

Why does bad stuff happen to me?

My mom has cancer. My dad lost his job. My sister is in high school and pregnant. My brother's grades are slipping. Work is so stressful. My life is unstable. Why does bad stuff happen to me?

Plenty of people have plenty of suggestions.

- "Maybe God does not love you."
- "Maybe he is punishing you for something."
- "Maybe everything is too much for him to handle."

Do you want to know the real answer? It is staggering. "God is LOVE" (1 John 4:16).



What? How can that be? How can there be so many bad things in my life if God is love? Wouldn't a loving God just erase all the bad stuff and only give me good? Well...no.

The kids need shots. They cry with pain. You love them. Are shots "bad"?

You need surgery. It's going to hurt and take some time to heal. Your doctor cares about you. Is surgery "bad"?

Your football coach tells you to run ten 100-yard-sprints. It's not exactly a vacation.

Your coach wants what is best for you. Are the sprints "bad"?

So much in our lives looks like "bad stuff," but it is really "good." It certainly looked like a lot of "bad stuff" was happening on the day Jesus died. Jesus was falsely accused of breaking the law. He was whipped,

mocked, and executed on the cross. That is some really "bad stuff" for Jesus, but Christians still call that day GOOD Friday.

Because of that "bad stuff" on Good Friday, Jesus removes all of our sins and all of our guilt and says, "I'll take those for you. I'll make them mine." Jesus has tremendous love for us. He takes the punishment away from us. He has the power to handle everything in our lives.

While everyone has their own opinions about why "bad stuff" happens to them, God gently points me to Jesus and gives me the right answer: "God is LOVE."

Do you want to learn more about this love? We invite you to join us to learn more about God's perfect love for you, and how he uses all the "bad stuff" in your life for your good.

-adapted from WELS Outreach newsletter

Congregational News



Annual Meeting Agenda Available The Semi-annual meeting was held on July 24th at 10:15 a.m. in church. The regular ministry reports were given, we were given a financial snapshot of where we are money-wise, and we were reminded of many of God's blessings on our congregation and throughout our synod. Copies of the agenda and the reports will be available on the cabinets in the entryway at the beginning of August.

Save the Dates Here are a couple of important dates to save on your calendar for next month...

-Sunday, September 11th we begin another year of Sunday School at 8:30 a.m.

-Sunday, September 11th we also go back to our school year worship

schedule with the late service moving back to 9:45 am. Everything else remains the same

- **Sunday, September 18th** is our outdoor worship service followed by the church picnic. A contemporary worship band – Unworthy – will be with us to lead us in worship, followed by the food and fellowship of our picnic

Vacation Bible School All the bad things in life can't be blamed on Covid-19, but one thing it has affected is our Vacation Bible School. Camp Phillip was not at full staff for their traveling VBS again this year, so we were put on a wait list. Evidently no other congregations dropped out so they weren't able to come to Zion this summer. It's a week of beehive-like activity that we have missed and we hope to be able to bring it back next summer again.

Altar Flowers Even though we don't have a flower shop deliver flowers any longer, you are more than welcome to create an arrangement for the altar some weekend or have an arrangement made for a weekend and bring them to church. One of our members did that for two Sundays in July. Otherwise we will continue to use the very real-looking flower arrangements that have been made and are being rotated periodically. If you decide to do bring your own, please contact the pastor and let him know the occasion for the flowers so he can include it in the bulletin.



Calling all college-bound students! Are you heading to college this fall? Do you know someone who is going to college? Don't leave your faith life at home! Sign up with WELS Campus Ministry to get connected with the local campus pastor near your school and to receive free copies of Meditations devotions and Forward in Christ magazine. Sign up at www.wels.net/college

Too Hot, Too Cold or Just Right? The church air conditioner was replaced on June 24th, so we should be able to count on air-conditioned air for many years to come. That said, even when we have a fully-functioning air

conditioner it's still hard to find the happy medium temperature for church services, especially in the summertime. If you sit in the front, it tends to be cooler because it's near the a/c/ vents; if you sit in the back or in the balcony it tends to be warmer. Please take that into consideration when you come to church...dress accordingly and choose your seat accordingly.

12 Great Ways to Welcome Visitors at Church

It all goes back to what Jesus called the "second greatest



commandment"...after "Love God." It's "Love your neighbor." The command to love is the most repeated command in the New Testament, appearing at least 55 times. Here are the 12 ways we can put that command into practice. Doing so will go a long way to make our visitors or new

members feel welcome...

1. The most important person for a visitor to talk to in order to feel at home in a new church is YOU. It is not the pastor, or the greeter, but a regular member.
2. Treat first time visitors as people loved by God – no matter who they are - because they are loved by God.
3. Try to greet everyone you see at church...visitors AND members you don't know except by their faces. We can all say "Good morning!"
4. Look people in the eye and smile.
5. Take the initiative...don't wait for visitors to initiate conversation with you.
6. Learn people's names and try to remember them.
7. Ask questions and learn about your guests. It is important to express

interest in them.

8. Invite visitors to join you at something, anything!

Invite them to today's fellowship meal, Bible Study, etc.

9. If possible, never let a visitor sit alone...go out of your comfort zone and sit with someone besides someone you know.

10. Be a tour guide....help people find things...in the worship service, in the hymnal, drinking fountains, bathrooms, etc... Visiting a new church can be intimidating and people can use the help.

