






# JANUARY

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 <b>NEW YEAR'S DAY OFFICE CLOSED</b>	2
3 8:45 AM - Worship Service 10:00 am Bible Study / Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Service	4 Circuit Pastors Mtg 7:00 pm LWML Evening Circle @ BSLC	5 1:30 pm Ladies Bible Study	6 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 6:30 pm conf/pck/youth	7	8	9
10 <b>Holy Communion</b> 8:45 am Worship Svc 10:00 am Bible Study / Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Svc	11	12 1:30 pm Ladies Bible Study	13 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 6:30 pm conf/pck/youth	14 Ministerial Alliance Mtg 1:00 pm LWML Afternoon Circle	15	16
17 8:45 AM - Worship Service 10:00 am Bible Study / Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Service	18 5:00 pm LWML Mtg 7:00 pm Board Mtg 8:00 pm Church Council	19 1:30 pm Ladies Bible Study 6:00 pm Theology on Tap - Peg Leg Brewery	20 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 6:30 pm conf/pck/youth	21	22	23
24 <b>Holy Communion</b> 8:45 am Worship Svc 10:00 am Bible Study / Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Svc	25	26 1:30 pm Ladies bible Study	27 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 6:30 pm conf/pck/youth	28	29	30
31 <b>Holy Communion</b> 8:45 am Worship Svc 10:00 am Bible Study / Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Svc						
<b>Notes</b> January 24, 2020 - Life Sunday January 10, January 17, January 24, January 31 - Youth meet at 4:30 pm Monthly Youth Activity To Be Announced						

# The Messenger

Share the love and grace of God with all people.



Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church  
402 Baytree Ave., North Platte, NE 69101

308-534-7004  
bslc@bslcnpc.com

AT THE TIME of this NEWSLETTER'S production, we have resumed Congregation Activities in a careful and loving manner.

**We have resumed holding worship services at 8:45 AM & 11:00 AM, with the following DHM guidelines:**

doors propped open or automatic opener button pushed with your elbow (same goes for restrooms, the north side ones now have electric openers).

**Sitting in family groups that are separated by 6 feet from each other. If you need to move to maintain this, that's okay!**

'Social distancing' in seating and visiting is encouraged.

Per GPH expert recommendation, please social distance in the line to Holy Communion, which will be distributed after Pastor & Elder have hand sanitized (gloves were not recommended). **If you feel you need more secure/safe communing, Pastor will gladly privately commune you after service or on a weekday by appointment.**

We'll hold Bible class and spread out in the Fellowship Hall – it will also be live streamed.

Please limit handling the hymnals or Bibles, all liturgy & Scriptures will be on Screen. Offering plates will be in the back and fellowship form to be completed by only one person in each pew..

**Please don't attend if you are ill; worship via Facebook or YouTube.**

Thank you for your patience and compassion for one another!

**The weekly 8:45 am worship service can be viewed online at :**

**[www.bslcnpc.com](http://www.bslcnpc.com) and you may mail your offering in to :**

**Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church  
402 So. Baytree Ave, North Platte NE 69101**

**Online giving options are listed on the church website: [www.bslcnpc.com](http://www.bslcnpc.com) or offerings may be dropped off at church.**

**Please contact the church office with any questions.**

**For updates** please check the congregations

website: [www.bslcnpc.com](http://www.bslcnpc.com)

Facebook page: [facebook.com/bslcnpc](https://facebook.com/bslcnpc)

Call the church office: 308-534-7004

Or Email the church: [bslc@bslcnpc.com](mailto:bslc@bslcnpc.com)

**WATCH FOR UPDATES**

**AS WE REMEMBER GOD'S** constant love and our congregation's ongoing financial needs. **PLEASE NOTE DEAR MEMBERS**, that offerings have been down. Prayerfully continue to contribute to the Lord's work here at Beautiful Savior as the Holy Spirit moves you in these summer months. Thank you for your faithful stewardship to God at BSLC.

