# Bethany Lutheran Church

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





#### **Important Dates**

4/03 Preschool-Grade 3 Sunday School 8:45-9:20 AM 4/06 Lent Fellowship/Prayer around the Cross 7:00 PM 4/10 Preschool-Grade 3 Sunday School 8:45-9:20 AM Palm Sunday Service 9:30 AM 4/11 Council Meeting 6:30 PM 4/14 Maundy Thursday Worship 7:00 PM 4/15 Good Friday Worship 7:00 PM

4/17 Easter Worship 9:30 AM 4/24 Preschool-Grade 3 Sunday School 8:45-9:20 AM

4/24 Forth Sunday meal 5-6:00 PM

## **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 AM

#### FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

Simply search "Bethany Lutheran Church (ELCA) West Branch, Iowa" on Facebook and "Like" our page!

# Now during those days Jesus went out to the mountain to pray; and he spent the night in prayer to God. Luke 6:12



Dear beloved, faithful, and wonderful servants of Christ,

Lent is a journey. Faith is a journey. Life is a journey. Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ's mode of transportation was walking and a lot of it. A quick internet search reveals several results estimating Jesus may have

walked over 3,000 miles during his 3-year ministry based on accounts of his travels as documented in the four gospels and potentially over 20,000 miles during his lifetime. We are told many times Jesus went off to pray, sometimes up a mountain. Having returned from a week in the mountains of North Carolina that included several miles of hiking, I imagine Jesus traversing similar narrow, winding, solitary, quiet trails as he sought to replenish his body: mentally, spiritually, emotionally, and physically.



Over the years, I have learned just how therapeutic and healing a hike can be, even a short one, for the mind, body, and soul. While reflecting on a recent hike, the idea of some form of hiking ministry surfaced in my mind. What might that look like? Who might be interested? I cannot help but think it was the Holy Spirit that breathed within me this idea.

While we may not have the mountains of Colorado, the waterfalls of North Carolina, the forests of Appalachia, or the glaciers of Montana, there are some trails nearby that showcase the beauty of Iowa. Jesus did ministry on his hikes. He ate with the multitudes. He revealed the kingdom of God. He healed, taught, and experienced the abundance of God's creation. He prayed.

## THE WHOLENESS WHEEL



When I look at *The Wholeness Wheel* from Portico Benefit Services (A ministry of the ELCA) I envision a hiking ministry attune to the stewardship of so many of the items listed. I realize this ministry may not be for everyone. But one does not need to be an expert hiker to be part of this ministry. There are easy trails of short distances and longer trails of more moderate difficulty. We truly can make this what we want it to be.

As the weather warms and the trails dry out, I will be heading out on some trails and I invite you to join me. If interested in a hiking ministry, join me for a short hike through the prairie at the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum. We will gather at the

Shelter House in the park at 4:00 PM, Sunday May 1<sup>st</sup>. We will walk the trail together and then convene for a short devotion, prayer and discussion about the possibility of future hikes.

Living in God's grace!



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.

Links to websites are built into the digital version of this newsletter. Click on words highlighted in blue (e.g. wbbethany.org), images or scan QR codes with the camera on your cell phone.





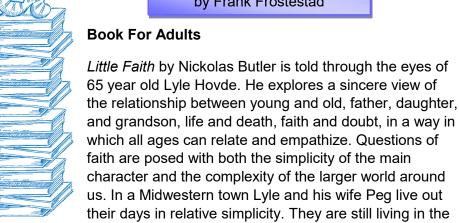
Let Us Light a Candle for You

On, April 6<sup>th</sup>, the last of our Wednesday evening Prayer Around the Cross worship services, we invite those unable to attend or not yet comfortable doing so in person to submit a prayer request, which will be prayed by an individual present as a candle is lit and placed in the cross along with all the others.

To submit a prayer request, please visit the Prayer Wall on our website by clicking here or going to the home page (www.wbbethany.org) and clicking the blue button on the right side that states "Prayer Request."

# **Bethany Books**

by Frank Frostestad



same town in which they were born, still attending the same church in which Lyle was baptized and married and in which he expects his funeral will take place. They are surrounded by the familiar. Lyle's previously estranged daughter has returned, along with her five year old son, Isaac to live with Lyle and Peg. She becomes involved with an extremist church and a charismatic pastor that causes disruption among the family and even threatens the safety of young Isaac. Spread over a year, amidst the dynamically changing Midwestern seasons, Little Faith, explores connection, community, family, and loss while posing deep, fundamental and thought provoking questions of faith and belief.

