

Bethany Lutheran Church

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



November 2020

Important Dates

Wednesdays (November 4, 11 & 18)

6:30 PM Confirmation via Zoom

6:30 PM Youth Faith Formation (4-6th Grade) via Zoom

Every Monday

12:00 PM Gospel Gathering via Zoom Meeting

11-9 Council Meeting 6:30 PM via Zoom

Sunday worship @ 9:30 AM on Facebook Live

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

*"By all your saints still striving, for all your saints at rest, your holy name,
O Jesus, forever more be blessed." — (ELW 421 "By All Your Saints")*



Dear precious and beloved saints,

During worship November 1st we will give thanks and remember the saints who have gone ahead of us in faith and now rest from their labors. We will also recognize our senior saints (80 and above) whose wisdom and faith have been examples to so many over the years who walk as yet by faith.

The world thrusts many names upon us. Some are positive and clearly identify who we are. Yet, others are negative, degrading, hurtful and inaccurate. They may not be a clear identifier of who someone is. Rather than building up the other, they tear down. Those names and labels are not easy, if not impossible, to break away from.

With that said, I want to remind each of you of a name you bear. It is "saint". That's right. You are a saint! This Sunday, we will sing the song above and the opening words that are "*By all your saints still striving.*" We often think of saints as only those who have died. Only those who reached some special status within the church. At least, that was my understanding in my younger years. However, as I have grown older, and hopefully a bit wiser, I have come to truly cherish the title of "saint" we each wear. It is a gift we inherited through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ who, in baptism, clothes us in this beautiful garment of sainthood. May we each see the other as a saint first and foremost. A precious child loved equally by God.

We are called to love one another. Our Christian faith beckons us to see those who have been oppressed for much too long for identifiers laden with prejudice, bigotry, and hatred that devalues, dehumanizes, and fails to see the other created in the image of God. It is that same faith that summons us to speak out, listen to, stand with, and help each and every human being live into who they were created to be ... a beloved child of God.

You are precious! You are loved! You are a child of God!
You are a saint!

Grace and peace!





Birthdays

11-02 Addison Langley
11-03 Betty Slach
11-06 Tammy Urmie
11-07 Paul Weismann
11-08 Madelyn Anderson
11-09 Eulyn Frostestad,
Sadie McElhinney
11-14 Josephine Hervey
11-16 Kevin Crosthwaite
11-17 Cheyanne Crow
11-18 Alex Poppen
11-22 Scott Marsh, Julian Kilburg
11-23 John Hierseman
11-26 Patty Yeater
11-27 Steve Campbell

**If you don't see your birthday listed,
please contact Paula so we can update our
database.*



Don't forget!

Turn back your clocks
one hour this Sunday,
November 1st.

Bethany Books



Books For Adults

During this time of Covid, I have had the opportunity to not only read books that are new to me but also to go back and re-read books that I have read in the past. One of the authors that I have reviewed before and have re-read is John Ortberg. We have a number of his books in our church library. The first is *If You Want To Walk On Water, You've Got To Get Out Of The Boat*. Peter may have been the first one out of the boat, but Jesus' invitation to walk on water is for us as well. As a follower of Jesus, you want to go where he calls you. Walking on water means facing your fears and choosing not to let fear have the last word. It also means discovering and embracing the unique calling on your life. It means experiencing the power of God in your life to do something you would not be capable of doing on your own.

The Life You've Always Wanted: Spiritual Disciplines For Ordinary People is the next book by John Ortberg. He writes that the Christian life is about more than being forgiven and even more than making it into heaven. The heart of Christianity is about transformation. He shows us how we can attain it and why we should attain it. It is a road map toward true transformation. The spiritual disciplines are exercises that strengthen our endurance down the road of growth. Signs of growth include: joy, kindness, and peace among others. With his usual humor and anecdotes this book is an encouraging and challenging approach to a Christian life that is worth living.

Everybody's Normal Till You Get To Know Them is the third book by John Ortberg. The need for community is woven into the very fabric of our being. I think that this is one of the hardest parts of dealing with the restrictions placed on us by the covid epidemic. Nothing can really substitute for the benefits of connecting with others. People around us may seem normal enough but once you really get to know them it often changes. Ortberg opens our eyes and hearts to empathy, the art of reading people. He takes us through the ins and outs of conflict, forgiveness, confrontation, inclusion, and gratitude. In all the rewards and struggles of community we are investing in something beyond our comprehension. It is where we are headed, all of us belong, and all of us will be normal at last.

