

The Star Newsletter

July
2018

The King's Word

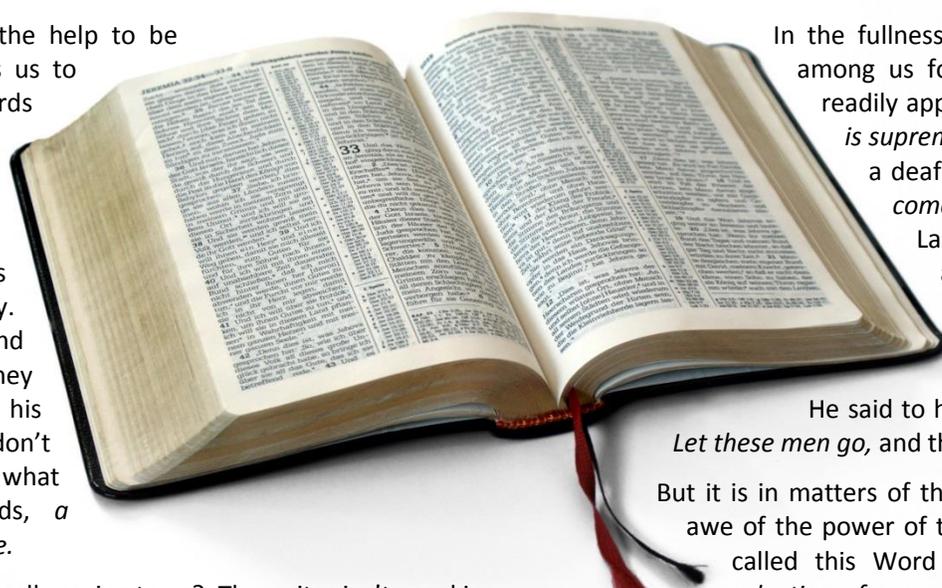
Since a king's word is supreme, who can say to him, "What are you doing?"

Ecclesiastes 8:4

Many times we Christians feel helpless to do the things we would like to do as God's children. We would so love to have an unwavering faith that never doubts. We'd like to get rid of all of our bad habits, to face life without whimpering and feeling sorry for ourselves, to depend always on God's promises, to forgive freely those who have wronged us. Even the great Apostle Paul knew that feeling: *"For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do – this I keep on doing"* (Ro 7:19).

Throughout the Old Testament, we witness the power of the Word of this King. He called forth sufficient water from a rock that satisfied the thirst of about 2 million people and their flocks and herds. He spoke and the waters of the Red Sea separated for his people to safely pass, and spoke again and the Egyptian army perished in those same waters. He spoke and the sun stood still for Joshua and the Israelites to win the battle against a more powerful and numerous enemy.

Where can we find the help to be what the Lord wants us to be? Consider the words of the wisest man who ever lived. It would seem that when a king gives a command, his subjects jump to obey. They don't stand around and argue. They don't question his command. They don't hesitate. They do what their king commands, *a king's word is supreme.*



In the fullness of time, this King walked among us for some 33 years. It was readily apparent that this *King's Word is supreme.* *Be opened,* he said, and a deaf man could hear. *Lazarus, come out,* he commanded and Lazarus came out of his tomb alive and well. To a paralyzed man, he said, *Get up, take your mat and go home,* and he did.

He said to his enemies in Gethsemane, *Let these men go,* and they were safe.

But it is in matters of the soul that we are most in awe of the power of the Word of our King. Paul called this Word a *power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.* It makes the spiritually blind to see, the deaf to hear, and the dead to live. That Word turns sinners into saints and slaves of Satan into children of God on the way to heaven.

That amazing Word touched your heart and life already at your Baptism. Suddenly, all things became new. That Word, which created faith in you then, has sustained your faith since then. We can depend on that Word in every time of need. Let the Word of the King work in you what you would like to be and do. It will never fail you. You have the King's Word on that!

But what is Solomon really saying to us? The writer isn't speaking of an ordinary king and his commands. He is telling us that the Word of this King is packed with power to accomplish whatever he desires – the power, in fact, to do the impossible. He's really talking about the King of Kings!

