

# Welcome to Beautiful Savior!

**Address:** **5631 North Adams Road,**
**Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304**
**Phone:** **248.646.5041**
**Web Site:** **www.bslcmi.org**

**IN JESUS'S NAME, WE:**

**Bring Glory to God through fulfilling worship.**

**Serve God's people, both within our congregation and without.**

**Learn about the Lord's will for us through sharing and teaching.**

**Connect within our membership and reach out to connect with others.**

## Acts: The Early Church Story
## *"Rome: Preaching Jesus to the Emperor"*
## September 4, 2022 9:00 a.m.

Paul eventually reached Rome. The Book of Acts concludes with him in house arrest awaiting trial before the Emperor Nero himself. As a Roman citizen, Paul had the privilege to appeal his case all the way to the top. In many instances in Acts, he could have been released, but he knew his calling was to tell the emperor personally about Jesus Christ. This story begs the question for us: what special positions or privileges do we hold that might allow us to share our faith in a unique way?

P: Pastor C: Congregation A: Assistant Minister

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## GATHERING WORSHIP MUSIC

*"Lift High the Cross"* Gordon Young

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*(Please kneel as you are able during a time of silence for reflection and self-examination.)*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✢ one God, whose steadfast love endures forever.
**C: Amen.**
P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Merciful God,
**C: we confess that we have not followed your path but have chosen our own way. Instead of putting others before ourselves, we long to take the best seats at the table. When met by those in need, we have too often passed by on the other side. Set us again on the path of life. Save us from ourselves and free us to love our neighbors. Amen.**
P: Hear the good news! God does not deal with us according to our sins but delights in granting pardon and mercy. In the name of ✢ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are free to love as God loves.
**C: Amen.**

## THE GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
**C: And also with you.**

*(Please stand as you are able.)*

**GATHERING HYMN** *"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"* **ELW 807**

1 Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory
fills my heart with joy and love,
teach me ever to adore thee;
may I still thy goodness prove.

2 Here I raise my Ebenezer:
"Hither by thy help I've come";
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wand'ring from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be;
let that grace now like a fetter
bind my wand'ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray. Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**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: In Jesus's name, we:**
**Bring Glory to God through fulfilling worship,**
**Serve God's people, both within our congregation and without,**
**Learn about the Lord's will for us through sharing and teaching, and**
**Connect within our membership and reach out to connect with others.**

*(Please be seated.)*

**MEMORY VERSE** *John 16:13a* Louise Green

A: Together, let us recite the memory verse:
**C: When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own but will speak whatever he hears.**

**FIRST READING** *Romans 8:14-17*

A: The first reading is from the book of Romans, the eighth chapter.

**14** For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. **15** For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" **16** it is that very Spirit bearing witness[b] with our spirit that we are children of God, **17** and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

A: The word of the Lord.
**C: Thanks be to God.**

**INTRODUCTION TO THE SECOND READING**

**SECOND READING** *Acts 28:23-31*
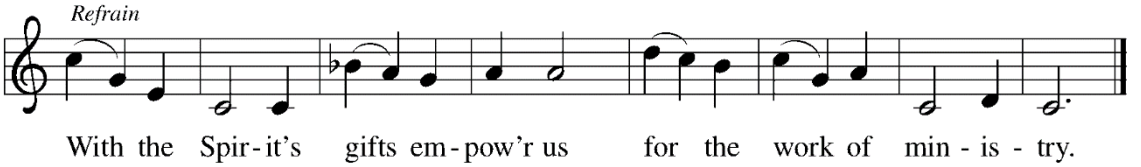
A: The second reading is from the book of Acts, the twenty-eighth chapter.

**23** After they had set a day to meet with him, they came to him at his lodgings in great numbers. From morning until evening he explained the matter to them, testifying to the kingdom of God and trying to convince them about Jesus both from the law of Moses and from the prophets. **24** Some were convinced by what he had said, while others refused to believe. **25** So they disagreed with each other, and as they were leaving Paul made one further statement: "The Holy Spirit was right in saying to your ancestors through the prophet Isaiah, **26** 'Go to this people and say, You will indeed listen but never understand, and you will indeed look but never perceive. **27** For this people's heart has grown dull, and their ears are hard of hearing, and they have shut their eyes; otherwise they might look with their eyes and listen with their ears and understand with their heart and turn—and I would heal them.' **28** "Let it be known to you, then, that this salvation of God has been sent to the gentiles; they will listen." **30** He lived there two whole years at his own expense and welcomed all who came to him, **31** proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.

