

ENLIGHTEN

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church
Fargo, North Dakota

December 2021

*Thanks be to God
for his inexpressible gift.*

2 Corinthians 9:15, ESV



Upcoming December Events

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Midweek Advent Services

7 p.m. on Wednesdays

Dec. 1: "John's Vision of the Bride"
(Revelation 21:1-7)

Dec. 8: "Zephaniah's Vision of Joy
Amid Sorrow" (Zephaniah 3:14-20)

Dec. 15: "Paul's Vision of the New
Creation" (2 Corinthians 5:14-6:2)

Advent Soup and Supper

No need to bring food as it will be
provided by BSLC groups.

6 p.m. on Wednesdays

Dec. 1: GLS Families

Dec. 8: NYG Youth

Dec. 15: LWML

Munchies for Missions

Drop off 9 a.m. - noon Saturday, Dec. 4
Purchase Sunday, Dec. 5

Advent Fun Shop

1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4

Pre-K - Fifth Grade

Bring one dozen cookies.

MSLN Choir

Saturday, Dec. 4

Rehearsal at 1 p.m.

Record at 2 p.m.

Voters' Meeting

9:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 5

BSLC Survey Deadline

Sunday, Dec. 5

Gold Club Potluck

Noon Wednesday, Dec. 15

Bring a wrapped white elephant gift.

LYF Christmas Party

7:45 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 15

Bring a wrapped white elephant gift.

Poinsettias for the Altar

Cost \$15; Deadline: Dec. 12

Children's Christmas Party

6-7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 17

Kindergarten - fifth grade

Sunday School

Christmas Programs

8:15 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 19

Pre-K - Second Grade

10:45 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 19

Third - Seventh Grade

Crossfire Karaoke Party

6-8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19



Christmas Eve Worship

*"The Voice of an Angel
and a Sign of Great Joy"*
(Luke 20:1-20)

3:30 and 5 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 24

Candlelight Worship

Christmas Day Worship

*"The Voice of an Angel
and Great Joy for All People"*
(Luke 20:1-20)

10 a.m.

Saturday, Dec. 25

Lord's Supper celebrated

New Year's Eve Worship

*Ring in the new year with
thankfulness and praise*

7 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 31

Immanuel Lutheran
Church, Fargo

Will You Open Your Gifts in Person This Year?

(By Pastor Chris)

This year, our family will open all gifts via Zoom. No need for the gifts to even be at the house; we can experience the same thing remotely.

I hope you know I'm joking.

It seems ridiculous, doesn't it? You in one place and the gifts in another?

The Christmas joy of a savior far surpasses and outlasts the happiness of secular seasonal gifts, yet many remain content to receive God's heavenly treasures from afar.



But the story of Christmas shows how God desires to bring sinners into Christ's very presence. As shepherds kept watch over their flocks by night, an angel proclaimed good news of great joy: "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger," (Luke 2:11-12).

"Suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace among those with whom he is pleased!'" (Luke 12:13-14.)

The shepherds could have just taken the words of the angels and stayed put. After all, they had sheep to watch! What time was it again? But after the angels went away from the shepherds into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us."

The angels had extended an invitation to the shepherds to see Jesus in person and up close. Jesus extends to us that same invitation. He invites His disciples to "Come, follow me." In Holy Baptism, he bids us come to the font to receive

the new birth through water and the word. He bids us to come to His Table, saying "Take. Eat. This is my body, given to you" and "take, drink. This is my blood for the forgiveness of sins."

When the magi had seen the sign of the star, they knew the promised savior had come. They could have remained in their country, confident God's promises had come to pass. But they made the long pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Upon their arrival in Zion, the Magi asked: "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him," (Matthew 2:2). The magi were determined to see Jesus and offer their worship and gifts.

Perhaps your at-home worship goes better than mine. The desire to fast forward and skip over certain portions of the Divine Service remained a constant temptation. Distractions and distance prevented me from experiencing the fullness of God's gifts.


(Continued on Page 4.)

Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for 2022 are available in the narthex. If you don't find your envelopes, please let the office know. Thank you for taking home your envelopes.

2022 Commitment Cards

Your 2022 annual commitment 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 its leaders to be effective and faithful stewards of our resources.

