

The Monthly
Church Notebook for



BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR EV.
LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Fort Wayne, IN 46845
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Pastor Brian Semrow
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November 2020



FROM THE PASTOR

Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience.

This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

What a difficult section! Submit to authority, especially when those in authority don't act in a way befitting of a leader, or when they make decisions that are contrary to the choices we would have made in the same position. Submit to authority when their agendas don't match my agenda? No thank you! But it's not just a truth that is seemingly difficult in the midst of a crazy election--it's something I've struggled with since I was a child. Clean my room when I like it messy--no thanks! Study for a spelling test, when most words don't sound like they are spelled--no thanks! Get permission to leave campus--but that's not fun! Complete this assessment by this deadline....you get the picture.

But it's an even more serious problem than not wanting to listen to parents, teachers, bosses, or government officials. When we refuse to submit to the authorities that are above us (whether we like them or not, whether they are Christian or not, whether they are moral or immoral in the way they lead)--we have a problem with the one who has all authority in heaven and on earth. The one who allows some to be in authority for a time and the one who takes back that authority. →

In Romans--Paul tells us that God expects everyone--every single human being--to submit to the authorities that are placed above them. And why? Because they are an extension of God's authority. God has given them the authority they have. And why does he place people in authority over us? To do us good. To be a blessing for us. To help curb outbursts of sin in our world. To provide safety and order in society.

He places people in authority over us, because if left to govern ourselves in anarchy--human beings would destroy ourselves even quicker than we already are.

God desires to bless us, he desires us to live in peace and safety, and governing authorities are one avenue God takes to do just that. And amazingly so--because every desire and action we take to sidestep those authorities and live by our own laws is sinful and deserving of his righteous justice.

In love, we see Jesus--abiding by the laws of the land--submitting to those in authority in love--even to those authorities that were try unjustly kill him, and in doing so--submitting to the ultimate authority--his heavenly Father--so that he could bring about redemption and peace for the world.

Friends, especially in times like these--we now have an opportunity to be different and stand out in our world that desires anarchy, to bad mouth authority, and to apply law subjectively, as I see fit. As we submit to our authorities in love for God, as we trust in his power to use those authorities to accomplish his purposes, as we see authority as a means through which God chooses to bless and keep us, we can give evidence to God's goodness and love to a world that needs to see it.

Pastor Semrow

From Our Congregation President

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you to everyone who continues to follow the governor's guidelines for wearing facemasks in public. While me may grow tired of them, we should honor the directives of the government that is over us. We cannot be complacent as we enter the end of the church year and Advent.

As we begin to look forward to 2021, please consider any areas where you might be willing to serve. There are opportunities in altar opening and closing, church and school cleaning, lawn mowing, ushering and church boards. If those aren't for you, there are single Sunday opportunities providing flowers or fellowship snacks. Stay alert for sign up opportunities in the coming months.

In Christ,

Jim Cotter



USO Service Project for Beautiful Savior

The USO stands for United Service Organizations. It is a nonprofit charitable corporation chartered by Congress that relies on donations from individuals, organizations and corporations to support its programs.

The USO offers a great variety of programs and services. The goal is to keep service members connected to people, places and things that they love. The USO provides care packages, snacks, holiday items and internet services. They help transitioning service members and their families. They provide entertainment that focuses on America's culture and pastimes.

Over three million service members and their families participated in location-based programs this year. There are 250 USO locations worldwide.

Here at Beautiful Savior, we have committed ourselves to providing one small but necessary need for our local USO. We will be providing snacks for those service people occupied with weekend drill during the month of December.

The month of November, which is traditionally a time to reflect on our blessings, is dedicated to collecting these items. Every Sunday in November (November 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29) a table will be set up in the kitchen to collect these donations.

Thank you for using this opportunity to show appreciation for our local service personnel.

Please bring any questions to Barb Zabel.

Requested items:	Monster Energy Drinks	Gatorade
	Quaker Chewy Granola Bars, variety	Sandwich crackers
	Nature Valley Chewy Fruit and Nut Bars	Fruit snacks
	Snacks nuts, variety	Trail mix
	Kellogg's Nutri-Grain Bars, variety	

grace ♥ MOMENTS



Why Am I Still Broken?

Perhaps you've heard church sermons portraying how wonderful the Christian life is. Perhaps you've heard thrilling testimonies from people whose lives were transformed by the gospel. Perhaps you've bought and read Christian self-help books that guarantee personal change. But perhaps also you're frustrated because your personal miracle still hasn't happened. You still fall into the same-old sins; you still drag around the same-old fears, failures, and guilt. You ask yourself, "Why am I still broken?"

Don't panic. It's not just you. St. Paul himself articulated the internal struggle that many of us feel:

"Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. What a wretched man I am!" (Romans 7:21-24). The only place he could find relief was in the comforting message of the forgiveness of our sins through Christ.

We won't be completely healed and transformed until we get to heaven. In the meantime, we exist in a state of perpetual spiritual warfare, afflicted by our own weaknesses and daily assaulted by the devil. But Christ's victory is real, and it is complete. He gives us *his* victory, and through faith we can claim it even while groaning.

Soon, soon comes the Triumph. Hang on!

Pastor Mark Jeske



Pastor Mark Jeske has been bringing the Word of God to viewers of Time of Grace since the program began airing in late 2001. A Milwaukee native, Pastor Jeske has served as the senior pastor at St. Marcus, a multicultural congregation on Milwaukee's near north side since 1980. In addition, he is the author of six books and dozens of devotional booklets on various topics.

