

Bethesda Butler Lutheran Parish
PO Box 426
Bristol, SD 57219

AUGUST
2023



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We will welcome Marin Schiley, daughter of Scott and Ashley Schiley in Holy Baptism on August 6th at Butler.



Congratulations to Brandy Peterson and Garret Knebel who were married on July 15th at Bethesda Lutheran Church. Colton Christmann officiated. Blessings for a long and happy life!



Our prayers are with the Family of Lois Buhler who passed away July 3, 2023.



Butler Cleaning Week will be August 7-12. A list of chores will be posted in the kitchen. Choose your task and cross off the list when complete. Thank you for helping!



August 6

Isaiah 55:1-5
Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:13-21

August 13

I Kings 19:9-18
Psalm 85:8-13
Romans 10:5-15
Matthew 14:22-33

August 20

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8
Psalm 67
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Matthew 15:(10-20)21-28

August 27

Isaiah 51:1-6
Psalm 138
Romans 12:1-8
Matthew 16:13-20



Thank you to the family of Alice Jean and Jim Peterson for the generous memorial gift to the Wednesday School program. A meal will be served in memory of Jim and Alice Jean the first week. Monies will be put towards curriculum costs and craft projects as well as games and puzzles for future family game nights.

Bethesda August 2023 Worship Assistants

	Usher	Reader	Organist
8/6	At Butler		
8/13	Dennis	Remi	Gail
8/20	At Butler		
8/27	Vicki	Colt	Kathryn
Altar Guild: Fran Morehouse & Larissa Klebsch			
Deacon: Jon Anderson			

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

**August 2023 newsletter postage is given in
memory of Brenda Harms.**

**The children's offering for January – June totaled
\$172.50 for Ukraine Relief. This was sent to
Grace Lutheran Church in Watertown to aid in
the arrival of their Ukrainian family in May.**

The recipient of the July – December offering will be decided
when Sunday School resumes.

*Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread
for food will also supply and increase your store
of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your
righteousness. ~2 Corinthians 9:10*

Butler August 2023 Worship Assistants

	Usher	Reader
8/6	Wes & Wayne	Julaine
8/13	At Bethesda	
8/20	Wes & Wayne	Wayne
8/27	At Bethesda	

Ways to Give to Butler Lutheran Church






at the church service
mail to the church treasurer



August 3	Alex McKane	August 14	Kinsley Ash
August 3	Sarah Lesnar	August 17	Clinton Huwe
August 3	Scott Schiley	August 19	Keenan Moody
August 5	Carrie Rumpza	August 19	Lane Stern
August 6	Thad Duerre	August 22	Sharon Johnson
August 6	Mark Wattier	August 26	Lucas Dauwen
August 8	Karter Moody	August 27	Heather Lone
August 9	Al Goehring	August 28	Henry Witt
August 9	Caroline Bahr	August 29	Robin Anderson
August 11	Julie Flattum		

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

August 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 Office Hours 10-4	3	4	5
10 th Sunday after Pentecost (green) 6 9 am Communion Worship at Butler with Holy Baptism	7 Butler WELCA 6:30 pm	8 Office Hours 10-4	9 Bethesda Council 6 PM Bethesda WELCA 7:30 PM	10	11 	12
11 th Sunday after Pentecost (green) 13 9 am Communion Worship at Bethesda Birthday Bank Offering	14 	15	16 Office Hours 10-4	17 Kristi to Pine Ridge for Synod Council	18	19
12 th Sunday after Pentecost (green) 20 9 am Worship at Butler with Pastor Jeff Backer of St. Dysmas	21 September newsletter items due	22	23 Office Hours 10-4 	24	25	26
13 th Sunday after Pentecost (green) 27 9 am Worship at Bethesda Noisy Can Offering	28	29 	30 Office Hours 10-4	31		

TALENTED MUSICIANS

The more pastors' meetings and workshops, I attend, the more I am ever thankful for those that share their musical talent with us every week in the form of organ and piano playing! Many smaller churches are without these gems. Thank you, Darcie, Gail, and Kathryn for what you add to our worship services! You are deeply appreciated!



SCHOOL KITS

Butler and Bethesda WELCAs are collecting items for School Kits for Lutheran World Relief. Watch for the school sales in the stores. Leave the items at the churches.

