

February 2017

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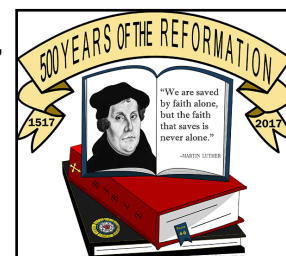
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God Back in Charge: Putting the Reformation in Perspective

by Pastor Chris

As the 500th anniversary of the Reformation nears, you may wonder why it matters for you today. A documentary I saw the other day presented The Reformation primarily as a protest against the authority of the church, but it totally missed the point that The Reformation's primary aim rested in restoring the authority of God's Word.



It seems that the church had lost the apostolic teaching of Christ and Christ alone as God's instrument of salvation. Christ alone had been replaced with ideas of human effort aided by God, fund-raising ploys that promised to spring souls out of purgatory and other teachings that had entirely compromised the Gospel and God's truth.

Luther's emphasis on God's grace (undeserved favor in Christ), the authority of Scripture alone and God-given faith as a means of receiving God's salvation helped to restore God to His rightful place as the author, perfecter and finisher of our salvation, a theme that permeated Luther's writings.

In His Large Catechism, Luther presents the Lordship of Jesus Christ as central to the Christian faith. He writes: "What does it mean to become a Lord? It means that (Christ) has redeemed and released me from sin, from the devil, from death and from all misfortune. Before this, I had no lord or king but was captive under the power of the devil, was condemned to death and entangled in sin and blindness."

(Continued on next page.)

Mission U- Equipping to Share: Tough Questions

9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Feb. 25 at Our Redeemer Lutheran, Moorhead

At this workshop, you will learn how to classify, identify and get to the root of tough questions and objections to Christianity. You will learn how to give sensitive and relevant answers that point to our Savior.

Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. There will be childcare available. Cost is \$10 if you pre-register or \$15 the day of workshop. To register call DCE Mark Noennig at 233-7569 or e-mail him at dcemark20@gmail.com.

More information can be found at Lhm.org/mission.

God Back

(Continued from page 1.)

Luther continues: "Let this be the summary of this article (the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed) that the little word Lord simply means the same as Redeemer, that is, He who has bought us back from the devil to God, from death to life, from sin to righteousness, and keeps us there."

When Luther disseminated his 95 theses to stir debate in the church 500 years ago, it forever changed the landscape of theology. You might be tempted to think that event belongs relegated to the pages of history, but Luther's bold act has never been more relevant. Luther saw problems in the theology of the day. Today, error and falsehood run rampant as well.

So much theology today seeks to reformulate what Scripture says. The authority of God's Word has been usurped by the growing idea that humans are becoming more enlightened rather than more rebellious. We, like Luther, must see salvation as God's truth given to us, not a truth that we invent, improve, add on to or subtract from.

So much theology these days is not centered on Christ's Gospel but on self-actualization, self-help, self-improvement with little or no mention of God working through the forgiveness of sins in Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit in the means of grace.

So much theology throws God's grace out the window and makes demands -- things that you must do so that God's salvation applies to you.

So what does the Reformation mean? It means God's truth cannot be snuffed out. It cannot be obliterated. It breaks through the darkness, offering us the hope and joy we truly need each and every day.

As we celebrate the reformation this year, our joy does not rest on Luther, but on the proclamation God did through Luther that centered on the suffering, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Now that's something that really matters!

Pastor Chris

Bible Studies

Sunday Morning Bible Study "A Man Named Martin"

9:40 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall



On Feb. 5, we will conclude our video-based study on Martin Luther.

"The Way of Jesus"

9:40 a.m. starting Feb 12

Jesus called his disciples to "follow me." Yet, even before the promised Savior was born, there were centuries of men and women who lived by faith and walked in the way of righteousness. For our next Sunday morning Bible study, we will explore how several Old Testament people were anticipating and preparing the way for Christ's coming. To begin with, we will look at Abraham, Moses and David. We invite you to join us in the fellowship hall between worship services.

