



The wicked flee  
though no one pursues,

*but the righteous  
are as bold as a lion.*

PROVERBS 28:1, NIV

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# The Reporter

## July-August 2020

The Reporter

Volume 18, Issue 07

### "What's Next"

by Pastor Proeber

If you've been following the events of the past several months, I'm sure you have asked the question, "what's next?" We can agree the pandemic which shut down the economy and everything else was bad enough. Now add to this the resulting plateau and current resurgence, the question naturally follows. Finally, add to all this the chaos from the protests, you can't help but wonder, what's next?

As we look at everything that has happened, and continues to take place, we might echo the words of the psalmist, "how long, O Lord, how long?" Many people conclude we have been through more than enough. Unfortunately, things will get worse.

Now, you may brand me as a pessimist, but I am definitely a realist. No, I do not have a crystal ball through which I can see the future. I do, however, have a source of unique and very reliable information. Oddly enough, it is the same source each of us has through the Bible. While it may seem sad to acknowledge it, Scripture does offer a fairly bleak picture of what the future holds.

Consider Matthew 24: <sup>4</sup>Jesus answered them, "Watch out that no one deceives you. <sup>5</sup>Because many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and they will deceive many people. <sup>6</sup>You will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, because all these things must happen; but that is not yet the end. <sup>7</sup>Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. <sup>8</sup>But all these things are only the beginning of birth pains. <sup>9</sup>Then they will hand you over to be persecuted, and they will put you to death. You will be hated by all nations because of my name. <sup>10</sup>Then many will fall away from faith. They will betray each other and hate each other. <sup>11</sup>Many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. <sup>12</sup>Because lawlessness will increase, the love of many will grow cold. <sup>13</sup>But whoever endures to the end will be saved.

Shortly before his crucifixion and resurrection, Jesus warned his disciples what the end times would look like. Suffice it to say, these same warnings are still relevant. In addition, we can never forget the words spoken by Paul: "our salvation is nearer than when we first believed." Simply put, every day will become more taxing, yet every day becomes more joyous because we are one step closer to heaven.

We have to keep both of these passages in view, otherwise we will be deceived by the devil. His purpose is to make us gravitate from one extreme to another. On the one end of the spectrum is despair—things are so out of control that even God can't do anything about them. On the other end, is the cavalier attitude which maintains everything is fine and I can keep doing whatever I want. Neither of these is what the Lord wants for us.

*Continued on page 2*

*What's next, from page 1*

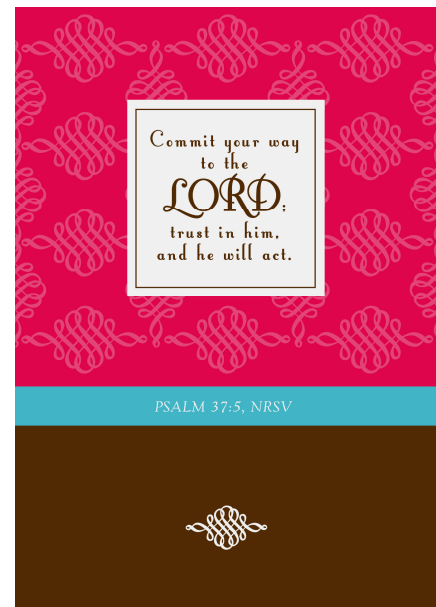
The words of Matthew 24 are like sign posts. They tell us where we are, and they encourage us to keep moving forward. These signs are particularly helpful right now. Instead of being preoccupied with what might happen next, our Savior in his love says, keep watching, keep working, and keep on fighting. We should never focus on a singular event and say, “Aha!” We need to look at the collective picture and conclude, it is just as the Lord said it would be. There is a benefit to this collective view of all the signs. It reminds us that the end will come, but only as the Lord deigns and designs. It also reminds us how devoted he is to our care—temporally and spiritually. Even in the middle of a complete lack of spirituality and morality, our Lord continues to love us and remains our Refuge, our Fortress, and our Help who is always there in every time of trouble.

