



The Tie That Binds

The Newsletter of Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church

Pastor's Pen

When I was a young boy our class was taught a little poem to help us remember some of the seasons of the church year. It's still a good little verse for children to learn:

Advent tells us "Christ is near".
Christmas tells us "Christ is here."
In Epiphany we trace
All the wonders of His grace.

It's January, and in addition to it being the beginning of a new calendar year, it's Epiphany (beginning January 6) and we will be tracing the "wonders of His grace". The Scriptures reveal that the Baby in the manger is no ordinary child. The Man who walked the dusty pathways of Palestine was no ordinary man. John the Baptist recognized Him because it had been revealed to John that Jesus is the Messiah. He told others about the "Lamb of God". Those people went and saw for themselves. And when given the opportunity to "follow him", they would quickly leave their occupations and become "fishers of men."

Epiphany is all about introducing the Savior of the world to those who don't know Him. That's why Epiphany has traditionally been a time to emphasize evangelism and missions.

I want to invite you to introduce Jesus to someone who may not know him. Do you have a neighbor or co-worker who you could invite to one of our worship services in January? When they come to church with you, also consider inviting them to have lunch with you where you could discuss the message from the sermon. That's a natural way to share God's love in Christ with your friends.

-- Pastor Fritsche

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The Tie That Binds is produced by and for the members of Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, and any opinions expressed are those of the author. If you have comments, questions or concerns about *The Tie That Binds*, you can contact any of the council members or write to:

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Sermon Themes During Epiphany:

Jan. 4 Who is this Child? (Luke 2:40-52)

Jan. 11 Divine Affirmation (Mark 1:4-11)

Jan. 18 Jesus is Here, Come and See (John 1:43-51)

Jan. 25 No "Call-Waiting". (Mark 1:14-20)

Feb. 1 Something Old, Something New (Mark 1:21-28)

Feb. 8 Jesus, the Healer for Life (Mark 1:29-39)

Feb. 15 Willing and Able (Mark 1:40-45)

Feb. 22 Glory and Cross (Mark 9:2-9)



Are you bored, now that Christmas is over? Join us Wednesday evenings for Bible Study. We have been looking at the miracles of Jesus and will start again on January 7 at 7:30pm. Even if you are able to only come once in a while, that's fine because each study is on its own. We begin and end each session with prayer. Come and warm yourself in God's love.

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church CHOIR

COME AND JOIN US. All those who like to sing are invited to join our choir. We have people from all ages and our meetings are always filled with joy.

At Luther's time, music was a way of encouraging people to participate more actively in the church. Luther used to say: "Music is the second most important thing after studying the word of God". For many years the Lutheran church was known as "the singing church" and many people joined, attracted to the music.

The Old and New Testaments mention worship music in several places: many Psalms are beautiful songs, and also the gospel story begins with a hymn of praise on the lips of the heavenly host, "Glory to God in the highest" (Luke 2:14).

Help us to continue with the label "the singing church" ... and come to praise God in a special moment during the week: every Monday, from 8 to 9 pm. That is the opportunity to practice Sunday's hymns and all kinds of Christian songs for special occasions. Music is a way of approaching God and expressing the joy of his presence.

This invitation is on behalf of our choir by Ana Ludke (soprano).

See our choir below



Lutheran Women's Missionary League News

At our December meeting we had our annual Christmas Dinner with delicious Chinese food from Four Seasons. All of us were well-fed, and thanks to the ladies who brought dainties to share.

Following devotions by Nancy, Gail and Phyllis K, we had our “white elephant” gift exchange, which was as entertaining as always. Sadly (or not), the famous hat did not reappear.



Charlie Brown lent us his Christmas tree to pose with Alma.



Quinn was the hit of the party



The ladies enjoyed lots of Christmas Cheer



What was in that punch, anyway?

Looking ahead . . .

