

# Beautiful Savior November 2020 Newsletter

## Hallelujah!

This year in our monthly articles we are considering favorite verses from the Bible.

This month's favorite Bible verse is: Psalm 118:1

***"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever."***

Psalm 118 is an "Hallelujah" psalm, meaning "Praise the LORD!" Long ago, God's people sang the words of this psalm toward the end of their Passover meal. It was a special occasion time for the God's people to remember how he had rescued their nation from slavery in Egypt; it was a picture of God's rescue of all people from their slavery to sin. The Passover meal reminded each generation how much God truly loved them.

Would disaster continue to interrupt their lives? Would prosperity be withheld? Would earthly death continue to pick away at their loved ones? Yes, yes, and yes. Yet the people sang out praise and thanks to their merciful God for deliverance from all these trials of life. . . and more: ***"Because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved"*** (Ephesians 2:4,5).

It is the custom in North America to gather at this time of year to celebrate *Thanksgiving*. Whether you are with family, friends, or celebrating alone, take the time to give thanks to our Savior-God for his mercy and deliverance from death through Jesus. Jesus shows us that God is good. Even when times are tough, Jesus proves that his love for us endures forever.

***\* The above article reprinted with permission from WELS Outreach resources***

***From the pen of the Pastor. "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding"*** (Proverbs 3:5)

I am guessing that you were expecting some Bible passage about thanksgiving seeing how we associate that with the month of November but thanksgiving this year has taken a back seat to the news and the coronavirus. So let me share some thoughts.

As I studied for the public ministry I had some gifted professors but one in particular was a gifted teacher and theologian. He had an understanding of God's Word that amazed me. For many years he held an annual pastor's Bible Study that I would always try to attend to learn insights I had never considered. He passed away a few weeks ago from Covid-19. I was sad and joyful at the same – sad because I would no longer be able to listen to him in person and yet joyful because he is now at home in heaven. Here are some things I learned from him.

We are all on this world for a set amount of time. God knows how long we will be here for he has already determined that, so no amount of worrying can change that however he does remind us that we should not put God to the test by doing foolish things. God sometimes uses disease and illness to end our time of grace here in this world. Why do some people who take all the precautions get Covid-19 while others who aren't as vigilant don't – only God knows. That doesn't mean we shouldn't take precautions, it just means

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that we have to be careful that we don't take it too far and let fear overtake and control our lives.

The Apostle Paul put it so well in one of our recent Sunday morning lessons when he said, ***"I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation."*** (Philippians 4:12) Now he was talking about situations like being rich or poor, or in jail or free but we could also apply that to being healthy or not so healthy. We can be content because we have Jesus in our hearts and in our lives. We know that whether we live or die we are the Lord's. If we are on this earth, we don't have to let fear control us but rather we can be content in the Lord and if the Lord decides our time is up, we will be happy beyond belief in heaven.

That is the joy of being a Christian! We don't have to live in fear. We can be content because of our faith in Christ and that contentment grows as we gather around his Word and as we listen to him. So trust in the Lord with all your heart and listen to him as he speaks to you through his Word. Set aside your fears and enjoy the contentment that Christ wants us to have.

**Recent Membership changes.** None to report for October.

**Communion** – Remember that communion is offered on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month (11/8 and 11/15).

If you have not been able to attend services and would like communion, please call Pastor Welke to set up a time for private communion.

**Women's Bible Study** – Women's Bible Study will take place on Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM. We will be studying the book of Micah. You can join in on the discussion or just listen and learn. No prior Bible knowledge needed. Come and join the study and discussion!

**Women's Society Meeting** – will meet on Thursday, 11/12/2020, at 7:00 pm. We will begin our meeting with a Bible Study on Daniel chapter 4. All the women of our congregation are invited to attend. The following decisions were made at our October meeting:

No refreshments at our monthly meetings.

No Christmas Party in December. Keep your "Secret Sister" for another year.

No Christmas Brunch after the Children's Christmas Service on 12/20

**Confirmation** – We rejoice that Garrett Degen will be confirmed on Reformation Sunday, 11/1/2020.

**Thanksgiving Service** – There will be a special Thanksgiving service on Wednesday, 11/25/2020, at 7:00 pm. Please join us for this special service.

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**Christmas Decorating** – Christmas is only about 8 weeks away and will be here before you know it. We will decorate the church on Sunday, 12/29/2020, after the worship service. There will be no Bible Class or Sunday school that day.

**Sunday School Teachers Meeting** – Sunday School has been going well. The teachers met and decided that we will have a Children’s Christmas service on Sunday, 12/20/2020, at 9:00 am, but we will do it a little differently this year. Pastor, the congregation, and the narrator will participate more in the service this year and whenever we have a recitation part for the children or singing of a song by the children, they will appear on the video screen rather than in person up front. The video taping of their parts will take place on Saturday, 12/12/2020. We will practice on Saturday, 12/5/2020. DVD’s of the service will be made available for families, friends and grandparents. If you have questions, talk to Pastor or one of the teachers.

**Extra Opportunity to serve** - Just a few days ago I was asked to serve on a synod task force that is being formed to recruit 2<sup>nd</sup> career men to be pastors. Since our synod is suffering a pastor shortage, this is a resource that may help us during this time and into the future. I have accepted this position and most of the work will be done via ZOOM calls and email, however I will probably have to attend two meetings a year in Milwaukee, WI. The synod feels the work of this task force will last for about 18 months. The impact on Beautiful Savior should be minimal – only the two or three days that I might be gone for a meeting twice a year. If you have any questions about this, please don’t hesitate to ask.

**Finances and Attendance.** The average attendance for October was 41 compared to an average of 43 per Sunday in September. The finances for October are \$8832 against a budgeted need of 10,075 (4 weeks). If you are unable to attend, you can always send your church offerings to the church office at the address listed below.

The address for our church mail is: Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church  
PO Box 332  
Austin, MN 55912.

**How to watch us** – We live stream every Sunday on our Facebook page – Beautifulsavioraustin all as one word. The service videos are archived on our Facebook page to be viewed at any time and also can be seen on our webpage at [beautifulsavioraustin.org](http://beautifulsavioraustin.org) along with an electronic copy of the sermon. If you need any help finding us or viewing the videos, call Pastor Welke. We also will send a printed copy of the sermon or a DVD of the service. Just contact Pastor Welke for that as well.