

# Bethany Lutheran Church

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



January  
2021

## Important Dates

1-11 Council meeting 6:30 PM  
(Zoom)

1-17 Annual meeting 10:30 AM

## Contact Information

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

Pastor Chad Whaley  
pastor@wbbethany.org

Office Hours  
As a result of COVID,  
Pastor Chad is in office much of  
the time.

Admin. Assistant: Paula Casper  
blcsecretary@lcom.net

Office Hours  
Tuesday & Thursday  
8:00-11:30 AM

### 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

## Birthdays

01/09 Hallie Fitzgerald  
01/11 Tonya Lovetinsky, Robin Benz  
01/14 Deanna Pedersen  
01/15 Alberta Sweat  
01/17 Cliff Hinkhouse  
01/20 Tonya Samuelson  
01/23 Deb Lund  
01/24 Robbie Boaz, Paul Bruns  
01/25 Lisa Zimmerman  
01/26 Hunter Niles,  
Diana Fuhrmeister  
01/29 Lance Schiele  
01/30 Kent Pedersen  
01/31 Pat Cassabaum

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

## Angle Tree Update

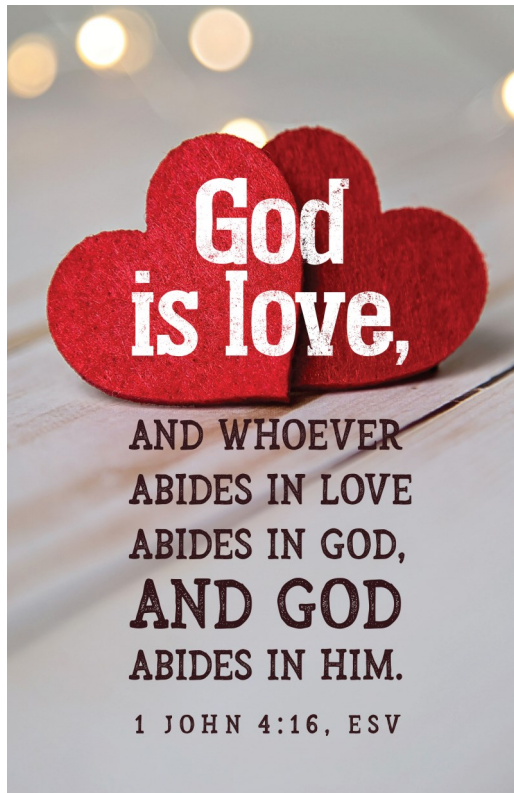
Bethany Members,

Thank you for your generosity this  
year in our Angel Tree mission. We  
served three families total and  
made a very sizable donation to the  
school for lunch/milk accounts, the  
backpack program, and the school  
food pantry. Your donations will  
continue to serve into 2021.

Special thanks to the Poppen family  
for their help with shopping, wrap-  
ping, and delivering gifts also!

Merry Christmas and here's to a  
safe, healthy, and happy New Year!

Jeni Schiele





### Saints in Worship

It is challenging to get an accurate account of those worshipping online. With that said, as of December 28, our Christmas Eve worship had 315 views on Facebook. Wow!!!

Thanks for worshipping with us!

## Monetary Gifts Report

Submitted by Nancy Bruns

	November 2020		YTD	
Total Receipts	Actual 15,239	Budget 12,982	Actual 141,119	Budget 142,818
Total Expenses	Actual 12,415	Budget 13,476	Actual 134,428	Budget 148,488

*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.

### Ministry Assistants

#### Ministers of Proclamation (Lectors)

1-3 Tonya Samuelson  
1-10 Patsy Ernst  
1-17 Jill Barnhart  
1-24 Olivia Poppen  
1-31 Toni Dodds

#### Camera Operator

1-3 Poppen  
1-10 Crosthwaite  
1-17 Casper  
1-24 Schiele  
1-31 Casper

#### Ministers of Altar Care for January

Patsy Ernst & Paula Casper

### Altar Care Volunteers

We are looking for a few more people or families to prepare our worship space for one month this coming year. The tasks include: changing the altar cloths (paraments), filling the candles with oil (we have a new filler!), providing flowers, and setting up for Communion. I will show you everything, and there are detailed instructions in the sacristy. Thanks for considering this!

Linda Black, Worship and Music

Greetings People of God,

Happy New Year! Just prior to Christmas our family welcomed a new member into our household, an 8-week old Golden Retriever puppy named Charlie. Oh, how I forgot just how challenging puppies are. He has tested my patience to its fullest. Gratefully, Amanda and Matt are there to offer assistance.

Patience, the Apostle Paul notes, is one of the fruits of the Spirit for those belonging to Christ. (Galatians 5:22). As we begin a new year, we do see a light at the end of this tunnel we have been in. Vaccines, a gift from and the work of God in the world, are slowly beginning to become available. With that said, we know there are more months ahead of life in a COVID world.

We are all ready to return to some sense of normalcy, especially as it relates to worship and life as a community of faith. My puppy reminds me of the need to continue to be patient: with one another, with appropriate precautionary measures and decisions undertaken by the council, with those we interact with in daily life, and with so many other things.

It's not always easy, but we rely on the help of others and most importantly, we rely on the Holy Spirit for Paul writes, "If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit." Praise and thanks be to the ongoing presence of the Spirit and your presence, support, and patience as we persevere and be the body of Christ together!

