



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 2022

Sun June 5, 12, 19, 26
Worship 9:30

Mon. June 6, 13, 20, 27
Support Group 7 pm

Mon—Fri, June 6-10
VBS 2022
530—830 pm

Tues June 14
Quilting 930-12pm
Church Council 7 pm

Tues June 21
Christian Ed Mtg -7

Sat. June 25
Kara Brockmeyer
Matthew Hubecky
wedding in St. Louis
Basement reserved Car-
ron—Basketweaving
Class
1 pm

Tues. June 28
Election Day
Stewardship Dinner
Meeting—6 pm

Wed. June 29
LeadAChild
Presentation & Dinner
Time tba

**Have a Great
Summer!**



VBS 2022

June 6-10—5:30-8:30

Go off-road for a Monumental adventure through the colorful canyons and sunbaked trails of the southwest. By exploring God's awesomeness, kids form a rock-solid faith for the road ahead.

Many volunteers are needed!
Sign up in the Narthex for volunteers and donations.



Save the Date!
WORSHIP IN THE PARK
RALLY DAY 2022
SUNDAY, AUGUST 28

Worship in the Park
10 am

Followed by Rally Day

The Annual Church Picnic
follows Rally Day



Today is not a good day! Oh it's actually a balmy 73 degrees and I'm watching the wind blow a gentle breeze keeping the trees outside my window in constant motion. So what makes it a bad day? I can sum it up in a word: CoVid-19! So from a meteorological standpoint it's a GREAT day. Unfortunately, the Covid bug that I've been able to elude finally caught up with me. Thankfully, my symptoms are significantly less than what many experienced at the arrival of this terrible virus back in 2019.

So while I'm locked up, I'm watching the trees in their wind-driven choreography. Trees are an amazing part of God's creation. They are incredibly strong and weather-tested!

Trees require relatively low maintenance because of their God-given resources (rain, soil & sun). It's easy to take them for granted until something happens, like a lightning strike or tornadic winds, and they have to be taken down. Trees don't just beautify the landscape but they provide shade for our homes and provide homes for the birds, squirrels and... leopards? We can thank PJ for that wonderfully terrifying imagery from his sermon on May 22 J.

Isaiah is given a beautiful message of hope to give to those who would be brought back from their exile into Babylon. The Exile was like an EF-5 tornado in the middle of Jerusalem (EF stands for the "Enhanced Fujita scale" named after it's developer, Ted Fujita). The people of God were weather-beaten, and depressed; needing hope to just stay alive. As you read this passage from Isaiah, note the uplifting message and ask yourself the question, who is the person speaking, is it Isaiah, or someone else?

- [1] The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor;
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
- [2] to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
- [3] to grant to those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified. (Isaiah 61:1–3)

Just a few points to comment on:

This is the passage that Jesus read in the synagogue declaring, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing?" (Luke 4:21). Jesus is applying this reading to Himself. He is the One who has the anointing of the Holy Spirit. He is the Consolation of Israel.

This means that every deed that is accomplished in this passage, is done by Jesus of Nazareth, whom we now know as the very Son of God. So it is all about Jesus!

