

BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



CONTENTS

9.1

ACTS: PART 2

Join us this fall for our study of Acts 13-28, as we journey with Paul, hear the Good News, and are again amazed by God's grace.

9.2

EVANGELISM CORNER

Early Christians, though persecuted, "preached the word wherever they went." How can we keep quiet?

9.3

THE VICAR YEAR BEGINS

WELS President, Mark Schroeder, explains the Vicarage, and how congregations and Vicars are mutually blessed throughout the year.

9.6

WHY SUNDAY SCHOOL

The sheer size of the Bible is incredible, and it's too much to explore at once. But at the heart is Christ and the promise of heaven.

The Book of Acts: Part 2

"To the Ends of the Earth"

The message of Jesus is a power. It is a power that changes hearts. It gives understanding to those in darkness, hope to the hopeless, and freedom to the captives.

The Book of Acts is the story of that powerful message going out into all the world. Chapter 1, verse 8, provides the outline for our Sunday morning adult Bible study. Jesus said, "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Beginning on September 9, our attention shifts. The focus is no longer on Peter and the church in Judea and Samaria, as it has been in chapters 1-12. Now, beginning with chapter 13, we focus on the missionary journeys of Paul as he takes that message to the ends of the earth.

Paul wrote to Timothy, "Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst." (1 Ti 1:15) And to the Christians at Corinth, he wrote: "I am the least of the apostles and do not deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me." (1 Co 15:9-10) Once Paul embraced the grace of God in his own life, he was compelled to share the life-changing message of Jesus with others, carrying the message to the ends of the earth.

Even if you were not able to join us this past summer for Acts, chapters 1-12, join us beginning this fall for our study of Acts 13-28, under the theme "To the Ends of the Earth." As we journey with Paul and his co-workers around the empire, listening as they tell the Good News, we will once again be amazed by the grace of God. And as we embrace that grace in our own lives, we will capture the urgency and the passion to do what they did: to share the message of Jesus to the ends of the earth.

Our study at the end of September and beginning in October will include viewing and discussing the new WELS film by the same title: "To the Ends of the Earth."

- Pastor Westra



Evangelism Corner

By Pastor Alex Groth

During our study of Acts on Sunday mornings, one particular verse has stuck with me. It's the fourth verse of chapter 8: "Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went." This verse follows a good man named Stephen being arrested and railroaded in court. He was taken outside and angry men threw rocks at him until he was dead. This death sparked a fiery persecution of the early Christians; many men and women were dragged from their homes and thrown into dirty jail cells to await trial. Those who weren't arrested chose to flee for their lives, but...they "preached the word wherever they went." It is astounding to me that these persecuted people made it a point to share their faith while on the run. Why would they do the very thing that drove them from their homes in the first place?

They preached the Word wherever they went because it was so important. It was the greatest news they had ever heard. They preached because of their love...love for God and love for their fellow human beings. God had sent His Son to rescue the world from sin! How could they keep quiet? How could they let their neighbors continue living without this knowledge? The fulfilled promises of God burned in their hearts; they felt compelled to let it out. Those early Christians had a culture of sharing their faith; it was simply what they did.

One of my prayers for our congregation is that God bless us with that same kind of culture. May God give us an outreach mindset; let it become simply what we do. When a coworker expresses frustration about their life, let us be the ones who provide some stability. When a neighbor is dealing with the loss of a loved one, let us be the ones who provide hope. When a classmate feels lost in a seemingly meaningless existence, let us be the ones who provide a sense of purpose. When a friend is devastated by the guilt of something they have done, let us be the ones who provide the comfort of forgiveness through Christ.

You and I are not running for our lives, and yet the urgency in our work remains. The time is now to reach out to the people in our lives who need to hear about God's love. Let's not wait. Let's not assume someone else will do it. Instead let us as individuals preach the word wherever we go.



Michael Hoyord

Long Range Planning Update

Progress continues to take place following congregational feedback this spring/summer. Long-term strategies to improve the Mission Statement and Vision Statement are close to completion. Following the Mission & Vision Statements, a long-term Strategy Plan is expected to take root. You may have noticed that two ideas brought forth in the small groups are already implemented:

- **Children's Message:** Non-Communion Sundays' now hold a Children's Message within the worship service
- **Increased women representation within groups/meetings:** The Long Range Planning Team now includes three women who immediately started to bring great ideas to the team: Jackie Veite, Gina Noe, Myra Rasche.

