

Bethany Lutheran Church

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



Important Dates

8-19 Blessing of Backpacks
during worship
8-26 Community meal at
Bethany 5:00-6:00 pm.

BLESSING OF BACKPACKS

All students are invited to join us in worship on Sunday August 19th as we will pray over and bless their backpacks prior to the beginning of another school year. We hope you plan to attend and each student will receive something to assure them they are never alone.



Jesus called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts.

Mark 6:7-8 (NRSV)



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace and peace to you from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! The verses above were part of our gospel lesson on July 8. In our modern world the command Jesus gives seems nearly impossible. How in the world could we survive without all our stuff? Is Jesus literally commanding us to do the same? That is, venture out to proclaim the good news of the kingdom by taking no bread, no bag, and no money. What do you think? How does the Holy Spirit speak to you in this passage?

There is no doubt Jesus continues to call us and send us to partner with him in carrying out the mission of God in the world. We do this in so many ways as the church together but also individually in our daily lives—at home in our families or at our places of employment. We can witness the good news of Jesus Christ anywhere we go through word but also through action. Jesus states “take nothing” and we really don’t need anything. God has given everything we need in our human bodies. We have mouths and voices to tell about how Jesus is alive and active in the world and in our lives. We have legs to walk and go to our neighbor. We have hands to work alongside our neighbor in need and do God’s work. We have arms to hold a brother or sister who is in pain. We have hearts to love just as God first loved us. Truly, we do have what we need.

However, this passage also makes me think at times I have too much that gets in my way of being the disciple of Christ I am called to be. Perhaps, Jesus is telling me to contemplate what limits my ability to serve him. You see, this passage has made me think what is it that I need to let go of in order to grow in my relationship with Jesus and more fully enter into the work he sends us all to do. So many things get in my way of doing God’s work and fully experiencing the grace and love of Jesus Christ. For example, fear and jealousy. So many times I am fearful I don’t have the right words to say or prayers to offer. Or I am jealous of my peers who seem so much more gifted in certain areas of ministry than I do. In doing this, I am not fully trusting God’s call and that God’s grace is sufficient. Therefore, perhaps a reading of this passage may be that Jesus tells us to let all that go and simply trust in him.

That is why I created a *Give it to God Box*. (Please see page 3 for a picture) During worship on the 8th everyone was invited to write something down that is getting in their way of more fully entering into a relationship with Jesus, or another brother or sister, or our baptismal vocation of doing God’s work. This box is sealed shut so no one will look at your responses. It is now located on a table just outside of the kitchen and will remain there for a while. Continue to place those things you need to let go of in the box and in time we may recycle all of these trusting in God to create something new or perhaps we will burn this and let God bring new life through the ashes.

In peace,

Pastor Chad



Birthdays

08-01 Aiden Shields
 08-02 Mia Olson
 08-04 Chris Korsmo, Jennifer Olson
 08-06 Jenna Helms
 08-08 Shawn Samuelson
 08-09 Sterling Benz, Kay Yanecek
 08-11 Jane Frauenholtz
 08-16 Jason Friis
 08-18 Jordan Arp, Courtney Heid
 08-19 Anna Friis
 08-21 Dana Arp, Rena Sexton
 08-23 Allison Arp, Sam McCrory
 08-25 Paige Roth
 08-27 Miley Shields
 08-28 Jacob Langley
 08-29 Kaylea Zimmerman
 08-31 John Grimm

Contact Information

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 Call or email for appointment

Admin. Assistant: Paula Casper
blcsecretary@lcom.net

Paula's 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](#)



Bethany Books

by Frank Frostestad

Books For Adults

This month we will continue the Baxter family series begun in the May newsletter. The Firstborn Series continues where the Redemption Series concluded. In the first book, Fame, Hollywood A-lister Dayne Matthews returns to Los Angeles after his shocking discovery in Reunion. Though his life is filled with fame, fortune, and paparazzi his heart is pulling him toward a woman and a family who have no idea how their lives are tied to his. Meanwhile, Katy Hart has finally found contentment as the director of Christian Kids Theater in Bloomington, Indiana. That changes in an instant when she meets Dayne Matthews and he promises a future she left in her past.

