

BWC Newsletter January 2025

Issue 25 - Number 7

Republic County Winter Coat Drive

Please help others stay warm this winter. Join our Winter coat drive for adults and children. Bring your new or gently used winter clothing to The Dollar General Market in Belleville, Melby's Home Center in Scandia or Belleville Wesleyan Church during the month of January 2025.

The coats collected will be prepared and available ON January 31st from 5:00pm-7:00pm and February 1st from 10:00am-noon.



Fred's Challenge

The Fred Challenge was issued by our dear departed Brother, Pastor Fred Mikesell, just before he left for heaven. The Challenge is that each of us would read one chapter of the New Testament at least 5 days a week until the end of the year.

I encourage you to begin 2025 by committing to read one chapter of the New Testament every day in the New Year. Life is better with God's Word!

Please contact Pastor Mark to let him know that you will begin the challenge in 2025.

There are 260 chapters in the New Testament. When you read 5 chapters a week x 52 weeks for 2025, you will have completed the entire New Testament. As you read, ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand and retain what you are reading. If you need a reading guide, we've got them at

Meals-on-Wheels

We will deliver meals during January. The exact dates haven't been published as of yet. Please sign up when you can!

Men's Group

meets Sunday's at 6:30pm. All men are welcome to join us.

Pray for our Leaders

Our Local Board of Administration is meeting on January 14th @ 7:00pm. Please keep our leaders lifted up in prayer. Thank you!

Baptism

Our very own, Rachel Schulz, will be baptized on January 19th.

Come and celebrate with us!

Prayer Time

We will join forces on Sunday, January 5th @ 6:00pm @ BWC to pray for our community

Communion

Communion will be distributed on January 26th during the morning worship service.

Awana

At Awana we enjoy games, a Bible lesson, snacks, prizes and lots of fun. Bring your friends and we'll see you on January the 15th @ BWC!

We've got great leaders and we'll have a great time. Join us for Awana beginning January 15, 2025 @ 6:00pm. Awana meets each Wednesday night @ BWC's Fellowship Hall from 6:00pm-7:30pm.

BWC Youth Group

The Junior High (7th-9th Grades) Youth Group meets each Wednesday @ 6:00pm.

The Senior High (10th-12th Grades) Youth Group meets Sundays @ 7:00pm.

Beautiful 2025 Christian Calendars are still available from the youth for \$10.00.

Xtreme 2024

BWC sent 22 teens and 6 adults to the Xtreme Christian Conference in Branson over the Christmas break.

The teens were: Alexandria, Braxton, Bri, Brooklyn, Catelin, Cheyenne, China, Colin, Drew, Emberlynn, Hannah, Helena, Hooper, Julian, Keirra, Logan, Lucas, Maddie, Makenzie, Ryan, and Trinity.

Praise God for our great sponsors: Mike and Lizz Skocny, Jason and Hannah Sugars, Skyler Skocny, and Sister Pam!



Birthdays & Anniversaries

We love celebrating birthdays and anniversaries together. If we do not have your special day in our records, or that of your loved one, please contact Pastor Mark ASAP with that information @ (785) 527-3510. Thank you!

Best Choice Labels

Remember to collect your Best Choice labels and bring them to the church. You can drop them in the basket which is found in the foyer.

Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service 2024

Kelly played and sang beautifully!

Dan was fantastic at reading the Christmas story from Luke chapter 2.

Two amazing young ladies from the north, Marcy and Anna, read a very meaningful poem and sang in a way that touched us all.

Pastor Mark read the Christmas Story to the kids.

Braxton lit the advent candles.

Each person was given a candle to light from the Christ Candle.



Faith Comes by Hearing

We raised \$1,250.00 for Military Bible Sticks (the Bible in audio form). And praise God there was a matching fund which means we helped provide \$2,500.00 or 100 Bible Sticks to our veteran's and current service members.

The Giving Tree

For a few years now, we have used the Giving Tree to raise funds for our missionaries to see that their families have something from us for Christmas. This year we were able to distribute over \$1,350.00 to our missionaries (Webbs, Wuertz, Burgos, Thompsons, Culvers, McFredericks, and Chelsey Horkman) and support for Salina Rescue Mission.

Well done good and faithful servants!

I'm proud of each of you!

Pastor Mark's Minute:

Happy New Year! It's always exciting and maybe a little uncertain to begin something new. You might be like me, wondering what God has for you in the new year. Now, I can't predict the future, but I can show you what God has promised for everyone who has accepted His Son, Jesus, as Lord and Savior.

We find in Ephesians 2:10 that God has a purpose for your life. "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

No matter how old or young or rich or poor you are. You have been designed by God to represent Him here on planet earth. Almighty God has intentionally and purposefully placed each of us in a specific home, family, and community. And He is calling us to use what He has placed in our lives for good. And to do that we must cling to three very important truths:

God is alive and well and active in our culture. We see this truth demonstrated by the prophet Elijah. When he stood before evil king Ahab, he said, "As the LORD, the God of Israel lives, whom I serve..." 1 Kings 17:1

Elijah wasn't serving a set of ideas; he was serving the living God. God is alive and well, and He's still active in our culture today.

We are God's representatives in this time and this culture. In 2 Corinthians 5:20, Paul wrote, "We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making an appeal through us." Our calling as God's ambassadors is to share His message clearly and boldly to those around us. God is still looking for men and women, like the prophet Elijah, to be His witnesses, His spokespeople to this world, and He promises to give His power and protection to those who stand with Him. "For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to Him." 2 Chronicles 16:9

God is able to change the culture. As this world continues to deteriorate, we can get discouraged, feeling as if we're not making a difference. The prophet Elijah, too, went through periods of discouragement. But as we seek to carry out God's purpose for us to influence our culture, we can rest assured that we're not alone in this mission; we're partnering with each other and with Almighty God!

We can trust in the power of God's Word to change people. We can depend on the Holy Spirit to work through us. And we must practice the power of prayer. James 5:16 says, "The prayer of a righteous man (person) is powerful and effective."

Elijah reminds us that one believer—empowered by the Word of God, the Holy Spirit of God, and regular communication with God—can be a real-world changer. *The same is true for you.* I am excited to see what God accomplishes through your life this year! May He be glorified! No matter what, remember, I love you and can't wait to see you! Happy New Year!

(adapted from Dr Robert Jeffress)

Join us as we read through the New Testament in 2025!

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:16

“Do not let this Book of the Law (the Bible) depart from your mouth (meaning it should always be in your mouth, on your lips and in your prayers); meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:8-9

Valentine's Banquet

Our Valentine's Banquet will be held on Sunday, February 16th @ 6:00pm @ T.A.G.'s restaurant in beautiful downtown Scandia. We always enjoy a lot of good fun, good food and good fellowship.

Tickets are \$25.00 per couple. See one of your church leadership team to requests your tickets today: Andrew B, Brian P, Deanna D, Gary D, Leslie R, Pastor Mark or Nancy M to get your tickets.



**909 Wesleyan Drive
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“Because we care...about you!”