

The Monthly  
Church Notebook for



BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR EV.  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
11228 Coldwater Road  
Fort Wayne, IN 46845  
Phone: 260-637-3475  
www.beautifulsaviorfw.org

Pastor Brian Semrow  
pastor@beautifulsaviorfw.org

December 2020



December 25th is soon approaching, the day on which the church celebrates the kick off of God's plan to bring salvation to the world. To prepare the people of Israel for this awesome gift, God sent his prophets to foretell of his coming. As we prepare for the birth of our Savior, we will spend the month of December looking at these same prophets.

On Sundays during the month of December we will take a look at Old Testament lessons that point ahead to Jesus' coming.

On Wednesdays in December, we will look at the announcement of John the Baptist's birth.

I pray that you are able to join us in preparation for our Christmas celebration, and that these lessons help focus you on the true celebration of Jesus' birth.

For additional Christmas preparation:

--We've purchased 'Jesse Tree' devotionals for the families in our congregation with young children.

--If you would like to follow your own 'Jesse Tree' devotional, you can pick up a printed copy at church, or go to this link: <https://mlc-wels.edu/publications/seasonal-devotions/> and click on the appropriate link.

In Jesus,

Pastor Semrow

# Property Committee



Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

At the end of this year I will be stepping down as Chairman of the Board of Properties and Mark Sielaff will be taking over. I've served as chair on this board since 2014 and it been my honor to serve you and our Lord during this time. I look forward to serving the congregation in different ways in the future. As a couple of closing notes during my tenure, we have budgeted to have the parking lot resealed and stripped next year and to have the HVAC systems at church and the parsonage serviced on a yearly basis. As we near the Christmas season I'm asking you to consider donating toward redoing the church playground. Year after year it becomes very over grown with weeds and is a bit of eye sore. I'm asking again for donations of approximately \$3400 to remove the stone that is there, install new landscape fabric and concrete curbing, and put new stone down so we don't have to worry about weeds running rampant and stones getting in the grass anymore. Also, as a church council we increased our future capital projects budget so that in 5 or so years we will be able to re-shingle the roof with the remainder of the building fund that was drawn last year.

Yours in Christ,

Ethan Hess



## Midweek Advent Service Request

2020 has definitely presented challenges to connect as a church family, there's no question about that. As a way to share a little about ourselves with one another, I'd like to add a little segment to the end of our online worship services for our midweek Advent services.

The plan is this:

1. Take a picture of an ornament or Christmas decoration that holds a special place for you and your family.
2. Write a sentence or two about the significance of this ornament to you and your family.
3. Send your picture and statement to [pastorsemrow@gmail.org](mailto:pastorsemrow@gmail.org) or text to (507) 272-2785 and I will add these to the end of our midweek services, so that we can all learn a little more about one another and the traditions that are special to our own Christmas celebrations.

I will try to split up the pictures among the 3 Wednesday night services.

I pray this will be a unique way to make our Wednesday night devotions extra special, although we won't be worshipping together in person. Thank you in advance for your participation.

Pastor Semrow



Beautiful Savior now has a new church website. All current information about upcoming events and worship services can be found at [www.beautifulsaviorfw.org](http://www.beautifulsaviorfw.org). Information will also continue to be shared via email and phone calls, but this will be an additional place to check to stay up-to-date on current events at Beautiful Savior as well as watch online services.

By the end of this year, we will have a page that fleshes out our confession of faith, pictures of our facility, and additional links to devotionals, our synod website, and our synodical schools.

Our hopes are that our members will share this website with friends, family, neighbors, and coworkers via email and social media, as another means to connect people with the good news of Jesus that we have to share.

In the coming days, you will also receive an email to set up a personal log-in for our church website. After you set up a username and password and sign in, you will have access to an online version of our church directory. Simply click 'Menu', 'About Us', 'Members', and you will be able to see all contact information for our Beautiful Savior family.

Please see the following page to see what our new website has to offer.

Welcome! We're Glad You Are Here!



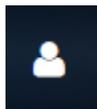
Visit the Homepage for the Most Recent Worship Service and Church Announcements

[SERVICE FOLDER](#)  
[PRINTABLE SERMON](#)

Recent Sermons



Visit the Sermons Page to Catch Up on Past Sermons



Click This Button at the Top of the Page to Log In and Receive Access to the Member Directory under the About Us Menu

# grace ♥ MOMENTS



## P.R.A.Y

Most of my prayers sounds like this: “Dear God, AAAAAAAAAAAAAA! In Jesus’ name. Amen.”

