



January 2020

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Life-giving Gift Goes Beyond Life-changing Surprise

By Pastor Chris

You might have heard that a real estate company handed out more than \$10 million in Christmas surprises for its 198 employees.

Maryland-based St. John Properties flew in all its out-of-state employees and their guests for a Christmas party on Dec. 7, covering all airfare and hotel costs. During the festivities, the company handed out red envelopes with unexpected bonuses based on years of service with the company. The smallest amount, \$100, went to a recently hired employee who hadn't even started. The largest bonus totaled \$270,000.

"It was just amazing and incredible," one employee said. "I'm still in shock. It's definitely life changing."

Company President Lawrence Maykrantz told CNN that his employees lined up to show their appreciation: "They told us story after story of what they're going to use their bonuses for. People are now debt free; they're paying off their credit cards, their mortgages, their tuition and student loans."

(Continued on Page 2.)

Help is Needed Taking Down Decorations

We will take down the Christmas decorations at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 4. Please help us. It will only take an hour.

Andes Tower Hills Family Ski Trip

All families should save Saturday, Jan. 11, for some time on the slopes. We will meet at 7:30 a.m. sharp at the Beautiful Savior parking lot and return at 8:30 p.m. Check-in will be at 9:45 a.m. We will need drivers to carpool. Deadline to register is Jan. 5. Registration and information sheets are available in the narthex, or on the church website. See Pastor Brian with questions.



New Member Class begins Jan. 9

Beautiful Savior offers classes to help new members learn more about what our church body teaches about the Christian faith. Our next class will begin at 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 9. This class normally lasts about six weeks. We invite all new members and potential members to participate in this class, which reviews the basic, but essential, teachings of the Bible. Those who have been members for some time and who also would like a brief review are welcome to attend!

Life-giving Gift Goes Beyond Life-changing Surprise

(Continued from Page 1.)

This earthly bonus brought people to tears. It filled employees with gratitude. It brought workers joy. Yet the gift of God in Christ Jesus makes people debt free to an even greater degree. As we leave the season of Christmas and enter Epiphany, God's Word reveals the sacrifice Jesus will make on our behalf. In just a few weeks, we will hear the Baptist exclaim: "Behold, the Lamb of God!" This proclamation leads two disciples to follow Jesus. These words give us the hope, assurance and strength to do the same. For this lamb of God has taken away the sins of the world.

More than 2,000 years ago, God sent His Son clothed in human flesh to be born of a virgin. That child would spend His entire life living a perfect life for us. This child would not hand out a red envelope to pay off debts. Instead, he would shed His holy, precious blood. He would suffer, die on a cross, and rise to life again. This loving act would pay off all the debt that our sinful lives would accumulate, not only changing lives but granting life itself through the forgiveness of sins.

This wasn't a bonus given for your part in God's plan of salvation. This gift came because God saw your helpless condition as a sinful creature. God decided to act, uniting you to Jesus in your baptism and granting you faith. He continues to nourish you and feed you through His Word and the Lord's Supper so that you may continue to celebrate a God who continues to reward you based on what He has done in Christ.

This Jesus has made you debt free before God! In fact, He grants you his own holiness and righteousness. He bestows on you a perfect standing. And this gift will never run out. Maybe you received a much appreciated bonus this year, but God's life-giving gift always goes beyond any earthly life-changing surprise.

Pastor Chris

1-1-1 Mission Giving

The North Dakota District is adopting a new model for funding the missions of the district. It's completely voluntary. It is very simple.

- 1 - Dollar
- 1 - Baptized Member
- 1 - Week, every week

Every baptized member of the Body of Christ in your congregation, from the newest baby baptized to the oldest member is involved. This funding model is based on the belief that there is power and strength in many giving a little. Loving our neighbor includes caring for their spiritual well-being. This is why the need exists for God's people to come together in support of missions that are bearing kingdom fruit. In addition to each congregation's regular giving to the District, the 1-1-1 funds will stay in the district and support the missions of the district, such as Christ Care of Children, Kenya; Main Street Living; Wittenberg Lutheran Chapel, UND; *Iglesia Luterana de Chile*; and others. God's generosity is not lacking! The gifts are there. Where the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity and the sacraments are administered according to their institution by Christ, there are ample resources to do this ministry. A collection box and brochures are available in the narthex.



