

ENLIGHTEN

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church
Fargo, North Dakota

Newsletter December 2015

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Receiving Gifts

by Pastor Chris

As a kid, I always looked forward to receiving gifts on Christmas morning. Even all these years later, giving and receiving gifts remains a treasured tradition for me.

I think it's a mistake for Christians to vilify gift giving during Christmas when giving gifts is one way to express love and appreciation for someone else. It also allows others to show their love and appreciation for you.

The Christmas gifts we give to one another also point us to a God who gives us good gifts as well. We do well to remember that God pours out gifts each and every day, granting and supplying all that we need to support this body and life. Our daily blessings provide a snapshot of a generous God bestowing bountiful gifts all life long.

During Advent, we recall the anticipation of our Lord's first coming while eagerly awaiting His promised return. As we enter the Christmas season, we remember our Lord's birth and the fulfillment of God's promises of a Savior. The Christ child certainly tops our list of best gifts!

(Continued on next page.)



Special Worship Services

Wednesdays in Advent

Dec. 2, 9 and 16

6 p.m. Soup and Sandwich Supper

7 p.m. Midweek Worship Service

Children's Christmas Programs

Sunday, Dec. 20

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

7 p.m. on Dec. 31

at Grace Lutheran Church

(continued from page 1.)

God also pours out His gifts during the divine service and study of His Word. Here, Christians receive the forgiveness of sins freely given in Christ through the means of grace that grant us the faith to graciously receive these gifts. Here, God is working, acting and giving. Here God has promised to give us the power of salvation for those who believe. Here we receive the Holy Spirit. Here, we remember where the best gifts can be found!

I love receiving gifts! And the best ones are not found in a mall or online but by Christians gathering in worship. No Black Friday deal can top the value of

Good Friday. It is on a lonely hill outside Jerusalem where the Christ took our death, our scorn, our shame, our sentence and our sin. It is here that he gave sinners an inheritance that will last forever: holy, precious and pure kept in heaven for us. Jesus is our gift that just keeps on giving!

Have a blessed Advent, mercy Christmas and happy new year celebrating God's giving to you and yours!

Pastor Chris



On November 22, we gave thanks to God for our congregation reaching two milestones. On that Sunday, we dedicated a new organ, along with burning the mortgage on our 1996 building addition. In his message for that day, Pastor Dave reminded us that "dedication is not just a one-day occurrence." Every day, God gives us physical and spiritual blessings. Before we can talk about any dedication that we do, we first remember the LORD's devotion and commitment to us. It is in response to God's love for us that frames any dedication or work that we do in our congregation.



Organists for that day:
Loretta Rasmusson,
Katie Rolf and Ann Kelly

As we dedicated the organ and burned the mortgage, we were also reminded that the building and everything in it are tools and instruments that help us carry on God's ministry among us and in our community. We could worship and carry on

our Sunday school program without this building. Music could be led by something besides the organ. However, having a building with a wonderful organ provides us with a wonderful place and instrument that help us enrich the ministry we carry on here.

We would like to thank everyone who made the celebration of November 22 possible because of the gifts of time, talents and finances they gave. Without the generosity of members and friends of Beautiful Savior, this would not have come about. We would like to acknowledge two special gifts that especially helped with the purchase of the new organ. Memorials and gifts from the estates of Louise Richter and Esther Wallum greatly helped us in reaching the amount that we needed to purchase the new organ. Louise and Esther were devoted members of Beautiful Savior Lutheran. Louise died in September of 2014 and Esther in May of 2015.



Dan Berglind and Chuck Hoge are burning the mortgage as Pastor Chris, Pastor Dave and Brad Cogdill watch.

Munchies for Missions Sunday, Dec. 6

Here's an easy way to handle your holiday baking this year: pick up some delicious treats before and after both worship services on Sunday, Dec 6. If there are any goodies left, they will be available again at 4 p.m. just prior to the Christmas tea later in the day. The proceeds from the Munchies and the Tea will go to support the LWML MITES program (20 percent) and the BSLC Sudanese Ministry (80 percent). Invite a friend to come to church with you this Sunday so she can get some goodies too!

