

SAGACITY

NEWSLETTER OF S.A.G.E.S. SAINTS ALIVE, GROWING, EVER SERVING



VOL 30, No. 3

October, 2020

Downloadable information about S.A.G.E.S. and the GATHERING is available at www.mnsdistrict.org under "Get Involved" tab, 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.

SAGES OFFICERS*

PRESIDENT:

*Rev. James Vehling
St. John Lutheran, Woodbury

VICE PRESIDENT

*Rev. Don Taylor
New Creation, Shakopee

SECRETARY

*Jeanine Roth
St. Peter's Lutheran, Edina

TREASURER

*Dick Swedean
Emanuel Luth, Inver Gr Hgts

CHAPLAIN

*Rev. David Preuss
Our Savior's Lutheran, Eyota

SAGACITY EDITOR

*Delores McGillivray
Redeemer Lutheran, Rochester
*Pauline Wiemann
Peace Lutheran, Arlington

Reprinted with permission from Church Press Newsletter, October 2019

By Rev. Bob Tasler (This story was written by Pamela Hiscocks, a young woman who lived courageously despite her physical disabilities.)



THE BUMMER LAMB

"Every once in awhile, a ewe will give birth to a lamb and reject it. There are many reasons she may do this. If the lamb is returned to the ewe, the mother may push or even kick the poor animal away. Once a ewe rejects

one of her lambs, she will never change her mind. These little lambs will hang their heads so low that it looks like something is wrong with its neck. Its spirit is broken.

"These lambs are called Bummer Lambs. Unless the shepherd intervenes, that lamb will die, rejected all alone. So, do you know what the shepherd does? He takes that rejected little one into his home, hand-feeds it and keeps it warm by the fire. He will wrap it up with blankets and hold it to his chest so the Bummer can hear his heart beat. Once the lamb is strong enough, the shepherd will place it back in the field with the rest of the flock.

"But that sheep never forgets how the shepherd cared for him when his mother rejected him. When the shepherd calls for the flock, guess who runs to him first? That's right - the Bummer sheep. He knows his voice intimately. It is not that the Bummer Lamb is loved more, it just knows intimately the one who loves it. It has experienced the shepherd's love one on one.

"So many of us are Bummer Lambs, rejected and broken. But He [Jesus] is the Good Shepherd. He cares for our every need and holds us close to His heart so we can hear His heart beat. We may be broken but we are deeply loved by the Good Shepherd.

Pamela died in 2017 at age 39. Her obituary said she loved and cared for animals, as well as her friends and family, with a great heart, and she inspired people with her passionate spirit to celebrate the joys and adventures of life. Pamela was of First Nations descent, Canadian people who often live just below the Arctic Circle. Some are known as Inuit, others as Metis. I first thought of re-writing her article but decided to send it to you just as she wrote it.

In God's Holy Word, Jesus told us, "I am the Good Shepherd who lays down His life for the sheep... I know my own and my own know me." (John 10:11,14) Let us give thanks that the Good Shepherd cares for us, loving us, holding us to His heart, feeding us and giving us life when others would not.

At Redeemer Lutheran Church, Rochester, Pastor Adam Koglin and Pastor Benjamin Loos, took the congregation through “40 Days of Prayer,” emphasizing prayer topics in the Sunday sermon and following with daily prayer questions. One week the congregation was **PRAYING FOR WISDOM** (shared with permission):

Throughout the whole COVID-19 experience there has been a plethora of information, misinformation, data, and speculation. Here is a guide as we take a week to pray for God to help us ground our lives in wisdom which can only come from Him. How do we live with the best information that we have at the current time and trusting in the Lord who gives us all things? What is wisdom? How do we get it? How do we use it?

Monday: Re-read yesterday’s sermon scripture. Write down one point from yesterday’s sermon that God placed on your heart and turn into a prayer. (If the service was live streamed, go back and listen to the sermon again.)

Tuesday: Read 1 Kings 3:5-10. What is the difference between knowledge and wisdom? From where do we get both of these things? In this pandemic do we have knowledge? Do we have wisdom? Pray for humility that recognizes the source of both. Pray to God to give us both the ways that we need it.

Wednesday: Read Proverbs 9:10. What do you think ‘fear of the Lord’ means? If I told you it is a spectrum from fear to awe of His infinite being and love and splendor, what would you say has been the primary mode you have been living under in these COVID-10 days? Neither is “wrong”, and both are “right”. If it is fear, pray a prayer of repentance and lean on God’s infinite mercy in Jesus. If it is awe, pray a prayer of gratitude, contentment and praise.

Thursday: Read Proverbs 11:14 and Proverbs 27:17. In what way have you felt the lack of other’s counsel during this time of isolation? In what way have others’ been a counsel to you during this time? In what ways have you sinfully rejected other’s counsel? Try to answer all of them and turn those answers into a prayer of thanksgiving and repentance.

