

# Bethany Lutheran Church

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



*"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith..."*  
*Ephesians 2:8*

## Important Dates

10/11 - Outdoor Worship/Pet  
Blessing  
10/12 - Council meeting 6:30 p.m.  
10/14 - Women's Circle 9:00 a.m.  
10/25 - Fourth Sunday 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



Dear Faithful People of God,

Greetings! We are a church entrenched in the belief we do "God's work" with "our hands." This is the tagline of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. This is what we did several weeks ago on September 13<sup>th</sup> as we came together as a community of faith and with thousands of other ELCA congregations across this nation to glorify God in service. This work we do is not to somehow earn God's favor or our salvation. We know that has already been done in the sending of God's Son into the world and through His death and resurrection. In the words of Ephesians 2:8-10:

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

As the Apostle Paul states we have been saved by grace through faith. This is a most precious gift from God and out of that saving grace comes the natural response of works. This is indeed what God created us to do – to bear fruit and spread God's grace and love. In doing so, we glorify God and the real presence of Christ continues to shine brightly in the world.

"God's work. Our hands." Sunday was another success. Thank you to all who attended. Further on in this newsletter you will find some photos from this day. I realize not all of you could attend for various reasons and if you have never participated in this event I encourage you to do so next year. Not only are we doing God's work through service but there is much fellowship, joy, laughter, and relationships built and strengthened that reach across generations and gender. In my opinion, this day and all that comes with it certainly is a vision of the kingdom of God here and now. Those visions break in upon us often and restore to us the sure and certain promise God is active in the world. Blessings to each of you as you daily live out your callings to do "God's work" with "your hands!"

Peace,

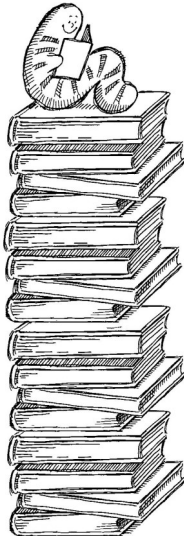
Pastor Chad



## Birthdays

10/01 Laura Twing  
 10/03 Lynne Haub, Neil Korsmo  
 10/04 Jan Grimm, Dylan Haub  
 10/07 Karly Blaalid  
 10/09 Emalee Casper, Makayla Casper  
 Reed White  
 10/10 Vicky Kimpe, Jeannette Cummins  
 10/12 Kat Korsmo, Greg Lipes  
 10/13 Katie Anderson  
 10/14 Madeline Leslie, Alexa Fitzgerald  
 10/15 Deanna Weismann, Tyler Johnston  
 10/18 Nick Yeater, Erica Fitzgerald  
 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  
 10/29 John Crow  
 10/30 Marv Brick  
 10/31 Tatem Lynch

**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 boys and men's jeans in all sizes.



## Bethany Books

by Frank Frostestad

### Books For Adults

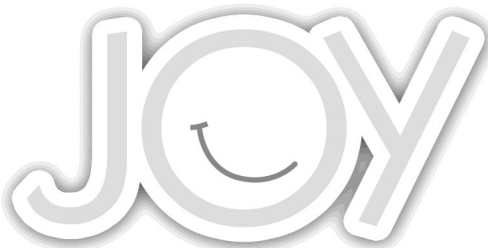
We have a number of books by Beverly Lewis. Her two most recent are *The River* and *The Love Letters*. In *The River*, two sisters return home for a visit after leaving the Amish world. Both are troubled by the secrets and the people they left behind. As past meets present both hope for acceptance and redemption. Can they face the future in the light of a past they can not undo?

In *The Love Letters*, Marlena Wenger, a young aunt from the Beachy Amish caring for her infant niece, finds comfort and hope from an Old Order Amish mother and her family who extend friendship to a homeless man, whose possessions include a collection of love letters.

