

OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

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JULY/AUGUST 2020



Patient attention, valuable discoveries

For many people, the coronavirus pandemic has been a test of patience — or worse. Medically vulnerable people face an anxious time of hypervigilance. Furloughed workers wait on hold or in lines for assistance. Special events have been canceled or rescheduled.

Those not impacted directly deal with assorted frustrations and inconveniences. Many people are learning the benefit of slowing down, being present (even virtually) to others and practicing patient attention.

Interestingly, scientist Isaac Newton did some of his best work when the plague forced Cambridge University to close. At home, the inquisitive student invented calculus and developed groundbreaking theories of gravity and optics. Later Newton called 1666 his *annus mirabilis* (“year of wonders”) and reportedly said, “If I have made any valuable discoveries, it [owes] more to patient attention than to any other talent.”

What have you discovered during the Covid-19 crisis? What appreciations have you developed for aspects of life you may have previously taken for granted? What has social distancing taught you about the value of neighbors, church, community volunteering?

During the pandemic, what have you learned about persistence and God’s presence? What empathy do you now feel for writers of words such as “I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope” (Psalm 130:5, NIV)?

The “wow!” factor

After the final notes concluded at a recent symphony performance in Boston, the conductor hadn’t yet lowered his baton when a child exclaimed, “Wow!” The break in protocol, magnified by excellent acoustics, didn’t upset the participants or audience, however. Instead, several later said it brought them great joy. One even called the moment life-changing.

The incident was especially meaningful because the child, a 9-year-old named Ronan, has autism and is generally nonverbal. Music, his family says, tends to attract his interest and make him happy. When symphony officials learned Ronan’s identity, they arranged a private performance so he could meet some musicians.

How often do you shout “Wow!” — in a good way — at what you see and hear? You may tend to do so on vacation or while observing God’s natural wonders, but what about during your day-to-day life? Think about the people you encounter and their talents — and your own. When have these sparked a “Wow!” of thanks to God?

Every blessing, large or small, is a wow-moment — a gift from God that warrants our praise.—adapted from HomeTouch Ministry

Ladies’ Guild

Ladies’ Guild will meet Thursday, July 9, at 7:00 PM at the church.



Pat Peterson—surgery
Roger Sholl—healing from surgery
Nancy—hospitalized at Allegiance in Jackson
in ICU for respiratory illness and other
conditions.
Naleigha, Theron & Genesis—safety and
protection as they transition back home
with bio parents
Mary Boehk—healing
Gloria Spencer—healing
Evelyn—strength
John Boehk—healing
Carolyn Myer—broken nose, migraines,
fibromyalgia
Julie Rupley—heart problems

George Bridge—continuing recovery of
cancer
Anthony Turowski—congestive heart
failure
Dawn Nichols—flesh eating bacteria on her
arm
Grayson Rupley—sensory disorder
Allison Stickel—health & anxiety issues
Jim—dementia
Diane Jackson—blood clots
Pat Waldfogel—broken wrist and knee
problems
The safety of the unborn
Our Saviour Lutheran
Missionaries

Precision-crafted by the Master

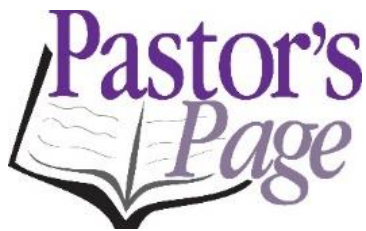
All around us, miracles happen and God empowers life, thanks to exacting conditions. We know of caterpillars and butterflies, but did you know about these details shared by Gayle Boss in *Wild Hope* (Paraclete)?

“For about a month each female [monarch butterfly] plants four hundred or so eggs. ... Ninety-nine in a hundred ... perish. But on the third day, from the one remaining, a caterpillar the size of a rice grain breaks.

“She devours the egg casing, then the milkweed leaves beneath her feet. In those leaves is a steroid that makes her body brightly striped — and toxic to her predators. Ravenous, she eats milkweed unceasingly for twelve days, bulging her skin to splitting. Five skins later, two thousand times her birthweight, she stops. ...

“Crawling to a suitable twig or ledge, she hangs head down, shaping herself into a question mark. One last time her skin falls away. This new one is not a soft, stripy, caterpillar skin but a polished, jade-green shell studded with a gold tiara.

“Because she is enclosed and still, changes that had already begun within her wormlike body erupt outward. Wings! Long, delicate legs! After twelve days in the chrysalis she is a new creature.” Praise God!



³I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, ⁵because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. Philippians 1:3-11

When I sat down to begin writing my final article for the newsletter, the words of the apostle Paul to the church at Philippi came immediately to mind. These few verses are a wonderful summary of my love for each of you and the joy that it has been for me to serve as your pastor for the last three and a half years.

