



# The Tie That Binds

The Newsletter of Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church



## Pastor's Pen

One of the concerns that has been repeatedly raised at Beautiful Savior is the decrease in our church attendance. Ten years ago we had an average Sunday morning attendance of 150. Last year our average attendance was 96. While this is certainly a serious concern, Beautiful Savior is not alone in this decrease. The quote below is an excerpt that appeared in the January (2009) issue of *The Lutheran Witness*, the official periodical of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. Not only does the church suffer from a lack of community, but, as the statistics suggest, families, social gatherings and clubs of all sorts have experienced a dramatic decrease in participation. The article that follows (also from the January issue of *The Lutheran Witness*), "Living as a Lutheran Today", suggests five ways that we can respond to the challenges of decreased attendance.

Excerpt from: "On Being Lutheran in 2009"

"There are approximately 66 million Lutherans in the world today. The Lutheran World Federation reports that the total number of Lutherans in North America in 2007 was approximately 7.94 million, while our own Synod notes there are 21 distinct North American Lutheran church bodies. Out of the North American total, some 2.38 million are members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

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*The Tie That Binds* is published six times each year by Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church.

*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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The strength of the Lutheran tradition in America has its roots in its incredible growth beginning in the second half of the 19th century and continuing to about 1970. Since that time the picture has changed, with a slight annual decline characterizing Lutheranism for more than three decades now.

Many of us have noticed this decline. And it shows itself both in church bodies and local congregations. Robert Putnam's landmark study, *Bowling Alone*, shows how Americans have become increasingly disconnected from their family, their friends, and, yes, their churches. For example, over the last 25 years there has been a 35 percent drop in having friends over, a 43 percent drop in having family dinners, and a 58 percent drop in club meetings. It's no wonder we see changes in our Synod and its congregations.

What's the problem? Some would say that in our postmodern times the old Christian message has lost its "punch"—it is simply one version of truth among many. That is borne out by the recent Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life report on religion in the United States, which showed that while 78 percent of Americans think of themselves as Christians, 66 percent of Protestants (from across the spectrum of denominations) believe that many religions can lead to eternal life. "Truth is tribal," the saying goes. In contrast, we believe that we confess the one, biblical faith, and it is universally true. That claim strikes many as peculiar in these postmodern times.

Yet the Christian confession is that Jesus Christ is "the Way, and the Truth, and the Life" (John 14:6 ESV), and that He is the "same yesterday and today and forever" (Heb. 13:8). In this basic Christian witness, we Lutherans have a peculiar gift. At the beginning of the Reformation, Luther made an important distinction between a "theology of glory" (which was humanly oriented) and a "theology of the cross." This theology of the cross was centered in the person and work of Jesus Christ for us. Luther affirmed the biblical, historic faith that God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to bear human sin, suffer, die, and rise again. Christ is true God and true man who came into the world to pay for humankind's sin, that is, to win salvation for us. This salvation Christ gives to us freely—by grace, we say— is God's undeserved gift. It is given to us through the Word and the Sacraments. It's all about Christ for us, for in Christ we see the very nature of God. "Whoever has seen Me has seen the Father" (John 14:9).

- **Pastor Fritsche**

## Living as a Lutheran Today

**Receive God's gifts!** In the Divine Service God pours His grace and mercy out on us in abundance through His Word and Sacraments and strengthens us for a life of service to Him and our neighbor. "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near" (Heb. 10:24-25).

**Study the Word!** People today wish they could hear the voice of God. He speaks powerfully through His Word to contemporary circumstances. So keep "examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things [are] so" (Acts 17:11b).

**Know your doctrine!** Refamiliarize yourself with the Small Catechism. It is a rich resource for speaking the truths of the faith in a simple way and will help give you confidence to speak about your faith. Dig into the Lutheran Confessions, too. "Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you" (2 Tim. 1:13-14).

**Tell your story!** One of the great joys of being a historian is that people share with me the stories of God's work in their lives. But these need not be spectacular stories in order to be profound. Simple testimony to God's faithfulness to His promises as He has worked through parents, teachers, and friends in your life can be powerful means through which God's Spirit works. "For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved" (Rom. 10:10).