Jesus is the bringer of Good News,

Jesus is the One who binds up of the brokenhearted,

Jesus is the Proclaimer of liberty to the captives,

Jesus is the One who opens the prisons of those who are bound,

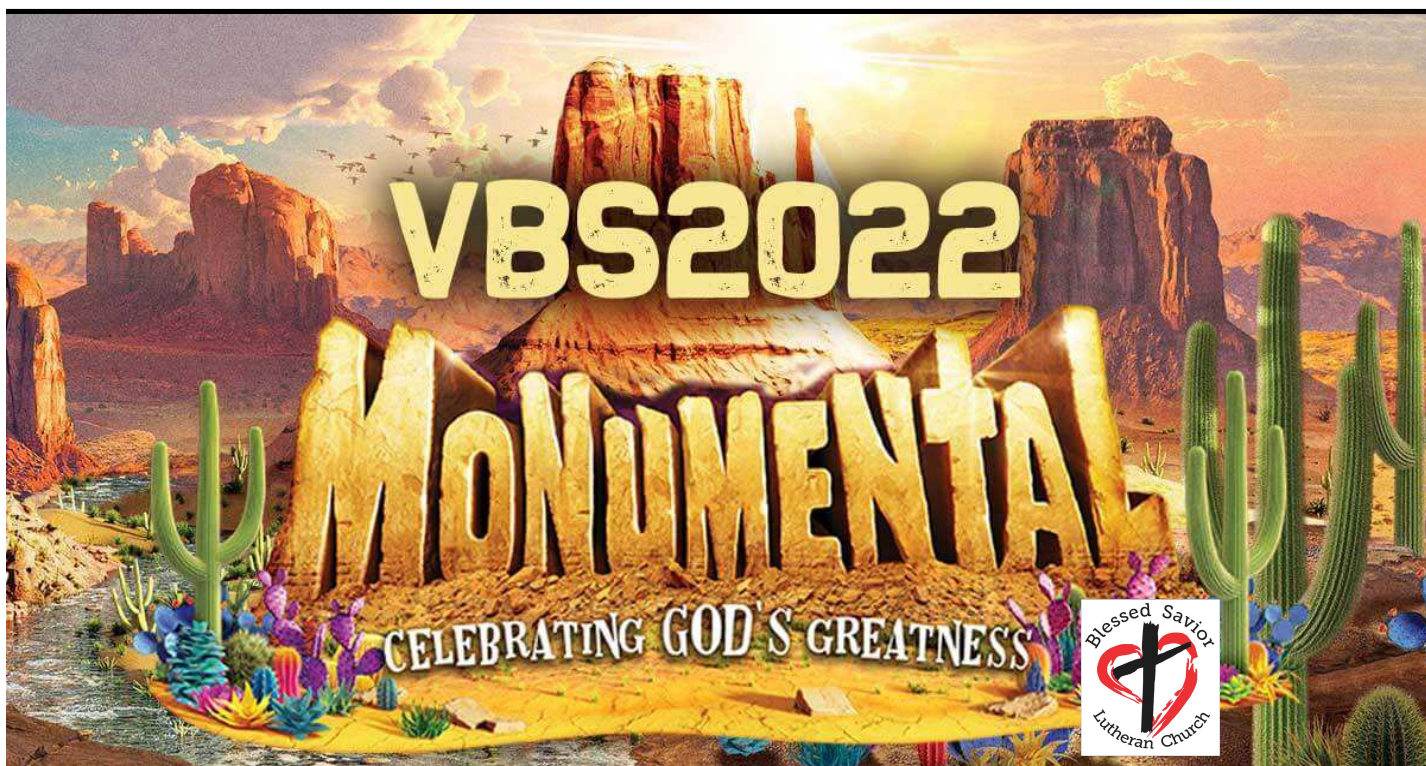
Jesus is the One who proclaims of the year of God's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God (Justice);

Jesus is the One who comforts all who mourn in Zion—

Jesus is the One who gives a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,

the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;





Vacation Bible School is MONUMENTAL!!

Students and volunteers are needed to make the upcoming Vacation Bible School a success. Join us June 6-10 from 5:30 to 8:30 pm. A light supper is provided for everyone.

Students will experience the message of God's love, music, creativity and fun in a positive, caring environment.

Register students ages 4-12 to attend the program using this link: <http://mybslc.org/vacation-bible-school>.

If you would like to volunteer any or all of the evenings, use this link: <https://mybslc.org/vbs-volunteer-signup>.

In addition, there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for food donations.



Hope to see you there!



New Committee Members Needed



To continue the education work of this church, new committee members are needed. The time commitment includes a monthly meeting (usually about an hour) and as many events as you can manage. Please consider sharing your talents with the youngest members of our congregation. Contact Pastor Vern, Lyndsey Sherman (lshepherd9298@gmail.com) or Donna Brockmeyer (brockmeyerfamily@gmail.com or call/text 618-977-6888).

