

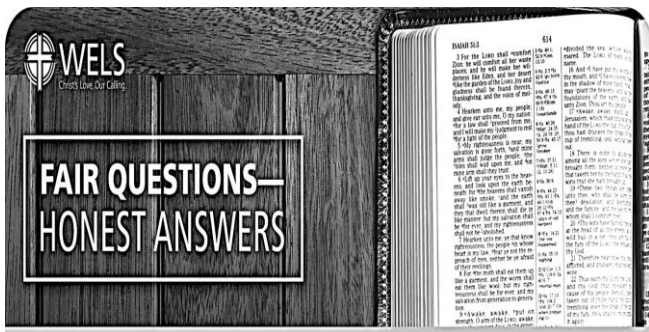


NEWSLETTER

March
2015

How is Jesus the Savior of the world?

"The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23).



On September 11, 2001, passengers on United Airlines Flight 93 attempted to gain control of the hijacked airplane that was by most accounts headed for a target in Washington, D.C. The plane crashed in a field in Pennsylvania. All 44 passengers were killed. The valiant passengers sacrificed their lives so that possibly many more lives were spared. Those passengers were lifesavers in the sense that they substituted their own lives for the lives of others.

Christians refer to Jesus as a lifesaver. Jesus saved our lives and the lives of every single human being. That is quite an astounding assertion. How specifically did Jesus save the human race? The answer hinges on Jesus serving as our substitute.

The Bible clearly states that God is absolutely holy, righteous and just. The problem is that we human beings are not in God's spiritual league, far from it. The apostle Paul bluntly reminds us that no one is perfect: ***"There is no one righteous, not even one...All have turned away and have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one"*** (Romans 3:10, 12).

We are sinful; God is not. Left to ourselves, our lack of holiness will prevent us from living eternally in our holy God's presence. God's Word says, ***"The wages of sin is death"*** (Romans 6:23). Instead of going to heaven, our final destiny is eternal death in hell. Jesus said that those who are not righteous will be cast by God into the place of torment (Matthew 13:49, 50), the abode of the evil angel Satan. It is an ominous and bleak eternal outlook!

But God intervened. We have a lifesaver. We have a substitute. In unimaginable love, God the Father sent his Son, Jesus, to save us from death and hell. As true God and true man, Jesus lived a holy and sinless life in our place. Jesus substituted his holiness for our lack of holiness, so that because of Jesus God counts us completely holy!

Then in remarkable humble love for all of us, Jesus suffered and died. On the cross, Jesus suffered the agony of eternal separation from God the Father's love. We deserved that eternal punishment for our sin, but God put Jesus under the sentence of death as our substitute.

Then victoriously Jesus rose from the dead to prove that he fully accomplished our salvation. He is the Savior who rescued the world from the guilt of sin, the hold of death, and the power of hell by his perfect life and his death for us.

Trust Jesus who is your "substitute" Savior, and all these eternal blessings are yours!

For more Questions & Answers, go to www.WhatAboutJesus.com, then *Questioning God.*

CHURCH NEWS

Lenten Worship Lenten worship is being held at Millie Beneke Manor in Glencoe at 2:00PM on Wednesdays and our regular mid-week Lenten service is at church at 7:00PM. The theme for our Lenten and Holy Week series this year is **“I Tell You The Truth”**. Our faith is dependent on the truth of Christ’s resurrection. If Christ had not been raised, our faith would be futile. But thanks be to God, he is alive. Since Christ rose from the grave, we can be confident that all of his other claims are true. Our Lenten sermon series focuses on some of Jesus’ attention-getting and faith-building “I tell you the truth” statements. This phrase is a translation of the Greek word *amen*. It is my prayer that as Jesus speaks his “amens” we too will declare our own “amens” in response.

I TELL YOU THE TRUTH

- March 4: “Fruits of Faith Will Be Remembered” (Mark 14:1-9)
- March 11: “One of You Will Betray Me” (Mark 14:12-21)
- March 18: “You Will Disown Me” (Mark 14:27-31)
- March 25: “If One Dies, It Produces Life for Many” (John 12:23-27)

Lenten Suppers are being served before each mid-week service from 5:45 – 6:45PM. Free-will donations are accepted. Like last year, Thrivent no longer gives supplemental funds. They have implemented a new program (Thrivent Choice Dollars) from which we receive funds. In any event, we appreciate your support for our church groups and our building fund. Come and fill up your stomach ahead of the service with a meal and then stay for worship to get soup for your soul. See you there! The serving schedule is below:

- March 4 Sunday School
- March 11 Tone Chimes/Choir
- March 18 Youth Group
- March 25 Church Board

Church Leaders Workshop: St. John’s members are welcome and encouraged to attend the Church Leaders Workshop held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Belle Plaine on Saturday, March 7th from 9am-

2:30pm. You can register online at www.welsmn.org (click on “Events” tab) or speak with Pastor Reichow for further details.

Thrivent Choice Dollars: Thrivent members, have you designated your Choice Dollars through Thrivent? Visit Thrivent.com/choicedollars to begin or call 800-847-4836 and say “Thrivent Choice.” Review the organizations for which you are requesting your Choice Dollars. Last, choose where you’d like to direct your Choice Dollars. If you still have further questions, you may speak with Kathy Stuedemann, Lonnie Rabe or Carol D.

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YOUTH NEWS

YOUTH GROUP LOCK-INS: All **9-12 grade** members are invited to a joint Lock-in at the Dakota Sport and Fitness Center (by Mystic Lake Casino), Mar 13-14. See the sign-up forms at church. The Youth Fund will cover \$15 for each of St. John’s youth members. You are welcome to invite other friends. Questions? Contact Pastor Reichow. ****Also, 5-8 grade** members and their friends are invited to our Lock-in at church, March 20th-21st, 8PM to 8AM. Food and fun activities are being planned. Bring a snack to share. Watch bulletins and emails for further details.

The Youth Group will be serving supper on Wednesday, March 18th at 5:45pm. We ask that Youth members and/or parents be here at 5:15pm to help prepare and set up. Thank you.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

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| 1 st | Darrell Dahlke and Michael Stockman |
| 2 nd | Heather Schulz and Riley Schuth |
| 5 th | Carrie Schuth,
Delbert and Barbara Heidemann (49 th Anniversary) |
| 6 th | Adeline Litzau and Taryn Reichow |
| 9 th | Jael Schmiege |
| 11 th | Owen Koenen and Brooke Rabe |
| 13 th | John Mathwig
Timothy and Cassandra Bratsch (6 th Anniversary) |
| 14 th | Katlin Stockman |
| 15 th | Steve Dammann, Mavis Graupmann and
Suzanne Schuth |
| 16 th | Arvid Schwartz and Myrna Dahlke |
| 18 th | Earl Lange |
| 19 th | Helen Fischer and Pauline Schmidt |
| 22 nd | Brian Litzau, Paige Litzau, and Joseph Graupmann |
| 26 th | Derrek Schmidt |
| 29 th | Lester Milbrand |
| 31 st | Zachariah Goette |