

BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



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School musicals, 8th grade graduation, and Chapel Buddy Sunday are all happening this month. And, our Kindergarten program will be expanded beginning this fall with the 2018-2019 school year.

Pastors' Message:

The Plans of God*

Scripture makes it clear that God plans. Through the prophet Isaiah God says, **“Surely, as I have planned, so it will be...”** (Isaiah 14:24).

God planned his creation. St. Paul tells us, **“For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse”** (Romans 1:20). By looking at nature, mankind can not only tell that there is a God, he can also tell that God is wise and powerful. This ability of nature — to communicate truths about God — is not accidental. God planned that nature would work that way.

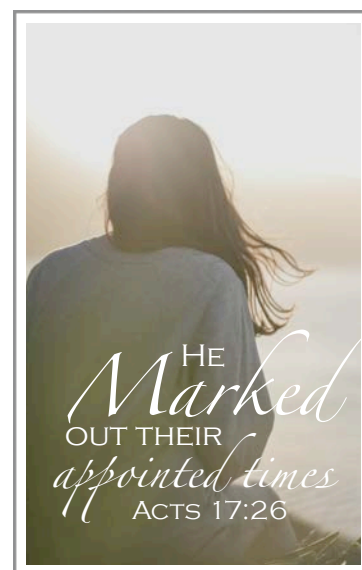
God planned not just for his creation in general, but for mankind in specific. We read in the book of Acts, **“From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us”** (17:26-27). Notice God planned when and where various peoples would live. The goal in all his planning was to draw close to mankind.

God planned for his Church too. For example, in the Old Testament era, God planned exactly how and where the Israelites were to worship. God even designed the tabernacle himself. He told Moses, **“Set up the tabernacle according to the plan shown you on the mountain”** (Exodus 26:30).

Throughout that Old Testament era God lovingly would continue to reveal bits and pieces about his plan of salvation. **“Surely the Sovereign Lord does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets”** (Amos 3:7).

The New Testament began with the birth of Jesus. That date was not random. It was part of God’s plan of salvation. Paul tells us, **“When the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to**

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redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship” (Galatians 4:4,5). Jesus was only born when it was time, according to God’s plan.

When Jesus rose from the dead, he shared his plan with the Church. **“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth”** (Acts 1:8).

How does the Lord Almighty make plans? Obviously, the one who created all things in six 24-hour days does not need to spend months sketching out goals and objectives or outlining tasks and processes. When Scripture says that God plans, it is not to teach us how to plan. We cannot plan with the speed or skill or certainty that God can. No. Scripture tells us that God plans simply to assure us of this amazing truth:

We are on his mind.

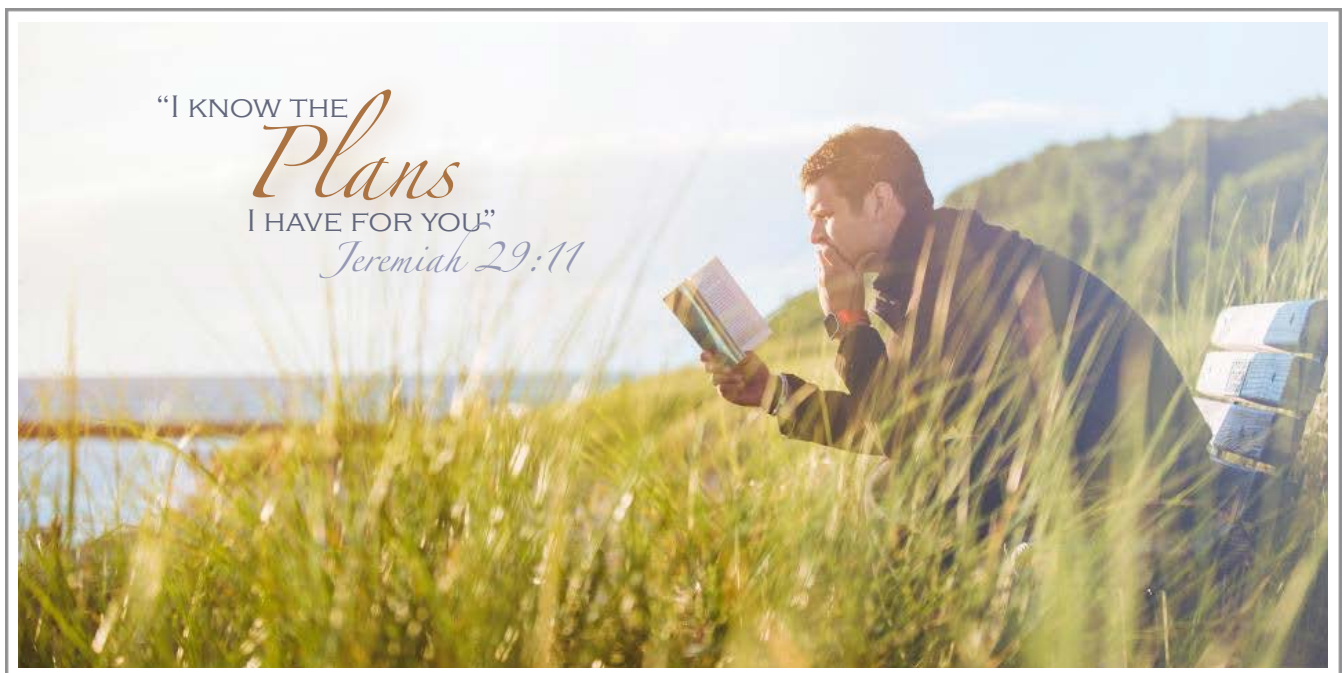
We have been on his mind from all eternity. **“[The Father] chose us in [Christ] before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight”** (Ephesians 1:4). Before the world took one spin on its axis, God looked through time, saw you, and planned to work through the events of this world and his Church to bring you to faith.