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

"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. This evening Bible study continues to 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.

Our Bible study will not meet on Valentine's Day, Tuesday, Feb. 14.

Women's Bible Study "Esther: Character Under Pressure" 6 p.m. Mondays and 9 a.m. Thursdays

"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. 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.

Election of New Church Officers

Are you being called? Nominations for officers at BSLC are needed. At our upcoming March voters' meeting, elections will be held for the following positions:

Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of congregation
Director of Stewardship
Director of Evangelism
Elder positions

LeAnn Herrmann is chairman of the nominating committee. If you would like to serve or know of someone who might serve well in one of these positions, please contact LeAnn at 318-1360 or Pastor Dave at 293-1047.

"Simply Giving"

Automatic Withdrawal for Offerings

Members can choose to have their offerings to the church 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.

LWML News

Our next meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 16, at the church. All women of BSLC are invited to attend and learn more about the Lutheran Women's Missionary League.

Mite Sunday was Jan. 29. Are you wondering where the loose change and Mite boxes dollars are sent? The chart below shows where the monies are distributed. Thanks for your support of the LWML Missions.

LWML ND District Mission Grants 2016-2018 Biennium

MISSION GRANT	AMOUNT BUDGETED	AMOUNT PAID	BALANCE
ND District Full-Time Church Worker Scholarships	\$35,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$28,000.00
Orphan Grain Train—ND Branch	\$7,500.00	-0-	\$7,500.00
Wahpeton LCMS U	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	-0-
Christ the Way Radio Ministry	\$5,000.00	-0-	\$5,000.00
Providing Spiritual & Emotional Care for Pastors	\$8,000.00	-0-	\$8,000.00
Concordia Fort Wayne Food Coop	\$5,000.00	-0-	\$5,000.00
Christ's Care for Children: Kenya	\$4,320.00	-0-	\$4,320.00
Grace Lutheran School Scholarship Fund	\$5,000.00	-0-	\$5,000.00
Dakota Boys & Girls Ranch (partial funding)	\$4,680.00	-0-	\$4,680.00
TOTALS	\$76,000.00	\$8,500.00	\$67,500.00

LWML Prayer Service Feb. 18

The 2017 LWML Prayer Service will be from 9-11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 18. It will be hosted by Trinity Lutheran, 100 2nd Ave. W., Sabin, MN. There will be coffee and rolls afterwards. All are invited to attend.

Serving God Through His Church

This is your church! Do you feel like an outcast? Why not use your talents and gifts to get involved? Once people become involved, they feel like they belonged to BSLC. By getting involved, you learn more about the needs of the church and appreciate other believers for what they do. Pray to God about where to use your talents and ask the pastors for guidance.

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as though you were working for the Lord and not for men." Col. 3:23

Memorials to BSLC

Keith Gregerson in memory of
Marie Dooley.



Christian Chicks Bookclub

Do you like to read Christian fiction? The next book our group will read is "The Most Famous Illegal Goose Creek Parade (Tales from the Goose Creek B&B Book 1) by Virginia Smith. We will meet at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 28, at a place to be determined.

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

February Service Group

Donna Ceroll is our captain for February. Our group consists of the last names that begin with the letters A-Bo. She will call you asking for treats or to help out with funerals or other events. Thanks for your willingness to help.

Our March group will be Br-D with captain Sherry Anderson and will be in charge for the Ash Wednesday, March 1, soup supper.

Elder for February

Glen Haekenkamp is our elder for February. 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 for our church, talk to Glen or any of the elders.

Your Time is Needed Sundays

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.

Gold Club Wednesday, Feb. 8 With a String Attached

Our Gold Club potluck will meet at noon Wednesday, Feb. 8. Not only will there be good food, there will be additional fun for all who attend. 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 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Feb. 2 and 16. 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 for more information or to apply.

