



BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



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We're starting a new book, focused on God's love for humanity.

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This month we continue a series on worship. Of all the things we do as a Christian congregation, public worship—gathering together around Word and Sacrament—is at the core.

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New Book Club Selection:

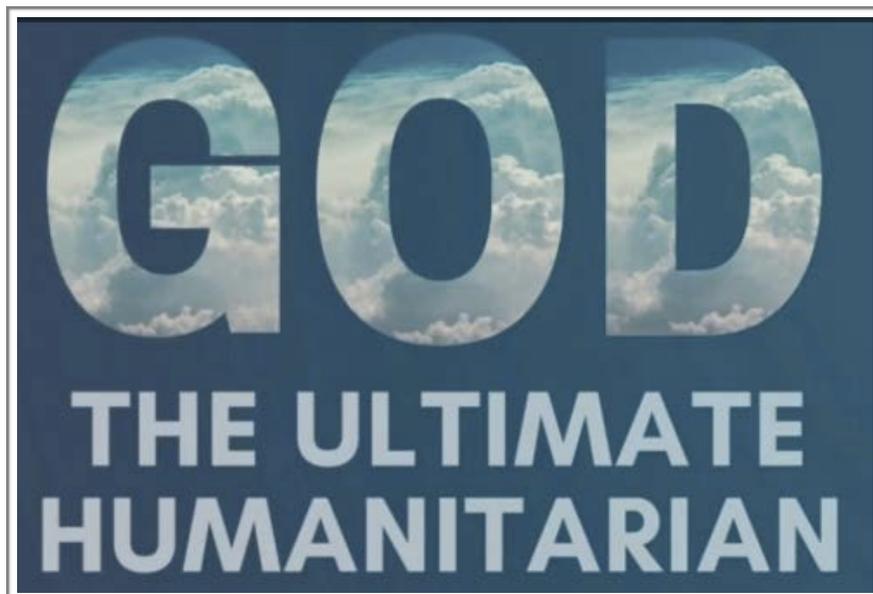
“God: The Ultimate Humanitarian”

Our next Book Club selection is called “God: The Ultimate Humanitarian.” It's written by Pastor Mark Cares, who serves in Utah. His ministry has often involved work with people in the Mormon church. The book is a study of God's love, especially keeping Mormon theology in mind.

Here's the description from Amazon:

"Moses could only see the after-glow of God's glory. The prophet Isaiah cried out, "Woe to me," after seeing God in a vision. The apostle Paul talks about hearing unfathomable things in heaven. God is greater than anything we can imagine. The list of God's amazing characteristics is long. He is all-powerful. He is all-knowing. He is eternal. The list goes on and on. God is truly incredible. It's against this background of God's magnificent majesty that his love for humanity shines brilliantly. Why would such a Supreme Being be concerned for creatures who had so thoroughly rebelled against him? That too is incredible. This book explores God's amazing love for humanity. In 20 brief chapters it considers 20 different facets of this love. It convincingly shows that God is the ultimate humanitarian."

If you would like a copy of the book, please contact Pastor Groth. The Book Club typically meets two Mondays a month at 6:30 pm.



Worship: Part 2

What We're Doing and Why

Last month we begin a series on worship. This is part 2 of that series.

We've made a good beginning in worship when we confess our sins and our sinfulness to the Lord in the presence of our fellow believers, hear the assurance in the absolution that our sins are forgiven, and then "in the peace of forgiveness" sing a song of praise to the Lord. (These are the things we discussed in the article last month.) Now we are ready to continue with . . .

Part 2 - The Word

Jesus once said, "Where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." (Mt 18:20) To gather in his name means to gather where his name is proclaimed, that is, where his Word is publicly read and taught. There Jesus is truly present in a special way.

Prayer of the Day

The "Word" section of the service begins with the Prayer of the Day. Older members might remember that this prayer was sometimes called the "Collect" because it "collected" the main thoughts of the Scripture readings for the day into a one sentence prayer.

