



Bethany Lutheran Church

Mission Statement

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

2022 ANNUAL MEETING

The 2022 Annual Meeting will be held on

Sunday, January 29, 2023

immediately following worship.

Annual Reports will be out on Sunday, January 15, so be sure to stop and pick one up. Take some time to review the document, and come prepared with any questions you may have.



ANNUAL MEETING

PLEASE BE AWARE...

Our 2023 Offering envelopes were ordered in May. Unfortunately, the company ran into some issues that have slowed up the production and shipping of our envelopes. They hope to have them out to us by the end of January, but in the meantime, you're welcome to use old envelopes you may still have, or use a pew envelope. If you use a pew envelope, or give cash, please be sure to list your name and/or envelope number so you are given proper credit on your giving statement for 2023.

Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Burlington, Iowa

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Pastor Pete: 319-470-9057

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Our Staff

Rev. Pete Hagglund, Interim Pastor

Cory Byrne, Choir Director/Organist

Kim Engle, Stephen Ministry Coordinator

Michelle Huppenbauer, Office Administrator

Pam Crable, Custodian

January 2023, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

Amplifying the Voices of Iowa Children and Families

Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) works to provide services to Iowa children and families and to share their stories with the community. As a way of amplifying our communities' voices, we invite you to be a part of the annual Lutheran Day on the Hill event.

Join Lutheran Services in Iowa and the three Iowa synods of the ELCA for Lutheran Day on the Hill in Des Moines on March 14, 2023! This day is essential for amplifying the voices of those who are not heard, for seeking social justice and for empowering people to exercise their right and responsibility to be part of the legislative process.

If you are interested in joining LSI for Lutheran Day on the Hill, visit our website at <https://lsiowa.org/ldh/>. 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.

A Journey of Overwhelming Joy

After going through fertility treatments and being told they weren't able to have any more kids, Dani and her husband pursued their foster care license in 2015 and have cared for 13 kids since.

"Throughout our journey of being foster parents, we've had many great placements," said Dani. "Our shortest placement lasted five days when we cared for a girl, whose mother was incapable of watching her while she recovered in the hospital, and our longest lasted 18 months."

Dani shared that one of their biggest blessings was having the opportunity to adopt some of the children they fostered. The family adopted their first child at age one, and they had plans to adopt another when the child turned 18 years old.

"Every time our family adopts another child, I get the same feeling of overwhelming joy," said Dani. "I feel like any expectant mom –not being able to contain my joy when their adoption comes up, and telling everyone I know about it."

Dani shared that it is hard to explain the full impact fostering – and the lows and highs it brings – has had on her family. "We've cried, stressed and lost a lot of sleep. We loved, laughed and had so many firsts," said Dani. "But I still tell everyone who is considering being a foster parent to do it. It's a roller coaster, but so worth it."

Jesus' Birthday Party

We held a birthday party for Jesus on Saturday, December 17, and we had 4 young people come and do some crafts, coloring pages, and have cake & ice cream. Here are some photos taken by Judy Craven showing the fun that was had. Thanks, Judy!!





Dear Friends in Christ,

Between the seasons of Advent/Christmas and Lent/Holy/Week/Easter there lies a 5-8 Sunday season known as "Epiphany". To say the least, Epiphany doesn't get the "press" afforded to its predecessor and its successor, but we'd be missing a lot if we didn't have it.

The word "Epiphany" means "manifestation" or "appearance". In the Church, the word refers to the "appearance" of Jesus, his gradually becoming known to and by the world around him. The season begins on January 6th with remembering the visit of the Wise Men to Mary and Joseph's house in Bethlehem; this story, recorded at the beginning of Matthew 2, represents the first time that people from outside Israel beheld "him who was born King of the Jews". The first Sunday after January 6th is "The Baptism of Our Lord"; as its name suggests, we hear about Jesus' baptism and what it entailed--God's approval and God's call to service (in that sense, *Jesus'* baptism is a lot like our own). Then we'll move to a story in John where Jesus is identified as "the Lamb of God" by John the Baptist, and in which Jesus attracts the attention of the first of his disciples. The Sunday after that we'll hear about more people joining Jesus' band of disciples, and then the rest of the season will be spent with The Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5.

These are some of the events from Jesus' time in Galilee, where he gained his fame before he "took his show on the road", so to speak. These were the "happy days", the times when it was *fun* to be connected with Jesus--the times when whatever opposition there was was passive, and when throngs of people followed him everywhere he went and couldn't say enough good things about him. That was all *before* he went to Jerusalem, and brought his message about the Kingdom of God to a power structure whose leaders were just fine with the way things were.

The very last Sunday of the Epiphany season is The Transfiguration. Without going into detail here (we'll do enough of that when the day gets here), that event was something for the disciples--and maybe for Jesus himself--to hang onto as things would get tougher and tougher, resulting in the events surrounding Good Friday. It was a reminder of the good times they had had, and a glimpse of what awaits both Jesus and them after all the *bad* times they're soon to face.