- 4 - 70-sheet notebooks of wide or college-ruled paper, approximately 8" x 10 1/2 "; no loose leaf paper
- 1 - 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- 1 - pencil sharpener
- 5 - **unsharpened** #2 pencils with erasers
- 1 - pair of **blunt** scissors
- 5 - black or blue ballpoint pens (No gel ink)
- 1 - box of 16 or 24 count crayons
- 1 - 2 1/2 " eraser



Bethesda WELCA members would like to recognize everyone who contributed in any way to the success of our July luncheon. To all the committees and others who worked before, during or after, we say thank you. To those of you who donated money, silent auction items, and especially to our guests, we say thank you. Thank you to Charla Imrie for an inspirational, informative message and Karin Bartell for yet another scrumptious lunch! With all of us working together, we made it happen!



WEDNESDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Wednesday School Parents, please mark Wednesday, September 20th down as the tentative date for Wednesday School kickoff. We will plan on running this year's Wednesday School schedule the same as last year with a meal before our classes. Please watch for details in the mail, church bulletins and Facebook. We will be needing teachers so please let Board of Education, Katy Wickre or myself know if you would be willing to help out. Enjoy the remainder of your summer and God's Blessings to all!

Robin Anderson

Dear Friends in Christ,

If asked, I think most of us could easily distinguish between joy and happiness. Happiness is dependent on our present circumstances while joy is something we can carry regardless of our circumstances. Joy is an internal state. In a recent Synod Zoom, Pastor Kristin, president of Wartburg Seminary, shared some practices of joy from The Book of Joy – Lasting Happiness in a Changing World by His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu with Douglas Abrams. This is required reading in her class.

Joy is a gift from God. In Christ, we are empowered to be joy-bearers.

We are loved, forgiven, and given new life.

The first four practices of joy are Pillars of the Mind:

***PERSPECTIVE** – Here we step back to look at the bigger picture to move beyond our limited self.

*Less of me – more of God and my neighbor

*Getting out of tunnel vision mode or out of the rut

***HUMILITY** – Recognition that gifts are from God allows us to celebrate the gifts of others, but this doesn't mean we deny our own gifts. This frees us from envy.

*Freedom to not be perfect and not compare myself to others

*We don't always have to be the best.

*Everything I have or am comes from God.

***HUMOR**– This uplifts and doesn't belittle. We can laugh about our shared humanity, vulnerabilities, and frailties. Humor helps us face the ironies and cruelties in the uncertainties that come our way.

*Misconception – Humor doesn't belong in serious situations. (We often think it will be taken as disrespect.)

***ACCEPTANCE**– This is the opposite of resignation and defeat. We can engage with life on its own rather than rail against the fact that life isn't what we wish.

*Acceptance helps us let go of the fact that we need to change people and instead focus on everyone being a child of God.

Great reminders for daily living with our fellow brothers and sisters!

Of course, I bought the book!

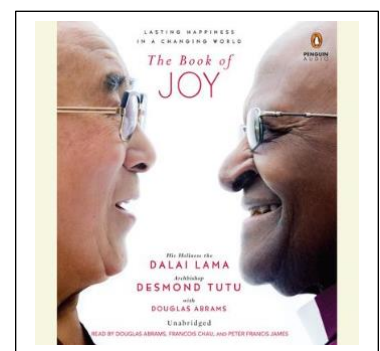
It will be available for checkout when I am finished.

This is a book to read slowly and savor.

I will share the 4 Pillars of the Heart next month.

Grace and peace,

Kristi





South Dakota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Summer 2023 Newsletter Inserts

From the Bishop's Desk

Dear South Dakota Synod,

Grace and peace to you in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

THANK YOU for sending your rostered leaders and voting members to the 2023 synod assembly. Almost 400 people gathered under the theme of "Cultivate" with a focus on rural ministry. Our two keynote speakers, Rev. Mark Yackel-Juleen from Wartburg Seminary and Rev. Jon Anderson from Luther Seminary, shared hard facts and data as well as hope and future vision. Did you know that Region 3, Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota, are the largest region in the ELCA? Did you know that 75% of the members of the ELCA live rural communities? And did you know that the average worship attendance across the ELCA is 50-75 people?

When I travel and visit congregations across our synod I either hear directly or in between the lines that ministry can feel lonesome as a rostered leader as well as a congregation. I hope you heard at the synod assembly that you are not alone, but that you have partners that care and are standing by to accompany you. Rev. Phil Hirsch was our churchwide representative at the Synod Assembly. While I give thanks for his report, what I want to share with you, that you do not know, is that you have left an impression on him. Once the synod assembly concluded on Saturday, he took off with our Rural Ministry Liaison, Pastor Alan Blankenfeld, and Kathy McHenry from Lutheran Planned Generosity to experience rural South Dakota. I know that he enjoyed his experience, both at the assembly as well as the tutoring from the synod, because he said so. It has sharpened his understanding of rural ministry and our place in the life and ministry of the ELCA. Thank you, South Dakota Synod, for your hospitality, your welcome, and for your ministry.

