

SAGACITY

NEWSLETTER OF S.A.G.E.S.

SAINTS ALIVE, GROWING, EVER SERVING



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Downloadable information about S.A.G.E.S. and the GATHERING is available at www.mnsdistrict.org under 'News and Events', S.A.G.E.S.' Email address: minnesotasouthsages@gmail.com

SAGACITY, n. [OF, fro, Latin sapiens, fr, sapere to be wise]

Quality of being sagacious; keenness of discernment or judgment.

SAGE, n. [OF, fr. sage, fr. L sapers to be wise]

A profoundly wise man; a person of high repute for wisdom; often someone who is venerated for the store of wisdom that has been accumulated during a long life.

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TOP 10 BACK TO SCHOOL QUIPS AND QUOTES

10. I have never let my schooling interfere with my education. – *Mark Twain*
9. Nathan comes home from his first day at school. Mother asks, 'What did you learn today?'
He replies, 'Not enough. I have to go back tomorrow.'
8. My school days were the happiest days of my life; which should give you some indication of the misery I've endured over the past twenty-five years. – *Paul Merton*
7. Mom: How did you find school today?
Youngster: I simply hopped off the bus – and there it was.
6. I took a test in Existentialism. I left all the answers blank and got 100. – *Woody Allen*
5. Mia: I think we need a new teacher.
Mom: Why is that?
Mia: Our teacher doesn't know anything, she keeps asking us for the answers.
4. Smartness runs in my family. When I went to school I was so smart my teacher was in my class for five years.
3. Teacher: Brett, your essay on 'My Dog' is exactly the same as your sister's. Did you copy her?
Brett: No miss; it's the same dog.
2. In elementary school, in case of fire you have to line up quietly in a single file line from the smallest to the tallest. What is the logic? Do tall people burn slower? – *Warren Hutcherson*
1. **Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world.** *Nelson Mandela*

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"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work." II Timothy 2:16, 17

When the Apostle Paul draws the attention of young Pastor Timothy to "all Scripture" what did Timothy understand by that?

How do we today interpret *all Scripture*?

How many canonical books make up our Bible today?

Were there any New Testament books available in Timothy's day?

Why do we believe, teach, and confess that the 27 books of the New Testament are to be included in the term "all Scripture"?

The sacred writings of Paul's day were the Books of Moses and those of the Prophets. Like Jesus said, "They have Moses and the Prophets." That should be enough to become wise until salvation.

How many of those books did young Timothy have in his library?

Why would a complete set of the Old Testament scrolls be a horrendous investment for any one individual in those days?

Paul points out that the Bible has a number of practical benefits for the individual and for the Church. These are . . .

The source of our doctrine and confession

reproof, or pointing out error

keeping the Church on the straight and narrow

offering guidance to the individual in godly living.

Paul points out that when the man of God who has used his Bible it serves a very practical purpose. It is the source of our doctrinal confessions, it gives us authority to point out error(s), it keeps the church on the straight and narrow, and serves as a guide in godly living. By having and using his Bible, Paul says the name of God may be "competent" (ESV) or "perfect" (KJ).

So then, the person whose faith-life is not founded on the Scriptures is sorely lacking in his character qualities. What reaction from the public could the person running for public office expect when he made it clear that he was a Bible-believing Christian?

(cont on next page)

What good works should the public see in the life of a true man of God?

What kinds of works should these be?

Our reaching heaven depends on our faith not on our works, not on our track record, but on our faith in our Savior Jesus. So why this emphasis on good works?

What does Jesus mean when He tells us to let our light shine so that people will see our good works?

UNDER OBSERVATION



Entry one: The new dental facility has taken over my life. First we cleaned for an hour so that all the problems could be beautifully illuminated. Then we cleared the schedule from July to December for activity and recovery time. If the government spent that much time on organization surely we'd be better off?

Entry two: What a lovely hot day in July for a Community Ed trip and a 2 hour boat ride on the wide part of the Mississippi called Lake Pepin. The boat had to move slowly because the lake was so high, but that made it easier to watch the eagles slowly circling about us. And a great partner for the bus ride on loan from his wife.

Entry three: Between the rain showers the golf games proceed as usual: sometimes better, sometimes worse. But in good company and with a good lunch at Bumps in sight at the end.

