

# Bethany Lutheran Church

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



## **Church Staff**

Custodians– Makayla & Emalee  
Casper

Organist– Aura Strohschein

## **Church Council**

### **President**

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### **Treasurer**

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### **Worship & Music**

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### **Secretary/Evangelism & Missions**

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### **Vice President/Stewardship**

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### **Education**

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### **Fellowship**

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### **Building & Grounds**

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“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” – Hebrews 11:1



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Faith is a challenging thing at times and the biblical account is full of examples of extremely faithful people living out their lives in what would be deemed less than ideal circumstances in which they often faced numerous perils set before them. The author of Hebrews is writing to a newly converted Christian community who is in a similar situation. Many are wrestling with living in the here and now but not truly seeing the reward of being in Christ. Many have fallen away from their faith and chosen to reject the good news of Jesus Christ. Those who remain are searching for an identity and as they face opposition, struggle, persecution, and a sense of feeling as if they are foreigners in what has been their home their faith is for all practical purposes being tested. It is to these challenges the author writes citing example after example of God's faithful people in the past who have endured much but by faith, which is solely given by God, have trusted in that which they can't see and found the strength and courage to move forward. They are people such as Noah who, although no clouds were in the sky or water falling toward the ground, had faith to build an ark. Or Moses who, through faith, was able to see the reward that lie in the future that only God could offer far outweighed the earthly treasures he could have received as the adopted son of Pharaoh's daughter. The author makes it known that to be people of God means to be "surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses." (Hebrews 12:1) They were not alone. They had great examples of faith around them that would help see them through the challenges they presently were enduring. And the greatest example of that faith was none other than the One sent from above to enter the world as a human being, to endure those same struggles, and then to give Himself on the cross for the sake of the world and through His resurrection He has opened the way to all people a new covenant with God.

What is faith to you? When have you really struggled to believe in something that can't be seen? Who are the "cloud of witnesses" that surround you and help see you through those challenging times? Do we see ourselves as "witnesses" that come alongside one another, that carry each other when a fellow brother or sister wants to walk away or can't see the goodness of God that awaits us beyond our earthly lives? People of God, you are God's witnesses to the end of the earth. You are not alone! Living as people of God will not always be easy. There are



## Happenings



On Sunday, July 27<sup>th</sup> we said farewell to Elizabeth Gotlund, our organist. We are thankful for her faithfulness and the gifts she brought to us over these last several years and wish her best in the future. As Elizabeth departs, we welcome our new organist, Aura Strohschein, who brings a wealth of experience and wonderful musical gifts to us. Aura's first Sunday will be August 17<sup>th</sup>. Please welcome Aura and we thank God for calling her to Bethany!

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Dave Bahnsen has resigned his council position as youth representative. This was a difficult decision for Dave but unfortunately his work schedule just did not allow him to be present at council meetings, etc. We are grateful for Dave's service and also thankful that God has yet again faithfully lifted up another leader. We are pleased to announce that Jenni Olson has been appointed by the council to finish out the year as the youth representative on council. Thank you Jenni!

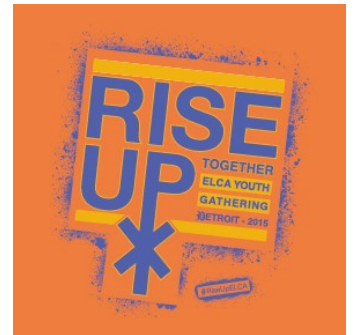
just bad things that happen in the world that we often don't have answers to. There are people who simply will reject the message of Jesus Christ. We and other people at times make bad choices that bring about negative consequences and causes pain and suffering. Yet, I find great comfort in the story of Hebrews and the story throughout the Bible that we are not alone in dealing with challenging issues, facing death and illness, enduring suffering and feeling the complete absence of God at times in our midst. We are not alone! And somehow, somehow, God has given us a mustard seed size of faith that is able to take root and even in those darkest moments trust in that which can't be seen and cling to the promise that God is with us and our reward will truly be great in heaven!

May God's blessings and hand be with you as you continue in your work as God's wonderful "cloud of witnesses!"

Pastor Chad

### It's not too late. 2015 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING

If you will be entering High School in the fall of 2015 or just graduated High School you are invited to join thousands of other youth from across the nation at the 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering July 15-19.



**We have to know if you wish to attend by September 15, 2015 so that we can begin to raise funds and plan other logistics.**

Please see Pastor Chad or Jenni Olson if you have any questions.

For more information, please go to the Youth Gathering Website at: <http://www.elca.org/YouthGathering>

# RALLY SUNDAY - SEPTEMBER 14<sup>th</sup>

Join us after worship for a potluck and a bounce house to kick off the Sunday School year!



