

Bethany Lutheran Church

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



Important Dates

05-19 Synod Assembly
05-20 Synod Assembly
05-14 Senior Recognition Sunday
05-21 Confirmation Sunday
05-28 Community Meal 5:00 p.m.
05-29 Memorial Day

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

Then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him." This is my message for you." - Matthew 28:7



Dear Precious Saints of God,

Christ is risen. Alleluia! This is the Easter miracle we place our confidence in each and every day. When we are struggling with an illness. When we are overcome with grief from another heinous terrorist attack on the news. When we feel alone in this great, big world. When we mourn the loss of a loved one. When we feel the weight of the world is upon our shoulders. We trust in the promise Christ is alive. He is risen. We are not alone. This miracle is not simply about eternal life in the future but is about life here and now. God is at work. Christ is present. Resurrection happens here and now.

The above passage is the angel's announcement to the two Mary's who visit the tomb of Jesus. They learn death or a tomb will not contain Jesus. He has been raised and is out in the world. There they will see him. Out in the world. Meeting the disciples. Meeting these two women. Meeting the world.

For several months there has been a "Goodness Sightings" wall located in the Great Hall. Many of you sticky notes of where you have witnessed God at work in the world. The risen Christ coming to us and the world. Below are those sightings. We pray for the Holy Spirit to continually give us eyes to see the presence of the risen Christ in the world and the voice to share this good news.

Caring for the poor	Children
Food Pantries: West Branch and University of Iowa	Give and not ask for something back
Helping with the small things – shared vision, share participation	Crossing guards helping children stay safe
New babies	Dance marathon
Compassion for families in need in town	Kids helping teachers to clean up classroom
Angel tree, Bible studies	Excellent teacher leadership
Hope Chest	Principal shaving head to stop cancer-related bullying
Support WBARC – service to transients	Friends and family
4 th Sunday Supper	Spouse helping another spouse following surgery
Pay it Forward contributions at our place of work	Prayer of peace service
Volunteer fire personnel going on a call	Confirmation baking bread with Pastor Chad
Camaraderie in our church	Volunteer coaches
School Backpack program	Raising money for children's cancer
Love and laughter	Helping physically impaired individual get a motorized scooter
Kind words and deeds	Twins reunited
Great teamwork at work	Saying prayers at beginning of a rodeo
Caroling at the nursing home	

These are awesome examples. Keep up the good work people of God! Christ is risen. Alleluia! - Pastor Chad



Birthdays

05-01 Olivia Poppen, Cozette Sexton
 05-01 Rick Paulsen
 05-06 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
 05-19 Carla Friis
 05-21 Jayden Roth, Linda Black,
 Wayne Frauenholtz
 05-22 Andrew Niles
 05-29 Nicole Zimmerman
 05-30 Jim Paulsen

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

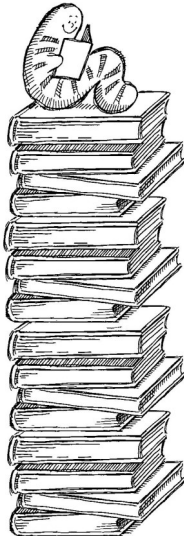
“CALLING ALL LOOSE CHANGE”

Remember to bring your loose change the last Sunday of each month to place in the “Noisy Coin Collection” cans that our youth will be passing around during the offering. Our youth will be deciding how to use this change we all donate to reach out and help others.

MISSION NEWS

MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

Two months ago a mobile food pantry from Hawkeye Area Community Action Program (HACAP) began coming to West Branch once a month. Bethany has been asked to help, along with Families Inc., with the mobile food pantry on Tuesday, June 20. The truck will be here from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and parked at the Fire Department. We will need 4 volunteers to help set up, distribute food, and then pack the truck back up. If interested please see Wayne Frauenholtz.



Bethany Books

by Frank Frostestad

Books For Adults

This month’s authors are writers of woman’s topics of interest. All of these books have been donated.

