

Bethany Lutheran Church

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



GOD IS GOOD

Important Dates

02-02 7:00 p.m. Prayer Group
meeting
02-13 6:30 p.m. Council Meeting
02-08 9:00 a.m. Women's circle
02-16 7:00 p.m. Video discussion
02-23 7:00 p.m. Video discussion

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



Note: This article is from the 2016 Annual Report and is included here since not everyone picks up an Annual Report.

Dear faithful and precious saints of God,

As we move to yet another year I find myself pausing, reflecting, and giving thanks and praise to God for the last five and a half years I have had the honor to partner with each of you in ministry. God is good! Perhaps we Lutherans don't say that enough. Perhaps we don't look for the good as much as we ought to and get so accustomed to finding ourselves mired in the muck of the brokenness of the world. Pastor Erika Uthe, Assistant to the Bishop of the Southeastern Iowa Synod, lifted up this theme in a sermon she preached early in December.

God continually is at work in the world, in the lives of God's people, and most certainly here at Bethany Lutheran. While at times it can be challenging to discern and see exactly what God is up to and what new thing God might be calling us to perhaps my prayer and our prayer this year is to simply seek eyes to see the good. Might we pray for the eyes of Jesus to see the good in our neighbor? Might we pray for eyes that look beyond race, sex, class, creed, and whatever else that gets in our way and simply see one another as God created us to be? Might we see beyond past hurts, failed expectations, and bitterness to see one another as precious saints of God? Might we have eyes to move beyond apathy, despondency, grief that things aren't like they once were at Bethany, and be given eyes that are set on the present and future of what God is doing and will do?

Because there is so much good if we just but stop and take the time to look. Where have you seen the goodness of God lately? Take some time, journal your thoughts, and share them together. Below is a photo of the "Goodness" wall in the Great Hall. Each of us is invited to point out "Goodness" sightings of where we see God at work in the world. Then let's make it our mission to spread this good news. Our calling is to be evangelical and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. Might we have the eyes to see and then be given the strength, courage, and words to proclaim it!

Blessings,

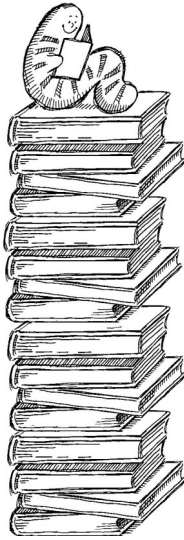
Pastor Chad





Birthdays

02/02 Becky Paulsen
 02/04 Del Hughes
 02/06 Herman Boedecker, Jamie Fetzer
 02/10 Dave Bahnsen, Paul Friis,
 Kristin McElhinney
 02/12 Katherine White
 02/15 Becky Blaalid, 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

This month's author is Francine Rivers. She was an established writer of romance novels when she changed to fiction with a Christian theme. *Redeeming Love* was her first and classic book. It is the retelling of the Old Testament story of Hosea and Gomer amid the 1850's California gold rush. It is a powerful story of God's unconditional, redemptive love.

Her Mother's Hope takes place from the early 1900's to the 1950's. Marta Schneider, after leaving her native Switzerland, dreamed of owning a boarding house. Marriage and motherhood changed her ambitions. Determined to give her family a better life, she vows to raise strong children. Her tough love, however, is often misunderstood, especially by her eldest daughter. It is a story about family and faith, dreams and disappointments, and shows the depths of grace and forgiveness. It shows the love between mother and daughter.

Her Daughter's Dream is the sequel and conclusion to the *Marta's Legacy* series. Marta's grand-daughter, Carolyn, comes of age in the turbulent 1960's. She develops a bond with her grandmother rather than her own mother. She struggles to avoid the mistakes of those who went before her and to become a bridge between the women in her family. It is a saga about the silent sorrows that can tear a family apart, the sacrifices mothers make for their daughters, and the very nature of unconditional love.

