

# ENLIGHTEN

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church  
Fargo, North Dakota



## December 2020

### Inside this issue:

Jesus Promises to Come this Week! By Pastor Chris	2
Upcoming Bible Studies	2
Sign Up for Christmas Services	2
Sign Up for Poinsettias	2
Masks Required at BSLC	3
Singing Reduced in Services	3
Dorothy Day Thank You	3
2021 Calendar Youth Fundraiser	3
Sock and Mitten Tree	3
Treasurer's Report	3
Voters' Meeting	3
2021 Commitment & RHH	3
Clubs and Service Groups	4
New Member Corner	4
Deaths & Memorials	4
Hope That Deepens Faith By Pastor Brian	5
Main Street Living North	5
History of Advent	6
Congregational Memory Verse	6
Sunday School & GLS News	7
OCC Packing Party a Success	7
Dec. Youth Events	7

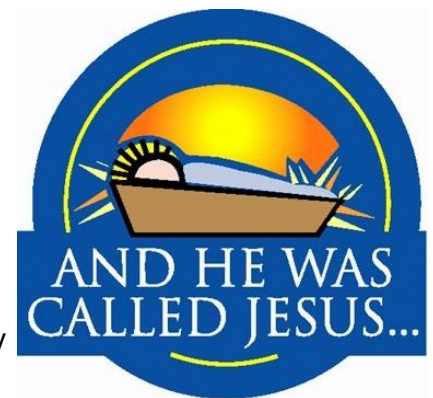
## Jesus Promises to Come this Week!

By Pastor Chris

In case you failed to notice, a nasty, disruptive disease continues to run amok. Recent headlines such as "Vaccine Distribution Can't Wait for Biden" and "Fighting Pandemic Can't Wait until Inauguration Day" reflect an urgency to stem the pandemic's rampage. But a recent Gallup poll reports that only 58 percent of Americans would be willing to receive a vaccine. Numerous concerns have created a common belief for almost half the country that initial vaccines will not offer a real benefit, relief or solution.

But COVID-19 isn't our greatest concern. Most people ignore an even greater threat, a disease called sin, which has plagued mankind for thousands of years. How bad is it? Sin produces in its victims an innate failure to recognize and acknowledge its unprecedented danger. It leads us to engage in and enjoy destructive behaviors. This aggressive disease affects the entire creation, infecting everyone and everything. It remains the source of all disaster, disease, disharmony and death. It separates us from God and one another and extracts eternal consequences.

But in His mercy, God the Father did something about this terrible plague. He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, into this sin-infected world. An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, revealing God's purpose, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins," (Matt 1:20-21)



(Continued on Page 2.)



### Christmas Eve Worship

2:00, 3:30 and 5 p.m.  
Thursday, Dec. 24  
Candlelight Worship

### Christmas Day Worship

10 a.m.  
Friday, Dec. 25  
Lord's Supper celebrated

### New Year's Eve Worship

6 p.m.  
Thursday, Dec. 31  
Grace Lutheran Church

(Please use the sign-up genius on the church website to attend Christmas Eve and Day services. Each service is capped at 50 people.)



## Jesus Promises to Come this Week!

(Continued from Page 1.)

Jesus saved us by suffering and dying as a perfect sacrifice and taking upon Himself the sins of all. While here, Jesus experienced pain, rejection, suffering and even death – all products of sin, but He Himself never sinned. Jesus also rose to life again, bringing forgiveness of sins, life and salvation to all who believe in His name. Jesus then commanded that forgiveness, life and salvation be given through the preaching and teaching of God's Word, Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Jesus even promised to come to us directly through these means.

Tragically, many Christians who believe in Jesus don't want to receive Him through God's delivery system of Word and Sacrament. They believe these means fail to offer any real benefit, relief or solution against sin. Confident that they can function and even thrive independently of these gifts, they break God's command to remember the Sabbath and keep it holy. Even worse, they wantonly reject God's command and promise to receive Jesus Himself.

