

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
703 BROADWAY
EMMETSBURG, IA 50536
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CONNECTIONS

DECEMBER 2023

A Monthly Newsletter Linking the Ministries of Bethany Lutheran and Lost Island Lutheran Churches



Pastor F. Peter Morlock
Secretary: Diane Clasing-Steger
Financial Secretary: Michael Jacobson
Youth Director: Kristin Rienhardt
Bethany Organist: Tim Nielsen, Temp
Lost Island Organist: Tim Nielsen



The Psalmist exhorts us to "*Sing a New Song to The Lord*" (Psalm 96) .

One of my favorite things about the Christmas season is all the music that surrounds us. In both the secular and religious realms of life, we are immersed in music. I have many favorites, too many in fact to mention here, but I look forward to them every year. As the time

approaches, I get out my CD's (Yes, I am that old!) and prepare my play list; different songs for different days, but all of them old familiar favorites that bring back memories of visits to Grandma and Grandpa, singing in the church choir, and caroling with various groups in many different places. To me, this has become an echo of the heavenly host, a song that is timeless - one that lifts me out of myself and whatever I am worried about, to become part of something larger than myself. I find my spirits lifted as I hear and sing the strains of Handel's "*Messiah*" the old familiar carols, and the silly songs from various Christmas movies. Add your voices to the song, and rest. Starting soon, we will be rehearsing some choral Christmas music for a festival choir. See the Vicar's article for details; we would love to have you join us.



Pastor Peter

label



Bethany Lutheran Church: bethanylutheranemmetsburg.com
Fb: [Bethany/Lostislandparish](https://www.facebook.com/Bethany/Lostislandparish)
Lost Island Lutheran Church www.lostislandlutheranchurch.com
Office Email: offsecr@gmail.com Financial Email: bethanyfinance20@gmail.com
Office hours: Mon-Thurs 9 AM -2pm Office phone: 712-852-4450

NEWS FROM JESSIE

Happy December everyone! I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday. It's hard to believe that it's already the season of Advent and Christmas is right around the corner.

It's time to break out those old familiar carols and maybe even some new ones. As it says in Psalm 100, "Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness; come into His presence with singing." As Pastor Peter mentioned in his own article, we are putting together a festival choir for Christmas Eve and would love to see you all there! I've picked out three fantastic pieces to add to the festive feel of the night in addition to the congregation's hymns. We will be rehearsing on Sundays after church and Wednesday evenings. Note there will not be a rehearsal on 12/3 as that day is also the Glenn Henriksen concert at Bethany and I will be singing in the Messiah Choir at Grace United Methodist in Spencer.



Rehearsal schedule: Wed's at 7:00 pm: Nov. 29, and Dec 6, 13, 20
Sun's at 11:45 am on Dec 10 & 17

Dress rehearsal 12/20 at 7:00 pm. We will be fitting robes that night. If you cannot attend that rehearsal, feel free to contact me at the church and we can arrange another time to get you a robe.

As the socialite Florence Foster Jenkins once said, "People may say I couldn't sing, but no one can ever say I didn't sing." All are welcome!

God's peace, Vicar Jessie

NEW! Coffee Connection.
December 10th
10:00am - 10:30am
Held every 2nd Sunday of the month.
We invite ALL to join us for fellowship in the Overflow Room.
A social time of fellowship to connect with others & enjoy some treats and beverages.
Coffee. Treats. Conversation.

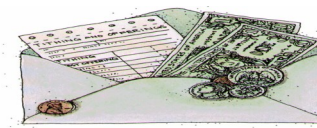
Hi! The Council is asking if there is a group or a couple congregants that would like to sign up and be responsible for setting up, serving and cleaning up after our ongoing Coffee Connection? There will be a sign-up sheet on the back table should you like to help with this. There are donations that help defray the costs you might incur. Any questions, you can contact anyone from the Council or the office secretary. Thank You!

