

# Bethany Lutheran Church

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



December  
2017

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, *give thanks in all circumstances*; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. - 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

## Important Dates

- 12-02 Cookie Walk 9:00-11:00 am
- 12-03 Hanging of Greens Worship Service
- 12-11 Council Meeting 6:30 pm
- 12-13 Women's Circle
- 12-17 Children's Program during Worship
- 12-24 Sunday Worship 9:00 am  
Candlelight Service 5:00 pm  
Candlelight Service 8:00 pm

## Contact Information

Bethany Lutheran Church  
235 South Second Street  
West Branch, Iowa 52358

Pastor Chad Whaley  
pastor@wbbethany.org

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

FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

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

ALSO FIND US ON TWITTER!

Search @blcwestbranch



Dear Faithful Saints of God,

Grace and peace to you! It's hard to believe another year of the church calendar has flown by and we embark on the beginning of a new one with the season of Advent. But what really is Advent? The name Advent is from a Latin word that means "coming."

During this first liturgical season of the church year we focus on the infant Jesus coming in the past, the risen Christ coming in the present through word and sacrament and in fellowship with one another, and lastly we prepare and look forward to the second coming of Christ at the end of time when He will make all things new. Advent is a season of hope. (S. Anita Stauffer, *Altar Guild and Sacristy Handbook*: Augsburg Fortress, 2000)

Rightfully so, it is also a season of thanksgiving for what God has done for the world in sending Jesus Christ into the world. Being not far removed from the wafting smells of Thanksgiving turkeys baking in our ovens or the taste of pumpkin pie still lingering on our taste buds that spirit of thanksgiving still lies upon our hearts and minds. Many of us have Advent traditions we do within our homes. Perhaps, it is an Advent calendar or a devotion. This year, my preparation will include dedicated time of giving thanks daily for the gift of the infant born that first Christmas. Reflection on the ways Jesus continues to meet me each and every day and give thanks for that. And also giving thanks for the simplest things in life that God provides each and every day.

*"We pray for the big things and forget to give thanks for the ordinary, small (and yet really not small) gifts."* - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Thank you people of God for your faithfulness to the mission of God here at Bethany Lutheran. Thank you for all you do in your daily lives and vocations to bare forth the light of Christ. Thank you for stewarding your resources of money and time so that we can continue to do God's work in the world. Grace and peace to you this season of Advent!

Pastor Chad



## Adult Education Opportunities



Pastor Chad's sermons are found on Bethany's website ([www.wbbethany.org](http://www.wbbethany.org)) by placing your cursor over the "Resource" tab found on the

**Lunch Bible Study**  
11:30 a.m. at Mexico Lindo  
December 4, 11, and 18  
**All are Welcome**

**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**

**Adult Discussion**  
Will reconvene following the  
New Year. Look for additional  
information.  
**All are Welcome**

## ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

On Sunday, November 5th we gave thanks to God for the grace revealed through the birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This reconciling work opened to the baptized the promise of eternal life. It also means we stand before God clothed in the garment of Christ and His innocence. We stand before God as a saint. You are precious saints people of God!

On this day we remembered those saints who have died since last All Saints Day: Elizabeth Smith, Elsa Boedeker, and Liz Pedersen. We also gave thanks for those new saints baptized into the church in the past year: Rayna Jolece Sexton and Everett James White.

Finally, we recognized, gave thanks, and prayed for our "senior" saints (those 80 and over among us). They are: Millie Anderson, Hermann Boedeker, Jerry Dodds, Janet Friis, Paul Friis, Dorothy Holmes, June Madsen, Richard Madsen, Delores Paulsen, Jim Peak, Helen Petersen, and Betty Slach. Below is a photo of those in attendance. Those who were unable to be with us were missed greatly!



Join us in worship Sunday, December 3 as we adorn our worship space with the decorations of Advent and Christmas in the Hanging of the Greens worship service.

## 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, Elizabeth 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
12-22	Mark Colvin
12-23	Amber Marsh
12-24	Monica Hinkhouse
12-26	Nancy Bruns
12-29	Jim Peak
12-31	Jon Twing

\*If your birthday is not listed, please contact Paula to make sure we have it in our database. Thanks!