Personally, I find these words extremely comforting. Nothing can dim or erase the truth God is always in control. Nor can anything separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Savior. This is a precious truth. It is the foundation of our faith. It is the source of our hope-filled joy. Even in the most turbulent and darkest of times our Lord's promise, his presence, and his power remain unchanged. So, while we may be tempted to wonder, what's next, or we might even be paralyzed by fear and uncertainty, God knows and tells each of us to trust him.

And why shouldn't we trust him! Certainly we have his assurance he will take care of us daily and richly. We have his unfailing promise that heaven is there and is prepared for us. What gives us even more reason to trust the Lord is the great lengths he went to show us his love. That love was revealed in the Savior he sent to take on our humanity and complete the righteous requirements of his law. It was further revealed in our Savior's humble obedience to put himself under the just condemnation and eternal separation we deserved. It was perfectly revealed in his glorious resurrection which proclaims all is complete and we are bound for eternal life in heaven. If this is what God has done to rescue us from death and the devil's domination, how can we possibly think he will not safely see us through a pandemic! How will he not keep us safe through anarchy and turmoil! How will he not graciously give us all things!

So, what's next? It all depends on whom you choose to believe. You could turn to politicians, but they are constantly maneuvering with every wind of public opinion. You could turn to the designated experts, but their level of certainty changes like the weather. You could turn to the Lord, and know you will always get the truth. Our God does not change. He never fails to love us, or do what is best for us. This is the safest, and most reliable place to put your trust.

It is for this very reason that we need to commit two precious passages to memory. The first is, “trust in the Lord and lean not on your own understanding.” The second is, “commit your way to the Lord, trust in him, and he will make everything work out well.” These provide the evidence we need to put our trust in the Lord. They tell us we will never be put to shame or embarrassed because we trusted him. They also tell us the Lord will never fail. He will never forget his redeemed. He will never forget you and me. Consequently, we can take our Savior's exhortation to heart— “do not worry about tomorrow!” Certainly the Lord knows what we need, and what will happen next.



## Outreach Opportunities

The Outreach Committee met July 14th at 7:00 pm to reorganize outreach plans and activities for the summer. Some originally scheduled plans were canceled, or put under the “wait and see” category. Watch for more information as it becomes available. As we know much remains in flux until the fall.

A proposed list of activities is provided below. Specific details will be coming in subsequent newsletters, as well as in the Sunday worship folder. Added suggestions are always graciously accepted.

Prayerfully consider how you can promote these activities with the people you know, encourage those who organize them, and most important, participate in them.

The next meeting will be in either August or September.



## 2020 Events include:

- There is a plan to hopefully reschedule the Ice Cream Social and Game Night. It is usually planned for a Friday evening. It could be at the end of August.
- The Beach, Bike & Barbeque at Goleta Beach was cancelled. County health regulations is not allowing the group areas to be used. An alternate plan is being considered for later in August, possibly early September to have a barbeque after one of our outdoor worship services, or as a celebration when we return to our regular worship schedule.
- October 25th we will commemorate the Reformation with a pot-luck dinner and movie. The committee is currently considering the original “Luther” movie. It is a timeless classic even if it is in black and white.
- November 22nd will be the pre-Thanksgiving pot-luck and fellowship evening.
- November 26th will be the Thanksgiving Day worship service.
- December 20th is scheduled for church decorating, the chili dinner and caroling.
- December 24th is Christmas Eve worship and fellowship beginning at 7:00 pm.
- December 25th is Christmas Day worship and fellowship beginning at 9:30 am.

Other ideas are always welcome, especially in this challenging times.

## Sunday Worship for the Near Future

Currently we have moved our worship services outside. The time remains the same, but the location is a bit different. While weather does play a small factor, so far it has been pleasant only overcast. August and September’s weather should be a marked improvement. As a matter of fact, it may even be more comfortable outside than in.

The tentative date the County Health Department has set for a re-evaluation is August 14th. We will wait and see what will be announced. On August 16th, we will still plan to meet outside.

Along with the outdoor worship service, we continue to offer “streamed” services. Although they are recorded on Saturday morning, they are uploaded Sunday morning. We pray this alternate form will be used by many of our members, as well as by people in the community.

