



# St. John Lutheran Church & School

## June 2017 Newsletter

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- **Karla Haley**  
Music Coordinator  
K-2nd
- **Linda Schwartz**  
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- **Gladys Peter**  
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- **Tammy Musser**  
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[www.stjohnwaterloo.com](http://www.stjohnwaterloo.com)



### Gems from the Annual Voter's Meeting...

**"I think this congregation has a serious spiritual problem."**

From time to time, there are things which are spoken at voter's meetings that are worthy of repeating. This is one of them. It was made in reference to the fact that attendance continues to decline, costs continue to rise faster than we can keep up with them, and that we have a large part of our membership who just don't care to participate, either by showing up to church, by putting offerings into the plate—or by coming to voter's meetings.

Truer words were never spoken. We do have a serious spiritual problem; but not just one, there are many of them. That is to be expected! We are a congregation filled with sinners, deep down selfish, self-centered, egotistical, self-righteous sinners. And we always want to lay the blame at someone else's feet for our problems; but we cannot. They reside right here, at home in each one of us. That's why we need Jesus!

Jesus, through the Law, reminds us that although we think we're not the problem—we are. We need his forgiveness and his restoration to the path of righteousness. As the Scriptures reminds us, "You Hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye." {Mt 7:5} It's all too easy to blame everyone else for our problems, and look no further at our responsibility in the issue. How many of those at the meeting on Sunday night bothered to call other members to encourage them to be there? How many had talked to others about the seriousness of our meetings, and (in a positive way) about the work that is done there? How many prayed for those who were absent, that God would spark within them the interest to get involved?

Like most within Christianity, including the WELS, we've become just too complacent with the forgiveness of sins that Jesus has earned for us on the cross and given to us through faith. We've fallen into a worldly pattern, that doesn't respect religion; or people who are active religiously. We've become distracted by our gadgets and the time they steal from our spiritual lives: whether it's computers, cell phones, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or the hundreds of videogames. Many of us couldn't live a day without these distractions, but haven't picked up a Bible in weeks, months, or years.

Yes, we have a very serious spiritual problem in our congregation, and it's only going to get worse. The question still remains, however, How do we fix it? That answer in its simplest form is through regular application of the Gospel in Word and Sacraments. But we do that! We have 2-3 services a week, and our services are broadcast more than 5 times a week. Why isn't that making a difference? We've also tried many different ways to re-package the Gospel, which also haven't worked.

What's the answer? Tune in next month.

*Pastor Adomeit*