



Easter

OUR SAVIOR
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Seventh Sunday of Easter
Sunday, May 24, 2020



OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH
745 Front Street S., Issaquah, WA 98027
425-392-4169

SERVICE OF THE WORD

GATHERING: THE HOLY SPIRIT CALLS US TOGETHER AS THE PEOPLE OF GOD.

CALL TO WORSHIP *New Beginnings* — Scott Hafso Emily Waltzer & Song Leaders
We praise you, Lord, for new beginnings; for morning light that finds us in the shadow of the hills. We praise you now for all things living. We worship you; our spirits are renewed.

PROCLAMATION

PM: Alleluia! Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

WELCOME

Pastor Jim Kruse

GREETING

PM: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

How Beautiful — Twila Paris

Emily Waltzer

*How beautiful the hands that served the wine and the bread and the children of earth.
How beautiful the feet that walked the long dusty roads and the hills to the cross.*

How beautiful is the body of Christ.

*How beautiful the heart that bled, that took all my sin and bore it instead.
How beautiful the tender eyes that chose to forgive and never despise.*

*And as He laid down His life we offer this sacrifice that we will live just as he died:
Willing to pay the price.*

*How beautiful the radiant Bride who waits for her Groom with His light in her eyes.
How beautiful when humble hearts give the fruit of pure lives so that others might live.*

*How beautiful the feet that bring the sound of good news and the love of the King.
How beautiful the hands that serve the wine and the bread and the children of earth.*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

PM: Let us pray. O God of glory,

C: your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

WORD: GOD SPEAKS TO US IN SCRIPTURE READING, PREACHING AND SONG.

FIRST READING

Acts 1:6-14

⁶When the apostles had come together, they asked Jesus, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

¹²Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. ¹³When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

AM: Word of God, word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL

John 17:1-11

¹After Jesus had spoken these words to his disciples, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."

PM: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Why Do You Keep Looking Up?

Pastor Jim Kruse

This baseball is almost 52 years old. The original printing on the ball has almost completely faded away. On this side it looks like it says "Wilson," the name of the manufacturer. And here, across the face it says, "Official Pony League." I can't read what it says over here, but I can make out the shape of a diamond.

This is the baseball I hit for a homerun late in June when I was 14 years old. Normally we did not get to take any balls home from the games we played when we were kids, they

were too expensive. But this one landed in the tall reeds that grew along the creek that ran behind the center field fence. The little kids who were always around to chase after foul balls and home runs, to bring them back to the home plate umpire, so they could be put back into play, could not find it. So, after the game I went looking for it where I thought I saw it had landed. It took me 20 minutes, but here it is.

In the home where I grew up baseball was much more than a game, or an interesting point of conversation. For my two brothers and I, baseball was the centerpiece of our lives and the core element in our relationship with our father. I have no memory of learning how to hold a baseball or throw it properly. I have no memory of learning how to catch a baseball, how to wear a baseball glove, or how to pick up a ground ball. I learned all of these things long before my ability to carry a childhood memory forward onto life was formed. In fact, we were told, my brothers and I, that as soon as we could stand up, but not yet stay standing, Dad had placed a baseball on the corner of the arm of the couch, placed a toy baseball bat in our hands, and held us up by the waist, to see how we would swing it. It was his way of figuring out if we were naturally right-handed or left-handed batters. And that is why the only left-handed thing I do in life is to hit a baseball.

When Bart Giamatti, the former commissioner of Major League Baseball wrote these words in his book in 1998, he spoke to something deep in my soul, and I have always kept this quote close. “[Baseball] is designed to break your heart. The game begins in the spring, when everything else begins again, and it blossoms in the summer, filling the afternoons and evenings, and then as soon as the chill rains come, it stops and leaves you to face the fall all alone.”

With the arrival of Memorial Day weekend, the Spring Ball, 2020, has now been lost, another victim of the health crisis we are enduring. Major League Baseball, we are told, has developed a plan to try to salvage the second half of the season with games being played in empty stadiums starting around July 4th. Here are some of the guidelines they will follow:

The traditional exchange of lineup cards will be eliminated, along with high-fives, fist bumps, and bat boys and girls. And team mascots are banned from the field.

Players will not be allowed to throw the ball around the infield. And any ball will be thrown away after it has been touched by multiple players.

