



MARCH 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 or check us out on the WEB: www.beautifulsaviortempe.org

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 February: in the Sunday church service; in Adult Bible Study, in Women's Bible Study, at La Mesa Meal, 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, March 4, 11, 18, and 25. We will be studying four New Testament women. All Beautiful Savior women and friends are invited to attend.

Lenten Midweek Services: Join us each Wednesday at 6:30pm for midweek Lenten services. Our theme this year is "The Garden's 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. 5:30 PM we will be having dinner before each week's service. We will be asking different ministries and committee's to host each week's dinner.

5:30 PM March 20th Beautiful Savior's Elders Chile Cookoff before the Worship Service.

"Living da Vinci" Rehearsal: Wednesday March 6th at 7:30pm. Anyone interested in being a part of our Living da Vinci cast is invited to an info meeting and "audition" on Wednesday March 6th after our midweek service. Pastor will talk through the whole show and what we will need in regards to staging, costuming and we will figure out who we still need to cast. If you have questions, please reach out to Pastor Tim.

March 8th 10:30 AM Doris May Reith, Memorial Service and Reception following the service.

March 9th 2024: Blessing of the Animals and Pet Adoption Fair: 10:00am - 2:00pm here on the Beautiful Savior field. Join us and bring your furry friend as we give thanks to God for the companionship we receive by the creatures he creates to be our pets. We will have vendors, food, and more on sight. Please reach out to Pastor Tim or Don Schinke if you would like to volunteer or if you know of any vendors who might want to be a part of the event.

Chosen Night: Saturday March 9th at 5:00pm. Join us as we watch season 3, episode 2 Two by Two. We will watch the episode and have dinner and discussion.

Brunch and Bibles: Join us on Thursday March 14th at noon at Cracker's and Co. Cafe on Elliot as we continue our study on the Book of Daniel. Please let Kathryn Odle know if you plan on attending.

Easter Egg Hunt: Sat. March 30th at 10am. Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Holy Saturday. We will need donations of candy (please no chocolate... it melts!) as well as volunteers on Wednesday March 20th at 4:00pm (before midweek dinner) to begin stuffing eggs. Please have candy here at church by March 20th and volunteer to help us on the 30th.

Holy Week Schedule: This year's Holy Week Schedule is as follows...

Maundy Thursday: March 30th The Living da Vinci... Worship with La Mesa. 6:00pm Dinner and worship at 6:30 in the dining room. Volunteers from both BSLC and La Mesa will bring da Vinci's painting of the last supper to life as we worship together with our friends from La Mesa Tempe. Join us as we fill our sanctuary to remember the night Christ connected his body to that bread and his blood to that wine for us.

Good Friday March 29th 3pm Service: Good Friday from the Cross. Join us as we experience Good Friday from the cross with the sights and sounds of that day. As we hold the crown of thorns and the nails, smell the wine vinegar and hear the words "It is finished."

Good Friday Tenebrae: March 29th 6:30pm. Join us for our traditional Tenebrae service as we focus in on Jesus the light of the world, and see him give up his light and life for us, so that we might shine in the courts of God's house forever even as we hear the words, "Today you will be with me in paradise."

Saturday Easter Vigil: March 30th at 6:30pm. Join us as we share the story of salvation starting at creation and we remind ourselves of the story of Scripture that brings us to the empty tomb and the Easter Announcement that "He is Risen." a truly unique worship experience once held dear by the ancient church and being brought back by Pastor Tim to strengthen our faith today.

Easter Sunday: March 31st, 8am Sunrise Service: Come join us outside on Eastern morning as the women go to the tomb and find out that Jesus is alive.

Easter Sunday: March 31st 10am: Easter Celebration Worship: Join us at 10am in the sanctuary for our Easter Celebration Worship, as we celebrate the Risen Jesus.

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. 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 FEBRUARY 2024 COUNCIL MEETING

The regular monthly Council meeting was held February 19, 2024.