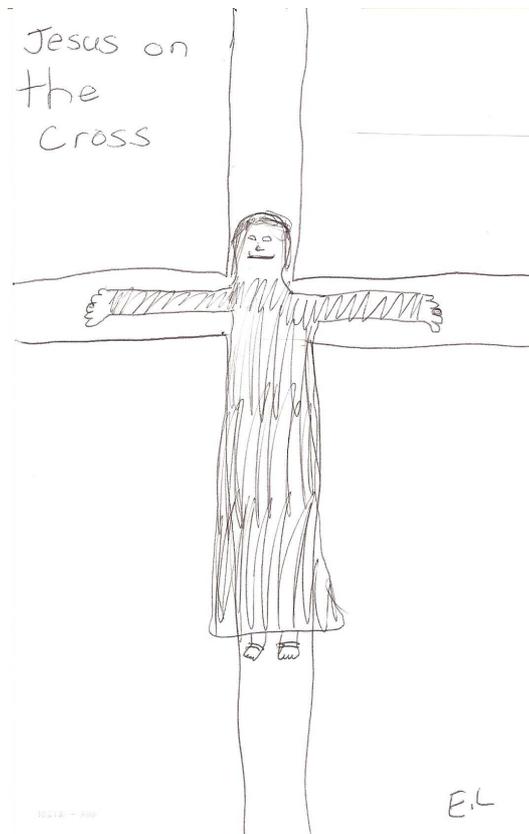


**Share your faith!** Look for opportunities to share the faith, as well as your personal faith. Sharing stories of God's work in your life can build deep and lasting relationships with people who need to hear of God's love for them in Christ. "But in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect" (1 Peter 3:15).

## Lenten Service Schedule

Wednesday evening services during Lent will begin at 7:30 pm and will follow the *Service of Evening Prayer*. Please join your fellow believers as we meditate on the only King of Kings, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Wednesday, February 25	David: The King Who Laid Bare His Soul
Wednesday, March 4	Saul: The King Who Fell From Grace
Wednesday, March 11	Solomon: The King Who Had Everything
Wednesday, March 18	Ahab: The King Whose Repentance Was Too Little, Too Late
Wednesday, March 25	Zedekiah: The King Who Turned Out the Lights
Wednesday, April 1	Herod: The King Who Couldn't Kill Jesus
Palm Sunday, April 3	King of Kings: A Humble Coronation
Maundy Thursday, April 9	King of Kings: Condemned to Die
Good Friday, April 10	King of Kings: Life Through Death
Easter Sunday, April 12	King of Kings and Lord of Lords



*Artwork  
by Emma Leung*

## View From The Chair

Imagine a large courtroom, jurors staring at you intently, scrutinizing every movement, twitch, nervous tic etc... The Judge presiding, peering at you with piercing eyes, then slowly turning his head and ask the Captain of the jury if they have made a decision.

As he stands up, your heart is beating so loudly in your chest you swear everyone can hear it. Your palms are sweaty, throat thick making it hard to swallow. As he stands up, he clears his throat and says guilty. Guilty?!!

That word brings fear even to the most hardened criminal. That verdict can be placed on all of us. Webster's definition of guilty is having violated a law or rule of duty; liable to penalty. But are we guilty? Of what?

We all feel guilt every now or then, having violated a law or rule or duty. Everyone has duties. That can be either working to provide for your family or helping out at church. We need to help out at church; it is a duty that is required by all of us. A new season is here; God needs your help. We have openings on church council, counting teams are needed, and we need members to serve on usher teams. You can start off the New Year with a Resolution to answer his call. The call to help is not from me or other members from church but from God himself. How can you say no to God, He has provided everything we need. The question you have to ask yourself is, **ARE YOU GUILTY?**

