

An Unexpected Opportunity: Update

by The Rev. Leah R. Lawson

I want to share with you all an update regarding the possible relationship between Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church and St. Peter's Episcopal Church. As both congregations continue their journeys of discernment, Mother Beverly and I had another conversation on August 14. We agreed that we need to bring both congregations together for worship and a potluck. Our Church Council and St. Peter's Vestry, the Episcopal term for a church council, both agreed on Sunday, September 14, as the date.

We will gather for worship at our usual time, 9:30 AM, here at Beautiful Savior. Mother Beverly and I will work together to plan the worship service. I envision a worship experience that will bring together elements from both the Lutheran and Episcopal traditions. We will celebrate Holy Communion together, as God's beloved children. Also, Mother Beverly and I are going to preach the sermon together!

We live in a world full of division and uncertainty. The opportunity for Beautiful Savior and St. Peter's to gather together for worship, share in the sacrament of Holy Communion, have conversations, laugh, eat, and get to know one another could provide all of us a small glimpse into what the Kingdom of God looks like. We acknowledge that we are divided by our Christian denominational differences, our political affiliations, our social status, our tax brackets, and all those other things of this world that cause tension and strife in and among human beings. Maybe, just maybe, all those things of the world can be placed somewhere else and we can just focus on being together, loving as Christ loved us, for the sake of a broken world.

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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

FINANCIAL NEWS

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church

Treasurer's ReportJuly Fiscal Year 2025

Month

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<u>OFFERINGS</u>		Actu	ıal	Budget
GENERL FUND ENVEL	OPE	12,7	32.83	19,333.33
GENERAL FUND LOOS	SE	4	40.00	83.33
OTHER RECEIPTS				
BUILDING USE		32	20.00	458.33
MISCELLANEOUS		,	10.00	20.83
1	Total Income	13,10	2.83	19,895.82
<u>EXPENSE</u>		19,88	30.26	19,697.29
	Total Exper		16,840.82	2

General Fund Offering and Attendance

August 3

general fund: 1925; attendance: 61

August 10

general fund: \$2820; attendance: 64

August 17

general fund: \$3715; attendance: 63

August 24

general fund: \$850; attendance: 52

August 31 Not available



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Council met on August 18 for a business meeting.

Council Members: Jeff Worley, Mark Newman, Nancy Conley, Gene Reneau, Blair Berg, Linda Allen

Office Manager: Cheryl Hall

Council Members Absent: Pastor Leah Lawson, Spencer Berry, Deanna Rosenthal

St Peter's Episcopal update

Pr. Leah and Mother Beverley have suggested a joint worship service. Council set the date for September 14 with a pot luck luncheon to follow.

Property:

Water bill for July was high due to a malfunction that reset the water sprinklers.

Trees were pruned on the church property.

The roof will be checked for damage after a recent hail storm

Carpet cleaning for the office and halls will be scheduled soon.

Social Concerns:

The Food Pantry fed 124 during the month of July 2025.

We Obtained 360 pounds (1 pound packages) ground beef from High Plains Food Bank (HPFB).

Acquired new 7 cu. ft. freezer as additional space for ground beef and other frozen items.

Sherrill Pohl has resigned her Volunteer position with the Food Pantry after 20 years of service.

A meeting with Food Pantry volunteers will be scheduled soon.

Synod Grant Livestream Equipment Update

The camera has been installed in the sanctuary; but audio still needs adjusting.

Calendar Notes:

Cheryl Hall will be on vacation the first two weeks in September.

The wresting group will begin using the gym on September 21 and is booked through January 2026.

Church Council:

Spencer Berry, Council President; Jeff Worley; VP, Blair Berg, Treasurer; Nancy Conley, Secretary; Deanna Rosenthal, Education/Youth; Ann Marie Shadduck, Fellowship; Gene Reneau, Property; Mark Newman, Social Concerns, Linda Allen, Worship

Meetings & Misc. Calendar

-Keenagers meet on Wednesday, September 3 at noon for a pot-luck lunch. Hosts: Lucille Longhofer, Sally Lehrmann & Dorothy Bivens

- -The **Women's Study Group** meets on Tuesdays,
 September 9 and 30 at
 10 AM.
 - **Council** meets Monday, September 15 at 7 pm

A Joint Worship and Pot-Luck Brunch with St Peter's Episcopal Church on September 14 is planned. GOOD NEWS Volume 65 Issue 9 September 2025



09/01 Rochelle Berg 09/03 Blair Berg 09/27 Marian Cole

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

For our members

Audrey Holman, Sonia Sanchez, Keith Rosenthal, Betty Loomis

For our family members and friends

Elizabeth, Curtis & Barbara W., Erin, Allen & Rhonda, Deborah W., Aiden, Lana K., Steve, Nickie, Mark, Donnie, Cynthia, Don, Mike, Sharon, Brant, Holly, Wayne, and Susan.

For our homebound members

Kenneth Huckabee, Beverly Roush, Donna Nuss, Jon Edler, and Beatrice Kirkeeng

For our state – The people of the Texas Hill Country affected by flash flooding.

For our nation – The people of Utah affected by the wildfires.

