



St. John's Newsletter

July 2019



"Is Freedom Free?"

So if the Son sets you free, you will really be free. (John 8:36) EHV

This past month, I was able to take a vacation with family and friends to Philadelphia and Washington D.C. What are these cities known for? They are known for being the birthplace of our country and the seat of our government. When you travel to these places, you are able to see with your own two eyes so many places that remind you of the freedoms that we enjoy as citizens of this wonderful country. We were able to see The White House and tour the Capital building where our government officials rule. We were able to see Independence Hall and The Liberty Bell in Philadelphia where this great country got its start. But as you tour these cities you soon realize that our freedom is far from being free. It came at a tremendous cost. This is most evident as you tour Arlington National Cemetery where you stand in awe and sadness at the seemingly endless tombs of the many men and women who have given their lives so that we may enjoy our freedom. This is evident as you see the War Memorials for World War II, The Korean War and the Vietnam War. Freedom is wonderful, but freedom is far from free.

If you were going to take a tour of God's plan to give us spiritual freedom, where would you go and what would it look like? John in his Gospel gives us a good place to find out what true freedom is. He reminds us that our tour has to start and end with Jesus who is the Son who "sets us free." Our tour begins in the manger in Bethlehem and proceeds to Jesus' youth as he grew up in the city of Nazareth. Our tour witnesses the many people and cities that Jesus preached to during his three-year ministry. This all looks great, but we need to make another stop on our tour of the freedom that Jesus won for us. We need to walk outside the city walls of Jerusalem and see a hill that is shaped like a skull. We need to walk up this hill and see the cross upon which the very Son of God gave his innocent and perfect life to give us the ultimate freedom over sin, death and the Devil. And as we walk down this hill to the place where they laid Jesus' lifeless body we realize that our freedom is free, but it came at a great price.

As we celebrate another Fourth of July, it is great to thank God for the many great freedoms that we enjoy as citizens of the United States of America. It is good to thank God for the many people that have served for us and over us as our government leaders in the past and in the present. It is also good for us to take some time to remember those who have paid the ultimate price of their own lives so that we can enjoy these many wonderful freedoms. But I pray that we take the time -- not just on the Fourth of July but every day -- to thank God for sending his one and only Son who paid the greatest price of all -- his innocent and perfect blood -- so that we would enjoy the greatest freedom of all which is the gift of heaven. This freedom is 100% free. We can't earn it and we certainly don't deserve it. But I pray that we never forget that it came at the ultimate cost of Jesus' death on the cross. Jesus Has Set You Free! You Are Really Free!

Pastor Mark Gartner

Pastor Gartner

ALTAR GUILD

Marsha Liewergen 202-3804
 Rosemary John 734-4324
 Melissa Price 735-9223
 Katie Voight 572-6337

GREETERS

8:00	Elaine Springstroh & Marilyn Wilson	7/7
10:00	Larry & Rosalie Greenley	
8:00	Kristine Thomas & Linda Sipple	7/14
10:00	Phyllis Gresens & Sheryll Techlin	
8:00	Milyn & Judy Westphal	7/21
10:00	Charlie & Rose Miller	
8:00	Ron & Myrna Witt	7/28
10:00	Betty Randall & Diane Schabo	

MARRIAGE: Andrew Jerome Pevonka and Holly Lynn Schaumberg were united in marriage June 15, 2019. May the Lord bless this marriage. *“So they are no longer two but one.”* Matthew 19:6

WELS APPLE VALLEY FOOD PANTRY The pantry collection will be Sunday, July 7. Items needed include dish and laundry soaps, hamburger helper, all canned meats such as salmon, beef and ham, cereal, canned fruits, all crackers, cookies, paper toweling and canned pasta. Thank you for supporting the food pantry.

SUMMER SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY New this summer we are offering a family type Bible Study on all non-Communion Sundays; it began Sunday, June 9th. The study is entitled, “The ABC’s of Worship — Lutheran Customs and Practices.” It is our prayer that through this study God will lead us to grow in our appreciation of the Gospel as it is reflected in the way we worship. This class is intended for members of all ages so everyone can join us.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING The quarterly voters’ meeting will be held on **July 23** at 7:00 pm. At this meeting we will be voting on recommendations from the council concerning many changes to our by-laws. A summary and explanations of these changes are printed on the backside of the calendar. For the most part these are the same changes we discussed in April, although they have been amended slightly. There are copies of the proposed changes (as well as what our by-laws currently say) in the narthex at Church. We encourage everyone to look these over carefully. Although every congregational meeting is important, with the proposed changes to our by-laws and thus altering some structure of our congregation, this meeting is especially important. We strongly encourage all men ages 18 and over to attend.

WOMEN OF FAITH All ladies of the congregation are invited to join us on Tuesday, July 9 for Bible study and LWMS updates. Moms, bring your little ones.

