



## ***FEBRUARY 2024***

*"Serving the Lord, extending the gospel, and making Jesus alive in the community."*

Beautiful  
Savior  
Lutheran  
Church  
Newsletter

### **HOW CAN I REACH BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR?**

Phone: 480-967-2660; Email: [office@beautifulsaviortempe.org](mailto:office@beautifulsaviortempe.org) or check us out on the WEB: [www.beautifulsaviortempe.org](http://www.beautifulsaviortempe.org)

**Mail or in person at: 1337 W. 11<sup>th</sup> 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 January: 45 in the Sunday church service; 8 in Adult Bible Study, 6 in Women's Bible Study, 111 at La Mesa Meal, 30 La Mesa Worship NA in Brunch & Bibles—Midweek Bible Study.

### **Important Message:**

**Please discard all your contribution envelopes from 2023! You have been assigned a different contribution number for this year! If you need contribution envelopes please contact me, and I will provide them to you.**

**Jim Timm  
Financial Secretary  
480-967-2660**

### **HAVE YOU SEEN BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR'S FACEBOOK PAGE?**

**<https://www.facebook.com/BeautifulSaviorLutheranChurchTempe>**

**Pastor Tim, Dakota Meeks and Don Schumm keep the Facebook page updated with recordings of our worship services, special events, and with ministry updates. Don't know how to access the page on the internet? We can show you how during fellowship hour after Sunday worship. Just ask. Pastor Tim would like to hear your feedback!**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Pastor Tim's Office Hours:** Available Monday through Thursday, 10am - 3pm as well as by appointment. Pastor Tim will use the rest of his time to make house visits for the sick and shut in, meet with our members and guests, attend meetings, leading worship and other ministries, and creating connections for the church in our community.

Join us for Sunday Bible study on the book of Revelation. We continue to meet at 8:30AM.

Women's Weekly Bible Study will meet at noon, February 5, 12, 19, and 26. We will be studying four New Testament women. All Beautiful Savior women and friends are invited to attend.

Chosen Night at the Movies: Saturday Feb. 3rd at 1pm. Join us for the premiere of Season 4 of the chosen at Cinemark Mesa 16, (1051 N Dobson Rd, Mesa AZ 85201). This 3.5 hour event will include the first three episodes of season 4. If you have one, wear your Beautiful Savior T-shirt and let's watch it together. Following the showing, anyone who would like to can join us as we go and get dinner together and discuss the episodes.

Lenten Midweek Services: Begin Wednesday Feb. 14th on Ash Wednesday. Join us each week at 6:30pm for midweek Lenten services. Our theme this year is "The Gardens of God" as we see how in Christ, God makes all things new. We will not be having a noontime service, but will be coordinating rides to church for anyone who does not feel comfortable driving at night. Also, we will be having dinner before each week's service. We will be asking different ministries and committees to host each week's dinner.

Blessing of the Animals & Pet Adoption: This to be announced at Beautiful Savior we will once again work with local humane societies to give our furry friends forever homes and bless all pets that visit us that day. More information is coming soon.

## **SAVE THE DATE:**

Plan to attend the LWML PSD Convention on June 7-9, 2024 in Rosemead, CA! Come and be reminded You are a Child of God and have Hope in Jesus! Come and feel His love for you and be encouraged to take his love out into the world. Worship our Lord, laugh with LWML Sisters, vote on new officers and mission grants, enjoy great food, sing praises to our Lord, and have some fun!

VBS will be the third week in June 17-21.

**Planet Green recycle container is in the fellowship hall by the thermostats. Please put your used printer cartridges there for recycling.**

**Fellowship Hour: If you would like to bring something in to share during fellowship, please sign your name on the date you would like. The schedule is on the fellowship board. Questions, talk to Pastor Tim.**

**Church Members and others who wish to “give electronically” can now do so by going to: [easytithe.com/BSLCTempe](https://easytithe.com/BSLCTempe). On the giving page, click on "Fund" and select the appropriate fund from the drop-down list. The funds are: General Budget, Other, LWML, Missions, La Mesa & Staff Continuing Education. Then follow the directions to complete your transaction.**

**PRINTED COPIES OF THE NEWSLETTER, CALENDAR/SERVANTS QUARTERS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX.**

## **HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JANUARY 2024 COUNCIL AND VOTERS MEETINGS**

The regular monthly Council meeting was held January 15, 2024.

