



Bethany Lutheran Church and Early Childhood Center Newsletter

January 2023

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 -
 Thur.- 9 AM
Sunday School & Adult Bible Study
 Sunday - 10:30 AM
 Vacancy Pastor:
 Tim Meyer

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

January 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				

Re-Gifting

Dear Saints of Bethany!

At our house we just finished making those after-Christmas trips to the stores so that we could return the gifts that didn't fit, or that were duplicates of things that we already had. So the great Christmas gift-giving-and-receiving process is complete.

We might consider extending this wonderful exchange into the rest of the year. Maybe this year it could be the start of a beautiful outburst of giving and receiving for us that will "go viral," as they say in the social media world.

We just celebrated God giving Himself to us. In midweek services we looked at the *Great "O" Antiphons* and words that describe the gift. In that last antiphon the name for Christ was Emmanuel – that is "God With Us." The Gospel lesson for Christmas Day was the prologue of John's Gospel: "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." The only Son of the Father. The Eternal Word. All the things we need, and so much more.

That's quite a gift you have received!

Sometimes the gifts we receive end up on a shelf, or they get ignored in the shuffle of daily life. The set of traps that I received a few years ago have been sitting on the shelf in my garage for years. Since I know where they are I guess I can say that I received the gift. But I couldn't say that it made a lot of difference to me. And in a way I didn't really receive the gift.

God keeps giving Himself to you in Word, Water, Bread, and Wine. He would have us to keep receiving the Word constantly. Hear it. Sing it. Read it. Think about it. Come and get more of Him. Make Him part of who we are. Memorize the Word. Revel in it. Talk about it. As the gift of Christ is used in these ways, He keeps coming to us more fully. We receive, and He enters our hearts and minds and changes us. He gives faith. He gives eternal life.

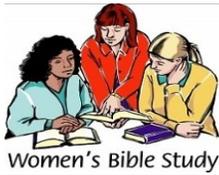
Then we get to give these gifts away.

We receive the infant in the manger not only for ourselves, but so that we can give Him away. We can give the gifts of His truth, His mercy, the beauty of His holiness, and so much more of Him to our families both near and far. We can give Him to our neighbors, those we work with, and the person at the store we bump into. He wants you to keep receiving so you can give Him away. This gift that you keep receiving then keeps getting better – for you and for those to whom you give the gift. It's a bit like "re-gifting" I suppose, but that's okay! That is exactly the way He works! You are how He gives Himself.

The world around us desperately needs these gifts, though they may not want to receive them. The world might reject the gift – and you! If that happens, give His grace. Keep the gift ready to give again. Because just as we need His gifts, so do all.

God's peace and the riches of His blessings to you in the New Year. And may you live in His Word, both receiving Him abundantly and giving Him away freely!

Pr. Tim Meyer



Women's Bible Study meets on the **1st & 3rd Thursdays of the month at 7:00 p.m. at Bethany.** The study is "A Bible Study on Patience, Hope, and Trust" by Sharla Fritz. See Jenny Colby or Doris Cannon for more information. Next meeting is Thursday, January 5th, 7:00pm.

Pastoral Visits and Contact: Vacancy Pastor Tim Meyer 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.

In the event of an emergency or urgent matter outside of church office hours, call Pastor at 316-214-9638.



Seniors' Activities: Breakfast: Meets on the 3rd Wednesday at 9:00am at Country Café, 2804 S. Seneca. **"God's People: Walking and Talking":** Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays: 1:00-2:00pm. Considering starting the **games get-together** again in January. Let Ruth Valdez know if you're interested in attending the games.

Edwards Bryli	1/4
Anton Tyler	1/5
Welty Linda	1/8
Welty Mitchell	1/9
Tope Sandra	1/11
Gansbauer Doria	1/12
Fritz Harriett	1/13
Bolin Robert	1/19
Sommerhauser Eugene	1/19
Castillo Patricia	1/23
Merrick Leona	1/24
Ohmie Barbara	1/25
Luckert Talesha	1/27
Owen Teresa	1/29
Valdez Ramon	1/29
Meyer Douglas	1/30



Owen David	1/1
Schrahl Timothy	1/1
Sommerhauser Ethel	1/1
Sporn Randy	1/1
Vinroe Dorisann	1/1
Zink Bailee	1/3
Reyes Makenzie	1/5
Parmenter Michael	1/6
Obermueller Marilyn	1/7
Hasenbank Scott	1/10
Dunkel Jodee)	1/12
Stoltenberg Donald	1/19
Chamberlin Cayden	1/21



Brummett James) and Vera	1/21	54 yrs
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Greeters