A: The word of the Lord.
**C: Thanks be to God.**

*(Please stand as you are able.)*

**VERSE**




**GOSPEL** *Luke 24:44-53*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.
**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

**44** Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that
everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be
fulfilled." **45** Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, **46** and he said to them, "Thus
it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day **47** and that
repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from
Jerusalem. **48** You are witnesses of these things. **49** And see, I am sending upon you what my Father
promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." **50** Then
he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. **51** While he was
blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven.**52** And they worshiped him
and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, **53** and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

P: The gospel of the Lord.
**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*(Please be seated.)*

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE** The Rev. Dr. Philip Hemke, Pastor Emeritus

**SERMON** The Rev. Dr. Philip Hemke, Pastor Emeritus
*"Rome: Preaching Jesus to the Emperor"*

*(Please stand as you are able.)*

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *"Lord, You Give the Great Commission"* **ELW 579**

1 Lord, you give the great commission:
"Heal the sick and preach the word."
Lest the church neglect its mission,
and the gospel go unheard,
help us witness to your purpose
with renewed integrity:
With the Spirit's gifts empow'r us
for the work of ministry.

2 Lord, you call us to your service:
"In my name baptize and teach."
That the world may trust your promise,
life abundant meant for each,
give us all new fervor, draw us
closer in community:
With the Spirit's gifts empow'r us
for the work of ministry.

5 Lord, you bless with words assuring:
"I am with you to the end."
Faith and hope and love restoring,
may we serve as you intend
and, amid the cares that claim us,
hold in mind eternity:
With the Spirit's gifts empow'r us
for the work of ministry.

*(Please stand as you are able.)*

**APOSTLES' CREED**

P: God has made us God's own people through our baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*The word "catholic" means universal. By saying that we believe in the "holy catholic Church," we state that we believe the Christian church is one and undivided. This does not refer to any individual denominations.

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A: As scattered grains of wheat are gathered together into one bread, so let us gather our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of God's good creation.

*A brief silence.*

A: We pray for the church around the world and for the mission of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Refresh the hearts of your people, deepen our understanding of every good thing we share, and strengthen our partnerships in the faith. God of grace,
**C: hear our prayer.**

A: For the well-being of the earth and all its creatures: for trees and forests, for all that will yield fruit this season, and for streams and other bodies of water. God of grace,
**C: hear our prayer.**

A: For the nations and those in authority: for the elected leaders of our towns, townships, counties, states, and country, and for international organizations. Grant wisdom to those who govern and raise up citizens who make decisions in the best interest of their neighbors. God of grace,
**C: hear our prayer.**

A: For all in need: for those who suffer from disease, who struggle with homelessness or food insecurity, for those whose family life is difficult, and for all in this community who need your care (*especially those we now name aloud or in the quiet of our hearts*). God of grace,
**C: hear our prayer.**

A: For this community of faith: for all our labors—begun, continued, and ended in you—that they glorify your holy name. Bless your people with the strength to live into their many vocations for the sake of the world. God of grace,
**C: hear our prayer.**

A: We give thanks for the saints who now rest from their labors (*especially those we now name aloud or in the quiet of our hearts*). Give us faith, like them, to love you with all our hearts, and by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life. God of grace,
**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Gathered together in the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit, gracious God, we offer these and all our prayers to you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
**C: Amen.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
**C: And also with you.**

**What is the Sharing of the Peace?**
The sharing of the peace is more than a time to say, "Hello." It is an ancient tradition, dating back to the time of Jesus. Its purpose is to provide us with a chance to be at peace with one another before sharing Holy Communion. Also, it reminds us that Jesus brings us closer together in Holy Communion, and that the unity he gives is stronger than anything that can divide us.

**How Do We Share the Peace?**
At their own discretion, people greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you" or "God's peace." Afterwards, we are seated for the offering.

*(Please be seated.)*

**STEWARDSHIP READING** *1 Chronicles 29:9*

Then the people rejoiced because these had given willingly, for with single mind they had offered freely to the Lord; King David also rejoiced greatly.

