



Bethany Lutheran Church and Early Childhood Center

January, 2024

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

January 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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Happy New Year!

This is the newsletter article where I'm supposed to highlight all the things that have happened over the last year like the 'Circle Drive' being installed, sprinkler and landscaping improvements, building signage, technology upgrades along with restarting Bells and Choir. I'm also supposed to talk about the ECC renovations that will allow us to start taking care of infants and grow our enrollment, along with expanding existing and beginning new ministries.

And as tempting as it to fill this entire page with accolades, I often wonder if these are the best metrics by which to judge ourselves as a church. Yes, celebrating achievements helps us to see what God has been doing around here and setting goals helps us to direct our time/talents/treasures. But maybe a better criteria would be: How is this impacting the Kingdom? All the effort that has been (and continues to be) put in around here is fantastic, but if we don't invite others to share in what God is doing around here, who are we really serving.

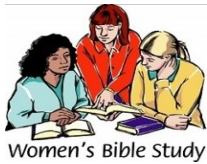
I'm definitely not implying that anything we've done or are going to do doesn't fit the mission God's called us to. It's simply understanding that being God's hands and feet goes beyond "butts in the pew and dollars in the plate". Loving and serving our neighbor can happen without someone ever setting foot on our church property. The "tried-and-true" can be a good starting point but shouldn't be the finish line.

Whether we're ready for it or not, it's 2024. Make those New-Year's resolutions (or don't). But no matter what day the calendar says it is, it's always a good day to share the love of Jesus with someone.

Yours in Christ,
 ~Pastor Nick



Coming late January 2024



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 continue meeting starting January 4th.

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 3rd 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.

Anton, Tyler W.	1/5
Zindel, Pamela	1/5
Welty, Linda D.	1/8
Welty, Jordan T.	1/9
Welty, Mitchell R.	1/9
Triplett, Marvin W.	1/10
Tope, Sandra	1/11
Kester, Regina	1/13
Macormac, Lilliana E.	1/17
Bolin, Robert A.	1/19
Horn, Arlen J. (A.J.)	1/19
Sommerhauser, Eugene M.	1/19
Parmenter, Emily K.	1/20
Merrick, Leona M.	1/24
Ohmie, Barbara S.	1/25
Owen, Teresa A.	1/29
Valdez, Ramon E.	1/29
Horn, Ruth	1/30
Meyer, Douglas W.	1/30
Taylor, Nicole L.	1/30



Owen, David W.	1/1
Schrahl, Timothy G.	1/1
Vinroe, Dorisann L.	1/1
Zink, Bailee M.	1/3
Reyes, Makenzie L.	1/5
Parmenter, Michael G.	1/6
Obermueller, Marilyn M.	1/7
Hasenbank, Scott C.	1/10
Dunkel, Jodee D.	1/12
Brockmeyer, Mark A.	1/18
Chamberlin, Cayden C.	1/21
Parmenter, Leah M.	1/26
Zindel, Pamela	1/28
Terhune, Jill L.	1/29



Brummett, James D. and Vera K.	1/21	59 yrs
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Greeters

January

7: David Funke
 14: Sharon Guenther
 21: Scott & Kathleen Hasenbank
 28: Alan Keimig

4: Bruce Kester
 11: Art Kuehn
 18: Dean & Nina Lang
 25: Dolores Lang

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

January 7	Ruth Valdez	February 4	Ruth Valdez
January 14	Deb Welty	February 11	Deb Welty
January 21	Ruth Valdez	February 18	Ruth Valdez
January 28	Deb Welty	February 25	Deb Welty



Altar Guild

Fill

Jan. 7 & Feb. 4 Margaret Baldrige & Marcia Hampton
 Jan. 14 & Feb. 11 Doris Cannon
 Jan. 21 & Feb. 18 Lois Adams & Amy Salazar
 Jan. 28 & Feb. 25 Tammie Hatfield & Lois Adams

Cleanup

Vicki Pasewark
 Toni Bolin
 Julie O'Brien
 Rhonda Dehncke & Vivian Maily

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



Head Usher – Alan Keimig

January

Bruce Kester
 Doug Meyer
 Larry Moore

February

David Funke
 Erich Schieber
 Roger Obermueller

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.



