

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—

## February 2019

**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—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

On the first Sunday of February, many of us will be watching the Super Bowl (after church that is). I myself am still recovering from the disappointment of the Kansas City Chiefs narrowly missing out on being there, so I'm not sure how much I will enjoy watching the big game. The Super Bowl in some ways is a festival of consumption. We consume a lot of snacks and ballgame food along with a beverage or two while watching. We consume the commercials, which are encouraging us to consume their products.

It is an auspicious time to remind ourselves that many people in our world are not certain where they will get food to consume their next meal. Many go with insufficient food to consume. What is the compassionate response of people who follow Jesus? For one, it is giving out of our abundance. Our monthly hunger offerings on Sunday go to ELCA World Hunger. It also reminds us of why we need the broader church. Through our ELCA's World Hunger efforts and those of Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Disaster Response, our church responds to needs. Another valuable response I would encourage is Bread for the World, an organization which advocates for the

much larger response that can be made by government resources.

So enjoy the Super Bowl, if that is what you are planning to do. And maybe while you're helping yourself to more Buffalo wings or Queso dip, think about being thankful for what God has given you and about people who are not able to satisfy their hunger. Keep those special hunger offerings coming!

Pastor Steve Pera



## Feb/Mar Schedules

### February Ushers:

\*Sam Johnson  
Harold Remmenga

### March Ushers:

\*Mark Johnson  
Jim Rains  
Joe Monahan  
Devin Monahan

### February/March Scripture Readers:

Feb 3 - Maggie Rains  
Feb 10 - Harold Remmenga  
Feb 17 - Mike Vaughn  
Feb 24 - Angie Bothwell  
Mar 3 - Darlene Bowman  
Mar 10 - Ed Hans  
Mar 17 - Roger Hansen  
Mar 24 - Sandy Harris  
Mar 31 - Mary Hieber

### Acolytes:

Feb 3 - Novie & Hadlie  
Feb 10 - Chenoa & Aiyana  
Feb 17 - Novie & Hadlie  
Feb 24 - Chenoa & Aiyana  
Mar 3 - Novie & Hadlie  
Mar 10 - Chenoa & Aiyana  
Mar 17 - Novie & Hadlie  
Mar 24 - Chenoa & Aiyana  
Mar 31 - Novie & Hadlie

### Communion Dates:

Feb 3 - First Sunday  
Feb 17 - Third Sunday  
Mar 3 - First Sunday  
Mar 17 - Third Sunday

### Altar Care:

Feb - Susan Johnson  
Mar - Colleen Shol &  
Sharon Hinrichsen

### Altar Colors:

Feb 3 - Feb 24 - Green  
Mar 3 - White  
Mar 6 - Apr 7 - Purple

### Attendance and Offerings

Jan 6 - 35 - \$1267.00  
Jan 13 - 29 - \$670.00  
Jan 20 - 31 - \$307.00  
Jan 27 - 32 - \$671.00  
World Hunger - \$109.00  
Initial Offerings - \$150.00  
Noisy Offering - \$55.28

## LifeServe Blood Center

**Monday, February 11**

**2:15 PM to 4:45 PM**

**Moorhead Community Building**

Consider donating blood to help others.

Did you know one unit of blood can be separated into several components; red blood cells, plasma, and platelets?

Your donation can help several in need.



## LSI News

### Happy Valentine's Day from LSI!

*"We love because He first loved us." 1 John 4:19*

Lutheran Services in Iowa's (LSI) mission is about love: responding to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. We give thanks for all the ministry partners, both individuals and congregations, who help share this love for Iowa children, families, and adults!

We see this love in newly adopted children and their families, in teens who learn to trade self-harm for self-worth, in Iowans with disabilities who are growing their independence and confidence, in new parents who are raising strong and healthy families, and in so many other moments of joy. You can help carry out our mission of hope and healing by giving a gift and showing love to the Iowa families we serve. For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at Deb-ora.HWhitford@LSIowa.org. -.....

Thank you for the love you share and create through LSI. Happy Valentine's Day!

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

### Helping Kids Thrive

When Kari, a little girl they knew through church, was in need of a foster home, Stacie and Blake decided to step up.

The couple became licensed as foster and adoptive parents, and Stacie says it's been a rewarding experience ever since. With LSI Foster Care and Adoption in their corner, ready to provide support, guidance, or even just a listening ear, Stacie and Blake lift up children in their community through foster care.

