



Bethesda News

November 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.

Sunday School @ 10:00 a.m.

Fellowship Coffee @ 10:00 a.m.

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Gordon Scott ~ Phone: 712-826-4175



From Marietta ...

I have found myself more than once, more than several times, in the last few months, consoling someone who was crying. Seminary will do that to you! But seriously, the amount of self examination, the breaking down of old ways of thinking, the building up of new ways of thinking, the loss, the gain ... it's emotionally overwhelming. And beyond my seminary colleagues, there's everyone else. Neighbors, friends, family, members of the SWIM congregations - all people experiencing day to day challenges and victories.

Let's face it. Life is tough, and sometimes we aren't tougher. Or perhaps something or someone makes us so happy that we burst into tears. Either way, they are holy. One of my favorite authors, Frederick Buechner, asks that we pay attention to our tears, to those times in which strong emotions bubble to the surface and overflow. This is what he says:

"You never know what may cause them. The sight of the Atlantic Ocean can do it, or a piece of music, or a face you've never seen before. A pair of somebody's old shoes can do it.... You can never be sure. But of this you can be sure. Whenever you find tears in your eyes, especially unexpected tears, it is well to pay the closest attention. They are not only telling you something about the secret of who you are, but more often than not God is speaking to you through them of the mystery of where you have come from and is summoning you to where, if your soul is to be saved, you should go next." (from Buechner's "Beyond Words")

So there is no shame in tears. I know often when we cry we apologize and worry that we've made others uncomfortable. As someone often on the receiving end of tears, let me assure you they do not make me uncomfortable. In fact, they show me the depth of emotion. They are a mark of authenticity. They are holy.

Just for good measure, I want to share one more poetic favorite of mine. Perhaps it can be an antidote to those times when we're feeling unsettled. And this time of year in southwest Iowa is one of the prettiest to go and "lie down where the wood drake rests."

The Peace of Wild Things

By Wendell Berry

*When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.*

© Wendell Berry. This poem is excerpted from "The Selected Poems of Wendell Berry"

First Communion Class.....



Stomping grapes



Jolene Wallin assists as Maggie Carlson, Addy Resh and Mariska Kirchert make bread.



Pastor Marietta helps Alisha Buttercase, Sydney Johnson and Reilly King



The Bethesda WELCA will meet on Tuesday, Nov. 7th at 9:00 a.m. for a Work Day. We will take up Thankofferings at this time also. Connie Freed will be in charge of the lunch which will be Hot Sandwiches. Please volunteer to Connie what you would like to bring for the lunch.

The November Lydia Circle will meet at the home of Barbara Nelson on Thursday, Nov. 16th at 2:00 p.m.

THANKOFFERING

As we make our Thankofferings this year, we share in a tradition that goes back to the 1800's or even earlier. Then, when it seemed that there was not enough money to carry out the work of the church, the women would take action. Gathering in groups called "*cent*" or "*mite*" societies, each woman would set aside offerings at home throughout the year, in thanksgiving for blessings received. And on occasion, the women would come together as we do, joining their offerings together to support ministry of many kinds.

When Women of the ELCA was formed 30 years ago we committed to continue this tradition of giving in gratitude for blessings. Each year, in thousands of congregations, Thankofferings are given to support the life-changing ministries of Women of the ELCA. Together, we do more than we could ever do apart. In gratitude for all God has given to us, and with hope for all that is to come, let us give our thankoffering.



Carmen and Connie are taking a break during the tour. Wednesday, October 11th, the Bethesda WELCA met at Down Right Delicious in Clarinda for a delicious lunch. They also visited the Manuel Neri: The Modernist Figure exhibit at the beautiful Clarinda Carnegie Art Museum. Neri is 87 years old and a lifelong California resident.

News from Western Iowa Synod of ELCA

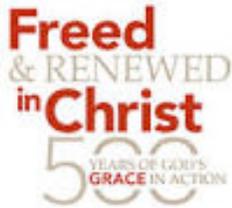
Congratulations to our Seminary Scholarship winners this year. They will each receive \$1500 this fall that will be paid directly to their accounts at their respective seminaries. This year scholarship winners were **Marietta Nelson-Bittle** and Kandi Anderson.

Thank you!

Dear WISWO and Board Members,
Thank you so very, very much for the generous scholarship that you gave me. I am so grateful and look forward to putting it to good use soon. Thank you also for the wonderful day of fun and fellowship. It was so good to meet so many women.
Marietta Nelson-Bittle.



