

# MONTHLY CONNECTIONS

## SUNDAY SERVICE

Lost Island- 8:45am

Bethany- 10:30am

## CHILDREN MINISTRY

Bethany Sunday School-  
9:30am

Lost Island Sunday School-  
10:15am

## YOUTH MINISTRY

WEDNESDAYS

SACK (2nd-5th grade): 3:30-5pm  
Connect (6th-8th grade): 7-8pm  
LIFE (9th-12th grade): 7:30-9pm



## Pastor's Corner

By Pastor Peter Morlock

It's a new year. We have come off the seasons of Advent and Christmas. The Light of the world is here! For many folks, myself included, the new year represents a time to do some thinking and planning; a time to set goals for the year ahead. A couple months ago I wrote about my sabbatical. I'm providing some updates here along with some more information that has been firmed up since the last time I wrote about it. More information is in the upcoming Annual Report which will be available for pickup in the next couple of weeks.

### Sabbatical updates-

Time Frame -April 14-November 1 (This is an adjusted time frame that reflects a better fit for the parish, and for our family activities next spring.)

Education component – Certificate in Leadership studies (Augsburg University) 3 Classes total...

1 Class completed "Foundations of Leadership"

Spring class meets February- April via Zoom (Monday nights 6:30-9pm)

"Facilitating Organizational Change"

Next class? Perhaps an independent study exploring how to be a church in the public square?

I will also be spending some time on a Prayer Retreat for rest and restoration.

My plan is to use the knowledge gained in these classes, and prayerful discernment to facilitate good conversation in the parish as we plan for and craft a Vision for the steps ahead, whatever those may be. The pace of change in the church and in society is faster than ever before, and we need to be able to adapt so we can continue to grow and be the church. During my absence you will be ably led in worship by a couple of area pastors who will rotate worship duties, Pastoral care will be supplied by my wife, Pastor Kris Hackbart whom you all know. You will also have opportunity to explore the different Missions around the community and the Synod that we support through our giving and our prayers.



PASTOR  
PETER MORLOCK

712-852-4450

bethany-  
pastor22@gmail.com



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:**

Wilma Nielsen, Nolyn Johnson, Pam Rouse, Kylee Hill, Mike Hermansen, Omundson Family, Shirley Knutson, Eric & Lana Kropf, Jess McCune, Jim & Carol Krause, David Stephens, Rick Rienhardt, Bridget Johnson, Lon Twait, Robert Mortenson, Jr., and those we name in our hearts.

**\*Our Sympathy:**

To all those we know that are grieving the loss of a loved one.

**\*Our Military Members:**

Thomas Crocoll and Logan Murray

**\*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.

**\*Our New Members:**

**\*Our New Members via Baptisms:**

**Stay Connected**

Lost Island Lutheran Church  
 Lost Island Lutheran Church  
[www.lostislandlutheranchurch.com](http://www.lostislandlutheranchurch.com)

**Coffee Connection.**

January 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.

**Stay Connected**

Bethany/Lost Island Parish  
 @bethanyemmetsburg  
 Bethany Worship

**GET INVOLVED.**

**QUILTING**

**Morning Quilting**  
Mondays- 9 AM weekly

**Night Quilters**  
Monday, 3-5 PM weekly

**Lost Island Quilting**  
Saturday, January 18th

**WOMEN'S CIRCLES**

**\*Tabitha Circle:**  
Jan ? at 6:50 pm @ Alaire's

**\*Sarah Circle:**  
Jan 14th -6:30 pm @ Judy's

**\*Mary Martha Circle:**  
Resume March 20th at 9:30

**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY**  
WEDNESDAYS AT NOON

*Communion*  
Remembering His sacrifice.

