

January 2017

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## New Year—New Status

by Pastor Dave

I was honored to be invited by Esther Moore to attend a naturalization ceremony for her and 25 other people as they became citizens of the United States of America on Dec. 9, 2016, at the U.S. Court House in Fargo. She will begin the new year no longer as a refugee living in the USA but as a fellow citizen. While she was here as a refugee, her life was better than it was in the refugee camps in Africa. But there were certain privileges that she did not have. That has now changed. She is overjoyed to finally be a citizen. In fact, it was a great day for everyone there.



Judge Alice R. Senechal,  
Esther and Pastor Dave

I have to admit I take my citizenship for granted at times. I do not fully appreciate how remarkable our country is and how much freedom and opportunity we have. I have not lived in a country where there is war, oppressive governments or lack of freedom. I have not resided in an area where there is lack of the basic food items and water or where there is no access to good education or medical treatment.

We have a lot to be grateful for. But as I thought about my citizenship in the USA, I was reminded that, as Christians, we have something even better. And the blessings that we have as followers of Christ do not depend on which nation we live in. It is something that goes beyond any earthly borders and time. St. Paul writes in Colossians 1:13-14, "He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."

(Continued on next page.)

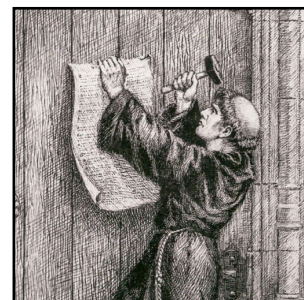


## Fargo Reformation Workshop at Immanuel

Luther Nailed It: Pastoral Care for the Living and the Dying  
9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 14

What is the Reformation all about? What is its significance? How did Martin Luther's rediscovery of the Gospel change the way one preached to the living and the dying?

Begin to celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation in 2017 by attending this workshop at Immanuel Lutheran, 1258 N. Broadway, Fargo. It runs from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with lunch included. The presenter will be Rev. Randall L. Golter. There is no charge. But Immanuel would appreciate a call so that they would know how many to expect. You may let them know you are coming by calling 293-7979.



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

## New Year-New Status (Continued from page 1.)

I am glad to live in this country. Nevertheless, I will be the first to admit that the USA is far from perfect. That is because it is made up of fallen, broken, sinful people. We see that in the world, in our nation and community. We also observe it in our own lives. But the good news is that in Christ we have redemption and forgiveness so that this will not hinder us from belonging to God's everlasting kingdom.

As we begin a new year, our thoughts and prayers would be that this will be a good year. However, in many ways, we have no control over what is going to happen. Here is where our confession of Jesus as our Savior can help us when we experience the ups and downs of life. St. Paul wrote in Philippians 3:20-21, "But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself." Because of Jesus, we can always look forward in hope. Things may not work out as we want. However, God is working out all things for our good. Believing in Jesus and being a part of His kingdom has great blessings now and forever. It is the greatest kingdom to be a citizen of.

I pray that you have a blessed new year. I also encourage you to think about the gifts that God gives to you because you are a part of His kingdom. May that give you peace, hope and joy now and forever.

*Pastor Dave*

### Women's Bible Study "Esther: Character Under Pressure" Starting 6 p.m. Monday, Jan. 16 and 9 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 19

"Who are you when no one's looking?" When her people were threatened, Esther had to ask herself that question. She could risk her life to try to save her fellow Israelites, or she could "keep her head down" to wait out the threat in obscurity and safety. Patty Pell leads you to examine the story of Esther in nine sessions. You'll discover how godly character often develops under pressure. And you'll discover ideas for living a godly life in the midst of contemporary pressures. This study meets Monday evenings or Thursday mornings, so come when you are able.

