

Bethany Lutheran Church

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



November 2017

Important Dates

- 11-05 All Saints Sunday
- 11-08 Women's Circle at
Crestview 9:00 a.m.
- 11-13 Council Meeting 6:30 p.m.
- 11-26 Community meal 5:00 p.m.

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

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

**Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for
this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.**

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NRSV)



Dear Faithful People of God,

Since the Council Retreat last Spring we have been pondering how God is currently using us in God's mission and how might God be leading us to partner with God into the future. We have had many conversations among each other and as some of you may have heard, we have had conversations with those outside our faith community to listen to their voices. Whether or not anything more comes from those discussions is yet to be seen; however, in having these conversations new relationships were formed and existing ones strengthened. We were bearing witness that Christ is important in our lives and that his love sends us out to listen to where he might be leading us next.

Discerning God's mission for our congregation is not easy work. It doesn't happen overnight. It doesn't happen alone. It takes patience and time. It takes prayer and active listening for God's voice and the Spirit's presence. It takes reflection. It takes caring conversations with one another and the ability to set aside personal agendas for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This is a journey and we may not see the fruit of our labors for sometime. However, we trust in the promise God is in the midst of it. Jesus Christ is leading the way. The Holy Spirit is birthing wisdom and vision for the future.

As we move forward I pray each and everyone of you join us in this process. What that might entail is yet to be determined; however, one place each of us can start is in the words of Paul's letter to the church in Thessalonica found above. As I advised the council at our meeting in October, when Paul writes, "This is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you", it seems we had better take note. This passage is a gift on how we grow into the fullness of who God desires us to be as God's people. Rejoicing, praying, and giving thanks are not works. They are not to be just more items on a checklist of things to get done in our daily life. They are a gift God uses to draw us closer to God and help us better see God in our midst, in each other, and in our church. I believe these three - *rejoicing, praying, and giving thanks* - are a starting place to help us move forward in our life together. What might our community look like if we patterned our lives and all we did around these things?

Rejoice in the Lord always.

Pray to God without ceasing.

Give thanks in all circumstances.

I developed a sheet to help me focus on these three things daily as I arrive in the office. It helps in a myriad of ways such as providing clarity, peacefulness, a joyful heart and setting my eyes, heart, and mind toward Jesus Christ. I have included that toward the back of this newsletter should you find it beneficial. You can print that off or I can provide copies for you. Blessings faithful people of God!

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, Jill Kinsinger
- 11-16 Kevin Crosthwaite
- 11-17 Cheyanne Crow
- 11-18 Alex Poppen
- 11-22 Scott Marsh, Julian Kilburg
- 11-23 John Hierseman
- 11-26 Patty Yeater
- 11-27 Steve Campbell



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

December 24th

5:00 PM

and

8:00 PM

Bethany Books

by Frank Frostestad



Books For Adults

Karen Kingsbury is a leading writer of Christian fiction. We are adding her *Angels Walking Series* to our collection.

These books promote the idea of divine intervention in our daily lives. You need to read the whole series. Each book is not able to "stand alone" on its own. In volume one, *Angels Walking* we are introduced to Tyler Ames and his girlfriend Samantha (Sami) Dawson. Tyler's one focus in life has been to be a baseball player. He has had some success and wants

to make it to the major leagues. An unfortunate sports injury prevents him from ever being able to pitch again. For a person who has solely defined himself in terms of baseball this is quite a blow. He hits rock bottom living out of his car, with little money, and his girlfriend has moved on. A maintenance job, a friendship with an old woman with Alzheimer's, and an old friend leads to the path for his future.

Volume two, *Chasing Sunsets* introduces the reader to Tyler and Sami's friends Mary Catherine Clark and Marcus Dillinger. Mary Catherine is Sami's roommate. She has wanted for nothing materially in life, growing up in a comfortable home. She is a person who wants to find a deeper meaning in her life. She pursues meaning through charity work, volunteering at a youth center, and planning a mission trip to Africa. She has planned on staying single. This is interrupted by finding herself drawn to Marcus (the feeling is mutual). The real problem that comes up in her life is her health. Read to find out her rash decision.

