

GRAPEVINE NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2022

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, ELCA
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Pastor's Ponderings –

This Advent season, we consider how it is that stories of faith and connection carry on generation to generation, using a series developed by A Sanctified Art. Their centering scripture for this series is:

*Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.*

*His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.*

Luke 1: 48b-50

The following paragraphs are excerpts from the introduction to the theme materials shared by the creative team:

“The root word of “generation” is “gen” meaning “origin” or “birth.” Our theme is also a call to action: what are we being called to generate or bring forth? What have your ancestors and those who have come before you passed on for you to continue? Who are the spiritual elders in your community who planted the seeds for the things that are now blooming? What seeds are you planting for the future?”

“While we were developing this theme, I learned about *The Seventh Generation Principle*, a philosophy of the Iroquois that emphasizes how seven generations after us will be affected by our current actions and decisions. This philosophy invites us to cultivate a sacred imagination for what will come, considering what will sustain and benefit the generations who come after us. To do this, we must see ourselves as belonging to a web of interconnection. Nothing is generated from complete isolation; our world is continually shaped and re-shaped by our collective actions.” Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity, Founder, Creative Director for Sanctified Art

“From Generation to Generation... reminds us of the ways our lives, histories, actions, and stories are interconnected and woven together. The work of God is always unfolding—in and through us. This Advent, may you remember that you belong—to a story etched into the wrinkles of time, to generations that have come before and will come after, to a love that won’t let you go.”

Our lives of faith are interconnected in more ways than we often consider. May this season stir you into a meaningful reflection of the ways in which your own faith, and the traditions you follow, link you to past generations and, as you share them, stretch into future generations.

Advent blessings, Pastor Jean



The Giving Tree: This year the giving tree tags are for the family that has been living in a motel for 18 months as they move into their new apartment. Mom, Dad, and 5 children moved here in 2021 for Dad’s job and he has been working full -time. December 1 they finally have a real place to call home. BSLC Social Ministry Committee has provided support the entire time and we are all so thankful for this move. Your gift cards from Target and Walmart will help them purchase all the incidentals it takes to set up a new home. Maybe even a gift or two for the kids!

In addition, you will find tags to **support youth in the Evergreen School District** (the district BSLC is located in) with gift cards to purchase food (family-friendly cards are possible from WINCO—tobacco related products and alcohol are not allowed), gas cards (e.g., Fred Meyer), clothing, hygiene items or support opportunities for youth to enjoy coffee or fast food with friends. (BSLC is reactivating its faith partnership with the district and this is an opportunity for us to join with schools in supporting student needs.)

Please return gift cards with tag attached to the basket in the narthex by December 17. Thank you so much for your generosity. It means so much to those who receive your gifts. Cheryl Pfaff for Social Ministry Committee (Call 360-904-2635 *If you have questions*)

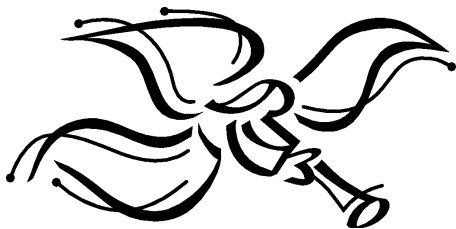
Nativity Festival – Dec 11 Bring your favorite family nativity set (or a few pieces of the set) to share as part of our generations to generations storytelling theme in Advent. Place it in the fellowship hall when you arrive, along with a written/typed bit of its story if possible, so that after worship we may enjoy their variety and the stories they hold.



Favorite Family Christmas Treats – Dec 19 As we celebrate Mariellen’s 29 years as BSLC’s Office Administrator and support her transition from that role into new horizons, what better way to “share the love” than sharing – potluck fashion – a holiday treat that is meaningful to your family, whether it’s been passed down through generations or a newer favorite! Bring a plate to share – and if the recipe isn’t secret, send it in to pastorjean@beautifulsaviorlutheran.com and PJ will see about compiling recipes to also share!

Longest Night, Wednesday, Dec 21, 7 PM

On the night of the winter solstice, when the natural time of fullest darkness is upon us, before light slowly increases toward spring, we will sit in the darkness together, with God. This time in worship won’t be for everyone—it’s crafted for those of us who carry some weight of grief, weariness, disillusionment, or other pain, but also have not lost a glimmer of hope, of faith in God caring and active with and among us.



Christmas Eve Worship - there are two opportunities for you to worship this year: 6 PM—a family-friendly event, and 10 PM for more traditional worship. Both worship services will include Holy Communion and be candlelight.

Christmas Day – breakfast, song, story, & worship, 10:00 AM

How about sharing the morning meal together – we could have a more random potluck, OR we can have a sign up to bring breakfast casserole or quiche (or to make waffles!), fruit or juice, stollen (Jesus’ birthday cake? 😊) or other festive bread, or other Christmas morning treats your family has traditionally shared, Or we “just” worship together. Weigh in with your preference!



pastorjean@beautifulsaviorlutheran.com

Regular WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

- Sundays -- Worship 10:00 AM until further notice
 - Sunday School - 10:30 AM on the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sundays
- Wednesdays - Bible Study (zoom) 10:30 (ask PJ for link)
Jr. Choir 4:30; Bell Choir 4:45; Confirmation Class & Adult Choir 6:30
- Thursdays--10:00 Bible study in person; 10:00-2:00 LWR quilting

Regular MONTHLY MEETINGS:

- 3rd Sundays - Council Meeting 11:30 AM
- 3rd Thursdays - Peace & Justice 6:00 PM (potluck or bring your own supper)



BSLC's Winter Shelter:

The shelter is in full-swing and our guests are grateful for the hospitality of our volunteers! The ministry we provide by serving as a shelter is a blessing to the community—especially to those without shelter. *Thank you all for your support.*

To sign up to help with breakfast & clean up, help set up for dinner & do clean up, or bring a hot meal for 18-20 **hungry** guests please sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0849A4A623A2FC1-bslc2>

Vancouver's Walk & Knock is back this year! To participate, you can volunteer to "walk and knock" (<https://walkandknock.org/>) or you may contribute food. Please place a well marked bag (or bags) of non-perishable food or toiletries on your porch by 9 AM for pickup, Saturday, December 3, 9 - 2 PM, or take your donation to one of their **barrel locations**.



Lutheran World Relief -- Gifts of Hope!

LWR is on a holiday break and will resume work the second Thursday in January - January 12! You are invited to join in the work of LWR each Thursday, 10 AM - 2:30 PM. *All are welcome.* Come when you can, stay as long as you are able.

Once again, many thanks for your support, *Your LWR Team*

BIBLE & BOOK STUDY OPPORTUNITIES!

- Anti Racism Study & Conversation Group** – Sundays, 3:00 PM; this group is on break until Jan. 8, with a new book decided upon Dec. 11. Feel free to weigh in, and to start with the group in January. A Zoom link may be requested from pastorjean@beautifulsaviorlutheran.com
 - Wednesday Morning Zoom Bible Study** 10:30 (request link from Pastor Jean)
 - Thursday Gather Bible Study** meets in person at BSLC, 10:00 AM. For more information contact Nancy K (contact information available through the church office)
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Contribution “Heads Up” Recently, a rather sizable check was received by a still unidentified donor. This is not the first time the dispersing institution did not identify the person on whose behalf the contribution was sent. Whenever you are aware that your retirement or other fund is set to make a disbursement to BSLC, please let the office know (bslc@beautifulsaviorlutheran.com or 360-254-9243).

Your financial support of BSLC is much appreciated!