



Divine Savior

LUTHERAN CHURCH

102 Northridge Drive
Shawano, WI 54166

(715) 526-6880 divinesaviorshawano.org

Sunday Services

@ 9:00 a.m.

Monday Evening Services

@ 6:30 p.m.

Adult Bible Study Recessed for summer

Pray & Play

Tuesdays

3:00-4:30 p.m.
(none on 27th)



Gresham and Bonduel

Parades

3rd and 4th at 10:30 a.m.

Ladies Aid

6th @ 1:00 p.m.

Worship at the Cross

8th @ 5:30 p.m.



Camping at Church

9th at 4:30 p.m.

Co-ord. Council

13th @ 6:30 p.m.

Dining Out

(to be announced)

7/21

Communications Mtg.

20th @ 1:00 p.m.

Food Pantry

Thursday 7/1 & 7/29
1:00- 3:00 p.m.

MESSENGER – July 2021

Our God is...Faithful

The headline read: “Faithful guard dog unfaithful.” The story provided the details. A store owner was robbed. The wily thief tested the guard dog’s faithfulness with a juicy steak, and the dog failed the test.

Faithfulness is questionable in pets and humans. “Dog bites child.” “Spouse deserts partner.” “Employee accepts rival company offer.” “Cat destroys owner’s furniture.”

Is any trustworthy? Is anyone ever completely faithful to his word?

The Bible says, “God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord” (1 Corinthians 1:9)

God’s faithfulness can be seen in his daily preservation of the world. He makes grass grow and trees bud. He sends sunshine and rain. He provides plants and animals as food to keep us alive. He even does all this without our asking.

God is faithful to his promise: “As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease” (Genesis 8:22)

God’s faithfulness is what comforts us when we are feeling guilty. He promises that he forgives us because of what Jesus did to rescue us from our sins.

God’s faithfulness is what comforts us when we are afraid of death. He promises us eternal life because Jesus defeated death when he rose from the grave.

Whatever you are facing or afraid of, you can take comfort in God’s promises because he is always faithful.

Parish News

Congregational Changes last month:

Added: None

Baptism(s): None

Released/Transferred: None

Called Home to Jesus: None

Current Congregational Stats: communicants: 154 souls: 167

Raise Them Up

⁶ Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old, they will not turn from it.
(Proverbs 22:6)

In the last two months, we've celebrated Mother's Day and Father's Day, rejoicing in the blessings God has given through these parents. The passage above shows one of the greatest blessings God has tasked all parents with: to raise their children up in the way of the Lord.

This is a calling, even an expectation, that God has extended to every parent. As they, themselves, have come to know the Lord, now they have the opportunity to help their children do the same. **Proverbs 22** shows that it is important to **start children off** in God's Word right from the beginning.

Praise God! Many parents answer this call by bringing their children to the baptismal font. There they receive the blessing of being adopted into the family of God through the pouring on of water and of the Spirit. How marvelous! Since Baptism can create faith in any heart, it's so important that it be available to anyone.

This is why we often baptize non-members, adult and children alike. Doing so brings them the same forgiveness our members receive through this sacrament. But whenever I do a baptism, whether for a member or non-member, I always sit down with the parents or the person being baptized, and we talk about the fact that being baptized doesn't guarantee from that moment on that the one baptized will be in heaven.

There's a reason for this. Of course, Baptism can and does create saving faith. But it's not some mystical or magical event that cements you in God's grace. There is always a risk of falling from faith, especially if there is not regular interaction with God's Word. This means that after being baptized, it's important to remain in God's Word. For parents who bring their young children to the font, then, there is the encouragement to continue to bring them to the altar, to worship.

If that new faith is nourished through regular exposure to God's Word, then there is a marvelous chance that that person will one day stand in the presence of God in heaven. If parents never again bring their children to church and never expose them to God's Word, then it is more likely that any faith created in Baptism will die completely, and the child will fall away.

