

Welcome to Beautiful Savior!

**5631 North Adams Road,
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304
248.646.5041
www.bslocmi.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.

Nehemiah – Putting Feet to Prayer
Commitment Sunday
“Returning to Worship and the Law”
November 14, 2021

Once the city walls were complete, Nehemiah, the governor, and Ezra, the priest, desired for the people to give thanks to God and to return their hearts to God. They put feet to these prayers by gathering the people to hear a reading of God’s Law. Also, while studying this Law, they rediscovered the Festival of Booths that had not been celebrated for centuries, and so they called the people to return to worshipping the God of their ancestors.

P: Pastor

C: Congregation

A: Assistant Minister

The altar flowers are in loving memory of Chuck Newell.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

GATHERING WORSHIP MUSIC “Be Thou My Vision” Joseph L. Miller

Handbell Choir: Barb Barbour, Alison Bazil, Shelley Beck, Louise Green,
Marilyn Lochner, Mary Reed, Julie Steinmayer, Anita Venola
Conductor: David Lochner
Piano: Joe Walters

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Have mercy on us, O God,

C: We confess to you, Gracious God, that too often we look on your law as a burden, not a gift; an inconvenience, not a blessing. Rather than seeing your love revealed, we feel our own guilt magnified. Instead of rejoicing in your good news, we focus on our own shortcomings. Turn us around, Redeemer, and do not let our fears have dominion over us. Enlighten us, so that our words and deeds may be acceptable to you. Amen.

P: God, who makes all things new, forgives your sins for ✙ Jesus’s sake and remembers them no more. In spite of our individual inadequacies, God has called us together to be Christ’s Body, and each one of us is indispensable. God re-members us, giving each of us distinct gifts, equipping each of us to provide guidance and accountability for one another, that we all may become more faithful followers of Christ. We are all greater as one Body than any single member of us could be on our own.

C: Amen.

(Please stand as you are able.)

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.**

GATHERING HYMN

“Lord of Light” vv. 1 & 2

ELW 688

- 1 Lord of light, your name outshining
all the stars and suns of space,
use our talents in your kingdom
as the servants of your grace;
use us to fulfill your purpose
in the gift of Christ your Son:

Refrain

Father, as in highest heaven,
so on earth your will be done.

- 2 By the toil of faithful workers
in some far outlying field,
by the courage where the radiance
of the cross is still revealed,
by the victories of meekness,
through reproach and suffering won: *Refrain*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our 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.)

MISSION MOMENT

The Rev. Dr. Niklaus C. Schillack, Senior Pastor
“*Why We Tithe*”

CHORAL ANTHEM

“*Total Devotion*” Frances Havergal/Thomas Grassi
Clarinet: Marilyn Lochner

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days, let them flow in endless praise.
Take my hands, take my feet, take my voice, and let me sing.
Always for my King, only for my King.

Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold.
Take my will and make it thine, it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart it is thine own, it shall be thy royal throne.
Take this love I pour, at thy feet of Lord.

Take my life and let it be, only all for thee.
Take my life, I will ever be all for thee.

INTRODUCTION TO THE READINGS

Dennis Eurich

FIRST READING

Nehemiah 8:1-12

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

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. The scribe Ezra stood on a wooden platform that had been made for the purpose; and beside him stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah on his right hand; and Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hash-baddanah, Zechariah, and Meshullam on his left hand. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, “Amen, Amen,” lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, the Levites, helped the people to understand the law, while the people remained in their places. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the

reading. And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.” For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, “Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.” So the Levites stilled all the people, saying, “Be quiet, for this day is holy; do not be grieved.” And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Nehemiah 8:13-18

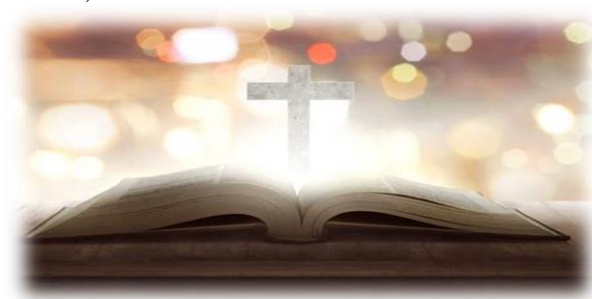
A: The second reading is from the book of Nehemiah, the eighth chapter.

