A wooden box containing a brass balance scale and silver coins. The scale is positioned on the left side of the box, with its pans hanging from a central vertical post. The right pan is lower and contains several silver coins. The left pan is higher and is empty. The box is filled with more silver coins, some of which are visible in the foreground. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green and yellow, suggesting an outdoor setting.

Now after a long time
the master of those servants came
and settled accounts with them

Matthew 25:19

Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

November 19, 2023

BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

3210 Maple Drive, Plover, Wisconsin 54467

Phone: Church 715-341-2898; Cell 715-498-0093

Website www.beautifulsaviorploverwi.com

Pastor David E. Ficken

Our Mission

“To Know Jesus and to Make Him Known”

Our Vision

Educate, Equip and Encourage ourselves and our families through worship and study, and engage our community through discipleship, example and Acts of Kindness, using the unique gifts bestowed on each member of our congregation by the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Worship Information

Parents with Young Children: We encourage families to worship together.

Worship Bulletin: Our order of service is printed out in your worship folder.

Worship Form: There are 5 “Movements” in our Worship.

- God grants us the gift of forgiveness.
- God speaks to us from His Word.
- God receives our offerings and prayers.
- God offers us His real presence in Holy Communion.
- God blesses us and sends us out.


Communion: Please read the Statement of Communion below.

(If you are *gluten intolerant* please speak with Pastor or an elder prior to the worship service so we can accommodate you.)

STATEMENT OF COMMUNION

BECAUSE THE WORD OF GOD TEACHES THAT:

- We are all sinners in need of forgiveness.
- Jesus is our only Savior from sin through His death and resurrection.
- The True Body and Blood of Christ is present in the Sacrament of the Holy Communion

 Please see Pastor if you have any questions about this or do not believe in the Lord’s Supper in this way. You are welcome to come forward for a blessing if you are not communing.

- Please see Pastor if there is something going on in your life that needs the attention of Christ in private confession *and* absolution.

AS WE GATHER--The Last Day may come soon, but in the meantime, many people are neglecting to use their abilities and opportunities for God’s purposes. Zephaniah writes that it will be a day of wrath and mourning. But for those who have realized God’s blessings over the years, as Psalm 90 recalls, though the times are mean, each day is an opportunity to “encourage one another and build one another up” (1 Thessalonians 5:11). Today is an opportunity to hear God’s very gracious Word, “well done!” and be strengthened to respond by using the talents He has loaned to us.

.....

This Sunday and next we will consider how we should live between now and the Last Day. Our preparation for it is not a matter of simply believing correctly, for that would make our faith to be a good work. Rather, we are living in the end times, and by grace the Lord has already consecrated His guests. A Gospel-centered life means letting the Good News affect how we live in love today. Paul says we should “encourage one another and build one another up” (1 Thessalonians 5:11). We are very much like the servants in the Gospel, using the treasure our master has entrusted to us. We dare not keep our talents hidden, for they belong to God and should be invested! The Good News—that our Savior will return on that Day—is reason enough to take risks, investing our faith in loving the people around us.

WITNESS AND OUTREACH-- Matthew 25:14-30: Jesus again teaches us about His Kingdom with a parable but as He does - He reveals two diametrically different understandings about the Master, the Creator and Giver of all things: one where the receiver of the talents sees the Master as a generous giver and invests the talents with joy in the “business” of the Master; the other where the receiver of the talent sees the Master as hard and stingy and therefore hides the talent in fear of the Master. As a steward of all that God has given you, how do you see the Giver? If you see Him as hard, stingy, unfair in comparison to what others have and question His giving to you, you will never steward with the joy that God intended. But, if you believe that God gave you exactly the talent and the blessings and has in mind the purpose for His Kingdom that He has intended through you, you will go about your daily tasks with joy and contentment and you will rejoice to hear the words, “Well done, good and faithful servant!” May God fill your heart and life with this trust and joy going about the stewardship of your Master’s business.

WELCOME to GUESTS & VISITORS

Hymns will be from the Lutheran Service Book (LSB).

✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” LSB 338

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *Zephaniah 1:7b; 1 Thessalonians 5:11; Matthew 25:29a*

Pastor: The LORD has prepared a sacrifice

People: **and consecrated His guests.**

Pastor: Encourage one another

People: **and build one another up.**

Pastor: To everyone who has will more be given,

People: **and he will have an abundance.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *John 1:8–9; Psalm 90:17*

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Pastor: Let us in all honesty hear His Word again and confess our sins.

People: The Lord has consecrated His guests,
but we have been more attentive to the things of this world. Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us.

Pastor: Build one another up,

People: **but we are used to the darkness of this world and fear His coming like a thief in the night. Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us.**

Pastor: To everyone who has will more be given,

People: **but we seldom recognize the abilities and opportunities He has given. Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us.**

Pastor: The favor of the Lord is on you! Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

FIRST READING *Zephaniah 1:7–16* (A day of wrath is coming.)

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM *Psalms 90:1–12*

EPISTLE *1 Thessalonians 5:1–11* (Encourage one another to live in God's light.)

