

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church

402 Baytree Ave. North Platte, NE 69101- 4823

bslc@bslcnp.com www.bslcnp.com



Each Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church
(BSLC) member is:

January 2026

Beautifully
Saved to
Lead to
Christ

Beautifully: purely by the love, grace and power of our Triune God (Creator, Redeemer, Counselor

Saved: from sin's curse, condemnation and control; from death to joyful life with our crucified and risen Jesus.

To Lead: This gift is meant for everyone, for all people need the life revealed through the Word

To Christ: for He is the Head, Heart and Focus of our congregation and our loving service to our members and those whom God will call to Him through our caring outreach.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Lead Vacancy Pastor James Peterson 308-442-1195 pjpeterson@bslcnp.com

Pastor John Stubenrouch 308-289-3897 pstabenrouch@yahoo.com

Elder Chairman: Leland Poppe 308-520-7371 leland.poppe@fib.com

Church President: Mike Steele 308-520-7656 mdsteele96@gmail.com





The January Feasts

Circumcision and Name of Jesus 1/1/2026

Number 6:22-27, Galatians 3:23-29

While the world celebrates the New Year on January 1st, the Church celebrates the Circumcision and Name of Jesus on that day. And you might say, well why would we do that? And the answer is simple. We celebrate this day for Jesus just as we celebrate our baptism birthdays. So you celebrate the anniversary of your baptism? You should. I was baptized on October 25th, and every year I light the baptismal candle and read the baptism promises from the hymnal that were spoken on that day. I rejoice that I am baptized into Christ!

But celebrating this day goes even further than that. For it is on the 8th day of Jesus' life that He is brought to the temple, sacrifices are made for Him and His mother according to the purification laws of Leviticus, and that He is circumcised. That is, that Christ shed His blood, foreshadowing the whole and entire shedding of His blood on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins as He dies the Lamb of God for the salvation of all the earth. Christ was circumcised, as all of God's people were up to that point in history, in order to redeem all life and sanctify His life to make us holy people.

So on this feast, remember your baptism, and remember Christ sending His blood for you!

Confession of St. Peter—1/18/2026

Acts 4:8-13, 2 Peter 1:1-15, Mark 8:27-9:1

We Lutherans ought to celebrate the Confession of St. Peter every year. Why? Well because the Roman Catholics have boiled down the doctrine of the papacy to this exact event, and that was not the intent of the recording of this passage. In fact, each of our readings demonstrate the full breadth of Peter's confession.

The Roman Catholics focus on Matthew's retelling (Matthew 16), but we read Mark's Gospel that Peter helped him write. And Peter does not include the keys or the gates of hell that you find in Matthew. Jesus asks, **“Who do you say that I am? And Peter says, “You are the Christ.”** Certainly we know that all the apostles confessed the same thing on that day in that way. This is not the institution of the pope, but the confession of the apostles, the same confession that each and every Christian confesses every Sunday in the Creeds.

And that's where the First Reading come into play. For there Peter is preaching in Acts 8 and he makes explicit what he means when he says, **“There is salvation in no one else (than Jesus),, for there is not other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”** Peter himself does think that he is standing in the place of Christ, but that salvation comes only through Christ.

As you read Peter's words, you realize 1) he was not a pope, and 2) he did not think that he alone had the keys to heaven. Rather, Peter points us to Jesus.

Let us celebrate the Confession of St. Peter to make the good confession to our brothers and sisters in the Roman Catholic church, but more importantly, let us make St. Peter's Confession our own confession of the truth, pointing all people to Jesus Christ, the Savior.

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And so, as we prepare our hearts for this month of January, remember these days in our homes and emphasize these things to the families, always focusing on how this feast points us to Christ, in the remembrance of our baptism, in the shedding of Christ's blood, and in the confession that Jesus is the Christ, the Savior of the world in the flesh.

+++ Pastor James Peterson, December 30th, 2025 +++

LOOKING AHEAD WITH GRATITUDE AND HOPE

As the time approaches for me to arrive at Beautiful Savior, I want to share how thankful I am for the opportunity to serve as your pastor. I am eagerly looking forward to meeting you, learning your stories, and joining you in living as a follower of Jesus in North Platte, Nebraska.

I am grateful to God for those who have already been a help to me and even sent an encouraging note! God is already at work at Beautiful Savior and am hopeful that he will continue that work together. Please know that you are already in my prayers. And I ask that you keep me and my sons in your prayers as well during this time of transition.

I look forward to being with you soon and beginning this new chapter together, trusting in God's gracious guidance every step of the way.

