



THE REPORTER

*The LORD is in His holy temple;
Let all the earth keep silence before Him.
(Habakkuk 2:20)*

One of the distinctively Lutheran portions of worship is silence. There are several places within the worship service where we observe silence. Some are longer silences. Some are shorter silences. Yet they are all because we come before God's throne in worship. I covered this in the most recent video in the "What to Expect in Lutheran Worship" series on the congregation's Facebook page, but I know that not everyone is on Facebook.

The longest moment of silence is at the beginning of the Divine Service as we prepare to pray in Confession & Absolution. It is a silence for reflection on God's Word and self-examination. We pause to reflect on our unworthiness to be in God's presence. It is a long pause so that we can truly confess our sins without holding anything back.

During the Words of Institution, I speak or chant slower when we come to Jesus' words. At the end of each phrase, there is a brief moment of silence so that we can reflect that Jesus' body is really and truly in, with, and under the bread and Jesus' blood is in, with, and under the wine. Here, we receive the greatest miracle God gives to us on a regular basis.

Going into the service of Evening Prayer, there is silence between the responses in the Service of Light as the candle, which represents the light of Christ, makes its way up the aisle to the altar.

We also have a brief silence, about half as long as before Confession & Absolution, between the singing of Psalm 141 and the Psalm Prayer. It helps to center our minds as we send up our prayers as incense before God's throne.

Holy Week stresses this silence with the Stripping of the Altar on Maundy Thursday. Psalm 22 is not chanted in a rush. We take the time to reflect on our Lord's Passion and suffering for us. We leave the sanctuary in silence because of the solemnness of what we just experienced.

On Good Friday, nothing is done in a rush. The Reproaches after the sermon again bring to remembrance that our sin caused Jesus to be crucified. We reflect on where we have offended God with our sins.

With each of the Seven Words from the Cross, we learn the great love God has for us in Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. We silently extinguish the candles. We leave the service in dark silence, knowing our guilt, feeling our shame, yet waiting in the hope of the resurrection from the dead.

In Christ,

Rev. Doug Minton

Men's Bible Breakfast

We will not meet this month. We are taking the month of August off in between studies. When we return in September, we will take up *Psalms of the Messiah*, looking specifically at some of the Psalms that speak directly about Christ. All men of the congregation are invited to join us.

Focus on the Family Inserts

Each month, the Focus on the Family insert is available. Thank you to Kenda Morts for donating the inserts this month. Grab your copy from the narthex.

First Wednesday Fellowship Meal

We will have our Wednesday Fellowship meal August 7th at 6pm. This month we will have a potluck. We will provide ham and, if you are able, please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Join us as the Mintons recap their week at Higher Things and the "Little Mintons" recap their week as the college helpers. Learn about the worship, learning, friends, and fun that we have along the way.

College Student Sendoff

Join us Sunday, August 11 as we take a few moments to pray over our college students before they head back to class. After the service, those students in attendance will give a short update on their college journey. Continue to pray for these young adults.

Confirmation Parents Meeting

On Wednesday, Aug 14, confirmation students and parents will meet at 6:30pm to discuss the expectations of the coming year. We will also discuss the start date of Confirmation class as well as the 2025 date for Confirmation.

Sunday School and Adult Bible Class

We will resume both Sunday School and Adult Bible Class on Sunday, August 18. We will begin a new curriculum and improved Bible Bucks store will be opened also. Plan now to join us as we resume Christian Education.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

We will resume our Wednesday morning bible class on Wednesday, August 7. Join us at 10am to begin a study of Acts. All members are invited.

Ladies Bible Study

We will study various Psalms that point to the Messiah in "A New Song: I Have Set My King on Zion." This is a 6 week study. We will begin Thursday, August 29th at 6:30pm in the fellowship hall. Please let Renee know if you can to join us and get your book by Sunday, August 18. Cost of the book is \$5.

Update to Member Information

Please update your member directory with this updated information. If you need another directory, ask Renee.

Glen and Shelle Franke

1104 Fagan Rd
Batavia, IL 60510

Will Franke

3924 Elmdale Rd, Apt F
Olney, IL 62450

Corey and Jenna Moore

728 South 5th St
Hoopeston, IL 60924

Caleb and Bridget Schroeder

2089 E 900 North Rd
Milford, IL 60953

Lutherans for Life of Illinois

The Lutherans for Life of Illinois Life Event, **Life Shines in the Darkness: a Vision for Life**, is right around the corner! The question on the table is, "How do we let our light shine for the Lord of Life, given the world in which we live?" I look forward to exploring that with you on August 24th at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Eureka, Illinois. We will hear from Dr. Michael Mohr, President of the Central Illinois District about legislation coming our way and a Gospel-motivated response, as well from some Life Affirming Ministries who demonstrate the love of Jesus at work in our world on a daily basis. Registration is \$20.

Backpack Blessings

Thank you for your continued support of this outreach! In 2018 a group of volunteers began Backpack Blessings, a weekend supplemental food program for families in need. Any family who qualifies for free or reduced lunch is able to participate in the program. Parents simply fill out a form giving permission for their child or children to participate and we do the rest. Each week, through the generous donations provided by people and businesses like you, our volunteers shop and fill bags of easy to prepare breakfasts, lunches and snacks to help get our kids through the weekend with nutritional support.

How can you help? Each year we fill an average of 30 bags a week during the school year. We are very lucky to have dedicated volunteers to keep this program functioning, but it doesn't work without financial donations. We are asking you to consider supporting our kids by making a financial donation to the Backpack Blessings program. Donations can be made in the name of **Backpack Blessings**. If you have any questions, please see Brenna Schroeder.

Podcast of the Month

Our podcast for August is the **40 Minutes in the Old Testament** podcast from 1517. Chad Bird and Daniel Emery Price study the Old Testament to unearth Christ in its pages. They are in a study of Ecclesiastes, which is an interesting place to find Christ.

Wrestling with Theology Schedule

Confessional Corner – August 26 – Anabaptists

Digging Deeper

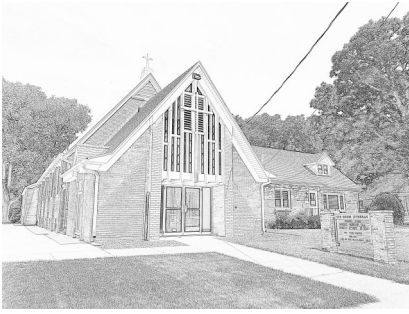
August 1– Alive in Christ (Colossians 2:6-15)

August 8 – No Judgment (Colossians 2:16-23)

August 15 – Seek the Things Above (Colossians 3:1-11)

August 22 – Richly Dwelling Word (Colossians 3:12-17)

August 29 – House Rules (Colossians 3:18-4:1)



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Worship Service 9:00 am
Sunday School and Adult Bible Class
10:30 am

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

AUGUST REPORTER

**Join Us Every Sunday Morning for Service
starting at 9:00 am**

**Our Savior Lutheran Church
209 West Jones Street, Milford
or listen to the service live on the radio
on WIQI 95.9 FM or WHPO 100.9 or
listen to a live audio stream on our website**

**Email - secretary@OurSaviorMilford.com
Website - www.oursaviormilford.com
Facebook - OurSaviorLutheran**