

Bethany Lutheran Church

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



November
2016

Important Dates

11-02 No Wednesday Evening Ed.
(Parent/Teacher Conference)
11-03 7:00 pm Prayer group meeting
11-14 6:30 pm Council meeting
11-23 No Wednesday Evening Ed.
(Thanksgiving Break)
11-27 4:00 pm Bingo for fun
5:00 pm Community meal

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.

FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

Office Phone: (319) 643-5998

Simply search "Bethany Lutheran

ALSO FIND US ON TWITTER!

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

"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Matthew 6:21



Dear Faithful Ministers of Christ,

I want to take a moment and thank each of you for all you do to further God's kingdom here at Bethany and beyond through our various activities, mission efforts, and God's work each of you do in your daily lives. God continues to provide for Christ's church through the generous, supporting, and loving hands of the faithful people of God. So thank God. Thank God for God's faithfulness and thank God for each of you – your time, your talents, and your financial contributions to the church and to other causes which support God's mission in the world.

This brings us back around to stewardship. Yes, it's fall so we must talk about stewardship. However, stewardship shouldn't be talked about once a year. It is something we are called to attend to daily. God called us to be stewards – that is caretakers of all God created and entrusted to us. This year the stewardship committee is trying a new approach and I urge each of you to look for additional information forthcoming on this. There will not be a fall campaign as has been traditionally done in the past; but, rather a year-long emphasis on stewardship which will manifest itself in various ways. This is something new and we trust the Spirit's hand is in it. Perhaps, we need to be jarred a bit every once in a while in order to grow and experience the fullness of God's grace. Perhaps, we need to be coaxed out of familiarity and into uncharted waters in an effort to put our full trust in Jesus Christ to guide the way through to smoother sailing.

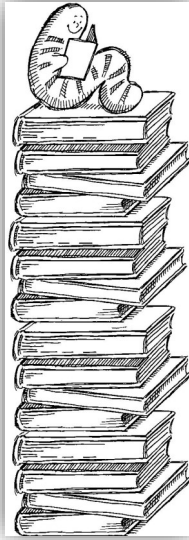
We often squirm a bit when we talk about stewardship. It wasn't that long ago I, too, sat in the pews and got a bit uncomfortable when my pastor started to talk about money or time or talents. That's personal stuff. Yet, Jesus didn't shy away from talking about it. In fact, he talked about money nearly as much as he talked about the kingdom of God. So why? What was Jesus getting at? He talked about money because of his great love for God's people. He talked about money because as Mark Allan Powell writes, "He cared about us and because he knew that what we do with our money affects who we are spiritually." (*Giving to God; William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2006 p. 54*). Powell contends the biblical witness testifies that stewardship is a spiritual discipline. That is, it is a practice we can do to regularly maintain our spiritual health just as practices such as prayer, attending worship, reading the Bible, etc. In the verse above Jesus says our treasure, which certainly includes our money but also whatever else we value such as our time, families, bodies, and possessions, and what we do with our treasurers affects our hearts. As Powell writes, "it determines who we are inside. It determines what sort of people we become."

While we won't have a fall campaign, let each of us ponder these words of Jesus. Again, thank you faithful people of God! May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus! — Pastor Chad



Birthdays

11-02 Addison Langley
 11-03 Betty Slach
 11-06 Tammy Urmie
 11-07 Paul Weismann
 11-08 Madelyn Anderson
 11-09 Eulyn Frostestad
 11-13 JoAnn Blaalid
 11-14 Josephine Hervey
 11-18 Alex Poppen
 11-22 Scott Marsh
 11-23 John Hierseman
 11-26 Patty Yeater
 11-27 Steve Campbell



Bethany Books

by Frank Frostestad

Books For Adults

This month's author is Joyce Meyer. She has written more than 100 books. In them, she attempts to help people find hope and restoration. She tends to focus on minds, moods and attitudes. She has TV and radio shows. She also conducts a number of conferences each year.

Approval Addiction: Overcoming Your Need To Please Everyone is the first to be mentioned. Do you go out of your way to keep a healthy balance between "doing good" and doing too much? This book was reviewed November a year ago and was donated to us.

Do you make things hard for yourself? You can approach life from a simpler viewpoint when you discover *100 Ways To Simplify Your Life*. (donated)

A New Way Of Living: Understanding What It Means To Accept Christ was also donated. In this book the author "outlines God's plan for salvation so you can make the right decision."

