



# St. John's Newsletter

June 2021



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## Our Changeless Lord

**Certainly I, the Lord, do not change. That is why you, sons of Jacob, have not come to an end.** (Malachi 3:6 - EHV)

Change. Some love and embrace change while many others loathe it! And here we are once again dealing with more change at St. John. But when you think about it, change, in and of it-self, is just that: it's change. It's neither good nor bad; it's different. Almost four years ago, when I wrote my first newsletter here at St. John, I talked about change; using the words of 1 Peter 1:23-25, I talked about how God's word will never change and how it cannot change if we want the church to survive. Back then, in August of 2017, I wrote in part, *I don't have to go into detail about how there is a lot of change going on in our congregation; two new Pastors in less than six months is on top of that list. There could be a lot of apprehension and a little uncertainty. And while there may be some changes here and there in the next few months and years; I can promise you that one thing will not change: God's Holy Word. It will remain front and center. Throughout the world, after thousands of years of change there has only been one constant: the power of God's Holy Word. It has forever remained true and always will be.*

Looking back, I wasn't exactly accurate when I said that the power of God's word is the only constant throughout the years. It would have been more accurate to say that the Lord and the power of his word are the one constant. Because isn't that where the power of God's Word comes from—from the Lord himself! The Lord is changeless—or to use the technical theological term: immutable. This fact may not seem like a big deal, but it really is. Just think about how much we change throughout our lifetimes; we change physically, emotionally, spiritually, and so on. We may think one way about certain things until we gather some more insight and gain some life-experience, and our viewpoints change. Growing up you may have had a love for a certain style of music, a person, or your favorite sports teams. But over time those feelings have changed and you moved on to something else. How many have been confused and hurt by those in your life who have changed their feelings, attitudes toward you?

The Lord however does not change. He was the same in eternity as he is now and will be forever. He has always remained constant, he always has been our rock and our redeemer. The Lord has always loved us, and he always will. He will never not be concerned about us, he'll never change his mind about watching over us, protecting us, loving us, and saving us! Because the Lord does not change, neither do his gospel promises. Even though we constantly stray away from him and his Word, the Lord's love and mercy still shines upon us so that we will not come to an eternal end in hell. The door to repentance is open—and will always remain open! Because the Lord does not change, neither does the power of his word. What comfort do we have in that the Lord does not change, but his love is always around us!

Things change. That's neither good nor bad. People come and go; and so do pastors. But the Lord is the Lord of the Church—and he does not change. Neither does his means of grace and the power of his gospel! And so, these things cannot change; for the Church to survive in a changing world, this is how it has to be. As long as the Word of God is still taught in its truth and purity and the law and gospel are emphasized, then the changeless Lord will continue to bless St. John.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;  
Earth's joys grow dim; its glories pass away.  
Change and decay in all around I see;  
O thou who changest not, abide with me! (CW 588:2)

Pastor Andrew K. Frey

# June 2021

## ALTAR GUILD

Judy Schroeder	920-470-1559
Katie Rickert	920-734-6830
Monica Minzlaff	920-858-8929
Donna Pomeroy	920-851-3140

**DIVINE CALL** Pastor Frey has accepted the divine call to serve the Lord at Nebraska Lutheran High School in Waco, Nebraska as Campus Pastor and Dean of Students. His last weekend at St. John will be Sunday, June 20 and Monday, June 21.

Following the second service on June 20, there will be a farewell picnic at Plamann Park which everyone is invited to attend. Look for more information coming soon as we look to say farewell to Pastor Frey and his family.

**CALL TO REPLACE PASTOR FREY** Sunday, May 16 we voted to extend a call to a graduate at our Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. In God’s perfect wisdom, we didn’t receive a graduate. We will now be looking to place a Divine Call to a Pastor in the near future. Look for more information about a future Call meeting. Even though we may wonder what the future is, we can trust 100% that God will send the right Pastor at the right time with the right gifts to serve the sheep at St. John.

**BIBLE CLASS** Pastor Frey will be finishing his Sunday morning Bible Study on the New Testament book of Colossians in June. Join us as we look at this important letter which highlights the person of Christ and his work of salvation.

Pastor Gartner’s class will not be meeting the next two weeks. We will resume on Monday/Tuesday June 7 and 8 to have our last lesson on Luther’s Small Catechism.

**WORSHIP SERVICE THROUGH YOUR PHONE** If you have no Internet and would like to listen each week to our Worship Services, you can dial 1-920-212-3625 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.

**WOMEN OF FAITH AND MEN’S BIBLE STUDY** invite you to a summer cookout meal and farewell for Pastor Frey and his family on Tuesday, June 8 at 12:00 pm (noon) at St. John. Bring your family. The meat and buns will be provided; just bring a dish to pass. Come for food and fellowship. Let us know if you plan to come; a sign-up sheet is on the counter in the entryway.

**SUMMER WORSHIP TIMES** Our summer worship schedule begins Sunday, May 30 with worship services at 8:00 and 10:00 am. Monday worship will remain at 6:30 p.m.

**LWMS** Thank you to all who contributed to LWMS (Lutheran Women’s Missionary Society) missions through the door collections taken during the weekends of April 18 and April 25. The 58<sup>th</sup> annual LWMS Convention will be virtual from June 24-27, 2021. Go to [www.lwms.org](http://www.lwms.org) and select 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention for more information. If you have any questions about LWMS, contact Kathy Schabo at 920-427-2990.

**WELS APPLE VALLEY FOOD PANTRY** For June, the food pantry needs peanut butter and jam, pork n beans, canned pears, canned mandarins, canned pasta, 1 lb. bags of rice, boxed instant rice, boxed potatoes, boxed helper meals, cookies, flavored crackers such as Cheez-Its, men and women's body washes, bath tissue and paper towel. Thank you for supporting the food pantry. Please drop items off at church by **Friday, June 11, 2021**.

## GIFTS TO OUR LORD DURING APRIL:

		<u>Expenses</u>
General Fund	\$32,077.00	\$30,601.00
General Fund YTD	\$144,220.00	\$155,849.00
Building Fund	\$1,797.00	
Land Development Fund	\$445.00	
Missions (WELS)	\$2,172.50	
Christian Family Solutions	\$390.00	
Institutional Ministry	\$370.00	
FVLHS Operational	\$535.00	
FVLHS Let the Children Come	\$865.00	

***“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:

