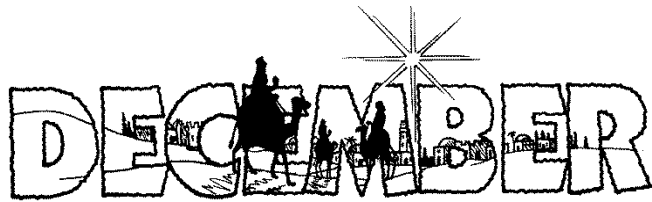


Bethesda Butler Lutheran Parish  
PO Box 426  
Bristol, SD 57219



DECEMBER

2021



HOPE PEACE  
*Love Joy*

Bethesda-Butler Church Office 605-492-3123

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

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

PO Box 426 Bristol, SD 57219

## Help wanted

### Bethesda Butler Parish Secretary

Approximately 10 hours/week which can be done part at home and part at the churches.

Complete list of duties is available at Bethesda.

Contact Robin Anderson or Travis Antonsen or send your resume to Bethesda Lutheran Church PO Box 426 Bristol, SD 57219.

**THANK YOU to all the volunteers  
who have been filling in.**



### Emergency Pastoral Contacts

#### Rev. Michael DeKraai

St. John's Lutheran Church

Webster, SD

605-265-1937

[dekma50@gmail.com](mailto:dekma50@gmail.com)

#### Pastor Alex Smith

American Lutheran Church

Webster, SD

605-265-0880

[alexandrahjerpe@gmail.com](mailto:alexandrahjerpe@gmail.com)



Bethesda WELCA is collecting winter hats and heavy mittens for the local schools. Please place them on the Christmas tree in the narthex.

Thank you

.....



#### December 5

Malachi 3:1-4  
Luke 1:68-79  
Philippians 1:3-11  
Luke 3:1-6

#### December 12

Zephaniah 3:14-20  
Isaiah 12:2-6  
Philippians 4:4-7  
Luke 3:7-18

#### December 19

Micah 5:2-5a  
Luke 1:46b-55  
Hebrews 10:5-10  
Luke 1:39-45[46-55]

#### December 24

Isaiah 9:2-7  
Psalm 96  
Titus 2:11-14  
Luke 2:1-14[15-20]

#### December 25

Isaiah 62:6-12  
Psalm 97  
Titus 3:4-7  
Luke 2:[1-7]8-20

#### December 26

1 Samuel 2:18-20,26  
Psalm 148  
Colossians 3:12-17  
Luke 2:41-52



# Holiday Schedule

**Christmas Eve Communion Worship Service will be 4pm at Bethesda**

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**Christmas Day Communion Worship Service will be 9am at Butler**

Both services will be livestreamed on Facebook and available on the churches' YouTube channel and website.



If you would like to order a Poinsettia in memory or honor of a loved one please contact Jill or leave order form and money in the offering plate. Poinsettias will be displayed in the church for the Christmas services. Please pick up your poinsettia following the service. **Cost is \$20.** You can choice from red, white or marbled (pink with white edges). Orders and money are due by **December 7<sup>th</sup>**. Order forms available in the church narthex. If you are providing your own poinsettia, please let Carol Raap know who it is in memory or honor of by **Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>** to have it listed in the bulletin.

.....

If you would be able to serve as a **Lesson Reader** at Bethesda Lutheran Church for the upcoming year please let Carol Raap know.



**Bergen Live Nativity  
Saturday, December 18  
Clint and Kelly Brandlee's farm  
7:00 PM**

\*\*\*\*\*



## WEDNESDAY SCHOOL NEWS

December 12<sup>th</sup> – Christmas program during the Bethesda church service

December 22<sup>nd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> – no Wednesday School

## December Meal Serving schedule

December 1 – Cullen & Taylor Salter  
December 8 – Jake & Karli Zimmerman  
December 15 – Russell Johnson family



# BETHESDA WELCA

**Christmas Sweet Sale**  
**Bethesda Lutheran Church basement**  
**Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup>**  
**10 am – 3 pm**



Bethesda members are asked to bring at least 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 pieces per bag	or	6 per bag
Donuts	12 per bag		
Lefse	5 rounds		
Sweet breads	individually		

**Please leave your sweets in Bethesda's kitchen on Friday, December 3 between 8 am and 4 pm.** Pricing will be done by the WELCA officers.

This fund raiser is an important source of income used for missions not only locally but internationally; it also contributes to the expenses of the church. This is an opportunity for you to support not only our purpose but to purchase Christmas goodies for you or others.

For anyone who does not or cannot bake, monetary donations are very much appreciated.



