



THE REPORTER

For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins.

He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is obligated to offer sacrifice for his own sins just as he does for those of the people. (Hebrews 5:1-3)

The biggest issue with the Old Testament high priests were that they were sinners. They had to offer a sacrifice for themselves before they could help anyone else. This made their ministry that much more difficult, but it also gave the greatest amount of joy for the worshippers.

The high priest was just like them. He knew how to deal with them in their times of trial and temptation. He knew because he had to deal with his own trials and temptations. There was a great amount of empathy he could give to those whose hearts were troubled.

However, he could only point toward what was coming. He could not give a firm Absolution for their sins. He could only tell them to offer the sacrifices because they pointed toward the one sacrifice that would truly forgive sins. He could not say, "I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." All he could do was point to the Law and the sacrifices that were continually made every day.

The preacher to the Hebrews has spent the first four chapters of his sermon speaking about the superiority of the new covenant over the old. These verses are the lynchpin in this distinction. This is the problem with the old covenant: there was no concrete Absolution. No one could be **absolutely** certain that their sins were forgiven.

How does the new covenant do it? We heard it from Jesus' own lips from Easter evening: "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of anyone, **they are forgiven**" (John 20:22-23). There are no questions with Jesus' forgiveness. The pastor or priest doesn't even matter. His sinfulness has nothing to do with Jesus' forgiveness. Jesus' forgiveness has everything to do with Jesus.

While we skip these first few verses of Hebrews 5 during the Good Friday service, these verses bear great comfort for us. Over the summer months, we will see this comfort unfold even more.

But for this month, the focus is the forgiving power of Jesus. Not offering a sacrifice for Himself or His sin. Offering Himself **for** the sin of the world. Offering the greatest sacrifice so that we might know for certain that our sins are forgiven. It is through Him that I have the ability to say, and you have the ability to believe, "I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

In Christ,

Rev. Doug Minton

Welcome to the Table!

On Sunday, May 2, we will welcome three new members into Communicant membership through the Rite of Confirmation: Lauren Janssen, Jossalin Lavicka and Ryleigh Rieches.

Please congratulate these individuals on their hard work, but please keep them in your prayers and encourage them to remain active in their faith.

Welcome New Members!!

On April 18, Our Savior officially welcomed four new families into the OSLC family. They are Pastor, Renee, Gabriel and Anna Minton, Philip and Cindy Raddatz, Norman and Mary Ann Anderson and Darren, Jamie and Cecelia Bakken. Please welcome these new members and help them to truly feel a part of our family.

PreKindergarten / Kindergarten / High School / College Students and Parents

As the end of the school year approaches and graduation plans are being made, please share with the church family your graduates' date of graduation and their further plans. If you have any questions, please see Kendra.

Fifth Sunday Hymn Sing!!

Beginning in May, when we have a fifth Sunday on the calendar, we will have a Hymn Sing service featuring hymns requested by the congregation. The requests will be taken on a first come, first serve basis. They can be written on a note, emailed to Pastor or submitted through the "Hymn Request Form" page on the web site (under the "Contact Us" tab). On the web site is a listing of acceptable hymns from the *Worship His Majesty* hymnal under the pew.

Prairieview Lutheran Homes 32nd Annual Golf Outing

Prairieview will hold their 32nd Annual Golf Outing on Friday, June 11, 2021 at Shewami Country Club. Register by June 1st at 815-269-2970. Entry fee is \$75, includes green fee, cart, dinner and range balls. Please see the flyer on the bulletin board in the Narthex or see Jim Knake for additional information. Register early!!

Mystery Island VBS - Mark Your Calendars!!

Make Plans to join us! Mystery Island VBS is coming to OSLC! Vacation Bible School 2021 will be held July 5th-9th. Sign-up sheets are available in the Narthex. Any questions please see Melissa Storm.

Summer Sunday School

Mark your calendars! Our Summer Sunday School session will begin Sunday, June 2. In addition to the Adult Bible Class, there will be 2 classes for children, age 3 & above.

Remember Those Unable to be with Us on Sunday Morning

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

Congratulations Graduates

Baylee Bushong will graduate from Danville Area Community College with an Associates in Agriculture Education and Communication. After graduation, Baylee will attend the University of Illinois.

Emma Morts will graduate from Kankakee Community College with an Associates in Business Administration. Emma will continue to pursue a Bachelors in Business Administration.

Come Celebrate with Us!!!

Gabe is graduating from high school as a Milford Bearcat! All are invited to an Open House at Our Savior on Saturday, May 22, from 2-5pm in the Fellowship Hall. He may be undecided about his future plans, but we are still celebrating his big day!

Youth Group Happenings . .

High School and Middle School Youth Group Fellowship

High School and Middle School Youth Group will meet together on Sunday May, 16th from 4-6 pm at the church.

Scrip Orders - Due May 23

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, May 23, 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!



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.

St. Paul teaches us: “Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches” (Gal. 6:6). And again, he says: “Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings? In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel” (1 Cor. 9:13–14). In other words, ministers of the Gospel are supported by the offerings of those who are served by them.

And this is how the church lives even now. It is standard practice. But this deserves closer examination. For it instructs us not just *that* we are to give but also *what* we are to give. And it does so with four little words: “In the same way ...”

St. Paul is building his case for supporting the preachers of the Gospel with the sacrificial giving of individual members on the example of the Old Testament people who supported the Levites with their offerings and sacrifices. We're to support the Gospel ministry "in the same way." But how did the Old Testament people support the Levites?

Moses records this: "You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year. And before the Lord your God, in the place that he will choose, to make his name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always" (Deut. 14:22–23). The Levites were supported by the tithe, 10 percent of all the yearly yield of that which was harvested.

Does that seem like a lot? Does it surprise you that St. Paul instructs us that we are to support the New Testament Gospel ministry "in the same way?" If it does, ask yourself: Is the church's job in the New Testament bigger or smaller than the Levites' job in the Old Testament? Back then, there was one Temple, and the ministry was almost exclusively located in one nation among the descendants of Abraham. In Matthew 28, Jesus calls us to teach and baptize all nations, and there are churches and ministries all around the world! How could we support this new Gospel ministry with anything less than the Israelites supported the Old Testament ministry?

Of course, we are free to give more, for we have received more than those in the Old Testament. We have received the fullness of God's revelation, the fullness of His salvation, and the fulfillment of everything that God promised to do. For we have received Christ, God's own Son, in the flesh, who took upon himself our sins and in exchange gave us his righteousness. The Father claimed us as his own in Holy Baptism. He gathers us together in the place where his name dwells to feast on the first fruits of the resurrection, the risen and living body and blood of His Son – our Lord Jesus. He reminds us that we are His, that all things are ours because we belong to Him. He blesses us here in time with physical and spiritual gifts.

In the same way – and in response to His fatherly divine goodness and mercy – we gladly give to those who proclaim to us "the excellencies of him who called us out of darkness and into his marvelous light." For once we were not a people, but now we are God's people; once we had not received mercy, but now we have indeed (1 Peter 2:9–10).



The Reporter

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Phone: 815-889-4121
E-mail: oursaviormilford@oursaviormilford.com
Facebook: OurSaviorLutheran

Worship Service 9:00 am
Sunday School and Adult Bible Class 10:30 am

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**