

# Belleville Wesleyan Lamplighter 2026

Issue 26 - Number 7

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## *Pastor Mark's Minute:*

C. S. Lewis was a Christian author, theologian and college professor. Here he writes about true peace. His writing is informative and inspirational.

“The only reason atheists experience any peace at all is because God, in His mercy, allows it. Every calm breath, every moment of joy, every sense of stability is borrowed grace. Even those who deny Him live inside a world sustained by His patience and kindness. God is good even to those who reject Him. But do not confuse that with true peace. Worldly peace is temporary, circumstantial, fragile. It depends on health, money, distraction, or control. It fades the moment suffering arrives or death comes into view. That kind of peace cannot stand when the night gets long and the soul is forced to be honest. True peace is found only in Christ. It is not the absence of trouble but the presence of truth. Jesus said, “My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you.” This peace fulfills because it reconciles us to our Creator, anchors us beyond death, and satisfies the soul the world can never reach. Everything else is borrowed comfort.” -C. S. Lewis

May the Good Lord bless you and your family with His peace in the coming New Year!

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*Our Valentine's Banquet* will be held on Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup> @ 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 \$30.00 per couple. See one of your church leadership team to request your tickets today: Andrew B, Brian P, Deanna D, Gary D, Leslie R, Pastor Mark or Nancy M to get your tickets.

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*Membership Class* will be Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup> @ 4:30pm. Sign up with Pastor Mark.

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*Soup Pot Luck Meal* will be enjoyed on Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup> after our morning service. Bring your favorite soup, side dish or dessert. Yummy!

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*Meals-on-Wheels* will be delivered by BWC the week of January 5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>. Please sign up on the clipboard in the church lobby or contact Pastor Mark.

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*Nursing Home Services* will be Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup> @ 2:00, 2:30 & 3:00pm.

“The early church wanted to know, ‘What shall I do to be saved?’ Today’s church is asking, ‘What can I do and still be saved.’” – Leonard Ravenhill

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### *Thought You Should Know...*

As many as 7.8% of high school students and 3.5% of junior high students currently use vape products. It is illegal to sell these products to kids under 21, but they are easy to get on-line. Smoking cigarettes is unhealthy, smoking e-cigarettes, especially at a young age, is a serious health threat. Using nicotine at a young age may make it harder to concentrate and learn or even control your mood and impulses. Nearly all e-cigarettes contain nicotine, which is extremely addictive. Plus, other toxic chemicals are added which may severely damage the heart, lung and brain in growing children, as well as adults.

The solution is flavored, so it tastes good. Most flavors were banned nationally in 2019, but mint and menthol are still allowed. Unfortunately, any flavor is allowed in inexpensive, disposable e-cigarettes which makes them popular with kids.

The vapor from e-cigarettes contains harmful chemicals (here are just a few of them):

Diacetyl – a chemical flavoring linked to a serious disease known as popcorn lung.

Benzene – a chemical found naturally in gasoline and known to raise the risk of leukemia.

Propylene Glycol – a food additive also used to make antifreeze and paint solvent.

Formaldehyde – a chemical linked to cancer.

If you have a junior or senior high student, please, take a few minutes and calmly and rationally bring up the topic of vaping. To begin, ask them how they feel about vaping.

Then, without judgement, ask them what they know and have experienced. Then share with them the risks to their health. If you have questions or need assistance, talk to your health care professional or contact the American Lung Association or visit:

[myhealth.srhc.com/parenting](http://myhealth.srhc.com/parenting) (Article adapted from the American Lung Association)

“Train up a child in the way they should go; and when they are old, they will not depart from it.” Proverbs 22:6

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*Awana* reconvenes on January the 14<sup>th</sup> @ BWC! We’ve got great leaders and we’ll have a great time. Awana meets each Wednesday night @ BWC’s Fellowship Hall from 6:00pm-7:30pm. Join us and bring your friends!

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*Men’s Group & Ladies Group’s* meet Sundays at 6:30pm for Bible Study.

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*Communion* will be served on January 25<sup>th</sup> during the morning worship service.

