

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 "Get Involved" tab, S.A.G.E.S.

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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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(Reprinted with permission from January "RichandCharlie" Resources)

HOORAY! – 2020 has left us and we are ready for a brand new year of blessings, hope, peace, love, and ministries with and to others! Why not imagine you as the "1" in 2021 –the one to make a big difference in the lives of others as we serve and celebrate together, in the One Lord, Jesus!

So, #1's, let's spell JANUARY this year:

J –JOY - Knowing that our Lord Jesus is still in control, still

blessing us to be JOY-filled blessings to others!

A – ANTICIPATE – Both the challenges and the blessings we will

have and knowing that the Lord is right there with us!

N – NEW – Watch for the new opportunities to share and celebrate,

with young and old, in old ways and new ways. Seek new ways to

"Raise the Praise"!

U – UNIQUE - Be unique, just like everyone else! Or better yet, be

yourself, use your gifts in unique ways and count your blessings

as you serve others.

A – AH-HA – AH-HA's are all around us. Watch for "God Sightings"!

Focus on your AH-HA's rather than your OH-OH's!

R- REMEMBER – Remember that we live on "this side" of the

Resurrection! The Lord is always with us. As the sign says, "Wash

your hands and say your prayers because Jesus and germs are

everywhere!"

Y – YES! Make 2021 a YES year by being a YES person to others.

Think of the word YES as meaning, "You're Easter Saints"!

Have a great JANUARY JOURNEY, you #1 people of 2021!

Rich Bimler

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 IN UNCERTAINTY** (shared with permission):

One of the most basic things that we, as human beings on this side of heaven, must come to terms with is uncertainty. We are but a flower quickly fading, a vapor in the wind, a wave tossed in the ocean as one contemporary worship song puts it. How can prayer help us with this? This global pandemic has brought this most basic uncertainty to the forefront of everyone’s lives. What do we do when we are faced with such uncertainty and uncertainty with so many things?

- **Sunday** – Write down one point from the sermon that God placed on your heart and turn it into a prayer.
- **Monday** – Read Ruth 1. What uncertainties did Naomi, Orpah, and Ruth face, both individually and together? How did they approach uncertainty, especially Naomi? Is there any uncertainty in your life that has made you feel like your life has become bitter? Maybe this is especially true during this Pandemic. Just name it and give it to the Lord and thank Him for understanding and listening. If not, pray a prayer of thanksgiving and contentment.
- **Tuesday** – Read Ruth 2 and James 3:13-18. What does Ruth plan to do that includes uncertainty, even in regard to her own physical safety? What does James tell us about life and uncertainty? Many times, we respond to uncertainty by trying to plan. What parts of your life have you simply tried to plan and control, apart from the Lord? Pray for acceptance of uncertainty as a basic part of life. Pray in thanksgiving for times when God has been with you in uncertainty with his infinite goodness and love. Pray that God gives you eyes to see where you wrestle with sinful control in fallen uncertainty in light of COVID-19.
- **Wednesday** – Read Ruth 3 and Philippians 3:15-21. what does God call us to look to in moments of uncertainty? Naomi, Ruth and Paul show us it is God who grants wisdom and sometimes He surrounds us with people who share that wisdom and lift us up in our uncertainty in pride, we sometimes reject others’ opinions or help. Pray for God to open your eyes to those who around you who may be there to share Christ’s comfort and wisdom with you in your uncertainty.
- **Thursday** – Read Ruth 4, Matthew 13:44-46, and 1 Peter 1:17-21. Out of Ruth and Naomi’s uncertainty, God was bringing something certain. Ruth’s offspring would lead to David, and eventually to Jesus, who is the world’s true redeemer. Pray that God wraps the uncertainty of those things

• **MN S District Liason**

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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.)

which are perishable into that which is eternal. God, in His infinite wisdom and goodness, embraced the uncertainty of that which is perishable in our Lord Jesus. Because that darkness could not extinguish His light, it will never extinguish yours.

- **Friday** – Read Philippians 1:20:27. How does Paul embrace one of life's most basic uncertainties (will he die or live)? If He lives, what does Paul focus on? Who has God placed around you for you to love and care? Pray for others in your life who might need it and then pray that God leads you to see how you might help them tangibly. Especially in this time of great isolation, who is in your life and on your heart to reach out to?
- **Saturday** – Read Philippians 2:12-18. Uncertainty can lead us to bitterness, anger, and grumbling against the Lord or others if we are not careful. Pray a prayer of repentance for those times when you have embraced anger and grumbling instead of acceptance and love. And do not be anxious about anything, for the Lord is near to you with His forgiveness and mercy. This is always certain. Repentance is a great place to start, even in uncertainty. It will lead us to rely on the certainty of Jesus' infinite love and wisdom.

