

#### Bethany Lutheran Church

1000 W. 26th Street South Wichita, KS 67217

Church Phone 316-265-7415 BECC Phone 316-265-3033 www.bethanylutheranwichita.org

#### **Worship Service**

Sunday - 9:00 AM ECC chapel -Wed.- 9:15 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Study

Sunday - 10:30 AM Pastor:

Nicholas Cordt

### Early Childhood Center

Serving children ages
One through Five
Program Director
Danita Seamars
316-265-3033

# December 2023 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

## Bethany Lutheran Church and Early Childhood Center

December, 2023

Last week, I went on vacation with the wife and kids to visit family in Florida and celebrate Thanksgiving. After being gone 5 days, it feels like I'm 10 days behind schedule (which is part of the reason why this newsletter is delayed a couple days. Having to cancel last Sunday's activities (due to the weather) did give me a slight reprieve, but it's now Advent and things are about to get even busier.

Advent is that special time of year where we prepare for our Savior's second Advent by celebrating and remembering our Lord's first Advent over 2000 years ago. Things have changed over the past year at Bethany. And because I wasn't here this time last year, there's a good chance that Advent and Christmastide are going to look a little different than they have in the past. For starters, we won't be having an 11:00 PM Candlelight Service this year. On December 24<sup>th</sup>, we'll have our regular Sunday morning Worship Service at 9:00 AM and will have our Christmas Eve Service (with Holy Communion) at 7:00 PM. Monday morning, December 25<sup>th</sup>, we'll have our Christmas Day Service (with Holy Communion) at 10:00 AM.

On Wednesday evenings (12/6, 12/13, & 12/20) we'll have our mid-week Advent Services at 7:00 PM. Our theme this year is: "Advent Answers To Hard Questions hardly Anyone Is Asking." Those questions are: "The Birth of God... How and Why?", "The Obedient Child: Did He Know?" and "The Man's Man: Why Would Jesus Every Cry?". These questions may not be at the forefront of our minds during this busy holiday season, but their answers help paint the picture of God and His love for us.

At things get busier and more hectic over the coming weeks, be sure and take time to breathe and focus on what this season is all about. And as we await our Lord's second Advent, we are filled with hope and joy as we pray: Come, Lord Jesus.

Yours in Christ,

~Pastor Nick

#### DECEMBER CHALLENGE

Welcome to this year's challenge to read the Gospel of Luke, beginning on December1st.

We read one chapter of Luke each day. there are 24 chapters, which means that the reading challenge is completed on December 24th, Christmas Eve. Whether you are doing the challenge with the rest of the congregation or not, the idea is to read Luke and to ask God to give fresh revelation--from His cradle to His cross, to His triumphant resurrection.

May God richly bless you as you absorb His Word.



Women's Bible Study meets on the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of the month at 7:00 p.m. at Bethany. Current study is "All Things New, A Study on 2 Corinthians" from The Living Room Series by Kelly Minter. See Jenny Colby or Doris Cannon for more information. Come and join us and bring a friend. Will meet on Dec. 7th then will not meet until January.

**Pastoral Visits and Contact: Pastor Nick Cordt** is delighted to visit: to get acquainted, have devotion and prayer, and talk and pray over matters of concern in life. Please, feel free to contact the church office between 9:00am and 5:00pm, Monday through Friday, to arrange a day and time to do so. If Pastor is not available at the time you call, leave a message with the office secretary, David Funke or send an email to pastornick@bethanylutheranwichita.org



**Seniors' Activities: Breakfast**: Meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 9:00am at Country Café, 2804 S. Seneca. "God's People: Walking and Talking": Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays: 1:00-2:00pm, in the Activity Center and the Dining Room.

Westside UMC Food Pantry: We are still collecting non-perishable food items for Westside United Methodist's food pantry. If you would like to donate, place items in the tub beneath the "Food Contributions" sign located in the hall between the office and Library at Bethany.

Obermueller, Roger A.	12/2
Albright, Dennis L.	12/5
Ohmie, Robert R.	12/6
Parmenter, Michael G.	12/6
Pasewark, Vicki L.	12/6
Stewart, Elias R.	12/9
Terhune, Jill L. (Jill)	12/10
Brockmeyer, Mark A.	12/15
Obermueller, Erik A.	12/15
Schrahl, Timothy G.	12/15
Schreffler, Thomas	12/17
Dunkel, Shannon	12/19
Hasenbank, Scott C.	12/19
Schrahl, Chelsea A.	12/19
Kahmeyer, Harriette	12/22
Zindel, Troy A.	12/23
Obermueller, Marilyn M.	12/25
Stupasky, Crystal N.	12/26
Vinroe, Dorisann L.	12/26
Bolin, Toni	12/29
Zink, Bailee M.	12/29







Lang, Dean A. and Nina S.	12/1	33 yrs
Hayes, Christopher N. and Jennifer R.	12/7	21 yrs
Winter, Dennis D. and Sharon A.	12/8	33 yrs

Washburn, Aubrey L.	12/1
Washburn, Brennan M.	12/1
Cook, Evan M.	12/4
Tucker, Michelle	12/4
Edwards, Brian	12/5
Klein, Shirley M.	12/5
Chamberlin, Cole C.	12/6
McMullin, Madison R.	12/7
Welty, Miah	12/7
Albright Jr., Kevin D.	12/8
Schott, Joshua M.	12/11
Baldridge, Margaret D.	12/14
Shipman, Bailee R.	12/15
Ohmie, Matthew B.	12/17
Hasenbank, Daniel S.	12/18
Obermueller, Roger A.	12/18
Lewis, Jade A.	12/20
Larson, Alyssa L.	12/22
Larson, Corbin A.	12/22
Dehncke, Rhonda E.	12/23
Obermueller, Callan J.	12/23
Triplett, Sophie A.	12/23
McMullin, Camden M.	12/24
Vinroe, Christopher L.	12/24
WELTY, Blake	12/24
Ohmie, Robert R.	12/26
Nienke, Doris A.	12/29
Fritz, Kaylee G.	12/30



#### December Greeters

3: Dean & Diane Crossman

10: Mark & Rhonda Dehncke

17: Mike & Verna Edgar

24: Jay Fritz

31: Billie & Vergene Fromm

#### **January**

7: David Funke

14: Sharon Guenther

21: Scott & Kathleen Hasenbank

28: Alan Keimig

You are the first point of contact for our guests! Welcome them by smiling. If this is their first visit to our church, thank them for joining us in worship. Alert one of our ushers that they are first time visitors so that any questions regarding our service can be answered. If you cannot be greeter on the Sunday you have, please talk to Doris Cannon and she will contact someone else. If you would prefer not to be a greeter, please tell Doris.



#### **Children's Sunday School Teaching Schedule**

Opening in the back of the Sanctuary, class following and Activity time in Youth room in basement

December 3 Ruth Valdez
December 10 Deb Welty
December 17 Ruth Valdez
December 24 No Class
December 31 Deb Welty

January 7 Ruth Valdez January 14 Deb Welty January 21 Ruth Valdez January 28 Deb Welty



#### Altar Guild

#### Fill Margaret Baldridge & Marcia Hampton

Nov. 12 & Dec. 10 Doris Cannon

Nov. 5 & Dec. 3

Nov. 19 & Dec. 17 Lois Adams & Amy Salazar

Nov. 26 & Dec. 24 Doris Cannon Dec. 31 Robert Ohmie

Cleanup

Vicki Pasewark Toni Bolin Julie O'Brien

Rhonda Dehncke & Vivian Mailly Melanie Schreffler & Fern Neumiller

Anyone who would like to help with Altar Guild, please contact Doris Cannon.



#### **Head Usher – Alan Keimig**

<u>December</u> David Funke

Bill Fromm Roger Obermueller January
Bruce Kester
Doug Meyer
Larry Moore

If you cannot be usher on the Sunday/month you have been assigned, please talk to Alan Keimig. If you would prefer not to be an usher, please tell Doris Cannon. Or if you would like to be an usher and you're not on the list. contact Doris.



