



CONNECTIONS

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF
BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

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What Does This Mean?

The above question is one that is familiar to those of us who have been part of Confirmation instruction or have looked at or studied Luther's Small Catechism. Martin Luther usually followed each commandment, petition of the Lord's Prayer or article of the Apostles' Creed with that question. Once you have read the commandment/petition/article - what does it mean? For example: "You shall have no other gods." What does this mean? "We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things."

Have you ever looked at the rock glass windows in our lobby area and wondered what was pictured and what it might mean? These windows depict the life of our Savior, beginning with His birth in humbleness and continuing to His rule and return in authority and power. They were part of our first building at 90th and Q and were dedicated in April 1977 in loving memory of Connie Schoening. This year one or two windows will be pictured and explained each month in the Connections.

The First Window - The Birth of Jesus. **Matthew 2:1-11** The star shining over the straw-filled manger calls to mind the birth of our Savior. The gifts of the wisemen who came to worship Him are depicted by the three vessels placed just beneath the manger.

Your White Elephant

In ancient days when the King of Siam had an enemy he wanted to torment and destroy, he would send that enemy a unique gift, a white elephant -- a live, albino elephant. These animals were considered sacred in the culture of that day. So the recipient of that elephant had no choice but to intentionally care for the gift. This elephant would take an inordinate amount of the enemy's time, resources, energy, emotions, and finances. Over time the enemy would destroy himself because of the extremely burdensome process of caring for the gift.

Our spiritual enemy uses the same strategy on us. Let's say you buy season tickets to your favorite sports team. Because you still have a lot of games to go to, you no longer have time to serve in some area of ministry. Or let's say you buy a summer cottage, but now you miss most weekend worship services between the beginning of May and the end of September. Or let's say you buy a health club membership to get in shape. You used to get up early in the morning to read your Bible and pray, but now you don't have time because you're working out before you go to work. Or let's say your child is chosen for a traveling sports team, and now you're too busy to



(White Elephant Continued)

join our community impact ministry as we serve the poor.

As we start another new year, are there white elephants in our life? Are we spending money on things that take our time away from God? The money isn't the

problem; the activities aren't necessarily the problem; the problem is a white elephant "gift" that has pulled us away from God-honoring pursuits.

Prayer

Holy Spirit, draw us closer to Jesus throughout this year as we

regularly hear and meditate on the Good News of Jesus' forgiveness, love, and salvation. Empower us to always "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness."

Pastor Keith

Wednesday Night Energized

All **students in grades 9-12** are invited to meet for "Energized," the first Wednesday of each month. It is an opportunity for students to meet on a regular basis outside of their Life Groups and Student Worship on Sunday mornings. The atmosphere is fun, relaxed, social and gives students to get to know others. We meet on **January 2** from 6-8 p.m. at the La Vista Site.

Continuing Celebration

According to the Christian Calendar we are still in the Christmas Season. In the midst of the celebration, as we join the angels in heaven praising and thanking God for the birth of Christ, we enter a new year with joy. The **New Horizons** will celebrate 2013 with an Italian Potluck followed by a report on Christian mission work in Cuba. Erle Carter will share his experiences and the insight gained from this recent trip to that field of ministry.

An Italian Potluck includes anything from spaghetti to pizza and all the fine salads and desserts to enhance the main course. Please follow the routine of calling your hostesses, Carolyn Schrader, 402.331.3833, if your last name begins A-Mc; and Alice Downey, 402.493.3944, when your last name begins Me-Z. Our meeting date, the first Thursday of the month, is **January 3**. We assemble at 11:30 a.m. in the



Lower Fellowship Hall and plan for the Opening Devotion at 11:55 a.m.

And what should we be celebrating at the beginning of 2013? In Luke 10:20 the reason is clear. "Do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven."

PRAISE GOD!

Discovery Class

This 8-week Bible study covers the basic teachings of the Lutheran Church and is designed especially (but not exclusively) for people from non-Lutheran backgrounds who are considering joining Beautiful Savior. The class is offered on Sundays, beginning **January 6**, at 8:30 a.m. at the West Maple Site; 9:15 a.m. at the Grover Site; and 9:30 a.m. at the La Vista Site. You can sign-up online: www.bslcomaha.org.

Leadership Training

Lots of places (religious and secular) offer leadership training, and that's a good thing! But there's a deeper approach beyond just "training," and that's leadership development, a life-long process.

At Beautiful Savior, 54 people have gone through this process, a collaborative adult learning community with Jim Hasack as the coach. KINDLE is an acronym for **Karpenko Institute**

for **Nurturing and Developing Leadership Excellence**.

A new KINDLE cluster is forming! If you've been contacted about this, or if you're interested and want to learn more, come to an **information** meeting on Monday, **January 7**, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., with no obligation to sign up.



Beth Moore Bible Study

The **Monday Evening Women's Bible Study** will begin a new study on **January 7, 2013**.

"Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" will help you come to appreciate the supernatural aspects of the fruit

and that you cannot grow, learn, or produce the fruit on your own. Beth Moore will challenge you to develop the fruit by maintaining an intimate relationship with the Spirit of God.

We will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Lower Fellowship Hall. Please call Penny Freyer, 402.676.0860, or Lisa Draper, 402.679.6652, if you have any questions or if you would like to participate in this study so that adequate materials can be available.

Seeking Less Money Anxiety?

Beautiful Savior is offering a class that will teach practical Bible-based personal finance management.

Financial Peace University is a 9-week Dave Ramsey course that teaches practical Christian principles for managing money and working



your way out of debt. The class begins on Tuesday, **January 8** in the Lower Fellowship Hall. The time is 6:30-8:30 p.m. Classes will run through March 5. There is a fee. Beautiful Savior members

Matt and Julie Korte will be leading this class.

