



The

Sanctuary

You are God's Temple

...God's Spirit Lives in You. 1 Cor. 3:15

BLESSED SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH + 1205 NORTH LINCOLN AVE. + O'FALLON, IL 62269 + 618-632-0126 + WWW.MYBSLC.ORG

Upcoming Events

August/September 2021

Sun. Aug. 22

Worship 9:30 am
Youth Barbeque
Church 4 pm

Mon. Aug. 23, 30

Support Group 7 pm

Sun. Aug. 29

Worship in the Park
10:00 am.

Farewell to Pastor Matt

Rally day 11 am

Church Picnic

Sign up in Narthex for
Picnic

Pool Party

5-645 p.m.

City Pool

Sun. Sept. 5

Worship 9:30

Mon. Sept. 6

Labor Day

Office Closed

Support Group 7

Tues. Sept. 7

Quilting 10-?

Sun. Sept. 12, 19, 26

Worship 9:30

Sunday School 10:45

Mon. Sept. 13, 20, 27

Support Group 7 pm

Tues. Sept. 14

Church Council 7 pm

Wed. Sept. 15, 22, 29

Ladies Bible Study 10



Sunday, August 29

Worship at the City Park

10:00 a.m.

Followed by Rally Day
& Church Picnic

Sunday, August 29

Immediately following worship in the park

We will say our farewell to Pastor Matt Kusch
who has taken a call to St Paul Lutheran Church
Aurora, Illinois



Sunday School Rally Day

Sunday, August 29

City Park following Worship

Approximately 11:00 a.m.

**Come for fun, games and sign up for Sun-
day School**



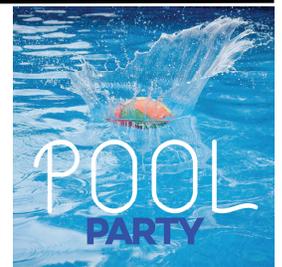
Pool Party!!

Sunday, August 29

City Pool—in the park

5:00 p.m.—6:45 p.m.

Come and bring your friends!



Fall Worship Times

Worship—9:30 a.m.

**Sunday School and Adult
Bible Study**

10:45 a.m.

We will continue with one service
this fall until further notice. Sun-
day School and Bible Study will
be added beginning **Sunday,**
September 12.



Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through

“Given a choice, railroads will always follow a straight, level path. Trains use less energy, speeds are higher, and there’s less wear on equipment when railroads can build on an arrow-straight line. But the land rises and falls, obstacles must be avoided, and the ideal is more the exception than the rule.” <https://www.trains.com/trn/train-basics/abcs-of-railroading/grades-and-curves/>

Isn't that descriptive of our lives? In the journey of life when the path is straight and level we're chugging along just fine. But as the article says, “the ideal is more the exception than the rule.” Can you relate?

What obstacles are stopping you from moving forward or slowing down your life making it a steep and exhausting climb? Age? Maybe you're thinking about the day when running a marathon was not impossible with proper training. The power was there. But now you're standing at the bottom of a staircase hoping you can make it to the second floor. You look at your kids or grandkids and say, “If I could just bottle their energy, I would be a millionaire.”

Maybe circumstances are slowing you down and you're running out of coal to run your life's engine. Your health takes a hit; an injury causing pain and frustration keeps you from focusing on and completing daily tasks; the workload at your job unexpectedly and suddenly increases bringing emotional and physical fatigue; the house or your car needs a major repair; the kids are needing more time and attention you don't seem to have; your marriage is struggling negatively impacting every part of your life. These are just a few of the obstacles that slow us down or cause our internal engines to come to a complete halt.

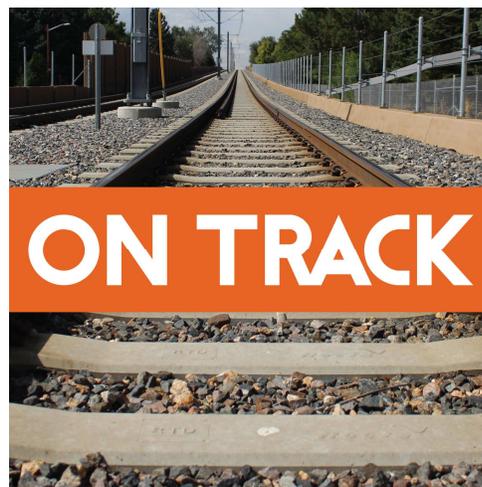
The same thing can happen to a church. We're heading down the track and things are going smoothly and then Covid hits. We think we're about to get to the end of that steep grade and then, the variant of that virus ramps up. And yet, the virus may be the smallest of obstacles the church has faced in recent years.

