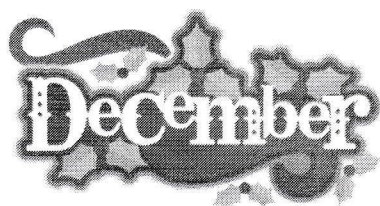


Bethesda Butler Lutheran Parish
PO Box 426
Bristol, SD 57219



Pastor Chris Strohm

Bristol Church Office 605-492-3123

Pastor's Cell 605-218-0852

Parish Email bethesdabutler@nvc.net

Parish Website www.bethesdabutler.com

BETHESDA CHRISTMAS SWEET SALE

Bristol School Gymnasium

Saturday, December 5th

10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

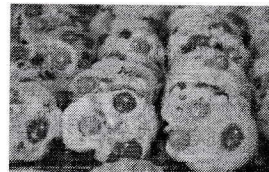
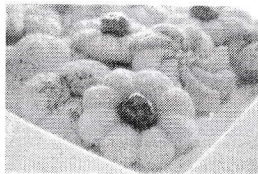
Bethesda women members are asked to bring 2 dozen sweets to be sold.

All treats must be pre-packaged in zip lock bags. The guidelines for packaging are:

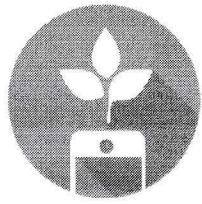
Cookies/Bars	6 per bag	or	12 per bag
Candy	3 per bag	or	6 per bag
Donuts	12 per bag		
Lefse	5 rounds		
Sweet breads	individually		

You may leave your sweets at Bethesda's basement on Friday, December 4 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Pricing will be done by the officers of WELCA.

Because the July luncheon and the Cookie Walk have been cancelled, this fund raiser is the only source of income for 2020. This is also an opportunity for you to purchase Christmas goodies.



Monetary donations will also be accepted.



TITHE.LY

A new way to give to the church!

Forgot your checkbook or wallet? No worries, get your cell phone and follow these quick easy steps:

Download the Tithe.ly app (*look for the green icon above*)


Click on "Create Account" and enter required information to register (*email, password, choose a pin*)

Once your account is created, search for "Bethesda Lutheran Church" and enter your payment information. You may use a credit/debit card or bank account

A transaction fee is charged, you may choose to add the fee to your tithe or have it deducted from your contribution. The fee for a credit/debit card is 2.9% + \$.30 per transaction. The fee for a bank account is 1% + \$.30 per transaction

You may choose to set up recurring payments

Donors will receive an email instantly with the details of their transactions

Online giving is also available, click on the green  button on our church website (www.bethesdabutler.com) and follow the instructions



*Tithes and
offerings*



BETHESDA WELCA

Bethesda WELCA met at 1:30 on November 11, 2020.

Carol Raap presented an interesting program on patriotism. Devotion was taken from Psalm 33:12 God Bless America was written by Irving Berlin. At the end of WWI, Kate Smith sang this song and it was most famous for this her whole life. President Truman awarded Irving Berlin the Army Medal of Merit following WWII. Members sang "God Bless America". Red Skeleton's famous speech about the Flag Pledge was given by Carol and Kathryn Bury. We heard the meaning of the 21 gun salute. Veteran's Day began as Armistice Day, the day when the fighting stopped during WWI. In 1919, President Wilson proclaimed Nov. 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day. Old Glory stands for peace, honor, truth, and justice. As Kathryn and Kay Espeland folded the American flag, each fold represents a meaning – 1. A symbol of life, 2. A symbol of eternal life, 3. For the veteran's who have died, 4. A need to trust in God, 5. A tribute to our country, 6. Where people's hearts lay, 7. A tribute to the armed forces, 8. A tribute to those who have entered the valley of the shadow of death, 9. To motherhood, 10. To fathers, 11. To the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Joseph, 12. The emblem of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, 13. The motto, in God we Trust. The flag, when folded, is folded once more like a cocked cap for the veteran. Members sang "America". Linda Anderson gave some interesting facts on presidents: In 1789 when George Washington was elected president, they didn't know what to call him and finally the term, The President, was decided on. Zachary Taylor had never voted before becoming president, William Harrison, had no ideas at all and died 30 days after inauguration, Tyler had no political affiliation and the Whigs nominated him as their candidate, Van Buren's carpet in front of his mirror was worn bare from where he stood to practice his speeches.

Bonnie Dolney and Jane Goehring presided over the meeting. The Purpose Statement was read by members. The secretary's report was approved as well as the treasurer's report.

