

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
703 BROADWAY  
EMMETSBURG, IA 50536  
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# CONNECTIONS

MARCH 2024

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



Many times in the Gospels we hear the phrase, "Jesus went to a quiet place," or "Jesus went up the mountain apart from the crowds." Sometimes he took the disciples with him, sometimes he did not. Part of the reason Christ went off by himself to a quiet place to rest and to pray was to model an important piece of discipleship, the need for time away. Time to pray, time to rest, time to be refreshed and commune with God. In the last few months, I have begun working with the Mutual Ministry Committee and church councils to explore and plan for a time of Sabbatical in 2025. (tentatively January-July). A Sabbatical is intentional time away to rest and reflect, but also to study, or dig deeply into something. Although we are still in the early stages of conversation and planning, here is what that will mean for the parish-

For a period of 6-7 months, I will not be performing regular pastoral duties in the parish. I am looking to train some worship leaders to help with leading worship, and preaching duties will be met by pulpit supply. If you are interested in being trained as a Worship Assistant, let me know.

I would welcome any thoughts, ideas or suggestions that you may want to share for this Sabbatical time. I would also welcome suggestions for grant opportunities to help support both me and the parish for this time. I have some thoughts on what I would like to explore, but I would like to hear yours as well, if you are inclined to share.

*Pastor Peter*



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

## NEWS FROM JESSIE

Grace and peace to you all.

What a strange winter it's been. One could almost have confused it with spring coming early this year. With the arrival of spring, we often look expectantly towards Easter and hearing the stories of the risen Christ. But in order to get to Easter morning, we have to first find ourselves in the season of Lent. As Lutherans, when we think of Lent, we often think about having to give something up and that it should be a time of penitence. For centuries, this was often the case. However, in recent years, how we view this season has begun to shift. Lent is a time when we are called to take time to reflect on our own lives and how we use them to glorify God. For many, this is a time to begin new spiritual practices or finding ways to recenter our lives. Lent does not have to be a time of great sadness, but really it is a way in which we find ourselves working toward being closer to God.

On a lighter note, do you know why Easter moves around every year and is sometimes really early while other years it seems to be really late? The date for Easter and the entire season of Lent is actually totally dependent on the moon. Easter will always be the first Sunday after the first full moon of the spring equinox which is always between March 19-21. Another tradition that my family and many others I know like to follow during this season is that you should ALWAYS plant your potatoes on Good Friday. Does anyone else follow this tradition? What other traditions do you have during this season of growth?

God's peace,  
Vicar Jessie




**Coffee Connection.**  
**March 10th**  
**10:00am - 10:30am**  
 Held every 2nd Sunday of the month.

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

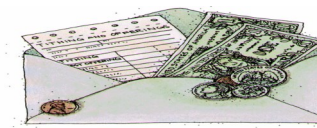
**Coffee. Treats. Conversation.**  
 A social time of fellowship to connect with others & enjoy some treats and beverages.

## JANUARY 2024 Bethany Lutheran Church Treasurer's Report

Attendance average: 61

MONTHLY BUDGET NEEDS FROM OFFERINGS: \$13,750.00

	MONTHLY BEGINNING BALANCE
	2,208.92
<b>INCOME</b>	
Offerings	8,666.92
Transfers from other Funds	0.00
Lost Island	0.00
<b>Total Income</b>	8,666.92
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Personnel Expenses	12,549.22
Program Expenses	9.44
Office Expenses	783.68
Property Expenses	2,026.70
Western IA Synod	789.02
Other Donations	0.00
Damascus Road	50.00
NO ELCA Donations	0.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	16,208.06
Income Less Expenses	(7,541.14)
<b>GENERAL FUND BALANCE</b>	(5,332.22)



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](mailto: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	712-260-8871
Mark Evans	712-260-5651
Diane Clasing-Steger	712-298-1003
Dianne Hough	712-852-2169
Barb Haack	712-260-3408
Laure Miller	712-363-2005
Ed Meyer	712-298-1029
Michael Jacobson	712-790-1452

### LOST ISLAND

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

## CONSIDER PERCENTAGE-BASIS GIVING

No matter how or what amount you give to your congregation, Thank You! Your offerings sustain important ministries, and there is no such thing as an inappropriate or inadequate offering.

But if you are among the many who give regularly on a “lump sum” basis, consider giving on a percentage basis instead.

