

Bethesda Lutheran
Church

703 Pine St.
Moorhead, IA 51558

**Bethesda's Reason
for Being...**

**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—

January 2021

Pastor Chip Borgstadt

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

Church Phone: 712-886-5241

Sunday School

Worship Service: 8:45 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,
and Roger Hansen

Happy New Year! Even though we say that every year, this year we hope for the happiness that comes from familiar rhythms and face to face community. The past nine months have been blanketed with change, tinted by uncertainty, and filled with loss. We pray that 2021 will reverse the trend of 2020 and steadily improve. We know that it will take some time for the vaccine to reach the point where we have general protection. We also believe that if we work together for a few more months lives will be saved and our communities will be able to return to the things we love to do together.

As your grateful pastor, I want to share some of my dreams for this next year. I am humbled by your gracious welcome and support in such a chaotic time. And I am thankful that you have been open to try some new ways to keep treasured practices alive, even if they are practiced more in the home.

Epiphany. This is the season after Christmas. We keep our eyes open to see Jesus in our everyday lives. Worship will continue to be available online and depending on COVID-19 rates in the community, worship in the sanctuary will be celebrated when appropriate. We have a weekly home-based activity to keep your spirits elevated and your faith growing.

Ash Wednesday (February 14th) and Lenten Midweek Services. With these much loved traditions still uncertain, we are planning on observance focused in the home. Individual containers for ashes are already at the church. At a minimum, online midweek worship will be available. Depending on the health of the community, we will find ways to worship in the sanctuary.

Holy Week and Easter. We didn't get to celebrate last year as we would have liked to. It may be the same this year. Easter is early in April and the weather might not be warm enough to go outside. As always, the leaders of the congregation will carefully

determine the safest way to celebrate.

So far I've only talked about continued restrictions because of the pandemic. They are going to be our reality for longer than we want. But here's the good news: as soon as it is safer, we will find ways to recapture some of the celebrations we've missed. We're hoping to celebrate Graduation in a larger way in 2021. We want to "turn back the clock" and celebrate Christmas, even if we're wearing shorts and t-shirts! We'll catch up with an Easter celebration, too. Let's dream of other ways we can lift the spirits of the community, too. (I'd love to see us do some kind of a cookout/barbecue and invite the town.)

How can we get to this point? We continue to make the health and safety of our members and our visitors a priority. We do what is needed to maintain and amplify our witness to faith in the community. We lift up, not put down. We praise the good, not condemn the different. We welcome the mistakes that come with innovation, not embrace the decline that comes with resisting adaptation.

I invite you to visit with me at any time with ideas about how we can effectively serve the community. And if you have ideas about how we can improve worship, discipleship, stewardship and service, I welcome conversation. We will only get through 2021 as we work together, putting God's kingdom first and our own preferences further down on the list.

Each year I select a verse to help me focus on what I believe God is calling me to do. My verse this year is Ephesians 1:11-12: In the Messiah we were also chosen when we were predestined according to the purpose of the one who does everything that he wills to do, so that we who had already fixed our hope on the Messiah might live for his praise and glory. (International Standard Version) May all I do, may all we do, bring praise to God's glory in our communities.

Pastor Chip

Prayers of the Church



Lord, Jesus Christ, the Light of the world, help us so to follow You that we may never walk in darkness but have the light of life.

As men were led by the brightness of Your light to come and worship You, illumine our hearts that the veil of darkness and death may be lifted from our eyes and we may see the salvation of our God.

We believe that You are the Word made flesh and that You dwell among us. Use this blessed season to help us see Your glory, the glory as of the Only-begotten of the Father, that You may be grace and truth to us.

Increase in us the desire to support with our gifts and prayers the missions to men everywhere who have not seen the light, that Your

kingdom may ring with praises for You from men of every tribe, nation, kindred, and tongue. We ask it in Your name. Amen.

Lutheran Book of Prayer. Page 61.

We raise the names of those in need of your healing touch. We remember today:

- ✠ Lenyce Lawrenson
- ✠ Wes Moffatt
- ✠ Night and day, all creation praises you, O God. Strengthen your church across nations, denominations, and traditions. Fill us with wisdom and unify our proclamation of your forgiveness and mercy.

✠ All creation is holy to you, O God. You cause the earth to bring forth its shoots and gardens to spring up. Protect hibernating animals and frozen lands that wait earnestly for longer days of awakening and growth.

✠ The nations are upheld by your hand, O God. Cause righteousness and praise to spring forth, inspiring leaders to serve with compassion and integrity. Send your spirit of discernment upon legislators grappling with complex decisions for the sake of the common good.

✠ Adopt us into your family, O God. Bless our elders with the peace and joy of Simeon and Anna. Strengthen those who have retired, those who work in older age, and those in need of income, food, company, or health care.

