

June 2015

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

Surprise, Surprise! Your Pastor is a Sinner!

Word from Pastor Chris

It was a rite of passage.

Every year, this particular LCMS church in a Midwestern suburb would call a vicar. The church would welcome him into their fold, into their worship, into their classrooms, into their lives and into their homes.

One family, in particular, proved eager to welcome the new church worker. After some pleasant conversation and lovely refreshments, the family turned to the business at hand: making sure the new vicar knew -- in full -- all the ways that the church's pastor had disappointed the family over the years. They hoped the vicar would not make the same mistakes.

I've heard that pastors are held to a higher standard. Perhaps that is somewhat biblical as Paul lists several criteria for the office. But high standards often cross the line into impossible standards. Believe it or not, your pastors are human, too. They make mistakes, drop the ball and require Christ's forgiveness. They also require your forgiveness from time to time.

(Continued on page 2.)

Summer Worship Sunday Services at 8:30 and 10 a.m.

7 p.m. Midweek Wednesday
Service begins June 3

Please note that worship times have changed for the summer. From 9:30-10 a.m., we offer a time of fellowship with refreshments. Our midweek worship service will start at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, June 3, and will continue through the middle of August. There will be no midweek worship June 10 due to Vacation Bible School.



Join Our "Rock Solid" VBS

Life can sometimes throw obstacles in our way when it comes to our faith. This year's Vacation Bible School lets us know God overcomes those obstacles through His love in Jesus Christ.

"Everest," this year's VBS, will be held from 6-8:30 p.m. from Sunday, June 7, to Thursday, June 11. This adventure is filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences that kids see, hear, and touch! Bible Point crafts, team-building games and cool Bible songs are just a few of the activities that help faith come alive into everyday life. All kids from age 4 to sixth grade may attend.

Dinner also will be offered from 5:15-5:45 p.m. every night for a cost of \$3 per person.



Surprise!

(Continued from page 1.)

Paul, the great church planter and New Testament author, knew of his own shortcomings even as he preached and taught the Gospel:

"The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen," (1 Tim. 1:15-17).

God has a tendency for making His power perfect in weakness. He uses sinful, fallen broken pastors to deliver his message of forgiveness for Christ's sake. Yes, even your pastors need Jesus.

That's because church is not about your pastor; it's about Jesus. It is to this King and His Word that every pastor commits himself by oath as he assumes office. In this, pastors cannot yield, soften, toss out or compromise. To this, above all else, true pastors must cling even in the face of persecution, and even death.

To this, true pastors obey God rather than men and suffer all things: Namely, true pastors preach and teach Christ crucified as the only way to heaven. True pastors hold fast to God's Word in controversial matters such as human sexuality, closed communion, the pastoral office and creation, among others.

After all, Luther explains what pastors owe God's people:

"He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it," (Titus 1:9).

Pastor Chris

Tuesday Evening Bible Study

7 p.m. on Tuesdays (no study on June 9)

The Tuesday evening Bible study are learning about the 12 disciples. Can you name all the disciples? Do you know what each one did after Jesus' death and resurrection? Come learn more about Jesus' faithful followers. Each lesson is individual, so come any Tuesday you can.



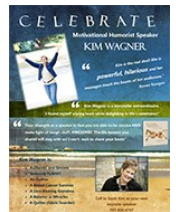
Mark Hill, Concordia St. Paul President
Thomas Ries, Joan, Gerry and Pastor Dave

Fiechtners Receive Award From Concordia College

Concordia University in St. Paul awarded Gerry and Joan Fiechtner the **Aeterna Moliri Award** in May. This award is given to those who support the mission and ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ at Concordia St. Paul. The president of Concordia University, Tom Ries, came to Fargo along with Mark Hill to present this award to the Fiechtners. Pastor Dave was also in attendance. "Aeterna Moliri" is Latin for "Building for Eternity."

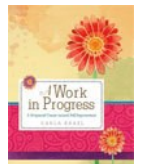
Kim Wagner Publishes Book

Kim Wagner recently published a book entitled "Saying Goodbye to the Girls." In this book, Kim shares how she navigated the darkness of her journey with cancer with the support of family, friends and her Christian faith. She encourages everyone to celebrate the blessings that God gives to us each day.



Women's Bible Study

"A Work in Progress" addresses our desire for self-improvement and puts God's Word at the center of the discussion. Each lesson talks about a contemporary, worldly topic and probes the question of personal growth while searching God's Word for the answers. There is a dual emphasis in "A Work in Progress:" a lawful "what we should do and how we should act," coupled with a focus on Jesus' love and forgiveness for our human shortcomings. The study meets at 9 a.m. Thursdays or 5:30 p.m. Mondays.



