

The Reporter

*Since then we have a great high priest
who has passed through the heavens,
Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.
(Hebrews 4:14)*

NOTICE: This article is a continuation of the monthly articles on my “Wrestling with Theology” Facebook page. I am doing a monthly, verse-by-verse study of the Epistle to the Hebrews. How fitting that we begin the Epistle reading for Good Friday as I begin to shepherd a new flock in the season of Lent.

We have a great high priest. As we go through the season of Lent, we have followed the prophet Amos seeking to “Restore the Roar” of Jesus, the “Lion of the Tribe of Judah” (Revelation 5:5). As the Lion, Jesus’ roar comes through the pages of Scripture. He seeks for His people to return to Him. This is a great theme of Lent. The return of sinners to find peace in the sacrifice made by the high priest.

The high priest would offer sacrifices that foreshadowed God’s promise of the forgiveness of sins. The office of the high priest, beginning with Aaron, was also a shadow of the great high priest who would offer the ultimate sacrifice. The great high priest would fulfill and deliver God’s promise. Jesus does this through His Passion and resurrection.

His sacrifice comes to its ultimate culmination when He *has passed through the heavens*. His Ascension into Heaven, to sit at the Father’s right hand, gives us the ultimate assurance that our sins have been forgiven. We can be sure of our salvation because Jesus has preceded us into Heaven, so that He might intercede on our behalf. This picture brings us great comfort as we go through the trials of this world. We have something greater waiting for us. As Jesus tells the disciples on Maundy Thursday, “In My Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also” (John 14:2-3).

With this promise, Jesus commands us to *hold fast our confession*. This confession is exactly what I stated above. Jesus, our great high priest, has offered Himself as a sacrifice to give us the forgiveness of sins. He has gone into Heaven to prepare a place for us. He is returning to bring His brothers and sisters into their heavenly Father’s house.

As confessional Lutherans, we seek to hold the proper confession of doctrine. Often, this puts us on the outside of many conversations because our thinking is too “old school” and intolerant of progressive thinking. But progressive thinking seeks to deny Christ. And Jesus Himself tells us, “So everyone who acknowledges Me before men, I also will acknowledge before My Father who is in Heaven, but whoever denies Me before men, I also will deny before My Father who is in Heaven” (Matthew 10:32-33). St. John also tells us, “No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also.” (1 John 2:23). We seek to be in the company of the Father and the Son because we will have the promised reward.

As we go forward in the season of Lent, we continue to hold fast the confession of Jesus Christ as the Lord, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah. The Lion who roars for the salvation of the world.



Spring Forward

Be sure to set your clocks forward one hour as Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 13.

Lutheran Witness

"The Lutheran Witness" is the official periodical of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod and is available for you in the Narthex on the Informational Rack in the Narthex. It is designed to equip laypeople with stories and information that complement congregational life, foster personal growth in the faith, and help interpret the contemporary world from a Lutheran Christian perspective.

These are made available to you free of charge as an aid to the strengthening of your faith life. Take one home with you and feel free to take additional copies to pass along to friends and family!

Lenten MidWeek Services - Live Audio Stream

Our Savior will be streaming the Midweek Service of Evening Prayer (March 3, 10, 17, and 24) beginning at 7:00 pm. Visit oursaviormilford.com / Media / Live Audio Stream. If you have questions, please contact the church office at 815-889-4121.



St. Paul's Lutheran School - Woodworth Fish Fry



St. Paul's Lutheran School of Woodworth is having a DRIVE-THRU Woodworth Fish Fry on Saturday, March 13th, from 11a to 2p. Free will donations will be accepted for either a fish sandwich or a meal which includes a fish sandwich, chips, cole slaw and a cookie. The proceeds will benefit the PTL as they fund various school projects and events.

Easter Flowers

If you would like to purchase flowers to help beautify God's House in celebration of Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday, please return the form (included in this newsletter) and payment to the church office by **Sunday, March 14, 2021**.



Scrip Orders...

Do you go shopping, eat out, or go to the movies? Do you ever gift someone else with the opportunity to do those things? Most likely, all of us would answer "yes" to at least some of those questions. This is why everyone LOVES the Scrip Card program, available each month at OSLC!



Order forms (located on the informational rack in the Narthex) and payment are due to the Church Office by **Sunday, March 28, 2021**. Gift Cards will arrive and be distributed that same week. Please consider supporting the youth (and future leaders of the congregation) in this simple way!

REMEMBER THOSE UNABLE TO BE WITH US ON SUNDAY MORNINGS

Phyllis Carter
423 N Dixie Hwy
Hoopeston IL 60942

Delmer and Reatha Henrichs
1257 E 1200 North Rd
Onarga IL 60955

Arlene Hines
503 S Chicago St
Milford IL 60953

Rosalie Lundberg
216 Walnut St
Milford IL 60953

Joanne Sloan
2364 E 900 North Rd
Milford IL 60953

Brenda St. Peter
817 S Hanson Dr
Watseka IL 60970

Gert Wade
IMH Resident Home
200 E Fairman
Watseka IL 60970



Youth Group Fellowship

High School Youth Group Fellowship will be held Sunday, March 7th from 4-6pm. Please let Melissa know if you will be attending. Thanks!

