

**“But I trust in You, O LORD; I say, ‘You are my God.’
My times are in Your hand.” *Psalm 31:14-15***

Happy new year and welcome to 2015. What, we wonder, will this new year bring? As we look ahead at 2015 there are many unknowns. But one thing—the main thing—is certain, and that is God’s presence with us and for us. Above all, this is what we Christians must remember each and every day of this new year: God will always be there for His people.

The words of David from Psalm 31 reflect this perspective. David may have written this psalm at that time when King Saul was after him to take his life (see 1 Samuel 23). David was a man on the run, fleeing here and there from the relentless pursuit of Saul. David was in grave danger, but David also trusted in Yahweh. In his desperate need, David looked to the LORD. In faith, David awaited God’s help.

David voiced his quiet confidence in a simple statement: “You are my God.” This was as if to say, “I know You as the God who has entered into a relationship with me.” David expressed his absolute dependence on the LORD by stating, “My times are in Your hand.” Yahweh his God was Lord of David’s moments and days, his “now” as well as his “tomorrow”. So David went forward into his unknown future certain of one thing: that God—*his* God—was in control.

Did you know that at the end of his psalm David has a word for you? “Be strong,” David tells you in the Holy Spirit, “and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the LORD!” You may not be fleeing the wrath of a jealous king, like David was. But maybe you have those who want to make life bitter for you, who do not believe in God. Maybe you are bent low under physical pain. Maybe you are concerned about having enough money for your family in 2015. Maybe the devil is pressing you hard with his temptations and accusations. God’s servant David teaches you to do as he did—to trust in Yahweh at all times (especially difficult or dangerous times), to rest in that relationship which the triune God has established with you in your Baptism, and to wait for Him, knowing that *your* times, too, are in God’s hand.

The LORD *did* have David’s times in His hand. He repeatedly saved David from Saul and ultimately set him on the throne of Israel. Yahweh prospered David and his kingdom. The LORD rebuked David when he sinned, but then God also pardoned David’s guilt; He accepted him and did not reject his penitent plea for mercy (see 2 Samuel 12:13). God has your times in His hand, too. As you ask Him in the Lord’s Prayer, your heavenly Father will “deliver you from evil”. He will prosper you by showering His mercies upon you every day. He will lead you to repent of your sins and then He will comfort you with His forgiveness, purchased for you by Jesus Christ your Savior at the cross.

So enter the new year 2015 trusting in the LORD and relying on Him, for He is your God. All the unknowns of 2015 become opportunities for you to look to the LORD who loves you. Your times are in His hands, and He will be there for you through it all.

Pastor Groth



THOSE SERVING IN JANUARY

Ushers

Mark Robey
Dan Adams

Roger Ruff
Scott Davidson

Fred Brechbuhl
David Robey

Elders

1/4 Rick Mericle & Mike Brown

1/11 Cliff Evans & Cal Meisner

1/18 Marc Bower & Mike Brown

1/25 Cliff Evans & Rick Mericle

Acolytes

1/4 Tyler Bell & Damien Dittrich

1/11 Nicholas Little & Annabelle Yaksich

1/18 John Acker & Emily Bower

1/25 Tyler Bell & Damien Dittrich

Altar Guild

Twila Toliver & Sue Evans





Another year gone by..... **THANK GOD**

It seems like only yesterday we were celebrating a spring birthday or Memorial weekend or some other summer time holiday. But here we are in January 2015, wondering where did the time go? I, for one, didn't get half the work done that I had planned to do at the beginning of the year. And I still have yet another list of things to do for this coming year.

The same holds true for Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church. Another year has gone by and while we accomplished a lot of wonderful things, the list continues to grow! Those taking care of the list still continue to wonder who can help and when will there be enough time and money to do everything. This letter, however, is not a plea for help, but rather a big, heart-felt **thank you** to every one for their generosity and joyful giving! Whether it was time donated to the physical upkeep of the church building and property, guiding our church through everyday affairs by time spent on boards and committees, or gifts of monetary support that pay the bills and keep the doors open, your time, talents and treasures have enriched our community and strengthened our congregation. This also extends to the parents that have enrolled their children in our school, highlighting their trust and faith in the Christian education we're able to provide.

But before we get too carried away patting ourselves on the back, we also need to remember who has really been behind ALL of our good fortune. The One who is the reason we have a congregation to begin with: our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He has blessed Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church over and over again throughout the years. The Good Lord has never given up on us and I can safely say He never will. So please continue to give and contribute your time, talents and treasure to Him throughout the New Year.

