## Bethany Lutheran Church

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





May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.—Romans 15:13

#### **Important Dates**

5-10 Council meeting 6:30 PM

5-11 Blood Drive

5-16 Graduation recognition Sunday

5-21,22 Synod Assembly

#### **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

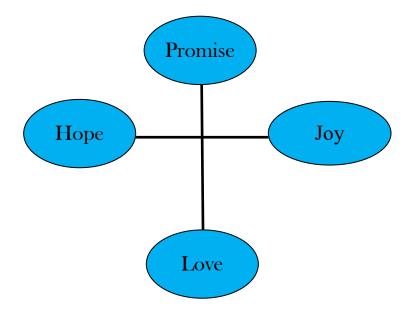
Office Hours Tuesday & Thursday 8:00-11:30 a.m.

#### 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 @blewestbranch



Dear Faithful Servants of Christ,

Following Easter, I have been contemplating the words the Spirit led me to focus on in my message: Promise, Hope and Joy. I placed them into the above diagram and felt prompted to add one more word, Love. Of course, the cross of Christ is at the center of all we are as a community gathered in his name. The promises that came through Christ's death and resurrection move us to be people that dwell daily in the abundance of grace and respond with hope, joy and love.

As I look to the future of our shared ministry and pray for some insight into a vision of what that might look like, these words and this image come into being. The promised savior of the world, Jesus Christ, gives us life, identity and purpose. Jesus and the promises of eternal salvation, forgiveness of sin and unconditional love leads us to our vocational calling to be people of hope, joy and love.

I am going to continue to ponder these words and this image, and I pray you do as well and give me any wisdom imparted unto you by way of the Holy Spirit.

In Christ's peace,



#### **Birthdays**

05-01	Olivia Poppen, Cozette Sexton
	Rick Paulsen

- 05-06 Deb Anderson, Brittney Heath
- 05-09 Tyler Haub, Curt Friis
- 05-10 Jenna Sexton
- 05-12 Elijah Fetzer
- 05-15 Claire Kaufman, Matt Whaley, Bonnie Conner
- 05-16 Kody Crow
- 05-17 Candy Madsen, Cadence Heid, Maggie Paulsen
- 05-19 Carla Friis
- 05-21 Linda Black,
- Wayne Frauenholtz
- 05-22 Andrew Niles
- 05-26 Bill Holmes
- 05-29 Nicole Zimmerman
- 5-30 Jim Paulsen

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





Pastor Chad's sermons can now be found on Bethany's website (<a href="www.wbbethany.org">www.wbbethany.org</a>) by placing your cursor over the "Resource" tab found on the home page and then selecting "Sermons" when it pops up.

#### **Bethany Books**



#### **Books For Adults**

A Map Is Only One Story, edited by Nicole Chung and Mensah Demary, is a book consisting of twenty writers on immigration, family, and the meaning of home. These writers share what it means to exist between languages and cultures. From rediscovering an ancestral village in China to experiencing the realities of American life as a Nigerian, the search for belonging crosses borders and generations. It highlights the human side of immigration policies. Through the power of personal narratives, as

told by both emerging and established writers, this book offers a new definition of home in the twenty-first century. This collection is a corrective to discussions of global migration that fail to acknowledge the humanity of migrants themselves.

In *Anxious People* by Fredrik Backman, real estate is not usually a life or death situation. In this book it is when an apartment open house becomes just that. A failed bank robber bursts in and takes a group of strangers hostage. Each of them carry a lifetime of hurts, secrets, and passions that are ready to boil over. None of them is entirely who they appear to be. Each crave some sort of rescue. As the authorities and the media surround the premises, these reluctant allies reveal surprising truths about themselves and set in motion a chain of events so unexpected that even they can hardly explain what happens next. Humorous, compassionate, and wise, this book is a constructed story about he enduring power of friendship, forgiveness, and hope. These are things that save us, even in the most anxious of times.

