



July 2023

Promises, Promises

By Pastor Chris

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If you have heard the words "promises, promises" aimed at you, that means you don't always deliver or follow through on said promises.

We all fall into that category. There are times when we make promises we can't keep. We may forget. We may just not have the time or the energy to follow through. We might have to change our plans due to other demands.

But Jesus? That's a different story. When he makes a promise, He always keeps it. He never falls short. In fact, he overdelivers. He never forgets. He doesn't get overwhelmed. He doesn't get put off course because of things beyond His control because everything is in His control. And He not only delivers on what He promises, but also what the Heavenly Father promises.

Paul puts it this way: "For all the promises of God find their "yes" in Him," (2 Corinthians 1:20a).

All of God's promises find their yes in Jesus? Every one? Really? The answer is yes. All sins are forgiven through Jesus. All people have reconciliation with God through Jesus. He is The Way, The Truth and The Life. He is God with skin. God's Word with skin. God's Wisdom with skin. God's promises with skin.

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

Farewell Recognition Open House for Pastor Brian and Dahlia

Come show your appreciation for Pastor Brian and Dahlia on Sunday, July 9, at Beautiful Savior. The church will have a short program beginning at 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary followed by an open house from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Taco-in-a-bag will be served as well as cupcakes.

Come share stories and memories as we celebrate the Shane's, who have been serving at Beautiful Savior for the last five years. We thank you both for all you have done for Beautiful Savior and for us! We pray for God's blessings upon Pastor Brian and Dahlia as they continue to serve God and His church. Pastor Brian has accepted the call to St. Paul Lutheran, Canyon, TX. His last day will be Sunday, July 9.



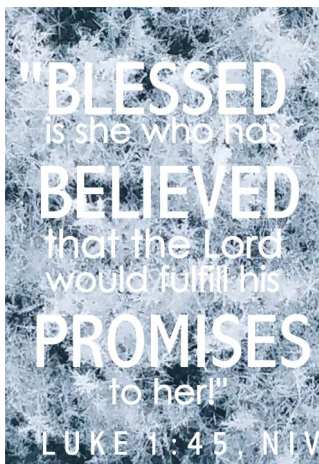
Promises, Promises

(Continued from Page 1.)

Still people want to take God to task. When things don't always go their way, they doubt or don't see God's promises in Christ.

As Paul writes his encouraging words, the apostle acknowledges suffering will happen, even in the lives of God's people. But it was Jesus Himself who did the true suffering. Christ put our needs first by living out God's will and promise in all that He says and all that He does. Jesus then suffered and died for us, taking the full punishment and wrath for sin, being forsaken by the Father. This is a suffering we will never have to know or experience because of what Jesus endured on our behalf and in our place.

Through hearing God's Word, He even gives us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. We look at Jesus with the eyes of God-given faith and see promises and more promises. And we know those promises are sure. That is why it is through Him that we utter our Amen (yes, yes, let it be so) to God for His glory.



Pastor Chris

Upcoming Bible Studies

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: "Encouraging One Another" - Learn how God planned ahead for gloomy days, how He knows when we need a lift and how He has arranged for encouragement to be waiting for us.

Voters' Meeting Update:

Grace Lutheran School Capital Campaign

The June Voter's Meeting was held on June 11. During this meeting, the Growing Together in Grace (GTG) project was presented regarding fundraising for Phase I of the plan. In March 2023, we voted to approve Grace Lutheran School to move forward with the GTG project. However, it was not until the June 11 meeting where our members voted on the Beautiful Savior congregation dollar commitment.

Beautiful Savior was fortunately blessed with an anonymous matching gift of up to \$50,000. Therefore, the recommendation and vote approved was to create our own campaign within BSLC to gather commitments and contributions from the congregation members to meet and exceed the \$50,000 matching gift. We are confident we will surpass the matching gift and be able to provide Grace Lutheran School with a commitment of a minimum of \$100,000. To support the GTG construction timeline, we desire to receive a majority of those commitments by Aug. 15. The commitment is what we pledge to provide in funds over the next three years to the GTG project. It does not mean all funds need to be received by this August, rather what our members have pledged to contribute to Grace Lutheran School regarding the GTG project. Pledge cards will be mailed to our members by the end of July.

