

Bethany Lutheran Church

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



Important Dates

8-10 Council meeting 6:30 p.m.

Outdoor Service 9:30 a.m.
8-2, 8-9, 8-16, 8-23, and 8-30
weather permitting.

Contact Information

Bethany Lutheran Church
235 South Second Street
West Branch, Iowa 52358
(319) 643-5998

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.

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

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. - Romans 8:28 (NRSV)



Faithful people of God,

Grace and peace to you from God our Father, and from our Lord
and Savior Jesus Christ!

This article will sound very much like the sermon I delivered July 26th, so if you worshipped with us then, I therefore felt it worthwhile to include in this newsletter.

So many of us have been pondering these last four and a half months. So much has changed in our lives, workplaces and in the church. We have experienced a variety of emotions, highs and lows. Yet, grief is one I seldom let control me anymore. At least, grief associated with COVID-19 and the inability to do so many of the "normal" things of life prior to the onset of this virus. The above verse, as well as others, have helped transform that grief into hope, excitement, and eyes to see God is doing something new and all these "new" things and changes this virus has forced us to do are working together for good.

Several years ago on a family vacation to Orange Beach, Alabama, which is located right on the Gulf Coast of Mexico we encountered less than ideal weather. A tropical depression had set in shortly after our arrival bringing with it heavy rains. We waited it out a few days but realized our chances of getting some quality sun and surf time was minimal. I had planned and looked forward to this for quite some time and was deeply saddened and disappointed the long trip south seemed all for not.

Yet, Amanda pivoted quickly and began exploring other options and soon the decision was made to head northeast to Chattanooga, Tennessee. We had never been there before and while it wasn't the beach we had so been looking forward to, we ended up having a great time doing things we had never done before such as touring a cave and going white water rafting, which was one of the most exciting and memorable things we have done as a family over the years. In the end, all things worked out for good.

In many ways, this is where I feel we are at as a congregation presently. We have pivoted and God is showing us a new way of being the church. We moved to an online format for Vacation Bible School and 47 children registered. Our online worship opportunities have reached many people who would otherwise not come through the doors of our building. We are exploring other ways we continue to be church together in this time. There is excitement in watching the Spirit work and transform the grief, challenges, and disappointments we all experienced early on into new opportunities for growth and life in Christ! In God, all things work together for good! May the peace of Christ be with you all! —

Pastor Chad



Birthdays

08-01 Aiden Shields
 08-02 Mia Olson
 08-04 Chris Korsmo, Jennifer Olson
 08-06 Bob Leslie
 08-08 Shawn Samuelson
 08-09 Sterling Benz, Karen Brick
 08-11 Jane Frauenholtz
 08-16 Jason Friis
 08-18 Jordan Arp, Courtney Heid
 08-19 Anna Friis
 08-21 Dana Arp, Rayna Sexton
 08-23 Allison Arp, Sam McCrory
 08-27 Miley Shields
 08-28 Jacob Langley
 08-29 Kaylea Zimmerman
 08-31 Aynsley Fonseca,

125th Anniversary Bethany Lutheran Church

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Bethany's church council made the decision to postpone the 125th Anniversary celebration, which was to be held on October 25th.

In place of the big event, the council felt we could still acknowledge the anniversary during our regular service with a prayer and blessing.

A short video is also in the works. As we envision it now, it would consist of a narrative of our church's history using pictures, plus 30 second clips from several people. In these short clips, we would like people to make comments on one or more of the following questions:

- Where have you seen God in our ministry together in Bethany's past 125 years?
- What excites you about the next 125 years?
- How does the Holy Spirit feed you spiritually as a part of this congregation?
- Would you share a fond memory?

We will use some expertise from our congregation to produce and edit this video. We will keep it safe and comfortable for anyone, using our amazing cell phones.

If you would like to participate in this video, please contact Pastor Chad, Paula, or Al Beyer.



Bethany Books

Books For Adults

The author for this month's books is Jennifer Beckstrand. Most of the books that we have that deal with the Amish community take place in Pennsylvania. There are Amish communities in many other states as well including several in Iowa. This series takes place in Wisconsin. The main characters are three sisters who live with an aunt. They have hives with which to raise honey as a source of income. They are known as the Honeybee Sisters which is the name of the series of three books.

