

Bethany Lutheran Church

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



For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. – Romans 12:4-5



IMPORTANT DATES

- 02-08 Council Installation** (during worship service)
- 02-09 Council meeting 6:30 p.m.**
- 02-11 Women's circle 9:00 a.m.**
- 02-18 Ash Wednesday Service**
7:00 p.m. at Bethany Lutheran
- 02-22 Community Fourth Sunday Meal**



Dear Faithful People of God,

Grace and peace to you from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! The verses from Romans above were read as part of our opening devotion for our Annual Meeting on January 18th. If you were present, I want to once again thank you very much for attending. If you were not

present, I hope you talk to others about it and read the minutes that will soon be posted on the bulletin board outside the kitchen.

One of the things I stressed is how blessed I am to be the called pastor of Bethany Lutheran Church. By the grace of God I have the opportunity to come alongside all of you, the wonderful people of God at Bethany Lutheran, and partner together in the mission and ministry that God calls us to. As the apostle Paul stresses in his letter to the church in Rome each and every person within the church (i.e., the people and not the building) has been called by the Holy Spirit and together we are joined and united by our connection to Jesus Christ who is the head of the church. Each person in this congregation, whether tall or short, young or old, rich or poor, has a unique role here because God has led you here and God is at work in you. I am so grateful to be surrounded by so many faithful people because I know I am not alone and I give thanks often that I can count on so many of you to do the day-to-day ministry that are part of the mission we share together. Thank you!

In the coming year, I look forward to be surrounded by a new group of leaders, the Church Council. God once again has been faithful and lifted up new leaders. Their names are listed elsewhere in this Newsletter and I request you pray for them. Some are brand new to council and others have faithfully served the church in this calling before. Regardless, we need to surround them with our support and help them know they are not alone in answering the call God has set before them and they have accepted. One of the ways we can do that is by answering the call to serve on a committee or be part of a team or task force. I thank those who currently serve in this capacity or have in the past. I urge you to continue to do so and if you have not I ask you to spend some time in prayer and consider where God may be calling you and may be using the unique gifts you bring to God's mission at Bethany because you do have gifts and God is using you and will continue to use you as a disciple of Christ.

Once again, I thank God for each and every one of you. I thank you for your faithfulness, presence, and support and I thank you for prayerfully considering how God may be using you in relation to your connection to the body of Christ (i.e., the church which is the people of God).

In peace,

Pastor Chad

Contact Information

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Pastor Chad Whaley
pastor@wbbethany.org

Office Hours
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9:00 a.m. - Noon

*Pastor Chad is also available by
appointment.

Admin. Assistant: Paula Casper
blesecretary@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



BIRTHDAYS

02/02 Becky Paulsen
 02/04 Del Hughes
 02/06 Herman Boedeker, Jamie Fetzer
 02/10 Dave Bahnsen, Paul Friis,
 Kristin McElhinney
 02/12 Katherine White
 02/15 Becky Blaaid, Kyle Colvin,
 Dave Poppen
 02/20 Joshua Snyder, Jamie Zimmerman
 02/21 Tina Webb
 02/23 Arik Marsh
 02/24 Lynn Lovetinsky
 02/26 Isaac Kimpe
 02/27 Dorothy Holmes



Bethany Books

by Frank Frostestad

Books For Adults

Unbroken: A World War II Story Of Survival, Resilience, And Redemption by Laura Hillenbrand has just been made into a movie. It is a story that is so unique that one almost thinks that it belongs in the fiction section. Louis Zamperini was born in 1917, of Italian immigrants, and grew up to be a track star and made the U.S. Olympic team at 19. When World War II broke out, he became a bombardier in the Pacific theater. In 1943, his plane went down in the ocean. He drifted in an open boat for 47 days, subsisting on rain water and raw fish before washing up on the Marshall Islands. He spent the next two years in brutal Japanese prisoner of war camps, where he was singled out for persecution by a sadistic Japanese officer. He barely survived, but through it all he never lost hope. His life is a testament to the human ability to endure and persevere.

When Children Grieve: For Adults To Help Children Deal With Death, Divorce, Pet Loss, Moving, And Other Losses by John W. James and Russell Friedman is the definitive guide to helping children really deal with loss. To watch a child grieve and not know what to do is a difficult experience for parents, teachers, and caregivers. Fortunately there are guidelines for helping children develop healthy, lifelong response to loss.

(Recommended in the *Lutheran*.)

