



# St. John's Newsletter

March 2021



---

---

## Jesus Has Got It

**As he went on his way and was approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" He replied, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. (Acts 9:3-5)**

How many of you have ever said this phrase when you are trying to figure something out? "Don't tell me!" "Don't help me. I've got this." We say this, because we don't want help, and we want the satisfaction of solving the problem on our own. Sadly we often try this same thing when we have trouble with the sin in our lives. "God, I got this, I don't need your help!" Maybe we don't say it this directly, but all too often we think we can handle on our own the problems of sin that come into our lives.

Saul was the same way. He thought he had all the answers. He thought the way to be right with God was to follow all the laws and traditions of the Jews. Then along came Jesus. Jesus claimed that he was the only way to God. Saul couldn't stand the thought of it. And it wasn't just Jesus who offended Saul, it was also the followers of Jesus. Even after Jesus was crucified, his followers were saying he had risen from the dead, and they were gathering regularly to worship him. Saul was a man of action. It was time to put an end to all this talk about Jesus. He made it his life's mission to hunt down anyone who followed Jesus.

It is easy to think that we aren't like Saul, but by nature we have something in common with Saul. We all tend to think that when it comes to getting on God's good side, the way to be right is to do right. We take pride in following God's commandments better than most people, but Saul wasn't saved by being good and neither are we. Listen to what God says: **"all our righteous acts are like a filthy cloth" (Isaiah 64:6).**

Saul had to learn it the hard way. There was a bright light from heaven, a visit from Jesus, and three days of blindness. As horrible as it all must have seemed to Saul at the time, clearly God loved Saul. For the three days Saul's blindness lasted, God gave him time to reflect on things. Jesus had been right all along; he really was the only way to God. Jesus wasn't dead; he really was alive! Best of all, when the three days were up, Saul was baptized. Jesus had died for Saul's sins, too. God had forgiven Saul, and Saul knew it.

Go back to that little game we play when we're struggling to figure something out. After a while, when we're sure there is no possible way we are going to succeed, we say, "Okay, I give up. Help me out, here." That's the right way to think of ourselves every time we sin. We're not the ones with the answer to our sins; God is. And the answer he gives is so amazing and so beautiful that we will never get tired of hearing it. His own Son Jesus paid for all our sins with his life, and then rose from the dead to give us the gift of life forever in heaven. God is on our side. May our journey to the cross and the empty tomb this Lenten and Easter season help us to see that Jesus has done it all so we can live in eternal peace and joy.

*Pastor Mark Gartner*

Pastor Gartner

## March 2021

### ALTAR GUILD

Nancy Bruhn	920-739-5852
Ginger Kobussen	920-840-2147
Lynn Ziegert	920-585-4434

**BAPTISM** Lincoln Norbert Rottier, son of Tony and Jessica (Kiecker) Rottier born January 30, 2021 was baptized February 14, 2021 during our 10:30 am service at St. John. ***“Be baptized and wash away your sins.”*** Acts 22:16

**WITH THE LORD** Our brother in Christ, Marvin Kamke entered eternal life with his Savior on Monday, February 1, 2021. A Christian funeral service was held at St. John on Saturday, February 6, 2021.

Our sister in Christ, Carol Dalke entered eternal life with her Savior on Saturday, February 6, 2021. A Christian funeral service was held at St. John on Thursday, February 11, 2021.

***“I am the resurrection and the life.”*** John 11:25.

**BIBLE CLASSES** Pastor Frey will be starting a new Bible Study on Sunday March 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 am on the New Testament book of Colossians. Join us as we look at this important letter which highlights the person of Christ and his work of salvation.

Pastor Gartner will be starting a new Bible Study on Mondays and Tuesdays starting Monday March 8<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am and Tuesday night March 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm. The title of this Bible Class will be, **“Luther’s Small Catechism – A Study of The Apostles’ Creed, Baptism and Holy Communion.”** Martin Luther wrote the Small Catechism to help assist Christians in their learning the basic truths of God’s Word. Please join us in this Bible Class as we seek to strengthen our faith as we use Luther’s Small Catechism to refresh our knowledge about The Apostles’ Creed, Baptism and Holy Communion.

If you would like to receive a recording of these Bible Classes, please contact one of the Pastors and we will send you the link for these recordings.

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

This year our theme is: The Hands of the Passion

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.

**Note: Confirmation classes for grades 6-8 will begin at 5:00 pm each Wednesday during Lent.**

A meal will be served each Wednesday from 5:30-6:15 pm. Please sign up each week in the church entryway if you plan to come to the meal.

**TEAMS/COMMITTEES CORRECTION** The telephone number of Randy Rickert was incorrect on the teams/committees representatives listing that was included with the January newsletter. Randy’s telephone number is 920-731-5882.

**FLOWER CHART** A 2021 flower chart has been placed on the bulletin board. If you would like to bring flowers for a special occasion, please sign up 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.

**WELS APPLE VALLEY FOOD PANTRY** For March, the food pantry needs: Cookies, crackers, hamburger, tuna, chicken helper meals, macaroni and cheese, 1 lb. bags of rice, boxed instant white/brown rice, boxed rice side dishes, canned pasta, canned pears, applesauce, peanut butter and jam. Please drop items off at church by **Friday, March 12, 2021.** Thank you for supporting the food pantry.

**WOMEN OF FAITH** All ladies of the congregation are invited to join us Tuesday, March 9 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, March 16 at 9:00 am for Bible study.

# March 2021

**CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS AND ENVELOPES** The 2020 contribution statements are in the entryway. If you have not picked up your contribution statements and/or offering envelopes, please pick them up when you are able to do so.

## **GIFTS TO OUR LORD DURING JANUARY:**

		<u>Expenses</u>
General Fund	\$43,746.00	\$67,315.00
Building Fund	\$2,260.00	
Land Development Fund	\$160.00	
Missions (WELS)	\$4,062.50	
Christian Family Solutions	\$575.00	
Institutional Ministry	\$485.00	
FVLHS Operational	\$715.00	
FVLHS Let the Children Come	\$1,553.44	

***“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***

**AN OPTION FOR GIVING YOUR OFFERING:** VANCO, the company we use for online giving through our website, now offers an app that allows you to give directly to St. John through your smart phone, VANCO Give Plus. Simply download the 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. For more information, contact Tim Springstroh or one of the pastors. Below are the links for the app.

Google Play:



Apple App Store:

