

Bethesda Butler Lutheran Parish  
PO Box 426  
Bristol, SD 57219



Kristi Anderson, SAM

[kristi\\_anderson@outlook.com](mailto:kristi_anderson@outlook.com) 605-265-0297

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

***Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.***

***~Matthew 11:28***

The holiday season is past, the decorations are down, and we have weeks of winter ahead of us. While those things may prompt the winter blues, it is the perfect time for us to rest...rest... refreshing rest. Jesus said, ***"I will give you rest."*** He went on to say, ***"Take up my yoke and learn from me, because I am lowly and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."*** (Matthew 11:29)

Rest when we are weary and burdened. Rest when life is hard, and we start doubting. Rest when our heart is uncertain.

**Hygge** is a Danish term defined as "a quality of coziness and comfort that fosters a feeling of contentment or well-being."

Pronounced "hoo-guh", there is no direct English translation, but "cozy" comes close. It originates from a Norwegian term, *hugga*, meaning "to comfort" or "to console", which is related to "hug." Danes implement relaxation, indulgence, and gratitude into their hyggelige characters. Hygge wards off the season blues while enjoying quiet pleasures.

Quiet pleasures include using soft light and sounds as well as smells to improve mood, reduce stress and create a cozy atmosphere. Snuggle with your favorite blanket and a warm cup of your favorite beverage to read a book. Maybe it means making your favorite home-cooked meal or trying a new soup recipe. Relationships are important, so plan a cozy game night with a few friends. Spend time with young people reading, playing games, doing puzzles, or giving them a cooking lesson. Visit the nursing home or a shut-in neighbor. Hand-written notes and phone calls are still appreciated. Be good to yourself! God's intention for us is not constant stress and living a life of deadlines. There is no need to feel guilty when we find ourselves wanting/craving rest. Rest is not something we have to earn. The human body needs it, and God rested on the seventh day. Find little things to look forward to as we continue to navigate our prairie winter and remember to open your Bibles and rest in the promises found within its pages. Grace and peace, Kristi



**Wednesday,  
February 22  
6:00 P.M.  
at Butler**



### **WEDNESDAY SCHOOL NEWS**

#### **Meal Serving Schedule**

**February 1** – Gene & Judy Williamson

**February 8** – Travis & Angela Antonsen

**February 15** – Rachel Bahr

**February 22** – No Wednesday school or Confirmation

**March 1** – Aaron & Sara Johnson

The children's offering for July –  
December collected \$210.98 for the Day  
County Food Pantry.

Pastor Jeff Backer from St. Dysmas Prison  
Ministry will be giving his message on March  
12<sup>th</sup>. Please come and listen about this important  
work. Please keep our brothers and sisters  
behind prison walls in your ongoing prayers.



**Newsletter postage sponsors are needed.  
Cost is \$60 per month. Contact Jill or leave a  
check/note in the offering plate.**



<b><u>February 5</u></b> Isaiah 58:1-9(9b-12) Psalm 112:1-9(10) 1 Corinthians 2:1-16 Matthew 5:13-20	<b><u>February 12</u></b> Deuteronomy 30:15-20 Psalm 119:1-8 1 Corinthians 3:1-9 Matthew 5:21-37
<b><u>February 19</u></b> Exodus 24:12-18 Psalm 2 2 Peter 1:16-21 Matthew 17:1-9	<b><u>February 26</u></b> Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7 Psalm 32 Romans 5:12-19 Matthew 4:1-11

### **Butler WELCA**

Butler's WELCA group has chosen New Testament Characters by Carolyn Nystrom for their newest bible study. January's study was "A Blind Beggar." We were reminded that we all have times when Jesus has opened our eyes and we have seen Him. And bit by bit, our faith grows. The blind man had faith and trusted Jesus, despite the misgivings of those around him. The beggar spent many years in darkness preparing to see. We all experience "dark times" in our lives that prepared us for deeper faith in Jesus. *Pray, asking that Jesus will open the eyes of your soul to see him clearly – and that you will be able to respond with a heart full of faith.*

*Never limit your prayers  
because you think you're sinful or  
undeserving. You're not praying  
because of who you are – you're praying  
because of who He is.*

## Bethesda February 2023 Worship Assistants

	Usher	Reader	Organist
2/5	At Butler		
2/12	Glenda	Dane	Kathryn
2/19	At Butler		
2/26	Jon	Caroline	Gail
<b>Altar Guild:</b> Pam Dylla & Gayle Horter			
<b>Deacon:</b> 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



**THRIVENT**  
 FINANCIAL®

*Connecting faith & finances for good.®*

### **Don't forget to direct ThriventChoice Dollars® - March 31<sup>st</sup> Deadline**

Eligible Thrivent Financial members who have been designated Choice Dollars have until **March 31, 2023**, to direct any remaining 2022 Choice Dollars. Help support Bethesda or Butler Lutheran Church.