## A NEW DAY

As 2020 draws to a close, I don't know anyone who isn't glad to see it depart. We are all tired and 'over' its low spots: COVID 19, social distancing, sickness, death, election chaos and more. We long for better days in 2021, but will they truly be better? As children, we were often told to 'sleep on' a hardship and things would look brighter in the morning, but as adults we know that it doesn't always work out that way. A simple night's sleep does not make guilt, fear, failure, heart-ache or addictions go away. The low spots of our lives have a way of lingering too long and threatening to remain weights upon our shoulders forever. They don't just leave by themselves. So does that mean there is no hope for a new and better day and life?

Absolutely not! While troubles do not go away by themselves, they can be taken away from us by One greater than them. Into our troubled and imperfect lives came Jesus, the only-begotten Son of God and Light of the world. He did not come to punish or condemn us for our sins and failings but to overcome all of evil's power and darkness. He who had no sin drew all of our sin onto His own body that He might destroy its curse and control over us. From His human infancy to His awful crucifixion and glorious resurrection, Jesus waged a victorious war against the enemies that had overwhelmed us. Jesus defeated sin, Satan and death and brings all who trust in and follow Him into His new kingdom of everlasting life and joy. In January we celebrate the revealing of this new life in the season of Epiphany, where the light of the Gospel (Good News) was revealed to all people and continues to free all who live in this light. That includes you and me, dear friends, for Jesus came to free us from our past and present troubles and wrongs and to open to us both membership in God's family and heaven itself. He who overcame all our enemies will walk with us (and carry us when we cannot walk) in the New Year. He will hear our prayers, forgive our sins when we repent, strengthen us with His Word and Holy Communion, and be our treasure, delight and victory. In Jesus Christ, a new and hope-filled day has come for you and me! Hallelujah!

Looking forward to being with you in person even more in 2021,  
Pastor Bob Deardoff, your servant and brother in Christ



*Pastor Bob Deardoff*



## “Are You Ready?”

A Note from Jarryn

As 2020 comes to end how many people have you heard say, “ I can’t wait for 2020 to be over so we can move on to 2021!” Honestly, I can’t tell you how many people I have heard say that. Every time I think to myself, ‘what guarantees do we have that 2021 will be any better’. The answer is absolutely none. In fact, as we have talked about in youth group, in this life we aren’t guaranteed anything. We don’t know how events will turn out and we don’t even know how many days we will be granted on this earth . There is only one who knows all of that, God our Father.

Truth be told while this year has been hard, despite that, there have been good things to come out of it. Stop for a moment and think about it. I don’t know where your life has been but when I look at the things the youth program or Sunday School program have accomplished this year, I couldn't be more excited for the amazing things we will accomplish in 2021.

The first big accomplishment of the year was holding an outdoor VBS with over 80 kids and adults. It was an amazing week where kids got a chance to learn about Jesus and the amazing things He has done as they rode the Rocky Railway, where Jesus pulls us through. Looking back, I realize how well that theme fit the year. Jesus pulls each and everyone of us through because of His love for us. He will never leave us no matter what the year brought or the new year will bring.

The next was the Servant event in June, we have amazing youth that want to help! We had a crew that spent a week, even though they knew there would be no waterpark, come together and help where they could.

The final one was our Jr. High Rally in Rexford. We had the largest turn out we have ever had with around 70 youth and adults volunteers! It was amazing to see how the youth came together to look at their identity in Christ despite what the world tells them.

With those few things and the multiple of other events we were able to accomplish this year with God’s help I can’t wait to see what He has planned for 2021!!

Happy New Years!  
Jarryn Wiley-Pearce



# In Service to the Lord

**Organists (8:45 AM):**

January 3	Shary Asher
January 10	Jean Niedan
January 17	Shary Asher
January 24	Jean Niedan
January 31	Shary Asher

**Musicians (11 AM)**

January 3	Caroline Sabin
January 10	Acoustic
January 17	Caroline Sabin
January 24	Lynette Hickman
January 31	Lynette Hickman

**Acolytes (8:45 AM):**

January 3	Wyatt Thompson
January 10	Elexis Lantis
January 17	Jadelyn Rutherford
January 24	Landen Miles
January 31	Isaac Sinsel

**Acolytes (11:00 AM):**

January 3	Kenlee Fattig
January 10	Trinity Vak
January 17	Kellan Spearman
January 24	Tucker Kemp
January 31	Samuel Stefka

