

Pastor's Thoughts as We Close out the Year

Dear friends in Christ, thank you! Thank you for your love shown to my family and me this year, and thank you most of all for your devout and glad reception of God's Word which I have brought you during 2015. Those thoughts of thanksgiving are the first that I want to share with you as we close out the year. In our life together at Beautiful Savior in 2015, in response to God's grace we have truly touched one another with kindness, care, and love. Thank you for being part of that with me. Thank You, Lord, for inspiring and empowering this Christian love among us! Continue it, we pray, and increase it in the new year!

Another thought I have this December is how I have learned and grown over the past year. When 2015 began I was at a certain point in my life and in my spiritual maturity. As the year approaches its close, I am not at the same point I was. I am a different person, for which I have the Holy Spirit to thank. I recognize my limits more clearly, and understand my dependence upon God. And I appreciate God's presence in my life and His grace in new ways. Can't you say the same? God molds and shapes His elect as He brings His living Word to bear in our lives. Our "Potter" has left His imprint on our lives in so many wonderful ways this year, hasn't He? It's exciting to think that whatever lies ahead in 2016 God will also work together for the good of us, who love Him (see Romans 8:28).

My thoughts right now are also very much on that new year that is around the corner. Acknowledging, as we must, that the future is in God's hands, we can and should nonetheless prayerfully formulate plans for the future. One plan that I have been thinking about for Beautiful Savior for quite some time is the formation of a Life Team. Life Teams are intended to help Lutheran congregations apply the powerful Gospel of Jesus Christ to the life issues through congregational education and nurture and through outreach. Several interested members of Beautiful Savior have already started laying the groundwork for a Life Team. On Tuesday, December 8th, at 1:30 p.m. at our Board of Christian Outreach meeting we will be hearing from two guests from Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Loveland, who are leaders of their Life Team. If you believe you might have interest in being part of a Life Team at Beautiful Savior, please join us at that December 8th Board meeting and listen in.

The last thought I would share with you at year's end is my wish that you might help me be the best pastor I can be for you and for Beautiful Savior going forward. I've been the pastor here for over two years now, so we're well on our way to getting to know one another. Please let's keep a positive and open relationship in which we talk to one another, share ideas and concerns as soon as they arise, and mutually seek God through hearing His Word and bringing our prayers to Him together. I want to know how I can best serve you!

Lastly I want to share this thought—the Good News of Christmas. God loves you, brothers and sisters. His Son lying in a manger is the proof. Take that Son into your hearts by faith, where He will reign with forgiveness, grace, and peace. Rejoice in Christ and share Christ with others that they also may rejoice. Be anxious for nothing as 2016 approaches, but entrust your days to the Lord, who has blessed you through the past. The Lord be with you, beloved!

Pastor Groth



THOSE SERVING IN DECEMBER

Ushers

Dave Esslinger
Craig Ludwig

Mike Brown
Domino Mbise

Rick Mericle
Wayne Mericle

Elders

<u>12/2</u>	<u>Cliff Evans & Mike Brown</u>
<u>12/6</u>	<u>Cal Meisner & Rick Mericle</u>
<u>12/9</u>	<u>Rick Mericle & Cliff Evans</u>
<u>12/13</u>	<u>Cliff Evans & Mike Brown</u>
<u>12/16</u>	<u>Cliff Evans</u>
<u>12/20</u>	<u>Cal Meisner & Rick Mericle</u>
<u>12/24</u>	<u>Rick Mericle</u>
<u>12/25</u>	<u>Cliff Evans & Cal Meisner</u>
<u>12/27</u>	<u>Cliff Evans & Mike Brown</u>
<u>12/31</u>	<u>Cliff Evans & Mike Brown</u>

Acolytes

<u>12/6</u>	<u>John Acker</u>
<u>12/9</u>	<u>Nicholas Little</u>
<u>12/13</u>	<u>Damien Dittrich</u>
<u>12/20</u>	<u>Emily Bower</u>
<u>12/24</u>	<u>Nicholas Little</u>
<u>12/25</u>	<u>Damien Dittrich</u>
<u>12/27</u>	<u>John Acker</u>
<u>12/31</u>	<u>Emily Bower</u>

