

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.**

Inside This Month:

Prayers of the Church, Council Minutes	2
Schedules, Treasurer's Report, LSI News, Treasurer's Report, Special Council Mtg Minutes, Thank You	3
Bazaar News, Time Change, Farewell for Pastor Pera, Hwy Clean Up & Lunch	4
Calendar	5
Birthdays and Anniversaries	6

Bethesda News—

September 2020

Pastor Chip Borgstadt

- ◆ **Cell Ph 402-670-6055**
- ◆ PastorBorgstadt@gmail.com

Church Phone: 712-886-5241

Sunday School Vacation

Worship Service: 10:30 AM

SERVICES STREAMED LIVE on facebook

President—Russell Stanislav

Vice President—Alan Johnson

Secretary—Lisa Johnson

Treasurer—David McWilliams

Financial Secretary—Sharon Holverson

Trustees—Mike Vaughn, Jim Rains,

It's hard to believe that we've been partners in ministry for three months already. During that time, so much has happened, and so much is different from what it was a year ago.

1. We've returned to worship in the sanctuary. When we do get together, we're wearing masks, sitting six feet apart, and waving to each other when we share the peace. (We are singing, but don't tell anyone.)
2. And we're also on Facebook Live every Sunday. Many people worship at the same time on Sunday morning, but we are pleased that several worship at other times as well. Members on the road and out of town family members can worship with us now, too.
3. Communion is shared, but we use portion cups and commune from our pews. We learned that people missed the reflective time when others were communing, so we have added special music after the communion rite.
4. We are still adapting our approaches for confirmation, but have found that there are many resources available to provide strong, engaging learning in ways that keep us together while we have to be apart.
5. We have a daily devotion on line (GoodSoil.Today) that prompts us to pray and consider the Sunday texts before we come to worship.
6. We've thought about "why" we do what we do and worked hard to keep the purpose in our activities the same, even when we

have to do some of them a little differently.

One of the blogs I read regularly encourages congregations to see 2020 as a disruption, not an interruption. When we think that we get back to the way things used to be, we're setting ourselves up for disappointment when it doesn't happen and we're missing out on opportunities to adapt to the present. I think our present circumstance is both. We needed an interruption so that we would take time to evaluate and fine tune our activities. We have also needed a disruption so that we had the opportunity to let go of some things that had outlived their usefulness in our life together, kind of like cleaning out the closet and getting rid of clothes we don't want to wear anymore.

I have several favorite old t-shirts that still fit, sort of. I know the neckband on one is a little frayed and there's a stain where some barbecue sauce landed at a picnic once on another. But they're comfortable. My wife wonders if a sleeve will have to fall off before I let these familiar t-shirts go. As we come upon some treasures of the past, we face the same question I do with those old t-shirts: what has to happen before I let them go? Someone suggested making a t-shirt quilt and use the parts of those shirts that are still strong. So far, we've found that we can come up with approaches that allow us to stay close to the heart of being the faith community in our towns. Even though we've been together only three months, I feel confident that Bethesda and St. John will be able to quilt together the treasures of the past to address the opportunities of the present.

Thanks for calling me to be your pastor and partner in ministry! — Pastor Chip

Prayers of the Church



O great and eternal God, whose wisdom all creation declares and history exalts, grant guidance and help to those teaching on all levels of learning. You have charged them with the responsibility of passing on to each generation the wisdom of the past, the discoveries of the present, and the hope of the future. Grant them understanding that they may see each student as an individual, with a body, mind, and soul redeemed by Christ.

Help them to use their profession wisely to stimulate thought rather than to stifle it; to challenge initiative rather than to discourage it; to encourage effort rather than to frustrate it. Give to boards of education on all levels a sense of vision and concern that rises above petty politics or personalities. Above all, O Lord, keep those who are leaders in the field of education mindful that their own lives reflect the greatest lesson they can teach. May those who

have seen Jesus live their convictions and leader others to true wisdom. We ask this in the name of Jim who is the Truth. Amen.

