

Bethany Lutheran Church

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



August

God rested on the seventh day from all the work that God had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it... - Genesis 2:2-3

IMPORTANT DATES

- 08-03** Youth Listening Post in the Great Hall 7:00 p.m.
- 08-10** Council meeting 6:30 p.m.
- 08-23** 4th Sunday Community Meal 5:00 p.m. Great Hall



Dearest Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I type this article on Monday following being out of the office for two weeks on vacation. I am somewhat questioning why I am choosing to type this now as I have a lengthy list of things to catch up on. Whether one is a pastor, an accountant, a teacher, an administrator, nurse or whatever other vocation it is to which the good Lord has called us there is always something needing to be done. Our lists can be exhaustive, overwhelming, and virtually hold us captive. Today I find myself longing to return to my vacation; however, then I realize I have a choice. Will I let this list consume me? Will I allow myself to become cranky when my spouse or child stops into the office at church to say "hello" because from my viewpoint they are a distraction keeping me from catching up? Will I fall victim to the mentality this all has to be done today, tomorrow, or next week?

As human beings and as disciples' of Christ we have choices to make. Some choices are out of our hands such as our salvation. Thanks be to God for sending God's Son into the world to remove that burden from our backs. Also, beyond our control is the choice of faith. God calls each of us into a relationship with God. We don't choose God; however, we do make a choice on what we do with that relationship. For any relationship to grow and be fruitful there must be a conscience effort on all parties. Such is the case with our relationship with the Triune God. The good news is God is always there, unrelenting in reaching out, calling us back, and offering grace, mercy, love, and forgiveness. The challenge lies in the fact we have so many choices on where to spend our time and energy we often let outside sources, which fail to bring life, control of nearly every move we make.

Yes, I do have a lot to get done as we all do. But as I type I realize I have a choice. Am I going to let this list control me and get in the way of my relationship with my God, with my family and with all of you I am called to serve alongside? Or, am I going to make the choice to let some of it go, trust God will help, and trust God has surrounded me with all of you to ease the burden and do kingdom work together? Today and hopefully each day to come I choose the later but also know I will fail and give thanks for the unrelenting grace and forgiveness God bestows on God's people each and every day.

Blessings faithful people of God!

Pastor Chad

Contact Information

Bethany Lutheran Church
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Pastor Chad Whaley
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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

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

ALSO FIND US ON TWITTER!

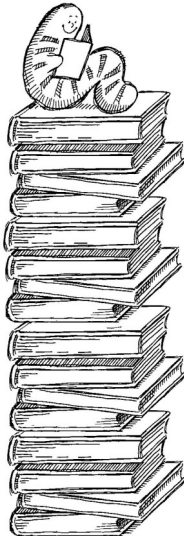
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BIRTHDAYS

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

Lauraine Snelling has begun yet another series about her Red River Valley town of Blessing, North Dakota. This new series, *Song Of Blessing*, continues right after the previous series, *Daughters Of Blessing*. The first book in this series, which came out in 2014, is titled *To Everything A Season*. The story continues with the characters we have become accustomed to in this town. Trygve Knutson is the main character. He is devoted to his family and community and is building Blessing through his work on a construction crew. Miriam Hastings, a native of Chicago, has been assigned to Blessing to get practical training in order to become an accredited nurse. She can not wait to get back to Chicago where she has been promised a position. She also helps to support her siblings and her ailing mother. Although eager to return to her family, Miriam is surprised to find how much she enjoys the small town of Blessing. Her growing attachment to Trygve causes her to question a future she has always considered set in stone. When family emergency calls her home sooner than planned, will she return? Read the book to find out. The second book of the series, *A Harvest Of Hope*, (published 2015) continues the story of Blessing and the romance of Trygve and Miriam. With Miriam's mother gravely ill, and siblings to care for, she feels she should be in Chicago. She tries to get Trygve and Blessing out of her mind but his letters make that impossible. He is busy building a house, hoping he can convince her to return to North Dakota and marry him. Torn between Trygve's love and her family's needs, she does not know what to do. Read the book to find out what life changing decisions she decides to make.

