



St. John's Newsletter

May 2021



Speak Lord. . . I Am Listening

The Lord came and stood there and called as he had the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." (1 Samuel 3:10 - EHV)

Many people using a cell phone have learned the skill of "selective answering or listening." Their cell phones ring; they look at who is calling, and in an instant decide whether or not they are going to answer. It is "selective answering or listening." Unfortunately, too often we do something similar when it comes to the Lord's communication with us. We use "selective answering or listening" when we read what God has to say in the Bible and we think, *"Go ahead and speak, Lord. I will think about what you have to say. Then, if I agree with it I will follow your Word. If not, I am going to ignore it."* Or maybe we use "selective answering or listening" with God when we say, *"I am too busy to listen to God at the present time. I will listen to God when it better suits my busy schedule."*

In our words for today we hear about a young boy named Samuel who answered differently when the Lord spoke. Samuel said, **"Speak, for your servant is listening."** Samuel didn't wait to find out if he liked what God had to say or said come back at a better time. Samuel trusted that whatever the Lord had to say, it would be important for him to hear and follow.

This is also true for us. Everything the Lord tells us in his Word is important for us to hear and believe. Most importantly, he wants us to know about his love for us through Jesus whom he sent to save us from our sins. Everything that the Lord tells us in his Word is good. When the Lord spoke, Samuel listened. It's in our best interest to do the same thing. God has so much to tell us in the Bible: how he loves us, how he can help us, how he has a gracious plan for our lives. Our Lord said, **"Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it" (Luke 11:28).**

On May 2nd, we will have our Confirmation Sunday, where we will hear a group of young Christians confess their faith in the one true God. For three years they have been listening to God and his Word in Confirmation Classes. They have learned about who the true God is and why we need his love and mercy because of all of our sin. They have listened as God's Word revealed to them the one and only way to heaven by grace alone through faith as found in Scripture alone.

But the real question isn't whether we are listening in the Confirmation Classes, or whether we were confirmed. The sad truth is that there are many young people who have been confirmed, but only listened to God until the day of Confirmation. How many of our friends we were confirmed with no longer gather around God's Word and Sacrament to listen to God. Way too many people are no longer listening as God speaks, and way too many people have better things to do than listen to God.

So as we see these Confirmands listen as God speaks to them and then they confess their faith in him, lead us all to listen as God speaks to us. Guide us to listen to God's Word as we regularly come to Church and as we read our Bibles at home. Forgive us for the many times that we have used "selective answering or listening" with God and his Word. Strengthen us as we live everyday listening as God so graciously speaks to us. **"Speak, for your servant is listening."**

Pastor Mark Gartner

Pastor Gartner

May 2021

ALTAR GUILD

Kathy Schabo 920-427-2990
Betty Randall 920-858-9918
Wendy and Natalie Raschka 920-460-9373

WITH THE LORD Our sister in Christ, Sara Holub entered eternal life with her Savior on Friday, March 26, 2021. A Christian funeral service was held at Fox Valley Lutheran High School on Saturday, April 3, 2021. *"I am the resurrection and the life."* **John 11:25.**

DIVINE CALL On March 25, Pastor Frey received a divine call to serve the Lord at Nebraska Lutheran High School in Waco, NE. as Campus Pastor and Dean of Students. Please keep the Freys in your prayers at this time as Pastor decides where he can best use his gifts and talents in service to the Lord in his kingdom. He welcomes your feedback at any time.

BIBLE CLASSES Pastor Frey is leading Bible Study on Sunday morning 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 is leading a Bible Study on Mondays and Tuesdays. The title of this Bible Class is, "**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.

2021 CONFIRMATION CLASS These 11 young people will be confirmed on May 2, 2021 in the 10:30 am service:

- Lyla Magdelynn Beyer
- Will James Harris
- Adam Lyle Helmrick
- Grace Elaine Lankow
- Autumn Rae Lemke
- Joshua Nolan Mathe (private confirmation May 1)
- Lydia Kate Merrick
- Carlee Marie Olson
- Abby Marie Presteen
- Zachary James Siebers
- Mitchell Lee Volkman

Connor Jacob Kempf will be confirmed at Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Appleton.

