

ENLIGHTEN

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church
Fargo, North Dakota

Newsletter December 2016



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Lights, Action . . .

by Pastor Dave

There are three activities that I traditionally do during December: Put up Christmas tree and adorn it with lights, get together with friends and family, and clean our home. I look forward to putting up the Christmas lights because of the joyful ambiance they give. I anticipate the various gatherings because I am able to visit with people I care about. However, when it comes to cleaning, I am not always so eager to do that. Cleaning is something that needs to happen before and after gatherings and meals. In December, there is more cleaning up that needs to happen. Much of the cleaning happens in the kitchen. My wife and I love to bake, prepare, serve and send to family special Christmas treats. Yet, that also entails cleaning up.

I would venture to say that many of you are involved in these activities as well. December is a busy time for many people. Yet, the most important thing associated with December has nothing to do with any activity that we do. Rather, the greatest thing about December is what God has done for us in His Son, Jesus Christ.

The greatest thing
about December is
what God has done
for us in His Son.

(Continued on next page.)

Special Worship Services

Wednesdays in Advent

Nov. 30, Dec. 7 and 14

6 p.m. Soup and Sandwich Supper

7 p.m. Midweek Worship Service

Children's Christmas Programs

Sunday, Dec. 18

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 Immanuel Lutheran Church

New Year's Day

10 a.m. Jan. 1

During the past month of November, we were reminded that Jesus is the Light of the world. In December we will again celebrate God's Light coming into the world with the birth of Jesus. With the coming of Jesus, our lives have been changed. In John's first letter, he writes,

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin."

In this passage, we hear about light, fellowship and cleaning up. But it doesn't point us to our actions. Rather, this verse points to what God has done for us. God is light. Through faith in Jesus, we have been brought into the light. And just as the Christmas lights in our homes help us see and bring joy and a certain ambiance into our lives, so also does our Savior enlighten our lives so that we can have gladness not only during this month but throughout our lives.

In this life, we develop close relationships with others. At times, these relationships may become strained. Parents and children as well as brothers and sisters do not always get along. But with Christ, things are different. We can have fellowship with one another even if things do not always go smoothly because Jesus enables us to have peace. Through Christ, we have fellowship with God. It is also because of Christ that we can have a closer relationship with those around us. How is this possible? It is because Jesus cleans things up.

I mentioned that my wife, Kim, and I will do cleaning up in our home. But our cleaning up is nothing compared to what Jesus was able to do for us. It was not with soap and water that he made things fresh. Rather, it was through His blood that He cleansed us so that we are spotless before God. Having been forgiven by God, we strive to forgive others. This is something that contributes to have a better relationship with others because we don't allow the past hurts to dirty our fellowship with others. We forgive others and ask them to forgive us so that there may be nothing between us.

December is a special time with beautiful decorations and activities that brighten up life. It is also a busy time for many. But I urge you to take some time to contemplate at home and during our special worship services the light, hope and joy that Jesus brings to you through His actions. I also pray that God would bring you gladness no matter what circumstances surround your life.

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Dave



Munchies for Missions Sunday, Dec. 4

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 4. 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 will go to support the LWML Mission projects. Invite and bring a friend to worship with you that Sunday so they can get some goodies too!

Here is a note for those baking goodies. Be sure to bring your filled container to BSLC between 9 a.m. and noon on Saturday, Dec. 3, so that the LWML can get the items priced for Sunday. Thanks for your support.



Poinsettias for Christmas

Consider purchasing 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 Day service, you may take your poinsettia(s) home with you.

Potluck Soup and Sandwich Suppers

6 p.m. on Wednesdays before Advent Services

Please join us for soup and sandwich suppers at 6 p.m. and then stay for the advent services starting Nov. 30. Bring sandwiches, soup or treats to share.

Our service groups will do the setup and clean-up for the 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> |
|-------------|----------------|------------------|
| Nov. 30 | Maggie Stende | S |
| Dec. 7 | Kim Wagner | T-Z |
| Dec. 14 | Donna Ceroll | A-Bo |

Designated Gift Committee

A committee has been formed to ensure designated gifts are spent wisely and fulfill wishes of the donor. We have a designated project list which currently includes:

- ♦ Replacing the Paraments
- ♦ Purchasing more Bibles
- ♦ Music and musical equipment
- ♦ Fine art for the building
- ♦ Communion vessels
- ♦ Library updates

If you have any suggestions for designated projects please let one of the committee members know. Members are Terry and Margie Opp, Kim Wagner and LeAnn Herrmann.

