

Bethany Lutheran Church

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



Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. – 1 Thessalonians 5:18

IMPORTANT DATES

09-01 Stewardship Mtg. 6:30 p.m.
09-02 Confirmation 6:45 p.m.
09-09 Women's Circle 9:00 a.m.
09-13 God's Work Sunday
09-14 Council Meeting 6:30 p.m.
09-17 Choir Meeting 6:15 p.m.
09-20 Rally Sunday
09-27 Outdoor Worship/Pet
Blessing & Fourth Sunday
Community Dinner
09-28 Stewardship Mtg. 6:30 p.m.



Greetings Faithful People of God,

Our family is extremely grateful to partner alongside all of you wonderful people in the ministry we do together in the name of Christ. It is hard to believe it has been four years and we look forward to four more years of seeing exactly what God has in store next because as the Bible makes clear God is always at work in the world creating.

It has been a busy summer in many ways and as an article located further on in this newsletter points out it has been a busy summer at the parsonage. The parsonage is such a wonderful gift and blessing to our partnership in ministry together. Our family is truly thankful for the work that has been done.

Every year around this time we, along with many other congregations, begin to talk about stewardship. What does it mean to be a steward? Quite simply it means we tend carefully to and are responsible for the wonderful blessings God has entrusted us with. The parsonage is certainly one of those gifts God has blessed our congregation with and the repairs, updates, and maintenance which has been done is one more way our congregation seeks, with God's help, to be faithful stewards of all God has entrusted to us. Below is a photo of the new roof and further on in this newsletter is a photo of the refinished hardwood floors on the main level.

Once again faithful people of God, thank you! Thank you for the work you do to further God's mission here at Bethany and in your various stations of life. Thank you for being faithful partners in ministry. We do it together and we place our hope and confidence in God trusting God is always leading, equipping, and providing for us each and every step of the way.

Blessings,

Pastor Chad

Contact Information

Bethany Lutheran Church
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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
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Office Hours
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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 @blewestbranch





BIRTHDAYS

09-01 Dru Johnston, Jared Liebergen
 Andrea Pedersen
 09-03 Jaden Hierseman
 09-04 Nick Fitzgerald
 09-09 Emma Fryauf, John Fuhrmeister
 09-14 Jeff Arp, Jaylen Votroubek
 09-15 Anne Fetzner
 09-16 Rebecca Black, Victoria Yeater
 09-17 Ron Madsen, Kendra Webb
 09-19 Wade Holmes
 09-20 Andrew Samuelson
 09-21 Kevin Blaalid
 09-22 Pam Glandon
 09-23 Cindy Knoop, Helen Petersen
 09-24 Kyle Anderson
 09-29 Jim Racey



Bethany Books

by Frank Frostestad

Books For Adults

The theme for this month is biography. It is almost three years since I introduced the last biography of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. He is one of the most widely read and inspiring Christian thinkers of our time. *Strange Glory: A Life Of Dietrich Bonhoeffer* by Charles Marsh offers a definitive account using extensive new research. This book was recommended by a member. It is ambitious in trying to bring to life a very complex human being living in a particularly dangerous time in history.

I Am Third by Gale Sayers is his classic memoir that was the inspiration for the movie *Brian's Song* about his close friend and teammate Brian Piccolo, who struggled with cancer. Gale Sayers was one of the best running backs in the history of the NCAA and professional football. Here we see in this reprint of the original, with a new introduction, a person who excelled at football but lived for more than the game alone.

Many are familiar with the Prayer of Jabez in the Bible. Thom Lemmons in *Jabez: a novel* tells us about "Who is this person Jabez?" Why did he pray this prayer of blessing? What happened next? It is about a simple prayer, a complex man, and an important time in Biblical history.

A Stolen Life: a memoir by Jaycee Dugard is about the eighteen years the author was kidnapped, abused, and held hostage. From June, 1991 to August, 2009 she was held against her will. This is an account, in her own words, how she survived an intolerable situation. This is not a pleasant book but a reminder of the work that needs to be done with abused children in the United States.