Entry four: Regardless of air conditioning, cooking in hot weather is not fun. So, lunch is sandwiches eaten standing at the counter, iced tea is made in large quantities, snacks are raw vegetables (mmm-cucumbers), and an evening meal is a mysterious collection from the fridge. A cold beer helps too, you know.

Entry five: The carpet cleaner arrived as I finished moving as much as possible from the living room. The nice guys said they could do the rest at no charge. OK. Then I left and when

I returned it was all done and dry. Remarkable business called Chem Dry and it was.

Entry six: Remember that rug cleaner? I vowed not to return anything to those rooms until it had been fully vetted and cleaned. At the rate that process is moving, the terminus may be December. It sounded like a good idea, but sorting and reading and closing and cleaning and packing and throwing are not easy. Sigh, but necessary.

Entry seven: A good friend died after a bout with Alzheimer's not helped by having to move twice. She was well-cared for, but it is difficult. The friends who gathered for the funeral remembered her best times and her family celebrated her life. Not a Lutheran but Dr. Klaus on LHM was her favorite pastor.

Entry eight: The fall LCEF workshops are always a treat – good program, old friends, and lunch. What more is there! Oh, yes, people who know what LCEF is and does, appreciate it and support it.

Entry nine: My favorite re-cycling truck driver was suitably impressed with the collection of newspapers I unloaded. Of course, he asked if I read them all so we pulled a few out of the pile so he could see that the quizzes and crossword puzzles were all done. No more questions.

Entry ten: The honey lady was at the farmer's market so the winter supply is in the bag. We had visited the processing facility and discovered the Sue-Bee company has bought the local producer. It's good!

Entry eleven: A reminder in short form from the LWML Convention: mercy is not getting what we deserve; grace is getting what we don't deserve.

Entry twelve: One hot summer day I thought about what seems to be missing in secular life in most of our world: tact, good manners, civility. Anybody care to add to the list without irritating the rest of us?

NO ONE HAS DONE HIS BEST UNTIL HE HAS TRAINED SOMEONE ELSE TO TAKE HIS PLACE.

Autumn is the season that is followed immediately by looking forward to spring.



Disclaimer: In all health issues, consult your personal medical professional for diagnosis and treatment.

Stay Active As You Get Older: Quick Tips

Physical activity is good for people of all ages. Staying active can help:

- ✓ Lower your risk of heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes, and some types of cancer
- ✓ Improve your strength and balance so you can prevent injuries and stay independent
- ✓ Improve your mood
- ✓ Feel better about yourself
- ✓ Improve your ability to think, learn, and make decisions

Before you start...

If you have a health problem like heart disease, diabetes, or obesity, talk to your doctor about the types and amounts of physical activity that are right for you.

Aim for 2 hours and 30 minutes a week of moderate aerobic activities.

- ✓ If you were not exercising before, start slowly. Begin with 10 minutes of aerobic activity and gradually build up to doing 30 minutes at a time.
- ✓ Aim for 30 minutes of aerobic activity on most days of the week.
- ✓ Choose aerobic activities – activities that make your heart beat faster – like walking fast, dancing, swimming, or raking leaves.
- ✓ Tell your doctor if you have shortness of breath, chest pain, or unplanned weight loss.

Do strengthening activities 2 days a week.

- ✓ Try using exercise bands or lifting hand weights. You can also use bottles of water or cans of food as weights.
- ✓ Breathe out as you lift the weight, and breathe in as you lower it. Don't hold your breath – holding your breath can cause unsafe changes in your blood pressure.

Do balance activities 3 or more days a week.

- ✓ Practice standing on one foot (hold onto a chair if you need to at first).
- ✓ Stand up from a sitting position without using your hands.
- ✓ Learn tai chi (“ty chee”), a Chinese mind-body exercise that involves moving the body slowly and gently.
- ✓ Sign up for a yoga class, or try following a yoga video at home.

(Information Disclaimer: The information on healthfinder.gov is not meant to take the place of health care or services you may need. Please see your primary health care provider about any personal health concerns.)
(U.S. Dept of Health & Human Services/healthfinder.gov)

How do you get a man to do sit-ups? **Put a remote control between his feet.**

FOOD QUIZ

Rich in zinc, a mineral that has been shown to decrease the severity of colds, a serving of this food is almost 100% of the general public's daily requirement of zinc. There are more than 850 species of these that are popular in the commercial market. Recommended allowances are 8 mg for women 11 mg for men. **What is the food? Crab**
One Alaskan King crab leg provides 10 mg of zinc.

