

Beautiful Savior January 2019 Newsletter

I Need More...TIME

As you reflect upon previous events in your life—gatherings, graduations, weddings, birthdays, business, kids, careers, vacations, and visits. Do you wishfully think: “If only I had a little more time? More time with my kids. More time with my elderly parents. More time to relax and enjoy life.” With a slight sense of regret and quick glance at what may seem like a schedule fuller than ever, you may feel like throwing up your hands and shouting, “I need more time!”

Jesus said, “I have come that you may have life and have it to the full” (John 10:10). You might be thinking that your life is full enough. You do not need more things to do. You need more time! But Jesus is not talking about doing more things. Jesus is talking about a fulfilling life that has a purpose from beginning to end and into eternity.

Jesus entered our world 2000 years ago. Jesus’ purpose in life was simple. He came to earth so that when our time on earth comes to an end, we can spend eternity with him in heaven. In order to make that happen, Jesus lived every moment of every day in perfect obedience to his heavenly Father. His life temporarily ended at the cross when he suffered the punishment of sin for all people of all time. Just three days after his death, Jesus came back to life in order to proclaim his victory over death and his gift of life with God.

What a full life Jesus gives to us! We do not need to be weighed down by the guilt of our past—things we have regretfully done or left undone. Jesus came to live a perfect life in our place. We have confidence for the future because Jesus is already at the finish line, waiting to welcome us into heaven. Life is no longer about cramming as much as possible into every day. Rather, life is about living each moment of every day in gratefulness to our Savior Jesus.

Need more time? Spend time with Jesus. Get to know him through his Word. Discover the fullness of his love and purpose for you. While he may not give you the additional hour(s) you were hoping for each day, Jesus will help you to make the most of the time he gives to you.

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From the pen of the Pastor. Welcome to the new year. Christmas is over and it’s time to get back to a more “normal” routine. As we start a new year, sometimes we make resolutions – things we want to change in our lives as we move forward. A good resolution this year might be to spend more time with God or to try and live a life more faithful to God’s Word. Maybe that means attending worship more often or trying out one of our Bible Classes or making sure your children are in church and attending Sunday School. Maybe a change might be to participate in the various church activities and projects. Whatever you might be looking to change in your spiritual life the Lord will be with you and help you. I, too, look forward to helping you in your spiritual journey through life this year and Lord willing, in the years to come,

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Recent Membership changes. Kate Coleman and her children Abe and Iris transferred to Our Savior Lutheran Church in Kasson. Gretchen Becker and children Garrison and Maxwell also transferred to Our Savior Lutheran Church in Kasson. Nicholas Hansen was released from membership as we have lost contact with him.

Finances and attendance. In December we received \$12,766 in regular offerings against a need of \$11670 (5 weeks). This was good because our offerings in November were a little behind. The average attendance on Sundays in December was 59 per Sunday compared to 68 per Sunday in December 2017. Weather certainly had an impact on December attendance. Average attendance for the year was 66 which is exactly what it was last year. 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.

Refreshments for Fellowship Time – It had been harder to get people to sign up to bring refreshments for the fellowship time after church. The Spiritual Growth Committee discussed what we could do to improve this and we decided to try and make things simple – simpler for the people setting up food and coffee and simpler for cleanup. So **Starting January 6th**, we will have donuts and coffee and milk and some fruit after church. The Spiritual Growth Committee will take care of doing this for the month of January and figure out the best way moving forward. There will be a basket for donations. We would expect most people to throw in a dollar for a donut and coffee but if you can't that's okay too. Our whole point is to keep it simple and to not keep anyone away from this enjoyable time.

Women's Bible Study – What a great opportunity to study God's Word with your sisters in Christ! On Monday, 1/21/2019 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.

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.

Voters' Meeting. There will be a voters' meeting on Sunday, January 20th after our worship service. The main agenda item will be to adopt the 2019 church budget. Also on the agenda will be using some memorial money to purchase an outdoor, life size nativity. The cost will be between \$1000 and \$1500. We also will be looking for a delegate to the Synod convention this coming summer. Delegates must be an adult male, 21 years or older and a member of our congregation. The synod convention is from July 29, 2019 through August 1, 2019 at Martin Luther College in New Ulm, MN. Talk to Pastor if you have questions about any of these items.