I should explain. I think of prayer as having four steps—Praise. Repent. Ask. Yield. (P.R.A.Y.) But my prayers tend to jump to and stay focused on the third step—Ask. “Dear God, please bless this and fix that and be with them.” How about you? Do you focus on the Ask when you pray?

Peter offers an encouragement to not skip the praise. He begins, “**Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!**” (1 Peter 1:3). Before asking for God to fix his friends’ suffering, Peter pushes his friends to praise God in the midst of their suffering.

Here’s why—Once we praise, our prayers change. Once we spend quality (and quantity!) time saying good things about God’s love, God’s power, God’s holiness, God’s wisdom, God’s control, God’s presence, and God’s character, our prayers evolve. We immediately start to Repent: “God, you are so good to me, yet I chose to do something bad against you . . .” And we Ask: “God, if people only knew how good you are, doctor visits and medical bills and loneliness couldn’t stop their joy. So open their eyes to know you better!” And we Yield: “God, you know everything and you want what’s best for me, so I trust you. I’m asking for this, but your will be done.”

Can I challenge you for the next 24 hours to begin every prayer with a word of Praise?

Pastor Mike Novotny



Pastor Mike Novotny has served God’s people in full-time ministry since 2007 in Madison and, most recently, at The CORE in Appleton, Wisconsin. He also serves as the lead speaker for Time of Grace, where he shares the good news about Jesus through television, print, and online platforms.



## Altar Information

Thank you, ladies, for your service! I'm happy to be working with you in His service of taking care of the altar. See the schedule as posted and let me know if there are any changes that you may need. Most of you I have spoken with or left messages for, so, to my knowledge we are in order.

I have a few bits of information to pass along.

- Pastor is recommending while we are using only the individual cup that we fill about 65 cups for communion.
- Sometimes the cups are cracking/spilling from being wedged tightly into the tray.
- We currently need 4 white grape juice cups for communion.
- White grape juice is found in copy room refrigerator/freezer. If it appears cloudy or discolored in freezer, do not use. If grape juice supply is getting low, please notify Sue Gatchell. Likewise, notify Sue Gatchell if you notice any supplies like wafers, cups or wine getting low and she will notify appropriate person for purchase.
- If there is a question about which parament colors to use, Pastor prefers the modern column vs the historic (see the parament schedule in sacristy). If you are ever unsure, ask.
- For those unfamiliar with use of Norwex, see Darlene Gisel or Sue Gatchell for further information of use/care. These need NO soap; only tap water since they are impregnated with silver to kill the germs. If you notice that the cloths are repelling the water, not soaking the water up well or concerned that they need cleaned, please let Darlene Gisel know as she has agreed to care for them. They should NEVER be washed with regular laundry soap. One cloth cleanses, the other polishes. Please ask if you need further assistance in the use of the Norwex cloths.
- If you have linens that are in need of laundering, Alice Rekeweg cares for these and she looks for them in the Tupperware tray on the counter in the sacristy. Alice also cares for the candles, if you should notice an issue.
- Remember to look over the altar for need of dusting of the altar itself, the goldware and candelabras. Check plants for need of watering during special seasons where these will be out for more than one week.
- Remember that bare skin touching the goldware eats away the gold. Try to remember to wear gloves as much as possible when handling these.

I'm happy to help in any way I can. Feel free to call me for questions or problems with altar duty. Again, thank you for your service!

Sincerely,

Sue Gatchell

Altar Chairperson

## Altar Schedule 2020-2021

Month	Open	Close
<b>January</b>	Barb Zabel	Wendy Becker/Sherry Filson
<b>February</b>	Barb Zabel	Darlene Gisel/Mary Frederick
<b>March</b>	Anita Hoot/Julie Striggle	Sue Gatchell/Alta Grace Maurice
<b>April</b>	Natalie Hess	Sarah Cotter
<b>May</b>	Elaine Reder/Darla Eigenschink	Sharon Zollinger/Betty Noffze
<b>June</b>	Diane Hess/Lindsey Hess	Sue Britton
<b>July</b>	Sue Britton/Betty Noffze	Wendy Becker/Sherry Filson
<b>August</b>	Barb Zabel	Darlene Gisel/Mary Frederick
<b>September</b>	Anita Hess/Julie Striggle	Sue Gatchell/Alta Grace Maurice
<b>October</b>	Natalie Hess	Sarah Cotter
<b>November</b>	Elaine Reder/Darla Eigenschink	Sharon Zollinger/Judy Heck
<b>December</b>	Diane Hess/Lindsey Hess	Sarah Cotter
Altar Chair: Sue Gatchell 260-485-6898	Altar Linens/Candles: Alice Rekeweg 260-706-1379 cell 260-728-2613 home	





