

MAY 2024

THE MESSENGER

Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Beloit, WI



The Noonday Demon

"Everything is meaningless," says the Teacher, "completely meaningless!" – Ecclesiastes 1:2

The 70's rock band, Queen, rocks! If I need a pick-me-up during a long drive all I need to do it get Queen going on my Spotify app and I'll be awake and rollin' down the highway once again. "Bohemian Rhapsody" works well as an injection of energy. It's great right from its opening question, "Is this the real life? Is this just fantasy?" to "mamma mia, mamma mia, mamma mia, let me go" to its soft landing that haunts you for the rest of your life:

"Nothing really matters, anyone can see. Nothing really matters, nothing really matters to me." Great music for sure, but what's Freddie Mercury trying to say? Nothing really matters? Really? There are other songs out there with a similar nihilist message. How about the Beatles' "Strawberry Fields Forever?" "I'm going to Strawberry Fields. Nothing is real. And nothing to get hung about. Strawberry Fields forever."

What are these artists picking up on and expressing through these popular songs? Is it depression? Is it a sense that life has no purpose? The fourth century monk, Evagrius, called this "acedia," otherwise known as the "noonday demon." He writes in his *Praktikos* that acedia "instills in the heart of the monk a hatred for the place, a hatred for his very life itself, a hatred for manual labor. He leads him to reflect that charity has departed from among the brethren, that there is no one to give encouragement." Acedia gives a helpful name to a sense of loathing for life that convinces people that "nothing really matters, anyone



can see." It's not depression in the way we think of it, but acedia does describe well the malaise that has gripped so many people, even the whole of modern life.

Kathleen Norris' book *Acedia & Me* describes her discovery of this "noonday demon," giving a name to an affliction she has battled her whole life. Like in the old fairy tale "Rumpelstiltskin," coming to understand acedia allowed her to finally name the enemy she had contended with for years. The insidious nature of this manifestation of slothful despair is why it can go

unnoticed for so long, especially for whole communities. She writes, "I think it likely that much restless boredom, frantic escapism, commitment phobia, and enervating despair that plagues us today is the ancient demon of acedia in modern dress."

On May 19, I am going to begin a new 5-week book study, looking at Kathleen Norris' *Acedia & Me*. Published in 2008, she explores her relationship with acedia, while also reflecting on her experience of the ups-and-downs of marriage, the death of her spouse, and finding solace (even as a Protestant) in ancient monastic wisdom. Copies of the book are available now for you to begin reading.

After all, we know that Jesus points the way to what is real, and that in the eyes of God we all matter greatly... matter so much that Jesus died out of love for the world. Once exposed, the noonday demon becomes rather weak when it is faced head on with Christ.

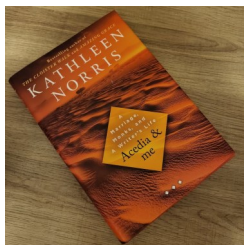
Rejoice always! Pastor Tony

Welcome Statement

We welcome and encourage the full participation of all people, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, age, ability, appearance, or anything else that threatens to divide us. We have all been claimed as God's children, and all are welcome here.

"There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." -Galatians 3:28

Our Mission Statement: To reflect God's love through service to the family of God.

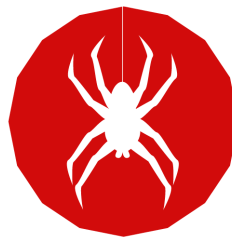


Book Study:

Acedia & Me

Begins Sunday May 19

It has been said that a sense of weariness and despair is epidemic in our society. Kathleen Norris, a best-selling author of several spiritual books, believes that acedia (sometimes called the noonday demon) can help us understand this melancholy feeling for us as individuals and as whole communities. She writes, "at its Greek root, the word *acedia* means the absence of care. The person afflicted with acedia refuses to care or is incapable of doing so. When life become too challenging and engagement with others too demanding, acedia offers a kind of spiritual morphine: you know the pain is there, yet can't rouse yourself to give a damn." Norris looks at this topic through the lens of her 30-year marriage, the death of her husband, her childhood in Hawaii, the meaning of motherhood, and the insights of ancient spiritual writings. Pastor Tony will be leading a 5-part study exploring this book beginning on **Sunday, May 19 at 9:30 am** in the Chapel. Copies of the book are available outside the sanctuary for a donation.



