

Bethesda Butler Lutheran Parish  
PO Box 426  
Bristol, SD 57219

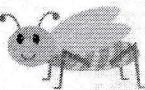


### SPRING VOCABULARY WORD SEARCH



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BLOSSOM  
BUTTERFLY  
CLEANING  
DANDELION  
FLOWERS  
GARDEN  
GREEN  
MAY  
PICNIC  
RAINBOW  
ROBIN  
SHOWERS



MyKidsGuide.com

Pastor Chris Strohm

Bristol Church Office 605-492-3123

Pastor's Cell 605-218-0852

Parish Email [bethesdabutler@nvc.net](mailto:bethesdabutler@nvc.net)

Parish Website [www.bethesdabutler.com](http://www.bethesdabutler.com)

# GOD *will* TRANSFORM THIS CHURCH

By Elizabeth A. Eaton



The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. That's our name. At least two parts of our name, "Evangelical" and "Church," are either misunderstood or an outright stumbling block for a significant percentage of the American population.

Pew Research reports that over one-fifth of the U.S. public—and a third under 30—are religiously unaffiliated. These are the "nones." The religiously unaffiliated, whether never church or dechurched, don't have a favorable impression of church. They see it as extremist, full of hypocrites, judgmental, anti-science, anti-intellectual, dogmatic, overly concerned about other people's morality, naïve and out of touch. Ouch.

In the eyes of the nones, the ELCA gets lumped in with everyone else. Though we aren't perfect, and some of the characteristics of church apply to us at various times, we have a theology based on a liberating gospel of Jesus Christ that is the *euangelion*—the good news. The "Evangelical" in our name points to the transforming love of Jesus, to reconciliation, to freedom, to grace. It's expansive, for everyone and all creation. It doesn't require our effort or our merit, only our trust in God's promise.

It's not naïve. Scripture, Martin Luther, Dietrich Bonhoeffer and others were clear-eyed about the reality of human sin and brokenness and the devastating consequences for individuals, groups of people and creation that result. There is judgment, but it is God's, not ours. Our evangelical understanding of God's word is that it is both law and gospel, judgment and promise. We aren't an everything goes, antinomian church.

I remember the light bulbs going off in my catechism students' heads when learning about grace. Does it give us license to do anything we want? Paul had to address the same line of thinking in the letter to the Romans. No. Grace makes it possible to be honest with ourselves and face our sin because the Spirit grants us the space, time and desire to turn from our sin to the source of life.

Our evangelical witness is full of paradox—we are simultaneously saint and sinner. Yes, there is hypocrisy in the church—welcome to humanity! But there is also

beauty and love poured by the Spirit into sometimes stubborn and broken hearts. There is law and gospel. We are at once perfectly free and lord of all and bound and servant of all (Luther's *The Freedom of a Christian*).

Our evangelical witness is that God called the creation good; that we have been given the gift of curiosity that compels us to study the natural world, to engage in scientific research. The more we know about creation, the closer we draw to the Creator. We aren't anti-intellectual—Luther was a college professor after all.

I happen to know some millennials who had conversations with their none neighbors. These conversations were open and engaged. The none neighbors carried the above-mentioned perceptions of church, but they also knew that their millennial friends served as Young Adults in Global Mission and were active in their congregation. The nones were trying to reconcile their perceptions of church with their experience of actual Lutherans—one of whom is a scientist. Without that relationship, the nones would never have known a true evangelical witness to the liberating good news of Jesus.

In this issue you have read about Future Church (page 20). God is calling us into this exciting mission, and the Spirit will activate each of us to invite people to know the way of Jesus and discover community, justice and love. The ELCA can hold up our evangelical witness, which is an alternative face of Christianity—not for institutional survival, but so that more people will experience the deep love of Jesus, be transformed and liberated by that love and "work for justice and peace" (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, Holy Baptism).

This mission will take all of us, and it means actual relationships with real people led by an incarnational God. I believe that God will transform this church. †

A monthly message from the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.  
Her email address is [bishop@elca.org](mailto:bishop@elca.org).



