

Hidden In Plain Sight

Recently, during a homily, I shared the following story.

"In the late 1980s, when the Cold War still prevailed, the main gate between East and West Berlin was called Checkpoint Charlie. Travelers had to show papers when they passed through, and their vehicles were subject to a search whichever direction they were traveling. One particular vehicle passed through the gate with regularity, and the same scene was repeated almost every day. It was a pickup truck, driven by a West Berliner, carrying a load covered by a tarp. The tarp was secured and held down with a bicycle. Every day, that truck was stopped and searched. One day the load was hay. First the bicycle, then the tarp, then a search through the hay looking for contraband. The next day, it was a load of sand. Same process occurred. First the bicycle, then the tarp, and then the sand was searched. Another day it might have been lawn clippings, or garbage bags, or aluminum cans. Same process every day. First the bike, then the tarp, then a search through the materials. Yet no illegal contraband was ever found.

In 1989, after the Berlin Wall had come down, one of the Checkpoint Charlie guards was having a beer in a tavern and notices the truck driver come into the pub. He sits down with him at his table. He says, "Comrade, we knew you were smuggling something into East Berlin but we never could find it. Now that the wall is down, the truth can be told. What were you smuggling, Comrade?" The truck driver looked at the East Berlin guard, smiled and said, "Bicycles. I was smuggling bicycles."

Funny, isn't it? How something could be hidden in plain sight. That's exactly the issue at all the appearances of Jesus to his disciples through the weeks following Easter. He appears and they don't recognize him. Usually they finally do, at either the breaking of bread, or on a road or at a fish fry. He goes out of his way to explain that He would always be with them.

Maybe we have the same problem. We fail to see Jesus in the moments of our lives, even though he promised He would be with us always. Hopefully this month, post Easter, we can begin to see Jesus involved with us at normal moments. Jesus with us at:

- Hospital Rooms
- At our Dinner Table with loved ones
- Mother's Day brunches
- Watching the Kentucky Derby
- At church celebrating the graduates
- At a service honoring those who serve in our military

Can you see him? Can you feel His Presence?

"And surely I am with you." That was the promise of Jesus to us. If we look, really look, we will see him and feel His Presence.

Blessings to you and your loved ones,

Interim Pastor Dennis E. Ellisen

Confirmation News

Grade 8 Confirmation Meeting - Parents and students – mark your calendar and plan on attending the confirmation meeting on Sunday, May 6 at 9:15 a.m. (date changed from April 29). We will discuss the requirements and projects that students must complete before being confirmed in the fall.

Honoring our 8th Graders and High School Seniors

Due to a scheduling oversight (Neenah's prom is scheduled for May 5), we have changed the 8th grade and high school senior recognition to **Sunday, May 20**, at the 10:30 service. After the service, we'll celebrate together with a reception. Please contact Karen at kwhitmer@our-saviors.org to let her know if your 8th or 12th grader can make it.

To our Confirmation Teachers and Helpers...

Another year of confirmation class has come to a close. We want to thank the following people for sharing their time and talents with our students: Bill Mode, Debbie Birkholz, Jenn Paulson, Kelly Arens, Amy Mutart, Todd Hagner, Tammy Rabe, Tami Dietzen, Dana Prah, Nicki Zemlock, Haley VanZummeren and Jim Hein. *Because of you*, our confirmation program continues to grow and thrive. Thanks for all you do!

Sunday School News

The children will sing at the 10:30 service on May 6, their last day of Sunday school.

Thank you all for helping make Sunday school a success. Thank you to our teachers and helpers for giving up some of your time to teach the children of Our Savior's. It is because of you that the kids are attending classes. Thank you to Karen Malchow, Kerin Harrington, Kerissa Harrington, Carrie Danielewicz, Karen Strupp, Ava Meyer, Becky Green, Nicole Tiedt, Ashley Lauer, Jody Anklam, Katie Ricketts, Kristi Armstrong, and Shera Sroka. Thank you Kristin Curtis for teaching grades four and five, and for teaching the kids new songs throughout the year. And thank you also to our Superintendents, Karin Schilke, Liz Bradley and Graham Bradley.

The summer break is right around the corner. Enjoy your summer! I will see you all in church, I am sure. If anyone would like to direct VBS or maybe have a one night VBS, I would be happy to assist you in anyway. Let me know!

God's Peace, and be safe,
Ruthie Melzer

Last Youth Event

Confirmation students will be traveling to Feeding America in Appleton to do a service project for our last Youth Event and Confirmation class on Wednesday, May 2. Please plan to come to church right after school. The bus will leave by **3:45 p.m.** If you can't make the bus, please make your own travel arrangements and meet us at Feeding America. Contact Karen with questions at kwhitmer@our-saviors.org.