LWML 2015 DES MOINES CONVENTION



Date: June 25-28, 2015

Location: Des Moines, Iowa

Theme: "Bountiful! Sow • Nourish • Reap"

Scripture Verse: And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work (2 Cor. 9:8 NIV).

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Dr. James Lamb, executive director of National Lutherans for Life

Humorous Interrupter: Jan Struck

Registration: Go to www.lwml.org to register or to find out more details.

LWML News

9,000 miles of nursing -A big thank you to Kayla Schlichtmann for sharing her Kenya nursing trip experience with us on May 14. We heard about many fascinating things, saw special items she brought back from Kenya and were happy to hear of times they were able to donate money at times when they noticed the need.

After Kayla's talk, the LWML served refreshments. At their meeting they welcomed Shirley Elsner as a new member of BLSC LWML.

Please remember to keep feeding your mite box during the summer or drop in your loose change in the big LWML box at church after worship. Mites help support missions such as ND full-time church workers scholarships, All Faith's Chapel music ministry in Grafton, Sudanese Pastor training, new playground at Shepherd's Hill Retreat and many other missions. Our next "Loose Change" Sunday will be Aug. 30, the fifth Sunday in August.



Thank You

A special thanks to the LWML for their donation to my Kenya trip. We were able to help provide meals for children and diapers and formula to the hospital to distribute as needed! Thanks to everyone who came for my presentation, I enjoyed sharing my experiences with you!

Kayla Schlichtmann



June Service Group



Mary Seiffert is our captain for the month of June. Our group consists of the last names that begin with the letters L-N. 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.

Office Summer Hours for Vicki



Starting June 1, the church office hours for Vicki will be 9:30 a.m.—1 p.m. Monday through Thursdays. The office will not be open on Fridays during the summer. If a need arises after office hours, please call one of the pastors' cell phones.

Baptisms

May 3 - Jameson August Olson son of Isaac and Sarah Olson, born Sept. 10, 2013. His sponsors were Stacy Doerr, Pat and Kelly Kenney.



May 24 - Elysia Josephine Gietzen, daughter of Raph and Nicole Gietzen, born April 15, 2015. Her sponsor was Samantha Rieck.

Weddings

May 23 - Kelsey Ann Dale and Dennis Joel Freborg



Gold Club Lunch

Noon, Wednesday, June 17.

FELLOWSHIP



DINNER

Are you age 55 and/or older and/or retired? You are invited to attend our monthly potluck! Bring your favorite dish to share and visit with other BSLC members. We will meet at noon Wednesday, June 17, in the fellowship hall.

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. Come any Friday you can.



Coffee Fellowship

New Members Corner

Please welcome Alissa Schwieger and William Bayuk to our church. Alissa moved to Fargo when she attended NDSU and she graduated with a business degree in 2010.



Will moved here in 2009 from Cokato, MN, and started at NDSU in 2013. They both like to spend time with family and friends and go to the lake on weekends. Will also enjoys hunting and fishing. Both really enjoy how nice and welcoming our church is and how comfortable they feel here. It reminds Alissa of her home church in Marshall, MN. We are glad to have you here!

Harlan and Esther Wallum Scholarship Fund

Are you thinking about where you or your children may go for college? Consider one of our LCMS universities. Grants are available to assist youth and adults who wish to begin, continue or advance their education from an LCMS university or seminary. Applications are available in the church office.

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 Used Stamps

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

On May 19, Matthew Harrison, president of the Lutheran-Church Missouri Synod, released a letter to LCMS pastors to address issues related to an upcoming U.S. Supreme Court ruling on same-sex marriage and its possible implications for the church. Because this could deeply affect our church, the content of the letter is printed below.

In the face of another radical cultural shift—a denial of God and His creation, a rejection of Christ, the Ten Commandments and God-given natural law (Rom. 1) —a great Lutheran responded with truths that are also true for our times:

The lie is the death of man, his temporal and his eternal death. The lie kills nations. The powerful nations of the world have been laid waste because of their lies. History knows of no more unsettling sight than the judgment rendered upon the people of an advanced culture who have rejected the truth and are swallowed upon in a sea of lies. Where this happens, as in the case of declining pagan antiquity, religion and law, poetry and philosophy, life in marriage and family, in the state and society—in short, one sphere of life after another falls sacrifice to the power and curse of the lie. Where man can no longer bear the truth, he cannot live without the lie. Where man denies that he and others are dying, the terrible dissolution [of his culture] is held up as a glorious ascent, and decline is viewed as an advance, the likes of which has never been experienced. (Hermann Sasse, *Union and Confession*, 1936.)