#### December

3: Richard Vinroe / Mark Welty

10: Mike Parmenter / Robert Ohmie

17: Robert Bolin / Jim Merrick

24: Richard Vinroe / Mark Welty

31: Mike Parmenter / Robert Ohmie

#### **January**

7: Robert Bolin / Jim Merrick

14: Richard Vinroe / Mark Welty

21: Mike Parmenter / Robert Ohmie

28: Robert Bolin / Jim Merrick



There is a lot of **behind the scenes work** that is done for our *worship services*, *Bible Studies*, *Children's and Youth Ministries*, *greeters*, *ushers*, *altar guild*, *music ministry*, and so many more ministries that we need help with. Most of these do not take much time out of our busy schedules to be part of. **Is God calling you to be part of something but you don't know where to start?** Be an usher! Prepare the communion! These are very important jobs that only require a little bit of you. Please contact an elder listed in this newsletter to see where <u>YOU</u> can be of service to God's kingdom.

#### **Spiritual Leadership Team Report**

Pastor Nick and family have returned from a vacation.

Moving full ahead into the Christmas season. Please note December service times.

**Advent services...** 7 PM Bells practice at 6PM with choir at 7:30PM.

Christmas Eve. Regular 9AM Service. No Bible class.

Evening service 7PM. Candlelight, Holy Communion, hymns, readings, choir and bells.

There will not be a service at 11PM.

Christmas Day. 10AM. Holy Communion, readings, hymns.

We remember the Merrick and Fritz families as they mourn the loss of Doris and Kaye.

We prayerfully wish a Merry Christmas and fruitful New Year!

Peace, SLT





#### **Trustees Report**

Ongoing work to install security cameras throughout the building and exteriors.

Recent vandalism has not been present, lately. Please be diligent when entering/leaving the property. To date, there has been no threat to individuals or member property.

Sanctuary decoration will be December 2, 2023. Nine to Noon. We welcome any assistance to complete this task.

Note...At boiler start up, we had to employ Five Star Mechanical to make necessary repairs/assistance to get it up and functional. The cost for material and labor is \$2570.00. This repair is not a budgeted item. If you would like to contribute to this expense, please note "Boiler Repair" on your donation.

Thankful for the faithful members and volunteers that we are blessed to have at Bethany.

#### **Sunday Happenings**

Service 9:00 AM Fellowship Time 10:00 to 10:30 AM Sunday School/Bible Study 10:30-11:30 AM

**PRAYER CENTER - Robert Bolin** leads a study on how the Lutheran Church differs in its understanding of the Sacrament of Communion from other Christian groups and on what biblical writings that understanding is based.

**MEET & EAT ROOM**– **Mark Dehncke** leads a study. They are reviewing Luther's Small Catechism. If you need to refresh your grasp of what Lutherans believe and why, come join the class.

**ACTIVITY CENTER-** Pastor Nick leads a class. Topic changes weekly. Currently studying the Sunday Service and why we do what we do.

YOUTH AND KIDS - SUNDAY SCHOOL includes ages Preschool to age 17. Teachers are Ruth Valdez and Deb Welty with assistance of Tonya Cordt. An opening is held at 10:30 in the back of the Sanctuary with music led by Sandy Tope. Lesson and activity is in the Youth Room in the basement. There will be special lessons during Advent leading to Jesus 'birth.





#### **Early Childhood Center Update**

The ECC will be preparing for Christmas with a celebration on Monday, December 11th @ 6:15. The congregation is invited to see the children, decorate cookies, and enjoy hot chocolate. The congregation will be presenting each ECC child with a "My First Bible" purchased through Thrivent grant funds received this year.

Our ECC has been awarded a grant of \$109,054.00 from the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund. The purpose of this grant is to pay for an expansion of

our Staff and supporting costs through the end of June, 2024. We are about to open our Infant care room, so this grant will fund the 3 Teachers we need for that room and 2 new Teachers for the upper-age groups. The addition of the Infant room (which we have not had up until now) and the additional Teachers will allow us to fill to our licensed capacity. This grant means that we can add those Teachers without worrying if we have enough enrollment to pay for them through this coming June. Of course, we will have new enrollment, and income from that enrollment, so we will be ahead on income by whatever increase in actual enrollment that we have. The grant also pays for the cost of hiring the new Teachers, as well as training and classroom supplies. The funds should arrive any day now, so we need to get busy with the hiring process.

As always, we THANK YOU for your continued prayers and support!

Wednesday is chapel day. The children are always excited for chapel.



