

Bethany Lutheran Church

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



"Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'"

Matthew 19:14

IMPORTANT DATES

1-4: EPIC Bowling Party
1-18: Annual Meeting following
Worship
1-22: Prayer Team Meeting



Dear Faithful People of God

Grace and peace to you! I have heard from many of you how exciting it is to see so many young children in our midst. Indeed, the Lord has blessed our faith community with many wonderful and precious children of God. Each of them have wonderful gifts they bring to the ministry we are called to do *together*.

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 am - Noon

*Pastor Chad is also available by
appointment.

Admin. Assistant: Paula Casper
blesecretary@lcom.net

Office Hours
Tuesday & Thursday 8:00-11:30 AM
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

Children are such a joy to be around and clearly Jesus had an affinity for children. Perhaps, it was because they were so vulnerable in His day and as the Biblical account tells us God always stands alongside the weak, oppressed, marginalized, and powerless. Yet, I often wonder if Jesus wasn't also drawn to children because they have such a unique way of looking at life. They are so trustworthy, loving, honest, and eager to learn. I suspect in His continual arguments with the religious leaders, with the unbelief of even His closest followers, with the hatred that began to mount as His ministry grew, and as the fear and anxiety He surely experienced as His impending death drew near Jesus found escape in the children that came to Him. He saw in them joy and goodness; the very same joy and goodness God created them from. I imagine some of these children came to Him laughing, smiling, and singing. And I suspect some of these children came to Him crying, screaming, and kicking. I imagine some of these children came in nice clothing for their day; however, I suspect many came in tattered clothing and smelled rather putrid. No matter how they approached Jesus continued to say, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them." That is God's call to us as a faith community as well. Let the children come (because they are part of the kingdom). Let the children's voices be heard (because their voices matter). Let the children be scene (because Jesus' eyes are set upon them). Let us not hinder them (because Jesus commands it). Each and every child, youth, and young adult at Bethany matter! Each of them is special! Each of them is valued! Each of them has unique gifts that make us stronger *together*. Let us be grateful, thankful, and joyful for God bringing all the young people at Bethany to us to be part of our life *together*. Let us *together* build them up and not hinder them.

I hear so often what a joy it is they are here and how we want them to remain a part of our life *together*. Yet, sadly, from time to time I hear stories of how they



Happenings

Called Together in Mission March 14, 2015

We are people of the Spirit! Join members of the Southeastern Iowa Synod for Called Together in Mission (CTIM) on March 14 at First Lutheran Church in Cedar Rapids.

This year, CTIM is excited to welcome Dr. Troy Troftgruben, assistant professor at Wartburg Theological Seminary, as the keynote speaker. Troy will engage and inspire conference participants to action around the topic - what it means to be people of the Spirit.

Join us on March 14th for a day that will leave you with a fresh understanding of our identity as children of God, led by the Spirit.

Workshop information and registration will be available in January.

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

Women's Bible Study
Thursdays at 6:00 am
in the Small Hall
All are Welcome

Adult Discussion Group
Sunday mornings at 10:20
In the Small Hall
All are Welcome

From the Pastor continued ...

often feel unwelcome, judged, and that their voices are too loud or their clothes too casual. And then one day they leave and we are left asking the question, why aren't they here? Did we build them up, love them, support them, encourage them, teach them, praise them, pray for them, or did we ultimately hinder them and their unique gifts that make us better *together*?

In peace,

Pastor Chad

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

Additional information will be forthcoming! Pastor Chad and Laura Twing have attended this in the past so if you have any questions please visit with one of them.



Mark your calendars for EPIC Sunday, January 4, 2015

- Leave Bethany at 2:30 pm.
- Bowl in Tipton for 2 games (3-5'ish)
- Eat at Pizza Hut after bowling
- Return to Bethany at 6:30 pm



Please let us know if you are coming so we can make arrangements at the Bowling Alley and Pizza Hut. — Thanks, Amanda and Jeni



In the event we need to cancel worship

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

Thank You

Hats off to all the Bethany bakers! The 26th annual Cookie Walk was a huge success. You helped decorate the Great Hall (thanks Chris for the snowflakes), furnished hundreds of beautiful cookies, and welcomed dozens of people to kick off the Christmas season. Everyone working together and watching the joy of our community makes this event so much fun. Again—THANK YOU!



Planning Session

Meet January 4th after church to start talking about fellowship events for 2015. Agenda items include: Sunday fellowship, 4th Sunday Suppers, Cookie Walk and any other suggestions.

Can't make the meeting? Call Candy to volunteer or with any ideas. Any and all are welcome to attend.