After WWII churches were filled to capacity. The expression “there are no atheists in the foxhole” drew people back to God and into the church. In the 1960s we began to see a subtle change. Our “enlightened” society began to believe that the power to make the world's locomotive smooth again is already inside us. We just need to do more research and discover more technology, work smarter and this will solve all the problems we face as a society.

Consequently, the phrase “Our help is in the name of the Lord” is no longer the axiom by which people used to live their lives and find hope. Look up the definition of the word axiom; “a statement or proposition which is regarded as being established, accepted, or self-evidently true.” When people know the Truth it guides and empowers their lives, come difficult climbs, or seemingly unmovable obstacles. Sadly, technology hasn't become the little engine that could! Research and technology have certainly made many aspects of our lives easier and more comfortable, but if you look at our societal problems today you cannot say we're improving. When you read the newspaper or listen to the news does it feel like the world is calming down or getting ready for Armageddon?

In many ways our lives have become more lonely, more distrustful, more frustrating, and more powerless. In spite of all these steep climbs and unmovable obstacles of life, I believe there is power for us! Power to pull us through!

The theme for our Vacation Bible School (VBS) this year was “Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through.” Jesus is the answer for us individually and as a Church. He is the power that can pull the world out of its misery today. Jesus' power has pulled many of us individually through some pretty steep climbs. Many have shared with me some life-threatening issues they have faced during this time and found deliverance through faith and trust in Jesus' power. Seriously, we could fill a service with people testifying to Jesus' power at work in their lives. They are not just surviving, but thriving!





To the Saints at Blessed Savior Lutheran Church,
 The Grace of God and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ be with you all. As some of you may have heard via official email or word of mouth or my announcement on Sunday, I have taken a call to be Lead Pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church and School. This decision was not made lightly. The Call process can be confusing on the surface, as it is not fully my decision but rather God's ultimate decision. You may follow use this link for further information about the entire process <http://www.cidlcms.org/education-call-process.html>.

The decision for me taking this call is due to both my family's situation and the church's situation. Both Hailey and I need to be closer to family due to Daniel's heart condition and for our own spiritual and emotional health. The Church has been experiencing fluctuating finances, which prompted this decision for my name to be added to a call list in early 2020.

We have been blessed with our time with all of you and pray that God would continue and guide all of you in the future. We will continue to ask God that the ministry at Blessed Savior would positively impact the community of O'Fallon and that God's Great Commission would continue to be the driving force within the Church.
 God's blessings,



We have kicked off our youth Mum fundraiser. It did so well last year and hopefully with your help we can be successful again. Orders are due to me by end of church on September 5th and will come in on September 7th. They are \$10 each & payment made payable to BSLC. I have us scheduled to be one of the first deliveries so we will most likely receive what we ordered from Country Kids. Please email, call or text me if you have any questions. My number is 618-780-1570

Thank you!
 Carie Boulanger
 (Cora and Gavin Hill's mom)

car-ie426@yahoo.com

Welcome to the 2021-22 Sunday School year!

Yes! Sunday School is back. There are classes for everyone from 3 year old toddlers through adulthood.

Sunday School and Rally Day

This year's theme is "Jesus' Power will Pull Us Through".

The Sunday School year will kick off on **August 29** in connection with the 10 am Worship in the Park service at the O'Fallon Community Park. Rally Day will immediately follow the service at approximately 11 am and lunch is right after that.



Plan To attend Rally Day!

Rally Day activities include Sunday school registration, games, prizes, face painting, a craft project for military members, and yummy treats. Be sure to bring your kids to Rally Day to register, get their picture taken for the bulletin board and meet their teacher.

