



## PUBLICATION OF BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH 1947-2025

### Driving Through the Wilderness

by The Rev. Leah R. Lawson

Recently, I went for a drive beyond the city limits of Amarillo. During my many journeys into this wilderness, I have noticed that not much changes. It's brown, there are large rock formations, and interesting critters that make an occasional appearance. Due to the increase in rain this year, this rough and rocky landscape has undergone a wonderful transformation. I have seen all kinds of beautiful flowers and lush green vegetation!



Photo by Leah R. Lawson

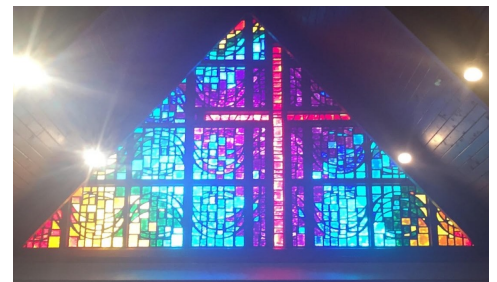
In the Bible, there are many stories about the wilderness. Moses and the Israelites traveled through the wilderness for 40 years. Jonah spent some time in a big fish which is a very unique wilderness experience! Jesus was in the wilderness, being tempted by Satan. We also have our own journeys through the wilderness. My recent journey through the wilderness made me wonder if all wilderness journeys have to be about struggle, temptation, and disobedience. Maybe, some wilderness journeys are full beauty, wonder, and joy!

Are you on a journey through the wilderness? What does your wilderness journey look like? Is it in shades of gray or full of color? Is it a long hike or an easy drive? What is God revealing to you during your journey?

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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 May Fiscal Year 2025

Month

### INCOME

#### OFFERINGS

	Actual	Budget
GENEAL FUND ENVELOPE	14,190.95	19,333.33
GENERAL FUND LOOSE	62.00	83.33
OTHER RECEIPTS		
BUILDING USE	425.00	458.33
MISCELLANEOUS	10.00	20.83

Total Income 14,625.95 19,895.82

#### EXPENSE

15,641.19 19,697.29

### General Fund Offering and Attendance

#### June 1

general fund: 5970; attendance: 69

#### June 8

general fund: \$5396; attendance: 56

#### June 15

general fund: \$1675; attendance: 64

#### June 22

general fund: \$847; attendance: 64

#### June 29

Not available



Thank you!

**FAITHFUL**  
STEWARDS

## Council met on June 16 for a business meeting.

**Members Present:** Pr. Leah Lawson, Deanna Rosenthal, Spencer Berry, Mark Newman, Linda Allen, Jeff Worley, Ann-Marie Shadduck, Nancy Conley, Gene Reneau

**Office Manager:** Cheryl Hall

**Members Absent:** Blair Berg

### Old Business:

- Installation will be scheduled soon to run ethernet cable from the pantry storage room which houses the wifi router to the sanctuary.
- Our property insurance switched from Church Mutual to Sovereign (managed by AmTrust) on June 1, 2025. This will save the church approximately \$4000 for the year.

### New Business:

- Clara & Coulter Massey were baptized on June 15, 2025.
- New Revised Standard Version, Updated Version Bible switch took place on June 30th.
- Panhandle Conference Pulpit Exchange– August 10  
Tonda Frietag will come to Beautiful Savior and Pastor Leah will be at St Paul in Levelland and Trinity in Clovis.
- Panhandle Conference Gathering – Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> @ St. John in Wilson  
Richard & Ingrid Owen are our voting delegates
- The Mickey family is moving to Mississippi. A farewell to the family was held June 22.

### Property:

- Gene Reneau met with a wrestling group who will start using the gym in September.
- Several work days will be set up to take care of bedding plants, trees, chairs, closets, lights. A sign-up sheet will be posted so people can volunteer,
- Several low places from tree removal have been filled and leveled. There are still several to do.

### Social Concerns:

The Food Pantry fed 120 during the month of May 2025.



### 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, July 2 at noon for a pot-luck lunch.

-The **Women's Study Group** will meet on for a salad pot-luck & movie, "Babette's Feast" on July 15 at 11:00 am. All women of the church are invited. Meet in the fellowship hall.

