Bethesda Butler Lutheran Parish PO Box 426 Bristol, SD 57219



2022



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Dear Friends in Christ,

JOY is a little word that packs a big punch! It is God's intent that we experience joy in our lives EVERY DAY. He has done all the work and will carry our burdens. It gives Him great JOY to see us enjOYing our lives.

And yet, it seems the smallest of things can derail our JOY – trivial things that won't matter in a short amount of time. Things like waiting at a railroad crossing, a slow driver in crowded traffic or waiting to receive service and/or food at a restaurant to name a few.

And then there are the more difficult things that rob us of joy – losing a job, watching a loved one suffer, hearing of/experiencing a terrible accident, or losing a loved one. We feel sad, and we certainly don't feel like we deserve to feel JOY at these times. But we do! For we have a Savior who holds us close, even in these hardest times. In fact, he holds us even closer. God still wants us to find JOY in each and every day, including our most difficult days.

I am reminded of a book I read once. It was about two sisters in a concentration camp. The one sister languished while the other sister was able to find JOY in a bird that would visit their windowsill every day. She tried to engage her sister to give her something to look forward to every day. Eventually, her sister passed. The living sister credited that bird for saving her. She said she dared not think about what would have happened if it hadn't appeared on their windowsill for a day. The main character found JOY in the miracle and beauty of a small bird amidst horrific suffering in that concentration camp.

So, open up your heart like that large "O" in the middle of "JOY" printed above and let all the blessings of each day flow in and warm you from head to toe. And in the middle of the "O" above is the greatest source of JOY we will ever experience— a babe in the manger, a Savior, the Christ Child, Prince of Peace, Light of the World, the Risen One, Emmanuel, Lord.

When you get right down to it, the only thing that matters is ${\sf JESUS}$.

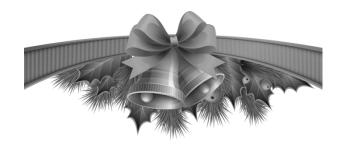
Here are some verses to read about joy: Psalm 32:11, Psalm 47:1, I Peter 1:8, Philippians 4:4, Romans 12:12 and 15, Romans 15:3, James 1:2-3, Luke 15:7, Nehemiah 8:10.

May you find some joy in each and every one of your days.

Wishing you a blessed Christmas,

Kristi





LUTHER LEAGUE

Luther League met on November 2nd with 10 members present. We opened with a devotion about having tough conversations in our daily lives. Working in small groups, 7 fleece tieblankets were completed. These, along with the blankets we complete in December, will be taken to Safe Harbor in Aberdeen. Members approved the following gifts: \$500 to the Reuben Dale Fund to aid in expenses as Reuben begins a second course of chemotherapy treatment, and \$250 to the 2022 Christmas Sack Project through the SD Prison Chaplain's Association. Due to new policies, the SDPRCA can no longer accept homemade baked items. Everything must now be prepackaged items, which means cost has increased. They expect to distribute goodies to over 3,670 inmates this year.

The next Luther League meeting will be held December 7that 6:30. Please join us if you are in grades 6-12! Please bring your fabric scissors.

GIFTS FOR BABY JESUS

Wednesday School will be collecting gifts for Safe Harbor in honor of Baby Jesus. Greatest needs include: baby lotion, bath wash, diaper cream, wipes, and diapers in sizes 5, 6, & 7 as well as Pull-Ups. The deadline for collection is Dec. 11th.



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 4

Isaiah 11:1-10 Psalm 72 Romans 15:4-13 Matthew 3:1-12

December 24

December 11

Isaiah 35:1-10

Psalm 146:5-10

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11

Isaiah 7:10-16
Psalm 80
Romans 1:1-7
Matthow 1:18-2

December 18

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



If church is cancelled due to bad weather, it will be listed on the website, www.bethesdabutler.com, Facebook, and the calling trees will be initiated. If in question, contact your council president. Let Kristi know if you need to be added to the calling tree.



Christmas Eve Communion Worship Service will be 4pm at Bethesda

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 Kristi or leave order form and money in the offering plate. Poinsettias will be displayed for the Christmas services. Please pick up your poinsettia following the service. **Cost is \$20.** You can choice from red, white, or pink. Orders and money are due by **December 6th**. Order forms available in the church narthex. If you are providing your own poinsettia, please let Kristi know who it is in memory or honor of by **Dec. 19th** to have it listed in the bulletin.

Emergency Pastoral Contact

Diane Hoines

605-380-2854 djhoines@venturecomm.net



Bergen Live Nativity Saturday, December 17th Clint and Kelly Brandlee's farm 7:00 PM



WEDNESDAY SCHOOL NEWS

December 11th – Christmas children's service during the Bethesda church service.

December 28th – No Wednesday School or Confirmation

December Meal Serving schedule

December 7 – Corey & Teresa Lone December 14 – Dustin & Larissa Klebsch December 21 – Rob & Amy Ash



Christmas Sweet Sale Bethesda Lutheran Church basement Saturday, December 3rd 9:30 am - 2:30 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 2, 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.