Church Staff

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

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

Custodians – Makayla & Emalee Casper

Organist – Aura Strohschein

Church Council

President

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

Treasurer

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

Worship & Music

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

Secretary/Evangelism & Missions

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

Vice President/Stewardship

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

Education

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

Youth

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

Fellowship

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

Building & Grounds

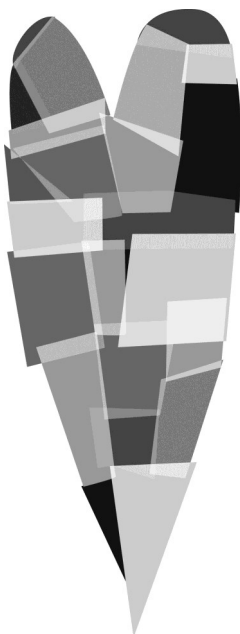
John Black
(319) 643-5622
johnblack@lcom.net

January Birthdays

- 01/02 Lori Marshall
- 01/05 Camden Lynch
- 01/11 Tonya Lovetinsky
- 01/13 Sonja Holmes
- 01/14 Deanna Pedersen
- 01/15 Paula Villhauer
- 01/17 Herb Hinkhouse
- 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



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.



I PRAY
THAT YOU
MAY... KNOW
THE LOVE
OF CHRIST
THAT
SURPASSES
KNOWLEDGE.

EPHESIANS 3:18-19, NRSV



Face Lift!

Notice the Nativity outside is looking spiffier?
Thanks to Mia Olson for giving new life to some old people who have been sitting outside every December for years.



BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MINUTES
NOVEMBER 10, 2014

Members Present: Claudia Beyer, Courtney Heid, Candy Madsen, Del Hughes, Kent Kaufman, Jenni Olson, Laura Twing

Members Missing: John Black, Bonnie Conner

Called to Order: 6:30 pm

Pastor's Report: 17 pastoral visits made. Trunk or Treat event had lower attendance this year. Positives to note for this month: First Communion celebrated, many visitors attending services, lively adult Sunday School sessions. Upcoming vacations will be Thanksgiving week (not Sunday), and the Sunday after Christmas.

Secretary's Report: Moved for approval by Kent Kaufman, seconded by Candy Madsen.

Treasurer's Report: Income is still higher than anticipated. \$1502.09 was given to the West Branch Lions for the Hoover Food Packaging Event. \$500.00 will be moved to the Quilter's Fund from the Bus Tour Fund. Moved for approval by Jenni Olson, seconded by Kent Kaufman.

Education Report: Courtney Heid and Amber Marsh are working on the selection of a Christmas program.

Missions Report: none

Fellowship Report: none

Stewardship Report: There was reasonable attendance for the Stewardship Potluck. Pledge cards and Time and Talent Sheets were collected, Jill Taylor will give estimates from the cards to the budget committee.

Worship Report: This year, there will not be a "Hanging of the Greens" service. They will be added service by service during Advent. For Epiphany Sunday, the "Service of the Word" from our hymnal will be used. We will not be doing the Holden Prayer Service for Lent next year.

Youth Report: No youth from Bethany will be attending the National Youth Event in Detroit next Summer. There will be a youth-sponsored "sock drive" this next month. This week's Cross-training will be dismissed on for the High School Football Playoff.

Old Business:

- New Computers for Pastor and Paula's offices have been ordered. The cost has been covered by a donation. 5 copies of MS Word program have been ordered through Chris Marshall.
- Committee reports are due on December 16.
- Audit Committee will be John Hierseman, Brian Roth and Paul Bruns.
- Nominating Committee is Toni Dodds, Nancy Bruns and Paige Roth. They will nominate new council members and representatives for next year's Synod Assembly meeting.
- Pastoral Compensation Committee will be Claudia Beyer, Del Hughes and Kent Kaufman.
- Budget estimates for next year are due November 25.
- Budget Committee will be Jill Taylor, Kevin Olson, Nancy Bruns, John Black, Claudia Beyer and Pastor Chad.
- Council members leaving are Del Hughes (president), Claudia Beyer (treasurer) and Kent Kaufman (stewardship).

