



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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Upcoming Dates

Sept. 7, 2025: "God's Work. Our Hands"

Sept. 14: Bibles to 3 year-olds, 2nd-graders, New Confirmation students during Worship
First day of Sunday School
Festeburg of Wartburg men's worship group will be at Bethesda participating and singing.

Sept 17: Wednesday Kids starts



Faith Finds a Way

I surmise that many of us have seen the original Jurassic Park film from 1993. Even if one hasn't seen it, we are familiar with the premise, especially because Jurassic Park has spawned numerous books, films, tv shows, video games, amusement park rides, themed vehicles and countless toys. In the original film, Dr. Ian Malcolm portrayed by Jeff Goldblum delivers arguably the most memorable quote of the entire franchise, **"Life will not be contained. Life breaks free. It expands to new territories. It crashes through barriers painfully, even dangerously. But well uh, there it is...I'm simply saying that life, uh, finds a way."**

That was something I noticed recently when I was on a family walk. I came upon a driveway that invited contemplation. Because growing in the cracks of the cement driveway were multiple flowers. Evidently, the owner of the property decided to let the flowers continue to grow, as they were all about 18 inches tall. I looked at Lisa and I said, "Life finds a way." Of course she smiled and said, "Jurassic Park."

Yet, I have still been drawn back to that very brief moment in my own contemplation. It reminds me so much about how faith works in our lives. *Sometimes we know for certain that moment in our life where faith became clear.* Your grandma was chatting with you at the table about the time such and such thing happened and the only possible explanation grandma could ascertain was God showering her with grace so that she might have the faith to trust the outcome for better or for worse. *Other times, we are unable to see the moment as clearly. It's those times, that I believe the growing flower in the crack emulates how in the midst of such and such season, **GOD CONTINUES TO SHOWER US WITH UNMERITED GRACE, WATERING US LITTLE BY LITTLE, SO THAT IN THE MOST CHALLENGING OF GROWING CONDITIONS, LOCATED IN AN AREA NOT EVEN SUITABLE FOR GROWTH, OUR TINY SEED MAY SPRING OUT OF THE GROUND TO EVENTUALLY BECOME A FULL-FLEDGED FLOWER OF FAITH.***

Once this happens, we feel the warmth of the sun with a new purpose. We respond in a way that points others towards the giver of that growth, our Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Thus, the direction of our life changes and we begin to view the world through the very same unmerited grace we received from God, that in the power of the Holy Spirit, gave us faith to believe that Jesus Christ has indeed died and rose for me and for you.

Now, in this time and place, in the midst of the beginning of my time as your Interim Pastor, the beginning of a new academic year, the beginning of subtle changes to our church community, God is trying to shower us with unmerited grace so that we may come to believe that faith finds a way. Whether that faith is nurtured through public worship, in Bible and Brew, through Confirmation, by Wednesday Kids, during Tuesday Time Together, volunteering with the Lord's Cupboard, through High School Youth Group, by participating in worship as a reader, greeter, Communion Minister, singer, acolyte, accompanist, sound or PowerPoint tech, serving on a standing Board or on Church Council. **THERE ARE SO MANY WAYS THAT FAITH CAN BE NOURISHED IN THIS BODY OF CHRIST WHO GATHERS AT BETHESDA LUTHERAN IN JEWELL, IOWA. THUS, MY DEAR SIBLINGS IN CHRIST, MAY YOU SEE HOW THE HOLY SPIRIT MOVES FAITH TO FIND A WAY IN YOUR LIFE, THIS VERY DAY?**

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

This space is reserved for minutes from the
Congregation Council.

Got to fill the space with
something!

Way to go, Rich!



High School Youth –
Please see announcement on
page 9 of this Bethesda News.

This space is reserved for minutes from the
Congregation Council.



Board of Deacons – With everyone busy during the summer the Deacons have been staying connected through text. We also served during fellowship 8/10.

Board of Education – BOE is in charge of the ring toss for Rally Sunday 8/24/25. Jen will drop off beverages. Amy has the Blessing of the Backpack tags also for 8/24/25.

1st day of SS is 9/14/25. BOE will give out Bibles to 2nd graders. Jen will visit with Donna on details. SS will meet in the chapel as 1 group to kick off the year. Amy will look for teachers.

BOE would like to work on updating the kids activity bags for church.

Pastor stopped in to touch base and share some ideas.

Everyone is checking their schedules for the week of 9/8/25. We would like to have a work day to go through SS supplies and get things ready for SS. Might be able to work on 9/7/25 following church also, if needed.

