



December 2021

Beautiful
Savior
Lutheran
Church
Newsletter

HOW CAN I REACH BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR?

Phone: 480-967-2660; Email: office@beautifulsaviortempe.org
or check us out on the WEB: www.beautifulsaviortempe.org

To view our services and Pastor Tim's daily bible study go to
facebook.com/beautifulsaviorlutheranChurchTempe/videos
Mail or in person at: 1337 W. 11th St., Tempe, AZ 85281
Church offices are open Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

Average attendance for the month of November: 38 in the Sunday church service; 9 in Adult Bible Study; 26 in the Thanksgiving Eve service & 7 came to Thanksgiving Dinner on Nov 25th.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Advent Paint and Sip: Friday Dec. 3rd at 10:00am. Join us as Annie Anderson teaches us how to paint a Beautiful Christmas painting of a tree and ornament. We will also have snacks, coffee, mimosas and other fun and festive drinks. Please sign up in the Narthex so we can make sure we have supplies.

All are invited to come help decorate the church & fellowship hall, etc. When: Saturday, December 4, 2021, Time: 10:00 a.m. After decorating there will be a Soup Lunch

Sunday Bible Study: "The Book of Acts" Sundays from 8:30-9:30am in fellowship hall.

Midweek Advent Worship begins Wed., Dec 1st Debbie will be serving a soup lunch during the 3 Midweek Services begins at 11 a.m.-12 a.m. & 6 -7 p.m.

Fellowship Hour for December 5th, (recognizing Anniversaries & Birthdays for the month).

All are invited to come help decorate the church & fellowship hall, etc.

When: Saturday, December 4, 2021, Time: 10:00 a.m.

After decorating there will be a Soup Lunch.

Midweek Bible Study: "Psalms & Sandwiches" This group will meet the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the Month at 12:30 for Lunch with Pastor and to go through the book of Psalms. We will not be meeting again until January 2022.

OTHER INFO: SOLA FAITH: Website: <https://solaministries.org/> Thank you again for being the Hands and Feet of Christ on Arizona State University campuses!

BSLC Newsletter

Hymn of the Month, December, 2021.

By Ellen Brown, Dir. of Music

**Our Hymn of the Month for December, 2021, is titled
"Come to Us" with music and words by Greg and Mary Walton.**

December, a time of anticipation, a time of hope: it's Advent, and we await the birth of our King. "Come to Us," our Dec. Hymn-of-the-Month, is an "easy to sing and play" contemporary song with wonderful lyrics. It features both an Advent & Christmas refrain, making it appropriate throughout the entire season. With music penned by Greg Walton and words by his wife, Mary, it was copyrighted in 2009 and published by spiritandsong.com, a division of OCP (Oregon Catholic Press) and recorded on Greg's King of My Heart album. A great song for all ages, its lilting tune uses occasional phrases from "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."

About the Composer: "Go Where Love Leads" is the motto of Greg Walton, who has 30 years' experience as a musician, speaker and presenter. Getting his start in a lively church choir, he soon grew into writing contemporary Christian music at the age of 15. He earned a Bachelor of Music Education degree from the University of Illinois- Urbana Champaign and went on to teach High School Vocal & General Music for 6 years, and Theology for 6 years.

His career took an interesting turn when he was awarded an artist development deal in Nashville, Tennessee, and where he then moved with his young family. Touring with the band Polarboy in the late 90's to the early 2000's, he left the group to focus on working with the youth of the church. In 2005, he began composing contemporary liturgical music for OCP's Spirit and Song division, leading retreats and programs for young people in the Catholic faith. He has traveled all over North America, Europe,

and Africa; and has been awarded 10 Unity Awards from the United Catholic Music and Video Association.

He currently resides in Spring Hill, TN with his wife, Mary, and their children. He serves as Electronic Evangelism Coordinator at St. Philip Catholic Church in Franklin, TN, and leads worship at the Church of the Nativity in Thompson Station.

