

# Beautiful Savior June 2020 Newsletter

## Is God Up There?

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

This month's favorite Bible verse is: **Genesis 1:1**

***"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."***

"God, if you are up there, please show yourself to me." Have you ever said that to God?

Wouldn't it be great if God just came down and showed himself to us?

God does show himself. In the first line of the Bible, God reveals himself to us. He tells us that he made all things. He made the huge galaxies of the universe. He made the tiniest atoms. He made you and me. His creation demonstrates his power, creativity, wisdom, and tender concern for us.

Take time to notice and to marvel at all God made—the colors of the sky, the light of the sun and stars, the mosaic of leaves outside your window, the beauty of the landscape within your view. Consider how God made you. Think of how your body works—your eyes and ears, your arms, legs, fingers and toes, your brain.

However, God did not make the world and then stand back as a disinterested observer far removed from it all. He is watching over it all. He continues to care for us by providing for all our needs.

Sadly, we often don't thank him for what he has done for us. We forget him. For that, God has every right to turn his back on us. Amazingly, he still cares for us. More than that, he came down to us and saved us from our wayward ways. He came down in love in the person of his Son, Jesus, and rescued us. Jesus lived the perfect life of thanks that we should live. On the cross, he died the death we should die for our sins. He promises a new and perfect world where all who believe in him will live forever in perfect joy.

Is God up there? Yes, he is! And, thankfully, he was willing to come down here to save us so that, one day, we will see him face to face.

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

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*From the pen of the Pastor. "4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."* (Philippians 4:7). There is a song that came out in 1988 called "Don't Worry, Be Happy." The verses talked about different problems you might have but always ended with the phrase, "Don't worry, be happy."

In a way, that is the idea the Apostle Paul is trying to convey to us in his words above. Be happy! Rejoice! Don't worry! Even in the midst of troubles, don't worry. Why? Because we have Christ in our lives. We can rejoice in the Lord and all he has done for us. He has redeemed us and he comes to us throughout his Word with assurance of forgiveness and the promise to watch over us and provide for us.

Even when we are anxious about anything – even the smallest of things – he encourages us to bring them to him in prayer and he will bring us peace. He does that by speaking to us through his Word and sometimes he does that by sending someone into our lives to reassure us and give us a hug if that is what we need.

Our Lord loves us and cares about each one of us individually so Don't Worry. Be Happy. Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let the peace of God dwell in your hearts always as he continuously comes to you through Word and sacrament.

**High School Graduates this Year** – We would like to acknowledge and congratulate Seth Lumley as he graduates from Austin High School and Coltan Uthke as he graduates from Albert Lea High school. What a finish to your high school years! May God richly bless you as you move on to the next phase in your life.

**Recent Membership changes.** None in May

**Finances and Attendance.** We are reaching many more people online than we have in the past. The finances for April were \$10,545 against a budgeted need of \$10,075. The finances for the first 3 weeks of May are \$6580 against a total need for May of 12,594 (5 weeks). We are grateful that our members are remembering to send their offerings in during these times of online worship and as that continues, we will be able to meet our ministry needs.

The address for our church mail is: Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church  
PO Box 332  
Austin, MN 55912.

**Communion** – We are thankful that we were able to have (3) special communion services at the end of May. Since we will be resuming in person worship, we will start having communion on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month. We will review this at the Voters Meeting towards the end of July.

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**Women's Bible Study** – As we try to get back into a more normal way of doing things, we will start up our Women's Bible Study again on Monday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00 AM. At our last meeting in March we finished the Gospel of Matthew so we will start with a new study in June. This would be a great time to join a Bible Study. We will practice social distancing at our study. If you want coffee or something to drink, you will have to bring your own.

**June Meetings** – There are no other meetings scheduled for June. We will not have Bible Class or fellowship after services during June but hope to resume some more activities and meetings in July

**Looking to the Future** – We will continue to Live Stream our worship services every Sunday at 9:00 AM as well as conducting in-person worship at the church. Every member should have received a letter detailing the guidelines we will use as we worship in person. Things seem to change on a regular basis and we are doing some things differently, so as we adjust and as we receive different mandates from the government, that may impact our worship life. We will do our best to keep you informed and provide a sanctuary for worship.

Everyone has different ideas and opinions. If you are not comfortable worshipping in person, please join us online. If you don't have that capability, we will send you a DVD or a printed copy of the sermon – just let us know what you need. If you wish to receive communion but didn't come to one of the special communion services and don't feel comfortable communing on June 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> at a regular service, contact Pastor Welke and we can arrange for private communion.

The words of Psalm 5:11 offer us encouragement as we move forward: ***"But let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may rejoice in you."***

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