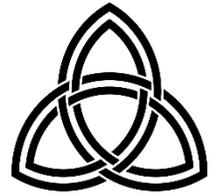


# St. John's Newsletter

September 2019



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## Embrace The Gift Of God's Word

**"I will meditate on your precepts, and I will consider your paths. In your statutes I delight.  
I will not forget your words." (Psalm 119:15-16)**

When I was younger, Psalm 119 was one of my least favorite Psalms and Psalm 117 was one of my favorites and you might ask, Why? I'm ashamed to admit it, but it was because Psalm 117 had only two verses and Psalm 119 was so long with its 176 verses. (Yes that is right – 176 Verses!) But that was in my past and as I have studied Psalm 119 more and more, it has grown to be one of my favorites. Why? Because I have grown to see the importance the psalm writer placed on God's Word in our lives and for our eternal salvation. I've grown to see that God's Word is indeed a precious gift God has so graciously given to me.

And it is my prayer that you will also take the time to not only appreciate Psalm 119 but all of God's Word. One of the guiding cries of the Reformation was *sola scriptura*. God's Word alone carries the message of salvation. But for whatever reason, many of us have lost interest in this wonderful gift of God's Word or have forgotten how wonderful this gift is. We have forgotten what the Psalm writer said when he wrote, **"I will meditate on your precepts. . . I will not forget your words."** We all have Bibles in our homes, but we tend to forget to make the time to even open the gift. We miss out on the treasure of the gift because we can't find time to pick it up and discover the many blessings God has for us in it.

And why does God want us to embrace his Word? God gave us his Word to point us to him and to invite us to find out the only way to heaven through faith in Jesus. I'm very glad you are reading this devotion today. Thanks for taking a few moments to consider God's Word and God's love for you. Take it a step further. Open up God's gift to you. Open up your Bible. Carve out some time to daily take a look at God's Word. Perhaps start your day with 10 minutes of Bible reading and follow that up with 10 minutes of prayer. Perhaps you could start by reading all of Psalm 119 (yes, I know it is 176 verses) and highlight all the references to God's Word and why it is important or how it can be a benefit to you in your daily living.

Each day as you open up God's gift of his Word, what will you see? What will you learn about your God? Yes, you will see that God is powerful and wise, but more importantly you will see that God loves you and God in his love came up with a plan to save lost sinners like you. God wants you to know the way to heaven. So, God made his Word great and powerful. He did this, not in an attempt to make it a "great read" or best seller (although it is.) He made his Word great and powerful so that you would clearly see and believe in the one path to eternal life through faith in Jesus.

As we move into September we will be starting our Sunday School for our children and we will also be having our Adult Bible Study every Sunday and we will be offering a different Bible study on either Monday or Tuesday so that you can dive deeper and deeper into the wonderful gift of God's Word that he has given to all of us. May God lead all of us to see this precious gift of his Word and use it for our eternal salvation.

*Pastor Mark Gartner*

Pastor Gartner

## September 2019

### ALTAR GUILD

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

### GREETERS

8:00	Bob Griffiths and Joe & Ann Probst	9/1
10:00	Betty Randall & Diane Schabo	
8:00	Mitch & Ginger Kobussen	9/8
10:30	Charlie & Rose Miller	
8:00	Dan & Kathy Kreutzman	9/15
10:30	Janice Bates & Sheryl Hill	
8:00	Dennie & Kristine Neumann	9/22
10:30	Nancy Bruhn & Eileen Defferding	
8:00	Cathy Puls & Pat Schabo	9/29
10:30	Larry & Rosalie Greenley	

**MARRIAGE** Isaac Volkman and Carolyn Klemp were united in marriage August 17, 2019. May the Lord bless this marriage. ***“So they are no longer two but one.”*** Matthew 19:6

**LABOR DAY WEEKEND WORSHIP** will be Thursday, Aug. 29 at 6:30 pm and Sunday, Sept. 1 at 8:00 and 10:00 am. **No** Monday evening service on Sept. 2.

**WORSHIP TIMES CHANGING** Our fall schedule begins Sunday, September 8, 2019. Worship times will be at 8:00 and **10:30 am**. Bible classes and Sunday School will be held between services. Monday evening worship will continue to be at 6:30 pm.