Each book features one of the three Christner girls. Aunt Bitsy (Hyacinth) came to live with the girls when their parents were killed in a car accident. She had left the Amish community and lived in the outside/non Amish world for twenty years. She is quite a colorful character and not your typical Amish woman. She colored her hair and had a fondness for long earrings (worn inside the house). She looked after the girls physical needs, raised them, and kept them from boys/men. While the girls: Lily, Poppy, and Rose are sisters their personalities are each very different from the other.

The first book in the series is *Sweet As Honey*. Lily, the oldest sister, is the focal point of this book. Lily went through the awkward teenage years. She is an example of the *Ugly Duckling* story. When she was in 8th grade she needed glasses, braces, had pimples and the rest. Boys called her names and she was traumatized to think that she was plain and not much to look at even though she has moved beyond that stage. She was the intellectual of the group who liked to read and kept the farm account books. This volume traces her finally accepting herself.

In the second book of the series, *A Bee In her Bonnet*, Poppy, the middle daughter, is emphasized. She is an independent, determined individual. She has been outrunning boys and standing up for picked on children since she was a younger girl. Poppy felt that it was her job to protect her sisters. Many a day in school she would punch or shove a boy who bothered her sisters. She thinks that because of her personality she will become an "old maid" but events prove otherwise.

Rose, the youngest daughter, was like a delicate flower. She is the feature of the third book, *Like A Bee To Honey*. She was timid, virtually afraid of her own shadow. She was most affected by her parent's death, being only five years old at the time. She also was involved in a case of childhood trauma. For years she did not talk to anyone. She was like a scared little mouse who did not interact much with anyone beyond her sisters. She was good with animals

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(Bethany Books continued from page 2)

and bees and small children. She would not talk to boys or men. When events involving a local young man and also a vandal who has been targeting the Honeybee Farm and eventually Rose bring about change. This book, as well as the others, shows the need to forgive oneself as well as others.

Bible Quiz

What did Jesus say brings greater joy in heaven than 99 righteous people?

- A. The singing of angels
- B. One sinner who repents
- C. 100 righteous people
- D. None of the above



Answer: B (See Luke 15:7.)

Monday Gospel Gathering

Join us every Monday at noon for prayer and a 30-minute discussion about the upcoming Sunday gospel reading. We gather via Zoom Meeting so join at home or work while on your lunch break. The Zoom link that is the same each week is below.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84190438078?pwd=dklHWdDdRMkdIN0JoVFBQVmN0K01GUT09>



Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly

On July 18th the Southeastern Iowa Synod Council approved the plan to move the annual synod assembly, scheduled to be held August 7th at Lutheran Church of Hope in West Des Moines, to an online format.

Pastor Chad along with Bethany's voting delegates Dave Bahnsen and Paula Casper will participate online.

Anyone can follow along via livestream through the synod website (seiasynod.org) or Facebook page (search Southeastern Iowa Synod, ELCA).

The main point of business during the assembly will be the election of a new bishop. Bishop Michael Burk is retiring after leading our synod faithfully the past 12 years.



With a New Song



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



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) News

School is right around the corner! This year's back-to-school time feels a little different than usual for all of us, but imagine what it would be like to be a child or teen with an emotional or behavioral disorder. For the last several months, their routine has been turned upside-down and they've learned to adjust to a new way of life. Moving back into a school year structure can be particularly stressful and it can be difficult to concentrate and cope.

Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) provides mental health services to children and families across the state. It's our job to relate to children who might feel alone or misunderstood. Our therapists provide virtual telehealth therapy sessions with children while our Behavioral Health Intervention Services team collaborates with families virtually or in a community setting to help them develop skills like anger management and healthy decision-making. LSI also provides 24-hour mental health care at the Bremwood and Beloit Residential Treatment Centers in Waverly and Ames to empower Iowa's most vulnerable children and teens.

We thank you for your support of LSI's mission as we respond together to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service! We know there are more Iowa children in need of this critical care. If you would like to learn more about how you can give a gift to support these crucial services, please 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.

We are Still Here: LSI's Therapy Services

When LSI's workforce began working remote as a COVID-19 precaution, therapist Andrea knew she would need to adjust to a new way of providing therapy to the clients she serves.