In John Ortberg's *Who Is This Man?* the author details the unpredictable impact of Jesus. On the day after Jesus' death, it looked as if whatever small mark he left on the world would rapidly disappear. Instead, Jesus is history's most familiar figure. His impact on the world is immense and not a coincidence. His influence on our life and culture are shown in a number of situations.

Life Without Limits by Nick Vujicic causes one to think "What would life be like if anything were possible?" Born without arms or legs, Nick tells the story of his physical disabilities and the emotional battle he endured while learning to deal with them as a child, teen, and young adult. He shares how his faith in God has been a major source of strength. Once he found a sense of purpose, inspiring others to better their lives, he found the confidence to build a rewarding and productive life. He is a role model for anyone seeking true happiness and to never give up.

Book for Children

Love Is Like A Crayon Because It Comes In All Colors by David Heller is a collection of statements about love by children. They are both wise and funny. Their observations, while sometimes entertaining, cause one to think about love and how you express it in your own life.



A Note

from Pastor Chad

Since my arrival at Bethany I have consistently tried to contact our members via phone, email, or regular mail to wish them a "Happy Birthday." This has been a good way for me to remain in contact as best I can with all of you. However, over time I have found myself consistently falling behind in this practice and either missing birthdays all together or not contacting people until several days later. I have given it some thought and am going to take some time off from this particular practice. Perhaps, I will take it up again or perhaps the Holy Spirit will move me to try something new.



Adult Education Opportunities



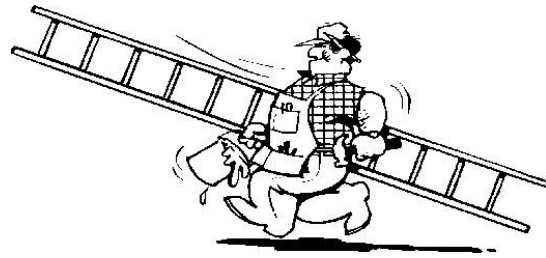
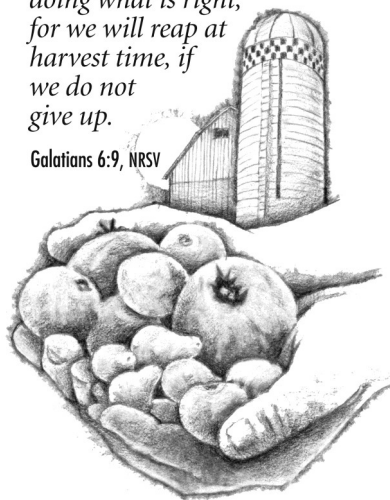
Pastor Chad's sermons can now be found on Bethany's website (www.wbbethany.org) by placing your cursor over the "Resource" tab found on the home page and then selecting "Sermons" when it pops up. Additionally, some people have requested an email with the sermon attached. If you prefer that method please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

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

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

So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up.

Galatians 6:9, NRSV



Parsonage Update

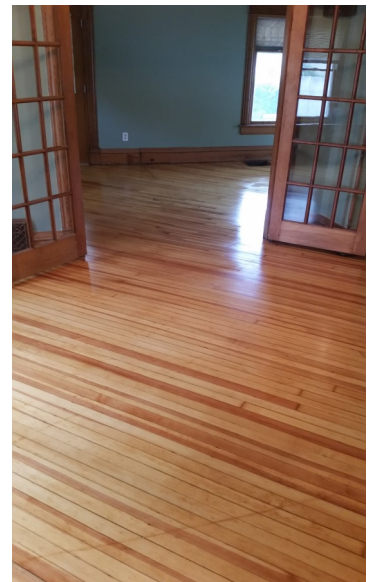
It's been a busy summer at the parsonage. The new roof and gutters have been installed. Cost was \$9,345 for the roof and \$1,582 for gutters.

The old carpeting in the dining room and living room was removed. Thanks Whaley family! The floors were refinished and look beautiful. Cost was \$1,855.

The tile floor in the downstairs bathroom was replaced and new carpet was installed on the open stairway. Private donations covered these.

A new dishwasher is now chugging away (quietly) in the kitchen. Again a private donation.

