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# CONNECTION

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Our Savior Lutheran Church

Mesquite, TX

June 2023

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## Deadline or Lifeline?

### Debt Default

### Fiscal Cliff

### Deficit Spending

It's enough to make your head spin with dire predictions that, by June 1<sup>st</sup>, a United States debt default could send planet Earth spinning out of orbit and careening into outer space. (Hopefully, by the time you read this, cooler heads will have prevailed and a self-forced crisis will have been averted.)

Culture Wars, Border Wars, Assault Weapons, Mideast Armageddon, Climate Crisis, Crime, Corruption and many more form a toxic mix that could reach a boiling point at any time, spilling over into carnage on a global scale. Between deportations, depositions, and dispositions that have turned hateful in our country, there are clear and present dangers on every side. How can we ever reel things in and restore sanity? Or, as Mr. Shakespeare so eloquently said: "How shall we find the concord of this discord?"

Well ... there is good news and bad news: we have time. Almost every crisis has a deadline, after which it would be too late to turn back. The Debt Default has a deadline of June 1<sup>st</sup>. The Climate Crisis has a tipping point of about 2028. Some deadlines are definite while others are quite vague, but sooner or later we have to act... or there could be irreversible and potentially catastrophic consequences.

There's nothing particularly new about deadlines. Everything from taxes to car tags to utility bills all have deadlines. Almost all human transactions have cutoff points. You can only test your partner's patience for so long. You can only let your lawn go for so long. You can only put off going to the doctor for so long. You can only procrastinate getting new tires for so long ... before you have a blowout.

The world is not very forgiving about deadlines. It's always been that way—even in Bible times. Noah had a deadline before it rained forty days. Sodom and Gomorrah had a deadline before it rained fire. Moses had a deadline to cross the Red Sea before it rained death.

But just as the world's deadlines can be death-dealing, God has a way of making deadlines life-giving. God's grace has a way of turning deadlines into lifelines.

The Book of Malachi understood deadlines ... and God's grace. The most feared deadline in Old Testament times was The Day of the Lord. It was understood as a time of darkness and despair, of fiery judgment and thick smoke. Nobody knew for sure when it would come, but its deadline was dreaded ... until God turned the Day of the Lord into a Day of Joy. God turned the deadline into a lifeline.

***For on that day, says Malachi, "the Sun of Righteousness will rise with healing in its wings. And you will go out and leap joyfully like calves released from their stalls." (Malachi 4:2)***

Centuries later, the same miracle happened at Pentecost when, on a new Day of the Lord—a day of fiery fury and mighty wind--God came with healing and salvation. (Acts 2)

Could that happen again in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century? Could God's grace heal our divisions and bring an end to senseless wars? Could power-mongering authoritarians become selfless servants? Could the Debt Default be transformed into Gracious Generosity ... just in time for all our politicians and all our people to leap like calves that have just been set free from their prison stalls of ego and hypocrisy? Could God, once again, turn our deadlines into lifelines? Don't despair! The deadline for Pentecost is this Sunday!

# Our Savior Lutheran Graduates of 2023

## HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Anastacia Aguirre (Shawna Zubieta's daughter) graduating from North Mesquite High School with a full ride scholarship to St. Mary's College She will attend St. Mary's for her undergraduate and transfer to Notre Dame for graduate school. She will major in engineering and minor in finances.

Abigail Tremp (Nancy Wilson's great niece) graduating from high school in Arizona. She will study mechanical engineering.

## COLLEGE GRADUATES

Margaret Dasari graduating from Texas State University with a Doctorate in Physical Therapy. She is now studying for the State Board Exam.

Jaylen Unique Freeman (Randy Peterson's grandson) graduating from Southern Methodist University with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting.

Kelsey Griffin (Nancy Wilson's granddaughter) graduating from Harvard and will attend law school as a member of Phi Beta Kappa. She maintained A's or A+'s from pre-k though college.

### Nancy's Health Notes

Are you REALLY listening? Humans speak at a rate of 120-180 words per minute and think at 4-5 times that rate. We often do not realize our minds wonder and we pick up only about half the messages. The ability to listen and respond can make the difference in any relationship.

What are ways to improve our ability to listen? Learn to listen with your whole self. Be aware of your activities while listening—finger tapping, foot swinging, and yawning. These give the impression of boredom. Are you able to carry on a conversation? Do you respond with a nod or ask for clarification etc. Just know that every speaker needs a listener. One needs to develop being sensitive to what is not being said, the inner thoughts. Do you hear only the words and miss the real message? Do you listen without judgement? Listening is an act of caring that permits us to get out of isolating and enter the warm circle of human kinship. The powerful appeal of a good listening is the ability to make other people feel important.

