

April 2022

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

God's Word Rescues Sinners from the "Dictator Trap" By Pastor Chris

It was Lord Acton, the British historian, who said: "All power tends to corrupt; absolute power corrupts absolutely." A recent opinion piece in *The Atlantic* applied Acton's adage into recent events, taking aim at Vladimir Putin and the power structure around him.

"Autocrats such as Putin eventually succumb to what may be called the 'dictator trap.' The strategies they use to stay in power tend to trigger their eventual downfall," the author wrote. "Rather than being long-term planners, many make catastrophic short-term errors—the kinds of errors that would likely have been avoided in democratic systems. They hear only from sycophants and get bad advice."

The world rightly has condemned Putin and his actions, but the problem runs deeper than political systems, power structures and ideology. The problem lies with the corruption of original sin that each of us carry.

When Satan called God's integrity into question and invited Adam and Eve to take matters into their own hands and eat the fruit of the tree that God had forbidden, the result ended in a dictator trap. Now, instead of having a heart and mind in alignment with God's good and perfect will -- mankind would now be corrupted by a dictator trap of its own, a heart and will that glorifies and pursues self-interest over and against God's will and the good of neighbor.

(Continued on Page 2.)

Midweek Worship, 7 p.m. April 6

Potluck Supper 6 p.m. (Service Group E-G - Diane Lee)

Palm Sunday, April 10 Palm Sunday Party 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, 7 p.m. April 14 "From Passover to the Lord's Supper"

Good Friday, 7 p.m. April 15 "From the Day of Atonement to the Atonement of the Cross"

Easter Sunday, 8:15, 9:30 and 10:45 a.m. April 17 "Welcome Home!"

Easter Breakfast 8:45 -10:30 a.m. Rolls, muffins, fruit, scrambled eggs, sausage links, juice and coffee will be available. No Sunday school or adult Bible study



God's Word Rescues Sinners from the "Dictator Trap"

(Continued from Page 1.)

Our Old Adam, corrupted by sin, makes catastrophic errors. Instead of deferring to God's good and gracious will born from His perfect character, our sinful nature seeks to invade and overturn God's rule and reign. We say what is right and wrong. We determine what will be done and what is noble. We become dictators.

When we look at Putin, its easy to cast disparagements. But we often give a pass to our own questionable rule and reign and the poor decisions that we make. When God's Word enters the picture, we often resent His rightful claim against our dictatorship. Our sinful nature rejects His Word and finds solace in sources that confirm our sinful ideas and opinions and affirm our poor choices. Paul points out this malady when he writes: "For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths," (2 Timothy 4:3-4).

What is the answer? Paul encourages the young pastor Timothy to proclaim God's Word, even amid staunch opposition, rejection and hostility: "As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry," (2 Timothy 4:5).



Beware, dictators! Stand on alert. God has established a King to usher in the rule and

reign of God. God has sent a Champion, come to fight against injustice, oppression, tyranny, corruption, sin, death and darkness. And this King, our Lord, Jesus Christ won the day.

Jesus teaches us to pray "Thy kingdom come" in the Lord's Prayer to make us aware of the dictator trap. Martin Luther explains this petition in this way: "Thy kingdom come. What does this mean? The kingdom of God certainly comes by itself without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may come to us also. How does God's kingdom come? God's kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace, we believe His holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity."

Through the means of grace, God lovingly gives us His Holy Spirit to bring our destructive dictatorship to an end. And God doesn't operate His Kingdom as a democracy either. A democracy is by no means immune from the corruption of sin. Majority doesn't rule. All "truths" are not equally valid.

The Psalm for Christmas Day declares: "Now therefore, O kings, be wise, be warned, O rulers of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him," (Psalm 2:10-12).

Out of love for us, Christ, the Word made flesh, tears down our empire of dust and brings us into His perfect everlasting Kingdom of justice, righteousness, restoration, light and life. By God's Holy Spirit, we take blessed refuge in Jesus. We hear and trust His Word.

Pastor Chris

Upcoming Bible Studies

9:30 a.m. Sunday morning Bible study: "Death, Heaven, **Resurrection and the New**

Creation" - Death is a reality we all must face. Some embrace death as a friend. Others fear it, seeking to avoid it at all costs. But Christians find hope in the Lord Jesus, who overcame the grave. Death has no hold over Jesus, and it will have no hold over you.

