Bethany Lutheran Church

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





Be still and know that I am God-Psalm 46:10

Important Dates

11-7 All Saints Sunday 11-8 Council meeting 6:30 PM

Jesus



You!

Contact Information

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

Pastor Chad Whaley pastor@wbbethany.org

Pastor is in the office often. Call him at (319) 643-5998 if needed, schedule an appointment, or just to say "Hi!"

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!

FIND US ON TWITTER!

Search @blcwestbranch

Links to websites are built into the digital version of this newsletter. Click on words highlighted in blue (e.g. wbbethany.org) or images such as "God's work. Our hands." on page 2.



From the

Dear people of God,

Grace and peace from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

The photo above was taken along the shores of Lake Michigan on a recent trip to Grand Rapids with Matt. There is just some-

thing about looking out upon the vastness of a large body of water. It makes you stop and marvel at the abundance and magnificence of God's creation. It forces one to slow down, which is often something I struggle with. Yield to everything else at that moment and simply dwell in the goodness of God. Listen to the sound of the waves as they come ashore.

I could not help but hear the words from Psalm 46 blowing through the breeze, "Be still and know that I am God." Psalm 46 was the inspiration for Martin Luther's hymn, *A Mighty Fortress is Our God*, that we will sing Sunday in worship as it is Reformation Sunday. It is a psalm of thanks sung by the people of Israel because of the mighty acts of God in protecting and saving Jerusalem against the rage and fury of kings and nations thwarting to overcome it. (*Reading the Psalms with Luther*, Concordia Publishing House, 2007)

"Be still and know that I am God," is an invitation to listen, ponder, and observe the presence of God, but perhaps it's also an invitation to give our thanks and praise for all God has done and is doing. A gift to reorient our lives yet again to the One who is "our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

Be still people of God and know you are so, so loved!

Fanter and

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 7th.



Bethany Books

by Frank Frostestad

Books For Adults

Spiritual Classics: Selected readings on the twelve disciples, which is a resource for individuals and groups, is edited by Richard J. Foster and Emilie Griffin. Gathered from nearly two thousand years of Christian writing, the fifty-two readings in Spiritual Classics include a profile of each author, meditations for group and individual use, discussion questions and exercises, and a personal reflection by Richard J. Foster. Each personality and excerpt focuses on one of the twelve core spiritual

disciplines. The editors also offer recommendations for further guided reading and exploration to make this an important companion to the spiritual life. (donated)

The Moment Of Lift: how empowering women changes the world is by Melinda Gates. For the past twenty years she has been on a mission to find solutions for people with the most urgent needs, wherever they live. Her journey has taught her that in order to lift up a society you need to stop keeping women down. She shares lessons she has learned from the inspiring people she has met during her work around the world. She includes unforgettable stories backed by data about issues such as maternal and newborn health, women's and girls' education, unpaid work, child marriage, women in agriculture, and women in the workplace. Melinda Gates, the former wife of Microsoft Bill Gates, is an unavowed feminist. She may come on too strong for some readers. The point is, that she shows throughout this book how there has never been more opportunity to change the world and ourselves. The goal is for everyone to connected and for everyone to belong. (donated)



The image to the left is the bulletin board just outside the kitchen in the Great Hall. Living into the words from 1st Thessalonians 5:16-18 you are invited to jot something on the board that you are joyful for, need prayer for, or are thankful for. Let's fill the board with our joys, prayers, and thanksgiving this November!

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you . -1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

All Saints' Sunday—November 7th

Join us for worship November 7th as we give thanks for and honor our Senior Saints, those who are 80 and older.

Jim Peak, Betty Slach, 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 (Peaches) Sweat and Norm Fitzgerald.

We will also give thanks for the newly baptized.

River Harding Oakley Sexton Emma Van Scoyoc

We will also remember and give thanks for the saints who have died since last All Saints' Sunday.

Helen Petersen John Crow





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

Please return this form with payment to the church office. Or mail to: P.O. Box 236 West Branch, IA 52358 by December 12th. Please make checks out to Bethany Lutheran.

Name: ______ poinsettias in memory or in honor of:

Plants will be set out for the Christmas Fve service.

_____poinserrius in memory of in nonor of



Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) News

November is National Adoption Month, a time to honor families who have opened their hearts and homes to children and teens. 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 lowa children in need of a safe, healthy 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 lowa children in foster care, visit LSIowa.org/Foster, or contact Deb Whitford, LSI 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 visit LSIowa.org/church-relations or contact our Waverly office at 319.352.2630 to get started.

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 www.LSIowa.org and www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

Giving Back to Their Community

Amber and Donald had always felt called to provide foster care. But any time they would consider taking the leap and starting the process, the thought of "what if?" would leave them feeling stuck. Now, Amber can't imagine life without the children her family has cared for over the years.