Amanda repainted the living room, dining room, bathroom and kitchen. Pastor Chad will be painting the front porch pillars and the fish scale trim above the dining room bay window.



A huge thank you to Kent, Del, Justin, John, the Whaley's, and any others who have helped for all their hours of hard work. And thanks to those who donated. The parsonage looks great!

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.





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Looking to the future while recalling our past

Bethany has come a long ways from the days when young Danish immigrants sought a place of worship, meeting in private homes before joyfully erecting the first church building in 1896. “Danish Lutheran Church” is no longer the name, services are no longer conducted in Danish (ending in the 1940s), and today’s church is welcoming to all people. While only a few Danish family ties remain within the congregation, it’s important to remember and honor those who went before. Indeed, as church records attest, many “New Americans” helped make this church possible. Faithful Danish immigrants laid the groundwork for today’s church and made possible the exciting opportunities we have to forge a meaningful future of faith in God and Jesus Christ. On Sunday, September 27, two visitors from Denmark, Flemming and Grethe Jensen, along with several of Flemming’s relatives, members of the Sondergard family (Sondergard immigrants were among those who helped establish Bethany as a place of worship) will be joining us for worship. During fellowship, Mike Sondergard, who was baptized and confirmed at Bethany, with others will moderate a brief program focused on church history and family heritage. Everyone is invited, regardless of age or ancestry, to meet and greet our visitors and join us for fellowship hour. Perhaps you have a memory to share or would like to reflect on how earlier times are influencing our life as a congregation today. Fellowship hour will offer that opportunity! (Article written by Mike Sondergard)



Perhaps you have noticed the grill located outside in the Prayer Garden or the new tables in the Sunday school room. These were purchased through memorial gifts received from the families of Jeanette Flores and Joyce Pedersen. Thank you and may these gifts help us continue in our mission to serve and glorify God in all we do.

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MINUTES JULY 13, 2015

Members Present: Carol Roghair, Courtney Heid, John Black, Jill Taylor, Kevin Olson, Greg Lipes, Paula Casper, Laura Twing, Candy Madsen
Absent: Pastor Chad

Called to Order at 6:30 pm.

Pastor's Report: Submitted, but not discussed.

Secretary's Report: Moved for approval by Jill Taylor, seconded by Paula Casper. All ayes.

Treasurer's Report: Benevolence to the Synod was mistakenly paid twice, will be adjusted next month. Courtney Heid moved for approval, seconded by Carol Roghair. All ayes.

Building and Grounds: There was a small increase in the price of flooring for the parsonage, due to extra patching. Roof work has been done by Mr. Gutter, and ice jam concerns have been corrected. The garden walk has been cleaned up. Jamie Zimmerman tried out a new vinyl cleaning product on the siding, with good results. A closing bill from our former insurance company (Guide One) has been received. Decision has been made to pay the new insurance company monthly, via automatic bank withdrawals. A bid for painting the sanctuary has been received from Robertson's. (\$15,507.36)

Education: VBS attendance sign-up is at 17 thus far. Low numbers possibly due to a city of West Branch sponsored event the same week. Courtney will be attending classes full-time this fall.

Missions: no report

Fellowship: Wayne Frauenholtz and the American Legion will use the Great Hall for a blood drive next month.

On August 18th, Bethany will prepare and serve the summer school lunch program at WB UMC and at the WB Trailer Park. July 4th Sunday Supper will be hosted by Paula Casper and Laura Twing. We will be doing open/shared fellowship on the first Sunday of each month. All are welcome to bring a small plate to share. Discussion regarding installing cup hooks for personal coffee mugs in the kitchen as one method of being more responsive to environmental concerns.

Stewardship: no report.

Youth: 3 listening posts have been scheduled for parents to discuss ideas for engaging youth in church community and alternative options for teaching Christian points of view. Council members are urged to attend also.

Worship: The organist will be off for all of July. A survey has been sent to current choir members regarding the future of the choir. Updating the altar care instructions has been requested.

