

# ENLIGHTEN

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church  
Fargo, North Dakota



December 2023

## Upcoming December Events

Inside this issue:

Forget Black Friday Sales; Good Friday Paid Your Debts By Pastor Chris	2
2023 Advent Series	2
Voters' Meeting Dec. 10	2
Offering Envelopes	2
Gingerbread Bash	3
LWML Munchies for Missions	3
Youth 2024 Calendar Fundraiser	3
Help Decorate Church Dec. 2	3
Volunteers Needed	3
Advent Midweek Suppers	3
Seminary Student Update	3
LWML Giving Tree	3
Clubs and Service Groups	4
Sponsor a Poinsettia	4
2024 Flower Sign-up	4
Baptisms	4
Memory Verse Challenge	4
Upcoming Bible Studies	5
Main Street Living North	5
Sunday School in December	6
LYF Christmas Party	6
OCC Packing Party a Success	6
Children's Christmas Programs	7
GLS News/GTIG Update	7

### Decorate the Church

9 a.m. - noon Saturday, Dec. 2  
Come for awhile, or stay until it is done!

### Munchies for Missions

Drop off 9 a.m. - noon Saturday, Dec. 2  
Purchase Sunday, Dec. 3

### Gingerbread Bash

2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 3  
BSLC Families

### Midweek Advent Services

7 p.m. on Wednesdays

**Dec. 6:** "Our Lord's Advent and Authority over the Satanic Realm"  
(Mark 1:21-34)

**Dec. 13:** "Our Lord's Authority over Sin" (Mark 2:1-17)

**Dec. 20:** "Our Lord's Authority over Death" (Mark 5:21-43)

### Advent Midweek Supper

6 p.m. on Wednesday,  
Dec. 6, 13 and 20

Bring soups, sandwiches,  
sides or desserts to share.

**Dec. 6:** Taco-in-a-bag  
fundraiser served by LYF.

*Free-will donation will be taken.  
BSLC family please bring sides & desserts.*

### Sponsor a Poinsettia

Cost \$17; Deadline: Dec. 15

### Voters' Meeting

9:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 10

### Gold Club Potluck

Noon Wednesday, Dec. 13  
*Bring an item for the giving tree.*

### LYF Christmas Party

8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 20  
*Bring a wrapped white elephant gift.*

### Sunday School Christmas Programs

8:15 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 17

Pre-K - Third Grade

10:45 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 17

Fourth - Sixth Grade

### Sunday School in December

Dec. 3 and 10 - program practice

Dec. 17, 24 and 31 - no classes

Jan. 7 - regular classes resume

### Feed My Starving Children Food Pack

1-3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 6

6-8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 11



## Christmas Eve Worship

9 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 24  
Regular Worship

3:30 and 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 24  
Candlelight Worship

## Christmas Day Worship

10 a.m.  
Monday, Dec. 25

Lord's Supper celebrated

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# Forget Black Friday Sales; Good Friday Paid Your Debts

(By Pastor Chris)

As a general rule, the closer it gets to Christmas, the more it costs to buy gifts. But when the calendar hits Black Friday, retailers promise unbelievable bargains and top deals. This year, Black Friday extended beyond just a few days. Like your waistline during the holidays, it bloated into an indulgence that lasted several weeks. What a break for you! But Black Friday isn't about Christmas goodwill. It seeks to ensure that retailers end the year in the black rather than the red. It seeks to ensure revenues surpass expenses.

This reminds me of another noteworthy Friday.

This Friday does not involve any payments from you.

This Friday truly delivers something you sorely need.

This Friday guarantees that merit exceeds debts.

This Friday came when the holy, innocent, divine Son of God suffered and hanged on a cross to pay the price for all of humanity's sin, including yours. This Friday came, when out of love and compassion, Jesus made your iniquities and transgressions as His own. There, He faced the blackness of physical and spiritual death for you. But when our Lord rose from the dead, death is undone. It no longer has claim or power over you, for the wages death demands have been paid in full. It might seem a stretch to think about Good Friday during the seasons of Advent and Christmas, but the closer it gets to Christmas, remember the cost our Lord paid to buy your gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation.

