

Bethesda Lutheran  
Church  
703 Pine St.  
Moorhead, IA 51558

# Bethesda News—

## April 2019

### **Bethesda's Reason for Belonging...**

**Bethesda Lutheran Church exists to...**

- **Provide a worship center in which to experience God's presence**
- **Equip people with a faith that works in real life**
- **Send people into the world in Jesus' name to serve.**

### **Inside This Month:**

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**Church Phone: 712-886-5241**  
**Worship Service: 8:45 AM Sunday**  
**Sunday School 10:00 AM Sunday**  
**Interim Pastor Steve Para**  
Cell Ph 785-212-0331  
Home Ph 712-600-6442  
stephen.pera@gmail.com

We have been through snow, ice, cold, storm and flood, and now we are into spring, warming days and all the signs of new life. Behind it, we may detect the mysterious and powerful hand of our Creator God. We are into Lent and this month will bring us to a spiritual focal point, observing Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the Last Supper with his disciples, his betrayal, suffering and bitter death, and the empty tomb that proclaims resurrection and victory.

Wouldn't it be great if we could all travel to Jerusalem and gather with Christian sisters and brothers from around the world to remember and observe these events in the place where they actually happened? I think it would. But, wait. We don't have to go there. We have a community that we can gather with right here. Together we will reverently listen as the story unfolds again. It will take us to the depth of darkness that exists in the human condition and infects life around us. It will show us the breadth and the depth of God's love, the power that comes

President—Ed Hans  
Vice President—Russell Stanislav  
Secretary—Jolene McDonald  
Treasurer—David McWilliams  
Financial Secretary—Sharon Holverson  
Other Board Members—Mike Vaughn, Alan Johnson and Jim Rains

to rescue. It whispers to us once again, "This is for you." This is for me" This is for we." I know that is incorrect grammar. It is intentional. By these acts, God forms us into a 'we', and we become the proclaimers of a new day, new life and hope in a dying world.

Let's all be part of making this a deeply meaningful and deeply celebrate time. Let us strive to be the change that this good news proclaims. Let us support and care for one another. Let us be busy, strengthening the bonds of community among us, reaching out to those around us and doing God's work in the world.

Pastor Steve Pera



**Holy Week** Holy Week is the week leading up to Easter Sunday. As we move through this week, we pay special attention to the story of Christ's death and resurrection and the good news of forgiveness, grace and love that we are given through

Christ's sacrificial death on the cross and resurrection from the grave. Join us for worship throughout the week as we reflect on and celebrate the love of Christ Jesus.

### **Palm Sunday—April 14—8:45**

**AM Worship—**The service begins with Shouts of Hosanna as we welcome Christ as our King! How quickly hearts can change as our sins send our King to the cross to die.



### **Maundy Thursday—April 18, 7:30 PM**

**Worship.—**"This is my command, that you love one another as I have loved you." Christ loves us by welcoming us to His table and serving us with his very life.



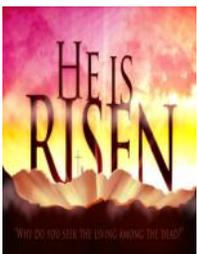
### **Good Friday—April 19, 7:30 PM**

**Worship at the Moorhead Christian Church.** "It is Finished..." Christ says as he bows his head in death. He has forgiven all our sins...now we wait and see what God might yet have planned! Come and remember Christ's "Good" Sacrificial Love!



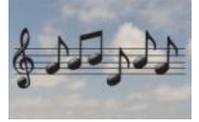
### **Easter Sunday—April 21, 6:30 AM**

**Sunrise Worship Service.—Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!** Because he lives we shall live also! We worship with joy and celebrate the good news! Breakfast follows, served by Bethesda Youth.



## **Share Your Talent With Music**

Music adds meaning, joy, and reflection time to worship. Special music is ALWAYS appreciated and it is especially meaningful during Holy Week and Easter. If you have special music to share please let Pastor Steve or Deb Lauritsen know. Thank you to everyone who shares their voice...as a solo, in the choir, and in congregational song each week. The music of Bethesda is a very Joyful Noise to the Lord!



## **Decorating with Lilies**

Easter Lilies help remind us of the Good News of Easter! The white flower reminds us of Christ's forgiveness while the yellow center reminds us of the new day/new beginning that Christ gives us in rising from the dead.



If you would like to contribute an Easter Lily for our Easter Sunday worship in memory or honor of a loved one, please talk to Mary Heiber. Lilies are \$10 this year.

