



DIVINE SAVIOR EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN  
102 NORTHRIDGE DR.  
SHAWANO, WI 54166

## **MESSENGER—SEPTEMBER 2019**

### *Special Dates in September*

#### Ladies Aid

3rd @ 1:00 p.m.  
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#### Co-or. Council Mtg.

10th @ 6:30 p.m.  
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#### WATC Picnic

12th @ 5:30 p.m.  
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#### Dining Out Group

21st @ 5:30 p.m.  
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#### JCM Bible Study

26th @ 5:30 p.m.  
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#### Bread of Life

#### Bible Study

#### Thursdays

12:00—12:30 p.m.  
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#### Food Pantry

#### Thursdays

1:00—3:00 p.m.  
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#### Pray & Play

#### Tuesdays

3:00 p.m.

(Not 24th)

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#### Refit Classes

#### Sunday & Weds.

4:00 p.m.

(Not 1st & 22nd)

## **I Need More...Knowledge**

*The Church of Scientology* teaches that people are basically good, that their capabilities are unlimited, and those capabilities can be realized. People can also achieve new, higher states of awareness and ability. *Scientology* claims that the secrets to this higher knowledge can only be found in their church through a process they call “auditing.”

Seems strange? But honestly, a cultic religion that encourages you to look within yourself for more knowledge can really satisfy an itch. Who doesn't feel they need more knowledge? And how about being able to pat yourself on the back for pursuing it and supposedly finding that knowledge within yourself? That's pretty appealing to the human heart.

But God's Word sounds much different than L. Ron Hubbard, who authored the book that has become *Scientology's* bible. God says people are not basically good, that people's natural capabilities are limited to sinning and rebelling against God. As a result, God says all people are the same: “There is no one who understands, no one who seeks God...The way of peace they do not know” (Romans 3:11,17).

God is right! Not L. Ron Hubbard! Need proof? Think about Adam and Eve when they pursued more knowledge on their own apart from God. They rejected God's Word and sinned. Look at what their own inner pursuit of knowledge got them and us! A world infected by sin so badly that everyone eventually dies.

Jesus knows we all lack knowledge, and he wants to fill that void. He does so not by telling us to find it inside ourselves, but by telling us to look outside ourselves. We find knowledge in the Bible. Through his Word, God makes us wise; he gives us insight and understanding. (See Psalm 119:98-100.) That's because God's Word gives us knowledge that we can't find or discover anywhere else.

The Bible tells about Jesus. It tells how wide, long, high, and deep Jesus' love is for people. That love drove Jesus to come to this world, bear the sin of every person, die on a cross, and suffer the eternal punishment for all sins. That's love—love so amazing that God declares that your sins are forgiven because of Jesus. That's love—love so beyond understanding that Jesus, the righteous one, should die for the unrighteous. But he did! That's why the apostle Paul says that “this love surpasses knowledge” (Ephesians 3:19). In Jesus' love for you, you have everything you truly need to know, both now and forever.

#### **Worship service times.**

Sun. 9:00 a.m.

Mon. 6:30 p.m.

## *PARISH NEWS*

### Congregational Changes:

Added:

Baptism :

Self Excluded:

Transferred:

Called Home to Jesus:

Current Congregational Stats: 163 communicants: 174 souls:

### Never Alone

If you didn't already know, I love Country music. I play it or sing it while I'm getting things done. I was recently singing a song by John Michael Montgomery called "I Swear," and the following lyrics stood out to me: "I swear by the moon and the stars in the sky I'll be there. I swear. Like the shadow that's by your side, I'll be there. For better or worse, 'til death do us part, I'll love you with every beat of my heart. I swear."

It's a nice, sappy love song, and this line is meant to express that he will never leave her, no matter what. The reason this verse jumped out at me is because he promised to always be by her side, just like a shadow. That's a nice sentiment, but it struck me that shadows aren't actually always by our sides. When things get darkest, they disappear.

It got me thinking that God makes a promise just like that to us, that he is always going to be there with us. But unlike the promise from the song, God is able to keep his promise. God's promise can be found in **Isaiah 54:10**. "**Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed,**" says the LORD, who has compassion on you.

There are times when you may wonder if God is really there with you because you're going through something difficult. It might be because you're not getting along so well with somebody because of some disagreement. Or you feel lonely. Or you feel afraid because you don't know what's to come as you wait for some diagnosis. All of these situations can lead you to question why God might permit such difficulties to enter your life. Really, they may just be what leads you to trust his promise because you find that he really is there, strengthening you through it all, strengthening your faith.

The same is true on the other side of the coin, too, when things seem to be falling into place and blessings are easy to count. In times like these, we can give thanks to God, but that's not always the first thought we have. History shows how God's people turn again and again to themselves with praise when things go well. It's no different for us now. God knows that we can be tempted to forget where blessings come from at times.