#### DVD

When we study a person or an event, it is usually helpful to understand the environment in which it took place. One of the last topics that the men's bible study class undertook pre-Covid was Jesus And His Jewish Influences. It is a part of The Great Courses program. This study consists of 24 episodes. This is led by Professor Jodi Magness of the University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill). In this course, Judaism was traced from its origins with the arrival of the Israelites in Canaan (c. 1200 B.C.) to the rise of Rabbinic Judaism (2nd-3rd centuries A.D). The greatest focus is on the latter time period. What did it mean to be a Jew in the late Second Temple period? Jesus was a product of the Judaism of this time. Episode 1 Jesus The Jew and Episode 24 Jesus's Teachings And Sayings In Context speak to this. There is also a course guidebook that sums up each lecture and has additional information. This is a good coverage of the topic but you need to have available time to cover a lot of information.



#### **Church Staff**

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Admin. Assistant - Paula Casper (319) 331-9456 blcsecretary@lcom.net

**Custodian** – Patsy Ernst

Pianist – Jill Barnhart

#### **Church Council**

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

Howard Moss-Building & Grounds (319)643-7190 hntmoss@lcom.net

Anne Fetzer-Evangelism & Missions/Secretary (319)333-8217 arfetzer77@gmail.com

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

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

Kent Kaufman-Stewardship/Vice president (319)643-5734 bkkaufman@lcom.net

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

Patsy Ernst-**Fellowship** (319)800-5647 sunshinegundy@gmail.com

Cindy Knoop-Worship & Music (319)643-5484 Cindy.knoop@gmail.com

Financial Secretary Claudia Beyer (319)643-2136

iabeyers@aol.com





### Synod-wide Worship, Sunday after Easter (April 24)

The Office of the Bishop will provide a worship service for the Sunday after Easter to allow pastors, deacons, ministry staff, and volunteers time to rest. Please join us on the Bethany Facebook page at 9:30 AM or in the Great Hall at 9:30 AM to gather in person with other brothers and sisters in Christ as we view it on the television.

### Congratulations!



On March 13th, Pastor Mark Holmes led worship at Bethany as Pastor Chad was on vacation. Pastor Holmes is the son of Dorothy Holmes. It was great to have him back with us. Pastor Holmes recently retired from many faithful years of ordained ministry.



#### **National Child Abuse Prevention Month**

According to the most recent Iowa Department of Human Services data, 10,539 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 2021, our Early Childhood programs provided more than 11,000 of these in-home 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 Residential Treatment Center serves many children and youth who have experienced trauma from past abuse or neglect.

#### **Creating Bright Futures**

When Makenzey found out she was pregnant, she felt nervous and overwhelmed at the thought of being a first-time mom. She didn't know what to expect, but she wanted to create the best life for her child. While she was pregnant, Makenzey enrolled in a local service that provides free housing to expecting moms. Through the organization, she learned about LSI Early Childhood Services. With support and guidance from her LSI Parent Educator, Hannah, Makenzey prepared for a healthy birth and transition into motherhood. "Being a new mom was really scary for me. I had no idea what I was doing," Makenzey says. "I needed to learn the basics."

Since Makenzey welcomed her daughter, Maleigha, she has since found a job she loves and saved enough money to find a home for her new family. Through it all, Hannah provided check-ins with Makenzey, introducing her to important resources, educational materials, and age-appropriate toys and activities to ensure Maleigha hit all her developmental milestones.

"Especially when you're a first-time mom, you'll have a lot of questions. I don't have a ton of support right now, but Hannah helped me and answered every question I had about being a mom," Makenzey says. "LSI has been a really helpful service."

Below is the "Five Finger Prayer." It's easy to remember and a way to invite a child, grandchild or an adult for that matter into the spiritual discipline of prayer.





Ref.: https://www.prayerandpossibilities.com/5-finger-prayer/

### **Notes of Thank You**

Dear Bethany Family,

The Holmes family thanks you for all the wonderful greetings for mom on her goth birthday <u>AND</u> for coming to the house and singing to her! She appreciated it so much!

