

Bethany Lutheran Church

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



For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God. – Ephesians 2:8

IMPORTANT DATES

- 3/05-Ash Wednesday Service at Bethany 7:00 pm**
- 3/12-Women's circle 9:00 am**
Lent Dinner 6:00 pm
Lent Worship 7:00 pm
- 3/16-EPIC Youth meeting**
- 3/19-Lent Dinner 6:00 pm**
Lent Worship 7:00 pm
- 3/23-4th Sunday free meal at Bethany**
- 3/26-Lent Dinner 6:00 pm**
Lent Worship 7:00 pm

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

Admin. Assistant: Paula Casper
blcsecretary@lcom.net

Office Hours
Tuesday & Thursday 7:30-11:30 AM
Office Phone: (319) 643-5998

*Pastor Chad is also available by
appointment.

FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

Simply search "Bethany Lutheran
Church (ELCA) West Branch, Iowa" on
facebook and "like" our page!



Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

Grace and peace from God our Creator and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! In just a few days the season of Lent will be upon us once again. As we did last year we will gather with our brothers and sisters in Christ of West Branch United Methodist Church and Springdale United Methodist Church to worship on Ash Wednesday (March 5 @ Bethany), Maundy Thursday (April 17 @ WBUMC), and Good Friday (April 18 @ Springdale UMC). Additionally, on Sunday's during Lent we will once again be switching to another liturgical setting in the hymnal. Perhaps, this is one more way we can enter into the season of Lent and direct our focus to our need for God's forgiveness and grace. And as is customary we will be having a light dinner on Wednesday's beginning at 6:00 p.m. followed by worship at 7:00 p.m.

Lent is the forty-day season of preparation for Easter. One of the primary themes of the season is penitence, which is the act of acknowledging and being remorseful for our sinful nature. It is a season of recognizing our brokenness and dependence upon God for redemption, forgiveness, and healing. Some have recently asked me whether Lutherans give up anything for Lent. The answer is that some do and some don't. The historical significance around the concept of giving something up for Lent centers around our making a sacrifice because of the ultimate sacrifice Christ made for us. With that said, it is important to remember that if we choose to give something up or add some sort of spiritual discipline (e.g., spending more time in prayer, reading the Bible daily, or perhaps reaching out to our neighbor by volunteering) that we remember we are doing this not to earn God's favor or our salvation because God has already done this in Christ through His death and resurrection.

Personally, this year I will be reading a book called *40-Day Journey with Dietrich Bonhoeffer* (Augsburg, 2007). It is a book that includes a daily reflection, daily Bible verses, journal reflections, and prayers. I think the key point is that whether we choose to give something up, fast, or add something new that we remember it has nothing to do with trying to please God; but rather, has all to do with us centering ourselves and coming closer to God. It has all to do with recognizing our need for God's grace. If you are uncertain on whether you should do anything or what to do I invite you to set aside some quiet time in prayer and see if the Spirit guides you to something.

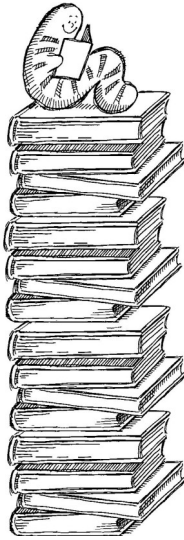
In peace,

Pastor Chad



BIRTHDAYS

- 3/01-Ellie Holstad
- 3/02-Kathy Roth
- 3/05-Liz Pedersen
- 3/06-Travis Kaufman
- 3/08-Cheryl Fischer
- 3/09-Alan Beyer, Abby Fryauf
- 3/13-Dylan Schiele
- 3/11-Mike Fryauf, Johnathon Holstad
- 3/16-Marisa Kaufman
- 3/20-Kevin Olson
- 3/21-Mark Anderson
- 3/22-Brett Schiele
- 3/25-Bradley Arp
- 3/28-Ellen Gunderson
- 3/29-Toni Dodds, Justin Roth
- 3/31-Brian Roth



