



January 2024

Inside this issue:

Buyer's Remorse? Not When it Comes to Jesus! By Pastor Chris	2
BSLC Invited to Help Pack Food	2
Going South for the Winter?	2
Seminary Student Address	2
Treasurer's Report	3
ND District Men's Winter Retreat	3
Growing Together in Grace	3
Sock, Mitten and Hat Donations	3
For Such a Time as This	3
BSLC Youth Education News	3
In Appreciation	3
Clubs and Service Groups	4
Memory Verse Challenge	4
Lutheran Family Service News	4
Upcoming Bible Studies	5
Main Street Living	5
2023 Poinsettia Dedications	6
GLS News	6
BSLC Christmas Programs	7
Gingerbread Bash Pictures	7
January Youth Events	7



Buyer's Remorse? Not When it Comes to Jesus!

By Pastor Chris

My 18-year-old recently told me that he struggles with impulse control when it comes to buying things. My wife and I think he does well balancing saving and spending, but we have noticed that he will make a purchase, tire of it quickly, then wish he hadn't spent the money.

You've experienced this, too. It's called buyer's remorse.

It would be too simplistic to say that the problem lies in purchasing things that we don't really want or need. Sometimes, we need the things we buy, but they don't meet expectations. They fail to give us a good bang for the buck.

Luther's explanation to the second article of the Apostles' Creed explains Christ's salvific work as purchasing us from sin, death and the power of the devil with His holy, precious blood and innocent suffering and death. Jesus accomplished saving by spending! With His perfect life and atoning death on the cross, Jesus pays the price for all our sin. He buys us back from those things that separate us from God. He invents in all people who -- by their own power -- doubt, marginalize, reject and despise His loving work.

One word describing God's action of buying us back is "redeem." This word appears two times in Luke's Gospel. In both instances, people express doubt about what God is doing. The context for its first appearance happens when an angel appears to a priest named Zachariah to announce that his wife Elizabeth, who was barren, will bear a son. This child will be named John, the one who will prepare the way of the Lord. But the priest doubts the angel's wonderful news, so the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time," (Luke 1:19-20).

(Continued on Page 2.)

Help is Needed Taking Down Decorations

We will take down the Christmas decorations at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 6. Please help us. It will only take an hour.



Buyer's Remorse? Not When it Comes to Jesus! (Continued from Page 1.)

Just as the angel promises, Elizabeth gives birth to a son. Zechariah regains his speech, and filled with the Holy Spirit, he prophesied, saying, "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old," (Luke 1:67-70).

Likewise, at the end of Luke's Gospel, the resurrected Christ meets two travelers on the road to Emmaus. Not recognizing Jesus, they tell our Lord about His own passion and death; the travelers think all this has led to a dead end, saying: "But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened," (Luke 24:21).



On the Road to Emmaus

Opening their minds to the Scriptures, Jesus explains to the travelers what He has accomplished, which brings them joy and hope. And does our Lord have buyer's remorse for those slow to believe what God has spoken? Not at all! The author to the Hebrews proclaims that the agony of the cross actually brings Jesus joy because of what the cross meant for you and for me.

As you receive strength from God's Word and Spirit, you will discover that God does not have any buyer's remorse over you, and by His power, you will not have any remorse concerning your buyer. Thanks be to God for the one who continues to save by spending so much love on you!

Pastor Chris



BSLC Members Invited to Help with Food Pack



Feed My Starving Children has organized a Mobile pack from Jan. 6 to 14 at the Fargodome. The goal is to celebrate 10 years - 10 days and 10 million meals for hungry children around the world. The LWML will be volunteering for the Feed My Starving Children Food Pack from 1-3 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 6, and the youth will be volunteering from 6-8 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 11, at the Fargodome. We invite members from the congregation to join us. If you can help on Jan. 6, contact Mary Seiffert. If you can help on Jan. 11, contact Pastor Chris or the office.

Going South for the Winter?

Please let the office know when you plan to leave for the winter so that you will still receive correspondence from the church. You can also let the church know if you would like the e-mail version of the newsletter while you are out of town.

2024 Offering Envelopes

The 2024 offering envelopes are available for pick-up in the narthex.

2024 Flower Chart

The 2024 flower chart is outside the office on the bulletin board. The cost is \$30, and you can take the flowers home after the second service. Designate the money for flowers and place in the offering plate or leave in the church office. Return vases to the church office when done with them.

