

Good News

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church 1947-2023

Adventure in Germany!
by Pr. Leah Lawson

I'm very excited to announce that I will be going to Germany in 2024! The trip is being hosted by Bishop Erik Gronberg and his wife, the Reverend Kendra Mohn. We will enjoy 11 days of Reformation and German history and culture. We will be traveling to Frankfurt, Wittenberg, Berlin, and other places of interest. If you would like to see a copy of the itinerary, just let me know and I will be happy to print you out a copy!

Since I'm a pastor that has never traveled to Germany, I was eligible for a scholarship through the NTNL Synod. This scholarship provided significant funding which made the trip much more affordable. I'm thankful to the generosity of the individual or individuals who made this scholarship possible. Sometimes, we are blessed by the generosity of people we know and people we don't know. When I was in seminary, I was fortunate to receive scholarships to help pay for my education from strangers. Once again, I find myself blessed to go to Germany, thanks to the generosity of strangers.

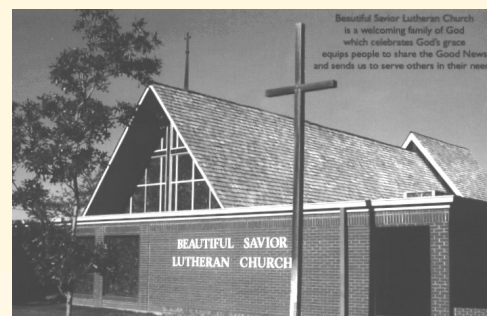
In the midst of blessings and generosity, God is there, pouring out an abundance of love, grace, mercy, joy, and hope upon all of us. Lately, it's been a challenge to remember that we love and serve a God of abundance. All around us, everything is becoming more expensive. We see it in our personal and family finances and we see it in our church finances too. Our Church Council has been working hard on the church budget for 2024. Creating a church budget is never an easy process. During this time, I ask that you say some extra prayers for the Church Council as they continue to work on the budget. During our Congregational Meeting to vote on the budget in November, we will need to have some difficult conversations regarding church insurance and our benevolence to the NTNL Synod. Even though we face challenges, we cling to the abundance of God.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Letter to the Congregation..	2
Council News.....	3
Financial News.....	4
General Interest.....	5-8
Calendar.....	9

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

Letter to the Congregation

9-25-2023

BSLC Congregation:

When Marsha and I came to BSLC 25 years ago, we fell in love with this church and its people. Our feelings for BSLC have not diminished over the years and I'm sure most of you feel the same as we do. That being said, the Council has been working diligently on the 2024 church budget. We are facing some daunting challenges. Our church continues to have an imbalance with expenses vs income. We have been operating with a deficit budget for the last five or six years; the exception being the year when we did not have a full-time pastor. Last year we began with a \$20,000+ deficit. This year looks worse as we are projecting a deficit of \$25,000 - \$30,000. So how did we get here? 70% of our budget is in personnel – 20% is in property (which includes utilities). The other 10% is mainly Benevolence contributions to the Panhandle Conference and the Synod. At our last meeting, the Council cut over \$20,000 from line items that were in the 2023 budget: \$12,000 from Benevolence - \$7,000 in property insurance deductible buy down - \$3,000 in property. Our property insurance provider has now indicated that they may not reinsure us and if they do, it will be at a 25% to 30% increase. Our 2023 property insurance was \$26,000.

As the Council whittles away at the deficit, our expenses continue to skyrocket disproportionately to our whittling! BSLC has \$65,000 - \$70,000 in its checking account and that will be gone soon if we continue to have large deficits each year. The obvious solution is to lower expenses and increase income. As I stated earlier, most of our expenses are in personnel: Pastor Leah – Cheryl – Marsha – and Kristen (our janitor). I think we would all agree that our staff is essential to what BSLC is all about; serving God and our fellow man. Pastor Leah and I both felt that the congregation needed to be aware of our financial situation prior to our November Congregational Meeting. I will be happy to discuss any concerns that you may have and would also welcome any suggestions.