Our Version of 'Cupcake Wars'

Our Youth talked about the importance of teamwork and then participated in Our Savior's version of the Food Network's "Cupcake Wars," for our April Youth Event. Each team had 30 cupcakes to decorate and create their own pastry masterpiece. The judges had a hard time naming a winner! All had a great time competing ... and a better time indulging in some awesome cupcakes. (Pictures of this event are on the cover of this Voice.)

LOOKING AHEAD...

June 10-15—Confirmation Camp at Imago Dei Village

"God's Work. Our Hands" - Yes, YOU can make a difference! Here are some opportunities to share God's love in our community.

Supporting Our Missions

2019 Guatemala Mission Trip

The planning has begun for the mission trip to Guatemala, March 23-31, 2019. The dates coincide with many Spring Breaks in the area. In 2019, Easter is April 21.

In order to keep the costs low, we plan to fundraise as much as we can. We will be requesting a deposit in September of 2018. If you are interested, please talk to Marcie Kimmes or Rich/Pam Garman (920-915-2272, pamgarman2@gmail.com).

Animal Shelter Volunteers

The Neenah Animal Shelter has asked for our help with their spring clean-up on Saturday, May 5 from 9:00-11:00 a.m. We need 15-20 people (all ages welcome) for outdoor raking, flower beds, (etc.); garage organizing; and general "spiffing up" the shelter. Can you help? Contact Marcie Kimmes at 725-3956 or mkimmes@our-saviors.org.

Save the Date!

Our 2018 "God's Work. Our Hands." Day will be on Sunday, September 9. This annual day of service is an opportunity to share God's love in our community. Do you have an idea for a service project or are you interested in joining the planning team? Contact Marcie Kimmes at 725-3956.

Milwaukee Mission Trip

Our Savior's is sending a group of twelve (adults and youth) to Milwaukee, June 20-22. The group will feed the homeless at St. Ben's Community Meal, help at the Hope House food pantry, and provide a meal and game night for the men who reside at the Guest House. Please support our mission group as they continue to plan and prepare for this amazing outreach opportunity.

Think Spring! Living Color Flower Sale

Did you order summer plants from our ELCA Youth Gathering group? Plants will be delivered to church around Mother's Day. We will contact you with the pick-up day/time. Contact Karen Whitmer at kwhitmer@our-saviors.org with questions.

Lay Readers Needed

Help!!! We are in dire need of lay readers for the 5:00 Saturday evening services. With the departure of Bill Mode, we are now down to only three readers for Saturdays. Won't you please consider giving this ministry a try? Try it once and see if you like it. Scheduling is flexible. Contact the church office or Sue Schultz (751-3725) for more information. We really need your help.

LUTHER TIDBIT

'FAITH IS PERMITTING OURSELVES TO BE SEIZED BY THE THINGS WE DO NOT SEE.' -MARTIN LUTHER

Men's Breakfasts

The men's Bible study meets on the second and fourth Saturday of every month. We meet at 8:00 a.m. in the meeting room of Perkins Restaurant across from Wal-Mart. This month we meet on May 12 and 26. Come and join us. All men welcome.

OSLC Mission Quilters

Come see how much fun we have! This month we meet in the church gym on:

May 3, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

May 17, 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

Altar Guild

Altar Guild will be having their next meeting on TUESDAY, MAY 15, 2018, at 6:30 p.m. at church.

Women's Book Club

The book club at OSLC welcomes you to join our friendly group of 10 to 12 women. We generally meet at 6:30 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month in the church library. This month we meet on May 22. Come join us!

Worship Time Change

Beginning the weekend of May 26-27, the worship times will change to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday nights and 9:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings. This time change will continue through the summer.

ELCA World Hunger

More than 800 million people - that's 11 percent of people in our world today - are hungry. As members of the ELCA, we are called to respond. We are a church that rolls up our sleeves and gets to work.

Working with and through our congregations, in the United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands Lutheran churches overseas and other partners, **ELCA World Hunger** is uniquely positioned to reach communities in need. From health clinics to micro-loans, water wells to animal husbandry, community meals to advocacy, your gifts to ELCA World Hunger make it possible for the ELCA to respond, supporting sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty.

Speak up about issues that matter to you. Not sure what to say? Go to: <http://www.elca.org/> for national and international issues or <https://www.loppw.org/> for state issues.

Crossways Camping Ministries EXPERIENCE CAMP. BEGIN A WORLD OF CHANGE!

Attending camp is a chance to learn about God, learn how to care for the world in which we live, and grow in stewardship of our planet and one another. The simple idea of signing up your children, your family, or yourself will make a difference in your life and the lives of others and will be the beginning of a world of change. Bring a friend and encourage others to take part in a summer program at Crossways. Check out the Crossways website at www.CrosswaysCamps.org for details and online registration.

Blast Off For Books!

Even if you or your kids aren't attending the ELCA Youth Gathering this summer, you can participate by donating books for our youth to bring to Houston!

