

MONTHLY CONNECTIONS

SUNDAY SERVICE

Lost Island- 8:45am

Bethany- 10:30am

CHILDREN MINISTRY

Bethany Sunday School-
9:30am

Lost Island Sunday School-
10:15am

YOUTH MINISTRY

WEDNESDAYS

SACK (2nd-5th grade): 3:30-5pm
Connect (6th-8th grade): 7-8pm
LIFE (9th-12th grade): 7:30-9pm



Meet Jeff!

Some of you may know my family and I already or have seen us around at various church gatherings and activities. I am Pastor Jeff Geiger. I am a member at Lost Island, and will be helping out on one Sunday a month while Pastor Peter is away. Currently, I am serving as a hospice chaplain. I make my rounds and pay visits to those that need and want a visit from a chaplain. My wife is Susan, who serves as a nurse with Unity Point. I have two daughters, Hannah and Bethany. Hannah is a freshman at Iowa Lakes, and Bethany is a freshman at Spencer High. My wife and I were born in raised in Northeast Ohio but call Spencer home. Glad to be here in Northwest Iowa!



Meet Deb!

Hello, brothers and sisters in Christ! I feel privileged to help you with worship in the coming months. I will be at Lost Island and Bethany on the first and third Sundays of each month. Before retiring as an ELCA minister three years ago, I served as a nursing home chaplain, a parish pastor, and an interim pastor for twenty years. I am also an active, certified spiritual director. I live in Spencer with my husband Dean, who is also retired. We are blessed to have our son's family nearby, while our daughter's family lives in Amherst, Massachusetts. My hobbies include music, theater, mixed media art, reading and writing. I also have a blog that can be found at www.saintsininnerseeker.net. I look forward to hearing your stories and worshipping with you!





Prayer is such an important piece in the life of a Christian. Not only do we pray to God individually, but as a body of Christ, we pray for our neighbors, the world, and we trust that God will do His will in those prayers. Need prayer? Want to intentionally pray for others? Let us know!

We remember those in special need of God's love and care including:

Janice Franck, Doug Ort, Korbin Johnson, Denise White, Kailey Hackbart, Elaine Sidles, Jeff Duhn, Maddie Roth, Wilma Nielsen, Nolyn Johnson, Pam Rouse, Kylee Hill, (Alex) Omundson Family, Shirley Knutson, Jess McCune, Jim & Carol Krause, David Stephens, Rick Rienhardt, Bridget Johnson, Lon Twait, Robert Mortenson, Jr., and those we name in our hearts.

***Our Sympathy:**

To all those we know that are mourning

***Our Military Members:**

Thomas Crocoll and Logan Murray

***Our companion synods:**

The Southern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania-Yakobi Parish companion with Lost Island and the Evangelical Lutheran Church Laz-Paz Parish in Chile, companion with Bethany.

***Our New Members:**

***Our New Members via Baptisms:**

Samantha Prabhakaran
Dr. Madhan Prabhakaran

Stay Connected

 Lost Island Lutheran Church

 Lost Island Lutheran Church

 Lost Island Lutheran Church

www.lostislandlutheranchurch.com

Coffee Connection.

May 11th
9:45am-10:30am

Held every 2nd Sunday of the month.

We invite ALL to join us for fellowship in the Overflow Room.

Coffee. Treats. Conversation.

A social time of fellowship to connect with others & enjoy some treats and beverages.

Stay Connected

 Bethany/Lost Island Parish

 @bethanyemmetsburg

 Bethany Worship

GET INVOLVED.

