



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

Oct. 12: Special
Congregational Meeting (see
page 2 of this newsletter for
details)

Oct. 26: *Pumpkin Auction*

Oct. 26: Reformation Sunday
– Remember to wear red!

Nov. 2: *All Saints Day*

Oct. 15 through November 20:

**Love the Lord. Love the
Lord's Cupboard** challenge
(see page 13)

November Adult Ed. Series
(see last page)

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



Harvest Faith

Beloved siblings in Christ of Bethesda,

Autumn arrives with a rhythm we can set our watches by: the crisp morning air, the smell of turned earth and livestock once masked by the golden waves of corn and soybeans no longer growing in their fields. As a people in a rural community, this season often reminds us how God cares for the whole of creation and that the work of hands and hearts together brings life. As your pastor, I see the harvest not only in our fields but in the ways God is gathering and renewing people through the good news of Jesus Christ proclaimed, prayed, and proselytized through you.

The harvest in the fields teaches us about dependence and gratitude. Farmers plant with hope, tend with patience, and trust God's provision through sun, rain, hail and wind. We, too, are called to patient labor in faith—planting seeds of love, watering with prayerful presence, and trusting that Jesus, the true sower, multiplies what we place in his hands. Jesus himself reminds us in Matthew 9:37 - 38 that the harvest is plentiful even when the workers are few, and he sends us out with prayer and purpose to gather it in.

OUR CONGREGATION'S LIFE TOGETHER IS PART OF THAT HOLY HARVEST. WHEN WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP, SERVE A NEIGHBOR, OR LISTEN TO SOMEONE'S STORY, WE PARTICIPATE IN THE GATHERING WORK OF CHRIST. THIS WORK IS SUSTAINED BY FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP. TITHING IS NOT MERELY A WAY TO FORM THE BUDGET. IT IS A SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE THAT SHAPES OUR IDENTITY AS GOD'S PEOPLE. GIVING IS AN ACT OF WORSHIP THAT ACKNOWLEDGES GOD AS LORD OF ALL AND ENTRUSTS OUR RESOURCES SO THE GOSPEL CAN BE PROCLAIMED, MERCY OFFERED, HOPE GIVEN AND THE SACRAMENTS ADMINISTERED. AS ST. PAUL TEACHES IN 2 CORINTHIANS 9:6 - 7, THE ONE WHO SOWS SPARINGLY WILL ALSO REAP SPARINGLY. INSTEAD, ST. PAUL WANTS US TO KNOW THAT GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER WHOSE GENEROSITY MULTIPLIES FOR THE BLESSING OF MANY.

Because of your faithful gifts, we feed families through outreach programs like the Lord's Cupboard, support the children and youth learning to follow Jesus such as the technological and room updates in recent years, and maintain a place where worship and reconciliation can take root. Your tithes and offerings make it possible for Bethesda to be a visible sign of Christ's love in Jewell and beyond. Every dollar given is a seed tending toward a harvest of transformed lives.

This harvest season I invite you to reflect on how your giving participates in God's story. Consider increasing your regular gift, offering a special harvest gift, or committing to a tithe if you have not yet done so. Doing so allows us to plan boldly, serve generously, and proclaim Jesus with clear, joyful witness.

May the rhythm of the fields remind us that God's work requires our hands and our hearts. May the harvest awaken gratitude and compel generous living. And may Jesus, who gave himself for our salvation, continue to gather us into abundant life.

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

Dear Bethesda Members,

At our council meeting this week (September 8, 2025), we learned the Chapel air conditioner has stopped working. Neighbors Heating and Cooling gave us two options: replace the coil for \$2,500 or replace the entire unit for \$8,600. The Trustees voted unanimously to recommend replacing the unit, believing it to be the better long-term choice financially.

Because of the cost involved, a congregational meeting will be held to review and discuss this decision. Announcements will also be made during worship on September 28 and October 5, and the agenda will be included in the October newsletter.

This isn't just about an air conditioner, it's about how we, as a congregation, choose to care for what God has trusted us with. As your council, we look forward to discussing this with you and deciding together what is best for our church moving forward.

- Jeff Scott, Congregation President

To: Members of Bethesda Lutheran Church

This is notice of a special meeting of the Congregation to be held at 10:00 am in the Church Sanctuary on Sunday, October 12, 2025. The sole purpose of the meeting will be to vote on the funding and installation of a replacement air conditioning unit in the chapel.

Please make plans to attend this meeting.

Thank you.

Voting members are confirmed members **who have attained the age of 18**. Such confirmed members, during the current or preceding calendar year, shall have communed in this congregation and shall have made a contribution of record to this congregation. Members of this congregation who have satisfied these basic standards shall have the privilege of voice and vote at every regular and special meeting of the congregation.