In the second book, Forgiven, Dayne Matthews is working on what may his best movie yet. However, he feels empty and unfocused, aching for real love and the family he'll never know. Then a friend tells him about a teaching center and a way to become like God. Is this the answer he's been looking for? Back in Bloomington, Katy Hart struggles to walk the Christian Kids Theater group through a devastating tragedy, and John Baxter reconnects with an old friend and shares a buried secret.

In book three, Found, John Baxter, driven by his wife's dying wish, sets out to find their firstborn son. Meanwhile, Dayne Matthews receives crushing news and finds wisdom and comfort from a long-lost friend and then Katy Hart, the girl Dayne can't seem to forget. In book four, Family, in the wake of finding his firstborn son, John Baxter, looks for a way to tell his other children the truth about the secret he's kept from them all their lives. At the same time, a sensational Hollywood trial brings Dayne Matthews and Katy Hart together again, this time in a very public way. In the midst of doubts and presumed scandals, it is clear that family has never been more important.

In book five, Forever, Katy Hart is thrilled about her future with Hollywood's Dayne Matthews. As she plans a wedding and looks for a house she receives tragic news. She and the Baxter family must travel to Los Angeles to sort through their options. While paparazzi hound them, Luke Baxter wrestles with feelings that have troubled him for nearly a year. Ultimately, the Baxter's must pull together one last time in an act of service and love.

All five books were donated.

Books For Children

The New Bible In Pictures For Little Eyes by Kenneth N. Taylor is for children ages 4-7. It is the updated version of a classic that has been with us for a number of years. This read-aloud book features new illustrations with simple words that serve as an introduction to the Bible. (donated)



Adult Education Opportunities

**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
All are Welcome

God's Work. Our hands.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

Once again this year, we will be joining thousands of congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) for God's work, Our hands Sunday. While we are called to serve each and every day this is a dedicated day of service and reaching out in Christian love to our neighbor. There is a small task force working on this and we would like any input you may have on a project. Please see Dave Poppen, Beth Kaufman, Del Hughes or Pastor Chad if you have any thoughts.

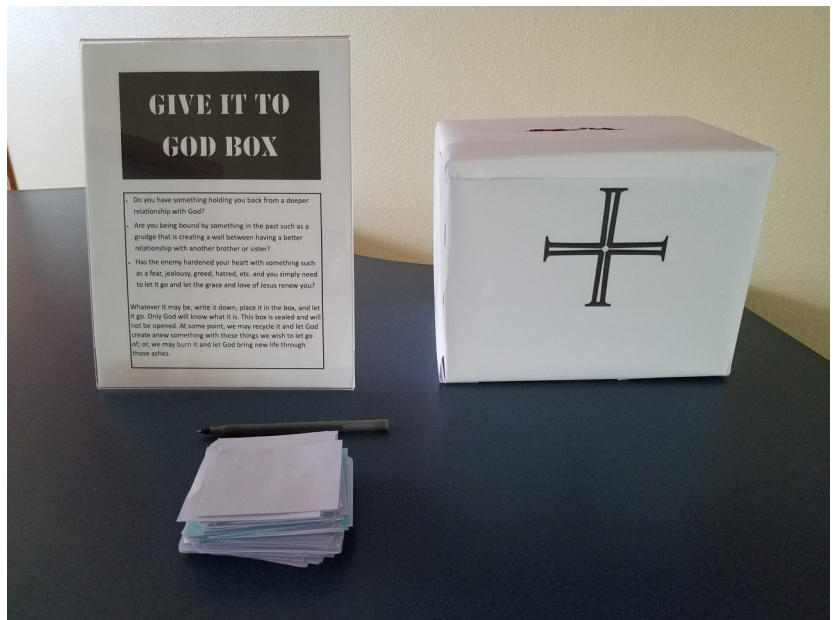
Additionally, shirts are being sold for this event. Please see the table in the hallway leading to the Great Hall for more information and order forms. You may also find order forms on our website (www.wbbethany.org).



