

Welcome to Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church

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

How Do We Know It's True? *"The Church Exists"*

9:00—April 28, 2024

We are here right now. The church of Jesus Christ did not come out of thin air. It had a beginning, and that beginning was sparked by power events that changed the course of history: Jesus was killed on a cross, Jesus rose from the dead, people witnessed and encountered the resurrected Jesus, and the church was filled with the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. These were real events that led to the church existing today.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Flowers given in loving memory of Diane Fletcher

GATHERING WORSHIP MUSIC Includes *"Praeludium in C, BuxWV 137a"* Dietrich Buxtehude
We welcome guest artist, Michael Burkhardt, in worship this morning.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus.

C: Amen.

P: Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy God,

C: we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.

P: Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through † Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

"Built on a Rock" v. 1-3

ELW 652

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| 1 Built on a rock the church shall stand,
even when steeples are falling;
crumbled have spires in ev'ry land,
bells still are chiming and calling—
calling the young and old to rest,
calling the souls of those distressed,
longing for life everlasting. | 2 Surely, in temples made with hands
God the Most High is not dwelling—
high in the heav'ns his temple stands,
all earthly temples excelling.
Yet he who dwells in heav'n above
deigns to abide with us in love,
making our bodies his temple. |
| 3 Christ builds a house of living stones:
we are his own habitation;
he fills our hearts, his humble thrones,
granting us life and salvation.
Where two or three will seek his face,
he in their midst will show his grace,
blessings upon them bestowing. | |

THE GREETING

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR MISSION STATEMENT

MISSION MOMENT

“Hearts, Hands and Voices”

Michael Burkhardt

CHORAL ANTHEM

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

Joseph Martin

Accompanist: Joe Walters

MEMORY VERSE

1 Peter 3:15b-16a

Lori Calbeck

A: Together, let us recite the memory verse:

C: **“Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence.”**

PSALM

Psalm 133

How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity! ² It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes. ³ It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion. For there the Lord ordained his blessing, life for evermore.

READING

Acts 2:41-47

A: The reading according to Acts, the second chapter.

⁴¹ So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. ⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL VERSE



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

GOSPEL

John 20:19-31

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twentieth chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” ²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in

his side, I will not believe.”²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.”²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.”²⁸ Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!”²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book.³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Michael Burkhardt

SERMON

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

HYMN OF THE DAY

“*The Church’s One Foundation*” v. 1, 2, 5

ELW 654

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| 1 The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is his new creation
by water and the word.
From heav'n he came and sought her
to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died. | 2 Elect from ev'ry nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation
one Lord, one faith, one birth:
one holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses,
with ev'ry grace endued. | 5 Yet she on earth has union
with God, the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won.
Oh, blessed heav'nly chorus!
Lord, save us by your grace,
that we, like saints before us,
may see you face to face. |
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PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Lori Calbeck

A: Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

A: We pray for the church around the world, for all ministers, and for the mission of the gospel. Keep all the newly baptized and confirmed in your care. Cleanse our hearts with your word and help us to abide in you always. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: For the well-being of the earth and of all created things: for rivers and lakes, streams and estuaries, glaciers and polluted waters. Renew the face of the earth and shower us with your goodness. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: For the nations and all those in authority: for local, state, and national leaders, for elected representatives at every level, and for international organizations, that justice and peace may reign. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: For all those in need: for any experiencing homelessness or unemployment, for those fleeing from oppression or seeking safety, and for all who are ill or suffering (*especially those we now name aloud or in the quiet of our hearts*). God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: For this congregation: for the caring ministries of this faith community, for all who visit and minister to one another, for all who take communion to homes or care centers, and for all who seek to share your love with the world. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: With thanksgiving for the saints who rest from their labors (*especially those we now name aloud or in the quiet of our hearts*). Help us, like them, to bear much fruit and to become your disciples, and at the last, bring us to that heavenly banquet where all will feast together at your table. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

C: Amen.

STEWARDSHIP READING

Deuteronomy 16:17

...all shall give as they are able, according to the blessing of the Lord your God that he has given you.

OFFERING

"This Joyful Eastertide"

Michael Burkhardt

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray. Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

C: Amen.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

LORD'S PRAYER

HOLY COMMUNION

"Elevation"

Dom Paul Benoit

POST HOLY COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER HOLY COMMUNION

P: Together let us pray:

C: Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. Amen.

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN

"Lift High the Cross" v. 1, 2, 4

ELW 660

1 Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.
Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God.

2 Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.
All newborn servants of the Crucified
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.

4 Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.
So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for victory!
Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE

"Now Thank We All Our God"
With Hearts, Hands and Voice

Michael Burkhardt