**January Ushers (8:45 AM):**

Mike Lehman  
Loren Sinsel  
Bob Reigan

**January Elders (8:45 AM)**

Mike Steele  
Glenn Van Velson

**January Ushers (11:00 AM):**

Rod Lamp  
Bob Deardoff

**January Elders (11:00 AM)**

Wayne Mueller  
Dan Huebner

**Official Acts and Directory Changes**

**If this is a ministry that you would like to participate in —please contact the church office or Rod Lamp @ 660-0097**

**Media Tech (11 AM):**

January 3	Jim Parish
January 10	Jim Parish
January 17	Jim Parish
January 24	Jim Parish
January 31	Jim Parish

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

In an effort to keep members up to on the financial condition of Beautiful Savior, we will put monthly updates in the Sunday bulletin and Messenger. This information is current as of December 31, 2020

<b>Budgeted Expenses Needed Monthly</b>	<b>\$ 32,349.84</b>
<b>Income year to date through December 31, 2020</b>	<b>\$ 332,134.46</b>
<b>Actual Expenses year to date through December 31, 2020</b>	<b>\$ 338,716.76</b>



January 2— Jill Miles

January 6— Alexander Anderson; Connie Stewart

January 8— Jackson Sinsel; Colter Spearman;  
Colleen Steele

January 9— Derek Macumber; Alfie Moore

January 10— Jett Beisner; Agnes Knosp; Dawsyn Stearley

January 12— Leslie Borges; Judy Frerichs; Peyton Negley

January 13— Billy Edelman; Keaton Fattig; Breigh Ana  
Spies; Sierra Weitzel

January 15— Locklyn Beller; Dale Wee;

January 16— Jasper Goforth; Dalton Pflughaupt; Cathy  
Poppe

January 17— Thomas Bartling

January 18— Caitlynn Peterson

January 19— Kady Worth

January 20— Mary Babcock; Madalyn Petersen

January 22— Courtney Koehn; Samantha Staggs

January 23— Rick Elliott; Tom Frerichs

January 24— Mark Huebner; Shirley Steele

January 25— Gena Cullinan; Tammy Hamburger

January 28— Tiffany Negley

January 29— Jean Niedan

January 30— Jens Hansen; Rori Hansen

# Theology ON TAP



## THEOLOGY ON TAP

6:00 pm.

Tuesday.

December 19, 2020

At Peg Leg Brewery.

Fellowship, Bible study and a cold one with fellow believers. Anyone 21 years and older and young at heart!

**January Anniversaries  
Don't see your special  
date listed here?  
Contact the church  
office.**

**Jan 3**

**Dean & Cathy Nutt**

**Jan 5**

**Jeff & Chandra Boeka**

**Jan 15**

**Eric & Kim Ryan**

**Jan 24**

**Wesley & Kortney**

**Gilbert**

**Robert & Paulette**

**Stefka**

**Jan 25**

**Dave & Jeanne Baade**



*January flower of the month*

***Carnation***

ADMIRATION DEEP LOVE  
AFFECTION



BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR  
LUTHERAN  
PRESCHOOL

It is a new year I am so excited, the kids have learned so much. Our color for the month is blue. We will be learning about winter and all the fun things we can do in the snow. The kids did a great job at our Christmas program it was very different but I was glad we had it.

*Ms. Annie*





Lutheran Women's Missionary League

### LWML CIRCLES

Evening Circle—January 4 @ 7:00 pm at BSLC—  
Thelma Miles / Mary Babcock hosting

Afternoon Circle—January 14 @ 1:00 pm at BSLC—  
Kitchen Cleaning with Alfie Moore, leader / hostess

**LWML Board meeting—January 18, 2021**

**@ 5:00 pm—at BSLC**

**FOR LWML MEMBERS:** Please note your 2021 membership registration envelopes are in your mailboxes. We welcome new members, registration envelopes are on the table at the back of the sanctuary.

### LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSION LEAGUE: GOSPEL OUTREACH MESSAGE:

#### **Serving the Least of These**

January can be a hard winter month for all of us, but if you are a child in crisis, the darkness and the cold can be especially frightening. Plan an ingathering of items to bring comfort to children in your community who are in crisis.