Sue Monk Kidd was raised in the small town of Sylvester, Georgia, a place that deeply influenced the writing of *The Secret Life Of Bees*. Set in South Carolina in 1964, it tells the story of Lily Owens whose life has been shaped around the blurred memory of the afternoon her mother was killed. She starts a journey as much about her own understanding of the world, as about the mystery surrounding her mother. *The Secret Life Of Bees* is about the search for love and belonging. It has that rare wisdom about life and the power of the spirit.

That’s What Love Is For by Stormie Omartian is about I Corinthians 13, the “love chapter”. In stories of simple, everyday acts of kindness the author gives encouragement and inspiration “for every woman who desires to be an expression of God’s love to others.”

Finding Calm In Life’s Chaos: Safe Shelter In The Arms Of Jesus by Becky Harling offers Jesus as a safe shelter no matter how chaotic your life. “You’ll come to know God’s heart and experience the centering truth that He is worthy of your confidence and trust.” When you “gain an understanding of who God is, you will find in Him a place of safe shelter because he provides everything you need.”

I’m On The Way To A Brighter Day by Douglas Richards is a collection of writings on feeling good about yourself and making your life the best it can be.

Creeds To Live By, Dreams To Follow is a collection of poems, edited by Susan Polis Schutz.

Discovering God’s Will For Your Life is part of the Women Of Faith study guide series. Life is full of decisions, both big and small. We want to do the right thing. We want to follow God’s plan for our lives and do his will. This study searches out a dozen Scripture verses that say “This is the will of God for my life.”

Books For Children

Spark Story Bible Psalm Book: Prayers And Poems For Kids helps children talk to God when they are not sure what to say. For ages 5-8.

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.

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

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

Women's Circle
Second Wednesday of Month
9:00 a.m. in Great Hall

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

LUTHERAN SERVICES IN IOWA (LSI) NEWS

Happy Mother's Day!

Mother's Day is a time to celebrate the strong, loving women in your life. At Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI), we see thousands of Iowa moms through their journey to build the brightest future for their children.

We see moms turning to LSI's Mental Health or Behavioral Health Intervention Services to ensure their child is receiving the coping skills and behavioral supports they need to thrive. In our Early Childhood Services, we see young first-time moms who are eager to join our parenting education classes and support groups. In 2016, LSI's Early Childhood programs provided support to 552 first-time parents. We are so inspired to hear their stories and see their hard work pay off as they raise our next generation.

As you celebrate Mother's Day this year, remember how many Iowa moms are being empowered because of your support. If you are looking for a way to honor your mother this year, please consider giving a gift in her name at www.LSIowa.org. Thank you for standing alongside our Iowa families.

It Takes a Village

When Fan's first child, Rain, was born, she was determined to raise him to be gentle, patient, and independent. But as he entered his crawling, walking, and climbing phases, things began to change. Originally from China, Fan was not well connected in her community. When Rain became a very mobile and curious toddler, she had no other parents to talk with about how to handle his latest developmental stages.

Fan turned to LSI's People Place, a family and community resource center in Ames. The program provides parents with access to low-cost or free parenting classes, support groups, and home visitations. For low-income families like Fan's, People Place is a life-changing resource.

Now Rain can play with other children his age at People Place, and Fan has a chance to meet more parents with similar life experiences.

"They've helped me a lot by answering my concerns when he's growing or developing a problem," Fan says. "Someone else there might be having the same problem, so you can connect with them. It's a lot more fun to learn in a group how to raise your kids instead of doing it alone."

