



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 2023

#### Thurs. June 1

Elders Meeting 7 pm

#### Sun. June 4, 11, 18, 25

Worship 9:30 a.m.

#### Mon—Fri June 5-9

VBS 2023

5:30-8:30

#### Mon. June 12, 19, 26

Support Group 7 pm

#### Tues. June 13

Quilting 9-2

Church Council 7 pm

#### Wed. June 14

Flag Day

#### Sun. Jun 18

Happy Father's Day

#### Tues. June 20

Christian Ed Mtg 7

Youth Brd 7

#### Wed. June 21

1st Day of Summer

#### Sun. Aug. 20

Worship in the Park

Rally Day

Church Picnic

10 a.m.

Have a happy and safe

Summer!



## VBS 2023

**June 5-9—5:30-8:30**

Stellar VBS is going to be full of Bible adventures, games, music, dinner, hugs, high-fives, and sciency-fun “wows.” Every single activity is helping kids experience Jesus’ love.

Many volunteers are needed!

Sign up in the Narthex for volunteers and donations.



## Save the Date!

**WORSHIP IN THE PARK**

**RALLY DAY 2023**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 20**

Worship in the Park

10 am

Followed by Rally Day

The Annual Church Picnic  
follows Rally Day



Newsletter June 2023

Remember our 4G drive at the beginning of the year? Can you remember what the 4Gs represent? Here's a reminder:

**Glorify – Gather – Give - Go!**

Now, I admit we (and by we I mean I) haven't done a good job at keeping this faith goal theme at the forefront of your minds. The Elders and Church Council gave us a very explicit description of each category in the hope that you would latch onto the 4G idea and to grow and stretch your faith life and walk with the Lord.

So now that we're in what I call the Summer Pause, this period of Rest & Relaxation, could I ask you to evaluate and meditate on where the Holy Spirit has led and is leading you and the church on our Journey with Christ? If you will, please ponder the questions below...

**How have we glorified God? Has our work individually and corporately given Him glory and been pleasing to Him?** I'd say, "Yes!" I hear of our people serving one another and not telling another soul what they've been up to which makes this evaluation difficult. Jesus said, when it comes to giving, "Don't let your right hand know what your left hand is doing." When we accept the praise for some gift of service, we get the recognition which becomes our reward. But when we keep our ministry activities private, only God gets the praise! But He promises us a reward in heaven for our secret service toward others. Still we ask, "Could we do more?" Absolutely! So while you're getting some sun or exploring God's creation this summer, ask the Lord how you can bring glory to His name. Write it down. Pray about it. Seek to do His will.

**How have we done in the area of Gathering?** Well, we have weathered the Covid storm quite well. Not all have come back to worship in person, but we understand that some people still feel their health is too compromised to risk going out in public, especially when they gather with such an affectionate group like the people of BSLC! Our worship attendance has been slowly climbing. And our Fall Festival and Trivia events were also well supported. Could we do better? Sure! We have truly missed those who, for reasons we don't know or understand, have not returned to worshiping on a regular basis. Let us pray that the Lord will remove the obstacles that prevent some from Worship and Fellowship and give them peace in their hearts to return for the fellowship's sake. Together God can accomplish much through us!

**How have we done in the realm of Giving?** GREAT! I am overwhelmed how much stronger financially we have become since the Covid virus. Your offerings have not only strengthened our financial stability, but they have helped many people through agencies such as: St. Vincent de Paul, the O'Fallon Food Pantry, Lutheran World Relief, and others like them. Our VBS staff voted to donate this year's VBS Offerings to Pastor Daniel and his family. Pastor Daniel is staying in America to complete his doctorate at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. This may be a bit premature, but we may be supporting the next President of the Lutheran Church in Ghana. How blessed we have been to have him at Blessed Savior! Can we do more? Most assuredly! Remember that giving is more than putting a check in the offering plate. Sometimes giving time to someone who is home bound, taking them out for a meal or helping them to get some needed recreation is HUGE! And these things are happening. While going to a STL Cards, Blues or City Soccer game, ask the Lord to point out opportunities to give of some of your time and talents to help someone in need.

