

January 2012

"Always There With You"

By Pastor Dave



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We have just finished celebrating Christmas. Part of our celebration involved exchanging gifts. There are a variety of gifts that were given in our households. Some gifts, like cookies and Christmas delights, are no longer around. Other presents, like clothing, might be worn for a year or two before they are no longer part of the wardrobe. Still other gifts, like jewelry, might last a lifetime. But as we begin a new year, I would like to remind you of a particular gift we have because of our Savior. It is God's guarding presence in your life.

Psalms 121 ends with these words, "The LORD guards you as you come and go, now and forever." This promise is appropriate to be remembered not only at the beginning of a new year, but also throughout your life. It reminds me of a portion of the Lord's Prayer where Jesus encourages us to pray, "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

That prayer for guarding is answered every day, sometimes many times a day, in the lives of God's children. The LORD will never let you down. This does not mean we won't experience pain, trials and heartaches. But it does mean that no injury, no illness, no accident, no distress will have evil power over us, that is, will be able to separate us from God's purposes in us.

(continued on page 2)

Pictorial Directory

Beautiful Savior is in the process of making a new church pictorial directory. We would like to thank those who already have had their pictures taken. For those of you who have not yet had your portraits taken, we have other opportunities for you to be a part of this endeavor. Pictures will be taken on Jan 18 –21. We would like to have as many members as possible participate. There is no cost, and you will receive a complimentary 8-by-10 portrait and directory for participating. At your session, you will have the opportunity to purchase additional portraits to share with family and friends. You may sign up on Sunday mornings for a picture time. You may also sign up online by going to the church's website and following the link. If you have any questions, please call the church office.



Take Down Christmas Decorations

On Saturday, Jan. 7, we need volunteers to help take down our Christmas decorations. Come to the church about 9 a.m.

We would like to thank those who helped put up the decorations in December. It enhanced our preparation and celebration of our Savior's birth.



OUR MISSION

is to share
God's message,
to grow in our faith,
to love and serve others.

"Always There With You" *(continued from page 1)*

As one year ends and another begins, it is not unusual to look back on the past year and contemplate the coming year as it relates to the joys and trials we have experienced. However, the way to tell the story of our life in Christ is not by describing its trials and tribulations. We live knowing that our God guards, preserves, accompanies and rules us.

A serious mistake we can make when illness comes, when anxiety threatens, when conflict disturbs our relationships with others is to conclude that God has gotten bored looking after us and has shifted his attention to more exciting Christians, or that God has become disgusted with our meandering obedience and decided to let us fend for ourselves for a while. God's interest in us does not wax and wane. "The LORD guards you as you come and go, now and forever." Therefore, no matter what doubts we endure or what accidents we experience, the LORD guards us from every evil; he guards our very life. We know the truth of Luther's hymn.

Though hordes of devils fill the land
All threatening to devour us,
We tremble not, unmoved we stand;
They cannot overpower us.
Let this world's tyrant rage;
In battle we'll engage.
His might is doomed to fail;
God's judgment must prevail!
One little word subdues him.

What a joy it is for us to know that our lives are created, shaped and guarded by God and that the life of faith is a daily exploration of the constant and countless ways in which God's grace and love are experienced. I pray that you remember that our gracious God goes with you always. I also pray that your faith and Christian life would grow and bear the fruit of love in your words and actions.

God is with you!

Pastor Dave

ND District Convention

The North Dakota District LCMS Convention is Jan. 22-25 in Grand Forks. The Convention theme is from I Peter 2:10, "Now you are the people of God." As God's people, we rejoice that Jesus came to earth to reclaim us as His children now and forever. It is important to remember who we are. It is important to remember that we are no longer slaves to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Flowing from this theme, we will also focus on the building, encouraging, and strengthening of our pastors, our commission to be bold witnesses of the Christian faith and the reality that we are empowered stewards in all that we say and do as Christ lives in us. Also, may God richly bless each of you in this new year of our Lord, 2012.

Sunday Bible Study

"Our Life in Christ"

9:30 a.m.

The Christian life is not a quiet escape but a life lived in this world amid all its challenges. However, what makes it so different is that it is a life in Christ. Christians travel the same ground that everyone else walks on, breathe the same air, drink the same water, shop in the same stores, fear the same dangers, are subject to the same pressures, get the same distresses, are buried in the same ground.

