



Divine Savior

LUTHERAN CHURCH

102 Northridge Drive
Shawano, WI 54166

(715) 526-6880 divinesaviorshawano.org

Sunday Services

@ 9:00 a.m.

Monday Services

@ 6:30 p.m.

No Monday Service

Sept 6th

Adult Bible Study

Begins Sept. 12 – 10:30

Sunday School Begins

Sept 12 – 10:30

Pray & Play

Tuesdays

3:00-4:30 p.m.

Ladies Aid

7th at 1:00 p.m.

Co-ord. Council

7th @ 6:30 p.m.

Worship at the Cross

9th @ 5:30 p.m.

Communications Mtg.

21st @ 1:00 p.m.

Food Pantry

Thursday 9/2 & 9/30
1:00– 3:00 p.m.
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MESSENGER – September 2021

Dress yourself with...Kindness

They often embarrassed their mother by the way they acted in public. It seemed to her that her sons were always arguing.

At the supermarket, the brothers would fight about which cereal she should buy. When they were home they could never agree which movie to watch. Sometimes she doubted that her two boys would ever survive their childhood together.

While they often bickered, the brothers were also fiercely loyal to each other. If another child from the neighborhood made fun of one of them, the other was sure to come to his defense. It baffled their mother!

How could they quarrel so, yet a short time later seek to protect their would-be rival? Blood truly must be thicker than water!

This scenario is a reality for many of us. Sibling rivalry, it seems, is universal. And for the most part, defense of one's own family is equally universal. Playground conversations usually prove this true.

God has another scenario he wants us to follow. He encourages us in the Bible to treat all people as though they were family. "Make every effort to add to your faith ... brotherly kindness" (2 Peter 1:5,7).

There are dozens of things that make each of us different from everyone else in the world. They include where we live, the color of our eyes, our talents, the size of our paycheck, and so on.

Even though we enjoy associating with people who are like us, God wants us to treat everyone the way we would treat an idolized brother or sweet sister. After all, God's love prompted him to send his Son, so that *everyone* who believes in him has life in his name.

Blood is not always thicker than water.

Every person who is made a child of God through his Word and the water of baptism also becomes our brother or sister in Christ. They are family.

Why don't you stop by for a visit at church some weekend and meet some of your spiritual family?

Parish News

Congregational Changes last month:

Added: None

Baptism(s): None

Released/Transferred: None

Called Home to Jesus: None

Current Congregational Stats: communicants: 152 souls: 165

From the Ethiopian to Philip

²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” ²⁷ So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian ^t eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸ and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. ²⁹ The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”

³⁰ Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked.

³¹ “How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

³⁵ Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

³⁶ As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?” ³⁸ And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing.

(Acts 8:26-31, 35-39)

When I was young, my family didn’t worship regularly. But there were a few times when we went to church for a few months, even a year, before pulling away again. When we worshiped, we had the chance to hear God’s Word, and it was then that God began a hunger and thirst in me for his Word.

Fast-forward a few years to my college years: I was a Junior in college and was reading through my Bible on my own. Like many others, I tried to just read straight through it like any other book. It was confusing. It was difficult. And it often didn’t make sense.

After a few months, I walked into the church that was half a block from my apartment . . . and I met my Philip. God had just called a new pastor to that congregation, fresh from Seminary. His name isn’t actually Philip, but did for me what Philip did for the Ethiopian. Over time, he opened the Scriptures to me by helping me to see the connections throughout God’s Word, especially pertaining to Christ as my Savior.

Because of the work God called him to do, he helped me to know my Savior. A few months later, he also baptized me. Through the gifts of this man, God took this Ethiopian (me) and made me new. I brought me into eternal life and gave me a better understanding of his Word, and education that will never end. I needed that Philip in my life.

And so did you. No matter what age it started, you needed (and like me, will always need) someone to open the Scriptures to you for you to hear the promise of Salvation and believe. Having grown in your faith, as I've also grown in mine, we rejoice in that marvelous gift of grace from our God and Lord.

