

GRAPEVINE NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2021

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Pastor's Ponderings--

Wow, if the rest of this year goes by as quickly as the first month, we are in for quite a whirlwind pushing time along faster than expected! As the new year dawned and vaccine news was positive, it sure seemed we would be able to meet before long. Then the variants started taking over the news even as infection rates started declining. I suppose we should be getting used to things getting in the way of expectations. However, we do seem to be gaining at least a sense of consistent half steps forward now rather than two steps back for every one step forward (as it seemed for a while), which means we are making slow progress toward some fashion of regathering maybe even this spring. Toward our moving that increasing possibility, you will be asked to complete another survey to help planners determine how best to move the congregation forward. Thank you in advance for participating in a process necessary to outline our plan forward.

It will soon be a year since we were able to worship together on site--a time we held so many faulty assumptions about the impact of this pandemic upon our lives. I wonder if we should mark the "anniversary" in some ritual way that acknowledges all we have gone through. I would appreciate your thoughts about what would feel appropriate and either cathartic or hopeful.

With the passing of time, we *also* have almost made it back around to Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent. Elsewhere you will see what we have planned for this season, but it is worth noting that some people have experienced this whole time since COVID changed our lives, as being an extended season of Lent. Is there anything we can do as a community to help alleviate the weight of that reality? Are you willing and interested in doing an almost impromptu Shrove Tuesday virtual talent show and pancake eating on ZOOM so we could share some laughter and warm feelings together? Do you have another idea you want to sponsor?

Below you will see the plan for me to get to meet and hear from more of you, and for you to be able to ask a council member and me questions using ZOOM. Because of continuing restrictions on gathering, we realize this leaves out (but only for now) a significant number of people who do not use computers and do not have smartphones available. So, let's get creative, Beautiful Savior, and help bridge technological gaps! We can do this! BSLC does have one iPad that could be borrowed if there is someone able to help get those not tech savvy on--and I bet there are others in the congregation who have a tablet to lend, too. Brookdale Fisher's Landing has an iPad residents are able to use when scheduled in advance--maybe other residences do, too.

Let's see what is possible to help people feel connected! Once you have figured out a way for this portion of our congregation to participate, I'll need names to have the council hosts include them in the conversations to come.

I am eagerly looking forward to pending opportunities to grow in relationship with you. Until then, blessings,

Pastor Jean

P.S., the phones have been "fixed" so that I may receive messages at the office, after months of frustration that that was not occurring!



Conversation Circles:

Getting to Know One Another

Siblings in Christ,

I've been here now for about a year, with most of the time at Beautiful Savior impacted by limitations of pandemic restrictions. That's a lot

of time to have not had much opportunity to get to know you, nor you me! While there was not strong response to my invitation to share "coffee and conversation" with me via ZOOM, I am hopeful that more of you will participate if asked directly to join a small group via ZOOM, or when restrictions are loosened and the weather is nicer, on people's porches or BSLC's side yard.

To this end, I've asked the council members to each host a conversation circle (to include me) to get us started. They will each invite a mix of four people (or household units*) to participate with them and me in a guided one-hour conversation using ZOOM—the host and I will learn something of you, and you will get to know a council member and me a bit better. Your input will also ground the council for further work over the rest of the year

Each council member is only being asked to host one conversation circle, so not all will get an invitation this first round—you may signal your interest in being included by letting me know through email pastorjean@beautifulsaviorlutheran.com or by phone 360-254-9243.

**household members may choose to participate in separate groups or as a household unit sharing one screen*

From Kirsten Larsen, Director of Youth and Family Ministry

Do you have a natural curiosity for figuring out how things work? Do you feel the Spirit stirring you to new ways of using your gifts and serving your church community?

The COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically changed the way we are church together. Professionally, my role at church has changed, and I have had to learn how to edit videos of various lengths to create polished worship services and other video projects. While I enjoy learning new skills, the time is drawing near when I will need to remove things from my plate; one of the first things to go will be video editing, as long as someone can take it over.

