

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
703 BROADWAY  
EMMETSBURG, IA 50536  
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# CONNECTIONS

MAY 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

*From the  
Pastor*



*I recently spent some continuing ed time at the Institute for Liturgical Studies at Valparaiso University. It was a wonderful three days filled with worship and learning, meeting new people and reconnecting with some old friends whom I had lost track of over the years. In terms of content for the speakers and workshops, the overarching theme was centered around the question of how we mark time in the church, while creating and sustaining community in a time where the sense of community seems fractured, and a sense of isolation increasing. A lot of discussion hovered around things that we are already working towards as a parish, namely being open to intersecting with folks who may only darken the door a couple times a year, if then, or have a vague idea that at certain points in life, you go to the church and the church does something to give shape and meaning to things like Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals etc. At these times and in these practices, the Liturgy itself serves to create community as we are drawn together, and drawn out of ourselves toward something larger. Within this practice of liturgy (the work of the people in worship together) the Sacraments create touchstones to remind us of that connectedness. There was some discussion around streaming services and whether or not that was community as well, and how we can connect better with those folks; the Jury is still out on that, but it is clear to me that anything that extends invitation, and draws people into community, even if only occasionally, is a good thing indeed. This is of course, an extremely broad overview of hours of presentation and discussion; I have copious notes I would be happy to share. I am grateful for your support of this time away.*

*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



*What's wrong with the front row?! What's so appealing about the back row?! Growing up, my family was always a back row family. Not because that was where our family sat for generations but because we were always sneaking in about 5 minutes into worship. It didn't seem to matter if we were on time or 20 minutes late, we were always coming in at the same spot.*

*But as I reflect on those years, our church was almost always full and those were some of the only seats left open. I remember thinking to myself often that I really wished I could see what the pastor was doing up front but there were too many people in the way and if I stood on the pew I was too far away. As I became a leader in the church, I was finally able to see what was going on up there and it's really cool! And when you get bored of the sermon (it's okay to admit, I bore myself sometimes) you can start to notice the details in the paraments (fancy church word for banners) and notice things you could have never seen from all the way back there. Many weeks when I'm standing up there in the pulpit I almost feel like I need my binoculars to see those sitting in the back row.*

*I know we're Lutherans here so I'm not going to ask you to come to the front row, but come forward! I promise Pr. Peter and myself don't stink!*

God's peace,  
Vicar Jessie

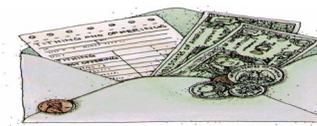
**Coffee Connection.**  
May 12th  
10:00am - 10:30am  
Held every 2nd Sunday of the month.

**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.

MARCH 2024 Bethany Lutheran Church Treasurer's Report  
Attendance average: 61  
MONTHLY BUDGET NEEDS FROM OFFERINGS: \$13,750.00

	MONTHLY BEGINNING BALANCE (2,813.34)
<b>INCOME</b>	
Offerings	14,831.52
Transfers from other Funds	0.00
Lost Island	0.00
<b>Total Income</b>	14,831.52
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Personnel Expenses	13,595.87
Program Expenses	61.30
Office Expenses	1,781.37
Property Expenses	1,905.20
Western IA Synod	389.14
Other Donations	0.00
Damascus Road	100.00
NO ELCA Donations	0.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	17,832.88
Income Less Expenses	(3,001.36)
<b>GENERAL FUND BALANCE</b>	(5,814.70)



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, Vice President	712-260-5651
Diane Clasing-Steger, Sec.	712-298-1003
Dianne Hough	712-852-2169
Barb Haack	712-260-3408
Laure Miller, President	712-363-2005
Ed Meyer, Treasurer	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



### What are the Benefits of Leaving My Church in My Will?

There are many reasons why you might choose to leave your church in your will.

#### Here are a few:

- To show your gratitude for the church's ministry. If your church has been a source of spiritual support and community for you, you may want to express your gratitude by leaving a gift in your will.
- To support the church's mission and ministry. Your gift can help the church continue to provide programs and services that meet the needs of its members and the community.
- To create a lasting legacy. By leaving a gift to your church, you can ensure that your values and beliefs will continue to be upheld long after you are one.

