

Bethany Lutheran Church

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



IMPORTANT DATES

- 05/11 Graduation Recognition
- 05/14 Women's Circle
- 05/18 Confirmation Sunday
Baccalaureate @
WBUMC - 7:00 p.m.
- 05/30 Synod Assembly
- 05/31 Synod Assembly
- 06/01 Synod Assembly

God has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? – Micah 6:8



Greetings people of God!

It didn't dawn on me last month to write about a recent trip I took to the State Capital in Des Moines in which I was joined by Laura Twing and dozens of fellow Lutherans from around the state. It was a wonderful day full of many highlights. This event happens the second Monday of every year so mark your calendar now for **March 9, 2015.**

As people of God and disciples of Christ we are called to speak for justice and come alongside those whose voices are not often heard. We do that in many varied and different ways and I thank each of you for the work you do in your daily lives that reflects the Spirit of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the world around us. On March 10 those of us gathered for "Lutheran Day on the Hill" advocated for the children and families that Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) serves. We were welcomed by LSI president and CEO, Doug Johnson and then Bishop Michael Burk led us in devotions. We also heard from Ryan Cumming, program director for hunger education with ELCA World Hunger, who shared the conflict he experiences upon leaving worship when he hears, "Go in peace, remember the poor." Ryan passionately shared that he finds no peace in the number of people who live in poverty and then he proceeded to remind us who we are – a people who have been set free because of Jesus. We are the ones who need to consistently ask who is harmed and who is helped by a policy.



We also heard stories of hope, healing and success from those benefitting from services provided by LSI such as a mother of 3 who was ready to give her children away until she received support and encouragement. Also featured was Harmony Home in Muscatine where 5 developmentally disabled adults live together like family with the help of LSI.

Contact Information

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9:00 am - Noon

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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!



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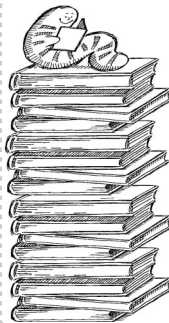
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It was then off to the Capital for a group picture and a greeting from Governor Branstad. After a sack lunch we headed off to meet with our elected officials to advocate on behalf of Iowan's in need. One of the main things we were speaking to was an adjustment in the Family Investment Program (FIP) Basic Grant. FIP provides cash assistance to needy families in our state as they work to become self-supporting. We learned the last adjustment made to this program was in 1989 and since that time the Consumer Price Index has increased 125%. For 25 years a family of 4 has received \$495 a month and even if that were doubled today it would still leave a family of four at 50% below the poverty level.

We were able to visit with Senator Roberty Dvorsky and briefly with Representative Bobby Kaufman and thank them for their service and seek their support. Also, Representative Kaufman arranged for us to be given a tour to the top of the Capital. (See the enclosed picture which also includes Beth Ahrens of Trinity Lutheran Church in Tipton) I believe each of us gathered learned a lot, met some fellow Lutherans from around the state, and had a great day. I hope you consider attending next year!

In peace,
Pastor Chad



Bethany Books

by Frank Frostestad

Books For Adults

Killing Jesus: A History by the conservative columnist, author, and TV commentator Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard probably should have been featured last month in time for Easter. It was recommended to me as a book that placed the events of holy week and the crucifixion in its historical context. The Gospels are books that are meant to give a spiritual message. They are not books that are primarily concerned with history. Many background issues that would be well known to people of that time but are not known to us today are left out. Part I of this book however reads like an ancient Roman History 101. They spend too much time demonizing the Roman leadership. The last part of the book gives the events of holy week and the passion in detail. It is a good review of the events that took place.