Cindy Woodsmall is a writer of Amish fiction. She has been writing for about ten years and has published several series of books. One of these, *Sisters of the Quilt* was recently donated to us by one of our members. Now you can enjoy them as she has done. The first book of this series is *When The Heart Cries*. This book, and the series, is about Hannah Lapp. Despite being raised in a traditional Old Order Amish family, she decides to break with custom and marry outside her community. She is aware that her choice will change her relationship with her family. Tragedy strikes and all that she has known and believed is destroyed. In volume two: *When The Morning Comes*, Hannah has fled her Old Order Amish community and looks to find a new home in Ohio with her shunned aunt. Her limited education and hiding her true identity, make her attempt to navigate the confusing world of the English difficult. Convinced that her former life is irreparably destroyed, she finds purpose in life with her aunt and a growing relationship with Martin Palmer. The question is whether she will embrace the new opportunities she finds or will she return home and face her past? The third volume of this series, *When The Soul Mends*, takes place two years after she first left home. She has settled into a satisfying role in the English world. She has found a new love and a new family. After receiving a desperate and confusing call from her sister, Hannah reluctantly returns to the Old Order Amish community in Pennsylvania. The question in this book is: Will she choose the English world and the man who restored her hope, or will she return to the Plain life and perhaps her first love? Read the book to find out.

### Book For Children

*The Berenstain Bears "Blessed Are The Peacemakers"* by Mike Berenstain is based on Matthew 5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God". When the cast members in the school play "Romeo and Grizzliet" get angry and start a fight, Brother and Sister Bear help with the peacekeeping.





## Adult Education Opportunities



### Sermons Are Online

Pastor Chad's sermons can now be found on Bethany's website ([www.wbbethany.org](http://www.wbbethany.org)) by placing your cursor over the "Resource" tab found on the home page and then selecting

## Communication at Bethany

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](http://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.



**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

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



**Everyone is invited** to the **Adult Discussion Class** that starts on **Sunday October 4th at 10:20 AM** in the Small Hall. We want to have discussions on topics of interest to adults in the congregation, so please bring your ideas on what topics you might want to explore this year. We will have ideas and suggestions on topics too. We will discuss what times and discussion formats might work better for the group. Come and see what Christ can do in your life and faith through discussion, thought, and learning.



## First Communion Education

Is your child ready to start receiving the sacrament of Holy Communion? A tentative date for first communion instruction has been set for Thursday, October 22nd at 6:30 pm. All children going through the instruction will then receive their first communion during worship on Reformation Sunday, November 1. It is our belief a child does not need to be a certain age to take communion; however, some education is required so 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/guardians and pastor. **If your child plans to attend please let Pastor Chad know as soon as possible so supplies can be ordered.**



### 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** – Curt Casper

**Organist** – Aura Strohschein

### Church Council

#### President

Candy Madsen  
(319) 643-5869  
remadsen@lcom.net

#### Vice President/Building & Grounds

John Black  
(319) 643-5622  
johnblack@lcom.net

#### Secretary/Evangelism & Missions

Laura Twing  
(319) 331-6579  
lltwing@aol.com

#### Treasurer

Jill Taylor  
(319) 643-5865  
Jill-taylor@uiowa.edu

#### Worship & Music

Carol Roghair  
(319) 430-4013  
croghair730@gmail.com

#### Stewardship

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

#### Education

Courtney Heid  
(319) 400-7227  
cheid88@gmail.com

#### Youth

Kevin Olson  
(319) 330-7650  
kevinolsonlaw@gmail.com

#### Fellowship

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

## Stewardship Spotlight

### First Fruits

By

Jon S. Twing, September 22, 2015

“First fruits” is a complicated biblical concept that has many interpretations and which has been used in many circumstances. For example, often fall stewardship campaigns use it to remind congregations that we should “give from our abundance first” as opposed to waiting to give to God what is left once we pay our bills. This is not really the point. I am not a biblical scholar nor do I profess to have insights into the meaning of “first fruits” or even “stewardship” for that matter. What I do know is that both giving “First fruits” and being a good steward of God’s earthly kingdom are far more than giving money to the church and arguably help define us as Christians.

James 1:17-18 gets as close to my understanding as I can find:

“Every generous act of giving, *with every perfect gift*, as from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the world of truth, so that *we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.*”

While the meaning of this passage might be very obtuse, what it means to me is very simple: First “...with every perfect gift...” means to me that God has bestowed on us many gifts, all of which are perfect and can not be corrupted. Some are rich, some can sing, some are homeless but reverent to the Glory of God. All of these gifts are the first fruits of Christ meant to be shared, nurtured such that they prosper and grow—shining the light on the glory of God always. As “...first fruits of his creatures” to me means that we are the leaders...showing the way...letting our gifts shine as an example to all that the Glory of God will set you free.