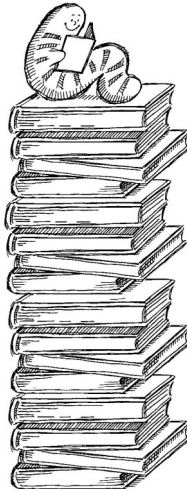
## Children Activities

You will notice in our worship space behind the last pew as you enter are bags for children with various items in them and now a basket that includes a children bulletin kids can utilize during worship or take home. There are also some offering envelopes for children.



## Bethany Books

by Frank Frostestad



### Books For Adults

I plan to put the Christmas books out on the display table. The author for the month is Wanda E. Brunstetter. *Farmers' Market Mishap* is the sequel to *The Lopsided Christmas Cake* that I featured two years ago. Living alone for the first time in her life is lonely for Elma Hochstetler, whose twin sister, Thelma, recently married. Though they share the running of a general store, more and more of Thelma's time is taken up by her growing family. Elma has dated some, but she wonders if she is just too picky to find love. Then a mishap happens at the farmers market and she meets someone that she instantly likes. But there are problems. Can they be overcome?

Brunstetter has written the quilt series that have been previously featured. The next book is titled *The Hawaiian Quilt* but it is not part of the series. In this book, Mandy Frey has always wanted to see Hawaii. So before joining the Amish church and considering marriage to her boyfriend, she convinces three friends to join her on a cruise to the Hawaiian Islands. She is captivated by the scenery and culture in Hawaii. A short vacation turns into an extended stay. Special friendships are made but home, family and boyfriend await Mandy back in Indiana. Will time away from the Amish community change Mandy's view of the world, her faith, and love? Where does a Hawaiian quilt fit into all of this?

*Amish Cooking Class: The Seekers* has the same type of story line as the Amish quilting series. Having been married for eight years with no children to help fill her day, Heidi Troyer cooks up the idea of teaching classes in the art of Amish cuisine. It is a recipe for drama when five very different men and women answer the advertisement. Charlene Higgins is engaged, but to the despair of her future husband's family, she can't cook. Kendra Perkins, a teen estranged from her family, is facing an unwanted pregnancy alone. Loretta Donnelly, widowed with two children, would like to simplify her life. Ron Hensley, a Vietnam Vet, parks his RV on the Troyer farm. And Eli Miller, an Amish widower, needs to learn how to cook for himself. Class members share details of their disappointing lives, work to solve a mystery, and stir some romance into the pot. Suddenly cooking classes at Heidi's house become life lessons.

In *Amish Cooking Class: The Blessing* we return to the Troyer farm where despite stressful changes occurring in their lives, Lyle and Heidi once again open up their Ohio home to those seeking to learn about Amish cooking. This time six unique adults sign up. Nicole Smith, is a teenager, helping her divorced dad cook for the family. Lisa Brooks, is a caterer, needing new recipes. Todd Collins, is a food critic, who is curious about the way Amish women cook. Bill Mason, is a member of a hunting club, who always gets stuck cooking for his buddies. Allie Garrett, is a police officer's wife, who is given the class as an unwanted gift. Lance Freeman, is a mailman, who smells the good food when he delivers a package to the door. More than recipes are exchanged, as friendships form, a romance blossoms, and hearts receive healing nourishment, including Heidi's own hurting heart.

### Books For Children

Christmas books for children will also be put on the display table.





## 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

**Custodian** – Jerry Dodds

**Organist** – Jill Barnhart

## Church Council

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Greg.lipes@gmail.com

Jon Twing  
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Jill Taylor  
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Jamie Zimmerman  
(319) 325-4322  
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(319) 643-7358  
1982cmf@lcom.net

