

Bethesda Butler Lutheran Parish
PO Box 426
Bristol, SD 57219

January
2024

Begin
the
Year
with



God

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Dear Friends in Christ,

If you ask my grandson his name, he will emphatically reply, "Halsten Daniel Rabenhorst!" He is reinforcing his identity. Continue visiting with him and he will inform you that he is a boy, he is three, his mom is Maddy, and his dad is Bryce. And if you stick around long enough, he will tell you the names of grandparents, his great-grandparent, and then he will start on cousins and move on to friends. This is all usually followed by grand made-up stories involving his people.

Psalm 127:3 – Children are a gift from the Lord.

Our most fun stage of grandparenting currently is Halsten wanting to come and stay at our house for a few days. This offers endless opportunities for funny and eye-opening conversations. One morning we completed a heart transplant on his toy dog using his vet set by 7:30 A.M. My sewing room became the recovery room, and the patient was monitored for 30 minutes. Stethoscope around his neck and sporting scrubs, Doc Halsten proclaimed the patient healed by 8:00 A.M.

Proverbs 22:6 – Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

Halsten was ecstatic to receive his Bible School invitation last year, mostly because the theme was dinosaurs. He has since become a member of Adventure Club on Wednesday nights and Sunday School. He basically tells Mom and Dad to get lost; he doesn't need them. But I know he is listening because out of the blue he will say, "God made me, Kiki. God made everything. God made you too." Indeed he did, Little One. One night upon leaving Adventure Club, his mom said he stopped and looked up at the sky and stated, "It's all like one big puzzle that fits together." Insight from a three-year-old and oh so true!

Matthew 18:1-4 – At that time the disciples came to Jesus saying, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me."

"All grown-ups were once children...although few of them remember it. " This quote from *The Little Prince* hits home. We seem to lose our child-like wonder as we age. Whenever the first snow falls, I note how it excites kids, and I have to admit to its beauty. But the easiest thing to do is grumble, wondering what is in store for the coming months.

I want for my grandson what I wanted for my children- to be happy, healthy, and know the love of the Lord. It is what I want for you also. This world can be a bit rough and tough on us, but if we know to call upon the One that is always there, with us, we can weather the storms. If we can remember the gift of baptism that bestows an eternal identity – chosen, forgiven, child of God – then we never have to remind ourselves who we are. So, let your faith shine through to all but especially to the young people in your life. Don't be shy in letting them know what your faith has done and continues to do for you. See how many conversations you can bring God into, reminding them who they are, first and foremost. Blessings for 2024! ~Kristi

SEEKING VICE PRESIDENT

The nominating committee has been busy and have filled all positions with the exception of vice president. Thank you to all of those willing to serve! Please consider making our council complete by filling the position of vice president.

TABLE TALKS

The following letter was received from Groton.

For the past 9 years, around 50-75 students have met to enjoy a meal together and be fed spiritually during their routine school day. We call ourselves Table Talks, and we gather at St. John's Lutheran to hear about the Truth of God's Word, as well as fellowship around a hot meal generously prepared by volunteers. There is no cost to students. Speakers selflessly give of their time to share how the Truth can be lived out daily in their lives and share their faith journey.

If you feel called to support Table Talks with a gift of time, talents or resources, we would be extremely grateful. We would love to have you share your faith story, donate a meal, bars/cookies or paper products. We ask that you keep these youth in your prayers and that the seeds planted will grow. For more information, please contact:

**Pam Rix at 605-377-3297 or
Becky Hunter at 605-216-3075. God bless!**

Please let Kristi know if you would like to be a reader or usher for services and weren't on the schedule last year. We could use you, and the more the merrier!

Bethesda WELCA thanks all those who provided sweets, donated money, purchased goodies, or helped in any way with the December Sweet Sale. Once again, it was a great success!



January 7

Genesis 5:1-5
Psalm 29
Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11

January 14

I Samuel 3:1-20
Psalm 139:1-6, 3-18
I Corinthians 6:12-20
John 1:43-51

January 21

Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Psalm 62:5-12
1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20

January 28

Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 111
1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28

**Thank you to Al and Jane
Goehring for sponsoring postage
of the January newsletter.**



Bethesda Annual Meeting - January 21

following the 9 am worship service. Please have your annual reports to the church office or Kristi by January 16.

Butler Annual Meeting – January 28

following the 9 am worship service. Please have your annual reports to church office or Kristi by January 18.

JANUARY BETHESDA WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	Usher	Reader	Organist
1/7	Dennis	Dane	Gail
1/14	At Butler		
1/21	Karin	Remi	Kathryn
1/28	At Butler		
Altar Guild: Karin Bartell			
Deacon: John Horter			

Ways to Give to Bethesda Lutheran Church

at the church service
 mail to PO Box 426 Bristol, SD 57219
 mail to the church treasurer
 Tithe.ly app



**THRIVENT
FINANCIAL®**

Connecting faith & finances for good.®

Don't forget to direct ThriventChoice Dollars® - March 31st Deadline

Eligible Thrivent Financial members who have been designated Choice Dollars have until **March 31, 2024**, to direct any remaining 2023 Choice Dollars. Help support Bethesda or Butler Lutheran Church.