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Give it to God Box

Please see Pastor Chad's newsletter article on page 1 for more information about the photo on the right.





VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2018



**Thank you to all who helped to make this years
VBS a great success.**



LUTHERAN SERVICES IN IOWA (LSI) NEWS

Back to School Month

School is right around the corner! But imagine being a child or teen with an emotional or behavioral disorder. This time of year can be extremely stressful. They are afraid they won't be able to concentrate or fit in at their school. They worry about adjusting to a new classroom routine or making new friends.

Did you know Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) partners with schools across the state to provide mental health services? Our therapists work one-on-one with children while our Behavioral Health Intervention Services team collaborates with families in their own homes to help them develop skills like anger management and healthy decision-making. LSI also provides 24-hour mental health care at the Bremwood and Beloit Residential Treatment Centers in Waverly and Ames to empower Iowa's most vulnerable children and teens.

We thank you for your support of LSI's mission as we respond together to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service! We know there are more Iowa children in need of this critical care. If you would like to learn more about how you can give a gift to support these crucial services, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at 563-676-2065 or Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org.

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.

A Loving Bond for Landon

Seven years ago, Ashley was eager to welcome her first child, Landon. While Landon was a perfectly behaved newborn, Ashley began feeling overwhelmed when his behavior changed as he grew.

Landon stopped napping. He began throwing tantrums and lashed out when Ashley tried to help him. Ashley was desperate for a relationship with her toddler, but Landon always pushed her away. She turned to LSI's Behavioral Health Intervention Services.

Peggy, Landon's LSI worker, began visiting their home to help Landon develop the coping skills he needed to control his anger and guide him back to being the happy child he once was.

Peggy and Landon began taking walks together, visiting the library, and playing games. When the family moved to a new home, Peggy made sure Landon was comfortable in his room and encouraged him to use it as a safe space when he needed to be alone.

Peggy and Landon have been working together for years and Landon, now 7, knows he has a support system to turn to on the rough days.

"We would truly be lost without Peggy," Ashley says. "Now Landon gives hugs, lets me know when he's angry and – the biggest gift of all – I occasionally hear, 'I love you, Mom'."





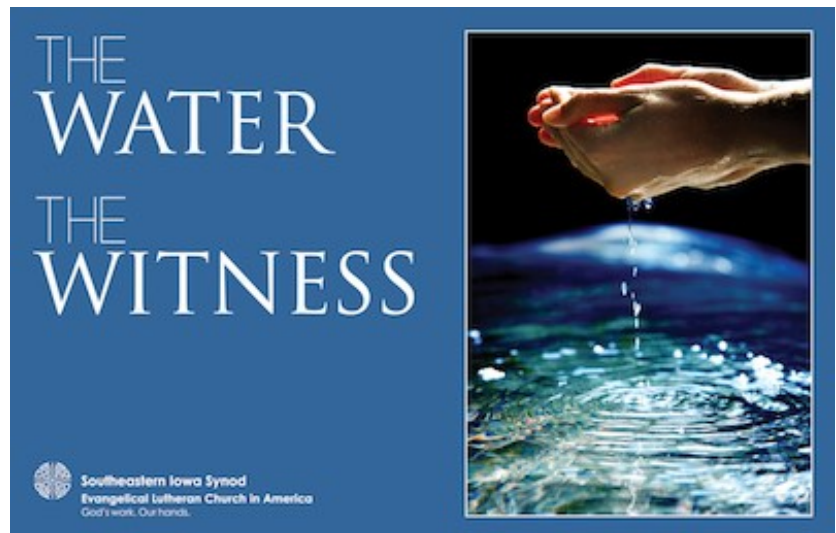
SOUTHEASTERN IOWA SYNOD ASSEMBLY RECAP

Below is a summary of the 2018 Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly held this past May. Bethany's voting members in attendance were Alan Beyer and Laura Twing. Should you have any questions please see Al, Laura or Pastor Chad.

The 31st Assembly of the Southeastern Iowa Synod was held May 18 and 19, 2018, at the Marriott Hotel and Conference Center Coralville, Iowa.