OCTOBER 2023 Bethany Lutheran Church Treasurer's Report

Attendance average: 61

MONTHLY BUDGET NEEDS FROM OFFERINGS: \$13,750.00

	MONTHLY BEGINNING BALANCE
	2,594.03
INCOME	
Offerings	12,505.24
Transfers from other Funds	0.00
Lost Island	10,125.00
Total Income	22,630.24
EXPENSES	
Personnel Expenses	13,001.54
Program Expenses	396.51
Office Expenses	510.84
Property Expenses	2,274.38
Western IA Synod	385.63
Other Donations	0.00
Damascus Road	100.00
NO ELCA Donations	156.19
TOTAL EXPENSE	16,825.09
Income Less Expenses	5,805.15
GENERAL FUND BALANCE	8,399.18



Bethany would like to encourage online monetary offerings. The local Emmetsburg banks each provide a FREE online bill pay service which can arrange recurring weekly or monthly payments. If you need more information, contact your local Emmetsburg bank at your earliest convenience.

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Do you have questions? Need assistance? Contact your council members and they will get you connected with the right people!

BETHANY

Joe Neary (P) 712-260-8871
 Mark Evans (VP) 712-260-5651
 Angie Hetrick (T) 712-298-0331
 Diane Clasing-Steger, (S) 712-298-1003
 Dianne Hough 712-852-2169
 Chuck Duhn 712-298-1027
 Barb Haack 712-260-3408
 Elaine Sidles 712-298-2559

LOST ISLAND

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

STEWARDSHIP Deuteronomy 16:17

“Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord your God that he has given you. Year end is the time to celebrate Jesus’ birth and all of the many blessings God has given us.”

A special Thank You to everyone who uses their talents and time for Bethany helping to make Bethany run smoothly. The Church would like to personally thank you for your consistent generosity throughout the year. We look forward to ending this year strong as we prepare for a new year. We invite you to prayerfully consider what God can do through you at this time of year. Bethany needs all of your continued support and stewardship offerings.

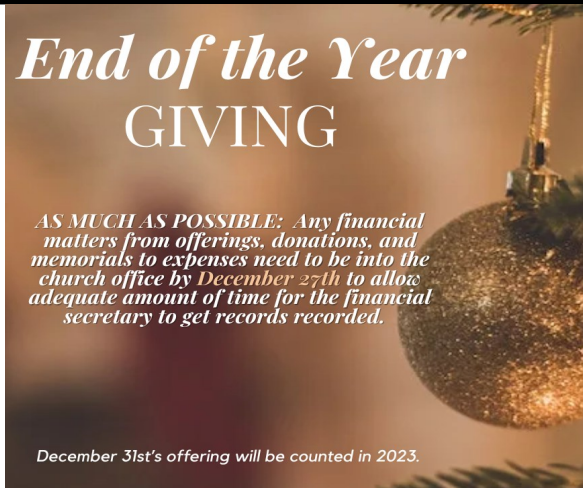
We all know that costs are rising, such as utilities, phone, postage, salaries and other costs. We do not know what lies ahead of us, but we remain confident in the assurance of God’s abiding and steadfast love. Because of your generous and faithful gifts, our church can keep doing what love requires of us by nurturing life-giving, joyful ministries both inside and outside our parish.

We give out of love. Giving is worship. Because God so graciously loved us, we reciprocate in love by giving to Him of our time, talent, and treasure. (1 John 4:19)

We give out of obedience. The Bible is full of commands to be generous since God is generous to us. Giving in obedience to the Lord frees us from the danger of trusting in money instead of trusting in Him. When we give faithfully, God promises to provide for our needs when we’re generous with Him. (Malachi 3:10–11)

We give out of wisdom. Being a generous person allows us to invest in eternity rather than in the temporal things of this world. What are you investing in that is more important, more lasting, and more beautiful than the mission of Jesus? Nothing! (Matthew 6:20) When we give ourselves away, we’re blessed spiritually in return.

Blessings to you this holiday season!



GET INVOLVED.



