

Bethany Lutheran Church

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



2018

Important Dates

5-13 Graduation Recognition and
Blessing and Blessing of Women
5-18/5-19 Synod assembly
5-20 Confirmation Sunday
5-27 No community meal
(See below)

Community meal

The 4th Sunday in May is
Memorial Day weekend and also
graduation day with many
opportunities for eating; thus, we
have decided to postpone our 4th
Sunday meal two weeks.

**The meal is rescheduled to
June 10th at 5:00 p.m.**

This is also the beginning of
Vacation Bible School.
VBS Teachers and volunteers
will be providing the meal.

The next Community meal after
this will be July 22nd.

We hope you are enjoying this
fellowship time. Feel free to
invite your friends or someone in
need.

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.



Wonderful, faithful, people of God in Christ Jesus!

The above blessing, or another blessing, similar to it is spoken at the end of every worship service. We also say a blessing following the Lord's Supper, "*The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.*" And there are certainly other times during worship or in the life of our community we bless people, things, or even pets. For example, when the new parking lot addition was done several years ago we blessed it. That is, we proclaimed God's favor upon it and set it aside for the purpose of helping the people of God at Bethany in proclaiming the gospel and welcoming people to this building where the body of Christ gathers.

Or during the Rite of Affirmation of Baptism (i.e., Confirmation) we confer a blessing upon our youth seeking God's presence in their lives via the Holy Spirit who will bring them wisdom, understanding, and the joy of the Lord in all aspects of their lives. These aren't mere words or things we just do. Their merit is in God as revealed through scripture.

We really don't have to look too hard at scripture to see our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ laying hands on people and blessing them. Recall the little children who were coming to Jesus or the Beatitudes in the Sermon on the Mount where Jesus begins each one with "Blessed are ..." Or how about this passage from Luke as Jesus states, "But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you." (Luke 6:27-28) Or this one from 1 Peter, "Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing." (1 Peter 3:9) And there are many accounts throughout the Old Testament. In fact, the blessing at the beginning at the top of this article and used during worship comes straight from Numbers 6:24-26.

It would seem blessings are part of who God is and thus, they are part of who we are as a worshipping community. We are to live into the richness of God's blessings and we are called to be bearers of those blessings; even, as Jesus commands and 1 Peter lifts up to those we may not like, disagree with, hurt or have been hurt by, or who even hate us and we deem as our enemy. Think what the world would look like or the church would look like if we took that command seriously. How might that not only lead to a transformation of their heart but even of our own? How might that lead to reconciliation and resurrection?

Blessing, according to the *Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms* (Westminster John Knox Press, 1996) is defined as, "a particular goodness received or given. Liturgically, it is an expression of God's graciousness and love." A blessing is God's action and when we use blessings in worship or elsewhere in the life of the church it is because God blesses first. When we bless our high school graduates on May 13th, or women and girls the same day (Mother's Day), or our confirmand on May 20th we do it out of God's love for us and for them. We do it because Jesus commanded it. We do it so they are sent and surrounded with the knowledge, presence, and fullness of God's grace, love, and presence. Blessings to you dearly beloved children of God! - 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

**Don't find your name on our birthday list?
Please contact Paula so we can verify our
records. Thanks!*

Contact Information

Bethany Lutheran Church
235 South Second Street
West Branch, Iowa 52358

Pastor Chad Whaley
pastor@wbbethany.org

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 @blcwestbranch



Bethany Books

by Frank Frostestad

Books For Adults

This month's author is Karen Kingsbury. The books added this month are the five books of the Redemption series. Each of these is about members of the Baxter family who live in Bloomington, Indiana. The family consists of the father John and his wife Elizabeth. The five children are: Brooke, Kari, Ashley, Erin, and Luke. The first book starts almost twenty years ago with frequent flashbacks to events before that time. All books were donated to us.

The first book in the series is titled *Redemption*. The featured character in this book is the second daughter Kari. She is one very hurt, confused, and furious person. The book opens with her finding out that her husband, Tim, a respected professor of journalism, is having an affair with a student. Stunned, Kari returns home to the Baxter family to sort things out. When an old childhood/teenage friend (love interest?) shows up, she is more confused than ever. She has decisions to make. Should she forgive her husband? Will that get him back? What should she do about her revived feelings for Ryan (the friend) who she knows she should avoid? What should she do to ease the pain? Read the book to find out. Be warned, you might have to read the whole series to get to the end of all this.