Marvel Movie Fan?

A MARVEL-OUS Bible Study opportunity is being held for our 6th-12th grade youth beginning **Sunday, April 28 at 9:30 am**. We will examine pop-culture through the lens of the Gospel, while exploring the movie SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING. Join us in the Conference Room - you won't want to miss! For more details, contact Molly at molly@oursaviorsbeloitwi.org.



Young @ Heart

On **May 9 from 12:00-2:00 pm**, come out for lunch, games, and fellowship. Menu: Pizza, Salad, and dessert. In order to prepare lunch, please sign-up on the sheet located on the counter in the Commons.

Parents of Graduates



Let's celebrate your graduate! In order to prepare for our upcoming Graduation Sunday, please email Molly (molly@oursaviorsbeloitwi.org) about 6-7 pictures (baptism, elementary, confirmation, high school, etc.) along with the following information: full name, name of high school, name of college attending/ or other plans, potential major, and any extracurriculars they plan to pursue. Deadline for submissions: May 31.

High School Graduation Sunday and Scholarship Recognition will be on **June 9, 2024 at 10:30 am**.



Upcoming Dates

May 5 - Ten Commandments Game

May 12 - Jump for Jesus! (Outside)

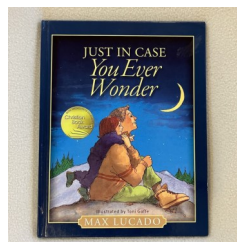
No Kids Connect on May 19 & 26.

SUMMER SCHEDULE

June 2 & 16 | July 7 & 21 | August 4 & 18

Sunday morning activities have been planned for children in grades Pre-K through 5th. Children will join their parents for worship at 10:30 am. They will be invited up for the Children's Moment (early in the service) and after will head outdoors for activities. Kids Connect concludes at the end of the late service.

As always, children are welcome to all worship services. A Children's Moment is offered Sunday's at the 10:30 am service, and busy bags are available for children needing an activity during worship.



In the Spotlight

This month's "In the Spotlight" book review is presented by Alice Albers, be sure to check out the Library's featured display on **Sunday, May 12**. I like *Just in Case You Ever Wonder* by Max Lucado. I like the title because you don't know what you're wondering until you read the book. For kids that their parents are going to read it to them 4K-1st. For kids that are going to read it by themselves is 1st- 4th maybe 5th. I really liked reading this book. You should go and check the Our Savior's Lutheran Church Library.

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Volunteers Needed

Calling all youth and adults! Are you interested in helping our kids learn more about their faith in a fun and exciting way? We need your help for this year's Vacation Bible School. Please email Kellie Carrier

(kellie@oursaviorsbeloitwi.org) to join in the fun!

VBS will be held August 5-8, 2024 from 5:30-7:30pm.

This year's theme is SCUBA: Dive into a friendship with God!



Pentecost - Wear Red!

Please join us on **Pentecost Sunday, May 19** as we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit at the birthday of the Christian Church. We invite you to wear red to worship.



Save the Date

Worship and Church Picnic will be held on **Sunday, June 30 beginning at 10:30 am** at Leeson Park, 2200 Milwaukee Road, Beloit, WI. Worship will include special music, followed by a potluck-style picnic.



Circle Meetings

Anna Circle - Tuesday, May 7 at 6:30 pm
Meeting at church.

Naomi Circle - Monday, May 13 at 5:30 pm

Rebekah Circle - Thursday, May 9 at 9:30 am
Meeting at church.

Elizabeth Circle - Tuesday, May 21 at 1:00 pm

Shalom Circle - Wednesday, May 15 at 9:00 am

SEWING BEE

Every Monday 8:30-11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall.

KNIT WITS | Wednesday, May 8 @ 2:00 pm

GREETING CARD SALES | Sunday, May 12
During Coffee Hour in the Commons

BOARD MEETING | Thursday, May 16
4:00 pm in the Chapel.