In Christ,

Pastor Kevin Hahn

BEAUTIFUL BEGINNINGS PRESCHOOL

BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

I can't believe it is January already.

Time is going so fast.

We had a wonderful Christmas program. The kids did a great job and I think the families

really enjoyed the meal. Thank you to Ruth and Doug for helping with the meal. Thank you to all who helped serve and clean up. Thank you to Carolyn Sabin for playing the piano for us. It was a great time to connect with the families. Thank you to all the prayer partners for showing up and being here for the families. I am so grateful to have such an amazing church family. I look forward to the new year and can't wait to see how much these children grow.



Happy new year to all.

Ms. Annie

Board of Education Minutes

Date: December 14th, 2025

Time: 10:00 am

Attendees: Kim Utecht, Angie Petersen, Ashley Roehrs, Anne Wilcox

Approval of minutes and bills: Motion to approve by Angie and seconded by Kim.

Reports:

Preschool Report: The preschool Christmas program is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 16th with dinner at 5:30 followed by the Christmas program at 6:30, and cookies and hot chocolate following. Students will have school the 18th and 19th and will have their Christmas parties.

She has started to think about an Open House sometime in January or February. They have discussed raising the price of tuition. Normally they also compare to other similar preschools in town. Families can also still fill out a form for tuition assistance.

Sunday School Report: Sunday School Christmas Party will be held after the 1st of the year. Sunday School is still currently on non-communion Sundays, but is limited to a few families.

New Business:

We will need to start discussing planning for VBS. The new pastor coming soon will also be involved in planning.

Kim made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Angie seconded. Motion carried.



We will be taking down the
Christmas decorations on
Saturday, January 10th at
9am., please come join us.

ELDERS

Board of Elders Meeting December 8, 2025

Opened at 7:04pm with a prayer led by Jeff Boeke

In attendance: Larry Wallace, Rod Christmann, Jim Parish, John Flynn, Jeff Boeke, and Allen Huff.

Jim Parish chaired the meeting. Glenn Van Velson arrived at 07:08 PM.

Approval of minutes

Rod Christmann moved that the minutes of the November 10TH Elders meeting be approved. Larry Wallace seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Unfinished business

There was discussion about Elder visits with members of the congregation. Jim Parish stated that he had conversed with Lavonne Bartling. No one else had been successful in scheduling a visit.

The Elder's Budget for 2026, which was accepted at the November congregational meeting, was briefly discussed. Since the pastor's salary and benefits had been based on a full-time pastor, there was no apparent need to make any changes in light of the call being accepted by Pastor Hahn. Pastor Hahn is aiming to be in North Platte by mid-January.

New business

Jade Vak has requested a transfer of membership to Holy Cross Lutheran in Kearney, Nebraska. Jeff Boeke moved that we grant the transfer. John Flynn seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The transmission failed in the Peterson family mini-van. Pastor Peterson has been granted use of the Beautiful Savior van until repairs can be made to the mini-van.

Details of the communion format, for the Christmas Eve worship service, were discussed. The handbell choir will be playing, and they would like to set up just in front of the first row of pews. There was a consensus of opinion that such arrangement would not interfere unduly with having communion.

Parade of Lights is scheduled for 5:30 PM on December 11. Rod has the trailer and tractor ready to go.

John Flynn moved that the meeting be closed. Larry Wallace seconded the motion.

Adjournment

Jim adjourned the meeting at 8:25 PM, at which time the Lord's Prayer was recited.

Respectively submitted by Allen Huff.

Board of Trustee's Notes:

1. Automatic opener on the south of the church is being worked on.
2. Water fountain south side of church was leaking and has been repaired.
3. Work on a drywall defect at the thermostat upstairs is in progress.
4. The church insurance is concerned because groups are using the church, but not placing the meetings on the church calendar. The concern is that an injury or damage would not be covered by insurance if the meeting is not documented. This means that the group holding the meeting might be financially responsible for any damages or injuries. It is a simple process to get onto the church calendar by contacting the church secretary.
5. A similar church insurance concern is the use of the van by unauthorized drivers. The concern again is that any damage or injuries would not be covered by church insurance and the individuals who are driving would be financially responsible. If an unauthorized driver wishes to use the van, it is necessary to make proper arrangements.
6. At this time, there has been no change in contracted vendors for 2026.
7. There has been some interest in selling the van.

Ron Asher



Issues, Etc. is a ten-hour weekly syndicated radio talk show and podcast. The program features expert guests, expansive topics, while extolling Christ. The program is hosted by Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod [Pastor Todd Wilken](#) and produced by [Jeff Schwarz](#).

**Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church LWML
Quarterly and December Executive Board Meeting
December 14, 2025**

Marilyn Sinsel began the meeting with a devotional based on I Chronicles 16:34, "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, his love endures forever." She then went on to give the example of a child who is so excited to open his gifts that he doesn't look to see who it is from and doesn't say thank you to the sender before going on to open the next gift. Just like that child, we often forget to thank God for the gifts he gives to us every day as well as thank him for his gift of the savior. Marilyn finished with a prayer of thanks for our daily gifts and thanks for sending Jesus as our savior.

Secretary Minutes: The quarterly minutes from September 7, 2025 were available for all to look over. Alfie made a motion to approve as written. Shelia seconded. Approved.

Treasurer's Report: Beginning Balance as of 9/7/25 was \$2,290.27. Receipts totaled \$1,113.64. Total Disbursements were \$1969.98. Ending Balance as of 12/14/25 was \$1,433.93. There was discussion of what to do with the extra funds currently available. Betty Van Boening suggested waiting to decide until after Pastor Hahn is here.

Reports from Appointed Officers:

Christian Life – None.

Human Care – Jean Huff spoke about the Tree of Love for Christmas. See below.

Leader Development – None

Historian/Archivist – None

Old Business:

Mission Possible Day, the annual Giving Day for LWML, was September 16. Funds were matched up to \$10,000. Bonnie Van Cura, Treasurer, sent a check for \$100.

LWML Sunday was October 5th. Pastor Peterson used the LWML Worship Guide for the service. Sherry Roehrs organized a women's choir to sing a special selection from the LWML National Convention in Omaha this summer. Lisa also thanked all the volunteers who helped with this service.

The Ogallala Zone Fall Rally was held Saturday, October 11th at St. John's, Brule. Those attending from Beautiful Savior were Lisa Parish, Janet Livingston, Jean Huff, and Mary Babcock. The guest speaker was from Orphan Grain Train. 40 School Kits for Orphan Grain Train were assembled for the service project. Thanks, Jean Huff, for organizing the collection of colored pencils and spiral notebooks that our group provided for this service project.

Quarterly Magazine and Zone Dues – The cost of the Quarterly Magazine increased from \$7.00 to \$7.50. Bonnie Van Cura, Treasurer, sent a check to purchase 40 Quarterly Magazines for 2026. She also sent \$64 to the Zone Treasurer for this year's (2025) dues.

Christmas Decorating of the Church was done on Saturday, November 29th. Thanks, Alfie, for organizing this project. Thanks, also, to all who helped in any way. The church looks beautiful!

Tree of Love: Envelopes will be available on the tree through December. Proceeds will be divided between the Salvation Army, Grace Ministries, and the North Platte High School Food Pantry. Thank you to Jean Huff for organizing this project.

December 2nd Advent Meal: Thanks, Alfie, for organizing the meal. Various soups, breads, relishes, and pies were served. Donations in the amount of \$220 were given to the Gift of Hope.

December 7th Cookie Walk: Thank you to everyone who donated cookies. The \$510 collected was divided between Pastor Stubenrouch and Pastor Peterson. Thanks, Shary Asher, for overseeing this event.

Election of New Officers: Beginning in 2026, Shelia Mahler will become President, Caroline Sabin, President-Elect, and Linda Mueller, Treasurer. Installation will be Jan. 11 and Pastor Stubenrouch will be doing the service. All officers, including new officers and those continuing to serve, are asked to participate in the installation ceremony.

New Business:

Un-decorating of the church will be done on Saturday, January 10 at 9:00 a.m.

Registration and Dues for 2026: Envelopes will be available on the LWML table for ladies wishing to join LWML in the coming year. Registration will continue through January, and new information booklets will be completed in February.

Ogallala Zone Spring Workshop will be at Zion Lutheran Church, Grant, on Saturday, April 11, 2026. The theme is "What a Friend" and the Bible verse is Psalms 25:14. More information to come.

LWML Nebraska South District Convention will be September 18-19, 2026 in Kearney, NE.

Circle Meeting:

Afternoon Circle: Thursday, January 8 at 1:00 p.m.

Evening Circle: Monday, January 12 at 5:00 p.m.

The business meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Following the business meeting the group enjoyed delicious desserts, drew names for Prayer Partners for 2026, and ended the day with a gift exchange.

Respectively Submitted,

Sherry Roehrs, Secretary

LWML Gospel Outreach Message:

In Hebrews 10:35, we are directed to meet together and give encouragement to one another. Today's Christian's call it "going to church." Where else will you consistently hear the Word of God preached and receive the sacraments? Where else can you join with other Christian voices to pray, praise, and give thanks? As you run the race of faith, meet together in worship and Bible study to support, encourage, and motivate each other.

