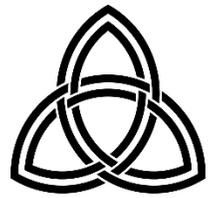




# St. John's Newsletter

September 2021



## God Is Always With Us -- Even In Our Lowest Times

**Elijah was afraid, and he ran for his life. He went to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and he left his servant there. But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness. There he sat down under a broom tree, where he prayed that he would die. He said, "I've had enough, Lord. Take my life, for I am no better than my fathers." Then he lay down and went to sleep under the broom tree. Suddenly an angel touched him and said, "Get up and eat." (I Kings 19:3-5 - EHV)**

If you have played sports or follow sports, you can understand this picture. I was in High School and we were playing to go to the State tournament. The game was back and forth and it was going to come down to the wire. We were up by one point and I got fouled with only a few seconds to go in the game. If I made both free throws we would for sure win the game. As it played out, I missed the front end of the bonus and the other team grabbed the rebound and ran up the court and heaved a half-court shot and you already know the outcome. It banked in and the other team one by one point. I was heartbroken. The team was heartbroken. We were at a low point and it seemed like life had ended. But then Coach Bertolus, one of the best coaches I ever had, spoke in the locker room after the game and pointed out that we weren't losers. He pointed out how far we had come that season and reminded us that this was only one small point in our lives which would never define who we are or where we were going. He lifted up our spirits when we were down.

Elijah in our text, was at one of those low points. No, he hadn't lost the basketball game, but even worse he was fleeing for his very life and he was wondering if it was really worth it to be a Christian and to do the work that God had called him to do. He had just defeated the Baal prophets at Mt. Carmel and was at a spiritual high, but now there was a bounty on his head and he had to flee. Listen as he wallows in self-pity, **"There he sat down under a broom tree, where he prayed that he would die. He said, "I've had enough, Lord. Take my life, for I am no better than my fathers."** Then he lay down and went to sleep under the broom tree." He had given up and wanted to die.

As we live in this world, life is tough. There are many times when we feel like we have "lost the game" and it is not worth going on. We feel much like Elijah and want to just throw the towel in. The pandemic has drained every last drop out of us emotionally, physically and spiritually and we can't seem to see the light at the end of the tunnel. Sickness and death has come into our lives and we are worn out and we want to give up. Our family seems to be in a state of constant bickering and fighting, especially as we argue about politics, the pandemic, masks mandates and vaccines.

It is at these times, that we need a "coach" who will come in and give us the strength and advice that we need to focus on what is truly important. God came to Elijah that day and reminded him that he wasn't alone, **"Suddenly an angel touched him and said, "Get up and eat."** This wasn't just any angel, that was God himself coming and bringing Elijah the strength he needed, both for his body as he provided bread to eat, but strength for his soul as he reminded Elijah that he wasn't alone. God was telling him that he was with him every step of the way.

God comes to us, just like he came to Elijah. He comes to us through his Word and through the Sacraments of Baptism and Lord's Supper and reminds us that we are not alone. When death, sickness and earthly troubles seem to overwhelm us, God is right there by our side to feed us with the strength of his forgiveness and the encouragement of his saving love.

We know that Elijah listened to God and continued to do the Lord's work. He wasn't perfect in his trust, but God continued to forgive him and guide him through his Law and Gospel. He does the same for us. We are not perfect in our trust of God, but God's forgiving love continues to come each and every day to remind us that God is with us to forgive us and strengthen us as we journey to our home in heaven.

*Pasta Mark Gartner*

Pastor Mark Gartner

## September 2021

### ALTAR GUILD

Rose Miller 920-716-1379  
Jane Clevon 920-830-4163  
Jeanne Hennes 920-833-7329  
Diane Schabo 920-733-4337

**WITH THE LORD** Our sister in Christ, Darlene Schroeder entered eternal life with her Savior on Tuesday, July 27<sup>th</sup>. A Christian funeral service was held at St. John on Friday, July 30<sup>th</sup>. *“I am the resurrection and the life.” John 11:25.*

**BAPTISM** Ashtyn Rose Nataralla, daughter of Parker Nataralla and Jaiden Lecker born June 25, 2021 was baptized August 22, 2021 during our 10:00 am service at St. John. *“Be baptized and wash away your sins.” Acts 22:16*

**DIVINE CALL FOR AN ASSOCIATE PASTOR** After prayerful deliberations, Pastor Colin Rieke has returned the Call to serve here at St. John. He will continue to serve our Savior at Palos Lutheran Church in Palos Heights, Illinois. May the Lord bless his ministry.

