

Good News

Volume 65,
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Exploring the Intersection of Faith and Artificial Intelligence

In the age of rapid technological advancements, artificial intelligence (AI) has become a significant force shaping various aspects of our lives. From enhancing medical diagnoses to driving cars and even assisting in daily tasks, AI is revolutionizing the way we live and work. As a faith community, it's essential for us to explore the implications of this powerful technology and how it aligns with our spiritual beliefs and values.

Understanding AI: Artificial intelligence refers to the development of computer systems that can perform tasks typically requiring human intelligence. This includes learning from experience, recognizing patterns, understanding natural language, and making decisions. AI's potential to transform industries and improve quality of life is immense, yet it also raises important ethical and moral questions.

AI and Ethics: As Christians, we are called to reflect on the ethical dimensions of AI. How do we ensure that AI is used responsibly and for the greater good? It is crucial to advocate for the development and deployment of AI systems that uphold human dignity, fairness, and justice. By engaging in thoughtful discussions and staying informed, we can influence the direction of AI in ways that align with our faith-based values.

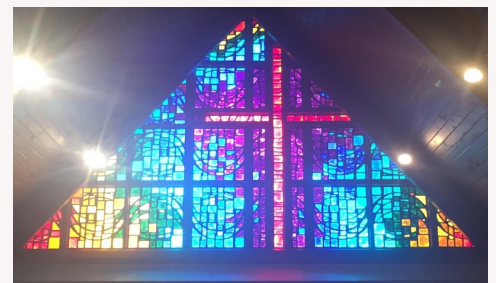
AI in Ministry: The church can leverage AI to enhance its mission and outreach efforts. For example, AI-driven tools can help us analyze community needs, tailor our ministries to better serve those around us, and even reach individuals through digital evangelism.

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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

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church

Treasurer's Report December Fiscal Year 2024

Month

INCOME

OFFERINGS

	Actual	Budget
GENEERL FUND ENVELOPE	18,070.30	17,850.50
GENERAL FUND LOOSE	352.00	83.33
OTHER RECEIPTS		
BUILDING USE	340.00	166.67
MISCELLANEOUS	10.00	20.83

Total Income 18,772.50 18,121.33

EXPENSE

17,329.65 19,375.59

General Fund Offering and Attendance

January 5

general fund: 3000; attendance: 47

January 12

general fund: \$5137; attendance: 47

January 19

general fund: \$31,630; attendance: 34

January 26

general fund: \$3907; attendance: 79

2025 Panhandle Conference Lenten Retreat
The Tasajillo Pavilion @ Palo Duro Canyon State Park
March 8th, 10 am – 3pm
\$8/person
(entry fee to park, 12 and under free)

“The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness.”

— Mark 1:12

What to expect:

A time of centering and preparing for the season of Lent just as Christ went into the wilderness to prepare himself for the journey ahead. There will be individual and group activities to choose from. This is a time for you to do as you please to quiet your mind, prepare your heart, and embark upon this holy season.

Activities (weather permitting):

Nature walks

Prayer and Art

Dwelling in Scripture

Lunch

2 pm Worship

The Tasajillo Pavilion is an indoor facility, parking and bathrooms are located nearby.

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. February

KEENAGERS- Meet for a pot-luck luncheon on Wednesday, February 5 at 12:00 pm. Hosting: Dianne Reinschmidt and Dorothy Bivens

The Wired Word will meet on Thursdays, February 6, 13, 20 and 27 at 10 AM and 7 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us for conversations on current events and the Bible!

The Women's Study Group meets February 11 & 25

Council Retreat—February 22, 10 am—2 pm



REMEMBER IN PRAYER

For our members

Audrey Holman, Sonia Sanchez

For our family members and friends

Elizabeth, Curtis & Barbara W., Clifton T., Erin, Jerry & Lila, Betsy F., Allen & Rhonda, Frank T., Deborah W., Shirley S., Lowell

For our homebound members

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

For those serving in the military - Sergeant Luke Butler

For our siblings in Christ in the NT-NL Synod and the ELCA

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

Pray for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sierra Leone (ELCSL)

Community of Hope, Fort Worth; First Call Theological Accompaniment

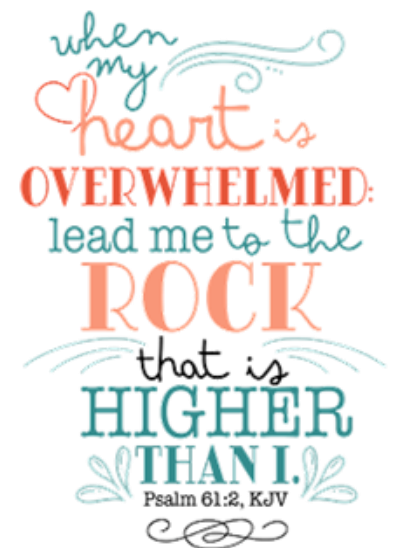
Prayers of Thanks

Updates Encouraged!

Note: If you have placed someone on the prayer list and there has been a change, please keep the church office updated.



02/10 Dale Thompson
02/17 Diane Wisker
02/18 Ann Coberley
02/21 Wally Herpich
02/22 Ingrid Owen
02/26 Celsea Kuehler



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, February 2, 2025 Presentation of Our Lord

First Reading: Malachi 3:1-4

This reading concludes a larger section (2:17—3:5) in which the prophet speaks of the coming of the God of justice.

Psalm: Psalm 84

*How dear to me is your dwelling,
O Lord. (Ps. 84:1)*

Second Reading: Hebrews 2:14-18

Jesus shared human nature fully so that his death might be for all humans a liberation from slavery to death's power.