You can register online at www.daveramsey.com or Beautiful Savior's website www.bslcomaha.org. If you have any questions please feel free to contact the Korte's at 402-960-4867.

Defending the Faith

Foundations of Apologetics is a 13-week course for those who are ready for a challenge!! Apologetics is the word for "defending the faith." Christianity and the Christian worldview are under a relentless assault, and too often we get intimidated into silence - and guess who wins?

In this course by author and speaker Ravi Zacharias, students will learn key strategies on how to stand up for God's truth. The class begins **in January** and will be led by Brandon Odom and Dave Smith. Watch the bulletin for date, time and place.



The holiday season is over but giving hope is never out of season. The need for blood is ongoing, but the supply during the winter is not. With the inclement weather and seasonal illnesses, donations are normally down.

The need for blood is constant. Every day, patients in our communities are helped by donors who give at blood drives. A patient undergoing a liver and heart procedure received 25 units of red blood cells. Another received 30 units of red blood cells and 5 units of platelets as a result of an automobile accident. Thanks to the dedication and commitment of donors these urgent needs were met.

Beautiful Savior's next **BLOOD DRIVE** is on Saturday, **January 12** from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. It will be held at the La Vista Site in the Upper Fellowship Hall.

Let's keep on giving hope and life to those who need it. Sign up now online at www.redcrossblood.org (Sponsor code 0099) or contact Clara Schraeder at 402.331.1833.

LWML: Lutheran Women's Missionary League

LWML cares about women and focuses on missions. It helps women of today find guidance for their lives, encouragement for their walk, inspiration for joyful service and opportunities for using their gifts to impact the world for Christ in their daily lives. This is true on the global level with the International LWML and also on the local level as ladies of Beautiful Savior meet each month on the third Thursday.

The International LWML chooses a number of mission projects that they work on funding over a 2 year period. The following is a description of one of the projects.

One thousand students from 145 federally-funded tribes from over 40 states attend Haskell Indian Nations University. LIGHT (Lutheran Indians Gathering and

Helping Together) Ministry provides an opportunity to evangelize, recruit and train Native Americans, and minister to students who will one day return to their communities as witnesses to the power of the Gospel. Patricia Main is the full-time Director, using her counseling skills to reach out to the hurting students at Haskell. Her husband, Pastor Will Main, serves alongside her as pastor to the LIGHT Ministry.

As one of the Mission Grant recipients, \$100,000 in funding will provide the expansion of the Lutheran Campus Ministry at Haskell Indian Nations University. It will provide resources for additional staff and training, a new multi-purpose facility, travel expenses for a team to serve in a Native



Community, and the development of a curriculum to train "Reaching Back Teams."

Will you join the LWML in praying for this mission? If you would like to help us fund this mission, on the first Sunday of each month you will see a large purple and white "mite box" (the widow's mite - Mark 12:41-44) on display. That is where you can place your "mites" for mission service.

Better yet, why not come to the meeting on Thursday, **January 17** at 6:45 p.m. at the **Grover Site** and find out about the LWML and meet your fellow members who support each other and the Lutheran Women's Missionary League.

Kidnect Family eXperience

The next **KFX** will be held on Saturday, **January 19** from 6-9 p.m. at the Omaha Children's Museum. It is a time for families to come play together at the museum and hear a short lesson on Purpose. Tickets are \$2 per person with a \$10 max per family and includes museum admission for the evening.

Watch the weekly bulletin and the congregation website (www.bslcomaha.org) for more information. Contact Dina Newsom at 402.319.7516 or dina@bslcomaha.org with questions or if you would like financial consideration for tickets.



Women's Connection

All ladies and their friends are invited to the Women's Connection Brunch and program on Saturday, **January 19** beginning at 9:30 a.m.

The speaker this month will be

Peggy Lee from Prairie Village, Kansas. Her topic will be "Detours of Life . . ." Our feature will be Pebbles Jacobo and she will be a guide on using Facebook and Twitter.

Childcare can be provided with advance notice. The cost of the brunch is \$10.50. Please call Susan Parsons at 402.731.1937 to make your reservation by January 15 and let her know if you need childcare.

Special Seminar

Pastor Tim and Sharon Odom, our Funeral Coordinator, will lead a seminar on Saturday, **January 26**, from 9 a.m. to Noon, concerning the process of grief and they will also offer suggestions in planning your own funeral. If you or someone you know are presently in the grief process this could be a very helpful seminar for you.

Making plans for your own funeral is a blessing for your family. Writing down things like hymns or Scripture verses that are meaningful to you helps your family at a most difficult time. There is no cost for this Seminar and you may certainly bring friends or family members to attend with you.

Girls - Age 10-15 and Moms - Pasport2Purity

A special retreat where you will learn about God's views on topics you face. You will hear what God says about some of life's most intimate issues. The date is **Saturday, January 26, 2013**, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Cost is \$22 per family. The guest speaker is Kristen Tschida from



the Omaha HUB (The Well Ministry). Her topics include Authority of God's Word, Peer Pressure, Growing to Sexual Maturity and Staying Pure. To register, pick up a form on the

kiosk by the Library or download it from the church website. Return with payment to the church office. For more information contact Scotte Hansen, Josh Keithley, Jim Haack 402.331.7376 or Shelli Muldoon at 402.681.5553.

