

Bethany Lutheran Church

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



October

IMPORTANT DATES

- 10-08** 9:00 am Women's Circle
10-19 5:00-6:00 pm EPIC
6:00-6:30 pm Meal
6:30-7:30 pm High school
10-23 6:00 pm Prayer Group
10-26 5:30-6:30 pm 4th Sunday
free meal
10-31 5:30-7:00 pm Trunk or Treat
- Wednesday Evenings**
6:15 pm Adult Choir Practice
6:30 pm Confirmation
6:45-7:30 pm Cross Training
- No Confirmation or Cross Training on October 22**

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
blcsecretary@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!

***"Know that the Lord is God.
It is God who made us, we are God's."***

Psalm 100:3



Dear people of God at Bethany Lutheran,

Grace and peace to you! I absolutely love this time of the year. Fall is my favorite season. Football season has returned and it is great to attend a Bear game on a beautiful Iowa fall evening. The leaves are transformed from shades of green into radiant shades of reds, oranges, and yellows. The combines will be in the fields bringing in yet another harvest provided by the Lord. And one of the other things I love about fall is the weather. It's just a great time of the year to get outdoors and be one with God's creation. One of those activities for me is running. It's a delight on these pleasant fall days to get out and go for a short run during the day.

When I started running it was mainly to try and lose a few pounds. However, I have come to realize that running for me is so much more than a means to shed a few pounds. Running is stewardship. We hear that term often and soon we will once again embark upon our Annual Stewardship Campaign at Bethany culminating in Stewardship Sunday on November 9. So often when we hear stewardship our minds automatically make the leap to money. It is true that money is a part of stewardship but it is not the only thing we are called to faithfully steward. Being a steward is equated with being responsible for that which is not ours or that which we are entrusted with to care for. Psalm 100:3 states, "Know that the Lord is God. It is God who made us, we are God's." Sadly, I didn't initially make the connection between running and stewardship (don't tell my professors at Wartburg). Yet, it is stewardship. Running is a way for me to faithfully steward my body and my mind. Running has helped me come closer to God. It has helped me clear my head and open my mind up to hear God and see God more clearly. It brings much needed stress relief in the middle of a crazy day. It gives me time to talk to God. It gives me time to reflect. It enables me to better respond to my call as pastor and do the work God has set before me. And yes, it has helped me shed a few pounds. Running is stewardship as I try my best with God's help to care for the creature that I am through and because of God's creative activity.

I am grateful I am able to run. Yet, even if you can't run, there are so many other activities and ways we can do to faithfully steward our minds, bodies, and all that we have been given by God. What are some of those activities in your own life? Do you view them as stewardship? Do you connect them as an example of how you daily live out your faith? We have been given and entrusted with so much by God and may God give us the strength and wisdom to be the best stewards we can be!

God's peace stewards of God! Thank you so much for all you do!

Pastor Chad



Happenings

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), and our Facebook page. 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. We do our very best at communicating all that is happening here at Bethany and hope you take advantage of these outlets to keep up to date



Stay in Touch

Bethany's Prayer Group

October 23 6:00 pm

This is a small group of members that have been meeting with Pastor Chad once a month to pray for Bethany members, friends, family and other concerns. We will be watching a video series called "Meeting God in Prayer" that discusses the following topics: what is prayer, why do we pray, how do we pray, when do we pray, and does God answer prayers? Please consider joining our small group for a time to pray and reflect on happenings around us and in our world.

*We always thank
God for all of you
and continually
mention you in
our prayers.*

1 Thessalonians 1:2, NIV

» FROM THE EPIC Youth »

Socktober is Coming!

