

# Enlighten

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church  
Fargo, North Dakota



## December 2024

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## Upcoming December Events

### Decorate the Church

9 a.m. - noon Saturday, Nov. 30  
Come for awhile, stay until it is done.

### Gingerbread Bash

2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 1  
BSLC Family Fellowship

### Munchies for Missions

Drop off 9 a.m. - noon Saturday, Dec. 7  
Purchase Sunday, Dec. 8  
between services.

### LWML Christmas Potluck

3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8  
5309 University Dr. S Unit A  
Bring a wrapped white elephant gift  
and a dish to share.

### Advent Midweek Supper

6 p.m. on Wednesday,  
Dec. 4 - Elders set up and clean up  
Dec. 11 - GLS Families set up and clean up  
Dec. 18 - Council set up and clean up  
Bring soups, sandwiches, sides  
or desserts to share.

### Midweek Advent Services

7 p.m. on Wednesdays  
Dec. 4 - "An Old Testament Christmas"  
(Exodus 3:1-14)  
Dec. 11 - "The Lord Dwells Among Us"  
(Exodus 40:17-21, 34-38)  
Dec. 18 - "You Shall Defeat Them as One Man"  
(Judges 6:11-24; 7:2-9)

### Voters' Meeting

9:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 15

### Sponsor a Poinsettia

Sign up in the narthex.  
Cost \$17; Deadline: Dec. 15

### Giving Tree

Bring new socks, hats, mittens,  
t-shirts, or underwear for adults  
or children for Churches United.  
Take a tag for Women's Care Center.  
Return unwrapped items  
under the tree with tag attached.

### Gold Club Potluck

Noon Wednesday, Dec. 18  
Bring an item for the giving tree.

### LYF Christmas Party

8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 18  
Bring a wrapped white elephant gift.

### Sunday School Christmas Programs

8:15 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 22

Pre-K - Third Grade

10:45 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 22

Fourth - Sixth Grade

Dress rehearsal Saturday, Dec. 21.

### Sunday School in December

Dec. 1, 8 and 15 - program practice

Dec. 22 and 29 - no classes

Jan. 5 - regular classes resume



# Joy

## Christmas Eve Worship

3:30 and 5 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 24  
Candlelight Service

## Christmas Day Worship

10 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 25  
Lord's Supper celebrated

# An Astounding Rescue Operation Still Underway During Advent and Christmas Seasons

(By Pastor Chris)

On Aug. 5, 2010, a cave-in at a copper-gold mine in northern Chile left 33 men trapped a half-mile underground and three miles from the mine's entrance. In a rescue operation for the ages, three separate drilling rig teams, nearly every Chilean government ministry, NASA and a dozen corporations from around the world joined forces to pull the men out of the darkness. More than 5.3 million people watched with bated breath as a capsule retrieved the men, one by one, from the depths. Against all odds, the entire crew had emerged 69 days after the cave-in all in relatively good medical condition.

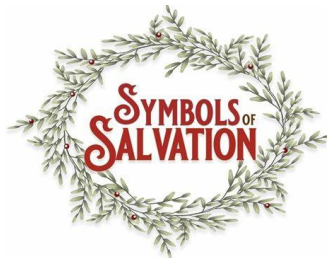
The soft glow of candles faintly illuminates faces full of wonder and anticipation in a darkened sanctuary on Christmas Eve. As Silent Night's melody brightens the hearts of all who celebrate the good news of Christ the Lord's birth, the wait for Christmas has ended. As we sing the songs, hear the Christmas story, embrace the traditions and commemorate the coming of Christ, God invites you to see an even bigger rescue for all of humanity. During this Advent season, we will be reading from Luke's gospel. In addition to highlighting Christ's coming, the good doctor and evangelist also warns of something else coming: God's wrath for the unrepentant and unbelieving.

In the alternate reading for the first Sunday in Advent, Jesus prepares His followers for His second coming. Predicting increased tribulation in the last days, Jesus encourages those in faith, saying: "Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near," (Luke 21:28). Later in the chapter, our Lord also makes a plea for His followers to continue steadfast in the faith: "But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man," (Luke 21:36).