Adult Education Opportunity

A group of 12 is meeting via Zoom most Monday evenings at 7:00 PM to discuss the book *Dialogues on Race*. You are always welcome to join. Books can be purchased online. If interested, let Pastor Chad know and videos that go along with the book and discussions will be made available to you.



Note of Thanks

Thank you for including Hoover Elementary School in your God's Work our Hands Sunday. We are so appreciative of the donations of underwear and sweatpants for students that need them during their school days. We are so blessed with support from the West Branch community.

Thank You,
Jess Burger
Principal

Annual Meeting

The council has set the date of our annual meeting on Sunday, January 17, 2021. As a result of COVID-19 and the uncertainties of being able to gather in person, we are looking into alternative opportunities and means to still have that important meeting. Stay tuned for further information.

Children Faith Formation at Home

"Celebrate Christmas" At-Home Faith Formation Kits are available this December and are designed for children ages 2-8. It will include weekly stories, songs, and crafts/activities to celebrate the birth of Jesus, and we feel it will be a wonderful addition to the traditions your family already has this season.

Please pre-register by Tuesday, Nov. 16 so we can ensure we have enough supplies. The registration form is found here: <http://bit.ly/blcchristmaskit>. It is open to all children in our community and congregation members' families.

Thank you for your prayers & support with Bethany's children and youth ministry. We are thrilled that we have about 22 children participate each month through these kits.

If you have any questions or would like to support this ministry, please reach out to Kristin McElhinney at mkmcelhinney@gmail.com.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) News

National Adoption Month

November is National Adoption Month, a time to honor families who have opened their hearts and homes to children in need. For LSI, it is a time to celebrate the families we support through Foster Care and Adoption, and to raise awareness for the hundreds of Iowa children in need of a safe, loving home.

In 30 counties across western Iowa, LSI Foster Care and Adoption recruits, licenses, and supports foster and adoptive families to ensure every Iowa child grows up in a safe, stable environment.

But more work needs to be done. According to the most recent federal data, more than 100,000 children in the U.S. are waiting to be adopted from foster care, and thousands of teens age out of foster care every year without a permanent family. To learn more about supporting Iowa children in foster care, visit LSIowa.org/Foster, or contact Deb Whitford, LSI's director of philanthropy and church relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563.676.2065. LSI is also available to provide a customized virtual shared ministry opportunity for your congregation. If you would like to share the message of LSI with your community, please contact our Waverly office at 319.352.2630 to get started.

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.

"There is Hope"

As a young child growing up in multiple foster homes, Abby dreamed of a forever family. When she moved in with foster parents Joe and Dee, Abby knew she'd found the perfect family for her. Joe and Dee had already adopted two of their sons by the time Abby entered the family, and the children immediately bonded. When Abby was no longer able to reunify with her birth family, Joe and Dee decided to adopt her into their family.

"The kids bless our lives," Joe says. "I wish people knew what kind of family you can have through foster care and adoption, and how much love these kids have to offer."

Abby is now a 17-year-old preparing to graduate high school in the spring. She has found a forever family that encourages her to pursue her passions and with the support of her parents and siblings, Abby has found success as a high school wrestler, earning top awards and titles throughout her high school years.

Since being adopted into Joe and Dee's family, Abby has openly shared her story at National Adoption Month events in her community. She wants to raise awareness about foster care and adoption across Iowa, inspire families to become foster and adoptive parents, and she hopes her story can inspire other kids looking for the same loving support system she has.

"To other kids out there in my situation, there is hope," Abby says. "You will find the perfect family that will give you all their love and care for you, no matter what."



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Bishop Burk 125th Greetings

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

October 20, 2020

Bethany Lutheran Church
235 S. 2nd Street
West Branch, IA 52358

Dear Friends in Christ at Bethany,

As I complete my service as bishop of the Southeastern Iowa Synod, I find myself reflecting on many visits to many places. Because of the ways you have opened your doors to several synod events, and opened your hearts to me and my wife, Diane when we have been with you in worship, I have come to think of Bethany as something of my "home away from home." To be with you, for whatever reason, has always been a privilege and a joy.