#### **April 4**

Isaiah 25:6-9  
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
1 Corinthians 15:1-11  
Mark 16:1-8

#### **April 11**

Acts 4:32-35  
Psalm 133  
1 John 1:1-2:2  
John 20:19-31

#### **April 18**

Acts 3:12-19  
Psalm 4  
1 John 3:1-7  
Luke 24:36b-48

#### **April 25**

Acts 4:5-12  
Psalm 23  
1 John 3:16-24  
John 10:11-18

#### **Joint Congregational Service and Meeting**

On Sunday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Renee Splichal Larson will be leading our worship service at Bethesda at 9:00am. Pastor Renee is an associate to the Bishop at SD Synod ELCA and resides in Sioux Falls. She will be helping our congregations as we start our call process.

We will hold a congregational meeting following our service that day that includes both our Bethesda and Butler parishes. Your attendance is greatly appreciated so that we may hear any questions and concerns you may have as we move forward.

Thank you!

Robin Anderson



#### **Coffee and Fellowship Returns**

Beginning on Sunday, May 2, coffee will be served following church services at Bethesda. A list of people responsible for making coffee will be posted in the kitchen.

#### **Baby Shower**

There will be a come and go open house baby shower honoring Erro Dean Simon, son of Kaylene (Johnson) and Hayden Simon on Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at Bethesda Lutheran Church from 10am – noon. A short program will be held at 10:15. Baby registry at Target and Amazon.

#### **Holy Week Schedule**

April 1<sup>st</sup> – 6pm Maundy Thursday Service at Butler and online  
April 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6pm Good Friday Service at Bethesda and online  
April 4<sup>th</sup> – 8am Communion Worship at Butler and online  
April 4<sup>th</sup> – 9:30am Communion Worship at Bethesda and online

#### **Vacation Bible School**

Westside Wesleyan will be hosting bible school this year. They are currently looking at dates and would like to know any dates that do not work for our church families. Please let Liz at the church know if there are any dates will not work. Thank you!

#### **Women of the ELCA**

##### **Butler WELCA**

The Butler WELCA met at the Church on March 6, 2021 with 6 members present. Bible Study was "Blessed Assurance" from 1 John 3: 11-24.

The WELCA Purpose Statement was read. Secretary's report was read. Correspondence was read.

##### **Treasurer's Report:**

February Offering:	\$140.00
General Fund:	\$1962.95
Altar Fund:	\$162.70

Mission Action Report: We will continue to work on Personal Care Kits through Easter. Confirmation and First Communion will be Sunday, March 14, 2021 at Butler. We will order 5 boutonnieres.

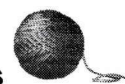
Our next meeting will be April 5. Monday at 6:30 pm at the Church.

We closed with praying The Lord's Prayer.

Carol Flattum, Secretary



#### **Yarn Donations**



If anyone has yarn they would like to donate for making prayer shawls, please drop off at the church. Thank you!



## Bethesda WELCA

Bethesda WELCA met at 1:30 on March 17, 2021.

A program on Lent was given by Alice Jean Peterson. Devotion was from Romans 5:8. A reading about the washing of feet was read. When Jesus washed the feet of His disciples, he was showing His love by becoming a servant. We are to show love to one another because He first loved us. Members read 10 things to remember for Lent. The hymn When I Survey the Wondrous Cross was sung with words pertaining to each verse and members read responsively Psalm 51 as a prayer of repentance. This psalm is referred to as "The Passion Psalm. The program concluded with a poem, I Know Something Good About You.

Bonnie Dolney and Jane Goehring presided over the business meeting. The Purpose Statement was read by the members. There was much correspondence. The secretary's report and the treasurer's reports were read and approved.

\*Bonnie Anderson volunteered to make prayer shawls. She has been making them for the Lutheran Church in Milbank. If anyone has yarn they would like to donate, please bring it to the church or to a member.

\*Kathryn Bury reported that over 30 personal care kits are done. Needed items for more kits are towels, combs, and tooth brushes.

\*Several quilt tops were received and they are finished now and will be given to the Ronald McDonald home in Sioux Falls. There were 3 twin size and 7 children's size.

\*Kay has gotten batting for quilts with the Thrivent Action money. From previous Action money we divided 16 caps and 41 pairs of gloves to Groton, Langford, and Webster schools.

\*Senior Recognition will be May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Our graduates are Lane Stern, Brianna Kvernevig, and Brianna Duerre.

Prayer concerns are George Dolney, Bruce Anderson, Gail Sjurson Formanack, and the Burdell Bohn family.