Additional books that we have in our library by Francine Rivers includes: *The Scarlet Thread*, *And the Shofar Blew*, and *Leota's Garden*. We have the book *A Lineage Of Grace*, "five stories of unlikely women who changed eternity". Included are Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary. We also have *Sons Of Encouragement* about important men in the Bible. I have not seen this last book for awhile, so if you have it, please return it when finished.

Books For Children

The Spark Bible Story series sparks faith in the lives of young children and families. Using kid-friendly language, colorful artwork, and vivid storytelling, these books take readers on a journey through God's Word. For ages 3-8 we have *The Story Of Moses And God's Promise*, *The Story of Jesus' Teaching And Healing*, *The Story of Creation*, and *The Story Of Noah's Ark*. Holy Moly picture books encourage creativity and wonder in children as they color their way through beloved Bible stories. For ages 5-8 we have *Jesus Feeds 5,000*, *The Good Samaritan*, *Mary And Martha*, and *Saul Meets Jesus*.

MARK 11:24

THEREFORE I TELL YOU,
WHATEVER YOU ASK FOR
IN PRAYER,

BELIEVE THAT YOU HAVE
RECEIVED IT,
AND IT WILL BE YOURS.



Adult Education Opportunities



Sermons Are Online

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

Thank you for your continued faithfulness and support of God's mission with the people of God called and gathered together at Bethany.

Through the stewardship of your financial gifts, time and talents we continue to do God's work with our hands here at Bethany and also as we are sent into our community and the world. We encourage each member to prayerfully consider their stewardship giving for continued kingdom work we are called to do together. Should you have any questions or need to make changes if you participate in online giving please see our Financial Secretary, Claudia Beyer. We are in this together!



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

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

Monthly Prayer Group
First Thursday of Month
7:00 p.m. in Small Hall
All are Welcome

Video Discussion
February 16 and 23
7:00 p.m. in Small Hall



THRIVENT FINANCIAL®

Connecting faith & finances for good.®

The Simply Giving Program is a convenient, consistent, and safe way to steward your financial gifts to Bethany Lutheran. 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, Claudia Beyer, or visit the "Resource" tab on our church website for a flier and registration form. Please see Claudia with any questions.

SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITY

Join us as we watch short videos and reflect on some questions more than likely we have all asked at some point in our faith journey. Professors at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN take on some of the most troublesome questions of believers and then share in discussing their responses and our own challenges and thoughts on these questions. The dates and topics are found below. All classes will begin at 7:00 p.m. and last approximately 45-60 minutes.

- Thursday, February 16
 - ◊ *How do I know the Holy Spirit is active in my life?*
- Thursday, February 23
 - ◊ *What do we do with disturbing Biblical passages?*



MISSION AND OUTREACH

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Quarter Tube

Our quarter tube has been around for quite some time and helped support many wonderful ministries. When the tube is completely full of quarters there is approximately \$135. Presently, the quarters are going to support the Operation Backpack program at Hoover Elementary. This program sends bags of food home with 20 students each weekend to ensure they have something to eat over the weekend. This program costs just under \$4,000 to fund annually. All food products are bought on a reduced rate from Hawkeye Area Community Action Program (HACAP) in Hiawatha. Presently, we need approximately \$1,600 by the end of the year so every quarter in the tube really will make a difference. West Branch Area Religious Council (WBARC) has donated \$1,500 already and Bethany also donated \$555.25 from our "God's work. Our Hands." Sunday car wash last fall. Please keep those quarters coming and thanks to all who have helped in the past.

We received this note of thanks from the organizers of the Operation Backpack Program:

Thanks so much for sponsoring the car wash earlier this year and the donation of \$555.25 to the Operation Backpack program. Your generous support will help insure the program's continued efforts to help many children in our community. We currently serve 20 students every week. Thanks again.



Food Pantry

We received this note of thanks from the West Branch Food Pantry:

"Thank you for supporting the West Branch Food Pantry with your monthly donations. The variety of items is appreciated by our clients."

