

Bethany Lutheran Church

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



Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus.—Luke 5:18 (NIV)

Important Dates

3/1, 3/8, 3/22 and 3/29 (not 3-15)
6:15 PM Lent meal and Fellowship
7:00 PM Prayer Around the Cross
3/6 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 @blewestbranch

Links to websites are built into the
digital version of this newsletter.
Click on words highlighted in blue
(e.g. wbbethany.org) or images



Dear Beloved Saints!

Grace and peace to you from God our Father, and from
our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

The above verse is taken from the account of Jesus' healing of a paralyzed man. This story is found in Matthew, Mark, and Luke. John, too, has a similar account but there is no mention of others helping bring the paralytic to Jesus. This story is yet another epiphany of who Jesus is. It reveals his power to heal and restore an individual to his rightful place in the community.

Yet, the verse above reveals something else about communal and kingdom living. Four others carried this man to Jesus, which makes me ponder the question, "How do we carry one another when something happens?"

I know you already do that in a variety of ways. You pray. You send a card, text message, call or visit. Thank you faithful people of God! Yet, what I have been considering is how do we do this as the body of Christ, collectively? The Angel Meals program is a wonderful example. Another way is to list your prayers on the community prayer wall of our website (click [here](#)). You also can click the "I Prayed For This" button on the homepage.

I PRAYED FOR THIS

A small team prays regularly for these prayer requests.

If you would like to be part of this prayer team, please let me know. You may also join Paula and I most Tuesday mornings at 9:00 AM as we pray for these requests and others.

Still, I wonder if there is something more. Call it a "Care Team" or "Holy Helpers" or "The Compassion Corp" or "The Mat Pack". Whatever the name, I envision a group assisting our walk with one another. A group working to "carry the mat" in a time of need.

If you are interested in being part of such a team and spending time in prayer, discussion, discernment and dreaming about the possibility of such a group, let me know.

Living each day in the abundant grace and love of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Pastor Chad



Birthdays

March 01 - Ellie Holstad
 March 06 - Travis Kaufman
 March 08 - Cheryl Boerjan
 March 09 - Alan Beyer, Abbey Fryauf
 March 11 - Johnathan Holstad,
 Mike Fryauf
 March 13 - Dylan Schiele, Miranda Dlh
 March 15 - Kris Sweat
 March 16 - Marisa Terry
 March 19 - Sienna McElhinney
 March 20 - Kevin Olson
 March 21 - Mark Anderson
 March 22 - Brett Schiele
 March 25 - Bradley Arp
 March 25 - Terry Moss
 March 28 - Ellen Gunderson
 March 29 - Toni Dodds



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



Bethany Books

Free Books

We are running out of space to put new books in the church library. Rather than add additional shelving we are going to do some early spring cleaning. Some books will be removed (weeded) to make room for new ones. They will be put on the table in the hallway upright between two book ends. Feel free to take them to keep. Those books not adopted will be donated to a new home.

The book for this month is *Dusk Night Dawn: on revival and courage* by Anne Lamott. The author tries to show us how we can recapture the confidence we once had as we make our way through times that seem to be increasingly dark and bleak. The author shows us the individual ways that we can adapt to move through life's dark places and toward the light of hope that is within each of us. She explores the difficult issues of life and faith by breaking them down into manageable, human-sized questions for readers to think about. She shows how we can amplify life's small moments of joy by staying open to love and connection.



We invite you to submit any photos taken at a Bethany event. Please submit them to Paula.

blcsecretary@lcom.net

A recap of the photos collected showing our [life together](#) in Christ during 2022 was shown at the Annual Meeting, and we would like to do that again.



Don't forget Daylight Savings time!
 Set your clocks forward
 March 12th!



God loves you!!!



**Evangelical Lutheran
 Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



Church Staff

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Custodian—Pat Cassabaum

Pianist—Jill Barnhart

Church Council

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Claudia Beyer—**Financial Secretary**
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<p>March 1 Dinner @ 6:15 PM Prayer Around the Cross Worship @ 7:00 PM <i>Prayer for the healing of creation</i></p>	<p>March 8 Dinner @ 6:15 PM Prayer Around the Cross Worship @ 7:00 PM <i>Prayer for the healing of creation</i></p>
<p>March 22 Dinner @ 6:15 PM Prayer Around the Cross Worship @ 7:00 PM <i>Prayer for the healing of creation</i></p>	<p>March 29 Dinner @ 6:15 PM Prayer Around the Cross Worship @ 7:00 PM <i>Beside Still Waters A prayer of healing</i></p>

We invite everyone to join us!

There will be no activities May 15

Mark Your Calendar



*Easter
Worship*

**April 9
9:30 AM**

Also streamed live via
Facebook

Alleluia! He is risen!



