Bethany Lutheran Church

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



June/July

Important Dates

6/11 Outdoor Worship 9:30 AM 6/12 Council meeting 6:30 PM 6/25 4th Sunday meal 5-6:00 PM 7/9 Outdoor Worship 9:30 AM 7/18-7/21 Vacation Bible School 7/23 4th Sunday meal 5-6:00 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

From the Dear People of God,

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

As most of you may know there are annual assemblies held every year as each of the 65 synods of the Evangelical Lutheran in Church in America (ELCA) gather together. It's somewhat like our annual meeting but on a much larger scale. The Southeastern Iowa Synod, of which Bethany is part, held its assembly May 15th and 16th. I would like to thank our voting delegates, Dave Bahnsen and Laura Twing, for their participation and representation of our congregation at the assembly. I would like to add that Pastor Mark Holmes, recently retired and son of Dorothy Holmes, was acknowledged for the 35th anniversary of his ordination. Congratulations Pastor Holmes!

Additionally, the ELCA holds a churchwide assembly every three years. The most recent assembly was held this past August in Columbus, OH. Dave Bahnsen was appointed to serve as a voting member and representative of the Southeastern Iowa Synod and travelled to Columbus with Bishop Amy Current and many other voting delegates from across our synod.

Upon returning, Dave made the council aware of a memorial passed by the gathered assembly pertaining to the acknowledgement of the ELCA's "Declaration to American Indian and Alaska Native People." You are invited to read this document by clicking on the link embedded in the title above. Or visit www.elca.org and do a search of the document.

At its core, in the above-mentioned document and the memorial at the 2022 Churchwide Assembly the church confesses its sins toward Indigenous peoples. The memorial encourages ELCA members and entities to support creative programs of restorative justice in partnership with Indigenous peoples. It also encourages ELCA members and entities to make land acknowledgements a part of its gatherings, which has been done in other countries for some time.

As such, the council has approved the following land acknowledgement that will be read during outdoor worship on June 11th. It will then be printed in our worship bulletins.

Bethany Lutheran is located in the original and ancestral homelands of the lowa, Sauk, Fox, Kickapoo and Oceti Sakowin peoples, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

In peace,



June Birthdays

06/01 Sarah Fischer, Phil Hougen

06/02 Ethan Fetzer

06/06 Gavin Hierseman, Stacy Bever

06/07 Richard Madsen

06/11 Lee Cassabaum

06/13 Annika Olson, Lauren Whaley

06/15 Amanda Whaley

06/17 Jessica Harding

06/17 Curt Casper

06/18 Jennifer Leslie, Chad Whaley, William VanScoyoc

06/20 Lon Liebergen

06/22 Hazel Perkins

06/27 Eleanor White

6/30 Sue Hughes



July Birthdays

07/02 Diane Hougen, Leo Burnette

07/05 Kim Colvin

07/07 Tara Langley, Mason Sweat

07/08 Lynn Snyder

07/09 Tim Shields

07/10 Jerry Dodds

07/12 Dan Holstad

07/13 Peggy Jeffries, June Madsen

07/15 Claudia Beyer, Dale Swenson

07/16 Dan Haub

07/19 Roxanne Bahnsen

07/20 Matthew Paulsen, Kristin Black Casady

07/23 Kelsi Perkins, Emma Van Scoyoc

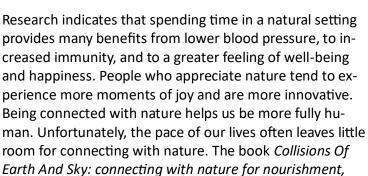
07/25 Patsy Ernst

07/30 Carol Roghair

07/31 Derek Fetzer

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

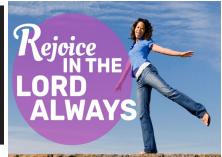
Bethany Books Books For Adults



reflection, and transformation by Heidi Barr is an invitation to live in a way that is attuned to nature. It is paying attention to what is going on inside ourselves. It is a journey of self-inquiry, for digging into our origins and roots and figuring out what it means to be a good community member. We need to integrate these truths and lessons so we can add to the healing of the world. Barr shows us a way to let nature be an ally in living well. This book is a collection of reflections, poetry, and invitations that call to celebrate what it is to embrace wildness and a part of being fully alive. I came across this book in the March/April 2023 issue of Living Lutheran. It has a two page article Rewilding Spirituality that is a modified excerpt from the book.

