



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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To the People of God at Bethesda Lutheran (ELCA) in Jewell, Iowa,

Grace and peace to you in the power of the Holy Spirit, on behalf of our Lord and Savior Jesus
the Christ, to the glory of the Father. Amen!

After prayerful consideration, thoughtful feedback from the congregation over the past two years, observing the wonderful lay leadership of your congregation and experiencing the promises of God's love that abound in this place, I write to you with great joy that I, (alongside my family, Lisa, Anastasia, Etta and Theodore) accept the Call to be the Pastor of Bethesda Lutheran (ELCA)! But if you would indulge me, since this is a unique chance to affirm the gifts of this place, I'd like to recount how we got here and how wonderful it is to participate in the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ, together for the sake of a world in need.

In July of 2024, I had the privilege of preaching and presiding during worship for the first time via pulpit supply. Afterwards, the Board of Deacons invited me to return. Within the next couple months, I ended up frequently returning as a pulpit supply pastor. By November, conversations began with congregational leadership and the Synod office about the possibility of being the "Part-time Contract Pastor." Jointly, we all came to believe that would be beneficial and from Jan. 1, 2025 - June 30, 2025 I had the opportunity to not only lead worship, but visit those who were sick, perform funerals and participate in fellowship.

(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	
07/05	55
07/07	30 - Timberland
07/12	62
07/19	100
07/26	52
08/02	59
08/09	70
08/16	50
08/30	67

Fund Balances to-date: August 26th, 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		(\$12,854.54)
Sunday School	NA	NA	NA	\$351.14	\$651.90		\$7,037.78
Youth & Family	NA	NA	NA	\$659.00	\$556.04		\$21,062.17
Designated Missions	NA	NA	NA	\$10,203.11	\$5,786.27		\$10,637.20
Undesignated Missions	NA	NA	NA	\$425.00	\$213.34		\$3,260.06
Discretionary Fund	NA	NA	NA		\$600.00		(\$515.49)
Capital Improvements	NA	NA	NA	\$1,900.00	\$		\$10,011.02
Gifts and Memorials	NA	NA	NA	\$3,003.14	\$2,337.74		\$11,740.99
Contingency Fund	NA	NA	NA	-0-	\$821.00		\$42,643.28
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	\$86,989.99	-0-	\$104,553.21	\$1,392.28
July Only	\$95,489.88	-0-	\$118,425.56	\$6,764.74
August Only	\$95,494.88	-0-	\$122,180.36	\$10,514.54
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)

As we were nearing the end of the contract period, everyone began to discuss the possibility of being the “Full-time Interim Pastor” starting on July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026 with the opportunity for the Interim role to transition into being the “Full-time Called Pastor.” In June, Council and I had a formal interview to be the Interim Pastor.

Over the past year, you and I have been engaged in the ministry of Jesus. We have had an opportunity to get to know one another prior to the acceptance of a Call that not many pastors and congregations get to participate in. From that opportunity, I have seen first hand the wonderful ministries this congregation and the pastor share the responsibility of accomplishing together as equal partners in ministry.

Such as the monthly Timberland Assisted Living facility Worship with Holy Communion. In all my years serving congregations in Iowa, Wisconsin and South Dakota, this is the first place where members of the congregation come to the service, bring a food item and then participate in fellowship with the residents afterwards! Not only that but it is also the first time I’ve had “live” music as members play the piano during the hymns. I kid you not, I have been told over 75 times by the residents how grateful they are not only for worship but for the fellowship too. It is one of my favorite ministries to share each month!

Or we could talk about the Wednesday Kids After School Program from 3:30-5:00 pm that generally sees 30+ elementary age youth at church of which only half of them are members. Here multiple members of Bethesda take on different roles. Some people provide and prepare snacks for the youth. Others lead a brief Bible Study, games, worksheets or crafts. Still others help teach the youth how to play the “tone chimes” and prepare them to play for worship! Even those kids who are not members, show up for performance Sundays. The best part of it for me, is that I need only show up and help where needed because the lay folks prepare everything! Talk about a great example of leaning into your Baptismal promises of placing in their hands the Holy Scriptures, the Creed, the Ten Commandments, bringing them to worship and the Holy Supper! Then we could talk about Confirmation that takes place between 5:30 - 7:15 pm on Wednesdays. Again, we have multiple members of Bethesda taking on different roles. There are often 2 or 3 people making a free supper with a person who seeks input weekly from the youth about what they would like to eat next week! Also, this is the first congregation I have served where every member of the Board who oversees Confirmation participates weekly as an adult co-leader. To me, having so many adults around that interact and help with the Confirmation youth only shows them how seriously the congregation takes its responsibility to bring them up in the faith! There are of course other examples, like Tuesday Together Time, High School Youth Group, Sunday School, the Lord’s Cupboard or Music Ministry but the point has been driven home! This congregation is active in the life of this community both inside and outside of the building. Seeing firsthand this mission and ministry take place prior has only affirmed my belief that there is much that Bethesda and I can accomplish together over the coming years. Therefore, I am hopeful for what is to come. I believe that together we shall be able to build upon the wonderful ministries already taking place. My door will always be open to you. As former Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton always liked to remind us, we are Church together.

In humble service of the Triune God,

Pastor Jonathan, Lisa, Anastasia, Etta and Theodore Dolan



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 \$65.00.

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 August include:

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](https://www.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."



Mutual Ministry Committee

We are pleased to announce the formation of a Mutual Ministry Committee at Bethesda. Current members of the committee are: Hans Koehnke, Jeff Scott, and Jen Nibe. Three additional members of the congregation will be appointed by President Wade Miller and Pastor Dolan.

The Mutual Ministry Committee will provide a supportive and constructive way for our pastor and congregation to communicate, listen, and work together in the ministry God has entrusted to us. The committee's purpose is to encourage healthy communication, strengthen our relationships, support our pastor, and help our congregation continue to grow and serve faithfully. If this is something that may interest you, please talk to Wade Miller.

One example of the things we are working on is creating a more collaborative and supportive setting during the Children's Sermon; inviting Confirmation Students, High School Youth, and interested adults, to come forward to participate.

The Mutual Ministry Committee will provide a place for encouragement, feedback, and thoughtful conversation about the ministry of our Congregation. It is an opportunity to foster mutual understanding, trust, and support among those who serve and those who are served, through our congregation's ministry.

If members of the congregation have any concerns, feedback or questions, you may speak with any of the Mutual Ministry Committee members. Additionally, Pastor Dolan is also very open to hearing any feedback that you may have.

May this help us listen to one another with grace, speak with honesty and compassion, and remain focused on our shared calling to proclaim Christ and serve our neighbors.

In Grace and Peace,

Bethesda Lutheran Church
Mutual Ministry Committee