Altar Guild Sue Rada & Judy Werner





December Birthdays

- Dec. 1 Gerd Crandall
Paul Duchrow
Wayne Mericle
- 4 Hillary Ulrich
- 7 Mary Wilson
- 11 Margaret Mentzer
- 12 Gretchen Lee
- 15 John McDaniel
- 29 Wilda Davenport
Bradley Dittrich
Maxx Hopping
- 31 Shirley Quinlan



December Anniversaries

- Dec. 10 Gene & Mary Wilson
- 15 Ken & Maxine Craiger
- 16 Jim & Sherrie Woodburn
- 19 Jeff & Bobbi Schasny
- 23 Mike & Jaci Brown
- 25 Don & Millie Johnson



Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church
Schedule of Special Services
for the Christmas Season

Advent

Midweek Advent Service
Service December 2 7:00 PM
(soup supper begins at 5:45 PM)

Midweek Advent Service
December 9 7:00 PM
(soup supper begins at 5:45 PM)

Midweek Advent Service
Service December 16 7:00 PM
(soup supper begins at 5:45 PM)

Christmas

Christmas Eve Worship
Thursday, December 24 7:00 PM

Christmas Day Worship
Friday, December 25 9:00 AM

New Year's Eve Worship
Thursday, December 31 7:00 PM



Our Stewardship Message

(December 2015)



Our Lord Jesus Christ healed the man with dropsy by His Word on the Sabbath (Luke 14:1–6). He is the great physician of both body and soul. The paradoxical symptom of dropsy was an unquenchable craving for drink even though the body was over inflated with fluid, a craving that when indulged served not to ease but to feed the disease. And so if a man drinks a great deal, but is never filled, he sees a doctor to inquire about what ails him, what is wrong with his body and how to remedy it. For that is not thirst but a disease (Seneca, *Consolation to His Mother Helvia*, 11.3).

But if the owner of five couches goes looking for ten, or the owner of ten tables buys up as many again, and even though he has plenty of land and money, he remains unsatisfied and desires yet more, losing sleep and always in discontent, does he not also require a physician to diagnose the cause of this distress? For this is not want or lack, but a disease (Aristippus, quoted in Plutarch, *Love of Wealth*, 524b). As St. Augustine of Hippo wrote, “we may rightly compare the dropsical man to a covetous rich man: For the more the one is swollen with excess of water, the more he thirsts; so also the other: The more he abounds in riches . . . the more eagerly he desires them” (*The Sunday Sermons of the Great Fathers*, Vol. 4, 135). Both require physicians. Both require diagnosis and medicine applied from the outside to the inward being. For these are not desires to be fulfilled but diseases to be cured.

This is why our Lord instructs us on taking care not to be consumed by money. “No one can serve two masters . . . you cannot serve God and money” (Matt 6:24; Luke 16:13). The point is that our desire for money, like the disease dropsy, is never satisfied. We always desire more. We always think, if I just had this much then I would be happy. But even when that much comes, which God gladly gives, that happiness evades us. For the desire for more of these things is never satisfied. It demands our constant energy—either in procuring more or protecting what we already have. When this happens, God, in His mercy, shows us that the money He has given is no longer serving us, but we it. We have another master.

To overcome this, we need a physician’s diagnosis and a physician’s remedy. And our Lord, Jesus Christ, our great physician of both body and soul, like the man healed of dropsy, applies His Word to us. He shows us how we have put our fear, our love, and our trust in our money and not feared, loved, and trusted in Him above all things. In essence, He says, “Stop it! Stop chasing after these fleeting things. They are vanity. They are the things that moth and rust destroy. For you cannot have two masters. Repent!” And in seeing our great error, we are sorry that we have not fully feared, loved, and trusted in God above all things. And, in the mercy and grace, that He earned for us on the cross, He takes away this sin, restores us to health, and bids us live.