Sudanese Vicars Preparing for a Call

Daniel Mapur and Samuel Majak are the two vicars who have been serving the South Sudanese worshipping community in our congregation under the supervision of our BSLC pastors. They have taken courses sponsored by the St. Louis Seminary for three and a half years so that they might become qualified to serve as pastors in our church. They will finish their studies in August. Upon successful completion and examination, they will be certified to be called to serve as pastors of specialized ministries in the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod.



At this time, vicars Daniel and Samuel would like to stay in the Fargo area and continue to work with the Sudanese community that is worshipping at our church. The Board of Elders is in the process of working with the Sudanese community so that our congregation could call them as pastors. If things go smoothly, our congregation may be able to extend a call to them at our March voters' meeting.

How does someone become a pastor?

by Pastor Dave

With our two vicars close to finishing their studies, it is good for us to review how the Lutheran Church directs the process of someone becoming a pastor. To help us understand this better, it is beneficial to acknowledge that there are two calls by God involved in this process. To begin with, there is an inner call that the person feels from God drawing them into the pastoral ministry. The second call is from a congregation or some other organization that asks them to serve as a pastor in a particular place. This second call acknowledges that a person cannot make themselves into a pastor. Rather, God calls one into this ministry through a congregation. From the beginning of Lutheranism, it has been confessed that no one should publicly preach or administer the sacraments without being rightly called.

Throughout its history, the church has also acknowledge the importance of training those that feel the call to become pastors. This training and certification happens before someone receives a call from a congregation. The importance of training can be seen as we look at the Bible. The apostles had to contend against preachers and prophets who taught false things about God and His will for us. Therefore, the church came up with a process of training and certification before one is called to be a pastor so that God's Word and Sacraments may be correctly taught and administered. One's desire to become a pastor by itself doesn't make someone a pastor nor should it. Think about it - I may feel like I would be a good dentist. However, until I have had some training in dentistry and certification that I am qualified, I doubt anyone would want me to drill out cavities, put on braces or do other types of work on their teeth. In a similar way, the church has had some sort of process that involves training before one is certified to be called as a pastor. The process of training can vary from one place to another. The process can be adapted depending on the needs of the church. But it is needed.

Please continue to keep our vicars Daniel and Samuel in your prayers.

Pastor Dave

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. Also please feel free to e-mail updates to the office so it can be e-mailed to our prayer warriors.

Sunday prayers posted in bulletin: Please let the church know if you have prayer concerns and joys to put in our announcements. The petitions will continue to run weekly until you let the church know to remove them off the list. Our church members appreciate the chance to pray for our particular needs and joys. God hears all our prayers at all times.

ND and MN NORTH TELEVISION MINISTRY OUTREACH

"Main Street Living North" Update

Five Sunday forenoon programs of **"Main Street Living North"** television ministry outreach program have been broadcasted to the eastern half of North Dakota and the western half of northern Minnesota, and posted on the www.mainstreetlivingnorth.com website for viewing anytime. This new gospel outreach ministry, featuring worship services led by pastors of our ND and MN North Districts of the LCMS, is an expansion of a program first started by the SD District LCMS in 2002. In addition to the 30 minute worship service, a 30 minute children's program called "Kid's Crossing" precedes it.

Most of the February programs will include pastors from our MN North and North Dakota Districts. But due to equipment restrictions, the Feb. 19 and the March broadcasts will feature worship services led by pastors of the SD LCMS congregations. We thank them for filling in until we are able to produce all of our programs locally.

Main Street Living North programs are broadcast on Fox Television affiliate stations including:

KVRR Fargo-Moorhead Channel 15.1,
KBRR Thief River Falls-Grand Forks Channel 10.1,
KJRR Jamestown Channel 7.1,
KNRR Pembina Channel 12.1,
Cable and satellite systems carrying these stations.

Television is a way to reach people who cannot attend their own church services as well as those people who do not participate in traditional worship services.

Each week, congregations will receive a brief bulletin article listing the pastor leading the service and describing the content of the current week's message and children's program. All programs may also be viewed at any time at www.mainstreetlivingnorth.com.