QUILTING

Morning Quilting

Mondays- 9 AM weekly

Night Quilters

Monday, 5-8 pm PM weekly

Lost Island Quilting

June 2025

WOMEN'S CIRCLES

***Tabitha Circle:**

***Sarah Circle:**

May 13 @ Pizza Ranch

***Mary Martha Circle:**

May 21st @ Willow Ridge

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

WEDNESDAYS AT NOON



BETHANY VOLUNTEERS

Altar Guild: Marla Noble

Date	Lector	Greeter	Usher	Comm Asst	Acolyte	Musician
May 4	Laure Miller	Frank & Marit Veltri	Chuck Duhn Charles Noble	Brayden Ayers Drake Mehan Kristin Rienhardt	NA	Tim Nielsen
May 11	Frank Veltri	Richard & Melinda Ayers Family	Joel Saxton Terry Rouse		NA	Holly Sidles
May 18	Matt Malm	Chuck & Marla Noble	Joe Neary Charles Noble	Amy Malm Laure Miller Angie Hetrick	NA	Tim Nielsen
May 25	Darca Saxton	Sherri Ort Barb Haack	Bob Steger Kyle Hagen		NA	Laura Gustafson



We are looking for someone to volunteer to mow the lawn here at Bethany. The area you would be responsible for would be the North, East and West sides of the church. The area of the Trinity Garden will be maintained by their own members. We will need to mow the patch between the Garden and the Street. Please let Diane at the Church Office know if you are interested (712-852-4450). Thank you.

LOST ISLAND VOLUNTEERS

Altar Guild: Alaire Nielsen
Pat Henningsen

Date	Lector	Communion Assistant	Musician
May 4	Charles Henningsen	Alaire Nielsen	Tim Nielsen
May 11	Jeff Geiger		Tim Nielsen
May 18	Alaire Nielsen	Kyle Norris	Tim Nielsen
May 25	Sue Geiger		Tim Nielsen



I received a phone call from Penny Murphy who works at the Lost Island Nature Center. She is asking for volunteers to help out at the Center. Hours would be from 1-3 pm.

If you are interested, please call Penny at 712-837-4866.

MEMORIAL GIFTS GIVEN.

In Memory of *Dawn Freeman* given by *LuAnn Opheim—Trinity Garden*
In Memory of *Marvin Duhn* given by *LuAnn Opheim—Trinity Garden*
In Memory of *Red Holland* given by *Bob & Diane Clasing Steger - Trinity Garden*
In Memory of *Mike Hermansen* given by *Noreen Hermansen—Intern Fund*
In Memory of *Marvin Duhn* given by *Laure Miller—Trinity Garden*
In Memory of *Marvin Duhn* given by *Joe Neary—Trinity Garden*
In Memory of *Marvin Duhn* given by *Gary & Julia Blagg—Trinity Garden*
In Memory of *Marvin Duhn* given by *Eileen Gaddes—Trinity Garden*
In Memory of *Marvin Duhn* given by *Verle Hansen & Cheryl Staats—Trinity Garden*
In Memory of *Marvin Duhn* given by *M.F. Tunnickliff—Trinity Garden*
In Memory of *Marvin Duhn* given by *Marcella & William Frevert—Trinity Garden*
In Memory of *Marvin Duhn* given by *Jerome & Judith Bartel—Trinity Garden*
In Memory of *Marvin Duhn* given by *John & Joyce Froisland—Trinity Garden*
In Memory of *Marvin Duhn* given by *his family—Trinity Garden*
In Memory of *Marvin Duhn* given by *his family—Camp Scholarship*

BETHANY FUNERAL SERVERS.

GROUP C

Marla Noble, Elaine & Dave Sidles, Angie Hetrick-Chairpersons

Mark & Darca Saxton	Ryan & Molly Veldboom	Jim Anderson
Brian & Danielle McCubbins	Sandi Chapman	Don Nauss
Kent & Belinda Davidson	Michael Jacobson	Pat & Kathy Mehan
Josh & Holly Sidles	Dan & Mindy Dooley	Aletha King
Steve & Becky Finer	Pam Hermansen	Pat Vician
Frank & Marit Veltri	Mike Schipull	Eric & Shelly Hanson
Terry & Pam Rouse	Pat & Amy Martini	Wilma Nielsen
Joel & Somer Saxton	Ben & Leslie Hofstad	Austin & Maura Cole
Brent & Stephanie Mehan	John & Jessica Thoren	



The Ruthven Methodist Women are hosting ***“Something Borrowed... Something Blue???”*** on May 7th at 7:15 pm. Please register on or before April 30th. There will be door prizes. Call the church (712-837-4623) or email Margo at madams4gogo@gmail.com . It should be a lot of fun!



