



## **My Promises as Your Pastor: Part One**

Believe it or not, nearly three years have passed since I was installed to be your pastor on June 23, 2013. I would like to use this month's Pastor's Article to discuss the first of the many promises I made on that day. In the coming years, each June, I plan to review one more of these important promises which mean so much for our life together and our common mission as God's people.

Those who attended my Installation may remember how the series of questions began: "In the presence of this congregation and before our Lord God to whom you must give an account now and at the Last Day, I now ask you..." Although both the questions and the answers were scripted, they were not spoken thoughtlessly. I spoke with a deep conviction that God was listening—and that you were—and that my answers mattered.

First I was asked about my beliefs. It is fitting that beliefs should come first. Right belief is foundational for Christians and essential for one called to preach and teach the Christian faith. Every pastor (and every Christian) should be willing to state openly and forthrightly exactly what he believes. The first question was: "Do you believe and confess the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired Word of God and the only infallible rule of faith and practice?" To that question I answered, and still answer, "Yes."

I believe that the sixty-six books comprising our Old and New Testaments are, in their entirety, the inspired, inerrant Word of God. That is, they are absolutely unique writings—the product of real human authors who were moved by the Holy Spirit to write exactly what God desired, down to the very word (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21). Through this mysterious process, called verbal inspiration, God revealed His will and His heart to us in writing. God ensured that we, His human creatures, would have a thoroughly trustworthy source of information about Him and His plan of saving us.

I believe that the Old and New Testament Scriptures, as the inspired Word of God, are also the only infallible rule of faith and practice. In other words, the Bible serves as the church's highest and final authority in questions of doctrine (what we teach) and practice (what we do as Christ's church). Christian teachings and practices are not to be determined by human reason, or by consulting cultural values, popular opinions, or any other similar source. Human reason is not a reliable guide in spiritual matters, and the values of our culture are often in opposition to God's values. Instead, the church's faith and practice are always to be determined by the Word of God alone. God's written Word will never mislead us or deceive us. It alone is an "infallible" rule, always conveying the truth to us and always guiding us in the right way (Psalm 119:105; John 8:31-32; John 17:17). It is God's Word alone that leads us to know and believe in the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:15).

What all this means is that as your pastor I will be a man who emphasizes the Bible. I will emphasize it first in my personal life. You can expect and you should assume that every day I will be spending time reading and meditating upon God's Word. I will also emphasize the Bible in my preaching and teaching. For example, my sermons will bring you a solid message from God's Word, prepared through careful study of the pertinent biblical text. I will emphasize the Bible in counseling as well. When problems and life issues come up, I will have us ask, "What does the Word of God say about that?" Finally, as your pastor I will also urge you to be growing in your knowledge of the Bible, and I will strive to provide ideas and resources, including group Bible studies, to help you to grow in God's Word.

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This month I joyfully reaffirm my belief that the Bible is the inspired and inerrant Word of God and the only infallible rule of faith and practice. What a blessing God has given us in the Holy Scriptures! May God continue to bless Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church and School as we receive His Word and grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

*Pastor Groth*

## **Beautiful Savior Supports Missionary John Wolf**

John Wolf is a Lutheran layman with many years of leadership experience in the US Air Force who is transitioning into an exciting new career: “Project Manager, Africa Region” with the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. For about a year John and his wife Jenn and their five young children have been visiting and building relationships with LCMS congregations around the country, and these relationships have resulted in commitments of prayers and of financial support that have almost reached the level necessary for the Wolf family to “deploy,” or to depart for Kenya and begin their missionary work.

At our May 15 Voters Assembly Beautiful Savior voted to add a line to our 2016-2017 budget for “Missionary Support,” and at this time we intend to direct that money entirely to John Wolf. Members of Beautiful Savior should watch for special opportunities in the coming months to contribute to John Wolf’s support through door offerings after the Divine Service. However, you need not wait until such a Sunday to give; if you would like to make a contribution right away (which would greatly assist the Wolf family in deploying soon), contact the church office for instructions on how to do this.

All the members of Beautiful Savior are encouraged to learn more about the Wolf family and their upcoming work in Africa by visiting [hereiamsendmesendme.blogspot.com](http://hereiamsendmesendme.blogspot.com), where you can view the Wolfs’ most recent newsletter. Above all, please pray for John Wolf and his family, and keep them in your prayers in the coming years. May the Lord bless them richly—and the congregations and people of Africa among whom John will soon serve.