I think that most all of us are familiar with the song Amazing Grace. We often sing it during our church services as we did in Bethany on March 19th. It is also sung at special occasions, especially funerals. Our second book Amazing Grace by Bruce Hindmarsh and Craig Borlase is about the life of John Newton and the surprising story behind his song. John Newton was like the prodigal son who does everything wrong. His early life is not one to be envied. He partakes of every vice that crosses his path. He eventually becomes the captain of a slave ship. That is, a ship that transports people from the continent of Africa to be slaves in the New World. During this time he rejects God repeatedly. The lyrics to the song take on a new meaning through the lens of Newton's life. He was a man who truly understood wretchedness and the transformation from blindness to sight that we find in this song and his experiences. His change (or evolution) is a testament to the power of grace. We discover that the need for grace is universal and





Church Staff

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Custodian—Pat Cassabaum

Pianist—Jill Barnhart

Church Council

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

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Jill Taylor—**Treasurer** (319)430-8419 jtmetmrt@gmail.com

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

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



Synod Assembly Recap

By Dave Bahnsen

On May 15th and 16th, the Southeast Iowa Synod held its Synod Assembly.

Attending this meeting were Laura Twing, Dave Bahnsen, and Pastor Whaley.

There were no elections, resolutions, or amendments this year.

The regular business meeting of the Synod was presented and was approved with unanimous consent.

In addition to the assembly, a "Synod Revival" was held on the campus of Grandview University in Des Moines. It was a beautiful day at an excellent venue attended by between 300 and 400 people. Bishop Amy Current led music, entertainment, and fellowship. A great time was had by one and all.



Southeastern Iowa Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America God's work. Our hands.



Thank you to all who donate to the Hope Chest. Thank you to Neil and Chris Korsmo for their assistance in keeping the Hope Chest organized and welcoming to those who use it. Thanks also to Paula who, with Neil and Chris, also frequently sorts bags of donated clothing.

Hope Chest News

May is the time of transition from fall/winter to spring/ summer at the HOPE CHEST.

We are now accepting new or gently used SPRING/SUMMER clothing and athletic shoes for all ages.

We do not have the space to accept fall/winter clothing.

Also, we do not accept non-clothing items

(Pillows, sheets, blankets, clothes hangers of any kind, etc).
All these items may be donated to Goodwill, Salvation
Army, or The Crowded Closet in Iowa City.

Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) News

Happy Father's Day!

At LSI, we strive to empower and celebrate fathers and father figures in every stage of their life. This Father's Day, take some time to celebrate and show appreciation to all the male role models in your life. Through our Early Childhood Services, we provide fathers with the education and resources they need to become the best parents and caregivers they can be. In our Clinical Services Department, we support fathers and father figures by providing individuals with mental health counseling and the tools they need to create bright futures for their families.

Many lowa children entering foster care need a positive male role model in their lives. In our Foster Care and Adoption services, we support male individuals through the process of expanding their families, or becoming a new parent altogether.

We are able to provide these services to fathers of young children with the generous support from people like you! Thank you for responding to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service!

For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Senior Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.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.

Providing Support for First-Time Parents

Brandon and Nevaeh first heard about LSI's Early Childhood services at the hospital, following the birth of their first child. As many first-time parents, they were looking for support and guidance through this exciting time in their life.

"I'm really glad that we took the leap and chose to participate in LSI's Early Childhood program. This program has taken a lot of stress off of us by providing us with resources that walk us through the developmental process, and to know where our baby is at through each stage," said Brandon. Brandon and Nevaeh work with Erica, an LSI Family Support Worker in our Early Childhood department. "The home-visits with Erica have been extremely beneficial," expressed Brandon. "The resources and educational materials she provides us help us to understand the developmental milestones that we should be expecting at every stage of our child's life."

