

# Elisha the Prophet

from WELS Transformed Teen Devotions

**From there Elisha went up to Bethel. As he was walking along the road, some boys came out of the town and jeered at him. "Get out of here, baldy!" they said. "Get out of here, baldy!" He turned around, looked at them and called down a curse on them in the name of the Lord. Then two bears came out of the woods and mauled forty-two of the boys. And he went on to Mount Carmel and from there returned to Samaria. (2 Kings 2:23-25)**

In the short three verses of our reading, a number of things happen. A bunch of boys made fun of Elisha, a prophet and leader of Israel. Elisha called down a curse on them for their sin. Then bears came out of the woods and mauled the children. Afterwards, Elisha goes on his way without another word.

What is the lesson from this story?

When I was young, I thought this lesson from God's Word was to teach us not to mock those God has placed over us—those serving the Lord in their lives to the best of their imperfect ability—otherwise you will be punished like those who were mauled by bears. But there is more to the story.

Think about the words of Hebrews 13:17: "Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you." (NIV 2011) The lesson of Elisha is more than a lesson on punishment that we deserve for not respecting and honoring those in authority over us, it is a powerful reminder of what God wants us to have—joy in loving, obeying, and having confidence and trust in those God has given to take care of us.

That's not always easy. When a parent completely embarrasses you in front of your friends, you may feel like calling them names or saying bad things about them to your friends. When you are frustrated by your teachers' high expectations of you in school, you complain about them to fellow classmates. When people in charge of us do things that bother us or seem unfair, all kinds of names, phrases, and disrespect bounces through our brains and comes out of our mouths.

But God has given them to you so that you might honor and obey them. God has given them authority over you for your benefit. And he wants you to see him when you see them. These authorities that are over you—teachers, parents, pastors, government—these are his representatives. He has put them there to exercise his authority. When you honor them, you honor him! And when you dishonor them, you dishonor him. So when these boys called Elisha “Baldy,” they were disrespecting God.

Learn from this strange story. Apologize for your disrespect. Confess it to God. Confess it to the one you disrespected. See that these people over you are standing in for God. See those authorities differently and give them respect that is due them.

Thank you, God, for the authorities that you have placed over me. Thank you, Father, for forgiving me when I forget to show them respect and giving me a new day to show it again.

**Prayer:** *All that I am and love most dearly—Receive it all, O Lord, from me. Let me confess my faith sincerely and help me your own child to be! Let nothing that I am or own Serve any will but yours alone. Amen. (Christian Worship 294:4)*

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## **Worship in the Park**

Our annual Worship in the Park and Picnic will be **September 8** at 10:30 am at Fireman’s Park in Johnson Creek. Come join your fellow members for an amazing worship experience, wonderful food, and fun fellowship and games. Putting on this event is truly a team effort, so please see the sign-up sheet in the church entryway for many different ways you can help out. And please, invite your friends and neighbors, thank you! (There will not be a Thursday evening service on September 5.)

## **Call Update**

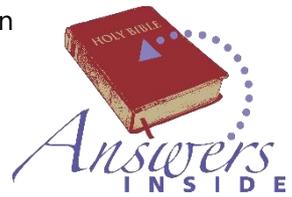
At the call meeting on August 18, the voters of our congregation, moved by the Holy Spirit, unanimously agreed to extend a call to Pastor John Borgwardt. Pastor Borgwardt currently serves at Living Word in Waukesha, WI. Please keep him, his family, and congregation in your prayers.

## Vacancy Pastor

Pastor David Dolan is our congregation's vacancy pastor. Please contact him if needed for home or hospital visits. His cell number is 414-559-2322 and email is dbdolan@tds.net.

## Growing in Faith

Sunday Bible Class will resume on **September 15** beginning at 8 am. Adult Bible Class will meet in the church sanctuary and Sunday School will meet in the East Fellowship area. On the first Sunday ABS will have a special presentation by our preacher for the day, LPS Dean of Students, Pastor Tim Dolan. Dean Dolan also serves as the chairman of the Native American Administrative Committee for the Board of World Missions. He will focus on our work in Arizona with the Apache Nation. Beginning on September 22 we will focus on the NT Epistle of James with the theme *Faith in Action*. Pastors Bartsch, Dolan and Henselin will be the leaders. Also note, Catechism Class begins **September 11** at 6:30 pm in the West Fellowship area. Parents, please contact Pastor Dolan with any questions.



