



# Bethesda News

August 2017

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

<http://swimwebsite.weebly.com>

Worship @ 9:00 a.m.

Fellowship Coffee @ 10:00 a.m.

Marietta Nelson Bittle ~ Phone: 712-890-9882 email: [swiministries@gmail.com](mailto:swiministries@gmail.com)

Gordon Scott ~ Phone: 712-826-4175



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## ***A Message from Marietta***

A few months ago, Yvonne Johnson had the excellent idea to add the Prayer of Good Courage to the end of our worship service.

Of God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

I want to focus on this line from it: O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown.

These words demand that we interrupt the day to day, the routine that we just get through, only to go to bed and then get up and do it all over again. God is calling the church - that's you and me - to something else. He is calling us to a value system that rejects the values of the world. Rejects the idea that whoever dies with the most toys wins and that the most important thing to do is to preserve and protect ourselves and our family and friends from outside forces. The reign of God creates a new reality.

In our gospel reading for July 30, Jesus gives insight into this reign and what it depends upon. And it's not money, power, status or personal comfort. It's built on atypical things and it calls us to participate in our lives and the lives of others in new ways. In Matthew 13 beginning at verse 31, Jesus talks about the kingdom of God being like several things that aren't typically thought of as valuable or important. The first is a mustard seed - a tiny, inconsequential weed that somehow becomes the greatest of shrubs and shelter for living things. The second is yeast. This is a substance that Jews would cleanse from their homes for certain holidays. It might even have been thought of as impure. But in Jesus' parable, the yeast is celebrated as an agent of miraculous growth. The next two short stories Jesus tells are how people, upon discovering this treasure that is the kingdom, gladly sell all they have to be part of it. These stories are Jesus' way of saying that something is afoot, and that we are invited on to this alternate path.

And speaking of invitations ... we've been talking at church council the last few months about how Bethesda can participate in the annual God's Work, Our Hands day, which is promoted by our denomination - the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. This event is held the second Sunday in September. Churches are encouraged to get out into their communities to serve others in a one-time opportunity or on an ongoing basis.

Council members have a few ideas, but we're inviting you to offer some opportunities to serve, too. Do you have an idea of how we at Bethesda can help our neighbors? Please share it with me in person, via email, [swiministries@gmail.com](mailto:swiministries@gmail.com) or phone, 712 890 9882. Here are a few ideas to get you thinking:

Could we commit to a regular prayer time for inmates at the prison in Clarinda? Could we ask for names of inmates who would like us to pray for them and then communicate with them via letters to tell them we are praying for them and to share Christ's love?

Could we develop a relationship with a local nursing home and offer to provide companionship and fellowship on a regular basis with the staff and the people who live there?

Could we as individuals seek out someone with whom we've had a dispute or a misunderstanding and seek healing and reconciliation with them? Could we do this even though we might face rejection?

Could we as a church commit financially to providing ongoing support to a local organization that offers mental health care for our neighbors as we know that mental health care in our state is in crisis and severely underfunded?

Are these outside your box? Good. That's where we're called to be. Remember: God gives us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that his hand is leading us and your love supporting us, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Peace  
Marietta

### ***From the church council:***

We will have worship service at Bethesda at our regular time of 9 a. m. for the **Labor Day** weekend.



**Rally Day** for Sunday School will be Sept. 10. The Education Committee and Outreach/Fellowship Committees will be working on our Ice Cream Social which will be held that day during the Sunday School hour. Sunday School will start at 10 a.m.

We are still looking for **God's Work Our Hands** projects. Connie Freed has referred a possible project to the council. We welcome everyone's input.



**A Thank you** was received from Lutheran Lakeside Camp for the gift of \$435.00 to be used for a camp scholarship. Camp is life changing for many children to experience the life of Christ in the Christ walk during their week at camp. They grow in their relationship to Christ. They come to know that no matter what – Christ will always be there for them.



**The August WELCA meeting** will be held on Tuesday, August, 8th starting at 9:00 a.m. Wear your cleaning “duds” as the plan is to clean the Sunday School rooms, kitchen cupboards and the upstairs kitchen. You can also bring some cleaning equipment. The lunch at noon will be a Potato Bar with Connie F. in charge. Tell her what toppings you would like to bring for the potatoes. Come and have a good time!!



### ***Celebrating Reformation – 500 years***

*Following worship July 23, members and friends enjoyed a brunch prepared by Phyllis C. Lynn M., Jolene W. and Sheila F. A program including trivia questions and interesting facts about Luther was lead by Barbara J., Christie V. and Miriam H.*



It's time to learn a new hymn. *The Lord Now Sends Us Forth* found on page 538 in the ELW will be our closing hymn during the month of August. It was written by a Cuban Pentecostal pastor named José Aguiar and translated by Gerhard Cartford. In the Spanish, it is in the first person singular but Cartford changed it into the first person plural. The change adds a community dimension to the text but takes away the burden of the heavy individual responsibility. We have the confession of someone who is sharing with us the mission with which he or she has been entrusted.



