

# Bethany Lutheran Church

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



## Important Dates

- 03-01 **Ash Wednesday Service**  
7:00 pm at Springdale United  
Methodist Church
- 03-02 **Prayer group meeting**  
7:00 pm (small hall)
- 03-08 **Lent Dinner** 6:15 pm  
**Lent Service** 7:00 pm
- 03-12 **Daylight Savings**
- 03-13 **Council meeting** 6:30 pm
- 03-15 **Lent Dinner** 6:15 pm  
**Lent Service** 7:00 pm
- 03-22 **Lent Dinner** 6:15 pm  
**Lent Service** 7:00 pm
- 03-26 **Community meal** 5:00 pm
- 03-29 **Lent Dinner** 6:15 pm  
**Lent Service** 7:00 pm

Don't forget Daylight  
Savings time! .

Set your clocks forward  
March 12th!



O come, let us worship and bow down,

let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! - Psalm 95:6 (NRSV)



Dear Faithful and Precious Saints of God,

By the time you receive this Newsletter the season of Lent will be upon us. And with Lent comes an abundance of worship opportunities. Perhaps, a way to help us focus on our need for what our Lord and Savior will do for us on Good Friday as he hangs upon a cross. Perhaps, a way for us to cherish all the more the fragrant lilies of Easter morning or relish the return of the joyous shouts of "Alleluia", which simply mean "Praise the Lord." Praise to God for conquering death through the cross and resurrection of our Lord and Savior.

Worship is many things but it is clear it has been instrumental to God's people throughout the ages. The psalmist above calls the people to worship. We find Jesus at a very young age gathered in the synagogue in worship and even teaching the leaders. And of course on the night before his death Jesus gathered with his disciples and celebrated the Jewish festival of Passover and then institutes what we know and celebrate as the Lord's Supper. On this night before his death he was present with those closest to him. He fed them with bread and wine. He comforted them for the journey ahead that will be difficult. He sustained them by his words. He was with them.

And that is truly what worship is. In *The Sunday Assembly* (Augsburg Fortress, 2008, p. 8) Lutheran worship is defined as:

- A local and open assembly of people in need,
- gathered by the Holy Spirit
- to encounter God's grace in Jesus Christ, the crucified and risen one,
- given by God through word and sacraments,
- so that these people together might signify how much God loves the world,
- might themselves come again to faith in God,
- and might so turn in love and service to their neighbors.

Worship is where we beggars come in need of God's grace, love, forgiveness, and salvation. Worship is where the Holy Spirit gathers us together to be fed with the bread of life and cup of salvation. Worship is where Jesus Christ meets us and assures how much he loves us and then desires to use us in sharing that love with our neighbors. We have many worship opportunities this Lenten season. Opportunities for the risen Christ to meet us. Opportunities to come together as the body of Christ. Opportunities to grow and be fed as kingdom people. Opportunities to be equipped for our part in the mission of God in the world. Oh, let us worship and bow down and kneel before the Lord, our Maker. Blessings! - Pastor Chad



## 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

## 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

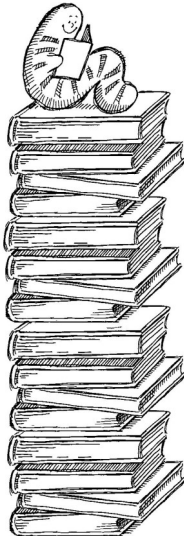
Office Hours  
 Tuesday & Thursday 8:00-11:30 a.m.  
 Office Phone: (319) 643-5998

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

ALSO FIND US ON TWITTER!

Search @blcwestbranch



## Bethany Books

by Frank Frostestad

### Books For Adults

March 1<sup>st</sup> is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. The books this month have Jesus in their title and/or content. While only one of the authors (Wangerin) is Lutheran, it is good to get the perspective of Christianity today from a number of directions.

