

January 2023

Thank God for His Mercy, Salvation and Holy Spirit

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By Pastor Chris

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As 2023 makes its entrance, you might look at the world, shake your head and conclude that everything has gone to hell in a handbasket except you. You might even say something like: "Thank God I'm not like (fill in the blank here)."

We love taking credit when credit is not due. One of the deadliest accomplishments we attribute to ourselves is our faith and its fruit. Jesus warned against such an attitude in Luke 18:

"He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and treated others with contempt: 'Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

In an article for *The Reporter*, LCMS President Matthew Harrison addressed the Respect for Marriage Act and its alarming encroachment on religious liberty. Although not the main point of his column, Harrison touched on our propensity to condemn others while forgetting our own corruption and brokenness.

"This is not about 'those' people getting 'holy' like us!" Harrison wrote. "What Phariseeism we are often guilty of! Jesus said, 'I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance,' (Luke 5:32). I will preach as directed by the Word of God. The Gospel is at stake. Compassion and eternal life for all is in the balance. 'Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ,' (Romans 10:17)."

(Continued on Page 2.)



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

Help is Needed Taking Down Decorations

We will take down the Christmas decorations at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 7. Please help us. It will only take an hour.



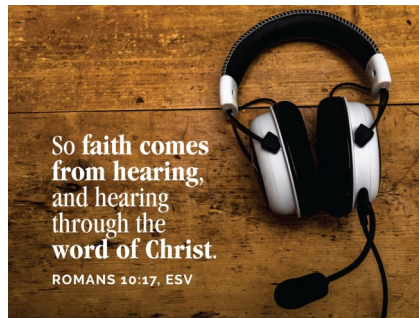
Thank God for His Mercy, Salvation and Holy Spirit

(By Pastor Chris)

Our vitriol and self-righteousness will not correct the problem, but the freedom of preaching Law and Gospel will. Proclaiming God's truth -- repentance for the forgiveness of sins in Christ alone -- is a gift to and for this broken world. A sinful agenda does not call us to exclude people from hearing the Word of God, it compels us to proclaim God's Word and truth all the more!

As we engage those around us, we must not place ourselves *above* others but realize our place *with* others. We must remember that everyone receives salvation only through the mercy of God. Everyone receives God's Spirit through the means God has given in Word and Sacrament. If we have faith and believe God's Word, we glorify God, not ourselves, for that good work in us!

"Our minds and hearts are every bit as filled with sin and filth as any outward life we encounter," Harrison wrote. "Our message is not, 'Get holy and join us holy people!' Our message is, 'Stop acting as though you were sinless.' As Luther said, 'Christ dwells only in sinners.' Join us sinners. Repent and believe the Gospel."



Pastor Chris



Congregational Memory Verse Challenge

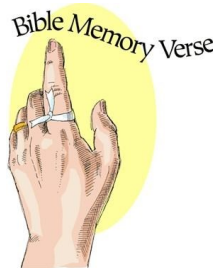
Jan. 1: Genesis 1:1 - In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

Jan. 8: Proverbs 18:10 - The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe.

Jan. 15: 1 John 1:7 - But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

Jan. 22: John 6:27 - Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal.

Jan. 29: Leviticus 19:18 - You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.



Upcoming Bible Studies

9:30 a.m. Sunday morning Bible study: "Love and Life for All" - Will consider God's precious gift of life, Christ's redeeming sacrifice to bring all eternal life and our role in sharing God's love with and defending those whom society would rather forget.

6:30 p.m. Sunday night Family Bible Study: "Chosen" - See the Bible come to life through "The Chosen" video series. Popcorn will be provided. Bring family and friends for a night of fellowship and faith. We will resume Jan. 15.

7 p.m. Tuesday night Bible study: "Celebrating the Saints" - How much do you know about figures from Christian history like Emperor Constantine, Polycarp or Anselm? What about lesser-known people from the Bible such as Silas, Matthias (not Matthew) or Simon the Zealot? Throughout history, God has delivered His people by demonstrating His goodness, mercy and grace. In the forgiveness of sins in Christ alone, God's people are rightly called saints. Intertwined with the Lord's story are those who are His. Join us to see God working remarkably in the lives of His people.