Chris & Sandi Caskey

To the congregation of Bethany Lutheran Church:

Thank you so much for your generous donation to Lutheran Campus Ministry! We really appreciate it. We have had a wonderful semester so far. A highlight of this month was finishing our winter service project, and we are looking forward to a retreat at Wartburg Seminary in April. Our ministry has grown a lot recently, and our programing would not be possible without you. We are so grateful for your support.

God's Peace, Michael Kradington





God love/ you!!!

Thank you Bonnie Conner for the donation of several new banners and the paschal candle that will assist us in our worship and glorification of God for many years to come.





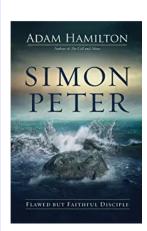


#### What is the Paschal Candle?

"The paschal candle (sometimes called the Easter candle) is a large decorated candle that symbolizes our Lord's glorious Easter triumph over the darkness of death and sin. It is reminiscent of the pillar of cloud and fire that led the people of God to the promised land. Paschal candles have been used in worship since at least the fifth century." - Altar Guild and Sacristy Handbook; S. Anita Stauffer; Augsburg Fortress, 2000.

The pascal candle is lighted throughout the season of Easter and for every baptism and funeral.

# **Book Study Opportunity**



Our gospel reading for Easter this year is from <u>Luke 24:1-12</u>. Following the encounter of the women with angelic figures at the empty tomb of our Lord and the announcement that he had risen, the women go and tell Jesus' disciples about this good news. In verse 12 we learn, upon hearing this news, Peter got up and ran to the tomb, amazed at what had happened.

Join Pastor Chad in taking a closer look at Peter as we read and study the book *Simon Peter Flawed* and Faithful Disciple by Adam Hamilton (Abingdon Press).

This excerpt is taken from the book, "He was not rich or educated, but was familiar with hard work. He was quick-tempered and impetuous, but possessed a passion that would change the world. He left everything to follow his teacher, yet struggled with doubt and fear."

If you are interested in participating in this study, please contact Pastor Chad and we will attempt to find the best time to gather for this six-week study.



### **Created! Designed! Empowered!**

Join us for Bethany Lutheran's 3-day Vacation Bible School evening program this summer: July 10-12<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 PM. All Preschool-Grade 5 children are welcome!

Our key verse for the week is Ephesians 2:10: "For we are His creation, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time so that we should walk in them."

Let's spark imagination and kick creativity into high gear this summer with VBS! Be on the lookout for volunteer opportunities and student registration coming in the next month!











## **Family Prayer Night at Bethany!**

Wednesday, April 27: 6:00 - 7:30 PM

Please join us for a fun family evening filled with different activities centered around prayer. We will have different activity stations to visit, along with yummy treats to enjoy! Some examples of our prayer activities include playdough prayers, prayer art murals, string prayers, and more! We've designed our stations for Preschool-Grade 8 kids. This is an open house event- you may come/leave when it works best for your family. We hope to see you there!

Questions? Contact Kristin McElhinney or Amber Marsh.





8:45-9:20 AM April 3, 10 & 24

Worship at 9:30 AM

#### **Bethany Lutheran Church Council Minutes**

February 14, 2022

The meeting was called to order by President Dave Poppen at 6:35 p.m.

**Members present:** Patricia Ernst, Anne Fetzer, Kent Kaufman, Amber Marsh, Kristin McElhinney, Howard Moss, Dave Poppen, Jill Taylor, Pastor Chad Whaley

Members absent: Cindy Knoop

#### Pastor's Report - Pastor Chad Whaley

Highlights from this month's Pastor's report include: Joys and Thanksgivings include gratitude to outgoing council members for their faithful service and our newest council members Kent, Howard, and Cindy. We celebrate our children in worship and the joy, energy, and life they bring to our community, along with the continued generosity and faithful stewardship of God's people in meeting our ministry needs.

Ministry activities this past month included the funeral of Jim Peak, pre-marital counseling for an upcoming July wedding, Confirmation planning and collaboration with Amber, visited the Children Faith Formation class, attended five extracurricular school activities of Bethany youth, 12 pastoral visits, and made several phone calls to parishioners.

As treasurer for WBARC, I write thank-you notes on behalf of the group as WBARC was blessed with some wonderful gifts. The WBARC committee continues to explore ideas and ways in which we can steward the financial gifts we have received in meeting needs within our community.

