

# Beautiful Savior August 2020 Newsletter

## Can God take my guilt away?

This year in our monthly articles we are considering favorite verses from the Bible.

This month's favorite Bible verse is: **2 Corinthians 5:21**

***"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."***

"I wish I could take it all away," Mom whispered to her suffering five-year-old son. He had the flu for a couple of days now, and Mom's heart was broken. As he lay in his bed suffering from the chills and a fever, there wasn't much Mom could do except give him some children's flu medicine and just be there for him. Mom felt helpless and wished she could take it all away from him. She even wished she could have the flu instead of her son.

When children are sick, the love of Mom and Dad really starts to shine through. In a heartbeat, parents go to extra lengths to make sure their kids are feeling as comfortable as possible. If you're a parent, you've been there. You make sure their pillow is extra fluffy. You bring their favorite juice box. You provide their favorite movie to watch. And any time you hear them call, you quickly respond with, "What can I do for you?" The love of Mom and Dad goes so far that if they could take the sickness away, even become sick instead of their child, they would. But they can't, and it hurts.

Has there ever been a time when you wished you could take it all away? Not just a sickness of a child, but something you did that you really regret? Maybe it was something you did to end a close relationship with a friend. Maybe you said something to a family member that you wish you could take back. Maybe it was something that only you know about, but it haunts you each day.

It's at moments like these that God's love really starts to shine through. He knows your sin, your guilt, your regrets. But he doesn't just wish he could take them away. He did take them away. He forgave them all! He took your sin and guilt away when he put them on his only Son, Jesus. He loves you so much that he had Jesus die for your sin so that you wouldn't have to. God forgave your guilt and now considers you right with him because of what Jesus did for you.

Wish your guilt and regrets could be taken away? They were. In their place, he gives you forgiveness and eternal life. Now that's a love that shines through!

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

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*From the pen of the Pastor. "16 Be joyful always; 17 pray continually; 18 give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."* (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

This year has been a year of change and challenges and with the opening of schools in some form, there will be more change and challenges. So how do we, as Christians, handle all this? At times it might be hard to have a positive attitude or to be joyful. We might become frustrated with the situation we are in or frustrated with those making decisions that have a huge impact on our lives.

The Apostle Paul reminds us to **"pray continually."** That means we can take anything to God in prayer – even the little things. Peter echoes that when he said, **"Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you."** (1 Peter 5:7) Jesus encourages us to do the same thing, **"28 Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."** (Matthew 11:28–29) God's promise is to bring us rest and relief. So listen to him as he speaks to you through his Word. Trust in him to hear and answer your prayers and don't be surprised if he answers them in a way you hadn't expected.

God is in control and he loves us. Life isn't always easy but we can rejoice that we have faith in Jesus as our Savior. We can rejoice that he has redeemed us and so we can give thanks – even if it is only for the little things, we can still be thankful that God is in our lives, speaking to us and that he will work things out according to his will and his plans.

**Recent Membership changes.** None in July.

**Communion** – During **August** we will have **only one communion service** since Pastor will be on vacation on 8/16/2020 (the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday). Communion will be offered at the 8/9/2020 service. If you are not attending in-person worship services consider coming to the Special Communion Service on 8/25 or if you would like to arrange for private communion, please call Pastor Welke to set up a time.

**Special Communion Service.** This service is for members who might be "at risk" or for members that aren't ready to attend regular Sunday services. There will be no singing. There will be a small amount of liturgy, devotion, and the Lord's Supper. The service will take place on Tuesday, 8/25/2020, at 6:30 PM. If you have questions, talk to Pastor Welke.

**Guest Preacher** – On Sunday, 8/16/2020, Seminarian Max Kerr will be our guest preacher. Max is a student at Bethany Lutheran Seminary in Mankato, MN. This is an opportunity to have a little variety in preachers and to encourage this young man as he studies for the public ministry.

**Women's Bible Study** – Women's Bible Study will take place on Monday, August 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM. We will be finishing the book of Jonah. Come and join the study and discussion!

**Synod News** – Our synod's website is [wels.net](http://wels.net) and contains news, devotions and other interesting articles about things going on in our congregations and mission fields. Check it out.

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**Highlights from the July Voters' Meeting** – Finances are doing okay. Even though offerings have been down a little bit in June and July we are able to pay all our bills and had a balance of about \$16,000 in the checkbook at the end of June. The voters decided to keep communion on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month. The voters also passed a motion to send \$1000 to the WELS Endowment Fund for Student Assistance to help support students studying for the public ministry at our Synod's (4) schools.

**Are you going off to college?** – This year marks the 100 year anniversary of our Synod's Campus Ministry efforts. There are campus ministry programs at many colleges across our country that help to support students in their spiritual lives. If you or a son or daughter are headed to college this fall, please let Pastor know and provide him with contact information so that our synod's campus ministry group can keep in touch and support them through these important years.

**Finances and Attendance.** With in-person worship starting, our online response has gone down but it is still higher than before the pandemic. The average attendance for July was 25 per Sunday with a high of 36 and a low of 19. The finances for July were \$9497 against a budgeted need of 10,075 (4 weeks). We are grateful that our members are remembering to send their offerings in during these times of online worship and as that continues, we will be able to meet our ministry needs.

The address for our church mail is: Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church  
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Austin, MN 55912.