Building A Church Of Small Groups: a place where nobody stands alone by Bill Donahue and Russ Robinson uses the example of Willow Creek Community Church. Here small groups are so important that they define the core organizational strategy. Willow Creek is a church of 18,000 members who connect in 2,700 small groups. They have gone from being a church with small groups to being a church of small groups. This book gives the vision, values, and strategies needed to integrate small groups in a church setting. (donated)



- 05/01 Olivia Poppen
- 05/06 Deb Anderson,
Brittney Zimmerman
- 05/09 Curt Friis, Tyler Haub
- 05/10 Jenna Sexton
- 05/12 Elijah Fetzer
- 05/15 Bonnie Conner, Claire Kaufman
Matt Whaley
- 05/17 Candy Madsen, Maggie Paulsen
- 05-19 Carla Friis
- 05/21 Linda Black, Wayne Frauenholtz
Jayden Roth
- 05/22 Audrey Hartman, Andrew Niles
- 05/29 Nicole Zimmerman

Confirmation (May 18th)

- Annika Olson
- Emma Fryauf
- Karly Blaalid
- Maggie Paulsen
- Lauren Whaley
- Billy Friis
- Ethan Fetzer

WBHS Class of 2014

- Nick Yeater
- Tyler Haub
- Justin Roth
- Sarah Villhauer
- Jacob Webb
- Joshua Snyder

We will recognize and pray for these seniors in worship May 11.

Why Can't We Talk? Christian Wisdom On Dialogue As A Habit Of The Heart by John Backman is an important book for our time. Society today is undergoing change that has led to polarization on so many issues. Many of us have been trained to listen critically, judging what the other is saying, looking for what is wrong with that viewpoint, and then trying to persuade them to our way of thinking. Authentic dialogue takes time and energy which is countercultural in our fast-paced world. We have forgotten the art of conversation. The author offers many suggestions for reminding us how to engage in deep conversation as well as spiritual practices that prepare us for this work of the heart. (recommended, *The Lutheran*)

A Complaint Free World: How To Stop Complaining And Start Enjoying the Life You Always Wanted by Will Bowen is about just that – to stop complaining. This book is full of practical ideas and stories that will teach you how to stop complaining but also how to become more positive and have a better life. To remove the toxicity of complaining from our lives can result in improvements in many areas of our relationships, health, and happiness. This book is a reminder that the most permanent, constructive changes that you can make in the world are the changes that you make in yourself. (recommended, *The Lutheran*)

Anne Graham Lotz in *The Magnificent Obsession: Embracing The God-Filled Life* uses Abraham from the book of Genesis as a great model of faith. The lessons of Abraham show us why we are often full of faith one day and full of doubt the next. The daughter of Billy Graham shows us how our faith must be lived step-by-step and day-by-day. (donated)

Books For Children

Desmond And the Very Mean Word by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Douglas Carlton Abrams is based on Archbishop Tutu's childhood in South Africa. When Desmond took his new bike out for a ride, his pride and joy turn to hurt and anger when some boys shout a very mean word to him. From this experience he learns an important lesson about understanding his conflicted feelings and how to forgive. It shows that true forgiveness comes from within and that all people deserve compassion, whether or not they say they are sorry. (recommended, *The Lutheran*)



NEW MEMBERS

Reed White & Katie Slama
Tim, Aiden and Miley Shields

Scott, Tara, Jacob & Addison Langley

Greg, Katie, Cora & Margaret Lipes

Tami Urmie



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.

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

Reminders

Hospital Visitation

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

EPIC (Energetic Peeps in Christ)

What is EPIC?

EPIC meets monthly, usually on the 3rd Sunday of the month. We provide a welcoming atmosphere where we have structured fun, along with fellowship, do service projects, and share our faith.

Who is EPIC?

We have students in grades 5-8. Our kids not only participate in Sunday school and EPIC but are well-rounded youth involved in many different activities beyond church and school. Their many talents include sports, 4-H, farming, music, and show choir. All of these are in addition to being full-time students.

EPIC Up-Close

Since the beginning of school year EPIC has done at least 8 service projects and several fun events.

August

- + Sponsored the Bethany Swim Party and provided the snacks

September

- + Participated in God's Work Our Hands
- + Took a field trip to Adventureland

October

- + Traveled the world with games from around the world.
- + Organized and ran the carnival games part of Trunk or Treat.

November

- + Made cinnamon rolls for fellowship to raise money for Chemo Bags, which we made and delivered for cancer patients.

December

- + Participated with the Angel Tree.
- + Celebrated Christmas with a movie, dinner, and ornament exchange at the Schiele home.

