



DIVINE SAVIOR EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN  
 102 NORTHRIDGE DR.  
 SHAWANO, WI 54166  
 (715) 526-6880

# MESSENGER—AUGUST 2020

## *Special Dates in August*

### Ladies Aid

4th @ 1:00 p.m.

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### Semi-Annual Voters Mtg.

9th @ 10:15 a.m.

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### Co-or. Council Mtg.

11th @ 6:00 p.m.

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### Communication Comm. Mtg.

12th @ 1:00 p.m.

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### Worship at the Cross

13th @ 5:30 p.m.

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### Endowment Mtg.

17th @ 4:30 p.m.

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### Drive Thru Food Pantry

Thursdays

1:00– 3:00 p.m.

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### Pray & Play

Tuesdays

@ 3:00 p.m.

At Pastor's house

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## Can God take my guilt away?

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

This month's favorite Bible verse is: **2 Corinthians 5:21**

***"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."***

"I wish I could take it all away," Mom whispered to her suffering five-year-old son. He had the flu for a couple of days now, and Mom's heart was broken. As he lay in his bed suffering from the chills and a fever, there wasn't much Mom could do except give him some children's flu medicine and just be there for him. Mom felt helpless and wished she could take it all away from him. She even wished she could have the flu instead of her son.

When children are sick, the love of Mom and Dad really starts to shine through. In a heartbeat, parents go to extra lengths to make sure their kids are feeling as comfortable as possible. If you're a parent, you've been there. You make sure their pillow is extra fluffy. You bring their favorite juice box. You provide their favorite movie to watch. And any time you hear them call, you quickly respond with, "What can I do for you?" The love of Mom and Dad goes so far that if they could take the sickness away, even become sick instead of their child, they would. But they can't, and it hurts.

Has there ever been a time when you wished you could take it all away? Not just a sickness of a child, but something you did that you really regret? Maybe it was something you did to end a close relationship with a friend. Maybe you said something to a family member that you wish you could take back. Maybe it was something that only you know about, but it haunts you each day.

It's at moments like these that God's love really starts to shine through. He knows your sin, your guilt, your regrets. But he doesn't just wish he could take them away. He did take them away. He forgave them all! He took your sin and guilt away when he put them on his only Son, Jesus. He loves you so much that he had Jesus die for your sin so that you wouldn't have to. God forgave your guilt and now considers you right with him because of what Jesus did for you.

### Worship service times.

Sun. 9:00 a.m.

Mon. 6:30 p.m.

## *PARISH NEWS*

**Congregational Changes: Confirmation—Estrella Luna**

**Current Congregational Stats: 161 communicants: 174 souls:**

### **Give Thanks in All Circumstances**

**“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”** (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

These words are part of Paul’s closing to his first letter to the Thessalonian church. They serve as a reminder of the many blessings we receive from our Lord, not the least of which is the forgiveness and salvation we have through faith in Christ Jesus. That faith, that knowledge, that trust, gives us cause to **rejoice always** and **give thanks in all circumstances**.

And though this may be what you hope to do, it seems difficult at times to find reasons to rejoice and give thanks. Every day, there are so many reasons we could fall back on and use as excuses not to find joy. What about this great illness sweeping the nation? Or that jerk who makes your blood boil every time he talks to you?

Some of you have lasting illnesses or pain. Many of you have friends or family that have fallen away from faith; for some of you, it’s your own children. How can we **rejoice and give thanks** in these circumstances? Though all of these things affect us in different ways, they serve part of the same goal: to hinder our trust in Jesus. I’ve used this picture a few times in Bible study, and it applies perfectly here. The more and more we focus on the difficulties in our lives, the harder and harder it is to see Jesus.

#### **You -> PROBLEM -> Jesus**

God knows that we struggle. He knows our lives are hard sometimes, and without trying to minimize the importance and impact of these troubles in our lives, God wants us to know there is something far greater than they. In the passage above, Paul wrote, **“Give thanks in all circumstances.”** He did NOT write, **“FOR all circumstances.”** Yes, it’s true that God can, and does, bring about blessings through even the darkest events in our lives. In that case, we can give thanks, even for the trouble itself. But what Paul wants us to realize here is that no matter what our problem or trouble is, there is something that overshadows it, something for which we can always give thanks **in every circumstance**. That is the salvation we have in Jesus.

#### **You -> JESUS -> problem**

When we focus on the immense blessing we have as children of God, as heirs of salvation, it gives us peace and hope in even the most trying times. May God help us always to keep that in the proper focus so that our faith might sustain us **in all circumstances**, moving us to **rejoice always** in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

**“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.** (Philippians 4:6-7) Amen

In Christian love,  
Pastor Wolf B. Parsons

### **A request from Ladies' Aid:**

Our Ladies' Aid supports many areas of ministry, local and distant. It is always such a blessing to be able to share in these opportunities and to help others have the opportunity to grow in God's Word. Ladies' Aid is thankful to the members of Divine Savior for their support in funding their efforts. They rely on that support from individual donations and from such things as memorials and donations when we have Coffee and Fellowship hour.

