

February 2021

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

LCMS President Answers Questions Regarding COVID Vaccine Concerns

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In recent weeks, I have received a number of inquiries from concerned members of the Synod about the COVID-19 vaccines as they seek to maintain their support for the sanctity of life and for religious freedom. These questions have come not in the interests of politicizing the matter but out of sincere Christian moral convictions. Having consulted with our district presidents and other agencies of the Synod, I requested that the staff of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations, in collaboration with the Office of National Mission's Life Ministry, draft "The LCMS and COVID-19 Vaccines: Facts and Considerations." On the basis of this counsel, let me address a few of your most pressing questions.

1) Are COVID-19 vaccines related to abortion? The science regarding this is complex. The two vaccines currently approved by the FDA — Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna — were not designed, developed or produced using cell lines derived from aborted human fetal tissue. Other vaccine candidates — including the UK-approved Oxford/AstraZeneca — did use human fetal tissue, however. The Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna vaccines did perform laboratory tests using cells derived from abortions (one from 1972 and

(Continued on Page 2.)

Amid so Much Separation, 2021 Lenten Series Invites God's People to "Return to the Lord"

We live in an increasingly fractured and violent society. A pandemic still encroaches upon our everyday lives. Natural disasters rage and destroy.

Sin has set up shop securely, even in the lives of Christians as they adopt and embrace practices and attitudes against God's will. All of this leads to distance between each other and between us and God.

In the middle of all this separation, we find a tender, yet urgent invitation from the Lord: "Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and He relents over disaster," (Joel 2:13).



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LCMS President Answers Questions Regarding COVID Vaccine Concerns

(Continued from Page 1.)

another from 1985) to confirm the final vaccine quality (as, surprisingly, do many other commonly used medications and vaccines). For more information on how the COVID-19 vaccines relate to abortion, I encourage you to consult the website of the pro-life bioethicists at the Charlotte Lozier Institute and the list they maintain there: lozierinstitute.org/an-ethics-assessment-of-covid-19-vaccine-programs/. According to their assessment, neither the Pfizer/BioNTech nor Moderna vaccines contain any substance derived from aborted human fetal cells.

2) Does the Synod have a position on the reception of vaccines using human fetal tissue? The Synod does not have an official position on such vaccines at this time. Official decisions of this nature come through the Synod acting in convention, and no convention action has yet been taken. However, our church body remains firmly committed to the sanctity of life, and we continually seek to advocate for pro-life positions in the public square.

3) Can I obtain a religious exemption for the COVID-19 vaccine? Religious or personal belief exemptions are based on conscientious objection and do not require official support from the denomination. The absence of an official Synod stance does not impact your ability to seek an exemption. Please consult your local lawmakers or public health officials for more information on how to proceed should the need arise.

4) Should I take the COVID-19 vaccine? This is a question only you can answer. Some may choose not to take the vaccine because of concerns over its relation to abortion or fear of possible health complications. Others may take it in spite of such reservations out of concern for their own health or that of their neighbor. Because neither Scripture nor the Synod has explicitly addressed this issue, it remains a matter of Christian freedom where you must choose according to your individual conscience.

5) How should I talk about the vaccine with others who disagree with my view of it? In a sensitive issue of this nature, we remember the words of St. James: “Let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger” (James 1:19). Listen carefully and openly to the points of others. Consider them. Share your positions patiently and objectively. Reflect upon your own penchant for error. Forgive others where they sin against you and ask for forgiveness where you wrong them.

In this contentious issue, we must respect the consciences of fellow believers who share our same commitment to Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, as well as our life together as a Synod. As St. Paul urges us regarding matters of conscience, “let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor” (1 Cor. 10:24), and “let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother” (Rom. 14:13). At a time of cultural upheaval, I would encourage you not to allow disagreement even over undoubtedly important matters such as this to take precedence over the faith that unites us in Christ. In all things, we should heed the call to “maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Eph. 4:3).

Please study the document mentioned above. It provides a summary of what we know about the COVID-19 vaccines, their relation to the issue of abortion, and what we can (and cannot) say about these matters from the Synod’s perspective. I hope it proves useful to you as you wrestle with how to bear Christian witness in this world through your love of both God and neighbor.

“Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.” (Heb. 13:20–21).