Adopt-a-Seminary Student Address

Send correspondence to:
Mr. Andrew P. Frerichs
Campus Post Office Box
801 Seminary Place
Saint Louis, MO 63105-3196
frerichsa@csl.edu

Save Cancelled Stamps

Please bring in your cancelled stamps from your Christmas cards and place them in the drawer marked stamps by the LWML kiosk. The stamps need to have at least one-quarter-inch border around them.

BSLC Treasurer's Report General Operating Fund

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

ND District Men's Winter Retreat

The men's retreat will be held Friday and Saturday Jan. 12-13 at Shepherd's Hill at the Crossroads, St. John. Rev. Dr. Heath

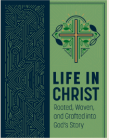
Trampe will present on apologetics with primary inspiration from the CPH book "Life's Big Questions, God's Big Answers by Brad Alles." It begins with a supper at 6 p.m. Jan. 12, and ends at 2 p.m. Jan. 13. The cost is \$100, which includes three meals, lodging, speaker and fellowship activities. Bring your Bible, bed roll, personal items, warm clothing and friends. Call Corey Isaak to RSVP at 281-0240 or email corey.isaak@gracefargo.org.



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"



Growing Together in Grace

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



We are blessed and excited to announce that the pledge total as of Dec. 18 is now \$1,289,843. We continue to push toward a fully-funded project.

Fundraising is a slow process, so if the GTIG committee has not reached out to you yet, know that we want to give all donors a chance to participate. Small-group events are in the works for 2024. If you would like to speak to a call committee member about your gift, or have any questions please contact Amy Hirsch at 701-232-7747 or amy.hirsch@glsfargo.org

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



BSLC Youth Education News

Confirmation and "Destination Unknown":

Classes and activities will resume on Wednesday, Jan. 10.

Sunday school classes: Will resume at 9:30 a.m. on Jan. 7

Volunteers Needed:

The Sunday school program is in need of volunteers to help lead in the classroom. For more information contact Stacy Knudson.



Sock, Mitten and Hat Donations

We will continue to collect donations of new socks, mittens and hats for adults or children for a few more weeks. They can be placed in the collection bin in the narthex. These items will be donated to local schools and to Churches United for the Homeless.



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 and Kim Scheer

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, Jan. 11 and 25. 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, Jan. 17. Rita Kaeding will give a presentation on her trip(s) to the Holy land. Bring a dish to share. 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, Jan. 18. All women are invited to attend.

Munchies for Missions Update - Thank you for supporting our Munchies for Missions bake sale. We collected \$1,348.50.

LWML Prayer Service - Save the date for the prayer service Feb. 3 at Beautiful Savior.



Lutheran Family Service



Lutheran
Family Service

For Nothing is Impossible with God

Building Healthy Families:

The beginning of a new year brings feelings of anticipation, excitement, and hope as we start with a clean slate, our resolutions to keep. Still looking for ideas that will bring new life to your new year? In addition to more physical exercise and better food choices, how about one of these: read from Scripture 15 minutes every day; go to church every Sunday; set aside 20 minutes at the end of the day to pray; join a Bible Study group; memorize a new Bible verse each week. Don't give up! It takes six weeks of doing something repeatedly to make it a habit. A blessed, happy and healthy new year to you and your family!

www.LutheranFamilyService.org

LWML Mission Grant Check Delivery:

During the summer, Lutheran Family Service was blessed to have its mission grant chosen at the

LWML National Convention in Milwaukee. Last week, the \$106,000 check arrived! LFS Executive Director Rev. Max Phillips (center) and LFS Operations Manager Holly Eldridge (right)



accept the mission grant check from Sharon von Qualen (left), chairman of the National LWML Mission Grants Committee.

(Reprinted from the Dec. 2023 LFS Crosswalk)

Congregational Memory Verse Challenge

Jan. 7: John 1:14 - And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Jan. 14: Romans 6:3-4 - Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

Jan. 21: 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.

Jan. 28: Isaiah 30:15 - For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, "In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength."



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 teaching 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

“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. While this may be helpful for some people, we Christians 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!

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!

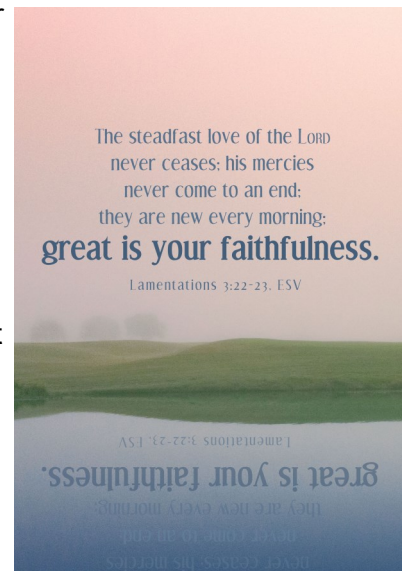
January pastors and sermons are as follows:

Jan. 7: Rev. Arie Bertsch, President of the ND District, LCMS, presents the message: “Anchored in Christ” based on Mark 1:4-11. *This Is the Life:* “The Other Wiseman.”