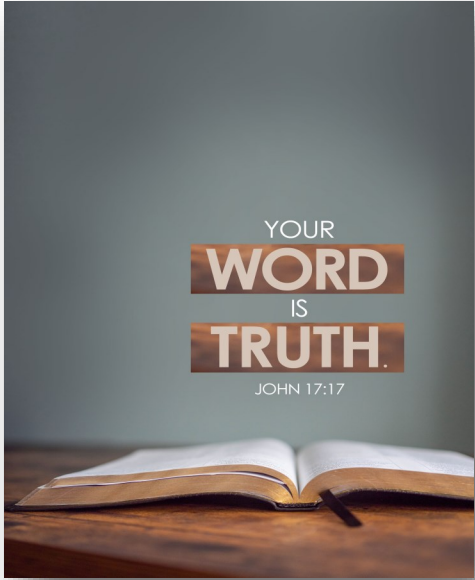
Words of Lent

N S P A L C O D I S C I P L I N E	Crucify
Y M G J N A A E Q X E X H S B K X	Hosanna
H Z I W R N S W S A C R A M E N T	Meal
A G O D T E A H Z G R H O K A N P	Wash
R I H F P K Y S E B E C N N S U U	Towel
G N I T S A F A O S P M E A L T C	Crown
M E X W W W Q T R H E C I O N R V	Sacrament
R X O H D A H Z P P N M T E T O B	Word
F R G D T T O I J S T W Y M Q O M	Discipline
D L Z L O G F O R G I V E N E S S	Prayer
X S O W R C P T F U C R O S S J I	Forgiveness
R Z E S H R A P R E F N A L N H T	Holy
L L V Y J U L J L V W W Q J B O P	Fasting
M S M A I C M H Y N H O V G N L A	Baptism
W U N P H I S N P S R R Z W O Y B	Repent
O J D P M F G Y A J I C B A P B G	Cross
V G V J N Y C W I C U E E Z C I N	Palms
	Ashes





Adult Faith Formation Opportunities





2023 Council Installation



Easter Lily orders

The cost of the lilies is projected to be between \$10-\$12. We are asking for a \$10 minimum donation per plant; however, if you wish to donate more to offset any price increases, that would be appreciated.

EASTER GARDEN TRADITION

Every Easter we are greeted with the beauty and sweet fragrance of lilies adorning our sanctuary. If you would like to contribute to this display, please fill out the information below and return this slip to Paula by Thursday, March 23rd. If returning by mail, use this address.

Bethany Lutheran
P.O. Box 236
West Branch, IA 52358

Dedications will be listed in the bulletin on Easter morning.

YOUR NAME:

_____ I would like Bethany to purchase an Easter lily for me.

Please print your dedication as you wish it to appear in the bulletin. Please indicate if this is "In honor of" or "In memory of" and list those names below:

Save the Date

VBS

July 18-21

More information to come

Palm Sunday Children's

Palm Parade

April 2nd during 9:30 AM Worship

Children's Ministry News

sunday school with Bethany Lutheran Church

Preschool - Grade 3

March 5, 19, 26

8:30 - 9:15 AM

WORSHIP AT 9:30 AM

Skittles Prayers

- Pray for someone you love
- Pray for your friends and class
- Praise God! Tell Him THANK YOU!
- Pray for one good thing in your life
- Pray for your parents and teachers



March Sunday Bible Readings

The passages below are the assigned readings for March. You can click on each reading and be taken to the passage on "[Bible Gateway](#)." May this be one more way we can hear and study the word of God.

Lent 2 March 5, 2023

Genesis 12:1-4a
Psalm 121
Romans 4:1-5,13-17
John 3:1-17

Lent 3 March 12, 2023

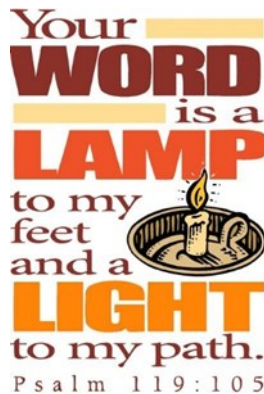
Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 95
Romans 5:1-11
John 4:5-42

Lent 4 March 19, 2023

1 Samuel 16:1-13
Psalm 23
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-4

Lent 5 March 26, 2023

Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 130
Romans 8:6-11
John 11:1-45



READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

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 5:16

"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...

Lamentations 3:22-23

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

- Experiencing steady and ceaseless love...
- Never ending mercy, God's constant forgiveness, is even for...
- God is faithful to me, so I will be faithful to God by...