Bethany Books

by Frank Frostestad

Book For Adults

Heaven Is For Real by Todd Burpo is an amazing story of a little boy's trip to heaven and back. When Colton Burpo made it through an emergency appendectomy, his family was overjoyed at his miraculous survival. What they were not expecting was the story that emerged in the month that followed. Colton, not yet four, told his parents he left his body during surgery. He authenticated that claim by describing exactly what his parents were doing in another part of the hospital while he was being operated on. He talked of visiting heaven and relayed stories told to him by people there whom he had never met in life, sharing events that happened even before he was born. He astonished his parents with descriptions and details about heaven that matched the Bible exactly, though he had not yet learned to read. He tells of meeting long-departed family members. He describes Jesus, the angels, and how much God loves us. This book is an interesting perspective from a child's viewpoint of eternity. (Member recommended)

Books For Adults

I want to call your attention to the fact that we have several books of the *Chicken Soup* series that have been donated to Bethany over the years. This series, as many of you know, edited by Jack Canfield and Mark Victor Hansen consists of books that have *101 Stories to Open the Heart and rekindle the Spirit*. *Chicken Soup For The Soul* was one of the first that was published twenty years ago. We have it as well as *Chicken Soup For The Christian Soul*. This volume has stories with themes of love, forgiveness, faith, hope and charity. It shares the miracles we all experience in our daily lives and is reassurance that we are never alone no matter how challenging or painful our circumstances. We also have *A Second Chicken Soup For The Women's Soul*. Anyone want to donate the first volume of *Chicken Soup For The Woman's Soul*? This is from a women's perspective of finding love, dealing with loss, and achieving their dreams. It has stories about women's joys, challenges, relationships, and attitudes. Chapters include: on love, attitude, living your dreams, marriage, motherhood, making a difference, overcoming obstacles, special moments, achieving dreams, and across the generations. Finally, we have a copy of *A Cup Of Chicken Soup For The Soul*. This is a shorter, smaller book designed for those with limited time or anyone looking for a quick pick-me-up. If you have any other books from this series that are gathering dust and you would like to share them with others – feel free to donate them to the Bethany library. Please leave them on the book cart in the small fellowship room by the book shelves.



Lenten Meal

Once again a light meal will be served prior to Lenten services. Following is the schedule for groups preparing food. If you would like to help please call Candy at 643-5869.

- March 12/Men's Group
- March 19/Women's Circle
- March 26/Quilters
- April 02/Confirmation
- April 09/Council



Adult Education Opportunities

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

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

All are Welcome

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

All are Welcome

Updates/Reminders

Reminder:

If you or a loved one is in the hospital and desire a pastoral visit, please have someone contact the church at 643-5998.

SAVE THE DATE FOR
VACATION BIBLE
SCHOOL DAY CAMP!
July 28TH - AUG 1ST

Book For Children

Heaven Is For Real For Kids as told by Colton Burpo to his parents Todd and Sonja Burpo is an astounding story of his trip to heaven and back. It is a children's version of the bestseller *Heaven Is For Real*. Colton, from his perspective, in this book shares his experience with children so they too can have the comfort of knowing that heaven is for real. (Member recommended)



The Southeastern Iowa Synod and Grand View University sponsored a service leadership event for high school youth **June 20-23, 2013 in Des Moines**. *Love Like Jesus* engaged close to 60 youth and adults from across the synod in leadership development, bible study, service outreach and worship.