Praise God that he has provided many opportunities, not only to **start children off**, but to continue children **on the way they should go**. Take those chances to show them Jesus. Take them to worship. Lead devotions. Help them learn about their Savior. Then, **even when they are old, they will not turn from it**. May God hold them always in their faith, and may he do the same for each of you, that you may enter into full glory in the rest he has prepared for you in heaven. Amen

In Christian love,
Pastor Wolf B. Parsons

OTHER NOTES FROM PASTOR

Meditation on the Word Before Service:

Please consider using the time before service to meditate on the Word of the Lord, to pray for God's blessings in the service to follow. A list of **Personal Prayers** can be found on **pg. 134-138** in the front of your hymnal, with **Morning and Evening Prayers** available on **pg. 139**.

You can also use that time to **prepare for Communion through self-examination** with the assistance of **pg. 156** in the front of your hymnals.

Please refrain from visiting in the sanctuary before the start of the service. This will allow others to meditate and pray during that time. If you wish to visit, please do so in the narthex/hallway or Fellowship Hall.

COUNCIL CONNECTIONS

GENERAL – MR. RANDY KAGERBAUER, PRESIDENT

At the January 24, 2021 Annual Voters Meeting the voters approved Resolution #2021-01 creating a "**Cash Carry Over Account**" of \$31,436. This was unified contributions in excess of what was needed to support the Unified Budgets of 2019 & 2020. As the money was donated to support the work of the church and not sit idle in a checking account the Council was charged with bringing recommendations to the congregation for use of these funds at the July Semi-Annual meeting. Following are the recipients approved at the June Council Meeting and will be brought to the Congregation at the July 18th Semi-Annual Meeting for ratification. Council set a "minimum donation" amount of \$1,000. The following amounts total \$26,500. Council felt it is prudent to hold back some of the allotted funds in case other worthy needs arise.

Cash Carry Over Account recommended donations: CMO \$5000, MLC Congregational Partner Program \$5000, Luther Prep Tuition Assistance \$1000, Camp Phillip \$1000, East Fork \$2500, FVL Let the Children Come \$4000, Kingdom Workers \$1000, Institutional Ministries \$1000, LWMS \$1000, Central Africa Medical Mission \$2500, Seminary Scholarship Fund \$2500.

Following are the final changes the Council voted on for our "return to normal" Worship Services:

Remove all blue tape and choir loft signs as of 07/04/21. Return to the regular Communion process serving 2 tables at a time at the communion rail as of 07/11/21. Keep plastic wine cups permanently, replacing the old glass cups.

We will be reimplementing a "Wish List" policy for special needs within the congregation. A formal proposal will be presented to the voters at the Semi-Annual Meeting on July 18th.

The Council will be looking at upgrades to our AV Booth (sound and recording systems) as much of our current equipment is outdated and is problematic when trying to upload services to our website and YouTube etc. Any technical input would be welcome. Please see Randy Kagerbauer or Pastor.

ELDERS (WORKING WITH PASTOR) – MR. KEN KUESTER, HEAD ELDER

- **Shut-in members** – those who are unable to regularly attend worship due to extenuating circumstances.
- **Delinquent members** – those who have been absent from worship for at least six weeks with no contact and/or no regular worship attendance.
- **Members with special circumstances** – such as adult children of members who also are members but may not be in the area.

If you have noticed that a certain member or members have been absent for an extended period, we would encourage you to reach out to them and let them know you are praying for them.

Current list of shut-in or semi-shut-in members, for those who wish to connect with them:

Arlene Protzmann; Phyllis Paske; Rosemary Zastrow (a member from Two Rivers who lives in the memory care unit at The Cottages); John Fromnes; Chris Shields; Margie Wyman; Jim and Brenda Rohde; Darryl and Becky Schmidt; Donna Veigh; Roger Oleson

A NOTE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT – DR. TOM HENKE, COUNCILMAN

We are still in need of additional Ushers, Greeters and Counting Team Members to fill vacancies. These are critical functions to the regular operations of our ministry here at Divine Savior, and as members everyone has a responsibility to help serve. Please show your support by contacting Dr. Henke or Pastor with your offer to help or respond positively if you are approached by them. Women and couples can serve in all of these positions.

CHURCH PROPERTY – MR. PAT ZOELLER, COUNCILMAN

Carpet cleaning and some upholstery cleaning was completed on June 29th. A-1 Exterminator's sprayed indoors and outdoors for bugs on Thursday June 10th.