7 p.m. Tuesday night Bible study: "Overcoming Life's Sorrows: Learning from Jeremiah" - This tour of the book of Jeremiah shows us how to find comfort amid life's grief and heartbreaks by pointing us to Jeremiah's reliance on God and ultimately pointing us to Jesus, the real "man of sorrows" and the One in whom all hope and joy are found. This study will be offered in person and via Zoom. You may enter the meeting manually: Meeting ID: 878 698 0623; Passcode: 497670

9 a.m. Thursday Women's Bible study via Zoom: "Deuteronomy – Becoming Holy People" - In these twelve studies of Deuteronomy, the story of God's people seeking after him will be told. It will teach a lesson to follow God more closely by following their journey, experiencing their progress, their detours and their obstacles.

7 p.m. Thursday, April 28: Married Couple Bible Study - The married couple small group Bible study will



be taking a look at what God's Word has to say about marriage and showing it is still so relevant today! See Pastor Brian with any questions.

BSLC Men's Bible Study

This study begins at 7 p.m. on Monday, April 18. Come enjoy fellowship with other men from our church and learn what the Bible says about the vocation God has given us.



FNI IGHT

Palm Sunday Party April 10

When Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, people celebrated the coming of the Messiah. Beautiful Savior will host its own celebration for kids during Sunday school from 9:30-10:30 a.m. on Sunday, April 10, in the fellowship hall. This year's party will include snacks, crafts and the story about Palm Sunday.

Confirmation Sunday April 24

Ten youth from our congregation will be confirmed at 10:45 a.m. Sunday, April 24. Please pray for these individuals as they step forward in their journey of Christian faith. Our confirmands are:

Hudson Asche Jordan Gustafson Lydia Hestdalen Samuel Olson Brady Swenson Andrew Grothman Faith Hanson-Buethner James Johnson Annalise Steege Lillian Wirtz

Easter Flowers On Altar

Sign-up sheets are available in the narthex to order Easter flowers in memory or in honor of loved ones. Flowers and the prices are listed on the sign-up sheets. There are



limited quantities of each flower, so get your orders in early. Please make checks payable to the LWML and leave in the envelope.

Memorials

In memory of Richard Vance (Jamie Waldvogel's Dad):

Ed & Carol Herrmann Karen Mart-Taverna Loretta Swanson



Thank You

Thank you for all your prayers, cards, e-mails and condolences for Jamie's father's death on Feb. 1, 2022. Your support during this difficult time is very much appreciated! Although Rich will be missed, we rejoice that those who depart in faith are with the Lord, which is better by far. May this assurance and faith be yours in Christ Jesus that we too may come to our eternal dwelling place with Him.

Pastor Chris, Jamie, Jacob, Alaysha, Kylie, Skylure and Charlie

Easter Breakfast April 17

Bring your appetites to church this Easter! A delicious breakfast of rolls, muffins, fruit, scrambled eggs, sausage links, juice and coffee will be served on Easter Sunday from 8:45 -10:30 a.m. Thanks to the NYG



youth who will be serving our Easter breakfast this year. Stop in the fellowship hall to enjoy food and conversation on this joyous day. A free-will offering will be taken to cover expenses at the National Youth Gathering.

Voters Meeting Update

Church officers re-elected were Craig Hashbarger, treasurer; Rich Beaver, elder; Stacy Knudson, education director; Scott Persoon, properties director and Kim Ternes RRLSA board. We thank elders Paul Asche, Joe Pytlik, Kurt Mathiason and secretary Kayla Muehler for their service and all they have done for Beautiful Savior during the past years. Elders elected were Brian Rieck, Don Schroeder and Jim Willprecht and Secretary Deb Schimek.

Please keep our church officers in your prayers. Installation will be held on Sunday, May 1.

"Restore His House" Update

Our "Restore His House" three-year capital campaign has ended. It is with great pleasure that we can announce: We have met our \$330,000 goal! Praise the Lord! With more than 88 family units participating, we not only met our goal, but also exceeded it by an additional \$12,000.



During the past three years, some of these donations already have been put to use: the building has new siding, the sanctuary has new shingles and the parking lot has been resurfaced. These funds are also designated for a few more projects that include a new HVAC for the sanctuary, replacing the roof on the narthex, painting the cross tower and new carpet in the sanctuary. We are excited to move forward with these projects.

Thank you to everyone who contributes to the ministry at Beautiful Savior. Each one of you is a blessing. Also we specifically want to thank those who contributed to this capital campaign, those who gave of their time and abilities to get the campaign started and those working to accomplish the projects.