Great job everyone! God is good.



LUTHERAN SERVICES IN IOWA (LSI) NEWS

Happy Valentine's Day from LSI!

"We love because he first loved us." 1 John 4:19

Lutheran Services in Iowa's (LSI) mission is about love: responding to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. We give thanks for all the ministry partners of both individuals and congregations who help share this love for Iowa children, families, and adults!

We see this love in newly adopted children and their families, in teens who learn to trade self-harm for self-worth, in refugee farmers who share their love of the land with the Des Moines community, in struggling parents who learn positive ways to build love and trust with their children and in so many other moments of hope every day. Thank you for the love you share and create through LSI.

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at www.LSIowa.org and www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

Building Brighter Futures

Learning new things can always be difficult. Especially when you're learning to be a first-time parent. Sarah's first son, Mark, was a happy baby. But as he grew into his toddler years, Sarah was unsure how to handle his behavioral changes. When he started acting out at home, she felt herself growing more frustrated. Sarah knew she needed help. That's when she turned to LSI's Parents as Teachers program.

Parents as Teachers provides free and voluntary parent education and support for families in Boone and Story County, with children up to age 5. The program was with Sarah every step of the way, providing home visits, introducing her to community support groups, and teaching her how to adjust to Mark's developmental stages. "With help from Parents as Teachers, I learned his behavior was just a phase, and they told me it was normal," Sarah says. "Before, I thought there was a problem with me, or that I wasn't a good parent."

Mark, now 3, entered preschool last fall, and Sarah is proud to see how much progress he has made. He's meeting new friends and at home, he's become the best big brother to his baby sister, Hannah. Learning how to handle Mark's developmental stages has made Sarah more confident in raising Hannah. She knows what to expect as Hannah grows up, and she's ready to face each day and create the brightest future for her children. "Parents as Teachers helped me so much with my parenting," Sarah says. "The program is the best thing I have."



Special Worship Services during Lent and Easter

Once again this year we will be partnering with our brothers and sisters in Christ of Springdale United Methodist Church and West Branch United Methodist Church in worshipping together for the services of Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday. The schedule is below. Over the years these have been some wonderful worship opportunities and if you haven't attended at one of the other congregations please consider doing so this year. Your presence is so appreciated as we truly come together as the body of Christ.

Ash Wednesday Service - Wednesday March 1st

7:00 p.m. at Springdale United Methodist Church

Maundy Thursday Service - Thursday, April 13th

7:00 p.m. at West Branch United Methodist Church

Good Friday Service - Friday, April 14th

7:00 p.m. at Bethany Lutheran Church

Easter Sunday Services at Bethany - Sunday, April 16th

8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.



We invite you to join us for worship this Lent as we gather together for Prayer Around the Cross. This will be a short 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.

Wednesday, March 8

6:15 p.m. Lent Supper

7:00 pm Prayer Around the Cross Worship Service

Wednesday, March 15

6:15 p.m. Lent Supper

7:00 pm Prayer Around the Cross Worship Service

Wednesday, March 22

6:15 p.m. Lent Supper

7:00 pm Prayer Around the Cross Worship Service

Wednesday, March 29

6:15 p.m. Lent Supper

7:00 pm Prayer Around the Cross Worship Service

Wednesday, April 5

6:15 p.m. Lent Supper

7:00 pm Prayer Around the Cross Worship Service

YOUR VOICE MATTERS

Lutheran Day on the Hill

Join Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) and members of the Southeastern Iowa Synod as we gather on Wednesday, February 17th 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. *Pastor Chad will be attending and if you are worried about what you might say then don't be. You can simply tag along and let someone else do the talking; however, the number of people present does make a difference.*

Tuesday February 21st
9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

(Transportation to Des Moines and lunch at Capitol provided)

Must register by February 16th at:

<http://lsiowa.org/support/advocate/lutheran-day-on-the-hill/>



WORSHIP NEWS

Our organist, Seth Butler, has announced his resignation from Bethany. We are deeply saddened to see him go but are so grateful for his faithfulness to our ministry together and enriching our worship of our Lord and Savior through the gifts he has brought to us. Seth's last Sunday will be February 5th so come and wish him well on his continued journey. The worship team is working diligently on finding a replacement and we ask everyone to pray for God's continued providence in supplying for our needs. In the interim, Jill Barnhart, will be helping us out.

