



August 2023

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Upcoming Trial in Finland Once Again Challenges Freedom of Religious Expression

By Pastor Chris

An upcoming trial in the Helsinki Court of Appeals will once again challenge freedoms concerning religion expression in Finland. The trial will begin Aug. 22.

In 2021, Finland's prosecutor general cited a 2004 pamphlet as "hate speech." In the pamphlet, The Rev. Dr. Juhana Pohjola, bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Mission Diocese of Finland, and Dr. Päivi Räsänen, Finnish member of parliament, "expressed their deeply held, historically Christian beliefs on male-female marriage and human sexuality, emphasizing God's good creation and the inherent dignity of all people," according to a statement from the Lutheran International Council reaffirming a 2021 letter denouncing religious persecution in Finland.

In 2022, the Helsinki District Court unanimously acquitted the men of the charges, ruling that "it is not for the court to interpret Biblical concepts." The prosecutors appealed the acquittal, and a second trial will once again seek to convict Pohjola and Räsänen of hate speech.

(Continued on Page 2.)

Special Voters' Meeting to be Held Sunday, Aug. 6

There will be a special voters' meeting at 10:15 a.m. on Aug. 6. We will be deciding on the direction Beautiful Savior will go and if we need another called worker. We will also be discussing the temporary time change for fall services. This would allow Pastor Chris the time necessary to commute for the vacancy at Crosspointe. We pray that the Lord would quickly fill the area vacancies with faithful workers. Please plan to attend.

GLS "Growing Together in Grace" Pledge Sheets

The members of Beautiful Savior should have received a "Growing Together in Grace" pledge sheet. At a special Voters meeting in May, Beautiful Savior members agreed to launch a three-year capital campaign to raise pledges and donations of \$50,000 from BSLC members, to be matched by an anonymous donor, for a total support of \$100,000. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this three-year capital campaign. Please fill out the pledge sheet and return it to the church office by placing it in the offering plate or mailing it back to the church **by Aug. 15**. Please note: donations do not need to be received by Aug. 15, only pledges of support. If you have any questions, contact the church, Randy Johnson, Kim Ternes or Joan Fiechtner.



Upcoming Trial in Finland Once Again Challenges Freedom of Religious Expression

(Continued from Page 1.)

"This represents nothing less than a yearslong relentless attack against free speech, religious expression, personal moral integrity, and limited government's proper sphere of jurisdiction as articulated in the Constitution of Finland, the European Convention on Human Rights (articles 9, 10), and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (articles 18, 19)," said a new statement signed by LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison; LCMS Director of Church Relations Rev. Dr. Jonathan E. Shaw; and International Lutheran Council General Secretary Rev. Dr. Timothy C. J. Quill.

"We reaffirm the comprehensive June 25, 2021, International Lutheran Council statement: 'A Protest and Call for Free Religious Speech in Finland: An International Lutheran Condemnation of the Unjust Criminal Prosecution of the Rev. Dr. Pohjola and Dr. Räsänen, and a Call for All People of Good Will to Support the Freedom of Religious Expression in Finland,' signed by 48 ecclesial leaders and 45 church bodies and associations, but representing the moral commitments of hundreds of millions worldwide," the new letter read. "We call on all people of good will to condemn this unconscionable prosecution, to take a stand for freedom of speech and freedom of religion for all, and to pray for Bishop Pohjola and Dr. Räsänen and their acquittal. When we compromise on freedom for just one or two, we ultimately place freedom at risk for all."

The statement acknowledged the difference of the left- and right hand-kingdoms while also considering its overreach concerning religious freedoms: "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's" (Matt. 22:21)," the new statement said. "In this short sentence, Christ Jesus teaches His followers to honor and obey two different authorities, each in its proper sphere. Give to Caesar (government) what is rightfully his: honor and obedience regarding external matters such as taxes, laws that protect the body and punish evil, and earthly justice. And give to God what is rightfully His: honor and obedience regarding internal matters such as baptism into Christ, a clean conscience through forgiveness, speech that praises God and witnesses to others, love that shows mercy, and hope that looks to God. But where the government trespasses into God's sphere of internals, 'We must obey God rather than men,' (Acts 5:29; see also Augsburg Confession XVI, XXVIII)."

