



Bethesda News

January 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

Gordon Scott ~ Phone: 712-826-4175

Meet the McIntires!

Ben is a pastor on a mission. In May 2016 he went back to college at the University of Nebraska - Omaha to start taking the science pre-requisites necessary for application to medical school. This coming June, he plans to apply to the University of Nebraska Medical College. This idea of being a doctor goes back to his original path as a pre-med student in 2000, but by various side-tracks led to the past eight years of ordained ministry. The end goal of this new venture is to practice medicine and serve people through medical mission and ministry. He currently studies for the Medical College Admissions Test (full time), works as a medical scribe in the ER of University Medical Center, and works as a tutor and mentor at UNO (all part-time).



Ben grew up in Harlan, graduated from Iowa State University with a degree in Marketing and HR, graduated from Luther Seminary, and has served congregations in Edgemont and Hot Springs, South Dakota; as well as Salem Lutheran in Creston, St. Mark in Storm Lake, and St. John in Council Bluffs. He loves to read all kinds of books, not just theology and medicine. He likes to bike and fish when he can find the time, but most of all he loves to spend the hours, when he is not studying, with his beautiful girls.

Monica is an amazing pastor's wife (because she puts up with the pastor 24/7). She was born in Ida Grove, Iowa and raised mainly in Harlan and Wayne, Nebraska. Her main profession is cosmetology (making people beautiful) but she has done lots of other jobs too, including office work (hard work), pilates instructor (harder work), and MOM (hardest work!). She currently works as the administrative assistant to the President of Cassling Diagnostic Imaging Inc. in Omaha. She loves her family, chocolate, going to superhero movies with Ben (who knew?) and caring for people who need a little extra love. You will soon find that Monica is your favorite (the better half).

Phoebe is seven-years-old (going on sixteen). She loves kitties and unicorns, riding bikes, going to the zoo, climbing on monkey bars at the park, dancing, trampolines, and swimming. She is in second grade at Harvey Oaks Elementary in Omaha. And she is really cute.

Micaela is four-years-old and trying hard to keep up with everything her big sister does. Her favorite phrase seems to be, "I want what Phoebe has." She enjoys swimming, watching movies, swinging at the park, playing with Play-Doh, painting, and snuggling her purple bunny. She is excited to go to Phoebe's school next fall when she will begin kindergarten and, like her big sister, is also really cute.

That is the McIntire family, and they are excited about becoming part of the family of faith at Bethesda, Tabor, and Strand!

Encounter in the Borderlands

Hola! I spent the first few weeks of January at a class in south Texas as part of my curriculum at Wartburg Seminary. I wanted to share with you all some of the things I learned and experienced. The class was titled "Encuentro," which means encounter in Spanish. The purpose of the course was to observe, participate in, and consider the church in mission, as experienced along the Texas/Mexico border borderlands, as well as develop an appreciation for the "borderlands" now found in most immigrant entry points across the country. We learned about the political, social, and pastoral issues revolving around immigration from Mexico as well as Central and South America and the Caribbean, and we studied the history, culture and contemporary realities of Latinos/as to gain skills in intercultural dialogue and ministry.

It was a full three weeks!!

In terms of facts and figures, it's important for us to know that Latinos are the fastest growing demographic in the U.S. population. In 1960, they made up 3.5 percent of the population. In 1980, 6.5 percent. In 2015, 17.6 percent; by 2065, they are projected to be a quarter of the U.S. population. Latinos originate from 21 different nations in Central and South America, with a large majority (63+ percent) coming from Mexico. But this is how much and how quickly the Latino population is changing: Today, 65 percent of Latinos who live in the U.S. were born in the U.S.

With that information as our backdrop, we heard many personal stories of Latino people, some of whom emigrated to the United States, and others who were born here but live in "two worlds" - a sort of borderlands between their culture and the dominant, Anglo culture of the United States and their language and English. Two huge highlights were trips to Laredo and to Houston.

In Laredo, we met with pastors and members of three churches. One church was large, affluent mixed congregation of Latinos and Anglos who worshipped solely in English. A second was a small mission church where worship is in Spanish and volunteers are largely responsible for all aspects of running the church. A third was a Lutheran mission church on the banks of the Rio Grande. Iglesia Agua Viva (Church of Living Water) serves the people of its neighborhood. At each place we talked about how each congregation ministered differently to the people and the neighborhoods where they were located. Opinions varied widely - especially among Latinos - about how best to honor culture, language, tradition and theology.

Also in Laredo we had a remembrance of baptism service on the banks of the Rio Grande. One of our instructors, Pastor Jay Alanis, dipped a bowl into the clear, flowing river and filled it with water. (This was nothing like our muddy, Iowa farm ponds!) We made the sign of the cross on our foreheads and reminded us to remember we are baptized and beloved children of God. On the banks of the river that is a space between - two worlds, two countries, two cultures, two languages - we were reminded that we too live in the "already, but not yet" of the kingdom of God. It was truly a beautiful morning.

In Houston, three classmates and I had the great honor of meeting with Pastor Adriana Johnson-Rivas, who serves at Iglesia Luterana Principe de Paz (Prince of Peace Lutheran Church). Pastor Adriana was the first Latina ordained in the Gulf Coast Synod and is a graduate of Wartburg's Lutheran Seminary Program of the Southwest in Austin. And she is wonderful! We spent a lot of time visiting about theology and Lutheran belief (she grew up Roman Catholic in Colombia); learning hymns in Spanish; salsa dancing; shopping at a Latino grocery store; and meeting with victims of Hurricane Harvey who are being helped by Lutheran Disaster Relief. On Sunday we got to help her lead worship - singing with the band; reading scripture (in Spanish -eek!); and

giving communion. Did you know that “the body of Christ” in Spanish is “el cuerpo de Cristo”? I didn’t either, but I do now.

Finally, I had the special honor of being hosted in the home of a woman named Terry Lopez who emigrated from El Salvador in 1980. She has built an American dream for herself, her two sons, her grandchildren and the many people she has helped over the years. Terry’s unfailing kindness, compassion and love for Christ and for people was an excellent witness to me and to countless others.

It was certainly a special three weeks. Thank you for allowing me to be gone for this time of learning and growing.

Paz,
Marietta



Pastor Jay Alanis makes the sign of the cross on my forehead as we remembered our baptisms on the banks of the Rio Grande.



My classmates and I met with Monika (far left), whose home was badly damaged in Hurricane Harvey. She received help (new flooring, drywall and roof) from volunteers who came through Lutheran Disaster Relief. Pastor Adriana Johnson-Rivas (second from left) helped coordinate the LDR volunteers.



Kitchen and Paper Shower for the Church

Our cupboards are starting to get bare so we will be having the Kitchen and paper shower in Feb. Items especially needed are : drink mix, coffee, paper towels, bathroom tissue, and small paper plates. Leave your items on the kitchen counter.

Thank You for your donations.

The Bethesda Women of the ELCA will not be meeting until March.

Bethesda WELCA

To All Women in Bethesda Congregation!

We women at Salem Lutheran Church in Creston are starting to plan for Lydia Cluster Spring Gathering at Salem on April 21, 2018.

By starting to organize at this early date, it is our hope that all of the WISWO churches in Lydia Cluster will be represented.

While reading the Scribe, one will notice that some Women of the ELCA units have disbanded but are still active, while others are no longer active. This is not important to us. We just want you to come to Salem and enjoy the fellowship with your Lutheran sisters!

We will be sending monthly reminders of this upcoming event and hope that you will put this date (April 21) on your calendar.

Yours in Christ,
Carolyn Biere

Greeting cards & Calendars

The Women of the ELCA are still collecting used greeting cards and calendars. Please leave them in Fellowship Hall on the shelves by the drinking fountain. Thanks!

The SWIM Mutual Ministry met recently at Bethesda with Pastor Marietta leading the meeting. Each church in SWIM has a representative which are Strand - Kathy Bozwell, Tabor/Wallin - Karon Millikan and Bethesda – Rogene Sederburg. After Pastor led a short devotion we each shared a high and a low from the last few months. We also shared past histories of our churches.

One of our goals is to listen carefully and to speak with the people of our parish. Any concerns will be kept in confidence.

Our next meeting will be held at Strand in February.

Thank you, Shelly Warner and Lori Lastine for your service on the church council. Congratulations to the newly elected church council. Steve Carlson and Miriam Hanson for a 3 year term and Jenny Buttercase for a 1year term. Diane Campbell is our SWIM representative.



In December and January, Bethesda members collected new hats, scarves, mittens and gloves for local families and the Open Door Mission.