The difference is that each step we walk, each breath we breathe, we know we are preserved by God, we know we are accompanied by God, we know we are loved by God.

We invite you to join us on Sunday mornings as we explore various aspects and blessings of our Christian life.



Tuesday Bible Study

Book of Hebrews

7 p.m. starting Jan. 10

You are invited to come on Tuesday evenings as we explore the message of the book of Hebrews.



Are you being Called?

I hope you all have enjoyed the holiday season and the celebration of the birth of our Savior. As 2012 begins, there will be new opportunities to share your talents and abilities with your fellow believers at BSLC. This March, we will have elections for several leadership positions. As this time approaches, please prayerfully consider how you can help serve. If anyone is interested in serving on the nominating committee, please contact Mike Schlichtmann. We have a small group right now but would welcome the input of others. God's blessings to you at the start of 2012 and throughout the year.



God is in the Laundry Room

New Women's Bible Study

Starting at 9 a.m. or 7 p.m. on Jan. 19

A new women's Bible study entitled "God Is in the Laundry Room" will begin at 9 a.m. or 7 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 19, and will meet the first and third Thursdays of the month for eight sessions. Books will be \$9. Please sign up on the sheet on the table in the narthex so that we know how many books to order and if you will attend the morning session or the evening session.



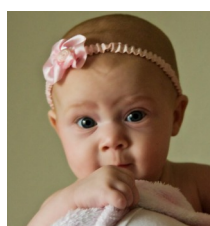
Here is a little intro to the study: There's more to life than daily task lists and repetitive chores. There has to be...right? Begin to see purpose and significance wherever you are in your day. Inspired by the words of Jeremiah 29:13, *God Is in the Laundry Room* is a reminder that when we seek the LORD with our whole heart, we find Him everywhere, even in the laundry room. This Bible study takes you beyond merely filling in the right answers. Instead, it challenges you to dig a little deeper, explore a little further and make personal application of the passages to your life. As you do, you'll be drawn closer to the Savior, who washes away our sins.

Thank you to our Sunday School Children and Leaders

BSLC wants to thank all the Sunday school leaders and helpers for the wonderful Christmas programs the children put on. Special thanks to Ramsey Dahl, who headed the "Hotel Bethlehem" program for third-to sixth-graders; and to Tana Shereck who lead the "Jesus: God's Greatest Gift" program for the preschool-to second-graders.



Be Part of the Largest Baby Shower



Celebrate Sanctity of Human Life during January by being part of 'The Largest Baby Shower.' **New** baby items are needed for FirstChoice Clinic's 'Earn While You Learn' parenting program: diapers (size NB, 2, 3,4), wipes, clothes (0-18 months) crib sheets, baby books,

toys, bibs, pacifiers, bottles, thermometers, baby brushes, combs, and gift cards. **Drop off donations at all Hornbacher's.** Sponsors are KFNW Life 97.9, Faith 1200 and Hornbacher's. If you have questions, please call FirstChoice Clinic at 237-5902 or go to their website www.teamfirstchoiceclinic.com.

Your prayers, thoughts and gifts are greatly appreciated!



We, along with our families, would like to extend word of thanks to the congregation and its members for all the kindness shown to us during the Christmas season. We truly appreciate all your prayers, cards, cookies, gifts and expressions of love. We feel blessed to be part of such a wonderful church family.

May the Lord continue to bless our work together as we continue to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

Pastor Dave

Pastor Chris

Baptisms

Dec. 4 - Kendal Mae Knudson, daughter of Lewis Jayson and Stacy Knudson, born Oct. 2, 2011. Her sponsors are Jesse Rasmusson and Kerry Matsusaka.



Dec. 11 - Tayla Ruth Larson, daughter of Tyler and LeAnn Larson, born Oct. 31, 2011. Her sponsors were Corey Larson and Heidi Larson.

Dec. 25 - Justin Thomas Dahl, son of Noah Dahl and Jamie Walker, born Aug. 30, 2010.

BSLC Coffee Club

BSLC members continue to meet at 9 a.m. every Friday. It's a time for fellowship and getting to know other Beautiful Savior members. This is for both men and women of any age. If you are free any Friday, please join us at Village Inn on the corner of 32nd Avenue South and 25th Street, Fargo.



Save Postage Stamps

Bring in your postage stamps. Do not cut them; bring in the whole envelope and put in the box outside the office. The money we receive for stamps goes to missions.