Key Financials | March 31, 2024

Month	2023	Actual General Offerings	Budget Offering Per Month	Monthly Surplus (Shortfall)	Cumulative (Shortfall)	Unrestricted Expenses	Budgeted Expenses
January	\$25,392	\$33,122	\$35,417	\$ (2,295)	\$ (2,295)	\$37,633	\$38,074
February	\$34,853	\$30,057	\$35,417	\$ (5,360)	\$ (7,655)	\$33,157	\$38,074
March	\$29,382	\$35,334	\$35,417	\$ (83)	\$ (7,738)	\$35,386	\$38,074
April	\$37,155						
May	\$22,532						
June	\$30,728						
July	\$28,455						
August	\$23,479						
September	\$25,713						
October	\$34,779						
November	\$25,513						
December	\$89,490						
Total	\$407,471	\$98,513	\$106,251			\$106,176	\$114,222



749 Bluff Street, Beloit WI 53511
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Worship with Us.
Saturday - 5:00 pm
Sunday - 8:30 am
10:30 am

TO:

Our Staff:
Rev. Anthony Dusso Pastor
Valerie Dusso Administrative Assistant
Kellie Carrier Children's Ministry Coordinator
Milton Dodson A/V Assistant
Grant Dusso A/V Assistant
Kelly Erdmann Financial Secretary
Cheryl Licary Organist & Choir Director
Jean Lincoln Lay Pastoral Assistant
Molly Rosenbloom Youth Ministry Coordinator

2024 vacation Bible school

SAVE THE DATE

SCUBA
diving into friendship with God

AUGUST 5-8
5:30-7:30 pm

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

MARVEL-OUS
BIBLE STUDY

YOUTH 6-12TH GRADE

JOIN US ON SUNDAY, APRIL 28, MAY 5, AND MAY 19 AT 9:30AM

We will explore the Christian themes that can be found in Spider-Man: Homecoming!

For more details, contact Molly Rosenbloom at molly@oursaviorsbeloitwi.org.

Let's meet in the Conference Room, located next to Pastor Tony's Office.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
749 Bluff St., Beloit, WI



May 2024

749 Bluff Street, Beloit, WI 53511 | (608) 362-0716 | www.oursaviorsbeloitwi.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 EASTER 6 8:30am Worship 9:30am Coffee Hour 9:30am MARVEL-OUS Bible Study 10:30am Worship 10:30am Kids Connect 1:00pm Televised Worship (Ch. 992)	6 8:30am Sewing Bee	7 9:30am Staff Meeting 11:00am Pastors Text Study 6:00pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Anna Circle	1 9:00am Men's Group 5:00pm Televised Worship (Ch. 992) 7:00pm Confirmation	2 5:30am WMA 6:00pm OA 6:30pm Choir	3	4 5:00pm Worship
12 EASTER 7 8:30am Worship 9:30am Coffee Hour 10:30am Worship 10:30am Kids Connect 1:00pm Televised Worship (Ch. 992)	13 8:30am Sewing Bee 5:30pm Naomi Circle	14 9:30am Staff Meeting 11:00am Pastors Text Study 6:00pm Boy Scouts	15 9:00am Newsletter Deadline 9:00am Men's Group 5:00pm Televised Worship (Ch. 992)	16 4:00pm WELCA Board 6:00pm OA 6:30pm Choir	17	18 Synod Assembly 5:00pm Worship
19 PENTECOST 8:30am Worship 9:30am Coffee Hour 9:30am MARVEL-OUS Bible Study 10:30am Worship 1:00pm Televised Worship (Ch. 992)	20 8:30am Sewing Bee 2:00pm Care Team	21 9:30am Staff Meeting 11:00am Pastors Text Study 1:00pm Elizabeth Circle 6:00pm Boy Scouts	22 3:30pm Fellowship 5:00pm Televised Worship (Ch. 992)	23 5:30pm Education 6:00pm OA 6:30pm Board Meeting	24	25 5:00pm Worship
26 HOLY TRINITY 8:30am Worship 9:30am Coffee Hour 10:30am Worship 1:00pm Televised Worship (Ch. 992)	27 MEMORIAL DAY <i>Office Closed</i>	28 9:30am Staff Meeting 10:00am Second Harvest 11:00am Pastors Text Study 6:00pm Boy Scouts	29	30 6:00pm OA	31	