



January 2021

Inside this issue:

Is a Better Day Just a Matter of Time? By Pastor Chris	2
Upcoming Bible Studies	2
In Appreciation	2
RHH/Treasurer's Report	2
ND District Men's Winter Retreat	3
Adult Bible Study Switches Location with Sunday School	3
Sock and Mitten Tree	3
Christmas Music	3
2021 Commitment Cards	3
Offering Envelopes	3
OCC Update	3
Clubs and Service Groups	4
Congregations Vote On Synodical Convention	4
Deaths	4
Good in All Things By Pastor Brian	5
Main Street Living North	5
2020 Poinsettia Dedications	6
Jan. Youth Events	6
Sunday School & GLS News	7
Congregational Memory Verse	7

Is a Better Day Just a Matter of Time?

By Pastor Chris

Everyone seems to think a new year will make all the difference. Reflecting the view of the times, a local radio host could hardly contain his optimism about kicking 2020 out the door and "dominating in 2021." But how long will that sentiment last?

In 2020, the pandemic kept us from some friends and family. Do we expect that 2021 will rescue our families and friends from all distance, estrangement, resentment, sickness, death and a host of other heartaches?

In 2020, the pandemic kept us from attending church in person (or so we say). Do we expect that 2021 will rescue us from sinful hearts that have grown accustomed to convenience rather than community and service to neighbor?

In 2020, the pandemic affected our economic status, our social calendar, our activities and even our happiness. Do we expect 2021 to pave the way for all those things to make a glorious comeback? And doesn't Jesus exhort us to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and remember that the Heavenly Father adds all these things unto us?

Optimism for 2021 is well and good, but even if the pandemic completely subsides, the entire creation still finds itself in the bondage of sin and decay. That's not something a new year can fix. All created things suffer the common misery of corruption and disorder. Nothing functions as created: to live in complete, uninterrupted harmony with God and with neighbor. This fallen creation will continue in this fallen state every year until Christ's second Advent; the Bible even warns that this fallen creation will exceedingly turn away from God not toward Him. But when Christ returns, God will completely restore His creation, casting away all sickness, separation and sin.

(Continued on Page 2.)



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

LWML Virtual Tea

10 - 11 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 30

Due to Covid-19 the LWML will not host an in-person event this year. Instead they plan to host a virtual tea slated for 10-11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 30! To sign up for the virtual event use the link <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4538850382125761547> or you will find information on the church website.

LWML has selected Suicide Prevention/FirstLink as their mission project. Attend the virtual tea to hear a presentation from Riley Bourdon, with FirstLink. There will be an opportunity for questions from attendees. 100 percent of the donations will be given to FirstLink. A link will be provided for online donations or donations can be made by writing a check to FirstLink. For further information, contact Maggie Stende at 866-5278.

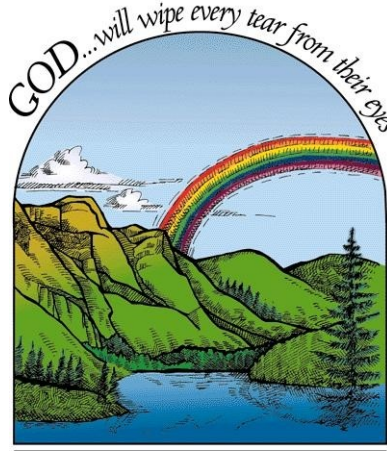


Is a Better Day Just a Matter of Time?

(Continued from Page 1.)

The disciple John heard and saw God's promises regarding Christ's return. John records this in Revelation 21:3-7: "And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.'

"He who was seated on the throne said, 'Behold, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.' And he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.' "



There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain.

Revelation 21:4

Notice that God's promise of a glorious future doesn't mean today is hopeless. We have God's presence now through Word and Sacrament. Through these means, God has given you from the spring of the water of life without payment. He has given you a heritage. He is Your God, and You are His son. Through His Word and Spirit, God has given you a heart and mind that finds forgiveness, renewal, hope, contentment and a better day in Christ, along with the confidence that it's only a matter of time before He returns. Amen.

