

# WORSHIP WITH US!

Thursdays at 6:00pm  
Sundays at 8:00am & 9:30am



AUGUST 2015

OUR SAVIOR'S MESSENGER

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*Stay the course: teach, learn, live*

The headline was eye-catching: “Christians lose ground, ‘nones’ soar in new portrait of US religion.” The article’s first line was even more alarming: “The United States is a significantly less Christian country than it was seven years ago.”

That Religion News Service article, reporting on a recent Pew Research Center report regarding the state of religion in America today, was meant to shock and awe. And it did, because the numbers don’t lie. The percentage of atheists and agnostics in the United States is growing. Persecution of Christians is on the rise. Christian morals and values are increasingly denounced in the public square.

This shouldn’t scare us, and frankly, it shouldn’t surprise us. The Church has always been in the minority, because the Word of God has always been a stumbling block to those who don’t believe it. We are witnessing today what the apostles, the church fathers, the reformer and our LCMS forefathers all observed in their lifetimes as well.

The good news? The Word of the Lord endures, regardless of public opinion and irrespective of cultural whims. Our Lord is timeless and unchanging. His love endures, despite polls and statistics.

That’s why it’s important for Lutheran Christians to continue focusing on parish education, on teaching the faith in our homes,

schools and churches — regardless of what the popular culture says.

It’s important that we set aside time each day — as families or singles, grandparents or confirmands — to spend in God’s Word and to pray. It’s important that we know our catechisms, our hymnals and, most importantly, our Scriptures. It’s important that we commit Bible verses and hymns and prayers to heart. It’s important that we teach. It’s important that we study.

Let’s rediscover together the rhythm of that learning and teaching, of ordering our days around Christ and His Word, despite the world’s distractions.

Let’s focus again on daily devotions, whether done alone, in the congregation or with our family. Let’s recognize that our Lord has given us the ability to share His Gospel with “nones” and with all others, putting His Word in our hearts and on our lips.

And let’s study together what He has to say, so that we aren’t scared or surprised. Instead, let’s live in and by His mercy and forgiveness, day in and day out.

(The above article was used by permission from the LCMS website: *Focus on Education*, June 2015)

Pastor Marcus Powers

## Our Savior's Financial Report

The financial report will no longer be published in our monthly newsletter. The report that had been published here was not quite as complete as it should be due to the limited space.

A complete and more detailed report is available for your perusal on the table in the narthex.

The new report will have more details on income, contributions, and memorials. The expenditures and disbursements will also be more explicative regarding disbursements and expenditures.

Please feel free to contact our Treasurers through the church office if you have any questions.

## WORSHIP BY THE SHORE

The Social Activities Group will be sponsoring a worship service and cook-out at Deland Park on Aug. 23rd. **Please note: There will be 8:00am worship service at church that Sunday and the late service will be held at 10:30am at Deland Park with cook-out to follow.**

There will be no tickets sales prior to the picnic. Pay when you come to the cook out. Food prices are: \$5.50 for a single hamburger or brat meal or \$6.50 for Dbl. hamburger, brat or chicken sandwich meal. All meals include your sandwich, beans, potato salad and drink. Beer will be sold separately for \$2.00 a can.

We are asking for donations of bars, cookies, cupcakes or cakes. Please sign up on the pad in the narthex if you're willing to help out.

Why not plan a "fun family day" at the beach and enjoy the fellowship of your brothers and sisters in Christ? Please plan on attending the "Worship by the Shore" on Sunday, Aug. 23rd, starting with worship at 10:30 a.m. with cook-out to follow. Also, please remember to bring a lawn chair for the worship service.

If you have any questions, please contact any member of the Social Activities Group: Robyn Bemowski - 803-0958; Linda Fleck - 452-7484; Gail Hajenga - 457-7561; Marilyn Heling - 458-5336; Marijo Pitsch - 457-2974, Jane Woodard - 459-8965, Dawn Brauer - 457-532, or Kelly Jaeger - 457-5175.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BIBLE CLASS RESUME

It's important for all of us to learn God's Word. Through our study and discussions about the Word, God gives us the strength necessary to stand our ground against the devil. Ongoing Christian education is a vital tool in that struggle.

