



St. John's Newsletter

May 2019



Be Alert!

Have sound judgment. Be alert. Your adversary, the Devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Resist him by being firm in the faith" (1 Peter 5:8-9 – EHV)

Isn't it interesting how everything seems to pit good against evil? It is the good guys vs. the bad guys. It is the guys dressed in white vs. the guys dressed in black. It is the super hero vs. the arch enemy. It is Batman vs. Joker and Penguin. It is Luke Skywalker and the Jedi Knights vs. Darth Vader and the dark side, and the list goes on. Why is that? It doesn't make any difference. It could be a movie or a cartoon or your own kids playing with their toys. There always seems to be this battle of good vs. evil.

As we live our lives on this earth, have we ever thought to ourselves that our whole life on this earth is also a battle of good vs. evil? Do we realize that every day we live on this earth, we are in a battle against the greatest arch enemy of all — the Devil? The Devil may not seem like he is that great of an enemy. He isn't dressed in black. He isn't wearing some funny little enemy costume. He doesn't seem to have any special powers. But what a mistake we are making, when we underestimate the power and strength and wickedness and cunning of the Devil.

Knowing the enemy is an important factor in warfare and spiritual warfare is no different. I can be 100% certain that Satan will not come to you and reveal himself by dressing in red and having little horns and a pitchfork nor will he come to you and tell you that he is evil. But rather he will sneak under your radar as a juicy bit of gossip which just had to be shared, an inappropriate picture on your phone or computer screen that must be viewed, an attractive and flirty member of the opposite sex who is just your good friend, a soft fluffy pillow on Sunday mornings which causes you to sleep in and skip church or it is that certain thing that you can't live without that's just not in the budget but you in greed just had go out and buy it now. The Devil knows our weaknesses and will peck away until he finally gets his way into our hearts.

As we draw near to another Confirmation Sunday, where we will once again hear 15 of God's children publicly make an oath to God to remain firm in their faith until they die, I pray we will once again look back at the vows we made on our Confirmation Days. I pray that we will realize that we are in a battle against the Devil who is looking to destroy and devour our faith. This is not pretend or imaginary. This is for real.

It is also my prayer that God would keep these young people who are making their vows and every one of you who have made your Confirmation vows in the past, strong in your battle against the Devil. It is my prayer that we will come into God's house often to find the only weapon that will keep us safe — the weapon of the Gospel found in God's Word and the Sacraments of Baptism and Lord's Supper. Only with the Lord's help and with the Lord's forgiveness can we win the battle and remain firm in our faith.

Pastor Mark Gartner

Pastor Mark Gartner

May 2019

ALTAR GUILD

Rose Miller	716-1379
Jane Cleven	830-4163
Sarah Cleven	833-7329
Jeanne Hennes	833-7329
Diane Schabo	733-4337

GREETERS

8:00	Jon & Chris Coenen	5/5
10:30	Betty Randall & Diane Schabo	
8:00	Bob Griffiths and Joe & Ann Probst	5/12
10:30	Janice Bates & Sheryl Hill	
8:00	Mitch & Ginger Kobussen	5/19
10:30	Nancy Bruhn & Eileen Defferding	
8:00	Dan & Kathy Kreutzman	5/26
10:30	Larry & Rosalie Greenley	

MARRIAGE Brent James Gonnering and Kelsey Ann Ham were united in marriage March 30, 2019. May the Lord bless this marriage. ***“So they are no longer two but one.”*** Matthew 19:6

2019 CONFIRMATION CLASS The following young people will be confirmed on May 5, 2019 in the 10:30 am service:

- William James Baewer
- John Jerome Geiger
- Madelyn Marie Geurts
- Madeline Laura Gowy
- Nevaeh Sis Hlub Hang
- Jared Michael Helmrick
- Dion Jeremy Helser
- Jacob Allen Lankow
- Kaitlyn Alexis Leach
- John Robert Pintar
- Bryson Jesse Riehl
- Benjamin John Siebers
- Rachel Ruby Thede
- Alexis Rose Volkman
- Brayden James Volkman

SUMMER WORSHIP TIMES Starting Sunday, May 26 worship will be at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. Monday worship will remain the same at 6:30 p.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL Sunday, May 19 is the last day of Sunday School. We thank the teachers who taught God’s Word to the children this year.