## Financial Secretary

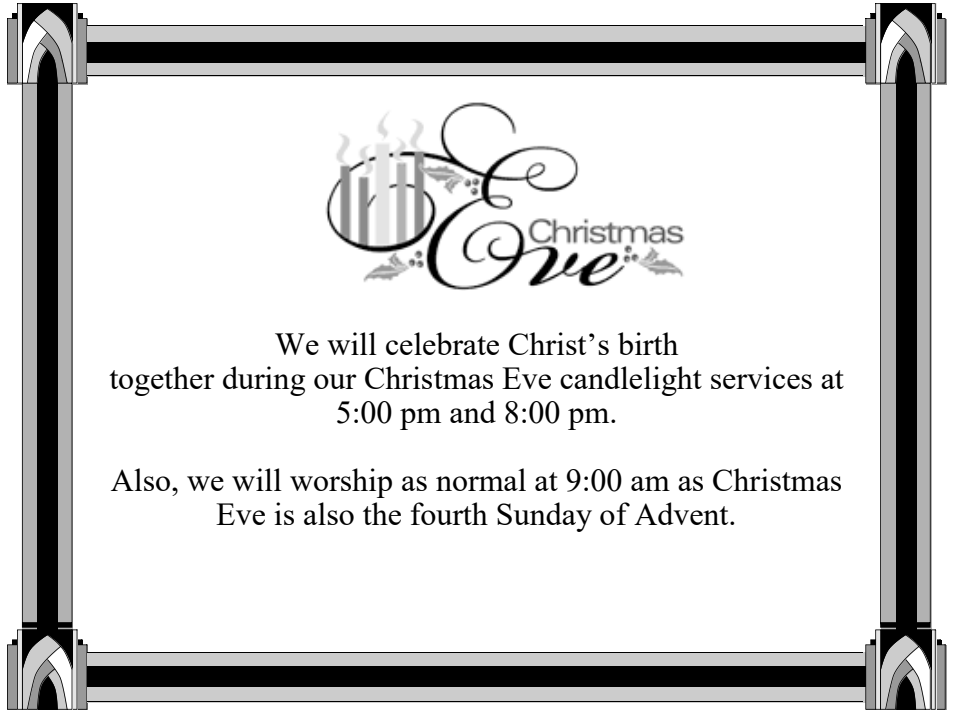
Claudia Beyer  
(319) 643-2136  
iabeyers@aol.com

Thank You to  
Our Staff



## Holy Communion during December

Normally, the Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated the first, third and fifth Sunday, when applicable, during worship. Due to the Hanging of the Greens service on December 3 and the Children's Program on December 17 we will celebrate Holy Communion on December 10, December 24 (9:00 am, 5:00 pm, and 8:00 pm), and December 31.



We will celebrate Christ's birth together during our Christmas Eve candlelight services at 5:00 pm and 8:00 pm.

Also, we will worship as normal at 9:00 am as Christmas Eve is also the fourth Sunday of Advent.

## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



Please join us during worship on December 17 for the annual Children's Christmas Program.

We hope you can make it. Come and worship, praise, and glorify our Lord and also support our wonderful children and youth!

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
COUNCIL MINUTES September 2017

**Meeting called** to order at 6:30 PM by President Greg Lipes

**Members Present:** Greg Lipes, Jill Taylor, Paula Casper, Beth Kaufman, Jamie Zimmerman, Wayne Frauenholtz, Tonya Samuelson, Pastor Chad

**Members Absent:** Jon Twing, Cheryl Fischer

**Opening Prayer and Devotional:** (Pastor Chad)

-As part of our getting to know each other better and what is happening in our daily lives Pastor encouraged each of us to share with the group something which might be going on in our personal life which the group might not be aware of.

-Talked about Luther's prayer and being an empty vessel and how God fills that need.

-Pastor led us in the opening prayer.

**Pastor's Report:** (Pastor Chad)

-Had 15 Pastoral visits this month

-Attended 2 WBARC Meetings

-Confirmation classes are up and going with 7 students this year, held Rally Sunday, and updated the website with all the new schedules

-Spent time working on the constitution with Paula

-Ugandan Thunder Concert

-Hunger Golf Tournament

-God's Work, Our Hands

**Secretary's Report:** (Jon Twing)

-Jill moved and Jamie seconded that we accept the report with corrections. Motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** (Jill Taylor)

-We had \$1,406.00 of donations above and beyond the weekly offering which included \$500 for the Improvement/Roof Fund and \$755.00 to the Temporary Memorial Fund along with some miscellaneous small donations.

-Jamie moved and Beth seconded that we accept the report. Motion passed.

**Committee Reports:**

**Building and Grounds:** (Jamie Zimmerman)

-Jamie updated the council on the timeline for the new metal roof to be completed and mentioned things which have been done and need to be done yet on the church yard and landscaping.

**Education:** (Tonya Samuelson)

-We have a very good group moving into confirmation classes this fall

-Rally Sunday was this last Sunday and was catered by HyVee. Leftovers from the meal were donated to the Ronald McDonald House and they were very appreciative.

**Evangelism:** (Wayne Frauenholtz)

-God's Work, Our Hands was very successful with good participation. Becky Knocke was very grateful for the work done on the library grounds. May split and plant some hostas this spring to help with weed control.