Over 400 voting members and visitors gathered around the theme "The Water and The Witness." Mikka McCracken, Director of Planning and Engagement with ELCA World Hunger served as the churchwide representative providing updates and stories of the work we do together as the ELCA. Bishop Julian Gordy of the Southeastern Synod shared of our connections throughout the nation and in ministry. The primary business of this year's assembly was action on the Synod Governance Proposal and subsequent election of synod council members, the synod nominating committee, the synod consultation committee, and synod discipline committee, as well as several resolutions. As well as election of voting members to the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. Bishop Michael Burk presided over the assembly, including the Friday evening service of Holy Communion. In his report, Bishop Burk provided highlights of our shared ministry since we last gathered in assembly, providing his assessment of ways we share in "The Water and the Witness" talking about congregational vitality and outreach. Additionally, there was an interactive learning center event on Friday afternoon which allowed assembly participants to learn about partner ministries like Lutheran Services in Iowa, Bread for the World, Peace not Walls, ELCA World Hunger, and more. There were prayer activities, artistic expression and advocacy work. 354 voting members and 56 visitors were in attendance for elections, business matters and resolutions. 56% of voting members were lay voting members, 62% of those were female and 38% male. Positions elected were Synod Secretary, members of the Synod Council, members continued... of the Synod Nominating Committee, members of the Synod Consultation and Disciple Committees, and representatives to the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. Resolutions adopted included: 1) Memorial on the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women: a resolution encouraging those in the Southeastern Iowa Synod and beyond to recognize, celebrate and memorialize the contributions of ordained women. 2) Peace not walls: a resolution encouraging the synod to memorialize and urge the 2019 Churchwide Assembly and elected officials petitioning for changes in due process, and U.S. foreign aid to protect children. 3) Preventing gun violence, a resolution encouraging individuals and congregations to address issues of gun violence in worship, education, and public discourse. 4) A courtesy resolution of thanksgiving for the assembly and various ministries of the Southeastern Iowa Synod. Visit the www.seiasynod.org/assembly for the full text of resolutions. Other business included the approval of the 2019 synod budget and minimum compensation guidelines. Congregations and rostered leaders celebrating anniversaries were celebrated. The synod assembly offering, a culmination of the "The Water and The Witness" buckets project was designated to water related ministries of the ELCA. More than \$60,500 was given by congregations and individuals. Visit the www.seiasynod.org/assembly for more details about the assembly and to access videos, photos, and full texts.

The 2019 Assembly of the Southeastern Iowa Synod will be held May 10-11, 2019, at Lutheran Church of Hope in West Des Moines, Iowa.



BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MINUTES April /May 2018

Council Meeting April 2018

The meeting was called to order by President Kaufman.

Members present: Beth, Linda, Tonya, Nancy, Jamie, Alan and Pastor Chad

Members Absent: Jon, Wayne and Cheryl.

A Council Retreat was held prior to the council meeting. Pastor Chad led the retreat.

Secretary's Report: The March meeting report was not available for distribution so will be presented at the next meeting.

Treasurer's Report: March income was below expenses, but the April report should be improved with five Sundays, including Easter. March revenues were \$10,090.00 and expenditures were \$13,011.17. Linda moved and Alan seconded to approve the report. Motion carried.

Jamie mentioned that the acoustic tiles had arrived for use in the Great Hall.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Chad purchased a new laptop computer which had previously been approved. He mentioned how much better it performs compared to the old one.

Cole Bailey will be confirmed on May 20th.

Kiwanis Club has contacted the church several times for use of the Great Hall for an organizational meeting on May 3rd. Jamie moved and Linda seconded a motion to allow use for this purpose. Motion passed.

The Methodist Church has contacted the church regarding joining them and possibly hosting their annual tailgate party prior to school opening. Further discussion will be ensuing.

Pastor Chad may be attending a special synod program on June 6 – 9th. He will know more before our next meeting.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Council Meeting May 2018

The meeting was called to order by President Kaufman.

