

Bethany Lutheran Church

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



April
2017

Important Dates

04-06 Prayer Group 7:00 pm
04-08 Council Retreat 8:30 - 11:30 am
04-09 Palm Sunday
04-10 Council Meeting 6:30 pm
04-13 Maundy Thursday Worship
7:00 pm at West Branch
United Methodist Church
04-14 Good Friday Worship 7:00 pm at
Bethany
04-16 9:00 am Easter Worship

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.

FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

Office Phone: (319) 643-5998

Simply search "Bethany Lutheran

ALSO FIND US ON TWITTER!

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

Search @blcwestbranch

I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus.
1 Corinthians 1:4 (NIV)



Dear Precious Saints,

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord
and Savior!

God's love and grace is such an amazing thing! It transforms
us and changes our lives. It gives us strength to move forward during the storms
of life. It frees us from all that binds us. It will never let go. Once again, you all
surrounded me with and supported me with the outpouring of that love. I give
thanks to each and everyone of you for your prayers, love, and compassion prior
to and following my recent surgery. I can't express enough just how much I ap-
preciated the cards, emails, text messages, surprise visits, and help extended to
me during this time. It is such a joy to be called to partner in ministry with all of
you and I give thanks daily for the opportunity to be your pastor.

The promise we cling to is that we are never alone. God made this promise to the
people of Israel and Jesus made this same promise to his disciples. We are never
alone! One way Christ makes his presence known to us is through one another
and you made that presence felt loud and clear as I recovered from my surgery.
Thank you so very much from the bottom of my heart!

Our thankfulness always flows forth from the abundant and extravagant gifts
God has poured forth upon us. As we journey toward the cross of Good Friday
and the empty tomb of Easter may we reflect upon and give thanks for the gift of
life God brought about through the death of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

May the peace of Christ be with you always!

Pastor Chad

*Thank
You!*



Birthdays

April Birthdays

04/01 Aubree Cassabaum, Jacob Webb
Sharon Schubert
04/06 Bob Pedersen
04/09 Steve Yeater
04/10 John Black
04/10 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

PALM SUNDAY

Palm Sunday is April 9 and all our younger youth (and older if they want) are invited to arrive prior to worship at 8:45 a.m. and line up in the Great Hall with a palm and process in to worship. Hope to see a big group!



Bethany Books

by Frank Frostestad



Books for Adults

This month's theme has to do with growth and renewal, first as a church and then as an individual. All the books have been donated. The first, *Recruiting Volunteers* by Dan Entwistle is a good resource for recruiting, training, and sustaining volunteers.

Bill Hybels (Willow Creek Community Church) is the author of *Holy Discontent: Fueling The Fire That Ignites Personal Vision*. Hybels asks us to consider the enormous force for good that our life can become when it is powered and guided by holy discontent. He also shows what it takes to turn this holy discontent into purposeful and effective action.

The third book by Craig Groeschel is *How Churches And Leaders Can Get It And Keep It*. In his ministry the author has come across a powerful life changing force he has come to call **It**. Combining honesty with humor this book undertakes to help people understand the elements needed to obtain **It**.

Evangelicals On the Canterbury Trail by Robert E. Webber tells why evangelicals are attracted to the liturgical church. What is a man who is a theology professor from an evangelical college, an ordained Presbyterian minister, a graduate of Bob Jones University, and the son of a Baptist minister doing in the Episcopal church? This book looks at the attractions of "crossing over".

On a more personal note, Chip Ingram in *I Am With You Always: Experiencing God In Times of Need* uses the Psalms to help us in our everyday struggles. The Psalms are full of ordinary people in desperate situations who learned to trust God for strength and guidance. He leads the reader to experience God as a watchful shepherd, a mighty fortress, and a loving creator.

Seven Seasons Of The Man In the Mirror by Patrick Morley provides guidance for each major phase of your life. This book is aimed at men and offers perspectives on the seven seasons of Reflection, Building, Crisis, Renewal, Rebuilding, Suffering, and Success. When the storms of life come unexpectedly the author wants readers to experience God's grace to be able to withstand any weather.