After caring for Kari as foster parents, the opportunity came to adopt her. Now 10, Kari is an amazing big sister. The family has fostered and adopted a son, 3-year-old Silas, and they recently welcomed their biological son, 1-year-old Jett, into the family.

Stacie and Blake continue to foster children in need of a safe and supportive home, and Stacie says they hope to adopt again in the future.

"When you become a foster or adoptive parent, yes, you're helping children. But at the same time, you learn about yourself and you learn more about the world around you," Stacie says. "Foster care is an experience that is indescribable and life-changing."

## Prayers of the Church

Heavenly Father,  
 You called us into the body of Christ:  
 Help us live as one in Him.  
 You have given us one faith:  
 Keep us in the one true faith.  
 You have given us one baptism:  
 Let us live in our common baptismal  
 grace.  
 You have given us apostles and prophets:  
 Let us hear with singleness of heart.  
 You have sent us pastors and teachers:  
 Enlighten us to learn with oneness of  
 mind.  
 You have equipped us for the unity o faith:  
 Help us attain that unity by forgiveness.  
 You have given us Your love in Christ:  
 Enable us to speak Your truth in love.  
 You built Your church of Your will:  
 Make us to fit into our proper place.  
 You crated Your church of living stones:  
 Enliven us to serve Your holy purpose,  
 that the whole church may grow and up  
 build itself in love. We ask it in the name of

Jesus, the chief Shepherd  
 and Bishop of our souls.  
 Amen.  
 Lutheran Book of Prayer  
 Page 78  
 Be with the wandering, the  
 worried, and the woeful. We  
 especially pray for:

- ✠ Grant Gorham
- ✠ Judy Kuhlman
- ✠ Kari Hadden
- ✠ Danessa Carter
- ✠ Corrine Smith
- ✠ Robin Dunlop
- ✠ Addlynn Utman
- ✠ Ronnie Kuhlman
- ✠ Robert Hansen
- ✠ Norene Riley
- ✠ Elsie Kalskett
- ✠ Coraline Harding
- ✠ Colleen Vaughn
- ✠ DeeDee Pedersen
- ✠ Rick Gebeke

- ✠ Kathryn Oaks
- ✠ Gary McCue
- ✠ Drawn into the light  
 of God, we pray for  
 the proclamation of  
 the grace of Jesus  
 Christ. Give us cour-  
 age and oldness to  
 go forth into thee  
 world to tell the  
 good news of what  
 God has done.
- ✠ Drawn into the glory  
 of creation, we pray  
 for the earth. Help  
 us to steward all  
 that you have pro-  
 vided.
- ✠ Drawn into the  
 brightness of God  
 presence, we pray  
 for the nations of  
 the world. Be with

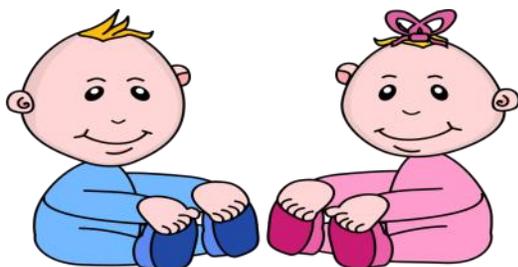
Ashton Miller, Jacob  
 Remmenga, and  
 Jesse Schmidt as  
 they serve our coun-  
 try.  
 ✠ With Thanksgiving  
 we remember those  
 who have died in  
 faith. We remember  
 the family and  
 friends of Kathleen  
 Kayes and ask You  
 to bring them com-  
 fort and strength in  
 their time of mourn-  
 ing.  
 ✠ For this assembly.  
 Transform us and fill  
 us with your life, so  
 that we pour out  
 your love in service  
 to the world.  
 ✠ Amen.

### New Life Church 609 Mulberry St Mondamin, IA

The New Life Church of Mondamin has a minis-  
 try, Baby Basket, for families with small chil-  
 dren. They collect baby items and the 2nd Sun-  
 day of every other month (noon to 1pm) families  
 can come to the church to pick up needed items.  
 The next dates for families to pick up supplies  
 will be **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.



