

Welcome to Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church

5631 N Adams Road
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304
Phone: 248.646.5041
Website: www.bslcmi.org

Sunday Worship Schedule
9:00 – Traditional
11:15 – Contemporary style
3rd Sunday of the month at 10:15—
Service of the Word for Wholeness

Impossibly Possible

“Peace Made Possible”

9:00—November 30, 2025

Luke 1:5-25 describes the miraculous announcement of John the Baptizer’s birth to Zechariah and Elizabeth, an elderly and childless couple. This event, signifying God’s faithfulness and power to act in unexpected ways, foreshadows the even greater miracle of Jesus’s birth and the availability of peace with God through him.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

GATHERING WORSHIP MUSIC

“Wachet Auf”

Paul Manz

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MISSION MOMENT

“Giving Tree”

Lori Calbeck

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Long-expected God,

C: we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God’s timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.

P: God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. ✠ You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN *"Comfort, Comfort Now My People"*

ELW 256

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|--|---|
| 1 "Comfort, comfort now my people;
tell of peace!" So says our God.
Comfort those who sit in darkness
mourning under sorrow's load.
To God's people now proclaim
that God's pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their war is over;
God will reign in peace forever. | 3 Straight shall be what long was crooked,
and the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble,
as befits God's holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
now on earth is shed abroad,
and all flesh shall see the token
that God's word is never broken. |
| 2 For the herald's voice is crying
in the desert far and near,
calling us to true repentance,
since the reign of God is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way.
Valleys, rise to greet the Savior;
hills, bow down in humble favor. | |

THE GREETING

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Oh Lord, we live in a world marred by conflicts within our hearts and minds and within our communities and world. As humans, we often struggle in vain to find peace and reconciliation. We look to you, Father, knowing that all things are possible with you. Bring peace to our hearts as we worship you this day. Guide our thoughts and actions and make us your instruments of peace in the world. We pray this in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR MISSION STATEMENT

P: Although as individuals we are unique in many and various ways, we gather as a congregation for a common mission.

C: Beautiful Savior is a biblically grounded community who unites to follow and share the way of Jesus.

CHORAL ANTHEM

"A Tiny Child Will Come"

Don Besig

MEMORY VERSE

Luke 1:37

Nancy Geik

A: Together, let us recite the memory verse:

C: For nothing will be impossible with God.

INTRODUCTION TO THE READING

READING

Isaiah 26:7-13

A: The reading according to Isaiah, the twenty-sixth chapter.

⁷ The way of the righteous is level; O Just One, you make smooth the path of the righteous.

⁸ In the path of your judgments, O LORD, we wait for you; your name and your renown are the soul's desire. ⁹ My soul yearns for you in the night, my spirit within me earnestly seeks you. For when your judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world learn righteousness. ¹⁰ If favor is shown to the wicked, they do not learn righteousness; in the land of uprightness they deal perversely and do not see the majesty of the LORD. ¹¹ O LORD, your hand is lifted up, but they do not see it. Let them see your zeal for your people, and be ashamed. Let the fire for your adversaries consume them. ¹² O LORD, you will ordain peace for us, for indeed, all that we have done, you have done for us. ¹³ O LORD our God, other lords besides you have ruled over us, but we acknowledge your name alone.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL VERSE – from “*Angels We Have Heard on High*”

Gloria in excelsis Deo

GOSPEL

Luke 1:5-25

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

⁵ In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶ Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. ⁷ But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years. ⁸ Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, ⁹ he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. ¹⁰ Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. ¹¹ Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. ¹³ But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. ¹⁴ You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵ for he will be great in the sight

of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶ He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷ With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” ¹⁸ Zechariah said to the angel, “How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.” ¹⁹ The angel replied, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. ²⁰ But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur.” ²¹ Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. ²² When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. ²³ When his time of service was ended, he went to his home. ²⁴ After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, ²⁵ “This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Karyn Parker, Children’s Ministries Coordinator

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Niklaus C. Schillack, Senior Pastor

HYMN OF THE DAY “*It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*” v. 1, 4

ELW 282

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|---|---|
| 1 It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing. | 4 For lo! The days are hast'ning on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song
which now the angels sing. |
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APOSTLES’ CREED

P: God has made us God’s own people through our baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He

will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Nancy Geik

A: In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

A brief silence.