Save Your Coupons

Bring in those coupon inserts from your newspaper that you don't want. Even outdated coupons, up to six months outdated, can be used by members of our military. Bring in the inserts and place them in the box by the LWML kiosk by the water fountain. Thanks for your support of our military families.

Memorials to Beautiful Savior in Memory of Ted Swiontek

Carol LeMier
Harlan and Irene LeMier
Ed and Carol Herrmann
Gerald and Joan Feichtner
Tim and Tina Deitemeyer

Al and Donna Larson
Chuck and Rhonda Hoge
Don and Sandra Andersen
Dale and Polly Olson
Jim and Donna Stewart

LWML News

There will be a luncheon at noon on Sunday, Jan. 15 in the Fellowship Hall for all women who would like to be involved with planning and participating in mission and human care service projects. Please consider being a part of LWML. We need more women to use their talents in service to God and His people. Start the new year out in His Word and work! Please join us.



Gold Club Luncheon

Noon on Wednesday, Jan. 18

Are you 55 or older or retired? Our Gold Club is right for you! Bring a dish to share at our potluck at noon on Wednesday, Jan. 18. We gather for about an hour to enjoy good food and fellowship.



Thank you to BSLC



Thank you to the congregation of BSLC for their hugs and gifts and well wishes. Working for such wonderful people has been such a blessing. May you all have a happy and safe new year! Vicki Peihl

Quilting Time

The ladies will be gathering at 9 a.m. on Jan. 12 and 26 to quilt. Anyone and everyone is welcome to come for an hour or all day! Thanks too, ladies, for the wonderful meal and desserts you served the church and district staff in December!



Christmas Poinsettias 2011

Poinsettia Placed by:

Roland and Jeanne Barchinger
 Dan and Carrie Berglind
 Muff and Linda Brandt
 Muff and Linda Brandt
 Gerald and Joan Fiechtner
 Dayton, Theresa, Damien,
 and Quinn Gehler
 Lloyd Jemtrud
 Tim and Janet Koppinger
 Barbara Moser
 Jerry Nordstrom Family
 Dave and Kim Scheer
 Gaylord and Marilyn Schilling
 Mike and Mardi Schlichtmann
 Jim and Donna Stewart
 Jim and Donna Stewart
 Gordon and Loretta Swanson
 Steve and Jane Thielman
 Pastor Dave and Kim Wagner
 Lisa, Harrison and Brooklyn Wiest
 Pete and Deb Wold
 Glen, Darby and Seth Wolf
 Your 3 girls-Sandy, Sylvia, Sally

Poinsettia Placed by:

Muff and Linda Brandt
 Muff and Linda Brandt
 Sue and Steve Buth
 Hoad and Sheila Harris

 Dennis and Penney Kroshus
 Danny and Diane Lee
 Gaylord and Marilyn Schilling
 Mary and Greg Seiffert
 Gary Stende Family
 Gordy and Loretta Swanson
 Chloe and Lizzie Thompson
 Pastor Dave and Kim Wagner

Poinsettia Placed by:

Ed and Carol Herrmann

In Loving Memory of:

Our daughters-Donna, Jeanne and Cindy
 Bud Berglind
 Muff's dad-Ken Brandt
 Linda's nephew-Kurt Krogen
 Our parents and brothers

 Grandfather-Larry Gehler
 Donna Jemtrud
 Many aunts, uncles, grandparents and parents
 Carl and Elsie Koenig
 Wally Nordstrom
 David Jr.
 Our Grandchildren-Maggie and Tate
 Eugene Paulsrud
 Herb and Segre Stewart
 Herb and Myrtle Schrank
 Our Parents
 Audrey Gill
 Randy and Audrey Christianson
 Dad-Keth Wiest and Grandma-Marilyn Wiest
 Pete's Parents-Harlan and Rose Wold
 Jerome "Bud" Wolf
 Our parents-Evan and Lorina Freitag

In Honor of:

Muff's mom-Doris Brandt
 Linda's mom and dad-Charlie and Dottie
 Our children and grandchildren
 Our Children-Laura and Scott, Dan, Brian, Sean,
 Heather, Brooke, Nate and Kate
 Our grandchildren-Ace and Arrington
 Our Children and Granddaughters
 Our Grandchildren-Gracie, Hattie and Sadie
 Our parents-Ursula and Don, Garnet and Jackie
 Marie Hagen and Shotty Stende
 Our Parents
 Grandma Di
 Isaac, Margot, Lucas and Abram

In Thanksgiving:

Our family



A Special Thank You to All our Volunteers

We want to extend a special thank you to all our church members for your support of BSLC this past year. Especially we remember the ones who keep the church clean, who help with sending out newsletters, who work with our Sunday School children and our youth groups, who lead Bible studies and women's groups; to the church council and the elders who oversee the church's needs and those who work with the elderly and others who have special needs. If you want to get more involved, let the church office know. BSLC wishes all of you a very blessed new year!.



