

# Bethany Lutheran Church

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



"O give thanks to the LORD, for God is good; for the LORD's steadfast  
love endures forever." – Psalm 107:1

## IMPORTANT DATES

**03-08 Daylight savings**  
**03-09 Lutheran Day on the Hill**  
**Directory picture taking**  
**03-10 Directory picture taking**  
**03-14 CTIM**  
**03-29 Palm Sunday**



Greetings faithful people of God at Bethany,

In my prayers this morning prior to penning this article I gave thanks to God for many things. One of those things was for God's presence last week in guiding me through what undoubtedly was my most challenging week as an ordained minister. For those of you reading this that may not have known we had two funerals and Ash Wednesday services all at Bethany within the span of three days. To say I was feeling a bit overwhelmed was an understatement.

Yet, we got through it and I use the third-person pronoun "we" because it was a team effort. I am thankful for the church, which is none other than the people. I am thankful for so many people and all the strength, support, help, prayers, and encouraging words that were spoken to me last week that truly sustained me and revealed to me the very presence of Christ I proclaimed to the families that were grieving the loss of a loved one. It was a week I hope to not have again anytime soon; however, it was a week in which the Spirit of God truly opened my eyes and reminded me what it means to be church. To all of you who prayed for me, spoke words of encouragement, assisted me in a wide variety of ways throughout the week, and helped with the funerals, Ash Wednesday, and everything else that happened I truly am grateful and thankful. You made a difference to me and also to the families of those who gathered to bury their loved ones as we came together to worship God and give thanks for the gift of eternal life.

We don't go it alone but rather being a disciple of Christ and part of His church means we are called to be part of something. We are each an active member of the body through which the Spirit is at work ushering in God's kingdom, illuminating the light of Christ to the world, proclaiming the love of God through our words and actions, and sustaining, encouraging, building up, and revealing the love of Christ to one another. The church, while flawed and broken by the stain of sin, is at the same time a beautiful and glorious creation of God. Continue to shine brightly people of God!

May the peace of Christ be with each of you this Lenten season!

Pastor Chad

## 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



## Happenings



### 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/](http://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 and KGAN 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!

## *Lutheran Day on the Hill-Save the Date*

Join Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) and members of the Southeastern Iowa Synod will gather 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

Must register by March 5th at [lsiowa.org](http://lsiowa.org)

(search Lutheran Day on the Hill)

While making your plans for this summer remember to save the dates for Vacation Bible School. This year VBS will run from July 27th thru July 31st. Counselors from Camp Ewalu will be here again this year so it's sure to be a good time for all.



## CTIM

**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](http://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.



THIS MONTH'S  
birthdays

- March 01 - Ellie Holstad
- March 02 - Kathy Roth
- March 05 - Liz Pedersen
- March 06 - Travis Kaufman
- March 08 - Cheryl Fischer
- March 09 - Alan Beyer, Abbey Fryauf
- March 11 - Johnathan Holstad,  
Mike Fryauf
- March 13 - Dylan Schiele,  
Miranda Wieneke
- March 16 - Marisa Kaufman
- March 21 - Mark Anderson
- March 22 - Brett Schiele
- March 25 - Bradley Arp
- March 28 - Ellen Gunderson
- March 29 - Toni Dodds, Justin Roth
- March 31 - Brian Roth



## Bethany Books

by Frank Frostestad

### Books For Adults

The next series by Lauraine Snelling is *Return To Red River*. The three books in this series is *A Dream To Follow*, *Believing The Dream*, and *More Than A Dream*. This series turns to the next generation and follows the Bjorklund family as the adult children now look to their own future. The series shows the struggle that the family faces when the dreams of the children clash with those of their parents. Thorliff Bjorklund has been writing since he was a young boy and now longs to attend college to study journalism. His father has other plans for him. To make matters worse the threat of crop failure means no money is available. A new character is introduced in this series, Elizabeth Rogers, who becomes of interest to Thorliff. She has been raised in a life of privilege, yet she wants to become a doctor. This was at a time when society did not think it a suitable profession for a young lady. They meet in Northfield, Minnesota. Thorliff has good taste, for he wants to go to and graduate from St. Olaf College. You need to read this series to learn what happens next and see where his plans lead him.

