

Bethesda Lutheran
Church

703 Pine St.
Moorhead, IA 51558

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.**

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Bethesda News—

December 2018

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

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

The season of Advent is a little hard to get a handle on. I don't think it's just me; I think it's a feeling pretty common among us who are used to operating with the liturgical seasons. The season suggests restraint, but it is not really a season of repentance, the way it was once thought of. It is a season of waiting. We are waiting for the celebration of the birth of the Savior, a birth which we realize took place a couple of millennia ago. We are reminded that we with all creation are waiting for the final consummation of God's rule. And while we work at understanding the reasons for practicing restraint, the culture around us revs up with festivities, busyness and over-the-top consumption.

One way to gain a deeper understanding of Advent may be in recognizing how these somewhat ambiguous and conflicting themes connect to situations in our lives and in the world. What do we see that is incomplete? What do we see that is still broken, awaiting repair? What do we see that is awaiting redemption? Where are the rough places that need to be made smooth?

In the middle of what seems to be a cultural expectation that people should be feeling excited and happy, we know that is often not the case. There are many for whom this time of year underscores feelings of loneliness, grieving for lost loved ones, dealing with illness or disability, dealing with stress, anguish or other voids in a person's life.

In Advent we take notice of these complexities and difficulties. We recognize that

faith must contend with doubt; fulfillment is accompanied by yearnings; joy is tempered with sadness. Despite this and in the midst of it, we turn to the gifts that God has given us as days are growing shorter and winter's cold sets in. They are named by our Advent candles: hope, love, joy and peace. We hold onto these as we await the breaking through of a greater joy.

God be with all of you as we observe Advent and look forward to another Christmas.

Pastor Steve Pera



If you would like to purchase a Poinsettia for our church for the advent and Christmas season, please contact Mary Hieber.

Some people buy them in memory of loved ones, some buy them in honor of someone, some buy them just to beautify our sanctuary for Christmas! Poinsettias help us remember God's love that lives and blooms in the midst of winter. They are white to remind us of Christ's holiness, and red to remind us of the blood he shed for us on the cross. This year they will cost \$10 each.



Sunday, December 2, 2018

Annual Scandinavian Smorgasbord

Sing-A-Long to begin at 6PM

Followed by Meal at 6:30PM

Let's fill the church basement this year! We need to share our fun heritage holiday meal as we always have lots left over. Invite a couple of neighbors or friends along for the evening.

Tree Decorating, Dec 2

Remember to bring your ornament to our worship service to help decorate our Christmas tree at the church. We want to make a sanctuary a warm and inviting place for all.

Remember the Reason for the Season!

2019 Usher Schedule

Thank you to everyone who has willingly served as an usher this past year! Your constant presence is much appreciated and helps make our worship services hospitable and organized. Below is a **proposed** usher schedule for the coming year. Hopefully we will add a few more volunteers, by next month, but this plan should help us get the year started. If your name is not listed here, but you would like to help usher, please talk to Mike Vaughn or Pastor Steve and we will gladly add you to the list! If you would rather not usher, let us know that too (but please know we really do need your help 😊) Below is the schedule and a list of weekly usher responsibilities. Thank you for serving! You are much appreciated!!!

Responsibilities: Turn on the lights, fans, power switch for mikes, heat (66-68 degrees)/air conditioning. Put hymn numbers from the bulletin up on the hymn board. Check the oil in the altar candles and fill them up (if necessary). Oil for the candles are kept in the basement furnace room. Candles need to be filled every 2 to 3 Sundays. Help the women set out communion if needed. Check the Ushers pew for any random notes that Pastor Steve may have laid there, hand out bulletins, World Hunger envelopes (on communion Sundays) etc. Ring the bell. After the service, turn off all of the above. Turn heat down to 50 degrees/air conditioning off. Check office to make sure the copier is off and the office door is locked. Thank you!