In particular, one individual she met with struggled with anxiety on a daily basis. With the pandemic, however, her anxiety deepened and she spiraled to levels she hadn't encountered in years. And she was afraid she would no longer be able to see Andrea and receive the weekly therapy she'd relied on.

But that wasn't stopping Andrea. She set up a home office where she could provide telehealth virtual therapy sessions to all her clients in need of the same consistent care they were used to. Andrea used this time to work with her client on self-care strategies, coping skills, and mindfulness to help her client stay grounded when she felt anxious.

Andrea's client now has the tools she needs to handle the difficult days through this crisis, and Andrea is able to continue providing life-changing serves to Iowa children, adults, and families in her community.



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 – Patsy Ernst

Pianist – Jill Barnhart

Church Council

Del Hughes
(319)430-5705
hughesdelsue05@gmail.com

Curt Casper
(319)331-2811
Curt.casper@rocketmail.com

Dave Bahnsen
(319)325-7700
bahn1225@gmail.com

Kristin McElhinney
(319)930-0130
mkmcelhinney@gmail.com

Nancy Bruns
(319)643-3201
Paul.nancyb@gmail.com

Alan Beyer
(319)643-2136
(319)430-7579
iabeyers@aol.com

Amber Marsh
(605)231-0492
amberrenemarsh@yahoo.com

Linda Black
(319)643-5622
(319)430-0604
lblack@lcom.net

Anne Fetzer
(319)338-8217
Anne.r.anderson@pearson.com

Financial Secretary

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

Food Pantry Update

Thank you to all our members and friends who continue to donate food for the Food Pantry. They are so thankful for our continued generosity for this vital ministry, especially during the pandemic.

Please remember that the Food Pantry can't accept any food items that are past the date on the item, any open containers or packaging, any dented or rusty cans, or any home canned or baked goods.

Please take a few moments to check the items you plan to donate so that they meet these criteria.



Are you looking for some Lutheran gear to wear? Or possibly a face mask, coffee mug, or gift? Well, then check out the website "Old Lutheran" (oldlutheran.com). They have a variety of items that are sure to help you show your Lutheran spirit.

The council approved the purchase of the banner in the photo to the right at the June meeting. The idea of some sort of banner or sign came out of discussions through the West Branch Area Religious Council (WBARC) as one way we can collectively speak out against and stand alongside people affected by the sin of racism, injustice, or other forms of oppression, bigotry, or hatred. Each member congregation of WBARC was encouraged to find signage that spoke to who they are as a congregation. A council member happened upon this sign, which states:

Be the church. Protect the environment. Care for the poor. Forgive often. Reject racism. Fight for the powerless. Share earthly and spiritual resources. Embrace diversity. Love God. Enjoy this life.



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BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MINUTES—June 8, 2020

The meeting was called to order by President Hughes at 6:35 p.m.

Members present : Dave Bahnsen, Linda Black, Nancy Bruns, Anne Fetzner, Del Hughes, Amber Marsh, Kristin McElhinney, and Pastor Chad.

Members absent: Alan Beyers and Curt Casper.

Pastor Chad led devotions centered on how the church is called to act: to strive and work for justice and peace. He asked the council to reflect upon church signage and a statement on behalf of our congregation to respond to the happenings in our nation stemming from systemic racism and death of George Floyd.

Dave presented a sign that was brought to council last year. Upon further discussion, it was agreed upon that the signage reflects our church's message. Dave researched the cost and a 8'x4' banner costs \$125. Pastor Chad and Linda mentioned placing the banner by the evergreen trees and burning bushes. Dave motioned to purchase the Bethany Church banner and Amber seconded. Motion passed.

Pastor Chad asked the council for statements for the council/congregation's response on systematic racism to be included in a joint statement with the WBARC. He shared his three statements: there has been complacency in the past, that we name racism as a sin, and we proclaim God's love for all. Amber added that we should be moving forward: that we know better, so we do better. Pastor Chad asked the council to email him any other feedback or statements.