For some time there has been discussion about finding space in our Nave (i.e., where the congregation worships) for those who might be in a wheel chair or simply need more space than a pew can provide. The thought process was of trying to incorporate them better into our worship space and make them feel a part of the worshipping assembly. After pondering possible ideas it was suggested we remove the back pew on the lectern side. This opens up that space allowing a wheel chair and/or chairs to be set up. That pew was placed along the back wall for the Ministers of Hospitality (i.e., greeters) to sit or anyone else that may benefit from having more leg room. This article is an effort to communicate the thought process and reasoning for trying this. The pew can always be moved back if we decide this option does not work for us.



Council Minutes - January 9, 2017

-Meeting called to order at 6:32 PM by President Black

Members Present: John Black, Greg Lipes, Jill Taylor, Paula Casper, Pastor Chad, Beth Kaufman, Tonya Samuelson, Kevin Olson, Jamie Zimmerman

Members Absent: Jon Twing

Opening Prayer and Devotional:

-Pastor opened with a reading from 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NLT) and we then discussed the following 3 questions:

1. When do you find it difficult to follow Paul's advice to give thanks in all circumstances?
2. When you consider our work together, for what are you most thankful to God?
3. How does saying thanks in all circumstances affect one's life?

-After discussion, Pastor closed with a prayer.

Pastor's Report:

-Pastor was very busy this last month with a large number of visitations, classes, prayer group meetings, group studies, and the holidays.

-Pulpit Supply date is tentatively set for Sunday, Feb 26 with rotation yet to be determined.

-Christmas Eve services were well attended.

-We received a card of thanks from the Food Pantry for our ongoing help and donations. Neil and Chris continue to do a great job coordinating this program for us.

-The Angel Tree was an outstanding success again and Jeni as always, did a great job with this and put in a lot of hard work to make this happen again. Jeni estimated we received roughly \$1,000 in cash and close to \$2,000 in gifts this year.

-February 21 is Lutheran Day on the Hill where members of state-wide Lutheran Congregations are able to meet with our state legislators and Pastor encouraged any members who want to go to please do so as it is a very nice day.

Secretary's Report: (Jon Twing)

-Jill moved to accept the minutes with some corrections and additions. Beth seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: (Jill Taylor)

-Jill explained that our income fell short for the year by roughly \$4,800 based on the income projections that were put together for the 2016 budget year. This is roughly 3%.

-Jill also explained that we over-paid Pastor approximately \$1,893 this last year. This was not due to an error on anyone's part but rather to an increase from 2015 to 2016 in the amount which is deducted from Pastor's

salary for Pre-tax deductions for FSA/Health Care, Pension and Retirement Benefits, and Supplemental Term Life Insurance. The increase from 2015 to 2016 on these deductions was not communicated to us which resulted in 2015 deduction amounts and calculations being used which resulted in the over-payment in cash compensation to Pastor. Beth moved and Kevin seconded that we accept the Treasurer's Report and nothing be done on the over-payment to Pastor as no one was aware of this nor was Pastor. Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

-Building and Grounds: (Jamie Zimmerman) We purchased 5 6ft plastic tables for the great hall to replace the 3 heavy wooden tables that the Quilters and classes had been using for a total of approximately \$264. We gathered more cost and warranty information on new steel shingles vs asphalt or rubberized shingles which will be presented at the Congregational Meeting. It appears that from a cost and warranty standpoint, that steel will be the best way to go.