"Our baby is 10 months old now, and we are still learning a lot through LSI's Early Childhood program. Having support groups and people that you can reach out to with questions is essential," said Brandon. "To any first-time parents, I'd definitely recommend LSI's Early Childhood program."



https://www.elca.org/







This hike is a bit more strenuous. The trail is well marked and heavily trafficked, but there are still roots and rocky terrain to traverse at times. There are moderate elevation changes. Appropriate footwear is recommended. Also, plan to bring water. The trail is listed at 5 miles but as a group can collectively decide how far we want to go. To learn more about this trail visit: https://tinyurl.com/



Please join us in worship June 4th as we celebrate and give thanks to God for our new members. There will be cake, refreshments and fellowship following.



Coming Soon!

You are invited to participate in the Summer Scripture Series, which will include 40 cards with a well-known Bible passage on one side and 3 reflection questions and short prayer on the other. Be on the lookout for more information when the cards are available.



Thank you!

The above photo is of our old camera. The photo to the right is our new camera. The difference is amazing and will help enhance worship for our online viewers. Praise be to God! Thank you for your gifts to make this possible!



Assistance Needed Summer Food Program

This summer, the congregations of West Branch and Springdale have been asked to assist with the assembly and distribution of bags of food supplies for students in the West Branch Community School District. Currently, there are nearly 100 students signed up for the program. Every Monday, volunteers will gather to pack the bags and then distribute them at three locations in town. Each congregation is asked to provide 4-6 volunteers. Bethany will be assisting on June 19 and August 14 from 3:30—5:30 PM. Packaging of the food will be done at the old middle school. If you are interested and available please contact Pastor Chad as soon as possible.



This summer we're going wild for Jesus during our Wild Life Vacation Bible School at Bethany Lutheran Church!

Come join us for a four-day adventure this July 18-21 from 5:30- 8:00 pm each day (*dinner served at 5:30 pm*) and learn about how special you are to God!

All incoming Preschool through Grade 6 kids are invited.

Be on the lookout for

registration and volunteer information that will be coming soon to your email and our Facebook page.

Bethany's VBS Committee Courtney Heid, Kristen Van Scoyoc, Amber Marsh, Kristin McElhinney

Council Minutes — April 2023

Call to Order at 6:27pm by President Dave Poppen

Members Present: Cindy Knoop, Jon Twing, Jill Taylor, Dave Poppen, Sue Hughes, Howard Moss, Kristen Van Scoyoc, Courtney Heid, Kent Kaufman, Pastor Chad

Members absent: None

Opening Prayer & Discussion

Pastor's Report

Joys and thanksgivings to many during this busy Holy Week.

Thank you to all who played a part in making this week happen in many roles, for attending in person or viewing.

Easter worship was well attended, the choir was excellent, and it was a joy-filled morning.

Palm/Passion Sunday – palm parade and scavenger hunt with children and youth helping. Thanks to Phil H., Dave B. and Deb A. for help reading the gospel. Thanks to Kristin M., Courtney H. and Kristen V. for organizing.

Wednesday Lent worships – the last one with laying of the hands and anointing was special. Thanks to all who helped with meals, Jill B. for her work and Pat C. for having the space clean.

Thanks to:

Howard for coordinating with the city to get potholes filled.

Korsmos for all their work with the food pantry and recruiting volunteers to help with this as well as with the Hope Chest.

Acolytes: London, Shelby, Alexa, Arik and others. Bonnie C. for Easter flower spray

Iill T. on her work with financials.

Pastoral duties:

Visits: 23

Funerals: Herb Friis and James Butch Pedersen

Wednesdays during Lent

Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter worship preparation

Wednesday Men's Group

Newsletter preparation

Social media, website upkeep and promotions Bulletin prep

Sermon and study prep

Crestview worship – thanks to Pam G. for assisting Attend Angel Meals – thanks to Alex P., Klabos, Poppens and all who assist and support.

Sit in on Pre-K – 3rd Sunday School classes

Secretary's Report - Courtney

March Council Meeting Minutes

Kent moved to approve; Howard seconded. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report - Jill

March Treasurer's Report

Howard moved to approve; Kent seconded. Motion approved.

This was a pretty "normal" month with no unusual expenditures.