January

1. Mark & Rhonda Dehncke
8. Jay Fritz
15. Bill & Vergene Fromm
22. David Funke
29. Sharon Guenther

February

5. Scott & Kathleen Hasenbank
12. Alan Keimig
19. Bruce Kester
26. Art Kuehn

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 in 3rd classroom

Jan. 1	No Sunday School	Feb. 5	Deb Welty
Jan. 8	Deb Welty	Feb. 12	Ruth Valdez
Jan. 15	Ruth Valdez	Feb. 19	Deb Welty
Jan. 22	Deb Welty	Feb. 26	Ruth Valdez
Jan. 29	Ruth Valdez		

Altar Guild



Fill

Jan. 1 & Feb. 5	Margaret Baldrige & Marcia Hampton
Jan. 8 & Feb. 12	Doris Cannon
Jan. 15 & Feb. 19	Lois Adams & Amy Salazar
Jan. 22 & Feb. 26	Doris Cannon
Jan. 29	Robert Ohmie

Cleanup

Toni Bolin
Jeanetta Bolin
Rhonda Dehncke & Vivian Mailly
Vickie Pasewark
Melanie Schreffler & Fern Neumiller

Anyone who would like to help with Altar Guild, please contact Doris Cannon. This is help with organizing or help with Filling and Cleanup.



Head Usher – Alan Keimig

January

Doug Meyer
Roger Obermueller
Erich Schieber

February

Bill Fromm
Bruce Kester
Larry Moore

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



January

1. Richard Vinroe / Mark Welty
8. Mike Parmenter / Robert Ohmie
15. Robert Bolin / Jim Merrick
22. Richard Vinroe / Mark Welty
29. Mike Parmenter / Robert Ohmie

February

5. Robert Bolin / Jim Merrick
12. Richard Vinroe / Mark Welty
19. Mike Parmenter / Robert Ohmie
26. 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 YOU can be of service to God's kingdom.

Spiritual Leadership Report

Bethany,

We rejoice at the celebration of the birth of Jesus!

Pastor Meyer is making every effort to meet all members of Bethany.

We would ask everyone to make sure David has your contact info up to date.

Please know that the info will only be used for Bethany's purposes.

We are blessed to have Pastor Meyer care for Bethany!

Peace, The SLT



Management Team Report

The Budget for 2023, as presented, was approved at the December 18th Voters' meeting.

The Call Committee now has a list of Pastors to consider for our next Pastor call. They will meet and continue with the process. If there are any questions, feel free to contact Annetta Albright, Vice President and head of the Call Committee.

No Management Team meeting was held in December. The next meeting will be January 23rd.

We pray for a Happy New Year for Bethany.



Trustees Report

Bethany,

The cold and stormy weather has taxed us all.

We had a minor pipe freeze in the east corridor that, thankfully, was resolved without incident.

Only to have our irrigation system freeze and cause a leak. That is something that can be resolved toward spring, we believe.

Our faithful snow removal/ice watchman keeps close watch to avoid slippery conditions in our lot.

Please use caution during these times.

All for now, Trustees.



SUNDAY HAPPENINGS

Service 9:00 AM

Fellowship Time 10:00 to 10:30 AM

Sunday School/Bible Study 10:30-11:30 AM

DINING ROOM- Pastor Meyer leads a study on the logic of Christianity and meets in the Activity Center.

PRAYER CENTER - Robert Bolin leads a study of the book entitled "Parables of Jesus" which explores what parables are, why Jesus used parables and what the parables mean.

SECOND CLASSROOM- Mark Dehncke leads a study of the book entitled "Why I Believe" by Chip Ingram, in the second classroom of the west wing, accessible from the back hallway. The book examines 5 questions of belief: 'Life after death, resurrection, the Bible, creation and the God of the Bible.. Join the group for discussion on these topics.

THIRD CLASSROOM - Sunday School is lead by Ruth Valdez and Deb Welty. An opening is held at 10:30 in the back of the Sanctuary with music led by Sandy Tope and Small Catechism items presented weekly. "Enduring Faith" curriculum started Sunday, November 27th. This begins with creation and continues weekly with God's plan of salvation throughout the entire Bible—pointing students to Jesus, their Savior.



Early Childhood Center Update

Child Care serving children 12 months walking to 5 years.

Bethany's Daycare (Early Childhood Center) is moving right along. We are currently in the throes of a hiring process as we look for a new Assistant Teacher for the toddler room. The number of kids in that room calls for an Assistant there, and one of our Teachers is about to take maternity leave starting in mid-January. We are now actively advertising and interviewing possible candidates for the job. Please keep us in your prayers as we work on this, in this competitive modern job market. As always, we THANK YOU for your continued prayers and support!