Join the youth of EPIC for Socktober. This wonderful idea was inspired by Kid President (google him if you haven't heard of him). During the month of October we will be collecting new socks, which will be distributed to either Shelter House (Iowa City homeless shelter) or to the

Domestic Violence Shelter in Iowa City. In addition to socks, we will also be collecting other much needed items for the Domestic Violence Shelter. October is Domestic Violence awareness month and thus we thought it would be a good opportunity to reach out and support the ministry they do. We spoke to leaders there who advised us the shelter is nearly full every night (approximately 50 women and children). We have learned many of these women and children leave their homes swiftly and abruptly and don't have the opportunity to take anything with them. Here is a list of some of the most pressing needs we would like to collect and deliver to them at the end of the month:

- Fuel gift cards (any dollar amount)
- Pharmacy gift cards (Walgreens, CVS, etc.) to help with prescriptions
- Winter clothing: boots, snow pants, hats, gloves, scarves, coats (for women and children of all ages and sizes – can be slightly used and in good condition)
- Skin lotion, body wash, and deodorant
- Hair care products for African American women (These they always have a great demand for and can be found in most stores where hair care products are sold)

We are grateful for the support the good people of Bethany have shown us in the past for events such as the Malaria Campaign, chemo bags, and others events and we pray for your generous support again. To kick off our drive we will be hosting breakfast during fellowship on October 5. We hope all of you can attend. There will be 2 boxes on the table between the bathrooms outside the kitchen where you can donate supplies. Additionally, if you prefer to give a monetary donation that would be great and we will go out and purchase supplies. Please note on your checks "Socktober" so that we can designate your gift to the appropriate fund.

Thank you!

EPIC Youth Group



BIRTHDAYS

- 10/01 Laura Twing
- 10/03 Lynne Haub
Neil Korsmo
- 10/04 Jan Grimm
Dylan Haub
- 10/07 Karly Blaaid
- 10/09 Emalee Casper
Makayla Casper
Reed White
- 10/10 Vicky Kimpe
- 10/12 Kat Korsmo
Greg Lipes
- 10/13 Katie Anderson
- 10/14 Madeline Leslie
- 10/15 Deanna Weismann
Tyler Johnston
- 10/18 Nick Yeater
- 10/19 Billy Friis
- 10/20 Delores Paulsen
Karen Swenson
- 10/24 Jeni Schiele
Jill Taylor
Austin Holmes
- 10/25 Frank Frostestad
- 10/26 Layla Samuelson
Hannah Schiele
- 10/27 Jeanette Flores
- 10/29 John Crow
- 10/31 Tatem Lynch



Bethany Books

by Frank Frostestad

Books for Adults

We have a number of books by the author Beverly Lewis, including volumes from the *Home To Hickory Hollow Series*: *The Fiddler*, *The Bridesmaid*, and *The Guardian*. This month I am adding *The Secret Keeper* and *The Last Bride*. In *The Secret Keeper* Jennifer Burns shocks everyone when she bids farewell to her modern life in favor of the Old Order Amish world, settling in with Samuel and Rebecca Lapp. The people of Hickory Hollow are curious about the young seeker among them. She faces many challenges of the heart as well as the spirit. The question is if she can deal with them. In *the Last Bride*, Tessie Miller is the last of her Old Order parents' five daughters to marry. She has her heart set on Marcus King, but Tessie's father opposes the match. Impetuously, Tessie and Marcus elope to the English world, and then return to Hickory Hollow to live as singles. They believe they can convince the Millers to give their love a chance. That is not how it plays out. The unthinkable happens and she is sure to face public censure. You need to read the book to see how this turns out.

Lauraine Snelling has written many books that take us back in time to the town of Blessing, North Dakota. *Saturday Morning* is not one of these. It takes place in contemporary San Francisco. Hope Benson is determined to do all she can for the broken souls who come to Casa de Jesus, a woman's shelter in the heart of San Francisco. When a difficult pregnancy forces her to give up control, she draws support and strength from an unlikely group of women, each struggling with her own heartbreak. Sounds a bit like the *Yadda Yadda* series. Drawn together at the weekend market held in the shelter's parking lot, the women pool their resources to fend off an unscrupulous conglomerate that threatens to replace the facility with a commercial development. As they fight to retain this haven for women in need, they find their own longings for home answered by the solace of faith and friendship.

In *No Place For A Lady* by Maggie Brendan, Crystal Clark, after the death of her father, decides to start over in Western high country. Despite being raised as a proper southern belle she is determined to hold her own on her aunt's cattle ranch. The question is "Can she rise to the challenge?"