**OFFERING** *"Voluntary in D"* William Selby

*(Please stand as you are able.)*

**OFFERING PRAYER**

P: Together, let us pray:
**C: God of abundance: you have set before us a plentiful harvest. As we feast on your goodness, strengthen us to labor in your field, and equip us to bear fruit for the good of all, in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.
**C: Amen.**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray ...
**C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our**

**trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

*(Please be seated.)*

**HOLY COMMUNION** *"O Christ, Our Light, O Radiance True"* Paul Manz

**POST HOLY COMMUNION BLESSING**

P: May the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
**C: Amen.**

*(Please stand as you are able.)*

**PRAYER AFTER HOLY COMMUNION**

P: Together, let us pray:
**C: Life-giving God, through this meal you have bandaged our wounds and fed us with your mercy. Now send us forth to live for others, both friend and stranger, that all may come to know your love. This we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

**BLESSING**

P: The God of peace, Father, ✢ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you, comfort you, and show you the path of life this day and always.
**C: Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN** *"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"* **ELW 674**

1 Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

*Refrain*
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!

2 Christ is able to make us one,
at the table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless,
love in word and in deed express. *Refrain*

3 Jesus calls us in, sends us out
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share:
God (Immanuel) ev'rywhere! *Refrain*

**DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace and serve the Lord.
**C: We will! Thanks be to God!**
P: And next time …
**C: … we'll invite a friend!**

**POSTLUDE** *"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"* Johann Pachelbel

***We thank you for worshiping with us today.***

***We hope to worship with you again in the near future!***

***Many thanks to all those on our tech team***
***for making this livestream service possible.***

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## HELPFUL INFORMATION

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES – The 9:00 & 11:15 a.m. worship services will be livestreamed through our website and YouTube pages. People can gather with us in the Sanctuary at 9 a.m. to worship in a more traditional style in person. We offer a more contemporary style worship service at 11:15 a.m. People can also worship in their homes with the livestream at 9 or 11:15 a.m., as well as access the recording of either service any time after worship concludes.

On the third Sundays of the month, we will offer a Service of the Word for Wholeness at 10:15 in our Chapel. This twenty-minute service gives you an opportunity to receive and give support for wholeness and strength. The Word will be spoken with laying on of hands and anointing with oil. We will pray for those in need by name, receive personal prayer, and share in the fellowship of others in need.

## SERVING THIS MONTH

**Readers**

| | |
|---|---|
| September 4 | Louise Green |
| September 11 | Wayne Geik |
| September 18 | Lisa Wade |
| September 25 | Lori Calbeck |

**PowerPoint**

| | |
|---|---|
| September 4 | Tim Jehowski |
| September 11 | Nancy Geik |
| September 18 | Karen Brant |
| September 25 | Gwen Fitzgerald |

**Ushers**

| | |
|---|---|
| September 4 | John Wenskay & Les Deyer |
| September 11 | John Wenskay & Jay Herbst |
| September 18 | John Wenskay & Les Deyer |
| September 25 | John Wenskay & Jay Herbst |

**Communion Assistants**

| | |
|---|---|
| September 4 | L. Green/R. Green/B. Hoffman |
| September 11 | W. Geik/C & K Biebelhausen |
| September 18 | L. Wade/T. Dukatz/A. Hussar |
| September 25 | L. Calbeck/A. Venola/B. Hoffman |

## STAFF MEMBERS

The Rev. Dr. Niklaus C. Schillack
Senior Pastor
prnik@bslcmi.org

The Rev. Dr. Philip Hemke, Pastor Emeritus
Pastor for Care Ministries
care@bslcmi.org

Helen Blicharz
Office Manager
office@bslcmi.org

Julie Steinmayer
Minister of Music
jsteinmayer@bslcmi.org

Wade Jehowski
Student Ministries Coordinator
Beautifulyouth@bslcmi.org

Karyn Parker
Children's Ministries Coordinator
Beautifulkids@bslcmi.org

Beth Jamieson
Bookkeeper
bookkeeper@bslcmi.org

Chris Ford
Sound Technician
cford@bslcmi.org

Dave Eicher
Worship Technology Coordinator
worshiptech@bslcmi.org

Alan Sidock
Custodian

John Wenskay
Property Caretaker

## COUNCIL MEMBERS

Kristin Albani, President
kristinalbani@gmail.com

Tom Barlow, Vice President
tebarlow@comcast.net

Mike Cunningham, Secretary
Vumike_21@yahoo.com

Stephanie Siems
pssiems@gmail.com

Shelley Beck
Beckfab4@yahoo.com

Cheryl Gonda
Ce.gonda@gmail.com

Bob Hoffman
bobbymsue@sbcglobal.net

Cheryl Jehowski
cmjehowski@gmail.com

Kathy Moede
kjmoede@sbcglobal.net