



February 2024

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God's Design for Sexuality Always is Better Than What We Devise

By Pastor Chris

When I teach (and affirm) God's design for marriage as the union between one man and one woman in a lifelong relationship of sacrificial love, trust and servanthood, most of the students in our new member and confirmation classes readily accept that definition. But living together and having sex before marriage has become such a common, accepted practice – even among Christians – that many people don't understand why it is such a big deal.

The big deal is that the "love" that builds a strong marriage is agape love – a sacrificial act of the will that puts your spouse's needs and concerns above your own. Too often, people mistake eros (sexual love) as the building block for a marriage. Of course, sexuality has its place in a marriage because God blesses human sexuality to increase bonding, create warmth and bring children into the world.

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Lenten Series Explores the Blessings of 'Honest Repentance'

As we draw nearer to commemorating our Lord's suffering and death in the church year, we often hear that Lent is a penitential season. But what does this mean? Repentance starts with being honest before God and ourselves about who we are. When it comes to sin, everyone has a natural impulse to hide, but repentance means finding the courage to be honest.

(Continued on Page 2.)



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

Join us at 7 p.m. every Wednesday evening beginning with services on Feb. 14. We also invite you to join us for soup and sandwich suppers at 6 p.m. before each service. Please bring a dish to share as we prepare to examine what repentance looks like in the Christian life.

This year's schedule will be:



Feb. 14 – Ash Wednesday: Law (Creation of Mankind) – **Gen. 2:5-9, 15-25**
Feb. 21 – Midweek 1: Chaos (The Flood) – **Gen. 7:1-5, 11-18, 8:6-18, 9:8-13**
Feb. 28 – Midweek 2: Faith (Abraham and Isaac) – **Genesis 22:1-18**
March 6 – Midweek 3: Repentance (An Appeal to Nineveh) – **Jonah 3:1-10**
March 13 – Midweek 4: Purification (Three Men in the Fiery Furnace) – **Dan. 3:1-30**
March 20 – Midweek 5: Salvation (The Crossing of the Red Sea) – **Ex. 14:10-15:1**

God's Design for Sexuality Always is Better Than What We Devise

(Continued from Page 1.)

The explanation of God's design for marriage in the wedding rite found in *The Lutheran Service Book* explains it this way: "The union of husband and wife in heart, body and mind is intended by God for the mutual companionship, help and support that each person ought to receive from the other, both in prosperity and adversity. Marriage was also ordained so that man and woman may find delight in one another. Therefore, all person who marry shall take a spouse in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust, for God has not called us to impurity but in holiness."

Taking a worldly approach by testing if another person is sexually adequate only serves to fuel a relationship based on gratification rather than service, agape love and honor. It dehumanizes someone and makes them an object, rather than a person whom God intentionally created and for whom Jesus died and rose again. Make no mistake, the church is not anti-sex. Rather, the church affirms God's gift of human sexuality within the boundaries of marriage. We want strong marriages in which husband and wife love, honor and cherish one another as a special gift from God.

Statistics only serve to reinforce that God's design of blessing human sexuality through marriage actually works better than our own ideas. Consider that: Those who live together (and are sexually active before marriage) have higher separation and divorce rates, according to a *Psychology Today* report. A study by the National Council on Family Relations reported that those who lived together before marriage had unhappier marriages. Research indicates that "trial marriages" do not lead to better marriages.

If you still think that your pastor is a stickler or that waiting for marriage seems old fashioned, hear these words from the time-tested, perfect, holy and unchanging will of God: "Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more. For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. Therefore, whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you," (1 Thessalonians 4:1-8).

Christians asking God to bless their union should consider how God instructs them to approach that union. You will find that God's approach and instruction will always outshine your own sinful, fallen ideas.

Pastor Chris



Lenten Series Explores the Blessings of 'Honest Repentance'

(Continued from Page 1.)

Finally, repentance means becoming more human, not less. Because our thoughts, desires, and actions are so linked with sin, it is easy to view repentance as fighting against our humanity as if holiness means trying to stifle as many of our natural human impulses as possible. But honest repentance recognizes that sin is the thing that stifles our humanity, while repentance results in Holy Spirit-led impulses functioning more as God designed them.