New Business:

- 4th Sunday Suppers. November will be organized by Paula Casper, (Ham Dinner) and December will be done by Candy Madsen, (turkey casserole).
- Cookie Walk will be on December 6th, and will include the Dansk Cafe again. Samuelson's will be donating a new Christmas Tree for the event.
- The Men's Breakfast group has been approached to help with a community trail project next year. This will be coordinated by Larry Rummel's, with help from Trees Forever.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:15 pm



Daily Bible Readings

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

Thu - January 1	Numbers 6:22-27 Galatians 4:4-7 Psalm 8	Sun - January 18	1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20] 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 John 1:43-51
Fri - January 2	Proverbs 1:1-7 James 3:13-18 Psalm 148	Mon - January 19	Acts 4:8-13 Psalm 18:1-6, 16-19 1 Corinthians 10:1-5
Sat - January 3	Proverbs 1:20-33 James 4:1-10 Psalm 110	Tue - January 20	1 Samuel 15:10-31 Acts 5:1-11 Psalm 86
Sun - January 4	Jeremiah 31:7-14 Ephesians 1:3-14 John 1:[1-9] 10-18	Wed - January 21	Genesis 16:1-14 Luke 18:15-17 Psalm 86
Mon - January 5	Proverbs 22:1-9 Luke 6:27-31 Psalm 110	Thu - January 22	Jeremiah 19:1-15 Revelation 18:11-20 Psalm 62:5-12
Tue - January 6	Isaiah 60:1-6 Ephesians 3:1-12 Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14	Fri - January 23	Jeremiah 20:7-13 2 Peter 3:1-7 Psalm 62:5-12
Wed - January 7	Exodus 1:22-2:10 Hebrews 11:23-26 Psalm 110	Sat - January 24	Jeremiah 20:14-18 Luke 10:13-16 Psalm 62:5-12
Thu - January 8	1 Samuel 3:1-21 Acts 9:10-19a Psalm 29	Sun - January 25	Jonah 3:1-5, 10 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 Mark 1:14-20
Fri - January 9	1 Samuel 16:1-13 1 Timothy 4:11-16 Psalm 29	Mon - January 26	Genesis 12:1-9 1 Corinthians 7:17-24 Psalm 46
Sat - January 10	1 Kings 2:1-4, 10-12 Luke 5:1-11 Psalm 29	Tue - January 27	Genesis 45:25—46:7 Acts 5:33-42 Psalm 46
Sun - January 11	Genesis 1:1-5 Acts 19:1-7 Mark 1:4-11	Wed - January 28	Proverbs 8:1-21 Mark 3:13-19a Psalm 46
Mon - January 12	Genesis 17:1-13 Romans 4:1-12 Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36	Thu - January 29	Deuteronomy 3:23-29 Romans 9:6-18 Psalm 111
Tue - January 13	Exodus 30:22-38 Acts 22:2-16 Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36	Fri - January 30	Deuteronomy 12:28-32 Revelation 2:12-17 Psalm 111
Wed - January 14	Isaiah 41:14-20 John 1:29-34 Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36	Sat - January 31	Deuteronomy 13:1-5 Matthew 8:28-9:1 Psalm 111
Thu - January 15	Judges 2:6-15 2 Corinthians 10:1-11 Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18		
Fri - January 16	Judges 2:16-23 Acts 13:16-25 Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18		
Sat - January 17	1 Samuel 2:21-25 Matthew 25:1-13 Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18		



January 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship 5:30 PM West Branch Community Meal @ Bethany	29	30	31	1	2	3
4 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship 2:30 PM EPIC Bowling Party (Meet at Bethany to depart)	5	6 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	7 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 6:30 PM Confirmation dinner and study 6:45 PM Cross Training	8 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	9	10
11 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship	12 6:30 PM Council Meeting	13 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	14 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 9:00 AM Women's Circle 6:30 PM Confirmation dinner and study	15 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	16	17
18 Annual Meeting following Worship 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship	19	20 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	21 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 6:30 PM Confirmation dinner and study	22 6:00 AM Women's Bible study 6:30 PM Prayer Team Meeting	23	24
25 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship 5:30 PM West Branch Community Meal @ Bethany	26	27 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	28 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 6:30 PM Confirmation dinner and study	29 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	30	31

Financial Report

Submitted by Claudia Beyer

Attendance:
 11/02 - 89
 11/09 - 56
 11/16 - 78
 11/23 - 80
 11/30 - 79
 Total: 382

	November		YTD	
Total Receipts	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
	13,239	10,250	133,174	112,750
Total Expenses	9,932	11,312	124,334	124,884

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



Ministry Assistants

Ministers of Proclamation (Lectors)
1-04 Kami Poppen
1-11 Tonya Samuelson
1-18 Carol Roghair
1-25 Toni Dodds

Ministers of Hospitality (Greeters)
1-04 Dave & Kami Poppen
1-11 Wayne Frauenholtz
1-18 Candy & Ron Madsen
1-25 Paige & Brian Roth

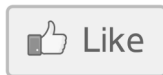
Ministers of Christ's Light (Acolytes)
1-04 Katie & Maddie Anderson
1-11 Hannah Schiele & Auron Marsh
1-18 Aiden Shields & Brett Schiele
1-25 Jaden & Gavin Hierseman



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