(Continued on page 6.)

## Midweek Advent Series Explores "Symbols of Salvation: Foretelling Christ's Coming in the Old Testament"



This year's midweek Advent series is "Symbols of Salvation: Foretelling Christ's coming in the Old Testament." A devotional booklet also will be included with the series.

The Old Testament is not just a historical record; it is the active, Spirit-filled Word of God that proclaims Christ coming to us.

Join us for services at 7 p.m. Soup and sandwich suppers will be served from 6-6:45 p.m. before service. Please bring soup, sandwiches, sides and desserts to share.

### 2024 Wednesday Midweek Service Schedule:

**Dec. 4** – "An Old Testament Christmas"  
- Exodus 3:1-14

**Dec. 11** – "The Lord Dwells Among Us"  
- Exodus 40:17-21, 34-38

**Dec. 18** – "You Shall Defeat Them as One Man"  
- Judges 6:11-24; 7:2-9

## Help Decorate the Church Nov. 30

Help decorate the church for the Christmas season from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Nov. 30. Come for awhile, or stay until it is done.



## Voters' Meeting

There will be a voters' meeting at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 15, between services. Discussion will be held on the 2025 budget, other reports and the status of the call process.

## Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for 2025 are available in the narthex. If you don't find your envelopes, let the office know. Thank you for picking up your envelopes.

## “Gingerbread Bash” for BSLC Families



Our “Gingerbread Bash,” for BSLC families will be from 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 1 in the fellowship hall. A parent must attend with the child.

In addition to building and decorating your own gingerbread nativity, you’ll get to play games, sing songs, hear the Christmas story from the Bible and discover the good news of Jesus. It’s a sweet way for your family to celebrate the birth of our Savior! We can’t wait to “bash” with you!

## Advent Midweek Suppers

Join us at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 4, 11 and 18 before worship service for our soup and sandwich potluck suppers. Bring a dish, side or dessert to share as you are able with your Beautiful Savior family.



## Youth 2025 Calendar Fundraiser

Our youth are selling the God’s Creation calendars as a fund-raiser for their trip to the National Youth Gathering this summer in New Orleans. They may be purchased in the narthex from an NYG youth for a minimum free will donation of \$10 on Sunday mornings between services or from the church office during the week. Thank you for supporting our NYG youth.

## BSLC Apparel for Sale

Purchase your BSLC apparel from Total Imaging through the link on the church website or if you don’t have internet, contact the church office to help you place your order. They have a large assortment of styles and colors to choose from. Samples are available to look at in the church office.

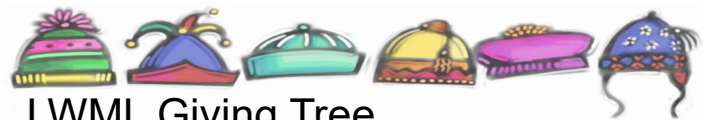


You can pay with a credit card thru the link on the church website. Prices include the BSLC logo embroidered on each item. Shipping will not be charged. Total Imaging will notify you when your order is ready for pick up at their store at 3051 25th St S, Fargo in the strip mall near Family Fare on 25th Street and 32nd Ave S. Orders placed before Thanksgiving will be available for Christmas.

## LWML Munchies for Missions Bake Sale



The LWML Munchies for Missions bake sale will be on Sunday, Dec. 8, after both worship services. BSLC members are asked to bake and fill containers of Christmas goodies to sell. Bring your containers to the church between 9 a.m. and noon Saturday, Dec. 7. Shop on Sunday, and take home a variety of tasty goodies for the holidays. Items will be available for a free-will donation. Thanks for participating in this LWML Fundraiser for Grace Lutheran School!



## LWML Giving Tree

In service to our neighbors, check out our Giving Tree in the narthex. Donations of new socks, hats, mittens, T-shirts and underwear for children or adults can be placed directly **on the tree**. These items will be donated to local schools and to Churches United for the Homeless.

