

# BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



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### Pastors' Message:

## Jesus Christ is Our Great High Priest

The letter to the Hebrews calls Jesus our "great high priest." This Lenten season, in our midweek services, we will explore this powerful name of Christ. Through the songs, Scripture readings, and teaching, we will rediscover the perfect life of compassion, service, and sacrifice that Jesus lived for us. We will see that Christ serving as our Great High Priest is both assurance of our redemption through him alone and our motivation for our humble service in his name.

Ash Wednesday this year is February 14. Beginning that day and continuing to March 21, worship services will be held each Wednesday at 3:30 and 7:00 pm. Please gather with us as we contemplate the cross, fixing our eyes on Jesus who by his atoning sacrifice took away our sin and by whose wounds we are healed.

*Since we have a great priest over the house of God,  
let us draw near to God with a sincere heart...  
and let us consider how we may spur one another on  
toward love and good deeds. (Hebrews 10:22,24)*




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JESUS CHRIST  
IS OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST

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# The Passion History

## as Recorded in Mark

*Jesus was dying. I could do nothing to save him—not even to ease him. I could only watch and suffer the sorrow too. I was a child. Yet I saw every detail of his passion exactly as the Bible set it down. . . . On Wednesday evenings, late in winter, for a full six weeks preceding Easter . . . when my father took the Bible . . . and began to read the sorrows of Jesus, from the Last Supper to his last cry on the cross—I was there. . . . (The) winds of winter shrieked outside; but I wasn't in the white-brick church. I was nowhere in North Dakota. I had slipped into The Story.*

*(Reliving the Passion, Meditations on the Suffering, Death and Resurrection of Jesus as Recorded in Mark, Walter Wangerin Jr., Zondervan, 1992, p. 11-12).*

No story—no retelling of historical events—has more significance than this one: the retelling of Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection. In our midweek Lenten services, beginning with the 2nd one on February 21, and finishing on Easter morning, we will follow the account as given by Mark's Gospel—from the moment when the chief priests plot to kill Jesus to the resurrection. These readings are more than a retelling of past events. No, the story gets personal. It is our story. It tells how we have been saved from such a death as Jesus died and it is where we will all take our stand against sin and death and Satan. Walk with us as we follow in Jesus' footsteps in our reading of the Passion History from Mark's Gospel this Lenten season.



### The Death of Jesus

At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?").

When some of those standing near heard this, they said, "Listen, he's calling Elijah."

Someone ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to take him down," he said.

With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last.

The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, "Surely this man was the Son of God!" (Mark 15:33-39)

# Evangelism Corner

by **Pastor Alex Groth**

"So, how are things going?"

How many times a week do you 1) hear some version of this question asked of you or 2) casually ask someone this question? Sometimes we mean it as a conversation starter; we're generally interested in what the answer is. Sometimes it's just something to fill the otherwise awkward silence. I would like to transform your view of that simple question. What if it could be used as an excuse to talk about God?

What if you took this question seriously next time it was asked of you? Could you respond by talking about the blessings you have received from God that week in the form of food, clothes, employment, friends, family, etc.? Is it possible to show our genuine thankfulness for these wonderful everyday gifts without sounding obnoxious or fake? If things are not going very well at all, could you respond by talking about the encouragement you found in the Bible for dealing with frustration, anxiety, and tragedy? As Christians, we view everything through the lens of our faith. Is a simple question like this a chance to make that more apparent to the world around us?

What if you asked this simple question with a sense of purpose, in an effort to find out if someone in your life is hurting or in need of help? As a culture, we seem to be getting worse at listening; instead we often wait for our turn to talk. Could you pay closer attention and listen for chances to turn a conversation toward matters of faith? Is this person hurting? Do they feel alone? Helpless? These are problems we are especially equipped to address as Christians. As our culture makes us increasingly disconnected from one another, the value of a good listener rises exponentially.

So much of the interaction we have throughout our day tends to be pretty superficial. Let's fight back; we can start by taking this simple question and making it an opportunity for something deeper. Let's love our neighbor by pointing them to Christ in all things!

## Now Available Online **Live Streaming**

Live service streaming is now available on our church website, [www.beautiful-savior.com](http://www.beautiful-savior.com). Click on the "Media" tab to watch the 8:30 a.m. service live. The upcoming midweek Lenten services will also be added to the live streaming schedule. Video recordings are available if you tune in outside of service time. In addition, you can listen to previous sermons in the audio archive, or subscribe to them in your favorite podcast app.





