

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

“God Makes Possible”

10:00—December 28, 2025

Luke 2:25-38 shows God making the seemingly impossible possible by allowing the aged Simeon to see the Savior before his death, just as the Holy Spirit had revealed to him. Likewise, Anna, a prophetess, who devoted her life to serving God, was granted the privilege of seeing the baby Jesus and speaking about him to those looking for redemption in Jerusalem.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Flowers given In Loving Memory of Erna Horemans

GATHERING WORSHIP MUSIC

“Sing We a Glad Noel”

Dale Wood

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MISSION MOMENT

“Fellowship Moments”

Shelley Beck

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

"What Child Is This"

ELW 296

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|--|--|
| 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary! | 3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary! |
| 2 Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh,
the babe, the son of Mary! | |

THE GREETING

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Oh, Lord, we have learned in this season how impossible things are quite possible for you. You accomplish all your purposes, and no obstacle can hold you back. We can only respond in worship and adoration as we see your works. Prepare our hearts and minds this day to hear your word and your call on our lives. Use us to bring glory to you in a world in need of the salvation, hope, and joy that Jesus has brought to the world.

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.

MEMORY VERSE

Luke 1:37

Lori Calbeck

A: Together, let us recite the memory verse:

C: For nothing will be impossible with God.

INTRODUCTION TO THE READING

READING

Isaiah 65:17-25

A: The reading according to Isaiah, the sixty-fifth chapter.

¹⁷For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. ¹⁸But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight. ¹⁹I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress. ²⁰No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime; for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed. ²¹They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. ²²They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. ²³They shall not labor in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they shall be offspring blessed by the LORD and their descendants as well. ²⁴Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear. ²⁵The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the LORD.

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 2:25-38

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ²⁹“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation

to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”³³ And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage,³⁷ then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day.³⁸ At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

The Rev. Dr. Philip Hemke, Pastor Emeritus

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Philip Hemke, Pastor Emeritus

HYMN OF THE DAY *“In His Temple Now Behold Him”* v. 1-3

ELW 417

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| 1 In his temple now behold him,
see the long-expected Lord;
ancient prophets had foretold him,
God has sent the promised Word.
Now to praise him, his redeemed
shall break forth with one accord. | 3 Jesus, by your presentation,
when they blessed you, weak and poor,
make us see your great salvation,
seal us with your promise sure;
and present us, in your glory,
to your Father, cleansed and pure. |
| 2 In the arms of her who bore him,
virgin pure, behold him lie,
while his aged saints adore him,
ere in perfect faith they die.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Lo, the incarnate God Most High! | |

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

Lori Calbeck

A: Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

A: God of grace, you show us mercy not according to our worthiness, but according to the abundance of your steadfast love. Grant us the courage to go into the world and do likewise. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of abundance, the sun and moon praise you and the shining stars sing of your love. Where we have desecrated your creation, make us into a healing balm for what we have broken. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of righteousness, when leaders fail to fulfill their calls to enact justice, you suffer alongside us. Propel those in power to see you reflected in the faces of all they serve. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of life, you claim us as your own and care for us as Christ's siblings. Pour out your compassion in every place your people suffer, and protect them in the palm of your hand. (*We pray especially those we now name aloud or in the quiet of our hearts.*) Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of compassion, you nurture children as the apple of your eye. As you sheltered your son Jesus from Herod's grasp, shelter all children in danger. As you comforted Rachel, comfort all who have lost children to violence. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of love, you console those who weep for lost beloved ones (*especially those we now name aloud or in the quiet of our hearts.*). Even as we mourn, we offer thanks for those who have gone before us, trusting in your comfort and protection. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of faithfulness, 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. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

STEWARDSHIP READING *Proverbs 28:6*

Better to be poor and walk in integrity than to be crooked in one's ways even though rich.

OFFERING *"Nunc Dimittis"*

Peter Klemp

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,	The bread that we yearn for	For yours is the kingdom;
all praise to your name!	provide us each day;	o'er all things you reign.
Your kingdom among us,	as we forgive others,	And yours is the power;
your will done the same;	our sins take away;	all things you maintain.
by mortals and angels,	in times of temptation,	To you be the glory,
come, Lord, reign alone;	to lead us be near;	resounding again,
oh hear us and bless us	from evil deliver	From all of creation,
from heaven's high throne.	your children most dear.	forever. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION *"In the Bleak Midwinter"*

R. Haan/D. Lasky

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

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

ELW 290

1. Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!
While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light.
2. Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!
The shepherds feared and trembled
when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth.
3. Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!
Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn.

Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!

DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

John Behnke

A banner for January Fellowship Events featuring a group of people with their arms raised in the background. The text is overlaid on the image in white and orange. The events are listed in three rows, each with a circular icon, a date in an orange arrow, and the event name and time.

JANUARY FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

Icon	Date	Event	Time
	JAN. 4	SUNDAY SKI @ PINE KNOB	NOON
	JAN. 6	TRAVEL TIME WITH BOB	3 P.M.
	JAN. 10	FITNESS LINE DANCING	7 P.M.

Discover BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR

January 6
@6:30

Learn About

BSLC Membership
BSLC Ministries
BSLC Mission & Vision
Fellowship Opportunities

RSVP at bslcmi.org/post/DiscoverBSLC



**SUNDAY
JAN. 4
NOON**

**BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR
SKI SUNDAY**
AT PINE KNOB

bslcmi.org/post/SkiSunday



Just let us know you're coming, meet up with Mike Cunningham in the lodge and simply pay Pine Knob for your lift ticket, any rentals and lessons you'd like.

7778 Sashabaw Rd, Independence Township, MI

TRAVEL TIME

with Bob Hoffman

UKRAINE ADVENTURES

Wednesday, January 6 at 3 p.m.

Come hear about Ukraine from our resident world traveler.
Join us in the Welcome Center; no cost, no need to RSVP.
Just come and enjoy.