The Vicar Year Begins

From Synod President Mark Schroeder

Those who are training to be doctors spend many years preparing for that work. Intensive study takes place in the classroom as future physicians learn about human anatomy, diagnosing diseases, and the proper use of available medications. But they can't become doctors with book knowledge alone. Before they become fully qualified physicians, they spend time as interns, gaining hands-on practical knowledge of the work they will do as doctors.

The same thing is true for those who will serve our congregations as pastors. They will spend a total of eight years (4 college and 4 seminary) preparing for the work they will do as shepherds and spiritual leaders. But the seventh year of training is not spent in the classroom. The seventh year of training for future pastors is spent in a congregation serving as a vicar. The vicar year is similar to a doctor's year of internship, in which future pastors are given hands-on training and experience in the various aspects of the pastoral ministry.

It's August, and that means the members of this year's vicar class will be arriving in congregations to begin this important year of their training. Over the next 11 months they will gain experience in preaching, teaching Bible class and confirmation class, planning and conducting worship, working with the congregation's lay leadership, and making hospital and shut-in calls. Perhaps most of all, they will spend this year gaining an understanding of the spiritual needs of people and how they will depend on the Word of God to serve those needs.

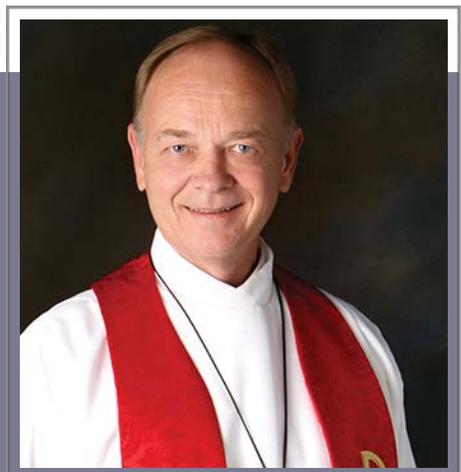
If your congregation is blessed to have a vicar this year, recognize that you will play an important role in his training as a future pastor. Welcome him (and his wife if he is married); encourage him; and, most of all, pray for him. By doing that, you will help him return to the seminary for his final year of training with a strong desire and a commitment to serve God's people as a pastor. If your congregation does not have a vicar, take a moment to thank God for those young men who are training now and who may someday serve as your pastor.

Serving in Christ,

President Mark Schroeder

(Reprinted from the "Together Newsletter", a WELS e-newsletter from Synod President Mark Schroeder)

"If your congregation is blessed to have a vicar this year, recognize that you will play an important role in his training as a future pastor. Welcome him... encourage him; and, most of all, pray for him."



Christian Education

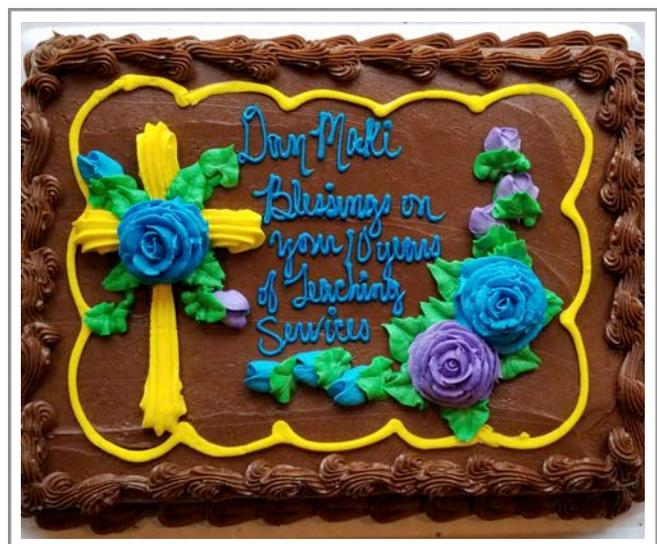
A Prayer for the Upcoming School Year

On August 19, the members of Beautiful Savior celebrated a very joyful Christian Education Sunday. Congratulations to Mrs. Carol Markgraf and Mr. Dan Maki on celebrating thirty and ten years, respectively, as teachers in Christian education! We are honored to support and work alongside you each year as you shape and mold the minds and hearts of our students, our children, our families. We pray for all the hands, who by God's grace, have come together to make Beautiful Savior Lutheran School an amazing place to learn about God's work of salvation and the academics to achieve great things in his kingdom:

Thank you, Lord, for giving those who have come before us the will and determination to get Beautiful Savior Lutheran School started against very formidable odds. Thank you for past and current Pastors, faculties, staff ministers, vicars, and lay people who have been responsible for advancing and evolving our school to where it is today. Thank you, Lord, for the teachers that we have today going into this 2018 - 2019 school year. Grant them not only the desire, motivation, and ability to teach our children "reading, writing and arithmetic", but also to accurately and properly teach your Holy Word - the Law and the Gospel - both in the classroom and by their daily example. Let our children's hearts and minds be opened, and may the Holy Spirit fill them with faith in their Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

If it is thy will Lord, grant us a successful year here at Beautiful Savior Lutheran school. Watch over our faculty and students, that we may have a safe and productive year.