1st & 3rd Sunday of the month

# BETHANY VOLUNTEERS.

Date	Lector	Greeter	Usher	Communion Assistant	Acolyte	Musician
<b>January 5th</b>	Barb Haack	Angie Hetrick, Marit Veltri	Bob Steger, Chuck Duhn	Ed & Jen Meyer, Brian & Amy Malm	Bennett Mehan	Tim Nielsen
<b>January 12th</b>	Angie Hetrick	Elaine Nauss, Pat Vician	Michael Jacobson, Joe Neary	N/A	Brett Saxton	Laura Gustafson
<b>January 19th</b>	Ed Meyer	Dave and Judy Cole	David Sidles, Terry Rouse	Kristin Rienhardt, Kathy Mehan, Laure Miller, Dianne Hough	Jayce Ayers	Tim Nielsen
<b>January 26th</b>	Jameson Boevers	Youth	Mark Evans, Chuck Noble	N/A	Macoy Sidles	Holly Sidles

**Altar Guild:** Lori Forry

# LOST ISLAND VOLUNTEERS.

Date	Lector	Communion Assistant	Acolyte	Musician
<b>January 5th</b>	Tim Nielsen	Karyn Leiningner	TBD	Tim Nielsen
<b>January 12th</b>	Susan Rohan	N/A	TBD	Tim Nielsen
<b>January 19th</b>	Kyle Norris	Craig Thu	TBD	Tim Nielsen
<b>January 26th</b>	Alaire Nielsen	N/A	TBD	Tim Nielsen

**Altar Guild:** Alaire Nielsen & Pat Henningsen

## MEMORIAL GIFTS GIVEN.

In Memory of **Bob Christensen** given by *his family* for *Missions*.

In Memory of **Bob Christensen** given by *his family* for *Trinity Garden*.

In Memory of **Bob Christensen** given by *his family* for *General Fund*.

In Memory of **Becky Hanson** given by *Marit & Frank Veltri* for the *Scholarship Fund*.

## BETHANY FUNERAL SERVERS.

### Barb Haack, Diane Clasing Steger — Chairpersons

Dianne & Randy Hough

Tim & Molly Rodemeyer

Dave & Judy Cole

Becky Walker

Jason & Diane Jacobson

Joe & Jennifer Boevers

Bernie & Linda Janssen

Dan & Michelle Theesfeld

Shawn & Jen Connelly

Dale Evans

Bill & Sharolyn Dickey

Troy & Sarah Krug

Leroy Walker

Chuck & Therese Duhn

Brian & Amy Malm

Roger & Carol Walker

Mike & Betty Naig

Allen & Beth Will

Ed & Jen Meyer

Kyle & Kayla Hagen

Mitch & Kim Hohensee

Mark & Nicole Evans

Sharon Omundson

Richard & Melinda Ayers

Danny Umbrell

Shirleen & Clayton Helgeson

Sam & Melissa Will

Joel & Haily Hoyman

## POINSETTIAS.



### Thank you for the many that have blessed us with their beautiful poinsettias:

- Elaine & Dave Sidles in memory of her parents: *Lyle Schipull, Evelyn and Wayne Warnbier.*
- Dave & Elaine Sidles in memory of his parents: *Lawrence & Helen Sidles.*
- Laure Miller in memory of her parents: *John & Carol Miller.*
- Mike Schipull in memory of his wife: *Leanna Schipull*
- Jacki Ellingrod in memory of her husband, *Bill, and family.*
- Kim & Jim Kacmarynski in memory of *loved ones & friends*
- Bob & Diane Clasing-Steger in memory of *their loved ones.*
- Eleanor Ortman and family in memory of *Bill.*

### BETHANY COUNCIL

Laure Miller, President 712-363-2005

Mark Evans, Vice President 712-260-5651

Ed Meyer, Treasurer 712-298-1029

Diane Clasing-Steger, Sec. 712-298-1003

Dianne Hough 712-852-2169

Barb Haack 712-260-3408

Michael Jacobson 712-790-1452

Joe Neary 712-260-8871

**Do you have questions? Need assistance?**

**Contact your council members and they will get you connected with the right people!**

### LOST ISLAND COUNCIL

Troy Leininger – President

Tim Nielsen - Treasurer

Kyle Norris – Secretary

Craig Thu & Steve Pitt – Trustees

Alan Oppedal & Charles Henningsen –

Deacons

A new calendar year flip yet again and faster it seems every year. I wonder if why it flips so fast is the busy lives we live. We say yes to this and that and yet forget to slow down and be still.

