

# Beautiful Savior September 2020 Newsletter

## Sure and Certain of the Unseen

This year in our monthly articles we are considering favorite verses from the Bible.  
This month's favorite Bible verse is: Hebrews 11:1

***“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.”***

It is amazing that with only a few clicks on a computer, we can dramatically alter photos. Such capabilities have led us to be a bit more wary. We find ourselves saying, “Unless I see it with my own eyes, how can I believe that it hasn't been touched up? I'll believe it when I see it.”

Often this cynical attitude can touch our spiritual life. How can I believe that God loves me and knows what is going on in my life considering all troubles and disappointments I have to deal with?

The Bible tells us, “Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.” How can we be sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see?

Think of a father and child playing the game where the father stands behind the child and tells him to fall backwards. The child, unable to see his father, still trusts that he is there and is certain that his father won't let him hit the ground. The child leans back and falls, fully convinced that his father will keep his word and catch him, because his father has always proved trustworthy.

This is the kind of trust we can have in our heavenly Father. Though we did not see the creation or the crucifixion, though we were not present to witness Jesus rising from the Easter tomb, though we have not heard his actual voice forgiving our sins and promising his return, we believe.

How can we be so sure and certain? Because God's Word is true and trustworthy. Our forgiveness is certain because Jesus did die and rise from the dead. God's love for us today and every day is sure. Every promise our Father has made about our eternal future, he will keep.

Faith is sure and certain of unseen things because it takes God at his word.

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

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*From the pen of the Pastor.* <sup>34</sup> Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. <sup>35</sup> One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: <sup>36</sup> "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" <sup>37</sup> Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' <sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup> And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' <sup>40</sup> All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." (Matthew 22:34-40). God's will for us is that we put him first in our lives and our neighbor second, right after God. Such a simple command from God and yet it goes against our very nature and the influence of the world in which we live.

If we could follow these commands of Jesus perfectly, we wouldn't need a Savior because we would be perfect in God's eyes and yet we know we fall short every day. We let other things in our lives take a greater priority than God and his Word. We let our neighbor fend for himself and only worry about ourselves. Thankfully, Jesus kept these commands perfectly for us.

He loved his Father so much that he followed his command to go to the cross to pay for our failures. Jesus served those around him in humility – always putting his neighbor first. As we keep Jesus in focus, it is his love for us that motivates us to try and follow these commands he has given us – not to save us but because we have been saved by him.

Make God and his Word your number one priority and you will be surprised at how it will help you handle everything else in life. Not that your life will be perfect but that God will bring you a comforting peace through his Word. Look for opportunities to help your neighbor and God will bring you joy through this service. He might even give you the opportunity to share your greatest gift with an opening to talk about your Savior.

Remember the greatest commands of God and look to him and his love to help you keep them as you live your life for him.

**Recent Membership changes.** None in August.

**Communion** – Now that vacations are over, we will return to our regular communion Sundays on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month (9/13 and 9/20).

If you have not been able to attend services and would like communion, please call Pastor Welke to set up a time for private communion.

**Women's Bible Study** – Women's Bible Study will take place on Monday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 AM. We will be starting a new study on the book of Micah so it would be the perfect time to join us. Come and join the study and discussion!

**In Person Sunday School starting 9/13/2020** – We are happy to have in person Sunday School starting Sunday, 9/13/2020. Since we will not have snacks and refreshments after worship, Sunday School will start about 10:00 am. Masks are mandatory for anyone 5 and older. We pray for good health as we begin the fall so that we are able to teach our children about God's love in person. If you have any questions talk to Pastor Welke or Ruth Lumley.

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**Sunday Morning Bible Study starting 9/13/2020.** We had just started a Bible Study on “Politics” when we had to shut down because of the Covid virus. Since we had not even completed the 1<sup>st</sup> lesson, we will start over with that study so as to review what we had discussed 6 months earlier. Bible study will be in the Fellowship Hall and start after worship, about 10:00 am.

**Highlights from the July Council Meeting** – Finances are doing okay. We sent the white altar paraments out to be dry cleaned and during the process the gold piping around the symbols on the altar parament and stole were stretched into a multitude of loops. We sent the paraments to Gaspard’s, the company which made them, and their assessment was that they could not be repaired but needed to be replaced. The council approved the replacement at a cost not to exceed \$1300. This would come from memorial fund money. You may have noticed some issues with the flooring in the fellowship Hall “popping” up in places. The company has been contacted and will be out to remedy the issues.

**Finances and Attendance.** The average attendance for August so far is 29 per Sunday and the average views of our online service are 92 per week. The finances so far for August are \$9035 against a budgeted need of 12,594 (5 weeks) with one week to go. 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.