Sunday, June 8, 2025, 10:15 AM **Bethesda Lutheran Church – Council Minutes**

Call to Order by President Jeff Scott
Opening Meditation

Present: Jeff Scott, Sherri Hove, Rich Heeren, Hans Koehnke, Marcia Wheeler, Nicole Ferguson, Jen Nibe, Lisa Peterson

Absent: Sheri Muller

Guest: Donna Busch

Approval of the Agenda
Donna Busch would like to amend: Donna added to Agenda Motion to
Approve Amended Agenda: Hans/Rich, motion accepted

New Business

Jeff talked with insurance agent Travis Moore and he will be attending a future council meeting. Council will meet with Pastor Dolan for an interview June 11th.
Discussion of Pastor Dolan's financial package.

Board Minutes

Education Jen will send out bible School registrations
Deacons Will be meeting
Evangelism Working on back to school supplies. Will be held at Bethesda on June 14

Worship

Trustees Lynn Byers will be mowing church and Mike will continue to mow parsonage.

Youth Will be working on Rally Day and have a meeting with Youth Group

Motion to Adjourn by Sherri, Lisa, carried
Next council meeting to be announced
Adjourn with the Lord's Prayer

* * * * *

Bethesda Lutheran Church **Council Meeting Minutes** **13 July 2025, 10:15 am**

Present: Jeff Scott, Sherri Hove, Sheri Muller, Rich Heeren, Marcia Wheeler, Nicole Ferguson, Hans Koehnke (via phone) Lisa Peterson, Pastor Jonathan Dolan

Visitor: Donna Busch

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 am by President Jeff Scott.

Devotions were led by Pastor Jonathan Dolan.

Approval of the Agenda

Lisa Peterson moved to approve the agenda with additions; Rich Heeren seconded, and the agenda was approved unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes of the June Meeting

No minutes were presented.

Financial/Treasurer's Report

Sherri Hove gave the Treasurer's Report. As of June 30, the general fund balance is \$23,016.98 and total assets are \$156,585.38.

Donna Busch, Sherri Hove, and Pastor Dolan worked on compiling a more comprehensive General Fund report that covers 2019-present, and it was distributed to the board. This document will require further discussion.

Lisa Peterson moved to approve the Treasurer's Report; Nicole Ferguson seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Dolan has attended his first service at Timberland.

Old Business

Human Trafficking Event

Pat Melchert contacted the church requesting to use the church to show a documentary and host a speaker on the topic of human trafficking. She's requesting to hold the event on Tuesday, September 23rd, 2025, from 6:00-9:00 pm. The motion and vote were held electronically July 1-2, 2025.

Sherri Hove moved to approve Pat Melchert's request to use the church for a documentary and speaker on human trafficking on Tuesday, September 23, 2025, from 6:00-9:00 pm; Hans Koehnke seconded, and the motion passed with 6 yes votes.

Church Insurance

Jeff Scott spoke with Town & Country. Thomas Moore is looking at the options available. He will be attending a meeting to discuss the options.

Vacation Bible School

Jen Nibe reported that VBS at Elim was a great time. Bethesda had 8 attendees and 6 volunteers. Total attendees were between 35-45.

New Business

Door keys

There are multiple church door keys that are missing/untraceable. Jeff brought the idea of keypad access to one of the doors. Adam Muller has been asked to look into options.

Candidacy Committee Report May 2

Donna Busch attended the NE Iowa Candidacy Committee meeting on May 2. One candidate was approved for ordination of Word and Sacrament, and one candidate was approved for entrance into the Candidacy Program.

Laptop for Pastor

Jeff Scott started the conversation with Pastor Dolan. Pastor Dolan will go and pick one out and then submit the receipt for reimbursement.

Rich Heeren moved to approve a budget of up to \$2,500 for Pastor Jonathan Dolan to purchase a laptop and essential software/accessories, to be paid for from the Contingency Fund; Lisa Peterson seconded, and the motion passed with one abstention.

Cont. on next page

Continued: Minutes from July 13, 2025

Retirement/Resignation notice from Administrative Assistant

Donna Busch submitted her resignation notice effective July 1. She will be staying on for three months to assist with the transition of Pastor Dolan.

A committee to develop a job description and assist with the hiring process needs to be created. Donna has provided a notated copy of her job description to assist the committee with the new description.

Sherri Hove, Sheri Muller, Pastor Jonathan Dolan, Lisa Peterson, Jeff Scott, Nicole Ferguson, and Hans Koehnck will serve on the committee. Sherri and Sheri will be working to edit the job description and plan to have it completed and distributed to the group by Sunday, July 20.

