

Beautiful Savior May 2020 Newsletter

What More Could We Want?

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

This month's favorite Bible verse is: **Psalm 23:1**

“The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.”

John D. Rockefeller was one of the richest men in the world. An interviewer once asked him, “How much money is enough?” Rockefeller replied, “Just a little bit more.”

How many times have we told ourselves that if we had “just a little bit more” we would be happy? A higher-paying job. A larger home. An earlier retirement. Better health. Successful children.

But what happens when those wants are met? Are people truly happy? And what happens when those wants aren't met? When you find yourself unemployed. When in rough times your savings are depleted. When plans for better housing or earlier retirement have to be put on hold. When your health takes a turn for the worse or your children struggle in school. Where do you turn? Turn to Jesus and remember, *“The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.”*

We might not have everything we want in life, but Jesus, our Good Shepherd, has truly given us everything we need. He's given us his word. He's given us his promises. He assures us that our sins are forgiven and eternal life in heaven is ours through his death and resurrection.

He promises to provide for all of our physical and spiritual needs richly and abundantly here on earth until he takes us to the glorious home that he has prepared for us in heaven. There we will experience the fulfillment of his promise, *“You will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand”* (Psalm 16:11).

Not long after his death, someone came up to the accountant of John D. Rockefeller and said, “We know Rockefeller was a very wealthy man. How much did he leave?” Without a moment's hesitation, the accountant answered, “Everything!” A man who seemed to have it all was forced to leave it all behind in the end. The only things that will go with us from this life to the next are the spiritual treasures that belong to us through faith in Jesus.

What do we want out of life? What we need the most has already been fully and freely supplied by Jesus, our Good Shepherd. So, what more could we want? What more could we need?

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

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From the pen of the Pastor. We celebrated Easter almost 4 weeks ago and yet, I hope the joy of Easter is still in your hearts. The next major Christian holiday is Ascension Day which is 40 days after Easter. Why is Ascension Day so important? That is when Jesus told us, ***“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*** (Matthew 28:19-20). Jesus commanded us to go and share this great news that he has paid for our sins and his resurrection proves it. He has done everything needed for our salvation because of his great love for us. Salvation is God’s free gift for us and all who believe and trust in Jesus. That is what God’s mercy is all about.

The coronavirus has enabled us to reach more people with the Gospel message because more people are at home and looking for something to listen to on the internet. God’s Word can’t be stopped from being proclaimed. We all hope the stay at home orders will be lifted soon but as our Savior encouraged us to share the Gospel, he also promised that he is with us always. We are not alone and we have his strength to draw on to bring us comfort and help at any time. While we won’t be able to worship in person on Ascension Day, the gospel continues to be proclaimed and during these difficult times, remember that your Savior is with you and watching over you always.

Recent Membership changes. None in April

Finances and Attendance. We are reaching many more people online than we have in the past. The finances for March were \$10,256 against a budgeted need of \$12,594. The finances for the first 3 weeks of April are \$8710 against a total need for April of 10,075. 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 – It is hard to celebrate the Lord’s Supper when we don’t have regular worship services. There is private communion but with this particular virus a person can have it, be contagious, and not show any symptoms. The pastors of our circuit talked about communion practices during the “stay at home” mandates and we also received input from our district president as well as the president of our synod. ***We are thankful that God comes to us through the Means of Grace in Word and sacraments.*** At this time we are going to rely on the Word to feed our faith and suspend the Lord’s Supper for a time, until it is safe to have regular worship services. We do this out of love and concern for our members. None of the pastors wanted to take the chance that we might catch the coronavirus and transmit it to members by personal visits. We look forward to the day when we will be able to celebrate the Lord’s Supper together again.

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Meetings and Confirmation – At the time of this writing, there are no meetings, Bible Classes or in person worship planned for the month of May. Unfortunately we will have to also wait on confirming our one confirmand, Garrett Degen, until we can have regular worship services. Lord willing, we will be able to have a Voter's Meeting in July. The Church Council will meet via Zoom if the need arises. When the time comes to reopen and worship in person, we will call and/or notify people by mail.

Looking to the Future – It seems that things are starting to change and at some point in the near future we will be able to gather together in person for worship. I look forward to the day when we will be able to do that, but as we move forward, keep in mind that we will have to plan for social distancing and there will be some changes in the way we might worship. I listened to a webinar put on by the Minnesota Family Council of Churches about re-opening. Next week the pastors in our circuit will be discussing practices and practical things to consider as we make plans to reopen and I will meet with the church council to put together the guidelines and practices we will follow when we are able to reopen. Our concern is to try and keep everyone safe and healthy when we are again able to gather in person for worship.

Until we can worship in person continue to watch our live stream on Facebook or request that we send you a DVD of the Sunday service or request a copy of the sermon each week.

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