Consider a few examples of the power of this King's Word. We think immediately of creation, when God simply said, *Let there be...and there was* – mountains, oceans, stars, everything out there in space and every living creature that swims, flies, or creeps across the ground.



Grow - Go - Glow

Grow - In faith through the Word of God for a lifetime
Go - With the Gospel from backyard to community to the world
Glow - Through weekly worship and in daily lives to God's glory



All children, ages 4-12, are invited to our **Summer Music Camp**. The camp will be held July 16-20, from 9:00 a.m. until noon each day. All the children will learn how to use God's gift of music in order to praise him for all of his wonderful deeds, especially for sending the gift of our Savior who enables us all

someday to sing his praises in heaven. Watch for details to register your children for our Summer Music Camp. Volunteers are also needed to serve in various ways to make our camp a success. Your assistance is greatly appreciated!

The Fourth of July

Star of Bethlehem will have a float once again in the New Berlin Parade on the Fourth of July. Our men's chorus has again offered to participate in the parade. Volunteers are needed to distribute water and fliers to those who are watching along the parade route. The fliers are announcements for our upcoming Vacation Music Camp, which will be held on July 16-20. In the evening, the popular City of New Berlin fireworks display can be easily viewed from our church property. If you desire to park in our church parking lot, please get here early. It fills up very quickly. Please have a safe and enjoyable 4th of July celebration. May we all be those lights to the world and the salt of the earth that God has made us to be in greater measure. May we also continue to pray for our gracious Lord to keep his promise: "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord!"



(Psalm 33:12)

BAPTISMS

Logan James Springer, son of Mitchell and Tzvia Springer, was baptized here at Star of Bethlehem on Sunday, May 20. Michael John Mueller, son of Timothy and Megan Mueller, was baptized by his grandfather, Pastor Timothy Mueller, on Sunday June 24 here at Star of Bethlehem. May the Lord keep both Logan and Michael in his loving arms throughout life to life everlasting.



What a wonderful day and Service you had planned for my 40th Anniversary in the Holy Ministry (35 of those years here at Star of Bethlehem) on June 3, 2018.

It was a day that I will never forget. It was a special honor to have our District President, Pastor David Kolander, here to preach the sermon on the theme: *On the Plains of Moorland*. It was great to have the choir sing and the instrumentalists use their gifts to enhance the Service. It was a special joy to have many of my family members home for the occasion. Thank you also for your many wonderful gifts and the generous gift from the congregation. It continues to be my privilege and honor to serve our Lord here at Star of Bethlehem! May the Lord continue to bless my ministry among you all! To him alone be the glory!



We welcome to our Star of Bethlehem family this month Lindsey Hintz. May the Lord bless her membership among us, her growth in God's Word and relationship with our Savior together with us.

Called Home

It pleased Almighty God to call out of this life the soul of Lana Athas. Lana was the mother of Brandon, Connor and Owen Athas, and the daughter of Suezanne Sanford. A Funeral Service was held at the home of Lana's brother, Christopher Burge, on Saturday, June 23. May the Lord comfort all who mourn with the sweet hope of a blessed reunion in heaven.

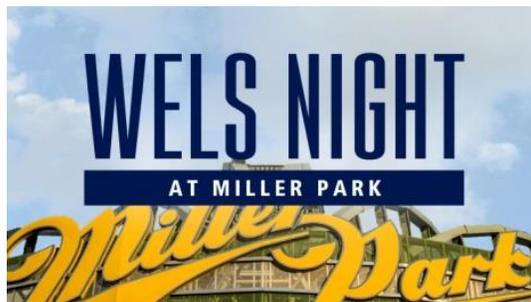


A note of thanks to all those involved in putting together the **Outdoor Church Service & Picnic**. The Lord blessed us with a beautiful day, and the work done by the Fellowship Team, the Worship Team, and the Outreach Team was enjoyed by all. Thank you!