A: God of the people, we come seeking wisdom and instruction. Uphold and strengthen lay leaders, teachers, deacons, pastors, and bishops. Teach us your ways and lead us in your paths. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of the earth, we seek your goodness in the grandeur of creation. Empower us to care for forests and oceans, as we see you in the world around us. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of the nations, grant wisdom to leaders, judges, and mediators. Cast out words of hate and transform them into words for building up community. Remake implements of war to sow peace. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of healing, bring comfort and strength. We pray for our kindred and companions who are ill or despairing (*especially those we now name aloud or in the quiet of our hearts*). Surround all with care and consolation. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of new possibilities, when addiction wounds, jealousy tears down, and relationships fray, show us how to journey with one another. Nurture therapists, counselors, and sponsors in their care for others. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of all time, build up our lives that we would reflect your grace. At the last, bring us to your holy city where peace and goodness make a home with all the saints (*especially those we now name aloud or in the quiet of our hearts*). God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of possibilities, as the Call Committee continues to recruit and engage with pastoral candidates, we pray for clarity of vision, unity of Spirit, and a clear pathway to the additional pastor you have chosen for Beautiful Savior. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

C: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

STEWARDSHIP READING *Deuteronomy 5:29*

(The Lord said to Moses,) “If only they had such a mind as this, to fear me and to keep all my commandments always, so that it might go well with them and with their children forever!”

OFFERING

“Come, Divine Messiah”

David Lasky

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray. Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come.

C: Amen.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

LORD’S PRAYER – sung to the tune of *Away in a Manger*

Our Father in heaven, all praise to your name!
Your kingdom among us, your will done the same;
by mortals and angels, come, Lord, reign alone;
oh hear us and bless us from heaven’s high throne.

The bread that we yearn for provide us each day;
as we forgive others, our sins take away;
in times of temptation, to lead us be near;
from evil deliver your children most dear.

For yours is the kingdom; o’er all things you reign.
And yours is the power; all things you maintain.
To you be the glory, resounding again,
From all of creation, forever. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION *“Creator of the Stars at Night”*

Michael McCabe

POST HOLY COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER HOLY COMMUNION

P: Together let us pray:

C: God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. Amen.

BENEDICTION – sung to the tune of *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Now may the good Lord bless and keep, his love in us increase;
Lift up his face with shining grace, and grant eternal peace.
To Father, Son, and Spirit, Eternal One-in-Three.
Be thanks and praise through all our days. And to eternity!

SENDING HYMN

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

ELW 249

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| 1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings! | 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,
and make us rise to fall no more;
oh, let your face upon us shine
and fill the world with love divine. |
| 2 Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin;
make straight the way for God within,
and let us all our hearts prepare
for Christ to come and enter there. | 5 All praise to you, eternal Son,
whose advent has our freedom won,
whom with the Father we adore,
and Holy Spirit, evermore. |

DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE

“Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates”

Gilbert M. Martin



ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT
TIDINGS OF COMFORT & JOY

**Wednesday,
December 3
7:00 p.m.**

**Ticket: \$10
Table: \$40**
purchase between
Sunday services or at
bslcmi.org/post/advent2025

An illustration of four people in 19th-century attire (two men in top hats and two women in bonnets) singing from books, positioned below the scroll.

Order Your Christmas Poinsettias

Order forms in your bulletin, at the
Welcome Center desk or online at
bslcmi.org/post/poinsettia

to be listed in the bulletin, orders due by Dec. 14

Telecare Team Members Needed

Join the team and help make calls on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6:45 p.m.

*Bring mutual support and care to
the members and friends of BSLC.*

*Experience the Body of Christ so
that each member knows about
caring for each other.*



Volunteer or contact Debbie via the church
office at office@bslcmi.org or (248) 646-5041

**FIVE LAKES
SILVER BAND**



**CHRISTMAS
CONCERT**

**THURS.
DEC. 18
7 PM**

**NO TICKET
NECESSARY
FREE WILL
OFFERING**