Pastor Tim's Report:

- Encouragement to think about setting goals, particularly about the use of our building spaces and the future of the field.
- Have discussed with the elders the possibility of a one day retreat in the fall to focus on spiritual rest.
- Pastor is the Orphan Grain Train chaplain.
- Suggested we do a living Da Vinci Last Supper with La Mesa on Maundy Thursday. 13 men needed to play Jesus and the twelve disciples. This would take place in the sanctuary after the meal. Cyndi and Debbie making costumes. Hope this will encourage more of our members to attend.
- Suggestion that we need a list of volunteers who can respond to our members needing help while they are ill, housebound, etc. Pastor looking for volunteers to organize this effort.
- Sharon Owens will be attending church Feb. 25th to talk about her ministry. She is currently looking for financial help to send some of her students to Camp Aloma during ASU's spring break.
- Blessing of the Animals will be March 9th.
- Easter Egg hunt March 30th, 10 AM to noon.

Treasurer's Report:

- Reviewed the Balance sheet for the month of January:
 - LCEF savings \$72,184.47
 - Savings - Matching Funds \$17,339.45
 - Checking - \$49,927.77
- January Profit & Loss
 - Balance is negative \$1,128.40 for the month. 86% of budgeted income received, 92.8% of budgeted expenses spent.

Finance:

- The Chili Cook-off, Fish Fry, and Highland Games proceeds have been reallocated per direction from the December Council meeting.
- Treasurer and Marsha unable to find the IRS letter with our EIN number. We will need to obtain a copy from IRS before we can move our accounts from Wells Fargo to Desert Financial.
- Casualty and Liability Insurance packet for 2024 has been received. Our current policy runs through 31 March. The new cost is quoted as \$6,942, which is \$1,400 over budget. Don Calender is leading the effort to obtain quotes from other companies. This effort must be completed by 15 March in order to allow time for Council and Voter approval prior to the end of March.
- Ellen Brown contacted Doug Norman of Allen Organ and received an estimate of \$150,000 to replace our organ. She also received an estimate of \$21,590 to replace our hand bells and chimes.
- Offering envelopes for 2025 will be ordered this month and shipped to us when printed. Color will be yellow.
- We selected two goals to achieve in 2024: move our savings and checking accounts from Wells Fargo to Desert Financial and find a new financial accounting software to replace QuickBooks.

Stewardship:

- Provided 6 dozen pair of leggings for the girls in preschool and lower grades at Holdeman.
- Request being considered from Mosley to provide dinner for their 70 to 80 faculty members the 5th or 7th of March.
- Will be collecting for Justa Center in February.
- Thanks to the Council and congregation for supporting our work with the schools.

Board of Christian Education:

- Will meet Feb. 28th after the worship service to begin planning for VBS.
 - Theme is Scuba. Will be looking for donations to pay for supplies and meals.
 - And volunteers!
- We have a lot of Christian education opportunities at Beautiful Savior: The Chosen events, Sunday morning Bible Study, Brunch and Bibles, Women's Monday study group.
- New member class has started with 4 students.
- Would like to see a men's Bible class started if we have people to lead it.
- Need to encourage more fellowship outings.
- We now have a group of 20 somethings to encourage meeting together.
- Best Practices Ministry attendance is encouraged.
- Encourage more active praying about what God wants us to do here.

Board of Elders/Evangelism:

- Elders met at Philly's.
- Pastor's devotion was about rest and being here for each other.
- Will hold the Elders' chili cookoff as the Lenten meal March 20th.

Board of Trustees:

- 64 volunteer hours in January
- Plan to meet next week.
- Don Schumm has done some roof patching.

Music Ministry:

- Conversion of the outback room to Choir & Braille Workers' HQ continues.
- Ellen encouraged to enlist the help of others, particularly Trustees, with getting things out of the building, painting, and whatever Donna and she need done.
- Aaron Brown assures us that he has not forgotten about our need for new doors for that room and the Furnace Room.
- Bell choir may need to consider changing their rehearsal dates from Saturdays to another day or time.
- Suggestion to have a talent show.

