

SAGACITY

NEWSLETTER OF S.A.G.E.S.
SAINTS ALIVE, GROWING, EVER SERVING



VOL 33, No. 1

January, 2023

Downloadable information about S.A.G.E.S. and the GATHERING is available at www.mnsdistrict.org under "Get Involved" tab, S.A.G.E.S.

Email address:
minnesotasouthsages@gmail.com

SAGACITY, n. [OF, fro, Latin sapiens, fr, sapere to be wise]

Quality of being sagacious; keenness of discernment or judgment.

SAGE, n. [OF, fr. sage, fr. L sapers to be wise]

A profoundly wise man; a person of high repute for wisdom; often someone who is venerated for the store of wisdom that has been accumulated during a long life.

SAGES OFFICERS*

PRESIDENT:

*Rev. James Vehling
St. John Lutheran, Woodbury

VICE PRESIDENT

*Rev. Don Taylor
New Creation, Shakopee

SECRETARY

*Jeanine Roth
St. Peter's Lutheran, Edina

TREASURER

*Dick Swedean
Emanuel Luth, Inver Gr Hgts

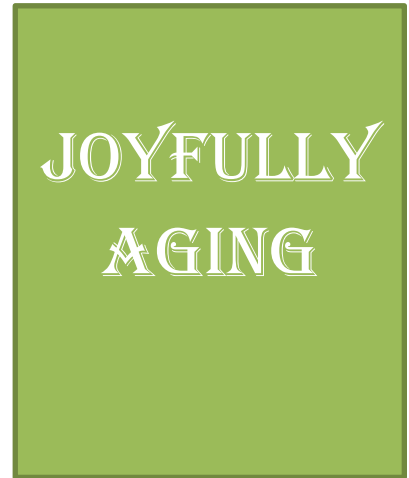
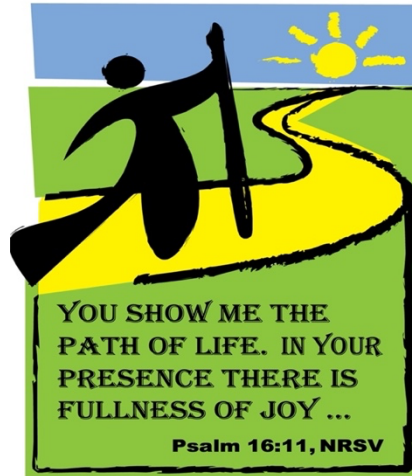
CHAPLAIN

*Rev. David Preuss
Our Savior's Lutheran, Eyota

SAGACITY EDITOR

*Delores McGillivray
Redeemer Lutheran, Rochester
Contributing Columnist:

*Pauline Wiemann
Peace Lutheran, Arlington



S.A.G.E.S.

GATHERING XXXIII

MAY 1 AND 2, 2023



featuring

**Dr. Rich Bimler,
Featured
Presenter**

**PRESENTATIONS, WORKSHOPS,
MUSIC, FELLOWSHIP,
BANQUET WITH ENTERTAINMENT**

Location: Country Inn and Suites
1900 Premier Drive, Mankato MN 56001 (507-388-8555)

*Presented by S.A.G.E.S. (Saints Alive, Growing, Ever Serving)
Minnesota South LCMS Older Adult Ministry*

“Laughing”

“There is a time for everything. . . , a time to weep and a time to laugh”
Ecclesiastes 3:1,4

The Bible is not a joke book. It was written “that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” (John 20:31) But that does not mean that there is no humor in the Sacred Scriptures. Someone has suggested that God must have a sense of humor to have created a duck-billed platypus.

Consider God’s method of dealing with the Philistines when they placed the ark of God in Dagon’s temple in Ashdod. (1Sam 5:1-5) The Philistines may not have thought it very funny as they hoisted their “god” back onto his pedestal, but I suspect God’s people might have gotten a good laugh out of it.