The 23rd annual FALL FESTIVAL at St. John's Lutheran Church in Essex will be held from 8:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 4, 2017. Craft available for purchase will be handmade quilts, pillows and holiday crafts. Bake sale items will include: Spritz cookies, ostakaka, Rye Bread, rolls, cheese balls, candy, pies and a variety of cookies. Morning coffee and home made cinnamon rolls will be served all morning. Lunch for \$8.00 will begin at 11:00.



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

Preaching Schedule at Bethesda

Nov. 5 Marietta Nelson-Bittle
Nov. 12 Gordon Scott
Nov. 19 Marietta Nelson-Bittle
Nov. 22 Marietta Nelson-Bittle
Nov. 26 Gordon Scott

Worship assistants in November

Greeters Don & Marlene Paulson
Reader Mike Freed
Communion Asst. Miriam Hanson
Ushers Mike & Sheila Freed
Steve & Phyllis Carlson
Altar Guild Barbara Johnson

Fellowship Coffee Servers

Nov. 5 Deb Wagoner & Joni Sunderman
Nov. 12 Mike & Sandy Carlson
Nov. 19 Mike & Sheila Freed
Nov. 22 Fellowship & Property
Nov. 26 Jim & Carmen Lundberg

November Birthdays

1 Daniel Meier
1 Jamie Fredericksen
2 Miriam Hanson
4 Dwight Sederburg
4 Mary Fritz
4 Jill Autin
9 Sallie Lund
10 Jolene Wallin
13 Maggie Carlson
15 Carla Erickson
17 Anna Hopkins
22 Judy Johnson
23 Jenifer Rife
24 Sherry Rife

Anniversaries

13 Steve & Trisha Johnson

Poinsettias are for sale through mid November. Order sheets are in Fellowship Hall. Help make our Sanctuary beautiful and support the Bethesda Recorder Consort.



Thanksgiving service at Bethesda

November 22nd @ 7:00 p.m.
Pastor Marietta Nelson-Bittle will preach.
Fellowship coffee to follow service.

Upcoming Events

Nov. 7 9:00 a.m. WELCA Workday
Nov. 8 7:00 p.m. Church council
Nov. 16 2:00 p.m. Lydia Circle @ Home of Barbara Nelson
Nov. 22 7:00 p.m. Thanksgiving service
Nov. 24 December newsletter items are due. Send to Yvonne (johnsony@myfmtc.com)



Pray like it all depends on God, then when you are done, go work like it all depends on you. God does not need your good works, but our neighbor does.
Martin Luther



National Adoption Month

November is National Adoption Month, and LSI is proud to announce our newest service, LSI Foster Care and Adoption. Through this new service, LSI recruits, supports, and empowers foster and adoptive families across western Iowa.

Nationally, there are more than 101,000 youth waiting to be adopted from foster care, and thousands of teens age out of foster care every year without a permanent family. We know there are no unwanted children, only unfound families! To learn how you or someone you know can make a difference, visit LSIowa.org/Foster, or contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at 563-676-2065 or 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.

Opening Your Heart and Home

Phillip and Ruth remember the day they decided they wanted to adopt.

It was the late 1950s, and the couple was shocked to learn abandoned babies in a local hospital were being neglected, didn't receive the attention or care they needed, and were not developing properly because of it. Phil and Ruth knew they wanted to do something.

"We decided we would adopt as soon as we could," Ruth says.

Phil and Ruth became adoptive parents through what was then called Lutheran Social Services of Iowa (LSS). The couple already had three biological children, Carol, Eric, and Peter, but they had more room in their home and in their hearts. They were ready for a fourth child. That's when baby Rachel entered their lives.

A few years later, the couple adopted 4-year old girl, Paula, and their family was complete. The seven traveled the country for work and vacations, went camping everywhere, and remained a close-knit family even as each child left home for college.

Now, all of Phil and Ruth's children have lives of their own, and Phil and Ruth have added grandchildren and great-grandchildren to their legacy.

Paula graduated from the Naval Academy, received her Ph.D. in Computer Science, and now works for the IRS. Rachel, a graduate of Luther College and the University of Wisconsin Medical School, became a doctor and practices in New Orleans, Louisiana. She has a weekly syndicated health tips show on her local ABC television station, and has been awarded two regional Emmys.

Through it all, Phil and Ruth have been advocates and supporters of adoption in Iowa. For them, it was a way to make a difference in the world, one child at a time. Today, Phil and Ruth continue to support vulnerable children in Iowa as faithful donors to LSI.

"Not everyone can adopt," Phil says, "but everyone can afford to support LSI. Even a small amount, given monthly and automatically, is remarkably helpful."