Volume three, *Brush Of Wings* has Mary Catherine moving to Uganda to work at an orphanage. This is against to advice of her doctor since she needs a heart transplant. Whatever time she has left she wants to spend it helping children. One problem is major league baseball player Marcus Dillinger, the man she never meant to fall in love with. Neither he nor her other friends know how serious her heart condition really is at that time. Marcus is sure that something is wrong with Mary Catherine. It is interesting how the author works to resolve a number of issues at the end of the book.

Though a work of fiction, *Unlocked*, gives the reader insight into the devastating implications of Autism. Holden is an 18 year old on the Autism spectrum. People who are on the Autism spectrum struggle with sensory overload. Too much noise, color, conversation or even touch can cause an attack or tantrum. It is revealed to the reader how this influences other people's attitude toward Holden and the effect it has on his family. This novel depicts how music, the power of song, was able to bring a boy out of his private world.

Book For Children

Does God Ever Sleep? by Joan Sauro is a bed time story. It takes children through steps to tuck the world into bed. From dimming the lights with a colorful sunset, to singing a lullaby of wind through the trees, it lets children imagine the ways that God is always watching over the world while we are awake, and while we are asleep.

Adult Education



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.

Adult Discussion

10:20 a.m. in the Small Hall
All are Welcome

Monday Lunch Bible Study

11:30 a.m. at Mexico Lindo
November 6, 13, and 27
All are Welcome

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
All are Welcome

BLESSING OF QUILTS SUNDAY

For years a group of faithful women have made hundreds and hundreds of quilts to bring the warmth, compassion, and love of God to those who receive them. The faithful people of Bethany have also been instrumental in this ministry effort through the stewardship of your financial gifts that help purchase the supplies that make this possible. Thus, we say thank you to all for making this happen!

During worship on October 22 we did something new. We displayed these quilts in the midst of the worship space and then sought God's blessings upon them as they are sent out. We gave thanks for the hands that made them, the love that went into them, the gifts received to purchase supplies, and then we prayed for those who would receive these quilts. As each quilt was sent out we also included the prayers lifted up during worship, a blessing of God's love to those that receive a quilt from the people of Bethany, and the promise they are not alone. We then invited all present to sign their names on the back of these sheets further emphasizing the body of Christ, that is the people of God, are woven into these quilts of love and care for those who receive them. Below is a picture of some of those quilts.



October was Domestic Violence Awareness Month and as such, all quilts blessed were sent to the Domestic Violence Intervention Program (DVIP) in Iowa City where they will bring love to victims of domestic abuse. For more information on the Domestic Violence Intervention Program, which serves Cedar County please go to their website at: www.dvpiowa.org

God's work. Our hands.

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

Greg Lipes
(319) 643-3211
Greg.lipes@gmail.com

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

Jill Taylor
(319) 643-5865
jtmtrt@gmail.com

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

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

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

Paula Casper
(319) 331-9456
blcsecretary@lcom.net

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

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

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

NOTE OF THANKS

The following note was received following the Fourth Sunday Community Meal held on October 22. Our ministry efforts are making a difference in people's lives. If you have not attended one of these meals or if you could assist in anyway helping to prepare these meals I would ask you please consider doing so. Partnering together with another person or family makes it much less intimidating and I am sure Paula or Candy would help answer any questions you have or even help plan a meal.

This note ties in nicely to my article and also reminds me how energizing and uplifting a simple note or expression of "thanks" can be. I am grateful for the individual who penned this note and extend my sincere thank you to everyone who has attended and helped out in the past! - Pastor Chad

Please thank your confirmation students and parents for the meal they served Sunday evening. I realize how much time and effort goes into preparing such a meal. I can't recall in months or weeks how long it's been since I have had a real "square meal" with prepared meat, potatoes and vegetables along with a salad. I usually don't have such healthy choices available or the ability to have them. It was all very much appreciated and, along with the fellowship, made for a very positive experience.