The Jewel Of His Heart by Maggie Brendan is the next book on this month's list. It is set in an 1890's Montana mining town. Juliana Brady is alone with few prospects for making a living. She is determined not to be dependent on the charity of others, however. Josh McBride is trying to scrape a living from his sheep herd while he builds his ranch. When their paths cross and he discovers some rare stones on his property, they have some decisions to make.

We have several books by Beth Wiseman. This one, *Plain Paradise*, takes us into an Old Order Amish community in Lancaster County. Josie was a frightened teenager when she left her baby in the community and now seventeen years later, while much has changed, she longs to reconnect with her daughter Linda. New relationships begin and old ones are tested. No lives will remain the same. Linda will realize whose daughter she really is. Read to find out.

The last book this month, also by Beth Wiseman, is *Need You Now*. When city life threatens the safety of one of their children, Brad and Darlene Henderson move with their three teenagers from Houston to the tiny town of Round Top, Texas.

Summer Lunch Program



For the second year in a row there has been a summer lunch program held daily at Hoover

Elementary. As the school prepares for the first day of class they are unable to provide meals the week of August 17-21. Each church in West Branch is being asked to take a day and provide a meal. The meals for children and youth will be served at the West Branch United Methodist Church and at West Branch Village.

Bethany will be providing the meal on Tuesday, August 18. If you are available to help prepare and serve a meal please notify Laura Twing, Paula, or Pastor Chad. Thanks!



Bethany Books Continued

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. Additionally, some people have requested an email with the sermon attached. If you prefer that method please contact Pastor Chad.

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

Adjusting to small town life is difficult for the kids. Fifteen year old Grace attempts to cope in a dangerous way. Married life has not always been bliss but when Darlene takes a job outside the home for the first time in their marriage, the domestic tensions rises. In this novel, one experiences a family's triumph over lies, betrayal, and loss.

Book for Children

Children's Letters To God, compiled by Stuart Hample and Eric Marshall and illustrated by Tom Bloom, express that part of a child's world reserved for special thoughts and wishes. It is a collection of questioning, serious, reverent, and humorous letters which children have written to God. It is not a book for children as it is about children and their questions and doubts that are common to all children.

West Branch Schools Backpack Program

One of the ways Bethany members have served the West Branch community in recent years is by collecting for schools supplies.



Last year it was through a backpack collection. Bethany members gave \$300 to this collection, and with a contribution from the Bethany benevolence account of \$200 we ended up contributing six backpacks to the schools.

These backpacks include:

- Elementary School – one backpack plus all listed schools supplies
- Middle School – one backpack plus the required calculator

If you would like to contribute to a backpack for the upcoming school year, please make a check out to Bethany Lutheran and mail it to church (Attn: backpacks) or put it in the offering plate. (You can use the pew envelopes to give cash via the Sunday offering—but mark the envelope please) We would like to have all contributions by Sunday, August 9.

Thanks for your help with this important project! If you have any questions please see Linda Black or Jill Taylor.

Church Directory

UPDATE



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News from LSI



Back to School Month

School is right around the corner! As children and teens adjust to a new classroom routine, the transition can often bring to light behavioral issues that may stem from a mental health diagnosis, such as ADHD, anxiety, depression or oppositional defiant disorder.

Did you know Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) partners with schools across the state to provide mental health services right in their schools? This makes it easier to collaborate with educators and reduce the transportation barrier that sometimes makes it hard for families to attend appointments. We are grateful for opportunities to provide therapy for uninsured and underinsured children who otherwise might not get the help they need.

We thank you for your support of LSI's mission as we respond together to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service! LSI is proud to be an affiliated social ministry organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Learn more at www.LSIowa.org and www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

Making a "Day and Night" Difference for Ethan

Kim was at her wit's end. Her son Ethan, who had been bullied, was fighting with other youth at his middle school. Her daughter Dejah was also struggling with her parents' divorce.

"I didn't know what to do," Kim said. "I'd tried everything." Ethan's school eventually referred Kim to LSI's Brief Intensive Services. And that's when everything changed. "It was day and night with the kids," she said. "At first they weren't doing so great, but after awhile it was a complete turnaround."

