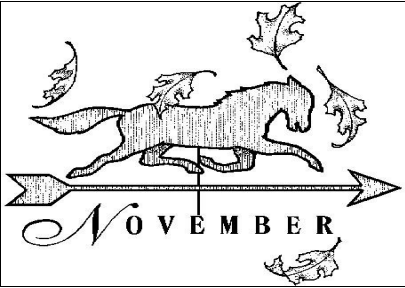


Bethany Lutheran Church

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



Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

IMPORTANT DATES

11-09 Celebration Sunday
11-12 Women's Circle
11-16 Youth Night
beginning @ 5:00 pm
11-26 No Confirmation or
Cross Training
11-27 Thanksgiving



Dear faithful people of God,
Grace and peace to you! The Apostle Paul addresses the presence of spiritual gifts in three main sections of scripture. He does so in 1 Corinthians 12 which our above passage is pulled from, Romans 12, and Ephesians 4. His point is that each of us in our baptism have been bestowed upon by God through the power of the Holy

Spirit a gift or gifts which are to be used for the purpose of unifying the body of Christ and the growth of God's kingdom. But how do we know what our gifts are? How do we know how God is best using us as part of the body of Christ, i.e., the church?

Some gifts are more easily identifiable than others (e.g., you are musically gifted, you are an organizer or planner, you can talk easily with others) but others are not. If you ever wondered how God is using you or what gifts you have that might be used within the church to further God's work know that you are not alone. There are many resources and books out there and the ELCA website has a Spiritual Gifts Assessment Tool. You can do it on-line by answering a series of questions and then get an instant report that highlights where your gifts might be best used. Here is the link: <http://www.elca.org/en/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Faith-Practices/Assessment-Tools>

The bottom line is that each of us has unique gifts from God and each of us plays a vital part in the life of the church. We are so much stronger when we work together than we try and go it alone. Thanks again people of God for all you do here at Bethany and in your daily lives to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ! You are a blessing!

In peace,

Pastor Chad

Contact Information

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

Pastor Chad Whaley
pastor@wbbethany.org

Office Hours
Monday & Thursday
9:00 am - Noon

Admin. Assistant: Paula Casper
blsecretary@lcom.net

Office Hours
Tuesday & Thursday 8:00-11:30 AM
Office Phone: (319) 643-5998

*Pastor Chad is also available by
appointment.

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 @blwestbranch



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, Ian Leslie
Jill Kinsinger
- 11-17 Cheyanne Crow
- 11-18 Alex Poppen
- 11-20 Shari Friis
- 11-22 Scott Marsh
- 11-23 John Hierseman
- 11-26 Patty Yeater
- 11-27 Steve Campbell



Bethany Books

by Frank Frostestad

November Newsletter 2014

Books For Adults

This month's author is Max Lucado. Last year, I wrote a review of his book *Max On Life* which provides answers to many important questions that readers have written to him. We also have his books *Come Thirsty: No Heart Too Dry For His Touch* and *A Love Worth Giving: Living In The Overflow Of God's Love*.

Three more books by Max Lucado have been donated to our library. The first is *God's Story: your story*. All of us long to

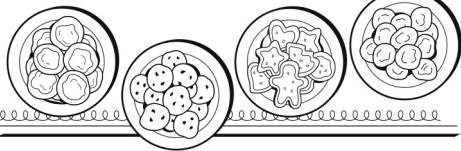
know where we came from and where the stories of our lives are going. In the chaos and confusion of our daily lives, Lucado believes there is a cohesive story line. He believes that it is time to see what our life looks like when God's story becomes your story. The second is *3:16: the Numbers Of Hope*. We are familiar with the twenty-six word verse of John 3:16. It gives us hope, beginning with God and ending with life, and urging us to do the same. It is usually one of the first verses that one memorizes in the Bible. If you know nothing of the Bible, it is a good place to start. If you know much about the Bible, it is a good place to return. This book is a 40 devotional using this verse. The third is *Facing Your Giants: A David and Goliath Story For Everyday People*. He taunts you with bill's you can't pay, people you can't please, habits you can't break, failures you can't forget, and a future you can't face. But like David you can face your giant, even if you are not the strongest, the smartest, the best equipped or the holiest. If you are ready to face your giants, this story can help to inspire you. The same God who helped David will help you.