## Thank You

Dear Bethesda Lutheran,  
 What a gift you've given! Thank you for supporting Lu-  
 theran Lakeside in 2018, and giving a gift of \$600.  
 Your donation means that we can provide life changing  
 experiences to youth and families through immersing  
 them in an intentional Christian community. Generosity  
 like yours allows us to provide safe and quality program-  
 ming to all our campers, so they can acquire increased  
 confidence, better decision making abilities, and impor-  
 tant life skills including communication, problem solving,  
 teamwork, and resilience.  
 Out door ministry plays a vital role in faith formation. By  
 making a financial donation you ensure that our ministry  
 programs continue, the facilities are maintained and im-  
 proved, camp supplies and meals are provided, and com-  
 petent and adequate staff can be retained We are confi-  
 dent in what Lakeside is proving for the future of the  
 church and the lives of our youth! We hope you will con-  
 tinue to support Lutheran Lakeside in 2019 and also en-  
 courage your friends and family to participate in this im-  
 portant ministry.  
 We invite you to visit camp anytime.  
 Peace and Blessings,  
 Brittney Swanson, Executive Director

**Bethesda Lutheran Church  
Special Council Meeting  
January 6, 2019**

Attending: Russell Stanislav, David McWilliams,  
Sharon Holverson, Mike Vaughn, Ed Hans, Alan Johnson,  
Jim Rains                      Absent: Jolene McDonald,

Council had a special meeting following worship to clarify amount of funds to invest with Thrivent.

Council agreed to invest \$5,000.00 to Thrivent, with the total amount from American Funds being invested plus funds from the regular budget to make the investment an even \$5,000.00 investment.

**Bethesda Lutheran Church  
Annual Congregational Meeting  
January 20, 2019**

Council Members Attending: Russell Stanislav, David McWilliams, Mike Vaughn, Ed Hans, Alan Johnson, Jim Rains, Jolene McDonald                      Council Members  
Absent: Sharon Holverson

Thirty congregational members were in attendance; with twenty-five being voting members.

Annual reports were distributed to all in attendance as they arrived for worship.

President Stanislav called the meeting to order at 11:22 a.m. Pastor Steve Pera offered a prayer.

2018 Annual Meeting Minutes were read by Jolene McDonald, Secretary. Cathy Stephens made a motion, seconded by Alan Johnson to accept the minutes as presented. There was no further discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Pastor Steve noted his report was included in the annual report. He gave thanks to the congregation for the hospitality shown to him and shared that he is enjoying his time at Bethesda and getting more settled. Pastor Steve invited members to contact him anytime they have a concern or someone is ill, etc. Pastor Steve is at Bethesda on Wednesdays for confirmation classes, but available anytime. He noted the Synod assembly will be in May and Bethesda needs representatives present. Synod assembly this year includes voting for Bishop, which occurs every six years.

The President and Secretary's report was included in the annual report. President Stanislav invited all to read the report. There were no questions, input or discussion from the congregation.

David McWilliams, Treasurer, reviewed the treasurer's report, noting beginning balance of \$9,072.58; income of \$75,253.50; disbursements of \$69,330.15; ending balance of \$7,384.04. Certificates of Deposit balance is \$27,016.68; Investment Funds total is \$4,683.05; Back Up Funds had a beginning balance of \$9,362.08, income of \$3,033.70, disbursements of \$6,600.00 and an ending balance of \$5,795.78. The Emergency Fund had a beginning balance of 5,032.44, income of \$28.26 and there were no disbursements, leaving a balance of \$5,060.70. The Memorial Fund had a beginning balance of \$9,038.95, income of \$559.24, disbursements of \$101.40 and an ending balance of \$9,496.79. The Youth Fund had a beginning balance of \$801.60; income of \$330.18; disbursements of \$300.00 for an ending balance of \$831.78. He noted the investment

in American Funds has been transferred to Thrivent

Mutual Funds. David informed the congregation we are under budget this year, due to the difference in pastoral ministry costs with the departure of Pastor Carla Johnsen. Sam Johnson made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented; Alan Johnson seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Old Business: Discussion was held on the sanctuary carpet project. It was determined the BLCW Steering Committee is the head of BLCW. The carpet is a project of the BLCW. Russell Stanislav will bring information to the next regular council meeting as to where the project stands. The carpet project was approved at last year's annual meeting by a congregational vote.

New Business: Russell Stanislav informed the congregation some members have contacted him regarding their interest in being on the call committee for a permanent pastor. Pastor Steve Pera noted the call committee is the first step to getting a call out for a permanent pastor. He noted the committee will have a few tasks to complete, including a Ministry Site Profile. Step two would include looking at potential candidates. Pastor Lorna Haalas would meet with the call committee. Per Pastor Lorna our call committee should be far enough along in the call process for Bethesda to be a candidate for students graduating in May. He asked us to keep in mind there are about half the number of graduates, as there are openings for pastors. St. John, Dunlap, and Bethesda will each complete separate site profiles. They will come together as one group to interview possible candidates. Russell invited anyone interested in being a part of the call committee to contact a council member. Per the constitution of Bethesda Lutheran Church the maximum number on a call committee for Bethesda is six voting members.