This article was obtained from the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod website and was written by LCMS President the Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison. “The LCMS and COVID-19 Vaccines: Facts and Considerations” document is available online at lcms.org/doc/covid19-vaccines-fact-sheet.



Maintain the unity
of the Spirit
in the bond of peace.

Ephesians 4:3 ESV

Amid so Much Separation, 2021 Lenten Series Invites God's People to "Return to the Lord"

(Continued from Page 1.)

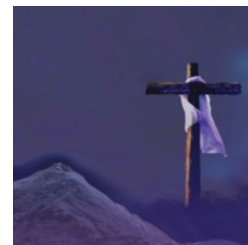
God's invitation and promise finds its fullness in Jesus Christ, who personifies and accomplishes all that God declares. During this season of Lent, we will consider the theme "Return to the Lord," examining how God's call to return plays out in practical ways for His people.

God's call also asks us to consider God's judgement against sin. In the Book of Joel, the prophet paints a vivid picture of the coming judgment of God, the Day of the Lord. The bold and terrifying imagery depicts hordes of locusts swarming over the land and devouring everything in its path and leaving mass destruction in its wake.

God's powerful Word calls fallen, broken, rebellious sinners to turn away from the destruction of sin and toward God's grace and mercy in Christ. On the cross, Jesus took the Father's wrath against sin upon Himself. For those repenting of sin and resting in Christ, God promises to "turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind Him," (Joel 2:14).

Due to COVID, we will not host soup and sandwich suppers this year. In addition to Wednesday midweek services, this series will feature a Lenten devotional book as well as a Lenten activity calendar for families. The series will begin at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 17, with the following schedule:

Feb. 17 – Ash Wednesday: A Call to Return (Matt. 6:1–6, 16–21)
Feb. 24 – Midweek Lent 1: Return to Prayer (Matt. 26:36–46)
March 3 – Midweek Lent 2: Return from Betrayal (John 18:1–11)
March 10 – Midweek Lent 3: Return from False Witness (Matt. 26:57–68)
March 17 – Midweek Lent 4: Return from Denial (Luke 22:54–62)
March 24 – Midweek Lent 5: Return to the Kingdom of God (John 18:28)
April 1 – Holy Thursday: Return to the Table (Mark 14:12–26)
April 2 – Good Friday: Return to the Truth (John 19:1–16)
April 4 – Easter Sunday: Return and See (Matt. 28:1–10)




Note: You will need to sign up for Ash Wednesday and Holy Week services through the sign-up genius on the church website. If services fill up, we will add more. We will not be holding Thursday night worship services during Lent. However, Sunday services will still be available on YouTube.

Easter Flowers On Altar

A sign-up sheet will be available around Ash Wednesday to order Easter flowers in memory or in honor of loved ones. Flowers and the prices will be listed on the sign-up genius. Please note options may be subject to change based on availability due to COVID. Please make checks payable to LWML.

Andes Tower Hills Family Ski Trip

All families should save Saturday, Feb. 27, for some time on the slopes. We will meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Beautiful Savior parking lot and return around 8:30 p.m. Check-in will be at 9:45 a.m. We will attempt to carpool but will need drivers as well. **The absolute deadline is Feb. 19. We will not be able to accept late registrations due to Andes' COVID requirements.** Registration and information sheets are available on the church website or see Pastor Brian for more information. **Masks are required both indoors and outdoors! Please check the Andes website for all COVID related information at <https://www.andestowerhills.com/covid-plan>.**

		Restore His House	
		Capital Campaign	
Capital	<u>Pledged</u>	<u>Goal</u>	
Campaign	\$305,450	\$330,000	

BSLC Treasurer's Report		
General Operating Fund		
<u>Oper. Fund</u>	<u>Dec.</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Contributions	\$58,825	392,359
Expense	56,514	383,629
Surplus/ (Shortfall)	2,311	8,730



Clubs and Service Groups



Service Group - Our group for February will not be needed this month. Stay tuned for further details regarding how and when we will resume fellowship. Thank you 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.

Quilting and Fellowship - We have resumed in-person quilting while practicing social distancing! Join us at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 11 and 25. 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.

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

LWML - LWML will meet at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 18, via Zoom.

LWML Prayer Service - Grace Lutheran Church, 821 5th Ave S, Fargo, is hosting the LWML *He Prayed with Them* prayer service on Saturday, Feb. 20. Join us at 9 a.m. for fellowship and at 10 a.m. for the prayer service. All women are invited.

