



Bethesda News

July 2017

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.

Fellowship Coffee @ 10:00 a.m.

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Gordon Scott ~ Phone: 712-826-4175



A Message from Marietta

In this year - the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation - I've (tried) to read several lofty, academic essays about Martin Luther. It seems as if we should mark this year with a better understanding of Luther's role in the Reformation and his theology. It's certainly interesting to think about this pious, Roman Catholic monk who became so concerned with the direction of the church and its leaders that he nailed a list of things he wanted to talk about to a church door in Wittenberg, Germany. These 95 Theses, as they are known, covered a lot of territory. But at the heart was Luther's concern about the selling of indulgences, meaning people would give money to the church in order to be forgiven their sins. (It's a little more complicated than that, but that's the gist of it.) The Small Catechism is an excellent resource for beginning to understand Lutheran theology. I have many, many copies (I ordered in bulk!) so just ask me for one.

All this is to say, while seriousness is important, humor is, too. Luther was known for humor, often times having do with bodily functions. I will spare you that, but I wanted to share with you a letter he wrote to his wife. It teases her about worrying and clearly shows how much he loved her. I think it's important to remember that we can laugh and we can joke in church and in conversations about faith. Humor can be holy. The following passage is from *The Wit of Martin Luther* by Erik W. Gritsch:

Luther used his facetious pastoral care on his spouse, Catherine von Bora (Katie), when she worried too much about her husband's journey to Eisleben ... Luther

loved and respected her. He admired her strength and skill as a manager of his large household ... but when she sent him letters worrying about his stay in Eisleben during a very bad winter, Luther sent her a letter disclosing his teasing yet caring humor:

I thank you very kindly for your great worry which robs you of sleep. Since the date that you (started to) worry about me, the fire in my quarters, right outside the door of my room, tried to devour me; and yesterday, no doubt because of the strength of your worries, a stone almost fell on my head and nearly squashed me as in a mouse trap. For in our secret chamber (the toilet) mortar has been falling down for about two days; we called in some people who (merely) touched the stone with two fingers and it fell down. The stone was as big as a long pillow and as wide as a large hand. It intended to repay you for your holy worries, had the dear angels not protected me. Now I worry that if you do not stop worrying the earth will finally swallow us up and all the elements will chase us. Is this the way you have learned the catechism and the faith? Pray and let God worry. You have certainly not been commanded to worry about me or about yourself. "Cast your burdens upon the Lord and he will sustain you." - Luther

Peace

Marietta



Pastor Marietta preaching the children's sermon assisted by her daughter, Maeve.

SWIM Services It was a beautiful morning Sunday, June 4th when many members from the SWIM churches gathered at Hacklebarney Park for the morning worship service. It was Pentecost Sunday and Pastor Marietta made the service very inspirational and interesting. Each person was given a different version of the Lord's Prayer translated from various cultures. As everyone prayed their version, it did sound like we were "speaking in tongues." We could truly feel the presence of the Holy Spirit both in music and the Word. Several children and adults took part in an event that we won't soon forget. An offering was collected for Southwest Iowa Families in Clarinda. The service closed with Holy Communion. A pot-luck dinner followed with good food and fellowship.



Celebrating Reformation – 500 years

On Sunday, July 23 there will be a brunch following morning worship. We will turn our attention to **Martin Luther** when Barbara J., Miriam H., and Christie V. will give an interesting program about Luther and the Reformation.

Those in charge of the 10 o'clock brunch are: Phyllis C., Sheila F., Lynn M., and Jolene W. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The Bethesda Quilters recently sent several fleece quilts to LWR. Thanks to Wayne Sederburg for delivering these boxes to the transport truck which in turn will send them on their way.

Thank You

The Bethesda Women gave \$100 each to Maggie and Mariska to use towards their camp registration at Carol Joy Holling Camp. Here are their *thank you notes*.

LADIES of WELCA,

Thank you for the money you donated for me to go to church camp. I had a great time. My favorite thing was Ziplining over a snapping turtle having eggs.

I can't wait to go again.

Thank you soooo much.

Love,
Mariska

LADIES of WELCA,

Camp was so fun. My favorite thing about camp was High ropes.

