



BETHESDA NEWSLETTER

Healing Waters. Reflecting the Son.

And You Gave Me Something to Eat

I met with some awesome people yesterday because Meals on Wheels has been eliminated in Fall River County. I can't say exactly why it was cut, but it wasn't because there was a lack of state or federal funding.

But here is the big news, someone from East River stepped in to fill the gap. He told us that he provides meals all across East River, and he wasn't planning on coming West River, but he wanted to make sure people didn't go hungry. So he is freezing meals and hauling them to Fall River County. I am thankful for him.

The meeting was also about how we can deliver these meals and how to store them. Some people might not have freezer space, so I said that churches could store meals for their members. In addition, the Food Pantry has a freezer, and they are now looking into getting another one. We talked about distribution and how church members might be called on to distribute the meals. The bottom line is that people will be fed and have personal contact almost every day. It was a good meeting.

November is the month Bethesda Lutheran donates to the Food Pantry. This is a great month to donate because it is the month of Thanksgiving and people will especially be going to the Food Pantry so that they might feast like the rest of us on that day. The Food Pantry will be giving out both turkeys and hams and we can help provide the sides or food for the rest of the month.

The Lord is using us and others to make sure no among us goes hungry! And on that last and great day he will say, "I was hungry and you gave me something to eat..." Matthew 25:35



Phone: 605-745-4834 Email: bethesda@gwtc.net



Serving This Month

Acolytes:

02-Kaydence

09-Reagan

16-Kayson

23-Max

30-Kaydence

Coffee Hour:

02- Elders

09- Teresa Nase
Marilyn Milner
Kim McNamar

16- Ringstmeyer
Johnson
Henck

23- Jackie Rausch
Gwen Stombaugh
Marianne Allen

30- Gena Keller
Micki Berg
Jane Benzel
Doris Belitz

Chancel:

Jane Benzel

Anniversaries

Larry & Doris Belitz Nov. 25

Robert & Diane Gardner Nov. 25

Birthdays

Sandra Merrow Nov. 6

Connor Kramer Nov. 8

Gary Jacobsen Nov. 9

Jack Lane Nov. 9

Gabriella Stuckey Nov. 10

Andrew Kathman Nov. 12

Della Schmidt Nov. 12

Barbara Benson Nov. 13

Willa Ringstmeyer Nov. 13

Luke Fischer Nov. 14

Vern Hagedorn Nov. 15

Sandy Huddleston Nov. 19

Doris Belitz Nov. 20

Kolton Hagen Nov. 20

Dorothy Kaiser Nov. 21

Gena Keller Nov. 21

James Rausch Nov. 23

Vincent Cumbow Nov. 24

Perry Holmes Nov. 25

Terri Hagen Nov. 29

Violet Salles Nov. 30



Letter From the Principal:

Dear Bethesda Lutheran School Families,

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever."—Psalm 107:1. As we enter the month of November, we are reminded of the many blessings God has poured out on our school, our families, and our community. Thanksgiving provides a natural opportunity to pause and reflect on the abundant grace we receive daily not just in material provisions, but in love, learning, and fellowship.

In the classroom, students are learning about the importance of gratitude—not only as a virtue but as a form of worship. We're encouraging our students to not just say "thank you," but to live thankful lives, expressing their appreciation through kindness, generosity, and service.

At supper, my family shares daily blessings. I am deeply grateful to work with our dedicated teachers and to see our happy, healthy students learning each day. The dedication of our church to the school is also a great blessing.

One way our families can continue to support the school during this season of giving is through the **Lynn's Dakota Mart Receipt Fundraiser**. It's a simple yet impactful way to contribute:

Here's how it works:

- Collect your receipts every time you shop at **Lynn's Dakota Mart**.
- Turn them into the school office or your child's teacher.
- For every \$100,000 in receipts collected, our school earns **\$1,000** to support classroom needs, supplies, and student enrichment programs!

This is an easy opportunity for grandparents, neighbors, and friends to get involved too—so please help us spread the word! Every receipt counts.

Bethesda Lutheran ELC is still looking for a highly qualified candidate to fill our vacant Child Care position. If you know of anyone who you feel would be highly qualified to watch our precious children, please let them know an application can be picked up at the office. Speaking of office...have you met Ms. Lee.... she is AMAZING! What a blessing she has been to our church and school.

Let us approach this season with gratitude and a willingness to serve. As a school family, may we grow together in faith and thanksgiving, trusting that God guides us in all things.

For the kids, for the Kingdom,

Mrs. Heather Hunsaker

Upcoming Events:

- **November 3, 2025** 5:30 Bethesda Boosters Meeting
- **November 4, 2025** 5:30 Bethesda School Board Meeting
- **November 26-28, 2025** Thanksgiving Break-No Child Care





And God replied. "Be Humble my child...."