Blessed Savior Family-

This summer from June 25-June 30 the Lead-aChild (www.leadachild.org) bike riders are biking 400 miles from Kansas City to St. Louis for their annual summer Bike4aChild event. They will be stopping at a few churches along the way. My brother-in-law Pastor Bill Geis is part of the riding team and thought BSLC would be a great church for them to stop at. On **Wednesday, June 29** they will bike from St. Charles, MO to Blessed Savior in O'Fallon (about 64 miles), which is where Blessed Savior comes in. Here is how the congregation can get involved, which would include...



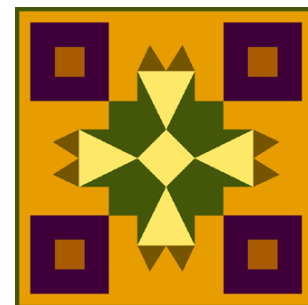
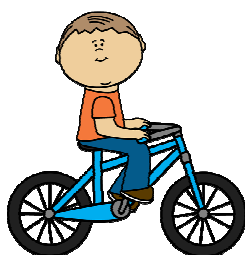
- a fellowship meal on Wednesday, June 29th around 6 pm with our congregation and a short presentation to learn more about Lead A Child and meet these fine volunteers. The meal will be provided at no cost. Noah Geis will be preparing the meal (He's quite a good chef!). They are not asking for any donations, except for an audience with which to share information regarding their mission.

host homes for showers, 3-4 additional homes beside the Geis and Lintvedt households (15-20 riders). Riders will arrive at BSLC around 3 or 4 pm.

If you can be a host home for showers, please contact Mary Geis at 618-972-7096 or mtgeis69@gmail.com. There will be a signup sheet in the Narthex in June for the fellowship meal, so we know how much food to prepare. If you have any additional questions, please contact myself or Don.

Blessings,

Mary and Don Geis



Join the Lutheran World Relief QUILTERS on **Tuesday, June 14, (pushed back 1 week because of VBS) Tuesday, July 5, and Tuesday August 2** from 9:30 – 12:00 to tie quilts. (We don't actually quilt by hand. Instead we secure the layers by hand tying them.) 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.



COUNCIL OFFICERS 2022

| | | | |
|---------------------|--|-------------|---|
| Chairman | Gus Williams (22) | Properties | Ben Lesire (22) Ed Brandmeyer (22) Nancy Schmidt (22) John Lundeby (22) Steve Foster (21) Roger Miesner (21) |
| Vice-Chairman | Dave Ziegler (21) | | |
| Treasurer | Kirk & Janet Satrom (22) | | |
| Secretary | OPEN (21) | | |
| Elders | Ed Brandmeyer (22) Brian Lloyd (21) R.J. Kinsella (21) Dave Reynolds (21) | Stewardship | Dale Schutte (22) Curtis Kuppler (22) Keith Szolga (21) Carol Schutte (21) Nancy Schmidt (21) Karen Depping (21) |
| Christian Education | Kim Kruse (22) Mary Stake (21) | Worship | Eric Stake (21) Janice Paulsmeyer (21) |
| Evangelism | Perry Schefelker (22) Christie Carron (22) John Lundeby (22) Karen Anders (21) | Youth | Wendi Gorney (21) R.J. Kinsella (21) Sandie Rust (21) |
| Fellowship | Gwen Borsch (22) Ginger Kieffer (22) Diane Schefelker (22) Phyllis Miesner (21) Karen Depping (21) | | |



A NOTE FROM PJ AND MELANIE



Members of Blessed Savior, we just wanted to thank you all for your incredible love and generosity. We were blown away by your compassion, kind words, and generous gifts this past Sunday. As I told many of you, Blessed Savior feels like our church. We thank God for your faith and love in Jesus, and will continue to keep you in our prayers. We will miss you all dearly and hope to be in touch. Thank you all once again!

PJ, Melanie, & Talek Aarsvold
3245 W 31st Ave.
Denver, CO 80211

Pastor.pj@renewaldenver.org

A matching gift
DOUBLES
your impact
to save more
children's lives.

 YOUR DONATION IS SECURE



The ripple effects from the war in Ukraine are being felt across the globe. Families have reached a dangerous tipping point – and, together, we must help before it's too late.

Thanks to a group of generous donors – who've been moved by the urgent needs across the globe – any gift you make will be matched dollar for dollar until the \$135,000 match is met.