Contact the local law enforcement, fire department, or children's social service agency and ask for a list of items to collect that could comfort the children they encounter during these cold winter months. Ask, "Are there any items you *cannot* accept? Are there age restrictions?"

# Sunday School

Preschool through 5th grade:



6th - 12th are upstairs  
studying with Jarryn

**Valentines  
Dinner**

February 13th  
4:30 & 6:30 p.m.

Stay tuned for  
details as  
restrictions allow

Save the Date

A white plate with a red rose and a red heart-shaped object. The plate is set on a wooden surface.



Youth Group

Sundays from



Sr. High Youth Group

Wednesdays from

6:30 to 8:00

# Save the Date

Valentines  
Dinner



February 13

4:30 & 6:30

Setup Feb 12

Start looking forward to February and the Valentines Dinner and what we want the theme to be this year. We will need to have a theme figured out by the middle of January.



New Years party—since we did a much smaller party our official Christmas party will be in January. Date to be determined.

**Check the bulletin for more youth activities.**

**Board of Christian Education Minutes  
December 7, 2020**

*THESE ARE PRELIMINARY MINUTES SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT  
BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MEETING*

**Persons in Attendance:** Janelle Ouderkirk, Kim Utecht, Heather Van Velson, Deidra DeGarmo,  
Jarryn Wiley-Pearce, Ashley Roehrs, Cathy Poppe, Guest – Ben Pearce

**Meeting called to order**

**Opening prayer**

Jarryn Wiley-Pearce

**Approval of Minutes and Bills:**

Only Question is on Preschool Special fund receipt.

**Reports:**

**Jarryn Wiley-Pearce – DCE Report** - Not a lot to report  
Midweek – No One out for Covid, so trucking along. Jeff has taken over class for advent schedule  
Sunday School Christmas program practice.  
Do a movie Sunday after program  
Just doing Christmas program now  
December 27<sup>th</sup> , No Sunday School  
Christmas Party on December 20<sup>th</sup>

**Anne Wilcox – Preschool Report** - Christmas Program still going on this month.

**CHRISTMAS PROGRAM:**

**Ben** – Practices have been going well, more kids than previous practices.  
Calling Leland about spotlight. Getting the stage and working on the spotlight. Have stage by next Wednesday. Set up for Christmas program after advent service. Parents ok with Thursday evening @ 6:30 pm 1<sup>st</sup> half of play until they have it going well. Wednesday singing practice. This Saturday – business as usual – Getting closer to what he had envisioned.  
**Meal:** Do Pizza instead of Taco Bar for families who participated. Not limiting people who can be here. Program will be livestreamed. Pizza from Little Caesars. Will put in order that evening and have it delivered. If they don't deliver, do Dominos.

**Unfinished Business reviewed:** **\_CONFIRMATION ROBES UPDATE PROPOSAL:**

Measure kids this year for sizes they need  
Next year we can fill in some sizes  
Takes about 2 weeks to receive when ordered  
Parents wouldn't have to purchase robes anymore  
Board of Christian Education would like to buy Stoles for confirmation class instead of having the flowers  
We would like to the Stoles embroidered  
Cost:

Stoles are \$4.95 each (they are red)  
Robes are \$19.95 each (they are white)  
Order 12 or more they are \$17.95 each

Advantages to this would be:

Save parents money  
They would no longer have to purchase the robes  
The Stole would be a gift from the Board of Christian Education  
All the Church would have to do is launder the robes after use  
Kids would not have to be weighed and measured  
They would just try on the robes to find the best fit  
Parents would not have to pin on a flower to their children  
No more poking of parents fingers or children's skin

**New Business:**

- Christmas Program – December 19, 2020 – tentatively

**Tabled Items:**

- Continue to assess and modify as Directed Health Mandate guidelines change and allow  
*Sunday School – ideas – Teachers Meeting*

**Adjourn:**

Janelle motions to adjourn, Cathy 2<sup>nd</sup>s - passes

**Closing:**

Lord's Prayer

# Bible Studies



**Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study will still be Interactive Livestream @ 10:00 am,**

Led by Pastor Bob, Current Event questions are welcome. We are continuing our study of the Book of Luke— Facebook message your questions and thoughts in on Sunday Mornings during the study . Participation is encouraged in person also, using “social distancing”!