One final note, the Lord’s Supper will be offered as part of the August 2nd worship service. If you would like to receive the Sacrament at a different time, please contact the Pastor to make arrangements.

## Notes & News

### Handbells & Mixed Voice Choir

We are looking forward to September when practices for both choirs will hopefully resume. There is some uncertainty regarding when we will be able to begin. Please watch the newsletter, or the service folder for more information.

As always, there is an open invitation for people to ring and sing. Neither requires specific skills, just a willingness to serve the Lord and a commitment to make practices. The Handbell choir practices on Monday evenings, and the mixed voice choir practices on Thursday evenings.

If you are interested in either of the choirs for the Fall, please speak with Debbie regarding the bell choir, or Pastor Proeber for the mixed voice choir.

### Bible Class

The Sunday morning Bible Class will be "on hold" until Pastor returns from his trip. Hopefully, we will be able to move back inside for worship and for Bible Class later in August. Once the class resumes we will return to the study of "God: The Great Humanitarian."

The Wednesday evening class has also taken a break until August 19th. At that time, we will return to the study of the Book of 2nd Kings. Remember, we meet at 7:00 pm in the fellowship hall.



### Sunday School

Christian Education has been on hold for April, May and June. The plan is to restart this Fall with classes for younger and older children. As in the past, Sunday School is scheduled on the first and third Sundays of the month. Classes meet during the hymn of the day and the sermon. Please speak to one of the teachers for more information: Sonja Todd, or Sue Proeber. Please watch for regular updates.

### Birthdays for July and August



We rejoice in the many blessings God has given the members of our family of faith. May the Lord continue to bless them richly.

#### July

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4<sup>th</sup> - Alice G.  
 7<sup>th</sup> - Emily P.  
 8<sup>th</sup> - Elijah D.  
 10<sup>th</sup> - Mark G.  
 13<sup>th</sup> - Janessa S.  
 18<sup>th</sup> - Sally K.  
 20<sup>th</sup> - Barb F.  
 21<sup>st</sup> - Marieta E., Michael F.  
 25<sup>th</sup> - Devon J.  
 31<sup>st</sup> - Justin S., Susan T.

#### August

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14<sup>th</sup> - Brittany G.  
 21<sup>st</sup> - Joel S.  
 24<sup>th</sup> - Jonathan Y.



## Serve the Lord with Gladness

### Reporters Wanted

Book review? Personal Story of Faith?  
Event report? Potluck—gathering? Party? Field Trip?

Half-page to three pages  
Reviewed for scriptural consistency  
Due by 25th of month to appear in next issue

Email to Pastor Proeber (pastor.orldsb@gmail.com)

***A simple and rewarding way to serve!***

Thanks to the Committee Chairmen for their Quarterly Reports. There is always a standing invitation to provide material for the *Reporter*. Throughout the past volumes, articles authored by members have really made every issue more interesting. We pray that every member will provide an article for 2020. If you have an idea, and you are not sure whether to act on it, please don't hesitate to speak to Pastor Proeber for advice. Thanks!

### Meetings for August

Church Council	Tuesday, August 4 <sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm
Committees	Tuesday, August 4 <sup>th</sup> at 8:00 pm
Outreach Committee	To be determined

*If you have a question regarding a specific area of ministry, please contact a member of the appropriate Board. He will be happy to help.*

### Pastor will be Away

Beginning August 3rd, Pastor Proeber will drive to Bishop and begin a nine day backpacking trip into the Sierras. During the time he is away, you may call the Elders in case of an emergency. You may also call Pastor Mike Foley (714-474-7023—Star of Bethlehem, Santa Maria), Pastor Noah Bater (517-256-0042—Prince of Peace, Thousand Oaks), or Pastor Doug Found (805-490-0146—Camarillo).

On August 9th we will have Al Mindock conducting the worship service in Pastor's absence. He serves as an upper grade teacher at St. Paul's First in North Hollywood. We are thankful for his willing service to our congregation.