Stations Of The Heart: Parting With A Son by Richard Lischer came to my attention in an article by Peter W. Marty in the *Lutheran*. The author's young son called his father in the beginning of the book to tell him that his cancer has returned, The son, Adam, is a promising young lawyer with a wife pregnant with their first child. He is not a likely candidate for tragedy but the devastating illness runs its course. This is the story of one last summer and the young man who lives it as honestly and faithfully as possible. He shows his family "a new way to die". It is a love story of a father for his son. It is a book about life and death and the terrible blessing of saying good-bye.

Like A Child: Restoring The Awe, Wonder, Joy And Resiliency Of The Human Spirit by Timothy Mooney aims to address misconceptions regarding the nature of maturity, adulthood, and spiritual growth. It hopes to recover a fuller picture of what it means to be human. The author's goal is to reintroduce us to childlike (not childish) behaviors and attitudes that can liberate us from the confines of ego-driven false selfhood. This should be a helpful resource in the growth of childlike qualities in your life and the spiritual fulfillment that it can bring to you. (Recommended in the *Lutheran*.)

Continued on page 3



What: Called Together in Mission (CTIM)

When: Saturday, March 14, 2015

Where: First Lutheran, Cedar Rapids

Why: To grow in your faith and spend time with others from our synod

Please consider attending this annual workshop sponsored by the Southeastern Iowa Synod. This year's theme is "We are people of the Spirit" Those from Bethany who have attended CTIM in the past have enjoyed the worship experience with others from across the synod, the workshops offered, and the time to fellowship with others. If you are interested in attending please let Paula know by February 22nd. More information can be found on the Southeastern Iowa Synod Website (www.seiasynod.org) or going to Bethany's webpage where there is a link to this event. The cost is \$20 but Bethany will cover that cost for anyone wishing to attend.



Adult Education Opportunities



Pastor Chad's sermons can now be found on Bethany's website (www.wbbethany.org) by placing your cursor over the "Resource" tab found on the home page and then selecting "Sermons" when it pops up. Additionally, some people have requested an email with the sermon attached. If you prefer that method please contact Pastor Chad.

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

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

Adult Discussion Group
Sunday mornings at 10:20 a.m.
in the Small Hall
All are Welcome

The Daniel Plan Study Group
Thursdays at 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
January 29th - March 5th
All are Welcome

Bethany Books Continued

The Happiest Baby On The Block by Harvey Karp is "the new way to calm crying and help your newborn baby sleep longer". It contains information on why babies cry and how to help them.

Book For Children

Thank You, God by J. Bradley Wigger highlights the many things that we have to be grateful for: life, love, stories, family, food, homes, and more. This book captures the wonder of creation and encourages everyone to view the world with fresh eyes. Recommended in the *Lutheran* for ages 3-8.



Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) National Parent Leadership Month

February is National Parent Leadership Month. Through your support, LSI is able to partner with thousands of parents each year who want to be parent leaders and make positive changes in their families. Some parents come to us through our early childhood services and want a little extra support in raising an infant or toddler. Other parents come seeking help for an older child who is in trouble and turn to our therapy services, behavioral health intervention services or our many community programs for help. And some parents become part of our programs through involvement with the Department of Human Services, and we work to help them resolve issues in their home and to ensure the home is a safe place for a child. Your support of LSI as your social ministry helps prevent child abuse and neglect and helps strengthen families all across the state. Thank you for making this work possible!

LSI is proud to be an affiliated social ministry organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Learn more at www.LSIowa.org and www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.



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West Branch Area Religious Council (WBARC)

January 8, 2015

To: WBARC Clergy, Representatives, and Congregations
Re: 2014 WBARC Financial Recap

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As the acting Treasurer of the West Branch Area Religious Council (WBARC) I want to thank all of you for your faithful partnership and support of our shared ministry together as we work together through the bond that unites us, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Through your faithful stewardship and monetary donations to our joint account we were able to continue our shared mission as people of God in assisting those in need in our community. God abundantly provided for us over this past year and let us all lift our voices and rejoice and give thanks for God's continued faithfulness.

During 2014 WBARC received \$2,437.50 in monetary donations. Thank you all! We had expenditures of \$2,319.59. All of these expenditures went directly to financial assistance except for a very minimal amount (\$49.00) going to cover costs associated with our joint Baccalaureate service held annually each Spring. Over the course of the year we assisted approximately 25 individuals and/or families with needs such as a room at the Presidential Inn, food vouchers to Jack and Jill, rental and utilities assistance when other agencies could not, fuel assistance, and a few other needs. Additionally, WBARC continued its strong support of the Weekend Backpack Program by allocating \$750 to fund this valuable ministry. This program is coordinated by the West Branch School District and currently sends home a backpack full of food each Friday to 15 students.