I wish I could be with you now as you celebrate 125 years of ministry. The circumstances of a pandemic provide a persistent reminder to be cautious and wise when traveling or gathering with others. Still, with the whole world in need of healing, sharing the hope that is ours in Jesus Christ has never been more necessary. In other words, even with 125 years under your belt, your mission and ministry begin anew.

On behalf of the people of this synod and throughout the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, thank you for your congregation's many years of faithful service. Together, we know that these are difficult days to be the church, requiring new approaches with an extra measure of commitment. Be of good courage, for the God who has sustained all those who have come before you, will strengthen and sustain you.

Blessings on your anniversary and peace to you for a hope-filled future together.

Christ is with you,

The Rev. Michael L. Burk
Bishop

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES—Sept 14, 2020

The meeting was called to order by President Hughes at 6:32 p.m.

Pastor Chad began opening with a video of "You Are Loved" by a Christian rock band. He then gave readings from Isaiah, Ephesians, and 1 John which talked about God's love for us. He used this message at a funeral last Friday and in yesterday's sermon. He was unable to share Bishop Eaton's message, but said that it was about people's yearning for meaning in their lives right now in the time of a pandemic. He closed with a prayer.

Pastor's Report:

Joys:

- Gift to worship outdoors
- New cameras to assist our ministry and mission of proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ.
- Presence of Jesus always; but, especially amidst this pandemic

Happenings since last month:

- A few outdoor pastoral visits
- Hospital visit
- Funeral of Tammy Kroemer
- Education meeting with Kristin and Amber
- Meetings with Al regarding God's Work, Our Hands, 125th anniversary and further ways God may be leading us to carry out God's work

Moses Project Cohort meeting (via Zoom) – we are reading the book *Canoeing the Mountains*. Discussion centered around adapting as pastors in our current context and also ways we can support one another

Finish setting up, testing, and getting new cameras and current sound system ready with White Dove Electronics

Plan Confirmation First week had to be cancelled due to unseasonably cold temperatures. I made a video recording and researched ways to lead confirmation if unable to meet in person, perhaps utilizing Google Classroom

Continued leading the Monday Gospel gathering 3-4 gather each Monday for a Lively discussion
Please join us!

Free Indeed Prison Ministry Outside Council

Meeting Recorded a video of my experience with

Free Indeed to be shown on Free Indeed's Facebook page

Begin work on upcoming class on the book *Dialogue on Race* 12 people signed up

Text Study with colleagues via Zoom

Pre-Marital session

WBARC Meeting via Zoom

Time in prayer for the beloved people of God at
Bethany Sending post cards

Secretary's Report:

Linda moved and Amber seconded to accept the secretary's report. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report:

In August we received \$13,740 in offerings and had expenses of \$12,396, which includes \$875 for VBS. That allowed for an increase of \$1,344 in the General Fund for the month of August and a year to date increase of \$4,945. Keep in mind that we have \$3,800 budgeted for local ministry donations which happens at year end.

The Improvement Fund of \$705.78 was used for the wireless mic and \$3,000 from the Memorial Fund was used for the new camera system for online services.

Anne moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Kristin seconded. Motion passed.

Committee Reports

Building and Grounds: No report.

Education and Youth:

Kristin said that Faith Formation take home kits have been prepared for the 2 to 8 year old kids. These will be distributed monthly and include lessons, activities, and prayer diaries along with a website to be used. Signups will begin this week with classes to begin the end of September.

Amber said that everything is ready to go for the older Faith Formation kids with lessons already sent out. They will be meeting outside in person. Last week's class was rained out but will resume this Wednesday.

Pastor Chad thanked them both for their efforts in making this happen.

(Continued on page #7)

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

(Continued from page 6)

Evangelism and Outreach:

God's work. Our hands. Sunday went well except for the online service. Al thanked Linda, John, and Mary (and Linda thanked Al) for weeding and gardening around the church. Many people brought supplies for Hoover Elementary and DVIP. A few people are still planning to bring some items, so we'll wait until next week to distribute them.