**In God's service,**  
Howard Slater



## *Lutheran Women's Missionary League News*

The LWML-C invited Kathy Strachan, the Executive Director of Villa Rosa as our guest speaker for our February meeting. Kathy spoke about the history, and the programs offered by Villa's Rosa. Their mission is to provide educational, health and social services to young single women and their families during and after pregnancy in Manitoba. Programs are offered in a safe, structured and nurturing environment that encourage personal growth, and carried out in a fiscally responsible, culturally competent manner. They minister to the whole person respecting individual differences and cultural diversity based on principles of caring, integrity, mutual respect, dignity and trust. Villa Rosa was founded in 1965 by the Misericordia Sisters, who created a respectful place where young women could find shelter during their pregnancies. In an effort to embrace members of all faiths and ethnic backgrounds, Villa Rosa has evolved into a community-run agency that celebrates the diversity of their residents and strives to honor all denominations and traditions. While the founding vision remains intact, Villa Rosa has changed substantially over the years. It now primarily serves the most vulnerable women in Manitoba, who come from lives of abuse, addiction and violence. These are women who face hardships, have health issues and emotional needs that require care. At Villa Rosa, these women are offered support, education, information and the opportunity to live in an alcohol and drug-free environment. The majority of their residents are in their mid to late teens, but range from as young as 11 into their 30's. Women are able to live at Villa Rosa free of charge. Funding comes from the Province, United Way and the First Nations communities. Occupancy is generally 90% capacity of their 25 spaces. An average stay is 3-4 months. They provide a safe and healthy environment to live, individual counseling, life skills training, education and community follow-up for up to 300 women every year. Villa Rosa is all about making a life long impact on women by being able to provide schooling within an environment that can also offer them a combination of counseling, care for their babies, parenting programs, as well as nutritious meals. Their Parent-Child Centre offers the women the opportunity to learn and model parenting behaviour based on examples set for them by staff and volunteers. Kathy spoke about celebrating the successes of the women, as they prepare for their future. Members of the congregation donated new/used baby clothes, diapers, baby wipes, bibs, receiving blankets and personal items for the Moms. On behalf of the residents of Villa Rosa, Kathy would like to thank everyone for the ingathering and mentioned all the donated items will be put to good use.

On Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, from 11:30 to 2:30, 10 members of LWML-C and the congregation volunteered for the food program at Siloam Mission. We helped to prepare and serve lunch to approximately 275 patrons. We found the staff to be very welcoming/appreciative, and the patrons very thankful to those that volunteered. It

provided us with an opportunity to serve the poor and homeless within Winnipeg's inner city community. Following lunch, we had a tour of the facility, where we learned about the history and programs offered by the Mission. In August 1987, members of a Korean Nazarene congregation founded Siloam Mission on Main Street. Over the years the demand for services grew, resulting in the challenge of expanding their facilities and ministries to increase its effectiveness in helping people see life change and a deepened relationship with God. In November 2005, the Mission moved to 300 Princess, where it has expanded its services to include a drop-in centre, agency referral services, prayer and spiritual guidance, training and employment program (its MOST - Mission: Off the Street Team and Building Futures programs), expressive arts program, daily meals and a free clothing room, emergency shelter and health care. Siloam Mission is a Christian humanitarian agency offering free of charge programs and services to those experiencing homelessness. It alleviates the hardships of the poor and homeless, assists in transitioning them into self-sufficient lifestyles and advocates on their behalf.

Lorraine Weir  
President, Beautiful Savior LWML-C

### *Looking ahead . . .*

Our next meeting, on March 3, will begin at 7:00pm with devotions, then we will move on to a Bible study on prayer.

Our April meeting will have guests from MOST Ministries to tell us about their travel to China with eyeglasses. Those who heard them at last year's Spring Renewal will remember what great work they are doing and will surely want to see them again. This is open to all ladies of our congregation, so mark your calendars.



## What Are Those *Lutheran* Confessions Anyway?

In Article II of the constitution of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, it is stated that the members of the Synod accept “without reservation (1) The Scriptures of the Old and the New Testament as the written Word of God and the only rule and norm of faith and of practice; (2) all the Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church as a true and unadulterated statement and exposition of the Word of God.” Article II then lists the documents found in the Book of Concord of 1580. But why are we tied to these 500-year-old (and, in some cases, even older!) writings? More than historic relics, our confessions identify who we are as Lutherans, connect us to the Church of all ages, and most of all, keep the Gospel of Christ crucified for sinners at the heart of our life and proclamation.

### **Our Common Faith**

The first three of our confessions are not peculiar to Lutherans; they are shared by the whole Church. Written to combat false teaching, the Apostles, Nicene, and Athanasian creeds summarize teachings of Scripture held in common by all believers. We speak them in church as the living voice of the faithful who have gone before us. Next time you say the Creed, note the clear confession that the Jesus who died and rose for us is fully God and fully human. Our confessions also locate us within the “one holy catholic (i.e. universal, Christian) and apostolic church” (Nicene Creed). They show our teaching to be not a human invention (e.g., by Martin Luther), but the true teaching of the Church from the beginning. Scripture itself is the final authority, but our confessions teach us how to read the Bible so that Christ and the Gospel remain the beating heart of the Church’s life. We use the confessions as a standard that has been found faithful to the standard.