Shine On, Beautiful Soul! is a book for friends. Friendship is a beautiful thing. Whether it is newly found or has been cherished for many years, friends are who we turn to when we need prayer, and who reflect God's love and goodness in our lives. This book celebrates friendship with encouraging messages, art, and words from God. (donated)

#### **Book For Children**

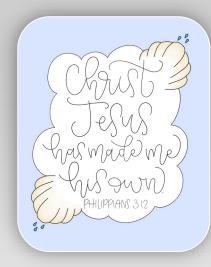
*No, No Noah* by Dandi Daley Mackall is a Board book designed for young children. Monkey will not get on the ark. Like most little ones, he thinks new places are scary. Noah helps Monkey learn to trust in God. This is the story of Noah and the flood for young people. (donated)

#### Welcomed in Baptism

River Hawkins Harding
April 10th, 2021

Parents are Jessica (Liebergen) Harding & Matthew Harding.
Sponsors are Nicky Eggleston & Tracy Keely
(also pictured is big sister London)







## **Spring has sprung here at Bethany**DU Linda Black and Curt Casper for all your l

THANK YOU Linda Black and Curt Casper for all your hard work to make Bethany look so wonderful. As you can see our back courtyard would make a nice place to meet with someone outside but still stay distanced or just a quiet place to reflect. Thanks also to Howard Moss for replacing the light in the courtyard.







#### **Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) News**

#### **Happy Mother's Day!**

Mother's Day is a time to celebrate the strong, loving women in your life. At Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI), we see thousands of Iowa moms through their journey to build the brightest future for their children.

We see moms turning to LSI Behavioral Health Intervention Services to ensure their child is receiving the coping skills and behavioral supports they need to thrive. In our Early Childhood Services, we see first-time moms who are eager to join our parenting education classes and support groups. In 2020, LSI's Early Childhood programs provided support to more than 1,097 families of young children. We are so inspired to hear their stories and see their hard work pay off as they raise our next generation. As you celebrate Mother's Day this year, remember how many lowa moms are being empowered because of your support. If you are looking for a way to honor your mother this year, please consider making a gift in her name to LSI. For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSlowa.org or 563-676-2065.

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the Iove 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.

#### **Wrapping Care Around Iowa Children**

Martha and Marti first became foster parents in September of 2018, after their biological children expressed that they wanted to provide foster care as a family. They decided to become licensed through LSI Foster Care and Adoption and soon after, they welcomed a sibling group of three into their home. "Our kids really wanted to look into foster care as a way to be able to help others as a family," Martha says. "Everybody had to sacrifice and pour in, and everybody was needed and brought something to the table."

The siblings stayed with the family for almost two years, until the opportunity came for them to find a forever home through adoption. Over the years, the siblings had become bonded to Martha and Marti, as well as their extended family and friends. The siblings are currently in the process of officially being adopted by a family close to Martha and Marti, so they can continue to stay connected to the important relationships they built in foster care.

The family has found a passion they can all share, and it's making a difference in the lives of lowa children.

"We always explain fostering as 'good' and 'hard.' You never want to take one away from the other, because it's both. It's the hardest thing we've ever done, but it's the best thing we've done," Martha says. "We've had the privilege of having the kids in our home and you have the responsibility and the privilege to take care of them in their time of need."



#### **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 -**President** (319)430-5705 hughesdelsue05@gmail.com

Curt Casper-**Building & Grounds** (319)331-2811 Curt.casper@rocketmail.com

Dave Bahnsen-Evangelism & Mission/Vice president (319)325-7700 bahn1225@gmail.com

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

Jill Taylor-**Treasurer** (319)643-5865 jtmetmrt@gmail.com

Dave Poppen-Stewardship (563)940-8012 dkpoppen@hotmail.com

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

Patsy Ernst-Worship & Music (319)800-5647 sunshinegundy@gmail.com

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

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

## Senior Recognition & Blessing



Congratulations to our high school graduates!

Anna Friis
Olivia Poppen
Gavin Hierseman
Ellie Holstad
Katie Anderson
Collin Lovetinsky
Kaitlyn Lovetinsky

Our tentative plan is to recognize these seniors in worship May 16th if we can safely gather outdoors.



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

The meeting was called to order by President Hughes at 6:34 p.m.

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

Pastor opened the meeting with a prayer focused on a letter from Paul in first Corinthians. "Be of the same of the mind and of the same purpose". What is our purpose? The heart of who we are is the body of Christ and all things be done in love.

#### Pastor's Report

Highlights from the Pastor report included weekly Wednesday Lent worship services, impromptu outdoor services, continuing congregational outreach and education, as well as attending small group meetings via Zoom.

Pastor also extended a special thanks to current and past council members for being vigilant. Decisions have not been easy, and Pastor commends the council for steadfast decisions to keep the church safe.

#### Secretary's Report

A small edit to February minutes to add Jill to meeting attendance.

Curt motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Dave P. Motion approved.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

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

#### **Committee Reports**

#### **Building & Grounds**

A few lights in the great hall in need of repair or replacement. This is not urgent so the committee will address the repairs in the next few weeks.