At Beautiful Savior, you'll be introduced to "Come to Us" on Nov.28th, (the 1st Sunday in Advent), when it will be sung as the Hymn of the Day; and on Dec. 5th, 12th, 19th, when it will continue as Hymn of the Day, and finally on Christmas Day, when it will be heard as a piano solo for Holy Communion.

THANKSGIVING AT BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR

A Thanksgiving worship service was held Wednesday evening. Pastor Tim led the service. Thanks to Elder Skip and Music Director Ellen for a meaningful worship event!

Debbie O'Neill served a delicious feast Thanksgiving Day at Beautiful Savior. Seven members and guests enjoyed eating together, visiting, and watching football.

Many thanks to Debbie and to all who attended!

Sandra Wardwell

BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES November 7, 2021 Draft

Present: Pastor Tim Anderson, Don Schumm, Phyllis Schinke, Don Schinke, Andrew Grant, Jim Timm, Grace Timm, Charlotte Grefe, Sandra Wardwell

Excused: Cyndi Calender, Ellen Brown

Opening prayer given by Pastor Tim. Don Schumm chaired the meeting.

Announcements: • No other Council meeting this month

Treasurer's Report:

- Expenses exceeded income for October (-483.33).
- Year-to-date deficit is (-1,408.38). Income was 90.9% of budget with expenses 92.1% of budget.

New Business:

- 2022 Proposed budget reviewed.
 - o Total expenses estimated to be \$152,508 which is a 1.7% increase from 2021.
 - o No salary increases. Pastor Benefits will increase.
 - o No budget changes for Christian Education, Church Council, Missions, and Miscellaneous categories.
 - o Elders, Stewardship and Trustee budgets will decrease.
 - o Personnel, Finance, Music Ministry and Church office budgets will increase.

Board of Finance recommended acceptance of the 2022 Proposed Budget and presentation to the Voters for approval.

Recommendation was seconded. Recommendation was approved by the Council. The 2022 Proposed Budget will be presented to the Voters following the worship service November 14th.

Respectfully submitted, Sandra Wardwell, Congregation Secretary

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NOVEMBER 2021 VOTERS MEETING

The 2021 Voters budget meeting was held Nov. 28th with 23 voting members in attendance. Highlights of that meeting are:

- Wendell and Dawn Robson accepted into voting membership.
- The 2022 budget recommended by the Board of Finance and the Church Council was approved. The total budget is \$152,469, an increase of \$2,432 from 2021.
- The voters approved entering into a 3 month partnership with La Mesa to provide a meal and worship service for homeless members every Thursday evening.

If you are interested in receiving the Council and Voters meeting information, please contact Sandra Wardwell at 480-334-4176 or s.wardwell@asu.edu.

