



Mission Statement
Sharing God's Love Wherever
We May Be

This is the QR
code for giving
at Bethesda
Lutheran
Church.



**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

- May 3: Confirmation
Sunday**
- May 10: Senior
Recognition**
- May 13: Baccalaureate
at Bethesda**
- May 21: Bethany Life's
Annual Meeting**
- June 7: Worship at Little
Wall Lake**
- June 14: Jewell Jubilee
Worship at J.U.C.C.**
- June 8, 9, 10 VBS at
Bethesda
(Also, see page 10.)**

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**FROM OUR
PASTOR**

THE HIDDEN GROWTH OF PLANTING SEASON

Beloved siblings in Christ of Bethesda,

Every spring in Iowa, fields grow dark from turned soil and we witness a quiet miracle. Tractors move across the fields and roads, cars slow down to give them space, hybrids are meticulously chosen based on the field, seeds are carefully planted in a uniform pattern, and then the countryside enters the long season of waiting for the harvest in the fall. If you were raised in a small town, then you know the pattern well, prepare, plant, trust, and watch. Through this pattern, Jesus gives us a glimpse into the mystery of how God's kingdom grows even when we cannot acknowledge it because we are too blind to see it.

In Mark 4, Jesus tells this parable, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle because the harvest has come." (Mark 4:26-29) The farmer works faithfully, but the growth itself happens hidden from sight. It is a reminder that God's most transformative work often begins in places we cannot see.

The planting season invites us to reflect on this hidden holiness. Beneath the soil, seeds split open, roots push downward, and new life begins long before any green shoots appear in that newly darkened soil. In the same way, God is at work in our lives and in our congregation in ways that may not be immediately visible. Faith deepens when surrounded by others. Hearts soften and courage grows when we listen to a sermon or sing a favorite hymn. Reconciliation takes root in tangible ways of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion. The Spirit moves quietly amongst all of these faithful activities, preparing a harvest we cannot yet imagine.

Lutheran theology has always emphasized this hidden work of God. Rev. Dr. Martin Luther spoke of the "hiddenness of God." How God often works under the surface, through ordinary means, in humble places, and within imperfect people. Just as a field doesn't shout its transformation, the kingdom grows in ways that are subtle, patient, and persistent.

This season, as farmers entrust seed to the earth, we are invited to entrust our lives to God's ongoing work. Perhaps there is a relationship that needs tending that you have put off? Maybe there is a calling that needs planting so that it may grow hidden below? Could there be a hope that needs to be buried in trust rather than fear of failing? Perhaps God is already nurturing something new in you, even if you cannot yet see the first green blade shooting out of the soil.

Let us enter this planting season with awareness of the Holy Spirit's presence to open our eyes to the quiet miracles around us. May we trust that God is cultivating growth in our congregation, in our community, and in each of us. And when the harvest comes, albeit in weeks or in years, we will give thanks for the hidden grace and glorious hands of the Creator of the Universe who made it possible.

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

Bethesda Lutheran Church, Council Meeting
Minutes, 10 March 2026, 7:00 pm

Present: Wade Miller, Jeff Scott, Jen Nibe, Pat Melchert, Marcia Wheeler, Pastor Jonathan Dolan, Hans Koehn, Sherri Hove, Nicole Ferguson, Lisa Peterson, Amy Barquist None Absent.

Guests: Donna Busch, Randy Westhoff (Lightwell Insurance Advisors)

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by President Wade Miller. Devotions were led by Pastor Jonathan Dolan.

Approval of the Agenda

*Jeff Scott moved to approve the agenda with the additions of the following items under New business: *Jewell Jubilee Meal *Emailing Weekly Bulletins. Lisa Peterson seconded, and the agenda was approved unanimously.*

Approval of the Minutes of the Jan./Feb. Meeting

Jeff Scott moved to ratify the minutes of the January minutes; Lisa Peterson seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Jeff Scott moved to approve the February minutes with Nicole's corrections; seconded by Lisa Peterson, and the motion passed unanimously.

Financial/Treasurer's Report

Sherri Hove gave the Treasurer's Report. As of January 31, the general fund balance was \$10,372.20.

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

Pastor's Report

Pastor Dolan gave a report on his Pastoral activities for February. He discussed upcoming items for the Confirmation Class including the Seder Meal, Mentors, Lent Services, and final classes. Lent is going well with good attendance.

Old Business

Board Vacancies – Hans submitted a written request to continue on the Board of Youth.

Jen Nibe moved to approve Hans continuing on the Board of Youth; Lisa Peterson seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Boards will continue to discuss vacancies and bring any suggestions for candidates to the council.

New Business

- Insurance Presentation - Randy Westhoff with Lightwell Insurance Advisors presented a new Insurance Plan to the Board. With anticipated cost increases and upcoming inspections with our current plan, Council will compare plans and determine if we will switch to Lightwell Insurance.
- Sexual Misconduct Policy Adoption - Jeff Scott will put a proposed Policy together for Council to review and vote on.
- Mutual Ministry Committee – Wade Miller and Pastor Dolan appointed Jeff Scott, Hans Koehn, & Jen Nibe to the Committee. They will appoint an additional 3 members from the Congregation.

- Zoom Subscription – It was determined that the subscription is not being utilized. *Lisa Peterson moved to cancel the subscription, Jeff Scott Seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.*
- Jewell Jubilee Meal – Discussed a possible meal for Jewell Jubilee. A Saturday morning breakfast was thought to be a possibility. Nicole will discuss some ideas with the Board of Evangelism.
- Email Weekly Bulletins – *Lisa Peterson made a motion to have the Weekly Bulletins emailed out, Jeff Scott seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.*
- The State Inspector had been at the church and inspected the Boiler, with a few items that needed to be addressed. Council will discuss a possible maintenance contract at the next council meeting.

Board Reports

Education – Amy reported that Sunday School Lessons have been adjusted to better fit classes. Palms have been ordered with a lower number needed than we have done in the past. Children will be singing on Easter. The Board has been discussing Volunteer Appreciation and VBS.

Deacons – Pat reported that Pastor and the Deacons have been looking at new materials for Confirmation students to get them more involved. Deacons will look at some ideas for Easter Breakfast.

Evangelism/Stewardship – Nicole reported that Musical Blessings/Auction/Volunteer Appreciation will be on 4/26/26.

Worship – Marcia reported good attendance for Lent. Palm Sunday is 3/29, Maundy Thursday Service will be at 7:00, Good Friday Service at 7:00. Confirmation Seder Meal 4/1 at 6:00. Blessings from Bethesda 4/26.

Trustees – Lisa reported that the Parsonage is in need of a general cleaning. Jerome ordered a new hot water heater for the quiet room. Estimate for a backup sump pump. Mike has been checking the parsonage twice per week. Fellowship Hall has been rented for graduation and contract for June/November Voting has been signed. Lisa will be looking for someone to help with the lawn and flowers.

Youth – Hans reported that the Board has been discussing a youth trip through ECLA in Minnesota next summer. Rally Day will be 9/13 next fall.

Installation of Officers will be 3/22.

The next council meeting will be held on Monday, April 13 at 7:00 pm.

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

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 9:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Jen Nibe,
Congregation Secretary



BOARD OF YOUTH: 3/10/26; 6:00 – 6:45 PM – In Person, at Bethesda

Present: Hans Koehn, Pastor Jonathan Dolan, Julie Grove

Financials: Do not have current financials,

Old Business:

Pastor to create calendar for youth group. (ongoing)
Hans – will contact the group that Donna sent today.
Hans will also look for ELCA camps in the area as well.
Pastor/Roxie – Feedback? Potential interest, but we are likely past the window with regards to this year.
Hans will email back and thank them for reaching out.
Scheduled senior recognition Sunday for May 10th, 2026

This year: (Ava, Sophie, Sam, Ava Corbin)

Donna created invite in the past, and invited all seniors of current members

Hans will ask Donna for the list of Seniors.

Pastor is rotating for mid-week services during lent.
Jeff Scott has agreed to continue High School Youth with Roxie. Roxie has tried to get John Sheehan to speak to the kids about his Ukraine visit.

New Business:

High School youth to end final Wednesday of April. (April 29th). Have Donna to put on the monthly calendar.

Hans and Pastor will get informal report from Jeff on how youth group is going.

Senior recognition Sunday – Last Year, doughnuts. Need to write an invitation for each of their families. Hans will write up

You are invited to celebrate Bethesda's graduating Seniors on Sunday May 10, 2026. Please join us in recognizing Bethesda's youth and joining us for refreshments after the service in the fellowship hall. Ask Donna to send out by the end of the month.

Action Items:

Next Meeting:

Board of Education 4/20/26

Amy Barquist, Ursula Dial & Heather Thelen

Volunteer Appreciation Sunday 4/26/26

Amy - Cake, Silverware

Heather - Milk, Plates, Balloons

Ursula - Juice & Table Decorations

Jen & Kim will help with activities for the kids for the last day of SS.

VBS - 6/8/26 - 6/10/26 (9a-2p)

Amy will touch base with Elim & Trinity about plans. Also will visit with Donna about options to take donations.

We will have a competition to raise money for VBS supplies. Ursula will put together the donation jars & posters. Run through 5/31/26.

Amy will touch base with Riverside to confirm dates and Theme. Goal is to have forms out 4/26-4/29. Returned to Bethesda 5/24/26.

We will be looking for volunteers & host families.

Next meeting 5/7 at 5:30 & 6/4 at 5:30.

Board of Worship: Did not meet.

What would you tell a young man or woman about to graduate? One of the most common messages commencement speakers share is that graduates are indeed commencing. They are only just beginning to learn.



While they may rightly feel proud of finishing school, a few months in the working world often reveal how much they still do not know.

Christians who love God with their minds understand that truth frees us from ignorance and superstition. They also know that the joy of learning brings deep satisfaction and, in time, wisdom. That wisdom helps us evaluate what we have learned and use it well, so that knowledge becomes a tool for growth and faithful living.



Interim Pastor: Rev. Jonathan Dolan
Deacon roster:
Pat Melchert: 515-451-0389; Richard Heeren: 515-231-2886; Eudene Lund: 515-290-4674; Josh Hilfiker: 515-460-3637
 ===
Donna Busch, Admin. Assist.; Lisa Peterson, Custodian; Julie Lutjen, Accompanist;
Confirmation Students, Sound and Technical Team
 ===
Congregation Officers:
Wade Miller, President; Jeff Scott, Vice-Pres.; Sherri Hove, Treasurer; Jen Nibe, Secretary

Attendance

Attendance	
03/25	52
03/29	86
04/01	43-Maundy Thursday
04/02	55-Good Friday
04/05	178 – Easter Festival
04/07	22 – Timberland
04/12	82
04/19	93
04/26	NA

Please remember to update the church office of any changes to your address, email address, land line, or cell phone numbers. Also, any of the same for children at college or who have left home but are still members. Thank you.

Fund Balances to-date: April 21, 2026

Fund Name	2026 Budget (only applies to General Fund)	Needed per week to meet budget-GF	Needed @ 16 weeks to meet budget-GF	Actual received @ 16 weeks	Disbursements to-date	To-date Transfers from Contingency Fund	Fund Balances
General Fund	\$218,464.96	\$4, 201.25	\$67,219.99	\$53,265.27	\$60,060.13		\$9,376.08
Sunday School	NA	NA	NA	\$214.92	\$272.14		\$7,221.12
Youth & Family	NA	NA	NA	\$409.00	\$356.04		\$20,962.17
Designated Missions	NA	NA	NA	\$2,583.61	\$1,122.91		\$9,435.35
Undesignated Missions	NA	NA	NA	\$280.00	\$71.79		\$3,191.61
Discretionary Fund	NA	NA	NA	-0-	-0-		\$685.11
Capital Improvements	NA	NA	NA	\$1,300.00	-0-		\$9,111.02
Gifts and Memorials	NA	NA	NA	\$2,773.32	\$2,129.28		\$11,426.50
Contingency Fund	NA	NA	NA	-0-	-0-		\$53,848.28
Endowment Fund*	NA	NA	NA	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00		*

*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	\$12,903.37	-0-	\$15,665.71	\$13,408.60
February Only	\$12,601.79	-0-	\$15,638.19	\$10,372.20
March Only	\$14,688.11	-0-	\$18,705.74	\$ 6,354.57
April Only	NA	NA	NA	NA
May Only				
June Only				
July Only				
August Only				
September Only				
October Only				
November Only				
December Only				



A LEGACY OF FAITH

You're blessed when you have a mother, a grandmother or any relative or friend who passes down a strong faith to you. In the Bible, Timothy learned about faith from his mother and grandmother.

Complete the verse below by filling in the blanks with the correct vowels.

VOWELS: 1 = a 2 = e 3 = i 4 = o 5 = u

" $\frac{\quad}{3}$ $\frac{\quad}{1}$ m r $\frac{\quad}{2}$ m $\frac{\quad}{3}$ nd $\frac{\quad}{2}$ d $\frac{\quad}{4}$ f

y $\frac{\quad}{4}$ $\frac{\quad}{5}$ r s $\frac{\quad}{3}$ nc $\frac{\quad}{2}$ r $\frac{\quad}{2}$ f $\frac{\quad}{1}$ $\frac{\quad}{3}$ th, wh $\frac{\quad}{3}$ ch

f $\frac{\quad}{3}$ rst l $\frac{\quad}{3}$ v $\frac{\quad}{2}$ d $\frac{\quad}{3}$ n y $\frac{\quad}{4}$ $\frac{\quad}{5}$ r gr $\frac{\quad}{1}$ ndm $\frac{\quad}{4}$ th $\frac{\quad}{2}$ r

L $\frac{\quad}{4}$ $\frac{\quad}{3}$ s $\frac{\quad}{1}$ nd $\frac{\quad}{3}$ n y $\frac{\quad}{4}$ $\frac{\quad}{5}$ r m $\frac{\quad}{4}$ th $\frac{\quad}{2}$ r

$\frac{\quad}{2}$ $\frac{\quad}{5}$ n $\frac{\quad}{3}$ c $\frac{\quad}{2}$ $\frac{\quad}{1}$ nd, $\frac{\quad}{3}$ $\frac{\quad}{1}$ m p $\frac{\quad}{2}$ rs $\frac{\quad}{5}$ $\frac{\quad}{1}$ d $\frac{\quad}{2}$ d,

n $\frac{\quad}{4}$ w l $\frac{\quad}{3}$ v $\frac{\quad}{2}$ s $\frac{\quad}{3}$ n y $\frac{\quad}{4}$ $\frac{\quad}{5}$ $\frac{\quad}{1}$ ls $\frac{\quad}{4}$."

2 Timothy 1:5, NIV

Growing in God's Word

Try this craft as a reminder that we need to continue to grow in God's Word.

What you need:

- Small terra cotta pot and plate
- Acrylic paints (various colors)
- Paper plate
- Potting soil (enough to fill the pot)
- Small inside plant or packet of seeds
- Newspaper or paper
- Paintbrush
- Cup of water and Permanent black marker

What you do:

1. Spread some newspaper out on a table for your working area.
 2. Squeeze the paint colors that you wish to use onto your paper plate.
 3. Paint designs on the pot and plate.
 4. When the pot is dry, take the black marker and on the top part of the pot write: Growing in God's Word.
 5. Pour a small amount of potting soil into the bottom of the pot. With adults help, place your plant into the pot and surround your plant with the rest of the soil. If planting seeds, follow the packet instructions.
 6. Water your plant so the soil is moist. Check your plant everyday and keep the soil moist.
 7. Enjoy watching your plant grow, and remember that you too, need care as you grow in God's Word.
- But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen. —2 Peter 3:18, NIV



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 are growing again; total at this time is \$1058.00.

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

April include: Pat, Darrel, Jackie, Pam, Judy, Kris, Marilyn, Eudene, Pat, Pastor Jonathan, Sue, Monica

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.**



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.

Volunteers are always needed and the help is greatly appreciated.

The next Mobile Food Truck will be here in June.

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).

Your gift changes the lives of thousands of people across Iowa.
Lutheran Services in Iowa, P.O. Box 848, 106 16th St. SW
 Waverly, IA 50677

A May arrives, we are reminded of the beauty of renewal unfolding all around us. The warmth of the season, the blooming of flowers, and the promise of new beginnings reflect the ongoing work of God in our lives and communities.

We are deeply grateful for your prayers, your volunteer efforts, your generous gifts, and your faithful support. Because of you, lives are being touched in meaningful and lasting ways. At LSI, we are blessed with the opportunity to extend a helping hand to those in need with a mission that is firmly rooted in our shared faith.

Thank you for walking alongside us and for being an essential part of this mission. Your partnership makes all the difference.

If you have any questions, please reach out Andrea Maschka, LSI's Chief Development Officer at Andres.Maschka@LSIowa.org. We are grateful for your partnership in sharing our mission!

A testimony from a grateful family:

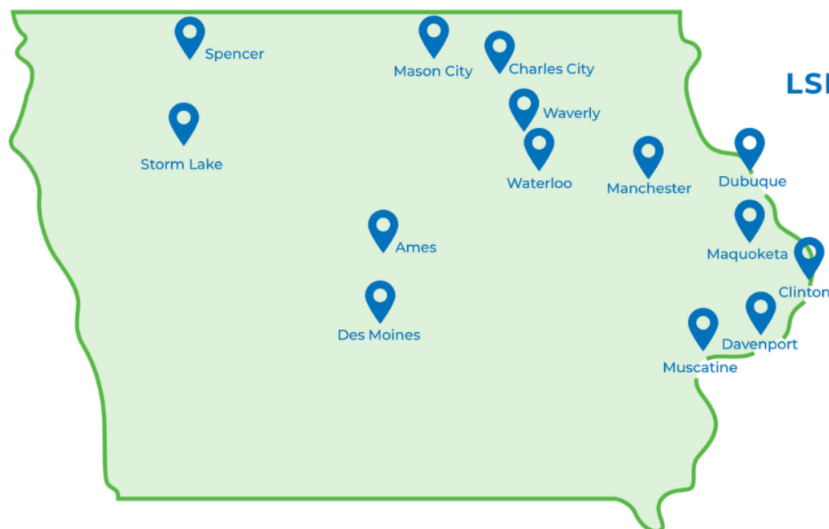
"I first learned about LSI's school-based therapy program through our son's school counselor. We had wanted to get therapy for a long time, but it often felt out of reach. We do not have many extra resources, and finding a provider in Dubuque with availability for a child under 12 was incredibly difficult. On top of that, we both work and didn't know how we would manage getting him to appointments during or after the school day.

When we found out that therapy could take place right at his school, it truly felt like an answer to our prayers. He did not have to miss much class, we did not have to take time off work, and he was able to meet with someone in a place where he already felt comfortable.

Even after getting connected, we still had concerns. Our insurance included a copay that was difficult for us to afford. LSI let us know that financial assistance was available to help cover those costs, as long as we remained committed to his treatment. That support made all the difference. Without it, I do not think we would have been able to continue.

Our son has only been in therapy for about six weeks, but we are already beginning to see small changes. He seems to be learning new ways to manage his emotions and is starting to talk more about what is bothering him instead of shutting down or acting out. We know he still has a long road ahead, but for the first time in a long time, we feel hopeful.

We are so grateful for this opportunity and for the support LSI has provided to our family. Without this program and the financial assistance, I truly do not know if our son would have been able to receive the help he needs."



LSI's Therapy Services:

- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT)
- Mindfulness-Based Therapy
- Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT)
- Trauma-Informed Care
- Eye Movement Desensitization & Reprocessing (EMDR)
- Art and Play Therapy
- Family & Couples Therapy



The Seder Meal was a memorable experience for our families and mentors.

Thank you to each who made this religious event possible.

The 7th and 8th Confirmation Classes
And Deacons



The Lord's Cupboard will be providing kids' bags again this summer. **And, we need your help!** A little swimming pool is placed in the Narthex to collect snacks for the kids April 19 through May 31. If you can support this cause, please bring **pre-packaged, individual snacks/treats.**

Let's splash into the summer filling the pool!!!

Thank you for your continued support.

Thank you, Wednesday Kids, for decorating the Easter Breakfast Fellowship tables with your colorful crosses and eggs.



The 7th and 8th Confirmation Classes



All women of an ELCA congregation in the Northeastern Iowa Synod is invited to attend the bi-annual convention and gathering scheduled for June 20. Registration materials can be found in the Narthex. If questions, please ask Donna in the office.

These items are needed at Northern Lights and can be brought to the convention/



To Women of the Church,



You are invited to come and participate in the bi-annual convention and gathering of the Northeastern Iowa Synodical Women's Organization (NEISWO). It will be a fun and informational event for all women of the church with FOOD, singing, worship, FOOD, learning, fellowship, FOOD, and, yes, a concise business meeting.

- Who:** You and your friends!!
- What?** 2026 NEISWO Convention and Gathering
- When?** June 20, 2026
Registration and coffee at 8:00 a.m.
Welcome and Worship at 9:00 a.m.
- Where?** Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 2502 S. Jefferson, Mason City 50401
- Why?** Learn about the Northern Lights New Beginnings House of Hope For Women and Children and also the Beacon House of Mason City. Also experience how you might grow in your prayer life with making a prayer journal and discussing ways to make your own holy space for prayer and devotions.
- Cost -** \$30.00 Register by June 1, 2026 (See registration form for details.)



There will be a valet service available for those who need to be dropped off near the east middle door for the elevator to the worship sanctuary and the fellowship hall. (Please drive up to that door on the sidewalk.)

Also, prayerfully considered putting your name, or someone you know who is agreeable to it, up for nomination as a Board leader or member. Every position is available for election, or re-election, due to the change in our convention cycle. (Contact Chris VanDeventer at cdvandeven@gmail.com for nomination forms if you don't have one from January's mailing.)

Northern Lights Needs

🪙 Treasure: Financial and Material Gifts Financial gifts are essential for operating costs, but material donations meet the immediate, daily needs of people in the shelter.

📦 Material Donation Wish List

Please note: For health and safety, all donated items (excluding coats, which should be clean) must be new and unopened.

Warmth & Clothing

- Socks-High-priority! New, thick, warm, and durable socks for men, women, and children.
- PADS-Pants, Adult Diapers, or adult disposable absorbent products.
- Pants & Slacks—We accept new men's and women's jeans and casual pants, as well as
- Outerwear-Coats (seasonal priority), hats, scarves, and gloves (especially waterproof gloves).
- Undergarments | New, in-package underwear and bras for all genders and sizes.

Hygiene & Personal Care

- Oral Care - Toothbrushes, full-size toothpaste, mouthwash, dental floss.
- Hair & Body - Bar soap/body wash, shampoo & conditioner (full- and travel-size), combs/brushes, hair ties.
- Shaving | Disposable razors, shaving cream/gel.
- Feminine Hygiene - Pads and Tampons (various absorbencies), and individually packaged, feminine wipes.
- Essential Needs - Deodorant, unscented lotion, lip balm, travel-size hand sanitizer.
- Foot Care - Small first-aid kits, foot powder, antibiotic ointment, bandages.

Cleaning & Facility Supplies

- Multi-Purpose Cleaners - All types of multipurpose cleaner, surface wipes, spray disinfectants.
- Laundry Supplies | Laundry detergent (liquid or pods), bleach.
- General Supplies - Toilet paper, paper towels, trash bags (kitchen and large sizes), new bath towels and washcloths.

REGISTRATION FORMS ARE IN THE NARTHEX

Special Dates for May 2026

- National Day of Prayer, *May 7, 2026*
- Mother's Day, *May 10, 2026*
- Ascension of the Lord, *May 14, 2026*
- Armed Forces Day, *May 16, 2026*
- Day of Pentecost, *May 24, 2026*
- Memorial Day, *May 25, 2026*
- Trinity Sunday, *May 31, 2026*

May brings many events for families and worshipping communities.

We have students being confirmed and affirming their baptism.

Confirmation, a rite many churches celebrate each spring, has biblical roots. In Acts 8, Peter and John are sent to lay their hands on new believers and pray for them to receive the Holy Spirit. In the early church, new Christians — usually adult converts — received baptism and confirmation as one ceremony. As more children were brought for baptism, pastors and priests would baptize, but only bishops would “confirm” a baptism, or make it official. Thus, the baptized were granted full membership in the church through confirmation.

Now confirmation allows young people, often after intensive Christian education, to profess for themselves the faith into which they were baptized. Confirmation serves as an important faith milestone, as young adults purposefully embrace a life of discipleship.

We have Mother's Day on the second Sunday of May, a time to honor all who fill the role of mother or guardian to our children.

Mother's Day invites us to honor the women who have nurtured, guided and loved us. We celebrate not perfection, but faithfulness shown in countless quiet moments. May we give thanks for the love that shapes hearts and points us toward God's grace.

We have High School graduations to attend and to celebrate.

Graduation marks both an ending and a beginning. As we celebrate students stepping into new seasons, we give thanks for the growth, perseverance and calling God has placed in their lives. May we surround our graduates with prayer, reminding them that God goes before them and walks with them wherever the journey leads.

We remember our loved ones who have gone on to their reward as we place remembrances on their graves.

We remember, O Lord, the men and women who have made the supreme sacrifice for our country. Help us never to breathe the air of freedom, claim the right to justice or enjoy the privilege of worship without deep gratitude for those who gave “the last full measure of devotion” for our sake.

May they now know the peace of eternity and the joy of your presence. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We celebrate with all students as they begin to close another year of education.

As the school year comes to a close, we pause to reflect on lessons learned and challenges overcome. May this transition bring rest, gratitude and renewed strength for what lies ahead, grounded in God's steady guidance.