

Bethany Lutheran Church

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



Important Dates

04-01 Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 P.M. reserved seating and on Facebook Live.

04-02 Good Friday Service 7:00 P.M. reserved seating and on Facebook Live.

04-04 Easter Service 9:30 A.M. Outdoor weather permitting and on Facebook Live.

04-05 Council meeting via Zoom

Contact Information

Bethany Lutheran Church
235 South Second Street
PO Box 236
West Branch, Iowa 52358
(319) 643-5998

Pastor Chad Whaley
pastor@wbbethany.org

Pastor is in the office often so give him a call at (319) 643-5998 if needed or just to say "Hi!"

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

"Stand firm, and you will win life." – Luke 21:19 (NIV)



Dear beloved brothers and sisters in Christ,

During my undergraduate studies at the University of Northern Iowa I participated in many intramural sporting activities. One in particular stands out still to this day. At that time, dormitories were divided into "houses." Our house formed an intramural team. Simply participating in an activity provided the house points regardless of whether you won or lost. Thus, that spring at the intramural track meet, I signed up to run the 400 meter race, which is one time around the track. In that day, the meet was held on a seldom used old cinder track. I entered with the mindset that I would just casually go out, run at a leisurely pace, and rack up some participation points. Well, the competitor in me just could not do that, so I sprinted out of the blocks. As I rounded the final turn I realized there were three of us running side-by-side out in front of the others. I could see the finish line and could not wait to cross it, so I gave it everything I had. Well, in doing so my upper body got slightly ahead of my lower body and my feet gave way on the cinder track and down I went. To those who may have never fallen on a cinder track, consider yourself lucky.

As we find ourselves in Holy Week, it's all too easy to want to rush ahead to Easter Sunday and the good news that Christ has risen and bypass Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Yet, these two days are so vital to our understanding of who Jesus is. He is the one who came to serve and not be served. He is the one who came to give his life for the sake of the world. We cannot get to the empty tomb of Easter without going through the agony of Good Friday and the cross Christ died upon. We must journey through the grief and suffering of our Lord to truly grasp the great love revealed through his death and stand in awe with the women at the empty tomb Easter morning.

In the text above from Luke, Jesus teaches the disciples there will soon come a time when they will be persecuted, thrown into jail, be betrayed, hated and even experience death on account of Jesus' name and their steadfastness to bear testimony to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Jesus orders them to "stand firm" and in so doing they will "win life" through what Jesus has done through his death and resurrection.

We cannot have one without the other. We, too, are called and empowered by the Holy Spirit to stand firm, persevere, and not get ahead of ourselves in our race to celebrate the glorious light of Easter. We are indeed a people of new life, resurrection, and hope; however, we are also a people that gathers Sunday after Sunday at the foot of the cross remembering how much the Son of God gave so we could stand in the light free from the burden of sin and death. Free to love God and free to love one another.

Blessings!



Birthdays

04/01 Aubree Cassabaum,
Jacob Webb, Sharon Schubert
04/04 Asher Goodman
04/06 Bob Pedersen
04/09 Steve Yeater
04/10 John Black, David Fischer
04/11 Kent Kaufman
04/14 Cassie Colvin
04/15 Aizlyn Marsh, Scott Wieneke
04/16 Tony Johnston
04/18 Paula Casper
04/22 George McCrory
04/23 Nanci Wieneke
04/25 London Kiley
04/27 Courtney Bruns,
Lindsey Wiele
04/28 Karen Friis
04/30 Samantha Knoop

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

AS THE
FATHER
HAS LOVED
ME, SO
HAVE I
LOVED
YOU. ABIDE
IN MY



JOHN 15:9,
ESV

Bethany Books

by Frank Frostestad



Books For Adults

Love Is The Way: Holding On To Hope In Troubling Times is by Michael Curry. He is the presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church. Many people in America know him from when he delivered the sermon on the redemptive power of love at the royal wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle at Windsor Castle. In this book he expands on his message of hope in an inspirational road map for living the way of love. It shows how America came this far and how we can go a whole lot further. The

way of love is important for addressing the seemingly insurmountable challenges facing the world today: poverty, racism, selfishness, deep ideological divisions, and competing claims to speak for God. The purpose of this book is to explain what the way of love looks like, even as we walk in a world that feels at times closer to a nightmare than to a dream. The way of love is how we stay decent during indecent times. This book will help the reader discover the gifts needed in order to live the way of love: deep reservoirs of hope and resilience, simple wisdom, the discipline of nonviolence and a regard for human dignity.

3-Minute Devotions For Women is a collection of 180 inspirational readings. Take time to pause and reflect by reading scripture, encouraging words, and a prayer starter to begin a conversation with God. Most days we are seeking a moment or two of inspiration and encouragement. Within this book you will be guided through right sized readings that you can experience in as few as three minutes. No matter what your day brings, this source of inspiration can be just the pick-up that you need in your faith walk.

Books For Children

All Because You Matter is written by Tami Charles and illustrated by Bryan Collier. "They say that matter is all things that make up the universe: energy, stars, space... If that's the case, then you, dear child, matter." So begins a lyrical tribute filled with heart, hope, and affirmation. While there are many nice people in the world, not everyone is. Sometimes people will treat others unfairly because of their skin color, race, or religion. This was written as a starting point for conversations about the racial climate in our country today. All children, especially those from marginalized backgrounds, matter.