Circle Meetings:

Afternoon Circle: Thursday, January 8th at 1pm, Marcia Colvin, Host
Evening Circle: Monday, January 12 at 5pm, Betty Van Boening, Host

Up Coming Events:

January 10th	Undecorating the Church 9am
January 11th	Installation of Officers 11am
April 11th	Ogallala Zone Spring Workshop
September 18-19	LWML Nebraska South District Convention

LWML Prayer Partners: If you did not attend the December LWML Quarterly Meeting, you missed a chance to choose a "Prayer Partner" for 2026. Contact Lisa Parish to participate.

Registration and Dues for 2026:

Envelopes will be available on the LWML table for ladies wishing to join LWML in the coming year. Registration will continue through January, and new information booklets will be completed in February.

Daily Bible Reading Guide for January

Heeding Jesus's Call

1 st	Hebrews 1:1-14	<i>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Begins: Ecumenical Sunday</i>
2 nd	Hebrews 2:1-15	18 th Matthew 16:1-12
3 rd	Hebrew 3:1-19	19 th Matthew 16:13-28
4 th	Hebrew 4:1-13	20 th Matthew 17:1-13
5 th	Hebrew 4:14-5:10 <i>Epiphany</i>	21 st Matthew 7:14-27
6 th	Matthew 2:1-12	22 nd Acts 3:1-10
7 th	Matthew 2:13-23	23 rd Acts 3:11-26
8 th	Matthew 3:10-17	24 th Acts 4:1-22
9 th	Matthew 4:1-11	
10 th	Matthew 4:12-25	25 th Acts 4:23-5:11
11 th	Matthew 8:1-17	26 th Acts 9:1-19a
12 th	Matthew 9:18-34	27 th Acts 9:19b-31
13 th	Matthew 12:22-32	28 th Acts 9:32-42
14 th	Matthew 14:1-21	29 th Acts 14:8-20
15 th	Matthew 14:22-36	30 th Acts 16:1-15
16 th	Matthew 15:1-20	31 st Acts 16:16-40
17 th	Matthew 15:21-39	

God Is Calling.
»will you answer?



WAS BUBBLE

Sunday Mornings 9:45 am
“Heroes of the Faith”

MENS BIBLE STUDY

“The Men’s Tuesday Bible Study (8am) is studying Ephesians 6:10-18, “Your Strong Suit”.

Ladies Bible Study Tuesday’s at 1:30 pm.



Ever read one of Jesus' parables and ask, "What is He talking about?" If so, you're not alone. Jesus' own disciples were also perplexed by the enigmatic stories Christ told.

Cathy Christman leads as we dig deeper into the meaning of these parables to uncover their important meaning for your walk with Christ.

Christian Book Clubs!



2nd Tuesday (1/13) at 10am, fellowship hall, Cathy Christmann, leader. Angel in Aisle 3, by Kevin West

3rd Thursday (1/15) at 1:30pm, Marilyn Sinsel, leader Ordinary Grace by William Kent Krueger

4th Monday (1/26) at 7pm, Scooters Marsha Gosnell, leader, Seven Beautiful Things by Catherine Hyde

If you are interested in joining a club or want to start another one, please contact Cathy Christmann at 530-6031.

Any group would love to have you!



January 4, 2026 "Knowing and Being Known in a New Year"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

God invites us to speak with Him in prayer and hear from Him in the Bible, to know Him and to love as we are loved. John 17:3

January 11, 2026 "Solidarity"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Solidarity is how Christians understand their relationship to Jesus Christ. We believe that Jesus, the Son of God, went where we had gone so that we might go where He goes. Romans 6:5

January 18, 2026 To be announced

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

January 25, 2026 "Cross Words--Words of Power"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Daniel Paavola

A crossword puzzle uses an answer only once, but Christ is the answer for all people in every place and time. 1 Corinthians 1:17-18

February 1, 2026 "Rotten Tomatoes"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Boasting gone wrong—it's the rotten fruit of rightful praise. It happens when we forget that everything we have is a gift, even the things we think we've earned and deserved. 1 Corinthians 1: 30-31



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January Birthdays and Anniversaries!