## **Easter Breakfast Set Up**

Bethesda Youth and friends will set-up for Easter Breakfast on **Saturday, April 20 at 9 AM**. Everyone is encouraged to come and help. The free-will offering received at Breakfast will go to help cover the cost of Bible Camp and other youth activities.

Thank you to Russell Stanislav for organizing the Breakfast this year and to the team of volunteers who are helping with egg casseroles and breakfast preparation! Please plan on staying for breakfast and enjoying the time together as we celebrate the Good News that Christ has risen and the power of sin and death has been destroyed.

## Apr/May Schedules

### April Ushers:

\*Alan Johnson  
Roger Hansen  
Russell Stanislav

### May Ushers:

\*Alan Johnson  
Roger Hansen  
Russell Stanislav

### Scripture Readers:

Apr 7 - Alan Johnson  
Apr 14 - Kevin Johnson  
Apr 21 - Lisa Johnson  
Apr 28 - Mark Johnson  
May 5 - Sam Johnson  
May 19 - Diane Kalskett  
May 26 - Sharon Lee

### Acolytes:

Apr 7 - Chenoa & Aiyana  
Apr 14 - Novie & Hadlie  
Apr 21 - Chenoa & Aiyana  
Apr 28 - Novie & Hadlie  
May 5 - Chenoa & Aiyana  
May 12 - Novie & Hadlie  
May 19 - Chenoa & Aiyana  
May 26 - Novie & Hadlie

### Communion Dates:

Apr 7 - First Sunday  
Apr 18 - Maundy Thursday  
Apr 21 - Third Sunday  
May 5 - First Sunday  
May 19 - Third Sunday

### Altar Care:

Apr - Mary Hieber &  
Cathy Stephens

May - Colleen Shol

### Altar Colors:

Mar 6 - Apr 14 - Purple  
Apr 18 - White  
Apr 19 - Black  
Apr 21 - June 2 - White

### Attendance and Offerings

Mar 3 - 34 - \$2045.00  
Mar 6 - 25 - \$119.65  
Mar 10 - 27 - \$940.00  
Mar 13 - Cancelled  
Mar 17 - 36 - \$410.00  
Mar 20 - 21 - \$60.00  
March 24 - 31 - \$581.00  
March 27 - 24 - \$85.00  
March 31 - 32 - \$410.00  
Food 4 You - \$532.96  
World Hunger - \$127.00

## BLC Lenten Service Project

Please Share What You CAN  
By Giving a Helping Hand!

Pantry Food Drive  
Supporting *Open Door Cupboard*  
and to help fund *Food 4 You*

Please help us collect nonperishable food items to help stock our local food pantries. We will be collecting food donations the entire Lenten season at Bethesda.

Cash donations will go to *Food 4 You* where each dollar will purchase 11 pounds of food to distribute. Our goal is to get enough donations to fund 2019 pounds of food.

## LSI News

### National Child Abuse Prevention Month

According to the Iowa Department of Human Services, 8,558 Iowa children were found to be abused in 2017. The most common forms of abuse included denial of critical care, physical injury, exposure to illegal drugs and sexual abuse.

Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) helps combat child abuse through prevention, safety, and stability services, as well as mental and behavioral health treatment.

Through regular in-home visits to families, LSI's Early Childhood Services prevent child abuse by giving parents the support, education, and resources they need to build a healthy, stable home for their children. In 2018, our Early Childhood programs provided more than 14,000 in-home visits to families.

LSI's Family Safety, Risk, and Permanency Services help children and families already involved in a crisis or abuse situation to become safer and more stable, and LSI's Bremwood and Beloit Residential Treatment Centers serve many children and youth who have experienced trauma from past abuse or neglect.

You make a direct impact on these children and families through your support of LSI. Thank you!

*Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at [LSIowa.org](http://LSIowa.org) and [Facebook.com/LSI.iowa](https://www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa).*

### A Life-Changing Service

Amanda felt helpless when her children were removed from their home. She and her husband, Nathan, struggled with substance use, and they could no longer provide a safe environment for their children.

But with help from LSI's Family Safety, Risk, and Permanency Services, Amanda has overcome every obstacle to build a future she only dreamed possible.

LSI connected Amanda and Nathan to parenting and sobriety resources in their community, and their LSI worker, Katie, helped them schedule regular visits with their children.

Knowing Katie was there to cheer them on, even on the bad days, the couple was determined to beat their addiction. It was time to turn their lives around and fight for their family.

Amanda and Nathan recently celebrated two years of sobriety, and all three of their children have returned home. Amanda now also collaborates with the Iowa child welfare system and organizations like LSI to support more families in need of the same care she received.