January, June and November

*Mike Vaughn
Gary Kalskett

February, July, December

*Sam Johnson
Harold Remmenga

March, and August

*Mark Johnson
Jim Rains
Joe Monahan
Devin Monahan

April and September

*Alan Johnson
Roger Hansen
Russell Stanislav

May and October

*Daryle Lauritsen
Ed Hans
Donnie Koch

*Denotes Head of Usher
Committee

Dec/Jan Schedules

December Ushers:

*Daryle Lauritsen
Ed Hans
Donnie Koch
Dennis Stranathan

January Ushers:

*Mike Vaughn
Gary Kalskett

December /January

Scripture Readers:

Dec 2 - Lisa Johnson
Dec 9 - Mark Johnson
Dec 16 - Sam Johnson
Dec 23 - Susan Johnson
Dec 30 - Diane Kalskett
Jan 6 - Sharon Lee
Jan 13 - Sheila Lindsey
Jan 20 - Jolene McDonald
Jan 27 - Jim Rains

Acolytes: (If the schedule doesn't work, please trade with each other)

Dec 2 - Chenoa & Aiyana
Dec 9 - Novie & Hadlie
Dec 16 - Chenoa & Aiyana
Dec 23 - Novie & Hadlie
Dec 30 - Chenoa & Aiyana
Jan 6 - Novie & Hadlie
Jan 13 - Chenoa & Aiyana
Jan 20 - Novie & Hadlie
Jan 27 - Chenoa & Aiyana B

Altar Care:

Dec - Colleen Vaughn
Jan -

Altar Colors:

Dec 2 - 23 - Blue
Dec 24 - Jan 13 - White
Jan 20 - Feb 24 - Green

Communion Dates:

Dec 2 - First Sunday
Dec 15 - Third Sunday
Jan 6 - First Sunday
Jan 20 - Third Sunday

Attendance and Offerings

Nov 4 - 32 - 1655.00
World Hunger - 67.00
Nov 11 - 28 - 358.00
Nov 18 - 29 - 6427.00
Nov 21 - 28 - 263.00
Nov 25 - 485.00
Thanksgiving - 25.00
Carpet Fund - 45.00

Moorhead Community Blood Drive

Monday, December 10, 2018

2:00 PM - 5:30 PM

Moorhead Community Building

YOU make a difference in **Your** community.

Giving local matters. Your support matters.

Schedule your lifesaving appointment online at
www.lifeservebloodcenter.org or call 800.287.4903

Please bring a valid form of identification.

Thank You!

BLCW ~

Joyce and I would like to thank you so very much for the generous box of Thanksgiving goodies. I so enjoyed seeing the kids and Lisa. Made my Sunday more blessed.

Happy Thanksgiving and Bless You All,

Janet Hinkel and Joyce, too!

LSI News

Merry Christmas from LSI!

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." — John 1:5

As Christmas approaches, we give thanks to you! Every day, as a ministry partner of LSI, you help bring the light of Christ to others.

At LSI, we know many people experiencing deep darkness. We know parents who feel hopeless, with little to no resources to raise their young children. We know adults with disabilities who feel voiceless, with no support system or connection to their community. We know teens who are aging out of the foster care system, who fear they will never have a family to love them.

The holidays can be an especially difficult time for our most vulnerable neighbors. In the spirit of giving, the spirit of love, and the spirit of working together, let us stand with them and lift them up this Christmas season. If you would like to learn more about how you can support Iowa children and families, contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at 563-676-2065 or Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org.

Wishing you a blessed and merry Christmas from LSI!

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 www.LSIowa.org and www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

Giving Back to Her Community

Two years ago, Sarah felt helpless. She struggled with her mental health, there was tension between family members at home, and she couldn't find support or resources that worked with her family's busy schedule.

Sarah connected with LSI's Early Childhood Services, and through a local program she received flexible in-home parenting education to help her family thrive. Her LSI parent educator worked with her to learn about money management, healthy communication, and skills for parenting her two young children.

Now Sarah feels confident raising her family. She has found a support system and is ready to give back to her community and help other young mothers in need. Whenever she can, she tells other moms about LSI and helps refer them for services.

Because she felt empowered by LSI's Early Childhood Services, Sarah is creating a ripple effect across her community. She is passionate about lifting up and strengthening other families in need of the hope and healing she received.