Respectfully,

Jerry Moller

Council met on September 18 for a business meeting.

Members Present: J. Moller, B. Flatt, C. Kuehler, S. Berry, B. Blair, J. Reinshcmidt, D. Rosenthal, Pr. L. Lawson, D. Wisker

Guests: Cheryl Hall; Gene Reneau

Members Absent: G. Rohloff

Old Business: Council continued compiling the 2024 budget and will finalize the numbers at the October council meeting. The proposed budget will be presented to the congregation at the November Annual Congregational Meeting, scheduled for Sunday, November 19. A lunch, provided by the fellowship committee will follow the meeting.

Pastor—On Saturday, October 7 at 12:00 PM, we will have a Blessing of the Animals service.

Fellowship— Members of Beautiful Savior raised some money with the donation of ‘Sweet Treats by Ann-Marie’ goodies for church to purchase an 18qt roaster. The Fellowship Committee will meet Monday, October 9th at 7 pm

Property -

- Air Masters installed a new HAC unit for the church office wing in September. Plans are to replace the HAC unit in the parsonage next Spring.
- Painting the church and parsonage trim work in October.



80th Birthday Celebration for Pr. Mike!

Place: Studebaker Events, 520 Ave H,
Levelland, TX 79336

Date/Time: October 7, 2023 from
2:30 PM to 5:30 PM

RSVP: Sara Jean, 916-955-3991 or email
saracorp2232@gmail.com

No gifts, please, your presence is gift
enough.

We are putting a book of memories together and would appreciate any and all contributions, with or without a photo, if you wish to share. Please send to [sara-corp2232@gmail.com](mailto:saracorp2232@gmail.com).



Thank you from the Religious Affairs Committee,
NAACP, Amarillo Branch!

The “Headphones for Hamlet” fundraiser was a huge success. The goal was to provide 300 pairs of high-quality headphones to students at Hamlet Elementary School. Thanks to generosity of Beautiful Savior and nine other congregations, 625 pairs of headphones were purchased!

Please see the “thank you note” and other information regarding this project in the Narthex. Also, there are some pamphlets with information about the work that the Religious Affairs committee is doing to help our neighbors!

When we work together, we can do great and wonderful things!

Church Council:

Jerry Moller, Council President; Biff Flatt; VP, Blair Berg, Treasurer; Chelsea Kuehler, Secretary; Deanna Rosenthal, Education/Youth; Ann Marie Shaddock, Fellowship; Spencer Berry; Evangelism Johnny Reinschmidt, Property; Greg Rohloff, Stewardship/Social Concerns’ Diane Wisker, Worship

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church

Treasurer's Report Aug of Fiscal Year 2023

	Month	
<u>INCOME</u>		
OFFERINGS	Actual	Budget
GENERL FUND ENVELOPE	14,180.19	18,750
GENERAL FUND LOOSE	37.00	83.33
OTHER RECEIPTS		
BUILDING USE	175.61	166.67
MISCELLANEOUS	30.00	20.83
	Total Income	14,419.80
		19,020.83
EXPENSE	21,543.92	20,448.13

General Fund Offering and Attendance in September.

Sept 3
general fund: \$5835; Attendance:64

Sept 10
general fund: \$1559; Attendance: 48

Sept 17
General fund: \$3000; Attendance: 42

Sept 24
General fund: \$5506; Attendance: 54



The **Women's Study** meets Tuesdays, October 10th & 24th at 10 am.

The **Wired Word** will meet on Thursdays in October on the 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th at 10 AM and 7 PM. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall.