#### Fun with bubbles in preschool 1



#### **Fly Fishing Group**

On Saturday, November 18, at 9 am the Bethany Fly Club met. Those in attendance were Doug, Dwan, Steve and Mark. We missed Alan and Robert and hopefully they will be able to attend the outing in December. We continued our fly tying experience with Doug leading the group with a Clauser pattern and a Wooly Bugger pattern. Both of these flies are ones you want in your fly box whenever you're on the water.

Our December meeting is TENTATIVELY set for Thursday the 18th. Weather permitting, we will venture out to Pratt Centennial Pond for our first official outing, The new members will actually get to fish with a fly rod. This date is not set in stone since we need to make sure the "snow miser" or Jack Frost does not snow/freeze us out. If "snow miser" and Jack Frost does not happen we will meet at Bethany at 7:30 am and car pool to Pratt. We suggest you bring along snacks, drinks and a lunch. You also might want to, bring a chair (Dwan will for sure). If you have any questions please ask one of us. Thanks. Doug, Dwan and Robert



#### **Bethany's Community Garden**

December is the month to evaluate the performance of the garden and the lessons learned: What to carry over to next year and what to do differently. The okra produced the most all season. Garlic

has been planted and will be harvested in late spring. Before you know it there will be fresh vegetables available for the congregation and the community.

As Always, Vicky Collins.

#### **BLESSL**

(Bethany Lutheran English Studies as a Second Language): We have English classes Sundays at 6:30pm and Saturdays at 10:30am to noon. If someone has an interest in improving their English please join us. We have a six-member family and the youngest son and his wife are expecting their first child in two weeks. We thank God for all of His blessings.



Have had the opportunity to engage thousands of students with the Gospel of Jesus and opportunities to grow in faith and Christian community! Call for more information: 316-684-5224 / 3815 E. 17th St. N. / Wichita, KS 67208 Learn more at www.fairmountministries.org.

The "College Age Bible Study" meets every Tuesday from 7:00-8:30pm at Fairmount Ministries. The "Young Adults" group meets on Sundays from 6:00 to 7:00pm at Fairmount Ministries. T.O.T. (Theology On Tap) meets once a month from 6:00-8:00pm at Old School Tap House, 210 E. Kechi Road, Kechi.



## Going, Going ......Gone

Interested in having any of these

items
before
they are
gone,
contact
Jenny Colby
as soon as
possible. 316
-516-2279.



**Issues, Etc.:** is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. LPR streams 24/7 at lutheranpublicradio.org, TuneIn, Amazon Alexa, Google Home, Apple HomePod and the Lutheran Public Radio mobile app.



#### **Lutheran Women in Mission**

**Lutheran Women in Mission** is the longest existing service group in the LCMS. LWML meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 4:00 for a short business meeting and Bible Study from the current LWML Quarterly and fellowship. All women are welcome. For more information call Ruth Valdez at (316) 213-0177. Quilting ladies meet on Tuesdays at 10am and on Saturdays at 9am for quilting and fellowship.

MOST MINISTRIES have sent 9 eyeglass teams out to 7 countries this year with another team having been sent to Guatemala this November. Over 5,300 pairs of eyeglasses have been delivered to individuals in need of clear vision, many for the first time. Your donated eyeglasses brought thousands of people through the MOST clinics; eyeglasses draw people in who might never step foot in a Christian church. It's beautiful to witness someone hearing about Jesus for the first time and also when you hear a loud "WOW" as someone can see clearly for the first time. Their life has been changed not only as they can see but also as they begin to know about their Savior Jesus.

An important part of the clinics is eye protection and eye drops due to the swirling dust, intense sun and cooking over an open fire in most of the villages where the clinics are held. These two items help reduce some of the preventable eye diseases the clinics encounter. Each person coming into the clinic receives an eye dropper with a simple solution recipe and also non-prescription sunglasses. Nearly 6,000 pairs of non-prescription sunglasses and eyedroppers have been handed out so far this year. The clinics have depleted their stock of the non-prescription sunglasses and are in need of them as they start preparing for their 2024 eyeglasses teams.

So, along with continuing to collect used prescription eyeglasses and sunglasses, we will also be collecting non-prescription sunglasses, both of which can be placed in the brown box on the LWML table in the Narthex.