Amber and Donald became licensed to provide foster care and adopt children almost seven years ago. Since then, they have provided foster care for 17 lows children and adopted six. Amber says one of her favorite parts of the experience is seeing her adult children bond with each child who enters their home.

"It's crazy to see our 25-year-old so bonded with our two-year-old. We don't label the kids as 'adoptive' or 'biological', they're just all our kids," Amber says. "That bond is just as huge whether it's biological or not."

As Iowa continues to see a need for more foster and adoptive families, Amber says becoming licensed is one way Iowans can give back to their community.

"God gives us all gifts, and parenting and helping in the community seemed to be what He put in our hearts," Amber says. "If you haven't found a place to help in your community, consider foster care and adoption," she says. "It could be exactly what your purpose is."



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

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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/Secretary** (319)338-8217 Anne.r.anderson@pearson.com

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



God love, you!!!

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.

Isaiah 53:4-6

Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

- Struck, afflicted, wounded, crushed, punished, bruised for me...
- Just like a wandering sheep, I stray off on my own ways...
- Someone today who sacrifices for me...





Matthew 7:13-14

"Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road is easy that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it. For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it."

- Presently, the road I am traveling on looks like....
- Life's easy looking roads...
- · Life's narrow and difficult roads...

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH Council Minutes

September 13, 2021

The meeting was called to order by President Hughes at 6:31 p.m.

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

Members absent: Curt Casper

Meeting opened with prayer focused on Isaiah 40.

Pastor's Report

Highlights from this month's Pastor's report include: Education meeting to explore new opportunities and ways of doing faith formation.

Attended two pre-marital sessions and a baptism. Participated in WBARC, Free Indeed, Conference 7 and Advocacy Network meetings this month, as well as attended games our youth participated in.

Several pastoral visits and prayer meetings held this month.

Looking forward to upcoming preaching workshop, fall Theological and continuing education course via Zoom.

Secretary's Report

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

Treasurer's Report

\$784 donated for backpack initiative; remaining funds of \$302.85 sent to the school.

Kristin motioned to approve the report, seconded by Dave B. Motion approved.

Committee Reports

Building and Grounds

Tree limbs trimmed and clean up in progress.

Education & Youth

Looking to add a faith formation class for ages 2-8 once a month on Sunday during an outdoor service. This would include a snack, simple craft, and Bible study. Many faith at home kits are distributed to this age group and could help families with small children attend outdoor services.

Committee plans to combine confirmation and youth class starting in October.

Evangelism

God's Work Our Hands scheduled on September 26 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Committee is widely publicizing for more community involvement. This is a great out-

reach to build trust with the community. Many thanks to Dave and Kami Poppen for donations to help with this event. This includes spaghetti dinner.

125th anniversary celebration planned on October 24. Committee is inviting past pastors to attend. The celebration includes a meal and fellowship.

Fellowship

Currently hosting informal fellowship after services. Looking into how to handle future fellowship sign-ups and participation. Committee asks for donations to support fellowship activities.

Stewardship

Vanco online donation is available to the congregation and visitors in October. This includes online and mobile app options. Committee is also reviewing a Give Plus Text giving option. All donation options will be published in a future newsletter.

Worship and Music

Future of the Cookie Walk is unknown. Committee is looking for volunteers to take over this mission. Kristin plans to explore organizing and will report back to the committee in October.

Choir practice has not started yet.

Old Business

Reviewed COVID protocol and no changes to current protocol.

A wedding is planned at Bethany on October 16. The couple has rescheduled their ceremony twice. The couple and all guests are asked to follow protocol and recommendations made at pastor's discretion.

We plan to continue with both indoor and outdoor services as long as possible.

Local Missions

There is a budget line item for local missions donations this year.

New Business

Staff Recognition

Bethany has an excellent staff, doing work above their duties. Pastor appreciates the exceptional technology help Paula provides. Council recommends a staff appreciation day.

Request to use Great Hall A member, Tammy Urmie, asks to use the great hall for a quilter market in October.

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

She'll limit number of attendees in the hall at a time, as well as follow protocol.

The council has no concerns with the request.

Tailgate Funding

Cost is split with the Methodist church. Our share is approximately \$350. Dave P. moved that the expenses are covered by youth fund, seconded by Anne. Motion approved.

New Doorway Rugs

Replacement cost approximately \$400 for four new mats. However, the 2021 property budget may exceed its limit. Dave P. motioned to approve rug purchase, seconded by Patsy. Motion approved.

Add Closed Circuit Monitor in Great Hall, which will allow people to view worship in the Great Hall in case of overflow, people in nursery, or setting for fellowship, etc. Estimated cost to add this technology is \$500.