But we do not remain the Ethiopian, new to our faith. Having been strengthened in faith, we now have the same amazing call to go and be the Philip that someone else needs. This doesn't mean you have to have the best and fullest understanding of all of Scripture. It means that you are able to share Christ with those who need it. Thank the Lord that he brought us from death to life by sending Philips into our lives. May he move us to be Philip to those who need us. Amen

In Christian love,
Pastor Wolf B. Parsons

YOUR SEPTEMBER COUNCIL CONNECTION

GENERAL INFO – MR. RANDY KAGERBAUER, PRESIDENT

The Coordinating Council has resumed monitoring the COVID infection activity and how it may affect the operations of our church. If you have any input please talk to myself or Pastor or leave a note on the desk in the church office. Our goal is to keep everyone healthy while maintaining a meaningful worship environment.

We have revitalized the Banner/Décor Committee to “Preserve and Enhance the dignity and aesthetics of the inside of our sanctuary and building”. Members of this committee are Joyce Frisque, Kathy Kleman, Karen Lecker, Kay Sanville and Sandy Schultz.

We have been getting many letters of thanks from the organizations we voted to support with donations from our “Cash Carryover Account”. It is gratifying to know that our excess contributions are benefitting God's kingdom in so many different areas!

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 notice that someone has been away from church for a while, please encourage them to worship or contact pastor.

CHURCH PROPERTY – MR. PAT ZOELLER, COUNCILMAN

We had a new thermostat installed in the Food pantry room and are meeting with Borsch Roofing to inspect some of the challenges we have with the flat roof areas above the parking lot overhang and storage area behind the sanctuary.

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP – DR. JOHN DAHLIE, COUNCILMAN

Our September dining out experience is planned for Sunday the 19th. Please note that we are having some difficulty finding a location that will be able to serve approximately 30+ people due to staffing issues. We will keep you updated as we know more. In October we are planning a “Packer Party” and Pot Luck on Sunday October 3rd at 2:30pm. This will take place at Ed and Gale Blum's residence. We are also planning a Reformation Day Pot Luck at church on Sunday October 31st. Watch for details.

YOUTH DISCIPLESHIP – MR. AARIN REISING

For our last summer event, we hosted a Youth and Family Bowling and Pizza Party. The kids enjoyed the fun and the food.

Starting on Sunday, September 12, we will begin Sunday School at 10:30am. We are looking to run Sunday School almost the same way we've been doing Toddler and Kid's Time with Jesus, but with a few alterations.

We are looking for a few willing and able Sunday School teachers or aides. Our goal is to have at least two main teachers for younger ages (pre-school-2nd grade) and at least two main teachers for our older grades (3rd grade and up). Please contact Pastor Parsons if you are interested.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE – MR. KLINT STUEBS, COUNCILMAN

The Concert and Pie Social on Sunday August 15th was attended by about 53 people, our members and friends of the community. We would be happy to get feedback about the event from those who attended so we can make adjustments as needed.

We are looking forward to the Homecoming Parade in October and Christmas Parade in December to get our name out in the community.

UPDATE TO WISH LIST INFORMATION

The Council voted and approved the inclusion of one item for the Wish List. Some details are included below. More information to come. If you are interested in funding the item in part or in whole, please contact Pastor Parsons or one of the Church Office Secretaries with your donation request.

Item: A new furnace to replace one that is over 20 years old and at the end of its service life.

Estimated Cost: \$3500.00 (Includes all materials and installation)

News Bits and Pieces

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

And there have been many more since Divine Savior donated \$26,500 to 11 different ministries affiliated with the synod. Representative excerpts are being shared here.

