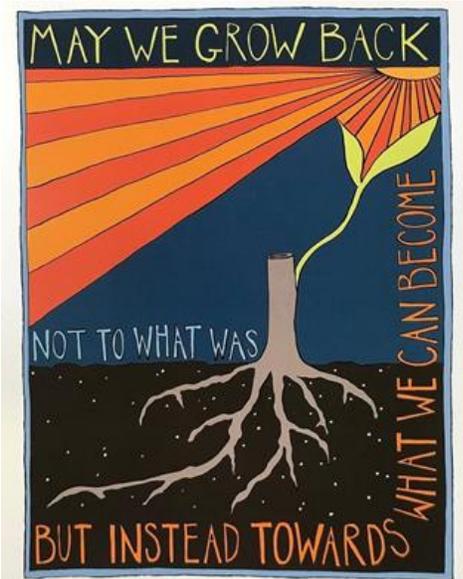


The GRAPEVINE NEWSLETTER May 2020



(Image used with permission: Jennifer Bloomer, Founder / Artist RADICI STUDIOS www.radicistudios.com)

From Our Pastor:

Dear friends in Christ,

We've no doubt all heard or thought, "The world as we have known it is changed." (i.e., our assumptions and expectations must be realigned) Some say these are but words of fear and should not be given too much air time. However, I see them as words describing potentiality and new life. Because so much of what we've taken for granted has been turned upside down, maybe it is exactly a time ripe for reconsideration about what is truly important—what are the essential parts of who we are and what we do. I encourage you to think about how we are being invited to see ourselves made new, filled with vitality and life because we've pruned out what we've discovered is nonessential, whatever those things might be. To prompt your reflections, I invite you to

ponder the following scripture and image. Please share insights with me directly or with others of the congregation through our private Facebook group.

Revelation 21:1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. **2** And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her [spouse]. **3** And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. God will dwell with them; they will be God's peoples, and God himself will be with them; **4** God will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."

5 And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also that one said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." **6** Then the seated one said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. **7** Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

Whether we meet where we might feel the breeze of one another passing, or bound by the Spirit in spite of the physical distance between us, we **are** Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, living in faith across Vancouver.

Peace be with you all as we continue this strange detour on our journey together,

Pastor Jean

Moving Toward the Regathering of Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in Community

As this previously unimaginable time continues, there is stirring toward entry into a new normal of life. This reality is driving questions about when and how we will again gather as a faith community enjoying proximate possibility rather than virtual-only connection. That means it's time to form a "coming back together" task force to think through the practicalities reopening will entail. And also it's time for each one of us to consider what we need to feel safe to return to worship. Each household must weigh the vulnerabilities of their own health realities as they determine whether to continue virtual connection, or if gathering in place now feels "safe enough" (with physical separation and masks).

It is important that we respect one another's decision, knowing that each of us have the best sense of our health vulnerabilities. Because of this we will probably see rolling waves of return rather than identifying a specific day when we will all regather, as we once might have imagined. A number of our congregation will choose to wait until after an effective vaccine is in place, but will continue to participate in the life of the congregation in other ways, including watching broadcast worship.

We need to be ready for a long time of start and stop functioning—when worship in building must again cease for a while then restart.

Our space will be reconfigured to promote appropriate physical distancing; a disinfecting plan will be in place; there will likely be more directed flow paths outlined (i.e., movement into and out and around the building). Holy communion practices will be changed, and it may be that we even have to forgo singing for a while (you might start trying to sing with a mask on, and let us know if that idea is practical). My hopeful expectation is that we will be able to gather as wider community under a tent once or twice over the summer, but

given that is likely to be other congregations' plan as well, we will see.

In order to "spread out" numbers at any given worship service, an idea is to add another worship opportunity. To start moving toward that goal, we will begin this week, Sundays at 5:00, to offer a shorter worship service with an alternative format. Because young adults and youth had already asked about the possibility of a different time and type of worship, we will use this time to explore various worship possibilities, with the intent to continue this expression of worship after we are again able to be together in physical space as well. At least some of the time worship will reflect that of Taizé. All ages and all people are welcome to experience this worship time as it is shared, as is Sunday morning worship, through Facebook and YouTube.