This food is one of the richest in Vitamin C, which is important for immune health. While its distant cousin is spicier, this food is relatively mild. Commonly, it is cooked or eaten raw and a half-cup serving meets the Vitamin C needs for men and women. **What is the food? Red pepper**

This cool and creamy food contains beneficial probiotics to keep healthy your good gut bacteria, the key location of your immune system's germ-fighting cells. There are hundreds of different flavors, can be used in cooking or eaten on its own. Be sure the label states, ‘live and active cultures.’

What is the food? Yogurt

This brightly colored bite-sized fruit is packed with cold-fighting antioxidants. This food starts out green but changes to its distinctive color as it ripens.

What is the food? Blueberries

A first grade teacher in the state recently collected well known proverbs. She gave each child in class the first half of a proverb and had them come up with the rest. Here are a few examples:

1. It's always darkest before . . . *daylight saving time.*
2. Don't bite the hand that . . . *looks dirty.*
3. You can't teach an old dog new . . . *math.*
4. If you lie down with the dogs, you'll . . . *stink in the morning.*
5. Love all . . . *trust me.*
6. An idle mind is . . . *the best way to relax.*
7. A penny saved is . . . *not much.*
8. Don't put off tomorrow what . . . *you put on to go to bed.*
9. Children should be seen and not . . . *spanked or grounded.*
10. If at first you don't succeed . . . *get new batteries.*
11. When the blind leadeth the blind . . . *get out of the way.*
12. You can lead a horse to water but . . . *how?*

The elementary school cook prided herself on the healthy meals she provided with lots of vegetables and fruits. When the power failed one day, the cook couldn't serve a hot meal in the cafeteria, so at the last minute she whipped up great stacks of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches.

As one little boy filled his plate, he said, "It's about time. At last, a home cooked meal."

Toddler Property Laws

- If I like it, it's mine.
- If it's in my hand, it's mine.
- If I can take it away from you, it's mine.
- If I had it awhile ago, it's mine.
- If I'm doing or building something, all the pieces are mine.
- If you're playing with something and you put it down, it automatically becomes mine.
- If it's broken, it's yours.

On the first day of school, the kindergarten teacher said, "If anyone has to go to the bathroom, hold up two fingers."

A little voice in the back of the room asked, "How will that help?"

Jimmy had trouble pronouncing the letter "R" so his teacher gave him a sentence to practice at home: *Robert gave Richard a rap in the ribs for roasting the rabbit so rare.*

A few days later the teacher asked him to say the sentence for her. **Jimmy said, "Bob gave Dick a poke in the side for not cooking the bunny enough."**

A Texas farmer went to Australia for a vacation. There he met an Aussie farmer, and they started talking.

The Aussie showed off his big wheat field, and the Texan said, "Oh! We have wheat fields that are at least twice as large."

Then they walked around the ranch a little, and the Aussie showed off his herd of cattle. The Texan immediately said, "We have longhorns that are at least twice as large as your cows."

The conversation had, meanwhile, almost died when the Texan saw a herd of kangaroos hopping through the field. He asked, "And what are those?"

The Aussie asked with an incredulous look, "Don't you have any grasshoppers in Texas?"

A mother was playing the tooth fairy when her daughter suddenly woke up. Seeing the money in her mother's hand, the daughter said, "I caught you!"

The mother froze and tried to think of an explanation for why she - instead of the tooth fairy - was putting the money under her daughter's pillow. But her daughter's next words let the mother off the hook.

"You can put the money back!" the daughter said indignantly. "The tooth fairy left that for me!"

"A grandmother pretends she doesn't know who you are on Halloween."

Erma Bombeck



The Mighty Pumpkin

Jack-o-lanterns, pumpkin pie, bread, muffins, or soup - a very versatile plant.

- Pumpkins are fruits, a type of squash that includes cucumbers, squashes and melons.
- Pumpkins are low in calories, fat, and sodium and high in fiber.
- Pumpkins are good sources of Vitamin A, Vitamin B, potassium (positive effect on blood pressure), protein, and iron.
- Pumpkins contain antioxidants which could help prevent degenerative damage to the eyes.
- Pumpkin seeds can be roasted as a snack
- Pumpkins are used for feed for animals.
- Pumpkin flowers are edible.