Read on, (1 Sam 5:6-18). If you don’t know what kind of tumors afflicted the Philistines, read the story in the King James’ Version (‘emords”, i.e. “hemorrhoids”). Don’t mess with God. His sense of humor might leave you embarrassed.

Picture in your mind events described in 1 Sam. 17. David is about to fight Goliath. Saul weighs the lad down with his own suit of armor, helmet and other implements of war, and says to David, “Go get him!” David replies, “I can’t move.” (dialogue supplied) (vv 38-39). David does better with weapons described in Eph. 7:13-17 plus a sling and a few stones.

When the prophets of Baal failed to call down the fire on their sacrifice on Mt Carmel, Elijah taunted them (1 Kings 18:27). “Shout louder! ...Perhaps he is ...busy.” If you wish to know what Elijah really meant by the word “busy”, consult a Good News Bible or the new Concordia Self Study Commentary. Elijah’s supporters probably found his comments pretty funny.

Can you imagine the twinkle in Jesus’ eye and smile on His lips as He assures His disciples of their value? (Matt 10:31; Luke 12:7) And don’t you suppose both Jesus and His disciples enjoyed the excuses offered in Jesus’ parable of the great banquet? (Luke 14:16-24, especially v 20.) Important truths can be taught in a humorous way.

Sometimes attempts at humor are inappropriate. Do you think Peter was trying to be funny when he spoke the words recorded in John 13:9? Perhaps he thought a little levity would bring a bit of cheer into an otherwise solemn occasion. Not now, Peter! Some other time.

A group of Old Testament juvenile delinquents discovered, to their great dismay, that laughing at “old baldy” Elisha was not a good idea. (2 Kings 2:23:24)

The Bible contains some references to the laughter of God. What moves God to laugh?

Psalm 59:8 _____

MN S District Liason

*Dr. Phillip Johnson, Asst. to President for Congregational Mission Formation

Conf/Circuit Representatives

CAPITOL/Circuits 1,2

*Connie Petersen
St. Stephanus Lutheran
St. Paul MN

LYNDALE/Circuits 3,4

MINNEAPOLIS/Circuits 5,6,7

*Dick & Joyce Swedan
Emanuel Lutheran
Inver Grove Hts MN

*WEST METRO Circuits 8,9,10 (N&S Carver)

*Jayne Combronne
*Katherine Bart
St. Paul Lutheran
Watertown MN

OWATONNA Circuits 14,15,16

*Len & Lois Marquardt
Grace Lutheran
Dodge Center MN

N. CROW RIVER Circuits 17,18

*Sharon Haberkamp
*Darlene Ave-Lallemant
Our Savior’s Lutheran
Hutchinson MN

S. CROW RIVER Circuits 19, 20

*Trudy Wiechmann
Our Savior’s Lutheran
Mankato MN

SOUTHWEST E/Circuits 21,22 (OPEN)

SOUTHWEST W/Circuits 23,24 (OPEN)

WHITEWATER/Circuits 11,12,13 (OPEN)



(Notice: there are openings for circuit representatives on the S.A.G.E.S. Board. This is a good opportunity to prayerfully consider volunteering to serve older adults in MN South District.)