Evangelism - The evangelism committee will meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 16, at Ruby Tuesday. The agenda for this meeting includes:

- New/prospective member handouts
- BSLC brochures
- Beautiful Garden
- Community outreach
- Bible study involvement

If you are interested in attending, RSVP to the church office by Monday, Feb. 15, as we need a head count for Ruby Tuesday. Contact Tim Deitemeyer at tim.deitemeyer@hotmail.com with questions.

Congregations to vote on pushing back synodical convention to 2023

Beautiful Savior will host a special voter's meeting via Zoom at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 1, to give input on delaying synodical convention to 2023. (See information below to attend the meeting.)

Due to the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 some districts may not be able to convene this year for district convention. The North Dakota District cancelled its original date for the 2021 convention.

The LCMS Council of Presidents voted unanimously in November to encourage LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison to put a proposal before congregations to delay the 2022 Synodical convention one year to 2023. The vote, which requires participation of at least one quarter of the Synod's congregations, will conclude Feb. 15.

Special Voters' Meeting Zoom link:

6:30 p.m. Monday, Feb 1, 2021

Join Zoom Meeting link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83263780379?pwd=eH5ya2wwMGMrQS9HY2VINGpsWTh6QT09>

Meeting ID: 832 6378 0379

Passcode: 667519



Memorials



Christopher Hans

Greg & Mary Seiffert

Darlene - Judy Rolle's Mom

Greg & Mary Seiffert

Learning Patience

By Pastor Brian

"But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance." (2 Peter 3:8-9).



She was a picture of patience as little Bobby pushed her buttons. "Mommy, I want to ride in the cart." "Mommy, can I get that bike?" "Mommy, why can't I get that bike?" "Mommy, I want out of the cart." "Mommy, can we go home?" "Mommy, why can't we go home now?" "Mommy, I want to ride in the cart." "Mommy, I want some candy." "Mommy, why can't I have some candy?"

Through it all, she didn't get angry. She didn't speak harshly. She gently responded to each request. She tenderly answered each question. She was the perfect picture of patience. Now, maybe you're a parent and as you read this you say to yourself, "I wish I were like that. I need more patience!" Who doesn't say or think that from time to time? "I need to be more patient."

But how do we learn patience? We learn it from the one who truly is the perfect picture of patience. We learn from the Lord who "is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance." (2 Peter 3:8-9).

We learn true patience when we understand how patient God is with us. If you made a big mistake at work, your boss might fire you. If you made that same big mistake at work, day after day, your boss would definitely fire you. If we were to think of God as our boss and we make the same mistakes day after day, then it would seem that God should fire us.

But he doesn't. He is patient with us. Day after day, he sees our mistakes. Day after day, he sees our sin. And day after day, he forgives us as we repent. He doesn't hold our sin against us. How can he be so patient? He doesn't want to fire us; he wants to spend eternity with us. So, he sent his Son, Jesus, to take our sins away from us. Jesus took upon himself the punishment that we deserve. And because the price has already been paid, he is patient with us, "not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance."

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: "Genesis: A Book of Beginnings" - Genesis is a book of beginnings and promises. It explains the beginning of the universe, the beginning of humankind, the beginning of sin, the beginning of God's people, the beginning of God's covenant promises with Abraham and his descendants, and the beginning of sacrifice as the substitution of death for life. The rest of the Bible - particularly the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ - only makes sense when we understand these important beginnings.

9 a.m. Thursday Women's Bible study via Zoom: "Revelations - The Triumph of God": All women are welcome to join. Please contact the church office or Shirley Elsner at 388-9521 to sign up.

"Main Street Living North" TV Program News

The Christian season of Lent begins this month. With it comes a special time for Christians to prepare for the two most important days of the Church year. As we consider our fallen sinful condition and need for a Savior, may God's Holy Spirit open the doors of our hearts ever wider that we may more deeply understand and receive the redeeming work of our Lord!

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.

