



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 June 2021

Wed. June 2

Hadley Williams
Baptism 6 pm

Thurs. June 3

VBS Planning Mtg—7

Sat. June 5

Richards/Rosenberg
Wedding

Sun. June 6, 13, 20, 27

Worship 9:30

Adult Bible Study
In person or Zoom
11 am

Mon. June 7

Elders Mtg 7 pm
Support Group 7 pm

Tues. June 8

Quilting 10 -?

Church Council 7 pm

Mon. June 14, 21, 28

Support Group 7 pm

Tues. June 15

Christian Ed 7 pm

Tues. June 22

Evangelism 7 pm

Vacation Bible School

July 26, 28, 30

530-830 pm

Look for more info in emails
and weekly announcements

Worship in the Park

Rally Day

**Church Picnic
& Pool Party**

Sunday, August 29

Worship at 10
Rally Day & Picnic
to follow
Pool Party
5-6:45 p.m.
Community Pool

**Have a fun
and safe
Summer!**



Vacation Bible School 2021

July 26, 28 & 30—5:30-8:30

Climb aboard for mountains of fun at Rocky Railway!
On this faith-filled adventure, kids discover that trusting
Jesus pulls them through life's ups and downs.

Many volunteers are needed!

Watch for the sign up in the Narthex for volunteers and donations.

Sign-up Genius coming soon to register your kids!



Save the Date!
**WORSHIP IN THE PARK
RALLY DAY 2021
SUNDAY, AUGUST 29**

Worship in the Park

10 am

Followed by Rally Day

The Annual Church Picnic
follows Rally Day

POOL PARTY

Sunday, August 29

O'Fallon City Pool

5-645 pm





OUR Senior Pastor

“And so, from the day we heard (of your faith in Christ), we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.” Colossians 1:9–10

I love this time of year when the flowers and trees are in bloom. Occasionally, Marty and I will walk around the neighborhood for some exercise and point out to each other the landscapes of our neighbors, looking for ideas that we can implement around our house. What I’ve noticed is while the entire neighborhood looks great, some have that extra special look of a well-maintained garden. That’s not our house. I always feel like we’re just spending our time weeding and that’s enough, at least for my aching back. But for those who have that Missouri Botanical Garden landscape in their front yards, I know it takes special care.

Harry Russell is a man with a green thumb. If you haven’t met him, he’s a member of our church. Harry has been caring for the plants and flowers around the church for some time now. I find myself wanting to ask him questions about when to prune, when and how often to water, and, how to best keep the insects from chewing up our beautiful plants. But this was my biggest discovery from him. It’s not just that he knows a ton about landscaping and plants in general, but *he cares for them*. And when I say he “cares for them,” I mean, he’s at the church EVERY DAY watering and doing whatever he has learned over the years to give those plants the best opportunity to thrive and bloom. The flowers that grace our front entrance right now were struck by the freezing cold we had just a few weeks ago after the temps were in the 80s. His tender care brought those withered flowers back to life. It wasn’t just his vast knowledge, but his continual care that made them beautiful again.

Like a spiritual gardener, St Paul tended the spiritual gardens of many churches through Asia Minor (modern day Turkey) praying for their spiritual growth so that they might grow in their knowledge of God. His tender care was revealed by how he taught them daily about faith in Christ and how God was at work helping them grow into the stature of Jesus Christ.

His knowledge of God through his studies of the Old Testament under the tutelage of the great rabbi Gamaliel was transformed when He was confronted by another rabbi, Jesus of Nazareth. When the crucified, resurrected and glorified Jesus appeared to Saul (his Jewish name) on the Road to Damascus, his life was changed. Meeting Jesus did not eliminate his need to find the wisdom of God in the Old Testament, it enhanced it. All that he had studied was now being re-processed through the filter of Jesus and the light came on. Christ, the wisdom of God, gave him a new understanding of God. That revelation became for him a metamorphosis, as when a caterpillar entombed in a cocoon is transformed into a beautiful butterfly.



