



Mission Statement
Sharing God's Love Wherever
We May Be

**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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December 2024

For pastoral needs: Deacon roster:

Pat Melchert: 515-451-0389

Richard Heeren: 515-231-2886

Sergio Gomez Roaro: 515-310-2096

Josh Hilfiker: 515-460-3637

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Donna Busch, Admin. Assist.

Lisa Peterson, Custodian

Julie Lutjen, Accompanist

**Confirmation Students Sound and
Technical Team**

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Congregation Officers:

Jeff Scott, President

Lori Peterson, Vice-Pres.

Karen Culpepper, Treasurer

Sherri Muller, Secretary

Upcoming:

*Dec 1: Hanging of the
Greens*

*Dec 15: Christmas Program
and Cookie Walk*

*Dec 24: Christmas Eve
Worship begins at 7:00 pm*

December 2024

Dec. 1, 9:00 am First Sunday of Advent
with Hanging of the Greens

Dec. 3, 2:00 pm Worship at Timberland – all
are welcome.

Dec 4, 7:00 pm Advent Worship using
"Holden Evening Prayer"

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Dec. 8, 9:00 am 2nd Sunday of Advent
Worship with Holy Communion

Dec. 11, 7:00 pm Advent Worship using
"Holden Evening Prayer"

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Dec. 15, 9:00 am Third Sunday of Advent
with Sunday School Christmas Program
Annual Cookie Walk during Fellowship

Dec. 18, 7:00 pm Advent Worship using
"Holden Evening Prayer"

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Dec. 22, 9:00 am Fourth Sunday of Advent
Worship with Holy Communion

Dec. 24, 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship
with Holy Communion

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Dec. 29, 9:00 am First Sunday of Christmas
Worship



HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER

Nestled in the remote
Cascade mountains of
Washington State,
Holden Village operates
as a year-round Lutheran
retreat center with a
robust musical and
liturgical culture. While
on sabbatical in the
Village in 1986,
composer Marty Haugen
wrote his *Holden Evening
Prayer* liturgy, a now-
iconic setting beloved
around the world.

Bethesda Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
Sunday, September 29th, 2024

Present: Jeff Scott, Marcia Wheeler, Nicole Ferguson, Jen Nibe, Lori Peterson, Karen Culpepper, Lisa Peterson

Meeting was called to order at 10:22 am by Jeff Scott, Devotions by Jeff.

Approval of Minutes by email (8/27)

Approval of Agenda: Rich/ Karen, approved

Financial/Treasurer's Report: Lisa/Lori, approved

Old Business:

Narcan will be stored in kitchen cupboard, top shelf, right side: Donna's office and Lisa Peterson will have one.

Donna Busch bonus will come from Gen Fund:Salaries (Executive,Pastor)

South Hamilton evacuation: Bethesda will be a rally point, Council members can respond

And will keep students in and everyone else out (including parents) until police take

Control. Jeff Scott will be giving a key to South Hamilton.

New Business:

Pastor John Dolan (contract) was discussed. Jeff will meet with Pastor.

Food for the poor (preside/present on October 23) Deacons and Donna

Council will partake in a survey for Faith Communities Today (FACT) research initiative

Board Reports:

Education: Amy is working on the schedule

Deacons: Working with Confirmation

Evangelism/Stewardship: Coat drive, boxes at banks in Jewell and Narthex

Worship: Working with Deacons on Sunday schedule

Trustees: New small couch for Quiet Room, 220 outlet put in sewing room for Lords

Cupboard freezer, Contacted Coordinating Committee about lights and signage display

For Narthex regarding social issues.

Motion to Adjourn/ Lori/ Lisa

Lord's Prayer

The next council meeting will be Oct 27th at 10:15 am

The call committee has been formed and is working diligently. The Bethesda Constitution calls for demography diversity for the call committee, representing both male and female and a range of ages. These are the members of the Bethesda Lutheran Church Call Committee:

Hans Koehn
Sheri Muller
Marilyn Schlafke
Rob Thelen
Amber Widick
Eudene Lund



From the Constitution of Bethesda Lutheran Church, 2024

C13.05. When a vacancy occurs in a position for which this congregation calls a minister, a **Call Committee** of six (6) voting members shall be elected by the congregation council. Term of office will terminate upon installation of the newly called minister.

C13.05.01. Call Committee shall:

- a. Elect a chairperson who will be the primary contact with the Synod office, congregation council and the congregation.*
- b. Represent a cross-section of the congregation (by age, gender, etc.)*
- c. Seek to determine the needs of the congregation before the selection process begins.*
- d. Interview perspective candidate(s) and make a recommendation of a pastor for congregation's consideration.*
- e. The chair of the call committee shall notify prospective candidate of congregation's decision.*
- f. Keep synod, congregation council, and congregation informed of progress.*

Attendance

In-Person Attendance		Facebook and cable television	
10/27	110	Weekly Average Viewership – livestream and recorded: 185	Channel 14: We continue to appreciate the service of Stratford cable broadcasting the Worship Service each Monday and Tuesday at 3-pm at no charge.
11/03	84		
11/05	35 - Timberland		
11/10	88		
11/17	77		
11/24	NA		
11/24	NA- Community		

Fund Balances to-date: November 20, 2024

Fund Name	2024 Budget (only applies to General Fund)	Needed per week to meet budget-GF	Needed @ 47 weeks to meet budget-GF	Actual received 47 weeks 2024	Disbursements to-date	To-date Transfers from Contingency Fund	Fund Balances
General Fund	\$203,759.00	\$3,918.45	\$184,167.15	\$127,696.32	\$141,161.11	\$23,532.16	\$ 10,067.37
Sunday School	NA	NA	NA	\$1,372.48	\$487.15		\$ 7,066.86
Youth & Family	NA	NA	NA	\$5,875.87	\$1,626.34		\$23,248.84
Designated Missions	NA	NA	NA	\$20,435.68	\$17,878.52		\$ 8,664.84
Undesignated Missions	NA	NA	NA	\$785.00	\$328.30		\$ 3,182.62
Discretionary Fund	NA	NA	NA	-0-	\$777.05		\$ 2,227.36
Capital Improvements	NA	NA	NA	\$3,300.00	-0-		\$ 6,100.02
Gifts and Memorials	NA	NA	NA	\$428.41	\$1,776.15		\$12,503.54
Contingency Fund	NA	NA	NA	\$42,700.00	\$23,532.13		\$48,615.93
Endowment Fund*	NA	NA	NA	\$ -0-	\$ -0-		-0-*

*Funds held offsite and managed.

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	\$10,417.50		\$11,817.26	(\$1,399.76)
February Only	\$10,182.69		\$17,310.69	(\$8,527.76)
March Only	\$12,977.88	\$3,532.16	19,110.91	(\$11,128.63)
April Only	\$10,832.36		\$16,470.46	(\$16,766.73)
May Only	\$11,865.41		\$15,678.28	(\$20,579.60)
June Only	\$11,348.28	\$15,000.00	\$15,056.34	(\$9,287.66)
July Only	\$10,605.55		\$9,973.21	(\$8,655.32)
August Only	\$13,421.38	\$5,000.00	\$13,816.52	(\$4,050.46)
September Only	\$14,187.01		\$6,922.96	\$3,213.59
October Only	\$12,154.67	NA	\$11,441.68	\$3,926.58
November Only	NA	NA	NA	NA
December Only	NA	NA	NA	NA



BETHESDA HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

Jewell, Iowa

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

6:00 – 7:30 pm

Dec. 4: Wrapping presents
for the Giving Tree

Dec. 18: Movie & Pizza

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Bethesda High School Youth Group would like to thank everyone who bought a Pumpkin at the auction! Your generous support raised \$4000! The money raised will be used to purchase items for the Giving Tree!

Like every year, the auction was fun and entertaining with Lynn Beyer as the auctioneer! Thank you Lynn for your time, humor, & energy that added to the success!

On November 20th, the youth went to Ames and shopped for the giving tree tags! It is a great opportunity to recognize the needs of the community and those not as fortunate.

We look forward to our December Youth Group dates and hope all the high school students can join us!

- December 4
- December 18

Eric & Roxie

A note from Renee Hardman, President and CEO of Lutheran Services in Iowa:

Dear friends,

I hope this finds you safe and warm. As I am closing in on my first year as President and CEO at LSI, I am filled with gratitude for our generous donors, dedicated staff members, and kind supporters. Thanks to caring people like you, LSI had another incredible year serving our neighbors. Your donations ensured young parents had access to resources and support. Your in-kind items provided comforting beds for immigrants and refugees to rest upon. Your prayers lifted the spirits of our LSI team members and those we serve. As we enjoy this holiday season, I want to thank you for supporting LSI.

If you would like to serve more neighbors in need, please give at LSIowa.org/donate.

Eternally Grateful,
Renee

For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.

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](https://www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa).



Proud Partner of
Food Bank of
Iowa

The Lord's Cupboard

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. If you know someone in need of food assistance, please let them know of the availability of The Lord's Cupboard. If you have questions, please talk with Karla Alanis Palomo (515) 310-0151 or the church office.