## Bible Studies

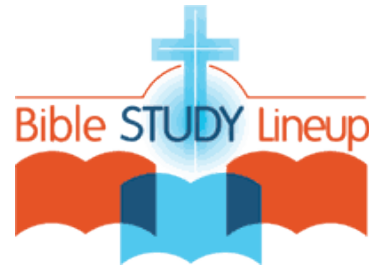
### Sunday Morning Bible Study "A Man Named Martin"

9:40 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

500 years ago, an unknown monk from a backwater town in Germany set in motion a movement that would literally transform Western civilization.



The impact Martin Luther had on the growth and development of Christianity is enormous. But *how* did this unknown miner's son change the world? In this Lutheran Hour Ministries' Bible study, we will examine the life and times of this religious reformer. From his humble beginnings in Germany to his dogged work to understand Scripture and share the truths of the Bible, Martin Luther inspired a Reformation that reverberates throughout Christendom to this day. Join us for this video-based study in the fellowship hall between worship services beginning Jan. 8.



### 7 p.m. Tuesday Evening Bible Study "Seek His face"

Beginning 7 p.m. on Jan. 17

"Look to the LORD and His strength;  
Seek His face always." (Ps 105:4)

The Bible encourages us to seek God's face. In a real way, God showed himself to us in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ. To seek Jesus is to know Him on a personal level as true God and the Savior of the world. To seek the face of Jesus also means to lead other people to identify Him as their Lord and Savior so that they know their sins are forgiven and their salvation is assured. The evening Bible Study will look at various passages to equip and empower us to seek Jesus in much the same way as He has sought us out and identified us as His own.

## Here We Stand with a Word of Hope

by Diane E. Schroeder

(Condensed from *LifeDate—Winter 2016*)

The world would have you believe that abortion is normal. But, as Christians, we know the truth.

- Abortion is not normal. It turns a mother against her own child.
- Abortion is a tragedy that takes the life of an unborn baby and traumatizes a mother.
- Abortion is bad for women and forces them to carry the weight of grief and guilt.
- Abortion is a sin like any other sin for which Christ died.

Word of Hope is a ministry of Lutherans For Life that exists to help women and men heal from their abortion experience. Word of Hope counsels women and men, helping them understand the depth of God's love for them and the reality of forgiveness through the sacrifice of God's own Son, Jesus, for the sins of the entire world, including their sin of abortion. Word of Hope helps them deal with their grief and guilt and overcome behavioral symptoms triggered by the abortion. There are so many people in our neighborhoods, families and churches that are dealing with the loss of a child or children through abortion—mothers, fathers, grandparents, friends.

What can you do to help these women and men? Be compassionate and try to understand why women choose abortion. In my career, I have been blessed to work at a crisis pregnancy center. When I started working there, I could speak truth with the best of them. I knew what God's Word said about life. I knew when life began. But at CareNet, I saw something new: real people trying to cope with the reality of an unplanned pregnancy. I saw women abandoned by their families and made homeless if they chose to carry that pregnancy. I saw women under enormous pressure from men in their lives who wanted out. I saw women who wanted to carry their pregnancy but were overwhelmed with financial problems and lack of support from their family and community. I talked to women who were so afraid of shaming their Christian parents; somehow, abortion seemed their only choice.

Please remember there are organizations such as Word of Hope that are willing to help. If you or someone you know would like to speak to a loving, caring counselor, call or e-mail Grace.

630.990.0909 or 888.217.8679.

[help@word-of-hope.org](mailto:help@word-of-hope.org)

[www.word-of-hope.org](http://www.word-of-hope.org)



Let's do everything we can to help families who bought the lie that abortion is "normal." Most of us may not have sinned by having an abortion, but all of us have sinned horribly and are in need of the blood of Christ to cleanse us from our sins. "[F]or all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

## Women's Christmas Tea

A night of music, adorned tables, excellent food and desserts greeted nearly 140 guests at the second annual Women's Christmas Tea on Dec. 4. After expenses, nearly \$1,500 was collected (free-willing offering and silent auction) that will go to support the Jeremiah Program in Fargo. Many thanks to event organizers, table hostesses and the wonderful men who served our guests that evening. The third annual Women's Christmas Tea is set for Dec. 3, 2017.



