

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
703 BROADWAY
EMMETSBURG, IA 50536
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CONNECTIONS

APRIL 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



Throughout the season of Lent, the Confirmation students and their mentors have been walking through portions of the devotional "40 Days With God" by Kent Hickey; (2021 Paraclete Press.)

One of the things I love about the season is watching these faith conversations develop between the students and their mentors. It is not at all unusual for students to have the same mentor every year as they journey through confirmation and faith formation. Such conversations and relationships are important because they help connect the "faith stuff" to real life. In many ways, this is what the season of Lent is all about; a deep dive into the connection between faith and life. As the students and their mentors have journeyed together, they have explored questions of: Temptations; Is God really here?; and How God lifts us up, to name a few. We have pressed the same questions on our road to the Cross. Sometimes this is hard work, but we do so knowing that Easter is coming and we are Resurrection people! I encourage you to invite others to join us for Holy week and Easter worship...The night of doubt and sorrow is almost over. Easter dawn approaches. Christ is alive! And because He is, so too are we!

Thanks be to God!!

Pastor Peter



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

He is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Christ has arisen and so have the spring flowers and the tree buds and...the weeds. What do all of these spring risings have in common? All of them began as a seed placed in the earth to die and rise again to new life and be fruitful, producing innumerable more seeds.

Seeds? Yes, seeds.

For many of us, we know that spring is a time for sewing our gardens with a variety of seeds. Maybe some of us have already started seeds indoors as we anxiously await the day that we have the last overnight frost. But what is it that makes a garden special? There are a variety of different seeds planted, each with its own purpose to fulfill. It's like this, when we plant our gardens, we plant beans, squash, tomatoes, etc., but do we expect all the seeds to sprout as sunflowers? Of course not. Each plant in the garden has an equally important role to play, whether it's attracting more pollinators, replacing nutrients, or helping keep the weeds down. Every seed we plant and allow to grow in our garden has a chance to be fruitful and grow into something more.

When we are living lives for the gospel, we are like a seed planted in the garden. Each of us has a vital role to play as we live and grow. We all plant more seeds as we spread the gospel in the world, offering each seed the same option we had, to lay ourselves down to die and be resurrected to new life or remain how we are with our reward here on earth. Where are you planting and nurturing new seeds of faith this spring?

God's peace,
Vicar Jessie




Coffee Connection.

April 21st
10:00am - 10:30am

Held every 2nd Sunday of the month.

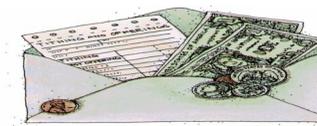
We invite ALL to join us for fellowship in the Overflow Room.

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

Coffee. Treats. Conversation.

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

	MONTHLY BEGINNING BALANCE (5,332.22)
INCOME	
Offerings	11,163.15
Transfers from other Funds Lost Island	0.00 10,620.00
Total Income	21,783.15
EXPENSES	
Personnel Expenses	12,888.16
Program Expenses	234.35
Office Expenses	1,000.40
Property Expenses	4,805.36
Western IA Synod Other Donations	336.00 0.00
Damascus Road	0.00
NO ELCA Donations	0.00
TOTAL EXPENSE	19,264.27
Income Less Expenses	2,518.88
GENERAL FUND BALANCE	(2,813.34)



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:

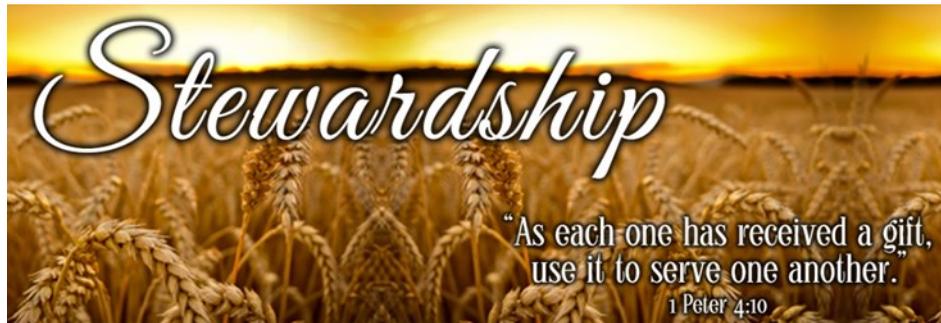
Do you have questions? Need assistance? Contact your council members and they will get you connected with the right people!