Highlights include:

- *Great Bible Study!* – Professor Ken Jones of Grand View University served as our Teaching Pastor. Among many fascinating insights, he reminded the group that Jesus + Nothing = Salvation. We are free in Christ! It served as a great foundation for how we are able to Love Like Jesus in the world.
- *Love Like Jesus University* – Participants chose up to three sessions that provide integrated hands-on learning in Peer Ministry, art, music, recreation, theology and more!
- *Love Like Jesus Service Day* – Participants split into two groups to make a difference in the Des Moines Community. One group walked alongside clients of [Mosaic](#) as they prepared meals at [Meals from the Heartland](#), then washed vans and played games. The other group spent the day painting, cleaning and preparing teacher materials for [Cattell Elementary](#) in Des Moines.
- *ELCA World Hunger* – Justin Rabbach and Brittany Lamb from led an educational simulation game that sparked great discussion on the challenges for those who suffer from hunger and poverty in our local communities.
- *Worship* – Pastor Russ Lackey and Kate Gleney from the Campus Ministry office at Grand View University led the group in a variety of worship experiences. Music was provided by Ryan Buck and his band each evening. Bishop Michael Burk preached and presided at the closing worship serve held at Luther Memorial Church.

The weekend also included large group activities, small group discussions, youth worker training, time to nurture congregational relationships, and meaningful worship. For more information about this and upcoming events can be found at the [synod's website](#) and the [Southeastern Iowa Synod Youth Ministry Facebook page](#).



Church Staff

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pastor@wbbethany.org

Admin. Assistant - Paula Casper
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Custodian– Shari Friis
Organist– Elizabeth Gotlund

Church Council

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WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER AND WORSHIP

- WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12:
6:00 PM-LENT SUPPER
7:00 PM- HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER WORSHIP SERVICE
- WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19:
6:00 PM-LENT SUPPER
7:00 PM- HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER WORSHIP SERVICE
- WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26:
6:00 PM-LENT SUPPER
7:00 PM- HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER WORSHIP SERVICE
- WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2:
6:00 PM-LENT SUPPER
7:00 PM- HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER WORSHIP SERVICE
- WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9:
6:00 PM-LENT SUPPER
7:00 PM- HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER WORSHIP SERVICE
- SUNDAY, APRIL 13:
9:00 AM PALM SUNDAY
10:30 AM YOUTH BRUNCH
- + THURSDAY, APRIL 17:
7:00 PM- MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
@WEST BRANCH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
- + FRIDAY, APRIL 18:
7:00 PM- GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
@SPRINGDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
- + SUNDAY, APRIL 20:
8:00 AM EASTER WORSHIP SERVICE
10:00 AM EASTER WORSHIP SERVICE



BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MINUTES
January 13, 2014

Members present: Pastor Chad, Claudia Beyer, Nancy Bruns, Bonnie Conner, Toni Dodds, Courtney Heid, Del Hughes, Kent Kaufman, Laura Twing

Members Absent: Candy Madsen

Meeting Called to Order: 6:27 p.m. by President Del Hughes

Opening Prayer/Devotions: Pastor Chad opened with devotion and prayer.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Chad reported on his activities for the month. He noted an increasing number of calls for assistance. He thanked God for having visitors in our congregation every Sunday since Christmas.

Secretary's Report: Minutes from the December regular meeting to be approved: Bonnie Conner moved to accept the minutes. Claudia Beyer seconded. Approved.

Treasurer's Report: Claudia presented the December financials. Laura Twing moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Bonnie Conner seconded. Approved.

Committee Reports:

Building & Grounds: Kent reported that he patched the carpet on the ramp to the southwest church entrance. A new smoke detector and carbon dioxide detector have been purchased for the parsonage. Two shelving boards have been purchased for quilting supplies.

Education: Toni reported that the theme for the VBS program run by EWALU counselors will be "Living to Celebrate" and will focus on the seasons of the church. A \$200 deposit will be sent to reserve our week.

Youth: Pastor Chad indicated that consideration is being given to cleaning out the high school room and moving the ping pong table there.

Evangelism & Missions: Pastor Chad received greetings from the Mbakweni Pastor. Laura will follow up with Neema to see if she can get more information about how the corn milling machine we helped them purchase is working out.