If you are considering leaving your church in your will, there are a few things you should keep in mind. First, you will need to consult with an attorney to ensure that your gift is properly documented and that it is used in the way you intend. Second, you will need to decide how much you want to give. There is no minimum or maximum amount, but you may want to consider your financial situation and the church's needs. Finally, you will need to decide how you want your gift to be used. You may want to designate a specific fund or program, or you may simply want to leave the church with the discretion to use the gift as it sees fit.

No matter how you leave your church in your will, your gift will be a meaningful way to show your support and create a lasting legacy.

Here are some additional tips for leaving your church in your will:

- Talk to your pastor or church leader. They can help you understand the church's needs and how your gift can be used effectively.
- Consider making a residual bequest. This means that you will leave the remainder of your estate to the church after other beneficiaries have been taken care of.
- Make sure your will is up-to-date. If you change your mind about your gift, you can always update your will. Leaving your church in your will is a great way to show your support and create a lasting legacy. By following these tips, you can ensure that your gift is used in the way you intend.

Leaving your church in your will is a great way to show your support and create a lasting legacy. By following these tips, you can ensure that your gift is used in the way you intend.

# GET INVOLVED.



### Quilters:

**Morning Quilting**  
Mondays- 9 AM weekly

**Night Quilters**  
Monday, 6—8 PM weekly

**Lost Island Quilting**  
April 20th-9:00am

### Women's Circles:

\***Tabitha Circle:** May 20th at 6:50 pm at Alaire's

\***Sarah Circle:** May 7th at the Pizza Ranch

\***Mary Martha Circle:** May 15th at 9:30 am

### 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, Omundson Family, Mike Hermansen, Shirley Knutson, Eric & Lana Kropf, Betty Edwards, Lon Twait, Jessie McCune, Paul Behrends, 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:** to the family & friends of Roger Hurst who's funeral was 4/19 at Lost Island.

\***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

**10 years! 10 years of ministry at Bethany complete! Crazy!** Oh how the time has gone like a blink in the eye. I have so many stories over the last 10 years. But as I reflect on this school year, I can't help but think of all the moments that made me pause and see how God was working.

The moments that become precious. The moments that were a challenge. The moments that were failures. The moments of victory. The moments that were joys. And yet, no matter what kind of moments we think of, God was working in all of them.

It has been a year of so many moments where God has shown up in these kids' lives. It truly is a blessing to walk along side them in their faith.

## Upcoming events/schedule:

**May 5th**– PJ & Pop tart Party at Sunday School

**May 12th**– Celebration Sunday

**May 15th**– Last Day of Youth Group

**SACK**– 1:30-3pm

**Confirmation Testing**–6:00pm

**Family Cookout**—6:15-7pm

**LIFE**– 7:30-9pm



## Scholarship Recipients:

### Marvin E. Simonsen:

- \*Mica Theesfeld
- \*Miriam (Avon) Hackbart–Morlock
- \*Joe Petersen
- \*Kelsey Petersen

### Bethany Education:

- \*Mica Theesfeld
- \*Miriam (Avon) Hackbart–Morlock
- \*Kelsey Petersen



**NOISY OFFERING**

**LSI**  
LUTHERAN SERVICES IN IOWA

**LOVE. SERVE. GROW. 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](mailto:Kristin.rienhardt@blc.edu)

712-790-6470

# VOLUNTEERS

## BETHANY

**ALTAR GUILD FOR MAY:** Marla Noble

### MUSICIANS at BETHANY

- May 5 Tim Nielsen
- May 12 Laura Gustafson
- May 19 Tim Nielsen
- May 26 Holly Davidson

### LECTORS

- May 5 Barb Haack
- May 12 Angie Hetrick
- May 19 Matt Malm
- May 26 Marit Veltri

### USHERS

- May 5 Lonnie Naig, Terry Rouse
- May 12 Chuck Noble, Chuck Duhn
- May 19 Kent Davidson, Mark Saxton
- May 26 Terry Rouse, Kyle Hagen

### GREETERS

- May 5 Joe & \*Jen Boevers
- May 12 Chuck & Marla Nobles
- May 19 Sherri Ort, \*Barb Haack
- May 26 Frank & \*Marit Veltri

### COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

- May 5 Angie Hetrick, Amy Malm, Kristin Rienhardt
- May 19 Ed & Jen Meyer, ????????????????