Book two in the series is titled *Remember*. While all the members of the family are in the book the featured character in this one is the third daughter Ashley. She has always been the strong-willed impulsive one who does not want to live a conventional life. She took off to Paris to be an artist and returned home pregnant. She has low self-esteem at this point and has locked up her emotions. She is convinced that no one, including God, could love her. Four unlikely people, Alzheimer's patients, find cracks in Ashley's heart and slowly help her to remember. At this time the event of 9/11 happens in New York City which changes the lives of the Baxter family. It causes them to remember what is important and leading them to make decisions that are both heartbreaking and hope-filled.

Book three in the series is titled *Return*. It features Luke, the only son, and "golden boy" of the family. He, at this point, has walked away from everything that mattered most to him: his faith, his family, and Reagan (his only love). Devastated by the events of 9/11, Luke decides that life is random, faith a fraud, and God a fantasy. A baby is about to be born. Luke has no idea that he is the father. Someone in his family learns the truth. What will it take for Luke to return to the family who loves him? What extremes will a certain young firefighter take to bring the Baxter's together again?

Book four in the series is titled *Rejoice*. It features Brooke, the oldest daughter and her husband Peter. They are struggling in their marriage when they are faced with the worst moment ever. What was supposed to

(Continued on page 3)

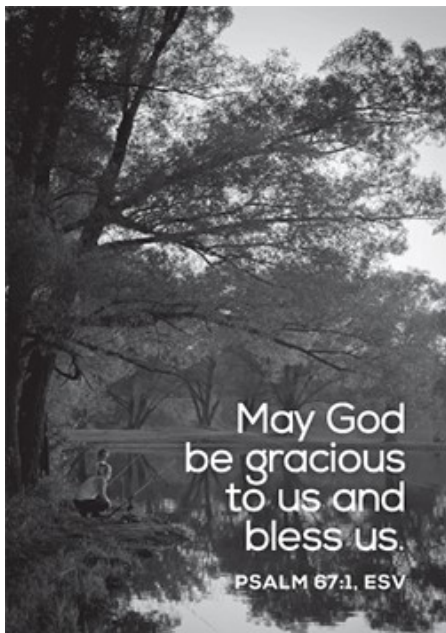
Adult Education Opportunities

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
May 9 will be our final gathering until we resume in September.

Adult Discussion
10:20 a.m. in the Small Hall
Will Resume in the Fall!



Bethany Books

(Continued from page 2)

be a pool party for their two daughters and a handful of friends ends in disaster. Peter's choices in handling this send his spiraling into a situation that not only threatens his relationship with Brooke but his life.

The fifth and final book in the redemption series is entitled *Reunion*. Plans are being made for a family reunion. Nearly all of the adult Baxter children have a reason to celebrate, except one. As the preparations get under way, a deadly diagnosis sends shock waves through the Baxter family and threatens to tear them apart. Amid the threat of sorrow, the Baxter's share the most wonderful celebration of all – the moment to remember that love wins out, no matter how long the struggle.


Book For Children

Water, Come Down!: The Day You Were Baptized is by Walter Wangerin, Jr. and illustrated by Gerardo Suzan. Sun, cloud, rain, water, and the whole of creation join family and friends in celebrating the baptism of a child of God. We already have a copy of this book in the library but this copy was donated to us by a member who received it through Lutheran Brotherhood (now Thrivent).

Bible Quiz

In John 10, what metaphor does Jesus use to describe himself?

A. "I am the gate..."
B. "I am the good shepherd..."
C. Both A and B
D. Neither A nor B



Answer: C (See John 10:9, 11)

Fellowship Supplies

Each Sunday following worship we gather for a time of fellowship. This includes coffee, juice, and light snacks. We thank you for all who sign up to serve in this capacity. There are Sundays when no one is signed up and we therefore have snacks on hand just for that purpose. Supplies are running low so if you want to donate a box of crackers, package of cookies, canister of nuts, or similar non-perishable food items we would greatly appreciate it. Please see Al Beyer with any questions. Thank you!

gathered
together

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

Church Council

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

Cheryl Fischer
 (319) 643-7358
 1982cmf@lcom.net

Alan Beyer
 (319)643-2136
 iabeyers@aol.com

Nancy Bruns
 (319)643-3201
 Nancy-bruns@uiowa.edu

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

Linda Black
 (319)430-0604
 lblack@lcom.net

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

Wayne Fraenholtz
 (319) 930-1196
 wrfrauen@lcom.net

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

Financial Secretary

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

Thank You to
 Our Staff

Worship News



Sunday, May 20, 2018

We will be celebrating with the youth below
 as he affirms his Baptism.