Participated in the Monday Gospel Gathering Bible Study and Southeastern Iowa Synod Nominating Committee. Asked by School Superintendent to serve on a recently formed Anti-Bullying Committee to evaluate and brainstorm solutions to increased bullying within our schools

Continued time spent on improving technology needs for the church. This includes updating three laptops/ PC, researching ways to resolve issues on Paula's PC as well as looking into other options for streaming worship. Updated church website, Facebook, and Twitter pages.

Reading Flourishing in Ministry How to Cultivate Clergy Wellbeing and Our Mission Discovering God's Call to

Us. Also looking at recently released resource shared by the Office of the Bishop called *Thriving Beyond COVID: Let Go, Trust God, Rise Up!* 

Tuesday morning prayers with Paula and others who may attend with special focus on being more attentive to praying for discernment, our people, and God's presence and activity in our community of faith. Gave prayer kits (small prayer cross, booklet of prayers and Bible readings, and a card of encouragement) to two people hospitalized. I was unable to be present in person due to precautionary measures.

Sent several cards on behalf of the people of Bethany extending our care and presence.

Brainstorming ideas for a council retreat.

Other daily and weekly tasks consisted of worship bulletins and newsletter preparation, Sermon reading, prayerful study, and worship preparation.

Upcoming worship events - Ash Wednesday on March 2 at Bethany at 7:00 PM, and Lent Worship/Fellowship activity planning is in discussion.

#### Secretary's Report – Anne Fetzer

Kent moved to approve the amended January minutes, seconded by Howard. Motion approved.

#### Treasurer's Report – Jill Taylor

Anne moved to approve the report, seconded by Amber. Motion approved.

#### **Committee Reports**

#### **Building & Grounds – Howard Moss**

Howard did an initial building assessment to address needed repairs. A list was sent to the council for reference. Howard will continue to review and bring it forth to the council as he gets through each project.

The furnace room was cleaned out. Howard is investigating why furnace filters are plugging with soot, this includes looking at the ductwork. Howard is guessing the soot might be a fire-related issue from 1985.

# Education & Youth – Kristin McElhinney & Amber Marsh

Youth Bibles ordered.

(Continued on page 8)

#### **Council Minutes Continued**

(Continued from page 7)

Continued Sunday School activities.

The youth made a blanket to donate to a bed recipient.

#### **Evangelism – Anne Fetzer**

No report.

#### Fellowship – Patsy Ernst

Patsy is reviewing fellowship duties and needs for the congregation. This includes plans for restarting the Fourth Sunday community meals soon.

#### Stewardship - Kent Kaufman

Dave exchanged information with Kent to start on Stewardship activities.

#### Worship & Music - Cindy Knoop

Committee working with Pastor on Lent planning.

#### **Old Business**

None

#### **New Business**

Set Rental Value of the Parsonage

2021 value = \$11,800/year

Kent moved the rental value remain at 11,800 per year. Howard seconded. Motion approved. Discuss a change of date for the March meeting Amber moved to change the next meeting to March 7 at 6:30 p.m. due to spring break on March 14. Kent seconded. Motion approved. Need to select two new delegates (one male and one female) for the synod meeting as the elected members now have a conflict

Anne moved we select Dave Bahnsen and Nancy Bruns as Synod delegates with Patsy Ernst designated an alternate, Kristin seconded. Motion approved.

Meeting scheduled for May 20-21 in Coralville. Jill moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 p.m. Howard seconded. Motion approved.

The council closed the meeting 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.



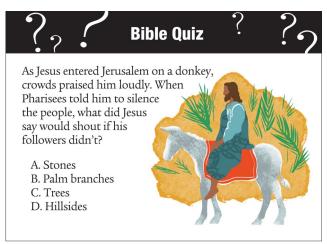
- "Our Father in heaven,"
  - · For me, the Lord's prayer...
  - · God, as our Father or as a parent,...
  - When I pray...





"Hallowed be your name."

- The names I was raised to use for God...
- The names I now call God...
- I would like God to call me...



Answer: A (See Luke 19:40.)

# 4th Sunday Community Dinner

# Free Dinner and Fellowship Sunday April 24th

Please Join us for a cup of coffee and a free dinner. This is a great time to visit with people you know and to meet new people in our community.