### **A Winsome Summary**

The Augsburg Confession, considered primary among the specifically Lutheran confessions, was prepared in 1530 by Philip Melancthon, an associate of Martin Luther, as a winsome summary of Bible teaching. Publicly read in Augsburg, Germany, on June 25th of that year before Charles V, the Holy Roman emperor and the most powerful ruler of the time, this confession shows how every article of faith is intended by God to bring the greatest possible comfort to the penitent sinner. At the heart of the Augsburg Confession and essential for Lutherans is the teaching that “we cannot obtain forgiveness of sin and righteousness before God through our own merit, work, or satisfactions, but . . . we receive forgiveness of sin and become righteous before God out of grace for Christ’s sake through faith when we believe that Christ has suffered for us and that for His sake our sin is forgiven and righteousness and eternal life are given to us” (Kolb/Wengert, pp. 38, 40; Fortress Press, 2000). Philip

*Melanchthon also wrote the Apology of the Augsburg Confession over the next year to defend the confession against the Roman authorities who tried to refute Lutheran teaching. The Apology thoroughly defends Scripture's teaching, especially justification by faith alone.*

### **Teaching the Basics**

*Alongside the Augsburg Confession are the Small and Large Catechisms of Martin Luther, both published as tools for pastors and parents to teach the basics of the faith—The Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, etc. See how clearly the Catechism confesses Christ: I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His Kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true. (Luther's Small Catechism, Second Article, [CPH 1986].)*

### **Making Things Clear**

*In 1536, word came that the pope might call a council of the church. Martin Luther's prince instructed him to make clear what could not be compromised. The council did not take place until 1545, but in 1537 Luther published the Smalcald Articles to lay out what such a council should discuss. Philip Melanchthon prepared a companion piece called the Treatise on the Authority and Primacy of the Pope, setting forth our teaching on the Church and the pastoral ministry.*

### **Resolving Issues**

*After Luther's death in 1546, Lutheran territories in Europe endured doctrinal controversy over basic teachings such as "the freedom of the will," "the righteousness of God," the "person of Christ" and the Lord's Supper. In addition, war with the Holy Roman Empire made 1546–77 anything but peaceful for Lutherans. In the late 1570s, however, God used the efforts of Jacob Andreae, Martin Chemnitz, and others to resolve the controversies under the Word of God in what is called The Formula of Concord. Carefully, on each issue, they laid out the nub of the controversy, listed what Lutherans on the basis of Scripture affirm, and also clarified what we therefore reject. Every article points to Christ, true God and true man, crucified and raised from the dead for our salvation. For instance, "we teach, believe, and confess the following: (1) That the divine and human natures in Christ are personally united, and therefore, that there are not two Christs (one the Son of God and the other the Son of Man), but one single Son of God and Son of Man" (Kolb/ Wengert, pp. 509–510).*

## **Our Identity**

*Gathered into the Book of Concord in 1580, all these confessions still identify our congregations and pastors as Lutheran. At every installation of a pastor, he promises to be faithful to them, saying, "I make these confessions my own because they are in accord with the Word of God" (LSB Agenda, p. 179). In so doing, he is telling the people that they should expect from him a ministry focused on Christ crucified for our sins and centered in the Word and Sacraments as God's way to deliver the benefits of Christ's death and resurrection. This promise, freely made, means the Lutheran pastor will teach and practice this theology because it is the saving truth. Every aspect of Lutheran theology is biblically designed to bring the greatest comfort in Christ to anyone who knows he or she is a sinner in need of grace and forgiveness.*

*And we desire that gift for everyone.*

*-- reprinted with permission from the Lutheran Witness, January 2009  
(Yes, Gail did ask them)*



## **Eternity and Infinity**

Have you ever looked at all the stars in the sky and felt small and insignificant? Neither have I. I may be trivial in the eyes of the world, but when I am out under the night sky I am always in awe of the beauty God has created for us and am thankful for the opportunity to be able to see it for myself. It is just amazing how many objects are so easy to find – right between two stars, or forming a triangle with two others (so that's why I paid attention in geometry). It is inconceivable that these are coincidence or accident.