Humidity continues to be a problem in the sanctuary and the entire building. We will be investigating "whole building" solutions for this issue, stay tuned.

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP – DR. JOHN DAHLIE, COUNCILMAN

Dining Out – Brunch at Farm Inn on Main, Sunday, June 13th a great success with 33 members attending. The committee is looking for suggestions for future places and times, see John or Kathy Dahlie if you have ideas.

The committee is looking at monthly activities such as Bowling, Game Night, Packer Party etc. to continue opportunities for Christian fellowship. Stayed tuned.

YOUTH DISCIPLESHIP – MR. AARIN REISSING, COUNCILMAN

We had excellent weather for the Splash Pad Party at Memorial Park on Sunday June 13th with 17 people attending. Fun was had by all, children and adults!

There will be a family camping night here on the church property on Friday July 9th starting at 4:30pm. Supper and breakfast will be provided. More details to follow, stay tuned.

The committee will begin Long Term Planning in July with topics such as enhancing Sunday School opportunities, Social Media Outreach, child care ideas and more.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE – MR. KLINT STUEBS, COUNCILMAN

Work is progressing on a comprehensive marketing plan for our congregation including banners, fliers and bulletin board posters for local businesses and integrating our logo consistently in all signs and printed materials.

We are looking for volunteers to help with two July Parades. The first is in Gresham on Saturday July 3rd, set up at 10:00am, parade at 11:00am. The second is in Bonduel on Sunday July 4th, set up at 10:30am, parade at 11:00am. Hard candy donations are greatly appreciated, a donation box is in the hallway.

We are planning a community outreach event on August 15th from 2:00-4:00pm with a band outdoors and serving pie and refreshments indoors. More info to come.

News Bits and Pieces

Food Pantry Update

Beginning in June the Divine Savior Food Pantry returned to indoor service, and Bread of Life Bible Study resumed. Since March 2020, in-person, indoor food pantry service had been suspended and was replaced by drive-thru service. Bread of Life groups stopped meeting in March 2020 and did not begin again until June 3, 2021.

Prior to the period of pandemic precautions the food pantry had been serving approximately 75 to 100 households per month and was open every Thursday from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. During the first five months this year, we have provided food to about 35 to 45 households per month and have been open on the first and last Thursdays each month.

Conversations with volunteers from other area food pantries and with representatives from Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin have found that food pantry use has generally been down for some time. The reasons usually include free food from other sources and additional income for families with school-age children.

Another interesting occurrence during COVID times has been the availability of free food for our pantry from Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin. There have been weeks when we have ordered several hundred pounds of food at no cost! When the free food is non-perishable, shelf-stable items, we have been able to order ahead to build up our inventory in anticipation of the time when food pantry use returns to normal and there is much less available at no cost from Feeding America.

Who Uses Our Food Pantry?

People with limited financial resources make use of our supplemental food pantry. Our pantry has adopted economic guidelines developed by the National School Lunch program for free and reduced rate school lunches to determine eligibility for individuals and families to receive service. Rarely does anyone seeking food fail to fit within the guidelines. Members of Divine Savior and the community in general are all welcome to use the food pantry when, and if, they are in need. It should be noted that over the years some members of Divine Savior have used the pantry when they have had a need to do so.

A random sample of recent food pantry users was taken on the first Thursday in June. On that day 18 households received food for a total of 27 people. Ages of the people ranged from three children under the age of 18 to five people in their 80s. Of the 18 households, only four were made up of more than one person. Within the group of 14 single-person households nine were people in their 70s and 80s. Another two were in their 60s.

Even though this was only a random sample from one week, it appears to be fairly representative of the clients we have been serving in recent months. We have many older, single-persons coming to us for help and a limited number of families with children.

Bread of Life Resumes

Following a 14 month break, Bread of Life Bible Study groups resumed meeting on Thursday, June 3. A number of food pantry clients who had also attended Bread of Life had been asking when the sessions would start again because they missed them and were hoping they would start again soon.

While Food Pantry clients are not required to attend Bread of Life groups, many have been interested in doing so for the last eight years.

