



DIVINE SAVIOR
Lutheran Church
102 Northridge Dr. Shawano, WI 54166
Phone: (715) 526-6880

MESSENGER

MARCH 2021

Special Dates in March

Co-or. Council Mtg.
9th @ 6:30 p.m.

Communications
Committee Mtg.
16th @ 1:00 p.m.

No Monday Services
In March

Lent Services
Weds. @ 4:30 p.m.

Adult Bible Study
Mon. 5:00 p.m.

Pray & Play
Bible Study
Tuesdays
3:00 p.m.

Food Pantry
1st & Last Thurs.
Mar. 1st & 29th
1:00—3:00 p.m.

Worship service times.
Sunday 9 & 10:30 a.m.
Wednesdays 4:30 p.m.

Our God is...Holy

One of the enduring memories of Chicago Cub fans is the late announcer Harry Cary. "Holy cow!" used to be one of his favorite sayings.

We usually say, "Holy cow!" to express our surprise—not to point to a cow that is particularly well behaved. Cows can be big. Some people even may think they are pretty. But holy?

God expects *people* to be holy. He demands, "Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy" (Leviticus 19:2).

Holy means sinless/perfect. Think about playing Little League baseball. Imagine your coach telling you that you have to get a hit every time you go up to bat, or you will be punished and never play again. That's impossible. Not even Christian Yelich can do that!

How can a *loving* God demand that we be holy? How can he say that if we sin just one time we deserve to go to hell? Isn't that cruel? Why does God demand the impossible?

We can't be sinless, but there is someone who was. That's Jesus. The Bible says, "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth" (1 Peter 2:22).

God gives us even better news! "God made him [Jesus] who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Corinthians 5:21). Righteous means holy. God tells us that Jesus became sinful for us.

How do we become righteous/holy? "No one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin. But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe." (Romans 3:20-22).

God credits holiness to all who believe in Jesus as the one who saved them from their sins.

What God demands; he provides! Everyone who believes in Jesus is considered perfect by God! Holy cow!

PARISH NEWS

Congregational Changes last month:

Added: 0

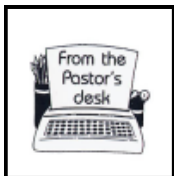
Baptism : 0

Released: 0

Transferred: 2 Kim & Janet Kirchner transferred to Friedens Lutheran, Bonduel

Called Home to Jesus: 0

Current Congregational Stats: communicants: 154 souls: 167



Check in with God before You Check in with The World

³¹ So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

(Matthew 6:31-34)

Take a moment and think about your morning routine. What do you do when you wake up? In your regular habits, how long do you make it before you check in to see what’s happening in the world? For those of you with smart phones and ipads, the world is right there, at your fingertips. Do you log into social media to see what new things happened since you turned off your phone only a few short hours before? Do you open your news or weather app to see what you will face today?

I know, I know. Some of you don’t have a smart phone and don’t roll over to boot up your computer right when you wake up. That’s what the radio and news channels are for! As we hear about the events of our world or check social media to see what friends are doing, we often find ourselves thinking about many things that are outside of our control. This can easily lead to worrying about things that we can rarely change.

In the reading above, Jesus addresses some who risk putting too much stock and thought in the events of the day, even regular, every-day things. **“What shall we eat?” or “What shall we drink?” or “What shall we wear?”** He isn’t saying that we shouldn’t focus on such things. Rather, he wants us to make sure we get our priorities in line. For the most part, we probably don’t have to worry too much about the answers to these questions. But what about bigger ones?

Is my illness going to clear up? What new hoop are we going to have to jump through because of people’s reaction to Coronavirus? What’s going to happen to our nation? Again, it’s not a bad thing to wonder about such things. But putting too much focus on them is. How often do we lose a sense of peace because we start fretting about the ef-

(Continued on page 3)

fects of Coronavirus or about our new president and his cabinet?

How often does fear of what we think is coming drive our own actions, even to the point that it is a detriment to our faith? We need to reprioritize. **“Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness.”** Jesus tells us that when we worry, it’s because our focus is in the wrong place. Our faith is in the wrong thing, in something that cannot save or last. Rather than looking for peace in a world filled with sin, **seek first God’s kingdom.** Turn first to God.

“Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.” Do not let fear of earthly matters distract you so much or drive your own thoughts and actions so much that you lose sight of what Jesus has done for you. He has prepared the way for you to enter into the Kingdom of God, and as a believer, you are in that Kingdom. The effects of sin that we see in this world around us cannot touch the Kingdom of God. They cannot undo what Christ has done.