³I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, ⁵because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶

You are a congregation unlike any I have served in 37 years of ministry, in a good way. From the very first day that I began to serve as your pastor, you have had one desire in mind—to reach the people of Hudson with the message that Jesus has come to bring salvation to all. You showed a willingness to do things differently, to reach out to the community in ways that you never have and to do whatever was needed so that Our Saviour would become known in the community as a congregation who loves Jesus and cares about families and those who serve it. Working side by side, we loved others as Christ loves us as we delivered Thanksgiving baskets, washed windows of downtown buildings, provided lunch to school staff, held prayer services for our schools, families and community leaders, offered VBS to the children of Hudson, reached out to young moms through Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS), offering workshops on issues important to families, participating in community parades, offering free vegetables through our roadside stand and so much more. I have, and will continue to, give thanks to God for the memories that were created but more importantly your zeal for sharing the gospel and your caring for others.

⁷It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel.



-Continued-

During these last years, we have gathered together each Sunday to receive the grace of God that He freely offered. Together we confessed that we were indeed sinners and in need of forgiveness that was never withheld. As we gathered at His altar, we received the true body and blood of Christ that gave us the assurance that through the suffering and death of Jesus and faith in what He has done, we have been given promise of eternal life. Each week we heard of the Father's unending, unconditional love for us as He cares for us as His children. We were comforted during those times of grief and sorrow as those who were loved by all were called home to live with Jesus.

⁹And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment,

I have been richly blessed to have served with, and alongside, you over these last years. You are a congregation filled with the love of Christ that you have shared with me and all my family and with one another. Although you may be few in number, you possess a big heart that through the power and presence of Christ have and will continue to accomplish great things for God's Kingdom.

One of my greatest joys each week is when, at the end of the service, I turn and look at your faces and share with you the blessing of God as you prepare to go into your world to be His witness to all that you have heard and seen, And so...

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

And continue to "Go in peace and serve the Lord. —Thanks be to God"

To God be the glory for all the things He has done and will continue to do.

Pastor Al

July - Happy Birthday!

1 Gloria Spencer
Naleigha Hines
2 Pastor Gatz
Daniel Patrick
5 Lillee Westgate
9 Roman Reyes

11 Kristy Gottschalk
13 Wyatt Shaffer
15 Kim Rieger
19 Audrey Klinger
26 Pastor Al Muck
30 Dody Fowler



15 Brad & Linda Ruggles
Frank & April Styron



GOD'S RICHEST BLESSINGS TO ALL

Blessed to be a blessing

God promised Abram, "I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you ... so that you will be a blessing" (Genesis 12:2, NRSV). Especially on the Fourth of July, we in the United States remember that God has blessed us as a nation, too.

That isn't to say everyone here has an equal share of resources. Our government isn't perfect, and our land isn't necessarily more beautiful than any other place on earth. It doesn't mean we alone model "liberty and justice for all" — or that we do so flawlessly.

Rather, God's promise to Abram and us means we aren't to hoard our blessings. We are to share our wealth generously, cultivate liberty and justice, and pass on to the world the gifts we enjoy in this land.



July 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 Fourth of July
5 5th Sunday after Pentecost 10:15 AM Worship Service	6	7	8	9 Ladies' Guild 7:00 PM	10	11
12 6th Sunday after Pentecost 10:15 AM Holy Communion Coins for Compassion	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 7th Sunday after Pentecost 10:15 AM Worship Service	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 8th Sunday after Pentecost 10:15 AM Holy Communion Special One Offering	27	28	29	30	31	

August - Happy Birthday!

2 Thomas Bujdos, Jr.
3 Brad Ruggles
6 Madilyn Grayer
Linda Ruggles
9 Betty Rupley
12 Lisa Daub
16 Dennis Shaffer
17 Kristen Fowler

19 Sarah (Fowler) Kinsley
Dustin Mattison
21 Sharon Shields
22 Chad Root
23 Aniston Valentine
24 Christine Daub
Trudy Gatz
25 Bob Rupley



10 Steve & Kim Rieger
11 Justin & Kandyce Butts
23 Bill & Betty Rupley
27 Pastor & Trudy Gatz



GOD'S RICHEST BLESSINGS TO ALL

A work in progress

A Christian is always in the process of becoming, never in the state of having become. The Christian life is not being pious but becoming pious, not being healthy but becoming healthy, not being but becoming, not rest but exercise. We are not yet [what we are to be], but we are becoming it. It is not yet done and has not yet happened. It is, however, going on and coming to be. It is not the end, but it is the way.—Martin Luther

August 2020

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						1
2 9th Sunday after Pentecost 10:15 AM Worship Service						8
9 10th Sunday after Pentecost 10:15 AM Holy Communion Coins for Compassion						15
16 11th Sunday after Pentecost 10:15 AM Worship Service						22
23 12th Sunday after Pentecost 10:15 AM Holy Communion Special One Offering						29
30 13th Sunday after Pentecost 10:15 AM Worship Service	31					