



March 2023

Jesus is Our True Joy Amid Sin's Pain

By Pastor Chris

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Living with recurring pain and disappointment can make the idea of joy seem cruel.

A promising new job opportunity doesn't really pan out, leaving you dissatisfied with your position and at odds with workplace ideals and culture.

Your health improves briefly only for the disease to return with a vengeance and wreak havoc on your body.

A loved one struggles with addiction and can't break free. Despite pricy treatment, numerous interventions and loving support, a person you care about gets clean for a few months only to suffer another relapse.

Your desire for a godly spouse is rejected and mocked by a society that objectifies people because it no longer accepts or lives within God's design and blessing for human sexuality. (A gift reserved for one man and one woman in marriage).

With so much heartache, how can you put on your best face? With so much pain, how can you worship in spirit and in truth? You might not want to hope in anything or anyone because everyone and everything has disappointed you.

Jesus is different. He is God's love with skin on. God's promises with skin on. God Himself with skin on. In every thought, word and deed, Christ demonstrates that loving others transcends just an ideal. Jesus enters this world of disappointment, pain and sorrow to suffer by serving and serve by suffering.

(Continued on Page 2.)



'Promised Treasures' in 2023 Lenten Series

March 1 – Midweek Lent 1: Salt flavors and preserves (Matt. 5:13-16)

March 8 – Midweek Lent 2: Water gives life (John 3:1-8)

March 15 – Midweek Lent 3: Light shines in the darkness (John 8:12-18)

March 22 – Midweek Lent 4: Bread from heaven (John 6:32-37)

March 29 – Midweek Lent 5: Palms proclaim victory (John 7:28-39)

April 6 – Holy Thursday: Water and blood (Mark 14:12-26)

April 7 – Good Friday: Wooden Cross (Seven words from Jesus)

April 9 – Easter Sunday: Milk and Honey (Mark 16:1-8)

Join us at 7 p.m. every Wednesday for midweek services. We also invite you to join us for soup and sandwich suppers at 6 p.m. before each service. Please bring a dish to share in fellowship together, another treasure bestowed by God in Christ Jesus.



Spring Forward

2 a.m. Sunday, March 12

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

Jesus is Our True Joy Amid Sin's Pain

(Continued from Page 1.)

Jesus walks the long road to the cross for you.

This Lenten season, Jesus invites you not only to bring your sorrows and cares to Him but also your mistakes, failures, and sins. There is no way around it. Your evil thoughts, your recurring relapses, your darkest desires and deeds, they have a place in the church – a call to repentance and a burden that Jesus takes upon Himself so that you might have joy.

Jesus promises His disciples: "So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you," (John 16:22).

As we walk with Jesus toward the cross, we remember that a somber Good Friday gives way to a joyful Easter. Through the means of grace, the Holy Spirit strengthens the conviction that Christ won this victory over sin and death for you.

As you receive, by faith, that Jesus Christ -- God's love with skin on, God's promises with skin on, God Himself with skin on -- came to serve sinners, save sinners and dwell in sinners, no one will take your joy from you.



Pastor Chris

How Easter Sunday is Determined Each Year

by Rev. Arie Bertsch LCMS North Dakota District president

In the front of our hymnal (p. xxiii), the Lutheran Service Book says: "Easter Day is always the Sunday after the full moon that occurs on or after the spring equinox on March 21. This full moon may happen on any date between March 21 and April 18 inclusive. If the full moon falls on a Sunday, Easter day is the Sunday following. Easter day cannot be earlier than March 22 or later than April 25."



Here are some interesting facts about this Easter scheduling following the moon: Easter has not fallen on the earliest of the 35 possible dates, March 22, since 1818, and will not do so again until 2285. It did, however, fall on March 23 in 2008, but will not do so again until 2160. Easter last fell on the latest possible date, April 25, in 1943 and will next fall on that date in 2038. However, it did fall on April 24, just one day before this latest possible date, in 2011. The cycle of Easter dates repeats after exactly 5,700,000 years, with April 19 being the most common date, happening 220,400 times, or 3.9 percent, compared to a mean for all dates of 162,857 times, or 2.9 percent.

(Excerpt taken from February 2023 ND District newsletter)

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. Bring family and friends for a night of fellowship and faith. A potluck supper begins at 6 p.m. followed by the study.

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" - We will finish "Songs from Scripture" on March 9 and begin a new Bible Study "Praying the Psalms" March 16. "Praying the Psalms" will help you to learn how to openly express the full range of emotions - joy, anger, distress, hope and trust - to God.

7 p.m. Thursday, March 23: 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. Monday March 27: 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.