9 a.m. Thursday Women's Bible study via Zoom: "Songs from Scripture" - beginning Jan. 12. Throughout the Bible there are songs of celebration and hope while others express despair or humility and still others recount God's redemption. The songs reveal our humanity before God and the glory and grace of life in Him. This nine-session Bible Study explores Old and New Testament songs.

7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 12: Married Couple Bible study - We will be taking a look at what God's Word has to say about marriage and why it is still so relevant today!

7 p.m. Jan. 30: Men's Bible study - Enjoy fellowship with other men from our church and learn what the Bible says about the vocation God has given us.

Chili for Chile Cookoff Jan. 15

Bring your favorite chili recipe and enter it in our cookoff at 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 15.

A free will offering will be taken to defray the shortfall for the ND District Chile mission project.

The winner will receive a special trophy. Afterwards stay for our Sunday evening Bible Study the "Chosen."



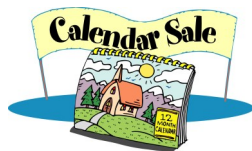
ND District Men's Winter Retreat

The retreat will be held Jan. 13-14, at Shepherd's Hill at the Crossroads, St. John. Rev. Dr. Mark Schuler, Professor Emeritus of Theology, Greek and Archaeology at Concordia, St. Paul, MN, will present on the use and abuse of archaeology in understanding the Bible, the world of Jesus and early Christianity. It begins with a supper at 6 p.m. Friday, Jan. 14, and ends at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 15. The cost is \$100, 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 corey.isaak@gracefargo.org.

2023 Calendar Youth Fundraiser

Our youth are selling the God's Creation calendars as a fund-raiser for \$10 each.

They may be purchased in the narthex on Sunday mornings between services or from the church office during the week. Thank you for supporting our youth.



Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for 2023 are available in the narthex. If you don't find your envelopes, let the office know. Thank you for picking up your envelopes.

2023 Commitment Cards

Your 2023 annual commitment card can be turned in to the office. Thank you for letting us know what you plan to give! Pledging helps our congregation, members and its leaders to be effective and faithful stewards of our resources.

Andes Tower Hills Family Ski Trip

All families should save Saturday, Feb. 4, for some fun on the slopes. We will meet at 7:30 a.m. sharp at the Beautiful Savior parking lot and return by 8:30 p.m. Check-in will be at 9:45 a.m. We will need drivers to carpool. Deadline to register is Jan. 29. Registration and information sheets are available in the narthex, or on the church website. See Pastor Brian if you have questions.



Sock, Mitten and Hat Donations

Donations of new socks, mittens and hats for adults or children will be collected for a few more weeks due to the cold weather. They can be returned to the baskets under the cross in the narthex. These items will be donated to local schools and to Churches United for the Homeless.



CrossTraining for BSLC Children

CrossTraining is for children in first through fifth grade. CrossTraining will meet from 1-2:30 p.m. one Sunday each month. CrossTraining will involve food (both spiritual and physical), fun and fellowship. Crosstraining will meet Jan. 22. Contact Pastor Brian with any questions.



2023 Altar Flower Sign-up Chart

The 2023 flower chart is outside the office on the bulletin board. The cost is \$30, and you can take them home after second service. Designate the money for altar flowers and place in the offering plate or leave in the church office. Please return vases to the church office when done with them.

BSLC Treasurer's Report General Operating Fund

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

Clubs and Service Groups



Service Group - Our captains will call asking for treats or help with fellowship or special events. Thanks for your help.

January: E-G—Diane Lee **February:** H-K—Jodi Haekenkamp

Elders - Our elders greet members and visitors, help the pastors 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 - Join us from 10:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 12 and 26. Stay as long as it fits your schedule. Call Donna Ceroll at 232-2464 with questions.

Gold Club - Gather together and enjoy some potluck food, faith and fellowship. Our next get-together will be at noon on Wednesday, Jan. 18. Tami Ulland will give a presentation on Lutheran Church Extension Fund. 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.

Evangelism and Stewardship - The evangelism and stewardship committees will meet at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 10 at Ruby Tuesday. Please RSVP to the church office by Jan. 9.