11. Invite people to fill out the guest book at the top of the ramp.

12. Tell people you're glad they are here, then pray for them during the week...even if you forgot their names.

Again...our goal is to offer a warm welcome to all our members and guests at Zion. Try this sometime: after worship, before talking with the people you already know, spend the first two minutes greeting people you *don't* know. That's a great way to reflect Christ's love and build connections.

Area Announcements and Invitations

WELS Historical Institute Bus Tour A bus tour sponsored by the WELS Historical Institute will take place on **Friday, August 5, 2022**. The itinerary will take the participants to various WELS congregations and sites in Jefferson County, with the final tour at Luther Preparatory School, Watertown. Beginning at 8:00 a.m. bus tour attendees will tour the recently expanded facilities at Christ Lutheran Church in Pewaukee, followed by an opening devotion, and then a short presentation by Rev. Dr. Richard Krause on Luther's September Testament.

Participants will then board the bus and travel to Immanuel, Farmington (Johnson Creek) and visit their church building and cemetery. The next tour will be St. John, Jefferson, followed by lunch in St. John's fellowship

hall. After lunch, there will be four tours including Immanuel in Hubbleton, St. Mark in Watertown, Trinity in Watertown, and the final stop will be a tour of Luther Preparatory School, followed by a short presentation on Martin Chemnitz by Rev. Evan Chartrand. The 500th anniversary of Chemnitz's birth is November 09, 2022.

The cost is \$60 for WELS Historical Institute members and \$85.00 for non-members. The return time to the parking lot of Christ, Pewaukee will be between 5:30-6:00 PM. Participants will be required to walk, board and egress a motor coach.

Register online here - <https://gf.wels.net/whi-bus-tour/>. For more information, contact Dr. Joel Pless at joel.pless@wlc.edu.

Support KML Cheer on Saturday, August 20 Enjoy a delicious brat, hamburger or hot dog at our Brat Hut/Grill's at the Piggly Wiggly in Jackson. Then stop by our Car Wash to get all those bugs off your bumper and enjoy some homemade baked goods while you wait! The cheer team



will be there from 10:30 – 2:30 pm. on **August 20th**. For more information, visit the team's website www.kmlchargers.com/nationals. Thank you for your support!!!!

Jr. Charger Boys Basketball Tryouts Jr. Charger Boys Basketball tryouts will take place at Kettle

Moraine Lutheran High School on Sunday, August 21, and Sunday, August 28. Please note the time slots for each grade below:

- Grades 3-5: 12:00-1:30 PM
- Grades 6-7: 1:30-3:00 PM
- Grade 8: 3:00-4:30 PM

For more information on the program and to register for the tryouts, go to kmljuniorchargers.com.

Lighthouse Youth Center Memorial Golf Outing Lighthouse Youth Center (LYC) is a beacon for Christ to Milwaukee youth. LYC daily provides a safe place for neighborhood youth to gather, have some fun and learn about the love and hope of Jesus. On **August 8**, LYC will host their 18th Annual

Jim Gaugert Sr. Memorial Golf Outing at Hawk's View Golf Course (7377 Krueger Rd, Lake Geneva) to support its gospel outreach ministry. The event includes the option of two golf courses, a dinner, a free golf polo, live and silent auctions, raffles and games. If you would like more information, contact Rebecca Tomlin at rebecca.tomlin@lighthouseyouthcenter.com or 414-731-7674, or visit <https://lyc.ejoinme.org/golf2022>.

Spiritual Growth for Christian Warriors Retreat—Join fellow Lutheran warriors for a spiritual retreat for any WELS/ELS members dealing with post-traumatic stress (PTSD) associated with military service. The retreat is set for **Friday-Sunday, Oct. 7-9, 2022** at Camp Phillip (W944 Buttercup Ave., Wautoma, WI). There is no registration fee for this retreat, and all food and lodging costs are provided at no charge to attendees. Register by Tuesday, Aug. 31, 2022—space is limited; please register early. Contact info@lutheranmilitary.org or visit lutheranmilitary.org/spiritual-retreat-2022 to learn more.

Help Needed St. Peter's Lutheran School in south Fond du Lac is looking for people who would be able to work in their after school child care. After school care runs from 3:30-5:30pm and will be paid an hourly rate of \$20/hr. You can let us know how many days a week you'd be available to craft your own schedule.

Holy Land Tour You are invited to join retired Pastor Eugene Kock on his 28th tour of the Holy Land. The dates of the 10 day tour are March 27-April 5, 2023. Walk where Jesus walked! Sites that will be visited include Bethlehem, Nazareth, Capernaum, Sea of Galilee (boat ride), Garden of Gethsemane, House of Caiaphas, Garden Tomb and much, much more. After the tour, you will read the Bible like never before! For more information contact pastorkock@yahoo.com.

WELS/ELS Singles Retreat Nov 11-13, 2022 at Camp Phillip

Did you know that November 11 is International Singles Day? We invite you to join us at the 2022 WELS/ELS Singles Retreat on November 11-13 at Camp Phillip, Wisconsin for a weekend of fun and fellowship. For more

information about the event and to register check out our webpage: [2022 Singles Retreat](#)

Mark Your Calendars The WELS Historical Institute is planning two presentations in the upcoming months. On September 10th, Salem Landmark Church will host a singalong of great hymns of faith included in the new hymnal. It begins at 10 a.m. at Salem in Milwaukee (107th St.).

Then on October 16th the Institute will hold its annual meeting at 3 p.m. at the WELS Center for Mission and Ministry in Waukesha. The presentation will focus on Our Great Heritage: Michigan Lutheran Seminary.