Book For Children

The Fall Of Freddie The Leaf by Leo Buscaglia is a warm story about a leaf named Freddie. How Freddie and his companion leaves change with the passing seasons, finally falling to the ground with the winter's snow, is an inspiring allegory illustrating the delicate balance between life and death. The author dedicated the book to all children who have ever suffered a permanent loss and to parents who could not find a way to explain it. This book is a story of life for all ages.

2015 ELCA

Youth Gathering Meeting

There will be a meeting for all youth and parents who have expressed an interest in attending the 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit, MI next summer. Again, the dates are July 15-19. Youth eligible to attend must be entering High School in the fall of 2015 (current 8th graders) or have just graduated High School in the 2014 (current seniors). **Please attend following worship and fellowship on Sunday, October 5.** Please see Jenni Olson or Pastor Chad with questions.



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

Updates/Reminders

Reminder:

If you or a loved one is in the hospital and desire a pastoral visit, please have someone contact the church at 643-5998.



First Communion Class is Coming!

Is your child ready to start receiving the sacrament of Holy Communion? A tentative date for first communion instruction has been set for Monday, October 20th at 6:00 pm. All children going through the instruction will then receive their first communion during worship on Reformation Sunday, October 26.

It is our belief that a child does not need to be a certain age to take communion; however, some education is required so that the child will have a basic understanding of this sacrament. The decision of whether or not a child is ready is made between the parents/guardian and pastor. If your child plans to attend please let Pastor Chad know as soon as possible so supplies can be ordered.

Cross training Reminder

All High School students are invited to attend a time of continuing your walk with Christ Wednesday evenings called "**Cross Training**" from 6:45-7:30. We will gather in the "High School" room in the Great Hall. Also, plan to attend for a time of food, faith, fellowship, and fun on the 3rd Sunday of each month. *(details below)*

Contact Amanda Whaley, Jeni Schiele, or Jenni Olson with questions.

Youth Night

Sunday, October 19

Fun, Faith, Food, Fellowship

EPIC: All youth in 5th-8th grade are invited to attend from 5:00-6:00 pm

Meal: 6:00-6:30 pm for both EPIC youth and High School youth

High School: All youth in 9th-12th grade are invited to attend 6:30-7:30 pm

Contact Amanda Whaley, Jeni Schiele, or Jenni Olson with questions.



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Stewardship Spotlight

Greetings all! It is fall and that means it is time again for the Fall Stewardship Campaign. You will be hearing more about our theme, goals and actions this year but I wanted to introduce the Campaign on behalf of the Stewardship Committee. As you know from recent campaigns, Stewardship is not just about giving money to the Church. Rather, Stewardship represents four distinct year round commitments we make as One in Christ:

- How we live—our relationship to creation
- How we serve—how we care for those in need
- How we sow—how we respond to God’s calling
- How we give—how we manage blessings from God (time, talent and possessions)

With this as the background, the Stewardship Committee is planning a series of “temple talks” that will provide you real examples of how giving (of time, talents and possessions) has been a personal blessing and could be for you as well:

- October 12th—Kickoff of the Campaign
- October 19th—Personal testimonials about service
- October 26th—The meaning of “Simply Giving”
- November 2nd—Explanation of forms and process to respond

The Campaign will culminate with a potluck luncheon sponsored by the Stewardship Committee. This will be on our “Celebration Sunday”, November 9th. We will be providing sandwich fixings and ask each of you to sign up to bring a “dish to pass”. The wonderful thing about potlucks is both the variety and types of foods, but also the great fellowship we enjoy—so please plan to attend!

Let’s all work together to make this fall Campaign not one of just signing up, but one of participating in ways we have never done before!



Letters from the Council Retreat held April 26, 2014

This is a continuation from the June/July Newsletter. Please see Pastor Chad's newsletter article in the June/July Newsletter for a summary of the 2014 Council Retreat and explanation of these letters that were written based on a Bible study using Revelations 2 and 3.

