



Bethany Lutheran Church

Mission Statement

Reaching out in Worship, Fellowship, Learning, and Love - We Are God's People.

The Chimes

Annual Meeting Highlights

The 2023 Annual Meeting was held this past Sunday, and here are a few highlights...

- ❖ President Jim Martindale thanked the outgoing Council members: Shelley Wallace, Bob Hoxie, Dan Wischmeier & Mike Hopp (completing a vacated term)
- ❖ The following folks were elected to the Council to serve three year terms: Vicki Stoller, Dirk Zaiser, Tom Bonar & Mike Hopp
- ❖ President Jim Martindale gave an update on the roof repairs
- ❖ The 2023 budget passed

Thank you to all who were able to attend the meeting.



Offering envelopes update...

The offering envelope company was contacted on Monday, January 30 about the status of our order. They are expected to be out within two weeks. If they aren't received by February 15, then another phone call will be placed to the company.

Also ~ the giving statements that weren't picked up this past Sunday have been mailed.

Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Pastor Pete: 319-470-9057
Email: petemdiv@gmail.com

Our Staff

Rev. Pete Hagglund, Interim Pastor
Cory Byrne, Choir Director/Organist
Kim Engle, Stephen Ministry Coordinator
Michelle Huppenbauer, Office Administrator
Pam Crable, Custodian

February 2023, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

Happy Valentine's Day from LSI

At LSI, loving our neighbor is an essential value that we continuously work and grow towards. This Valentine's Day, take time to share with your friends, family and neighbors how important they are to you. February is a time of giving, a time of love and a time of gratitude. Share with those around you how much they mean to you and the impact they have had on you.

It's also a time when we want to thank you, the congregations that so generously support the work of LSI throughout the year. We are blessed by your love and support. Your generosity has continued to offer hope and healing to Iowans of all ages.

For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at LSIowa.org and facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

Love Your Neighbor

At LSI, loving our neighbor is an integral value. Our staff continuously work towards loving their neighbors and investing their time, energy and resources into helping their neighbors.

"I love getting to know my LSI colleagues and teammates, and I feel fortunate to be surrounded by such talented, passionate and inspiring individuals," said Nick Wuertz, Director of Immigrant and Refugee Community Services (IRCS). "The team around me makes me better, and by getting to know my team and understanding their unique skills and perspectives, I feel I can love and support them in sharing those gifts with others on our team, our clients and the broader community."

Barbra Jotzke-Torrier, Director of Philanthropy, shared that loving her neighbor means treating others with respect. "It means remembering my way is not always the best way, and certainly not the only way to live, love, make a home or be a part of a family." Barbra shared that her job at LSI has given her the opportunity to share people's stories and to connect people with programs they are passionate about.

"Loving my neighbor means caring for them and being there for them in good times and hard times," shared Patrick Karemera, a Resettlement Caseworker. "Loving my neighbor through my job is about welcoming our new neighbors from all over the world who flee their homes in hopes of a better life."

As Nick shared, loving your neighbors is complex and requires you to take the time to get to know them on a personal level. This Valentine's Day, we invite you to take that step and get to know your neighbors.



Happy Valentine's Day



Dear Friends in Christ,

Presidents' Day--a way of combining into a national holiday the birthdays of what history has judged the greatest two presidents the United States has ever had. George Washington (Feb. 22) and Abraham Lincoln (Feb. 12) presided over what are the two most defining times of our nation's history--the start-up and the War Between the States, or as it's better known, in what has to be one of the biggest oxymorons ever, the "Civil" War. It's not surprising that the president ranked immediately after Washington and Lincoln is Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who had to lead our country through both the Great Depression and World War 2. There's no question at all that those three did what they did *masterfully*. After the "big three", the rankings aren't as clear-cut, probably because no other times in our history quite match the enormity of the challenges faced by Washington, Lincoln, and Roosevelt.

Our system of government involves a lot more people than the president, of course, but it's that office in particular we think of when we're pondering how our government works or *doesn't* work. The president has limits to his ("his", *so far*, that is) power, but he definitely has more clout than any other single government figure. Because of the scope of his powers, the president has (or *should* have) more *responsibility* to *us* and to *God* than anyone else, too. But whether we're talking about a U.S. president, a prime minister, chancellor, emperor, or any other kind of governmental leader, we're talking about someone whom we--as people of God-- are to respect, pray for, and obey, although the "obedience" part has some serious qualifications. As Martin Luther put it (and this is my paraphrase), "*My prince, you have my loyalty and my obedience in your God-given role as my leader, but when you assume power that belongs only to God, that's when I must refuse to obey you.*"

When he wrote that, whether he meant to or not, Martin summed up the Bible's entire teaching about how God's people--Jewish or Christian--are to relate to the law of the land and the people who administer it. In a nutshell, here's that biblical history:

It begins with Jeremiah 29:4-7 (I suggest you take a look at it). For the first time since they entered the Promised Land, the people of Israel are now under foreign rule, no longer a theocratic monarchy. They're captive exiles in the land of Babylon, wondering what their future holds. Jeremiah tells them in so many words to "brighten the corner where they are", because they're going to be there for a long time. Though he doesn't use these exact words, Jeremiah is telling them that the emperor of Babylon is God's chosen instrument, and therefore worthy of their obedience.