-Education: (Tonya Samuelson) The 4th – 6th Grade Wednesday Sunday School class is going to be hosting the April, Fourth Sunday Supper and the March 8th Lent Wednesday Supper.

-Evangelism: (Greg Lipes) No Report.

-Fellowship: (Paula Casper) Candy is doing the 4th Sunday Supper this month.

-Youth: (Kevin Olson) No Report.

-Worship and Music: (Beth Kaufman) Seth just today gave us his 30 day notice of his intent to resign as accompanist. Our committee will begin work shortly on finding a replacement.

Old Business:

-We briefly reviewed the Annual Report and 2017 Budget to see if anyone had any additional questions.

New Business:

-President Black reminded everyone that the annual meeting is this coming Sunday, January 15.

-Jamie moved, and Greg seconded that we transfer \$10,000 from the General Fund to the Mission Investment Fund. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM with the Lord's Prayer.

**Next Council Meeting is Monday,
February 13, 2017 at 6:30 PM**



FAITH AT HOME

These short Bible passages and reflections are intended to be one more way to spur conversations about faith and also absorb ourselves in the word of God at home. We hope you enjoy them and would love to hear any feedback on whether you find these beneficial or not.

Luke 2:29-32

Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”

- Before I die...
- Holding baby Jesus...
- Jesus brings new hope



Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

- For me, today is a time to...
- A difficult season in life for me...
- A joyful season in life for me...

Proverbs 30:7-9

Two things I ask of you; do not deny them to me before I die: Remove far from me falsehood and lying; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that I need, or I shall be full, and deny you, and say, “Who is the Lord?” or I shall be poor, and steal, and profane the name of my God.

- Living in poverty could effect my relationships with God and people...
- Being rich could effect my relationships with God and people...



West Branch Area Religious Council (WBARC)

Bethany Lutheran, Springdale United Methodist, St. Bernadette's Catholic,
West Branch Friends, West Branch Friends Meeting, West Branch United Methodist



January 3, 2017

To: WBARC Representatives and Congregations

Re: 2016 WBARC Financial Recap

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As the acting Treasurer of the West Branch Area Religious Council (WBARC) I want to once again thank all of you for your faithful partnership and support of our shared ministry together. Through your faithful stewardship and monetary donations to our joint account we were able to continue our shared mission in assisting those in need in our community.

During 2016 WBARC received \$932 in monetary gifts. Thank you all so much! We had mission expenditures of \$2,195.86. All of these expenditures went directly to financial assistance except a minimal amount (\$42.25) going to cover costs for Baccalaureate. Thankfully, we had an abundance of monetary gifts in reserve; however, to continue our ongoing support of assisting those in need in our community and also the backpack program (i.e., weekend food program) through Hoover Elementary we will need additional gifts during the upcoming year and ask each congregation to pray about this and our ongoing partnership together.

During 2016 we assisted approximately 13 individuals and/or families with needs such as a room at the Presidential Inn, food vouchers to Jack and Jill, fuel assistance, utility and rental assistance, and a few other needs. In several of these instances we worked in partnership with Police Chief Horihan and/or West Branch School representatives as specific needs arose. Additionally, WBARC continued its strong support of the Weekend Backpack Program by allocating \$1,500 to fund this valuable ministry and hopefully we will be able to continue with this same amount in 2017 as that program costs around \$2500 - \$3000 annually. For those who don't know, this program is coordinated by the West Branch School District and currently sends home a backpack full of food each Friday to approximately 15 students. It is an invaluable ministry in our community.

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 they are making a difference and extending God's care and love to all. We look forward to 2017, our partnership together, and our joint efforts in doing God's work in our community.