Upcoming Bible Studies

9:30 a.m. Sunday morning Bible study - Beautiful Savior has moved to 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 at home.

7 p.m. Tuesday Bible study - Romans: A Precious Letter: Paul's letter to the church in Rome tackles many issues in the early church. It addresses controversies, lays the groundwork for understanding the Christian faith and outlines the duties of those called to faith -- even as it excludes Christian discipline as the basis for salvation.

Martin Luther called this letter "the chief part of the New Testament" and "the purest Gospel." Its pages served as a breakthrough for Luther in understanding God's forgiveness, mercy and grace in Christ. Luther noted: "It is worthy not only that every Christian should know it word for word by heart but also that he should occupy himself with it every day as the daily bread of the soul. We can never read it or ponder over it too much, for the more we deal with it, the more precious it becomes."

9 a.m. Thursday Women's Bible study: "Isaiah, Trusting God in Troubled Times" - begins Jan. 23. In Isaiah, you'll discover that trouble and suffering are nothing new to God's people. Isaiah raises a loud cry for revival in this midst of a rotting society. Isaiah firmly believes that God can triumph even in the worst of times. Join us as we dig deep into the message of repentance, forgiveness and hope. You'll find comfort for coping with your own troubled times. The books will be \$7 and a sign-up is in the narthex.

BSLC Treasurer's Report General Operating Fund

| <u>Oper. Fund</u> | <u>Nov.</u> | <u>YTD</u> |
|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Contributions | \$31,793 | 308,317 |
| Expense | 8,268 | 331,917 |
| (Shortfall) | 23,525 | (23,600) |

Pictorial Directory Sitzings Jan. 7

Our church will provide another opportunity from 2-9 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 7, to be included in our updated photo directory. New members, those not pictured in the last directory or anyone who has changes to the family can schedule a portrait sitting to help make our directory complete. Benefits include a complimentary 8- by-10 portrait and free printed photo directory. You can sign up between services or schedule your appointment online at beautifulsaviorfargo.com and go to the "Announcements" tab. Sign up early to get the time you prefer.

Evangelism to Meet Jan. 7

The Evangelism Committee will meet at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 7 at Ruby Tuesday. We will be discussing the possibility of pursuing a LCMS outreach grant to welcome new and prospective members and outreach in the FM community. This is a great opportunity to help promote the word of God and Beautiful Savior. Please let Tim know if you will be joining us at tim.deitemeyer@hotmail.com so we have an accurate count.



ND District Men's Winter Retreat

The retreat will be held Jan. 17-18, 2020, at Shepherd's Hill at the Crossroads, St. John. Rev. Jeff Hemmer will present "Man Up! The Quest for Masculinity." It begins with a supper at 6 p.m. Friday, Jan. 17, and ends at 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 18. The cost is \$80, which includes three meals, lodging, speaker and fellowship activities. Bring your Bible, bed roll, personal items, warm clothing, and friends. Call Corey Isaak to register at 281-0240 or email at corey.isaak@gracefargo.org.

In Appreciation

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our church family for all the kindness shown to us during the Christmas season. We appreciated all your prayers, cards, cookies, gifts and expressions of love. We feel blessed to have all of you in our lives. May God continue to bless our work here.

Pastor Chris, Pastor Brian and Kim

Crosstraining for BSLC Children

Crosstraining is for children in first through fifth grade. Crosstraining will meet one Sunday each month, from 1-3 p.m. Crosstraining will involve food (both spiritual and physical), fun and fellowship. Our first Crosstraining day will be Jan. 26. Contact Pastor Brian with any questions.



Beautiful Savior to Start Decorating Committee

Deck the halls...all year long! Will you help us make our church look beautiful? We are starting a decorating committee to make our church look festive for the changing seasons. If you are interested in learning more about this committee, email Dahlia at dahlia.shane71@gmail.com for more details.

Restore His House Update

There has been more than \$280,000 of the \$330,000 goal committed so far for this three-year effort. Thank you and keep those pledges coming.



2020 Commitment Cards

Remember to turn in your annual pledge card for the 2020 year. This helps you plan your giving and helps the congregation plan for our ministry and missions for the year. Thank you to all who already turned in their cards. If you need a card, they are available in the narthex.

Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for 2020 are available in the narthex. If you don't find your envelopes, please let the office know, and a box can be made available for you. Thank you for taking home your envelopes.

Memorials

Clifford (Chuck) Kroshus
Loretta Swanson



Clubs and Service Groups



Service Group - Our group for January consists of the letters H-K with Jodie Haekenkamp as captain. She will call you asking for treats or help with other events. Thanks for your help. Our February group will be the letters L-N with captain Mary Seiffert.

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

Gold Club - Gold Club is a time to get together and enjoy a potluck meal and some fellowship. Gold Club is for everyone, so feel free to join us for food, faith and fellowship. Bring a dish or treat to share and join us at noon Wednesday, Jan. 15.

Quilting and Fellowship - Quilting will resume at 9 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 9 and 23. We meet twice a month for 5-6 hours. Being a quilter is not a requirement. We donate quilts to local organizations and sell them to members. If there is a silent auction, we are happy to donate a quilt. If you have any questions, please contact Donna Ceroll 232-2464.

BSLC Coffee Club - BSLC members, men and women of any age, are invited to gather at 9 a.m. on Friday mornings at Randy's, 2130 University Drive S., Fargo.

LWML News - We will meet at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 16. All women are invited to join. If you can't attend every meeting, you are still welcome to come as it fits your schedule. If you can't attend the monthly meetings, consider joining a committee to help make things happen. Your participation in LWML is a great way to make new friends and serve the Lord.

The LWML would like to express our appreciation and thanks for the success of the Munchies For Missions bake sale. Proceeds totaled \$777, all of which will be contributed to mites. Whether you contributed or bought goodies for the sale, we appreciate your support!



Operation Christmas Child Gifts Going to a "Hard to Reach Area"

For the second year, our OCC shoe box gifts are on their way to bless children in a hard to reach area. OCC defines these as nations in the world that are difficult to access with the Gospel of Jesus Christ for geographic or cultural reasons. They also state, "For the safety of our ministry partners and local believers living in some hard to reach areas, we cannot disclose the names of these countries because they may be experiencing a form of conflict that complicates the delivery of shipments."

The following story describes how OCC operates in a hard to reach area: (**The names have been changed for security reasons.*)

Two young boys named Arjun* and Vihaan* were at their daily task of selling milk and bread when Aparna* asked them their names. As the three began a conversation, the boys smiled and Aparna* invited them to her home. There she surprised the boys with OCC shoeboxes and told them about Jesus Christ.

The boys were so happy to listen to her Bible stories that they asked if they could bring their friends to hear them too. When these boys and girls came, Aparna offered them shoebox gifts and the Gospel as well. The children kept coming back to learn more about Jesus.

This was the beginning of a class of The Greatest Journey discipleship program. Thirty students from non-Christian backgrounds initially attended and began going to church services, bringing their parents to worship with them. Neighbors of another religion began asking them not to attend The Greatest Journey. Many of these children now believe in Christ and worship Him secretly.

Spreading the Gospel in hard to reach areas is challenging as it may not be welcome. Samaritan's Purse has been able to build relationships through providing disaster aid or relief and thus are able to get the shoe box gifts through customs. It is then up to local, trained ministry partners to use them to share the Gospel in a culturally appropriate way. Our OCC gifts become essential tools to invite people to hear the Gospel and open their hearts. Continue your prayers for the children who receive OCC gifts as well as their families and communities!

If you have any questions or would like to know more about what you can do, email Jennifer Krause at rjckrause@yahoo.com

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

By Pastor Brian

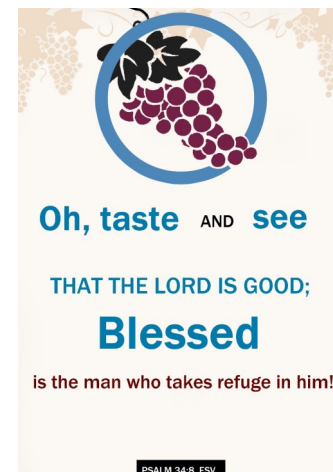
If you like Clint Eastwood movies or movies depicting the old west, you are probably familiar with the title of this article and can relate to it. If not, consider watching it sometime and see the turn of events. They are quite fascinating.