# Beautiful Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church



# February 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 Worship 8:30 & 11 AM Sunday School, 9:55 AM Bible Class, 9:55 AM <i>Holy Communion</i> <i>Annual Voters' Mtg.</i> 12:00 PM	5 Youth Catechism for grades 5-8 7:30 PM	6 Church Council, 7 PM	7 Parenting Class - Topic: Social Media 6:30 PM Teen Group 7:30 PM	1 Sunday School Teachers' Mtg., 6 PM Bible Information Class, 7 PM Choir, 7 PM	2 Breakfast Club at Cracker Barrel in Forest Park, 10 AM  3 Basketball tournament at MLS for grades 7-8	10 Building & Grounds, 9 AM
11 Worship 8:30 & 11 AM Sunday School, 9:55 AM Bible Class, 9:55 AM	12 Youth Catechism for grades 5-8 7:30 PM	13 Evangelism, 7 PM	14 Valentine's Day Ash Wednesday Worship at 3:30 & 7:00 PM Teen Group, 8 PM	15 Bible Information Class, 7 PM Choir, 7 PM	16 Breakfast Club at Cracker Barrel in Forest Park, 10 AM Grandparents' Day 1 to 3 PM	17 School Open House, 10-11:00 AM  Bd of Ed, 9:30 AM 55 Plus lunch, 11:30 AM
18 Worship 8:30 & 11 AM Sunday School, 9:55 AM Bible Class, 9:55 AM <i>Holy Communion</i>	19 Youth Catechism for grades 5-8 7:30 PM	20	21 Midweek Lent Worship at 3:30 & 7:00 PM Teen Group, 8 PM	22 7th-8th Grade Group, 3:15 PM Bible Information Class, 7 PM Choir, 7 PM	23 No School Parent/Teacher Conferences Breakfast Club at Cracker Barrel in Forest Park, 10 AM	24 Elders, 8 AM
25 Worship 8:30 & 11 AM Sunday School, 9:55 AM Bible Class, 9:55 AM	26 Youth Catechism for grades 5-8 7:30 PM	27	28 Midweek Lent Worship at 3:30 & 7:00 PM Teen Group, 8 PM	Special Dates in March: 7, 14, 21 – Midweek Lent Services at 3:30 or 7:00 PM 10 – Church Spring cleaning, 9:30 AM 17 – <b>Chili Cook-off/New Member Welcome</b> 25 – Palm Sunday/Confirmation during 11:00 service 29 – Maundy Thursday worship, 7 PM with the Lord's Supper 30 – Good Friday worship, 7 PM 3/30-4/6 – Easter break/No School		



Sundays in Lent

**Examination and Confirmation**

The season of Lent brings with it many wonderful things, including special opportunities to reflect on the great depths of God’s unconditional love, which is evident in Jesus’ march to the cross. At Beautiful Savior, the season of Lent also means Examination and Confirmation. On the Sundays of Lent, our 8th graders will have the opportunity to publicly confess what they have learned in the Bible. The basic parts of Luther’s Catechism are spread out over the five weeks leading up to Palm Sunday, when Confirmation will take place this year. This public Examination also gives the congregation a good chance to review the beautiful doctrines they have learned to know from God’s Word. Confirmation Day becomes a great chance for our 8th graders to demonstrate their lifelong commitment to Christian education and to reflect on all God has done for them to this point.

Even if you do not personally know one of the confirmands, we would ask you to pray for them. Pray that they focus on what God calls the one thing needful for our entire time here on earth: time with Him in the Word. Look for any opportunities you might have to encourage them on their walk with God, a walk which can be especially difficult in high school and college. As members of the family at Beautiful Savior, it is our great privilege to help each other along the path to heaven.

This Summer

**2018 International Youth Rally**

This year’s International Youth Rally is at Bowling Green State University from June 26-29. This year’s Rally will feature great speakers, amazing games, off-campus excursions, and the chance to worship with 2,000 fellow Christians! We will be organizing a group from our congregation; if you are interested, please let Pastor Groth know. Online registration begins on March 1.



 <p><b>Beautiful SAVIOR</b></p>	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	Ben Birner	513-825-8005	Vicar_Birner@beautiful-savior.com