#### Education & Youth

Two kit sign up options currently available – spring break and Easter. Wednesday education going well. Planning for senior recognition in May.

#### **Evangelism & Outreach**

An email distribution from the Bishop regarding evangelism shared with the council. Planning for God's

Work Our Hands in September and 125-year celebration.

#### **Fellowship**

Kristin shared an adult kit idea. Fellowship committee reviewing this as a possible future fellowship activity.

#### Stewardship

Committee creating an outreach list to present to the church demonstrating how giving helps our community.

#### **Worship & Music**

Kent Kaufman repaired the electronic piano leg. This fix accommodates moving the piano for outdoor worship. A new worship banner ordered. Worship outdoors possible now that the weather has improved, and an impromptu service was held Sunday night at 5:00 p.m. The lily order form available for Easter altar.

#### **Old Business**

**Building Usage Review** 

Last month the council approved that 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. This has gone well.

Council discussed sending a survey and calling members to gather congregational worship needs. Council subcommittee formed to create and distribute survey.

Outdoor services will be planned when weather cooperates.

The challenge with opening to all indoors is spacing families and not knowing counts from week to week. Masks will continue to be required along with other safety precautions.

Jill motioned masks are required when inside the church building. Dave P. seconded. Motion approved.

Dave P. motioned to allow up to 20 members, at Pastor's discretion, to attend in-person worship using precautionary guidelines. In two weeks, we'll reassess this plan after evaluating responses from a congregational survey. Amber seconded. Motion approved.

#### **New Business**

Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday

(Continued on page #7)

## BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

(Continued from page #6)

Decisions not finalized, continuing to assess as noted in building usage review.

Jill moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 p.m. Dave P. seconded. Motion approved.

Pastor closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Regular Meeting – April 12, 2021

#### **Worship News**

Have you ever wondered what the names of all the spaces we gather for worship are? It is best referred to simply as the worship space and generally consists of three main areas: narthex, nave and chancel.

The Altar Guild and Sacristy Handbook (Augsburg Fortress, 2000) states the narthex "is the place of gathering and entering, the place of transition from everyday life as individuals and families to corporate worship with the baptized people of God. It is a place for persons to greet one another to prepare for worship." The narthex at Bethany would be the space at the top of the stairs where the mailboxes are located.

The handbook defines the *nave* as, "the place of assembly, where the congregation gathers for worship. Derived from the Latin word *navis*, which means ship, the nave reminds us of the church sailing in the ocean of time; it is also a baptismal reminder."

Lastly, the *chancel* is "a raised platform in the front of the nave. Most worship leadership is conducted from the chancel, since it is the place of both altar and pulpit." Within the chancel is the sanctuary, "the area immediately surrounding the altar and is usually raised above the level of the rest of the chancel." The altar, or table of the Lord, is the most central furnishing of the chancel.

#### **Easter Sunday Service**









## Thank you for your continued giving!

The past 13 months have been difficult for many people in our church and community. Yet as we can see in our 2020 annual report, our stewardship commitments remained strong. Through your generosity, we were able to collect \$21,211.00 to fund our missions programs, which include giving \$5,270 to local Iowa missions.

Over the next few months, we will highlight a few of the local missions that your donations help support.

**Operation Backpack:** Unfortunately, some of the West Branch Elementary School students count on the ability to go to school to get food and nourishment in addition to an education. Operation Backpack is a program where every Friday afternoon 22 students receive a backpack filled with food that is intended to supplement their needs until Monday morning. The weekly offerings from Bethany Lutheran Church help fund this program.

This is just one example of how our stewardship efforts help people in our local community and something we should be proud of as a congregation.

BLC has many options for making donations, please let me know if you would like to learn more about ways to help support our community and spread the word of God.

David Poppen Stewardship Chairman

In order to allow our seven youth to safely gather with their families, a decision has been made to celebrate the affirmation of baptism on Reformation Sunday, October 31<sup>st</sup>.

This day works particular well for this special rite within the church. It is a day we remember the work of Martin Luther and the reformers, the understanding we are saved by grace through faith alone, and the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit in the life of Christ's church.





The 2021 Synod Assembly will be held Friday evening May 21 and Saturday, May 22 online.

#### **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.



#### Amos 5:24

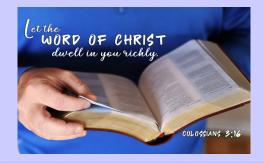
But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

- · An injustice in our world now...
- Injustice and unfairness happen when people...
- People with extra advantages in life...



