

the Wellspring

Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water
John 7:38

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Volume 13
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FALL 2018

GATHER all people into a living relationship with Jesus Christ
GROW as disciples through worship, prayer and study of God's Word
GO into the world to share the gospel in word and deed

Bethesda Lutheran Church
GATHER...GROW...GO

1517 Northwestern Avenue | Ames, Iowa 50010-5299 | 515-232-6256 | www.BethesdaAmes.org



The Measure You Give

~ Pastor Bryan Simmons

“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

~ Luke 6:37-38

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

A well-meaning churchgoer in a previous congregation once handed me a book. They were so excited to have me read it and see what I thought about it because “it had been working for [them].” It was called *The Seed Principle*. What I started flipping through was a small book written by a preacher in Oklahoma. It detailed the ways in which, if you understand Scripture properly, you can make God your financial partner, and what you put in will come back to you, always more than you expect or deserve! As I flipped through the pages, I noticed that interspersed within the pages of this preacher’s argument were testimonials of how well the seed principal had worked for others. One got a free car. Another was blessed with \$5,000. Another got a house. All by subscribing (via financial contributions) to this preacher’s “Seed Harvest Plan.” Sound too good to be true? Not for the preacher in Oklahoma!

My well-meaning churchgoer was convinced that this, too, could happen for them. They’d sent in their contribution for the “Seed Harvest Plan” and were eagerly anticipating the harvest to come flooding in any day now. The only trouble is, they did not have the means to embark on this financial partnership with God and continued to remain this way, despite all of their faith. So, what gives? Why did this faithful follower of Jesus not receive the measure they gave, pressed down, shaken together, and running over? It all depends on what you consider God’s role in your life to be.

Many assume that God’s favor must be earned through visible hard work and dedication to the Lord, proving with every step that you are indeed worthy of God’s love and favor. The theory goes that if you pray hard, serve long, give generously, and keep your back straight while you walk, you will be rewarded by God, who is always watching. And, when you read a passage like the above in Scripture, you may be tempted to believe that to be true.

But, God’s ways are not our ways. In our way of death and scarcity, it makes a lot of sense that the work you put in reaps the rewards you receive. Or, put another way, it makes a lot of sense that you will be rewarded if you can please the ones with the power to reward you. But, that is not the point of the Gospel. All of Scripture points to Jesus crucified and raised to new life for the sake of the world. Through Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection, we have the very best of God already given to us, undying and eternal love. We are blessed by God’s Spirit in our lives, working to assure us of this love each and every day. This is NOT scarcity, it is abundance!

Out of this abundance we give, not seed money with which to benefit ourselves—it all belongs to God! Instead, our giving, be it time or money, reflects the blessings we realize we have and our desire for God to be glorified in this world, for all to come to know Christ, for the love of God to reign in this world over the spite and malice that sin brings about.

May the seeds we plant bring harvest for God, and may the love we sow be sown in God’s love for all.

God’s Work, Our Hands

YES! It’s that time of the year to bring up our Bethesda’s pledge campaign with “Commitment Week” starting Saturday, October 24. Crazy? NO you heard me correctly. The yearly pledge campaign dates have moved to the Fall. You spoke and we listened as the congregation voting to move the campaign toward the end of the year.





If You See Something, Say Something

~ Laura Miller Council President

"This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised."

~ Luke 24:46-48a

We've all been to an airport and heard the voice over the intercom tell us to keep track of our luggage, never accept packages from strangers and most of all, "if you see something, say something."

Jesus gave some of the same advice to his closest friends just before he ascended to heaven. They had witnessed many wonderful things, and now it was their job to share the Good News with the rest of the world.

We, too, have witnessed wonderful things at Bethesda. We have a beautiful new patio, soon we'll be getting new lights, sound and recording equipment in the sanctuary, and Bethesda recently was voted the "Best Place to Worship in Story County." Most importantly, each of us has experienced God's love and forgiveness; we know the blessings of a Christ-centered community.