Does it really mean something when my pastor forgives my sins?

by Pastor Chris



Have you ever wondered why LCMS pastors pronounce forgiveness of sins with such boldness? Isn't forgiveness something only God can offer? What gives pastors the right?

If we examine the Scriptures, we see Jesus not only gave the disciples the right to forgive sins, but also He gave them His full authority, along with His command. In John 20:21-23, we read: "Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.' And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any,



they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.'"

In verse 21, the word translated as "sent" means to send as an authorized representative. In other words, the one being sent carries the full authority of the one doing the sending. John 20:21-23 tells us that just as the Father sent Jesus, so too does Jesus send the apostles. The apostles, then, are authorized representatives, standing in the stead of Jesus, and thus, are authorized and commanded to speak God's word of forgiveness

to others. Luther writes: "This is not our forgiveness, but God's forgiveness." Thus through human mediators, God's comforting words are spoken directly to penitent sinners on behalf of, in the stead of and by the authority of Jesus himself.

The fruits of this forgiveness are also evident in the passage. In verse 23, the verb translated as "are forgiven" or "are indeed forgiven" are in a tense that indicates present result of past action. This means that when the apostles announce the forgiveness of sins, sins truly are forgiven based on what is said. If the apostles had no authority or command, their words would mean nothing. Yet Jesus assures them: "If you forgive anyone their sins, they are indeed forgiven." This power does not come from the person, but instead from the power of God's word and His promise and command.

That apostles are chosen to carry on the Christ's mission is evidenced by passages such as Matt. 16:19 and Matt. 18:18, along with many others. This becomes especially evident in the Great Commission of Matthew 28, where Jesus states: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.



Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations." Here, Jesus broaches the subject of authority not just as a demand (although it certainly is thus), but instead as an actual passing on of His direct authority to do the work of the kingdom. Of course, this work and authority has been handed down and entrusted to those in the office of the holy ministry. This continues today, a fact evidenced by passages such as Acts 14:23, Titus 1:5, 1 Tim. 3:2 and 2 Tim. 2:2, among others.

So yes, those in the office of the holy ministry not only are able to forgive sins, but also are commanded to forgive sins by Jesus himself, who passes on His authority to forgive sins to human mediators. When pastors speak the absolution, they speak the words with the authority and promise of God himself. This God-given, direct assurance of forgiveness of sins is powerful, bringing sinful believers hope, joy and faith, along with the certainty that God remains active in their lives and still works mightily today among His people.

Pastor Chris

Grace Lutheran School News

Thanks to all who attended *It All Happened In The Country!* The students had a great time telling the story of Jesus' birth in a creative way, and we were delighted that past performers

were able to join us and make Friday evening a special event for all our students.

The 14 annual GLS auction, *Reflecting God's Glory*, is set for Feb. 25, 2012. We would love to have all of you attend this fun evening! We will have more information in upcoming

newsletters and bulletin inserts. Item donations are gratefully accepted in the school office!

Our annual campaign "Fishers of Men" is coming to a close. Thank you for your prayers and donations to this important ministry!



Youth Praise Band

Our Youth Praise Band will practice at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday starting on Jan. 8 and every Sunday thereafter in January. If you have any questions, please call Ramsey at 866-5403.



Assistant Youth Director Sought

Beautiful Savior is seeking a part-time assistant youth director to help with high school and junior high ministry opportunities. These include planning and teaching bible studies on Sunday morning, assisting during youth group on Wednesdays and participating in youth events as schedules permit. This position would be for between five and 10 hours per week. If interested, please see one of the pastors.



January Youth Events

Upcoming Bible Study Opportunities

- Wednesday, Jan. 4 - from 7:45-9 p.m. Youth Group for grades 7-12
- Wednesday, Jan. 11 - from 7:45 to 9 p.m. Destination Unknown for grades 7-12
- Wednesday, Jan. 18 - from 7:45-9 p.m. Youth Group for grades 7-12
- Wednesday, Jan. 25 - No Youth Group

Upcoming Fellowship Events

Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 14-15 – Buena Vista Skiing and Snowboarding Trip.