**How have we done in regards to the Great Commission?** I think we all would like to be better at reaching out to others with the Good News. Now remember, not everyone is called to be an Evangelist, but every Christian is a Witness! So don't beat yourself up if you've not taken control of a street corner to preach the Gospel to the people going by. Witnessing is a relational activity. You build friendships and when the unchurched hear your reverence of Christ and your love for God's people, that's Evangelism! And the beauty is, you're not responsible for the outcome. That's the work of the Holy Spirit. And He will use your words and actions to draw the unchurched to Christ. So when you're out with friends and neighbors, pray for a willing spirit to let the light of Christ shine through your words and actions. Be humble and authentic. Always be aware that you like your neighbors are a sinner and what perfection God the Father sees in You is only on account of Christ. (continued on page 5)



## Vacation Bible School 2023

Students and volunteers are needed to make the upcoming Vacation Bible School a success. Join us June 5-9 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.



To register students or helpers go to the Blessed Savior website: [mybslc.org](http://mybslc.org)

Click on the link "Vacation Bible School Info" and follow the prompts. The prompt at the top of the page is for students. Scroll down to the bottom to sign up for volunteers.

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

Hope to see you there! It's going to be out of this world!



## 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

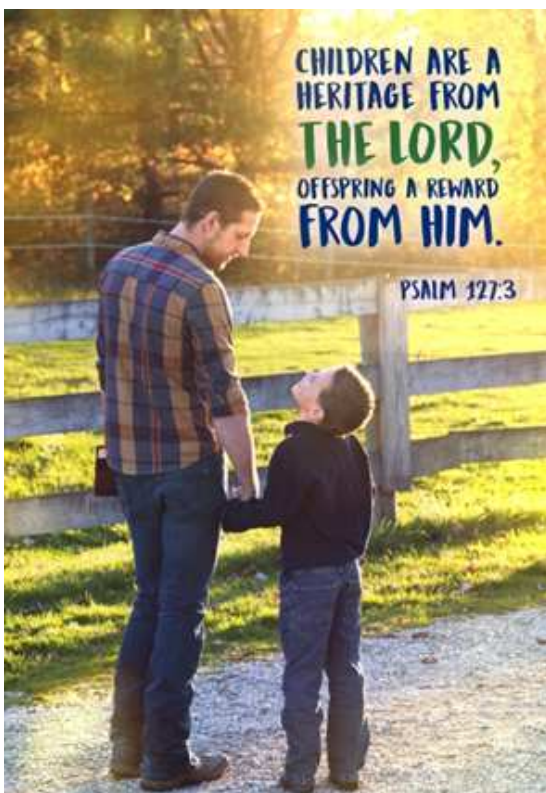
"My father didn't do anything unusual. He only did what dads are supposed to do — be there." —Max Lucado



## 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.



## Just like Dad

At the beginning of his ministry career, Jerry Steen supplemented his income by mixing animal feed. When his two young boys greeted him at home, they laughed at his dusty appearance before he headed to the shower.

"I didn't think too much of this until I was washing my car and saw my older son doing something very strange," Steen recalls. "He was picking up the gravel and stones in our drive and rubbing them into his pants." Curious, the father asked what the boy was doing. "I want to be dusty like you, Dad!" his son replied.

For Steen, that was an eye-opener. "I realized that if a child would look up to his father for being dusty and want to copy his father," he says, "a child could look up to his father and follow him for anything." What traits and qualities are you modeling and passing on — to your own kids and to anyone else who looks up to you?

Now if you haven't read between the lines of this article, let me be clear. What St Paul said to the Church at Thessalonica I can hear myself saying to you.

Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, **just as you are doing, that you do so more and more.** (1 Thessalonians 4:1)

Paul recognized that this beloved church was already walking with God and doing things that were pleasing to Him. I see the same in the lives of our fellowship at Blessed Savior. But because of the huge challenge before us to "make disciples of all nations," St Paul is urging us to do those things **more and more.**

4G – Glorify, Gather, Give, Go! In 4 simple words we are reminded of the heart and core of our ministry at Blessed Savior. Christ loves you all and so do I! So while you're sitting beside the pool, hiking in the mountains, visiting the wonders of His creation, or just enjoying a "Sta-cation" around the house, know that our Lord is pleased with everything you do, big or small, to exalt Him and glorify His name. To increase the JOY of our Savior, let us strive to follow Him more and more. When we do, JOY comes not only to our Savior, but to those whom we serve and are being saved as a result!

