

Bethany Lutheran Church

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



December 2014

Christ is
BORN
WONDERFUL
COUNSELOR
MIGHTY GOD
Everlasting Father
PRINCE OF PEACE

IMPORTANT DATES

12/14 Children's Program
during worship

12/24 Christmas Eve

5:00 pm Candlelight Service

8:00 pm Candlelight Service

Contact Information

Bethany Lutheran Church
235 South Second Street
West Branch, Iowa 52358
Office Phone: (319) 643-5998

Pastor Chad Whaley
pastor@wbbethany.org

Office Hours
Monday & Thursday
9:00 am - Noon

*Pastor Chad is also available by
appointment.

Admin. Assistant: Paula Casper
blcsecretary@lcom.net

Office Hours
Tuesday & Thursday 8:00-11:30 AM

FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

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

ALSO FIND US ON TWITTER!

Search @blcwestbranch



Dear people of God,

Grace and peace to you during this Advent season! I don't suppose anyone has ever come up to you and wished you a "Merry Advent!" No, I didn't think so – me either. Yet, Advent is an important season in the church year and actually

brings one year to a close and begins the start of a new year. Thus, in a lot of ways Advent is about new beginnings. The word Advent comes from a Latin word that means, "coming" and "focuses on this 'coming' in three ways: the infant Jesus coming in the past ... Christ coming in the present in word and sacraments and in the fellowship or communion of the church, and Christ coming again in the future at the end time." (S. Anita Stauffer, *Altar Guild and Sacristy Handbook*)

Advent is certainly a season of waiting but truthfully the whole Christian life is one of waiting. We wait for the culmination of things to come. We wait for Christ's coming again. Our gospel texts during the month of November from Matthew really spoke to how we live out our lives as disciples of Christ in the midst of this waiting. Jesus was fairly clear that we were not to remain idle, with a spirit of timidity, or be unprepared. Rather, He tells us that as we wait we are to continue in our call as His followers to bear His light to the world. We are to remain confident in the promise that He will return. We are to proclaim the good news of His love to the world. We are to hold fast to the promise that although He has gone to be with His Father in heaven He is still with us as He meets us in word and sacrament and through our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

So this Advent as we gather together, wait, and prepare for the celebration of the birth of our Savior let us ponder collectively and individually how we respond to God's grace given freely through this babe born in a manger in Bethlehem? In our lives, do our words, actions, and attitudes reflect the light of Christ? Blessings on your Advent journey and thank you for your presence, your faithfulness, your commitment, and for the Holy Spirit at work in each of you enabling the light of Christ to burn brightly in an often dark and dreary world!

In peace,
Pastor Chad



Church Staff

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Cookie Walk 2014

December 6th
9:00 am til ?

Remember to light those ovens and bake lots of yummy cookies. Bring them to the church on Friday, December 5 until 8:00 pm or by 8:30 am on the 6th. Please arrange them on plates, ready to place them on tables.

Schedule

Friday, December 5th

Set up and decorate at 1:00 pm.
Need a couple of strong men to help with tables, etc!

Need 8 card tables for the Dansk Cafe. We will be serving rosettes, lefse and Danish rye bread with Harvarti cheese. And of course lots of coffee.

Call Paula 331-9456 or Candy 643-5869 with any questions and VOLUNTEER to help.

December 6th

Doors Open! Come join us for a fun filled community event.



**CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDLELIGHT
SERVICES**

5:00 P.M. and 8:00 P.M.



Birthdays

- 12/02 Bruce Jeffries
- 12/05 Jim Yanecek, Samantha Yeater
- 12/06 Wanda Anderson
- 12/07 Kellee McCrory
- 12/10 Barb Campbell
- 12/13 Marshall McElhinney
- 12/14 Beth Kaufman
Liz McCrory
- 12/15 Kami Poppen
- 12/17 Traci Fryauf
- 12/18 Marilyn Crow
- 12/19 Jim Friis
- 12/20 Auron Marsh
- 12/21 Lindsey Zimmerman,
Mark Colvin
- 12/23 Amber Marsh
- 12/24 Monica Hinkhouse
- 12/26 Nancy Bruns
- 12/31 Jon Twing



Bethany Books

by Frank Frostestad

Books For Adults

I have introduced you to Emma Yoder Miller in *The Half-Stitched Amish Quilting Club* and its sequel *the Tattered Quilt*. In *The Healing Quilt* author Wanda E. Brunstetter takes Emma and her husband Lamar to Florida in order to avoid another harsh Indiana winter. Emma soon gets bored with walks on the beach and sends home for her quilting supplies and advertises a quilting class. The reader is then faced with a new class of people who are hurt and wounded in some way and get to experience therapy through Emma and her classes. Some people from former books manage to appear in Florida also. When Jan Sweet shows up on his motorcycle, a romantic twist is added to the class dynamics.