Regular Sunday School classes begin on **September 12 at 10:45 am**. Remember, there are classes for everyone aged 3 and over.

Sunday School teacher volunteers are still needed. Please prayerfully consider using your talents to share Jesus' message with the congregation's children. Contact Lyndsey Sherman at 618-560-0172 for more information.

Fall Festival

Please mark your calendar for the Fall Festival on Sunday, **October 24**. More details and sign-up sheets will be coming soon.

Christian Education Committee



CHAIRMAN CHAT

It's summer here in the Midwest with the 90+ degrees temps and humidity... This last week was nice with temps in the 80's!!!! We need more of those days.

During the August (and maybe September) council meeting, the church council will be working on incorporating the Strategic Committee recommendation into the church goals. Once the council has finished this step, we will present the new church goals to the congregation. I want to THANK the entire Strategic Committee for working on and developing these recommendations. I know it was a difficult job. The Strategic Committee came up with 5 or 6 great recommendations. THANKS to Terry Colvin (chairman), Hannah Grant, Merina Feldmann, Wendi Gorney, Brian Lloyd, Dave Ziegler and Ginger Kieffer (Kirk Satrom and myself were "consultants").

The church council appreciates your patience and continued support of the church during the COVID-19 pandemic. It has been a different time for all of us, and we are trying our best to keep things going at the church during this time. During the pandemic, I understand the communication from the Church Council was not the best, and I apologize.

Remember any questions/concerns about the church, can be raised to the Elders, Vice-Chairman Dave Zeigler, or the Chairman Curtis Kuppler. Do NOT bring these questions/concerns to the Pastors or Nancy, unless they are around the worship services or staff duties.

Even though we are meeting more in person for church services, the Worship Committee and Pastors want to continue streaming the worship services each Sunday. So if you cannot make the service or still do not want attend in person yet, you can still "attend" virtually (www.mybslc.org). The Worship committee, along with the Pastors, are working on improving the streaming of the worship service. THANK YOU VERY MUCH and keep up the great work – Pastors, Worship Committee, worship service builders and clickers!!!

I look forward to start coming back to church in person and seeing everyone on Sunday very soon.

In God's Name, Curtis Kuppler, BSLC Congregational Chairman

A Word of Thanks...

Dear Blessed Savior Family,

This is a note of thanks to the congregation and Pastor Vern and Pastor Matt for prayers when I was recovering from a broken wrist. My wrist has healed. The miracle of healing and prayers! I am very thankful! Peggy Russell

When: **Sunday, August 29** (Church Service 10:00 a.m.; Rally Day fun activities 11:00 a.m.; picnic to follow approximately 12:00)

Where: **O'Fallon City Park** under Big Pavilion by the Pool

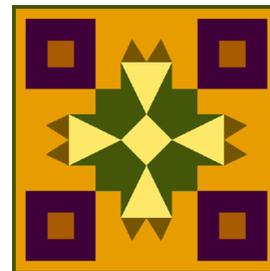
308 E. Fifth St.

Bring: a **side dish, salad, or dessert** to share & lawn chairs

Cost: **\$3.00** per person; **\$10.00** for **families of 4 or more** (*pay that day*)

Provided: **Grilled brats, hot dogs, hamburgers, condiments, lemonade, tea, water, AND tons of fun activities for all!**

Sign up friends and family and what you will bring in the Narthex!



Join the Lutheran World Relief QUILTERS on **Tuesday, September 7, Tuesday, Oct. 5, Tuesday, Nov. 2 and Tuesday, Dec. 7** from 10:00 - ? to tie quilts. (We don't actually quilt by hand. Instead we secure the layers by hand tying them.) Bring your lunch and join us for a time of good ole fellowship. Stay the entire time or as long as your schedule permits. Hope to see you there! Mark your calendar for the 1st Tuesday of each month. If you have any fabric pieces, thin blankets, curtains, drapes, sheets, etc you no longer need, the quilters would love to recycle them into quilts.

SPECIAL NOTE:

The quilters are in need of sheets for the backing of the quilts.