January

7: Robert Bolin / Jim Merrick
 14: Richard Vinroe / Mark Welty
 21: Mike Parmenter / Robert Ohmie
 28: Robert Bolin / Jim Merrick

February

4: Richard Vinroe / Mark Welty
 11: Mike Parmenter / Robert Ohmie
 18: Robert Bolin / Jim Merrick
 25: Richard Vinroe / Mark Welty



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 Team Report

What a joy to celebrate the birth of Jesus! Pastor Nick offered a bit different look with that celebration. Very refreshing!

We keep those healing with rehab in our prayers. The office has addresses if you wish to send a card. Also, those with concerns, may God comfort all.

We are thankful to see our attendance stay steady while seeing some familiar faces visiting! Praise be to God! May God bless you and your family throughout the new year!

The SLT would like to offer a small token of Bethany's appreciation to the staff at Bethany. You can find envelopes marked "Staff Gifts" on the ushers stand. We divide the donations equally to all Bethany staff members.

This will be done towards the end of January. Place your donation in the offering plate or deliver it to the church office. clearly marked "Staff Gift". Thank You, SLT



Trustees Report

We are diligently working on the camera system installation. To date, we have had occasion to provide camera footage to the Wichita Police Department with information that could prove helpful. These cameras will help us keep members safe from unwanted visitors and possibly offer footage for our neighborhood.

With the plans to expand the ECC, the volunteers are working to remodel rooms and have created a temporary "room" in the activity center. At this time, it is unknown the length of time the temporary set up will be needed. All parties that use the activity center will be instructed on how to use the activity center.

Thanks go out to the volunteers that give of their time and talents to benefit Bethany.

We are working on a fund that will benefit repair/replacement of heating and air units. Stay tuned for details as things progress. All for now. Trustees



Landscaping Progress



Temporary Wall built





Early Childhood Center Update

As you have heard, our ECC has been awarded a grant for \$109,000 to pay for the expansion of our Daycare. The money will be used to cover the cost of the 3 Teachers needed to staff the new Infant Care room, along with training for them and supplies for the room. Also, it will pay for 2 additional Teachers in the older classrooms, so we can take more kids in those rooms. The catch is, we have to get the Infant room ready first... We have done a LOT of work to acquire proper blueprints to modify the old Sunflower Room (where the younger kids are now) to become the Infant room. This has meant working with an architect and the State Fire Marshall and KDHE and City Inspections. We

have lined-up our plans and materials. To do the work, we need to first move the youngest children out of that room temporarily while the work is begin done. To do that, we first had to do the whole 4-step planning process to set up temporary (for a week or two) quarters for those children in the Activity Center. That has been done, and we now have a date of January 3rd for the State Fire Marshall to inspect that room and temporary classroom set-up so we can start the work. Once the work is done, we can have it inspected and open the room. THEN we can staff it. So, you can see that there are a lot of moving pieces to this enterprise, and we have to work with and around other entities to make all this happen. Please keep praying for us as we work through all this, and we THANK YOU for your continuing support!

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



For Bethany's Early Childhood Ministry Team,
Jim Merrick



Our Christmas program: the children did such a good job!! It was a great turnout and we were happy to have some of the church members join us too.



Chapel where Pastor Nick read from the Bible each child received from Bethany.





Bethany's Community Garden

Today is the official first day of winter. I have been experimenting with growing some cabbage plants and some spinach as a winter garden. Over the past three years I have grown twenty-six different kinds of vegetables. For next year I am adding rutabagas, cauliflower, broccoli, carrots, and strawberries to the list. I have also been busy preparing the garden for next year's spring planting by adding cow and chicken manures with thick layers of leaves. Preparing now gives everything time to decompose making the soil rich in nutrients for a healthy and productive garden. I have struggled in the past with the end of the growing season when all of the plants are dead. Coming to terms I now believe that God put the seasons in motion for reasons. Who am I to question God's Perfect Plan!

As Always, Vicky Collins.