## A Fun LWML Meeting

You are invited to attend our next LWML meeting that will be held at 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 19. We will meet at Mardi Schlichtmann's home (3912 21st St. S.) She will be making soup for us. We also would like all the Christmas tea hostesses to attend our gathering.

Anyone coming should bring a white elephant gift—this must be an item you already own that you don't want. It can be a silly or a practical gift. You never know—what you consider junk is someone else's treasure!

Please bring any holiday treats that you have left over to share too!

We will review the munchies for missions and Christmas tea events and discuss any other business items on our agenda.

We hope to see you at this fun fellowship of BSLC women!



## Deaths

Dec. 22: Mark Daniel Steege passed away in Fargo. His funeral was at Boulger Funeral Home on Wednesday, Dec. 28, with Pastor Dave officiating. Mark is survived by his wife Jennifer; his very special daughters Annalise (age 10) and Layla (age 5); his parents Paul and Martha Steege; brother John (Aisha) and their children; and his grandmother Georgia Steege.

Please keep Jennifer and family in your prayers during this difficult time.

## January Service Group

Kim Wagner is our captain for January. Our group consists of the last names that begin with the letters T-Z. She will call you asking for treats or to help out with funerals or other events. Thanks for your willingness to help.

Our February group will be A-Bo with captain Donna Ceroll.

## Elder for January

Paul Asche is our elder for January. He 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 Paul or any of the elders.

## Volunteers Needed on Sunday Mornings

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

## 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.

## Do Not Bring In Greeting Cards

Please do not bring any more used greeting cards to the church. Friendship has stopped taking them. Thank you.

## Gold Club Wednesday, Jan. 11 With a Twist!



Our Gold Club potluck will meet at noon Wednesday, Jan. 11. Not only will there be good food, also there will be a fun activity for all of you who attend to take part. Come and find out more that day! Gold Club is for all BSLC members older than 55 and/or retired. Bring a dish to share.

## Quilting

Quilting will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Jan. 5 and from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Jan. 19. 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 or two if you want!

## Still Needed

A captain or a pair of co-captains are still needed to head up our service groups. Right now we are in need of someone to lead our H-K group that will next serve in May. Please talk to Mary Seiffert if you are interested.

## 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.

## 2017 LCEF Scholarships

**\$1,000 LCEF Scholarships** will be awarded to graduating high school seniors or current full-time post-secondary students at an accredited institution with at least one year of courses remaining.

Candidates must also be members of a congregation belonging to The Lutheran Church -Missouri Synod located in one of the following LCMS districts: North Dakota, Minnesota North, Minnesota South, Iowa East, Iowa West, North Wisconsin or South Wisconsin.

Application deadline is February 28, 2017.

Visit [lcefuppermidwest.org/scholarships](http://lcefuppermidwest.org/scholarships) for more information or to apply.

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# What Happened to All the Adults?

by Pastor Chris

In the wake of the recent presidential election and Donald Trump's surprise victory, people have resorted to some childish behavior. Some have taken the defiant stance of "He's not my president," while others have threatened to live in a different country.

All this is tantamount to children throwing a tantrum after they don't get their way.

I'm not saying you can't be upset if your candidate lost. And I certainly am not endorsing any particular candidate from this past election. But Christians (and indeed all people) must learn to engage their world and not run from it even when the culture might depart from their comfort zone.

In the early Christian church, some church fathers became disillusioned with a Christianity that became too influenced by the secular. In response to a growing number of believers and a system that embraced worldly ways, some Christians went out to the desert or other isolated places to separate themselves from society, seeing it as an opportunity to "turn back to God." This is how monasticism was born.

Monasticism was an attempt to limit outside influences and contact. Martin Luther took this path as a monk, devoting himself to intense daily prayer, meditation and worship. But this path did not bring him peace, and he eventually came to realize that preaching and teaching the Gospel means interacting with a fallen, broken sinful (and sometimes hostile) world.