Players may not touch their face to give signs, or lick their fingers for any reason.

Spitting will be prohibited, as will chewing tobacco and sunflower seeds.

Managers and coaches must wear masks while in the dugouts.

Dugout and bullpen telephones will be disinfected after each use.

The next day’s starting pitcher cannot sit in the dugout. In fact, all of the players not participating in the game will sit in the stands behind the dugout, separated by at least 6 feet.

If this plan goes into effect, they are going to call it, “baseball.” But they will be wrong. And it will not satisfy Giamatti’s vision of the importance of the game. I do not have to wait until the end of the season; my heart is broken already.

The wrestling I am doing over the loss of baseball is, of course, insignificant in the bigger scheme of things. But it represents an argument that is raging in every corner of our lives over much more important things. We are arguing over masks, who has to wear them and when and where. We are arguing over the need to safely get back to work, and what work is essential and what is not. We are arguing about the power of government to decide how to protect its people, and when it is overstepping its bounds. We are arguing about how and when to get our children back into the schools. And we are arguing about who we can blame for our plight.

We are caught these days in the tension between the life we are living, a life that is eating away at the things we have learned to love about life, and the life that we used to live, and that we so desperately need to return, and as quickly as possible. The past and the present are in a battle for our souls, and we do not yet know which side will win.

In the both the lessons for today, the Seventh and last Sunday of Easter, the disciples are engaged in the same struggle. Having lived for only a few short weeks with the knowledge that Jesus walked out of the grave and is once again living among them, the disciples now have to struggle with idea that Jesus is leaving them for a second time. This time the risen Christ leaves not in death, but in an ascension--a mysterious returning to the place from which he came. If the disciples thought that the resurrection of Jesus was hard to understand, they will soon learn that the ascension of Jesus is going to be even more difficult to grasp. In the First Lesson from the Book of Acts, the story of the Ascension of Jesus ends with the disciples "staring up at the sky," watching the joy of the resurrection go floating away before their very eyes. They are caught between a present moment that is eating way at something they were just beginning to understand, that there is life beyond this life, and the desperate need for the risen Christ to return to them, and as quickly as possible.

"Staring up at the sky" is also a pretty good description of how most of us are feeling these days when we get up in the morning and find out what new thing we are going to have to deal with that came up while we were sleeping. But more than that, "staring up at the sky" reflects the underlying fear that if they do go through the hard work of figuring out what is going on, If we make the adaptations we need to make in order to get through it all, life as we have known it will be over, never to return again.

This Lesson from Acts becomes helpful to us when we see how God chooses to respond to the disciples' sky-gazing. Rather than splitting the heavens open with some sort of miraculous display, God does for the disciples what he did for the women who came to the empty tomb on Easter morning. God sends them angels with a gentle reminder that the presence of Jesus continues among them.

"Why do you keep looking up for the answers?" the angels of God say to them, and to us. "This Jesus, whom you can no longer see with your eyes and touch with your hands, will come to you in the same way that he left." We already have what we need get us through. In the life of Jesus, we see most clearly that our God is a God who wants to be close to us. He is a God who wants to love us with gentleness and compassion. In the death and resurrection of Jesus we see that our God will sacrifice anything, even crucifixion and death, in order to

call us his own and protect us from ourselves. But in the ascension of Jesus, this love and self-sacrifice gets into our hearts. And through our hearts, out into the world around us.

The question to ask when the old way of seeing life clashes with a new and present reality is not, “Which way is right and which way is wrong?” The question to ask is, “What is the relationship between the human beings of God’s making and the love and self-sacrificing spirit of Christ that is alive in the world?” When we ask this question of our lives, we are turning our attention toward where the Christ of God now lives and away where we last saw him to be.

I keep this ball in a paper bag on a shelf in the garage. Most of the time I forget I have it, until I think about it at times like this. This baseball represents the only home run I ever hit in an official game in my entire life. Soon after the summer of 1968, the pitchers I faced started to bet a lot better and the ball started moving sideways as it came toward me in the batter’s box. The first time I saw a left-handed curve ball coming right at me and then break over the plate at the last possible moment, I knew that my baseball career was coming to an end. By the time I was finished with high school, I was finished playing the game. But the lessons I learned, and am still learning while sitting in the stands, remain.

