

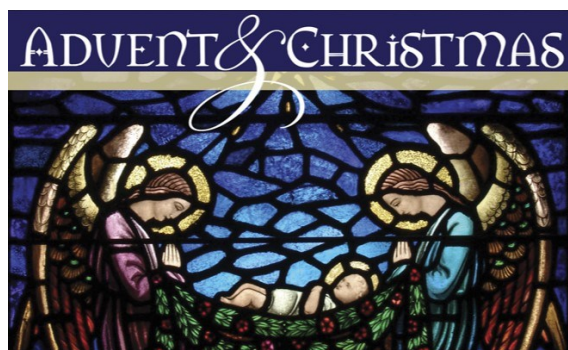
## December 2014

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### Decorate the Church

You are invited to help decorate the church Tuesday, Dec. 2. Come anytime after 6:30 p.m. on. It usually takes about an hour. Thanks for your help!



### Schedule of Events

#### Decorate Church

6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 2

#### Wednesdays in Advent

Dec. 3, 10 and 17

6 p.m. Soup and Sandwich Suppers

7 p.m. Midweek Worship Services

#### Munchies for Missions

11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 6

### Children's Christmas Programs

Sunday, Dec. 14

8:15 a.m. Preschool through 2nd grade

10:45 a.m. 3rd through 6th grades

#### Christmas Eve Worship

3:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. Dec. 24

#### Christmas Day Worship

10 a.m. Dec. 25

(Holy Communion Celebrated)

#### New Year's Eve Worship

At Immanuel Lutheran Church

7 p.m. on Dec. 31

### Unused Gifts

#### Word from Pastor Dave

As Christmas Eve approaches, many people still wonder what type of gift they should give to others on their list. I have to acknowledge that my wife, Kim, is the one who does the majority of Christmas shopping. She finds it easy to buy gifts for our grandchildren as well as other small children. However, as children grow into their teens and beyond, it often gets harder to find a gift that they appreciate. An obvious choice for us and many others is to give a gift card. My wife and I have given and received many of them. It is a good way to give something that will not be returned right away. But this doesn't mean that the card will be used.



I came across an interesting piece of information about gift cards from a couple of years ago. It stated that about 80 percent of shoppers planned to purchase gift cards as a part of their holiday shopping. But according to estimates reported in the *Journal of State Taxation*, the typical American home has an average of \$300 in unused or "unredeemed" gift cards. These cards are often misplaced, accidentally thrown out, or only partially redeemed. \$41 billion in gift cards went unused between 2005 and 2011. (Continued on next page.)

(“Unused Cards” from page 1)

I was first surprised by that number. Gifts that were given had not been used. But the more I thought about it, the more it was not so surprising. The reason is because this happens all the time with the gifts that God gives to His creatures.

We believe that God is the source of all the good things that we have here on earth. However, His greatest gift was when He sent His Son to be the Savior of the world. And just what do people—including us—do with the gifts that God gives us for daily living as well as the gift of life and salvation in His Son? Unfortunately, we often forget, pass over or fail to appreciate what has been given by our Lord.

There is no possible way we can place a value on the life God has given us spiritually and physically as well as the continued support we need. But God’s response to us is amazing. For the Lord, as the Giver of all good things, never stops giving. Such is His love for you, me and all people.

God’s gift of daily bread continually comes to us. The same is true of the spiritual blessings that we have in Christ. As we gather in worship around God’s Word and Sacraments, we also continue to receive His gifts.

As Christmas approaches, I pray that you will not only think about the gifts that you give to others, but that you would think about and appreciate all of God’s gifts to you. It will also make your Christmas merry.

