

GRAPEVINE NEWSLETTER

October 2020

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, ELCA
12513 SE Mill Plain Boulevard Vancouver, WA 98684
360/254/9243
bslc@beautifulsaviorlutheran.com
www.beautifulsaviorlutheran.com



Pastor's Ponderings

Today, as I write, it is a sunny day, in a warmer than typical for this time of year week, a reminder of the too quick summer that has passed us by without fulfilling many of the hopes we had for it—or at least not the breathing space and a time when regathering would not feel so fraught that I was anticipating. I am grateful that most of the folks associated with Beautiful Savior are remaining relatively well (with at least one notable exception) and experiencing fairly limited negative economic impact to date, and maintain hope that that will remain the case. But even under what are admittedly rather easy to bear limitations compared to many, I'm weary, sometimes extra grumpy or down, feeling disconnected from community, and frustrated to see no definitive end in sight. Lament psalms expressing sentiments of "how long O LORD, how long?" resonate strongly.

So how you are doing? Where are limits on your patience being stretched? How can this community of faith better be there for one another? How might I make connection with you in spite of the restrictions to support health safety, and the distancing that serves to lessen our risk for COVID 19? *(these are not meant as rhetorical questions, by the way—I'd really like to hear from you!)*

So much of these last months it seemed we/I was waiting for some "after" to get going with community building, exploring together how BSLC's purpose and mission might be shifting or need adjusting, or even how we were being called to make a difference in the community in new ways—but "after" is not clearly on the horizon, yet there is without still purpose and impact being called out from God's people and continuing to wait until some other "ideal" circumstance to do the work of the Church, or even identify what it is that God calls us to consider and do does not seem a faithful option. The council and I will work toward a process of reconnecting and discovery in the weeks and months ahead. Please help me/us to recognize where the Spirit is stirring new life, and see where the energy of the congregation is leaning.

For now, however, there will be some sense of return to hibernation as worship returns to live stream only (people aren't so keen on gathering under blankets, with gloves and hats it seems!). When we started a second service offering, it was with the thought that in order to keep numbers at recommended limits for gatherings, we would need to have 2-3 worship offerings to accommodate all associated with our congregation. The evening worship was meant to be one that youth and young adults would help shape and implement, but with the county not yet in Phase 3 over the summer and folks are rightfully cautious about risks associated with gatherings, intentions have not been lived into in the manner planned. Critical mass and active work teams supported

the one service we offered in the morning, and the second service allowed us to continue sharing a service of Holy Communion.

So how do we move forward now? Some decisions need to be made regardless of when the county will move into Phase 3, when indoor gathering will presumably be somewhat less risky. One area needing attention is around what is offered for worship. Of what value to you is it that the second, alternative evening service continue (for yourself or in support of worship style preferences of others)? Is offering alternative worship that includes *Holden Evening Prayer* once a month something that feeds people's spiritual needs and best offered weekly, twice a month, or only seasonally?

Other questions have been raised about best ways to connect folks with one another—what will people participate in? Do we try a coffee hour again? Should we try on line game nights? Or related to worship: How do we plan for upcoming holiday worship opportunities so that there is some richness of experience? Will some of you feel comfortable enough gathering indoor with up to ten people, and sign on to be cantor/assisting minister or reader or will some of you offer to record yourselves reading lessons or making music so that we can see more members of the congregation at least virtually? And what about help behind the scenes: Is anyone available to put worship liturgy into PowerPoint each week so that we can try the split screen option with words as well as view of the worship leaders? Do we need a team to alternate weeks?

If you have a response to any of these pressing questions, please let me know—otherwise look for them to come at you more slowly on e-Blasts. What are your questions? Your ideas for something that no one has thought of yet—or at least haven't thought to ask you?! How do we work together to live out our call as the people of God in a very fractured time? Some of that is not yet clear, but what is clear is that your participation and input is essential as we figure out our way forward! It will be good to learn from you and work beside you to carry on the life of this congregation as we rethink how we make a difference in this community! No matter what else can be said, it's certainly quite a journey of discovery we are called to!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Jean

From Kirsten, Our Director of Youth and Family Ministry

As we head into the fall program year, I look forward to Reformation Sunday (this year on October 25), when we will celebrate the Affirmation of Baptism of three of our high school students. After three years of instruction, a variety of teachers and pastors, confirmation retreats, and Zoom confirmation classes, they will make a public commitment to continue in the faith.

While it is important to mark this milestone in our faith journeys, I am reminded that this is not the end of the story. The beauty of our Christian faith is that it is a *journey* throughout our whole lives. While we can mark it with events (baptism, confirmation, etc.), our faith will have its ups and downs, periods of feeling close to God and times of feeling far from God.

Celebrating our confirmands on Reformation Sunday helps me tie these two things together. We are a church that is always being made new; we are Easter people!! In the Holy Baptism liturgy, we begin with, "God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a *new birth* into a *living hope* through the

sacrament of baptism.” While we commemorate Martin Luther the church reformer at the end of October, we are reminded that God reforms us each and every day to love God and love others as ourselves.

Please join us for the Affirmation of Baptism of Griffin Barlow, Patrick Henry, and Angelo Luchini during the worship livestream on Reformation Sunday, October 25!

Growing as a Congregation of Generosity

from Pastor Jean

As a congregation, Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church is made up of a lot of generous people! You have welcomed me generously, you have long provided generously to the wider community through a commitment to have five percent of giving go to local benevolence, and to broader church impact through five percent Mission Support shared through the SWWA Synod Office to support ministry carried out on our behalf throughout our synod and through the ELCA’s churchwide ministries. I’ve watched many of you provide support of food, transport, contact, and more to other people in our congregation as they going through health challenges or limitations of covid-19 isolation. I am grateful to be in relationship with such generous people!

Generosity embodied through people of the various congregations I belonged to as a child, influenced my understanding of what it means to be faithful and Christian. I can’t say I remember particular lessons from any congregation or even my parents, but somehow that association was made--because I was doing as many children do--watching how adults live, and noticing when the adults are living out the things they say. My parents didn’t really talk about money much with us kids, but I must have noticed that they put an envelope in the offering plate. What I do remember is being in fourth or fifth grade and “budgeting” out my allowance on a pie chart that included a portion for Sunday School.

Beginning October, we will begin a five week delve into generosity as our stewardship emphasis this fall. You’ll be invited to think about who taught you about generosity, what generosity means to you, and how you live and provide role modeling of generosity now. On November 15 we’ll have the ingathering of statements of intent (likely also the date of our annual meeting!) and celebration Sunday on the 22nd--a perfect time to give thanks for the continuing generosity that will take this congregation into 2021 and beyond! Thank you for your active support of mission and ministry done through Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, as part of God’s mission for the life of the world!

Beautiful Savior has a New Treasurer!

Laura Snyder has agreed to learn the ropes and serve as our congregation’s Treasurer as Chuck Woods retires for this role that he has held for so long. Thank you to Chuck for your long term of service, and thank you for Laura for being willing to move into this role. We will have a celebration of Chuck’s tenure and installation of Laura in the near future. Stay tuned!

“For where your treasure is,
your heart will be also.”

—Matthew 6:21



Dear Friends at Beautiful Savior,

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church has received much support from many of you and others, provided in many forms, over these last six and a half months. Who would have believed in October 2019, that our church doors would be temporarily closed to gathering for worship and our lives impacted by both health and economic uncertainty? And then came the challenge of hazardous air! Through it all, you have shared your encouragement, time, skills, prayers, and financial gifts to support the ongoing ministry of this congregation. Because of this we have been able to support our church staff as they have continued to care for us, plus provide continued financial support to local and global missions.

The unexpected expenses generated by having to carry out the work of the church in new ways have been many. Unbudgeted purchases included: a laptop for Mariellen to work from home, video and sound equipment for streaming services, a projector and screen to support the hybrid model of at-home and in person worship while also allowing for less “touch” demanding worship, and a beautiful new tent for outdoor worship. Extra time investment has been required of the council, the task force stewarding the congregation’s ability to return to onsite activity, outdoor worship supporters, and the recently formed tech team, as well as staff.

We appreciate your efforts more than we can put into words. Congregation of BSLC, we are filled with gratitude for your overall stability of giving, your provision of extra funds toward unbudgeted expenses, and the extra time and talent a number of you have provided. Your generosity of spirit inspires us; we give thanks for you.

It appears that it will still be quite a while before we are able to engage in all that we may once have taken for granted, but new rhythms and practices are developing. May we continue to live in hope and generosity. And please let us know how we might best support your stewarding of generosity.

In Christ,

Carol N. and Kathe Y.,
Co-Chairs of Stewardship



Camp Lutherwood Oregon

Spirit of Harvest Virtual Auction & Fundraiser!

Join us for a fun and interactive online livestream program on **Wednesday, October 7**, lifting up the Spirit of Harvest that lives year-round at Camp Lutherwood Oregon!

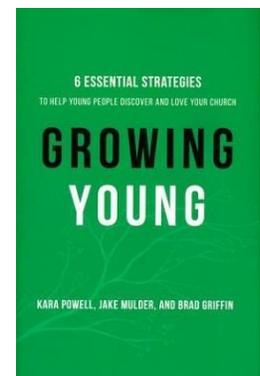
As we rise from the ashes from the destruction of the lodge in 2019 and the impact COVID-19 has had on delivering camp, we still have many reasons to rejoice as a community. This event premieres our brand-new dining hall, the first building marking our capital campaign. Our virtual tour will unveil this facility that we look forward to utilizing next year.

Just like past Harvest Festivals, this fun, fast-paced evening also includes an exciting online auction (items to be announced!). This is your chance to bid on exclusive camp experiences and learn how your support will allow us to continue our outdoor ministry and education through 2021.

Tune in on **Wednesday, October 7 at 7PM PST** to our website or subscribe to [Camp Lutherwood Oregon on YouTube](#). Dress in black tie or PJs and raise a s'more in support of Camp Lutherwood Oregon from the comfort of your home! Check out lutherwoodoregon.org/spiritofharvest for more information about the event and how you can enjoy and participate in the evening.

BOOK STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

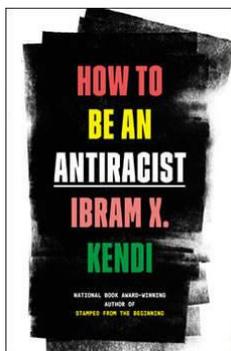
Growing Young leadership book study continues on the 3rd Thursdays! All are welcome to join the discussion on Thursday, October 15 at 6:30 pm on Zoom. Please read chapter 2 — *Unlock Keychain Leaders* — by that date. Even if you didn't join the discussion in September, you can join at any time.



How to be an AntiRacist

Sundays 3:00-4:30 p.m. via Zoom

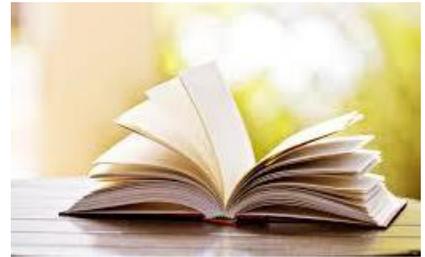
Upon completing the ***White Fragility***, the group decided to move forward with ***How to Be an Anti Racist*** by Ibram X. Kendi. If you are ready to join the conversation and learn together how we might become actively antiracist, please join in! Let Pastor Jean know you are interested, so that she may send you the zoom link. pastorjean@beautifulsaviorlutheran.com Note: we divide into small conversation groups after a very brief prayer and check in, reconvening about 4:15or 4:20 to share small group highlights.



(10.11.2020 we will discuss chapters 2 & 3)

Active Bible Studies at BSLC

Wednesday **Bible Study with Pastor Jean** meets via Zoom at 10:30 AM. Through the end of the year they discuss the text assigned for the upcoming Sunday, and in January they will delve into a more in-depth study of Genesis. For the Zoom link email Pastor Jean at the email address above.



Thursday **Gather Bible Study** is currently meeting onsite (physically distanced and mask wearing) and on Zoom at 10:00 AM. For more information contact Nancy K. (her contact information is available through the church office)



Adults who either were never confirmed or become intrigued at the possibility of a “refresher course” (because, hey—you’ve changed since your middle school years and might have forgotten things!), we can easily engage in **Lutheran 101!** It’s a valuable thing to have a refresher course every now and again! Let me know of your interest and we will make it happen. Pastorjean@beautifulsaviorlutheran.com (alternatively we could start a ten week course of study to consider the 10 Commandments!)

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS – SEPTEMBER 15, 2020

TREASURER APPOINTMENT: Motion to appoint Laura Snyder as Treasurer. Motion to approve Linda, Leslie 2nd – Motion approved. *Thank you, Laura,!*

Planning a Service of Lament on October 11th. Service to help us process together these feelings of not being able to worship together and have in person fellowship of this angst/lament and a Zoom group afterwards to have more conversation to help with this process.

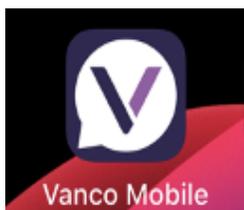
Capital Campaign Survey & Engineering Proposal - Phase 1 Building Task Force – connecting the city sewer. Discussion followed – we currently have \$84,000 in the building/capital campaign fund – the longer we wait the longer it will cost us more. We will need to continue our building campaign. Motion to hire engineering firm Hale Development Services to start the engineering piece to see what needs to be done and the total cost will be at a cost for them to do this (\$22,000).

Annual Meeting – Sunday, November 15th. Exploring a variety of options of how to hold an annual meeting. We do have an FM system that could work in the parking lot. More discussion – will keep you posted on meeting format.

StARs – Ann Giles – we have committed \$3,000 to this ministry. We will remind the congregation of support needed. Will get more information to pass on to members of this program. Ann will contact Steve/Chris for information for this – they have video/info available for us to share. This is not support for Chris & Steve – this is for support for the StARS program/ministry through the ELCA.

Mutual Ministries – Pastor. Committee is now active! Members are: Lynda Harriman, Tim Nelsen, and Christopher Belisle.

Next Council Meeting – October 13th – 6:30pm (Zoom meeting)



Vanco Mobile App - Still an opportunity here ...

Through our online giving provider, we have available an app that can help us all to communicate between our membership, set up meetings, see a calendar of scheduled activity, access the link for online giving, and sign up for space limited gatherings (including worship!).

Would you help us experiment with this communication, access, and registration tool? We are asking all those who feel comfortable in doing so, to go to their app store to download the Vanco Mobile app? You will be asked to put in a little bit of information, and given the opportunity to give permission to put your information in an inhouse directory or not. As folks engage the app we will test it as a sign up tool for worship and see if the other promises of its usefulness are as good as they sound!! (It is called a giving app but that is one small part of what it can be used for and that part is optional.) Thanks for your help, PJ, Staff, and Stewardship Committee

P.S. Interested in becoming the app administrator (please, please, please) so PJ doesn't become the bottleneck point? Let her know! Thanks!

Zoom or Gather w/Pastor Jean!

Don't forget that in these times of distancing making contact with Pastor Jean is still possible--and visits outdoors or via zoom are possible. If you need pastoral care, have prayer requests, ideas or concerns to share, or just need a listening ear for a bit, please don't hesitate to contact Pastor Jean. **Contact her at pastojean@beautifulsaviorlutheran.com** or leave a message for a return phone call at 360/254/9243. (PJ is not sharing her cell phone via this email because of hackers and spam calls, but is happy to share it with you for calls or texts.)

New Opportunities to Serve

PowerPoint Coordinator for preparation and projection

Alternative Worship: creation, set up, leadership (musical & spoken), editing of prerecorded services