Sing or say LSB Hymn 729, "I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus."

YES! THERE WILL BE A GATHERING XXXII in 2021

Cognizant of the restrictions that have been in place and valuing the health and safety of attendees, the S.A.G.E.S. Board has prayerfully considered all aspects of the annual Gathering and has made the decision to change from a May date to October. The Board is hopeful that restrictions will allow an in-person GATHERING in the fall. The Board has also been proactive in planning alternate formats in case the restrictions will not allow in-person meetings. More details of the alternate plans will be made public in future editions of SAGACITY.

UNDER OBSERVATION



Entry one: Using the weather forecast rather than a calendar, we managed two more rounds of golf on the two lovely October days. That made a grand total of 19 rounds for 3 very happy ladies.

Entry two: It was just a two-day excursion to Duluth, but Minnesota was dressed in her full best, sunny with beautiful, colorful forests all the way. The object of the journey was the Glensheen Mansion on the shore of Lake Superior. The property wasn't busy so we got a leisurely tour and an introduction to 19th century wealth. But the location on the lake is the best part.

Entry three: Walking in mid October was great - at least 1 mile every day and 1½ miles every other day when the weather was good. My pace is comfortable, and no one else is afoot these pandemic days. Then it snowed 9 inches, melted, and walking was good in December!

Entry four: Crossing the highway to get to the post office, I paused in awe and wonder as a gold-trimmed Cadillac (including the tires) passed by. Only time I've wished for a phone with a camera.

Entry five: Only for movie nerds: 2 days of old Fred Astaire movies on some movie channel. Most of them were not great but who cares when the music moves Fred and Ginger to dance.

Entry six: After 2½ years of searching we installed a new pastor. We were served well by 3 fine retired pastors during the vacancy and truly appreciated them. It was a happy, but subdued installation in our current circumstances. God is good.

Entry seven: Well, the election was interesting with masked folks everywhere, but the numbers were not great because so many folks took the absentee route. It took some of the fun away from seeing people excited about what they were doing. But then the aftermath, challenging, arguing, delaying, took all the fun away.

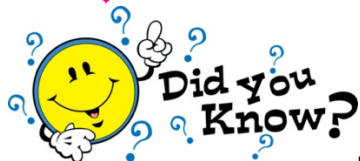
Entry eight: TV is actually better these days with all the old and good shows running in place of the news. A favorite of mine, "Leverage," even climbed out of obscurity. It's

still better than those 'glittering' competition shows someone manufactured.

Entry nine: Three cheers for the eggnog season!

Entry ten: Met a man wearing a tee shirt with this charming message: "Went to an antique show and people were bidding on me".

Entry eleven: I am quoting two new words that were thrown into a conversation - I don't know the source: covidiot for those people and Blursday for the passage of time.



- S.A.G.E.S. Board Secretary, Jeanne Roth, is a graduate of Concordia Teachers College in River Forest IL; has taught in both Lutheran and public schools in Aurora IN, Danville IL, Rochester MN, Edina MN, retiring in 2007.
- S.A.G.E.S. Board Chaplain, Rev David Preuss, met his wife, Betty, when on vicarage on Long Island NY; has served parishes in W KS, and southern MN; in retirement has served many vacancies; is a member of Rochester Male Chorus.
- Board member, Jayne Combronne, while in high school, found her calling at the closing chapel at church camp - to teach in a Lutheran school; taught in several Lutheran schools and included another passion: music.
- Board member, Katherine Bart, has made five mission trips to Jamaica to help at Robins Nest Orphanage; also passionate about music; was member of musical sextet, HIS (His in Song); active in choir, Sunday School teaching and LWML.
- Board member, Sharon Habercamp, went on a three-week trip to seven countries in Europe for \$600 while a student at Concordia in 1967; was in Christian education for 41 years, with awards in 1996 Outstanding Lutheran Educator of the MN South District and in 1999 Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year.
- Board members, David and Margaret Hohenstein, were high school sweethearts, now married for 61+ years, with 12 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren; David is now cancer free after bout of pancreatic cancer.
- Board member, Kay Stewart, is past Treasurer of S.A.G.E.S.; now retired after 37 years as nurse

at Hillcrest Nursing Home; treasures children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

- SAGACITY editor, Delores McGillivray, retired business educator, appreciates being part of history: in 1958 teaching on manual typewriters, then electric, then electronic, then computers - now serves as webmaster of LWML MN South District website.

and Did You Know that . . .

- 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.