What does it take to learn to edit video?

- Attention to detail

- Basic computer skills (if you know how to watch 10 AM Sunday worship, you already have the knowledge base!)
- Time
- Patience to learn
- Lots of practice!

I am looking for one or two people who would be willing to learn how to edit videos for our church. Age and prior experience does not matter, I can teach you what you need to know about using iMovie. During the Lenten and Easter seasons, we are planning on having some pre-recorded clips and worship services, so there will be ample time to practice and learn. Even when we gradually return to worshipping in-person, we will continue to use videos as a part of worship and church communication.

“See, I am making all things new!” (Revelation 21:5)

Prayerfully consider how the Holy Spirit is moving you to respond to the needs of our changing church. If you have any questions, contact me by email –

youthdirector@beautifulsaviorlutheran.com

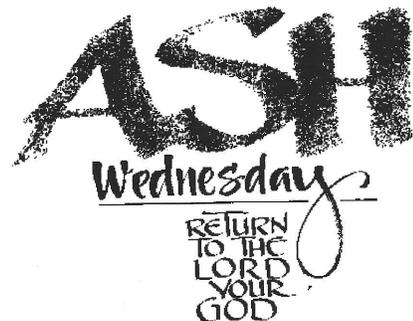
February 17 is Ash Wednesday!

Ashes to Go

(Due to gathering restrictions, each person or household will need to put the ash cross on their own or other household member's foreheads)

Small containers of ashes available for pick up

- Sunday, February 14 from 11:30-2:00
- Ash Wednesday (the 17th) 11:30-2:00
- *(you might also opt to scrap together some dust/dirt from your yard and mix it with a bit of water and oil)*



Ash Wednesday Worship Opportunities:

4:30 PM **Gathered Outside** in the side yard, abbreviated worship (weather may disrupt)

7:00 PM **Virtual Worship**

Lenten Wednesdays on Zoom: *Walk Together in Dusty Community*

As is our tradition, we will structure worship in Holden Evening Prayer, with interactive time to explore various texts nestled within it's familiar rhythms. Because our gathering continues to be restricted from being in person, we will worship virtually.

This year we will explore what it means to *Walk Together in Dusty Community*, adapted from a resource available on Old Lutheran (permission pending). Teasers from the resource: “Just as we walk wet in recognition of our baptism and the promise that it holds” we also walk dusty in the messiness of life. “Let us also remember that it is this dust we call life that shapes and forms us into resurrection people.... In brokenness, we are healed” because “resurrection promises are greater”

than whatever “dirty road we must travel.” From PJ: The whole idea of walking dusty has caught my interest and I look forward to discovering with you what this means!)

If you know of people who aren't able to utilize technology to gather, please invite them to join you if you are able to do so safely (limit of two households represented, distanced and masked! Outside best) once the governor gives the OK to do so. Stay tuned!

Return to the Building Task Force Update & a Survey coming soon!

Eleven months into this pandemic, we have learned a lot about how to do ministry in new and creative ways while keeping all our congregants and staff safe and healthy. The BSLC Return to the Building Task Force (composed of staff members, council members, and other congregational leaders) has been hard at work to implement new health and safety protocols. We have tried many new things: worshipping under our new tent while live-streaming, establishing a worship tech team to run our live worship streams, asking congregants to record themselves for reading and music. Our church community has responded positively to the new protocols, like wearing masks, and maintaining distance from those outside your household. THANK YOU for taking responsibility in keeping us all safe!

We follow the guidelines published by the CDC, the Washington State governor and health department, and the Synod office. While we will return to worshipping outside in the spring and summer (in the fickle PNW weather), we have heard that many of our people are weary in spirit and some folks want to return to worshipping indoors as soon as possible. Under the current Phase 1 and 2 guidelines, churches may hold indoor worship services at 25% capacity (wearing masks, distanced, and singing is limited). Churches in our area (though none of our sister ELCA Lutheran churches) have begun to meet indoors in person and have found ways to make it work. We are hopeful to meet in person sometime this year, and we are dreaming about what that will look like.