Readings

Usually three readings are selected: one from the Old Testament, one from the New Testament Letters, and one from the Gospels. The Gospel readings are chosen to review for us the life of Christ—in the first half of the year—and the teachings of Christ—in the second half of the year. This Gospel reading sets our theme of the Day.

The Old Testament selection is chosen to reinforce the Gospel lesson, and the NT Letter reading is chosen either to reinforce the other lessons or sometimes it is simply a series of readings from one of the Letters. We are currently in such a series from 1 Corinthians. When a psalm is chosen, it fits the theme of the Day and is usually sung as a response to the Old Testament lesson.

Hymn of the Day

You may have noticed the hymn after the readings is often called the "Hymn of the Day." It has that name because it is a hymn carefully chosen to reflect the theme of that day's service or the season of the church year that the service is celebrating. Notice that the Hymn of the Day is placed directly in the middle of the central part of the service called "the Word." It is placed here because just as the pastor proclaims the Word in the Scripture readings and the sermon, the congregation proclaims the Word in this hymn. This is truly a highpoint in the service as we join in song to proclaim to each other and to the world the awesome deeds of our God.

Sermon

Luke's Gospel tells us that Jesus "...went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read. Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat

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down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, and he began..." (Luke 4) Every Sabbath, Jewish rabbis would read the Scripture and then explain a portion of it to the people who were gathered. This custom became our modern sermon.

In the sermon, the pastor is God's spokesman. He delivers to the people gathered in front of him the message that God wants those people to hear. He must convey the message of the text to the people. This is why our Seminary insists that all of its pastors be able to work in the original languages of the Bible—Greek and Hebrew. They are obligated to know exactly what God is saying so that they can convey that message to God's people.

Creed

The writer to the Hebrews urges us, "Let us not give up meeting together, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching" (10:25) One of the many ways that Christians encourage one another when we meet together is to confess our common faith with the words of the creeds. The word "creed" comes from the Latin *credo* which means "I believe." By saying the creed together, in a very tangible way we are reassuring one another, "You're not crazy! I believe this too!" When we confess the truths that the Bible teaches in such simple ways, we remind ourselves and our brothers and sisters gathered around us what a precious faith we share.

The "Create in Me"

God wants to create a new heart in us sinners. We can't do that in ourselves any more than we could be born again. He must do it, and he does it through the Word. In the service, we've heard God's love in the Scripture lessons and had it applied to our circumstances today in the sermon. Now in song, we ask him to create new hearts in us through the message of his love we've just heard. This song comes to us from David's great psalm of repentance, Psalm 51. There, after he committed adultery and murder, he asked God to create a pure heart in place of the sinful spirit that had conceived and carried out those sins. This song is the congregation's heartfelt "thank you" to the Lord for the wonderful words of life we have heard in the Scripture lessons and the sermon.

The Offering

The offering is not a "break in the service" but is an important act of worship. After being filled with the Word, we have a chance to respond to what God has given us by returning a part of the material possessions with which he has so richly blessed us. In the early church the believers brought their offerings forward individually. Today we have the ushers gather it into baskets and take it up to the altar for us. They place the offering at the foot of the cross to show that it is a sacrifice that we are making in response to the sacrifice Jesus has made for us.

