

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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FROM OUR PASTOR

Thank You for the "Official" Welcome to Bethesda

The Installation Service was a joyful celebration of God's faithfulness and a beautiful reminder that Christ continues to call and gather people for ministry in every generation. As we look back on this meaningful day, my heart is filled with gratitude for all who made it such a memorable occasion.

I want to give thanks first and foremost to God, whose Spirit has guided this congregation through the Call Process and into our shared ministry. The Installation Service marked the official beginning of a partnership between pastor and congregation, but even more importantly, it celebrated God's ongoing work among us. Through prayer, worship, music, fellowship, and the promises made during the service, we witnessed God's grace at work in our midst.

A special thank you goes to our synod representative, Rev. Steve Brackett, whose presence reminded us that we are part of something much larger than ourselves. One of the gifts of an ELCA installation is the visible connection it creates between our local congregation and the wider church. While we worship and serve in our own community, we do so as part of a church that reaches across congregations, communities, and states, united in the mission of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

I am grateful to everyone who participated in worship: musicians, readers, ushers, greeters, altar guild members, Eucharistic Ministers, the folks who coordinated the food, and all who helped prepare the sanctuary and fellowship spaces with the appropriate decorations. Many hands worked behind the scenes to make the day welcoming and meaningful, and your efforts were a wonderful expression of Christian service. *I also thank the members and friends who attended the service, offered prayers, shared encouraging words, and celebrated this important milestone*. Your presence was a powerful reminder that ministry is never the work of one person alone. Lutheran ministry is a shared calling in which Pastor and Congregation serve side by side, each bringing unique gifts for the sake of God's kingdom. I received many positive words of feedback for the singing of *"Will You Let Me Be Your Servant*." It is such a beautiful expression of shared ministry put to song.

(Continued on page 4)

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
===
Leah Magers, 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



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	
09/27	86
10/04	81
10/11	97
10/18	108
10/25	121
11/01	102
11/08	102

Fund Balances to-date: October 31, 2026

Fund Name	2026 Budget (only applies to General Fund)	Needed per week to meet budget-GF	Needed @ 43 weeks to meet budget-GF	Actual received @ 43 weeks	Disbursements to-date	To-date Transfers from Contingency Fund	Fund Balances
General Fund	$218,464.96	$4, 201.25	$180,653.72	$150,157.32	$175,57.64		($9,242.38)
Sunday School	NA	NA	NA	$555.02	$740.86		$7,092.50
Youth & Family	NA	NA	NA	$4,639.30	$740.78		$24,807.73
Designated Missions	NA	NA	NA	$13,792.61	$15,359.11		$6,408.15
Undesignated Missions	NA	NA	NA	$665.00	$343.84		$3,304.56
Discretionary Fund	NA	NA	NA	$1,401.00	$1,200.60		$885.11
Capital Improvements	NA	NA	NA	$3,200.00	$		$11,011.02
Gifts and Memorials	NA	NA	NA	$3,615.47	$2,697.62		$11,700.31
Contingency Fund	NA	NA	NA	-0-	$20,994.50		$33,853.78
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-	$13,809.43	$6,013.65
June Only	$12,906.03	-0-	$19,834.36	($914.68)
July Only	$14,786.40	-0-	$13,900.19	($28.47)
August Only	$19,910.82	-0-	$12,197.17	$7,685.18
September Only	$15,947.27	$29,695.19	NA	($9,363.20)
October Only	$12,522.84	$12,402.02	NA	($9,242.38)
November Only				
December Only				

Bethesda Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
14 September 2026

Present: Wade Miller, Jeff Scott, Sherri Hove, Jen Nibe, Marcia Wheeler, Pastor Jonathan Dolan, Lisa Peterson, Nicole Ferguson, Amy Barquist Absent: Rich Heeren, Hans Koehnk
The meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm by President Wade Miller.
Devotions were led by Pastor Jonathan Dolan.

Approval of the Agenda

Nicole Ferguson moved to approve the agenda; Lisa Peterson seconded, and the agenda was approved unanimously.
Approval of the Minutes of the August Meeting
Lisa Peterson moved to approve the minute of the August meeting; Nicole Ferguson seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously.
Financial/Treasurer's Report
Due to some questions on the Treasurer's Report the approval was tabled.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Dolan reported on the boards that he met with last month. He has been attending weekly text study with some of the area pastors. Pastor talked about the last monthly Youth Group of the summer and the start of meeting on a weekly basis again. Pastor has met with both his Mentor Pastor and his ELCA Clergy Coach. Pastor let council know that there are 21 confirmation students this year, up from last year's large class of 18. Monetary or food donations are always welcome. Each weekly meal is approximately $50.00. Please let Lisa know if you are interested. Pastor will be attending the Fall Theological Conference October 4-6 in Cedar Falls. There will be a New Member Class and First Communion Class to be held after the school year starts. Pastor Brackett will be coming for the formal Installation Service in October.

Old Business

- **Parsonage/Church water damage updates** – Roof, Ceiling, and Paint are done. Flooring has been chosen. Callie Rohloff will be in to do additional cleaning, and the carpets will need to be cleaned as well. Discussed having a Capital Fundraising Campaign to fund Parsonage repairs. Will make an announce during a Sunday service.
- **Rally Day** – a successful day was had with good attendance.

New Business

- **Council's role of supervising church employees** – Jeff noted that Pastor Dolan is the direct Supervisor of Church employees. Anyone with any questions or concerns in relation to staff should be directed to Pastor Dolan.
- **Finance/Accounting outside help** – Sherri will confirm a time for Weber Accounting to meet council. Discussed the possibility of Donna helping Leah with additional training as needed at $25 per hour.

Jeff Scott made the motion to have ask Donna to assist with further training for Leah at the rate of $25 per hour; Lisa Peterson seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

- **Installation date** – Different dates were discussed for Pastor Dolan's formal installation. Pending confirmation of Pastor Brackett's availability, October 25 th (Reformation Sunday) was set as the date. A backup date of October 11 th was also discussed. 1 st Communion Class will be on October 18 th, and New Member Class will be on November 1 st .
- **Mutual Ministry Committee** – An announcement was placed in the September Newsletter about the role of the committee and Jen made an announcement during church service.

Board Reports Education - Rally day went well. All ready for the 1 st day of Sunday School and handing out bibles on 9/20.
Deacons - None
Evangelism/Stewardship – Coat Drive will be held through the end of September, and distribution will start the first Monday of October with the Lord's Cupboard. Giving Tree forms will be distributed at school in November.
Worship – Working on Fall and Christmas items.
Trustees – 50% deposit to Neighbors needed for boiler repair. Cost is $2,796.99.
Youth - None
The next council meeting will be held on Monday, October 19, 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 8:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jen Nibe

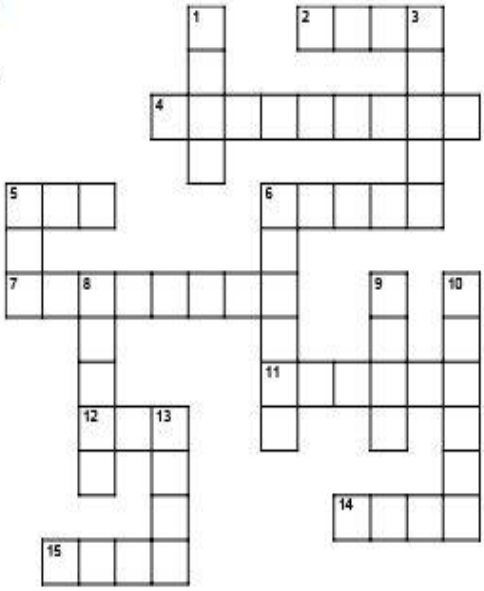


Name: _____ Date: _____

Baby Animals



DIRECTIONS: Fill in the crossword puzzle grid with the names of each animal's baby. Use the word bank if you get stuck.



Across

2. Sheep
4. Crocodile
5. Fox
6. Dog
7. Duck
11. Eagle
12. Bear
14. Deer
15. Kangaroo

Down

1. Horse
3. Rabbit
5. Goat
6. Pig
8. Chicken
9. Cow
10. Cat
13. Human

WORD BANK

BABY	HATCHLING
BUNNY	JOEY
CALF	KID
CHICK	KIT
CUB	KITTEN
DUCKLING	LAMB
EAGLET	PIGLET
FAWN	PUPPY
FOAL	

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Pumpkin Pie Play Dough

Edible Play Dough Recipe

Structured Fun in Sped

What we need:



1. Combine can of pumpkin, 2 cups of cornstarch & 1 tsp. pumpkin pie spice into bowl.



2. Use spoon and hands to mix and make the dough. Mix. Mix. Mix.



3. Take dough out of bowl. Roll, squeeze, shape, cut and play with dough.



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 $353.00.

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.**

Lord's Cupboard Food Pantry

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:

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.

LSI
LUTHERAN SERVICES IN IOWA

Community Matters!

*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 Coupes 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).



(continued from page 1)

So dear Church, as we move forward together, the promises made during the Installation Service will continue to guide us.

I have promised to preach, administer the Sacraments, teach, provide pastoral care, and lead faithfully.

You, as a congregation, have promised to pray, support, encourage, and partner in ministry.

Together, we embark on this journey with confidence, knowing that Christ walks before us and beside us every step of the way.

Again, filled with immense gratitude, thank you for helping make this celebration such a

joyous occasion.

I'd like to believe that not only do I, but all who were in attendance left the

Installation Service filled with hope, united in purpose, and excited for all that God will

accomplish through our shared ministry in the years ahead.

May God continue to bless and guide

us as we grow in faith, serve our neighbors, and proclaim the love of Christ together.

In humble service of the Triune God,

Pastor Jonathan David Dolan

Mutual Ministry Committee

We are pleased to announce the formation of a Mutual Ministry Committee at Bethesda. Current members of the committee are: Hans Koehnk, 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



It's that time of year when generosity and thankfulness is on all of our minds. The group "Love the Lord; Love the Lord's Cupboard" is once again presenting a challenge to help raise funds for The Lord's Cupboard. The challenge is a match of $2,500.00.

We have met this challenge before and we can do it again. This is a "thank you" ahead of time for response to this challenge. Please make your checks out to the Lord's Cupboard and drop in the offering plate, or mail to Bethesda at PO Box 330, or drop off at the church office. Let's help make this challenge – and then some!

If you have any questions, please ask Donna Busch. Thank you.

On the Calendar:

9:00 am November 22: **Christ the King Sunday**; worship with Holy Communion
7:00 pm November 22: **Community Thanksgiving** Worship at Bethesda

9:00 am November 29: **Hanging of the Greens Service**; First Sunday of Advent

9:00 am December 13: **Special Band Prelude with Worship and Christmas Program following**

Band Prelude: All ages welcome! Must be able to read simple music.
Practice date(s) to be determined. Contact Julie Heeren ASAP