Psalm 2:4

Psalm 37:13

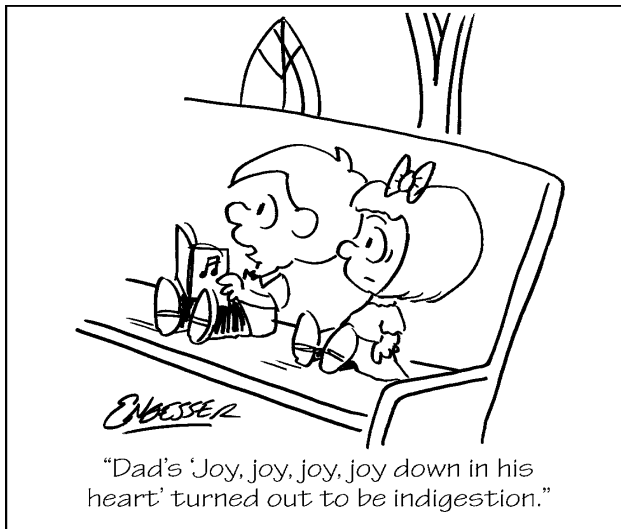
Job 41:29

Laughing at God is out of place. Abraham (Gen. 17:17) and Sarah (Gen 18:12) received a rebuke from the Lord (Gen 18:13-15) because of their laughter. But Abraham and Sarah learned to laugh for joy because of God's blessing (Gen 21:1-7) and named their son Isaac (he laughs).

Jesus endured derisive laughter (Matt 9:24; Mk 5:40, Lk 8:53) but remained undeterred and raised a little girl to life. His own death and resurrection assures us of an eternal celebration of joy and laughter around his throne in glory.

What is the attitude of Teacher (Preacher?) toward laughter in Ecclesiastes 2:2; 7:3; 7:6? Is this Jesus' view in Luke 6:25? What is James' point in 4:9 of his Epistle? Both Eliphaz (Job 5:22) and Bildad (Job 8:21) try to comfort Job in his suffering with the reminder that God can change tears to laughter. God can and does the same for you.

Because of Easter, our sorrow can be changed to joy. (Palm 126:1-3). The tomb is empty. Christ is risen. Death is conquered. Sin is forgiven—all of it—yours and mine too – washed away in His holy precious blood. Heaven's door is open. There is joy among the angels whenever a sinner repents. They are celebrating already. So can we. It's time to laugh.



Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod
Minnesota South District

S.A.G.E.S.

Saints Alive! Growing, Ever Serving

GATHERING XXXIII

S.A.G.E.S., the LCMS MN South District organization ministering to older adults in the MN South district, will host the 2023 GATHERING in Mankato at the Country Inn and Suites, beginning at 1 p.m. Monday, May 1, and concluding at 2:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 2.

The theme for GATHERING XXXIII is “**Joyfully Aging**”. As noted on the front page, the featured speaker is Dr. Rich Bimler, formerly past president of Wheat Ridge and published author. Dr. Bimler will have three presentations during the two day event. The details for the breakout sessions held during the GATHERING are still being finalized.

A mailing with descriptions of workshop sessions, daily agendas, and the GATHERING registration form will be sent out in February. Cost of the two day GATHERING is \$75 per person which includes the banquet and lunch on Tuesday. The motel provides complimentary breakfast for those staying at the motel. There will be reduced cost for single day attendance.

A block of rooms has been reserved at Country Inn and Suites, Mankato. Reservations must be made directly with the motel by individuals by Saturday, April 1. Room rate is \$109 plus tax for Standard room (Double Queen Non Smoking) or Studio (King/Sofa Non Smoking). Early birds can make motel reservations now by calling 507-388-8555, requesting a room in the S.A.G.E.S. room block.

SAVE
THE
DATES

UNDER OBSERVATION



Entry one: Rising slowly, I realized more than dawn had arrived. Slowly it all came back. The power was to be turned off for some repair work – nothing electrical was running including the alarm clock. Then, eureka!, the alarm rang, the refrigerator hummed, the radio clicked on, and civilization returned. I am so easily entertained.

Entry two: It's fall but golf is still a part of life. In fact, today the game was pretty good. Oh, if that feeling will only last till next spring.

Entry three: The process of preparing for winter has begun. The window air conditioner goes out, the oil for the furnace is provided, the raspberry patch is trimmed, leaves are collected from the neighborhood lawns to cover the gardens (a 3-day venture), and the tools are put in proper places.

Entry four: Fall is officially done, a farewell trip around the golf course, lunch at Bamp's, and a quiet ride home.

Entry five: The ladies gathered for LWML Rally at New Ulm with much joy. I know this is a small town and rural area but it's still fun to be together, discussing the Lord's work among us and learning about things to be done and, of course, we are women having 'lunch.'