Often, January is a year of new beginnings from starting those diets, saving money, setting goals, having a word of the year to remind us of something. Yet, how long do those last? Sometimes, they work and they continue to be lifestyle changes but, more often, they become a 2 to 3 week long journey and then we give up..

Life is more than the to do lists, the goals we set, the schedules we fill up. "Life is what happens when you're busy making other plans." Now, all those to things aren't bad at all but when they consume our lives to the point where we miss out on what God has right in front of us, they become distractions. God is moving and working in the world around you every single second of the day and He never leaves you in your hectic busy day.

So why not spend more time with God because when we spend time with God, we get to know who He is and see His faithfulness in our everyday lives. He is worthy of that time. Do you spend even 2 minutes in your day to just stop and be still? Maybe that is something to start in the new year. Allow God into your everyday so He can show you His greatness.

<p><b>NOISY OFFERING</b></p> <hr style="width: 20%; margin: auto;"/> <p>SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFERING— SAMARITAN'S PURSE</p>	<p>Support, drive, donate, teach?</p> 	<p>Contact Kristin</p> <p><i>KRISTIN RIENHARDT</i></p> <p><i>Kristin.rienhardt@blc.edu</i></p> <p>712-790-6470</p>	<p><b>SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFERING</b></p> <hr style="width: 20%; margin: auto;"/> <p>\$268 AS OF 12.22.24</p> 
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## UPCOMING EVENTS/SCHEDULE:

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <p><b>January 5th–</b><br/>Sunday School Resumes</p> <p><b>January 8th–</b><br/>Youth Groups Re-sume</p> <p><b>January 12th–</b><br/>KICKOFF TO TACKLE HUNGER FOOD DRIVE</p> | <p><b>January 12th–</b><br/>Kids singing in church</p> <p><b>January 19th–</b><br/>Annual Meeting after church (kids can hangout with Kristin while parents are informed)</p> <p><b>January 26th–</b><br/>Camp Sunday</p> | <p><b>January 26th–</b><br/>Outreach at Okoboji for 6th-12th graders, Wear outdoor clothing</p> |
|--|---|---|



**OKOBOJI OUTREACH NIGHT**  
January 26  
5:00-8:00pm  
\$5 per person  
6th-12th graders  
dress for outdoor activities.  
RSVP at [www.okoboji.org/outreach](http://www.okoboji.org/outreach) by 4pm on Jan 23rd  
Want to come early for a service project? Let us know.



**JOIN US**  
FOR YOUTH PROGRAMS



*Sundays & Wednesdays*

# LOST ISLAND NEWS.

In the last few months , we have had our annual soup supper and nuts for missions fundraisers. Keep an eye out in the February newsletter for where and how those funds for given out. Thank you for all your support in those as well as buying any items from Sharing the Dream at the Scandinavian Bake Sale in December.

## 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 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. *for all that blessed us with poinsettias, decor, and joy.*

## OTHER NEWS/EVENTS

### ANNUAL MEETINGS

Attention Bethany and Lost Island Members

Bethany's Annual Meeting will be  
1/19/25

Lost Island's Annual Meeting will be  
1/30/25

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.

## MISSION WORK.



Friends of Sharing the Dream in Guatemala is a volunteer-based fair trade organization that works to reduce poverty in Guatemala through collaborative partnerships with Guatemalans. We offer Guatemalan crafts including hand-made beaded jewelry, handwoven scarves, baskets from all natural materials and much, much, more. Shop online at [www.sharingthedream.org](http://www.sharingthedream.org), visit one of the stores in Vermillion, Sioux Falls or at Lost Island Lutheran Church. If you are interested in learning more contact Karyn Leininger.