We will fail sometimes. Unfortunately, our sinful nature permits nothing else. We will sin. But we aren't just sinners. We are also God's children, and he has promised that no matter what happens in our lives, whether the mountains are shaken, or the hills are removed, God's **unfailing love for you will not be shaken**. His love is so strong that he sent his Son to die for us, for sinners, so that his covenant of peace would be fulfilled. He promised all this because of his compassion for us.

Though our promises may fail sometimes, God's never will. May God help us always to trust in him, and when we should fail to do so, may he lead us back to him and ask his forgiveness, knowing that his forgiveness can overcome all our own failings and sin. Amen

In Christian love,  
Pastor Wolf B. Parsons

*(Continued on page 5)*

## A First Time Delegates' Perspective on the 65<sup>th</sup> Biennial WELS Synod Convention

by Randy Baxter

I have never been a delegate to neither the synod convention nor the district convention nor have I visited MLC. So, I had many new experiences during that last week in July in which the convention was held. I didn't really know what to expect, oh I had some ideas, but it was far beyond what I imagined and I'd like to share some of that with you.

Monday the 29<sup>th</sup> was a travel day for the delegates, guests, and visitors. For me it was about a 5 and half hour drive, many others flew in from faraway places, all across the US and even overseas. I arrived around midafternoon and by 4pm we all had to gather for an orientation period in the gym where the convention was to be held. It was huge, the rows of tables and chairs seemed almost endless. When we checked in, we were told what our seating assignment would be so it was just a matter of locating our seat at which we could find a nice water mug and a padfolio filled with all the tools necessary for doing the work we came to do. A little later was evening meal and quite a meal it was, no one was going to go away hungry. There were two identical buffets for the main course items, two identical salad buffets, drink islands, and deserts including hand served ice cream.

After supper was the opening worship service in The Chapel of The Christ. It is very appropriately named as very shortly after entering the first thing to capture your attention is the larger than life image of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ suspended from the ceiling just above the altar, very beautiful. One of the most memorable things about the service was the opening hymn. It was very moving and quite powerful sounding with so many male voices. Also memorable was the processional of about a dozen pastors led MLC President Zarling carrying in the Cross of Christ. Individual and common cup communion was served near the end of the service by the entire team of pastors including President Schroeder. The evening wound down with fellowship time under the large tent with hors d'oeuvres and beer from the Schell brewery right there in New Ulm.

The next three days were all very similar but with different business items being addressed each day. The mornings began with breakfast at 6:30am and by 8 we were in the convention hall.

Tuesday began with the LWMS presenting the flags of all the various countries in which WELS serves, I don't remember the exact number but it took a good twenty minutes or more to present all the flags. After the presentation had ended, President Schroeder called the convention to order with a strike of the gavel and we began with a morning devotion. After that the day was filled with a variety of business – introduction of guest speakers, elections, reports, presentations. Morning breaks were usually held between 10 & 10:30 and lunch at noon. Break times offered an opportunity to visit the various vendor exhibits such as NPH, World Missions, CEF, Kingdom Workers, and so on. Pretty much every arm of the synod was represented. The Wartburg project was giving away free EHV bibles to the delegates if they visited their booth. Dinner again at 5 and after dinner was a mission presentation. The day again ended with fellowship time.

Wednesday was much the same. However, the most memorable thing for me about this day was the welcoming into fellowship the churches from Kenya & Taiwan. Reverend Onunda & his wife from the LCMC of Kenya took their turns addressing the convention as did Reverend Peter Chin & Mr. Michael Lin of the CELC of Taiwan. Resolutions were moved & supported to formally welcome these church bodies into fellowship. Approval came in the form of standing ovations and I was filled with a great sense of joy as I realized how far the WELS is carrying the Word into world and how hungry and desperate they are for it and how appreciative they are to receive it. This is true of many countries throughout the world, 11 countries in Africa, 11 countries in Europe, 24 in Latin America. 900 people comprise the Lutheran Church in China where they have to keep a low profile so as not to draw too much attention to themselves lest they face persecution. Pakistan as well. A good number of resolutions were moved and supported during the course of the afternoon and an after-dinner tour of the MLC campus rounded out the day.

Thursday, the final day of the convention was ahead of schedule and after the morning devotion business was really just about acting on various committee reports and resolutions. The convention adjourned ahead of schedule at 10:21am. Shortly afterward was the closing worship service which included the installation of President Schroeder & 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Voss. After the service we had lunch and began our journeys home.

I feel blessed to have been given this opportunity to serve as a delegate, something I will not soon forget. I thank God for the work He has done through our synod. It is my earnest prayer that He would continue to use us to build His Kingdom.