CARE TEAM

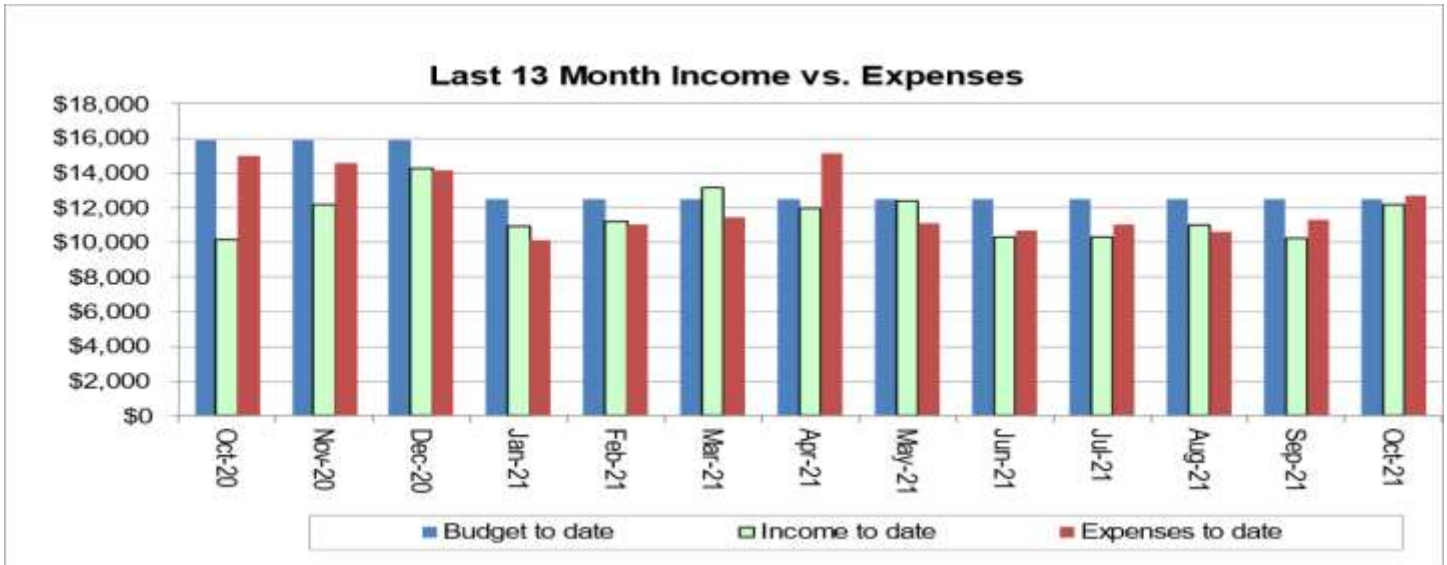
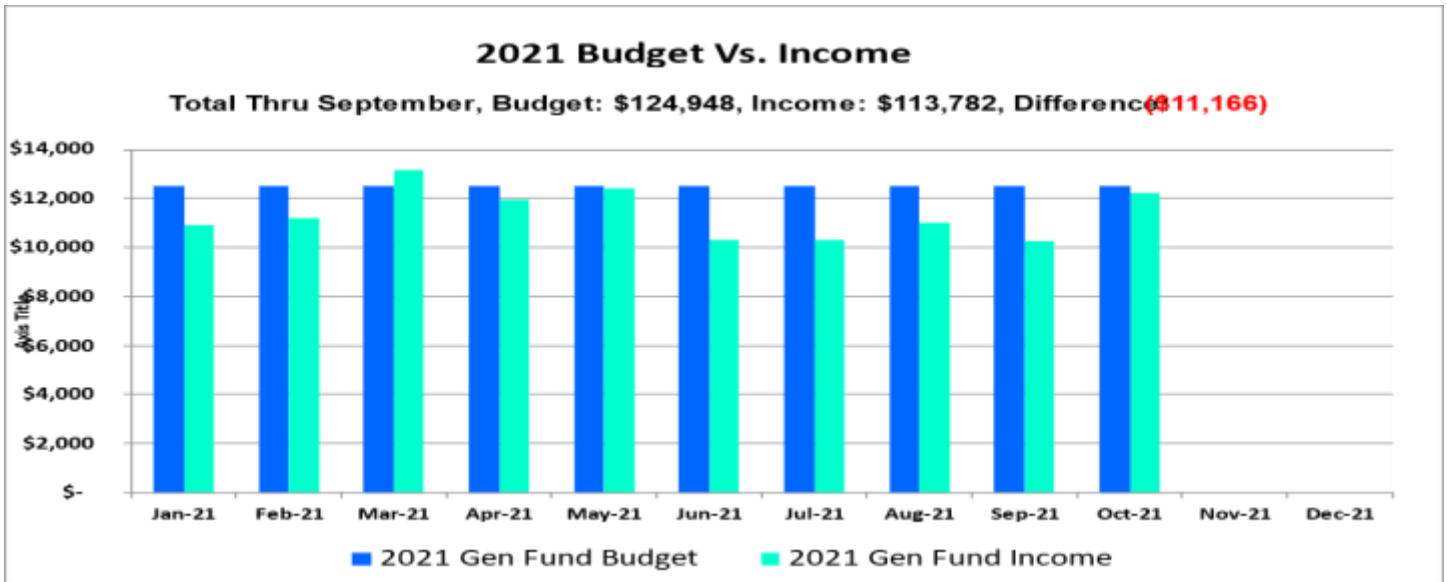
The Care Team is a result of the revitalization team; the purpose of the Care Team is to contact BSLC members in need by letting them know that they are missed, loved and that BSLC is thinking about them.