As we enter the fall with our bespoke stewardship campaign, reflect on your “first fruits” both as steward and as offspring of the Lord. Consider what “perfect gift” you have that you can share with the Church. Only through a strong commitment to doing the work of God can we hope to be truly free until we see the final Kingdom! What are your “first fruits” and “perfect gift”?







# GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS. SUNDAY



**Left:** Clearing the roof at Families Inc. of debris and standing water. We also cleaned windows and pulled weeds.

**Right:** Piecing together much needed bibs for a non-profit daycare in Iowa



**Left:** Washing windows inside and out around the church structure.

**Right:** Painting the exterior of the bathrooms at Beranek Park.



**Left:** Trimming, pruning and pulling weeds around the church property.



BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
COUNCIL MINUTES

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
COUNCIL MINUTES  
AUGUST 10, 2015

**Members present:** Candy Madsen, Carol Roghair, Greg Lipes, Pastor Chad, Jill Taylor, John Black, Laura Twing

**Members absent:** Courtney Heid, Paula Casper, Kevin Olson

Called to order at 6:33 pm.

Prayer based on 1 Corinthians 10:13

**Pastor's Report:** Grief workshop was attended by 7 people. There are some issues being worked on with Lcom.net and the copier. Choir Surveys are back. Confirmation begins again on September 2. There will be 4 second year students and potentially 9 first year students. A baptism ceremony has been requested. Youth/parent listening posts were very poorly attended. Worship in the Great Hall went well. On August 18, Bethany will work the Summer Lunch program. God's Work, Our Hands Sunday will be September 13. Pastor will attend the Synod Fall Theological Conference in Ames beginning September 27. He will leave following worship.

**Secretary's Report:** Moved for approval by Greg Lipes, seconded by Carol Roghair. All ayes.

**Treasurer's Report:** With a change of listing postage in the Maintenance and Improvements, report was moved for approval by John Black, seconded by Carol Roghair. All ayes.

**Building and Grounds:** Report submitted for newsletter. Jaime Sanchez has been hired to clean carpets, at an approximate cost of \$1000. The parsonage dishwasher has been replaced by Kent Kaufman. Jamie Zimmerman will be finishing cleaning the siding on the church. It is time to form a sanctuary painting committee, and vote on this at the next annual meeting.

**Education:** Courtney Heid requests purchase of the Sunday School room adjustable tables discussed previously. Rally Sunday will be September 20, and Bibles will be presented. She requests having EWALU do our Vacation Bible School again next year, and will try to engage more volunteers. Table purchase moved for approval by Laura Twing and seconded by Jill Taylor. All ayes. These will be paid for out of the Joyce Pedersen memorial money.

**Missions:** No report.

**Stewardship:** The committee will be meeting soon for Fall planning.

**Youth:** No report.

**Worship:** Choir status is undecided, all else is going smoothly.

**Old Business:** The newest version of the church directory is off to Lifetouch for printing.

**New Business:** A committee chair is needed for deciding on tasks for God's Work, Our Hands Sunday. The Tee-shirts have arrived. Fourth Sunday dinner, no menu decided yet.

Adjournment moved by Laura Twing, seconded by John Black. All ayes.



## Ministry Minute

In our last newsletter we focused on Education, one of the specific areas of ministry addressed in our Congregation's Constitution and Bylaws. The others are: Worship and Music, Youth, Evangelism and Missions, Fellowship, Stewardship, and Buildings and Grounds. This month we will focus on Stewardship. Once again the intent of this and future articles is to help communicate and educate all of the faithful people of God here at Bethany about our life together and how we work together to be the church on earth and further God's mission. Each of these specific ministries is represented on the council by a called leader of Bethany. Their role is to help facilitate the oversight of these ministry areas along with the support of others whose gifts can assist each area of ministry continue to thrive and be fruitful here at Bethany. We are grateful for their leadership, for those who have or presently serve in any function within these ministries, and to all who prayerfully consider being a part of one of these ministry teams/committees.



