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10/21/2025

Dear Members and Friends of Bethany Lutheran Church,

If you were here in Lindsborg this past weekend for Hyllningsfest, you witnessed Lindsborg and Bethany Lutheran Church at their absolute closest and best.

Our sanctuary hosted the stirring festival-opening worship service Thursday night and the glorious Smoky Valley Men's Choir concert Friday evening. We served Swedish tea rings and egg coffee to parade-watchers gathered on our front lawn during the parade. Our children, youth, and adults sang, danced, and served in virtually every festival venue throughout the weekend. Our members hosted visitors from all over the world. And Sunday morning we celebrated our long and close relationship with Bethany College, born in our sacristy 144 years ago.

You might have wondered - could it get any better than this?

Well, friends, yes it could and it will!

We're thrilled to announce that **Bethany Lutheran Church has been awarded a challenge grant of \$500,000 from the National Fund for Sacred Places**, a program of Partners for Sacred Places in collaboration with the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Bethany Church was one of just 30 organizations selected from over 300 applicants nationwide to receive a total of \$8.7 million in grant funding that provides training, planning grants, technical assistance, capacity-building support, and capital grants to congregations of all faith traditions.

The grant will go toward the next phases of the work needed to stabilize our beautiful and historically significant - but also structurally vulnerable - sanctuary, so we may continue to serve the Church at large and our surrounding community for at least another 156 years.

Stay tuned for more information about how we can link arms with the National Fund for Sacred Places to secure the future of this very special faith community, Bethany Lutheran Church.

But for now, a heartfelt thank you - it was your courage and commitment in support of the mission of Bethany Lutheran Church that gave the NFSP the confidence to choose us for this opportunity. Your children and grandchildren will thank you - as do I.

Peace,

Pastor Chris Deines

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