

# Bethany Lutheran Church

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



*In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? John 14:2*

## Important Dates

- 3-02** 6:00 p.m. Lent Dinner  
7:00 p.m. Lent Service
- 3-09** 6:00 p.m. Lent Dinner  
7:00 p.m. Lent Service
- 3-14** 6:30 p.m. Council meeting
- 3-16** 6:00 p.m. Lent Dinner  
7:00 p.m. Lent Service
- 3-20** Palm Sunday
- 3-24** 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday  
@ Springdale United Methodist Church
- 3-25** 7:00 p.m. Good Friday @  
Bethany Lutheran
- 3-27** 8:00 a.m. Easter Service  
10:00 p.m. Easter Service
- 3-27** 5:00 p.m. 4th Sunday  
Community meal



Wonderful, awesome, gifted people of God,

By the time you receive this newsletter we will nearly be half-way through the season of Lent. For pastors and leaders in the church it is a season where all too easy to get overwhelmed with all the preparation that has to happen. In a season meant for personal and communal reflection and reorienting our entire selves back to God and what God has done through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, at times it is very challenging to find that space and time. That is certainly something we can all relate to.

Thankfully, I am so very grateful I don't have to do it alone. God has surrounded me with the gifts of the faithful at Bethany to assist in these preparations. We talk a lot about Lent being a season of preparation. In fact, as early as the mid fourth-century Christians have observed Lent as a season of preparation prior to the Easter celebration. The church, individually and communally, prepares for Good Friday and Easter morning. We prepare communally when we gather on Wednesdays to eat together, worship, and pray together. We each prepare in our own ways. But what is all this preparation about?

We prepare because the One sent by His Father has gone ahead of us to prepare a place for us in His Father's house. We prepare not because we have to but because God has first prepared a place for us. Our preparation is not a duty but a gift. Our preparation this season of Lent is an opportunity to humbly recognize before God our broken and sinful nature. It is an opportunity to return to the relationship God desires to have with each of us. It is a season to prepare our hearts, minds, bodies, and souls for the ultimate sacrifice of love revealed in God's Son, Jesus Christ.

I pray this day for each of you as you journey through these 40 days of Lent and I would be appreciative of your prayers for me as well. They truly do sustain, comfort, and strengthen me. Whatever preparations you undertake may they lead you to the presence of God in your journey! Grace and peace to each of you this Lenten season!

Pastor Chad

## Spring Forward



Don't forget to set your  
clocks 1 hour ahead on  
March 13th



## 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!

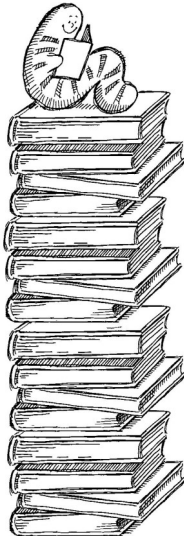
Simply search "Bethany Lutheran  
Church (ELCA) West Branch, Iowa" on  
facebook and "like" our page!

ALSO FIND US ON TWITTER!

Search @blewestbranch

## 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 20 - Kevin Olson  
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 theme for this month is controversial books. The first book is *Patrix: The Cranky, Beautiful Faith Of A Sinner And Saint* by Nadia Bolz-Weber. She is a Lutheran pastor ministering to a GLBTQ community at House for All Sinners and Saints in Denver. Martin Luther said that we are all saints and sinners. This book is a good illustration of it. If you can get past the tattoos and the profanity you find an honest portrayal of a woman who is both deeply faithful and deeply flawed which gives hope to the rest of us. She gives a message that some think could be the future of Christianity in America. (member recommended)

*Accidental Saints: Finding God In All The Wrong People* is Nadia Bolz-Weber's second book. We are invited into her "religious but not so spiritual life". *Accidental Saints* demonstrates what happens when ordinary people share bread and wine, struggle with the scriptures together, and tell each other the truth about their real lives. (member recommended)

