



St. John's Newsletter



March 2019

"Lent: The Reminder Of Our Sinfulness"

**"The wages of sin is death, but the undeserved gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."
(Romans 6:23 – EHV)**

One time while I was in the waiting room to visit a member at the hospital I saw a crossword puzzle in the newspaper. I don't usually do crossword puzzles or give them much attention, but one of the clues jumped out at me. The clue for 97 down was "a theological topic." Immediately I thought of some terms I had learned during my seminary training, words that might be found in a textbook on Christian teachings. But at first I couldn't think of one that fit, since there was space for only three letters.

As it turned out, the three-letter word for "theological topic" was the word "sin." I thought to myself, sin is most certain "theological" since it is found in God's Word, but would we consider sin to be a "topic?" The problem is that much of today's society considers sin to be only that -- a theological topic. A topic reserved for theological papers and seminary classrooms. A topic that maybe can be mentioned in a sermon provided it's vague enough to go over my head and hit my neighbor. But certainly it should never be used with the severity of telling someone -- You are a sinner.

Sin is a "theological topic," but the problem is that many today don't want to admit that sin is also a very spiritual topic that touches each one of us at the very fiber of our being. Maybe it isn't all too surprising to see that sin isn't too important for people, when people's belief in the Bible as "God's perfect words" has declined dramatically over the last 25 years. No wonder the word "sin" is no longer in the vocabulary of so many. The only way to know why sin is to be talked about and preached about comes from reading and hearing what God's perfect Word says about it, which many people don't think is all too important.

And what does God's Word tell us about sin? **"There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." "The soul who sins is the one who will die." "Death came to all men, because all sinned." "The wages of sin is death."** That doesn't sound like sin is only an after-dinner conversation topic for theologians. It's a serious topic for every man, woman and child -- one that has a vital bearing on where we will spend eternity. But God's inerrant Word says more on the subject. It also assures us that **"where sin increased, grace increased all the more."** God did for us what we could not do for ourselves. He dealt with sin effectively in the person of his Son who suffered our punishment, endured our hell, and died our death. By virtue of his empty grave God has said to you, to me, to the world of guilty sinners, "You're free?" Your sins are forgiven! The slate has been washed clean in the blood of my Son.

As we soon begin another Lenten Season we are reminded ever so vividly of what sin is and how Jesus took care of our sins. We need to hear God's condemning Law and the good news of God's Gospel. But the sad reality is that the special Wednesday Midweek Lenten worship services have gone by the wayside in the minds of many Christians, just like the word sin. These special services seem to have lost their appeal as we make the spiritual preparation for the observance of Christ's suffering and dying for OUR SIN. Too many people have forgotten how important and special it is to follow our Jesus to the cross and to the empty tomb. This Lenten season, take the time to remember that sin is not just another word we use. Instead let us follow Jesus to the cross to see that our sin is terrible but that Jesus' love is greater.

Pastor Mark Gartner

Pastor Mark Gartner

March 2019

ALTAR GUILD

Kathy Bluma	381-9456
Judith Doersch	450-8372
Elaine Springstroh	739-0807
Wendy & Natalie Raschka	560-2193

GREETERS

8:00	Gordon & Jean Schroeder	3/3
10:30	Larry & Rosalie Greenley	
8:00	Elaine Springstroh & Marilyn Wilson	3/10
10:30	Phyllis Gresens & Sheryll Techlin	
8:00	Kristine Thomas & Linda Sipple	3/17
10:30	Charlie & Rose Miller	
8:00	Milyn & Judy Westphal	3/24
10:30	Betty Randall & Diane Schabo	
8:00	Ron & Myrna Witt	3/31
10:30	Janice Bates & Sheryl Hill	

BAPTISM Linkin Steven Fox, son of Bryan and Amie (Vallard) Fox was baptized February 3, 2019 at St. John. ***“Be baptized and wash away your sins.”*** Acts 22:16

LENT Please join us for worship each Wednesday during Lent at 10:30 am or 6:30 pm as we follow our Savior to the cross. What a blessing it is each year for you and your children in these services to hear the suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of our sins. God bless our worship this Lent season. Refreshments will be served at 9:45 am. Lent suppers will be served at 5:30 pm.

Note: Confirmation classes for grades 6-8 will begin at 5:00 pm each Wednesday during Lent.

LENT MENU Each Wednesday evening during Lent, a meal will be served from 5:30 -6:15 pm.

March 6	Sub sandwiches and Soup (gluten-free options), chips & pickles, fruit & veggies, dessert & beverage.
March 13	Sloppy Joe sandwiches, hot dogs, chips, fruit & veggies, dessert & beverage.
March 20	Pulled Pork sandwiches, hot dogs, chips, pickles, fruit & veggies, dessert & beverage.
March 27	Hot turkey sandwiches, chips, fruit & veggies, dessert & beverage

April 3 Tacos & chili, fruit & veggies, dessert & beverage.

April 10 Pizza, tossed salad, dessert & beverage.

A sign-up sheet will be in the entryway for each week; sign up if you plan on attending a supper.

BIBLE INFORMATION CLASS Jesus says to each of us ***“Go and make disciples of all nations”***. Here again is an opportunity to invite a friend, neighbor or co-worker or family member to hear the Good News of forgiveness and life through Jesus Christ. This class is for everyone but especially for those who are not members but would like to know what we teach. Go and invite! Come yourself! We plan to begin the class in March. If interested, speak to Pastor Frey or Pastor Gartner.

LUTHERAN PIONEERS The Pioneers will meet Sunday, March 17 from 2-4 pm at Bubolz Nature Preserve, 4815 N Lynndale Dr, Appleton, WI 54913, to participate in their maple syrup program. Kids will be able to tap a tree, see how sap is cooked into syrup, and even sample some fresh syrup. The cost for this program is yet to be determined. Contact Matt Bonson with any questions.

SKATE CITY 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 must attend. Sign up today; a sign-up sheet is on the counter in the entryway.

LADIES CANVAS PAINTING We will be having a canvas painting led by an instructor on Sunday, March 24th from 4-6 pm in the church basement. Anyone ages 12 and older can attend. The size of the painting is 16x20. A sample picture and sign up is in the back of church. Prepayment is encouraged. Envelopes are available by the sign-up sheet. Please R.S.V.P by March 17th. If you have any questions, call or text Wendy Raschka at 920-460-9373.

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

March 2019

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

LWMS Last month we learned a little more about what the LWMS group was. It is a group of mainly women who have a desire to reach out to the many lost souls of the world with the Gospel of Jesus.

Each year the LWMS divides up among the churches in the WELS the missions and missionaries from around the world. This year St. John has been given the privilege to pray for and support with letters and gifts these three Missions and their Pastors. If you would look to know more about how to support these Missions and their Pastors, please attend our monthly LWMS meeting at St. John or contact Kathy Schabo.

- Pastor David Kehl – Hong Kong
- Pastor Jason Richards – Antigua and Barbuda
- Pastor Seth Haakenson – (Home Mission) Immanuel Lutheran Church (Hispanic) in Waukegan, IL

CAMP PHILLIP 2019 Summer camp registration is open for Camp Phillip, W9944 Buttercup Ave., Wautoma, WI 54982. Go to 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. Receive \$20 discount for full week camps by registering before March 1.

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!

These weeks are available in July:

- *Sunday July 7 – Friday, July 12 Full for girls
- *Sunday July 14 – Friday, July 19 Full
- *Sunday July 21 – Friday, July 26

For more information or to download the registration form, please visit www.campbird.org.

APPLE VALLEY FOOD PANTRY The pantry collection will be Sunday, March 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.

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.***