



# St. John's Newsletter

March 2020



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## What Do We Really Need From Jesus?

**"Son, your sins are forgiven." (Mark 2:5 – EHV)**

One of my favorite accounts in the Bible is found in the book of Mark chapter 2. Here you read the touching story of a paralyzed man whose friends desperately wanted Jesus to heal him. They carried him on a mat to the house where Jesus was teaching, but the place was so packed with people that they couldn't even get near the door. Unfazed, the friends found another way. Somehow they maneuvered the mat onto the roof, formed a hole in the roof large enough for the mat and the paralyzed man, and lowered the paralyzed man right down in front of Jesus as he was speaking. I'm sure that the crowd was probably a little surprised at this interruption, but not Jesus. I'm sure that he was somewhat impressed with their determination, but more importantly he was touched by the faith of the man.

It was quite obvious to Jesus that these men wanted their friend physically healed. Yet, the first thing Jesus said was not "Sir, get up and walk!"; instead he said..."**Son, your sins are forgiven.**" (Mark 2:5) What? The man had come to Jesus so he could walk. What did sin and forgiveness have to do with it?

Sin had - and has - everything to do with it. You see, Jesus knows that our greatest need is not a physical healing -- it's a spiritual healing. As we enter into another Lenten Season, we are once again going to have the wonderful opportunity to see that Jesus is the answer to all of our sin. We are going to witness through our eyes of faith that Jesus suffered and died so that we can hear the words, "**Your sins are forgiven.**" We are going to see that sin has everything to do with it -- Our Sin and Our Forgiveness By God's Grace

I think there's another great lesson for us in this story. When you go before God in our personal quiet time with him...do we immediately jump into reading our list of wants and needs? Or - do we begin our time with the sins we need to confess to him? You see - what we really need from Jesus is not help for all our earthly problems, but what we truly need from him is for him to cleanse us and purify us from all our sins. Jesus saw in that paralyzed man that his greatest need was to be forgiven and to be given eternal hope... and he did just that? But guess what? he also healed him physically. And as soon as Jesus healed him - the man jumped up, took the mat, and pushed his way through the stunned onlookers.

Our God is so wonderful. He knows that for each one of us - our greatest need is forgiveness, so he sent Jesus Christ, his only Son, to die on the cross for our sins and offered his grace and forgiveness to us. And yet, he cares so much about our personal needs that he taught us to pray..."Give us today our daily bread." He knows all of our needs...from the greatest to the smallest. During this Lenten season, may we once again direct our hearts to the gracious Lord and Savior so that we can see the greatest blessings of all -- His Life and Death For Our Salvation.

*Pastor Mark Gartner*

Pastor Gartner

## March 2020

### ALTAR GUILD

Kathy Schabo	427-2990
Chris Ahrens	358-7633
Betty Randall	858-9918
Wendy & Natalie Raschka	560-2193

### GREETERS

8:00	Gordon & Jean Schroeder	3/1
10:30	Larry & Rosalie Greenley	
8:00	Elaine Springstroh & Marilyn Wilson	3/8
10:30	Phyllis Gresens & Sheryll Techlin	
8:00	Kristine Thomas & Linda Sipple	3/15
10:30	Charlie & Rose Miller	
8:00	Milyn & Judy Westphal	3/22
10:30	Betty Randall & Diane Schabo	
8:00	Ron & Myrna Witt	3/29
10:30	Janice Bates & Sheryl Hill	

**BAPTISM** Abigail Grace Beyer, daughter of Scott and Stacy (Lecker) Beyer was baptized February 16, 2020 at St. John. In baptism the Holy Spirit works faith in Jesus Christ. Through faith in Jesus Christ, Abigail receives the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. ***“Be baptized and wash away your sins.”*** Acts 22:16

**LENT** Please join us for worship at 10:30 am or 6:30 pm each Wednesday during Lent beginning with Ash Wednesday, February 26 as we follow our Savior to the cross.