Music and Worship: Bonnie reported that the Christmas Eve services went well. The church was beautiful with all of the poinsettias. Totes have been purchased for storing some of the Christmas decorations. A list of volunteers for altar care has been put together and a meeting to discuss those duties will be held later in the month.

Fellowship: We will be trying a monthly meal and time of fellowship on the fourth Sunday of each month. This free meal is open to all members of Bethany and the greater West Branch community. The first one is January 26.

Stewardship: Nothing new to report.

OLD BUSINESS:

- The Great Hall sound system - Del is still searching for someone who has expertise in this area.
- Council calendar – planning to have installation of new council members on Feb 9, with the next council meeting on Feb 10.
- The nominating committee has two candidates for council – Courtney Heid and Dave Bahnsen. Pastor Chad met with the committee and they prayed for each member hoping a third candidate will come forward.
- Annual synod assembly - Neil and Chris Korsmo and Frank Frostestad have volunteered to be delegates. The council feels that it would be appropriate for the congregation to elect all three and select two to be voting delegates.
- Radon issue in small hall – Pastor Chad reported that he is working from the parsonage at times to limit his amount of time spent in the small hall. He is also allowing Paula to do work from home when possible. Research is being done to have a mitigation system installed.
- Recovering of Pew Cushions – this work will be done in the near future.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Housing allowance – Kent Kaufman moved to set the fair market rental value of the parsonage at \$11,800 for 2014. Laura Twing seconded. Approved.
- Custodian position – Pastor Chad reported that the custodian position will be open beginning in March. The buildings and grounds committee will work on filling that position.
- Kids Against Hunger – Del has talked to Mike Fryauf about organizing another food packaging event.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:50 pm by President Del Hughes

Next Meeting: Monday, February 10, 2014 @ 6:30 p.m.



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*.

Mar. 1 Saturday	Psalm 2 1 Kings 21:20-29 Mark 9:9-13	Mar. 16 Sunday	Genesis 12:1-4a Rom. 4:1-5, 13-17 John 3:1-17
Mar. 2 Sunday	Exodus 24:12-18 2 Peter 1:16-21 Matthew 17:1-9	Mar. 17 Monday	Psalm 128 Numbers 21:4-9 Hebrews 3:1-6
Mar. 3 Monday	Ps. 78:17-20,52-55 Exodus 33:7-23 Acts 7:30-34	Mar. 18 Tuesday	Psalm 128 Isaiah 65:17-25 Romans 4:6-13
Mar. 4 Tuesday	Ps. 78:17-20,52-55 1 Kings 19:9-18 Romans 11:1-6	Mar. 19 Wednesday	Psalm 128 Ezekiel 36:22-32 John 7:53-8:11
Mar. 5 Wednesday	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 2 Cor. 5:20b-6:10 Matt. 6:1-6, 16-21	Mar. 20 Thursday	Psalm 95 Exodus 16:1-8 Colossians 1:15-23
Mar. 6 Thursday	Psalm 51 Jonah 3:1-10 Romans 1:1-7	Mar. 21 Friday	Psalm 95 Exodus 16:9-21 Ephesians 2:11-22
Mar. 7 Friday	Psalm 51 Jonah 4:1-11 Romans 1:8-17	Mar. 22 Saturday	Psalm 95 Exodus 16:27-35 John 4:1-6
Mar. 8 Saturday	Psalm 51 Isaiah 58:1-12 Matthew 18:1-7	Mar. 23 Sunday	Exodus 17:1-7 Romans 5:1-11 John 4:5-42
Mar. 9 Sunday	Gen. 2:15-17; 3:1-7 Romans 5:12-19 Matthew 4:1-11	Mar. 24 Monday	Psalm 81 Genesis 24:1-27 2 John 1-13
Mar. 10 Monday	Psalm 32 1 Kings 19:1-8 Hebrews 2:10-18	Mar. 25 Tuesday	Psalm 81 Genesis 29:1-14 1 Corinth. 10:1-4
Mar. 11 Tuesday	Psalm 32 Genesis 4:1-16 Hebrews 4:14-5:10	Mar. 26 Wednesday	Psalm 81 Jeremiah 2:4-13 John 7:14-31,37-39
Mar. 12 Wednesday	Psalm 32 Exod. 34:1-9, 27-28 Matt. 18:10-14	Mar. 27 Thursday	Psalm 23 1 Samuel 15:10-21 Ephesians 4:25-32
Mar. 13 Thursday	Psalm 121 Isaiah 51:1-3 2 Timothy 1:3-7	Mar. 28 Friday	Psalm 23 1 Samuel 15:22-31 Ephesians 5:1-9
Mar. 14 Friday	Psalm 121 Micah 7:18-20 Romans 3:21-31	Mar. 29 Saturday	Psalm 23 1 Samuel 15:32-34 John 1:1-9
Mar. 15 Saturday	Psalm 121 Isaiah 51:4-8 Luke 7:1-10	Mar. 30 Sunday	1 Sam. 16:1-13 Ephesians 5:8-14 John 9:1-41
		Mar. 31 Monday	Psalm 146 Isaiah 59:9-19 Acts 9:1-20