January Adult Bible Classes

SUNDAY MORNING CLASSES

Who Am I? What Am I Doing Here? This 6-session course by Lutheran Hour Men's Ministry features video presentation by Dr. Joel Bierman from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. Topics include Creation, God's Law, the Christian Worldview, Evangelism, the End Times, and more! 8:00 a.m. – Room 216 – Led by Jim Haack.

The Art of Marriage This new, 6-8 week, video and discussion based Bible study is for couples married for any length of time. 9:30-10:30 a.m. – Preschool room 1 – Led by Blake and Anna Cole.

Discovery Class See explanation on page 2.

Who Am I? What Am I Doing Here? (See 8:00 a.m. description). 9:30 a.m. – Upper Fellowship Hall – Led by Jim Haack and other instructors.

Life Lessons from Ephesians This women's class uses Max Lucado's study guide to apply the wisdom of this Biblical book to our daily lives. 9:30 a.m. – Room 229 [Library] – Led by Rachel Grimm

WEEKDAY CLASSES

Monday

Men's Bible Breakfast For several weeks we'll be sampling the literature, background, and impact of the *Apocrypha*, that collection of books left out of most Protestant Bibles but valuable for understanding the New Testament. 6:30 a.m. – Summer Kitchen Café (120th & Giles). Led by Jim Haack

First Place for Health Bible study program led by Melissa Bergoch at 6:45 p.m. in Room 215.

Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit 7:00 p.m. See explanation on page 3.

Tuesday

Ladies' Bible Study For several weeks we'll be sampling the literature, background, and impact of the *Apocrypha*, that collection of books left out of most Protestant Bibles but valuable for understanding the New Testament. 9:00-10:30 a.m. – Upper Fellowship Hall – Led by Jim Haack.

Financial Peace University See explanation on page 3.

Revelation Pastor Tim leads a study of the Book of Revelation at 6:30 p.m. at our Grover Site

Wednesday

The Oxygen Mask This class for parents whose kids attend the 5th, 6th, and 7th grade Confirmation starts up again on January 2nd with a study of The Lord's Prayer. 6:15-7:30 p.m. – Preschool Room 1 – Led by Jim Haack.

Thursday

Early Riser's Study Pastor Tim is leading a study on the book of Acts at the Farmhouse Café, 84th Street by Manglesen's at 6:15 a.m.

The Girl's Still Got It A study of the book of Ruth for women by author Liz Curtis Higgs 9:00 a.m. – Room 216 – Led by Rachel Grimm

Saturday

Men's Bible Study 8:00 a.m. – Junior High Room – Led by Ron Acers

January Sermon Series

Pastors Keith, Ryan and Tim hope you will enjoy the January sermon series titled: "1 Resolution to Keep." As God's people, as His church, let's resolve to live throughout 2013 according to the "power of one" as revealed throughout the Book of Philippians.

January 6/7	Philippians 1:27	1 Spirit
January 13/14	Philippians 3:12-14	1 Goal
January 20/21	Philippians 3:20-21	1 Hope
January 27/28	Philippians 4:13	1 Maxim

Stewardship Thought . . . Thank You!!

Did you know that if you purchased all 364 items named in "The Twelve Days of Christmas" carol, you would have paid \$107,300 this year? A local bank has actually been tracking inflation by adding up the cost of all these items. I have no idea how you put a price tag on "10 Lords a Leaping," but they did it. The great news is we don't need to spend that much to make a big impact. In fact, all we really need is a regular "Thank You" note that encourages others.

As we wrap up this holiday season, the Staff and Lay Leaders of Beautiful Savior thank everyone who has supported the Lord and His mission of "making disciples of all nations" this past year with their time, talent and financial contributions. We love because HE first loved us (1 John 4:19). We look forward to partnering in the Gospel with all of our members in the year ahead!

Life Groups Are Alive!

A Life Group is where you meet people, learn the Bible, experience care and accountability, deepen friendships, and find avenues for meaningful service. Some meet weekly, others meet every other week, and some meet monthly. Some always meet in the same place while others rotate locations. If getting out at night is hard for you, there are daytime Life Groups. If you join one and find that it's not the right fit, try another one.

There are two ways to find a Life Group that fits your preferences and schedule: 1) Contact Jim Haack at 402-331-7376 or jim@bslcomaha.org, describe what you're looking for, and he'll put you in touch with one or

more of our Life Group Hosts. 2) Search for a group at any time from the comfort of your home! Beautiful Savior's web site has a link that will connect you directly with all of our Life Groups. Go to www.bslcomaha.org and click on "Get Connected." From there you will be able to find every Life Group that submits information. We urge you to visit our BSLC web site and the Life Groups link, and to e-mail or call one or more of the Hosts (leaders) to find out about their groups.



Life Group - "The Dash"

This spring, after our new addition is useable—most likely in mid-to-late April—there will be a big "Life Groups Celebration" event involving everyone who is in a Life Group! Each Life Group will contribute something to make this event fun and meaningful. Your group might help with set-up or tear-down, food, skits, or mixers. We'd love to have photos and testimonies from each group as well. Watch this newsletter, weekly bulletins, screens, and online for details as they become available!



Life Group - Jim & Kelly Haack

The Grover Site



Excitement is building at the Grover Site. They have had numbers like 92,94,103, 87 and 89 in worship. Several new

visitors began to worship with us following voting at our site. A few of the men and their families that Pastor Tim has ministered to at the Douglas County Jail have been regular worshipers. Several people who happened to see activity on Sunday morning have stopped to worship with us. Sunday mornings have become a real festival and celebration.

Please come to 44th and Grover and join us! We would be happy to have you worship with us. The praise band is AWESOME! We are averaging 18-25 in our children's worship. Donuts and fellowship start at 10:00 a.m. and worship begins at 10:30 a.m.

