



DIVINE SAVIOR EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
 102 NORTHRIDGE DR.
 SHAWANO, WI 54166
 (715) 536-6880

MESSENGER—JULY 2020

*Special Dates in
July*

Ladies Aid

7th @ 1:00 p.m.

Co-or. Council Mtg.

7th @ 6:30 p.m.

**Worship at the
 Cross**

9th @ 5:30 p.m.

Youth Concert

11th @ 10:30 a.m.

Free Hot Dog Lunch

11th @ 11:30 a.m.

**Semi-Annual
 Voters Mtg.**

19th @ 10:15 a.m.

**Food Pantry
 Drive Thru Service**

**Thursdays
 1:00– 3:00 p.m.**

**Pray & Play
 Tuesdays @**

**3:00 p.m.
 (except 7/28)**

A Gift to Enjoy

This year in our monthly articles we are considering favorite verses from the Bible.

This month's favorite Bible verse is: **Romans 6:23**

“The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

My first paycheck. \$100! A ONE with two zeroes behind it! It didn't matter that I spent a week pulling weeds with thistles in a 45-acre field. It didn't matter that I sweltered under a hot July sun. It didn't matter that I earned minimum wage. It had my name on it. I earned it.

There is another paycheck that I'm not so excited about. It comes in the form of guilt pricking my conscience far deeper than a thistle could ever penetrate my skin. Sometimes I see it when my temper flares hotter than the summer sun. I feel it when I know I should be more considerate, more caring, more loving toward others around me. So I work harder to do what's right and try harder to do better than before, but still, it never seems to be enough. And it isn't enough, because the Bible tells me the wages of my sin is death—and it's your paycheck, too.

But, thank the Lord, the Bible also tells us that God is not going to give us what we have earned with our sins. Instead, he gives us something we have not earned—eternal life. It's a gift that has been bought and paid for by the blood of Jesus and earned by his death on the cross.

That takes all the pressure off, doesn't it? Instead of the failures of our past, we can look to Jesus' perfect life of love. Instead of the pressures of tomorrow, we can look to the promise of eternal life that is already won for us by Jesus' dying and rising from the dead. As a result, life is not a burden, but a gift to enjoy always.

Worship service times.

**Sun. 9:00 a.m. &
 10:30 a.m.**

Mon. 6:30 p.m.

PARISH NEWS

Congregational Changes last month:

Added:

Baptism :

Released:

Transferred: Erin, Henry, Gabriella, Penelope Hahn to First Lutheran Church, La Crosse, WI

Called Home to Jesus:

Current Congregational Stats: communicants: 160 souls: 174

Who Am I, Lord?

When God called Moses from the depths of the burning bush, that was Moses' response? **“Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”** (Exodus 3:11) God was calling Moses to do something quite extraordinary, to be a leader for the nation of Israel, to deliver that nation from the hands of slavery by standing up before Pharaoh and demanding that he release them, and to lead them in the ways of the LORD.

Moses did not feel qualified to do anything so grand. He made many objections. “What if they ask me who sent me?” “I can't speak before so many people.” “I can't stand before Pharaoh and make demands.” “What if the people don't listen to me?” **“Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”**

No matter how many objections Moses gave, the LORD would not take “No” for an answer. He assured Moses that he could do that task for which he was called because he wouldn't be doing it alone. First, in answer to some of Moses' objections, God promised that Aaron would help him speak the message he received from the LORD. Second, God gave all assurance that this was the work of the LORD, that this was his message to the people. **God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’ Say to the Israelites, ‘the LORD, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.’”** (Exodus 3:14-15)

He is the same God, the same LORD, throughout all generations, and he has prepared Moses for the task to which he called him. The same is true for you. How often have you asked yourself, “Who am I, Lord, that I should . . . ?” Or even a slightly different focus on this question: “Lord, what can I do?”

Have you ever wondered what role you play in the Church? Or do you wonder if you even have a role in the Church, other than someone who comes to worship? Do you wonder if what you do is as important as the task someone else fulfills? “I can't speak as eloquently.” “I can't help the physical, laborious tasks.” “I simply can't do what so-and-so can do for the Church.” “What's my role?”

