



*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  
439 Main St, PO Box 330, Jewell, IA 50130-0330

**Phone:** 515-827-5148

**Email:** bethesda439@gmail.com

**Facebook:** bethesda lutheran church, jewell IA

**Website:** www.bethesdajewell.com

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## June 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**

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**Donna Busch, Admin. Assist.**  
**Lisa Peterson, Custodian**  
**Julie Lutjen, Accompanist**  
**Confirmation Students Sound and Technical Team**

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**Congregation Officers:**  
**Jeff Scott, President**  
**Vacant, Vice-Pres.**  
**Sherri Hove, Treasurer**  
**Sheri Muller, Secretary**

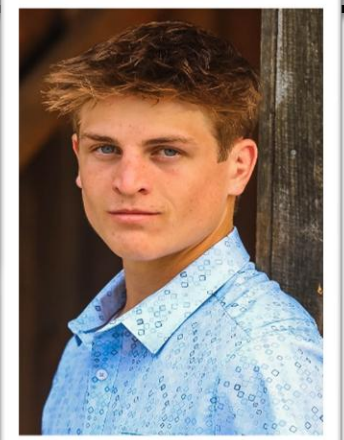
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## SENIOR RECOGNITION

**SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2025**

### 2025 SENIORS

*Connor Deppe*  
*Sydney Flaugh*  
*Nick Severseike*  
*Ashton Williams*  
*Braden Young*



**Upcoming Dates**  
**Worship at Little Wall Lake & Blessing of Pets: June 1, 9am**  
**Vacation Bible School at Elim, Randall; June 16-18, 9am-2pm.**

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

**CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT**

**515-827-5148**

**or CALL A DEACON**

**RICH HEEREN**

**515-520-7867**

**SERGIO GOMEZ 515-310-2096**

**PAT MELCHERT**

**515-451-0389**

**JOSH HILFIKER 515-460-3637**

*This space is reserved for approved Congregation Council Minutes.*



### *Thoughts for Father's Day*

A careful man I ought to be; a little fellow follows me;  
I do not dare to go astray, for fear he'll go the self-same way.

I cannot once escape his eyes; whate'er he sees me do, he tries-  
Like me, he says, he's going to be, the little chap who follows me.

He thinks that I am good and fine, believes in every word of mine:  
The base in me he must not see, the little chap who follows me.

I must remember as I go, through summer's sun and winter's snow,  
I'm building for the years to be, for a little fellow follows me.

-Author unknown

2025 ChurchArt Online™

**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:**

- a. Elect a chairperson who will be the primary contact with the Synod office, congregation council and the congregation.
- b. Represent a cross-section of the congregation (by age, gender, etc.)
- c. Seek to determine the needs of the congregation before the selection process begins.
- d. Interview perspective candidate(s) and make a recommendation of a pastor for congregation's consideration.
- e. The chair of the call committee shall notify prospective candidate of congregation's decision.
- f. Keep synod, congregation council, and congregation informed of progress.

## Attendance

In-Person Attendance		Facebook and cable television	
05/04	84	Weekly Average Viewership – livestream: 227	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.
05/06	30 – Timberland		
05/11	110		
05/18	66		
05/25	NA		
		Please note: Stratford Complete Communications Channel 14 has been “under construction”. It is hoped that the service will return soon.	

## Fund Balances to-date: May 19, 2025

Fund Name	2025 Budget (only applies to General Fund)	Needed per week to meet budget-GF	Needed @ 20 weeks to meet budget-GF	Actual received 20 weeks	Disbursements to-date	To-date Transfers from Contingency Fund	Fund Balances
General Fund	\$186,911.72	\$3,594.46	\$71,889.12	\$64,084.87	\$42,556.77		\$21,528.10
Sunday School	NA	NA	NA	\$512.54	\$226.79		\$7,336.81
Youth & Family	NA	NA	NA	\$2,442.50	\$1,520.76		\$22,008.50
Designated Missions	NA	NA	NA	\$5,078.95	\$2,444.97		\$11,066.27
Undesignated Missions	NA	NA	NA	\$350.00	\$133.00		\$3,113.13
Discretionary Fund	NA	NA	NA	\$948.00	\$559.00		\$1,566.36
Capital Improvements	NA	NA	NA	\$2,211.00	-0-		\$9,011.02
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	\$15,434.29		\$8,667.71	\$14,591.76
May Only	NA		NA	NA
June Only				
July Only				
August Only				
September Only				
October Only				
November Only				
December Only				



This space is reserved for approved Congregation Council Minutes.

## *The joy of generosity*

He who has received much should also give much. It is essential to give a goodly part of what God has allowed us to accumulate. Otherwise, greed and miserliness will seize our hearts and minds. Furthermore, by not giving generously, we will miss the many joys that generosity brings to us. Let us not cheat ourselves of those blessings.

2025 ChurchArt Online™

## June 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 Father's Day Reflection: Amanda's Journey of Hope and Stability**

This Father's Day, we're honored to share the powerful story of Amanda, a young woman whose life has been transformed over the past 13 years through the unwavering dedication of LSI's Host Home program and the compassionate care of Megan D.

Amanda came to LSI with many challenges. With a limited IQ and emotional struggles rooted in past trauma, she had difficulty connecting with others and managing daily life. Before LSI, she lived in institutional settings, heavily medicated, and unable to thrive. Her life was a series of difficult chapters, until she found her match in LSI and Megan.

Megan has been a steady and committed presence in Amanda's life. With unmatched patience, professionalism, and deep care, Megan helped guide Amanda from a place of instability to one of emotional balance. What was once a life of uncertainty is now one of structure, safety, and growth thanks to the loving environment of a Host Home.

Today, Amanda lives with "Momma Mavis," her dedicated Host Home provider, who gives her 24/7 care and inclusion in family life, appointments, and even special needs art classes. The flare-ups that once led to hospital visits are now a thing of the past. Amanda is thriving, living proof that compassion and commitment can change a life.

As Bruce C., Amanda's adoptive father, says: *"LSI and Megan never wavered. I call this stabilization in Amanda's life. The individual care from a non-family member is needed beyond words. Thanks to Mavis and Megan, Amanda's quality of life would not be possible without the LSI Host Home program."*

Amanda, the 25th foster child welcomed by the C. family and their third adoption, is still on her journey and we're honored to walk alongside her.

This Father's Day, we celebrate all the fathers, families, caregivers, and advocates who believe in second chances, and who help make stories like Amanda's possible.

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](http://LSIowa.org) and [facebook.com/LSI.iowa](https://facebook.com/LSI.iowa)*

*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://Facebook.com/LSI.iowa).*



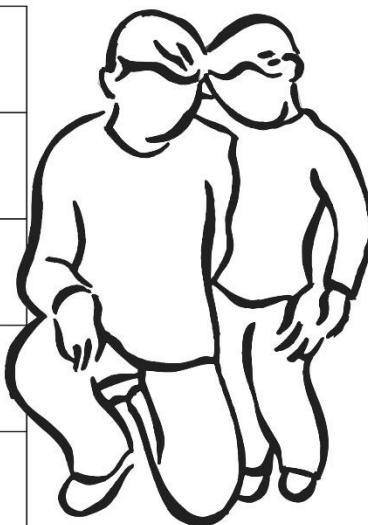
## FATHERS OF FAITH

Fathers do amazing things for their families, but the greatest gift our dads can share with us is their faith in God.

Complete this puzzle to read Isaiah's advice to fathers.

Directions: Working left to right, first write down all the 1's in the word blanks.  
Continue with the 2's and finally the 3's.

1 The	2 as	3 tell	1 living
2 I	3 their	1 the	2 am
3 children	1 living	2 doing	3 about
1 they	2 today	3 your	1 praise
2 parents	3 faithfulness	1 you	



\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_; \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Isaiah 38:19, NIV

## IN MY FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS

Make this keepsake to express love for your dad or another special man this Father's Day.

### What you need:

- White construction paper (11" x 13" sheet)
- Pencil
- Black permanent marker
- Crayons or paint



### What you do:

1. In the center of the paper, trace your foot in pencil. Darken the outline with marker.
2. Color or paint the footprint. Let it dry.
3. Trace your father's foot (same side) on top of your footprint (with yours in the middle of his).
4. Color or paint his footprint. Let it dry.
5. Sign your names and the date at the bottom.



Answers: The living, the living—they praise you, as I am doing today; parents tell their children about your faithfulness. Isaiah 38:19, NIV

**Board of Deacons – No report****Board of Education –**

VBS will be held at Elim Lutheran Church in Randall  
June 16th - 18th, 9am - 2pm  
Ages- Preschool, age 4 through entering 6th grade  
Lunch and Snacks will be provided!

They are looking for volunteers. If you can help for all or part of the time, you may contact:

Stephanie Chance [stephchance14@gmail.com](mailto:stephchance14@gmail.com)

Janie Ostrem [Mjostrem@yahoo.com](mailto:Mjostrem@yahoo.com)

If there are any questions you may also talk to:

Jen Nibe, Amy Barquist, or Karla Alanis Palomo.

**Board of Evangelism/Stewardship – Report from the auction held Sunday, May 11:**

We had 11 live and 16 silent auction items! We raised \$2,840 total for camperships and evangelical/stewardship missions! Thank you to everyone that donated and bought the auctioned items!

**Board of Trustees – No report****Board of Worship – Report: Did not meet in May.****Board of Youth – No report****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.

**RIVERSIDE CAMPER CODES  
FOR 2025**

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





**MASON REED  
ENGELBY**

The Bible verse I chose is  
Isaiah 40:31:

**“Those that trust in the  
Lord shall renew their  
strength.”**

This serves as a reminder  
to place trust in God when  
facing difficulties or  
challenges. I know that  
no matter what obstacles I  
encounter, God will be  
right there.

I want to thank my  
parents, grandparents,  
and God-parents for their  
never-ending love and  
guidance. I also want to  
thank the members of the  
church for helping me to  
walk this journey.

**LANE ALAN WIDICK**

The Bible verse I chose was Joshua 1:9, and it says,

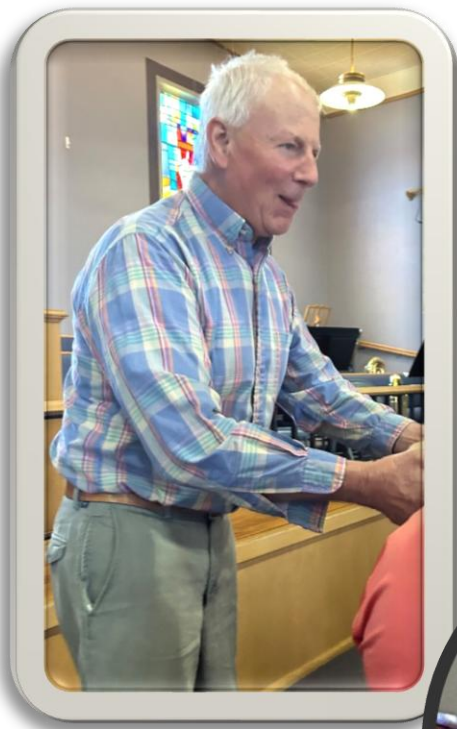
**“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your god is with you wherever you go.”**

I believe that God wants me to be strong and brave, even when life gets hard or scary. He promises that I don't have to face anything alone because He's always with me. Joshua 1:9 reminds me that I can put my trust in God no matter what's happening. When I feel nervous or worried, I know He's right there by my side, giving me the courage I need to keep going.

This verse also shows me that being strong doesn't mean I have to be perfect. It means trusting God even when I don't have all the answers. It reminds me that my strength comes from Him, not just from myself. I know that with God's help, I can handle anything that comes my way.



*The Bethesda Family in Pictures*

















# Community Matters!

Proud Partner of  
Food Bank of  
Iowa

## 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.



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

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 currently collected for Global Good Gifts total over \$700.00.

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 May included...

Darrel Stearns, Jaci Edeker, Carol Stearns, Janet Beary, Judy Greenfield, Pastor Tim Malek