

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church

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Rev. Theodore Groth, Pastor 303-469-1785
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The Second Sunday in Advent

December 9, 2018

Welcome to Beautiful Savior. Today the preparatory season of Advent brings before us the man John the Baptist and his ministry. When the lad was but eight days old, on the day of his circumcision and naming, John's father Zechariah had proclaimed to his son: "And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare His ways" (Luke 1:76). In the Holy Gospel for this the Second Sunday in Advent we meet God's servant and prophet John as he is doing just that—preparing Christ's ways. On this December morning in 2018, John's message is also the call for each of us today to "Prepare the way of the Lord" (3:4). Amen, God grant it! (Note: Today's service information can be found on the back of the service folder.)



To Our Visitors: About Holy Communion at Beautiful Savior

We understand participation in Holy Communion to be a sign of unity and agreement in the Scriptural faith and doctrine which is taught and confessed in this church, and we are mindful of the Bible's warning that those who receive the Sacrament unworthily receive it to their harm (1 Cor. 11:27). Caring deeply about the spiritual welfare of all who worship with us, Beautiful Savior abides by the ancient and biblical practice of closed Communion. Communicant members in good standing of congregations of the LCMS are invited to commune at our altar today. We respectfully request that any who are not at this time communicant members in good standing of a congregation of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod would refrain from communing today. If you are interested in receiving this Sacrament at Beautiful Savior in the future, Pastor Groth would be pleased to meet with you and discuss our faith and doctrine in greater detail. It is our desire to administer the holy Sacrament of the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus in a manner that both honors our Lord's Word and also brings blessing to all who, in repentant faith, commune. Those not receiving the Sacrament today are welcome to come forward to receive a personal blessing at the altar rail. Simply fold your arms across your chest as you kneel at the rail to indicate your desire to receive a blessing.

Today's Elders:

Elders for Dec. 12:

Elders for Dec. 16:

Today's Acolyte:

Acolyte for Dec. 12:

Acolyte for Dec. 16:

Cal Meisner & Rick Mericle

Cliff Evans & Mike Brown

Cliff Evans & Mike Brown

Aaron Brechbuhl

Damien Dittrich

Joey Weinstock

Prepare for Next Sunday's Readings

Old Testament:

Epistle:

Gospel:

Psalm:

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Philippians 4:4-7

Luke 7:18-35

Psalm 85



Luke 3:4 – "As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: *Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.*'" God makes long-range plans: Isaiah lived more than 700 years before St. John the Baptist preached by the Jordan River. Obviously, God sees farther into the future than we do. That's yet another reason to trust Him when it comes to how He tells us to live our lives. He knows what's coming, and we don't.



Advent II – The Gospel of God's grace awakens us to approve what is excellent (Philippians 1:10). Is facilitating a suicide "excellent"? Is experimenting on embryos a "fruit of righteousness"? Is advocating for abortion access "pure and blameless"? These involve ending a life that began by the holy work of God. And even when we cannot foresee how, He will bring it to completion, as sure as Jesus finished His mission, as sure as we ourselves exist. *Gracious Savior, fill our hearts and throats with Your glory and praise. Amen.*



Lutheran Witness – It's time to start or renew your Lutheran Witness Subscription. The cost for 1 year (11 issues) is \$22.56. Checks made out to **Beautiful Savior** can be left in the church office or dropped in the offering plate. Please put "Lutheran Witness" on the memo line. **The deadline is December 16.**



The Last Advent Soup (and More) Supper, on December 12th, will be hosted by the Board of Elders. There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board outside the office. Please sign up to bring soup or ?, dessert, crackers, etc., and/or if you would like to help set up or clean up.



A Word of Greeting to Our Guests: We welcome you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We are honored to have you with us today and pray that this celebration of God's love and grace through Jesus Christ will be a blessing to you.

If you would like additional information, please contact:
 Pastor Groth @ 303 469-1785 or email tedgroth1970@comcast.net or
 Mike Brown @ 303 438-5766 or E-mail: mbrown_presbslc@comcast.net.
 We are a family that has been called together in faith through the Gospel of our Lord Jesus and we invite you to worship with us as often as you can.



Prayers - Let's remember the following people in our prayers this week: Chloe Werner, Judy Werner, Jan Meisner, Mary Acker, Travis Little, Greg Iversen, Vince Roberto, Robert and Nancy Snurka, Roberta Nigon, Ron & Jeannie Savage, Elaine Brinkey, Pat Kubat, James Nuoffer, Dixie Cassily, Gerd Crandall, Marta Bannigan, Alyssa Stephenson, our ELC teacher Janis Abts, and our homebound members: Wilda Davenport, Hub Diedrichs, Linda Frederking, Pat Sall, Bill Schierkolk, Ruby Stolz, Gene & Wynne Sylvester, and Verna Walsh.