*Jesus Wants To Save Christians* by Rob Bell and Don Golden is a manifesto for the "church in exile". "There is a church in our area that recently added an addition to their building which cost more than \$20 million. Our local paper ran a front-page story not too long ago revealing that one of five people in our city lives in poverty.

This book is about those two numbers. This is a book about faith and fear, wealth and war, poverty, power, safety, terror, and homeland insecurity. It's about what happens when Christians support and participate in the very things that Jesus came to set people free from. (donated)

*Jesus Brand Spirituality* by Ken Wilson starts by saying "Jesus wants his religion back. And he wants it back from the orthodox, the Bible-believing, and the defenders of faith as much as from anyone else. So it can be for the world again." The author invites the reader to follow a spiritual path to create a world of love rather than the cultural conflict and meanness that we see in the world today. (donated)

Lee Strobel is a pastor at the large Willow Creek Community Church near Chicago. He was formerly a journalist with the *Chicago Tribune*. *The Case For Jesus* is a personal investigation using a journalist's skills and probing questions to see if there is evidence for the existence of Jesus. (donated)

*God's Outrageous Claims* is also by Lee Strobel. In this book, he details thirteen discoveries that can change your life. Through them he feels that we can discover new insights into who we are and new principles as to how we should live. (donated)

The men's bible study group that meets each Wednesday morning has been going through the Bible book by book (not in order) for a number of years. Some days one thinks "why can't this read more like a novel". It certainly would be easier. Walter Wangerin, Jr. has done just that in his *The Book of God*". It presents the Bible as a novel with very human people and events. He tries to make them real people and make the places in which they live come alive. Wangerin is a masterful storyteller and his skill is evident here. He is able to show the reader what it was like to be caught up in that particular time and place where God reached out and touched ordinary men and women. (donated)

### Books For Children

*The Life Of Jesus* is one of the Spark Story play and learn books. They help families fit faith into everyday life with Bible stories, simple activities, and projects. For ages 5-8.

### **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** – Jerry Dodds

**Organist** – Jill Barnhart (Interim)

### **Church Council**

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

Jon Twing  
(319) 331-6547  
jon.s.twing@pearson.com

Jill Taylor  
(319) 643-5865  
jtmtrmt@gmail.com

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

Tonya Samuelson  
(319) 643-5915  
s3ams@aol.com

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

Jamie Zimmerman  
(319) 325-4322  
jazzim1@lcom.net

Cheryl Fischer  
(319)643-7358  
1892cmf@lcom.net

Wayne Frauenholtz  
(319)930-1196  
wrfrauenholtz@lcom.net

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

## WORSHIP NEWS

During Lent it is customary to omit the “Alleluias” from our liturgy. Have you ever wondered why we do this? An ELCA Worship Formation & Liturgical Resources article states, “Because of the penitential character of the season of Lent in the Western church, singing or saying the word “alleluia” has historically been suspended during Lent’s forty days. This period of individual and congregational reflection on the quality of our baptismal faith and life suggest that the joyful nature of alleluia is more appropriately reserved for our Easter celebrations when it is given full and jubilant voice.” This practice dates back to at least the fifth century.

# Lent



## 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 BY SUNDAY APRIL 2ND. DEDICATIONS WILL BE LISTED IN THE BULLETIN ON EASTER MORNING.



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I WILL BRING A POTTED LILY, TULIP OR DAFFODIL TO THE CHURCH BY NOON ON FRIDAY APRIL 14TH.

\_\_\_\_\_ 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” AND LIST THOSE NAMES BELOW:

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## 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

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

**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

**Monthly Prayer Group**  
First Thursday of Month  
7:00 p.m. in Small Hall  
**All are Welcome**

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL NEWS

Vacation Bible School is Coming!

**Save the Dates!**

When: June 12 - 16

Where: Bethany Lutheran Church

Who: Children Kindergarten - 5th Grade

Look for More Information to Come!