Board of Evangelism/Stewardship –

September is going to be the winter coat drive for the month. GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS will be a lord's cupboard fill the pool drive from now until Sept 7th.

Board of Trustees – No report

Board of Worship – Report: We did not meet in August.

Board of Youth – No report

Attendance

08/04		Cable television
08/03	58	Please note: Stratford Complete Communications Channel 14 has been "under construction". It is hoped that the service will return soon.
08/05	31-Timberland	
08/10	50	
08/17	60	
08/24	70	
08/31	NA	



Interim Pastor: Rev. Jonathan Dolan
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; Vacant, Vice-Pres. Sherri Hove, Treasurer; Sheri Muller, Secretary

Fund Balances to-date: August 25, 2025

Fund Name	2025 Budget (only applies to General Fund)	Needed per week to meet budget-GF	Needed @ 34 weeks to meet budget-GF	Actual received 34 weeks	Disbursements to-date	To-date Transfers from Contingency Fund	Fund Balances
General Fund	\$186,911.72	\$3,594.46	\$122,211.51	\$105,385.71	\$83,784.16		\$21,601.55
Sunday School	NA	NA	NA	\$790.30	\$266.48		\$7,574.88
Youth & Family	NA	NA	NA	\$2,827.96	\$1,659.86		\$22,204.86
Designated Missions	NA	NA	NA	\$10,556.75	\$5,124.70		\$13,864.34
Undesignated Missions	NA	NA	NA	\$570.00	\$333.00		\$3,133.13
Discretionary Fund	NA	NA	NA	\$948.00	\$923.98		\$1,201.38
Capital Improvements	NA	NA	NA	\$3,311.00	-0-		\$10,811.02
Gifts and Memorials	NA	NA	NA	\$320.86	\$1369.24		\$11,956.42
Contingency Fund	NA	NA	NA	-0-	\$523.97		\$65,647.28
Endowment Fund*	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		

*Funds managed offsite

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

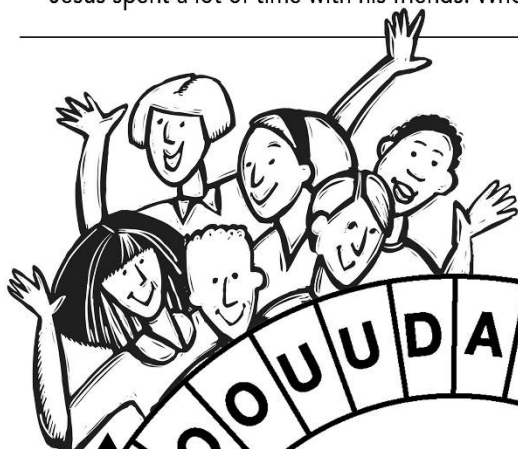
General Fund	Income	Transferred from Contingency Fund	Disbursements	Fund Balance at end of month
January Only	\$13,193.18	-0-	\$6,130.65	\$7,062.53
February Only	\$12,102.04	-0-	\$8,869.90	\$10,294.67
March Only	\$13,416.82	-0-	\$15,816.36	\$7,895.13
April Only	\$15,434.29	-0-	\$8,667.71	\$14,591.76
May Only	\$12,805.36	-0-	\$7,136.60	\$20,260.52
June Only	\$11,891.51	-0-	\$8,624.03	\$23,465.98
July Only	\$13,855.47	-0-	\$15,146.23	\$21,174.22
August Only	NA		NA	NA
September Only				
October Only				
November Only				
December Only				