The “lump sum” basis is when donors give a fixed amount – say, \$50 a week – to the church, regardless of what percentage it represents in their annual income. The advantage of lump sum giving is that it’s simple to calculate and keep track of. But lump sum giving reveals little about the generosity behind the gift. For a poorer family, \$50 a week may be significant, whereas it could be a pittance for a wealthy family. Since the Bible lifts up the principles of sacrificial giving as well as tithing, giving by percentage provides a better measure for giving. Once a family has calculated their gift as a percentage of income, it’s easier to track it and, over time, build up to a tithe.

Here’s how to get started with percentage giving:

- \* Calculate your regular offering over the course of the year.
- \* Divide the total yearly offering by your total annual income. This will give you a figure.
- \* Multiply that figure by 100 to determine your percentage giving.

When planning your offering, consider increasing it by 1 percent a year. If you do, in less than 10 years you will be tithing. However you give, thank you for supporting God’s ministries.

*Stewardship Board*



## GET INVOLVED.

### Quilters:

**Morning Quilting**  
Mondays- 9 AM weekly

**Night Quilters**  
Monday, 3–5 PM weekly

**Lost Island Quilting**

### Women’s Circles:

**\*Tabitha Circle:**

**\*Sarah Circle:**  
March 12th –6 pm  
@ Pat Vician’s home

**\*Mary Martha Circle:**  
Resume March 20th at 9:30

### Men’s Bible

*Wednesdays @ Noon*

### Adult Bible Study

### Help with worship

### Join A Board

### Help with Youth Programs



### Worship Services SUNDAYS

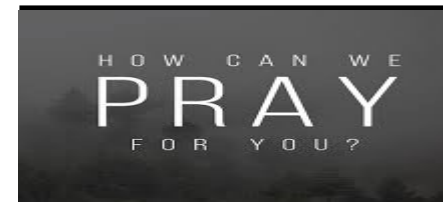
Lost Island at 8:45am  
Bethany at 10:30am

### Stay Connected

Bethany/Lost Island Parish  
Lost Island Lutheran Church

@bethanyemmettsburg

Bethany Worship  
Lost Island Lutheran Church



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:

Logan Murray, Mike Hermansen, Omundson Family, Shirley Knutson, Eric & Lana Kropf, Ben Brown, Betty Edwards, Jess McCune, Jim & Carol Krause, Jon Sorenson, David Stephens, LeRoy Swalve, Terry Neary, Rick Rienhardt, Jan Myer, Dave Smith, Bridget Johnson, Don Crocoll, Robert Mortenson, Jr., and those we name in our hearts.

### \*Our Sympathy:

**\*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

The month of everything happening! All the things from Lent services to Ignite conference to Holy Week and Easter oh, and spring break! Many different things happening but regardless of all of those things happening, one thing remains. God is present and active. God is faithful even when it feels like the things around us are not. Seek the God that promises us so much even when we don't deserve it.

## Upcoming events/schedule:

- March 6th**– Mission Trip Youth Serving Meal
- March 8-9th**–Ignite Youth Leadership Conference
- March 10th**– Wear your Bethany Church Shirt Day
- March 16th**– St Patrick's Parade



**ST. PATRICK'S PARADE**  
**March 16th**  
1:30PM

All youth and families are welcome to join to be on the church float. Be at float around 12:45pm-1:00 as they might start moving the line prior to parade. Meet at Ag Partners (1800 11th St)

- March 17th**– Outreach Night at Okoboji (6th-12th graders) 5-8pm
- March 20th**– Sunday school kids and Board of Ed serving meal  
SACK youth delivering Palms
- March 24th**– Palm Sunday (Confirmation kids reading)
- March 27th**– 7pm “Let Go” Mime Drama
- March 30th**– 9am Egg Cracking and Set Up
- March 31st**– Easter Breakfast following Sunrise service

**BETHANY SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE**

BETHANY EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP  
MARVIN E SIMONSEN SCHOLARSHIP

APPLICATIONS ARE OUTSIDE OF THE OFFICE.  
BOTH ARE DUE APRIL 15TH!

OKOBOJI  
**outreach night**



**MARCH 17**  
5:00PM-8:00PM  
\$5 PER PERSON  
6TH-12TH GRADERS

R.S.V.P. at  
www.okoboji.org/outreach  
by March 14th at 4pm

**GARGOYLES**

Want to come an hour early to do a service project at camp?  
Let us know.