Questions: See Tonya Samuelson



## LUTHERAN SERVICES IN IOWA (LSI) NEWS

### March is National Professional Social Work Month

March is National Professional Social Workers Month, a time to recognize social workers and thank them for all they do. At Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI), we're grateful for our many social workers who have dedicated their lives to serving their communities!

Maybe you've never had a social worker involved in your life. Yet, whether you realize it or not, you've had the benefit of their behind-the-scenes work in your community. Social workers help people help themselves in overcoming life's most difficult circumstances or managing challenges of everyday living: poverty, abuse, mental illness, depression, addiction, disability and many other situations.

Thank you to all of Iowa's social workers, especially those at LSI. We're proud of you.

### Finding Calm

Nine-year-old JD lost track of how many days he was removed from school. He would throw things in the classroom, or rip up his papers. Almost every day, he was separated from his classmates and taken to the "Intervention Room," an empty classroom where children have the opportunity to calm down and refocus. But nothing worked.

That's when JD's dad, Jerry, turned to LSI. With his team of LSI therapists and case-workers, JD has found an interesting way to control his anger: his rock collection. He's always had a love of gathering "cool, unique-looking" rocks, and AriAnna, his LSI therapist, has incorporated that into their sessions together. "Rocks can be used as great relaxation tools, and he spent a lot of time pouring over the rocks I had in my office," AriAnna said. JD started his rock collection with AriAnna and began bringing it to school with him. He carries his favorites in his "positive choice pouch." "When I hold them in my hand and breathe, it calms me down," says JD.

Jerry says LSI's help has been life-changing for his son. "He's making better choices now. I'm really proud of him," he says. This year, JD has been removed from class only once, and for only 15 minutes. "He has a different identity at school now," AriAnna says. "He's creative and insightful. Now, he knows what he sees in himself, and he wants to share that with others."



## FAITH AT HOME

These short Bible passages and reflection starters are one more way we are trying to spur conversation about faith at home and also absorb ourselves in the word of God. We hope you find them beneficial.

### Proverbs 18:13

If one gives answer before hearing, it is folly and shame.

- A good listener...
- Things that get in the way of hearing and understanding...
- To be a better listener, I...



### Luke 10:30-37

Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

- I have passed by...
- I have risked helping...
- I worry that if I try and help...

### Proverbs 16:23

The mind of the wise makes their speech judicious, and adds persuasiveness to their lips.

- Wisdom comes from...
- Some wisdom that is judicious, making good judgment and sense for me...
- I am to easily persuaded by...



## 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*.

Wed March 1	Psalm 51:1-17 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21	Fri March 17	Psalm 95 Exodus 16:9-21 Ephesians 2:11-22
Thurs March 2	Psalm 51 Jonah 3:1-10 Romans 1:1-7	Sat March 18	Psalm 95 Exodus 16:27-35 John 4:1-6
Fri March 3	Psalm 51 Jonah 4:1-11 Romans 1:8-17	Sun March 19	Exodus 17:1-7 Romans 5:1-11 John 4:5-42
Sat March 4	Psalm 51 Isaiah 58:1-12 Matthew 18:1-7	Mon March 20	Psalm 81 Genesis 24:1-27 2 John 1-13
Sun March 5	Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 Romans 5:12-19 Matthew 4:1-11	Tues March 21	Psalm 81 Genesis 29:1-14 1 Corinthians 10:1-4
Mon March 6	Psalm 32 1 Kings 19:1-8 Hebrews 2:10-18	Wed March 22	Psalm 81 Jeremiah 2:4-13 John 7:14-31, 37-39
Tues March 7	Psalm 32 Genesis 4:1-16 Hebrews 4:14-5:10	Thurs March 23	Psalm 23 1 Samuel 15:10-21 Ephesians 4:25-32
Wed March 8	Psalm 32 Exodus 34:1-9, 27-28 Matthew 18:10-14	Fri March 24	Psalm 23 1 Samuel 15:22-31 Ephesians 5:1-9
Thurs March 9	Psalm 121 Isaiah 51:1-3 2 Timothy 1:3-7	Sat March 25	Psalm 23 1 Samuel 15:32-34 John 1:1-9
Fri March 10	Psalm 121 Micah 7:18-20 Romans 3:21-31	Sunday, March 26	1 Samuel 16:1-13 Ephesians 5:8-14 John 9:1-41
Sat March 11	Psalm 121 Isaiah 51:4-8 Luke 7:1-10	Mon March 27	Psalm 146 Isaiah 59:9-19 Acts 9:1-20
Sun March 12	Genesis 12:1-4a Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 John 3:1-17	Tue March 28	Psalm 146 Isaiah 42:14-21 Colossians 1:9-14
Mon March 13	Psalm 128 Numbers 21:4-9 Hebrews 3:1-6	Wed March 29	Psalm 146 Isaiah 60:17-22 Matthew 9:27-34
Tues March 14	Psalm 128 Isaiah 65:17-25 Romans 4:6-13	Thurs March 30	Psalm 130 Ezekiel 1:1-3; 2:8-3:3 Revelation 10:1-11
Wed March 15	Psalm 128 Ezekiel 36:22-32 John 7:53-8:11	Fri March 31	Psalm 130 Ezekiel 33:10-16 Revelation 11:15-19
Thurs March 16	Psalm 95 Exodus 16:1-8 Colossians 1:15-23		



