



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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July 2025



Summer Stewardship Reminder

Contract Pastor: Rev. Jonathan Dolan

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

Vacant, Vice-Pres.

Sherri Hove, Treasurer

Sheri Muller, Secretary

*Ways to continue with your giving when you are not able to
 attend worship service:*

- Consider setting up a regular payment through your bank account bill-pay system.
- Consider setting up a regular payment through your credit card.
- Contact the church office for information on setting up recurring donations via VANCO.
- Go to the church website at www.bethesdajewell.com and schedule a payment.
- Mail your donation to Bethesda at PO Box 330, Jewell 50130.

Upcoming Dates

August 24, 2025: Rally Day

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

TO REQUEST PASTORAL CARE:

CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT

515-827-5148

or CALL A DEACON

RICH HEEREN

515-520-7867

SERGIO GOMEZ 515-310-2096

PAT MELCHERT

515-451-0389

JOSH HILFIKER 515-460-3637

Bethesda Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes 27 May 2025, 6:30 pm

Members Present: Jeff Scott, Sherri Hove, Sheri Muller, Rich Heeren, Marcia Wheeler, Nicole Ferguson, Hans Koehn, Lisa Peterson, Jen Nibe

Guests Present: Pastor Stephen Brackett, Donna Busch, Pat Melchert

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 pm by President Jeff Scott. Devotions were led by Jeff Scott.

Approval of the Agenda: *Rich Heeren moved to approve the agenda; Lisa Peterson seconded, and the agenda was approved unanimously.*

Approval of the Minutes of the March Meeting: *Jen Nibe moved to approve the minutes of the April meeting; Lisa Peterson seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.*

Financial/Treasurer's Report: Sherri Hove gave the Treasurer's Report. As of the end of April the general fund balance is \$9,396.46 and total assets are \$136,604.59. *Hans Koehn moved to approve the Treasurer's Report; Rich Heeren seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.*

Pastor's Report N/A

Old Business

Other Signage: Signage will be displayed regarding aid with social issues such as addiction, mental health, and other family services available in Hamilton County or Ames.

Council Mailboxes: Donna wanted to remind Council members to check their mailboxes regularly. This helps us save money on postage.

Church Insurance: Jeff Scott still has a call into our representative Robert Gray. He also sent an email answering some of the questions about the rate increase from Church Mutual. Pastor Brackett helped provide some additional information about what is happening synod wide.

Wartburg Choir: There has been no additional progress on this matter.

New Business

Donna to Synod Assembly: Donna will be attending the Synod Assembly. This year's assembly offering will support two ministries: The Dwelling Ministry in North Carolina and the Dwelling in Faith Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community, located in Mitchell, Iowa. *Rich Heeren moved to approve \$200 from the Undesignated Mission Fund to support the two missions at the Synod Assembly; Lisa Peterson seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.*

Minutes are continued on page 4 of this newsletter

**Re: The call committee
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:*

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

Attendance

In-Person Attendance		Facebook and cable television	
05/25	43	Weekly Average Viewership – livestream: 219	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.
06/01	70 and 15 animals		
06/03	34 – Timberland		
06/08	75		
06/15	63		
06/22	47		
06/29	NA		
		Please note: Stratford Complete Communications Channel 14 has been “under construction”. It is hoped that the service will return soon.	

Fund Balances to-date: June 23, 2025

Fund Name	2025 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	\$186,911.72	\$3,594.46	\$89,861.40	\$76,683.38	\$54,216.39		\$22,466.99
Sunday School	NA	NA	NA	\$536.62	\$226.79		\$7,360.89
Youth & Family	NA	NA	NA	\$2,614.50	\$1,575.86		\$22,125.40
Designated Missions	NA	NA	NA	\$5,611.95	\$2,837.25		\$11,206.99
Undesignated Missions	NA	NA	NA	\$420.00	\$333.00		\$2,983.13
Discretionary Fund	NA	NA	NA	\$948.00	\$783.76		\$1,341.60
Capital Improvements	NA	NA	NA	\$2,711.00	-0-		\$9,511.02
Gifts and Memorials	NA	NA	NA	\$261.86	\$501.69		\$12,255.11
Contingency Fund	NA	NA	NA	-0-	\$523.97		\$66,492.55
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		\$8,667.71	\$14,591.76
May Only	\$12,805.36		\$7,136.60	\$20,260.52
June Only	NA		NA	NA
July Only				
August Only				
September Only				
October Only				
November Only				
December Only				

Deans/Chaplains meeting: Donna asked Pastor Bracket for some clarification about the mention of a video from the NALC that was discussed at the Deans/Chaplains meeting. Pastor Bracket reassured the Council that this video is not accurate.

Pat Melchert / Parsonage: Pat Melchert wanted to remind the Council that it is Reverend Robert Miller's (United Church of Christ Jewell, IA) anniversary next Sunday (June 1). She asked if we wanted to send a token of appreciation to the celebration given all he has done to help in the community. *Lisa Peterson moved to give Reverend Robert Miller a gift of \$100 from the Discretionary Fund; Rich Heeren seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Hans Koehn moved to amend the motion to give Reverend Robert Miller \$50 and Reverend Kerry Oliver \$50 from the Discretionary Fund in celebration of their ministry; Lisa Peterson seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.*

Pat expressed concern about Bethesda's financial situation, especially in regards to the parsonage. She brought four options to consider: 1) maintain the parsonage for future use; 2) rent the parsonage; 3) sell the parsonage; 4) if the parsonage was rented or sold, where would the money be invested. Sherri Hove added the reminder that not having a parsonage would add an average of \$16,000 to the Pastor's salary for a housing allowance. It was recommended to have an independent property manager/realtor in place whether renting or selling. If the parsonage is rented to someone other than a minister, the property would no longer be tax-exempt. The discussion was continued with Pastor Steve Bracket. Decisions about the future of the parsonage will be continued once next steps have been taken with the call for a pastor.

