



St. John's Newsletter

July 2021



God's Goodness

"Then Moses said, "Please show me your glory." ¹⁹ The Lord said, "I will make all my goodness pass in front of you, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord in your presence. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will show mercy to whom I will show mercy." ²⁰ He said, "You cannot see my face, for no human may see me and live."

(Exodus 33:18-20 EHV)

July 4th is coming soon! Will you go to see fireworks this year? Sing some patriotic songs? Clearly on this Independence Day, we in the U.S. can stop and thank God for the many blessings and freedoms which he's poured out upon us and our country. And yet we also groan and complain a lot because there seems to be so much wrong in our country and so many people and ideas that oppose the unchanging Word and holy will of God. So perhaps we would like to pray, like Moses did to God, **"Please show me your glory."**

God answered Moses by saying, **"I will make all my goodness pass in front of you."** Did you catch that? Moses would see God's goodness and not his glory. Why? It seems that it would be better for this sinful world to see God in all his glory and then they might believe in the true God, but God did the opposite. Thankfully, God showed his goodness, because sinful human beings would die if they were to see the perfect glory of God, **"You cannot see my face, for no human may see me and live."**

Instead, God—who is Love—shows us his goodness and grace, **"I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will show mercy to whom I will show mercy."** We see God's goodness, grace and mercy most clearly in Jesus who went to the cross to pay for our sins. God told Moses that he was a glorious and powerful God, but he also was a God of goodness who rescued us from our sins, even paying for them himself!

And ultimately, that's what you and I—and our country—need to see. We need to see God's forgiving love. We need to hear that God loves us now and that God will love us forever. We need to see that God is gracious and forgiving. When we see God's goodness, it motivates and leads us to appreciate all the more his greatness and his might.

So, go ahead! Enjoy this Independence Day, the fireworks, the patriotic songs. But all the more, enjoy the goodness and grace of God! Appreciate his forgiveness, his compassion, and his love for these bring real independence and freedom for our sinful souls!

Prayer:

Lord of the nations, we praise you for the many blessings and freedoms you have given to our great country. Grant wisdom and integrity to all who are entrusted with positions of authority that they may rule fairly. Defend our freedoms so that we may continue to worship you freely and that the Gospel may be freely proclaimed. Equip and embolden your church on earth to make good use of the blessings you have granted as we seek to proclaim your Gospel in every city and town.

In times of trouble, do not allow our trust in your power and grace to waver or fail.

In these times of such great prosperity fill our hearts with thankfulness to you for all these good things. Amen.

Pastor Mark Gartner

Pastor Gartner

July 2021

ALTAR GUILD

Kathy Bluma 920-475-1140
Elaine Springstroh 920-739-0807
Wendy & Natalie Raschka 920-460-9373

DIVINE CALL On Wednesday, June 23, we the members of St. John extended a Call to Pastor Nathaniel Biebert to serve as our Associate Pastor. Pastor Biebert is currently serving our Savior at Risen Savior Lutheran Church, Austin, Texas. Please keep Pastor Biebert in your prayers as he deliberates where to continue serving our Savior.

JULY 4TH WORSHIP There will be no worship on Monday, July 5th. If you will be out of town for the weekend, please worship with us on **Thursday, July 1st at 6:30 pm**. We will have regular worship services on Sunday, July 4th at 8:00 am and 10:00 am.

SUMMER SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY We are bringing back this summer our family type Bible Study on all non-Communion Sundays beginning Sunday July 11th. The study is entitled, "The ABC's of Worship — Lutheran Customs and Practices." We started this a few summers ago and will be finishing it up this Summer. 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.

There is a booklet that accompanies this study which you may purchase to guide you in your study. (A sample copy is on the back counter to look at — Please don't take this copy!) Please sign up if you would like one of these booklets. The cost is \$3.00.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING The quarterly voters' meeting will be held on **July 13** at 7:00 pm. We strongly encourage all men ages 18 and over to attend.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL Join us for a one-day Vacation Bible School (VBS) on Monday August 2, from 9:00 am-noon. Please bring your children (3K-6th grades) and invite your friends to hear the Word of God and use this as another opportunity to learn about God's love for us that is shown to us in Jesus.

Registration sheets are available in the entryway or you may register online. Please note that a lunch will be served. If you want to help with VBS in anyway (food prep, helper, craft helper) please sign-up on the sheet in the back of Church.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS We welcome Jimmy Carello and Karl Luedtke who both completed the BIC classes and confessed their faith in the true Triune God. Please take some time to welcome them and pray for them.

We also welcome Charles and Charlotte Lovesee and Paul and Karen Glaeser and their daughter Megan (college student). Charles and Charlotte transferred from Immanuel Lutheran Church in Mosinee, WI, and Paul and Karen and Megan Glaeser transferred from St. Peter Lutheran Church in Freedom, WI.

LWMS The Wolf River Circuit is planning on have a fall rally on Saturday, October 16 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Hortonville. St. Paul, Stephenville is cohosting. Watch for more information as we get closer to the date.

CAMM (Central Africa Medical Mission) opened its doors 60 years ago in Zambia and 50 years ago in Malawi. A celebration to thank the Lord for all the blessings that CAMM has received will be held at Grace Lutheran Church, Milwaukee on October 9, 2021. More details about this celebration of thanks will be coming.

If you have any questions about LWMS, please contact Kathy Schabo at 920-427-2990.

WELS APPLE VALLEY FOOD PANTRY The food pantry needs laundry soap, men and women's deodorants, pork n beans/baked beans only, canned meats tuna and chicken, canned pasta, jello/pudding, helper meals and cookies. Thank you for supporting the food pantry. Please drop items off at church by **Friday, July 9, 2021**.

CLEANING THE PARSONAGE After the July 4th weekend, we plan to thoroughly clean the parsonage. More information about this cleaning will be shared in the church bulletin. Thank you for considering to help with this cleaning.

GIFTS TO OUR LORD DURING MAY

		Expenses
General Fund	\$36,086.00	\$24,303.00
General Fund Year to Date	\$180,306.00	\$180,152.00
Building Fund	\$1,981.00	
Land Development Fund	\$710.00	
Missions (WELS)	\$3,412.50	
WI Lutheran Child & Family	\$430.00	
Institutional Ministry	\$385.00	
FVLHS Operational	\$560.00	
FVLHS Debt Retirement	\$815.00	

"On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income." 1 Corinthians 16:2