Members present: Beth Kaufman, Linda black, Wayne Frauenholtz, Jamie Zimmerman, Nancy Bruns, Cheryl Fisher, Alan Beyer, Tonya Samuelson, and Pastor Chad.

Members absent: Jon Twing .

The meeting opened with prayer by Pastor Chad.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Chad left an extended report. It was a busy month. He mentioned the council meeting at the Synod Office and discussions with Bishop Burk.

The annual council retreat was April 21st. He made 12 pastoral visits in the past month. Confirmation will wrap up this week. Pastor has been accepted into a leadership school held June 3-8 at a Retreat Center in Hiawatha. Along with Jill and Al, he attended worship service at Anamosa State Prison on May 5th. Upcoming events are Synod Assembly on May 18-19th. Confirmation is next Sunday. Pastor discussed a consideration of tithing in response to a large contribution given to the church. Money is available in the Mission Investment Fund if we identify a project or need in the community.

Secretary's Report: Jamie moved and Cheryl seconded to approve the March minutes as corrected. Motion carried. Jamie moved and Linda seconded to approve the April minutes. Motion carried. Jamie moved and Wayne seconded to approve the minutes of the special congregational meeting on May 13th. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: April revenues were \$16,231 81. This was up considerably from last month and in line with last year's revenues. Expenditures were \$13,570.52. Linda moved and Wayne seconded to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Building and Grounds Committee: Jamie said the parsonage water broke down and was replaced. The clothes washer and kitchen stove also broke down and are being replaced. These are being donated. A work session was held last Sunday following service to clean up outside the church. Last week he sprayed the landscape around the church for weeds.

Education: Tonya Darla, and Amber met to make Vacation Bible School plans. It will be June 11th through the 14th. It is open for the community and plans are being made for about 40 kids. The last session will be on Thursday and no program will be held at the end. They are planning a Food Pantry project for outreach. The last Wednesday program for Sunday School will be held this week.

Evangelism: No report

Fellowship: 4th Sunday Meal will not be held in May due to Memorial Day and graduation. It has been rescheduled for June 10th, at the beginning of Bible School. The next planned 4th Sunday meal will be on July 22nd. Sunday morning fellowship is going well. Plans are being made to invite Ugandan Thunder back this fall.

(Continued on page 8)

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Thank You to
Our Staff

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MINUTES *(Continued from page #7)*

One idea being mulled is to have a young parents and children's get-together this summer or fall.

Stewardship: No report.

Youth: Cheryl discussed getting youth involvement by entrusting them with some money from the youth fund and allowing them to steward it in a useful way. Oversight and creative help will assist the group.

Worship and Music: New acolyte robes are being used and have been well received. A new pascal candle is being used. Linda has contacted the quilters on the possibility of making banners to be hung in the Great Hall.

Old Business:

- Al moved and Nancy seconded to approve Cole Bailey for confirmation. Motion carried.

New Business:

- Church Credit Card. A task force has met and discussed obtaining credit cards for church use to relieve the treasurer of making so many reimbursement checks. Cards with limits would be issued to the Administrative Assistant, Pastor, and Building and Grounds Chair or representative. Action of this was tabled until the next meeting.
- Men's Bible Study: Council OK'd purchasing the first series of tapes and manuals since the cost is under what has been budgeted.
- Copy Service Agreement: Jamie moved and Nancy seconded to add \$10 per month to our service agreement for free phone consultation. Now we are being charged a large amount each time we call in. The current agreement costs \$55 per month but doesn't include consultations. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting is June 11th.





FAITH AT HOME

These short Bible passages and reflection starters are one more way we are trying to spur conversation about faith at home and also absorb ourselves in the word of God. We hope you find them beneficial.

Ruth 1:16-17

But Ruth said, “Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I will die—there will I be buried. May the Lord do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!”

- Relational commitment requires...
- Role models for me of a faithful relationship...
- The advantages of two people committing to each other...



1 Corinthians 1:18

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

- In some ways, religion seems like foolishness because...
- The cross is...
- Being saved or being healed is about...

1 Corinthians 11:26

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

- During communion, I think about...
- For me, the communion ritual...
- An especially memorable communion worship...