Entry six: On election day, I became the judge who received the voter, ballot in hand, and instructed how to use the machine. The machine rebelled 6 times and had to be tamed, re-started, and encouraged to behave. I was not a happy election worker, but the voters were forgiving. Then when the final tallies had to be collected and reported, nothing matched. At midnight I left the mess to the youngest people. We agreed that somehow the Russians were involved.

Entry seven: The 500 Club was diminished over the years by illness and even death, but a revival has begun with new members and promise of more to come. It's fun to watch them move into the group and find friends or make new ones. And the head cook is encouraged.

Entry eight: A journey to Orchestra Hall to hear the Lutheran college choirs join in honoring I. Melius Christianson is really a delightful way to spend a Sunday. (Even if some of the music was a bit strange to old

Lutheran ears.) Music really can calm the burdened heart during the strange times we're surviving.

Entry nine: Oh, yes, the snow has arrived early and in abundance. Just in time for the town celebration in December. The only group that thoroughly enjoyed the cold and snow was the reindeer, bless them. Crowd numbers were smaller than in warmer years, but there were many people there to enjoy what the town organized for food and entertainment. My quilt show was even busy!

Entry ten: In spite of the cold, church was filled for two services on Christmas Eve. The usual small town fellowship got the streets cleared, and the parking lot scraped. Families gathered and celebrated till Tuesday when the wind arose and sent everybody scattering to get home again. Now, the weathermen say 30's and sunshine. "Oh, to live in Minnesota now that winter is here!"



2023 RESOLUTION CONSIDERATIONS

From Dr. Rich Bimler

1. **Be a hand that reaches out to others;**
2. **Be a smile for those who have no reason to smile;**
3. **Be a light for those who live in darkness;**
4. **See the Lord in all that you do;**
5. **Laugh at yourself and help others to do so;**
6. **Pray whenever things are going good or bad;**
7. **Listen to others and see the Lord working in and through them;**
8. **Say as often as needed – "Oops, I must be wrong";**
9. **Focus on the meek and help them to share and speak;**
10. **Come and see the Christ, and go and be His people!**

Having Your Ups and Downs in 2023

Proverbs 12:25

"Worry weights a person down; an encouraging word cheers a person up."

When we ever feel "lost" this year, just remember Who has already found us! "Once we were lost, but now we are found!"

Welcome to the "Lost and Found Club"

...the Church!



Someone once wrote a letter to the local newspaper that said, “Ministers seem to feel their sermons are very important, so they spend a great deal of time preparing them. I’ve been attending church regularly for over 30 years, and I’ve probably heard about 1,500 sermons. The awful truth is that I can’t remember a single one! I wonder if a minister’s time might be better spent on something else.”

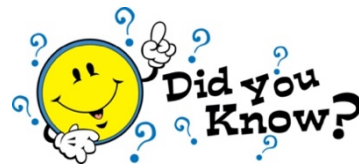
That Sunday, a minister read the letter to his congregation and said he’d be interested in any replies the congregation might wish to send to him.

The following Sunday, the minister reported that he’d received many responses, most were expressions of indignation aimed at the anonymous letter writer. He thanked the church members for the responses but said he was most thankful for one in particular, which he then read to the gathering.

“I have been married for 30 years. During that time, I have eaten well over 32,000 meals—mostly my wife’s cooking—but I can’t remember the menu of a single meal. Of course I can recall some of my favorite dishes, but not the menus. And yet, I received nourishment from every single one of them. I have the distinct impression that without them, I would have starved to death long ago.”



“Just cleared out some space in the freezer” sounds so much more productive than “I just polished off another pint of ice cream.”



Q: What is a contronym?