Cole Bailey

2018 High School Senior
 Recognition and Blessing
 Sunday, May 13th
 Congratulations to our Graduates!

Lauren Whaley
 Maggie Paulsen
 Annika Olson
 Emma Fryauf
 Billy Friis
 Ethan Fetzner



Special Congregational Meeting

A special congregational meeting was announced and called by Council President Beth Kaufman during worship April 29th. The meeting will be held Sunday, May 13 immediately following worship. The Council realizes this is Mother's Day and also recognition of our high school graduates during worship with cake to follow. We anticipate this meeting and vote to be very brief. The purpose of this meeting is for the Council to enter into a contract of \$6,426.54 with White Dove Electronics to install acoustic tiles on the walls in the Great Hall. This will improve the sound quality in that large space by reducing echo and noise. A team has diligently researched this project to find the best and most cost effective proposal. Our Constitution warrants the Council cannot enter into a contract in excess of \$5,000 without congregational approval (C12.05.d); hence, the reason for a special meeting and vote. We encourage you to attend and need a minimum 30 voting members present (C10.04).



A voting member, per our Constitution, is a confirmed member who "during the current or preceding calendar year, shall have communed in this congregation and shall have made contribution of record to this congregation" (C8.02.c).

Many years ago the Council looked into a similar project and sought gifts to be directed toward this. Currently, that fund contains \$1,638. Additionally, we recently received a generous gift that would cover the remaining cost.

Once again, your attendance is appreciated and vital as a member of this church. Please see Jamie Zimmerman, John Black, or Linda Black with any questions.

Property Cleanup Day

When: Sunday May 6 following 9:00 a.m. worship and fellowship (Approximately 10:30-10:45)

Who: Any and all

Why: Take care of the wonderful building and grounds God has provided us with

Please help us do some spring cleaning around the exterior of our building and grounds on May 6. Feel free to come to worship in your jeans, boots, or other work attire. Bring your work gloves, garden tools, and help us make our property more inviting to visitors and guests!



Thank you!

I would like to thank everyone who attended the Community Prayer of Unity and Peace held on April 29th at the Village Green Gazebo. This was an ecumenical event and there were approximately 15 people in attendance. Some with connections to local congregations and some without. One of the goals of this event was to bring people together and help get to "know" our neighbor a bit better. In lieu of candle lighting as we did last fall those in attendance were asked to shake the hand of their neighbor and introduce themselves. This turned into something that lasted several minutes and was exciting to see new relationships formed. Those gathered then spoke prayer petitions together for various topics: peace, unity, healing, forgiveness, elected officials, local leaders, police and fire personnel, educators, etc. We had moments of silence in between and closed with the peace prayer of St. Francis of Assisi. We often talk about trying something new and this is one of those things. I hope you consider attending in the future. - Pastor Chad

Take Away Hunger

Dear family of God at Bethany,

The 2018 confirmation class would like to thank all of you for donating money so that we were able to package 3,762 meals for people in Texas and elsewhere affected by storms and in need of food assistance. We did this project because we wanted to help give back because of how much God has given us: our life and his love and we wanted to share this with others. Thanks also to Mike Fryauf for his help! Thank you again very much!

Blessings,

Alex, Hannah, Cole, Andrew, Courtney, Aiden and Pastor Chad



“I was hungry and you gave me food to eat.” ~ Matthew 25:35



Vacation Bible School

PLEASE JOIN US!

June 11th - 14th
9am - 3pm

Day camp is open to all children who are completing grades K - 5th this spring. No fees are charged to attend, donations will be accepted. Lunch will be provided along with a morning snack. Registration forms will be available online at www.wbbethany.org or picked up on a table outside the kitchen.

Please see Tonya Samuelson with any further questions.

Registration forms are due back to the church by May 15th.

New Acolyte Robes

The Worship Committee decided it was time for a change! Our acolytes have been wearing the old black junior choir robes for years. These new lighter and longer robes (see photo) will better demonstrate the serving role they are performing each Sunday. We are honored and grateful to have them funded by the Elsa Boedeker memorial since she had such a special place in her heart for the children here at Bethany and in her personal life. Many thanks to the Boedeker family!

Linda Black
Worship and Music Chair



Favorite Hymns Wanted

For the second year, the worship committee is seeking input for your favorite hymns. You will find a copy of the *Evangelical Lutheran Witness* (ELW) hymnal, slips of paper to write your favorite hymns on, and a box to place those in. We ask you select only two hymns so we can try and get all hymns in throughout the summer months and early next fall.

If you have any questions, please see Linda Black or Pastor Chad. Thank you!



