

Bethesda Butler Lutheran Parish  
PO Box 426  
Bristol, SD 57219

SEPTEMBER

2021



Bristol Church Office 605-492-3123

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## BETHESDA WELCA

Bethesda WELCA met at 7:30 on August 11th, 2021. 8 members attended. Gayle Horter gave the program, "Pruning and Harvest". She and Vicki did a skit, "Get Planted" which was a comparison about our lives and the lives of tomato plants. A fruitful garden takes work and care, and the Gardener must provide pruning and direction to the growing plant. We are like plants, we need the right direction in our lives to have a fruitful life. Jane Goehring presided over the business meeting. The Purpose Statement was read by the members. The secretary's report and the treasurer's reports were read and approved.

**Old Business:** The luncheon was discussed and the new theme was selected. It will be Sunshine, Lollipops, and Rainbows. The date is July 13<sup>th</sup>.

**New Business:** A motion was made, seconded, and carried to purchase a new automatic coffee pot for the kitchen. Jane and Alice Jean will check at Wal-Mart and Target. Kay displayed a few of the beautiful quilt tops that we get from the ladies in Minnesota. Bonnie Anderson is still making prayer shawls. September 19<sup>th</sup> will be the blessings of the quilts and kits. Prayer concerns are George Dolney, Gene Ausland, Al Goehring, for a church secretary, and for a pastor who wishes to serve the Bethesda-Butler parish. The Lord's Prayer was prayed and Vicki Zimmerman served a most delicious lemon dessert, candies, and nuts. Our September meeting will be the 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:30. Due to time scheduling there will be no program that day and lunch to be discussed!

Secretary, Alice Jean Peterson

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## BUTLER WELCA

The Butler WELCA met at the church on August 2, 2001 at 6:30 pm with 6 members present. The Bible Study was "Truth and Love" from 2 John. Offering Meditation was read by Julaine Busch. The Devotional was from 1 Corinthians 13:1-13. "Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things." The WELCA Purpose Statement was read. The Secretary's Report was read and approved.

Treasurers Report:

July Offering:       \$ 137.00  
General Fund:       \$2,461.95  
Altar Fund:         \$ 85.46

Kathy Nolte will check on our next Bible Study books.

Our next meeting will be Monday, September 6, 2021 at 6:30 pm at the church.

We closed by praying the Lord's Prayer.

Lorraine Anderson



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

## September 2021 Newsletter Inserts

### From the Bishop's Desk

Friends in Christ,

How does the old saying go? Time flies when you are having fun! I hope you are enjoying your summer. Part of the end of summer is to look forward to starting Fall activities. As congregations, we usually plan for Rally Sunday, Fall dinners and next year's budget. Before you dive deep into budget planning, I would like to extend an invitation to you as a leader in the church.

Please join your synod staff for a zoom evening of all things stewardship, budgets, and mission planning. We had a leadership hour in the winter and over 100 leaders attended, surveys showed that "fun was had by all". So, we are doing it again, showing up in your world via a Zoom leadership hour on **Tuesday, September 7 from 7 PM CT to 8 PM CT**. Sign-up at [sdsynod.org](https://sdsynod.org). This free event is meant to accompany your congregation on preparing for ministry in 2022. And as a bonus, please check out our revitalization resources on the synod website, which will help you to steward ministry post-pandemic. I hope to see you on Zoom!

Journeying together in Christ,

Bishop Constanze

**Thank You for your support!**  
*Rev. Jonathan Steiner*

Thank you for your continued support of the ministries across South Dakota! If you've talked with me, you have probably heard me say that we are stronger churches together. When we network and share our resources, we are able to do more as a group than any of us could do alone.

God blesses us, and calls us to share those blessings with our neighbors. Thank you for continuing to live that out. I am still amazed that last year, 98% of the pledges were still met, despite the chaos of the pandemic starting. As we head into the fall this year, I invite you to continue to live out that same spirit of generosity.

God is up to incredible things through our ministry together. Thank you for being part of that work as we Journey Together in Christ!

**Staying Connected** One of the challenges I have found over the past few months as your Companion Synod Coordinator is how to make sure that we and our brothers and sisters in Christ in our Companion Synods of Nicaragua and Cameroon feel connected.

From what I understand, this has never been the easiest task, as we are separated by thousands of miles, and even an ocean in the case of Cameroon. But it has been much more challenging over the past year – as so much of our lives have been – by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has basically shut down travel by groups from our Synod to and from those places.

The marvels of modern technology have helped some, allowing video conferencing to bridge the distance between our locations. But an even more powerful way to feel connected is a tried-and-true action that has been around for thousands of years and does not require a high-speed internet connection: prayer. Keeping one another in prayer can help us feel connected to the rest of the body of Christ no matter how far away, as the Holy Spirit works through us to, as Martin Luther writes in the Small Catechism, gather us and keep us together with Jesus Christ "in the one true faith."

Thank you for keeping our Companion Synod in your prayers! As always, if you'd like to learn more about these relationships, you can find out more at <https://sdsynod.org/companion-synods/>, or you can always email me at [companion-synod@sdsynod.org](mailto:companion-synod@sdsynod.org).