*“To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing.” Martin Luther*



The children are eager to help Pastor Marietta plant lettuce seeds and water them with water from the baptismal font during the children's sermon. They were each marked with the sign of the cross and asked to remember they are a blessed and beloved child of God.

An open house was held at Bethesda July 16<sup>th</sup> to celebrate Barbara's Nelson's 85<sup>th</sup> birthday. All 22 of her immediate family and many relatives and friends enjoyed a lovely lunch and fellowship.

*Thank you from Barbara.... I was blessed to be able to celebrate my 85<sup>th</sup> birthday with my loving family and many dear friends at my church honoring me on my birthday.*

*Coming from my heart, a special thank you for all of the beautiful cards, gifts, flowers, and phone calls.*

*It was a wonderful day.  
God Bless.*

*With love, Barbara Nelson*

**Congratulations** to Norma Thomsen who has a new granddaughter, Willa Diana. She was born June 17<sup>th</sup> to Matt and Danielle Thomsen who live in Boseman, Montana and is welcomed by her brother, Fletcher.

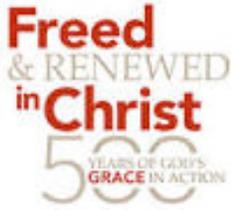
**Congratulations** to several young women who have Bethesda connections. Caroline Bittle, daughter of Pastor Marietta, was crowned Queen of the Mills County Fair. Annie Wallin was crowned Queen and Miss Congeniality of the Page County Fair. Jody Vanderholm was Miss Congeniality of the Montgomery County Fair.

**Looking ahead....**

**Ann Albert's ordination** will be September 24, 2:00 at Nyman. The reception will follow at St. John's in Essex. Both are handicapped accessible. All are welcome.



**Happy Birthday Barbara!**



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

**Preaching Schedule at Bethesda**

August 6 Gordon Scott  
 August 13 Marietta Nelson-Bittle  
 August 20 Gordon Scott  
 August 27 Marietta Nelson-Bittle

**August Birthdays**

1 Mariska Kirchert  
 2 Mary Ann Vanderholm  
 22 Steve Lastine  
 25 Jim Lundberg

**Worship assistants in August**

Greeters Barbara Nelson  
 Reader Stanley Johnson  
 Communion Asst. Sheila Freed  
 Ushers Wayne & Rogene Sederburg  
 Dwight Sederburg  
 Altar Guild Norma Thomsen

**Anniversaries**

1 Robert & Robin Wright  
 7 Steve & Lori Lastine  
 9 Mark & Sallie Lund  
 10 Jill & Aaron Auten  
 15 Jim & Carmen Lundberg

**Coffee Servers**

August 6 Norma Thomsen & Shelly Warner  
 August 13 Don & Marlene Paulson  
 August 20 Steve & Lori Lastine  
 August 27 Steve & Phyllis Carlson

*Upcoming Events*

August 12 2:45 – 5:00 p.m. Volunteer at the Open Door Mission  
 August 6 following worship Church council  
 August 8 9:00 a.m. WELCA Work Day  
 August 25 September newsletter items are due. Send to Yvonne ([johnsony@myfmtc.com](mailto:johnsony@myfmtc.com))  
 August 26 11:00 a.m. - Strand Bazaar  
 Sept. 24 2:00 p.m. @ Nyman Ann Albert's ordination

**STRAND CHURCH**  
**ANNUAL BAZAAR & DINNER**

AUGUST 26<sup>TH</sup>, 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



## Back to School Month

School is right around the corner! But imagine being a child or teen with an emotional or behavioral disorder. This time of year can be extremely stressful. They are afraid they won't be able to concentrate or fit in at their school. They worry about the transition adjusting to a new classroom routine.

Did you know Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) partners with schools across the state to provide mental health services right in their communities? Our therapists can work one-on-one with children while our Behavioral Health Intervention Services team is there to collaborate with families in their home and develop skills like anger management and decision-making.

We thank you for your support of LSI's mission as we respond together to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service! If you would like to learn more about how you can give a gift and support these crucial services, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at [deborah.whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto: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](http://www.LSIowa.org) and [www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa](http://www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa).*

### Happier, healthier families

For years, Bia struggled with her daughter's behaviors. McKenna, 8, lashed out against authority, and tempers regularly flared at home.

"It took a little more time to work with her on anything," Bia said.

Bia couldn't find a way to help gain control of her child, and she became more and more frustrated. That's when her DHS social worker recommended LSI's Families Together program.

Through the program, Bia regularly meets with her Families Together worker, Gaylene. Together, they are working on what Bia calls a "three-step technique."

"Whenever a possible argument comes along, I start by telling McKenna to go take a break and reset herself. Then I can go calm down and eventually, we can talk it out," Bia says. "It's teaching both of us. My main goal right now is to learn how to better handle McKenna and better handle myself."

Bia is also practicing the technique with her younger daughter, Brynn, which she says is "working perfectly." It's drastically improving the way her family communicates, and Bia says she has recommended Families Together to any friends looking for guidance.

"I love the program," she says. "I love how it works and I know if I have questions, they can give me advice on how to go about things."