



THE REPORTER

*In the days of His flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications,
with loud cries and tears,
to Him who was able to save Him from death,
and He was heard because of His reverence.
(Hebrews 5:7)*

Many times in His earthly ministry, Jesus would go off by Himself to pray:

- “And after He had dismissed the crowds, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray” (Matthew 14:23).
- “But He would withdraw to desolate places and pray” (Luke 5:16).
- “In these days He went out to the mountain to pray, and all night He continued in prayer to God” (Luke 6:12).

Jesus understood the need for prayer. Even as the Son of God, He needed to pray. And when He prayed, He preferred to pray by Himself. He taught us, “But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret” (Matthew 6:6). While we gather together in worship to offer up congregational prayers, it is equally - if not more - important for Christians to pray privately.

Private prayer can be a great stabilizer in our turbulent lives. The book of Psalms are first and foremost prayers that Christians have prayed for millennia. The Psalms were not written for congregational use. They were written because they were prayers offered by individuals in the various circumstances they found themselves. There are Psalms of exaltation and frustration. Psalms of comfort and pain. Psalms peppered with laughter and loud cries. The Psalms cover every situation in which you could - and should - pray.

The author to the Hebrews references the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus prayed in anguish “with loud cries and tears.” Three times, Jesus separated Himself from His disciples and prayed, “Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Remove this cup from Me. Yet not what I will, but what You will” (Mark 14:36). “And being in agony He prayed more earnestly; and His sweat became great drops of blood falling down to the ground” (Luke 22:44).

Jesus knew what was going to happen in the next twenty-four hours. It was why He had come to earth in the first place. He had come to take on the world’s sin (John 1:29). He had come to give salvation. But that salvation could only come through bitter pain. Through “loud cries and tears.”

Ultimately, all of Jesus' prayers in the Gospels are all distilled to the three prayers He offered in the three hours He hung on Golgotha.

- "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34).
- "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" (Matthew 27:46; Psalm 22:1).
- "Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit" (Luke 23:46).

Jesus' loud cries offer exactly what everyone desires: forgiveness, sustainment, and comfort. As the nails were being driven into His hands, Jesus forgave every sin. By being forsaken by God, Jesus sustains you through His death and resurrection. Committing His spirit into God's hands, Jesus comforts you that God is a refuge for your life (Psalm 46:1).

"He was heard because of His reverence." Not only was Jesus reverent to His Father. He makes you reverent as well. You can be assured that your heavenly Father hears you because He heard Him! As a baptized Christian, you are a member of His body and an heir of everlasting salvation. "Because of His reverence."

In Christ,
Rev. Doug Minton

Higher Things Youth Conference

This year our youth will be attending Higher Things at Calvin University in Grand Rapids, MI July 20-23. The theme this year is FORGIVEN. Our youth will learn what it means to be FORGIVEN and what it means to FORGIVE others. We are excited to have 6 youth and 3 adults attending this year! Please pray for safe travels. In August we will give you a recap of our time there and some of the things we learned. Stay tuned for more information on that.

The tagline used by Higher Things is Dare to be Lutheran! You may hear this when we get back. You may be wondering, "What does that mean?" It means we dare you to believe the Gospel is for you! That Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, was crucified for your sins and raised for your forgiveness; and the forgiveness, life, and salvation He won for you on Good Friday and Easter are delivered right to you in His Holy Spirit-filled Word and Sacraments. This is the heart and soul of our preaching, teaching, and worship because this is the full substance of the entire Christian Faith. Jesus died, Jesus rose, Jesus delivers FOR YOU! (*taken from higherthings.org*)

Remember Those Unable to be with Us on Sunday Morning

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

Pat Nielsen
120 W Jones
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



Visit Pastor and Family

The sign up to visit with Pastor and Family is full. We are having such a wonderful time getting to know the members of OSLC! If you didn't get a chance to sign up for a visit, just reach out to Pastor with a day and we'll check to see if we are available. This has been a great opportunity to sit and visit outside the Sunday morning worship and bible class and has helped increase the bonds with congregation members as we take these opening steps in our journey together as Pastor and congregation.

Pastor and family will be on vacation in North Carolina from August 1-9. Please pray for safe travels and good time with family and friends. Rev. Paul Hopkins from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne will preach and lead the service. He will also present about the Seminary in Bible Class afterward. Everyone is encouraged to be there and learn about the great work at CTSFW. In case of pastoral emergency, Pastor Ruhlig from St. Paul's, Woodworth can be contacted. His cell phone is 940-282-0822.

Are you interested in learning to run the sound board or be a radio monitor? We are looking for volunteers to join the ranks of those who help with the radio ministry in these areas. If you are interested, talk with Dave Lucht or Pastor.

Have you ever wondered how the candles get filled or how easy it is to set up for communion? If so, now is the time to reach out to Sheila Selk or Cheryl Knake and learn! The altar guild is looking for a few new faces to help with weekly duties.