Dinner will be served from 5:00-6:00 PM

**Bethany Lutheran Church** 



#### Why does worship pause some times on Facebook?

On occasion, those viewing online may experience momentary delays as we stream worship. This is frustrating for all of us. From our end, we have made certain the wireless routers have the most current firmware, verified we are using the most updated version of our internet browser (i.e., Chrome, Microsoft Edge), and weekly check for any updates to the laptop used in streaming worship. We continually test and do our best to stay current on technological advancements.

Additionally, there are things those joining at home may want to check as well. They include:

- Check to make sure your wireless router has the most current firmware installed
- Check to see if there are any updates to your phone, tablet or computer
- Try clearing your browser's cache/history (IOS devices automatically do this)
- Disable any unnecessary plug-ins on your web browser
- Make certain your web browser is up to date
- Try using a different internet browser
- Check video and network drivers on your computer for any updates
- Run a test to check your internet download bandwidth using a tool such as: speedtest.net
  - At a minimum a download speed of 5 Mbps is recommended, 10 Mbps is ideal
- Log out and back in to Facebook
- Check to see if there are any updates to the Facebook app
- Remove the Facebook app and reinstall it
- Reboot your wireless router
- Reboot your phone, tablet or computer
- Check the available memory space on the device you are using as insufficient memory can create problems

#### Sources Consulted

https://www.fonepaw.com/facebook/facebook-not-responding.html https://manycam.com/blog/best-live-streaming-settings/ https://recoverit.wondershare.com/video-repair/fix-facebook-video-freeze.html

Bethany is part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Within the ELCA are units of ministry partnerships called a "synod." There are 65 synods. Bethany is part of the Southeastern Iowa Synod consisting of over 100 congregations. The Office of the Bishop is located in Iowa City and Amy Current is our Bishop. Click on the logo to the right to be taken to the website of our synod. Also, follow them on Facebook or Twitter.



# **April 2022**

View Calendar on our website.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 8:45 AM Sunday School Preschool - Grade 3 9:30 AM Worship in person and Online via Facebook	4 12:00 PM Monday Gospel Gathering (via Zoom Meeting)	5	7:00 PM Lent Service in the Great Hall	7 6:00 AM Women's Study	8	9
10 Palm Sunday 8:45 AM Sunday School Preschool- 3rd grade 9:30 AM Worship in person and Online via Facebook	11 12:00 PM Monday Gospel Gathering (via Zoom Meeting) 6:30 PM Council Meeting	12		14 6:00 AM Women's Study 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service	7:00 PM Good Friday Service	16
17 Easter Service 9:30 AM Worship in person and Online via Facebook	18 12:00 PM Monday Gospel Gathering (via Zoom Meeting)	19	20 6:30 PM Faith for- mation (Confirmation) 6:30 PM Faith for- mation 4th - 6th grade	21 6:00 AM Women's Study	22	23
24 8:45 AM Sunday School Preschool- 3rd grade 9:30 AM Synod-wide Worship with the Bishop—Will be available on our Face- book page and viewed in person in the Fellowship Hall.	25 12:00 PM Monday Gospel Gathering (via Zoom Meeting)	26	27 6:00 PM Family Prayer Night 6:30 PM Faith formation (Confirmation) 6:30 PM Faith formation 4th - 6th grade	28 6:00 AM Women's Study	29	30



# **Monetary Gifts Report**

Submitted by Jill Taylor

位	Februa	ry 2022	YTD		
Total Receipts	Actual 11,326	Budget 13,838	Actual 32,461	Budget 27,676	
Total Expenses	Actual 12,998	Budget 14,180	Actual 28,114	Budget 28,360	

**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.

# SSOS lingA Bethany Branches

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

# Ministers of Proclamation (Lectors)

- 4-3 Tonya Samuelson
- 4-10 Jill Barnhart
- 4-17 Patsy Ernst
- 4-24 Toni Dodds

## Ministers of Technology

- 4-3 Chloe Klabo
- 4-10 Paula Casper
- 4-17 Paula Casper
- 4-24 Miley Shields

# Ministers of Christ's Light (Acolytes)

4-3 Aizlyn Marsh & Ark Marsh

Opportunities available. Sign Up: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/nhkyxwjs">https://tinyurl.com/nhkyxwjs</a>

Ministers of Altar Care: Del & Sue Hughes



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

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