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

- 8 BSLC members attended the February meeting with Derek Benson.
- Partnering with Braille group to host the March 6th Lenten dinner.
- Currently writing notes of appreciation to the 59 teachers and staff at Scales Technology Academy.
- 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:

- La Mesa average attendance in January was 111 for the Thursday meals and 30 for the worship services. Please note: 134 attended the meal Feb. 15th!
- Debbie O'Neill is preparing the February 29th meal. Beautiful Savior members are needed to help with serving the meal. Please contact Debbie or Sandra if you are available to assist with the serving.
- We continue to prepare lunch sacks for La Mesa clients with a dedicated crew of 5 people led by Dave Mendham including one member from Gethsemane.
- La Mesa will be offering their Financial Peace classes in March at Beautiful Savior.
- We are exchanging prayer lists with La Mesa.

Altar Guild:

- Cyndi Calender and Darlene Haynes have volunteered to be back ups.
- Dave Mendham would like to help keep the candles filled with oil. Don Schumm is working on getting the correct size of wicks for the candles.
- Jan Safford and Barb Wilford prepare the communion trays for the La Mesa worship service.

Old Business:

- Financial Review committee has begun review of the Treasurer's documents. Wendell Robson is the chair.
- Suggestion to pass around the Fellowship sign up sheet during fellowship hour to encourage more volunteers.
 - Ellen volunteered to contact nearby Arizona Donut company about the cost of providing donuts for Sunday mornings.
 - A coordinator is needed to schedule people to host the Fellowship Hour.
- Discussion about goals for Council:
 - Council should encourage all groups to help each other
 - Assessing our property and how to use it for ministry

- Appoint a long range planning team
- Communication, especially internally
 - Printed newsletter is not being read by everyone
 - Suggestion to have a once a week supplement to the newsletter sent by email and posted on Facebook.
 - Dakota Meeks has been updating the Facebook page and other social media
- Don Schinke would like to follow up on finding a roofer to fix the gap between the building and the patio

New Business:

- Maundy Thursday proposal by Pastor was well received; he will discuss with La Mesa leadership
- Plans for Blessing of the Animals March 9th include:
 - Pet adoption opportunity - Maricopa County
 - Having the Happy Hot Dog cart and paying for the first 60 meals from Revitalization funds
 - Encourage members to contact pet supply places about having a display
- Easter Egg Hunt March 30:
 - Keep time at 10 AM to noon
 - Two age groups of hunters
 - Need a Thrivent Action Team card to help with expenses
 - Need a Chair person
- Darlene Haynes volunteered to be the Easter lily chair person.
 - Suggestions for where to purchase calla lilies; order 25 to 30 plants and have congregation purchase until they are gone.
- Discussion about communion procedure:
 - Need instruction about how to line up at the rail to return to pews in order
 - Invite people not taking communion to come to rail for a blessing
- Sharon Owens' request for Camp ALOMA scholarships for her students:
 - \$179 raised at Ash Wednesday meal fundraiser. Cost of Camp ALOMA scholarship for one student is \$165
 - Have a door offering when she is here Feb. 25th
 - Motion made, seconded and approved to allocate \$300 out of allocated missions budget to send to Camp ALOMA for international students of Sharon Owens.
- Reminder to have an Attitude of Gratitude to verbally appreciate the people around us.

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

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FEBRUARY 2024 COUNCIL AND VOTERS MEETINGS

The regular monthly Council meeting was held February 19, 2024.

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. 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

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

MARCH 2024 NEWSLETTER REPORT

March 2024 Stewardship Report for Newsletter

The contact person at one of the schools advised us that Walmart website was having a clearance on its backpacks. We passed that information on to the other schools and the result is that 3 schools so far have taken advantage of that and have stocked up on backpacks.

Mosely has asked us to provide their teachers a light meal on Thursday, March 7th as they have parent teachers meetings that meet into the evening hours. We will be providing sandwiches, a variety of chips, a fruit plate and cookies.