Once again, on behalf of my colleagues, let me express our gratitude and thankfulness for your commitment and faithfulness to our shared ministry. We do our best to faithfully steward these gifts and see that they are making a difference and extending God's care and love to all.

In peace,

Chad Whaley
Pastor, Bethany Lutheran Church
WBARC Treasurer



February 18 at Bethany
Lutheran Church 7:00 pm

April 2 at
Springdale United Methodist
Church 7:00 pm

April 3 at West Branch
United Methodist Church 7:00 pm



Our ladies Bible Study has been meeting at Bethany for over seven years. We have forged wonderful friendships and strengthened our faith together. We are about to embark on a new journey towards growing in our faith and improving our health, and would like to invite you (men included) to join us.

The Daniel Plan is a healthy lifestyle program founded on biblical principles and focused on Faith, Food, Fitness, Focus and Friends. The program offers a simple and relaxed approach to achieving a healthy lifestyle where friends get healthier together. Each principle supports and influences the others, offering a practical step-by-step approach for anyone to follow.

Faith and Friends are what they call the "secret sauce" that makes The Daniel Plan so effective. The program is done with a supportive community of friends because God designed us to thrive in relationships. With the support of God and your group, you have far more than just willpower helping you to make positive and lasting lifestyle changes.

The overarching message of The Daniel Plan is about abundance, not deprivation. The Daniel Plan teaches simple ways to incorporate healthy choices into your current lifestyle. Throughout the program you are encouraged to rely on God's power, and the application of dependable biblical principles.

Beginning on Thursday, January 29, we will be meeting once a week, for six weeks, from 6:30-8:30 pm at Bethany to share our support with each other as we implement The Daniel Plan. These low key gatherings will include watching the weekly video, exercise, sharing and preparing healthy recipes and discussions to offer support and answer questions. There is no cost for this group, but you would benefit most if you had a copy of the book and journal, available at most any book store or through Amazon.

We are setting a goal for later in the spring or summer, to complete a half marathon walk, possibly in Chicago or Nashville. This is still something we are exploring, so there is nothing definite for this yet.

The wonderful thing about this plan is that it is so private and individualized for each of us as far as what goals we set of ourselves, yet the community support will hopefully energize us and keep us motivated to help each other and achieve our goals.

We hope you will commit to join us on our journey, either for all or some of the activities we have planned.

In Christ, Euyln Frostestad, Kelle McCrory, Lisa Zimmerman, Tami Murphy

Questions may be directed to Lisa at 331-9583. Leave message.

Wednesday Night Lent Supper and Worship Schedule

Wednesday, February 25

6:00 pm-Lent Supper

7:00 pm Prayer Around the Cross Worship Service

Wednesday, March 4

6:00 pm-Lent Supper

7:00 pm Prayer Around the Cross Worship Service

Wednesday, March 11

6:00 pm-Lent Supper

7:00 pm Prayer Around the Cross Worship Service

Wednesday, March 18

6:00 pm-Lent Supper

7:00 pm Prayer Around the Cross Worship Service

Wednesday, March 25

6:00 pm-Lent Supper

7:00 pm Prayer Around the Cross Worship Service



We invite you to join us for worship this Lent as we gather together for Prayer Around the Cross. This will be a contemplative and meditative prayer service to assist us in centering ourselves during the season of Lent. We will sing short, simple songs, offer prayers together and be invited to pray around the cross for whatever it is that lays heavily upon our hearts. This is something new and we hope you give it a try.



BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MINUTES DECEMBER 16, 2014

Members Present: Claudia Beyer, John Black, Bonnie Conner, Courtney Heid, Del Hughes, Kent Kaufman, Candy Madsen, Jenni Olson, Laura Twing, Pastor Chad.

Called to order: 6:30 pm.

Opening Devotion: Pastor read from Ecclesiastes 3:1-2 and then called for a review of the many reasons we could take pride in our work this past year. Some of those mentioned were: God's Work, Our Hands Sunday, 4th Sunday Dinners, EPIC group activities, Vacation Bible School, strong attendance for children's Sunday school, Children's Christmas program, and celebrating and sharing God's abundance to us through our Angel Tree and Food Pantry donations. Next, Pastor posed the question "what could we have done differently over this year?" Some of those responses were: better encourage new members to engage in activities, and continue to find new ways to engage High School youth (e.g., blog, mission projects, reading/playing music at services).