This zealous, cut-throat of a Pharisee, became the gentle and wise teacher of the church. So respected for his wisdom of God, the Ephesian elders wept when he left their city knowing that they would probably never see him again (Acts 20:37-38). His letter to the same became a treasure to be read and reread, copied and recopied for the edification of the church then and now.

This world with all its depravity and sin has a withering effect on all of us. We want to bloom and grow but we get caught up in the worries of this world. That’s why Paul prayed for the church and cared for them, refreshing their souls with the words of Scripture which pointed them and us to the ultimate life-giver, Jesus.

Isaiah wrote, “For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

The Gardener of our souls desires to fill us with wisdom and understanding of His will. God offers us wisdom from above and understanding of His will every time we enter into His Garden, the Church. His tender care is given us through the Word and Sacrament of the Altar and these are His gifts to help us overcome the withering of our souls. As soon as you are able, I hope you join us every Sunday morning to hear and be refreshed by the Word of God, “that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.”

Bloom and Grow in Christ forever,

Pastor Vern



Chairman's Chat

It appears that spring finally sprung a couple of weeks ago and now it is ready to move into summer with the current warmer weather in the 70's and 80's.

With all vaccinations completed and changes the CDC has published, we can now get the church back to normal, if you want to call it normal!!! Due to some personal things, it will still be a few Sundays before I will be joining you. But I am looking forward to seeing all of you soon.

Each person needs to decide whether or not if and when they are ready to return. Like Pastor Vern's email stated, the church will still be streaming the service on FB as we open the church more on Sundays.

The Strategic Committee met with the Church Council on Tuesday, May 11th during the May Council meeting to discuss its recommendations. Since not all of the Church Council members were present at the meeting, Terry Colvin sent the recommendations via email to all the Church Council. During the June Council Meeting on Tuesday, June 8th, the Church Council will be discussing these recommendations to see if they need to be refined. These recommendations, along with the 2021 church goals, then will be finalized. The Strategic Committee will present the recommendations to the church membership during a special Voter's Meeting so watch for the announcement of this special meeting. The Strategic Committee recommendations will be integrated into the 2021 church goals, where necessary.

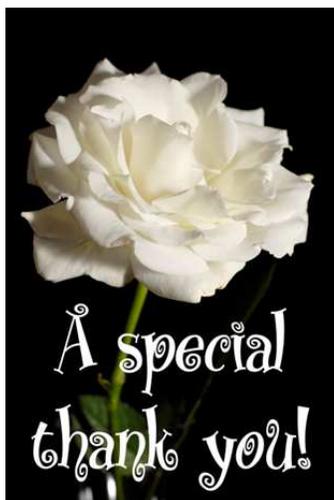
THANKS for your patience and continued support of the church during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Pastors and Church Council have tried their best to keep things going throughout this time. I want to apologize that the communication during the pandemic from the Church Council, especially me, was not the best. If you have any ideas on how to improve it, please contact me.

Remember to continue streaming the worship services to be part of the church service from your home. Also, if you want to have communion at home, please contact Pastor Vern. You can stop by and pick up the communion kits or someone will drop them off at your residence. Continue checking the BSLC website (www.mybslc.org) and Facebook page for church events.

If you have any questions/concerns about the church, please contact your Elder, Vice-Chairman Dave Zeigler or myself. Do NOT bring these questions/concerns to the Pastors or Nancy, unless they are around the worship services or staff duties.

I am looking forward to start seeing everyone on Sunday very soon.

In God's Name,
Curtis Kuppler
BSLC Congregational Chairman



Dear Blessed Savior Family,

Thank You Blessed Savior special people for helping Wayne and me deal with our Cancer issues. Bringing food, helping with yard work, providing transportation to our treatments and just being there for us makes us feel so very blessed. We know God is in charge, but we're so thankful He's provided Helpers!!

