

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

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
EMMETSBURG, IOWA 50536
PERMIT #2

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

DECEMBER 2022



CONNECTIONS

A Monthly Newsletter Linking the Ministries of Bethany Lutheran and Lost Island Lutheran Churches

label



From the Pastor
The seasons of Advent and Christmas are upon us. Once again, we dive into the deep mystery and wonder of the Word made flesh, who sets up shop in the midst of the people. We are also struck by the tension that the Apostle Paul calls the "already and not yet." We engage the seasons from a number of perspectives as we remember what God has done, bear witness to what God is doing, and long for what God will do in times to come. This tension is not new, of course, it has always been with us, showing itself in various ways. Sometimes, that tension is expressed in the expectations we place on ourselves, as we try to recreate what we remember as the "perfect way" to mark the season, and yet for whatever reason, we fall short and we blame ourselves because it's not quite as we remember. In spite of all that, the hope of the season still rings through; because that's how God operates; to bring Hope wherever we are.... As we engage with the seasons, we engage them as different people every year.... Different parts of the proclamation touch us every year, because our experiences over the past year bring us to a different place. Our ears are open, our hearts are ready.

*"Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear; Arise, O sun so longed for, O'er this benighted sphere. With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see; The day of earth's redemption That sets your people free!"
(LBW #25 Rejoice, Rejoice Believers)*

Merry Christmas—

Pastor Peter

BETHANY
CONNECTIONS
LOST ISLAND



Bethany Lutheran Church: bethanylutheranemmetsburg.com Fb: 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



GET INVOLVED.

Help with youth group, Sunday school, altar guild, WELCA, be a prayer warrior, be on a board, help out around the church in some way shape or form.

Circle Schedules

***Tabitha Circle:** December 1, 2022 — 6:50 pm at Alaire's

***Sarah Circle:** December 6th at 6:30 pm

***Mary Martha Circle:** December 21st at 9:30 am

Morning Quilting
Mondays- 9 AM weekly

Lost Island Quilting

Evening Quilters
Monday's 6 PM weekly

Adult Bible Study
TBD

Men's Bible Study
Wednesdays @ Noon

**Note: Communion will be the first Sunday of each month during services.
All services will be posted on our YouTube channel.*

Lost Island
Sundays at
8:45am



Bethany
Sundays at
10:30am



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



PLEASE CONSIDER USING YOUR TIME AND TALENTS IN HELPING AT BETHANY.

USHER MAILINGS

TECH BOOTH

ALTAR GUILD

READER

ASSIST IN MOWING, LANDSCAPING, MAINTENANCE

SYNOD DELEGATE JOIN A QUILTING GROUP

JOIN A BOARD/COMMITTEE

GREETER

HELP WITH YOUTH (SUNDAY SCHOOL AND/OR YOUTH GROUP)

COMMUNION ASSISTANT

HELP WITH SPECIAL MEALS

GOD COMMANDS US TO BE STEWARDS OVER EVERYTHING HE BLESSES US WITH. EVERYTHING. THAT MEANS OUR TIME, TALENTS, TREASURE, RELATIONSHIPS, JOBS AND, YES, STUFF. IT'S ALL GOD'S, AND HE TRUSTS US WITH IT.

NOVEMBER 2022 Bethany Lutheran Church Treasurer's Report

Attendance average: 61

MONTHLY BUDGET NEEDS:

	MONTHLY BEGINNING BALANCE (6,951.67)
INCOME	
Offerings	9,094.38
Miscellaneous Income Lost Island	9,094.38 0.00
Total Income	9,094.38
EXPENSES	
Personnel Expenses	9,257.34
Program Expenses	596.55
Office Expenses	367.09
Property Expenses	1,533.30
Western IA Synod Other Donations	0.00 0.00
Damascus Road	0.00
NO ELCA Donations	0.00
TOTAL EXPENSE	11,754.28
Income Less Expenses	(2,659.90)
GENERAL FUND BALANCE	(9,611.57)

If you have any questions concerning the finances of the church please feel free to call me.
Thanks! Michael (These figures are current up to November 20th)



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, President	712-260-8871
Mark Evans, Vice President	712-260-5651
Angie Hetrick, Treasurer	712-298-0331
Diane Clasing-Steger, Secretary	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

End of the Year
GIVING

Any financial matters from offerings, donations, and memorials to expenses

All due by December 28th to be counted for 2022 giving.

"Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord your God that he has given you."

Deuteronomy 16:17

Make every gift count. Big or small.

Ways to Give

By Mail In Person Online

Questions on Online Giving? Ask Kristin

LOST ISLAND NEWS



Lost Island will be caroling in Ruthven and Emmetsburg starting at 9 AM on December 17th. All are welcome to join in the fun!

Note to all Board Chairpersons

Bethany's Annual Meeting will be 1/22/23
Lost Island's Annual Meeting will be 1/29/23

Please have all reports, apart from financial reports, in to the office by the **28th of December** to put the Report together.

December 4th, Hospice Remembrance Service at 5pm, Held at the Family Life Center.

**Lakeside Christmas Tea
December 9th, 2-3:30pm**

Asking Bethany to provide 2-3 doz cookies/bars/fudge

From the Worship Board...Bethany is looking for folks who are willing to make Communion bread. We will provide you with the recipe and whatever other training you feel you need.

Talk to Kathy Mehan or Pastor Peter if you are interested in serving the church in this way.

It is that time of year when lists will be getting put together for next year's Schedule for the assignments of Lector, Greeter and Communion Assistants. Please let the office know if you are interested or not and if you are, when it will not work for you. Otherwise, the rosters will be put together and it will be up to you to find a replacement if you are unable to cover the date you are assigned to. Please let the office know **by December 15th.**

-Church Office

Weekly Devotional

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. (Colossians 3:16)

The hymns of the Christian church not only serve us well in our worship and in our teaching but, they can also offer striking spiritual insight, comfort and counsel. Each week reflect on what words reminds you of God's truth, what words make you stumble, what words make you praise God?

WEEK OF DEC 4 #36 LBW

"On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry"

On Jordan's banks the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh; awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings!

WEEK OF DEC 11 #87 LBW

"Hail to the Lord's Anointed"

Hail to the Lord's anointed, great David's greater Son! Hail, in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun! He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free, to take away transgression and rule in equity.

WEEK OF DEC 18 #30 LBW

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art, dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.

WEEK OF DEC 25 #67 LBW

"Away in a Manger"

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the sky looked down where he lay; the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The most popular religious Christmas Song is:

"God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen."

Hymn History

The most common version with eight stanzas appeared in *Christmas Carols Ancient and Modern* (London, 1833) by William Sandys (1792-1874), the source upon which most hymnals have based their selection of stanzas. His collection included, according to the subtitle, "the most popular [carols] in the West of England, and the airs to which they are sung."

It appears that the editors of *Worship & Song* drew from Sandys's version as well. The first stanza is consistent with most popular versions of the carol, establishing the reason for the coming of Christ, "to save us all from Satan's power / when we were gone astray." Stanza 2 in Sandys's collection is slightly modified in *Worship & Song*: "In Bethlehem in Jewry" in Sandys is changed to "Judah." This is a straightforward account of the location of Christ's birth with the addition of an editorial comment at the end of the stanza: "his Mother Mary did nothing take in scorn." While we cannot be sure of Mary's emotional state, this phrase seems to indicate that she had no difficulty at all with the long and uncomfortable journey to Bethlehem made under duress as a result of the occupying Roman authorities, rejection by owners of inns for lodging even though her condition was obviously dire, or their final accommodations in a filthy stable. Luke 2 is silent on Mary's personal feelings until verse 19, "But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart" (KJV).