Prayers of the Church

God of the covenant, we Give You glory and honor for sending Your Son Jesus Christ to fulfill all Your promises. By Your grace send us now preachers of repentance who will make us a people prepared to receive Him in faith. Lead us to rejoice in His coming in the flesh to accomplish all things for our salvation. Fill us with hope that we may be in constant readiness for the day of His coming again. Grant us Your Spirit that we may live as those who know that He who has come is with us now, that we may be with Him when all shall behold His coming. In His name we ask it. Amen. Lutheran Book of Prayer Page 56

Pour out favor this day upon those who are afflicted and feel far removed from you. We pray for:

- ✠ Robin Dunlop
- ✠ Addlynn Utman
- ✠ Ronnie Kuhlman

- ✠ Sheila Lindsey
- ✠ Robert Hansen
- ✠ Norene Riley
- ✠ Elsie Kalskett
- ✠ Coraline Harding
- ✠ Colleen Vaughn
- ✠ DeeDee Pedersen
- ✠ Rick Gebeke
- ✠ Kathryn Oaks
- ✠ Gary McCue
- ✠ Barb Hunt
- ✠ Ashton Miller, Jacob Remminga, Paul Coleman, Jesse Schmidt and all others as they serve our country.
- ✠ Awaken our nation to care for veterans and others who have experienced the stress and trauma of war or other military conflicts.

- ✠ O God, preserve your church from empty piety. Stir up our will to act with mercy and compassion.
- ✠ Show us how to live in harmony with your good earth and all its creatures. Provide all living things with sufficient food and clean water.
- ✠ Shape our communities through the work of parents, teachers, foster parents, first responders, and other who serve as role models for chil-

- dren.
- ✠ Lift up our hearts with the memory of your blessed saints. Sustain us with the assurance that Christ has prepared an eternal home for them.
- ✠ You bless us in our coming and our going, in our waking and our sleeping, and in our daily work. Make our deeds a reflection of the freedom you give us in Christ Jesus.
- ✠ In Your dear name we pray. Amen.

2018 Reader Schedule

Every Sunday we are blessed by members who faithfully prepare and lead us in reading God's Word together. Thank you for sharing your gifts and helping God's Word to come alive for us as we hear it fresh today!

Thank you to all those who have read in the past and to those who have volunteered to help read this year. We are always looking for new readers so if your name is not on the list, please let Susan Johnson or Pastor Steve know and we will gladly add you to the schedule (we'll even coach you through the process). Here is the general order for the year. The monthly list will be printed in the newsletter and readers will be listed in the bulletin each week as well. A copy of the scripture lessons will be placed in your church mailbox at the beginning of each month. If you are unable to read on your assigned Sunday, please ask someone else on the list to take your place. Thank you for the gifts that you so willingly share!

Angie Bothwell
Darlene Bowman
Ed Hans
Roger Hansen
Sandy Harris
Mary Hieber
Alan Johnson
Kevin Johnson
Lisa Johnson
Mark Johnson
Sam Johnson
Susan Johnson
Diane Kalskett
Sharon Lee
Sheila Lindsey
Jolene McDonald
Jim Rains
Maggie Rains
Harold Remmenga
Russell Stanislav
Cathy Stephens
Mike Vaughn

Christmas Eve Service

Monday, December 24
5 pm at Bethesda

If you or someone you know wants to add to the service with their special music, please let Pastor Steve or Susan Johnson know so it can be put in the bulletin. This is always such a special and festive service. How can you help to bring the true meaning of Christmas to light at our church service? Everyone welcome to participate and worship at Bethesda on Christmas Eve.



Bethesda Church Council Minutes

Bethesda Lutheran Church Regular Council Meeting November 1, 2018

Attending: Pastor Steve Pera, Alan Johnson, David McWilliams, Sharon Holverson, Mike Vaughn, Jolene McDonald
Absent: Russell Stanislav, Jim Rains

Vice President Alan Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. A quorum was declared.

J. McDonald read devotions.

M. Vaughn made a motion to approve the secretary's report; seconded by D. McWilliams. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's report: Beginning balance of 3,712.19; deposits of \$3,578.40; disbursements of

\$2,055.10; for an ending balance of \$5,235.49. Back-up funds balance \$2,790.55; Emergency Funds balance \$5,054.71; Memorial fund balance \$9,484.70; Carpet fund balance \$355.00. M. Vaughn made a motion to approve the treasurer's report; seconded by J. McDonald. Motion carried unanimously. It was noted S. Holverson gives the deposit amount of the noisy offering to Susan Johnson to add to the newsletter each month.