KEENAGERS

OCT 4 AT NOON -
PIZZA PARTY HOSTED BY
PASTOR LEAH

For our members

Audrey Holman

Wanda and Fred Garcia – Mission work in Guatemala

For our family members and friends

Hattie, Bruce L., Garry, Sandy, David, Aiden, Carla, Doug, Elizabeth, Dan, Michael H., Tim, Scott, Danny, Randy, John, Mike, Roberta, and Ben.

For our homebound members

Beverly Roush, Donna Nuss, Jon Edler, Keith & Arliss Johnson, Kenneth Huckabee, Betty Loomis, and Beatrice Kirkeeng

For those serving in the military - Sergeant Luke Butler

Prayers of Thanks

Updates Encouraged! If your prayers for comfort and healing have been answered, please contact the office to let us know. We will add your loved ones to the "Prayers of Thanks" section.

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



10/03 Mark Newman

10/06 Mary Jones

10/09 Kendra Massey

10/10 Richard Owen

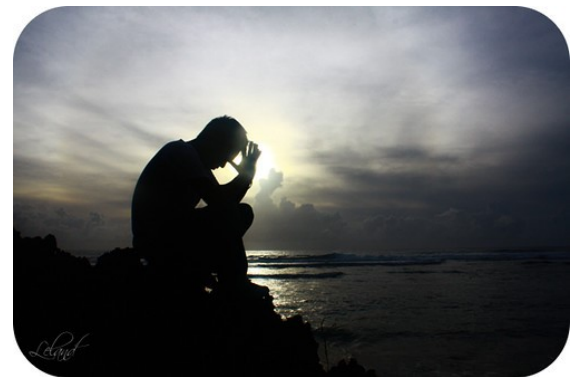
10/15 Audrey Holman
Jan Werner
Jana Kidd

10/18 Keith Johnson

10/22 David Cole
Diane Reinschmidt

10/27 Randy Heuton
Cheryl Hall

10/28 Marjorie Spencer



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 beautiful-savioramarillo@gmail.com

Sunday Scripture Readings

Sunday, Oct 1

First Reading—Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32
Psalm 25:1-9
Second Reading—Philippians 2:1-13
Gospel—Matthew 21:23-32

Sunday, Oct 8

First Reading - Isaiah 5:1-7
Psalm 80:7-15
Second Reading—Philippians 3:4b-14
Gospel—Matthew 21:33-46

Sunday, Oct 15

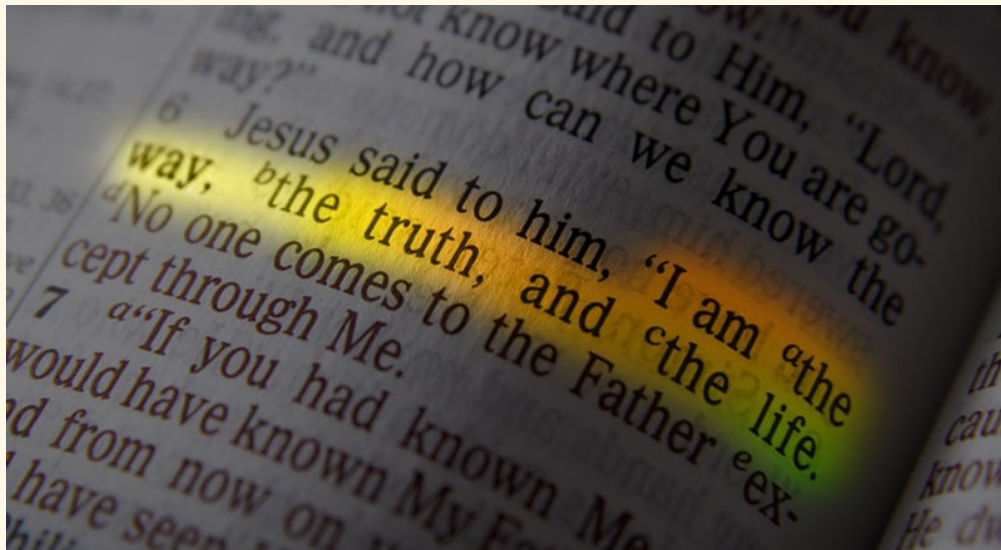
First Reading - Isaiah 45:1-7
Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]
Second Reading—1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Gospel—Matthew 22:15-22