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 25:14–30* (God gives talents, expecting them to be used for His purposes.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read.)

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

CATECHISM *The Sixth Commandment*

People: **You shall not commit adultery.**

Pastor: What does this mean?

People: **We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other.**

HYMN "Praise and Thanksgiving" LSB 789

SERMON

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the Church around the world, for ourselves in this place, for people in positions of authority, for families, and for all in need.

Guide and protect Your Church, Lord Jesus, as it endeavors to share the Gospel in the many circumstances of this sin-ridden world. Embolden leaders to speak Your Word with conviction, open the ears of those who hear the Good News in all circumstances, and grant increase of faith and numbers wherever people gather around Word and Sacrament.

People: Hear our prayer, O Lord, and let Your favor be upon us and all for whom we pray.

Pastor: O Holy Spirit, strengthen this congregation so that we are a beacon of Your gracious love, calling one and all to join us to celebrate the Good News shining in this darkened world.

People: Hear our prayer, O Lord, and let Your favor be upon us and all for whom we pray.

Pastor: Lord over all, guide and protect the officers of nations; armed forces deployed and police at home; leaders of large corporations; those who work in the media; those who grow, tend, and distribute food; and all who respond in emergencies, that together they work for the common good.

People: Hear our prayer, O Lord, and let Your favor be upon us and all for whom we pray.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, grant peace and love in families, give wisdom to parents and willingness to learn to children, and

provide faithful congregations, caring friends, and extended relatives to support them through all the changes in life.

People: **Hear our prayer, O Lord, and let Your favor be upon us and all for whom we pray.**

Pastor: Lord our God, hear the prayers of Your people near and dear to us, [*including . . .*], as well as those known only to You. As fits Your gracious plans for them, give healing, relief, and comfort, so that they may live out each day in peace and joy.

People: **Hear our prayer, O Lord, and let Your favor be upon us and all for whom we pray.**

Pastor: These and any other things You would have us ask of You, heavenly Father, grant us for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

OFFERTORY “Take My Life and Let It Be” LSB 783/784

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE *2 Timothy 4:22*

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to You, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose obedient death and glorious resurrection have opened eternal life to us and who is with us that we may share His love until His second coming. Therefore with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS “Holy, Holy, Holy” LSB 161

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow’r and might: Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24;
Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST *1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20*

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD’S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

People: 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.

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: And also with you. Amen.

AGNUS DEI “Lamb of God” *LSB 198*

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, That takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that Takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us thy peace. A-men

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

See LSB 329: **Christian Questions with Their Answers prepared by Dr. Martin Luther for those who intend to go to the Sacrament.**

Note: These questions and answers are no child’s play, but are drawn up with great earnestness of purpose by the venerable and devout Dr. Luther for both young and old. Let each one pay attention and consider it a serious matter; for St. Paul writes to the Galatians in chapter six: “Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked.”

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“Your Table I Approach”	LSB 628
“Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness”	LSB 563
“Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise”	LSB 680

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray.
We give thanks to You, heavenly Father, that You have assured us of sins forgiven,
People: **so that with joy we may share Your love each day until Your Son returns to usher us into Your eternal presence;**
Pastor: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
People: **Amen.**

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
People: **Amen.**

HYMN “Praise to You and Adoration” LSB 692

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING

Pastor: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!
People: **Thanks be to God.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

OLD TESTAMENT READING Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

EPISTLE 1 Corinthians 15:20-28

HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 25:31-46

TITHE & OFFERING – our sacrifice of thanksgiving to the Lord

Our “**tithes**” are our first fruits returned to God in proportional, joyful, thankful and faithful response to His grace. “**Offerings**” are special gifts for ministries, memorials and needs over and above the tithe.

(If you are a guest, we welcome you as a guest. Please do not feel obligated to give an offering unless you feel moved to do so by the Spirit.)

Weekly Giving

Nov. 12 (**Thank you**): \$3,568.32

Weekly Need: \$4,272.06

Shortage: -\$ 703.74

<p>SCRIP Sales: 10/30/23- 1/12/23: \$11.75</p>
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Life Quotes: November 19 “For it can be easy on Thanksgiving to be thankful for the things, thankful for what we are and have, but thankfulness in faith cries out to God, ‘Jesus, Master, have mercy on me!’ and falls on its face at Jesus’ feet, giving thanks to Christ.” *Rev. Cody Cooper, Guest Speaker on “The Lutheran Hour” – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

CALENDAR:

December 3 -- Congregational Meeting following church

ADVENT WEDNESDAYS: 6:30pm

December 9 -- S.A.L.T/LWML Cookie Walk

December 15 – Garms Family Christmas Concert @ BSLC



Prayer Chain: If you would like to be a prayer warrior on our Prayer Chain, let Teresa (church secretary) or Jim Barge know. If you have **prayer requests** for the prayer chain (or bulletin), call or email the church office at (715) 341-2898.