A second book by Wanda Brunstetter is *Amish White Christmas Pie*. I thought the title and the setting – time of year of the book fit into this month’s newsletter. The main idea of the book is that Will Henderson, abandoned by his father sixteen years earlier, is having thoughts about the father who left him years ago. His father, Frank, is also wondering about the son he left years ago. Questions about whether Frank will be able to now find his son and whether Will is able to forgive his father for leaving him are the driving themes of this book. Add an approaching marriage, jealousy and life threatening accidents in an Amish community to the mix. The recipe for White Christmas Pie is also included.

The Note, a novel by Angela Hunt was made into a Hallmark Channel movie, becoming the channel’s highest rated movie of the year. We have a DVD of it in our church library. *The Note II: Taking A Chance On Love* is the printed version of the movie sequel. It includes photos from the movie.

In *Where Courage Calls* by Janette Oke, Beth Thatcher has spent her entire life in the safe, comfortable world of her family, her friends, and the social outings her father’s wealth provides. She is about to leave it all behind to accept a teaching position in the rugged foothills of western Canada. Inspired by her aunt, Elizabeth, who went west to teach school years ago, and gently encouraged by her father, Beth resolves to put her trust in God and bravely face any challenge that comes her way. Conditions turn out to be even worse than she feared. Despite the many challenges she faces, Beth is determined to make a difference in the rustic frontier town. When her sister shows up, reminding her of what she has given up, the question becomes “Will she decide to return to her privileged life as soon as the school year is over?”

Book For Children

Henry’s Freedom Box: A True Story From The Underground Railroad by Ellen Levine is a Caldecott Honor Book. Henry Brown was not sure how old he was. Henry was a slave and slaves were not allowed to know their birthdays. Henry dreams of a world where his life belongs to him. When his family is sold, he risks everything for what he knows is right. With the strength and conviction of the best kind of hero, Henry makes a journey in a wooden crate and mails himself to freedom.

Continued on pg.4

The Simply Giving® Program

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The Simply Giving Program is a convenient, consistent, and safe way to give financially to Bethany. By contributing electronically you will no longer need to write out checks and prepare envelopes every week.

Get started today! Ask for an authorization form from our Financial Secretary, Jill Taylor, or pick one up from Paula in the office, or visit the “Resource” tab on our church website for a flier and registration form. Please see Jill with any questions.



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. please contact Pastor Chad.

Bethany Men's Breakfast Bible Study Group
Wednesdays at 6:00 am
in the Great Hall
All are Welcome

Thursday Women's Bible Study
6:00 am in the Small Hall
All are Welcome

Adult Discussion Group
Sunday mornings at 10:20
In the Small Hall
All are Welcome

With illustrations by Kadir Nelson, the author weaves the extraordinary events together into an inspiring account of this person's journey.

Remember the many Christmas books for children that we have in our library collection. I will put them on the hall table during the month of December.

DVDs

I will also put a number of Christmas related DVDs out on the table for the month of December after the Cookie Walk. Included are several new DVDs. The *Note III*, more notes from the heart healer, find Peyton McGruder and her new husband King Danville on a romantic getaway when an infant is abandoned at their doorstep. This transforms them into temporary parents. Peyton is reminded of her past and causes her to try find the baby's story. This is a story of hope, inspiration and second chances. *Christmas Oranges*, based on a classic holiday tale, is a Christmas story about an orphan named Rose, who despite a bleak childhood, can be an example of love, understanding and forgiveness. *Homeless For The Holidays*, based on a true story, reminds us of what is important. When an uncaring executive falls from the corporate ladder, he learns how difficult it can be to find work and compassion in today's economy. He eventually accepts a humiliating job, but with bills rapidly piling up, and not enough money to go around, he quickly discovers that unless something changes soon, he'll lose everything by Christmas. Will family and faith be enough to bring joy when you're *Homeless For The Holidays*?