Pastor Chris

Upcoming Bible Studies

10:15 a.m. Sunday morning Bible study: "Everyone His Witness" -

We will help you get over your fear of the word "evangelism" and focus on good news and great joy in Jesus Christ. We will help you witness to friends, co-workers and other non-churched people you know. It's done by listening to those who are unsure about Christianity. It means asking questions that aren't accusatory and sharing the Good News about Jesus. Notice there's no bashing, no judgment, and no forced imposition of beliefs. Instead, there's understanding, communication and honesty between friends.

7 p.m. Tuesday night Bible study: "Celebrating the Saints" -

How much do you know about figures from Christian history like Emperor Constantine, Polycarp or Anselm? What about lesser-known people from the Bible such as Silas, Matthias (not Matthew) or Simon the Zealot? Throughout history, God has delivered His people by demonstrating His goodness, mercy and grace. In the forgiveness of sins in Christ alone, God's people are rightly called saints. Intertwined with the Lord's story are those who are His. Join us to see God working remarkably in the lives of His people.

9 a.m. Thursday Women's Bible study: "Encouraging One Another" -

Learn how God planned ahead for gloomy days, how He knows when we need a lift and how He has arranged for encouragement to be waiting for us.

Important Upcoming Fall Dates

We will continue to offer 7 p.m. Wednesday worship through Aug. 30, while our 9 a.m. Sunday service will continue through Sept. 3.

Wednesday, Sept. 6

Confirmation classes begin at 6:15 p.m. for grades 7, 8 and 9. A confirmation parent meeting will be at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 10 – Rally Day

Worship at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Coffee and Fellowship at 9 a.m.

Sunday School and Adult Bible Study at 9:15 a.m.

Third-graders Receive Bibles at either service.



Sunday School Begins Sept. 10, Volunteers Needed

Sunday school begins Sunday, Sept. 10 and it's time to register your child for class. The registration form can be found on page seven of the newsletter or on the church website.

As the school year approaches, we are looking for people to teach, team-teach, assist in a classroom, help with memory work, take attendance, and assist with the Christmas program. Let Stacy Knudson, Pastor Chris or the office know if you are willing to help our Sunday School program in any way.



Confirmation Classes

As a part of our education ministry, BSLC offers confirmation classes for students in seventh through ninth grades. If you have a child in one of those classes, please have them join us in-person beginning at 6:15 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 6. There will also be a short meeting following confirmation at 7:30 p.m. with parents to review our confirmation program this year. If you have any questions, please talk with Pastor Chris.

Music Ministry Leaders Needed

Beautiful Savior is in need of music ministry leaders for adult choir, Crossfire, children's Sunday School and Christmas Program. Prayerfully consider if you could share your gifts, talents and step up in any of these positions. If you want more information on any of these positions, visit with Pastor Chris or leave your name in the church office.



Memorial Committee Members Wanted

The church has received and continues to receive memorial donations. Some of these donations have recommendations on how they should be used while others are to be used at the church's discretion. These donations are not included in our general funds. We are looking for volunteers who would be interested in helping us select items with the memorial donations. Please prayerfully consider if you can help with this task. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Chris, Mike Schlichtmann or the church office.

Thank You

Thank you everyone for the prayers, love and support we have received these past five years. Thank you for the amazing farewell program, food, cards and gifts. We love you all. Your kindness is greatly appreciated.

- Pastor Brian, Dahlia and Yahaydha



Clay Fell Benefit Thank You

Thank you all for coming and supporting Clay's benefit. Thank you to everyone who donated money, baked goods, plants, auction items, quilts, food and the prayers that continue for us. I'm pretty much a big ball of emotions these days.