*Carol has received \$250.00 for the Food Bank from Thrivent Action and Alice Jean has received \$250.00 for caps and mittens for school children in Webster, Groton, and Langford from Thrivent Action.

*We will not have our annual Christmas Luncheon for invited guests due to the corona virus. We will have our regular meeting on the 9th at noon with a Christmas lunch to follow.

*Our yearly disbursements were made.

*A letter from St. Dysmas was read asking for donations for Christmas goodies for 3,000 people.

*Thanksgiving supper and service will be at Westside Wesleyan on November 24.

*Prayer concerns are: Al Goehring, George, Dolney, Mike McCarlson, Noel Anderson, Burnell and Shirley Huwe, Bruce Anderson, Gene Ausland, nurses, doctors, teachers, covid sufferers, and our elected leaders.

Mavis McKane served delicious chocolate cake.

Secretary,

Alice Jean Peterson



December 6

Isaiah 11:1-10
Matthew 1:18-25

December 20

Zephaniah 3:14-20
Luke 2:8-20

December 27

Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Psalm 148
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:22-40

December 13

Jeremiah 33:14-16
Luke 1:26-38

December 24 & 25

Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 98
Titus 3:4-7
Luke 2:1-20



Butler WELCA

Butler WELCA met at the church on Saturday, November 7, 2020 at 9am with 4 members present.

Our Bible Study was "Encouragement and Warning" from 1 John 2:12-17.

Carol Flattum had the Offering Meditation.

The WELCA Purpose Statement was read.

Correspondence was read.

Secretary's report was read and approved.

Treasurer's report:

General Fund:	\$2,207.95
Alter Fund:	\$201.04

We shipped 22 quilts.

We had election of WELCA Officers.

A motion was made and seconded to keep the current slate of officers. Motion carried.

Our next meeting will be Saturday, December 5 at 9 a.m. at the church.

We closed with praying the Lord's Prayer.

Carol Flattum, Secretary

Christmas

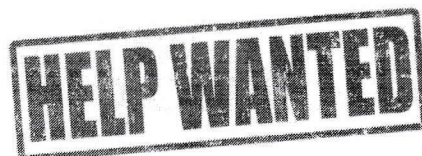
WORSHIP SERVICES

Christmas Eve Worship service will be 5pm at Bethesda and livestreamed on Facebook and available on the churches' YouTube channel and website.

Christmas Day Worship Service will be 9am at Butler and livestreamed on Facebook and available on the churches' YouTube channel and website.

Blue Christmas/Longest night Service

Monday December 21 at 7:30pm I will be leading a Blue Christmas Service with my wife. We will livestream this service from our home to your home via both of our churches Facebook pages. This is a service that recognizes even though Christmas is a joyous event for some people it brings pain as the losses of the past year rise up. We recognize the darkness in our lives and through word and music we begin in this darkness and move to the light and hope that Jesus brings. This will be recorded and uploaded to our website and YouTube channel for those of you who are not on Facebook. Come and worship with us.



Looking for a few people who would be interested in being in charge of livestreaming our worship service. This task is not very hard. The camera connects to a tablet or phone through a WIFI connection and the tablet or phone connects to our Facebook page. There will be training sessions. Also needed is a tablet capable of connecting to the internet.



Poinsettia Orders



If you would like to order a Poinsettia in memory or honor of a loved one please contact the office at 492-3123 or email to bethesdabutler@nvc.net. Poinsettias will be displayed in the church for the Christmas services. Please pick up your poinsettia following the service. Cost is \$18. Orders due by **December 8th**. Order forms available in the narthex. If you are providing your own poinsettia, please let the office know who it is in memory or honor of by **Dec. 17th** to have it listed in the bulletin.



If there was ever a year to hear the Christmas Story, the story of God's love it is this year. This has been a hard year for all of us. January seems so long ago that I don't even remember what was going on. February came and we began to hear about this new virus that was quickly moving through China and then March it came moving fast around the country and we made the decision to move to online services. This virus just will not go away, it keeps coming back hitting harder and harder as we are learning to live into it. I don't know about you but I am exhausted. So, we come limping into the holiday season filled with angst, some of us unsure of how we are going to make it and others looking to tighten their belts **hoping** the new year is better than the last.

There it is, **hope**, the word, the idea that keeps us going. It is hope that keeps us going. Hope is what Christmas is all about, "To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord." (Luke 2:11) These words brought hope to a group of shepherds sitting watch just outside of Bethlehem. So much so that they just had to run into the city to see if this great news was true.