Next month: Part 3 - Sacrament

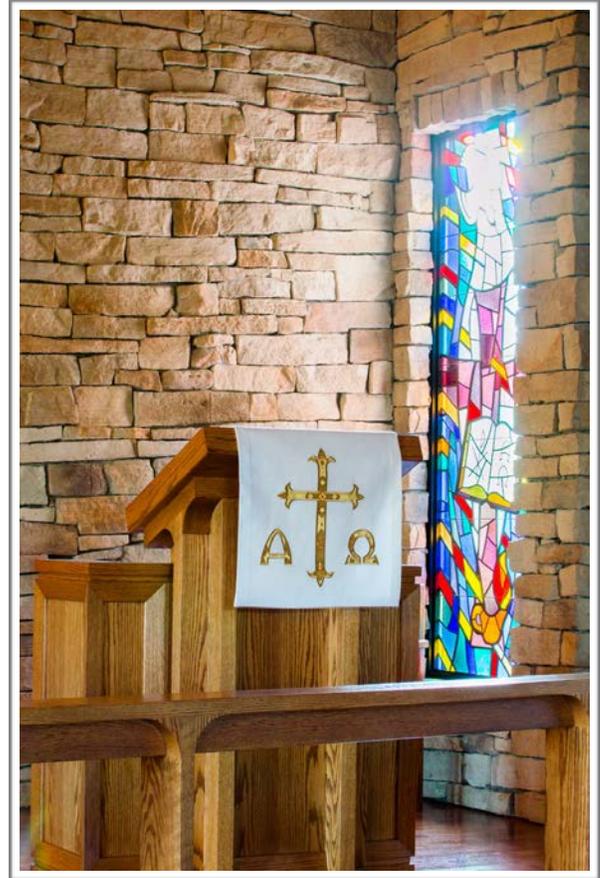
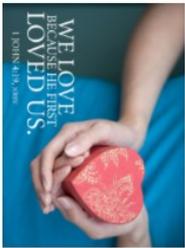


Photo Credit: Rachel Wilch



Beautiful Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Special Dates in March:						
6 – Ash Wednesday 13, 20, 27 – Midweek Lent Services 18-22 – No School/Spring Break 24 – Michigan Lutheran Seminary Concert 30 – Chili Cook-off						
3 Worship 8:30 & 11 AM Sunday School, 9:55 AM Bible Class, 9:55 AM <i>Holy Communion</i>	4 Youth Catechism for grades 5-8 7:30 PM	5 LES Boys BB home game against Grace Lutheran, 5:00 PM Church Council, 7 PM	6 Teen Group, 7 PM	7 LES BB home games Girls at 4 & Boys at 5 SS Teachers, 6 PM Bible Information Class, 7 PM Choir, 7 PM	1 Breakfast Club at Perkins in Fairfield 10 AM 2 Basketball tournament at MLS for grades 7-8	9 B&G, 9 AM
10 Worship 8:30 & 11 AM Sunday School, 9:55 AM Bible Class, 9:55 AM	11 Youth Catechism for grades 5-8 7:30 PM	12 Evangelism, 7 PM	13 Parenting Class 6:30 PM Teen Group 7:30 PM	14 Valentine's Day Bible Information Class, 7 PM Choir, 7 PM	15 Breakfast Club at Perkins in Fairfield 10 AM Grandparents' Day 1 to 3 PM	16 School Open House, 10-noon Elders, 8 AM Bd of Ed, 8:30 AM 55 Plus lunch at Olive Garden in Middletown, 11:30
17 Worship 8:30 & 11 AM Sunday School, 9:55 AM Bible Class, 9:55 AM <i>Holy Communion</i>	18 Youth Catechism for grades 5-8 7:30 PM	19	20 Parenting Class 6:30 PM Teen Group 7:30 PM	21 7th-8th Grade Group, 3:30 - 5 PM Bible Information Class, 7 PM Choir, 7 PM	22 Breakfast Club at Perkins in Fairfield 10 AM	23 Young Adults Fellowship
24 Worship 8:30 & 11 AM Sunday School, 9:55 AM Bible Class, 9:55 AM	25 Youth Catechism for grades 5-8 7:30 PM	26	27 Parenting Class 6:30 PM Teen Group 7:30 PM	28 Bible Information Class, 7 PM Choir, 7 PM		

Evangelism Corner

By Pastor Alex Groth



The next outreach event to keep in mind is our School Open House, which takes place this year on Saturday, February 16, from 10 am until noon. As you may know, the most effective form of advertising is word of mouth promotion. People are far more likely to visit a place for the first time if someone they know has vouched for it. We would love your help in marketing our school this year. To make this a little easier, we are planning a winter festival event to run simultaneously with the Open House. The festival will include fun family activities and food in the multipurpose room. The Board of Evangelism and Board of Education hope that you will invite other families to join you for the festival and take a tour of the facility

while you're here. The ultimate goal of this event is to invite more families to join us in worship and Bible study. So many people need to hear about Jesus; maybe your invite to our Open House/Winter Festival could be the first step in them hearing about their Savior!