Consider taking a tag from the tree for the Women’s Care Center. Place these unwrapped items **under the tree** with the tag attached.

Please return all items by Sunday, **Dec. 15**.  
Thanks for filling our giving tree.



## 2025 Flower Sign-up Chart

The 2025 flower chart is outside the office on the bulletin board. The cost is \$30, and you can take them home after second service. Please designate the money for flowers and place in the offering plate or leave in the church office. Please return vases to the church office when done with them.

## Sponsor a Poinsettia to Decorate Sanctuary

Help decorate the sanctuary by sponsoring a poinsettia in memory or honor of a loved one. We have 25 poinsettias, so sign up by Dec. 15 in the narthex to make sure you receive a plant. The plants are \$17. Make checks payable to LWML.





## 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 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 12. You do not need to know how to quilt. Come for awhile, stay the whole time. Call Donna Ceroll at 701-232-2464 with questions.

The quilters sent 34 quilts that were distributed to North Carolina hurricane victims through the Orphan Grain Train.

**BSLC Coffee Club** - BSLC members, men and women of any age, are invited to gather at 9 a.m. on Friday mornings at the Fryn' Pan, 310 Main Ave., Fargo.

**Gold Club** - Gather together and enjoy some potluck food, faith and fellowship. Our next lunch will be at noon on Wednesday, Dec. 18. Bring a green or red dish to share and an item for the giving tree. We will have a Christmas activity, but a white elephant gift is not needed. Gold Club is for anyone!

**LWML** - We will not meet in December, but will meet at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 16. All women are invited to join. Your participation in LWML is a great way to make new friends and serve the Lord.

**LWML Christmas Potluck Party:** 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8. It will be held in the community room in Shirley Elsner's development, 5309 University Dr. S Unit A. Bring a wrapped white elephant gift - the more outrageous, the more fun! Bring a dish to share as well.

**LWML Loose Change Sunday, Dec. 29:** Bring your change, bills or checks to drop in the bucket to help support mites.

## Building Healthy Families

What do you do in your home to keep your family focused on the true meaning of Christmas? Time spent together without technology, taking turns reading aloud the "original" Christmas story from Luke 2 is one great idea. Praying together is another. Perhaps at Christmas dinner, invite your family to read a Christmas song as a prayer before the meal, with each member given a verse to share. The text from Martin Luther's "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" (Lutheran Service Book #358) would be a beautiful family prayer.

A blessed, peaceful and joyful celebration of Jesus' this Christmas to you and yours - from your friends at Lutheran Family Service! [www.LutheranFamilyService.org](http://www.LutheranFamilyService.org)



## Congregational Memory Verse Challenge

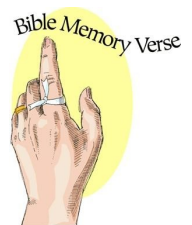
**Dec. 1: Revelation 1:7-8** - Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

**Dec. 8: Philippians. 4:6-7** - Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**Dec.15: Philippians 4:4-5** - Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand.

**Dec. 22: John 1:1-3** - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

**Dec. 29: Matthew 1:21** - You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.



## Upcoming Bible Studies

**9:30 a.m. Sunday morning Bible study: "The Messiah: Revealing Jesus in the Old Testament"** - You will be lead through the entirety of the Old Testament with daily readings, questions, and discussion prompts. After a brief introduction that reviews Christ's earthly ministry, you will dive into the heart of the Holy Books that have spiritually nourished God's people from creation to today.

**5:45 p.m. Sunday night Family Bible Study: "The Chosen - Season 4"** - See the Bible come to life through "The Chosen" video series. We will watch one episode each week followed by a brief discussion. Bring a dish to share, and at 5:45 p.m., we will have a potluck meal in the fellowship hall, watch the nightly episode at 6 p.m., have a discussion at 7 p.m. and end our study by 7:30 p.m. Bring your family and friends for a night of fellowship and faith.