Your servant in Christ,

*Pastor Dave*

## Voters' Meeting at 9:30 a.m. Sunday., Dec. 7

2015 budget and a bylaw change to be discussed

Besides our regular business, we will discuss two other major items. One is the 2015 budget. The other is to vote on a motion to make some changes to our bylaws. The possibility of changing our bylaws was brought up at our last two voters' meetings. Pastor Dave also announced in advance and discussed this issue on Oct. 19 and Nov. 16. At these discussions, Pastor Dave shared a 2004 guideline from our Synod that said, “There is no ‘Thus says the Lord’ regarding positions such as president (chairman) and vice president (vice chairman). These are offices established by the church in Christian freedom. Scripture does not prohibit women who possess the requisite gifts from holding these humanly-established offices.” A motion by the Church Council has been made to strike out the words indicated below from our

bylaws found in Article 1 on Membership, Section C.2.b. regarding the privileges and duties of voting members. At the present time, women are able to hold all positions on the church council except those of chairman, vice chairman and elders. If this motion passes, it will enable women to hold the office of chairperson or vice-chairperson.

**Only male members shall hold the office of chairman, vice chairman and serve as elders.**

Discussion of this issue will occur at the voters' meeting before any vote is taken. If you would like to talk about this or any other issue before the voters' meeting, please contact one of pastors (Pastor Dave at 701-866-4694; Pastor Chris, 701-893-6995;) or Brad Cogdill, our current chairman at 701-237-3821.



## Copies of Budget Available to View

At the Dec. 7 voters' meeting, we will discuss and vote on the budget proposal from the Church Council. Copies of the proposed budget are Available at the church office, or call the office to have a copy mailed or e-mailed to you.

## Nominations Needed

Lay leaders make up our Board of Elders and our Church Council and help to lead and support the ministry at BSLC. In January, a nominating committee will begin their work in preparation for elections in March. If you are interested in serving on the nominating committee, please contact either pastor or Mike Schlichtmann, director of stewardship.

## Potluck Advent Soup and Sandwich Suppers

In December, you are invited to join us for soup and sandwich suppers at 6 p.m. and then stay for the advent services. Bring soup, sandwiches or treats to share. This year we are asking our service groups to do the setup and clean-up for the Advent Soup and Sandwich Suppers. Please help your service group captain if you can. The groups and dates of service are:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Captain</u>	<u>Last Name</u>
Dec. 3	Donna Ceroll	A-Bo
Dec. 10	Wanda Roesler	Br-D
Dec. 17	Diane Knutson-Lee	E-G

## New BSLC Members in 2014

Our newest members were welcomed during the worship services Nov. 16. May God bless you and help you grow in your faith as you attend BSLC.

Travis Brien  
Joanne Just  
Terry and Sara Stegman  
Adam and Andrea Berge  
Josiah and Mattea

Lyle Palmer  
Justin and Bethany Hughes  
Lyla and Jake

Kari Dahlstrom

## December Service

Maggie Stende is our captain for the month of December. Our group consists of the last names that begin with the letter S. She will call you asking for fellowship treats or to help out with a funeral or other events. Thanks for your support of our church.

## Cradle Roll Graduates

Our young children that are ready to enter Sunday School were honored at both services Sunday, Nov. 23, with a book given as part of the gift of God's word.

Jace Wolf	Arrington Sheeley
Aspen Pallum	Owen Hashbarger
Madix Adam	Cooper Pytlik
Kade Hegseth	Natalee Kubista
Tayla Larson	Harper Larson
Otto Mann	Kinsley Hoesel
Myla Croaker	Presley Roller
Emily Mohr	Kinley Sellden
John Cofield	Kendal Knudson

## Sunday School and Adult Bible Study Schedule in December

There will be no Sunday school or adult Bible study on Dec. 21 and 28. Both will resume on Jan. 4.

## All BSLC Women's Christmas celebration

LWML members and all women of congregation are invited to our Christmas celebration that will begin at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 11. It will be held at Marlene and Larry Berseth's home, 1670 E. Gateway Circle, No. 310, Fargo. There will be a white elephant gift exchange, Christmas carols and an ingathering to be announced.