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**BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**COUNCIL MINUTES—November 9, 2020**

**The meeting was called to order** by President Hughes at 6:33 p.m.

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

Opening was done using an evening vespers service with several council members doing the readings.

**Pastor's Report:**

Pastor Report to Council – November 9, 2020

Joys:

Book Study – good discussion and learning  
125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Worship and Video went well  
Living in the abundant grace of Jesus

Happenings:

Affirmation of Wedding Vows for Austin and Alex LaCarte

Funeral of James Whitt

Conference 7 Meeting (1<sup>st</sup> one since onset of COVID) Via Zoom

LSI representatives on hand

Moses Project 2 Cohort meetings with mentor and 4 other colleagues 1 meeting with all participants  
Currently reading the book *Divergent Church*

- Emphasis of book is on partnering with outside entities similar to what we did with Cedar County Emergency Management

Attend 8<sup>th</sup> grade football game (3 confirmation students playing)

Boundaries Workshop through Office of Bishop required every 3 years for rostered leaders

Assist Al Beyer with the completion of the 125<sup>th</sup> video

Free Indeed meeting (via Zoom)

*Dialogue on Race* book study (3)

Confirmation moved to Zoom full-time at this point due to weather change. Going well, good discussion

Online worship meeting through synod

Working on possible weekly at-home devotionals centered on the Advent Wreath. Paula, Curt and Del are assisting

Made numerous phone calls to parishioners and a few in-person visits

Working on staff reviews

**Secretary's Report:**

Linda moved to accept the Secretary's Report with corrections. Anne seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:**

General Fund revenues for October were \$11,940 and expenses were \$11,808. Amber moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Curt seconded. Motion passed.

The Hope Chest funds were down to about \$100. Al moved to transfer \$750 from the Internal Ministries Fund to the Hope Chest Fund. Kristin seconded. Motion passed.

**Committee Reports:**

**Building and Grounds:**

Curt said the outdoor security lights have not been working. Calls to Oasis Electric haven't been returned. Howard Moss looked at them also.

The upstairs bathroom in the parsonage is not ventilated and there has been some mold buildup.

Curt is getting an estimate for repair.

Curt will call Bruce Barnhart for snow removal as he has done before. Curt Friis and John have agreed to do the parking lot again.

**Education and Youth:**

Amber said she is doing Faith Formation lessons for the older kids via Zoom now that the weather is colder. She sends lesson materials out ahead of time.

Kristin is using take-home Faith Formation packets for the younger grades. 24 students picked up the November lessons and 30 have signed up so far for the December lessons. Feedback has been great.

**Evangelism and Outreach:**

Al thanked Pastor Chad for his assistance on making the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary video which was shown at the end of the service October 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Fellowship:** No report.

**Stewardship:** No report.

**Worship and Music:**

Linda mentioned that Carnations were delivered to members who were honored at All Saints Day on November 1<sup>st</sup>.

Dave mentioned that he watches online services from several other churches and that Bethany's

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## BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES—November 9, 2020

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camera shot of the pulpit is the best he's seen. Del inquired about how many people are watching the online services. Pastor Chad said that it's not possible to determine accurately.

### **Old Business:**

Bethany's Annual Meeting will be held on January 17, 2021. Due to the resurgence of COVID-19, this will probably be a Zoom meeting. There was discussion about meeting quorum for votes and how to tabulate voting results. Pastor suggested having a task force assembled to work out logistics. Anne offered to help with this.

New council candidates. The council offered several names for the Nominating Committee to consider and contact for the three open positions.

Dave moved that Bethany extend our building usage policy for another month due to the high number of COVID-19 cases that are occurring. Curt seconded. Motion passed.

Pastor Chad said that a couple from our congregation has approached him about getting married in the sanctuary with only a small number of people present. The council members were in agreement to allow this exemption to our building usage policy. Pastor Chad also said that confirmation classes are being held online and it's working well. He is getting good feedback.

### **New Business:**

Council member reports are due to Paula by December 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Budget Committee with Executive Council and others will be meeting soon.

Advent Project: Pastor Chad described a special at-home Advent wreath project with weekly devotions and a candle set that was designed by Del. Del said that he has materials for 20 sets so far and that a \$10 suggested donation would cover the cost of materials used for each set.

Angel Tree: Jeni and Hannah Schiele have agreed to do this project for Christmas.

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

Pastor Chad led closing with the Lord's Prayer.

## Annual Meeting

This is to inform you of the upcoming Bethany Lutheran Church Annual Meeting January 17, 2021 at 10:30 AM. As a result of COVID-19 and the uncertainties of being able to gather in person, we are planning to gather via Zoom Meeting. This digital format allows you to join remotely by a smart phone, tablet, computer or simply by dialing in directly, in which case you will only be able to listen and speak. There will be no image of you on the screen. We are continuing to work out the logistics of meeting in this manner and will keep you updated on any future modifications or additional information.

If you have questions about how to utilize Zoom Meeting, please contact the church and we will assist you. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

Please note that our constitution states we must have 30 voting members present to have a quorum. Additionally, a "voting" member is defined as:

C8.02.c Voting members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members, during the current or preceding calendar year, shall have communed in this congregation and shall have made a contribution of record to this congregation.

Thank you and please prayerfully consider where God may be calling you to service within Christ's church here at Bethany Lutheran. May God's peace be with you!

