

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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GATHERING XXXII

October 25/26, 2021

Featured Presenter - Rev. Mark Jeske

Senior Pastor, St. Marcus Lutheran, Milwaukee WI

creator of *Time of Grace*

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

Lord, we give you thanks for the opportunities and challenges in our lives as we remember your gift to us in the death and resurrection of your son, Jesus Christ. Continue to strengthen our **courage** for today and bless us with **hope** for tomorrow

Detailed plans for the October GATHERING are in the following pages: 5, 6, 7. The Gathering documents are also available on the MN South District website, mnsdistrict.org.

***A Prayer for Vision – Strength for Today and Hope for Tomorrow
Ephesians 1:15-23***

While Paul was under house arrest awaiting his trial in Rome, he enjoyed the freedom to receive visitors. Two such guests were Epaphras (Col 1:7; 4:12) and Tychicus. His letter to the Church in and around Ephesus was delivered by such men.

Like most of Paul's letters this one begins with a salutation (1:1-2). This is followed by an extended expression of praise (v. 3-14) culminating in his remembering the gift of faith granted to the believers in Ephesus along with the "guaranteeing deposit" of the Holy Spirit. Let's look more closely at Paul's prayer for the believers:

• **Thankfulness and Gratitude**

Vv. 15-16 Paul's prayer in verses 15-23 springs from an expression of praise "for this reason" which leads him to expressions of thanksgiving and gratitude.

Question: What is Paul thankful for? Who can you remember today before God with thanks and gratitude for their expressions of faith expressed in acts of love toward others?

• **Intercession for clear vision**

Vv. 17-19 What is the request that Paul makes above all others on behalf of his readers?

First Paul prays for his readers to have wisdom (*sophia*). Wisdom is most often understood in the Bible as the God-given ability to understand the deep truths of God as well as how to order one's life accordingly. This is the first part of good vision: **perception** or the ability to see this world with great clarity so we might make life choices that reflect the reality of God's work on behalf of His church.

Question: Do you wear glasses? How well are you able to perceive the world around you without your glasses? Do objects seem blurry or out of focus? Without your corrective lenses you don't have good vision. How does the ability to perceive things clearly aid in making good choices?

Paul is praying that every believer would be given the gift of seeing this world clearly – the good and the bad – through the corrective lens of God's Word. Good perception is the first step toward clear vision. A second aspect of good vision is **foresight** – the ability to see how things might be or one day will be. Good vision goes beyond perception, so Paul also prays for "revelation" (*apocalypsis*) or, as some translations read "vision" – the discernment to see how things can or will be in the future.

Question: What does Paul pray is the result of the believers receiving the "spirit of wisdom and revelation (vision)"?

• **The Heart of the matter**

V. 18 – Paul employs an unusual expression. The "heart" in

(Bible Study continues on next page)

MN S District Liason

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

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

scripture is understood as the seat of thought, moral judgment, and of feelings. Paul is asking that this new-found vision (perception + foresight) would impact the very core of their being – their relationship with the Father.

Three items are selected for attention:

1. **Calling** – This calling has already taken place (2 Tim 1:9) and, at the same time, it is a pledge of hope. (Titus 2:13-14)

Question: When were you first “called by the Gospel”? How does remembering your calling by God bring hope?

2. **Inheritance** – The recognition that what is really ours is all the wealth of God. (v. 5, 13b – 14).

Question: Read Romans 8:17. What do you think is the best part of being in the family of God? How does this promised inheritance bring you hope?

3. **Power of God** – the word for power here is *dynamis*. It is where we derive our word *dynamite*.

Question: When did Jesus promise we would receive this power? (Acts 1:8) In this context what seems to be the focus of this gift of power? Is any believer exempt from this promise? Are you?

Paul wants us to believe in our heart His calling, inheritance, and power at work in the life of His people. As our vision clears and we exercise the power that has been promised to each believer we are able to perceive the operation (*energein*) of the strength and might of God. (Eph 6:10)

- **A demonstration of the Power of God** Vv. 20-23 – In these verses Paul reminds us of the clear demonstration of God’s power through the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus, our Lord.