**7 p.m. Tuesday night Bible study: "God's Encouraging Word: True Comforts When Worldly Advice Fails"** - "Just be positive!" "God only gives you what you can handle." "Others have it harder." People mean well when they say these phrases. They intend to offer comfort and help during difficult times. Yet do these self-help phrases actually offer comfort to you? Do they make things feel worse? Do they align with God's Word?

Author Faith Doerr has heard her fair share of these phrases during struggles in her life. And she knows first-hand how they feel like 'nails on a chalkboard' from the receiving end. If these phrases don't offer comfort, then is there something that can? Scripture. God's Word is full of true comfort that can help you in times of trouble and distress.

**9 a.m. Thursday Women's Bible study "Finding Rest in a Busy World"** - *Finding Rest in a Busy World* will conclude on Dec. 5. We will resume on Jan. 9 with a new study.

### Going South for the Winter?

Please let the church office know when you plan to leave for the winter so that you will still receive any 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.

## "Main Street Living North" TV Program News

"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," (John 1:14). On Dec. 25, we will once again celebrate the birth of the incarnated Son of God, Jesus of Nazareth, Savior of the World! May we increasingly recognize, appreciate and herald this best news of all to our neighbors and the world!



*And  
The  
Word  
became flesh and  
dwelt among us*

*John 1:14*

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!

### December pastors and sermons are as follows:

**Dec. 1:** Rev. Daniel Suelzle, Wittenberg Lutheran Chapel, Grand Forks, presents the message: "Lift Up Your Heads," based on Luke 21:25-26. Lutheran Hour Ministries program: "Stable Boy."

**Dec. 8:** Rev. Thomas Puffe, St. John's Lutheran Church, Thief River Falls, MN, and Zion Lutheran Church, Warren, MN, presents the message: "Luke 3:1-14," based on the same text. Lutheran Hour Ministries program: "Red Boots Christmas."

**Dec. 15:** Rev. Scott Ramey, All Nations Lutheran Church, Rock Lake, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Rolla and Zion Lutheran Church, Munich, presents the message: "Are You the One!" based on Matthew 11:2-4. Lutheran Hour Ministries program: "Christmas Is."

**Dec. 22:** Rev. Matthew Harrison, president of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, presents a Christmas message. This program is interpreted and closed captioned for the deaf and hard of hearing. Visit [www.mainstreetliving.com](http://www.mainstreetliving.com) for more information. Lutheran Hour Ministries program: "Christmas on Main Street."

**Dec. 29:** Rev. Daniel Voth, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Grand Forks, presents the message: "Seeing Christ with Our Own Eyes," based on Luke 2:22-40. Lutheran Hour Ministries program: "Puzzle Club Christmas."





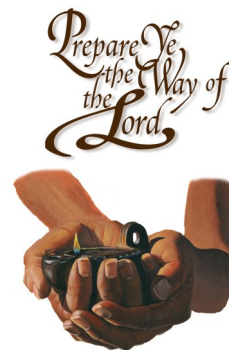
# An Astounding Rescue Operation Still Underway During Advent and Christmas Seasons

(Continued from page 2.)

For the second week in Advent, John the Baptist prepares the way for the Christ, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. He sternly warns the crowds coming to Him: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits in keeping with repentance," (Luke 3:7b-8a). As we near closer to Christmas, our Lord laments in Luke 7 concerning those during His time who rejected both John for preaching the Law's condemnation while also rejecting Him for preaching forgiveness and mercy through the Gospel.

Advent is all about arrivals. Our Lord has come to pull you out of the darkness. Our Lord has rescued you from the power of sin, death and the devil. And Our Lord continues to sustain you through Word and Sacrament so that you might remain in faith and stand before God in righteousness and purity forever, thanks to our Lord's perfect life and atoning death.

By God's grace, we pray, praise and proclaim: "Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus; Turn not from me aside. And help me to receive You This blessed Advent tide. From stall and manger low Come now to dwell within me; I'll sing Your praises gladly And forth Your glory show," (LSB 354, stanza 4).



*Pastor Chris*

## Operation Christmas Child Packing Party a Success

Beautiful Savior packed 525 shoeboxes on Nov. 24! We had more than 137 participants for the packing party and many more who donated items for the boxes or money for shipping.