New Members Sunday

New Member Sunday was Nov. 20. Beautiful Savior welcomed the following people to our church. Blessings to you all!

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jackie Barber | Rich and Virginia Beaver |
| Derek Blackburn | Jillian Driscoll and Noah |
| Kara Fibrantz | Shawn and Teresa Driscoll |
| Trent Nelson | Austin and Sara Walcker |
| Marv Olson | Janice Thalmann |
| Dave and Rachel Hohn | Grace, Grant |
| Travis and Samantha Hansen | Aria, Kyla |
| Nick Clasen and Rachel Manthey | Harper |



Voters' Meeting

9:40 a.m.
Sun., Dec. 11

Our congregation will hold its next meeting on the second Sunday in December between worship services. A budget for next year will be proposed to the voters along with other regular reports. If you have any business to bring up at the meeting, please call Brad Cogdill at 237-3821 (our congregational chairman), call Vicki in the church office at 293-1047 or talk to either one of the pastors.

Christian Chicks Bookclub

Do you like to read and discuss Christian fiction? Then this group is for you! The next book our group will read is "A Baxter Family Christmas" by Karen Kingsbury. We will meet at 6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 12, at the Fargo Holiday Inn.

If you have questions or want to learn more, please e-mail ChicksBC16@gmail.com.

Are You Being Called?

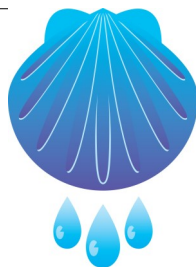
Just one more captain or a pair of co-captains are needed to head up our service groups. Please talk to Mary Seiffert if you are interested.

Volunteers Needed on Sunday Mornings

Help is needed with running the PowerPoint, ushering and counting the offering each week. A sign-up sheet for November is in the lobby. Please consider taking time on a Sunday to help out.

Baptisms

Nov. 6: Rachel Ann Rust, daughter of Ryan and Sarah Rust, born July 25, 2016. Her sponsors were Morris Yagow and Robert and Lisa Brooks.



New Member Corner

Welcome to Janice Thalmann, who has been attending our church for the past 2 years, and transferred her membership here from St. Paul Lutheran Church, Henning, MN. Janice moved to Fargo after getting tired of driving 50 miles a day for pool therapy. Her daughter (who is Lori Pytlik) found her an apt. with a pool only 4 1/2 miles from Lori. Janice likes to crochet, sew, watch the Hallmark movies and attend her grandsons' activities. Her favorite Bible scripture is Psalm 23. We are so glad to have you at BSLC. Welcome again!

Deaths

Nov. 3: Doris Behrens passed away, and her funeral was at BSLC on Saturday, Nov. 12. Doris is survived by her son Orin, daughters, Diane Reese, Joan Behrens and Linda Bakkene; step-grandchildren Jessica (Cory) Docken, Jake (Angie) Reese, Josh Reese and Jesse Reese.; five step-great grandchildren, and a sister, Rosella Sax.

Memorials

Given by:

David and Sandra Andersen
Earl & Colleen Cole
Orville & Irene Olson

In memory of:

Doris Behrens
Doris Behrens
Carol Smith

Quilting

Quilting will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Dec. 8. Please bring any materials you want and a sewing machine if you can. This is open to all women of the church. Bring a friend if you want!

December Service Group

Maggie Stende is our captain for December. Our group consists of the last names that begin with the letters S. She will call you asking for fellowship treats or to help out with funerals or other events. Thanks for your willingness to help.

Elders for December

Dave Anderson and Adam Tykwinski are our elders for December. They will take time to greet members and visitors, help the pastors with any needs and see that things run smoothly. If you have any concerns or ideas for our church, talk to Dave or Adam or any of the elders.

Gold Club Wednesday, Dec. 14

Our Gold Club potluck will meet at noon Wednesday, Dec. 14. If you are a BSLC member older than 55 and/or retired, join us for fellowship with other BSLC members while enjoying a delicious potluck meal. Bring a spouse, a friend or just yourself.

BSLC Coffee Club

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

Praying For Others

Prayer Chain

BSLC has an e-mail prayer chain. If you have a concern or joy and would like our prayer warriors to pray for you or others, please e-mail the office, and your prayer will be sent out on the e-mail chain. Prayer updates are appreciated by our prayer warriors.