	Restore His House	
	Capital Campaign	
	<u>Pledged</u>	<u>Goal</u>
Capital Campaign	\$318,900	\$330,000

BSLC Treasurer's Report		
General Operating Fund		
<u>Oper. Fund</u>	<u>Sept.</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Contributions	20,921	278,398
Expense	<u>24,493</u>	<u>263,004</u>
Surplus/(Shortfall)	<u>(3,572)</u>	<u>15,394</u>

Evangelism and Stewardship to Hold Joint Meeting Dec. 13

The evangelism and stewardship committees will meet at 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 13, at Perkins. We will be brainstorming, enjoying some fellowship, lunch and free pie! Please RSVP to the church office or email Tim Deitemeyer at tim.deitemeyer@hotmail.com by Thursday, Dec. 10.

BSLC Survey Deadline Dec. 5

As part of our mission and stewardship emphasis, BSLC is asking for your input so that our church may better serve our congregation and community. You can fill out an online survey, available until Dec. 5. Anyone 18 years and older can complete the survey. Responses will be anonymous. The link is on the church website. Deadline is Dec. 5. If you do not have access to a computer, contact the church office.

Sign Up for Poinsettias on Altar

Consider sponsoring poinsettias in memory or in honor of loved ones. We have 25 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. Make checks payable to LWML.



Munchies for Missions Bake Sale

The LWML Munchies for Missions bake sale will be on Sunday, Dec. 5, after both worship services. BSLC members are asked to bake and fill containers of Christmas goodies to sell. Containers are available in the narthex. Bring your containers to the church between 9 a.m. and noon Saturday, Dec. 4. Shop on Sunday and take home a variety of tasty goodies for the holidays. Items will be available for a free-will donation supporting a seminary family. Thanks for participating in this fund-raiser for LWML mites!

2022 Calendar Youth Fundraiser

Our youth are selling the God's Creation calendars as a fundraiser for \$10 each. They may be purchased at the display table in the narthex on Sunday mornings between services or from the church office during the week. Thank you for supporting our youth.



LWML Giving Tree

In service to our neighbors, please check out our Giving Tree in the narthex. Donations of new socks, mittens, hats, t-shirts and underwear for children or adults can be returned directly on the tree. These items will be donated to local schools and to Churches United for the Homeless. A Thrivent grant will be used to purchase items as well.



Consider taking a tag from the tree for the Women's Care Center. Place these unwrapped items under the tree with the tag attached.

Please return all items by Sunday, Dec. 19. Thanks for filling our giving tree.

Voters Meeting

There will be a voters meeting at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 5, between services. Discussion will be held on the 2022 budget and other reports.

New Year's Eve Worship

Join other LCMS Lutherans from around the FM area in a joint service at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 31, at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1258 Broadway N, Fargo. Ring in the new year with thankfulness and praise.



Main Street Living Choir Rescheduled

The Main Street Living Choir will be rehearsing and recording on Saturday, Dec. 4. Practice will be 1-2 p.m. with recording starting at 2 p.m. at Immanuel Lutheran church, 1258 Broadway N, Fargo. Contact Ramsey Dahl at 701-866-5403, if you would like to sing with the choir.

Clubs and Service Groups



Service Group - Our group for December consists of the letters O-R with captain Wanda Roesler as captain. She will call you asking for treats or help with events. Thanks for your help. Our January group will be the letter S with captain Maggie Stende.

Elders - Our elders are here every Sunday morning. They greet members and visitors, help the pastors 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.

Quilting and Fellowship - We usually meet the second and fourth Thursday of the month. Join us at 12:30 p.m. this month on Thursday, Dec. 9. 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 - Gather together and enjoy some potluck food, faith and fellowship. Our next get-together will be at noon on Wednesday, Dec. 15. Wear your "ugly" Christmas sweater and bring a wrapped white elephant gift. Gold Club is for anyone!

LWML - Instead of a Christmas party, we will doing a service project at the Great Plains Food Bank. A date will be announced soon. Anyone is invited to come help. Let the church office know if you are interested. There is a maximum of ten per shift.

Memorials

In Memory of Irene Vogel, mother of Shelly Speelmon:
Loretta Swanson

2022 Altar Flower Sign-up Chart

The 2022 flower chart is outside the office on the bulletin board. The cost is \$30, and you can take them home after second service. Please designate the money for altar flowers and place in the offering plate or leave in the church office. Please return vases to the church office when done with them.

encourageMENT - LCMS Men's Ministry Breakfast

Beautiful Savior men, mark your calendars for the encourageMENT - LCMS Men's Ministry breakfast event. This will be held from 9-11:55 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 4, at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Fargo. Andrea Eckstein will give a presentation on Mercy Meals of North Dakota. To register, email Corey Isaak at corey.isaak@gracefargo.org.

Going South for the Winter?

