

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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FROM: S.A.G.E.S. President, James Vehling:

SAGES Gathering XXXII, scheduled for October 25 and 26, has been postponed until May 2 and 3, 2022. Because of a small number of registrants, on Tuesday, October 5, the Board of Directors made this unfortunate but wise decision. It was apparent that health concerns about the ongoing COVID pandemic prevented many folks from participating. The Board acknowledges that we older adults are compelled to take extra precautions at this time.

We also wish to publicly thank the scheduled presenter, workshop leaders, musicians, and others who have patiently stuck with us for the past two years of uncertainty. We hope that many of them will still be willing and able to serve us next year.

For those of you who did register, the treasurer, Dick Swedean, has already sent a refund of your payment. And for those who made a reservation at Country Inn and Suites, if you have not already done so, we urge you to cancel it as soon as possible. The telephone number to do so is 507-388-8555.

Our decision to postpone was guided by Paul's words in Philippians 2:3-4, where he writes: "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."

Finally, it our prayer and hope that by next spring the pandemic will have abated and that SAGES will again to be able to offer a Gathering with no extraordinary health issues to deal with. We look forward to seeing all you there to celebrate a "new beginning".

James J. Vehling, President



“WHAT IN THE WORLD...?”

You may have heard the expression, “What in the world. . .?” Usually it goes along with surprise or confusion. When we look at the word “world” in various places in the bible, we find different meanings.

“World” could mean:

1. Part of God’s creation
2. The people or wealth of the world
3. The attitudes of people of the world
4. The attitudes of Christians in the world
5. Other (You can make up a category!)

Look up the following passages and put the appropriate number from the list above to identify the particular meaning in that place. (Sometimes the word is translated “earth” instead of “world”.) More than one number may apply. You may wish to write key words on the line to the right of the reference.

List # Passage Key Words

_____ Psalm 24:1 _____

_____ Psalm 50:12 _____

_____ Matthew 12:32 _____

_____ Matthew 16:26 _____

_____ Mark 16:15 _____

_____ Luke 20:34-36 _____

_____ Romans 3:19 _____

_____ Galatians 6:14 _____

_____ Revelation 3:10 _____

In the writings of John, we find much variety.

_____ John 1:10 _____

_____ John 1:29 _____

_____ John 7:7 _____

_____ John 14:17 _____

_____ John 16:33 _____

_____ John 17:9, 11, 18 & 23 _____

_____ _____

_____ 1 John 2:2 _____

_____ 1 John 2:15 _____

With all this in mind, what is the meaning of ‘world’ in John 3:16?

MN S District Liason

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SOUTHWEST W/Circuits 23,24 (OPEN)

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Redeemer Lutheran
Winona MN

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

UNDER OBSERVATION

Entry one: My neighbor down the street has a precocious child who does things like set you up for a joke. Hence, he said, "What do you get if a bird flies into a fan?" You get shredded tweet. So there.



Entry two: Early in August a flock of about 50 (they move fast!) sparrows showed up at the feeders, rolling in the garden dirt, and emptying the water bowls by drinking and splashing. And then they were gone.

Entry three: Much as I celebrated the return to the golf course, the vicissitudes of life (and age) have caused the scores to rise quickly with the first swing and the second swing right after it. Oh, well, the course is beautiful, the air clean and fresh, and the company excellent.

Entry four: Another garden club trip, this time to St. Cloud's Munsinger Gardens. The area was suffering from the lack of rain, but the gardeners did a good job of re-building the plots, and the visitors were truly appreciative. Flowers and a lovely day, followed by a good lunch. What more could a garden club want!

Entry five: Volunteers could return to the nursing home, and they were really well received. Sometimes I think playing bingo is no great contribution to anyone's life, but once we begin the spirit in the room makes everybody feel good and the day is great.

Entry six: My garden is providing a lot of entertainment. Mother rabbit is teaching her young the proper way to eat my cabbage leaves delicately. The squirrels are aerating my lawn as they dig holes everywhere to bury the seeds from the bird feeders. Then they don't remember where they are so they dig more holes. The birds are sorting the raspberries so I can have the good ones that are left. The few.

Entry seven: The virtues of a small town have been borne in on one again: the plumber responds the same day and the work is done as needed; the car mechanic is across the alley and very kind; the dentist is two blocks away and responds to pain with alacrity. And none of these people charges beyond a reasonable return.

Entry eight: The county fair was overwhelmed by people who were excited to be out and about again. It was as simple as that. The fair provided the same things, but four days of seeing good friends and moving around the grounds as you wished made it a celebration. And fortunately, the following weeks did not have a peak in Covid cases.