As the vibrant hues of autumn yield to the serenity of winter, we are reminded of the cyclical nature of life and the profound lessons embedded within each season. In this transition, we are called to be humble in the face of God, embracing the ever-changing landscape of the world around us. As leaves fall and the air turns crisp, we are invited to reflect on the beauty and wonder God has bestowed upon us. This time of year, serves as a gentle reminder of our place in the grand tapestry of creation, urging us to cultivate a spirit of gratitude for all that we have received. In every falling leaf and the quiet blanket of snow, we witness the artistry of a Creator who invites us to marvel at His handiwork.

The preparations of our hearts as we enter a new season of the church demand this humility and gratitude. In a world often marked by uncertainty and challenge, acknowledging our dependence on God can be a daily practice. How do we strive to embody this humility amid life's trials? We begin by fostering an attitude of gratitude—recognizing the small blessings that often go unnoticed. Each day presents opportunities to express thanks for the love of community, the warmth of fellowship, and the promise of renewal that faith brings. In gathering as the body of Christ, we find strength in unity, lifting one another up in prayer and encouragement, reflecting God's grace in our interactions.

As we navigate the difficult times and the ever-looming shadows of winter, let us remain steadfast in our commitment to humility. This journey may not always be easy, but it is in these moments that we can draw nearest to God, finding solace and strength in His presence. By acknowledging our limitations and embracing the support of our brothers and sisters in faith, we can cultivate a heart that is open to receive God's infinite love. In doing so, we not only honor the changing seasons of nature but also the transformative seasons of our spiritual lives, embracing the richness of His blessings and the depth of His mercy as we step forward together in faith.

By Gena Keller

★ ★ ★ Operation Christmas Child

Please prayerfully consider
packing a shoebox gift for a
child in need.

Boxes are available at the
church by the office and
need to be returned by
November 16th.

The boxes will be blessed during
the worship service.



THANKFUL grateful BLESSED



Did you know there is a Bethesda Lutheran Church endowment fund? There is!

About the Endowment Fund:

The endowment fund was created by Harlen and Mae Niedermeyer many years ago through the LCMS Foundation. It is an unrestricted endowment fund which means the church can use the funds as they wish. Funds are distributed in January, April, July and October and are based on 4% of the last 12 quarters rolling average. This fund can be added to and this would benefit Bethesda by increasing the fund balance.

If you would like to contribute to the fund, make your check out to:
LCMS Foundation

In the Memo, please write: For Bethesda Lutheran Church Endowment
Fund #EN80003265

Mail to:

LCMS Foundation
1333 S. Kirkwood Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63122-7295

**If you have questions about the Bethesda Lutheran Church Endowment
Fund, our contact at the LCMS Foundation is:**

Jennifer Frost

Direct Phone: 314-996-1061

Toll Free: 1-800-325-7912 and when prompted put in Extension 1061





Hot Springs Area
Right to Life
(HSARTL)

Thursday
November 20th at 5pm



Sewing Circle

Mondays

November 3rd

November 17th

Bethesda Food Pantry Month

November 1st - 25th

You can donate: Food or Money

Most Needed Items:

Dried beans
Rice
Tuna
Peanut Butter
Soup
Cereal

There will be a basket set up at the church or you can take your items directly to the food pantry during their open hours

If you take your donation to the food pantry, please let them know it is on behalf of Bethesda Lutheran Church.



Bethesda Lutheran Choir

Wednesdays at 5:45pm

**Come & join us
make a joyful noise!**

HAPPY Thanksgiving

Pastor John Merrill will be hosting a Thanksgiving Day meal at the church.

Turkey will be provided.
Please bring a side dish to share.

If you plan to attend, there will be a sign up sheet to RSVP.



**KEEP HOT
SPRINGS
BEAUTIFUL**

**NOVEMBER 7TH @
6:00PM**

Meeting at the Legion
Please RSVP by 11/1 to
khsb605@gmail.com



Anyone wanting to receive the SD District LCMS E-Newsletter can go onto the South Dakota District website and scroll to the bottom of the page to find the area to add an email address. Here is the link for the South Dakota District website: <https://sddlcms.org>. The e-newsletter goes out bi-monthly on the 1st and 15th of each month.

Times, They Are A-Changin'

Modes of communication are quickly changing. The print world dominated for many years, but the digital revolution has quickly overtaken print publications. Even if consuming news on computers and phones isn't always the preferred avenue, one cannot deny it is a faster, simpler, and more cost-effective means of communication.

Our District and Synod communications are no exception to this. Just a couple of years ago, rising costs of print publications moved Synod to significantly increase the publication costs of the Lutheran Witness. Our District and her congregations then moved from mandatory LW subscriptions for all members to allow congregations to determine for themselves how they wished to approach distribution of the Witness.