The Flowers adorning our altar this morning have been placed by Mr. and Mrs. Cliff (Sue) Evans in thankfulness to God for all the blessings that come with the Christmas Season.

THIS WEEK AT BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR

- Monday: 08:00 p.m. Adult Drop in Volleyball
- Tuesday: 05:00 p.m. Board of Christian Education
06:30 p.m. PTL Meeting
- Wednesday: 08:30 a.m. Chapel
05:45 p.m. Soup Supper
07:00 p.m. Midweek Advent Divine Service
- Thursday: 10:00 a.m. Bible Study
06:00 p.m. ELC Staff Meeting
- Saturday: Beautiful Savior Prays
10:00-1:00 Candy Cane Christmas
- Sunday: 09:00 a.m. Divine Service (Third Sunday in Advent)
10:30 a.m. Voters' Assembly

At Worship, Dec. 2:	<u>103</u>	Communed:	<u>82</u>
Midweek Advent Att:	<u>22</u>	Communed:	<u>20</u>



The 2019 Flower Chart is now up and there are a lot of openings.

It is on the wall by the door to the copy room just to the left of the bulletin board. As always, one or two may sign up for a Sunday. The cost is \$25, or if two sign up, it is \$12.50 each. Just sign up, let the church office know what the occasion is, and drop a check in the offering plate with "flowers" indicated on the memo line. You may pick up your flowers following Worship Service, or anytime early in the week following.



Our Final Class before the Christmas break is on "Faith Illustrated". Come join us in the sanctuary after service.



Thank You to those who have paid bills from our Bill Board.

This has been a big help and is greatly appreciated. The Bill Board will remain up in the church office for anyone who may be inclined to give further help in this way.



Poinsettias! It's time once again to sign up for poinsettias to adorn our altar for Christmas.

There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex near the church office. The cost this year for a poinsettia is \$10.00. Make checks payable to Beautiful Savior and indicate "poinsettia" on the memo line. Drop your check in the offering plate or leave in the church office. Poinsettias will be placed on the altar Sunday, December 23rd and may be taken home following the Service on Christmas day.



Our Candy Cane Christmas will be held December 15th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in our library for children 3-12 years of age.

The cost is \$15.00 per child. (Please pack a lunch for your child as we will be eating lunch together.) The children will be learning about the legend of the candy cane, the advent calendar and the birth of Jesus with our BSLs Teachers. No reply necessary, just show up.



Help Struggling Families with Tuition. Some of our Beautiful Savior families are currently experiencing severe financial hardship, making it difficult for them to pay their school tuition.

Please prayerfully consider whether you could make a contribution to assist them at this time. See Jim Woodburn, Megan Keeling, or a member of the Board of Education for more information. Thank you for your kindness!



The Third Midweek Advent Service will be a Christmas program presented by our school children at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, December 19th.



The Beautiful Savior Giving Tree is set up with Angel and Candy Cane decorations. The Angels will have either men's socks, gloves or hats for the Denver Rescue Mission and the Candy Canes are for Gift Cards for to help Hope House teen moms and their children with food, clothing, or gas. Please take time to check out the Giving Tree. The Angel gifts should be placed (unwrapped) in one of the boxes near the tree. The Candy Cane gift cards should be left in the care of the church or school office. The deadline for the gifts is December 21st. Thank you.



Christmas Baskets ~ We need to replenish our food pantry in order to provide Christmas baskets. We need non-perishable items, and please make sure the expiration date hasn't passed. Items may be dropped off in the kitchen. Also, monetary contributions to the Good Samaritan Fund are a big help with this effort, or King Soopers or Wal-Mart gift cards. Gift cards should be left in the church or school office. Food items needed are: Canned Tuna and other canned meats, Boxed Mac & Cheese, Cereal, Spaghetti Sauce and other prepared sauces, Canned Fruits, Cake Mix, Spaghetti Sauce and other prepared sauces, Beefaroni, etc.



Nominations Now Open for LCMS Officers: In preparation for the election of officers to be held at the 2019 LCMS Convention all members of an LCMS congregation are eligible to nominate ordained/rostered ministers for the following positions: *President *1st Vice President *West-Southwest Regional Vice-President. Please contact Mike Brown if you would like to submit a nomination(s) for one or more of these positions or if you have any questions. Thank you.



The December Messenger is out. Pick up your copy from the bookshelf by the main doors to the sanctuary.