Martin Luther once wrote: "This Child, the Son of God, is your Savior; you are to be helped from sin and death. Now it is in itself a great and glorious thing that God has become man. But this is far more, that He is to be our spiritual and eternal Savior. Whoever would rightly believe this, could tell what true joy is. Yes, if his heart were full of this faith, he could, for great joy, not live long; for his heart could not bear the joy."

*Pastor Chris*

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## 2023 Advent Series Explores Christ's Arrival to Battle the Forces of Darkness

During Advent and Christmas, we look forward to and celebrate Christ's arrival as a baby. Often viewed through the lens of sentimentality, this baby can represent God's love for everyone apart from any deep focus on fallen creation. For some, He represents a general "miracle of birth and new life." He is harmless and inoffensive. However, the people of Israel longed for a mighty ruler who would crush their enemies.



In the beginning of Mark's Gospel, Jesus appears suddenly as an adult to be baptized by John in the Jordan. Advent means arrival, and in Mark's Gospel, Jesus does arrive. At His baptism, Jesus is demonstrated to be Messiah and Lord. He is declared to be the Son of God and then is thrown out into battle against Israel's true enemies. In Mark's version of our Lord's advent, Jesus is a threat. He arrives to destroy the evil dominion of the devil, sin, and death. By His coming, God's people are freed, and Jesus alone has become Lord.

Our three-week midweek Advent series "Dominus: The Advent of the Son of God in the Gospel of Mark" will begin at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 6, and conclude Wednesday, Dec. 20.

## Voters' Meeting

There will be a voters meeting at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 10, between services. Discussion will be held on the 2024 budget, other reports and the status of the call process.

## Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for 2024 are available in the narthex. If you don't find your envelopes, let the office know. Thank you for picking up your envelopes.

## "Gingerbread Bash" for BSLC Families



Our "Gingerbread Bash," for BSLC families will be from 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 3 in the fellowship hall. A parent must attend with the child.

In addition to building and decorating your own gingerbread nativity, you'll get to play games, sing songs, hear the Christmas story from the Bible and discover the good news of Jesus. It's a sweet way for your family to celebrate the birth of our Savior! We can't wait to "bash" with you!

## Youth 2024 Calendar Fundraiser

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

## Volunteers Needed for Packing Food



Feed My Starving Children has organized a Mobilepack from Jan. 6 to 14 at the Fargodome. The goal is to celebrate 10 years - 10 days and 10 million meals for hungry children around the world. The LWML will work a shift from 1-3 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 6, and the youth will be volunteering from 6-8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 11. We would like to invite and encourage members from the congregation to consider helping out with this worthwhile effort. If you can help on Jan. 6, contact Mary Seiffert. If you can help on Jan. 11, contact Pastor Chris or the office.

## Adopt-a-Seminary Student Update

Beautiful Savior has committed to sponsor Andrew Frerichs in his last year in the seminary. Please feel free to pray for him and send notes, cards and gifts to encourage him as he prepares to serve in the Office of the Holy Ministry. Make sure to let him know you are from Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church! Send correspondence to:

Mr. Andrew P. Frerichs  
Campus Post Office Box  
801 Seminary Pl.  
Saint Louis, MO 63105-3196  
frerichsa@csl.edu



## LWML Munchies for Missions Bake Sale



The LWML Munchies for Missions bake sale will be on Sunday, Dec. 3, after both worship services. BSLC members are asked to bake and fill containers of Christmas goodies to sell. Bring your containers to the church between 9 a.m. and noon Saturday, Dec. 2. Shop on Sunday, and take home a variety of tasty goodies for the holidays. Items will be available for a free-will donation. Thanks for participating in this LWML mites fundraiser!

## Help Decorate the Church Dec. 2

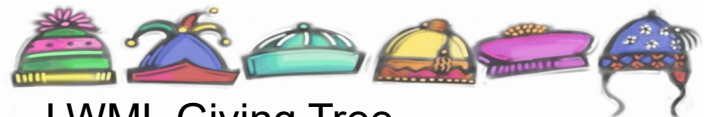
Help decorate the church for the Christmas season from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 2. Come for awhile, or stay until it is done!