I am a member of our local astronomy club. Last summer the astronomy community decided (!) that there is no intelligent design, and our national organization decided to embrace that idea, even put it into their mandate. That decision gave the atheists in our group the opportunity to loudly vocalize their views without considering any others. It isn't easy, but somehow the Lord has always given me the words to answer them, even at the risk of ridicule. I would rather be rejected by people than by God. I have found other Christians in our club as a result and although we sometimes have to "live and let live" it helps to know I am not alone. I pray for my friends who are unbelievers in the hope that they may also know the joy of God's love for them. The outcry to our national office was enough to make them reconsider their decision, by the way.

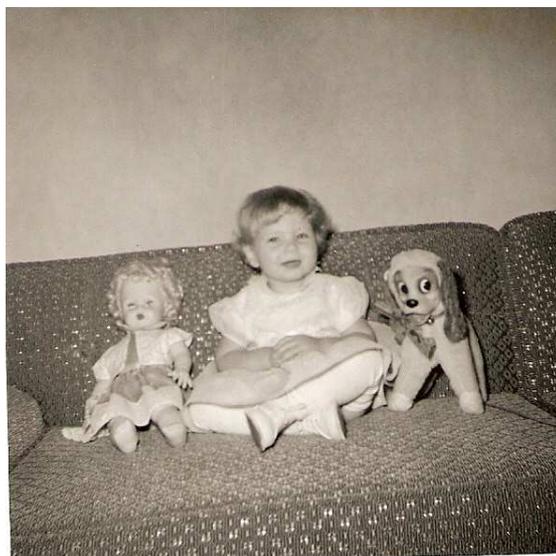
God sent his Son to die for ME. During the seasons of Lent and Easter I shall continue to reflect on His love and know that to Him I am not insignificant. He has created me for a purpose and will never forsake me. To God Be All Glory

*Gail Wise*

*Who is this posing with her  
two best friends?*

*(Hint: she is still a livin' doll!)*

*The answer will be in the  
next issue . . .*



*Who is Jesus' Little Lamb?*

*It looks like we fooled you . . .*

*Only a couple of people recognized  
Stacey Katyrynuik!*



*Here's a bonus that I won't make  
you guess . . .*

*Todd and Trixie Hennig's son  
Austin*



# WWW.BEAUTIFULSAVIOR.CA

This is the new church's website.

It intends to be a new channel of communication between the church and the members.

The website is updated on a weekly basis. The latest sermons, calendar and photos from recent events are always available.

We would appreciate any feedback to improve the website.

You are invited to visit it every week and check the updates.

A special thank to DMT for registering and hosting the website.

Vitor Hugo Lüdke



O give thanks unto the Lord for he is good. Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church - Winnipeg, MB, Canada

<b>ABOUT US</b> Church directions History Leadership What the Lutherans believe	<b>HIGHLIGHTS</b> <b>MEN-ONLY NIGHT - THIS FRIDAY</b> (Feb 27th) 7:00 pm  <b>BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR CELEBRATES</b> 40th ANNIVERSARY	<b>WEEKLY CALENDAR</b> Feb 23, 6:30 pm Confirmation Feb 23, 8:00 pm Choir Feb 25, 7:30 pm Ash Wednesday - Service with Holy Communion Feb 27, 7:00 pm MEN-ONLY Night
<b>PROGRAMS</b> Sunday School Youth Group Women League (LWML) Confirmation Classes Bible Studies Choir Hampers Program Seniors Ministry	<b>OUR CHURCH</b>  1541 St. Mary's Road Winnipeg, MB - R2M 3V8 Canada	<b>SERVICE &amp; SUNDAY SCHOOL</b> <b>Sunday School</b> at 9:30 AM  <b>Sunday Services</b> at 10:30 AM  <b>SERMONS</b> February 15th Willing and Able
<b>NEWSLETTER</b> <b>SERMONS</b> <b>PHOTOS</b> <b>CONTACT US</b> <b>BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR SCHOOL</b> <b>MONTHLY CALENDAR</b> <b>PASTOR</b> Rev. James Fritsche	<b>WELCOME</b> Dear visitor, you are <b>welcome to our website.</b>  We hope this site can help you to find information about our church and about the faith we confess.  Our church is a congregation of Lutheran Church-Canada.  You are more than welcome to our <b>Sunday services at 10:30.</b>	



www.whatyoubelieve.ca