But how are we sharing this news? If we've seen something, are we saying something? Maybe Jesus was speaking to us in that Scripture from Luke!

That's the way that Bishop Michael Burk explained the ELCA's theme for the upcoming church year, "The Water, The Witness." In his address to the Southeast Iowa Synod (which includes Bethesda) at the annual assembly in May, Burk encouraged all of us to be witnesses, just as we're instructed at an airport. If we see something—in this case, evidence of God's love and forgiveness—then we need to say something.

... Why We Give

This year you'll hear temple talks that will touch your heart, read articles that will deliver profound knowledge, and experience a "Commitment Week" that will have you filled with excitement for Bethesda's future. Look for more info this Fall, as we all look forward to meeting a 10% growth to help grow our church in many new ways.

~ Eric Weber, Stewardship Board

Burke also challenged us to be vital congregations that are alive and growing, which the synod defines as "communities of Jesus that nurture life-changing relationships with God, one another, and the world."

As you read these four signs of vitality in a congregation, think about how they apply to Bethesda. Are we a vital congregation?

- 1) **A vital congregation** makes a constructive difference in the local community. "You are IN the community, listening to your neighbors and figuring out what is needed," Burk explained.
- 2) **A vital congregation** is connected to the whole church. "You are connected with churches down the street, partnering with others to amplify the Good News," Burk said. This could be other ELCA congregations or congregations of other faiths. "They are not our competition; they are us."
- 3) **A vital congregation** is willing to try something new, which can be difficult for some congregations. "It might mean saying no to something old so you can try something new," Burk said. "And if one thing doesn't work, you try something different."
- 4) **A vital congregation** proclaims the news of Jesus Christ. "Vital congregations always proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ and it's not always what happens in the pulpit on Sunday morning," Burk explained. "It's who we are together and what we can share with one another."

I represented Bethesda as a voting delegate at the synod assembly, along with Council members Ron Morgan and Joyce O'Donnell. In addition to the usual business reports and elections, we also enjoyed messages from several inspiring speakers. You can find Burk's comments and videos of all speakers on the Southeast Iowa Synod website at: <http://seiasynod.org/2018-synod-assembly-videos/>

How does Bethesda stack up for you? Do you see good things happening here? If not, what can we do to change that? As always, please feel free to contact me about any concerns; I am here to listen.



Youth Mission Support

~ Isak Werner Anderson

I've made it to Uganda and back again, thanks to your support. We had a very successful trip: construction of the new school you helped to fund made considerable headway, we met many new friends, and experienced a whirlwind of new experiences.



The school we went to build was an addition to an existing school in a small village called Chiduna. In seven classrooms there, they have been managing 283 students, and their attendance is expected to double the following year. Needless to say they need more space. We funded the materials and manpower for an additional eight classrooms; which, while still cramped, will provide some of the space necessary to teach this many kids. While there we provided manual labor that greatly expedited the construction of the school, specifically the leveling and

finishing of the floors, construction of some roofs, and molding of cinderblocks.

From the moment we landed in Entebbe it became immediately apparent how willing Ugandans were to talk to us. This resulted in many new friends that I keep in touch with even after returning home. From the first bus ride we took (from the airport to the hotel) I met another Isaac who I talked to for a couple hours in Uganda, and after returning.

I could write for pages and pages about all the little things, the brief interactions, that made Uganda so new and different, and most of it cannot be captured in a letter. Obviously, describing a totally different culture is not easy. One of the first such experiences was on that same first bus ride. We took a 90's Isuzu manual bus up a dirt 'road' to where we would spend the night. This bus carried 20 people and all their luggage up a long driveway which in the U.S. companies could have charged customers to rock crawl their Jeeps up. This is pretty much how the rest of our trip went: people making due with what they have in order to get things done in crazy ways that seemed at times ridiculous to us but was simply their normal lives to them.