LSI's Brief Intensive Services does just what its name describes – an LSI caseworker partners with a family for short time, meeting as often as needed, to help children and teens who are struggling with school, a crisis or behaviors. The unique community program, available in the Muscatine and Davenport areas, is made free to families by local funders and supports those who may not qualify for traditional services.

Ethan warmed up quickly to his LSI caseworker Ryan during weekly meetings. He started building skills like learning how to calmly handle frustration and how to make and keep friendships.

"I was nervous about people coming to our home and how Ethan would react," Kim said. "But I thought if someone came where he's comfortable, he might open up." LSI helped the family learn to communicate again. Today Ethan is getting all A's and B's in school. His school suspensions are a thing of the past, and he's made some new friends.

"Things are more stable," Kim said. "We can talk and cope rather than yelling and screaming. LSI helped us understand each other better."

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MINUTES MAY 11, 2015

Members Present: John Black, Paula Casper, Greg Lipes, Candy Madsen, Carol Roghair, Jill Taylor, Laura Twing

Members Absent: Courtney Heid, Kevin Olson

Called to Order at 6:32 pm.

Opened with a stewardship/mission video. Reminders that He is “the Vine” and we are “the branches”, and that in partnership with our synod, we can do our mission on a larger scale.

Prayer for discerning being called, being chosen, being used for good.

Pastor’s Report: An external hard drive will be purchased for back up of computer, we will also back up online. Baccalaureate will be at the WB UMC on May 20. Positive notes: The new tables have been well received, 10 church members attended our organist’s recital, 4 of our graduates attended Recognition of Graduates Sunday, the Malaria Drive exceeded its goal. The Bahnsen’s will represent us at Synod Assembly.

Secretary’s Report: With 3 corrections requested, the report was moved for approval by Jill Taylor, and seconded by Greg Lipes. All ayes.

Treasurer’s Report: After discussion of various items, including budget form format preference, report moved for approval by Carol Roghair, and seconded by Paula Casper. All ayes.

Building and Grounds: Roofing project is on schedule, new gutters will be needed as well. \$1500.00? Supplies for a fire pit for the patio have been purchased.

Education: No report.

Missions: No report.

Fellowship: No response yet to the article in the last newsletter regarding having open (potluck) fellowship on first Sundays.

Stewardship: No report.

Worship: Confirmation Sunday details are all arranged.

Youth: No report.

Old Business:

- * Kids Against Hunger have not finalized amount of payment for packaging event held last September yet.
- * Wheelchair pew renovation will be done by Kent Kaufman and John Black.
- * Price estimates for a 2 drawer fire-proof safe are \$600-700.00. These can be ordered for delivery.
- * Paul Friis and Deanna Weismann will organize the old Danish record books.
- * Ordering of a new safe, and paying for such out of the remainder of the building loan fund, moved by Laura Twing and seconded by Jill Taylor. All ayes.

New Business:

- * A new barbecue grill for the church was given in memory of Jeanette Flores by her family.
- * Del Hughes will do the May 4th Sunday Supper.
- * Discussed using the church newsletter more for educating, and promoting our activities, building excitement about our community.
- * Youth approved for Confirmation (Saying yes to the promises of Baptism), Abby Fryauf, Maddie Anderson, Jayden Roth, Jaden Hierseman, Brett Schiele, Derek Fetzer. Approval moved by Paula Casper, seconded by John Black. All ayes.
- * Discussion of using Joyce Pedersen’s memorial money for Sunday School room furniture. Tabled until Courtney Heid can be present.
- * More table discussion: rectangular tables in plastic variety? Quilters would like lightweight rectangular tables as they are easier to move.
- * Borrowing policy: Discussion centered around updating Building and Use Policy. It was decided new round tables in Great Hall are not to leave the building. Tables available to be borrowed will be moved to storage shed. Moved for approval by Jill Taylor, and seconded by Carol Roghair. All ayes.

Adjourned at 7:50 pm.