## WOMEN OF BETHANY CHRISTMAS DONATIONS.

### Our Christmas Donations amounted to \$2100.00 with a breakdown as follows:

Ingham-Okoboji Camping Ministry \$200.00	Deferred Maintenance Fund—Bethany \$200.00
Horizons Unlimited \$100.00	"Stork's Closet" @ PACHS \$125.00
Lakeside Senior Care Auxiliary \$200.00	<b>TOTAL \$2,100.00</b>
Church of Damascus Road \$150.00	
Upper Des Moines Opportunity \$200.00	
Feed our Kids---Emmetsburg \$125.00	
Camp Fund at Bethany \$100.00	
Ministerial Association Fund for PA Co. \$200.00	
Bible Fund----Bethany \$100.00	
Scholarship Fund---Bethany \$200.00	
Assisting Families at Bethany (4) \$200.00	

Of this \$1,960 was from the Scandinavian Bake Sale As listed, the women gifted to 8 organizations outside of Bethany and to 5 organizations within Bethany.

If anyone has any questions, please feel free to contact:

Rachel Haack, WELCA President. 712-390-2027  
Diane Clasing-Steger, Vice President 712-298-1003  
Sherri Ort, WELCA Treasurer 712-298-0283  
Marla Noble, WELCA Secretary 712-229-5832

## SUNDAY SCHOOL PROJECT AND NOISY OFFERING.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFERING

YOUTH VS CONGREGATION

JANUARY TO APRIL  
**PENNY WAR**

Goal: \$300

SAMARITAN'S PURSE- CLEAN WATER FUND

BRING PENNIES IN FOR YOUR BUCKET AND PUT SILVER/BILLS IN YOUR OPPONENT'S BUCKET

PENNIES= POSITIVE

SILVER COINS/BILLS= NEGATIVE

January's Noisy Offering is going to the Sunday School Offering Penny War. Bring your change and put the right coins in the right bucket!

## SUPER BOWL FOOD DRIVE

Tackling Hunger One Yard At A Time

4 Quarters.

100 Yards To A Touchdown.

Extra Points.

January 12th is Kickoff.

February 9th is Final Score.

### QUARTERS

Quarter 1: January 12th-January 19th

Breakfast Items such as Cereal, Pop Tarts, Pancake and Muffin Mix (just add water), Canned Fruit, etc.

Quarter 2: January 20th-January 26th

Main Meal items such as Mac N Cheese, Hamburger Helper, Ramen, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Tuna, Soup, Etc

Quarter 3: January 27th-February 2nd

Toiletries such as deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoos, body wash, diapers, feminine products, laundry soaps, etc.

Quarter 4: February 3rd-February 9th

Gift cards (for bread, milk, eggs, meat, etc.) Kwik Star, Fareway, Dollar Fresh, Dollar General

\*These should be \$5-\$30 a piece

# STEWARDSHIP.

*As of the writing of this monthly Stewardship letter, we are \$18,000 behind in our 2024 budget.*

2024 was a challenging year financially. With increasing expenses such as utilities, insurance, salaries, janitorial expenses, elevator, furnace and air conditioning repairs, bell tower repairs, postage and general maintenance expenses, Bethany is struggling to meet the monthly and yearly budget. **If possible, could you consider giving a little extra each week, monthly or yearly. Any amount is deeply appreciated.**

Everything we have is a gift from God, and to be good stewards means using those gifts wisely and generously. Giving is not a burden, but a privilege to participate in God’s work. We are called to be faithful stewards of our 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.

*Psalm 65:11 “You crown the year with your bounty, and your carts overflow with abundance.”*

Lord, Thank you for the gift of a new year. You have entrusted us with the coming days, weeks and months as stewards of your divine plan; to live in gratitude, joy, and an ever growing confidence in your Kingdom to come.