I would like to thank you for supporting me on this trip and for your contribution to the construction of this new school building. We were thanked every day by the people who lived in the village and by the parents of the kids who attended this school, and I would like to relay their gratitude to you.

Inspiration Toward a 2019 Tanzania Trip

~ Glenn & Mary Kappelman

Sadie Botine, a former Bethesda member, is beginning her second year as a volunteer with the Peace Corps in Swaziland. After she first arrived at her assignment, she visited throughout the community to see where she might be able to be of assistance. While visiting with the Principal of the Primary School, the Principal stated she wanted "to instill a culture of reading among her students by getting their school library up and running." Being an avid reader herself, Sadie has been working tirelessly ever since to help them achieve their goal. She has teachers, students and community leaders involved in the project. Funds are also needed to repair termite damage, secure the library, build shelves and purchase supplies so it is a big task.

Sadie was a youth member of Bethesda's 2011 youth journey to Shighatini and other parts of Tanzania. She has commented that the journey changed her college course of study, career interests and her life. Sadie writes "I wouldn't be where I am today without you!"

Sadie's parents, Heather and Gary Botine, wrote to Gerald (Klonglan): "It truly was the journey to Tanzania that cemented her path to the Peace Corps. I certainly hope you will have youth interested in doing the same again. It is an amazing opportunity to expand their world and serve others."





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Worship Schedule

Saturdays at 5:30 p.m.

Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

SPLASH Sunday School • VOYAGER Adult Faith Formation

Coffee Fellowship

Sunday after service at 10:40 a.m.

Church Office Hours

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday–Thursday

9:00 a.m. – Noon Friday

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NOTE: please contact Lisa Ailshie at 232-6256 or
contact@bethesdanet.org with requests/comments regarding this
newsletter, or to submit an article for the next issue
(deadline November 1, 2018)

All submissions to Bethesda Lutheran Church's *The Wellspring*
newsletter are subject to editing for clarity, space, and content.

Artwork credit for this month's *Wellspring* cover photo:
Kevin Kane "Flight Pattern" of geese over Ada Hayden

Bethesda in Our Community

Bethesda made a splash in the Ames July 4th Parade for the second year in a row. Thanks to everyone who sweated the planning details—and then the march downtown on such a hot Independence day. We refreshed the crowd with 1200 bottles of Living Water, and music from our Praise Band.



Outreach on the Inside

On August 28, a group of nine from Bethesda went to worship with **Free Indeed**, an ELCA congregation that worships within Anamosa State Penitentiary that our church helps support. Pastor Jerry Collell escorted and provided us a quick tour before a worship experience that was, for most of us, unlike anything we've ever done.

The service was a gathering of people, both free and incarcerated, brought together by our common faith in Christ. Despite the novel surroundings make no mistake, we did CHURCH. Our visit was a reminder that Christian freedom is available to all of God's children, no matter how bright, or dark, our earthly circumstances may be. ~ Pr. Ryan Arnold





WORSHIP & PROGRAMMING



MEAL 5:30–6:30 pm
Dinner available in two shifts—food is put out at 5:30 and again at 6:00—seconds will be available at 6:15 if there is food leftover

MIDWEEK RENEWAL WORSHIP 6:30–7:00 pm

NURSERY We welcome all children Pre-K and under to join us in our Nursery each Wednesday. 5–8:00 pm

K-5 BEACH HOUSE 5–6:00 pm
Our “beach house” is a time to come together for fun interaction, playtime, songs, crafts and more! We will be meeting in our large group Faith Formation room (209) and enjoying time together with our Bethesda friends!

CHORISTERS Children’s Choir led by Mark Kretsinger-Harries

OASIS Confirmation (Middle School) .. 7:15–8:15 pm
6th, 7th and 8th Graders are welcome for a new confirmation adventure as we continue the classroom experience, AND add in fun events every third week.

FLOOD High School 8–9:00 am pm
Katie Twedt will lead this exploration into the Word of God, and youth will enjoy games and fun in an enriching environment. Come check out the overwhelming “Flood” of God’s love!