Our boxes will end up at the processing center in Chicago where they are prepared for shipping all over the world. We'll look forward to hearing from our packers who purchased "Follow Your Box" labels to find out where the boxes went!



Please pray for the children who will receive these gifts - that they will have their hearts opened to the saving message of the Gospel and know the love God has for them.



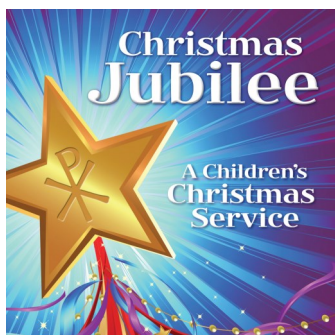
## PreK - Third Grade Christmas Program "Jesus - God's Greatest Gift"

The pre-K through third grade will practice during Sunday school Sunday, Dec. 1, 8 and 15. There will be a dress rehearsal for all students from 9-10 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 21. Their program will be at 8:15 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 22. Thank you for bringing your children to practice.



## Fourth - Sixth Grade Christmas Program "Christmas Jubilee"

The fourth through sixth grade will practice during Sunday school Sunday, Dec. 1, 8 and 15. There will be a dress rehearsal for all students from 10 - 11 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 21. Their program will be at 10:45 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 22. Thank you for bringing your children to practice.



## Sunday School in December

Regular Sunday school classes will be held on Dec. 1, 8 and 15. There will be no Sunday school on Dec. 22 and 29. Regular classes will resume Jan. 5.

## Grace Lutheran School News

It bears repeating : We are so happy to be settled back into the building - even though we've been here more than two months now. There's no place like home.

Thank you to all who attended "A Celebration of Grace" dinner and auction on Nov. 8. We are finishing up the final accounting, but expect that we'll have raised between \$35,000 and \$37,000 for curriculum and our scholarship ministry. This is incredible, and we are so thankful!

GLS students recently enjoyed "Feast Day," a special day where we invite all of our LCMS pastors and DCEs and eat a proper Thanksgiving lunch together as a school.

The Christmas Musical, "Miracle on Main Street," 1:30 and 6:30 p.m. is on Thursday, Dec. 19 . All are invited to enjoy this program, as well as some selections from our band.

May your Advent and Christmas season be joyous!

## LYF Christmas Party

All sixth-grade through twelfth-grade students are invited for games, fun and food for a Christmas party at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 18. Bring a wrapped white elephant gift to exchange.



## December 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 8-9 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, Dec. 4** - from 8-9 p.m. - LYF for grades 6-12.

**Wednesday, Dec. 11** - from 8-9 p.m. - LYF for grades 6-12.

**Wednesday, Dec. 18** - from 8-9 p.m. - LYF Christmas Party for grades 6-12.

*(Bring a wrapped white elephant gift.)*





# BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

2601 23rd Ave. S., Fargo, ND 58103

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## Contact Us:

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FACEBOOK: [www.facebook.com/BeautifulSaviorLutheranFargo](http://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.

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](http://www.beautifulsaviorfargo.com)

[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)

[www.facebook.com/BeautifulSaviorLutheranFargo](http://www.facebook.com/BeautifulSaviorLutheranFargo)

Sermon podcasts on our website & iTunes app

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ENLIGHTEN is a monthly publication of Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church.

## Council Members

Chairman: Mike Schlichtmann

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Treasurer: Craig Hashbarger

Secretary: Deb Schimek

Properties: Scott Persoon

Education: Stacy Knudson

Stewardship: Claudia Schroeder

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E-G Seth Murray

H-K Jim Willprecht

L-N Mike Sellden

O-R Adam Tykwinski

S Gene Doeling

T-Z Patrik Tostenson

*Elders are assigned families based on last name*

## Other Volunteers

LWML President:

RRLSA Board Representatives:

Financial Secretary:

Mary Seiffert

Randy Johnson

Tim Deitemeyer

Beth Gustafson



Scan the code to access the BSLC website.