Pumpkins are a warm weather plant with the month of October prime harvest time. The MN DNR website offers a map of pumpkin patch locations. Some will also offer hayrides, a corn maze, gourds and other Halloween activities.

Baking a pie? "Pie pumpkins" are smaller, sweeter, less grainy textured pumpkins than the usual jack-o-lantern types. In some parts of the country, they are also called sugar pumpkins or even "cheese pumpkins". Go figure that one. One 6" pie pumpkin usually makes one 10 inch deep dish pie **and a bit extra**; or two 9 inch shallow pies! (Caution: Commercial canned pumpkin is from a variety of butternut, not true pumpkins! If you insist on using a regular Jack O' Lantern type pumpkin, you may need to add about 25% more sugar and run the cooked pumpkin through a blender or food processor to help smooth it out.)

What do you get when you divide the circumference of your jack-o-lantern by it's diameter?

Pumpkin Pi



Vegetables are a must on a diet. I suggest carrot cake, zucchini bread and pumpkin pie.

A lady was looking for a turkey but couldn't find one big enough. She asked the stock boy, "Do these turkeys get any bigger?"

The stock boy replied, "No. They are all dead."

"An optimist is one who starts a diet on Thanksgiving Day." Irv Kupcinec (columnist, TV host, radio personality)

Experts say the average person will gain about six pounds between Thanksgiving Day and New Year's Eve.

Why did they let the turkey join the band? Because he had the drumsticks.



NOTICE: There are openings for board representatives in the southwest part of the state. Please pray that hearts will be open to this opportunity. All board members are volunteers who enjoy serving together.

The print edition of SAGACITY is in black and white.

The online edition will have color. Go to:

mnsdistrict.org, in the top bar, click on News and Events to get a dropdown box, click SAGES, scroll down to find the online version of SAGACITY.

Dick was in trouble. He forgot his wedding anniversary. His wife was really angry.

She told him, "Tomorrow morning I expect to find a gift in the driveway that goes from 0 to 200 in six seconds and it better be there!"

The next morning he got up early and left for work. When his wife woke up, she looked out the window and sure enough, there was a gift-wrapped box in the middle of the driveway. Confused, the wife put on her robe and ran out to the driveway, brought the box back in the house. She opened it and found a brand-new bathroom scale.

Dick has been missing since Friday.

Start your day the Lutheran way
by drinking

This is Most Certainly Brew
Gourmet Coffee

Our coffee beans are hand-selected from
the country of origin, then
custom-roasted right here in Minnesota,
bringing you
the freshest coffee possible.

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Makes great Christmas gifts!

***An ongoing enterprise of Martin
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C · O · F · F · E · E

CHRIST OFFERS FORGIVENESS FOR EVERYONE EVERYWHERE

From Martin Luther High School, Northrup MN, comes a gourmet coffee business, "This is Most Certainly Brew." The goal? To perpetually generate income to support the ministry. Four blends are currently available in 12 oz and 5# bags: Pastor's Study Blend, Bible Study Blend, Church Basement Brew, and Eternally Yours Decaf.

Their website, www.thisismostcertainlybrew.com, features descriptions of the blends, selling partners' locations, and a downloadable brochure. Orders and payment can be placed on their secure website, and, you can also 'like' them on Facebook.

Gift ideas - Christmas, birthdays, Reformation celebrations, thank you or thinking of you, and remembering coffee-drinking pastors -- October is Pastor Appreciation Month!

Church sign:

DON'T LET THE SIN THAT ATTACKS YOU
BECOME THE SIN WITHIN YOU.

S.A.G.E.S.

(Saints Alive, Growing, Ever Serving)
~MN South District Older Adult Ministry~

Gathering XXXI

will be held May 6 and 7, 2019, at Country Inn & Suites, Mankato.

The **GATHERING** is designed to provide information and fellowship, and to demonstrate how older Christians can serve each other as well as have activities or entertainment that they will find enjoyable.

The S.A.G.E.S. Governing Board will meet in October and December to finalize details of the program and speaker. The January SAGACITY will contain information about the speaker, workshop descriptions and program, registration form, and motel information.

Ole and Lena went to the Olympics. While sitting on a bench, a lady turned to Ole and said, "Are you a pole vaulter?"