## Donate Menards Rebates

The Immanuel Outdoor Decorating Team has big plans for making the outside of our church building beautiful and meaningful for some of the major holidays. Would you be willing to donate your Menards rebate cards to help cover the cost for these projects?

## New EHV Bibles are Here!

The new Evangelical Heritage Version Bibles are here. By buying as a group, we were able to get a discount which brings the cost of each Bible to \$19.20. The Bibles, along with a list of those who signed up, are located in the main hallway. There are some extra copies for those who didn't sign up in advance. Please put your payment in the envelope and check your name off the list. May your new Bibles be a blessing to you in growing your faith and knowledge of our amazing God!

## Seeking Children & Parents to Sing

I am hoping to get a small group of students and parents to sing "Make Me a Servant" for the service on **September 15**. Practices will be in the sanctuary after the worship service on September 1 and September 8. Copies of the music will be left on the piano in the Sunday School area. Thank you, Rita Bartsch.

## OWLS

Our local chapter of the OWLS begins a new season at St. Mark in Watertown on **September 17** at 1:30 pm. Our chapter president Rev Jim Lillo will present his experience with *Starting the Hispanic Congregation in Anchorage, Alaska*. Refreshments will follow. Come and learn about us, OWLS is an acronym for The Organization of WELS Lutheran Seniors. We provide meaningful activity for those who are retired and/or 50 years and older. You are invited to enjoy a fun afternoon of spiritual growth and the fellowship of neighboring WELS and ELS members. Bring a friend. Everyone is welcome.

## Marquardt Services

Due to scheduling changes for our organists, Immanuel will no longer be able to participate in the worship service rotation at Marquardt Manor. Thank you to our Marquardt volunteers who have helped over the years!

## College Students

WELS Campus Ministry, a ministry of WELS Home Missions, provides resources, support, and encouragement to WELS congregations that serve college students around the United States and Canada. If you or a family member are currently attending college, please let us know.

## Healthy Marriage

This WELS marriage enrichment event will be **September 20 - 21, 2019** at the Grace Center, part of Grace Lutheran Church in Milwaukee. Jesus has identified "Determinants of a healthy marriage"—things that affect the health of your marriage. As it turns out, the same factors that contribute to a healthy life with Jesus contribute to a healthy marriage. *Healthy Marriage* will help you learn those "determinants of a healthy marriage." More than that, *Healthy Marriage* will equip you to practice them and maintain the health of your marriage long after this memorable weekend get-away.

Please visit [www.wels.net/marriage-enrichment](http://www.wels.net/marriage-enrichment) for more details and to register.



## Wine & Dine

This event is for the benefit of New Beginnings - A Home for Mothers. Join us **September 12** at Devian's in Menomonee Falls for an evening of wine and beer samples, delicious appetizers, desserts, and a silent auction. Go to [www.homeformothers.com/EVENTs](http://www.homeformothers.com/EVENTs) to register, cost to attend is \$40.

## Women's Leadership Conference

This conference, *Gifted to Lead: Growing in Your Gifts*, will be **October 19** from 8 am to 12:30 pm. Discover your female uniqueness alongside women leaders. Hosted by the Christian Women's Leadership Circle at Wisconsin Lutheran College, this half-day conference will look at character, confidence, competence and commitment. Go to [www.christianwomenlead.com](http://www.christianwomenlead.com) for more information and to register.



## WELS Lutherans for Life

You're Invited! WELS Lutherans for Life is hosting the Treasure Life fundraising events on **October 11** at the Ingleside Hotel in Pewaukee (formerly Country Springs). There is no cost to attend the luncheon or the banquet. Guests will be given an opportunity to financially support the ministry. All funds raised will directly support life-affirming help for abortion-vulnerable mothers, a youth development program, pregnancy & parenting support, and helping people suffering post-abortion trauma. Amber Albee Swenson will be the featured speaker. She is a WELS author, speaker, and blogger. Amber is a regular contributor to the Time of Grace blog and has written for the Holy Hen House blog. Registration is required and tables will be assigned first-come, first-served, so don't delay. Register at [www.eveningforlife.org](http://www.eveningforlife.org), email [Contact@ALife2.com](mailto:Contact@ALife2.com), or call 414-727-8176.