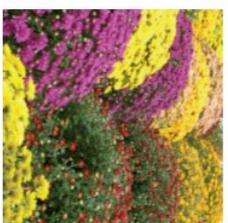
We ask this all in your name, Amen.





September 2018

Beautiful Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Worship 8:30 & 11 AM Sunday School, 9:55 AM Bible Class, 9:55 AM <i>Holy Communion</i>	3 No School 	4	5 Midweek Worship 7 PM Teen Group, 8 PM	6 Choir, 7 PM	7 Breakfast Club at Perkins in Fairfield, 10 AM	8 B&G, 9 AM
9 Worship 8:30 & 11 AM Sunday School, 9:55 AM Bible Class, 9:55 AM	10 Youth Catechism for grades 5-8 7:30 PM	11 <i>Evangelism, 7 PM</i>	12 Teen Group, 7 PM	13 Choir, 7 PM	14 Breakfast Club at Perkins in Fairfield, 10 AM	15 Bd of Elders 8 AM Bd of Ed, 9:30 AM 55 Plus Lunch at Bravo! in West Chester, 11:30 AM
16 Worship 8:30 & 11 AM Sunday School, 9:55 AM Bible Class, 9:55 AM <i>Holy Communion</i>	17 Long Range Planning Committee, 7:30 PM Youth Catechism for grades 5-8 7:30 PM	18	19 Teen Group, 7 PM	20 Choir, 7 PM	21 School Pictures 9 AM Breakfast Club at Perkins in Fairfield, 10 AM	22 
23 Worship 8:30 & 11 AM Sunday School, 9:55 AM Bible Class, 9:55 AM	24 Youth Catechism for grades 5-8 7:30 PM	25	26 Teen Group, 7 PM	27 7th-8th Grade Group, 3:30-5 PM Choir, 7 PM	28 Breakfast Club at Perkins in Fairfield, 10 AM	29 Young Adults Fellowship, 3 PM
30 Worship 8:30 & 11 AM Sunday School, 9:55 AM Bible Class, 9:55 AM					Special Dates in October 3 – <i>Midweek Worship</i> 10-12 – <i>Teacher Conference/No School</i> 13 – <i>Pumpkin Patch Festival, 11-2</i>	



Pastor Groth

Why Sunday School?

I can remember the first moments after I walked into the Mall of America in Bloomington, Minnesota as a 10 year old. I was overwhelmed by the sheer size of it. It was so bright and full of activity. There were so many different stores to explore, so many treasures to behold. A candy store that sold M & M's separated by color! And at the center of the mall...Legoland. A place better than I could have ever imagined.

Why is it important to make Sunday School a priority for your family? One reason is that God's Word is like the Mall of America. The sheer size of the Bible is incredible. There are sixty-six different books within this one large book, spanning several significantly different types of literature. There is simply too much for us to explore at once. We can walk through the wilderness with the Israelites and imagine tasting manna with them, the bread that miraculously fell from heaven. We can hide behind David and take a peek at the giant Goliath. We can follow Jesus through the countryside as he teaches, heals, and even raises the dead, all in the name of love. As students grow older, they can swim through the depths of complex gifts like Baptism and the Lord's Supper. They can hunt through the dense jungle that is the Psalms and find truths about themselves that will change their lives. At the heart of the Bible is not Legoland, but Christ and the promise of heaven, a place better than we could ever have imagined.

Sunday School is a chance to explore the magnificence of God's Word. It's not something auxiliary, it's a primary teaching tool designed especially for the children of our congregation. Making Sunday School a priority sets a wonderful example for your children. It helps them to see that God wants exploration of His Word to be at the center of our lives. There's so much to see and do; we should get started right now!

 Beautiful SAVIOR	Pastor	Tom Westra	513-825-8005	Pastor_Westra@beautiful-savior.com
	Pastor	Alex Groth	513-825-8005	Pastor_Groth@beautiful-savior.com
	Principal	Dan Markgraf	513-825-2290	Principal@beautiful-savior.com
	Vicar	Ethan Boese	513-825-8005	Vicar_Boese@beautiful-savior.com