CHURCH ROOF UPDATE

On behalf of the Building and Grounds Committee and the Church Council, we would like to thank everyone who has donated to our roof fundraising campaign. While we have nearly reached our goal, we are still \$2-3,000 short of where we would like to be as an ending number. The campaign goal has increased by about \$1,000 from what was discussed at the Congregational Meeting in January, due to our planning to do a minor repair job in the Sanctuary attic that was not previously identified. This repair will further reinforce the Sanctuary roof and was recommended by the Structural Engineers who supervised the original roof work back in 1999. While it isn't necessary that these repairs be done prior to the new roof being installed, we thought we would go ahead and do them while we have members who are physically capable of doing the work. Should you have questions about these repairs, please talk to Del Hughes, John Black, or Jamie Zimmerman. If you wish to assist with the work, please see one of these individuals.

If you would still like to donate, please get your pledge cards into Claudia Beyer, Financial Secretary, as soon as possible. If you need a pledge card please contact our Administrative Assistant, Paula Casper, who can provide you with one. She can be reached by email: blsecretary@lcom.net or by phone at church: 643-5998. Additionally, you can simply submit a check to Claudia made payable to Bethany Lutheran. Again, we are so grateful for your donations to help us faithfully steward the church building God has blessed us with. Every donation helps no matter the amount.

Thank you.

Jamie Zimmerman, Building and Grounds Council Representative



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Organist - Jill Barnhart (Interim)

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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



Sunday, May 21, 2017

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

Anna Friis Katie Anderson
 Ellie Holstad Olivia Poppen
 Gavin Hierseman

**High School Senior Recognition
 and Blessing
 Sunday, May 14th
 Congratulations to our Graduate:
 Claire Kaufman**



BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MINUTES—MARCH 2017

Members Present: Greg Lipes, Jill Taylor, Paula Casper, Beth Kaufman, Wayne Frauenholtz, Jamie Zimmerman, Jon Twing, Cheryl Fischer

Members Absent: Tonya Samuelson, Pastor Chad

Opening Prayer and Devotional (President Lipes)

President Lipes opened commenting that Pastor Chad was still recovering from surgery. Greg commented that the Pastor is feeling better, the surgery was a success but he is still sore and not yet sleeping well.

President Lipes led the devotional by reading a story he called “The Barber’s Prayer” that was written by Martin Luther entitled “Simple Way to Pray”

Pastor’s Report (President Lipes)

19 Pastoral visits

Good service was held on Ash Wednesday and it was well attended

Pulpit Exchange went well

WBARC: Began discussions about Baccalaureate and whether or not to continue this year as attendance has been declining—with the overall impression that it would continue; A mobile food pantry is coming to town on March 21st and this will be new to our community—more information is posted in the Hope Chest and near the stairs

Wednesday Lenten services are planned Paula Casper on March 8th and Mike Fryauf on March 15th given that the Pastor is out recovering from surgery.

Thursday night Prayer Group is going well though only two were in attendance last week. Discussion included a daily prayer call “The Examen” which was captured by St. Ignatius

Small Group discussions on February 16th were well attended.

Secretary’s Report: (Jon Twing)

Editorial corrections made by Jon Twing; Authorship edits made by Jon Twing;

Beth Kaufman moved to accept, second by Jamie Zimmerman. Minutes accepted as corrected

Treasurer’s Report: (Jill Taylor)

Jill commented that the Mission and Investment Fund accounts are still pending movement on the financial report

Jill explained the account labeled as “Pass Through”...for things like Easter flowers
Jill reported that money for the Synod Dinner came late and was added to the 2017 books to offset costs in 2016 (\$500 total)

Council discussed the Bank/Vanco service fees (electronic gifting) and their raising cost as a concern. Council was in consensus that these services was desired and needed. It was also pointed out that this service provider was not sponsored by the Synod. It was generally agreed upon that Jill should monitor these costs.

Paula Casper moved to accept, second by Jon Twing, report accepted

Committee Reports:

Building and Grounds (Jamie Zimmerman)

Candy and Jamie cleaned and organized the storage rooms next to the Great Hall. Some old items were recycled and things of value were kept

Jamie and Linda Black performed spring tree trimmings on the grounds of the Church and Parsonage

Jamie reported that he had discussions with the Robertson’s (the potential roofer of the Church) about costs and materials. Jamie also reported that he had discussions with the Insurance provider regarding reduced costs once the metal roof is added.