You Matter by Christian Robinson is another book that reassures the young child that they matter.



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.

Gospel Gathering

Join us every Monday at noon for 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. If interested, contact Pastor Chad (pastor@wbbethany.org) and the Zoom invitation will be forwarded to you.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.

Worship with the Bishop April 11

Bishop Amy Current of the Southeastern Iowa Synod along with her staff will be leading the people of our synod in worship on Sunday April 11th. This service will be streamed on our Facebook page at 9:30 AM. Additionally, we will show it on a television in the Great Hall if you do not have access to view it online or simply want to worship in the presence of others. If interested in attending, please RSVP as soon as possible by contacting the church office at (319) 643-5998. Thanks!

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.

Matthew 5:3

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

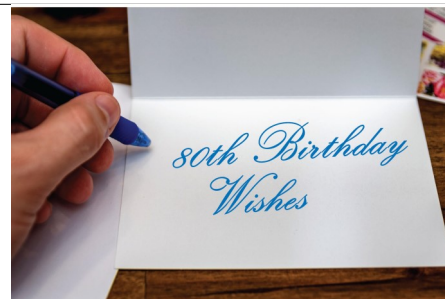
- A poor in spirit time of life for me...
- When someone feels hopeless, I...
- The church brings hope to others by...



Micah 6:8

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

- The issues that are close to home concerning fairness and justice are...
- For me, learning to love kindness...
- Walking humbly with God, I...



*On April 27th Pastor Erv will turn 80 years old. We are planning a card shower for him to celebrate this occasion. I know he would love to hear from you. Please pass the word.
Thanks, Marie Hesterberg*

*Pastor Ervin Hesterberg
8235 Boulder Drive
West Des Moines, Iowa 50266*

Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) News

National Child Abuse Prevention Month

According to the most recent Iowa Department of Human Services data, 9,532 Iowa children were subject to abuse or neglect. The most common forms of abuse included denial of critical care, physical injury, exposure to illegal drugs or dangerous substance, and sexual abuse.

Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) helps combat child abuse through prevention, safety, and stability services, as well as mental and behavioral health care.

Through regular in-home visits to families, LSI Early Childhood Services prevent child abuse by giving parents the support, education, and resources they need to build a healthy, stable home for their children. In 2020, our Early Childhood programs provided more than 18,000 in-home and virtual visits to families.

LSI Family Centered Services help children and families already involved in a crisis or abuse situation to become safer and more stable, and LSI's Bremwood and Beloit Residential Treatment Centers serve many children and youth who have experienced trauma from past abuse or neglect.

You can make a direct impact on these children and families through your support of LSI. For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.

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 LSIowa.org and Facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

Empowering Iowa Families

Gaylene was overwhelmed raising three young boys. Finances were strained and she and her partner, José, worked hard to make ends meet. Suddenly, well into her second trimester, Gaylene learned she was pregnant with her daughter, Julieanna. Left with less time to prepare her home for a fourth child, Gaylene was stressed at the thought of welcoming a little girl into a house with three energetic older brothers. And once Julieanna was born, Gaylene began experiencing postpartum depression.

Gaylene enrolled in LSI Early Childhood Services for help, and she and José began meeting with their LSI worker, Kellie. She provided the family with age-appropriate ideas and developmental activities for the kids, and served as a shoulder to lean on whenever Gaylene or José needed guidance or advice. Gaylene recently graduated from college with a degree in early childhood education, and her family is thriving. Gaylene also graduated out of LSI services last year. The family still keeps in touch with Kellie, and Gaylene says she will forever be grateful for the support she received when times were difficult.

"We got so used to Kellie coming to our home for five years, it's going to be different. But now I know where to turn and how to help my family down the road," Gaylene says. "I feel like Kellie and LSI actually care about people and parents."



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*Thank you to the following people who have
donated Easter flowers.*

Patsy Ernst
In honor of Matthew Wellendorf

Chad & Amanda Whaley
In memory of our grandparents,
Brian Whaley, and Jon Nelson

Bob & Deanna Pedersen
In memory of Cleo and Marge
Pedersen, Kay Davisson

Curt & Carla Friis
In memory of Janet Friis,
Verne and Pat Sandersfeld

John & Linda Black
In honor of Linda's parents' 70th
wedding anniversary 4/7/21

Paul & Deanna Weismann
In memory of our parents
Esther Weismann,
Donald and Fern Thompson

Kaufman Family
In memory of Don Solms,
Vernon Kaufman, and
Duane Benson

Curt & Paula Casper
In memory of our parents and
grandparents



BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES—February 8, 2021 (via Zoom)

The meeting was called to order by President Hughes at 6:30 p.m.

Members present were Dave Bahnsen, Curt Casper, Patricia Ernst, Anne Fetzer, Del Hughes, Amber Marsh, Kristin McElhinney, Dave Poppen, Jill Taylor and Pastor Chad Whaley

Welcome to our new council members Dave, Patsy and Jill. Pastor led council in a reading of Psalm 118, with conversation focused on what brings us joy and gladness. Council members were installed as elected church leadership, bringing gifts to serve the congregation, and supporting our mission in Christ.