In a few weeks, the U.S. Supreme Court is expected to rule on the legality of same-sex marriage and roll out the implications of that ruling for individual states. I expect the ruling to create an alleged constitutional right to same-sex marriage, contrary to God's created orders, natural law and the inerrant Scriptures. This will be the earnest beginning of a long struggle for faithful Christians who will, more and more, be driven from participation in the culture. We shall come to know and understand parts of the Word of God like never before. "But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ" (Phil. 3:20).

Brothers, the battle has already been won. Our Lord, Jesus Christ, has already defeated the foe. Satan surrendered at Golgotha. It is finished. But what do we do? If the Supreme Court rules that same-sex marriage is legal in every state or must be recognized in every state, what is our response?

We stand fast (2 Thess. 2:15). We live in and by our Savior, who calls us to stay the course, repent of our sin and be in the Word of God and prayer. We redouble our teaching on God's gift of marriage. We show love and mercy to those harmed by the

dissolution of God's ordering of marriage and family, intended for protection for all. We take legal action where absolutely necessary. "Public remedy, made through the office of the public official, is not condemned, but is commanded and is God's work, according to Paul (Romans 13)" (Apology XVI 59).

The plan fits the nature of the Church: she is enduring and eternal. She speaks Christ's forgiveness and peace to men and women struggling with same-sex attraction and heterosexual attraction alike, in and out of season. She doesn't do flash-in-the-pan or drive-by ministry. She works in the world for the long haul. She doesn't change her tune or stop her singing. She keeps telling real people about a real Jesus, from black-robed Supreme Court justices to the protestors on the steps of that building to the young people in college watching the ruling unfold to those of us who never imagined we would see this seismic shift in our lifetime. She lives to demonstrate the mercy and love of Christ (1 John 3:15ff).

Most importantly, she speaks of the One who came for sinners—all sinners—and of the One who showed His love for us by dying for us. She simply stays the course.

That's why you, dear brothers in the Office, will need our prayers in the days ahead. And you have them. Legal marriage may be redefined, and outcomes we never imagined will occur. But these don't surprise or alarm us. The crumbling culture proves that what began in the Garden of Eden is still prevalent today, that we are sinners among sinners, that we are all in need of Christ's mercy and grace. This world is wending its way toward the end (Matt. 25). The story ends well (Rev. 7). That is what those in the pew and those disenchanted by the people in the pew need to hear, and will always need to hear, the most.

Beyond the theological consequences of this ruling, however, there are also practical implications, and I urge you to consider the following:

(1) The Synod's legal team is carefully examining the potential ramifications of this case. It will likely be a messy ruling that will require time to unpack. We may discover that there is ultimately no constitutional protection for the Synod, its institutions, you or your congregation. We don't know, but we will be reporting back to you with our findings.

(Continued on page 6.)

Summer Worship

Summer is here, and many of you are gone on the weekends to the lake, traveling or for sports events. So take time to attend church at 7 p.m. Wednesday evenings.



Also remember the church still has monthly bills to pay so if you can't make it here, mail in your pledge or sign up for "Simply Giving." This is an automatic withdrawal for offerings that can come out once or twice a month from your savings or checking account. For more details or to obtain a form, call the church office. Thanks for your support, and may summer 2015 be a sunny and safe one!

Please Update Your Information

Do we have your latest phone number? Many of you have dropped your land line, but BSLC doesn't have your cell numbers. With the new monthly teams, our leaders are unable to reach some of our loyal members.

Also if you go to the lakes for the summer, please let the church office know. Newsletters are not forwarded, and the church is charged each time one comes back. By letting the office know, a newsletter can be e-mailed to you each month until you return home. Thanks!

Grace School Openings

Principal and Teachers

It was announced to school families that Principal Jean Syverson will be leaving at the end of the school year. A search committee has been formed to find a new principal. We are looking to members of our congregations to submit any names of potential candidates. Grace Lutheran School also will have a second grade and a middle school English position available. If you would like to submit names of LCMS-rostered candidates for any of these positions, please contact your RRLSA Board members or pastor.



Harrison Letter (Continued from page 5.)

(2) Your congregation should give serious thought to obtaining counsel from your own attorney. Also consider utilizing the Synod's document on marriage policies for member congregations, which offers sample provisions limiting the use of church property to marriages that are consistent with LCMS beliefs. The day may come when even this legal protection will not be enough, but it may assist you and your congregational leadership in forestalling issues as long as possible.