Our Savior's Sunday school will start classes on Sunday, September 13th at 9:15am. Look for registration information in the mail!

Bible Classes will start on Sunday, September 13th and Monday, September 14th.

## CEP Parent Orientation Meeting

A special CEP Orientation will be held on **Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.** This meeting is **MANDATORY** for all students and at least one parent must be present before your child can start CEP on September 16<sup>th</sup>. At this meeting you will meet individually with your child's CEP teacher review the class requirements for your child's grade. Also, registration forms and fees must be completed and paid at the orientation and the 2015-2016 handbook will be distributed. All information forms and fees will be sent out to all CEP homes in mid-August.

In addition to the evening meeting, we are planning a special presentation for all 5<sup>th</sup> graders and new students at the **10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>**. During the service Pastor Powers will ask all 5<sup>th</sup> grade students and any new students to come forward to receive their 'Faith Alive' Bible and Luther's Small Catechism. Following a blessing of the Bibles and catechisms, the Board of Christian Education will distribute the books to all students. These tools will be used through all four years of CEP

Our CEP staff looks forward to working with you and your child(ren). As we work together (and that's the key) we know that Christ will bless our Christian Education Program at Our Savior's. See you there!

## Care Packages

The Board of Education will be sending care packages to our members in college and the military in the fall. We need your help in gathering the necessary supplies to fill the boxes. Please consider donating an item from the list below or making a monetary donation for postage. You can bring your donations to the church narthex. Thank you for showing support to our young men and women who are away from home!

### ITEMS TO DONATE:

Nuts, raisins, granola bars, microwave popcorn, post it notes, highlighters, hot cocoa, gum, candy, pudding, pens, pocket size kleenex, money for postage

## Update on Church Rummage Sale

Rummage Sale, 2015: As a reminder, the sale will be held Friday, October 16 from 1 to 4 PM and Saturday, October 17 from 8 AM to 3 PM. We will need your help not only on those days but also with the sorting and pricing of items.

We also need your donations to make the sale a success. In a recent article on the AARP website, they listed some of the "hot" items for rummage sales. Costume jewelry is popular, so clean out those jewelry boxes. "Like-new" items which can refer to gently used items or perhaps the unwanted gift you received. Clothing is always a popular item. Vinyl records are becoming a sought after item as people are again using record players. Other items also listed in the article were tools, Americana home décor, books, furniture, retro dolls and toys, child/baby clothing, antiques, and seasonal items like patio furniture or garden or lawn equipment. From past sales, we have found craft items, kitchen dishes and small appliances, and holiday decorations have been very popular.

If you have a question on whether to donate an item or not, please contact Clara Murphy or Mike Feudner. Let us know too if you need some assistance in getting items to church and we will make the appropriate arrangements for assistance.

## NOTES FROM THE PARISH NURSE

Dear Friends in Christ:

Clara Murphy has shared with me information for the 10<sup>th</sup> annual suicide awareness and prevention walk – "There is Hope." It is scheduled for September 19, 2015 from 8:30am-12:30pm at Deland Park. It is a 2, 3, or 4 mile walk along Lake Michigan. I will place brochures in the narthex beginning in August.

Here are just a few statistics collected by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on suicide. These stats are from 2013.

- 41,149 suicides reported (10<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death for Americans, meaning someone died from suicide every 12.8 minutes.)
- From 1986-2000 suicide rates in the U.S. dropped from 12.5 to 10.4 but have increased to 12.6 deaths per 100,000 people in 2013.
- Suicide by age
  - 19.1 for 45 to 64 years old
  - 18.6 in those 85 and older
  - 10.9 aged 15-24
- Suicide by sex
  - Men 20.2
  - Women 5.5
  - In 2013 of those who died 77.9% were male and 22.1% female
- Suicide by race/ethnicity
  - Whites 14.2
  - American Indians and Alaska Natives 11.7
  - African Americans 5.4
  - Hispanics 5.7
- Suicide by geographic region/state
  - In 2013, nine U.S. states all in the West had a rate in excess of 18.
    - Montana (23.7), Alaska (23.1), Utah (21.4), Wyoming (21.4), New Mexico (20.3), Idaho (19.2), Nevada (18.2), Colorado (18.5) and South Dakota (18.2)
  - States with rates lower than 9
    - District of Columbia (5.8), New Jersey (8.0), New York (8.1), Massachusetts (8.2), and Connecticut (8.7)
- Suicide Methods
  - Firearms 51.4%
  - Suffocation (including hanging) 24.5%
  - Poisoning 16.1%

The economic impact in 2010 was estimated to be more than \$44 billion annually, resulting mostly from lost wages and work productivity. Non-fatal injuries due to self-harm is also estimated at \$2 billion annually for medical care and another \$4.3 billion in lost wages and productivity.