## Christmas Poinsettias

Don't forget to purchase a poinsettia in memory or in honor of a loved one for this Christmas season. The sign-up sheets are on the table in the narthex. The cost is \$12. After Christmas, you may take your poinsettia(s) home with you.



## Offering Envelopes

2015 offering envelopes will be available to pick up in the narthex next week. Thank you for picking them up promptly.

## "Simply Giving"

Automatic Withdrawal for Offerings

Members can choose to have their offerings automatically deducted from their checking or savings account. It is simple to sign up for or to change. Contact the church office for the forms to set up these types of donations.



## Baptisms

Nov. 2 - Jayce Reese Marcks, son of Megan Marcks, born Oct. 17, 2014. His sponsors were Allen Zutz, Steve Zutz, Lee Zutz and Katelynn Mastin

Nov. 9 - Noah Grey Driscoll, son of Jillian Driscoll and Levi Grey, born Oct. 15, 2014. His sponsors were Shane Driscoll and Jessica Driscoll.

Nov. 9 - Levi Grey, adult baptism. Levi was born June 2, 1990.

Nov. 23 - Atem Manyang  
Atem, son of Manyang  
Atem Cheingkou and  
Martha Aluel.



## BSLC Coffee Club

Our BSLC members meet at 9 a.m. on Fridays at Randy's University Diner, 2130 University Dr. S. This time of fellowship is to get to know other BSLC members and is for both men and women of any age. Join us any Friday you can.

## Grace School News

The Christmas Musical, "Camel Lot," will be held at 7 p.m. on Dec. 11 and 12. Come hear their wonderful program.

The Grace Lutheran School Dinner and Auction will be at 5 p.m. Saturday, March 28, at the Ramada Plaza Suites, Fargo. Tickets are \$50 and can be purchased by calling 232-7747. Our early bird "Grandparent ticket rate" of \$35.00 is available Dec. 1-12. It is not required to be a current grandparent of a Grace student; however this rate is only for grandparents.

The Grace Lutheran School Auction Committee Meeting will meet at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 8, at the school. This is open to anyone who would like to find out more and offer their help. Volunteers are needed to help make donation "asks" to area businesses for the Grace Lutheran School Auction. Please e-mail Kari Lugo, auction chair, at [marketing@grace.com](mailto:marketing@grace.com) for an official list if you can help.

## Thank You

Thank you to Chris and Shelley Speelmon for their hard work in keeping the church clean this year. Due to job changes, they are no longer able to be our custodians. BSLC appreciates your time and efforts in keeping our church clean!

## Our New Custodian

Welcome to Kym Gilman, who is our new custodian. Kim and her husband, Drew, have two girls and are members at BSLC.

## Gold Club Lunch

Noon, Wednesday, Dec. 17

Calling all BSLC members age 55 and older and/or retirees: come to our monthly potluck! It's a fun time to share good food and visit with others. We will meet at noon Wednesday, Dec. 17, in the fellowship hall. See you there!

## Elder of the Month

Dave Eggers is our Elder for December. He will assist the pastors if there are any needs, greet members and visitors and help see that things run smoothly. Please take time to get to know our elders and let them know if you have any ideas or concerns for our church.



## Save Labels and Box Tops

Please continue to save Campbell's and General Mills Box Tops for Education, My Coke Rewards points from bottle caps and box codes, SunMart and Family Fare receipts, Our Family brand bar codes, and Cash Wise education points from the bottom of the receipt. There is a collection bin next to the water fountain in the narthex at BSLC, or you can drop them off at the school in the front hallway. Thank you.

## Please Save Your Used Stamps

Please continue to bring in your used stamps and place them in the drawer marked stamps by the LWML kiosk.

# High-profile news stories demonstrate need for Godly discernment

Many stories in the news have left our culture divided and angry. From NFL running back Ray Rice to comedian Bill Cosby to Ferguson (Mo.) police officer Darren Wilson, everybody wants justice. But problems arise because people come at these issues from different angles. In addition, we all carry preconceived notions, prejudices, blind spots and – most importantly – a fallen, sinful, broken nature that compromises and limits our sense of justice.

