Bethany Lutheran Church

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



December 2014



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

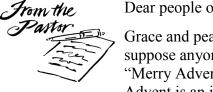
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Dear people of God,



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

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

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

Custodians- Makayla & Emalee Casper

Organist- Aura Strohschein

Church Council

President

Del Hughes (319) 643-7398 hughesdelsue@yahoo.com

Treasurer

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

Worship & Music

Bonnie Conner (319) 643-2634 grannie42@me.com

Secretary/Evangelism & Missions

Laura Twing (319) 331-6579 lltwing@aol.com

Vice President/Stewardship

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

Education

Courtney Heid (319) 400-7227 cheid88@gmail.com

Youth

Jenni Olson (319) 354-3600 mama2girls@gmail.com

Fellowship

Candy Madsen (319) 643-5869 rcmadsen@lcom.net

Building & Grounds

John Black (319) 643-5622 johnblack@lcom.net

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

The Simply Giving* Program endorsed by



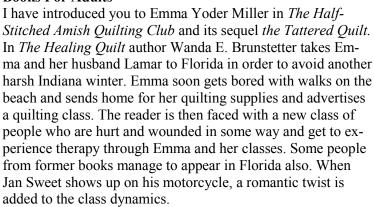
The Simply Giving Program is a convenient, consistent, and safe way to give financially to Bethany. By contributing electronically you will no longer need to write out checks and prepare envelopes every week.

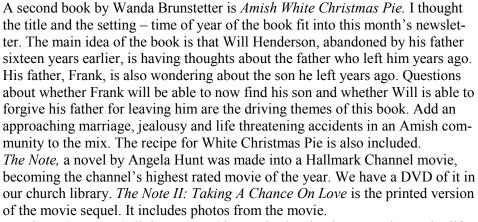
Get started today! Ask for an authorization form from our Financial Secretary, Jill Taylor, or pick one up from Paula in the office, or visit the "Resource" tab on our church website for a flier and registration form. Please see Jill with any questions.

Bethany Books

by Frank Frostestad

Books For Adults





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



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.

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 Holidavs?



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!

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 potluck 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	Wed - December 17	
	Revelation 15:1-8		Mark 9:9-13
	Psalm 79		Psalm 125
Tue - December 2	Micah 4:6-13	Thu - December 18	2 Samuel 6:1-11
	Revelation 18:1-10		Hebrews 1:1-14
	Psalm 79		Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26
Wed - December 3	Micah 5:1-5a	Fri - December 19	2 Samuel 6:12-19
	Luke 21:34-38		Hebrews 1:5-14
	Psalm 79		Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26
Thu - December 4	Hosea 6:1-6 1	Sat - December 20	Judges 13:2-24
	1 Thessalonians 1:2-10		John 7:40-52
	Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13		Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26
Fri - December 5	Jeremiah 1:4-10	Sun - December 21	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
	Acts 11:19-26		Romans 16:25-27
	Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13		Luke 1:26-38
Sat - December 6	Ezekiel 36:24-28	Mon - December 22	Zephaniah 3:8-13
	Mark 11:27-33		Romans 10:5-13
	Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13		Psalm 96
Sun - December 7	Isaiah 40:1-11	Tue - December 23	Zephaniah 3:14-20
	2 Peter 3:8-15a		Romans 13:11-14
	Mark 1:1-8		Psalm 96
Mon - December 8	Isaiah 26:7-15	Wed - December 24	
	Acts 2:37-42		Psalm 96 (11)
	Psalm 27		Titus 2:11-14
Tue - December 9	Isaiah 4:2-6	Thu - December 25	Isaiah 62:6-12
	Acts 11:1-8		Psalm 97 (11)
	Psalm 27		Titus 3:4-7
Wed - December 10	Malachi 2:103:1	Thu - December 25	Isaiah 52:7-10
	Luke 1:5-17		Psalm 98 (3)
	Psalm 27		Hebrews 1:1-4 [5-12]
Thu - December 11	Habakkuk 2:1-5	Fri - December 26	Jeremiah 26:1-9,12-15
	Philippians 3:7-11		Acts 6:8-15; 7:51-60
	Psalm 126		Psalm 148
Fri - December 12	Habakkuk 3:2-6	Sat - December 27	Exodus 33:18-23
	Philippians 3:12-16		1 John 1:1-9
	Psalm 126		Psalm 148
Sat - December 13	Habakkuk 3:13-19	Sun - December 28	Isaiah 61:10-62:3
	Matthew 21:28-32		Galatians 4:4-7
	Psalm 126		Luke 2:22-40
Sun - December 14	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11	Mon - December 29	Isaiah 49:5-15
	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24		Matthew 12:46-50
Man Dannels at 15	John 1:6-8, 19-28	Tue December 22	Psalm 148
Mon - December 15	1 Kings 18:1-18	Tue - December 30	Proverbs 9:1-12 2
	Ephesians 6:10-17		Peter 3:8-13
Tue December 1/	Psalm 125	Wed December 21	Psalm 146
Tue - December 16	2 Kings 2:9-22	Wed - December 31	1 Kings 3:5-14
	Acts 3:174:4		John 8:12-19
	Psalm 125		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		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	
Total Receipts	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
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.



4

Ministry Assistants

Ministers of Proclamation (Lectors)

12/07 - Brett Schiele

12/14 - Christmas Program

12/21 - Jon Twing

12/24 - 5:00 pm Paula Casper 8:00 pm Jon Twing

12/28 - Shawn Samuelson

Ministers of Hospitality (Greeters)

12/07 - Del & Sue Hughes

12/14 - Claudia & Al Beyer

12/21 - Paula & Courtney Heid

12/24 - 5:00 pm Casper Family 8:00 pm Jon & Laura Twing

12/28 - Lisa & Jamie Zimmerman

Ministers of Christ's Light (Acolytes)

12/07 - Alex & Olivia Poppen

12/14 - Ellie Holstad & Mia Olson

12/21 - Kaitlyn Lovetinsky & Abbi Fryauf

12/24 - 5:00 pm

Jaylen Votroubek/Aiden Shields 8:00 pm

0.00 pm

Jayden Roth/

12/28 - Jessica Kusick & Andrew Samuelson



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