This year our theme is: “The Son of God Goes Forth to War.” When many people picture Jesus they see him as a Gentle Shepherd, a patient teacher, or on his heavenly throne in his full glory. This Lenten season we will be taking a look at Jesus’ role as a warrior. He is the one who was greatly opposed but ultimately won the victory over our greatest enemies.

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. 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.

- Feb. 26 Sloppy Joe sandwiches, hot dogs, chips, fruit & veggies, dessert & beverage.
- March 4 Hot turkey sandwiches, chips, fruit & veggies, dessert & beverage
- March 11 Brats and Burgers, chips, potato salad, pickles, veggies, dessert & beverage.
- March 18 Tacos & chili, fruit & veggies, dessert & beverage.
- March 25 Spaghetti with meatballs and Mac and Cheese, chips, pickles, veggies, dessert & beverage.
- April 1 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.

**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 10 at 1:00 pm 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 and fellowship on Tuesday, March 17 at 9:00 am.

**ROLLER SKATING/BLADING** Plan to join fellow members of St. John and their guests for an evening of roller skating/blading on Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> from 4:30-6:30 pm at Skate City in Kimberly. The cost is \$6.00 per person including skates. To reserve the rink, a minimum of 60 people need to attend. Sign up today; a sheet is on the counter in the entryway.

## March 2020

**LADIES' CANVAS PAINTING** Save the date! We will be having a ladies' canvas painting on March 29<sup>th</sup> in the church basement from 3pm-5pm. More information and a sign-up sheet will be coming soon.

**FLOWER CHART** A 2020 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.

**GREETING CARDS** Did you know there are individual greeting cards for purchase in the church narthex? They are being sold by our Women of Faith as a service to you.

The cards are self-serve on a spinner rack near the library and are only 50 cents per card. Check the rack often as cards are added for special holidays and occasions.

**APPLE VALLEY FOOD PANTRY** The pantry collection will be Sunday, March 1. Cereal, jam, cookies, all crackers, canned fruit, pasta and rice side dishes, canned tomato products, all helper meals, personal care items such as men and women's body washes, deodorant and lotions, household cleaners such as all bathroom cleaners and disinfecting wipes 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 8**. The Apple Valley Food Pantry is located at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 129 S. Mason Street, Appleton. Thank you to all who have volunteered to help at the food pantry.

**2019 ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS** If you have not picked up or received your annual contribution statement, please pick it up at your earliest convenience. The statements are on the counter in the narthex.

**SCHEDULES** The 2020 usher schedule (January-June), the greeters' schedules, the cleaning schedules and Altar Guild schedules are available on the counter in the entryway. Please take the schedule with your name highlighted.

### LOOKING AHEAD

The LWMS (Lutheran Women's Missionary Society) Wolf River Circuit Rally will be meeting the morning of Saturday, April 25 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Hortonville. Bethlehem Lutheran Church and St. Paul Lutheran Church, Stephenville are hosting the rally. All ladies of the congregation are members of the LWMS. Make plans to attend the rally.

The next session of the WELS' School of Outreach is set for Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at St. Peter's in Schofield. This is a great opportunity to learn more about how to share the message of Jesus' forgiveness with others and to learn how we as a congregation can spread the gospel to those who do not know Jesus. We highly encourage you to attend—it's not just open to the evangelism committee or the council—but all members of St. John. For more information, speak to Pastor Frey, Pastor Gartner or Andy Pevonka.

### WELS INTERNATIONAL YOUTH RALLY

The WELS youth rally will be held at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville from June 23-26. Early bird registration ends April 30<sup>th</sup>. There is bus transportation available. For more information, or if you are planning on attending, please speak with Pastor Frey or Pastor Gartner.

### EHV NEWS

Now that we have Evangelical Heritage Versions of the Bible in our pews and in our bulletins, we thought it would be a good idea to give you some updates on the EHV. It is now available for free on [biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com) or on the biblegateway app. If you use the Logos Bible software it is also available for purchase. The EHV also has an electronic study bible available for 20 dollars—it is for Windows 10 users only and can be found at the Microsoft app store. Finally, a reminder that we do have a number of hard copies of the EHV bible available for purchase. If you would like one or have any questions, please speak to Pastor Frey or Pastor Gartner.