We appreciate your generosity

Stewardship Newsletter article – August 2021



When it comes to stewardship, a favorite Bible verse is the account of the widow's mite (Luke 21:1–4). It's a moving account. Our Lord praises the seemingly small gift of two copper coins given by a poor widow above the abundance of gifts given by the rich, saying, "Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them" (Luke 21:3). And that is usually where we stop. But the text goes on. "For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on" (Luke 21:4).

"She ... put in all she had to live on." She gave everything. She held nothing back. She trusted that the Lord who made her and all creatures; who gave her everything she had; who redeemed her from her own sin, from death, and the power of the devil; who called her by the gospel and enlightened her with His gifts of Word and Sacrament; would continue to do this. He would provide her with all that she needed for this body and life because that is the character of the God she had.

But this is not why we give small gifts. Her gift, though it appeared small, was actually large. When we are tempted to give small gifts, it is precisely because we want them to be small! We don't trust the Lord to provide for us. We give small gifts because we lack faith in the One who created us, redeemed us, sanctifies and keeps us in the one true faith. We give small gifts because we doubt that God will really give us what we need and desire. We give small gifts because we are not content with what God has already given.

We are not slaves, children of the slave woman, under the Old Covenant (Galatians 4). We are adopted sons of the free woman. And since we are sons, we are also heirs. And heirs receive the inheritance. For everything is already ours in Christ. And thus, moved by the willing spirit of adoption, we do the will of God in financial matters far beyond all that done by those under the Old Covenant who were forced by legal demands.

So, what have you decided to give? How do I decide what to give? Let the Scriptures be your guide.

We are to give proportionally to what we have received from God's giving to us (Luke 12:48; 1 Corinthians 16:1–2, 2 Corinthians 8:12). But you have not been set free to give nothing. See that you excel in the grace of giving (2 Corinthians 8:7)!

We are not free to live selfishly outside the Gospel, without regard for God who gives us all good gifts, without generosity for our neighbor who needs us and our gifts, without supporting the community of faith in which we live, without care for our spiritual fathers and those who teach and help raise our children in the faith, and without resources for the poor and needy.

In short, we are not free to live unto ourselves, hoarding what God has given us only for us. For love is the fulfillment of the law (Romans 13:10). And the sum of the law is this: Love God and love your neighbor (Matthew 22:34–40). We love because He first loved us. We give because He has given to us.

Luther once said, "Possessions belong in your hands, not in your heart" (LW 14:240). There is a reason your 10 fingers spread apart. With your hands you catch God's gifts for what you need and let the rest fall through your fingers to your neighbors – your family, your friends, your community, your church.



Farewell to the Kusch family

As was announced on August 1, Pastor Matt has received and accepted a call to St Paul Lutheran Church in Aurora, IL. We are sending them off with our prayers and well wishes after our Worship Service at the Park on Sunday, Aug. 29. With Covid still lingering an outdoor event seemed best for a Farewell Gathering. Please keep the Kusch family and the people at St Paul LC in your prayers during the transition. If you are unable to attend Worship in the Park, I'm sure the Kusch family would welcome any and every call or card expressing your love for them. As always, if you or someone in your family have any of the typical Covid symptoms it would be best to avoid coming to the park even though the event is outside. We thank you all for being so considerate of each other with our open door policy at church. We have been blessed to have very few occurrences of the virus among our church family and those who have contracted the virus, have been proactive and smart to quarantine quickly.

LCMS Foundation

TODAY | TOMORROW | FOREVER

Newsletter Article

Years ago, two seminary students were walking on the campus of Concordia Theological Seminary. Most of the buildings on campus had a nameplate depicting important leaders that blessed the Church in ancient times.

But the gym had a name on it that was unfamiliar. It was the Wambsgans Gymnasium. They started asking around to see if anyone knew who Wambsgans was. No one knew. It seemed odd that a plaque that was supposed to establish a legacy for this guy wasn't really accomplishing its purpose.

Years later, both of those pastors, serving at different times, served a congregation full of members from a Wambsgans family. They were cousins, nieces, or nephews of the guy with the name on the gym. Family knew he had played professional baseball. But beyond that, none of them had many stories to share of this man.