**CONFIRMATION CLASSES** Classes for children in grades 6-8 will begin on Wednesday, September 4, 2019 from 6:00-7:30 pm in the lower level of church.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** Sunday school for your children (3K to 8<sup>th</sup> grade) will begin on Sunday, September 8, 2019 at 9:15 am. If you are willing to use your time and abilities to share Jesus with the children this year (2019-2020) either as a teacher or helper, please contact Pastor Frey as soon as possible.

**BIBLE CLASSES** Sunday morning Bible classes will resume Sunday, September 8 at 9:15 am. Pastor Frey will be leading us through a study on "The Lord's Supper." We will see what God's Word has to say about the Lord's Supper and we will see the many blessings God gives to us through this sacrament.

Our Monday morning Bible classes will resume Monday, September 9 at 8:00 am. Tuesday evening Bible classes will resume on Tuesday, September 10 at 5:30 pm.

In the Monday/Tuesday classes we will study God's Word under the theme: "What Does It Mean To Be A Lutheran?" Have you ever had questions about some of the main differences between all the Christian churches or maybe just have wondered how come we there are so many different types of Christian churches? If so, please come and join us as we explore what God's Word has to say about some very key teachings that the devil is trying to distort.

**MISSION FESTIVAL SUNDAY** Sunday September 22, we will be celebrating our Mission Festival Sunday. Pastor Steven Prah who serves at Foundation Lutheran Church in Peyton, Colorado, which is the Mission congregation that St. John supported this year with our yearly Mission Offering, will serve as our Guest preacher and will also lead a Bible study about his congregation and what it is like to serve in a mission congregation. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for this special Mission Festival Sunday.

**CHOIR** Another year of choir is about to begin at St. John. Our first rehearsal will be Wednesday, September 11 at 7:00 pm in the church balcony. No experience necessary! All are welcome. Come and worship with your voices. Contact Dave Dahl at (920) 915-3867 with any questions.

**WELS APPLE VALLEY FOOD PANTRY** The pantry collection will be Sunday, September 1. Items needed include hamburger, chicken and tuna helpers, personal care products (lotions, body washes, deodorants, etc), household cleaning products, all crackers, cookies, boxed potato dishes, rice and rice and pasta side dishes, paper towel and toilet paper. We also need paper grocery bags **with** handles. Thank you for supporting the food pantry.

**WOMEN OF FAITH** All ladies of the congregation are invited to join us Tuesday, September 10 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, September 17 at 9:00 am for Bible study.

## September 2019

**PIONEERS** We are looking for a few more leaders. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Frey as soon as possible. A planning meeting will be coming up; more information about Pioneers will be shared with you as it becomes available.

**COLLEGE STUDENTS AND PARENTS** As we desire to care for our members that are away at college this fall, please provide us with the names, addresses and any other contact information of the students. Forms are on the counter by the guest book in the entryway; please complete a form and give it to one of the pastors or the church office. Thank you and God's blessings on the upcoming school year.

**COLLEGE STUDENTS** – Go to [wels.net/campus-ministry](http://wels.net/campus-ministry) to register or update your contact information. Get your name on the student file and you will

- receive *Meditations* and *Forward in Christ*
- get other publications/information as it is printed to help you stay connected to your Savior
- learn about any potential regional and national campus gatherings
- get in touch with the church/campus ministry that serves your school

**150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY** St. John Lutheran Church, 437 Turner Street, Wrightstown is celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. They invite any of our

members who have connections to their church – perhaps former members or friends or relatives of current members – to join them on Sunday, September 29th for their main anniversary celebration.

A single morning worship service will begin at 10:00 am with Northern Wisconsin District President, Rev. Joel Zank, as the guest preacher.

The Swan Club in De Pere has been reserved for the anniversary meal that will follow immediately after the service. St. John Congregation will be subsidizing half the cost of each meal. If you want to attend, please contribute the following amount per person: \$6 for age 8+; \$3 for ages 3-7; 2 and under are free.

**IMPORTANT:** RSVP **no later than Sunday, Sept. 15th** with the number of people in each age category who will be attending the meal by contacting the St. John church office—call (920) 532-4865 or email [stjohnwrightstown@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnwrightstown@gmail.com). Payment should be mailed to the church office as well – or dropped off in person – **no later than Friday, September 20th**. The church office is generally open Monday-Friday, 8 am-12 pm. It is important that we have an accurate count. Upon arrival at the Swan Club, you can check in with a church member who will have a guest list at the door.