Sunday prayers posted in bulletin

You may place prayer concerns and joys in our announcements and the petitions will continue to run weekly until you let the church know to remove them off the list. This gives all our church members a chance to pray for our particular needs and joys. God hears all our prayers at all times.

God Doesn't let You Down

by Pastor Chris

There may be times when it feels like it is you against the world – moments when it seems your family, your friends and even God let you down.

If you feel like that, Advent and Christmas are a perfect time to remember that God sent Jesus to live through the complete human experience. Jesus would be the human who would not let Father down while also being God in the flesh and the fulfillment of a promised one who would not let us down.

But it was not an easy road for Jesus. In fact, it was a dark and lonely one.

He faced the temptations of the devil and His legions of demons.

His own family struggled to remember his purpose.

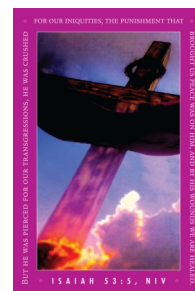
His own people rejected him and sought to kill him – even as he sought to save them. His closest friends and followers deserted him; they were slow to believe all that Jesus had taught and that the scriptures had taught. Isaiah puts it this way: “He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not,” (Isaiah 53:3).

He took upon himself the full wrath of the Father on the cross. He even felt the pangs of death. In fact, Isaiah also tells us: “Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief,” (Isaiah 53:10a).

Through it all, Jesus remained resolute. He stayed faithful to His father and never waived in His love for you. And when he rose, he demonstrated the wisdom of God's plan, the depths of God's love and the power of God's salvation. Isaiah writes, “But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed,” and “Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities,” (Isaiah 53:5,11).

You have a Savior who came through! You have a God who did not let you down! I pray that Christmas and Advent would be a time of hope and joy as you remember what Jesus did and continues to do for you.

Pastor Chris



Grace Lutheran School News

**Grace School 2016 Theme:
Trust in the Lord - Prov. 3:5**

“It All Happened in the Country” Christmas Program

This year the Grace Christmas Musical is “It All Happened in the Country.” You are invited to see the musical at 1:30 or 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 8, or at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9. Come join us as the “Country” meets “City” and how Jesus makes us all family, regardless where we live. The students of Grace Lutheran School will bring you the message of Christmas in an exciting way using their talents and skills to share the Gospel. All students of Grace participate in this spectacular presentation. There will be a free-will offering taken that will benefit our music program. We want to show our appreciation for you all with our wonderful musical this Christmas.

Upward Sports Basketball and Cheerleading opportunities are now available at Grace Lutheran for boys and girls in kindergarten through sixth grade. Students may get their registration form from the office or from Mr. Boe.

Please consider Grace Lutheran School as you prepare your end-of-year giving. All member churches have donation envelopes or call the school at 232-7747. Donations also may be mailed to the school. Our address is 1025 14th Ave. S., Fargo, ND 58103. Thank you!

Upcoming Events in 2017 at Grace School

- National Lutheran Schools Week - Jan. 22-28.
- Giving Hearts Day - Feb. 9.
- GLS Auction - March 25

Merry Christmas from Grace Lutheran School!

"The Power of the King" Christmas Play

Our practice times are listed below. Call Ramsey Dahl at 866-5403 if you have any questions. Thank you for bringing your children to practice each week.

| | | |
|---------|------------|----------------------------|
| Dec. 3 | 10:30 a.m. | Seven Speakers |
| | 11:15-noon | All third-to-sixth-graders |
| Dec. 10 | 10:30 a.m. | Seven Speakers |
| | 11:15-noon | All third-to-sixth-graders |
| Dec. 17 | 10:30 a.m. | All third-to-sixth graders |
| | to noon | Dress rehearsal |
| Dec. 18 | 10 a.m. | Practice and warm-up |
| | 10:45 a.m. | Program |

Our Seven Speakers students are Olivia Blotsky, Alex Paul, Josie Paul, Maia Gilman, Morgan Mielke, Owen Sevald and Leah Tykwinski.

Crossfire Youth Praise Band

Our youth praise band for students in grades 6-12 will meet at 7 p.m. Sundays, Dec. 4 and 11. There will be a Christmas party at 7 p.m. Dec. 18. No practice on Dec. 25 or Jan. 1. Questions? Call Ramsey Dahl at 866-5403.

Preschool Through Second Grade Practice

Practice begins Saturday, Dec. 3, for our preschool to second-grade Christmas program "Christmas Jubilee." A CD with songs for the program was given to students during Sunday school on Nov. 20. If you need one for your child, talk to Pastor Chris. Please work with your children to learn the songs and speaking parts and bring them to practice each week. Below are our practice dates and times.