-The annual Bethany Blood Drive was very successful in helping to replace 1000 units which were sent to Houston for hurricane disruption needs. Kent Kaufman did the story for the WB Times.

-Liberty Communications YouTube has a nice presentation with Wayne, Bruce Jeffries, and Pastor with a nice picture of Bethany.

**Fellowship:** (Paula Casper)

-Ugandan Thunder Concert and hosting of the children was a great success. Thanks to everyone who helped.

-The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday meal this month will be hosted by Kent and Beth Kaufman.

-The confirmation class will host the October meal.

-We hosted the Bishop's talk this month.

-We will be hosting a busload of quilters for a meal on Sunday, October 15

**Stewardship:** (Jon Twing) -No Report.

**Youth:** (Cheryl Fischer) -No Report.

**Worship and Music:** (Beth Kaufman)

-We had a very nice group who sang for Crestview on God's Work, Our Hands Sunday.

-No decisions have been made on times and/or number of services on Christmas Eve which falls on a Sunday this year.

**Old Business:**

-Greg briefly led us in a review of the community needs based on our interviews with community leaders. It was decided to continue to visit and discuss this issue over the coming months.

-Regarding the Constitution Update, there is nothing to report at this time other than Pastor and Paula continue to work on it and will be submitting changes to the Synod for approval shortly.

**New Business:**

-The city/county is potentially looking for somewhere locally, which is more convenient and accessible when holding elections and it was agreed that we would be willing to host these events in our great hall. The city/county election committee head will be contacted to review their needs and also to discuss potential liability/insurance issues if we were to host these events. This issue will be reviewed in more detail in the future and at that time a vote will be taken.

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
COUNCIL MINUTES October 2017

**Meeting called to order** at 6:31 p.m. by Greg

Members present: Greg Lipes, Wayne Frauenholtz, Tonya Samuelson, Jill Taylor, Beth Kaufman, Pastor Chad  
Members absent: Jon Twing, Paula Casper, Cheryl Fischer

**Pastor's devotion** centered around 1 Thess 5:16-18 and Rejoice Pray Give Thanks

As the council has been in ongoing discussions about where the Spirit may be leading us, Pastor led a devotion on a Bible passage that may help us daily as we move forward. Pastor expressed his own angst about perhaps moving forward without first spending time in prayer and discernment. As he said, perhaps we moved to try and find answers without first seeking God's wisdom and then listening for God. Moving forward, we need to assess who we are as people of Bethany and where it will lead us.

**Pastor's Report:**

In addition to regular duties and ministry efforts, Pastor Chad mentioned a couple things of note over the past month including:

- 1) A WBARC community prayer service set for Oct 29 but still in the planning stages. One definite plan is to not hold it in a church since the group feels it may turn off community members who are not comfortable in a church building
- 2) He felt his continuing education events this month were valuable but specifically the four-day Luther Seminary event on the Craft of Preaching

There were no minutes from the September meeting.

**Treasurer's report was approved.** Jill will report on the final roof expenses and fund balance next month but the bills have all been paid.

**Property & Grounds:** Jamie was gone but it was mentioned that the roof was complete including some repairs that were done while Robertson's had their equipment here. One was closing off an area (outside) to keep bats away. Also the door at the accessible entrance was repaired by Jamie.

**Education:** Tonya said that both the Wednesday and Sunday morning groups were going well. She said they will be talking about the Christmas program soon.

**Evangelism:** Wayne mentioned there will be a Veteran's dinner coming up in the Great Hall.

**Worship & Music:** On November 5, the 80+ year old members will be honored.

**Old Business:**

**Community Needs:** We were asked to keep thinking about community needs and about Pastor's devotion.

**Elections at Bethany:** Pastor contacted our insurance agent and was advised that it is customary for the city or county's policy to be primary should a public election ever be held on Bethany's premises. We would simply be added to their policy as an additional insured and be provided a certificate of proof of insurance. An elections representative thinks it would be the county's responsibility. The county has future elections set up in advance so it would be a while before they would need to use Bethany as an election site.

**New Business:**

We need to get audit and budget committees set up. Jill will call budget committee members to help again this year





## 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.

### Psalm 32:1-5

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

- Admitting to another person I messed up is...
- If God was not a forgiving God then...
- God's forgiveness makes me feel...