Bethesda WELCA met on Nov. 9, 2022, at 1:15 p.m. with seven members attending. A short business meeting was held. The secretary's and treasurer's reports were read and approved. A thank you card from Kristi Anderson was read, and Bonnie Anderson thanked the ladies for serving at the funeral. Jane Goehring expressed thanks to Jenni Wickre, who has refurbished the Christmas wreaths and purchased 15 tables for the church. Members volunteered to work at the Dec. 3rd Sweet Sale at the church. Bethesda members are reminded to refer to the November and December newsletters for information on donating to the Sweet Sale. End-of-the-year disbursements were made. The group approved the purchase of a banner. World Day of Prayer resources are online; someone will need to head it up. The group went to Sun Dial Manor to present last month's skit about the many hats women wear during their lives. They provided lunch and visited with the residents. Secretary, Kathryn Bury



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	*			1	Bethesda members, leave your sweets in the church kitchen 8 am – 4 pm.	9:30 am -2:30 pm Bethesda Christmas Sweet Sale
2nd Sunday of Advent (blue)9 am Communion Worship at Butler	5	POINSETTIA ORDERS DUE	Noon – Bethesda 7 WELCA Potluck 1 – 6 Office Hours 5:00-6:30 Wed. School & Meal 6:30 -Luther League	8	9	Practice for Children's Worship Service if needed
3 rd Sunday of Advent (blue) 11 9 am Worship at Bethesda Wednesday School Christmas Service Birthday Bank Offering	12	13	14 10-4 Office Hours 5:00-6:30 Wed. School & Meal 6:30-Bethesda Council	15 Vel Well (1) Ultimited	16	17 Bergen Live Nativity Clint & Kelly Brandlee farm 7:00 PM
4 th Sunday of Advent (blue) 18 9 am Worship at Butler	Newsletter items due to email or office	Pastors' Conference Meeting in Watertown	21 10-4 Office Hours 5:00 – Meal followed by caroling at Sun Dial	22	The TRUE meaning of Christmas	4 PM Communion Christmas Eve Worship at Bethesda
1st Sunday of Christmas 25 (white) 9 am Communion Worship at Butler	26	27 Warm D Wishes	28 10-4 Office hours No Wednesday School or Confirmation	29	30	NEW YEARS GVE

DECEMBER BETHESDA WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	Usher	Reader	Organist
12/4	At Butler		
12/11		Caroline	Gail
12/18	At Butler		
12/24		Robin	Kathryn
12/25	At Butler		
Altar Guild: Vickie Zimmerman, Mavis McKane			
Deacon: Karin Bartell			

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

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

Please get your 2022 donations to your church treasurer by December 31st.

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

Thank you to the anonymous donor that paid for newsletter postage this month!

If you would like to sponsor a newsletter postage in 2023, contact Jill. The cost is \$55.00.

DECEMBER BUTLER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	Usher	Readers
12/4	Gerry	Julie
12/11	At Bethesda	
12/18	Gerry	Kolton
12/24	At Bethesda	
12/25	Gerry	Tammie

Ways to Give to Butler Lutheran Church

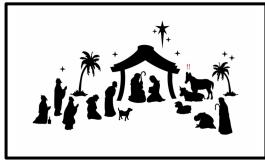
at the church service mail to the church treasurer



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	Dec 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!

What We Find in Jesus



We find peace and the

PRINCE OF PEACE,

We find righteousness, and the *RIGHTEOUS ONE*,

We find counsel, and the *COUNSELOR*,

We find wonders, and the

WONDERFUL ONE,

We find salvation, and the

SAVIOR,

We find the Kingdom, and the

KING

~Roy Lessin

BETHESDA WELCA invites all women to the CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Wednesday, December 7th at noon
Program to follow



We are grateful to **JENNI WICKRE** for:

*Purchasing 15, 8-foot tables that weigh much less than the older ones!

*Refurbishing the Christmas wreaths with new bows as well as hanging the wreaths and adorning our windowsills with greenery. ~Thank you to ALL that helped decorate for Christmas! It looks wonderfully festive!

We would like to thank CAROL MCNULTY. first cousin to Harold Orr, for her donation of three vintage music books. They belonged to her grandmother, Elsie Esche, and will be placed in the case downstairs. Carol's grandparents, Elsie and Erwin, were members of Bethesda and are buried in the Bristol Cemetery. Carol's parents, Yuonne Esche and George Bennett, were married at Bethesda on Christmas Day 1947. They passed away in 2017, six weeks apart and are buried in Rapid City. Carol wrote that her mother and grandmother LOVED piano and organ. She feels the books "belong" with Bethesda, part of history that has now come full circle.



If you are interested in attending a worship service at the Sioux Falls Penitentiary in the future, please let Kristi know, and we will get the proper paperwork started. Pastor Jeff Backer encourages us to not forget about our brothers and sisters behind bars and thanks us for our continued support.