Old Business: none

New Business:

- * Adjustment of the Whaley family health insurance arrangement and compensation package, is more input needed from the congregation?
- * Smartphone monthly reimbursement of \$30.00 to Pastor Chad moved for approval by John Black, seconded by Courtney Heid. All ayes.
- * God's Work, Our Hands Sunday projects are not decided yet.
- * Deadline for submitting articles from council members for the next Newsletter will be August 23.
- * Rally Sunday will include presentation of the children's bibles purchased last year. September 20.
- * Additional discussion of new tables for quilters, will the plastic ones be heavy enough to handle the sewing machines?

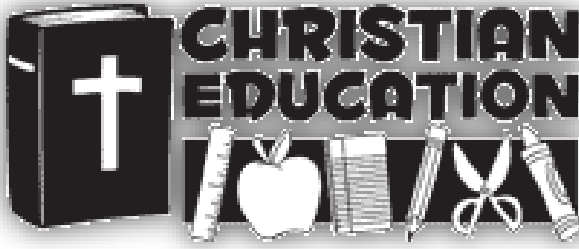
Adjourned at 7:25

Next meeting is August 10, 2015





Ministry Minute



In our last newsletter we focused on Worship and Music, one of the specific areas of ministry addressed in our Congregation's Constitution and Bylaws. The others are: Education, Youth, Evangelism and Missions, Fellowship, Stewardship, and Buildings and Grounds. This month we will focus on Education. 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 Education our Bylaws state, "The Education Committee shall be responsible for planning, overseeing, coordinating, and evaluating the congregation's educational programs and activities, including Sunday school, Vacation Bible School, Confirmation, and Adult Education programs." Education at all age levels is vital to growing disciples of Christ. One is never too old to learn and faith is a journey in which the Holy Spirit continually opens us up to who God is and the expansiveness of God's love, grace, and mercy. Christian Education here at Bethany is only possible if we all work together. It is a wonderful opportunity and gift to help nurture our people in their journey of faith. You don't need to be an expert in the Bible or a theological scholar – all you have to do is be present, share the love of Christ, and proclaim the mystery of our faith: "Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ has come again." Presently, Courtney Heid 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 Courtney.

Worship & Music



MEETING FOR CURRENT AND PROSPECTIVE CHOIR MEMBERS

There will be a meeting on Thursday September 17th at 6:15 p.m. in the Great Hall to discuss and decide about the future of the choir at Bethany Lutheran.

All choir members are strongly encouraged to attend. We will talk about where we want to go from here. Your input is needed. It is important to know what everyone is thinking.

Have you ever considered joining the choir? Now is your time to act! All Bethany members with an interest in singing in the choir are most welcome as well. Please join us for an exchange of ideas.



**“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday
September 13, 2015**

Once again this fall Bethany will join together with our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ of the nearly 10,000 congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for the third annual “God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday. This will be a dedicated day of service.



Our Hands

We will gather for a shortened worship service in the Great Hall and then go forth responding to God's grace in service. We will be helping our neighbors Families Inc. with some cleaning on the exterior of their building as well as yard work. We will also be partnering again with the town on a project more than likely at Beranek Park. Additionally there will be a project with the quilters and other miscellaneous projects around the church grounds. In the case of inclement weather, we will still gather for worship and complete any indoor projects there may be. A decision will then be made whether to reschedule at a later date or not.

We hope to see you there!

A NOTE OF THANKS

Dear Bethany Lutheran Vacation Bible School Children,

In July you did such a good job bringing food items to the West Branch Food Pantry and helping me to sort and put it on the shelves. Thank you.

*Sincerely,
Carol
W.B. Food Pantry*



VBS Kids, Volunteers, and Counselors
Taking Food to the Pantry

BINGO

15	28	37	51	73
6	17	32	45	61
9	15	★	60	70
12	26	44	52	66
7	22	34	48	72

Bingo Anyone?

Some have expressed an interest in having Bingo or cards at the 4th Sunday Suppers. If you would like to show up at 4:00 p.m. and organize games let Paula know. Thanks!



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*.