Bethany's 125th Anniversary will be on October 25th, and we are planning a special Sunday with a special prayer, blessing, and a short video. We are planning to begin recording for the video next week.

Fellowship:

Anne is planning to begin online fellowship again when services can no longer be held outdoors. She would like to send something to older members who cannot participate in this fellowship activity but would still like to be involved with the church in some way. Del mentioned an idea of a meal distribution to them, but this would require some thought for safety reasons.

Stewardship:

Dave had nothing new. He mentioned a successful fundraising for his daughter who was in the hospital and thanked Bethany for their part.

Worship and Music:

The committee is planning to begin offering communion on the first Sunday of the month, using the disposable kits.

The piano which was gifted from Cliff and Monica Hinkhouse was delivered to the church and put into the small hall where it will be used for choir practice.

Old Business:

New equipment update: Two cameras were installed in the nave for online services. This worked well two weeks ago but had some problems yesterday. Tomorrow, Tim Kakavas will be coming to troubleshoot the system. Jill Barnhart has been helping with the setup also.

Outdoor service update: Yesterday's service had problems with the new cell phone which was

used.

New Business:

Del led a discussion of the October calendar list which included things like committee formations and dates. No motions were needed.

Dave moved to continue our present policy of keeping the church closed for another month unless a dramatic decline in COVID cases might occur. Amber seconded. Motion passed.

Our next meeting will be October 12th.

Amber moved to adjourn. Linda seconded. Motion passed.

The meeting closed 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.

Psalm 100:1-5

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing. Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name. For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

- For me, joyful noises to the Lord are...
- My favorite song or piece of music that reminds me of God...
- I sense being in God's presence when...



John 11:25-26

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

- I believe...
- Never dying...
- Hope...

John 8:31-32

Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

- Continuing in Christ's word...
- Living as a disciple...
- Truth that makes me free...

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*.

Sunday, Nov 1	Revelation 7:9-17 1 John 3:1-3 Matthew 5:1-12	Monday, Nov 16	Psalms 9:1-14 Zechariah 1:7-17 Romans 2:1-11
Monday, Nov 2	Psalms 5 Jeremiah 5:18-31 1 Thessalonians 2:13-20	Tuesday, Nov 17	Psalms 9:1-14 Zechariah 2:1-5; 5:1-4 1 Thessalonians 5:12-18
Tuesday, Nov 3	Psalms 5 Lamentations 2:13-17 Acts 13:1-12	Wednesday, Nov 18	Psalms 9:1-14 Job 16:1-21 Matthew 24:45-51
Wednesday, Nov 4	Psalms 5 Proverbs 16:21-33 Matthew 15:1-9	Thursday, Nov 19	Psalms 95:1-7a 1 Kings 22:13-23 Revelation 14:1-11
Thursday, Nov 5	Psalms 70 Amos 1:1-2:5 Revelation 8:6-9:12	Friday, Nov 20	Psalms 95:1-7a 1 Chronicles 17:1-15 Revelation 22:1-9
Friday, Nov 6	Psalms 70 Amos 3:1-12 Revelation 9:13-21	Saturday, Nov 21	Psalms 95:1-7a Isaiah 44:21-28 Matthew 12:46-50
Saturday, Nov 7	Psalms 70 Amos 4:6-13 Matthew 24:1-14	Sunday, Nov 22	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 Ephesians 1:15-23 Matthew 25:31-46
Sunday, Nov 8	Amos 5:18-24 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 Matthew 25:1-13	Monday, Nov 23	Psalms 7 Esther 2:1-18 2 Timothy 2:8-13
Monday, Nov 9	Psalms 63 Amos 8:7-14 1 Corinthians 14:20-25	Tuesday, Nov 24	Psalms 7 Esther 8:3-17 Revelation 19:1-9
Tuesday, Nov 10	Psalms 63 Joel 1:1-14 1 Thessalonians 3:6-13	Wednesday, Nov 25	Psalms 7 Ezekiel 33:7-20 John 5:19-40
Wednesday, Nov 11	Psalms 63 Joel 3:9-21 Matthew 24:29-35	Thursday, Nov 26	Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19 Zechariah 13:1-9 Revelation 14:6-13
Thursday, Nov 12	Psalms 90:1-8, [9-11] 12 Ezekiel 6:1-14 Revelation 16:1-7	Friday, Nov 27	Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19 Zechariah 14:1-9 1 Thessalonians 4:1-18
Friday, Nov 13	Psalms 90:1-8, [9-11] 12 Ezekiel 7:1-9 Revelation 16:8-21	Saturday, Nov 28	Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19 Micah 2:1-13 Matthew 24:15-31
Saturday, Nov 14	Psalms 90:1-8, [9-11] 12 Ezekiel 7:10-27 Matthew 12:43-45	Sunday, Nov 29	1 Isaiah 64:1-9 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:24-37
Sunday, Nov 15	Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 Matthew 25:14-30	Monday, Nov 30	Psalms 79 Micah 4:1-5 Revelation 15:1-8