## August Birthdays

08-01 Aiden Shields  
 08-02 Mia Olson  
 08-04 Chris Korsmo, Jennifer Olson  
 08-06 Jenna Helms, Bob Leslie  
 08-08 Shawn Samuelson  
 08-09 Karen Brick, Kay Yanecek  
 08-11 Jane Frauenholtz  
 08-16 Jason Friis  
 08-18 Jordan Arp, Courtney Heid  
 08-19 Anna Friis  
 08-21 Dana Arp, Conner Paulsen  
 08-22 John Pickett  
 08-23 Allison Arp, Sam McCrory  
 08-25 Paige Roth  
 08-27 Miley Shields  
 08-28 Jacob Langley  
 08-29 Sam Hartman, Kaylea Zimmerman  
 08-30 Mark Snyder  
 08-31 John Grimm



## Bethany Books

by Frank Frostestad

### Books For Adults

A number of our members are readers of Lauraine Snelling who tells in her books about Norwegian immigrants in the 19<sup>th</sup> century who left their homeland and settled in the Dakota Territory in the Red River Valley. Some have mentioned to me that it really brings home to them the many problems faced by the early pioneers. The question comes to mind: Why did they leave home? A prequel to her series of books was published this last year. *An Untamed Heart* does well to describe the life of Ingeborg Strand before she immigrated. In her case, she was getting to the advanced age of twenty and could be destined to be an old maid. A widower who has been

planning to go to America, lured by the promise of free land, becomes the opportunity.

Lack of jobs or any sort of economic opportunity caused many to leave, not just Norway, but many countries to come to America where there was the chance to get ahead in life.

We have the *Daughters of Blessing* series, *Home To Blessing* series, and the *Dakota Treasures* series. I have added *The Red River Of The North* series. Some of you have read some of these books elsewhere but for those that have not, here they are. They are the first books about the Bjorklund family of Blessing. Ingeborg marries Roald Bjorklund and they spend three years raising the money in order to be able to make the trip. The reader gets an insight into the hardships faced by new immigrants. They include the rough trip over by ship, new language, new customs, people who prey on unsuspecting immigrants and finally the trip west. This book takes place from 1877 to 1884. The second book of the series is *A New Day Rising*. They are on their farmstead on the prairie of the Dakota territory. A harsh winter, disease, and death cause one to wonder about the future. Ingeborg is forced to take on duties and roles that are unexpected of a woman at that time. The third book *A Land To Call Home* still show the difficulties faced by newcomers but new farming inventions, the cooperation of friends and relatives, and good harvests help them to survive. Their faith in God, even when stressed, helps to carry them through each crisis. Book four, *The Reaper's Song*, begins to show the Dakota Territory being transformed from a vast prairie into rich farmlands. With the coming of the railroad, the small town of Blessing begins to prosper but not without its challenges. Book five, *Tender Mercies*, adds additional characters and the development of Blessing. Book six, *Blessing In Disguise*, takes the adventures of the Bjorklund family to the end of 1889. Seven books are too many to write about in depth and this article would be much too long. If you are interested in this author and have read other books of hers, I'm sure you will like these as well.

**Please note-** The town of Blessing is based on Drayton, North Dakota. You can take a video tour of the town with the author, Lauraine Snelling, as she talks about the town and the characters from her books at [www.BlessingND.com](http://www.BlessingND.com)

### Books For Children

*This Is The World That God Made* by Martha Streufert Jander and illustrated by

## Contact Information

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Pastor Chad Whaley  
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 Office Hours  
 Monday & Thursday  
 9:00 am - Noon

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\*Pastor Chad is also available by appointment.

### FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

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



## 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. Additionally, some people have requested an email with the sermon attached. If you prefer that method

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

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

## Updates/Reminders

### Reminder:

If you or a loved one is in the hospital and desire a pastoral visit, please have someone contact the church at 643-5998.

Len Ebert is based on the creation story in the first chapter of Genesis. It is beautifully illustrated to show the world that God has made for us.

*What Does This Mean?* by Carolyn Bergt and illustrated by Kathy Mitter summarizes our faith in a discussion between Tim and Katie. Mentioned are the Ten Commandments, the Apostles Creed, the Lord's Prayer, Baptism, and the Lord's Supper.

## Letters from the Council Retreat held April 26, 2014

*This is a continuation from the June/July Newsletter. Please see Pastor Chad's newsletter article in the June/July Newsletter for a summary of the 2014 Council Retreat and explanation of these letters that were written based on a Bible study using Revelations 2 and 3.*

### Letter #1:

I see some good things happening; but there are a lot of luke-warm feelings. People who are afraid to really live their faith, to speak out when things are wrong. Do you really love me and want to serve me? I promise if you live you live your faith I will be with you always.

