

Bethany Lutheran Church

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



*Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice and sing.*

IMPORTANT DATES

05-10 Senior Recognition
05-11 Council meeting
05-17 Confirmation Sunday
05-20 Baccalaureate
@WBUMC 7:00 pm
05-25 Memorial Day
05-29 Synod Assembly
05-30 Synod Assembly

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.

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Office Hours
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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



Dear Faithful People of God,

Grace and peace to you! A few weeks ago I posed the question to the Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation) students and parents, "Why are you here?" That question generated some very good discussion that evening during class and many good answers were lifted up such as: to learn about Jesus, to teach our children about God, to show our faithfulness to God, and because we are called here. These were all excellent answers and truly show a commitment on the parent's part in fulfilling the promises they made to God in Baptism. It was also a witness these youth are growing in their faith as they prepare to affirm those same promises which are: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth. (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, p. 235 used by permission Augsburg Fortress license SB102700) I then posed that same question in my sermon on April 12th and asked those gathered to briefly reflect upon it in silence. If you were present I hope you have continued to ponder and reflect upon that question. It is a question I wonder if we often don't give that much thought about. Why is coming to worship important to us? What does it mean to be a part of this community of faith? Why are we here?

There is no doubt there are many answers to that question. We each come for a variety of reasons and those may change throughout our faith journey. At times we come because we feel like this is the only safe place we can turn. At times we come because we feel so alone in the world that we long the companionship and support of our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. At times we come to feel closer to God. At times we come to be healed by the free grace, mercy, and forgiveness of God offered through Christ's death and resurrection. At times we come to find stability in the midst of chaos. At times we come because we doubt and we need to hear again the promises of God. Whatever the reason is we come and why we are here at the heart of it all stands a relationship: with God our Creator, with Jesus Christ our Savior, and with the Holy Spirit our Advocate who indeed has called each of us here. And it is also about a relationship with our fellow brothers and sisters that we are united to in and through our Baptism.

Continued on page 2



Happenings

Baccalaureate

The West Branch Area Religious Council (WBARC) invites all to attend Baccalaureate on Wednesday May 20th at 7:00 p.m. at the West Branch United Methodist Church.

In a world that is so full of choices and opportunities on how we spend our time perhaps each of us need to spend time with this question on a regular basis and ponder "Why are we here?" "What difference does it make?" Whatever your answer is to this question and why ever it is you are here know that you are a vital piece of this community of faith. Know that you are always welcome. Know that God's grace is at the heart of all we do and know that in the midst of it all God is constantly at work calling us, redeeming us, strengthen us, guiding us, teaching us, loving us, forgiving us, and equipping us to be the people of God to go forth and do wonderful things in our daily lives, in our community, and in the world to be witnesses of this amazing grace through word and deed.

May the peace of Christ be with you all!

Pastor Chad

High School Senior Recognition and Blessing Sunday May 10th
Congratulations!

Bradley Arp, Becky Blaalid,
Emalee Casper, Makayla Casper,
Sam McCrory and Matt McClrath



Vacation Bible School is coming!

Day Camp With EWALU

When: July 27th - July 31st

9am-3pm M-F

Who: Preschool - 5th grade

(completed 2015)

EVERYONE IS WELCOME
Invite your friends!





* THIS MONTH'S *
birthdays

- 05-01 Olivia Poppen, Cozette Sexton
- 05-01 Rick Paulsen
- 05-06 Brittney Zimmerman
Deb Anderson
- 05-09 Tyler Haub, Curt Friis
- 05-10 Jenna Sexton
- 05-12 Elijah Fetzer
- 05-15 Claire Kaufman, Matt Whaley
Bonnie Conner
- 05-16 Kody Crow
- 05-17 Candy Madsen, Cadence Heid
Maggie Paulsen, Jamie Pickett
- 05-19 Carla Friis
- 05-21 Jayden Roth, Linda Black
Wayne Frauenholtz
- 05-22 Audrey Hartman, Andrew Niles
- 05-26 Bill Holmes
- 05-29 Nichole Zimmerman
- 05-30 Jim Paulsen