Living life, creating a legacy, hoping to be remembered is a task seldom accomplished. A couple generations after you have passed, no one will talk about you anymore. But if you have shared the Gospel, worked with others to share the Gospel or supported the ministry of sharing the Gospel in the Church financially, that grace of God will be generating new believers one generation after the next. It's a force multiplying thing, that lasts, for eternity.

If you really want to think about creating a legacy, let that be your goal. Share Jesus. Use your gifts for sharing Jesus. Plan your estate to remind family of Jesus' gifts and use estate gifts to support ministry when you are no longer here. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help. Contact Scott A. Radden at (618) 977-4049 or Scott.Radden@lfnd.org.



-Sunday, August 22nd, 4:00 p.m. at the Church

Bring the WHOLE family for a fun evening of yard games and food!

We will provide the meat and drinks, we ask that each family

Bring one (or 2) side dishes to share!

**We will also be going over information regarding the
National Youth Gathering for those interested.**

Please RSVP to Wendi Gorney at thegorney5@yahoo.com or

618-972-3300

It's been a long time since we've been able to hang out!

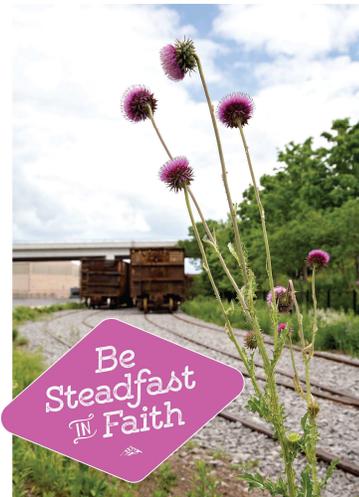
We hope you will join us for some outdoor fun!

Pastor Vern's article continued from page 2

Jesus reminds us that “with God, nothing is impossible” (Luke 1:37). As I look back over the past year and a half, I’m amazed that Blessed Savior survived and is still surviving the isolation we have all had to endure during the pandemic and the depleted resources that have come as a result. The Church at large has faced difficult climbs all throughout history, and guess what? After 2 millennia it still stands. It may look like it has gone as far as it can go but it continues to move through every climb and power through every obstacle. Jesus promised “I will build my church! And the gates of hell will not prevail against it!” When Jesus was crucified, died and was placed in a tomb everyone thought all his promises were empty promises. Then, three days later He rose! Our greatest obstacle, death, was overcome on the Day of His Resurrection. If Jesus’ power is greater than death, what “light and momentary affliction” of ours can He not overcome by His power?

One of our members came out of our “Encore” VBS service on August 1st with a smile longer than the Trans-Siberian Railway and she said, “We need to leave this train up all year as a reminder that our whole work in the church revolves around this theme: Jesus’ Power Pulls Us Through. This VBS Theme touches every aspect of our ministry whether it is Worship, Evangelism, Stewardship, Christian Education, Youth and Properties.” I agree! There is more than enough power in Jesus to pull us through so that we, individually and as the Lord’s church, do more than survive, we thrive.

I love technology as much as anyone, but I can’t say it has provided a straight and level path for my life nor for the life of the world. And these things are inevitable as long as we remain on this earthly track. But when Jesus is preached, acknowledged as Lord and God, we receive power from on high. Here is the most awesome thing to ponder: In Jesus’ power, individually and as a church, we will work more effortlessly, accomplish more ground, and have less wear on our lives as we journey together toward our heavenly destination if we remain attached to Jesus! His power is promised to pull us through every difficult climb and overcome every stubborn obstacle!



Praise be to Christ!
Pastor Vern

God Languishes with Us

A headline from last spring teased, “There’s a Name for the Blah You’re Feeling.” The writer decided what he and others felt as the pandemic wore on wasn’t burnout or depression but *languishing* — decreasing vitality; feeling dispirited. People of ancient times experienced this too: “The land of Egypt and the land of Canaan languished because of the famine” (Genesis 47:13). “The wine dries up, the vine languishes, all the merry-hearted sigh” (Isaiah 24:7). But there’s more.