A: Single words that have two contradictory meanings (they are their own opposites) are known as contronyms, and they are quite rare:

1. Apology: a statement of contrition for an action, or a defense of one
2. Bolt: to secure, or to flee
3. Bound: heading into a destination, or restrained from movement
4. Cleave: to adhere, or to separate
5. Dust: to add fine particles, or to remove them
6. Fast: quick, or stuck or made stable
7. Left: remained, or departed
8. Peer: a person of the nobility, or an equal
9. Sanction: to approve, or to boycott
10. Weather: to withstand, or to wear away



NEWS: The same thing happened today that happened yesterday only to different people.

I’ve been watching my weight. **It’s still there.**

Billion dollar idea: A smoke detector that shuts off when you yell, “I’m just cooking!”

Whoever said, “Let the chips fall where they may” **never spent any time around cattle.**

Did you ever notice how setting a good example for your children **takes all the fun out of your middle age?**

Jim is at a New Year’s party when he turns to his friend, Brian, and asks for a cigarette.

Brian says to him, “I thought you’d made a New Year’s resolution to quit smoking?”

Jim replies, “I’m in the process of quitting. Right now, I’m in the middle of phase one.”

“Phase one?” asks Brian.

“Yeah,” laughs Jim, “I’ve quit buying.”

Quiz For People Who Know Everything

This is a quiz for people who know everything. These are not trick questions. They are straight questions with straight answers.

1. Name the one sport in which neither the spectators nor the participants know the score or leader until the contest ends?
2. What famous North American landmark is constantly moving backwards?
3. Of all vegetables, only two live to produce their own for several growing seasons. All other vegetables must be replanted every year. What are the only two perennial vegetables?
4. What fruit has seeds on the outside?
5. In many liquor stores, you can buy pear brandy with a real pear inside the bottle. The pear is whole and ripe and the bottle is genuine; it hasn't been cut in any way. How did the pear get inside the bottle?
6. Only three words in Standard English begin with the letters 'dw' and they are all common words. Name two of them.
7. There are 14 punctuation marks in the English grammar. Can you name at least half of them?
8. Name the only vegetable or fruit that is never sold, frozen, canned, processed, cooked or in any other form except fresh.
9. Name 6 or more things that you can wear on your feet beginning with the letter 's'.



THE ORIGINAL COMPUTER

The original computer was a pencil with an eraser.

Memory was something you lost with age.

An application was for employment.

A program was a tv show.

A cursor used profanity.

A keyboard was a piano.

A web was a spider's home.

A virus was the flu.

A CD was a bank account.

A hard drive was a long trip on the road.

A mouse pad was where a mouse lived.

PRICELESS

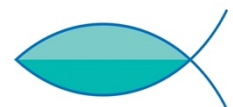
The light turned yellow, just in front of him. He did the right thing, stopping at the crosswalk, even though he could have beaten the red light by accelerating through the intersection.

Unfortunately, tailgating, Barbara was furious and honked her horn, screaming in frustration, as

Barbara missed her chance to get through the intersection, dropping her cellphone and makeup.

As she was still in mid-rant, she heard a tap on her window and looked up into the face of a very serious police officer. The officer ordered her to exit her car with her hands up. He took her to the police station where she was searched, fingerprinted, photographed, and placed in a holding cell.

After a couple of hours, a policeman approached the cell and opened the door. She was escorted back to the booking desk where the arresting officer was waiting with her personal effects. He said, "I'm very sorry for this mistake. You see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn, flipping off the guy in front of you and cussing a blue streak at him. I noticed the 'What Would Jesus Do' bumper sticker, the 'Choose Life' license plate holder, the 'Follow Me to Sunday School' bumper sticker, and the chrome-plated Christian fish emblem on the trunk, so naturally . . . **I assumed you had stolen the car.**"



Five Tips for Exercising Safely During Cold Weather

Don't let falling temperatures stop your outdoor exercise plans! You can walk, ski, ice skate, shovel snow, and more.



Take a few extra steps to stay safe:

1

Warm up and cool down, such as stretching or walking in place, to prepare and restore your muscles before and after a workout.



