

# Bethany Lutheran Church

"To grow so deep in Christ through worship, education,  
and fellowship that we celebrate by reaching out to others."



April  
2016

*"...live among God's faithful people; hear the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper; proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed; serve all people following the example of Jesus; and strive for justice and peace in all the earth."*

(Evangelical Lutheran Worship p. 236; permission granted Augsburg Fortress License #SB102700)

## Important Dates

**04-11** 6:30 p.m. Council meeting  
**04-13** 9:00 a.m. Women's Circle @  
Diane Hougén's home  
**04-23** Council retreat  
**04-24** 5:00 p.m. Community meal

## Contact Information

Bethany Lutheran Church  
235 South Second Street  
West Branch, Iowa 52358

Pastor Chad Whaley  
pastor@wbbethany.org

Office Hours  
Monday & Thursday  
9:00 a.m. - Noon

\*Pastor Chad is also available by  
appointment.

Admin. Assistant: Paula Casper  
blcsecretary@lcom.net

Office Hours  
Tuesday & Thursday 8:00-11:30 a.m.  
Office Phone: (319) 643-5998

### FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

Simply search "Bethany Lutheran  
Church (ELCA) West Branch, Iowa" on  
facebook and "like" our page!

### ALSO FIND US ON TWITTER!

Search @blcwestbranch



Dear Resurrection People,

Alleluia! Christ has risen. Alleluia!

This Lenten season was such a joy. I am not sure why this year struck me more than others and it doesn't mean I have not enjoyed and been grateful for the past seasons of Lent we have journeyed with together. This past Lent just hit me in a new way. The wonderful food and fellowship we had on Wednesday evenings. How so many of you faithfully showed up for dinner and worship that followed. The soft glow of the candles in the cross cutting through a darkened room. Watching you all kneel around the cross lifting up prayers to our God. It just hit me anew this year and perhaps that is the power of the resurrection to come to us, to breathe new life into us, and one more way God draws near to us and nourishes our faith for what lie ahead.

Our journey through Lent lifted up those faith practices God gives to us in baptism listed above. They are a gift. They are a blueprint God gives us to keep us close to the vine who gives us life. They are our life vest to keep us afloat when the stormy seas threaten to pull us under. They are not chores or one more thing to add to our "to do" list. No, they are a gift from God who loves us dearly and so desperately desires us to remain in relationship with our Creator. They are embedded in God's DNA and therefore a part of our very identity because of the image of God we were created in.

I think a lot of the struggle we often have is sorting out our hectic and crazy lives. We are pulled in so many directions. Our schedules are so jammed packed that we can't even stop and rest. And then church is added to the list. One more thing. One more item to try and schedule in. Our culture, at times, leads us to a mindset which can cloud our vision to see God's gifts and goodness. These five faith practices are sheer joy. They are pure gift. They give us meaning. They are core to our identity as baptized sons and daughters of God. They draw us closer to God and into a fuller relationship with our Lord. Yes, there are other practices God uses and gives us to continue in that relationship; but, perhaps we need to continually be reminded of these and seek God's help in living these out. Perhaps, they are exactly what I needed this past Lent and through our time together, studying them, and delving into them more deeply God was at work drawing closer to me and I hope to all of you as well. Perhaps, that is why this past Lent brought me so much joy and hope for the future and our life together.

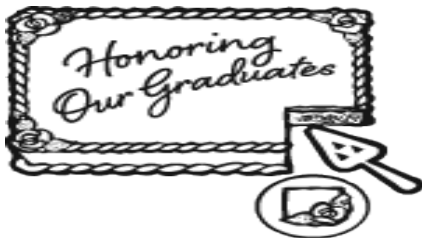
This is such a wonderful community God has called each of us to. You are all so special and I am so grateful to come alongside each of you in the work God has called us to do together! Let us rejoice and shout the Easter promise, "Alleluia! He is risen."

Pastor Chad



## Birthdays

04/01 Aubree Cassabaum, Jacob Webb  
 Sharon Schubert  
 04/06 Bob Pedersen  
 04/09 Steve Yeater  
 04/10 John Black, David Fischer  
 04/11 Kent Kaufman  
 04/14 Cassie Colvin  
 04/15 Aizlyn Marsh, Scott Weineke  
 04/16 Tony Johnston  
 04/18 Paula Casper  
 04/21 Rena Holmes  
 04/22 George McCrory  
 04/23 Nanci Weineke  
 04/25 London Kiley  
 04/27 Elsa Boedecker, Courtney Bruns  
 Lindsey Bruns  
 04/28 Karen Friis  
 04/30 Samantha Knoop



## Graduation Recognition Sunday May 8th

*Congratulations to our youth  
that will be Graduating in 2016.*

*Cheyenne Crow  
 Johnathan Holstad  
 Adam Villhauer  
 Tony Yeater*



## Bethany Books

by Frank Frostestad

### Books For Adults

This month will feature Lauraine Snelling. Once again we get to revisit the town of Blessing, North Dakota and its inhabitants. This month we have #3 of the Song Of Blessing series *Streams Of Mercy*. The year is 1907 and Anji Baard Moen, recently widowed in Norway, returns to Blessing with her children. She quickly settles back into life in the familiar surroundings of Blessing, teaching in the high school and writing articles for the Blessing *Gazette*. In the midst of an unexpected crisis, Anji is put into a role she never imagined. Without her being aware, an old friendship begins to show signs of developing into something more.