In his famous speech, the so-called “Their Finest Hour” speech, that Winston Churchill gave in June of 1940, he was talking about England’s involvement in World War II, but he was also touching on a deeper understanding of how the future comes into being, when he said, “If we open a quarrel between past and present, we shall find that we have lost the future.”

Jesus put it this way to his disciples, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Christ is risen. He is risen, indeed. Alleluia and Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY

You Are Mine — Text & Music: David Haas, b. 1957

*“I will come to you in the silence, I will lift you from all your fear.
You will hear my voice; I claim you as my choice. Be still and know I am here.*

*“I am hope for all who are hopeless, I am eyes for all who long to see.
In the shadows of the night, I will be your light. Come and rest in me.*

*Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name.
Come and follow me, I will bring you home; I love you, and you are mine.”*

*“I am strength for all the despairing, healing for the ones who dwell in shame.
All the blind will see, the lame will all run free, and all will know my name.*

*“I am the Word that leads all to freedom, I am the peace the world cannot give.
I will call your name, embracing all your pain, Stand up, now walk and live!”*

OFFERING

We invite you to take a moment to offer thanksgiving to God for all the blessings of life, and remember your financial support that helps OSLC meet its ongoing ministry obligations. To request pre-printed mail-in contribution envelopes, or information about contributing electronically, please refer to the email that accompanied this bulletin under "Giving."

OFFERING PRAYER

PM: Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth.

Day by day you shower us with blessings.

As you have raised us to new life in Christ,
give us glad and generous hearts,

ready to praise you and to respond to those in need,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of Resurrection, you are our source of life and hope.

- + We give thanks for your gracious gifts of love and life;
- + embrace us in your love;
- + sustain us when we are feeling broken or frightened;
- + remind us we are enough and that we are loved;
- + open our hearts and minds to hear your word and call;
- + inspire us to be your hands and voice in your world;
- + grant us courage and creativity to joyfully share your Good News.

[A brief silence.]

We give thanks for your creation.

- + Enable us to be educated, equipped and inspired to be better stewards of your world. We give thanks for *Earth Ministry* and *Lutherans Restoring Creation*.

We pray for our world, nation, and local communities.

- + We lift up those communities where insecurity, violence, and fear are the norm. Help us to bring healing, wholeness, and safety to them.
- + We pray for those places, people, and animals in the wake of natural disasters - including the southeastern states. Grant strength to those affected as they recover and rebuild. Help us to be generous partners with *Lutheran Disaster Response*.
- + We are thankful for all those who have given the sacrifice of their lives in service to their

country and local communities. Open our hearts with gratitude and honor for their service. May we learn from them the value of caring for and protecting others over ourselves.

+ We pray for the success of students studying at the Japan Lutheran College & Seminary.

We pray for all who are in need of healing and strength.

+ We lift up Mike, Marilyn, Linda, Dave, Kip, Evy, Emily, Mike, Anthony, Lynnette, Sheelagh, Claire, Guests of the Community Meals Program, Sonja, Nicole, Josee and Jeanie.

+ God, you call us to care for our neighbors. Inspire our leaders and guide us to be better advocates for the sake of each member in our community.

+ We lift up those experiencing anxiety, depression, and other mental health challenges. Empower us to reach out to those who need care and support. For those who are in despair, remember that you are loved. You are never beyond God's mercy, grace and love.

+ We pray for our neighbors who are fearful or in danger in their relationships. We lift up the work of those who protect, support, and advocate for people who are experiencing domestic violence.

We pray hold in prayer those affected by the COVID-19 crisis.

+ Bring peace and comfort to the families of those who have died.

+ Grant healing for those diagnosed.

+ Keep safe those whose health conditions make them especially vulnerable to this virus.

+ Protect medical workers, care providers, and first responders.

+ Sustain chaplains who bring prayer and care to those hospitalized and in nursing homes.

+ We give thanks for all non-medical essential workers who continue to serve our communities providing food, medicine, safety, childcare, and other vital services.

+ Guide those working to improve testing and those working toward a vaccine and for our government and health organization leaders as they discern a path forward.

+ Sustain those who are facing financial uncertainty due to loss of income. Help us to share generously.

+ Bless our ministry leaders as they explore care-filled and creative ways to gather online for worship, prayer, and fellowship. We give thanks for the grace-filled support our leaders have shown one another.