Books for Children

Spark Story Bible Devotions For Kids is appropriate for children ages 4-8. In it, children journey through 100 of the most beloved Bible stories with questions for reflection, key verses, prayers, and family activity ideas.

Adult Education Opportunities



Pastor Chad's sermons can now be found on Bethany's website (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
All are Welcome

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. in Great Hall unless
stated otherwise

National Child Abuse Prevention Month

According to Prevent Child Abuse Iowa, more than 8,200 Iowa children were found to be abused in 2015. The most common forms of abuse included denial of critical care, physical injury, exposure to illegal drugs and sexual abuse.

Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) helps combat child abuse through prevention, safety and stability services, and mental and behavioral health treatment.

LSI's Early Childhood Services prevent child abuse by giving parents support and resources to build a healthy, stable home environment for their children. In 2016, our Early Childhood programs served more than 1,000 families with infants, toddlers, and preschoolers!

LSI's Family, Safety, Risk and Permanency Services help children and families already involved in a crisis or abuse situation to become safer and more stable, and LSI's residential programs at Beloit and Bremwood serve many children and youth who have experienced trauma from past abuse or neglect.

You make a direct impact on these children and families through your support of LSI. Thank you!

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.

Finding Her Confidence

Melissa didn't know what to do. Her oldest daughter, Brianna, struggled with anger issues and Melissa felt she was losing control at home. She wanted to have a loving relationship with her daughter, and she was afraid of becoming the "stern parent."

She turned to LSI's Mental Health and Behavioral Health Intervention Services for help three years ago.

The services provide regular home visits and family meetings for Melissa and Brianna. Each week, Brianna's LSI team collaborates with her to find the coping skills she needs to thrive.

"We're trying positive reinforcement, we're practicing exercises like taking a pillow and screaming into it," Melissa says. "Instead of just yelling and screaming, we're finding an outlet for that anger."

Brianna is also learning to express herself through her favorite hobby: drawing. Melissa says her daughter is a visual learner, so the family is using art to help Brianna cope with her anger. Brianna loves her drawing exercises so much that she now wants to become an artist when she grows up.

Every step of the way, Melissa says she has felt empowered and supported by her LSI team.

"You get the positive support. As parents, you hear that you're doing a good job. You get that pat on the back when you're feeling defeated," she says. "Without these programs, our family would still be struggling. LSI gives you the tools you need."

Church Staff

Pastor - Chad Whaley
(319) 643-5998 or (319) 643-7257
pastor@wbbethany.org

Admin. Assistant - Paula Casper
(319) 331-9456
blcsecretary@lcom.net

Custodian – Jerry Dodds

Organist – Jill Barnhart (Interim)

Church Council

Greg Lipes
(319) 643-3211
Greg.lipes@gmail.com

Jon Twing
(319) 331-6547
jon.s.twing@pearson.com

Jill Taylor
(319) 643-5865
jtmtrt@gmail.com

Beth Kaufman
(319) 643-5734
bkkaufman@lcom.net

Tonya Samuelson
(319) 643-5915
s3ams@aol.com

Wayne Frauenholtz
(319)930-1196
wrfrauen@lcom.net

Paula Casper
(319) 331-9456
blcsecretary@lcom.net

Jamie Zimmerman
(319) 325-4322
jazzim1@lcom.net

Cheryl Fischer
(319)643-7358
1892cmf@lcom.net

Financial Secretary

Claudia Beyer
(319) 643-2136
iabeyers@aol.com

We give thanks for our leaders and pray for them as they, along with all the people of God at Bethany, carry out God's work we are called to do together.

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

Noisy Coin Offering is Back!

Due to popular demand, the “noisy coin collection” is coming back to Bethany! On the last Sunday of each month please be sure to bring all your loose change and drop it in the “noisy cans” that our youth will be using to collect this offering!