Please let the church office know when you plan to leave for the winter so that you will still receive any correspondence from the church. The church has to pay the post office 63 cents for each piece of mail returned. You can also let the church know if you would like the e-mail version of the newsletter while you are out of town.

Will You Open Your Gifts in Person This Year?

(Continued from Page 2.)

This year, I invite you to come in person to receive the gifts and give yours. After all, we have been discussing our vocation as members of the body of Christ at Beautiful Savior. By virtue of our baptism, God has brought us into this body. We are members of it by God's election and call and His gift of the Holy Spirit. But as part of that body, Paul writes that to each "is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good," (1 Corinthians 12:7) and "all are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills," (1 Corinthians 12:11). It is hard to give and receive through a screen.

Our Lord draws near to us so we can draw near to Him. The glad tidings of that first Christmas brought the shepherds to the manger. The glittering yonder star on that first Epiphany guided the Magi to Jesus. Our Lord's Word and promise bid us to receive Word and Sacrament, and through these means, Jesus Himself. Like the shepherds, go and see. Like the magi, come to worship.

Pastor Chris

Peace Comes Only from God

By Pastor Brian

"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths. For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord," (Isaiah 2:3-5).

In New York city, in the United Nations Plaza, Isaiah 2 is quoted: "They shall beat their swords into plowshares." All people desire peace, don't they? Isn't that why the United Nations was established in the first place? But it hasn't worked out so well, has it? Are Isaiah's words just a fantasy?

If you're looking for a truly peaceful "united nations," you're not going to find it here in this sinful broken world. But that's not what Isaiah was describing. Isaiah is describing peace that the world can't give or find or produce. Isaiah is describing peace that only comes from God.

God brought peace to the hearts of people when he kept his promise to send his one and only Son, Jesus, the Christ. Jesus came as an infant in Bethlehem. He came to bring peace to the earth by living and suffering and dying for a world full of sin and sinners, sinners like you and me. Because of Jesus' perfect life and innocent death and glorious resurrection, we have peace with God. We have the peace of knowing that there's nothing we can do to save ourselves because Jesus has done everything for us already. We have the peace of knowing that we don't need to satisfy God's wrath against our sins because Jesus has washed them away. We have peace because Jesus has set us free.

That peace is yours and mine in Jesus! That peace is what moves us to sit at Jesus' feet and learn his ways. That peace is what moves us to walk in the light of the Lord.



"Main Street Living North" TV Program News

"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," (John 1:14). On Dec. 25, we will celebrate the birth of the incarnated Son of God, Jesus of Nazareth, Savior of the world! May we increasingly recognize, appreciate, and herald this best news of all to our neighbors and the world!

We invite you to consider a special year end Christmas gift for our Main Street Living media ministry. 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 are as follows:

Dec 5th: Rev. Matthew Meyer, Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Callaway, MN, presents the message: "Jesus is coming, Hurry up and Look Busy," based on Luke 3:1-14. *Lutheran Television:* "Stable Boy."

Dec 12th: Rev. Thomas Clark, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Hankinson, presents the message: "A Country in Trouble," based on Zephaniah 3:14-20. *Lutheran Television special:* "Red Boots for Christmas."

Dec 19th: Rev. Kent Borglum, St. John's Lutheran Church, Montevideo, MN, presents the message: "According to Plan," based on Micah 5:2-5a. *Lutheran Television special:* "Christmas Is."

Dec 26th: Rev. Richard Snow, president, Nebraska District LCMS, presents this year's "Christmas Message." *Lutheran Television special:* "Puzzle Club Christmas."

Grace Lutheran School News

Thanksgiving greetings from Grace Lutheran School. A Celebration of Grace is still foremost in our mind and we are overwhelmed by the outpouring of love from our current families and alumni, our supporters near and far and our association. Thank you to all who contributed as a donor, sponsor, bidder, attendee, committee member or volunteer. May God continue to bless the work you do for our school so that our students may thrive in the love of Jesus Christ.

Grace will be participating in:

- Holiday Lights at Lindenwood now through Dec. 31. Watch for coupons at your church.
- Holiday Lights Parade at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 4 in downtown Fargo.

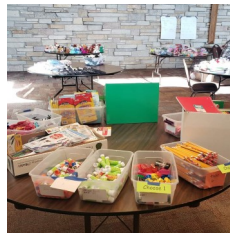
The Christmas musical will be at 1:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 16. All are invited to enjoy this year's performance featuring many popular Christmas carols and, of course, the Christmas message.



Operation Christmas Child Packing Party a Success

Beautiful Savior packed 202 shoeboxes on Nov. 20! We had many participants for the packing party and many more who donated items for the boxes or money for shipping. Our boxes will end up at 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.