+ For all who anxious and worried, ground us in facts and center us in your love and peace.

+ During these days of physical isolation, grant us patience, humor, compassion, and courage.

We pray for those who are grieving:

+ Loving God, wrap your arms of love and hope around all who are experiencing any kind of loss, disconnection, or brokenness.

+ We lift up the family and friends of Charles, Barbara, Evelyn, and Susan.

For what and for whom else do the people of God pray?

[Here other intercessions may be offered.]

We pray for your church:

+ We give thanks for the leaders and team members in our church ministries. Grant energy and creativity for their work. Grant them grace to rest, grant them peace.

+ We pray for the residents, staff, and families of nursing homes and care facilities, including those that are part of our synod: Josephine Caring Community, Foss Home, Columbia Lutheran Home, Norse Home, and Hearthstone Community.

+ We pray for **congregations** in the transition and call process. Grant them wisdom and patience as they discern where it is that you are leading them. We lift up the leaders who are guiding ministries through this time of change. Transition teams, call committees, transition pastors, congregation staff, and synod staff.

Sustain us in our journey:

+ Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

BLESSING

PM: The God of all grace,
who has called you to eternal glory in Christ,
restore, support, strengthen, and + bless you
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
now and forever.

C: Amen

POSTLUDE *Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling* — Tune: W. L. Thompson Jiyoung Lee

Commemorations for the Week

Nicolaus Copernicus, died 1543; Leonhard Euler, died 1783; scientists, Sunday, May 24

These two men were both scientists who helped to explain the wonders of God's universe. Copernicus is best known for promoting the idea that the sun, not the earth, is at the center of our solar system. Euler was one of the founders of pure mathematics, and contributed to many other fields.

John Calvin, renewer of the church, died 1564, Wednesday, May 27

Gifted both as a systematic theologian and as an interpreter of scriptures, Calvin embraced the Reformation, and as a preacher in Geneva, Switzerland, brought a theocratic government to it. He is regarded as the father of the Reformed churches.

Jiri Tranovský, hymnwriter, died 1637, Friday, May 29

Tranovský is considered to be the father of Slovak hymnody as well as an important reformer of the Slavic church. He translated the Augsburg Confession (the basis of Lutheran teachings) and published a collection of Slovak hymns.

Serving in Worship:

Worship Leader:	Pastor Jim Kruse
Assisting Minister:	Sue Johnson
Soloist:	Emily Waltzer
Song Leaders:	Alice Lewis, Sue Johnson, Leslie Waltzer, David Hersey, Marc Montague
Videographer:	Elizabeth Waltzer
Banner:	Elaine Stamm
Bulletin Cover:	Craig Gillin

Readings for Next Sunday: Acts 2:1-21; John 7:37-39

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Our Savior Lutheran Church Staff

Rev. James R. Kruse, *Transition Pastor*
Shari Lundberg, *Parish Administrator*
Dr. Jiyoung Lee, *Parish Organist*

Scott Hafso, *Director of Worship & Music*
Kate Gagnon, *Lay Visitation Minister*



Additional worship resources:

Readings: Psalm 68: 1-10, 32-35; 1 Peter 4: 12-14; 5: 6-11

Suggested Hymn for Listening: *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

Text: John Fawcett, 1740-1817, alt.; Tune: Johann G. Nægeli, 1773-1836, alt.

Prayer is putting our faith into action. We invite you to include these people in your daily prayers. You can make prayer requests via email at office@oslccissaquah.org. All written requests will remain on this list for 4 weeks.

Mike Golick medical emergency in Florida. (brother-in-law to Patty Gerde)

Marilyn Grey comfort as she enters hospice care. (mother to Mark Cron)

Linda Chambers comfort and peace following the death of her husband. (sister of Barbara Hinds)

Dave Carlson a successful kidney transplant, strength and speedy healing following surgery.