With all the health and safety protocols in place, this survey includes questions about worshipping indoors, meeting for ministry programs indoors, and meeting for pastoral appointments indoors. ***The congregational survey is coming soon and will be included in the upcoming e-Blasts.*** We will continue to offer online worship services even as we return to worship on site, indoors and outdoors!

Doing a little pre-Spring cleaning?

Mexico Mission is hosting a Shred Day Fundraiser on Saturday February 6th, 10 - 1 PM in the church parking lot. A minimum \$5 donation per banker-size box is much appreciated.





Musical Meditations

Lent Musical Meditation mini recitals with musician Stephen Janzen will be released on Thursday, February 25; Thursday, March 11; and Thursday, March 25. Please join us via Facebook/YouTube! Links will be sent to you via the e-Blast or by contacting bslc@beautifulsaviorlutheran.com



Faith Action Network is an interfaith statewide partnership striving for a just, compassionate, and sustainable world through community building, education, and courageous public action. Each year they host an Interfaith Action Day which will be on **Thursday, 2/11, from 9am - noon**. This is a great way to be introduced to the area of advocacy (addressing systemic root causes underlying various life limiting inequities and injustices in society, by supporting policy changes or protections).

On Interfaith Advocacy Day, you will be able to (virtually in 2021):

- Join workshops that will break down the issues on FAN's Legislative Agenda
- Learn current best practices on how to advocate in today's legislature
- Prepare for meetings with advocates from your legislative district
- Meet with your legislator! Once you register, FAN will set up an appointment for you and others from your district.

You may register here: <https://fanwa.ourpowerbase.net/civicrm/event/info?id=197&reset=1>

If you are interested in reading related ELCA messaging you may find these resources here:

Race, Ethnicity and Culture

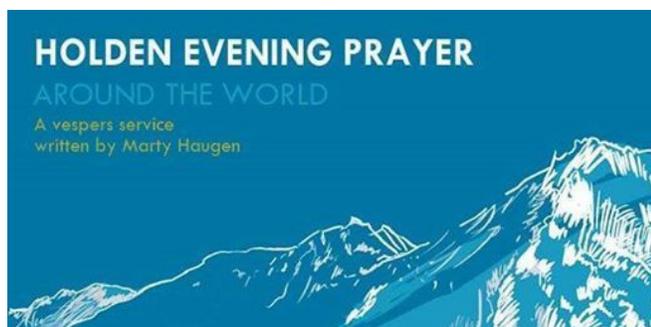
<https://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Statements/Race-Ethnicity-and-Culture>

Immigration:

<https://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Messages/Immigration>

If you have never been involved in state advocacy this is a great way to do so from the comfort of your own home, with others of faith, from your district and from BSLC.

Holden Evening Prayer Around the World - Wednesday, February 3



Each year Holden invites Villagers across the globe to create community through participation in the Holden Evening Prayer. This year more than ever, the world cries out for healing, justice, and mercy. Let us support and draw strength from one another, reaffirming our values as people called, equipped, and sent to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God. Rather than produce our own version, we will join by watching a recording from the Village in 2018. Look for the link in the e-blast, on our social media, or search “Holden Evening Prayer Around the World” in your browser. We will have many more opportunities to worship using this setting during our midweek Lent services.



Outreach Opportunities

As the congregation nears the time when we can again gather together and also engage actively with outreach, it's time to reorganize the committee and invite you to participate. Below is an overview of activity that this committee typically takes responsibility for, but as new people with new ideas become involved, some of this may change.

Are you one of the people God is calling to participate in this type of ministry?

Let us know through Pastor Jean pastorjean@beautifulsaviorlutheran.com or ask for contact information of current committee members through Mariellen (bslc@beautifulsaviorlutheran.com).