Entry nine: This appears to be the year of the boxelder bug. They crawl on doors and windows, on people and animals, and into the house, buzz before your eyes, and land on the TV screen to get a better look

Entry ten: The senior group returned to a regular schedule with all the approved shots. They are a remarkable group who have become friends just by being together for food, my tests, good words from the pastor, cards and dominos. I wish other groups were so amenable and enjoyable.

Entry eleven: The library is having a book sale! Get the shopping bag and dig in!

SOME OF THE BEST WORDS LITERALLY EVER:

Bamboozled	Flabbergasted
Discombobulated	Shenanigans
Malarky	Kerfuffle
Skedaddle	Nincompoop
Flibbertigibbet	Thingamajig
Whippersnapper	Whatchamacallit
Pumpnickel	Flumoxed
Poppycock	Gobbledygook
Persnickety	Canoodle
Dingleberry	Codswallop

WHICH ONES DO YOU USE?

~~Lots of cars have one part that desperately needs to be recalled: **the nut behind the wheel.**

~~A real argument is when two people are trying to get the last word in first.

~~Expecting the world to treat you fairly because you are a good person is a little like expecting the bull not to attack you because you are a vegetarian.

REFORMATION - OCTOBER 31, 2021



THE ENTIRE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS ONE OF REPENTANCE.

(from a 2017 brochure celebrating the
500th Anniversary of the Reformation.)
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI
SYNOD

Luther's 95 Theses begins, "when our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, 'Repent' (**Matt. 4:17**), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance." That doesn't sound very exciting. Luther encouraged people to renew their Baptism every day. Christians are to daily die to the old Adam, their sinful nature. In his Large Catechism, Luther observed that Baptism "is nothing else than putting to death the old Adam, and after that the resurrection of the new man, both of which must take place in us all our lives, so that a truly Christian life is nothing else than a daily Baptism, once begun and ever to be continued. For this must be practiced without ceasing, that we ever keep purging away whatever is of the old Adam, and that that which belongs to the new man come forth."

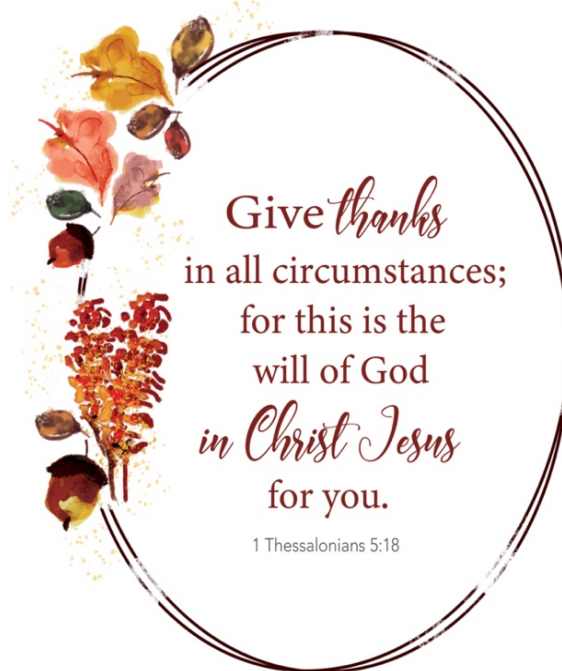
Dying to self in order to rise with Christ is the daily reality of faith. The focus is not on our dying or on our old Adam (sin). The focus is on the promise of resurrection in Jesus Christ.

- † He is our life.
- † He is our hope.
- † He is our joy.

Repentance is a turning away from self to Jesus.

- † In Him is life and light.
- † In Him is salvation and forgiveness.
- † In Him is eternal life.

Repent. You are His. Through Baptism.
And this is true every day.



Try these strategies on for size next month:

- N** – **Now** is the time to **THANK** the Lord for His presence and forgiveness.
- O** – **Older** adults are God's gifts to the younger as we share our faith, servanthood, and modeling of celebrating that the Lord is still in control.
- V** – **VOTE** for those people who you feel are promoting love, care and understanding to all people, and not just the privileged.
- E** – **EXAMINE** your prayer life and keep close to Him, knowing for sure that He is always close to you.
- M** – **MODEL** to the younger the gifts and experiences of the Older.
- B** – **BE** who you are by doing something each day for others to enable them to be who they are, in Christ!
- E** – **ENABLE** something good to happen today!
- R** – **REJOICE** – You woke up this morning so evidently the Lord has ministry for you to do today!

So, **YES**, let's say **YES** to **November** by continuing to serve, celebrate, and seek out those who are only seeing and sensing **NO** in their lives!