On the second day the heads of ancestral houses of all the people, with the priests and the Levites, came together to the scribe Ezra in order to study the words of the law. And they found it written in the law, which the Lord had commanded by Moses, that the people of Israel should live in booths during the festival of the seventh month, and that they should publish and proclaim in all their towns and in Jerusalem as follows, “Go out to the hills and bring branches of olive, wild olive, myrtle, palm, and other leafy trees to make booths, as it is written.” So the people went out and brought them, and made booths for themselves, each on the roofs of their houses, and in their courts and in the courts of the house of God, and in the square at the Water Gate and in the square at the Gate of Ephraim. And all the assembly of those who had returned from the captivity made booths and lived in them; for from the days of Jeshua son of Nun to that day the people of Israel had not done so. And there was very great rejoicing. And day by day, from the first day to the last day, he read from the book of the law of God. They kept the festival seven days; and on the eighth day there was a solemn assembly, according to the ordinance.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand as you are able.)



GOSPEL VERSE



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 5:17-20

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said,] “Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated.)

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Karyn Parker, Interim Children’s Ministries Coordinator

SERMON

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

“Returning to Worship and the Law”

(Please stand as you are able.)

- 1 O Word of God incarnate,
O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging,
O Light of our dark sky:
we praise you for the radiance
that from the hallowed page,
a lantern to our footsteps,
shines on from age to age.
- 2 The church from you, dear Master,
received the gift divine;
and still that light is lifted
o'er all the earth to shine.
It is the chart and compass
that, all life's voyage through,
mid mists and rocks and quicksands
still guides, O Christ, to you.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P: The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

A brief silence.

P: You reveal yourself to us in the reading of scripture. Fulfill your word through the faithful witness of your church. Send us out to bring your liberating good news to all people. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: All creation proclaims your handiwork. Teach us to love the intricate and beautiful bodies that you have created. Bless tiny insects, enormous whales, and every creature in between. Sustain species at risk of extinction. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: You desire that there be no dissension among us. Where we are divided in our society, nation, or world, come quickly to reunite us into one body. Ease conflict, dispel violence, and bring an end to war. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Anoint with your Spirit all who seek your favor. Grant provision and justice for people living in poverty, people living with disability, those living with pain, or those living under oppression (especially). God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Build up the body of Christ in this place. Bless the variety of ministries in this congregation (especially). Empower us to freely welcome and deeply value each person who enters into worship and ministry among us. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: In thanksgiving we lift before you the saints for whom the promise of salvation has now been fulfilled. Tend to those who mourn (especially). Bring us together in your everlasting glory. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

(Please be seated.)

STEWARDSHIP READING

Ecclesiastes 5:13

There is a grievous ill that I have seen under the sun: riches were kept by their owners to their hurt...

OFFERING

“O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

David Lasky

(Please stand as you are able.)

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Together, let us pray:

C: Holy God, the earth is yours and everything in it, yet you have chosen to dwell among your creatures. Come among us now in these gifts of bread and wine, and strengthen us to be your body for the world through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.

THE 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.)

What is Holy Communion?

Holy Communion is a meal instituted by Jesus Christ that involves the receiving of God's forgiveness in a tangible form – we receive Jesus's life-giving body and blood in the presence of bread and wine (or grape juice). The meal is a time of remembrance and celebration.

Who can take part?

Holy Communion is something that not one of us has earned, so we receive it as God's free gift of life. The Church traditionally recommends that people be baptized before taking part, but all that is required is simply a heart that believes in Jesus Christ. If a person of any age wishes to be baptized, please let us know.