Lauraine Snelling is also the author of novels that have contemporary settings as well. One of her most recent (2014) is *Heaven Sent Rain*. Scientist and pharmaceutical CEO Dinah Taylor takes comfort in her orderly life. The morning she buys breakfast for seven-year-old Jonah Morgan and his dog changes her life in ways that she could not have predicted. You need to read this book to see what happens.

*Reunion* is another recent novel by Lauraine Snelling. Keira Sorenson is preparing for a family gathering, the first since her mother died. While sorting through her mother's house she uncovers her birth certificate. It lists as her father, not the man who lovingly raised her, but as "unknown". This is a secret which challenges her very identity. As she struggles with a number of questions, her brother and his wife, grapple with a secret of their own. Their college-bound daughter is pregnant. Has she destroyed her future? As the reunion draws closer, the truth threatens to devastate what once seemed an unbreakable family. When secrets test the bonds of a family, is love strong enough to hold them together? Again, you may do some interesting reading to find out.

### Book For Children

*What If...?* By Anthony Browne expresses the doubts and concerns of a young boy invited to a birthday party. What if he does not like the party he's going to? What if he does not like the food or games or the people? As Joe and his mother walk down the street his imagination starts to run wild. This is a reassuring picture book for young children. (Recommended in the *Lutheran*.)



**God is love.**

Whoever lives in love lives in God,  
and **God** in him.

1 John 4:16



## Adult Education Opportunities



Pastor Chad's sermons can now be found on Bethany's website ([www.wbbethany.org](http://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 am  
in the Great Hall  
**All are Welcome**

**Thursday Women's Bible Study**  
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**

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



**Southeastern Iowa Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.



## In This Together

Dear Friends in Christ,

**Thank you.**

This past year, your partnership and support have been integral to our shared mission and ministry. In addition to the ongoing work we do directly with rostered leaders and congregations of this synod, you have helped students in the candidacy process, young people who benefit directly from faith formation opportunities, our companions in the Pare Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, and much more.

The mission support you provide also makes possible so many things through our church wide ministries that cannot be accomplished by any single congregation or synod on their own.

Our shared impact is far-reaching and life-changing. Because of Jesus Christ and Led by the Spirit, we really are **In This Together.**

Thank you again. And thank God for your ministry.



## **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**– Aura Strohschein

## **Church Council**

### **President**

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

### **Vice President/Building & Grounds**

John Black  
(319)643-5622  
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### **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  
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### **Stewardship**

Greg Lipes  
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Greg.lipes@gmail.com

### **Education**

Courtney Heid  
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### **Youth**

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

### **Fellowship**

Paula Casper  
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## Wednesday Night Lent Supper and Worship Schedule

### 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  
JANUARY 12, 2015

**Members present:** Pastor Chad, Claudia Beyer, John Black, Courtney Heid, Del Hughes, Kent Kaufman, Candy Madsen, Laura Twing  
**Members absent:** Jenni Olson

**Called to Order** at 6:00 p.m. by President Del Hughes

**Opening Prayer/Devotions:** Philippians 1:3-6  
Also prayers for members leaving and for the new members joining council next month.

**Pastor's Report:** Proposed March 14, 2015 as the date for our next council retreat. Confirmation Sunday will be May 17. Installation of new council members will be on February 8. Pastor Chad shared a letter that he has sent to the other members of WBARC regarding the annual financial recap, and expressing gratitude for the group's service to the community at large. Ash Wednesday Services will be held at Bethany Lutheran Church, Maundy Thursday will be at Springdale United Methodist, and Good Friday will be at West Branch United Methodist.

**Secretary's Report:** Minutes from the December 16, 2014 meeting to be approved. Moved by John Black, seconded by Claudia Beyer. All ayes.

**Treasurer's Report:** \$5000.00 has been moved to the Mission Investment Fund. Candy Madsen moved to approve this month's treasurer's report, seconded by Courtney Heid. All ayes.