As I put together this summary of the Epiphany and its place within the church year, I'm thinking, "Okay, this is interesting, but what does it mean for us, here and now?" What comes to mind is this: what the church year says about following Jesus is that the Christian life is not a *hobby*; if we're going to be "Christ-ians", we've got to be willing to take the bad with the good and vice versa. It's never been the case that everybody likes Jesus, and it's never been the case that everybody likes those who follow Him. But it should also be remembered that there were plenty of great moments even *after* the decision was made to go to Jerusalem; there were still plenty of people who *loved* Jesus in the midst of all the hostility and danger. Such will always be the case

There's no such thing as a "fair-weather Christian". God has given us all everything we need to take the bad with the good, not the least of which is life together in the Church, not to mention the promise of the Paradise which awaits those of us who are "faithful unto death, and who will win the crown of life" (Revelation 2:10).

In Christ,
Pastor Pete

Meetings

The meetings for January, 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, January 8, 10:15 a.m.

Property Committee
Monday, January 9, 6:30 p.m.

Church Outreach Committee
Tuesday, January 10 5:30 p.m.

Executive Committee
Tuesday, January 10, 6:30 p.m.

Finance Committee
Thursday, January 12, 6:30 p.m.

Men's Breakfast
Saturday, January 14, 8:00 a.m.

Church Council
Sunday, January 15, 6:30 p.m.

Altar Guild
Sunday, January 22, 10:15 a.m.

Call Committee
On hold for now. Continue to watch the Chimes and bulletins for when meetings will resume.

PLEASE NOTE

The deadline to submit information for the monthly Chimes is the 25th 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

DECEMBER ATTENDANCE

December 4	58
December 11	50
December 18	62
December 24	98*
December 25	18

DECEMBER GIVING

December 4	\$11,005.10
December 11	\$3,426.10
December 18	\$2,031.17
December 24 & 25	\$2,822.70*
Total	\$19,285.07

December 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 returned piece of mail returned for an incorrect address, we are charged 75 cents.

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

We have received notice that our Ministry Site Profile, which is the extensive document prospective pastors review to determine if they are interested in our call, has been approved by the SE Iowa Synod Bishop's office and is posted.

While we wait for candidates, the Call Committee has begun to organize and assemble the great ideas received through the congregation meetings and surveys to send to the Outreach and Church Life Committees for action. We will also begin work on the Synod's Vitality Survey and Seven Reflections processes that may further help us focus our energy on positive changes. We do not have to wait for a new pastor to live up to our mission: *Reaching out in Worship, Fellowship, Learning, and Love—We are God's People.* We can live that continuously.

DID YOU KNOW?

Tragically, there were three house fires in our community just before Christmas. It was reported there weren't working smoke detectors in the homes.

Did you know if you contact the fire department, they will come to your home and install smoke detectors – for free!

Contact the non-emergency fire department number to schedule your appointment.

SIGN UP NOW

A new flower chart and missionary support sign-up sheet have been hung up. Stop soon and choose your special date. Flowers are \$21.40/week, and the recommended amount for missionary support is \$35/week.

Community Meetings

Retired Nurses – Friday, Jan. 6 @ 9:30 a.m.

Retired Teachers – Monday, Jan. 9 @ 12:00 noon

Boy Scouts – Every Tuesday evening at 6:30 p.m.

STEPHEN MINISTRY UPDATE

The Stephen Ministry team now has three care receivers we are meeting with, praying for, and supporting through hard times. Remember, God does not intend for us to face struggles alone. In this life, we all have trouble from time-to-time, but there are people who care and are well-trained and willing to walk with you through these times. Please don't hesitate to contact either Kim Engle (319-371-5415 or keengle@protonmail.com) or Pastor Pete who is familiar with our ministry and can point you in the right direction.

ALTAR GUILD

The Altar Guild will meet on Sunday, January 22 after worship. All members please plan to attend.

Some discussion and decisions need to be made about personnel. If you would be willing to serve your church in this area, you're welcome to come to the meeting.

January

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <i>First Sunday of Christmas</i> 9:00 a.m. Worship - Lessons & Carols 10:55 a.m. Hope Service	2	3	4 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Confirmation @ Faith	5	6 9:30 a.m. Retired Nurses	7
		<i>Pastor Pete at Bethany Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday</i>				
8 <i>Baptism of Our Lord</i> Un-Hanging of the Greens 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 Church Life 10:55 a.m. Hope Service	9 12:00 noon Retired Teachers 6:30 p.m. Property Committee	10 5:30 p.m. Church Outreach 6:00 p.m. Executive Committee 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts	11 7:00 p.m. Confirmation @ Faith	12 6:30 p.m. Finance Committee	13	14 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast
15 <i>2nd Sunday after Epiphany</i> 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Church Council 10:55 a.m. Hope Service	16	17 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts	18 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Confirmation @ Faith	19	20 Deadline for February Chimes Submissions	21
		<i>Pastor Pete at Bethany Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday</i>				
22 <i>3rd Sunday after Epiphany</i> 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Altar Guild 10:55 a.m. Hope Service ANNUAL REPORTS AVAILABLE	23	24 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts	25 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Confirmation @ Faith	26	27	28
29 <i>4th Sunday after Epiphany</i> 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Annual Meeting 10:55 a.m. Hope Service	30	31 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts				<u>Paraments</u> 1, 8 - White 15, 22, 29 - Green