Mon August 31	Deuteronomy 4:9-14 1 Timothy 4:6-16 Psalm 106:1-6,13-23, 47-48	Wed September 16	Isaiah 10:12-20 John 7:25-36 Psalm 119:169-176
Tue September 1	Deuteronomy 4:15-20 1 Peter 2:19-25 Psalm 106:1-6,13-23, 47-48	Thu September 17	Judges 6:1-10 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 Psalm 54
Wed September 2	Deuteronomy 4:21-40 Mark 7:9-23 Psalm 106:1-6,13-23, 47-48	Fri September 18	1 Kings 22:24-40 Romans 11:25-32 Psalm 54
Thu September 3	Isaiah 30:27-33 Romans 2:1-11 Psalm 146	Sat September 19	2 Kings 17:5-18 Matthew 23:29-39 Psalm 54
Fri September 4	Isaiah 32:1-8 Romans 2:12-16 Psalm 146	Sun September 20	Jeremiah 11:18-20 James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a Mark 9:30-37
Sat September 5	Isaiah 33:1-9 Matthew 15:21-31 Psalm 146	Mon September 21	2 Kings 5:1-14 James 4:8-17 Psalm 139:1-18
Sun September 6	Isaiah 35:4-7a James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17 Mark 7:24-3	Tue September 22	2 Kings 11:21-12:16 James 5:1-6 Psalm 139:1-18
Mon September 7	Joshua 6:1-21 Hebrews 11:29-12:2 Isaiah 38:10-20	Wed September 23	Jeremiah 1:4-10 John 8:21-38 Psalm 139:1-18
Tue September 8	Joshua 8:1-23 Hebrews 12:3-13 Isaiah 38:10-20	Thu September 24	Exodus 18:13-27 Acts 4:13-31 Psalm 19:7-14
Wed September 9	Judges 15:9-20 Matthew 17:14-21 Isaiah 38:10-20	Fri September 25	Deuteronomy 1:1-18 Acts 12:20-25 Psalm 19:7-14
Thu September 10	Joshua 2:1-14 Hebrews 11:17-22 Psalm 116:1-9	Sat September 26	Deuteronomy 27:1-10 Matthew 5:13-20 Psalm 19:7-14
Fri September 11	Joshua 2:15-24 James 2:17-26 Psalm 116:1-9	Sun September 27	Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29 James 5:13-20 Mark 9:38-50
Sat September 12	Joshua 6:22-27 Matthew 21:23-32 Psalm 116:1-9	Mon September 28	Zechariah 6:9-15 1 Peter 1:3-9 Psalm 5
Sun September 13	Isaiah 50:4-9a James 3:1-12 Mark 8:27-38	Tue September 29	Zechariah 8:18-23 John 2:18-25 Psalm 5
Mon September 14	1 Kings 13:1-10 Romans 3:9-20 Psalm 119:169-176	Wed September 30	Zechariah 10:1-12 Matthew 18:6-9 Psalm 5
Tue September 15	1 Kings 13:11-25 Colossians 3:1-11 Psalm 119:169-176		





September 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship	31	1 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open 6:30 PM Stewardship Mtg.	2 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 6:45 PM Confirmation Parent/Student meeting	3 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	4	5
6 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship	7	8 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	9 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 9:00 AM Women's Circle 6:30 PM Confirmation dinner and study	10 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	11	12
13 God's work. Our Hands. Sunday 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship	14 6:30 PM Council Meeting	15 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	16 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 6:30 PM Confirmation dinner and study	17 6:00 AM Women's Bible study 6:15 PM Choir Meeting	18	19
20 Rally Sunday 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship	21	22 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	23 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 6:30 PM Confirmation dinner and study	24 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	25	26
27 9:00 AM Outdoor Worship & Pet Blessing followed by fellowship 5:00 PM West Branch Community Meal @ Bethany	28 6:30 PM Stewardship Mtg.	29 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	30 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study No Confirmation - West Branch Homecoming Parade	1 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	2	

Financial Report

Submitted by Jill Taylor

July Attendance:

07-05 38
 07-12 59
 07-19 46
 07-26 61
 Total: 204

	July 2015		YTD	
Total Receipts	Actual 12,415	Budget 12,333	Actual 94,909	Budget 85,420
Total Expenses	21,388	12,996	97,346	91,141

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.