Ole said, "No, I'm Norwegian . . . and my name isn't Valter."

Sign on an animal shelter: "Children left unattended will be given a puppy or a kitten."



WE PRAISE YOU,
O GOD, OUR
REDEEMER,
CREATOR

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you, we kneel and adore you;
We bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.

We worship you, God of our fathers, we bless you;
Through trial and tempest our guide you have been.
When perils over take us, you will not forsake us,
And with your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.

With voices united our praises we offer
And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
With you, Lord, beside us, your strong arm will guide
us.

To you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

LSB 785, text written in 1902 by Julia C. Cory,
1882-1963.

2018 ADVENT BEGINS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2 AND ENDS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24.

QUESTION: Why does the church year begin at Advent, what is the history of Advent, and what is the history behind the Advent candles and wreath?

ANSWER: The word "advent" is from the Latin word for "coming," and as such, describes the "coming" of our Lord Jesus Christ into the flesh. Advent begins the church year because the church year begins where Jesus' earthly life began — in the Old Testament prophecies of his incarnation.

After Advent comes Christmas, which is about his birth; then Epiphany, about his miracles and ministry; then Lent, about his Calvary-bound mission; then Easter, about his resurrection and the sending of the apostles; and then Ascension (40 days after Easter) and Pentecost, with the sending of the Holy Spirit.

The first half of the church year (approximately December through June) highlights the *life* of

Christ. The second half (approximately June through November) highlights the *teachings* of Christ. The parables and miracles play a big part here. That's "the church year in a nutshell," and it should help reveal how Advent fits into "the big picture."

Advent specifically focuses on Christ's "coming," but Christ's coming manifests itself among us in three ways — past, present, and future.

The readings which highlight Christ's coming in the past focus on the Old Testament prophecies of his incarnation at Bethlehem. The readings, which highlight Christ's coming in the future, focus on his "second coming" on the Last Day at the end of time. And the readings that highlight Christ's coming in the present focus on his ministry among us through Word and Sacrament today.

The traditional use of Advent candles (sometimes held in a wreath) originated in eastern Germany even prior to the Reformation. As this tradition came down to us by the beginning of this century, it involved three purple candles and one pink candle.

The purple candles matched the purple paraments on the altar (purple for the royalty of the coming King). The pink candle was the third candle to be lit (not the fourth) on Gaudete Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent. "Gaudete" means "Rejoice!" in Latin, which is taken from Phil. 4:4. ("Rejoice! ... the Lord is near"). Hence a "pink" candle was used to signify "rejoicing." Some also included a white "Christ candle" in the middle to be lit during the 12 days of Christmas (Dec. 25 to Jan. 5).

The concept of giving each candle a name, i.e., Prophecy, Bethlehem, Shepherd and Angel, etc., is a relatively novel phenomenon and probably originates with certain entrepreneurial publishers seeking to sell Advent candles and devotional booklets.

(From LCMS website, "Church Year FAQs")



So many languages and a smile speaks them all.

Love and kindness are never wasted. They always make a difference.

INK PINK is a word game with a definition for the answer that must rhyme, e.g. an obese feline = a fat cat.

INK PINK

1. tidy chair = _____
2. lengthy music = _____
3. intoxicated animal = _____
4. runaway elk = _____
5. boisterous group = _____
6. baked spirit = _____
7. bashful beau = _____
8. heavy fish = _____
9. limping woman = _____
10. well-groomed hen = _____
11. bald head = _____
12. library thief = _____
13. damp airplane = _____
14. stupid digit = _____
15. furious boy = _____



INKY PINKY is the same game, but the answers must have two syllables. E.g. a rubbery feline = flabby tabby

INKY PINKY

1. fat car = _____
2. spoiled fiber = _____
3. funny goat = _____
4. good-natured father = _____
5. terrible trick = _____
6. nice fowl = _____
7. fat husband = _____
8. dumb matchmaker = _____
9. counterfeit bill = _____
10. skinny bird = _____
11. quiet dessert = _____
12. petite bratwurst = _____
13. robust celebration = _____
14. bloody tale = _____
15. seminary professor = _____