If you used to be “merry-hearted” but now sigh a lot, hear this: “The heavens languish together with the earth” (Isaiah 24:4). Isaiah uses “the heavens” to refer to God, who languishes with us. Like an empathizing friend, God sits *with* us in our struggle. Sure, we pray for rescue *now*: “I am languishing; O Lord, heal me” (Psalm 6:2). But when our timing isn’t God’s, we trust his promise of restoration: “[God] will wipe every tear from their eyes ... mourning and crying and pain will be no more” (Revelation 21:4). With the psalmist we hold two truths at once: “My soul languishes for your salvation; I hope in your word” (119:81).

—Heidi Hyland Mann



**Ladies Bible Study
with Pastor Vern
Wednesday Mornings**
10:00 a.m.

Beginning
Wednesday, September 15

- 1 - Logan Gefferth
- 6- Glenn Dalton, William Boswell
- 7- Wayne Husemann
- 7—Bryan Conrad, 8—Brooks Dalton
- 9—Haley Bartimus, Gavin Hill
- 14—George Kruse 16—Emily Sanchez, Diane Schefelker
- 17 – Janet Satrom, Patty Gruhn
- 17—Jasper Heiden 18 – John Lundeby,
- 18 -Jared Brockmeyer
- 23 – Linda Williams, Sue Rogers, Donna Brockmeyer
- 24 Marvin Ganger 25—Elmer McKean
- 26 Claire Morton, Jackson Morton
- 29 –Greg Kieffer, Hannah Grant
- 30 – Kim Kesting
- 31 – Marty Lintvedt, Katherine Bowman

AUGUST



AUGUST



- 1—Peter & Sunnie Hollenbeck
- 4—Tom & Gwen Borsch
- 7 – Wayne & Kathy Husemann
- 12—Phil & Brittany Sterling
- 14—Dan & Rachel Schmidt
- 20 – Eric & Mary Stake
- 22 – Billy & Buffi Gass
- 22—Harry & Peggy Russell
- 22—Don & Mary Geis

SEPTEMBER



- 1 – Amy Calzada
- 3 – Dave Couture
- 4—Polly Scherrer
- 5 – Angie Conrad, Cora Hill
- 8 – Mark Poteet, Kara Brockmeyer, Paul Kjosa
- 9 – Cornelia Paulsen, Nathan Nelson
- 10 – Laura Drouin
- 11– Nic Kjosa
- 12 – Kirk Satrom
- 13—Brittini Gass
- 15—Rev. Matthew Kusch
- 16 – Emilie Wickline
- 18 – Bob Morton, Miranda Brockmeyer
- 20 – Julianne Reynolds, Robert Bruns
- 22 – Dave Longhorn 23 Mackenna Leech
- 25 – Ken Vohlken, Hanna Schmidt, Jean Miller
- 27 – Michael Weaver
- 28 – Phyllis Miesner, 29—Hailey Kusch

- 2—John & Ann Lundeby
- 2—Chris & Lindsey Sherman
- 6- John & Joan Gefferth
- 10—Mark & Lauren Morton
- 11 – David & Polly Ziegler
- 24—Mitch & Jackie Davis
- 28—Dave & Chris Couture
- 30 – Kale & Donna Jackson

SEPTEMBER



We are sorry if your birthday or anniversary has been overlooked. Please call the church office, 632-0126 or email Nancy at nancy@mybslc.org so we may add your name to our list. Thanks for your help.



Summer Fruit Basket

Taste some fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) — perfect for summer, and all year round!

- Love: “There is always an ‘again’ with love.” —Unknown
 - Joy: “I don’t think of all the misery, but of the beauty that still remains.” — Anne Frank
 - Peace: “Peace begins with a smile.” —Mother Teresa
-
- Patience: “The purposes of God may sometimes seem delayed, but they are never abandoned.” —H.C. Mears
 - Kindness: “Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.” —Mark Twain
 - Goodness: “Goodness means to do things for the glory of God.” —Martyn Lloyd-Jones
 - Faithfulness: “Do small things as if they were great because of the majesty of Christ, who does them in us.” —Blaise Pascal
 - Gentleness: “There is nothing stronger in the world than gentleness.” —Han Suyin
 - Self-control: “God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.” —2 Tim. 1:7 (ESV)



Labor of Love

During Labor Day weekend worship, many congregations bless members of various occupations. From painting to parenting, from truck driving to teaching, from farming to pharmaceutical research, work is honored as holy.