**Committee Reports:**

**Building and Grounds:** A bid to reroof the parsonage with steel was received from Greg Thoman. The amount to cover this is in the 2015 budget proposal to be presented at the Annual Meeting. The contract with Families, Inc. is not yet completed.

**Education Report:** none

**Missions Report:** none

**Fellowship Report:** none

**Stewardship Report:** none

**Worship Report:** none

**Old Business:**

- ◆ Technology Team Update: Pastor's laptop has been returned and is working better. The internet service upgrade has been changed and is making a difference. Chris Marshall will be coming in to begin the process of transferring data to the new computers and other issues such as virus protection, etc.

**New Business:**

- ◆ 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday suppers
  - January - Del and Sue Hughes will do chili and potato soup.
  - February - Paula will serve, menu not set.
  - March - Candy Madsen will serve macaroni and cheese.
- ◆ Roofing bids - Candy Madsen moved to accept the bid from Greg Thoman, Claudia Beyer seconded. All ayes.
- ◆ Nominating Committee Update  
Synod Assembly Representatives A few names interested and discussed – will be voted on at Annual Meeting
- ◆ New Council members to approve at Annual Meeting Names to be presented will be: Kevin Olson, Greg Lipes, Carol Roghair, Jill Taylor and still searching for one additional person – will be voted on at Annual Meeting
- ◆ Approve Fair Rental Value amount of parsonage for tax purposes \$11,800 annually moved for approval by Claudia Beyer, seconded by Candy Madsen, all ayes.

**Meeting adjourned** at 7:15 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting is February, 9 2015



## 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 - March 1	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 Romans 4:13-25 Mark 8:31-38	Tue - March 17	Numbers 20:1-13 1 Corinthians 10:6-13 Psalm 107:1-16
Mon - March 2	Genesis 21:1-7 Hebrews 1:8-12 Psalm 105:1-11	Wed - March 18	Isaiah 60:15-22 John 8:12-20 Psalm 107:1-16
Tue - March 3	Genesis 22:1-19 Hebrews 11:1-3, 13-19 Psalm 105:1-11	Thu - March 19	Isaiah 30:15-18 Hebrews 4:1-13 Psalm 51:1-12
Wed - March 4	Jeremiah 30:12-22 John 12:36-43 Psalm 105:1-11	Fri - March 20	Exodus 30:1-10 Hebrews 4:14-5:4 Psalm 51:1-12
Thu - March 5	Exodus 19:1-9a 1 Peter 2:4-10 Psalm 19	Sat - March 21	Habakkuk 3:2-13 John 12:1-11 Psalm 51:1-12
Fri - March 6	Exodus 19:9b-15 Acts 7:30-40 Psalm 19	Sun - March 22	Jeremiah 31:31-34 Hebrews 5:5-10 John 12:20-33
Sat - March 7	Exodus 19:16-25 Mark 9:2-8 Psalm 19	Mon - March 23	Isaiah 43:8-13 2 Corinthians 3:4-11 Psalm 119:9-16
Sun - March 8	Exodus 20:1-17 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 John 2:13-22	Tue - March 24	Isaiah 44:1-8 Acts 2:14-24 Psalm 119:9-16
Mon - March 9	1 Kings 6:1-4, 21-22 1 Corinthians 3:10-23 Psalm 84	Wed - March 25	Haggai 2:1-9, 20-23 John 12:34-50 Psalm 119:9-16
Tue - March 10	2 Chronicles 29:1-11, 16-19 Hebrews 9:23-28 Psalm 84	Thu - March 26	Deuteronomy 16:1-8 Philippians 2:1-11 Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Wed - March 11	Ezra 6:1-16 Mark 11:15-19 Psalm 84	Fri - March 27	Jeremiah 33:1-9 Philippians 2:12-18 Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Thu - March 12	Genesis 9:8-17 Ephesians 1:3-6 Psalm 107:1-3	Sat - March 28	Jeremiah 33:10-16 Mark 10:32-34, 46-52 Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Fri - March 13	Daniel 12:5-13 Ephesians 1:7-14 Psalm 107:1-3	Sun - March 29	Mark 11:1-11 Isaiah 50:4-9a Philippians 2:5-11
Sat - March 14	Numbers 20:22-29 John 3:1-13 Psalm 107:1-3	Mon - March 30	Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 36:5-11 Hebrews 9:11-15
Sun - March 15	Numbers 21:4-9 Ephesians 2:1-10 John 3:14-21	Tues - March 31	John 12:1-11 Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 71:1-14
Mon - March 16	Exodus 15:22-27 Hebrews 3:1-6 Psalm 107:1-16		1 Corinthians 1:18-31 John 12:20-36