Letter #1

To the angel of Bethany,

Strengths

Faithful tradition
Welcoming
Sharing
Adequate \$

Weaknesses

Complacent
Don't want to get involved
Too caught up in what others think and do

Challenges

Reach out
Education – learn and share
Be example
Recognize our talents

Promises

Grow as we spread God's word
God's Love
Eternal life

Letter #2

To the angel of Bethany,

*You are a blessing to your neighbors in many ways:

food donations
Heifer International
malaria relief
meals

I challenge you to increase the numbers of members involved in these projects

*EPIC – growing strong and actively helping others

I challenge you to teach younger children about serving.

*I challenge you to be a welcoming church.

*You have many strengths; many ways of reaching out BUT many members aren't involved – how can you get more members involved in these activities and how can you not rest on your laurels? How can you stretch yourself as a congregation? There is much more to do ... what is that "more"? i.e., yes you are good; but there is always more

Join us at Bethany
for this year's
Halloween party
Trunk or Treat!



October 31 from 5:30-7:00 p.m.

How it works:

1. Register for a space in the parking lot by contacting Paula at the office or sending an email.
2. Come to Bethany on Halloween and decorate your trunk ... and of course bring treats to share!
3. Be sure to invite everyone you know young and old to join us for a evening full of wonderful costumes, fun, games and fellowship!

EVERYONE IS WELCOME



Bethany's Annual Cookie Walk December 6th

The annual Christmas Past celebration will be the weekend of December 5-7. Once again Bethany will host the ever popular cookie walk. Please volunteer to help with advertising, set-up, Danish (or other) cooking demonstrations, etc.

We look forward to welcoming the community to Bethany as we wish
"Peace on Earth, Good Will to All."

Coffee, cookies, visits with friends—what a great way to celebrate the season.

Questions? Call Candy at 643-5869.

**BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MINUTES — AUGUST 11, 2014**

Members Present: Beyer, Hughes, Kaufman, Black, Conner, Olson, Pastor Chad, Heid, Twing
Absent: Madsen

Called to Order: 6:30 p.m. with opening prayer by Bonnie Conner

Pastor's Report: Technical committee formed to discuss new computers for Pastor and secretary, and getting wireless service. Continuing Education seminar was productive. Conference 7 assembly will take place 9/11 at Christ The King in Iowa City.

Secretary's Report: Last meeting's minutes were moved for approval by Kaufman, seconded by Conner. All ayes.

Treasurer's Report: Giving is up again. Waiting on some bills to come in, no special concerns. Approval moved by Kaufman, seconded by Black. All ayes.

Building and Grounds Report: Curt Casper has removed a pine tree. A new 8' ladder has been purchased. Sharon Schubert has recommended a new person for contacting about the sound system.

Education Report: 30 kids each day at VBS this year. EWALU has been booked for next year again. New curriculum for Sunday School has been ordered called "Whirl" by Sparkhouse.

Missions Report: none

Stewardship Report: none

Fellowship Report: none

Youth Report: Registrations for youth wanting to attend the National Gathering in Detroit next year begin in October this year. Fundraisers are being planned, with youth involvement. A committee will be deciding funding decisions.

Worship Report: Aura Strohschein will start on August 17th as our new organist. The organ has been fixed and the piano tuned (stops were not cleaned). These tasks have been added on a regular maintenance schedule. Chime parts will be searched for. Pastor Meyers filled in for Pastor Chad last week.

Old Business:

Using reminder calendar.
Organ, computer and laptop.

New Business:

A new refrigerator had to be purchased.
A \$1500.00 limit was set for the computers.
Fourth Sunday Dinner plans for August.
Plans for September 7th, God's work, Our Hands Day.
Memorial Fund usage possibilities: sound system, tables, school supplies? No decision made.

Adjournment: 7:45 p.m. with *The Lord's Prayer*



THANK YOU to everyone that has donated clothing to the HOPE CHEST!! Your donation is making a difference to people in need! Starting October 1st we will be accepting **FALL/WINTER** clothing - we especially need children's coats and boots. We also have a need for boy's and men's jeans in all sizes.



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*.