This is the tent where me and Mariska slept!

(Picture is posted on bulletin board)

Thank You so much for giving us money to go to camp.

Thank You from Maggie



*Bethesda Quilting Ladies,
Thank You so much for the beautiful quilt! It will
be so nice to always have a little part of Bethesda.
Thanks again!*

*Love,
Andrea Nelson*



We ask God to lead the men and women who are protecting our country by serving in the military at home or abroad. Please keep them and their families in your prayers. Serving from Bethesda are Matthew and Jaime Hanson and Anna and Fletcher Hopkins.

Congratulations to Don and Marlene Paulson who celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary Sunday, June 25. They served delicious treats at fellowship coffee included Kransekaka (Norwegian wedding cake), cake, nuts, mints, cheese and crackers. Takke så mye og gratulerer, Don and Marlene!



The children collected \$832.00 in our joyful noise offerings this month! Money will be used to send a foster child to camp and help with Mariska and Maggie's camp expenses. Thank you to everyone who made this a huge success.

2017 Western Iowa Synod Assembly

The Western Iowa Synod held its annual meeting on June 9, 10 & 11, in Sioux City. The theme for this 30th assembly was, "We Are Lutherans: Opening Doors." Barbara and Stanley Johnson and I attended on behalf of Bethesda Lutheran.

The Assembly began with a question: "How is your church opening doors?" Ideas were shared: Join with another group (4-H, youth group) and clean a local park, highway; visit shut-ins from your church; join with other Lutherans for Lutheran Day on the Hill at the Iowa State capital on Feb. 8 to talk with legislators about your concerns.

A focus of study during Assembly was Luther's Small Catechism. The catechism contains the 10 Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, the Sacrament of Holy Baptism and Absolution and Confession. Each section is followed by Luther's words on what those items mean. People at the Assembly were urged to pull out their Small Catechisms and review them and share them with other congregation members.

Several breakout sessions were held at the Assembly. Some highlighted the work of Lutheran social services agencies, others talked about the state of Christianity in other parts of the world, still others gave information on church revitalization. One of the forums was the Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) shared how they have teamed up with the Department of Human Services (DHS) to help find families to host foster children. There is a rising need in Iowa to place these children.

STRAND CHURCH
ANNUAL BAZAAR & DINNER

AUGUST 26TH, 2017 - SATURDAY
(15 MILES NE OF VILLISCA)

MENU
Roast Beef, Ham Balls, Cheesy Potatoes,
Green Beans, Salads, Homemade Pies.
Home Made Rolls

Dinner: 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Adults \$8 - Kids 10 and under \$5

Bring Your Lawn Chair
Auction Starts at 1:30 p.m.

Large Quilts	Tea Towels
Baby Quilts	Rugs
Pillow Cases	Other Misc. Items

The assembly also adopted a resolution supporting its two multi-cultural ministries: Thanksgiving Lutheran South Sudanese Ministry in Council Bluffs with Pastor James Rut, and Senor de la Misericordia (Lord of Mercy) Ministry in Denison, with Pastor Filemon Diaz (in conjunction with Trinity Episcopal Church and the Episcopal Diocese of Iowa). The resolution also encouraged congregations to study their history of immigration and also how to help the immigrants of today.

As Registrations totals came in there was a higher number than 2016 attendance. Mission giving across the synod was also up by more than \$82,000. Bethesda Lutheran was recognized for contributing \$5,500 to that total. Well done!

People who attended the Assembly were asked to bring medical supplies and equipment that will be sent to our companion synod in Tanzania. Crutches, towels, sheets, gauze and all sorts of medical supplies filled a large moving-size truck. The items will be shipped to Tanzania in the fall.

- Marietta

(with great appreciation to Kathy Bozwell from Strand who lent me her notes so I could write this report.)

SWIM Council Meeting

(Southwest Iowa Ministries)

April 6th, 2017 – swiministries@gmail.com

Mission Statement:

To Proclaim the Good News of GOD's Love in work and deed!

Present: Duane DeKay, Dennis Burke, Sheila Freed, Mark Lund, Kyle Chafa,
Kathy Bozwell and TEEM Candidate – Marietta Nelson-Bittle

The meeting of SWIM Council was called to order by Duane at 7:03.