How does Holy Communion take place?

If you wish to take part, come forward as directed by the ushers. You will receive the wafer from the Pastor and the wine/grape juice from the communion assistant. If you wish to come forward for a blessing only, please cross your arms across your chest. You may also remain seated if you so wish.

HOLY COMMUNION *"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Thy Word"*

Johann Pachelbel

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: Blessed Jesus, at this table, you have been for us both host and meal. Now send us forth to extend our tables and to share your gifts until that day when all feast together at your heavenly banquet. Amen.

BLESSING

P: People of God, you are Christ's body, bringing new life to a suffering world. The holy Trinity,  one God, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

"On What Has Now Been Sown"

ELW 550

- 1 On what has now been sown
your blessing, Lord, bestow;
the pow'r is yours alone
to make it sprout and grow.
O Lord, in grace the harvest raise,
and yours alone shall be the praise!
- 2 To you our wants are known,
from you are all our pow'rs;
accept what is your own
and pardon what is ours.
Our praises, Lord, and prayers receive
and to your word a blessing give.
- 3 Oh, grant that each of us,
now met before you here,
may meet together thus
when you and yours appear,
and follow you to heav'n, our home.
E'en so, Amen! Lord Jesus, come!

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

"Come, Labor On"

Michael Burkhardt

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.***

The Confession and Assurance of Forgiveness was posted on the United Church of Christ's Worship Ways Archive.

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HELPFUL INFORMATION

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES – The 9:00 and 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 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.

STAFF MEMBERS

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Invitation

This year, we will offer our estimates of giving to the Lord for 2022 on Commitment Sunday, November 14, 2021. Please pray for the success of our growth in generosity, and prayerfully consider how you will financially support the great mission and ministries of Beautiful Savior. The enclosed Estimate of Giving Card can be returned by mail, submitted through the church website at www.bslcml.org, or left during worship as a personal offering on Commitment Sunday. Your generous support of our mission in Christ's service is so appreciated and will ensure that BSLC takes more bold steps into our new horizon.

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. - Hebrews 13:16



Introduction

Who can fathom what it was like for the Hebrew people to see the new horizon of the Promised Land after forty years in the wilderness? God freed them from slavery in Egypt, shaped and reshaped them as they traveled through the wilderness, and led them into a place where they could be God's people and a light to the nations. The horizon was in front of them and they boldly stepped into it and seized God's blessings that were waiting for them.

Beautiful Savior has boldly moved through a pandemic wilderness for more than a year. We took strategic risks, welcoming God to mold us into a stronger congregation. This time allowed us to position ourselves for spiritual and numerical growth in ways we never dreamed possible. As we near the end of the pandemic and approach a new horizon, we are ready to seize the opportunities that God has placed in our path.

We are excited to be on this journey with you as the people of Beautiful Savior. We are especially excited that God has put us in this time and place to share God's love known through Jesus Christ. Let's join together to seize the new horizon of 2022 as we do more amazing things in God's name.

Needs

What will it look like to "Seize the New Horizon" in 2022? Pastor Nik and our BSLC leadership have identified these essential areas of focus in 2022:

Seizing Ways to Care

We will seize opportunities to care more for one another.

Seizing Spiritual Growth

We will seize opportunities to help people follow Jesus more closely.

Seizing Numerical Growth

We will seize opportunities for more people to know about Jesus's love.

Continue reading to learn more about these exciting opportunities for us to seize on our horizon.



**BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

5631 N. Adams Road
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304

248-646-5041

bslcml.org

Seizing
THE NEW HORIZON
STEWARDSHIP FOR 2022



Ministry Initiatives

► Focus of Stewardship 2022

SEIZING WAYS TO CARE

Beautiful Savior is a compassionate and caring congregation. Many of our people have had a challenging year or more due to the pandemic. We also have people managing a host of life transitions. God placed us in community to support one another as best as possible. For that reason, we are adding a part-time pastoral position to oversee “Care Ministries.” We are also increasing our investment in small groups, community networking, a new transportation ministry, Stephen Ministry, and other ways to support and care for our siblings in Christ. An additional investment of \$415 per week will help us seize this vital network of care ministries on our horizon.