Many times we wonder where in the Bible a certain verse is located or what the Bible has to say on a particular word or topic. I have added the book *How To Find It In Your Bible* by Pamela L. McQuade. It contains nearly 15,000 key scripture references arranged under 1,001 subject headings.

Many of you are familiar with the financial expert and author Dave Ramsey. Now in collaboration with his daughter Rachel Cruze, he has written *Smart Money Smart Kids: Raising the Next Generation to Win with Money*. This book is designed to help parents teach their children how to win with money. Topics include: work, spend, save, give, budgeting, debt, college, contentment, family, and generational handoff. This is an opportunity to teach children to be money-smart in a debt-filled world.

Book For Children

From the author of the classic, *Old Turtle*, this month's book by Douglas Wood is *Grandad's Prayers of The Earth*. Beautifully illustrated by P.J. Lynch in warm fall colors, it highlights a relationship between a boy and his grandfather. While walking in the woods the boy would ask questions. The topic of prayer came up and the grandfather answers that all nature is involved in prayer. The boy then asks "Are our prayers answered...?" At the end of the book, after his grandfather is gone and many prayers later, he gets his answer.



Cookie Walk

The Cookie Walk will be Saturday, December 6th from 9:00 am until cookies are gone. Once again the Dansk Cafe will serve coffee and Scandinavian goodies. Quilters will be on hand with warm gifts for sale and others are welcome to share other items.

Needed: help with advertising, decorating, setup and cleanup.

Absolutely must have:

COOKIES

Please everyone bring your favorite cookies to sell. Place them on a pretty platter and drop them off. All are welcome to help and have fun.

Questions? Call Paula 331-9456



Adult Education Opportunities



Pastor Chad's sermons can now be found on Bethany's website (www.wbbethany.org) by placing your cursor over the "Resource" tab found on the home page and then selecting "Sermons" when it pops up. Additionally, some people have requested an email with the sermon attached. If you prefer that method please contact Pastor Chad.

Bethany Men's Breakfast Bible Study Group
Wednesdays at 6:00 am
in the Great Hall
All are Welcome

Thursday Women's Bible Study
6:00 am in the Small Hall
All are Welcome

Adult Discussion Group
Sunday mornings at 10:20
In the Small Hall
All are Welcome



Please join us

Thursday, November 20 at 6:00 p.m. for our Prayer Team meeting. This is a very informal time that we talk about prayer in our own lives and then make intentional time to pray for the people of God at Bethany and other prayer petitions in the world, our community, or in our personal lives. We will be watching a series of short videos that speak to meeting God in prayer. We will gather in the Small Hall. All are invited and we hope you join us!

Time to order your Poinsettia to decorate the alter for Christmas. Plants will be \$10.00 each. Order forms will be in your Bulletin soon or you can send in the form included in this newsletter.



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/westbranch/), 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 KCRG television stations. 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!





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Stewardship Spotlight

Our Call to Discipleship and Stewardship

In one of the recent Adult Sunday School Sessions we discussed an article from the August 2014 Lutheran magazine, "Financial Stewardship", written by Ann Fritschel, a professor at the Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa, and Steve Oelschlager, ELCA Stewardship program coordinator. The article emphasized the connection between discipleship and stewardship.

"Disciples are called to love God with all their heart, mind, soul and strength, and to love their neighbors as themselves."
"Stewards are called to be generous toward God with all their heart, mind, soul, strength – through their time, talents and treasures – and to be generous to their neighbors as themselves."
"Stewards act out love through their generosity, and in the process grow in their identity as disciples."