WICS

Women in Christ's Service



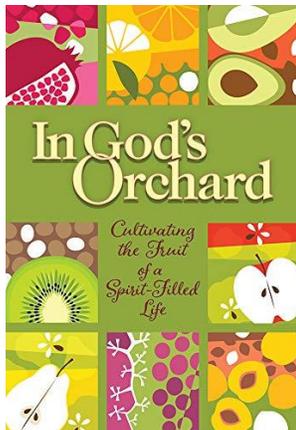
women's
BIBLE STUDY

Thursday, November 5 & 19

7:00 p.m.

At the home of Barb Zabel

8118 Sakaden Pky.
Fort Wayne, IN 46825



All ladies are invited to join Women's Bible study where we will learn how God nurtures the Fruits of the Spirit, how the sinful nature impacts them, how Jesus demonstrated them perfectly, and how the gospel helps them blossom and flourish. Please contact Laura McCall to get your own copy of the book.



Sunday, November 29th

11:30 a.m.

It's hard to believe we are thinking about Christmas already! All members of the congregation are invited to stay after worship on November 29th to decorate the church for Advent and Christmas. Lots of hands make little work! Please stay and give a helping hand!



Sunday Morning Fellowship

It has been great having our Sunday morning fellowship time back! Thank you to those members who prepared and served snacks last month. Many of us enjoy this social time with our church family and it would be great to get some new faces in the serving line. Please sign-up for a Sunday at the information center today! You are always more than welcome to use the snacks in the church pantry as well.



Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.

Psalm 27:14

Play Your Best Song, Lord, To Give Me Courage

How are you doing in the courage department these days? I suppose that depends on what you're up against. If we're older and vulnerable, immunocompromised especially, we may lack courage in facing the Coronavirus. (Even if we are perfectly healthy, there's always a chance it could be fatal. This demands courage from all of us!) Maybe you're facing peer pressure to join in some things you know aren't right. It takes courage to go against the crowd, doesn't it? Maybe you're facing some worries this school year with some project, some event, some challenge, some issue, and you wonder how you'll ever make it. This too demands courage. Pause for a moment and ask yourself, "What's my greatest fear?" Courage is required to stop running from it, stop putting it off, but to finally face it head on. Do you have courage? If so, could the strength of your courage fail and flee when you need it the most like what happened to the cowardly lion after encountering the Wizard of Oz?

What alone gives you courage, courage which cannot fail? It's always the Lord, isn't it? This is precisely what the psalmist concluded in his song which would have helped the cowardly lion out immensely had that timid scaredy-cat learned it. The psalmist sang, "Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord."

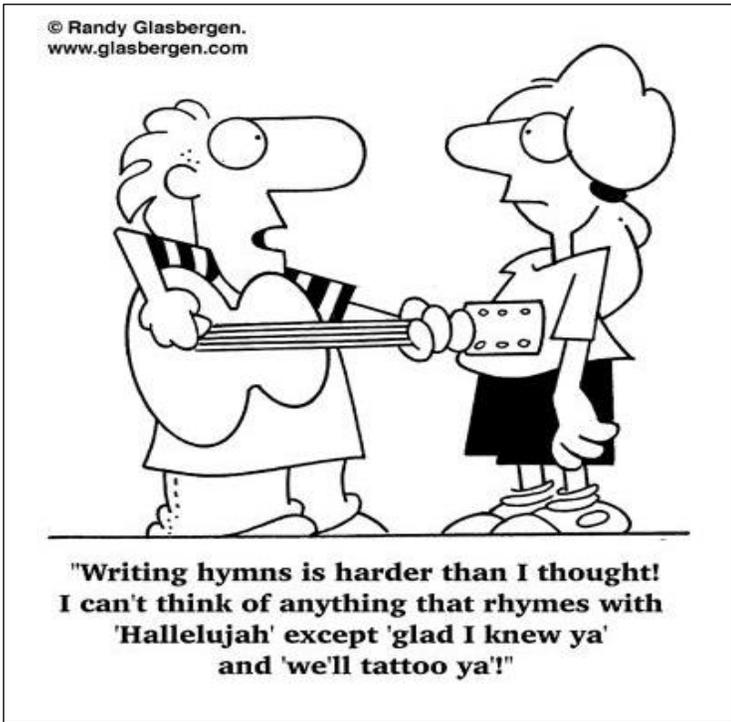
Here's the beauty of that hymn. Are you fearful? Are you lacking courage? Is your greatest fear nothing short of sin, death, or the devil? The psalmist gives you courage. He says, "Wait for the Lord." That implies that the Lord knows your greatest challenges, your greatest threats, your greatest worries and fears, and he's already on the way to be your courage. You need only wait for him, and he will never let you down. He didn't let us down on the cross, did he? Certainly not, he rose after three days. He conquered our greatest fears there, and we can be sure he'll do it again, every time. And so the psalmist concludes, "Be strong and take heart."

There's your courage.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, I love the playlist of Psalms, songs which give me a voice, songs which address all my needs with the good news of your love in Christ. Keep me in tune with the sweet music of your gospel, because I know that without your strength I can only fall into fear. Bless me with the very courage of Christ and teach me to face all things with all confidence. Amen.

Teen Devotions are brought to you by WELS Commission on Youth and Family Ministry



1 Chronicles 16:34 – Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

Psalms 69:30 – I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving.

1 Corinthians 15:57 – Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Psalms 100:4 – Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

Philippians 4:6 – Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Ephesians 5:19b-20 – Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.



November 2020

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| 5 | Women's Bible Study
<i>(at Barb Zabel's home)</i> | 7:00 p.m. |
| 8 | Council Meeting | 11:30 a.m. |
| 19 | Women's Bible Study
<i>(at Barb Zabel's home)</i> | 7:00 p.m. |
| 25 | Thanksgiving Worship | 7:00 p.m. |



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Return Service Requested