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*.

Wednesday, August 1	Psalm 111 Isaiah 25:6-10a Mark 6:35-44	Friday, August 17	Psalm 34:9-14 Job 12:1-25 Romans 16:17-20
Thursday, August 2	Psalm 78:23-29 Exodus 12:33-42 1 Corinthians 11:17-22	Saturday, August 18	Psalm 34:9-14 Job 13:1-19 John 4:7-26
Friday, August 3	Psalm 78:23-29 Exodus 12:43-13:2 1 Corinthians 11:27-34	Sunday, August 19	Proverbs 9:1-6 Ephesians 5:15-20 John 6:51-58
Saturday, August 4	Psalm 78:23-29 Exodus 13:3-10 Matthew 16:5-12	Monday, August 20	Psalm 36 Genesis 43:1-15 Acts 6:1-7
Sunday, August 5	Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15 Ephesians 4:1-16 John 6:24-35	Tuesday, August 21	Psalm 36 Genesis 45:1-15 Acts 7:9-16
Monday, August 6	Psalm 107:1-3, 33-43 Numbers 11:15-23, 31-32 Ephesians 4:17-24	Wednesday, August 22	Psalm 36 Genesis 47:13-26 Mark 8:14-21
Tuesday, August 7,	Psalm 107:1-3, 33-43 Deuteronomy 8:1-20 1 Corinthians 12:27-31	Thursday, August 23	Psalm 34:15-22 Joshua 22:1-9 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Wednesday, August 8	Psalm 107:1-3, 33-43 Isaiah 55:1-9 Mark 8:1-10	Friday, August 24	Psalm 34:15-22 Joshua 22:10-20 Romans 13:11-14
Thursday, August 9	Psalm 34:1-8 1 Samuel 28:20-25	Saturday, August 25,	Psalm 34:15-22 Joshua 22:21-34 Luke 11:5-13
Friday, August 10	Psalm 34:1-8 2 Samuel 17:15-29 Galatians 6:1-10	Sunday, August 26	Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18 Ephesians 6:10-20 John 6:56-69
Saturday, August 11	Psalm 34:1-8 1 Kings 2:1-9 Matthew 7:7-11	Monday, August 27	Psalm 119:97-104 Nehemiah 9:1-15 Ephesians 5:21-6:9
Sunday, August 12	1 Kings 19:4-8 Ephesians 4:25-5:2 John 6:35, 41-51	Tuesday, August 28,	Psalm 119:97-104 Nehemiah 9:16-31 Ephesians 6:21-24
Monday, August 13	Psalm 81 1 Kings 17:1-16 Ephesians 5:1-14	Wednesday, August 29	Psalm 119:97-104 Isaiah 33:10-16 John 15:16-25
Tuesday, August 14	Psalm 81 Ruth 2:1-23 2 Peter 3:14-18	Thursday, August 30,	Psalm 15 Exodus 32:1-14 James 1:1-8
Wednesday, August 15	Psalm 81 Jeremiah 31:1-6 John 6:35-40	Friday, August 31	Psalm 15 Exodus 32:15-35 James 1:9-16
Thursday, August 16	Psalm 34:9-14 Job 11:1-20 Acts 6:8-15		



August 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 9:00 AM Worship	30	31 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	1 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study	2 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	3	4
5 9:00 AM Worship	6	7 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	8 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study	9 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	10	11
12 9:00 AM Worship	13 6:30 PM Council Meeting	14 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	15 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study	16 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	17	18
19 9:00 AM Worship Blessing of backpacks.	20	21 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope	22 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study	23 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	24	25
26 9:00 AM Worship 5:00 PM West Branch Community Meal @ Bethany	27	28 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	29 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study	30 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	31	1

Monetary Gifts Report

Saints in Worship:

6-3	35
6-10	48
6-17	66
6-24	68
Total	218

As done at times in the past, the Council did not convene for a formal business meeting in July but rather gathered for a time of food and fellowship with one another. Therefore, please see the September newsletter for updated figures of monetary gifts and ministry expenditures.

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.