Time to order your Poinsettia to decorate the altar for Christmas.
Plants will be \$10.00 each.
Order forms are available on the library table in the Large Hall.
Due back to Paula by 12/14



In the event we need to cancel worship

at Bethany due to inclement weather notification will be done in the following formats. There will be a post on the church website (www.wbbethany.org/westbranch/), on Twitter, and on Bethany's Facebook page. There will be an email sent out to all Bethany members who have provided an email address. Notification will also be provided to KCRG television stations. These will be the primary means of notification. If none of the above means work for you please contact Paula so we can make other arrangements. Thank you!



BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MINUTES
OCTOBER 13 2014

Members Present: Claudia Beyer, Bonnie Conner, Candy Madsen, Del Hughes, Jennie Olson, Courtney Heid, Kent Kaufman, Laura Twing.

Members Absent: John Black

Called to Order at 6:30 pm.

Courtney Heid opened the meeting with a devotion.

Pastor's Report: Work continues on forming a prayer team. There were 2 weddings this past month, and this next month is the Fall Theological Conference. WBARC donated \$500.00 this month to the Backpack Buddies program, which is currently serves 15 students. The next community pulpit exchange will be on January 25, 2015. The outdoor worship service had a good human turn-out, but fewer pets due to hot weather. New members will be welcomed again this month. Next week will be a First Communion class with 6 students. Pastor Chad has been asked to be on the LCO Board, which will take approximately 2 hours per month. He requests some vacation time during Thanksgiving week.

Secretary's Report: A correction needs to be made, clarifying that "part" of the cost of the new refrigerator has been donated, not the entire amount. Also need to add that the balance of our Kids Against Hunger fund, plus a special offering collection, will be donated to the West Branch Lions Club for their food packaging event on October 25, 2014. Approval of report was moved by Del Hughes, and seconded by Candy Madsen, with the corrections. All ayes.

Treasurer's Report: We are in the black this month! Vacation Bible School stayed under budget, but Sunday School may be over budget. Maintenance is over budget. Moved for approval by Bonnie Conner, and seconded by Jennie Olson. All ayes. Annual enrollment for Pastor's Health Insurance policy, through Portico was discussed. Decision was made to continue coverage at the "gold" level. Cost will be \$3000.00 more than last year. Approval moved by Claudia Beyer, and seconded by Bonnie Conner. All ayes.

Building and Grounds: No report.

Education: Sunday School is being well attended, the 10 "learner sheets ordered" are not enough. Amber Marsh will be organizing the Christmas Program for December 14 2014.

Missions: No report

Fellowship: Cookie Walk will be the first Saturday of December again. The Fourth Sunday Dinners are set for October and November. 50 people attended in September. Discussed changing signs and advertising to Community Meal, rather than free meal. Discussed and rejected putting out a donation basket.

Stewardship: There will be weekly Temple Talks in October, and the first Sunday in November, and a pot-luck meal after service on November 9, 2014.

Youth: No final decision yet on who will attend the National Youth Gathering in Detroit next year. Cross Training will continue on Wednesday nights. Many of our youth cannot help with the Lions food packaging due to show choir and drama presentation conflicts.

Worship: Will be meeting with Pastor Chad soon about Advent season. Discussed decorating the tree later in the season this year, with the Hanging of the Greens being Advent preparation.

Old Business:

- * Technology Task Force Update . Pastor Chad now has enough information to choose the new computers (His and Paula's), and contact the church member who will donate that cost.

New Business:

- * Fourth Sunday Suppers. The Poppen Family will do the next one.
- * January 18, 2015 has been proposed as the date for our next Annual Meeting. Moved for approval by Kent Kaufman, seconded by Claudia Beyer.
- * Projected budgets are due soon, and a budget committee needs to be named.
- * Pastor will chaperone the trip next June to Washington D.C. Pastor has also requested to carry over one vacation Sunday to next year. Moved for approval by Claudia Beyer, seconded by Courtney Heid.
- * Pastor recommends reviewing the minutes from the last Annual Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.