Clubs and Service Groups



Service Group - Our captains will call you asking for treats or help with events. Thanks for your help. **April:** Br-D with captain Janet Koppinger May: E-G with captain Diane Lee.

Elders - Our elders greet members and visitors, help the pastors with any needs and see that all goes well at worship service. If you have any concerns for our church, please talk to head elder Adam Tykwinski or any of the other elders.

Quilting and Fellowship - We meet the second and fourth Thursday of the month. Join us at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 14 and 28. If you have any questions, call Donna Ceroll at 232-2464.

BSLC Coffee Club - BSLC members, men and women of any age, are invited to gather at 9 a.m. on Friday mornings at Randy's, 2130 University Drive S., Fargo.

Gold Club - Join us for some potluck food, faith and fellowship. Our next get-together will be at noon on Wednesday, April 20. Bring a dish that starts with the letter of your first name to share. Gold Club is for anyone!

Beautiful Garden Group - We will have a garden planning meeting at 11:45 a.m. on Sunday, April 3. Would you like to help with some gardening this summer two to four times per month? The sixth annual Beautiful Garden in Beautiful Savior's backyard could use your help. Gardeners beautiful 2000

🛁 øarden

harvest. We are doing a "kid's plot" this year. All ages are invited to help with gardening activities and enjoy some fellowship. If you would like to be added to the communication list please email tim.deitemeyer@hotmail.com to be added to the communication list.

Orphan Grain Train Still Taking **Donations for Ukraine Refugees**

get to enjoy the benefits of the

Monetary donations can be made online on the church website or you can send a check to Orphan Grain Train, PO Box 1466, Norfolk, NE 68702-1466, marked Ukrainian relief. Please pray for the Lord to provide relief for the millions who are suffering. Pray for our efforts to provide for these victims. Pray for Him to put an end to this crisis.

LWML - We will have our monthly meeting at 6 p.m. on Thursday, April 21, in the fellowship hall. All women of BSLC are invited to attend.

Save the Date: LWML District Convention will be held on June 24-26 in Fargo at the Delta Hotel. The theme is "Cross Eyed ... Focused on Jesus." We will be collecting items for our In-Gatherings: Next Step (works with victims of human trafficking), Grace Lutheran School and the Women's Care Clinic. Please check the church website for a full list of items or the collection box in the narthex.

Help Support District Church Workers through LWML Mission Grants - The North Dakota District LWML needs your help in funding its final mission grants for the 2020-2022 biennium. Both grants are earmarked to help church workers in the district.

The ND Full-time Church Worker Scholarships Grant is placed at the top of the funding schedule every biennium. These funds provide scholarships for future church workers currently attending an LCMS college or seminary. The district still needs \$8,000 to complete this mission grant. The second mission grant includes \$8,000 that focuses on church worker health through programs such as Doxology.

The ND LWML hopes to complete disbursements for its various mission grants by March 31. Please send your donations through your local LWML units, or send them to Audrey O'Brien, 306 South 8th St., PO Box 3, Oakes, ND 58474. Make sure to mark your donations as "mites."



Mercy Meals Pack Event

Join us on Saturday, April 9, at Grace Lutheran School. Every 10 seconds a child dies of hunger. Let's help those in need by packing nutritious meals. To sign up contact Corey Isaak at corey isaak@gracefargo.org or https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050B4AAAA9 2DA64-mercy



A Reason to Believe

is not here:

he has risen!

Luke 24:6

"But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus," (Luke 24:1-3).

Easter Sunday morning was difficult for the women who went to visit Jesus' tomb. It was just a few days earlier that they had seen their friend die. The image of Jesus hanging on a cross was still fresh in their minds. The rapid pace at which it had all happened was still stunning.

Have you ever felt like these women would have on their way to Jesus' tomb early that Sunday morning? Have you ever gone nights without sleep because your sorrow is so deep? Has your heart ever tried to carry a heavy burden you did not see coming? Have you ever sat for days in the dark valley, wondering if the recent death of someone you love really happened? Have you ever mourned deep in your soul because of someone or something that suddenly went missing? And if you have felt any of those things, have you ever felt like that feeling is never going to change?

It seems the first women to the grave on Easter morning did. You wouldn't bring burial spices to a grave if you were looking for the living. They weren't expecting to see life. They were expecting to see death. But what they found instead was enough to give hope, peace and joy to anyone who has ever been convinced they will never again feel those wonderful things.