## **Life Team Catalysts Meet June 21 to Discuss Pamphlet “Questions and Answers Concerning the End of Life”**

Dr. James Lamb, former executive director of Lutherans For Life, has authored a fine new pamphlet with the above title. Questions Lamb addresses include: Where should the Christian begin in discussing assisted suicide? How do we know God brings good from suffering? What’s the difference between assisted suicide and euthanasia? And, what about “advance directives”? The pamphlet clarifies issues and gives guidance to Christians of all ages who must deal with these sometimes vexing questions. Reading through this short pamphlet will be the main item on the agenda as Beautiful Savior’s Life Team catalysts next meet, on Tuesday, June 21, at 1:30PM, in the fellowship hall.

(“Life Team catalysts” are members of Beautiful Savior who have interest in connecting the Gospel of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, to the life issues of our day. Meetings are open to any members of Beautiful Savior, and interested friends are more than welcome, too. So, if you have questions about the end of life, and would like answers, join us on the 21<sup>st</sup> as we pick up James Lamb’s new pamphlet. Contact Pastor Groth with any questions: (303) 469-1785.)

## **Thursday Service Schedule Change—*JULY***

Please note and mark your calendars that there will be no Thursday evening worship at Beautiful Savior on July 21. Other than that, 7PM Thursday Divine Services will continue to be held weekly throughout the entire summer.

## THOSE SERVING IN JUNE

### Ushers

Dave Esslinger  
Craig Ludwig

Mike Brown  
Domino Mbise

Rick Mericle  
Wayne Mericle

### Elders

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<u>6/5</u>	<u>Cal Meisner &amp; Rick Mericle</u>
<u>6/12</u>	<u>Cliff Evans &amp; Cal Meisner</u>
<u>6/19</u>	<u>Rick Mericle &amp; Mike Brown</u>
<u>6/26</u>	<u>Cliff Evans &amp; Mike Brown</u>

### Acolytes

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<u>6/5</u>	<u>Damien Dittrich &amp; Katelynn Rose</u>
<u>6/12</u>	<u>Nicholas Little</u>
<u>6/19</u>	<u>Joey Weinstock &amp; Corrie Rose</u>
<u>6/26</u>	<u>Damien Dittrich &amp; Katelynn Rose</u>

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Altar Guild Judy Werner & Sue Rada





### June Birthdays

June	1	Dorj Sall
	3	Daniel Groth
	5	Sonya Acker Lindsey Hayden
	6	Samj Acker Charlotte Davis
	7	Mike Brown
	8	Lou Vinquist
	11	Barb Castillo
	13	Marc Bower
	16	Dan Adams Cliff Evans
	17	Matt Acker James Grosvenor
	18	Mark Grosvenor David Robey
	20	Kathy Anderberg
	21	Henry Bonder
	24	Jenn Dittrich
	25	Sue Rada
	26	Keegan Boniek
	30	Dory Brechbuhl

1) Lutheran Family Services is always in need of more diapers for our refugee families! Specifically, we are most in need of non-infant sized diapers, including pull-ups. If you or your church might be willing to do a diaper drive, or just collect and donate diapers more informally, please contact [jaime.blanchard@lfsrm.org](mailto:jaime.blanchard@lfsrm.org) for more information.

2) How do I talk to my family about my wishes? Who will make medical decisions for me if I no longer can? Advance Care Planning (ACP) is the proactive approach to making decisions about future medical care. The Older Adult and Caregiver Services at Lutheran Family Services will be hosting part two of our two-part series on ACP on June 8<sup>th</sup> at 12:00PM. Please visit us online at <http://www.lfsrm.org/caregiver-services> or call 303-217-5864 or 970-232-1180 for more information.

3) Lutheran Family Services is also in need of twin sheet sets and bowls (cereal bowls) for their Unaccompanied Refugee Minor (URM) youth who are moving into Independent Living. Additionally, LFS just received word that they will be able to help reunify a refugee father with his five URM children in June! He will need a lot of help getting his house ready for them though – please help LFS collect household goods for them! Any kitchen or bathroom item is welcomed, along with any furniture (including beds). If you have items you're able to donate, please contact Beth Howes at 719-314-0212. Thank you!