Blessed Summer in Christ,  
Pastor Vern"

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## COUNCIL OFFICERS 2023

Chairman	Gus Williams (22)	Properties	Ben Lesire (22) Ed Brandmeyer (22)
Vice-Chairman	Vacant		Nancy Schmidt (22) John Lundeby (22)
Treasurer	Kirk & Janet Satrom (22)		Steve Foster (21) Roger Miesner (21)
Secretary	Phyllis Miesner (23)		Perry Schefelker (22)
Elders	Ed Brandmeyer (22) Brian Lloyd (23) R.J. Kinsella (23) Dave Reynolds (23)	Stewardship	Dale Schutte (22) Curtis Kuppler (22) Keith Szolga (23) Carol Schutte (23) Nancy Schmidt (23)
Christian Education	Kim Kruse (22) Ryan Moureau (22)	Worship	Eric Stake (21)
Evangelism	Perry Schefelker (22) Christie Carron (22) John Lundeby (22)	Youth	Nic Kjosa (22) R.J. Kinsella (23) Sandie Rust (23) Tyler Owens (22)
Fellowship	Gwen Borsch (22) Ginger Kieffer (22) Sandie Rust (23) Diane Schefelker (23) Charla Morton (22)		

1-- Jolene Miesner  
 3—Terese Berens, Alma Garcia  
 4—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  
 18—Nicholas Longhorn, Kale Jackson



19—AJ Moureau  
 20—Ralph Olson  
 21—Olivia Siron  
 24—Danielle Moureau  
 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—Brian & Kim Lloyd  
 5 -Mark & Terese Berens  
 11—Allen & Mackenna Leech  
 18—Dean & Cheryl Krantz  
 29 Terry & Diane Colvin



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

### All God's Children

On the basis of the eternal will of God, we have to think of *every human being*, even the oddest, most villainous or miserable, as one to whom Jesus Christ is Brother and God is Father; and we have to deal with him on this assumption. If the other person knows that already, then we have to strengthen him in the knowledge. If he does not know it yet or no longer knows it, our business is to transmit this knowledge to him.

On the basis of the knowledge of the humanity of God, no other attitude to any kind of fellow man is possible. It is identical with the practical acknowledgment of his human rights and his human dignity. To deny it to him would be for us to renounce having Jesus Christ as Brother and God as Father. Karl Barth, *The Humanity of God*

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.







## STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

LCMS Stewardship Newsletter Article  
June 2023

### What Do You Want?

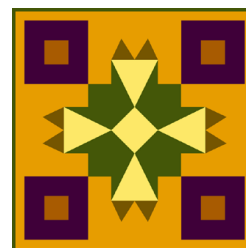
One of the best-known and most-beloved psalms is Psalm 23, the "Shepherd Psalm." There we learn that the Lord is our Shepherd. And since He is our Shepherd, we will not want. We will not suffer want because the Lord, our Shepherd, will lead us to green pastures and beside still waters. In other words, the Lord, our Shepherd, will provide for all that we need in both body and soul.

Yet, we live as though this is not the case. We live as though we actually suffer from want, that the Lord, our Shepherd, will not provide for all that we need. And thus, we live as though the Lord is not our Shepherd. And that means that we live as though we are not the Lord's sheep. When do we live as though the Lord is not our Shepherd? When we put anything else before Him and His provision for us. When we think that going to work is more important than receiving His gifts in church on Sunday (in violation of the First and Third Commandments). When we fail to give generously of the first fruits of what the Lord has provided for us because we don't know what the future will bring (even though He has promised that He will lead us to green pastures and still waters). We live as though we are not the Lord's sheep when we think that the Lord is only in the business of helping those who will help themselves. We act this way because our minds are set on earthly, temporal things and not on heavenly, eternal things. We act this way because we have stopped hearing the call of our Shepherd, which comes through His Word.

Through the Word of God, the Shepherd calls us to Himself. Through the Word, the Holy Spirit gathers and enlightens us with His gifts. Through the Word, we are kept holy and nourished in the one true faith, the faith that follows our Shepherd wherever He leads us. He promises to lead us to our true home, to the land flowing with milk and honey, to a better country, not of this world, but a heavenly one.