- **Council** meets Monday, July 21 at 7 pm

### REMEMBER IN PRAYER

#### For our members

Audrey Holman, Sonia Sanchez

#### For our family members and friends

Elizabeth, Curtis & Barbara W., Erin, Jerry & Lila, Allen & Rhonda, Deborah W., Jessica R., Aiden, Pr. Greg Hartman, Pr. Arlen Lloyd, Tonda Freitag, Lana K., Steve, Nickie, Mark, Donnie, Cynthia, Ricky, and Alica.

#### 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, 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 teachers and principals as they end another school year.

Our Savior's, Durant; Faith, Sagerton; Eastern Conference

#### 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.



# VBS

## Vacation Bible School 2025

Please join us for *Rules: Old & New* on Saturday, July 12 from 1 PM to 4 PM.

We will learn about the Ten Commandments and the Greatest Commandment! We will play games, sing songs, do a craft, and have a snack! We will end our time together with water activities!

If you have any questions or would like to help, please contact Deanna Rosenthal.

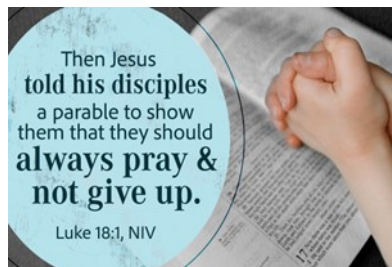
GOOD NEWS  
Volume 65 Issue 7  
July 2025



July 2 Nyx Nation  
July 6 Nancy Conley  
July 7 Christine Johnson  
July 10 Sally Werner  
July 12 Susan Smith  
July 13 Butch Habeger  
July 14 Jon Elder  
July 19 Deanna Rosenthal  
July 20 Jon Kuehler  
July 30 Paula Cole  
July 31 Sonia Sanchez



The 'Serving the Congregation' sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board next to the sacristy. Please consider serving; especially needed are gift bearers and greeters.



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](mailto:beautifulsavioramarillo@gmail.com)

# Sunday Scripture Readings

GOOD NEWS  
Volume 65 Issue 7  
July 2025

## Sunday, July 6, 2025

### **First Reading: Isaiah 66:10-14**

*Those who returned from the exile found that the hopes for the glorious restoration of Judah were not completely fulfilled. For these disappointed people, the prophet envisions salvation in the image of a nursing woman. Mother Jerusalem and a mothering God remind the community how they are sustained and supported.*

### **Psalm: Psalm 66:1-9**

*All the earth bows down before you and sings out your name. (Ps. 66:4)*

### **Second Reading: Galatians 6:[1-6] 7-16**

*In the close of his letter to the Galatians, Paul encourages them to live as people made right with God through faith in Jesus Christ. Here Paul offers practical advice about how believers exercise common concern for one other in "the family of faith."*

### **Gospel: Luke 10:1-11, 16-20**

*Jesus commissions harvesters and laborers to go where he would go and do what he would do. Risking hardship and danger in exchange for the experience of great joy, they offer peace and healing as signs that the reign of God is near.*

## Sunday, July 13 2025

### **First Reading: Deuteronomy 30:9-14**

*Moses calls the people who are about to enter the promised land to renew the covenant God made with their ancestors. Through this covenant God gives life and asks for obedience. God's commandment is neither burdensome nor too far off, but dwells in the people's hearts.*

### **Psalm: Psalm 25:1-10**

*Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths. (Ps. 25:4)*

### **Second Reading: Colossians 1:1-14**

*The letter to the Colossians was written to warn its readers of various false teachings. The first part of the letter is an expression of thanks for the faith, hope, and love that mark this community, including a prayer for strength and courage.*

### **Gospel: Luke 10:25-37**

*Jesus is challenged to explain what is involved in obeying the greatest commandment. He tells a parable rich in surprises: those expected to show pity display hard hearts while the lowly give and receive unexpected and lavish mercy.*

## Sunday, July 20, 2025

### **First Reading: Genesis 18:1-10a**

*The Lord visits Abraham and Sarah to tell them that the long-awaited promise of the birth of a child will be fulfilled for them in their old age.*

### **Psalm: Psalm 15**

*Lord, who may abide upon your holy hill? (Ps. 15:1)*

### **Second Reading: Colossians 1:15-28**

*This letter offers a mystical teaching, that the great mystery of God is "Christ in you." Because Christ is present in the church, Christians share in his life, suffering, and glory.*

### **Gospel: Luke 10:38-42**

*During his visit to the home of Mary and Martha, Jesus reminds Martha that her concern for her many tasks distracts from the one thing that precedes all else: abiding in the presence of God.*