ORGANIST Tim Nielsen

ALTAR GUILD—DECEMBER PUNKY KROPF, ALAIRE NIELSEN

READERS

Dec 4 Tim Nielsen
Dec 11 Charles Henningsen
Dec 18 Alaire Nielsen
Dec 25 Troy Leininger

ACOLYTES

Dec 4 Colleen Cook
Dec 11 Olivia Sorenson
Dec 18 Zac Sorenson
Dec 27 Corrine Cook

ORGANIST/PIANIST Tim Nielsen/Greta Rouse/Holly Sidles/Laura Gustafson

ALTAR GUILD FOR DECEMBER: KATHY MEHAN, AMY MALM

LECTORS:

Dec 4 Frank Veltri
Dec 11 Christmas Program
Dec 18 Greta Rouse
Dec 24 5 pm *Volunteer*
10:30 pm Amelia Ort

USHERS:

Dec 4 Michael Jacobson, Bob Steger
Dec 11 Lonnie Naig
Dec 18 Mark Evans
Dec 24 5:00 pm Mike Hermansen,
Michael Jacobson
Dec 24 10:30 pm Kyle Hagen
Elaine Nauss

ACOLYTES:

Dec 4 Jacob Hall
Dec 11 Christmas Program
Dec 18 Liam Hill
Dec 24 5 pm Elin Gustafson
Dec 24 10:30 pm *Volunteer*

GREETERS

Dec 4 Jane Heykes, *Elaine Nauss
Dec 11 Christmas Program
Dec 18 Joe & Jennifer Boevers
Dec 24 LuAnn Opheim, Darca Saxton (5 pm)
Dec 24 Dave & Judy Cole (10:30 pm)

COMMUNION SERVERS

Dec 4—Dianne Hough, Elaine Nauss, Angie Hetrick, LuAnn Opheim
Dec 24 (5 pm) Mark & Darca Saxton and Joel & Somer Saxton
Dec 24 (10:30 pm) Sherri & Amelia Ort, Barb Haack, 1 *Volunteer*

Volunteers - Please contact the Office at (712) 852-4450 if you need to switch, change dates, or if you won't be here prior to the date you are scheduled. Thank You!

Bethany Funeral Servers - Group A

Willard & Glenyce Schmeling, Barb Haack, Diane Clasing Steger — Chairpersons

Garwin Anderson
Kyle & Kayla Hagen
Joe & Jennifer Boevers
Leroy Walker
Sharon Omundson
Mike & Betty Naig
Mark & Nicole Evans
Becky Walker
Brian & Amy Malm

Marvin & Ruth Duhn
Tim & Molly Rodemeyer
Dan & Michelle Theesfeld
Troy & Sarah Krug
Mitch & Kim Hohensee
Shawn & Jen Connelly
Jason & Diane Jacobson
Bill & Sharolyn Dickey
Ed & Jen Meyer

Dale Evans
Dave & Judy Cole
Teresa Jensen
Chuck & Therese Duhn
Allen & Beth Will
Dianne & Randy Hough
Bernie & Linda Janssen
Roger & Carol Walker
Phyllis Schroeder

MAKE ROOM

10:30 AM



Youth Christmas Service

DECEMBER 11TH

MEMORIALS

In Memory of Kenneth Ricklefs given by Kathy Mehan, the Thanksgiving Banner in the Church Lobby.

We remember those in special need of God's love and care including: Lyric Schultz (grandson of Jim Kacmarynski), Bill Ortman, Carl Morlock, Wilma Nielsen, Carol Jacobson, Peggy Oelkers, Marilyn Devalon, Pastor Carroll Lang, Dave Smith, Sharon Omundson, Betty Kunz, Elaine Sidles, Leroy Swalve, Tyler Rienhardt, Lanny Hansen, Lon Twait, Carolyn Ritchie, Bridget Johnson, Don Crocoll, Robert Mortenson, Jr., Phyllis Schroeder, Garwin Anderson, and those we name in our hearts.



Please keep the family and friends of Lucille Anderson in your prayers since her passing and subsequent funeral held at Bethany.

Please keep Thomas Crocoll and Logan Murray, who are in the military, in your prayers.

*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.

PRAYERS

4TH GRADE AND UNDER-MOVIE IN NOAH'S ROOM



2:30-4:30pm

CHURCH MOVIE DAY DECEMBER 21ST



ANY ADULTS WILLING TO HELP SUPERVISE AND GET SOME SNACKS AND A MOVIE OUT OF IT, LET KRISTIN KNOW.