### **Pastor Tim's Report:**

- Our Chosen Bible study will return January 20th. The next season's premiere will be in the Cinemark Mesa 16 Theaters Feb. 3rd.
- 7 new members joined Beautiful Savior in December. 1 more will be joining Sunday, January 21.
- Materials for Vacation Bible School have been purchased.
- Christmas Eve morning service had 35 in attendance. Both evening services had over 25 people; the 11 PM service had 15 guests and visitors. Christmas Day had 45 in attendance.
- Thanks to Ellen Brown and team for the Epiphany musical.
- Thanks to all who assisted with the Christmas decorations.
- The LWML invited Michele Grimaldi of the Tempe Elementary School District and Ruth Gutierrez of Mosley to their January meeting. Very happy to see our connections to our local schools.
- Still working on ideas to have volunteers provide Sunday fellowship refreshments. Funds are available for reimbursement. Refreshments can be very simple.
- Ash Wednesday (February 14th, Valentine's Day) and Wednesday Lenten services will be at 6:30 PM. Meals will be served at 5:30 PM. Choir rehearsal 6 PM. The Lenten theme will be gardens of the Bible. Note: There will be no noon time Wednesday services.
- National Bible Sunday is January 28th. We will ask the congregation to donate their extra Bibles for distribution to La Mesa and others.

### **Financials:**

- Reviewed the Balance sheet for the month of December:
  - LCEF savings \$72,146.28
  - Savings - Matching Funds \$17,338.97
  - Checking - \$52,283.27
- December Profit & Loss

- Balance is positive \$8,022.78 for the month. 158% of budgeted income received, 100.5% of expenses
- January through December Profit & Loss
  - Balance is positive \$3,734.12. 95.5% of budgeted income received, 93.4% of expenses
- Concordia Publishing House is no longer including LWML envelopes in the Offering Envelope boxes. A notice will be put in the bulletin and newsletter asking the congregation to use their designated envelopes or a plain envelope and mark for LWML.
- The treasurer has added category 'Other' to EasyTithe.

### **Stewardship:**

- 2024 New McKinney Vento grant has been received.
- Will be collecting for Justa Center in February.

### **Board of Christian Education:**

- Annie Anderson will chair the 2024 VBS. The theme is 'Scuba'. VBS will be held the third week of June. 2024 budget has \$500 designated for VBS. Donations for remaining expenses should be requested.

### **Board of Elders/Evangelism:**

- The Board of Finance to direct funds of \$2,131.50 into specific accounts. The 2023 Chili cook-off brought in \$226.50, the Fish fry brought in \$1,645, and \$260 from the Highland games. It was decided to put \$1,000 towards Staff Education, \$831.50 towards Revitalization, and \$300 towards BSLC shirt supplies.
- Don Schumm reported the Southwick family reimbursed Beautiful Savior \$827 for the cost of the fish fry fish. Discussion recommended leaving the money in the fish fry fund for the next fish fry expenses.
- Noon time Lenten services will not be offered due to low attendance. Evening services will begin at 6:30 PM.
- Lenten dinners will be offered at 5:30 PM. The schedule is:
  - Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14th, spaghetti dinner provided by Cyndi.
  - Feb. 21, Music Department
  - Feb. 28, Trustees
  - March 6, Braille group (tentative)
  - March 13, Skip and Cyndi
  - March 20, Elders Chili cook-off

### **Board of Trustees:**

- No report

### **Music Ministry:**

- Handbells rehearsals begin Jan. 20, 10:30 AM.
- Choir rehearsal, Wed., Jan. 24, 7 PM
- GLORIA meeting, Monday, Feb. 26, 10 AM.
- Musicians contributed 27 volunteer hours in January.
- Conversion of the former Choir Room, now housing Braille workers, too, continues.
- Aaron Brown has not forgotten about our need for 2 new doors for Braille /Music Room and the Furnace Room.
- Ellen will be looking for a bass player when Doug and Debby will be on extended leave. Please give her suggestions. A new member plays violin and would like to be part of a worship service.