Dorcas Society / LWML Update

At the February meeting the members voted to proceed with a "transplant" process of the group in order to do a better job of facilitating the future for an all inclusive women's group at Our Savior. The goal is to establish a working group within the church that will encourage and accommodate women of ALL ages. Please note the following:



- **Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML)** will continue as in the past. If you would like to be a member, please pay \$15 (made out to OSLC Dorcas) to Linda Kellerhals by March 15. All mites can be given to Linda also and these will be forwarded to the State group. Upcoming conventions are listed on the LWML website www.LWML.org
- **NEXT, Dorcas will be "transplanted". Monthly meetings will be discontinued. All events and activities, usually handled by this group, will now be "run through" two basic groups:**

KITCHEN/EVENT COMMITTEE: This group will handle all meals, dinners, and refreshments that were formerly handled by Dorcas. This committee will also monitor kitchen care, equipment, supplies and any other needs that may arise. Meetings will be held as needed. A small number of members will chair the committee and remaining ladies of the congregation will be asked to provide food when necessary as in the past. If you would like to be a Chair person and/or a part of this group or have questions, please contact Kendra Morts or Theta Lee.

BAZAAR COMMITTEE: A bazaar may be held in early fall if possible. Funds raised by this activity will be designated for various church projects and area needs and announced before the Bazaar is held. Everyone will be needed to make this flow. Please contact Linda Kellerhals or Theta Lee if you would be willing to help with the planning.

OTHER PROJECTS such as College Student Care Pkgs, Women's Care Clinic, Mission Events, BackPack Blessings, Quilters, etc. will be done by individuals within the congregation who would like to lead.

IN ADDITION, Four GATHERINGS for OSLC Women are tentatively planned for April, June, September and December Lots of FUN and camaraderie!!!! Be watching for further details!

Stewards of the Kingdom

In the hope of capturing a renewed emphasis on our role as stewards of God's creation, our monthly newsletters will include a brief article, published by the Synod's Office of Stewardship Ministry, to assist us in living out our baptismal identity as a child of God. It's a new year. It's a time when we take stock of the year past in order to improve the year to come. It's a time when we sit down to plan and implement what we want to accomplish and even change. Part of that is planning our stewardship for the coming year.

Hudson Taylor, a Nineteenth Century British missionary to China, is reported to have said, "God's work, done in God's way, will not lack God's supply." To know God's way, we need to know His Holy Word. Or to say it another way: you need to know your Bible.

St. Paul, before he spends two chapters on giving, wrote that every thought is to be taken captive to the obedience of Christ (2 Cor 10:5). Doctrine matters. And doctrine matters because the Scriptures matter. And the Scriptures matter because this is where we learn the teaching of Christ. Our thoughts must be brought into line with the teaching of Scripture so that our work is what God wants done and so that we do this work in His way.

A good tree bears good fruit. A bad tree bears bad fruit. We have been made good trees in holy baptism. We are fertilized and pruned for bearing good fruit by constantly hearing God's Word preached and taught in sermon and Bible Class and in receiving the life-giving, faith-sustaining food of the Lord's Supper. Remember your doctrine, hold on to the Lord's teaching, and your thoughts will be taken captive to the obedience of Christ.

Bringing every thought captive to the obedience of Christ is recognizing that God does provide. The Lord's Prayer teaches us to pray for daily bread. Praying this day in and day out reminds us that the Lord is the giver of our daily bread, and that we are to give thanks for His daily provision of it. God is rarely early and never late in His work, as Abraham learned on the mount of the Lord it will be provided. The Lord's generosity forms our generosity in return.

Thus, we set aside for the work of God a generous, first-fruits, proportion of the daily bread that God has given to us. This act of trust in the Lord's provision is the working out of our faith in Him. When budgetary discussions pop up our natural reaction is to point fingers. But remember your doctrine, and what your mother taught about pointing fingers. Our first natural reaction is not always right. In fact, when our thoughts are brought into captivity of Christ, our first reaction should be repentance. It should raise questions in our own lives. As good trees in Christ who are to bear good fruit, we should ask whether our thoughts have been taken captive by obedience to Christ. Have we given generously? Have we given our first-fruits? You know. And God knows. "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him" (2 Chron 16:9).

God will provide. He always has and He always will. He gives His meat in due season. He has not left you as orphans but has grafted you into His own family. You belong to Him. Remember this, letting this thought dwell in you richly. And you will then be rich toward others.

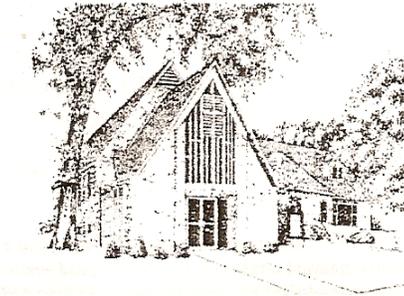
Our Savior Lutheran Church

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Website: www.oursaviormilford.com
<http://www.facebook.com/OurSaviorLutheran>

Worship Service 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School and Bible Class 10:30a.m.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Join Us Every Sunday Morning for Service
starting at 9:00 am
Our Savior Lutheran Church
209 West Jones Street, Milford
or listen to the service live on the radio
on WIBK 96.9 FM / 1360 AM or
listen to a live audio stream on our website

Email - OurSavior@OurSaviorMilford.com
Website - www.oursaviormilford.com
Facebook - [OurSaviorLutheran](http://www.facebook.com/OurSaviorLutheran)

