

Bethesda Butler Lutheran Parish
PO Box 426
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2023



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Dear Friends in Christ,

A homemade cookie....a new pair of shoes....being served a meal while sitting at a table....having access to drinking water on an extremely hot day....having a roof over your head when the weather turns cold. What do all of these things have in common? These are all luxuries if you are homeless or housing insecure.

...And whoever gives even a cup of water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple - truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward. (Matthew 10:42)

I was humbled to share in two experiences with Pastor Chris Matson and Church on the Street this past month. Through our own COTS project, I was able to deliver 25 backpacks, 45 teen boy kits, 45 teen girl kits, and 25 snack kits. Pastor Chris and I took to the streets of Sioux Falls the afternoon of August 30th with loaded backpacks of the snack kits. We parked at The Banquet and set out on foot to cover several blocks where the homeless reside. Our first two encounters were with small groups living in vehicles. Many recognize Pastor Chris, and if they don't they ask, "Are you those church people?"

"Indeed we are! And we are here today to check on you and offer a snack."

Others we stopped on the street as Pastor Chris knows her people. We stopped at the rear of the Union Gospel Mission to visit with three men. Rodney was eager to tell me his story of growing up learning farming and anxious to be a farmer, but when his grandpa passed away his grandma decided to sell the land. Plan B was the military as all of his uncles had served. However, one uncle convinced his mother not to sign, stating it would turn Rodney into an alcoholic. Feeling abandoned by his family and having his plans thwarted twice, Rodney set out to prove his uncle right and became an alcoholic and fell in with the wrong crowd and spent some time in prison. However, he looked me in the eye with great conviction and told of his grandmother who had the strongest faith he'd ever seen and stated he knows God has a plan for him, but it is surely hard to wait some days and see what it will be.

Mark wasn't as eager to talk but told me he had walked down to Crossroads, the Christian bookstore on 41st Street, that morning before it got too hot to look at all the beautiful books and Bibles. Keep in mind, we were currently on 8th Street. Mark has yo-yoed back and forth between the Rapid City and Sioux Falls area, hoping to catch a break. He talked of the difficulty in securing a deposit as well as a month's rent for a place to live. And then throw in the issue of lack of affordable housing. Mark was also feeling distanced from his church as he felt they were focusing on all things worldly.

Our next stop was Heritage Park where several individuals, couples, and small groups were resting in the heat. Everyone was grateful and appreciative of the snack bags we distributed.

My regret was that we were not able to carry water with us also. Bishop Dudley House sets coolers of water out front each day, but for some this is several blocks away.

Backpacks emptied, we returned to the vehicle and proceeded to drive outside city limits to deliver a \$10 Hyvee card. (COTS has a benefactor every month that purchases 20, \$10 Hyvee cards to distribute at their discretion.) This group of three, a couple and a brother, were living in campers and had a working van to get to the grocery store. Two of the group were formerly convicted child molesters, and I found my temper and judgmental side flaring as we approached. Then I reminded myself they were also children of God, and it is God's wish to see every one of his children redeemed. I also commented that \$10 doesn't buy much these days, but Pastor Chris said people are very astute about purchasing protein items that leave them feeling fuller longer.

"If anyone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen." (I John 4:20)

My second COTS experience was worship in the park on September 9th. The Luther League donated 200 bottles of water and 20 dozen cookies for this event, so I wanted to help serve the meal. Setting up donations is a part of every COTS worship service. These are tables that people can shop before and after the church service. Some companies donate small amounts of new clothing items and shoes. There are boxes of new socks and Bibles. Journey of Hope distributes toiletry bags. Three new pairs of shoes were donated that day, and one of the recipients came up to me and exclaimed, "Look at the shoes I got! They are still in the box! I can't remember the last time I had a new pair of shoes!" Paperback books are also a luxury as people without an address or contact number can't get a library card. There were piles of secondhand sweatshirts and hoodies available for the cooler fall evenings. Sleeping mats and blankets were among the favorite items.

Worshippers sat in camper chairs that COTS uses for all outdoor services. (May - October) Bryan and I were put on hotdog duty (wrapping them to stay warm) and distributing cookies. There were about 150 people served. Pastor Allie, formerly of American Lutheran in Webster, leads the Peace Lutheran partnership with COTS. Their group distributes snack bags every month at the church service. I walked around with the extra cookies and encouraged seconds! It was also school picture day, so children had an opportunity for school pictures at no cost. Church on the Street thinks of everything. Birthdays are recognized monthly during the worship service and a hygiene kit wrapped in a new towel is gifted.

