Bob Griffiths and Joe & Ann Probst	1/27
10:30	Phyllis Gresens & Sheryll Techlin	

BIRTH AND BAPTISM Everett James Engels, son of Ryan and Lisa Engels, was born on Wednesday, November 21, 2018. Everett was baptized on Sunday, December 16, 2018 at St. John. ***“Be baptized and wash away your sins.”*** Acts 22:16

WITH THE LORD Our brother in Christ, John “Jack” Clevener entered eternal life with his Savior Thursday, December 6, 2018. The Christian funeral was held at St. John on Tuesday, December 11.

Our sister in Christ, Jacquelyn “Jac” Woehler entered eternal life with her Savior Monday, December 10, 2018. The Christian funeral was held at St. John on Friday, December 14.

“I am the resurrection and the life.” John 11:25.

NEW YEAR’S EVE Come and worship with us on Monday, December 31 at 6:30 p.m. with the Lord’s Supper.

WOMEN OF FAITH BIBLE STUDY & LWMS All ladies of the congregation are welcome to come for Bible study, LWMS updates and fellowship on Tuesday, January 8 at **1:00 p.m.** in the lower level of church. Moms are welcome to bring their children.

MEN’S BIBLE STUDY All men of the congregation are welcome to attend Bible study on Tuesday, January 16 at 9:00 a.m.

LUTHERAN PIONEERS The Pioneers will meet on Jan. 20 from 2:00-3:30 pm at the Apple Creek YMCA (2851 E Apple Creek Rd, Appleton, WI 54913) to go snowshoeing. The cost is \$3 per person and adults are welcome to attend. Please RSVP on the Facebook page by Jan. 18 so the YMCA can reserve the right number of snowshoes for our group. Contact Mike Walecka with any questions.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING The annual congregational meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 15 at 7:00 p.m. All men ages 18 and over are encouraged to attend. Council men will be elected and items of interest will be discussed.

USHERS AND GREETERS The 2018 usher schedule (January-June) and the greeters’ schedules are available on the counter in the entryway. Please take the schedule with your name highlighted.

FLOWER CHART A 2019 flower chart has been placed on the bulletin board. If you would like to bring flowers for a special occasion, please sign for that date.

APPLE VALLEY FOOD PANTRY The pantry collection will be Sunday, January 13. Chunky soups, jam, hamburger, tuna and chicken helpers, canned fruit, canned meats like ham/Spam/tuna, all crackers, cookies, and personal care and household cleaning products are needed. Thank you for your continued support.

SISTERS IN CHRIST Join us for the 19th 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.

2019 ENVELOPES If you have not picked up your 2019 offering envelopes, please pick them up as soon as possible. An explanation of the offering envelopes is enclosed with this newsletter.

2018 Annual Contribution Statements The statements will be available in January. If you want your statement emailed to you, let us know; email church.office@stjohn-appleton.org by Dec. 31.

LOOKING AHEAD On Sunday, February 10, we will welcome the new members that joined us since January 2018. A pot-luck dinner will be held at 11:40 a.m. Please make plans to come and welcome the following new members: Brent Gonnering, Dawn Herzig, Amanda Beyer, and Scott and Darla Presteen and children: Mary, Timothy and Michael.