These gifts will be carefully managed by the Stewardship Committee to support the mission of Christ's church in our community and the world. We plan to involve our youth in all parts of this ministry effort. What a great opportunity to educate our youth about being good stewards of all of God's gifts! We may also reach out to others for support and assistance. Thank you! Each and every coin makes a difference.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL NEWS

Vacation Bible School is Coming!

Save the Dates!

When: June 12 - 16

Where: Bethany Lutheran Church

Who: Children Kindergarten - 5th Grade

Look for More Information to Come!

Questions: See Tonya Samuelson



PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS

FAITH AT HOME

For some time now we have had short Bible passages and reflections pertaining to that text on the tables in the Great Hall. We have decided to also place those in the Newsletter. The passages and questions will match up with those found on the tables. Therefore if you want to continue the discussion at home you can. This is one more way we are trying to spur conversation about faith and also absorb ourselves in the word of God.

Luke 23:44-46

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last.

- Jesus' crucifixion...
- When I breath my last breath...
- Because Christ died...



Proverbs 4:23

Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.

- A guarded heart...
- An open heart...
- If I follow my heart, I...

Luke 15:25-30

"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

- Being forgiven and welcomed...
- Feeling unappreciated and taken for granted...
- As Jesus tells this story, he hoped people would...

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
FEBRUARY COUNCIL MINUTES

-Meeting called to order at 6:32 PM by President Lipes

Members Present: Greg Lipes, Jill Taylor, Paula Casper, Beth Kaufman, Tonya Samuelson, Pastor Chad, Wayne Frauenholtz, Jamie Zimmerman

Members Absent: Jon Twing, Cheryl Fischer

Opening Prayer and Devotional:

-Pastor opened with a prayer and we then discussed the bible verse, Matthew 18:20 "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them"

-We discussed what it means to gather in Jesus' name, times when we have felt Christ's presence in a group gathering and how the promise of Jesus is with us help and how we can share that news with others.

-We then closed with a prayer.

Pastor's Report:

-Pastor was busy this last month with visitations, classes, prayer group meetings, group studies, Conference 7 Pastor's Meeting, pre-marital counseling, a funeral, and confirmation

-Confirmation class continues to go well and the class will be serving the 4th Sunday meal this month

-Prayer of Peace Service was held on January 29th and approximately 20 people attended

-Pulpit Supply is on February 26 with Pastor Chad going to St. Bernadette's and Reverend Kimberly Bowles of Springdale UMC coming to Bethany

-Ash Wednesday is March 1 at Springdale UMC at 7:00 PM

-Wednesday Lent Suppers and Worship will begin on March 8 with Supper at 6:15 PM and Worship at 7 PM

Secretary's Report: (Jamie Zimmerman in for Jon Twing)

-Paula moved and Beth seconded that we accept the January 9, 2017 minutes. Motion passed.

-Paula moved and Jill seconded that we accept the January 15, 2017 minutes as amended. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: (Jill Taylor)

-Jill pointed out that Offering Revenue was approximately 5% less than the budgeted amount for the month of January, although we did do a good job of managing expenses as our total expenses for the month were less than revenue and almost 20% less than the monthly budgeted amount.

-Jill mentioned that we had a negative \$31.50 balance in the Angel Tree fund and asked how we wanted to address it.

-Beth moved and Wayne seconded that we transfer \$31.50 from the General Fund to the Angel Tree Fund to eliminate the negative balance. Motion passed.

-Jamie moved and Paula seconded that we accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion passed.

Committee Reports:

-Building and Grounds: (Jamie) I received an email today from our insurance provider stating our Property and Casualty insurance is going down 2% or \$114 per year on our March renewal. Dell Hughes and I cleaned out the storage shed and built storage racks for all the long tables and moved them out into the building. Candy and I are going to clean out and organize the furnace room sometime in the next couple of weeks.