BETHANY

Joe Neary	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



Spring has Sprung. We will be celebrating Easter the last Sunday in March. We thank God for His Son, Jesus, who died, rose and opened the gates of heaven for us. We celebrate and sing “Alleluia.” Let’s try to keep the joy of this Easter season in our hearts throughout the year! Pray daily and listen for how God is calling each of us to joyfully use our time, talents and gifts to fulfill His salvation plan.

“The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own...” - Acts 4:32

All that we are and all that we have is a gift from God! Think of your family, your friends, your life, your talents and your money – these are all gifts from God! We aren’t really owners of anything, we are merely “stewards” of the gifts God has blessed us with. We are called to be grateful and generous with all of our gifts for the benefit of others.

GET INVOLVED.



Quilters:

Morning Quilting
Mondays- 9 AM weekly

Night Quilters
Monday, 3—5 PM weekly

Lost Island Quilting
April 20th-9:00am

Women’s Circles:

*Tabitha Circle: April 11th at 6:50 pm at Alaire’s

*Sarah Circle: April 11th at 6:30 pm at Elaine Nauss’ home— Pot Luck

*Mary Martha Circle: April 17th 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:

Jim Kacmarynski, Logan Murray, Omundson Family, Mike Hermansen, Shirley Knutson, Eric & Lana Kropf, Betty Edwards, 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:

***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

As I look back on the last month, a month filled with meals, services, Mime Drama, Ignite Conference, delivering palms, singing, and so much more, I can't help but wonder where the seeds of faith landed. Where is the Good News flourishing? We are in the Easter season! Spring Season! The season where seeds are planted and new life emerges. I can't help but think back to a speaker at the Ignite Conference. He said something that made me ponder, he said, "What have you done with the seed of faith that has already been planted? When we move we participate in our growth and growth of the kingdom."

Upcoming events/schedule:

April 3rd- Game day at Youth Groups

-Bring your favorite group board game/tell

Kristin if there is one at church you want to play

April 7th- Church vs Church Dodgeball Outreach

April 14th- Kiwanis Breakfast

April 21st-Youth Sunday

April 28th- Last Outreach Night for School Year



Game Day at Youth Group
 Come to one of the youth group times and play games with the youth. All are welcome! Let Kristin know if you would like to join!
APRIL 3RD

OKOBOJI
outreach night

CHURCH VS CHURCH DODGEBALL
 APRIL 7
 5:00PM-8:00PM
 \$5 PER PERSON
 6TH-12TH GRADERS
 R.S.V.P. at
 www.okoboji.org/outreach
 by April 4th at 4pm
 Dress for outdoor activities.
 Want to come an hour early to do a service project at camp? Let us know.

OKOBOJI
outreach night

CAPTURE THE FLAG
 APRIL 28
 5:00PM-8:00PM
 \$5 PER PERSON
 6TH-12TH GRADERS
 R.S.V.P. at
 www.okoboji.org/outreach
 by April 25th at 4pm
 Dress for outdoor activities.
 Want to come an hour early to do a service project at camp? Let us know.



NOISY OFFERING



April- Sunday School Offering



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

712-790-6470

VOLUNTEERS

BETHANY

ALTAR GUILD FOR APRIL: Amy Malm

LOST ISLAND

ORGANIST: Tim Nielsen

ALTAR GUILD—APRIL

Alaire Neilsen, Sue Geiger

READERS

Apr 7 Bethany Geiger

Apr 14 Charles Henningsen

Apr 21 Kyle Norris

Apr 28 Troy Leininger

ACOLYTES

Apr 7 Bethany Geiger

Apr 14 Zac Sorenson

Apr 21 Lily Rohan

Apr 28 Hannah Geiger

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Apr 7 Alaire Neilsen

Apr 21 Kyle Norris

MUSICIANS at BETHANY

Apr 7 Tim Nielsen

Apr 14 Laura Gustafson

Apr 21 Youth Sunday

Apr 28 Tim Nielsen

LECTORS

Apr 7 Ed Meyer

Apr 14 Diane Clasing Steger

Apr 21 Youth Sunday

Apr 28 Laure Miller

USHERS

Apr 7 David Sidles, Chuck Duhn

Apr 14 Chuck Noble, Kent Davidson

Apr 21 Youth Sunday

Apr 28 Brian Malm, Joe Neary

GREETERS

Apr 7 Josie Saxton, *Teresa Saxton

Apr 14 Amy & *Brian Malm

Apr 21 Youth Sunday

Apr 28 Elaine Nauss, Beverly Norland

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Apr 7 No communion

Apr 21 Youth Sunday

ACOLYTES AT BETHANY

Apr 7 Drake Mehan

Apr 14 Cael Rodemeyer

Apr 21 Harlee Will

Apr 28 Jacob Hall

Tithes & Offerings

Worship through giving. Giving back to God.