During this season, we celebrate that Jesus came in the flesh and that He will come again, but Jesus also promises to abide with us now. He has promised to be fully present even as He remains hidden. We take great confidence, assurance and joy that Jesus will come to us this and every week as we gather together in the Divine Service. At Beautiful Savior, we gather around Christ's promise, gifts and presence among us on Thursdays at 7 p.m. and on Sundays at 8:15 and 10:30 a.m. We also will offer special services throughout December. We invite you to join us. During Advent and Christmas, there is no better way to celebrate Christ's coming than coming ourselves to where He has promised to be.

*Pastor Chris*

## Upcoming Bible Studies

**9:30 a.m. Sunday morning Bible study** - Beautiful Savior uses a united curriculum; all grade levels, even adults, will study the same Bible lesson every Sunday in hopes that it will foster discussion between members and equip families for faith formation in the home.

**7 p.m. Tuesday evening Bible study: Miracles Bible Study** - We will conclude on Dec. 15 and begin a new study after the first of the year.

**9 a.m. Thursday Women's Bible study via Zoom, "A Study of the Ten Commandments - Love Rules."** - We will conclude on Dec. 17 and begin a new study after the first of the year.



## Sign Up Now for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day Services

Christmas Eve is one of the most widely attended services of the year. However, because of guidelines established by the governor, BSLC will be capping attendance for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services to 50 people.

BSLC will offer more times to accommodate this change with services at 2, 3:30 and 5 p.m. on Christmas Eve. We will offer one worship service on Christmas Day at 10 a.m. If those services fill up, we will add more times.

Please use the sign-up genius on our website or call the office to reserve your spot for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services.



## Sign Up for Poinsettias On Altar

Sign up now for poinsettias in memory or in honor of loved ones. We only have 30 slots available for poinsettias this year, so sign up as soon as possible to make sure you receive a plant. You can use the sign-up genius on our website or call the church office to reserve your plant. The plants are \$15. You can make checks payable to LWML.



## Masks Now Required at BSLC

A new city executive order now requires all those coming into the facilities at Beautiful Savior to wear a mask. An emergency executive order in October from Fargo Mayor Tim Mahoney required masks in public spaces but exempted religious events, including church services, from the order. However, an amended emergency executive order issued Nov. 16 now requires wearing masks at religious events and activities. According to current CDC guidelines only children younger than 2 years old and those who have difficulty breathing should NOT wear masks in public spaces. Thank you for honoring the fourth and fifth commandments.

## Dorothy Day Food Pantry Thank You

The Dorothy Day food pantry would like to extend their "thank you" for our congregation's donation of food. During the month of October, we donated 301 pounds of food to their facility. Thank you to everyone who brought in food items and showed support for this local organization!

## 2021 Flower Chart Available

Consider signing up for a bouquet on the altar in memory or honor of a loved one. The flower chart is located outside the office on the bulletin board. The cost is \$25, and you can take your bouquet home after the second service on Sunday. Please designate the money for altar flowers and place it in the offering plate or mail to the church office.

## Singing Reduced in Services


To protect our members further and in accordance with best recommended practices, Beautiful Savior will reduce singing in our public services beginning in December. We want our church to be a safe place to celebrate the Time of Christmas and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We still will continue to utilize praise songs or hymnody in all services, but the number of songs and verses for each service will be fewer. COVID-19 spreads mainly from person to person through respiratory droplets. Respiratory droplets travel into the air when you cough, sneeze, talk, shout or sing. Emerging evidence about the spread of COVID-19 suggests that activities related to performing arts, such as singing, speaking loudly and playing instruments in close proximity to others carry an elevated risk compared to other activities.

## 2021 Calendar Youth Fundraiser

Our youth are selling God's Creation calendars as a fundraiser for \$10 each. They may be purchased by contacting the church office or Pastor Brian. Thank you for supporting our youth.

## Sock and Mitten Tree

In service to our neighbor, consider donating to our sock and mitten tree. Bring in new mittens, socks, caps, scarves or gloves for children or adults. The items will be donated to local schools and to Churches United for the Homeless. Thanks for filling our tree.

 <b>Restore His House</b> <b>Capital Campaign</b>		
Capital	<u><b>Pledged</b></u>	<u><b>Goal</b></u>
Campaign	\$290,100	\$330,000
<b>BSLC Treasurer's Report</b> <b>General Operating Fund</b>		
<u><b>Oper. Fund</b></u>	<u><b>Sept.</b></u>	<u><b>YTD</b></u>
Contributions	\$28,734	273,472
Expense	30,538	270,590
Surplus/ (Shortfall)	<b>(1,804)</b>	<b>2,882</b>

## Voters' Meeting

There will be a voters' meeting at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 6, between services. Discussion will include the 2021 budget and other reports.

## Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for 2021 are available in the narthex. If you don't find your envelopes, please let the office know, and a box can be made available for you.

## 2021 Commitment and Restore His House Cards

Your 2021 annual commitment card and your Restore His House three-year capital campaign card can be turned in to the office. Thank you for letting us know what you plan to give! Pledging helps our Congregation, members and it's leaders to be effective and faithful stewards of our resources.



## Clubs and Service Groups



**Service Group - Our group for December will not be needed this month.** Stay tuned for further details regarding how and when we will resume fellowship. Thanks for your patience and understanding.

**Elders -** At least one of our elders are here every Thursday evening and Sunday morning. They greet members and visitors, help the pastor with any needs and see that all goes well. If you have any concerns for our church, please talk to head elder Adam Tykwinski or any of the elders.

**Gold Club - We will not be meeting this month.** Stay tuned for further details regarding how and when we will resume.

**Quilting and Fellowship -** We have resumed in-person quilting while practicing social distancing! Join us at 12:30 p.m. on Dec. 10. If you have any questions, please 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.

**LWML -** LWML will meet at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 17, via Zoom.

Confirmation Sponsors are needed for the new seventh-grade confirmation class. Anyone from the congregation is welcome to sponsor a confirmand. Contact Mary Seiffert at [mseiffert@midco.net](mailto:mseiffert@midco.net) for a name and the student's information. Support your student with prayer and other ways you wish to remember them, be it a card or treat, but most importantly, with the power of prayer. If you are currently a Confirmation Sponsor, contact the church office for an updated information sheet.



## New Member Corner

Carter Kipp moved to Fargo for his job at Aldevron, a biotech company that sells to pharmaceutical companies. He joined BSLC because he wanted a church that people in his neighborhood attended. He enjoys playing board games and tending to plants. His favorite Bible verse is "Thy Word is a Lamp unto my feet and light unto my path," (Psalm 119:105) because it is simple and gets straight to the point on why Christ is great!



Welcome  
Our New  
Member

## Deaths



**Christopher Hans, 43,** Fargo, passed away Nov. 7. The service was held Nov. 14 at Boulger Funeral Home. Chris is survived by his wife, Michelle Hans; daughters Rayne Benson (Laramie, WY) and Rylee Hans (Fargo) and his parents, Jerome and Barbara Hans (Fargo). He was preceded in death by his infant son, Drake (2013).

## Memorials



**In Memory of John Exner**  
(Tina Deitemeyer's Brother)  
Tim and Tina Deitemeyer

**In Memory of Ray Schlichtmann**  
(Mike Schlichtmann's Dad)  
Arla Strege  
Matt and Beth Gustafson  
Tim and Tina Deitemeyer  
Karen Mart-Taverna

**In Memory of Donald Wunderlich**  
(Mary Seiffert's Dad)  
Karen Mart-Taverna  
Matt and Beth Gustafson  
Tim and Tina Deitemeyer  
Doug and Suzanne Erz  
Robert and Emily Armstrong  
Richard and Sharon Schmidt

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# Hope That Deepens Faith

By Pastor Brian

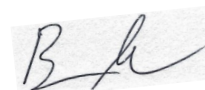
“For what thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God, as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith?” (1 Thessalonians 3:9-10).

The Apostle Paul was in a happy mood. He had just received some good news. A group of believers were safe. Troublemakers had stirred up bad feelings toward anyone who believed in Jesus. They formed a mob. They started a riot. For months, Paul worried about what happened to the believers. Finally, news reached Paul’s ears. Not only did the little group survive, but also they were growing stronger in their faith! The good news made Paul so happy! “For what thanksgiving can we return to God for you?” he cried out.

**HOPE** Have you experienced that feeling when your worst fears never materialized? A young child imagines a lurking shadow to be a real monster. A flick of the light switch reveals a shirt on a hanger. What a relief! A student thinks he bombed a test, but it turns out he got an ‘A’ on it instead. What joy! The auto mechanic warns the repair bill might be huge, but it turns out to be a quick fix. What happiness! The doctor cautions about the outcome of some medical tests, but it turns out to be nothing. What a surprise! You want to give someone a hug!