*Just Mercy: A Story of Justice And Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson is a true story about the redeeming potential of mercy. One of his first cases, as an attorney, was that of a young man sentenced to die for a murder he did not commit. This book is an indictment of the justice system today in America. It is where capital punishment means that those that do not have the capital get punished. It is about how easily we condemn people in this country. Today we have the highest rate of incarceration in the world. The author states that "the true measure of our character is how we treat the poor, the disfavored, the accused, the incarcerated, and the condemned. We all are implicated when we allow other people to be mistreated." We all need mercy, we all need justice, and we all need God's unmerited grace. (member recommended)

Many of us are aware of the events that have taken place in Postville, Iowa. The end scene has been the federal government's intervention in a kosher slaughter operation run by a Jewish Hasidic group. *Postville: A Clash Of Cultures In Heartland American* is by the University of Iowa professor Stephen G. Bloom. This is a view of Iowa from different angles. The one from the author gives a picture of Iowa from a non-native viewpoint. It also gives a view of an ultra-orthodox Jewish group and their impact on a small Iowa town. They both revitalized and polarized this community. This book gives the reader the background to the events that eventually transpired. (donated)

*Faith And Politics: How The "Moral Values" Debate Divides America And How To Move Forward Together* by John Danforth is a book to be read during this election year. Danforth, an ordained Episcopal priest and a former U.S. Senator is in a position to speak on this topic. He has seen shifts both in his church and in his political party that cause him concern.

Continued on page 3



## Adult Education Opportunities



### Sermons Are Online

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

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

**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

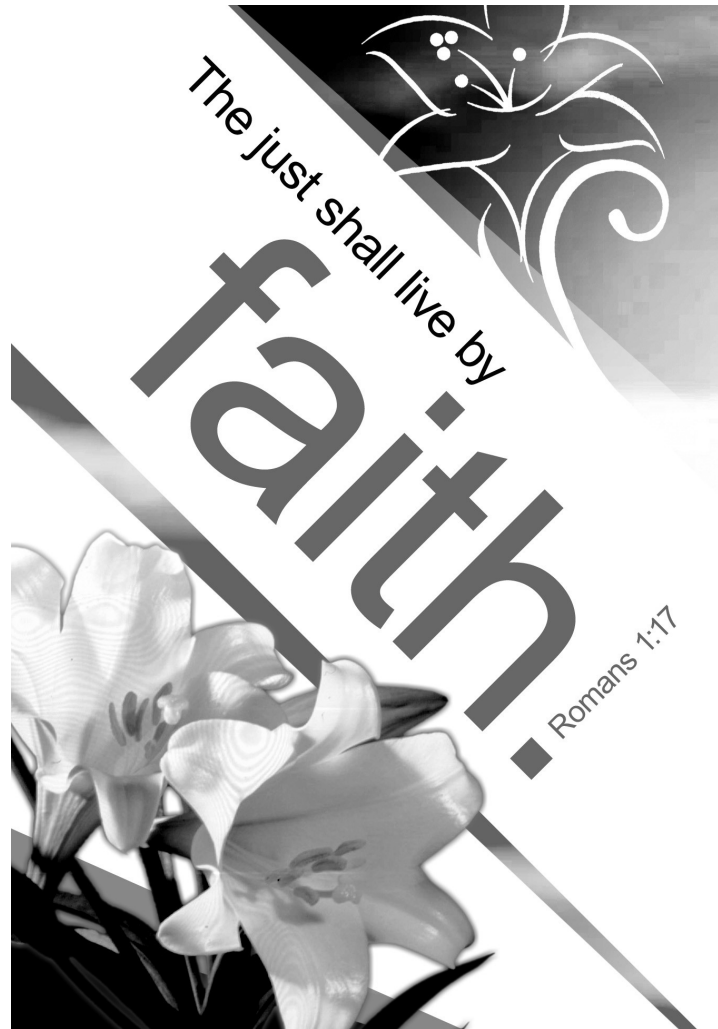
**Adult Discussion**  
10:20 a.m. in the Small Hall  
All are Welcome