Friday: Read Job 28. Why is God the source of all wisdom, while it is “hidden from our eyes.” In other words, what is the difference between God’s perspective and ours? (More than one right answer!) Where in your life right now do you notice and feel this difference most acutely? Pray a prayer of acknowledgment and awe and reliance/trust that you are led to the light of this difference.

John 1:1-2 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.

Sing or say this hymn - *God of Grace and God of Glory*, LSB 850

MN S District Liason

*Dr. Phillip Johnson, Asst. to President for Congregational Mission Formation

Conf/Circuit Representatives

CAPITOL/Circuits 1,2

*Connie Petersen
St. Stephanus Lutheran
St. Paul MN

LYNDALE/Circuits 3,4

*Marvin & Hazel Schumann
Messiah Lutheran
Lakeville MN

MINNEAPOLIS/Circuits 5,6,7

*Dick & Joyce Swedan
Emanuel Lutheran
Inver Grove Hts MN

***WEST METRO Circuits 8,9,10 (N&S Carver)**

*Jayne Cambronne
*Katherine Bart
St. Paul Lutheran
Watertown MN

OWATONNA Circuits 14,15,16

*Len & Lois Marquardt
Grace Lutheran
Dodge Center MN

N. CROW RIVER Circuits 17,18

*Sharon Haberkamp
*Darlene Ave-Lallemant
Our Savior’s Lutheran
Hutchinson MN

S. CROW RIVER Circuits 19, 20

*Trudy Wiechmann
Our Savior’s Lutheran
Mankato MN
*Kay Stewart
Good Shepherd Lutheran
N. Mankato MN

SOUTHWEST E/Circuits 21,22 (OPEN)

SOUTHWEST W/Circuits 23,24 (OPEN)

WHITEWATER/Circuits 11,12,13

*David & Margaret Hohenstein
Redeemer Lutheran
Winona MN

(Notice to Circuits 21-24:
Volunteers needed to represent one or both circuits on the Board.)

Entry one: It's a strange time we are enduring, but I'm happy to wake up each day so far and ask my Lord what He wants me to do today. Of course, I don't always get it done. .



Entry three: We managed to confirm our young people publicly finally two months later than usual. But the joy for the teens and their families made our congregation a happy group of worshippers.

Entry four: The library made it possible for me to add another 46 books to my shut down days. At this point I'm becoming more discriminating in my choices. There have been a number of losers as time goes on in the reader's world. Has anyone noticed that best sellers lists contain mostly non-American born writers? They're probably too busy texting.

Entry five: Thank goodness for the Schwan man! Ice cream goodies and other delights can make my day.

Entry six: A thought shared by a local sports enthusiast: why do 20,000 kids in Minnesota play soccer each year? So they don't have to watch it.

Entry seven: A large number (20 or so) of sparrows are taking dirt baths in my garden's loose soil as the vegetables are removed. They really look like they're having fun!

Entry eight: Is it a dearth of writers or sponsors that has led to a ghastly TV season? Between reality (?) and game shows, the mind boggles at the death of imagination and curiosity in the business.

Entry nine: The Garden Club soldiers on maintaining a lovely display in the park gardens. It was supposed to be a year of celebrating 90 years of serving the community, but like everything else, the idea was planted, flowered briefly and died.

Entry ten: The primary election day came and went. That's about it. If the November

election day is the same, my being an election judge will be no fun at all!

Entry eleven: Our congregation held 3 drive-through food fund raisers to replace our fair stand serving. Lots of work, good help (especially one teenager!) and we ran out of food twice. The hit of the event was a rib dinner – why not? Now other people are doing the same.

Entry twelve: Having a military burial service for my 98 year old brother was a dignified and comforting way to bid farewell. We need to appreciate the people who can do that well

Entry thirteen: A Short Course in Courtesy:
6 most important words – “I admit I made a
mistake.” 5 most – “You did a good job.” 4
most – “What is your opinion?” 3 most – “If
you please.” 2 most – “Thank you.” 1 most –
“We”.

Entry fourteen: A reminder to all of us from a song, “It’s a long, long while from May to December, And the days grow short when you reach September . . .” “these golden days I’d spend with you.” A delightful musical by Kurt Weill and Maxwell Anderson.

A pilgrimage to the Holy Land will forever change you and how you read the Scriptures. Each place brings to light many stories of Scripture. This is your homeland, your spiritual homeland.

This Holy Land trip includes the best of the Christian guides in Israel. Pastor Jon Vollrath will serve as a host. Also, Lutheran Hour emeritus speaker, Pastor Ken Klaus, is an organizer, teacher, and inspirational devotional leader for the trip. If you ever wanted to go to the Holy Land in your lifetime, here is your grand opportunity. Just contact Pastor Jon Vollrath for more information at 507-272-3105 or pastor jonvollrath@yahoo.com. These trips tend to fill up in a few months so please contact Pastor Vollrath sooner rather than later.