Mission Investment Fund (MIF) – ELCA entity – works like a bank, they use their income to start new mission churches. Money in this account isn't designated to anything.

Committee Reports

Building and Grounds -Howard

Emailed Matt Goodale about potholes and dead tree – on city's property. A couple potholes were filled, not the big one, the city says it's on our property. Waiting for tree removal.

John Black helped – new locks on parsonage, dead bolts for back door to office. Overhead garage door repair.

Kitchen flooded – leak around garbage disposal. Steve Lynch coming this week.

Meeting happening soon to assess grounds needs. The water bill total is \$270. Meters are not combined yet – Pastor talking to Mayor Laughlin about this still. Change front one to landscaping meter and not have water to the office bathrooms – something to consider.

Solar Panels on great hall discussions. Grants for non-profits. Howard will talk to Alliant and get more information.

<u>Education & Youth</u> – Kristen V & Courtney Palm Sunday Parade and scavenger hunt went well. Working on finding curriculum for VBS

Kristen purchased supplies for senior gift baskets – likely May 21st Blessing of graduates (5 graduates) Courtney will make "invitations" for graduates to come to service.

Thinking about how we will split Sunday School and Faith Formation this fall.

Council Minutes

(Continued from page 7)

Continue pre- 3^{rd} or change to pre- 2^{nd} with the numbers we plan to have

Will discuss need for tables and chairs for Sunday School room

Evangelism & Missions- Jon

Hospitality event? A lot of new residents in town.

Fellowship-Sue

4th Sunday dinner – need volunteer for April Assistant to bishop coming April 23rd

Poppens doing fellowship – planning to have a breakfast before church.

Have good fellowship sign ups

Cake for Blessing of Graduates on May 21st - Costco

Stewardship- Kent

Updates to stewardship piece in bulletin

Worship and Music - Cindy

Holy week services went well

Planning "Hymn Sing Sunday" – message around music – April 30^{th}

Old Business

Awaiting update from Pastor regarding next steps in BLC's recognition of the 2022 ELCA Synod initiative regarding Land Acknowledgement to American Indian and Alaska Native People.

Pastor has not met with Dave Bahnsen yet

New Business

Casper's Lawn Maintenance contract for 2023 Jill moved to approve; Sue seconded. Motion approved.

Outdoor services

Historically have planned for 2^{nd} and 4^{th} Sundays, June through September.

2022 ended up doing less than half of what was planned d/t weather, etc.

Cindy proposed doing one Sunday a month this summer – plan for 2^{nd} Sunday, June through September

Sue moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:38pm, Jill seconded. Motion approved.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Next Regular Meeting - May 8th, 2023

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.



In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth

- Caring for creation...
- Proud creators hope others...
- Religion and science...



Revelation 21:3-4

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."

- God among us...
- My images of heaven...
- Death, mourning, crying and pain...





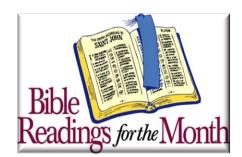
God love, you!!!

June/July Sunday Bible Readings

The passages below are the assigned readings for June/July 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.

June 4
<u>Genesis 1:1—2:4a</u>
<u>Psalm 8</u>
2 Corinthians 13:11-13



June 11 <u>Hosea 5:15—6:6</u> <u>Psalm 50:7-15</u> Romans 4:13-25

June 18 Exodus 19:2-8a Psalm 100 Romans 5:1-8

June 25 Jeremiah 20:7-13 Psalm 69:7-18 Romans 6:1b-11



July 2 <u>Jeremiah 28:5-9</u> <u>Psalm 89: 1-4, 15-18</u> <u>Romans 6:12-23</u>



July 9 Zechariah 9:9-12 Psalm 145:8-14 Romans 7:15-25a

July 16 <u>Isaiah 55:10-13</u> <u>Psalm 65:1-13</u> Romans 8:1-11 July 23 Isaiah 44:6-8 Psalm 86:12-25 Romans 8:12-25 July 30 <u>1 Kings 3:5-12</u> <u>Psalm 119:129-136</u> Romans 8:26-39

June 2023

View Calendar on our website.