President Stanislav reviewed the proposed budget by line item. He noted the budget is a bit less than last year due to pastoral ministry not being full time for part of this upcoming year. Susan Johnson made a motion; seconded by Ed Hans to approve the proposed budget for 2019 as presented. With no further discussion, motion passed unanimously.

One trustee position is to be elected this year. Russell Stanislav currently holds that position and stated he is willing to run for an additional term. Sam Johnson made a motion Russell Stanislav be elected for a three year term as trustee, that all nominations cease. Alan Johnson seconded the motion. With no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

President Stanislav shared with the congregation that Synod Assembly will be held this year May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> at Sioux City. Bethesda will have two adult delegates and one youth in attendance. During assembly this year a vote will be taken for the Bishop role. Congregation members were encouraged to volunteer to attend.

Mike Vaughn made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Ed Hans seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously. President Stanislav adjourned the meeting at noon.

Pastor Steve lead the congregation in the table prayer. A potluck lunch followed the meeting.

**Bethesda Lutheran Church  
Special Council Meeting  
January 20, 2019**

Attending: Russell Stanislav, David McWilliams, Mike Vaughn, Ed Hans, Alan Johnson, Jim Rains, Jolene McDonald                      Absent: Sharon Holverson

President Stanislav called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. Council had a special meeting following the annual meeting to determine a president and vice president for the upcoming year.

Alan Johnson made a motion to leave officers as they are with Russell Stanislav as president and Alan Johnson as vice president and to cease nominations; Mike Vaughn seconded the motion.

Jolene McDonald made a motion to nominate Ed Hans as president. With two candidates on the table, council members voted by written ballot. Ed Hans will be president for 2019.

Alan Johnson made a motion; seconded by Jim Rains that Russell Stanislav hold the office of vice president for 2019. Nomination cease and the motion carried unanimously.

Mike Vaughn made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Alan Johnson. Meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

## Bethesda Church Council Minutes

### Bethesda Lutheran Church Regular Council Meeting January 3, 2019

Attending: Russell Stanislav, David McWilliams, Sharon Holverson, Mike Vaughn, Ed Hans, Alan Johnson, Jolene McDonald, Pastor Steve Pera joined the meeting in session

Absent: Jim Rains

President R. Stanislav called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

Council members received a copy of the December 2018 minutes from J. McDonald. M. Vaughn made a motion to accept the minutes as presented; D. McWilliams seconded the motion and with no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

Council members received a copy of the treasurer's report dated Jan. 3, 2019. In the general fund the report noted income of \$6,498.42; disbursements of \$6,964.85; for an ending balance of \$7,384.04. The emergency fund gained an interest in the amount of \$3.08 for an ending balance of \$5,060.70. The back-up fund gained \$3.53 in interest for an ending amount of \$5,795.78. Carpet fund has a balance of \$400.00 and the memorial fund gained \$12.09 in interest for a balance of \$9,496.79. S. Holverson made a motion to accept the minutes as presented; A. Johnson seconded the motion. With no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

R. Stanislav reported on the Sunday School Christmas program. He noted Sunday school will begin again on January 6, 2019 with a time change to 9:30 on January 20, 2019 to accommodate the annual congregational meeting.

R. Stanislav shared some concerns regarding confirmation students' involvement in the class with council; at the same time noting a plan is put into place. Pastor Steve also shared some concerns noting the starting time may be a factor as well. Confirmation is held from 7:30 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. Pastor Steve shared positives also and will continue to work on solutions. There are three students in their second year of confirmation. Confirmation is tentatively set for the month of May.

R. Stanislav and Darlene Bowman are getting students signed up to attend confirmation camp at Lakeside Lutheran. March is early bird registration deadline. Pastor Steve noted Confest will be held in the fall. Students attending have the opportunity to meet with WIS staff and the Bishop. Pastor Steve encouraged participation in summer confirmation camp, noting there are two or three opportunities during the summer to

attend at Lakeside Lutheran.

R. Stanislav visited with Roger Hansen regarding the plaster in the men's bathroom and the downstairs storage area behind the coat closet. R. Hansen noted it would be an easy fix. R. Stanislav will get with R. Hansen regarding completing the repair. The basement speaker was replaced with another one Bethesda already had. Some discussion was held regarding looking at the cost of a new speaker to have on hand in the event the current one stops working.