Our April meeting will be on April 14 at 10:00 a.m. Sharon Johnson will have the program and Bonnie Dolney will be the hostess.

The meeting closed by praying the Lords Prayer and singing the table prayer.

Jane Goehring served a delicious lemon cake with other treats.

Secretary,

Alice Jean Peterson



**South Dakota Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
 God's work. Our hands.

## April 2021 Newsletter Inserts

Siblings in Christ of the South Dakota Synod,

He has risen! He has risen indeed! - You may hear others say about us that we are "Easter People". What does that mean? It means that we believe and trust that death does not have the last Word. And that is true for all areas of our daily life. As Easter people we know that death never has the last Word. In fact as Easter People we come to know death as painfully excruciating because of Good Friday, but in spite of our pain we know and believe that in the midst of our pain God is at work calling forth life where the world has closed the book and calls it quits.

When others walk away from the grave, Easter People stay and wait for it only to become witnesses to God's amazing power and then we go tell. As we marked the anniversary of the Coronavirus pandemic last month and reminisce about last year's unorthodox Easter celebration, we have been presented with an opportunity to show up as God's people outside our buildings. We have not turned away from those who have died or experienced losses of all kinds. No, we have shown up in many ways. Thank you, dear South Dakota Synod, for showing up, for being Easter People who trust and believe, that life is already waiting to spring forth when all we see is loss. Faith is to hope for things that are yet unseen. South Dakota Synod, we will not need to "go back to normal", we will not even try to find a "new normal". But we will boldly live into God's future by continuing to show up proclaiming the good news of Jesus, the Christ. Alleluia!

Journeying in Christ with you,  
 Rev. Constanze Hagmaier  
 Bishop of the South Dakota Synod, ELCA

### The Easter Season

*Rev. Jonathan Steiner*

In April, we make the turn into the Easter season. A whole season of the church dedicated to the resurrection of Christ our savior, not just a single day. The promise that "Christ is risen!" will be proclaimed again and again in worship.

How do you proclaim that Christ is risen? How do you live out our faith, trusting in the promise of new life? How do we show and share the joy that comes to us through God?

As Lutherans, we understand that resurrection is not just a gift for us when our bodies fail, but a current reality for our world. The Holy Spirit flows through us and others to bring new life, here and now. Despite the tragedy and grief that result from the pandemic, God is at work, turning death to resurrection. This often happens through generosity, as we share our blessings with others.

Be on the lookout for chances to proclaim "Christ is risen, right here and right now!" Listen to your neighbors, knowing that God might be using you in the process of resurrection.

### Encourage one another

*Rev. Renee Splichal Larson*

1 Thessalonians 5.11: "... encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing."

In 1 Thessalonians, Paul is giving a pastoral word for people living in an uncertain time. Jesus was already supposed to return to the world after he ascended into heaven before loved ones started dying. As time marched forward, people began to realize that Jesus may not be returning as swiftly as they had hoped. They needed to figure out how to live life and have faith not knowing what the future might bring, or when Jesus would return as he promised.

Sound familiar? Paul's words are as relevant today as they were 2,000 years ago. We continue to trust Jesus, and "keep awake" for his advent, while we encourage and build up one another. Throughout the last year we've had to be creative about how we encourage one another and reach those with the Good News of Jesus Christ, who are confined to homes, care centers, hospitals, corrections, or even the streets. One of the ways the church has been able to do this is through technology.

Those of us who work as your ministry partners in the Synod office have heard our congregations express the need to expand ministry through technology. To help our congregations live into new ways of being the church in the world and spread the love of Jesus, ten, \$1,000 grants, were awarded to South Dakota Synod, ELCA congregations who are expanding their worship participation and outreach through technology. We are continuing to seek out more opportunities for grant funding for congregations to expand their outreach. Please be on the lookout for the Hour of Hope Grants from the Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation this Spring. My siblings in Christ, "encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing."

**GOD DOESN'T WANT ANYTHING FROM YOU,  
BECAUSE EVERYTHING YOU HAVE  
IS ALREADY HIS.  
BE GRATEFUL.**

—Bob Goff, Live in Grace—Walk in Love

*He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. Colossians 1:17*

There it was—the loud, bold heading of my devotions for the day from a favorite book. It's never a deep theological discussion, but always challenging and straight to the point. And that day wasn't any different. "At every point, whether we've known it or not, God has protected us and sustained us. Our good behavior didn't earn it, and our failures haven't ruined it.....We wake up to new days, we take our next breath, we dream some dreams because of God's grace. We did nothing to earn any of this.

