

AUGUST



ST. MATTHEW'S MESSENGER

Jesus Preserves My Life

It was just a few weeks ago on July 19, a sight-seeing duck boat in Branson, Missouri capsized and sank on Table Rock Lake killing 17 of the 31 people on board. Such a tragic event calls us to pray for the families of the victims who are mourning as well as the survivors who live with the guilt and trauma of living through such a horrible event. Caring people around our nation are motivated to keep an accident like this from ever happening again.

One of the key parts of the investigation into the accident is the use of lifejackets on these duck boats. As the sunken duck boat was raised from the bottom of Table Rock Lake after the incident, there were the rows of red lifejackets still fastened to the sides of the boat for all to see. They were right there within reach, but they were not worn, and they apparently were not put on even when the wind started howling and 6-foot waves started crashing over the boat. Since they were not worn, they did not save anyone's life. One mother who survived but lost her entire family in the accident stated that she believes if she had had a lifejacket, she could have saved at least one of her babies. See, the thing about lifejackets (just like seatbelts) is that they only work if you wear them. You can't always put them on once the boat has capsized. You can't put on a seatbelt once you realize you're going to be in an accident.

King David once called our Lord a life-preserver. Psalm 138 says, "Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life. Your love, Lord, endures forever." Our Lord preserves our lives both here in time as well as for eternity. As we pray for him to "deliver us from evil," he promises that he sends his guardian angels to encamp around us and protect us from wickedness and the devil's evil schemes. He keeps soul-damaging harm far away from us and gives us the strength to defeat temptation and endure as long as our trials last. He has also rescued us from the power of sin and Satan so that our life is eternally safe with him. He has forgiven all of our sins so that when we die, we will not sink down to the depths of hell. We will not be separated from the sunshine of God's love. But even when the Last Day of judgement comes, we will go on living with our Lord in his presence forever. He preserves our life.

We need to "put on" Jesus every day — to wrap his arms tightly around us and give him the #1 place in our hearts. He wants to be with us always and to save us in our times of trouble. It's not that he won't be there for us when some tragedy happens, but if we're not "wearing" our life-preserver, we may not have the opportunity to put him on in an emergency. Just like those lifejackets on the duck boat. They were available. They were ready to save. They were in working order, but they needed to be worn.

Keep Jesus with you as your constant companion. Cling to him as you would to a life-jacket in the midst of a storm, and as you see waves of trials and struggles coming your way, tighten his grip around you by turning to him in prayer and hearing him speak to you in his Word. In the mist of a storm or riding in calm water don't ever let the greatest life-preserver go unused in your boat.

Pastor Silas Schmitzer

Caring Elders

“A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice” (Isaiah 42:3)

Dear Delinquent Me,

I hope this letter finds you well . . . Isn't that how one normally begins these types of things? In fact, I truly hope this letter never need find you at all. I'm writing to you today from another time and another place. I'm writing because I haven't seen you in some time and I am concerned. Have you fallen away?

You know as well as I do how busy life can get. Perhaps it is work which has consumed all your time. Maybe one week away led to one month away, and a month turned into a year. The temptations of the world are strong, I know. Whatever it is you are doing, wherever it is that you are, it really doesn't matter. I want to remind you that there is something much greater you must seek.

If you'll indulge me please, will you try to remember? The spot in the pew where you used to sit, do you remember where it is? The faces of the fellow faithful, can you see them clearly? Remember how right and wise the word of the Lord sounds to the ear and to the heart. Remember how you sang with joy for all that the Lord has done for us? Try to remember how the Lord's Supper fills you up in ways that nothing in this world can ever do.

The good news is this: Not much has changed. As I write to you now, I am a sinner and you still are. Right now, Jesus Christ is my Savior, and He still is! No matter where you are I implore you to remember this—it is not too late to come back. Come back once. Once may lead to twice, and that is a great start. Christ loved you then and Christ loves you now, too. He still waits with open arms to see you once again.