#### Sunday, December 10th During Fellowship Time: 10am

For those who don't normally bake, but are willing to volunteer your time, we again will have some baking mixes and aluminum pans, available for you on Sunday, December 3rd in the Activity Center. For you pro-bakers, we accept anything you would like to make for the bake sale! This includes, cookies, cakes, bars, candy, peanut brittle, jams, jellies, etc. etc.

#### Let's get ready for Christmas!!!!

Please bring your baked goods to church either on Saturday, December 9th from 1-3 so we can get the tables set up with all those baked goods, or before service on Sunday morning.

Again, these items will be sold for a "Free will offering" and all monies collected will be used to purchase a supply of non-prescription sunglasses for MOST MINISTRIES with the remainder to be given to the Boiler Fund.

#### **Stewardship Report:**

Here are the latest budget figures through October. The Budget for 2024 is being worked on and will be presented at a congregation meeting hopefully in December.

**Time, Talents & Treasure:** Thanks to all who help with many different things at the church. Many help! All is very much appreciated!

2023	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	ост	Line Total	10 mo budget
BASE OPERATIONS	\$12,675	\$18,139	\$20,871	\$12,323	\$14,604	\$13,099	\$11,086	\$14,386	\$18,538	\$13,134	\$148,855	\$149,827
WORD & SACRAMENT	\$3,996	\$4,440	\$5,640	\$7,980	\$6,989	\$9,804	\$7,702	\$6,877	\$7,434	\$7,157	\$68,019	\$107,974
EARLY CHILDHOOD CTR	\$15,637	\$21,355	\$21,464	\$21,772	\$22,527	\$29,841	\$20,954	\$19,797	\$21,278	\$21,560	\$216,185	\$210,216
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$32,339	\$43,934	\$47,975	\$42,076	\$44,119	\$52,743	\$39,742	\$41,060	\$47,250	\$41,851	\$433,090	\$380,566
OFFERINGS	\$21,388	\$22,282	\$25,692	\$26,570	\$18,637	\$15,560	\$26,860	\$18,420	\$19,030	\$25,667	\$220,106	\$200,000
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ECC INCOME	\$19,416	\$14,518	\$17,944	\$17,808	\$18,236	\$18,711	\$21,509	\$19,974	\$17,976	\$24,100	\$190,193	\$160,669
ECC GRANT FUNDS	\$8,693	\$6,831	\$20,628	\$13,827	\$0	\$15,408	\$7,102	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$72,488	\$25,000
TOTAL INCOME	\$49,543	\$43,985	\$64,264	\$58,540	\$36,910	\$49,678	\$55,471	\$38,394	\$37,005	\$49,767	\$483,558	\$437,833
MONTHLY BALANCE	\$17,204	\$51	\$16,289	\$16,465	\$7,209	\$3,065	\$15,729	\$2,666	\$10,245	\$7,916	\$50,468	
ECC INCOME/LOSS	\$12,473	\$6	\$17,109	\$9,863	\$4,290	\$4,277	\$7,656	\$177	\$3,303	\$2,540		



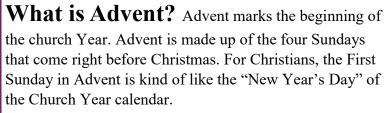
#### December 2nd:

Second Saturday

Becomes the First Saturday in December

Come help decorate the church for the Christmas season.

9-Noon



The word Advent means "coming". During Advent, we prepare for the coming of the One who was born that first Christmas in a stable. We prepare for the One who saved us from sin, death and the power of the devil: our Lord Jesus Christ! What a wonderful and exciting time of preparation!



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Advent Wednesday Eve Services: Dec. 6th, 13th, 20th: 7:00pm Christmas Eve Sunday Morning Service: 9:00am (No Bible Class)

Christmas Eve Service: 7:00pm No 11:00pm

Christmas Day Service: 10:00am New Years' Eve Sunday Morning Service: 9:00am







#### **Sunday Mornings**

Service at 9:00 AM (also online: Facebook Live) Fellowship time: 10:00AM to 10:30AM Sunday School/Bible Study 10:30AM to 11:30AM



Sunday, December 10th During Fellowship Time: 10am



Bethany Lutheran Church and School 1000 W 26<sup>th</sup> St. South Wichita, KS 67217



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