Like most of your lives, ours has not been easy these last 18 months. I'm so proud of Clay for continuing to stay positive through all the difficult days and choosing this heart transplant path. We've had family and so many friends by our side, checking in on us and supporting us; there just aren't enough words, and ways to describe how thankful and grateful we are for all of you!

I've been an organ donor since the option was available to check on your drivers license. It wasn't until a couple years ago that I realized how incredibly important that checkbox really is. Clay's transplant will be another family's heartache that will never go away. We know and feel this every day. If you can, please consider being an organ donor.

- Becky and Clay

Update: More than \$20,000 was brought in the day of the benefit: \$585 from the plant sale, \$1,777 from the bake sale, \$142 from the church quilt raffle, \$230 from the other quilt raffle, \$2,506 from the supper, \$6,436 from online giving and \$8,838 from the silent auction for a one day total of \$20,514. Along with the \$5,000 match, the total as of July 13 was more than \$30,000.

BSLC Treasurer's Report General Operating Fund

<u>Oper. Fund</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Contributions	23,975	207,032
Expense	<u>27,593</u>	<u>226,246</u>
Surplus/(Shortfall)	(3,618)	(19,214)

BSLC Clubs and Service Groups

Elders - Our elders greet members and visitors, helps the pastor 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 will meet this month from 10:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 10 and 24. You do not need to know how to quilt. Come for awhile, or stay the whole time. Call Donna Ceroll at 701-232-2464 with questions.

Gold Club - Gather together and enjoy some potluck food, faith and fellowship. Our next get-together will be at noon on Wednesday, Aug. 16. We will have our picnic this month. Hot dogs will be provided. Bring a side dish or dessert that you would bring to a picnic. Gold Club is for anyone!

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 Dr. S., Fargo.

Beautiful Garden - If you have thought about coming to the Garden before and haven't, please do. We have plenty of work to do. Some plants have done very well this year and others have not. Our weekly gardening sessions are at 5 p.m. on Wednesdays and at 9 a.m. on Saturdays or whenever it works best for you. This is designed to be good Christian fellowship and a little light gardening work. If you wish to be added to the communication list, email tim.deitemeyer@hotmail.com



LWML - We will take the month of August off and resume meeting in September.

ND District Fall Retreat "Angels...Truth & Myth": Save the date for Friday - Sunday, Sept. 15-17 in Devils Lake.

LWML Fall Luncheon Saturday, Oct. 14 - Beautiful Savior will be hosting a fall luncheon starting at 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 14. It will feature entertainment and a presentation by Kirk Rosin on the Orphan Grain Train in the Ukraine. This will be followed by a light lunch. A special donation will be taken for Orphan Grain Train. If you are interested in hosting a table, contact Kim in the church office.



Congregational Memory Verse Challenge



Aug. 6: Ephesians 4:29 - Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.

Aug. 13: Ephesians 4:32 - Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Aug. 20: 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 - Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.

Aug. 27: Titus 3:4-6 - When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Pastor Steve Schulz Farewell Sunday, Aug. 6

Pastor Steve Schulz will be leaving Fargo on Aug. 9 for Mission Central in Iowa. Immanuel is holding a potluck meal and program beginning at noon on Sunday, Aug. 6. All are invited to join us for any and all events.

Final Wednesday Night Potluck



We will host our final potluck meal for the summer at 5:30 p.m. *All-Church Potluck* on Aug. 16 in the fellowship hall. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be served. Bring a dish or dessert to share and enjoy some fellowship!

Thank You

Thank you to all the volunteers that came to "spring" clean the church in the past few weeks. We appreciate all you have done to make God's House clean and spotless.



Farewell and God's Blessings Pastor Brian and Dahlia

A farewell program and open house was held on July 9 for Pastor Brian and Dahlia. We thanked them for their ministry, friendship and love that they shared with us over the last five years. We will miss them, but it was a good way to send them off with our best wishes for God's blessings on their ministry in Texas. Pastor Brian was presented with a prayer bowl and a prayer sign from the congregation. A special thank you to the many people and their time and talents who helped make this happen.