What is the purpose of the building improvement campaign, GTG? A recent building assessment determined that the physical building is in great condition, making a building renovation the most logical option for growth and improvement. Phase 1 of GTG takes care of many pressing needs, including improved building security, an up-to-date fire safety system, air conditioning, energy efficient heating, ventilation, replacement windows and high quality classroom improvements.



LWML 40th Biennial Convention

Five women from Beautiful Savior, Marlys Gregory, Maxine Rust, Shirley Elsner, Deb Schimek and Emma Parkman (Young Woman Representative for North Dakota), traveled to the LWML convention in Milwaukee, WI, on June 22-25. The theme for the convention was "Celebrate the Lord of the Nations," based on Psalm 33:12-13, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people He chose for his inheritance. From heaven the LORD looks down and sees all mankind." As His children, they celebrated the Lord of the nations.

Convention attendees celebrated our Lord through Word and Sacrament, honored God by serving our neighbors and proclaimed His message to the nations.

They took part in servant events making Gifts from the Heart: Orphan Grain Train, A Place of Refuge, recycled "new and like-new" eyeglasses, and put together items for Phil's Friends. They attended special interest luncheons and also did the Mission Pledge walk.

The convention started on Thursday evening with a communion service. The convention ended with a service of sending worship with the theme of "Jesus Christ, Hope for the Nations."

There were more than 3,500 in attendance with a mission goal set for \$2,350,000 for the 2023-2025 biennium. This goal, by the grace of God, will fund 31 mission grants. The next convention will be in Omaha, NE.

The LWML would like to thank the congregation for giving to the loose change Sunday event in April. That amount was matched by the LWML, for a total of \$700, which was given to mites for the Mission Mite Pledge walk.

The North Dakota banner taken to convention, displayed a background that was half light blue with a sun and half black with a moon and stars, which represents the day and night of God's creation. The depiction of the globe with the white image of Jesus, crowned, shows His majesty, purity and glorious power over all the earth. The purple lettering continues the theme of royalty and also represents the LWML colors.



Top photo: Emma Parkman. Bottom photo left to right: Deb Schimek, Maxine Rust, Marlys Gregory and Shirley Elsner.

Clay Fell Benefit

There will be a DMF Lend A Hand Up benefit for Clay Fell from 4-8 p.m. on Thursday, July 13 at Beautiful Savior. Clay is a member of BSLC and currently on the list for a heart transplant. The benefit features a free will meal, silent auction, quilt raffle and bake sale (spearheaded by BSLC). For more information or to donate go to www.LendAHandUp.org.



Clay Fell Benefit Bake Sale

BSLC members are asked to bake and fill containers of goodies to sell at the benefit for Clay Fell on Thursday, July 13. Containers are available in the narthex and can be returned to the church by Wednesday, July 12 or the morning of Thursday, July 13. Thank you for supporting the Lend A Hand Up Benefit for Clay.

New Church Officers Elected

New officers elected at the Sunday, June 11 voters' meeting were:

Chair: Mike Schlichtmann
Vice-Chair: Travis Olson
Evangelism: Amy Spoor
Elder: Patrik Tostenson

Please keep our church officers in your prayers.

Wednesday Night Potluck Meal

Before the Wednesday night services on July 19 and Aug. 16, we will host a potluck meal to get to know our fellow BSLC family. The meals will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided. Bring a dish or dessert to share with your church family!



All-Church Potluck

Clubs and Service Groups



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 - We will meet only once this month 10:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Thursday, July 27. 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 get-together will be at noon on Wednesday, July 12. We will be having a picnic. Hot dogs will be provided. Bring a side dish or dessert that you would bring on a picnic. 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.

Beautiful Garden - The garden is shaping up nicely. It's a miracle to see how God's creation works even in a garden. The weeds remind me of the constant battle of sin. Thanks to Jesus and his suffering, death and resurrection, He gives us the ultimate victory over sin (weeds) and death.



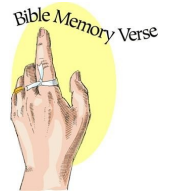
Our weekly gardening sessions are at 5 p.m. on Wednesdays and at 9 a.m. on Saturdays or whenever it works best for you. This is designed to be good Christian fellowship and a little light gardening work. If you wish to be added to the communication list, email tim.deitemeyer@hotmail.com

LWML - We will not be meeting in July.