If you would like to help out with our program, please speak with Pastor Chris or let the office know.

Saturdays, Dec. 3 and 10

9-9:30 a.m. preschool and kindergarten
9:30-10:15 a.m. first- and second-graders

Saturday, Dec. 17

9-9:45 a.m. preschool and kindergarten
9:10-10:15 a.m. first and second-graders

Our Christmas program will be at 8:15 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 18. Thank you for bringing your child(ren) to practice.

December Youth Events

Upcoming Bible Study Opportunities

Wednesday, Dec. 7 – from 7:45 to 9 p.m. Lutheran Youth Fellowship (LYF) for grades 7-12
Wednesday, Dec. 14 - from 7:45 to 9 p.m. Christmas Party
Wednesday, Dec. 21 - from 7:45 to 9 p.m. Annual Holiday Light Hunt (Destination Known)
Wednesday, Dec. 28 - No youth group

Upcoming Fellowship Events

Friday, Dec. 2: Senior High Zone Lock-in. All those in senior high school are invited for a Zone lock-in from 7 p.m. to midnight at Grace Lutheran School, 1025 14th Ave. S.. The evening will include games, food, Bible studies and a variety of activities. Please sign up with Pastor Chris as soon as possible. Cost is \$5.

Wednesday, Dec. 14 – 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. 16 – Young Kids Christmas Party. Calling all kindergarten students through fifth-graders: Join us for games, fun and food at a Christmas party just for you from 6-7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16. 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.

Upcoming Servant/ Fund-Raising Event

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 2019 National Youth Gathering.



Sudanese Ministry Update

A Sudanese community continues to worship on Sunday afternoons at Beautiful Savior under the care of Vicar Daniel Mapur and Vicar Samuel Majak. Our pastors are mentoring these seminarians as well as helping them with their studies. Pastor Dave recently wrote:

“Through my interactions with the Sudanese - particularly working with Vicar Daniel and Vicar Samuel - I have grown spiritually. I believe that God brought them to our congregation so that great things could happen. In fact, great things have happened in my life. I have a better appreciation of what it means to be a member of the church of Christ that is made up of people from all nations, languages and ethnic backgrounds. I also have been humbled. I recognize that I have had a good life. I thank God for that every day. Yet, as I visit with many of the Sudanese, I am amazed at how God has given them strength and joy in spite of the unbelievable hardships that they encountered in Africa and in spite of the struggles that they continue to have here in the US. I wonder if my faith and joy would be like theirs if I went through similar circumstances. Yes, I am humbled. But I also am blessed to be able to call them my friends, my brothers and sisters in Christ. I am grateful for the support that Beautiful Savior has given to them.”



Daniel and Samuel

Vicar Daniel Mapur and Samuel Majak have completed 13 of the 16 courses that they need to complete their courses at the seminary. It is a four-year process. At the end of their studies, they will need to go through a interview process to complete their certification. Upon approval, they will be able to be called as pastors of specialized ministry in the LCMS. That means they will be looking for a congregation to call them so that they would be able to continue working with Sudanese who have come to the USA along with other African immigrants. At this time Daniel and Samuel would like to continue to live in the Fargo area and serve God here at Beautiful Savior.

In the next few months, the Sudanese community that worships here, along with our congregation, will be looking at their ministry. Nothing has been decided at this time. However, a good option would be that, upon approval from the Sudanese worshipping community at Beautiful Savior, our congregation would extend calls to Vicar Daniel and Vicar Samuel upon their successful completion of their pastoral certification. That would mean that they would be pastors here along with Pastor Dave and Pastor Chris. We will keep our congregation informed during this process.

Sudanese Catechisms

The Sudanese have received the gift of Luther's Small Catechism in the Dinka language from the *Lutheran Heritage Foundation*. On Sunday, Nov. 6, a catechism was given to each family. They were grateful for this gift.



BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

ADDRESS 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-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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Organization
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58102
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Ghost No. 80108

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: | Craig Hashbarger | 541-0930 |
| 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 | 361-6960 |
| Br-D | Dave Anderson | (218)979-0490 |
| E-G | Matthew Deardoff | (701)799-8986 |
| H-K | Nathan Gannon | 205-4606 |
| L-N | Glen Haekenkamp | (320) 282-6584 |
| O-R | Adam Tykwinski | 793-8170 |
| S | Scott Helmer | (701)640-5071 |
| 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.