"I'm grateful that Katie and LSI were a part of our lives. They weren't there to hinder, they were there to help," Amanda says. "I feel accomplished, and I feel really good about where my family is at in our lives. Now I'm just happy to help other families achieve their goals and realize they are not alone."

### Prayer Shawl Ministry

Cathy Stephens makes prayer shawls for anyone in need of a little extra warmth and comfort. It is her mission to help anyone experiencing a difficult time to know they are not alone. God is always with them and others love them, care about them, and are praying for them. She also makes them pocket sized if that would work better. This is a wonderful ministry that Cathy does. If you know anyone that may be in need of a little extra support as they go through a rough spot in life, please let Cathy know.

### Saturday, April 6

#### Time for Spring Cleaning At the Church!!

Let's get the church shiny and sparkling clean for Easter. We will meet on Sat, April 6, at 1 p.m.

Bring your favorite cleaning tools and supplies or use the ones that are here. The more that come to help, the less work for all that attend.

### Black Elk-Neihardt Park



Black Elk-Neihardt Park was established in 1975. The park, which overlooks Blair and the Missouri River valley, is the highest point in Blair. The Tower of the Four Winds, designed by Dana College professor F.W. (Bill) Thomsen, is the focal point of the park. As John G Neihardt brought Black Elk's vision to life in literature, Bill Thomsen brought the vision to life in art. The Tower has been losing tiles for some years now and is slowly deteriorating. An Omaha foundation (with Danish roots) has donated the money for restoration—almost \$200,000! Now they are putting together a fund for preservation of the directional marker mosaics and the major mosaic. They are hoping to keep the mosaics in good shape for centuries. If you or someone you know would like to contribute to the fund, you can do so through BLAIR AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION by logging into the following website: <https://www.blairareacommunityfoundation.org/> Once on the site you can click on “Ways to Give”. Under “Donate” you would specify Black Elk-Neihardt Park and then specify “Preservation of mosaic on Tower of the Four Winds and Four Direction Mosaics”. If you have questions, call Bob Coffey at the Blair Area Community Foundation, number listed in above website. Rev. Bill Thomsen served at Bethesda from 1045 to 1055, where he designed and helped build the town church.

### Prayers of the Church

Heavenly Father, we are silenced at the grave of Your son. In justice You called for Him, who knew no sin, to be made sin for us. Yet You permitted Your Son to die in innocence. In love He came to us but He was rejected by hate. He taught us obedience but men rebelled against Him.

We confess that a great mystery confronts us at this tomb of sin and death. He was buried behind the great seal of our sin and our death. By faith we know also that He who died is the One who unlocked the great secret of Your love. His tomb is our tomb. He carried with Him to the grave our sin and our death that He might break their hold on us.

Trusting in our Lord's promise that He would rise again on the third day, we come not to mourn Him but to confess the sin that He would leave buried. Have mercy on us! Grant us the Easter faith that anticipates with joy the day on which You raised

Him from the dead, so that in Him we too shall come forth from the tomb to live with Him in eternity. We pray in His name and for His sake, Amen.

Lutheran Book of Prayer  
Page 67

Be with those struggling with health concerns, addiction, or temptation. We especially pray for:

- ✠ Megan Bothwell
- ✠ Terri Savery
- ✠ Harold Remmenga
- ✠ Myles Mohr
- ✠ Blair Holverson
- ✠ Cody Buck
- ✠ Marguerite Schramm
- ✠ Norma Jean Lauritsen
- ✠ Grant Gorham
- ✠ Coraline Harding

- ✠ We pay for the church. Open us to listen to your word and do your will
- ✠ Shine the light of truth into world relationships hindered by mistrust or misunderstanding. Be with those serving our country, especially Ashton Miller, Jacob Remmenga and Jesse Schmidt.
- ✠ Grant solace to people who long to be parents, but have faced difficulty in bearing or adopting children. Build life-giving par-

- ent and child relationships for the sake of all.
- ✠ Renew us in the baptismal promise to care for others and the world you have made. Be with those affected by flooding and those assisting others.
- ✠ With thanksgiving we remember those who have died. Bring us with them into the eternal light of your presence. We pray for the family and friends of Elsie Kalskett, asking You to bring them comfort and strength.

### Darkness to Light: Stewards of Children

April 16, 5:30 - 8 p.m.