From the beginning, Bread of Life sessions focused on Bible stories. In recent the groups reviewed miracles that Jesus performed and some events in the life of Jesus. Starting now in June, Bread of Life is using 25-minute video presentations from **Time of Grace** TV broadcasts. The June topic is "Can I Trust the Bible?" In July it will be "Are Heaven and Hell Real?" And the August topic is "Am I Naturally Good?"

Bread of Life groups begin at 12:00 noon and run through 12:30 p.m. on the first and last Thursdays of June, July, and August. All are welcome to attend whether they are coming for Food Pantry at 1:00 o'clock or just interested in the topic for the day. Divine Savior members are especially invited to attend so that they can provide opinions regarding the future use of **Time of Grace** video presentations.

(DRF)

Lewis and Janice Schultz Memorial

In early June Divine Savior received a generous gift in memory of two former members. The family of Lewis and Janice Schultz presented the church with a check along with a letter addressed to Members of Divine Savior that said, in part:

"Enclosed is a gift to the Church... in memory of Lewis and Janice Schultz. Lewis and Janice were very blessed in their lives to have had the Church and its members to help support their spiritual needs. They had the comfort of knowing many of the members they called their extended family and friends.

"This is a gift to the Church from their family to be used as the Church feels appropriate for their needs."

God's Blessings to All,
Rob & Laura Schultz
Jill & Sam Sousek

The check was for \$11,200 and was deposited into the Divine Savior Memorial account.

More about the Memorial Account

With the addition of the Lewis and Janice Schultz memorial, the Memorials Account now has a balance of over \$44,400. This is Divine Savior's largest restricted fund account. How has the account grown to its present size? And how will money in the account be used?

The account has grown over many years. Whenever the church receives a cash memorial that is not designated for any specific purpose, such as the Schultz memorial, it is deposited into the Memorials Account. By congregation policy, the Church Coordinating Council has the responsibility for determining how to use money in the account. It has generally been agreed that money from the account should be used to obtain things of lasting value that can serve as memorials for those in whose names undesignated memorial donations have been received.

When undesignated memorial money is received, the congregation should be informed, and whenever the Council decides to use money from the account, the congregation will be informed. Generally, money from the Memorial Account is likely to be used for bigger ticket items that are either not included in the annual budget or only partially covered by Unified Budget funds.

It should also be noted that undesignated memorial donations that become part of the Memorials Account are not accounted for separately. All memorial gifts simply become part of the whole account. Consequently, when the Council decides to use money from the account, it is not identified as coming from any particular memorial or memorials.

If there is need for further clarification about the Memorials Account, do not hesitate to confer with Treasurer Don Frisque.

10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's

The Wolf River Region Aging and Disability Resource Center, ADRC for short, has extended a general invitation to a free, one-hour program about Alzheimer's and other dementias. The event is scheduled for Friday, July 16, from 11:00 a.m. to noon at the Shawano Civic Center, 225 S. Main St., next to the Post Office.

The program is designed for a general audience (those living with dementia, caregivers, interested community members, neighbors and friends).

Program publicity indicates that the topics to be considered are: 1) Common signs of dementia and Alzheimer's; 2) Typical age-related changes; 3) How to approach someone about memory concerns; 4) Early detection and benefits of diagnosis; and 5) Alzheimer's Association resources.

Interested people can enroll by calling The Alzheimer's Association at 800-272-3900.

Five Month Financial Picture

After five months Divine Savior's financial picture is bright. Unified receipts have been well beyond Budget expenditures.

Unified donations for five months totaled \$87,497 while expenses were \$68,725---nearly \$19,000 less than income for the same period.

Why such a difference? In May nearly \$12,000 came into the Unified account as Qualified Distributions from Members' retirement accounts. This money could likely replace their monthly donations for the rest of the year. It's like getting a large advance on one's allowance. It levels out as the year progresses.

(DRF)

Selections from WELS TOGETHER

Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference Meets

(June 1, 2021 *TOGETHER*)

WELS is part of an organization called the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference (CELC). Founded in 1993 with 13 members, its members today include more than 30 confessional Lutheran church bodies from around the world. Some of the members are church bodies and synods that originated as WELS or Evangelical Lutheran Synod missions; others are church bodies that were established independently. All members of the CELC are in fellowship with WELS and with one another and are united in doctrine.