We plan on doing this by contacting members by phone, visiting the home bound, people in care centers, sending “thinking of you”, birthday, and anniversary cards, offering rides, possibly cooking a meal; anything that is needed. We are in the “beginning” stage so we are not quite certain how far this team can reach but feel the possibilities are endless.

If you would like to join our Care Team or if you know of any BSLC member you feel should be contacted please either contact one of the Care Team members or let Pastor Tim or Marsha know.

At this time the members of the Care Team are Pat Carlin, Gladys Meyers, Katheryn Odle, Debbie O’Neill and Phyllis Schinke

BOARD OF FINANCE:



BSLC/LWML PRAYER CHAIN:

Thank You to all members of Beautiful Savior Lutheran/LWML Prayer Chain who have so faithfully responded to all the Prayer Requests. Prayer is powerful and God loves to hear from all of us.

Our Prayer Chain consists of both men and women. Just like God's mansions have room and will welcome all believers, so the Prayer Chain has room and welcomes all who would pray for those who want us to pray for/with them. To **become a member** of the Prayer Chain, or to **request a prayer** by the Prayer Chain, call or e-mail Gladys Meyer: 480-258-0889 or 480 897-2236 or e-mail geneklad@g.com. OR email office@beautifulsaviortempe.org Prayer requests are submitted to the members of the Prayer Chain by e-mail unless a telephone call is preferred. When offering to be a member of the Prayer Chain, please make known your preference—receive Prayer Requests by e-mail or by telephone?

Thank you to all members of BSLC for your support of the Prayer Chain.

Gladys Meyer

STEWARDSHIP REPORT:

The Stewardship committee met on Sunday, November 14th at 11:30 with 2 of our 4 members in attendance. We talked about the upcoming drive for ingredients for a Thanksgiving meal for the McKinney/Vento kids at Tempe High. Lily told us that 30 turkeys had been promised by a charitable organization and she asked us to bring 30 5# bags of potatoes, 15 3# bags apples, and 15 3# bags of oranges/clementines. We did the shopping for those items and on Saturday, November 20, Bobbie and Charlotte went to the Tempe High school parking lot where all the food was distributed. The people drove by and the volunteers put their food in the backs of their cars so there wasn't much social contact due to Covid.

In October we ordered and delivered 33 hooded sweatshirts to Gililand Jr. High. We also took 24 crew neck sweatshirts to Holdeman Elementary School. Both schools said they were well supplied after those deliveries and had nothing further to request.

We had been shopping for the Gililand food pantry every month but the new contact there told us that he has another organization that supplies them with food for their food pantry and at this time, they do not need our help.

We have also ordered and will deliver in the next week or so, 50 hooded sweatshirts for the kids in the McKinney/Vento program. There are only 30 kids in the program but they wanted some extra on hand and also know some other kids who are not in the program who could benefit from a sweatshirt. Our commission from the donor for that program is to use the grant in any way to help the kids in the schools in the community. We have also found a website that sells leggings that are so popular for girls to wear in the winter at a good price and are asking Lily to look into whether that is a needed item, and if so, how many.

In December, we will fund the Angel Tree for the McKinney/Vento kids at Tempe High. We will be getting a \$40 VISA card for each of the 30 kids and probably a \$30 Fry's gift card for their families so they can buy food for a special Christmas dinner.

Stewardship Committee--Bobbie Littou, Charlotte Grefe, Dorothy McShee and Wendy Sievers

NEWS FROM BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR'S WOMEN IN MISSION

Lutheran Women's Missionary League

As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.