I know I have included a lot of details from my experiences, but it is in these very details that I find my gratitude blooming for the blessings I take for granted, blessings I don't have to struggle every day to accomplish or obtain to simply live.

Peace, Kristi

FAITH IN ACTION

*We are collecting **yarn for St. Dymas**. A box has been placed and labeled in the narthex.

* Seven of us will be visiting St. Dymas on October 4th. Please continue to keep this ministry in your prayers; they are currently undergoing many changes.

*Sunday, October 8, is **Tin Roof Sundae Sunday**. What does this mean? Delectable ice cream sundaes will be served at coffee hour after church with proceeds going towards the Cameroon roof project. Cameroon is one of our mission partners. Members from the Synod will be traveling there October 6 if all visas are approved. It is not necessary to supply any baked goods on October 8th for coffee hour. Thank you to Carol Raap for leading this activity!

The ELCA Wants Your Opinion

Throughout the next couple of months, the ELCA is asking for your help. ELCA staff are looking for your thoughts and ideas on how we are called to be a church in today's world. Please visit the website on Future Church: God's Love Made Real – <https://lovemadereal.elca.org> – where you can watch a video from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton that explains more about this action and complete a survey to share your views of the church and the world today. In the coming weeks, listening sessions will be offered where you can participate in online opportunities to provide your thoughts on God's call for the church.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS, CONFIRMATION STUDENTS

FAITH FEST will be held at Augustana on Saturday, February 10th, 2024. This is an on-campus retreat for middle schoolers. The Luther League will be paying the registration fee. Our day will include worship, games, service projects, and music. Kristi may need help with drivers.

Greetings from LuMin (Lutheran Campus Ministry)!

It's that time again...back to school! On Monday, August 21 the 2023-2024 academic year began at our state universities. In anticipation of a new academic year we want to invite you to continue your partnership with your LuMin sites in South Dakota. We invite your congregation to pray for LuMin, refer students from your congregation (<https://sdsynod.org/campus-ministry>) (but also by personally contacting the students and telling them about LuMin), and make a gift to the ministry that we do on campus. Your congregation can make general gifts to LuMin with a check to the synod, which are divided among the sites, or make a gift to a specific LuMin site.

You can pray for LuMin using this suggested prayer, or one of your own:

Lord, be with our college students (especially) as they step forward into a new academic year. Walk with their families as they adjust to the changes in family dynamics. Guide mentors, advisors, educators, faculty and staff as they impart knowledge and teach skills for success in life. Be present in the LuMin sites within our synod and beyond as campus ministers accompany college students on their faith journeys. Above all Lord, remind us that your grace is sufficient and your love encompasses all and travels to the end of the earth and beyond. Amen.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all that helped clean and prepare the ice cream shack, worked shifts, closed up, and hauled supplies back to the church! Profit this year after expenses will be about \$2500.

Two-thirds of this will go to Bergen as last year they mistakenly gave us two-thirds of the profits. Next year we will return to a 50-50 split of profits. Part of Saturday was rainy, and there was an ice cream truck selling cones and 10 flavors of ice cream. Taking those things into account that we can't control, this is still a great fundraiser!

Confirmation

We will begin our lessons this year with the topic of Holy Communion. There will be no Confirmation on October 4th due to the St. Dymas group visit time being changed. We want to complete our visit before winter and before further restrictions are placed upon visitor paperwork.

CAROLINE BAHR

will reaffirm her baptism in our Confirmation service on October 22nd at Bethesda.



October 1

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32
Psalm 25:1-9
Philippians 2:1-13
Matthew 21:23-32

October 8

Isaiah 5:1-17
Psalm 80:7-15
Philippians 3:4b-14
Matthew 21:33-46

October 15

Isaiah 25:1-9
Psalm 23
Philippians 4:1-9
Matthew 22:1-14

October 22

Isaiah 45:1-7
Psalm 96:1-13
I Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22

October 29

Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18
Psalm 1
I Thessalonians 2:1-8
Matthew 22:34-46

Bethesda October 2023 Worship Assistants

	Usher	Reader	Organist
10/1	At Butler		
10/8	Russell Johnson family	LeRoy	Gail
10/15	At Butler		
10/22	Mark A.	Caroline	Kathryn
10/29	At Butler		
Altar Guild: Jill Hansmeier and Bonnie Dolney			
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

Butler October 2023 Worship Assistants

	Usher	Reader
10/1	Steve	Tammie
10/8	At Bethesda	
10/15	Steve	Julaine
10/22	At Bethesda	
10/29	Steve	Steve

Ways to Give to Butler Lutheran Church

at the church service
 mail to the church treasurer



**October 2023 newsletter postage is sponsored
 by Janet Coyne in memory of Chuck Coyne.**

A heartfelt thank you to contributors of the Church on the Street project! Your Thrivent cards and donations made a difference!



