

## August 2020 Newsletter

# Our Savior Lutheran Church

223 Silver Lake Road, Eagle River WI 715-479-6226 (office) 715-479-7890 (fax)  
Website: [www.oursavioreagleriver.org](http://www.oursavioreagleriver.org) + Email: [oursavioreagleriver@gmail.com](mailto:oursavioreagleriver@gmail.com)

### Our Mission...

...is to equip and encourage followers of Christ to share the love of Jesus with people in our community and in the world so that all may have eternal life.



### August Memory Verse

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, His mercies never come to an end, they are new every morning, great is your faithfulness!

*Lamentations 3:22-23*

### Church Staff:

Peter Kufahl, Pastor  
715-479-6226 (Church Office)  
507-822-3606 (Cell)

Marlene Rieck, Director of Music & Children's Ministry  
715-479-7466 (Office)  
715-891-0991 (Home)

Jean Walker, Office Administrator  
715-479-6226 (Church Office)

Vonna Goddard, Choir Director

Vicki Holewinski, JuBELLation Director

Gary Fawcett, Congregational President  
715-479-6226 (Church Office)

Mandy Kersten - Nursery Director

### Upcoming Events:

**Saturday Worship - 7:00 pm**  
**Masks are mandatory**

**Sunday Worship - 9:00 am**  
**Masks are optional but highly recommended**



## From the Pastor's Desk

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Earlier this spring I took an introductory course with the National Weather Service in Green Bay. Due to the covid lockdown we were not able to meet in person, but rather watched a presentation online. At one point in the class we began to discuss the phenomenon of straight-line winds. To support the discussion, the meteorologist walked us through the atmospheric conditions that led up to the July 19-20, 2019 storms that went through northern Wisconsin, specifically around the Pelican Lake area in Oneida County. The damage left hundreds of thousands of trees snapped or uprooted with a path about 60 miles long and up to 10 miles wide with winds in excess of 100 mph (stats taken from the National Weather Service website). Before and after aerial photos showed the devastation of all these fallen trees amid a green forest. Thanks be to God no lives were lost in the storm.

When we see such devastation occur, how does one respond? When you are not directly impacted by such destruction, you may only find some fascination by it. If your friend's or family member's home was destroyed, you may have a bit more at stake as you may feel a need to lend a hand in the cleanup efforts. But if it was your property that was lost, now you are directly involved with clean-up, finding a new place to live, insurance claims, and working with contractors.

Covid-19 has been quite a storm for our world. As its winds blow far and wide, we still are unsure when it will be done, if it will be done, and who will be left standing, but one thing we know for sure: all of us are impacted by it whether we agree with everything taking place or not. There are many who do not have a very positive outlook for what life will look like once the dust settles of this storm. Businesses will close. People will be forced to find new avenues of employment. Families will lose their homes. And the downward spiral will only continue.

So what about the church as we know it? As congregations have closed their doors in fear of the virus spreading in gatherings (with singing of all things!), members have been forced to watch from home. Prayerfully, they will take the time to watch the service of their home congregation (if their congregation is able to provide online services). But there are other services and resources that may be far more entertaining than your home church. Other things may come up where you tell yourself you will watch it later, but never do. Statistics are showing that at the beginning of the lock-down, viewership was extremely high! But as the weeks went on, the drop has been drastic. With such winds blowing against God's people, who will stand and who will fall? Will some congregations survive?

The newly retired president of Concordia Seminary loved and still loves to tell pastors and church members alike, "It is a great time to be the church." He even declared it at the virtual Call Day service for men receiving their first pastoral calls. Amid a pandemic and such bleak numbers, how can he make such a bold claim? There is a ton of work ahead for the church if she wants to remain viable in a covid society! Yet what is the goal of the church?

In small towns and metropolis cities, the goal remains the same: to share the hope that is ours in Jesus Christ. As people see a lot of economically and physically downed lives because of this virus, through the eyes of this world there will not be a lot of hope. But in Jesus' resurrection, that is what you have! HOPE!

In 2 Corinthians, we hear these words, So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. <sup>17</sup> For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, <sup>18</sup> as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal. **2 Corinthians 4:16-18**

In Jesus' resurrection, we have a sure and certain hope of that which has been won for us through the forgiveness of our sins. Heaven IS ours where sin and pain shall be no more. In a world where devastation and things not going right is all around us, the devil cries out "Despair! Destruction! Depression! Death! Look at it! What future is there?" But Jesus calls you to see His cross and an open tomb. That where death was to dwell is empty! Jesus lives with the promise that a new life will be for you and all believers (John 5:28-29).