Be sure to bring your filled container to BSLC between 9 a.m. and noon on Saturday, Dec. 5, so that the LWML ladies can get the items priced for Sunday. Thanks for your support.

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.

Elder of the Month

Our elder for the month of December is Dave Anderson. 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.



December Service Group

Diane Knutson-Lee is our captain for the month of December. Our group consists of the last names that begin with the letters E-G. She will call you asking for fellowship treats or to help out with a funeral or other events. Thanks for your support.

Listed below are the next three months so you know what month your group will serve.

January group	Br-D	Wanda Roesler
February group	L-N	Mary Seiffert
March group	O-R	Kay Osman

Experience the LCEF Difference

LCEF walks alongside Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) ministries with resources to help fulfill the mission of sharing the Gospel and serving His people while helping each member of your family meet their unique financial needs.

For the young ones: Young Investors (Y.I.) Club is a way for those through age 18 to save and help others learn about Jesus. An investment specially designed for them, they earn a competitive rate on balances up to \$1,000. School-age children have the opportunity to earn extra funds for good grades and community service; and high school seniors can apply for a Y.I. scholarship.

For the planners: Family Emergency StewardAccount[®] helps you systematically build a fund for unexpected expenses, keeping your budget on track. The automatic monthly deposits keep it off your mind but available when you need it.

For more details, visit lcef.org or call 800-843-5233.

"May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." Romans 15:5-6

LCEF is a nonprofit religious organization; therefore, LCEF investments are not FDIC-insured bank deposit accounts. This is not an offer to sell investments, nor a solicitation to buy. LCEF will offer and sell its securities only in states where authorized. The offer is made solely by LCEF's Offering Circular. Investors should carefully read the Offering Circular, which more fully describes associated risks. StewardAccount access features are offered through UMB Bank n.a. The Family Emergency StewardAccount is not available to investors in South Carolina and is known as the Family StewardAccount in the state of Ohio. ConnectPLUS is not available to investors in Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Praying for Others in Bulletin

Please remember to update the office on your prayer requests that you would like to place in our weekly announcements. Listing these prayer requests gives all our church members a chance to pray for our particular needs and joys of others.

Deaths

Nov. 17-Beverly Ann Medenwaldt, a member of BSLC since 2013, passed away Nov. 14. Pastor Dave and Pastor Chris

conducted the funeral at Grace Lutheran, Breckenridge, MN, with burial at Fairview cemetery, Wahpeton, ND. Bev is survived by her husband Harvey, two daughters: Shayla (Corey) Leinen and Melanie (Jeremy) Harrison; 4 grandchildren and a brother.

Nov. 19 –Eugene Emmett Hall, a member of BSLC since 2013, passed away Nov. 14. Pastor Dave and Pastor Chris conducted the funeral at Concordia, Jamestown, with burial at Gem cemetery, Woodworth, ND. Gene is survived by 6 children, Harlan (Diane), Allen, Loretta Swanson, Donna (Leroy) Masseth, Robert, and Geneal (Carlyle) Roth; two sisters, 15 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren.

Gold Club Potluck Wednesday, Dec. 16

Please take a couple of hours to come to the church and socialize with other senior citizens. This is for anyone age 55 and/or older. We will meet in the fellowship hall at the church at noon Wednesday, Dec. 16. Bring a dish to share and invite others to come too. We spend an hour in fellowship while enjoying good food.

BSLC Coffee Club

Every Friday, BSLC members gather at 9 a.m. at Randy's, 2130 University Drive S., Fargo. This time of fellowship is to get to know other BSLC members and is for both men and women of any age. Join us when you can.