## Advent Midweek Suppers

Join us at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 6, 13 and 20 before worship service for our soup and sandwich potluck suppers. Bring a dish, side or dessert to share as you are able with your Beautiful Savior family.



Note on Dec. 6 a taco-in-a-bag fundraiser will be served by the LYF for a free-will donation. BSLC family please bring sides and desserts to share.



## LWML Giving Tree

In service to our neighbors, check out our Giving Tree in the narthex. Donations of new socks, mittens, hats, T-shirts and underwear for children or adults can be placed directly **on the tree**. These items will be donated to local schools and to Churches United for the Homeless.

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. 17.**

Thanks for filling our giving tree.





## 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, Dec. 7. 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 lunch will be at noon on Wednesday, Dec. 13. Bring a green or red dish to share and an item for the giving tree. We will have a Christmas activity, but a white elephant gift is not needed. 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.

**LWML** - We will not have a December meeting or Christmas party. Instead, we will be volunteering for the Feed My Starving Children Food Pack from 1-3 p.m. on Jan. 6 at the Fargodome. Contact Mary Seiffert if interested in joining our group.

**Loose Change Sunday, Dec. 31:** Bring your change, bills or checks to drop in the bucket to help support mites.



## Baptisms

**Nov. 26** - Everett Ronald Wise, son of Bryce Wise and Marissa Hansen. Sponsors are Adam Kasel, Tonia Kasel and Helena Wise.



## Sponsor a Poinsettia to Decorate Sanctuary



Help decorate the sanctuary by sponsoring a poinsettia in memory or honor of a loved one. We have 20 poinsettias, so sign up soon to make sure you receive a plant. You can use the sign-up genius on our website or call the office to reserve your plant. The plants are \$17. Make checks payable to LWML.

## 2024 Flower Sign-up Chart

The 2024 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 flowers and place in the offering plate or leave in the church office. Please return vases to the church office when done with them.

## 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. You can also let the church know if you would like the e-mail version of the newsletter while you are out of town.



## Congregational Memory Verse Challenge

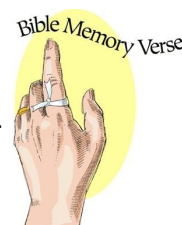
**Dec. 3: Jeremiah 23:5-6** - "Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch... In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'"

**Dec. 10: Revelation 22:20** - He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

**Dec. 17: Isaiah 40:1** - Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

**Dec. 24: 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. 31: Isaiah 26:3** - You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.



## Upcoming Bible Studies

**9:30 a.m. Sunday morning Bible study: "Jesus said What?"** - Jesus doesn't always tell you what you want to hear, but He always tells you what you need to hear. Our Lord has the words of eternal life, and even the hard words of Jesus are given in love. In our culture of sound bites, it's easy for our Lord's words to be taken out of context and misunderstood. Come explore 15 of Christ's most difficult teaching on topics such as money, family relationships and consequences for sin. Each lesson will explore one teaching of Jesus by exploring His full treatment of the topic, along with parallel passages through the Bible and its context. "Jesus Said What?" Will help you to understand the hard words of Christ and come to know the love of Jesus behind them.

**5:45 p.m. Sunday night Bible Study: "The Chosen"** - See the Bible come to life through "The Chosen" video series. We will watch one episode each week followed by a brief discussion. Bring a dish to share and at 5:45 p.m. we will have a potluck meal in the fellowship hall, watch the nightly episode at 6 p.m., have a discussion at 7 p.m. and end our study by 7:30 p.m. Bring your family and friends for a night of fellowship and faith.

**7 p.m. Tuesday night Bible study: "Life in Christ: Rooted, Woven and Grafted into God's Story"** - Reading and understanding the Bible can be difficult, even for lifelong Christians. Perhaps you even have trouble connecting your personal life to the family lineages, narratives, and parables from Christ's teaching.