## Bethany Books Continued

"If Christianity is supposed to be a ministry of reconciliation and has become, instead, a divisive force in American political life, something is terribly wrong, and we should correct it". He criticizes the Republican Party for its following the Christian Right. He discusses a number of key issues. He feels that we must move forward, leaving political differences aside, and address our nation's problems. (donated)

### Book For Children

*The Story Of Creation* by Martina Smith and illustrated by Peter Grosshauser and Ed Temple is for young children up to seven years old. It is an illustrated retelling of the story of creation and of Adam and Eve. (donated)





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*Easter Meal*



**4th Sunday Community Meal - Easter Sunday**

We have decided to go ahead with a meal that evening and will be serving ham, baked potatoes, salad and dessert.

If you would like to help or would like to donate toward this meal please contact Paula by Sunday March 20th.

We would love to see you there!



**Maundy Thursday Service: 7:00 p.m.**  
Springdale United Methodist Church

**Good Friday Service: 7:00 p.m.**  
Bethany Lutheran Church

**Easter Services at Bethany Lutheran**  
8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.



## Wednesday Night Lent Supper and Worship Schedule

### Wednesday, March 2

6:00 pm Lent Supper

7:00 pm Prayer Around the Cross Worship Service

### Wednesday, March 9

6:00 pm Lent Supper

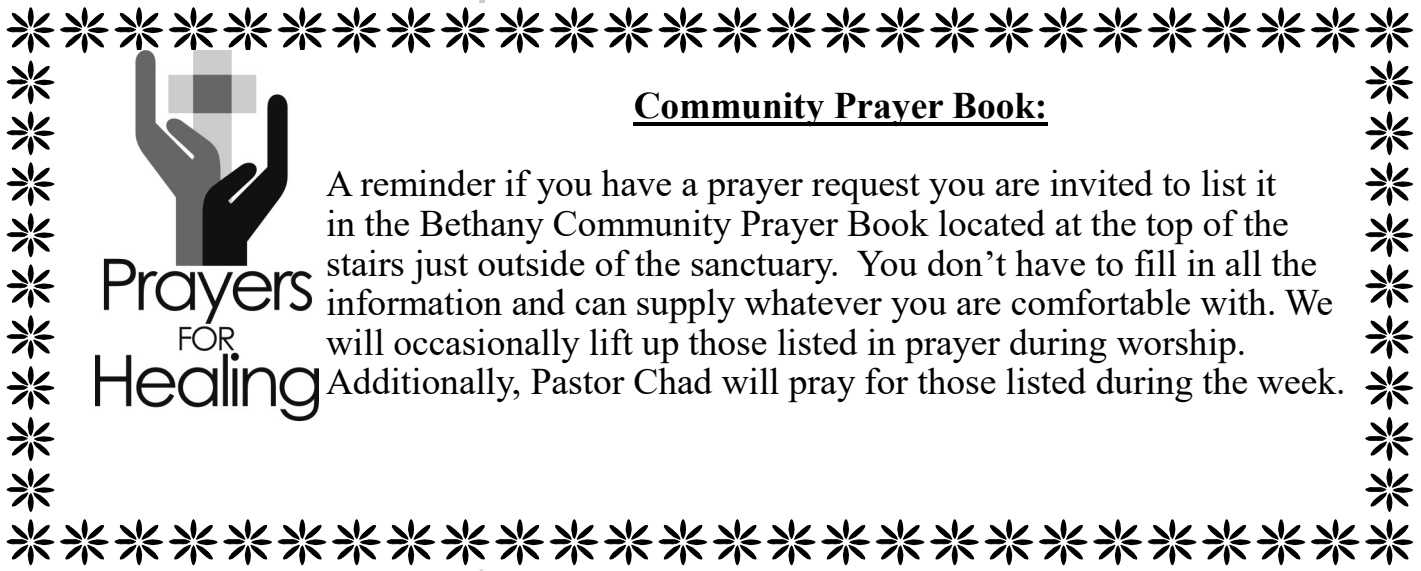
7:00 pm Prayer Around the Cross Worship Service

### Wednesday, March 16

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. We hope you give it a try.



