



Mission Statement
Sharing God's Love Wherever
We May Be

This is the QR
code for giving
at Bethesda
Lutheran
Church.



**A Member Congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America**

BETHESDA NEWS is a monthly publication of
Bethesda Lutheran Church, Jewell, IA

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To the People of God at Bethesda Lutheran (ELCA) in Jewell, Iowa,

Grace and peace to you in the power of the Holy Spirit, on behalf of our Lord and Savior Jesus
the Christ, to the glory of the Father. Amen!

A Joyful Moment in Our Life Together: The Gift of an Installation Service

There are moments in the life of any congregation when God's grace becomes wonderfully visible. When the power of the Holy Spirit gathers us, lifts our hearts, and reminds us that we are part of something larger than our local body of gathered believers. An Installation Service is one of those moments. As we prepare for this joyful occasion, we give thanks for the work of the Call Committee, the Council, the tech folks, the musicians, the Boards and Committees, the caretakers of the parsonage, and of course, our newly retired Administrative Assistant Donna Busch and our Janitor Lisa Peterson, all of whom continued to work faithfully during all of the transitional times. Now, this new chapter God is opening among us will begin as we share the load of ministry together.

In the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, an Installation Service is more than a formal welcome. It is a public, prayerful affirmation that God has Called a pastor to serve a congregation, and that the congregation has responded with trust, hope, and partnership. The Call is local, but the ministry is part of the larger denomination. Through the presence of a representative of a Synod, most often an Assistant to the Bishop, a congregation is reminded that they are woven into the wider fabric of the ELCA. That it stands together with nearly 8,500 congregations, united in mission, worship, and service. An Installation allows us to see the local and larger Church working together.

Our service that day is itself rich with meaning. We gather around God's Word and celebrate the Holy Sacrament of Communion, giving thanks for the God who calls, equips, and sustains the church. A representative of our congregation presents the pastor and the Letter of Call. The presiding minister asks the pastor to affirm their promises while walking around the sanctuary: to preach and teach faithfully, to administer the sacraments, to offer pastoral care, and to lead with humility and joy. The congregation also makes promises to pray for their Pastor, work alongside them, encourage their ministry, and join wholeheartedly in God's mission for this place.

(Continued on page 4)

Rev. Jonathan Dolan

Deacon roster:

Pat Melchert: 515-451-0389; Richard Heeren:
515-231-2886; Eudene Lund: 515-290-4674;
Josh Hilfiker: 515-460-3637

===

Leah Magers, Admin. Assist.; Lisa Peterson,
Custodian; Julie Lutjen, Accompanist;
Confirmation Students, Sound and Technical
Team

===

Congregation Officers:

Wade Miller, President; Jeff Scott, Vice-
Pres., Sherri Hove, Treasurer; Jen Nibe,
Secretary



Please remember to
update the church
office of any changes
to your address, email
address, land line, or
cell phone numbers.
Also, any of the same
for children at college
or who have left home
but are still members.

Thank you.

Attendance

Attendance	
08/02	59
08/09	70
08/16	50
08/30	72
09/06	60
09/13	96
09/20	105
09/27	86

Fund Balances to-date: September 27, 2026

Fund Name	2026 Budget (only applies to General Fund)	Needed per week to meet budget- GF	Needed @ 25 weeks to meet budget-GF	Actual received @ 25 weeks	Disbursements to-date	To-date Transfers from Contingency Fund	Fund Balances
General Fund	\$218,464.96	\$4, 201.25	\$163,848.72	\$133,392.55	\$161,109.46		(\$11,545.97)
Sunday School	NA	NA	NA	\$488.39	\$651.90		\$7,114.83
Youth & Family	NA	NA	NA	\$909.00	\$740.78		\$21,077.43
Designated Missions	NA	NA	NA	\$12,935.61	\$13,124.80		\$7,785.46
Undesignated Missions	NA	NA	NA	\$585.00	\$343.84		\$3,224.56
Discretionary Fund	NA	NA	NA	\$1,401.00	\$1,200.60		\$885.11
Capital Improvements	NA	NA	NA	\$2,600.00	\$		\$10,411.02
Gifts and Memorials	NA	NA	NA	\$3,343.08	\$2,685.63		\$11,439.91
Contingency Fund	NA	NA	NA	-0-	\$20,267.00		\$33,581.28
Endowment Fund*	NA	NA	NA	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00		*