## NOISY OFFERING



March–  
Cherish Center  
In Milford



**HELP US WITH OUR GOAL**

1. Give at a fundraiser
2. Give money towards mission trip by putting “Youth Mission Trip” in memo
3. Give online under Youth Missions with a memo line “Youth Mission Trip”

QUESTIONS ABOUT MISSION TRIP. ASK KRISTIN

**Sunday School Bible Project.**

GOAL- \$600

**Helps** INTERNATIONAL

With only one doctor for every thousand residents and severely limited medical care in rural areas, persistent health crises threaten Guatemala's social and economic progress. Maternal and infant mortality, malnutrition, communicable diseases, parasites and diabetes are high, especially in indigenous communities.

## 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—MARCH

Karyn Leininger, Karen Thu,  
Kari Sorenson

## READERS

- March 3 Jeff Geiger
- March 10 Sue Geiger
- March 17 Tim Nielsen
- March 24 Congregation (Palm Sun)
- March 28 Susan Rohan (Maundy Thursday)
- March 31 Karyn Leininger (Easter)

## ACOLYTES

- March 3 Hannah Geiger
- March 10 Bethany Geiger
- March 17 Zac Sorenson
- March 24 Lily Rohan
- March 31 Hannah Geiger

## COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

- March 3 Charles Henningsen
- March 17 Steve Pitt
- March 24 Jeff Geiger (Palm Sunday)
- March 28 Troy Leininger, Susan Rohan (Maundy Thursday)
- March 31 Craig Thu (Easter)

## ACOLYTES AT BETHANY

- March 3 Elin Gustafson
- March 10 Paytn Haack
- March 17 Brayden Ayers
- March 24 Sydney Martini
- March 31 (Early) Liza Saxton (Late) Ingrid Gustafson

## COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

- March 3 Dianne Hough, Chuck & Marla Noble
- March 24 Angie Hetrick, Kristin Rienhardt, Emmy Dooley (Palm Sunday)
- March 31 Early Easter Diane Clasing Steger, 2 Volunteers
- March 31st Late Easter 4 Volunteers

## BETHANY

### MUSICIANS at BETHANY

- |                            |                       |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| March 3 Tim Nielsen        | March 6 Holly Sidles  |
| March 10 Laura Gustafson   | March 13 Tim Nielsen  |
| March 17 Tim Nielsen       | March 20 Holly Sidles |
| March 24 ????              | March 29 ?????        |
| March 31 Early Tim Nielsen | Late—??????????       |

### ALTAR GUILD—MARCH Amy Malm

### LECTORS

- March 3 Darca Saxton
- March 10 Marla Nobles
- March 17 Kathy Mehan
- March 24 Palm Sunday
- March 31—Easter Early Frank Veltri
- March 31—Easter Late Laure Miller

### USHERS

- March 3 Terry Rouse, Bob Steger
- March 6 Volunteer for Mid-Week Service
- March 10 Chuck Noble, Michael Jacobson
- March 13 Volunteer for Mid-Week Service
- March 17 Mark Saxton, David Sidles
- March 20 Volunteer for Mid-Week Service
- March 24 Kyle Hagen, Mark Evans
- March 29 7 pm Good Friday Service
- March 31 Early Michael Jacobson, Brian Malm
- March 31 Late Mark Evans, Lonnie Naig

### GREETERS

- March 3 Bob & Diane Clasing-Steger
- March 10 Elaine Nauss, Kayla Hagen
- March 17 Pat Vician, Dianne Hough
- March 24 Del & Donna Poldberg
- March 31 Early—Greg & Rachel Haack
- March 31 Late—Terry & Pam Rouse



The Altar Guild would appreciate any Easter lilies and spring flowers that you may wish to share for Easter Sunday. They can be delivered to the church on **MARCH 29TH BETWEEN 9AM-2PM** in the overflow room. Please put your name on the plant if you wish to take it home later. Also, if you want the plant to be recognized in honor or memory of someone, please fill out the sheet outside the office. The Easter lilies and spring flowers can be picked up **APRIL 7TH AFTER WORSHIP**.

### Memorial Gifts Given

In Memory of *Phyllis Schroeder* given by *Mark & Connie Schroeder* to the *Altar Guild & Youth Education*.

In Memory of *Bill Ziegler* given by *Bill's Family*.

In Memory of *Bill Ziegler* given by *Bill & Marcie Frevert*.

If you are able to 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!