Outside of brief times to rest or pray, Jesus never attempted to isolate himself from the world. Quite the opposite! He knew that all people need the Gospel, especially those who do not believe it! Of course, Christ's message was not always well received. Many times, people became angry or disillusioned with His message, which eventually led to his brutal suffering and death.

The apostle Paul is another great example of one who faced numerous challenges during his ministry. He writes in 2 Corinthians: "Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches."

In a childish world, we must learn to grow up and share the news of Jesus even in the face of persecution, disappointment and other difficulties. The Gospel is just too important. Instead of living with a me-first childish attitude, we must engage those around us, not run from them. We must give the good news of Jesus, not keep it to ourselves. And as mature Christians, we must remember the Gospel's importance in our own lives.

As the new year approaches, I pray that God would move us to put behind childish things and continue to build others up with self-sacrificial service, always remembering Christ our Savior, who gave everything for us.



*Pastor Chris*

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## In Appreciation

We, along with our families, would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to our church family 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 have all of you in our lives. May God continue to bless our work here.

Pastor Dave   Pastor Chris   Vicki

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## 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. The petitions will continue to run weekly until you let the church know to remove them off the list. This lets our church members pray for our particular needs and joys. God hears all our prayers.

## Christmas Poinsettias

### **Poinsettia Placed by:**

Steve & Sue Buth  
Gene & Denise Doeling  
Karen Mart Taverna  
Donna Larson & Diane McCabe  
Joe & Lori Pytlik  
Mike & Judy Sellden  
Steve & Dawn Thompson, Chloe & Lizzie  
Pastor Dave & Kim Wagner

### **Poinsettia Placed by:**

Berglind Family  
Shirley Elsner  
Sue & Steve Buth  
Your Girls-Sandy, Sylvia, Sally  
Don & Pam Hartwig  
LaVon & Chris Johnson  
Donna Larson & Diane McCabe  
Markle Family  
Karen Mart-Taverna  
Marv Olson  
Tammy Dockter  
Joe & Lori Pytlik & family  
Dave & Kim Scheer  
Mike & Mardi Schlichtmann  
Mary Seiffert  
Mike & Judy Sellden  
Gary & Maggie Stende  
Lynn & Arla Strege  
Mark & Kim Ternes, Jack & Noah  
Thielman Family  
Steve & Dawn Thompson, Chloe & Lizzie  
Chloe & Lizzie Thompson  
Pastor Dave & Kim Wagner  
Taylor Wolf

### **Poinsettia Placed by:**

Jeanne Kragt-Barchinger

### **In Honor of:**

Arianna & Andrew, AJ and Matt  
Our children Lucas & Alexis  
Tisha, Scott & their families  
Our families  
Our children Ian, Evan and Cooper  
Our children & grandchildren  
Diane Berggren  
Grandsons Leo, Roman & Milo

### **In Loving Memory of:**

Bud Berglind  
Bruce Elsner  
Landon Olthoff  
Evan & Lorina Freitag  
Brian Hartwig and Kevin Hartwig  
Our loved ones  
Alfred, Roiene & Dennis Kuska  
James Markle  
Larry Mart  
George Olson, Bertina Olson  
Ron , Tim , Gloria, and Bruce Wang  
Loren Thalmann  
David Jr.  
Eugene Paulsrud  
My mother Ursula and my brothers Randy & Timmy  
Parents Elmer, Lucille and Valerie  
Our parents  
Family members who have passed away  
Duane Matzke  
Jack & Audrey Thielman  
Grandpa Donnie  
Grandma Audey  
Kim's parents Randy & Audrey Christianson  
Robyn Wolf



## “Manhood Redeemed”

## ND District Annual Men’s Winter Retreat

Rev. Jonathan Walla, Bethel Lutheran Church, Bismarck, will lead a retreat on “Manhood Redeemed” at Shepherd’s Hill at the Crossroads, St. John, ND. The retreat begins at 6 p.m. with supper on Friday, Jan. 20 and ends at 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 21. The cost is \$80 and includes three meals, lodging, snacks, games and fire-side chats. Bring a Bible, bed roll personal items, warm clothing and friends. To register, call Corey Isaak at 281-0240 or e-mail [corey.isaak@gracefargo.org](mailto:corey.isaak@gracefargo.org).