### John 20:19-20

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

- If I had been one of the disciples I would have felt...
- Jesus resurrected...
- Belief in Jesus being resurrected...

### Psalm 27:1

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

- I have been afraid of another person when...
- When I am afraid I most often react by...
- For me, an experience of God's light...



# Cookie Walk 2017

December 2<sup>nd</sup>  
9:00 am—11:00 am

Remember to heat those ovens and bake lots of yummy cookies.

Please bring them to the church on Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup> (doors will be open until 8:00 pm) or by 8:45 am on the December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please arrange them on plates, ready to be placed on the tables.

Come join us for a fun filled community event!

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



It's time to order your poinsettia  
to decorate the altar for Christmas.  
Plants are \$10.00 each.

Please mail this order form and payment to:  
Bethany Lutheran Church  
P.O. Box 236  
West Branch, IA 52358

or put in Beth Kaufman's mailbox by December 10<sup>th</sup>. Plants will be set out for the Christmas Eve candlelight services. Please make checks payable to Bethany.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to order \_\_\_\_\_ poinsettia(s) In memory of:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_







## GREAT HALL CROSS

*Have you ever wondered about our cross in the Great Hall? Here is some information provided recently by Betty Slach.*

The cross was donated in memory of Betty's husband Kenny and other Bethany Lutheran members we have come to know, honor and love as fellow Christians who have died in the faith.

The cross is actually two crosses joined together at their hearts. The larger background cross is made of oiled walnut. Its deep rich color and textured surface is to remind us of the "old rugged cross". This traditional cross is the one many of us, as well as our fore fathers, recognized as being the cross upon which our faith is based.

Super imposed on the traditional cross comes the cross of the future. It is constructed from light birch wood. This wood was shaped to resemble a beam of light radiating from a pinpoint source as its center. The Source of Light, of course, represents Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.



## ANGEL TREE

Each year we provide much needed clothing items and other gifts for several families in our community and once again we will carry out this ministry effort.

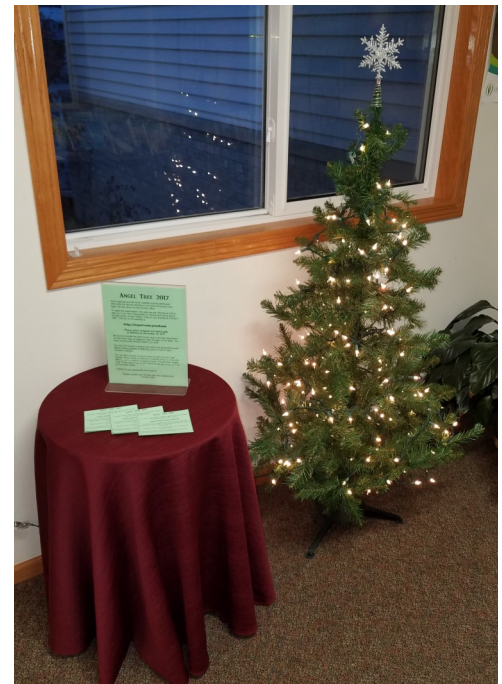
To ease the organization, this year we are utilizing an online sign-up. If you don't have email or internet and would like to choose items, contact Pastor Chad or Jeni Schiele at 319-631-2661. The link to the website is:

**<http://tinyurl.com/ycto8uam>**

Please return wrapped and labeled gifts to Bethany by December 10, 2017. Be sure to include the letter found next to the item description on the online sign-up page and also the age on the label. You may include a gift receipt inside if you wish.

You can still donate to school milk and lunch accounts as well. Make checks payable to WBCSD and put them in Jeni Schiele's mailbox. You can also donate money to shop for gifts that don't get chosen. Make checks to Bethany Lutheran and put in Sunday offering, Jeni's mailbox, or give to Paula. Please write "Angel Tree" in the memo line of your check so we can direct your gift to the proper place. Thanks for your generosity and support!

Please contact Jeni Schiele with any questions at: 319-631-2661.





## 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

This year marks the 100 year anniversary of the main church building, which includes the worship space and the small hall located below it. This is marked by the stone on the northwest corner of the building in the photo. For those that don't know, Bethany was founded in 1895. Join us in worship on December 3 as we give thanks for 100 years and pray for another 100. We will celebrate with cake following during fellowship.

Below is an anonymous poem submitted pertaining to the 100 year anniversary. Thanks to whoever authored this beautiful poem!