Go to [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](https://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice) to learn more and find program terms and conditions. Or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.

**February newsletter postage is sponsored by  
 Venona Ash. Thank you!**

## Butler February 2023 Worship Assistants

	Usher	Reader
2/5	Michael & Tammie	Tammie
2/12	At Bethesda	
2/19	Michael & Tammie	Karter
2/26	At Bethesda	

### Ways to Give to Butler Lutheran Church

at the church service  
 mail to the church treasurer



February 1	Kaedyne Bonn	February 17	Cambryn Sieben
February 1	Nick Hubsch	February 17	Nathan Duerre
February 2	Wes Nolte	February 17	Ayden McKane
February 3	Janel Lone	February 19	Larissa
February 3	James B. McKane IV		Hansmeier
February 8	Tucker Wickre	February 20	Deb Henrichsen
February 10	Raegan Horter	February 21	Kiera Olsen
February 12	Maycee Moody	February 23	Alyssa
February 12	Mya Moody		Shoemaker
February 12	Lyle Busch	February 23	Lila Erickson
February 12	Chezney Williamson	February 23	Derek Wickre
February 13	Colt Williamson	February 24	Karin Bartell
February 13	Damon Witt	February 26	Allison Duerre
February 13	Jenilee Wickre	February 27	Hayden Ferguson
February 14	Lane Orr	February 28	Bill Dylla
February 16	Lance Johnson		

**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!**

# February 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<b>1</b> <b>10-4</b> Office Hours <b>5:00– 6:30</b> Wednesday School, Meal, & Confirmation	<b>2</b> 	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <b>BUTLER</b> <b>WELCA</b> <b>9 am</b>
5 <sup>TH</sup> Sunday after Epiphany (green) <b>5</b> <b>9 am Communion Worship</b> <b>at Butler</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <b>Office Hours</b> <b>10-2</b>	<b>8</b> <b>2-5</b> Office Hours <b>5:00 – 6:30</b> Wednesday School, Meal, & Confirmation <b>6 pm Bethesda</b> <b>Council</b>	<b>9</b>  Lay Leaders' Workshop	<b>10</b>  NeSoDak Chocolate Fest 6 pm	<b>11</b>  NeSoDak Chocolate Fest 6 pm →
6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany (green) <b>12</b> <b>9 am Communion Worship</b> <b>at Bethesda</b> Birthday Bank Offering	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 	<b>15</b> <b>10-4</b> Office Hours <b>5:00 – 6:30</b> Wednesday School, Meal, & Confirmation	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>  National Random Acts of Kindness Day	<b>18</b>
Transfiguration of Our Lord (white) <b>19</b> <b>9 am Worship at Butler</b>	<b>20</b>  President's Day	<b>21</b>  <b>March</b> <b>newsletter</b> <b>items due</b>	<b>22</b> <b>11-5</b> Office Hours <b>6:00 Ash Wednesday</b> <b>service at Butler</b> No Wed. School or Confirmation	<b>23</b>  <b>Office Hours</b> <b>10-12</b>	<b>24</b> 	<b>25</b>
First Sunday of Lent (purple) <b>26</b> <b>9 am Worship at Bethesda</b> Noisy Can Offering	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>Mar. 1</b> <b>2-5</b> Office Hours <b>5:00 – 6:20</b> Wednesday School, Meal, & Confirmation <b>6:30 – Lenten Service</b>	<b>Mar. 2</b>  <b>Office Hours</b> <b>10-2</b>		

The list of scripture readers and monthly ushers will be listed on the bulletin board in each narthex. The new list was simply based on last year's list. Names will also appear in the monthly newsletter with the date you are to read or usher. If that date does not work for you, please call and exchange with someone on the list. A practice copy of the scripture reading will be on the bulletin board in the narthex for you to pick up at your convenience. **If you would like to be added to the scripture reader or usher list, please let Kristi know! We want you to be involved in worship if you feel that calling on your heart!**

## *A Journey Through Lent*

**"A Life of Faith"** video series, developed by Reverend Greg Johnson of Beaver Valley Lutheran Church in Brandon and sponsored by the SD Synod, will be used for our Lenten messages. The series was inspired by Pastor Greg's study of John 15. The lessons focus on six important parts of our lives of faith:

\*We Are Claimed

\*We Are Fed

\*We Are United

\*We Are Taught

\*We Are Saved

\*We Are Sent

**Starting March 1, Lenten services will be held at Bethesda at 6:30 P.M.**

Confirmation students will oversee readings and ushering for these five services.

Pastor Greg is also the author of our current Confirmation curriculum.