Easter Breakfast April 9

Bring your appetites to church this Easter! A delicious breakfast of rolls, muffins, fruit, scrambled eggs, sausage links, juice and coffee will be served on Easter Sunday from 8:45 -10:30 a.m. Thanks to the youth who will be serving our Easter breakfast this year. Stop in the fellowship hall to enjoy food and conversation on this joyous day.



Sign up for Sunday Morning Treats

We no longer have service captains calling members to ask for treats for fellowship. There are sheets in the narthex where members can sign up to bring two dozen treats, serve and cleanup on Sunday mornings. If you have questions, please call the church office or talk to Mary Seiffert.



Palm Sunday Party April 2

When Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, people celebrated the coming of the Messiah. Beautiful Savior will host its own celebration for kids during Sunday school from 9:30-10:30 a.m. on Sunday, April 2, in the fellowship hall. This celebration will include snacks, crafts and the story about Palm Sunday.



Potluck Suppers During Lent

BSLC offers potluck soup and sandwich suppers before our Lenten worship each Wednesday from 6-6:45 p.m. You are invited to bring soups, sandwiches or desserts as you are able. Our groups will do the **setup, serving** and **cleanup**. Listed below are the dates for each group. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex. Thanks for your help.



March 1	Church Council
March 8	Elders
March 15	Music Ministry Groups
March 22	LYF Youth
March 29	LWML (O-Z members)

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Did you know that the Thrivent Choice program allows eligible Thrivent members to recommend making charitable contributions to Beautiful Savior? Several members have supported the church's mission by directing a portion of their Thrivent Choice dollars to BSLC.



If you haven't participated in Thrivent Choice but would like to learn more, you can visit Thrivent.com/Thriventchoice or contact your Thrivent representative. You must renew your designation every year. The deadline is March 31.

Easter Flowers On Altar

A sign-up sheet will be available in the narthex to order Easter flowers in memory or in honor of loved ones. Flowers and the prices will be listed on the sign-up sheets. Quantities will be limited, so get your orders in early. Please make checks payable to the LWML.



Voters' Meeting March 26

There will be a voters' meeting at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, March 26, between services, to discuss and vote on the election of officers. Please try to attend this important meeting. Thanks.

BSLC Treasurer's Report General Operating Fund

<u>Oper. Fund</u>	<u>Dec.</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Contributions	48,403	419,349
Expense	48,836	439,458
Surplus/(Shortfall)	(433)	(20,109)

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 - Join us from 10:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Thursday, March 9 and 23. Come for awhile, or stay the whole time. 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, March 15. Gold Club is for anyone!

Evangelism and Stewardship -

There will be an evangelism and stewardship committee meeting at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 21, at Ruby Tuesday. Anyone is invited to attend. Please RSVP to the church office by March 20.



Beautiful Garden - The seventh annual Beautiful Garden in Beautiful Savior's backyard will have a garden planning potluck lunch at noon on Sunday, March 12. Bring a dish to share. If you have an interest in gardening, come and help us discuss what to plant and where. Gardeners get to enjoy the benefits of the harvest. All ages are invited to help with gardening activities and enjoy some fellowship. If you would like to be added to the communication list, please email Tim at tim.deitemeyer@hotmail.com.



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 - will have their monthly meeting at 6 p.m. on Thursday, March 16, in the fellowship hall. We will be planning the spring event. All are welcome!

LWML Zone Spring Event: will be held at 9 a.m. on Saturday, April 15 at Beautiful Savior. Kelly from Hope Blooms will be our speaker. We will be making flower arrangements. Hope Blooms repurposes donated flowers and rearranges them into beautiful bedside bouquets so that those who are in need most in our community feel this sense of inclusion. The event will also include a Bible study, and a lunch will be served.



Gathering items for Hope Blooms are: (please place in tote in narthex)

- pint & half-pint mason jars or similar food jars (olive jars, jelly etc.) - NO VASES
- twine or jute
- cleansing Clorox wipes
- paper towels
- garbage bags (40-50 gal.)
- hand soap
- dishwasher pods
- cleaning or janitorial supplies (see items listed on their website HopeBlooms.org)
- Or you can order from their Amazon wish list on their website and have it sent to them.

LWML National Convention: Join fellow LWML women at the 2023 national convention June 22-25 in Milwaukee, WI. Celebrate the "Lord of the Nations," (Psalm 33:12-13). Register at www.lwml.org. Early registration deadline is March 14.



BSLC Seminary Student's Address

BSLC's "adopted" seminary student's address is:

Vicar Andrew Frerichs,
c/o The Lutheran Church
at Vestavia Hills
201 Montgomery Hwy.
Vestavia Hills, AL 35216-1801.