LWML - will have their monthly meeting at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 19, in the fellowship hall. All are welcome!

Munchies for Missions Update - Thank you for supporting our Munchies for Missions bake sale. We collected \$1,089 for mites and our seminarian students.

Christmas Party Servant Event - The servant event at the Great Plains Food Bank had to be canceled in December due to weather. A date will be announced soon. Anyone is invited to come help. Let the church office know if you are interested.

Loose Change Sunday - will be Sunday, Jan. 29. Bring your loose change or bills to drop in the mite bucket or you can mail them to the church office.

LWML Prayer Service - Save the date for the prayer service Feb. 4

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

Baptisms



Dec. 11: Remy Jean Rivera, daughter of Kevin and Sarah Rivera, born Oct. 30, 2022. Her sponsors are Addison Fee and Kelly Beiswenger.

Memorials



Addison Fell:
Greg & Mary Seiffert

Grant German:
Mike & Mardi Schlichtmann
Greg & Mary Seiffert
Karen Mart Taverna
James & Kristine Anderson
Chad & Michelle Backes
Arland & Leanda Brase
Jarrod & Darlene Christen
Patrick & Dawn Cronin
Paul & Debbie Finstad
Brian Kelly Gill
Jon & Glenice Hall
Ruth Hamilton
Craig & Dawn Headland
Jack & Linda Hendrickson
Douglas & Renelda Hushka
Rebecca Ihringer
Diane Johnson
Jon Jonasson
Rick & Lori Lee
Troy & Susan Marshall
Charles & Joan Miller
Cynthia Mohr
Richard & Cynthia Monson
Darrol & Grace Nichols
Steven & Cynthia Noack
Deborah Prigelmeier
Kent & Joleen Satrang
Bryon & Joni Smith
Ronald & Barbara Stensgard
Jon & Sandi Strinden
Sandra Teske
Susan & Gregory Thompson
Kathy Tobias
Michael & Kari Wayman
Martin & Lisa Wel



The Holy Christian Church

By Pastor Brian

"To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours."
(1 Corinthians 1:2).

What is the church? Is it a building of brick and mortar that Christians meet in? Is it a group of Christians who own that building? Or is it something else?

We usually use the word church to refer to building or Christian denominations, but the Bible uses the word church differently. In Scripture the word church either refers to a group of people who believe in Jesus or the grand total of all believers in every time and place. Today's verse makes this point in an interesting way.

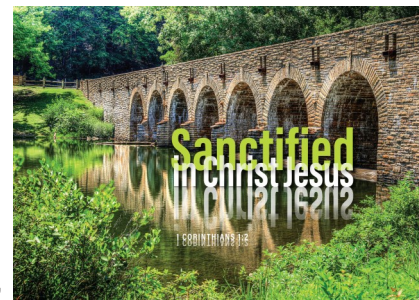
Paul greets the church in Corinth as those who are "sanctified in Christ Jesus."

That means they have been made holy, a word that means pure or sinless. Their sins made them impure and sinful, but they were sanctified when the Holy Spirit gave them faith in Christ. That is why they are also "called to be holy"—not because they never sin, but because by faith their sins are forgiven, and they are covered with Jesus' holiness.

The church of God in Corinth, then, is a group of people who believe in Jesus. But Paul also makes it clear that the church is not limited to just them. It includes "all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

There are people everywhere who believe in Christ and pray to Him. He is Lord of them all, and you are included! Like the Corinthians, you are holy, even though your life does not always look like it. The way you treat others, the way you talk, or what you do when no one is looking - all these things look the opposite of holy.

But God doesn't call you holy because of how you look. He calls you holy because of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection for you. In Christ you are called holy, blameless, sinless, perfect. You are as much a part of Christ's church as the Corinthians because the holy Christian Church is all those everywhere who believe in Jesus as their Savior.



"Main Street Living North" TV Program News

New Year's resolutions - have you made some of these - perhaps related to diet or exercise? I'm not much of a New Year's resolution kind of person. On the other hand, fresh starts are one of the most important aspects of a Christian's life. Every time we repent of our sins, we are not only confessing that we have done something contrary to God's will, but we are also intentionally declaring our resolution to change our minds and actions regarding that sin! With God's forgiveness and on-going process of our sanctification, may our 2023 be filled with resolutions that allow God's Holy Spirit to continue to "transform us by the renewing of our minds," (Romans 12:2) in Christ! A blessed New Year to all!