## Wednesday Mornings

Men’s Bible Study—

Every Wednesday at 6:30 a.m. at

The Fellowship Hall at BSLC through the month of November

Led by Pastor ,

join us as we enjoy a study of God’s Word in the Psalms!



Tuesday Afternoon Ladies Bible Study  
at 1:30 pm at The Fellowship Hall at BSLC

We are studying the gospel of John.

**ALL WOMEN** are invited/welcome  
if you have that time slot open!

**Board of Elders Minutes  
December 21, 2020**

THESE ARE PRELIMINARY MINUTES SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT BOARD OF ELDERS MEETING

**Persons in Attendance:** Larry Wallace, Wayne Mueller, Dennis McConnell, Glenn Van Velson, Don Roehrs, Mike Steele, Pastor Bob.

**Opening prayer** – Pastor Bob prayed for everyone to know and trust in God.

**Minutes and bills** - Wayne Mueller moved and Don Roehrs seconded the Motion to approve the minutes of the previous meetings and the bills to be paid. All in favor.

**Reports:** **Pastor Deardoff** – Oral and written report given. He reported he is pleased to see the number of the congregation who are attending on-line; some more

private

communions

**Unfinished Business from previous meetings:**

Ministry Mapping Update(s) – with Mark Frith – no follow up / update at this time

Regarding livestreaming equipment, An order has been placed, nothing delivered yet, some equipment on back order.

Discussion held regarding video distribution in the church building and authorization given to Dennis McConnell to work with the GoFish vendor to coordinate the images, sound and camera. Motion made by Larry Wallace and seconded by Wayne Mueller to authorize Dennis McConnell to work with GoFish to get the right computer for the video distribution and broadcasting, up to \$2,800.00. All in favor.

Next Quarterly Planning Meeting – set for Tuesday, January 12, 2021 @ 6:00 pm at NPCC North Campus, Room 105

Job descriptions for Pastor and DCE – at planning meeting

**New Business:**

- **Christmas Eve Services were discussed and arrangements made for:  
Communion  
Cleaning Disinfecting after each Service  
Setting up the overflow – 1:00 pm on Thursday  
Reservations for both services / seating assignments**

**Tabled Items:**

- Member Outreach – last discussed 11/17/2020; tabled to January 2021 meeting.
- Information gathering survey - tabled

**Adjourn:**

Motion made to adjourn and seconded, passed.

**Closing:**

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer in unison.

## LWML Quarterly Meeting

The LWML Quarterly meeting was held December 13, 2020 at 1:30 at church. Thirteen members and two guests were present.

The meeting opened with a sharing of favorite Nativity stories, followed by Lisa Parish leading the opening devotion “Unwrapping the Mystery” based on John 3:16.

Guest speaker Andrea Hongsermeier, Director of the Bridge of Hope Advocacy Center, spoke about the work done at Bridge of Hope to work with victims of child neglect and abuse. She shared information about services provided for children, families, and caregivers. LWML has adopted Bridge of Hope for the “Tree of Love” giving. Those wishing to donate may place their donations in an envelope on the tree and place it in the box under the tree. Brochures about Bridge of Hope have also been placed on the Tree of Love. The group also enjoyed viewing the wedding photos of LWML “daughter” Alecia Howell.

Prayer partners were selected for 2021. The group then enjoyed a lunch served by Bonnie and Suzi.

In the business meeting, the following reports were given: During the first week of Advent, LWML hosted an offering basket for a church member who had lost her home during a fire.

LWML will provide a meal for the Habitat for Humanity volunteers on December 19. Pizza will be ordered and delivered, and the afternoon circle will donate cookies.

LWML’s annual Christmas donations will be \$100 each to the Joint Seminary Food Bank and to Orphan Grain Train.

New sign-up sheets for 2021 circles will be completed.

Envelopes for 2021 membership will be placed in mailboxes.

LWML honored outgoing President Mary Babcock and thanked her for her service.

The meeting adjourned with the singing of “Joy to the World”.

**BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH  
COUNCIL MINUTES OF 12/21/20**

**Persons in Attendance:** Pastor Deardoff, Loren Babcock, Charlene Schneider, Charles Boettcher, Bob Reigan, Mike Steele, Ashley Roehrs and Jarryn Wiley-Pearce.

**Meeting called to order** at 8:00 P.M. by President Boettcher .

**Opening Prayer/Devotion:** Opening devotion was presented by President Boettcher.

**Minutes of the last meeting of 10/19/20:** A motion to approve the minutes was made by Charlene Schneider. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

**Treasurer's Report** was presented by Charlene Schneider. A motion to approve the report was made by Loren Babcock, motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

**Reports were received from Pastor, Trustees, Board of Ed, DCE, Board of Youth, and Board of Elders.** Contents of those reports can be seen in the published minutes of all boards.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** Pastor reported that Synod is considering moving back the next convention from 2022 to 2023 due to the pandemic. They requested that each congregation vote whether to support this move or not.

After discussion on whether this would necessitate calling a special voters' meeting to determine our vote on this issue or to have the Council act for the congregation, a **motion was made by Ashley Roehrs for the Council to act on behalf of the Congregation.** Motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

**A motion was then made by Mike Steele to support the Synod's moving the next Synodical convention from 2022 to 2023.** Motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

**A motion to adjourn** was made by Loren Babcock at 8:30 P.M. Motion was seconded and unanimously carried. Meeting closed with the Lord's prayer.

Respectfully submitted:  
Loren Babcock, Secretary





Lutheran Hour  
Ministries

January 3

**"Too Much"**

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

The Gospel according to St. Mark shows us the Savior Who is always on the move.

(Mark 1:1 - 2:12)

January 10

**"The Backstory Behind a Bible 'Contradiction'"**

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

When you open yourself up to hearing the backstory behind the apparent contradiction, you may encounter what the Bible is all about.

(Mark 2:13-28)

January 17

**"Lost in Wonder, Love, and Praise!"**

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer

The word of Jesus turns us out from ourselves and our problems to the faith, hope, and love that He brings.

(Mark 3)

January 24

**"Why Jesus Told Parables"**

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

(Mark 4)

January 31

**"Under the Impression"**

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

(Mark 5-6)

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES**  
**December 21, 2020**

THESE ARE PRELIMINARY MINUTES SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

**Present:** Robert Reigan, DeWayne Livingston

**Minutes & Bills:** Reviewed and approved.

**Reports:**

- Church Insurance will change effective January 1, 2021
- Ongoing building maintenance

**New Business:**

- Reviewed Letter from Northwestern Energy, average monthly payment increased to \$166.00 beginning with the December 2020 billing.

Reviewed reports from Nebraska Safety & Fire Equipment

**Unfinished / Tabled Business:**

**Meeting adjourned.**

Board of Outreach did not meet in December

Board of Youth did not meet in December

**Portals of Prayer for  
January—March 2021  
are available on a stand outside the  
church office or at the south  
entrance of the church.**

**REMINDER!**

If you or a loved one are hospitalized and desire a visit from Pastor, PLEASE call the church office and tell us! Or if you desire a home visit, let Pastor know so he can set up a time to see you.

You're loved and worth it!

**"I was  
sick and  
you visited  
me . . ."**  
—Matthew 25:36 NKJV

The New 2020-2021 BSLC Directory is available on the back table in the sanctuary. please inform the office of any move or address changes. Thank you



**Check out our Website**  
(click here)

www.bslnp.com  
Our Website has  
been updated!  
Check it Out!

## **A gift of joy**

“And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy” (Matt. 2:9b–10).

Did you know that stewardship can lead you to know true joy? For those who have been in the Church for any length of time, this might sound really surprising. But the Wise Men show us this joy.+

The Wise Men did not know joy because of what they had done. They knew the joy of receiving the gift of God! The creation, through the star, had caused them to set out on a journey. It brought them to an unwitting and unwilling Herod. But what finally pointed them to their ultimate goal, the King of the Jews? It was the Word. The Word of God that the scribes had quoted to Herod proved to be true. They had found the palace of the king! But it was no palace.