INVITE:

If you'd like to be added to our e-Blast to receive updates, please go to our Facebook page and click on "Mailchimp" *Beautiful Savior News* (it's a few posts down on our FB page) In the left hand corner, you'll see a button that says, "Subscribe". Click it and add your email address and you'll start to receive our news and updates. If you do not have Facebook, send an email to BSLC@beautifulsaviorlutheran.com with your email address and we'll add you on our end.



**From Kirsten,
our Director of Youth and Family
Ministry:**

“This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.” Psalm 118:24

In a recent youth group meeting online, one of our high schoolers reminded me of the importance of taking one day at a time. While eating a delicious mozzarella stick as a snack, a student said “I see God’s presence in this mozzarella stick. It reminds me of how great it is to be alive.” I laughed, but I needed to hear that. We have so many reminders of how great it is to be alive, if we only turn our attention to them. What is that reminder for you today? Where did you experience God’s presence today?

Some event updates: As of this writing, the Western States Youth Gathering at California Lutheran University has been cancelled by the event organizers, as well as Holden May Youth Weekends. I suspect more news of summer event cancellations will come this month, both for our church events and other summer activities. We still plan to attend confirmation camp June 28 - July 3 at Lutherwood Oregon, and have VBS Day Camp August 3-7. We will communicate any updates as they are released.

Exploring Worship Possibilities Sundays at 5:00 p.m. Shared through Facebook & YouTube



Beginning focus: contemplative practices of worship.

While we wait to again worship together on site, we are going to use this time as an opportunity to explore alternative expressions of worship through a late afternoon worship on Sundays. The structure is Gather/Center; Word/Reflect; Send/Be. (We envision eat/commune together might be a natural outgrowth down the road.) It’s up to those who participate how the shape and nature of this faith community will evolve. Join in!



Hello from the Mexico Mission Team!

Sending everyone our love and prayers during the CORVID-19 pandemic in Vancouver, Washington and the world.

The 2020 June Mission has been canceled while the pandemic continues to be a threat to us. We are looking for a 2021 June date for the mission, more on that in the coming months. The May 16th Shred Day fundraiser has also been canceled. Look for a shred day in October.

Our team continues to support our brothers and sisters south of the border at El Divino Salvador Lutheran Church in Tijuana,

Mexico. There are several ways for us to support El Divino. The schools, restaurants and churches have closed and many families are struggling to support their families. The team has decided to send the funds we have raised for the mission this year to Lutheran Border Concerns Ministry to donate to El Divino and distribute to families in the community and possibly build one home there. The money will give work to a few people who build the home and food for families. We will have detailed information on the amount sent to the families, who received the funds and a picture of the home built.

We all play a part in the healing of so many families hurting during this time. It will give you comfort knowing the funds being sent could not have happened without your donations and support.

Thank you as always for your continued love and support for the mission.

Spring Clean-up

If you'd like to come by and do a little landscape work to spruce up the grounds, feel free! You can do this anytime! Bring your own tools and gloves. Our landscape really likes the "attention" and appreciates it.



A Note from Charlene Welch
Development and Communications Director
Council for the Homeless
WAYS TO HELP ...

I hope this note finds you, your families, and the BSLC congregation safe and healthy during the Covid-19 pandemic. At Council for the Homeless, we appreciate

your support and partnership in caring for the vulnerable in our community. To be a resource to you and your members, we want to make sure you know our staff continue to work with people experiencing homelessness or housing instability. Collaborating with partners, our team is providing shelter, motel stays, rent assistance, basic needs and hygiene, and access to other essential services throughout Clark County. We created a webpage: <https://www.councilforthehomeless.org/covid-19-info/> with critical information about services including food banks, public restrooms, and more.

During this time, many community members are asking how they can help in our response effort. I am sharing this list with full understanding that BSLC is also going through its own adjustments and challenges. Still, I invite you to consider if any of the ideas below are a good fit for your membership to explore.

- Like and share our Facebook and Instagram posts: Help us spread the word about our services. Many people are experiencing housing instability for the first time and the information is essential.
- Donate items specific to the COVID_19 related needs of people who are unhoused through our Amazon Wish List, https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2RTAXQGMBAMZ1?ref=wl_share
- Donate to our Emergency Response Fund which helps pay for motel stays, rent assistance and other emerging needs. You can mail a check to Council for the Homeless, 2500 Main St., Vancouver, WA 98660 or give on our secure webpage at <https://www.councilforthehomeless.org/emergency-response-fund/>
- Donate to our rent assistance program specifically to support families in Vancouver Public Schools or the Evergreen School District.

If you are interested in any of the above ideas, please contact me so we can continue the conversation and answer your questions.

Thank you again for all you do in the community!

Submitted by David Schroeder:

Rev. Charles Spurgeon, "The Prince of English Preachers" in the 1800's, once grew terribly despondent. So many responsibilities. So many people crying for his assistance. How in all this wide world would he be able to meet all his challenges?

Then one day while riding in a carriage on a crowded London street a simple thought washed over him. He visualized himself as a fish worrying about whether there was enough water in the Ocean.

Enough water?! The ocean's resources are endless. He remembered the One who said, "My grace is sufficient for you." Above all, he remembered that, like ocean waves, he and we continue to receive "grace upon grace" from our bountiful Lord.

May Birthdays &

♥ Anniversaries ♥

*(Sorry if we missed your name;
please contact the church office)*

- 05/02 Sheri Clark
Hans Hertel
Pat Lenzen
- 05/03 Troy Broderick
Larry Catt
Caren Gawlak
Martha Gordon
- 05/05 Mary Allred
Lois Keller
- 05/06 Michael Bittner
- 05/09 Gary ♥ Rae McCaw
- 05/10 Deane DeCicco
Bobbie McCallister
- 05/11 Dick Gilbert
Barbara Kilgore
- 05/12 Arleen McCaleer
Helene Pihl
- 05/13 Alice Campbell
Charlie Heiserman
Carol Noah
Sue Williams
- 05/15 David Pfaff
- 05/18 Claudia Gonzalez Valle

- 05/19 Ralph ♥ Charlene Welch
- 05/21 Martin ♥ Patti Brockman-Jacobson
- 05/22 Adiadne Holmbeck
Terry Kadrmas
Terry Snyder
- 05/25 Derek Takahata
- 05/27 Scott ♥ Caren Gawlak
- 05/28 Tim ♥ Barbara Kilgore
Jim ♥ Chieko Poppe
- 05/29 Richard Miller
- 05/30 Kathy Esparza
Lola McMillan
Vance ♥ Jay Suk Cordell

Thinking about serving?

Here is a current list of Committees, Ministries and Task Force Groups w/contact person(s). Contact the church office or your church directory for phone/email contact information.

Committees:

- Christian Education – Sue Calvert
- Fellowship – Stacey Benson
- Finance – Mary Allred
- Music & Worship – Laura Blaisdell
- HR Committee – Charlie Heiserman
- Outreach – Karen Gustafson
- Property – Don Houck/Doug Pike
- Social Ministry – Cheryl Pfaff
- Stewardship/Mission Endowment –
Carol Taylor

Ministry Teams:

- Care Team – Bert Alvaro
- Community Garden – Doug Pike
- Free Clinic Lunches – Hilary Heizenrader
- LWR – Sharron Brainard
- Mexico Mission – Kathy Esparza
- Peace & Justice – Sonja Vegdahl
- Reconciling in Christ – Linda Anglin
- Sunday Servant Coordination – Jill Hellerud

Task Force:

Strategic Design –

Lynda Harriman/Terry Snyder

Homelessness – Cheryl Pfaff

Capital Campaign – Lynda Harriman

Emergency Preparedness – Mary Allred

Bylaws/Constitution – Mary Allred

Council Officers:

Ann Giles – President

Heide Maize – Vice President

Karen Cleveland – Secretary

Chuck Woods – Treasurer

FINANCIAL:

The Contributions are as follows as of 4/26/2020:

Last Sunday :	\$ 4,015.00
Month:	\$ 23,522.00 ← Thank you!
Needed in April:	\$ 22,928.00
Year-to-date:	\$114,462.90

Contributions may be shared by sending a check to Beautiful Savior, 12513 SE Mill Plain Blvd. Vancouver, WA 98684 (checks received by Thursday will be posted that week) or by signing-up for online giving through our website. Look for the prominent button on our home webpage if you would like to consider this option.

www.beautifulsaviorlutheran.com

Thank you so very much for your continued support of the ministries of Beautiful Savior!