The Lord's Cupboard's location: Jewell, PO Box 330, 439 Main Street, Jewell 50130-0330. Phone: 515-827-5148

Are you interested in volunteering your time with the Lord's Cupboard? More volunteers are needed and we would be very glad to accept your help. Please contact Karla @ 515-310-0151 ; or Barb @ 515-231-3571; or Donna @ 515-460-1688; or leave a message at the church office for a return call @ 515-827-5148.



Tuesday Together Time at Bethesda Lutheran Church

Tuesday Together Time is for the community.

The community is invited to "Tuesday Together Time" each Tuesday at noon at Bethesda Lutheran Church.

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.

Offerings being held for Global Good Gifts total \$249.00 at this time.

Prize winners in November included...

Judy Greenfield, Dick Steffen, Sharon Teig, Jackie Frederick, Carol Stearns, Nancy Jewell, Darrel Stearns, Sylvia Steffen, Janet Beary, Pat Melcher, Nancy Johnson, Eudene Lund, and Julia Johnson

The Lord's Cupboard

As of this writing, the Lord's Cupboard is not doing well with matching the funds (\$2,500) for the "Love the Lord, Love the Lord's Cupboard" challenge, deadline is December 1. This is what we usually use for the Thanksgiving and Christmas Vouchers for families at the Lord's Cupboard. Because of that and some issues with the grocery store vouchers we have decided to make a change in the store vouchers and the Christmas Vouchers. In December, we will combine the two vouchers for a total of \$75.

In January of 2025, grocery store vouchers will no longer contain a list of items people can or have to buy. They will be written for \$45. Currently grocery store vouchers are costing us anywhere from \$30 to \$55 per family. Setting a definite amount will allow us to budget better. Everyone will get the same amount to buy things they need from the grocery store. We will ask that they not buy alcoholic beverages, soda/pop, or junk food except potato chips, corn chips, tortilla chips, and pork rinds.

We don't want you to think the Lord's Cupboard is destitute, we are not. But our money is dwindling a little faster because we have more people using the Lord's Cupboard and the cost of food has doubled in the last 10 years.

We are hopeful of having a fundraiser or two in the coming year. We also will be looking for grant money to help supplement the increased usage. These are the changes happening at the Lord's Cupboard we thought you might be interested in.



PUZZLE

CLUES ABOUT CHRISTMAS

The Old Testament contains many details about Jesus' birth.
Can you uncover what Isaiah prophesied?

Directions: Use the code to write the letters and complete Isaiah 9:6-7, NIV.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	!	@	#	\$

N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
%	^	&	*	()	-	?	>	<	:	;	{

For to us a 3 8 9 # 4 is 2 ^ (% , to us a) ^ %

is 7 9 > 5 % , and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called Wonderful 3 ^ ? %) 5 # ^ (,

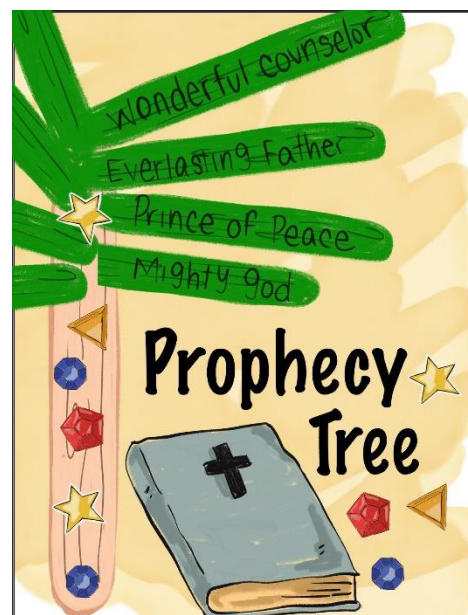
\$ 9 7 8 - ; God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the

greatness of his government and & 5 1 3 5 there will be no 5 % 4 .

He will reign on David's - 8 (^ % 5 and over his @ 9 % 7 4 ^ 5 ,

establishing and upholding it with ! ?) - 9 3 5 and righteousness

from that time on and 6 ^ (5 > 5 (. Isaiah 9:6-7, NIV



Make this Christmas craft to display special names for Jesus.

What you need:

- Large wooden craft stick
- Small green wooden craft sticks
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Bible
- Permanent marker
- Craft glue
- Optional: star stickers or craft jewels

What you do:

1. Place the large stick on a table vertically, like a tree trunk.
2. Cut the green sticks into pieces that measure 4", 3½", 3" and 2½".
3. On each green stick, write a name for Jesus from Isaiah 9:6 — Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Write small or ask an adult for help.)
4. Use a dot of glue to attach each green stick to the large stick, like tree branches.
5. Decorate your Christmas tree with stickers or jewels.