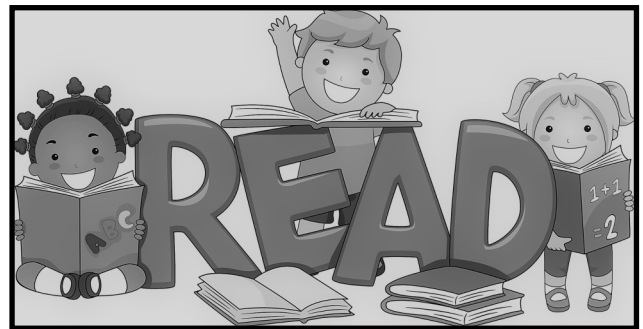
The Houston Independent School District estimates that 74% of the students in the district come from families who struggle to provide books for their children. This means many Houston students begin each school year at a disadvantage.

You can help create brighter futures for Houston's students by donating books for our youth to bring to the Gathering. All donated books will be distributed at community book fairs, camps and other events around the city as part of the Gathering's Service Learning experience.

Look for our Blast Off for Books Donation Box in the Gathering Area. We will be collecting books throughout May. Here are the books that we are collecting. They can be *new or gently used*. Contact Karen at kwhitmer@our-saviors.org with questions.

Bad Kitty (Series) by Nick Bruel
Elephant and Piggie (Series) by Mo Willems
Frog and Toad (Series) by Arnold Lobel
It's Shoe Time by Mo Willems and Brian Collier
Little Bear (Series) by Elsa Holmelund Minarik
Mercy Watson (Series) by Kate DiCamillo
Amulet (Series) by Kazu Kibuisji
El Deafo by Cece Bell
Ghost by Raina Telgemeier
Mighty Jack by Ben Hatke
Roller Girl by Victoria Jamieson
Secret Coders (Series) by Gene Luen Yang
Brown Girl Dreaming by Jaqueline Woodson
Diary of a Wimpy Kid (Series) by Jeff Kinney
Dog Man (Series) by Dav Pilkey
Dragon Masters (Series) by Tracey West
Eerie Elementary (Series) by Jack Chabert
Fish in a Tree by Lynda Mullaly Hunt
Frank Einstein (Series) by Jon Scieszka
Ghost by Jason Reynolds
I Survived (Series) by Lauren Tarshis
Laura Line by Crystal Allen
Matilda by Ronald Dahl
Nerds, Book 1: National Espionage, Recue, and Defense Society by Michael Buckley
One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate
One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams Garcia
Origami Yoda (Series) by Tom Angleberger
Some Kind of Courage by Dan Gemeinhart
The Cross Over by Kwame Alexander
The Lions of Little Rock by Kristin Levine
The Year of Billy Miller by Kevin Henkes
Wonder by Raquel Palacio

Creepy Pair of Underwear by Aaron Reynolds
Dragons Love Tacos by Adam Rubin
Last Stop on Market Street by Matt de la Pena
Mango, Abuela and Me by Meg Medina
Martina and the Beautiful Cockroach: A Cuban
Folktale by Carmen Agra Deedy
Pete the Cat (Series) by James Dean
The Day the Crayons Quit by Drew Daywalt
Why Am I Me by Paige Britt



And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." ~ Luke 19:8

Generous People...

Thank You!!

The Family Radio Network announced the results of their 2018 'Help for the Homeless' hygiene drive. Records were broken again as \$410,00 worth of new hygiene and cleaning products were donated to local crisis programs in 15 Northeast and Central Wisconsin communities. The 83 agencies benefiting are sincerely grateful for this generous help! More than 875 local businesses, churches and schools participated by asking staff and members to donate for three weeks this spring. Donations remain in the community where they are collected.

Thanks to our members who donated.

Generosity is...

...recognizing that we have enough to share. Even people in poverty have been known to find a least coin to share. It is not the amount but the impulse that enough IS enough, with more to share.

From the Pews

I enjoy volunteering because...

- ...kids are a blessing. —Anon.
- ...I get to help someone in need. —Anon.
- ...it allows me to meet people that I probably wouldn't get to know otherwise. —Anon.
- ...I do something I would want someone to do for me if I needed their help. —Anon.
- ...I always meet someone new and I get to spend time with old friends. Helping others always makes you feel good. —Anon.

Opportunities For Giving...

Mission Funds

The Christian Action Committee administers these funds. Yearly they select three mission recipients—typically one international, one national and one local cause are chosen. The proceeds from our annual Chili Supper also go to support this fund. You may contribute via the green offering envelope.

Generous Congregation...

Unified Budget YTD

Through March

Income \$ 115,584.84

Expenses \$ 122,208.76

(\$ 6,623.92)



Building Fund...

Through March

Remaining on Loan:
\$476,165.88

Principal Paid on Loan
\$ 15,416.50

Total Contributions:
\$ 19,264.01