Pastor Chris

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

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" begins Tuesday, Jan. 19 - 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" begins Thursday, Jan. 14. All women are welcome to join. Please contact the church office or Shirley Elsner at 388-9521 to sign up.



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>Nov.</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Contributions	\$30,941	333,534
Expense	31,176	327,115
Surplus/ (Shortfall)	(235)	6,419

ND District Men's Winter Retreat

This year's district men's winter retreat will be held Saturday, Jan. 16, 2022, as a virtual meeting. Rev. Daniel Paavola will present "Flowing from the Cross: Six Facets of God's Forgiveness." It begins at 9 a.m., Jan. 16, and ends at noon. There will be a free will donation to Shepherd's Hill at the Crossroads. Call Corey Isaak to RSVP at 281-0240 or email corey.isaak@gracefargo.org.

Sock and Mitten Tree

In service to our neighbor, consider donating to our sock and mitten tree. Bring in new mittens, socks, caps, scarves or gloves for children or adults. The items will be donated to local schools and to Churches United for the Homeless. Thanks for filling our tree.



2021 Commitment Cards

Remember to turn in your annual pledge card for the 2021 year. This helps you plan your giving and helps our congregation to be effective and faithful stewards of our resources. Thank you to all who already turned in their cards. If you need a card, they are available in the narthex.

Operation Christmas Child Update

If you purchased Follow Your Box labels for the shoebox gifts you packed, be sure to use the Follow Your Box look up tool to find out where your boxes were sent. Go to <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/follow-your-box-lookup/> and enter the email address you used to purchase your labels. The Krause family's boxes went to Ukraine. We would love to hear where your boxes went!



Adult Bible Study Switches Locations with Sunday School

This year the Sunday adult Bible study will meet in the sanctuary and the Sunday school will meet in the fellowship hall. The larger space will allow the children to safely distance, have room to move around and use the tables for lesson and craft time.

Christmas Music

During the month of December, our Praise Team recorded some Christmas music for you to enjoy at home. There were three groups of songs posted – one each week during Advent. You can still access all of them on our YouTube channel or on our website under the Worship tab and then click Video Worship Services.



Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for 2021 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.



2021 Flower Chart Available

Consider signing up for a bouquet on the altar in memory or honor of a loved one. The flower chart is located outside the office on the bulletin board. You can contact the church office to sign up for a Sunday. The cost is \$25, and you can take your bouquet home after the second service on Sunday. Please designate the money for altar flowers and place it in the offering plate or mail to the church office.



Clubs and Service Groups



Service Group - Our group for January 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.

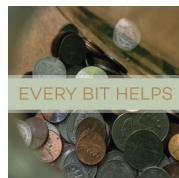
Gold Club - We will not be meeting this month. Stay tuned for further details regarding how and when we will resume.

Quilting and Fellowship - We have resumed in-person quilting while practicing social distancing! Join us at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 14 and 28. 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.

LWML - LWML will meet at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 14, via Zoom.

LWML Loose Change Sunday - will be Sunday, Jan. 31. Bring your loose change or bills to drop in the mite bucket or you can mail them to the church office.



Congregations to Vote on Pushing Back Synodical Convention to 2023

Due to the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, some districts in the LCMS will not be able to convene this year for district convention. The North Dakota District will be among them.

The LCMS Council of Presidents voted unanimously in November to encourage LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison to put before congregations a proposal -- per LCMS Constitution Article 11, B8 -- to delay the 2022 Synodical convention one year to 2023, extending the window for district conventions to convene in 2022. Harrison also consulted with the Synod Board of Directors in accordance with Article 11, B8.

The participation of each LCMS congregation in this deliberation and decision is vital as the Synod navigates this historic vote.