*Blessings to all,
Gwen & Wayne Kemp*



Unseen

The year continues on, and there is much hope to be seen. More and more people are getting the vaccine, we see life returning to a sense of "normal", and the hope of

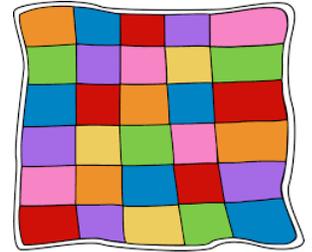
having an open and fun filled summer no longer feels like a dream. There is much hope as we see people returning to churches, work spaces, and even grocery stores. There is much hope, and we pray this continues in the next coming months.

But there is something that I have seen become increasingly troubling over this past year. Something that scares me more than COVID ever could. It was already there, close to the surface, but now it seems that COVID has brought it to the surface and made its presence known among the congregations. It is a devious, quiet thing that doesn't seem like much, but is deadly; Apathy.

Apathy, as defined by the dictionary, is when you lack motivation to do anything or just don't care about what's going on around you. In 2020 and through 2021 apathy seems to be on the increase. Isolation breeds this, as things are shut down, decisions are made, and we just can't be bothered to keep up. We don't feel like going out and trying, we stop caring about putting on nice clothes, we stop caring about how we look, what we eat, and eventually we stop caring about things that used to mean a lot. Apathy ran rampant this past year, but what about in the church?

The Church in Laodicea in the book of Revelation had this problem. "I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth." (Rev. 3:15-16) Apathy in a church can look similar to the apathy of the world. Not caring for the commands of God, knowing that He gives us tasks and missions to do but just doing them, living knowing there is God but we just can't be bothered to live a life that is pleasing to Him, and many others. Apathy breeds laziness, contempt, and finally disbelief in God.

That is why God wishes us never to fall into this, but reminds us of His love and His life in us that stirs our hearts and makes them a fire to light the world. "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on His throne." Christ continually comes to us in love to remind us who we are; God's beloved children. He comes to us to remind us of His great love, of His mission to us to teach and proclaim Him to the world and the promise of eternal life with Him. So dear church, let us not fall into apathy; that unseen malice that is so easy to dismiss, and hold fast to the fire in our hearts, Christ Jesus Himself, so that we might be embolden to praise Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light. Amen



Join the Lutheran World Relief QUILTERS on **Tuesday, June 8, Tuesday, July 7, and Tuesday August 3** from 10:00 - 3:00 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.





STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

LCMS Stewardship Ministry
 Newsletter Article – June 2021

“There are three conversions necessary to every man: the head, the heart, and the purse.” Attributed to Luther, though yet to be located in his vast writings, this statement echoes what Jesus taught about hearts and treasures. He said, “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” (Matthew 6:21; Luke 12:34)

But which conversion comes first? I submit that the order is this: first the head, then the

purse, then the heart. Let’s explore this topic.

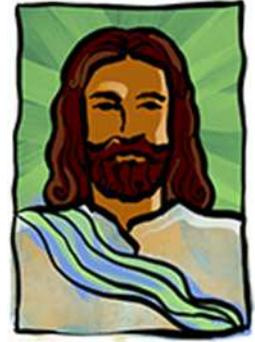
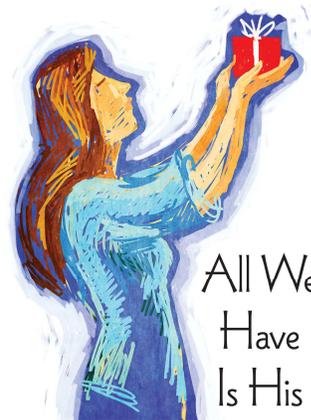
Our Lord Jesus Christ dwelt among us to save us. He took on our flesh, fulfilled the demands of the law in our place, became sin for us, and suffered torture and death on our behalf. He did this in order that we would be free from sin, death, and hell. He gives us what He accomplished through Baptism, Absolution, and the Lord’s Supper. And so, He doesn’t just do it for us but gives it to us. He makes what He did ours by making us His. Thus, we are called by His name: Christians. We have a new life in Him.