Pastor Steve Bracket Q&A: Pastor Steve Bracket added to the discussion of the parsonage with some additional information about the call process, and the pros and cons of a parsonage during that process.

Pastor Bracket emphasized the need to ensure the "fit" of the candidate before extending a call. Having a pastor serve in as an interim pastor could help ensure the "fit" on both sides. An interim call typically lasts at least 6 months. For continuity's sake, perhaps an interim term should last at least the school year. If an interim pastor is called, the full call process will be put on hold for at least 6 months. He also recommended doing an interview with the interim candidate as well.

Donna suggested that regardless of what avenue of call happens, the Mutual Ministry Committee should be made more robust for whomever becomes the pastor. Please note that this is a requirement from the congregation bylaws and the Synod. It was also suggested that the Mutual Ministry Committee should be comprised of one of the Trustees, a member of the Worship committee, the Head of the Call Committee, and someone to work with the interim pastor with organization.

Next steps will include gathering financial information and setting an interview time for the interim candidate. The interview is tentatively set for June 11 at 6:00 pm.

Board Reports

Education: No report; Deacons: No report; Evangelism/Stewardship: No report; Worship: Marcia Wheeler reported that the church service will be held at Little Wall Lake on June 1. The Jewell Jubilee service on June 15 will be held at Bethesda with UCC; Trustees: No report. Youth: No report.

The next council meeting will be held on Sunday June 8 after church. *Sherri Hove moved to adjourn the meeting; Jen Nibe seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.* The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 8:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Sheri Muller



Board of Deacons – No report.

Board of Education – No report.

Board of Evangelism/Stewardship – We will be doing the back to school drive on July 28th with the Lords Cupboard!

Board of Trustees – No report

Board of Worship – Report: Did not meet in June.

Board of Youth – No report

A prayer of praise

Creator of the heavens, the sun, the moon and the stars,
Who have determined the mind-boggling number of the stars
and given names to every single one of them,
We can't begin to fathom why you would bother yourself
with mere human beings and care for mere mortals.
Yet you stoop to lift up the downtrodden,
heal the brokenhearted, and bind up their wounds!
We call on sun, moon and shining stars to praise you!
By Jesus, our Morningstar, lead us out of darkness
into the light of your truth and grace,
and fill our mouths with praise to you!
Make us wise, O God,
so that we may shine like the bright stars in the sky,
leading many out of darkness to see your righteousness.
By the transformative power of your Spirit, we pray.
Amen.

—from *The Wired Word*

The Wired Word is the "weekly" used for adult Sunday School - Bible and Brew. Please bring your coffee into the lounge on Sunday mornings after Worship and join the discussion on the "topic of the day".



TINY TEAMWORK

The focused teamwork of ants is astounding! How can we learn from them?

Directions: Answer the clues. Then write the words in order below to complete Proverbs 6:6-8, NIV.

- This 6-legged arthropod can carry 20 times its own weight. _____
- A sleepy, sloth-like and slow-moving person. _____
- Having deep understanding and sound judgment. _____
- A person in charge of military troops. _____
- A person in authority. _____
- The season when daylight hours are longest. _____
- A substance you eat for nutrition. _____
- When farmers reap the rewards of hard work. _____



Go to the _____, you _____;

consider its ways and be _____!

It has no _____, no overseer or _____,

yet it stores its provisions in _____

and gathers its _____ at _____.

Proverbs 6:6-8, NIV



Answers: ant, sluggard, wise, commander, ruler, summer, food, harvest, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest. be wise! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest.



Make this candle to keep uninvited insects from your outdoor summer meals.

What you need:

- Lime
- 10-20 whole cloves
- Birthday candle
- 4 toothpicks
- Adult help



What you do:

1. Have an adult slice the lime in half. Cut off the rounded end of one half so it can stand without rolling.
2. Insert 10 cloves into the cut sides of each half.
3. Stand the bottom half on a plate. Insert the candle in the center.
4. Insert the 4 toothpicks in the cut side of the bottom half. Then place the other half atop the toothpicks.
5. Before dinner, have an adult light the candle that's between the two lime halves. The flame's heat will warm the lime and create a smell that insects don't like.
6. Supervise the flame. Blow it out when it reaches the bottom lime.





Community *Matters!*

Proud Partner of
Food Bank of
Iowa

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.



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 June 10. Volunteers are always needed and the help is greatly appreciated.

TUESDAY



Tuesday Together Time at Bethesda Lutheran Church

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 \$1,300.00; 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 June included: Sue Lund, Carol Stearns, Eudene Lund, Nancy Johnson, Monica Sogard, Darrel Stearns, Karen Culpepper, Pat Melchert, Dick Steffen, John Greenfield, Janet Beary, and Judy Greenfield.