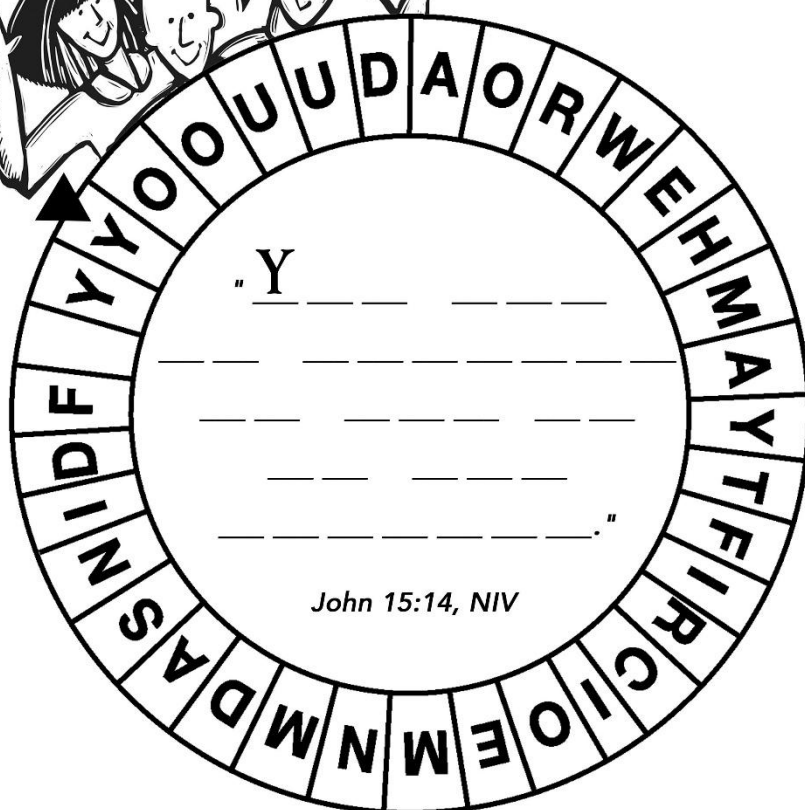
PUZZLE

WHO WERE JESUS' FRIENDS?

Jesus spent a lot of time with his friends. Whom did Jesus consider his friends?



Beginning at the arrow and moving clockwise, write every other letter on the spaces below.



John 15:14, NIV

Answer: "You are my friends if you do what I command." John 15:14, NIV



Create adorable sheep using graham crackers, marshmallows, and a little imagination!

What you need:

- Graham cracker squares
- White frosting or marshmallow fluff
- Mini marshmallows
- Large marshmallows
- Candy eyes or mini chocolate chips
- Black gel icing or mini Oreo cookie

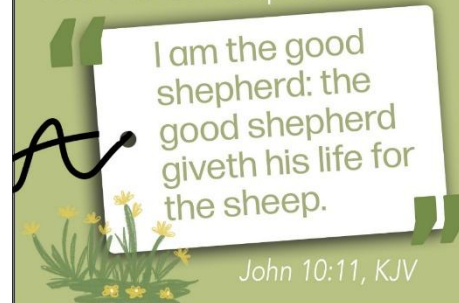
What you do:

1. Spread white frosting or marshmallow fluff on each graham cracker square.
2. Stick mini marshmallows all over to make the sheep's wool.
3. Cut a large marshmallow in half and stick it near the top for the head.
4. Add candy eyes and a dot of black gel for the nose. Or use a mini Oreo cookie half for a more defined face.
5. Let kids decorate their sheep however they'd like!



Lesson tie-in

Use this treat to remind kids that Jesus is our Good Shepherd.





Community *Matters!*

CHILDREN'S NEWS FROM BETHESDA

*8/24 - RALLY SUNDAY &
BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

*9/14 - 1ST DAY OF
SUNDAY SCHOOL
& NEW BIBLES FOR
3YR OLDS, 2ND GRADE, & 7TH GRADE

*9/17 - WEDNESDAY KIDS
STARTS



LSI invites each of you to our
160th Anniversary Celebration

OCTOBER

5:30 pm
Reception

17

6:30 pm
Dinner & Program

2025

Holiday Inn Airport

6111 Fleur Drive
Des Moines, Iowa

We would love to see tables filled by members from many of our churches! Tickets are \$100 each, with 10 seats per table. Whether your church fills one seat or an entire table, we hope you'll be represented at this historic event.



Scan QR code to RSVP or contact Barbra Jotzke-Torrier@LSIowa.org



Community *Matters!*

STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING

A Free Presentation

Tuesday, September 23, 6:00 PM
Bethesda Lutheran Church
439 Main Street, Jewell, IA

What comes to mind when you hear the words “human trafficking”?

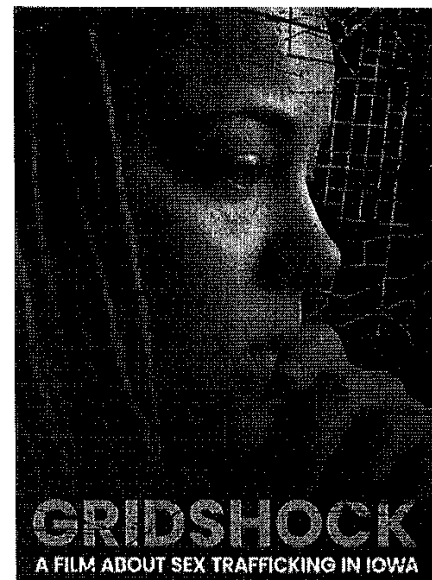
Is it a crime that happens only in distant countries or large cities? Something that could never touch rural Iowa communities?