## Cookie Committee

Are you good at making cookies? Are you able to deliver cookies? Could you do both? A new exciting way to serve is developing. Please see the sign-up sheet in the entryway.

## Electronic Giving

Did you know you can give your offerings electronically? Whether you're able to make it to church or not, you can always make sure your offering arrives. It's a safe, convenient way to give your firstfruits every week. Ask Carla for more information.

## My Bible Bags

These are activity bags for children to use during the worship service. They have a Children's Bulletin for the kids to work on as well as other fun items for them to use. When the service is done, please return the items to the bag and hang it back on the rack on your way out. We hope these bags will be a blessing to you and your children!

## Friendship Books

Friendship Registers have replaced the communion cards and guest book. You will find these registers on the middle-aisle side of each pew. Inside are sheets where you can fill in your name(s), who communed (if offered that day), update your information, or note if you are a guest. Please fill it out during the offering, pass it down to anyone else in your pew, and return it. Please make note of who's sitting with you and offer a friendly greeting. Thank you!

## MLC Matching

Every year we have the opportunity to take advantage of MLC's matching grant program, where MLC matches gifts we give to support our students preparing for the public ministry there. We currently have two students attending. If you'd like to give a gift of support, please indicate "MLC Matching" on your check. Thank you!

## Care Room

Jesus wants everyone in worship. But we know some of his smallest worshipers can become restless at times. Please make use of the care room when this happens. But come back in quickly so we may all worship together. Thank you!

## Servicemen/women

Do you know a serviceman or woman serving on our behalf? Go to [www.wels.net/refer](http://www.wels.net/refer) to register them for free resources.

## Offerings vs. Budget as of 7/31/2019

Offerings: \$184,687.86    Budget: \$193,610.67    Difference: -\$8,922.81

## Sunday Usher Teams

Sept 1	Joseph Family
Sept 8	Volunteers for Worship in the Park
Sept 15	Snyder/Marti
Sept 22	Naatz Family
Sept 29	Altreuter Family





Lee Zimmerman, 9/3

Cathie Joseph, 9/4

Lisa Naatz, 9/4

David Joseph, 9/5

Lori Tetzlaff, 9/5

Rita Bartsch, 9/7

Emmett Sukow, 9/7

Lorretta Winkelman, 9/7

Cory Draeger, 9/9

Michelle Keller, 9/9

Dianna Pippenger, 9/11

Jason Wildes, 9/12

Ryan Wildes, 9/13

Carson Bainbridge, 9/14

Hayden Bainbridge, 9/14

Molly Altreuter, 9/15

James Baum, 9/15

Elizabeth Elliott, 9/16

Lina Draeger, 9/17

Roger Dobson, 9/18

Justin Erdmann, 9/18

Ian Heald, 9/18

Jason Brown, 9/19

Haddie Altreuter, 9/21

Eli DeMoe, 9/23

Megan Jones, 9/23

Justin Emrath, 9/24

Emma Sukow, 9/24

Julie Meyer, 9/25

Thomas Orval, 9/26

Bonnie J. Thelke, 9/27

Seth White, 9/27

Esther Madison, 9/28

Dustin Nora, 9/28

Ashley Heald, 9/29

Leah Morris-Robinson, 9/30



<b>Couple</b>	<b>Years</b>	<b>Date</b>
Michael & Gail Maron	42	9/17
Donald & Theresa Klug	37	9/11
Scott & Shari Sukow	35	9/1
Mike & Deb Schumacher	35	9/15
Lee & Kim Zimmerman	31	9/17
Kurt & Trisha Altreuter	18	9/22
Kyle & Heather Maron	6	9/28
Vincent & Alyssa Nora	5	9/19
Jamie & Beki Genz	5	9/27



**WELS**

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Vacancy Pastor David Dolan

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