Question: What specifically do we learn about Christ in verses 20-22?

Eugene Peterson in “The Message” paraphrases these verses: “At the center of all this, Christ rules the church. The church, you

see, is not peripheral to the world; the world is peripheral to the church”

Question: What does it mean to you to know that all things have been placed under the authority of Jesus “for the sake of the church”?

This really clears things up, doesn’t it? When we look at the world through the “eyes of our heart” we are able to perceive the reality of Christ’s rule over all things – for the sake of His people!

Question: How does “clear perception” give you strength, or power, to live for him today?

Question: How does your vision of God’s purpose and plan for your life, and the life of all who trust in Jesus, bring you hope for the days ahead? How can you share that hope with others?

(Bible Study prepared by Dr. Phillip Johnson,
Assistant to the District President for
Congregational Mission Formation)

UNDER OBSERVATION

Entry one: Thanks to the kind people who identified the questions in my last entry: Mae West for “Come up . . .” and Lauren Bacall for “Put your lips . . .”. On to the questions - what were the names of the movies? Without a computer I depend on people who still have memories that work.

Entry two: Tis’ a blooming Easter Sunday when 20 African violets of different shapes and sizes produce gorgeous flowers in my living room. Some started a bit early, but the rest joined the chorus for a memorable morning.

Entry three: Somebody suggested we could do tai chi exercises to keep what passes for our muscles functioning while confined. The telephone responses to the idea were underwhelming. The physical responses were non-existent. The conversation was entertaining.

Entry four: Meetings are slowly returning to life. If they can be described as “life.” As we meet, the people who want to work are pushing the people who learned to enjoy resting. Ah, another challenge.



Entry five: The church was nearly full for confirmation, and families were happy to be together and rejoice with the youngsters in the class. Actually, it was great for all of us!

Entry six: Helped at the bloodmobile, providing a little lunch to the donors. Really strange to see everyone keep the distance apart, but the regular donors were happy to be back. A remarkable group.

Entry seven: Finally! The first round of golf! I'd like to report it was great, but we still played the same old way and scored the same old totals. But, no one was discouraged, and we were excited to be out and swinging. We are swingers, you know!

Entry eight: A roaring success for the garden club plant sale. Another chance for people to be out and about. Armloads of plants were carried away by happy and smiling people. We're ready.

Entry nine: We scheduled "Feeding the 500 Club" for June after things were opened and a delighted 24 people showed up. Lunch preceded a challenge of 2 quizzes before turning to cards and dominos. They were a happy group, bless them.

Entry ten: Lunch with the ladies at Mayer is becoming a real treat for me - new friends are delightful ladies. They know how to keep enthusiasm despite the circumstances.

Entry eleven: Thank goodness for local groceries that still can provide good choices for people like me. My eating habits have become strange as to time and amount. But the garden is planted with good vegetables and the fruits are ripening. Lots of asparagus and rhubarb frozen for a Minnesota winter, and raspberries are on the way.

**YOU KNOW YOU'RE
GETTING OLD
WHEN A RECLINER
AND A HEATING
PAD IS YOUR IDEA
OF A HOT DATE**

TRAVEL PLANS:

I have been in many places, but I've never been in **Kahoots**. Apparently, you can't go alone. You have to be in Kahoots with someone.

I've also never been in **Cognito**. I hear no one recognizes you there.

I have, however, been in **Sane**. They don't have an airport; you have to be driven there. I have made several trips there, thanks to my children, friends, family and work.

I would like to go to **Conclusions**, but you have to jump, and I'm not too much on physical activity anymore.

I have also been in **Doubt**. That is a sad place to go, and I try not to visit there too often.

I've been in **Flexible**, but only when it was very important to stand firm.

Sometimes I'm in **Capable**, and I go there more often as I'm getting older.