Pastor's Report: Pastor had 16 pastoral visits this month. He is appreciating how meaningful it has been sending prayer postcards to members during the season of Advent. He is grateful that past council discussion on the book *Unbinding the Gospel* and dedicated prayer to the Holy Spirit sending us new members has been fruitful. Pastor will be on vacation following Christmas Eve and the Sunday after Christmas. Pr. Hougen will preside and preach that Sunday. The Annual Pastoral Pulpit Exchange, which runs in conjunction with the national Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will be January 25, 2015. Pastor Chad will go to Springdale United Methodist and a member of the Conservative Friends Meeting will come to Bethany. Additional dates to be mindful of in the future: Annual Meeting on January 18th, Ash Wednesday on February 18th and Lutheran Day on the Hill in Des Moines on March 9th.

Secretary's Report: Moved for approval with 2 corrections (Budget Committee Members were listed incorrectly and menu under Fellowship 4th Sunday meal was wrong) by Kent Kaufman, seconded by Claudia Beyer. All ayes.

Treasurer's Report: The Kids Against Hunger Fund is not listed this month as all funds were dispersed and went to the Hoover Food Packaging Event. Gifts have been received for the Improvement Fund to go toward a

new roof at the parsonage. Kent Kaufman moved to approve, seconded by Candy Madsen. All ayes.

Building and Grounds Report: One estimate for roofing the parsonage with metal has been received and John is waiting on two others.

Education: The Children's Christmas Program was well-done and received. There has been positive feedback on the "Whirl" Sunday school curriculum and teacher scheduling continues to go well.

Missions Report: None given

Fellowship Report: We had another successful Cookie Walk. We could have used more helpers at the event. The 4th Sunday suppers will continue and more members and groups will be asked to participate. Suggestions were made to define roles for assisting with these dinners.

Stewardship Report: Time and talent sheets information has been entered and organized by Paula with the assistance of Neil Korsmo.

Youth Report: None given; however, there were suggestions offered to help engage youth including bowling outings, band jam sessions, etc.

Worship Report: An Advent banner has been found and hung in sanctuary. New Advent candles were ordered for the Advent wreath this year. Worship service times for Christmas Eve will be 5 pm and 8 pm. Bonnie mentioned possibly retiring from the council before the end of her term and is faithfully and prayerfully discerning this.

Old Business:

Pastor's new computer has been sent back as it was not working properly. Secretary's computer works fine and just waiting for a member of the Technology Team to complete the transfer of data and set it up properly. It was noted that our internet connection has been slow and Pastor reported LCOM advised him we are on the slowest connection plan available. Jenni Olson moved to raise the level of Internet service from 1Mbps to 10Mbps. Candy Madsen seconded. All Ayes. Pastor will contact LCOM.

COUNCIL MINUTES continued on page 7

New Business:

- * 4th Sunday Dinners: more cookies needed this month, dinner will be turkey casserole.
- * Nominating committee is making progress.
- * Approval of Pastoral Compensation Committee's recommendation: 4 Proposals were explained and a request was made to look at the overall 2015 budget proposal before deciding on pastoral compensation. According to Southeastern Iowa Synod Minimum Compensation Guidelines, the minimum pastoral compensation increase for 2015 is 2.5%. Additionally, there were increases in insurance costs and disability coverage through Portico beyond our control. It was noted that by the Whaley's moving Amanda to her own plan (which subjects them to additional out-of-pocket expenditures) has a cost savings to the congregation of approximately \$5,000.
- * Staff Compensation: A 5% increase in wages for Paula, Administrative Assistant and for Aura, Musician upon her 1 year anniversary was presented to the Council. Moved for approval by John Black, seconded by Jenni Olson. All ayes. There will be no increase in the wage for Custodial staff as has traditionally been the case.
- * Our Annual Budget calls for a 2% giving to local missions and allocation of those funds was determined and includes: \$500.00 to WBARC and remainder to be evenly divided between 6 entities (Lutheran Services of Iowa, Domestic Violence Intervention Program, Shelter House, Wartburg Theological Seminary, Lutheran Chaplaincy Outreach, University of Iowa Lutheran Campus Ministry). Moved for approval by Jenni Olson, seconded by Courtney Heid. All ayes.
- * Approval of overall budget moved for approval by Laura Twing, seconded by Jenni Olson. All ayes.

Adjourned at 8:25pm with the Lord's Prayer.