BETHANY COUNCIL

Laure Miller, President 712-363-2005
Mark Evans, Vice President 712-260-5651
Ed Meyer, Treasurer 712-298-1029
Diane Clasing-Steger, Sec. 712-298-1003
Barb Haack 712-260-3408
Michael Jacobson 712-790-1452
Aaron Leuer 712-480-2116
Jennifer Boevers 712-298-2143

**Do you have
questions? Need
assistance?**

**Contact your
council members
and they will get
you connected with
the right people!**

LOST ISLAND COUNCIL

Troy Leininger – President
Tim Nielsen - Treasurer
Kyle Norris – Secretary
Craig Thu & Kadin Norris – Trustees
Alan Oppedal & Charles Henningsen –
Deacons

SABBATICAL CLARIFICATION & CALL COMMITTEE

Greetings! I was asked to submit a short note to the church members to diffuse some confusion and provide transparency on what is happening at Bethany and Lost Island Parishes. As many know, Pastor Peter's sabbatical has been in the works for the last 2 years. The plan was Pastor would take a 6-month sabbatical (April 14 – October 31, 2025) and agree to stay for at least one year after sabbatical leave was completed. Just like everything, plans can change. Due to recent events in civil rights to LGBTQ individuals, Pastor and his family have decided they can no longer stay in Iowa. What does this mean for Bethany and Lost Island churches? Bishop Lorna Haalas attended our joint council meeting, April 22. She encouraged the churches to start the paperwork process and form a call committee so when the time comes to replace Pastor Peter, we are ready to go. We are in a unique position, as normally the call procedure doesn't start till the pastor gives their 1 month notice that they are leaving. We are fortunate to start this process before pastor gives his notice. The call committee will consist of 2 representatives from Lost Island Church, and 3 individuals from Bethany Lutheran Church.

If you are interested in being on the call committee, please send your name and a brief reason WHY you'd like to be on the committee. Please send your request to Laure Miller 95 Nolan Dr. Emmetsburg or email ljaneane1215@gmail.com.

We would like requests by May 20, 2025, the date of our next council meeting. We plan to have this committee in place by June 1, 2025. This is a long process and will take commitment from those on this committee. Bishop Halaas told the councils this will take time and not to rush the process. She mentioned there are 20 -25 congregations in the Western Iowa Synod with pastoral needs. Good news, there were 18 newly ordained pastors in the Western Iowa Synod this past year, and 8 more in the process.

At this time Pastor has sent his information and areas of interest, Minnesota, to the synod office for review before being sent out. If Pastor accepts a new call during sabbatical, he has promised to come back early and stay for 3 weeks so all get the chance to wish him well on his next adventure.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to a council member, contact information is listed in the monthly newsletter.

In Christ,

Laure Miller
Bethany Church Council President

Troy Leininger
Lost Island Church President

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May—How can it be here already? But it is! The month where we near the end of the school year and summer arrives! May flowers bring hope of growth and planting season is here! This reminds me of roots. The roots that we have in faith. When we grow in our understanding of God we don't grow up or out but down. We grow deeper roots. We are more rooted to soak up more nutrients (good things) that God has for us. He is the foundation that we can build our life on. He is the one that is the vine and apart from him we can't bear fruit. So don't forget to water your faith. Don't forget to immerse yourself in the love of God and dive into His Word, be washed by His Words and spend time with Him!

NOISY OFFERING

INGHAM LAKE BIBLE
CAMP

WILLING TO HELP?

Support, drive,



donate, teach?