Jeremiah's advice basically carried over into the Christian era. In the time of Jesus, the Holy Land was under Roman rule. Jesus himself did nothing to resist the Romans, much to the disappointment of many of his fellow Jews (we all know the famous "Render unto Caesar" story). His focus was clearly on what he called "the Kingdom of God", which he was sure was coming in its fullness with his own return in the *very* near future (Matthew 16:28). He knew the disaster that bloody revolution would bring, and made it clear in his teaching that he wanted nothing to do with that. At any rate, Jesus wanted to get along with the Romans even while he prepared his followers to be ready for the coming of God's Kingdom.

But when Jesus didn't return as the early Christians expected, Jesus' followers were left to work out *their* relationship with the Roman government. I won't quote them here, but both Peter and Paul instructed allegiance to the emperor (Romans 13:1-7 and 1 Peter 2:13-17), so in short--Christians are supposed to be good citizens, who participate in the health of their society, all the while keeping our *supreme* loyalty with God. And here's where it gets tricky...

Remember what Luther said to "my prince", and then recall what Peter and others said to the religious rulers in Jerusalem who had ordered them to stop preaching and teaching about Jesus and in His name: "*We must obey God rather than any human authority.*" (Acts 5:29) Know, too, that *the Book of Revelation* was written to tell its readers that the Roman government had turned purely evil, and that it's better to suffer imprisonment, torture, and/or death than to obey the emperor's command that he be worshiped--whether you meant it or not when you *did* it!

This all tells us--among other things--that a Christian's relationship with secular government is neither completely *separate* nor *equal*. If only it were that easy to *always* know when to obey and when to resist! Thank God that our salvation is dependent on *God's* goodness, not *ours*! But the level of our gratitude for that will show in how seriously we take our devotion to both God and governmental authority; the best way to go about that is the way to also go about anything else which is not that cut and dried, not to mention all the things that are much clearer--a faithful commitment to worship, prayer, the study of Scripture, and never forgetting that in anything of any importance, *God always comes first*.

Your fellow servant and child of God,
Pastor Pete

Meetings

The meetings for February, 2023 that have been scheduled as of the publishing of this newsletter are listed below. Watch your bulletins for any date and time changes, or additional meetings that may be scheduled.

Church Life Committee
Sunday, February 12, 10:15 a.m.

Property Committee
Monday, February 13, 6:30 p.m.

Church Outreach Committee
Tuesday, February 14 5:30 p.m.

Executive Committee
Tuesday, February 14, 6:30 p.m.

Finance Committee
Thursday, February 16, 6:30 p.m.

Men's Breakfast
Saturday, February 18, 8:00 a.m.

Church Council
Sunday, February 19, 6:30 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE

The deadline to submit information for the monthly Chimes is the 20th of the month. You're welcome to email your submissions, leave a note on the desk in the office, or call the church office.

ALSO!

Because of Federal Privacy laws, if you or a member of your family are hospitalized and would like the Pastor to visit, you must contact the church and let us know.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

JANUARY ATTENDANCE

January 1	43
January 8	53
January 15	76
January 22	47
January 29	67

JANUARY GIVING

January 1	\$3,920.90
January 8	\$1,977.50
January 15	\$3,302.15
January 22	\$1,437.00
January 29	<u>\$2,148.00</u>
Total	\$12,785.55

January VANCO total \$1,390.00

*Thank you for your
generosity and faithful trust
in God to provide your
needs! God believes in you
and has a great future
planned for Bethany.*

If you change your mailing address, please let the office know ASAP. For every piece of mail returned for an incorrect address, we are charged 75 cents.