In Ukraine and war-torn areas across the globe, lives have been shattered. Your love helps families pick up the pieces – to rebuild and restore their lives.

But they can't do it without you.

Thanks you for all the ways you show how much you care. And thank you for sending the most generous gift you can so it Multiplies X2 to reach God's children in desperate need. That means your gift will DOUBLE to save even more lives.

To donate: Lutheran World Relief PO Box 17061 Baltimore, MD 21297-1061 or call +1 (800) 597.5972 to make your secure credit card donation.

The Ministry of Quilting and of Mending Hearts

To sew is to pray. ... We mend ... turn things inside out and set things right. We salvage what we can of human garments and piece the rest into blankets. Sometimes our stitches stutter and slow. ... Other times the tension in the stitches might be too tight because of tears, but only we know what emotion went into the making.—Louise Erdrich, *Four Souls*



Hooray for VBS!

For many churches, vacation Bible school is a summer highlight. The event leads to lasting memories and changed hearts. It also sparks laughter. Maybe you've seen VBS humor online, such as the quote, "I'm tired, I mean like ... vacation Bible school kind of tired!" Another post reads, "You know you're obsessed with VBS when ... you're excited about cardboard on the side of the road." And anyone with an earworm at week's end can relate to this meme: "My parents hid my VBS CD. It's for the best."

For hungry young learners, snacks make an especially big impression. One excited preschooler shared that she enjoyed "juice and Billy Graham crackers" at VBS. Another boy raved about the first day, saying, "We heard stories and drew pictures. Then we went to play, and when we came inside, God had juice and cookies waiting for us!"



The Power of Kindness

No kind action ever stops with itself. One kind action leads to another. Good example is followed. A single act of kindness throws out roots in all directions, and the roots spring up and make new trees. The greatest work that kindness does to others is that it makes them kind themselves.—Amelia Earhart



Stewardship



CORNER

What Do You Have That You Have Not Received?

Some of the disciples of John the Baptist were questioning him about the baptism and preaching of Jesus. John the Baptist replies to their questions in this way: "A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven" (John 3:27).

Now, John the Baptist says this to show that Jesus, His teaching, and His baptism are from heaven. But this statement is true of everything – everything that we have and are in body and soul. In fact, this is what we are taught in the meaning of the Apostles'

Creed in *Luther's Small Catechism*.

In the explanation of the Creed's First Article, we learn that God has made us and everything in the universe. Luther says:

"He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him."

In the Second Article of the Creed, we learn that God sent His Son, Jesus, to humble Himself, taking the form of a servant. Luther writes:

"(Jesus) has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity."

In the Third Article of the Creed, we learn that the fruits of what Jesus Christ, the Son of God, did are given to us through the work of the Holy Spirit in the Church. Luther explains:

"That I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ."

Indeed, a person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. But how easy is this for us to forget about this?

How easy is it for us to think that what we have in this life is because we have earned it? How easy is it for us to forget that even all our skills, the abilities of our hands and minds – the very ethic to work diligently and to seek to get better at these skills – is given to us from heaven, just as John the Baptist said? How easy is it for us to forget that it is Christ alone – and the work of the Holy Spirit – that reveals His salvation to us, delivers it to us, and not our doing?

Sure, we have responsibility for coming to church, for delving into God's Holy Word, and for praying without ceasing. But even these responsibilities are given to us from heaven, not to earn anything but in response to what He has accomplished for us.

A person cannot receive one thing unless it is given to him from heaven. Everything we have, and everything we are – in both body and soul – are gifts from God in heaven. Let us then respond in thanksgiving and give back to Him as He asks us to – with a first-fruits, generous proportion offering of what He has given to us. – LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship



2 Thessalonians 2:13

1-- Jolene Miesner
 3—Terese Berens, Alma Garcia
 4—Abigail Sherman, Jim Carron
 6—Maggie Monaco
 7—Kim Kruse
 8—Curtis Kuppler, Allen Leech
 9—Anna Husemann, Paul Anders
 10—Merina Feldmann, Grayson Gorney
 11—Shanna Drouin Furey
 13—Pastor Vern, Charlie Monaco
 15—Don Geis
 16—Jody Sotiropoulos
 17—Sam Sotiropoulos
 20—Ralph Olson