But then what? What do we do with this healing balm and care that our great physician has done? Do we simply go back to our old ways? “By no means!” St. Paul says (Rom 3:31; 6:2). We do not just go back to the old ways. That way is dead to us and leads us to death. No, we live a new life, a life filled with the grace, mercy, and love of God toward us. And God’s great mercy, grace, and love toward us is so abundant that it overflows and pours out onto those around us. So we no longer hoard money and possessions. We no longer scrape and crawl our way to amass more. We give to those around us, as God in Christ has given to us. We press our money and possessions into service for those who need it: our family, our society, and our church. For money is God’s gift to us to serve us and others. Not the other way round. It serves us because it is a gift from our Father in heaven.

PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW!



In Christ for the Church and the World

Dear Family in Christ:

Greetings in Christ! In this year's most blessed time of Advent and the upcoming celebrations of our Savior's birth I pray that this message will encourage and strengthen all of us to always keep Christ in Christmas!

The One and Only *"PRICELESS GIFT"* for All People for All Time!



In this day and age of advertising hype we hear all kinds of messages about the things, emotions and relationships that are so-called "priceless". We have yet to hear any of these messages tell us about the One and Only *"Priceless Gift"* that has been given to **All** people for **All** time. As we once again prepare our hearts to celebrate our Savior's birth, may we always cherish and thank the Lord for His *"Priceless Gift"* given to us in *Jesus, the Christ*! May the following verses of Holy Scripture help us to know and reflect upon the priceless gifts that are now ours with and in the birth of Christ Lord.

"But by His doing you are *in Christ* Jesus, Who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption". (1 Corinthians 1:30)

"In Christ" occurs nearly 200 times in the New Testament! By God's doing you are *in Christ*, who opens the door to the many blessings God desires to give you:

- "Being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is *in Christ* Jesus" (Rom.3:24)
- "Even so, consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God *in Christ* Jesus" (Rom. 6:11)
- "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life *in Christ* Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 6:23)
- "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are *in Christ* Jesus" (Rom. 8:1)
- "I thank my God always concerning you, for the grace of God which was given you *in Christ* Jesus" (1 Cor. 1:4)
- "But by His doing you are *in Christ* Jesus" (1 Cor. 1:30)
- "In Adam all die, so also *in Christ* all shall be made alive" (1 Cor. 15:22)
- "the veil is removed *in Christ*" (2 Cor. 3:14)
- "Therefore if anyone is *in Christ*, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; . . ." (2 Cor. 5:17)
- "God was *in Christ* reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses . . ." (2 Cor. 5:19)

- “A man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith *in Christ* Jesus” (Gal. 2:16)
- “*In Christ* Jesus the blessings of Abraham might come to the Gentiles” (Gal. 3:14)
- “For you are all sons of God through faith *in Christ* Jesus” (Gal. 3:26)
- “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places *in Christ*” (Eph. 1:3)
- “[God has] raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, *in Christ* Jesus” (Eph. 2:6)
- “We are His workmanship, created *in Christ* Jesus for good works” (Eph. 2:10)
- “Now *in Christ* Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ” (Eph. 2:13)

- “The Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise *in Christ* Jesus through the gospel . . . this was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out *in Christ* Jesus our Lord” (Eph. 3:6,11)
- “God, *in Christ* also has forgiven you” (Eph. 4:32)
- “That I . . . may be found *in Christ*, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith *in Christ*, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith” (Phil. 3:9) “And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds *in Christ* Jesus” (Phil. 4:7)
- “And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory *in Christ* Jesus”(Phil. 4:19)
- “And we proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, that we may present every man complete *in Christ*” (Col. 1:28)
- “The dead *in Christ* shall rise first” (1 Thess. 4:16)
- “In everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you *in Christ* Jesus” (1 Thess. 5:18)
- “For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, that they also may obtain the salvation which is *in Christ* Jesus and with it eternal glory” (2 Tim. 2:10)

May the birth of God’s only Son continue to be recognized as the only **“Priceless Gift”** among all of His people and may we, by God’s grace, continue to share the message of **Jesus, the Christ . . . Who is the One and Only “Priceless Gift” for All People for All Time!**

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a most blessed season of Advent and a very **Merry Christmas!** I pray you and your loved ones will be filled with joy as we share and celebrate our Savior’s peace and love during this most wonderful time of the year!