Grover Food Pantry

December at the pantry has been at least as busy, if not more, than November. Many thanks to all of the volunteers who came to help during this past month. Without you we could not have served people in a timely and caring way.

Thanks to the generosity of

Beautiful Savior members and others, as well as some good deals from the Food Bank, the pantry shelves look good for the month of January. However, we know how quickly they become empty. Protein foods like tuna, chicken, peanut butter and beans (all kinds) are always needed. Cereals, rice, pasta

and pasta sauce can always be used. Continue to watch the screens for specials at the market and for other items suitable for the pantry.

For information or to volunteer, please contact Mark or Cheryl Roth, 402.339.0308 or email m.roth@computer.org.



Dear Friends in Christ,

What a wonderfully busy month December was. We spent Advent worshipping, praising, and singing to God. Telling the story of Jesus' birth is such a blessing. The students really "get it" and are eager to share these facts with us, as well with others. We enjoy how they can tell us the story and understand that while presents and lights and Santa Claus are fun, Jesus is the best part of Christmas. We ended our "semester" with Jesus' birthday party, a most joyous celebration!

In addition we had the opportunity to share a few of our many blessings with those less fortunate. The children and their families worked on a Pajama Drive, for children who are in need. Our goal was 250 pairs of pajamas (our goal was only 100 last year). Our students raised 160 pairs and with the congregation's help, we donated a total of 348 pajamas! I am absolutely floored by this number and I can't thank you enough for partnering with the preschool for this most worthy cause. At this point, I am not sure where the pajamas (and books from Scholastic) will be sent to, but I am anticipating that it will be Child's Savings Institute like last year. Our students had a great time giving and understanding about those less fortunate. We thank the congregation for your awesome assistance in not only helping us meet our goal, but well surpassing it. We could not have done this without you. And now, the Christmas story continues..... January finds us following that brilliant star, learning about Epiphany and the boyhood of Jesus. We will also participate in lots of winter activities (indoors, of course) including winter picnics and pajama parties, as well as a special night for our students and their daddies. In addition, Lutheran School's Week has been moved this year to January 27th to February 2nd. We have many fun activities planned for this week. The new year looks to be exciting and busy!

As we are receiving calls from the community, we will begin to accept enrollments for the 2013-2014 school year after January 1st. Our current students/siblings will have the first opportunity to return/enroll, but I have been sending out lots of info for those requesting information. If you know of anyone that might want our preschool info sent to them, please have them get in touch with me at 402-331-2681. There are also informational brochures available in the preschool office and on the wall by the front entrance.

Well, with the many blessings that have been showered on all of us this past year, our New Year's prayer is for continued blessings in your lives and ours! Thank you for all of your prayers and actions on behalf of the preschool.

In His Service,
Pam and the Preschool Staff

Concordia Schools of Omaha

Would you like your child to receive an education that is refreshingly personal, academically rigorous, and seriously Christian! Then join the 470 students who are enrolled in our two schools, Concordia Academy (grades K-6) and Concordia Jr.-Sr. High (grades 7-12). Registration for the 2013-2014 school year will take place as follows:

- January 14 — Registration for current families
- January 22 — Registration for association congregation members (Beautiful Savior is one of 16 Omaha Lutheran Churches in the Association)
- January 24 — Registration for general public

If you have additional questions about Concordia Academy or Concordia Jr.-Sr. High, please look at their website at www.concordiaomaha.org.

Kindergarten Roundup is taking place at Concordia Academy, 90th & Blondo, on Friday, January 25 from 9:00-10:30 am or 1:00-2:30 pm. Please call the school to set up an appointment, 402.592.8005.

Congratulations to the Concordia "One Act" drama team which won the Class B District competition and participated in the state tournament in Kearney.

Concordia Jr.-Sr. High School is in need of a Spanish teacher for the 2013-2014 school year. Please contact Principal Matt Korte at (402) 445-4000 if you have some leads.



Embrace Teachers

The Embrace Teachers - Mt. View Committee has prepared a little "Happy New Year" for the teachers in the form of a bagel breakfast and "survival bags" containing small items the teachers can put to good use during the coming year.

As winter approaches in earnest, hats and mittens for the children of Mt. View become our focus. The nurse at the school will distribute them to the children in need. You can donate hats, mittens or gloves in any size, preschool through sixth grade. Please place them in the box on

the shelf in the coat room marked Mt. View.

Thank you for your continued support of this outreach.
Kathy Black, Jeanne Klinker
Sharon Struve, Carol Williams
Mt. View Committee

HSM - High School Ministry

Student Life Groups

All students in the 8th - 12th grade are encouraged to be part of a Student Life Group. These groups give students the opportunity to meet new people, get into God's Word and get closer to Jesus and to grow closer to their friends. Life groups are made up of 6-8 gender and age specific teens who meet weekly in homes with an adult Life Group Leader. If your student would like to be part of a group, contact Josh Keithley, josh@bslcomaha.org or 402.331.7376.

ADULTS: Want to get involved in High School Ministry (HSM) as a Life Group Leader? Requirements include breathing, a love for your Savior, and a love and respect for teenagers. We have some eager students who are in need of a leader. Contact Josh Keithley (info above) if you are interested.

Student Worship

Each Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. the 9th - 12th grade students meet in the Student Center for a time of worship and life-changing teaching! They experience topics that connect them to God's Word and relate to what they experience in their daily lives. There is a band, message, and interactive small group discussions. THIS IS Student Worship!

Energized!

Check out the article on page 2 of the Connections.