Jesus gives us news this Christmas that gives real hope that dispels the dark and replaces fears. What good is a house filled with decorations and lights if your heart is empty of Jesus? Only Jesus and the Holy Spirit can fill a heart “lacking in faith.”

The Apostle Paul wanted only the best for the people that he loved. So, he shared Jesus with them. He prayed for their faith to be safe and strong. Do you know someone who lives in the dark because they don’t know Jesus? Are you worried that they may be in real danger? Maybe Jesus can use you to share Him, so their faith may be in Jesus too! Start thinking and praying that Jesus turns on the light of faith and gives them the gift of hope in their hearts and may share it through you.



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## “Main Street Living North” TV Program News

*“She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name of Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” Matthew 1:21.* Herein lies our hope and the hope of the nations! Hope is something that seems to be in very short supply from the world these days – and yet, that is the way it has always been, and always will be whenever trust is put in anything or anyone other than the Creator and Savior Himself!

Thank you for your financial support! Checks may be sent to “Main Street Living North,” 821 5th Ave. S., Fargo, ND 58103, or donate by credit card or your PayPal account on the website.

### December pastors and sermons:

**Dec. 6:** Rev. Matt Thompson, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Bismarck, presents the message: “Prepare the Way of the Lord” based on Mark 1:1-8. *Lutheran Hour Animated Series: The Stableboy’s Christmas,*

**Dec. 13:** Rev. Justin Woodside, Bethel Lutheran Church and Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Bismarck, presents the message: “Preparing the Way” based on John 1:6-8, 19-28. *Lutheran Hour Ministries Animated Series: Red Boots for Christmas.*

**Dec. 20:** LCMS President Matthew Harrison will present the Christmas Sunday message. *Lutheran Hour Ministries Animated Series: Christmas Is.*

**Dec. 27:** Rev. Roger Paavola, President, Mid-South District, presents the message: “On the Other Side of Christmas” based on Luke 2:22-40. *Lutheran Hour Ministries Animated Series: The Puzzle Club Christmas Mystery.*

PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS

## The History of Advent and the Advent Wreath

The word "advent" is from the Latin word for "coming," and as such, describes the "coming" of our Lord Jesus Christ into the flesh.

Advent begins the church year because the church year begins where Jesus' earthly life began — in the Old Testament prophecies of his incarnation. After Advent comes Christmas, which is about his birth; then Epiphany, about his miracles and ministry; then Lent, about his Calvary-bound mission; then Easter, about his resurrection and the sending of the apostles; and then Ascension (40 days after Easter) and Pentecost, with the sending of the Holy Spirit.



The first half of the church year (approximately December through June) highlights the *life* of Christ. The second half (approximately June through November) highlights the *teachings* of Christ. The parables and miracles play a big part here. That's "the church year in a nutshell," and it should help reveal how Advent fits into "the big picture."

Advent specifically focuses on Christ's "coming," but Christ's coming manifests itself among us in three ways — past, present, and future.

The readings which highlight Christ's coming in the past focus on the Old Testament prophecies of his incarnation at Bethlehem. The readings, which highlight Christ's coming in the future, focus on his "second coming" on the Last Day at the end of time. And the readings that highlight Christ's coming in the present focus on his ministry among us through Word and Sacrament today.

The traditional use of Advent candles (sometimes held in a wreath) originated in eastern Germany even prior to the Reformation. As this tradition came down to us by the beginning of this century, it involved three purple candles and one pink candle.

The purple candles matched the purple paraments on the altar (purple for the royalty of the coming King). The pink candle was the third candle to be lit (not the fourth) on Gaudete Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent. "Gaudete" means "Rejoice!" in Latin, which is taken from Phil. 4:4.

("Rejoice! ... the Lord is near"). Hence a "pink" candle was used to signify "rejoicing." Some also included a white "Christ candle" in the middle to be lit during the 12 days of Christmas (Dec. 25 to Jan. 5).