Contact Kristin

KRISTIN
RIENHARDT

Kristin.rienhardt@blc.edu

SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFERING

4/27/25

\$302



CLEAN UP THE CHURCH YARD AND GARDEN

Raking and Mulching

Come join the Kids MAY 7TH from 3pm-5:00pm

BRING YOUR RAKES

UPCOMING EVENTS/SCHEDULE:

May 4th—Pop Tarts and PJ Day at
Sunday School

May 7th— SACK and youth work
day (weather permitting)

May 11th— Celebration Sunday
(Senior Sunday, Sunday School
Recognition, Youth Group Recognition)

May 11th— Last Day of Sunday
School

May 14th— Last Day of Youth
Group

SACK (3:30-5:30)

5:30pm-7pm— End of School Year
Youth & Families Cookout

Connect/LIFE (7:30pm-9:00-
9:30pm)


JOIN US
FOR YOUTH PROGRAMS



Sundays & Wednesdays



The Ruthven Methodist Women are hosting **"Something Borrowed... Something Blue???"** on May 7th at 7:15 pm. Please register on or before April 30th. There will be door prizes. Call the church (712-837-4623) or email Margo at madams4gogo@gmail.com . It should be a lot of fun!



THANK YOU.

- Thank you to all who have been involved in worship on Sundays to bring us the Good News of God!
- Thank you to all that have continued to give your monetary donations!
- Thank You to all the people that helped prepare, supply and serve the Lenten meals every Wednesday during Lent. They were all delicious! Each group that was receiving the Free Will donations were very happy with your giving.
- Thank you to Brian and Amy Malm for the removal of the 3 tree stumps in front of the church .
- Thank You to the "Elves" that cleaned up the chips after the three tree stump removals were done.
- Thank you to everyone who came to the Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast that the Youth sponsored at the VFW. It was a success!
- Thank you for all that boxed and helped load the trailer of LWR quilts. Thank you to Steve Finer for the use of his trailer and Dave and Elaine Sidles for hauling the quilts to Spencer.

OTHER NEWS/EVENTS:

Scholarship Recipients:

Marvin E Simonsen Scholarship:

- Jameson Boevers
- Josey Saxton
- Kaitlyn Hember

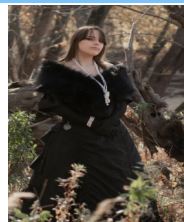
Bethany Education Scholarship:

- Jameson Boevers
- Josey Saxton
- Kaitlyn Hember

CONGRATULATE OUR SENIORS!



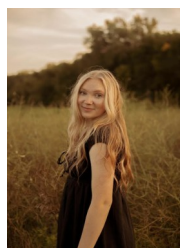
Jameson Boevers
4958 330th St
Cylinder, IA 50528



Hannah Sanders
2301 14th St
Emmetsburg, IA 50536



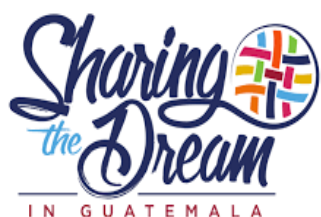
Josey Saxton
4218 370th St
Emmetsburg, IA 50536



Lily Rohan
118 E 1st St
Spencer, IA 51301

**Send cards if
you desire
otherwise
join us
May 11th!**

MISSION WORK.



Friends of Sharing the Dream in Guatemala is a volunteer-based fair trade organization that works to reduce poverty in Guatemala through collaborative partnerships with Guatemalans. We offer Guatemalan crafts including handmade beaded jewelry, handwoven scarves, baskets from all natural materials and much, much, more. Shop online at www.sharingthedream.org, visit one of the stores in Vermilion, Sioux Falls or at Lost Island Lutheran Church. If you are interested in learning more contact Karyn Leininger.

LENTEN MEAL RESULTS

Thank you to Stacie Fjetland and Pastor Peter for sponsoring the main dishes through Thrivent Action Teams! Thanks to all that helped served, provided food, and supported all the groups throughout the Lenten Season!

Week 1- Lutheran World Relief Kits—Served around 50 people- \$285.58

Week 2- Youth Programs-Served around 81 people- \$721

Week 3- Sunday School/VBS- Served around 51 people-\$472

Week 4- Deferred Maintenance- Served around 53 people-\$611

Week 5- Youth Programs- Served around 63 people- \$615

Thank You for the Easter Flowers:

*David & Elaine Sidles in memory of his parents, Lawrence & Helen Sidles.
Elaine & David Sidles in memory of Wayne Warmbier, Lyle & Evelyn Schipull.
Mike Schipull in memory of Lea Schipull.*

Kathy Mehan

Elaine Nauss

Bob & Diane Clasing-Steger in memory of their families

Eleanor Ortman & family in memory of Bill

Kristin Rienhardt in memory of her godfather

Dale & LuAnn Opheim in memory of the Kruse and Opheim families

SUNDAY SCHOOL PROJECT AND NOISY OFFERING.