Robin Anderson	Carol Raap
Jill Hansmeier	Jeff Peterson
Joyce McKittrick	Kay Espeland
Kathryn Bury	Jane & Al Goehring
Vickie Zimmerman	Julaine & Lyle Busch

American Lutheran WELCA of Webster

Kenny and Noel Anderson

Oct. 6 Jaxon Ash
 Oct. 15 Mavis McKane
 Oct. 16 Aaliyah Lone
 Oct. 19 Chayse Shoemaker
 Oct. 19 Dennis Peckham
 Oct. 20 Jessica Schnaible
 Oct. 21 Joshua Lone
 Oct. 23 Joel Shoemaker
 Oct. 25 Tamara Lone
 Oct. 26 Gene Williamson
 Oct. 26 Preston Hansmeier
 Oct. 30 Janet Lardy
 Oct. 31 Kathryn Bury
 Oct. 31 Darren Iverson

We apologize if we missed your birthday. Please let Kristi know, and it will be included on the list for next year. Birthday blessings to you!

October 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
18 th Sunday after Pentecost (green) 1 9 am Communion Worship at Butler	2	3	4 Group to St. Dymas Worship 5:10-6:30 - Meal & Wed. School No Confirmation	5 Office Hours 10-4	6	7 Butler WELCA 9:00 am
19 th Sunday after Pentecost (green) 8 9 am Worship at Bethesda Birthday Bank Offering	9	10 World Mental Health Day	11 Office Hours 10-4 1:30 – Bethesda WELCA 5:10-6:30 - Meal & Wed. School & Confirmation 6:30 – Bethesda Council	12 WELCA Fall Gathering at NeSoDak	13 Kristi in class	14
20 th Sunday after Pentecost (green) 15 9 am Worship at Butler	16	17	18 3-5 Office Hours 5:10-6:30 - Meal & Wed. School & Confirmation	19 Office Hours 10-2 2:00 Sun Dial Service	20	21 
21 st Sunday after Pentecost (green) 22 9 am Communion Worship at Bethesda with Confirmation Noisy Can Offering	23 November newsletter items due to church office	24	25 Office Hours 1-4 5:10-6:30 Meal & Wednesday School & Confirmation	26 Office Hours 1-4	27 	28 National Make a Difference Day
Reformation Sunday (red) 29 9 am Worship at Butler Wear red!	30	31 Happy Halloween	NOV. 1 Office Hours 10-4 5:10-6:30 – Meal & Wed. School & Confirmation	2	3	4 



Kumbaya My Lord



Matthew 11:28 "Come to me all you who are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest."

Prairie Coteau Conference Women of the ELCA Fall Retreat NeSoDak Bible Camp

Thursday, October 12, 2023

Registration: 9:00 am - 9:30 am

\$12.00 Registration

PROGRAM: 100 YEARS OF MISSION WORK IN CAMEROON

General Offering will be divided between Lutheran Disaster Response for our
Hawaiian wildfire survivors and the Tin Roof project for the Cameroon
churches.

Love Offering—Supplies for NeSoDak

Laundry detergent (he), bleach, toilet bowl cleaner, dish soap, hand soap, dish cloths, dish
towels, tea towels, and monetary donations are welcome, too!

*Let Kristi know if you would like a ride from Bethesda.

BETHESDA WELCA

Wednesday, Sept. 13, 2023

Bethesda WELCA met on Sept. 13, 2023, at 1:30 pm with 5 members present. Sharon Johnson's devotion was based on 1 Peter 5:6-11, cast all your anxiety on Him. The program skit, *Relationship Tornadoes*, was presented by Sharon Johnson and Bonnie Anderson. The business meeting opened with the Purpose Statement. Secretary's and treasurer's reports were read and approved. The mission report on number of quilts and kits completed was read. Date & time for loading of quilts & kits will be announced, and volunteers will be needed to help the Sigdestads load the boxes. Disbursements approved were as follows: LWR for shipping of quilts/kits; Rylee Huwe for music at luncheon; purchase of 2 containers of nail clippers; and October pastor appreciation gift for Kristi Anderson. The Fall Retreat at NeSoDak will be Thursday, October 12. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. Dessert was served by Bonnie Dolney.