Through this all, the District news insert in the Lutheran Witness has remained a constant, but that too will be changing soon. Recently Synod has signaled that they will no longer be publishing the District news inserts. We will discontinue publication of the printed insert after the December 2025 edition.

While the insert was a valuable tool for a very long time, timeliness of the information was becoming a challenge. The publication timeframe worked such that news and information in the insert was always two months behind. By the time the issue hit mailboxes much of the information was long past being fresh. In a day of instantaneous tools of communication, the value of such a thing was diminishing.

To be clear: the Lutheran Witness will continue to be printed, published and mailed, however the District news insert will be no more. What does this mean for District communications?

The good news is that the District will continue to provide information and is striving to improve our means and method of communication with our people and congregations. The District Board of Directors has agreed to establish a part-time Communications Coordinator to work on providing timely, easily accessible, and attractive news and information. Highlights of this new communication will include:

- *Continued distribution of the District e-newsletter with some changes and additions to "flesh out" this newsletter with more news, features, and profiles.

- *Production of a once monthly printable piece that will approximate the Lutheran Witness Insert. This piece will be delivered to congregations electronically, allowing everyone to disseminate it in their preferred ways to those who don't use email or the internet.

- *Increased communication and presence in the area of social media.

This is new and things will continue to change, but the mission, the heart remains the same: working together to make the Gospel of Christ known! God Bless you all!



Financial Report for September 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025

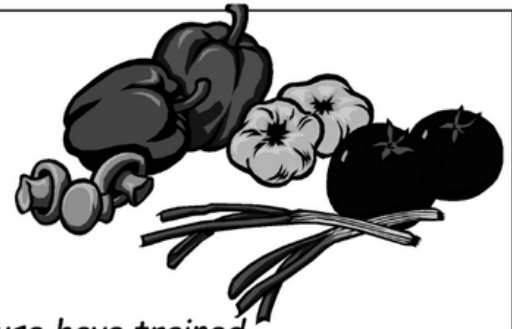
	Revenue	Expense	Excess/(Deficit)
Church	\$20,600.06	\$20,386.88	\$213.18
Primary School	\$4,478.12	\$12,111.34	(\$7,633.22)
Preschool	\$790.92	\$3,147.68	(\$2,356.76)
Childcare	\$1,171.90	\$903.15	\$268.75
Totals	\$27,041.00	\$36,549.05	(\$9,508.05)



SOLID FOOD

November 2025

Submitted by Beth Spitzer



"For solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil."

"In you, Lord, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness. Turn your ear to me, come quickly to my rescue; be my rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save me. Since you are my rock and my fortress, for the sake of your name lead and guide me. Keep me free from the trap that is set for me, for you are my refuge. Into your hands I commit my spirit; deliver me, Lord, my faithful God." *Psalms 31: 1 - 5*

How Christians Should Respond When News is Depressing

"The ever-rising tide of evil does not alarm Jesus, so it should not alarm his followers. Indeed, Jesus predicted that 'wars and rumors of wars' — a state of violence far surpassing the current stochastic terrorism — would precede the end. 'See that you are not alarmed,' he told his disciples, 'for this must take place, but the end is not yet' (Matthew 24:6). Even worse, the last days would include persecution (24:9), apostasy (24:10), betrayal (24:10), hatred (24:10), and deceptive false prophets (24:11). 'And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold,' he concluded. 'But the one who endures to the end will be saved' (Matthew 24:11-12).

That is what anchors the Christian: 'the end.' Beyond the daily news cycle, in which horror succeeds horror at a breathtaking rate, is the day when God will bring every deed into judgment, when Jesus will finally establish his kingdom, and when those who repent and believe will dwell with him forever. Yes, the world is full of evil, Christians can acknowledge; but it is passing away.

This future focus should affect the way Christians live today. 'Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God,' writes Peter (2 Peter 3:11-12).

Notice the two pairs of characteristics. First, Christians should live holy and godly lives, renouncing sinful patterns and cultivating spiritual virtues that reflect God's good character. This

includes the duty for Christians to love their neighbor, which includes engaging in our society — yes, and even in politics — for the good of people made in God's image. Second, Christians should both wait for and hasten Jesus's return. Based on the context, where Peter writes that the Lord is 'not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance' (2 Peter 3:9), hastening Christ's return likely means evangelizing the lost. But waiting is also important: we cannot usher in the kingdom through any act of ours; we must simply live faithfully, holding onto faith amid the darkest tribulations.