BLESSL

(Bethany Lutheran English Studies as a Second Language): Free English classes are offered on Sundays at 6:30pm and Saturdays at 10:30am to noon. No one is ever turned away. Take that first step and call me! The six-member family I told you all about last month are continuing to learn English. The youngest son and his wife gave birth to a baby girl on December 11, 2023. We wanted to do something for them. It is amazing how our congregation responds generously when they learn of someone that needs help. So far, we have large boxes of diapers, clothes, wipes, a stroller, and a baby blanket made by Amy. Students have a lot of challenges living in a country that does not speak their native language. We do more than teach English. We teach about our culture that might be confusing to students. I can say: Bethany Cares!! The first time parents sent this text: "Thank you very much Vicky, I am grateful to those at the church. You can say thank you to them from me." April y Alan

As Always, Vicky Collins 316-771-1207



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.



Movie Night

Movie Night is planned for January but the movie and the date have not been determined yet. Look for information in Sunday NewsNotes and email.

Sunday Mornings

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. Check the Sunday newsnotes.

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.



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. So far since November, there have been 32 quilts finished.

Nothing new to report other than just again a big "thank you" to all who helped in any way in making the bake sale so successful. The total donations were \$610.05. This money will help with purchasing non-prescription sunglasses for MOST Ministries and the remaining funds will be going to the Boiler Fund.



We will be holding our first Lutheran Women's Mission meeting of 2024 on Tuesday, January 9th, at 4pm (weather permitting of course). We welcome all ladies to join us for Bible study and fellowship.

We continue to collect eyeglasses and postage stamps also. The boxes are still located in the narthex, as well as the current issue of the LWML Quarterly. Feel free to take a copy!

Music, Music, Music

Choir and Bell Choir continue to share music in church services. If you want to join either or both come on Wednesday nights: 6:00 for bells and 7:00 for choir.



Fly Fishing Group

The December meeting was on Thursday the 18th. We ventured to Pratt Centennial Pond for our first official outing. It was a success! Look for more information in the Sunday Newsnotes.

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.

Stewardship Report:

The Budget for 2024 was approved at a congregation meeting on December 17th. Thank you for those who attended and for the positive response.

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

Management Team Update

Voter's Meeting Report: Both the 2024 budget proposal and the proposal to increase the scope of the line of credit already approved by an earlier voter's meeting, passed by near unanimity. The line of credit will not only cover paying our final campaign expenses until all pledges are paid in, but it will also help us cover ECC expansion costs as we get reimbursed by the \$109,000 grant we have received.

Second Saturday: January 14th

Do not know what the project is for this date, but hope you come and help!

Look for more information in the Sunday NewsNotes



H.O.T. Clothes For the Homeless

Bethany begins today to collect clothing for homeless men, which will be distributed by the WPD Homeless Outreach Team. They are requesting the following new or like-new items: Shorts, T-shirts (long or short sleeves) and Shoes. Please leave your donations at the table in the newly designated (no sign, yet) "Donation Hallway" between the Office and the Library. Thanks for helping Wichita's Police Department perform a joyful community service as well as our Christian sharing of love and care.



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.



Southwest Neighborhood Association meets the fourth Tuesday of the month, 7pm at Bethany. We look forward to seeing you and bring a neighbor or two. There is plenty of room.

More information: contact Darlene Nuse www.southwichta.com

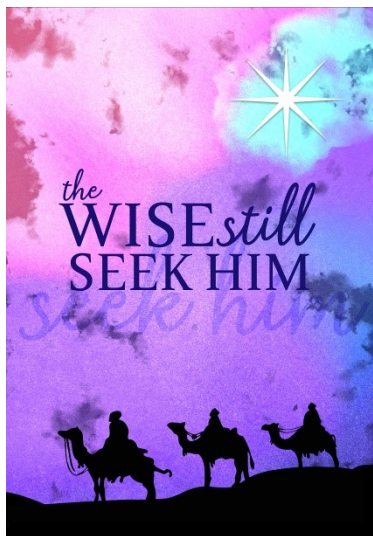


Concordia Academy-Wichita

909 S Market St Wichita, KS 67211 www.concordiaacademywichita.org,
a 9th-12th grade Lutheran Liberal Arts High School is located in the heart of Wichita. Uncompromisingly Classical, Intentionally Christian, Particularly Lutheran

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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**

Church Office Hours

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



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1000 W 26th St. South
Wichita, KS 67217



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Bethany Lutheran
Church & Early
Childhood Center