Gods Blessings be upon you.

Your servant in Christ,
Rick Mericle
For the Board of Elders





January Birthdays

- Jan. 2 Dan Brechbuhl
- 4 Cal Meisner
Nick Solusod
- 5 Danny Anderberg
Connie Cordova
- 7 Jan Meisner
- 9 Christopher Adams
Maxine Craiger
Christine Galati
- 11 Ashleigh Mounger
Kathy Robey
- 12 Bleiler Young
- 14 Ruby Stolz
- 16 Matt Krueger
- 20 Gary Cassily
- 24 Mark Eisele
William Schierkolk
- 25 Irene Lombardi
- 26 Twila Toliver
- 28 Kimberly Bower
- 29 Sylas Boniek
Eleanor Bower
- 31 Evan Galati
Anneliese Kropp

“The Art of Marriage” marriage enrichment small group series is going to be presented at Beautiful Savior on Friday evening February 13th and all day Saturday the 14th. There will be six sessions lasting about one hour each. There is a book that goes with it (but no homework). A session consists of a 20-25 minute video segment, followed by a group discussion that is driven by questions provided in the book. Babysitting will be provided for children over three years of age if you let us know in advance. The cost is \$35.00 per couple and that includes two books. Thrivent Financial is going to sponsor the first six couples so be sure to call the school office at (303) 469 – 2049 to reserve your place.



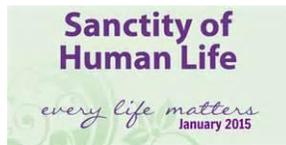
Annual BSLs Fundraising Auction February 28

Mark your calendar for Saturday, February 28. That is the date of “**Reach for the Stars,**” Beautiful Savior Lutheran School’s Eleventh annual fundraising auction. This year’s auction has an ambitious fundraising goal. With your help we can reach that goal—please invite family, friends, coworkers, and neighbors to attend this auction with you. Consider participating also through the donation of a gift, or by inviting a favorite place of business to donate a gift. (Gift donation forms are available in the church or school office, with further instructions about types of gifts to be donated.) Let’s join hands with the whole Beautiful Savior community and make this year’s auction the best yet! Thank you!



January Anniversaries

- Jan. 2 Karl & Linda Duchrow
- 5 Tom & Hillary Ulrich
- 8 Kurt & Chriss Hammerschmidt
- 16 Cal & Lynda Meisner
- 28 Brad & Sou Pigors



Sanctity of Life Observance – January 15-18

The triune God is the author of all life and especially gives every human being value and dignity from the very moment of conception. At our Thursday evening Divine Service on January 15 and again at our 9:00 a.m. Sunday service on January 18 we will join many Christians and fellow Lutherans in observing Sanctity of Life Sunday, affirming the love of God for all people, and reaffirming our love for all as well. This is an important occasion for Christians to hear God's Word as it relates to the life issues, and especially to hear the powerful and life-changing Gospel of Jesus Christ applied to us sinners for our comfort and strengthening.

The theme for our Sanctity of Life worship services this year is "Matters of the Heart," based on the reassuring Word of God in Isaiah 40:1-2. Our worship materials are again provided for us by Lutherans For Life.

This year our Denver-area Lutherans For Life chapter invites the members of Beautiful Savior to join them in the annual March For Life to take place Saturday afternoon, January 17 at the Colorado state capitol. The event will begin at 1:00 p.m. Pastor Groth will be attending and so if you would like to take part please speak with him for more information. The March For Life is an opportunity for you to speak the truth in love, standing up for those who cannot speak for themselves.



Adult Information Class to Begin

Pastor Groth will soon be announcing a new Adult Information Class, which is a class presenting the faith of Lutheran Christians. This class is for adults who have never been baptized, or for Christians of other denominations who would like to learn what Lutherans believe with an eye toward becoming communicant members of Beautiful Savior, or even for lifelong, confirmed Lutherans who would like a refresher in what they learned in Confirmation. The class covers the six chief parts of Christian doctrine as presented in *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation* from Concordia Publishing House. How Christian teachings are relevant to our lives and how they are embodied in our Lutheran worship are important emphases of the class.

If you or someone you know may be interested in attending the next session of Adult Information Class, please call the church office at (303) 469-1785.