Rev. Dr. Adam T. Filipek, pastor of Holy Cross and Immanuel Lutheran Churches, in Lidgerwood, ND, help us to understand how your life story—yes, your story today—is interwoven with the life of Christ in the Bible. Piece together each of the narratives in the Old and New Testaments to see how God has grafted your life onto the beautiful saving life of Christ.

**9 a.m. Thursday Women's Bible study: "Experiencing Contagious Joy"** - Our last study will be Dec. 7. Join us on Jan. 4 as we start the year out with a new Bible study.

### BSLC Treasurer's Report General Operating Fund

Oper. Fund	Oct.	YTD
Contributions	31,459	338,438
Expense	32,477	354,212
Surplus/(Shortfall)	(1,018)	(15,774)

## "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 the sure hope of the nations - and our own sure hope! 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!

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!

### December pastors and sermons are as follows:

**Dec 3:** Rev. Heath Trampe, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Minot, presents the message: "Prepared for Christ!" based on Mark 13:24-27. *This Is the Life:* "Stable Boy."

**Dec 10:** Rev. Richard Jones, Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, Minot, presents the message: "Comfort for the People of God" based on Isaiah 40:1-11. *This Is the Life:* "Red Boots for Christmas."

**Dec 17:** Rev. Timothy Stout, St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Sawyer, St. Martin Lutheran Church, Anamoose and St. John Lutheran Church, Kongsberg, presents the message: "The Lord Comes" based on John 1:6-8, 19-28. *This Is the Life:* "Christmas Is."

**Dec 24:** Rev. Matthew Harrison, President of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, presents the Christmas message. More information at [www.MainStreetLiving.com](http://www.MainStreetLiving.com). *This Is the Life:* "Christmas on Main Street."

**Dec 31:** Rev. Philip Beyersdorf, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Minot, presents the message: "Impatient Assumptions" based on Luke 2:22-40. *This Is the Life:* "Burden Made Light."

You are to  
give him the name  
**JESUS** because  
he **WILL SAVE**  
**HIS PEOPLE**  
from their sins.  
MATTHEW 1:21, NIV



## Sunday School in December

Regular Sunday school classes will be held on Dec. 3 and 10. There will be no Sunday school on Dec. 17, 24 and 31. Regular classes will resume Jan. 7.

## LYF Christmas Party

All sixth-grade through twelfth-grade students are invited for games, fun and food at a Christmas party at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 20. Please bring a wrapped white elephant gift to exchange.



## Operation Christmas Child Packing Party a Success

Beautiful Savior packed 308 shoeboxes on Nov. 19! We had more than 102 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.



## Building Healthy Families

How has the fact that Jesus was born over 2000 years ago changed your life today? How would your life be different today if Jesus hadn't come?

As a family, take time to read aloud the Christmas story (Luke 2) and engage them all in a discussion around these two questions. From the silly answer of a preschooler, to the shoulder shrug of a teenager, to the wise words shared by an older person, it will be interesting to see how each individual family member answers. Remember, even those who don't answer are still listening, and may remember this conversation for years to come! Extra points for anyone who has a Bible verse to support their answer! (think John 12:46; John 18:37; 1 Timothy 1:15)

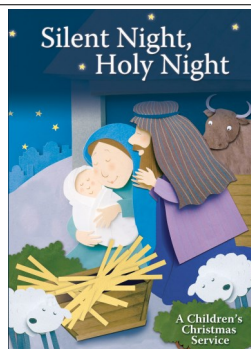
A Blessed Celebration of Jesus' Birth from your friends at **Lutheran Family Service**!

[www.LutheranFamilyService.org](http://www.LutheranFamilyService.org)



## PreK - Third Grade Christmas Program "Silent Night, Holy Night"

The preK-third grade will practice during Sunday school Sunday, Dec. 3 and 10. There will be a dress rehearsal for all students from 9-10 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 16. Their program will be at 8:15 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 17. Thank you for bringing your children to practice.



## Fourth - Sixth Grade Christmas Program "The Christmas Scavenger Hunt"



The fourth-sixth grade will practice during Sunday school Sunday, Dec. 3 and 10. There will be a dress rehearsal for all students from 11a.m.-12 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 16. Their program will be at 10:45 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 17. Thank you for bringing your children to practice.



