

Good News!

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Woven Together: Reflections on the 2026 ELCA Rostered Ministers Gathering

by The Rev. Leah R. Lawson

I had the opportunity to attend the 2026 ELCA Rostered Ministers Gathering in Indianapolis July 6-9. This was my first time attending this event and it was wonderful! Our time was together included powerful preaching, thought-provoking speakers, and inspired worship. I have to admit, sometimes it's nice to just sit in the crowd with other worshipers and not be in a leadership position during worship. Don't get me wrong, I love leading God's people in worship, but there are those times when it's nice not to be thinking two or three steps ahead and just be present in the moment.

Our new Presiding Bishop, The Rev. Yehiel Curry, was one of our keynote speakers. He is so fun and has a great sense of humor. I had the opportunity to introduce myself and found him to be approachable and authentic. We also heard an incredible sermon from our new Secretary, The Rev. Lucille "CeCee" Mills. I was amazed! She was honest and engaging. It's so inspiring as a preacher to hear others proclaim good news!



Continue on page 6

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Council News	2
Financial News.....	3
General Interest.....	4-6
Calendar.....	7

Worship

Sundays Mornings
9:30 AM with communion



Office Hours -

Monday - Thursday,
9:00AM-12:00PM, 1:00-3:00PM
(closed during the noon hour)
Friday, 9:00AM- 12:00 PM

Staff:

Leah Lawson, Pastor
Cheryl Hall, Office Manager
Marsha Moller, Music Director

Council met on July 20 for their monthly meeting.

Council Members Present: Pastor Leah Lawson, Spencer Berry, Jessica Berg
Mark Newman, Gene Reneau, Linda Allen, Jeff Worley, Nancy Conley, Mary Jones
Office Manager: Cheryl Hall
Council Members Absent: D' Ann Berry, Nancy Conley

Finance – Noted: June had less income with a sizable expense (parking lot resurfacing). However, the church finances for the year are in good shape.

Old Business

- Calendar reviewed: Noted that Cheryl Hall will be on vacation starting July 29 through the first week in August, returning to the office August 10.
- Pastor Leah thanked the council for providing travel funds to attend the ELCA Rostered Ministers Gathering. She will write an article about the experience that will appear in the August newsletter.
- A new refrigerator will be purchased to replace the leaking refrigerator in the closet outside the fellowship hall. The funds will be taken from both Social Concerns and Fellowship dedicated accounts

Other

- Council will start the budget process in August. Worksheets will be passed out.

Social Concerns

- High Plains Food Bank (HPFB) food items remain EXTREMELY tight. We were able to obtain a small supply of hamburger meat (25 - 1 lb. packages).
- Clients visiting BSLC Food Pantry in 2026 has increased by 100 for months March – June vs same period in 2025.
- Purchased freezer locks for both upright freezers in Food Pantry room. Objective is to make sure freezer doors are fully closed.

Worship—You have likely noticed the beautiful new wine flagon in use the past few weeks. The silverplated vessel has solved the problem of breakage experienced with delicate glass decanters and should last for many years to come.

Church Council:

Spencer Berry, Council President; **Jeff Worley**, VP, **D'Ann Berry**, Treasurer; **Nancy Conley**, Secretary; **Jessica Berg**, Education/Youth; **Mary Jones** Fellowship; **Gene Reneau**, Property; **Mark Newman**, Social Concerns, **Linda Allen**, Worship

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church

Treasurer's Report June Fiscal Year 2026

INCOME	Month		
<u>OFFERINGS</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
GENEAL FUND ENVELOPE	15,335.86	146,129.89	118,750.02
GENERAL FUND LOOSE	144.00	882.00	499.98
OTHER RECEIPTS			
BUILDING USE	790.00	5,790.00	3,499.98
MISCELLANEOUS	10.00	130.00	124.98
Total Income	16,279.86	152,931.89	122,874.96
 <u>EXPENSE</u>			
Total Expense	26,340.60	127,198.39	122,031.60
Net Income	-10,060.74	25,733.50	843.36

General Fund Offering and Attendance

July 5 general fund: \$3670; attendance: 48

July 12
general fund: \$3690; attendance: 51

July 19
general fund \$3565; attendance 61

July 26
general fund: \$4685; attendance: 68

A Friendly Reminder! When you sponsor flowers and/or bulletins don't forget to turn in the appropriate form and submit your payment. Flowers are \$25 and Bulletins are \$10. Thank you!