Rich Bimler

PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS

ADVENT

A Season of Preparation

DECEMBER is ADVENT- SURE time for all of God's people, even in the midst of our on-going worries, conflicts, illnesses, family separations, and even deaths. Scriptures announce it. We as God's people live it out, and even Siri, our cell phone friend, defines ADVENT as the "arrival of a Noble Person", namely, Jesus Himself!

Whether we are huddled together with family or not, whether we are mourning the death or illness of a close friend, or even if our usual "traditional" Christmas days look different this year, we still rejoice in the fact that Jesus, the Christ, is with us in all ways and at all times.

Yes, no doubt about it – we are ADVENT-SURE and ready for surprising ADVENTURES, with our Lord right beside us!

Let's spell A-D-V-E-N-T:

- A** – Anticipate new ways to celebrate this year as we deal with a changing life-style;
- D** – "Do Be Do Be Do" is our chant as we continue to Do the Lord's ministries while Be-ing His redeemed people;
- V** – Visualize the real reason for Christmas, with or without the usual traditions and schedules.
- E** – Everyone is invited to our celebration of life in Him.
- N** – Now is the time to develop new customs, new friends, and new ways of sharing the Lord with ALL people! Do it NOW, as in WOW!
- T** – Tell everyone what He has done, at Christmas and throughout the brand new year of 2022!

Rich Bimler



A man was asked to paint a boat. He brought his paint and brushes and began to paint the boat a bright red, as the owner asked him. While painting, he noticed a small hole in the hull, and quietly repaired it.

When he finished painting, he received his money and left.



The next day, the owner of the boat came to the painter and presented him with a nice check, much higher than the payment for painting.

The painter was surprised and said "You've already paid me for painting the boat Sir!"

"But this is not for the paint job. It's for repairing the hole in the boat."

"Ah! But it was such a small service... certainly it's not worth paying me such a high amount for something so insignificant."

"My dear friend, you do not understand. Let me tell you what happened: When I asked you to paint the boat, I forgot to mention the hole. When the boat dried, my kids took the boat and went on a fishing trip. They did not know that there was a hole. I was not at home at that time. When I returned and noticed they had taken the boat, I was desperate because I remembered that the boat had a hole. Imagine my relief and joy when I saw them returning from fishing. Then, I examined the boat and found that you had repaired the hole! You see, now, what you did? You saved the lives of my children! I do not have enough money to pay your 'small' good deed."

So no matter who, when or how, continue to help, sustain, wipe tears, listen attentively, and carefully repair all the 'leaks' you find. You never know when one is in need of us, or when God holds a pleasant surprise for us to be helpful and important to someone.

Along the way, you may have repaired numerous 'boat holes' for several people without realizing how many lives you've saved.

Make a difference....be the best you...

with

COMPASSION



Make out your Chopin
Liszt early before
Debussy season, when
you have time to check
out Verdi good bargains
are, can still
get gifts Faure good
price, not to have to Handel
large crowds and have
time to give Bach things
you decide you don't
want.



An Airbus 380 is on its way across the Atlantic. It flies consistently at 800 km/h at 30,000 feet, when suddenly a Eurofighter with Tempo Mach 2 appears.

The pilot of the fighter jet slows down, flies alongside the Airbus and greets the pilot of the passenger plane by radio: "Airbus, boring flight, isn't it? Now have a look here!"

He rolls his jet on its back, accelerates, breaks through the sound barrier, rises rapidly to a dizzying height, then swoops down almost to sea level in a breathtaking dive. He loops back next to the airbus and asks, "Well, how was that?"

The Airbus pilot answers: "Very impressive, but now you look!"

The jet pilot watches the Airbus but nothing happens. It continues to fly stubbornly straight, with the same speed. After 15 minutes, the Airbus pilot radios, "Well how was that?"

Confused, the jet pilot asks, "What did you do?"

The Airbus pilot laughs and says, "I got up, stretched my legs, walked to the back of the aircraft to use the washroom, then got a cup of coffee and a chocolate fudge pastry."

The moral of the story is: When you are young, speed and adrenaline seems to be great. But as you get older and wiser, you learn that comfort and peace are more important.

This is called S.O.S.: Slower, Older, but Smarter.

Weekly Workout

Humorous look at exercise

The doctor told me I should start an exercise program. Not wanting to harm this body, I've devised the following:

Monday

Beat around the bush
Jump to conclusions
Climb the walls
Wade through the morning paper

Tuesday

Drag my heels
Push my luck
Make mountains out of molehills
Hit the nail on the head

Wednesday

Bend over backwards
Jump on the band wagon
Run in circles

Thursday

Advise the President on how to run the country
Toot my own horn
Pull out all the stops
Add fuel to the fire

Friday

Open a can of worms
Put my foot in my mouth
Start the ball rolling
Go over the edge

Saturday

Pick up the pieces!