So, don’t let them. When you turn on the news, do so with God leading the way. This is easiest done if you spend time in his Word. First thing in the morning, don’t run to your phone or TV to see what’s happening in the world. First, pray. Here’s an example for you: ***“God, keep me in your light. Thank you for bringing me into your Kingdom. Let my faith in you overshadow all the events of this world so that the peace I have in you will never be diminished. Amen”***

Then spend some time, even if it’s only a few minutes, reading a devotion based in God’s Word. Check in with God before you check in with the world. After **seeking first his Kingdom** you will be prepared to venture into this world. May God give you his peace that endures to eternity and help you to view all the events of this world through the lens of that peace, with Christ first and foremost in your thoughts. Amen

In Christian love,

Pastor Wolf B. Parsons

Elected Leaders' Responsibilities

Voters attending the Annual Meeting in January elected four men to serve as members of the Church Coordinating Council. Those elected were Dr. Thomas "Tom" Henke, Vice President/Secretary; Dr. John Dahlie, Adult Discipleship Coordinator; Pat Zoeller, Church Property Coordinator, and Don Frisque, Treasurer. Each man has a variety of responsibilities. Briefly, what are they?

The vice president/secretary is one of three trustees empowered to sign legal documents for the church. He is also responsible for overseeing, training and scheduling ushers and greeters along with scheduling communion assistants. He oversees the Altar Guild, Banner Committee, and seasonal decorations. He can stand in as the chairman for meetings that the president can't attend.

The Adult Discipleship Coordinator functions as the chairman for the Adult Discipleship Committee and is an *ex officio* member of both the Worship and Communication Committees and has oversight responsibilities for Adult Bible classes, Member Ministries, Fellowship Activities, JCM Ministries, Ladies Aid/LWMS, and the church library.

The Church Property Coordinator, along with the president and vice president/secretary, is a trustee of the congregation. He also has the responsibility for serving as the chairman of a property committee, overseeing regular maintenance of church property, supervising janitorial services, and being a leader for capital projects.

The treasurer pays bills (makes disbursements), oversees the financial service's accountant, coordinates the flow of cash through the financial system, and is involved in financial system updates.

In general, the councilmen who have oversight responsibilities are the primary communication links between the groups or organizations that they oversee and the Church Coordinating Council.

There are four additional councilmen who are continuing in office and were not up for election at this time. They are Randy Kagerbauer, president; John Kloehn, Financial Secretary; Aarin Reissing, Youth Discipleship Coordinator; and Klint Stuebs, Outreach Coordinator. Their responsibilities will be described in the April edition of the *MESSENGER*.

We Wish We had a Wish List

At different times in the 50 plus years of Divine Savior's history there have been wish lists letting people know what things were needed that they might consider buying or donating. More recently some members have expressed a desire to have a current wish list, and that desire was heard by members of the Coordinating Council, who directed the Communication Committee to become responsible for developing, publishing, and maintaining such a list.

The Communication Committee at its February meeting began work on the task. Some considerations discussed included how to obtain items for the list, how to publish the list, how to keep it current, obtaining Coordinating Council approval for items to include in the list, and developing a simple "Wish List" policy.

A "Policy Regarding Memorials and Unsolicited Gifts" already exists and requires prior approval from the Church Coordinating Council before any memorial or unsolicited gift can be accepted. Consequently, any items included in a Wish List will have to be approved by the Council before the list is published. In that way, prior approval will have been obtained, and people can be free to select items from the list to give to Divine Savior.

Watch for more information about a wish list when suggestions for what to include in it are requested.

Rapid Communication Changes

"It's better to get the message twice than not at all" is a commonly heard observation that may lead to changes in the Rapid Communication system that has been used to get important information to members. Previously, only phone calls were used to spread the word about worship service cancellations. In the future redundancy may be built into the system by adding email messages to members for whom both phone numbers and email addresses are known.

Another change may be to use the system to inform or remind people about special events such as funerals, pie socials, fellowship activities, or unique worship services.

Selections from WELS TOGETHER

Potential New World Mission Fields

More than 7,000 people groups in the world live without access to the good news of Jesus Christ. With these unreached people groups and the Great Commission in mind, a group of three world missionaries were tasked with researching where WELS might have the opportunity to plant new world mission fields. "Sixty years ago, WELS World Missions sent missionaries to find prospects, plant churches, and raise up leaders," says Rev. Larry Schlomer, WELS World Missions administrator. Today, most of our current missionaries are involved in mentoring and training leaders who will carry on the gospel ministry in many countries. We are searching for opportunities to go back to square one: where the only reason for heading to a new country is that they do not have Jesus."