21—Quinn Sterling, Olivia Siron
 25—Dan Schmidt
 28—Carol Schutte
 29—Alison Berens,
 29- Karis Monaco
 30—Patti Kuppler



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

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
 23—Bill & Merina Feldmann
 27—Dan & Tonya Bowman
 27—Tom & Jody Sotiropoulos
 28—Ben & Kelly Siron



1— Caden Stake
 2—Mandy Couture
 2—Otto Monaco
 3—Marv Schatz,
 Lucas Kinsella
 5—Hannah Poteet,
 Polly Ziegler,
 Tyler Owens
 8—Brian Lloyd,
 Colton Brady
 11— Alan Foster
 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
 26 Nathan Schefelker
 30 Clayton Paulsmeyer
 31—Rachel
 Sotiropoulos

1—Brian & Kim Lloyd
 5 -Mark & Terese Berens
 11—Allen & Mackenna Leech
 18—Dean & Cheryl Krantz
 29 Terry & Diane Colvin



A Prayer for Strength

God of inexhaustible strength and limitless energy, our refuge, strength and very present help in trouble: When even youth faint in weariness and the young fall exhausted, help us wait patiently for you to come to renew our strength, so that we will mount up with wings to soar like eagles, riding on the undercurrents of the wind of your Spirit.

You who need no slumber nor sleep, by your Holy Spirit's power keep us from all evil, safe in Jesus' nail-scarred hands. Help us never weary as we run after you and never faint as we walk in Christ's footsteps, now and forevermore. Amen.

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.

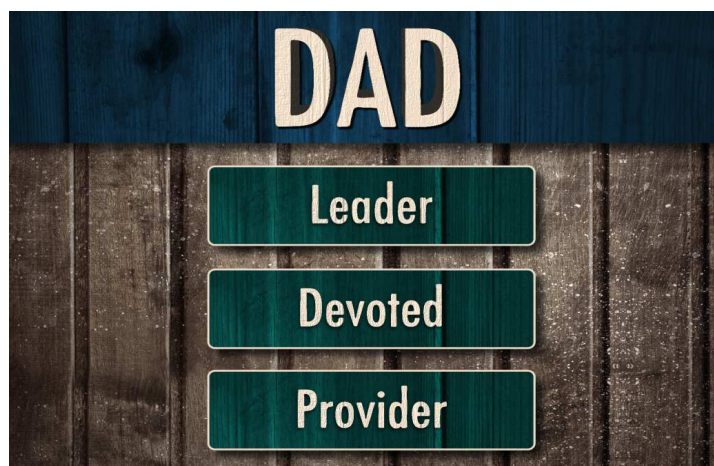


Hanging Out With Dad

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?

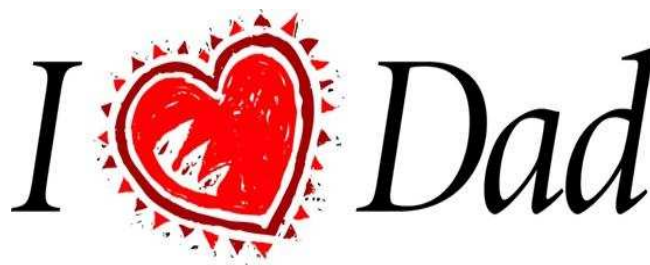
How am I hanging out with God on a regular basis? Am I continuing to learn his "trade"? Do I intentionally mimic his words, his kindness, his ways of loving others well? Take a minute to ponder that. Imagine yourself out in the garage with God (or in the kitchen with God, or at the computer with God).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



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

In this world of brokenhearted people, captive due to sin, it is Jesus alone who liberates us, declares God's favor over us, comforts us, beautifies us, and gladdens our hearts and fills our mouths with bold praise! Look no further than the carpenter of Nazareth to find this great consolation in the midst of our troubled world. This is not just information, but an invitation to find all these incredible blessings and benefits IN CHRIST.

The passage concludes with a purpose statement. It answers the question why does Jesus do all this for us?