For obvious reasons, I do not intend to comment on any of these cases, but I do think it necessary to help Christians navigate the division and hatred. As always, God's Word empowers us to approach all things with a wise and discerning heart while granting us a hope that things would work out for the glory of God and the benefit of neighbor.

## 1. Apply tension-filled balance of law and Gospel.

Putting your finger on the pulse of the nation remains a challenge because the culture races in two very different, yet equally satanic, directions. The first demands complete and total individuality without any regard for God and neighbor. It stirs us to go our own way, make our dreams come true and fulfill every need and desire, no matter the cost. On the other hand, the second seeks to take those caught in sin and destroy them. It wants nothing but punishment with no quarter or mercy. Both attitudes stem from the devil and our sinful flesh. There must be a proper balance.

God's law leads us in the right direction. It shows us what is good, true, trustworthy and wise. It also helps keep our confidence in check because it shows us we are not perfect. God's holy law leads us to confess that we are sinners, deserving of God's punishment. The Gospel then gives us peace and pardon through a merciful God, who forgives us for Christ's sake.

Law and Gospel work together to elect and save, but they also help keep justice in perspective to avoid discord and hatred. Law and Gospel work together to ensure that we avoid the "me first" attitude while also foregoing the need to merely punish, punish, punish.

## 2. Realize God has established two very different justice systems.

In Romans 13, Paul writes, "Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God." Jesus told Pilate as much. Although our courts are not perfect, they have been instituted by God to administer justice. When people

commit a crime against neighbor, that crime should be reported, and the person should face the appropriate consequences. We, as citizens, should respect the court's decision or allow established legal procedures to take their course. It is not the public's job to establish guilt or innocence or to punish.

Christians know that all our sins deserve a death sentence from God. But in regard to our salvation, God does not deal with us according to what we deserve, no matter how egregious. God has placed upon Christ our sins and iniquities. Those with true faith in Jesus receive divine pardon for their crimes. Keep in mind this does not mean that people should not receive temporal punishment or consequence for crimes as detailed by the paragraph above.

## 3. Realize your limitations in determining justice

When humans are involved in the situation, there also will be sin involved. Many times, you do not know who is telling the truth and who is lying. You do not know which side is accurate. You cannot see the heart. You never have all the information, and some of the information you do have is built upon assumptions, misperceptions and falsehood. In high profile cases, you are not close to the situation, so it behooves you not to judge or demand a punishment of your choosing, which stands to be unjust.

## 4. Leave justice to the Lord and His means

God is the perfect judge. In many cases, the authority he established does its job, punishing the evildoer and keeping citizens safe. If concerns arise, we have the right as citizens to peaceably seek reform and change as needed. Every so often, justice seems to fail, but taking matters into your own hands exceeds your authority. Remember your fallen, sinful, broken nature compromises and limits your sense of justice.

Ultimately, justice will be done by God. Those who have done evil and have not believed in God's one and only son will face condemnation, while those in faith receive salvation. And like Jonah the prophet, do not begrudge God's mercy. If you do, you call into question your own righteousness, which has only been given through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

## 5. Pray

It's easy to dismiss this one. Regardless of how you feel about Rice, Cosby or Wilson, pray for them. Pray for those affected by the situation around them. Pray for justice and peace, knowing that God ultimately delivers both through.

*Pastor Chris*

## The Christmas County Spelling Bee

Our Christmas practice dates are listed below. Thank you for bringing your children to practice each week.