All those in high school are invited to an overnight trip to Buena Vista. We will leave at 1 p.m. Saturday and return about 8:30 p.m. Sunday. We will have a Bible study Saturday evening and a worship service Sunday before the lifts start. Basic fee for those bringing their own equipment is \$68. This includes lift tickets, lodging, transportation, late night pizza and pop on Saturday and breakfast Sunday morning. Other meals are on your own. If renting skis, the cost is \$78. Renting a snowboard is \$98 for one day or \$118 for both days. Please fill out a form and return to Pastor Chris as soon as possible.



Wednesday, Jan. 18 – Beautiful Savior Game night. People of all ages, including senior high, junior high, and families with younger children are invited for a game night from 7:30-9 p.m. Bring your favorite board game and a treat to share for this fun event!



Sunday, Jan. 29 – Dart Tag, Part 2. All those from sixth through 12th grade are invited to gear up for Dart Tag games from 4-6:30 p.m. Bring your favorite Dart Tag toy and come along for an afternoon of mayhem. Games include "Storm the Castle" and "Behind Enemy Lines." If you do not have dart tag equipment, we will have some available. For more information, please see Pastor Chris.

Upcoming Servant/Fund-Raising Events



Ongoing snack service at Homeless Shelter -- Jesus calls us to have mercy on those suffering around us, and Beautiful Savior is sponsoring a unique opportunity for acts of mercy in our community. All families can help battle homelessness and its effects in the F-M area. On Sunday, many community resources are closed, and hunger becomes an issue. We need volunteers to prepare snacks and meals for residents at the Gladys Ray Shelter, 1519 First Ave. N. in Fargo. Every week, we would like to provide – at minimum – one snack for the 36 residents of the shelter. If you would like to provide more in terms of a full meal, that also is encouraged. All food should be dropped off at 5:30 p.m. at the shelter or can be dropped off Sunday morning at the church. Sign up on the bulletin board located by the nursery or see Pastor Chris for more information.

BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

2601 23rd Ave. SW ■ Fargo, ND 58103

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Contact Us

PHONE : (701) 293-1047
EMAIL: beautifulsavior@ideaone.net
WEB: www.beautifulsaviorfargo.com

Office Hours

9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Monday - Thursday
9 a.m. - noon Friday

Additionally, Pastor Dave and Pastor Chris are available by appointment.

Sunday Schedule

8:15 a.m. Contemporary Worship
9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship
10:45 a.m. Traditional Worship
Sunday School and Bible Study
is held from 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Holy Communion is celebrated on the first and third Sundays of each month.

**Non-Profit
Organization
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CHURCH STAFF

Pastor

David Wagner
701-293-1047

Associate Pastor

Chris Waldvogel
701-293-1047
701-893-6995

Administrative Assistant

Vicki Peihl
701-293-1047

Council Members

Chairman:	Brad Cogdill	237-3821
Vice-Chair:	Robert Gregerson	793-4845
Treasurer:	Mike Herrmann	237-4820
Secretary:	Theresa Gehler	241-9736
Properties:	Scott Simonson	280-2552
Education:	Dawn Thompson	233-6511
Education:	Denise Doeling	237-9378
Stewardship:	Mike Schlichtmann	235-6383
Evangelism:	Connie Eggers	287-3789

Board of Elders

A-Bo	Brian Breitbarth	293-0679
Br-D	Maurice Brandt	235-3502
E-G	Tim Deitemeyer	793-2220
H-K	Jeff Abrahams	218-234-8592
L-N	Pastor Paul	241-4610
O-R	Terry Stevahn	298-6471
S	Dave Eggers	218-287-3789
T-Z	Steve Thielman	293-7933

Other Volunteers

LWML President:	Rhonda Hoge	239-9800
Prayer Chain Coordinator:	Shirley Nordstrom	277-1185
Sunday School:	Dawn Thompson	233-6511
Choir Director:	Ramsey Dahl	237-9009
Flower Coordinator:	Mardi Schlichtmann	235-6383
RRLA Board Representatives:	Carrie Berglind	371-3631
	Jane Thielman	293-7933

THIS PUBLICATION

ENLIGHTEN is a monthly publication of Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church.