God has plans to work things out for our eternal good. **“I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future”** (Jeremiah 29:11). By Christ’s death and resurrection, that is exactly what God gave us — unshakable hope and an eternal future of glory.

And so we plan as well. We do not plan because God did it. We do not plan because God commanded it. We plan because God is now on our minds.

We plan, because we want to show love for him who first loved us. We plan, because we want to serve him as well as we possibly can. We plan, because the time for us to work is short. We plan.

Prayer: Dearest Jesus, thank you for the privilege of calling us to positions of leadership within your Church. Send your Holy Spirit to be with us and grant us wisdom as we consider how we can best plan our efforts in your Kingdom. In your name we pray. Amen.



Evangelism Corner

By Pastor Alex Groth

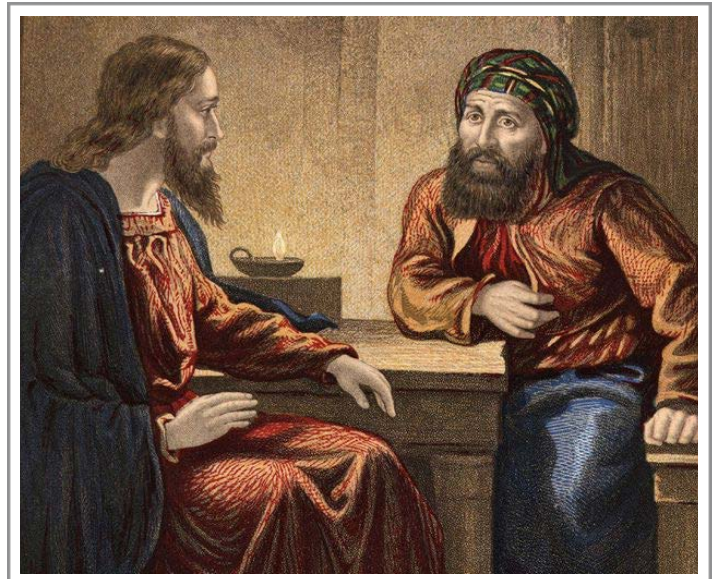
Over the next few months in this section, we will take a look at some evangelism opportunities from the Bible that might help our own work feel a little more practical. This month we'll focus on Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus.

Bible section: John 3:1-21

Background: Nicodemus was part of the group of Jewish leaders, who would eventually get Jesus killed. Nicodemus, however, recognized Jesus as being sent from God, so he went to Jesus and asked some questions. Nicodemus was afraid of what might happen to him socially or physically if people found out he was going to Jesus, so the visit took place in the middle of the night.

Approach: Nicodemus began the conversation by addressing Jesus' miracles. These amazing acts caught Nicodemus' attention and made him hungry for more information about Jesus. In response, Jesus cut right to the heart of the issue: there was a spiritual problem all people need to address. Deep down all people recognize that some kind of judgment is coming. Everyone's natural knowledge of the law tells them that there's going to be a divine performance review or parent/teacher conference for us at some point, probably when we die. We don't have a good feeling about that review because we know we do things that make us secretly ashamed, embarrassed, and horrified.