### **God's Voice**

- \*Stills you
- \*Leads you
- \*Reassures you
- \*Enlightens you
- \*Encourages you
- \*Comforts you
- \*Calms you
- \*Convicts you

### **Satan's Voice**

- \*Rushes you
- \*Pushes you
- \*Frightens you
- \*Confuses you
- \*Discourages you
- \*Worries you
- \*Obsesses you
- \*Condemns you



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

## January 2023 Newsletter Inserts

### From the Bishop's Desk

New Year's Greetings South Dakota Synod!

Grace and peace to you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit! - The majority of you are preparing for your annual meeting at which you will elect new leaders to serve on the council and in other capacities representing your congregation in the community you are planted in. Allow me to say a thank you to those who have concluded their service and a welcome to those who will begin their service. As the Bishop of the South Dakota Synod I am grateful for your willingness to serve in times such as these.

The synod's mission statement is: journeying together in Christ and is based on Luke's narrative of the walk to Emmaus after the resurrection. Jesus joins two disciples on the road as they journey from Jerusalem to Emmaus to clear their heads from everything they had seen and heard these past few days. Jesus joins them on the way, but their preoccupied minds and hearts don't permit them to recognize Jesus. It isn't until Jesus joins them at the supper table, where he breaks the bread that their eyes and hearts are finally receptive to who has been with them all along. And despite the darkness and possible danger, despite being hungry after a day's journey and despite their tired and weary bodies they hurry back to Jerusalem to share the good news that they have seen the Lord.

As you begin your service as a council member I hope you will amidst the weary works of your day and sometimes even in the church discover the risen Christ continues to show up at your council meetings to reveal who you are and who we are as the living and breathing body of Christ. Your work may include mundane decisions such as paying the bills and choosing curriculum, finding soloists and ushers, but never underestimate the power of Christ in your midst. He may just have been journeying alongside you, without you recognizing him. I pray that you are called to carry out your given task with an open heart, mind and spirit only to discover that Christ has been a part of the church at large and your community in particular long before you.

I also invite you to join the synod staff for an educational event on Zoom titled: "You have been elected to council, now what?" We have done these workshops for a few years now and the number of people participating is growing every year. Together we will learn about what it means to serve on the council, that your constitution is not a weapon, but your missional document, how to utilize the resources the synod has to accompany your congregation, how to create a spirit of generosity and much more. Please register through the registration link in the weekly synod e-news. The event is free and open to all who wish to attend. If you do not yet subscribe to the e-news, please follow this link or insert into your browser: [sdsynod.org/subscribe](https://sdsynod.org/subscribe).

Journeying in Christ with you,  
Rev. Constanze Hagmaier  
Bishop of the SD Synod

### Faithful Imagination

Beloved partners in Christ,

As I watch my three young children grow, I am awestruck by their imagination and curiosity about God, the world, and their lives. Not as a pastor, but as a parent it is my calling to help them hear the Good News of Jesus, and to help them trust in God's promises.

It's a joy to watch them learn the Lord's Prayer, and say their evening prayers together. But being four and six years old, the oldest like to find ways to make it fun. They ask to pray "dinosaur style," punctuating each line with a "RAWRRRR." Or we might whisper pray, barely giving any breath as we talk with God. Even though this is not how I might choose to pray, for them it is a meaningful and engaging way to grow in relationship with God.

I wonder what our congregations might look like if we give ourselves permission to explore meaningful ways to share our faith with one another, and to grow in relationship with God - even when it might be surprising. In our ministries we are called to share the Good News of Jesus who died and lives again for us, and to go out into the world to love and serve our neighbors. But lately we are finding the ability to do that work by imagining new ways of doing it, or learning how others are doing the work differently than we might.



The Holy Spirit is up to something in our churches and in our lives. As we continue to share our faith with others, we will be surprised and delighted to see how we grow closer to God. The Gospel promise of Jesus Christ will remain central, but what we surround that with will change as the world does.

May God bless you with creativity and new ways of living together as God's people. Know that God is with us through all things, that the Holy Spirit is pouring blessings into you, and that Jesus will always love you.

Rev Jonathan Steiner

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

## Interested in Coaching?

Coaching is cropping up consistently across the ELCA (alliteration alert)! Synods are attaching and prioritizing coaching support to initiatives and outreach programs as a way to support leaders—lay and rostered alike—in their ministry. Some of these ministries include the Congregations Lead Initiative (<https://elca.org/CongregationsLead>), ELCA World Hunger (<https://www.elca.org/resources/elca-world-hunger>), coaching first call pastors, a coaching partnership with Luther Seminary's Faith+Lead (<https://faithlead.luthersem.edu/>), and many others!

The ELCA has a national coaching director in Jill Beverlin, whose position recently changed to full-time (<https://www.elcacoaching.org/pages/intro-to-coaching>). Jill has two support staff members, and more and more coaching coordinators (like me! <https://sdsynod.org/ministries/coach-network/>) are being raised up across the 65 synods.