For Bethany's Early Childhood Ministry: *Jim Merrick*



PreK is very proud of their gingerbread house. They did such a nice job.



December 13th was the Christmas program. The kids did such a good job singing and ringing their jingle bells. Everyone got to frost and sprinkle their own cookie.

Why do we celebrate Epiphany?

Epiphany:
January
6th

Epiphany is the third part of the Christmas season. During this special season in the Church Year, we remember the visit of the Wise Men. Traditionally, this visit is celebrated on Jan. 6.



Epiphany also brings to mind many other important events in Jesus' life. For example, we remember Jesus' Baptism, the star that guided the Wise Men, and most importantly, His birth! Wow! There sure is a lot happening after Christmas!



The garden is mostly winterized. Thanks to those who brought leaves from their yards and other help. Vickie is working on planning for the springtime. Keep tuned in and keep watching for what will be planted for this year. Talk to Vickie if you have some ideas.





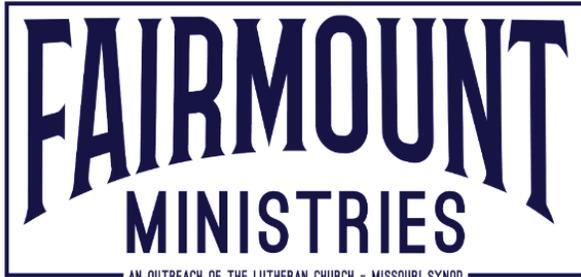
Thank you to those who attended the SouthWest Neighborhood Association Christmas Breakfast.

We meet the fourth Tuesday of the month. Our next SWNA Meeting will be January 24, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. here at Bethany in the Activity Center. Come join us and see what is going on in the neighborhood. Generally our Community Police Officer, the Firemen and the elected officials attend, along with others in the area.

We look forward to seeing you and bring a neighbor or two. There is plenty of room.

More information: contact Darlene Nuse

www.southwichita.com



Located directly between WSU & Fairmount Neighborhood, our community ranges from all ages and backgrounds. Established in 1959, Fairmount Ministries, originally known as University Lutheran Center, has seen a lot of changes and has operated under a handful of names.

With all these changes, one thing remains constant...our call as an organization to share the love of Jesus Christ!

For almost 60 years, Campus Outreach has been a

large focus of our ministry. Because we call the neighborhood surrounding Wichita State University our home, Campus Outreach remains to be a large part of our purpose and identity.

The "Young Adults" study group have been studying the book of Daniel on Sundays at 5:30 pm. If you know of an undergrad, graduate student or young professional that might be interested, send them to www.fairmountministries.org/ya.

At "Theology on Tap" we will meet at local breweries or pubs for drinks, food, social time, and a discussion about a theological or spiritual topic. Theology on Tap started in 2016 and has become one of our most popular events. There is always great discussion! Some of our topics that we have discussed at most recent events are: Social Justice, End Times and the book of Revelation, Gender & Identity, Consumerism, Did Jesus Really Rise from the Dead (Yes), Patriotism and the Bible, Angels and Demons, The Reformation in Ecumenical Perspective, and a fan favorite, Ask the Pastor Night! <https://www.fairmountministries.org/theology-on-tap>

316-684-5224 ● 3815 E. 17th St. N. ● Wichita, KS 67208



Stewardship Team update:

The 2023 budget was passed because we are still receiving the Cares Act grant money. The income from offering envelopes and day care fees would not cover our total expenses as it stands right now. When we call a new Pastor we want to be sure that we can afford his salary for the foreseeable future. This would mean increasing our income or reducing our expenses. We will continue to look for areas where either expenses can be reduced or income increased. Any suggestions or any questions,

contact Roger Obermueller, Steve Nienke or Robert Bolin.

Thank you for your continued Time, Talents & Treasures stewardship to Bethany.

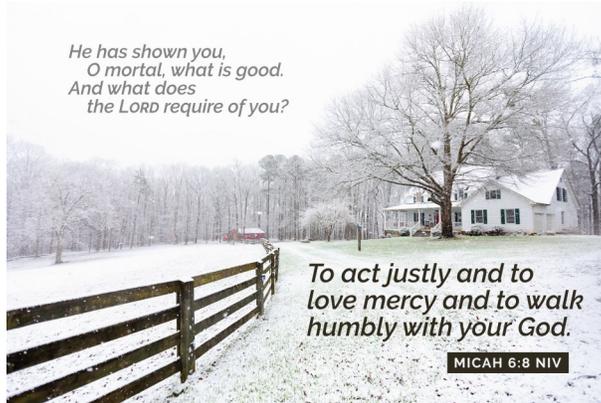
Time and Talents: Anyone who would like to help with Altar Guild, Greeters, Ushers, Quilting, Help with Sunday School or other ideas to spread God's word, please let someone know (*Pastor, Elders, Team leaders or the church office*) **Your ideas and input are greatly appreciated.**