Save the Date

Marriage Encounter Day

All married couples are invited to a Marriage encounter day at Beautiful Savior. Pastor Randy Hunter, Director of WELS Marriage Enrichment, will be officiating. The day will include Biblical lessons about marriage, meals, marriage renewal vows, photographs, and fellowship. Formal invitations will be sent out May 1.



Winter Wonderland

Fun in the Snow at Beautiful Savior



Students sledding during recess. Photography by Rachel Wilch.

Wednesdays this Winter

Parenting Class

As a parent, one of the biggest goals you might have is preparing your kids for the future. You want them to be ready for the day when you aren't there to help them through a problem. Recent studies have shown that many teens report feeling overwhelmed (31 percent) and depressed or sad (30 percent) as a result of stress. More than one-third of teens report fatigue or feeling tired (36 percent) and nearly one-quarter of teens (23 percent) report skipping a meal due to stress. Our winter parenting classes this year will focus on preparing your kids to handle those problems from a Christian perspective. Over three Wednesdays in February (13th, 20th, 27th) we will talk through what the Bible has to say about dealing with stress, disappointment, and tragedy. This would be a great outreach opportunity as well! Consider inviting a friend to hear the good news that God has for parents to hear!



Photo Credit: Rachel Wilch

Around School

Christian Education Week

We will be celebrating Christian Education Week from Friday, February 15 - Wednesday, February 20. Grandparents' Day will be Friday, February 15. Please have your children invite their grandparents to join us! Grandparents are invited to join us from 1:00-3:00. We will begin with all students and grandparents in the sanctuary at 1:00 PM.

Applications for 2019-2020 School Year

The 2019-2020 school year applications for all returning students and new students who are members of Beautiful Savior were due January 31. If you missed the deadline, please turn in your application(s) as soon as possible, as we rely on these applications to make our plans for the coming school year. New non-member students will be welcome to apply for enrollment at our Open House on Saturday morning, February 17, from 10:00 - Noon. If you have questions about enrollment or financial aid, please speak with Principal Dan Markgraf.

Coming up this Summer

International Youth Rally

This year's International Youth Rally is at Shepherd University in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, from July 15-18th. This year's Rally will feature great speakers, amazing games, and the chance to worship with a few hundred fellow Christians! There will be off-campus excursions to a state park and an amusement park. We will be organizing a group from our congregation; if you are interested, please let Pastor Groth know. The deadline for early bird pricing is March 16. Online registration is open now.

Programs Restarting Soon

Pioneer/Mornings with Mommy

There is some momentum for restarting two ministry programs: Pioneers and Mornings with Mommy. Here's some info about both of them:

- **Pioneers** – Children in grades 1-8 have a chance to study God's Word, play games, and learn practical skills each meeting. Those skills involve both indoor and outdoor activities.
- **Mornings with Mommy** - Parents bring their infants/toddlers for an hour of simple activities for enhancing motor skills, etc. The two goals would be 1) building relationships among our current families and 2) inviting new people to check out our church and school.

Look for more information about both of these programs in upcoming newsletters and the Weekly Update.



Pastor	Tom Westra	513-825-8005	Pastor_Westra@beautiful-savior.com
Pastor	Alex Groth	513-825-8005	Pastor_Groth@beautiful-savior.com
Principal	Dan Markgraf	513-825-2290	Principal@beautiful-savior.com
Vicar	Ethan Boese	513-825-8005	Vicar_Boese@beautiful-savior.com