Holdeman is having another Field Day for their kids on that same day, March 7th and has asked us to provide popsicles for the kids after the playing is done and small glasses for the water stations during the course of the Field Day.

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!

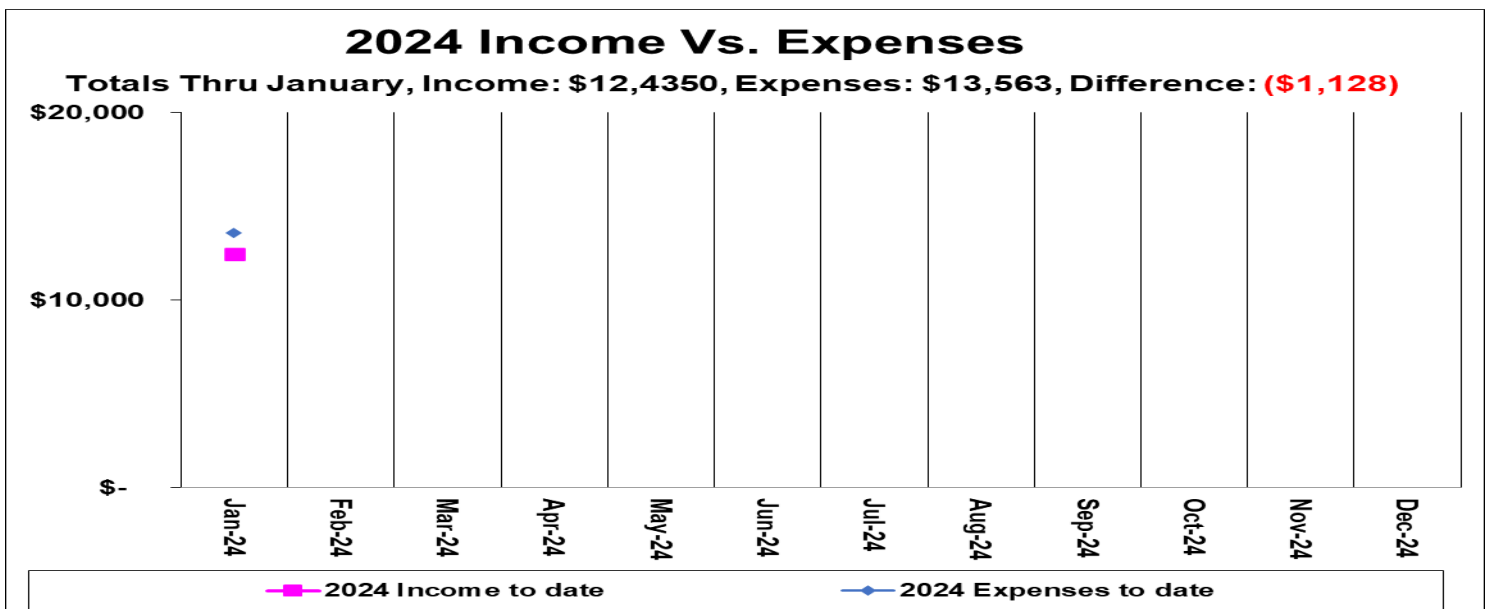
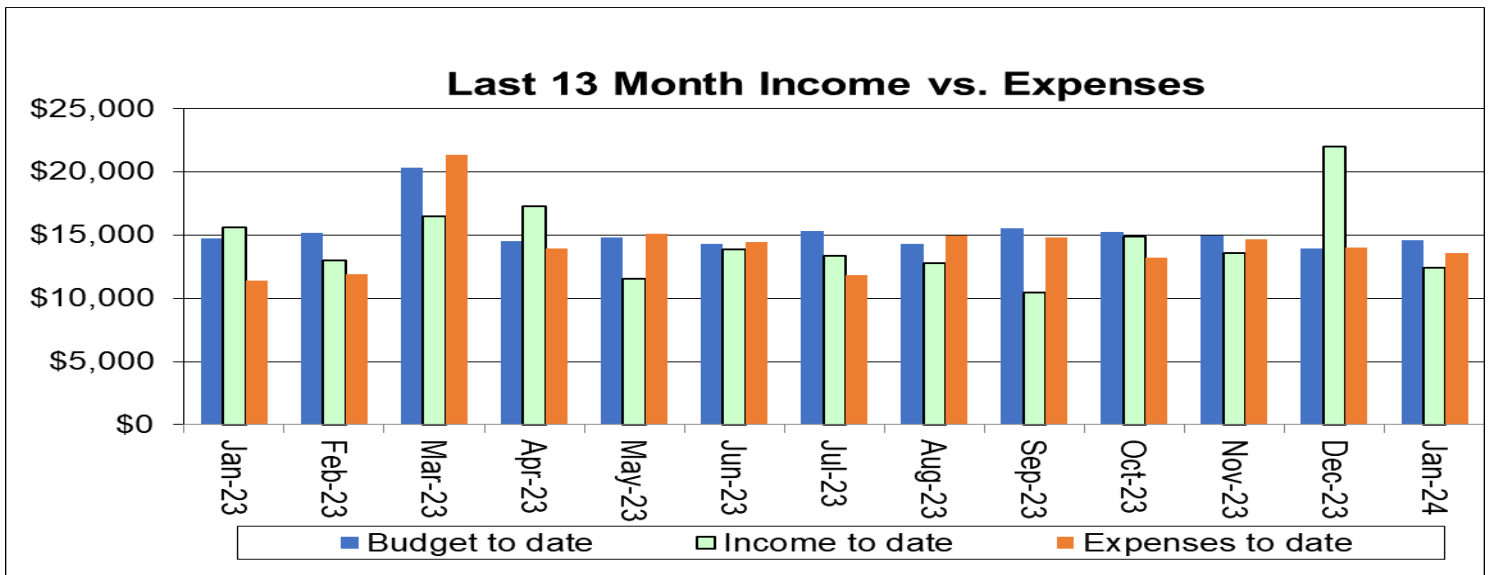
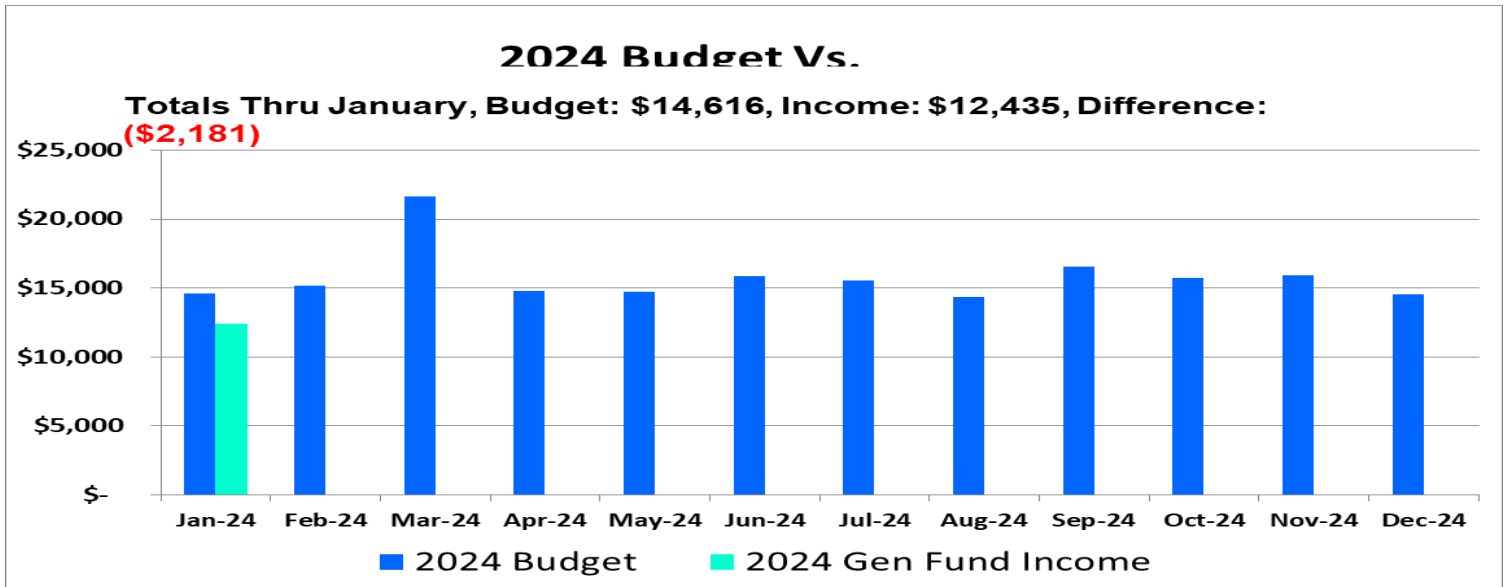
The Board of Stewardship encourages you to take advantage of this easy way to earn funds for BSLC.