Ministry Minute

In our last newsletter we focused on Building and Grounds, one of the specific areas of ministry addressed in our Congregation's Constitution and Bylaws. The others are: Worship and Music, Education, Youth, Evangelism and Missions, Stewardship, and Buildings and Grounds. This month we will focus on Worship and Music. Once again the intent of this and future articles is to help communicate and educate all of the faithful people of God here at Bethany about our life together and how we work together to be the church on earth and further God's mission. Each of these specific ministries is represented on the council by a called leader of Bethany. Their role is to help facilitate the oversight of these ministry areas along with the support of others whose gifts can help each area of ministry continue to thrive and be fruitful here at Bethany. We are grateful for their leadership, for those who have or presently serve in any function within these ministries, and to all who prayerfully consider being a part of one of these ministry teams/committees.

Pertaining to Worship and Music our Bylaws state, "The Worship and Music Committee, in association with the Pastor, shall be responsible for all areas of congregational worship. It shall see that worship services are conducted regularly, and it shall be responsible for the provision of such lay support and material aids as are deemed beneficial for the worship experience." Worship is the primary activity in the life of a faith community and there is much that goes into planning, preparation, and coming together as the body of Christ each time we gather for worship. A huge thank you goes out to all who do so much work behind the scenes and to you for reading this article and for being present in worship. Through it all, we trust Christ meets us in a variety of ways but He most assuredly promises us He is there when the word of God is proclaimed and the sacraments of Holy Communion and Baptism are administered. Presently, Carol Roghair serves as the Council Representative overseeing this Committee. If you feel called to serve God and further the mission of Bethany Lutheran in this capacity please contact Carol.

Worship & Music

It takes a village to cover Bethany Lutheran Church! July has been a busy month with Aura studying abroad and Pastor Chad on vacation. However, our congregation has been well covered thru the efforts of many.

Pastoral duties were covered by Kevin Olson on 7/12 and by Pastor Phil Hougen on 7/19.

The role of organist was filled by Jill Barnhart on 7/5 and 7/19, by Ruth Johnson on 7/12, and Becky Blaaid on 7/26.

Many thanks to the individuals who stepped forward to cover. The organist/pianists provided continuity to our worship services. Phil and Kevin gave insightful and reassuring messages. By leading the sermon you allowed for Pastor Chad to have a necessary reprieve from his normal duties.

Our Choir Director, Deanna Weismann, has stepped down. How we will miss her! She led the choir with grace, humor, and skill. Many thanks for her dedicated years of service. She has done a lot to enhance our worship with her musical gifts.

We are in need of someone to fill the church pews with the forms and envelopes for the offering and electronic giving. This should only need to be attended to every few months. Is this something you feel you could help with? If so, please talk to Pastor Chad or Carol Roghair. We would welcome the opportunity to talk to you more about it.

Sunday, August 2, will be a service celebrating the culmination and end of Vacation Bible School. Please plan to attend and hear about the highlights of VBS.

The Music and Worship Committee

Carol Roghair, Committee Chair

Committee Members:

Eulyn Frostestad

Beth Kaufman

Cindy Knoop

Deanna Weismann





God's work. Our hands." Sunday September 13, 2015

Once again this fall 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 third annual "God's work. Our hands." Sunday. This will be a dedicated day of service. We will gather for a short worship service and then go forth responding to God's grace in service. Last year we did projects around the church building and grounds, cleaned up Beranek Park, trimmed branches along the Hoover Trail, helped an older member do yard work and exterior maintenance on her home, and also packaged meals for Kids Against Hunger. 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!



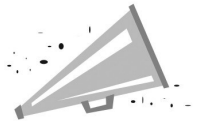
Attention all Affirmation of Baptism (aka Confirmation) Parents and Students!

Mark your calendars now and plan to attend the orientation night for the upcoming year of class. We will meet in the Large Hall on Wednesday, September 2nd at 6:45 p.m. Please look for a letter being sent out in the mail prior to this meeting that will provide additional information. Affirmation of Baptism at Bethany is a two year process most students complete during seventh and eighth grade.



Rally Sunday!

Join us September 20th for Rally Sunday! We will be kicking off our Sunday school year with a potluck. We will also be installing our Sunday school leaders during worship. We would love to have everyone come and support our youth with this fun fellowship event!