The Outreach Committee:

1. Helps the church welcome all people wherever they are on their spiritual journey.
2. Helps newcomers connect to this community of Christ through the ministries of BSLC (i.e., new member orientation, visitor response).
3. Studies the surrounding community as a context for outreach, and promotes changes in the ministry accordingly.
4. Supports Crestline Elementary School (i.e., food drives, school supplies, giving tree, lunch buddies,...)
5. Sponsors activities to connect people with the congregation (i.e. sponsors an information table at Saturday in the Park, provides name tags)
4. Supports the ministry of the Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Team, which:
 - a. Provides LGBTQIA+ and diversity education and information.
 - b. Explores opportunities to advocate for the LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC communities.
 - c. Partners with the Outreach Committee (as well as other committees) to explore ways to reach out to members of the LGBTQIA+community and invite them to become part of Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church.

Current Outreach Committee Members--(Contact Information shared upon request)

Bruce and Ginger B; Karen G; Susan H-P; Jim K; Linda A RIC Chair

Have ideas? Questions? Think this might be the perfect committee for you? Talk with any one of us and let's see where the Spirit takes us!

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS – January 2020, Council Retreat

PRESENT: Sue C, Leslie Q, Stacey, Bert A, Ann G, Heide M, Ray S, Laura S, Bill O, Nancy K, Pastor Jean, Kirsten L & Karen C **ABSENT:** Landon Snyder



Dwelling in the Word – Pastor Jean lead us in “Dwelling in the Word” which we will be adding to all of our regular council meetings in 2021

General Expectations – Members made a list of our expectations for today’s retreat

Leadership Focus (another item to be added to regular meetings) – reviewed our roles & responsibilities per our Bylaws. Broke into small groups for “Expectations for Leaders” – will score our expectations at February’s meeting.

Strategic Plan Overview – reviewed our 2019 Strategic Plan – will continue to discuss this at future meetings.

Business Meeting

- December minutes approved with corrections
- Treasurer’s Report
- Property Committee Update
- Small Group Conversations – working on small group conversations with Pastor and the entire congregation. Council members will host these small groups.
- Election of Officers – Unanimous vote: **Ann G – President; Heide M – Vice President; Karen C – Secretary.**

Sending with Communion

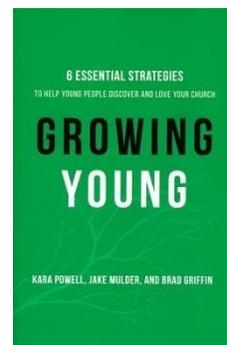
BOOK STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

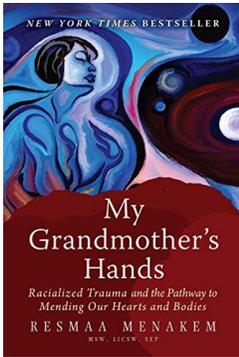
Growing Young

A leadership book study on 3rd Thursdays at 6:30 PM on Zoom.

You are welcome to join the discussion at any time.

Request a zoom link at youthdirector@beautifulsaviorlutheran.com





My Grandmother's Hands: Racialized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending Our Hearts and Bodies

You are cordially invited to join a ZOOM conversation grounded in this book by Resmaa Menakem, each Sunday @ **3:00 PM**. This intriguing book includes exercises to build awareness of how our bodies hold on to racial bias, stressors, and trauma. The plan is to discuss two chapters a week, but this may change if the group wants to slow down a week or two. If you have questions or want to join, contact Pastor Jean pastorjean@beautifulsaviorlutheranchurch.com or Sonja V. for a Zoom link.

Bible Studies through BSLC

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

Current focus: Genesis. To receive a Zoom link email Pastor Jean at pastorjean@beautifulsaviorlutheran.com

Thursday Gather Bible Study imeets on Zoom at 10:00 AM. For more information contact Nancy K. (her contact information is available through the church office).