1. You will need to create an account if you do not already have one at: frysfood.com. 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.

Eight BSLC members attended the February meeting with Derek Benson to learn about his PhD research.

We are partnering with the Braille group to host the March 6th Lenten dinner. We are currently writing notes of appreciation to the 59 teachers and staff at Scales Technology Academy.

The District convention is June 5-7 in Rosemead, CA. All women are invited to attend; two BSLCers are needed to be voting delegates and two are needed to be alternates. Please let Sandra know if you can serve. Scholarships and funding are available to pay for registration and hotel and meals.

We are organizing the reception for Doris Reith's memorial service Friday, March 8th, 10:30 AM. We will be serving sandwiches and veggie trays. Please let Sandra know if you can bring a side dish or dessert. We are planning for 50 people.

LA MESA UPDATE

La Mesa has scheduled their second Financial Peace class at Beautiful Savior for March. Thank you for supporting this ministry!

March 2024 Newsletter: Pastor Tim

Leviticus on Easter.

All the way back in January, I encouraged all of us here at Beautiful Savior to look at reading the entire Bible this year and even suggested a daily reading plan put out by 1517.org by Pastor Chad Bird. I don't know if you have been following along, if you are up to date, if you have fallen behind or given up entirely. Maybe, honestly, as you have been reading, certain stories have grabbed your interest, while others made you want to put down the book entirely. Even as a Pastor I struggle with this. When I was in college, I would try to do Bible Reading plans and without fail, I would get to the book of Leviticus and it's like I would hit the brakes. The wheels would fall off the car. I would lose interest. I mean what is all this stuff? Sacrifices and laws, laws and sacrifices. It was and still is a slog to read through it. What does this all mean?

It's funny to me, because just the other day, I got to listen to Pastor Chad Bird speak at the Best Practices conference at Christ Church Lutheran in Phoenix. And he talked about Leviticus, the book that more than once has served as a stumbling block for my Bible Reading plan adventures. And Chad argued, that in many ways, the key to understanding Holy Week, to understanding the Sacrifice of Jesus, can be found in Leviticus. So, as I sat in my seat chuckling, Chad started to unpack it. Suddenly, it was like my mind was torn open in two from top to bottom, like the temple curtain was on Good Friday, and things suddenly, it really began to make sense.

Believe it or not, Leviticus is packed with the Good News of a God who loves his people and who provides for them so that they can receive him and his gifts. Leviticus, far from being a mysterious relic from Israel's past, is a Gospel book of the church. It teaches of God's holiness, his love, his healing, his grace, his worship. It is a book we desperately need to recover. And it does this by talking again and again about the different Sacrifices of Israel. So if we are going to really, truly, deeply understand the sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross, maybe we should start with why God demands sacrifice.