Devotions were given by Marietta a reading by Tex Ridder-Deck of Cards

Secretaries report was sent out on line. Sheila moved to approve, Mark seconded the motion, motion carried

Treasurers report was handed out, discussion if we will have enough money for the year, asked if Kyle could get a budget put together for the council, Tabled Kathy moved to approve the report given Sheila seconded the motion, motion carried.

Pastors Report given – Kathy moved to approve as given Dennis seconded the report, motion carried.

SWIM's Happenings were shared with all three churches.

Old Business

*Budget was handed out Dennis moved and Mark seconded the motion to approve the Budget given.

*Shut Ins – was in Pastor report, we need to be aware of hospitalized and call Marietta if there is a need and not assume she was told.

*Mutual Ministry needs activated to help Marietta grow with experience and knowledge of our congregations. Each church is to find a volunteer to meet and go over needs or wants of the church or of Marietta's.

*Joint Service – Anderson Park, Stanton Nursing Home Court Yard, Viking Lake Shelter, Hacklebarney Lake Shelter. These will be checked out and receive info for **June 4 Services @ 10:30am.**

Worship & Bulletins & music Marietta – PA system Bethesda. – Plates and Table service & Chairs
- everyone bring your own – Communion Strand, - Drinks Tabor

If Rain we will meet at Bethesda

Duane will personally ask Ann Albert, St Johns and Fremont churches to the Joint Services.

New Business

*Business Cards for Marietta she will ask Synod or get on line and find cost and design.

*Synod Assembly June 9,10 & 11 we will pay or reimburse later \$175

*Worship Leaders days Off – Gordon wishes to have June 4th off (Will have Joint Service) and Marietta wishes July 9 off for Mills County Fair.

*Survey of times at all the 3 churches; Kathy will make up a survey on times that were discussed. Each church can use as needed or change survey. **TABLED**

*Lent Services - Stanley and Barbra Johnson concern that they were not paid, it was said if they wanted paid they would have said something. A Thank You Note of our appreciation will be sent out.

Next Meeting May 31st, at Tabor Church at 7pm

Motion to adjourn was Mark and Sheila seconded the motion, motion carried.

Closed with Prayer

Kathy Bozwell SWIM Secretary

Swim has been discussing times of Services of the three churches (Bethesda, Strand and Tabor).

We have been using Gordon Scott as a fill in and now it's time to

Make changes so our TEEM Candidate can do all 3 Services

Here are 5 different ideas being looked at, at this time

We ask for your help or idea

Which would you choose??

- 1. Tabor 8am Strand 9:15am Bethesda 11am
(each to switch times around)
- 2. Tabor am Strand afternoon(4 or 5pm?) Bethesda am
- 3. Increase your giving \$\$\$ to pay for a Lay/Supply Pastor
- 4. Offer another TEEM Candidate to join forces with Marietta and they both give 20 hours a week, and do the duties of one. Then they would still have plenty of time to do studies
- 5. Tella Pastor off the internet. This is where we televise over the internet and go to church at the church but see service on the internet, and not visit with the pastor or able to share with the pastor.

If a special time was chosen then after a year all times would be changed around, switched.

If you have an idea you wish to share please feel free to share below.

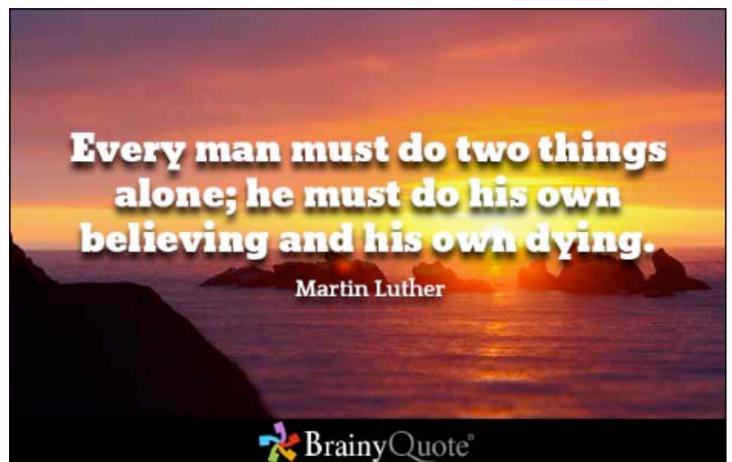
Please fill out and hand back to your SWIM representative today.