5TH-12TH GRADE-MOVIE IN LIFE ROOM



6:30-8:30pm

Thank you for all that prepared food, helped serve, and came to eat at the Harvest Soup Dinner. 75-80 people were served and \$1025 was raised. The youth board/youth had decided to put the free will offering towards, Upper Des Moines: Adopt a Family and the parsonage flooring. \$600 went to the parsonage flooring and \$425 went toward the Adopt A Family program.

Parsonage Flooring Update: We have raised \$2,700 directly for the flooring project. Thank you to Lost Island for covering some of the cost. We have around \$3,000 left to raise.

Thank you to all that helped pull carpet and move furniture to make this project possible.



DECEMBER NOISY OFFERING



Sharing the Dream is a fair trade organization that works to reduce poverty in Guatemala through collaborative partnerships with Guatemalans.

Presenting a BIBLE CHALLENGE

The Sunday School kids have been collecting money for their offering to buy bibles for people around the world. Some grandparents presented a challenge. They have decided to "purchase" a bible for each one of their grandkids to help with their offering. They are wondering if you could help? Would you be interested in doing the same thing? Maybe you don't have grandkids, but maybe you know someone that isn't a believer? You can let Kristin know if you want to help in this way.

Each bible is \$6!

YOUTH NEWS

Hello Brothers and Sisters,



Make Room! In general, but especially this time of year, we fill our time and energy in busyness, laziness, technology, work, activities, etc. And yet, we often forget about Jesus. We forget to keep Him at the center, allowing Him to seep into every area of our lives. When we do that, our response to Him and those around us change.

So let God in and make room for Him first!

Dec 2— Lighted Parade at 6pm,
Meet at church at 5:30pm

Dec 21-Youth Movie Day:
2:30-4:30pm— 4th grade and under
6:30-8:30pm— 5th and up
(supper provided)

Dec 4— Outreach at Okoboji,
6th-12th graders— 5-8pm Christmas Mystery

****CHRISTMAS BREAK FOR BETHANY
SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS 12/11/2022
AND RESUMES ON 01/08/23****

Dec 11—Youth led Christmas Service,
“Make Room,” 10:30am



CHECKOUT THE YOUTH PROGRAMS WISH LIST!
[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3J3JDDKFF4QHU?](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3J3JDDKFF4QHU?ref_=wl_share)
ref_=wl_share

Sunday School on Sundays at
9:30am.



How many
Bibles can we
get?



**NOISY
OFFERING**

December—
Sharing the Dream,
Guatemala

**WILLING TO
HELP?
SUPPORT, DRIVE,
DONATE, TEACH?**

**CONTACT
KRISTIN**

Kristin Rienhardt



Kristin.rienhardt@blc.edu

712-790-6470

MORE 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 handmade beaded jewelry, handwoven scarves, baskets from all natural materials and much, much, more. Shop online at 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.



Please remember and prayerfully consider including Courtney in your prayers and financial support.

Checks should be made to “Bethany Lutheran Church” with a memo “For the ministry of Courtney Davis, Acct #305075”



Thank you for your prayers for my Wycliffe ministry in Papua New Guinea!
Courtney’s blog at: cdchronicles.wordpress.com Email address: co.davis@sil.org.pg

A BIBLE
for every believer

Every \$6 we will stack
a Bible

**SUNDAY SCHOOL
OFFERING**

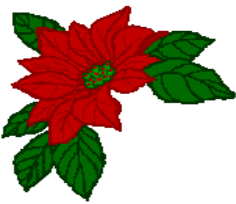
100 Bibles = \$600

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 everyone that helped prepare the food and gave at the Harvest Soup Dinner on November 20th. The soup was delicious as always.
- * Thank you to everyone who helped in the preparation of the goodies for the Scandinavian Bake Sale held on November 30th. There was much laughter, fun and true fellowship as only the Lutherans can enjoy!!
- * Thank you to the Group C Funeral group that helped serve the luncheon for Lucille Anderson’s funeral. It was much appreciated.