"God doesn't want anything from you, because everything you have is already God's. If you want to dazzle God, give thanks by sharing what you've been given. Freely, with gratitude. No strings attached."

So.....what if I didn't earn it? What if my hard work doesn't mean I deserve it? Why did God choose me as manager of the resources I've been chosen to steward? What if God put me in this place and position for a purpose? If you're asking some of these same questions and thinking about how your life can make a difference, Lutheran Planned Generosity of SD was created as a resource for you. We have tools and information to build a plan that honors your faith and your family, and expresses your gratitude through generosity. For more information, call Kathy McHenry at 605.274.5030, email [kmchenry@sdsynod.org](mailto:kmchenry@sdsynod.org) or visit our website at [www.lpgsd.org](http://www.lpgsd.org).

#### **2021 Update on ELCA World Hunger Domestic Hunger Grants:**

This year, ELCA World Hunger is partnering through Domestic Hunger Grants with 167 ministries spread out across 63 synods and 32 states, plus Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C.

ELCA World Hunger is also investing in four ministries that demonstrate excellence, innovation and best practices that align with ELCA World Hunger's priority areas in substantial, sustainable ways through one-time Big Dream grants. Big Dream grants are by invitation.

***Congratulations to our three South Dakota Synod ministries receiving Domestic Hunger Grants: Augustana Lutheran in Sioux Falls, Church on the Street in Sioux Falls (Big Dream grant recipient), and Calvary Lutheran in Rapid City!***

Additionally, a round of Daily Bread Matching Grants will be taking place in June, creating opportunities for congregational feeding ministries to build sustainability through generosity and resources within their own communities. ELCA congregations with feeding ministries are eligible to participate.

#### **New (2022) Domestic Hunger Grant Application Cycle**

The next round of Domestic Hunger Grant applications is on the horizon.

- Informational webinar for prospective applicants: March 24, 12 p.m. Central time
- Registration Period: March 17, 2021 – May 5, 2021
- Application Period: April 19, 2021 – May 21, 2021
- Synod Review Period: June – August 2021
- Award Table Review Period: September – October 2021
- Award recommendations shared with applicants and synods: November 2021
- Final awards approved and announced publicly: February 2022

More application details and criteria can be found at <https://www.elca.org/domestichungergrants>.

We are hopeful for this new year and the new possibilities for partnership. We look forward to growing together in our work to build more resilient communities together, toward a just world where all are fed.



**South Dakota Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

Partner in ministry,

Thank you for your support, particularly your financial gift to the synod over the last few months. As we closed the books on 2020, we look back and see the blessing of generosity across South Dakota. Thanks to your gift, we were able to meet 98% of our budget for the synod, despite the pandemic.

Let me say that again. In the midst of a global pandemic and economic crisis, congregations in South Dakota still met 98% of the pledges. What a testament to faithfulness and trust in God's work! Because of your support, we were still able to show up for our neighbors, to give leadership and guidance through the Bishop's office, to support particular ministries, to invest in all the ways that we do the work of the church.

We are doing the work of proclaiming God's love through Christ and loving our neighbors, and we are blessed to have a partner like you. Know that you are in our prayers as you do ministry in your community.

Journeying Together in Christ,

Pastor Jonathan Steiner  
Director for Evangelical Mission  
Associate to the Bishop for Stewardship & Outreach





**He is risen!! He is risen, indeed!! Alleluia!**

Hello Everyone,

I greet you with the Easter greeting of great joy. This is good news for everyone. The tomb is empty! Death has lost its sting! There is hope in the world!

This is my last newsletter article for you and I know that a lot of you, like me, have a bittersweet feeling about this. You are happy for me but sad that I am leaving. I feel the same way. I look forward to my new call but I also am sad that I am leaving behind so many friends. When I took this call I said that I would love you and I do which is why I am sad at leaving. I also know that you took this fledgling pastor under your wings and have nurtured me to the point where it is time for me to fly. To follow God's call to New Hope Lutheran in Blanchardville and Hollandale, WI.