Living a life of generosity is not easy though, and we often give in to fear and selfishness. Financial pledges and giving of our time or talent are spiritual practices that can help us move from fear to love and generosity.

On Sunday November 2, there will be an explanation of the Financial Pledge forms and Time and Talent sheets, and the process to respond. Please prayerfully consider how God is calling you to participate in the ministries at Bethany in the coming year, and in what ways you may be able take a step from fear to love and generosity.

On Sunday November 9, there will be time to turn in the forms, and we will celebrate with a potluck luncheon following the worship service. The Stewardship committee will provide sandwich fixings and ask that each of you bring a side dish or dessert to share. We hope to see you all there!



BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MINUTES September 2014

Members Present: Courtney Heid (Education), Claudia Beyer (Treasurer), Del Hughes (President), John Black (Property), Kent Kaufman (Stewardship/VP), Pastor Chad, Laura Twing (Evangelism and Missions, Secretary)

Members Absent: Bonnie Conner (Worship), Jenni Olson (Youth), Candy Madsen (Fellowship)

Called to Order: 6:32 pm with a devotion by John Black

Pastor's Report: Attended final First-Call Colleague group which was part of a three-year process the Synod provides for first-call pastors. Advised there was a good turnout and lots of service done for God's Work, Our Hands Sunday. Confirmation starts this week with 10 students. It is exciting to have another big class.

Secretary's Report: Kent Kaufman moved to approve, seconded by Claudia Beyer. All ayes.

Treasurer's Report: We currently have \$1,638 designated for the ceiling tiles in the Building Fund. We are still waiting to receive a few bills from Vacation Bible School. Maintenance costs are running higher than expected so far this year. Quilters' fund is getting low so may need to consider moving funds. A special offering was taken, and added to the Kids Against Hunger fund balance, to be used for the West Branch Lions Hunger Project packaging event on October 25 2014. Moved for approval by Kent Kaufman, seconded by Courtney Heid.

Building and Grounds Report: The railing on the ramp to the handicapped parking space near the parsonage has been fixed during God's work, Our Hands Sunday.

Education Report: Sunday school room has been painted. The storybook bibles for the kindergartners have arrived. Rally Sunday potluck this week following worship.

Missions Report: As part of the God's Work, Our Hands Sunday, 9 cartons of food packages were filled totaling approximately 2,000 meals.

Stewardship Report: A meeting will be held on 9/21 to discuss the upcoming fall stewardship campaign and Celebration Sunday will be Nov 9. Once again, there will be Temple talks during worship and reminders to sign up for electronic giving.

Worship Report: none

Youth Report: The high school room in the Great Hall has been redecorated. Thanks to all who helped. High school Sunday school on Wednesday nights (6:45-7:30) has been named "Cross Training." The high school youth group has not yet been named. This group will meet in the evening on the 3rd Sunday of the month. Invitations are being sent to all high school youth. Additionally, EPIC is scheduled for the 3rd Sunday of the month as it has traditionally been. There will be a meeting on October 5 following fellowship regarding the 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit.

Old Business:

- Outdoor worship with pet blessing will be on Sept 28.
- A new refrigerator has been installed. Part of the cost has been donated.
- Computer task force will meet soon. The 4th Sunday supper will be handled by Candy Madsen this month.
- Also, additional hymnals have been ordered as some have been either misplaced or not returned to the sanctuary.

New Business:

- West Branch Lions Club is looking for volunteers and financial help with a community food packaging event similar to Kids Against Hunger in October.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm with the Lord's Prayer.



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*.