Please add this new ministry outreach to your prayer list. Also Main Street Living of South Dakota has pledged to match up to a total of \$16,000 of support received for the new Main Street Living North programming! If you would like to give financial support, please send your check to:

"Main Street Living North",
307 10 ½ Ave. E.,
West Fargo, ND 58078,

You also may go through pay-pal/credit card to donate. Go to their website at www.mainstreetlivingnorth.com and designate it's for the new "North" broadcast area. Thank you for your support.

Grace Lutheran School

Giving Hearts Day is Feb. 9 so please consider giving to Grace Lutheran School on this day. If you know of any business that Grace School could partner with to offer small incentives to those who donate to our school this day (donut, pizza, coffee, pizza, car wash etc.) e-mail Kari.marketing@gracels.com

GLS Auction will be March 25 at the Ramada in Fargo. Any donations can be dropped off at the school. Grace would like local fine-art donations this year, so ask any local artists you know if they would donate to our auction.

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

[Facebook.com/gracelutheralschoolfargo](https://www.facebook.com/gracelutheralschoolfargo).
www.gracelutheralschool.org.

Crossfire Youth Band

Our youth praise band for students in grades 6-12 will meet at 7 p.m. Sundays, Feb, 12, 19 and 26. If you have questions, please call Ramsey Dahl at 866-5403.

Tuition Assistance for Children Attending Grace Lutheran School

Beautiful Savior has tuition funds to help parents send their children to Grace Lutheran School. The assistance forms are available in the church office. If you are requesting assistance, you are asked to sign a covenant agreement. Talk to either pastor if you have any questions. The deadline for submitting the application is the end of March.

Lutherans for Life National Essay Contest

Sponsored by the Council of Federation Presidents, Lutherans For Life

For students in Grades 6 through 12 (Any Lutheran student or student in a Lutheran school)



Contest Guidelines: Students will write a life-affirming essay based on the 2017 Conference theme "Hope For Life" and 1 Peter 3:15 *"in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect"*

Examples of topics the essay could deal with are: abortion, the handicapped, infanticide, cloning, stem cell research, physician assisted suicide or euthanasia.

Essays should include student's name, grade (Identify school or church) and email address. All entries submitted by a teacher or pastor, should include their name and email address. This information should be submitted on the rubric page used in grading the essay.

All sources for references, statistics and quotes should be incorporated within the essay and then included in a bibliography at the end.

Grades six through eight should submit essays up to 400 words and grades nine through twelve should submit essays up to 750 words.

Each school and church is to select their top pick in each of the two grade levels. These two essay entries should be submitted digitally using Microsoft Word to the State LFL Federation by March 15. Send state entries to the website at ndflfessaycontest@gmail.com

State awards are as follows: a first place prize of \$100 and second place prize of \$50 will be awarded by our ND State Lutherans for Life to each level. The winning state entry from grades six through eight and grades nine through twelve will be sent to the National Lutherans for Life office by May 1.

Grand Prize for national winning entry at each level: \$250 plus free conference registration to the 2017 Regional Conference of their choice and one hotel night at a conference hotel.

All entries become the property of Lutherans For Life.

For questions or resources on the sanctity of life, go to the website lutheransforlife.org.

February Youth Events

Upcoming Bible Study Opportunities

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

Upcoming Fellowship Events

Saturday, Feb. 4 – Andes Skiing and Snowboarding Trip. All families should save the date for some time on the slopes at the new ski complex at Andes in Alexandria, MN. We will meet at 7:30 a.m. sharp at the Beautiful Savior parking lot and return around 7-8 p.m. Check-in at Andes will be at 9:45 a.m. We will attempt to carpool and will need drivers. Cost is \$21 for a lift ticket, plus an extra \$14 if you need to rent skiing equipment and an extra \$24 if you plan to rent a snowboard. We are also asking for \$5 for anyone who needs to carpool. Food is available at the chalet, but also bring enough money for a stop at Pizza Ranch on the return home. You must fill out a form and turn it in to Pastor Chris.



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
U.S. Postage Paid
Fargo, ND
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.