

Beautiful Savior January 2020 Newsletter

Unchanging Hope for an Ever-changing World

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

This month's favorite Bible verse is: **Hebrews 13:8**

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”

As one year ends and another begins, columnists and commentators look back at the previous year. What changed? What stayed the same? Whose passing did we mourn? Whose new arrival did we celebrate?

At the same time, we make predictions about the coming year. What will the new year hold? What will change? What will stay the same?

As fun and exciting as it may be to reminisce about the past and dream about the future, it can also be a little sad and scary. Things will likely never be what they used to be. Loved ones who have passed away don't come back. Jobs that are lost seldom reappear quickly. Even when broken dreams and broken relationships are repaired, they rarely return to their former glory. Many times our experiences in an ever-changing world are difficult.

Yet we sometimes look at our lives and see a need for change. Many of us make New Year's resolutions: “I'm going to exercise more and eat less.” “I'm going to save more and spend less.” “I'm going to love more and hate less.” But too often, our good intentions disappear, and only poor excuses remain.

No matter what (or who) changes from one year to the next, there is one who never changes—Jesus Christ, the Son of God. He always exists, from before time, throughout the course of time, and at the end of time for eternity. Jesus loved you before you were born. He loves you today, and he will always love you.

That's what Christmas is all about. Jesus loved you so much that he wanted you to experience his unchanging love forever. So he came into the world to live up to God's perfect demands in your place. He took the punishment for your imperfection and gave you the reward for his perfection. That reward is an eternity far away from this world's sorrows and disappointments—the unchanging peace and joy of a place called heaven.

Jesus—the same yesterday, today, and forever—promises to be with us, love us, care for us, and give perfect peace with God to all who trust in him. Only Jesus offers unchanging hope to an ever-changing world.

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

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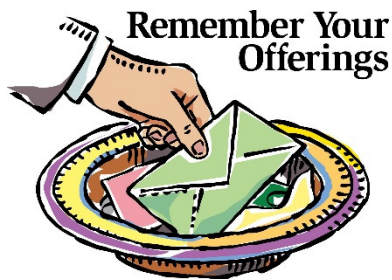
From the pen of the Pastor. The words of Isaiah 12:1-6 are a beautiful song of praise: *In that day you will say: "I will praise you, O LORD. Although you were angry with me, your anger has turned away and you have comforted me. ² Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD, is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation."*

³ With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴ In that day you will say: "Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted. ⁵ Sing to the LORD, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world. ⁶ Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you." As we begin a new year, may we praise God for being with us throughout 2019. At times, we might have felt all alone or depressed, but God never leaves us and he speaks to us through his Word and sometimes through people he sends into our lives.

My prayer for you is that you continue to come and here Jesus speak to you through his Word, that you find peace in knowing that your sins are forgiven and that you have contentment knowing that the Lord is watching over you and providing you what you need in life.

Yes, let's begin the year with praise and thanksgiving, trusting in the Lord and thanking him for his gift of salvation!

Recent Membership changes. Alvin Meyer joined by profession of faith and Tyler Slack joined by adult confirmation.



Remember Your Offerings

Finances and Attendance. In December we received \$21,085 against a need of \$12,120 (5 weeks). The average attendance on Sundays in December was 62 per Sunday compared to 59 per Sunday in December 2018. 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, 1/20/2019, 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 January Meeting – There will not be a meeting in January as is our custom. It seems that the weather is always wintery and so it will be better for us to stay home in the evenings.

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.

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Voters' Meeting. There will be a voters' meeting on Sunday, January 19th after our worship service followed by a potluck. The main agenda item will be to adopt the 2020 church budget.

Communion Sundays change in January. Since we had to have a guest preacher from Bethany Seminary for the 1st Sunday in January we moved the communion services to the 2nd and 3rd Sundays for January. The Elders discussed doing this permanently and would like your feedback. The idea behind doing it (2) Sundays in a row is that if someone works every other weekend they can take communion at least one Sunday a month. We will bring this up at the voters' meeting or you can let Pastor or one of the Elders know what you think. The Elders of our congregation are: Mark Winkels, Jim Corbly, or Harlin Kriehn.

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. During the month of January and the 1st two weeks of February we will be collecting items to donate – a collection bin will be in the church entry. 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.