

Beautiful Savior August 2021 Newsletter

Dress Yourself with... Compassion

Every so often our news will carry a story about a school struggling with the question of going to mandatory uniforms. It's easy to understand the logic. Some of the most respected people in our society are those who wear uniforms.

Proponents of school uniforms could probably produce studies that show that students are more likely to respect themselves and each other when wearing uniforms, too.

On the other hand, we also hear stories about people bringing disgrace to the uniforms they wear: criminal charges against professional ballplayers, corruption in police departments, and sexual abuse by clergy. Examples such as these indicate that just putting on a uniform does not make a person better.

Listen to the apostle Paul describe a different kind of clothing: ***"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience"*** (Colossians 3:12).

Notice that Paul isn't just describing a change in outward appearances. Nor is he suggesting that we can somehow will ourselves into better behavior.

We don't earn the right to wear the clothes Paul describes. They come from being loved by God.

It all starts with the compassion Jesus had that moved him to lay down his life for the world.

Believing that Jesus loved us enough to die for us is what makes us one of his people. It also is what produces a change in our attitude.

As God's dearly loved people, we want to reflect the kind of compassion Jesus showed. That is something that will be as plain to see as any uniform.

Real changes in our lives won't happen just because we put on a district-mandated or color-coordinated outfit. That clothing just changes us on the outside. The inner change begins when we are clothed with God's love.

We hope you will visit us soon to learn more about God's great compassion.

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

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From the pen of the Pastor. I have seen this before but it is a good reminder for all of us on how to welcome visitors to our church. You can have a greater impact on whether they return again.

The command to love is the most repeated command in the New Testament, appearing at least 55 times. Here are 20 ways to show love to people that come into our church:

1. Remember that **every church MEMBER** is a host and not a guest. Making visitors feel welcome is primarily the responsibility of members, not the nebulous “church.”
2. The most important person for a visitor to talk to in order to feel at home in a new church is YOU. It is not the pastor, or the greeter, but a regular member.
3. Treat first time visitors as **guests of God**, not strangers.
4. TRY TO GREET EVERYONE including members you don't know. At least try to say good morning or good evening.
5. Look people in the eye and smile.
6. Take the initiative, don't wait for visitors to initiate conversation with you.
7. Learn people's names and remember them.
8. Use [only] appropriate and allowed Touch such as a hand shake or a gentle pat on the back.
9. Ask questions and learn about your guests. It is better to express interest in them than it is to try to “sell” your church.
10. Listening is a very effective way to show love.
11. Greet children at their level. (Bend down if you can to talk to them at eye level)
12. Let children be children. Yes, families love children's church and child care. We also love it when you allow us to decide if our children should remain with us in worship. And even more, when you love our kids as kids (crying, playing, singing!) and don't expect them to be grown-ups.
13. Invite visitors to join you at something, anything! Invite them to today's fellowship meal, Bible Study, etc.
14. Never let new people sit alone if possible.
15. Help visitors find seating that suits their families' needs.
16. Help first time visitors by being their tour guide and helping them find worship resources. Visiting a new church is like a cross-cultural experience, even for those of us who have visited dozens of other churches.
17. Invite people to fill out your church's Friendship Register or guest book.
18. Tell people you're glad they are here.
19. Pray for them throughout your week.
20. Be yourself! You are loving! You have a good thing going! You have the capacity to love more people, and to love more deeply.

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Recent Membership changes. None during the month of July.

Communion – Please note that in August communion will be offered on the 2nd and 3rd Sundays of the month (8/8/2021 and 8/15/2021).

If you have not been able to attend services and would like communion, please call Pastor Welke to set up a time for private communion.

Women's Bible Study – Women's Bible Study will be in recess for August and will resume in September.

Finances and Attendance. For the month of July we have received \$6790 against a need of \$10,090 (4 weeks). If you have not been attending in person, please remember to send your offerings to church at: PO Box 332, Austin, MN 55912.

The average in-person attendance for July was 40, which is down from an average of 45 last month. As we enjoy the summer and vacations along with other outdoor activities, remember to keep God at the center of your lives.

Free Garage Sale. We have been having a free garage sale every other year to reach out and help folks in our community. We plan on doing this in September – more info will be coming in the future but start saving your stuff now to donate in the future. Please, no electronics or large furniture. You will be able to start bringing stuff towards the end of August. Watch your bulletin for announcements. If you have questions, talk to Pastor.

VBS will be held in the evening this year from 6:00-7:30 pm on August 3,4 and 5. There will be classes for Pre-K going into 6th grade (if you are going into 7th, that's okay too). While the kids hear their Bible story **there will be a Bible study for the adults** and then we would ask that the adults also help the kids with their craft. We will end the evening with singing. Plan on attending this week!