Tuesday Together Time weekly potluck at Bethesda

Donna Busch requested renewed permission to continue holding Tuesday Together Time at Bethesda without a church use fee along with coffee for the group. Donna provided the committee with a brief history of the community group.

Lisa Peterson moved to approve Donna's request for continued usage of the church without a fee for Tuesday Together Time and providing coffee for the group; Nicole Ferguson seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Reimbursement Request for Donna Busch serving on the NE Iowa Synod Candidacy Committee

Donna Busch requested continued reimbursement of mileage and additional expenses for her service on the NE Iowa Synod Candidacy Committee.

Lisa Peterson moved to continue reimbursement for expenses and mileage for serving on the NE Iowa Synod Candidacy Committee; Sherri Hove seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Fill vacant seat on Board of Worship (Vacant position: Judy Barkema)

The Board was reminded that the Congregation Bylaws require the Congregation Council Board is responsible for appointing people to vacant positions on the various boards. Currently, there is a vacant position on the Board of Worship and there is no Vice-President of the Congregation.

Rally Day Assignments

Hans Koehnck distributed a copy of the Rally Sunday activities sign-up sheet via email. Rally Sunday will be held on Sunday, August 24.

Bats

There is a colony of bats above the choir room. Solutions for relocation of the colony are being discussed.

Board Reports

Education: Jen Nibe submitted the Board of Education report via email. The Board of Education will be serving fellowship on July 20. They are looking at Sunday School class sizes for fall. There are possibilities for 2, 3, or 1 large group.

Deacons: No report.

Evangelism/Stewardship: Nicole Ferguson reported that the annual school supply night will be held on Monday, July 28. The UCC Women's Group donated \$250 to help with this effort. The rest of the funds will fund Bethesda's portion.

Cont. on page 4



Board of Deacons – Deacons meeting on 9/7

1. The confirmation students will be acolytes and technicians in the coming months.
 2. The deacons will be helping pastor with Confirmation classes
 3. Parents will be taking turns monitoring confirmation classes
 4. Thank you to all who helped monetarily in order to provide each Wednesday night the confirmation meals
 5. Reminder to confirmation students sermon notes are needed.
 6. Human Trafficking Presentation: 6:00 pm, Tuesday, September 23 hear at church
- Josh Hilfiker

Board of Trustees – August 26

Meeting call to order at 5:20 PM, Present: Pastor Dolan, Lisa Peterson, Mike Hill, Nick Johnson

Pastor Dolan offered devotions

Maintenance:

- 1 Escape ladder has been purchased and put in the Youth Room
- 2 snow removal was discussed and Seamless Pros will remain our provider
- 3 Prices will be obtained for back up sump pumps in the event of electrical outage
- 4 Coordinating Committee will be contacted for the Sanctuary Lighting
- 5 Chapel air conditioner needs repair or replaced: waiting for estimates from Neighbors to determine action needed
- 6 Robot floor cleaner for downstairs was discussed and determined to be a financial savings. Comparison shopping will begin
- 7 Wall edges need some TLC, we will be looking at some alternative types of protectors
- 8 Pastor Dolan gave a update on purchased tvs and WIFI

Long Term Goals

- 1 Sheet rock upstairs chimney. Chimney is not leaking at this time.
- 2 Replacement of Narthex air conditioner was discussed and will be placed in the hand of the Church council.
- 3 After a lengthy discussion concerning the parking lot: It was determined that it is a priority at this time. We will proceed at once

Cont. on page 6

Continued: Minutes from July 13, 2025

She would like to change the way that the drive is held for next year. The Giving Tree will provide the format. Nicole will also be sending out fliers to advertise the event.

Worship: No report.

Trustees: Lisa Peterson wanted to thank Mike Hill for cleaning up the bushes around the church property. Lisa would like to take the carpet out of the downstairs of the parsonage. She will engage the Decorating Committee to determine the new floor coverings, and she will bring a cost estimate to the Board soon.

Youth: Hans Koehnke mentioned that the High School group may look at partnering with another church; they may also need a few additional adults to work with the group.

The next council meeting will be held Monday, August 11 at 7 pm. Going forward the Council will be trying to have a regularly scheduled date and time of the first Monday of the month at 7 pm.

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

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 12:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheri Muller

Bethesda Lutheran Church**Council Meeting Minutes****11 August 2025, 7:00 pm**

Present: Jeff Scott, Sherri Hove, Sheri Muller, Rich Heeren, Jen Nibe, Marcia Wheeler, Nicole Ferguson, Hans Koehnke, Lisa Peterson, Pastor Jonathan Dolan

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by President Jeff Scott.