<u>For those serving in the military</u> - Sergeant Luke Butler, Major Erik Lawson

2025 NT-NL Prayer Partners

We invite individuals and congregations to join us in prayer for our congregations, leaders, and partners in mission.

Pray for Leadership Formation and our Parish Lay Ministry Academy (PLMA).

Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM)





If you need pastoral care of a visit or phone call, contact the church office at 359-9483 (Pastor Leah's office hours are 9 am to 4 pm Monday – Thursday).

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

Sunday Scripture Readings

Sunday, September 7

First Reading: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Moses speaks to the Israelites, who are about to enter the land promised to their ancestors. In this passage, he lays out the stark choice before them: choose life by loving and obeying the Lord; or choose death by following other gods.

Psalm: Psalm 1

They are like trees planted by streams of water. (Ps. 1:3)

Second Reading: Philemon 1-21

Onesimus, a new Christian and a man enslaved by Philemon, has helped Paul, who is in prison. Paul writes this letter to his friend Philemon to encourage him to receive Onesimus, upon his return, as a sibling in Christ.

Gospel: Luke 14:25-33

Jesus speaks frankly about the costs of discipleship. Those who follow him should know from the outset that completing the course of discipleship will finally mean renouncing all other allegiances.

<u>Sunday, September 14</u>

First Reading: Exodus 32:7-14

While Moses is on Mount Sinai, the people grow restless and make a golden calf to worship. Today's reading shows Moses as the mediator between an angry God and a sinful people. Moses reminds God that the Israelites are God's own people, and boldly asks for mercy for them.

Psalm: Psalm 51:1-10

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love. (Ps. 51:1)

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 1:12-17

The letters to Timothy and Titus are called the pastoral epistles because they contain advice especially intended for leaders in the church.

Gospel: Luke 15:1-10

Jesus tells two stories that suggest a curious connection between the lost being found and sinners repenting. God takes the initiative to find sinners, each of whom is so precious to God that their recovery brings joy in heaven.

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Sunday, September 21 First Reading: Amos 8:4-7

Amos was called by God to prophesy in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Peace and prosperity in Israel led to corrupt business practices and oppression of the poor.

Psalm: Psalm 113

The Lord lifts up the poor from the ashes. (Ps. 113:7)

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

The pastoral epistles offer insight into how early Christians understood many practical matters, such as church administration and worship. The church's focused prayer for others is an expression of the single-minded passion God has toward us in Jesus.

Gospel: Luke 16:1-13

Jesus tells the curious story of a dishonest manager who cheats his employer and then is commended by him for having acted so shrewdly.

Sunday, September 28

First Reading: Amos 6:1a, 4-7

The prophet Amos announces that Israel's great wealth is a cause not for rejoicing but rather sorrow, because God's people have forgotten how to share their wealth with the poor. The wealthy will be the first to go into exile when judgment comes.

Psalm: Psalm 146

The Lord gives justice to those who are oppressed. (Ps. 146:7)

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 6:6-19

Timothy is reminded of the confession he made at his baptism and of its implications for daily life. His priorities will be different from those of people who merely want to be rich.

Gospel: Luke 16:19-31

Jesus tells a parable in which the poor one is "lifted up" and the rich one is "sent away empty." Jesus makes it clear that this ethic of merciful reversal is not new but is as old as Moses and the prophets.

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

Honoring the Gift of Work



The Bible affirms both the value and dignity of work. From the beginning, God placed Adam in the garden "to work it and keep it" (Genesis 2:15, ESV). In the fourth commandment, we are reminded not only to observe the Sabbath, but also to labor diligently throughout the week: "Six days you shall labor, and do all your work" (Exodus 20:9, ESV).

Work is more than a routine obligation; it is an opportunity to engage our God-given abilities in meaningful ways. Whether using our hands, minds, or hearts, we reflect the image of our Creator—bringing order, care, and creativity into the world.

Our labor allows us to contribute to the common good, find personal fulfillment, and practice faithful stewardship of the talents and strengths God has entrusted to us. As Paul writes, "We are God's fellow workers" (1 Corinthians 3:9, ESV).

On this Labor Day, may we take time to recognize the blessing of work and celebrate those who serve, build, teach, lead, and labor with purpose and care.

—Author unknown



Lord of all seasons,
As the leaves change and the days grow cooler,
help me embrace the rhythm of your creation.
Teach me to let go of what I no longer need
and to trust your timing in every part of life.

Thank you for the beauty of autumn—
for crisp mornings, golden trees, and the promise of harvest.
May this season deepen my gratitude,
renew my spirit,
and draw me closer to your heart.

In Jesus' name, Amen.



September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 FP 10-12 pm Noon- Keenagers	4	5	6
7 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship	8	9 10 am Women's Study	<i>10</i> FP 10-12 pm	11	12	13
14 9:30 Joint Wor- ship 10:30 Pot-luck	15 7 pm Council	16	17 FP 10-12 pm	18	19	20
21 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship	22	23	24 FP 10-12 pm	25	26	27
28 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship	29	30 10 am Women's Study				



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FYI - Our worship services are now live streamed on Beautiful Savior's Facebook page: <u>Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church-Amarillo</u> Pass it along.