*This building has now stood here for one hundred years  
Welcoming all who wanted to enter.  
A home for God's children to worship and sing  
Proclaiming gospel with Christ at its center.*

*Changes have happened over its many years  
To the basement, the roof, and a Great Hall;  
But the Foundation upon which this church had been founded  
Was the gospel, firmly planted, with grace for us all.*

*Danish was its language until World War II  
In remembrance of the old mother tongue.  
Then English took over in classes and in pulpit  
And in English the hymns were now sung.*

*This offered here now a clear path for some change  
Of looking outward instead of in;  
To minister to needs outside our church  
Rather than dwell on where we had been.*

*Tanzania and quilting and backpacks and prayer groups  
All add to the ministry here.  
With following Christ's message to reach out to others  
And finding new ways to widen God's sphere.*

*So we celebrate this time of remembering the past  
And rejoice at what all God has done.  
And we look forward to all that must lie ahead  
Led by the Father and the Spirit and Son.*



## Winter Break Service Trip to Gulf Coast January 6-13, 2018

Gloria Dei and Zion Lutheran Churches in Iowa City are co-sponsoring a Winter Break service trip to the Gulf Coast to help those affected by recent disasters. The trip will be the week of January 6-13, 2018 – the final full week of winter break before University of Iowa classes resume.

Transportation cost for non-students is \$200/person. (Financial assistance for others is available for those who find that cost prohibitive). \$200 scholarships to cover the transportation costs are available to all students. We are hoping to keep additional costs to a minimum by staying in church basements or tent cities for volunteers. Participants are responsible for meal costs, which we will seek to keep minimal. (For those who are interested, we can also assist you in arranging alternative housing accommodations at your own cost).

**Sign Up Deadline  
is December 10**

The deadline to sign up for the trip is Sunday, December 10, 2017. We have created a [Sign-Up Genius link](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040b44ada62cab9-gulf) (<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040b44ada62cab9-gulf>) which you can use to register for the trip online.

You can also sign up by contacting Gloria Dei Lutheran Church (319-338-2893 or [church@gatheredbygrace.org](mailto:church@gatheredbygrace.org)).

For more information, contact [Deacon Pam Larabee-Zierath](#) at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, [Pastor Jennifer Lutz](#) at Zion Lutheran Church, or [Pastor Sarah Goettsch](#) at Lutheran Campus Ministries.

If you are unable to attend but are interested in supporting the trip financially, contributions of any amount can be made payable to Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, with Gulf Coast trip in the memo line.

## ANNUAL MEETING

Bethany's annual meeting will be held January 21, 2018. Please plan to attend as your presence is vital and very much appreciated. This past summer the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gathered for its National Conference held every three years. As a result of that meeting several changes were made to the Model Constitution used by most congregations. These are mandatory changes and a copy of these changes will be made available at least 30 days prior to our annual meeting.

Also, this is a reminder of who is a voting member, according to our Constitution. All others are welcome to attend; however, they just cannot vote.

**C8.02.c Voting** members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members, during the current or preceding calendar year, shall have communed in this congregation and shall have made a contribution of record to this congregation. Members of this congregation who have satisfied these basic standards shall have the privilege of voice and vote at every regular and special meeting of the congregation.



## THE MASTER IS HERE AND CALLETH THEE

*Have you ever wondered about that sign high above our worship space? Here is some information on that provided by Paul Friis.*

Entering the Nave of Bethany Lutheran Church, the eye beholds the beautiful woodwork that is part of the archway to the altar. The wood archway contains the words, “The Master is Here and Calleth Thee.”

It sets the tone for people in preparation for worship. It is a reminder for us why we come to church. Our Master wants us to be here to hear his word.

The early days of Bethany, this same sign was painted in the archway. During the remodeling of Bethany in 1974, the interior was painted and the sign was painted over.

In 1980, a new wooden arch was built for Bethany in memory of Homer Wiskes by his sister Mrs. Melvin Mickelson. The Mickelson’s also gave the money for the restoration of the four corners of the church interior.

The archway was dedicated November 30<sup>th</sup>, 1980. Mark Scharnweber of Wood Benders did the work. There have been times when the calling of other churches brings us to thinking they might have better and more interesting worship service and other church activities.

While attending a large church in Indiana on Palm Sunday, the mass of worshipers made one feel as though we did not belong here. Coming home to our church and seeing the familiar sign brought warmth to the fact this is where we belong.