February

- + Our all time favorite-Indoor snowball fight
- + Provided the free community meal with everyone donating food and time.

March

- + Confirmation students provided a meal for Lent.

April

- + Played Minute to Win It.
- + Provided Cinnamon rolls for fellowship on Palm Sunday.
- + Helped with the Spring Cleaning, 2 years in a row.

-Jeni & Amanda

+

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MINUTES
MARCH 2014

Members present: Pastor Chad, Claudia Beyer, John Black, Bonnie Conner, Courtney Heid, Del Hughes, Kent Kaufman, Candy Madsen, Laura Twing

Members absent: Dave Bahnsen

Meeting called to order at 6:30p.m.

Opening prayer and greetings: Exodus 3 1-12 Moses' call story. We are each called, set apart. Discussed possible retreat themes, reviewing of constitution and bylaws.

Pastor's Report: In addition to regular meetings, this past month has included an Iowa City Clergy text study, Synod Racial Justice Workshop, hosting the Conference 7 Clergy meeting, Ash Wednesday Services. 12 Pastoral visits, 2 Premarital counseling sessions and attending Lutheran Day on the Hill at the Capitol Building in Des Moines. 7 requests for financial assistance. Fourth Sunday Dinners- fairly well attended this month. Had positive comments from new members regarding feeling welcomed at Bethany, Kudos to Del Hughes and his committee. A baptism and a wedding are scheduled in the next month. First Call colleague support meeting and retreat are coming up soon.

Secretary's Report: Minutes from March 10 2014 meeting were moved for approval by Kaufman, seconded by Beyer.

Treasurer's Report: Revenues are ahead at this point. Discussed costs/donations for the parking lot, upholstery and radon mitigation projects, as well as signage and food costs for the Fourth Sunday Dinners. Moved for approval by Madsen, seconded by Kaufman.

Building and Grounds Report: Radon level is now at 0.7, down from 7.0. Request made to put this final radon report with the Church's permanent papers. A pipe from the church to the street is still frozen, waiting for thaw before damage can be assessed. A new name to contact regarding a sound system has been submitted.

Education Report: Vacation Bible School plans are proceeding. Kami Poppen has asked to be replaced as Education Director. Courtney Heid will form a committee to work on curriculum, also ideas to attract high School Students.

Missions Report: We continue to give 9% of our offerings to Synod support.

Fellowship Report: Council will serve the April 9th Lenten supper. Volunteers for coffee serving after church remain hard to find. Fourth Sunday Supper was attended and appreciated by non-members.

Stewardship Report: The bulletin board will be redone this month.

Youth: None.

Worship Report: None.

Old Business:

- * Shari Friis will be offered the custodial position.
- * Small Hall radon work finished.
- * New council calendars handed out.
- * Recovering of pews has been finished.
- * Sound system still needs to be worked on.

New Business:

- * Fourth Sunday Dinners hosts scheduled.
- * Synod Assembly voting delegates will be Sue Hughes and Frank Frostestad, with Korsmo's attending as visitors.
- * The concrete company has been called regarding "ponding" of rain water on Pastor's driveway.
- * The painting of the sanctuary was discussed.
- * Some ideas were introduced about using memorial money.
- * Adding a dishwasher to the kitchen was not approved.
- * Other ideas were: buying round tables, placing a light outside of the stained glass windows for illuminating during night services, having a white board for ideas somewhere.
- * Also discussed were replacing Sunday school room doors with ones with windows as per child safety regulations. Also discussed changing council meeting time.

Adjournment moved by Madsen, seconded by Twing at 8 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*