Sacrifice began after humanity's fall into sin (Genesis 3). "The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and HE clothed them," (Genesis 3:21). Although the killing of these animals to provide coverings for Adam and Eve is not specifically called a sacrifice, it did require the death of animals. Sinners were covered only by the death of another who was killed in their place. The first explicit reference to sacrifice is in Genesis 4, where Cain "brought an offering to the LORD of the fruit of the ground" and Abel "on his part brought of the firstlings of his flock and of their fat portions" (4:3-4).

The primary sacrifices in Israel's worship were the whole burnt offering (olah), the sin offering (chattat), the guilt/reparation offering (asham), the peace offering (shelamim), and the meal offering (minchah). In each case, the animal being offered had to be considered clean and set apart. Without blemish, without stain. For the sake of this article though, I really just want to talk about the Sin offering and the Peace offering.

The sin offering was sacrificed by individuals or the whole congregation when they broke the law of God (Leviticus 4-5:13; 6:24-30). The type of animal offered (bull, goat, lamb, dove or pigeon) depended upon the social rank of the individual. The blood of the victim was smeared on the horns of the main altar and poured out at its base. If it was offered for a priest or for the whole congregation, some blood was also taken into the Holy Place to be sprinkled on the veil and smeared on the horns of the altar of incense. The flesh of the animal was cooked and eaten by the priests (if offered for a layman's sin) or burned outside the camp (if offered for a priest or for the whole congregation).

The peace offering was the sacrifice in which the worshiper received back a portion of the sacrificial meat to be cooked and eaten in a ritual meal (Leviticus 3; 7:11-36). A male or female animal from the flock or herd was sacrificed, its blood was poured onto the main altar, its breast and right leg were given to the priest and his family (as part of his income), and the rest of the animal was consumed in a communal meal. The Israelite(s) thus consumed the very animal who died for his atonement. It was a preview of the Lord's Supper, in which we eat the very body of the Lamb of God, who was sacrificed for us on the altar of the cross. Peace offerings were sacrificed to give thanks to God (praise), to fulfill a vow (votive), or as free-will offerings.

Leviticus 17:11 explains the importance of blood in the sacrificial liturgy: "For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it for you on the altar to make atonement for your souls, for it is the blood that makes atonement by the life." To have the blood is to have the life. To be touched by the blood is to be touched by the life. Life is not an abstraction; it is a visible, tangible fluid. Life is blood and blood is life. Where there is no blood, there is no life. And it is given for us to make atonement for your souls. The life-blood of the victim atones for sinner. This is its purpose: it removes sin, it removes death, it removes unholiness. This happens not just in the killing of the victim, but in the placing of the victim's blood upon the altar. Atoning blood is therefore holy blood, life-giving blood. It is given for the removal of sin and the bestowal of holiness.

And again, it is for you, for me, for us. God had no need of the sacrifices of Israel (see Ps. 50:8-15). Rather, Israel needed these sacrifices. And God did not need to send his son to come and proclaim the Kingdom and bring it about by dying on the Cross, but WE DID. God gave his people the tabernacle, the altar, and the sacrificial animals so that through these means he might

dwell among his people, hear their prayers, grant them forgiveness, and be their good and gracious Father. Through the sacrifices, as through means, God gave the Israelites forgiveness of sins, blessing and righteousness, cleansing, and acceptance.

God gave the sacrifices as a sign. He directed his people to look for the coming sacrifice of the Messiah. Every bull, every goat, every lamb, every dove and pigeon was a preview of the Sacrifice to end all sacrifices (Hebrews 8-11). When Christ went to the cross, he goes as the final Sacrifice, the one that would bring about our perfect peace and our perfect forgiveness. He is there to give us life, he is there to cover us, he is there to pour out his blood so that the blood that runs through our veins would continue to bring life even after death. As he rises again on Easter, he shows us the peace we now have with God and the peace we can have with one another. Because the Law, the Levitical Law, is fulfilled. For Us. It was always for Us. Because God will forever love you. Amen.