Through the preaching of Law and Gospel, God grants us repentance, a changing of our minds. It is a conversion of the mind. We are called to turn away from our sins and turn toward Him for forgiveness, life, and salvation. For when God calls us away from something, He is, at the same time, calling us to something.

And thus, He calls us to a new life, with new deeds. This is the conversion of the purse. Jesus said that “it is easier for a camel to enter through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.” (Matthew 19:24) “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” Notice that our hearts follow our treasures, not the other way around. As Christians, God calls us to invest our treasures in His Kingdom to ensure that the gospel is preached and the sacraments are administered. He calls us to share all good things with the one who teaches us the doctrines of Christ. He calls us to be generous in giving to the church, for it is more blessed to give than to receive.

So where is your treasure? If it is not invested in the kingdom of God, then the only response is repentance – a conversion of the heart – and to begin doing just that. And as our Lord promised, where your treasure is there your heart will be also.

This is not to say that you earn your way into heaven. It is simply to say that as Christians, those who have been made to be temples of the Holy Spirit, who have been given a new life in Christ, who are dead to sin and now alive in Him, we are actually to live – think (conversion of the mind), do (conversion of the purse), and be (conversion of the heart) – a new life in Him. And when you fail, know that God in Christ loves and forgives you and still calls you away from that and to Himself.



Jesus is everything

Although growing up as a PK (pastor’s kid) could be challenging, admits Ray Ortlund Jr., it also was “a sacred privilege given to me as a gift from God.” Ortlund — now a pastor, father and grandfather himself — notes that any difficulties associated with the role were more than offset by his dad’s love and admiration, as well as “the real Christianity I saw in him.”

When Ray Sr. was on his deathbed in 2007, family members gathered in a California hospital to read Scripture, sing hymns and receive a personalized blessing from the patriarch. Ray Jr. was ministering overseas and had to say his earthly goodbyes via the phone. “Later I asked my sister about Dad’s message to me,” Ortlund writes. “It was this: ‘Tell Bud ministry isn’t everything. Jesus is.’ My dad’s dying words summed up his parenting and his whole life.”



- 1-- Jolene Miesner
- 3—Terese Berens, Alma Garcia
- 4—Abigail Sherman, Jim Carron
- 7—Kim Kruse
- 8—Curtis Kuppler
- 9—Anna Husemann, Paul Anders
- 10—Merina Feldmann, Grayson Gorney
- 11— Shanna Drouin
- 13—Pastor Vern
- 15—Don Geis
- 16—Jody Sotiropoulos
- 17—Sam Sotiropoulos
- 18—Nicholas Longhorn, Kale Jackson



- 20—Ralph Olson
- 21—Quinn Sterling
- 25—Dan Schmidt
- 28—Carol Schutte
- 29—Alison Berens,
- 30—Patti Kuppler



- 1— Caden Stake
- 2—Mandy Couture
- 3—Marv Schatz, Lucas Kinsella
- 5—Hannah Poteet, Polly Ziegler, Tyler Owens
- 8—Brian Lloyd, Colton Brady
- 11— Alan Foster, Bryce Backhus
- 17—Rigo Sanchez
- 19—Linda Tucker
- 20—Sam Kinsella
- 21—Janice Paulsmeyer
- 22—Chris Couture
- 22—Liam Trapp
- 24—Dirk Husemann, Thomas Williams, Aria Davis, Eric Trapp
- 25—John Weaver
- 26 Nathan Schefelker
- 30 Clayton Paulsmeyer
- 31—Rachel Sotiropoulos

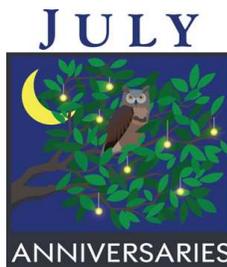
- 1- Ed & Diana Brandmeyer
- 2 – Mark & Christi Poteet
- 2—Marv & Connie Schatz
- 2—Chris & Martha Michael
- 4—Ben & Sara Lesire
- 6—Pastor Vern & Marty Lintvedt

Happy Anniversary to....