Bethany Books
 by Frank Frostestad

Books For Adults

The next series by Lauraine Snelling is *Daughters Of Blessing*. This series follows the next generation of girls who are coming of age. Volume one is *A Promise For Ellie*. Ellie Wold and Andrew Bjorklund have been inseparable since they first met as very young children. Andrew has always been at her side as her protector. They can not wait to graduate from high school and get married. Andrew's father Haakan says that they should postpone the wedding. This sets in motion the summer of frustration, work, and tragedy. You need to read this to find out what happens, if you have not already done so. (donated)

Volume two is *Sophie's Dilemma*. Sophie Knutson is the more outspoken of the twins. Certain that she cannot live without Hamre Bjorklund, she rejects her father's request to postpone her marriage until after high school graduation. She convinces Hamre to elope but finds that life as the wife of a fisherman in Ballard, Washington is not what she envisioned. Pregnant and lonely while Hamre is at sea, she hires on at a fish cannery, only to be fired after fainting on the job. When tragedy strikes, heartbroken Sophie can only think of returning home to Blessing. What will be the reaction of her family after she has hurt them by her behavior? (donated)

Volume three is *A Touch of Grace*. Eighteen-year-old Grace Knutson loves Blessing and sees no reason to leave. She is more serious than her sister Sophie, and is very sensitive to the feelings of others. In spite of her family's disapproval, Grace has always had a soft spot in her heart for Toby Valdars. Jonathon Gould, the son of a wealthy New York family, arrives in Blessing causing much speculation. Strangely enough, he soon finds himself drawn to gentle, courageous Grace. (donated)

Volume four is *Rebecca's Reward*. Nineteen-year-old Rebecca Baard has experienced more than her share of sorrow. She has dreamed of finding love, but she is afraid to open herself to it. No one has shown any interest her anyway. Her friends try to attract eligible bachelors in town for her but to no avail. She hopes to open a soda shop in Blessing, so she travels to Bismarck to learn how to operate one. Awed by the "big city" and the attention she receives from a young man, she begins to question her long held ambitions. Will she call a new place "home"? (donated)

Book For Children

Read Me A Bible Story by Elizabeth Friedrich is a collection of bible stories, prayers, and songs. It is not meant to be read all at one time but one or two pages at a sitting. It is an opportunity to read to a young child and to introduce them to some of the stories in the bible. (donated)



WE ARE HIS HOUSE.

HEBREWS 3:6



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 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

Bethany Books cont...

DVD

Behind The Sun follows the story of Samir Majan, a young man born and raised a Muslim in the Middle East who attended college in America. After receiving a degree from a university in Chicago, he begins his trip back home to see his family. But something has drastically changed in the young man's life since come to the U.S. As his welcoming committee awaits his arrival, the young man's fear and concerns are overwhelming. Samir knows trouble and persecutions lie ahead because he has done the unthinkable. He has become a...Christian.



Sunday May 17th

We will be celebrating with the youth below as they affirm their Baptism.

Abbey Fryauf
Madelyn Anderson
Jayden Roth
Derek Fetzer
Jaden Hierseman
Brett Schiele



SPRING



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Ministry Minute

Did you know we have several specific areas of ministry addressed in our Congregation's Constitution and Bylaws? They are: Worship and Music, Education, Youth, Evangelism and Missions, Fellowship, Stewardship, and Buildings and Grounds. If you were unaware of this hopefully this and subsequent similar articles will be an opportunity to learn more about our life together at Bethany and how we work together to further God's mission. Each of these specific ministries is represented on the council by a called leader of Bethany. Their role is to help facilitate the oversight of these ministry areas along with the support of others whose gifts can help each area of ministry continue to thrive and be fruitful here at Bethany. We are grateful for their leadership, for those who have or presently serve in any function within these ministries, and to all who prayerfully consider being a part of one of these ministry teams/committees.

This month we are highlighting Fellowship. Nearly everything we do here at Bethany has a dimension of fellowship to it. Fellowship is critical in nurturing the relationships we have with one another, growing with one another in Christ, and walking with one another on our journey of faith. Our Bylaws include this definition about the Fellowship Committee: "The Fellowship Committee shall promote fellowship with the congregation by planning, overseeing, and coordinating activities, events, and Sunday morning after-church fellowship." The Council Member assigned to Fellowship is Paula Casper. I invite you to contact Paula if you feel the Lord is calling you to serve in any capacity pertaining to the fellowship within the life of our community.