Summer Sunday School

Our Summer Sunday School is in full swing and going great! The Sunday School children meet in 2 classes based on age. We will continue this format throughout the summer. We are studying the Ten Commandments. The Adult Bible Class will continue through the Book of Acts.

Sunday School and Bible Class will NOT meet on Sunday, July 4 and Adult Bible Class will not meet on Sunday, August 1.

High School and Middle School Youth Group

It was wonderful to join together in June for a time of bible study and fellowship with all our Youth. We will not meet in July or August and look forward to getting back together in September. Thank you to the youth that are teaching Summer Sunday School and helping with Vacation Bible School!

Hymn Requests!

Remember, you can request hymns at any time through a note or email to Pastor or on the web site under the "Contact Us" tab. Any hymn from Lutheran Service Book is acceptable as well as the list of hymns from Worship His Majesty found on the request form and the bulletin board.

Fellowship Snacks

It is time to dig out those cookbooks, recipe cards, magazine clippings and try those recipes for our Fellowship time. We are in need of some goodies for our fellowship time between service and Sunday School. Looking forward to trying all those new goodies or the old staples. Any questions, please see Sara Seyfert.

Wrestling with Theology has some wonderful programming lined up for the summer. July will start a monthly look at where Jesus is found in the Old Testament sacrifices. These will appear on the first Monday of the month. Here are the highlights for the regular programming in July and August.

Week of	Confessional Corner (Monday)	Digging Deeper (Thursday)
July 4	Working Faith Is Living and Active (Ap V 112-132)	God's Great Glory (Psalms 27-29)
July 11	The Law Is Not Kept without Christ (Ap V 133-150)	Into Your Hand I Commit My Spirit (Psalms 30-31)
July 18	Christ Connects Forgiveness and Good Works (Ap V 151-166)	Blessed Are the Forgiven (Psalms 32-33)
July 25	Mutual Peace (Ap V 167-182)	God's Sensory Goodness (Psalm 34)
August 1	God Gives Gifts in the Present (Ap V 183-194)	Great Is the Lord (Psalm 35)
August 8	Rome Demands Doubt (Ap V 195-212)	God's Precious Steadfast Love (Psalm 36)
August 15	Salvation Is by God's Mercy (Ap V 213-234)	God Never Forsakes His People (Psalm 37)
August 22	Gift vs Reward (Ap V 235-256)	Do Not Forsake Me All My Days! (Psalms 38-39)

Moments of Meditation

As Moments continue to be broadcast on WIBK, the text being focused on this month is Genesis 1:10-24. Read through days 3 - 6 of Creation.

Scrip Orders - July 25 and August 29

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, July 25, 2021 and August 29, 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!

BIBLE AND CONFESSIONS SALE!!!

CPH is doing its annual Bible sale through the month of July. You can get various editions/bindings of The Lutheran Study Bible beginning at \$34.99 (regularly \$54.99). CPH is also doing a sale on Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions. We will be studying our Confessions after we finish the book of Acts in the Sunday morning Bible Class. You can get the hardback edition for \$24.99 (regularly \$34.99) or the paperback for \$14.99 (regularly \$24.99). This would be a great opportunity to get your own copy to further your understanding of what the Lutheran Church believes, teaches and confesses. Orders need to be given to Pastor or Renee by July 29.

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.

"For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery" (Galatians 5:1).

We celebrate this month because of the freedoms and liberties our country has afforded us. We are right to do this. We should be thankful for these liberties – the freedom to gather together to worship and to live out what believe in our daily lives.

But freedom and liberty in our age have devolved. It has become a freedom from duty instead of a freedom for it. Indeed, freedom and liberty in our age has turned into licentiousness – a license to do what we want, when we want. This license is a submission again to a yoke of slavery. For freedom as license to do what we desire when we desire it means we are slaves to our desires and slaves to our passions.

Christ died to set us free from our desires. In Holy Baptism, our Old Adam is drowned and put to death along with all sin and evil desires so that a new man may arise and live before God in righteousness and purity. In Christ, we are a new creation. We are set free from the passions of the flesh so that we are free to do our duty and bear fruits of the Spirit.

Our duty is what God calls us to do as members of a family, society, and the Church. God calls us to believe in His Word and gladly hear and learn it. He calls us to pray for all people. He calls us to live in faith toward Him and in fervent love for our neighbor. He calls us to put the gifts He gives to us in His service. God calls parents provide for their children and raise them in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

And God calls children to honor their parents and provide and care for them when they are no longer able to do so themselves. God calls the government to punish those who do evil and to reward those who do good. He calls citizens to pay their taxes and honor the governing officials as God's servants. He calls pastors to preach and teach the Gospel, repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And He calls hearers to support those who teach them with every good thing.

Christ died to set us free from the works of our selfish flesh, giving us the freedom and liberty to do our duty. Stand firm, then, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.



The Reporter

Our Savior Lutheran Church
209 West Jones St
PO Box 188
Milford Illinois 60953

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**