But not as fascinating as what our Lord has done for us. Yes, He is the "Good." "Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good" (Psalm 34:8a). We receive his goodness, that is forgiveness of sins when we participate in the Lord's Supper. Our faith is strengthened and we are joyful as well as humbled by the sacrifice He made for us on the cross. Why did He do it?

The why brings us to the "Bad." From the deception by Satan in the garden of Eden, mankind fell into sin and as Paul wrote "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God," (Rom. 3:23). It was necessary, then, for a price to be paid for sin. God's righteous judgment demands it.

This brings us to the "Ugly." The Ugly of it all is how the price was paid. It was so ugly we could not do it ourselves. The Ugly hanging of Christ's body on the cross, His suffering and death can be a painful reminder that we are part of the reason He was there. But even though it was ugly, it was ugly for God's purpose. Remember what ugly stands for. The "U" represents "Undeniably," the "G" represents "God," the "L" represents "Loves" and the "Y" represents "You." Because of your faith, you received by the power of the Holy Spirit, you know the "ugly." You understand that God loves you and this love He has for you will never change.

That's the Good, the Bad and the Ugly. Who knew that the "UGLY" could be so beautiful.



"Main Street Living North" TV Program News

2020! Another new year has arrived. We don't know when our Lord will be returning, but we know that it's another year nearer! Marantha – come quickly Lord! We also pray that God will use each of us mightily throughout the coming year to share the Good News of His forgiveness and love through trust in Jesus!

Please continue to share information about our LCMS "Main Street Living" media ministry with others. In addition to being broadcast each Sunday morning you can view all archived programs at any time at www.mainstreetliving.com then click on the link under the picture identified as "North (Fargo)." God's blessings in Christ!

Thank you for your much needed 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.

Thank you, and God's blessing in Christ!

January pastors and sermons are as follows:

Jan 5: Rev. Bernie Seter, Zion English Grafton, Trinity Lutheran Church, Drayton, St. John Lutheran Church, Crystal, presents: "Who is in Charge Here?" based on Ephesians 1:3-14. This Is The Life program is: "*A Friend in Deed.*"

Jan 12: Rev. John Bumgardner, St. John Lutheran Church, Red Lake Falls, MN, presents: "To Fulfill All Righteousness," based on Matthew 3:13-17. This Is The Life program: "*God of Love.*"

Jan 19: Rev. Michael Suelzle, St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Niagara, Grace Lutheran Church, Lakota, and St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Devils Lake, presents: "Jesus Revealed," based on John 1:29-42. This Is The Life program is: "*Adrift.*"

Jan 26: Rev. Thomas Puffe, St John's Lutheran Church, Thief River Falls, MN, and Zion Lutheran Church, Warren, MN, presents: "Matthew 4:16," based on Matthew 4:12-25. This Is The Life program: "*The Hand of God.*"



2019 Christmas Poinsettias

Poinsettia Placed by:

Muff and Linda Brandt
Shawn and Teresa Driscoll
Shirley Elsner
Pat Ensrud
Joan Fiechtner
Don and Pam Hartwig

Craig and Sherri Hashbarger

Bobbi, Jason, Matt and Lydia Hestdalen
Lloyd Jemtrud
Randy, Amanda, Ava and Brayden Johnson
Donna Larson
Danny and Diane Lee

Carolyn Markle
Pam Palmer

Joe and Lori Pytlik family
Brian, Rochelle, Davis, Benett, Ellie Rieck
Dave and Kim Scheer
Mike and Mardi Schlichtmann
Don and Claudia Schroeder
Darlene Shear
Maggie and Gary Stende
Lynn and Arla Strege
Marv and Tammy
Kim, Jack and Noah Ternes
Nancy Tykwinski
Lisa, Harrison and Brooklyn Wiest
Jim and Vickie Willprecht

Steve and Anita Willprecht

Poinsettia Placed by:

Linda and Muff Brandt
Gene, Denise, Lucas and Lexi Doeling
Ed and Carol Herrmann
Mike and LeAnn Herrmann
Shayla and Kyle Loecker
Mark and Kay Osman
Joe and Lori Pytlik family

Judy Rolle
Mary Seiffert
Mike and Judy Sellden

Poinsettia Placed by:

Shawn and Teresa Driscoll
Shayla and Kyle Loecker

In Loving Memory of:

Ken, Doris and Charlie
Shane Driscoll
Bruce Elsner, husband
Rodney Ensrud, husband
Gerry Fiechtner, husband
Kevin Hartwig
Brian Hartwig
Neil Hashbarger
Wayne Richards
Family and Friends
Donna Jemtrud, wife
Gary Halverson, Amanda's dad
Albert Larson
Guy and Arline, parents
Levi and Coteal, parents
All Loved Ones
Bob Peterson, dad
Grandparents
Loren Thalmann
Grandpa Larry
David Jr.
Eugene Paulsrud, Mardi's dad
Our Parents
Husband and Son
Our Parents
Parents and Grandparents
Gloria and Ron Wang
Duane Matzke, Kim's dad
Glenn Hubrig, dad
Keith Wiest
Lloyd and Bonnie, parents
George and Shirley, parents
Lloyd and Bonnie, parents
Doris

In Honor of:

Dorothy, Linda's mom
Our Parents and Grandparents
Our Family
Ed and Carol Herrmann, parents
Our Families
Our Children and Grandsons
Leon and Marleen Pytlik
Janice Thalmann
Darlene, mother
Little Leo's first birthday
Our Families

In Thanksgiving of:

Grandchildren - Sterling, Noah and James
Friends and Family

You may take your poinsettias home any time. There are bags to wrap them up in the narthex.

Valley's Largest Baby Shower

Make a difference in the life of a mom and her child this month by donating to the Valley's Largest Baby Shower. The Women's Care Center (formerly First Choice Clinic) and Life 97.9 encourage you to purchase gift cards from Walmart, Target, or Amazon, then send them or drop them off at the Women's Care Center at 103 University Dr. N, Fargo ND 58102. The Women's Care Center also has an Amazon wish list. For further details go to Life979.com. Thank you for supporting moms and babies through the Valley's Largest Baby Shower.

Crossfire Youth Praise Band

Crossfire will lead the 8:15 a.m. worship service on Sunday, Jan. 26. We will practice at the church from 7-8 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 5, 12 and 19 and 6-7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 25. If you have questions, call Ramsey Dahl at 866-5403.

2020 Calendar Youth Fundraiser

Our youth are selling 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.

Sunday School in January

Regular classes will resume Jan. 5.



January Youth Events

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

Sunday, Jan. 5 - from 5-7 p.m. – Lutheran Youth Fellowship for grades 9-12

Wednesday, Jan. 8 - from 7:30-9 p.m. - Lutheran Youth Fellowship for grades 6-8

Sunday, Jan. 12 - from 5-7 p.m. – Lutheran Youth Fellowship for grades 9-12

Wednesday, Jan. 15 - from 7:30-9 p.m. - Lutheran Youth Fellowship for grades 6-8

Sunday, Jan. 19 - from 5-7 p.m. – Lutheran Youth Fellowship for grades 9-12

Wednesday, Jan. 22 - from 7:30-9 p.m. - Lutheran Youth Fellowship for grades 6-8

Wednesday, Jan. 29 - from 7:30-9 p.m. - Lutheran Youth Fellowship for grades 6-8

Upcoming Events:

Family Ski Day - Saturday, Jan. 11: All families should save the date of Saturday, Jan. 11, for some time on the slopes. We will meet at 7:30 a.m. sharp 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. Deadline is Jan. 5. Registration and information sheets are available in the narthex, on the church website or see Pastor Brian for more information.



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 Worship at 8:15 and 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School and Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m.

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

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58102
Permit No. 1068
Ghost No. 80108

Pastor

Chris Waldvogel

701-293-1047

701-893-6995

Associate Pastor

Brian Shane

701-293-1047

314-532-0012

Administrative Assistant

Kim Scheer

701-293-1047

Council Members

Chairman: Denise Doeling 238-1321

Vice-Chair: Mike Schlichtmann 552-0380

Treasurer: Craig Hashbarger 541-0930

Secretary: Kayla Muehler 899-4504

Properties: Vacant

Education: Bobbi Hestdalen 540-2218

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 Dave Hohn 205-6881

T-Z Scott Persoon 219-0399

Elders are assigned families based on last name

Other Volunteers

LWML President: Mary Seiffert 241-9032

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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Lutheran Church.