-Education: (Tonya) We are officially confirmed with EWALU to have them provide teachers for Bible School this year which will begin with their arrival on Sunday, June 11 and classes beginning on Monday, June 12. Tonya is checking to see if the Methodists are going to participate with us again this year. The 4th - 6th Grade Wednesday night Sunday School class has 8-10 kids attending on a weekly basis and they will be doing the Wednesday, March 8 Lenten Supper and the April 23rd 4th Sunday Supper

-Evangelism: (Wayne) No Report

-Fellowship: (Paula) The Confirmation Class is doing the 4th Sunday Supper this month. We are dropping bingo from the 4th Sunday Supper as we haven't really had anyone showing up for it.

-Stewardship: (Jon) No Report

-Youth: (Cheryl) No Report

-Worship and Music: (Beth) Jill Barnhart is going to temporarily fill in until we can find a full time replacement for Seth. Jill would like to do it full time but can't once summer is here as Springdale UMC switches to a 9:30 service time which will conflict with our worship time. We have had 2 people inquire about the position, but we haven't heard back from them yet.

Council minutes continued on next page.

Council Minutes Continued...

Old Business:

- Open Committee Assignments: Wayne agreed to assume Evangelism and Cheryl will be in charge of Youth.
- Capital Campaign for the Roof: Jamie gave a presentation on the bids we have and showed the council a sample of the roofing materials we will actually be installing. The bid on materials is a little high so we may save some money there on returned materials once the project is done. We checked on if it would save us any money on insurance premiums by having a metal roof and were told by our insurance agent it would not, although we are going to have an additional conversation with them as this doesn't seem correct. The committee has decided to use a campaign approach similar to what was done to raise funds for the parking lot and they are in the process of drafting a letter and pledge card that will be sent to all Council Members before it is mailed out to the Congregation. Should this approach not raise the necessary funds the committee will explore other options. The goal is to get the new roof installed no later than this summer as we still continue to have shingles being blown off the roof.
- SEIA Pig/Hunger Campaign: Jill gave us a short presentation after having explored this in more detail and felt we should pass on it based on all the other things we are doing in the community, in particular with the School Backpack Program.

New Business:

- Paula handed out the Council Binders to everyone and reviewed them with us.
- Greg brought up that Candy had mentioned we have more table cloths for the big wooden tables than we actually need and she feels we should sell or donate some of them. There was quite a bit of discussion on this and it was decided that when Jamie and Candy clean out the furnace room they will also go through the table cloths to determine exactly how many of which kinds we have and what we want to get rid of.

Meeting adjourned at 7:54 PM with the Lord's Prayer.

Easter Worship:

As the worship committee continues its search for a musician to guide us we have to face some challenges. As such, on Easter Sunday we will only have one worship service at 9:00 a.m. We anticipate a large crowd and therefore are seeking your help.

Hospitality will be of utmost importance on Easter Sunday. Each of us likes the comfort of our "traditional" seats; however, on this day the worship committee would invite everyone to please fill the front pews first. Also, we will need to squeeze in and really get close to our neighbor in order to maximize space. Doing so will allow us to free up the back pews for visitors and those arriving late. We don't want anyone to walk in and then walk out because they can't find a spot to sit. Also, we more than likely will need to utilize the pews in the choir loft and would urge those who are able to consider sitting there.

We do realize this might be a bit of an inconvenience; but, it is one Sunday and think of just how glorious it will be to have the worship space filled to capacity and the voices together sing out the good news of Easter morning. We might just be surprised!



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*.