Pertaining to Stewardship our Bylaws state, "The Stewardship Committee shall oversee and coordinate the congregation's stewardship education program. It shall coordinate the annual appeal for financial support." As the Stewardship Committee gears up for our annual emphasis on this topic which permeates every aspect of our lives as Christ's followers it only seemed logical this month we highlight stewardship. I suspect we all practice stewardship daily but at times don't give much thought to it. We practice it in how we may take time to pray to God or read the Bible being attentive stewards of our spiritual self. We practice it when we recycle a plastic bottle being attentive stewards to the creation we live in. We practice it when we get enough sleep each night as we steward the bodies God gave us. We practice it when we return to God what is rightfully God's in the first place. We practice it when we seek counseling or take time to pause and be attentive to our emotional well-being. We practice it when we live and worship together in community taking care of the fact God created us to be in relationship. Presently, Greg Lipes serves as the Council Representative overseeing this Committee. If you feel called to serve God and further the mission of Bethany Lutheran in this capacity please contact Greg.

## Worship News

The Outdoor/Pet Blessing Service, originally scheduled for September 27, will now be held on Sunday, October 11 due to a variety of scheduling conflicts.

A few notes on this service:

- Please bring a lawn chair if possible; however, we will have some folding chairs set up outside.
- In case of inclement weather (i.e., precipitation of any kind no matter how light it may be or cold temperatures) we will move inside. Please leave your pets at home. An email will be sent out that morning and also notice placed on our website, Facebook and Twitter pages.
- Pets: Due to liability reasons and suggestions from our insurance carrier the Council asks that all please adhere to the following:
  - All pets must remain leashed or caged (if smaller animals) at all times.
  - Use caution and common sense when considering whether to bring your pet. If your pet doesn't socialize well around other animals then it may be best to leave him or her at home that day. The safety of all people and other pets is vital.
  - Do not bring your pet if it is in heat.
  - Pets must remain outside at all times.



## 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*.

|                       |  |                       |   |
|-----------------------|--|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Thu October 1</b>  | Genesis 20:1-18<br>Galatians 3:23-29<br>Psalm 8          | <b>Sat October 17</b> | Isaiah 47:10-15<br>Luke 22:24-30<br>Psalm 91:9-16       |
| <b>Fri October 2</b>  | Genesis 21:22-34<br>Romans 8:1-11<br>Psalm 8             | <b>Sun October 18</b> | Isaiah 53:4-12<br>Hebrews 5:1-10<br>Mark 10:35-45       |
| <b>Sat October 3</b>  | Genesis 23:1-20<br>Luke 16:14-18<br>Psalm 8              | <b>Mon October 19</b> | 1 Samuel 8:1-18<br>Hebrews 6:1-12<br>Psalm 37:23-40     |
| <b>Sun October 4</b>  | Genesis 2:18-24<br>Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12<br>Mark 10:2-16 | <b>Tue October 20</b> | 1 Samuel 10:17-25<br>Hebrews 6:13-20<br>Psalm 37:23-40  |
| <b>Mon October 5</b>  | Deuteronomy 22:13-30<br>1 Corinthians 7:1-9<br>Psalm 112 | <b>Wed October 21</b> | 1 Samuel 12:1-25<br>John 13:1-17<br>Psalm 37:23-40      |
| <b>Tue October 6</b>  | Deuteronomy 24:1-5<br>1 Corinthians 7:10-16<br>Psalm 112 | <b>Thu October 22</b> | Jeremiah 23:9-15<br>Hebrews 7:1-10<br>Psalm 126         |
| <b>Wed October 7</b>  | Jeremiah 3:6-14<br>Matthew 5:27-36<br>Psalm 112          | <b>Fri October 23</b> | Jeremiah 26:12-24<br>Hebrews 7:11-22<br>Psalm 126       |
| <b>Thu October 8</b>  | Deuteronomy 5:1-21<br>Hebrews 3:7-19<br>Psalm 90:12-17   | <b>Sat October 24</b> | Jeremiah 29:24-32<br>Mark 8:22-26<br>Psalm 126          |
| <b>Fri October 9</b>  | Deuteronomy 5:22-33<br>Hebrews 4:1-11<br>Psalm 90:12-17  | <b>Sun October 25</b> | Jeremiah 31:7-9<br>Hebrews 7:23-28<br>Mark 10:46-52     |
| <b>Sat October 10</b> | Amos 3:13—4:5<br>Matthew 15:1-9<br>Psalm 90:12-17        | <b>Tue October 27</b> | 2 Kings 6:8-23<br>Acts 9:32-35<br>Psalm 119:17-24       |
| <b>Sun October 11</b> | Amos 5:6-7, 10-15<br>Hebrews 4:12-16<br>Mark 10:17-31    | <b>Wed October 28</b> | Jeremiah 33:1-11<br>Matthew 20:29-34<br>Psalm 119:17-24 |
| <b>Mon October 12</b> | Obadiah 1-9<br>Revelation 7:9-17<br>Psalm 26             | <b>Thu October 29</b> | Exodus 22:1-15<br>Hebrews 9:1-12<br>Psalm 119:1-8       |
| <b>Tue October 13</b> | Obadiah 10-16<br>Revelation 8:1-5<br>Psalm 26            | <b>Fri October 30</b> | Leviticus 19:32-37<br>Romans 3:21-31<br>Psalm 119:1-8   |
| <b>Wed October 14</b> | Obadiah 17-21<br>Luke 16:19-31<br>Psalm 26               | <b>Sat October 31</b> | Numbers 9:9-14<br>Luke 10:25-37<br>Psalm 119:1-8        |
| <b>Thu October 15</b> | Genesis 14:17-24<br>Romans 15:7-13<br>Psalm 91:9-16      |                       |   |
| <b>Fri October 16</b> | Isaiah 47:1-9<br>Revelation 17:1-18<br>Psalm 91:9-16     |                       |   |