Daily Bible Readings

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

Mon - December 1	Micah 4:1-5 Revelation 15:1-8 Psalm 79	Wed - December 17	Malachi 3:1--4:6 Mark 9:9-13 Psalm 125
Tue - December 2	Micah 4:6-13 Revelation 18:1-10 Psalm 79	Thu - December 18	2 Samuel 6:1-11 Hebrews 1:1-14 Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26
Wed - December 3	Micah 5:1-5a Luke 21:34-38 Psalm 79	Fri - December 19	2 Samuel 6:12-19 Hebrews 1:5-14 Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26
Thu - December 4	Hosea 6:1-6 1 1 Thessalonians 1:2-10 Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13	Sat - December 20	Judges 13:2-24 John 7:40-52 Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26
Fri - December 5	Jeremiah 1:4-10 Acts 11:19-26 Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13	Sun - December 21	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38
Sat - December 6	Ezekiel 36:24-28 Mark 11:27-33 Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13	Mon - December 22	Zephaniah 3:8-13 Romans 10:5-13 Psalm 96
Sun - December 7	Isaiah 40:1-11 2 Peter 3:8-15a Mark 1:1-8	Tue - December 23	Zephaniah 3:14-20 Romans 13:11-14 Psalm 96
Mon - December 8	Isaiah 26:7-15 Acts 2:37-42 Psalm 27	Wed - December 24	Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96 (11) Titus 2:11-14
Tue - December 9	Isaiah 4:2-6 Acts 11:1-8 Psalm 27	Thu - December 25	Isaiah 62:6-12 Psalm 97 (11) Titus 3:4-7
Wed - December 10	Malachi 2:10--3:1 Luke 1:5-17 Psalm 27	Thu - December 25	Isaiah 52:7-10 Psalm 98 (3) Hebrews 1:1-4 [5-12]
Thu - December 11	Habakkuk 2:1-5 Philippians 3:7-11 Psalm 126	Fri - December 26	Jeremiah 26:1-9,12-15 Acts 6:8-15; 7:51-60 Psalm 148
Fri - December 12	Habakkuk 3:2-6 Philippians 3:12-16 Psalm 126	Sat - December 27	Exodus 33:18-23 1 John 1:1-9 Psalm 148
Sat - December 13	Habakkuk 3:13-19 Matthew 21:28-32 Psalm 126	Sun - December 28	Isaiah 61:10-62:3 Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:22-40
Sun - December 14	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1:6-8, 19-28	Mon - December 29	Isaiah 49:5-15 Matthew 12:46-50 Psalm 148
Mon - December 15	1 Kings 18:1-18 Ephesians 6:10-17 Psalm 125	Tue - December 30	Proverbs 9:1-12 2 Peter 3:8-13 Psalm 146
Tue - December 16	2 Kings 2:9-22 Acts 3:17--4:4 Psalm 125	Wed - December 31	1 Kings 3:5-14 John 8:12-19 Psalm 148



December 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship	1	2 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 - 4:30 PM Hope Chest Open 6:30 PM Nominating Committee Meeting	3 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 6:15 PM Adult Choir Practice 6:30 PM Confirmation dinner and study 6:45 PM Cross Training	4 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	5	6
7 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship 10:20 Sunday School 10:20 Adult Discussion	8 6:30 PM Council Meeting	9 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 - 4:30 PM Hope Chest Open	10 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 9:00 AM Women's Circle 6:15 PM Adult Choir Practice 6:30 PM Confirmation dinner and study 6:45 PM Cross Training	11 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	12	13
14 Christmas Program 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship	15	16 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 - 4:30 PM Hope Chest Open	17 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 6:15 PM Adult Choir Practice 6:30 PM Confirmation dinner and study 6:45 PM Cross Training	18 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	19	20
21 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship 5:00 PM EPIC (Middle School Youth) Night 6:00 PM High School Youth Group	22	23	24 5:00 PM Candlelight Worship 8:00 PM Candlelight Worship	25	26	27
28 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship 5:30 PM West Branch Community Meal @ Bethany	29	30 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 - 4:30 PM Hope Chest Open	31	1		

October Attendance

10-5 121
 10-12 69
 10-19 62
 10-26 73
 Total attendance: 325

Financial Report

Submitted by Claudia Beyer

	October 2014		YTD	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Total Receipts	11,487	10,250	119,935	102,500
Total Expenses	9,921	11,318	114,402	113,532

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.