Quilters:

Morning Quilting
 Mondays- 9 AM weekly

Night Quilters
 Monday, 6 PM weekly

Lost Island Quilting

Women’s Circles:

***Tabitha Circle:**
 Dec. 13th at 6:50 pm @ Alaire’s

***Sarah Circle:**
 Dec 11th –6 pm @ Elaine’s

***Mary Martha Circle:**
 Dec. 20th at 9:30 am

Men’s Bible Study

Wednesdays @ Noon

Adult Bible Study

TBD

Help with worship



Join A Board

Worship Services

SUNDAYS

Lost Island at 8:45am
 Bethany at 10:30am

Help with Youth Programs

Stay Connected

Bethany/Lost Island Parish
Lost Island Lutheran Church

@bethanyemmettsburg

Bethany Worship
Lost Island Lutheran Church

HOW CAN WE
PRAY
FOR 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:

Paul Behrends, Carol Krause, Junior Walker, Jon Sorenson, David Stephens, LeRoy Swalve, John Odor, Elaine Sidles, Terry Neary, Rick Rienhardt, Jan Myer, Denise White, Dave Smith, Lon Twait, Bridget Johnson, Don Crocoll, Robert Mortenson, Jr., Phyllis Schroeder, and those we name in our hearts.

***Our Sympathy:** Maxine Lashbrook & Don McEwan’s Family and Friends.

***Our Military Members:** Thomas Crocoll and Logan Murray

***Our missionary:** Courtney Davis, who lives in Papua New Guinea.

***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.

YOUTH NEWS

Joy is a word we hear a lot this time of year. But sometimes, do we really experience it? There is a difference between joy and happiness. Happiness is like eating a cookie and it satisfies for only a moment. But then you want another one. Joy is everlasting and isn't dependent on circumstances.

The last few weeks, Bethany youth got to serve in different ways, the kids in our area and beyond our borders. They got to bring joy to a kid for Christmas. As I watched our youth shop, create notes, pack shoeboxes, and do it all with smiles on their faces, it brought me true joy. Joy that they had when they picked out that perfect toy or the best smelling shampoo. I can't help but picture the joy (even though chaotic) of those youth serving in that way and how the kid on the other end that is receiving that gift is going to feel.

Joy is as if someone gave you a hug. The hug ends but the way they made you feel lasts forever. Spread the joy of the Lord to those around you this season and beyond.

Upcoming events/schedule:

December 1st-

Lighted Parade- 6-7:15pm

December 3rd--

Hanging of the Greens- Confirmation youth reading

Wear your Bethany Church Shirt Day

Outreach Night at Okoboji (6th-12th graders)

December 13th-

Pizza Ranch Trip Night, Youth Mission Trip

December 20th-

All youth groups, Annual Christmas Parties. Wear your favorite Christmas PJs or sweaters!



NOISY OFFERING



Dec-

Destiny Rescue
(end child trafficking)



WILLING TO HELP?

SUPPORT, DRIVE,
DONATE, TEACH?

CONTACT KRISTIN



Kristin Rienhardt

Kristin.rienhardt@blc.edu

712-790-6470

VOLUNTEERS

LOST ISLAND

ORGANIST: Tim Nielsen

ALTAR GUILD—DECEMBER
Punky Kropf, Susan Geiger

READERS

Dec. 3 Hanging of the Greens
Dec. 10 Troy Leininger
Dec. 17 Jeff Geiger
Dec. 24 Alaire Nielsen
Dec. 25 Troy Leininger
Dec. 31 Tim Nielsen

ACOLYTES

Dec. 3 Lily Rohan
Dec. 10 Hannah Geiger
Dec. 17 Bethany Geiger
Dec. 24 Zac Sorenson
Dec. 31 Lily Rohan

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Dec. 17 Karyn Leininger
Dec. 25 Troy Leininger

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Dec. 3 Vicar Jessie, Dianne Hough
Angie Hetrick, Elaine Nauss
Dec. 17 Vicar Jessie, Diane Steger
Kristin Rienhardt, Jameson Boevers
Dec. 24:
(5 pm) Vicar Jessie, Somer Saxton
Mark & Darca Saxton
(10:30 pm) Vicar Jessie &
3 Volunteers

BETHANY

MUSICIANS at BETHANY

Dec. 3 Tim Nielsen Dec. 17 Tim Nielsen
Dec. 10 SS Program Dec. 24 Tim Nielsen
Dec. 31 ??????