*Funds managed offsite

Note: This is for everyone's information and is: General Fund ONLY

General Fund	Income	Transferred from Contingency Fund	Disbursements	Fund Balance at end of month
January Only	\$12,903.37	-0-	\$15,665.71	\$13,408.60
February Only	\$12,601.79	-0-	\$15,638.19	\$10,372.20
March Only	\$14,688.11	-0-	\$18,705.74	\$ 6,354.57
April Only	\$16,525.16	-0-	\$20,901.77	\$1,979.95
May Only	\$17,365.53	-0-	\$13,809.43	\$6,013.65
June Only	\$12,906.03	-0-	\$19,834.36	(\$914.68)
July Only	\$14,786.40	-0-	\$13,900.19	(\$28.47)
August Only	\$19,910.82	-0-	\$12,197.17	\$7,685.18
September Only	NA	NA	NA	NA
October Only				
November Only				
December Only				

**Bethesda Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
10 August 2026 7:00**

Present: Wade Miller, Jeff Scott, Jen Nibe, Rich Heeren, Marcia Wheeler, Pastor Jonathan Dolan, Hans Koehnke, Lisa Peterson
Guest: Janice Heeren
Absent: Sherri Hove, Nicole Ferguson, Amy Barquist

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by President Wade Miller
Devotions were led by Pastor Jonathan Dolan.
Approval of the Agenda
Jeff Scott moved to approve the agenda with amendments; adding to New Business: Potential welcoming date for Leah and Mutual Ministry Committee/New role for confirmation/high school youth; Lisa Peterson seconded, and the agenda was approved unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes of the July Meeting (see emailed approval dated August 18, 2026)
Financial/Treasurer's Report
Due to some questions on the Treasurer's Report: Jeff Scott moved to table the approval of Financial/Treasurer's report; Lisa Peterson seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Pastor's Report
Pastor Dolan reported on the boards that he met with last month. Blessing of the Backpacks will be on Rally Sunday.
Confirmation will start on 9/16 after Rally Sunday, and a parent meeting will be held prior to that date. There will be a First Communion Class held after school starts.
Pastor and his family toured the parsonage. There will be a wedding held at Bethesda next August for the first time in a while.

Old Business
- Parsonage/Church water damage updates - Seamless Pro's will be starting repairs as soon as payment is received.

- Rally Day – Will be held September 13 th .
Assignments have been sent out to boards.
- Organ – Organ has been in need of repair for some time and due to the exorbitant cost to fix it, council discussed removing the organ. They also discussed the future upgrading of our music equipment and choir loft area.

Rich will make an announcement to the congregation to see if there is anyone that has any interest in the organ.

Jeff Scott made a motion to move forward with plans to take out the organ; Lisa Peterson seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

New Business

- Janis – Wednesday Kids/Choir
Janice Heeren was in attendance to indicate that she would like to move any funds set aside for payment to the Tone Chimes/Hearts of Praise Director to Wednesday kid's needs.

Jeff Scott made a motion to direct any TC/HOP Director funds to Wednesday Kid's needs; Lisa Peterson seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

- Welcome/meet and greet for Leah
Pastor will talk to Leah about the possibility of a meet and greet day

- Mutual Ministry Committee
The Mutual Ministry Committee met prior to Council Meeting. They discussed the possibility of having Confirmation students and high school youth taking turns sitting with younger children during the Children's Sermon. Adults would also be welcome to come up front to engage with the kids.

