

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

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# CONNECTIONS

JANUARY 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



One of the things I like about the New Year, because I am a hopeless nerd, is opening up a new calendar that has nothing written in it yet. For me, this symbolizes all the things that are possible in the year ahead. There are things that are regularly scheduled to be sure; and I go through the calendar filling in those things that I know are coming because they've already been scheduled, but it is the unknown things that may come that I find exciting about a new year. What will it bring? What will we explore together? Who knows? We stand on the cusp of a new year!

Though much will remain the same and we may cynically say, as the sage does in Ecclesiastes, that there is nothing new under the sun; we also live into the promise of the New thing that God has done, is doing and will do in the year ahead...God is in the midst of His people and thus, we have hope and we look with eager, and perhaps, longing hearts to see what God will bring in the year ahead.

**I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?**

(Isaiah 43:19)

*PS: The monthly magazine of the ELCA, the Living Lutheran, is now only online. For those who are interested, it can be found at this link [Livinglutheran.org](http://Livinglutheran.org)*

*The link will also be added to the church websites.*

*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

label



## NEWS FROM JESSIE

Happy New Year!

It's hard to believe Christmas is over already. The Advent season absolutely flew by. I want to thank everyone who joined in with the Festival Choir for our Christmas Eve services. We had a lot of really excellent feedback from the congregation. Many said they would love to have a choir on a regular basis again. If there is enough interest, I would be thrilled to help lead during my time here.

Pastor Peter and I are enjoying this short period of rest between Christmas and Lent and are working on a theme for our Wednesday evening services. And don't forget, we have a special service coming up on January 6th at Lost Island! Together we will be celebrating Twelfth Night, also known as the Epiphany of Our Lord. This is the last day of the Christmas season and a great time to come together for worship and fellowship. The service will be at 7:00 pm.

God's peace,  
Vicar Jessie



### REQUEST FROM THE BETHANY/LOST ISLAND INTERN COMMITTEE:

Hello! We are looking for assistance with sermon feedback for our intern, Vicar Jessie. In the back of the church will be a sign up sheet. We're looking for people to sign up to take notes on days when Vicar Jessie provides the sermon.

After the service, please return the notes to the box by the sign up sheet. Please note that you may submit notes anonymously. We thank you for your help with this vital step in Vicar Jessie's education.

The Intern Committee: Susan Geiger, Mike Hermansen and Laura Reinders

## NEW! Coffee Connection.

January 14th  
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.



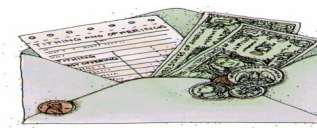
Coffee.  
Treats.  
Conversation.

### NOVEMBER 2023 Bethany Lutheran Church Treasurer's Report

Attendance average: 61

MONTHLY BUDGET NEEDS FROM OFFERINGS: \$13,750.00

	MONTHLY BEGINNING BALANCE
	8,399.18
<b>INCOME</b>	
Offerings	10,484.39
Transfers from other Funds	0.00
Lost Island	0.00
<b>Total Income</b>	10,484.39
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Personnel Expenses	12,682.74
Program Expenses	977.41
Office Expenses	298.92
Property Expenses	3,549.83
Western IA Synod	459.22
Other Donations	0.00
Damascus Road	50.00
NO ELCA Donations	0.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	18,018.12
Income Less Expenses	7,533.73
<b>GENERAL FUND BALANCE</b>	865.45



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 (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 January 2024

The beginning of the year is a popular time for personal reflection. Sometimes, when we take down the old calendar and hang up the new, we think about making a fresh start. New Year's resolutions are often focused on personal health — losing weight, relaxing more or smoking less. It is certainly important, of course, to take good care of our bodies. But Christianity offers us a fuller concept of self-improvement. St. Paul reminds us that both the body and the soul need an exercise program. In fact, every aspect of our persons — physical, mental, spiritual, emotional — can benefit from an annual self-examination. For example, one could join a Bible Study or prayer group, volunteer, altar guild, or help with the youth. Still, others use the three virtues - faith, hope and love - to guide their resolution-making process.