SENIOR SAINT SUNDAY

All Saints Day is on Sunday, November 5th. Last year we honored our Senior Saints, those whom are 80 and older, and we will once again do that this year. If you are 80 and over we hope you can join us.

We will also have a baptism welcoming our newest saint and also invite those who have been baptized since last All Saints Day to join us as well. We will also remember and give thanks for the saints who have died in the past year.

This should be a great worship service and we want all to attend!





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 46:1

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

- A concern I have for a friend experiencing troubles...
- A personal experience of needing help in trouble...
- For me, God's refuge and strength...



John 19:16-17

Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha.

- Crucifixion is ...
- I keep a cross...
- When holding a cross I feel...

Psalm 42:1-2

As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and behold the face of God?

- Things I long for...
- Thirsting for God...
- Meeting God face to face would be...



LUTHERAN SERVICES IN IOWA (LSI) NEWS

National Adoption Month

November is National Adoption Month, and LSI is proud to announce our newest service, LSI Foster Care and Adoption. Through this new service, LSI recruits, supports, and empowers foster and adoptive families across western Iowa.

Nationally, there are more than 101,000 youth waiting to be adopted from foster care, and thousands of teens age out of foster care every year without a permanent family. We know there are no unwanted children, only unfound families! To learn how you or someone you know can make a difference, visit LSIowa.org/Foster, or contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at 563-676-2065 or Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org.

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at www.LSIowa.org and www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

Opening Your Heart and Home

Phillip and Ruth remember the day they decided they wanted to adopt.

It was the late 1950s, and the couple was shocked to learn abandoned babies in a local hospital were being neglected, didn't receive the attention or care they needed, and were not developing properly because of it. Phil and Ruth knew they wanted to do something.

"We decided we would adopt as soon as we could," Ruth says.

Phil and Ruth became adoptive parents through what was then called Lutheran Social Services of Iowa (LSS). The couple already had three biological children, Carol, Eric, and Peter, but they had more room in their home and in their hearts. They were ready for a fourth child. That's when baby Rachel entered their lives.

A few years later, the couple adopted 4-year old girl, Paula, and their family was complete. The seven traveled the country for work and vacations, went camping everywhere, and remained a close-knit family even as each child left home for college.

Now, all of Phil and Ruth's children have lives of their own, and Phil and Ruth have added grandchildren and great-grandchildren to their legacy.

Paula graduated from the Naval Academy, received her Ph.D. in Computer Science, and now works for the IRS. Rachel, a graduate of Luther College and the University of Wisconsin Medical School, became a doctor and practices in New Orleans, Louisiana. She has a weekly syndicated health tips show on her local ABC television station, and has been awarded two regional Emmys.

Through it all, Phil and Ruth have been advocates and supporters of adoption in Iowa. For them, it was a way to make a difference in the world, one child at a time. Today, Phil and Ruth continue to support vulnerable children in Iowa as faithful donors to LSI.

"Not everyone can adopt," Phil says, "but everyone can afford to support LSI. Even a small amount, given monthly and automatically, is remarkably helpful."



MINISTER OF PRAYER—HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT

Off and on over the last few months we have had some wonderful high school students help lead the congregation in prayer during Sunday worship and we are seeking all high school students to consider serving in this capacity. An online sign-up sheet has been created and can be accessed at:

<https://www.volunteersignup.org/TKY3H>

The Prayer of the Day is a short prayer, usually 23 sentences in length, prayed during worship. An instructional sheet with a copy of the Prayer of Day will be sent in advance so you can practice. Please see Pastor Chad with any questions.

JOIN THE CHOIR!