# DECEMBER 2021



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 5:15-6:30 Wednesday School & Meal	2 	3 Bethesda members leave your sweets in the church kitchen 8 am – 4 pm.	4 9am Butler WELCA  10 am -3 pm Bethesda Christmas Sweet Sale
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent (blue) 5 <b>9 am Communion Worship at Butler with Diane Hoines</b>	6	7  POINSETTIA ORDERS DUE	8 Noon – Bethesda WELCA Pot Luck 5:15-6:30 Wednesday School & Meal 6:00 Bethesda Council	9	10 	11
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent (blue) 12 <b>9 am Worship at Bethesda with Diane Hoines/ Wednesday School Christmas program</b>	13	14	15 5:15-6:30 Wednesday School & Meal	16 	17	18 Bergen Live Nativity Clint & Kelly Brandlee's farm 7:00 PM
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent (blue) 19 <b>9 am Worship at Butler with Kristi Anderson</b>  January newsletter items due	20	21	22 	23	24 Christmas Eve(white)  <b>4 PM Communion Worship at Bethesda with Diane Hoines</b>	25 Christmas Day  <b>9 AM Communion Worship at Butler with Diane Hoines</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas 26 (white) <b>No Worship Service</b>	27	28 	29	30	31 	

**DECEMBER BETHESDA WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

	<b>Usher</b>	<b>Reader</b>	<b>Organist</b>
12/5	At Butler		
12/12		Caroline	Gail
12/19	At Butler		
12/24		Kay	Kathryn
12/25	At Butler		
<b>Altar Guild:</b> Vickie Zimmerman, Bonnie Dolney, Mavis McKane			
<b>Deacon:</b> Kris Hubsch			

**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

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 If you have a **prayer request** let Carol Raap know. We can't list it unless a family member requests it.

\*\*\*\*\*  
 Please get your 2021 donations to your church treasurer by December 31<sup>st</sup>.

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 If you have **items for the monthly newsletters** get those to Jill Hansmeier or email the church as early in the month as you can.

\*\*\*\*\*  
 December newsletter postage is sponsored by Paul and Shirley Halvorsen

\*\*\*\*\*  
 If you would like to sponsor a month's newsletter postage in 2022 contact Jill. The cost is \$55.00.

**DECEMBER BUTLER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

	<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Readers</b>
12/5	Gerry	Julie Flattum
12/12	At Bethesda	
12/19	Gerry	Michael Herr
12/24	At Bethesda	
12/25	Gerry	Tammie Herr

**Ways to Give to Butler Lutheran Church**

at the church service  
 mail to the church treasurer



- |                       |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 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 Blessings to you!**



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

## December 2021 Newsletter Inserts

### From the Bishop's Desk: Advent 2021 Podcast!

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit! I am inviting you to tune in to our second annual South Dakota Synod Advent Podcast. The title is plain and simple "Shortage." It seems that much of our life these days is determined by what we don't have, whether it is in material, emotional, physical, mental, or spiritual sense. The world is always right at hand to shout at us loud and clear what we are short of, what we are not, and where we miss the mark. The Bible calls these shortcomings sin.

As we wait for more than packages to arrive at our doorstep, as we try yet one more time to pull ourselves up by our bootstraps, as we take a deep breath hoping that tomorrow will be better, I invite you to tune in this Advent season and listen to Tangled Blue's tunes and synod staff's faithful conversations with partners in ministry. And as we arrive every week to listen, we trust that the Holy Spirit will open our ears and hearts to the message of hope-filled abundance so that we are ready to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus the Christ at Christmas time. So, watch and wait with me, as details for our annual Advent podcast are unfolding abundantly in the midst of shortages in the World. Peace be with you!

Journeying in Christ with you,

Rev. Constanze Hagmaier

Bishop of the South Dakota Synod, ELCA

### Rural Ministry Liason Position

*Rev. Renee Splichal Larson*

As the South Dakota Synod, we are committed to journeying together in Christ. This commitment is rooted in Luke 24 where Jesus attentively accompanied the disciples on the road to Emmaus for as long as they needed him. Once their eyes were opened and they discovered that their hearts were burning within them they picked up ministry again and Jesus vanished from their eyes. But as long as their trust was shaken, they felt alone, uncared for, and desperate. Jesus walked with them, listened to them, and taught them. In the same manner, our rural congregations often feel alone, uncared for, shaken and desperate. If our mission is to accompany each other on the journey, we must find a way to do so.

The South Dakota Synod identified that we would journey together in Christ through relating with intentionality, networking across the church, equipping leaders, and sharing leadership, because we are confident that Christ loves all. Through prayer and discernment, the executive board of the synod has affirmed the pilot effort to provide a 'Rural Ministry Liaison' to congregations who are currently without a rostered minister working through the call process.