### **Lutheran Women in Mission (also known as Lutheran Women's Missionary League, or LWML)**

- 5 members attended the January meeting with guests Michele Grimaldi and Ruth Gutierrez.

- Next meeting is Saturday, Feb. 10th, with Derek Benson as special speaker about his ASU graduate research.
- District convention is June 5-7 in Rosemead, CA. All women are invited to attend; two BSLCers can be voting delegates.

### **La Mesa Update From Geoff Nedry of La Mesa:**

*Hello everyone,*

*I wanted to take a moment to thank each and every one of you for what you do for La Mesa. God has done amazing things through this ministry. Here are just a few of the highlights:*

- *Over 10,000 people attended La Mesa, between Tuesday and Thursday nights. Praise God for all the lives touched!*
- *We had 8 baptisms between the two locations. I think it might be more but that is what I could find. God knows so that is what matters!*
- *We collected thousands of items with the National Day of Service drive we did in partnership with our LDS friends. What a blessing that continues to provide for the needs of the community!*
- *We had 14 different people bring God's Word to His people. I am so thankful for the many people that helped proclaim the Good News of Jesus to his people!*

*There are so many more wonderful things that we couldn't possibly capture them all. Thank you all so much for being a part of this ministry. It is a joy to serve with you. The love of Jesus shines bright at La Mesa and through you all. Have a very Happy New Year. I can't wait to see what Jesus will do through La Mesa in 2024! I know we missed a lot of people for this distribution so please feel free to forward it to anyone we missed. I am so grateful for all of you!*

*In His Service,  
Geoff*

### **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 [geneglad@q.com](mailto:geneglad@q.com). OR email [office@beautifulsaviortempe.org](mailto: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

### **OLD PRINTER CARTRIDGES**

The trustees are registered with Planet Green which is a company that pays to recycle your old printer cartridges. There is a blue plastic box in the second Sunday school room that you can put any cartridges you want to donate. The funds from these recycled cartridges go into the general fund. Thanks for donating to this cause

# **BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – No Report**

## **STEWARDSHIP REPORT**

### **FEBRUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER REPORT**

#### **STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2023**

This is to give you a report on how the Stewardship committee spent its grant of \$16,500 for the 4 schools we support, its Outreach budget of \$400, and the collections we took from the congregation for JUSTA Center and TCAA

First of all, we tried to live up to the name of our committee, “STEWARDSHIP” and to spend the money entrusted to us wisely and well. And once again this year --- WE. USED. ALL. OF. IT !!!!

For the Tempe High McKinney Vento students, we spent right at \$7100 for hygiene products, sweatshirts, stocking caps, tote bags to be used for taking home food for the weekend, food for those tote bags, classroom supplies, backpacks for their books and other school supplies, a \$50 gift card for those students graduating last May, a \$40 VISA gift card as a Christmas gift to each student and a \$30 gift card from Fry’s Foods to buy the makings for a Christmas dinner. Also, a gift of 2 pair of fuzzy socks for each student. We made homemade cards in which to enclose the gift cards telling the students that the cards were compliments of Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church.

We spent approximately \$3100 for the Holdeman students. Items supplied to them were shoes, girls and boys uniform shorts, underwear, dresses and skorts for the preschoolers, backpacks, and uniform polo shirts and long pants. We also provided donuts and juice for the Kindergarten picnic in May and fruit snacks for their Turkey Trot in November. Pastor Tim was able to go over and watch the kids at play at the Turkey Trot and then help hand out water to them when they were finished. We keep them supplied with pre-paid VISA gift cards for their eyeglass program. Since the inception of this program in 2022, they have bought glasses for their students in the amount of \$800.