To add your financial support, checks may be sent to Main Street Living North, 821 Fifth 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!

Happy New Year ♥ Happy New Year ♥ Happy New Year

January pastors and sermons are as follows:

Jan. 1: Rev. Daniel Voth, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Grand Forks, presents the message: "Our Exodus" based on Matthew 2:13-23. *Lutheran Hour*: "The Other Wiseman."

Jan. 8: Rev. Thomas Puffe, St. John's Lutheran Church, Thief River Falls, MN, and Zion Lutheran Church, Warren, MN, presents the message: "The Baptism of our Lord Jesus" based on Matthew 3:13-17. *This Is the Life*: "Senior Citizen."

Jan. 15: Rev. Daniel Suelzle, Wittenberg Chapel, Grand Forks, ND, presents the message: "The Lamb of God" based on John 1:29-42a. *This Is the Life*: "The Deadly Pen."

Jan. 22: Life Sunday Service/Guest Speaker. *This Is the Life*: "Live Option."

Jan. 29: Rev. Richard Biberdorf, Grace Lutheran Church, Carrington, Grace Lutheran Church, Cooperstown and Zion Lutheran Church, Binford, presents the message: "When Worlds Collide" based on 1 Corinthians 1:26-31. *This Is the Life*: "Transition."

2022 Poinsettia Dedications

Poinsettia Placed by:

Steve & Sue Buth
Naomi Carl
Denise, Gene, Lucas & Lexi Doeling
Joan Fiechtner
Marlys Gregory
Lloyd Jemtrud
Chris & LaVon Johnson
Randy, Amanda, Ava, Brayden & Ella Johnson
Rita Kaeding
Al & Jane Kunkel
Tyler & Amanda Petter
Joe & Lori Pytlik
Dave & Kim Scheer
Mike & Mardi Schlichtmann

Mary Seiffert
Maggie & Gary Stende
Kim Ternes
Nancy Tykwinski

In Loving Memory of:

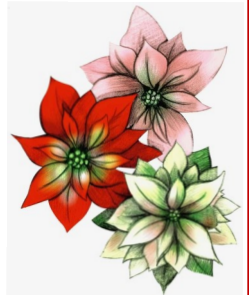
Landon
Joy Bossert, Grandma
JP Wiest, Father & Grandfather
Gerald Fiechtner
Family Members in Heaven
Donna, Wife
Our Grandparents
Gary Halverson, Amanda's Dad
Eric Kaeding, Son
Family Members in Heaven
Lee Crabtree
Mick Pytlik
David Jr.
Eugene Paulsrud, Mardi's Dad
Raymond Schlichtmann, Mike's Dad
Timmy, Randy, Mom, Dad & Dee
Peggy Fugleberg, Sister
Duane Matzke, Dad
Glenn Hubrig, Dad

Poinsettia Placed by:

Steve & Sue Buth
Joan Fiechtner
Mark & Kay Osman
Arla Strege

In Honor of:

Arianna, Andrew, AJ, Matthew & Ellie
Children, Grandchildren & Great Grandchildren
Our Children & Grandsons
My Family



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

Deaths

Dec. 21: Harvey Medenwaldt, 77, formerly of Breckenridge, MN, passed away at Essentia Health, Fargo. His funeral was held at Beautiful Savior on Wednesday, Dec. 28.

Dec. 23: Darlene Shear, 89, of Fargo, passed away at the Sanford Hospice House in Fargo after a fall with a head injury. Her funeral was at Beautiful Savior on Dec. 29.

Darlene was born to Walter and Beata Hink on July 2, 1933. She was baptized, confirmed, and married at St. James Lutheran, near Parkers Prairie, MN. On July 5, 1950, she married Alfred Shear, making their home in Fargo. She was a stay-at-home mom. Her interests included crocheting, reading, puzzles, and Bible studies.

