

Bethesda Butler Lutheran Parish
PO Box 426
Bristol, SD 57219

January
2023

Begin
the
Year
with *God*

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

'Tis the season – for New Year's resolutions. A 2020 poll of 2,000 Americans found the average person breaks his/her resolution in 32 days, but 68% admit giving up sooner than that. Most resolutions have to do with fitness/health. In a recent article, *Good Housekeeping* shared "65 Rewarding New Year's Resolutions for a Healthy, Happy Life." The subtitle stated that fitness goals are included, but the best resolutions often enrich your emotional health and spirit. Hmmm...fancy that! Some of the first resolutions mentioned were build a better budget, read more books, (I can do that!) practice mindfulness, commit to healthier sleep.....I didn't have the patience to scroll through the rest.

I rarely do resolutions, but I do choose a word for the year. This started in 2021 when I took early retirement from teaching. I had no clue what I was going to do, but I took a leap of faith that God would guide me in working it out. I chose "Dream Big", 2 words. My word for 2022 was "faithful." This was my way of reminding myself to do what God wants me to do when making decisions or deciding how to spend my time. It was my anchor to do what is right, even though it is not always popular, to stand up for those that can't stand for themselves, and to focus less on the things of this world while letting go of the little stuff. "Faithful" was my daily reminder that I needed and wanted God to be the center and focus of my life.

Fast forward to a week ago, and I knew it was time for choosing my 2023 word. I opened up the Christmas issue of my *Everyday Faith* magazine, and lo and behold, the first article was "Finding a Word for Your Year." I decided to scan the QR code and take the quiz to see what my suggestions were. The quiz took me through a series of statements, goals, and scripture that spoke to me and best described my vision for the upcoming year. The quiz generated my word for 2023....ROOTED. It spoke to me immediately as it seemed so fitting! It led me to my verse for 2023:

As you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

~Colossians 2:6-7

This verse speaks to me in so many ways. It reminds me of the foundation of my faith built and solidified while attending Butler Church as a young child and the great ladies of faith that were my Sunday school teachers and role models. How blessed I was to have those experiences so young in life! And thank you, thank you to my parents for taking me to church every Sunday! My verse reminds me of all I have been given by God...earthly things such as time, a warm house, food on the table, a calling, the ability to support my passions for the elderly, literacy, the underfed, and veterans. As James 1:17 states, I know every good and perfect gift comes from above. But most of all, the Colossians verse reminds me of the greatest gift of all I have been given – eternal life because God sent His only Son to bear my sin on the cross. I will never be worthy, but I will be forever humbled and awed at such a love. And so, I continually seek to be ROOTED and built up in Him. ROOTED in the truth of God's Word. ROOTED in the good news of the gospel. My hope for 2023 is that we all might be ROOTED in the things that **truly** make an eternal difference.

Blessings in the new year! Kristi

HAPPY Anniversary!

We wish Larry and Pat Huwe a happy 65 years of marriage and continued blessings! Thank you to Larry and Pat for donating our January newsletter postage in celebration of their anniversary!

WISH LIST

A wish list has been created for Bethesda; it may include repairs, replacements, updates, and/or suggestions for improvement in any part of the church. This list will be posted on the bulletin board by the kitchen. You may also text Carol at 605-216-6959 or email cjaner@nvc.net to have something added. When a list is established, it will appear in the newsletter giving members a chance to contribute to any of the projects listed.



We wish to extend a heartfelt thanks to Kay Espeland for her years of service in taking care of the church in every sense of the word. Enjoy more flexibility and free time in your life! Lorne Siefert will begin custodial duties the first week in January. Bob Dolney will be doing snow removal. Thank you, Gentlemen, for being willing to help in this way.



January 1

Isaiah 63:7-9
Psalm 148
Hebrews 2:10-18
Matthew 2:13-23

January 8

Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 29
Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 3:13-17

January 15

Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 40:1-11
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1:29-42

January 22

Isaiah 9:1-4
Psalm 27:1, 4-9
1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Matthew 4:12-23

January 29

Micah 6:1-8
Psalm 15
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Matthew 5:1-12



Butler Annual Meeting - January 22

following the 9 am worship service. Please have your annual reports to the church office or Kristi by January 16.

Bethesda Annual Meeting – January 29

following the 9 am worship service. Please have your annual reports to church office or Kristi by January 17.

Bethesda WELCA thanks all those who provided sweets, donated money, purchased goodies, or helped in any way with the December Sweet Sale. Because of all of you, it was a success!