Wed - October 1	Judges 16:23-31 Matthew 9:2-8 Psalm 28	Fri - October 17	Deuteronomy 17:14-20 1 Peter 5:1-5 Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]
Thu - October 2	Jeremiah 2:14-22 Colossians 2:16-23 Psalm 80:7-15	Sat - October 18	Isaiah 14:3-11 Matthew 14:1-12 Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]
Fri - October 3	Jeremiah 2:23-37 Philippians 2:14-18,3:1-4a Psalm 80:7-15	Sun - October 19	Isaiah 45:1-7 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 Matthew 22:15-22
Sat - October 4	Jeremiah 6:1-10 John 7:40-52 Psalm 80:7-15	Mon - October 20	Daniel 3:1-18 Revelation 18:1-10,19-20 Psalm 98
Sun - October 5	Isaiah 5:1-7 Philippians 3:4b-14 Matthew 21:33-46	Tue - October 21	Daniel 3:19-30 Revelation 18:21-24 Psalm 98
Mon - October 6	Ezekiel 19:10-14 1 Peter 2:4-10 Psalm 114	Wed - October 22	Daniel 6:1-28 Matthew 17:22-27 Psalm 98
Tue - October 7	Isaiah 27:1-6 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 Psalm 144	Thu - October 23	Numbers 5:5-10 Titus 1:5-16 Psalm 1
Wed - October 8	Song of Solomon 8:5-14 John 11:45-57 Psalm 144	Fri - October 24	Deuteronomy 9:25--10:5 Titus 2:7-8, 11-15 Psalm 1
Thu - October 9	Isaiah 22:1-8a 1 Peter 5:1-5, 12-14 Psalm 23	Sat - October 25	Proverbs 24:23-34 John 5:39-47 Psalm 1
Fri - October 10	Isaiah 22:8b-14 James 4:4-10 Psalm 23	Sun - October 26	Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8 Matthew 22:34-46
Sat - October 11	Isaiah 24:17-23 Mark 2:18-22 Psalm 23	Mon - October 27	Deuteronomy 6:1-9,20-25 James 2:8-13 Psalm 119:41-48
Sun - October 12 I	Isaiah 25:1-9 Philippians 4:1-9 Matthew 22:1-14	Tue - October 28	Deuteronomy 10:10-22 James 2:14-26 Psalm 119:41-48
Mon - October 13	Exodus 19:7-20 Jude 17-25 Psalm 34	Wed - October 29	Proverbs 16:1-20 Matthew 19:16-22 Psalm 119:41-48
Tue - October 14	Amos 9:5-15 Philippians 3:13--4:1 Psalm 34	Thu - October 30	1 Samuel 2:27-36 Romans 2:17-29 Psalm 43
Wed - October 15	Song of Solomon 7:10--8:4 John 6:25-35 Psalm 34	Fri - October 31	Ezekiel 13:1-16 2 Peter 2:1-3 Psalm 43
Thu - October 16	Judges 17:1-6 3 John 9-12 Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]		

October 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 4th Sunday meal at Bethany 9:00 AM Outdoor Worship with Blessing of Pets	29	30 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	1 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	2 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	3	4
5 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship	6 7:00 PM Technology task force team meeting	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 6:15 PM Adult Choir Practice 6:30 PM Confirmation dinner and study 6:45 PM Cross Training	9 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	10	11
12 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship	13 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 6:15 PM Adult Choir Practice 6:30 PM Confirmation dinner and study 6:45 PM Cross Training	16 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	17	18
19 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship 5:00 PM EPIC (Middle School Youth) Night 6:00 PM High School Youth Group	20	21 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	22 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 6:15 PM Adult Choir Practice	23 6:00 AM Women's Bible study 6:00 PM Prayer Group meeting	24	25
26 9:00 AM Worship followed by Fellowship 5:30 PM 4th Sunday meal at Bethany	27	28 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	29 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	30 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	31 5:30 PM Trunk or Treat	1

August Attendance:

08-03 60
08-10 51
08-17 65
08-24 105
08-31 61

Total Attendance: 342

Financial Report

Submitted by Claudia Beyer

	August 2014		YTD	
Total Receipts	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
	11,886	10,250	97,306	82,000
Total Expenses	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
	13,422	11,333	92,419	90,895

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.