**May's Noisy Offering is going to the
Ingham Lake Bible Camp**

**THE RETREAT HOUSE REMODEL: NEW WINDOWS, SHINGLES,
FLOORING, AND SHADE SHELTERS AT THE BEACH FRONT**

**By April 27th, the kids made their \$300 goal
during the Penny War!**



**KRISTIN WILL
HAVE TO
KISS A PIG!**



SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFERING

YOUTH VS CONGREGATION

**JANUARY TO APRIL
PENNY WAR**

Goal: \$300

SAMARITAN'S PURSE- CLEAN WATER FUND

BRING PENNIES IN FOR YOUR BUCKET AND PUT SILVER/BILLS IN YOUR OPPONENT'S
BUCKET

PENNIES= POSITIVE

SILVER COINS/BILLS= NEGATIVE

STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship is a much bigger responsibility than most Christians realize. It can't be about money alone because stewardship was instituted long before money was even invented.

The Bible teaches that stewardship involves wise management of our treasure, time, and talents. As stewards, we are entrusted with caring for things that are important to our Master. Here are some relevant Bible verses on stewardship:

1 Peter 4:10 (ESV): *"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."*

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 (ESV): *"The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.*

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

Proverbs 16:3 (ESV): *"Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established."*

On May 4, Rogation Sunday, we pray for the Soil, Seed, Water, and Human Industry.

Genesis 2:15 (ESV): *"The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it."*

On May 11, we pray for the graduates to go out into the world and be stewards of God.






Jeremiah 29:11 *"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."*

The biblical concept of stewardship is about managing everything God brings into the believers life In a manner that honors God and impacts eternity. It is defined as "Utilizing and managing all resources God provides for the glory of God and the betterment of His creation";.

Stewardship is a fundamental concept in the Bible that teaches us to be responsible caretakers of God's resources. It means managing what we have been given in a way that honors God and benefits others.

APRIL 2025 FINANCIALS. Bethany Lutheran Church Treasurer's Report

If you have any financial questions, please email Michael at bethanyfinance20@gmail.com and he can answer any questions.

WAYS TO GIVE.		MONTHLY BEGINNING BALANCE (17,494.22)	
<div>  <p>In Person Drop cash/check off in the office or the offering plate.</p> </div> <div>  <p>Online One Time or Recurring at Vaneo</p>  </div> <div>  <p>Mail Send offering to: Bethany Lutheran Church 703 Broadway Emmetsburg, IA 50536</p> </div> <div>  <p>Local bank-bill pay option The local Emmetsburg banks each provide a FREE online bill pay service which can arrange recurring weekly or monthly payments.</p> </div>	INCOME		EXPENSES
	Offerings	12,413.81	Personnel Expenses 10,293.16
	Transfers from other Funds	0.00	Program Expenses 356.01
	Lost Island	11,325.00	
	Total Income	23,738.81	Office Expenses 738.88
			Property Expenses 1,615.94
			Western IA Synod 533.04
			Other Donations 0.00
			Damascus Road 50.00
			NO ELCA Donations 0.00
			TOTAL EXPENSE 13,587.03
	Income Less Expenses		10,151.78
	GENERAL FUND BALANCE		(7,342.44)