In peace,

Chad Whaley
Pastor, Bethany Lutheran Church
WBARC Treasurer

Daily Bible Readings

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

Wednesday, February 1	Psalm 37:1-17 Ruth 3:1-13; 4:13-22 Luke 6:17-26	Thursday, February 16	Psalm 119:33-40 Exodus 22:21-27 1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1
Thursday, February 2	Psalm 112:1-9 Deuteronomy 4:1-14 1 John 5:1-5	Friday, February 17	Psalm 119:33-40 Leviticus 6:1-7 Galatians 5:2-6
Friday, February 3	Psalm 112:1-9 Isaiah 29:1-12 James 3:13-18	Saturday, February 18	Psalm 119:33-40 Leviticus 24:10-23 Matthew 7:1-12
Saturday, February 4	Psalm 112:1-9 Isaiah 29:13-16 Mark 7:1-8	Sunday, February 19	Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18 1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23 Matthew 5:38-48
Sunday, February 5	Isaiah 58:1-12 1 Corinthians 2:1-16 Matthew 5:13-20	Monday, February 20	Psalm 119:57-64 Proverbs 25:11-22 Romans 12:9-21
Monday, February 6	Psalm 119:105-112 2 Kings 22:3-20 Romans 11:2-10	Tuesday, February 21	Psalm 119:57-64 Genesis 31:1-3, 17-50 Hebrews 12:14-16
Tuesday, February 7	Psalm 119:105-112 2 Kings 23:1-8, 21-25 2 Corinthians 4:1-12	Wednesday, February 22	Psalm 119:57-64 Proverbs 3:27-35 Luke 18:18-30
Wednesday, February 8	Psalm 119:105-112 Proverbs 6:6-23 John 8:12-30	Thursday, February 23	Psalm 2 Exodus 6:2-9 Hebrews 8:1-7
Thursday, February 9	Psalm 119:1-8 Genesis 26:1-5 James 1:12-16	Friday, February 24	Psalm 2 Exodus 19:9b-25 Hebrews 11:23-28
Friday, February 10	Psalm 119:1-8 Leviticus 26:34-46 1 John 2:7-17	Saturday, February 25	Psalm 2 1 Kings 21:20-29 Mark 9:9-13
Saturday, February 11	Psalm 119:1-8 Deuteronomy 30:1-9a Matthew 15:1-9	Sunday, February 26	Exodus 24:12-18 2 Peter 1:16-21 Matthew 17:1-9
Sunday, February 12	Deuteronomy 30:15-20 1 Corinthians 3:1-9 Matthew 5:21-37	Monday, February 27	Psalm 78:17-20, 52-55 Exodus 33:7-23 Acts 7:30-34
Monday, February 13	Psalm 119:9-16 Exodus 20:1-21 James 1:2-8	Tuesday, February 28	Psalm 78:17-20, 52-55 1 Kings 19:9-18 Romans 11:1-6
Tuesday, February 14	Psalm 119:9-16 Deuteronomy 23:21-24:4, 10-15 James 2:1-13		
Wednesday, February 15	Psalm 119:9-16 Proverbs 2:1-15 Matthew 19:1-12		



February 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 6:30 PM 4-6 grade Education 6:30 PM Confirmation	2 6:00 AM Women's Bible study 7:00 PM Prayer Group Meeting	3	4
5 9:00 AM Worship 10:20 AM Sunday School Pre-K through 3rd grade	6	7 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	8 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 9:00 AM Women's Circle 6:30 PM 4-6 grade Education 6:30 PM Confirmation	9 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	10	11
12 9:00 AM Worship 10:20 AM Sunday School Pre-K through 3rd grade	13 6:30 PM Council Meeting	14 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	15 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 6:30 PM 4-6 grade Education 6:30 PM Confirmation	16 6:00 AM Women's Bible study 7:00 PM Small Group Opportunity - How do I know the Holy Spirit is active in my life?	17	18
19 9:00 AM Worship 10:20 AM Sunday School Pre-K through 3rd grade	20	21 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	22 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 6:30 PM 4-6 grade Education 6:30 PM Confirmation	23 6:00 AM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM Small Group Opportunity - What do we do with disturbing Biblical passages?	24	25
26 9:00 AM Worship 10:20 AM Sunday School Pre-K through 3rd grade 5:00 PM West Branch Community Meal @ Bethany	27	28 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open				

Monetary Gifts Report

Submitted by Jill Taylor

Saints in Worship:
 12-04 48
 12-11 52
 12-18 55
 12-25 No service
 Total 155

	December		YTD	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Total Receipts	13,744	13,083	152,164	157,000
Total Expenses	15,709	13,832	162,379	166,236

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.