PARENT PLUNGE Elementary Parents ... 5–6:00 pm
Plunge into discussion with other like-minded parents and enjoy this fellowship hour.

LIGHTHOUSE Adult Discussion Group . 7:15–8:15 pm
A beacon of light for any adult members of our congregation to come together and enjoy various topics of discussion each Wednesday evening.



WORSHIP 9:30–10:30 am

STAFFED NURSERY 9:30–11:30 am
for infants & toddlers

SPLASH Faith Formation 10:40–11:30 am
Pre-K: First Look curriculum

This year we hope to draw attention to the praise that God calls forth from our little ones, by utilizing more praise and worship during our large group gathering time. We will share this praise with the congregation during Sunday worship about once a month.

K–5th grade: 252 Basic curriculum
6–8th grade: Discussion/Bible study with Katie Twedt
Dive into God’s word with a Splash!

VOYAGERS 10:40–11:30 am
Adult Faith Formation—Navigate through various discussion topics. A great opportunity for fellowship and deep dive into God’s word together.



Beginning **September 12 @ 5:00 pm** we will partner with the Ames DAYS FOR GIRLS Team (DFG)—an international organization that provides hygiene kits and menstrual health ed for girls/women in developing countries. Do you realize that many girls miss one week of school each month due to their menstrual cycle? They lack supplies that we in the U. S. take for granted. In the less than 10 years that DFG has been operating, they have reached over 1-million girls/women worldwide. According to their website, the dropout rate in a Uganda school went **down** from 25% to 4% after one year of DFG kits. School retention rates in Kenya reached 96%, from 75%.

The DFG Team in Ames has been working diligently for three years. Our present plan is just to cut fabric and assemble the kits— you don’t need any sewing experience. This group is open to anyone 6th grade or older, including boys and men. After our first informational meeting, we will meet regularly on the second Wednesday of the month. For more info contact Jeanne Stewart or Lori Woodcock, or visit www.daysforgirls.org/

Days for Girls’ mission is to provide safe, beautiful, washable and long lasting menstrual pads that will allow girls to attend school every week of the year.



YOUTH Recent & Soon! by Dan Hinderaker

ELCA National Youth Gathering

Evan Bay Brakke, Ryan Hinderaker, Jacy Lehman, Griffin Meyer, Riley Nelson, Abby Robinder, Pastor Bryan, Katie Twedt and I travelled to Houston, Texas, for the ELCA National Youth Gathering. It was an amazing experience to see over 30,000 Lutheran youth excited to share God's amazing love!

Every evening we gathered in the NRG Stadium (home of the Houston Texans) for mass gathering with guest musicians and speakers from around the country. The theme for the Gathering was "This Changes Everything" and we learned how God's call, God's love, God's grace and God's hope can change everything in our lives.



Food highlights from our trip were great meals at "Pappas BBQ," "Rudy's Country Store Bar-B-Q," a late night 30-inch pizza from "Gotham Pizza" and a fabulous brunch at "The Breakfast Klub."

Our group participated in an interactive learning and community life day on Thursday, June 28, the Southeast Iowa Synod Day on Friday, June 29 and a Service Learning Day at Buffalo Bayou State Park on Saturday, June 30. Our group also helped to serve communion at our final worship service on Sunday, July 1, before boarding the bus for our 18-hour ride back to Ames.

Through this experience our group developed a closer bond and connection with one another, a deeper sense of mission in our own individual lives and in the life of our Bethesda congregation and a reinforcement of the amazing love we have through Christ.



2018 Vacation Bible School

This year's theme for Vacation Bible School was "Seek First" with the program provided in partnership with Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp—Story City. "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." ~ Matthew 6:33

We had 57 children participate and enjoyed a fantastic week! Each day was spent travelling to a new part of the world with fun skits, songs, crafts, music, snacks and more! It was a tremendous week of learning how we can seek God anywhere we are—no matter what.