There will be an announcement made in church in a couple of weeks and information will be added to the newsletter about the role of the Mutual Ministry Committee.

Board Reports

Education - None

Deacons - None

Evangelism/Stewardship – Coat Drive will be held in September

Worship - None

Trustees – Parsonage needs cleaning – Lisa is looking into estimates on everything that needs to be done.

Youth - None

The next council meeting will be held on Monday, September 14, at 7:00 pm.

Jeff Scott moved to adjourn the meeting; Lisa Peterson seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 8:29pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jen Nibe



Name: _____ Date: _____

Baby Animals

DIRECTIONS: Fill in the crossword puzzle grid with the names of each animal's baby. Use the word bank if you get stuck.



Across

2. Sheep

4. Crocodile

5. Fox

6. Dog

7. Duck

11. Eagle

12. Bear

14. Deer

15. Kangaroo

Down

1. Horse

3. Rabbit

5. Goat

6. Pig

8. Chicken

9. Cow

10. Cat

13. Human

WORD BANK			
BABY	BUNNY	CALF	CHICK
CUB	DUCKLING	EAGLET	FAWN
FOAL	HATCHLING	JOEY	KID
KIT	KITTEN	LAMB	PIGLET
PUPPY			

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Pumpkin Pie Play Dough

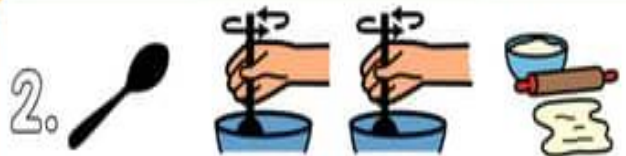
Edible Play Dough Recipe

Structured Fun in Sped

What we need:



Combine can of pumpkin, 2 cups of cornstarch & 1 tsp. pumpkin pie spice into bowl.



Use spoon and hands to mix and make the dough. Mix. Mix. Mix.



Take dough out of bowl. Roll, squeeze, shape, cut and play with dough.

Tuesday Together Time



The South Hamilton Community is invited to "Tuesday Together Time" each Tuesday at noon held in Bethesda Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall. Bring a potluck dish to share with others. All tableware is provided. Don't have food prepared, please come! There is always plenty and, if you desire, a container is provided for you to put a little donation in to go toward Global Good Gifts.

Donations are growing again; total at this time is \$65.00.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING ON TUESDAY? DO YOU NEED A LITTLE FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHERS IN THE COMMUNITY?

JOIN US – THERE'S A PLACE READY AND WAITING FOR YOU! Prize winners in August include:



The Lunch Wagon – Jewell Residents

- **Do you need assistance with meals?**
 - **Do you live in Jewell?**
 - **Are you homebound?**
 - **Are you recovering at home?**
- If you answered yes to any of these questions, you can contact:**



- Susan Lund at 515-290-3000 or Sarah Freeman at 515-291-1528**
- **Lunches will be delivered Monday through Friday between 11:30 to 12:15.**
- **The cost of the lunch is \$5.00 per meal.**
- **Lunches will be prepared in Jewell by:**
- **JEWELL MARKET: Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs and**
- **THE MALIBU: Fri.**
- **Lunches will NOT be delivered on holidays.**



*Proud Partner of
Food Bank of
Iowa*

The Lord's Cupboard Food Pantry is open each Monday of the month from 5:00 to 6:30 pm. Additionally, the Lord's Cupboard is open the *first Monday* of each month from 1:00 to 2:00 pm. The Lord's Cupboard's location: Jewell, PO Box 330, 439 Main Street, Jewell 50130-0330.