Mission Work

There is still time to give to the offering that will be presented at the 2018 Annual Southeastern Iowa Synod by your voting delegates Al Beyer and Laura Twing. As has been stated previously, these gifts and those from the other congregations of the Southeastern Iowa Synod will be used to support water ministries within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

We give thanks and praise for the contributions already submitted. Below is an image taken from the ELCA website showing the work that is done through ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response. While this map doesn't specifically break down water projects, ELCA World Hunger and other ministries within the church are working to provide potable drinking water to all people through a variety of means.

Once again, we thank you for your support!





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.

Psalm 2:7

I will tell of the decree of the Lord: He said to me, “You are my son; today I have begotten you.”

- Claimed by God...
- As part of God’s family...
- Responsibility to God as my parent...



Romans 8:26

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.

- Prayer...
- It is hard for me to find words to pray...
- I pray when...

Psalm 1:1-2

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night.

- Some bad advice given to me...
- Scoffers criticize, mock, and make fun of others, which I...
- God’s laws are...



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*.

Tuesday, May 1	Psalm 80 Isaiah 32:9-20 James 3:17-18	Friday, May 18	Psalm 33:12-22 Job 37:1-13 1 Corinthians 15:50-57
Wednesday, May 2	Psalm 80 Isaiah 65:17-25 John 14:18-31	Saturday, May 19	Psalm 33:12-22 Exodus 15:6-11 John 7:37-39
Thursday, May 3	Psalm 98 Isaiah 49:5-6 Acts 10:1-34	Sunday, May 20	Acts 2:1-21 Romans 8:22-27 John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15
Friday, May 4	Psalm 98 Isaiah 42:5-9 Acts 10:34-43	Monday, May 21	Psalm 104:24-34, 35b Joel 2:18-29 1 Corinthians 12:4-11
Saturday, May 5	Psalm 98 Deuteronomy 32:44-47 Mark 10:42-45	Tuesday, May 22	Psalm 104:24-34, 35b Genesis 11:1-9 1 Corinthians 12:12-27
Sunday, May 6	Acts 10:44-48 1 John 5:1-6 John 15:9-17	Wednesday, May 23	Psalm 104:24-34, 35b Ezekiel 37:1-14 John 20:19-23
Monday, May 7	Psalm 93 Deuteronomy 7:1-11 1 Timothy 6:11-12	Thursday, May 24	Psalm 29 Isaiah 1:1-4, 16-20 Romans 8:1-8
Tuesday, May 8	Psalm 93 Deuteronomy 11:1-17 1 Timothy 6:13-16	Friday, May 25	Psalm 29 Isaiah 2:1-5 Romans 8:9-11
Wednesday, May 9	Psalm 93 Deuteronomy 11:18-21 Mark 16:19-20	Saturday, May 26	Psalm 29 Isaiah 5:15-24 John 15:18-20, 26-27
Thursday, May 10	Acts 1:1-11 Psalm 47 or Psalm 93 Ephesians 1:15-23	Sunday, May 27	Isaiah 6:1-8 Romans 8:12-17 John 3:1-17
Friday, May 11	Luke 24:44-53 Psalm 47 Exodus 24:15-18	Monday, May 28	Psalm 20 Numbers 9:15-23 Revelation 4:1-8
Saturday, May 12	Revelation 1:9-18 Psalm 47 Deuteronomy 34:1-7	Tuesday, May 29	Psalm 20 Exodus 25:1-22 1 Corinthians 2:1-10
Sunday, May 13	John 16:4-11 Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 1 John 5:9-13	Wednesday, May 30	Psalm 20 Numbers 6:22-27 Mark 4:1-25
Monday, May 14	John 17:6-19 Psalm 115 Exodus 28:29-38	Thursday, May 31	Psalm 81:1-10 Exodus 31:12-18 Acts 25:1-12
Tuesday, May 15	Philippians 1:3-11 Psalm 115 Numbers 8:5-22		
Wednesday, May 16	Titus 1:1-9 Psalm 115 Ezra 9:5-15		
Thursday, May 17	John 16:16-24 Psalm 33:12-22 Genesis 2:4b-7 1 Corinthians 15:42b-49		



May 2018

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

Monetary Gifts Report

Submitted by Jill Taylor

Saints in Worship:

03-04	68
03-11	40
03-18	42
03-25	70
Total	220

	March 2018		YTD	
Total Receipts	Actual 10,090	Budget 13,000	Actual 33,170	Budget 39,000
Total Expenses	Actual 13,011	Budget 13,420	Actual 37,633	Budget 34,626

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.