"This is not about undue fear of COVID," Harrison noted in a Dec. 7 letter to the Synod. "We face a situation in which a number of districts may only be able to meet barely long enough to get a minimum amount of business done, or they may be unable to meet at all."

Harrison concluded: "While this is an important matter to consider for our walking together as Synod, it is not a church-dividing issue. Let's hear each other out, act in good conscience, and together make a decision, one way or another, for the good of our Synod and our shared commitment to proclaim Christ crucified, the hope of the world."

Although congregations can begin considering the issue immediately, instructions on the electronic voting process will be sent by mail in January. The vote, which requires participation of at least one quarter of the Synod's congregations, will conclude Feb. 15.

ND District Mite Offerings Received as of Nov. 30 2020

Mission Goal	\$2,100,000.00
Received	1,754,544.77
Mites Still Needed	345,455.23

Deaths



Lynn Ring, 76, Fargo, passed away Dec. 25. A private service was held Jan. 3 at Brooks Funeral Home in Langdon, ND. Lynn is survived by his wife, Sharon Ring; children Tami (Joel) Lies of Fargo, ND, and Tyler (Rebecca) Ring of Delano, MN; grandchildren: Sam and Ellie Lies, Ethan, Katelyn, and Madison Ring.

Good in All Things

By Pastor Brian

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” (Romans 8:28).

How can the Bible say that God works all things for our good? It's not that we don't want the statement to be true. It's just that it does not seem to be true. That little word “all” makes it hard to believe.

How can God work all things for our good when so much badness piles up? Think of the coronavirus or the lost job, or the cancer diagnosis, or the car accident, or sick friend. Take your pick of any awful scenario that has happened to you or someone you care about. How can it be good? Why does God allow it?

Is it maybe because you don't love God enough? After all, the verse says that God works all things for the good “of those who love him,” and you can probably think of many times when you have not loved God. **Don't go down that path.** It only leads to uncertainty and despair. Instead, focus on how “those who love God” are further described as people “who have been called according to (God's) purpose.” What a relief! God's calling was not of your doing or deserving; it was according to God's purpose. He loves you, and His plan has always been to work bad things for your good.

He did this in the past when He sent Jesus, who “took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows” (Isaiah 53:4). Jesus knew a thing or two about badness. And yet God worked Jesus' horrific suffering and death for the greatest good of all: your eternal salvation.

He continues to work all things for your good in the present. Your life is also part of God's purpose. He is in control and makes sure that everything that happens to you will fit together in a good way. You may not understand the plan, but He does. And in the end, you know that the outcome will be good because that is God's promise.



“Main Street Living North” TV Program News

“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.” (Lamentations 3:22-23) We are often asked what new year's resolutions we are making. Although this may be helpful for some people, as Christians we realize that each new day brings “new mercies” from the Lord and each act of repentance and forgiveness brings a fresh start! May today and every day be lived in the assurance of such great mercy and fresh starts – all because of Jesus!

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.

January pastors and sermons:

Jan 3: Rev. Kevin Zellers, Messiah Lutheran Church, Mandan, presents the message based on Luke 2:52. *This is the Life: “A Friend in Deed.”*

Jan 10: Rev. Lester Wolfram, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Bismarck, presents the message: “Set Free In Christ” based on Mark 1:4-11. *This is the Life: “The God of Love.”*

Jan 17: Rev. Bernie Worral, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Fargo, presents the message: “I Am Known” based on Psalm 139. *This is the Life: This episode, “Adrift.”*

Jan 24: Dr. Michael Salemink, Executive Director for National Lutherans for Life, presents the message: “From Invisible to Indispensable” based on I Corinthians 12:22. *This is the Life: The Hand of God.”*

Jan 31: Rev. Ed Borchardt, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Frazee, MN, presents the message: “God comes into our space and shakes us up” based on Mark 1:21-28. *This Is The Life: “The Point of No Return.”*

