

Beautiful Savior April 2019 Newsletter

I Need More...STRENGTH

After several attempts of twisting and tapping, the lid just wouldn't budge. "Honey, can you open this for me?" Her teenage son is eager to flex his muscles. He opens the jar and hands it back to his mother.

Life is sometimes like that jar, isn't it? Sometimes we just don't have the strength we need to tackle what's in front of us. Not the strength it takes to move a piano or change a flat tire, but the strength we need to raise our children or stay married to someone who is difficult to live with. We need the strength it takes to go to work and deal with people who are rude, inconsiderate, and lazy, or to walk to the mailbox that contains bills we'll have difficulty paying.

I need more strength!

"Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth... He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak... Those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint" (Isaiah 40:28-31).

What should we do when we need more strength? Hand that jar over to the LORD. He has all the strength we need and so much more. After all, he is the One who created the earth and everything in it. More than that, this strong, wise, loving God came to earth in the person of Jesus Christ. The all-powerful God came in human weakness to rescue us from sin and death. He was condemned and crucified. Weakness, right? No! Strength! Jesus used his strength to remain on that cross until every last sin of ours had been paid for. His empty tomb proves it. "Jesus was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead" (Romans 1:4). Death has been defeated! The guilt of sin before God has been removed! By trusting in Jesus, life in heaven is waiting for us.

Need more strength? The One who created the earth has it. The One who died and rose for you has it. He is the One who gives us the strength to face each day with fresh confidence. Find that strength in his Word. And then be ready to soar. Be ready to soar on eagles' wings with renewed strength and through every challenge of life! Be ready to soar on eagles' wings to the home that Jesus has prepared for you in heaven!

** The above article reprinted with permission from WELS Outreach resources*

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From the pen of the Pastor. "He is not here; he has risen, just as he said." (Matthew 28:6). Those words were sweet music to the ears of the women as they saw the empty grave on that first Easter morning. Christ had risen indeed, just as he said. Those words are also precious to every Christian, including you and me. They assure us that our salvation is complete just as God promised. Jesus did it all as he overcame sin, death and the devil for each one of us. The resurrection is a key part of our faith because it assures us that our salvation is complete – there is nothing more we have to do except to believe and trust in everything that Christ has done for us. May you take every opportunity to celebrate this great event and praise God for the precious gift of his Son who died and rose for you and for me!

Recent Membership changes. Viki Sigler released. Diana Waldbillig transferred to Cross of Christ, Coon Rapids, MN.

Finances and attendance. In March we have received \$10702 in regular offerings against a need of \$12120 (5 weeks) with one week to go. The average attendance on Sundays in March, so far, has been 50 per Sunday compared to 71 per Sunday in March 2018. Weather certainly has had an impact on our attendance in general this year. Please encourage your fellow members and maybe even offer a ride if needed and may the Lord encourage us to be faithful in our church attendance and may he continue to bless us and give us a generous heart to share his blessings.

Special Worship Services in April.... *Maundy Thursday* is on April 18th; a day where we will celebrate the gift of the Lord's Supper in a special service at 7:00 pm. On *Good Friday*, April 19th, we will worship at 7:00 pm to focus on the cross of Christ – a symbol of his great love for us. Then on *Easter Sunday*, April 21st, we will have an Easter breakfast from 8:00 – 8:30 am with an Easter Celebration Worship service starting at 9:00 am. All are invited to join us for these special worship opportunities.

Women's Society to Meet – On April 11th at 7:00 PM. All the ladies of the congregation are invited to join us as we start with a Bible Study and then have a short business meeting and close with desert and refreshments.

Women's Bible Study – What a great opportunity to study God's Word with your sisters in Christ! On Monday, 4/15/2019 at 9:00 AM there is a women's Bible Study where we are looking at the Gospel of Matthew. Come and listen to the discussion or join in as much as you like. No prior knowledge is needed – just a desire to learn more about God's Word. This is a great opportunity to bring a friend – everyone is welcome!

Quarterly Voters' Meeting will be held on Sunday, 4/28/2019, after the worship service. Some items on the agenda will be the purchase of an outdoor nativity and a report on the roof leaks due to the snow this year.

LWMS Spring Rally will be held on Saturday, 4/27, in Frontenac beginning at 12:30. Please sign up in the church entry if you are interested in going.

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You can help us on Facebook! If you are on Facebook, please like our page (beautifulsavioraustin) and share our worship video every Sunday. This will expand the number of people who have an opportunity to view our worship. It is another way in which we can reach out with the Gospel and it only takes a minute.

One Day Women's Retreat. There will be a one day seminar held at Ascension Lutheran church in Rochester on Saturday, April 6, beginning at 8:15 am. Dr. Rhoda Wolfe will be speaking on "*Moving from Surviving to Thriving – Recalculating Happiness,*" and Amber Albee Swenson will be speaking about "*Letting Go and Letting God: Surviving as a Control Freak Christian.*" Lunch will be provided and the cost of the seminar is \$25. For more information see the flyer in the church bulletin or talk to Pastor Welke. If you are planning on going please sign up in the church entry. Rides are available.

LWMS stands for Lutheran Women's Missionary Society. The annual convention is being held in Des Moines, IA from June 27-30. The LWMS convention site is www.lwms.org/default/180014747 and you can find more information about the convention there. The LWMS organization is one way in which the women of our synod support missions both at home and abroad. This annual convention is one way in which to hear more about our mission efforts and to gather together with other WELS Christians. Men are welcome to attend this convention as well.

The Picture Tree – want to update your picture on our picture tree? Maybe your family has changed or maybe you don't have a picture on our picture tree yet. On Easter Sunday, April 21st, we will be taking pictures at church, so if you want your picture taken, look for Chris Williams on Easter Sunday.