The first purpose is "that they (Israel & us) may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD." Christ calls His followers Oaks of Righteousness. When God speaks, the Word is empowered and accomplishes what it declares. By calling us Oaks of Righteousness, God has made us into strong, sturdy, storm-tested, beautiful trees. Their strength however, depends not on their own working but on His Word. Like a strong tree, it is imperative that the tree receives the nutrients from the soil, the refreshing rain and the Light of the world who through all these means brings nutrients through our leaves to the core of our being. It is the Word of God that makes the tree strong.

It is the ministry of Jesus through the proclamation of His Word that purposefully builds us, His people, into Oaks of Righteousness. His strength is poured into us and becomes our strength to weather any and every storm of life.

The final purpose of Christ's Oak strengthening work in us is to bring God Glory! The person (tree) who receives the ministry of Jesus receives everything he needs to become strong and beautiful. Have you noticed how people filled with the Spirit of God attract others to themselves. We are attracted to those whom God gives that peace that surpasses understanding. We are in awe of those whose life's storms would destroy us, yet they seem to gain new strength with every trial. That's why we're attracted to the early church fathers who forsook the world to gain Christ. Nothing else mattered. Their wood was tested under most extreme conditions yet they would not bend. We want that too!

To God's glory there is also an inner beauty that resides in a Christ-called Oak of Righteousness. They have a special glow, a never-ending countenance of gladness that is steady in spite of circumstances. This too comes from the Lord's enriching, nurturing power! Those who are suffering in this storm-ravaged world delight to be in the company of those with such joy and they want to know how to get it.

All of this redounds to the Glory of God! We are weak branches in the eyes of the world, brittle twigs; but by the mighty and powerful Word of God we stand tall and strong, as Oaks of Righteousness in the eyes of God.

Dear Blessed Savior Family, for this gift we must do nothing but ask. Even that desire comes from God. And when we receive this gift, we want nothing more than to show and share the strength we have received to help others in their weakened estate. God wants to use you and me to build a forest of Oaks, so that together we can stand against any storm of life. For this strength, for this beauty, for this joy... we give Glory to God. It makes me want to hug a tree! So when I give you a hug... just know this is what I'm thinking of you!

Glory be to God Alone!!

Pastor Vern

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.





Going the Second Mile

In Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, he teaches, "If anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile" (Matthew 5:41, NRSV). Back then, Jews were subject to Roman rule and often compulsory service. Commoners could be forced to fetch water, carry baggage and perform other menial tasks. So Jesus suggests that rather than complying with gritted teeth and muttered curses, people offer to carry the pack a second mile as well.

These days, the second (or extra) mile denotes going beyond what's expected or required, whether in effort or kindness. In *Going the Second Mile*, Mel Blackaby describes the concept as "the difference between living as a good person and enjoying life as a child of God." He explains, "When you 'do your best' for someone, you go the first mile. When God does his best through you, you experience the second mile. This can happen only when you let Christ in you take over and empower you to accomplish what is impossible by your natural abilities. While others see you on the first mile, they see Christ on the second."—adapted from *The Wired Word*

A Standup Guy

During the pandemic, a Maryland man used "dad jokes" to lift neighbors' spirits. Tom Schruben jotted down a joke-of-the-day on a curbside whiteboard. Hearing people chuckle and chat eased the isolation.

Schruben and his wife, Ann, became intentional about seeking joy after two of their children died. They vowed to "find happiness again" and share it. For Father's Day last year, Schruben held a Bad Dad Joke contest, donating entry fees to a local charity. Here are a few of his favorites:

- If two vegans get into an argument, is it still considered a beef?
- I ordered a chicken and an egg from Amazon. I'll let you know.
- What do you call a bear with no teeth? A gummy bear.

The Church Hive

Bees live in a cooperative way described as "eusociality," or good relations. Each bee contributes a specific skill to the colony, synchronizing its efforts for the benefit of all. Likewise, a church's health depends on all members fulfilling their responsibility to the organism as a whole. Descriptions of hive life mirror Paul's words about the body of Christ, with members having different gifts "but the same Spirit" (1 Corinthians 12:4).