Children's Message: "Come and see what God has done: He is awesome in His deeds toward the children of man." (Psalm 66:5)



Hymn of the Month. This month's hymn, "God Loves Me Dearly" (LSB #392), was written in German ("Gott Ist Die Liebe") by August Rische, who lived from 1819 to 1906. The hymn first appeared in our LCMS hymnal for our day schools, *All God's People Sing* (© 1992). It is now included in *Lutheran Service Book* in the Christmas section. Throughout this month of December this hymn will focus our minds on the Gospel's message of God's love for us in Christ.



Large Print Scripture Reading — Copies of today's Scripture readings in large print can be found on the bookshelf by the main doors to the sanctuary.



Blessings Abound! As 2018 draws to a close, let's join together as a church family of God's redeemed sons and daughters and contribute, as we are able and as the Spirit moves us, to our "Blessings Abound" fund. Please prayerfully consider making an "over and above" donation to help Beautiful Savior continue and expand our Word and Sacrament ministry in Broomfield. Thank you in Jesus' name!



The Regular Voters' Assembly will meet Sunday, December 16th, at 10:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is encouraged to attend. If you are 18 years old or older, and a communicant member of Beautiful Savior, you are eligible to become a Voter. If interested, please notify one of the Elders, or Pastor Groth, and pick up and read a copy of the Constitution of Beautiful Savior before the meeting.



Pastor Is Starting Fresh with a Church Email List. Pastor Groth requests that every member who would like to be included on a Pastor's Email List beginning in the new year would kindly **fill out the short form and drop in the box on the counter by his office door.** The form has you write your name and your current, preferred email contact. Even if you believe Pastor already has your correct email address, it will be much appreciated if you will nevertheless take the time to fill out this form and drop in the box by his office door. THANK YOU!

THIS MORNING'S LITURGY & HYMNS

Divine Service, Setting Three

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Hymns: 354 344 *347 *392 352

Introit

The voice of one crying in the wilderness:*

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight.”

Hear, O my people, while I admonish you!*

O Israel, if you would but listen to Me!

I am the LORD your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.*

Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.

“But My people did not listen to My voice;*

Israel would not submit to Me.

Oh, that My people would listen to Me,*

that Israel would walk in My ways!

The voice of one crying in the wilderness:*

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight.”

Collect of the Day

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Old Testament:

Malachi 3:1-7b

Choral Anthem: *“Bethlehem Wind”*

The Senior Choir

Epistle:

Philippians 1:2-11

Gospel:

Luke 3:1-20

Sermon:

Luke 3:1-20

Malachi 3:1-7b

3 “Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple, even the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight. Behold, He is coming,” Says the LORD of hosts.

2 “But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner’s fire and like launderers’ soap. **3** He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer to the LORD an offering in righteousness.

4 “Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasant to the LORD, as in the days of old, as in former years. **5** And I will come near you for judgment; I will be a swift witness against sorcerers, against adulterers, against perjurers, against those who exploit wage earners and widows and orphans, and against those who turn away an alien— Because they do not fear Me,” Says the LORD of hosts.

6 “For I am the LORD, I do not change; therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob. **7** Yet from the days of your fathers You have gone away from My ordinances and have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you,” Says the LORD of hosts.

Gradual

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of | Zion.*

Shout aloud, O daughter of Je- | rusalem.

Behold, your king is com- | ing to you;*
righteous and having sal- | vation.

Blessèd is He who comes in the name | of the Lord.*

From the house of the Lord we | bless You.

Philippians 1:2-11

2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, **4** always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, **5** for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, **6** being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ; **7** just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace. **8** For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ.

9 And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, **10** that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ,

11 being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Luke 3:1-20

3 Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, **2** while Annas and Caiaphas were high priests, the word of God came to John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness. **3** And he went into all the region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins, **4** as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, saying: “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight. **5** Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill brought low; the crooked places shall be made straight and the rough ways smooth; **6** And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ”

7 Then he said to the multitudes that came out to be baptized by him, “Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? **8** Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. **9** And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

10 So the people asked him, saying, “What shall we do then?”

11 He answered and said to them, “He who has two tunics, let him give to him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise.”

12 Then tax collectors also came to be baptized, and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?”

13 And he said to them, “Collect no more than what is appointed for you.”

14 Likewise the soldiers asked him, saying, “And what shall we do?”

So he said to them, “Do not intimidate anyone or accuse falsely, and be content with your wages.”

15 Now as the people were in expectation, and all reasoned in their hearts about John, whether he was the Christ or not, **16** John answered, saying to all, “I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

17 His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather the wheat into His barn; but the chaff He will burn with unquenchable fire.”

18 And with many other exhortations he preached to the people. **19** But Herod the tetrarch, being rebuked by him concerning Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife, and for all the evils which Herod had done, **20** also added this, above all, that he shut John up in prison.