One of my favorite places to be is in **Suspense**! It really gets the adrenaline flowing and pumps up the old heart! At my age I need all the stimuli I can get!

~~~LODGING INFORMATION FOR THE GATHERING:

MAKING HOTEL RESERVATIONS:

Contact the **Country Inn & Suites**, 1900 Premier Drive, Mankato, by calling 507-388-8555. The block of rooms is under the name **SAGES**. (FYI The hotel is located at the intersection of Highways 14 and 22.)

**DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS IS
SATURDAY, September 25, 2021**

The room rates are:

\$89.00 (non-smoking 2 Queen beds)
plus 15% tax

\$94.00 (non-smoking King size bed
and sofa) plus 15% tax.

Check in time is 3:00 P.M.

Your room may not be ready to move into until that time!

MEAL INFORMATION

Details about meals and refreshments will be in the October **SAGACITY**.



(S.A.G.E.S. = Saints Alive, Growing, Ever Serving)

PROGRAM FOR GATHERING XXXII
OCTOBER 25/26, 2021

20/20 VISION IN 2021: COURAGE TODAY; HOPE TOMORROW

MONDAY, OCTOBER 25

12:00 – 1:15 p.m.	Registration
1:00 – 1:20 p.m.	Vocal Exercise
1:20 – 1:30 p.m.	Welcome and Opening Prayer Rev. James Vehling, S.A.G.E.S. President
1:30 – 2:30 p.m.	<u>20/20 VISION IN 2021</u> Dr. Mark Jeske
2:30 – 2:40 P.M.	Physical Exercise (TBA)
2:40 - 3:15 p.m.	Refreshments Visit Displays
3:20 – 4:20 p.m.	S.A.G.E.S. WORKSHOP I
4:30 – 5:45 p.m.	Reception
6:00 p.m.	SAGES Evening Dinner Entertainment: <i>The Gundermanns</i> Closing devotion – Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford President, MN South District Choir rehearsal

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26

6:30 – 8:00 a.m.	Breakfast – complimentary for Hotel Guests only
7:30 – 8:00 a.m.	Choir rehearsal
8:00 – 8:15 a.m.	Vocal Exercise
8:15 – 8:30 a.m.	Business meeting
8:30 – 9:15 a.m.	<u>20/20 VISION In 2021</u> Dr. Mark Jeske
9:15 – 9:25 a.m.	Physical exercise (TBA)
9:25 – 9:50 a.m.	Refreshments Visit Displays
9:55 – 10:55 a.m.	S.A.G.E.S. WORKSHOP II
11:00 – 11:55 a.m.	S.A.G.E.S. WORKSHOP III
12:00 – 12:45 p.m.	Lunch
1:00 – 2:00 p.m.	<u>20/20 VISION IN 2021</u> Dr. Mark Jeske
2:00 – 2:15 p.m.	Installation of officers Rev. David Preuss, Chaplain
2:15 p.m.	Closing Devotion Rev. Adam Parvey, Hosanna Lutheran, Mankato

S. A. G. E. S. W O R K S H O P S

Monday, Oct 25.

WORKSHOP I, 3:20-4:20 p.m.

A. "JOHN'S 20/20 VISION"

This introduction to the Book of Revelation is intended to prepare the reader to view it not as a mysterious prediction of future doom and gloom but as a message of encouragement and hope for embattled believers in any age. Rev. Jim Vehling will lead this session.

B. "CARING FOR THE CAREGIVER"

A caregiver is someone who is dedicating their time to take care of someone else. Many think they can take on the task of caring for someone else but often leads to burnout. McKayla Kaardal, Director of Visiting Angels, will be discussing different techniques to avoid caregiver burnout.

C. "KEEP YOUR BALANCE"

Stay Active & Independent for Life (SAIL) is an evidence based strength, balance and fitness program for adults 55 and older. Performing exercises that improve strength, balance and fitness are the single most important activity that adults can do to stay active and reduce their chances of falling. Join Mary Cassem, Active Aging Programs Administrator for Catholic Charities for a SAIL class. You can sit or stand for this class, all exercises are able to be modified to suit your needs. Arm and leg weights will be provided at the class. Be prepared to move!

D. "MAKING MUSIC TOGETHER: CHANGING HEARTS, CHANGING MINDS"

