



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

**August 24, 2025: "Blessing of
the Backpacks" during Worship;**
Rally Day activities after
Worship

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

**Sept. 14: Bibles to 3 year-olds,
2nd-graders, Confirmation**
during Worship

First day of Sunday School

Sept 17: Wednesday Kids starts



**"Law" and "Gospel": Still Core to Being a Lutheran
Christian in the 21st Century**

Recently, I preached a teaching sermon that explored Luther's Small Catechism explanation of the Lord's Prayer during worship. Given that the Small Catechism was intended for instruction in the home, we read the Lukan version of the Lord's Prayer and it was a Kid's Church Sunday. It seemed like an appropriate opportunity to do a teaching sermon. One of the theological lenses I brought up during that time was **Law** and **Gospel**. Thus, I want to expand on what Law and Gospel is and how it is still core to being Lutheran.

The "Law" is a hammer of judgement. We, as human beings, engage in a continual struggle to earn God's favor, even though the "Gospel" tells us we cannot earn God's favor. This shows us that the "Law" is a mirror of our existence. That is, through the examples of our failures, we begin to understand just how desperately our need for God's grace, mercy and forgiveness truly is. **When you hear the words: should, must, ought, able, can/cannot, do etc., think words of "Law."**

The "Gospel" is the free gift of forgiveness. It is the realization that the Triune God is not an Angry Judge, but a Merciful Father. We need not burden ourselves with earning God's favor by climbing to heaven. God in Jesus Christ came down to us, lived like us, felt like us and chose to die for us. A suffering and death that reconciled us back to the Father! Our guilt brought on by the "Law" that we cannot keep, has been laid upon Christ. Through the power of the resurrection, Christ says to us, your sins are forgiven! As Paul says, "Where O Death is your sting, the grave is my victory!" **When you hear the words: because of Jesus/Christ, hope, promise, abundant life, grace, mercy, forgiveness, etc., think words of "Gospel."**

Where do we see "Law" and "Gospel" play out? Hopefully, throughout the liturgy. In Confession (Law – "we are **captive** to sin and **cannot** free ourselves") and Forgiveness (Gospel – "God, who is rich in **mercy, loved us** even when we were dead to sin). In the Nicene Creed (Gospel – "for us and **for our salvation** he came down from heaven") and (Law – "under Pontius Pilate [**really by our hands**] he **suffered** death and was buried"). In the Eucharistic Prayers (Gospel – "You so **loved the world** that you gave your only Son") and (Law – "we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we **ought** but as we are **able**").

My favorite example of "Law" and "Gospel" is from our funeral liturgy. It is the Commendation Prayer that is said while we place a hand on the casket/urn of the one who died. We pray, "Into your hands, O **merciful Savior** (Gospel), we commend your servant ... **Acknowledge** (Law), we humbly **beseech** (Law) you, a sheep of your own **fold** (Gospel), a lamb of your own **flock** (Gospel), **a sinner** (Law) of **your own redeeming** (Gospel). Receive them into the arms of **your mercy** (Gospel), into the blessed rest of **everlasting peace** (Gospel), and into the glorious company of the **saints in light** (Gospel). Amen.

As you attend worship, sing hymns, read the Bible, offer prayers, listen to public prayers, hear a sermon, attend Bible and Brew, Sunday School, Confirmation, High School Youth Group, or Wednesday programming after school, as you reading the newspaper, listening to the news, watching a tv show or a movie, listening to religious or secular music, having a conversation with friends or family, may your ears attune anew to hearing **Law** and **Gospel** everyday.

Pastor Jonathan Dolan

Bethesda Lutheran Church in Jewell is hiring a part-time Administrative Assistant. Please email dolanjon89@gmail.com AND sherrihove@gmail.com for job description and details.

Current Administrative Assistant, Donna Busch, will be retiring the end of September. A notice dated July 1, 2025 was given to the Congregation President, Jeff Scott. Resignation letter was read to the Congregation Council on July 6, 2025, stating a three-month notice.



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

Board of Deacons – No report.

Board of Education – VBS - 6/16 - 9/18

9:00a.m. - 2:00 p.m. There was a program Thursday afternoon. Bethesda sent 8 kids and 6 youth & adult volunteers. We provided snacks and lunch for Monday.

Elim had a good week with about 45 kids total attending. They offered to send some supplies and a binder of helpful information to Bethesda to help plan for VBS next year.

BOE is scheduled to serve treats 7/20/25 & 8/17/25.

Rally Sunday is scheduled for 8/24/25.

Next meeting (tentatively) the 1st week of August.

Board of Evangelism/Stewardship –

Board of Trustees – No report

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

Board of Youth – No report



Summer Stewardship Reminder

Attendance

In-Person Attendance		Facebook and cable television
06/29	62	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.
07/01	33-Timberland	
07/06	41	
07/13	60	
07/20	60	
07/27	57	
		Please note: Stratford Complete Communications Channel 14 has been "under construction". It is hoped that the service will return soon.

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.

Fund Balances to-date: July 28, 2025

Fund Name	2025 Budget (only applies to General Fund)	Needed per week to meet budget-GF	Needed @ 30 weeks to meet budget-GF	Actual received 30 weeks	Disbursements to-date	To-date Transfers from Contingency Fund	Fund Balances
General Fund	\$186,911.72	\$3,594.46	\$107,833068	\$92,696.99	\$68,524.12		\$24,172.87
Sunday School	NA	NA	NA	\$654.98	\$226.79		\$7,479.25
Youth & Family	NA	NA	NA	\$2,727.96	\$1,709.53		\$22,105.19
Designated Missions	NA	NA	NA	\$6,292.83	\$4,092.23		\$10,632.89
Undesignated Missions	NA	NA	NA	\$500.00	\$333.00		\$3,063.13
Discretionary Fund	NA	NA	NA	\$948.00	\$783.76		\$1,341.60
Capital Improvements	NA	NA	NA	\$3,011.00	-0-		\$9,811.02
Gifts and Memorials	NA	NA	NA	\$283.86	\$501.69		\$12,275.11
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	-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
To-date: 7/28/25	\$13,853.00	-0-	\$13,146.11	\$24,172.87
August Only				
September Only				
October Only				
November Only				
December Only				



WHO AM I?

*Did you know that some Old Testament books are named after prophets?
Use the clues to figure out each prophet's name and write it on the lines.
Then unscramble, use the circled letters to complete the sentence at the bottom.*

1. I was called to preach to Nineveh, but I ran from God instead. My book is number 32 in the Bible.

I am _____.

2. I spoke God's message when the temple was being built. My book is number 37.

I am _____.

3. Israel's unfaithfulness to God is compared to my unfaithful wife. My book is number 28.

I am _____.

4. My book predicts punishment for wickedness and promises of comfort. It is book 23.

I am _____.

5. I had dreams and visions. My book is number 27.

I am _____.

6. I was often in danger because of my prophecies. I angered officials. My book is number 24.

I am _____.

7. I was a shepherd from Judah who called people to turn to God and leave their selfish lives. My book is number 30.

I am _____.

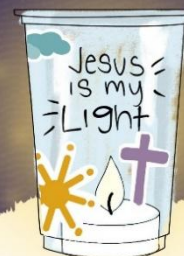
8. My book contains descriptions of strange visions. My book is number 26.

I am _____.

Prophets are _____.

Answers: Jonah; Haggai; Hosea; Isaiah; Daniel; Jeremiah; Amos; Ezekiel. Messengers.

SHINE FOR Jesus



This easy and colorful craft helps kids remember that Jesus is their light—no matter where they go!

What you need:

- Clear plastic cup
- Battery tea lights
- Tissue paper squares (pre-cut)
- Glue stick
- Markers (optional)
- Stickers (optional)



What you do:

1. Use the glue stick to press colorful tissue paper squares around the outside of the cup.
2. Add a simple phrase like "Jesus is my Light" or use fun stickers to decorate.
3. Turn on the tea light and place it inside the cup.
4. Turn off the lights and let your lantern glow!

The Lord is my light
and my salvation—
whom shall I fear?

— Psalm 27:1, NIV





BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24TH

10:00 am – 11:30-ish

ALL ARE WELCOME

TO BETHESDA'S
CARNIVAL STYLE
RALLY DAY!



CARNIVAL GAMES FOR
THE KIDS!



BINGO FOR THE ADULTS!

CHILI DOGS AND HOT DOGS
CHIPS and FIXINGS along with
ICE CREAM!





Community *Matters!*

Proud Partner of
Food Bank of
Iowa



Lord's
Cupboard
Food Pantry

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 August 12. Volunteers are always needed and the help is greatly appreciated.

TUESDAY



Tuesday Together Time at Bethesda Lutheran Church

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 \$1,500.00; 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 July included: Pastor Jonathan, Little Patty Becker (aka: Pat Melchert), Karen Culpepper, Darrel Stearns, Sharon Teig, Bubba (aka: Heston Johnson), Luanne McGonigle, Dean-o (aka: Eudene Lund), Judy Greenfield, and Dick Steffen.