Phone: 515-827-5148

This is an urgent plea: The Lord's Cupboard Food Pantry is seeing an increase in use by local families. If you are able to help supply the shelves with non-perishable food items, toiletries, laundry supplies, (and anything else that you routinely use at home), or monetary donations, it would be so appreciated. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

Next Mobile Food Truck: October 13th, 2026

Please contact Karla @ 515-310-0151 ; or Sue @ 515-290-3000; or leave a message at the church office for a return call @ 515-827-5148.



*Our Mission: **Lutheran Services in Iowa** responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at LSIowa.org and Facebook.com/LSI.iowa.*

(continued from page 1)

These mutual promises are the heartbeat of Lutheran ministry. They express the beautiful truth that Pastors (and Deacons) and people are called into shared discipleship, each offering their gifts for the building up of Christ's body. In this moment, we acknowledge that ministry is never carried alone. It is held in community, strengthened by prayer, and guided by the Holy Spirit.

As the Installation rite concludes, the newly installed Pastor steps into their role, preaching, presiding, blessing, and serving. And the congregation steps forward with them, ready for the journey God is shaping ahead. This is a time of excitement, thankfulness, and deep joy. God has called us together. And through this Installation Service, we celebrate the beginning of a shared ministry filled with hope, possibility, and the promise of Christ's presence in all that lies ahead.

In humble service of the Triune God,
Pastor Jonathan David Dolan

Amy Davis, TLMHC, NCC

Amy specializes in:

Adolescent and Family therapy, Adult and Couples Therapy, Trauma Focused Therapy, Depression and Anxiety, Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Anger Management/Behavioral Issues, Sexual Abuse, Healthy Relationships, Stress Management

Amy is a temporary Licensed Mental health Counselor with more than 20 years of experience treating adults and children. Amy has extensive experience working with at risk youth in a variety of settings. Amy's areas of emphasis include teen and adult mental health disorders, including but not limited to depression, anxiety, self-esteem, healthy relationships, attachment disorder, and PTSD. Amy is trained in EMDR, Gottman method, TF-CBT, and Sex Offender Treatment Program (SOTP).



Mutual Ministry Committee

We are pleased to announce the formation of a Mutual Ministry Committee at Bethesda. Current members of the committee are: Hans Koehnke, Jeff Scott, and Jen Nibe. Three additional members of the congregation will be appointed by President Wade Miller and Pastor Dolan.

The Mutual Ministry Committee will provide a supportive and constructive way for our pastor and congregation to communicate, listen, and work together in the ministry God has entrusted to us. The committee's purpose is to encourage healthy communication, strengthen our relationships, support our pastor, and help our congregation continue to grow and serve faithfully. If this is something that may interest you, please talk to Wade Miller.

One example of the things we are working on is creating a more collaborative and supportive setting during the Children's Sermon; inviting Confirmation Students, High School Youth, and interested adults, to come forward to participate.

The Mutual Ministry Committee will provide a place for encouragement, feedback, and thoughtful conversation about the ministry of our Congregation. It is an opportunity to foster mutual understanding, trust, and support among those who serve and those who are served, through our congregation's ministry.

If members of the congregation have any concerns, feedback or questions, you may speak with any of the Mutual Ministry Committee members. Additionally, Pastor Dolan is also very open to hearing any feedback that you may have.

May this help us listen to one another with grace, speak with honesty and compassion, and remain focused on our shared calling to proclaim Christ and serve our neighbors.

In Grace and Peace,

Bethesda Lutheran Church
Mutual Ministry Committee

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

Sunday, October 11th

3:00pm- 5:00pm

Bethesda Lutheran, Jewell



First Communion

Service

Sunday, October 18th

NEW MEMBER CLASS

Sunday, October 11th



Bethesda Lutheran, Jewell

Saturday October 24th, 11am-1pm

Bergen Fall Festival!

Drive Thru meal and bake sale! -Free Will Offering
Turkey sandwich/Pasta Salad/Baked Beans/Chips/Blond
Brownie/Banana bar and more!

Bergen Lutheran Church
101 W. Maple, Roland Iowa