Pastor's hike will take him from Onion Valley (Independence, CA) north along the John Muir Trail to South Lake which is outside of Bishop. The hike is approximately 70 miles. Along the way he will cross four 12,000' passes and see some incredible and rugged scenery.

An article with pictures will follow in September's newsletter.



## Quarterly Meeting Reports

Twelve people stayed after the worship service for the quarterly congregational meeting. The updates were welcome reports and indicated regular ministry continues to take place even during the pandemic. All of the committee chairman request your prayers regarding our ministry and the success of it. The committee chairman also encourage regular, planned, and first-fruit offerings to support our Gospel ministry. Each of us has to resist the temptation to believe that since there are no “in person” worship services, an offering isn’t needed. Rather, we need to rejoice in the opportunity to serve the Lord with our offerings, as well as our time and abilities.

### Outreach Committee

Josh Schueler, Chairman

- The audio portion of the streaming is sounding very good. Thanks to Pastor for his work on the mixer and the microphones.
- Special Thanks to Jim Everson for learning how to facilitate the streaming process. The invitation still stands to get more people on board and up to speed, especially since the process has been streamlined significantly.
- On line advertising is still on hold until we are through the mandates and restrictions covering in-person worship.
- Other “platforms” are being investigated to get our stream and our message out to more people. These include Instagram, Facebook, and Pinterest to name a few.

### Spiritual Growth Committee

John Favuzzi, Chairman

#### Sunday School

- Resumption of Sunday School will follow input from the Church Council, parents and teachers taking into consideration the requirements of the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department.
- Teachers are considering an option to provide monthly lessons and a craft to all the Sunday School children if we are not able to resume in the Fall.

#### Adult Bible Class

- Resumption of the Sunday morning Bible is being considered for later in August, possibly with a shorter class time (half an hour) to start.
- Pastor has continued to hold Wednesday evening Bible Study through the summer with 7 to 8 people in attendance.

### Pastoral Report

Pastor Proeber

#### Overview

“But now this is what the LORD says, the LORD who created you, O Jacob, the LORD who formed you, O Israel. Do not be afraid, because I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine. When you cross through the waters, I will be with you. When you cross the rivers, they will not sweep you away. When you walk through fire, you will not be burned, and the flame will not set you on fire. Because I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.”

There are no more precious words into which we put our trust. There are also no more difficult words to put into action. Do not be afraid, or as the Hebrew says, “Stop giving into fear.” Isaiah quotes the Lord who gives the reasons why we are not afraid. Our Savior gives us an even more compelling reason, “He lives.” It is that living faith in a living and powerful Savior who has secured the victory over every enemy, as well as every fear, that gives us the courage and conviction to stop being afraid.

#### Spiritual Growth and Encouragement

- Henley Schroeder (Emmalee and Justin) is home and is doing well. A date for Baptism is being worked

out, possibly at home with an affirmation later in the Fall.

- Contact continues to be made with people.
- Attendance is stable—around 15-20. Streaming numbers have come down a little, but that is a trend other churches have seen since Easter. Still, we have a regular following on YouTube which gives us a slightly better “attendance” than we previously enjoyed on Sunday mornings.
- The distribution of the Lord’s Supper continues to work smoothly. I made some adjustments per some requests—more time to eat and drink. Family members were also allowed to come together.

#### Worship Report

- At the request of several members I have included an extra slide or two in connection with the sermon. I have been pleasantly surprised by the positive comments received. I will continue to utilize the extra slides to emphasize major points. The extra work is not overwhelming since I am already preparing slides for the hymns.
- The elders will meet regarding what happens as we prepare to move back in-doors. One helpful tool which will be added will be a television monitor in the fellowship hall. This will be an aid to parents with small children, as well as those who are cautious about being with larger groups of people.