The 'Rural Ministry Liaison' would build intentional relationships with our rural ministry sites through immersion in 14-day increments. During these extended stays they would listen, learn and care for our rural ministry partners. They would network these rural sites with other sites and the wider church, as well as recognize and foster leadership gifts in local people. They would, like Jesus on the road, listen to the people in the faith community, and at the same time teach them through scripture about the hope that lies within the waters of baptism; so that, in turn, they can rediscover that their hearts were burning inside them all along for the purpose of revitalizing ministry and becoming once again bearers of the Good News that Christ loves all.

Stay tuned for further news about the 'Rural Ministry Liaison'!

### ELCA Youth Gathering

Hello, faithful families of the ELCA across South Dakota! I bring you a message of glad tidings this December. As we are all preparing for Christ's birth and all the love and blessings (and cookies and presents) that surround our special advent season, I want to encourage you to think about how you might be able to sustain the growing faith in the young people in your congregation by supporting them and their trek to the 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering next July. Thirty thousand young people and their adult leaders will gather to hear the Word, serve their neighbors, make friends, hear they are loved unconditionally by God our creator, and of course, have some fun at US Bank Stadium in downtown Minneapolis. I ask you to pay attention to how you might be able to help the teens in your pews experience this moving and sustaining experience. Are their fundraising efforts going on in your congregation? Is there a call out for volunteers to be adult leaders? Can you pray for this mission to build faith in Jesus Christ at the Gathering next summer, remembering, "We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace. Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person--questions, complexities, and all. Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world." -from [www.elca.org/YouthGathering](http://www.elca.org/YouthGathering)

May God bless your congregations as you celebrate this Advent season. And Merry Christmas!

Tami Steffensen

SD Synod Gathering Coordinator

## Making a Difference in 2021

Despite a full calendar and looming deadlines, there's still time for an act of generosity that will make a real difference this year! If God has trusted you with more than enough, think about how you can spread those resources creatively for even greater impact. Maybe an IRA rollover or a gift of appreciated investments is possible. Is stored grain or depreciated equipment or real estate a possibility? What about a gift that establishes an endowment, or a donor advised fund, or even a new non-advised fund? Lutheran Planned Generosity makes all of these giving tools easy and available to every member of the South Dakota Synod at no cost, with no commissions or fees...it's our gift to you all year around.

Contact **Kathy McHenry** at **605.274.5030** or [kmchenry@sdsynod.org](mailto:kmchenry@sdsynod.org) to make your Christmas giving plans. For more information, visit [www.lpgsd.org](http://www.lpgsd.org).

### ELCA Good Gifts:

Wondering how you can make a positive impact in the world right now? With ELCA Good Gifts, you can choose from more than 50 charitable gifts to give in honor of friends and loved ones. Each of these gifts makes a real impact in the world, sharing the love of Christ one goat, water well or school uniform at a time.

Start your holiday shopping now and order free, customized cards for each gift you give. Print-at-home and online cards are also available instantly at any time.

Visit [ELCA.org/goodgifts](http://ELCA.org/goodgifts) to shop ELCA Good Gifts this Christmas!

### Support McLaughlin Community Alliance Group

The McLaughlin Community Alliance Group a partner of the South Dakota Synod through Redeemer Lutheran in McLaughlin is needing your help to brighten the Christmas of families in the area and on the Standing Rock Reservation. And here is how YOU can help. The Community Alliance group asked students what they would like to give their parents for Christmas. The group assembled an Amazon wish list, which you may access, share and invite others to participate in also. The shop for the students to pick up gifts for their parents and relatives will be open December 6-9! Thank you for participating and inviting others to participate in this opportunity to brighten a neighbor's Christmas. Here is the Amazon link <https://a.co/euwkrK9> and the mailing address is:

<b>Community</b>	<b>Alliance</b>	<b>Group</b>	<b>Inc.</b>
<b>PO</b>	<b>Box</b>		<b>298</b>
<b>McLaughlin, SD 57642</b>			



**Bethesda Quilters News** – The quilters at Bethesda are in need of cotton fabric. If you have any to donate leave it in the church basement.

**THRIVENT ACTION TEAM PROJECTS** – there is still time to do one for 2021 if you haven't used all of yours this year. Some ideas for an easy project:

- Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Aberdeen - twin size children's bedding
- Safe Harbor – wish list on-line
- Ne-So-Dak -wish list on-line
- Day County Food Pantry – food and paper products
- Bethesda quilters – cotton fabric
- Other Charitable organizations often have wish lists on-line





The Butler WELCA met at the church on Saturday November 6, 2021 at 9 a.m. with 7 members present.