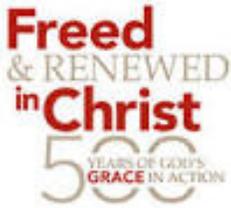
Pastor Gordon Scott, who has been preaching at the SWIM churches for the past several years, lead his final service at Bethesda January 21st. At fellowship

coffee, the Sunday school children presented him with this picture and Stanley Johnson gave him a medallion of Bethesda. We will miss seeing Gordon and Mike and hope they will come back and visit. Many SWIM members attended a pot luck honoring the Scotts at the community room in Villisca on January 28th.

Anne Lind, daughter of John and Nita Lind, passed away January 11th after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Our sympathy to Nita, Richard, John and Sarah McAfee and Anne's brothers and sister.

A Big Thank You to all who acknowledged my 90th birthday. I really enjoyed hearing from each of you.

Turning 90 was kind of fun! 😊 Wayne Sederburg



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

Feb. 4. Pastor Ben McIntire
 Feb. 11. Pastor Marietta Nelson Bittle
 Feb. 18. Pastor Ben McIntire
 Feb. 25. Pastor Marietta Nelson Bittle

February Worship assistants

Greeters Todd & Nikki Carlson
 Reader Lori Lastine
 Communion Asst. Lori Lastine
 Ushers Dennis Boger & Dave Jones
 Chris & Diane Campbell
 Altar Guild Chris & Diane Campbell

Fellowship Coffee Servers

Feb. 4 Brian & Laura Kirchert
 Feb. 11. Dennis Boger & Dave Jones
 Feb. 18 Stanley & Barbara Johnson
 Feb.25 Chris & Diane Campbell

February Birthdays

7 Trisha Johnson
 11 Andrea Nelson
 14 Sara Lund Camilli
 20 Steven Johnson
 23 Nikki Carlson
 23 Anthony Carr
 23 Emma Jimmerson
 23 Darwin Hanson
 27 Yvonne Johnson
 28 Joan Warner
 29 Alex Campbell

Superbowl Party at Freeds

Sunday, February 4
 Sandwiches & drinks provided.
 Please bring a snack to share.
 All are welcome.

Upcoming Events

Feb. 4 Super Bowl party at Mike and Sheila Freeds
 Feb. 10. 9:30 - 3:00 WIS Leadership Academy at St. John's Lutheran in Carroll
 Feb. 14 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday service
 Feb. 14 Church Council following Ash Wednesday service
 Feb. 21 & 28 Lenten service. Location to be announced.
 Feb. 26 March newsletter items are due. Send to Yvonne (johnsony@myfmtc.com)

Bethesda Lutheran Church Statistics for 2017:

Average attendance at Sunday Morning Worship -- 45
 Ash Wednesday Service -- 23
 Average Lenten Service -- 16
 Thanksgiving Service -- 44
 Christmas Eve Service — 112



Happy Valentine's Day from LSI!

"We love because He first loved us." 1 John 4:19

Lutheran Services in Iowa's (LSI) mission is about love: responding to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. We give thanks for all the ministry partners, both individuals and congregations, who help share this love for Iowa children, families, and adults!

We see this love in newly adopted children and their families, in teens who learn to trade self-harm for self-worth, in Iowans with disabilities who are growing their independence and confidence, in new parents who are raising strong and healthy families, and in so many other moments of joy. If you would like more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's director of philanthropy and church relations, at 563-676-2065 or Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org.

Thank you for the love you share and create through LSI. Happy Valentine's Day!

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.

Healing through Harmony

Jaden doesn't have many memories of his father.

When Jaden was 5 years old, his father unexpectedly passed away. Now 14, Jaden has grown up without that loving connection. Through his grief, his connection to his mother became strained, and he struggled to manage his anger at home.

After being placed in LSI's Bremwood Residential Treatment Center in Waverly, Jaden connected with LSI's Spiritual Life program. The voluntary program connects youth with faith-based art, music, and film. It serves as a safe space for children to open up about their emotions and get the support they need to thrive.

"Jaden is one of the few kids who would actively set up lunch appointments with me," says Pastor Dennis Bauer, who leads the program. "He's really benefitted from being able to talk during the day."

Having access to a support network and a trusting relationship with Pastor Dennis has helped Jaden feel empowered to make a positive change during his time at Bremwood. Jaden is finding his faith through music, and he's learning how to talk about his trauma and become a role model for other Iowa youth.

Jaden has now been adopted into a loving family. As he finishes up his treatment at Bremwood, his family visits frequently and worships with him, and Jaden is enjoying being a new big brother.