Student Missions

Missions are a vital part of HSM. They allow youth to put their faith into action and serve others as Christ served us. They can share the hope they have with those who have little or no hope. Opportunities include

local, domestic and international activities. The youth are partnering with the congregation in working with the Abide Network locally.

HSM Mission Hong Kong 2013 is just around the corner and preparations are underway! Students who will be entering the 9th grade in the fall of 2013 are also eligible to participate. All \$150 deposits are due ASAP to secure your spot. Contact Josh Keithley for more information and to sign up.

EVERYONE: If you want to stay connected to HSM you can visit www.bslcstudents.org, Beautiful Savior Students Facebook page or follow on Twitter @bslcstudents. You can also sign up for texting at the website under the HSM connect tab.

Great

Quote

"It is possible to work so hard for God that we forget about communion with Him. Mountains of work and crumbs of intimacy generate dangerous imbalance. We can be very active yet totally ineffective. Our effectiveness has everything to do with balance, joining activity with intimacy, serving God and communion with God."

Jose Luis Navajo

Adopt A Block

The Abide Network has asked our congregation to be a partner in their North Omaha "Adopt a Block" program. The Mission Leadership Council and the Staff have prayed and determined this will be Beautiful Savior's main local mission initiative. This ministry will involve renovation of a house in the 31st & Meredith Street neighborhood, as well as developing and nurturing relationships with the community through a series of outreach events (i.e. block party, yard clean up, Thanksgiving dinner, Valentine cookies, etc.) We hope that countless Beautiful Savior members will volunteer their time, talents and prayers for this mission opportunity to the Omaha area. Watch future Connections and the bulletin announcements for upcoming details.

Sudanese Evangelical Lutheran Church

Members of the Sudanese Church worship at the Grover Site on Sundays from 12:15-2:00 p.m. Pastor Tim has been given permission by our Elders to mentor their pastor, Rev. Peter Gatkuoth and the congregation. They have established a ministry plan for the first 6 months of 2013 and are hoping to become financially self-sufficient so that they can purchase or rent their own facility sometime in 2013. They average about 55 in worship. Their children's choir, children's school and confirmation classes meet on the 3rd and 4th Saturday each month. They have approximately 25-30 children in attendance. Pray for God's leading and guiding for this special congregation.

Mod 17 Ministry

Pastor Tim and eight individuals from our congregation lead a worship service in Mod 17 at the Douglas County Correctional Facility each Sunday afternoon from 2:30-3:30. You are welcome to join this dynamic team that ministers to 25-30 inmates each week. We could really use a few more individuals to help.

If you want to join us the requirement is that you attend a 3-hour orientation, 9 a.m. to Noon, at the Douglas County Facility on the third Saturday of the month. Call Pastor Tim, 402.934.3782, if you have an interest.

Beautiful Savior Foundation

The Beautiful Savior Foundation was formed in 2012 to build an endowment to support the missions of our congregation. In November, Del Toebben was elected to serve a 3-year term on the Foundation Board replacing Ed Schoening. The Foundation Board would like to

thank Ed for his service in setting up the Foundation and for his continued support as the Foundation moves forward. As of December 2012 the Foundation has an endowment of more than \$252,000.00.

In addition, the Foundation

approved a total of \$190,000.00 from the BSFC tithe to be used to support Concordia Schools, the Nebraska District, Jesus Es El Señor congregation, Hong Kong youth and Praise Band trips, benevolence, Mission Central, and the SMP training program in 2013.

Leave Your Mark

As we enter into a new year, it is hard to believe that construction has been ongoing for over eight months already! With only a few months before there is a new space for all of us

to occupy, I wanted to offer everyone a chance to "Leave Your Mark!" I encourage you to take a moment and leave your thoughts, your prayers, your notes of praise - **Your Mark** - on

the temporary construction wall upstairs. Be creative and have fun!

Scott Oswald
Building committee Chair

First, the entire Beautiful Savior Staff says "thank you" for the amazing cards, greetings and generous gifts that the congregation bestowed on us for "Staff Appreciation." Ministry and mission service are a tremendous joy when the Holy Spirit creates a spirit of unity, harmony and Gospel passion. Your friendship, prayers and partnership in the Gospel are valued more than you know! Second, "thank you" again for all the wonderful cards, goodies and gifts that we received at Christmas. The members of Beautiful Savior are truly a reflection of Christ's love. The Staff

Thank you for the gracious reception I received as I presented the Gideon Ministry to you. It was a joy for me to be a part of your worship service. I also want to thank you for letting me use Brian in sharing his story. He was so happy and proud that God would use him at his old church. We will never know how many lives will be touched because of his message. The amount of the door offering was \$1,579.50 and it will buy 1,264 Bibles. We can pray that many precious souls will come to a saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as a result of these scriptures being distributed. Sincerely your brother in Christ, Vern Nemitz

Dear Beautiful Savior, I truly appreciate your people who take time out of their Sunday afternoon to come share the Word with us at the Douglas County Correctional Facility. Thank you. I personally sometimes lose my way, make bad choices, but I know Jesus is always right with me. Its only when I get knocked down off my pedestal that I remember to praise and thank the Lord for giving me strength and ability to get through these hard times, for a chance to get it right. Thanks again, and God bless! Chi