2

Pick the right clothes. Dress in several layers of loose clothing to trap warm air between them. Wear a waterproof coat or jacket if it's snowy or rainy, and don't forget a hat, scarf, and gloves.



3

Be extra careful around snow and icy sidewalks so you won't slip and fall. Wear sturdy shoes to give you proper footing.



4

Learn about the signs of hypothermia, a drop in body temperature that can cause serious health problems.

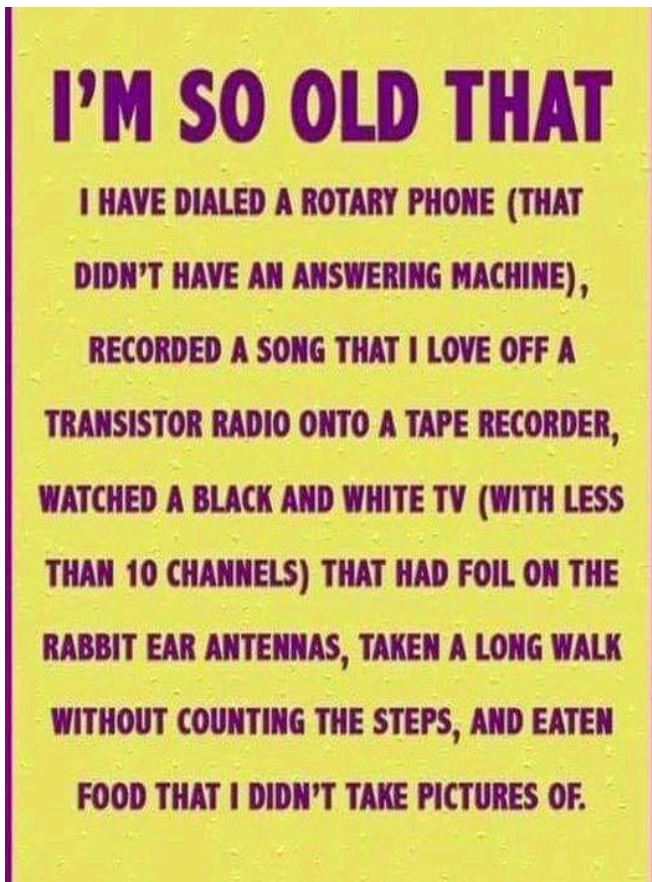


5

Check the forecast. If it's too windy, cold, or wet outside, consider an indoor workout instead using an online video or your own routine.



Visit www.nia.nih.gov/health/exercising-outdoors to learn more.



ANSWERS from p. 6

1. Boxing
2. Niagara Falls – The rim is worn down about two and a half feet each year because of the millions of gallons of water that rushes over it every minute.
3. Asparagus and rhubarb.
4. Strawberry.
5. It grew inside the bottle. The bottles are placed over pear buds when they are very small, and are wired in place on the tree. The bottle is left in place for the entire growing season. When the pears are ripe, they are snipped off at the stems.
6. Dwarf, dwell and dwindle.
7. Period, comma, colon, semi-colon, dash, hyphen, apostrophe, question mark, exclamation point, quotation mark, brackets, parenthesis, braces, and ellipses.
8. Lettuce.
9. Shoes, socks, sandals, sneakers, slippers, skis, skates, snowshoes, stockings and stilts.

Lutheran Hour Ministries

The Lutheran Hour float was the recipient of the Director's Award at the 2023 Rose Parade. This award recognizes the most outstanding artistic design and use of floral and non-floral materials. The LHM float was chosen for its stained-glass windows (on the church and back of the float), the lambs on the front of the float, and the praying hands depicted on the long sides of the float.



LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison and his wife, Kathy, lower right, ride on the Lutheran Hour Ministries Rose Parade float Jan. 1 in Pasadena, Calif. The float's "Jesus Welcomes All" theme depicted people of various nationalities being welcomed into a church with open doors, illustrating that "all tribes and nations would come to know Christ as Lord."