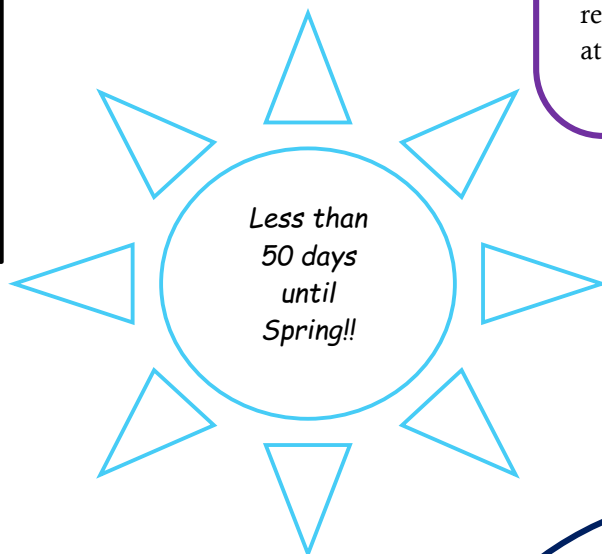


Community Meetings this month...

Retired Nurses – Friday, Feb. 3,
9:30 a.m.
Retired Teachers – Monday, Feb. 6,
12:00 noon
Boy Scouts – Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.

The three ELCA Bishops in Iowa have decided to ride Ragbrai this year. The dates are July 22-29. It's the 50th anniversary of the event, and they've committed to riding 50+ miles together, each day, celebrating and highlighting 50+ anti-hunger ministries in our three synods, and raising \$50K plus for ELCA World Hunger. This year's route will begin in Sioux City and in Davenport. All are welcome to ride with them; but if that's not something you want or are able to do, then what you can do is pray for them that they have a safe trip, and donate to World Hunger.

Oak View will be hosting a get together on Monday, February 27 at 2:00 PM. All are invited. This event is held on the last Monday of every month. This is a chance to visit with the homebound that are residents there. Pastor Pete will be attending, so plan to join him!!



**Ash
Wednesday**

Our Ash Wednesday service will be February 22, 7:00 pm. Watch your bulletins & Chimes for more Lent information.

CHOIR REHEARSAL

The choir will be singing a few more times this year, and all are welcome to come and make a joyful noise unto the Lord. Our rehearsal schedule is...

February 12 – 8:00 a.m.
February 19 – 8:00 a.m.
February 26 – 8:00 a.m./sing in worship

Keep watching your bulletins and newsletter for more rehearsal and performance dates.

LAY LEADERS FEBRUARY 2023

February Usher: Susan Swanson

Communion Assistants

5 - Jessica King; Dan Harken
12 - Scott & Jan Creighton
19 - Jim & Sharon Martindale
26 - Amy Unglaub; Shelley Wallace

Lector

5 - Mike Hopp
12 - Rachel Lindeen
19 - Mitchell Huston
26 - Ron Kastner

Greeters

5 - Mark & Bonnie Rosenberg
12 - Bill Mundt
19 - Carol Dodge
26 - Ginny Mesecher

Altar Guild

Kim Engle
Lynda Johnson

Missionary Support

5 - Open
12 - Todd & Laurie Chelf
19 - Open
26 - Open

Flowers

5 - Open
12 - Tiffany & Michelle Huppenbauer
19 - Bev Sherbondy
26 - Brock






7 - Leonard Timberlake
9 - Christine Timberlake
12 - Sharon Adam
18 - Sharon Eisenmayer
20 - Norma Bock; Judy Craven
21 - Makenzie Morris
22 - Theresa Ryner
28 - Genieve Hingst; Lori Rosenberg



3 - Leonard & Joyce Timberlake
9 - Larry & Marlys McClurg
14 - Jim & Barb Morris; Matthew & Shannon Oetken
20 - Robert & Doreen Roy

February

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7:00 p.m. Confirmation @ Faith	 2 9:30 a.m. Bible Study	3 9:30 a.m. Retired Nurses	4
<i>Pastor Pete at Bethany Tuesday, Thursday & Friday</i>						
5 <i>5th Sunday after Epiphany</i> 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:55 a.m. Hope Service	6 12:00 noon Retired Teachers	7 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts	8 7:00 p.m. Confirmation @ Faith	9	10	11
12 <i>6th Sunday after Epiphany</i> 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Church Life 10:55 a.m. Hope Service	13 6:30 p.m. Property Committee	14 5:30 p.m. Church Outreach 6:00 p.m. Executive Committee 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts	15 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Confirmation @ Faith	16 6:30 p.m. Finance Committee	17	18 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast
<i>Pastor Pete at Bethany Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday</i>						
19 <i>Transfiguration of our Lord</i> 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Church Council 10:55 a.m. Hope Service	 Deadline for submissions to the March Chimes	21 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts	22 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday worship	23	24	25
26 <i>1st Sunday in Lent</i> 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:55 a.m. Hope Service	27	28 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts				Paraments 5, 12 - Green 19 - White 26 - Purple