The treasurer from **Central Africa Medical Mission (CAMM)** wrote: "Thank you for your generosity!...Your gift of \$2,500 ...will be used to help support the nurses, and projects or purchases such as medicines, supplies, health education for mother and child, continuing education for staff, Christ-centered materials, and maintenance of the clinic buildings. This gift is greatly appreciated, and we thank you." (CAMM is active in Malawi and Zambia "spreading the love of the Savior through caring for the sick, the injured and the dying." But even more, they "shine the light of Christian love through their daily acts of kindness with the people of Africa.)

The Financial Aid Officer from **Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary (WLS)**, the training institution for WELS pastors, wrote: "On behalf of [WLS] and its student body, I would like to thank you for your gift of \$2,500, which was designated for student assistance here at the Seminary....Thank you for your partnership....Your gift helps...young men grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ....Thank you for sharing the gifts God has given you. May the Lord continue to shower you with his blessings."

From **East Fork Lutheran Schools**: "Thank you for helping us share Jesus' love with Apache children."

Chaplain Joseph Radsek, writing for **Institutional Ministries** commented: "On behalf of all the people we serve, thank you. Your gift of \$1,000 makes it possible for us to share [the] message of forgiveness and hope with walled-in souls throughout our communities. Thank you, for helping us *shine the light of Jesus' love behind the walls!*"

Martin Luther College (MLC) President Rich Gurgel's letter states: "We received your gift of \$5,000 to the Congregational Partner Grant Program....Thank you! Your gift means so much to us! Not only does it help us financially, it also demonstrates your partnership with us in the Great Commission.... Together we are raising up the next generation of gospel messengers and witnesses for Christ.

"Please continue to pray for your college of ministry and the work God has given us to do. And please continue to encourage the young people in your homes and in your church family to consider serving in gospel ministry."

"THANK YOU!" wrote Bill Meier, President & CEO of **Kingdom Workers**. He added, "I hope that by setting these words on their own it will help them sink in a bit more. I want them to sink in because I am so very grateful to you. Your financial support of \$1,000 makes a big difference to the people we serve through Kingdom Workers. It means more disabled children can participate in worship through a simplified service...more people in rural communities gain access to clean water for drinking...more stability for foster children... more people in the US and around the world hear the good news that Jesus died and rose for them! ...Because of your gift we are able to continue to tell people about Jesus and care for our neighbors in need."

Our Unusual Mission Festival

The last Sunday in June this year will be remembered as quite an unusual Mission Festival Sunday. Yes, there was a mission-focused message, an informational program, and a potluck meal. But that was only half of the story.

Laymen from the congregation led the liturgy and read the scripture lessons. Missionary Daniel Witte, quarantined in Zambia, delivered the 35-minute, slide-illustrated sermon digitally. Deborah Witte, whose quarantine had ended earlier, traveled ahead and presented the after-service program about life and work in Africa. The gospel-centered event provided insight into our church's work to carry out Jesus' Great Commission in a faraway land quite different from our own.

A door collection designated for the One Africa Team (O.A.T.) totaled \$482 and has been forwarded to WELS to support the work of O.A.T.

Following Mission Festival Sunday, the Zambian missionaries sent the following note:

"Dear Saints of God in Christ Jesus our Lord,

"It was a sincere pleasure to be with you and share a little about the progress of the gospel among our brothers and sisters in Africa.

"Thank you for all your warm greetings, your prayers, your honorarium, and all the other expressions of love in Christ.

"May he continue to bless you until he comes again, and we all see and praise our Divine Savior face to face---all of us from every tribe, nation, people and language."

Dan and Deb Witte

(DRF)

How Much SunDrop Could \$2,500 Buy?

\$2,500!! That's how much the Divine Savior Food Pantry received as a share of profits from this summer's SunDrop Dayz. Unfortunately, SunDrop soda isn't on the pantry's shopping list, but maybe it should be.

Our food pantry was one of several non-profit organizations within the Shawano area chosen to receive portions of the SunDrop Dayz profits. Our pantry did not apply for the donation, and we were greatly surprised on Tuesday, August 10, when we were asked to come to the SunDrop Museum to have our picture taken as we--and representatives from the other groups--were presented with our checks.