Board of Parish Ed Update

“God’s People: Walking & Talking”

Mondays and Wednesdays *AND Fridays, too*, 1:00-2:00pm, Activity Center and Dining Room. Getting some exercise and fellowship at the same time. Have been 5-12 in attendance. We have music playing. A time to get to know each other and keep active, too. We usually have a short devotion or discussion.

Women’s Bible Study meets in the Prayer Center on 1st and 3rd Thursday nights at 7:00pm. New study is “Waiting: A Bible Study on Patience, Hope, and Trust.” by Sharla Fritz. All women invited and encouraged to bring a friend!



Fellowship Update:

See above for 2 Fellowship ideas: Walking & Talking and Women’s Bible Study. Also LWML meets 2nd Tuesday and join us on Sundays at the Fellowship Time: 10:00 to 10:30. *We will miss our Lola, irreplaceable!*

Thinking about a dinner in February, maybe the 12th. Valentine theme maybe? Look for information in coming weeks.



BOARD MEMBERS

- **REV. DEAN CHRIST** (TRINITY LUTHERAN, WICHITA), PRESIDENT
- **ANN HARMS** (HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN, WICHITA), VICE PRESIDENT
- **KRISTI LOVETT** (IMMANUEL LUTHERAN, WICHITA), SECRETARY
- **DICK LEWALLEN** (TRINITY LUTHERAN, WICHITA), TREASURER
- **DAN SNYDER** (IMMANUEL LUTHERAN, WICHITA), HEADMASTER, *ex-officio*
- **STAN KENNY** (IMMANUEL LUTHERAN, WICHITA)
- **REV. TIM MEYER** (BETHANY LUTHERAN, WICHITA)
- **EVERETT SNYDER** (IMMANUEL LUTHERAN, WICHITA)

Concordia Academy-Wichita
909 S Market St
Wichita, KS 67211 <https://www.concordiaacademywichita.org>

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.

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 Prayer Center at Bethany.

Lutheran Hour Ministries is a Christian outreach ministry supporting churches worldwide in its mission of *Bringing Christ to the Nations - and the Nations to the Church*. Lutheran Hour Ministries produces Christian radio and TV programming for broadcast as well as Internet and print communications, dramas, music, and outreach materials, to reach the unchurched in more than 30 countries. LHM’s flagship program, **The Lutheran Hour**, is the world’s longest-running Christian outreach radio program. It airs weekly on nearly 1,800 stations. **Tune in locally Sunday mornings at 8:30 AM (1070AM) or 9:00 AM (88.7AM)**. For more information, visit www.lhm.org or call 1-800-876-9880.



Lutheran Women's Missionary League

Tuesday, January 10, 4PM, LWML will have our first meeting of the new year. All ladies are invited to attend as we begin with a short business meeting followed by Bible Study from the Winter LWML Quarterly. We had 11 attend the LWML Christmas get together on December 13th. We enjoyed warm soup, lots of great salads and desserts and plenty of conversation. Everyone drew numbers and took home a centerpiece as a door prize to finish the evening.

A huge thank you to all who helped in any way with the "Treasures/Tummy Tempter's" fundraiser held on December 4th following our Worship service. All of the freewill proceeds, which totaled \$640.00, were given to MITES.



QUILTING GROUP

Quilting Ladies meet on Tuesday mornings, 10:00-12:00am and Saturday mornings, 9:00am-12:00pm. Contact Amy Salazar or Lois Adams or Jenny Colby for more information about Quilting. There have been 10 quilts made during December. *Quilting Ladies will greatly miss Lola! She has been a wonderful, encouraging force in our group.*



Continuing Prayer:

We pray for guidance and wisdom to be granted to the call committee and to our District President as we continue the call process; for Christians throughout the world as we join in celebrating the birth of our Savior; for the persecuted church, that they and we remain faithful to our Lord through all trials; for peace among nations in our time; for just and prudent government, that all who govern would serve according to God's will and in ways pleasing to Him.



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

Epiphany
January 6th



Church Office Hours

Open: 8:30am
Closed for Lunch:
12:00p.m. - 1:00p.m.
Closed: 5:00 p.m.



Bethany Lutheran Church and School
1000 W 26th St. South
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Like us on Facebook!
Bethany Lutheran
Church & Early
Childhood Center