Lutheran Day on the Hill

Save the Date

Join Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) and members of the Southeastern Iowa Synod on Monday, March 9, 2015 for Lutheran Day on the Hill in Des Moines. This day is essential in giving a voice to those who are not heard, for seeking social justice and for empowering people to exercise their right and responsibility to be part of the legislative process.

Monday, March 9, 2015
9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Des Moines, IA

If you are interested in attending please see
Pastor Chad.

**Church
Directory**

Save the date



It's that time again. I will be scheduling families to have their pictures taken for the new directory soon. Pictures will be taken on **M a r c h**. Please watch for more information coming soon.

Paula



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*.

Sun - February 1	Deuteronomy 18:15-20 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 Mark 1:21-28	Tue - February 17	Job 19:23-27 1 Timothy 3:14-16 Psalm 110:1-4
Mon - February 2	Malachi 3:1-4 Hebrews 2:14-18 Psalm 84	Wed - February 18	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 Psalm 51:1-17 2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10
Tue - February 3	Numbers 22:22-28 1 Corinthians 7:32-40 Psalm 35:1-10	Thu - February 19	Daniel 9:1-14 1 John 1:3-10 Psalm 25:1-10
Wed - February 4	Jeremiah 29:1-14 Mark 5:1-20 Psalm 35:1-10	Fri - February 20	Daniel 9:15-25a 2 Timothy 4:1-5 Psalm 25:1-10
Thu - February 5	Proverbs 12:10-21 Galatians 5:2-15 Psalm 147:1-11, 20	Sat - February 21	Psalm 32 Matthew 9:2-13 Psalm 25:1-10
Fri - February 6	Job 36:1-23 1 Corinthians 9:1-16 Psalm 147:1-11, 20	Sun - February 22	Genesis 9:8-17 1 Peter 3:18-22 Mark 1:9-15
Sat - February 7	Isaiah 46:1-13 Matthew 12:9-14 Psalm 147:1-11, 20	Mon - February 23	Job 4:1-21 Ephesians 2:1-10 Psalm 77
Sun - February 8	Isaiah 40:21-31 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 Mark 1:29-39	Tue - February 24	Job 5:8-27 1 Peter 3:8-18a Psalm 77
Mon - February 9	2 Kings 4:8-17, 32-37 Acts 14:1-7 Psalm 102:12-28	Wed - February 25	Proverbs 30:1-9 Matthew 4:1-11 Psalm 77
Tue - February 10	2 Kings 8:1-6 Acts 15:36-41 Psalm 102:12-28	Thu - February 26	Genesis 15:1-6, 12-18 Romans 3:21-31 Psalm 22:23-31
Wed - February 11	Job 6:1-13 Mark 3:7-12 Psalm 102:12-28	Fri - February 27	Genesis 16:1-6 Romans 4:1-12 Psalm 22:23-31
Thu - February 12	1 Kings 11:26-40 2 Corinthians 2:12-17 Psalm 50:1-6	Sat - February 28	Genesis 16:7-15 Mark 8:27-30 Psalm 22:23-31
Fri - February 13	1 Kings 14:1-18 1 Timothy 1:12-20 Psalm 50:1-6		
Sat - February 14	1 Kings 16:1-7 Luke 19:41-44 Psalm 50:1-6		
Sun - February 15	2 Kings 2:1-12 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 Mark 9:2-9		
Mon - February 16	Exodus 19:7-25 Hebrews 2:1-4 Psalm 110:1-4		



February 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship	2	3 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open 6:00 PM Worship Team Meeting	4 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 6:30 PM Confirmation dinner and study	5 6:00 AM Women's Bible study 6:30 PM The Daniel Plan Study	6	7
8 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship	9 6:30 PM Council Meeting	10 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	11 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 9:00 AM Women's Circle 6:30 PM Confirmation dinner and study	12 6:00 AM Women's Bible study 6:30 PM The Daniel Plan Study	13	14
15 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship	16	17 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	18 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Worship @ Bethany	19 6:00 AM Women's Bible study 6:30 PM The Daniel Plan Study	20	21
22 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship 5:30 PM West Branch Community Meal @ Bethany	23	24 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	25 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 6:15 PM Lenten Dinner 7:00 PM Lent Worship Services	26 6:00 AM Women's Bible study 6:30 PM The Daniel Plan Study	27	28

Financial Report

Submitted by Claudia Beyer

Attendance

12-7: 76
 12-14: 95
 12-21: 56
 12-28: 36
 Christmas Eve
 5:00: 125
 8:00: 41

	December		YTD	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Total Receipts	14,658	10,250	147,832	123,000
Total Expenses	14,002	11,311	138,336	136,155

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.