### BETHANY FUNERAL SERVERS- GROUP A

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

Dale Evans  
 Dave & Judy Cole  
 Leroy Walker  
 Sharon Omundson  
 Mike & Betty Naig  
 Mark & Nicole Evans  
 Becky Walker  
 Brian & Amy Malm

Kyle & Kayla Hagen  
 Joe & Jennifer Boevers  
 Troy & Sarah Krug  
 Mitch & Kim Hohensee  
 Shawn & Jen Connelly  
 Jason & Diane Jacobson  
 Bill & Sharolyn Dickey  
 Ed & Jen Meyer

Tim & Molly Rodemeyer  
 Dan & Michelle Theesfeld  
 Chuck & Therese Duhn  
 Allen & Beth Will  
 Dianne & Randy Hough  
 Bernie & Linda Janssen  
 Roger & Carol Walker

## LOST ISLAND NEWS



Quilting will take place at Lost Island Lutheran Church on March 16th at 9 am. All are welcome to come join us.



LOST ISLAND  
 March 28th 7pm

MAUNDY THURSDAY  
 THE LAST SUPPER



\*\*If any youth from either church are able to help please contact Karyn from Lost Island. \*\*



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

Synod Assembly- April 19th & 20th at  
 Council Bluffs, Iowa

## 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 Marla Noble, Wilma Nielsen, LuAnn Opheim and Pat Vician for hosting the coffee and goodies for our February Coffee Connection on February 11th.

# March 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
<b>3 COMMUNION SUNDAY</b> <b>8:45 am</b> Lost Island Worship <b>9:30 am</b> Bethany SS <b>10:30 am</b> Bethany Worship	<b>4</b> <b>9 AM</b> Morning Quilters <b>3 PM</b> Evening Quilters	<b>5</b> <b>6 pm</b> Worship Board Meets	<b>6</b> <i>Noon Men's Bible Study</i> <b>3:30-5 PM SACK</b> <b>5:30 pm</b> Lenten Serv—Bethany <b>6:15 pm</b> Light Meal/Mission Group <b>7 pm</b> Lenten Serv—Bethany <b>7:30pm</b> — LIFE (Mime Prac.)	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> "Ignite" Youth Leadership Conference in Des Moines	<b>9</b> "Ignite" Youth Leadership Conference in Des Moines
<b>10</b> <b>8:45 am</b> Lost Island Worship <b>9:30 am</b> Bethany SS <b>10:30 am</b> Bethany Worship	<b>11</b> <b>9 AM</b> Morning Quilters <b>3 PM</b> Evening Quilters	<b>12</b> <b>6:30 pm</b> Cub Scouts	<b>13</b> <i>Noon Men's Bible Study</i> <b>3:30-5 PM SACK</b> <b>5:30 pm</b> Lenten Serv—Bethany <b>6:15</b> Light Meal/Green Space-Council <b>7 pm</b> Lenten Serv-Bethany <b>7:30pm</b> — LIFE (Mime Prac.)	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Church Float in St. Pat's Parade
<b>17</b> <b>8:45 am</b> Lost Island Worship <b>9:30 am</b> Bethany SS <b>10:30 am</b> Bethany Worship <b>5-8pm</b> -Outreach at IOLBC	<b>18</b> <b>9 AM</b> Morning Quilters <b>3 PM</b> Evening Quilters	<b>19</b> <b>7 pm</b> Bethany Council Mtg	<b>20</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Mary Martha Circle <i>Noon Men's Bible Study</i> <b>3:30-5 PM SACK (deliver palms)</b> <b>5:30 pm</b> Lenten Serv—Bethany <b>6:15</b> Light Meal/SS Staff for VBS <b>7 pm</b> Lenten Serv-Bethany <b>7:30pm</b> — LIFE (Mime Prac.)	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24 PALM SUNDAY</b> <b>COMMUNION SUNDAY</b> <b>8:45 am</b> Lost Island Worship <b>9:30 am</b> Bethany SS <b>10:30 am</b> Bethany Worship	<b>25</b> <b>9 AM</b> Morning Quilters <b>3 PM</b> Evening Quilters	<b>26</b> <b>6:30 pm</b> Cub Scouts	<b>27</b> <i>Noon Men's Bible Study</i> <b>3:30-5 PM SACK</b>  <b>7 pm</b> High School Youth Presents " <b>Let Go</b> " And a Bake Sale	<b>28</b> <b>WIC 9-3 pm</b>  <b>7 pm</b> Maundy Thursday Services at Lost Island	<b>29</b> <b>12 Noon</b> Ecumenical Good Friday service at Bethany <b>7 pm</b> Bethany— Good Friday Service	<b>30</b> <b>9am</b> - Egg Cracking & Set Up for Breakfast
<b>31 EASTER SERVICES</b> <b>COMMUNION SUNDAY</b> <b>6:30 AM</b> Sunrise Serv @ Bethany Following Service— Breakfast <b>8:45 am</b> Lost Island Worship <b>10:30 am</b> Bethany Worship						