JANUARY BETHESDA WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	Usher	Reader	Organist
1/1	Dennis	Kay	Gail
1/8	At Butler		
1/15	Karin	Jaxon	Kathryn
1/22	At Butler		
1/29	Robin	LeRoy	Gail
Altar Guild: Karin Bartell			
Deacon: John Horter			

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 31st 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 to learn more and find program terms and conditions. Or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.

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

JANUARY BUTLER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	Ushers	Readers
1/1	At Bethesda	
1/8	Travis	Julaine
1/15	At Bethesda	
1/22	Travis	Kolton
1/29	At Bethesda	

Ways to Give to Butler Lutheran Church

at the church service
mail to the church treasurer





Jan 2	Michael Herr	Jan 11	Eleanore Whitmyre
Jan 2	Brandon Whitmyre	Jan 12	Leroy Johnson
Jan 3	Kaleb Antonsen	Jan 14	Ian Eickhoff
Jan 3	Kellen Antonsen	Jan 18	Harold Orr
Jan 4	Marshall Peckham	Jan 20	Turner Wickre
Jan 4	Nola Roitsch	Jan 22	Glenn Flattum
Jan 5	Jake Zimmerman	Jan 27	Desiree Anderson
Jan 5	Lola Counts	Jan 28	Halston Witt
Jan 7	Travis Antonsen	Jan 29	Kay Espeland
Jan 8	Kathy Nolte	Jan 30	Madison Peckham
Jan 8	Brent Zimmerman		
Jan 10	Gwen Bates		

We apologize if we missed your birthday. Please let us know and we will include it on our list next year.

Birthday blessings to you!!!!!!

JANUARY 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 st Sunday of Christmas (white) 1 9 am Worship at Bethesda	2 	3 Choose your word for 2023	4 10-4 Office Hours No Wed. School or Confirmation	5	6 Epiphany of Our Lord	7 Butler WELCA 9:00
Baptism of our Lord (white) 8 9 am Communion Worship at Butler	9	10	11 10-4 Office Hours 5:00-6:30 Wed. School, Conf. & Meal 6:30 – Bethesda Council	12	13 	14
2 nd Sunday after Epiphany (green) 15 9 am Communion Worship at Bethesda Birthday Bank Offering	16 Martin Luther King Day Butler Annual Reports Due	17 Bethesda Annual Reports Due	18 1-4 Office Hours 5:00-6:30 Wednesday School, Confirmation & Meal	19	20 Make a phone call you have been putting off.	21 
3 rd Sunday after Epiphany (green) 22 9 am Worship at Butler Butler Annual Meeting	23 National Handwriting Day – send some snail mail to someone special	24 	25 10-4 Office Hours 5:00-6:30 Wednesday School, Confirmation & Meal 6:30 – Luther League	26	27	28 Try a new soup recipe
4 th Sunday after Epiphany (green) 29 9 am Worship at Bethesda Bethesda Annual Meeting Noisy Can Offering	30	31	<p style="text-align: center;">I</p> <p>If church is canceled, it will be posted on Facebook, the church website, bethesdabutler.com, and the calling trees will be used. Please let Kristi know if you needed to be added to the calling trees.</p>			

CHILDREN'S OFFERING

The children's offering from July – December 2022 will be going to the Day County Food Pantry.

THANK YOU!

***Pastor Alan Blankenfeld** donated our Confirmation student workbooks for this year.

***Madelyn (Anderson) Rabenhorst** donated an Apple computer, updating us 7 years. Madelyn also purchased the necessities for us to connect the computer to our projector.

***Dennis and Shirley Larson** of Groton donated to our scholarship/continuing education fund.



The Luther League attained their goal of sending 15 tie blankets to Safe Harbor for Christmas. Our next meeting:

January 25th at 6:30 pm

**Devotions, board games, and planning
a February BUNCO party.**

Emergency Pastoral Contact

Diane Hoines

605-380-2854

djhoines@venturecomm.net



WEDNESDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Thank you to all the children and leaders for the wonderful Christmas program!

Meal Serving Schedule

January 11–Steve & Carrie Rumpza

January 18 –Chris & Jenny Faber

January 25 -Dennis & Amy Peckham



You may be getting a call from the nominating committee soon – please be praying and thinking about volunteering to fill one of the empty council positions. We will vote on council positions at the Annual Meetings in January.

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Remember your Sunday School days when you put pennies in the birthday bank, one for each year old you were. The Birthday Bank at Bethesda sits at the front of the pews on the pulpit side on Communion Sundays. This bank is a way to make a donation on your birthday, anniversary or one of a family member or friend. The money supports the Wednesday School program.