*The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod; Nov. 24, 2020; <https://www.lcms.org/about/beliefs/faqs/worship-and-congregational-life#advent>.*

## Congregational Memory Verse Challenge

The church confesses to Christ, "You have the words of eternal life" (John 6:68). The church is encouraged to "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly ..." (Col. 3:16). Psalm 1 teaches us to meditate on God's Word day and night. It is our great opportunity and joy to read and study God's Word. One beneficial practice is to memorize the Scriptures and, in so doing, to meditate on it. The LCMS invites everyone to join together memorizing a verse each week.

**Dec. 6: Isaiah 30:15** - For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, "In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength."

**Dec. 13: Galatians 4:4-5** - But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

**Dec. 20: John 1:14** - And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**Dec. 27: Matthew 1:21** - You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.

## Sunday School News

Thank you to all the families who have been joining us for Sunday School. Even though things are a little different, we still like to have fun! We stay physically distanced, wear our masks, and safely sing, dance, and learn about God's blessings! There will be no Sunday School on Dec. 20 and 27. Due to current state COVID-19 regulations, we will not be able to have a Christmas program. We will use our Sunday School time to learn about Advent and the true meaning of Christmas. Sunday School will continue in the sanctuary through December then will move into the fellowship hall starting in January.

Stacy Knudson  
Education Director



## Grace Lutheran School News

We are coming in on three solid months of in-person learning. The challenges are plentiful, but the children are thriving. We both ask and thank you for your continued prayers for the health of our students and teachers.

The Celebration of Grace was held entirely online this year. It was a wild success! We set a goal to raise \$26,000 in donations. As of this writing we are on target to smash that goal. Thank you to all who partnered with us in sharing the event on social media and all who participated in the event through item donation, bidding and the reverse bid and cash donations. We are truly humbled by the love shown to our school and your school. We are a family, and this school belongs to all of us.

We are in dire need of substitute teachers and other people who can monitor classrooms on short notice. If you are available to help, please call Interim Principal Susan Jahnke at 701-232-7747.

Thank you again for your support of Grace Lutheran School.

## Operation Christmas Child Packing Party a Success

A Beautiful Savior packed a record 206 shoeboxes on Nov. 21! We had 26 participants for the packing party and many more who donated items for the boxes or money for shipping. Our boxes went to Triumph Lutheran Church in Moorhead. From there they will go to the Processing Center in Chicago where they are prepared for shipping all over the world. We'll look forward to hearing from our packers who purchased "Follow Your Box" labels to find out where the boxes went!

Please pray for the children who will receive these gifts - that they will have their hearts opened to the saving message of the Gospel and know the love God has for them.



## December Youth Events

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

**Wednesday, Dec. 2** - from 7:30-9 p.m. - Lutheran Youth Fellowship for grades 6-12.

**Wednesday, Dec. 9** - from 7:30-9 p.m. - Lutheran Youth Fellowship for grades 6-12.

**Wednesday, Dec. 16** - from 7:30-9 p.m. - Lutheran Youth Fellowship 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:

Thursday at 7 p.m. in-person

Sunday at 8:15 & 10:30 a.m. in-person & via YouTube

Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Sundays in-person

**Holy Communion** is celebrated on the first, third and fifth Sundays of each month.

Pastors are also available Monday through Friday  
from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please call ahead for an appointment.

## Worship Services available at:

www.beautifulsaviorfargo.com

www.youtube.com

www.facebook.com/BeautifulSaviorLutheranFargo

Sermon podcasts on Spotify and iTunes app

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58102  
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### **Pastor**

Chris Waldvogel

701-293-1047

701-893-6995

### **Associate Pastor**

Brian Shane

701-293-1047

314-532-0012

### **Administrative Assistant**

Kim Scheer

701-293-1047

### **Council Members**

Chairman: Denise Doeling 238-1321

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: Jennifer Krause 287-8627

Evangelism: Tim Deitemeyer 793-2220

### **Board of Elders**

A-Bo Paul Asche 361-6960

Br-D Lloyd Jemtrud 799-7450

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*

### **Other Volunteers**

LWML President: Mary Seiffert 212-3712

Choir Director: Ramsey Dahl 237-9009

RRLSA Board Representatives: Pam Grothman 793-6517

Kim Ternes 205-7101

Financial Secretary: Beth Gustafson 239-9090

ENLIGHTEN is a  
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