**CALL MEETING** Tuesday, August 24 at 7:00pm, we will have a Congregational Voters’ meeting to place a Divine Call to replace Pastor Frey. All Voters are encouraged to attend this meeting.

**LABOR DAY WEEKEND WORSHIP** Labor Day weekend worship will be Thursday, September 2 at 6:30 pm and Sunday, September 5 at 8:00 and 10:00 am. **No** Monday evening service will be held on September 6.

**WORSHIP TIMES CHANGING** Our fall schedule will begin Sunday, September 12, 2021. The worship times will be at 8:00 and **10:30 am** every Sunday. Bible classes and Sunday School will be held between services. Monday evening worship will continue to be at 6:30 pm.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** Please mark your calendars for the start of Sunday School which will begin on Sunday September 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 am. Please bring your children (3K-8th grades). What an opportunity for your children to hear the Word of God and to learn about God’s love for us that is shown to us in Jesus. Register your children by signing up on the sheet in the entryway or you may register online.

**BIBLE CLASSES** Our regular Sunday morning Bible classes will start on Sunday, Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 am. We will be having a 6 Lesson Bible Class that will help all of us as we think about Friendship Evangelism. This video based Bible Class is entitled, “One by One” and is looking to help equip all of us to reach out to those whom we may know that don’t know Jesus and the way to heaven. Please note that Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> will be our Special Apache Bible Class.

Our Monday morning Bible classes will resume Monday, Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am. Tuesday evening Bible classes will resume on Tuesday, Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm. We will be doing an overview Bible Study of the books of the Bible from Joshua – 1&2 Chronicles. Our goal is to better acquaint ourselves with the major highpoints of each of these books which will help us to better understand God and his plan of Salvation.

**WELCOME NEW MEMBER** We welcome our sister Maureen Gowey in faith. Please take some time to welcome her and pray for her.

**MISSION FESTIVAL** Mark your calendars for Sunday September 19<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Dave Bostedt from the Apache Mission will be our guest preacher and he will also give a presentation about the mission work being done on the Apache reservation during the Bible Study hour.

**WOMEN OF FAITH** All ladies of the congregation are invited to join us Tuesday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm for Bible study and LWMS updates.

**MEN’S BIBLE STUDY** All men of the congregation are invited to join us on Tuesday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 am for Bible study.

**LUTHERAN WOMEN’S MISSIONARY SOCIETY (LWMS)** Make plans to attend the Wolf River Circuit’s fall rally to learn more about the mission work in the WELS. The rally is on Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup> at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Hortonville. St. Paul, Stephenville is cohosting. You will have the opportunity to support the mission work of the LWMS; a free-will offering will be taken the weekends of September 26<sup>th</sup> and October 3<sup>rd</sup>. If you have any questions about LWMS, contact Kathy Schabo at 920-427-2990.

## September 2021

**WELS APPLE VALLEY FOOD PANTRY** For September, the food pantry needs Crackers, boxed potato side dishes, 1 lb bags of white/brown rice, canned pasta, tomato and chicken noodle soup, canned tomato products, canned sloppy joe mix, laundry soap, hand/body lotions, and bathroom/kitchen cleaning products. Please drop items off at church by **Friday, September 10, 2021**. Thank you for supporting the food pantry.

<b>GIFTS TO OUR LORD DURING JULY</b>		Expenses
General Fund	\$28,600.00	\$17,326.00
General Fund Year to Date	\$233,221.00	\$219,152.00
Building Fund	\$1,700.00	
Land Development Fund	\$182.00	
Missions (WELS)	\$1,992.50	
Christian Family Solutions	\$655.00	
Institutional Ministries	\$585.00	
FVLHS Operational	\$865.00	
FVLHS Debt Retirement	\$1,110.00	

*“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*

**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. To learn more about this celebration, go to <https://www.camm.us/60-years-of-gods-grace>.

**MOBILE APP FOR GIVING YOUR OFFERING IS CHANGING** VANCO, the company we use for online giving through our website is sunsetting the Give Plus app on September 30, 2021. Give Plus allowed you to give directly to St. John through your smart phone. A **new Vanco Mobile app** is replacing Give Plus. Before September 30<sup>th</sup>, you will need to download the Vanco Mobile app, login/create a username, and then find St. John. This app will allow you to give to whatever fund you so desire, as well as set a one-time offering, or a recurring offering with a specific frequency. More information about the new Vanco Mobile app will be shared in upcoming bulletins.