Perhaps, you simply have an idea for an event we can do together and would be willing to assist in some way in planning, promoting, and guiding it to fruition. Perhaps, you simply want to sign-up to help with fellowship after worship. Perhaps, you want to donate food, money, or help serve at our Fourth Sunday Community Meal. Perhaps, you would like to be part of the Fellowship Team. Thanks for reading this article and tune in next month when we highlight another ministry here at Bethany.





Volunteers are needed for the 4th Sunday meals.

If you would be interested in helping to organize this meal or just want to come in and help during the meal please talk to Paula Casper
319-331-9456 or send me a text to blcsecretary@lcom.net

We have a great group of people that come each month and would like to see this ministry expand to more people from the community. Please consider helping. It only takes 2 hours from start to finish!

Up coming dates to consider:

May 24
June 28
July 19
August 23



Please join us May 24th

for our 4th Sunday meal

5:00 - 6:00 p.m. in the Great Hall



Open Fellowship Sunday

We are going to start having an Open Fellowship Sunday the first Sunday of each month. We will not have one person/family sign up, but instead leave it open for anyone to bring a tray of treats to share. Drinks will still be provided, but will need to be made and set out by volunteers that morning. Don't forget to take your tray home with you! We are hoping this will make it easier for people to contribute who aren't able to commit to a specific Sunday.

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MINUTES
MARCH 9, 2015

Called to order: 6:30 pm

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

Opening devotion by Candy Madsen

Pastor's Report:

WBARC meeting discussed changing Baccalaureate to Wednesday rather than Sunday.

Adult Bible study will discuss Table and Font.

Technical updates by Chris Marshall are coming along well.

Lutheran Day on the Hill in Des Moines, (today) attended by Pastor Chad and Laura Twing.

There was a great turn-out for Ash Wednesday

Community service, with 7 clergy attending.

Funerals this month again being the most stressful of tasks.

An anticipated absence on March 22 will be filled by Pr. Sarah Goettsch, of Lutheran Campus Ministry.

Council Retreat will be April 11, 9 to 11 am.

Pastor will be helping chaperone middle-school students on a trip to Washington DC June 19th through 24th.

Secretary's Report:

After noting a spelling error to correct, Kevin Olson moved to approve the minutes from February 9.

Seconded by Courtney Heid, all ayes.

Treasurer's Report:

Moved to table treasurer's report discussion to next meeting by John Black, seconded by Greg Lipes. All ayes.

Building and Grounds Report:

Things that need attention this month in the parsonage; dishwasher disposal, bathroom tile, roof and floor.

Building committee met and worked on custodial job description wording and salary; also on building use policy, emphasizing clean-up checklist completion by user.

Using memorial money for new tables (Lifetime plastic) was discussed, also wanting memorial money to be directed outwards.

Insurance Committee met with Titus Group representative, compared current policy with two other quotes.

John Black moved switching to Grinnell Insurance at next payment due date. Paula Casper seconded, all ayes.

Education Report:

The contract with EWALU for Vacation Bible School has been received. VBS will be July 27th - 31st. The deposit of \$200 will be paid this week. Total cost will be \$1300.00, same as last year. This price includes 25

children, each additional child is \$52.00. Cost will be offset through donations. "Save the date" cards will be sent.

No new Sunday School teachers have been found yet.

Missions/Evangelism Report:

A letter has been received from Mbakweni, prompting discussion of possibly sending them a laptop?

Food pantry needs remain high.

Encouraging congregation contact with legislators as part of mission?

Fellowship Report:

4th Sunday Suppers - the signage will be changed to reflect community more than free. Timing change discussed as well.

Stewardship Report: none

Youth Report: none

Worship Report:

First Lenten Service of Prayer around the Cross was well attended and received. Palms have been ordered, and flower orders for Easter are in process. There will be 2 Easter Services again, with Choir and special music.

Not getting much response for altar care participation. Will put an announcement in the bulletin.

Discussed, with sampling, using local winery to provide communion wine. Considerable increase of both cost and quality.

Large print Hymnals have been received. Will monitor usage, consider large print bulletins also?

There is also an option to get hymns printed in the bulletin, for approximately \$400.00 annually.