- 8—Marc & Tammy Ellington
- 8—Dave & Theresa Longhorn
- 10—Craig & Michele Hollenbeck
- 10—Curtis & Patti Kuppler
- 12— RJ & Jill Kinsella
- 14—Kirk & Janet Satrom
- 17—Bob & Mary Bruns
- 18—Jonathan & Melodie Heiden
- 20—Pastor Matt & Haley Kusch
- 23—Bill & Merina Feldmann
- 27—Dan & Tonya Bowman
- 27—Tom & Jody Sotiropoulos



- 1—Brian & Kim Lloyd
- 5 -Mark & Terese Berens
- 18—Dean & Cheryl Krantz
- 29 Terry & Diane Colvin
- 31—Eric & Danielle Stake



O'Fallon Public Library Homebound Delivery Service

On June 9th, the O'Fallon Public Library will launch a new service which makes library materials available to O'Fallon residents who are unable to visit the library. Through this service participants can borrow books, DVDs, music CDs and more. All items are delivered monthly right to the home. To qualify for this free service, you must live in O'Fallon and have a library card in good standing. If you are interested there is an application available at the library or on their website www.ofpl.info

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



There's no better time than right now to put your faith, love and compassion into action for your neighbors with the very least.

Any gift you make today will DOUBLE in value through the 2021 Summer Matching Gift Challenge — until the total

\$175,000 match is met.

The action you choose to take now can save the life of an innocent child, mother or frail senior who has no choice but to drink unsafe water — simply because they are poor.

With your lifesaving gift, together, we can deliver clean water for drinking and handwashing to help protect vulnerable children, families and seniors during this deadly pandemic.

With your love and support, urgently needed latrines can be built, and more handwashing stations can be installed to keep our brothers and sisters who are at greatest risk.

God bless you for taking advantage of this opportunity to **DOUBLE your impact today.**

<https://donate.lwr.org/give>

Who's Going to the Youth Gathering?

We will be having an informational meeting for youth and their parents on Sunday, August 22nd. Please mark your calendars and keep posted to church pages for more information! Questions? Contact Wendi Gorney at thegorney5@yahoo.com



That You May Live

During the pandemic, I've worshiped online with several congregations. The web address for one ends ".net/live." As I navigate to this site, I tend to read the adjective form "live," as in "livestream." One Sunday, however, the verb form, as in "Worship and live," popped into my mind. I had almost slept in and skipped that morning's service. But as I worshiped with others, albeit remotely, my spirit indeed felt increasingly alive. That whole day I felt I was *living* more fully because I'd been inspired by God's Word in sermon and song and shared in praising God with others. Worship reminds us there is something — Someone — greater than ourselves. Worship opens us to new ways of living.

Moses, after he had passed along God's gift of the Ten Commandments, including the rule to keep the Sabbath day holy through rest and worship, told the people, "Walk in obedience to all that the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live" (Deuteronomy 5:33, NIV).

We too worship God regularly — so that we may more fully live.—Heidi Hyland Mann

Our Way Out

While in London, Timothy Merrill was intrigued that signs with arrows read WAY OUT, rather than EXIT, as they do in America. "Everywhere I went, I saw signs that showed me the WAY OUT," he writes. That made him ponder all the Bible characters who looked for a WAY OUT of predicaments. Moses looked for a WAY OUT of Egypt, Daniel certainly wanted a WAY OUT of the lions' den and countless people thought (and still think) there's no WAY OUT from their sins. "The good news of the Gospel," Merrill writes, "is that Jesus Christ is the WAY OUT! He is our exit from the messes and disasters we create. He is the exit from sin and unrighteousness. He is the WAY OUT of a life without purpose and the WAY IN to an abundant life. And the symbol of the WAY OUT is not an arrow but a cross. What a blessing to know that Jesus knows — and is — the WAY OUT!"