Scam Alert

If you receive an email or text that sounds like it is coming from Pastor Chris or Pastor Brian, asking you to purchase a gift card or to contact them via email or text, this is a scam. We would **never** send out texts or emails asking you for a favor. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.



Jesus is the Real Deal

By Pastor Brian

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.” (Matthew 5:17).

Purchasing something that is 100 percent genuine is generally preferable. For instance, there's a big difference between buying a new living room recliner made from genuine leather and one made with cheap imitation material. In most cases, you can feel and smell the difference. The real deal is better.

What's true of leather is also true of saviors from sin. There are plenty of cheap imitations, people and things that promise to be just as good as the real thing but also end up being what they are - cheap imitations that don't add up and never really satisfy. When it comes to the work of salvation, there is only one real deal, and His name is Jesus, the world's one and only genuine Savior.

But what did Jesus have to do to prove that He and He alone is the real deal? First and foremost, He couldn't cut any corners. In other words, He had to be all in. 100 percent, no holds barred.

That meant, as He tells us in Matthew's Gospel, He didn't come into this world “to abolish the Law or the Prophets.” In other words, He didn't claim to be above the law of God. He didn't say, “God's Word doesn't apply to me, so I don't have to follow the rules.” No, just the opposite! He came to obey and fulfill God's Word perfectly. He came to live a life that sinners like you and me cannot. Perfect love. Perfect sacrifice.

But never for Himself. For us, yes, for everyone. For you. Because, you see, fulfilling God's law perfectly required more of Jesus than simply scoring 100 percent on some test measuring His genuineness. It also means that He fulfilled His Father's perfect will - through all the pain and suffering He endured. He paid the price, not for Himself, but for you and me, so that one day we can live in the presence of God forevermore. And not because we deserve it, or He owed it to us. He did it because He loves us, no strings attached. Jesus is the real deal, the Savior of the world.



“Main Street Living North” TV Program News

This month I thought I'd share a note from one of our viewers. Harriet writes: “I enjoy and appreciate the Main Street Living Program. To have an LCMS program televised in our area is great. It is so nice to hear the different pastors present their messages, and the choirs singing each Sunday. I am in assisted living housing and am unable to attend our home church. I am also enclosing a memorial in honor of my late husband.” Thanks so much, Harriet. It is a joy to be able to bring these worship services and *This Is the Life* programs into your home each week!

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!



March pastors and sermons are as follows:

March 5th: Rev. Mark Chepulis, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Cavalier, St. Paul Lutheran Church, St. Thomas, and Redeemer Lutheran Church, Langdon, presents the message: “The Canaanite Woman” based on Matthew 15:21-28. *This Is the Life*: “Prescription TLC.”

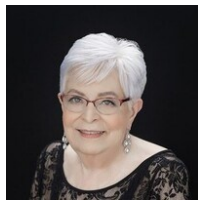
March 12th: Rev. Steven Schulz, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Fargo, presents the message: “Jesus Has Mercy on Sinners” based on John 4:5-26. *This Is the Life*: “Dangerous Moment.”

March 19th: Rev. Karl Weber, St. John Lutheran Church, Ottertail, MN, and St. Paul Lutheran Church, Richville, MN, presents the message: “The Work of the Messiah” based on John 9:1-41. *This Is the Life*: “Who will tell Lauria?”

March 26th: Rev. Christopher Durham, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Lisbon, presents the message “The Lord Provides for our Eternal Need” based on Genesis 22:1-14. *This Is the Life*: “Holy Land Tour, Part 1.”

Funerals

Jan. 31: Josephine “Jo” Aarfor, 85, formerly of Lidgerwood, passed away. Her funeral was held at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Lidgerwood on Monday, Feb. 6.



Jo was born to Josie and Engvold Jacobson on Dec. 23, 1937, in Rutland, ND. Jo’s mother, Josie, passed away shortly after giving birth to her. Jo was raised by her grandmother Sarah Tosse.

Jo married her high school sweetheart, James “Jim” Aarfor, on Jan. 14, 1956, and they were married for 64 years.

Jo was a stay-at-home mother and worked at PrimeWood and Bobcat. Jo tackled remodeling her home, sewing outfits for her family and painting pictures. She made and donated quilts to Sanford NICU and the YWCA of Fargo. Jo served as an election judge for many years. Jo was a member of the LWML. She spent countless hours volunteering in her community. Jim and Jo moved to Fargo in 2015.

Jo is survived by her three children: Renae Aarfor (Rick Engen), Sue Heitkamp (Joel), John Aarfor (Roberta) and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Jo was preceded in death by her husband, Jim, her parents, Engvold and Josie Jacobson, and her beloved grandmother Sarah Tosse.