Our new Bible Study is "1 & 2 Timothy and Titus: Do What You Have Heard." Our first lesson was "Spiritual Deception" from 1 Timothy 1. Offering Meditation was read by Carol Flattum. The WELCA Purpose Statement was read.

Secretary's report was read and approved.

Treasurers Report;

October Offering: \$105.00

General Fund: \$2851.95

Altar Fund: \$115.46

Mission Action: Thankoffering envelopes are available to the congregation.

Westside Wesleyan Church invited our congregation to Soup and Pie Supper on Tuesday. November 23 at 5:30-6:30. The Thanksgiving Service will follow the supper at 7:00 pm.

Old Business: None

New Business: Funds will be disbursed by Dec 1<sup>st</sup>. A motion was made and seconded to disburse \$2200.00 plus shipping (\$200.00) for this year 2021.

Our next meeting will be Saturday December 4, 2021 at 9 am at the church. Julie will have the Offering Meditation. We closed with praying the Lord's Prayer.

Carol Flattum, Secretary

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Bethesda WELCA**

A short business meeting was held on Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup> with 6 members attending. No program was given and no lunch was served. Members were reminded of the Christmas noon pot luck on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Some invitations will be mailed. The end of the year disbursements were made. Carol Raap and Jane Goehring have Thrivent money for the food pantry and hats and gloves for school children at Webster, Groton, and Langford schools. Advent decorating will be November 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. The Bethesda Sweet Sale will be December 4<sup>th</sup> at the church. Kay Espeland and Carol Raap will work from 9:30-11:00 and Jane Goehring, Bonnie Dolney, and Alice Jean Peterson will work from 11:00-3:00.

Secretary Pro Tem, Jane Goehring

# God has given us a mission

By Elizabeth A. Eaton

Remember the Beatles? John, Paul, George, Ringo! I was into it. I had Beatle boots, love beads and granny glasses. My big brother gave me a model of Paul (the cute Beatle) for Christmas one year. It was one of those paint-it-yourself kits. I knew the lyrics to the Beatles' hits better than I knew Martin Luther's Small Catechism. The early hits were pop and upbeat: "I Want to Hold Your Hand," "A Hard Day's Night." Even later "Yellow Submarine" was still whimsical.

But then the Beatles got older, and the world changed. Vietnam, the Kennedy and King assassinations, the urban riots, the 1968 Chicago Democratic convention. Innocence—for those of us who had that luxury—was gone. Skepticism, even cynicism, was the lens through which the world was seen. A lot was broken, including trust in institutions and the church.

In 1971, John Lennon's hit "Imagine" came out. It was evocative and, I'm sure, was meant to point us to the possibility of a better future. I found it disturbing. A world without religion. No heaven. No hell. No countries. No possessions. As if excising these things would cure humanity and the world would be as one.

There was and is enough brokenness in the world to go 'round. But the brokenness is not outside of us—in institutions, politics, religion—it is within us. The only way to construct utopia is to get rid of people. Imagine.

Except God has a different way. It is the way of Jesus. It is the way of love. It is the way of life. You see, God so loves the world and all of creation and all of us. God is right down with us in all of our messiness. In Jesus, God has reconciled the world to God's self, redeeming it and us in spite of our rebellion. We can stake our lives on the relentless, faithful, powerful, tender love of God.

During the pandemic we dreamed great things and imagined an ELCA that could envision a world experiencing the difference God's grace and love in Christ makes for all people and creation. We prayed and still pray that the Spirit will activate each of us so that more people know the way of Jesus and discover community, justice and love. And we set a goal—engage a million new, young and diverse people by the end of this decade. Why? Because the world deserves to hear the gospel. The world needs to look beyond itself. There is a heaven.

Clearly this is not the work of the churchwide organization alone, nor of any one congregation. It is a mission for all of us. There are so many people who do not know that they need to know Jesus. There are so many people who think that God's grace is too good to be true. There are so many people searching for meaning. All are beloved by God. God longs to draw all people to Godself, to clean us up and wash our faces so that God's image shines clearly from all of us, so that we can see God's image shining from each other.

New, young and diverse? What about those of us who are already here, have always been here, who have been doing the work and paying the bills? We are the 99 sheep that didn't go astray. We are the older brother who stayed home and worked hard. Of course we are!

We have lived in the love of Jesus and walked in Jesus' way. *We* know the freedom of the Christian. We don't live in an unforgiving world, but in a redeemed world with a future. Why wouldn't we want to share that with as many people as we can?

Even a million new, young and diverse people—why stop there? The flock was not whole until the one lost was found. The older brother did not realize that all his father had was already his as a gift. This is true for us. God has given this mission to invite more people into the way of Jesus. Imagine.

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). This column originally appeared in *Living Lutheran's* November 2021 issue. Reprinted with permission. © ELCA