Education & Youth: A. Johnson noted Sunday school's attendance is low.

Pastor Steve noted he is trying to shorten the length of confirmation class due to the late hour. Confirmation class will not be held on Thanksgiving eve. J. McDonald will visit with Julie Kuhlman regarding the youth bank accounts.

Property: A. Johnson will replace the rain spouts. R. Stanislav has added Pastor Steve's name to the front sign.

Following discussion, November 11, 2018, following worship has been set for front yard clean-up.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Steve noted Confest will be held in the spring, not fall as noted at last month's meeting. Pastor Steve shared his time at Be-

thesda and St. John has been good; he believes half time is working well. At this time there is no agreement on file due to difference in figures since Pastor Steve is not taking part in Portico. Pastor Steve has been in contact with Pastor Lorna Haas at the Synod level; Pastor Steve will request new forms and work with D. McWilliams to complete a revised agreement. Pastor noted Advent starts the first Sunday in December; which begins a new cycle of the church year.

Thanksgiving eve services will be held at Bethesda. Pastor will include confirmation students in the service.

Pastor Steve gave an update on the call process; noting after the first of the year we could start organizing a call committee. In his conversations with Pastor Lorna, they feel we would be far enough along in the process to put in for a first call pastor as well as other pastors.

Pastor Steve is available for visits; don't hesitate to call.

New Business: Some discussion on road side clean-up. Ideas were shared; maybe schedule in September, prior to harvest season; consider combining with Rally Sunday; consider completing on God's Work, Our Hands Sunday (2nd Sun. in Sept, which is usually Rally Sunday as well). Nothing finalized.

Pastor's mileage was discussed - per mile versus a monthly allotment. Council noted the joint council had agreed upon per mile at the federal rate.

The next scheduled meeting is December 6, 2018 at 7 p.m.

M. Vaughn made a motion; seconded by D. McWilliams to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Johnson adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Council closed with the Lord's Prayer.



New Life Church 609 Mulberry St 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 items they are collecting include:

Diapers, baby wipes, clothes (new or gently used), accessories, and toiletries. Also, if special requests are made known, such as baby furniture, they try their best to obtain the item(s).

The next dates for families to pick up supplies will be

Dec 9, Feb 10, and 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 Happenings—Dec 2018

Bethesda Phone # - 712-886-5241

Sun		Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
2	8:45AM Worship with Holy Communion followed with coffee/fellowship 10 AM Sunday School 6PM - Smorgasbord	3 8PM AA/Alanon	4	5 Confirmation 7:30 - 9PM	6 Church Council 7PM	7	8
9	8:45 AM Worship followed with coffee/fellowship time 10 AM Sunday School	10 8PM AA/Alanon	11	12 Confirmation 7:30 - 9PM	13	14	15
16	8:45AM Worship with Holy Communion followed with coffee/fellowship 10 AM Sunday School	17 8PM AA/Alanon	18	19 Confirmation 7:30 - 9PM	20	21	22
23	8:45 AM Worship with Sunday School Program followed with coffee/fellowship time 10 AM Sunday School	24 8PM AA/Alanon	25	26 Confirmation 7:30 - 9PM	27	28	29
30	8:45 AM Worship with followed with coffee/fellowship time NO SUNDAY SCHOOL	31 8PM AA/Alanon					

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December 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!

Dec 3 - Diane Kalskett

Dec 6 - Jaycee Kuhlman

Dec 8 - Ben Monahan

Dec 12 - Vivian Sandvold

Dec 14 - Ryan Kuhlman

Dec 15 - Aiyana Bowman

Lisa Solberg

Dec 19 - Carroll Johnson

Dec 23 - Nick & Mike Johnson

Dec 24 - Donnie Koch

Dec 27 - Connor Peters

Dec 28 - Stephenie Johnson

Carroll & Jeanne Johnson Anniversary

Nov 30 - Ben Koch

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

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.

*****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.**