I pray for adequate moisture, farm and ranch safety, energy as you plan for fall ministry, and fun and growth during your summer ministry programming. Please know that I am always happy to come and visit. Crystal McCormick at the synod office will be delighted to schedule a visit with you; just reach out to her via email cmccormick@sdsynod.org and she'll get us together.

Journeying in Christ with you,

Rev. Constanze Hagmaier

Bishop of the SD Synod

Beloved partners in Christ,

As I write this, my time with you in South Dakota grows short. I cannot help but think on Paul's words in Philippians 1, "I thank my God for every remembrance of you, always in every one of my prayers for all of you, praying with joy for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now" (v 3-5).

Just as Paul was thankful in prayer for the church in Philippi, so I am thankful for all the ministries I have witnessed across South Dakota. I have seen deep relationships where people care for one another. I have experienced the welcome and hospitality of so many communities. I have celebrated the generosity we have toward one another, making incredible ministry possible. And I know all of this is rooted in our shared faith in Jesus Christ, and propelled forward by the Holy Spirit.

I will continue to pray for you, and for the work that is shared in the South Dakota Synod. Know that it has been a blessing to me to Journey Together in Christ with you, and I am thankful for the work we have accomplished through our partnership.

Peace and blessings to you!

Rev. Jonathan Steiner

Director for Evangelical Mission and Associate to the Bishop for Stewardship & Outreach

Back on the Road!

What an exciting time in the SD Synod! I am still energized from the Synod Assembly's focus on rural ministry, and being able to see the fruits of our labors is incredible. I think that people from all parts of the synod and all walks of life know that there are benefits and struggles of rural life, not to mention rural ministry. But when we approach the fears and struggles together, we are able to make our way through them; sometimes it's not easy but yet we can do it. Rural ministry can be so rewarding if we can get rostered ministers to realize this and embrace these small rural communities.

I am also very thankful for Bishop Constanze and her vision of raising up lay leaders – this is also a very exciting part of my call. I get to help lay leaders look at the educational possibilities available to them that weren't there before; whether they just want to take lay classes or are ready to explore what seminary may look like for them. Some of the people that I have coffee with will be in seminary but they just don't know it yet! If you or someone you know would like to have coffee with me, please let me know.

I would also like to thank Bergen Lutheran church for their commitment to rural ministry as they are hosting a Threshing Bee to benefit Rural Ministries in the South Dakota Synod on Sunday July 30!! I hope to see many of you there!

Rural ministry is rewarding and difficult all at the same time but what a wonderful ministry it is!

Blessings,

Pastor Alan Blankenfeld

Rural Ministry Liaison

40 for 40 – A Reason to Celebrate

Three milestones of generosity in the South Dakota Synod were celebrated at this year's assembly: the **40th anniversary** of a gift planning position in the synod, created by Bishop Norman Eitrheim and filled by Rev. Franklin Pudas; the **30th anniversary** of the establishment of the Synod Endowment; and the **20th anniversary** of the Lutheran Planned Generosity of South Dakota (LPGSD) partnership and ministry. Lots of reasons to celebrate and to be extremely thankful.

The gifts made because of this work have impacted congregations, rostered leaders, and ministries across our synod and around the world. Because of the way an endowment continues to make gifts, that impact extends far into the future and continues to grow.

Can you help us celebrate this milestone? LPGSD hopes to create and/or document **40 planned gifts** by the end of 2023 to recognize **40 years of intentional generosity**. You may have already named your church or another ministry as a beneficiary of your will, a life insurance policy, or an IRA/investment. Or maybe you've talked about creating a legacy plan but aren't sure how to make it happen, or whether it's possible.

Thank you for helping us honor those who paved the way by ensuring that generosity and ministry continue in the future. To learn more about how you can be a part of **40 for 40**, or if you have questions about how to make a plan to make a difference, contact us at 605.274.5030 or LPGSD@sdsynod.org.

Kathy McHenry, LPGSD Executive Director

HELPING HANDS

The SD Synod Hunger Grant team just finished reviewing all applications, and my assignment was The Sandwich Ministry from Watertown. This was new to me, so I thought I would share their mission to raise awareness and give opportunity to anyone that is interested in helping them with a donation.

Watertown Sandwich Ministry works out of Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer. They deliver a nutritious meal of a meat and cheese sandwich, homemade cookies, fresh fruit, and a granola bar three days a week to several locations in Watertown. It was estimated in 2018 that 15% of Watertown, SD, residents were hungry – about 4,500 people. Some of the meals are delivered one-on-one or to community gathering places.