

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
703 BROADWAY  
EMMETSBURG, IA 50536  
*Change Service Requested*

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# CONNECTIONS

FEBRUARY 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



**Matthew 2:9:**

**"They set out, and there ahead of them went the star that they had seen at it's rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was...On entering the house, they found the child and his mother Mary, and they knelt down and paid him homage."**

label

This, of course, is a passage from the visit of the Wise Men. As I write this, we stand at the crossroads between two liturgical seasons; Epiphany and Lent. During the season of Epiphany, all our lessons have portrayed some kind of face-to-face encounter with Christ. That face-to-face encounter will continue on into the season of Lent, and in many ways, take us deeper into that encounter, and how we are changed because of it. Scripture is full of such encounters with the Divine in both the Old and New Testaments: Abraham and Sara, Moses, David, Samuel, Mary, the shepherds, the first disciples, Palu; just to name a few. When we are brought face-to-face with God, everything changes. WE are changed.

As we travel forward into this year, I invite you to keep your eyes open for all the ways that you encounter God, and also the many ways that others may encounter God through YOU. What is God up to?

*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

Greetings to you all! As I write today, I'm watching the snow fall outside and finding myself longing for warm spring days. Is anyone else feeling the same way? I have noticed the days getting longer and with that, is hope that we're almost there. But! Springtime also means Easter is coming soon! It's crazy to believe that Ash Wednesday is in just a few days on the 14th. This is your friendly reminder that the day before is Shrove Tuesday. Traditionally, this would be the day that you tried to use up all the fat and sugar in your house (you know, all the good stuff) before Lent began so it would not spoil during the 40 days. My favorite tradition is to make breakfast (usually pancakes) for dinner. The next day, Ash Wednesday, will mark the beginning of our Lenten journey. I look forward to seeing many of you at our Wednesday evening services and meals throughout the season. I have been hard at work preparing Holden Evening Prayer for us to sing together.



Speaking of music, did you enjoy the Festival Choir we had for Christmas Eve? Would you like to see it happen again? Or maybe even regret not joining us then? Well have I got exciting news for you! We would like to do it again for Easter Sunday! Watch out for more information on that in the coming weeks as we get closer to Lent! Everyone is welcome to come and sing with us when they can and if you have family that will be coming in who may also be interested, reach out to me and we can find a way to get music to them ahead of time!

God's peace,  
Vicar Jessie

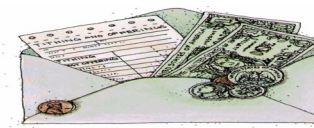
**Coffee Connection.**  
February 11th  
10:00am-10:30am  
Held every 2nd Sunday of the month.

**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.

DECEMBER 2023 Bethany Lutheran Church Treasurer's Report  
Attendance average: 61  
MONTHLY BUDGET NEEDS FROM OFFERINGS: \$13,750.00

	MONTHLY BEGINNING BALANCE
	865.45
<b>INCOME</b>	
Offerings	19,821.47
Transfers from other Funds	0.00
Lost Island	0.00
<b>Total Income</b>	19,821.47
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Personnel Expenses	13,874.09
Program Expenses	761.62
Office Expenses	811.75
Property Expenses	2,185.52
Western IA Synod	393.06
Other Donations	0.00
Damascus Road	50.00
NO ELCA Donations	401.96
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	18,478.00
Income Less Expenses	1,343.47
<b>GENERAL FUND BALANCE</b>	2,208.92



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

## STEWARDSHIP – FEBRUARY 2024

*Stewardship, quite simply, is recognizing that everything we have and everything we are is a gift from God and being grateful and generous with those gifts. God reveals His perfect and infinite love for us most visibly in His Son, Jesus Christ.*

*We are now in a new budget year. Utility costs, salaries, insurance costs, postage and other everyday expenses are increasing. Please consider increasing your donation to help keep the Church within our budget.*

*What is the Stewards Prayer?*

*“Heavenly Father, you taught us by your Son Jesus Christ that all our possessions come from you: help us to be faithful stewards of our time, our talents and our wealth, and to consecrate gladly to your service a due proportion for all that you have given us. Take us and make us your own; for Jesus Christ’s sake. Amen.”*



# 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:**  
Feb 13th –7 pm @ Judy Cole’s

**\*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

@bethanyemmetsburg

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:

Aaron & Ana Opheim, Mike Hermansen, Ron Omundson, Shirley Knutson, Eric & Lana Kropf, Ben Brown, Betty Edwards, Marvin & Ruth Duhn, Jess McCune, 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., 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

For God  
SO LOVED THE WORLD  
THAT HE GAVE HIS  
ONLY  
BEGOTTEN  
SON SO  
THAT WHOEVER  
BELIEVES  
IN HIM SHALL  
HAVE EVERLASTING  
Life  
John 3:16



The month of love in our world among other things. Valentines Day happens the same day every year but this year it happens to also land on Ash Wednesday. How fitting is that? How fitting it the start of Lent reminding us of starting at dust and how Jesus' love for us allows us to have eternal life. Lent is the season of reflecting on our hearts and struggles leading up to the greatest act of love.