They saw the emptiness of Jesus' grave. They saw proof that Jesus was risen and that His sacrifice for our sins was accepted. They saw God's ability to keep His promises to love us and give us the greatest victory of all. They saw, just as we do, as we consider the empty tomb, the glorious significance of Easter morning. He is risen indeed! Alleluia!



"Main Street Living North" TV Program News

"And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain, and your faith is in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised

Christ, whom He did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile, and you are still in your sins ... But in fact Christ has



been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep." (1 Corinthians 15:14-20). This is the primary message of our MSLN ministry! He is risen! He is risen indeed!

To add your financial support, checks may be sent to Main Street Living North, 821 Fifth Ave. S., Fargo, ND 58103, or donate by credit card or your PayPal account on the website. Thank you, and God's blessing in Christ!

April pastors and sermons are as follows:

April 3: Rev. Adam Welton, St. Peter Lutheran Church, Wentworth, SD, presents the message: "Conscience Cleansed," based on Hebrews 9:13-14. *This Is The Life:* "Holy Land Tour part 1."

April 10: Rev. Robert Hill, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Wimbledon, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Pettibone, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Woodworth, and St. Paul Lutheran Church, Kensal, presents the message: "The Sacrifice is Made," based on Luke 23:18, 32, 44-45. *This Is The Life:* "Holy Land Tour part 2."

April 17: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler, Speaker of the Lutheran Hour, presents an Easter message titled: "With," based on John 20:1-18. *This Is The Life:* "Three Days."

April 24: Rev. Matthew Harrison, president of the LCMS, presents a message celebrating the 175th anniversary of the LCMS. *This Is The Life:* "Gates of Glory."



Beautiful Savior Celebrates 40 Years

The fourth in a series on the history of BSLC

Beautiful Savior's original building was designed for a congregation of about 200 members. Membership rose to 224 members in 1991. Space was at a premium, especially for Sunday school. This led to the establishment of a long-range planning committee in 1991 to study the various alternatives for space requirements.

The congregation started a building fund in December 1991 to begin gathering money for the future. The long-range planning committee studied various alternatives throughout 1992-1993. The church needed more growth to afford a new addition, yet it needed new facilities to grow. The final recommendations were sought to work out a financial arrangement with the North Dakota District to continue sharing the existing building and formed a building task force to add on to the present facility.

A capital campaign, "Growing in Christ," was conducted in the fall of 1994. Contributions totaling \$226,000 during a three-year period were pledged. The congregation set a goal of having \$200,000 before beginning construction.

In an effort to build in 1995, a generous matching gift program was offered by an anonymous donor. This matching gift was successful. It generated \$78,000 in cash by the end of April for the project.

Plans were bid in May 1995 to have work completed by a general contractor. Unfortunately, the bids were too high, and the congregation voted to wait until the spring of 1996 to rebid. What seemed to be an unfortunate delay was really in God's plan, as He led BSLC to the Missouri Synod Laborers for Christ organization. The laborers for Christ consisted mostly of retirees that assist Missouri Synod churches in a variety of construction projects around the world.



BSLC Sunday School News

Sunday School Students to Sing: The PreK through third-graders will be singing at both worship services on Sundays, April 24 and May 22. Please have your student at the church by 8 a.m. on these Sundays for a short practice. They are welcome to sing at one or both services.

VBS Save the Date: June 5-9, 2022. VBS is soon approaching and we need many hands to make it a success! We are looking for volunteers to help with the following:

- **Decorations** this includes making sets and decorating classrooms, the sanctuary and the narthex
- **Crew Leaders** this position is in charge of moving the same kiddos every day from one station to the next and making sure everyone stays together.
- Station Leaders these leaders are in charge of activities. Everything is planned out and ready for you each day. Stations include: gym activities, crafts/ experiments, music, Bible adventures and KidVid cinema.
- **Registration:** We can use volunteers to sit at the registration booth at drop-off and pick-up times as well as snack and supper helpers.

Can't volunteer your time, but would still like to help out? Keep your eyes open for a donation list coming soon!

LCMS District Office is Hiring



Bible Memory Verse

The LCMS ND District Office is hiring an office manager to organize and coordinate

Congregational Memory

office administration and procedures, to ensure organizational effectiveness and efficiency. Key job duties include customer service, relationship building, accounts receivable, accounts payable, writing, publishing and file management. Position is located in Fargo and is 20-25 hours per week. Contact Tami Ulland at (701) 360-1469 or <u>Icms.nd.busman@gmail.com</u>.