Why Me?

When we're faced with unexpected hardship, our first impulse is often to ask, "Why me, O God? Why me?"

Yet when a blessing comes our way, we receive it with gratitude and rarely ask the same question: "Why me, O God? Why me?"

GOOD NEWS
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08/07 Kenneth Berry
08/15 Corinne Wright
08/21 Marsha Moller
08/25 Keith Rosenthal
08/28 Carla Nuss
08/31 Alex Sanchez
Noah Sanchez

Food Pantry Needs – Food items at the High Plains Food Bank remain tight to non-existent. When you are out shopping and if you are in a position financially to do so, please consider picking up some jelly, pasta, and/or pasta sauce. Since our freezers are full of tortillas, we are not in need of bread at this time. Thank you for your support of this vital ministry!

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

For our members

Jon Edler, Audrey Holman, Kenneth Huckabee, Beatrice Kirkeeng, Donna Nuss, Beverly Roush, Sonia Sanchez, Jan Werner, Evelyn Wells, Judy Rohloff



PRAYER
LIST

Please keep the family and friends of Bill Tietgens in your prayers upon his passing.

For our family members and friends

Elizabeth, Allen & Rhonda, Deborah W., Aiden, Lana K., Steve, Nickie, Mark, Donnie, Cynthia, Mike, Sharon, Brant, Melissa, Judy L., Mary L., Hattie, Lauren, Jessica, Rodger, Pr. Mike & Sharon, Ellie Hanes and her family, Jimmy, Monica, Sandra, Anthony, Scott A., Art De Mar, Monty M., Judy S., Judy B. and her family, Alan N., Corey & Cassie Runker.

Please keep the family and friends of former member Steven Barham in your prayers upon his passing.

Please keep the family and friends of Phyllis Thorson in your prayers upon her passing. Phyllis is the aunt of Laurie Dale.

For those serving in the military

Specialist Noah Moller, Captain Alan Kassouf, Major Erik Lawson

If you need pastoral care of a visit or phone call, contact the church office at 806-359-9483

To add prayer requests into the church's prayers in the weekly bulletin and/or the prayer chain call/email the church. To join the prayer chain by email, contact the church office at beautifulsavioramarillo@gmail.com

Meetings & Misc. Calendar

Keenagers meet on August 5 for a pot-luck lunch.

The Women's Study Group will meet Tuesdays, August 11 and 26 at 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall. We will continue the lecture series from The Great Courses titled, *The History of Christianity II: From the Reformation to the Modern Megachurch*. All women of the congregation are invited to join us!

The Wired Word will not meet during the summer. We will resume meeting sometime in October. Stay tuned for details!

- Council meets August 17 at 7:00 pm.

Sunday, August 2, 2026

First Reading: Isaiah 55:1-5

God invites Israel to a great feast at which both food and drink are free. God also promises to make an everlasting covenant with all peoples, with promises that previously had been limited to Israel.

Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21

You open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. (Ps. 145:16)

Second Reading: Romans 9:1-5

This begins a new section in Paul's letter in which he will deal with the place of Israel in God's saving plan.

Gospel: Matthew 14:13-21

After John the Baptist is murdered, Jesus desires a time of solitude. Still, his compassion for others will not allow him to dismiss those who need him, and he is moved to perform one of his greatest miracles.

Sunday, August 9, 2026

First Reading: 1 Kings 19:9-18

On Mount Horeb, where God had appeared to Moses with typical signs of God's presence—earthquake, wind, and fire—Elijah now experienced God in "sheer silence." God assured Elijah that he is not the only faithful believer.

Psalm: Psalm 85:8-13

Second Reading: Romans 10:5-15

A right relationship with God is not something we achieve by heroic efforts. It is a gift received in the proclamation whose content is Jesus Christ.

Gospel: Matthew 14:22-33

Matthew's gospel typically portrays Jesus' disciples as people of "little faith," who fail despite their best intentions. In this story, Matthew shows how Jesus comes to the disciples when they are in trouble and sustains them in their time of fear and doubt.