Sat April 1	Psalm 130 Ezekiel 36:8-15 Luke 24:44-53	Sun April 16	Acts 10:34-43 Colossians 3:1-4 Matthew 28:1-10
Sun April 2	Ezekiel 37:1-14 Romans 8:6-11 John 11:1-45	Mon April 17	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21 Colossians 3:5-11
Mon April 3	Psalm 143 1 Kings 17:17-24 Acts 20:7-12	Tues April 18	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 Exodus 15:1-18 Colossians 3:12-17
Tues April 4	Psalm 143 2 Kings 4:18-37 Ephesians 2:1-10	Wed April 19	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 Joshua 3:1-17 Matthew 28:1-10
Wed April 5	Psalm 143 Jeremiah 32:1-9, 36-41 Matthew 22:23-33	Thurs April 20	Psalm 16 Song of Solomon 2:8-15 Colossians 4:2-5
Thurs April 6	Psalm 31:9-16 1 Samuel 16:11-13 Philippians 1:1-11	Fri April 21	Psalm 16 Song of Solomon 5:9-6:3 1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Fri April 7	Psalm 31:9-16 Job 13:13-19 Philippians 1:21-30	Sat April 22	Psalm 16 Song of Solomon 8:6-7 John 20:11-20
Sat April 8	Psalm 31:9-16 Lamentations 3:55-66 Mark 10:32-34	Sun April 23	Acts 2:14a, 22-32 1 Peter 1:3-9 John 20:19-31
Sun April 9	Isaiah 50:4-9a Philippians 2:5-11 Matthew 26:14-27:66	Mon April 24	Psalm 114 Judges 6:36-40 1 Corinthians 15:12-20
Mon April 10	Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 36:5-11 Hebrews 9:11-15	Tues April 25	Psalm 114 Jonah 1:1-17 1 Corinthians 15:19-28
Tues April 11	John 12:1-11 Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 71:1-14	Wed April 26	Psalm 114 Jonah 2:1-10 Matthew 12:38-42
Wed April 12	1 Corinthians 1:18-31 John 12:20-36 Isaiah 50:4-9a	Thurs April 27	Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 Isaiah 25:1-5 1 Peter 1:8b-12
Thurs April 13	Psalm 70 Hebrews 12:1-3 John 13:21-32	Fri April 28	Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 Isaiah 26:1-4 1 Peter 1:13-16
Friday April 14	Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14 Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 1 Corinthians 11:23-26	Sat April 29	Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 Isaiah 25:6-9 Luke 14:12-14
Sat April 15	John 13:1-17, 31b-35 Isaiah 52:13-53:12 Psalm 22 Hebrews 10:16-25	Sun April 30	Acts 2:14a, 36-41 1 Peter 1:17-23 Luke 24:13-35
	John 18:1-19:42 Genesis 1:1-2:4a - Romans 6:3-11 John 20:1-18		



April 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:00 AM Worship 10:20 AM Sunday School Pre-K through 3rd grade	3	4 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	5 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 6:15 PM Lent Supper 7:00 PM Lent Worship Prayer Around the Cross	6 6:00 AM Women's Bible study 7:00 PM Prayer Group Meeting	7	8 8:30 AM Council Retreat
9 9:00 AM Worship 10:20 AM Sunday School Pre-K through 3rd grade	10 6:30 PM Council Meeting	11 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	12 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 9:00 AM Women's Circle	13 6:00 AM Women's Bible study 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Worship @ West Branch UMC	14 7:00 PM Good Friday Worship @ Bethany Lutheran (ELCA)	15
16 9:00 AM Easter Worship	17	18 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	19 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 6:30 PM 4-6 grade Education	20 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	21	22
23 9:00 AM Worship 10:20 AM Sunday School Pre-K through 3rd grade 5:00 PM West Branch Community Meal	24	25 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	26 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 6:30 PM 4-6 grade Education 6:30 PM Confirmation	27 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	28	29
30 9:00 AM Worship 10:20 AM Sunday School Pre-K through 3rd grade	1	2 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	3 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 6:30 PM 4-6 grade Education	4 6:00 AM Women's Bible study 7:00 PM Prayer Group Meeting	5	6

Monetary Gifts Report

Submitted by Jill Taylor

Saints in Worship:

02-05	56
02-12	55
02-19	50
02-26	57
Total	218

	February 2017		YTD	
Total Receipts	Actual 11,721	Budget 13,167	Actual 24,207	Budget 26,334
Total Expenses	Actual 11,103	Budget 12,061	Actual 22,169	Budget 26,123

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.