The four Food Pantry coordinators who attended the event and were photographed receiving a large facsimile check were greatly astonished to see the amount written on the check

A thank you letter sent to the organizer of the event noted that our pantry recognizes our mission to share our God's blessings with those in our community who may be less-well-off than others. And the \$2,500 donation will go a long way in helping us provide a generous amount of food for the needful people who use our pantry to supplement their food supply.

Pantry coordinators present to receive the donation were Ron and Carol Jaeger together with Don and Joyce Frisque.

Also, through the church grapevine, it was learned that at least one Divine Savior member had volunteered to help with SunDrop Dayz. That was reportedly Lois Lemke. A thank you is in order for Lois and any other members who may have answered the call to work at the event.

The Stockbox Program

What is the Stockbox Program? For whom is it intended? How does it work? Why are we involved? These are interesting questions that this article will attempt to answer.

The Stock Box Program provides healthy food every month to improve the diet and nutrition of low-income seniors 60 or older. Stockbox is also known as the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP).

Each month eligible participants receive about 30 pounds of free food which includes: cheese, canned fruits and vegetables, juice, cereal, canned and dry milk, peanut butter, canned meat, canned soup, rice, instant potatoes or pasta.

All people age 60 or older who have a monthly household income that is less than or equal to the program's income guidelines may receive one stockbox per month. The monthly income guidelines are:

- *\$1,396 per month for a one-person household
- *\$1,888 per month for a two-person household
- *Add \$492 for each additional person in the household

The Divine Savior Food Pantry became involved when approached by leaders in the Shawano Area Food Center to consider serving as a distribution location for the Stockbox Program. The Stockbox Program is actually a function of an organization known as the Hunger Task Force, which operates under the supervision of the Wisconsin Department of Health & Family Services. For Divine Savior Food Pantry, the Stockbox Program appears to be another way to help people in need receive healthy and nutritious food.

Even though anyone meeting the eligibility guidelines for the Stockbox Program can receive food boxes, the Divine Savior Food Pantry has initially limited the number of participants we will serve to just 15. Pantry coordinators want to see how the Stockbox program will work in with our regular food pantry program before deciding the future for our involvement with Stockbox. Currently, the 15-participant limit has been reached. Stockboxes are also available in Shawano at SAFPARC (Shawano Area Food Pantry and Resource Center).

People receiving Stockboxes do not have to be regular Food Pantry participants, but the boxes are only available during normal food pantry days and hours, which are the first and last Thursdays of each month between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m.

(DRF)

Selections from WELS TOGETHER

WELS Celebrates Milestone in Endowments Program

(From *TOGETHER*, August 17, 2021)

This year WELS ministry of Christian Giving and WELS Foundation are celebrating 16 years of God's blessings--and the generosity of God's people--through the WELS endowment funds.

In 2005, synod convention delegates prayerfully considered how WELS could help support gospel ministry in a predictable and ever-increasing manner. One answer was to establish the WELS endowments, which benefit the Lord's work in WELS Home, World, and Joint Missions and at our four ministerial education schools. Out of gratitude for God's love and a desire to help more people know Jesus as their Savior, WELS members have faithfully contributed to these endowments over the last 16 years, resulting in more than \$100 million in gifts received (\$36.7 million) and expected (\$68.9 million).

"We praise Jesus for guiding our synod's plans and prompting our member's gifts so that we're now able to distribute more than \$1 million from these endowments for greater tuition assistance for ministerial education students and the funding of mission work to people groups located both in the U.W. and in foreign fields," says Rev. Kurt Lueneburg, director of WELS Ministry of Christian Giving.

In addition to the two synod endowments, WELS Foundation also manages endowments that are set up by individuals, congregations, and other WELS ministries. In total, WELS Foundation distributed \$3.5 million to gospel work from more than 350 endowments this year, providing ongoing financial support for gospel work throughout WELS.