"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

- A person who has been a light for me is...
- People who observe me see...
- I bring light to others by...





# Southeastern Iowa Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

March 1, 2021

And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

~ Matthew 28.18-20

Dear Southeastern Iowa Synod,

We are just shy of the 1-year mark since the world was upended by the pandemic, and the Office of the Bishop is writing to you to humbly **thank you** for the ways that you have embodied what it means to be the synod this past year.

At its root, *synod* means to gather together and you, the followers of Jesus Christ who are members of the 138 congregations in Southeastern Iowa have boldly and innovatively gather together to continue to live out Christ's command to baptize and teach this year. The ways you gather look different: worship, confirmation, Sunday School, baptisms – each of these ways that had become routine for us have been shaken, stirred, and poured out in new ways – and through it all you have been faithful. You trusted in the promised presence of Christ. You let the Holy Spirit teach you new ways of seeing and being. You grieved all that is lost and looked ahead to what would rise from the ashes.

Over the last twelve months you have also continued to financially support the work of the whole church. In the Southeastern Iowa Synod your gifts supported congregations impacted by the pandemic and the derecho. Your gifts supported your neighbors who were transitioning from one pastor to the next. Your gifts have made it possible to offer grants for technology upgrades so that our digital witness can be strengthened.

When it comes to sharing the good news of God's love poured out in Jesus Christ, it takes us all. And when we support each other, carrying each other's burdens, celebrating each other's joys, and generously contributing to our shared ministry, we can truly claim to be #inthistogether.

On behalf of the Office of the Bishop and with gratitude to be the church together,

Reverend Erika Uthe Assistant to the Bishop Director for Evangelical Mission





# THANK YOU

To the members of Bethany Lutheran Church, West Branch

from the

Southeastern Iowa Synod

of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. In grateful appreciation for giving

\$15941.92

for Mission Support beyond the congregation for synod and churchwide ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Synod Bishop

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Presiding Bishop

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

### May 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 9:30 AM Worship (Outdoors and online via Facebook)		27	28 6:30 PM Youth Faith Formation (4-8th Grade) online	29	30	1
2 9:30 AM Worship with Holy Communion (Outdoors and online via Facebook)	3 12:00 PM Monday Gospel Gathering (via Zoom Meet- ing)	4	5 6:30 PM Youth Faith Formation (4-8th Grade)	6	7	8
9 9:30 AM Worship (Outdoors and online via Facebook)	10 12:00 PM Monday Gospel Gathering (via Zoom Meet- ing) 6:30 PM Council Meeting	<b>11</b> Blood drive @ Bethany	6:30 PM Youth Faith Formation (4-8th Grade)	13	14	15
16 9:30 AM Worship with Holy Communion (Outdoors and online via Facebook) High school recognition during service.	17 12:00 PM Monday Gospel Gathering (via Zoom Meet- ing)	18	19 6:30 PM Youth Faith Formation (4-8th Grade)	20	21 Synod Assembly	Synod Assembly
9:30 AM Worship (Outdoors and online via Facebook)		25	26	27	28	29
30 9:30 AM Worship (Outdoors and online via Facebook)	31 12:00 PM Monday Gospel Gathering (via Zoom Meet- ing)	1	2	3	4	5

### **Monetary Gifts Report**

Submitted by Jill Taylor

	March	n 2021	March YTD		
Total	Actual	Budget	Actual 37,213	Budget	
Receipts	14,168	13,496		40,490	
Total	Actual	Budget	Actual 39,589	Budget	
Expenses	14,083	13,865		41,612	

**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.

# Bethany Branches



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

#### **Ministers of Proclamation (Lectors)**

05-02 Phil Hougen

05-09 Mike Fryauf

05-16 Lisa Zimmerman

05-23 Kami Poppen

05-30 Tonya Samuelson

#### **Ministers of Technology**

05-02 Cole C. & Tate F.

05-09 Olivia P.

05-16 Hannah S.

05-23 Andrew S.

05-30 Paula C.

## Ministers of Christ's Light (Acolytes)

05-02

05-09 Aizlyn M. & Arik M.

05-16 Cole C. & Tate F.

05-23 Alexa F.

05-30

Ministers of Altar Care for the month of May: Jill Taylor



To find Bethany's main page, search "Bethany Lutheran Church (ELCA) West Branch, Iowa"

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