Yours in Christ,

Me

Jim Beitlich, Ralph Stellick, Tom Di Iorio

PASTORAL SERVICES

If our members have need of Pastoral Services due to hospitalization or other needs, please contact Pastor Silas Schmitzer at 608-457-2711, cell 608-304-9265 or email pastor.schmitzer@gmail.com

Staff Contact List

President - Perry Kilmer 608-797-0836
Vice President - Dave Liggett
Secretary - Doug Miller 608-386-9803
Treasurer - Mike Alderman 608-792-1235

Miss Sonja Oldre 507-359-2341 _____ email: soldre@stmatthews-wels.com

Mr. James Otto 608-804-0474 _____ email: jotto@stmatthews-wels.com

Mrs. Jackie Otto 989-992-4623 _____ email: jacalynotto@stmatthews-wels.com

Mrs. Katie Alderman 608-792-9570 _____ email: kalderman@stmatthews-wels.com

Ladies Aid

Ladies Aid had their annual picnic on Wed. July 18th. Thank you, Paulette Ross for hosting it at your beautiful home. We enjoyed the perfect weather, great food and lots of visiting. Our next meeting will be held Wednesday, August 15th, at 4 p.m. at church. All ladies are encouraged to attend. Hope to see you there.

President: Donna Shepherd 608 804-0025
Treasurer: Elaine Wrobel 608 457-2242
Vice President: Ardell Helke 608 457-2502 Or 608 406-1444
Secretary: Karel Leisso 608 457-2287

St. Matthews Church Council Meeting

July 9, 2018

Council members present: Principal James Otto, Larry Soucheck, Ralph Stellick, Mike Alderman, Sam Vanden Heuvel, Mike Everson, John Shepherd, Perry Kilmer, and Doug Miller.
Visitor Brenda Harle

Meeting called to order by Perry Kilmer at 6:40 pm.

Devotion read by James Otto based on Matt. 6:33.

Presentation by Brenda Harley: summary of organist compensation discussion from Semi Annual meeting. Information attached.

Secretary's report: attached; MSP.

Treasurer's report: attached: MSP. Pursuing ACH for those who would like to participate.
Pastor's report: no report, Pastor on vacation,

Elder's report: Working with the delinquents.

Outreach Oversight Committee: Blood drive follow up, outdoor service planning

Principal's report: attached, highlights: theme "Dare to be Different", lock down drill and discussion, CEF goal achieved. Search for school custodian- Cindy King from St. Peter's candidate and possibly will fill position.

School board report: attached: highlight-discussed new curriculum.

Luther High School: no report

Building and grounds: Discussed mowing and snow removal, possible light change for pulpit and lectern.

Cemetery Sextant report; Road project pending

Planned Giving: no report

Old Business: Perry's phone is wrong in Messenger should be 608-797-0836.

New Business: Reminded that the council has a spending limit. Discussed request from Ladies Aid to establish an account at River Bank and after much discussion it was decided to wait until more information could be obtained. Question presented on when the church directory would be available.

Next meeting: Aug. 13, 2018

Adjourned with prayer at 8:20.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Miller, Secretary

WELS

New outreach film set to be released

The new WELS outreach film *To the Ends of the Earth* will be released Sept. 1.

The film tells the story of the apostle Paul and his work in Philippi. Its title is taken directly from Jesus' command to his disciples at his Ascension: "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). "Since the movie focuses on mission activity, it reminds us of the important work that we have as we serve Christ—to reach out with the gospel to the ends of the earth," says Rev. Mike Hintz, retired director of WELS Commission on Evangelism who serves as a consultant for the film.

That's why film resources, including worship materials; adult, small group, teen, and children Bible studies; an Advent by Candlelight program; and personal reflections, will discuss how to witness and share your faith.

One way congregations can use the film and its resources is in connection with WELS Mission and Ministry Sunday, which the Conference of Presidents is encouraging all congregations to observe on Oct. 21. "It's an opportunity to give thanks as we look at the ways we in WELS as congregations and a synod work to reach out with the gospel, but also to look at opportunities that are still around us and how to make the most of them as we continue to preach the gospel to the ends of the earth," says Hintz.

By Sept. 1, every congregation will receive a free DVD of the movie for this purpose. Film resources will also be available for download by mid-August. "We pray congregations will take advantage of this opportunity to celebrate God's blessings on his church and to renew our commitment to the Great Commission to 'go and make disciples of all nations' (Matthew 28:18-20)," says Rev. Kurt Lueneburg, director of the Ministry of Christian Giving.