- S.A.G.E.S. President, Rev. James Vehling, served as a missionary to Japan through LCMS World Mission twice - .1966-1979 and again 1986-1993.
- S.A.G.E.S. Vice President, Rev. Don Taylor, is a charter member of S.A.G.E.S. being on the initial group which now celebrates 32 years.
- SAGACITY editor emeritus, Pauline Wiemann, is also a charter member and has attended every GATHERING (30) since it started.
- S.A.G.E.S. Treasurer Dick Swedean and wife, Joyce, participate in a prison ministry through Crossing Home in Minnesota.
- Board member, Trudy Wiechmann, has six children, 20 grandchildren, and 43 great-grandchildren.
- Board members, Len and Lois Marquardt, are travelers, having visited all 50 states and 60 countries on all 7 continents. During the pandemic, they have visited MN State Parks. Their favorite so far? Frontenac State Park, Frontenac MN.
- Board member, Connie Petersen, was in Christian education for 40 years, 10 in WI and 30 in MN. She has visited the Holy Land, and followed St. Paul's second and third missionary journey.

- S.A.G.E.S. is officially a tax-exempt non-profit organization in the State of Minnesota? As a non-profit, the sustainability and continuity of the S.A.G.E.S. is dependent upon donations from supporters. Direct contributions can be made by check to S.A.G.E.S. and mailed to Treasurer Dick Swedean, 1535A Clemson Drive, Eagan MN 55122. Contributions may also be made to the MN South District LCMS with SAGES designated in the check memo line. And Thrivent dollars may also be directed to the organization.

NOTICE to members who receive SAGACITY in print format: Due to increased costs in printing and postage, the S.A.G.E.S. Board has decided to offer **SAGACITY** by subscription beginning January 1, 2021, at an annual cost of \$15 (4 printed issues). To continue receiving a print copy, send a check for \$15 to Dick Swedean at 1535A Clemson Drive, Eagan MN 55122. Put 'subscription' in the memo line. If you would like to switch to a digital copy, which is free, please notify the editor of your email address at minnesotasouthsages@gmail.com.

Just can't get away from . . .

HIBERNATION HUMOR

There will be a minor baby boom in 9 months, and then one day in 2033, we shall witness the rise of **the quaranteens.**

So we're into our 6th month of defeating COVID-19. These words made me laugh but there's a lot of truth mixed in to consider. . .

1. So let me get this straight, there's no cure for a virus that can be killed by sanitizer and hand soap?
2. Is it too early to put up the Christmas tree yet? I have run out of things to do.
3. When this virus thing is over with, I still want some of you to stay away from me.
4. If these last months have taught us anything, it's that stupidity travels faster than any virus on the planet, particularly among politicians and bureaucrats.
5. Just wait a second – so what you're telling me is that my chance of surviving all this is directly linked to the common sense of others? You're kidding, right?
6. People are scared of getting fined or arrested for congregating in crowds, as if catching a deadly disease and dying a horrible death wasn't enough of a deterrent.
7. If you believe all this will end and we will get back to normal just because we reopen everything, raise your hand. Now slap yourself with it.
8. Another Saturday night in the house and I

just realized the trash goes out more than me.

9. Whoever decided a liquor store is more essential than a hair salon is obviously a bald-headed alcoholic.
10. Remember when you were little and all your underwear had the days of the week on them. Those would be helpful right now.
11. Remember all those times when you wished the weekend would last forever? Well, wish granted. Happy now?
12. It may take a village to raise a child, but I swear it's going to take a whole vineyard to home school one.
13. Did a big load of pajamas so I would have enough clean work clothes for this week.
14. (This is a repeat but too good not to list again.) The spread of Covid-19 is based on two factors: 1. How dense the population is and 2. How dense the population is.

Now is not the right time to surround yourself with positive people.

And remember . . .



Former LMCS President Jerry Keischnick posts a blog on Lutheran Hour Ministries Daily Devotion under the title:

PERSPECTIVES.

This was his post on July 16, 2020:

“Today I’ve chosen to lighten up a bit on those topics but still go deep by sharing some simple but sage advice from three very wise men.

Albert Einstein (1879-1955) about life:

1. Stay away from negative people. They have a problem for every solution.
2. We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them.
3. A person who never made a mistake never tried anything new.
4. You never stop failing until you stop trying.
5. Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving.
6. Two things are infinite--the universe and human stupidity, and I’m not sure about the universe.
7. Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.
8. Weak people revenge. Strong people forgive. Intelligent people ignore.
9. Logic will get you from A to B. Imagination will take you everywhere.
10. You have to learn the rules of the game, and then play better than anyone else.