February pastors and sermons:

Feb 7: Rev. Daniel Suelze, Wittenberg Lutheran Chapel, Grand Forks, presents the message "The Everlasting God," based on Isaiah 40:21-31. *This is the Life: "The Point of No Return."*

Feb 14: Rev. Jeffrey Lee, MN North District - LCMS, Brainerd, MN, presents the message: "Boldly Proclaiming Jesus," based on 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:6. *This is the Life: "Mr. Big."*

Feb 21: Rev. David Suelze, Grace Lutheran Church, Fargo, presents the message: "It Just Doesn't Make Any Sense," based on Genesis 22:1-3. *This is the Life: "The Day We Lost Ella Mae."*

Feb. 28: Rev. Don Fondow, President, MN North District - LCMS, presents the message: "A Life Worth Living ... A Savior Worth Believing," based on Mark 8:27-38. *This is the Life: "Out of Bondage"*

Grace Lutheran School News

- GLS is enrolling all grades for the 2021-22 school year. Grace's pre-k provides kindergarten readiness by being in a school setting with mentors in upper grades, music and gym classes. Year-round childcare is available through Camp Grace in the summer. Grace also has free morning childcare and affordable on-site after school childcare until 6:15 p.m. Children entering pre-k must be 4 years old by July 31.
- Need summer daycare? Registration is now open for Camp Grace. They have full and half-day openings. Registration forms can be found on the GLS school website or in the office.
- Giving Hearts Day is on Thursday, Feb. 11. GLS has a goal to raise \$70,000 with a \$25,000 match. Donations can be scheduled now at givingheartsdays.org, or can be made online on Feb. 11. Check donations can be mailed or dropped off at the school either dated Feb. 11 or with a note on the check stating it is for Giving Hearts Day.



Congregational Memory Verse Challenge

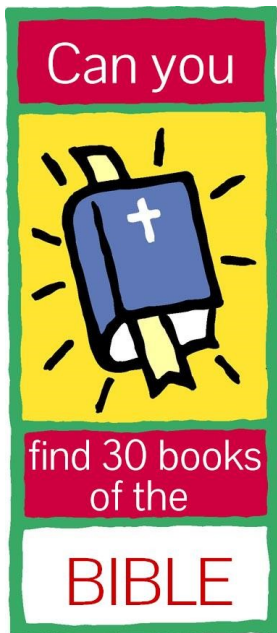
Psalms 1 teaches us to meditate on God's Word day and night. It is our great opportunity and joy to read and study God's Word. One beneficial practice is to memorize the Scriptures and, in so doing, to meditate on it. The LCMS invites everyone to join together memorizing a verse each week.

Feb. 7: Hebrews 4:15 - For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Feb. 14: Philippians 2:5 - 11 - Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Feb. 21: 1 Peter 5:8-9 - Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith.

Feb. 28: Galatians 6:14 - But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.



Crossfire Youth Praise Band

Crossfire will practice at the church from 7-8 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 14, 21 and 28. If you have questions, call Ramsey at 866-5403.

Thirty Books of the Bible?

There are thirty books of the Bible in this paragraph. Can you find them? This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket, on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much, he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his john boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fund raising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new sales record. The local paper, The Chronicle, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, "the books are all right there in plain view hidden from sight." Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that the books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad exodus, there really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found.

Call the church office if you have any trouble.

February Youth Events

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

Wednesday, Feb. 3 - from 7:30-9 p.m. - Lutheran Youth Fellowship for grades 6-12.

Wednesday, Feb. 10 - from 7:30-9 p.m. - Lutheran Youth Fellowship for grades 6-12.

Wednesday, Feb. 17 - from 7:30-9 p.m. - Lutheran Youth Fellowship for grades 6-12.

Wednesday, Feb. 24 - from 7:30-9 p.m. - Lutheran Youth Fellowship for grades 6-12.

Upcoming Events:

Family Ski Day - Saturday, Feb. 27: All families should save Saturday, Feb. 27, for some time on the slopes. We will meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Beautiful Savior parking lot and return around 8:30 p.m. or so. Check-in will be at 9:45 a.m. We will attempt to carpool but will need drivers as well. **The absolute deadline is Feb. 19. We will not be able to accept late registrations due to Andes' COVID requirements.** Registration and information sheets are available on the church website or see Pastor Brian for more information. **Masks are required both indoors and outdoors! Please check the Andes website for all COVID related information at <https://www.andestowerhills.com/covid-plan>.**

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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701-293-1047

701-893-6995

Associate Pastor

Brian Shane

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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: 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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