JOIN US THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON

- December 2 6-7:15 PM Stationary Holiday Parade
- December 4 5:00 PM Hospice Service at the Family Life Center. All are welcome!
- December 11 10:30 AM Bethany Youth Christmas Service
- December 11 2:00 PM Glenn Henriksen piano/organ Christmas Concert at Bethany
- *December 24 5:00 PM Christmas Eve Service, Holy Communion at Bethany
- *December 24 10:30 PM Christmas Eve Service, Holy Communion at Bethany
- December 25 10:00 AM Christmas Day Service, Holy Communion at Lost Island



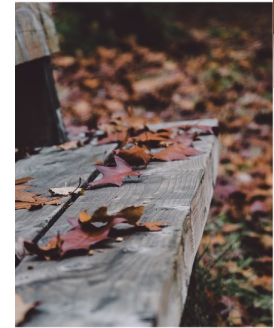
Poinsettias to decorate the church are always welcome. If you would like to share one, please put your name on it so that it may be returned to you. Please write it on the sheet outside the church office if you are giving a plant as a memorial of a loved one so we can acknowledge it in the bulletin. If you would like to share a poinsettia of yours with us, you can bring those to the Churches anytime after the 17th and pick them up from the church on or after January 1st. Thank You!

Willow Tree is willing to deliver your poinsettia to the church. Willow Tree— 852-8073

We are going to do the “Prayer Tree” again this year at Bethany. This tree is located in the elevator room. If you would like to, you can tie a ribbon to one of the branches of the tree and think about a prayer request that you have. God knows who, what, why someone ties a ribbon. All are welcome to pray over the ribbons tied on the tree during this Christmas Season.



WEDNESDAYS
STARTING SEPT 14TH



ALL ARE
WELCOME



SACK

2ND-4TH GRADERS
1:30-3PM OR 3:30-5PM

CONNECT


5TH-7TH GRADERS
6:30-7:30PM

LIFE

8TH-12TH GRADERS
7:30-9PM



December 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 <i>6:50 pm Tabitha Circle Mtg at Alaire Nielsen's Home</i>	2 6pm Lighted Parade	3
4 Communion Sunday 8:45 am Lost Island Worship 9:30 am Bethany SS 10:15 am LI Sunday School 10:30 am Bethany Worship 5-8 pm Outreach @ Okoboji	5 9:00 AM Morning Quilting 6:00 PM Evening Quilting	6 6:30 pm Sarah Circle	7 Noon Men's Bible Study 1:30-3 PM SACK (2nd-4th) 6-7:30pm Confirmation/Connect (5th-7th) 7:30-9:00 PM LIFE (8th-12th)	8	9	10
11 8:45 am Lost Island Worship 9:30 am Bethany SS 10:15 am LI Sunday School 10:30 am Sunday School Program at Bethany 2:00 pm Glenn Henriksen Concert @ Bethany	12 9:00 AM Morning Quilting 6:00 PM Evening Quilting	13 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	14 Noon Men's Bible Study 3:30-5 PM SACK (2nd-4th) 5:30 PM Youth Board Mtg 6-7:30pm Confirmation/Connect (5th-7th) 7:30-9:00 PM LIFE (8th-12th)	15	16	17 <i>9 am Caroling in Ruthven & Emmetsburg</i>
18 8:45 am Lost Island Worship 9:30 am No SS @ Bethany 10:15 am LI Sunday School 10:30 am Bethany Worship	19 9:00 AM Morning Quilting	20 <i>7 pm Council Mtg.</i>	21 Noon Men's Bible Study 9:30 AM Mary Martha Circle meets Youth Movie Day 2:30-4:30PM (4th grade & under) 6:30-8:30pm (5th grade & up)	22	23 <i>January Newsletter Items Are Due to the Office Secretary</i>	24 <i>Bethany: Christmas Eve Serv. @ 5 PM w/Communion Christmas Eve Serv. @ 10:30 PM w/Communion</i>
25 <i>10 am Christmas Service At Lost Island w/Communion</i> 	26 Quilting ??	27 <i>WIC Clinic 9:30—3:30 pm 10 am RCC Devotions</i>	28 <i>10 AM Put January Newsletter together for mailing Annual Reports Due to Office 2022 Financials Due</i>	29	30	31 