For the Scales kids we used up close to \$3150 supplying them with many pair of shoes for both boys and girls, uniform shorts , and items for them to sell in their “school store” for which the kids receive tickets for good behavior that they can use to “purchase” the merchandise offered. It’s kinda’ the “Chucky Cheese” concept. They have gone through their first \$300 VISA gift card for eye glasses for their students and have received another one for \$250.

Mosely spent \$3100 on backpacks, 100 reusable water bottles, t-shirts for boys, female leggings, male joggers, classroom supplies, and a pizza party at Christmas for all those students (over 300) who had had not been subject to any disciplinary action so far this school year. (There were some tense moments as the staff member from Mosely and one of our members waited impatiently as Costco put together 125 pizzas that were supposed to be ready for pickup at 10:15 in order to get back to school with them for the 11 o’clock lunch period but Costco was running late. The feedback was that Ruth got back with them just in the nick of time with other staff members waiting at the door for her to grab pizzas and run them into the lunchroom!!) We gave \$50 gift cards to Target to 11 graduating 8<sup>th</sup> graders at their May Awards Assembly. Again, we made cards containing those gift cards advising them that they were courtesy of BSLC. They are not participating in the eyeglass program at their own choosing.

We had 2 collections for JUSTA center totaling \$1175. We contributed \$100 from our Outreach Fund plus used up what was left unused in our Outreach Fund at the end of the year. For them we bought canned food, men's underwear and socks, hygiene products and toilet paper.

TCAA was the recipient of one collection in 2023 and that amounted to \$675. Canned food was bought with that money.

The bottom line is that among all these entities that we helped monetarily this past year, we were privileged to be able to put \$18,600 back into our community. We celebrate that!!

And we never want to forget that the anonymous grant that we are so appreciative to receive, is the biggest part of what allows us to have numbers like these.

Now we move on to 2024. Once again we have a budgeted Outreach amount of \$400. We are happy to report that the grant has been extended for 2024 in the amount of \$20,500 (Twenty thousand five hundred dollars)

Pray with us that we are able to use it all to wisely and prudently serve the 4 schools we assist with this amount that we are blessed with.

\$10,000 has been set aside for Tempe High, McKinney Vento program. We have advised Mosely, Holdeman and Scales that they can expect aid from us in the amount of \$3,500 each school. Holdeman has already asked that we order little girls leggings so that has been done.

Respectfully submitted

Bobbie, Wendy, & Charlotte

Respectfully submitted by Bobbie, Wendy, and Charlotte

### **DO YOU HAVE A FRY'S REWARDS CARD?**

### **DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THEIR COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM?**

**A PORTION OF YOUR PURCHASES WILL GO TO BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR EVERY TIME YOU USE YOUR CARD AT NO ADDITIONAL COST TO YOU!**