Beautiful Savior LWMLers hosted the Zone 27/30 Fall Rally Saturday, Nov. 13th. Thirty-two women from 6 churches attended. The featured speaker was Kay Siebert, director of the Christ Cares Ministry at Christ Church Lutheran, Phoenix. She received a 2020 LWML District grant to support her mental health first aid program. The ladies attending provided 1621 diapers for the Christ Cares Childrens Ministry program which Kay also directs.

Pastor Tim Anderson of Beautiful Savior, gave the opening devotion and prayer via video, based on Psalm 94:16-23. When we are anxious & our days are dark, the Lord offers us consolation & supports us through His steadfast love. He gives us "peace like a river," because the Comforter has come (prophesied in Is. 66:10-13). God is the Rock of our refuge, our salvation, a very present help in time of trouble.

Ellen Brown provided the musical program with both familiar and new songs throughout the morning including: "This is the Day", "Serve the Lord with Gladness", "More Like You", "Healer of our Every Ill", "Sent Forth by God's Blessing", and the Luncheon Blessing "For Health and Strength".

Our Zone pastoral counselor, Peter Spallek led us in a study of I Peter 1: 17-25. God does not show favoritism; we are all under both His judgment & His mercy. We have been redeemed or ransomed from eternal death by Christ's bold blood & are pardoned. Peter was writing to believers in Rome, whom he encouraged to love sincerely, with love that is shown in actions which show Christ's love to others, as we do in LWML.

LWML District Representative Kathy Baumhofer reported news from the District especially highlighting the upcoming District convention to be held June 3-5 in Tempe. Registration forms will be available in January.

Stephanie Alex from the Nominating Committee presented the slate of officers & positions to be elected: Vice-president, Chris Mahler; and Secretary, Michelle Fritz. Pastor Spallek, who will continue as Pastoral Counselor, installed the newly elected officers. Please contact Sandra if you would like to fill the vacant appointed position of Communications Director or one of the open positions on the Nominating Committee.

Luncheon was catered by Yvonne's Café and attendees enjoyed their meal in the fellowship hall and on the patio.

Many thanks to BSLC members Debbie O'Neill, Pat and Joe Carlin, and Don Schumm, Bobbie Littou, Gladys Meyer who provided assistance in hosting this meeting! Barb Voelker of Holy Cross filled in for Dorothy McShee at the Registration table.



This week we opened our church to our friends from [Our Saviour Lutheran Church & School - The Bronx, NY](#) as their basketball team came to play in the "All The Smoke Classic" here in the Phoenix Valley.

We are thankful for the opportunity to serve our brothers in Christ as they shared their God given skills and used our fellowship hall to learn more about God's word and his beautiful world.

Blessings to Pastor Matthew Gonzalez, the coaches and all the Our Savior Falcons. Blessings on the rest of this school year. We hope you had fun

On Monday, Nov. 14th – Friday, Nov, 19th 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

These young men used our fellowship hall each day to keep up on their studies & homework.

Yes, even though they were in Tempe to compete in the tournaments.... they were expected to complete there school studies every day via internet.

All of the team members, coaches & Pastor Matt Gonzalez were very appreciative for the use of our facility. They were quiet & respectful & cleaned up after themselves during the time they were here.

Pastor Tim Anderson & Marsha Beetham

Pastor Tim Anderson

Leave The Blanket By Pastor Timothy Anderson

Well, it's that time of year again, a time when a sound can be heard throughout my house, the sound of sleigh bells coming from the television as my wife begins her annual tradition of watching as many Hallmark Christmas Movies as she possibly can, and I begin my annual tradition of giving her grief for it. You see, those aren't my Christmas movies. I like the classics. Now I don't mean "White Christmas", "It's a wonderful life" or "Miracle on 34th Street," Instead I mean "Frosty the Snowman," "The Santa Clause," "Rudolf The Red Nosed Reindeer," "A Christmas Carol," and my all-time personal favorite, "A Charlie Brown Christmas."