Congregations can bulk order additional copies of the DVD to use as giveaways to congregation members and prospects or for other outreach efforts. The DVDs are available in boxes of 100 DVDs at only \$200 per box, plus shipping. Bulk orders must be received by Sept. 7, 2018.

This movie is the final installment in a series of four outreach movies that are a collaboration between WELS Commission on Evangelism, WELS Commission on Discipleship, Northwestern Publishing House, WELS Multi-Language Publications, and Boettcher+Trinklein Television, Inc. Funding from CM CARES, the Church Mutual Insurance Company Foundation; WELS Foundation's Shared Blessings donor advised fund; WELS Multi-Language Publications; and gifts from groups, congregations, and individuals helped make this film possible.

Learn more about the film at wels.net/totheendsoftheearth.

WELS

whataboutjesus.com

Where is contentment to be found?

A farmer who had lived on the same farm all his life began to long for something better. He finally decided to sell it. He listed it with a real estate broker who promptly prepared a sales advertisement for the farm. The ad, of course, listed all the farm's advantages: ideal location, modern equipment, healthy stock, and acres of fertile ground.

When the farmer saw the ad in the paper, he hurriedly phoned his real estate agent. "I'll buy it!" he exclaimed. "It's exactly the place I'm looking for!"

Contentment is a matter of perspective. How many times have you lived out the cliché, "You don't know what you've got until it's gone"?

There is a place where contentment is found, and you don't need to take a religious pilgrimage to find it. Look at the people, possessions, and pleasures in your life and see them not as your own but "on loan" from God. He gives them to you for a purpose. He wants you to take care of them, and to manage them faithfully.

Some people have received talents from God that are most appreciated by the company's upper management. Other people have received talents that are noticed most by two-year-olds as they live securely in a loving home. Both kinds of people can be content.

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!" one Bible writer happily urges. "I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:4,12-13).

Contentment is a happiness and appreciation that comes from God tapping you on the shoulder and saying, "I'd like you to do something for me. It's not the same as everyone else is doing, but I know you can do it well. Here's what I want you to use."

Rejoice! No matter what the circumstances, you can be content when you see what you have as a gift from God. Part of that gift is the purpose behind it, an improvement project that improves not just the gift, but also the one to whom it is given.

August

August 1, 1801: Jonathan Edwards (May 26, 1745 – August 1, 1801) was an early American pastor, theologian, and president of Princeton College. He is widely remembered as the Father of the First Great Awakening in America.

August 5, 1620: On August 5, 1620, a portion of the Pilgrim Fathers departed from Southampton, England for the New World, but the smaller of the two boats in which they were traveling began to take on water. It was decided to return to England, where they put into harbor at Plymouth. After deciding to sail with only one vessel, some of the passengers were forced to remain behind to await future passage or other alternatives.

August 10, 70: On August 10, 70 A.D. (the 9th of the Jewish month of Av), according to Jewish chronology, the very day when the King of Babylon burned Solomon's Temple in 586 B.C., the newly renovated Temple of Herod was burned by the Roman general, Titus, following a Jewish revolt that began a few years earlier, in 66. After months of siege about the city, Titus took the city on this date and put it to the torch, burning the Temple, leaving not one stone upon another. Thus, Jerusalem was totally destroyed and as Jesus had predicted, not one stone was left upon another. When the Temple was set on fire the Roman soldiers tore apart the stone to get the melted gold. The Menorah and vessels were carried to Rome and the treasury was robbed. But perhaps the most astonishing prophecy about the destruction of Jerusalem by Rome is that it happened just as Daniel had predicted, in that the Temple was destroyed only after the Messiah had come, and not before he had presented himself to Israel! (Daniel 9:26; Luke 19:41-45)

August 15, 1096: The First Christian Crusade began on August 15, 1096. After more than 450 years of watching their lands taken and their families destroyed, Christians decided to defend themselves against the Muslim Crusades against Christians that began under Muhammad.

August 24, 1913: Edward McKendree Bounds (August 15, 1835 – August 24, 1913) was a clergyman of the Methodist Episcopal Church South and author of eleven books, nine of which focused on the subject of prayer.