"Main Street Living North" TV Program News

From the mailbag:

Jean wrote: "Please find enclosed a check ... to help continue the broadcast on Sundays. I've been unable to go to church most of March because of the weather and bad roads."

Another viewer shared: "Thank you for the wonderful programing on Sunday mornings! I love listening to all the wonderful clergy each Sunday as I recover from medical issues the past months."

Please continue to share information about the Main Street Living media ministry with others. View archived programs at www.mainstreetliving.com, click on the link under "Fargo/Bismarck." Worship services from the five other MSL broadcast areas, as well as the weekly *This Is the Life* programs, are also available for viewing on the website.

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

August pastors and sermons are as follows:

Aug. 6: Rev. Thomas Marcis, Zion Lutheran Church, Bismarck, presents the message: "Don't Just Send Them Away", based on Matthew 14:13-21. *This Is the Life:* "No Laughing Matter."

Aug. 13: Rev. Christopher Lieske, Trinity Lutheran Church, Fergus Falls, MN, presents the message: "The Lord Who Saves" based on Matthew 14:22-23. *This Is the Life:* "My Husband, My Sorrow."

Aug. 20: Rev. Daniel Larsen, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Henning, MN, presents the message: "Jealous", based on Romans 11:1-2a, 13-15, 28-32. *This Is the Life:* "The Cup."

Aug. 27: Rev. Timothy Schmeisser, Grace Lutheran Church, Sebeka, MN, Zion Lutheran Church, Sebeka, MN, and Nimrod Lutheran Church, Nimrod, MN, presents the message: "Back To Basics" based on Matthew 16:13-20. *This Is the Life:* "Stranger at the Door."

Weddings



July 22: Jacob Reimche and
Madison Johnson

Funerals



Kari Lyon, 55, Fargo, passed away on June 14 at home. Her funeral was at Oliver-Nathan Funeral Chapel, Valley City at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, June 27. Burial will be in Memory Gardens, rural Valley City.

Kari Jo Lyon was born on January 7, 1968, in Mesa, Arizona to George and Sharon (Webber) Lyon. She grew up in Valley City, ND where she graduated high school. She attended NDSU Bottineau and UND before finishing her degree and graduating from NDSU. She was a financial specialist at Noridian until her death.

Kari is survived by her brother, Greg (Kim) Lyon and sister, Kim (Steve) Schatzke.

Harlan R. LeMier, 91 of Horace, ND, passed away on July 12 at his daughters' home in Fargo, under the care of Hospice of the RRV and with family.

Harlan was born on Jan. 21, 1932 in Enderlin, ND to Glenn and Margaret (Erbstoesser) LeMier. He graduated from Oakes High School and entered the military in January 1949 and was honorably discharged September 1952. He married Irene Sunvold on Jan. 14, 1952. They were married 62 years before Irene's passing, living in Oakes until moving to Horace in 1983.

Harlan enjoyed hunting with his dad, uncles and sons, driving the pontoon on family fishing outings, attending his children's school activities and motorcycle trips with Irene to Sturgis for 40 straight years. Harlan and Irene were members of the Brotherhood of the Third Wheel trike club. Harlan drove over the road for Huebner Trucking, Oakes and Lewis Truck Lines, Lisbon and Fargo, accumulating over three million miles, in 46 states.

Harlan was preceded in death by his parents, wife Irene, brother Maynard, daughter Patricia, son-in-law Paul Lundell and grandson Joshua Lee Newgren. Harlan is survived by his sons Glenn (Twila) LeMier, Oakes; Paul LeMier, Napoleon; Theodore (Susan) LeMier, Fargo; Wayne (Michelle) LeMier, Fargo; daughters Margaret Lundell, Fargo; Julie LeMier, Valley City and Carol LeMier, Moorhead; 23 grandchildren, 25 great grandchildren and one great-great granddaughter.