And so, here's the Good News: the Lord is your Shepherd, even and especially for wayward sheep. For Jesus seeks and saves those who are lost. He finds the lost sheep and carries them back to the fold. He is the Shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep. The Lord is your Shepherd. Let us live as His sheep.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: [lcms.org/stewardship](https://lcms.org/stewardship)

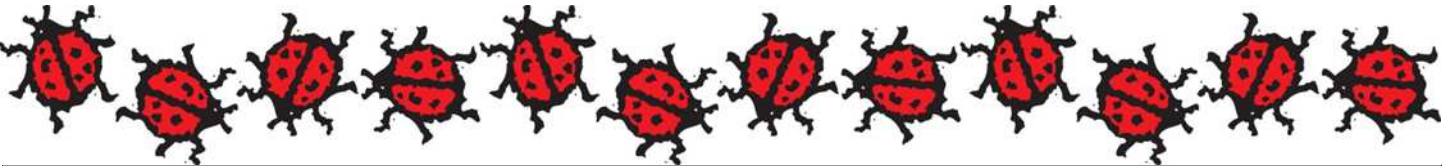
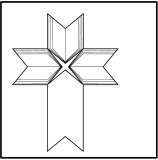


Join the Lutheran World Relief QUILTERS on **Tuesdays, June 13, July 11 & August 1** from 9:30–12:00 p.m. to tie quilts. (We don't actually quilt by hand. Instead we secure the layers by hand tying them.) Come and join us for a time of good ole fellowship. Hope to see you there! Mark your calendar for the 1<sup>st</sup> 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.





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



# JESUS' FAMILY TREE

Matthew records a timeline of Jesus' family dating back to Abraham.  
Do you know who is in Jesus' family tree?

*Directions: Use Matthew 1:1-17 to order the genealogy. Then put the letters in order in the boxes to answer the question below.*

T. Uziah the father of Jotham  
O. Jacob the father of Judah  
N. Jacob the father of Joseph  
E. Elihud the father of Eleazar  
U. Boaz the father of Obed  
F. Abraham the father of Isaac  
R. Solomon the father of Rehoboam  
E. Josiah the father of Jeconiah

*How many generations were there from Abraham to David, from David to the Exile, and from the Exile to Jesus, the Messiah?*

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

ANSWER: FOURTEEN



## God Remembers

It is not difficult for me to remember that the little ones need breakfast in the morning, dinner at mid-day and something before they go to bed at night. Indeed I could not forget it. And I find it impossible to suppose that our heavenly Father is less tender or mindful than I. ... I do not believe that our heavenly Father will ever forget his children. I am a very poor father, but it is not my habit to forget my children. God is a very, very good Father. It is not his habit to forget his children. J. Hudson Taylor



## Summer Solace



The best remedy for those who are afraid, lonely or unhappy is to go outside, somewhere where they can be quite alone with the heavens, nature and God. Because only then does one feel that all is as it should be and that God wishes to see people happy, amidst the simple beauty of nature. As long as this exists, and it certainly always will, I know that then there will always be comfort for every sorrow, whatever the circumstances may be. And I firmly believe that nature brings solace in all

troubles. Anne Frank, *Diary of a Young Girl*

## Come Glorify God Together

Don't use summer as an excuse to skip church! By gathering in corporate worship, we obey God's command, become equipped for Christian living, and minister to our fellow pilgrims. Consider these tips for engaging in corporate worship.



First, show up — in person if you can. Examine your heart and your motivation for attending church. Lift up your eyes from earthly matters to focus on God.

Come prepared. Do you need to confess anything or remove any hindrance? As you worship, consider how each part of the service displays the gospel: greeting, singing, confessing, reading Scripture, hearing Bible-based teaching, praying, giving and communing.

Be careful not to compartmentalize corporate worship as separate from the rest of life. Instead, consider how you'll carry the experience into the coming week. Come ready to receive; then let that overflow fuel you for the days ahead. Come prepared to participate, knowing that worshipping together is a rehearsal for heaven. But most importantly? Just come. Monica L. Wilkinson

## Finding Freedom

What does freedom look like to you? In *GraceLaced*, Ruth Chou Simons lists examples such as running unhindered, viewing a mountaintop overlook and enjoying iced tea with lemon. Because our good, creative God made us each different, our descriptions of freedom vary too. I think of deep breaths, an unhurried pace, genuine smiles, lack of regrets and deep belly laughs.

I love to laugh. Recently, during a demanding season of family celebrations, hardships and surprises, I realized I was laughing less. I felt bound to the next task on my long to-do list, but even good efficiency can shackle our spirits.

A good laugh — beyond a quick chuckle — offers many physical and emotional benefits. According to the Mayo Clinic, laughter relieves stress and pain, boosts the immune system and stimulates organs and endorphins. So today I'm determined to laugh loudly and joyfully while remembering my freedom in Christ. — Janna Firestone



## Turn Your Platform into an Altar

Having a platform — or an avenue to communicate with lots of people — can be useful to share important messages, as long as we don't focus on our number of followers and pageviews. A platform also may tempt us to think we're the gift being offered; instead, I like to picture an altar. It's a place of offering and humility, where we give sacrificially through the reach God provides.