## SAVE THE DATE



### **LUTHERAN DAY ON THE HILL 2018**

Thursday February 8, 2018  
9:30 am - 2:30 pm  
Capitol Hill, Des Moines

This free event, sponsored by LSI and the three Iowa synods of the ELCA, is open to anyone who wants to learn more about citizen advocacy. Please consider attending if you have not previously gone!





## NEW NATIVITY SETS

For many years our nativity set has served us faithfully; however, age has caught up to this set and it is time to retire it. If you happen to be interested in resurrecting this nativity scene and give it a good home please see Jamie Zimmerman.

Below are photos of our new nativity sets, which will serve us for many future years and proclaim the joy of the season. These displays were purchased with memorial gifts following the funerals of Pat O’Connell, Joyce Pedersen, Liz Pedersen, and Elsa Boedeker.



### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Mark 13:24-37</b>	<b>The day and hour unknown</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Isaiah 64:1-9</b>	<b>A communal prayer for help</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>1 Corinthians 1:3-9</b>	<b>God is faithful</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Isaiah 9:1-7</b>	<b>The promised messiah</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Matthew 24:29-31</b>	<b>The coming of the Son of Man</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Revelation 1:1-6</b>	<b>Christ sends a message</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19</b>	<b>Prayer for Israel’s restoration</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Mark 1:1-8</b>	<b>The beginning of the good news</b>

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come.  
**Mark 13:33 (NRSV)**

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

**A Prayer for the Week:**  
Gracious God, we thank you for your love that reaches out to us through Christ our Savior. Give us joy and gladness as we wait for his coming again. Amen.

**Mealttime Prayer:**  
Lord God, thank you for giving us hope for the heart and food for the plate. For Jesus our Savior we watch and we wait. Amen.

**A Blessing to Give:**  
May the God of grace and peace and the Lord Jesus Christ keep you strong in your faith until Jesus comes again. (1 Corinthians 1:8)

## TAKING FAITH HOME

Beginning in December we will begin using a new resource to help take faith home and dwell on God’s word throughout the week. For a few weeks we will include an insert in each bulletin introducing you to this resource. Following that, to conserve printing costs, we will have several copies on hand to pick up before or after worship. We would love your feedback on this resource from Milestones Ministry. There are many good things found on these handouts including: daily Bible readings, scripture verse for the week, prayers, a devotion, starter questions for caring conversations at home, and also ideas for responding to God’s grace through service.



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## 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*.

Friday, December 1	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 Zechariah 14:1-9 1 Thessalonians 4:1-18	Monday, December 18	Psalm 125 1 Kings 18:1-18 Ephesians 6:10-17
Saturday, December 2	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 Micah 2:1-13 Matthew 24:15-31	Tuesday, December 19	Psalm 125 2 Kings 2:9-22 Acts 3:17-4:4
Sunday, December 3	Isaiah 64:1-9 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:24-37	Wednesday, December 20	Psalm 125 Malachi 3:16-4:6 Mark 9:9-13
Monday, December 4	Psalm 79 Micah 4:1-5 Revelation 15:1-8	Thursday, December 21	Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 2 Samuel 6:1-11 Hebrews 1:1-4
Tuesday, December 5	Psalm 79 Micah 4:6-13 Revelation 18:1-10	Friday, December 22	Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 2 Samuel 6:12-19 Hebrews 1:5-14
Wednesday, December 6	Psalm 79 Micah 5:1-5a Luke 21:34-38	Saturday, December 23	Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 Judges 13:2-24 John 7:40-52
Thursday, December 7	Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 Hosea 6:1-6 1 Thessalonians 1:2-10	Sunday, December 24	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38
Friday, December 8	Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 Jeremiah 1:4-10 Acts 11:19-26	Monday, December 25	Isaiah 62:6-12 Psalm 97 Titus 3:4-7 Luke 2:[1-7]8-20
Saturday, December 9	Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 Ezekiel 36:24-28 Mark 11:27-33	Tuesday, December 26	Psalm 148 Jeremiah 26:1-9, 12-15 Acts 6:8-15; 7:51-60
Sunday, December 10	Isaiah 40:1-11 2 Peter 3:8-15a Mark 1:1-8	Wednesday, December 27	Psalm 148 Exodus 33:18-23 1 John 1:1-9
Monday, December 11	Psalm 27 Isaiah 26:7-15 Acts 2:37-42	Thursday, December 28	Psalm 148 Jeremiah 31:15-17 Matthew 2:13-18
Tuesday, December 12	Psalm 27 Isaiah 4:2-6 Acts 11:1-18	Friday, December 29	Psalm 148 Isaiah 49:5-15 Matthew 12:46-50
Wednesday, December 13	Psalm 27 Malachi 2:10-3:1 Luke 1:5-17	Saturday, December 30	Psalm 148 Proverbs 9:1-12 2 Peter 3:8-13
Thursday, December 14	Psalm 126 Habakkuk 2:1-5 Philippians 3:7-11	Sunday, December 31	Isaiah 61:10-62:3 Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:22-40
Friday, December 15	Psalm 126 Habakkuk 3:2-6 Philippians 3:12-16		
Saturday, December 16	Psalm 126 Habakkuk 3:13-19 Matthew 21:28-32		
Sunday, December 17	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1:6-8, 19-28		