Super human

Real strength is neither male nor female but is, quite simply, one of the finest characteristics that any human being can possess.—Fred Rogers

The Origin of Father's Day

One Sunday in 1909, Sonora Smart Dodd listened to a sermon honoring mothers. Her mother had died some years before, so her father had raised her by himself. Dodd wondered why there wasn't a day to honor fathers, so she arranged a tribute to her father at a church in Spokane, Washington. The date was June 19, 1910. Many people believe this was the beginning of Father's Day.

Another account holds that a West Virginia church held a tribute service for fathers in 1908, following a mine explosion that killed 360 men. Regardless of which story is correct, President Calvin Coolidge was the first president to designate a special day to honor fathers. In 1924, he proclaimed the third Sunday in June as Father's Day.



A Week of Tributes to Dad

To celebrate the special man in your life, use a quote a day the week before Father's Day, or honor him with tributes the whole week after. Write one of these (or one of your own) on a card, make a message into a placemat, tape one to the bathroom mirror — get creative!

Every day of the week is a good day to celebrate his love and show him yours.

"The heart of a father is the masterpiece of nature." —Antoine F. Prévost

"To the world you are a dad. To our family you are the world." —Unknown

"The best fathers have the softest, sweetest hearts. In other words, great dads are real marshmallows." —Richelle E. Goodrich

"Dad: a son's first hero, a daughter's first love." —Unknown

"A good father is one whose only reason for putting down a laughing baby is to pick up a crying one." —Linda Poindexter

"My father didn't do anything unusual. He only did what dads are supposed to do — be there." —Max Lucado

"I love my father as the stars. He's a bright shining example and a happy twinkling in my

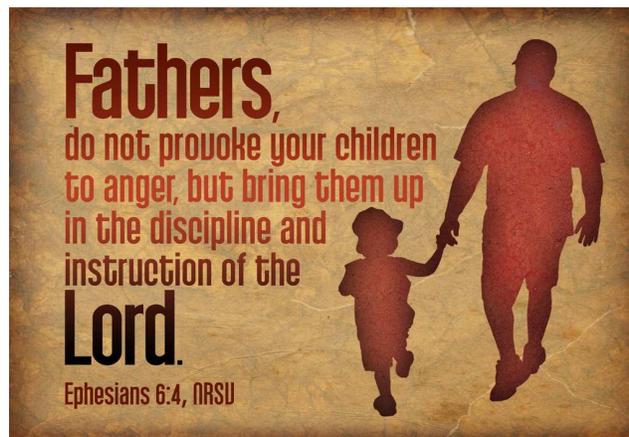


Hanging Out With Dad

I've always been a "daddy's girl." Growing up, I usually spent Saturdays in the garage with my dad. We'd build something, fix a car part or get into some trouble together.

Though Joseph wasn't Jesus' biological father, he certainly served as a father figure for God's Son. Jesus followed in Joseph's footsteps as a carpenter, but we're told little about his childhood. When Joseph advised Jesus to "measure twice and cut once," did Jesus mention he'd get it right on the first measure? How many craftsman tips did Jesus learn from Joseph? And did Joseph learn a few from Jesus? Surely young Jesus looked up to Joseph. What did wonder look like in the eyes of the One who invented wonder?

How am I hanging out with God on a regular basis? Am I continuing to learn his "trade"? Do I intentionally mimic his words, his kindness, his ways of loving others well? Take a minute to ponder that. Imagine yourself out in the garage with God (or in the kitchen with God, or at the computer with God). What task do you imagine doing together? What does God say to you as you look into his eyes? —Janna Firestone



Connecting the Dots

Commencement speeches and greeting cards are full of advice for graduates, yet good intentions and careful plans can't guarantee a perfect life — whatever that might mean.