Sunday, Oct 22

First Reading -Isaiah 45:1-7
Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]
Second Reading—1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Gospel—Matthew 22:15-2

Sunday, Oct 29

First Reading Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18
Psalm 1
Second Reading—1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
Gospel—Matthew 22:34-46



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/>



Saturday, October 7 at 12:00 pm

People of faith bring your loving pet/s or photos of them: dogs, cats, hamsters, fish or other pets to receive an individual blessing.

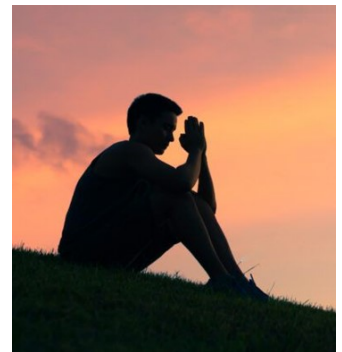
GENESIS 1:24-25

(NRSV) And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. {25} God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

What is lament?

The spiritual discipline of lament may not come naturally, and churches rarely teach it. Because we're raised to stay silent if we can't say something nice, passionately pouring out our sorrow just doesn't seem right.

My opinion changed when I heard author Sharon Garlough Brown explain this spiritual practice from God's perspective. As parents can attest, toddlers have an innate ability to find foreign objects and put them in their mouths. Concerned parents bend down and coax the child to remove the toy, bottle top, coin or rock. "Spit it out." "Let me have it." "It's not good for you to swallow that."



As a concerned parent, God sees and knows what's troubling us. He knows that this world's woes and trials will hurt us if we keep them all inside. God, our good and gracious Father, wants us to passionately pour out our grief, so he bends down, looks us in the eyes, and says, "Spit it out." "Let me have it." "It's not good for you to swallow that."

Spend time with God, sharing your laments. God loves you and is faithful to listen well.

—Janna Firestone

All are invited to attend a

SPRINKLE for Beth & Tommy
To welcome **Matthew**

October 15, in the fellowship hall following the worship service.

In lieu of baby gifts, Beth requests monetary Gifts to the
Ronald McDonald House Charities of Amarillo

1501 Streit Drive
Amarillo, Texas 79106

In their names: Beth & Tommy Mickey



Joy in the Word of God

Oh! how great and glorious a thing it is to have before one the Word of God! With that we may at all times feel joyous and secure; we need never be in want of consolation, for we see before us, in all its brightness, the pure and right way. He who loses sight of the Word of God, falls into despair; the voice of heaven no longer sustains him; he follows only the disorderly tendency of his heart, and of world vanity, which lead him on to his destruction.

—*The Table Talk of Martin Luther*

October 2023

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<p>1 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 10:45 Choir</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 10 am Food Pantry 12 pm KEENAGERS</p>	<p>5 10 am Wired Word 7pm Wired Word</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 12 pm Blessing of the Animals</p>
<p>8 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 10:45 Choir</p>	<p>9 7 pm Fellowship 7 pm Property</p>	<p>10 10 am Women's Study</p>	<p>11 10 am Food Pantry</p>	<p>12 10 am Wired Word 7pm Wired Word</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 10:45 Choir</p>	<p>16 7 pm Council</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 10 am Food Pantry</p>	<p>19 10 am Wired Word 7pm Wired Word</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 10:45 Choir</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 10 am Women's Study</p>	<p>25 10 am Food Pantry</p>	<p>26 10 am Wired Word 7pm Wired Word</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 10:45 Choir</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	 <p>You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.</p> <p><small>2 Corinthians 9:11</small></p>			



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

October 2023

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**BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH
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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.