# December 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 9:00 AM Cookie Walk
<b>3</b> 9:00 AM Worship 10:20 AM Sunday School Christmas Program Rehearsal	<b>4</b> 11:30 AM Lunch Bible Study at Mexico Lindo	<b>5</b> 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	<b>6</b> 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 6:15 PM Choir Practice - Sanctuary 6:30 PM 4-6 grade Education 6:30 PM Confirmation	<b>7</b> 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	8	9
<b>10</b> 9:00 AM Worship 10:20 AM Sunday School Christmas Program Rehearsal	<b>11</b> 11:30 AM Lunch Bible Study at Mexico Lindo 6:30 PM Council Meeting	<b>12</b> 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	<b>13</b> 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 9:00 AM Women's Circle 6:15 PM Choir Practice - Sanctuary 6:30 PM 4-6 grade Education 6:30 PM Confirmation	<b>14</b> 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	15	16
<b>17</b> 9:00 AM Worship (Children's Christmas Program)	<b>18</b> 11:30 AM Lunch Bible Study at Mexico Lindo	<b>19</b> 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	<b>20</b> 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 6:15 PM Choir Practice - Sanctuary 6:30 PM 4-6 grade Education 6:30 PM Confirmation	<b>21</b> 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	22	23
<b>24</b> 9:00 AM Worship 5:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship 8:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship	25	<b>26</b> 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	<b>27</b> 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 6:15 PM Choir Practice - Sanctuary	<b>28</b> 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	29	30
<b>31</b> 9:00 AM Worship 10:20 AM No Sunday School Pre-K through 3rd grade (Christmas Break)					5	6

## Monetary Gifts Report

Submitted by Jill Taylor

October 2017	
Saints in Worship:	
10-01	66
10-08	52
10-15	37
10-22	64
10-29	72
<b>Total:</b>	<b>291</b>

	October 2017		YTD	
Total Receipts	Actual 13,684	Budget 13,166	Actual 123,941	Budget 131,688
Total Expenses	Actual 13,315	Budget 13,021	Actual 117,470	Budget 130,441

*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.

*Bethany Branches*  
*December 2017*



Bethany Lutheran Church  
235 South Second Street  
PO BOX 236  
West Branch, Iowa 52358  
www.wbbethany.org



**Ministry Assistants**

**Ministers of Proclamation (Lectors)**

- 12-03 Beth Kaufman
- 12-10 Bonnie Conner
- 12-17 John Black
- 12-24 5:00 Jon Twing
- 12-24 8:00 Del Hughes
- 12-31 Frank Frostestad

**Ministers of Hospitality (Greeters)**

- 12-03 Paula Casper
- 12-10 Jamie & Lisa Zimmerman
- 12-17 Wayne Frauenholtz
- 12-24 5:00 Ron & Candy Madsen
- 12-24 8:00 Dave & Roxanne Bahnsen
- 12-31 Bonnie Conner

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

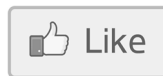
- 12-03 Alex Poppen/Andrew Samuelson
- 12-10 Cole Bailey/Jacob Langley
- 12-17 Hannah & Dylan Schiele
- 12-24 Aiden & Miley Shields
- 12-24 5:00 Andrew & Layla Samuelson
- 12-24 8:00 Hunter Niles/  
Cole Crosthwaite
- 12-31 Aizlyn & Auron Marsh



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Church (ELCA)  
West Branch, Iowa**"

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**@blcwestbranch**