Memorials to Organ Fund

In Memory of Hazel Weatherly (sister of Gene Hall and aunt of Loretta Swanson) given by Gene Hall & Loretta Swanson.



New BSLC Members in 2015

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 Beautiful Savior.

William Bayuk	Sarah Brooks
Evelyn Deardoff	Shirley Elsner
Nicole Gietzen	Don Hartwig
Rebecca Julius	Craig and Susan Koeppe
Monna Morse	Ilene Fay Osten
Jeff and Sara Palmer	Alissa Schwieger
David, Cynthia Holaday and Jessica	
Caley and Samantha Perleberg	
Amanda Potter, Courtney and Christina Carlson	
Ashley Rosch and Dominic Rosch-Grace	
Kelly and Traci Weible, Alex and Macy	

Weekly Bible Studies

“Ruth: Your God Will Be My God”

Our women's Bible study will meet at 9 a.m. Thursdays, Dec. 3 and 10. Our Monday evening Bible study will resume again after the holidays.

Our Tuesday evening Bible study will resume in the middle of January.

Quilting

Quilting will be from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Dec. 10. Bring any sewing materials and fabric you would like to share and your sewing machine, if possible. This is open to all ages. Come when you can.

Offering Envelopes

2015 offering envelopes will be available to take home in the narthex this month. 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.

"The King Is Coming"

Midweek Advent Services

The Kingdom of God is a major theme in God's holy history, from the house and lineage of David to David's greater Son and Lord, whose birth we anticipate in this season of Advent. Our midweek Advent Services will focus on the words from the Old Testament prophets, who spoke from their perspective of their own times under the kings of Israel and Judah, with all their human foibles and failures. Yet the Word of God through these words of the prophets speaks of a greater king to come, whose kingdom will have no end.

Our lives as God's people in Christ are "lived under Him in His Kingdom," as Luther put it in it – under the righteous rule and reign of Christ our King. Christmas celebrates his birth and coming among us, even as we pray as He taught us, "Thy Kingdom Come."

May our Advent worship help us prepare and rejoice,
for the King is coming!

"The King's City: Safe and Secure"

Midweek Advent 1 – Dec. 2

Based on Jeremiah 33:14-16

"The King's Herald: Announcing the King"

Midweek Advent 2 – Dec. 9

Based on Malachi 3:1-4

"The King's Royal Roots: Back to the Future"

Midweek Advent 3 – Dec. 16

Based on Micah 5:2-5a



"On Our Way to Bethlehem" Program

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



Dec. 6	2-4 p.m.	All third- to sixth-graders
Dec.13	2-4 p.m.	All third- to sixth-graders
Dec. 20	2-4:30 p.m.	Dress rehearsal
	4:30 p.m.	Pizza party
Dec. 21	10 a.m.	All third- to sixth-graders practice and warm up
	10:45 a.m.	Program

Preschoolers to 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 at the church will be on:

Saturday, Dec. 5 and 12

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

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

Saturday, Dec. 19:

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

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

Sunday, Dec. 20 Program 8:15 a.m.

Grace Lutheran School News

Operated by The RR Lutheran School Association

You are invited to our monthly Grace Lutheran School Coffee Chat. Please join us from 7:30-8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 15, in the marketing room just off the gymnasium for free coffee and treats and to learn more about Grace school!

The Grace Lutheran School Christmas Musical "An Out of the Box Christmas" will be presented at 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec 11, and Saturday, Dec. 12. Early bird Grandparent Auction tickets also will be available for sale both days before the musical.

Grace is forming a "Labors of Love" group. If someone you know would be interested in donating some of their time and talents to do "fixer upper" projects around the school, contact Kari at 232-7747, or e-mail her at marketing@gracels.com. The group will begin meeting on Mondays at the school in January.

Volunteers are needed for our auction committee. Contact Becky Johnson at vbejohn@microsoft.com.

A Grace Lutheran alumni dinner is being planned, so if you or someone you know attended Grace Lutheran School, please send contact information to Kari at marketing@gracels.com.