Music alone is a powerful tool. When purposefully harnessed in a goal driven environment, it has the power to create incredible change. Come and learn about the growing field of Music Therapy. Additionally, find out about how a very special choir, Singing Hills Chorus, is changing the lives of those living with dementia. Kristan Ziemke, presenter.

Tuesday, October 26,

WORKSHOP II, 9:55 -10:55 a.m.

E. "HEALTHY EATING FOR ONE OR TWO"

Karen Gensmer RDN, LD will share some healthy eating tips that will assist with making the aging process a more enjoyable journey. An investigation of the newly revised Nutrition Facts Food label will also be included in the presentation. Of course recipes will be shared!

F. "THE GANGSTERS OF ST. PAUL"

Why were so many gangsters spending so much time in St. Paul in the 1920's and '30's? And who were they? In this session those questions and many more will be answered. We will also learn of their crimes, especially bank robberies, throughout Minnesota. Some attendees may have ancestral ties to events of those days and hopefully can tell us all about those connections. Tom Kuseske, retired teacher from Concordia Academy, leads this session.

G. "UNDERSTANDING VISION LOSS"

This interactive workshop will give you an opportunity to experience the world through the eyes of someone with vision loss. Through the use of vision simulators you will have a chance to walk in the shoes of someone with a visual impairment. Resources that are available, helpful tips and best practices when working with someone with a vision loss will also be presented. Susan Anderson, Director, Vision Loss Resources, will present.

H. "FOR ALL THE WORLD TO SEE"

Mission Opportunities Short Term (MOST Ministries) is a Christian non-profit organization that connects, trains, and sends short-term mission teams throughout the world, in response to requests from missionaries and church bodies. MOST Ministries provides for the physical and spiritual needs of more than 10,000 people each year by connecting Goers, Senders and Receivers. It is a commitment to the Great Commission that has compelled MOST Ministries to go far and near for the sake of the Gospel since 1989.



Donation Opportunity: Bring used eye glasses to the GATHERING.

The collection will be contributed to MOST Ministries for distribution through their missionaries.

Tuesday, October 26

WORKSHOP III, 11:00 - 11:55 a.m.

E1. "HEALTHY EATING FOR ONE OR TWO"

F1. "THE GANGSTERS OF ST. PAUL"

G1. "UNDERSTANDING VISION LOSS"

H1. "FOR ALL THE WORLD TO SEE"

Biographies of presenters are included in the GATHERING document on the Minnesota South district website, mnsdistrict.org.

S.A.G.E.S. GATHERING XXXI

(Saints Alive! Growing, Ever Serving)

October 25-26, 2021

Country Inn & Suites, 1900 Premier Dr., Mankato, MN

REGISTRATION DEADLINE – October 8, 2021

PRINT NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE (____) _____ EMAIL _____

CONGREGATION _____ LOCATION _____

REGISTRATION – Monday & Tuesday
Includes BanquetIndividual
\$55.00 _____Couple
\$110.00 _____REGISTRATION – Monday only
Includes Banquet

\$40.00 _____

\$80.00 _____

REGISTRATION – Monday
Banquet only

\$30.00 _____

\$60.00 _____

REGISTRATION – Tuesday only
Includes Lunch

\$35.00 _____

\$70.00 _____

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

\$5.00 _____

\$10.00 _____

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION

\$ _____

\$ _____

TOTAL REMITTED

\$ _____

\$ _____

Make checks payable to S.A.G.E.S. and send to Joyce Swedean

1535A Clemson Drive, Eagan, MN. 55122

___ I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE A HOTEL ROOM WITH SOMEONE

Pre-Registration for Workshops