2020 Poinsettia Dedications



Poinsettia Placed by:

Josephine Aarfor and family
Muff and Linda Brandt

Naomi and Luke Carl
Patricia Ensrud
Marlys Gregory
Joan Fiechtner
Lloyd Jemtrud
James Johnson
Vincent and Cheryl Olstad
Amanda Petter
Dave and Kim Scheer
Mike and Mardi Schlichtmann

Mary Seiffert
Mike and Judy Sellden
Maggie and Gary Stende
Arla Strege
Kim Ternes

Poinsettia Placed by:

Muff and Linda Brandt
Gene and Denise Doeling

Shirley Elsner

Matt and Beth Gustafson
Joan Fiechtner
Joe and Lori Pytlik

Wanda Roesler
Dave and Kim Scheer
Mary Seiffert
Ann Splettstaszer

In Loving Memory of:

James Aarfor
Linda's dad, Chuck
Muff's parents, Ken and Doris
Our grandparents
Rodney Ensrud
Bob Gregory
Gerald Fiechtner
Donna Jemtrud, wife
Gayle Johnson
Darrell Leiser
Lee Crabtree
David Jr.
Eugene Paulsrud, Mardi's dad
Raymond Schlichtmann, Mike's dad
My parents and brothers
Our moms and Elmer Hammarsten
Those who have passed away because of Covid-19
Lynn Strege
Duane Matzke

In Honor of:

Linda's mom Dottie
Our parents, Gene and Hannelore Doeling
JP and Judy Wiest
All who made the message of Jesus available
for Sunday service
Our grandson, Andy
Our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren
Our parents, Janice Thalmann
Leon and Marleen Pytlik
My parents, Eugene and Marlyn Roesler
Dustin & Mitch
Our grandson, Leo's 2nd birthday
My mom Sharon Radebaugh's 80th birthday Dec. 22



January Youth Events

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

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

Wednesday, Jan. 13 - from 7:30-9 p.m. - Lutheran Youth Fellowship for grades 6-12.

Wednesday, Jan. 20 - from 7:30-9 p.m. - Lutheran Youth Fellowship for grades 6-12.

Wednesday, Jan. 27 - from 7:30-9 p.m. - Lutheran Youth Fellowship for grades 6-12.

BSLC Sunday School News

New location for Sunday School! Join us in the fellowship hall for Sunday School starting Jan. 3. This includes music time, a lesson and crafts. The large space allows us to safely distance, have room to move around and have tables for lesson and craft time.



Grace Lutheran School News

- Thank you to all who joined us for a Celebration of Grace in November. We are so humbled by the consistent generosity of our family, friends and congregations. We raised an incredible \$38,761. We purchased and installed six safe, sturdy, fold-up tables in the gym in October.
- This year, in addition to providing in-person learning to a large group of children who benefitted from the structure of being in school five days a week, we also distributed more than \$100,000 in scholarships. Cost should never be a barrier to a Christian education. All children have a place in the Grace family. We are grateful for the continued support from our congregations, family and friends that make this possible for all who desire a Grace education.
- Grace Lutheran School is enrolling for all grades for the 2021-2022 school year, but did you know we have a wonderful pre-kindergarten program? In addition to being affordable licensed early childhood program, Grace's pre-k provides an additional layer of kindergarten readiness by being in a school setting with mentors in upper grades and dedicated 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 four years old by July 31.

Congregational Memory Verse Challenge

The church confesses to Christ, "You have the words of eternal life," (John 6:68). The church is encouraged to "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly," (Col. 3:16). Psalm 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.

Jan. 3: Joel 2:32 - And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the Lord has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the Lord calls.

Jan. 10: Acts 2:38-39 - "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself."

Jan. 17: Colossians 2:8-9 - See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily.

Jan. 24: Colossians 2:13-14 - And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

Jan. 31: 1 Timothy 2:5-6 - For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.

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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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: 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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