Before Lauraine Snelling wrote about Blessing she wrote a series of short books about Norwegian woman who went to North Dakota in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century to become wives of settlers. In *Dakota Dawn* she tells of Nora Johanson who at fifteen was so sure of her love for Hans Larson. Now, three years later, she stepped off the train at Soldahl, North Dakota. Hans fails to arrive at the train station. She then found herself thrown into a life she never expected with people she does not know. Read the book for what happens in her life. This is the first book in a series of five women who live in the farming community of Soldahl, North Dakota.

In *Dakota Dream* Clara Johanson, Nora's sister, stepped off the train at Soldahl and does not meet the man she expected. She has a photograph of who she expects but that is not who she meets. She began life in America as a single Norwegian immigrant in a situation far different than the one she expected, that brought her all the way from Norway.

In *Dakota Dusk* Jude Wienlander is jealous of his brother's good fortune. When a devastating fire swept through this childhood home, he left town. After wandering he arrived at Willowford, North Dakota. There he agreed to help the schoolmarm Rebekka Stenesrude.

In the fourth book of the series, *Dakota December*, the sheriff Caleb Stenesrude found a woman in a blizzard. With her is a small child. She then goes into labor. Caleb realizes that this would be a Christmas Eve like no other. In the days after, Caleb and the people of Soldahl take Johanna Carlson and her two children into their hearts, but Johanna keeps her distance, afraid to tell anyone the truth about her life.

In the fifth and last book of the series, *Dakota Destiny*, Soldahl is feeling the effects of World War I. Pastor Moen's daughter, Mary, received a telegram that the man she loves is missing in action and presumed to be dead. After months of waiting, news comes to Soldahl that the war is over. Does Mary have reason to hope?

### Book For Children

*The Story Of Jesus' Teaching And Healing* by Martina Smith is a means of showing young children the extraordinary ways that Jesus loved and showed compassion.

### DVD For Children

*Whirl: Leo & Friends – Craft Crabs & Other Inspired Adventures* is for ages 7-10. A spirited group of friends help each other navigate real-life problems and adventures by using biblical values.



### **Church Staff**

**Pastor** - Chad Whaley  
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**Admin. Assistant** - Paula Casper  
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**Custodian** – Curt Casper

**Organist** – Seth Butler

### **Church Council**

John Black  
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### **Financial Secretary**

Claudia Beyer  
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## **Adult Education Opportunities**



Pastor Chad's sermons can now be found on Bethany's website ([www.wbbethany.org](http://www.wbbethany.org)) by placing your cursor over the "Resource" tab found on the home page and then selecting "Sermons" when it pops up.

**Bethany Men's Breakfast  
Bible Study Group**  
Wednesdays at 6:00 a.m.  
in the Great Hall

**Thursday Women's  
Bible Study**  
6:00 a.m. in the Small Hall  
All are Welcome

**Women's Circle**  
Second Wednesday of Month  
9:00 a.m. on April 13 at Diane  
Hougen's home located at 114  
N 7th Ave, Iowa City

**Adult Discussion**  
10:20 a.m. in the Small Hall  
All are Welcome



# Vacation Bible School

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Bethany Lutheran Church and the West Branch United Methodist Church would like to invite YOU and your friends to attend our VBS Day Camp this year!



**Save the Date!**

**JUNE 12th - 17th**

9am - 3pm M-Th

9am - 12pm F

Day Camp is open to children who are completing grades K through 5 this Spring.

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No fees will be charged to campers to attend, donations will be accepted. Lunch is provided M - Th. Volunteers and food donations will be needed. Registration forms will be available online and for pick-up at both church offices the first week of April. Please contact Courtney Heid at (319)400-7227 or Jodi Yeggy at (319)850-0762 with questions.



BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
COUNCIL MINUTES FEBRUARY 2016

**Members present:** Greg Lipes, Jill Taylor, Beth Kaufman, John Black, Paula Casper, Pastor Chad, Jamie Zimmerman, Tonya Samuelson.

