

# Beautiful Savior March 2019 Newsletter

## I Need More...GOOD NEWS

Indeed, we live in frazzled and frustrated times. Just turn on the nightly news. So frequently we are given reports of events that have devastated property and lives; are told about individuals that have deviated from law and order; and hear of other stories that dampen our spirits. On a regular basis, most of the news is not good news, and a depressed sigh first finds solace in the silence of a turned-off television.

Turns out, though, that we don't have to turn on a TV to know that. We don't even need to be near it. As our consciences rerun the past, we see where our own deviations have had a devastating impact. As a direct result, our spirits are dampened and depressed. Even life-long Christians feel the sting of past sins as their consciences cry a guilty testimony. That's the "news" we know by nature. That's God's Law on sinful hearts, and that's why stricken hearts crave more good news.

The calm to the craving is not attained by turning off; we get it by tuning in. The answer is not in blocking out God's Word or dulling our consciences by making poor excuses. The solution is still found in what God's good news says to every individual—even to you. The calm, promise, and solution remains the message of the gospel! Hearts are calmed at the message of Christ for us! And it's in that message the apostle Paul, a very real sinner, would have sinners still take comfort and confidence. As he lifted Timothy's eyes and heart to the grace of the cross, so he lifts ours: ***"Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst"*** (1 Timothy 1:15).

Craving more good news? Forgiven sinner, tune in to the Savior who carried your every sin! See him in his Word! Redeemed believer, tune in to the gospel—God's good news that quiets sin's accusations! Hear that saving message! Beloved child of God, tune in to the trustworthy message of the Bible and let your heart sigh with thanksgiving. Jesus came to save sinners. Jesus came to save you! That's the good news! Crave it. Enjoy it. And stay tuned in!

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

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*From the pen of the Pastor.* The season of Lent starts on Ash Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>. What do people know about Lent? Some people might tell you that this is the time of year when Catholics only eat fish on Friday. Maybe they know that during Lent Lutherans go to church on Wednesday nights. Many people don't even know that the church has seasons and they have no idea there even is a season of Lent. If you are in church on a Wednesday night and on a Sunday morning you will probably notice that the pastor wears black on Wednesday and white on Sunday. Why is that? It is a sharp contrast between our sins and Christ's solution to our sins. On Wednesday nights we will focus in on our Savior's journey to the cross – a journey that was necessary to pay for our sins. On Sundays we want to focus on the grace and love of God as seen in what Christ has done to bring us forgiveness for our sins, life and salvation. A good Bible passage to remember during the season of Lent comes from Paul's letter to the Corinthians, ***“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”*** (2 Cor. 5:21) That really says it all about our Savior's work and his wish that we come to faith and remain faithful to him so that we can be right with God. May these words encourage you during the season of Lent.

**Special Services start with Ash Wednesday.** March 6 begins the season of Lent. The Wednesday services will begin at 7:00 PM and we will have guest preachers for these services:

- March 6 – Pastor Welke
- March 13 – Pastor Kom (Ascension, Rochester)
- March 20 – Pastor Semrow (Ascension, Rochester)
- March 27 – Pastor Koelpin (Resurrection, Rochester)
- April 3 – Pastor Riedel (Grace, Oronoco)
- April 10 – Pastor Meyer (Life, Rochester)

**Recent Membership changes.** None to report on for the month of February.

**Finances and attendance.** In February we received \$7175 in regular offerings against a need of \$9696 (4 weeks). Unfortunately we had to cancel services on 2/24/2019 and that had an impact on our February offerings. Lord willing, we will make up the shortfall in March. The average attendance on Sundays in February (3 Sundays) was 51 per Sunday compared to 57 per Sunday in February 2018. Weather certainly has had an impact on our February attendance. We hope spring comes soon so that the weather doesn't impact our ability to worship together. 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.

**Church Council Meeting Change** – a number of folks can't make the original date set for the March meeting so the Church Council will meet on March 17<sup>th</sup> after Bible Class.

**Women's Society to Meet** – On March 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. All the ladies of the congregation are invited to join us as we start with a Bible Study and then have a short business meeting and close with desert and refreshments. Please note that we will be meeting on the **2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month** this spring.

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**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 continue to collect items through 3/10/2019 – a collection barrel is 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.

**Women's Bible Study** – What a great opportunity to study God's Word with your sisters in Christ! On Monday, 3/18/2019 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. This is a great opportunity to bring a friend – everyone is welcome!

**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.

**Dealing with Depression Seminar.** You are invited to a seminar entitled “Dealing with Depression”. Depression is more common than AIDS, cancer and diabetes combined. In this seminar you will learn to identify the symptoms of depression and discuss some of the myths and misconceptions that surround it. Pastor Kom from Ascension in Rochester will lead the discussion that day but we'll also have some licensed counselors here to add their perspective to our discussions. The seminar will be Saturday, March 9, from 9 until 10:30 AM at Ascension. Ascension is located at 2207 11 Ave SE in Rochester. If you would like to attend this seminar please RSVP to Cheryl Koss at [ascensionsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:ascensionsecretary@gmail.com). If you plan on going please sign up in the church entry. Rides are available.

**One Day Women's Retreat.** There will be a one day seminar held at Ascension Lutheran church in Rochester on Saturday, April 6, beginning at 8:15 am. Dr. Rhoda Wolfe will be speaking on “*Moving from Surviving to Thriving – Recalculating Happiness,*” and Amber Albee Swenson will be speaking about “*Letting Go and Letting God: Surviving as a Control Freak Christian.*” Lunch will be provided and the cost of the seminar is \$25. For more information see the flyer in the church bulletin or talk to Pastor Welke. If you are planning on going please sign up in the church entry. Rides are available.

**Bowling** – Do you like to bowl? Join us on Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, at 3:00 PM at the Echo Lanes bowling alley for some fun and fellowship. Cost is \$1.95/game and \$1.95 for shoes. After bowling, we will head to Steve's Pizza for supper. If you just want to join us for food that is okay too or if you just want to come and watch the bowlers that is fun too. Sign up in the church entry.