Council Minutes — January 2023

We opened with a prayer then the meeting was called to order by President Dave Poppen at 6:34 p.m.

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

Members Absent: Cindy Knoop, Anne Fetzer

Others Present: Dave Bahnsen

Dave Bahnsen spoke about information put forth from the ELCA published “A Declaration of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to American Indian and Alaska Native people” in which the church confesses its sins toward Indigenous peoples. Suggested actions for Land Acknowledgement were presented. Dave had handouts and maps. There was start of discussion on how to proceed. Dave offered to form a committee and make recommendations to Council on further actions.

Pastor’s Report – Pastor Chad Whaley

Joys and Thanksgivings

Thankful for our council and especially grateful for those ending their terms and their faithful service these past three years: Kristin, Amber, and Anne.

Christmas Eve — while it didn’t go quite as planned as we had to cancel the 7 PM service, the 5 PM service had wonderful attendance and it was a fabulous evening of worship and celebration of our Lord’s birth. There were also 300 views on Facebook.

Wednesday Faith Formation — We had a blast with some winter games and fellowship our final class of 2022. If you missed it, there is a video I put together on our Facebook page.

Ministry Happenings:

- 11 pastoral visits
- WBARC Meeting
- Men’s Bible Study
- Women’s Circle
- Conference Pastor Meeting in Muscatine
- Wednesday Faith Formation
- Newsletter
- Bulletins

Worship and Sermon Preparation

- Attend youth wrestling and high school events
- Assist Officer Steen on a couple community needs

Upcoming

- Meet with Wartburg Seminary student I am mentoring
- Baptism of Hazel Perkins, daughter of Sam and Kelsi Perkins this Sunday, January 15

Annual Meeting, January 22

Ash Wednesday, February 22

Lutheran Day on the Hill, March 14

ELCA Rostered Leader Gathering, July 17-20

Looking into attending in Phoenix, AZ and around the time I normally take vacation

Secretary’s Report

Noted to make amendments : strike Korsmos and enter volunteers, under old business #1a strike Synod and under Audit committee strike Paul. Howard moved to approve the amended December minutes, seconded by Kristin. Motion approved.

Treasurer’s Report – Jill Taylor

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

Committee Reports

Building & Grounds – Howard Moss

Received a letter from the City of WB that they needed to inspect the Church’s water meter for a suspected malfunction. Howard to meet with the City. The broken refrigerator has been picked up by Alliant. Del Hughes is working on the plaster in the stairway and also working on the entry door.

Education & Youth – Kristin McElhinney & Amber Marsh

Sunday school will be starting back up in a couple of weeks after taking a break over the Holidays.

Evangelism & Missions – Anne Fetzer

No report.

Fellowship – Patsy Ernst

Sign up for coffee after service has been good but feels that we need to get new people to sign up. There was not a 4th Sunday meal in December but the January 22nd meal will be Chicken noodle soup, vegetarian Chili, and salads

Stewardship – Kent Kaufman

Working on getting the responses to the time and talent sheets printed out for the committees. Jill mentioned adding donation buttons on the web page throughout the year as needed for special events.

Worship & Music – Cindy Knoop

None as Cindy was away enjoying being a new Grandma.

(Continued on page 8)

January Council Minutes Continued

Old Business

New council members will be needed to fill the positions being vacated in Education & Youth, Evangelism & Missions, and Fellowship. The committee continues to finalize candidates but no information is available.

Synod Assembly nominations

Generally, we ask the congregation during the annual meeting to confirm nominees. The Synod Assembly meeting will be online this year and probably on a Monday & Tuesday night. No commitments yet but still asking people.

New Business

Hermann Boedeker memorial. Bethany received a \$5,000 donation from the family and a \$50 memorial. Jill moved to put the money into the Mission Investment Fund until a specific designated use is identified, seconded by Kristin. Motion Approved.

Howard mentioned possible uses be parsonage screen door improvement or updating lights to LED.

Jill noted that the rental value of the parsonage needs to be set at the beginning of the year. Jill made a motion that the Fair market value be set at \$11,800, and Howard seconded. Motion approved.

Dave thanked council for their service this past year and made special note of outgoing members Kristin, Amber, Patsy, and Anne. Outstanding job!! Special Thanksgiving service for outgoing members concluded meeting.

Kent moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m., and Jill seconded. Motion approved.

Next Regular Meeting – 02/13/2023

Minutes Submitted by impromptu secretary Kent Kaufman

**Council Minutes following Annual Meeting
(January 22, 2023)**

Members present: Anne Fetzer (*outgoing Secretary*), Courtney Heid, Sue Hughes, Kent Kaufman, Howard Moss, Dave Poppen, Jill Taylor, Jon Twing, Kristen Van Scoyoc, and Pastor Chad Whaley

Members absent: Cindy Knoop

Pastor Chad opened the meeting with a word of thanks to the incoming council members.