The reality may surprise you.

Stacy Besch, a volunteer with Team Iowa, will present the 55-minute documentary *Gridshock*—a powerful film produced by a survivor of sexual violence. *Gridshock* exposes the demand driving human trafficking in Iowa and features voices from survivors, law enforcement, advocates, policymakers, and even a recovering sex addict.

After the screening, Stacy will share eye-opening facts about how this crime is affecting people right here in our communities. Her presentation will both raise awareness and provide education on what we can do.

We encourage community members—grandparents, parents, students, and neighbors—to **attend and learn**.



Together, we can take a stand against this devastating abuse of human dignity.



Stacy Besch - Presenter

Childcare provided - Questions: 515-451-0389 or 515-827-5148



Community *Matters!*

*You are cordially invited to Our Savior's Lutheran
Church Salad Supper Guest Night.*

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2025, AT 6:30 PM

Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Radcliffe, Iowa

"MORE THAN WORDS: LIVING WHAT WE BELIEVE"

Join us for an evening of fellowship, music, humor, and (hopefully!)
inspiration.

A free-will offering will be received.

Please RSVP to Donna Ostrem at 515-899-2276.

YOU ARE INVITED

Sunday, September 21, 3:00 pm; Waldorf University Ballroom

Topic: Addressing the Future of Our ELCA Congregations. You are invited to a crucial gathering to imagine new solutions to the declining number of pastoral leaders and the impending succession crisis facing our congregations.

Our Guiding Question: "How might God equip congregations to thrive and serve in the next decade as we face the declining number of pastoral leaders?" Your voice and insights are essential to navigate these challenges and ensure the continued vitality of our ministries in the name of Jesus.

Who: Pastors and Lay Leaders who serve Western Iowa Synod, Northeastern Iowa Synod, and beyond. Invite neighboring congregations beyond our borders.

What: Discuss and dream of new solutions to pastoral decline and succession challenges

Where: Ballroom, Waldorf University, Forest City, Iowa

When: Sunday, September 21, 2025, 3:00 pm

Join us to sustain and strengthen one another in these challenging times.

A Task Team for Sustainable Ministry in North Iowa.



Community *Matters!*

God's work. Our hands.



September 7, 2025

STOCK THE LORD'S CUPBOARD!

Bring non-perishable foods, toilet paper, and personal care supplies to Bethesda Lutheran Church in Jewell.

Hey High School Fam!

Bethesda Lutheran's High School Youth Group returns September 3, 2025! We're meeting **EVERY Wednesday** from **7:30-8:30 PM** throughout the 2025-2026 South Hamilton Academic Year. Join us in the Youth Room (2nd floor of the Education Wing at Bethesda Lutheran Church). While we're not serving full meals this year, we'll have FREE snacks, bars, and drinks available each week.

Interim Pastor Jonathan Dolan will lead our weekly gatherings, supported by Eric and Roxie Young — trusted mentors who've been connecting with our group for a few years. You can expect meaningful Bible discussions with the theme of the year being God's faithfulness towards humans, engaging group games, and honest conversations. We'll also explore service projects and hear from guest speakers who bring valuable insight. Whether you're seeking answers, community, or a midweek recharge, this space is for you. Come as you are, bring a friend, and get ready for experiences that will strengthen your faith in Jesus Christ and build lasting faith-filled friendships.

We're excited to welcome you!

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

The next Mobile Food Truck distribution is scheduled for October 14. Volunteers are always needed and the help is greatly appreciated.

Community Matters!

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.

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 currently collected total over \$1,684.00; voted by participants to use this money to help a veteran in Jewell get dental work completed, including false teeth.

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 included: Carol Stearns, Grayson Melchert, Ali Melchert, Vidhya Nadarajah, Luanne McGonigle, Dameon Cook, Athena Parker, Chloe Larson, Emma, Sylvia Steffen, Lisa Peterson, Pat Melchert, Julia Johnson, and Monica Sogard.

WINTER Coat Drive

Please help families in need by donating clean, new, or used winter gear that can last them through the winter

Donate hats, gloves, coats, scarfs, boots, and snowpants

Drop off at Availa Bank, First State Bank, Bethesda, or 717 Main Street

Contact Nicole Ferguson for more info
515-827-9008

Donate through the month of September!



"Stuff the Pantry" items donated by Tuesday Together Time to the Lord's Cupboard Food Pantry.