**Members absent:** Jon Twing, Kevin Olson.

**Called to order:** 6:30 pm by President John Black. Opening devotional and prayer: Candle as visual symbol of Christ's presence with us. The Spirit has called each of us, to Bethany, to council, to our vocations and leadership. The call story from Matthew 4:18-22, begins in Capernaum, a town which is more Gentile than Jewish. We can find joy and hope in this passage of ordinary people called to leave family and follow Jesus, by considering the fears they must have had, leaving relationships and responsibilities. Council roles will present challenges, and we will keep our eyes on the light. Each council member shared a point of thankfulness, and joined together in Luther's Evening Prayer. Pastor's report: Lenten music will be recorded, rather than having Seth drive down. Copyright angles have been covered.

**Secretary's report:** moved for approval by Paula Casper, seconded by Greg Lipes. All ayes.

**Treasurer's report:** Building fund residue has been moved to general fund. Jill clarified minor items, and will change local missions percentage from 2 to 3. Moved for approval by Greg Lipes, seconded by Tonya Samuelson. All ayes.

**Building and Grounds:** Sanctuary painting proceeding, lights have been changed to LED, natural light. We will need to schedule a post painting session in sanctuary.

**Education:** Tonya has met with Courtney to exchange necessary points. VBS will be June 12-17. The \$200.00 fee has been sent with this year's application to Ewalu. Tonya will contact Jody Yeagy at WBUMC to ask about joining us for VBS, including volunteer staff.

**Evangelism:** will meet with former chair.

**Fellowship:** Still need a coordinator for February 4th Sunday Supper. Will get a sign-up sheet for the remainder of the year. Ideas needed for promoting this event. Lenten meals will be done by groups. Council will do March 9. Men's group will do the 2nd meal. Confirmation group will do March 2nd. Meals are at 6pm and service is at 7pm.

**Stewardship:** Letter submitted by Jon Twing.

**Youth:** no report.

**Worship:** Organist and congregation are adjusting to each other.

Old business:

- \* Need to set up anniversary committees for Bethany's 100th year celebration of our current building, and for the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Scope of celebrations? Tree planting? Outdoor service? Review what was done for the 75th.

New business:

- \* Fair Rental Value of parsonage for Pastor's tax reports. Was \$11,800 last year. Moved by Jill Taylor and seconded by Jamie Zimmerman to leave at that number for this year. All ayes.
- \* Church insurance policy updates: Insurance company would like a railing added to back stairway entrance to church office. Also recommend digital carbon monoxide readouts in parsonage. Building coverage amounts need to be adjusted for church building, and the parsonage to match current appraisals. Church building coverage will be lowered to \$1.43 million. Parsonage building coverage will be raised to \$303,553. Moved for approval by Jamie Zimmerman, and seconded by Greg Lipes, all ayes.
- \* Jamie Zimmerman and Del Hughes will repair bell tower cracks above sanctuary.
- \* A letter has been received from a West Branch college student, asking for a donation to help with expenses for a trip to Jamaica, working at a deaf ministry site. Council discussed posting this appeal and going through WBARC.
- \* The old computer in the church office will be given to Paula Casper. No resale value.
- \*

Adjourned: 8:10 pm.





## Daily Bible Readings

The foundational premise of this set of daily readings is their relationship to the Sunday lectionary. The readings are chosen so that the days leading up to Sunday (Thursday through Saturday) prepare for the Sunday readings. The days flowing out from Sunday (Monday through Wednesday) reflect upon the Sunday readings. The complete Daily Lectionary is also found on pages 1121-1153 of our hymnal, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

