

WAYS TO GIVE:

MAIL : Benton PO Box 706 Crooks, SD 57020
Willow Creek 24795 470th Ave Dell Rapids, SD 57022

ELECTRONIC GIVING Check the websites giving image.

www.wclcdellrapids.org & www.bentoneilca.org

BENTON'S 'TEXT TO GIVE'

1: Text "give" to the number **1-605-205-7789**. The automated response will direct you to the webpage. Once the system has your number stored, this will be a simple way to give right during the offering time!

2: The donations webpage through your browser is
<https://bentonchurch.breezechms.com/give/online>



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Pat Ahl, Grace Soderquist
- 2 Jackie Foster, Jayni Anderson, Debbie Mader
- 3 Bronson Filler, Cameron Jurens
- 4 Halie Ruff, Brenda Ellens, Joe Keogh, Britney Nelson
- 6 Denise Heidebrink 7 Dan Koopman
- 9 Annie Freudenthal 11 Sandy Larson

- 12 Butch Oseby 13 Sherry Doe
- 14 Nolan Schmidt, Ethan Van DeRostyne
- 15 Jim Johnson, Shannon Tokheim, Ethan Van DeRostyn
- 16 Marlene Olson, Miles Anton Van DeRostyne
- 17 Asher Geigle 18 Ida Paulson 19 Kenny Benson, Roseanne Ruff
- 24 Ruby Hanson, Ethan Schuette 25 Mary Mesner 27 Al Hilmoe
- 30 Sawyer Wayne Koepf



A NOTE FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

My name is Kent Stillson and I am the Benton and Willow Creek Lutheran Church ½ time interim pastor, during the pastoral vacancy in your parish.

I retired 2 years ago, after 38 years of full-time ministry in 5 congregations of the ELCA. I served churches in Fallon, MT, Lake Preston, SD, Spearfish, SD, Alexandria, MN and Watertown, SD. These congregations represent very small and quite large congregations. In each of them were people who loved the Lord and sought to serve God in their lives.

Ministry has been good for our family. My wife Holly is a retired math teacher and our 3 children are grown, with families of their own. Our children will remain nameless, but our wonderful grandchildren are Maisy and Kit!!!

In the conversation / interview I had with your church councils, the question was asked, "What brought you to retire in Sioux Falls?" Short answer: Our granddaughter (and her parents) live here. Longer answer: One of the pastoral ethics statements is that former and retired pastors need to conclude all contacts with their former parishes. This means no baptisms, weddings, pastoral visits and attending parish activities. I realized I love the people so much and want the congregations I served to flourish after I concluded serving there, therefore it was best for me to leave the community.

The same pastoral ethics guide your congregations and former pastors. Your former pastor needs to make a break from you (for the sake of your new pastor fully functioning), AND you need to make a break from your former pastors.

Serving two congregations will be a change for me. My home parish in Britton, SD has been a 2-point parish (and some times 3-point) for decades, but I have never served a 2-point. If you see me chatting after church, you may need to remind me (friendly) to "GET ON THE ROAD".

Half-time isn't a lot of time, but I will plan worship and preach, finish out the confirmation year, bring Holy Communion to shut-ins and meet occasionally with your church leadership. If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to me, via my cell phone contact.

Happy Easter
Pastor Kent

WILLOW CREEK & BENTON

Info and Events



COMMUNION DATES

The sacrament of Holy Communion will be given in worship on Sunday, April 7th and April 14th.



CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Confirmation classes will resume Wednesday, April 17th.

6:00 pm – 2nd-year students at Benton

7:15 pm – 1st-year students at Willow Creek

Secretary Position Filled

Becky Schmidt has accepted the Secretary position. She will transition into the role in April. Please welcome & congratulate her in her new role!

JOINT WORSHIP & SYNOD MEETING – Sunday, April 7th

Willow Creek and Benton will have a **combined worship at 9:30am on April 7th at Benton**. Following worship, there will be a meeting with Renee from the Synod to discuss the process in hiring a new pastor and answering any questions. Congregations are encouraged to attend the meeting! There will be **NO Sunday School** that day.

CALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Willow Creek – Paul Mesner, Beth Warne, and Bonnie Dybedahl

Benton – Gary Jongeward, Kerrie Arens, and Linda Person

SPRING WORDSEARCH

J V Q J G H F R L R G S N L A D Y B U G
 R O P E K X Q S R A A T N W Y B Y U B K
 I E I Q C B C H A H O L A X B U A M E M
 B N I D I I V O L J T F P O M T S B E A
 U I Y V H D L W L V J R B K A T Z R B R
 Z H D X C U V E I O U Q E O L E Y E Y C
 Z S O N A C U R P T R B Y V G R B L E H
 I N H G V K U S R K N F P Y O F L L N Q
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 M Y W X H N S U A L R V R O J X H V F U
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 E P J E X R F L A C W E R P B X E T J S
 D K N M U T E R N K D P N Y B F Y J Q R
 V U U D Y U D M A P R I L T E L G I P E

WORD LIST

APRIL	COLORFUL	HONEYBEE	NEW LIFE
BUNNY	DRAGONFLY	LADYBUG	PIGLET
BUTTERFLY	DUCKLING	LAMB	RAINBOW
BUZZING	EASTER	MARCH	SHOWERS
CALF	EGG	MAY	SPRING BREAK
CATERPILLAR	FLOWERS	MEADOW	SUNSHINE
CHICK	FOAL	NEST	UMBRELLA
CLOVER	HATCHLING		

Homemade
GIFTS MADE EASY

WILLOW CREEK *NOTES*

WILLOW CREEK TEAMS

April 7th NO TEAM: No team needed due to Joint Worship at Benton.