Acting Secretary, Carol Raap



Congratulations to the Salter Family on the birth of Aubree on September 13th!

Scandinavian Dinner

**November 3, 6:30 pm
November 5, 12:30 pm**

Join us for a Scandinavian meal to support the ministry of NeSoDak Bible Camp. Tickets are \$40 per person and sell quickly! Make sure to reserve your place at the table soon!

Buffet style for meatballs, potatoes, green beans, and desserts. Lefse, sweetsoup, and lutefisk served or at the table.

PINE RIDGE RECONCILIATION CENTER

80% of Pine Ridge is living in poverty.

**Amazon Wishlist:
<https://a.co/dPNQliW>**

**Monetary donations may be sent to:
PO Box 862
Pine Ridge, SD 57770**

MISSION REPORT

BETHESDA WELCA

109 Personal Care Kits

76 School Kits

90 Quilts

SYNOD COUNCIL RETREAT

I am learning exponentially being part of Synod Council and am continually amazed at the number of projects and partnerships the Synod supports. Our August retreat was at the Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center for two nights. Pastor Dan Johnson is the director and has the help of three dedicated staff, Tony, Henry, and Abram. Each staff member has their specialty area. Led by Henry, Kids' Time is the main activity at the center, but they also operate a homeless shelter as needed. Abram has a heart for the homeless he serves. Summer is immersion season for guests. This year there was a visiting Chinese and Korean group, and the Kids' Time program was able to experience these cultures, including food. The Kids' Time program is always in need of art supplies and snacks. Shoes and Walmart or McDonalds gift cards are also needed. Kids' Time is available to children as soon as they are potty-trained and works with them through young adulthood. Adequate housing is a serious problem with 4,000 people waiting. Tony placed 66 families in the past year. Monetary donations can be specified for diapers, fuel assistance, or items listed above.

Meal Schedule for Bethesda Butler Parish Wednesday School 2023-2024

September 20 – Pizza Meal in memory of Jim & Alice Jean Peterson

September 27 – Jared & Jenn Steffes

October 4 – John & Jaclyn Horter

October 11 – Corey & Teresa Lone

October 18 – Dave & Christa Orr

October 25 – Russell Johnson

November 1 – Kyle & Becky Hubsch

November 8 – Jake & Karli Zimmerman

November 15 – Amy & Rob Ash

November 22 – No Class – Thanksgiving Break

November 29 – Sara & Aaron Johnson

December 6 – Cullen & Taylor Salter

December 13 – Eric & Darcy Moody

December 20 – Travis & Angela Antonsen

December 27 – No Class – Christmas Break

January 3 – No Class – Christmas Break

January 10 – No Class – Christmas Break

January 17 – Jenny & Chris Faber

January 24 – Amy & Dennis Peckham

January 31 – Gene & Judy Williamson

February 7 – Carrie & Steve Rumpza

February 14 – **Ash Wednesday – No Class- Service in Butler**

February 21 – Lent 1 Week - Derek & Katy Wickre

February 28 – Lent 2 Week – Chris & Mallory Vander Linden

February 21, 28 & March 6, 13, & 20 are Lenten Service Weeks. **The week of March 27th is Holy Week and there will be no class.** At this time, we do not know schedule of services and/or a meal during the Lenten Season and will update schedule when we know and have more information. We scheduled through February for now.

Currently we have 27 children enrolled in our program and 11 confirmation class students each week. The meal should be enough to feed 40. Water will be furnished for drink and also all paper products and silverware will be furnished. Some ideas for meals would be, BBQ's, pizza, hot dogs, chips, sandwiches, walking tacos, hotdish, etc. You are responsible for serving kids, and cleanup. There is no set schedule for volunteers and there won't always be extra help in kitchen. Meal should be ready by 5:00-5:10 PM.

If you are not able to serve on the week you are scheduled, please find someone to switch with.

Thank you in advance; you are all very much appreciated!! If you should have any questions, please feel free to reach out at any time. Robin Anderson cell #605-380-8899, Katy Wickre #605-265-0401