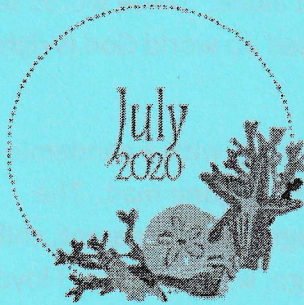


Bethesda Butler Lutheran Parish
PO Box 426
Bristol, SD 57219



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



"I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old. I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold." (ELW 732, I was there to hear your borning cry)

Dear friends,

I love that song. The simple lyrics remind us that God is with us from beginning to end and beyond. This song brings me peace as it reminds me we are not alone. These words seek to let us remember that in the midst of this crazy, topsy-turvy, messed up world God is right there with us cheering us on.

These last few months have not been easy for any of us beginning with a pandemic and more recently the protests about race it seems as if the whole world has gone mad. The questions abound: should I wear a mask or not, why can't I see my aging or sick parent, child, spouse, how long to self-isolate, is it safe to go out and where can I go, who is George Floyd and why are we protesting, what is racism and is it really systemic, etc. So many questions, so few answers. The biggest question is when will it all end?

Well, I don't have answers for all your questions, I have some thoughts but no answers. One thing I am doing is continuing to educate myself on these topics and others. Another answer that I have is that we will begin to have worship in our sanctuaries beginning on July 12 at Bethesda. We will also continue with online worship. What these will look like is yet to be determined. We will require you to wear a mask during worship. Remember, these masks will not protect you, but they will protect your friends from you. There will be other small changes to our worship practices but they still need to be worked out.

Through all of this the one thing that gives me peace is knowing that I am not alone, that God through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit is right here with me, walking with me on my journey through life and God is right there with you too.

"I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old. I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold...I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've begun. When the evening gently closes in and you shut your weary eyes, I'll be there as I have always been, one more surprise."

God's peace be with you all,

Pastor Chris



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

July 2020 Congregation Newsletter Inserts

Congregations of the South Dakota Synod are invited to use any of the following newsletter inserts for their regular newsletter schedules. These short articles are written by members of the staff and our partners in ministry.

From the Bishop's Desk

"He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8)

These are the prophet Micah's words to his contemporaries, and these are Micah's words to us as well as it speaks into our daily life as people of God living in uncertain times. Many of you have reached out to me with a deep concern about the storms of life encircling us, they are manifold from the ongoing uncertainty of agriculture, to the threats of COVID-19, to the unrest that fills our life. The call of the prophet Micah continues to lead us, dear Church until the day, Christ will return. And so, we went to work, trusting that God's in the midst of all of this, leading us into the future he has prepared for us.

During our fall "Listen, Learn and Care" events in all seven conferences of our synod we learned that you seek your synod staff to be a resource to you, that you are deeply concerned about the polarization in our nation and that you seek to live out your faith boldly. We have listened to you and offer you a synod-wide opportunity to create a space where various voices are heard, where justice and love for mercy guide the conversation as we journey together humbly with God. The "SD Synod Justice Table" will begin a conversation around topics of diversity, justice, and reconciliation. This conversation will invite partners around the table that are of very different walks of life and bring various experiences to the table. This group will model what it means to "holy wrestle" with the tough issues and how we live our faith boldly in times such as these heading Micah's call. Welcome to the table, SD Synod.

Bishop Constanze
 #JourneyingTogetherinChrist

In Times of Conflict

Rev. Jonathan Steiner

Ephesians 2:14-16

For [Christ] is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making

peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it.

In the middle of all this tension and conflict, it can be easy to demonize those we disagree with. When we say things like, "those are evil people," we lose sight of who God knows us to be: broken people. Every one of us has flaws, sins that we know and even ones that we are blind to. God forgives each of us, out of the grace that is the gift from Christ. We are called to love our neighbors, to call out injustice, and to work so that everyone has a place at the table. But we must do so in the pursuit of peace, rather than trying to win. Jesus breaks down our hostility, and brings us peace.

General Ministry Housekeeping

Crystal McCormick

Subscribe to the Synod News:

A good way to stay informed and updated is to subscribe to the Synod news. This can be done by visiting <https://sdsynod.org/> and inserting your email address into the box at the bottom of the home screen where it says "sign-up for Synod news" and hit the yellow subscribe button. We will keep you informed as postponed events get rescheduled as well as continue to share reliable information and resources regarding COVID-19 and how our ministries are moving forward amidst these times.

2020 Generosity

Our grandson was born on 02.02.2020. For numbers nerds like me, it was the first eight-digit palindrome of its kind since 11.11.1111, over 900 years ago. It's not an event that required such a special date for us to remember—his entrance to this world and our family was more than enough, but it's a fun addition to the story. The entire year of 2020 seems the same—it's as though the world is determined to become so memorable that we'll never forget those numbers, but for very different reasons. Physical, emotional, financial and social pains have bombarded us with challenges of mourning and yearning, adapting and changing, listening and reacting, and never, ever forgetting.

2020 is a year of people and ministries in great need, but also of people well-equipped by God to meet those needs. Have you thought about how and why God has entrusted you as a caretaker and steward? Have those resources placed you in a unique position to make a difference in the world in 2020? What legacy of your faith will live on as an example beyond 2020 to those who mourn your passing?

This year will be unforgettable for a multitude of reasons. Maybe a decision to move away from excess toward intentional, planned generosity for our hurting brothers and sisters is another reason to remember 2020. If so, Lutheran Planned Giving of South Dakota is here to help.