# March 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 9:00 AM Worship 10:20 AM Sunday School Pre-K through 3rd grade	27	28 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	1 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Worship @ Springdale UMC	2 6:00 AM Women's Bible study 7:00 PM Prayer Group Meeting	3	4
5 9:00 AM Worship 10:20 AM Sunday School Pre-K through 3rd grade	6	7 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	8 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 9:00 AM Women's Circle 6:15 PM Lent Supper 7:00 PM Lent Worship Prayer Around the Cross	9 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	10	11
12 9:00 AM Worship 10:20 AM Sunday School Pre-K through 3rd grade	13 6:30 PM Council Meeting	14 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	15 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 6:15 PM Lent Supper 7:00 PM Lent Worship Prayer Around the Cross	16 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	17	18
19 9:00 AM Worship 10:20 AM Sunday School Pre-K through 3rd grade	20	21 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	22 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 6:15 PM Lent Supper 7:00 PM Lent Worship Prayer Around the Cross	23 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	24	25
26 9:00 AM Worship 10:20 AM Sunday School Pre-K through 3rd grade 5:00 PM West Branch Community Meal @ Bethany	27	28 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	29 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 6:15 PM Lent Supper 7:00 PM Lent Worship Prayer Around the Cross	30 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	31	1

## Monetary Gifts Report

Submitted by Jill Taylor

Saints in Worship:

01-01	48
01-08	53
01-15	67
01-22	58
01-29	48
<b>Total</b>	<b>274</b>

	January 2017		YTD	
Total Receipts	Actual 12,486	Budget 13,167	Actual 12,486	Budget 13,167
Total Expenses	Actual 11,065	Budget 13,791	Actual 11,065	Budget 13,791

***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



Bethany Lutheran Church  
235 South Second Street  
PO BOX 236  
West Branch, Iowa 52358  
[www.wbbethany.org](http://www.wbbethany.org)



## Ministry Assistants

### Ministers of Proclamation (Lectors)

- 03-05 Frank Frostedstad
- 03-12 Alan Beyer
- 03-19 Paula Casper
- 03-26 Lisa Zimmerman

### Ministers of Hospitality (Greeters)

- 03-05 Wayne Frauenholtz
- 03-12 Kevin & Annika Olson
- 03-19 Paula Casper
- 03-26 Jon & Laura Twing

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

- 03-05 Kaitlyn Lovetinsky  
Collin Lovetinsky
- 03-12 Gavin Hierseman  
Cole Bailey
- 03-19 Katie Anderson  
Ellie Holstad
- 03-26 Olivia Poppen  
Alex Poppen



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

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