By now, you may have seen a similarity between New Year's resolutions and stewardship commitments. We use a similar method to think about stewardship, by breaking it down into more specific concepts — time, talent and treasure.

But even more important than the thought of a commitment is the heart of the person who makes it. Let us pray that this New Year is a time of grace and wisdom for those of us who seek to recommit our lives to our family, our parish and our God. Please prayerfully consider your gifts to Bethany in 2024. You can drop cash or check off in person or in the offering plate, you can use Vanco at GIVE | Bethany Lutheran ([bethanylutheranemmetsburg.com](http://bethanylutheranemmetsburg.com)) You can give a one-time donation or set Vanco up for recurring donations. You can also mail your donation to Bethany Lutheran Church, 703 Broadway, Emmetsburg, IA 50536. The local Emmetsburg banks also provide a free online bill pay service which can arrange recurring weekly or monthly payments also.



# GET INVOLVED.

## Quilters:

**Morning Quilting**  
 Mondays- 9 AM weekly  
**Night Quilters**  
 Monday, 3—5 PM weekly  
 Lost Island Quilting

## Women's Circles:

**\*Tabitha Circle:**  
 Dec. 13th at 6:50 pm @ Alaire's  
**\*Sarah Circle:**  
 Jan 9th –6:30 pm @ Church  
**\*Mary Martha Circle:**  
 Resume March 20th at 9:30

## Men's Bible

Wednesdays @ Noon

## Adult Bible Study

TBD

## 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:

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:** Phyllis Schroeder & Annette Peterson'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

A New year has come! That is crazy! 2024 is here! I hope that your Christmas season has been a blessing for you.

A New year full of beginnings. It takes awhile for me to get used to writing the new year down consistently. Sometimes that is how faith goes. It takes awhile to sync in and takes awhile for new habits to form in our faith walk.

What new things is God leading you towards? What has God been trying to tell you over and over again and it just hasn't sunk in yet? A challenge for you to ponder as God is continually making us new creations.

## Upcoming events/schedule:

**Jan 7th**-Sunday school resumes

**Jan 10th**- Youth group and confirmation resume

**Jan 14th**- Wear your Bethany Church Shirt Day

**Jan 21st**- Annual Meeting-Parents needing something to keep busy while you attend the Annual Meeting? Let Kristin know.

**Jan 28th**- Beyond the Watercolor Painting Fundraiser, 2-4pm, Tentative

**Jan 28th**- Outreach Night at Okoboji (6th-12th graders) 5-8pm, Wear Outside Winter Clothing

## SUPER BOWL SUB FUNDRAISER FOR MISSION TRIP

Keep a lookout in announcements for details and ordering at the end of January



**NOISY OFFERING**  
Jan-  
Helps International  
(SS project)



**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—JANUARY**  
Lavonne Mason, Pat Henningsen

**READERS**  
Jan. 7 Tim Nielsen  
Jan. 14 Susan Rohan  
Jan. 21 Kyle Norris  
Jan. 28 Lily Rohan

**ACOLYTES**  
Jan. 7 Hannah Geiger  
Jan. 14 Bethany Geiger  
Jan. 21 Zac Sorenson  
Jan. 28 Lily Rohan

**COMMUNION ASSISTANTS**  
Jan. 7 Karyn Leininger  
Jan. 21 Craig Thu

**BETHANY**  
**MUSICIANS at BETHANY**  
Jan. 7 Tim Nielsen Jan. 21 Tim Nielsen  
Jan. 14 ??? Jan. 28 ??????

**ALTAR GUILD—JANUARY** Jessica Thoren

**LECTORS**  
Jan. 7 Barb Haack  
Jan. 14 Angie Hetrick  
Jan. 21 Ed Meyer  
Jan. 28 Matt Malm

**USHERS**  
Jan. 7 Bob Steger, Chuck Duhn  
Jan. 14 Michael Jacobson  
Jan. 21 David Sidles, Joe Neary  
Jan. 28 Mark Evans, Terry Rouse

**GREETERS**  
Jan. 7 Angie Hetrick, \*Marit Veltri  
Jan. 14 Elaine Naus, \*Wilma Nielsen  
Jan. 21 Dave & Judy Cole  
Jan. 28 Diane Clasing Steger, \*Bob Steger