The choir is gathering once again on Wednesday evenings at 6:15 p.m. If you are interested in joining, please contact Linda Black at 643-5622. They would love to have more voices gather to give praise, thanks, and glory to God! No experience necessary - just a love to glorify God through song!



Bethany publishes its weekly e-news each Thursday via email. If you are not receiving this and wish to do so please contact Paula to verify we have your email and that it is the correct email. Thanks and for those that are receiving it we hope this has been helpful.

WOMEN'S CIRCLE AT CRESTVIEW

On November 8th the monthly Women's Circle study group will meet at Crestview Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, which is located at 451 West Orange St. in West Branch. This will give us the opportunity to visit with our members residing there. We would love all women join us that day if available.



ELCA ADVOCACY

As members of the ELCA, we believe that we are freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. God uses our hands, through our direct service work and our voices, through our advocacy efforts, to restore and reconcile our world. Through faithful advocacy, the ELCA lives out our Lutheran belief that governments can help advance the common good.

ELCA advocacy works for change in public policy based on the experience of Lutheran ministries, programs and projects around the world and in communities across the United States. We work through political channels on behalf of the following biblical values: peacemaking, hospitality to strangers, care for creation, and concern for people living in poverty and struggling with hunger and disease.

If interested in learning more about ELCA Advocacy and to sign up for email updates on advocacy awareness issues please visit:

<http://www.elca.org/en/Our-Work/Publicly-Engaged-Church/Advocacy>



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



ANGEL TREE—DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITY

Dear Friends,

We are nearing the start of the holiday season! Bethany will be hosting Angel Tree families again this year. I have coordinated this mission for a number of years. I ask that you consider working with me this year to learn the process of this important event. Remember these are all local families that we support. We should get our families mid November. If you are interested in working on this mission, please contact me at schieles@Lcom.net or 319-631-2661.

Blessings,

Jeni Schiele



WWW.WBBETHANY.ORG

This is just a reminder that Bethany's website has much information on it from events, current and past newsletters, sermons, calendars, and links to other helpful resources. We hope you visit it frequently and please let Paula or Pastor know if you find anything that is no longer working, out of date, etc.

COOKIE WALK 2017

The 2017 cookie walk is on the Christmas Past schedule for Saturday, December 2nd! 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 a.m. Set up will be Friday afternoon.

Help is needed for the event, including setup and cleanup. Everyone please bring a tray 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. If you have any questions please contact Candy or Paula.





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*.

