

BLESSED SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

Thursday, September 17

Sunday, September 20

FIGURING OUT GOD? DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME!"

Text: Isaiah 55:8-9 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways, my ways", declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

INTRODUCTION – The ultimate exercise in futility is trying to understand the Lord our God. Some people spend their lives on this matter. We are confined to our rational minds, which were given us to figure our living in this world. Reason and study do not form faith, they inform faith. We use our minds to study God's Word, not God's essence and being.

1 – Our "independence streak."

2 – The early rebellion.

3 – Evil spread fast.

4 – Eight in all righteous left at Noah's time.

5 – Evil expresses itself in idolatry.

6 – Created in freedom, man flees to captivity.

7 – We make our own gods and idols.

CONCLUSION – It is beyond ironic – tragic, actually – that we were created in freedom. In disobeying the Lord in the Garden, Adam and Eve became captives. They were imprisoned by sin. Satan became their lord. We thank and praise God daily for rescuing us through Holy Baptism, for giving us the Holy Spirit, for promising to bring us all back into paradise!

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Disciples Live in Their Vocations by Grace through Faith in Christ

Those who are sent as *“laborers for his vineyard”* (Matt. 20:1) depict the wide diversity of vocations to which the disciples of Christ Jesus are called. Whatever our particular stations in life may be, we are called to live and serve by faith in His promises. Our labors do not merit anything before Him, for He is already generous to one and all without partiality. In mercy, He has chosen to bear *“the burden of the day and the scorching heat”* on our behalf, to make us equal to Himself and to give us what belongs to Him, that is, the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 20:12–15). This way of the Lord is foolishness to the world and

foreign to our thoughts, but He draws near, so that *"he may be found"* (Is. 55:6), *"have compassion"* and *"abundantly pardon"* (Is. 55:7). So it is that we are found in Christ Jesus, and He is honored in our bodies, *"whether by life or by death"* (Phil. 1:20), by *"fruitful labor"* (Phil. 1:22) or by suffering. It is by faith in His forgiveness that our works are *"worthy of the gospel"* (Phil. 1:27).

CHARITABLE INFORMATION

SPECIAL MISSIONS All gifts for the special missions in the third quarter will go to support "Helping Hands Eastern European Ministries". This is a worthy cause that brings the gospel to the poorest nations of Europe. In ages past they organized "mission societies" that brought us the gospel. Now we have the opportunity to return their service! Checks, as always, are made out to Blessed Savior Lutheran Church.

MITES Please remember to bring your mites. The first grant of the 2020-2022 Biennium is **Church Worker Student Grant, \$30,000**. This money will help seminarians purchase their books. The need for new pastors is great.

BIBLE STUDY

ONLINE BIBLE STUDY This fall, we will be taking a deeper look into the book of Psalms, beginning on Tuesday, October 6. This 12-week study will be offered on Tuesday mornings at 9am and 7pm via Zoom and is led by Jaime Greene. If you are interested in signing up or if you have any questions, please contact Jaime at jaimelynn581@gmail.com. In your email, please indicate if you are interested in the morning or evening study.

CHURCH INFORMATION

WELCOME PRESCHOOL AND CHILDCARE STAFF: We invite you to welcome Mrs. Laura Kidd who will be installed here at Blessed Savior on Thursday, September 24th at the 7:00PM service. Mrs. Laura Kidd accepted our Call to be the 3K lead teacher and afternoon childcare teacher. We also welcome Mrs. Jenny Otto (4K) and Mrs. Angela Heisler (Childcare) who will be placed into office the same evening! May the Lord continue to bless their work here at Blessed Savior as they teach the littlest lambs about God's love!

SUNDAY SCHOOL @ HOME: Sunday school is officially underway! If you have a child ages 2 through 8th grade and did not receive materials from us, please contact the church office! We pray the Lord would bless our families and students as they learn at home and grow in their faith together!

YOUTH GROUP All 6th-12th graders are invited to join us for an outdoor Youth Group on September 20 from 6-8pm, weather permitting. We will be playing yard games. If you have any yard games we can play, please bring them. We will also have a bonfire and s'mores. If you have questions please email Jaime Greene at jaimelynn581@gmail.com.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR: The book fair will be here in Oswald Hall from September 20-27! The book fair will be open by appointment only so if you would like to stop by to check things out please contact Jennifer Leinss! Donations will also be accepted to purchase books for our classrooms as well as the military! Thank you for supporting us in this way! There will also be an online link for shopping!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD We will once again be collecting Christmas boxes for Samaritan's Purse. Boxes are now available and can be found outside the front doors of church in a bin! You will find a list of ideas along with boy and girl tags in the bin as well! Boxes need to be back to church no later than Sunday, November 8th! Questions? See Jaime Greene or Jennifer Leinss!

SCRIP While SCRIP gift cards may not be available for purchase on Sunday mornings, you are still able to purchase cards through our order forms. Simply fill out your order, include your payment (checks can be made out to Blessed Savior Lutheran), and place it in the SCRIP mailbox, which is located on the north side of the Narthex. The order forms are available near the SCRIP bulletin board in the hallway. Your order will be placed in your church mailbox when it arrives unless other arrangements are made. If you have any questions, please contact Jaime Greene at jaimelynn581@gmail.com.

DEVOTIONALS AND SUCH If you would like a copy of the devotionals that we receive, Portals of Prayer, Lutheran

Woman's Quarterly, or Lutheran Digest, please check out the bins outside of the front of church and help yourself!

HELPING HANDS EASTERN EUROPEAN MINISTRIES We have been busy the last several months with the preparation and distribution of hundreds of food packets containing devotions and prayers. We have started working in a new area, the large city of Plovdiv, as that is where many Bulgarian immigrants in Chicago come from. Unemployment due to COVID is high and there is no unemployment compensation for them. Many are hungry and afraid and are more open to the Gospel than ever. We have also started publishing Time of Grace devotions in Bulgaria Sega newspaper (the Chicago area newspaper in which we've long published articles on health with a Gospel connection). Our estimated readership is about 10,000 souls.

FLOWERS, BULLETINS, & SPECIAL MISSIONS SIGN UP If you would like to sign up for flowers, bulletins, or special mission contact the church office by email blessedsavior.nb.lcms@gmail.com, or call 262-786-6465.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSIONS

We rejoice with Justin and Maria Kreier who bring their daughter, Hayley June Kreier to the Baptismal font to receive Holy Baptism on Sunday, September 20th in a private ceremony.

We pray the Lord's blessing on Rachel Ziemba and Garrett Hoeg as they are united in holy matrimony on Saturday, September 26.

We pray for those undergoing medical treatment:

Chuck Lois Arliss Judy Angie
Harold Adeline Richard John

We pray the Lord to have mercy on us and bless the efforts to contain the Corona Virus, the wildfires in the west, the recovery from the storms in Iowa, and the recovery from hurricane Laura and Sally in the south.

Special intercessions: Please pray for all health care workers in America and the world, for all first responders, truck drivers and essential workers.

We pray the Lord to watch over those who are serving in the military.

Last Week's Attendance: 126

YouTube Attendance: 72

Last Week's Offerings: \$8,197

Needed Weekly: \$10,365