## Upcoming events/schedule:

**Feb 11th**-Sunday school service project

**Feb 11th**- Wear your Bethany Church Shirt Day

**Feb 14th**- Ash Wednesday

No Connect/LIFE group

7:30 worship service

**Feb 18th**- Outreach Night at Okoboji

(6th-12th graders) 5-8pm

**Feb 21st**- Lent Services at 5:30pm & 7pm

No Connect during Lent

7:30pm LIFE (mime practice begins)

**Feb 25th**- Jan & Feb Birthdays Celebration

at Sunday school

**Feb 28th**- Lent Services at 5:30pm & 7pm

Confirmation Students serving meal

No Connect

**SUPER BOWL SUB FUNDRAISER FOR MISSION TRIP**

**PICK UP FEBRUARY 10th from 10-noon**

**BETHANY SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE**

BETHANY EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP  
MARVIN E SIMONSEN SCHOLARSHIP

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

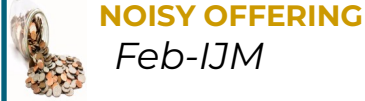
OKOBOJI  
**outreach night**

FEBRUARY 18  
5:00PM-8:00PM  
\$5 PER PERSON  
6TH-12TH GRADERS

HOONTING

R.S.V.P. at  
www.okoboji.org/outreach  
by Feb 15th at 4pm

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



## NOISY OFFERING

Feb-IJM

International Justice  
Mission

**LOVE. SEEVE. GOALS. IN ST. LOUIS**

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—FEBRUARY

Karyn Leininger, Sue Geiger

## READERS

Feb. 4 Alaire Nielsen  
Feb. 11 Troy Leininger  
Feb. 18 Karyn Leininger  
Feb. 25 Charles Henningsen

## ACOLYTES

Feb. 4 Hannah Geiger  
Feb. 11 Bethany Geiger  
Feb. 18 Zac Sorenson  
Feb. 25 Lily Rohan

## COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Feb. 4 Alaire Nielsen  
**Feb. 14 Kyle Norris (Ash Wed)**  
Feb. 18 Sue Geiger

## BETHANY

### MUSICIANS at BETHANY

Feb 4 Tim Nielsen Feb 11 Holly Sidles  
**\*FEB 14 Tim Nielsen—Ash Wednesday**  
Feb. 18 Tim Nielsen Feb. 21 Laura Gustafson  
Feb. 25 Holly Sidles Feb 28 Laura Gustafson

ALTAR GUILD—FEBRUARY Dianne Hough

## LECTORS

Feb. 4 Scouts  
Feb. 11 Frank Veltri  
Feb. 18 Laure Miller  
Feb. 25 Marit Veltri

## USHERS

Feb. 4 Brian Malm & the Scouts  
Feb. 11 Lonnie Naig, Charles Noble  
**Feb. 14 Chuck Duhn, Joel Saxton (Ash Wed)**  
Feb. 18 Kent Davidson, Kyle Hagen  
**Feb. 21 Volunteer for Mid-Week Service**  
Feb. 25 Joe Neary, Mark Saxton  
**Feb. 28 Volunteer for Mid-Week Service**

## GREETERS

Feb. 4 The Scouts  
Feb. 11 Leuer Family, Lori Forry  
Feb. 18 Chuck & Marla Noble  
Feb. 25 Glenyce & Willard Schmeling

## COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Feb. 4 Scout Sunday, Joe & Jen Boevers,  
Avon Hackbart-Morlock,  
**Feb. 14 Vicar Jessie, Kristin Rienhardt,**  
**(Ash Wed) Diane Steger, Angie Hetrick**  
Feb. 18 Frank & Marit Veltri, Jess Thoren

## ACOLYTES

Feb. 4 Liam Hill  
Feb. 11 Jacob Hall  
Feb. 18 Harlee Will  
Feb. 25 Liza Saxton

## Memorial Gifts Given

In Memory of *Annette Peterson* given by *Dave & Elaine Sidles*.  
 In Memory of *Annette Peterson* given by *Frank & Marit Veltri*.  
 In Memory of *Annette Peterson* given by *Ina Crocoll*.  
 In Memory of *Annette Peterson* given by *Allan Duhn*.  
 In Memory of *Annette Peterson* given by *Angela Hetrick* for the *Scholarship fund*.  
 In Memory of *Bill Ziegler* given by *Angela Hetrick* for the *Scholarship Fund*.  
 In Memory of *Bill Ziegler* given by *Frank & Marit Veltri* for the *Scholarship Fund*.  
 In Memory of *Annette Peterson* given by *Kristin Rienhardt*.  
 In Memory of *Annette Peterson* given by *John & Joyce Froisland* for the *Quilters*.  
 In Memory of *Annette Peterson* given by *Kristin Rienhardt*.