Financial Report

Submitted by Jill Taylor

June Attendance:

06-07 53
06-14 50
06-21 44
06-28 62

Total: 209

	June 2015		YTD	
Total Receipts	12,748	12,333	82,494	74,002
Total Expenses	15,609	13,001	76,042	78,145

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.

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 August 1	Exodus 13:3-10 Matthew 16:5-12 Psalm 78:23-29	Mon August 17	Genesis 43:1-15 Acts 6:1-7 Psalm 36
Sun August 2	Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15 Ephesians 4:1-16 John 6:24-35	Tue August 18	Genesis 45:1-15 Acts 7:9-16 Psalm 36
Mon August 3	Numbers 11:16-23,31-32 Ephesians 4:17-24 Psalm 107:1-3, 33-43	Wed August 19	Genesis 47:13-26 Mark 8:14-21 Psalm 36
Tue August 4	Deuteronomy 8:1-20 1 Corinthians 12:27-31 Psalm 107:1-3, 33-43	Thu August 20	Joshua 22:1-9 1 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 Psalm 34:15-22
Wed August 5	Isaiah 55:1-9 Mark 8:1-10 Psalm 107:1-3, 33-43	Fri August 21	Joshua 22:10-20 Romans 13:11-14 Psalm 34:15-22
Thu August 6	1 Samuel 28:20-25 Romans 15:1-6 Psalm 34:1-8	Sat August 22	Joshua 22:21-34 Luke 11:5-13 Psalm 34:15-22
Fri August 7	2 Samuel 17:15-29 Galatians 6:1-10 Psalm 34:1-8	Sun August 23	1 Kings 5:1-12 Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18 Ephesians 6:10-20 John 6:56-69
Sat August 8	1 Kings 2:1-9 Matthew 7:7-11 Psalm 34:1-8	Mon August 24	Nehemiah 9:1-15 Ephesians 5:21-6:9 Psalm 119:97-104
Sun August 9	1 Kings 19:4-8 Ephesians 4:25-5:2 John 6:35, 41-51	Tue August 25	Nehemiah 9:16-31 Ephesians 6:21-24 Psalm 119:97-104
Mon August 10	1 Kings 17:1-16 Ephesians 5:1-14 Psalm 81	Wed August 26	Isaiah 33:10-16 John 15:16-25 Psalm 119:97-104
Tue August 11	Ruth 2:1-23 Peter 3:14-18 Psalm 81	Thu August 27	Exodus 32:1-14 James 1:1-8 Psalm 15
Wed August 12	Jeremiah 31:1-6 John 6:35-40 Psalm 81	Fri August 28	Exodus 32:15-35 James 1:9-16 Psalm 15
Thu August 13	Job 11:1-20 Acts 6:8-15 Psalm 34:9-14	Sat August 29	Exodus 34:8-28 John 18:28-32 Psalm 15
Fri August 14	Job 12:1-25 Romans 16:17-20 Psalm 34:9-14	Sun August 30	Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9 James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23
Sat August 15	Job 13:1-19 John 4:7-26 Psalm 34:9-14	Mon August 31	Deuteronomy 4:9-14 1 Timothy 4:6-16 Psalm 106:1-6
Sun August 16	Proverbs 9:1-6 Ephesians 5:15-20 John 6:51-58		



August 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27 9:00 AM Vacation Bible School	28 9:00 AM Vacation Bible School	29 9:00 AM Vacation Bible School	30 9:00 AM Vacation Bible School	31 9:00 AM Vacation Bible School	1
2 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship	3 7:00 PM Youth Education and Ministry Listening Post	4 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	5 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study	6 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	7	8
9 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship	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	13 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	14	15
16 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship	17	18 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	19 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study	20 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	21	22
23 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship 5:00 PM West Branch Community Meal @ Bethany	24	25 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	26 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study	27 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	28	29
30 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship	31	1 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	2 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study	3 6:00 AM Women's Bible study		

Financial Report

Submitted by Jill Taylor

May Attendance:	
05-03	53
05-10	67
05-17	97
05-24	45
05-31	60
 Total:	 322

	May 2015		YTD	
Total Receipts	14,520	12,333	69,746	61,669
Total Expenses	13,499	13,003	60,433	65,144

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.