Sunday, August 16, 2026

First Reading: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

The prophet calls upon Israel to do justice in view of God's imminent intervention to save. Righteousness and obedience define who belongs to the Israelite community—not race, nationality, or any other category.

Psalm: Psalm 67

Let all the peoples praise you, O God. (Ps. 67:3)

Second Reading: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

God has not rejected Israel. Rather, the call and gifts of God are irrevocable so that, while all have been disobedient, God has mercy upon all.

Gospel: Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

Jesus teaches his disciples that true purity is a matter of the heart rather than outward religious observances. Almost immediately, this teaching is tested when a woman considered to be a religious outsider approaches him for help.

Sunday, August 23, 2026

First Reading: Isaiah 51:1-6

Just as God had called Abraham and Sarah and given them many descendants, so now God offers comfort to Zion. God's deliverance will come soon and will never end.

Psalm: Psalm 138

O Lord, your steadfast love endures forever. (Ps. 138:8)

Second Reading: Romans 12:1-8

In response to God's merciful activity, we are to worship by living holistic, God-pleasing lives. Our values and viewpoints are not molded by the time in which we live but are transformed by the Spirit's renewing work. God's grace empowers different forms of service among Christians, but all forms of ministry function to build up the body of Christ.

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

At a climactic point in Jesus' ministry, God reveals to Peter that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and Jesus responds with the promise of a church that will overcome the very gates of Hades.

Sunday, August 30, 2026

First Reading: Jeremiah 15:15-21

Jeremiah's delight in the word of the Lord is contradicted by the heaviness of God's hand upon him and God's seeming unfaithfulness. God's tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words, "I am with you."

Psalm: Psalm 26:1-8

Your love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you. (Ps. 26:3)

Second Reading: Romans 12:9-21

Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.

Gospel: Matthew 16:21-28

After Peter confesses that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a "rock."

If you are not sure how to pronounce some of the names in the readings, below is a link to help you and also a link to look up readings from the NRSVUE Bible. <https://biblespeak.org/NRSVUE> Bible Online: Bible Gateway.com

Continued from page one

We also had opportunities to attend workshops and spend time with our colleagues. One of the workshops I attended was about the ELCA Church Property Resource Hub. It's an incredible resource that helps congregations navigate a variety of topics dealing with the stewardship of our church buildings and property. I also had the opportunity to attend a group for rostered women. We had an opportunity to share stories and experiences. I'm so thankful for opportunities to have conversations and be in community with colleagues!

The theme of our time together was "Woven Together." Our Artist-in-Residence for the event was Lori Kochanski, a fiber artist and a crisis caseworker. She faithfully sat at her loom creating a beautiful banner made out of fabric scraps, big and small. I'm still thinking about how the art of weaving can be used to help us talk about our relationship with God and with one another.

I want to thank everyone in the congregation for their support. Your financial support to our ministry makes it possible for me to attend these types of events. I was able to use my Continuing Education funds to cover the cost of the registration fee. The church council voted to help cover travel expenses. I also received financial assistance from our Synod. I'm grateful for this opportunity and I hope that I'm able to attend this event again in the future.

In Every Season, Turn to God

Are you enjoying a happy time? *Praise God.*

Is life becoming difficult? *Seek God.*

Are you experiencing a quiet moment? *Worship God.*

Are you suffering great pain? *Trust God.*

Are you unsure what to do? *Ask God.*

Are you overwhelmed with joy? *Thank God.*



August 2026

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Lord, make us mindful of the joy your grace can be to us. Grant us the gift of your presence, we pray.

1

2
9:30
Worship
10:30
-Fellowship

3

4

5
FP 10-12

12 pm
Keenagers

6

7

8

9
9:30
Worship
10:30
-Fellowship

10

11
10 am
Women's
Study

12
FP 10-12

13

14

15

16
9:30
Worship
10:30
-Fellowship

17

7 pm
Council

18

19
FP 10-12

20

21

22

23
9:30
Worship
10:30
-Fellowship

24

25
10 am
Women's
Study

26
FP 10-12

27

28

29

30
9:30
Worship
10:30
-Fellowship

31



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Amarillo, Texas 79109
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FYI - Our worship services are now live streamed on Beautiful Savior's Facebook page: [Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church-Amarillo](#) Pass it along.