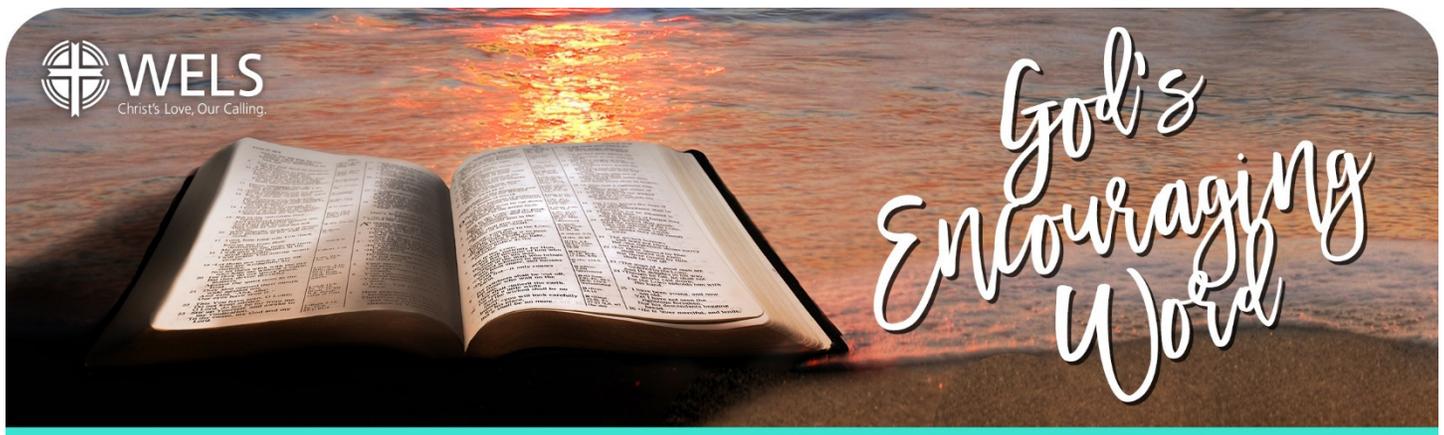


Beautiful Savior December Newsletter



God's Encouraging Word ... *when I wonder if I will go to heaven*

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” - John 3:16

I saw my name on Santa's list! I was so excited. I didn't think it would be there. I got mad and hit my sister on Thanksgiving Day. I admitted my fault. Since then, I was very well behaved. After all, Santa brings good things to good boys, right? I saw MY name! I was getting a puppy for Christmas! I did it! I made up for my sin.

Christmas came and no puppy. I was crushed. I thought I deserved one. I thought Santa loved me. Was the name on Santa's list someone else with the same name as mine? Did Santa think my apology was insincere? Was hitting my sister such a horrible thing that he would totally reject me? No puppy that Christmas. (It would be another 29 years before I got a puppy.)

What if God treated us like that? We would never be sure we are going to heaven. But God does not treat us like that, and we can be sure we are going to heaven. “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son...” Notice what God did not say. “God so loved the ones that don't hit their sisters...” “God so loved the good ones... the top 50%... those who help themselves.” No, **God loves sinners, all sinners, you and me.** He loves the whole world.

God gave us the greatest gift of all. Jesus, God's Son, came at Christmas to save the world from sin and hell. God gave us a gift only he can give—eternal life. God did that by sending Jesus into this world to live a life without sin. Jesus never hit his sister. He never even thought angry or insulting thoughts about anyone. Jesus was punished for all our sins, in our place. Jesus rose from the dead to guarantee our sins are paid for. He did this for the whole world. That includes you.

Jesus is the greatest gift ever given. Trusting him as your Savior, you can be certain you will go to heaven. Enjoy God's gift of Jesus this Christmas.

* The above article reprinted with permission from WELS Outreach resources

Beautiful Savior December Newsletter

From the pen of the Pastor. Welcome to the new year. You might wonder if I have my dates mixed up or is this really the January newsletter? Neither of the above. The Christian New Year starts with the season of Advent – the 4 weeks before Christmas. Advent is a season of preparation – where we prepare to celebrate Christ's 1st coming to that manger in Bethlehem 2000 years ago and where we look forward to his 2nd coming in power and glory on Judgment Day. We don't know when that 2nd coming will happen but as we stay focused on Jesus and trust in him as our Savior from sin we will be ready. Please come and hear more so the Holy Spirit can keep focused on what is most important – Jesus our Lord and Savior!

Midweek Advent Services – will begin on Wednesday, 12/5/2018, at 7:00 PM. The theme this year for our midweek services will be “Angelic Announcements.” Join us on 12/5, 12/12 and 12/19.

Special Christmas Services – On Christmas Eve we will worship at 6:00 PM (Please note the time) and then on Christmas Day we will have a different service at 9:00 am.

Recent Membership changes. Nyles Pederson went home to heaven on November 15th. Blessed are those who die in the Lord.

Finances and attendance. In November we received \$8418 in regular offerings against a need of \$9336 (4 weeks). The average attendance in November was 66 per Sunday compared to 69 per Sunday in November 2017. 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.

Women's Bible Study – What a great opportunity to study God's Word with your sisters in Christ! On Monday, 12/17/2018 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.

Children's Christmas Service – We will have practice on 12/1, 12/8 (from 9:30 – 11:00 am) and 12/15 (from 9:30 – 12:00). The Children's Christmas Service will be on Sunday, 12/16/2018 at 9:00 am with a brunch to follow.

To Beautiful Savior Members from Pastor: Thank you for the cards, the words of comfort and encouragement and the memorials given at the passing of my Mom. Your support has been truly appreciated!

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.

Distractions in Worship. Lately it seems like a number of children are going in and out of the church during worship and this can be very distracting. Please make sure your children use the bathroom before the worship service starts. We understand that occasionally there is a need to get up during the service but let's see if we can keep this to a minimum.