### ACOLYTES AT BETHANY

- May 5 Drake Mehan
- May 12 Liam Hill
- May 19 Paytn Haack

MAY

## LOST ISLAND

**ORGANIST:** Tim Nielsen

### ALTAR GUILD—MAY

Alaire Neilsen, Pat Henningsen

### READERS

- May 5 Lily Rohan
- May 12 Jeff Geiger
- May 19 Pentecost—Alaire Nielsen
- May 26 Sue Geiger

### ACOLYTES

- May 5 Bethany Geiger
- May 12 Zac Sorenson
- May 19 Lily Rohan
- May 26 Hannah Geiger

### COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

- May 5 Charles Henningsen
- May 19 Troy Leininger

## Memorial Gifts Given

Memory of *Wayne Anderson (cousin)* given by *Barb & Don Haack* for *Scholarship fund*

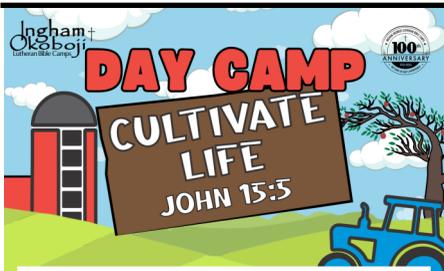
Memory of *Cathy Novotny (friend)* given by *Barb & Don Haack* for *Scholarship fund*

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	Kyle & Kayla Hagen	Tim & Molly Rodemeyer
Dave & Judy Cole	Joe & Jennifer Boevers	Dan & Michelle Theesfeld
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	



**Join us!**  
**Dates: July 15-18th**  
**Location: Bethany Lutheran**  
**Time: 12:30pm-5pm**

**Other Details:**  
 \$5- Parish Members  
 \$10- Non Parish Members  
 Finished 4yr Preschool- Finished 5th Grade

*The Altar Guild would like to thank the following families for sharing their Easter flowers with us:*

- Mike Schipull in memory of his wife, Lea.
- Kristin Rienhardt in memory of her grandfather, Robert Rienhardt
- Jessica, Jacob & Kaitlyn Hember and Steve & Tysen Wichman in memory of Ron Sandvig and Kelly Sandvig. They were Jessica's father and his sister.
- Robert & Diane Clasing-Steger in memory of their families.



At this time, the Quilters and others would like to let you know that they have made **549** Quilts, **20** Health kits, **20** Layette bundles and **98** School bags. These items were sent to Minneapolis, MN for the LWR. They will then get distributed around the world to those in need. What an accomplishment these ladies have made!

# LOST ISLAND NEWS



## SOUTH WALNUT CHURCH



“The first officers were Jeppe Skow; Christian Skow; Niels Jensen; Peder F. Gylling, first Secretary; and Christian Henningsen, Treasurer.

On June 6, 1892, the group met to incorporate the congregation in order that it could legally receive and own property. Jens and Lars Olesen donated 2 acres of land to be used as a cemetery. June 14, 1892, the Articles of Incorporation were recorded. The trustees were Knud Thuesen; Christian Henningsen; and Henry Brown.

The building committee collected \$800 and built a church, the present church, at a cost of \$761.53, leaving a small balance of \$37.47 in the building fund. Henry Brown was the architect. The church was finished in 1893 and dedicated Aug. 20, 1893, by Rev. P.C. Trandberg.”