Do not be afraid of going out and love your fellow man. Forgive, pray, love your faith by serving God – your rewards will be grand! Let the Light come into your heart, serve with a glad heart. If you are happy and show it – the goodness will spread and more people will want to get into this wonderful place and be saved for eternity.

### Letter #2

And to the angel of the church in West Branch write: The call to the tenants and shepherds is soft but strong.

I have seen your works to your flock and your pastures. While tending your sheep you have also shepherded your neighbors as your own. If they hungered you fed them, naked you clothed them. As you have cared for the few it has strengthened the whole. Take not lightly the small things you do for your journey through this land is a sight filled trip. Do not sit on the rock and enjoy your flock. Continue to ten and build your herd.

As you do this I also will grow and you will see the rewards of your works as you don the white robe in the great pasture.



BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
COUNCIL MINUTES

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
COUNCIL MINUTES  
JUNE 9, 2014

**Present:** Kent Kaufman, John Black, Del Hughes, Candy Madsen, Claudia Beyer, Bonnie Conner, Laura Twing

**Absent:** Dave Bahnsen, Courtney Heid

**Called to order** 6:30 p.m.

Pastor opened the meeting with prayer, and devotions based on Henri Nouwen's Bread for The Journey.

**Pastor's Report:** Baccalaureate for West Branch High School took place at the UMC this year, addresses given by BLC members Alan Beyer and graduate Tyler Haub.

**Secretary's Report:** Minutes from the May 12, 2014 meeting were moved for approval by Kaufman, seconded by Beyer. All ayes.

**Treasurers Report:** Offerings are up again. Another \$200.00 was received for the Parking Lot fund. Madsen moved to approve, Kaufman seconded. All ayes.

**Building and Grounds:** Some grass reseeding has been done. We have received no answer from S & S Flatwork regarding the concrete work needed on the retaining wall between the parsonage and the neighbor to the north. Del has changed the locks at the parsonage. Also have received no word back from the sound system evaluator.

**Education Report:** A meeting has been scheduled with K. Niles, C. Heid and Pastor Chad to solidify plans for VBS and the Education Kick-off this Fall.

**Mission Report:** The Hope Chest will implement a change in accepting clothing donations. Due to space limitations, current season clothing only will be accepted. Pastor expressed a desire to have a missions committee meeting soon.

**Fellowship Report:** Blacks will manage the June 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday dinner, and the Lipes family may be doing the August meal. This mission was mentioned in the Synod's Storybook display at the Annual Meeting.

**Stewardship Report:** Bulletin Board ideas were discussed. Jody Clemens of Thrivent will manage a Financial Peace seminar if we find 6-8 couples to participate. The Quarterly newsletter will continue, discussed toning back the focus on money as main stewardship issue. Discussed ways to let the congregation, and especially newcomers know how our system works.

**Youth Report:** Bahnsen wishes to resign. We will appoint a new person for the position after receiving a written letter of resignation from Dave.

**Worship Report:** The organist has given notice, her last day will be at the end of July. A job description will be posted on our website, on the Synod website and at the University of Iowa. Compensation was discussed, Madsen reiterated that no mileage is included. Conner requested contacting the Griggs company of Davenport to evaluate the condition of the organ at this time.

**Old Business**

- Status of concrete work, no response yet from S & S Flatwork.

**New Business**

- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Supper discussion, these are going well and we are getting volunteers to help.
- Need to bring ideas to our next meeting regarding a going away gift for Elizabeth Gotlund.
- John Black reminded us of the need to state "no goods or services were received" on our donation statements for tax purposes.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:55p.m.**

**Financial Report**

Submitted by Claudia Beyer

	June 2014		YTD	
Total Receipts	Actual 12,563	Budget 10,250	Actual 73,965	Budget 61,500
Total Expenses	12,897	11,341	69,304	68,228