✠ God of sinners and saints, you offer joy even in the midst of our grief. Anoint all who mourn with the oil of gladness. Be with the family and friends of Caleb Solberg as they mourn his passing.

✠ Amen.

Regular Church Council Meeting December 3, 2020

President Russell Stanislav called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

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

Absent: Roger Hansen

Pastor Chip shared devotions.

Secretary's report was read. Jim made a motion to accept as presented and Alan seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report was read and Alan made a motion to accept as presented and Mike seconded. Motion carried.

Youth report: Russell is recording a story for children that can be found on fb or youtube. He will speak to Maggie about having her participate for the older students.

Pastor Report: Pastor has a list of calls that he wants accomplished in the next five years.

1. Pastor will retire in 2025.
2. We will be calling a Pastor.
3. We are called to be Bethesda Disciples
4. We will live out Bethesda's mission statement.
5. Reach out to community in order to grow.
6. We will continue our digital discipleship

Pastor wants us to have our 125 years plus 1 celebration next summer. He wants to celebrate graduation, July 4, thanksgiving and Christmas in shorts. He suggests a picnic in the park with a community service. Pastor hopes to have a leader in theological ministry by September in hopes of becoming a minister by 2025.

Old Business: Russell will contact Kris Pedersen at St. John's regarding joint council meeting. Gary Trucke will be contacted to mow and we will consider how to supply Harold with a mower. Bethesda received a certificate from Western Iowa Synod thanking us for giving \$8,231.78.

New Business: Pastor will be here on December 23-24 from 12-5 to allow families to come in the church to worship. We are thinking 2 households at a time. Requesting those coming to visit bring canned goods.

David will give gifts to Susan, Deb, and Conni.

World Hunger Donations are down.

Consider holding the annual meeting in February.

Alan made a motion to adjourn the meeting and David seconded.

President Russell set the next council meeting for January 7, 2021 at 6 pm.

Council closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Jan\Feb Schedules

Jan Ushers:

*Daryl Lauritsen
Donnie Koch

Feb Ushers:

*Mike Vaughn
Gary Kalskett

Scripture Readers:

Readers will begin with Angie Bothwell once we have services held at the church again.

Acolytes: Will be assigned when services are held at the church

Communion Dates:

Jan 3 - First Sunday
Jan 17 - Third Sunday
Feb 7 - First Sunday
Feb 21 - Third Sunday

Altar Care:

Jan - Sharon Holverson
Feb - Susan Johnson

Altar Colors:

Dec 24 - Jan 10 - White
Jan 17 - Feb 7 - Green for Epiphany Season
Feb 14 - White for Transfiguration of our Lord Sunday
Feb 17 - March 21 - Purple for Lenten Season



December Offerings & Balances

Dec 4 -	\$ 100.00	Checking -	\$ 2,933.90
Dec 7 -	1090.00	Back Up Funds	15,010.29
Dec 16 -	200.00	Emergency Funds	3,372.12
Dec 28 -	2180.00	Youth Funds	487.49
Dec 30 -	250.00	Memorial Funds	8,181.09
Dec 31 -	150.00		

Church Service Change

Worship Services will be on-line only until further notice. You can watch the service live on our facebook page, Bethesda Church, on Sunday mornings at 8:45 a.m. After the service is over, you can catch it on our website, www.stjohn.bethesda-lutheran.org. We thank Pastor Chip for making this available to us and also to David McWilliams for videoing the service each week. We may not be able to meet in person, but we can still stay attached to our church.

Our church is run by our contributions of money, time, and talents. Please send offerings to **Sharon Holverson, Treasurer, 301 Oak Street, Moorhead, Iowa, 51558**. If you see a need that our church could fill in our community during this time of coronavirus, please let a council member or Pastor Chip know.

LSI News

Raising Our Voice for Iowa Children and Families

Families struggling without access to mental healthcare. Human services providers overworked and underpaid. Former refugees and immigrants striving to build new lives.

These are all issues faced by Iowans. Help us ensure their voices are heard at the Iowa State Capitol.

This legislative session may look different from past years. But now more than ever, Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) will be advocating for our community members who are so often overlooked in our society.

You can join us in this important work. Visit LSIowa.org/advocacy and sign up for our Advocacy Alerts. Learn more about the legislative process, the issues impacting your neighbors, and your role as a citizen in helping to amplify their voices. If you would like more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at Deborah.Whitford@SLIowa.org, or 563-676-2065.

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 and facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

Compassion During Crisis

Across the state, LSI team members work with families at risk of child abuse or neglect, connecting them to the tools and resources they need to keep their children in their homes whenever safely possible.

One of the critical programs available to parents is the Strengthening Families program. The program typically provides 14 weeks of in-person parent group work, family activities, and a family meal to enhance child development, help parents create their own support network, and reduce the likelihood of child abuse or neglect.