Pastor's Report:

3 Joys and/or things I am thankful for:

- Faithful Stewardship
 - o Through all of you, God provided for our needs in April – thank you!
 - Association of Lutheran Church Musicians and the video produced for Pentecost Sunday to the hymn "O Day, Full of Grace", which was a wonderful gift in this time in which we all mourn the inability to sing as a group.
 - Virtual Fellowship – thanks Anne – that was fun!
- Some happenings from our last meeting:
- Worship planning, recording, uploading, downloading, editing, etc.
 - 2 Funerals

- Fellowship discussion with Anne and Dave and attend two virtual fellowship meetings
- Weekly Zoom meetings with Bishop Burk and other rostered leaders
- Task Force Zoom meeting on returning to in-person worship
- Create guidelines for in-person gatherings
- Create additional guidelines associated with COVID-19 cleaning and review with Patsy
- Create guidelines for ministers of hospitality for returning to in-person worship
- Begin creating signage to be posted
- Attend continuing education event "Festival of Homiletics" which was hosted online.

May 4-8

- 3 WBARC Zoom Meetings
- 2 in-person pastoral care meeting and several others over the phone
- Continue to make short videos sent out each Friday for children along with other activities
- Conclude confirmation classes via Zoom (worked relatively well)
- Pre-marital work for wedding scheduled August 29, 2020 at Bethany (Kaitlin Sims and Kevin Clark)
- Prayer
- Phone calls to parishioners
- Free Indeed Zoom meeting

Dave moved and Amber seconded to accept the Pastor's Report. Motion passed.

Secretary's Report:

Two reports were submitted: the regular May meeting minutes and the Executive meeting notes for May. The following corrections were asked:

Executive Meeting Notes- May 20

- 1) Line B, First bullet point: Jill has been fully compensated for church accompaniment and choir. As of June 1st, she will be paid for service only, as the choir does not meet in summer months.

May 2020 Council Meeting Notes

- 1) Old Business, First bullet point: Some long-term planning for in-person services is being made. The council and executive committee are now deciding every two weeks on whether or not to remain closed. Some guidelines from the Synod Office are being used.

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**BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MINUTES—June 8, 2020**

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2) New Business, First bullet point: A task force is being set up to discuss outreach opportunities for Bethany and gathering for in-person services possibilities.

Linda moved to accept the secretary's report as amended. Anne seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report:

Nancy reported that Bethany had received \$15,305 in offerings, which brings our year to date offering near the budgeted amount and slightly more than this time last year. We received a refund of our Synod Assembly registrations, which is reflected as a negative expense of \$720, although it is assumed we will pay a portion of that later in August. Expenditures in May totaled \$11,075, which allowed for a net increase of \$4,229 in the General Fund.

Anne moved to accept the treasurer's report. Amber seconded. Motion passed.

Committee Reports

Building and Grounds: No report.

Evangelism and Outreach: No report.

Stewardship: Nothing new to report from Dave.

Fellowship:

Anne reported that two virtual fellowship gatherings over Zoom have occurred, with about 10-12 people. They participated in ice breakers, games, and had great conversations. They have lasted from 30-45 minutes in length.

It has had a positive response and there are plans to continue virtual fellowship. It is scheduled through the end of June and can be extended, if needed.

Worship and Music:

Linda said that Patsy gave a financial donation that was used to purchase a vacuum cleaner for our church. Linda mentioned that Patsy commented that the church has done a lot for her and she wanted to do this for Bethany.

The courtyard has been sprayed for weeds but will need mulch to keep weeds at bay. Del will bring it up to Curt.

Education & Youth:

Kristin said a surprise gift basket was made and delivered to each of our graduating high school seniors. Pastor Chad included a card and candle w/verse & prayer, and the baskets also had several other gifts and snacks. Pastor Chad recognized seniors during online worship service on Sunday, May 24.

Plans are being made for a family movie project this summer- deliver popcorn & snacks, provide movie title selections and include discussion questions, devotions, etc. for our Faith Formation families.

Old Business:

We discussed the possibility of giving a monetary gift towards/in honor of Bishop Burk's retirement. Dave motioned to donate \$100 towards Bishop Burk's Appreciation Fund. Kristin seconded. Motion passed.

In-person worship guidelines, written by Bethany's task force committee, were read and discussed. The presented guidelines are for how the church will operate for in-person services, but do not specify when in-person services will occur. Dave expressed the importance that it should be clear to congregational members that they should use their best judgment on when to return to church and not feel pressured. Pastor Chad explained there will be a letter that accompanies the guidelines that will give the congregation this message, in addition to other safety precautions that the church is taking. Anne expressed concern that the proposed guidelines take away from what church provides to its members. Del and Pastor Chad shared the importance of using data and recommendations from trusted medical sources to make decisions. Nancy motioned to accept the task force's recommendations for in-person worship services and Kristin seconded. Motion passed with one abstained vote.