### Forgiveness and Reconciliation

*Rev. Renee Splichal Larson*

Whenever I have the privilege of installing a pastor or deacon, I am always moved by these questions to the congregation: "Will you pray for your rostered minister? Will you help and honor them in carrying out this ministry? In all things, will you strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ?"

All who are gathered respond: "We will, and we ask God to help us."

As we steep ourselves in God's Word, God teaches us how we are to strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ. From Ephesians 4.31:

"Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you."

Perhaps we could all benefit from inscribing this living Word on our doorposts and on our hearts. What I keep hearing over and over, even from people who have lived much longer than me, is that never before have they felt such division. The church is not immune to the division we experience in our communities and world, and yet, we are called to live

differently. We are claimed by Christ in baptism, and called into communities of faith who practice what it means to be part of the Kingdom of God. The reality in the Kingdom of God here on earth, is that we strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ; that we communally live out Ephesians 4.31, with the help of God.

We continue to step into unfamiliar territory in 2021. Some things seem to be exactly the same. Other things, especially for those who have lost family or friends to COVID, or other causes, appear that they will never be the same. Our children are not yet vaccinated and remain vulnerable to infection (as well as those who are unable to be vaccinated for whatever reason), as new variants become known. To be frank: It is exhausting to continually weigh every decision, and wonder whether or not people will ever come back to worship. This. Is. Hard.

We need to hear, again and again, Christ's promise at the end of the Great Commission: "And remember, I am with you always to the end of the age (Matt. 28.20)."

Be gentle on yourselves, dear people of God. Be gracious and merciful with one another. Honor the Sabbath and keep it holy. You will need weekly rest, as you trust that God holds you and all our congregations. God sustains God's church! Know that your Synod staff remembers and prays for you.

In these difficult times we treasure and cling to these words of Christ: "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light (Matt. 11.28-30)."

***We did nothing to earn this life. All we can do in exchange is to give it away.***

What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.  
James 4:14

My 20-something niece spent a couple weeks housesitting for her boss this summer. She watered the plants, checked the refrigerator, walked the dogs, fed the dogs, watered the

dogs, cleaned up after the dogs, and slept over most nights. But she didn't knock out any walls or throw wild parties. She didn't buy the place. It wasn't hers to do with what she wished. She was a caretaker until the owner returned to hopefully find happy, healthy pets and a home in as good or better condition than the day he left her with the keys.

"I like to think of our lives the same way. We didn't earn this life. We don't own our bodies or the world in which we find ourselves. Out of the overflow of God's love, (God) created us and gave us the opportunity to take care of a small space in the world for a while. (God) gave us gifts and bodies and belongings, all entrusted to us for a time so we could give love to more people. It's actually a huge responsibility when you think about it. We were entrusted with God's precious creation so we could preserve what's beautiful and welcome more people into a life of abundance.

"If you find yourself giving in to a sense of greed and entitlement, remember the world isn't ours for the taking. We're just stewards meant to pass it on better than we found it. We've been given a gift to be built upon and shared. All we can do in exchange is give it away."

--Bob Goff, **Live in Grace—Walk in Love.**

***Your life can make a difference.*** If you're considering how to pass along your own small space in this world where God has appointed you caretaker, Lutheran Planned Generosity of SD can help. Contact Kathy McHenry at (605) 274-5030 or [kmchenry@sdsynod.org](mailto:kmchenry@sdsynod.org) for a personalized plan.

**Stay Connected to the South Dakota Synod!**

**Sign-up for the weekly newsletter from the South Dakota Synod at [sdsynod.org](https://sdsynod.org).**

**Connect with us on Facebook at [facebook.com/sdsynod](https://facebook.com/sdsynod), follow us on Instagram and Twitter @SDSynod**

# September 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 
<b>5</b> 15 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost (green)  <b>9 am Worship at Bethesda with Lloyal Saugstad</b>	<b>6</b> <b>1 pm Quilting at Bethesda</b>  <b>6:30 Butler WELCA</b>	7	<b>8</b> <b>1:30 pm Bethesda WELCA</b>  <b>6 pm Bethesda Church Council</b>	9	<b>10</b>  <b>James Valley Threshing Show – Youth Ice Cream Shack</b>	<b>11</b>  <b>James Valley Threshing Show – Youth Ice Cream Shack</b>
<b>12</b> 16 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost (green)  <b>9 am Worship at Butler with Rev. Michael Jacobson</b> <b>Youth Ice Cream Shack/Andover</b>	<b>13</b> <b>1 pm Quilting at Bethesda</b>	14	15	16	17	18
<b>19</b> 17 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost (green)  <b>9 am Communion Worship at Bethesda with Rev. Michael Jacobson</b> <b>Noisy Can offering/Blessing of quilts and kits/Sunday School Church bank</b>	<b>20</b> <b>1 pm Quilting at Bethesda</b>	<b>21</b>  <b>October Newsletter Items Due</b>	<b>22</b> 	23	24	25
<b>26</b> 18 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost (green)  <b>9 am Communion Worship at Butler with Diane Hoines</b>	<b>27</b> <b>1 pm Quilting at Bethesda</b>	28	29	30		