Answers to Geographical Location quiz on page 9 in the last issue:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. California | 18. Chattenoga |
| 2. St. Louis | 19. Tipperary |
| 3. Paris | 20. Venice |
| 4. London | 21. Ireland |
| 5. Indiana | 22. Mexico |
| 6. Missouri/Tennessee/
St. Paul | 23. New Orleans |
| 7. Pennsylvania | 24. Connecticut |
| 8. Virginia | 25. Kentucky |
| 9. New York | 26. Arkansas |
| 10. China | 27. Chicago |
| 11. Alabama | 28. India |
| 12. Georgia | 29. Mandalay |
| 13. San Francisco | 30. Buffalo |
| 14. Vermont | 31. Mohawk |
| 15. Maryland/Maryland | 32. Kwai |
| 16. Rockie | 33. Danube |
| 17. Carolina | 34. Capri |
| | 35. Rhode Island |

36. Blue Ridge Mtns
37. Illinois
38. Nuremberg
39. Oregon
40. Russia
41. Hawaii
42. Brooklyn
43. Texas
44. Ohio/Wyoming

Answer to Rebus on page 10 of last issue:

1. sandbox
2. man overboard
3. tricycle
4. split level
5. G.I. overseas
6. neon lights

7. high chair
8. I understand
9. paradise
10. mind over matter
11. reading between the lines
12. life after death
13. 3 degrees below zero
14. backward glance
15. long underwear
16. touchdown
17. he's beside himself
18. see you around
19. just between you and me
20. six feet underground



Select a song from the list below and fill in the blanks to complete the story. If you want to make it really tough, cover the answer list at the bottom and do it from memory. Note that in some cases there are several answers that may fit in to any given blank. However, part of the puzzle is to make sure that you use every song title once appropriately.

One _____ as we were tucked in our bed and dreaming of a _____ we heard a noise _____. My husband and I quickly got out of bed to see what was happening. We couldn't believe our eyes for there was _____ standing in our living room looking down at our young lad and saying _____? Our son was talking to him and telling him _____. I turned to my husband and said _____?

My husband said, "Well, _____ around here. At least it is not like last year when our son was telling everybody _____. I sure am glad you didn't make me wear that outfit again this year." We told Santa "have a _____" and left him to his work. As we left, we asked, "Is there anything else you need?" He replied, "For the sake my sleigh _____, _____, _____." We awoke on Christmas morning to find that someone had decorated our tree. We inquired, "_____ who decorated you? And now what does the rest of the house need?" The tree boughed and then pined, "You could _____, I miss her."

Soon the phone rang and it was our daughter telling us _____ or else I'll have a _____ without you. We were wondering how we would tell her the news that her _____. And no, it wasn't _____ who did it.

At dusk carolers came into our yard, stood amongst the spruce and fir and sang _____ among the leaves so green. So we passed out mugs of mulled cider and then sent them on their way. Another Christmas day was done and we sat with a cup of cider as we listened to the crackle of the _____, raised our glasses to this toast to all of you. _____!

----- Fold bottom up to here if you'd like a real challenge ----- *Not in correct order* 1. Oh Christmas Tree, Oh Christmas Tree 2. Up on the Housetop 3. Blue Christmas 4. All I want for Christmas is My Two Front Teeth 5. Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer 6. Jolly Old St. Nicholas 7. We Wish You a Merry Christmas 8. Holly Jolly Christmas 9. It's Beginning to Look a lot Like Christmas 10 I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus 11. Let it Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow 12. Silent Night 13. I'll be Home for Christmas 14. Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer 15. Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire 16. Here We Come A Wassailing 17. What Child Is This? 18. White Christmas 19. Do you Hear What I Hear? 20. Deck the Halls with Boughs of Holly.

Senior LinkAge Line

1-800-333-2433

Free information and assistance service of the Minnesota Board on Aging – a State Agency

Helpful Telephone Numbers

Social Security Administration

1-800-772-1213

Service available from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on business days. Call to provide notification of death or to inquire about survivor benefits.

U. S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs (VA)

1-800-827-1000

Call for survivor benefits, burial benefits or to provide notification of death.

United Way 2-1-1

Metro 2-1-1-

Or (651) 291-0211

Free, confidential, multilingual information is offered 24 hours every day. United Way 2-1-1 is a unique community information and referral service. Call if you need to know where to turn for help.