Dear Beautiful Savior, Greetings from St. Louis. I have survived the first quarter of Seminary! Both Greek Readings and Hebrew were successfully completed. I have more excitement for next quarter's classes because I am diving into more of the actual curriculum of Seminary. I want to thank you again for all your prayers and support! I am very grateful for all your generosity! It is amazing to see how God has the plan already worked out. He has blessed me with such loving and generous people like yourselves and opportunities for work. It is wonderful to see how the body of Christ comes together to fulfill His purpose. A few updates: First, there is only 6 months until Natalie and I get married! I have been more involved with my field work church, King of Kings in Chesterfield. I have just started my second trimester and currently taking Hebrew Readings, Pastoral Ministry, Worship, Lutheran Mind, and Historical Theology. Also, I am doing my institutional module at Memorial Hospital. Thank you again, words cannot express my gratitude. God's blessings, Tyler Carter

From a member who received benevolence funds: Thank you so much for helping us with rent, and for your continuous prayers and guidance. I am so grateful!! Angela

A special thank you to the following who purchased poinsettias for Christmas in **thanksgiving for their many blessings**: Ron & Karen Beckman, Keith & Karen Crandall, Sandy Haynes, Don & Wilma Larson, Oscar & Arline Mussman, Del & Phyllis Toeppen. In **thanksgiving to God for their family**: Bill & Diane Koehler, Dee Schwinderman. In **thanksgiving to God for all the worship team volunteers**: Mike & Patti Callahan. In **memory of loved ones**: J.D. & Teri Cook in memory of their mothers; Evelyn Ditzen in memory of husband, Bob; Michael & Judy Flynn in memory of Judy's parents and brother, and Mike's mother; Sharon Price in memory of husband, Dwaine; Joyce Schmidt in memory of husband, Jim, and both their parents; Beverly Schroeder in memory of family members; Paul & Suzie Steube in memory of Cliff Jacoby and Sally Steube; Carol Thedens in memory of husband, Ron, and grandsons Matthew and Mark Odom; Elaine Tomsu in memory of husband, Ed; Marv & Gayle Vala in memory of Gayle's mother, Edna Boury; and Mike, Kim & Alex Zillig in memory of Kim's brother, Randy Ehrlich, and for God's blessings on Kim's health. Additional poinsettias were purchased by Debra Bolas, Frances and Stephanie Drube, Susan Fjelstad, John & Jane Jones, Carol Keavy, Rose Knutzen, Shirley Racek, Clara Schraeder, Francis & Alice Roy, Marilyn Sailors, Gary & Janice VanCleve, Marfay Wallace.

Odds & Ends

♦ We praise God for the dedicated and faithful lay leaders who serve Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church! In 2013 Wayne Rasmussen will serve as our congregation's President; Scott Oswald will be our Vice-President; Susan Lewis will serve as our Secretary; and Marv Vala will serve as our Treasurer. The five other Mission Leadership Council members are: Blake Cole, Kirk Hawkins, Jim McKain, Sharon Struve, and Jessica Wilke.

♦ Jim Haack has successfully completed all his paper-work, exams, and interviews for entrance into the Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) program at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Upon his official approval, Jim and Pastor Keith will attend the vicarage orientation meeting at the Seminary from February 6-8, 2013. We praise God that Jim will serve Beautiful Savior as a Pastor upon his completion of the program four years from now. In the meantime, Jim will continue his regular ministry duties while taking these classes on-line.

♦ The Mission Leadership Council has asked the Board of Elders to put together a "Call Committee" responsible for bringing the 4th Pastor to Beautiful Savior in the summer of 2013. This pastor will be responsible for starting a new worship service (along with Scotte Hansen) in the La Vista Site facility addition in the fall of 2013. The congregation will be updated regularly on the status of this interview process and hopefully will extend a call in May 2013. Please be praying that the Holy Spirit guide this process and lead the person He has in mind to serve, feed and lead at Beautiful Savior in the upcoming years.

♦ Lamb of God Lutheran Church in Omaha will be relocating from 72nd & L Streets (when their current lease expires in February 2013) to "The Club" located at 1010 West Lincoln Street in Papillion. They will be leasing this building from the City of Papillion while looking for land to purchase. We pray God's richest blessings on their congregation during this time of transition.

♦ Shane Acers, who is a son of our congregation and currently serve as a Director of Christian Outreach at Penn State University, has recently received a call to serve at Trinity Lutheran in Davenport, IA. Please keep Shane and his wife Gina in your prayers as they seek the Holy Spirit's guidance in this process.

♦ A sincere "Thank You" to everyone who helped our congregation celebrate her 50th anniversary and truly made 2012 a "Year of Jubilee!" Our special gratitude and appreciation go to these 50th Anniversary Committee members: Nick & Amy Beard; Melissa Bergoch; Candie Carter; Rich & Paula Craig; Stephanie Crandall; Anne Dana; Dan & Carolyn Dittman; Doug & Pat Durbin; Janeen Dvorak; John & Trudy Galaska; Debbie Hoss; Julie Korte; Tami Matousek; Carol Mellick; Francis & Alice Roy; Vicki Schroder; Pat & Betsy Spieler; Rita VanCleve; Jim & Nancy Weiss; Pat & Kari Wilson and our Co-Chairs: Keith & Karen Crandall and Larry & Lynne Saathoff. Your faithful service and diligence throughout the past year were inspiring and cherished.

When it Comes to Sharing the Good News of Jesus with Others . . .

1. Start where people are, not with what you know.
2. Show them what Jesus did, not what they must do.
3. So many times as Christians we focus on the lifestyle of our unsaved friends. Knock that off!! They don't know God. Why would they be following God's principles?
4. My job's not to convict somebody of their lifestyle. My job is to show them Jesus. If they come to know Jesus and follow Jesus, then the Holy Spirit will work on their life.
5. If Jesus isn't the only way to heaven, then the cross will be the most ridiculous act in all of history. Then Jesus needlessly died for something that everyone doesn't need. But we know that Jesus is the only way, the only truth, the only life.