Kip Hauser healing and recovery following his angiogram. (father of Cheryl Hauser)

Evy Sneva continued healing and medication monitoring, peace for her family. (Karen Hansen)

Emily Gacek acquired COVID19 from a caregiver, healing and strength. (Connie Fletcher)

Mike Winkler in ICU with COVID19, 48 yr. old Seattle Transit bus driver, strength and healing. (Jerry & Linda Nack)

Anthony Templeton breathing problems and a long standing cold, unrelated to corona virus. (Grandson of Cheryl Landers)

Lynnette eye infection and symptoms of corona virus. (daughter of Cheryl Neeb)

Sheelagh Sacks undergoing radiation for ongoing breast cancer treatment. (Laura Anderson)

Claire Howe healing/peace & strength as she recovers from a fall (Shelley Howe)

Guests of the Community Meals Program safety, health and peace of mind. (Connie Fletcher)

Sonja 3 years old undergoing treatment for cancer. (granddaughter of Henrik & Patty Christopherson)

Nicole DeCamp healing and strength. (Ken DeCamp and Cheryl Leiter)

Josee Jordan peace of mind as she faces health challenges. (Dianne Tanner)

Jeannie Lindquist continued healing and strength.

Healing and peace of mind: Marian James;

Douglas Mandt (brother of Mary Ann Hult and Lorna Robertson); **Gregory** (nephew of Joanne Suttmeier); **Doug Patur; Katie Moeller; Margot Inman; Ken Acker** (son of Lucy Acker); **Marilyn Carlson; Taufik Hidayut** (Ken Konigsmark); **Don Wilkinson** (husband of Gwynn Wilkinson); **Rebecca Thomas** (Pr. Telyea); **Tanisha Foote** (Marilyn Carlson); **Dorothy Soland; Randi Strom; Jeanne Kuipers; Talton Johnson; John Pass; Florence Kinnune; Carol Harbolt; Sandy Aldworth; Jen Winslow;**

Larry Pruitt.

Undergoing cancer treatment: Amy Aldworth (daughter-in-law of Sandy Aldworth) **Les Carlson** (father of Dave Carlson); **Harold Mandt** (brother of Mary Ann Hult and Lorna Robertson); **Chris Howe** (brother of Mark Howe); **Peggy Scalise** (cousin of Mark Howe); **Eileen Letts** (cousin of Mark Howe); **Floyd Rogers** (Connie Fletcher); **Lori Anglin** (Janet Heck); **Keith DeCamp** (brother of Ken DeCamp); **Barbara Jones** (mother of Ron Sordahl); **Doug McVety** (Helen Nychay); **Al Batt** (Connie Fletcher); **Larry Harbolt** (Ray Harbolt); **Gerald Welch** (Vern and Jeannie Lindquist); **Joe Martin** (father of Stacy Smith); **Christy Williams** (Bill Bergsma); **Diane Powis** (Paul Tolo); **Dana Mancini** (Jan Setterlund); **Greg Petersen** (Wes Collum); **Tim Teodoro** (Janet Heck); **Barry Donker** (Joan Parish); **Germaine Korum** (Lyle and Alice Lewis); **Kathryn Aitcheson** (Gerrie Hendrickson); **Yuko Takiguchi** (Teiko Soland); **Barb** (Janette Singley)

Living with cancer: Liz Kidd (Bob Beck); **Duane Jacobson; Mary Lewis** (sister-in-law of Lyle and Alice Lewis); **Mark Becker** (uncle of Paula Seeger); **Barbara Krogh Jarvis** (sister of Steve Krogh); **Suzanne Lewis** (daughter-in-law of Lyle & Alice Lewis); **Mira Bergsma**

Expectant Mothers: Jessica Murguia (Cheryl Hauser); **Yili Leiter** (Cheryl Leiter)

Mourning the death of loved ones: For peace and comfort during this time of grieving for the family and friends of: **Charles Chambers** (brother-in-law to Rowan & Barbara Hinds); **Barbara Nielson** (Karen Hansen); **Evelyn Timpe** (step-mother to Patty Gerde); **Susan Moffett** (Doug & Dianne Tanner)

Members and friends serving in the military; fire & police departments, & emergency rooms.

Global Missions and Missionaries: For the success of students studying at the Japan Lutheran College & Seminary. (Global Missions). **Henrik & Patty Christopherson.** Congregations in Chiclayo, Peru: **Pepe** at Las Brisas, **Merci** in San Antonio and **Harold** at Las Lomas. **MaaSae Girls Lutheran Secondary School** in Tanzania.

Thanksgiving: For the successful location of a kidney donor for **Dave Carlson.**