The beauty of coaching is that it offers a safe and brave space for people to name current hopes and struggles, set goals, and attach timelines and accountability to those goals. Coaching is a relationship of encouraging and equipping built on the pillars of active listening and powerful, open-ended questioning.

Bishop Constanze, Assistant to the Bishop Pastor Renee Splichal Larson, and DEM Pastor Jonathan Steiner are trained in coaching and use it daily in their ministries. There is an active SD Synod coaching network that is eager to support leaders across the synod.

If you are curious about what a coaching space might look like for you, reach out! (<https://www.elcacoaching.org/pages/what-is-coaching>)

At the very least, you will learn about something new, and at the very best, you just might find a life-changing opportunity!

Jamie Graham Duprey

Author, Coach

[Coachduprey.com](http://Coachduprey.com), (406)930-2839



If you are a rostered minister, or seminarian and you are wanting to try out coaching, please contact Crystal McCormick (cmccormick@sdsynod.org) in the Synod office, and ask for the “Lifelong Academy Grant Application Form.” Each applicant can receive up to \$300 to cover the cost of your first few coaching sessions. Prayerfully consider this opportunity.

There are also opportunities for congregational coaching as well, including grief coaching. Congregations can also apply for the “Lifelong Academy Grant Application.”

Rev Renee Splichal Larson

Associate to the Bishop for Candidacy, Congregation, and Rostered Minister Accompaniment

## **The Beginning of Something New**

It's that time of year again – lots of forms with lots of numbers. 1040's and 1099's, W-2s, Schedule A and Schedule C. Time with a calculator and a CPA or TurboTax and shivering Uncle Sams waving to oncoming traffic during rush hour.

It's also a time of review and reflection. How did I use my resources? How did I share from my abundance? How did my decisions reflect my faith? How did they reflect Jesus? It's all there in the receipts and check registers and bank statements. The same happens in congregations – evaluation of priorities and programs, adoption of a new budget, conversations about how to do more, or be more, or even save more when things look bleak.

Here are some words to consider as you think about what's in store for 2023. You may have heard them before, but they still seem a good challenge for each of us as we make plans for something new in the coming year:

“This is about generosity, not about fundraising. Not budgets or campaign goals. If that's all we're going to achieve, we will have missed something along the way. We believe that following Jesus means learning how to follow him in every area of our lives, including how we handle our money.

“As followers of Christ, our goal in life is not gaining power, possession or prestige for ourselves. We exist to fulfill the Great Commission until Christ's return. When the church acts with generosity to serve others, it is a clear picture of Christ, who at the cross generously gave his life and all he had so that we might have life forever.” (Willard & Sheppard, 2012; pp. 165-166)

Kathy McHenry,

Lutheran Planned Generosity of South Dakota

[www.lpgsd.org](http://www.lpgsd.org), 605-274-5030

## **A Message on the Severe Winter Weather**

Dear South Dakota Synod,

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

Many parts of South Dakota are covered in deep snow with more snow falling and in the forecast. In times of severe weather with

too much moisture, I'm reminded of my visits with a man named Leslie, who was a member of Florence Lutheran Parish when I served there and has since passed away. He always told me during my visits that one should never complain about moisture in South Dakota. He usually followed that admonition by sharing his personal memories about the Dirty Thirties – a time when there was a dangerous lack of moisture in our part of the country – with me.

His heartfelt words have always stuck with me. At the same time, living in Day County, I tried to make sense of it all, especially during those times when the farmers around me lost acre after acre of precious farmland to flood waters. How did all this go together? On one visit, when Leslie once again reminded me to not complain about moisture in South Dakota, I dared to ask: "What do I make of the floods in Day County? How do I accompany those who suffer from loss of land, livestock, and home?"

Leslie's simple response was: "Be there for them. Be the church. Be a neighbor. You can't stop the flood. But you can be present and accompany those who God entrusted you with to care for."

As we are living with the snowfall, I would like to encourage you to do the following:

1. Please reach out to your neighbors and check if they are okay.
2. Remember that the South Dakota Synod has [Disaster Relief Micro Grants](#) to accompany you as you care for your neighbor. Follow the link below to the simple and quick grant application. You may use these funds as you see fit in your context to help with disaster relief in your congregation and community.

As always, please reach out to any synod staff member with questions or concerns; we want to hear from you how to best accompany you in this situation.

Journeying in Christ with you,  
Bishop Constanze

I am looking for a **substitute** to **teach Confirmation** on **Wednesday, April 12th**. Our conference oversees/organizes the Spring Synod Conference, so I will need to stay in Watertown April 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. All materials will be prepped and ready to go! Thank you for your consideration in this matter!