## NOVEMBER 2024 FINANCIALS.

*Bethany Lutheran Church Treasurer's Report*

*If you have any financial questions, please email Michael at bethanyfinance20@gmail.com and he can answer any questions.*

	MONTHLY BEGINNING BALANCE (8,949.60)		
<b>INCOME</b>		<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Offerings	9,689.27	Personnel Expenses	11,743.29
Transfers from other Funds	0.00	Program Expenses	277.82
Lost Island	0.00		
<b>Total Income</b>	9,689.27	Office Expenses	507.72
		Property Expenses	2,260.76
		Western IA Synod	400.27
		Other Donations	0.00
		Damascus Road	50.00
		NO ELCA Donations	0.00
		<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	15,239.86
		<b>Income Less Expenses</b>	<b>(5,550.59)</b>
		<b>GENERAL FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>(14,500.19)</b>

## WAYS TO GIVE.



**In Person**  
Drop cash/check off  
in the office or the  
offering plate.



**Mail**  
Send offering to:  
Bethany Lutheran Church  
703 Broadway  
Emmetsburg, IA 50536

**Online**

Online  
One Time or  
Recurring at Vaneo



Local bank-bill pay option  
The local Emmetsburg banks  
each provide a FREE online bill  
pay service which can arrange  
recurring weekly or monthly  
payments.



# January 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			<b>1</b> Office Closed for New Years	2	3	4
<b>5</b> <i>Communion Sunday</i> 8:45 am Worship (LI) 9:30 am Sunday School (B) 10:15 am Sunday School (L) 10:30 am Worship (B)	6 Quilting	7	8 <i>Noon Men's Bible Study</i> <i>3:30-9PM Youth Groups</i> <i>5:30pm Youth Board Meeting</i>	9	10	11
<b>12</b> <i>COFFEE CONNECTION</i> 8:45 am Worship (LI) 9:30 am Sunday School (B) 10:15 am Sunday School (LI) 10:30 am Worship (B)	13 Quilting	14 Cub Scouts	15 <i>Noon Men's Bible Study</i> <i>3:30-9PM Youth Groups</i>	16	17	18 Lost Island Quilting
<b>19</b> <i>Communion Sunday</i> 8:45 am Worship (LI) 9:30 am Sunday School (B) 10:15 am Sunday School (LI) 10:30 am Worship (B) <i>12:00 Noon Bethany's Annual Mtg.</i>	20 Quilting	21 Council	22 <i>Noon Men's Bible Study</i> <i>3:30-9PM Youth Groups</i>	23 <i>Newsletter Articles Due</i>	24	25
<b>26</b> <i>Camp Sunday (B)</i> 8:45 am Worship (LI) 9:30 am Sunday School (B) <i>10:00 am Lost Island's Annual Mtg.</i> 10:15 am Sunday School (LI) 10:30 am Worship (B) 5-8pm Outreach at Okoboji	27 Quilting	28 Cub Scouts	29 <i>Noon Men's Bible Study</i> <i>3:30-9PM Youth Groups</i>	30 WIC	31	

**\* BOLDED WORDS ARE CALENDAR ITEMS THAT ARE UNIQUE TO THE GIVEN MONTH**

\*Bethany Quilters: Morning Quilters 9-Noon, Night Quilters 3-5pm

\*Council meets every Third Tuesday at 6:30pm

\*Youth Groups meet Wednesdays [ SACK (2nd-5th) 3:30pm-5pm] [Connect (6th-8th) 7-8pm] [ LIFE (9th-12th grade) 7:30-9pm]

\*WIC meets once a month from 9am-3:30pm in the church basement

\*Cub Scouts meet every other Tuesday at 6:30pm

\*Noisy Offering cans are on tables but are passed during offerings every 2nd Sunday of month

\*Lost Island Quilting meets in the basement at Lost Island

## COMMUNITY/CHAMBER EVENTS

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January 1 - Annual Membership Drive

January 17 - Battle of the Businesses Bowling

## NATIONAL BLOOD DONOR MONTH

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NEARLY

**42,000**

**BLOOD COMPONENTS** ARE USED EVERY DAY



Emmetsburg Community  
Blood Drive

VFW Hall  
3205 Main St. | Emmetsburg

**Wednesday, January 8, 2025**

12:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Text: LIFESERVE to 999.777 | Call: 800.287.4903 | Visit: [lifeserve.info/schedule](https://lifeserve.info/schedule)



## OTHER IMPORTANT NOTES

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