"You will never sense fulfillment in life unless you reach the goal of being yourself. Don't be in competition with others: just concentrate on fulfilling your potential" "...I have discovered that most people really don't like themselves." That is a problem. That is the beginning of the book *Discovering The Joy Of Being The Person God Made You To Be*. (donated)

Hearing From God Each Morning is a collection of 365 devotions for each day of the year. (donated)

Straight Talk: Overcoming Emotional Battles With The Power Of God's Word is her seven "Straight Talk" books in one volume. Help and encouragement is given to combat: depression, discouragement, fear, insecurity, loneliness, stress, and worry. (donated)

"God finds ways to reach out to us every day, offering a lifetime partnership filled with guidance on everything from major life issues to small, ordinary problems." In *How To Hear From God: Learn To Know His Voice And Make Right Decisions* we are told how to listen to God. (donated)

Books For Children

This month's children's book is *The Berenstain Bears' Harvest Festival*. Autumn is a beautiful time of year, and the folks of Bear Country are looking forward to everything the season brings. So when the Chapel in the Woods holds its first ever Harvest Festival, people gather at Farmer Ben's for a wonderful time of family, friends, fun, and praising God for His gifts.



In the event we need to cancel worship

at Bethany due to inclement weather notification will be done in the following formats. There will be a post on the church website



(www.wbbethany.org), on Twitter, and on Bethany's Facebook page. There will be an email sent out to all Bethany members who have provided an email address. Notification will also be provided to KGAN channel 2 television station. These will be the primary means of notification. If none of the above means work for you please contact Paula so we can make other arrangements. Thank you!



Adult Education Opportunities



Sermons Are Online

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

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

Prayer Group
First Thursday of Month
7:00 p.m. in Small Hall unless
stated otherwise

COMMUNICATION

Communication is vital to any organization whether it be a church, business, or other entity. We do our best to keep everyone posted on happenings here at Bethany. Our main avenues of communication are via the monthly newsletter, our website (www.wbbethany.org), our Facebook and Twitter pages, emails, and through weekly worship bulletins. If you have not bookmarked our website please do so. There is a wealth of information on it including but not limited to: photos of events at Bethany, schedules and calendars, links to devotions, sermons, and other resources related to Bethany such as our Constitution and By-Laws. Communication is vital to our relationship with one another and we hope these various avenues help strengthen that connection and our ministry efforts here at Bethany and in the world.



Stay in Touch



CUSTODIAN

We want to extend our thankfulness and gratitude to Kat Korsmo who was our custodian for much of this past year. Kat has resigned her position and we wish her well as she continues to pursue her vocational calling in the library sciences field. We welcome Jerry Dodds on board as our new custodian. As has been the case, God continues to provide for the needs of our community.



Church Staff

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HOPE CHEST NEWS

*Clothes for
those in need*



October is the time of transition from spring/summer to fall/winter at the HOPE CHEST. We are now accepting new or gently used **FALL/WINTER** clothing and shoes for all ages. **THANK YOU** to all who continue to support the Hope Chest and its mission to serve those in need.

And now these three remain:

FAITH,.....
& HOPE
Love.

..... But the greatest
of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13:13

SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITY

Last month we highlighted an opportunity on Thursday evenings centered around worship. Due to a lack of interest, that class was cancelled. You are invited to join us for a new three-week opportunity centered on some questions more than likely we have all asked at some point in our faith journey. We will watch short videos as teachers from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN take on some of the most troublesome questions of believers and then share in discussing their responses and our own challenges and thoughts on these questions. The dates and topics are found below. All classes will begin at 6:30 pm and last approximately 30 - 45 minutes.

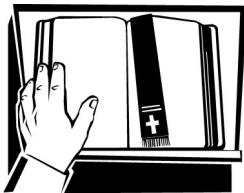
- Thursday, November 10
 - ◊ Why does God allow suffering? What are bad answers to suffering?
- Thursday, November 17
 - ◊ What happens to us after death?
- Thursday, December 8
 - ◊ How do I know God's will for my life?



WORSHIP NEWS

November 20th

Pastor Mark Holmes will be leading us in worship as Pastor Chad will be gone. As some of you know Mark is the son of Dorothy Holmes and was a member here at Bethany while growing up in West Branch. Let's all welcome him back!



GUEST PREACHER



ALL SAINTS' DAY

All Saints Day, November 6th

Please join us as we will be honoring all saints including those who have died in the past year, those who have been baptized, and those who are 80 and over among us during worship.

We will celebrate Christ's birth together during our Christmas Eve candlelight services.

December 24th

5:00 PM

and

8:00 PM



There will be no worship service on Christmas Day.