Wednesday, November 1	Psalm 119:41-48 Proverbs 16:1-20 Matthew 19:16-22	Saturday, November 18	Psalm 90:1-8, [9-11] 12 Ezekiel 7:10-27 Matthew 12:43-45
Thursday, November 2	Psalm 43 1 Samuel 2:27-36 Romans 2:17-29	Sunday, November 19	Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 Matthew 25:14-30
Friday, November 3	Psalm 43 Ezekiel 13:1-16 2 Peter 2:1-3	Monday, November 20	Psalm 9:1-14 Zechariah 1:7-17 Romans 2:1-11
Saturday, November 4	Psalm 43 Malachi 1:6-2:9 Matthew 23:13-28	Tuesday, November 21	Psalm 9:1-14 Zechariah 2:1-5; 5:1-4 1 Thessalonians 5:12-18
Sunday, November 5	Revelation 7:9-17 1 John 3:1-3 Matthew 5:1-12	Wednesday, November 22	Psalm 9:1-14 Job 16:1-21 Matthew 24:45-51
Monday, November 6	Psalm 5 Jeremiah 5:18-31 1 Thessalonians 2:13-20	Thursday, November 23	Psalm 95:1-7a 1 Kings 22:13-23 Revelation 14:1-11
Tuesday, November 7	Psalm 5 Lamentations 2:13-17 Acts 13:1-12	Friday, November 24	Psalm 95:1-7a 1 Chronicles 17:1-15 Revelation 22:1-9
Wednesday, November 8	Psalm 5 Proverbs 16:21-33 Matthew 15:1-9	Saturday, November 25	Psalm 95:1-7a Isaiah 44:21-28 Matthew 12:46-50
Thursday, November 9	Psalm 70 Amos 1:1-2:5 Revelation 8:6-9:12	Sunday, November 26	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 Ephesians 1:15-23 Matthew 25:31-46
Friday, November 10	Psalm 70 Amos 3:1-12 Revelation 9:13-21	Monday, November 27	Psalm 7 Esther 2:1-18 2 Timothy 2:8-13
Saturday, November 11	Psalm 70 Amos 4:6-13 Matthew 24:1-14	Tuesday, November 28	Psalm 7 Esther 8:3-17 Revelation 19:1-9
Sunday, November 12	Amos 5:18-24 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 Matthew 25:1-13	Wed, November 29	Psalm 7 Ezekiel 33:7-20 John 5:19-40
Monday, November 13	Psalm 63 Amos 8:7-14 1 Corinthians 14:20-25	Thursday, November 30	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 Zechariah 13:1-9 Revelation 14:6-13
Tuesday, November 14	Psalm 63 Joel 1:1-14 1 Thessalonians 3:6-13		
Wednesday, November 15	Psalm 63 Joel 3:9-21 Matthew 24:29-35		
Thursday, November 16	Psalm 90:1-8, [9-11] 12 Ezekiel 6:1-14 Revelation 16:1-7		
Friday, November 17	Psalm 90:1-8, [9-11] 12 Ezekiel 7:1-9 Revelation 16:8-21		



**REJOICE ALWAYS, PRAY WITHOUT CEASING, GIVE THANKS IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES; FOR THIS IS THE WILL OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS FOR YOU.
1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18 (NRSV)**



Today I rejoice in the Lord for...

Today I pray for...



Today I give thanks to God for...

A Daily Prayer You May Find Useful

Gracious and holy God, give me diligence to seek you, wisdom to perceive you, and patience to wait for you. Grant me, O God, a mind to meditate on you; eyes to behold you; ears to listen for your word; a heart to love you; and a life to proclaim you; through the power of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, my Savior and Lord. Amen.

From Evangelical Lutheran Worship and used by permission of Augsburg Fortress under license #SB135727.



November 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 6:00 PM Choir P	2 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	3	4
5 9:00 AM Worship 10:20 AM Adult Discussion 10:20 AM Sunday School Pre-K through 3rd grade	6 11:30 AM Lunch Bible Study at Mexico Lindo	7 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	8 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 9:00 AM Women's Circle @ Crestview 6:00 PM Choir Practice - Sanctuary 6:30 PM 4-6 grade Education 6:30 PM Confirmation	9 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	10	11
12 9:00 AM Worship 10:20 AM Adult Discussion 10:20 AM Sunday School Pre-K through 3rd grade	13 11:30 AM Lunch Bible Study at Mexico Lindo 6:30 PM Council Meeting	14 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	15 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 6:00 PM Choir Practice - Sanctuary 6:30 PM 4-6 grade Education 6:30 PM Confirmation	16 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	17	18
19 9:00 AM Worship 10:20 AM Sunday School Pre-K through 3rd grade	20 11:30 AM Lunch Bible Study at Mexico Lindo	21 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	22 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 6:00 PM Choir Practice - Sanctuary	23 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	24	25
26 9:00 AM Worship 10:20 AM No Sunday School (Thanksgiving Break) 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 6:00 PM Choir Practice - Sanctuary 6:30 PM 4-6 grade Education 6:30 PM Confirmation	30 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	1	2

Monetary Gifts Report

Saints in Worship:

09/03	68
09/10	56
09/17	65
09/24	48
Total	237

	September 2017		YTD	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Total Receipts	13,168	13,166	110,256	118,502
Total Expenses	12,588	13,021	104,443	117,420

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.