Devotions were led by Pastor Jonathan Dolan.

Approval of the Agenda

Hans Koehnke moved to approve the agenda; Sherri Hove seconded, and the agenda was approved unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes of the June and July Meetings

Lisa Peterson moved to approve the minutes of the June meeting; Hans Koehnke seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Lisa Peterson moved to approve the minutes of the July meeting; Nicole Ferguson seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Financial/Treasurer's Report

Sherri Hove gave the Treasurer's Report. As of July 31, the general fund balance is \$21,174.22 and total assets are \$153,156.88.

She has looked over the ledger and everything looks appropriate.

Lisa Peterson moved to approve the Treasurer's Report; Jen Nibe seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Dolan distributed a copy of his pastoral activities for July of 2025. He went to Timberland. He has also met with some of the boards, including Education, Youth, and Deacons. Two candidates have reached out about the Administrative Assistant position. He has been attending the Weekly ELCA Pastor's Text Study.

Rally Sunday will be on August 24. Sunday School will start on September 14. Confirmation will start on Wednesday, September 3 and there will be a parent and youth meeting on Wednesday, August 27. The High School group will also start on September 3 and will be held 7:30-8:30 each Wednesday.

Old Business**Church Insurance**

Jeff Scott spoke with Town & Country. Thomas Moore is looking at the options available. He will be attending a meeting to discuss the options.

Laptop for Pastor

Pastor Dolan has purchased a laptop and other necessary technology.

Administrative Assistant position update

Two candidates have expressed interest in the position, and one candidate has sent in a resume. The committee will need to meet to discuss salary, and to set the official job duties. Sherri Hove will be gathering some additional information about bookkeeping services.

New Business**Rally Day Assignments**

Hans Koehnke distributed a copy of the Rally Sunday activities sign-up sheet via email. Rally Sunday will be held on Sunday, August 24. Sweet Treats will be donating ice cream again this year.

Youth Group leaders

Roxie and Eric will be serving as the adult volunteers for the high school youth group in addition to Pastor Dolan leading the activities each week.

Wartburg Men's Choir

Matt Schutt has arranged to have the Wartburg Men's Choir, Festeburg, perform in Vernon, IA on Saturday, September 13 and the choir will then perform during church on Sunday, September 14. We will need to arrange for (six) host families for the evening of September 13. An announcement will be made at church on Sunday, August 17 along with a sign-up sheet for a brunch potluck. Sherri Hove will work on coordinating the brunch.

Cont. on next page

Cont: Minutes-August 11, 2025

Lisa Peterson moved that we move \$1,200 from the contingency fund to the designated missions fund to pay for the Festeburg Choir on Sunday, September 14; Rich Heeren seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Seminary Students

Lisa Peterson moved to give \$1,000 each to Ellie and Sergio to be paid out of the Designed Missions Fund; Rich Heeren seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Board Reports

Education Jen Nibe reported that Sunday School starts and Bibles will be handed out on September 14. Wednesday activities will start on September 17. The blessing of the backpacks will be on Rally Sunday, August 24. Sunday School will be done a little differently this year. The kids will meet all as one big group in the chapel.

Deacons No report.

Evangelism/Stewardship Nicole Ferguson reported that the back-to-school night was held recently. Eighteen students received supplies. Plans are still forthcoming for Sunday, September 7 (God's Work, Our Hands). The committee has already started planning for the Giving Tree. A winter coat drive will be held in September as well.

Worship No report.

Trustees Lisa Peterson purchased a ladder for the High School room. No report other than that.

Youth No report.

The next council meeting will be held on Monday, September 8 at 7:00 pm.

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

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 9:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheri Muller



Cont. from page 4

Board of Trustees

due to water and safety issues.

Adjourn with Prayer from Lisa for guidance and wisdom for upcoming projects

Next meeting to be announced when estimates and project information are available

Board of Worship – Janis, Marcia and Ortrude met after church on Sept. 7 and Pastor Jonathan joined us later.

We discussed 2 suggestions from members:

1. Name tags: we will try on occasional Sundays to ask people to wear a stick-on name tag they can fill out voluntarily. Before we try this, we will make an announcement in church about the purpose which is to help visitors and others (not good with names) get to know each other better.

2. Announcements: It has been suggested that announcements be given only at the end of the service. Marcia will bring this suggestion from the worship committee to council.

We discussed Altar Guild which is signed up through the end of the year.

When Pastor came we discussed worship services through December as follows:

Pastor told us about video sermons that can be accessed free as a possibility for the sermon on 9/28 when he will be gone.