"You can't connect the dots looking forward," said Steve Jobs. "You can only connect them looking backwards. So you have to trust that the dots will somehow connect in your future. You have to trust in something — your gut, destiny, life ..."

As Christians, we can do more than that: We can trust in God. Yes, he may speak to us through a "gut" feeling, and our eternal "destiny" is assured. And we know that life, not death, will win out. But recent grads — and all of us — need not just sit and wait to see how the dots of our lives will someday connect. God has shown us through Scripture, the church and, above all, Jesus that the dots connect this way: from God's heart, to Jesus' sacrifice for us, to our entry into relationship with God, to our heart and finally to our own loving outreach to others.

Whatever shape your education, work and family take through the years, "commence" with this: God has drawn your life to connect with him and your neighbors. If you follow those Spirit-etched lines, you'll be fine.
—Heidi Mann



Let's do good to all people.

Galatians 6:10, NASB



A Penguin "Parable"

During storms, emperor penguins huddle for warmth, taking turns at the center and on the perimeter of the group. While incubating eggs, up to 6,000 male penguins have been observed clustering for shelter against the harsh Antarctic winter. Partially grown chicks gather in protective "crèches" (French for "cribs"); often surrounded by a colony of adults, these groupings ward off predators and cold.

In stormy times, humans also need supportive groups; we can't survive alone. A church family allows us to take turns giving and receiving care. Amid social upheaval, injustice, illness, natural disaster and any loss or crisis, God invites us to gather for protection and warmth. In the church community, we support and strengthen one another and are empowered to go out again into the less-sheltered world.



Stick With it!



"If I've learned anything about friendship, it's to hang in, stay connected," says journalist Jon Katz. "Don't walk away, don't be distracted, don't be too busy or tired, don't take them for granted. Friends are part of the glue that holds life and faith together."

This applies to church life too. When we're annoyed by some aspect of congregational life or caught in conflict with other members, it's tempting to drift away to another church — or no church. Even when all is fine, we sometimes let church take a back seat. But our bonds with the family of God are "part of the glue that holds life and faith together." For the sake of the benefits we gain and give, may we "hang in [and] stay connected" with our church family. May we not "walk away [or] be distracted, ... be too busy or tired." May we not take one another for granted but thank God for this "glue" — even when things get a bit sticky!

A Creed for July 4th

I believe in America because in it we are free - free to choose our government, to speak our minds, to choose our different religions.

Because we are generous with our freedom, we share our rights with those who disagree with us.

Because we hate no people and covet no people's lands.

Because we are blessed with a natural and varied abundance.

Because we have great dreams and because we have the opportunity to make those dreams come true.

-Wendell L. Willkie,

Republican candidate for president in 1940



A Prayer for the Fourth

Loving God, we thank you — the true Father of our country — for the blessings of this land and the gifts of cultures around the world. Prompt us to strive for justice for all, at home and abroad. Remind us, in the words of the hymn, that “this is our Father's world” and that your goodness prevails. Amid tragedies and conflicts, guard us against despair. Help us focus on the kindness evident daily: from generous neighbors to conscientious public servants (because most are). On Independence Day and every day, “O let [us] ne'er forget that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Ruler yet.” Amen. —Sandy Hyland



Friendly Signposts

We need friends. Friends guide us, care for us, confront us in love, console us in times of pain. Although we speak of “making friends,” friends cannot be made. Friends are free gifts from God. But God gives us the friends we need when we need them if we fully trust in God's love.

Friends cannot replace God. They have limitations and weaknesses like we have. Their love is never faultless, never complete. But in their limitations they can be signposts on our journey towards the unlimited and unconditional love of God. Let's enjoy the friends whom God has sent on our way.—Henri Nouwen, *Bread for the Journey*

Faith In Action = EVANGELISM

Perhaps another way of stating this is found in Mark 12: 30 – 31, Love God and Love Your Neighbor as yourself.