Sunday

Kneel in prayer
Bow my head in thanksgiving
Uplift my hands in praise
Hug someone and encourage him or her
Whew! What a workout!

(author unknown)

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.



Church bulletin 'whoops!'

The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

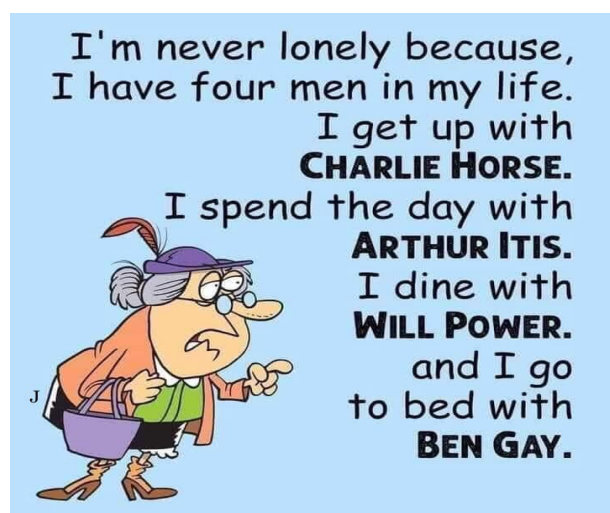
The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.'
The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Pot-luck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I Will Not Pass This Way Again', giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.



Reminder --



If a reservation has been made at Country Inn and Suites, call 507-388-8555 to cancel.



Someone asked the other day, "What was your favorite 'fast food' when you were growing up?"

"We didn't have fast food when I was growing up," I informed him. "All the food was 'slow.'"

"C'mon, seriously. Where did you eat?"

"It was a place called 'home,'" I explained. "Mum cooked every day and when Dad got home from work, we sat down together at the dining room table, and if I didn't like what she put on my plate, I was allowed to sit there until I did like it."

By this time, the lad was laughing so hard I was afraid he was going to suffer serious internal damage, so I didn't tell him the part about how I had to have permission to leave the table.

But here are some other things I would have told him about my childhood if I'd figured his system could have handled it:

- Some parents NEVER owned their own house, wore jeans, set foot on a golf course, travelled out of the country or had a credit card.
- My parents never drove me to school... I had a bicycle that weighed probably 50 pounds, and only had one speed (slow).

- We didn't have a television in our house until I was 10. It was, of course, black and white, and the station went off the air at 10 PM, after playing the national anthem and epilogue; it came back on the air at about 6 am. And there was usually a locally produced news and farm show on, featuring local people...
- Pizzas were not delivered to our home... But milk was.
- All newspapers were delivered by boys and all boys delivered newspapers --My brother delivered a newspaper, seven days a week. He had to get up at 6 every morning.
- Film stars kissed with their mouths shut. At least, they did in the films. There were no movie ratings because all movies were responsibly produced for everyone to enjoy

viewing, without profanity or violence or almost anything offensive.

If you grew up in a generation before there was fast food, you may want to share some of these memories with your children or grandchildren. Just don't blame me if they bust a gut laughing.

Growing up isn't what it used to be, is it?



Church signs

THE FACT THAT THERE'S
A HIGHWAY TO HELL AND
ONLY A STAIRWAY TO
HEAVEN SAYS A LOT
ABOUT ANTICIPATED
TRAFFIC NUMBERS.

GOD DIDN'T CREATE
ANYTHING WITHOUT A
PURPOSE, BUT
MOSQUITOES COME CLOSE.

DON'T GIVE UP! MOSES
WAS ONCE A BASKET
CASE!

ADAM & EVE - THE FIRST
PEOPLE TO NOT READ THE
APPLE TERMS AND
CONDITIONS.

JESUS IS COMING -
LOOK BUSY!

DON'T LET WORRIES KILL
YOU - LET THE CHURCH
HELP.

WHAT IS HELL LIKE?
COME HEAR OUR
PREACHER.

TOO HOT TO KEEP
CHANGING SIGN
SIN BAD JESUS GOOD
DETAILS INSIDE

GOD SHOWS NO
FAVORITISM BUT OUR
SIGN GUY DOES -
GO CUBS!

Brain teasers

Can you solve these brain teasers?

ENOIS ENOIS
STONE STONE

t
e
BedG

Go
Jan. 3 Jan.3

tpmerhao

Jack

SπKY

Everything
Pizza

DOfootOR