"An endowment is a great way to create a lasting legacy of Christian faith while carrying out the Lord's work," says Mr. Jim Holm, executive director of WELS Foundation, "and there are a variety of ways to set up an endowment: cash or appreciated assets; or through a will, trust, beneficiary designation on a retirement account, or insurance proceeds."

To learn more about adding to an existing endowment or setting up an endowment for a ministry close to your heart, contact your local WELS Christian giving counselor at wels.net/giving-counselors or call 800-827-5482.

(**Note:** The Christian giving counselor for Divine Savior is Rev. Thomas Mielke. Cell: 920-750-4803. His home is in Appleton. He will come to Shawano.)

WELS Historical Institute Celebrates 40 Years

(From *TOGETHER*, August 17, 2021)

The WELS Historical Institute will be marking 40 years of preserving WELS history at an event Sept. 25, 2021, at Salem, Milwaukee, Wis. Salem Landmark Church, the synod's museum run by the WELS Historical Institute, is located on Salem Luther Church's property.

The event, beginning at 1 p.m. will open with a message from WELS President Mark Schroeder. In addition, the event will feature a panel discussion with former WELS Historical Institute presidents; a presentation by Prof. John Brenner, the current editor of the Institute's journal, a cemetery or Salem Landmark Museum tour; a presentation on the history of the Institute; and a hymn sing.

"This event demonstrates our synod's commitment to appreciating the way the Lord has blessed our congregations, schools, and other organizations and used them to promote the gospel of our Lord," says Mr. Dan Nommensen, vice chairman of the WELS Historical Institute. "I pray this event will lead us to see how dedicated volunteers have overseen the process of preserving our past so we can celebrate our blessings and appreciate how the Lord continues to lead us through challenges."

Nommensen says the event is open to "anyone who desires to learn more about our history and how we have sought to preserve and present the story of God's grace in our WELS." The event will be live streamed. Find out more at wels.net/events.

A Few Synod Convention Notes

(From *TOGETHER*, August 17, 2021)

The WELS met for the 66th Biennial Convention at Luther Prep in Watertown, WI, on July 26-28. *TOGETHER* reported some "significant items of business that were address." A few of them are listed below.

*Chief Financial Officer Mr. Kyle Egan reported that the synod ended last year in very good financial shape in all areas.

*The Board for Home Missions plans to open 100 new missions over ten years beginning in 2023.

*The new WELS hymnal was formally adopted as the synod's hymnal and will become available in early fall.

(DRF)

Special Guests Offer Greetings

(From special Convention edition of *TOGETHER*)

Presidents of two U.S.-based Lutheran church bodies addressed convention delegates. Rev. Glenn Obenberger brought greetings from WELS' sister synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS). Obenberger became ELS president after former president Rev. John Moldstad, Jr. unexpectedly passed away in January. "We still grieve but do not grieve without hope," said Obenberger. "John shall rise again for Jesus' sake, so we go forward."

Obenberger encouraged the synod to continue to stand on God's Word. "WELS, like the ELS, is committed to carrying out the mission of the church which Jesus has given us, making the same bold confessions based on the Word of God: That grace alone is the truth which sets sinner like us eternally free," he said. "May God grant you the strength and wisdom to continue taking that bold, old Lutheran stance in the face of all opposition."

He then presented Pres. Mark Schroeder a commemorative book on the history of Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary, which is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year.

Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, president of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS), also addressed convention delegates, calling it an honor and privilege to attend and speak at a WELS synod convention.

WELS, ELS, and LCMS representatives have been meeting annually for informal doctrinal discussions since 2012. This is the first time that Harrison has attended a WELS synod convention.

In his historic address, Harrison brought up "tragic things" in the synods' past, referring to the break in fellowship in 1961 and events that occurred following the break. Yet he stressed the Missouri Synod's stance on the Word: "The Missouri Synod confesses Christ and the inerrancy of Scripture. And the Lord blesses us despite ourselves."