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship 10:15 AM Adult Study 10:15 AM Sunday School all ages	3	4 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open 5:30 PM Yoga class	5 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service	6 7:00 PM Women's Bible study	7	8
9 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship 10:15 AM Adult Study 10:15 AM Sunday School all ages	10 6:30 PM Council Meeting	11 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open 5:30 PM Yoga class	12 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 9:00 AM Women's Circle 6:00 PM Lent Dinner 7:00 PM Lent Service	13 7:00 PM Women's Bible study	14	15
16 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship 10:15 AM Adult Study 5:00 PM EPIC Youth	17	18 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open 5:30 PM Yoga class	19 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 6:00 PM Lent Dinner 7:00 PM Lent Service	20 7:00 PM Women's Bible study	21	22
23 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship 10:15 AM Adult Study 5:00 PM 4th Sunday meal at Bethany	24	25 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open 5:30 PM Yoga class	26 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 6:00 PM Lent Dinner 7:00 PM Lent Service	27 7:00 PM Women's Bible study	28	29
30 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship 10:15 AM Adult Study 10:15 AM Sunday School all ages	31					

Financial Report

Submitted by Claudia Beyer

January Attendance:
 1/05-53
 1/12-77
 1/19-62
 1/26-66

	January		YTD	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Total Receipts	12,495	10,250		
Total Expenses	9,809	11,346		

Bethany



Bethany Lutheran Church
 235 South Second Street
 PO BOX 236
 West Branch, Iowa 52358

Ministry Assistants



Ministers of Proclamation (Lectors)

- 3/02-Del Hughes
- 3/09-Brett Schiele
- 3/16-Shawn Samuelson
- 3/23-Paula Casper
- 3/30-John Twing

Ministers of Hospitality (Greeters)

- 3/02-Dave & Kami Poppen
- 3/09-Courtney Heid
- 3/16-Candy & Ron Madsen
- 3/23-Wayne Frauenholtz
- 3/30-Brian & Paige Roth

Ministers of Christ's Light (Acolytes)

- 3/02-Mia Olson/Karly Blaalid
- 3/09-Derek & Ethan Fetzer
- 3/16-Annika Olson/Maggie Paulsen
- 3/23-Olivia Poppen/Jaden Roth
- 3/30-Abby Fryauf/Emma Fryauf

Ministers of Fellowship

- 3/02-Alice Allen
- 3/09
- 3/16
- 3/23
- 3/30



Find us on Facebook

Facebook is just another way to stay in touch and communicate with one another along with other congregations in the community, synod and ELCA!

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

To find the Youth Ministry page, search **"Bethany Youth Ministry"**

DON'T FORGET TO LIKE US!



LENT BEGINS