Honest repentance is coming to terms with those things that pull us out of step with God. It means admitting that we have sinned, that we are sinners, and it means desiring to put sin away and to live more and more in the space where life can flourish.

But this is a big problem to grapple with, and we don't have the resources to fill our own emptiness, much less to overcome death and condemnation. So, as we approach Easter, we also recall that our Savior talks about a house. Not just a house, a temple. "Destroy this temple, and in three days, I will raise it" (John 2:19). The temple Jesus referred to was not the temple in Jerusalem, but the temple of His body. He took our place under the ancient curse and allowed his own body to return to dust. Well, not quite all the way to dust. On the third day, He raised it and restored life and immortality to the human race.

As we wait for that day, it is this truth that makes honest repentance possible.

National Youth Gathering Chili Cook-off and Silent Auction

Plan to attend the Lutheran Youth Fellowship chili cook-off and silent auction from 4:30 - 7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 25. Purchase an endless chili bowl for a freewill donation. Sample and vote on Beautiful Savior's finest recipes. A trophy will be awarded for the best chili recipe. Many wonderful silent auction items will be available. We would like to invite the entire congregation to attend and contribute to this event. All proceeds will go to the youth attending the national youth gathering in New Orleans in 2025.



Please consider donating an item for the silent auction. Gift certificates and baskets of any value are welcome. See Pastor Chris or Kim Ternes if you would like to donate an item.

ASH
Wednesday
7 p.m. Feb. 14

Youth to Sell Butter Braids Feb. 18 to March 3

Youth who will be attending the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans in 2025 will be selling butter braids to raise money for their trip. Sales will be between Feb. 18 and March 3. They will be delivered before Easter. More information will be coming soon.



Card Shower for Clay Fell and Kim Wagner

Everyone likes to get mail, especially when they need encouragement. BSLC has started a card shower for Clay Fell and Kim Wagner. Each of them will receive a card from someone every day. If you miss your day, send it the next day. All you need to do is go to the church website, click on a sign-up, choose a date, enter your name, and send a card/message to Clay or Kim, depending on which sign-up you choose. If you are not able to sign up, contact the office and we will sign you up!



Beautiful Savior Call List

Beautiful Savior has received a call list from District President Arie Bertsch with eight names to consider for calling a second pastor. The personal information (PIFs and SETs) and candidate evaluation tool documents are available in the church office for review so that you can make an informed decision when voting for your preferred candidate. You can come between 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday to review these documents. The documents may not leave the building. We will have our next congregational call meeting at noon on Sunday, Feb. 11, to review and vote on the candidate to whom we will extend a divine call. If you have any questions, please visit with Pastor Chris.

Potluck Suppers During Lent

BSLC offers potluck soup and sandwich suppers before our Lenten worship each Wednesday from 6-6:45 p.m. You are invited to bring soups, sandwiches or desserts as you are able. Our groups will do the **setup** and **cleanup**. Listed below are the dates for each group. A sign-up sheet for each group is in the narthex. Thanks for your help.



| | |
|----------|-----------------------|
| Feb. 14 | LWML (A-N members) |
| Feb. 21 | Church Council |
| Feb. 28 | Elders |
| March 6 | Music Ministry Groups |
| March 13 | LYF Youth |
| March 20 | LWML (O-Z members) |

Easter Flowers

If you are interested in sponsoring Easter flowers to decorate the sanctuary this year, we are trying something new. Anyone is encouraged to bring your own flowering easter plant with a decorative pot cover or in a decorative pot with your name on them. You can let the office know if the plant is in memory or honor of a loved one, and we will put it on our Easter listing. Please drop off your plant in the office between March 24-27. You may take your plant home after the 10:45 a.m. Easter service on Sunday, March 31. Thank you for helping decorate the sanctuary this Easter season.



BSLC Clubs and Service Groups

Elders - Our elders greet members and visitors, helps the pastor with any needs and see that all goes well at worship service. If you have any concerns for our church, please talk to head elder Adam Tykwinski or any of the other elders.