Will Rogers (1879-1935) about growing older:

1. One day you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.
2. The older we get, the fewer things seem worth waiting in line for.
3. When you are dissatisfied and would like to go back to your youth, think of algebra.
4. You know you’re getting old when everything either dries up or leaks.
5. I don't know how I got over the hill without getting to the top.

6. One thing no one tells you about aging is that it’s such a nice change from being young.
7. One must wait until evening to see how splendid the day has been.
8. Being young is beautiful, but being old is comfortable and relaxed.
9. If you don't learn to laugh at trouble, you won't have anything to laugh at when you're old.
10. Long ago, when men cursed and beat the ground with sticks, it was called witchcraft. Today it's called golf.

Jesus Christ (4 B.C.-30 A.D.?) about faith, life, love, and trust:

1. Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled; everyone who humbles himself will be exalted.
2. Ask and it will be given you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will open unto you.
3. Do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious enough for itself.
4. Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.
5. Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to cast a stone.
6. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
7. I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
8. I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he dies, yet shall he live.
9. Your Father in heaven makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.
10. God sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved.

I pray that your day and your life will be lightened and brightened by these three very wise men.”

From LHM **Perspectives**, July 16



The information on this page comes from the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) website.

Taking Care of Your Emotional Health

The outbreak of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID 19) may cause stress for people and communities. It is natural to feel stress, anxiety, grief, and worry when our lives are changed. Everyone reacts differently, and your own feelings will change over time. Notice and accept how you feel. Taking care of your emotional health during an emergency will help you think clearly and react to the urgent needs to protect yours and family. There is a lot of “self-talk” needed.

People with pre-existing mental health conditions should continue with their treatment plans during an emergency and monitor for any new symptoms.

Take the following steps to cope with a disaster:

- **Take care of your body**—Try to eat healthy well-balance meals, exercise regularly, and get plenty of sleep. Avoid alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs
- **Connect with others**—Share your concerns and how you are feeling with a friend or family member. Talk with other congregation members, Stephen Ministers, and parish nurses. Build a strong support system.
- **Take breaks**—Make time to unwind and remind yourself that strong feelings will fade. Try taking in deep breaths. Try to do activities you usually enjoy. Try to remember that we are all going thru this. We can all be short-tempered.
- **Stay informed**—When you feel that you are missing information, you may become more stressed or nervous. Watch, listen to, or read the news for updates from officials. Be aware that there may be rumors during a crisis especially on social media. Limit time watching the news.

Adults 65 and Older Need a Flu Shot

Influenza (the flu) can be a serious illness, especially for older adults.

FACT: People 65 years and older are at high risk of serious flu complications.

People's immune systems become weaker with age placing people 65 years and older at high risk of serious flu complications compared with young, healthy adults. During most seasons, people 65 years and older bear the greatest burden of severe flu disease. Between about 70 percent and 85 percent of seasonal flu-related deaths in the United States occur among people 65 years and older. And people 65 and older account for between about 50 percent and 70 percent of the flu-related hospitalizations.

An annual flu vaccine is the best way to reduce your risk of flu and its potentially serious consequences.

FACT: While flu vaccine can vary in how well it works, vaccination is the best way to prevent flu and its potentially serious complications.

Flu vaccination has been shown to reduce the risk of flu illness and more serious flu outcomes that can result in hospitalization or even death in older people. While some people who get vaccinated may still get sick, flu vaccination has been shown in several studies to reduce severity of illness in those people.'

Long-term medical conditions also can put you at high risk of serious flu complications.

FACT: Flu can make long-term health problems worse, even if they are well managed.

Diabetes, asthma, and chronic heart disease (even if well managed) are among the most common long-term medical conditions that place people at high risk of serious flu complications. It is particularly important that all adults with these or other chronic medical conditions get a flu vaccine every year.

CELEBRATORY UPCOMING DATES:
REFORMATION, THANKSGIVING, CHRISTMAS



S.A.G.E.S.
Saints Alive! Growing, Ever Serving
14301 Grand Avenue South
Burnsville MN 55306-570

Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID'
Permit No. 32608
Twin Cities

The 2020 GATHERING
was cancelled, but we
look forward with

COURAGE TODAY

HOPE TOMORROW

as we plan for

20/20 Vision in 2021

God,

grant us the serenity to

accept the things we

cannot change, courage

to change the things we

can, and wisdom to

know the difference

'Thy will be done.'

Mark your calendars for
next year's dates:

May 3 and 4, 2021

at Country Inn and Suites, Mankato

GATHERING XXXII

Featured Presenter - Rev. Mark Jeske

Senior Pastor, St. Marcus Lutheran, Milwaukee WI

creator of *Time of Grace* television program

20/20 VISION



"...having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,..."

Ephesians 1:18