*This article is being shared with you to let you know a little history of the South Walnut Lutheran Church. Charles Henningsen shared that there will be Memorial Day Service at this church on May 27th at 11 am. A meal will be served in the Church following the ceremony. The address is: 4053 320th Street, Graettinger .*



## 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!
- A BIG Thank you to the mentors who spent time with the Confirmation kids. With God's guidance, both the adult & youth have experiences to share.
- Thank you to Lon & Linda Twait for donating 2 office chairs to the church.
- Thank you to all who attended the Bethany sponsored Pancake & Omelet breakfast on the 14th of April. Our group netted around \$1300!
- Thank you to the City of Emmetsburg for hiring the Hoch Tree Service to remove the three large dying trees in front of the church.
- Thank you to the youth for leading Youth Sunday, April 21st!
- Thank you to all those that helped guide the youth throughout the year. This is a long list from those that teach, lead, to the mentors, to the drivers, to the parents. Especially, thank you to the Youth Board and Board of Education for their work in making this successful.

# May 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			<b>1 Noon</b> Men's Bible Study <b>1:30-3 PM</b> SACK (2nd-5th) <b>6-7:30pm</b> Confirmation/Connect (6th-8th) <b>7:30-9:00 PM</b> LIFE (9th-12th)	2	<b>3</b> <b>9-4 Clean-Up Days at Ingham Lake Lutheran Bible</b>	<b>4</b> <b>9 —4 Clean-Up Days at Ingham Lake Lutheran Bible</b>
<b>5</b> <b>Rogation / Communion 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	<b>6</b> <b>9 AM</b> Morning Quilting <b>6 PM</b> Night Quilting	<b>7</b> Sarah Circle meets At Pizza Ranch  <div style="background-color: #ADD8E6; text-align: center; padding: 5px;"><b>Diane Gone—Marla will be filling in</b></div>	<b>8 Noon</b> Men's Bible Study <b>3:30-5 PM</b> SACK (2nd-5th) <b>5:30 PM</b> Youth Board Mtg. <b>6-7:30pm</b> Confirmation/Connect (6th-8th) <b>7:30-9:00 PM</b> LIFE (9th-12th)	9	<b>10</b> <b>9-4 Clean-Up Days at Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp</b>	<b>11</b> <b>9-4 Clean-Up Days at Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp</b>
<b>12 Celebration Sunday</b> <b>8:45 am</b> Lost Island Worship <b>Blessing of the Quilts at Lost Island</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Last Day Bethany SS <b>10:00 am</b> Reception for Seniors <b>10:15 am</b> LI Sunday School <b>10:30 am</b> Bethany Worship	<b>13</b> <b>9 AM</b> Morning Quilting <b>6 PM</b> Night Quilting	<b>14</b> <b>6:30 pm</b> Cub Scouts	<b>15 LAST DAY OF YOUTH GROUP</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Mary Martha Meets <b>Noon</b> Men's Bible Study <b>1:30-3PM</b> SACK (2nd-5th) <b>6:00pm</b> Confirmation Testing <b>6:15-7:00pm</b> Family Cookout and Games <b>7:30-9:00 PM</b> LIFE (9th-12th)	16	17	18
<b>19 Communion / Baptism Sunday</b>  <b>8:45 am</b> Lost Island Worship <b>10:15 am</b> LI Sunday School <i>Punky Kropf's 90th Birthday Party (LI)</i> <b>10:30 am</b> Bethany Worship	<b>20</b> <b>9 AM</b> Morning Quilting <b>6:50 pm</b> Tabitha Circle meets <b>6 PM</b> Night Quilting	<b>21</b> <b>7 pm</b> Council Mtg.	<b>22</b> <b>Noon</b> Men's Bible Study	<b>23</b> June Articles are Due into the Office For the Newsletter	24	25
<b>26</b> <b>8:45 am</b> Lost Island Worship <b>10:15 am</b> LI Sunday School <b>10:30 am</b> Bethany Worship	<b>27</b> Office will be closed. 	<b>28</b> <b>10 am</b> Put Newsletter Together <b>6:30 pm</b> Cub Scouts	<b>29</b> <b>Noon</b> Men's Bible Study	<b>30</b> <b>WIC Here 9-3 pm</b>	31	