Some might believe that certain jobs — pastor, missionary, bishop — are holier than others. But in his classic book *The Practice of the Presence of God*, Brother Lawrence, a 17th-century Carmelite monk, tells of performing even the most common, tedious tasks as holy service to God: “I turn the cake that is frying on the pan for love of [God],” he wrote. “It is enough for me to pick up but a straw from the ground for the love of God.”

No matter your field of work, remember that any task done in God’s name and to his glory is holy.

Simple Symbiosis

Christians are like the several flowers in a garden, that have each of them the dew of heaven, which, being shaken with the wind, they let fall at each other’s roots, whereby they are jointly nourished, and become nourishers of each other. —John Bunyan



Labor Day Reflections

Labor Day brings to mind picnics, cookouts and family gatherings. Falling on the first Monday in September, it marks the unofficial end of summer and the beginning of a new school year. But the holiday was created in 1882 to honor the social and economic contributions of American workers.

In a strong economy, it’s easy to take for granted the ability to work and be paid well. But times have changed during the past few years, with many people still struggling with unemployment and underemployment.

During our holiday celebrations this year, let’s give thanks for the jobs we have, pray for those who aren’t as fortunate and offer words of encouragement or help to someone who needs it.



Answers

Answers to prayers come in various ways, sometimes in minutes, sometimes in days. And some take years to fully unfold the harvest of love and blessings they hold.

Answers to prayers come in various forms, sometimes in sunlight, sometimes through storms. Some blossom early, and some blossom late, but each one will flower — have faith and wait!

Helen Inwood, *His Mysterious Ways*

Our help — Past, Present and Future

This month, America marks the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, which ended almost 3,000 lives and changed life forever for millions more. The nation was shaken to its very roots, with violence jolting out of us any assumption that “it can’t happen here.” September 11 banished any lingering notion that being on the side of “liberty and justice for all” served as insulation against mass tragedy. We now had more to fear than fear itself.

Psalm 46 reminds us that “though the earth should change” (v. 2) — as it did on 9/11 — God remains “our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble” (v. 3). We are never alone or without hope, even on life-altering days.

How have God’s presence and power sustained you through life’s changes? How might sharing your story help someone else when their world or faith gets shaken?

—adapted from *The Wired Word*

Learn from Leaves

As you’re enjoying the fall colors and sipping apple cider, ponder this saying: “Autumn shows us how beautiful it is to let things go.”

When leaves stop producing chlorophyll, they turn vibrant shades of yellow, orange and red. This yearly spectacle makes way for the leaves to let go and fall. It also serves as a good reminder of things we may need to drop: clutter around the home, a desire for control, commitments that no longer bring joy, personal expectations that cause added stress, a need to always be right and so on.

Just as the Israelites had to let go of their past as slaves in Egypt and Saul-turned-Paul had to abandon his persecuting ways, we, too, can let go of what weighs us down and gets in the way of God’s best for our lives. Embrace fall as a season of change and see just how beautiful it is to let things go!—Janna Firestone



A Cheerful What?

Guideposts editor Mary Ann O’Roark recalls hearing the phrase “cheerful liver” so often in church as a girl that she asked her grandmother what a liver is. “It’s a part inside you, like your stomach or your heart,” Grandma replied.

Rather confused, O’Roark tried to figure out how to be cheerful from the inside out. Then during Sunday school one week, a classmate explained that God loves a cheerful *giver*, not liver. Years later, however, O’Roark realized that her younger self wasn’t too far off the mark. After all, God does indeed love someone who *lives* cheerfully, spreading the hope and joy that he longs for all people to know!

After all, it was Jesus who said, “I came that [all] may have life, and have it abundantly” (John 10:10, NRSV).

The Miracle of Summer

A team of Sunday school teachers faced boisterous youngsters on Rally Day, the start of a new education year. Because kids were

reuniting after a break, they were eager to chat about vacations. To restore order, a teacher asked the children to take turns sharing a favorite Bible verse, story or miracle. One, who still had summer on the brain, exclaimed, “I like the time when everybody loafs and fishes!”