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**BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MINUTES—June 8, 2020**

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New Business:

Pastor Chad reached out about having a graduation open house for Matt outdoors on the parsonage lot. Upon discussion, the council did not feel there was a need for council to vote on this and that Pastor Chad has discretion on how to use the parsonage lot.

Pastor Chad presented family health insurance information, as part of his compensation package, for the council to review and consider.

The council requested time to review the information and discuss it at the next Council meeting. Amber motioned to table the discussion for the next Council meeting and Linda seconded. Motion passed.

It was discussed that gathering for in-person worship services and extending the church physical building closure from June 15 should be extended to July 1. Several council members brought up the importance to follow our Bishop's (and ELCA) recommendations for re-opening/closure of church services. Dave mentioned that as Lutherans, we do hold the power to make the best decision for congregation, using the recommendations, as we feel necessary. Linda brought up the discussion of having an outdoor service when in-person worship resumes. Del highlighted from our conversation that our first efforts when re-establishing in-person services are: outside services, then great hall services, followed by sanctuary service. The need for online worship was identified as strong and the council expressed desire to continue online worship, even after in-person services resume (in whatever format that may be). Amber motioned to extend the closure of in-person gatherings to no sooner than July 1st and continue with online services. Nancy seconded. Motion passed.

Anne moved to adjourn the meeting. Linda seconded. Motion passed.

Meeting was closed with prayer.

Next meeting: July 13, 2020

**BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Bethany Lutheran Church
Special Council Meeting June 28, 2020

President Hughes called the Zoom meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Members present: Del Hughes, Linda Black, Nancy Bruns, Kristin McElhinney, Amber Marsh, Dave Bahnsen, Anne Fetzer, Alan Beyer, and Pastor Whaley.

Pastor Chad opened the meeting with prayer.

Business agenda:

Outdoor services: Del mentioned the recent increase in COVID-19 cases in the area so is hesitant to have the congregation gather in person. Anne suggested planning an outdoor service for July 19th, which can be cancelled if needed. More discussion followed a suggestion by Kristin to have a congregational survey about when people feel comfortable with services as we have now, or when would they like to again gather together. The decision on a survey will be tabled for now, waiting for the number of COVID cases to decrease. It was agreed to do a tentative outdoor service on July 19th, with a final decision on this made at our next council meeting. Pastor mentioned and Dave commented on the possibility of using an FM frequency to broadcast the service so people could remain in their cars.

By tradition, the regular council meeting in July is cancelled. But, due to circumstances, our next council meeting will be held as usual, at 6:30 p.m. on July 13th.

Statement from WBARC: Pastor Chad read a statement from WBARC as the West Branch churches' response to racism. All agreed with the statement. Del mentioned that the ELCA statement on this topic was very similar. This will be sent for publication to the West Branch Times, Tipton Conservative, Iowa City Press Citizen, and Cedar Rapids Gazette.

The meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

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.

Acts 1:7-8

He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

- My Jerusalem and Judea: Sharing faith is familiar and comfortable with...
- My Samaria: Sharing faith with people I have nothing in common with...
- My ends of the earth: Sharing faith with people I know nothing about...



Psalm 27:1

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

- I have been afraid of another person when...
- When I am afraid I most often react by...
- For me, an experience of God's light...

John 20:31-31

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

- What I know about Jesus...
- What I believe about Jesus...
- What I wonder about Jesus...

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*.