## Sunday, July 27, 2025

### **First Reading: Genesis 18:20-32**

*In today's reading, Abraham undertakes the role of a mediator between God and sinful humanity. Appealing to God's justice, Abraham boldly asks for mercy for the city of Sodom for the sake of the few righteous people there, including Abraham's nephew, Lot.*

### **Psalm: Psalm 138**

*Your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands. (Ps. 138:8)*

### **Second Reading: Colossians 2:6-15 [16-19]**

*The writer of this letter warns the congregation in Colossae about "the empty lure" of philosophies and traditions that compromise faith. Through the gift of faith, the church is mystically connected with Christ in his death and resurrection which is enacted in baptism.*

### **Gospel: Luke 11:1-13**

*In teaching his disciples this prayer, Jesus also reminds them to focus on God's coming reign, God's mercy, and the strengthening of the community. Jesus encourages his disciples to childlike trust and persistence in prayer.*

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

## Letter to the Congregation from Susan Smith

Thank you to our Congregation for voting to send me (and Ann) to the NT-NL Synod Assembly in Lubbock. It was truly a wonderful experience and one I hope all of our members will be able to make in the future. I discovered you can also attend as a non voting member so the more the merrier!

There were approximately 140+ people in attendance but next year's assembly in Arlington will probably generate an even bigger group since that's the area in which most of our NT-NL members live.

Outside of handling routine business, the gist of the Assembly focused on strengthening and growing our faith during a time when all mainline denominations are struggling. Cultural, generational change is literally redirecting worshipers to a different kind of church than the traditional one we've always been comfortable with.

This inevitable change is forcing the ELCA to think about "what are we going to do" to sustain our particular faith. Do we refuse to adapt to changes that threaten the ways we've always worshipped or do we step outside our comfort zone and think about other ways to show our love of God?

Things for our congregation to think about:

1. Do we even want to change the way we worship or do we believe this is the way we've always done it and should continue to do it?
2. If embracing change is what we want to do, what will those changes be and who will make them?
3. Do we take our sweet time thinking about ways to "change" or do we get to work right now?
4. How bold can we be while maintaining our faith?
5. Who realistically in the congregation should be engaged in the dialogue?

One current "hot topic" in ELCA churches is whether or not to have a band in worship. I can personally testify that there was indeed a small band (no drums) made up of a keyboard, a flute, and a couple of guitars that provided music for our assembly worship service and it was absolutely wonderful. None of the Lutherans in attendance keeled over at the sound.

The ELCA is facing dramatically low numbers of entering seminary students - Congregations are urged to actively look for candidates within our own congregations. Predictions are that lay leaders will serve at least 50% of ELCA congregations in the future if pastoral candidates remain limited. Some smaller churches have already joined with shared communion denominations in order to combine their congregations (especially youth) and share expenses. One example given was of an ELCA congregation alternating weekly services with a Methodist congregation. Another congregation in the Dallas area has "hired" a high school student to create and maintain the presence of their church on various social media platforms. Got to reach out to young people!

Voting members overwhelmingly chose to develop 4 Mission churches in the upcoming year. Could we possibly be involved in this endeavor?

Everyone at the Assembly was challenged to be bold in our faith and not let doubt restrict any call God may be giving us.

# July 2025

Sun

Mon


Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

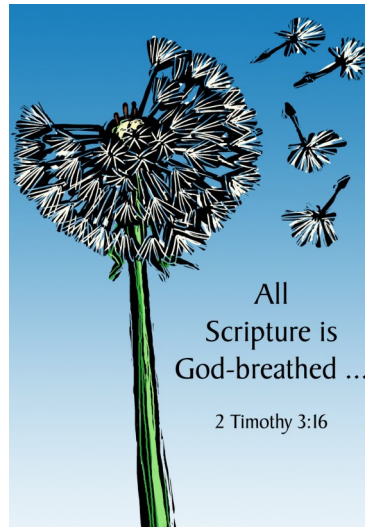
Sat

	1	2 FP 10-12 pm  Noon-Keenagers	3	4  Office Closed	5	
6 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship	7	8	9 FP 10-12 pm	10	11	12
13 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship	14	15 11 am Women's Study Lunch & Movie	16 FP 10-12 pm	17	18	19
20 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship	21  7 pm Council	22	23 FP 10-12 pm	24	25	26
27 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship	28	29	30 FP 10-12 pm	31		



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

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## **BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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Web - [www.beautifulsaviorlutheranamarillo.org](http://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.**