Nov. 29	No Practice	Happy Thanksgiving!
Dec. 6	2-3 p.m. 3-4 p.m.	Electric Eleven All third- to sixth-graders
Dec. 13	2-4:30 p.m. 4:30 p.m.	<b>Dress rehearsal</b> Pizza party
Dec. 14	10 a.m.  10:45 a.m.	All third- to sixth-graders practice and warm up <b>Program</b>

Our Electric Eleven students are listed below:

Lexi Doeling	Nathan Krause
Mollie Gilman	Leah Tykwinski
Chloe Thompson	Nate Thielman
Dani Hjelden	Lydia McArthur
Alison Hoerer	Elizabeth Krause
Benjamin Thielman	

## Christmas party for Kindergarten to Fifth Grade kids set Dec. 19

All our youth from kindergarten to fifth grade are invited to a Christmas party from 5:30 to 7:30 Friday, Dec. 19. Each child should bring a new, wrapped gift between \$8 to \$10. Each present should be gender neutral, if possible. However, if it is a gift for a girl or boy, please indicate that on the tag. Please fill out a form and turn in to the church office. Questions? Please call Jamie Waldvogel at 893-6996.

## Lending a Helping Hand

In the first part of November, Chuck Hoge and Pastor Dave fixed a broken window and helped



with other projects needing attention around the home of Francis Soe to prepare it for winter. Their efforts were greatly appreciated by Francis and her family.

If you know of someone who may need some help, please contact the church office or one of the pastors.

## Preschoolers-Second Graders Christmas Program Practice

Our preschoolers through second-graders look forward to sharing the news about the birth of Jesus during the upcoming Christmas program! Please work with your children to learn the songs. CDs are still available for your child. Practice will be on the following dates at the church

**Saturday, Nov. 29:** Thanksgiving weekend; no practice. Have a good holiday!

**Saturday, Dec. 6:**

Preschool and Kindergarten 10-10:30 a.m.

First- and second-graders 10:35-11:15 a.m.

**Saturday, Dec. 13:**

Preschool and Kindergarten 9 a.m.-9:45 a.m.

First- and second-graders 9 a.m.-10:15 a.m.

**Sunday, Dec. 14 Program** 8:15 a.m.

## Daniel Mapur and Samuel Majak Installed as Vicars

On Sunday, Nov. 23, there was a special joint worship service with the Sudanese community. At the 10:45 a.m. service, Daniel and Samuel were installed as vicars of Beautiful Savior Lutheran under the supervision of Pastor Dave and Pastor Chris. Daniel and Samuel will work mainly with the Sudanese. However, Pastor Dave and Pastor Chris will have them assist with certain duties at our worship in the months and years to come.

Please keep Daniel, Samuel as well as all the South Sudanese here and in Africa in your prayers.







# BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

2601 23rd Ave. S., Fargo, ND 58103

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## Contact Us

PHONE : (701) 293-1047  
EMAIL: office@bslcfargo.org  
WEB: www.beautifulsaviorfargo.com

## Office Hours

9:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday  
9:30 a.m.—noon Friday

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

## Worship Schedule

Sunday Worship at 8:15 and 10:45 a.m.

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

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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:	Dan Berglund	371-4499
Education:	Carrie Drees (480)	748-0383
Stewardship:	Mike Schlichtmann	235-6383
Evangelism:	Tim Deitemeyer	793-2220

## Board of Elders

A-Bo	Paul Asche	297-9316
Br-D	Dave Anderson	218-298-0135
E-G	Matthew Deardoff	605-261-3013
H-K	Nathan Gannon	205-4606
L-N	Craig Hashbarger	541-0930
O-R	Adam Tykwinski	793-8170
S	Dave Eggers	218-287-3789
T-Z	Steve Thielman	293-7933

## Other Volunteers

LWML President:	Mary Seiffert	241-9032
Prayer Chain Coordinator:	Shirley Nordstrom	277-1185
Choir Director:	Ramsey Dahl	237-9009
RRLA Board Representatives:	Brad Palmer	364-9775
	Jane Thielman	293-7933
Financial Secretary:	Beth Gustafson	239-9090

## THIS PUBLICATION

ENLIGHTEN is a monthly publication of Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church.