Use these reminders to view your platform as an altar:

- Strive to obey and trust God, who calls and strengthens you.
- Be a good steward of God's gifts and messages, caring for the people you're reaching. Avoid comparisons with others, looking to God alone for validation and approval.

Through Abraham's willingness to surrender his only son, the Old Testament patriarch modeled how a platform can become an altar. So did Jesus, the sinless Lamb of God, who became the ultimate sacrifice to pay our debt. As his New Testament followers, it's our privilege to invite others into this paradoxical kingdom, to give of ourselves as a living sacrifice. —Monica Wilkinson



**Abraham Prepares to Sacrifice Isaac**

## Living as Poetry of God

For Christians, the Scriptures are our first source of guidance for how to live, and within them, Jesus is primary. But God speaks through nonbiblical voices too: preachers and teachers not found in the Bible, and even literature that isn't directly Christian. God, who used King Cyrus of Persia to free the exiled Israelites, can use *anyone* to call us to right living. Take, for example, Walt Whitman's description of life as poetry when we live certain ways, and God as "the greatest poet":

"This is what you shall do: Love the earth and sun and the animals, despise riches, give alms to every one that asks, stand up for the [vulnerable], devote your income and labor to others, hate tyrants, argue not concerning God, have patience and indulgence toward the people, ... and your very flesh shall be a great poem and have the richest fluency. ... The known universe has one complete lover and that is the greatest poet. ... His love above all love has leisure and expanse." (From the preface to *Leaves of Grass*, 1855)



## It's a Miracle!

I believe in miracles. While I believe in the possibility, under God, of any kind of miracle, I am committed especially to the miracle of the changed life. When a human being goes from despair to hope, when a lost soul comes home, or when a mean and destructive person becomes kind and fruitful, the greatest of all miracles has occurred. J. Ellsworth Kalas

## Keep Trying

In *The God Who Stays*, contemporary Christian musician Matthew West writes about the pandemic's fear-filled early days. After his concert tour was abruptly canceled in March 2020, he rode to an airport "feeling utterly hopeless about a world that was spinning out of control."

Then Arthur, his ride-share driver, began singing along to the radio — and the song happened to be West's "The God Who Stays." West joined in, jokingly asking how he sounded. "Not so good," Arthur replied, not knowing West's identity. "You keep trying."

The driver shared how those lyrics uplifted him during life's difficulties, and West later recalled that conversation during lockdown, while wondering where God was. The musician realized he had "settled for a socially distant relationship with the One who is nearer than I dare to believe, closer than the air I breathe." But West pictured "God running toward me with open arms like the prodigal's father," and he resolved to keep trying — and to grow closer to the God who always stays.

## Welcomed Back to the Fold



When her beloved dogs “returned home from an adventure smelling of eau de skunk parfum,” Pastor Joanna Loucky-Ramsey refused to let them in the house. Instead, she cleaned and cared for them outside, slowly reintroducing them to “full participation in family life” once the stink eased.

“The odor left by the skunk could serve as a metaphor for our sin or for the sin others perpetrate against us,” she writes. “As much as God loves us, he hates the sin that hides the lovely fragrance of the image of God within each of us. God

wants to welcome each of us into his family and into the heavenly home he has prepared for us, but we need to be ‘deodorized’ from the eau de sin parfum that would mar the entire experience of being in God’s fragrant presence.”

Loucky-Ramsey continues: “Just as our dogs needed our help to get rid of the smell of skunk, we need God’s help to purge us from the offense of sin that permeates our nature and masks who God created us to be. That’s what Jesus accomplished by his death and resurrection: to make us new and whole.” — adapted from *The Wired Word*

## An Abundance of Gifts

In 2022, people set some amazing Guinness World Records. A Nebraska man paddled more than 37 miles in a hollowed-out pumpkin boat. A Vermont teen wearing 4-inch heels walked more than 600 feet across a tightrope. And an Oregon man found and alphabetized all 26 letters in a can of alphabet soup in 2 minutes and 8.6 seconds. (The toughest part, he says, is distinguishing subtle differences between letters such as M and W.)