FIND YOUR FIRE

Moms-of-Preschoolers (MOPS)

This group is coming to Ames! And it's goal is to encourage and empower moms all over the world to be the best moms they can be. When you join MOPS, you are joining a world-wide sisterhood that has been around for over 40 years, and it's pretty awesome.

This year's theme is "Find your Fire." For more information and to check out the video visit www.mops.org—it will set your heart ablaze!

We will start meeting in the fall, so look for the schedule SOON! For more information, contact Mary Olson at molson@bethesdanet.org.





Update from Bethesda Women

Mary, Naomi, and Ruth CIRCLES have been meeting together this summer around the theme, "Prayer," from our

Gather Bible study. An 'alternate time' group has also met at 9:30, third Tuesdays, at Northridge Village. We have learned quickly about new experiences and blessings from the discipline of prayer. We were warned that this study could change our lives! Anyone is welcome to the final lesson in this series @ 9:30 am, August 23. Beginning in September the *Gather* Bible study will be: "Repentance." You are invited. "The publishing ministries of Women of the ELCA aim to help women of all age and walks of life to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ," to quote Linda Post Bushkofsky, executive director of Women of the ELCA. Subscribe to *Gather*, borrow or share, and be inspired!

Depending upon the interest and responses of our women, a Wednesday night *Gather* Bible study could be offered among Living Water Wednesday night programming this fall. Please consider the needs of your own Circle members, the variety of schedules among Bethesda women, and opportunities for some to "Gather" as a new experience. Time would likely be 7:15 only on the fourth Wednesday, with possibilities to include supper and worship on their Circle night. Your thoughts?

Human Trafficking is a painful topic being addressed by the ELCA at all levels. Here in Ames, a group has been meeting and planning prayerfully for a ministry (Wings of Refuge) that includes buying a house for victims. Anne Almquist has met with them. Listen for more . . .

A draft of the ELCA Social Statement on Women and Justice, prepared by an ELCA Task Force, is available from the Women's Ministries Board. It is also available online at ELCA.org/womenandjustice. Curious? Comments can be submitted prior to September 30, 2018.

LWR quilts are soon ready, thanks to Eileen Klonglan & Company. Bulletin boards will list items still needed for school kits. Thanks, Ann Hein, for organizing LWR kit these several years. Delivery date is Oct. 20.

Thanks to all who are making Bethesda Lutheran Church a redeeming, welcoming, forgiving, energizing, thankful and prayerful home!

~ Carolyn Ahlstrom
(President, Women's Ministries)



Scandinavian Coffee 2018!

Let's expand attendance, increase seating capacity, and extend our reach in Ames and the surrounding community.



SATURDAY! October 6 . . . 9:00 am–3:00 pm

Attendees are also invited to come back and join us for Saturday night and/or Sunday service! The new patio will be open for seating, as well as along the pews along the south Commons wall.

- Photo booth to snap an early holiday portrait!
- Live music!
- Face-painting on the patio!
- Swedish meatballs for sale!

Many hands make light work and we are so grateful to have so many talented and dedicated volunteers! A binder meeting is scheduled . . . **August 29@ 7:00 pm.** Stay tuned for work shop notices and volunteer sign-up opportunities! If you are interested in participating or leading a baking workshop, we'd love to talk with you.

Choral Ensembles

There are some exciting changes in store for our choirs this fall! Rehearsals for the adult Bethesda Choir will be moving to **Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm**, immediately after Carillon Choir. We have a lot of great things in store this year, so come join in the fun! Weekly rehearsals begin Thursday, August 30.

Also, we are forming a **new children's choir for ages 8-14 called the Choristers**. This group, led by Mark Kretsinger-Harries, will be a fun learning experience for children with a love of music and a desire to grow. Children will sing in worship a few times each season of the church year, and occasionally with the adult Bethesda Choir. **Interested parents, please contact Mark (mkhbarries@bethesdanet.org) to discuss involvement and possible rehearsal schedule.**

Carillon Choir

Carillon Choir has a new rehearsal time in the fall! **We will meet Thursdays, 5:45-7:00 pm in the music room.** Please contact Nick Kaizer (kaizertrumpet@gmail.com) if you're interested in joining this fun, friendly group of bell ringers. No experience necessary!