Memorials

In Memory of Josephine Aarfor:
Matt and Beth Gustafson
Arla Strege



LCEF North Dakota District College Scholarship

The Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) North Dakota District College Scholarship is offering a \$1,000 scholarship to at least one applicant. Applicant must be a graduating high school senior with a minimum 3.0 GPA or current full-time post-secondary student at an accredited institution with at least one year of courses remaining and a minimum 2.5 GPA.

Applicant must also be a member of a congregation belonging to the LCMS located in the North Dakota District. Applications close on April 15. Winners will be announced on May 10.

Apply at lcef.org/north-dakota-scholarship. If you have questions, contact Tami Ulland, LCEF District Vice President at 701-360-1469 or tami.ulland@lcef.org.

Lutherans for Life 2023 State Essay Contest

Sponsored by the Council of Federation Presidents

For students in Grades six through twelve - (Any Lutheran student or student in a Lutheran school)

Contest Guidelines: Students will write a life-affirming essay based on the 2023 Conference theme Just As ... I Am with the Bible verse: “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them,” (Ephesians 2:10).

All entries become the property of Lutherans For Life. Questions, examples of topics, resources on the sanctity of life and guidelines can be found on the website lutheransforlife.org. Essay entries should be submitted by April 1.

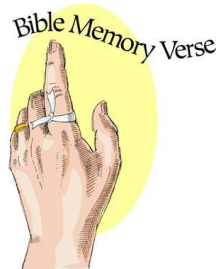
Memory Verse Challenge

March 5: 1 Peter 2:24 - He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

March 12: 1 John 2:2 - He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

March 19: Romans 10:9–10 - Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

March 26: Ephesians 1:7 - In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.





Sunday School Students to Sing

The PreK through third-graders will be singing at both worship services on Sunday, April 2. Please have your student at the

church by 8 a.m. for a short practice. They are welcome to sing at one or both services.

CrossTraining for BSLC Children

CrossTraining is for children in first through fifth grade. CrossTraining will meet from 1-2:30 p.m. Sunday, March 26. CrossTraining will involve food (both spiritual and physical), fun and fellowship. Contact Pastor Brian with questions.



Crossfire Youth Praise Band

Crossfire will lead the 8:15 a.m. worship service on Sunday, March 5. They will practice at the church at 6 p.m. Saturday, March 4, and from 7-8 p.m. on Sunday, March 12, 19 and 26. If you have questions, call Ramsey at 866-5403.

Grace Lutheran School News

We introduced our capital improvement campaign, Growing Together in Grace. Association pastors, church presidents and GLS board representatives have been provided with information about the Growing Together in Grace campaign to share with each congregation.

BSLC approved the school moving forward with a capital campaign at a special voters' meeting on Feb. 26.

GLS participated in its ninth Giving Hearts Day on February 9. We had a \$7,000 match, provided by Dakota Refrigeration and other friends of Grace. You all helped us raise more than \$42,000. We even broke a couple of records: pre-match total giving (\$34,000) and number of unique donors (193).

GLS Upcoming Activities:

- March 9** - Science Fair starting at 6:30 p.m.
- March 14** - Mercy Meals pack at 12:30 p.m.
- March 15** - Experience Day from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- March 20** - Open House from 5-6:30 p.m.
- April 29** - Pasta with a Purpose Spaghetti Dinner



March Youth Events

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

- Wednesday, March 1** - from 7:45-9 p.m. - LYF for grades 6-12.
- Wednesday, March 8** - from 7:45-9 p.m. - LYF for grades 6-12.
- Wednesday, March 22** - from 7:45-9 p.m. - LYF for grades 6-12
- Wednesday, March 29** - from 7:45-9 p.m. - LYF for grades 6-12.

LYF Retreat in Carrington - Friday, March 3 - Saturday, March 4: All students in eighth through twelfth grade are invited to the Chieftain in Carrington. We will meet at BSLC at 3:45 p.m. on Friday and return around 7 p.m. on Saturday. Cost is \$70. The retreat will include devotions, a Bible study led by Pastor Adam Harvala, group singing and a coffee house concert by Lloyd Garrelts, large and small group discussion/reflection about Vocation: Right Here, Right Now, Saturday morning walk, junk food buffet, breakfast buffet, Pizza Ranch lunch, snacks, large and small group games and more! Attendees will be housed overnight at the Chieftain. Please register by Sunday, Feb. 26. Forms are in the narthex or on the church website. See Pastor Brian with questions.

Junior High and Senior High Youth Zone Nerf Night - Friday, March 24: All youth grades six through twelve and their friends are invited for an evening of games, Bible study, music, food and, of course, Nerf from 7 p.m. - 10 p.m. on March 24 at Immanuel 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. Forms are in the narthex. See 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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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

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.