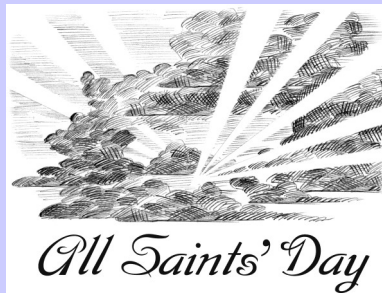
All Saints Sunday—November 1

On November 1st we will give thanks for and honor our Senior Saints, those who are 80 and older.

Jim Peak, Betty Slach, Helen Petersen, Hermann Boedeker, Dorothy Holmes, Paul Friis, Delores Paulsen, Richard Madsen, June Madsen, Jerry Dodds, Patricia Ernst, Paul Weismann, Deanna Weismann, Herb Friis, Ronald Madsen, Marv Brick, Karen Brick, Alberta Sweat and Norm Fitzgerald.

We will also remember and give thanks for the saints who have died in the past year.

Kay Davisson
Jeanette Cummins



It's time to order your poinsettia
to decorate the altar for Christmas.
Plants are \$10.00 each.

This date is early, but we would like to put the dedications into the December newsletter this year.

Please mail this form along with your check made out to Bethany Lutheran by November 22nd to: Bethany Lutheran Church-P.O. Box 236 West Branch, IA 52358

Plants will be set out for the Christmas Eve service.

Name: _____

I would like to order _____ poinsettia(s) In Memory of or In Honor of:



November 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30 AM Worship (Outdoors weather permitting and online via Facebook Live) with Communion	2 12:00 PM Monday Gospel Gathering (via Zoom Meeting) 7:00 PM Book Study via Zoom (Dialogues on Race)	3	4 6:30 PM Confirmation via Zoom 6:30 PM Youth Faith Formation (4-6th Grade) via Zoom	5	6	7
8 9:30 AM Worship (Online via Facebook Live)	9 12:00 PM Monday Gospel Gathering (via Zoom Meeting) 6:30 PM Council Meeting (via Zoom)	10	11 6:30 PM Youth Faith Formation (4-6th Grade) via Zoom 6:30 PM Confirmation via Zoom	12	13	14
15 9:30 AM Worship (Online via Facebook Live)	16 12:00 PM Monday Gospel Gathering (via Zoom Meeting)	17	18 6:30 PM Confirmation via Zoom 6:30 PM Youth Faith Formation (4-6th Grade) via Zoom	19	20	21
22 9:30 AM Worship (Online via Facebook Live)	23 12:00 PM Monday Gospel Gathering (via Zoom Meeting)	24	25	26	27	28
29 9:30 AM Worship First Sunday of Advent (Online via Facebook Live)	30 12:00 PM Monday Gospel Gathering (via Zoom Meeting)	1	2 6:30 PM Youth Faith Formation (4-6th Grade) via Zoom 6:30 PM Confirmation via Zoom	3	4	5

Monetary Gifts Report

Submitted by Nancy Bruns

Saints in Worship

Worship has been outdoors and online. We have been averaging 20 -30 people outdoors and many have joined us live on Facebook or viewed at a later time.

Thanks for worshipping with us!

	September 2020		YTD	
Total Receipts	Actual 10,390	Budget 12,982	Actual 113,940	Budget 116,854
Total Expenses	Actual 11,600	Budget 13,481	Actual 110,205	Budget 121,532

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.

[illegible]

www.wbbethany.org · Bethany Lutheran Church (ELCA) 235 South 2nd Street West Branch, Iowa 52358