Education (Tonya Samuelsson as provided by Paula Casper)

The Methodist Church is keen to do a joint Vocation Bible School again this year
Discussion about possible joint Youth Group activities also transpired and deferred to the next WBARC meeting

Evangelism (Wayne Frauenholtz)

Wayne provided no written report but commented on the value of the “Baptism Sermon” Pastor Hougen provided last Sunday and how it captured the spirit of our Evangelism mission

Fellowship (Paula Casper)

Council will provide the Lenten Supper on Wednesday, March 15

A potluck soup supper is planned for Wednesday, March 29th and volunteers are requested

Paula will host the Fourth Sunday Supper on March 26th and is looking for help

Stewardship (Jon Twing)

Jon provided no written report but commented that he and Pastor discussed the need to convene a Stewardship Committee meeting and take action before summer. Jon commented that the ball was definitely in his court.

Youth (Cheryl Fischer)

Actions are pending

No Palm Sunday meal is anticipated

Worship & Music (Beth Kaufman)

Beth presented a dilemma for Easter Sunday because Jill Barnhart needs to attend the Springdale Service on Easter morning. The Committee recommended that we provide only one Easter morning service starting at 9:00 a.m. If so, Jill can perform and perhaps the Choir can sing. The Committee also recommends that two sets of Greeters be used (one to greet and one to usher) such that we do not waste space in the pews. Council discussed and supported these recommendations. Jamie commented that we could set up extra chairs. Beth commented that we could also use the Choir space if needed.

Beth stated that she is chasing down two interested parties from the University of Iowa who may be interested in the open pianist/organist position.

Beth also noted that we have an issue this summer with Jill, as she will want to attend the Springdale services. The committee's recommendation is that Bethany change our summer services to an 8:00 a.m. start to accommodate. The Council was in support of this but noted it needed to be evangelized with the congregation first.

Old Business (All)

Jamie updated the Council on the Capital Campaign. Jamie started by saying that 10% of the Capital Campaign goal of \$27,500 was already received.

Jamie also updated us about the insurance—with a

new metal roof, our annual rates will fall by an additional \$200 or a change in deductible from \$5,000 to \$2,500. Jill Taylor moved we accept the reduced premium, as second by Cheryl Fischer and was approved.

Jamie proposed that we send a letter and pledge card by mail for the Capital Campaign. The council reviewed and approved the letter with one amendment (i.e., who to contact with any questions). The council discussed the pledge card and made changes and edits. Jamie will work with Paula to get these mailed ASAP with a return date of March 26 suggested.

New Business (All)

Jamie volunteered to work on attempting to get our existing microphones and supporting equipment working such that any large gatherings in the Great Hall can be amplified

The Council reviewed the pile of extra table cloths and chose which to keep and which to discard. Jamie reported that the Kids for Hunger Mission has changed hands with new owners who want additional funds for supporting this effort. The Council was in agreement that no additional funds are to be provided. Council discussed merits of various options to continue with more investigation by Jamie required and a decision pending in the future.

A request was made from a member of the Congregation to reinstate the "Noisy Can Coin Collection". Jon Twing commented that this would seem to be a Stewardship function and the Council agreed. As such, it was agreed upon that the "Noisy Can Coin Collection" would be reoccurring on the last day of each month with the proceeds distributed at the pleasure of the Pastor.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 8:03

Next Council Meeting is Monday, April 10, 2017 at 6:30 PM





FAITH AT HOME

These short Bible passages and reflections are intended to be one more way to spur conversations about faith and also absorb ourselves in the word of God at home. We hope you enjoy them and would love to hear any feedback on whether you find these beneficial or not.

Luke 24:32

They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?”