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*“You are cleverly disguised as a responsible adult.” ;)*

*Fred's Challenge* was first 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. This year, 2026, we will be reading through the New Testament Chronologically. This means that we will read the books in the order in which they were written. We've got extra reading schedules for you to follow. Pick yours up in the church lobby. I encourage you to begin 2026 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 2026.

There are 260 chapters in the New Testament. When you read 5 chapters a week x 52 weeks for 2026, you will have completed the entire New Testament.

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*BWC Youth Group* meets each Wednesday @ 6:00pm.

*Xtreme 2025* BWC sent 23 teens and 6 adults to the Xtreme Christian Conference in Branson over the Christmas break. The teens were: Addison, Ashton, Braxton, Bri, Brooklyn, Cheyenne, China, Chloe S, Colin, Ezra, Haley, Helena, Hooper, Jasmine, Julian, Keirra, Khloe P, Logan, Lucas, Maddie, Makenzie, Ryan, and Trinity.

Praise God for our great sponsors: Dan and Leslie Robison, Jason and Hannah Sugars, Pastor Mark and Sister Pam!

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*The Division* 'The first church I ever loved split over fluorescent lights in the basement. I was not there when it happened, but the wound was still fresh when I arrived. People still whispered about it in the hallway. Everyone remembered who took which side. Here is what happened. They were putting in new lighting. Half wanted all the fixtures hung. Half wanted fewer to save money. Voices rose. A binder was slammed shut. Families walked out. All of it over the number of lights. That was my introduction to church life as a new Christian. Not a battle for doctrine. Not a burden for the lost. A fight about comfort. And the longer I followed Christ, the more I saw the pattern repeat. Arguments about children in the sanctuary. Fights over worship style. Conflict over potlucks and service times and who brought money. Different issues. Same problems. A heart that forgets grace will always protect preference. I never heard the sound of that binder slamming, but I can still feel it. It has become a warning in my own ministry. **Because when Christ is not the center, anything can divide a church.** **When Christ is the center, nothing can.** Lord, turn us back.' - Pastor Rich Bitterman



### *Shoe Drive*

Thank you to everyone who helped with our shoe drive. It was a fantastic success! Together, we collected almost 4,000 pairs of shoes and our Youth Group was given a check for \$1,100! In the picture above you'll see some of the wonderful people who showed up on loading day when our Funds2U driver from Florida arrived. Thanks: Daniel, Leslie, Braden, Kylie, Layton, Kevin, Luke, Amelia, Cleo, McIntyre, Skyler, and Steve.

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*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 special from us for Christmas. This year we were able to distribute \$1117.00 to our missionaries (Webbs, Wuertz, Burgos, Thompsons, Culvers, McFredericks, and Chelsey Horkman) and support for Heart Choices. Well done good and faithful servants! I'm proud of each of you!

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*Faith Comes by Hearing* We raised \$275.00 for Faith Comes By Hearing to translate the Bible into other languages. And praise God there was a matching fund which means we helped provide \$550.00.

## *Belleville Wesleyan Church*

*909 Wesleyan Drive*

*Belleville, KS 66935*

*"Because We Care...about you!"*



*Office Furniture for Sale.* We have been blessed to receive some new office furniture and are planning on having it installed over the holidays. Needless to say, we need to clear out some of our current furniture. If you have an interest, contact Pastor Mark or any board member and make an offer. First come, first served.

Currently we have up for sale three items:

1. A large wrap-around Office Desk Unit (pictures at bottom of page)
2. A four-drawer filing cabinet (not pictured)
3. An ornate wooden cabinet (81" High x 80" Wide x 22" Deep) with carved spindles, green marble inlays and lots of storage – it comes in three sections (see pictures)



### Ornate Storage Cabinet

Picture #1 the middle lower storage section

Picture #2 bottom left lower storage compartment

Picture #3 front view of the bottom and middle sections

Picture #4 ornate spindles

Picture #5 top - sits above the spindles

Picture #6 bottom section with the marble inlay

### Office Desk Unit

67 ½" tall / 112" total length from front to back

77 ½" total width / desk section is 29 ½" high x 26 ¾" deep