She was preceded in death by her husband; her parents; her son, Jim; her siblings and in-laws – Roger Hink, Elvera (Raymond) Brockopp, and Gladys (Lloyd) Dawson.

She is survived by her daughters – Phyllis (Jon) Hanson, Diane (Ken) Rheault, Kathleen (Tim) Bishoff, Janet (Dick) Fedje, and Jody (Craig) Talley. She is also survived by 15 grandchildren: Jeremy (Angela) Hanson, Laura (Phil) Hatcher, Kari (Kurt Datz) Hanson, Ben (Tess Varner) Rheault, Dan (Taylor) Rheault, Angela Bishoff, Katie (Andy) Bolland, Tom (Richelle) Bishoff, Jacob Fedje, Arika (Jack) Brodshaug, Brianne (Jordan) Lee, Landon (Kayla Dease) Fedje, Taylor Blakeway, Matt (Karlee Halvorson) Talley, Ashlie (Sean) Kunkel; as well as 17 great grandchildren; one great-great grandchild; her sister-in-law, Adeline Hink; and many nieces and nephews.



BSLC Sunday School News

Regular Sunday school classes will resume at 9:30 a.m. on Jan. 8.



"Share the Good News"

PreK-Second Grade Christmas Program



"The Amazing Christmas Maze"

Third-Sixth Grade Christmas Program

Grace Lutheran School News

We revealed our "Growing Together in Grace" campaign at A Celebration of Grace in November. In January, we will hold informational meetings with all congregations to share the design drawings, introduce our goals for each phase and our architects will be available for questions. We invite all members of our association congregations to join us. Each church will be holding a special voter's meeting to vote on this project's go ahead.

Parents, it's time to get your children started at GLS. Our first open house of the year will take place from 5-6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 17. There will be more open houses in February and March. Families can RSVP for open houses on our website and walk-ins are welcome. If families are not able to attend an open house, private tours and classroom experience days are always an option. Call 701-232-7747 or email ahirsch@gracels.com.

Upcoming Events at GLS:

No School – Jan. 20

Winter Carnival – 12-3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 21

Crossfire Youth Praise Band

Our youth praise band will practice at the church from 7-8 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 8, 15, 22 and at 6 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 28. Crossfire will lead the 8:15 a.m. worship service on Jan. 29. If you have questions, call Ramsey at 866-5403.

January Youth Events

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

Wednesday, Jan. 4 - from 7:30-9 p.m. - LYF for grades 6-12.

Wednesday, Jan. 11 - from 7:30-9 p.m. - LYF for grades 6-12.

Wednesday, Jan. 18 - from 7:30-9 p.m. - LYF for grades 6-12.

Wednesday, Jan. 25 - from 7:30-9 p.m. - LYF for grades 6-12.

Family Ski Day - Saturday, Feb. 4: All families should save the date of Saturday, Feb. 4, 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. 29. Registration and information sheets are available in the narthex, on the church website or see Pastor Brian for more information.

Junior High and Senior High Game Night - Friday, Jan. 27: All youth grades six-twelve and their friends are invited for an evening of games, Bible study, music and food from 7 p.m. - 10 p.m. on Jan. 27 at Grace Lutheran Church, Fargo. Please bring \$3 to cover the cost of food, or \$5 if you bring a friend or team up with another youth kid. Contact Pastor Brian with questions.



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 at 8:15 & 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. Pastors are also 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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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

Vice-Chair: Mike Schlichtmann

Treasurer: Craig Hashbarger

Secretary: Deb Schimek

Properties: Scott Persoon

Education: Stacy Knudson

Stewardship: Claudia Schroeder

Evangelism: Tim Deitemeyer

Board of Elders

A-Bo Brian Rieck

Br-D Dale Olson

E-G Rich Beaver

H-K Jim Willprecht

L-N Mike Sellden

O-R Adam Tykwinski

S Don Schroeder

T-Z Chris Speelmon

Elders are assigned families based on last name

Other Volunteers

LWML President:

Mary Seiffert

Choir Director:

Ramsey Dahl

RRLSA Board Representatives:

Randy Johnson

Kim Ternes

Financial Secretary:

Beth Gustafson

ENLIGHTEN is a monthly publication of Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church.