- My heart burns within me...
- If I took a walk with Jesus, we would talk about...
- Someone who helps me understand scripture...



Proverbs 1:7

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

- Fear, or respecting and giving reverence to God...
- For me, taking time for God...
- Getting in my way of leaning and following God...

Psalm 130:1-8

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications! If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered. I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning. O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem. It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

- When the bottom falls out of life...
- Out of my depths I cry...
- I wait for the Lord in hope of...



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*.

Monday, May 1	Psalm 134 Genesis 18:1-14 1 Peter 1:23-25	Wednesday, May 17	Psalm 102:1-17 Proverbs 3:13-18 John 8:31-38
Tuesday, May 2	Psalm 134 Proverbs 8:32-9:6 1 Peter 2:1-3	Thursday, May 18	Psalm 66:8-20 Genesis 6:5-22 Acts 27:1-12
Wednesday, May 3	Psalm 134 Exodus 24:1-11 John 21:1-14	Friday, May 19	Psalm 66:8-20 Genesis 7:1-24 Acts 27:13-38
Thursday, May 4	Psalm 23 Exodus 2:15b-25 1 Peter 2:9-12	Saturday, May 20	Psalm 66:8-20 Genesis 8:13-19 John 14:27-29
Friday, May 5	Psalm 23 Exodus 3:16-22; 4:18-20 1 Peter 2:13-17	Sunday, May 21	Acts 17:22-31 1 Peter 3:13-22 John 14:15-21
Saturday, May 6	Psalm 23 Ezekiel 34:1-16 Luke 15:1-7	Monday, May 22	Psalm 93 Genesis 9:8-17 Acts 27:39-44
Sunday, May 7	Acts 2:42-47 1 Peter 2:19-25 John 10:1-10	Tuesday, May 23	Psalm 93 Deuteronomy 5:22-33 1 Peter 3:8-12
Monday, May 8	Psalm 100 Ezekiel 34:17-23 1 Peter 5:1-5	Wednesday, May 24	Psalm 93 Deuteronomy 31:1-13 John 16:16-24
Tuesday, May 9	Psalm 100 Ezekiel 34:23-31 Hebrews 13:20-21	Thursday, May 25	Acts 1:1-11 Psalm 47 or Psalm 93 Ephesians 1:15-23
Wednesday, May 10	Psalm 100 Jeremiah 23:1-8 Matthew 20:17-28	Friday, May 26	Luke 24:44-53 Psalm 93 2 Kings 2:1-12
Thursday, May 11	Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 Genesis 12:1-3 Acts 6:8-15	Saturday, May 27	Ephesians 2:1-7 Psalm 93 2 Kings 2:13-15
Friday, May 12	Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 Exodus 3:1-12 Acts 7:1-16	Sunday, May 28	John 8:21-30 Acts 1:6-14 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11
Saturday, May 13	Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 Jeremiah 26:20-24 John 8:48-59	Monday, May 29	John 17:1-11 Psalm 99 Leviticus 9:1-11, 22-24
Sunday, May 14	Acts 7:55-60 1 Peter 2:2-10 John 14:1-14	Tuesday, May 30	1 Peter 4:1-6 Psalm 99 Numbers 16:41-50
Monday, May 15	Psalm 102:1-17 Exodus 13:17-22 Acts 7:17-40	Wednesday, May 31	1 Peter 4:7-11 Psalm 99 1 Kings 8:54-65
Tuesday, May 16	Psalm 102:1-17 Proverbs 3:5-12 Acts 7:44-56		John 3:31-36



May 2017

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

Monetary Gifts Report

Submitted by Jill Taylor

Saints in Worship:

03-05	54
03-12	45
03-19	51
03-26	45
Total	195

	March 2017		YTD	
Total Receipts	Actual 11,906	Budget 13,167	Actual 36,113	Budget 39,501
Total Expenses	Actual 12,457	Budget 13,057	Actual 34,626	Budget 39,180

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.