Julie 2023					View Calendar on our <u>website</u> .		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
28 9:30am Worship (Also streamed live on Facebook) 10:30am Fellowship Hour	29	9:00am Prayers with Pastor & Paula	31 7:00am Men's Study Group	1 6:00am Women's Study 1:00pm Quilters	2	3	
4 9:30am Worship (Also streamed live on Facebook) 10:30am Fellowship Hour	5	6 9:00am Prayers with Pastor & Paula	7 7:00am Men's Study Group	8 6:00am Women's Study 1:00pm Quilters	9	10	
11 9:30am Outdoor Worship (Also streamed live on Facebook) (Weather Permitting) 10:30am Fellowship Hour	12 6:30pm Council Meeting	13 9:00am Prayers with Pastor & Paula	14 7:00am Men's Study Group	15 6:00am Women's Study 1:00pm Quilters	16	17	
18 9:30am Worship (Also streamed live on Facebook) 10:30am Fellowship Hour	19	20 9:00am Prayers with Pastor & Paula	21 7:00am Men's Study Group	22 6:00am Women's Study 1:00pm Quilters 2:00pm Crestview Wor- ship	23	24 8:30am Holy Hiking (meet at church)	
25 9:30am Worship (Also streamed live on Facebook) 10:30am Fellowship Hour 5:00pm 4th Sunday Community meal	26	27 9:00am Prayers with Pastor & Paula	28 7:00am Men's Study Group	29 6:00am Women's Study 1:00pm Quilters	30	1	
		July 2	2023				
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						1
9:30am Worship (Also streamed live on Facebook) 10:30am Fellowship Hour	3	4 9:00am Prayers with Pastor & Paula	5 7:00am Men's Study Group	6:00am Women's Study 1:00pm Quilters	7	8
9:30am Outdoor Worship (Also streamed live on Facebook) (Weather Permitting) 10:30am Fellowship Hour	10	11 9:00am Prayers with Pastor & Paula	12 7:00am Men's Study Group	13 6:00am Women's Study 1:00pm Quilters	14	15
16 9:30am Worship (Also streamed live on Facebook) 10:30am Fellowship Hour		18 9:00am Prayers with Pastor & Paula 5:30-8:00 PM Vacation Bible School	Group 5:30-8:00 PM Vacation	6:00am Women's Study	21 5:30-8:00 PM Vacation Bible School	22
9:30am Worship (Also streamed live on Facebook) 10:30am Fellowship Hour 5:00pm 4th Sunday Community meal	24	25 9:00am Prayers with Pastor & Paula	Group	27 6:00am Women's Study 1:00pm Quilters 2:00pm Crestview Wor- ship	28	29
30 9:30am Worship (Also streamed live on Facebook) 10:30am Fellowship Hour	31	1 9:00am Prayers with Pastor & Paula	2 7:00am Men's Study Group	3 6:00am Women's Study 1:00pm Quilters	4	5









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Monetary Gifts Report Submitted by Jill Taylor

	April 2023		YTD		
Total	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget 57,336	
Gifts	14,567	14,334	54,075		
Total	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget 59,152	
Expenses	16,070	14,786	59,283		
Net Revenue	(1,503)		(5,208)		

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.

Ministry Assistants

June

Ministers of Proclamation (Lectors)

6/4 Jon Twing

6/11 Kami Poppen

6/18 Patsy Ernst

6/25 Jill Barnhart

Ministers of Technology

6/4 Dave Poppen

6/11 Paula Casper

6/18 Cole Crosthwaite &

Tate Frantz

6/25 Dave Poppen

Ministers of Altar Care:

Marsh Family



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

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Our Twitter Handle is:
@blcwestbranch



Ministry Assistants

July

Ministers of Proclamation (Lectors)

7/2 Toni Dodds

7/9 Jon Twing

7/16 John Black

7/23 Wayne Frauenholtz

7/30 Dave Bahnsen

Ministers of Technology

7/2 Jill Taylor

7/9 Dave Poppen

7/16 Cole Crosthwaite &

Tate Frantz

7/23 Paula Casper

7/30 Jill Taylor

Ministers of Altar Care:

Nancy Bruns

June / July 2023 Bethany Branches

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