



*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

Bethesda Lutheran Church  
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## May 2025

**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**  
 ===  
**Donna Busch, Admin. Assist.**  
**Lisa Peterson, Custodian**  
**Julie Lutjen, Accompanist**  
**Confirmation Students Sound and**  
**Technical Team**  
 ===  
**Congregation Officers:**  
**Jeff Scott, President**  
**Vacant, Vice-Pres.**  
**Sherri Hove, Treasurer**  
**Sheri Muller, Secretary**

Upcoming:  
 Confirmation: May 4  
 Music Blessings: May 11  
 Senior Recognition: May 18

## *AFFIRMATION OF FAITH and RITE OF CONFIRMATION* SUNDAY, MAY 4, 2025

### 2025 CONFIRMANDS

*Mason Reed Engelby*

Selected Bible Verse: Isaiah 40:31

Date of Baptism: June 24, 2012

Sponsors: Tyrone and Cassie Shivers

Parents: Cassidy and Megan Engelby

Mentor: Doran Erickson

*Lane Alan Widick*

Selected Bible Verse: Joshua 1:9

Date of Baptism: November 27, 2011

Sponsors: Nichole Nielson, Missy and Troy Bullock

Parents: Mark and Amber Widick

## *SENIOR RECOGNITION* SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2025

### 2025 SENIORS

*Connor Deppe*

*Sydney Flaugh*

*Nick Severseike*

*Ashton Williams*

*Braden Young*

**TO REQUEST PASTORAL CARE IN THE COMING MONTHS:**

**CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT**

**515-827-5148**

**or CALL A DEACON**

<b>RICH HEEREN</b>	<b>515-520-7867</b>	<b>SERGIO GOMEZ</b>	<b>515-310-2096</b>
<b>PAT MELCHERT</b>	<b>515-451-0389</b>	<b>JOSH HILFIKER</b>	<b>515-460-3637</b>

## Bethesda Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes 9 March 2025, 10:15 am

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

The meeting was called to order at 10:24 am by President Jeff Scott.

Devotions were led by Jeff Scott.

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

**Approval of the Minutes of the February Meeting:** Rich Heeren moved to approve the minutes of the February 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 February the general fund balance is \$10,294.67 and total assets are \$137,655.08. Hans Koehn moved to approve the Treasurer's Report; Rich Heeren seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

**Pastor's Report:** N/A

**Old Business:** Narcan: Narcan will be stored in the kitchen cupboard, in Donna's office, and Lisa Peterson will have one.

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.

Membership and Fundraising: Hans Koehn reported that money has not been transferred from the Endowment Fund so far this year. He discussed some options for changes to the investment portfolio. He also asked whether there are some social media strategies we could utilize to increase membership.

**New Business:** Mailboxes: Donna Busch would like board members to check their mailboxes more often.

Attempted scam: There was a member of the community who requested assistance. This person did not have a legitimate request.

Ring Doorbell: The Ring Doorbell had not been working as well as it should. Donna recommended putting up a sign up indicating where to call for admittance during office hours.

Church Insurance: Jeff Scott contacted Robert Gray from the insurance company. He is working to set up a meeting.

Vanco: Jeff Scott will forward the email to the rest of the board. This will be discussed further.

Food for the Poor: The organization Food for the Poor has requested to present on a Sunday. The Board would like to wait until we have a pastor.

Anna Heeren Memorial Foundation: Rich Heeren requested permission to promote an event for the Anna Heeren Memorial Foundation. There will be a premier event on Palm Sunday for the song "Anna's Gift." This is not a request for funds for the foundation; rather it is an invitation to the event.

Call Committee Update: There is no update from the committee regarding candidates. Questions were asked regarding how to submit names for potential candidates.

**Minutes are continued on Page 4**

**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	
03/26	39 – Lent	Weekly Average Viewership – livestream: 239	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.
03/30	75		
04/01	30 – Timberland		
04/02	38 - Lent		
04/06	90		
04/09	44 - Lent		
04/13	91		
04/17	Maundy Thursday – not reported		
04/18	Good Friday – held at J.U.C.C.		
04/20	125 – Easter Festival Worship		
04/27	77		

### Fund Balances to-date: April 28, 2025

Fund Name	2025 Budget (only applies to General Fund)	Needed per week to meet budget-GF	Needed @ 17 weeks to meet budget-GF	Actual received 12 weeks	Disbursements to-date	To-date Transfers from Contingency Fund	Fund Balances
General Fund	\$186,911.72	\$3,594.46	\$61,105.75	\$54,143.94	\$37,816.49		\$16,327.45
Sunday School	NA	NA	NA	\$403.97	\$226.79		\$7,228.24
Youth & Family	NA	NA	NA	\$2,353.50	\$920.76		\$22,519.50
Designated Missions	NA	NA	NA	\$1,930.95	\$2,444.97		\$7,918.27
Undesignated Missions	NA	NA	NA	\$285.00	-0-		\$3,181.13
Discretionary Fund	NA	NA	NA	\$948.00	\$559.00		\$1,566.36
Capital Improvements	NA	NA	NA	\$1911.00	-0-		\$8,711.02
Gifts and Memorials	NA	NA	NA	\$166.86	\$300.69		\$12,359.11
Contingency Fund	NA	NA	NA	-0-	-0-		\$67,016.52
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	NA		NA	NA
May Only				
June Only				
July Only				
August Only				
September Only				
October Only				
November Only				
December Only				



*Continued*

## Bethesda Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes 9 March 2025, 10:15 am

**Board Reports:** Education: No report

Deacons: Confirmation has been a struggle due to the weather. The Deacons are encouraging parents to attend Lenten Services with their confirmands.

Evangelism/Stewardship: Nicole Ferguson reported on the activities of the Stewardship Committee. The towel drive will be in March. They would like to have the auction again this spring. May 4 will be the tentative date. Nicole will check with Janice and Roxy to confirm the date.

Worship: Marcia Wheeler reported that the Worship Committee met on February 9. The worship schedule for Holy Week is as follows: Palm Sunday is April 13 here at Bethesda; Maundy Thursday is at Bethesda at 7:00 pm; Good Friday will be held at UCC at 7:00 with Pastor Dolan preaching; Easter Sunday service will be at 9:00 and the breakfast will be from 8:00-8:45. She distributed the Lenten dinner schedule. Lenten meals will be from 5:45-6:30, with the service to follow.

Trustees: Lisa Peterson reported that they had not met yet. Carpets in the church and the parsonage will happen after Spring is over. The Lord's Cupboard has requested larger mats for the entrance due to the carpet being worn due to the increased traffic.

Youth: Hans Koehnke asked if the Deacons could require the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to attend Sunday School on April 6 and 13 to view a film on Mary Magdalene.

The next Council meeting will be held on Sunday, April 6 at 10:15 am. *Lisa Peterson moved to adjourn the meeting; Nicole Ferguson seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.*

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 11:27 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sheri Muller



## A 2025 – From LSI

LSI proudly serves Iowans in all 99 counties through our services of Mental Health, Early Childhood, Foster Care & Adoption, Global Greens, People with Disabilities, and Immigrant & Refugee Community Services. We serve individuals of all ages, from families with newborns navigating the early stages of parenthood, to Refugee and Immigrant elders, as well as children at every stage of development. Our heart beats for the people we serve. We empower families and communities by recognizing and honoring the strengths and gifts of every individual.

### A Story of Resilience: Aime's Journey from Refugee to Entrepreneur

In 2010, Aime fled the war in Congo, seeking safety for herself and her future. She first found refuge in Tanzania before making her way to the United States, later that year settling in South Dakota. There, she worked with Palance Autism, dedicating herself to helping others. During this time, Aime met her husband, and together they built a family, eventually welcoming five children.

In 2012, Aime and her family moved to Des Moines, Iowa, where she began working with TPI, a wind energy company. For ten years, she juggled the demands of her job while raising her children. However, when TPI closed in 2022, Aime saw the chance to create a new path – one that would allow her to spend more time with her family and pursue a career more aligned with her values.

Determined, Aime enrolled in Lutheran Services in Iowa's childcare program in October 2022. With their support, she launched her own daycare business in 2023. Today, Aime cares for six children in her daycare, providing a safe and nurturing space for them to grow while also staying closely connected to her own family.

Aime's story is one of resilience, growth, and the courage to start over. From fleeing her home to building a business in a new country, she has transformed her challenges into opportunities for herself, her family and her community. It's stories like NF's that remind us why the work we do is so important. With the right support, anything is possible.

*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](https://LSIowa.org) and [Facebook.com/LSI.Iowa](https://Facebook.com/LSI.Iowa).*



Your gift changes the lives of thousands of people across Iowa.

### Give By Mail

Lutheran Services in Iowa  
P.O. Box 848  
106 16th St. SW  
Waverly, IA 50677

### Donate Online

For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at [Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto:Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org) or 563-676-2065.

*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](https://LSIowa.org)*



Proud Partner of  
Food Bank of  
Iowa

## The Lord's Cupboard

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 Together Time at Bethesda Lutheran Church



**The South Hamilton Community is invited to "Tuesday Together Time" each Tuesday at noon 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 for Global Good Gifts total over \$600.00.**

**What are you doing on Tuesday? Do you need a little fellowship with others from the community? Join us – There's a place ready and waiting for you!**

**Prize winners in April included...**

**Everyone who attended on April 1<sup>st</sup>, Larry Barquist, Jaci Edeker, Dick Steffen, Lisa Peterson, Janet Beary, Darrel Stearns, Pastor Tim, Monica Sogard.**





## A NOBLE EXAMPLE

Proverbs 31 describes a God-honoring woman. How are the women in your life like her? How can you follow their example?

*Directions: Use the word bank to complete all the Bible verses. Then write the circled letters in order below to complete Proverbs 31:30, NIV.*



### WORD BANK

bread, household, women, laugh,  
children, clothed, speaks, husband, tongue



She is \_\_\_\_\_ with strength and dignity;  
she can \_\_\_\_\_ at the days to come.

She \_\_\_\_\_ with wisdom,  
and faithful instruction is on her \_\_\_\_\_.

She watches over the affairs of her \_\_\_\_\_  
and does not eat the \_\_\_\_\_ of idleness.

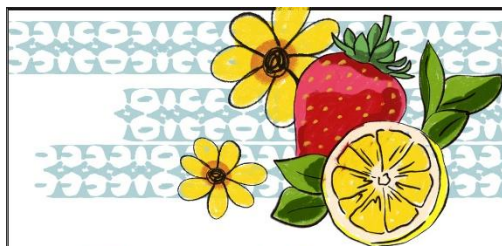
Her \_\_\_\_\_ arise and call her blessed;  
her \_\_\_\_\_ also, and he praises her:

"Many \_\_\_\_\_ do noble things,  
but you surpass them all." Proverbs 31:25-29, NIV

Charm is \_\_\_\_\_eptive, and be\_\_\_\_\_ty is fl\_\_\_\_\_eting; but a  
woma\_\_\_\_\_ w\_\_\_\_\_o f\_\_\_\_\_rs the Lo\_\_\_\_\_d is to be prais\_\_\_\_\_d.

*Proverbs 31:30, NIV*

Answers: clothed, laugh, speaks, tongue, household, bread, children, husband, women; Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Proverbs 31:30, NIV



Make these sweet sandwiches  
for a Mother's Day tea party.

### What you need:

- 4 oz. cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 3 Tablespoons powdered sugar
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 6-10 strawberries, washed and sliced
- 6 slices of white bread
- Cellophane
- Adult help



### What you do:

1. With an electric mixer, whip the cream cheese in a bowl until fluffy.
2. Add cream, powdered sugar, and lemon juice. Continue whipping on high speed until mixture is stiff.
3. On each slice of bread, spread a layer of the mixture. Then arrange some sliced strawberries on top.
4. Place the sandwiches together, with filling on the inside.
5. Wrap tightly in cellophane. Chill for two hours so the filling sets.
6. Trim off crusts with a serrated knife. Cut sandwiches in squares or triangles. Serve and enjoy!





### 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.

# Avoiding

# SCAMS

PRESENTED BY **First Interstate Bank**

Bethany Life

**MONDAY, MAY 12TH**

**2:00 PM**

**BETHANY LIFE**  
212 Lafayette, Story City

Light Refreshment Provided

OR

**TUESDAY, MAY 27TH**

**2:00 PM**

**TIMBERLAND VILLAGE**  
725 Timberland Drive, Story City

Light Refreshment Provided

**OPEN TO RESIDENTS, FAMILIES, AND THE PUBLIC!**

**RSVP TO: [tiffany.tope@bethanylife.org](mailto:tiffany.tope@bethanylife.org)**



**Board of Deacons – see council minutes**

**Board of Education – see council minutes**

**Board of Evangelism/Stewardship – see council minutes**

**Board of Trustees – see council minutes**

**Board of Worship** – The worship committee met on April 13 (Marcia, Janis, Ortrude and for a few minutes Pastor Dolan) after church briefly.

We discussed the remaining services for Holy Week and Easter Sunday which I won't describe except that Pastor said he will be stripping his own garments and placing them on the alter during Maundy Thursday Service.

Next year I will bring Peanut for Palm Sunday processional.

Future plans are May 11, Mother's Day Service which will be "Music Blessings at Bethesda". The Wednesday Kids will be singing and playing tone chimes and other special music. The format will be the same as last year. There will be a silent auction during fellowship.

Senior Recognition is the following Sunday.

Baccalaureate will be held at another church.

June 1st is going to be at the lake shelter and we explained the pet blessing service to Pastor Dolan since he will be preaching that Sunday. We are providing donuts and water and please note that coffee will be served.

Submitted by: Ortrude Dial

**Board of Youth – see council minutes**

*See May calendar page for more information on upcoming services.*

### RIVERSIDE CAMPER CODES FOR 2025

25BethJ - for full week camp;  
25BJA – for Alpha Camp



### BETHESDA HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

Jewell, Iowa

FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

VBS is scheduled for Monday, June 16 – Wednesday, June 18; this year it will be held at Elim Lutheran Church in Randall.

**Thank you for joining us at Easter breakfast! The group raised \$625.81. This school year, the youth group volunteered at different locations, and listened to guest speakers on global ministries. The senior students decided to continue the theme and give back. A portion of the money raised at the breakfast will be donated to the Bethany Manor vegetable and flower garden. Other monies will be donated to purchase the story cube that was on display during the Easter breakfast. This cube is used to help share the story of Jesus in other countries when missionaries have a language barrier.**