Quilting and Fellowship - We will meet this month from 10:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 8 and 22. 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, Feb. 14. Rita Kaeding will give the second part of her presentation on her trip(s) to the Holy land. It will be Valentine's day, bring a dish you love to serve. 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 meet at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 15. All women are invited.

LWML Prayer Service - All women are invited to attend Saturday, Feb. 3. See details below.

Congregational Memory Verse Challenge



Feb. 4: 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. 11: Ephesians 4:32 - Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Feb. 18: 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. 25: Psalm 27:1 - The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?



**Beautiful Savior LWML
invites all Ladies to the
LWML Zone Prayer Service
Saturday, Feb. 3
9 a.m. Coffee and Breakfast
10 a.m. Prayer Service**

Grace, Mercy, Peace

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord (1 Timothy 1:2; 2 Timothy 1:2).

At some point you have probably heard a pastor begin his sermon by saying something similar to this verse from 1 Timothy. The 2024 Prayer Service is designed around those first three words — those three gifts that come to us from our gracious Father and our Savior — Grace, Mercy, and Peace.

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 teachings 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.

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: “Leading a Life of Balance” - We will invite God to examine our priorities and reveal any area of our life that has gone off-center from Him. We will look at the example Jesus set and see how He balanced the pressures of His ministry with spending time alone with God each day. As we seek to follow His pattern and allow the Lord to work within us, we will discover how we can truly find equilibrium in life.

“Main Street Living North” TV Program News

Giving Hearts Day 2024 on Tuesday, Feb. 8, will be a special opportunity to show support for your Main Street Living North media ministry! This will be a first for our ministry organization. You can add your support online at <https://app.givingheartsday.org/> or send to Main Street Living, 821 5th Ave S, Fargo, ND 58103 and write Giving Hearts Day in the memo line.



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!

February pastors and sermons are as follows:

Feb. 4: Rev. Craig Fenske, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Grand Forks, presents the message: “The Greatness of God” based on Isaiah 40:21-31. *This Is the Life:* “Which Way Grows the Vine.”

Feb. 11: Rev. Bruce Blocker, Immanuel Lutheran Church, McIntosh, MN, presents the message: “They Saw No One Except Jesus” based on Mark 9:2-9. *This Is the Life:* “Prescription TLC.”

Feb. 18: Rev. Scott Ramey, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Rolla, All Nations Lutheran Church, Rock Lake, and Zion Lutheran Church, Munich, presents the message: “The Word of the Lord is powerful and effective” based on Isaiah 55:11. *This Is the Life:* “Dangerous Moment.”

Feb. 25: Rev. Daniel Voth, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Grand Forks, presents the message: “Confess Jesus” based on St. Mark 8:27-38. *This Is the Life:* “Who will tell Lauria?”

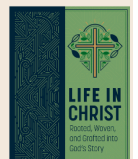


For Such a Time as This

Save the Date: For Such a Time as This 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 10, at Zion Lutheran Church, Bismarck. Featuring Dr. Gregory Seltz, speaker emeritus for Lutheran Hour Ministries and Rev. Dr. Adam Filipek, author of “Life in Christ: Rooted, Woven, and Grafted into God's Story.” Deadline to register is Feb. 2. Forms are on the church website or in the narthex.

**Rev. Dr. Adam
Filipek**

Author of “Life in
Christ: Rooted,
Woven, and
Grafted into
God's Story”



Giving Tree Update

Thank you for your generous donations of socks, hats and mittens for the giving tree. They were distributed to Ed Clapp and Jefferson elementary schools and to the Open Doors—65 thrift store. Open Doors – 65 is a nonprofit faith based ministry in Fargo that provides a free thrift store (clothing, shoes, household items, linens, etc.) to those in need.



Women's Care Center Thank You

"Thank you so much to the generous people of Beautiful Savior Church! Because of you, the moms, babies and families we love and serve at Women's Care Center will have a little easier time in 2024. Because of you, we now have 99 more diapers (two packs), 1,602 more wipes (four packs), 19 kids outfits, four bath supplies, 24 books, a diaper backpack and some miscellaneous items. Plus you provided \$75 in gift cards! Wow! We are deeply grateful! God bless you all! Happy 2024!