I love a Charlie Brown Christmas so much that my first year as a Pastor, I preached about it on Christmas Eve at my little country church in upstate NY. It led to an expectation there that I would find a pop culture reference for each of my Christmas Eve sermons. In 2016, I preached using the song "We need a little Christmas Now," and in 2019 I used "I'll be home for Christmas" talking about the home God prepares for us by sending his son on Christmas. I still don't know what 2021 will bring, but over the last few weeks I have found myself revisiting "A Charlie Brown Christmas" again, mainly the moment that became my first Christmas Sermon.

Now, I must first admit that I wasn't the first one to notice this special moment in "A Charlie Brown Christmas," instead, I read an article by an author and pastor named Jason Soroski, which changed how I view the iconic Christmas special forever. In the special, Charlie Brown and Linus have gone to get the Christmas Tree for their school Christmas play and when they walk in with it, the other kids find it underwhelming to say the least. The tease Charlie and leave him feeling so defeated that he's afraid that he doesn't understand Christmas at all. He asks, "Isn't there anyone who can tell me what Christmas is all about!!!" Linus looks at him, stops sucking his thumb, and says, "Sure Charlie Brown, I'll tell you what Christmas is all about." Linus then takes center stage and begins to quote from Luke Chapter 2.

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

Right in the middle of speaking, the words, "Do not be afraid," Linus drops his blanket. It's a beautiful moment. You see, If Charlie Brown is best known for his uniquely striped shirt, then Linus is most known for always having his ever-present security blanket. Throughout the story of Peanuts, Lucy, Snoopy, Sally and others all work to no avail to separate Linus from his blanket. And even though his security blanket remains a major source of ridicule for the otherwise mature and thoughtful Linus, he simply refuses to give it up. Until this moment. Until the moment when he simply drops it as he utters the words, "fear not!"

It's clear what Charles Schultz, the creator of the Peanuts was saying. The birth of Jesus separates us from our fears. The birth of Jesus frees us from the habits we are unable (or unwilling) to break ourselves. The birth of Jesus allows us to simply drop the false security we have been grasping to so tightly, and learn to trust and cling to Him instead.

Six years ago, when I read Jason Soroski article, that's what I preached. I preached all about how the message of Christ, the good news of Emmanuel, brings about a safety and a comfort in our lives that is greater than anything the world can provide, greater than all the safely blankets and fall senses of security our world offers. I preached about how Jesus is the one that makes us truly dwell secure so that we can "Fear Not." But there's a problem, after the epic, blanket-dropping moment, he picks the blanket back up. Why would Linus pick up that old security blanket after so boldly proclaiming an end to fear? Why does he leave the stage with that security blanket still in his hand?

Because it's exactly what we do. Just like Linus, we may at times stand tall in a moment of faith and conviction. But at some point, out of habit, we'll reach back down and pick that thing ratty blanket right back up. Sometimes, we still want to cling to earthly comfort. The comfort of Family, the comfort of being "Home," the comfort that comes from something old and familiar. Especially when the scary things in life stare us down, It's easy to pick up the old "safety blanket" again and to go right back to living life the way we always have until something else startles us out of our complacency.

But that is not where this blanket story ends. The special ends with the Peanuts gang not just singing, but singing in worship. Even the musical style at this point is different from anything else we hear. They gather around the Christmas tree, but the focus is on Jesus. The kids sing "Hark the Herald Angels Sing, Glory to the Newborn King." As it happens, Linus parts with that blanket yet again, laying it down at the base of that beautiful Christmas tree.

As they Worship together, they lay down their fears, their worries, their griefs and their heartaches. They lay down their false senses of security. Or maybe they're just kids, and they don't think about that stuff, and I'm only using them to talk about us. But I invite you to think about what we lay down before the Christ child this Advent and this Christmas, and how we help one another. How when we gather in worship, we gather and lift one another up, helping one another in times of Joy and Sorrow and pointing each other to the one who comes to bring Hope, Love, Peace and Joy. Jesus, Our Comforter, works by his spirit to help us to encourage one another with Tidings of Comfort and Joy, as we leave those old blankets behind until that day when we can leave all fears and all safety blankets behind for good. Amen.

Pastor Tim