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

This story is a study in contrasts: the infant Jesus with the aged prophets; the joy of birth with the ominous words of Simeon to Mary; the faithful fulfilling of the law with the presentation of the one who will release its hold over us.

Sunday, February 9, 2025 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

First Reading: Isaiah 6:1-8 [9-13]

Through a vision in the temple, the eighth-century prophet Isaiah is called by God to announce judgment against Israel. Aware of his sinfulness and shortcomings, Isaiah is initially hesitant. But when God calls, Isaiah responds, "Here am I; send me!"

Psalm: Psalm 138

I will bow down toward your holy temple. (Ps. 138:2)

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Paul delivers in a nutshell the story of the gospel that was given to him. In the lineage of the Christian faith, we have received the good news of God's love from generations of believers before us, and we continue to tell this story to the world.

Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

Jesus' teaching of God's word has begun to draw great crowds. For Simon, James, and John, Jesus' teaching inspires hospitality, then obedience, and then risk. After Jesus' creative power is revealed, fear and amazement leads these three fishermen to leave everything behind to become apostles.

Sunday, February 16, 2025 Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

First Reading: Jeremiah 17:5-10

These verses compose a poem that is part of a larger collection of wisdom sayings that contrast two ways of life. Life with God brings blessing; the power and vitality of God is active in our life. Life without God brings a curse, the power of death.

Psalm: Psalm 1

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

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

For Paul, the resurrection of Christ is the basis for Christian hope.

Gospel: Luke 6:17-26

After choosing his twelve apostles, Jesus teaches a crowd of followers about the nature and demands of discipleship.

Sunday, February 23, 2025 Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

First Reading: Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Many years after being sold into slavery by his jealous brothers, Joseph reveals himself to them. Now the second-in-command in Egypt, Joseph reassures his brothers that God has used their evil intentions for good to preserve life during a devastating famine, and Joseph forgives them.

Psalm: Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

The lowly shall possess the land; they will delight in abundance of peace. (Ps. 37:11)

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

In the Apostles' Creed, we speak of the "resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting." Using the metaphor of a planted seed and the story of Adam, Paul preaches passionately about the mystery of following Christ's perfect life into eternity.

Gospel: Luke 6:27-38

Jesus continues to address a crowd of his disciples. He invites his followers to shower radical love, blessing, forgiveness, generosity, and trust even on enemies and outsiders. Living in harmony with God's intent brings the reward of overflowing blessing.

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 NRSV Bible. <https://biblespeak.org/>
NRSV Bible Online: <https://bible.oremus.org/>



Continued from page 1

AI can assist in translating and spreading the Gospel to different languages and cultures, breaking down barriers and fostering greater understanding.

AI and Community: While AI offers many benefits, it is essential to prioritize human connection and community. Technology should complement our efforts to build meaningful relationships rather than replace them. Let us use AI as a tool to strengthen our bonds, facilitate communication, and support one another in our spiritual journeys.

Guided by Faith: As we navigate the world of AI, let our faith be our compass. Seek God's wisdom and guidance in how we interact with this technology. Pray for discernment in making decisions that reflect Christ's love and compassion. Remember, while AI can aid us in many ways, it is our faith and commitment to God's teachings that ultimately guide our actions and purpose. In embracing AI with a thoughtful and prayerful approach, we can harness its potential to further our mission and positively impact our community. Let us remain vigilant, informed, and faithful as we explore the exciting possibilities that AI brings to our lives and ministry.

May God bless our efforts as we seek to integrate innovation with our unwavering faith.

The article you just read was generated using Copilot, which is Microsoft's Personal AI Assistant. I'm very intrigued and concerned about the use of AI in our society. Part of me is amazed by the technology. I have to admit, I'm very impressed with the article that was created using Copilot. I also have concerns. Is AI safe to use? Is it ethical to use AI? Will AI eventually replace our workforce?

I recently received an email from Bishop Gronberg regarding the use of AI in ministry. According to Bishop Gronberg, "...our synod has been partnering with the ELCA Innovation Lab to develop and investigate realities of AI technology and how it can both serve and will impact the church."

I believe that AI can be a helpful tool, but it will never replace the heart and the spirit of human beings. I could easily use AI to write a sermon, but I think the sermon would be incomplete. Many years ago, I learned that a sermon is a conversation between the pastor, the congregation, and God. Can the spiritual conversation happen if the pastor just types a scripture text into AI software? If AI was used, it would cut sermon preparation time tremendously, but at what cost? Can the message of the Gospel be proclaimed using AI? I'm afraid I have more questions at this point and time than answers.

In Christ,
The Rev. Leah R. Lawson

February 2025

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

						1
2 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 10:45 Choir 	3	4	5 FP-10-12 pm 12 pm Keenagers	6 WW –10 am & 7 pm	7	8
9 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 10:45 Choir	10	11 10 am Women's Study	12 FP-10-12 pm	13 WW –10 am & 7 pm	14	15
16 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 10:45 Choir	17	18	19 FP-10-12 pm	20 WW –10 am & 7 pm	21	22 10-2 pm Council Retreat
23 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 10:45 Choir	24	25 10 am Women's Study	26 FP-10-12 pm	27 WW –10 am & 7 pm	28	



**BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR
LUTHERAN CHURCH**
3500 Bowie
Amarillo, Texas 79109
February 2025

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BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

3500 Bowie, Amarillo, Texas 79109

**Office - (806) 359-9483 E-mail - beautifulsavioramarillo@gmail.com
Web - www.beautifulsaviorlutheranamarillo.org**

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