We have heard this story so often throughout our lives that we could probably recite it by heart. A story so familiar that at times it has lost its luster, its ability to bring hope, but listen to it again with new ears. In a time when hope seemed to have been lost. God, the creator of the universe, the one who made the world and all that is in it including us looked at the world he created and wept for how his people were being treated and for how they treated each other. So God decided it was time to take action, time to enter into the world in a new way, in a way that would show his love for us. So, God, sent his only Son, not to condemn the world but to save it.

And it came to pass that a young woman, a virgin, gave birth to a son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger. A woman, newly married, in a town not her own, a town that couldn't spare a bed for a poor family, a poor woman already with childbirth pangs. One kind homeowner gave them shelter in a stable. It was here amongst the people who needed to hear a word of hope that Jesus, Emmanuel, which means God with us, was born.

This is a story filled with hope, hope that we are not in this life alone, Emmanuel is still with us, God has not abandoned us. Yes, we are going through hard times right now, but there is hope. The babe has been born, the tomb is empty, we have not been left alone, God is with us!

Joy to the World, the Lord is come!!!

Pastor Chris

NOVEMBER BETHESDA WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	Usher	Reader	Organist	Worship Helper
12/6	At Butler			
12/13		Bonnie D	Kathryn	
12/20	At Butler			
12/24		Gail	Gail	
12/25	At Butler			
12/27		Kathryn	Kathryn	
Altar Guild: Vicki Zimmerman, Bonnie Dolney, Mavis McKane				
Deacon: John H				

Bethesda Financial Report

Needed weekly to meet the budget: \$1,207.18

DATE	RECEIPTS	
10/25/2020	\$2,020.37	long \$818.19
11/1/2020	\$1,888.00	long \$680.82
11/8/2020	\$1,445.04	short \$797.18
11/15/2020	\$1,891.07	short \$377.18

As of November 21, 2020

Total 2020 yearly receipts: \$64,792.36

Total 2020 yearly disbursements: \$50,617.03

(Note: receipts include a \$8,100 PPP loan)

Thank you to everyone who has faithfully given donations to the church this year.

Bethesda December newsletter postage is sponsored by Al and Jane Goehring.

If you would like to sponsor the monthly newsletter postage in 2021 contact the church office or Jill.

NOVEMBER BUTLER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Readers</u>	<u>Worship Helper</u>
12/6	Gerry A		
12/13	At Bethesda		
12/20	Gerry A		
12/24	At Bethesda		
12/25	Gerry A		
12/27	At Bethesda		



Dec 1 Rylee Huwe	Dec 19 Waylon Nolte
Dec 2 Cody Sass	Dec 23 Drake Shoemaker
Dec 3 Dane Horter	Dec 25 Amanda Dylla
Dec 7 Daisy Rumpza	Dec 26 Nolan Snaza
Dec 9 Linda Anderson	Decr 27 Butch Flattum
Dec 13 Layla Nolte	Dec 29 Morgan Bartell
Dec 13 Sue Lone	Dec 29 Emily Raap
Dec 15 Zane Hubsch	Dec 31 Julaine Busch
Dec 18 Jill Hansmeier	Dec 31 Sandra Shepherd
Dec 19 Rachel Bahr	

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

Bethesda Offering Envelopes

If you need a new box for 2021 pick one up in the church narthex. If you have envelopes left from 2020 please use those – just change the date. If you need just a few and not a whole box contact Jill.

December 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Pastor's Office Day 4:30pm Confirmation	3	4	5 9am Butler WELCA Meeting Bethesda Christmas Sweet Sale 10am-3pm
2 nd Sunday of Advent (blue) 6 9am Communion Worship at Butler and online	7	8 POINSETTIA ORDERS DUE 	9 Pastor's Office Day 12pm Bethesda WELCA Meeting 4:30pm Confirmation 6pm Bethesda Council Meeting	10 2pm Pastor Chris at Sun Dial	11	12
3 rd Sunday of Advent (blue) 13 9am Communion Worship at Bethesda and online	14 	15	16 Pastor's Office Day 4:30pm Confirmation	17	18	19
4 th Sunday of Advent (blue) 20 9am Worship at Butler and online January Newsletter Items Due	21	22 	23 Pastor's Office Day 4:30pm Confirmation	24  5pm Communion Worship at Bethesda and online	25  9am Communion Worship at Butler and online	26 
1 st Sunday of Christmas (white) 27 9am Woship at Bethesda and online	28	29	30 Pastor's Office Day 4:30pm Confirmation	31 		