SEIZING SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Beautiful Savior is a congregation that believes that people of all ages can grow spiritually. We are investing heavily this next year in finding ways for people to continue growing spiritually, both in-person as well as through online and other means. Circles, Bible Studies, Sunday School, Catechism, and other groups are finding ways to help people follow Jesus more closely. Pastor Nik is shifting his schedule so that he can teach catechism as well as a new ministry for 6th graders called “pre-catechism.” We now have an Interim Children’s Ministry Coordinator, who oversees prenatal through 5th

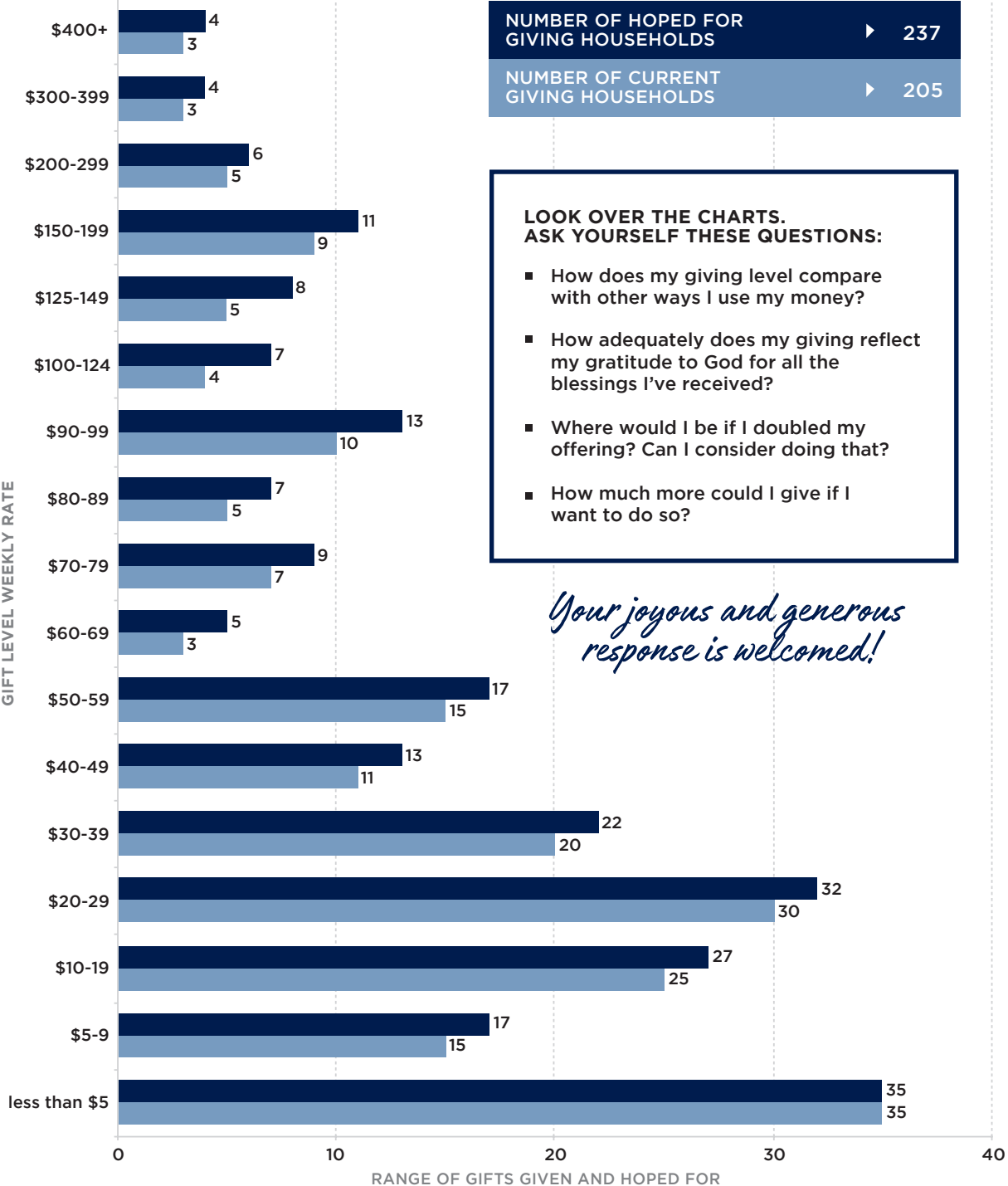


grade ministries, and a new Interim Student Ministry Coordinator, who oversees 6th through 12th grade ministries. Although unrelated to our church budgetary expenses, the BSLC Early Learning Center is once again up-and-running, and the restart included prioritizing its alignment with the mission of Beautiful Savior. To seize the spiritual growth horizon, we have a true bargain for the additional investment of \$600 per week.

SEIZING NUMERICAL GROWTH

Beautiful Savior is a congregation that welcomes people from all walks of life. Greater investment in online worship, which is reaching people on six continents and most states in our union, will continue to share the good news of Jesus with people far away and even those right next door. Half of our recent new members joined after finding us online. We are resuming our Beautiful Savior concert series that attracts many new faces who become new church friends. This will require greater funding for stewarding our instruments. We budgeted for large fellowship events that give people opportunities to gather in-person again as the subsiding pandemic permits them to do so. An additional \$655 per week will make it possible to share Jesus’s good news more effectively with those on our local and global horizons.