By Mail



In Person



Online



Questions on Online Giving? Ask Kristin

Noisy Offering Cans in the back.
Cans are passed on the 2nd Sunday of the month.

Memorial Gifts Given

In Memory of *Corey Reese* given by *Barb Haack* for the *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 Schmelting, 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 April 20th at 9 AM
All are welcome to come join us.



Synod Assembly—April 19th & 20th

Please keep Troy Leininger, Jeff Geiger, Vicar Jessie and Pastor Peter in your prayers as they attend this meeting



The Altar Guild would like to thank those that provided the beautiful Easter flowers for our churches. Please note that you can take them home with you at anytime now. Thank you again!

Altar Guild

Lent Meal Results:

LWR Kits-\$238
Confirmation Retreat-\$376
Mission Trip-\$580
Green Space-\$336
VBS/SS-\$465

A special thanks to Molly Rodemeyer and Pastor Peter for doing Thrivent Action Teams throughout Lent. Thank you to all the groups for providing sides and desserts each week. Thank you to many that donated their time, money, and energy to make these meals a success, especially Angie Hetrick.

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 Bethany's Sarah and Mary Martha Circles and their Thrivent Action Team for serving sandwiches and sides for the first Lenten meal and the Youth for helping with the serving of the rest of the meals. The Maidrites, Pork Loin, Hot Turkey Sandwiches and the Hot Ham & Cheese Sandwiches were all delicious.
- Thank You to all who attended these meals and made donations to their cause.
- 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.

April 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 9 AM Morning Quilting 6 PM Night Quilting	2	3 Noon Men's Bible Study 1:30-3 PM SACK (2nd-5th) 6-7:30pm Confirmation/ Connect(6th-8th) 7:30-9:00 PM LIFE (9th-12th) GAME DAY AT CHURCH	4	5	6
7 8:45 am Lost Island Worship 9:30 am Bethany SS 10:15 am LI Sunday School 10:30 am Bethany Worship 5pm-8pm Okoboji Outreach Night	8 9 AM Morning Quilting 6 PM Night Quilting	9 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	10 Noon Men's Bible Study 3:30-5 PM SACK (2nd-5th) 5:30 pm Youth Board Mtg. 6-7:30pm Confirmation/ Connect(6th-8th) 7:30-9:00 PM LIFE (9th-12th)	11	12	13
14 KIWANIS BREAKFAST AT VFW (8-12:30pm) 8:45 am Lost Island Worship No SS at Bethany 10:15 am LI Sunday School 10:30 am Bethany Worship	15 9 AM Morning Quilting 6 PM Night Quilting BETHANY SCHOLARSHIPS DUE	16 7 pm Joint Council Mtg at Bethany	17 9:30 am Mary Martha Meet Noon Men's Bible Study 1:30-3 PM SACK (2nd-5th) 6-7:30pm Confirmation/ Connect(6th-8th) 7:30-9:00 PM LIFE (9th-12th)	18	19 Synod Assembly at Council Bluffs	20 Synod Assembly At Council Bluffs 9 am Quilting at Lost Island
21 COMMUNION SUNDAY 8:45 am Lost Island Worship 9:30 am Bethany SS 10:00 am Coffee Connection 10:15 am LI Sunday School 10:30 am Bethany Worship Youth Sunday	22 9 AM Morning Quilting 6 PM Night Quilting <i>Articles due for May Newsletter</i>	23 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	24 Noon Men's Bible Study 3:30-5 PM SACK (2nd-5th) 6-7:30pm Confirmation/ Connect(6th-8th) 7:30-9:00 PM LIFE (9th-12th)	25 WIC Here 9-3 pm 9:30 am Put May Newsletter together	26	27
28 Quilt Sunday 8:45 am Lost Island Worship 9:30 am Bethany SS 10:15 am LI Sunday School 10:30 am Bethany Worship 5pm-8pm Okoboji Outreach Night	29 9 AM Morning Quilting 6 PM Night Quilting	30		*Rogation Sunday May 5th		