Even though Nicodemus knew in his heart this was true, it still would have been shocking to hear Jesus say it out aloud. Nicodemus was a Pharisee, a religious teacher. He had been honored by the people! He was



used to thinking of himself a certain way. But now as he sat with Jesus he realized that he, of all people, was locked out of God's kingdom. Jesus makes that so clear when he says that flesh gives birth to flesh. He's teaching the doctrine of original sin. Along with all the biological genes that make us look the way we do, you and I also received a sinful nature from our parents, no matter how good or bad you think they were or are. That's why Jesus says we need to be born again, because we were born sinful, without any hope of eternal life.

Nicodemus still expressed confusion about what Jesus was saying, and Jesus gently admonished him for his lack of knowledge about God's plan of salvation. Nicodemus was one of Israel's respected teachers, and yet he didn't know the basics of how sins were forgiven. Suddenly through that fog of confusion, a bright ray of sunshine exploded into view: John 3:16. Martin Luther said these words are able to make the sad happy and the dead alive. God's Son came to this world to share in our worst experiences, to know exactly what we face and to fix it forever. He did that by dying on a cross and rising from the dead. This was all part of the plan to save the entire world...by being a perfect sacrifice. Jesus showed Nicodemus that entering God's kingdom has nothing to do with dressing yourself up or changing who you are. It's all about the way God has

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May 2018



Beautiful Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6 Worship 8:30 & 11 AM Sunday School, 9:55 AM Bible Class, 9:55 AM <i>Holy Communion</i>	7 Pastor's Conference at Beautiful Savior 5/7 through 5/9	8 Election Day Evangelism, 7 PM	9 Teen Group, 7 PM	10 Bible Information Class, 7 PM Choir, 7 PM	11 Breakfast Club at Cracker Barrel in Forest Park, 10 AM	12 Young Adults event (Time TBD) Family Game Night 6 PM
13 Worship 8:30 & 11 AM Sunday School, 9:55 AM Bible Class, 9:55 AM	14	15	16 Teen Group, 7 PM	17 Bible Information Class, 7 PM Choir, 7 PM 7th-8th Grade Group, 3:30-5 PM	18 Breakfast Club at Cracker Barrel in Forest Park, 10 AM	19 Bd of Ed, 9:30 AM 55 Plus Luncheon at The Silver Spring House, 11:30 AM
20 Worship 8:30 & 11 AM Sunday School, 9:55 AM Bible Class, 9:55 AM <i>Holy Communion</i> Chapel Buddy Sunday and 8th Grade Graduation, 11 AM	21	22	23 Preschool/ Kindergarten School Plays, 6:30 PM Teen Group, 7:30 PM	24 Grades 1 to 8 School Plays 6:30 PM	25 Breakfast Club at Cracker Barrel in Forest Park, 10 AM Last Day of School 11:30 Dismissal	26
27 Worship 8:30 & 11 AM Sunday School, 9:55 AM Bible Class, 9:55 AM	28 	29	30 Midweek Worship, 7 PM Teen Group, 8 PM	31 Bible Information Class, 7 PM	Special Dates in June: 11-13 — Michigan District Convention at MLS 15 — Kids' movie & Adult game night 16 — Birner/Kent Wedding in Wisconsin 26-29 — WELIS Youth Rally in Bowling Green 29 — Westra/Schmidt Wedding 30 — VBS on the road at Harbin Park	

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already graciously changed you through Christ. God gave away all that he had; there was nothing more to give than his Son. All adjectives die and fall away when it comes to describing that love.

Lessons learned:

- Do you know people who have a church background that focuses them on their own good works? How many churches teach people to think like Nicodemus and the rest of the Pharisees? Jesus' interaction here shows us how to approach people wrestling with works righteousness.
- Jesus showed Nicodemus his spiritual needs so that he could show him how the cross satisfies those needs. It wasn't enjoyable for Nicodemus to hear about his own inability to enter the kingdom of God, but it was extremely necessary. We lovingly share the Law of God so that we might lovingly share the Gospel. Keep the cross in mind as your end goal. That's where you hope to take the conversation.
- Nicodemus was afraid of what might happen if people found out he was becoming a Christian. People you encounter may be hesitant to jump right into regular church life. It's good for us to be patient and take people at their own pace and comfort level.
- Do you know someone like Nicodemus? Someone who has shown a casual interest in Christianity? Someone who feels anxiety or guilt over their relationship with God? The time is now to reach out to them. May God bless your efforts!