1st	Ella Rae Stearley
2nd	Jill Miles
5th	Bob Blevins
6th	Alexander Anderson
7th	Bobby Carter
8th	Colter Spearman
	Colleen Steele
9th	Derek Macomber
	Alfie Moore
10th	Agnes Knosp
	Kathy Palmer
12th	Judy Frerichs
15th	Dale Wee
16th	Cathy Poppe
17th	Thomas Bartling
18th	Carol Krumm
20th	Mary Babcock
	Madalyn Peterson
22nd	Courtney Koehn
	Samantha Staggs
23rd	Tom Frerichs
24th	Brooks McConnell
	Shirley Steele
25th	Gena Cullinan
	Tammy Hamburger
28th	Tiffany Negley
29th	Jean Niedan

3rd	Dean & Cathy Nutt (28)
5th	Jeff & Chandra Boeka (41)
7th	Rusty & Deedra DeGarmo(20)
24th	Wesley & Kortney Gilbert (17)
25th	Dave & Jeanne Baade (51)



*May God make your year a happy one!
Not by shielding us from all sorrows and pain,
But by strengthening us to bear it, as it comes;
Not by making our path easy,
But by making us sturdy to travel any path;
Not by taking hardships from us,
But by taking fear from our hearts;
Not by granting us unbroken sunshine,
But by keeping our face bright, even
in the shadows;
Not by making our life always pleasant,
But by showing us when people and
their causes need us most,
and by making us anxious to be
there to help. God's love, peace, hope, and
joy to us for the year ahead.*



Copies of
the Daily
Bible
Reading
Guide of
2026

(a publication of the
American Bible Society)
are available at the back
podium.

In Service to the Lord



January 4th	(Sunday)	Pastor Peterson
Organist	Sherry Roehrs	
January 6th	(Tuesday)	Pastor Peterson
Pianist	Carolyn Sabin	
January 11th	(Sunday)	Pastor Stubenrouch*
Organist	Praise Team	
January 13th	(Tuesday)	Pastor Peterson*
Pianist	Carolyn Sabin	
January 18th	(Sunday)	Pastor Peterson
Organist	Sue Johnson	
January 20th	(Tuesday)	Pastor Peterson
Pianist	Carolyn Sabin	
January 25th	(Sunday)	Pastor Stubenrouch*
Organist	Sue Johnson	
January 27th	(Tuesday)	Pastor Peterson*
Pianist	Carolyn Sabin	

Elders: Rod Christmann, Jeff Boeka, Larry Wallace & Jim Parish
Ushers : Leroy Gellerman, Bob Lantis, Charles Boettcher & Allen Huff

* Communion

FINANCIAL INFORMATION as of 12-30-2025

In an effort to keep members up on the financial condition of Beautiful Savior, we will put monthly updates in the Sunday bulletin and Messenger.

Budgeted Expenses Needed Monthly for 2025	\$ 32,892.77	
Year-to-date Income ending December 2025	\$28,468.25	\$ 291,083.11
Year-to-date Expenses ending December 2025	\$18,222.10	\$ 280,717.39

Total 2025 Budget \$394,713.25

Budgeted Expenses Needed Monthly for 2026	\$ 39,115.22
Total 2026 Budget	\$469,382.69

Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh Stewardship Gifts

When we think of gifts, we think of Christmas. But when the Scriptures think of gifts, the authors think of Epiphany. The Epiphany season kicks off with the Gentile Wise Men coming to visit the Lord, and they bring gifts for Jesus' family.

This is one reason why it is common to have House Blessing services in our homes during this season. Just as the Wise Men visited the home where Joseph and Mary lived in order to bless the Holy Family, so also in many congregations, the pastor comes to visit and bless the homes of God's people as the new year begins.

But in that case, I don't usually bring gifts! I'll have to think about how I can incorporate that into future House Blessing services. But that is what the Wise Men do. They bring the very best that they have, just like you would present your best foods and drinks if the King, or in our case, the President came to visit your home. That is what the Wise Men are doing; they are acknowledging that King Jesus is greater than the king that they serve "in the east." They believe that Jesus is Lord of Lords and King of Kings.

And that is how we ought to orient our minds as well, that we are coming to church to visit our Lord, bringing the best that we have for Him to use for the sake of the ministry. We travel from east and west and north and south in order to hear about the life of Jesus and our life in Him.

And even the best that we give does not compare to the best that Christ gave, and that is perfectly ok. For Christ gave His life, as it says in the Small Catechism, "not with gold or silver, but with His holy precious blood and innocent suffering and death, that we would be His own (people)."

And that really is why we give our best to the Lord, not out of obligation of the Law, but out of the joy of our hearts and the faith that He has given to us. It is because of Jesus' death on the cross that we have far greater treasures that all that we accumulate here on this earth, namely, the treasure of eternal life and the forgiveness of sins.

Let us always be Wise Men, coming to visit our Lord in His home, giving our gifts in return for His gifts given to us.

+++ Pastor James Peterson, December 30th, 2025 +++