I Support Stephanie Benefit

Stephanie Smokovich's family and friends have organized a benefit for her at the New Berlin Ale House on Sunday, August 26. Stephanie reports regarding her continued struggle with brain cancer the following: "I am officially done with 6 weeks of daily radiation and chemotherapy treatments, and am enjoying time away from medications for a month before chemotherapy and additional scans start in July. Please don't forget to tell your friends, form a team and register! The first annual I Support Stephanie Benefit is happening **August 26 at the New Berlin Ale House**. We hope you'll consider joining us for a day in the celebration of LIFE. Families and children are welcome (or you can snag a babysitter :), food will be plenty, volleyball and bowling too! We have several options for registration. We hope to see you there. We love you guys so much and would love to make this an annual event to raise awareness for our family, or others suffering from Brain cancer. All details can be found on the flyer link below:

http://www.bellablvd.net/docs/SS_BENEFIT_FLYER.pdf



The date is Friday, August 3, for a game between the Brewers and the Rockies. This is the annual WELS Night. Ticket prices are reduced. You are able to sit in 3 different sections with other WELS members. If you would like to go with a group from our church, please sign up on the credenza by the bulletin board.

19-Minute Bible Studies

Our Sunday morning topics during the month of July will be: "Covenant" (July 1), "Anointing" (July 8), "Abraham's Children" (July 15), "Circumcision" (July 22), and "Body of Christ" (July 29).

STAR BOWLING LEAGUE



We will begin another year of bowling this September. Plans are in place to expand the league by inviting area WELS churches—who perhaps in the past had their own leagues, but no longer do—to join us. If you know of a WELS member in the area who enjoys bowling, please pass this information along to them. Questions can be addressed to Pastor Jonathan Nitz at jnitz@starofbethlehem.org.

Moms in the Morning

Join *Moms in the Morning* on July 12 and 26 and August 9 from 9:00-10:00 a.m. for the summer series of fun and interactive playdates, led by our Preschool Director, Mrs. Yass. She'll lead songs, hands-on and sensory activities, a craft followed by a snack and fun on the school playground.

PARKING LOT REPAIRS



The major patching of the parking lot has been completed. The entire lot will be resealed and then re-stripped on Tuesday and Wednesday, July 24 and 25. The parking lot will be closed during those days.



The core group for the up-coming Capital Campaign recently began their work, and will have a second meeting in early July. As noted in "From the President" on page 4, a significant number of volunteers will be needed over the next half a year,. If you are asked to serve, please give prayerful thought to joining the team. If you would like to serve in some capacity, but you don't know just how you might do so, please contact one of the pastors and let them know. A place will be found that will use your God-given gifts. If the Capital Campaign, and the Building Project it is intended to support, are going to be a success, we will need "all hands on deck."

CHRISTIAN ARTIST CHRIS DRIESBACH

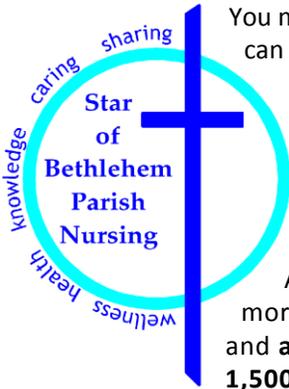
The Worship Team is happy to invite Chris Driesbach to Star of Bethlehem the weekend of August 11, 12, & 13. He will be leading us in a worship service entitled, "How Can Creation Be True?" Between Sunday morning services, in place of our 19-Minute Bible Study time, Chris will also perform his new mini-concert called "A Visit with a Christian Songwriter and Former Atheist" If you would like to preview some of Chris' work, you can visit his webpage at www.chrisdriesbach.com.

FREE SEWING CLASS

Marilyn Hall, a member of Christ Lutheran in Big Bend, will be teaching a basic sewing class including sewing on buttons, hemming pants and skirts, fixing town seams, etc. She is considering a Fall start. Give her a call at 414-531-0345 if interested in learning how to sew.

Which of These Have More Sodium?

Submitted by Susan Abel,
BSN, RN, Parish Nurse



You might be surprised to find all the places that salt can sneak into your diet.