# October 2015

| Sunday   | Monday                                 | Tuesday  | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday    | Saturday  |
|--|--|--|---|---|-----------|-----------|
|  |  |  |   | <b>1</b><br>6:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study                                     | <b>2</b>  | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>4</b><br>9:00 a.m. Worship followed by fellowship<br>10:20 a.m. Sunday school and Adult Discussion                                    | <b>5</b>                               | <b>6</b><br>1:00 p.m. Quilters<br>1:30 p.m. Hope Chest Open  | <b>7</b><br>6:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast and Bible Study<br>6:30 p.m. Confirmation dinner and study                              | <b>8</b><br>6:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study                                     | <b>9</b>  | <b>10</b> |
| <b>11</b><br>9:00 a.m. Worship followed by fellowship (Outdoor Worship w/ Pet Blessing)<br>10:20 a.m. Sunday school and Adult Discussion | <b>12</b><br>6:30 p.m. Council Meeting | <b>13</b><br>1:00 p.m. Quilters<br>1:30 p.m. Hope Chest Open | <b>14</b><br>6:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast and Bible Study<br>9:00 a.m. Women's Circle<br>6:30 p.m. Confirmation dinner and study | <b>15</b><br>6:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study                                    | <b>16</b> | <b>17</b> |
| <b>18</b><br>9:00 a.m. Worship followed by fellowship<br>10:20 a.m. Sunday school and Adult Discussion                                   | <b>19</b>                              | <b>20</b><br>1:00 p.m. Quilters<br>1:30 p.m. Hope Chest Open | <b>21</b><br>6:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast and Bible Study<br>6:30 p.m. Confirmation dinner and study                             | <b>22</b><br>6:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study<br>6:30 p.m. First Communion Class | <b>23</b> | <b>24</b> |
| <b>25</b><br>9:00 a.m. Worship followed by fellowship<br>10:20 a.m. Sunday school and Adult Discussion                                   | <b>26</b>                              | <b>27</b><br>1:00 p.m. Quilters<br>1:30 p.m. Hope Chest Open | <b>28</b><br>6:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast and Bible Study<br>6:30 p.m. Confirmation dinner and study                             | <b>29</b><br>6:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study                                    | <b>30</b> | <b>31</b> |

## Financial Report

Submitted by Jill Taylor

**August Attendance:**

08-02 - 55  
 08-09 - 80  
 08-16 - 59  
 08-23 - 68  
 08-30 - 53  
 Total: 315

|                | August 2015 |        | YTD     |        |
|----------------|-------------|--------|---------|--------|
| Total Receipts | 14,880      | 12,333 | 109,789 | 98,668 |
| Total Expenses | 12,305      | 12,996 | 109,652 | 92,419 |

*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.

