

# Beautiful Savior March 2020 Newsletter

## The Great Exchange

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

This month's favorite Bible verse is: **Isaiah 53:5**

*“He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.”*

Life is filled with exchanges. Employees exchange forty hours for a paycheck. Fans exchange forty dollars for a seat at the game (and then exchange another ten dollars for a hotdog and drink)! Every day we exchange time, money, effort, and emotion for what we hope brings us joy, peace, and satisfaction.

The Bible speaks about exchanges, too. It says that God does not want us to have any sin. In fact, he says that if we do sin, we cannot live with him because he is a sinless, holy God. Sin is so serious to God that he pronounces the death penalty for anyone who sins. He says, “The wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23) and “The soul who sins is the one who will die” (Ezekiel 18:20). So, who can ever hope to stand in God's presence and enjoy his favor? For try as we might, we are not perfect. Sinful thoughts, words, and acts clutter our lives.

There is good news, however. In love for us, God made an exchange. Instead of holding us under his judgment for all our wrongdoing, he placed his Son under judgment instead of us. The Bible is speaking about Jesus when it says, “He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.”

That is a great exchange! Jesus came and exchanged his life for ours. Our transgressions (times when we fail to live according to God's holy will) were taken away when Jesus was pierced on the cross. Our iniquities (all the things we think or do that don't measure up to God's perfect will) were taken away when Jesus was crushed in death. Our punishment was paid for by Jesus.

Through Jesus you have peace with God. Through his wounds you are given life with God. Through Jesus you are forgiven and loved by God. Yes, you! God chose to make that exchange for you.

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

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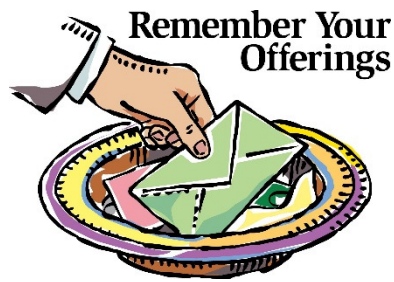
*From the pen of the Pastor.* During the month of March we have what is called “March Madness.” People fill out brackets and try to guess who will win the battle on the college basketball court. Some of the games get pretty intense but at the end of all there is a champion.

As Christians, we too are watching a battle unfold during the month of March. We are watching Jesus as he does battle with Satan and his followers – matter of fact, the theme for our midweek services is “The Son of God Goes Forth to War.” But this battle is not for our entertainment and the stakes are much higher than a trophy to be displayed in some trophy case.

The battle takes place on the cross where, **“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”** (2 Corinthians 5:21). When Jesus paid for our sins he defeated Satan by redeeming us for God and Jesus won! His resurrection on Easter Sunday declares his victory with wonderful celebration.

So this year join us as we gather around God’s Word and journey to the cross. Watch the battle unfold between Jesus and the Pharisees as they do the Devil’s work. Watch as Jesus goes to the cross for each one of us and look forward to celebrating Jesus’ victory with us on Easter morning.

**Recent Membership changes.** None this past month.



## Remember Your Offerings

**Finances and Attendance.** In February we received \$8315 against a need of \$10,075 (4 weeks). The average attendance on Sundays in February was 53 per Sunday compared to 51 per Sunday in February 2019. Like last year, the weather has had an impact on our offerings and our church attendance. Pray for good weather and 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, 3/16/2020, at 9:00 AM as we finish 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 March Meeting** – The meeting will take place on Thursday, 3/12/2020, 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.

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**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 1<sup>st</sup>. 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.

**Midweek Lenten Services** – Following is the list of guest preachers and their themes for our midweek services:

2/26	Pastor Stephen Meyer	The Hidden Warrior
3/04	Pastor Brian Kom	The Promised Warrior
3/11	Pastor Jeff Limpert	The Warrior Faces Satan’s Ally – The World
3/18	Pastor Dean Gunn	The Warrior Rejected by Many Followers
3/25	Pastor Roger Riedel	Know Your Enemy
4/1	Pastor Joey Koelpin	Skirmishes

**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.

**Treats to 1<sup>st</sup> Responders** – We did this last fall and it was well received so we would like to do it again at the end of this month on Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, after Sunday School and Bible Class. Look for a sign up sheet to make some goodies and we need a few families to help distribute them this is a great way to get your kids involved with showing love to some of our community responders.