Three new unreached people groups were identified as potential mission field opportunities:

Ethnic Thai in Thailand

While WELS has had a presence in Buddhist Thailand before, the Thai people have been largely unreached by previous efforts. Even most other missionary groups have focused on non-Thai, Hill Tribe people. The Thai are very proud of their language, history, culture, and religion, and leaving Buddhism for another religion is considered an abandonment of what it means to be Thai. WELS has a small foothold with the Thai people, something other mission groups cannot claim after decades of work. WELS is in a unique position to build on a foundation already laid in Thailand to reach this new group.

Wolof people in Senegal

The country of Senegal in Western Africa has a population of almost 17 million people. The Wolof tribe makes up about 40 to 45 percent of the total population and is less than 0.01 percent Christian. Despite the fact that Senegal is an overwhelmingly Muslim country, the constitution staunchly defends freedom of religion and is a relatively peaceful and stable place. It would be the goal to send in two resident missionaries to begin sharing the gospel and gathering a congregation.

Tequila Villages of Mexico

Three WELS missionaries and a handful of other confessional Lutherans have visited villages in this

region. No religious group other than Roman Catholics were found working there. Churches in the area are houses of Mary, not houses of God. It appears this may be one of those places where little to no gospel ministry is occurring at this time. While WELS has partnered with a national church in Mexico before, this area is largely unreached by confessional Lutheranism.

World Missions is also exploring outreach opportunities in London. More than 50 WELS-connected families have been identified for a potential new congregation in the capital of Great Britain. With the Lord's blessing, it is the prayer that such a congregation could provide a springboard for further work on the continent.

Plans are currently being made for more thorough follow-up research as well as multiple exploratory trips to each location. Schlomer says, "We pray that these explorations will allow us to send missionaries who will learn a language and culture from scratch, plant churches, and start the long journey of raising up leaders who will be able to pastor them in the future. While much more time is needed to investigate, plan, and prepare for potential mission work in these areas, please pray for these efforts as we look to share the gospel message in more places!"

Learn more about WELS World Missions at wels.net/missions

News from the WELS President

Every year at this time, WELS congregations submit their Congregation Mission Offering (CMO) subscriptions. These subscriptions represent the offerings that congregations prayerfully intend to provide for the work of the synod. The subscriptions have now been received for 2021.

We're pleased to report that 98% of WELS congregations submitted CMO subscriptions for calendar year 2021. Those subscriptions total \$21,620,000. This level of CMO subscriptions is down slightly (0.6%) from actual CMO receipts of \$21.7 million in calendar year 2020, but it is 2.4% better than the originally approved plan of \$21.1 million for calendar year 2021. We thank God for moving his people to provide this generous support for the mission, ministry, and administrative work of WELS.



2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Bible Study 5:00 p.m. Choir Practice 6:30 p.m.	2 Pray & Play Bible Study @ 3:00 p.m.	3 Lent Worship Service 4:30 p.m.	4 Food Pantry 1:00-3:00 p.m. .	5	6
7 Worship @ 9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.	8 Bible Study 5:00 p.m. Choir Practice 6:30 p.m.	9 Pray & Play Bible Study @ 3:00 p.m. Co-ord. Council Mtg. @ 6:30 p.m.	10 Lent Worship Service 4:30 p.m.	11 WATC 5:30 p.m.	12	13 Toddler Time 10:00 a.m.
14 Worship @ 9:00 a.m. & 10:30 w/Communion	15 Bible Study 5:00 p.m. Choir Practice 6:30 p.m.	16 Comm. Commit- tee Mtg. 1:00 p.m. Pray & Play Bible Study @ 3:00 p.m.	17 Lent Worship Service 4:30 p.m.	18	19	20
21 Worship @ 9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.	22 Bible Study 5:00 p.m. Choir Practice 6:30 p.m.	23 Pray & Play Bible Study @ 3:00 p.m.	24 Lent Worship Service 4:30 p.m.	25 Food Pantry 1:00-3:00 p.m. No JCM	26	27 Toddler Time 10:00 a.m.
28 Worship @ 9:00 a.m. & 10:30 w/Communion						