<b>Fri Apr. 1</b>	1 Samuel 17:19-32 Acts 5:17-26 Psalm 150	<b>Sat Apr. 16</b>	Ezekiel 28:25-26 Luke 12:29-32 Psalm 23
<b>Sat Apr. 2</b>	1 Samuel 17:32-51 Luke 24:36-40 Psalm 150	<b>Sun Apr. 17</b>	Acts 9:36-43 Revelation 7:9-17 John 10:22-30
<b>Sun Apr. 3</b>	Acts 5:27-32 Revelation 1:4-8 John 20:19-31	<b>Mon Apr. 18</b>	Ezekiel 37:15-28 Revelation 15:1-4 Psalm 100
<b>Mon Apr. 4</b>	Esther 7:1-10 Revelation 1:9-20 Psalm 122	<b>Tue Apr. 19</b>	Ezekiel 45:1-9 Acts 9:32-35 Psalm 100
<b>Tue Apr. 5</b>	Esther 8:1-17 Revelation 2:8-11 Psalm 122	<b>Wed Apr. 20</b>	Jeremiah 50:17-20 John 10:31-42 Psalm 100
<b>Wed Apr. 6</b>	Esther 9:1-5, 18-23 Luke 12:4-12 Psalm 122	<b>Thu Apr. 21</b>	Ezekiel 2:8-3:11 Revelation 10:1-11 Psalm 148
<b>Thu Apr. 7</b>	Isaiah 5:11-17 Revelation 3:14-22 Psalm 30	<b>Fri Apr. 22</b>	Daniel 7:13-14 Revelation 11:15 Psalm 148
<b>Fri Apr. 8</b>	Isaiah 6:1-4 Revelation 4:1-11 Psalm 30	<b>Sat Apr. 23</b>	Daniel 7:27 Revelation 11:16-19 Psalm 148
<b>Sat Apr. 9</b>	Genesis 18:1-8 Luke 14:12-14 Psalm 30	<b>Sun Apr. 24</b>	Acts 11:1-18 Revelation 21:1-6 John 13:31-35
<b>Sun Apr. 10</b>	Acts 9:1-6 [7-20] Revelation 5:11-14 John 21:1-19	<b>Mon Apr. 25</b>	1 Samuel 20:1-23, 35-42 Acts 11:19-26 Psalm 133
<b>Mon Apr. 11</b>	Ezekiel 1:1-25 Acts 9:19b-31 Psalm 121	<b>Tue Apr. 26</b>	2 Samuel 1:4-27 Acts 11:27-30 Psalm 133
<b>Tue Apr. 12</b>	Ezekiel 1:26-2:1 Acts 26:1-18 Psalm 121	<b>Wed Apr. 27</b>	Leviticus 19:9-18 Luke 10:25-28 Psalm 133
<b>Wed Apr. 13</b>	Isaiah 6:1-8 Luke 5:1-11 Psalm 121	<b>Thu Apr. 28</b>	Proverbs 2:1-5 Acts 15:36-41 Psalm 67
<b>Thu Apr. 14</b>	Ezekiel 11:1-25 Revelation 5:1-10 Psalm 23	<b>Fri Apr. 29</b>	Proverbs 2:6-8 Acts 16:1-8 Psalm 67
<b>Fri Apr. 15</b>	Ezekiel 20:39-44 Revelation 6:1-7:4 Psalm 23	<b>Sat Apr. 30</b>	Proverbs 2:9-15 Luke 19:1-10 Psalm 67



# April 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	28	29	30	31	1	2
<b>3</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Worship followed by fellowship <b>10:20 AM</b> Sunday school & Adult Discussion	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <b>1:00 PM</b> Quilters <b>1:30 PM</b> Hope Chest Open	<b>6</b> <b>6:00 AM</b> Men's Breakfast and Bible Study <b>6:30 PM</b> Confirmation dinner and study	<b>7</b> <b>6:00 AM</b> Women's Bible study	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> Baptism <b>9:00 AM</b> Worship followed by fellowship <b>10:20 AM</b> Sunday school & Adult Discussion	<b>11</b> <b>6:30 PM</b> Council Meeting	<b>12</b> <b>1:00 PM</b> Quilters <b>1:30 PM</b> Hope Chest Open	<b>13</b> <b>6:00 AM</b> Men's Breakfast and Bible Study <b>9:00 AM</b> Women's Circle <b>6:30 PM</b> Confirmation dinner and study	<b>14</b> <b>6:00 AM</b> Women's Bible study	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Worship followed by fellowship <b>10:20 AM</b> Sunday school & Adult Discussion	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <b>1:00 PM</b> Quilters <b>1:30 PM</b> Hope Chest Open	<b>20</b> <b>6:00 AM</b> Men's Breakfast and Bible Study <b>6:30 PM</b> Confirmation dinner and study	<b>21</b> <b>6:00 AM</b> Women's Bible study	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> Council Retreat
<b>24</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Worship followed by fellowship <b>10:20 AM</b> Sunday school & Adult Discussion <b>5:00 PM</b> West Branch Community Meal @ Bethany	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <b>1:00 PM</b> Quilters <b>1:30 PM</b> Hope Chest Open	<b>27</b> <b>6:00 AM</b> Men's Breakfast and Bible Study <b>6:30 PM</b> Confirmation dinner and study	<b>28</b> <b>6:00 AM</b> Women's Bible study	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

## Monetary Gifts Report

Submitted by Jill Taylor

Saints in Worship:

02-07	68
02-14	46
02-21	58
02-28	67
<b>Total</b>	<b>239</b>

	February 2016		YTD	
Total Receipts	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
	12,118	13,084	27,347	26,168
Total Expenses	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
	26,876	13,675	38,867	27,351

***Thank you*** all for faithfully stewarding the gifts God has entrusted us with in fulfilling the ministry and mission of God here at Bethany Lutheran Church! In so many ways, not just monetarily, God is abundantly providing for our needs.