Kathy McHenry, Executive Director
 Lutheran Planned Giving of South Dakota
 605.274.5030
kmchenry@sdsynod.org
www.lpgsd.org

Church Online

Sawyer Vanden Heuvel

There is no doubt that COVID-19 has caused a huge shift for our churches in South Dakota, but it has also opened up a new opportunity for churches to continue to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. How many of your congregations have seen new people online in worship with you? For some, checking out a church for the first time seemed like a daunting task.

"Will I feel welcome? What is the music like? Will I like the preaching?" These are all questions that people ask when checking out a church. Now, with many of our congregations online, that barrier has been removed and the pressure of visiting has been lifted.

If your congregation is looking to take a step further in your church online, we invite you to check out a new partnership we have with Red River Worship. Created by two ELCA Lutheran worship directors, Red River Worship's mission is to equip congregations with resources, video services, and even a recorded hymn library! Check out the work of Jon and Nolan at redriverworship.com.



July 5

Zechariah 9:9-12
Psalm 145:8-14
Romans 7:15-25a
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

July 12


Isaiah 55:10-13
Psalm 65:[1-8]9-13
Romans 8:1-11
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 19

Isaiah 44:6-8
Psalm 86:11-17
Romans 18:12-25
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

July 26

1 Kings 3:5-12
Psalm 119:129-136
Romans 8:26-39
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52









PUZZLE

WATER WORKS!

The gospels record Jesus' miracles, many of which involve water.

Directions: Using the illustrated equations, fill in the blanks to describe each miracle. Use the Bible references for help.

 + e	Water changes to _____ <div style="text-align: right;">JOHN 2:1-11</div>
 - k + d	Heals a man born _____ <div style="text-align: right;">JOHN 9</div>
 - op +  - w	Calms a _____ <div style="text-align: right;">MATTHEW 8:23-27</div>
f +  - d	Catch of _____ <div style="text-align: right;">LUKE 5:1-11</div>
 - ch + er	Walks on _____ <div style="text-align: right;">MATTHEW 14:22-33</div>

Answers: wine, blind, storm, fish, water

Women of the ELCA

Bethesda WELCA!!

It's not too soon to be looking for school kit and personal care kit items as things come on sale!!! We thank everyone for being so thoughtful and generous with these items. You can leave the items in the church basement cabinet on the east wall. The list is in your Bethesda WELCA booklet on page 19. Happy Hunting!!!

Cochairmen: Bonnie Dolney and Jane Goehring

JULY BETHESDA WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	Usher	Reader	Organist	Worship Helper
7/5	-----	-----	-----	-----
7/12	Gayle H.	Kathryn B	Kathryn	-----
7/19	At Butler			
7/26	Gayle H.	Gail H	Gail H	-----
Altar Guild: Gail Huwe & Janel Lone				
Deacon: Kris H.				

Bethesda Financial Report

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

DATE	RECEIPTS	
05/17/2020	\$1323.04	long \$115.86
05/26/2020	\$670.00	short \$537.18
05/03/2020	\$20.00	short \$1187.18
06/10/2020	\$1,700.00	long \$492.82
06/14/2020	\$475.00	short \$732.18

As of June 20, 2020

Total 2020 yearly receipts: \$39,958.43

Total 2020 yearly disbursements: \$28,604.07

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

A great big hug to everyone who is remembering the church during this pandemic with your offering. Thank you for dropping them off at the church or mailing them to either the church or to me at my home. I appreciate not having to worry about how I am going to pay the church bills.

Jill Hansmeier, treasurer

JULY BUTLER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	Ushers	Readers	Worship Helper
7/5	-----	-----	-----
7/12	At Bethesda	-----	
7/19	Paul H & Larry H	Julaine B.	-----
7/26	At Bethesda	-----	-----



July 1	Knox Schiley	July 10	Kyle Hubsch
July 1	Kylie Schiley	July 11	Kevin Burkel
July 1	Theresa	July 12	Wesley Nolte
	Hansmeier	July 12	Evangeline Nolte
July 1	Katy Wickre	July 12	Sara Vedvei
July 1	Glenda Bakken	July 14	Jane Goehring
July 2	Jim Peterson	July 15	Lloyd Johnson
July 3	Pat Sass	July 18	Judy Williamson
July 5	David Orr	July 19	Karah Burkel
July 6	Morrie Bartell	July 27	Carol Raap
July 8	Cambria Bonn	July 29	Adalyn Schnaible
July 9	Karley Lone	July 31	Kyle Whitmyre
July 10	Muriel Bohn		





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

Bethesda and Butler July Newsletter postage is sponsored by Lorraine Anderson



JULY 2020



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Pastor's Office Day	2	3	4 
5th Sunday After Pentacost 5 9am Online Worship on Facebook BethesdaButler Page and website	6	7 	8 Pastor's Office Day 7:30 Bethesda Council Meeting	9	10	11
6th Sunday After Pentacost (green) 12 9am Worship at Bethesda and Online Worship on Facebook BethesdaButler Page and website	13	14	15 Pastor's Office Day	16 	17	18
7th Sunday After Pentacost (green) 19 9am Worship at Butler and Online Worship on Facebook BethesdaButler Page and website August Newsletter Items Due	20	21	22 Pastor's Office Day	23	24	25
8th Sunday After Pentacost (green) 26 9am Worship at Bethesda and Online Worship on Facebook BethesdaButler Page and website	27	28	29 Pastor's Office Day	30	31	