**The Board of Stewardship encourages you to take advantage of this easy way to earn funds for BSLC.**

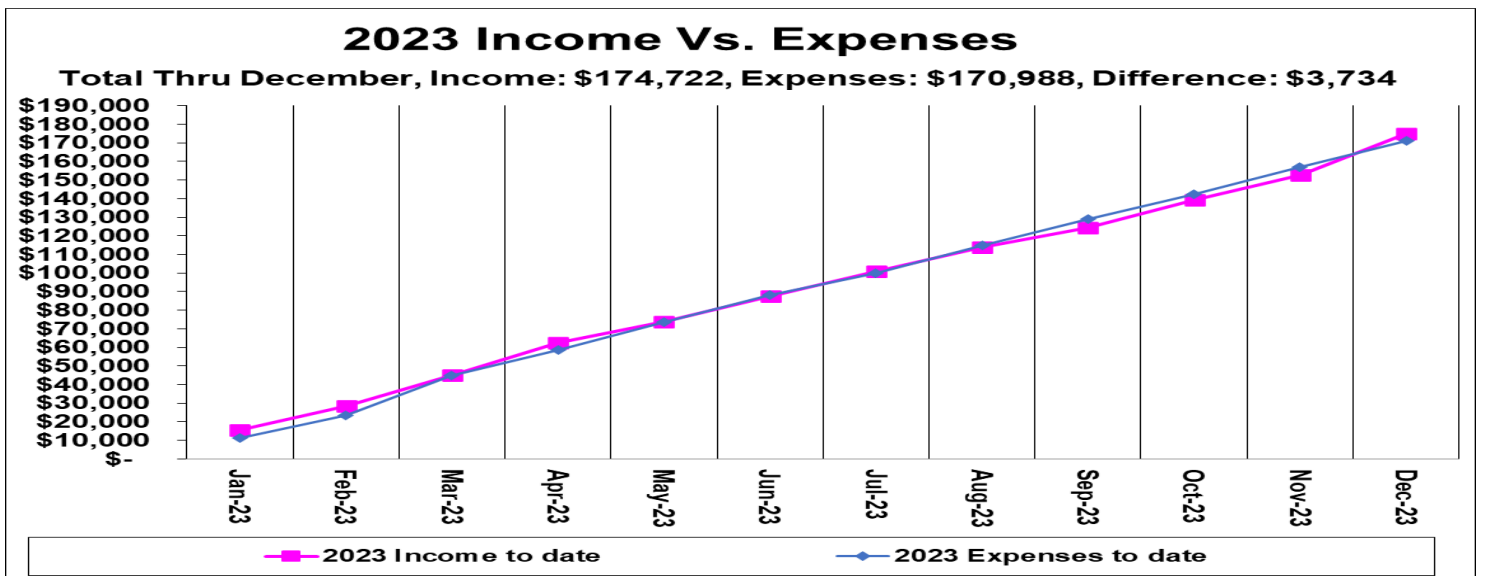
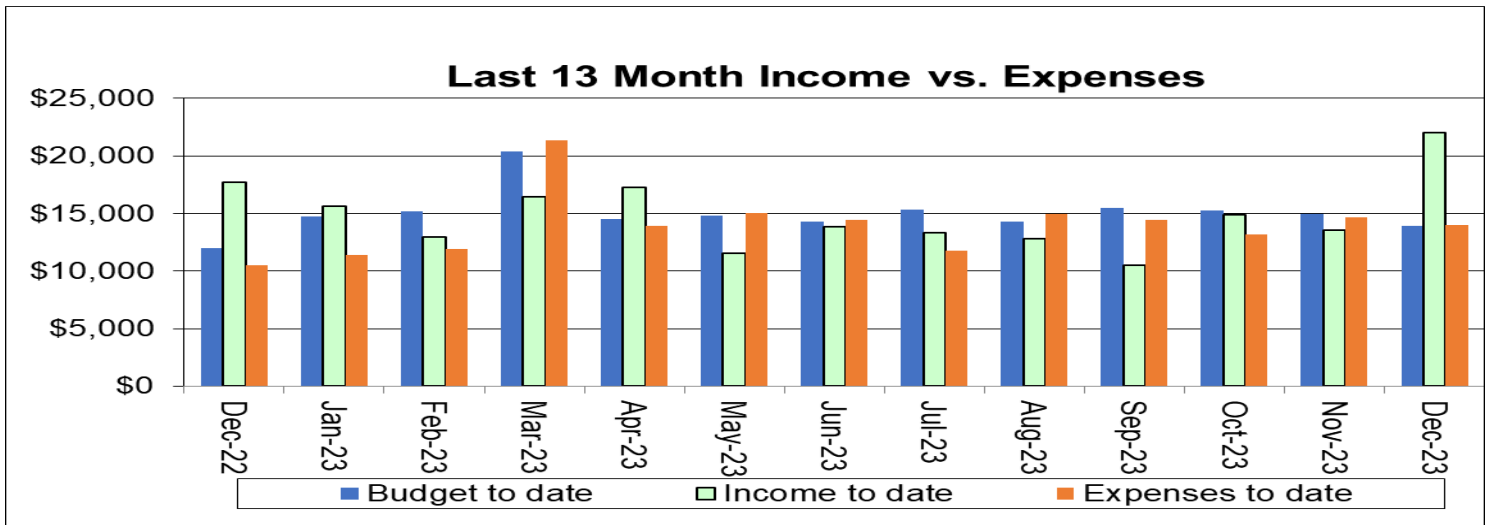
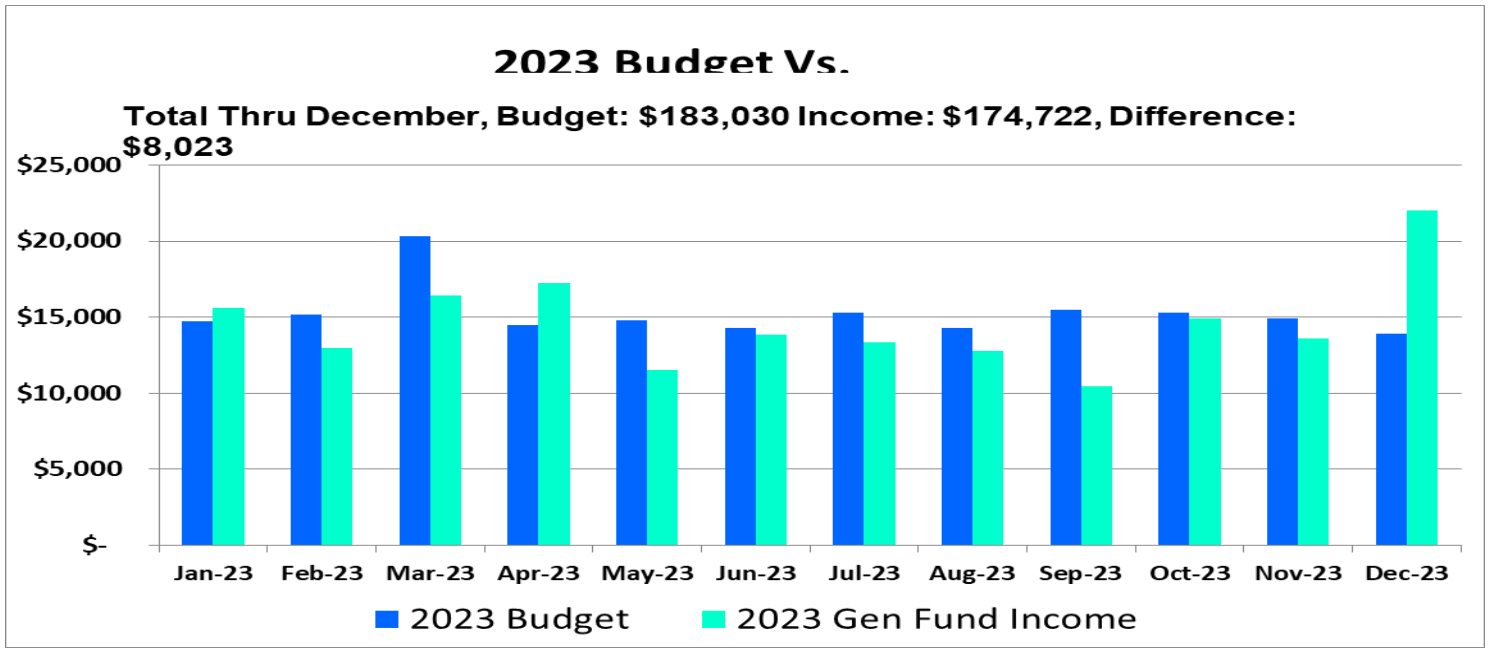
1. You will need to create an account if you do not already have one at: [frysfood.com](https://frysfood.com). You will be asked to enter an email address and a password.
2. From the Fry's home page, find the icon with your name at the top of the page and click on it to see the drop-down menu.
3. Choose 'My Account'.
4. Choose 'Community Rewards' from the list on the left side of the screen.
5. Search for Beautiful Savior by name and click 'Save'.