(3) Be prepared to discuss what marriage will look like in the future. Will LCMS pastors eventually be forced, as agents of the state, to perform same-sex marriages? If that happens, will we be prepared to let the state perform the legal marriage ceremony, while we as pastors provide a religious ceremony for those marriages that are in keeping with our confession of faith as Lutheran Christians? We must have these discussions as pastors and as a Synod, and we may even need to make decisions at the next Synod convention in the summer of 2016.

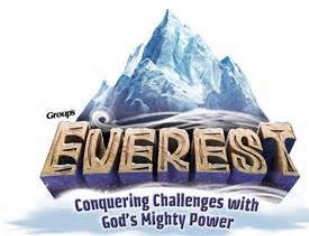
(4) Know that I, as Synod president, stand with you. What protections will the Synod or even the Constitution offer you? I don't know. But here is what I am personally sure of: The Gospel is enduring. It never changes. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. We as pastors are called to repent and to be faithful to Him—and to His Gospel—alone. Will we be fined for not performing same-sex marriages? Potentially. Will we be thrown in jail? Maybe.

But make no mistake, the battle has been won. The devil has been defeated. The Victor reigns triumphant in mercy, love and truth. The Gospel knows no limits, but proclaims the gracious kingdom of our Lord to all, through Christ's Word and Sacraments.

The temptation will be to run out into the melee, to abandon the home front or to give up all together. But we are called instead to repent, to be ready, to move confidently into the future, come what may. We speak the truth in love to all. We share Christ's forgiveness with each person He sets in our path.

The Lord will work all things for good, even these trying times. He is faithful, brothers. He will do it.

VBS Tackles Faith Obstacles



Are you ready for this year's Vacation Bible School? VBS will be held from 6-8:15 p.m. from Sunday, June 7, to Thursday, June 11. Dinner also will be

offered from 5:15-5:45 p.m. every night for a cost of \$3 per person. VBS is filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences that kids see, hear, and touch! Bible Point crafts, team-building games and cool Bible songs are just a few of the activities that help us remember that even though obstacles get in our way, God is faithful. All kids from age 4 to sixth grade may attend. Please pre-register your child for this summer adventure!

VBS CREW LEADER MEETING

All those who have volunteered to be crew leaders for VBS should attend one of two upcoming training sessions from 7-8:15 on Tuesday, June 2, or Thursday, June 4. Both meetings will be held in Room 101 at church.

Summer Bible Camps

Send your child off to summer Bible camp. There are camps for any age, even grandparents! You can go to fish, to ride horse, for geocaching, guitar, kayaking and much more. Take home a brochures from the narthex or go to the camp websites for more information. Shepherd's Hill at the Crossroads website is shretreat.org. It is located by the Peace Gardens. Lutheran Island Camp website is www.islandcamp.org. It is located on East Battle Lake, MN.



VBS Donations Needed



We are blessed to have a supportive congregation at BSLC when it comes to needing items for VBS. If you would like to donate, there are slips on a table by the coat room with the items that are needed. Please take a slip and then indicate on the attached spreadsheet what items you will be donating. This list helps us remember what you planned to donate in case you forget. The items should be brought to the church no later than June 2. Thanks for your donations to help our VBS.

June Youth Events

Upcoming Bible Study Opportunities

Wednesday, June 3 - Lutheran Youth Fellowship for grades 7-12

Wednesday, June 10 - No Youth Meeting

Wednesday, June 17 - Lutheran Youth Fellowship for grades 7-12

Wednesday, June 24 - Lutheran Youth Fellowship for grades 7-12



Upcoming Fellowship Events.



Thursday, June 24, and Friday, June 25: Family Canoe Trip. All Beautiful Savior families are invited to take a few days to get back to nature for a family canoe trip. More information will be coming soon.

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 p.m. Monday-Thursday

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

Worship Schedule

Sunday worship at 8:30 and 10 a.m.

Wednesday worship 7 p.m. (no worship June 10)

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:	LeAnn Herrmann	318-1360
Treasurer:	Mike Herrmann	318-1359
Secretary:	Theresa Gehler	241-9736
Properties:	Dan Berglund	371-4499
Education:	Bobbi Hestdalen	540-2218
Stewardship:	Jean Berard	532-0245
Evangelism:	Lori Pytlik	281-5275

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		
T-Z	Steve Thielman	218-820-7604

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	218-330-2989
Financial Secretary:	Beth Gustafson	239-9090

THIS PUBLICATION

ENLIGHTEN is a monthly publication of Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church.