Your talents might not earn you any world records, but they certainly can grow faith and change lives. Whether you’re good at teaching, singing, writing, cooking or accounting, the church can put those skills to productive use. Romans 12 lists many more qualities you may not realize are spiritual gifts: graciousness, serving, generosity, acts of mercy, loving and honoring others, extending hospitality, rejoicing and weeping with people, making peace.

You might not be able to outperform the alphabet soup record. But God abundantly blesses each of us to “outdo one another in showing honor” (Romans 12:10, ESV) and in sharing his love. Stephanie Martin



**BELIEVE**  
the  
**GOOD**  
**NEWS**

## The Gladdest Thing of All

Turn around and believe that the good news that we are loved is better than we ever dared hope, and that to believe in that good news, to live out of it and toward it, to be in love with that good news, is of all glad things in this world the gladdest thing of all. Amen, and come Lord Jesus.—

Frederick Buechner, *The Clown in the Belfry*



America was founded as a “nation under God,” and has been looked up to by other nations for over two hundred years. Unfortunately, other countries — and some of our own citizens — are disgruntled with America today. Even though our reputation has taken some hits, we’re still a strong country with high ideals and proud people.

There’s a simple way you can help show that to the world — by flying the flag. Every time you put a flag out, you’re saying, “I’m an American and proud of what this flag represents.” The flag stands for “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness,” for religious freedom, and for other rights that many nations lack. The flag represents our history and our goals for a better future for all.

Since the early 1800s various groups have observed a day to display the American flag. Presidents Woodrow Wilson (in 1916) and Calvin Coolidge (in 1927) issued proclamations marking June 14 as National Flag Day. But it wasn’t until August 3, 1949, that Congress approved June 14 as a day of national observance. President Harry Truman signed it into law.

The American flag has changed designs more than any other flag in the world. In fact, the United States didn’t have a standardized flag until 1912! And even after standardization, the flag changed three more times with the addition of new stars representing new states.

Flag Day is celebrated each year on June 14. Fly your flag high!



## "I'm Fine..."

There's nothing whatever the matter with me.

I'm just as healthy as can be.  
I have arthritis in both my knees,  
And when I talk, I talk with a wheeze.  
My pulse is weak and my blood is thin,  
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.

I think my liver is out of whack,  
And a terrible pain is in my back.  
My hearing is poor, my eyesight dim,  
Most everything seems to be out of trim.  
My doctor says my days are few,  
And every day there's something new.

The way I stagger sure is a crime,  
I'm likely to drop any time.  
I jump like mad at the drop of a pin,  
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.  
My teeth will eventually have to come out,  
I'm overweight and can't get thin,  
My appetite's such that it's bound to win,  
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.

Arch supports I have for my feet,  
Or I wouldn't be able to go on the street,  
Sleep is denied me night after night,  
So every morning I sure am a sight.,  
My memory's failing, my heart's in a spin,  
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.

The moral is, as this tale we unfold,  
That for you and me, we are getting old:  
It's better to say "I'M FINE," with a grin,  
Than to let 'em know the shape we're in.  
AMEN



## The Engine of Marriage

Being in love is a good thing, but it is not the best thing. Love is a deep unity, maintained by the will and deliberately strengthened by habit; reinforced by the grace which both partners ask and receive from God. On this love the engine of marriage is run; being in love was the explosion that started it. C.S. Lewis

## Love Aces the Test

Author Adele Calhoun describes life as "our 'open-book' test on love." How can we ace it? In *Invitations From God*, she points out that daily decisions are the make-or-break factors: "Day in and day out as we plan, work, produce, commute and relate, we make life-altering choices to either love or neglect others."

For another study guide, reflect on St. Augustine's timeless words: "What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of [people]. That is what love looks



## Seasonal humor

For summer weddings:

- The wedding was so beautiful, even the cake was in tiers.
- Did you hear about the two spiders who got engaged? They met on the web.

- Two cell phones got married. The reception was terrific! Why did the King of Hearts and the Queen of Hearts get married? They were perfectly suited.

For baseball season:

- I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger and bigger. Then it hit me.
  - What did the baseball glove say to the ball? "Catch ya later!"
  - Why are frogs good baseball players? Because they're good at catching flies.
- Why did Cinderella get kicked off the baseball team? She ran away from the ball.

And for Father's Day, some dad jokes:

- My dream job is to clean mirrors because I can really see myself doing that.
- We're renovating the house. The first floor is going great, but the second floor is another story.