LWML Loose Change Sunday - Sunday, July 30. Bring your change, bills or checks to drop in the mite bucket.

Save the date for the annual LWML fall luncheon at 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 14 - BSLC will be hosting a luncheon starting at 10 a.m. with entertainment and a short presentation by Kirk Rosin on the Orphan Grain Train in the Ukraine. This will be followed by a light lunch. A special donation will be taken for Orphan Grain Train. If you are interested in hosting a table, contact Kim Scheer in the church office.

Congregational Memory Verse Challenge



July 2: Colossians 4:2 - Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.

July 9: Isaiah 40:8 - The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

July 16: John 5:39 - You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me.

July 23: Hebrews 1:1-2 - Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

July 30: 1 John 4:18 - There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear.

Baptisms



May 20: Juliette Jade Sherman, daughter of Daniel and Tashina Sherman, born Jan. 1, 2023. Her sponsors are Jayden Marquart and Bobby Davidson.

Weddings

May 19: Matthew Wolbersen and Shiori Kudo

Beautiful Savior Little Library Open for Business

Check out the Beautiful Savior little library! It is filled with adult and children's books and is located by the east entrance into the church parking lot.



Wee Worship Bags Available in the Narthex

We have wee worship bags available with quiet activities for our younger members. They are hanging in the narthex.



Ambassadors are Meant to Represent

By Pastor Brian

"This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful," (1 Corinthians 4:1-2).

"I'm only the messenger." Have you ever said that to someone when forced to break bad news? "Don't be upset with me; I'm only the messenger."

No one likes being the bearer of bad news, delivering a message that an audience won't like. But sometimes, that's what ambassadors get paid to do. They're not asked to sugarcoat the king's message in order to make it more bearable for the hearers. They have one job; repeat the words of the one who sent them. Ambassadors don't have permission to go off-script; they are meant to represent. Above all else, they must prove faithful.

But that's not only true when you've been asked to announce bad news. That's also the case when ambassadors are sent to proclaim good news. They aren't allowed to hold back or to make it sound less exciting than it is. The king sends his ambassadors to shout out good news from the rooftops so that everyone can hear!

What a joy and privilege it has been to be an ambassador of the good news of Jesus among you! It has been an honor to share with you, the best news ever. That through Jesus, God has reconciled the world to Himself, not counting our sins against us (2 Corinthians 5:19). Death has been conquered forever. Eternal life is yours, no strings attached, through faith in Jesus. That's good news.

Even though my call as pastor at Beautiful Savior will end in July, I am reminded that we are still partners in the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus. Wherever we are, we have the privilege and honor of serving the same God and Lord. Wherever we are, God comes to us in Word and Sacrament with His mercy and forgiveness that we need but don't deserve. And wherever we are, we have been charged to live out our Christian faith as a grateful response to all that God has done and continues to do for us.

"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ," (Philippians 1:3-6).



"Main Street Living North" TV Program News

The 4th of July brings thoughts of our nation's freedom - and that's a good thing. Yet another freedom that is ever so much greater is being "set free from sin," (Romans 6:18) and its bondage! "For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death." (Romans 8:2). Now that's something that every Christian can celebrate every day!

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!

July pastors and sermons are as follows:

July 2: Rev. Matt Thompson, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Bismarck, presents the message: "Strength and Faith" based on Jeremiah 28:5-9. *This Is the Life:* "Some People Need Help."

July 9: Rev. Dennis Voss, Messiah Lutheran Church, Mandan, presents the message: "Blind or Wise" based on Matthew 11:25-26. *This Is the Life:* "Jeremy."

July 16: Rev. Thomas Marcis, Zion Lutheran Church, Bismarck, presents the message: "God's Amazing Harvest" based on Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23. *This Is the Life:* "Flight Plan."

July 23: Rev. Toby Heller, Concordia Lutheran Church, Beulah, presents the message: "Weeds Among the Wheat" based on Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43. *This Is the Life:* "Amazing Grace."