VenuWork's Steve Peters Award Recipient

Excerpted from a post on 20 April, 2018, 06:07 pm UTC by Ian Courtney

COPPEL, TX (CelebrityAccess) — The International Association of Venue Managers Foundation has named VenuWorks founder and President Steve Peters as the recipient of the organizations' 2018 Legacy Award.



"The Legacy Award is given to someone who, through either financial or non-financial contributions, has made a positive and lasting impact towards the mission and objectives of the IAVM Foundation," said Kathryn Eades, IAVM Foundation Director of Development.

"Steve Peters, a valued member of IAVM and supporter of the Foundation, truly embodies those qualities and is a tremendous industry leader."

Peters is a veteran of the facilities management world with more than 4 decades of experience. In 2014, Peters

launched VenuWorks Theatricals, which produces theatrical events for B'way theaters, as well as national and global touring.

"I am humbled and honored to receive the Legacy Award," stated Peters. "IAVM has been an important part of my life for over forty years. I am thrilled to be able to give back to IAVM, through the Foundation, at this stage in my life."

Ames-based VenuWorks will assume management of Iowa State Center

AMES, Iowa – Iowa State University has selected a new management company to oversee the Iowa State Center, which includes Stephens Auditorium, Fisher Theater and the Scheman Building.

Iowa State will begin a five-year agreement with Ames-based VenuWorks Aug. 1. VenuWorks will manage all events, conferences, catering and concessions at the Iowa State Center.

"... we are confident our team has the experience, expertise and financial strength to realize these goals," said Steve Peters, president and owner of VenuWorks. "We are thrilled to work with the ISU community to help shape the future of the Iowa State Center."

Welcome New Members!

Alice and Bill Woodward have recently relocated to Ames from East Tennessee in order to be closer to family. Family being son, Bill III, daughter-in-law Stacey and grandsons Bill IV and Grant. They also have a granddaughter and two great granddaughters in Omaha and a daughter and granddaughter in Roseville, California.



Bill spent 36 years with the Quaker Oats Company, holding positions in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; Danville, Illinois; Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Chicago and Barrington, Illinois —and retiring as Manager of Operations Kansas City, Missouri in 2001.

Alice was and still is a very active woman; in her early years she was very active in the PTA as an officer and coach of girls athletics and various cheerleading squads. When living in the Chicago area she spent seven years with the Glenn Ellyn Medical Clinic as Assistant Office Manager.

Lois Woolery

I grew up in the Pocahontas, Iowa, area. My husband, Gary, and I moved to Ames In 2011 to be closer to our son, Steven, and his family. We were members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Webster City. I sang in the choir as long as I could and helped in various ministries there. I worked as a shirt presser for dry cleaners, a very specialized job. We had been married for 62 years when Gary died in 2015. I live at Accura Healthcare and am only blocks away from Steven, Lorrie, Hannah, and Dana Woolery, who are members of Bethesda.



I now enjoy the company of the Bethesda Care Ministry Holy Friendship Visitation Team who bring me communion each month.



Beloit Learning Garden Outreach Ministry

Bethesda volunteer coordinator, Kent Heikens, shared that our Beloit Learning Garden grew about 1500 lbs. of veggies last year. And already this year (in mid-July, 2018) they have harvested nearly 400 lbs.!

The kids at Lutheran Services in Iowa-Beloit put in sweat equity to plant, weed and harvest—learning skills like planting and harvesting healthy foods throughout the growing season. Each week, boys and girls on the campus learn new nutrition facts and work with volunteer gardeners from the community.

Then, annually, in August, this year on the 21st, the team hosts a BBQ Picnic with many of the things they grew (including sweet corn, of course!) for all the kids and staff. The LSI-Beloit dining hall uses the veggies during the summer, as does Bethesda's Community Food Pantry.