### West Monona High School

This is a prevention training program that teaches adults how to recognize, prevent and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. The program is designed for organizations that serve youth and for anyone concerned about the safety of children. It is the only nationally distributed, evidence based program proven to increase knowledge, improve attitudes and change child protective behaviors. A small meal will be provided. This program is approved for foster care and child care training hours.

This training program is limited to the first 45 people who RSVP to Monona County Public Health, Sara Keenan or Debie Lahr at 433-1773

**Moorhead Community**

**Blood Drive**

Save Local Lives

**Monday, April 8, 2019**

**1:30 PM - 4:45 PM**

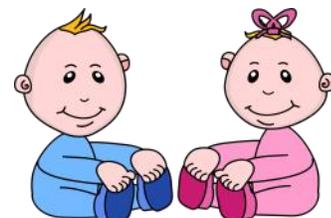
Moorhead Community Center

### Soldier Salad Luncheon

The Ladies of Soldier Lutheran Church would like to extend a personal invitation to our annual Spring Salad Luncheon. It will be April 9, 2019 at 12:00 noon. We have a large assortment of salads, meat and cheese tray, and of course dessert. Come, bring a friend, and enjoy!!

### New Life Church Mondamin, IA

The New Life Church of Mondamin has a ministry, Baby Basket, for families with small children. They collect baby items and the 2nd Sunday of every other month (noon to 1pm) families can come to the church to pick up needed items. The next date for families to pick up supplies will be **Apr 14**. If you or someone you know would like to donate to this program it would be greatly appreciated. If you have questions please call 712-646-2793.



## Bethesda Church Council Minutes

### Bethesda Lutheran Church Regular Council Meeting March 7, 2019

Attending: Pastor Steve Pera, Jim Rains, Alan Johnson, Ed Hans, Sharon Holverson, Mike Vaughn, David McWilliams, Jolene McDonald; Russell Stanislav joined the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

President Hans called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. Pastor Steve shared prayer.

Secretary's Report: M. Vaughn made a motion to approve the February minutes as presented; S. Holverson seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Beginning balance was \$6,703.73; disbursements of \$3,683.81; deposits of \$2,220.76 for an ending balance of \$5,240.68. Back-up funds had a deposit of \$3.34 in interest for an ending balance of \$5,802.81. Emergency funds had a deposit of \$2.91 in interest for an ending balance of \$5,066.83. Memorial funds had a balance of \$9,496.79. Carpet fund had a balance of \$400.00. Youth funds had a balance of \$887.06. J. Rains made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented; R. Stanislav seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Education & Youth: R. Stanislav reported Sunday school was going well and the theme of the lessons they have completed this month. He noted Darlene Bowman had filled in during Maggie Rains' absence.

Confirmation class met at Darlene Bowman's twice during the month of March in Pastor Steve's absence. R. Stanislav will get the materials from St. John Lutheran Church in Dunlap to share with students as they prepare to choose and meet with a mentor during Lent.

Special Youth Activities: Youth will host coffee following Lenten services. R. Stanislav invited anyone else willing to host is welcome. Three confirmation students have signed up to attend confirmation camp at Camp Carol Joy Holling the first week of June.

Property: R. Stanislav has ordered a new bottle to fill the oil candles.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Steve suggested

we move ahead with three on the call committee. St. John also has three on their call committee. Pastor Steve talked to Pastor Lorna and gave her R. Stanislav's contact information. Pastor Lorna will arrange a meeting with both congregations' call committees regarding entering the congregation profile into the Synod site; this information will be shared with the Bishop, who will look for possible matches. Pastor Steve shared we are where we should be at this time in the process. He noted mid-week services will be held through Lent, using the Holden Evening Prayer along with a presentation/interview each week with member involvement. Pastor Steve may take the Sunday off following Easter and the third Sunday in May.

Old Business: R. Stanislav is waiting to hear back from Rory Barnett regarding the closet wall; he has taken the old speaker to Bonsall's and is waiting to hear that it is ready to be picked up. E. Hans informed council Scott Solberg has cleared snow from the parking lot four times to date. S. Solberg said he would volunteer this service. Council agreed after snow removal ends for the winter to purchase a gift certificate for his service. This item was tabled until the April meeting. S. Holverson and R. Stanislav updated council on the carpet project. There was some discussion on the number of people on the call committee. Pastor Steve recommended, and council agreed, we wait until after Pastor Lorna's meeting.