## Grace Lutheran School News

A Celebration of Grace took place on Nov. 10. We had a very fun, successful evening at the Sanctuary. We estimate that the school raised more than \$40,000 for new curriculum and scholarships. This is an incredible gift for our students. Thank you so much.

- The Christmas Musical at either 1:30 or 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 15 - "We Three Spies" will take you undercover with the Christmas Intelligence Kids (CIK), a covert group of spies who secretly bring Christmas cheer to the needy as they overcome obstacles and share the true meaning of Jesus' birth.
- The Grace Lutheran School Choir is performing a Christmas program at Beautiful Savior at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 19. Grace's Choir is made up of boys and girls from the fourth through eighth grade.

## Growing Together in Grace

The Growing Together in Grace project is officially open for bidding. We are thankful for all involved in this project and for their hard work.

As the architect and engineers completed their preparations for bidding, a building code requirement has necessitated a change to the scope of work to include the roof in Phase 1 instead of Phase 2. This means we will be returning to our churches in the near future to ask for permission to increase the budget to include the roof.

As of Nov. 20, \$852,843 is pledged to the GTIG campaign. We continue to push toward a fully-funded project. Donations can be sent to the church, to PACE at the school's address, or through Vanco at <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZHMF>. Please consider a year-end gift to Growing Together in Grace. Contact Amy Hirsch at 701-232-7747 or [amy.hirsch@glsfargo.org](mailto:amy.hirsch@glsfargo.org) for more information.

## December Youth Events

### DESTINATION UNKNOWN: Where will the youth go this week?

Join us and find out! Every Wednesday after confirmation class, youth in grades 6-12 can participate in a youth group adventure from 7:30-9 p.m. Each week, we will travel to a different surprise destination where we will have an activity and short devotion. We will return to church for games, snacks and faith sharing. For more information, see Pastor Chris.

**Wednesday, Dec. 6** - from 8-9 p.m. - LYF for grades 6-12.

**Wednesday, Dec. 13** - from 8-9 p.m. - LYF for grades 6-12.

**Wednesday, Dec. 20** - from 8-9 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](mailto:office@bslcfargo.org)

WEB: [www.beautifulsaviorfargo.com](http://www.beautifulsaviorfargo.com)

FACEBOOK: [www.facebook.com/BeautifulSaviorLutheranFargo](http://www.facebook.com/BeautifulSaviorLutheranFargo)

## **Office Hours:**

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

Pastor Chris is available by appointment.

## **Worship Schedule:**

Sunday at 8:15 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. 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. Pastor Chris is available by appointment Monday - Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

## **Worship Services available at:**

[www.beautifulsaviorfargo.com](http://www.beautifulsaviorfargo.com)

[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)

[www.facebook.com/BeautifulSaviorLutheranFargo](http://www.facebook.com/BeautifulSaviorLutheranFargo)

Sermon podcasts on our website & iTunes app

**Non-Profit  
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58102  
Permit No. 1068  
Ghost No. 80108**

### **Pastor**

Chris Waldvogel

701-293-1047

701-893-6995

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Kim Scheer

701-293-1047

ENLIGHTEN is a  
monthly publication of  
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### **Council Members**

Chairman: Mike Schlichtmann

Vice-Chair: Travis Olson

Treasurer: Craig Hashbarger

Secretary: Deb Schimek

Properties: Scott Persoon

Education: Stacy Knudson

Stewardship: Claudia Schroeder

Evangelism: Vacant

### **Board of Elders**

A-Bo Brian Rieck

Br-D Dale Olson

E-G Rich Beaver

H-K Jim Willprecht

L-N Mike Sellden

O-R Adam Tykwinski

S Don Schroeder

T-Z Patrik Tostenson

*Elders are assigned families based on last name*

### **Other Volunteers**

LWML President:

Mary Seiffert

Choir Director:

Vacant

RRLSA Board Representatives:

Randy Johnson

Kim Ternes

Financial Secretary:

Beth Gustafson



Scan the code to access  
the BSLC website.