He also expressed appreciation for the continuing dialogue among the three church bodies, even though significant issues still separate the synods. "I thank you, Mark ([Schroeder], for reaching out to me and the Missouri Synod, despite our challenging past," he said. "We deeply appreciate your prayers and you have ours."

Following Harrison's address, WELS President Mark Schroeder mentioned the importance of these informal doctrinal discussions. "From the start, we believed that it was a debt of Christian love that we

needed to pay for us to be talking with our friends in the Missouri Synod about important issues in doctrine and practice. I think you can sense from what Pres. Harrison said that it has truly been a mutually encouraging and beneficial set of conversations, and we pray that they will be able to continue."

Preparing and Supporting Future Called Workers

(From special Convention edition of *TOGETHER*)

Rev. Paul Prange, Rev. Duane Rodewald,, and Rev. Richard Gurgel spoke to convention delegates about the blessings and goals of WELS Ministerial Education as it prepares candidates for the public ministry as well as provides continuing education to those who are already serving.

Prange, administrator of the Board for Ministerial Education, highlighted the four schools that the synod supports: Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary (WLS), Mequon, WI; Martin Luther College (MLC), New Ulm, MN; and Luther Preparatory School (LPS), Watertown, WI, and Michigan Lutheran Seminary (MLS), Saginaw, MI, the synod's two preparatory high schools. About 1,400 students attend the four schools, and 2,000 current ministers of the gospel are in continuing education courses provided by MLC and WLS.

Rodewald, chairman of the Board for Ministerial Education (BME), talked about a special task force that was recently created to improve the retention and better support men who are training to be pastors as a second or third career. "We recognize the challenges and unique sacrifices that need to be made," said Rodewald about these students and their families.

After commenting on all the different educational areas the board maintains, Prange revealed another area the BME is focusing on: student educational debt, especially for MLC students.

Providing financial aid for MLC students is one of the three pillars of the ongoing "Equipping Christian Witnesses" (ECW) CAMPAIGN. Rev. Richard Gurgel, MLC president, shared more with the delegates about this campaign, including that more than \$7.5 million has already been donated or pledged.

"Equipping Christian Witnesses' is about building a foundation for years to come," remarked Gurgel. "We want to renew and reinvigorate our investment as a synod to raise up future generations of faithful and qualified staff minister, teacher, and pastors."

(DRF)

SEPTEMBER 2021

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
			1	2 Bread of Life Bible Study 12:00 pm Food Pantry 1:00-3:00 pm	3	4
5 Worship Service 9:00 a.m.	6 Labor Day NO MONDAY SERVICE	7 Ladies Aid 1:00 p.m. Pray and Play 3:00 p.m. Coor. Council 6:30 p.m.	8 Choir Practice 6:30p.m.	9 WATC 5:30 p.m. with Start of year Picnic	10	11
12 Worship Service w/Comm. 9:00 a.m. Bible Study and Sunday School 10:30	13 Monday Night Service w/Comm. 6:30 p.m.	14 Pray and Play 3:00 p.m.	15 Choir Practice 6:30p.m.	16	17	18
19 Worship Service 9:00 a.m. Bible Study and Sunday School Study 10:30	20 Monday Night Service 6:30 p.m.	21 Communications Comm. Mtg. 1:00 p.m. Pray and Play 3:00 p.m.	22 Choir Practice 6:30p.m.	23 Jesus Cares Ministries Bible Study 5:30p.m.	24	25
26 Worship Service w/Comm. 9:00 a.m. Bible Study and Sunday School Study 10:30	27 Monday Night Service w/Comm. 6:30 p.m.	28 Pray and Play 3:00 p.m.	29 Choir Practice 6:30p.m.	30 Bread of Life Bible Study 12:00 pm Food Pantry 1:00-3:00 pm		