New Business: Lakeside Lutheran Camp will speak at St. John Lutheran in Dunlap on March 17 and asked to speak at Bethesda on the same date. Council noted time is a factor as it is also communion Sunday. M. Vaughn made a motion; seconded by D. McWilliams for Lakeside Lutheran Camp to speak at Bethesda on March 17, knowing the time restraint. With no further discussion, motion carried unanimously. J. McDonald requested funds from the emergency fund be dispensed. Some discussion was held. J. McDonald made a motion \$500.00 be dispensed from the emergency fund; seconded by S. Holverson. With no further discussion, motion passed unanimously. E. Hans will deliver the check on behalf of Bethesda. R. Stanislav noted St. John had sent a scrapbook to Bethesda that had been put together by Pastor Carla. He placed it on the serving counter in the fellowship hall for all to be able to look at. R. Stanislav asked if anyone had checked the amount of propane left in the tank. Some discussion was held which way was best for propane filling – on

call basis, or auto fill. Council agreed for the remainder of this year to be on an auto fill basis. J. McDonald informed council of a change in the size of nameplates on the memorial board due to past engraver no longer engraves. D. McWilliams shared he has completed and submitted reports for the State of Iowa and for Synod.

President Hans set the next regular council meeting for April 3, 2019, following Lenten services. M. Vaughn made a motion; seconded by R. Stanislav to adjourn the meeting. President Hans adjourned the meeting at 8:00

p.m.  
Council closed with the Lord's Prayer.



### Call Process Is Underway

We have reached the six-month point since I have been privileged to be part of the faith communities of Bethesda and St. John and to minister the Word and Sacrament among you. This week, our two call committees met with Lorna Haalaas, Assistant to the Bishop of the Western Iowa Synod of the ELCA. So the call process is pretty much on target in terms of where we planned and expected to be. The call committees now have their work to do, which involves getting thoughts and responses from the rest of the congregation. They will be making regular reports to the congregation on their progress and in the things that will involve the wider congregation. Let us keep them, our congregations and the future direction of our ministry in our prayers. Let us go forward, supporting our leaders and each other and trusting in God's Holy Spirit.

Pastor Steve Pera

# Bethesda Happenings—Apr 2019

Bethesda Phone # - 712-886-5241

Sun		Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Lenten Service 7:30pm followed with fellowship, choir practice, and church council	4	5	6 <b>Spring House Cleaning</b> at the church at 1 PM
7 8:45 AM Worship with Holy Communion followed with coffee/fellowship time 10 AM Sunday School	8PM AA/Alanon	9	10 Lenten Service 7:30pm followed with fellowship and choir practice	11	12	13
<b>14</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b> 8:45AM Worship followed with coffee/fellowship & 10 AM Sunday School	15 8PM AA/Alanon	16	17	18 7:30pm <b>Maundy Thurs</b> Service with Holy Communion	19 7:30 pm <b>Good Friday Service at Moorhead Christian Church</b>	20 9 AM - Set up for Easter Breakfast
21 <b>Easter Sunday</b> <b>6:30 AM</b> Worship with Holy Communion followed with Youth Easter Breakfast	22 8PM AA/Alanon	23	24 7:30 Confirmation	25	26	27
28 8:45 AM Worship with followed with coffee/fellowship time 10 AM Sunday School	29 8PM AA/Alanon	30				

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### **April Birthdays and Anniversaries**

Bethesda Members extend their love and prayers to everyone with Birthdays and Anniversaries this month! May God continue to bless you this year and always!

**Apr 2** - Sam & Susan Johnson Anniversary

    Marcy Melby

**Apr 3** - Jesse Hans

**Apr 7** - Brent Kuhlman

    Peggy Bothwell

    Nick Hinrichsen

**Apr 9** - Hadlie Stanislav

**Apr 11** - Dennis Smith

**Apr 14** - Linda McWilliams

**Apr 19** - Pastor Margo Fohs

    Deb Lauritsen

**Apr 20** - Todd Johnsen

**Apr 25** - Deb Johnson

**\*\*\*If you know of any additions or corrections to our list, please leave a note in the newsletter tray on the table by the balcony steps.**

### **Check Out Bethesda's Website**

Thank you to David McWilliams for designing a joint website for Bethesda and St. John! David has it up and running! Check it out at [www.stjohn.bethesda-lutheran.org](http://www.stjohn.bethesda-lutheran.org)

You will find Newsletter information, pictures, directions and other information posted there. You can also find St. John's information there as well.

### **Join Bethesda On Facebook...**

The church has two sites...one regular page for church photos, and a group page for church events, and possibly discussions and more. To join the page search for "Bethesda Lutheran Church" and "Friends of Bethesda" Then simply ask to join the group...if you have already joined, please invite other Bethesda friends in your facebook friends list.