ALTAR GUILD—DECEMBER Kathy Mehan

LECTORS

Dec. 3 Frank Veltri
Dec. 10 SS Program
Dec. 17 Diane Clasing Steger
Dec. 24 (10:30 am) Dianne Hough
(5 pm) Diane Clasing-Steger (10:30 pm) Sherri Ort
Dec. 31 Laure Miller

USHERS

Dec. 3 David Sidles & Joe Neary
Dec. 10 Mark Evans
Dec. 17 Kyle Hagen & Terry Rouse
Dec. 24 10:30 am Chuck Duhn
(5 pm) Michael Jacobson & ???
(10:30 pm) Elaine Nauss & ???
Dec. 31 Lonnie Naig

GREETERS

Dec. 3 Jane Heykes, Elaine Nauss
Dec. 10 Joe & Jen Boevers
Dec. 17 LuAnn Opheim, Darca Saxton
Dec. 24 Wilma Nielsen
(5 pm) Greg & Rachel Haack
(10:30 pm) Dave & Judy Cole
Dec. 31 Randy & Dianne Hough

ACOLYTES

Dec. 3 Hanging of the Greens
Dec. 10 Christmas Program
Dec. 17 Liam Hill
Dec. 24 10:30 am Paytn Haack
(5 pm) Elin Gustafson
(10:30 pm) Volunteer
Dec. 31 Volunteer

Pizza Ranch TIP NIGHT
December 13th
5-8pm
Youth Mission Trip

Memorial Gifts Given

In Memory of *Garwin Anderson* given by *Dave & Elaine Sidles* for his memorial.
 In Memory of *Garwin Anderson* given by *Linda Tienter* for the *Technology Fund*.
 In Memory of *Garwin Anderson* given by *Brian & Greta Rouse* for *Hymnal Fund*.
 In Memory of *Garwin Anderson* given by *Terry & Pam Rouse* for *Quilter's Fund*.
 In Memory of *Garwin Anderson* given by *Bob & Diane Steger* for the *Green Space*.
 In Memory of *Don McEwan* given by *Bob & Diane Steger* for the *Green Space*.
 In Memory of *Maxine Lashbrook* given by *Angela Hetrick* for *Technology Fund*
 In Memory of *Roberta Biddle* given by *Angela Hetrick* for the *Technology Fund*
 In Memory of *Dawayne Kinnetz* given by *Angela Hetrick* for the *Technology Fund*
 In Memory of *Don McEwan* given by *Angela Hetrick* for the *Technology Fund*
 In Memory of *Maxine Lashbrook* given by *Frank & Marit Veltri* for *Scholarship Fund*
 In Memory of *Don McEwan* given by *Frank & Marit Veltri* for *Scholarship Fund*
 In Memory of *Dawayne Kinnetz* given by *Frank & Marit Veltri* for the *Scholarship Fund*



Given by *Brian & Greta Rouse* in Memory of *Garwin Anderson*.

BETHANY FUNERAL SERVERS- GROUP A

Willard & Glenyce Schmeling, Barb Haack, Diane Clasing Steger — Chairpersons

Dale Evans	Kyle & Kayla Hagen	Tim & Molly Rodemeyer
Dave & Judy Cole	Joe & Jennifer Boevers	Dan & Michelle Theesfeld
Phyllis Schroeder	Leroy Walker	Troy & Sarah Krug
Chuck & Therese Duhn	Sharon Omundson	Mitch & Kim Hohensee
Allen & Beth Will	Mike & Betty Naig	Shawn & Jen Connelly
Dianne & Randy Hough	Mark & Nicole Evans	Jason & Diane Jacobson
Bernie & Linda Janssen	Becky Walker	Bill & Sharolyn Dickey
Roger & Carol Walker	Brian & Amy Malm	Ed & Jen Meyer

If you are able and have the time on your hands—we would like to ask if there are people from Bethany that can help the Funeral Directors in the duties of preparing the church for a funeral—Both before and after. Duties are lighting the altar candles, turning on the lights, etc. Usually Diane is here and can answer any questions that may come up. This can be a Male or Female. Thanks!