How are we going to share this hope in a covid and post-covid world? Nobody but our Father in heaven knows. But one thing is certain; the opportunities WILL be there for you. May He who has begun this good work in you, strengthen you in the certainty of Jesus' resurrection from the grave. May He who nurtures you with good soil and seed, feed you mightily with His Word that you grow strong and produce fruit for the kingdom. And may you stand tall and strong with your roots planted deep and secure in the faith you have been given, as the winds that look to take the church down blow hard. Your Savior lives, and they can never take Him away from you.

## Worship in a Covid-19 World

Amid all that is going on, thanks be to God that we have been able to gather over the past few weeks, and thanks be to God that thus far the virus has not spread among us! It has been a great joy to once again have members, guests, and visitors of our church family sitting in our pews for worship, and it is a great comfort to know that those who are not able to join us yet, are able to join us through a variety of means.

With more testing taking place, the numbers are rising of those infected. By God's good grace, our county has a relatively low infection count... yet there is fear of the unknown as to who may be carrying the virus. Sadly, there are other regions where the virus has exploded, and congregations were once again forced to close their doors.

A request had been made to our Board of Elders on behalf of those who desire a worship service where masks are required to be worn. Although the wearing of a mask is strongly recommended at all services, not everyone is comfortable wearing one. After a great deal of conversation at our July Elders meeting, it was decided that for the immediate future **beginning in August, the Saturday night service would be a mandatory mask worn service.** For those who do not wish to wear a mask and still desire to attend the Saturday evening service, the fellowship hall will be made available. For days when the Lord's Supper is offered, the elders and I will bring the Sacrament to the fellowship hall.

In these days, there is a great deal of working to accommodate people where they are at in terms of the virus. While some may have no fear of the virus, others have a great deal of fear. Yet no matter where you or your neighbor's fear level may be, we all have the one constant need: we all need Jesus and the gifts He brings in Word and Sacrament.

If you are not comfortable in attending, please let the church office know. We encourage you to set up an appointment to come in for a time when you can receive the Lord's Supper privately.

There are no easy answers to any of this as we await the virus to run its course. As there are many who are working on vaccines and safety measures to slow the spread, we know that in His timing the Lord our God will bring an end to this pandemic. May it happen so fast, that all will know it was His mighty hand!

## God Calls Us to be His Workers

In spite of our foolish and sinful ways, God calls us to be His workers. Scripture tells us that Jesus did not pick people from society's elite when He chose his workers. Jesus' disciples were peasants, fishermen, and even a tax collector. Paul wrote, "*Brothers, think of what you when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things . . .*" (1 Corinthians 1:26-28). The majority of God's work was done and continues to be done by the lowly and oppressed people.

Certainly, God can use celebrities and very successful people in His work. However, we need to remember that, even though we may not have accomplished anything of worldly significance, broken any records, or won any awards, God can use and transform us into effective workers in His kingdom. "*I can do everything through Him Who gives me strength*" (Philippians 4:13). Society gives many accolades to those who succeed, but there is no greater honor or privilege than to be chosen as God's vehicle to spread the Gospel. As John states in his Gospel, it is Jesus Who does the choosing. "*You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit*" (John 15:16).

So why does God elevate the foolish and the lowly to be His workers? A reason may be found in 1 Corinthians 1:29: "*so that no one may boast before Him.*" It is only by God's grace that we are saved, called, and equipped to be in His service. If we come into God's work with impressive credentials, we risk taking the glory and credit for ourselves. God desires the weak and the lowly. As Paul said, "*Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong*" (2 Corinthians 12:9-10). God uses ordinary people to do extra-ordinary things. Are you ready for duty?

**Board of Christian Education Meeting**

**Thursday 07/14/20 – 7:00 pm @ OSLC**

**IN ATTENDANCE: Rick Behrens, Carol Litchfield, Lynn Parker, Sue Kurth, Pastor Kufahl, Marlene Rieck**

**MEETING AGENDA (MINUTES IN PARENTHESIS)**

1. Opening: Prayer/ Devotional (Prayer by Pastor)
2. Review minutes from June 2020 Meeting (Emailed. Motion to accept by Lynn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Carol. Passed unanimously)
3. Financial Report- Rick (Rick presented. Rick will contact Jean with some questions and email the board with any info after.)
4. Children's Report- Marlene (Marlene presented, please see her report for more info)
5. Youth Updates- Youth Leader or Representative (Pastor talked about some work that the youth are willing to do for some of the church congregation in the spirit of the servant event that was cancelled to North Carolina this year due to Covid-19)
6. Old business Items:
  1. VBS- July 27<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> (Marlene's report included this information)
7. New Business: Website (Board members should have gotten an invite to log in under the new website. The rest of the congregation will follow after that.)
8. Next meeting: Tuesday August 11<sup>th</sup> 2020 @ 7pm
9. Close in Prayer (Rick closed with a prayer)