Mark Your Calendars

Outreach Opportunities in May and June

We have three special outreach events coming up in May and June! Join us for:

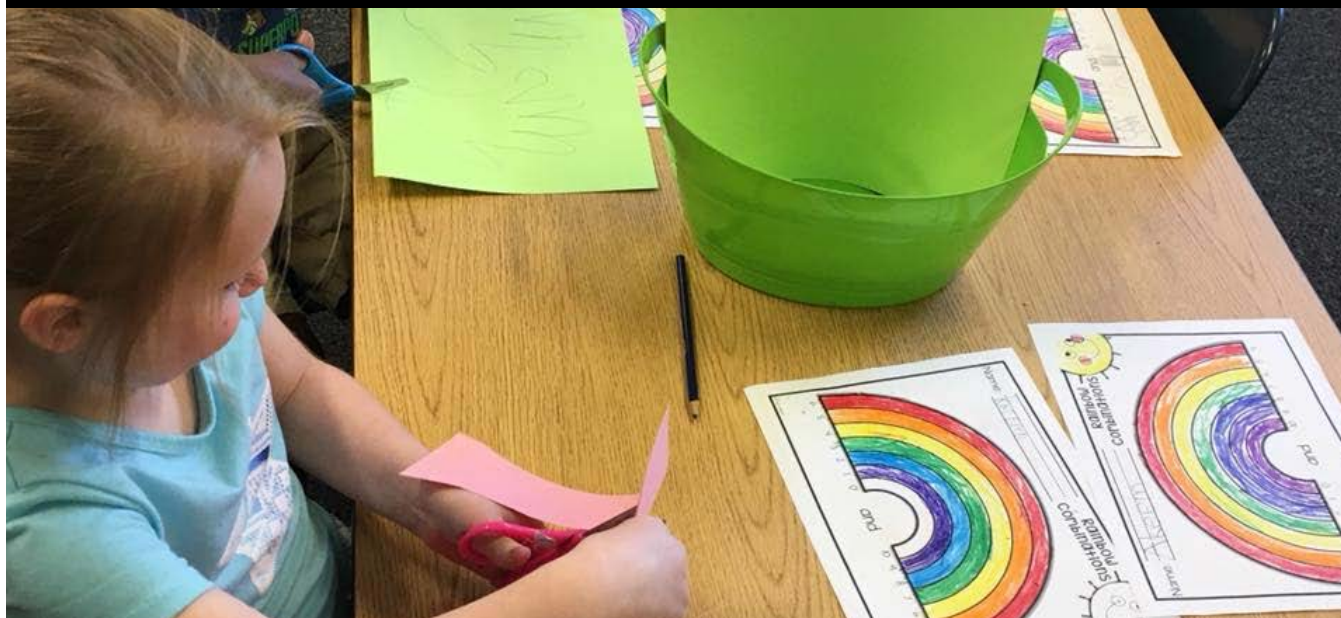
- Game Night – On Saturday, May 12, we will have a night of board games for adults and kids alike. This would be a great low-pressure event for an unchurched person you know.
- Movie Night – On Friday, June 15, we will have a movie night for kids and game night for adults.
- VBS on the Road – On Saturday, June 30th, we will have a morning VBS event at Harbin Park in Fairfield. Invite a friend to hear about Jesus and meet some of our school/church staff!

Upcoming Young Adults Event

May Service Project

Our next young adults event will take place on Saturday, May 12th. Our service project this month will be helping out at a local nursing home. The young adults group is aimed at people ages 18-29, but all are welcome to attend. Contact Pastor Groth for more information





Around School

Kindergarten Expansion

The voters of Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church voted unanimously to approve the Board of Education's recommendation to expand our kindergarten to five full days beginning this fall with the 2018-2019 school year. The five day program aligns more with the national trend toward five full days of kindergarten, and it gives working parents a better option.

The kindergarten tuition rates will be the same rates as grades 1-8 with the same member discount and multi-child discount for members.

We are still accepting applications for preschool, kindergarten and all grade levels for next year. If you have family, neighbors or friends who are looking for a school, invite them to come for a visit and check us out!

Chapel Buddy Sunday

We are planning a Chapel Buddy Sunday for Sunday, May 20th, in the 11:00 am worship service. We will also recognize this year's 8th graders who will graduate this year during the same service. Pairs of students will sit together for the service, just as they did during chapel years ago. Everyone will meet in the fellowship hall that day at 10:50 AM to be matched up with their former buddies. We will have an area of the sanctuary reserved for the students to sit. After the service we will have some light refreshments for the group. We are hoping that high school students and current students are able to make it. Please email Pastor Groth at pastor_groth@beautiful-savior.com if your child will be able to participate!

School Musicals

We're looking ahead to the last week of school already! Our students will be performing musicals for you to come and enjoy. Preschool and kindergarten will be putting on a musical on Wednesday, May 23 at 6:30 PM. Grades 1-4 and grades 5-8 will each have a musical on Thursday, May 24 at 6:30 PM. Put it on your calendar and invite your family and friends to join us!



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