Lutheran Book of Prayer, page 122

We pray for those who are suffering in any way, especially:

- ✠ Harold Remmenga
- ✠ Diane and Gary Kalskett
- ✠ Lenyce Lawrenson
- ✠ JoAnn Moline
- ✠ Christy Moline
- ✠ Danny McWilliams
- ✠ Lisa Johnson
- ✠ Wes Moffatt
- ✠ Barb Wacheldorf
- ✠ Myles Mohr
- ✠ Grant Gorham
- ✠ Lord, you gather the church to be as

part of your mission as ambassadors of Jesus Christ. Help your church discover and find blessings in the faith of people we might reject.

- ✠ You have blessed us with the bounty of the earth. Grant your grace to all your creatures, that the earth will flourish.
- ✠ You call the nations to be glad and sing for joy. Let your way be known among all the nations of the world, now divided by competing interests, contending alliances, and consumed by enormous worry. Bless us and

make your face shine upon all.

- ✠ Grant our congregation grace to find our lives refreshed in you. Grant us rest and renewal, and strengthen us for mission in your name.
- ✠ Your eternal promises are more than we could ever imagine. Be with the family and friends of Gary Remmenga as they mourn his passing.
- ✠ In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Regular Church Council Meeting August 2, 2020

President Russell Stanislav called the meeting to order at 11:22 am. Attending: Pastor Chip, Russell Stanislav, David McWilliams, Sharon Holverson, Roger Hansen, Jim Rains, Alan Johnson, Mike Vaughn, Lisa Johnson.

Russell Stanislav led devotions and prayer.

Secretary's report was read Sharon made a motion to accept as presented and David seconded motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report was read and Jim made a motion to accept as presented and Alan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Youth report: Russell has talked to Conni from the Christian Church about having her granddaughters plan a day. He is also considering the start of Sunday School.

Pastor's Report: Pastor encouraged us to consider monthly our practices for safety and inventory of supplies to keep our worship space as clean as possible and our congregation comfortable in coming to worship. He is considering making videos and family activities to do on line.

September 13, 2020 we will have a highway

cleanup and potluck outside. Alan will look into purchasing the hotdogs and hamburgers. Pastor will get donated buns.

Pastor also mentioned there are umbrellas in the office to help people coming in the church in the event of rain.

Russell will contact Pastor Steve Pera to see if September 13 would be a good date to have him come and receive recognition for his service to Bethesda.

Old business: Propane summer fill happened this week.

New business: David wants another piece of equipment to connect the camcorder to the ipad. David will teach others to tape the service in the event he cannot. Considered sending cards to people in nursing homes or who are shut in perhaps taking a congregation picture. Pastor is more than willing to make visits. Lisa will send him some names and addresses.

Mike made a motion to adjourn the meeting and David seconded. President set the next meeting for 6:00 pm on Sept. 3, 2020.

Council closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Sept/Oct Schedules

Sept Ushers:

*Mike Vaughn
Gary Kalskett

Oct Ushers:

*Sam Johnson
Harold Remmenga

Scripture Readers:

Sept 6 - Sam Johnson
Sept 13 - Susan Johnson
Sept 20 - Diane Kalskett
Sept 27 - Sharon Lee
Oct 4 - Sheila Lindsey
Oct 11 - Jolene McDonald
Oct 18 - Jim Rains
Oct 25 - Maggie Rains

Acolytes:

Sept 6 - Novie & Hadlie
Sept 13 - Chenoa & Aiyana
Sept 20 - Novie & Hadlie
Sept 27 - Chenoa & Aiyana
Oct 4 - Novie & Hadlie
Oct 11 - Chenoa & Aiyana
Oct 18 - Novie & Hadlie
Oct 25 - Chenoa & Hadlie

Communion Assistant:

1st month we have communion at the altar railing
1. Russell Stanislav
2. Cathy Stephens

Communion Dates:

Sept 6 - First Sunday
Sept 20 - Third Sunday
Oct 4 - First Sunday
Oct 18 - Third Sunday