According to R.S. Beal Jr., who was both a pastor and a zoology professor, a beehive is the perfect "living illustration of how to walk in unity." He wrote, "Those of us who have believed in Jesus belong to one another just as much as we belong to Christ. We cannot live independently of one another anymore than we can live independently of Christ. Like the bees, we must learn to practice the sacrifice, labor, sharing, and submission of love that together we 'may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ'" (Ephesians 4:15, KJV). How are you using your own spiritual gifts to build up your church "hive"?



Soul Care Through Studying

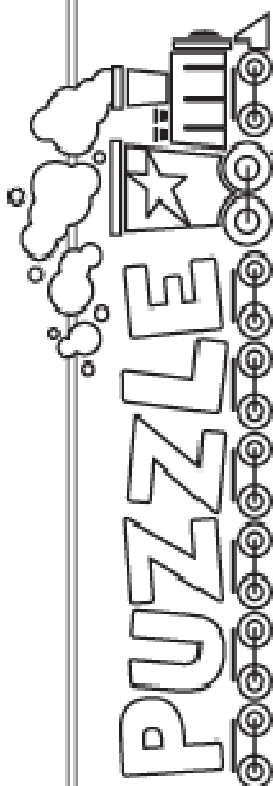
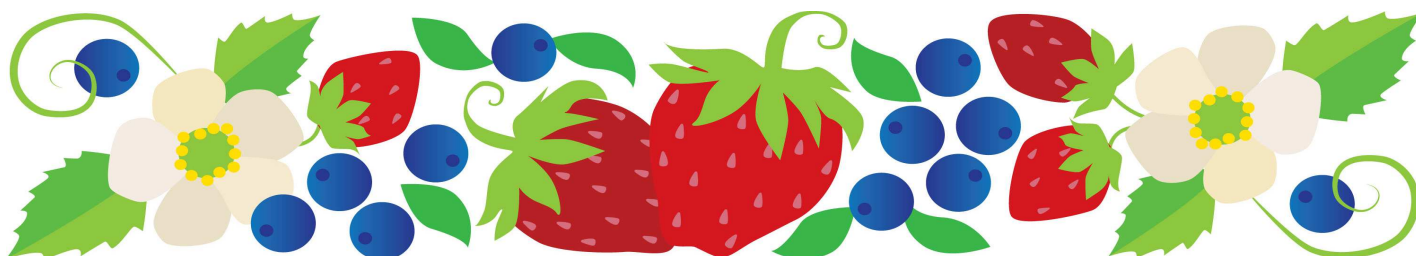
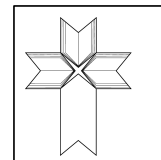
Summer isn't often associated with studying, but it can be an ideal time to dive into God's Word. Just keep in mind: Studying the Bible involves more than merely reading the words. The process begins with a humble spirit to not only gain information but to let Scripture transform you.

I've heard about various practices for Bible study. Some people set aside a special place, with multiple concordances and commentaries at their fingertips. I thrive on a bit more variety. Comparing a couple of Bible translations and paraphrases proves helpful for my studies.

Renovaré, Richard Foster's institute that aims to help people become more like Jesus, advises: "It is vital to study not only books but also those things around us such as nature, relationships, events and cultural values." What are the most meaningful ways for you to study God's Word?—Janna Firestone



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



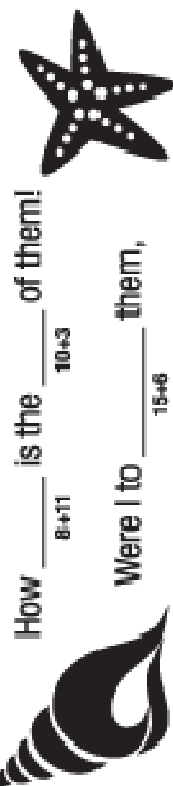
Beyond number

God is all-knowing, and his thoughts toward us are beyond number.

Directions: Solve the addition problems and use the code to complete Psalm 139:17-18, NIV.



How $13+10$ to me are your $12+5$ God!



How $8+11$ is the $10+3$ of them!

Were I to $15+6$ them,

they would $3+12$ the grains of $4+18$

when I $13+4$, I am still with you.



PSALM 139:17-18, NIV

Answer: precious, thoughts, vast, come, number, sea, awake