Saturday, August 1	Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21 Isaiah 44:1-5 Matthew 7:7-11	Monday, August 17	Psalm 87 2 Kings 5:1-14 Acts 15:1-21
Sunday, August 2	Isaiah 55:1-5 Romans 9:1-5 Matthew 14:13-21	Tuesday, August 18	Psalm 87 Isaiah 43:1-13 Romans 11:13-29
Monday, August 3	Psalm 78:1-8, 17-29 Deuteronomy 8:1-10 Romans 1:8-15	Wednesday, August 19	Psalm 87 Isaiah 66:18-23 Matthew 8:1-13
Tuesday, August 4,	Psalm 78:1-8, 17-29 Deuteronomy 26:1-15 Acts 2:37-47	Thursday, August 20	Psalm 138 Ezekiel 28:11-19 1 Corinthians 6:1-11
Wednesday, August 5	Psalm 78:1-8, 17-29 Exodus 16:2-15, 31-35 Matthew 15:32-39	Friday, August 21	Psalm 138 Ezekiel 31:15-18 2 Corinthians 10:12-18
Thursday, August 6,	Psalm 85:8-13 1 Kings 18:1-16 Acts 17:10-15	Saturday, August 22	Psalm 138 Ezekiel 36:33-38 Matthew 16:5-12
Friday, August 7	Psalm 85:8-13 1 Kings 18:17-19, 30-40 Acts 18:24-28	Sunday, August 23	Isaiah 51:1-6 Romans 12:1-8 Matthew 16:13-20
Saturday, August 8	Psalm 85:8-13 1 Kings 18:41-46 Matthew 16:1-4	Monday, August 24	Psalm 18:1-3, 20-32 1 Samuel 7:3-13 Romans 2:1-11
Sunday, August 9	1 Kings 19:9-18 Romans 10:5-15 Matthew 14:22-33	Tuesday, August 25,	Psalm 18:1-3, 20-32 Deut. 32:18-20, 28-39 Romans 11:33-36
Monday, August 10	Psalm 18:1-19 Genesis 7:11-8:5 2 Peter 2:4-10	Wednesday, August 26	Psalm 18:1-3, 20-32 Isaiah 28:14-22 Matthew 26:6-13
Tuesday, August 11	Psalm 18:1-19 Genesis 19:1-29 Psalm 18:1-19	Thursday, August 27	Psalm 26:1-8 Jeremiah 14:13-18 Ephesians 5:1-6
Wednesday, August 12	Job 36:24-33; 37:14-24 Matthew 8:23-27 Psalm 67	Friday, August 28	Psalm 26:1-8 Jeremiah 15:1-9 2 Thessalonians 2:7-12
Thursday, August 13	Isaiah 45:20-25 Revelation 15:1-4 Psalm 67	Saturday, August 29	Psalm 26:1-8 Jeremiah 15:10-14 Matthew 8:14-17
Friday, August 14	Isaiah 63:15-19 Acts 14:19-28 Psalm 67	Sunday, August 30	Jeremiah 15:15-21 Romans 12:9-21 Matthew 16:21-28
Saturday, August 15	Isaiah 56:1-5 Matthew 14:34-36 Isaiah 56:1, 6-8	Monday, August 31	Psalm 17 2 Samuel 11:2-26 Revelation 3:1-6
Sunday, August 16	Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 Matthew 15:21-28		

Outdoor Worship

During the last two Sundays of July we resumed in person worship as we gathered outdoors. God blessed us with two beautiful Sunday mornings. We will continue offering outdoor worship services every Sunday in August (weather dependent) along with online worship via Facebook. Both will begin at 9:30 AM. Below are a couple pictures from our worship together outdoors and also the guidelines should you attend for the first time.

Outdoor Gathering Guidelines

Please stay home if experiencing any symptoms associated with COVID-19 including: cough, fever, shortness of breath, chills, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea. (cdc.gov)

Additionally, please remain home if you have been in contact with anyone with a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis within the last 14 days.

- Sanitize hands
- Face mask required age 2 and older
 - Only exception for those who may have trouble breathing with mask, then shield acceptable form of PPE
- Stay at least 6 feet apart from others outside immediate family
- No singing
- Softly humming hymns and quietly speaking congregational responses permitted
- Bring own chair and refreshment
- Gloves not recommended
- It is encouraged those most vulnerable, including those with preexisting medical conditions and older than 65 continue to "limit their activities outside the home." (Governor's May 20 Proclamation)



WBARC News

Following the tragic death of George Floyd on May 25th and the continuing sin of racism that infects our society, the West Branch Area Religious Council through much discussion, prayer, and reflection issued a statement in response (see below), which was approved by the leadership teams of each representative congregation.

As a faith community, members of West Branch Area Religious Council unequivocally state racism is not a thing of the past or simply a throwaway political issue to be bandied about when convenient. We recognize that the legacy of white supremacy remains a systemic element of our institutions and our culture as a nation, and we must confront racism in ourselves and in the institutions we care about. It is a real and present danger that must be met head on.