This sounds difficult, and it is even more difficult than it sounds. But the Holy Spirit empowers us to do just this, by pointing our eyes to the next world. 'But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells' (2 Peter 3:13). How should Christians respond when depressing news tempts us to despair? We should set our hope on the eternal life that God has promised and keep walking faithfully." *Joshua Arnold, The Washington Stand, 9/25/2025*

A Few Thoughts on the Recent Violence

"There has been much written over the past several weeks in the wake of the recent violent acts that have taken place across our country: another school shooting, an innocent woman stabbed on a subway, the assassination of a popular speaker. I have no desire to rehash those events, nor do I intend this to be a response to any event or any article in particular. I simply want to share a few reminders from God's Word that can help us process these things in a proper and godly manner.

First, we must remember that every human being has been created by God and is therefore precious to Him. That is true regardless of their political associations or even whether or not they have faith in Him. God's final words to Jonah illustrate this beautifully. The people of Nineveh were enemies of Israel, and yet the book of Jonah closes with God asking, 'And should not I pity

SOLID FOOD continued...

Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also much cattle?" (Jonah 4:11). Instead of wishing for the destruction of His enemies, God pitied them and hoped for their repentance.

He says exactly the same thing to the prophet Ezekiel. 'As I live, declares the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live' (Ezekiel 33:11).

God takes no delight in the death of any man, even the wicked and those who've turned away from Him. Instead, He longs for their repentance to the point that He takes on our sinful human flesh and bears the sins of the world so that all can 'be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth' (1 Timothy 2:4).

Since we have been redeemed by His blood and brought to faith in Christ, we have the Spirit of Christ dwelling in us (Romans 8:9) and are to 'have the mind of Christ' (1 Corinthians 2:16). That is to say, we have been redeemed from sin that we might begin to think about our neighbors the way that Christ thinks about them.

That means, for starters, that we mourn every act of violence and every death. Jesus does not revel in the death of any person, even His enemies, and neither should we. This is especially true if they are outside the Body of Christ. Knowing that those who die outside of Christ must face eternal condemnation, we should weep over every life that ends without repentance and faith.

We must also remember that violence and murder are tools of the devil (John 8:44) and are wicked intrusions into God's creation. Death is the result of—not the solution to—sin. We cannot use death to solve the problems and divisions that exist between us sinners. Instead, death should always be viewed as the result of sin (Romans 6:23) and therefore as our enemy (1 Corinthians 15:26). Hoping for or demanding the death of any person because of their nationality, religion, sexual orientation, or political views has no place among the Body of Christ.

Instead, our Lord Jesus teaches us that we are to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us (Matthew 5:44). We pray for their repentance, even as we acknowledge our own sinfulness and pray for our own repentance so that we might act and speak with humility and work toward building unity and peace among all people (Eph. 4:2-3).

In like manner, we should pray for the perpetrators of such violent and sinful acts. Any person who would commit such evil has clearly been enslaved by sin and has a mind that is

corrupted and defiled by the devil, and therefore is in need of repentance and salvation. Pray that the Holy Spirit works the miracle of conversion in them before it is too late, even as we pray that justice be done for the preservation of civil order (1 Timothy 2:1-2; 1 Peter 2:14).

Additionally, since St. Paul encourages us to 'weep with those who weep' (Romans 12:15), we should weep with the families of those affected by these acts of violence and pray for them. Pray that God takes care of their bodily needs and that He would bring them the comfort and peace that can only come from the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and that through these tragedies, they and all others would be drawn closer to God in faith.

Finally, we remember that in the face of such darkness, Christ shines as the Light of the world (John 9:5). Amazingly, He shines His light through us as we preach the Gospel and imitate His love before the world (Matthew 5:14-16). So, we will follow the example of those who went before us and preach the Gospel to a world broken by sin, knowing that the Gospel alone has the power to change hearts. And all the while, we pray that God brings an end to violence and bloodshed and ushers in the day when sin is completely removed from us and all tears will be wiped from our eyes."

*Rev. Dr. Aric Fenske, Lutherans for Life,
9/21/2025*

Response to Challenges

Challenge: Abortion should not be banned since nobody really knows when life begins.

Response: "The time when an individual human life begins is no mystery to anyone marginally schooled in embryology. A human being's life begins at conception. This is scientific orthodoxy and is not a matter of debate with anyone familiar with the issue.

If you make this legitimate appeal to authority, though, you're likely to be contradicted and dismissed. If that happens to you, don't worry. There's a workaround. The important question with abortion is not *when* life begins, but whether or not the unborn *is alive* when an abortion takes place.

Here is the question I ask when confronted with this challenge: Is the offending 'tissue' growing? Of course it is. Well, if it's growing, then it's alive. End of issue.

Abortion kills a living thing. That's the point of abortion. It doesn't just terminate a pregnancy. It terminates an individual life, regardless of the precise point of time that life began."

Gregory Koukl, Stand to Reason, Solid Ground, Sept/Oct. 2025