## SEPTEMBER BETHESDA WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	Usher	Reader	Organist
9/5		Carol	Kathryn B
9/12	At Butler		
9/19		Robin	Gail Huwe
9/26	At Butler		

**Altar Guild: Robin Anderson and Theresa Hansmeier**  
**Deacon: Kris Hubsch**

## Bethesda Financial Report

**Needed weekly to meet the budget: \$1,218.80**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>RECEIPTS</u>	
7/25/2021	\$1,185.50	short \$33.30
8/1/2021	\$385.00	short \$833.80
8/8/2021	\$1,726.50	long \$507.70
8/15/2021	55.62	short \$1,163.18
8/22/2021	\$1,586.06	long \$349.26

**As of August 24, 2021**

Total 2021 yearly receipts: \$42,018.49  
 Total 2021 yearly disbursements: \$38,489.29

**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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***September newsletter postage is sponsored by  
 George and Bonnie Dolney***

## SEPTEMBER BUTLER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	Ushers	Readers
9/5	At Bethesda	
9/12	Deb Schiley	Steve Witt
9/19	At Bethesda	
9/26	Deb Schiley	Gerry Anderson



September 1 Caleb Whitmyre  
 September 2 Fran Morehouse  
 September 3 Kayla Olsen  
 September 4 Sherry Raap  
 September 7 Jack Carlson  
 September 8 Bob Whitmyre  
 September 14 Amy Peckham  
 September 14 Burnell Huwe  
 September 15 Christa Sieben  
 September 17 Arlyus Vanatta  
 September 20 Bonnie Dolney  
 September 21 Taylor Huwe  
 September 22 Diane Hoinen  
 September 23 Deb Peckham  
 September 24 Wayne Nolte  
 September 26 Lori Ash  
 September 28 CharliRae Sieben  
 September 29 Dennis Buhler

**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!**



## Threshing Show

The James Valley Threshing Show in Andover will be Sept. 10, 11, 12 and once again the Bethesda/Butler and Bergen youth will be selling ice cream floats and sundaes. 7<sup>th</sup> grade through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students and parents are required to help out as the money raised goes to offset costs to attend various events and gatherings. Bethesda and Butler will be doing the morning shift on Friday and all day Sunday. Stop by and support the youth. As of printing day we are still in need of a few volunteers. Contact Jill if you can help.

### WANTED

- **Parish secretary**
- **Painter:** someone to paint the pastor's office

## Emergency Pastoral Contacts

**Rev. Michael DeKraai**

St. John's Lutheran Church

Webster, SD

605-265-1937

[deka50@gmail.com](mailto:deka50@gmail.com)

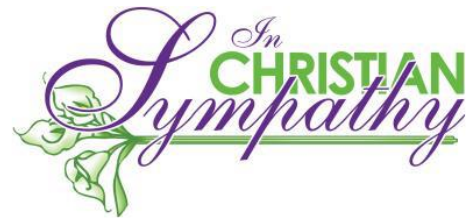
**Pastor Allie Smith**

American Lutheran Church

Webster, SD

605-265-0880

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



**Our prayers are with the Family of Muriel Bohn who passed away July 23, 2021**

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**AmazonSmile**

Bethesda Lutheran Church is registered for AmazonSmile, a program where Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organizations selected by the customers. You can participate in this program by going to the following link when shopping Amazon.

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/46-0238072>



### September 5

Isaiah 35:4-7a  
Psalm 146  
James 2:1-10, 14-17  
Mark 7:24-37

### September 12

Isaiah 50:4-9a  
Psalm 116:1-9  
James 3:1-12  
Mark 8:27-38

### September 19

Jeremiah 11:18-20  
Psalm 54  
James 3:13--4:3,7-8a  
Mark 9:30-37

### September 26

Numbers 11:4-6,10-16,24-29  
Psalm 19:7-14  
James 5:13-20  
Mark 9:38-50



The **Children's Rain Gauge Offering** will continue to go to the Bristol Park Improvement project through the end of 2021.

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## Blessing of the Quilts and Kits

Sunday, September 19, during worship at Bethesda we will be blessing the quilts and kits before they are sent. Thank you to all for their time and talent put into each item. Monetary donations will be taken to help cover the shipping costs.

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**A parent coordinator is needed** for this youth event July 24-28, 2022 in Minneapolis, MN. Registration opens September 22, 2021. Visit <https://elca.org/Gathering> for more information.

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## Parish Sunday School/Wednesday School News –STAY TUNED

Based on a parent survey from last spring we are planning for Wednesday School starting late September/beginning of October. An evening meal would start at 5:15 with classes ending at 6:30. Curriculum is being reviewed. **There is a need for teachers and people to provide the evening meal for the students.** If you can help with either of these needs contact Robin. You will be contacted either by mail or phone to register your children.

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"I am only one, but still I am one.

I cannot do everything, but I can do something;

And because I cannot do everything,

I will not refuse to do something that I can do."

**-Helen Keller**