Memorials

Mavis Lein (Vicki Peihl's mom) - Joan Fiechtner

Lynn Strege - Arla Strege

Harlan LeMier

Randy and Pam Aberle

Karen Mart-Taverna

Dave and Kim Scheer

ITSM Leadership

Marlys Gregory

Vicki Peihl

Arla Strege

Harlan LeMier Family

Grace Lutheran School News

As of July 21, our enrollment is 102 students. Just four years ago we barely had 50 students and now we're blessed with these wonderful growing pains. We are also in the process of opening a second Pre-K room. If you or someone you know is looking for high-quality Pre-K for their four- or five-year-old, send them our way. We still have several openings.

We recently achieved the Bright and Early ND Step 2 quality rating for childcare. This means our Pre-K exceeds a variety of standards in the childcare environment. This fall, we will begin to work toward Step 3.

As we enter our 76th school year, please pray for our students and their families, our staff, and for God's continued grace in the work we do here in His service. All our success belongs to Him alone.

Be a Part of GLS 75th Anniversary Cookbook:

To submit a recipe for GLS 75th anniversary cookbook, mail a copy to 1025 14th Ave S, Fargo, ND 58103, email a recipe to recipes@glsfargo.org, or stop in the school office and they will make a copy for you!

Growing Together in Grace Update

This summer, Dan Krause, our consultant from GraceWorks, has been on site twice to work with PACE and the fundraising committee to lay out a framework for the success of Growing Together in Grace. Construction and ordering can begin when \$833,000 is committed. As of July 21, \$541,825 is committed to Growing Together in Grace through church and individual pledges.

If you wish to meet with a committee member, make a donation, or share a fundraising lead, please contact Amy Hirsch at amy.hirsch@glsfargo.org or 701-232-7747. Church treasurers are equipped to answer questions about donations through the church.

2023-2024 Pre-K-6th Grade

Christian Education Registration Form

Please fill out this form and return it to the church office.

You may also email the completed form to the church at office@bslcfargo.org.

Name of parent(s): _____

Home Phone: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Cell: # _____ Parent name: _____ E-mail _____

Cell: # _____ Parent name: _____ E-mail _____

Allergies or Other Medical Conditions: _____

May we use pictures of your child on BSLC social media, website and publications?

Yes ☐ No ☐ _____

guardian/parent signature

Names of Children

Birthdate

Age

Grade (2023-24)

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

I am interested in helping in the following areas:

☐ Teacher

☐ Attendance

☐ Memory Work

☐ Team Teacher/Sub

☐ Classroom Helper

☐ Crafts

☐ Help with Christmas Program

Please indicate a preferred grade _____

Sunday School begins **Sept. 10, 2023**

Sunday School Classes available for children ages 3 thru Grade 12

August Youth Events

Monday, Aug. 7: Back to School Youth Event at

Thunder Road - This event is for sixth through twelfth-graders in the fall. Enjoy laser tag, miniature golf, go-cart rides, batting cages and more, along with Bible study. Parents please drop off and pick up your kids from Thunder Road. We will be meeting from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Aug. 7. Cost is \$20 for 5 tickets if paid by Aug. 6. Otherwise, the cost is \$25 at the door. Snacks will be provided. Forms are on the church website or in the narthex and may be returned to the office.

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Information



School supplies are on sale now and we need a lot for OCC. The top needs are notebooks, colored pencils, pencils, pens, scissors, pencil pouches and pencil sharpeners. Our goal is to pack 300 boxes this year. Watch for future announcements highlighting wish list items to be sure we have all categories covered. A complete list of gift ideas and the Do Not Include list can be found on the donation box in the narthex or on the church website. Email Jennifer at: njkrause@yahoo.com with any questions.

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. - 1:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday

Pastor Chris is available by appointment.

Worship Schedule:

Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Sunday at 9 a.m. in-person & via YouTube

Adult Bible Study 10:15 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

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ENLIGHTEN is a
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Council Members

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L-N Mike Sellden

O-R Adam Tykwinski

S Don Schroeder

T-Z Patrik Tostenson

Elders are assigned families based on last name



Scan the code to access
the BSLC website.

Other Volunteers

LWML President:

Choir Director:

RRLSA Board Representatives:

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