-Women's Care Center

BACH CANTATA VESPERS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2024 | 4:00PM

St. Andrew Lutheran Church
1005 1st St., West Fargo

Bach's Cantata
"Gottes Zeit ist die allerbeste Zeit
(Actus Tragicus)," BWV 106,
within the Vespers Liturgy.

FEATURING:
RRVAGO ORGANISTS
F-M BACH CHOIR
CHAMBER ORCHESTRA



Thrivent Choice Dollars



Did you know that the Thrivent Choice program allows eligible Thrivent members to recommend making charitable contributions to Beautiful Savior? Several members have supported the church's mission by directing a portion of their Thrivent Choice dollars to BSLC.

If you haven't participated in Thrivent Choice but would like to learn more, you can visit Thrivent.com/Thriventchoice or contact your Thrivent representative. You must renew your designation every year. The deadline is March 31.

Feed My Starving Children Update



Feed My Starving Children just missed its goal of 10 million meals. Volunteers packed a total of 9,712,224 meals, enough to feed 26,608 kids every day for a year. 38 volunteers from Beautiful Savior helped with the food pack on Jan. 6 and Jan. 11.



Sunday School Leaders Needed

Sunday School volunteers are needed to help lead in the classroom. For more information, contact Stacy Knudson.



Growing Together in Grace



Grace Lutheran School's Growing Together in Grace campaign continues to move toward construction if all necessary funds can be pledged/raised.

We are excited to announce that the pledge total as of Jan. 19 is now \$1,417,343. We continue to push toward a fully-funded project (\$2.5 million).

Construction bids for this summer's project thankfully came in lower than expected, and gifts and pledges received are encouraging; however, we need to reach a goal of \$1.8 million by Feb. 15 to proceed this summer and avoid excess debt.

Two identical and inspiring informational pledging events are taking place at St. Andrew Lutheran Church. The first is at 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 8, with dinner, program and dessert. The second is at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 10, at St. Andrew with lighter fare and an accompanying children's party to accommodate families. RSVP by Feb. 5 to amy.hirsch@glsfargo.org.

Please note that gifts do not need to be sent immediately. Pledges can be fulfilled over two or three years. We hope you can assist us with this critical goal.

Donations can be sent to the church, to PACE at the school's address, or through Vanco at <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZHMF>.

Grace Lutheran School News

Giving Hearts Day is coming soon! Connect with us in Christ on Feb. 8 at www.glsfargo.org with your "Heart for Christian Education." We are pleased to announce a \$3,000 match provided generously by DRI (formerly Dakota Refrigeration), a longtime supporter of GLS. Every dollar raised on Giving Hearts Day is prayerfully spent to support our students and ministry.

We just wrapped up an exciting National Lutheran Schools Week, complete with all-school devotions, dress up days, reading with chapel buddies, card making for homebound church members and a trip to Alexandria to visit our sister school, Martin Luther.

Enrollment for 2024-2025 is in full swing at Grace. Beautiful Savior, Grace Lutheran School is your school. Students from Beautiful Savior can receive up to a 60 percent tuition subsidy. Additionally, students who attend Grace for all years from kindergarten through seventh grade pay only 10 percent of total tuition for eighth grade.

Open houses for all grades, and especially Pre-kindergarten and kindergarten, are from 4:30 - 6 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 22, and Monday, March 4. Pre-register at www.glsfargo.org.



February 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 8-9 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, Feb. 14 - from 8-9 p.m. - LYF for grades 6-12

Wednesday, Feb. 21 - from 8-9 p.m. - LYF for grades 6-12

Wednesday, Feb. 28 - from 8-9 p.m. - LYF for grades 6-12



BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

2601 23rd Ave. S., Fargo, ND 58103

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Contact Us:

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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 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

www.youtube.com

www.facebook.com/BeautifulSaviorLutheranFargo

Sermon podcasts on our website & iTunes app

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ENLIGHTEN is a
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S Don Schroeder

T-Z Patrik Tostenson

Elders are assigned families based on last name



Scan the code to access
the BSLC website.

Other Volunteers

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