Kristin motioned we provide funds to cover cost of closed -circuit television to the Great Hall, seconded by Dave B. Motion approved.

Kristin moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. Jill seconded. Motion approved.

Council closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

ADVENT 2021

Welcome to the season of Advent, which consists of the four weeks leading up to Christmas. The name Advent comes from a Latin word that means "coming." During this season we focus on the coming of the Christ child, Jesus' continual coming to us in word and sacrament, and his promised return, when all things will be made new. As we prepare to celebrate the birth

of our Lord and Savior, our worship consists of including an Advent wreath into our worship space and many may have a wreath in their homes.

If you would like a wooden wreath for this years Advent season please contact Paula @ blcsecretary@lcom.net



Mentoring, Coaching, and Leadership Development Opportunity from Anne Fetzer

In April, I received a Master of Science in Organizational Leadership degree from Grand View University in Des Moines. I am currently involved in the Certificate in Mentoring, Coaching, and Leadership Development through Grand View. As part of my certification process, I need to coach four people for 4-times each starting in November. The purpose of these 50-55 minute mentor-coaching sessions, is to allow you to explore and discover insights into your life and leadership. I will be working with a certified mentor-coach, who is a resource for me, as well as my evaluator on the effectiveness of my competencies. There is no fee for my services during the certification process.

If you are interested in this opportunity, please call Anne at (319) 333-8217 or email:

arfetzer77@gmail.com

Thank you, Anne Fetzer

COOKIE WALK

Saturday, December 4th

9:00 a.m.—10:30 a.m. (or until cookies are gone)



Please bring your cookies to the church Friday evening or

Saturday morning by 8:30 a.m. Help is needed for the event, including setup and cleanup.

Setup will be Friday afternoon. 1:00--2:00 p.m.

See Kristin McElhinney or Sue Hughes with questions.

Proceeds from the event are used to fund various mission efforts.

125th Anniversary pictures









Photo taken by Bishop Amy Current





Bishop Amy Current, Pastor Chad Whaley, Pastor Marvin Ehnen, Pastor Phil Hougen and Pastor William Thalacker. (clockwise)

If you took pictures at the celebration please share them with us.
Please send them to Paula @ blcsecretary@lcom.net

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*.

Monday, Nov 1	Psalm 18:20-30 Ruth 2:15-23	Wed, Nov 17	Hebrews 10:32-39 Psalm 3
	Romans 12:17-21; 13:8-10	1104, 1101 11	1 Kings 8:22-30
Tuesday, Nov 2	Psalm 18:20-30		Mark 13:9-23
	Ruth 3:1-7	Thursday, Nov 18	
	Acts 7:17-29	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	2 Kings 22:1-10
Wed, Nov 3	Psalm 18:20-30		Acts 7:54-8:1a
,	Ruth 3:8-18; John 13:31-35	Friday, Nov 19	Psalm 132:1-12
Thursday, Nov 4	Psalm 127		2 Kings 22:11-20
, ,	Ruth 4:1-10		1 Corinthians 15:20-28
	Romans 5:6-11	Saturday, Nov 20	Psalm 132:1-12
Friday, Nov 5	Psalm 127		2 Kings 23:1-14
	Ruth 4:11-17		John 3:31-36
	Hebrews 9:15-24	Sunday, Nov 21	Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14
Saturday, Nov 6	Psalm 127		Revelation 1:4b-8
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	Ruth 4:18-22		John 18:33-37
	Mark 11:12-14, 20-24	Monday, Nov 22	Psalm 63
Sunday, Nov7	1 Kings 17:8-16	,	2 Kings 23:15-25
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	Hebrews 9:24-28		Revelation 11:1-14
	Mark 12: 38-44	Tuesday, Nov 23	Psalm 63
Monday, Nov 8	Psalm 113	, <u>,</u>	1 Samuel 17:55-18:5
y ,	Genesis 24:1-10		Revelation 11:15-19
	1 Timothy 5:1-8	Wed, Nov24	Psalm 63
Tuesday, Nov 9	Psalm 113	,	2 Samuel 2:1-7
,	Genesis 24:11-27		John 16:25-33
	1 Timothy 5:9-16	Thursday, Nov 25	
Wed Nov 10	Psalm 113	,	Nehemiah 9:6-15
	Genesis 24:28-42		1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
	Luke 4:16-30	Friday, Nov 26	Psalm 25:1-10
Thursday, Nov 11	1 Samuel 2:1-10	3 ,	Nehemiah 9:16-25
• •	1 Samuel 1:21-28		1 Thessalonians 5:12-22
	1 Timothy 6:11-21	Saturday, Nov 27	Psalm 25:1-10
Friday, Nov 12	1 Samuel 2:1-10	• ,	Nehemiah 9:26-31
• .	1 Samuel 2:18-21		Luke 21:20-24
	Colossians 2:6-15	Sunday, Nov 28	Jeremiah 33:14-16
Saturday, Nov 13	1 Samuel 2:1-10	• .	1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
-	1 Samuel 3:1-18		Luke 21:25-36
	Mark 12:1-12	Monday, Nov 29	Psalm 90
Sunday, Nov 14	Daniel 12:1-3		Numbers 17:1-11
-	Hebrews 10:11-14 [15-18] 19-25		2 Peter 3:1-18
	Mark 13:1-8	Tuesday, Nov 30	Psalm 90
Monday, Nov 15	Psalm 3		2 Samuel 7:18-29
	1 Samuel 3:19-4:2		Revelation 22:12-16
	Hebrews 10:26-31		
Tuesday, Nov 16	Psalm 3		