#### **Property Committee**

Jim Brown, Chairman

##### Accomplishments from April through June

Mowed Property  
 Mower Maintenance  
 Installed 3 new Exit signs/lights in fellowship hall  
 Repainted 2 walls in fellowship hall  
 Hung fire extinguishers in storage building per fire marshal orders  
 Completed Fire marshal inspection/walk through.  
 Church work Day April 4 (Thank you Pastor, Al, Sonya, Jim E., and Jim B.)  
 Drip irrigation brought back to working order  
 New Drip irrigation controller installed  
 Flower Beds cleaned/weeded  
 Church cleaned / sanitized each week  
 Video camera has been purchased and installed for video streaming  
 Sound System Mixer Board has been purchased and installed  
 Parsonage front landscaping started

##### Planned to be completed in the near future

Restroom upgrade

#### **Financial Secretary’s Report**

Jim Everson

##### Offerings Report for Second Quarter 2020

2 Cleaning / Mowing	\$230.00
2 Easter	\$731.00
2 General Fund	\$28,155.56
2 Grounds	\$118.00
2 Pass Thru (Misc)	\$511.28
2 Synod Missions	\$58.00

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**Sum Of Total Amount                      \$29,803.84**

**Treasurer's Report**

Al Todd

General Fund Status SECOND QUARTER 2020

<b>BEGINNING BALANCE</b>	<b>April 1, 2020</b>	<b>\$35,652</b>
INCOME		
	Offerings	\$28,887
	Less Bank Service Charge	\$0
	Plus Interest	\$0
	Net Income	\$28,887
EXPENSE		\$36,256
<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>	<b>June 30, 2020</b>	<b>\$28,282</b>

FUND BALANCES - June 2020

General Fund	28,282
Capital Improvement Fund	15,137
Church Cleaning and Mowing	207
Grounds / Landscaping	1,963
Member Assistance	4,900
Pass Through	
Pending	
Circuit Pastor Fund	2,883
Ladies of Our Redeemer	205
Misc Subscriptions	72
Pending-Other	100
Total Pending	3,260
Pastor Travel Fund	3,372
Thrivent Projects	215
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>57,336</b>

**WELS Investment Fund**

## ORLC Endowment Fund—Second Quarter

Beginning Balance 04.01.2020	\$301,266
Change in Value of Fund	\$55,381 (18.4%)
<b>Fund Market Value 06.30.2020</b>	<b>\$356,649</b>



## Devotional Corner

### "The Simple Truth"

He [Jesus] went in and said to them, "Why all the commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep." But they laughed at him.

*Mark 5:39-40*

The world rejects the message of Jesus Christ. What is worse, it even ridicules what Jesus taught. When I see this reaction, why should I be surprised if I receive the same response. It is an important lesson to remember. It is especially important to remember as I live by faith and give a confident witness before all.

It is a challenge not to want to hide my faith, or to try to blend in with the world as much as possible. Maybe a don't ask, don't tell policy would get me through the difficult times. Maybe I should just follow the crowd and reject and ridicule the message of Jesus.

The simple truth is, I need to follow my Savior and confess him boldly regardless of the response of others. I need to understand that every day I am on this earth is one more day the Lord has given me to live to his glory and praise. It is also one more day to prepare myself to stand before him. On the last day, I alone will have to provide an explanation of my life. There is only one hope I have, and that is to confess Jesus for what the Scriptures reveals him to be. He is the Son of God sent to this earth. He is the Redeemer who paid the price to release me from the devil's bondage. He is the Savior who rescued me from death and the grave. This is the simple truth I need to believe and confess throughout my life.

Yes, it may prove to be a challenge to make this kind of confession. I may be subject to ridicule. I may be rejected by my family and friends. I may even be tempted to question if it is worth the effort and the sacrifice. Once again, I need to understand the simple truth. Just as Jairus saw the glory of Jesus as the Son of God in bringing his daughter back to life, so will I see the glory of Jesus in my resurrection on the last day. I will see him as he truly is, and I will receive the gift of eternal life in heaven.

#### Prayer

Jesus Christ my pride and glory, he the true and living light,  
strengthens me with glorious might.  
Christ, revealed in sacred story, whom I now as Lord confess,  
teaches me true holiness.

Grant me, Lord, your Holy Spirit, that in all I follow him,  
lest the light of faith grow dim.  
Let me ever trust your merit; let your blessing me attend;  
from all evil me defend.

Christian Worship 464 st. 1 & 3