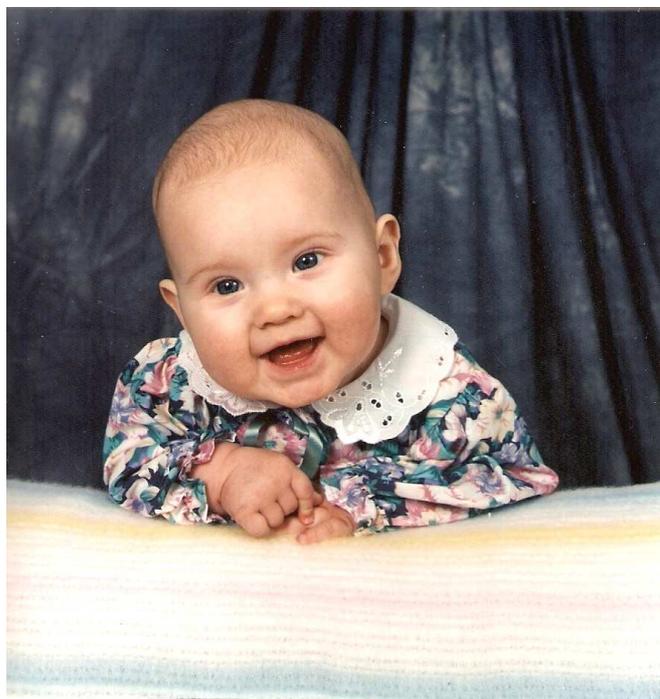
Our next meeting, on January 6, 2009 will begin at 7:00pm with devotions, then we will move on to a “work night” where we will pack layettes, cut stamps, and hopefully find the energy to organize our box of devotions. There is a lot to do, so ladies, please mark your calendars.

We have been confirmed to volunteer at Siloam Mission on Saturday, February 21st, 2009 from 11:30am to 2:30pm. Everyone from the congregation is encouraged to come, especially the men, but youth must be 16 years of age. They do accept youth 14-15 years old if attending with a parent or guardian. Please keep in mind those under 16 will be asked to work in the kitchen or clothing area only. Lorraine Weir has more information about this volunteer opportunity, which she will be sharing with us.

I am Jesus' Little Lamb . . .

*Can you guess which little lamb posed for this picture?
(Hint: she has a beautiful singing voice)*

The answer will be in the next issue . . .