Deuteronomy 26:5-10



A congregation of the ELCA, worshipping inside the Anamosa State Prison.

406 N. High Street, Anamosa, Iowa 52205 360-480-4997 • www.freeindeedanamosa.org The Rev. Dirk Stadtlander, Pastor

Bethany Lutheran Church PO Box 236 235 South 2nd Street West Branch, Iowa 52358

September 24, 2021

Dear Pastor Whaley and Members of Bethany:

It is with deep appreciation and gratitude that I write to thank you once again for your abundant generosity in supporting the ministry of Free Indeed. Your regular giving including your most recents gifts of \$440 and \$210, truly are gifts of faith, hope and love for our ministry together, with Pastor Stadtlander at Free Indeed. Through this ministry we are able to reach out to both the staff and the men who are incarcerated at the Anamosa State Prison.

Your partnership is especially important at this time because of all the additional restrictions due to Covid and the death of staff members, Lorena Schulte and Robert McFarland. Pastor Stadtlander reaches out in support to both staff and the men residing in the prison. It is not only the staff that have been impacted by the Covid virus and the deaths, but also the men who are incarcerated, some of whom have had Covid and some who tried to help prevent the deaths. The number of worship services, group Bible studies and family visits have been restricted so Pastor Stadtlander has been more intentional about 1:1 visits with the men and staff. Now more than ever his presence and words of faith gives hope and peace to these people.

In the midst of your own outreach ministry, including a 'Free Spaghetti Dinner' for your community and your own prayer ministry, we are deeply appreciative of the commitment that you have made to Free Indeed. We are especially grateful for Pastor Whaley's participation on our Outside Council. His leadership and vision of restorative justice for all God's people is an inspiration to all.

Respectfully Yours,

Kathryn Franzenburg,

Member of the Outside Council for Free Indeed

Kathryn D. Franzenburg

November 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 12:00 PM Monday Gospel Gathering (via Zoom Meeting)	2	3 6:30 PM Faith formation (Confirmation) 6:30 PM Faith formation 4th - 6th grade	6:00 AM Women's Study	5	6
7 9:30 AM Worship (Online via Facebook) Change clocks back.	8 12:00 PM Monday Gospel Gathering (via Zoom Meeting) 6:30 PM Council Meeting	9	10 6:30 PM Faith formation (Confirmation) 6:30 PM Faith formation 4th - 6th grade	11 6:00 AM Women's Study	12	13
9:30 AM Worship (Online via Facebook)	15 12:00 PM Monday Gospel Gathering (via Zoom Meeting)	16	17 6:30 PM Faith formation (Confirmation) 6:30 PM Faith formation 4th - 6th grade	18 6:00 AM Women's Study	19	20
9:30 AM Worship (Online via Facebook)	22 12:00 PM Monday Gospel Gathering (via Zoom Meeting)	23	24	25 Thanksgiving	26	27
28 9:30 AM Worship (Online via Face- book)	29 12:00 PM Monday Gospel Gathering (via Zoom Meeting)	30	1 6:30 PM Faith formation (Confirmation) 6:30 PM Faith formation 4th - 6th grade	2 6:00 AM Women's Study	3	4



Monetary Gifts Report

Submitted by Jill Taylor

	September 2021		YTD		
Total	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	
Receipts	10,454	13,495	118,726	121,465	
Total	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	
Expenses	13,484	13,840	118,673	124,727	

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, lowa 52358 www.wbbethany.org

Ministers of Proclamation (Lectors)

11-7 Tonya Samuelson

11-14 Patsy Ernst

11-21 Jill Barnhart

11-28 Toni Dodds

Ministers of Technology

11-7 Paula C.

11-14 Cole C. & Tate F.

11-21 Alex P. & Chloe K.

11-28 Paula C.

Ministers of Christ's Light (Acolytes)

Opportunities available. Sign Up:

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0B48AFAD2CAAFD0-minister1

Ministers of Altar Care Kent and Beth Kaufman



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

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