QUARTERLY VOTERS' MEETING The quarterly congregational meeting was held Tuesday, April 20 at 7:00 pm. Reports from the meeting are in the narthex.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY AND CHURCH WORK DAY Saturday May 1 (weather permitting) beginning at 8:00 am, we will have a Church work day to clean up the property and we will also clean our portion of the highway for Adopt-a-Highway. Bring your rakes and shovels to clean up our property. Please sign up on the sheet in the back of Church if you can even come for a portion of the day to help out.

We also want to clean the inside of church. There is a sheet in the entry way listing areas to be cleaned in the church. (1) You may clean any time during this week. (2) Just sign your name next to the area you will clean. (3) Mark the area when it is cleaned. Thank you for considering to help with this work.

SUMMER WORSHIP TIMES Starting Sunday, May 30 worship will be at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. Monday worship will remain the same at 6:30 p.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL Sunday, May 23 is the last day of Sunday School. We thank the teachers who taught God's Word to the children this year.

CHURCH SEATING AND SOCIAL DISTANCING With things moving slowly in the right direction with Covid-19, more people have been returning to worship each Sunday. Because of the pews being roped off for social distancing, this has caused some issues with finding enough seating for everyone. After considering all these things, the Church Council decided to remove the ropes from the pews on Sunday, March 28. While we may be taking down the ropes, this doesn't mean that common sense is to be thrown aside. We are asking everyone to use their Christian love and judgment as they consider not only their own levels of comfort with social distancing, but also their fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. Please be respectful of each other as you worship, especially as you look to respect each other's comfort levels with social distancing. Remember that our 10:30 am and especially our Monday Evening services aren't full and one can safely socially distance if so desired. If you have questions, please talk to one of the Pastors or to a Church Council member.

WOMEN OF FAITH All ladies of the congregation are invited to join us Tuesday, May 11 at 1:00 pm for Bible study and LWMS updates.

May 2021

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY All men of the congregation are invited to join us on Tuesday, May 18 at 9:00 am for Bible study.

WORSHIP SERVICE THROUGH YOUR PHONE If you have no Internet and would like to listen each week to our Worship Services, you can dial 920-212-3625 and you will be able to listen to our Sunday Worship Service. Each week the service will become available to listen to each Sunday after 10:30am and you can listen to these services at any time during the week. If you have any questions, please call Church.

MLC FUND A few years ago St. John set up a fund to support our members who are attending Martin Luther College (MLC). This coming school year, we will have one of our members attending MLC to study to be a teacher in our WELS Schools. If you want to contribute to this fund, please mark your special offering to the "MLC Fund" by May 1st.

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY (LWMS) The Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS) supports WELS mission work. All ladies of our congregation are members of LWMS.

Each year the LWMS divides up among the churches in the WELS the missions and missionaries from around the world. This year St. John has been given the privilege to pray for and support with letters and gifts these three Missions and their Pastors. If you would look to know more about how to support these Missions and their Pastors, please attend our monthly LWMS meeting at St. John or contact Kathy Schabo.

- Guy Marquardt – Guy became a Friendly Counselor to India in 2015. His focus has mainly been training pastors. As international travel becomes possible, he and his wife plan to live in Thailand and make frequent visits to India.
- Pastor Kevin Schultz – (Home Mission) The Vine Lutheran Church, Hayden, Idaho began in October 2017. They are looking to acquire their own building soon.
- Pastor Joel Schwartz – (Home Mission) Peace Ev. Lutheran Church, Trinity, Florida. They are getting ready to build their worship facility.

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

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 May, the food pantry needs: dish soap, hand soap, pork n beans, canned pears, applesauce, canned pasta, instant rice, 1-pound bags of rice, boxed mashed potatoes, peanut butter, cookies, tomato soup and chunky soups. Thank you for supporting the food pantry. Please drop items off at church by **Friday, May 13, 2021**.

GIFTS TO OUR LORD DURING MARCH:

		<u>Expenses</u>
General Fund	\$41,759.00	\$28,030.00
General Fund YTD	\$112,143.00	\$125,248.00
Building Fund	\$2,152.00	
Land Development Fund	\$200.00	
Missions (WELS)	\$2,680.50	
Christian Family Solutions	\$370.00	
Institutional Ministry	\$370.00	
FVLHS Operational	\$550.00	
FVLHS Let the Children Come	\$635.00	

"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

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:

