

GRAPEVINE NEWSLETTER

September 2020

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, ELCA

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From Pastor Jean

As I've been reading about some of the confusion and chaos happening in schools as they work to serve students both in person and virtually, I could identify a bit (even though, admittedly, our circumstances do not impact as broad an array of people's daily lives as they). When doing both/and types of things, a lot of juggling is necessary and with it, increasing probability of dropping balls. It's happened already and I'm pretty confident this will again--a detail will be missed, something won't work as planned, expectations won't be fulfilled--and I want to say thank you in advance for your patience, flexibility, and good humor.

Like schools, September has become for church life, too, a time of restarts and new beginnings. This year is no exception, although we are restarting activity in ways that will have to happen in adjusted ways. You will find elsewhere in this newsletter, much opportunity to engage and join in. Among those activities, various committees and Ministry Teams are starting to stir, including a newly formed Mutual Ministry Committee. This Committee is one to promote innovation and idea development, foster healthy communication between congregation and staff, and provide focused staff support. The Congregation Council and Mutual Ministry Committee are committed to helping the congregation practice constructive, transparent communication, and will be sharing a Communication Covenant to guide their support of these efforts in future communication.

There's much to consider as this new program year begins. I hope you take the opportunity to stretch your isolation horizons by participating in virtually linked groups or other adapted gathering and ministry opportunities. If you don't see "the" thing you are looking for, let staff or council members know and as long as it fits within the congregation's mission and goals, we will see what can be done to support you organizing an area of new focus. I'm eager to see what else God unfolds before us in this year to come!

Grace and peace,

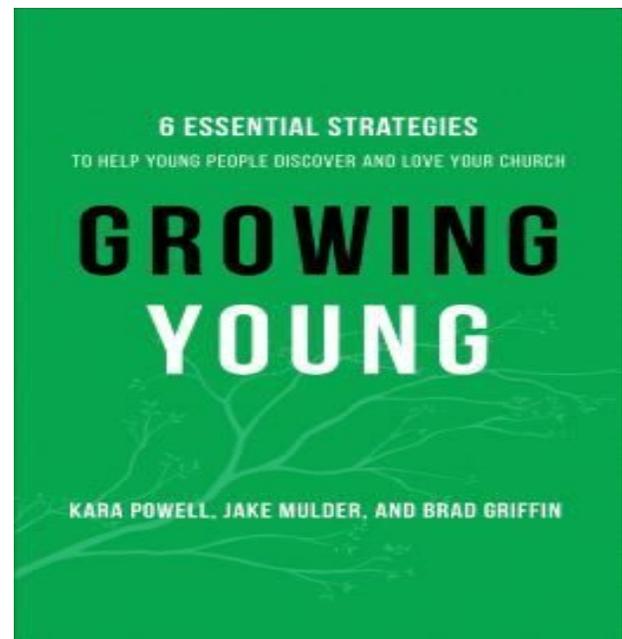
Pastor Jean

From Kirsten, Our Director of Youth and Family Ministry

We are beginning our program year this month! Though 2020-2021 will look quite different than unusual, I am incredibly thankful for all our adult leaders, Sunday School teachers, parents and families who are flexible and patient as plans change. Here's a snapshot of what we've got going on for first third of life programming:

- September 13 – during worship on-site, we will have a special blessing for all of our students returning to school! This year, since school is virtual, we will have a technology blessing. Bring your iPad, Chromebook, laptop, tablet, or whatever you do your learning on and we will bless them as we begin this school year.
- Also, we are having our high school senior recognition on September 13! Two of our students graduated in June, and we will celebrate their accomplishments and send them off with gifts and quilts. Join us in celebrating Tobi and Kate!
- Youth group resumes virtually on Mondays in September. I am looking for 2-3 adult leaders to participate in the group weekly, and lead conversations on topics chosen by the youth.
- Confirmation resumes with two groups this fall! We have a cohort of 3 students preparing to affirm their baptism, and a group in the midst of their confirmation education. Both will meet weekly with Pastor Jean and mentors.

- Sunday school starts virtual lessons on September 20. Teachers Reagen and Sharon have some exciting lessons planned, if your child, grandchild, niece/nephew or other kids in your life want to participate, please contact Raegen.
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Growing Young

Leadership Book Cohort

You are invited to join council members and other church leaders in discussing leadership, vision and mission by reading ***Growing Young, Six Essential Strategies to Help Young People Discover and Love Your Church*** by Kara Powell, Jake Mulder, and Brad Griffin. From the inside cover: *"Growing Young provides a strategy any*

church can use to involve and retain teenagers and young adults...[this book] shows ministry leaders how to position their churches to engage younger generations in a way that breathes vitality, life, and energy into the *whole* church.”

This book is NOT:

A quick fix band-aid for youth ministry

A membership recruiting plan

A scheme to get rid of all the older people

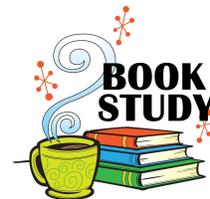
Reading this book together will spur further conversation about our mission as a community, and help us develop a plan and goals for being a church that grows young. It is a tool for community reflection, for asking hard questions that need to be asked in 2020, and for changing our congregational culture to help us be ready for the next 10, 20, 50 years.

I recently participated in a synod cohort around Growing Young, and I am excited to bring it to Beautiful Savior! We will meet monthly on Zoom beginning September 17 at 6:30 pm. Please read chapter 1 by then. Books are available for \$15-\$0 (sliding scale) in my (Kirsten’s) office, or as an Ebook and

Audiobook. Contact Kirsten if you are interested in participating! All are welcome!

Zoom or Gather w/Pastor Jean!

Don’t forget that in these times of distancing Pastor Jean is still available! She meets with people via Zoom (or where possible, outside in person) for one-to-one conversations or small group gatherings. These times provide a way to get to know one another and/or for her to provide support and pastoral care. If you 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. ***She has time for you and really wants to get to know the people of BSLC!!*** Send a note to pastojean@beautifulsaviorlutheran.com or leave a message for a return phone call at 360/254/9243.

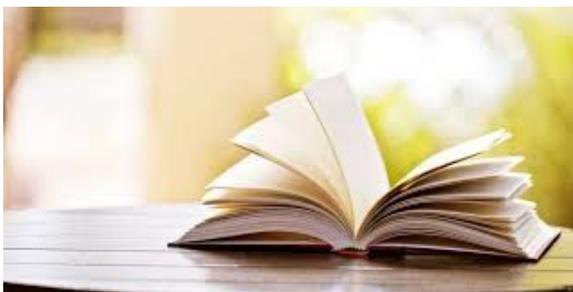


White Fragility Book Study continues on Sundays at 3 PM via Zoom through mid-September. After that there is a plan to move forward into related study--with a change of time likely, so if you want to participate, weigh in now with time/date preferences. Next step books that are under consideration include *How to Be an Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi or *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson, among others. Interested? Please contact Pastor Jean: pastorjean@beautifulsaviorlutheran.com to get on the list!

Politics-Related Study Possibility

In worship Pastor Jean has mentioned the possibility of beginning a study or conversation between now and the upcoming election, toward seeking more civil discourse than we can become prone to in recent years, and that is grounded in our common identity as followers of Jesus.

One book possible to guide this conversation: ***Thou Shalt Not Be a Jerk: A Christian's Guide to Engaging Politics*** by Pastor Eugene Cho, from Seattle (His first book would be excellent to guide a future conversation: *Are We More in Love with the Idea of Changing the World Than Actually Changing the World*). Another book that caught attention: ***Jesus for President: Politics for Ordinary Radicals*** by Shane Claiborne and Chris Haw. If you want to facilitate a conversation, let Mariellen and Pastor Jean know and we'll work to support you—might even participate!
bslc@beautifulsaviorlutheran.com



Bible Study Opportunities

Wednesday **Bible Study with Pastor Jean** meets via Zoom at 10:30 AM. 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.



Participate in “In-person” Worship

Beautiful Savior has set protocols in place to provide safe in-person worship under our tent (on nicer mornings). We have the following expectations in place:

Register for worship via Sign-up Genius. The link to register for worship will be sent in each week's e-Blast with the Sunday Rewind (links will be provided to watch the previous Sunday's online worship as well in case you were out of town or missed worship). A limit of 50 people can register to attend. If you do not have a way to sign up online, please contact the church office and we'll get you on the list of attendees. If you prefer to participate in worship from the comfort of your vehicle, **we have an FM transmitter!** There are designated parking spots onsite. **Just tune your radio to 90.1 FM.**

Wear a mask at all times while on the property. If you forgot your mask at home or

do not have a mask, one will be provided for you.

Temperatures will be taken as you enter the property.

Please bring your own chair if possible. Bringing an umbrella isn't a bad idea either if you're seated near the outside parts of the tent.

Please stay physically distanced at all times.

Follow the directions of our ushers for both seating and dismissal. We are not dismissing congregants until after Stephen has finished his postlude so that our members watching online can enjoy the music without disruption.

As the temperatures cool off this fall, we will start indoor worship. The same rules will apply until the Phase mandated by our State, CDC, and Synod change.



Tips for Worshiping at Home

There are various ways to follow along during our online worship via Facebook at 10 AM and at 5 PM for our Holy Communion worship service.

Links will be provided to the worship folders via the e-Blast by Friday at noon-ish. You can print them at home, read online while watching on another device, or for in-person worship, we now have a screen (trying to go a bit more go *Green* and save on paper) or can offer a few paper folders on Sunday morning if you'd like your own copy.

If you are watching from home, please be patient with the live-stream. Our Tech Team knows when it gets locked-up on BSLC's end and we work to fix it as quickly as possible. Not everyone's home Internet speed is quick, so sometimes the lock-up is a residential issue. When the screen does get locked up, **refresh your browser.** This will often get the livestream going again. **You can always watch later in the day via YouTube:**

<https://www.youtube.com/user/Bslcwa>



Virtual Coffee Hour - Join Us!

Join in immediately following the 10 AM worship service on Sundays! The

Zoom meeting ID and Password are available on our Beautiful Savior Private Group Facebook page or by contacting Mariellen at bslc@beautifulsaviorlutheran.com

This is a recurring Zoom meeting so the meeting ID and password will be the same each week.

Our 5 PM service will include **Holy Communion** for those we wish to watch online and participate. Be sure to set your home altar in place prior to the service with bread, wine/juice, and your Bible, candle, and/or fine linen (if you wish).



We Need People to Help Make In-person Worship Possible!

Our Volunteer Coordinator, Jill H, (with Kirsten’s help) put together an online Volunteer Sign-up for Sunday worship. You will receive a link to Sign-up Genius each week in the e-Blast. Jill has provided opportunities up to a month in advance. **We *NEED* help with tent set-up, Altar area set-up, greeters, ushers, building monitor, readers, and tent take down post worship. Please consider signing up for a volunteer position if you are able.**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4FAC A829A0F5C70-volunteers>

Confirmation Year Resumes!

It’s time to start the new confirmation year! If you have a youth who is at least in the sixth grade and has not completed this course of study prior to affirming their baptism, and I might not yet have met or know about them, please contact me to talk about how we might make this happen for them.

Please note: My (Pastor Jean) philosophy about students making their Affirmation of Baptism and becoming a voting member of the congregation, is that when it comes time it is their choice. I ask that families encourage their youths’ participation in the scheduled course of study, and then respect their youth in whatever decision is made about readiness to make an Affirmation of Baptism. This time is important in a youth’s faith development and the decision to “own their own faith journey” is not to be taken lightly (it’s not just a coming of age ritual, rather it represents a deepening connection to God’s will for us).



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.



Handbell Rehearsal

Extra! Extra! Handbells will be resuming ringing rehearsals beginning Thursday, September 24th at 6:30 PM. We will meet all but the 3rd Thursday of the month, when the whole congregation is invited to participate in discussion prompted by *Growing Young*.

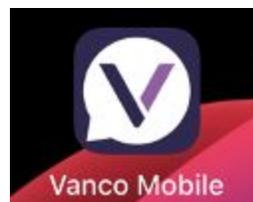
Malmark (our bell maker) sent out the safety protocols we will be following to keep our ringers safe. We look forward to adding musical moments to our worship as the fall continues and we move into 2021.

Thank you to all our ringers who have offered their gifts for the blessing of all and the glory of God. ~ Kathe Yokers, Director



Lutheran World Relief Appeal

Sadly, we learned that all of the quilts that were made by our church's Lutheran World Relief sewing group and shipped last November were destroyed in the tragic blast in Beirut along with thousands of quilts and supplies that were also sent there from many other groups. Our own group is making more quilts so that they can be distributed before the weather turns cold. It will cost approximately \$1000 for this shipment, and, of course, this was not anticipated in our budget. *Donations to help cover this expense will be very much appreciated!* Please designate that your donation is toward "Lutheran World Relief" and mail to the church: 12513 SE Mill Plain Boulevard, 98684



Vanco Mobile App

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 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 so PJ doesn't become the bottle neck point? Let her know! Thanks!



Blood Drive @ Beautiful Savior
Friday, September 4th,
1 - 6:30 PM

Wishing to donate?

Here's a few tips to help with

your experience!

- * Complete online pre-donation health questionnaire online beforehand.
Link: <http://redcrossblood.org/RapidPass>
- * Wear a face mask at all times while onsite. If you do not have a face mask, we will provide one.
- * Only donors will be allowed in the building. Thank you for arranging childcare off site.
- * Drink lots of water and eat a healthy meal before donating.

Contact person: Sue N. *(Thanks Sue!)*

Not available for this Blood Drive? No worries!

We have another one scheduled on Dec. 4, 1 - 6:30 PM!



Mexico Mission News

Dates to remember:

Shred Day, Saturday, October 3, 2020 more information to follow.

2021 Mexico Mission, July 10 - 16th.

2020 Mexico Mission still happened!

From Kathy E.

Lo siento mucho, for this long awaited update on the Mission. This morning I spoke with Daniel with El Divino Salvador for the latest information on the COVID-19 in Tijuana and the funds we sent to him. He received the \$5,200.00 last week (with the border closed and San Diego COVID -19, I'm assuming this was the delay) Below is a write-up from Pastor Ramon from Lutheran Border Concerns Ministry:

"Marta and Daniel are doing well and the community to his knowledge is safe and well. The church remains closed. Daniel is preparing to build two homes and distribute food to families in the community.

Another church from the states has also sent funds to El Divino and this will allow him to Build the homes. He will determine the Families in most need. Daniel will send photos of the foundation when they are laid and the families receiving the food. He sends his love and blessing to all of us and wants you to know Marta keeps each of us in her prayers." *See photos ...*