Altar Care:

Sept - Maggie Rains
Oct - Lisa Johnson

Altar Colors:

June 14 - Oct 18 - Green
Oct 25 - Red

August Offerings and Attendance

Aug 2 - 34 - \$1140.00	Checking -	\$ 5,238.48
Aug 9 - 29 - 964.	Back Up Funds	14,454.19
Aug 16 - 31- 521.00	Emergency Funds	4,124.72
Aug 23 - 26 - 568.00	Youth Funds	387.24
Aug 30 - 35 - 800.00	Memorial Funds	8,080.69
World Hunger - 53.00		
Noisy Offering - 48.68		

Special Council Meeting

August 30, 2020

Present: Russell Stanislav, David McWilliams, Pastor Chip, Jim Raines, Sharon Holverson, Alan Johnson, Lisa Johnson, Roger Hansen, Mike Vaughn.

David received a letter from the synod asking for Bethesda's participation in helping with southeast Iowa storm damage and flooding. Alan made a motion to send \$500 and Roger seconded. All in favor and very proud we had the ability to send that amount to help others.

THANK YOU!!

Thank you so much for your contribution to the Back to School Supplies Drive that our Monona County office held recently. It was very much appreciated.

West Central Community Action

Brenda Howland, Mgr.

LSI News

Direct Support Professionals Week

Do you know someone who is a caregiver to a loved one? It is a role that is both demanding and meaningful. During September's National Direct Support Professionals Week, we celebrate all the ways in which professional caregivers help children and adults achieve their goals and build meaningful lives, especially during the extra challenges surrounding COVID-19 this year.

One way LSI empowers lowans is through our Services for People with Disabilities. From 24-hour support to occasional respite care, the LSI team lifts up lowans with disabilities as they find the confidence and independence they need to thrive. In recent months, our DSPs have been dedicated to the people we are privileged to serve, adding extra safety measures to continue supporting individuals in our 24-hour facilities and providing new activities to keep everyone entertained and busy when leaving the house was not safely an option.

This high-quality care is possible because of you – thank you for lifting up your Iowa neighbors in times of crisis! If you would like to learn more about how you can support crucial programming like LSI's Services for People with Disabilities, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at 563-676-2065 or Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org.

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.

We are Still Here: LSI's Services for People with Disabilities

LSI Team Leader Ada works at Harmony House in Muscatine, a 24/7 care facility provided through LSI's Services for People with Disabilities. The home provides consistent care to five lowans with intensive disabilities and medical conditions. Ada and her team assist residents with most parts of their day, from movement around the home and hygiene routines to medications and meals.

Because of COVID-19, the residents at Harmony House have not been able to safely see their families or participate in the volunteering or work they love, as some are able to do. But Ada and her team are there to offer a familiar face and structure when everything else feels uncertain. On days when clients feel scared or unsure, Ada and her team provide support and comfort.

Throughout the pandemic, Ada and her team have worked long hours to ensure they follow additional safety precautions, protecting both themselves and the clients they serve.

"We are an essential part of their daily life, regardless of whatever storm lies in front of us. My work is needed for my clients to survive," Ada says. "But they are essential to me and the other staff. They are the reason we do what we do."

“God’s Work, Our Hands” Sunday Farewell for Pastor Steve Pera Highway Clean Up Day & Lunch

We all look forward to walking the road ditches and doing some clean up for our community! This will be held on **Sunday, September 13**, following the church service. Ones not wanting to walk our stretch of highway can stay at the church and do some general yard work. We will all enjoy a lunch following. Grilled hamburgers, hotdogs, chips, and a drink will be furnished. We also want to extend a THANK YOU to Pastor Pera for the service he brought to this congregation. We appreciate the time, talent, and dedication he provided when we needed an interim pastor. Pastor Pera is planning to be at our worship service and will join us for lunch. Please join us!