*For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.*

*Romans 13:4*

## **Government Over Me**

Wouldn't it be nice if we had no government? Then we wouldn't have to argue so much about politics! Then we wouldn't have to worry so much about following so many rules! Then we could drive as fast as we wanted on the freeway (at least legally this time)!

Not so fast on your wishful thinking! Though it might sound good on paper if we didn't have government interfering with our personal business, in real life it would turn out to be one chaotic mess! If there was no local government, who would prevent anyone from committing a crime—be it small or large? If there was no state or federal government, who would protect us? If there was no government, who would keep the peace? The list could go on for all the problems that would quickly arise without government.

Surely, this last year we have seen again that no government is perfect. That means sinful people in government can sometimes abuse their power and citizens will not always feel safe or even be safe. But just because there has been political and civil unrest, protests, riots, and lots of fighting (verbally and physically), that doesn't mean that government is useless.

As Christians, we have recently that God is in ultimate control and he has established all authorities in all places. We can pause to remember that God uses the government—yes even ours—as his servant for our good.

In the apostle Paul's time, the Romans had all kinds of evils in their government—abuses of power, persecution of Christians, laws that permit great wickedness, and even an emperor who claimed to be a god himself. Yet at the same time, that government was used by God for Paul's good. Paul traveled on Roman roads to preach the gospel. He relied on his Roman citizenship to protect him against unfair punishments and imprisonments. He benefited from Romans soldiers who protected him from persecutors, and he even appealed to the highest Roman court for a fair trial. Those are just a few blessings Paul experienced from God's servant, the Roman government.

So also today, whether we are in love with our government, our president, current political trends or not, God will still use our government to serve us. From roads to civil services to government programs that we benefit from to college financial aid to laws that protect and keep order to the military that defends us and so much more, thank God for the many ways he uses government for his purposes to serve you!

### **Prayer:**

Dear Lord, though our government is flawed as is every other device of sinful humans, we thank you for using our government to serve us as you see fit. Bless our land and our people for Jesus' sake. Amen.

*Teen Devotions are brought to you by WELS Commission on Youth and Family Ministry*



# HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24TH  
6:30 P.M.

CHRISTMAS DAY, DECEMBER 25TH  
10:15 A.M.

NEW YEAR'S EVE, DECEMBER 31ST  
6:30 P.M.

# Christmas

## BIBLE READING PLAN:

### *Christ is coming*

- Day 1 Isaiah 9:2-7
- Day 2 Isaiah 11:1-5
- Day 3 Isaiah 7:10-14
- Day 4 Micah 5:1-5
- Day 5 2 Samuel 7:12-16

### *Christ is here*

- Day 6 Luke 1:26-33
- Day 7 Luke 1:34-38
- Day 8 Luke 1:46-55
- Day 9 Matthew 1:18-25
- Day 10 Luke 2:1-7
- Day 11 Luke 2:8-12
- Day 12 Luke 2:13-20
- Day 13 Matt. 1:1-16

### *Christ will give*

- Day 14 Romans 6:20-23
- Day 15 Galatians 4:1-7
- Day 16 1 Timothy 1:15-17
- Day 17 Titus 3:3-7
- Day 18 Philippians 2:6-8

### *Christ will return*

- Day 19 John 14:1-6
- Day 20 Daniel 7:13-14
- Day 21 Revelation 1:4-7
- Day 22 Revel. 3:20-22
- Day 23 Revel. 22:12-13
- Day 24 Revelation 22:16-17
- Day 25 Revelation 22:20

I GOT UP LAST TIME. IT'S YOUR TURN.