Fry's issues checks two times per year to Beautiful Savior. In addition to supporting BSLC, you can also see the fuel points you have accumulated and can add the digital coupons to your card that will be automatically applied when you are in the checkout line at the store.

If you need help or more information, please contact Sandra Wardwell, 480-334-4176.



**BOARD OF FINANCE:**





## **LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION (LWML)**

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

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) has been an official auxiliary of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod for 80 years. We are also known as Lutheran Women in Mission and our mission is to 'Serve the Lord With Gladness' (Psalm 100:2).

Since 1942, the LWML has focused on affirming each woman's relationship with Christ, encouraging and equipping women to live out their Christian lives in active mission ministries, and to support global mission.

We are organized as local groups in congregations. Then we are grouped into zones; Beautiful Savior is part of the Ocotillo/Palo Verde Zone. Then the zones are grouped into Districts; We are part of the Pacific SW District. Finally, all 40 Districts are part of the National LWML.

Here are at Beautiful Savior we have been active in providing opportunities for women to enjoy time together by sharing devotions, hearing speakers, participating in Bible studies, gathering items to be distributed to mission causes, supporting the activities of this congregation, attending zone rallies, and caring for each other. We started a telephone prayer chain years ago (before the internet!) and it continues today through email requests.

The National LWML publishes the Lutheran Women's Quarterly containing inspiring mission stories, bible studies, and reports of other local group activities from around the nation. Our Pacific SW Zone publishes the Women of the Word (WOW). Large print versions are provided by Lutheran Braille Workers. Please pick up a copy from the narthex and read and share.

We also raise funds through Mite box donations and fundraising events to support our local missions and to provide mission grants at the District and National levels. Mite Boxes are collected on the 4th Sunday of every month. Or bring them any time and place in the large Mite Box in the narthex.

You can learn more about Lutheran Women in Mission at [LWML.org](http://LWML.org) and [psdlwml.org](http://psdlwml.org). You are welcome to participate in any of our activities at Beautiful Savior!

### **LA MESA UPDATE**

January meal attendance averaged 111 and worship attendance averaged 29. Nine Beautiful Savior members volunteered in January, making sack lunches, serving bottled drinks, passing out hand warmers, plating food, reading the worship lesson, visiting with the attendees, and wherever La Mesa staff needed them.

In addition to providing a meal, snacks, and an opportunity to worship, La Mesa provides clothing, toiletries, and advice on obtaining phones and medical care.

La Mesa has scheduled their second Financial Peace class at Beautiful Savior for March.

Thank you for supporting this ministry!

### **LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION MEETING FEBRUARY 10, 2024**

All Beautiful Savior members and friends are invited to attend the February meeting Saturday, Feb. 10th, 10 A.M. Our special guest will be Derek Benson. Derek is serving Beautiful Savior by being an Elder. But we have asked him to share information about his graduate research at Arizona State University! Here is his ASU biography:

Derek Benson is a third-year Biology PhD candidate at Arizona State University. He received his BA from Amherst College in Biology. An aspiring physiologist, Benson's research investigates how organisms overcome environmental and ecological challenges.

We will also have an opening devotion, refreshments, and maybe a few surprises! Please join us and learn more about our youngest elder!

## Love and Ashes

Pastor Tim Anderson

**13** If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup> If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. <sup>4</sup> Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant <sup>5</sup> or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; <sup>6</sup> it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup> Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. <sup>8</sup> Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. <sup>9</sup> For we know in part and we prophesy in part, <sup>10</sup> but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. <sup>11</sup> When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. <sup>12</sup> For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. <sup>13</sup> So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love. (1 Corinthians 13:1-13)

Back in 2007, Pop Singer Sara Bareilles released her first hit single, “Love Song,” with a refrain that said...