One tree can start a forest;
 One smile can begin a friendship;
 One hand can lift a soul;
 One word can frame a goal;
 One candle can wipe out darkness;
 One laugh can conquer gloom;
 One hope can raise your spirits;
 One touch can show you care;
 One life can make the difference,
 be that One today.

Unknown





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 voted that a print copy of **SAGACITY** will be available by subscription at an annual cost of \$15 (4 printed issues). This took effect January 1, 2021. To continue to receive 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 with your email address at minnesotasouthsages@gmail.com

THE POSITIVE SIDE OF LIFE

Living on Earth is expensive but it does include a free trip around the sun every year.

How long a minute is depends on what side of the bathroom door you're on.

Birthdays are good for you--the more you have the longer you live.

Happiness comes through doors you didn't even know you left open.

Ever notice that the people who are late are often much jollier than the people who have to wait for them?

Most of us go to our grave with our music still inside of us.

If Wal Mart is lowering prices every day, how come nothing is free yet?

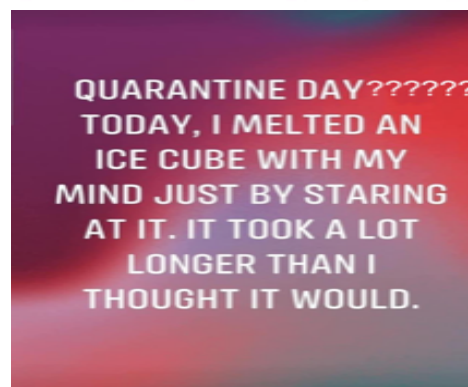
You may be only one person in the world, but you may also be the world to one person.

Some mistakes are too much fun to only make once.

Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened.

We could learn a lot from crayons; some are sharp, some are pretty, some are dull, some have weird names, and all are different colors . . . but they all exist very nicely in the same box.

A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.



The pastor at Sven and Ole's church was giving a rousing heaven or hell sermon one Sunday. At the end, the minister commands, "Whoever wants to go to heaven stand up!" Everyone except Sven and Ole stand. The pastor walks over to them, looks them directly in the eye and asks, "Why don't Sven and Ole want to go to heaven?"

Sven answers, "Oh ve vant to go to heaven. But ve taught you were taking a load up right now and ve aren't ready yet."

"Next week," said the preacher, "I will deliver a sermon on the sin of lying. To help you understand what I'm talking about, I want you all to read Mark, Chapter 17."

The following Sunday, the minister went to the pulpit and asked how many parishoners had read Mark, Chapter 17. Every hand in the congregation went up.

"Mark only has 16 chapters," said the preacher with a sly grin. "I will now proceed with the sermon on lying."

Character is what you are willing to do when the spotlight has been turned off, the applause has died down, and no one is around to give you credit.

The man who gets into a cage full of lions at the circus impresses everyone **except a school bus driver.**

Sign on a plumbing contractor's truck: **You don't have to sleep with that drip tonight.**

Just can't get away from . . .

SENIOR REFLECTIONS:

1. When one door closes and another door opens, you are probably in prison.
2. To me, "drink responsibly" means don't spill it.
3. Age 60 might be the new 40, but 9:00 pm is the new midnight.
4. It's the start of a brand new day, and I'm off like a herd of turtles.
5. The older I get, the earlier it gets late.
6. When I say, "The other day," I could be referring to any time between yesterday and 15 years ago.
7. I remember being able to get up without making sound effects.
8. I had my patience tested. I'm negative.
9. Remember, if you lose a sock in the dryer, it comes back as a Tupperware lid that doesn't fit any of your containers.
10. If you're sitting in public and a stranger takes the seat next to you, just stare straight ahead and say, "Did you bring the money?"
11. When you ask me what I am doing today, and I say "nothing," it does not mean I am free. It means I am doing nothing.
12. I finally got eight hours of sleep. It took me three days, but whatever.
13. I run like the winded.
14. I hate when a couple argues in public, and I missed the beginning and don't know whose side I'm on.
15. When someone asks what I did over the weekend, I squint and ask, "Why, what did you hear?"
16. When you do squats, are your knees supposed to sound like a goat chewing on an aluminum can stuffed with celery?
17. I don't mean to interrupt people. I just randomly remember things and get really excited.
18. When I ask for directions, please don't use words like "east."
19. Don't bother walking a mile in my shoes. That would be boring. Spend 30 seconds in my head. That'll freak you right out.
20. Sometimes, someone unexpected comes into your life out of nowhere, makes your heart race, and changes you forever. We call those people cops.