Because we serve a God of love, mercy, and justice, racism – a mix of power, privilege, and prejudice – is a violation of God's intention for humanity. Like the peaceful protestors, we must build justice in order to achieve peace. It is time to use our voices, our pens, our feet and our hearts for change.

New Trees

Two new trees were planted near the church parking lot recently and two more were planted in the parsonage. These trees were part of our stewardship of creation in replacing trees that have been taken out for the resurfacing of the church lot or we have been forced to remove at the parsonage due to disease. The trees near the church lot were donated by Neil and Chris Korsmo in celebration of Earth Day, their wedding anniversary and the 125th anniversary of Bethany. The trees in the parsonage yard were purchased through memorial funds.



Continuing Education

Pastor Chad will be participating in a continuing education event called "The Moses Project" through Grandview University in Des Moines, which begins in August. The letter below was sent by the facilitators of the project to be shared with the congregation.



Happy middle of July from Grand View University and The Moses Project.

We are pleased to have your pastor participate in our 2020/2021 Moses Project cohort. The mission of The Moses Project is to give rural ELCA pastors a vision of ministry that will help them thrive in congregational leadership and in turn, enhance the vitality of the congregations they serve.



What does participation in the Moses Project look like for your pastor? The Moses Project runs ten months, has 20 participants from eight Midwestern states, and is cost free thanks to a generous grant from the Lilly Endowment. The program includes three onsite retreats: one in August, January, and May. Your pastor will also engage in mentoring, small group connections, and monthly common readings. This professional development program provides pastors critical support, promotes innovative strategies, and engages them in ongoing learning and opportunities for renewal. Thank you for supporting your pastor as they participate in this program. We ask that you continue to pray for your pastor as well as for The Moses Project. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram @GVMOSESPROJECT. You can also check out our Resource Page at <https://www.mosesproject.org/>.

As a university of the ELCA, Grand View offers other opportunities for you and your congregational members to engage with the school.

For Grand View Students, Campus Ministry serves them in many ways. Chapel is held once a week with different guest speakers often featured; there are also multiple Bible study groups, prayer groups, and evening worship offerings. Lutheran students are eligible for scholarships. Lutheran Memorial Church, at the center of campus, is undergoing extensive renovations. If you have questions, please contact the Sr. Campus Pastor, Rev. Dr. Russell Lackey at rlackey@grandview.edu.

The NEXUS High School Youth Theology Institute is a free weeklong summer program designed to immerse high school students in Christian community while helping them think about a possible vocation in church ministry. Teaching is led by Grand View's theology faculty and college age mentors help the students put their faith into practice. For more information please contact Nexus Director, Kate Faas at kfaas@grandview.edu or visit <https://www.grandview.edu/academics/other-programs/nexus> to apply for the free program.

We are humbled by the ways in which God is working through these programs. Thank you again for your partnership with The Moses Project.

Warmest Regards,

Dr. Trisha Wheelock
Program Director, The Moses Project

Rev. Dr. Russell Lackey
Program Manager, The Moses Project

Monetary Gifts Report

Submitted by Nancy Bruns

Saints in Worship

Worship has been online. While we don't have statistical data, we know many joined us live or viewed at a later time.

Thanks for tuning in!

	May 2020		YTD	
Total Receipts	Actual 15,305	Budget 12,984	Actual 64,366	Budget 64,920
Total Expenses	Actual 11,076	Budget 13,502	Actual 62,992	Budget 67,569

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.



Monetary Gifts Report

Submitted by Nancy Bruns

Saints in Worship

Worship has been online. While we don't have statistical data, we know many joined us live or viewed at a later time.

Thanks for tuning in!

	June 2020		YTD	
Total Receipts	Actual 12,469	Budget 12,984	Actual 76,835	Budget 77,904
Total Expenses	Actual 11,411	Budget 13,499	Actual 74,404	Budget 81,068

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.

AUGUST 2020
Bethany Branches



Bethany Lutheran Church
235 South Second Street
PO BOX 236
West Branch, Iowa 52358
www.wbbethany.org



Ministry Assistants

Ministers of Proclamation (Lectors)

8/2 Paula Casper
8/9 Wayne Frauenholtz
8/16 Mike Fryauf
8/23 Lisa Zimmerman



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Church (ELCA)
West Branch, Iowa**"

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