July 30: Rev. Justin Woodside, Bethel & Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Churches, Bismarck, presents the message: "Giving All for the Treasure" *This Is the Life:* "The Selling Price."

VBS was a STELLAR Success



VBS was a stellar success thanks to all our wonderful volunteers, gracious donations and amazing families that participated! We had 63 children registered this year to learn how to Shine Jesus' Light. Additionally, more than 30 volunteers helped run the program.

It was a great week that ended with Pastor Brian getting pelted with cool whip pies! The children raised more than \$1,400 for Project 24 in Chile, the ND District Mission. Thank you to everyone for making this event so successful and fun for the children in our congregation.



Grace Lutheran School News

Summertime at Grace Lutheran School is a different kind of busy than during the school year. The office staff is working toward the new school year, Mrs. Altenburg is teaching summer school classes and Camp Grace ensures the presence of children every day. We are looking forward to the return of our students and teachers on Aug. 23.

Camp Grace summer childcare is at capacity. We consider ourselves very blessed this year to have a full staff and a wonderful group of children.

The RRLSA Board of Education added two new members in June. Eric Johnson will serve for Immanuel Lutheran Church and Kristin Sharbono for Grace Lutheran Church.

Growing Together in Grace June 2023 Update - The Growing Together in Grace capital improvement campaign continues to move forward at a nice pace. The fundraising committee is beginning their fundraising work, the building committee has met to begin making construction decisions and PACE is ready to receive gifts toward this project. Please pray that God would continue to bless the work of the boards and committees involved in this project.

Construction and ordering can begin when \$833,000 is committed. As of June 20, \$573,600 is committed to Growing Together in Grace. This is an incredible outpouring of generosity and we've only just begun! We praise God for His blessings on this project.

If you wish to contribute to Growing Together in Grace, please contact Amy Hirsch for giving details at ahirsch@gracels.com or 701-232-7747 or speak to your church's treasurer to give toward your church's pledged amount.

Encounter Camp at Shepherd's Hill

All Beautiful Savior students who will enter grade seven or above should consider attending Encounter Camp Sunday, July 23 through Friday, July 28, at Shepherd's Hill at the Crossroads. Join us as we encounter God through word, world, worship and recreation encounters. Make new friends. Learn leadership skills and spend time being fed by God's Word in a camp setting! BSLC has scholarship money available to help offset the cost. See Pastor Chris for more information.

LCMS Summer Bible Camps

Shepherd's Hill at the Crossroads is now taking registrations for summer camp. Check out the bulletin board by the office for a full list and description of all the programs, pricing and registration information or visit their website at www.shretreat.org or call Rev. Jon Bonine at 701-244-5225.



Lutheran Island Camp is now taking registrations for summer camps. For a full list and description of all their summer camp programs and registration, visit their website at <http://www.islandcamp.org/>.

Sunday Morning Treats

There are sheets in the narthex where members can sign up to bring two dozen treats, serve and cleanup on Sunday mornings. We will still have coffee if no one signs up, but there will be no treats.

2023 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 church. Designate the money for altar flowers and place in the offering plate or leave in the church office. Please return the green insert to the church office when done with it.



Help fill the BSLC Food Pantry

The food pantry at Beautiful Savior could use a few items: rice or potato packets and canned soup. Please leave the items in the bin in the narthex. Thank you.

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. - 1:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday

Pastor Chris and Pastor Brian are also available by appointment.

Worship Schedule:

Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Sunday at 9 a.m. in-person & via YouTube

Adult Bible Study 10:15 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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314-532-0012

Administrative Assistant

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Council Members

Chairman: Mike Schlichtmann

Vice-Chair: Travis Olson

Treasurer: Craig Hashbarger

Secretary: Deb Schimek

Properties: Scott Persoon

Education: Stacy Knudson

Stewardship: Claudia Schroeder

Evangelism: Amy Spoor

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 Patrik Tostenson

Elders are assigned families based on last name

ENLIGHTEN is a monthly publication of Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church.



Scan the code to access the BSLC website.

Other Volunteers

LWML President:

Choir Director:

RRLSA Board Representatives:

Financial Secretary:

Mary Seiffert

Vacant

Randy Johnson

Kim Ternes

Beth Gustafson