4) The 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Golf Classic for Lutheran Family Services is on June 9<sup>th</sup> at the Hiwan Golf Club. Please go to [www.lfsr.org/events](http://www.lfsr.org/events) for more information!



### June Anniversaries

June	1	Fred & Dory Brechbuhl
	4	Ron & Barb Wolff
	7	Marc & Kristi Bower
	19	Roger & Dorothy Ruff
	20	Wendell & Nancy Slate



## ***In Christ, for the Church and the World***

*“In grateful response to God’s grace and empowered by the Holy Spirit through the Word and Sacraments, the mission of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod is to vigorously make known the love of Christ by word and deed within our churches, communities and the world.”* (LCMS Mission Statement – 2010)

### ***Dear Family in Christ:***

Greetings in Christ! In our *Life Together*, we as individuals, and as the Body of Christ are being continually challenged on many fronts in regard to our religious liberties and freedoms. I pray that the following message will encourage all of us to be more pro-active in witnessing our faith and our Lord’s teaching in these very troubling times.

### ***Engaging the Issues – We Can No Longer Stay Silent***

(By: Becky Rogness – The Lutheran Witness, May 2016 – Page 22)

As baptized children of God, we have dual citizenship. God has given us a blessing in our earthly citizenship. Americans can uniquely participate in the political process and engage in policy discussions in the public square. As Christians, we consider our vocation as United States citizens through the lens of our heavenly citizenship.

In Matthew 5, Christ calls us to let our light shine. We do this by advocating for good order and good Government, recognizing that the authorities over us were put there by God. We pay our taxes (Matt. 22-23), and we pray for our leaders (1 Tim. 2:1-2) but we don’t stand idly by as our leaders make choices that conflict with our faith and pull our nation away from God’s laws.

We don’t have to look very far to find an abortion facility where the unborn are torn apart daily. We only have to turn on the news to find another business, school or church being forced to conform to the government’s mandates against their religious liberty. And we see couples of the same gender at our courthouses taking vows reserved for an institution created by God to be between only one man and one woman.

Yes, we live in dire times where God’s good order is assaulted at every angle. For far too long, we have taken a passive approach. We assumed someone else would engage in the public square for us. And we listened to the critics that told the Church to stay far from the state. We can no longer stay silent!

### ***Asked and Answered:***

One common question is, “What can I do to get involved?” How do we engage in the areas of life, marriage and religious liberty? The answer is, “It depends.” There is so much to do in these areas that each Christian should consider his or her own God-given gifts and find activities that utilize those strengths. While one person can’t imagine standing on the sidewalk outside of an abortion facility, another may find it to be the perfect fit for their abilities.

Where do you fit best as we engage on life, marriage and religious liberty?

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**GET ACTIVE** – You can take an activist approach by participating in a religious liberty rally on the steps of your courthouse or by marching in the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. These events need bodies at them to capture the attention of lawmakers and the media. You might organize a petition to elected officials about legislation that protects religious liberty or you might write a letter to the editor proclaiming that children fare best when raised by a mom and dad. Finally, you can protect the unborn and defend marriage and religious liberty when you vote for candidates that have pledged to remain strong on these issues.

**START SERVING** – We serve our neighbors when we volunteer our time at organizations advancing the causes of life, marriage and religious liberty. Our littlest neighbors and their mothers benefit when we do something as simple as folding baby clothes at a pregnancy resource center. We serve those caught in the crossfire of the religious liberty debate when we patronize a florist, baker or photographer who refused to condone actions contrary to our Christian beliefs.

**SPEAK UP** – We witness when we proclaim the truth on these issues either verbally or just by showing up. Sidewalk counselors will tell you they always need more loving people outside of abortion facilities or to participate in prayerful efforts like 40 Days for Life. We don't show up to condemn those pursuing an abortion decision but rather to encourage life and show God's love and mercy to them. With two-thirds of adults on social media, we recognize that we can witness on these channels too. We share articles rooted in God's Word and filled with reason that inform our friends and family about the unborn; one man, one woman marriage; and religious liberty.

These ideas, to engage through activism, service and witness, are just a sample of how you can let God's light shine. Opportunities abound. Get involved, and don't give up. On the days your efforts seem futile, don't despair. When you are bullied for your beliefs, pray for those who persecute you. Christ warned us that we will be hated for His name's sake (Matt. 24:9) Remember that our earthly citizenship is only temporary.