Janis asked that Children's Sundays (last Sunday of the month starting in October) have kid-oriented activities and themes. She will organize music with Wednesday Kids for those Sundays as well.

November 2, All Saints Day, Janis will set up a memorial in front for those who passed this year.

Thanksgiving service (11/23, 7:00pm) will be at UCC and Pastor Jonathan will check on an email from the UCC pastor about other details.

November 30 is "Hanging of the Greens" Sunday which is also the 1st Sunday in Advent. There will not be communion that Sunday.

Advent services will be Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm (3) during Advent using the "Holden worship service". Pastor will have the confirmation kids come to this service after their meal and he will meet with the High school group afterwards.

Christmas Eve. Service will be 6:30 pm with no service on Christmas Day. The Sunday after Christmas (12/28) will probably be singing traditional hymns like last year.

Finally, we discussed next meeting again with Pastor on a morning during the week because meeting after church conflicts with other church activities.

Respectfully submitted by, Ortrude Dial

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

Attendance

Attendance		Cable television
08/31	61	Please note: Stratford Complete Communications Channel 14 has been "under construction". It is hoped that the service will return soon.
09/02	30-Timberland	
09/07	102	
09/14	142	
09/21	103	
09/28	NA	

Fund Balances to-date: September 23, 2025

Fund Name	2025 Budget (only applies to General Fund)	Needed per week to meet budget-GF	Needed @ 38 weeks to meet budget-GF	Actual received 38 weeks	Disbursements to-date	To-date Transfers from Contingency Fund	Fund Balances
General Fund	\$186,911.72	\$3,594.46	\$136,589.33	\$122,166.44	\$95,073.41		\$27,093.03
Sunday School	NA	NA	NA	\$880.04	\$830.27	\$3,200.00	\$7,100.83
Youth & Family	NA	NA	NA	\$2,967.96	\$3,828.49		\$20,226.23
Designated Missions	NA	NA	NA	\$17,580.75	\$15,858.12		\$10,154.92
Undesignated Missions	NA	NA	NA	\$640.00	\$333.00		\$3,203.13
Discretionary Fund	NA	NA	NA	\$948.00	\$923.98		\$1,201.38
Capital Improvements	NA	NA	NA	\$3,611.00	\$0.00		\$10,411.02
Gifts and Memorials	NA	NA	NA	\$380.37	\$921.17		\$11,952.34
Contingency Fund	NA	NA	NA	-0-	\$4,569.24		\$62,447.28
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	\$14,340.98	-0-	\$15,481.41	\$18,816.52
September Only	NA	NA	NA	NA
October Only				
November Only				
December Only				



PUZZLE



JESUS TRAVELED TO MANY PLACES

Jesus traveled to many regions, cities, towns and villages to preach the Good News. In the puzzle below, find and circle the names of some of the places. Can you find the names on the list?

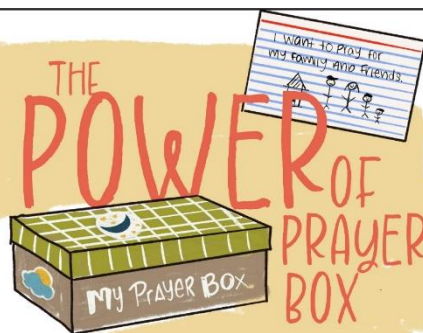
Words can go left to right, up, down or diagonal—so look carefully in all directions!

BETHANY
BETHLEHEM
BETHSAIDA
CAESAREA PHILIPPI
CANA
CAPERNAUM
DECAPOLIS
EGYPT

EPHRAIM
GALILEE
JERICHO
JERUSALEM
JORDAN RIVER
JUDEA
MAGDALA

MOUNT OF OLIVES
NAZARETH
PEREA
SAMARIA
SIDON
TYRE
WILDERNESS

B	M	L	E	T	C	U	S	G	O	T	O	B	T	H	E
E	J	O	R	D	A	N	R	I	V	E	R	E	M	N	S
T	U	E	U	E	N	A	R	B	Y	V	I	T	A	L	S
H	D	L	R	N	A	Z	A	R	E	T	H	H	G	A	E
S	E	G	E	I	T	S	S	S	G	Y	O	L	D	I	N
A	A	C	J	A	C	O	N	I	Y	R	P	E	A	R	R
I	D	E	E	A	C	H	F	D	P	E	H	H	L	T	E
D	E	H	R	E	R	E	O	O	T	A	L	E	A	S	D
A	C	O	U	T	H	P	A	N	L	T	I	M	S	W	L
C	A	E	S	A	R	E	A	P	H	I	L	I	P	P	I
H	P	P	A	A	Y	R	I	H	A	V	V	E	C	O	W
M	O	H	L	E	M	E	S	O	H	E	T	E	R	A	V
E	L	R	E	L	E	A	D	T	H	R	O	U	S	G	H
O	I	A	M	U	T	G	R	A	B	E	T	H	A	N	Y
L	S	I	I	L	G	A	L	I	L	E	E	E	E	F	R
O	M	M	C	A	P	E	R	N	A	U	M	M	A	R	K



Create a simple and meaningful prayer box your family can use to share requests and pray together all week long.