I know many of you, including me, have been touched by someone's suicide. It is often difficult to intervene if the person is intent on taking their own life. But be alert to changes in behavior, depression, keeping to oneself, giving away items, drug use, medical, emotional or financial crises. Try to get help and don't forget to pray, pray, pray.

God's blessings to all – Deb

August 2015

# Our Savior's Family and Youth Page

Your Source for all the Youth and Family Happenings at Our Savior's

Restored, Confirmed, Strengthened, Established - 1 Peter 5:10

In mid July I attended the 2015 National Lutheran Youth Workers conference in New Orleans Louisiana. This will also be the location for the 2016 National Youth Gathering. The focus of the conference was to help youth workers to be Restored, Confirmed, Strengthened, Established in their ministries. 1 Peter 5:10 states: "And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen and establish you." At the conference I learned a lot more about the focus of the 2016 National Youth Gathering, which is themed "In Christ Alone, what the kids will do in New Orleans etc. Other sessions I attended include Leading Digital Natives as an Immigrant: Trends and shifts in culture and how to talk to youth about being responsible citizens in a digital world, The Case for Christianity - Help youth defend / explain what they believe, Survival Mode - Ways to be proactive, gain permission to speak the truth, and how to help teenagers look to God in the midst of their crisis, Family Friendly Youth Ministry - Family-based youth ministry that passes the faith on to the next generation involving parents and the home and Enough with the Millennials... here come the Plurals - Looks at the first generation of the 21st century, the oldest of which are our current confirmation students. What is there characteristic type, what do we need to know to minister to them, to help them grow in their faith.

What does all this mean for Our Savior's and their youth and families? Many great things! Stay tuned for exciting experiences, opportunities and ways to share your love for God.

Upcoming important dates:

1. **August 19th:** Sunday school / CEP registration mailed home (look for an opportunity to register online!)
2. **September 9th:** CEP orientation.
3. **September 13th:** First day of Sunday school
4. **September 16th:** First day of CEP.

God's Blessings on the rest of the rest of your summer!

~ August 2015 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
<b>2</b> 7:30-9:30 Blood Pressure Screening 8:00am Divine Worship with Communion 9:30am Divine Worship	<b>3</b> 6:00pm Softball 6:30pm Board Meetings	<b>4</b> 1:30-3:30pm Parish Nurse	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 4:00-5:55pm Parish Nurse 6:00pm Divine Worship with Communion	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 8:00am Divine Worship 9:30am Divine Worship with Communion	<b>10</b> 6:30pm Council 7:00pm Softball	<b>11</b> 1:30-3:30pm Parish Nurse	<b>12</b> 9:00am Quilters	<b>13</b> 4:00-5:55pm Parish Nurse 6:00pm Divine Worship with Communion	<b>14</b> NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 8:00am Divine Worship with Communion 9:30am Divine Worship	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 1:30-3:30pm Parish Nurse	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 4:00-5:55pm Parish Nurse 6:00pm Divine Worship with Communion	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 8:00am Divine Worship 10:30 Worship by the Shore @ Deland Park	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 1:30-3:30pm Parish Nurse	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 4:00-5:55pm Parish Nurse 6:00pm Divine Worship with Communion	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 8:00am Divine Worship 9:30am Divine Worship	<b>31</b>	<b>Notes:</b> Sunday School will begin at 9:30am on September 13 <sup>th</sup> . Adult Bible Class will begin at 9:30am on September 13 <sup>th</sup> or 10:00am on September 14 <sup>th</sup> . CEP orientation will take place on September 9 <sup>th</sup> and classes will start on September 16 <sup>th</sup> .				