The good news is that, you are not alone, Jesus is with you, God will call another pastor to lead you into the next chapter of your congregational life. Yes, some of you will miss me, some of you will grieve, that is normal, that is to be expected. Where there is grief, there was love. Pastor Renee from the Synod office will walk with you, she will lead you and help you in your call of a new pastor.

The great news about Easter is that there is life after death, there is hope after loss, there is a light the darkness cannot overcome. Jesus doesn't wait for you to come to him, he walks through locked doors to get to you. I fully believe that God has someone in mind for you.

It has been my great pleasure to be your pastor these past six years. I will always treasure you in my heart. Know that you are loved, by me, but most importantly, by God.

Grace and peace be with you my friends,

Pastor Chris

### APRIL BETHESDA WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	Usher	Reader	Organist	Worship Helper
4/1	At Butler	-----	-----	-----
4/2			Kathryn	
4/4		Gail	Gail	
4/11	At Butler	-----	-----	-----
4/18		Alice Jean	Kathryn	
4/25	At Butler	-----	-----	-----
<b>Altar Guild:</b> Glenda Bakken and Carol Raap				
<b>Deacon:</b> Pam Dylla				

### **Bethesda Financial Report**

**Needed weekly to meet the budget: \$1,218.80**

DATE	RECEIPTS	
02/28/2021	\$ 350.00	<b>short \$ 868.80</b>
03/07/2021	\$1,535.00	<b>long \$ 316.20</b>
Thrivent	\$1,031.00	
AmazonSmile	\$ 6.36	
03/14/2021	\$ 90.00	<b>short \$1,128.80</b>
03/21/2021	\$4,312.00	<b>long \$3,093.20</b>

### **As of March 21, 2021**

Total 2021 yearly receipts: \$16,223.48

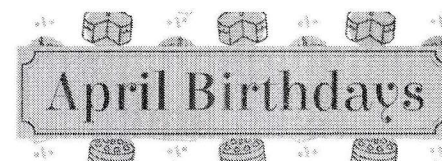
Total 2021 yearly disbursements: \$12,560.18

### **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

### APRIL BUTLER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	Ushers	Readers	Worship Helper
4/1			
4/2	At Bethesda	-----	-----
4/4			
4/11			
4/18	At Bethesda	-----	-----
4/25			









April 1 Delores Whitmyre,	April 16 Holly Lone
April 1 Deb Schiley	April 18 Remi Hubsch
April 2 Paul Halvorsen	April 19 Chloe Lone
April 2 Dan Ash	April 19 Matthew Vehe
April 3 Alice Jean Peterson	April 19 Jayden Ausland
April 6 Grady Rumpza	April 21 Chris Dylla
April 7 Donna Nolte	April 22 Larrie Zimmerman
April 9 Astrid Huwe	April 23 Kirk Lardy
April 10 Jayden Eickhoff	April 24 Brianna Duerre
April 10 Rochell Bartell	April 24 Ryan Horter
April 11 Ryan Anderson	April 25 Carol Flattum
April 11 Kathy Ausland	April 25 Dennis Huwe
April 14 Amy Hansmeier	April 27 Tonia Whitmyre
April 16 Barb Lone	April 28 Ron Johnson

**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!**

Newsletter Postage for March is sponsored by Larry and Pat Huwe

# April 2021



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28 	29	30	31	1 *6pm Maundy Thursday Service at Butler	2 *6pm Good Friday Service at Bethesda	3 
4 Easter Sunday (white) *8am Communion Worship at Butler and online *9:30am Communion Worship at Bethesda and online	5 *6:30pm Butler WELCA Meeting	6 	7 *5:20pm Meal and Wednesday School	8	9	10
11 2nd Sunday of Easter (white) *9am Worship at Butler and online	12	13	14 *10am Bethesda WELCA *5:20pm Meal and Wednesday School	15	16	17 
18 3rd Sunday of Easter (white) *9am Worship at Bethesda with Pastor Renee Splichal Larson and online *Joint Congregational Meeting following worship *May Newsletter Items Due	19 	20	21 *5:20pm Meal and Wednesday School	22 	23	24
25 4th Sunday of Easter (white) *9am Worship at Butler with Diane Hoinos and online	26	27	28 *5:20pm Meal and Wednesday School	29	30	1 Burdell & Muriel Bohn's Auction Sale
2 5th Sunday of Easter (white) *9am Worship at Bethesda with Rev. Michael Jacobson and online	3	NOTES				