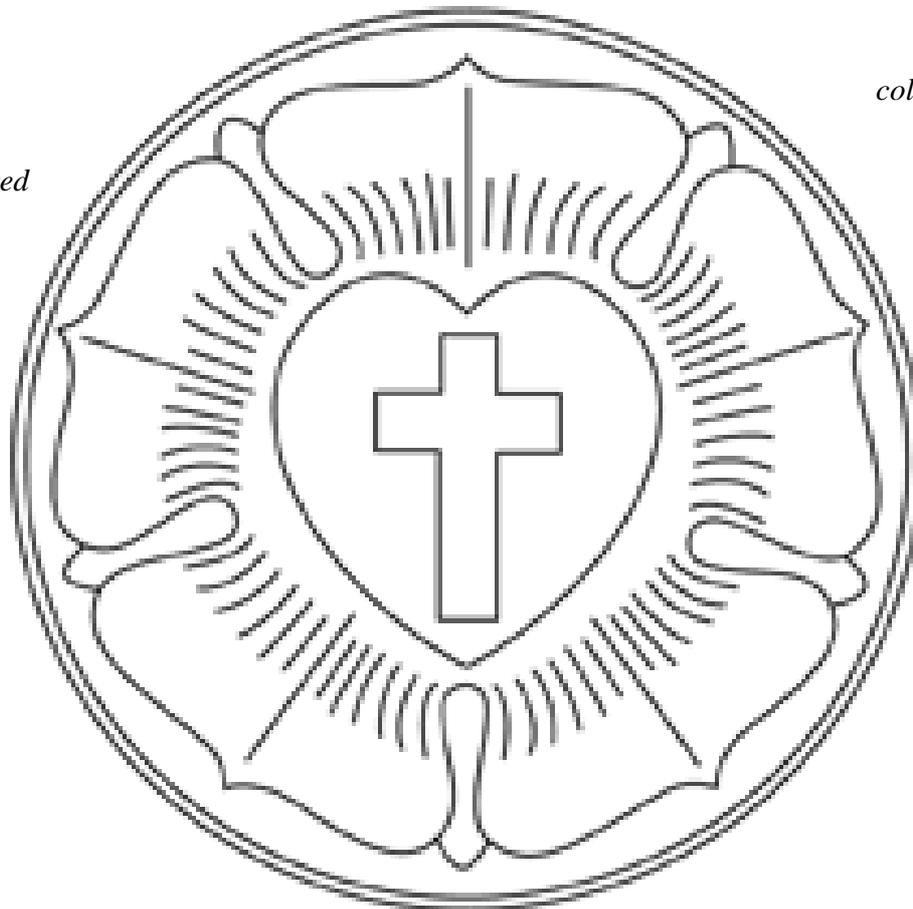


What Child Was This?

*Give yourselves a big pat on the back!
A lot of you guessed that this is
(drum roll . . .) Howard Slater*



Colour Luther's Rose



colour the heart red

colour the cross black

leave the rose white

*colour the inner
ring blue*

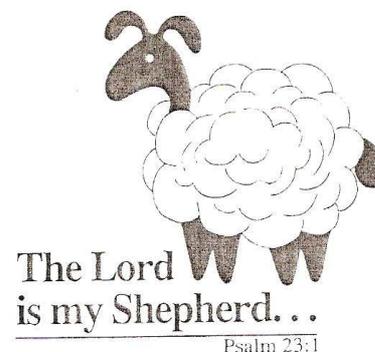
*colour the outer
ring gold*

In a July 8, 1530 letter to Lazarus Spengler, Luther interprets his seal: Grace and peace from the Lord. As you desire to know whether my painted seal, which you sent to me, has hit the mark, I shall answer most amiably and tell you my original thoughts and reason about why my seal is a symbol of my theology. The first should be a black cross in a heart, which retains its natural color, so that I myself would be reminded that faith in the Crucified saves us. "For one who believes from the heart will be justified" (Rom. 10:10). Although it is indeed a black cross, which mortifies and which should also cause pain, it leaves the heart in its natural color. It does not corrupt nature, that is, it does not kill but keeps alive. "The just shall live by faith" (Rom. 1:17) but by faith in the crucified. Such a heart should stand in the middle of a white rose, to show that faith gives joy, comfort, and peace. In other words, it places the believer into a white, joyous rose, for this faith does not give peace and joy like the world gives (John 14:27). That is why the rose should be white and not red, for white is the color of the spirits and the angels (cf. Matt. 28:3; John 20:12). Such a rose should stand in a sky-blue field, symbolizing that such joy in spirit and faith is a beginning of the heavenly future joy, which begins already, but is grasped in hope, not yet revealed. And around this field is a golden ring, symbolizing that such blessedness in Heaven lasts forever and has no end. Such blessedness is exquisite, beyond all joy and goods, just as gold is the most valuable, most precious and best metal. This is my compendium theologiae [summary of theology]. I have wanted to show it to you in good friendship, hoping for your appreciation. May Christ, our beloved Lord, be with your spirit until the life hereafter. Amen.

Psalm 23

The Lord is my Shepherd ... That's Relationship!
I shall not want ... That's Supply!
He makes me to lie down in green pastures ...
That's Rest!
He leads me beside the still waters ... That's
Refreshment!
He restores my soul ... That's Healing!
He leads me in the paths of righteousness ...
That's Guidance!
For His name's sake ... That's Purpose!
Yes, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death ... That's Testing!
I will fear no evil ... That's Protection!
For You are with me ... That's Faithfulness!
Your rod and Your staff they comfort me ... That's Discipline!
You prepare a table before me in the presence of mine enemies ... That's Hope!
You anoint my head with oil ... That's Consecration!
My cup runs over ... That's Abundance!
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life ... that's
Blessing!
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord ... That's Security!
Forever ... That's Eternity!

Face it – the Lord is crazy about you!



shared by Lorraine Weir