*I'm not gonna write you a love song 'Cause you asked for it, 'cause you need one You see,*

*I'm not gonna write you a love song 'Cause you tell me it's make or break in this*

*If you're on your way. I'm not gonna write you to stay. If all you have is leavin',*

*I'ma need a better reason to write you a love song today.*

Sara had been told by her record label with every song she submitted that they were still waiting for something, something else, a different song, a different sound, something that would make her label want to well release her record. Yet no one would say exactly what that thing they were waiting for was. Frustrated, Sara wrote this song in a single afternoon, and her tongue-and-cheek “No,” became the yes she was not expecting.

I’ve been thinking about that as we enter into this season of Lent with its Dust and Ashes, with its repentance, grief, and shame over the realities of human sin, selfishness, and self-destructive ways. Because what we often we say, in our relationships, in our interactions, even to God, is simply this... “I’m not going to give you what you want. I’m not going to write a love song.” I am going to choose myself; I am going to get this wrong. I am going to mess up. I am going to fail. I am going to find myself back in the dust, back in the sackcloth, back in the ashes.

But I think the thing that we need to find ourselves surprised by is that God says to us, “Yep, I know. That’s exactly what I was expecting, that’s what I was prepared for. I know who you are, I knew what you would do. I knew how your brokenness would show up in you and I knew how this broken world would also break you.” But God says, “you know what... I’m here for it.” Literally, “I AM here for it.” Like God has put on flesh to live among you in it, to suffer in your place for it, and to die and rise to undo it. You may find yourself sitting in dust and ashes, but the Love of God is patient and Kind.

Love is Patient, Love is Kind... Well, that’s just not me. That’s just not how I love. it’s not. I am not always patient, are you? I am not always kind. In fact, even on my wedding day, my best man told Annie that she would know I love her when I am being the biggest pain in the butt she would ever meet. That my love would not always be gentle or kind. Should I keep going... why not. I do envy, I do boast. I am at times arrogant. I am rude. I just am. I can insist on my own way. I get irritable, I get resentful, I keep score. And I fail, I fail at bearing all things, I fail at believing all things, I fail at hoping, and I stink at enduring.

Maybe, just maybe, I am just a dumb silly little human, unable to love the way love demands. So, I sit in sackcloth and ashes, I mark myself with a cross made of ash, because I know that I can’t live out love. Not like this, not perfectly. I can’t live out any of God’s laws. The wages of that shortcoming, the wages of my sin... it should be death. I can’t write the love story; I can’t write the love song. Someone else is going to have to do that. Someone else is going to have to come get me. I am not the hero in this story, I am not the lover, and honestly... neither are you.

Love never ends. We will, but love wont. So clearly, Paul has someone else in mind. He’s thinking of Christ. Of love incarnate. God comes to us to love us... perfectly. In a way that turns our end into just the beginning. This Lent begins in sackcloth and ashes, but on Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> as we celebrate love, we will also celebrate the love that leads us out of our death and despair to life forever. I know that we see, can only see that love now dimly. I know that there are times we even question it, we challenge it, we doubt it. Times when we lack faith and we do not hope in it. But one day, one day we will see it clearly.

That might be the real message of love. The message of love in in the song we fail to write and yet is still written for us is that we are loved, fully and perfectly. We are fully known. We are fully known by a God who will one day make us fully known. He will also make known all he has done to save us. He knows us fully. In a way that no one else, not even our earthly lovers and loves can. This is perfect love, a love that lifts us out of the ashes, that breathes breath back into our lungs, and helps us stand. A love that looks at us each time we fall and says, I know. I know. I get it. I see it. I grieve it. I know your ashamed, I get your regret, I get your fear. I get it. I died for it. I rose from it, I release it, so that you can be with me. I breathe again, so that because of my love, you can breathe again too. God says... That is how I love you. That’s the love song I willingly write for you. So, mark yourself with a ash cross, as you remember all the ways I mark you with my love. So Remember, this Valentine’s Day, this Ash Wednesday, and every day, that NOTHING says I love You, the way that God loves you. Amen.