These are the kinds of questions that plague us and make us feel insignificant in the work we do for the kingdom of heaven. But you are not insignificant. God has granted you your own gifts and abilities, and he has blessed you with the ability to carry them out. These gifts look so different from person to person, but the work God calls us to do and has enabled us to do is just as important as that of the next person. A hymn we used recently in worship addresses this point so beautifully.

Christian Worship Hymn 573, “Hark! the Voice of Jesus Crying”.

1 Hark! the voice of Jesus crying,
“Who will go and work today?
 Fields are ripe and harvests waiting;
 Who will bear the sheaves away?”
 Loud and long the Master calleth;
 Rich reward he offers thee.
Who will answer, gladly saying,
“Here am I—send me, send me”?

2 If you cannot speak like angels,
 If you cannot preach like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus;
You can say he died for all.
 If you cannot rouse the wicked
 With the Judgment's dread alarms,
You can lead the little children
To the Savior's waiting arms.

3 If you cannot be a watchman,
 Standing high on Zion's wall,
 Pointing out the path to heaven,
 Off'ring life and peace to all,
With your prayers and with your off'rings
You can do what God demands;
You can be like faithful Aaron,
Holding up the prophet's hands.

4 Let none hear you idly saying,
 "There is nothing I can do,"
 While the multitudes are dying,
 And the Master calls for you.
Take the task he gives you gladly;
Let his work your pleasure be.
Answer quickly when he calleth,
"Here am I—send me, send me!"

Every "little" thing counts. I put "little" in quotations marks, because what we often view as insignificant means so much more in the work of the kingdom of heaven. I've often heard, "All I can do is pray," and "I do enjoy giving my offering," but I also hear, "I can't do anything else." If this is "all you can do," then you are doing plenty! Just as the hymn-writer wrote, "**With your prayers and with your off'rings You can do what God demands; You can be like faithful Aaron, Holding up the prophet's hands.**" (vs. 3)

In battle, Moses had to hold his staff over his head as a sign that the LORD was with the Israelites and would not leave their side. He could not do that alone. His brother Aaron and another servant of the LORD held up Moses' hands to ensure victory for the people. It is the same in our service to the LORD. The Pastor can't do it alone. The council can't do it alone. We are a body of believers working together to accomplish the task our Savior gives us, and that is done especially on the wings of prayer and with the offerings given to support the ministries we work to fulfill. May God help each of us to realize that we are significant in his kingdom, and may he continue to guide us in the work he has given to us. Amen

In Christ,
 Pastor Wolf B. Parsons

Youth and Family Concert with Chris Driesbach

Join us on Saturday, July 11th, as we welcome WELS singer/songwriter Chris Driesbach. He will perform a concert focused on sharing the Gospel with children and families in our community. The concert is open to all. The time of the concert is **10:30am-12:30pm**, with a FREE Hotdog lunch being served at **11:30am**. Feel free to share this information. If you would like a flier to share, you can get extra copies from Pastor Parsons.

Semi-Annual Voters' Meeting

The date of the Voters' Meeting has been set for **Sunday, July 19th, at 10:15am**. (This means there will be no 10:30am service that day.) We especially encourage all voting members to attend this meeting. **Councilmen and Committee reports are due to the office by 9:00am on Monday, July 13th.** (Committees encouraged to submit reports are: Food Pantry; Communications Committee; Altar Guild; Ladies' Aid; LWMS; Endowment Fund; Worship Committee; any other organized committees/groups who help plan/coordinate ministries at Divine Savior)

News Bits and Pieces

WELS Christian Aid and Relief Assists in Midland, MI Flood

Holy Scripture, Midland, Mich., part of WELS' sister synod the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, has been impacted by floodwaters three times in the last 40 years, but the recent flooding that hit Midland was by far the most catastrophic.

On May 19 and 20, floodwaters from heavy rains and two failed dams swept through the area, resulting in waist-deep water throughout the church. The parsonage, home to **Rev. Paul Schneider and his wife, Barbara**, was also flooded. The flood impacted a multitude of families in the area around the church, including members of Holy Scripture and nearby Good Shepherd, the area WELS church. The damage to the entire affected area is estimated to be over \$175 million.