The above thoughts are great but how do they fit into the life of the lonely? Loneliness is now documented as a public health epidemic. Half of the adult population in this country have expressed loneliness. Loneliness can cause mental and physical illness including great risk of anxiety and depression, heart disease, stroke, and dementia.

Before COVID disrupted our lives, there was an increase in the number of people who were not attending church, or participating in community and family activities. During this time isolation was a way of life that amplified loneliness. Internet and cell phones also lead individuals to focus on electronics instead of other people. It takes at least 2 people to carry on a conversation. If you think about it, talking to yourself is not a conversation.

Some people are quick to express judgmental responses to ideas. This can immediately interrupt or end a conversation. These judgmental responses may stem from the topic of conversation, the people speaking, preconceived ideas, or total lack of knowledge. Politics and the evening news are subjects that are almost guaranteed to cause the hair to stand up on someone's neck. No one is exempt from judgmental influences in their lives. How we respond to them is a conscious effort.

I have identified only a few of the influences that can enhance or hinder communication. I would like to challenge you to contact someone who is alone and would love to chat a few minutes. Send a hand written note to a family member no matter how near or far they live. God gave us a voice to talk and listen. God's peace.

*Nancy Wilson, RN, FCN*

## BIRTHDAYS

Date	Name
1	Laurie George Earl Herndon
3	Thane Katz Kel Schultz
6	Timothy Farnsworth Kyle Furr
10	David Williams
12	Chip Cannon Sonja Conoly
14	Bill Hutchinson Brenda Skyles
15	Carson Williams
17	Barbara Kratus
18	Jeanne Krause
21	Pat Mangham Mike Phares
27	Jaime Nivens
29	Anthony Valasquez

## JUNE



## WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Date		Years
15	Gordon & Bonnie Johnston	60
16	Christopher & Beth Drews	16
16	Todd & Kara Ranta	21
17	Neil & Brenda Gerold	51

## BAPTISMS

Date	Name
1	Marshall Hocker Mary Stovall Tino Williams
2	Christian Lubben
3	Timothy Farnsworth
5	Lisa White Becky Williams
6	Jill Furr
15	Paul Cross Bonnie Folkmann
16	Mike Phares Rachel Phares
21	Xander Nivens
22	Debbie Zimmermann
23	Thane Katz



### Worship Leaders for June:

**Worship Assistant:** Lois Schelter **Reader:** Steven Belz **Usher:** Jon Cook & Richard Mastin **Altar Guild:** Julie Williams



### GETTING "RED-DY" FOR PENTECOST— MAY 28

On Pentecost, the color of the day is RED for fire of the Spirit and the power of the Church.

You can help make it a RED-LETTER Day by...

***Wear Red, Bring Red, and get Red-dy to celebrate Pentecost!***

### Sign up for Service!

On Pentecost Sunday the followers of Jesus were empowered to share the Good News of our Resurrected Lord! Today we are sent to serve as well. We'll have a Time & Talent sheet to serve in various areas of our ministry—both within and without our congregation. ***Sign up May 28<sup>th</sup>.***

### *International Potluck Dinner*

On May 28<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am we will have a true potluck of foods from around the world. We are encouraging attendees to bring dishes which reflect their family heritage from their country of origin or which reflect an adventurous spirit to try a dish they've never tried before. Label each dish and its country. *If possible, bring a small flag to identify the country.* Please use the sign-up sheet in the church centrum to indicate your participation in a Pentecost potluck party. We hope to see you there.



### Fit to be Tied!

JUNE 18, 2022

Who says ties are out of fashion? Father's Day at Our Savior will look like a tie convention! We'll have gaudy ties, tacky ties, wacky ties, and just plain ugly ties, modeled by some of the most fashionable men on the planet—the men of Our Savior! So eat your heart out GQ!

**The Ugly Tie Contest is back for another year!** And we're guaranteed to outdo the most outlandish fashions ever witnessed. Come on men of Our Savior! Root through your closets and answer the call. Every tie—no matter how tasteless or tacky—is fit to be tied.

# June 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b><u>Each Sunday</u></b> 10:00am Worship Service 5:30pm Worship Service				1	2	3
4 12:30pm Council Meeting	5	6 9:30am Mother's Day Out	7 10:30am Granny Group	8 9:30am Mother's Day Out	9	10
11 12:30pm Council Meeting	12	13 9:30am Mother's Day Out	14 10:30am Granny Group	15 9:30am Mother's Day Out	16	17
18 Father's Day Ugly Tie Contest	19	20 9:30am Mother's Day Out	21 10:30am Granny Group	22 9:30am Mother's Day Out	23	24
25	26	27 9:30am Mother's Day Out	28 10:30am Granny Group	29 9:30am Mother's Day Out	30	