

Bethany Lutheran Church

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



January
2016

Important Dates

1-11 Council Meeting 6:30p.m.
1-24 Annual Meeting
1-24 Community meal 5:00 p.m.

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

*"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; everything old has
passed away; see, everything has become new!" – 2 Corinthians 5:17*



Blessed People of God,

Happy New Year! There are many "new" things this time of the year. First and foremost we are fresh off the celebration of the new thing God did through the birth of Jesus Christ in coming to earth and taking upon human flesh. We forever give thanks and cherish the newness of this precious gift all year long. For many people, a New Year means a new start. It is a time to put the last year into the past and hope for a brighter one ahead. I have always heard that phrase but really never thought much about it – until this New Year. In many ways 2015 was extremely challenging and full of heartache. Among other things, death, loss, and grief hit too close to home for our family this past year. And it also hit close to home within our small community of faith here at Bethany with several deaths and several members moving away from West Branch and onto new communities, new jobs, and new beginnings. Indeed, I am one of many hoping for a fresh start in 2016 and one filled with hopes, dreams, and brighter days ahead.

As people of God, though, each and every day truly is a new start. The slate is wiped clean because of what God accomplished through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We don't have to wait a year for a fresh start. There is no need of a New Year celebration. Our celebration is every single day when we recall we are a new creation in Christ. The wrongs we have done before God, the many times we have placed our trust elsewhere and turned from God, the guilt we have harbored – all this is gone. All is new solely by the grace of God! We have a fresh start. Every single day we are to hear, remember, and live the various words and promises found in the absolution proclaimed nearly every Sunday. Words such as:

- In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins.
- God, who is rich in mercy, loves us even when we were dead in sin and made us alive together with Christ.
- In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
- I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins. By grace you have been saved.

I have been pondering what our community of faith would look like if we truly believed this and committed ourselves to following through on it? Let go of those things we need to forgive ourselves for. Let go of those things we hold against one another. Let go of the bitterness. Let go of the hatred. Let go of the resentment. Let go of all that separates us and simply be the body of Christ we were grafted into through our Baptisms. A fresh start if you will. A new day in which together we can hope, dream, and be in the presence of the Light which no darkness will overcome.

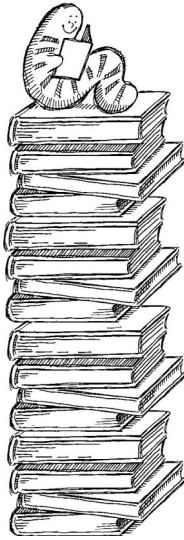
May the peace of Christ be with you all!

Pastor Chad



Birthdays

01/02 Lori Marshall
 01/11 Tonya Lovetinsky
 01/14 Deanna Pedersen
 01/15 Paula Villhauer, Alberta Sweat
 01/17 Herb Hinkhouse
 01/19 Morgan Sweat
 01/20 Maggie Pickett
 Tonya Samuelson
 01/23 Deb Thomann
 01/24 Robbie Boaz, Paul Bruns
 01/25 Lisa Zimmerman
 01/26 Hunter Niles
 Dianna Fuhrmeister
 01/29 Lance Schiele, Kay Davisson
 01/30 Jenny Blaalid, Kent Pedersen
 01/31 Pat Cassabaum



Bethany Books

by Frank Frostestad

Books for Adults

The theme for this month is marriage. The first book is *Fit To Be Tied: Making Marriage Last A Lifetime* by Bill and Lynne Hybels. Bill Hybels is the pastor of Willow Creek Community Church. Most marriage books seem to reflect the views of people in relatively easy marriages. This one is different, in that it shows the struggles most marriages experience. The book is written so that couples can have a new understanding of their problems. It strives to open people's minds to God's direction and help them make wise decisions about whom to marry and how to stay married. Answers are given that will help a marriage last a lifetime.

Love & Respect: The Love She Most Desires, The Respect He Desperately Needs by Emerson Eggerichs is the second book. Cracking the communication code between husband and wife involves understanding that unconditional respect is as powerful for him as unconditional love is for her. When either of these needs are not met, things get crazy. This book reveals why spouses react negatively to each other, and how they can deal with such conflict.

The third book is: *It's All About Him: Finding The Love Of My Life* By Denise Jackson. This is a book about one of country music's most famous marriages. Alan and Denise Jackson's life seemed like a fairy tale: high school sweethearts marry young and leave small town Georgia to pursue dreams. They pay their dues, work hard and weather disappointments. Then their dreams come true: stardom and multi-platinum albums. Fame, wealth, houses, cars, airplanes, designer clothes and jewelry were all theirs. At the peak of their success, they separated. Why this happened and what is really important is the subject of this book.

Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus: A Practical Guide For Improving Communication And Getting What You Want In Your Relationships by John Gray is a classic book in talking about the differences between men and women. It is a tool that can be used in understanding these differences and developing deeper and more satisfying relationships.

The Vow: The True Events That Inspired The Movie by Kim & Krickett Carpenter is the last of this series. Just two months into their marriage, they had a devastating car accident. Krickett was in a coma with a massive head injury. When she awoke, she had no idea who Kim, her husband, was and of their relationship. The woman Kim had married was essentially dead. This is the story of how they coped with the situation and fell in love again.



Weather Cancellations

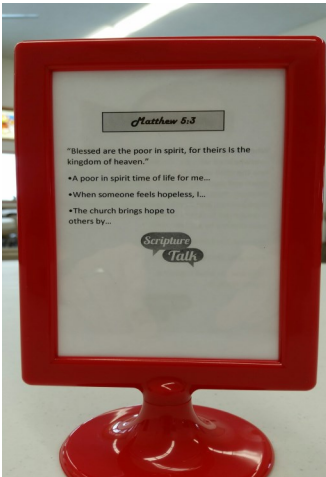
In the event we need to cancel worship or another activity at Bethany due to inclement weather notification will be done in the following formats. There will be a post on the church website (www.wbbethany.org/westbranch/), on Twitter, and on Bethany's Facebook page. There will be an email sent out to all Bethany members who have provided an email address. Notification will also be provided to KGAN channel 2 television station. These will be the primary means of notification. If none of the above means work for you please contact Paula so we can make other arrangements. Thank you!



Adult Education Opportunities

COMING SOON TO A FELLOWSHIP TABLE NEAR YOU!

Fellowship is integral to our life together and now we are all invited to take a few minutes and discuss a short Bible passage and reflect on a few questions. One more way we can enter the Bible, share our faith, and get to know one another better. Scripture Talk is from Peer Ministry Leadership. (www.peerministry.org)



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

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

Women's Circle
Second Wednesday of Month
9:00 a.m. in Great Hall unless stated otherwise

Adult Discussion
10:20 a.m. in the Small Hall
All are Welcome

Bethany Books cont.....

Books for Children

Children need to hear the stories of the Bible. The Sunday School program at Bethany gave each of the students Bibles this fall. A year ago (September, 2014), I wrote about several story Bibles that we have in our collection. Additional Bibles have been added. These are new editions (2015) from the Spark House Family, which is a division of Augsburg Fortress. They are designed for the young child in grades kindergarten to third grade. Through lively story-telling and illustrations, the people and places of the Bible are brought to life. They are *The Holy Moly Story Bible: Exploring God's Awesome Word*, *The Whirl Story Bible: Lively Bible Stories To Inspire Faith*, and *The Spark Story Bible: Spark A Journey Through God's Word*.

Special Worship Services - Lent/Holy Week 2016

Once again we will be joining together with our United Methodist sisters and brothers in Christ for Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday services. Here is the schedule:

Ash Wednesday (Feb. 10) @ West Branch United Methodist Church
Maundy Thursday (March 24) @ Springdale United Methodist Church
Good Friday (March 25) @ Bethany Lutheran Church

All Services are at 7:00 p.m.



On Sunday, January 3 we will welcome Seth Butler as our new organist and pianist. Seth grew up in Decorah and is a recent graduate of the University of Northern Iowa. Once again, God has been faithful in providing for our needs. We look forward to Seth's musical gifts helping us worship, praise, and glorify God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!



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 – Curt Casper

Organist – Seth Butler

Church Council

President

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

Vice President/Building & Grounds

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

Secretary/Evangelism & Missions

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

Treasurer

Jill Taylor
(319) 643-5865
Jill-taylor@uiowa.edu

Worship & Music

Carol Roghair
(319) 430-4013
croghair730@gmail.com

Stewardship

Greg Lipes
(319) 643-3211
Greg.lipes@gmail.com

Education

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

Youth

Kevin Olson
(319) 330-7650
kevinolsonlaw@gmail.com

Fellowship

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

Photos of Our Life Together



CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



COOKIE WALK



ANGEL TREE GIFT WRAPPING





PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS & PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS

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A Service of Prayer for Peace

In conjunction with the Week of Prayer
for Christian Unity the churches of
West Branch invite you to join us
for a special service of prayer for peace.

When: January 24, 2016 @ 7:00 p.m.

Where: Bethany Lutheran Church
235 South 2nd St.

All are invited to attend!

