



*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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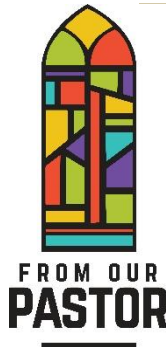
### *Upcoming Dates*

**"Spring Forward" on  
March 8 for Daylight  
Saving Time.**

**Community Potluck is  
held each 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of  
the month. See you on  
March 8 at noon!**

**Orders for Easter lilies  
must be received and  
paid for by Sunday,  
March 15. Order blank  
on last page.**

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



### **Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry's Winding Road to Ministry**

In February of 2023, I attended the ELCA Youth Ministry Network's annual gathering called "The Extravaganza" or affectionately called "The E" at the Hyatt Regency in Garden Grove, CA, literally 2 miles south of Disneyland on the same exact road. It is an amazing opportunity to connect with over 700+ pastors, deacons, lay youth and family ministers, ELCA camping ministries and professors to reinvigorate one's passion for youth ministry.

One morning I was in the atrium of this double tower hotel that had 18 floors admiring the view. Suddenly, standing before me was a man and he asked what I was looking at. *"Oh I'm just enjoying the view. Growing up in a small town in Iowa,*

*I don't get to experience such a grandiose hotel entrance, bar and restaurant every day."* He made some remark too about how beautiful it was and he noticed my nametag and asked about my upbringing. Incidentally he wasn't wearing his. I went on to share the highlights. He listened and asked some clarifying questions. Then I asked him about his life. I listened and did the same. It had been about 10 minutes by this point.

He then asked how I was enjoying "The E" and I answered and returned the question. Then as he answered that question, it dawned on me who I was talking to. I stopped and I said, *"Wait a minute are you Bishop Curry of Metro-Chicago?* (Many pastors and deacons try to pay attention to who is elected bishop of the different Synods.) He smiled and said yes. I jokingly said, *"And you didn't want to lead with that?"* He laughed and said, *"No, I always find it easier to talk to people when they know I'm not a bishop."* At that point our conversation shifted to the fact that in May of 2023, Bishop Curry was going to come to my Synod with my then Bishop Amy Current to host a "Revival" on the campus of Grandview University, one of ELCA's colleges. Shortly thereafter, his wife showed up, who I found out he was waiting for. He introduced me to LaShonda and then wished me well in my ministry, letting me know he appreciated our conversation. I thanked him back and told him I was looking forward to seeing him in a couple of months down in Des Moines.

You may recall this past summer when I announced in worship that the ELCA had elected a new Presiding Bishop. That person, the Rev. Yehiel Curry was at the time of his election, serving as the Bishop of Metropolitan Chicago Synod, and came into ministry as a "second" career. I say that because he had a couple of jobs. He, like numerous pastors in the ELCA, was raised in the Roman Catholic Church. (As a personal note, I can name 15+ ELCA pastors who grew up Catholic.)

Bishop Curry first felt called to be a social worker in the Chicago neighborhood he grew up in. After a few years, he felt the tug to become a public school teacher. Eventually, he left teaching and entered sales. He was a teacher when he first visited Shekinah Chapel, then a synod-authorized worshipping community. "I didn't even realize it was Lutheran," Curry said. "I was invited by a friend." What drew him to Shekinah was Safe in My Brother's Arms (SIMBA), a mentoring program there sponsored by the ELCA.

*Article is continued on the next page.*

<<<more>>> **Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry's  
Winding Road to Ministry**

"I had these unique students," he said. "And I was interested in services for them...There was a worship service I stayed for. And I loved it." Curry went home and told his wife, LaShonda, about the great experience he had had there, and they returned together the following weekend.

After some time as a worshipper and volunteer at Shekinah Chapel, the community and Synod staff of Metro-Chicago, placed a thought into Bishop Curry's mind and prayer life. He was asked to become a lay mission developer. Now, in church lingo a "lay" person is simply one who is not an ordained pastor or deacon. When I served at my Internship at First English in Platteville, WI, I was the Vicar and the Lay Lutheran Campus Minister for the UW-Platteville. Then, in church lingo a "mission developer" is a person the Church authorizes to develop a worshipping community into a full-fledged congregation. Important to note is that Mission Development Sites are places that the Synod financially supports through a congregation's "Mission Support" line in their yearly budgets.

After Bishop Curry said yes, he later recalled, "It wasn't until I was in the church that I said, 'I could do this for the rest of my life.'" What happened then was some Lay Training via the TEEM Program or Theological Education for Emerging Ministries at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago, one of the ELCA's seven seminaries. Eventually, Curry went on to complete the entire program and received his Ordination Certificate in 2009. He continued to serve at Shekinah Chapel, then in 2012 it became a congregation of the ELCA and he was called as their first pastor. After serving Shekinah Chapel beginning in the mid-2000s, Bishop Curry was shocked and humbled when his name appeared on the ballot to serve as the Bishop of Metro-Chicago in 2019. He discerned during that Synod Assembly and said yes. Then in 2024, the ELCA Conference of Bishops elected him to serve as the Chair.

But Bishop Curry would be the first to tell you that you do not need to get a "certificate" to do the work of ministry. "I think there's this unique opportunity around lay equipping and lay education," he said. "The ethos and the structures of many of our congregations are changing. In some cases, they've gone from full-time pastors to part-time pastors; we have leaders who are serving two- and three-point congregations. "Our lay leaders are being asked to do more. And in many cases, they're saying, 'Yes, I want the education—as long as you're not trying to steer me and tell me I need to be a pastor or a deacon. Tell me how to be a better leader in my community, in my context.'"

**References and Quotes:** ELCA. (2025, July 31). Casting a Vision for the Church. *Living Lutheran*.  
<https://www.livinglutheran.org/voices-of-faith/casting-a-vision-for-the-church/>

If Bishop Curry's life, inspired by the Holy Spirit, moved you even a little bit to consider "Lay Ministry," I want to talk with you. The Northeastern Iowa Synod has developed a new Lay Ministry Program and I have included that in the newsletter this month for you to read (see the following pages). I'm praying for you! The Church is praying for you! But most importantly, God is calling you!

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



The Rev. Yehiel Curry was elected as the next presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Phoenix, Ariz., on July 30, 2025. He began this role on Oct. 1, 2025, and was installed on Oct. 4 in Minneapolis.

Previously, he served as bishop of the ELCA Metropolitan Chicago Synod, where he leads a synod staff and 160 congregations by providing pastoral care, preaching, teaching, administering sacraments, and overseeing ordinations and installations. He was elected synod bishop in 2019 and reelected in spring 2025. Curry chaired the ELCA Conference of Bishops, fostering ecumenical relationships and theological engagement across the Lutheran communion.

Previously, Curry served as the mission developer (2007–2012) and pastor (2013–2019) of Shekinah Chapel Lutheran Church in Riverdale, Ill. He earned a Bachelor of Arts from Lewis University in Romeoville, Ill., and a Master of Divinity from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. He and his wife, LaShonda, are the proud parents of three daughters.

# Lay Ministry Training Program

## Northeastern Iowa Synod, ELCA



The **Lay Ministry Training Program** has several components, some of which are done in partnership with other synods. The entire program **may** be completed in the same **2-year** period, or participants may choose to participate in individual components as their time allows. Participants are also welcome to take an individual Formation course.

Participants who complete both layers of this program will receive a **Certificate of Completion** and will be considered **Certified Lay Assisting Ministers (CLAMs)**. Certified Lay Assisting Ministers are equipped to serve as Lay Ministers in the life and ministry of their congregation and the larger Church, and **may** be authorized to serve as **Synod Authorized Ministers (SAMs)** when a need arises.

<p><b>Academic Courses:</b></p>	<p>We have partnered with the North Texas North Louisiana synod, so our students complete their academic coursework through their Parish Lay Ministry Academy (PLMA) program. More information can be found at <a href="https://www.ntnl.org/ministries/plma/description-registration/">https://www.ntnl.org/ministries/plma/description-registration/</a></p>
<p><b>Formation Courses:</b></p>	<p>We have partnered with the Southeastern IA Synod, the Western IA Synod, and the South Central Synod of Wisconsin to offer Formation courses on practical ministry topics.</p>
<p><b>Mentoring:</b></p>	<p>Participants meet regularly with a mentor, who is an ordained Minister of Word and Sacrament serving in the Northeastern Iowa Synod. Participants often meet together as a cohort with their mentor to share their learnings.</p>
<p><b>Retreats:</b></p>	<p>Once or twice a year, participants will gather for in-person retreats.</p>

For more information, or to apply, go to <https://neiasynod.org/2025/08/lmt-2024/> or contact Pr. Kristen Rod, [rodk@neiasynod.org](mailto:rodk@neiasynod.org), 319-352-1414.

**Lay Minister Training Program (cont.)**

	When do courses meet?	What will I learn about and do?	How much does it cost?
<b>Academic Courses</b>	Typically the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month during September, October, & November, and March, April, & May, 9:30am-3:30pm on Zoom.	PLMA courses cover topics like Bible, Lutheran theology, church history, and worship.	Tuition for the PLMA program is currently \$225 per semester, plus the cost of books.
<b>Formation Courses</b>	Formation courses typically meet on Zoom from 9:30am to noon, typically one Saturday a month for 3 months per semester (fall and spring). 9:30am-noon on Zoom.	Formation courses cover practical ministry topics such as preaching, faith formation, pastoral care, and congregational administration.	Provided to participants at no cost. These courses are fully funded through the generous Mission Support contributions of congregations in our partnering synods.
<b>Mentoring</b>	About once a month, scheduling with their mentor at times that work for all involved, on Zoom or in person.	Mentors will offer scholastic, emotional, and spiritual support. Mentors may also review assignments and sermons with participants.	Provided to participants free of charge, supported by the NEIA Synod's Lay Training Fund—established through the 2023 Fall Appeal—and by a Castle Grant from Wartburg Seminary.
<b>Retreats</b>	Retreats are held in-person on Saturdays once or twice per year.	Hands-on opportunities to practice presiding over sacraments and funerals, and other worship experiences	Currently covered by the Lay Training Fund and a Castle Grant. Participants pay only for costs of meals.

**Bethesda Lutheran Church****Council Meeting Minutes, 12 Jan. 2026, 7:00 pm**

Present: Jeff Scott, Sheri Muller, Rich Heeren, Jen Nibe, Marcia Wheeler, Pastor Jonathan Dolan, Hans Koehnk, Sherri Hove, Sue Lund, Mike Hill  
Guest: Dan Nibe

Absent: Nicole Ferguson, Lisa Peterson

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm by President Jeff Scott.

Devotions were led by Pastor Jonathan Dolan.

**Approval of the Agenda**

*Hans Koehnk moved to approve the agenda as amended; Mike Hill seconded, and the agenda was approved unanimously.*

**Approval of the Minutes of the December Meeting**

*Mike Hill moved to approve the minutes as corrected; Hans Koehnk seconded, and the motion passed.*

**Financial/Treasurer's Report:** Sherri Hove gave the Treasurer's Report. As of December 31, the general fund balance was \$16,170.94 and total assets were \$127,521.67. It was noted that the \$27,000 increase in giving for 2025, which started after Pastor Dolan started in July. It was also noted that no money was transferred from the Endowment Fund in 2025.

*Rich Heeren moved to approve the Treasurer's Report; Mike Hill seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.*

Sherri Hove presented a proposal to transfer \$1,5000 from the Gifts and Memorial Fund to the Undesignated Gifts and Narthex/Sanctuary Fund.

*Jen Nibe moved to transfer \$1,500 from the Gifts and Memorial Fund to the Undesignated Gifts Fund; Sue Lund seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.*

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Dolan distributed a copy of his annual report for 2025.

He outlined some of his pastoral activities for December 2025. The youth trip to the Iowa Wolves was a success. Both the Confirmation youth and the High School youth enjoyed the outing.

Pastor Dolan received a list of people (5-6 family units) who have reached out about joining the congregation. He would like to have a new member class.

*(continued on page 6)*



**Board of Worship:** The worship committee met on 2/9/26 at 10:30 am. Marcia, Ortrude and Pastor Jonathan were in attendance. We discussed important worship date reminders as follows:

June 7: Blessing of the Pets Service at Little Wall Lake.

April 26: Kids Music Sunday at Bethesda Service  
Lenten Services are at 6:30 pm except for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday which are at 7:00 pm. The Seder meal will be held April 1st at 5:30 and the worship committee will be helping.

Marcia and Ortrude will set up the Lenten cross after church on Feb. 22. the candelabras will not be used after Ash Wednesday.

The alter Guild will set up for Easter after the Good Friday Service.

Music discussion: we will use "Holy, Holy, Holy" as one of the hymns every Sunday during the Easter Season (4/12-5/31)

Offering collection discussion: It was suggested that we try passing only one plate on each side of the aisle but still use 4 people (2 on each side) and at some point have a stationary offering plate at the back of the sanctuary.

*Ortrude Dial, Secretary*

**Board of Deacons:** We met with Pastor on February 4, 2026; present: Rich Heeren, Pat Melchert, Eudene Lund, Josh Hilfiker, Pastor Jonathan. We discussed:

- Seder meal on April 1st at 6-pm for the confirmation students, immediate family and mentors.
- The last night of confirmation is April 22.
- 8th grade Confirmation Celebration dinner will be April 29 for students, parents and mentors at 6:15. 8th grade students need to be at the church at 5:30 for their interviews with the deacons and run through for confirmation Sunday May 3rd.
- The confirmation students are expected to be at the church still at 5:30 for their meal and then attend the Lenten worship services.

*Submitted by Josh Hilfiker*

*More Board reports can be found on page 7.*

**Old Business**

Budget Committee: Dan Nibe presented the proposed 2026 budget. The 2025 budget review showed an increase in revenue and a reduction in expenses; we ended the year with a positive budget of \$17,000. We are assuming the revenue will remain flat at \$178,200.00, giving will mimic 2025, and expenses will go up to \$214,538.96. Projections for the next 4 years were also shared. Having fundraisers in conjunction with Jewel Jubilee and the election was mentioned.

*Mike Hill moved to accept the Budget Committee's recommended 2026 budget proposal; Rich Heeren seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.*

Nominating Committee: Names have been submitted for the open positions. Nicole Ferguson (Evangelism) and Marcia Wheeler (Worship) have petitioned to stay on their respective boards for another year.

Board Letters: Please remember to get your annual reports to Donna by January 11. She is waiting for reports from the President, Treasurer, Pastor, Call Committee, and the various board chairs.

**New Business**

Church Insurance: Jeff Scott received a letter from Church Mutual Insurance Company regarding the roof; roof resurfacing will no longer be a part of the policy. They are also asking for an electrical and plumbing inspection. Jeff is looking for other potential insurance company options.

New Supply Pastor Compensation changes: Donna Busch emailed updated compensation guidelines for supply pastors.

Mission of the Month: The Council reviewed the list of missions supported each month by the loose offerings on the 3rd Sunday of the month.

January -- Seminary scholarships

February -- Camperships

March -- Camperships

April -- Northeastern Iowa Synod

May -- World Hunger

June -- Camperships

July -- Back to School drive

August -- Seminary Students

September -- Northeastern Iowa Synod

October -- Iowa Food Bank

November -- Lord's Cupboard

December -- Lutheran Services in Iowa

*Sherri Hove moved to change March's mission of the month to Camperships, and to have all of the fellowship offerings to support the kitchen fund; Mike Hill seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.*

**Board Reports**

Education: Jen Nibe reported that the Christmas program was a success. Ages ranged from

Kindergarten through High School participated. Wednesday afternoons are well attended.

Deacons: Rich Heeren commented that membership is growing steadily. Please address any questions or concerns to the Deacons

Evangelism/Stewardship: Sue Lund reminded the council that the Annual Chili Cookoff will be held after the Annual Meeting on January 25.

Worship: Marcia Wheeler reported that the Worship committee met on January 12 and started to discuss Lenten Season and Easter. Ash Wednesday is on February 18 and the service will be at 6:30. There will not be Lenten suppers this year.

Trustees: Mike Hill reported that the radiator will be repaired by Neighbors soon. Lisa Peterson reported that there are two high school students helping on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Youth: *(Report given after the Treasurer's Report)* Hans Koehn reported that the youth had a blast at the Iowa Wolves Game on Sunday, January 4. The Youth fund had a 2025 year-end balance of \$20,909.21.

The next council meeting will be held on Monday, February 9 at 7:00 pm.

*Sherri Hove moved to adjourn the meeting; Mike Hill seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.*

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 9:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Sheri Muller

**Bethesda Lutheran Church  
Special Council Meeting Minutes  
14 January 2026, 5:30 pm**

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

Absent: Marcia Wheeler

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm by President Jeff Scott.

**Old Business**

Budget Committee

Upon further review after the January 12 Council Meeting, revisions were made to the 2026 proposed budget. The proposed changes were discussed. *Lisa Peterson moved to accept the revised 2026 budget proposal; Jen Nibe seconded, and motion passed unanimously.*

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Sheri Muller



**Board of Education: 02/19/2026**

Heather and I met last night to get some things ready for SS and we had an unofficial meeting. See notes below. Thanks! Amy

SS Material is all ready for Spring. Amy will touch base with Donna about Palms for Palm Sunday. No Sunday School 3/15, 3/22 or 4/5. Palm Sunday is 3/29/26. Are we all beginning in the Narthex? BOE will hand out palms. Heather will ask Janis about music for Easter. Volunteer Recognition Sunday will be 4/26/26. Amy will visit with Julie, Julie and Matt about serving. VBS 6/8/26-6/10/26 Bethesda will host. We will hand our registration forms 4/26 and post information. Council will meet 3/2/26. BOE will meet again at 7:00 on 3/11/26 (pending availability)

*Spring  
Soup Supper*



Jewell United Church of Christ  
537 Main St, Jewell, IA - 827-5135

March 13<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-7:00pm

*Menu:*  
chili, potato soup,  
and cinnamon rolls  
coffee, tea, and milk

*For Home Delivery Call:*  
(515) 827-5135

Eat in, Take-out  
or we will deliver!!

*Free Will Offering*

 UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST




**HELP BRING AWARENESS  
& PREVENTION TO HUMAN  
TRAFFICKING**

**It happens everywhere and thrives on silence.  
Awareness saves lives!**

**KNOW THE SIGNS:**  
CONSTANT MONITORING & CONTROL  
LACK OF PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION OR FREEDOM  
SIGNS OF FEAR, ABUSE, OR INTIMIDATION  
INCONSISTENT STORIES OR SCRIPTED RESPONSES

**IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING  
CALL 911**

*"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves." Psalm 31:8*



In Bible times, shepherds spent most of their days with their sheep—guiding them to food and water and guarding them from danger. When a sheep was injured, the shepherd treated the wound with a special liquid. What was it?



- A. Water
- B. Honey
- C. A salt solution
- D. Olive oil

Answer: (See Psalm 23:5)

*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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*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	
02/01	71
02/03	29 – Timberland
02/08	74
02/15	74
02/18	72 - Ash Wednesday
02/22	79
02/25	NA - Lent

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: February 23, 2026**

Fund Name	2026 Budget (only applies to General Fund)	Needed per week to meet budget-GF	Needed @ 8 weeks to meet budget-GF	Actual received 8 weeks	Disbursements to-date	To-date Transfers from Contingency Fund	Fund Balances
General Fund	\$218,464.96	\$4, 201.25	\$33,609.99	\$25,493.12	\$30,875.81		\$10,788.25
Sunday School	NA	NA	NA	\$114.84	\$212.14		\$7,181.04
Youth & Family	NA	NA	NA	\$259.00	-0-		\$21,168.21
Designated Missions	NA	NA	NA	\$772.00	\$435.81		\$8,310.84
Undesignated Missions	NA	NA	NA	\$140.00	\$71.79		\$3,051.61
Discretionary Fund	NA	NA	NA	-0-	-0-		\$685.11
Capital Improvements	NA	NA	NA	\$700.00	-0-		\$8,511.02
Gifts and Memorials	NA	NA	NA	\$1,941.27	\$1,565.65		\$11,158.08
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	NA	NA		NA
March Only				
April Only				
May Only				
June Only				
July Only				
August Only				
September Only				
October Only				
November Only				
December Only-2025	\$21,916.92	-0-	\$21,370.92	\$16,170.94



# Puzzle!

## HOW'S THE WEATHER?

Use the code below to fill in these forecasts in places where Jesus traveled:

CODE:

A=☺	D=❄	H=❄	M=☆	P=◆	T=■	W=☒
B=●	E=+	I=*	N=↑	R=●	U=□	Y=↻
C=☼	G=☼	L=★	O=↓	S=○	V=☒	Z=↻

Mt. Hermon ○ ↑ ↓ ☒

Jericho ❄ ↓ ■

Jerusalem ☆ \* ★ ❄

Dead Sea Area ■ ● ↓ ◆ \* ☼ ☺ ★ ❄ + ☺ ■

Sea of Galilee \* □ ○ ■ ↻ ☒ \* ↑ ❄ ○

Mediterranean Coast ● \* + ↻ ↻



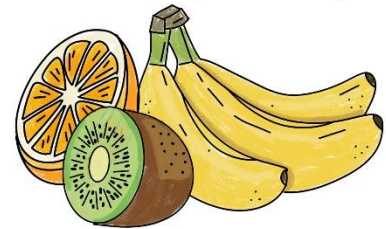
Answers: snow, hot, mild, tropical heat, gusty winds, breezy



These cheerful "palm trees" make a bright reminder of the celebration that greeted Jesus as he entered Jerusalem.

**What you need:**

- Bananas (for the tree trunks)
- Kiwis or green grapes (for the palm leaves)
- Mandarin oranges (for the ground)



**What you do:**

1. Slice bananas in half lengthwise and place vertically on a plate.
2. Arrange kiwi slices or grapes at the top to form palm fronds.
3. Add oranges at the base.
4. Serve immediately or chill until ready to serve.

**Scripture Tie-In:**

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"  
—Matthew 21:9 (NIV)

# Community Matters!

## Bergen Family Feast

Saturday, March 7; 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

**All are welcome!**

Bergen Lutheran Church,  
101 W. Maple, Roland, IA

### Turkey Dinner with all the trimmings

Drive Thru Only  
Free Will Offering

Funds raised from the Family Feast will be used to contribute to various charities and organizations at the end of the year benefitting all God's people.



## 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 \$731.00.**

**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 February: Janet, Carol, Eudene, Sylvia, Jessica, Pat, Pastor Nancy, Julia, Cindy, Karen, Larry, Dick S, Dick K, and Dameon.**

## 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 is scheduled for April.**

**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](http://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

As we step into a new year, we want to pause and simply say thank you. Your prayers, generosity, and faithful partnership have made a meaningful difference through LSI. Because of your support, lives are being changed, hope is being restored, and communities across Iowa are being strengthened. We are deeply grateful for your commitment to this shared mission.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the opportunities this new year holds and the impact we can continue to have together. With your ongoing support, LSI will keep responding to needs, advocating for our neighbors, and living out Christ's love in tangible ways. We truly look forward to what God will do in the year ahead, together.

If you have any questions, please reply to this email or reach out to Andrea Maschka, LSI's Chief Development Officer at [Andrea.Maschka@LSIowa.org](mailto:Andrea.Maschka@LSIowa.org)

We are so grateful for your partnership in sharing our mission!

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, Brain Injury Awareness Month and Cerebral Palsy Awareness Month making it the perfect time to highlight LSI's services for individuals with disabilities.

LSI provide respite care for those caring for loved ones with mental and developmental disabilities along with 24 hour care, hourly options and host homes. In total LSI provided over 366,000 hours of services to those living with disabilities last year.



For families caring for a child or adult with disabilities, the demands of around-the-clock care can be overwhelming. That's where respite support makes a meaningful difference. Respite care offers caregivers a personalized break while ensuring their loved one continues to receive quality care. A trained respite provider can step in for a few hours or up to an entire weekend to support children and adults with disabilities. Services can be provided in the individual's home, the provider's home, or within the community.

As one parent put it, "Respite helped me step back and rethink things, breath and start over again with a better mind set! I truly believe that respite has changed my family and my life."

LSI's thorough matching process and ongoing oversight help ensure the success and quality of respite services. One of our respite providers, met her client and his family when they moved into a new neighborhood. This provider and client had an instant connection during this visit, and the provider knew that she wanted to provide respite services to him. The family worked with LSI, after being introduced to our respite program by the provider, to enroll the client in services. They started out with small amounts of time, and as the years went by, the amount of respite increased.

This provider has now been providing respite services to this client for over 10 years. Their relationship has continued to grow, and is stronger than ever, as the provider has supported both the client and his family.

This client has become a part of his provider's expended family, and sees her at least once a week. The client enjoys spending weekends once a month at his provider's home. This also allows the client's parents to have a scheduled break each month. One of this client's favorite activities during his weekends at his provider's home is to visit his provider's parents, and discuss the latest book that he has read with them.

*"I became a respite provider because it offered me an opportunity to earn some extra income around my family's busy schedule. What I was not expecting was the learning opportunities that occurred for both my children and the respite children on our home. It has been an amazing experience to see the children grow. I love when I run into them out in the community and they come over and tell me everything they are now doing. Through respite care you are able to make a difference!"*

-Respite Provider

**If you are interested in learning more about respite services or becoming a respite provider, contact Kay Baker at 319-883-9583.**



# EASTER LILY ORDERS

*Easter lilies will be purchased from and delivered to the church by Masie Floral Co, of Jewell, (supporting our small businesses).*

Help us to beautify our church and give honor to loved ones this Easter by ordering a lily. You are encouraged to take the plant home after the Easter Festival Worship Service.

*Orders are due March 15<sup>th</sup>.*

*The price for a plant is \$18.50.*

*This is payable at the time you place your order.*

Donor's Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Given in memory or honor of: Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please place in offering plate or return to the church office (along with payment) by Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> - FIRM!  
Thank you.**