LOST ISLAND NEWS



Just a reminder that all are welcome to join us on Dec. 23rd as we do some caroling—first in Ruthven and then in Emmetsburg. We will begin at 9 am and gather at the Assisted Living (Villa) area in Ruthven and then visit the nursing homes in Emmetsburg.



The Festival of Lessons and Carols

will be held in Spencer on Sunday, December 3rd at 3 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church. The community is invited to this annual program of music and the Christmas story. For more Information, visit "Spencer Messiah" on Facebook.

Note to all Board Chairpersons


Bethany's Annual Meeting will be 1/21/24
 Lost Island's Annual Meeting will be 1/28/24

Please have all reports, apart from financial reports, in to the office by the 28th of December to put the Report together.

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 those that have helped with our newly established, "Coffee Connection" held on the 2nd Sunday of every month.
- Thank you to Mark Saxton for preparing the Church yard for winter.
- Thank you to everyone who donated candy for Trunk or Treat! It was a wonderful success!
- Thank you to Funeral Groups B & C for providing food for Maxine Lashbrook's funeral and Don McEwan's funeral. The families were very grateful.

December 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 Lighted Parade – 6pm	2
3 Hanging of the Greens Wear your Church Shirt Day 8:45 am Lost Island Worship 9:30 am Bethany SS 10:15 am LI Sunday School 10:30 am Bethany Worship 2pm Glenn Henriksen Concert 5-8 pm Outreach at Okoboji	4 9 AM Quilting	5	6 <i>Noon Men's Bible Study</i> 1:30-3 PM SACK 6:00-7:30pm Conf/Connect 7:30-9:00 PM LIFE	7 6 pm Worship Board	8	9
10 SS Christmas Service 8:45 am Lost Island Worship 9:00 am Bethany SS 10 am Coffee Connection 10:15 am LI Sunday School 10:30 am Bethany Worship Passing Noisy Offering 5pm-Hospice Memorial Service, Family Life Center	11 9 AM Quilting 6 PM Quilting 6 pm Sarah Circle Meets at Elaine's home	12 9—3:30 pm WIC meets in the basement 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	13 <i>Noon Men's Bible Study</i> 3:30-5 PM SACK 5:30 PM Board of Youth Mtg 5-8pm Pizza Ranch Tip Night 6:00-7:30pm Conf/Connect 650 pm Tabitha Circle meets 8-9:00 PM LIFE	14	15	16
17 Communion Sunday 8:45 am Lost Island Worship 10:15 am LI Sunday School 10:30 am Bethany Worship	18 9 AM Quilting (Diane will be gone)	19 7 pm Bethany Council Mtg	20 <i>Noon Men's Bible Study</i> 9:30 am Mary Martha <u>Youth Christmas Parties</u> 3:30-5 PM SACK 6:00-7:30pm Conf/Connect 7:30-9:00 PM LIFE	21	22 January Items are due today for the Newsletter	23 9 am Caroling in Ruthven & E'burg
24 8:45 am LI Worship 10:15 am LI Sunday School 10:30 am Bethany Worship <i>Communion—evening serv.</i> 5 pm Christmas Eve Service 10:30 pm Christmas Eve Service	25 Church Office Closed 10 am Lost Island Christmas Day Worship 	26	27 No Youth Groups 10 am Put January Newsletter together	28 Annual Reports Due to Office	29	30
31 8:45 am Lost Island Worship 10:15 am LI Sunday School 10:30 am Bethany Worship	Church Office Closed 