(Sundays and Seasons.com)

New Business:

- * Having Paul Friis and Deanna Weismann review and list current contents of safe?
- * Use memorial money for new fireproof safe that can fit in all old record books?
- * How many credit cards does the Church have, and who is authorized? Process? Hy-Vee, Menards and
- * Staples
- * New receipt vouchers.
- * Paying organist for snow closures.
- * New representatives to Synod Assembly are needed.
- * Should we paint sanctuary and great hall for 2017 anniversary?



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*.

Fri May 1	Amos 8:11-13 Acts 8:9-25 Psalm 22:25-31	Mon May 18	Exodus 28:29-38 Philippians 1:3-11 Psalm 115
Sat May 2	Amos 9:7-15 Mark 4:30-32 Psalm 22:25-31	Tue May 19	Numbers 8:5-22 Titus 1:1-9 Psalm 115
Sun May 3	Acts 8:26-40 1 John 4:7-21 John 15:1-8	Wed May 20	Ezra 9:5-15 John 16:16-24 Psalm 115
Mon May 4	Isaiah 5:1-7 Galatians 5:16-26 Psalm 80	Thu May 21	Genesis 2:4b-7 1 Corinthians 15:42b-49 Psalm 33:12-22
Tue May 5	Isaiah 32:9-20 James 3:17-18 Psalm 80	Fri May 22	Job 37:1-13 1 Corinthians 15:50-57 Psalm 33:12-22
Wed May 6	Isaiah 65:17-25 John 14:18-31 Psalm 80	Sat May 23	Exodus 15:6-11 John 7:37-39 Psalm 33:12-22
Thu May 7	Isaiah 49:5-6 Acts 10:1-34 Psalm 98	Sun May 24	Acts 2:1-21 Romans 8:22-27 John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15
Fri May 8	Isaiah 42:5-9 Acts 10:34-43 Psalm 98	Mon May 25	Joel 2:18-29 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Sat May 9	Deuteronomy 32:44-47 Mark 10:42-45 Psalm 98	Tue May 26	Genesis 11:1-9 1 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Sun May 10	Acts 10:44-48 1 John 5:1-6 John 15:9-17	Wed May 27	Ezekiel 37:1-14 John 20:19-23 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Mon May 11	Deuteronomy 7:1-11 1 Timothy 6:11-12 Psalm 93	Fri May 29	Isaiah 2:1-5 Romans 8:9-11 Psalm 29
Tue May 12	Deuteronomy 11:1-17 1 Timothy 6:13-16 Psalm 93	Sat May 30	Isaiah 5:15-24 John 15:18-20, 26-27 Psalm 29
Wed May 13	Deuteronomy 11:18-21 Mark 16:19-20 Psalm 93	Sun May 31	Isaiah 6:1-8 Romans 8:12-17 John 3:1-17
Thurs May 14	Acts 1:1-11 Ephesians 1:15-23 Psalm 47		
Fri May 15	Exodus 24:15-18 Revelation 1:9-18 Psalm 47		
Sat May 16	Deuteronomy 34:1-7 John 16:4-11 Psalm 47		
Sun May 17	Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 1 John 5:9-13 John 17:6-19		



MAY 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship 3:00 PM Youth Event 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 6:30 PM Confirmation dinner and study	30 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	1	2 8:00 AM Church Grounds Cleanup (Rescheduled from last Saturday)
3 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship	4	5 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	6 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 6:15 PM Adult Choir 6:30 PM Confirmation dinner and study	7 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	8	9
10 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship (High School Senior Recognition and Blessing)	11 6:30 PM Council Meeting	12 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	13 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 9:00 AM Women's Circle 6:15 PM Adult Choir 6:30 PM Confirmation dinner and study	14 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	15	16
17 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship (Affirmation of Baptism Sunday)	18	19 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	20 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 7:00 PM Ecumenical Baccalaureate Service Hosted by WBARC	21 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	22	23
24 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship 5:00 PM West Branch Community Meal @ Bethany	25	26 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	27 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study	28 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	29	30
31 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship	1	2 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	3 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study	4 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	5	6

Financial Report

Submitted by Jill Taylor

March Attendance:	
03-01	61
03-08	50
03-15	49
03-22	58
03-29	78
Total	296

	March 2015		YTD	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Total Receipts	12,669	12,334	40,199	37,002
Total Expenses	15,342	13,070	36,973	39,122

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.