Feel free to approach me with any questions you may have about the convention and I will do my best answer them. I would also strongly encourage you visit the WELS website for more details. There you will find all the presentations, reports, memorials, agenda, minutes, and more.

<https://wels.net/news-media/2019synodconvention/>

God Bless,

Randy Baxter

## Other Notes from Pastor:

### **Choir start-up**

Choir practice resumes after Labor Day. Practice is every Wednesday at 6:30pm. We welcome all who wish to praise the Lord in song. If you are interested, please speak with Pastor Parsons or Molly Stuedemann.

### **Fall and Winter Schedule Resumes**

Following Labor Day, we return to our regular schedule of events. That means that the following activities will be resuming at their regularly scheduled times: Sunday morning Bible Class; Sunday School/Daycare; JCM Bible Study; Toddler Time with Jesus; Catechism Class.

### **Monday Night Worship – Occasional Cancelations**

Over the last year, there have been some cancelations of Monday night worship. The reasons have varied, but I'm not sure we ever officially explained them to the congregation as a whole. I'd like to take the opportunity to do so now.

These are the main reasons some Monday night services have been canceled outside of the seasons of Lent and Advent: **1) We are joined by a guest preacher, especially when he must travel a long distance;** **2) Holidays;** **3) Pastor's absence** (when gone only on Monday night and not Sunday – an example of this will be September 16<sup>th</sup>, when I will be at the Seminary for Symposium, along with many of the other local pastors.); **4) Annual and Semi-annual meetings** (It is our hope that all members, men and women, would attend these meetings if you are available to do so. To that end, we do not have worship on Monday night with the hope that you might attend Sunday, since these meetings follow immediately after the Sunday service.); **5) Certain special services** (Some changes will be made in this regard, depending on the type of special service. In order to still have Monday night worship service, we may simply alter the service a bit to make it possible without having a completely different service. In this way, we can still gather for worship on Monday nights.)

We do apologize because there hasn't always been adequate notice of Monday night cancelations, which has caused some confusion. This has been addressed, and we hope to print possible unexpected cancelations (i.e. non-holiday-related cancelations) into the *Messenger's* monthly calendar. We also hope to print them into the bulletin a minimum of two weeks early, as well as posting the cancelations on the Facebook account and on the online calendar on the new website.

If you have any questions or comments, I would welcome you input. Please feel free to speak to me so that we might address any concerns.

In Christ,

Pastor Wolf B. Parsons



# 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>1</b> Divine Worship 9:00 a.m.  No Refit	<b>2</b> LABOR DAY  No Monday Night Service	<b>3</b> Ladies Aid Mtg. 1:00 p.m.  Pray & Play 3:00 p.m.	<b>4</b> Refit 4:00 pm  Choir 6:30 pm	<b>5</b> Bread of Life 12:00-12:30 p.m. Food Pantry 1-3 p.m.	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Divine Worship w/ Communion 9:00 a.m. Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Refit 4:00 pm	<b>9</b> Monday Night Service w/communion 6:30 p.m.	<b>10</b> Pray & Play 3:00 p.m.  Co-ord. Council Mtg. 6:30 p.m.	<b>11</b> Refit 4:00 pm  Choir 6:30 pm	<b>12</b> Bread of Life 12:00-12:30 p.m. Food Pantry 1-3 p.m. WATC Picnic 5:30 p.m.	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Toddler Time With Jesus 10—11 a.m.
<b>15</b> Divine Worship 9:00 a.m. Bible Study 10:30 a.m.  Refit 4:00 pm	<b>16</b> No Monday Night Service	<b>17</b> Pray & Play 3:00 p.m.	<b>18</b> Refit 4:00 pm  Choir 6:30 pm	<b>19</b> Bread of Life 12:00-12:30 p.m. Food Pantry 1-3 p.m.	<b>20</b> Homecoming parade 6:00 p.m.	<b>21</b> Autumn Begins - Set clocks back  Dining out Group 5:30 p.m.
<b>22</b> Divine Worship w/ Communion + new member 9:00 a.m. Bible Study 10:30 a.m. No Refit	<b>23</b> Monday Night Service w/communion 6:30 p.m.	<b>24</b> No Pray & Play	<b>25</b> Refit 4:00 pm  Choir 6:30 pm	<b>26</b> Bread of Life 12:00-12:30 p.m. Food Pantry 1-3 p.m. JCM Bible Study 5:30 p.m.	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Toddler Time With Jesus 10—11 a.m.
<b>29</b> Divine Worship Favorite Hymn 9:00 a.m. Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Refit 4:00pm	<b>30</b> Monday Night Service Favorite Hymns 6:30 p.m.					