# *Martha Society News*

## **MARTHA SOCIETY AUGUST 2020 NEWSLETTER**

**Our meeting in August will be on Wednesday, August 12. We will meet at 12 noon in the Fellowship Hall. It will be a brown bag lunch. We need someone to present Christian Life. If you are interested, please call me before the meeting. Something new we will be doing for our Martha meetings is practicing social distancing. Masks are encouraged but not mandatory.**

**Since we have not met in many months, we have much to discuss for planning out the rest of the year. It will be great to see everyone again.**

**Hope you can make our meeting!**

**Teri Kressin  
President**

# Birthdays & Anniversaries

## August Birthdays

1	Jayne Halsey	14	Robert Smith
	Lauren Ritzer	16	Ina Lee Jost
	Trevor Koritz	17	Sue Kurth
3	Chuck Atwater	18	Cindy Watts
	Debbie Lorenz	19	Dawn Lauber
4	Candice Behnke		Sharon Bauer
	Ruth Breen	20	Dennis Kolowith
5	Charles Sheffler		Kristie Ross
	Mandy Rottier		Tia Tryggeseth
6	Melissa Crum	21	Alvin Barden
7	Alayna Kufahl		Bradley Scafaro
8	Alexis Husing		Harold Versh
	Brenda Husing	23	Stephen Favorite
	Jannette Marien	24	Amanda Mattke
	Tina Smith		Matt Wilson
	Toni Van Doren		Wesley Pearce
10	Mary Steckling	27	Peggy Hansen
11	Devin Sauvola	28	Bill Trosien
12	Lisa Alft		Rick Behnke
13	Beverly Pfeifer	29	Jessica Karll
	Bob Blaul		Lois Derrick
	Donald Secord		Shari Mohrman
	Grant Meyer	31	Adalynn Kufahl
	Timothy Forss		Austin Shauger

## August Anniversaries

1	Terrance & Joanne Luebke	17	Richard & Denise Voss
3	Tim & Lauren Cross	20	Alan & Jill Geoffroy
4	Stephen & Marge Favorite	21	Brian & Shawn Uttech
5	Gary & Shele Fawcett		John & Sandra Apfel
6	Benjamin & Jessica Parling		Mark & Liz Rehorst
8	Herb & Jay Numrich	24	Rick & Ann Mai
11	Ron & Barb Patterson	29	Wayne & Marilyn Campbell
	Tom & Donna Timm	30	Patrick & Janice Grosse
15	Michael & Marlene Rieck		
	Woody & Ann Eno		

# August 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 9a Sunday Worship/Comm	27	28	29	30	31 Office Closed	1 7p Saturday Evening/Comm
2 9a Sunday Worship	3	4	5	6	7 Office Closed	8 7p Saturday Evening
9 9a Sunday Worship/Comm	10	11	12 10:30a Martha Board 11:30a Martha Meeting	13	14 Office Closed	15 7p Saturday Evening/Comm
16 9a Sunday Worship	17 9a Newsletter Articles Due	18	19	20	21 Office Closed	22 7p Saturday Evening
23 9a Sunday Worship/Comm	24	25	26	27	28 Office Closed	29 7p Saturday Evening/Comm
30 9a Sunday Worship/Comm	31	1	2	3	4	5 7p Saturday Evening/Comm



<u>Date/Service</u>	<u>Elders</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Readers</u>	<u>Media Operators</u>
August 1 <i>Communion</i>	Don Secord Keith Kentala	Dick Cherney Debbie Holewinski Dave Goddard Bob Johnson		Pat Crum	
August 2 9:00 AM	Gary Fawcett	Dave Parker Lynn Parker		Cindy Gauger	Shele Fawcett
August 8 7:00 PM	Jim Bonson	Jim Bonson Jim Harper		Bonnie Jozwowski	Jackie Pearce
August 9 <i>Communion</i>	Tim Kadlec Jacob Husing	Pat Grosse Jan Grosse		Diane Kuntz	Carol Pluedeman
August 15 <i>Communion</i>	Pat Crum Jim Bonson	Mark Olson Marv Jarvis Bob Merz		Pat Crum	
August 16 9:00 AM	Gary Fawcett	Andy Ellenberger Gerhard Becker Gerald Yetter		Rick Behrens	
August 22 7:00 PM	Pat Crum	Don Secord Kris Secord Del Keup Jim Bonson		Kris Secord	
August 23 <i>Communion</i>	Jacob Husing Keith Kentala	Grant Meyer Jerry Gifford Paul Kurth		Priscilla Ellenberger	
<b>IF YOU CANNOT BE THERE WHEN SCHEDULED, YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE TO GET A REPLACEMENT!!</b>					

<b>August 29</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	Jim Bonson Dick Cherney	Mark Olson Marv Jarvis Dave Goddard Jim Harper	Mary Malinsky	Jackie Pearce
<b>August 30</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	Gary Fawcett Tim Kadlec	Rick Behrens Karen Behrens RJ Behrens Denise Riemer	Marianne Braun	Shele Fawcett