Sadly, we have been unable to gather for that Fellowship hour for a few months now. So, we are asking members to consider supporting Ladies' Aid. This can be done through a separate, personal offering if you wish. We will also take the opportunity to gather a door offering once per month to support Ladies' Aid. **That door offering will be on the second Sunday/Monday each month, beginning on August 9<sup>th</sup>.** Please prayerfully consider supporting this area of ministry.

Also, the ladies of Ladies' Aid extend a welcome to all women of our congregation to take part in this special area of ministry. **They meet regularly on the first Tuesday each month at 1:00pm. If you are unable to make that meeting time but would like to join Ladies' Aid, please contact Mrs. Kim Quintanilla.** She can share information with you about the many opportunities to help with the work of Ladies' Aid. Thank you!

## News Bits and Pieces

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### East Fork School Graduations

A recent note from East Fork Lutheran School Principal Scott Anthony thanking Divine Savior for our continuing financial support included the following:

"Graduation for the seniors and eighth graders was planned for May 20th and May 21st; however, the pandemic [did] not allow for a graduation." There were six seniors and nineteen eighth graders that completed their courses of study and were ready to graduate.

The note also stated, "The school has been providing school lunches since the end of March. Many comments have been received from parents about how much they appreciate our teachers since teaching, providing guidance, answering questions, etc. is being done in homes...."

During the first six months of 2020, Divine Savior members have contributed \$3150 to East Fork Lutheran Schools. Of that amount \$900 came from the Unified Budget and \$2250 from individual members' donations. Divine Savior has, indeed, shown strong support for Christian education at East Fork.

### SMU Credit

In June Divine Savior received a notice from Shawano Municipal Utilities informing us that at the end of the first six months in our budget billing program we have accumulated a credit balance of \$1,030, which will be applied to the next six monthly statements. It appears that being closed during the "Safer-at-Home" period significantly reduced our use of water, sewer, and electricity.

### A Thought to Ponder

"God, our Savior, holds the destiny of all nations in His hands and so directs their paths that even the doings of the ungodly must contribute to His glory and the welfare of His kingdom." What a timely pronouncement to consider!

So, what is the source of such an assertion? Does it come from someone we can trust, or is it

a statement to dismiss? Should it be taken with the proverbial grain of salt, or should we take it to heart, memorize it, and quote it to others?

The source of this observation was Professor Huldreich Klatt, a teacher from years ago at Dr. Martin Luther High School and College, the training schools for WELS teachers and pastors. Prof. Klatt required his World History class students to memorize the statement which they did and which they still recited years later at their 60th anniversary class reunion.

Considering all that is going on in the world today, one can still find reassurance in Prof. Klatt's observation—a thought to ponder.

### Divine Savior Is above Average

Recently, all congregations in the synod received copies of the WELS Congregational Mission Offerings report for the first six months of 2020. Offerings received from all 1200+ congregations totaled \$9,480,520. This amounts to an annualized, synod-wide average contribution of \$68.29 per communicant member.

During the same six months, Divine Savior's 160 communicant members contributed \$11,600 to WELS, which comes to \$72.50 per communicant for half a year, or \$145 when annualized.

Also, by comparison members within the Northern Wisconsin District, of which Divine Savior is a member, provided support for WELS at an annualized per communicant rate of \$51.58.

While it is not appropriate to boast about how Divine Savior compares with others, nor reduce our WELS mission offerings to be like others; it is noteworthy that Divine Savior members are showing serious mission-mindedness in using their God-given treasures to support the many missions of WELS in sharing the gospel both at home and around the world as well as training future called workers.

Thanks be to God for giving us both the motivation and ability to participate in carrying out His Great Commission in this way!

## News Bits and Pieces

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### Email Communications

Beginning in August expect to find email messages from your church landing in your inbox. The August **MESSENGER** will be among the first items emailed to all members for whom the church office has email addresses. Initially, paper copies will still be put into all members' mailboxes; however, later a transition may be made to giving paper copies only to those who cannot receive them by email.

At its July 21 meeting, the Communication Committee decided it is time to begin mass emailing a variety of information to members. Email is an easy and economical way to send information to groups of people quickly. Other than the internet service provider's monthly fee, there is no cost to send emails. By comparison, first class mail—even locally—can take two days from when it is sent until it is delivered, and it costs 55 cents per envelope.

Some information, such as has recently been sent by postal service regarding plans for operating during the COVID pandemic, will still be distributed in hard copy form. Other information such as meeting announcements/reminders, committee, and Coordinating Council documents may be emailed to those involved.

Recently, a group email was sent to 13 of the people who normally receive Member Ministry memos about fellow members for whom prayers and greeting cards would be appropriate. Paper copies of the same information was put into the church mailboxes of those whose email addresses were not available.