Your fellow servant in the Lord;

Mike Brown, President

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church & School

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“For a child will be born to us, a Son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.



“The Lutheran Hour”

Sermon Schedule for December 2015

LHM produces and airs radio and TV programming around the world in more than 80 languages. *“The Lutheran Hour”* began in 1930 and is the world’s longest-running, continually broadcast Gospel radio program. It proclaims the message of Jesus Christ to more than 1 million people every week on 1400+ North American radio stations! Please tune to **850 KOA (AM)** at **6:00 a.m.** on **Sunday** mornings **OR** go on-line to **www.lutheranhour.org** (24/7) to hear and/or download the current or any of the previous sermons.

- Dec. 6th** ***“The Voice”*** (Luke 3:1-20)
The voice of John the Baptist calls us to repent and trust in the Savior Who walked in our shoes. (Lutheran Hour Speaker: **Rev. Gregory Seltz**)
- Dec. 13th** ***“The Lord is Near”*** (Philippians 4:4-7)
God’s message is simple and straightforward: Jesus is near – put your trust in Him!
(Lutheran Hour Speaker: **Rev. Gregory Seltz**)
- Dec. 20th** ***“The Gift in the Manger”*** (Luke 2:8-12)
From the manger to the cross to resurrection life, God is in the giving business for all of us to Receive and believe. (Lutheran Hour Speaker: **Rev. Gregory Seltz**)
- Dec. 27th** ***“No Regrets”*** (1 Timothy 1:16)
Jesus invites you to leave your burden of regret at the foot of His cross.
(Lutheran Hour Speaker-Emeritus: **Rev. Ken Klaus**)

Please contact Mike Brown at (303) 438-5766 or mbrown_1llrmd@comcast.net with any questions you may have about *“The Lutheran Hour”* or any of the excellent **Outreach Resources** available from **LHM**.

Lutheran Hour Ministries is a congregational outreach ministry supporting The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod and partnering churches worldwide. It is independently funded by generous Christians who want to spread the pure and powerful message of our Savior’s love in their own communities and throughout the world. For more information, please visit **www.lhm.org** or call **1-800-876-9880**. *THANK YOU!*



Merry Christmas Wishes!

Listed below are the names and addresses of some of our members that are either homebound or due to distance and/or lack of transportation are not able to worship with us on a regular basis. I'm sure they would enjoy receiving cards from anyone wishing to send them.

Mrs. Melva Anderson 1055 Adams Circle, #236, Boulder, CO 80303

Mrs. Marianne Burnworth 680 Emerald Street Broomfield, CO 80020

Mrs. Dixie Cassily 12919 Lafayette Street Unit G Thornton, CO 80241

Mrs. Maxine Craiger 269 Garnet Street Broomfield, CO 80020

Mrs. Gerd Crandall 1995 E. Colton Road, Unit 67-102, Superior, CO 80027

Mrs. Ron Davis 10190 Wadsworth Blvd. Apt 113 Westminster, CO 80021

Mrs. Doris Hintz Clear Creek Care Center 7481 Knox Place Westminster, CO 80030

Mrs. Irene Lombardi 225 Waneka Parkway Room 283 Lafayette, CO 80026

Mrs. Laila Luhman 1830 Charles Drive, Apt. 112, Longmont, CO 80503

Mr. James Nuoffer 7175 Kipling Street, Apt. 123, Arvada, CO 80004

Mrs. Roberta Nigon 1213 Jefferson Louisville, CO 80027

Mrs. Wanda Renzelman 760 Marble Street Broomfield, CO 80020

Mrs. Larry Rotvold 451 Malley Drive, Apt. 153, Northglenn, CO 80233

Mr. & Mrs. Don Sall 12810 Hudson Street, Apt. 322, Thornton, CO 80241

Mrs. Ruby Stolz 10300 Sheridan Suite 103 Westminster, CO 80020

Mr. & Mrs. Gene Sylvester 2425 W. Miller Court Lakewood, CO 80227

Mrs. Julie Vogel 12322 Clayton Court Thornton, CO 80241