When COVID-19 created challenges to this in-person model, LSI did not give up on the families who relied on this important service. Instead, LSI's Behavioral Health Intervention Services team has gone virtual.

Maria, a program supervisor with LSI, has been leading a virtual version of the program this year, where families join a Zoom meeting and use "breakout rooms" for individual sessions. Meals are purchased from Hy-Vee and delivered the night of the session, so families are still able to celebrate their tradition of eating together each week.

This year has created several challenges for all of us, but LSI continues to answer the call and provide the high-quality care and services Iowa children and families deserve.

A Season of Giving

Christine Larson, a former Moorhead resident and East Monona graduate, is having health problems. She will be taking treatments again and will be unable to work. Her co-worker has set up a fund at the BankFirst in Onawa. If you would like to donate to help Christine pay for rent and utilities and traveling expenses for her treatments, please send to BankFirst at 902 10th Street, Onawa, Iowa 51040. Checks need to be made out to "Tracy Huisenga for benefit of Christine Larson." If you would like to send a card to Christine, her address is 1017 11th Street, Onawa, Iowa, 51040. I know she would appreciate whatever you donate. Her parents were Stanley & Harriett, who lived at Moorhead for many years.

Usher List for 2021

January, June, & November

*Daryle Lauritsen

Donnie Koch

February, July, & December

*Mike Vaughn

Gary Kalskett

March & August

*Sam Johnson

Harold Remmenga

April & September

*Mark Johnson

Jim Rains

Russell Stanislav

May & October

*Alan Johnson

Roger Hansen

Readers for 2021

Angie Bothwell

Darlene Bowman

Roger Hansen

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

If you or someone you know would like to be added to our usher or reader list, please let Pastor Chip or Susan Johnson know. These lists can be revised at any time! We will continue with the usher rotation, so the same usher team will not have to serve the same months from year to year. When we resume with in-church worship services, we will begin with Angie Bothwell.

Thank You!!

Bethesda Lutheran Church Women,

Thank you so much for your generous donation this month. Your kindness will go a long way in blessing the lives of our clients.

Wishing you all the best in the new year.

- Crossroads of Western Iowa Philanthropy Team

2020 Annual Reports

Due Soon

Annual Meeting Scheduled for January 17, 2021 - May be Postponed

Annual reports can be put in the usher's pew or emailed to moorhead.bethesda@wisynod.org.

Everyone is invited and requested to join the annual meeting of Bethesda Lutheran Church. The meeting is a time to elect board members, deal with old business, and also bring to light new business. Your ideas and suggestions are welcome on how to better continue our mission of **Providing** a worship center in which to experience God's presence, **Equipping** people with a faith that works in real life, and **Sending** people into the world in Jesus' name to serve. All of us are a part of God's Body in this church. We want all to be in on the worshipping, the decision making and the fellowship of Bethesda. Please come to the meeting to participate or to learn just how and what decisions are made.

Following the Annual Meeting there may be a potluck dinner. Please bring a dish or two to share and join in the fellowship.

The Bethesda Lutheran Church Women will repeat the 2020 year in 2021 since it was little used. We are working to get the 2021 booklets out.

Thank You!!

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous donation to the Matthew's House! Our numbers have gone up and your donation will help us feed our community for the next year.

Many Blessings & Merry Christmas
Matthew's House Food Pantry

* * * * *

Thank you for the monetary gift at Christmas. It was much appreciated! I will continue to volunteer my time to the church office in whatever capacity I can. Hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and will have a Happier New Year!

Susan Johnson

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Dear Friends,

Thank you for your continued support of the food pantry. Our families really appreciate the baked goodies that you bring for the pantry!

Blessings to you all,

Matthew's House Food Pantry

BETHESDA HAPPENINGS - JAN 2021

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 8:45 AM Worship On-line Only	4	5	6 Pastor Chip's Day at Dunlap	7 Pastor Chip's Day at Moorhead Church Board Meeting 6 P.M.	8	9
10 8:45 AM Worship On-line Only	11	12	13 Pastor Chip's Day at Dunlap	14 Pastor Chip's Day at Moorhead	15	16
17 8:45 AM Worship On-line Only	18	19	20 Pastor Chip's Day at Dunlap	21 Pastor Chip's Day at Moorhead	22	23
24 8:45 AM Worship On-line Only	25	26	27 Pastor Chip's Day at Dunlap	28 Pastor Chip's Day at Moorhead	29	30
31						

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January 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!

Jan 4 - Susan Johnson
Jan 14 - Scott Johnson
Jan 15 - Julie Kuhlman
Jan 18 - Christine Hutzell
Jan 23 - Susan Mann
Jan 25 - Don Lindsey
Jan 27 - Landon Johnson
Jan 28 - Jeanne Pratt
Rosella Lalich

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.