Go to [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](https://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice) to learn more and find program terms and conditions. Or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.

Newsletter postage sponsors are needed. Cost is \$66 per month. Contact Jill or leave a check and note in the offering plate or her mailbox.

JANUARY BUTLER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	Ushers	Readers
1/7	At Bethesda	
1/14	Travis	Kolton
1/21	At Bethesda	
1/28	Travis	Kolton

Ways to Give to Butler Lutheran Church





at the church service
 mail to the church treasurer



Jan 2	Michael Herr	Jan 12	Leroy Johnson
Jan 2	Brandon Whitmyre	Jan 14	Ian Eickhoff
Jan 3	Kaleb Antonsen	Jan 18	Harold Orr
Jan 3	Kellen Antonsen	Jan 20	Turner Wickre
Jan 4	Marshall Peckham	Jan 22	Glenn Flattum
Jan 4	Nola Roitsch	Jan 27	Desiree Anderson
Jan 5	Jake Zimmerman	Jan 28	Halston Witt
Jan 5	Lola Counts	Jan 29	Kay Espeland
Jan 7	Travis Antonsen	Jan 30	Madison Peckham
Jan 8	Kathy Nolte		
Jan 8	Brent Zimmerman		
Jan 10	Gwen Bates		

We apologize if we missed your birthday. Please let us know and we will include it on our list next year.
 Birthday blessings to you!!!!!!

JANUARY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 	2 Choose your word for 2024	3 10-4 Office Hours No Wed. School or Confirmation	4	5 Epiphany of Our Lord →	6 Butler WELCA 9:00
Baptism of our Lord (white) 7 9 am Communion Worship at Bethesda Birthday Bank Offering	8	9	10 10-4 Office Hours No Wed. School or Confirmation	11	12 	13
2 nd Sunday after Epiphany (green) 14 9 am Communion Worship at Butler	15 Martin Luther King Day	16 Bethesda Annual Reports Due	17 2-5 Office Hours 5:10-6:30 Wednesday School, Confirmation	18 10-2 Office Hours Butler Annual Reports Due Sun Dial Service 2:00	19 Make a phone call you have been putting off.	20 Luther League I Hate Winter Afternoon 1:00 – 5:00 at Bethesda
3 rd Sunday after Epiphany (green) 21 9 am Worship at Bethesda Bethesda Annual Meeting Noisy Can Offering	22 Newsletter Items Due	23 	24 10-4 Office Hours 5:10-6:30 Wednesday School, Confirmation	25	26 	27
4 th Sunday after Epiphany (green) 28 9 am Worship at Butler Butler Annual Meeting	29	30	31 10-4 Office Hours 5:10-6:30 Wednesday School, Confirmation			

CHILDREN'S OFFERING

The children's offering from July – December 2023 will be going to the Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center Kids' Time.

Thank you for your generous gifts, Children!

January Blues

January can be a downer of a month; our festivities are over, the weather is usually cold, and families are back to their routines. Even though the days are short in terms of light, they can seem long and empty. So, be good to yourself in brain and body and learn something new or treat yourself to a new hobby.

Every year I am sure to have a few "treats" for myself in January. This year my list includes:

- *Paint-by-number canvas
- *Learning the basics of tap dancing (movement and workout)
- *In-depth Bible study on the Trinity
- *Slim-line Bible for my purse
- *My first ever Monster Jam truck event☺
- *A stack of jigsaw puzzles



I Hate Winter Meeting

Saturday, January 20th

1:00 – 5:00

- *We will be making birthday cards for the upcoming year for Day County veterans. (We could use extra hands!)
- *Game time – bring a favorite game you have.
- *Faith Time

Final registration for Faith Fest at Augustana (February 10th) is January 26th. This is open to grades 6-8.

Kristi will update participants with information as it is received.



WEDNESDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Thank you to all the children and leaders for the wonderful Christmas program!

Meal Serving Schedule

January 17–Chris & Jenny Faber

January 24 –Dennis & Amy Peckham

January 31-Gene & Judy Williamson

Remember your Sunday School days when you put pennies in the birthday bank, one for each year old



you were. The Birthday Bank at Bethesda sits at the front of the pews on the pulpit side on Communion Sundays. This bank is a way to make a donation on your

birthday, anniversary or one of a family member or friend. The money supports the Wednesday School program.

- Adam and Eve disobeyed.**
- Noah got drunk.**
- Abraham laughed at God.**
- Jacob cheated and lied.**
- Moses murdered.**
- Rahab was a prostitute.**
- David had an affair.**
- The disciples fell asleep on duty.**
- Peter denied Jesus.**
- Thomas doubted.**
- Paul persecuted believers.**



We are a part of a long tradition of imperfect people God incorporates into the unfolding story of His love.

Peace be with you!

~Author unknown