*Thank you David Sidles for helping with the funeral of Phyllis Schroeder.*  
 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 February 10th at 9 am. All are welcome to come join us.



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

Synod Assembly— April 19th & 20th  
 Delegates needed. Please let the office know if you are interested.

### CONGRATULATIONS MARVIN & RUTH

*Marvin and Ruth Duhn will be celebrating*  
**75 YEARS OF MARRIAGE** on February 12th.  
*Their family is requesting a Card Shower for them.*



*Their address is: Marvin & Ruth Duhn*  
*Lakeside Senior Care*  
*301 North Lawler, Emmetsburg*

## 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 attended the Annual Meetings at both churches. Your input is always welcome and good to hear.
- Thank you to Funeral Group C for providing the coffee and bars for Bill Ziegler's Funeral. The family really appreciated it.
- Thank you to those that participated in the "Beyond the Watercolor" guided by Charles Noble. It was a wonderful time!
- Thank you to Marla Noble, Wilma Nielsen, and Pat Vician for providing the coffee and goodies for our upcoming Coffee Connection on February 11th.

# February 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
<b>4 <i>Sinamon Sunday</i></b> <b>COMMUNION SUNDAY</b> <b>SCOUT SUNDAY</b> <b>8:45 am</b> Lost Island Worship <b>9:30 am</b> Bethany SS <b>10:15 am</b> LI Sunday School <b>10:30 am</b> Bethany Worship Soup & Rolls to follow Worship	<b>5</b> <b>9 AM</b> Morning Quilters  <b>3 PM</b> Evening Quilters	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <b>Noon</b> Men's Bible Study <b>1:30-3 PM</b> SACK (2nd-5th) <b>5:30 PM</b> Youth Board Mtg <b>6-7:30pm</b> Confirmation/Connect (6th-8th) <b>7:30-9 PM</b> LIFE (9th-12th)	<b>8</b> <i>Basement/Kitchen is Reserved for the Youth</i>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Bethany Youth making Sub-Sand.  <b>9 AM</b> Quilting at At Lost Island
<i>Vicar Jessie will be gone—back on the 13th</i>				<i>Vicar Jessie will be gone—back on the 13th</i>		
<b>11 <i>COFFEE CONNECTION</i></b> <b>8:45 am</b> Lost Island Worship <b>Installation of WELCA Officers at Lost Island</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Bethany SS <b>10:15 am</b> LI Sunday School <b>10:30 am</b> Bethany Worship	<b>12</b> <b>9 AM</b> Morning Quilters  <b>3 PM</b> Evening Quilters	<b>13</b> <b>6:30 pm</b> Cub Scouts  <b>7 pm</b> Sarah Circle	<b>14 <i>ASH WEDNESDAY</i></b> <b>Noon</b> Mens Bible Study <b>3:30-5 PM</b> SACK (2nd-5th) <b>NO Connect or LIFE group</b>  <b>6 PM</b> Services at Lost Island <b>Communion at Both Churches</b> <b>7:30 PM</b> Services at Bethany	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<i>Vicar Jessie will be gone—back on the 13th</i>				<i>Pastor Peter will be gone—back on the 17th</i>		
<b>18 <i>Communion Sunday</i></b> <b>8:45 am</b> Lost Island Worship <b>9:30 am</b> Bethany SS <b>10:15 am</b> LI Sunday School <b>10:30 am</b> Bethany Worship <b>5—8 pm</b> Outreach at IOLBC	<b>19</b> <b>9 AM</b> Morning Quilters  <b>3 PM</b> Evening Quilters	<b>20</b> <b>7 PM</b> Bethany Council Meeting	<b>21</b> <i>Noon</i> Men's Bible Study <b>3:30-5 PM</b> SACK <b>5:30 pm</b> Lenten Serv—Bethany <b>6:15</b> Light Meal/Women's Circles <b>7 pm</b> Lenten Serv-Bethany <b>7:30pm-</b> LIFE (Mime Prac.)	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> <b>Last Day For Articles For the March Newsletter</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> <b>8:45 am</b> Lost Island Worship <b>9:30 am</b> Bethany SS <b>10:15 am</b> LI Sunday School <b>10:30 am</b> Bethany Worship	<b>26</b> <b>9 AM</b> Morning Quilters  <b>3 PM</b> Evening Quilters	<b>27</b> <b>10 am</b> Put the March Newsletter Together  <b>6:30 pm</b> Cub Scouts	<b>28</b> <i>Noon</i> Men's Bible Study <b>3:30-5 PM</b> SACK <b>5:30 pm</b> Lenten Serv—Bethany <b>6:15</b> Light Meal/Confirmation <b>7 pm</b> Lenten Serv-Bethany <b>7:30pm-</b> LIFE (Mime Prac.)	<b>29</b> <b>9-3 pm</b> <b>WIC</b>		