December Birthday's

Diehm, Benton	2
Semrow, Brian	2
Haab, Dalton	11
Martin, Alysse	15
Martin, Trevor	15
Cotter, James	17
Kenyon, Lisa	17
Hess, Jonathan	20
Conklin, Colin-Jay	29
Conklin, Seth	31



Many thanks go to all our members who have donated a poinsettia plant to beautify our altar for Christmas. The contributing members are:

Deborah and Randy Briggs

Sue and Jeffrey Britton

Sarah and Jim Cotter

Sherry Filson

Sue and Ned Gatchell

Doris Hess

Laura and Jason McCall

Alice and Duane Rekeweg

The plants will have a name on the bottom of the foil. You may take your plant home after the Christmas Day service. Please leave the clear saucer so that we may reuse them. Merry Christmas, everyone!

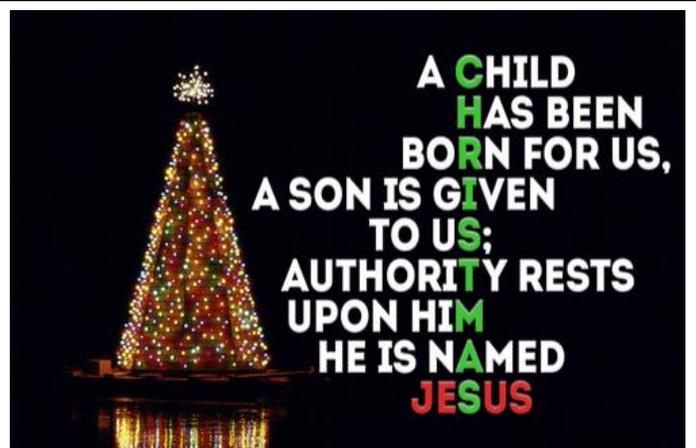
Sherry Filson

Flower Committee



December Anniversaries

Lawler, Michael and Helga	20
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Brian Semrow, Pastor  
 Phone: 260-637-3475  
 pastorsemrow@gmail.com

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 11228 Coldwater Road  
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 www.beautifulsaviorfw.org  
 WELS: www.wels.net

Sunday Child/Teen/Adult Studies @ 9:00 am  
 Sunday Worship Connection (Comcast 57) @ 10:00 am  
 Sunday Worship @ 10:15 am

## December 2020

December 2020						
December 2020		December 2020		January 2021		
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Nov 29	30	Dec 1	2	3 7:00pm Women's Bible Study @ Zabel's	4	5 Church: P. Hess
6 10:15am Worship 11:30am Decorate Church 11:15am Fellowship 4:00pm Confirmation Class -	7 Pastor @ Circuit Meeting	8	9	10	11	12 Office: Conklin School: Rader
13 10:15am Worship 11:30am Council Meeting 11:15am Fellowship 4:00pm Confirmation Class -	14	15	16	17 7:00pm Women's Bible Study @ Zabel's	18	19 Church: Cotter
20 10:15am Worship 11:15am Fellowship 4:00pm Confirmation Class - Zoom	21	22	23	24 6:30pm Christmas Eve Worship	25 10:15am Christmas Worship	26 Office: N. Hess School: Gisel
27 10:15am Worship 11:15am WELS Connection 11:15am Fellowship	28	29	30	31 6:30pm New Year's Eve Worship	Jan 1, 21	2

Altar: (Open) Diane/Lindsey Hess  
 (Close) Cotter

Elder: Duane Rekeweg  
 Usher: December 1-16 (Team 3)  
 Cpt: Zollinger, Gatchell  
 Heffelfinger, Eigenschink,  
 Striggle, Drayton  
 December 17-31 (Team 4)  
 Cpt: Kenyon, Hauschild,  
 R/J Becker, D/J Hess, Schamber

Flowers: (1st) Open (2nd) Open  
 (3rd) Open (4th) Open  
 Fellowship: (1st) Open (2nd) Open  
 (3rd) Open (4th) Open



## *December 2020*

<b>3</b>	Women's Bible Study <i>(Zoom)</i>	7:00 p.m.
<b>13</b>	Council Meeting	11:30 a.m.
<b>17</b>	Women's Bible Study <i>(Zoom)</i>	7:00 p.m.
<b>24</b>	Christmas Eve Worship	6:30 p.m.
<b>25</b>	Christmas Day Worship	10:15 a.m.
<b>31</b>	New Year's Eve Worship	6:30 p.m.



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**Return Service Requested**