It's time once again to order your Poinsettia, which will help enhance and bring the beauty of creation to our worship space this Christmas. Plants are \$10.00 each. Please put your order and the payment in Paula's mailbox by December 11th or send form and payment (checks payable to Bethany) to:

Bethany Lutheran
P.O. Box 236
West Branch, Iowa 52358

Name: _____

I would like to order _____ Poinsettias

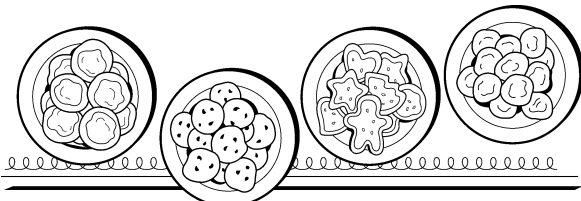
Circle one: In memory of or In Honor of:

The 2016 cookie walk is on the *Christmas Past* schedule for Saturday, December 3! This year the Dansk Cafe will be serving coffee; there will be no working demonstrations. Please bring your cookies to the church either Friday evening or Saturday morning by 8:30. Set up will be Friday afternoon.

Help is needed for the event, setup and cleanup. Everyone please bring a batch of cookies to sell as we welcome the community to Bethany. We are also looking for someone to take over planning this long standing event. Don't let this be the final cookie walk.

Questions??

Call Candy or Paula.



Cookie Walk



FAITH AT HOME

For some time now we have had short Bible passages and reflections pertaining to that text on the tables in the Great Hall. We have decided to also place those in the Newsletter. The passages and questions will match up with those found on the tables. Therefore if you want to continue the discussion at home you can. This is one more way we are trying to spur conversation about faith and also absorb ourselves in the word of God.

Matthew 22:36-40

“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

- Loving God...
- Loving others...
- Loving myself...



Isaiah 9:2

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.

- Deep darkness...
- Great light...
- New hope...

Matthew 25:34-40

“Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’”

- My heart is most concerned for...
- Caring for people...
- Ignoring the needs of others

Isaiah 7:14

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.

- Signs from God...
- Immanuel, meaning “God with us,” gives hope for...
- If God was not with us...



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*.

Sun Nov. 1	Revelation 7:9-17 1 John 3:1-3 Matthew 5:1-12	Wed Nov. 16	Ezekiel 43:1-12 Matthew 23:37—24:14 Psalm 141
Wed Nov. 2	Amos 5:12-24 Luke 19:11-27 Psalm 50	Thu Nov. 17	2 Chronicles 18:12-22 Hebrews 9:23-28 Psalm 46
Thu Nov. 3	Deuteronomy 25:5-10 Acts 22:22—23:11 Psalm 17:1-9	Fri Nov. 18	Zechariah 11:1-17 1 Peter 1:3-9 Psalm 46
Fri Nov. 4	Genesis 38:1-26 Acts 24:10-23 Psalm 17:1-9	Sat Nov. 19	Jeremiah 22:18-30 Luke 18:15-17 Psalm 46
Sat Nov. 5	Exodus 3:13-20 Luke 20:1-8 Psalm 17:1-9	Sun Nov. 20	Jeremiah 23:1-6 Colossians 1:11-20 Luke 23:33-43
Sun Nov. 6	Job 19:23-27a 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17 Luke 20:27-38	Mon Nov. 21	Jeremiah 46:18-28 Revelation 21:5-27 Psalm 24
Mon Nov. 7	Job 20:1-11 2 Peter 1:16-21 Psalm 123	Tue Nov. 22	Isaiah 33:17-22 Revelation 22:8-21 Psalm 24
Tue Nov. 8	Job 21:1, 17-34 2 John 1-13 Psalm 123	Wed Nov. 23	Isaiah 60:8-16 Luke 1:1-4 Psalm 24
Wed Nov. 9	Job 25:1—26:14 John 5:19-29 Psalm 123 Semi	Thursday Nov. 24	Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Psalm 100 Philippians 4:4-9 John 6:25-35
Thu Nov. 10	1 Samuel 28:3-19 Romans 1:18-25 Psalm 98	Thu November 28	Daniel 9:15-19 James 4:1-10 Psalm 122
Fri Nov. 11	2 Samuel 21:1-14 2 Thessalonians 1:3-12 Psalm 98	Fri November 29	Genesis 6:1-10 Hebrews 11:1-7 Psalm 122
Sat Nov. 12	Ezekiel 10:1-19 Luke 17:20-37 Psalm 98	Sat November 30	Genesis 6:11-22 Matthew 24:1-22 Psalm 122
Sun Nov. 13	Malachi 4:1-2a 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 Luke 21:5-19		
Mon Nov. 14	Ezekiel 11:14-25 Ephesians 4:25—5:2 Psalm 141		
Tue Nov. 15	Ezekiel 39:21—40:4 1 Corinthians 10:23—11:1 Psalm 141		



Bible Readings *for the Month*



November 2016

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

Monetary Gifts Report

Submitted by Jill Taylor

Saints in Worship:

09-04	58
09-11	74
09-18	64
09-25	38
Total	234

	September 2016		YTD	
Total Receipts	Actual 11,091	Budget 13,083	Actual 114,902	Budget 117,751
Total Expenses	Actual 12,661	Budget 13,633	Actual 127,157	Budget 122,920

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.

