



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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The Reverend Speaker Frederick Muhlenberg: The Later and Political Years

As we come upon the celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the founding of the United States of America, how appropriate for us to look at one of the “unremembered” people at the birth of our nation. *Few figures embody the harmony of faith and public service as impactfully as Frederick Augustus Conrad Muhlenberg.* In the end, Frederick’s life can be summed up as a Lutheran pastor, a patriot of the American Revolution, and as the 1st and 3rd Speaker of the United States House of Representatives. His life offers a captivating example that Christian vocation is not limited to the pulpit. It’s as if the faithful Lutheran pastor in him could only interpret Rev. Dr. Martin Luther’s famous words from “Freedom of a Christian (1520)” which declares, **“A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all,”** by serving first in the pulpit and then in politics.

When the turmoil of the American Revolution swept through the colonies, Frederick August Conrad Muhlenberg found himself drawn into public leadership. He did not abandon his faith when he stepped out of the pulpit; rather, he carried it with him. His Lutheran understanding of vocation that God worked through ordinary people for the good of the neighbor, guided his decisions as he entered the Pennsylvania Assembly then the Continental Congress and later the first Federal Congress serving in the House of Representatives. In a 1780 letter to his brother Rev. Henry Muhlenberg, the lone brother still a pastor, now serving a congregation in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Frederick recounts the dire situation beholding the Revolution. “The coffers are empty, the taxes almost unendurable, the people in bad humor, the money discredited, the army magazines exhausted, and the prospect to replenish them poor; the soldiers are badly clad, winter is coming, the enemy by no means to be despised, especially since the arrival of [Admiral of the White - 2nd in Command - Lord George Brydges] Rodney. Taking this and other things into account, public service might appear undesirable. However let us once more take cheer and be steadfast, rely on God and our own strength, and endure courageously, then we shall after all be sure of reaching our goal. The present Congress, believe me, consists of honest, brave, and—excepting myself—wise men, but the difficulties are innumerable and their power is by far too limited.” Following the surrender of General Charles Cornwallis at the Battle of Yorktown in 1781, Muhlenberg felt that his time as a politician was coming to an end and he could retire to the country and start a new life that focused solely on his farm, store and garden, as well as his wife and children and aging parents. In 1783 the congregation in Savannah, Georgia even offered Frederick a return to the pulpit, but his life in Pennsylvania was too settled. Despite these responsibilities, it became apparent that his expertise in politics was still needed. He was reelected to the Pennsylvania Assembly and then elected Speaker of the Pennsylvania House. After that term he did retire back to the farm in 1784. The Pennsylvania Executive Council appointed him to serve as a Justice of the Peace, a post he held until 1789. He simultaneously was appointed as the Register of Wills and Recorder of Deeds in Montgomery County. After continued success as a politician, even at the local level, Muhlenberg was elected by Pennsylvania to the Continental Congress in 1787. When the Continental Congress convened, a surprised Frederick was elected by one vote as the Presiding Officer! Once enough States ratified the newly written Constitution, Pennsylvania was allotted 8 Representatives to the House. Frederick and his brother Peter were elected by overwhelming majorities in their Congressional Districts. (Continued on page 4)

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

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Leah Magers, Admin. Assist.; Lisa Peterson, Custodian; Julie Lutjen, Accompanist; Confirmation Students, Sound and Technical Team

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Congregation Officers:

Wade Miller, President; Jeff Scott, Vice-Pres.; Sherri Hove, Treasurer; Jen Nibe, Secretary



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.

Attendance

Attendance	
05/31	71
06/02	31 – Timberland
06/07	60 (plus 8 pets)
06/14	40 (held at J.U.C.C.)
06/21	65
06/28	NA
07/05	55
07/07	30 - Timberland
07/12	62
07/19	100
07/26	52

Fund Balances to-date: July 29, 2026

Fund Name	2026 Budget (only applies to General Fund)	Needed per week to meet budget-GF	Needed @ 25 weeks to meet budget-GF	Actual received @ 25 weeks	Disbursements to-date	To-date Transfers from Contingency Fund	Fund Balances
General Fund	\$218,464.96	\$4, 201.25	\$105,031.23	\$84,755.03	\$98,361.59		\$2,564.38
Sunday School	NA	NA	NA	\$351.14	\$651.90		\$6,977.58
Youth & Family	NA	NA	NA	\$659.00	\$556.04		\$21,212.17
Designated Missions	NA	NA	NA	\$10,203.11	\$5,786.27		\$12,391.49
Undesignated Missions	NA	NA	NA	\$425.00	\$213.34		\$3,195.06
Discretionary Fund	NA	NA	NA		\$600.00		\$ 85.11
Capital Improvements	NA	NA	NA	\$1,900.00	\$		\$9,711.02
Gifts and Memorials	NA	NA	NA	\$3,003.14	\$2,337.74		\$11,492.38
Contingency Fund	NA	NA	NA	-0-	\$821.00		\$53,027.28
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	\$16,525.16	-0-	\$20,901.77	\$1,979.95
May Only	\$17,365.53	-0-	\$13,808.62	\$5,536.86
June Only				
July Only				
August Only				
September Only				
October Only				
November Only				
December Only				

**Bethesda Lutheran Church –
Council Meeting Minutes –
18th of May 7:00 p.m.**

Present: Wade Miller, Jeff Scott, Jen Nibe, Marcia Wheeler, Pastor Jonathan Dolan, Sherri Hove, Nicole Ferguson, Lisa Peterson, Amy Barquist

Absent: Hans Koehn, Rich Heeren

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

*Lisa Peterson moved to add *Lord's Cupboard Storage Room* to New Business on the agenda. Jeff Scott seconded, and it was approved unanimously. Jeff Scott moved to approve the amended agenda. Lisa Peterson seconded, and the agenda was approved unanimously.*

Approval of the Minutes of the April Council Meeting & Special Meeting

Jeff Scott moved to approve the April minutes; seconded by Lisa Peterson, and the motion passed unanimously. Jeff Scott moved to approve the April Special Meeting minutes; seconded by Lisa Peterson, and the motion passed unanimously.

Financial/Treasurer's Report

Sherri Hove gave the Treasurer's Report. As of April 30, the general fund balance was \$1,979.95.

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

Pastor's Report

Pastor Dolan gave a report on his Pastoral activities for April. Youth group was going well and it was decided to meet once per month over the summer. Students finishing up 8th grade would be invited as well. Confirmation was finishing up strong for the year.

Old Business

- Ring Doorbells – Signs Directing People to North Door during business hours.
- Administrative Assistant – Hiring Committee update –Running ads in Jewell, Webster City, & Ames papers. Looking for additional avenues

to advertise for candidates. Already online with Indeed. Jeff checking with Manpower as a backup in case a temp would be needed.

New Business

- Sexual Misconduct Policy – Council will vote policy drafted by Jeff Scott at the next meeting. Neighbors Heating & Cooling quote for Low Water Cutoff – Neighbors contacted State Inspector to find out specifics to correct. Neighbors would take care of problem. *Jen Nibe moved to have payment come out of the contingency fund; Jeff Scott seconded and the motion passed unanimously.*
- Lord's Cupboard Storage Room – Problem with it being too hot during the summer with food in the room. Fans currently are not enough. Discussed keeping door open only during the summer and Lisa looking into other ideas.

Board Reports

Education – Amy reported that VBS forms were available. They are looking for volunteers and host families.

Deacons – None

Evangelism/Stewardship – Nicole reported that the auction made \$3,235 for camperships and other evangelism expenses. Back to School drive will be in July.

Worship – Marcia reported that Easter went well. Musical Blessings was well attended. June 7th is blessing of the pets with Sunday service at Little Wall Lake.

Trustees – Lisa reported that lower wall trim is coming off and needs to be fixed & they are checking with someone for ideas to fix it. Mike has removed the tree root. Fellowship Hall has been used for private events 4 times recently.

Youth – None

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

Jeff Scott moved to adjourn the meeting; Lisa Peterson seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 7:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Jen Nibe,
Congregation Secretary

From Our Pastor (continued from page 1)

Following the surrender of General Charles Cornwallis at the Battle of Yorktown in 1781, Muhlenberg felt that his time as a politician was coming to an end and he could retire to the country and start a new life that focused solely on his farm, store and garden, as well as his wife and children and aging parents. In 1783 the congregation in Savannah, Georgia even offered Frederick a return to the pulpit, but his life in Pennsylvania was too settled. Despite these responsibilities, it became apparent that his expertise in politics was still needed. He was reelected to the Pennsylvania Assembly and then elected Speaker of the Pennsylvania House. After that term he did retire back to the farm in 1784. The Pennsylvania Executive Council appointed him to serve as a Justice of the Peace, a post he held until 1789. He simultaneously was appointed as the Register of Wills and Recorder of Deeds in Montgomery County. After continued success as a politician, even at the local level, Muhlenberg was elected by Pennsylvania to the Continental Congress in 1787. When the Continental Congress convened, a surprised Frederick was elected by one vote as the Presiding Officer! Once enough States ratified the newly written Constitution, Pennsylvania was allotted 8 Representatives to the House. Frederick and his brother Peter were elected by overwhelming majorities in their Congressional Districts.

Muhlenberg's life reminds us that faith is not something we leave at the church door. Whether preaching, governing, or simply serving our neighbors, God calls each of us to live our discipleship boldly, trusting that the Spirit works through every vocation for the sake of the world God loves. May the knowledge of this "forgotten" Founding Father, a pastor, patriot and politician help you to discern how your faith frames your life and emboldens you to live it our more fully to the glory of the Father, in the power of the Spirit for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ today and everyday.

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

Source: Seidensticker, Oswald. *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, Jul., 1889, Vol. 13, No. 2 (Jul., 1889), pp. 184-206, Title: Frederick Augustus Conrad Muhlenberg, Speaker of the House of Representatives, in the First Congress, 1789



JOYFUL PSALMS

Psalms 146, 147, 148, 149 and 150 are happy songs of praise.
They all begin and end with the same sentence.

Put the words below in alphabetical order in the boxes. Then read down
the second column to discover the special sentence from Psalms!



FEAST
KHAKI
MOUTH
ESSAY
LLAMA
ORBIT
CARRY
UDDER
BRUSH
ITEMS
APPLE
LEARN
CIDER



COOKIE SMILE POPS

Transform slice-and-bake cookies into cheerful lollipop treats and share a few edible smiles.

What you need:

- 1 roll refrigerated sugar cookie dough
- Knife
- Baking sheet
- Wooden craft sticks
- Frosting
- Sprinkles
- Clear treat bags
- Ribbon

What you do:

1. Freeze the cookie dough for 15 to 20 minutes to firm it up, then slice into 1/4-inch rounds.
2. Place cookies on a baking sheet about 2 inches apart.
3. Bake at 350 degrees for 5 minutes.
4. Remove from the oven and gently press a wooden stick halfway into the bottom of each cookie.
5. Return to the oven and bake 3 to 5 more minutes, until lightly golden.
6. Let cookies cool completely.
7. Decorate with frosting to create smiling faces and add sprinkles.
8. Slip each cookie pop into a treat bag and tie with ribbon.

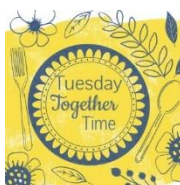
Answer: Praise the Lord!



Community Matters!



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 \$1,411.25.

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 include: Marilyn S., Cyndy S., Dick S., Karla W., Jim P., Dick S.,

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. The Lord's Cupboard's location: Jewell, PO Box 330, 439 Main Street, Jewell 50130-0330.
Phone: 515-827-5148

This is an urgent plea: The Lord's Cupboard Food Pantry is seeing an increase in use by local families. If you are able to help supply the shelves with non-perishable food items, toiletries, laundry supplies, (and anything else that you routinely use at home), or monetary donations, it would be so appreciated. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

Next Mobile Food Truck: August 11, 2026

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.

*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.*

Amy Davis, TLMHC, NCC

Amy specializes in:

Adolescent and Family therapy, Adult and Couples Therapy, Trauma Focused Therapy, Depression and Anxiety, Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Anger Management/Behavioral Issues, Sexual Abuse, Healthy Relationships, Stress Management

Amy is a temporary Licensed Mental health Counselor with more than 20 years of experience treating adults and children. Amy has extensive experience working with at risk youth in a variety of settings. Amy's areas of emphasis include teen and adult mental health disorders, including but not limited to depression, anxiety, self-esteem, healthy relationships, attachment disorder, and PTSD. Amy is trained in EMDR, Gottman method, TF-CBT, and Sex Offender Treatment Program (SOTP).

Without Amy's support, I would still be an addict, and I wouldn't be where I am today," said Michelle, an LSI client.

Michelle was struggling with substance abuse, legal issues, and mental health issues when she found LSI therapist Amy Davis back in 2021.

"God helps us in ways we don't always want him to," said Michelle. "When the coronavirus pandemic hit, I lost my job. The unemployment lines were long at the time, so we went several months without a paycheck, so I decided to get creative with my finances. I started selling drugs and was later arrested with a large quantity of drugs. They came in, took my kid, and I went to jail. After that, I was referred to work with Amy at LSI."

Michelle and Amy worked through Michelle's childhood trauma, processing the significant losses in her life due to drug overdose and death. Amy helped Michelle work on building a positive support system, a list of future goals, and a relationship with her daughter, Rachel.

"Rachel and I had a lot of problems when we entered therapy because I was a drug addict, and there was a lot of broken trust between us," said Michelle. "LSI therapists helped us rebuild that trust and helped show her the progress I had made when she couldn't see it herself."

Rachel, in therapy as well, has been seeing LSI Therapist Chelsea Zaragoza since 2019. In addition to one-on-one therapy sessions with their respective therapists, Michelle and Rachel also do family therapy sessions with Amy and Chelsea. These sessions help the mother and daughter have time set aside to talk about issues they are having in a healthy, productive way.

"Michelle has had a lot of struggles, loss, and a lot of people who didn't believe in her, and her daughter was one of them," said Amy Davis, LSI Therapist. "We have worked hard doing family and individual therapy to bring those two back together, and it has worked. Where they are now, I don't think I've seen a mother-daughter relationship as healthy as the two of them are."

"To see how far Michelle has come since I met her is truly remarkable," said Amy. "She built the ladder, and she climbed out."

"I was a mess when I first came to LSI," said Michelle. "Now, I'm sober, in college, have a high-paying job, and have my daughter back. Amy believed in me when no one else did, not even myself. She gave me hope."