In order to expand the list of members' email addresses, please provide the church office secretaries (Bonnie Schoenick or Randy Kagerbauer) your email address if you have not already done so. This can be done by simply sending an email message to the church office at [dsoffice@divinesaviorshawano.org](mailto:dsoffice@divinesaviorshawano.org)

### FVL Can Use Our Help, Now

On October 31 Fox Valley Lutheran High School is required to make its second annual mortgage payment of \$475,000 on the 20-year loan for the recent building expansion. By mid-

June only \$240,000 had been donated. This leaves a current shortfall of \$235,000 with only three months before the annual payment is due. FVL could use our help!

The current issue of the FVL magazine **legacy** states, "COVID-19 has taken a toll on donations, and your help is needed. Every gift is important and makes a difference."

FVL is operated by a federation of 43 WELS churches including Divine Savior. Each year federation congregations agree to provide financial support for the school's general operating expenses. In 2020 Divine Savior has committed to provide FVL \$9,300, but this money is only for operating expenses, not for making mortgage payments.

People wanting to participate in raising the additional \$235,000 needed by October 31 should mail donations to Fox Valley Lutheran High School, 5300 N. Meade St., Appleton, WI 54913-8383. Identify the donation as being for the "Let the Children Come" fund.

### Can Radio Broadcasts Continue?

In February 2019 with start-up funding from an Endowment grant, Divine Savior began broadcasting Sunday Morning Meditations, a 15-minute radio program featuring Pastor Parsons delivering a sermon along with some closing announcements. Both members and non-members from the WTCH/WOWN listening area have tuned in during the months that the programs have been on the air.

Funding for the \$40 per Sunday broadcasts is now running low. The start-up grant covered the first year of broadcasts, and the 2020 Unified Budget included enough money for about half a year. An account similar to the Flower Fund account was also created to receive donations for the broadcasts, but it has received only enough to pay for six additional Sundays. The current challenge is how to pay for the weekly Sunday morning broadcasts after August.

Anyone wanting to donate to the Radio Broadcast Fund can do so by putting a contribution of any amount into an envelope clearly marked "Radio Broadcasts." And, be sure to include your offering envelope number.



2020

S U N	M O N	T U E	W E D	T H U	F R I	S A T
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<p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">2</p> <p>Divine Worship</p> <p>9:00 a.m. &amp; 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">3</p> <p>Monday Night Service</p> <p>6:30 p.m.</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">4</p> <p>Ladies Aid Mtg.</p> <p>1:00 p.m.</p> <p>Pray &amp; Play</p> <p>3:00 p.m.</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">5</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">6</p> <p>Food Pantry</p> <p>1-3 p.m.</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">7</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">8</p>
<p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">9</p> <p>Divine Worship w/ Communion</p> <p>9:00 a.m.</p> <p>Semi-annual Voters Mtg.</p> <p>10:15 a.m.</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">10</p> <p>Monday Night Service w/communion</p> <p>6:30 p.m.</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">11</p> <p>Co-ord. Council Mtg.</p> <p>6:30 p.m.</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">12</p> <p>Communications Mtg.</p> <p>1:00 p.m.</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">13</p> <p>Food Pantry</p> <p>1-3 p.m.</p> <p>WATC 5:30 p.m.</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">14</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">15</p>
<p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">16</p> <p>Divine Worship</p> <p>9:00 a.m. &amp; 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">17</p> <p>Monday Night Service</p> <p>6:30 p.m.</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">18</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">19</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">20</p> <p>Food Pantry</p> <p>1-3 p.m.</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">21</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">22</p>
<p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">23</p> <p>Divine Worship w/ Communion</p> <p>9:00 a.m. &amp; 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">24</p> <p>Monday Night Service w/communion</p> <p>6:30 p.m.</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">25</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">26</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">27</p> <p>Food Pantry</p> <p>1-3 p.m.</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">28</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">29</p>
<p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">30</p> <p>Divine Worship</p> <p>9:00 a.m. &amp; 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">31</p> <p>Monday Night Service</p> <p>6:30 p.m.</p>					

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS:AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES:

<i>David Freber</i>	<i>08/03</i>	<i>Don &amp; Joyce Frisque</i>	<i>8/08/1965</i>
<i>Robt. Stuedemann</i>	<i>08/13</i>	<i>Ed &amp; Lenee Jozwiak</i>	<i>8/17/1985</i>
<i>Chris Shields</i>	<i>08/25</i>	<i>David &amp; Allisandra Kriewaldt</i>	<i>8/18/2018</i>
<i>Alex Veigh</i>	<i>08/28</i>	<i>Paul &amp; Jane Hahn</i>	<i>8/20/1988</i>
<i>Anthony Veigh</i>	<i>08/28</i>	<i>Jim &amp; Brenda Rohde</i>	<i>8/26/1967</i>
<i>Ben Stutleen</i>	<i>08/31</i>	<i>Sam &amp; Diana Schubert</i>	<i>8/28/2016</i>
		<i>Martin &amp; Pamela Hesse</i>	<i>8/29/1970</i>



*Happy Anniversary*

**CONGRATULATIONS  
&  
GOD'S CONTINUED BLESSINGS  
TO ALL OF YOU!**

The DIVINE SAVIOR *Messenger*

is a publication

of Divine Savior Ev. Lutheran Church, Shawano, WI