Bethesda Fall Bazaar

Due to COVID19, the Women of Bethesda will not be hosting the Fall Bazaar this year. We did not see a way we could manage it with all the restrictions. However, you should be getting a letter in the mail about donating to their funds. The Fall Bazaar is the main fundraiser for the women’s group. We use this money for church improvements, memorials, and donations to many charities. Even though we will not be having this event, we hope you will keep us in your prayers and support us with your donations. Thank you!!

Back to School

In Western Iowa and Tanzania

O God, source of all goodness: We give you thanks for the gift of reason and the opportunity for education.

Bless our schools in Iowa and Tanzania, that they may be lively places for sound learning and new discovery.

Grant wisdom, clear vision, and freshness of thought to all who teach so that they might challenge the minds and nurture the hearts of students.

Give courage and boldness to superintendents and school boards as they make decisions which impact the learning and health of children in their care.

And we pray that all people might be open to the wonders and joy of learning, living together in love mutual respect.
Amen.



Mark your calendars and spread the word, Bethesda’s worship time will go back to **8:45 a.m. starting Sunday, September 6th**. As part of our shared pastor arrangement, Bethesda and St. John switch worship times once a year to allow everyone to worship at their favorite time every other year! This coming year Bethesda will have Worship at 8:45 am followed by Sunday School at 10:00 am. St. John will worship at 10:30 am throughout the year to come. Every time worship time changes there is always a bit of confusion as we adjust to a new schedule. Spread the word so that everyone is aware of the time change!



WESTERN IOWA SYNOD IS COMMITTED TO HELPING IOWA VICTIMS OF STORM

Caring for neighbors in the Southeastern Iowa Synod - you can assist those affected by storm damage! The Western Iowa Synod has committed \$5,000 to assist our neighbors in Southeast Iowa, who have been affected by the storm that blew through on Aug. 10. **By Monday, Sept. 7, 2020, you can help double that amount by sending checks (write "Disaster Relief" in memo line) and mail to:**

**Western Iowa Synod
518 East 5th St.
Storm Lake, IA 50588**

BETHESDA HAPPENINGS - SEPTEMBER 2020

Worship is live streamed on Bethesda Church facebook page. After service, it is posted on our website www.stjohn.bethesda-lutheran.org.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 Church Council 6 P.M.	4	5
6 WORSHIP TIME CHANGE 8:45 AM Worship with Holy Communion	7 8 p.m. AA/Alanon	8	9 Pastor Chip's Day at Dunlap	10 Pastor Chip's Day at Moorhead	11	12
13 8:45 AM Worship - Highway cleanup followed by potluck. Burgers and hot dogs furnished. Farewell/ Pastor Pera	14 8 p.m. AA/Alanon	15	16 Pastor Chip's Day at Dunlap in the morning and Bethesda in the afternoon	17	18	19
20 8:45 AM Worship with Holy Communion	21 8 p.m. AA/Alanon	22	23 Pastor Chip's Day at Dunlap	24 Pastor Chip's Day at Moorhead	25	26
27 8:45 AM Worship With Presley Jean Christophersen Baptism	28 8 p.m. AA/Alanon	29	30 Pastor Chip's Day at Dunlap			

Bethesda Lutheran Church
703 Pine Street
Moorhead, IA 51558

September 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!

Sept 3 - Brett Aubry
Sept 4 - Mary Hieber
Sept 6 - Colleen Vaughn
Sept 8 - Neal Mann
Sept 10 - Jacquelyn Hutzell
Sept 11 - Keith Hieber
 Kathy Aubry
Sept 12 - Sharon Hinirchsen
Sept 17 - Lisa Johnson
Sept 19 - Maggie Raymond
Sept 22 - Eli Bowman
Sept 24 - Kimberly Monahan
Sept 25 - Jennifer Lauritsen
Sept 27 - Neal Hutzell

***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.**

If you or someone you know needs help through this difficult time of COVID19, please reach out to Pastor Chip, a board member, friend, or neighbor. It doesn't matter if it is for food, financial assistance, or just someone to talk to and listen. We are in this together! We want and need to help each other!!

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 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.