

Beautiful Savior February 2020 Newsletter

More Than Mere Roses

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

This month's favorite Bible verse is: **John 3:16.**

***“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”***

“What can I give to prove my love?”

With Valentine's Day approaching you may want to consider this question. Maybe you will give a card—perhaps one that plays a song about love. Maybe you will give flowers—red roses still seem like a good way to say I love you. If you're a romantic, you might plan something special—maybe a candle-lit dinner without the kids or a surprise get-away.

In the Bible, we hear about what God gave to prove his love for us. In the book of John it says, “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.”

God didn't just pick out a cute card or buy some roses for us. To prove his love, he gave his Son for us. And the greatness of God's love is seen in what he gave his Son *to*. When Jesus came to earth, he was given to a world that hated him; he was given to humiliation and torture, and ultimately, to death on a cross. As a parent, to give my child to suffer all of this is unimaginable. It would be nearly impossible to give so much for someone else. Can you relate? Yet God willingly gave his one and only, dearly loved Son for us.

So why did God do it? Because in the suffering of God's Son we see the penalty for our sins. God chose to punish his Son instead of us.

God did this to prove his love for you. He loves you so much that he gave his Son to die your death. He loves you so much that he will give eternal life to you and all who believe.

This Valentine's Day please reflect on the One who proved his love by giving more than mere roses; he gave his Son.

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

Beautiful Savior February 2020 Newsletter

From the pen of the Pastor. During the month of February, Valentine's Day often moves us to focus on love. That's a good thing because the life of a Christian is all about love – how God loved us and sent his Son to be our Savior and how we reflect that love in our lives. Our Savior's cross is a picture of that love – the place where he took our punishment so that we can be free from our sins. But there is more. John tells us, **“We love because he first loved us.”** (1 John 4:19) We can only love because of our Savior's love for us. There is so much negativity and hatred in the world that we need to hear about our Savior's love on a regular basis so that we aren't overcome by the world and so that we can have peace through forgiveness of our sins.

Jesus loves you – this is the message of the Bible and the message we proclaim. Come and be renewed and refreshed by this message of love every week.

Recent Membership changes. Chris and Pam Williams have been transferred to St Paul's in Wisconsin Rapids, WI.



Remember Your Offerings

Finances and Attendance. In January we received \$9118 against a need of \$10,075 (4 weeks). The average attendance on Sundays in January was 51 per Sunday compared to 63 per Sunday in January 2019. Please encourage your fellow members to gather around God's word with their church family and maybe even offer a ride if needed. 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! We will meet on Monday, 2/17/2019, at 9:00 AM as we continue to look 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!



Women's Society February Meeting – The meeting will take place on Thursday, 2/13/2020, at 7:00 pm. We open with a Bible Study, then have a business meeting followed by refreshments. All the ladies of our congregation are invited to attend. If you need a ride talk to Pastor.

Mission Festival On Sunday, February 16th, we will have a Mission Festival. Pastor Roger Neuman will be our guest preacher and will make a presentation on mission work being done in Ukraine.

Soup/Chili Cook-Off and Game Day. Dust off your favorite soup or chili recipe and make a batch for our Soup/Chili cookoff to be held on Sunday, March 1st. We will have games for all ages starting at 3:00 pm and then check out the different soup and/or chili starting about 5:00 pm and vote for your favorite. See if your entry can win the “Golden Ladle” this year. Bowls will be provided but some folks bring a muffin pan to make it easy to take a sample of each entry.

Beautiful Savior February 2020 Newsletter

Sponsor a Bulletin. There is a new sign up sheet for sponsoring a bulletin. The cost is \$10 per Sunday. If you would like to sponsor a bulletin, sign up in the church entry and put the money to sponsor the bulletin in an envelope and mark it “bulletin” any time before the Sunday you are sponsoring.

Highlights from the Voters’ Meeting. The voters approved the proposed budget as it was presented. It is about a 3.5% increase over last year’s budget. Having communion on the 2nd and 3rd Sundays of the month instead of the 1st and 3rd was also discussed. The change would help those working every other weekend to be able to commune at least once a month. The consensus was to try this and re-evaluate it at the July voters’ meeting.

Food Drive to Help College Students – Riverland Community College has a food bank for their college students. Some students have a hard time supporting themselves while attending college and make use of this food bank. We will collect through February 9th so bring your donations soon. This is one way, we as Christians, can help folks in our community. They can use the following items:

Peanut butter, jam/jellies, pasta noodles, pasta sauce, breakfast cereals, nuts, dried fruit, crackers, granola bars, trail mix, salsa, chips, canned beans, canned meat, chili/stews, soups, dish soap, hand soap, toilet paper, Kleenex, toothpaste, pancake mix, pancake syrup.