December Youth Events

Upcoming Bible Study Opportunities

Wednesday, Dec. 2 – from 7:45 to 9 p.m. Lutheran Youth Fellowship

Wednesday, Dec. 9 – from 7:45 to 9 p.m. Annual Holiday Light Hunt (Destination Known)

Wednesday, Dec. 16 – from 7:45 to 9 p.m. Christmas Party

Wednesday, Dec. 23 – No Youth Group

Wednesday, Dec. 30 – No Youth Group

Upcoming Fellowship Events



Friday, Dec. 11 – Young kids Christmas party. Calling all kindergarten students through second-graders: Join us for games, fun and food at a Christmas party just for you from 6-7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11. Preschool children may attend, but we would like parents to attend with them, if possible. Please bring a dozen cookies or baked treats to exchange and share.

Wednesday, Dec. 16 – Junior and Senior High Christmas Party. All those in sixth through 12th grade are invited to a Christmas Party from 7:45-9 p.m. at the church. Please bring a treat to share and a wrapped gift (between \$8-\$10).

Friday, Dec. 18 – Christmas party. Third-graders through fifth-graders won't miss out on the Christmas fun. Join us for games, fun and food at a Christmas party from 6-7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11. Please bring a dozen cookies or baked treats to exchange and share.

Upcoming Servant/Fund-raising Events

Calendar sales. The youth will be offering beautiful "God's Creation" calendars for sale during services in December. Suggested donation for a calendar is \$10, with a minimum of \$5. All youth in junior and senior high are encouraged to help man the table to help fund youth mission trips, servant events and the National Youth Gathering.



Update on the Sudanese

For five years, a Sudanese community has been worshipping at our facility. It is a young congregation, not only in how many years it has been around, but also in its makeup. Young families with children compose the majority of the community.



Children singing a song during worship

The congregation is lead by two vicars: Daniel Mapur and Samuel Majak. Daniel and Samuel enrolled in a program sponsored by the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) to train various ethnic leaders to become pastors in specialized ministries. For more than two years, they have been taking online courses with an occasional trip for a week seminar in St. Louis. Pastor Dave is the supervisor for these two vicars with Pastor Chris also helping them out. They have two more years of study to complete the course. Upon successful completion, they will be ordained as pastors in the LCMS.

Our congregation has been financially supporting Daniel and Samuel through tuition assistance. The LWML of our congregation and in our district also is giving aid. Seeing this mission opportunity, the ND District of the LCMS passed a resolution this past January to help support this mission. The cost of educating each student is about \$8,500 per year. However, having trained and well-educated pastors is a blessing for the whole church. Daniel and Samuel are extremely grateful for the opportunity to take classes from our seminary in St. Louis.

Please keep the Sudanese in your prayers. You also may give a donation to go towards their education. Note it on your offering envelopes. You may also call the church office or one of the pastors about this.



Women's Christmas Tea 5 p.m. Dec. 6

Our fellowship hall will take on a new look and be beautifully adorned with Christmas trees and tables decked with Christmas finery for the Women's Christmas Tea. The evening entertainment will be provided by Kim, Mary and Theresa, otherwise known as the *Grape Suzettes*. They have been singing together for the past 12 years and will share their musical renditions of favorite Christmas songs and carols. A free will offering will be taken for Sudanese Ministry expenses and for MITES mission projects.



Vicar Samuel and his wife, Mary, along with their children: Ruben, Ahoi, Aleer and Nyan Kiir

*We always thank
God for all of you
and continually
mention you in
our prayers.*

1 Thessalonians 1:2, NIV

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 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.

Sunday School and Adult Bible Study 9:30 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:	LeAnn Herrmann	318-1360
Treasurer:	Mike Herrmann	237-4820
Secretary:	Kayla Muehler	899-4504
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
Sunday School:	Bobbi Hestdalen	540-2218
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.