MEN’S BIBLE STUDY All men of the congregation are invited to join us on Tuesday, July 16 at 9:00 am for Bible study.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL Vacation Bible School (VBS) will be held the week of July 29-August 2 from 9:00-11:30 am. VBS is for all children from 3K-6th grade. Please bring your children (3K-6th grades) to hear the Word of God and use this as another opportunity to invite others to hear the Good News of the forgiveness of sins through Jesus. Online registration will be available soon.

Right now, we are looking for volunteers to help share God’s Word with his children. Please sign-up on the sheet in the narthex if you are willing and able to help. In future weeks, we will have a snack-donation list. Keep your eyes open for more information and make sure to invite a friend!

CHURCH PICNIC Save the date. The church picnic will be on Sunday, August 18 at Plamann Park. Plan to join us for food, fun and fellowship.

CHURCH SOFTBALL St. John has a team in the Appleton church softball league. Come out and cheer the team on at Appleton Memorial Park on Wednesday evenings. The schedule for July:

July 3	6:00 p.m.	Field 4
July 10	8:00 p.m.	Field 1
July 17	8:00 p.m.	Field 4
July 24	7:00 p.m.	Field 3
July 31	6:00 p.m.	Field 1

TIMBER RATTLER GAME Come and join fellow members for the Timber Rattler game on Saturday, August 3. Game starts at 6:35 pm. We have reserved 50 tickets behind home plate. After the game there will be a fireworks show, and the kids can run the bases. It is also Storybook Princess Night 2. Elsa, Anna, Jasmine, Rapunzel, and Snow White will be at the ballpark to say “hi” throughout the game. The first 500 princesses and princes age 12 and under receive a tiara. The cost is \$9 per ticket if 20 tickets or more are sold. A sign-up sheet is on the counter in the entryway; sign up by **Monday, July 15**.

PIONEERS We are looking for a new leader/leaders for Pioneers for this next school year. If interested, please speak to Pastor Frey.

Highlights and Rationale of the proposed changes to our By-Laws.

1. Move elections to October's meeting.

Rationale: This way those elected have several months to be brought up to speed/learn their new position.

2. Move the financial part of the Annual meeting to the October meeting.

Rationale: This way we would know what the salaries are for the new year instead of the Treasurer having to give backpay at the end of January/beginning of February. This would also help us to give an idea of a number to give to FVL and the Synod for our support for the new year.

3. Have an Elder representative on the Council. This one-year position will be appointed by the elders and then approved of by the council and the Voters. Also, new elders from this point on will be elected by the voters, with the board of elders and the pastors serving as nominating committee.

Rationale: This would give the council someone who would be concerned about the spiritual side of the congregation and not just the "business" side. Electing new elders would alleviate any possible legal problems with an unelected person serving on the church council.

4. Institute a board of Trustees, with a single head trustee as a council member. The board members will be appointed by the Council. The council will specify the number and length of these appointments, although there must be at least two board members besides the Head Trustee.

Rationale: The two trustees often have a lot on their plates. Adding an additional trustee or two would alleviate some of their work and get more people involved.

5. We will still have an Assistant Treasurer, but it will no longer be a council position. This position will be appointed by the Council on an annual basis. His duties and responsibilities would be left up the Treasurer and the council.

Rationale: The Assistant Treasurer, as it stands, doesn't have very many responsibilities. But to alleviate some pressure from the Treasurer, we would still give him an assistant. This Assistant could, perhaps, become a treasurer-in-waiting as he is trained to take over the Treasurer's position should he be elected.

6. Institute an Evangelism Committee. This Committee would be served by a Chairman who would also sit on the Church Council with at least two other board members. The Chairman would be elected by the voters but the board members would be appointed by the council—the specific number and length of these appoints left up to the council. This committee would be concerned about encouraging friendship evangelism among the members of the congregation, mobilizing the members of St. John in reaching out to our community with the gospel, and welcoming new visitors and members (through mentors).

Rationale: In the Great Commission the Lord tells us to make disciples of all nations. The intention of this committee is to help us as a congregation to better carry out the Lord's command. This committee, of course, would not take the place of personally sharing the gospel (friendship evangelism), but would encourage it. This would also give the council another member who is concerned about the spiritual side of things.

7. Specify the job of the financial secretary. This position is to also be appointed by the council.

Rationale: Most constitutions/by-laws specify this position; ours does not.

8. Altered the years certain positions are elected. Elected together: A. President and Evangelism Chairman. B. Vice President and Secretary. C. Head Trustee and Treasurer (should he be elected).

Rationale: This would avoid electing the President and Vice President on the same year.

Summary:

Council Positions Eliminated: 1. Assistant Treasurer (position not eliminated, but no longer a council member), 2. Trustee (Head Trustee still a council member along with a board of Trustees).

Council Positions Added: 1. Elder (not elected, but appointed by the elders). 2. Evangelism Committee Chairman.