21. My luck is like a bald guy who just won a comb.

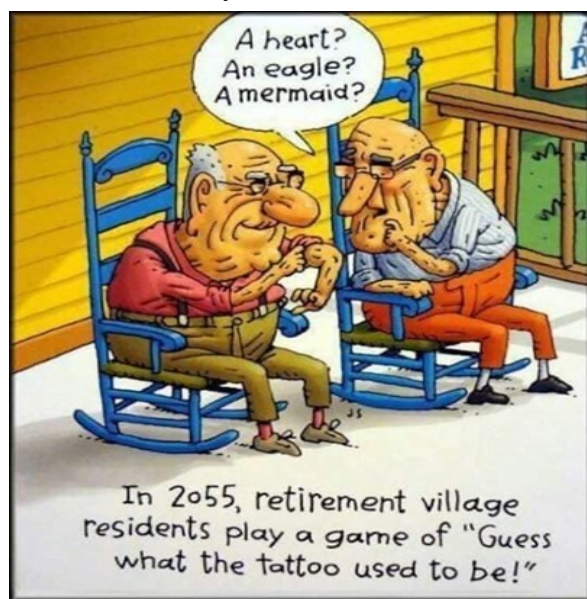
And remember . . .

TWELVE COMMANDMENTS FOR SENIORS

1. Talk to yourself. There are times you need expert advice.
2. In Style are the clothes that still fit
3. You don't need anger management. You need people to stop making you mad.
4. Your people skills are just fine. It's your tolerance for idiots that needs work.
5. The biggest lie you tell yourself is, "I don't need to write that down. I'll remember it."
6. On time is when you get there.
7. Even duct tape can't fix stupid - but it sure does muffle the sound.
8. It would be wonderful if we could put ourselves in the dryer for ten minutes, then come out wrinkle-free and three sizes smaller?
9. Lately you've noticed people your age are so much older than you.
10. Growing old should have taken longer
11. Aging has slowed you down, but it hasn't shut you up.
12. You still haven't learned to act your age, and hope you never will

And one more:

"One for the road" means going to the bathroom before you leave the house.





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

Safe Winter Walking

- **Wear proper footwear.** Proper footwear should place the entire foot on the surface of the ground and have visible treads. Avoid a smooth sole and opt for a heavy treaded shoe with a flat bottom.
- **Plan ahead.** While walking on snow or ice on sidewalks or in parking lots, walk consciously. Instead of looking down, look up and see where your feet will move next to anticipate ice or an uneven surface. Occasionally scan from left to right to ensure you are not in the way of vehicles or other hazards.
- **Use your eyes and ears.** While seeing the environment is important, you also want to be sure you can hear approaching traffic and other noises. Avoid listening to music or engaging in conversation that may prevent you from hearing oncoming traffic or snow removal equipment.
- **Anticipate ice.** Be wary of thin sheets of ice that may appear as wet pavement (black ice). Often ice will appear in the morning, in shady spots or where the sun shines during the day and melted snow refreezes at night. Walk taking steps slowly. When walking down steps, be sure to grip handrails firmly and plant your feet securely on each step.
- **Enter a building carefully.** When you get to your destination such as school, work, shopping center, etc., be sure to look at the floor as you enter the building. The floor may be wet with melted snow and ice. Be careful when you shift your weight. When stepping off a curb or getting into a car, be careful since shifting your weight may cause an imbalance and result in a fall.
- **Avoid taking shortcuts.** Short-cuts are a good idea if you are in a hurry, but may be a bad

idea if there is snow and ice on the ground. A short-cut path may be treacherous because it is likely to be located where snow and ice removal is not possible.

- **Look up. Be careful about what you walk under.** Injuries also can result from falling snow/ice as it blows, melts, or breaks away from awnings, buildings, etc.

HOW TO WALK ON ICE



Older Adults and COVID -19

The CDC has a checklist for older adults, giving steps for staying healthy. The checklist is available for download at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/retirement/checklist.html>

Sections include: Protect Yourself and Others; Get Ready in Case You Get COVID-19; What To Do If You Get Sick With COVID-19; When To Seek Emergency Medical Attention; Stress And Coping; Develop a Care Plan.

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YES! THERE WILL BE A GATHERING XXXII in 2021

GATHERING XXXII

Featured Presenter - Rev. Mark Jeske

Senior Pastor, St. Marcus Lutheran, Milwaukee WI

creator of Time of Grace

20/20 VISION IN 2021



Lord, we give you
thanks for the
opportunities and
challenges in our
lives as we
remember your gift
to us in Jesus Christ.
Continue to
strengthen our
courage for today
and bless us with
hope for tomorrow
as we plan for
20/20 Vision in 2021

"...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