NAME _____

NAME _____

Workshop I Monday October 25
Circle A B C DWorkshop I Monday October 25
Circle A B C DWorkshop II Tuesday October 26
Circle E F G HWorkshop II Tuesday October 26
Circle E F G HWorkshop III Tuesday October 26
Circle E1 F1 G1 H1Workshop III Tuesday October 26
Circle E1 F1 G1 H1

The Drowning Man

A fellow was stuck on his rooftop in a flood. He was praying to God for help.

Soon a man in a rowboat came by and the fellow shouted to the man on the roof, "Jump in, I can save you."

The stranded fellow shouted back, "No, it's OK, I'm praying to God and he is going to save me."

So the rowboat went on.

Then a motorboat came by. "The fellow in the motorboat shouted, "Jump in, I can save you."

To this the stranded man said, "No thanks, I'm praying to God and he is going to save me. I have faith."

So the motorboat went on.

Then a helicopter came by and the pilot shouted down, "Grab this rope and I will lift you to safety."

To this the stranded man again replied, "No thanks, I'm praying to God and he is going to save me. I have faith."

So the helicopter reluctantly flew away.

Soon the water rose above the rooftop and the man drowned. He went to Heaven. He finally got his chance to discuss this whole situation with God, at which point he exclaimed, "I had faith in you but you didn't save me, you let me drown. I don't understand why!"

To this God replied, "I sent you a rowboat and a motorboat and a helicopter, what more did you expect?"

What's For Breakfast?

~ A couple went to breakfast at a restaurant where the "seniors' special" was 2 Eggs, Bacon, Hash Browns and Toast for \$2.99...

"Sounds good" the wife said, "but I don't want the eggs."

"Then, I'll have to charge you \$3.49 because you're ordering a la carte," the waiter warned her.

"You mean I'd have to pay for not taking the eggs?" the wife asked incredulously.

"Yes!" stated the waiter.

"I'll take the special then," the wife said.

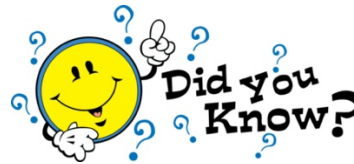
"Great...how do you want your eggs?" the waiter asked.

"Raw and in the shell," the wife replied.

She took the two eggs home and baked a cake.

DON'T MESS WITH SENIORS!!!

WE'VE been around the block more than once!



1. The 2020 Summer Olympics will be held in Tokyo from July 24 to August 9. It is the second time Japan will be hosting the Summer Olympics, 56 years since it first received the honor of organizing the Games in 1964.
2. Tokyo 2020 will have 33 Olympic Sports and 22 Paralympic Sports events, which will be held in more than 40 venues in and around the city, including two main areas: Heritage Zone and Tokyo Bay Zone.
3. Tokyo was chosen to host the 2020 Olympics by the International Olympic Committee in September 2013. Other candidate cities were Istanbul and Madrid. The future host cities for Summer Olympics are Paris (2024) and Los Angeles (2028).

Answers to the STUMP YOURSELF quiz in the April issue.

- | | | |
|------------------|----------------------|------|
| A. Musician | G. Journalist | |
| B. Actor/Actress | H. Business | |
| C. Broadcaster | I. Writer | |
| D. Politician | J. Artist/Cartoonist | |
| E. Miss America | K. Sports | |
| F. Comedian | L. Explorer | |
| 1 D | 18 F | 35 I |
| 2 B | 19 B | 36 D |
| 3 K | 20 K | 37 D |
| 4 E | 21 J | 38 L |
| 5 D | 22 A | 39 B |
| 6 K | 23 D | 40 B |
| 7 K | 24 C | 41 C |
| 8 B | 25 B | 42 J |
| 9 H | 26 C | 43 I |
| 10 B | 27 K | 44 B |
| 11 D | 28 E | 45 L |
| 12 K | 29 B | 46 K |
| 13 L | 30 A | 47 J |
| 14 B | 31 I | 48 B |
| 15 I | 32 K | 49 B |
| 16 A | 33 G | 50 B |
| 17 I | 34 A | |