DO YOU KNOW?

From the Constitution and Bylaws of Bethesda Lutheran Church, these are responsibilities of the Board of Education. As space allows, future Bethesda News will highlight other Boards.

- C14.01.04. The **Board of Education** shall consist of a minimum of four (4) voting members elected at an annual meeting for a term of two (2) years. No member shall be eligible for more than two (2) consecutive terms. The Board of Education shall:
- Develop an effective teaching ministry which includes the training of teachers and leaders, and provide opportunity for study by every member of the congregation through its teaching agencies.
 - Report its activities to the annual meeting of the congregation and at such other times as the congregation may decide.
 - Plan and coordinate events and activities that will enhance the spiritual growth of the preschool through 6th grade children, including securing Sunday School teachers, researching curriculum, and being willing to teach when the need arises.
 - Encourage preschoolers through sixth graders to share their talents during worship services.
 - Plan fundraising events for mission trips and other activities.
 - Facilitate in finding parents and other adults to drive, chaperone, provide food, etc. for youth group activities.
 - Communicate to parents and the congregation what is happening with the children and their growth in Christ.

Board of Deacons –

Board of Education – 11/17/2024

Jen Nibe, Karla Alanis, Amy Barquist

Jen will visit with Donna about ordering curriculum for winter.
Add 2 for 1/2 Curriculum & 1 - 1/2 Leader Guide
1 - 3/4 Leader Guide & Add 1 for 5/6 Curriculum & 1 Leader Guide

Dates:

No Sunday school 12/1
Program Practice 12/8
Christmas Program & Cookie Walk 12/15
Sunday School Activity for all ages 12/22
No Sunday school 12/29
Sunday School resumes 1/5/25

Next Meeting 1/12/25 10:15a.m.
(Discuss annual meeting / SS Activity)

Board of Evangelism/Stewardship –

Board of Trustees – no report

Board of Worship –

The worship committee met Sunday 11/3/24 after church with Marcia, Janis, Rich and Ortrude attending.

We confirmed that on 11/24 at 7 pm, Rev. Bob will be preaching a thanksgiving service and the Worship Committee will be serving fellowship treats afterwards.

We discussed the Advent Season. December 4, 11, 18 will be Wednesday evening Holden worship at 7 pm with Julie.

Pastor Dolan is preaching 12/24 at 7pm with the Rob Fisher Family doing special music.

Pat said the preaching is lined up through December for Sundays. There will not be a service on Christmas Day.

The Christmas program is 12/15.

Hanging of the Greens is 12/3 (confirmation students will be readers and Rich will lead.)

Janis and Marilyn will get the ornaments ready.

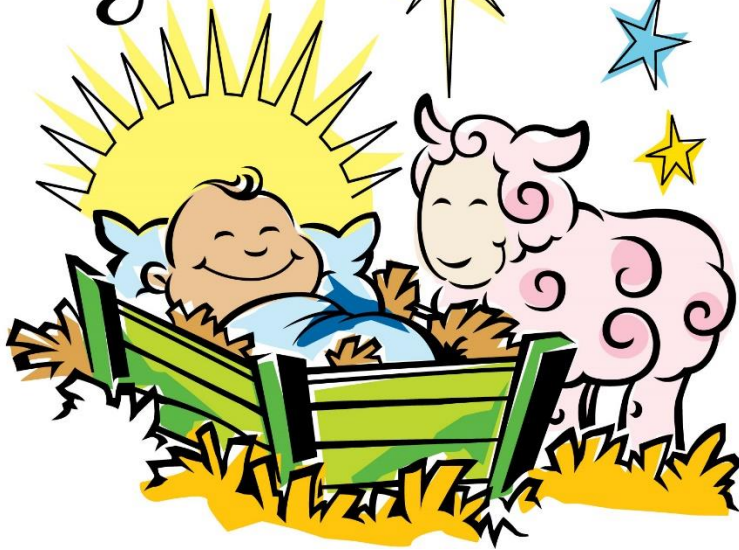
All Sunday services in December will have a favorite hymn choice before it starts. (Probably only 2)

12/ 29 the Dials will do special music.

Submitted by: Ortrude

Board of Youth – no report

Sunday School Program



SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM 2024

Is scheduled for:

Sunday, December 15

Held during the worship time
beginning at 9:00 am.

SAVE THE DATE!!!

Cookie Walk - December 15

Following the Christmas program, we will have our Annual Cookie Walk to support Bethesda. Each family is asked to bring 3 dozen cookies, candy, or bars in a disposable pan. Please bring to the church on Saturday, December 14, between 9 am and 2 pm. Thank you.

Come join our Worship and Fellowship.