Weekly Giving



RANGE OF GIFTS GIVEN AND HOPED FOR

BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH
5631 N. Adams Road
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304
248-646-5041
bslcmi.org



Seizing
THE NEW HORIZON

Seizing THE NEW HORIZON

BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH
STEWARDSHIP FOR 2022

AVERAGE WEEKLY GIVING IN 2021 AND WEEKLY GIVING HOPED FOR IN 2022

AVE. WEEKLY GIFT	# OF CURRENT GIVERS	# OF HOPED FOR GIVERS
\$400+	3	4
300-399	3	4
200-299	5	6
150-199	9	11
125-149	5	8
100-124	4	7
90-99	10	13
80-89	5	7
70-79	7	9
60-69	3	5
50-59	15	17
40-49	11	13
30-39	20	22
20-29	30	32
10-19	25	27
\$5-9	15	17
less than \$5	35	35

HOW TO CALCULATE YOUR GIVING

The following is helpful in calculating weekly or monthly giving through Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church for a 12-month commitment, January to December 2022.

PER WEEK	PER MONTH	PER YEAR
\$2	\$9	\$104
\$5	\$22	\$260
\$10	\$44	\$520
\$15	\$65	\$780
\$20	\$87	\$1,040
\$30	\$130	\$1,560
\$40	\$174	\$2,080
\$50	\$217	\$2,600
\$75	\$325	\$3,900
\$100	\$434	\$5,200
\$200	\$867	\$10,400
\$300	\$1,300	\$15,600
\$400	\$1,734	\$20,800

In response to God's grace and love in Christ Jesus and in appreciation of Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church's mission, I/we intend to give this offering during 2022 in support of the congregation's ongoing ministries and outreach. I/we understand that I/we may change this amount if necessary.

Amount to be given: \$ _____ weekly **OR** \$ _____ monthly **OR** \$ _____ annual total

This offering will begin January 1, 2022 **OR** _____ (date)

Go to BSLCMI.org and click on the "give" button at the top of the page to set up your online giving:

OR ☐ I/We have enclosed a voided blank check.

Name(s): _____

Preferred e-mail address: _____

Preferred phone: _____

Signature: _____

Please return this card in the enclosed envelope.