

Beautiful Savior January Newsletter

From the pen of the Pastor..... ¹⁵ *The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Christ.* ¹⁶ *John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.* ¹⁷ *His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."* (Luke 3:15-17). What a powerful message John had to proclaim as he prepared the way for Jesus. It is a message that applies directly to you and to me. We have been baptized with water and the Holy Spirit, and I would hope it has created some spiritual fire in our hearts as the Holy Spirit planted the seed of faith!

Jesus Christ has redeemed us and brought us into his family. He didn't just tell us that he loves us – he showed his love by suffering for our sins. It's easy to speak the right words but the best way to show our love and thankfulness to our Savior is to obey his commands – to show him through our actions.

We are starting a new year and many people look at this as a time to make changes in their lives. This year look for ways to put your faith into action. Make an effort to attend more worship services and increase your support for the ministry we have at Beautiful Savior. Don't wait for someone to ask you to help, look for ways to volunteer by talking to the leaders of the congregation and Pastor. And if you aren't able to get around as much as you used to, please pray for your fellow members at Beautiful Savior, the various committees, and the Pastor. In this way you can serve your Lord and Savior and set the example for your children, grandchildren and the next generation of leaders in the church. Now is the time to act! May the Lord bless you with many opportunities and the courage to step forward in the coming year.

Worship Numbers and Figures. In case you are wondering, our average attendance at worship for December was 65 compared to 60 in December of 2015 and 71 last month. Our offerings for December exceeded our budget due to the extra services and opportunities to give. May the Lord move us to be faithful and generous with the opportunities and blessings he has given us as we begin a new year!

Undecorate the Church. We will take down the Christmas decorations on Sunday, January 8th, after the worship service. There will be no Bible Study that Sunday but there will be Sunday School.

Thank You. Dawn and I would like to thank the members of Beautiful Savior for your cards and gifts this Christmas and for your thoughts, prayers and words of encouragement throughout the year!

New Bible Study Opportunities. This month we would to begin two new Bible Studies. There will be a **Women's Bible Study** on Monday, 1/16 at **9:00 AM**. Bring your Bibles if you have one. Coffee and donuts will be served. There will also be a **Men's Bible Study** on Tuesday, 1/17 at **7:00 PM**. Please bring a Bible if you have one. This will be a great opportunity to learn together and to ask those questions you have always wondered about. No prior knowledge is required and this might be a good opportunity to invite a friend to come along with you. If you have questions, talk to Pastor.

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Installation of the Church Council. The church council will be installed during the worship service on January 8th.

Voters' Meeting. The annual voters' meeting will take place after church on Sunday, January 22nd. The new budget will be presented for approval at this meeting.