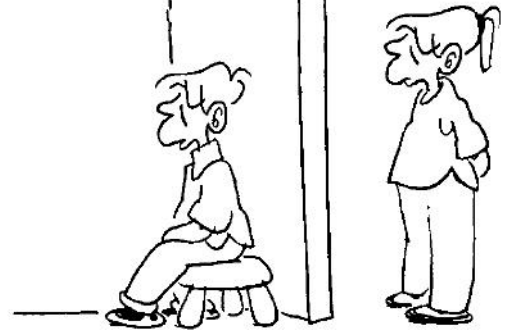
August 1806: The Haystack Prayer Meeting, held in Williamstown, Massachusetts, in August 1806, is viewed by many scholars as the seminal event for the development of Protestant missions in the subsequent decades and for the nineteenth century. Missions are still supported today by American churches.

Seasonal emphasis (1824): The American Sunday School Union was the combined efforts of various denominations to evangelize America through Christian education. Largely three groups—the Methodists, Baptists, and Presbyterians—united their efforts in communities to promote the well-being of America by advancing a Christian morality. Many prominent Americans were board members of the Union, including Bishop William White (Philadelphia Christ Church), Francis Scott Key (author of the national anthem, “The Star-Spangled Banner”), D. L. Moody (noted evangelist), Laura Ingalls Wilder (author), John Pollock (governor of Pennsylvania and first to inscribe currency with “In God We Trust”), Bushrod Washington (nephew of George Washington and Supreme Court justice), John Marshall (one of the greatest chief justices of the Supreme Court), and John Adams (“the educator” and relative of the two presidents bearing this name).

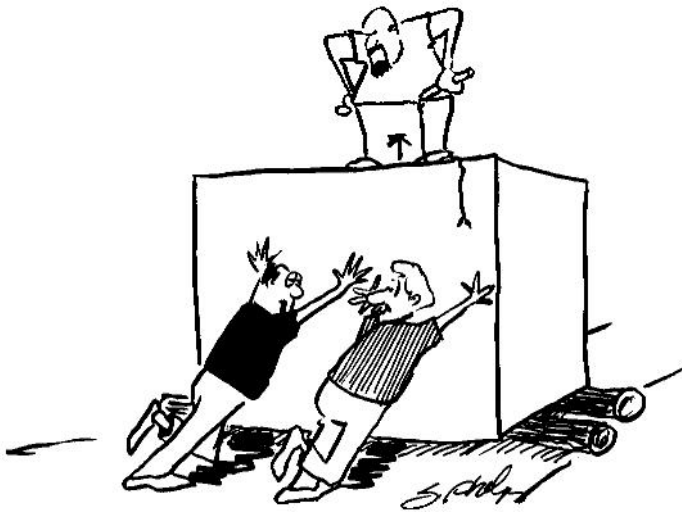
August



"Then God said, 'I have some good news and some bad news. The good news is, the apple had zero cholesterol.'"



"I'm glad we don't speak in tongues. One keeps me in enough trouble."



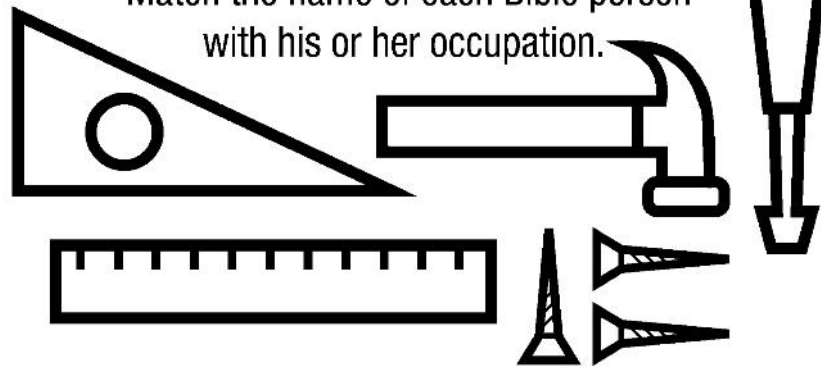
"This is the last time I volunteer to serve on the building committee!"



It wasn't the four services that was getting to Pastor Bean; it was the four coffee hours!

Puzzle!