### Community Prayer Book:

A reminder if you have a prayer request you are invited to list it in the Bethany Community Prayer Book located at the top of the stairs just outside of the sanctuary. You don't have to fill in all the information and can supply whatever you are comfortable with. We will occasionally lift up those listed in prayer during worship. Additionally, Pastor Chad will pray for those listed during the week.

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
COUNCIL MINUTES

JANUARY 11, 2016

**Members present:** Carol Roghair, Jill Taylor, Candy Madsen, John Black, Greg Lipes, Laura Twing, Paula Casper, Pastor Chad, Kevin Olson.

**Absent:** Courtney Heid

**Called to order:** 6:30 pm

Opening reflections on John's Gospel, energy sources and stealers.

**Pastor's Report:** A new community effort, A Prayer of Peace Service, will be held at Bethany on January 24<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.

**Secretary's Report:** With a correction to the Local Missions description, Kevin Olson moved for approval, and Carol Roghair seconded. All ayes.

**Treasurer's Report:** Discussion on the status of the Building Fund and Ceiling Tile Fund. Ceiling Tile Fund will remain separate, and the Building Fund will be added to the General Fund. Paula moved, and John Black seconded. All ayes.

**Building and Grounds:** Bulbs and ballasts in Great Hall and restrooms have been replaced by Dan Haub. He recommends buying the same bulbs each time, not intermixing styles, colors. Building audit appraisal is not finalized, but values are up, and insurance coverage will need to be adjusted. Sanctuary painting committee has chosen colors and recommends hiring Randy Robertson again. The cost estimate is \$15,500. Six new fire extinguishers have been purchased.

**Education:** no report

**Missions:** no report

**Fellowship:** Del Hughes will do a fish fry for the January 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday Supper.

**Stewardship:** no report

**Youth:** Organizing the Palm Sunday Brunch has begun.

**Worship:** New organist is doing well.

**Old Business:**

- \* Mission Investment Fund to be noted in Annual Report.

**New Business:**

- \* Buy new (2<sup>nd</sup>) set of accompanist books.
- \* Congregational Report to Synod
- \* Kami Poppen has been added to the Audit committee.
- \* Committee needs to be set up for the 2017 Reformation 500<sup>th</sup> year anniversary celebration.
- \* Thanks given to outgoing council members.

**Adjourned at 7:50 pm.**



## 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 Beth Kaufman's mailbox box or mail back to Bethany P.O. Box 236 by Sunday March 13<sup>th</sup>. 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 March 25th.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like Bethany to purchase an Easter lily for me. I have enclosed \$10.00

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



Vacation Bible School  
is coming earlier this year!

Please save the date.  
June 13-17



Counselors from Camp EWALU will be here again this year so it's sure to be a good time for all.