2020 trip to Italy and the Oberammergau

Passion Play is being hosted by ALOA (Adult

Lutherans Organized for Action). Leave Tampa FL Sept 20, return Oct 2, 2020 for an 11-day tour of Italy, plus the once-every decade performance of the Passion Play in Oberammergau, Germany. Visit cities and sites of significance to Christians all over the world. This trip will include sites in: Rome, Assisi, Florence, Padua, and Venice, along with the Passion Play. Go to aloaserves.org to download a brochure for more information.

Travel with MN South District

An item from the MN South District eNews: Pastor Jon Vollrath is leading a trip to the Holy Land in 2019. Contact Pastor Vollrath at pastorjonvollrath@yahoo.com or call 507-272-3104 for information.

Lutherans for Life:

“God adopts. The Gospel is about adoption. Salvation’s story can’t be told apart from adoption. Christianity can’t happen without it ... Pharaoh’s daughter adopting Moses leads to the Hebrews ending up liberated ... Joseph adopting Jesus sets in motion sinners getting forgiven. Father Almighty offers His Son and adopts human beings for us to have a faith relationship with the Lord God and the hope of resurrection to everlasting life in His heavenly kingdom. No wonder early Christians opened the world’s first orphanages.” *Rev. Michael W. Salemink, executive director of Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • www.lutheransforlife.org*

Charities Information for the Public

Minnesota residents are among the most generous in the nation. For many donors, a difficult aspect of choosing a charity to support is ensuring that it will use the donation as intended—to further its charitable purpose. While many charities use the majority of the donations they receive to benefit a charitable mission, some do not. States used to require that a certain percentage (for example, 75%) of a charitable donation go toward the charity’s mission. The United States Supreme Court, however, invalidated several such laws on First Amendment grounds. These rulings make it critical for donors to do their homework to ensure a charity is reputable and that their donation will actually go to a charitable purpose.

Tips on Avoiding Common Scams:

- Sham Charities (scammers pick a sympathetic cause but don’t use funds for that purpose)
- Sound-Alike Organizations (scammers capitalize on sound-alike name of a well known charity)
- High Pressure Tactics
- False Pledge Claims (scammers mail or call claiming pledged amount was not received when there was no pledge given)

Tips on Researching Charities:

- See if charity is registered
 - Attorney Generals Office, *Search for Charities* webpage
 - Ask if the charity uses a “Professional Fundraiser”

More Information on this and other Scams and Frauds available on the MN Attorney General website.



Don't Dial "1" to Stop Bogus Calls

From the Office of Minnesota Attorney General Lori Swanson

It can happen like this:

"Ted" answers his phone. A pre-recorded voice instructs him to press "1" to stop future calls or "2" to speak with a live person. Ted presses "1" because he wants the calls to stop.

"Beth" receives a similar call. She presses "2", intending to tell the caller to stop calling. In both cases, the call immediately disconnects. Neither "Ted" or "Beth" ever speak with a live person.

Pressing one of these numbers may seem harmless, but doing so may lead to an *increase* in calls. Here's why:

Scam artists often use dialing machines to place calls using a number generator. The automated dialer does not know when it dials a number whether or not that specific phone number is active. Answering such a call and then pressing "1" or "2" in response indicates that the number is valid and that someone has picked up the call. The scammer then may call again, knowing there is a good chance the call will be answered, in an effort to commit a financial scam. Or, the scammer may place your number on a list of "live" phone numbers he sells to other scammers.

If you get unwanted calls, the most effective approach is to simply hang up without speaking. Do not press any buttons, which just confirms that your number is active.

Unfortunately, given the ease with which such calls can be placed with modern technology, there is no quick or easy way to end these types of calls. These calls are almost always made by people located outside Minnesota, and often outside the United States. People should report these calls to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), which has the authority to enforce laws regarding

unwanted calls and work with international law enforcement authorities to curb financial scams. You may contact the FTC as follows:

Federal Trade Commission
Consumer Response Center
600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20580
(877) 382-4357
TTY: (866) 653-4261
www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov

For more information about these and other scams, you may contact the Minnesota Attorney General's Office at:

Office of Minnesota Attorney General Lori Swanson
445 Minnesota Street, Suite 1400
St. Paul, MN 55101
(651) 296-3353 (Twin Cities Calling Area)
(800) 657-3787 (Outside the Twin Cities)
TTY: (651) 297-7206 or (800) 366-4812
www.ag.state.mn.us