Match the name of each Bible person with his or her occupation.



- | | |
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| 1. Nehemiah | A. soldier |
| 2. Luke | B. carpenter |
| 3. Demetrius | C. cupbearer |
| 4. Matthew | D. clothseller |
| 5. Lydia | E. fisherman |
| 6. Joseph | F. shepherd |
| 7. Paul | G. tax collector |
| 8. Cornelius | H. tailor |
| 9. Tabitha | I. silversmith |
| 10. Amos | J. priest |
| 11. Eli | K. tentmaker |
| 12. Peter | L. physician |

Answers: 1. C, 2. L, 3. I, 4. G, 5. D, 6. B, 7. K, 8. A, 9. H, 10. E, 11. J, 12. E

August 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 Greeter: Tom D. 9:00 AM Ushers: Jan & Kristie P, Ken & Mary A 9:00 AM Worship	30 Wilma Robertson's Birthday Jacob Dilorio's Birthday	31	1	2 Bruce Harle's Birthday 9:00 AM August Faculty Meeting 6:00 PM Vacation Bible School	3 Kate Nottestad's Anniversary 6:00 PM Vacation Bible School	4 Elizabeth Hunter's Anniversary Debbie Kuster's Birthday 4:00 PM Vacation Bible School 6:00 PM Family Grill-Out
5 Greeter: Lynn M. Quinn Pohlar's Birthday Children's Message Karen Miller's Birthday 9:00 AM Worship 9:00 AM Ushers: John S, Jerry S, Tim S, Ted S 4:00 PM School Registration Day	6 LES/LHS Staff Development Hope Dilorio's Birthday 6:30 PM Outreach Coordination Team Meeting	7 Katie Alderman's Birthday James&JackieOtto'sAnniversary 2:30 PM Food Pantry Open	8 Dan&DaniWiese's Anniversary 7:30 PM Luther High School Conference of Delegates Meeting	9 Brian Artschwager's Birthday Nick Gansch's Birthday 7:00 PM Worship (L.S.)	10 Linda Helke's Birthday Kyle Benson's Birthday 4:00 PM School Cleanup Night	11
12 Greeter: Linda P. Karen Schmitzer's Birthday 9:00 AM Ushers: Bruce H, Blake H, Jeremy S, Stuart S 9:00 AM Worship (L.S.)	13 Tyler Hanson's Birthday Brooklyn Moline's Birthday Ken & Mary Abraham's Ann. 5:30 PM School Board Meeting 6:30 PM Church Council	14	15 Melanie Stuebs' Birthday Kevin Miller's Birthday Silas & Karen Schmitzer's Ann. 4:00 PM Ladies Aid Meeting	16 Dan Wiese's Birthday Mark & Lori Manske's Ann. Jeff & Kathy Benson's Ann. 9:00 AM Pastors' Circuit Meeting 7:00 PM Worship	17	18 Nikki Kilmer's Birthday
19 Greeter: Ken & Mary A. 9:00 AM Worship 9:00 AM Ushers: Mike E, Jim B, Nathan Semke, Tom D	20 Alexis Stellick's Birthday Kim Dravis' Birthday 4:30 PM Elder's Meeting	21 Dave & Rosie Liggett's Ann. 2:30 PM Food Pantry Open	22 Dan & Cathy Kumlin's Ann.	23 Kyle Chapman's Birthday 7:00 PM Worship (L.S.)	24 Reese Schlicht's Birthday	25 Jessica Walls' Birthday Zachery Hanson's Birthday Joshua Stuebs' Birthday 2:00 PM Nick & Amber Yanske Wedding
26 Greeter: Jim B. Brody Semke's Birthday Hannah Gansch's Birthday Austin Semke Baptism Jeremy & Britt Struemke's Ann. 9:00 AM Ushers: Trevor S, Phil U, Jeff W, Tom W 9:00 AM Worship (L.S.)	27 Jeanne Kromke's Birthday Jeff Cermak's Birthday Kyle Greeno's Birthday Quentin & Hannah Kagel's Ann.	28 12:30 PM Community Blood Drive	29 Kim Thompson's Birthday K-8 First Day of School	30 School Rummage Sale Zachary Kumlin's Birthday 7:00 PM Worship	31	1