We have citizenship in heaven that will last for all eternity. Through Baptism, we were marked as one of Christ's own. Christ is on the throne yesterday, today and forever. (Heb.13:8) He is the true light that the darkness of abortion, same-sex marriage and government coercion cannot overcome. **No matter how welcome or unwelcome we are in the public square, Christ will continue His reign** and we will continue as citizens of His heavenly court.

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By God's grace, may we always be well informed and stay up-to-date on the news surrounding life, marriage and religious liberty issues. ***Free to Be Faithful*** ([lcms.org/freetobefaitful](http://lcms.org/freetobefaitful)), ***LCMS Life Ministry*** ([lcms.org/life](http://lcms.org/life)) and ***Lutherans for Life*** ([lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)) are very good places to start. May we be steadfast in prayer for the protection of life, for those in same-sex unions and that we may freely continue to live out our God-given faith and convictions. Serving our neighbors and loving one another will always be an active means of witnessing God's love and truth in these troubling times.

Your fellow servant in the Lord;  
Mike Brown, President  
Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church & School  
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*“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus”* (Philippians 4:6-7)

## *Our Stewardship Message*

(June 2016)



“**F**or God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son” (John 3:16). “God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays his life down for the sheep” (John 10:11). Love means sacrifice. Sacrifice means a humbling of oneself for the good of another. And this is what the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ teaches us: Love means sacrifice.

**W**e love our families. And we love them by sacrificing ourselves for them. We put their needs before our own. We sacrifice our own wants and desires for their good and for their needs.

**W**e love our country. And we love it by pledging our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor to defend her. We ask not what our country can do for us, but what we can do for our country. We make sacrifices for our country’s good and we do it because we love her.

**W**e love our church. And we love our church by giving of ourselves, by sacrificing our time, talents, and treasures in service to it. We volunteer to teach Sunday School, VBS, and other various boards. We help out cleaning and fixing what needs to be cleaned and fixed at the church property. And we give a portion of the income God has given us, so that the lights will go on, and the heat and air conditioning may run; so that a pastor will preach to us both law and gospel and administer baptism and the Lord’s Supper; so that the Word will go forth into all the world through the missionaries we call and send out.

**G**od has called us into these three spheres of family, country, and church. He puts the solitary into a home. No one is an island unto himself. Everyone is put into a family, a country, and a church. In these spheres, God cares for all our needs of body and soul. He employs other members of these spheres to ensure that we have everything we need for this body and life and for the next.

**T**hese callings place a claim upon us, a claim upon our presence, our prayers, our time, talents, and treasures. They give us a duty. That duty is to love. And love means sacrifice. And sacrifice means that we humble ourselves for the good of another.

**S**o then, “let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another” (1 John 4:7–11). **And love means sacrifice.**

*We are “Consecrated Stewards” to the Glory of God!*



## *“The Lutheran Hour”* Sermon Schedule for June 2016

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 hear and/or download the weekly or any of the previous messages: **[www.lutheranhour.org](http://www.lutheranhour.org)**

**June 5<sup>th</sup>** ***“Christ’s Good News”*** (Galatians 1:11-24)

What is the Gospel? It’s the good news of God’s forgiving love for us, in Jesus Christ.  
(Lutheran Hour Speaker: **Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz**)

**June 12<sup>th</sup>** ***“Not By Your Works”*** (Galatians 2:15-21, 3:10-14)

God’s grace is real and it can change everything, even in our world today.  
(Lutheran Hour Speaker: **Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz**)

**June 19<sup>th</sup>** ***“No Longer Slaves, But Free”*** (Galatians 3:23 – 4:7)

The Bible doesn’t speak of Utopian dreams or dystopian fears; it delivers the reality of freedom from sin and death.  
(Lutheran Hour Speaker: **Rev. Gregory Seltz**)

**June 26<sup>th</sup>** ***“Don’t Touch That Dial!”*** (Galatians 5:1)

In Christ, we find freedom from sin, but not freedom to sin.  
(Lutheran Hour Speaker Emeritus: **Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus**)

Please contact Mike Brown at (303) 438-5766 or [mbrown\\_llrmd@comcast.net](mailto:mbrown_llrmd@comcast.net) with any questions you may have about “*The Lutheran Hour*” or any of the numerous **Outreach Resources** available from **LHM**.

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*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](http://www.lhm.org)** or call **1-800-876-9880**. *THANK YOU!*



LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

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