## New District President to be Installed Jan. 2

You are invited! Pastor Arie Bertsch would be honored and pleased to have any of our district congregation members and pastors, attend his installation as district president at 7 p.m. Jan. 2, at St. Paul's Lutheran in Minot, ND. It will be a worship service with the honor of the Synod Regional Vice President Rev. Nabil Noor preaching and doing the installation.

Please keep Pastor Arie Bertsch in your prayers as he steps in to finish out former President James Baneck's term. President Baneck has accepted a new position as executive director for pastoral education at the LCMS International Center in St. Louis. He starts his position on Jan. 1.

## Crossfire Youth Praise Band

Our youth praise band for students in grades 6-12 will meet at 7 p.m. Sundays, Jan. 8, 15 and 22. There also will be practice at 6 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 28. Our youth praise band will play at the 8:45 a.m. worship service on Sunday, Jan. 29. If you have questions, please call Ramsey Dahl at 866-5403.

## Grace Lutheran School News

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

The Ambassador choir and band concert will be at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 12.

National Lutheran Schools Week will be Jan. 22-27. Please pray for our students and school as we celebrate our Lutheran School and our freedom to worship and praise God each day.

Join us for our National Lutheran Schools Week kick-off event at 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 22. Rev. Matthew Richard, Zion Lutheran pastor in Gwinner, will speak about how we can perceive truth in our times. Jesus said, "I have come into the world to bear witness to the truth" and Pontius Pilate answered, "What is truth?" (John 18:37-38). That question, "what is truth," is still being asked in our world today. How do we know what is true and what is not? What are the implications of Truth in a "truth-less" world?

Giving Hearts Day is Feb. 9. Do you own a local business? Grace School would like to partner with a business to offer small incentives to those who donate to our school this day (a free donut, coffee, pizza, car wash etc.) E-mail Kari at [marketing@gracels.com](mailto:marketing@gracels.com)

GLS Auction will be March 25 at the Ramada. Any new or used donations can be dropped off at the school. Grace is seeking local fine-art donations this year, so ask any local artists you know if they would donate to our auction. Thanks!

Want to learn more about Grace Lutheran School? Call Mr. Hagge, our principal, at 232-4474 or check out our website, blog or Facebook.

## January Youth Events

### Upcoming Bible Study Opportunities

Wednesday, Jan. 4 – from 7:45 to 9 p.m. Lutheran Youth Fellowship (LYF) for grades 7-12  
Wednesday, Jan. 11 – from 7:45 to 9 p.m. Lutheran Youth Fellowship (LYF) for grades 7-12  
Wednesday, Jan. 18 – from 7:45 to 9 p.m. Lutheran Youth Fellowship (LYF) for grades 7-12  
Wednesday, Jan. 25 – from 7:45 to 9 p.m. Lutheran Youth Fellowship (LYF) for grades 7-12

### Upcoming Fellowship Events

**Friday, Jan. 27 – Youth movie and game night.** All our seventh through twelfth-graders are invited to attend a special night from 7 p.m. to midnight. Our time together will include pizza, snacks, movies, games at the church and minute to win it challenges. Cost is \$5.

**Saturday, Feb. 4 – Detroit Mountain Skiing and Snowboarding Trip.** All families should save the date for some time on the slopes at the new ski complex in Detroit Lakes. We will meet at 7:30 a.m. sharp at the Beautiful Savior parking lot and return around 6 p.m. or so. Check-in will be at 9 a.m. We will attempt to carpool but will need drivers as well. More information will be available soon.





# 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.

Non-Profit  
Organization  
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Fargo, ND  
58102  
Permit No. 1068  
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 Berglind	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.