In these challenging times, it is quite easy to lose focus on how we spend our time. We struggle with priorities. What is the FOCUS of your life? Why are we here on this earth? It all depends on your honesty with yourself. When you allow the many non-essential desires to become priorities, you can't find peace, joy, or contentment.

Look around each day. Do you see the faces of those who are hurting, broken, confused, or lost? A kind word, caring attitude, and silent prayer asking for wisdom as to how you can share God's gracious love will bring rewarding results. This is how we display “Faith in Action”. It is not about US but rather how the Holy Spirit is actively involved daily in our life on earth – through each one of us. No exceptions. Time is in your favor. That's how God works. Stay focused! Walk in His love.



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!

God's Top Ten

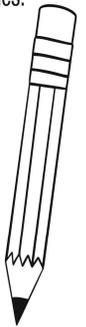
1. Put God First
2. Worship Him Only
3. No Bad Words
4. Work 6 Rest 1
5. Obey Your Parents
6. Harm No One
7. Don't Cheat
8. If It's Not Yours, Don't Take It
9. Tell the Truth
10. Don't Be Jealous of Other People's Stuff



Jesus commands us to be his witnesses. This craft is a reminder to reach out to all our "circles."

What you need:

- 5 bowls or cups (assorted sizes)
- Construction paper
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Brad fastener
- Crayons or markers



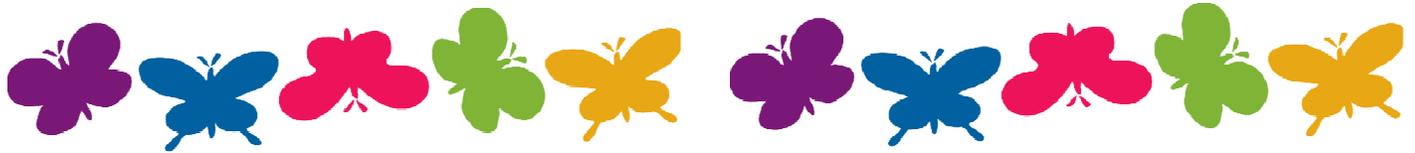
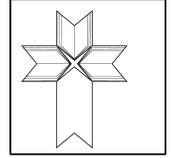
What you do:

1. Place the bowls and cups upside down, each on a different color of paper. Trace around the circles and cut them out.
2. With a pencil, pierce a small hole atop each circle. Layer circles on each other from largest to smallest, aligning the holes. Insert the brad through all layers.
3. Starting in the center, label the circles *my house, my city, my state, my country, the world*. Draw a picture on each one.
4. Pray, asking Jesus how you can spread his message.

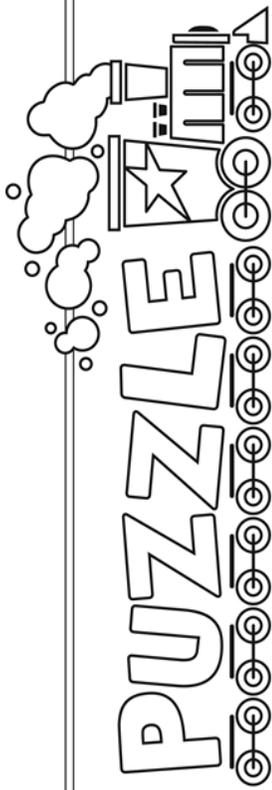




The Sanctuary
 Blessed Savior Lutheran Church
 1205 North Lincoln Ave.
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PUZZLE



Conundrums of creation

God's creation is filled with amazing and sometimes puzzling works.

Directions: Use the bank of picture clues to answer the riddles.



- You can hold but not touch this. -----
- Before using this, you must break it. -----
- This falls without getting hurt. -----
- This gets bigger the more you take away. -----
- This has an eye but cannot see. -----

“In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the _____.
 It is like ... a champion rejoicing to run his course.
 It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit
 to the other; nothing is deprived of its warmth.”

PSALM 19 : 4 - 6 , NIV