Upcoming Events and Activities



The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod thrives by instructing Christ's little ones at the foot of the cross and leading people of all ages to a deeper understanding of God's saving Word. Collectively, our congregations administer the largest Protestant school system in the world, teaching the truth about God - who He is, where He has promised to meet us, and how deep His love is. Lutheran schools are a part of our global-mission strategy. Our Kidnect Preschool, St. Paul Lutheran School, Mt. Calvary Lutheran School the Concordia Academy and Concordia Jr/Sr High School, the preschools in our sister congregations on Omaha are part of this school system. Also part of this system are the Concordia Universities (Concordia Nebraska) and Seminaries. We celebrate Lutheran Schools Week, January 27 through February 2, 2013. Please keep these schools, their students and parents, the faculty and staff in your prayers.

Christian Doctrine Course Offered

The Lay Leadership Training Program of the Nebraska District is offering "Studies in Christian Doctrine" to members of Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod congregations in the Omaha area. There are four sessions in the course that will be taught on Saturdays, February 2 & 16, March 2 & 16, 2013, here at Beautiful Savior. Classes begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at 4:00 p.m. The instructor

is Rev. Dr. Terry Groth, Professor of Theology at Concordia University Nebraska. Tuition is \$125. To register, please contact CandiM@ndlcms.org. A check can be made to the Nebraska District and sent to Candi, Nebraska District Office, PO Box 407, Seward, NE 68434. For more information, contact Marvin Bergman at marv.bergman@cune.edu or 402.643.3724.



Keep your eyes open - Check the Facebook Page - Watch the screens on Sunday - Check the Connections and the bulletin announcements. The **youth** Super Bowl Party will be on Sunday, February 3. Watch for the details!!

Dare 2 Share Conference

This is an event for all HSM (High School Ministry) students and friends. Dare 2 Share is an evangelism conference to help equip teens to better share their faith and be confident when talking to their friends. The dates are February 8-9, 2013. This year's event cost is \$89 if you get your registration and deposit in by January 16, and the price goes up to \$109 after January 16. The deposit is \$54 and the remainder is due by

January 31. Visit www.bslcstudents.org and click on the events tab for the Dare 2 Share packet including the release form and all important information.



Are you a "Baby Boomer" (born between 1946 and 1964) or just someone who enjoys the pop culture of the 1950s, '60s and '70s? Watch for information about a "Boomer Bash" this spring - most likely late April - in our new building addition! The plan is for this event to include music and dancing, costumes and contests, nostalgic video, classic cars, and a lot of fun - with a purpose! It will include a brief presentation on leaving a legacy. Volunteer opportunities include: Set-up & Tear-down, Decorations, Music DJ, Classic Cars, A-V Operations, Food, Photography, Publicity and more! If you would like to help make this event happen, contact Jim Haack, jim@bslcomaha.org or 402.331.7376. Be there or be square!



Mark your calendars for Beautiful Savior's La Vista Site VBS which will be June 24-28, 2013. Kids will learn to STAND STRONG for God through medieval adventures all week long.

This year we will be offering two sessions. The first session will be as usual in the morning from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. We will be offering a separate session in the evenings from 6:00-8:30 p.m. Our evening session will be more geared toward families attending VBS together. Watch for more information and registration coming soon.

What We Can Learn From Farming

Isn't it surprising how often Jesus spoke about vines, fields, harvests, soil, and seeds in the Gospels? He saw the similarities between how people grow and how nature grows. Both Jesus and farmers understand what happens if seed isn't planted, watered or nurtured. There won't be a harvest.

In Matthew 9 and John 4, Jesus speaks of a bumper crop needing to be picked with few workers. The occasions appear to be different, but the problem is the same – too much picking to be done by too few pickers. There is urgency in what He says - for if the harvest isn't harvested, it's wasted.

I've always wondered why there is a shortage of workers to join Jesus in the harvest. A big part of

the answer lies in John 4, where Jesus' disciples can't understand why He's talking to a Samaritan woman at the well. Jesus essentially says, "I was harvesting, of course." He didn't see her as a problem to avoid. She was ready to be harvested for the kingdom. Jesus could see the harvest when others (including His disciples) couldn't.

There is a clear correlation between our ability to see the harvest field and our joy and effectiveness in ministry. Ministry is obviously God's work, but He works most powerfully through those who work joyfully and urgently like a farmer at harvest time. I wonder how it might change our approach to ministry if we could see our neighborhoods and spheres of

influence as fields bulging with bumper crops, rather than as places of desolation under the oppression of the Evil One.

Nothing can cause us to leap out of bed in the morning more than the hope of God changing lives and overcoming people's struggles and discouragement. Seeing a potential harvest is how the Holy Spirit moves us to do thankless acts of service for others.

The wheat around us has names, jobs, and real barriers standing in the way of salvation and abundant life. Let's pray for eyes to see the fullness of the harvest field – to see what others can become in Christ. Then let's grab a basket and go harvesting.



Christmas Dinner

Was something missing in December?

Did you miss the opportunity to begin your Christmas celebration with a relaxing and fun dinner and fellowship with your fellow members??

Would you be willing to be part of a group who could plan Beautiful Savior's Christmas Dinner for 2013???

If you would like to help, please contact Lynne Saathoff in the church office, 402.331.7376 or lynne@bslcomaha.org.