Upcoming Bible Studies

9:30 a.m. Sunday morning Bible study: "The Body of Christ: One Body, Many Members" - We all have stations in life: parent, child, sibling, worker, neighbor, citizen, among others. But how do we view our station as members of a congregation? We may fail to see or feel deep intimate connections in the church, but God's Word tells us we have been united by baptism, each receiving the same Spirit, and each being connected and unified into the body of Christ. As part of one body, each member works with the other members for the good of the whole. God has given a variety of gifts to individual Christians for the common good. During the next several weeks, explore your identity as a member of Christ's body and what that means in relating to others within that same body.

7 p.m. Tuesday evening Bible study: We will be taking the month of December off and resume Jan. 4 with a new Bible study.

9 a.m. Thursday Women's Bible study via Zoom: "Growing Older and Wiser" - This Bible study wraps up on Dec. 2. We will take the rest of December off and start a new Bible study "Jesus, The Reason" in January. If you would like to join the group, please call Shirley Elsner at 388-9521 so she can order the new books the first week in December.

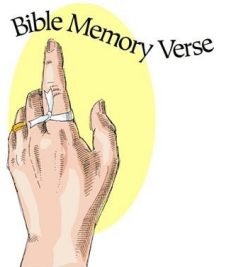
Congregational Memory Verse Challenge

Dec. 5: Isaiah 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Dec. 12: Ephesians 5:1–2 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Dec. 19: John 20:31 But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Dec. 26: 2 Samuel 7:22 Therefore you are great, O LORD God. For there is none like you, and there is no God besides you, according to all that we have heard with our ears.



Children's Christmas Party

All kindergarten through fifth-grade students please join us for games, fun and food at a Christmas party just for you from 6-7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 17.

Preschool children may attend, but we would like parents to attend with them, if possible. Please bring a dozen cookies or baked treats to exchange and share.



"Joy of Christmas" PreK - Second Grade Christmas Program

The first-grade and second-grade will practice from 8:30 to 10 a.m. and the preschool and kindergarten students are asked to come at 9:15 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 4 and 11. All PreK through second-grade will practice at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 18. Their program will be at 8:15 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 19.

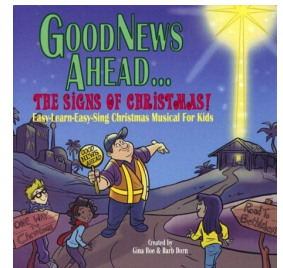


Sunday School in December

Regular Sunday school classes will be held on Dec. 5 and 12. There will be no Sunday school on Dec. 19, 26 and Jan. 2. Regular classes will resume Jan. 9.

"GOOD NEWS AHEAD, The Signs of Christmas!" Third - Seventh Grade Christmas Program

Our Super Six are Owen Hashbarger, Jordyn and Kendal Knudson, Tayla Larson, Natalee Kubista and Mya Mathiason.



LYF Christmas Party

All sixth-grade through twelfth-grade students are invited for games, fun and food at a Christmas party at 7:45 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 15. Please bring a wrapped white elephant gift to exchange.



Crossfire Youth Praise Band

Our youth praise band will practice at the church from 7-8 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 5 and 12. We will have a Christmas karaoke party at 6 p.m. Dec. 19 at Ramsey and Lyndell's home. Bring your own beverage and a snack to share. If you have questions, call Ramsey at 866-5403.

Dec. 4	10 a.m. 11a.m.-noon	Super Six All third-to-seventh grade
Dec. 11	10 a.m. 11a.m.-noon	Super Six All third-to-seventh grade
Dec. 18	10 a.m.-noon	All third-to-seventh grade dress rehearsal
	12:30 p.m.	Pizza Party!
Dec. 19	10 a.m. 10:45 a.m.	Practice and warm-up Program

If you have any questions, call Ramsey Dahl at 866-5403. Thank you for bringing your children to practice each week.

December Youth Events

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

Wednesday, Dec. 1 - from 7:45-9 p.m. - LYF for grades 6-12.

Wednesday, Dec. 8 - from 7:45-9 p.m. - LYF for grades 6-12.

Wednesday, Dec. 15 - from 7:45-9 p.m. - LYF Christmas Party for grades 6-12.

(Bring a wrapped white elephant gift.)



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 Spotify and iTunes app

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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: Claudia Schroeder 361-0570

Evangelism: Tim Deitemeyer 793-2220

Board of Elders

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

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

ENLIGHTEN is a monthly publication of Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church.