The churches of the West Branch Area Religious Council are: Bethany Lutheran Church (ELCA), Springdale United Methodist Church, St. Bernadette's Catholic Church, West Branch Friends Meeting Conservative, West Branch Friends Church, and West Branch United Methodist Church



BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MINUTES OCTOBER 2015

Members present: Candy Madsen, Carol Roghair, Kevin Olson, Greg Lipes, Pastor Chad, John Black, Laura Twing

Members absent: Paula Casper, Jill Taylor, Courtney Heid

Called to Order: 6:30 pm Prayer, reflection, “what would you ask Jesus?”

Pastor’s Report: Dave Bahnsen attended Conference 7 meeting in Muscatine. Keynote speaker presented on Eschatology. Pastor will attend the Fall Theological Conference in Ames. Jeannette Lipes was baptized. 1 funeral. Outdoor service went well. There have been several assistance requests this month.

Secretary’s Report: September minutes recorded by John Black, due to Twing’s absence. Laura Twing moved approval of said minutes, seconded by Kevin Olson. All ayes.

Treasurer’s Report: Approval moved by John Black, seconded by Greg Lipes. All ayes.

Building and Grounds: no report Education: no report Missions: no report Fellowship: Cookie Walk coming up, also community project of making “heavy” quilts.

Worship: No new choir director yet. Some discussion regarding the possibility of starting a bell choir or intergenerational choir.

Youth: no report Stewardship: A meeting on September finalized plans for Fall Campaign, inserts, temple talks, dinner on November 1st.

Old Business: Money in Bus Tour and Cookie Walk funds need to be dispersed. Ideas include quilters, seminarians, disaster relief, local community needs, food packaging event. Jill Taylor will do October 4th Sunday Supper.

New Business: Budget Committee last year will be asked to participate again. Kevin Olson, Nancy Bruns, Jill Taylor, Claudia Beyers, John Black Compensation recommendations will consider ELCA rise in health insurance costs of 14 %. Deanna Weismann has suggested having a senior recognition day/event for members 80 or older. Executive committee will discuss supervising staff, rather than Pastor.

Adjourned at 7:30 pm





Ministry Minute

In the last article the focus was on Evangelism and Mission, one of the specific areas of ministry addressed in our Congregation’s Constitution and Bylaws. The others are: Worship and Music, Youth, Fellowship, Stewardship, Education and Buildings and Grounds. This month we will focus on Youth. This is our final installment as we have gone over all ministry areas in past newsletters. Once again the intent has been to help communicate and educate all of the faithful people of God here at Bethany about our *life together* and how *we share in God’s work together* to be the church on earth and further God’s mission. Each of these specific ministries is represented on the council by a called leader of Bethany. Their role is to help facilitate the oversight of these ministry areas along with the support of others whose gifts can assist each area of ministry continue to thrive and be fruitful here at Bethany. We are grateful for their leadership, for those who have or presently serve in any function within these ministries, and to all who prayerfully consider being a part of one of these ministry teams/committees.

Pertaining to Youth our By-Laws state, “The youth committee shall oversee, coordinate, and encourage youth activities and programs. It shall recruit a Youth Leader and/or Youth Advisor to lead youth activities, and assist the Youth Leader in those activities.” Youth ministry is a vital part of what we do as a faith community; however, it takes all hands on deck. As a community of faith we need to discern if this specific ministry is still part of our mission or not. Is it important to us as a people of God? Is it important to parents of youth? Is it important to the youth? This past summer several “Listening Posts” were held to discuss some of these questions and hopefully plan and dream for the future. Sadly, there was virtually no attendance. Thus, was that an answer to the above questions? Thanks to those few who did attend and give input. Regardless, children and youth are an important and vital part of our faith community who bring a wealth of unique gifts. Whether we have an active youth program or not, it is up to all of us to welcome them and thank them for being present and thank God for blessing our community with each of them. This must be a place where they are loved unconditionally - not judged and are accepted for who they are and as they come – precious children of God. Presently, Kevin Olson serves as the Council Representative for Youth. If you feel called to serve God and further the mission of Bethany Lutheran in this capacity please contact Kevin.

Monetary Gifts Report

Submitted by Jill Taylor

Saints in Worship November 2015	
11-1	71
11-8	71
11-15	65
11-22	60
11-29	54

	November 2015		YTD	
Total Receipts	14,591	12,333	145,724	135,667
Total Expenses	9,823	12,976	136,991	143,082

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.


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*.