What you need:

- Shoebox with lid
- Wrapping paper or decorative paper
- Scissors & tape
- Markers or crayons
- Stickers and other craft material (optional)
- Pens or pencils
- Index cards or small pieces of paper



What you do:

1. Wrap the shoebox like a gift, wrapping the lid separately so it can be opened.
2. As a family, decorate the box with drawings, favorite Bible verses, photos, or stickers.
3. Place the box somewhere central, like the kitchen or living room.
4. Keep index cards and pens nearby. When someone has a prayer request, they can write or draw it and drop it in.
5. Throughout the week, take turns praying over the requests as a family, or have a parent lead prayer time.

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

—Colossians 4:2, NIV



It's that time of year again. The High School Youth Group will be preparing their pumpkins for the annual H.S. Pumpkin Auction fundraiser.

Come Sunday, October 26th prepared to see the wonderful creations and bid on your favorites.

Hey High Schoolers,

We have had wonderful attendance at our first sessions of high school youth group with 10 of you each time! Roxie, Eric and I hope we can keep this participation level moving forward. Especially with 10+ youth, more exciting group games can be played!

Now some nuts and bolts for October. On October 22 we are going to paint pumpkins which I'm told is one of your favorite activities. Then we will have the pumpkin auction October 26. Lastly, to end the month and "kickoff" youth group we are going to have a bonfire in the church parking lot on October 29! Lots of fun to be had in October and we hope you or your friends join us! Don't forget you are always welcome to bring your friends from school with you to youth group!

Pastor Jonathan (PJ) Dolan

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.**

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.



**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

*Proud Partner of
Food Bank of
Iowa*



**Lord's
Cupboard
Food Pantry**

Community Matters!

Bird & Biscuit
SUPPER
Jewell United Church of Christ
537 Main Street

October 10th, 2025
5:00-7:00

Turkey Gravy over Biscuits
Salad, Sweet Corn
and Bars

Free will offering
Take outs available
515-827-5135

 UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

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!



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 \$1,801.00; 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 September included: Janet Beary, Kris Koehnk, Karen Culpepper, Lisa Peterson, Julia Johnson, Carol Stearns, John Greenfield





Community *Matters!*



TUESDAY TOGETHER TIME

Tuesday, September 30, 2025, noon

Please join us for the weekly potluck.

Our guests that day will be Swell Watercraft of Ellsworth.

JIM MARSH, KEO (KAYAK ENTHUSIASM OFFICER), WILL SHARE WITH US ABOUT SWELL WATERCRAFT IN ELLSWORTH.

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!

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Community *Matters!*

--Love the Lord, Love the Lord's Cupboard--

Once again, the Lord's Cupboard is being challenged to match funds from the group **"Love the Lord, Love the Lord's Cupboard"**. The group will match up to \$2,500.00. This would be a good year to meet the challenge. The number of families coming to the Lord's Cupboard varies from 40 to 50 per month. Also, the price of food is increasing. What used to cost us \$25 to \$30 per family for the perishable food vouchers at the grocery store now fifty dollars. Meeting their challenge would be a big help to the Lord's Cupboard. We also use this money to give our vouchers for Thanksgiving and Christmas at the grocery store. Those vouchers don't say what they have to buy, but are used to put a little extra food on the table for those holidays. These vouchers are greatly appreciated by the families.

Please send your donations to Lord's Cupboard, PO Box 330, Jewell, IA 50130, or drop in the offering plate at Bethesda in an envelope marked Lord's Cupboard or written on the memo line of your check. The challenge will run from October 15 through November 20, 2025.

Please help in any way you can. Thank you.

THE SURPASSING GRACE

The word "surpass" means to exceed, to go beyond, to transcend the reach or capacity of. In his second letter to the church at Corinth, St. Paul refers to "the surpassing grace of God that he has given you" (2 Corinthians 9:14, NRSV). Paul was reminding the Corinthians of the amazing, abundant grace God had showered upon them.

When Paul wrote that letter, the church in Jerusalem was suffering intense persecution. The members were poor and struggling to be faithful under dire circumstances.

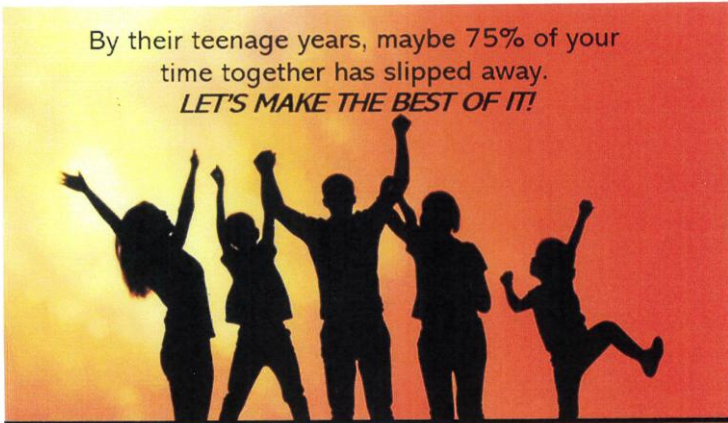
Paul knew the church at Corinth was doing fine financially and that they had a mind to help out the Jerusalem church. He wrote: "You glorify God ... by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, while they ... pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you" (2 Corinthians 9:13-14, NRSV).

CONSIDER HOW YOU CAN SHARE GOD'S SURPASSING GRACE WITH OTHERS IN NEED.



Community *Matters!*

By their teenage years, maybe 75% of your time together has slipped away.
LET'S MAKE THE BEST OF IT!




Conversations:
We will talk about


- Foundations
- Threats
- Expectations
- Actions We Can Take


Where: Trinity Lutheran Church
1629 Dewitt St. Ellsworth


When: Tuesdays beginning 9-30-25
At 7 p.m.

Cost: \$10 for materials.
Scholarships available

 **Adults Saving Kids**
www.AdultsSavingKids.org

 Enhance Hamilton County Found... 

 **Enhance Hamilton County Foundation** ...

1d · 

We're celebrating 20 years of community service with our BIGGEST Food Pantry Challenge yet!

This September, we've partnered with five incredible financial institutions to create a \$6,500 matching fund:

- **Availa Bank**
- **First State Bank/Town & Country Insurance**
- **Peoples Credit Union**
- **Security Savings Bank**
- **WCF Financial Bank**

Our goal: \$13,000 for Hamilton County food pantries

Last year we raised over \$15,000!

Your \$25 becomes \$50 - your \$100 becomes \$200 - thanks to our Challenge Match Partners!

Every dollar goes further when we work together!

Full details and donation info at:
<https://enhancehamiltoncounty.org/local-financial-institutions-unite-with-foundation-to-combat-food-insecurity/>



VERBUM DOMINI MANET IN AETERNUM — Latin for "The Word of the Lord Endures Forever," this motto of the Lutheran branch of the Protestant Reformation comes from 1 Peter 1:25. Frederick the Wise, ruler of Saxony and one of Martin Luther's earliest and most influential supporters, had the VDMA symbol sewn into the right sleeve of the official garments worn at his court. The symbol also appeared on banners, flags, swords, and uniforms, representing the unity of the Lutheran laity in standing firm in their faith.

Celebration of Pastor Gary Hatcher's Retirement

Honoring 48 Years of Faithful Ministry

You are warmly invited to join us as we celebrate the remarkable service of Pastor Gary Hatcher, who has devoted 48 years to faithful ministry as a called and ordained minister of Christ. Pastor Hatcher was ordained on July 24, 1977, and will retire at the end of 2025. In honor of his dedication and devotion, and to extend our gratitude and congratulations, we will gather for a special day of worship, fellowship, and remembrance.

Event Details

- Date: Sunday, December 7, 2025
- Time: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- Location: St. Paul's Lutheran, Garnavillo, Iowa
- Hosted By: First Lutheran, McGregor, IA and St. Paul Lutheran, Garnavillo, IA

We will begin with a Worship Service, followed by a Catered Lunch and an Open House in honor of Pastor Hatcher. Lunch will be served immediately after the worship service. To help us with our lunch preparations, we kindly request that you RSVP by November 5, 2025.

Ways to Participate

We understand that December can be a busy month with the Advent season, Christmas preparations, family obligations, challenging winter travel, and cold and flu season. If you are unable to attend in person, there are still many meaningful ways to participate in Pastor Hatcher's celebration:

- Send a card or a letter (Imagine his reaction to a bushel basket of greetings!)
- Write an email
- Share past bulletins, news clippings, photographs, or other memorabilia
- Submit "then-and-now" photos of yourself and/or your family
- Send anything that shares your memories, thanks, congratulations, or sentiments—funny or heartfelt

We will also be hosting a "roast" as part of the festivities, and we would love to include your fun memories—Pastor Hatcher enjoys a good laugh!

How to Send Your Memories

Please do not send anything directly to Pastor Hatcher, as this celebration is still a surprise for him. Instead, send your congratulations and memorabilia to:

- Email: Christine Meier at chrismeier2015@gmail.com OR by mail
- US Mail: Christine Meier, 26657 Highway 52, Garnavillo, IA 52049

Honoring Jackie Hatcher

On this special day, we also want to thank Jackie Hatcher for her unwavering support and service as Mrs. Pastor Hatcher. Since May 29, 1971, she has stood—and continues to stand—steadfastly by Pastor Hatcher's side as he fulfills his mission. Her immeasurable contributions have been a blessing to us all.

Sending RSVPs

Please RSVP for lunch by **Wednesday, November 5, 2025.**

Kathy Helle : wkhelle@gmail.com

Text or call: 563-880-8167

Stephanie Chappell: schappell203@gmail.com

Text or call: 563-608-2693

Chris Meier: chrismeier2015@gmail.com

Text or call: 563-880-9801

US Postal address: Christine Meier, 26657 Highway 52, Garnavillo, IA 52049

Free Will Offerings for lunch will be gratefully accepted. There will be a basket in the dining area on the day of the celebration.

NOVEMBER Adult Ed. Series: The ELCA's "Use of the Means of Grace"

During the month of November, there are 5 Sundays. Interim Pastor Jonathan Dolan is inviting you to join a four-session (5-week) Adult Education series at the same time that Bible and Brew meets beginning on Nov. 2. Because there are 5 Sundays, that allows us an opportunity to spend a bit more time specifically in Parts 2 and 3 which are the sessions on Baptism and Holy Communion. This faith opportunity seeks to bring Word, Baptism, and Communion to life—rooted in the ELCA's governing document on those practices shaped for folks who value practical, faithful living in everyday work and community.

In each session we will read through the assigned parts together which means you DO NOT need to read anything beforehand, but you may choose to do so to familiarize yourself with the content for the session. By the end of month, you will be able to answer the question of why Lutherans are a Christian denomination that is rooted in the historic liturgy and sustained through the Sacraments to empower us for mission in the world.

Who would benefit from this class? This class is ideal for high schoolers recently Confirmed, lifelong Lutherans, folks who became Lutheran for their spouse, folks who have longed for a refresher of the central things of faith and everyone else in between.

The first session will cover the Preface and Part 1. The **Preface** grounds the series in a clear, life-giving claim: Jesus Christ is the living Word and the Spirit works through Word and Sacrament to create and sustain the Church to the glory of the Father. **Part 1: Proclamation of the Word and the Christian Assembly** will explore worship as the community's primary work of hearing Scripture, singing, confessing, and preaching. Practical, down-to-earth examples will show how the assembly gathers people to be shaped for service, care, and daily faithfulness—ideas you can take straight into family life, classrooms, clinics, and fields.

THE SECOND SESSION WILL COVER **PART 2: HOLY BAPTISM AND THE CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY** WHICH CELEBRATES BAPTISM AS GOD'S ONCE-FOR-ALL GIFT THAT MARKS US AS GOD'S OWN. WE'LL COVER BAPTISM FOR ALL AGES, THE ROLE OF SPONSORS AND FAMILIES, AND SIMPLE WAYS TO LIVE OUT BAPTISMAL PROMISES IN ROUTINES, CAREGIVING, TEACHING MOMENTS, AND COMMUNITY LIFE.

The third session **Part 3: Holy Communion and the Christian Assembly** invites us to re-discover the table where Christ meets us with forgiveness, grace and mercy in his very Body and Blood in the form of bread and wine. Topics include the unity formed at the table, why regular celebration matters, practical hospitality for those at home or in care, and how Communion shapes how we welcome and serve one another.

The fourth session **Part 4: The Means of Grace and Christian Mission** will tie Word and Sacrament to mission—how worship and sacraments equip the baptized to serve their neighbors, teach with compassion, and respond faithfully to daily challenges. Expect concrete, practical next steps for living sacramental faith in your daily routines and community commitments.

Finally, you might be saying to yourself, "Pastor why is this an entire page?" Because it is a 63-page document and he did his best summarizing it as briefly as he could. Pastor Jonathan hopes you will come on this faith journey. Further, he hopes so many folks will attend that we will need to move out of the Lounge and into Fellowship Hall!

You can find the document by typing "ELCA Use of the Means of Grace" into a search engine or you can type this hyperlink into your web browser resources.elca.org/worship/the-use-of-the-means-of-grace/