On any warm, sunny day in July young kids run up the hill at the Beloit Residential Treatment Center to reach the large garden plot nearby.

The Learning Garden started as a collaboration among LSI, Bethesda Lutheran Church, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, USDA's National Lab for Agriculture and the Environment, and the Story County Master Gardeners Association. Volunteers from each



organization (including our Bethesda Council President, Laura Miller) have helped manage the garden over the years, and someone always teaches a lesson to the kids before each afternoon of gardening.

As one of the volunteers says, "A lot of kids don't understand the process of agriculture," she says. "So to have [the garden] at their fingertips—it's a great opportunity for them to learn."



Annual Ames CROP Walk: October 14

Dust off those walking shoes and head to Brookside Park for the three-and-a-half mile walk that'll be held **October 14 starting at 1:30 pm!** Church World Service (an organization that has been fighting hunger since the end of World War II) sponsors this event. Twenty-five percent of the money raised from the walk remains in the local community to help hunger-related agencies. In Story County Food at First, Good

Neighbors Emergency Assistance, MICA, Loaves and Fishes (in Story City), Calvary United Methodist Church, SHOP (an ISU student-run food pantry) and Bethesda's own pantry receive a percentage from that total.

In 2017, \$37,215.50 was raised in the Ames walk. Our walk is the second largest in Iowa in terms of money raised. The Quad Cities walk is the largest. Last year there were 906 CROP Hunger Walks across America raising \$9.1 million.

Watch for the **CROP Walk Kickoff the weekend of September 22-23**. You have several ways to participate—pick up a walk packet and solicit donations for the October 14 walk, if you don't wish to walk you can make a monetary gift at any of the weekend services from September 22-23 through October 6-7. You may also donate online. Online donation information will be made available closer to the walk date.

If you feel moved to participate in other ways to combat hunger, you might consider joining the Ames CROP Walk Planning Team. The team needs volunteers interested in the following roles: treasurer, publicity leader and education leader. We generally meet the fourth Thursday of the month. Rod Fischer can answer any specific questions you may have about these volunteer positions. His email is videoguy@iastate.edu.



Bethesda Happenings

Good Neighbor Tuscan Dinner

Tuesday, September 25

Unitarian Church, 1015 N. Hyland Ave

Social . . . 6:00 pm

Dinner . . . 6:30 pm \$35/person

Save the date for this annual Fundraiser!



Library Collection

The Church Library has a DVD of the fabulous movie, "I Can Only Imagine"—the true story behind the song by ME 2. We thank the Christian Education and Youth Board for the donation to the library. It will be on the Recommended Reading Table this month along with suggestions for some good reads.



Scandinavian Coffee Workshops

Spritz Workshop

Monday, September 10 5:00 pm

Contact Chris Robinson for details

(christina.g.robinson@gmail.com)



OKTOBERFEST Raising a toast to our community!



Open to the public

Kid-friendly activities!

No admission fee!

Enjoy the food and fellowship!

Food and drink available to purchase

Brats . . . Hot dogs . . . Potato salad

Beans . . . Pretzels . . . Apples & more!

Beer . . . Root beer (made onsite!)

Bounce house & slide

Contests & games galore

Polka lessons & dancing
to the Bluestem Bellows Band

Outdoor modern worship service after festivities at 5:30 pm is open to everyone!

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Attend the **Kick-off** to Our **Programming Year!**

AUGUST 26

10:40–11:00 am

Introduction of **Sunday School** Curriculum

Video of 2018 National Youth Gathering Trip

11:00 am–12:30 pm

Grilled Hamburgers & Hot Dogs—picnic lunch with potato salad & chips

9 Square-in-the-Air ☉ **Giant Jenga** ☉ Bag Toss ☉ **Pop Bottle Ring Toss** ☉ Bubbles

Inflatables! Bounce House & Slide

Face Painter

Rally Sunday