Grief Share, 13 week class: Pastor Ficken will be leading a 13 week GriefShare class on Mondays from 6-8pm. GriefShare helps walk you through the grief process and heal from the pain. Please share with anyone you know who may benefit and talk with Pastor about any questions you may have. This will be week 11 and the topic discussed will be “Stuck in Grief.”

Friday Morning Bible Study: There will be no Bible Study this Friday morning. We will pick up with lesson 5 on December 1st.

The Garms Family Christmas Concert: Dec. 15th at 6:30pm. It's time to start advertising and getting the word out! We have posters available for hanging up in places you frequent or your workplace, if that is allowed. Let's pack the sanctuary on this special night! Invite all your friends and family!



Cookie Walk: Beautiful Savior S.A.L.T. - LWML is once again contacting all members of the congregation to remind you of our annual Cookie Walk on **Saturday, December 9th** from 9 a.m. to whenever sold out or noon at church.

We will be doing our Cookie Walk Pre-Boxed Style again this year. So, this year we will be asking for specific cookies and candy:

- Cutouts - frosted
- Peanut butter blossoms with Hershey Kiss candy
- Molasses/Gingerbread
- Russian Tea cakes/
Mexican Wedding cakes
- No Bake Chow Mein noodle/Ting A Ling cookies
- Spritz cookies
- Fudge
- Almond bark.

Please drop off your donations of cookies/candy Thursday, December 7th from 8am-Noon or by noon on Friday, December 8th. Other **Christmas** cookies will be accepted.

Also, be sure to stop at the Cookie Walk Pre-Boxed Style on Saturday to purchase items from our selection. Proceeds will be used to fund S.A.L.T. - LWML's various mission projects throughout the year. If you have any questions, please contact Louise Skornia at 715-498-0457 or Pam Hinrichs at 715-445-2998.

Congregational Meeting: December 3rd following 9:30 worship. At this meeting we will conduct elections for board positions and vote on the budget for 2024. All voting members of the congregation are encouraged to attend.

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Prayer List – 11/19/23 – 11/25/23
Ongoing prayers for Grief & Loss: (Named & Not Named)

Loved Ones –

Lori Hopp – Sister Jo Ann; June Holford – Sister Margaret;
Family of Violet Knoll; Dave Norrgran--Mother Marlene;
Paul Hansen – father Donald; A.M.-Sister; Family of Bob Helmrick;
Family of Linda Leindecker

Situations

Suicide Attempts, Cancer, Christian Parenting, Caregivers, AODA

Military: Devante; Emily; Nick

Pending Diagnosis & Treatment: Ken Resch (Father of Julie Barge); Paula;
Phil Idsvoog; Rose Janke (Karen Holman’s mother); Heather(Holford
daughter); Melissa (Caleb Schultz’s aunt); BSLC friend new cancer diagnosis;
BSLC friend, Sarah, new cancer diagnosis

Hospitalized / Recovering: Elaine Idsvoog – Hospice;
Sharon Hughes— treatment;

Circuit 17: St. John’s-Almond; St Luke-Rapids

Shut-ins: Merry Kampmeier, Mary S., and Anita C.

Birthdays:

Baptism Birthdays:

11/19 Marv Hopp
11/19 Nick Langenhahn
11/22 Heidi Gross
11/24 Teresa Barthel

Anniversaries:

Missions:

First Choice Resource Center
Camp Luther
Peace Campus Center & Pastor Andy
Weden
St. Paul Lutheran Elementary School
Wycliffe & Lutheran Bible Translators
& Linda Jordan
J.P. & Aimee Cima & Family
Orphan Grain Train Center
Adam Tanney (Seminary Student)
Christ Care / Deeds Meet Needs /
Carpenter’s Crew

***Please let us know if you have
any prayer requests – thank you!

Old Testament Reading: Zephaniah 1:7–16

- ⁷ Be silent before the Lord God!
For the day of the Lord is near;
the Lord has prepared a sacrifice
and consecrated his guests.
- ⁸ And on the day of the Lord's sacrifice—
"I will punish the officials and the king's sons
and all who array themselves in foreign
attire.
- ⁹ On that day I will punish
everyone who leaps over the threshold,
and those who fill their master's house
with violence and fraud.
- ¹⁰ "On that day," declares the Lord,
"a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate,
a wail from the Second Quarter,
a loud crash from the hills.
- ¹¹ Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar!
For all the traders are no more;
all who weigh out silver are cut off.
- ¹² At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the men
who are complacent,
those who say in their hearts,
"The Lord will not do good,
nor will he do ill."
- ¹³ Their goods shall be plundered,
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them."
- ¹⁴ The great day of the Lord is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter;
the mighty man cries aloud there.
- ¹⁵ A day of wrath is that day,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
- ¹⁶ a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. ⁴But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. ⁵For

you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. ⁶So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. ⁷For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 25:14–30

¹⁴Jesus said: "It will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. ¹⁵To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. ¹⁷So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. ¹⁸But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' ²¹His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of your master.' ²²And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' ²³His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' ²⁴He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' ²⁶But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed and gather where I scattered no seed? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. ²⁹For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. ³⁰And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'



Scripture: ESV®
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