Southeastern Iowa Synod Launches Campaign

Forward Together: The Campaign for the Southeastern Iowa Synod is a \$1.2-million campaign to support ministries of the Southeastern Iowa Synod. This campaign reflects a commitment to five main priorities: congregations, leadership, hunger and poverty, the global church, and where needed most.

Churches are facing financial pressures, as do many families and businesses around the country, in Iowa, and in our synod. We are moving **Forward Together** in an effort to enhance our partnership with leaders, congregations, and other ministry partners. Through the Campaign for the Southeastern Iowa Synod we are excited about helping congregations, expanding our efforts to alleviate hunger and poverty, supporting new leaders for the church, and strengthening our partnership for the global church.

Contributions to this campaign are above and beyond regular offerings and mission support received by the Southeastern Iowa Synod. Growing our capacity for ministry and connect people with the mission of the church. Together we can do more in our communities, our synod, and around the world. To learn more about this campaign and give online visit www.seiasynod.org/campaign

Areas of Priority

Congregations	\$250,000
Hunger and Poverty	\$240,000
Global Church	\$50,000
Leadership	ELCA Goal*
Where needed most	\$725,000
Totals	\$1,265,000

FAMILY RESOURCE

Spark Family is a resource designed to help families fit faith into everyday life! This is a quarterly magazine full of engaging activities for the entire family. A annual subscription is just \$9.49 and can be ordered online from Augsburg Fortress.

The latest edition is available for review and is located on the library table in the hallway to the Great Hall.



ELCA WORLD HUNGER

Nearly 800 million people – that's 1 in 9 people in our world today – are hungry.

As members of the ELCA, we are called to respond. We are a church that rolls up our sleeves and gets to work. Working with and through our congregations, in the United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands Lutheran churches overseas and other partners, ELCA World Hunger is uniquely positioned to reach communities in need. From health clinics to microloans, water wells to animal husbandry, community meals to advocacy, your gifts to ELCA World Hunger make it possible for the ELCA to respond, supporting sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty. (Taken from www.elca.org/hunger)

ELCA World Hunger is one of the ministries supported and sustained by the benevolence dollars we give, in response to God's grace, in our shared partnership with the Southeastern Iowa Synod and the ELCA. For 2017, that amount is 10% of general giving. Together we are doing God's work with our hands.



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

Bethany



Bethany Lutheran Church
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www.wbbethany.org



Ministry Assistants

Ministers of Proclamation (Lectors)

- 2-05 Greg Lipes
- 2-12 Deanna Weismann
- 2-19 Bonnie Conner
- 2-26 Jon Twing

Ministers of Hospitality (Greeters)

- 2-05 Al & Claudia Beyer
- 2-12 Paula & Curt Casper
- 2-19 Jamie & Lisa Zimmerman
- 2-26 Wayne Frauenholtz

Ministers of Christ's Light (Acolytes)

- 2-05 Olivia & Alex Poppen
- 2-12 Andrew & Layla Samuelson
- 2-19 Hunter Niles & Auron Marsh
- 2-26 Dylan & Hannah Schiele

Find us on Facebook

To find Bethany's main page, search "**Bethany Lutheran Church (ELCA) West Branch, Iowa**"

DON'T FORGET TO LIKE US!



Follow us on Twitter!
Our Twitter Handle is:
@blcwestbranch