Verse Challenge

<u>April 3:</u> Revelation 21:4 - He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.

<u>April 10:</u> John 16:22 - So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.

April 17: 1 Corinthians 15:55 - O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?

Enlighten

Grace Lutheran School News

Save the Date: Pasta With a Purpose will be from noon to 7 p.m. Saturday, April 30. This is a dine-in event and reservations are not required. Tickets are \$12 for those 12 years and older and \$6 for children 4-12 years old. Tickets can be purchased at the door or from any board member. It is our goal to make the spaghetti dinner an association-driven event. If your group is interested in becoming part of this event, contact Amy at 701-232-7747 or ahirsch@gracels.com.

Crossfire Youth Praise Band

Our youth praise band will lead worship on Sunday, April 24. They will practice at the church from 6-7 p.m. on Saturday, April 23 and 7-8 p.m. on Sundays, April 3 and 10. If you have questions, call Ramsey at 866-5403.

High School Seniors Pictures and Graduation Plans Needed

Do you have a youth who will graduate from high school in May or June? BSLC would like to know their future plans. Please leave an update and a picture in the church office or e-mail the church by April 25. A display of our high school seniors will be on the bulletin board in the narthex along with a brief description of future plans. There also will be a short article on our seniors in our May newsletter. Our congregation will honor the seniors during a Sunday worship in May.

Wallum Scholarship Fund

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

NYG Attendees Looking for Sponsorship

Nine youth will be attending the National Youth Gathering July 9-13 in Houston, Texas. Their photos, along with sponsorship envelopes, are posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. They are looking for sponsors to help them with the costs involved with the gathering.

Members of the congregation can help by taking an envelope off the board and pledging a dollar amount to a youth. Please return your sponsorship envelope in the drop box in the church office by May 1.



NYG Chili Cook-off Thank You

Thank you to everyone who supported the NYG chili cook-off and silent auction! \$2,484 was raised to help the youth attend the National Youth Gathering in Houston, TX this summer. The trophy for best chili was awarded to Dave Mielke.

NYG Bible Study for Adults and Youth

A Bible study for the NYG youth and parents going to Houston this summer will be at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 27. This will be the first in a series of Bible studies before we go on our trip. We will begin our journey learning about "In All Things" from Colossians 1.

April Youth Events

UPCOMING BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES: Join us for fun and fellowship!

Wednesday, April 6 - from 7:45-9 p.m. - LYF for grades 6-12 Wednesday, April 20 - from 7:30-9 p.m. - LYF for grades 6-12





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 FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/BeautifulSaviorLutheranFargo

Office Hours:

9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday

Pastor Chris and Pastor Brian are also available by appointment.

Worship Schedule:

Sunday at 8:15 a.m. & 10:45 am in-person & via YouTube Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Sunday

Holy Communion is celebrated on the first, third and fifth Sundays of each month. Pastors are also available by appointment Monday - Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Worship Services available at:

www.beautifulsaviorfargo.com www.youtube.com www.facebook.com/BeautifulSaviorLutheranFargo Sermon podcasts on our website & iTunes app

Pastor Chris Waldvogel 701-293-1047 701-893-6995

Associate Pastor **Brian Shane** 701-293-1047 314-532-0012

ENLIGHTEN is a

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church.

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Administrative Assistant Kim Scheer 701-293-1047

Council Members				
Chairman:	Denise Doeling			

Vice-Chair: Mike Schlichtmann 552-0380 Treasurer: Craig Hashbarger 541-0930 Secretary: Kayla Muehler 899-4504 Properties: Scott Persoon 219-0399 Education: Stacy Knudson 306-4302 Stewardship: Claudia Schroeder 361-0570 Evangelism: Tim Deitemeyer 793-2220

Other Volunteers

LWML President:	Mary Seiffert	212-3712
Choir Director:	Ramsey Dahl	866-5403
RRLSA Board Representatives:	Randy Johnson	200-6523
	Kim Ternes	205-7101
Financial Secretary:	Beth Gustafson	239-9090

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Board of Elders

238-1321

A-Bo	Paul Asche	361-6960	
Br-D	Dale Olson	238-1029	
E-G	Rich Beaver	371-9077	
H-K	Joe Pytlik	261-5943	
L-N	Mike Sellden	235-5828	
O-R	Adam Tykwinski	793-8170	
S	Kurt Mathiason	220-4906	
T-Z	Chris Speelmon	799-7804	
Elders are assigned families based on last name			

Elders are assigned families based on last name