VOTERS’ MEETING HIGHLIGHTS A few updates from April’s meeting: 1. Our pipe organ is in need of repairs. We currently have a quote for \$20,000 and are currently exploring all our options. 2. The council is suggesting a number of changes to our current by-laws, including removing and adding certain council positions. A copy of the by-laws with the proposed changes (highlighted in red) is available in the back of Church. Please talk to one of the pastors or the council members for any questions/input. Our council members are Kris Wilson, President; Andy Raschka, Vice President; Scott Mahnke, Secretary; Tim Springstroh, Treasurer; Jay Minzlaff; Missions & Charities Treasurer; Kevin Voight, Trustee and Jason Presteen, Trustee.

PINE CAR DERBY/PIONEERS The last Pioneers meeting of the year will be held Sunday, May 19 after the 10:30 am church service. We will enjoy a pot-luck lunch and race pine cars. Everyone is welcome to join us and cheer on our racers. Look for a pot-luck sign up in the narthex soon. Contact Sarah Ziesemer with any questions.

WOMEN OF FAITH All ladies of the congregation are invited to join us on Tuesday, May 14 for Bible study and LWMS updates. Moms, bring your little ones.

LADIES CRAFT DAY We will be having a Ladies Craft event on Sunday May 5 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. in the church basement. Ladies and children of all ages, come and make a monogram for your home, front door, or a specific room! Cost is \$10 per adult and \$5 per child. Sign up is due by April 29. Any questions, call Wendy Raschka at 920-560-2193.

WELS APPLE VALLEY FOOD PANTRY The pantry collection will be the week of April 28. Items needed include shampoo and conditioner, paper toweling, jam/jelly, all canned meats such as tuna, salmon, chicken and beef, pasta in a can, boxed and canned potatoes, rice and all crackers. Thank you for supporting the food pantry.

May 2019

EHV PRE-ORDER Since November 2017 for the lessons during our worship services we have been using the Evangelical Heritage Version (EHV) translation of the Bible. This is a translation produced by the Wartburg Project, a group of WELS and ELS pastors and professors. The entire Bible is now complete and will be published this summer. You now have an opportunity to preorder this Bible at a discounted bulk-rate price (the exact price will depend on how many Bibles are sign-up for). There is no need to pay right away; once we know the exact price per Bible, we will inform those who have signed-up and how to pay for their order.

There is a sign-up sheet on the back counter if you wish to order a new EHV. There are also 100 pamphlets on the back for more information on this new translation. Although we highly encourage you to pick up a copy of this Bible, you should also be aware that the Wartburg Project plans on publishing a study Bible in the next couple of years. For more information, please talk to Pastor Frey or Pastor Gartner.

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP EVENT On May 14 at 1:00 pm there will be a senior gathering sponsored by the Fox

Valley OWLS. We will meet at Trinity Lutheran Church, 804 Grignon Street in Kaukauna. You can enter the church through the main doors and use the steps or elevator for the meeting in the basement.

Our speaker will be Jean Kenevan from the Wisconsin Office for the Blind and Visually Impaired. She will tell us how we can improve our daily life with the services that are available for those with failing vision.

All seniors are welcome to join us for an afternoon of fellowship.

PLANNING AHEAD 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. Plan to bring your children to hear the Word of God and the Good News of the forgiveness of sins through Jesus.

Mark your calendars. The church picnic will be on Sunday, August 18 at Plamann Park. Plan to join us for food, fun and fellowship.

Make plans to attend a Timber Rattler game August 3rd with other St. John members. Game time is 6:35 pm. More information about the game and ordering tickets will be in upcoming bulletins.