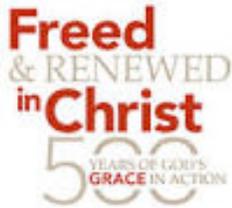
Thank you for all your help.

From the Bethesda council:

On July 9, we will have a special speaker during the service. We will be learning more about South West Iowa Families and their outreach.

We are still looking for projects for God's Work Our Hands that can benefit members of our congregation. Please let any council member know if you think of a project.





Morning Worship @ 9:00 A.M.
Fellowship Coffee @ 10:00 A.M.
Communion first and last Sunday of the month

**Please note the service time has changed to 9:00 AM
with fellowship coffee to follow.**



Preaching Schedule at Bethesda

July 2 Marietta Nelson-Bittle
July 9 Gordon Scott
July 16 Marietta Nelson-Bittle
July 23 Gordon Scott
July 30 Marietta Nelson-Bittle

Worship assistants in July

Greeters Mary Ann Vanderholm
Reader Mary Ann Vanderholm
Communion Asst. Greg Wallin
Ushers Mike & Sheila Freed
Jenny, Alisha & Cole Buttercase
Altar Guild Norma Thomsen

Coffee Servers

July 2 Jim & Carmen Lundberg
July 9 Mary Ann Vanderholm & Connie Freed
July 16 Greg & Jolene Wallin
July 23 Chris & Diane Campbell
July 30 Barbara Nelson & Joan Setterburg

July Birthdays

7 Delores Renander
10 Dennis Meier
10 David Meier
16 Barbara Nelson
17 Lori Lastine
18 Cody Vanderholm
20 Steve Carlson
22 Shelby Lewellen
23 Justin Sederburg

Anniversaries

1 Mike & Sandy Carlson
25 Steve & Phyllis Carlson

Upcoming Events

July 8 2:45 – 5:00 p.m. Volunteer at the Open Door Mission
July 9 during morning worship - Speaker from South West Iowa Families
July 5, 12, 19, 26 6:30 p.m. Book of Romans Bible study in the Upper Room
July 12 7:30 p.m. Church council
July 23 10:00 a.m. Brunch Celebrating the Reformation
July 25 August newsletter items are due. Send to Yvonne (johnsony@myfmtc.com)
August 26 11:00 a.m. - Strand Bazaar



God's work. Our hands.

As a social ministry organization of the ELCA, Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) is so thankful for your partnership in ministry! Thanks to you, we're able to provide education for young parents and empowerment to some of Iowa's most vulnerable children and families. This month, we would like to give special thanks for those of you who have made LSI a focus of a "God's work. Our hands." project.

This project is part of the anniversary celebration of the ELCA, and it's a way to reach out to your communities and build a stronger Iowa. This year September 10th is the date when congregations are encouraged to participate in a project for "God's work. Our hands." This is a perfect opportunity to do good deeds or raise money as a church body for a nonprofit like LSI.

We thank you for your witness of God's love and your service! If you are interested in supporting those served by LSI and would like to know more about current needs, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at 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.

Coping through creativity

Therapy can be a great way for kids, adults, and families to overcome past trauma. But for some, it takes a little extra innovation and creativity to find a therapeutic technique that can help them thrive.

Sherry, an LSI therapist, struggled to find a technique that worked for several children she saw each week. They didn't want to open up to her. They said "no" to participating in any activities or conversations. That's when she turned to her "workbooks," which focus on a child's love of drawing and coloring.

"It's really about connecting with the kids where they're at," Sherry says. "They get to express their feelings through something that might be more comfortable than talking about them."

For instance, Sherry asked one child to draw what the word "love," meant to her. The child drew a picture of a child and parent hugging and through that, Sherry learned the child wanted love and support from her parent at home.

Sherry says the technique has been a breakthrough for several of the kids, and they're becoming more and more comfortable talking in each session.

"This book is something that's theirs," Sherry says. "They can look back through their images and see the progress they've made and how far they've come."