**COMMUNION ASSISTANTS**  
Jan. 7 Ed & Jen Meyer  
Brian & Amy Malm  
Jan. 21 Vicar Jessie, Kristin Rienhardt,  
Lori Forry, Laure Miller

**ACOLYTES**  
Jan. 7 Cael Rodemeyer  
Jan. 14 Sydney Martini  
Jan. 21 Brayden Ayers  
Jan. 28 Drake Mehan



## Memorial Gifts Given

In Memory of *Don McEwan* given by *Bill & Marcie Frevert* for *Undesignated Fund*.  
 In Memory of *Phyllis Schroeder* given by *Dave & Elaine Sidles* for the *Green Space..*  
 In Memory of *Phyllis Schroeder* given by *Angie Hetrick* for the *Technology Fund*.  
 In Memory of *Phyllis Schroeder* given by *Wilma Nielsen*.

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!

### Attention Bethany and Lost Island Members

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

### MEMBERS OF LOST ISLAND AND BETHANY

Annual meetings are important to the church and the ministry it provides. These meetings give insight on where the church and the ministries within stand and where they hope to go in the future year. Please consider joining in on the meetings. Be informed.

Bethany parents-if you have kids with you at church and want to stay for the Annual meeting, please let Kristin know and she can hangout with them during the meeting, playing games and/or watching Veggie tales.

## THANK YOU

### 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

- 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 the Board of Education for sponsoring the “Coffee Connection” for the month of December. Don’t forget to look at the Sign-Up sheet for a Sunday that you and others can sponsor.
- Thank you to the Sunday School for providing their Christmas Program for us. Everyone did a wonderful job!
- Thank you to everyone who helped prepare and watch our float in the Holiday Float Parade the first part of December
- Thank you to Funeral Group C for providing food for Phyllis Schroeder’s funeral. The family was very grateful.

# January 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 <i>Noon Men's Bible Study ??</i>	4	5	6 <b>7 pm "12th Night" At Lost Island</b>
7 <b>Communion Sunday</b> 8:45 am Lost Island Worship 9:30 am Bethany SS 10:15 am LI Sunday School 10:30 am Bethany Worship	8 9 AM Morning Quilters 3 PM Evening Quilters	9 6:30 pm Sarah Circle 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	10 <i>Noon Men's Bible Study</i> 3:30-5PM SACK Youth Board Meeting 6:00-7:30pm Conf/Connect 7:30-9:00 PM LIFE	11	12	13
14 <b>COFFEE CONNECTION</b> 8:45 am Lost Island Worship 9:30 am Bethany SS 10:15 am LI Sunday School 10:30 am Bethany Worship	15 9 AM Morning Quilters 3 PM Evening Quilters	16 7 PM Bethany Council Meeting	17 <i>Noon Men's Bible Study</i> 1:30-3 PM SACK 6:00-7:30pm Conf/Connect 7:30-9:00 PM LIFE	18	19	20 9 am Quilting at Lost Island
21 <b>Communion Sunday</b> 8:45 am Lost Island Worship 9:30 am Bethany SS 10:15 am LI Sunday School 10:30 am Bethany Worship 12:00 Noon <i>Bethany's Annual Mtg.</i>	22 9 AM Morning Quilters 3 PM Evening Quilters	23 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	24 <i>Noon Men's Bible Study</i> 3:30-5 PM SACK 6:00-7:30pm Conf/Connect 7:30-9:00 PM LIFE	25 9—3 pm WIC	26 Last Day For Articles For the February Newsletter	27
28 8:45 am Lost Island Worship 9:30 am Bethany SS 10:00 am <i>Lost Island's Annual Mtg.</i> 10:15 am LI Sunday School 10:30 am Bethany Worship  2-4 pm Beyond the Watercolor 5-8 pm Outreach at IOLBC	29 9 AM Morning Quilters 3 PM Evening Quilters	30 10 am Put Together the February Newsletter	31 <i>Noon Men's Bible Study</i> 3:30-5PM SACK 6:00-7:30pm Conf/Connect 7:30-9:00 PM LIFE			