May 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2 Okoboji Camp— Clean Up Days	3 Quilts go to Spencer Okoboji Camp— Clean Up Days
4 Rogation Sunday 8:45 am Worship (LI) 9:30 am SS (Bethany) 10:15 am SS (Lost Island) 10:30 am Worship (B)	5 9 am Quilting 5 pm Quilting	6	7 Raking/Mulching @ Bethany 3:00-5:00pm 3:30-5 PM SACK (2nd-5th) 7-8 pm Connect (6th-8th) 7:30-9 pm LIFE (9th-12th) Ruthven Methodist Church Social at 7:15 pm	8	9 Ingham Lake— Clean Up Days	10 Ingham Lake— Clean Up Days
11 Celebration Sunday 8:45 am Worship (LI) 9:30 am SS (Bethany) 9:45am Coffee Connect 10:15 am SS (Lost Island) 10:30 am Worship (B)	12 9 am Quilting 5 pm Quilting	13 Sarah Circle Meets At the Pizza Ranch	14 Last Day for Youth Groups 3:30-5:30pm SACK(2nd- 5th) 5:30-7pm Youth/Families Cookout 7:30-9:30pm Connect(6th- 8th)/LIFE(9th-12th)	15	16	17 Sanders Grad. Party— Overflow 9 am—7 pm (Private)
18 Communion Sunday 8:45 am Worship (LI) 10:30 am Worship (B)	19 9 am Quilting 5 pm Quilting	20 Bethany Council	21 9:30 am Mary Martha Articles Due for the June Newsletter	22	23	24
25 8:45 am Worship (LI) 10:30 am Worship (B)	26 Memorial Day Holiday No Quilting Office Closed 	27	28 June Newsletter is Sent Out	29	30 Set Up Grad. Party Private	31 Kacmarynski Graduation Party—Fellow- Ship Hall

* **BOLDED WORDS ARE CALENDAR ITEMS THAT ARE UNIQUE TO THE GIVEN MONTH**

*Bethany Quilters: Morning Quilters 9am-Noon, Night Quilters 5-8 pm

*Council meets every Third Tuesday at 6:30pm

*Youth Groups meet Wednesdays [SACK (2nd-5th) 3:30pm-5pm] [Connect (6th-8th) 7-8pm] [LIFE (9th-12th grade) 7:30-9pm] These run Sept-May

*Coffee Connection is monthly, typically the 2nd Sunday of the month, 9:45am-10:30am, at Bethany
- Lost Island has weekly coffee fellowship following worship

*WIC meets once a month from 9am-3:30pm in the church basement

*Cub Scouts meet every other Tuesday at 6:30pm

*Noisy Offering cans are on tables but are passed during offerings every 2nd Sunday of month

*Lost Island Quilting meets in the basement at Lost Island

COMMUNITY/CHAMBER: EVENTS



Emmetsburg Community Blood Drive

VFW Hall
3205 Main St. | Emmetsburg

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

12:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Text: LIFESERVE to 999.777 | Call: 800.287.4903 | Visit: lifeserve.info/schedule



SAVE THE DATE: VBS

Register at

www.bethanylutheranemmetsburg.com/vbs

Cost: \$5 for Members and \$10 for nonmembers

Any questions, contact Holly Sidles or a member of the Board of Education.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

CAMP CLEAN UP DAYS

COME FOR ONE DAY OR ALL THE DAYS AND HELP GET CAMP READY FOR SUMMER CAMPERS!

Lunch will be provided.
Bring work gloves and rakes if you have them
Find out more or RSVP at 1-800-OKOBOJI or email at megan@okoboji.org

MAY 2-3	MAY 9-10
OKOBOJI LUTHERAN BIBLE CAMP 9 AM-4 PM	INGHAM LAKE BIBLE CAMP 9 AM-3 PM
Projects Include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• deep cleaning cabins• setting out patio furniture• yardwork• building a deck• cleaning canoes/boats• painting	Projects Include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• deep cleaning of summer facilities• yardwork

CONTACT US IN ADVANCE IF YOU HAVE SPECIFIC REPAIR SKILLS TO UTILIZE
THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE MINISTRY OF IOLBC!

IOLBC | WWW.OKOBOJI.ORG | 1-800-OKOBOJI

Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camps



CELEBRATION SUNDAY

MAY 11TH

GRADATION RECOGNITION, SUNDAY
SCHOOL RECOGNITION, & MOTHER'S
DAY

Reception

Time: 9:45am-10:30am
Location: Overflow room

Worship

Time: 10:30am