More than 75 percent of the sodium Americans eat comes from some processed, prepackaged and restaurant foods – **not from the salt shaker.**

The American Heart Association recommends no more than 2,300 milligrams a day and **an ideal limit of no more than 1,500 mg per day for most adults.**



Because the average American's sodium intake is so excessive, even cutting back to no more than 2,400 milligrams a day will significantly improve blood pressure and heart health.

Take the following quiz to test your sodium IQ.

Which has more sodium?

1. A frozen dinner of sliced beef with gravy, mashed potatoes, and peas OR one cup of chicken noodle soup?
2. One-half cup instant chocolate pudding OR one-half cup regular, cooked pudding?
3. One cup of shredded wheat OR one cup raisin bran?
4. A medium serving of French Fries OR 2 tablespoons ketchup?
5. A fast-food grilled chicken sandwich OR a fast-food hamburger?
6. A cup of instant oatmeal OR a cup of quick-cooking oatmeal?
7. A large bagel OR a large glazed doughnut?
8. A Pina Colada OR a Bloody Mary?
9. A corn tortilla OR a flour tortilla?

1. Chicken noodle soup: 1,106 mg (Frozen dinner has 742mg)
2. Instant pudding: 357 mg (Regular pudding has 88 mg)
3. Raisin bran: 360 mg (Shredded wheat only has 5 mg)
4. Ketchup: 356 mg (French Fries: 265 mg)
5. Grilled Chicken Sandwich: 957 mg (Hamburger has 534 mg)
6. Instant Oatmeal: 377 mg (Quick-cooking only has 1 mg)
7. Large Bagel: 700 mg (A glazed doughnut has about 257 mg)
8. Bloody Mary: 1,548 mg (Pina Colada averages 130 mg)
9. Flour Tortilla: 234 mg (one corn tortilla has only 3 mg)

ANSWERS

Free Family Fun Day: Annual Ice Cream Social

You're invited to New Beginnings - A Home for Mothers for their Annual Ice Cream Social on Saturday, August 18th from 1:30pm-4:30pm. New Beginnings is a WELS home for single mothers located at [9215 W. Wisconsin Ave. Milwaukee, WI](http://www.wisconsinhomeforwomen.org). This FREE family event will include a bouncy house for kids, awesome prizes, volunteer appreciation gifts, tours of the home, and the opportunity to meet the mothers and babies at New Beginnings. For more information about the Ice Cream Social or New Beginnings, please visit www.homeformothers.com or call our office at (414) 376-0595. See you there!

From the President

Have you ever volunteered for anything – and later regretted it?

Sometimes in life we get “roped” into something that we really don’t want to do – but we do it anyway because of loyalty, guilt, lack of others stepping forward, etc.

Those are all “negative” reasons – but what if our real motivation for volunteering is, instead, a positive force?

What if our agreeing to volunteer is rooted in a desire to contribute to something bigger and maybe to “make a difference”? That could be a powerful motivator, right?

I bring up this subject because we really need your help . . .

The preliminary work of developing and rolling out an autumn Capital Campaign for the expansion of our facilities has now begun. A “Core Group” (which is charged with overseeing the Capital Campaign) has been formed and will be meeting at various times throughout the next few months. Much work needs to be done.

I’m told that, overall, we’ll need 75+ (that’s not a typo) volunteers to lend their time and talents toward all the “little” (but still important!) things that need to get done to have a successful outcome.

Here’s a listing of the broad areas where perhaps you could help in some small way:

- Prayer Emphasis
- Children/Youth
- Promotion
- Pacesetter Commitments
- Special Events

I’d love to give each volunteer a huge Target gift certificate for agreeing to help but that’s simply not possible. But . . . you will be participating in something much bigger – Christian education in all its forms. (As the commercial says, “that’s priceless!”)

if you think you might be able to help in some small way, please contact me by email (geneszaj@gmail.com) or text me at 262-501-6537 (please leave your full name!). You could also talk with one of our pastors or with our school principal, Tim Mueller.

See you in church!

- Gene