“The Lutheran Hour”

Sermon Schedule for January 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 and archived sermons.

Jan. 4th ***“Gospel Power for Personal Patience”*** (Luke 2:40-52)

Jesus teaches us to be patient and wait with hope in God’s promises.
(Lutheran Hour Speaker: **Rev. Gregory Seltz**)

Jan. 11th ***“Are You Qualified?”*** (Romans 6:1-11)

God qualifies us for eternal life through our baptism into Christ’s death and resurrection.
(Lutheran Hour Speaker: **Rev. Gregory Seltz**)

Jan. 18th ***“The Antidote”*** (John 1:43-51)

Jesus is the antidote for our cynicism and doubt.
(Lutheran Hour Speaker: **Rev. Gregory Seltz**)

Jan. 25th ***“Just the Facts”*** (Isaiah 5:20-21)

God’s truth, as revealed in the Bible, remains true regardless of whether anyone believes it or not. (Lutheran Hour Speaker, Emeritus: **Rev. Ken Klaus**)

Please contact Mike Brown at (303) 438-5766 or mbrown_zone2@comcast.net with any questions you may have about “*The Lutheran Hour*” and the numerous **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 the Savior’s love in their own communities and throughout the world. For more information, visit **www.lhm.org** or call **1-800-876-9880**. **THANK YOU!**

I’m praying the Lord will grant everyone a NEW YEAR filled with His blessings!



LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

www.lhm.org

Our Stewardship Message

(January 2015)



Stewardship doesn't have to be difficult. We often make it more difficult than it need be. The fundamentals of stewardship come from answering these basic questions: Who are you? To whom do I give? And how much? It's that simple.

So who are you? Look at the Table of Duties in the Small Catechism. Are you a hearer of God's Word? Are you a citizen of society? Are you a member of a family? Stewardship covers these three estates: church, society, family. We don't particularly struggle to give to society or family. Our struggles, our difficulties and questions, arise in giving to the church.

So what are our stewardship duties as members of the church? The Table of Duties gives us a guide. If you are a hearer, a member of the church who receives instruction, St. Paul taught: "Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor" (Gal. 6:6). This means that the local congregation is primary.

The primary recipient of stewardship resides here. Your pastor is the one called to preach the Gospel to you and administer the Lord's blessed sacraments to you. Your congregation is the place where those things are given out. Therefore, we give to the local congregation to ensure that this continues. We don't vote with our giving. We don't let the pastor or the congregation know we are unhappy by how we give: because we are supposed to see our giving as giving to our Lord!

Thus, when God calls us to give to the church, He has His work in mind – especially right where we live. For "the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel" (1 Cor. 9:14). "Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows" (Gal. 6:7).

How much do we give to the local congregation? Our only instructions are these: to give regularly (1 Cor. 6:1–2), proportionally (1 Cor. 16:1–2; 2 Cor. 8:12), and generously (2 Cor. 8:20) of our first fruits (Gen. 4:4; Prov. 3:9; Lev. 27:30) with a spirit of eagerness (2 Cor. 9:2), earnestness (2 Cor. 8:7), cheerfulness (2 Cor. 9:7), and love (2 Cor. 8:23).

In other words, giving to the church is not to be an afterthought, given after everything else is spent. In this way, it is deliberate. We set it aside beforehand, before anything else is spent. From those first fruits, we set aside a proportionate and generous amount. Ten percent was the standard for the Israelites. This was a command for them. We're not bound to that command in the same way as they were. Just like we are not bound to all the regulations of the Sabbath day (no physical labor, no hot meals, etc.). But the pattern remains: Christians still gather for worship once a week, for how could we do less than the Israelites did? Likewise, does it seem right that we would support the New Testament ministry at a rate less than the Israelites supported the Old Testament ministry?

And how are we to give it? We give it with eagerness and earnestness. We give it cheerfully and with love, not out of compulsion. For through the preaching of the Gospel and the administration of the Sacraments, God has made us His children, forgiven us all our sins, given us grace upon grace, promised us life everlasting with Him in His kingdom, and filled us with His own Spirit, the Holy Spirit. This makes giving a joy. For it is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35).

It's that easy. And it is joyful. For in stewardship, our gracious and giving Lord invites us to take part in the work that He accomplishes here on earth, providing for the ongoing preaching of the Gospel as well as those who are in need. Taking part in that, makes all our work holy work, work that is done in service to the Lord as priestly members of His kingdom.

PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW!