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Wellspring

Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water
John 7:38

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Bethesda Lutheran Church
GATHER...GROW...GO



How Will You Faithfully Respond to the Nudge of the Holy Spirit Today?

~ **Jonathan Dolan**, Associate Pastor of Youth and Family

The Ministry Collaborative Podcast is something that inspires and motivates me to participate in Christian Ministry. It's a conversation led by 1 or 2 of the six pastors or theologians of varying Christian denominations who are the hosts. These hosts invite 1 – 3 people to discuss the predetermined topic each week. Often, the guest(s) are pastors, theologians, professors, deacons, or elders, but other times, the guests have been doctors, local government employees, directors of food pantries, homeless shelters, clothing closets, or other community assistance programs, nurses, teachers, or business owners, all of whom are of varying Christian denominations. The varied guests help reinforce one of the podcast's central points: ministry is not accomplished only through pastors, deacons, or paid office staff. By virtue of our baptisms, the entire Body of Christ is called in the power of the Holy Spirit to be participants in ministry for the sake of the Good News of Jesus Christ, to the glory of the Father.

One of the amazing things I am thankful for is the sheer number of people who volunteer their time, talent, and treasure to accomplish the mission and ministry of the Gospel here at Bethesda. Some people volunteer to be a member of a standing Board or an ad-hoc Committee, sing in the Choir, visit members who are no longer able to come to Worship physically, serve on the Council, volunteer in the food pantry or clothing closet, or prepare and distribute Holy Communion. Whether your volunteer position be in Children's Church, running audio and video for services or one of our other ministries here at Bethesda, thank you for your time, care and talent. Again, I am so grateful that Bethesda is blessed with many wonderful and passionate volunteers! It's like Bethesda members have been listening to the Ministry Collaborative Podcast for years!

Over the years, Bethesda has seen growth in our membership of families with children. In conversation with the folks who have joined over the past three years, a consistent theme is articulated, which I will paraphrase

as follows: "Bethesda doesn't just talk the talk. Bethesda walks the walk." In other words, Bethesda does its best to be faithful to God, faithful to Scripture, and faithful to the neighbor by being a welcoming place for anyone.

Right now, God is offering you an opportunity to be nurtured in your faith by stepping out of your comfort zone and getting involved in a new and exciting way. It doesn't matter if you have been participating in the life of Bethesda for five months, five years, or 50 years. There is room for you here at the table. There are so many ways your untapped gifts can enrich the ministry you've always thought about doing but just hadn't done.

Yet, like many congregations in the United States, Bethesda's volunteer core consists of approximately 25% under 50 and 75% above 50. Not only that, but only about 20% of Bethesda members actively volunteer in some capacity at church. Bethesda Lutheran members have a wealth of knowledge about the ministries of this congregation. Even better, Bethesda has many volunteers ready to share their passions lovingly and joyfully with members who are not yet volunteering for the above examples. I hope you prayerfully consider how your gifts would benefit the life of this congregation, the people who receive the gift of your faithful efforts, and the Christ-like example you are setting for those who look up to you.

Nevertheless, I hope each of you reading this article knows that you are loved and valued by God and this Body of Christ. Thank you for being an essential member of this group of God's beloved children formed in the Christian community. We GATHER to praise God in Worship and fellowship. We GROW to honor God in learning and service. We GO to serve God at work and within our families.

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



Bethesda Council Update

~ **Chelsey Aisenbrey**, Council President

Dear Community,

There is much to be excited about happening in and through Bethesda. Bethesda continues to show God's love through many of our ongoing activities and finds some new ways to reach out and connect.

Bethesda's impact through our clothing room, food pantry, and Savings Suds ministries is tangible. This summer, we have the unique opportunity to serve as a meal distribution site for Ames Community Schools and the Boys & Girls Club. These meals will be free to all children 0 – 18 years old every weekday. It is wonderful to use our building to help fill a need for the community. Meal insecurity is growing in our community, and there is an increased demand for pantries in the summer when school is out. I hope you are able to stop by this summer midday and see lots of smiling faces!

Earlier this month, Bethesda had the honor of confirming five confirmands and welcoming them as adults in the church. Hopefully, you all had a chance to read their faith statements. I'm looking forward to supporting them in this next chapter in their faith journey, and I ask that you continue to keep them all in your prayers.

A key component of all of our faith journeys is who we are spending it with. Within Bethesda, I encourage each of you to continue to build relationships. Bethesda has a number of active groups for people to get involved including OWLs, Sewing Group, Book Club, Ladies Lunch Group, and many others. If you have an idea for a group or event, please reach out to me. We are always trying to find new ways to facilitate some connection and fun!

Looking ahead over the next six months, Bethesda is ramping up for Vacation Bible School. The theme is Created To Be, which follows the theme of the National Youth Gathering. Kids always have a ton of fun at VBS, and I want to proactively thank all of the volunteers and staff that make this possible. It is an important memory for kids, but it takes a tremendous amount of energy, thought, and participation. Please consider supporting this impactful activity – all ages of volunteers are appreciated!

The other significant activity in the months ahead is finalizing the strategic plan. Your feedback through the survey and listening sessions will help guide Bethesda's direction. This is a great opportunity for us to step back, reflect, and determine where we want to go in the years ahead. It can be easy to get preoccupied with day-to-day activities, and this ensures we are continuing to make decisions to live out God's love.

Lastly, I wanted to provide a quick update on the endowment. At the Annual Meeting in January, we voted to take a 5% disbursement from our endowment annually. This year, the money has been used for scholarships for the National Youth Gathering, ELCA College Scholarships, and electronic door locks. Without the generosity of countless people, these opportunities wouldn't be realized. I'm looking forward to continue sharing how this money is being used in support of Bethesda.

If you have any questions, please contact me. I'm honored to serve as your Council President and look forward to the great work we will accomplish together in the months ahead!

Chelsey Aisenbrey



Five-Year Strategic Plan

~ **Bryan Simmons**, Lead Pastor

Dear Beloved in Christ,

French pilot and writer Antoine de Saint-Exupéry once famously wrote, “A goal without a plan is just a wish.” It is with this understanding that we do the work of strategic planning here at Bethesda. It is not enough to want Bethesda to be successful in its mission to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and let the Holy Spirit take care of the rest. Instead, we, as a congregation, seek guidance from the Holy Spirit, and embark on this quest to carefully discern our opportunities and foci, capitalize on the talents and interests within our community, and embolden the work of the wider Church through our strategic contribution to the whole.

Dennis and Marnette Warth have graciously agreed to co-chair the Strategic Planning Taskforce in partnership with me, and I am so grateful for their commitment to this process and desire to see Bethesda proclaim the Gospel at its most effective. Since the beginning of the year, we have engaged in the creation of this plan in our listening phase. Before a single word is drafted, we have first reached out to the congregation and those closely connected to it through our 5-Year Strategic Planning Survey via Survey Monkey.

The survey had 182 responses, our highest response-rate since my arrival in 2015! The key demographics in the survey were an accurate reflection of our community as well, with the majority of the congregation 65 years of age and older and over two-thirds being members of 10 years or more here at Bethesda. About a quarter of the population have children or grandchildren who are at Bethesda. Respondents had a highly favorable view of Bethesda, with a Net Promoter Score of 48 (50 and over is considered “excellent”). According to respondents, our primary form of communication along with our other forms should be the weekly “Living Current” e-newsletter,

and you are reading this article in what over two-thirds of you find effective to extremely effective in its communication.

Notable findings of the survey included these key themes:

- Strengths
 - o Our outreach to the community in service to others.
 - o Our opportunities to gather for worship.
 - o Our opportunities to gather for fun and community.
 - o Our dynamic music offerings.
- Struggles
 - o Our ministry with children, youth, and families.
 - o Our public proclamation of the Gospel to reach out to those beyond these walls.
 - o Our visitation and pastoral care to the homebound.
 - o Our education/Bible study program for adults.

Also of note is the synonymy of Bethesda’s name with our Food Pantry and Clothing Closet with the Ames and surrounding communities as the thing Bethesda is best known for. When asked to describe Bethesda in one word, the top 5 responses were: welcoming, community, caring, outreach, and service. The responses as to where we should focus our time and energy on in the next five years surrounded strengthening our ministry to children, youth, and families, expanding upon our outreach in service to the community, and maintaining strong worship opportunities. By and large, respondents are comfortable with the condition and function of our building insofar as no major changes or additions are desired.

The numerical results of the 5-Year Strategic Planning Survey can be found in the Member Portal on our website, bethesdaames.org.

The next stage of the listening phase was to gather people in open forum where participants were presented with the strengths, struggles and five-year focus items. Below are Marnette and Dennis Warth’s comments, who facilitated the sessions:





In all, 74 Bethesda members attended the nine listening posts with 51 attending in April and 23 in May.

Confidentiality was crucial to ensure those attending would feel comfortable sharing their thoughts. Although notes of each session were taken the names of those in attendance were omitted to ensure anonymity.

Once presented with the survey results, focus of each session was on the five-year focus items. There was excellent discussion in many of these meetings with the meetings often going 15-30 minutes beyond the allotted hour.

When presented with a more immediate issue we would see that the issue was addressed and then communicate this to the person who brought it to our attention.

Children, Youth & Family Ministry was a focal point of many of the listening posts. Engaging youth and families more in worship services & service projects; establishing a mentoring program for youth; modifying confirmation programming to include mentors, small groups, service projects, mission trips and less lecture; providing direction for children's church to ensure teachers are provided needed resources, curriculum is age appropriate and splitting the class by age if numbers support; and informing the congregation about children, youth & family ministry activities. Many asked specifically about the upcoming National Youth Gathering.

There is also an interest in having more frequent adult education opportunities on Sunday mornings. It was suggested that there needs to be a dedicated coordinator of adult education.

We learned that there is interest in having small group ministry at Bethesda. There are small groups that have formed in the past that continue to meet.

Visitation and pastoral care was discussed. Some were not aware that Bethesda has a lay visitation ministry. Others have an interest in being involved in this ministry, but didn't know how to get involved.

The taskforce will now take all of this feedback, combined with social and theological demographic data of the Ames area, and begin the first draft of the plan. The goal is to present this draft to the Congregation Council for approval at the June meeting. Upon approval, this draft will be shared with the governing boards for their feedback and a new draft will be presented to the Council for a 2nd approval.

After a second approval, we plan to share this draft with the congregation at large and host forums for further feedback. After the forums we will prepare a final draft of the plan to present to the congregation for approval at a special congregational meeting, hopefully held in mid to late autumn. Once the plan is approved by the congregation, a new taskforce will be created that will design implementation steps. This process is very similar to the process of the last 5-year strategic plan approved in 2016.

Special thanks to the Warths for their willingness to co-chair this taskforce and a special thanks to all of YOU for letting your voice be known as we focus our efforts to proclaim the Gospel of grace, mercy, and peace in Ames and throughout the world.



Welcome to Our New Members

~Tess Hanson, Director of Marketing and Communications

Bethesda Lutheran Church is delighted to welcome new members, Douglas Mihelich and Katie DuVal Mihelich. As we embrace them into our community, it's worth noting that they are not strangers to Ames. Both of them are proud alumni of Iowa State University, with Katie now serving as a professor in the School of Design and Douglas contributing his expertise as an engineer for Danfoss.



Before officially joining our congregation, Katie took the initiative to participate in the choir, and her presence has been a wonderful addition to our ensemble. Both Douglas and Katie have expressed their appreciation for our welcoming community and the congregation's commitment to reaching out to others. Please welcome Douglas and Katie as they continue their faith journey with us!

First Communion

~Tess Hanson, Director of Marketing and Communications

Sunday, April 21st two youth - Claire Roepke and Susannah Van Dusen - had the honor of receiving their First Communion This year, First Communion was offered to second and third graders within Bethesda and around the community. Supported by family, both girls were eager to take this next step in their Christian lives as Pastor Jonathan proceeded to give the blessings to the children for First Communion.





2024 Confirmation

~Bethesda Staff

On the weekend of May 4th and 5th, we came together as a community to celebrate five eighth graders — Sarah Debner, Noah Hinderaker, Delaney Shirbroun, Evan Smyth, and Kaitlyn Terry —as they took a significant step in their faith journey. These young adults, surrounded by their families and friends, stood before the congregations on both Saturday and Sunday. They not only professed their faith but also led us in prayer and read the weekend texts. After the service Sunday, all attendees gathered in the Commons, continuing the celebration of this faith milestone with a delicious cake with Saturday service providing cake for our confirmands as part of Café Bethesda.

Sarah Isabelle Debner (Mark Debner & Melinda Debner)

Baptismal Sponsors: Henry and Rebecca Lindsey, Abigail Debner, Beverly and Charles Packard

Psalm 91:11 "For God will command God's angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways."

God is the Supreme Being who is the Creator of the universe. This includes everything that exists within it, such as planets, stars, galaxies, and all forms of life. The idea of God as the Creator is often associated with the concept of divine power and intelligence, as it is believed that only an all-knowing and all-powerful being could create such a complex and diverse universe. This belief has been a central tenet of many religions throughout history and continues to be a source of comfort and inspiration for millions of people around the world, including me.

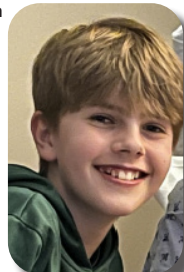


Noah Allen Hinderaker (Dan & Diane Hinderaker)

Baptismal Sponsors: Brett Brinkmeyer, Brady Brinkmeyer, Erik and Susan Olson

Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him and he will make straight your paths."

When I go to church, I think about how much God gave me, gave us and what God has done for us. I think that coming to church and worshipping our Lord is what's asked of me because worshipping God is important to do in our journeys to build a more confident faith because it will grow us and grow our understanding of God's love. I will continue to go to church in my adult life and participate in my congregation.



Delaney Mae Shirbroun (Darian & Holly Shirbroun)

Baptismal Sponsors: Daphne Willwerth, Rene Corell, Kim Bartosh

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that God gave God's only Son, so that whoever would believe in the Son would not perish but have eternal life."

In Matthew 3:18-22, a woman who is desperate need of healing touches Jesus's cloak knowing it will heal her. Touching the cloak wasn't what healed her, it was her faith in Jesus. Jesus then said to the women, "Take heart, daughter," he said, "your faith has healed you." And the woman was healed at that moment. My faith heals me all the time, I pray to God and he hears my prayer then answers it.



Evan James Smyth (Allison & Scott Smyth)

Baptismal Sponsors: Judith and Terry Kenealy

Romans 8:28 "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love God, who have been called according to God's purpose."

The Church asks me to have a deep and personal belief in Jesus Christ. It also asks me to live according to the teachings of the Bible. It asks me to participate in the church's life by making sure I volunteer and help in my community. The Church helps motivate my faith to care for God's gifts and resources. It asks me to continually grow in my faith and always try to understand more of what the Bible teaches.



Kaitlyn Marie Terry (Nathan & Julie Terry)

Baptismal Sponsor: Jessie Mireles

Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

I understand Jesus Christ to be the Son of God who came to Earth and saved humanity. He performed many miracles, taught many how to love others and practice forgiveness. I understand Jesus to be the one that sacrificed his life for our sins. I understand Jesus to have a big impact on how people all around the world treat other people, especially with compassion, humility, and love. I think what it means to give him the titles of LORD and Christ recognizes and represents his authority towards our world. continually grow in my faith and always try to understand more of what the Bible teaches.





Bethesda Hosts Community Easter Egg Hunt

~Chelsey Ray

On Saturday, March 23, over 50 Easter egg hunters participated in our annual Bethesda Lutheran Community Easter Egg Hunt! In typical Iowa fashion, there was lovely March snow the night before the event, so volunteers hid approximately 3,000 Easter eggs inside the church! These eggs were stuffed during our Lenten soup suppers with treats donated by the Bethesda congregation. Thank you to all who volunteered and donated to make this event possible! Christina welcomed each family and helped register participants for a raffle to win gift cards from Marmalade Moon, Dog-eared Books, and No Escape Iowa.



Littles 0-5 years old collected eggs from the sanctuary.

Kindergarten through second graders invaded the Splash Children's Church rooms in search of eggs. Third through fifth graders took to the Flood Youth Group rooms, where they found eggs in couch cushions, pool table pockets, and bean bag chairs. After all the treasure was gathered into baskets and bags, families gathered to enjoy crafts designed by Lori, a photo booth featuring our Bethesda Easter Bunnies, and delicious breakfast snacks.

Our annual Community Easter Egg Hunt event is a testament to the power of community involvement. Planned by the Children's Education and Youth Board (CEYB), it's an open invitation for our community to come together and enjoy some spring fun at church. If you're interested in being part of next year's event, there are various ways you can contribute. You could consider filling Easter eggs during the Lenten Soup Suppers, supporting the event planning, volunteering on the day of the event, or simply stopping by to join the party! For any queries, feel free to reach out to Pastor Jonathan Dolan or Chelsey Ray. We're excited to see the event continue to grow, bringing our community families together for fun and fellowship each spring.





Congratulations Graduates

~Bethesda Staff

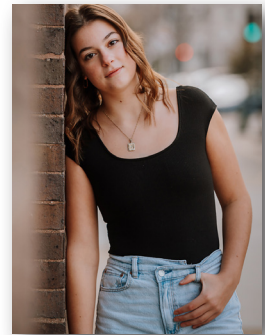
Jackson Goeders (Tom & Jenny Goeders) **Ames High School**

Jackson plans on attending Iowa State University for Computer Science with a minor in cyber security.



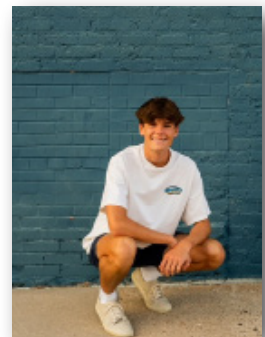
Mary Greenfield (Phil & Kristina Greenfield) **Ames High School**

After graduating from Ames High School, Mary plans to attend The University of Iowa next fall and pursue a double major in Marketing and Sports Management. At Ames High, Mary has received an Academic Letter each year. She has also been involved in volleyball, track, band, jazz band, and yearbook. In addition to extracurricular activities, Mary works as a lifeguard, teaches swimming lessons, and leads lifeguarding classes for Ames Parks and Recreation. Mary looks forward to being a Hawkeye, but promises to still occasionally cheer for the Cyclones and Panthers--her parents' alma maters.



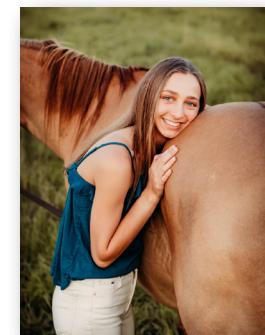
Henry Gustafson (Tim & Kendra Gustafson) **Ames High School**

Henry has been a part of Bethesda Lutheran Church his whole life and would like to thank the church for teaching and showing him a faith that he will follow his entire life. Henry is so glad he could grow his faith at this church and is ready to grow it more as he enters into his post-high school years. Henry will be going to trade school to become an electrician. Thank you to the Bethesda congregation for all the support over the years.



Reese Henderson (Jeff & Keri Carstens) **Gilbert High School**

Reese Henderson plans to attend Iowa State University to major in graphic design this fall!





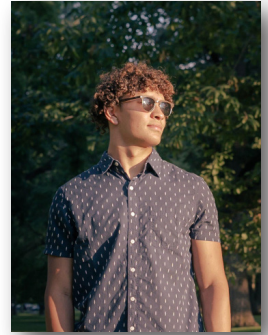
Roger Lopez (Yamilet Lopez)
West Marshall High School

Despite arriving in the U.S. during his fifth-grade year with no knowledge of English, he has persevered and is now graduating with a bilingual high school diploma, boasting an impressive 3.8 GPA.

Throughout his high school journey, Roger has been actively involved in various extracurricular activities. He has demonstrated his versatility by participating in sports such as baseball, wrestling, track and field, and particularly excelling in his favorites: soccer and football. Additionally, during his time at West Marshall, he engaged in the marching band, FFA, and served on the student council.

Roger has set his sights on pursuing a degree in Construction Management Technology at DMACC in Ankeny, where he will commence his studies this August. Before embarking on this new chapter of his life, he plans to savor his last summer at home, relishing the joys of being an independent college student.

Thank you for celebrating this milestone with us.



Owen Nettleton (Dan & Karen Nettleton)
Ames High School

Owen plans to attend Iowa State University in the fall to major in data science. He has been taking flying lessons, and is close to getting his private license. He hopes to become a commercial pilot.





Venezuela Family Update

~Diane Pierce. ASIP Co-Chair

To the members of Bethesda, thank you! The response to the letter asking for support for the Venezuelan family was overwhelming. We hope your support will continue into the years before their asylum hearing, scheduled for June 2026. Thanks also to our ASIP partners as second sponsors and its members who have helped so much in welcoming the family. These are dangerous times for asylum seekers, especially in this country.

We wanted to update the congregation about some significant events in the lives of the Venezuelan family of four: Jose, Yennyfer, Tadeo, and Ana Paula.

God works in mysterious ways. We encountered difficulties in finding a lawyer to take the family's case. However, through Cliff, Bethesda's accountant, we were able to secure an extremely competent lawyer who will guide the family through their Asylum hearing, a crucial step in their journey.

Concerning the two children's involvement in the community, Tadeo, their six-year-old son, is thriving in kindergarten, and Ana Paula, their 3-year-old daughter, is making great strides in Early Head Start. She has been interviewed for Head Start and eagerly awaits acceptance to start in the fall. Tadeo enjoyed playing soccer in the spring, a testament to his growing comfort in the community.

Chris Cowan was working with Jose and Yennyfer on conversational English. We are taking a break from that while Jose and Yennyfer take English classes at Memorial Lutheran. DMACC did not have a beginner's English class, but Memorial Lutheran did. We hope to start up the conversational English classes again soon.

The biggest news is Jose and Yennyfer got married and are now the Valero family! Yennyfer and Ana Paula were beautiful and Jose and Tadeo looked very sharp.

Just days after the wedding, all four members received Social Security cards, Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for the youngest family member, and work permits for Jose and Yennyfer. Any suggestions for possible employment will be greatly appreciated.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who attended the wedding and to the women of Bethesda who selflessly helped at the reception: Pat Frette, Sandy Philips, Jan Melby, Anne Hogberg, Pat Swanson, and Darlene Schmidt. Your presence and support have been invaluable. We also appreciate Jim Stewart and Duane Huffer for the live stream and video, Hannah Mae Photography for capturing the beautiful moments, and Nancy and Randy Ewing for their soulful rendition of Ave Maria! Special thanks to Pastor Russ Melby for officiating and Jean Hansen for translation. We are especially grateful to the anonymous financial sponsors of the wedding. Your contributions, whether in time, talent, or resources, have made this wedding a truly memorable event and have shown us the power of our community's support.





Tanzania Ministries Update

~Lori Woodcock

The Tanzania Ministry Team has recently had some opportunities to help our friends in the Shighatini Parish. The first opportunity came in January when our friend Harrison asked if we knew any charities who could provide hearing aids for a parishioner. Zawadi had become very ill at the end of 2023 and as a result, lost a portion of her hearing. The ministry team decided to give her the \$200 that it cost to see an audiologist and get fitted for hearing aids. Zawadi is happy to report that she can hear everything now, and she is appreciative of the generosity of Bethesda.



The second opportunity came in March when the team discussed providing a laptop for our scholarship recipient, Vida. Vida is attending nursing school and while a computer is not required, it makes her studies easier. The ministry team gave Vida \$500 that she used to buy a new laptop and she is overjoyed to have this new tool as she continues with school. She wants to thank Bethesda for the support and promises to pass all of her exams.

Along with the computer money, our annual donation of \$1200 was sent to the Shighatini Women’s Group as they prepare to sew uniform pieces for children in the community. The group has already started the process of identifying the children who need new uniform pieces so they can finish out this school year and begin again in July. Pictures of the distribution will be shared when we get them.

And finally, an update from our Tanzania Youth Trip that took place in 2019. Bethesda partnered with St. Andrews on this trip and the group was able to meet the parishioners of the Agape Church in Kongei. In 2019, the congregation was just starting to build their new church and our youth were able to help build the walls by passing buckets of cement. Earlier this year, Carol Putz, a member of St. Andrews, sent us a current picture of the church. As you can see, it is not finished, but it looks quite different. We thank Carol for this special update.



Music at Bethesda - Summer 2024

~ Randy and Nancy Ewing, Co-Directors of Music

As the program year comes to an end, we want to thank the many volunteers who participated in our music ensembles, provided special music, or served as a cantor throughout the year. Bethesda is blessed with so many talented musicians – thank you ALL for sharing your time **AND** talents!

Both the Carillon Choir and the Bethesda Adult Choir are ready to enjoy a much-deserved break, and we are looking forward to a variety of special music offerings to fill the void. There are no age requirements when it comes to sharing your musical talents to enhance the Saturday or Sunday worship experiences. If you’ve prepared something for one of the services, consider sharing it at both services! Please contact Randy or Nancy Ewing (rewing@bethesdaames.org or newing@bethesdaames.org) if you would like to offer a special music selection at one of our services this summer!

There will be two opportunities to sing in a choir this summer. Once for a bass clef choir (all tenors and basses) and once for a treble clef choir (all sopranos and altos). Watch the Living Current and the weekly Current for details. You do NOT need to be a regular member of the Bethesda Choir to participate in these offerings!

Summer always seems to fly by, and before we know it, fall is upon us. As always, we love welcoming new members to the Carillon Choir and Bethesda Choir! Please consider joining one (or both) of these ensembles in the fall. No experience is necessary; we have a great time together, and our motto is always, “Make a joyful noise!”

2024 Scandinavian Coffee Assistance Needed

~Lindsay Peters, Bethesda Women Board President

Dear beloved members of Bethesda,

I am writing to invite you to take part in the Scandinavian Coffee and Craft Fair 2024 which will be held Saturday, October 26th from 9:00am until 2:00pm. I know this might seem awfully early in the year, but this is our biggest annual fundraiser, so we need to start organizing efforts and calendars right away!

There are many positions yet to be filled and details to discuss, but most importantly, we need volunteers like you to make this fundraiser a success! No prior experience is required to join the baking workshops, and they are a great opportunity for fun and friendly fellowship with other Bethesda members. Even a few hours of your time really make a difference - many hands make light work! There are opportunities for youth and adults to get involved.



Please consider chairing or serving on one or more of the committees listed below.

Baking Workshop Leaders – Baking Workshop Leaders are responsible for planning and leading volunteers at designated baking workshop to create enough cookies to fill assortment boxes (200-400 of each), Tea-table (300 of each) and Bakeshop (300+ of each). Leaders are responsible for setting up kitchen and equipment before volunteers arrive, overseeing the production of baked goods, packing and storing baked goods, and cleaning up the kitchen when their workshop is over. As well as tracking attendance of workshop and writing a report for the baking workshop binder. Binders with recipes available for pick-up in the Women's Ministries room (207). Each Baking Workshop Leader will decide the date and time for their workshop to be held. We need Baking Workshop Leaders for the following products: Kringla, Potato Cakes, Ginger Snaps.

Baking Workshop Leaders

Krumkake - Carolyn Ahlstrom & Elaine Edwards

Rosettes - Lindsay Peters

Lefse - Vicki John & Dorothy Dyer Hansen

Spritz - Janice Ballantyne & Elaine Edwards

Tea Rings - Gretchen Mosher

Kringla - LEADER NEEDED

Potato Cakes - LEADER NEEDED

Ginger Snaps- LEADER NEEDED

Assortment Box Assembly - Randi Peters & Darlene Wolters

Clean-Up Crew – CHAIRPERSON NEEDED

This chairperson is responsible for coordinating a group of volunteers to wipe down tables, put away furniture and assist with clearing decorations and/or transporting them to storage areas, and removing signs. (Starting with bringing in the Dala horses from outside.), as well as coordinating efforts with Boy Scouts.

Photographer – CHAIRPERSON NEEDED

The position is responsible for taking pictures at the baking workshops, set-up and decorating, coordinating with the Publicity Chair for slide show pictures, and taking pictures on the day of the event.

Publicity – CHAIRPERSON NEEDED

This chairperson is responsible for creating and distributing Scandinavian Coffee publicity through posters, Facebook page,



local magazines and newspapers, and getting the banner updated with correct dates and times. Also working with Tess and the SC Photographer to create a slide show for Bethesda Commons with pictures from the various Scandinavian Coffee set-up, decorating, and workshops to be shown during the event.

Decorating Committee- This committee is responsible for taking decorations out of storage to decorate the church for the event. They are also responsible for returning decorations to their designated storage place after the event. Each committee member is responsible for their designated area. These areas include:

- Grandma's Attic - Kathy Harris & Nancy Jansen
- Bakeshop - Vicki & Lance John
- Commons - Joyce Vegge
- Link - VOLUNTEER NEEDED
- Upstairs Hallway - VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Bake Shoppe - *Gretchen Mosher*

This chairperson is responsible for staffing the bakeshop with volunteers, coordinating storage and baked goods inventory with the bakeshop leaders and BW Coordinator, pricing baked goods to be sold, and coordinating bake goods drop-off, ordering packaging supplies and assembling and filling assortment boxes. This chair will also need to organize training for Square (point of purchase system).

Meatball Window - *Lindsay Peters & Brad McDonald*

This chairperson is responsible for requesting a meatball donation from Burke as well as ordering meatballs for purchase (matching requested donation or more), coordinating pick-up of ordered meatballs and payment. Day of event, this Chair will help prepare meatballs and sides (bread, potatoes, etc) to sell from the Bethesda kitchen window and oversee the serving and selling of meatballs and sides.

Brew Crew - *Richard Roepke & Yamilet Lopez*

The Coffee Brewing Crew Chair is responsible for coordinating volunteers to help brew coffee, fill water stations, the purchase of the coffee to be served, and the purchase of coffee related items.

Dish Pit - *Steve Peters*

This chairperson is responsible for coordinating volunteers to help collect and wash all dirty dishes, running the commercial dishwasher, determining which items are dishwasher safe, washing non-dishwasher safe items by hand, and putting dishes away after event.

Tea Table - *Diane Hinderaker*

This Chairperson is responsible for decorating the Tea-table, polishing and setting the silver coffee service set, linens for tea-table, coordinating volunteers to tray the cookies and restock the table, scheduling tea pourers, keeping count of how many patrons have been serviced (counting plates), cutting apples and cheese, and collecting offerings. Also scheduling greeters for the doors and halls.



Donations/Baking Supplies/Kitchen Coordinator – *Lindsay Peters*

This chairperson is responsible for shopping for baking supplies requested by baking workshop leaders, inventory of baking supplies, kitchen, inventory of baked goods made in workshops, coordination of freezer space, help recruit volunteers and publicize baking workshop schedule, scheduling kitchen with church office. Also responsible for requesting donations from local grocery and convenience stores for baking supplies, bread, milk, potatoes, etc.

Treasurer – *Janice Ballantyne & Vicki Sivesind*

This position is responsible for coordinating cash banks for the bakeshop and collection from kitchen, Bakeshop, Tea Table offering, and Grandma’s Attic, collecting receipts for reimbursement, counting money, reconciling credit card transactions, depositing event profits, and generating a financial report. Also responsible for payment to entertainment (Fiddler).

Grandma's Attic/Craft Fair Coordinator – *Jeanne Stewart*

This Chairperson is responsible for coordinating vendor spaces with church office, recruiting vendors, collecting vendor fees, coordinating with Publicity chair to advertise vendors, coordinating with set-up for vendor tables and chairs, communicating any special needs from vendors (electricity, carts, Wi-Fi) and placing signs attracting patrons.

Volunteer for VBS

~Jonathan Dolan, Associate Pastor of Youth and Family

Our annual Vacation Bible School is coming to Bethesda Lutheran Church June 24-27! This opportunity for the youth in our community to experience God’s love in their lives is being co-led by Pastor Jonathan Dolan, our Associate Pastor for Youth and Family Ministry, and Nancy Ewing, our Co-Director of Worship!

This year, we are proud to offer two sessions tailored to two separate age groups, all united around the theme of “Created to Be.” Our sessions provide a safe and inclusive space for youth to explore their authentic selves as God has created them to be. The VBS youth will learn about how God has created them to be free, authentic, brave, disruptive disciples of Christ. Even if they stumble in their journey, God’s love for them never wavers.

The morning Session, from 8 – 11, will be led by Nancy Ewing. This session was developed for potty-trained 3-year-olds to those who have just completed kindergarten.



There will be crafts, games, songs, and snacks, and the youth will hear stories from the Bible. There will be lots of time for our youngest ones to interact with one another and make new friends they may not have met before! Our youth participating in the morning are expected to have already had breakfast.

The PM Session from 5:30 – 8, led by Pastor Jonathan Dolan, offers an opportunity for Youth to create new friendships. We look forward to seeing your children make new friends and have a great time at VBS!

Want to volunteer? A poster board has been placed in the Welcome Center for you to sign up. Each session will need at least three adult volunteers. Volunteers are also needed to help with crafts and games in the kitchen. There will also be a chance to donate food and supplies; a list will be available by early June.



Blind/Low Vision Support Group at Bethesda

~ Bethesda Staff

As Bethesda Lutheran Church continues its GATHER, GROW, GO mission, we extend support through and to Ames and our surrounding communities. While Bethesda is known locally for its ministries, clothing closet, and food pantry, some may be surprised to learn that Bethesda offers a meeting space for a blind and low-vision support group. The support group, arranged by Bethesda's own Jean Nicol Jahren, meets monthly, with some exceptions, and is growing. It is more than just a meeting, it's a community where those sight impaired can gather with others facing similar challenges. It's a place to share hardships, but also to contribute to the conversation and find support.

Many members, including those not affiliated with Bethesda, find their way to us via CyRide. This transportation option is highly valued as it provides a reliable, scheduled ride to and from our building. This means that individuals in the blind and low vision support group can easily gather at Bethesda for their meetings in the afternoon and enjoy socializing with the friends they have made through the group. In fact, for the group's May meeting, representatives from CyRide were present to discuss the various options and resources they offer for those with disabilities. Some group members even had the opportunity to tour the CyRide minibus, further enhancing their understanding and comfort with the service.

Bethesda Lutheran Church continues to be a beacon of inclusivity and community. We are committed to providing a warm environment for people from different walks of life to gather in, days before or after weekend worship. Our doors are open to all, and we strive to create a space where everyone feels welcome and valued.





Join in the Fellowship Fun!

~ Bethesda Staff

In addition to more extensive ministry operations, Bethesda offers Fellowship Groups for congregation members. Fellowship Groups are a more laid-back approach to strengthening the ties with others in the congregation. From Older Wiser Lutherans (O.W.L.s), a community for those 60 and above that meet in the Commons for hymn sings, puzzle and game swaps, and walking down memory lane to Ladies Lunch Bunch or Book discussions, there's a place for all congregation members to get to know one another outside of Bethesda. If there isn't an existing group you could see yourself attending, you can always take the initiative and get a new fellowship group up and running.

To view current Fellowship Group opportunities, visit BethesdaAmes.org/learn/fellowship-groups.





June 2024 – School is out, but LSI continues to serve

School may be out for the summer, but LSI continues to serve Iowans year-round. Our Early Childhood team continues their in-home visits, ensuring young families are supported and connected to their community as they raise the next generation of Iowans. Our therapists are talking and, most importantly, listening to individuals struggling with mental health challenges, difficult situations at home, and seemingly simple everyday problems. Children in our Foster Care and Adoption services are bonding with their foster parents as they grow and learn in their community. Immigrant and refugee learners gather at LSI offices in Des Moines, Sioux City, and Waterloo to attend class as they prepare for their citizenship test, learn how to become financially stable, practice their English skills, and more. Global Greens farmers are busy at the farm or selling their produce at the Global Greens Farmers Market in Des Moines.

Summer is a great time to get involved with LSI! Volunteer with our Immigrant and Refugee Community Services, check our social media pages to see what donations our services need most, or give a financial gift to support numerous services benefiting children and families across the state. Visit our website (LSIowa.org) to learn more about getting involved this summer.

For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.



The Wellspring magazine is published quarterly by Bethesda Lutheran Church, a Congregation of the Southeastern Iowa Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturdays @ 5:30 pm | Sundays @ 9:30 am
Livestreamed at www.bethesdaames.org
and Facebook [BethesdaAmes](https://www.facebook.com/BethesdaAmes)

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Associate Pastor - Youth & Family - Jonathan Dolan
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We invite you to join our community, which is committed to inclusion, racial equity and anti-racism. We share in God's abundant grace knowing that we cannot be separated from the love of God by our age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, marital status, political beliefs, socioeconomic status, physical or mental abilities or faith background.

For more information on our inclusivity visit:
<https://www.reconcilingworks.org/RIC/>

NOTE: please contact Tess Hanson at 232-6256 or contact@BethesdaAmes.org with requests /comments, or to submit an article for the Spring issue (deadline TBD).

All submissions to Bethesda Lutheran Church's *The Wellspring* magazine are subject to editing for clarity, space, and content.



GRIEF SHARE™

LOSS OF A SPOUSE

June 2nd from 2:00 – 4:00 PM in the Commons

TREASURER NEEDED: Help the Crop Walk Leadership Team
You will...

- Meet with the team 8-9 times a year to help plan the walk
- Help on the day of the walk (Oct. 13, 2024)
- Collect checks or cash that have been turned in to send to Church World Service.

If interested in the position, or if you would like further details, contact Rod Fischer at videoguy@iastate.org.

JOIN BETHESDA'S AV TEAM!

We always welcome new people to assist with sound/slides/camera during worship services and other events

If interested contact: Randy Ewing (rewing@bethesdaames.org) or Nancy Ewing (newing@bethesdaames.org)

Volunteer for VBS!

Congregation members are invited to lend their time and talents to Created To Be: VBS. Volunteers can greet attendees, lead crafts and games, or help in the kitchen for the morning or evening sessions. Sign up on the poster board by the Welcome Center if interested.

Thank you for helping us make VBS great!

Now Is The Time

A Study of the ELCA Declaration to People of African Descent modified for Bethesda Lutheran Church of Ames, IA

Now is the Time is a four week study led by Glenn Connor and Larry Otteman that meets in person after Sunday worship June 9, 16, 23 and 30 or join a Zoom class on Thursday from 7:00 to 8:00PM on June 6, 13, 20 and 27. You can mix the two classes. Let Larry know of your interest and for which format at larryaotteman@gmail.com and he will send you the document or you can pick up a copy in the office. This study is presented by the Reconciling in Christ Ministry Team.

Volunteer for the Clothing Room

Two volunteers needed the second Tuesday of the month for the clothing room from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Contact Kathy Harris to volunteer ~ kmh1951@msn.com

Upcoming AMOS Events

June 2nd, 3:00 p.m. – Delegate Assembly

AMOS | A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy

Bethesda Lutheran Church
1517 Northwestern Avenue
Ames, Iowa 50010

www.BethesdaAmes.org

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VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
JUNE 24 - 27
1517 NORTHWESTERN AVE.
AGES 3 - KINDERGARTEN ~ 8 - 11 A.M.
1ST - 5TH GRADE ~ 5:30 - 8 P.M.
REGISTER 

CREATED TO BE
AN UNFINISHED WORK OF ART

Registration is \$5 and includes a t-shirt for all youth, a mid-morning snack for the 8 - 11 a.m. session and a meal for the 5:30 - 8 p.m. session.