WELS Christian Aid and Relief quickly assessed the situation in Midland and deployed aid. Assisted by the leadership team of Good Shepherd and 95 volunteers, the Christian Aid and Relief team worked to clean out and sanitize the homes of 15 families.

"God is still in control," says Schneider, after surveying the extensive damage to Holy Scripture and its furnishings, including the loss of all the hymnals and most of the Bibles. "The church is not just a building. The holy Christian church is all believers. We are going to survive. We are going to continue to serve our Lord, with his help and strength."

Multiple WELS congregations answered the call to assist their Midland brothers and sisters by donating replacement hymnals and Bibles. One congregation offered to donate funds that had been earmarked for its summer church programming, which was canceled due to COVID-19. WELS members throughout the Michigan District also gifted items like vehicles and appliances.

In the weeks ahead, Midland families will also need financial support so they can hire professionals to provide services to make their homes livable.

Elizabeth Zambo from WELS Christian Aid and Relief talks about the eternal blessings that have come out of this devastating situation:

"During times like these, people may be more receptive as we share the gospel message and the hope that we have in our Savior, Jesus."

Christian Aid and Relief chairman, Rev. Robert Hein, says, "When natural disasters strike, such as the broken dams in Midland, WELS Christian Aid and Relief is eager to offer financial help and volunteers to assist the recovery efforts of our local congregations. It's a great way to put Christ's love into action."

To support WELS Christian Aid and Relief efforts in Midland, you can donate online at community.wels.net (select "Flood Disaster Relief" in the designation field) or send donations to WELS Christian Aid and Relief, N16W23377 Stone Ridge Dr. Waukesha, WI 53188, and designate them for "Flood Disaster Relief."

Notes: 1) This article was reprinted from the June 16 issue of *TOGETHER*, a biweekly WELS e-newsletter. 2) Long-time Divine Savior members may remember Paul Schneider as a former pastor at St. Martin Lutheran Church in Belle Plaine.

2020 Financial Picture after 5 Months

As of May 31, Unified Budget offerings for the year have exceeded expenses by \$7,100. A comparison of the first five months of 2019 with 2020 shows Unified Budget data for both a "normal" year (2019) and this very abnormal year. Interestingly, members' 2020 unified contributions have topped 2019 by almost \$4,000. To God be the glory, great things he has done!

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Difference</u>
2019	75,503	69,746	5,757
2020	79,459	72,359	7,101

Term Limits for Church Offices

An important item on the July 19th Semi-Annual Voters' Meeting agenda will be a resolution to amend the Bylaws of the Divine Savior Constitution to permit waiving term limits for elected offices under certain specified conditions. A shrinking pool of men who are both willing and qualified to serve in the eight Coordinating Council positions has caused the Council to develop and present the amendment for voters' approval.



2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2 Food Pantry Drive Through 1-3 p.m.	3	4
5 Divine Worship 9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.	6 Monday Night Service 6:30 p.m.	7 Ladies Aid Mtg. 1:00 p.m. Pray & Play 3:00 p.m. Co-or Council Mtg. 6:30 p.m.	8	9 Food Pantry Drive Through 1-3 p.m. WATC 5:30 p.m.	10	11 Youth & Family Concert With Chris Driesbach 10:30-12:30 Free hot dog lunch at 11:30
12 Divine Worship w/Communion 9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.	13 Monday Night Service w/Communion 6:30 p.m. Voter Reports due 9:00 a.m.	14 Pray & Play 3:00 p.m.	15	16 Food Pantry Drive Through 1-3 p.m.	17	18
19 Divine Worship 9:00 a.m. Voter Meeting 10:15 a.m. No 10:30 service	20 Monday Night Service 6:30 p.m.	21 Pray & Play 3:00 p.m.	22	23 Food Pantry Drive Through 1-3 p.m.	24	25
26 Divine Worship w/Communion 9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.	27 Monday Night Service w/Communion 6:30 p.m. Newsletter articles due today at 9:00	28 NO Pray & Play	29	30 Food Pantry Drive Through 1-3 p.m.	31	