Sat -November 1	Psalm 43 Malachi 1:6-2:9 Matthew 23:13-28	Tue – November 18	Zechariah 2:1-5, 5:1-4 1 Thessalonians 5:12-18 Psalm 9:1-14
Sun -November 2	Micah 3:5-12 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13 Matthew 23:1-12	Wed – November 19	Job 16:1-21 Matthew 24:45-51 Psalm 9:1-14
Mon – November 3	Jeremiah 5:18-31 1 Thessalonians 2:13-20 Psalm 5	Thu – November 20	1 Kings 22:13-23 Revelation 14:1-11 Psalm 95:1-7a
Tue - November 4	Lamentations 2:13-17 Acts 13:1-12 Psalm 5	Fri – November 21	1 Chronicles 17:1-15 Revelation 22:1-9 Psalm 95:1-7a
Wed – November 5	Proverbs 16:21-33 Matthew 15:1-9 Psalm 5	Sat – November 22	Isaiah 44:21-28 Matthew 12:46-50 Psalm 95:1-7a
Thu – November 6	Amos 1:1-2:5 Revelation 8:6-9:12 Psalm 70	Sun - November 23	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 Ephesians 1:15-23 Matthew 25:31-46
Fri – November 7	Amos 3:1-12 Revelation 9:13-21 Psalm 70	Mon – November 24	Esther 2:1-18 2 Timothy 2:8-13 Psalm 7
Sat – November 8	Amos 4:6-13 Matthew 24:1-14 Psalm 70	Tue – November 25	Esther 8:3-17 Revelation 19:1-9 Psalm 7
Sun - November 9	Amos 5:18-24 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 Matthew 25:1-13	Wed – November 26	Ezekiel 33:7-20 John 5:19-40 Psalm 7
Mon – November 10	Amos 8:7-14 1 Corinthians 14:20-25 Psalm 63	Thu - November 27	Zechariah 13:1-9 Revelation 14:6-13 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Tue – November 11	Joel 1:1-14 1 Thessalonians 3:6-13 Psalm 63	Fri - November 28	Zechariah 14:1-9 1 Thessalonians 4:1-18 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Wed – November 12	Joel 3:9-21 Matthew 24:29-35 Psalm 63	Sat - November 29	Micah 2:1-13 Matthew 24:15-31 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Thu – November 13	Ezekiel 6:1-14 Revelation 16:1-7 Psalm 90:1-8	Sun - November 30	Isaiah 64:1-9 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:24-37
Fri – November 14	Ezekiel 7:1-9 Revelation 16:8-21 Psalm 90:1-8		
Sat – November 15	Ezekiel 7:10-27 Matthew 12:43-45 Psalm 90:1-8		
Sun - November 16	Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 Matthew 25:14-30		
Mon – November 17	Zechariah 1:7-17 Romans 2:1-11 Psalm 9:1-14		



November 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship	3	4 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	5 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 6:15 PM Adult Choir Practice 6:30 PM Confirmation dinner and study 6:45 PM Cross Training	6 6:00 AM Women's Bible study 6:00 PM Worship Team Meeting	7	8
9 Stewardship Sunday 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship	10 6:30 PM Council Meeting	11 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	12 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 9:00 AM Women's Circle 6:15 PM Adult Choir Practice 6:30 PM Confirmation dinner and study 6:45 PM Cross Training	13 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	14	15
16 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship 5:00 PM EPIC (Middle School Youth) Night 6:00 PM High School Youth Group	17	18 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	19 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 6:15 PM Adult Choir Practice 6:30 PM Confirmation dinner and study 6:45 PM Cross Training	20 6:00 AM Women's Bible study 6:00 PM Prayer Team Meeting	21	22
23 4th Sunday meal at Bethany 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship	24	25 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	26 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 6:15 PM Adult Choir Practice	27 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	28	29
30 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship						

Financial Report

Submitted by Claudia Beyer

Attendance:

09-07 62
 09-14 74
 09-21 85
 09-28 59
 Total attendance for the month: 280

	September		YTD	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Total Receipts	11,142	10,250	108,448	92,250
Total Expenses	12,062	11,319	104,481	102,214

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.