Pastor's Report

Pastor continues to support synod nominating committee and WBARC treasurer tasks. Plans for Ash Wednesday are underway. This will not include collaboration with other churches this year. Confirmation class continues virtually each week.

Annual meeting held virtually in January went well.

Secretary's Report

Motion to accept January council minutes by Dave B., seconded by Amber. Motion approved.

Jill motioned to amend the January 17 special minutes to include voting results, seconded by Dave B. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report

Jill noted that the special funds received from the fire department were disbursed to the local family in need as approved by council in January.

Dave B. motioned to accept the treasurer's report, Dave P. seconded. Motion approved.

Committee Reports

Building & Grounds

Due to the cold, salt and sand is not improving the parking lot. Leak near the bell tower due to ice dam will need addressed when the weather improves.

Education & Youth

24 winter kits were distributed in January. Committee is currently planning Easter kits.

Evangelism & Outreach

Al Beyer transitioned this committee to Dave B. This includes the 125th celebration planned for this summer.

Fellowship

No updates this month.

Stewardship

No updates this month.

Worship & Music

Lector schedule was completed for the year, including four new volunteers. The altar is schedule in progress. Beth Kaufman is continuing to select worship hymns with Pastor this year.

Old Business

Building Usage Review

Continued discussion regarding in-person services and how many people could fit in the sanctuary using safety guidelines. Kristin motioned we allow worship participants which includes acolyte, lector, audio-visual support, and their family members to attend in-person worship, not exceeding 20 members during the service. Seconded by Curt. Motion approved.

In March, the council will further discuss the potential for in-person, small group usage of the church.

Bank Usage Papers – review procedure

Executive council members added to church account per banking procedure guidelines.

New Business

Angel Tree Coordinator

Jeni Schiele resigning her volunteer position after many years of service to this valuable ministry. This work will transition to Evangelism and Outreach committee.

Council Positions

Amber motioned to approve Patsy filling Worship & Music position, and Dave P. filling the Stewardship position for one-year terms. Anne will fill the Secretary position. Seconded by Curt. Motion approved.

Dave P. moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Anne seconded. Motion approved.

President Hughes closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

Take Away Hunger Program 2021 Style

The need for food continues throughout the world more now than ever. Bethany Lutheran has been working with Take Away Hunger (formerly Kids Against Hunger) for over 12 years by having food packaging events. With safe, Covid-social behavior in mind, let's have a packaging event this Spring!

We are proposing having multiple teams of family units to separately come into the fellowship hall to package the food. These family units should all be comfortable being around each other. Mike Fryauf will be assisting with each team. A team would package during their assigned time slot. When they are finished, the packaging line will be fully sanitized before the next team arrives and work their assigned time slot.

These food packaging events have 2 parts:

- 1) Raise money to pay for the supplies and
- 2) Assemble the food packages.

How to Package

The standard food packaging production line consists of 10 people:

- 1 material handler
- 4 fillers
- 2 bag holders (surprisingly the hardest job)
- 1 fill balancer
- 1 sealer
- 1 boxer

For the new line, Mike Fryauf will be the material handler. Depending on how big your team is, a proposed packaging line would consist of:

- 2 Fillers (could be 1)
- 1 bag holder
- 1 fill balancer
- 1 sealer

The boxing can be done at the end.

This team structure has 5 people. We can make a smaller team if necessary, but the workload would need to be juggled. The number of teams will depend on the interest and the amount of money that can be raised.

Raise the Money

Each meal serving costs 25 cents. Each bag that is filled has 6 servings. There are 36 bags in a box. The donations required for a box is \$54. Any amount of money can be donated, but we have traditionally requested donations for a half box (\$27) or full box (\$54). Take Away Hunger has developed a new recipe that appeals to a North American diet. There are usually "mistakes" that the team can bring home and sample!

If you are interested in donating or forming a team, contact either Pastor Chad or Mike Fryauf at mikeyfryauf@gmail.com. Thank You and God Bless!

Monetary Gifts Report

Submitted by Jill Taylor

Saints in Worship

Thanks for worshipping with us! We are grateful for the saints of God at Bethany to return to in person worship on a limited basis and give thanks for all who continue to worship online.

	February 2021		YTD	
Total Receipts	Actual 10,815	Budget 13,497	Actual 23,045	Budget 26,994
Total Expenses	Actual 13,608	Budget 13,873	Actual 25,506	Budget 27,747

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.

April 2021
Bethany Branches



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235 South Second Street
PO BOX 236
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www.wbbethany.org



Ministers of Proclamation (Lectors)

04/04 Cheryl Fischer
04/11 Bishop Amy Current
(pre-recorded)
04/18 Shawn Samuelson
04/25 Beth Kaufman

Ministers of Technology

04/04 Olivia P.
04/11 Hannah S.
04/18 Andrew S.
04/25 Paula C.

Ministers of Altar Care for the month
of April: John & Linda Black



Find us on
Facebook

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