Jan. 14: Rev. Richard Jones, Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, Minot, presents the message: “Selective Hearing Loss” based on I Samuel 3:1-10. *This Is the Life:* “The Priceless Book.”

Jan. 21: Rev. Jim Lamb, Lutheran Family Service, Fort Dodge, Iowa, presents the message: “The Trinitarian Value of Human Life” based on Isaiah 43:1. Visit www.MainStreetLiving.com for more information. *This Is the Life:* “Live Option.”

Jan. 28: Rev. Timothy Stout, St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Sawyer, St. Martin Lutheran Church, Anamoose, and St. John Lutheran Church, Kongsberg presents the message: “Depart, Thou Unclean Spirit” based on Mark 1:21-28. *This Is the Life:* “In Search of Dignity.”



2023 Poinsettia Dedications

Poinsettia Placed by:

Denise, Gene, Lucas & Lexi Doeling
Shirley Elsner, Brenda Minard,
Beth Gustafson & Shayla Loecker
Joan Fiechtner
Marlys Gregory
Lloyd Jemtrud
Becky Johnson
Chris & LaVon Johnson
Rita Kaeding
Jayson, Stacy, Kendal & Jordyn Knudson

Al & Jane Kunkel
Dale & Polly Olson
Jeff, Sara, Cora & Nolan Palmer
Brian, Rochelle, Davis, Benett & Ellie Rieck
Dave & Kim Scheer
Kim Ternes
Becky Vonasek
Becky, Jay, Cade Wilson & Clay Fell

Poinsettia Placed by:

Wanda Roesler
Arla Strege
Adam & Becky Vonasek

In Loving Memory of:

JP Wiest, Father & Grandfather
Lillian Visto, Mother, Grandma &
Great-Grandma
Gerald Fiechtner, Husband
Husband, Parents & Brother
Donna, Wife
Isaiah Johnson & James Johnson
Our Grandparents
Eric Kaeding, Son
Claudia Knudson
Bruce Rasmusson
Family Members in Heaven
Our Parents
Fred & Nancy Voge
Larry Rieck
David Jr.
Duane Matzke, Dad
Margie Erfourth
Addison Fell

In Honor of:

Eugene & Marlyn, Parents
My Family
Hunter, Lena, Brytta & Ajay Vonasek

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

Grace Lutheran School News

Happy new year from Grace Lutheran School! This is an excellent time of year to count blessings, and we have 103 of them in our care. We're thankful for each and every one of them. Our prayer would be to continually grow the ministry at Grace.

January starts enrollment season for Grace. Students from Beautiful Savior can receive up to a 50 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.

Prospective students are invited to Preview Day on Monday, Jan. 15. Spend the morning in the classroom, meet teachers, and experience the difference Grace offers. Register at www.glsfargo.org.

Open houses for all grades are from 4:30 to 6 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 15; Thursday, Feb. 22 and Monday, March 4. Pre-register at www.glsfargo.org.

National Lutheran Schools Week is Jan. 22-26. Activities include daily all-school chapel, special service projects and all sorts of zany fun. The theme for this year's NLSW is "Connected," based on John 15:1-5, "He is the Vine, we are the branches."

As always, thank you to all of our supporters, volunteers and prayer partners. We can do all things through Christ as He works through you.

2023 BSLC Sunday School Christmas Programs



PreK-Grade 3 - "Silent Night, Holy Night"



Grade 4-6 - "The Christmas Scavenger Hunt"



January 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 7:30-9 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, Jan. 10 - from 7:30-9 p.m. - LYF for grades 6-12

Wednesday, Jan. 17 - from 7:30-9 p.m. - LYF for grades 6-12

Wednesday, Jan. 24 - from 7:30-9 p.m. - LYF for grades 6-12

Wednesday, Jan. 31 - from 7:30-9 p.m. - LYF for grades 6-12



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 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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Pastor

Chris Waldvogel

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701-293-1047

ENLIGHTEN is a
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H-K Jim Willprecht

L-N Mike Sellden

O-R Adam Tykwinski

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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Choir Director:

RRLSA Board Representatives:

Financial Secretary:

Mary Seiffert

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Kim Ternes

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