## 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*.

Tue Mar. 1	Ezekiel 17:1-10 Romans 2:12-16 Psalm 39	Fri Mar. 18	Isaiah 54:9-10 Hebrews 2:10-18 Psalm 31:9-16
Wed Mar. 2	Numbers 13:17-27 Luke 13:18-21 Psalm 39	Sat Mar. 19	Leviticus 23:1-8 Luke 22:1-13 Psalm 31:9-6
Thu Mar. 3	Joshua 4:1-13 2 Corinthians 4:16 - 5:5 Psalm 32	Sunday Mar. 20	Luke 19:28-40 Isaiah 50:4-9a Luke 22:15 - 23:56
Fri Mar. 4	Joshua 4:14-24 2 Corinthians 5:6-15 Psalm 32	Mon Mar. 21	Isaiah 42:1-9 Hebrews 9:11-15 John 12:1-11
Sat Mar. 5	Exodus 32:7-14 Luke 15:1-10 Psalm 32	Tue Mar. 22	Isaiah 49:1-7 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 John 12:20-36
Sun Mar. 6	Joshua 5:9-12 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32	Wed Mar. 23	Isaiah 50:4-9a Hebrews 12:1-3 John 13:21-32
Mon Mar. 7	Leviticus 23:26-41 Revelation 19:1-8 Psalm 53	Thu Mar. 24	Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 John 13:1-17, 31b-35
Tue Mar. 8	Leviticus 25:1-19 Revelation 19:9-10 Psalm 53	Fri Mar. 25	Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12 Hebrews 10:16-25 John 18:1 - 19:42
Wed Mar. 9	2 Kings 4:1-7 Luke 9:10-17 Psalm 53	Sat Mar. 26	Genesis 1:1 - 2:4a Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18, 8:6-18, 9:8-13 John 20:1-18
Thu Mar. 10	Isaiah 43:1-7 Philippians 2:19-24 Psalm 126	Sun Mar 27	Acts 10:34-43 1 Corinthians 15:19-26 Luke 24:1-12
Fri Mar. 11	Isaiah 43:8-15 Philippians 2:25 - 3:1 Psalm 126	Mon Mar. 28	Isaiah 7:10-14 Hebrews 10:4-10 Luke 1:26-38
Sat Mar. 12	Exodus 12:21-27 John 11:45-57 Psalm 126	Tue Mar. 29	Judges 4:17-23; 5:24-31a Revelation 12:1-12 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Sun Mar. 13	Isaiah 43:16-21 Philippians 3:4b-14 John 12:1-8	Wed Mar. 30	2 Samuel 6:1-15 Luke 24:1-12 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Mon Mar. 14	Exodus 40:1-15 Hebrews 10:19-25 Psalm 20	Thu Mar. 31	1 Samuel 17:1-23 Acts 5:12-16 Psalm 150
Tue Mar. 15	Judges 9:7-15 1 John 2:18-28 Psalm 20		
Wed Mar. 16	Habakkuk 3:2-15 Luke 18:31-34 Psalm 20		
Thu Mar. 17	Isaiah 53:10-12 Hebrews 2:1-9 Psalm 31:9-16		





# March 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>28</b> 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship 10:20 AM Sunday school & Adult Discussion 5:00 PM West Branch Community Meal @ Bethany	<b>29</b>	<b>1</b> 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	<b>2</b> 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 6:00 PM Wednesday Lent Dinner 7:00 PM Wednesday Lent Prayer Around Cross Worship	<b>3</b> 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship 10:20 AM Sunday school & Adult Discussion	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	<b>9</b> 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 9:00 AM Women's Circle 6:00 PM Wednesday Lent Dinner 7:00 PM Wednesday Lent Prayer Around Cross Worship	<b>10</b> 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship 10:20 AM Sunday school & Adult Discussion	<b>14</b> 6:30 PM Council Meeting	<b>15</b> 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	<b>16</b> 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 6:00 PM Wednesday Lent Dinner 7:00 PM Wednesday Lent Prayer Around Cross Worship	<b>17</b> 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship 10:20 AM Sunday school & Adult Discussion	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	<b>23</b> 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 7:00 PM - Confirmation dinner and study	<b>24</b> 6:00 AM Women's Bible study 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Worship at Springdale UMC	<b>25</b> 7:00 PM Good Friday Worship at Bethany	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 8:00 AM Easter Worship 10:00 AM Easter Worship 5:00 PM West Branch Community Meal @ Bethany	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	<b>30</b> 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 6:30 PM Confirmation dinner and study	<b>31</b> 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	<b>1</b>	

## Monetary Gifts Report

Submitted by Jill Taylor

### Saints in Worship:

01-01 59  
 01-08 49  
 01-15 48  
 01-22 46  
 01-29 52  
 Total: 254

	January 2016		YTD	
Total Receipts	Actual 15,229	Budget 13,084	Actual 15,229	Budget 13,084
Total Expenses	Actual 11,993	Budget 13,676	Actual 11,993	Budget 13,676

*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.

