

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

“Joy Made Possible”

9:00—December 21, 2025

Luke 1:57-66, describing John the Baptizer’s birth, highlights the joy that arises when God fulfills promises. This joy, evident in Zechariah and Elizabeth’s praise and the community’s response, points toward the greater joy that would come with the birth of Jesus, who brings salvation and peace.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Flowers Given in Loving Memory of Sue Hoffman

GATHERING WORSHIP MUSIC

“Rejoice, Rejoice Believers”

Paul Manz

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MISSION MOMENT

“Forever Home Run”

Jovita Cunningham

STEPHEN LEADER COMMISSIONING – Shelley Beck

L: Every Christian is called to care for others, and our Stephen Ministry is a powerful way several of us have committed to living out that care. Today we are specifically recognizing our newest Stephen Leader—those who organize, teach, and supervise our Stephen Ministers, the trained caregivers who provide high-quality, one-to-one care to hurting people in our congregation and community.

L: I invite our new Stephen Leader to step forward.

L: Shelley, you have been trained at a Stephen Leader Training Course and have been asked to serve as a Stephen Leader at Beautiful Savior. You are a gift of God to us, helping lead this ministry of equipping and caring.

L: As part of the priesthood of all believers, all of us Christians are called to offer ourselves to our Lord in thanksgiving for what God has done and continues to do for us in Jesus Christ. It is also our privilege to recognize and support those who are trained

for specific ministries in this congregation, as we recognize and affirm Stephen Ministry and our new Stephen Leader.

L: Because of your gifts, your calling, and your training, we charge you with these responsibilities:

- To spread the word about our Stephen Ministry, educate people about what it involves, and cast a vision for this crucial ministry.
- To carefully recruit, select, and train congregation members with the gifts, talents, and character to serve as Stephen Ministers.
- To draw on the resources of our congregation and community to enrich the training and supervision of Stephen Ministers in this congregation.
- To work with our Pastor to identify members who could benefit from this confidential caring ministry.
- To match hurting people with Stephen Ministers based on what will best meet their needs.
- And to supervise these confidential caring relationships and offer regular opportunities for continuing growth in the skills and practice of caring ministry.

L: Will you assume this ministry in the confidence that it comes from God? If so, respond, “Yes, with the help of God.”

Shelley: Yes, with the help of God.

L: Will you nurture the skills you have learned and use them in service to others—to support, encourage, and build up people, and to enable excellent care while trusting in God’s healing?

Shelley: Yes, with the help of God. Leader:

L: Members of Beautiful Savior, will you open your hearts to the ministry of these Stephen Leaders and pray for them as servants of Christ? If so, answer, “Yes, with the help of God.”

C: Yes, with the help of God.

L: Pastor, will you lift up the ministry of this trained Stephen Leader by communicating support for Stephen Ministry, recommending Stephen Ministry to those who need this kind of care, encouraging people with the appropriate gifts to serve as Stephen Leaders and Stephen Ministers, and helping our Stephen Ministry have the resources it needs to thrive—thereby helping to “equip the saints for ministry”?

P: Yes, with the help of God.

L: Let us pray. Gracious God, you have called this person to a new path in caring ministry. You have gifted and empowered her for this task. Grant her joy in her service and a spirit of bold trust in you, that her ministry may stir us to greater caring and more

fruitful service. Help us all to be both willing servants and thankful recipients of this ministry, so that your name may be glorified, your people live in peace, and your good and gracious will be done, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

L: May the Lord of the church fill you with the Holy Spirit and guide, bless, and keep you, so that you may be faithful in the ministry to which you have been called, gifted, trained, and sent.

C: Amen.

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

"Hark, the Glad Sound!"

ELW 239

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| 1 Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes,
the Savior promised long;
let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
and ev'ry voice a song. | 3 He comes the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace
to enrich the humble poor. |
| 2 He comes the pris'ners to release,
in Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield. | 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,
your welcome shall proclaim,
and heav'n's eternal arches ring
with your beloved name. |

THE GREETING

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. All Powerful God, we praise you for your greatness knowing nothing is too hard for you. You keep your promises to us no matter how impossible they seem, and this fills us with great joy. As we worship you today, open our hearts to your greatness and fill us with expectation for your work among us and through us. Fill us with joy as we remember your miraculous works of the past and acknowledge your hand in our present. We ask this in the name of our Savior, Jesus.