It was a place. It was a simple home. The Lord had come to dwell among His people in the simplest of ways. Through stewardship of creation and Word, they were led to find this place. Pointed to the truth by the management of Word and world, the Wise Men found joy. This joy is more than a feeling. It is a person. The joy comes from meeting Jesus.

Your stewardship of God’s simple gifts is used by Him to guide others to Jesus. Most times that is your faithful financial support of our work together in the Church. Other times it is found in the simple acts of generosity that show the people around you that you have the joy of knowing Jesus. This takes money, time and a willingness to be in the Word and at the Lord’s Table. You can only steward the joy of God’s presence when you are present with Him. That is where you find the joy the Wise Men know. It is that joy, as steward, that you are called to give to others!

Yes, you too can be a steward of the Wise Men’s joy. The simple gift of God’s Word will show this to you. In the coming year, make it a priority to be in God’s house and at His Table weekly. Then you will know the contagious joy of being a steward of God’s simple gifts!

Prayer Lord God, You led the Wise Men by a star, first to Jerusalem and then to Jesus. You have also led us to Jesus through the leading of faithful stewards of the Gospel and Your creation. This gives us the same joy that the Wise Men knew so long ago in Bethlehem. Grant us Your grace to be radically generous with the joy You have given us in Jesus so that we might give that joy away as well! Amen

Dear Friend in Christ,

Thank you, on behalf of a grateful District, for the generous gift of \$1,000.00 as a part of your pledge of \$35,000.00 to our Building Together. In Christ. For Mission. Capital Campaign. Your remaining pledge balance is \$18,200.00

With your commitment, you have made a bold statement about the future of our Nebraska district LCMS and its ministries. Your support will be restricted to the project(s) as you have designated.

Our campaign has already received over \$2,900,000.00 in gifts and pledges. Those commitments have allowed us to renovate the University Lutheran Chapel in Lincoln, strengthening our ability to attract and better serve students, and to better engage the neighborhoods that surround the Chapel. Support for this campaign has also provided for a portion of renovations of the District Office, which strengthened the staff's ability to better serve congregations throughout the District.

Pastor Bill Steinbauer, University Lutheran Chapel pastor writes, "Last night reminded me that our work is vital to these young souls. Our weekly Bible study went as planned. I was sitting around the Chapel fire pit talking to students. I'm called back into the building because a student has collapsed on a sofa. She can't open her eyes and can barely talk. She doesn't want me to call the ambulance because she can't afford the bill. Finally, I insist. Paramedics arrive but she refuses to go with them. They leave and then she collapses again. I pick her up with the help of one of our student leaders and we take her to the emergency room. This student leader stays with this girl into the early morning hours. The doctors find nothing wrong and she is discharged. I see her the next morning and she seems normal. They assume that she is suffering from extreme anxiety and sleep deprivation. Here is the point: Our student leader stayed with this girl the entire time and cared for her. We have important work. These young souls need the love of Jesus and they need to know that someone really cares for them. Your generosity is providing an excellent space for us to carry out ministry is extremely encouraging. Thank you greatly, Pastor Bill."

Thank you , again, for your congregations' investment in the future of our Nebraska District LCMS and its ministries. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and greatly needed as we seek to fulfill the Great Commission of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Sincerely in Christ, - Rev. Richard Snow—District President (2Corinthians 5:20)

## **New Grief Share Program Starting**

**When:** Orientation—January 7, 2021  
at 6:30 pm

**Where:**

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church—1400  
East E Street—North Platte NE

**Cost:** \$15.00 for group participation  
manual

**Information:**

Call Elaine Bode at 308-386-8679 or  
Gordon Peeks at 308-534--0637


Community members who have experienced the death of a family member or friend are invited to attend. This is a nondenominational program featuring Christ-centered, biblical teaching. Confidentiality is very much a part of this program.



“Your word is a  
lamp for my feet,  
a light on my path.”

Psalms 119:105

MonaHodgson.com

A serene winter scene featuring a wooden bench with a brown cushion, partially covered in snow, sitting on a snow-covered slope. The background is a soft, hazy landscape with snow falling gently. Bare, snow-laden tree branches hang down from the top right corner. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and quiet.

**Be still,  
and know that  
I am God:**

'UNTO THEE' Ministries

Ps 46:10a Kjv