April 14th TEAM 4: Justin & Lindsay Koepp (*Faith & Sawyer*), Ken & Debbie Mader, Shane & Beth Warne, Nancy Offerman, Steve Schmidt, Austin & Shelby Schmidt (*Lily & Elliot*)

April 21st TEAM 5: Rick & Sandy Zwart, Jason & Erin Mitzel (*Max*), Steve & Kim Bazata (*Kael & Mack*), David Olson (*Levi*)

April 28th TEAM 1: Tim & Lisa Rave, Kevin & Katie Hoekman (*Anna, Peter, Esther, & Elijah*), Phyllis Koepp, Zach Schroeder & Jayni Anderson

MEN'S COFFEE / QUILTING LADIES

Join us Saturdays at 8:30am at Willow Creek for food, coffee and fellowship. Join us Mondays at 9am as we enjoy quilting and fellowship at Willow Creek.

2024 Willow Creek Committees:

Education: Erin Mitzel, Kim Bazata

Worship and Music: Kris Smart, Lisa Rave, and Paul Mesner

Mission: Steve Schmidt, Pat Nytroe, Phyllis Koepp

Cemetery: Craig Dybedahl (Sexton), Al Hilmoe, Shane Warne, Paul Sunderman.

2024 Willow Creek Council:

President - Katie Hoekman

Vice President - Justin Koepp

Treasurer - Kevin Hoekman

Secretary - Tina Soderquist

Deacons - David Olson & Steve Bazata

Trustees - Terry Smart & Eric Smart

Congregational Meeting - Sunday, April 14th

Willow Creek will have a Congregational Meeting on April 14th to discuss and vote on the Sanctuary Renovation Project. Everyone is encouraged to attend!

WILLOW CREEK & BENTON

Info and Events

WELCA Crossroads Conference Spring Gathering

The WELCA Spring Conference is on April 20, 2024 from 8:30am – 2:30pm at Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, SD. The theme is “Let’s Get Connected.” All are Welcome! RSVP by April 15, 2024 to clundeen@midco.net. For further information, speak to Cheryl Akers.

REMINDERS:

Please look for updated info on worship & events via our websites, Facebook pages, weekly announcements or by contacting the office.

(bentonwillowoffice@gmail.com)

wclcdellrapids.org & bentonelca.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS All Willow Creek & Benton Announcements should be **emailed by Tuesday at Noon** each week, and Newsletter Announcements by the **15th of each month**. Thank you!



FOOD PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED

Primary needs assessed for this month: White sugar, brown sugar, canned vegetables, Knorr sides, spaghetti sauce, ramen noodles, sloppy joe, peanut butter, brownie mix, laundry soap, Kleenex, shampoo, conditioner, paper towels, toilet paper. Please **no** expired or opened food.

Donations can also be dropped off at Baltic City Hall, Baltic School Commons, or in the entry way of Baltic Lutheran or East Nidaros Church.

Monetary Donations – Mail to PO Box 244 Baltic SD 57003

BENTON *NOTES*

BENTON WORSHIP TEAMS

April 7th First Team – Doug & Sandy

April 14th Second Team – Roger & Linda

April 21st Third Team – Cheryl & Connie

April 28th Fourth Team – Butch & Lori

TEAM HELP NEEDED!

*Are you on a Benton Worship Team? If not, please contact the office (bentonwillowoffice@gmail.com) so we can connect you with a Sunday morning Team. We are looking for willing hearts and hands to assist with our Sunday morning routine—**especially those interested and able to run our camera/ IPAD during service. This is a great opportunity for our youth to get involved in their church family!**

2024 Church Council Members:

Dan Larson (President), Maria Kendle, Wade Mulder, Rocky Foster, Nathan Stroschein, Roger Person, Amanda Schuette, Sandy Schuette, Rick Arens

FOOD TO YOU with West Nidaros – Thursday, April 11th

Benton will be participating with West Nidaros for Food to You. We'll be collecting **cereal boxes** for the event. If you would like to volunteer, please see Maria Kendle. A sign-up sheet will be available soon.

Toy Donations for Children's Home Society:

The Mission Committee is asking Benton to consider donating children's toys to the Children's Home Society of Sioux Falls. Barbies, dolls, card games, trading cards, jr. size footballs, trucks, books, coloring books, hero action figures, etc. A display will be set up in the fellowship hall; all toys can be dropped off there through the end of the Lent Season. For further questions, please ask Maria Kendle.

BENTON *NOTES*

Benton Sunday School 2023/2024

Sunday School Theme: "*Impossible Made Possible*" - Luke 18:27
Hear the stories that show how things that are impossible for us are possible with God. Join us in art projects, songs, and activities to share God's Word further. **Join us each Sunday at 9:30 am for Sunday School (ages 3+).**

No All Church Sunday School in April

Due to our Joint Worship and Synod Meeting with Renee, there will be NO All Church Sunday School on April 7th.



Second Sunday Potluck - Sun, April 14th

Our monthly Second Sunday Potluck will take place on Sunday, April 14th. Join us as we share in faith and fellowship!

Benton Council Meeting – Tuesday, April 9th

Council meets next on Tuesday, April 9th at 6:30pm at Benton.

Rural Life Sunday Celebration – Sunday, May 5th

The annual Benton Lutheran Rural Life Sunday begins with **9:30am Sunday School for all ages**. There will be a rural themed Sunday School in the light of God's Creation. Farmers bring animals, seeds, dirt, and rural decorations to help us all celebrate our rural roots. **At 10:45am** we will worship outdoors (weather permitting) and include a blessing of the Seed, Soil, Water, Animals, and the Farmers. This is a great day to invite your friends and neighbors to come and worship with us. **A kid friendly rural meal will be served following worship!** *This Sunday will also be the Last Day of Sunday School.*