## MARCH 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	<b>4</b> 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 6:00 PM Lenten Dinner 7:00 PM Lent Worship Services	<b>5</b> 6:00 AM Women's Bible study 6:30 PM The Daniel Plan Study	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship	<b>9</b> 6:30 PM Council Meeting	<b>10</b> 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	<b>11</b> 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 9:00 AM Women's Circle 6:00 PM Lenten Dinner 7:00 PM Lent Worship Services	<b>12</b> 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	<b>18</b> 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 6:00 PM Lenten Dinner 7:00 PM Lent Worship Services	<b>19</b> 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship 5:30 PM West Branch Community Meal @ Bethany	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	<b>25</b> 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 6:00 PM Lenten Dinner 7:00 PM Lent Worship Services	<b>26</b> 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open				

### Financial Report

Submitted by Jill Taylor

January Attendance:	
01-04	47
01-11	52
01-18	62
01-25	59
<b>Total</b>	<b>220</b>

	January 2015		YTD	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Total Receipts	14,559	12,333	14,559	12,333
Total Expenses	13,009	13,043	13,009	13,043

***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.





If you haven't already scheduled a time to have your pictures taken for the new Church Directory Please call Paula 643-5998 or 319-331-9456 or go to Bethany's web site [www.wbbethany.org](http://www.wbbethany.org) for a link to the on line scheduling. Pictures will be taken on March 9th and 10th. We would love to have everyone in the directory and in the picture we will have made that hangs in the entry way to the Great Hall. It is a great resource for our members old and new, as well as visitors to Bethany. You will receive a free 8x10 and a directory just for having your picture taken. You will also get a 20% discount on your Order and \$5.00 off if you bring in an item for the West Branch food pantry. A reminder email will be sent to you if you provided your email address when signing up and attached to that email is another \$10 coupon.

### EASTER GARDEN TRADITION

Each Easter, we are greeted with the beauty and sweet fragrance of lilies, adorning our sanctuary. If you would like to contribute to this display, please fill out the information below and return this slip to Carol Roghair's mailbox or mail to Bethany Lutheran, P.O. Box 236, West Branch, IA 5235. Dedications will be listed in the bulletin on Easter morning.



- \_\_\_\_\_ I will bring a potted lily, tulip or daffodil to the church by noon on Friday April 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I would like Bethany to purchase an Easter lily for me. I have enclosed \$10.00.

Print your dedication as you wish it to appear in the bulletin. Please indicate if this is "In honor of" or "In memory of".

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# Bethany

# Community



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



## Ministry Assistants

### Ministers of Proclamation (Lectors)

- 03-01 Kevin Olson
- 03-08 Courtney Heid
- 03-15 Beth Kaufman
- 03-22 Greg Lipes
- 03-29 Del Hughes

### Ministers of Hospitality (Greeters)

- 03-01 Anne & Jamie Fetzer
- 03-08 Bonnie Conner
- 03-15 Toni & Jerry Dodds
- 03-22 June & Richard Madsen
- 03-29 Tonya & Shawn Samuelson

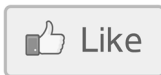
### Ministers of Christ's Light (Acolytes)

- 03-01 Abbey Fryauf/Mia Olson
- 03-08 Derek Fetzer/Brett Schiele
- 03-15 Jayden Roth/Matt Whaley
- 03-22 Auron Marsh/Matt Paulsen
- 03-29 Katie & Maddie Anderson



To find Bethany’s main page,  
 search **“Bethany Lutheran Church (ELCA) West Branch, Iowa”**

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 Our Twitter Handle is:  
**@blcwestbranch**