The CELC meets every three years in different locations, with representatives from the member church bodies attending. Last year, the meeting was scheduled to be held in Seoul, South Korea, but it had to be canceled because of the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic. As a substitute for that meeting, this year a virtual conference is being held. The meeting is being held throughout six days over a three-week period. The first sessions were held last week.

The CELC plays an important role. It provides an opportunity for our sister church bodies to become familiar with each other, to provide mutual encouragement, and to grow in our understanding and appreciation for the truth of the Scriptures. Since many of these church bodies are rather small, and since some of them are very young in terms of being independent church bodies, these meetings provide an important forum for discussion and spiritual growth. We may think that WELS, as the largest church body in the CELC, would provide encouragement to smaller churches—and it does—but the CELC is also an encouragement and blessing for WELS as we witness these churches' strong faith and commitment to the Word in challenging situations we do not face.

Please keep the churches and your fellow believers of the CELC in your prayers as they faithfully carry out their mission.

The CELC plans to hold an in-person meeting in Seoul, South Korea, in 2023. Learn more about the church bodies that make up the CELC at celc.info.

Serving together with you in Christ,
WELS President Mark Schroeder

Reflections on Our Unique Callings: Men, Women, and the Body of Christ

(June 1, 2021 *TOGETHER*)

As members of the body of Christ, men and women are privileged to share blessings and responsibilities in partnering together to serve their Savior. But men and women also have unique callings—callings that can be misunderstood, that sometimes feel out of step with our world today. *Reflections on Our Unique Callings* is a series of twice-weekly devotions from WELS Women's Ministry that explores biblical principles and applications, poses thoughts and questions for further reflection, and encourages conversations on how these unique callings find their fulfillment in the home, the church, and the world. Subscribe at wels.net/unique-callings.

Taste of Missions Starts July 11!

Join your brothers and sisters in Christ from around the world for **Taste of Missions**, an online Missions experience, from July 11-17, 2021. Get to know our home and world missionaries like you never have before, and experience mission work firsthand through short video updates, live Q&A sessions, activities and recipes for the entire family, daily devotions, and a live worship service on Saturday, July 17, at 6 p.m. where we plan to commission five new home and world missionaries.

Immediately following the worship service at 7 p.m., stay online for a Q&A panel with these brand new missionaries.

Also, as part of Taste of Missions, we will be hosting a World Missions Q&A session on Tuesday, July 13, and a Home Missions Q&A session on Thursday, July 15, both at 7 p.m.. Register for these Zoom webinars at tasteofmissions.com/events to learn how we carry the gospel to the far corners of the world and how our synod plants churches right here in North America.

We hope you can join us online as we connect with brothers and sisters in Christ from around the globe and learn how we can all play an important part of gospel outreach occurring through our synod.

(Editor's note: Information for this article was compiled from the June 1 *TOGETHER* and a June 18 email from the WELS Missions Office.
—DRF

JULY 2021

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
				1 Food Pantry 1:00-3:00 p.m.	2	3 Gresham Parade 10:30
4 Worship Service 9:00 a.m. Bonduel Parade 10:30	5 Monday Night Service 6:30 p.m.	6 Ladies Aid 1:00 p.m. Pray and Play 3:00 p.m.	7 No Choir Practice On break	8 WATC 5:30 p.m.	9 Camping at Church 4:30 p.m.	10
11 Worship w/ Comm. 9:00 a.m.	12 Monday Night Service w/ Comm 6:30 p.m.	13 Pray and Play 3:00 p.m. Coor. Council 6:30 p.m.	14 No Choir Practice	15	16	17
18 Worship 9:00 a.m. Semi- Annual Voters Mtg. 10:15 a.m	19 Monday Night Service 6:30 p.m.	20 Communications Comm. Mtg. 1:00 p.m. Pray and Play 3:00 p.m.	21 No Choir Practice Dining Out Dinner?	22	23	24
25 Worship w/ Comm. 9:00 a.m.	26 NO Monday Night Service	27 No Pray and Play	28 No Choir Practice	29 Food Pantry 1:00-3:00 p.m.	30	31