Fri - Jan 1	Numbers 6:22-27 Psalm 8 Galatians 4:4-7	Sun - Jan. 17	Isaiah 62:1-5 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 John 2:1-11
Sat - Jan 2	Proverbs 1:1-7 James 3:13-18 Psalm 147:12-20	Mon - Jan 18	Isaiah 54:1-8 Romans 12:9-21 Psalm 145
Sun - Jan 3	Jeremiah 31:7-14 Sirach 24:1-12 Wisdom of Solomon 10:15-21	Tue - Jan 19	Song of Solomon 4:1-8 1 Corinthians 1:3-17 Psalm 145
Mon - Jan 4	Isaiah 6:1-5 Acts 7:44-53 Psalm 72	Wed - Jan 20	Song of Solomon 4:9-5:1 Luke 5:33-39 Psalm 145
Tues - Jan 5	Jeremiah 31:7-14 John 1:[1-9] 10-18 Psalm 72	Thu - Jan 21	Isaiah 61:1-7 Romans 7:1-6 Psalm 19
Wed - Jan 6	Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 (11) Ephesians 3:1-12	Fri - Jan 22	Nehemiah 2:1-10 Romans 12:1-8 Psalm 19
Thu - Jan 7	Daniel 2:1-19 Ephesians 4:17-5:1 Psalm 72	Sat - Jan 23	Nehemiah 5:1-13 Luke 2:39-52 Psalm 19
Fri - Jan 8	Daniel 2:24-49 Ephesians 5:15-20 Psalm 72	Sun - Jan 24	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a Luke 4:14-21
Sat - Jan 9	Numbers 24:15-19 Luke 1:67-79 Psalm 72	Mon - Jan 25	Jeremiah 36:1-10 1 Corinthians 14:1-12 Psalm 119:89-96
Sun - Jan 10	Isaiah 43:1-7 Acts 8:14-17 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	Tue - Jan 26	Jeremiah 36:11-26 2 Corinthians 7:2-12 Psalm 119:89-96
Mon - Jan 11	Judges 4:1-16 Ephesians 6:10-17 Psalm 106:1-12	Wed - Jan 27	Jeremiah 36:27-32 Luke 4:38-44 Psalm 119:89-96
Tue - Jan 12	Judges 5:12-21 1 John 5:13-21 Psalm 106:1-12	Thu - Jan 28	2 Chronicles 34:1-7 Acts 10:44-48 Psalm 71:1-6
Wed - Jan 13	Numbers 27:1-11 Luke 11:33-36 Psalm 106:1-12	Fri - Jan 29	2 Chronicles 35:20-27 Acts 19:1-10 Psalm 71:1-6
Thu - Jan 14	Jeremiah 3:1-5 Acts 8:18-24 Psalm 36:5-10	Sat - Jan 30	2 Chronicles 36:11-21 John 1:43-51 Psalm 71:1-6
Fri - Jan 15	Jeremiah 3:19-25 1 Corinthians 7:1-7 Psalm 36:5-10	Sun - Jan. 31	Jeremiah 1:4-10 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 Luke 4:21-30
Sat - Jan 16	Jeremiah 4:1-4 Luke 11:14-23 Psalm 36:5-10		



January 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	28	29	30	31	1 	2
3 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship 10:20 AM Sunday school & Adult Discussion	4	5 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	6 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 6:30 PM Confirmation dinner and study	7 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	8	9
10 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship 10:20 AM Sunday school & Adult Discussion	11 6:30 PM Council Meeting	12 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	13 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 9:00 AM Women's Circle 6:30 PM Confirmation dinner and study	14 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	15	16
17 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship 10:20 AM Sunday school & Adult Discussion	18	19 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	20 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 6:30 PM Confirmation dinner and study	21 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	22	23
24 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship 10:20 AM Annual Meeting 5:00 PM West Branch Community Meal @ Bethany 7:00 PM Prayer of Peace Ecumenical Community Service	25	26 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	27 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 6:30 PM Confirmation dinner and study	28 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	29	30
31 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship 10:20 AM Sunday school & Adult Discussion	1	2	3	4	5	6

Bethany

become
live
grow

Community



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



Ministry Assistants

Ministers of Proclamation (Lectors)

- 01-03 Bonnie Conner
- 01-10 Kami Poppen
- 01-17 Traci Fryauf
- 01-24 Cheryl Fischer
- 01-31 Kevin Olson

Ministers of Hospitality (Greeters)

- 01-03 Jamie & Lisa Zimmerman
- 01-10 June & Richard Madsen
- 01-17 Candy & Ron Madsen
- 01-24 Jennifer & Kevin Olson
- 01-31 Jon & Laura Twing

Ministers of Christ's Light (Acolytes)

- 01-03 Gavin Hierseman
Aiden Shields
- 01-10 Andrew Samuelson
Mia Olson
- 01-17 Jaylen Votroubek
Hannah Schiele
- 01-24 Olivia & Alex Poppen



Find us on
Facebook

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

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



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.