



Bethesda News

April 2018

Bethesda Lutheran Church: a congregation of S.W.I.M
South West Iowa Ministries, Western Iowa Synod, ELCA
2475 140th St., Clarinda, IA 51632

<http://swimwebsite.weebly.com>

Worship @ 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School @ 10:00 a.m.

Fellowship Coffee @ 10:00 a.m.

Marietta Nelson Bittle ~ Phone: 712-890-9882 email: swiministries@gmail.com

Ben McIntire ~ Phone: 712-299-1795

From Pastor Marietta....

The Fist

By Mary Oliver

There are days
when the sun goes down
like a fist,
though of course
if you see anything
in the heavens this way
you had better get
your eyes checked
or, better still,
your diminished spirit.

The heavens
have no fist,
or wouldn't they have been
shaking it
for a thousand years now,
and even
longer than that,
at the dull, brutish
ways of mankind -
heaven's own
creation?

Instead: such patience!
Such willingness
to let us continue!
To hear,
little by little,
the voices -
only, so far, in
pockets of the world -
suggesting the possibilities
of peace?
Keep looking.
Behold, how the fist opens
with invitation.

I am reminded every Easter of this poem by Mary Oliver. She encapsulates in just a few words God's infinite patience with us, his beloved human creation that he comes to again and again patiently, willingly, embracing our faults and helping us see a way ahead. In this season after Easter, this time of rejoicing and recognizing yet again God's sacrifice for us, that it is an invitation to love others well, to forgive, to have mercy, to be endlessly patient. Especially with ourselves. Amen.

- - Marietta

Marietta out of town

Marietta will be traveling to England April 21 through 28 to visit her daughter who is studying there for this semester. For emergency pastoral care issues, Rev. Roger Claxton of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Red Oak has agreed to be on call. He can be reached at the church, 712 623-3394, or email at rogerclaxton@mediacombb.net.

Bethesda Musicians are Wonderful!

A huge thank you to the musicians of Bethesda who have made our worship services so meaningful and musical recently, especially Good Friday and Easter. Bells, recorders, singers and especially Yvonne go to amazing lengths to enrich worship. We appreciate you all greatly!



The April Lydia Circle will meet on Thursday, April 19 at 2:30 p.m. with Barbara Johnson as hostess. Pastor Marietta will lead the Bible study.

The April WELCA Work Day on April 18th will not meet until later.

CLUSTER MEETING

To all Women in your congregation:

The Lydia Cluster Spring Gathering
April 21, 2018
Salem Lutheran Church
602 W. Townline
Creston, IA

Registration at 9:00 a.m. with Brunch
to follow in Fellowship Hall.

Program – MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!
The Stories Behind Our Favorite Hymns
Please RSVP by April 7, 2018

Thank You

To the Bethesda WELCA,

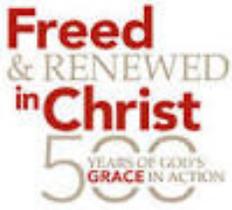
What a pleasant surprise to receive the tree ornament and check! I have decided to go on a Mission Trip to Belize this June. I will apply the monetary gift to that cause.

Thanks, Elaine Armstrong



Many people enjoyed a delicious brunch following morning worship March 11th. Thank you Joni Sunderman and her committee, Deb Wagoner, Nikki Carlson, Sallie Lund and Diane Campbell. Following the meal, Norma Thomsen and Elaine Armstrong shared stories and showed pictures of their trip to the International Kiwanis Convention in Paris and their week long riverboat cruise.





Morning Worship @ 9:00 A.M.

Sunday School @ 10:15 A. M.

Fellowship Coffee @ 10:00 A.M.

Communion first and last Sunday of the month

Preaching Schedule at Bethesda

April 1 Pastor Ben McIntire
April 8 Pastor Marietta Nelson Bittle
April 15 Pastor Ben McIntire
April 22 Pastor Marietta Nelson Bittle
April 29 Pastor Ben McIntire

April Worship assistants

Greeters Greg & Jo Wallin
Reader Stanley Johnson
Communion Asst. Steve Carlson
Ushers Joni Sunderman
Deb Wagoner
Steve & Phyllis Carlson
Altar Guild Norma Thomsen & Deb Wagoner
Acolyte Riley King

Fellowship Coffee Servers

April 1 EASTER Education Committee.
April 8 Dennis Boger & Dave Jones
April 15 Steve & Lori Lastine
April 22 Mike & Sheila Freed
April 29 Mark & Sally Lund

April Birthdays

2 Peter Lund
7 Sheila Freed
9 Amy Nelson Ettleman
11 Doug Johnson
11 Clair Nelson
12 Alisha Buttercase
12 Phyllis Carlson
27 Lynn Meier
28 Bryan Nelson



Worship at 9:00 AM with special music by the Bells of Joy and Women's chorus

There will not be Sunday school Easter Sunday.

Upcoming Events

April 11 7:00 p.m. Church council meeting
April 19 2:30 p.m. Lydia Circle

April 26 May newsletter items are due. Send to Yvonne (johnsony@myfmtc.com)



National Child Abuse Prevention Month

According to the Iowa Department of Human Services, 8,892 Iowa children were found to be abused in 2016. 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 2017, our Early Childhood programs provided more than 15,000 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 and [Facebook.com/LSI.iowa](https://www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa).

Building a Stronger Family

Stacy's daughter, Danikah, was a happy and playful toddler. But things began to change when her baby brother, Parker, was born. She was happy to see him in the hospital at first, but she struggled to adjust to a new child at home, especially when it came to sharing a room with Parker.

Stacy found LSI's New Parent Program shortly after Parker was born, and she hoped it could help her daughter adjust to the changes at home. The free, voluntary program provides support and education to families during and after pregnancy. Through the program, Stacy gets to meet other families in her community, and Danikah gets to interact with other children who have siblings.

Danikah is learning how other siblings share their toys and interact. Meanwhile, Stacy is learning to adjust to her children's developmental stages. Through the program, she has learned to potty train Danikah and manage her daughter's temper tantrums.

At home, Stacy and her children receive regular visits from their LSI team. Each week, the team brings creative new crafts Stacy can make from materials around the house. Danikah, now 5, is always eager to learn a new activity from her LSI worker during each visit. She's even starting to share her homemade toys with Parker.

"The program is fun for the kids, but you can also do things as a family," Stacy says. "You get that time with your child, and you're building a better relationship in the process."