



Living in God's
Amazing Grace

Bethany Lutheran Church

235 S. 2nd St., PO Box 236 West Branch, IA 52358, (319) 643-5998

pastor@wbbethany.org

July 14, 2020

Greetings Faithful People of God,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

It is with great joy the council announces a return to gathering again in-person with an outdoor worship service this Sunday, July 19 at 9:30 AM. We have longed for this day to come and alas it is here.

*O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever. – Psalm 136:1 (NRSV)*

Indeed, we do have much to be thankful for. The Lord has been good to us and the Spirit has led us through unprecedented times and uncharted waters and will continue to do so. With God's help, we have persevered and continued to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ and in so doing have been opened up to new ideas, opportunities, and ways of being the body of Christ and living that out in the world.

*"And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."
Matthew 28:20 (NRSV)*

This is the final sentence of Matthew's gospel and they are the final words the resurrected Jesus speaks to his disciples. They are words of hope, comfort, and promise. Indeed, it will be a joyous occasion to gather once again in-person; however, we do so acknowledging there are many who may not yet feel comfortable doing so and others for whom are encouraged by our government and public health leaders to continue remaining in the safe confines of their homes. Therefore, we will continue online worship. Whether together in-person or participating in worship online Jesus is with us always. We are united to him through our baptism and subsequently united to each other.

Our return to in-person worship outdoors will look different. Our call to love one another requires precautionary guidelines to assure the safety of all. Attached to this letter are those guidelines as assembled by a task force team and approved by the council. As conditions warrant, these guidelines are subject to change.

Blessings!