**June Attendance:**

6-01 47  
6-08 79  
6-15 47  
6-22 65  
6-29 58



## 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*.

Fri – August 1	Isaiah 51:17-23 Romans 9:6-13 Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21	Sun – August 17	Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28
Sat – August 2	Isaiah 44:1-5 Matthew 7:7-11 Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21	Mon – August 18	2 Kings 5:1-14 Acts 15:1-21 Psalm 87
Sun – August 3	Isaiah 55:1-5 Romans 9:1-5 Matthew 14:13-21	Tue – August 19	Isaiah 43:8-13 Romans 11:13-29 Psalm 87
Mon – August 4	Deuteronomy 8:1-10 Romans 1:8-15 Psalm 78:1-8, 17-29	Wed – August 20	Isaiah 66:18-23 Matthew 8:1-13 Psalm 87
Tue – August 5	Deuteronomy 26:1-5 Acts 2:37-47 Psalm 78:1-8, 17-29	Thu – August 21	Ezekiel 28:11-19 1 Corinthians 6:1-11 Psalm 138
Wed – August 6	Exodus 16:2-15, 31-35 Matthew 15:32-39 Psalm 78:1-8, 17-29	Fri – August 22	Ezekiel 31:15-18 2 Corinthians 10:12-18 Psalm 138
Thu – August 7	1 Kings 18:1-16 Acts 17:10-15 Psalm 85:8-13	Sat – August 23	Ezekiel 36:33-38 Matthew 16:5-12 Psalm 138
Fri – August 8	1 Kings 18:17-19, 30-40 Acts 18:24-28 Psalm 85:8-13	Sun – August 24	Isaiah 51:1-6 Romans 12:1-8 Matthew 16:13-20
Sat – August 9	1 King 18:41-46 Matthew 16:1-4 Psalm 85:8-13	Mon – August 25	1 Samuel 7:3-13 Romans 2:1-11 Psalm 18:1-3, 20-32
Sun – August 10	1 Kings 19:9-18 Romans 10:5-15 Matthew 14:22-33	Tue – August 26	Deuteronomy 32:18-20, 28-39 Romans 11:33-36 Psalm 18:1-3, 20-32
Mon – August 11	Genesis 7:11-8:5 2 Peter 2:4-10 Psalm 18:1-19	Wed – August 27	Isaiah 28:14-22 Matthew 26:6-13 Psalm 18:1-3, 20-32
Tue – August 12	Genesis 19:1-29 Romans 9:14-29 Psalm 18:1-19	Thu – August 28	Jeremiah 14:13-18 Ephesians 5:1-6 Psalm 26:1-8
Wed – August 13	Job 36:24-33, 37:14-24 Matthew 8:23-27 Psalm 18:1-19	Fri – August 29	Jeremiah 15:1-9 2 Thessalonians 2:7-12 Psalm 26:1-8
Thu – August 14	Isaiah 45:20-25 Revelation 15:1-4 Psalm 67	Sat – August 30	Jeremiah 15:10-14 Matthew 8:14-17 Psalm 26:1-8
Fri – August 15	Isaiah 63:15-19 Acts 14:19-28 Psalm 67	Sun – August 31	Jeremiah 15:15-21 Romans 12:9-21 Matthew 16:21-28
Sat – August 16	Isaiah 56:1-5 Matthew 14:34-36 Psalm 67		



# AUGUST 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	1 9:00 AM Vacation Bible School	2
3 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship	4	5 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	6 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study	7 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	8	9
10 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship	11 6:30 PM Council Meeting	12 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	13 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study	14 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	15	16
17 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship	18	19 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	20 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study	21 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	22	23
24 4th Sunday meal at Bethany 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship 10:30 AM Acolyte Training following Worship	25	26 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	27 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study	28 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	29	30
31 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship	1	2 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	3 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study	4 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	5	6

## “God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday

On Sunday September 7, 2014 Bethany will join together with our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ of the nearly 10,000 congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for the second annual “God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday. This will be a dedicated day of service. We will gather for worship and then go forth into the West Branch community.



Our Hands

Last year we did projects around the church building and grounds, spread mulch at the cemetery, and did yard work for a West Branch individual in need. Plans are underway to do something similar this year. Everyone is invited to once again wear their yellow shirt from last year.

We hope to see you there!

# Bethany



Bethany Lutheran Church  
 235 South Second Street  
 PO BOX 236  
 West Branch, Iowa 52358  
[www.wbbethany.org](http://www.wbbethany.org)



**Ministry Assistants**

**Ministers of Proclamation (Lectors)**

- 08-03 Frank Frostestad
- 08-10 Beth Kaufman
- 08-17 Tonya Samuelson
- 08-24 Greg Lipes
- 08-31 Philip Hougen

**Ministers of Hospitality (Greeters)**

- 08-03 Candy & Ron Madsen
- 08-10 Wayne Frauentholtz
- 08-17 Kami & Dave Poppen
- 08-24 Paige & Brian Roth
- 08-31 Beth & Kent Kaufman

**Ministers of Christ’s Light (Acolytes)**

- 08-03 Matt Paulsen
- 08-10 Olivia Poppen/Jayden Roth
- 08-17 Mia Olson/Abbie Fryauf
- 08-24 Brett Schiele/Jaden Hierseman
- 08-31 Derek Fetzer/Jayden Roth



**Find us on  
Facebook**

Facebook is just another way to stay in touch and communicate with one another along with other congregations in the community, synod and ELCA!

To find Bethany’s main page, search **“Bethany Lutheran Church (ELCA) West Branch, Iowa”**

To find the Youth Ministry page, search **“Bethany Youth Ministry”**

**DON’T FORGET TO LIKE US!**