May 1 Thursday	Ps. 116:1-4, 12-19 Isaiah 25:1-5 1 Peter 1:8b-12	May 17 Saturday	Ps. 31:1-5, 15-16 Jeremiah 26:20-24 John 8:48-59
May 2 Friday	Ps. 116:1-4, 12-19 Isaiah 26:1-4 1 Peter 1:13-16	May 18 Sunday	Acts 7:55-60 1 Peter 2:2-10 John 14:1-14
May 3 Saturday	Ps. 116:1-4, 12-19 Isaiah 25:6-9 Luke 14:12-14	May 19 Monday	Psalms 102:1-17 Exodus 13:17-22 Acts 7:17-40
May 4 Sunday	Acts 2:14a, 36-41 1 Peter 1:17-23 Luke 24:13-35	May 20 Tuesday	Psalms 102:1-17 Proverbs 3:5-12 Acts 7:44-56
May 5 Monday	Psalms 134 Gen. 18:1-14 1 Peter 1:23-25	May 21 Wednesday	Psalms 102:1-17 Proverbs 3:13-18 John 8:31-38
May 6 Tuesday	Psalms 134 Proverbs 8:32-9:6 1 Peter 2:1-3	May 22 Thursday	Psalms 66:8-20 Genesis 6:5-22 Acts 27:1-12
May 7 Wednesday	Psalms 134 Exodus 24:1-11 John 21:1-14	May 23 Friday	Psalms 66:8-20 Genesis 7:1-24 Acts 27:13-38
May 8 Thursday	Psalms 23 Exodus 2:15b-25 1 Peter 2:9-12	May 24 Saturday	Psalms 66:8-20 Genesis 8:13-19 John 14:27-29
May 9 Friday	Psalms 23 Ex. 3:16-22;4:18-20 1 Peter 2:13-17	May 25 Sunday	Acts 17:22-31 1 Peter 3:13-22 John 14:15-21
May 10 Saturday	Psalms 23 Ezekiel 34:1-16 Luke 15:1-7	May 26 Monday	Psalms 93 Genesis 9:8-17 Acts 27:39-44
May 11 Sunday	Acts 2:42-47 1 Peter 2:19-25 John 10:1-10	May 27 Tuesday	Psalms 93 Deut. 5:22-33 1 Peter 3:8-12
May 12 Monday	Psalms 100 Ezekiel 34:17-23 1 Peter 5:1-5	May 28 Wednesday	Psalms 93 Deut. 31:1-13 John 16:16-24
May 13 Tuesday	Psalms 100 Ezekiel 34:23-31 Hebrews 13:20-21	May 29 Thursday	Psalms 47 Acts 1:1-11 Ephesians 1:15-23
May 14 Wednesday	Psalms 100 Jeremiah 23:1-8 Matthew 20:17-28	May 30 Friday	Psalms 93 2 Kings 2:1-12 Ephesians 2:1-7
May 15 Thursday	Ps. 31:1-5, 15-16 Genesis 12:1-3 Acts 6:8-15	May 31 Saturday	Psalms 93 2 Kings 2:13-15 John 8:21-30
May 16 Friday	Ps. 31:1-5, 15-16 Exodus 3:1-12 Acts 7:1-16		



May 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	1 7:00 AM Women's Bible study	2	3
4 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship 10:15 AM Adult Study 10:15 AM Sunday School all ages EPIC — TBD	5	6 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open 5:30 PM Yoga class 6:30 PM Worship meeting	7 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 6:15 PM Senior Choir 6:30 PM Confirmation dinner and study	8 7:00 AM Women's Bible study	9	10
11 Graduation recognition 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship 10:15 AM Adult Study	12 6:30 PM Council Meeting	13 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open 5:30 PM Yoga class	14 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 9:00 AM Women's Circle 6:15 PM Senior Choir 6:30 PM Confirmation dinner and study	15 7:00 AM Women's Bible study	16	17
18 Confirmation Sunday 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship 10:15 AM Adult Study	19	20 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open 5:30 PM Yoga class	21 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 6:15 PM Senior Choir	22 7:00 AM Women's Bible study	23	24
25 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship 10:15 AM Adult Study	26	27 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open 5:30 PM Yoga class	28 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 6:15 PM Senior Choir	29 7:00 AM Women's Bible study	30	31

March Attendance:

03/02 43
 03/09 40
 03/16 57
 03/23 52
 03/30 97
 Lent services
 03/12 36
 03/19 20
 03/26 41

Financial Report

Submitted by Claudia Beyer

			YTD	
Total Receipts	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
	12,367	10,250	35,688	30,750
Total Expenses	11,812	11,358	35,885	34,088