The council discussed officers and committee appointments for 2023.

Executive Positions

Howard Moss moved to make no changes to roles filled by Dave Poppen as President, Kent Kaufman as Vice President, or Jill Taylor as Treasurer. Courtney Heid seconded. Motion approved.

Secretary

Howard Moss moved to appoint Courtney Heid as Secretary. Seconded by Sue Hughes. Motion approved.

Committee Positions

Building and Grounds - Howard Moss

Education & Youth – Courtney Heid (Youth) & Kristen VanScoyoc (Education)

Evangelism & Missions – Jon Twing

Fellowship – Sue Hughes

Stewardship – Kent Kaufman

Worship & Music – Cindy Knoop

The council agreed to committee appointments, and it was unanimously approved.


The next council meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 13 at 6:30 in the Great Hall.

Jon Twing moved to adjourn the special meeting at 11:10 a.m. Kent Kaufman seconded. Motion approved.

Bible Quiz

According to Matthew, who was present at Jesus' baptism? (Choose as many as apply.)

- A. John the Baptist
- B. The Spirit of God
- C. Jesus' mother, Mary
- D. His first disciples



Answer: A and B (See Matthew 3:13-17.)

BIBLE




QUIZ

Bible Quiz

Fill in the blanks for three qualities Paul, in 1 Corinthians 13, attributes to love: "Love is _____; love is _____ ... it keeps no record of _____."

- A. challenging, important, the past
- B. childlike, innocent, injustice
- C. self-sacrificing, generous, finances
- D. patient, kind, wrongs



Answer: D (See 1 Corinthians 13:4-5, NIV.)

March 2023

View Calendar on our [website](#).

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	1 7:00am Men's Study Group 6:15pm Choir Practice 6:15pm Lent Meal and Fellowship 7:00pm Lent Prayer Around the Cross Worship	2 6:00am Women's Study	3	4
5 8:30-9:15am Sunday School 9:30am Worship in person and Online via Facebook	6 6:30pm Council Meeting	7	8 7:00am Men's Study Group 9:00am Wednesday Women's Bible Study 6:15pm Choir Practice 6:15pm Lent Meal and Fellowship 7:00pm Lent Prayer Around	9 6:00am Women's Study	10	11
12 9:30am Worship in person and Online via Facebook 5:30pm Clover Kids	13	14	15 No Wednesday Lent Evening Activities (Spring Break) 7:00am Men's Study Group 6:15pm Choir Practice	16 6:00am Women's Study	17	18
19 8:30-9:15am Sunday School 9:30am Worship in person and Online via Facebook	20 7:00pm WB Study Club	21	22 7:00am Men's Study Group 6:15pm Choir Practice 6:15pm Lent Meal and Fellowship 7:00pm Lent Prayer Around the Cross Worship	23 6:00am Women's Study	24	25
26 8:30-9:15am Sunday School 9:30am Worship in person and Online via Facebook	27	28	29 7:00am Men's Study Group 6:15pm Choir Practice 6:15pm Lent Meal and Fellowship 7:00pm Lent Prayer Around the Cross Worship	30 6:00am Women's Study	31	1



Monetary Gifts Report
Submitted by Jill Taylor

	January 2023		YTD	
Total Gifts	Actual 12,313	Budget 14,334	Actual 12,313	Budget 14,334
Total Expenses	Actual 15,522	Budget 14,790	Actual 15,522	Budget 14,790
Net	(\$3,208)		(\$3,208)	

To give an offering visit our website wbbethany.org and click on the  button.

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.

Through him you
BELIEVE IN GOD,
who raised him
FROM THE DEAD
— and —
GLORIFIED HIM,
and so your
faith and hope
ARE IN GOD.



1 PETER 1:21, NIV



Find us on
Facebook

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

DON'T FORGET TO LIKE US!



Follow us on Twitter!
Our Twitter Handle is:
@blewestbranch

You Are Loved!

Ministry Assistants

Ministers of Proclamation (Lectors)

3/5 Dave Bahnsen
3/12 Deb Anderson
3/19 Bruce Jeffries
3/26 Beth Kaufman

Ministers of Technology

3/5 Alex Poppen
3/12 Paula Casper
3/19 Jill Taylor
3/26 Cole Crosthwaite & Tate
Frantz

Ministers of Christ's Light (Acolytes)

Opportunities available. Sign Up:

<https://tinyurl.com/nhkyxwjs>

Ministers of Altar Care Worship Committee

Bethany Branches
March 2023

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www.wbbethany.org