January Wedding Anniversaries

1/1 Isaac & Shari Berg; **1/2** Dawn & Robert Hazel; **1/4** Craig & Anne Fischer; **1/13** Jim & Diane Cahill, Josh & Katie Langenfeld; **1/16** Gary & Lillian Rhoades; **1/17** Geoff & Sarah Kline; **1/19** Duane & Eileen Moore; **1/20** Lora & Walt Fischer; **1/21** Rich & Barb Froiland, Amy & Kevin Kochanowicz; **1/26** Jeff & Kathy Marxen; **1/27** Carolyn & Troy Campbell.

January Birthdays

ADULTS: **1/1** Pam Abel, Vern Lienemann, Bob Trummer; **1/2** Aaron Leupold, Pat Zak; **1/3** Ed Baker, Erle Carter, John Matousek, Jeanne McDonald, Steven Wisnieski; **1/4** Chris Conn, Rex Hahn, Susan Janda, John Lindley, Stefanie Raszler; **1/5** Frances Drube, Matt Shuput; **1/6** Kim Eymann, Therese Paustian, Carol Williams; **1/7** Tamara Evertson, Melissa Stolley; **1/8** Tom Hermel, Brian Stolley; **1/9** Renae Congrove, Dave Looman, Khara Malcom; **1/10** Sarah Brons, Marie Hansen, Sandra Jenkins, Ilene Rowell; **1/11** Tom Keavy, Ryan Swanigan; **1/12** Karen Carlton, Carolyn Dittman, Candace Hanway, Kathy Jahns; **1/13** Jennifer Clark, Becky Dietz, Debbie Gerch, Craig Iossi, Phil Taylor; **1/14** Garrick Baxter, Gregory Beethe, Darla Fullner, Josh Keithley; **1/15** Nick Drog, Shea Glenn, Loraine Krause, Marie Secan, Jeffrey Shank; **1/16** Joni Cox, Toby Dellamano, Deb Wiechman; **1/17** Kayleigh Bendinger, Breanne Bendinger, Jen Goslar, Teresa Hale, Denise Klein, Phyllis Toeppen, Corey Tunink; **1/18** Rita Bernhart, Gladys Doerr, Eric Rice; **1/19** Melissa Peterson, Judy Price, Chris Timmerman; **1/20** Jane Jensen, Betty Krause, Faye Miller, Paul Mollak, Rosa Norman, Delores Parsley, Jeff Sheldon; **1/21** Holli Brown, Rich Froiland, Gary Hiatt, Taylor Johnson, Kate Schmidt; **1/22** Arlin Anderson, Dan Dittman, Sara Drumheller, Jackie Heyne, Mande Stephens, Leah Taege, Evadine Uhing; **1/23** David Barrows, Brad Brons, Cathie Godbersen, Lindsay Jungbluth, Cindy Kirkpatrick, Sabrina Powell, Lindsey Van Cleve; **1/24** Cindy Hennings, Ron Hostetter, Cory Rydberg, Valerie Vargas; **1/25** Karen Dulany, Jack Gifford, Teresa Keefe, Jean Mikoloyck; **1/26** Chris Erickson, Jo Headrick, Kim Leggott, Lorraine Seibel; **1/27** Quinn Hueschen, Vernon Krenz, Aaron Schaap; **1/28** Kimberly Brahmstedt, Judith Holling, Greg Schardt, Carol Vidlak; **1/29** Amy Gillespie, Chris Lantzer, Chris Swerczek; **1/30** Jamie Baker, Jerry Byers, Don Jenn, Kathy Kraft, Dave Krueger; **1/31** Elsie Benck, Lisa Engwell, Amy Grafelman, Diana Iwansky, Stewart Vanness, Patricia Wilcox.

TEENS: **1/1** Caprice Balleweg, Lillian Vauble; **1/2** Christopher Epp; **1/4** Brenna Zirpel; **1/6** Cameron Kimble, Alex Klemp; **1/10** Brittney Severson; **1/11** Autumn Prante; **1/12** Alyssa Beeson, Noah Dartmann; **1/15** Andy Lee, Christian Stavig; **1/16** Christian Haack; **1/19** Jacob Yarbrough; **1/21** Emma Korte; **1/22** Blake Hawkins, Emily Neilsen; **1/23** Bailey Fleming, Reid Latimer; **1/27** Hailey DeWitt, Savanna Roth; **1/31** Brett Jones.

CHILDREN: **1/1** Jacob Huon; **1/2** Austin Landmark; **1/3** Teagan Crossman; **1/4** Emily Mangano; **1/5** Lillian Klein; **1/6** Teagan Foster; **1/7** Kamryn Erickson, Allyson Riley, Nicholas Thor; **1/8** Drew Kloeckner, Dayton Satter; **1/9** Andrew Oltmanns; **1/10** Isley Brinkman, MacKenzie Mabus, Destin Wolfe; **1/11** Ben Henderson, Eliana Kolumban; **1/12** Faith Iossi, Taylor Mauch; **1/13** Maya Beck, Zackary Kaluza, Camden Sorenson, Brayden Sorenson, Easley Taylor, Jackson Waldron; **1/14** Dominick Mangano; **1/15** Margaret Rice; **1/18** Cory Claussen; **1/19** Matthew Schmidt, Addisyn Swaney; **1/20** Gabriella Clark, Carter Lichti, Ty McMenamin, Kennedy Shelburne; **1/21** Isabella Shelburne, Leah Van Hill; **1/22** Logan Holtmeyer; **1/27** Rylan Conn; **1/29** Kaden Burns; **1/30** Mphatso Smith; **1/31** Dylan Anderson.



Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church
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January

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Our Mission Statement

Empowered by the Holy Spirit the members of Beautiful Savior will:

Reach people for Christ
Glorify the Savior through worship
Connect them with believers
Guide them to Christ-like maturity
Equip them for a life of service