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.

CHORAL ANTHEM

“Come, Emmanuel!”

Pepper Choplin

MEMORY VERSE

Luke 1:37

Kelly Biebelhausen

A: Together, let us recite the memory verse:

C: For nothing will be impossible with God.

INTRODUCTION TO THE READING

READING

Isaiah 52:7-10

A: The reading according to Isaiah, the fifty-second chapter.

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”

⁸Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion. ⁹Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

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 1:57-66

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

⁵⁷Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. ⁵⁸Her neighbors and

relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. ⁵⁹ On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. ⁶⁰ But his mother said, “No; he is to be called John.” ⁶¹ They said to her, “None of your relatives has this name.” ⁶² Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. ⁶³ He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, “His name is John.” And all of them were amazed. ⁶⁴ Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. ⁶⁵ Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. ⁶⁶ All who heard them pondered them and said, “What then will this child become?” For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Karyn Parker, Children’s Ministries Coordinator

SERMON

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

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Fling Wide the Door”

ELW 259

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| <p>1 Fling wide the door, unbar the gate;
the King of glory comes in state;
the Lord of lords and King of kings,
the Savior of the world who brings
his great salvation to the earth.
So raise a shout of holy mirth
and praise our God and Lord,
Creator, Spirit, Word.</p> <p>2 He is the rock of our belief,
the heart of mercy's gentle self.
His kingly crown is holiness;
his scepter is his loveliness;
he brings our sorrows to an end.
Now gladly praise our king and friend,
and worship him with song
for saving us from wrong.</p> | <p>4 Come, Lord, our Savior, Jesus Christ;
our hearts are open wide in trust.
Oh, show us now your lovely grace,
upon our sorrows shine your face,
and let your Holy Spirit guide
our journey in your grace so wide.
We praise your holy name,
from age to age the same!</p> |
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PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Kelly Biebelhausen

A: In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise
to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

A brief silence.

A: In the anticipation of these days, prepare our hearts for your arrival. Stir our spirits through the gifts of artists, musicians, poets, and preachers, as together we proclaim your presence among us. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: The earth breaks forth in singing as it heralds the Messiah's coming. Fill our hearts with wonder as we join heaven and nature in announcing this holy birth. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: You send your saving grace and peace to the nations. Lead us in work for justice and care for the common good. May we meet the Christ-child we seek in the faces of our neighbors. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: When tears of grief, exhaustion, or loneliness come, or physical or emotional hurt overwhelms us, come to our aid. Uphold all who are anxious, who know the challenges of depression, or who are ill (*especially those we now name aloud or in the quiet of our hearts.*). God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Surround expectant parents and those suffering from infant loss with communities of support. Bless young children and new parents. Guide us in ways that provide safety for all children and those who care for them. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: We give thanks for all who have treasured the gospel and lived and died in faithful service (*especially those we now name aloud or in the quiet of our hearts*). Strengthen our earthly journeys until, at the last, your face shines upon us as we are held in your love. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Faithful God, 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. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

C: Amen.

STEWARDSHIP READING *1 Timothy 6:17*

As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches but rather on God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

HANDBELL OFFERING

“Count Your Blessings”

Patricia Cota

Ringers: Shelley Beck, Missy Brinker, Louise Green, Violet Henry,
Laura Hutson, Marilyn Lochner, Mary Reed, Julie Steinmayer

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

“An Advent Meditation”

David 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

“Joy to the World” v. 1, 2, 4

ELW 267

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods,
rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE

“People, Look East!”

Kristina Langlois

Celtic Christmas Eve Worship
featuring **Finvarra's Wren**

Wed. Dec. 24
4 pm
Families welcome!

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24
4:00 P.M. | 7:00 P.M. | 10:00 P.M.
* 4 P.M. CELTIC CHRISTMAS EVE FEATURING
GUEST MUSICIANS FINVARRA'S WREN *

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25 @ 10:00 A.M.

SPECIAL SUNDAY WORSHIP
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28 @ 10:00 A.M.
* SPECIAL TIME, ONE WORSHIP SERVICE ONLY *

IMPOSSIBLY POSSIBLE