Pastor Steve shared it is a new year, God has good things in store for us and any challenges we encounter, God will lead us forward. Pastor Steve informed council all is going all right as far as he can tell and asked that we continue to walk by faith. Regarding the call process, Pastor Steve will contact Synod prior to the annual meeting so he can address the process at the annual meeting. He noted the first phase is the self-study – gathering of information from the congregation, the history of the congregation, looking at the gifts we have, etc.

The janitor's salary was increased \$15.00 per month in January 2017, with an agreement of an additional \$5.00 per month for the next three years. With this agreement, the janitor received an increase of \$5.00 per month in 2018, and will do so in 2019 and 2020.

There has been no progress in getting the VCRs to CDs. D. McWilliams will work on that project as time allows.

The idea of having roadside clean up and the distribution of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Bibles on the second Sunday each September to coincide with God's Work, Our Hands Sunday was presented. Some discussion followed with a decision to be made later in the year.

The carpet project was put on hold during 2018. Following discussion, council decided to put the project on the annual meeting's agenda. The congregation needs to decide if the carpet project should move forward at this time. If yes, a committee needs to be formed to get the project moving forward and completed.

Pastor Steve informed council he will be off on February 24, 2019 and then will probably not request any time off until after Easter. R. Stanislav will contact Pastor Paul Fohs regarding February 24<sup>th</sup> worship availability. Pastor Steve's schedule as to Sundays off is not every fifth Sunday as noted at the last council meeting; he will keep council informed as to the Sundays he will not be available.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 6<sup>th</sup>. This year the community Good Friday service would be held at the Christian Church. J.

McDonald will contact Mary Cumming, Christian Church board president to confirm. J. McDonald will get contact information for Pastor Jim to contact Pastor Steve. Council members were asked to bring ideas for Lent offering to the February council meeting.

The idea of having designated member(s) to be responsible for building needs for events such as funerals, visitation, weddings, etc was brought to the attention of council. There was some discussion on the subject, with the subject tabled until February.

Council agreed to have a Lakeside Lutheran Camp Sunday with representative from the camp being present at Sunday school and a short presentation at church. Pastor Steve will contact their staff to see if they would be available one Sunday in February.

Council completed a proposed budget for 2019. It was noted it was an exceptional year coming up with no permanent Pastor in place at this time. J. McDonald made a motion to present the proposed budget as completed to the congregation at the annual meeting on January 20, 2019; seconded by A. Johnson. With no further discussion motion carried unanimously.

R. Stanislav has completed the trustee position for three years. He is eligible to run for a second consecutive term. R. Stanislav stated he would run for another term.

R. Stanislav had a copy of the Interim Agreement. Pastor Steve has signed the agreement; the Bishop has not signed the agreement as of this date. The copy has been placed with the council minutes.

The regular council meeting was set for February 7, 2019 at 7 p.m. M. Vaughn made a motion; seconded by D. McWilliams to adjourn the meeting. With no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

President Stanislav adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m. Council closed with the Lord's Prayer.

# Bethesda Happenings—Feb 2019

Bethesda Phone # - 712-886-5241

Sun		Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 8:45 AM Worship with Holy Communion fol- lowed with cof- fee/fellowship time  10 AM Sunday School	4 8PM AA/Alanon	5	6  Confirmation 7:30 - 9PM	7  Church Council 7PM	8	9
10  8:45AM Worship with followed with coffee/ fellowship  10 AM Sunday School	11 8PM AA/Alanon	12	13  Confirmation 7:30 - 9PM	14	15	16
17  8:45AM Worship with followed with coffee/ fellowship  10 AM Sunday School	18 8PM AA/Alanon	19	20  Confirmation 7:30 - 9PM	21	22	23
24  8:45 AM Worship with followed with coffee/ fellowship time  10 AM Sunday School	25 8PM AA/Alanon	26	27  Confirmation 7:30 - 9PM	28	March 6 - Ash Wednesday  Apr 21 - Easter	

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### **February 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!

**Feb 2** - Mike & Colleen Vaughn Anniversary

**Feb 7** - Marlene McCall

Sharon Lee

**Feb 12** - Sharon Holverson

Ron & Sharon Lee Anniversary

**Feb 13** - Marlys Hein

**Feb 15** - Kevin & Rhonda Johnson Anniversary

**Feb 19** - Holly Munsen

**Feb 21** - Morris Mohn

**Feb 26** - Marcia Thoreson

Bethesda's Birthday - 1895

**\*\*\*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.