FAITHFUL ; followers

Play these fun variations on Follow the Leader — and remember to follow Jesus wherever you go!

What you need:

- Bean bags
- Tables, chairs, pillows
- Painter's tape

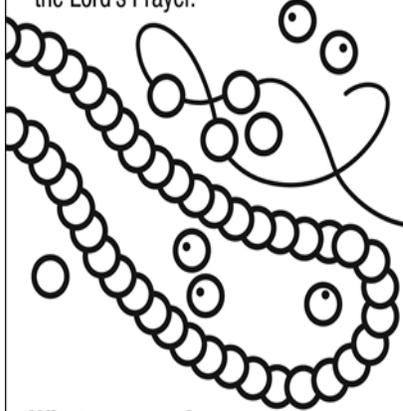
What you do:

Players line up behind the Leader, who moves around in various ways. Followers must copy the Leader's movements faithfully. Try these variations:

1. Players must balance a bean bag on their head as they follow the Leader.
2. Set up an obstacle course, and follow the Leader by crawling under tables and chairs, hopping over pillows and so on.
3. With tape, make zigzags and curves on the floor. Then follow the Leader as if walking on a tightrope.
4. The Leader designates types of terrain to imagine, such as mud, snow, ice and a mountain.
5. Also try animal movements, mirrored movements and dancing movements.

Prayer bracelet

Make this craft to help you remember the Lord's Prayer.



What you need:

- Elastic string (12 inches)
- Colored beads (see below)
- Clear nail polish

What you do:

1. Knot the string at one end. Add beads in this order: blue, white, gold, green, yellow, red, black, orange
2. Tie the ends so the bracelet fits your wrist. Place a dot of nail polish to secure the knot. Trim excess string.
3. As you pray, use the bead colors as reminders of Jesus' words (see Matthew 6:9-13):
 - **blue** = the Father
 - **white** = God's holiness
 - **gold** = God's kingdom
 - **green** = the earth
 - **yellow** = wheat (bread)
 - **red** = Christ's blood (forgiveness)
 - **black** = temptation
 - **orange** = God's power to deliver

A SWEET TREAT



Make this refreshing treat on a hot summer day.

What you need:

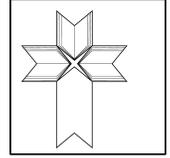
- Baking sheet
- Parchment paper
- 1 cup plain Greek yogurt
- 2 Tbsp. honey
- ¼ cup granola or cereal

What you do:

1. On a baking sheet covered with parchment paper, spread yogurt in a thin layer, about ½-inch thick.
2. Drizzle honey evenly over yogurt. Sprinkle granola (or cereal) on top.
3. Freeze about 30 minutes, or until firm.
4. Crack frozen yogurt into pieces and peel away paper. Enjoy!



The Sanctuary
 Blessed Savior Lutheran Church
 1205 North Lincoln Ave.
 O'Fallon, IL 62269




September

2021




PUZZLE

No kidding

Whatever our age, God calls us to model holy living for others.

Directions: Match the animal young with its parent. Then write the letter answers in order below to complete 1 Timothy 4:12, NIV.

- | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|------------|--------------|
| 1. ___ bear | 9. ___ monkey | A. fry | I. hatchling |
| 2. ___ frog | 10. ___ platypus | B. fawn | K. foal |
| 3. ___ owl | 11. ___ alligator | C. gosling | L. owlet |
| 4. ___ horse | 12. ___ giraffe | D. cub | M. puggle |
| 5. ___ kangaroo | 13. ___ goose | E. kid | N. joey |
| 6. ___ deer | 14. ___ swan | F. cygnet | O. polliwog |
| 7. ___ goat | 15. ___ dog | G. infant | P. puppy |
| 8. ___ fish | | H. calf | |

“___₁ on’t let any___₂ ne ___₃ oo ___₄ down o ___₅ you ___₆ ecaus___₇
 you ___₈ re youn___₉, but set an exa___₁₀ ple for the bel___₁₁ evers
 in speec___₁₂, in ___₁₃ onduct, in love, in ___₁₄ aith and in ___₁₅ urity.”

1 TIMOTHY 4:12, NIV