

February 2017

# BETHANY BEACON

Bethany Lutheran Church

Making Christ Known.....

Welcoming! Growing! Serving!



## Lenten Book Study

This year Lent starts on Wednesday March 1 and I think we have a great book for our Lenten book study. We will be reading the book “#Struggles: Following Jesus in a Selfie-Centered World”, by Craig Groeschel. Ultimately you’ll find “#Struggle” to be a wonderful guide to help bring about spiritual depth and enrich our human engagement. Although this book focuses on our digital dependency, even disciples that do not use social media or even a computer will find the gift of growing in your understanding of a life of discipleship. Craig Groeschel will walk us through biblical values that help us live a life of peace and fulfillment in our overbooked, maxed out, social status seeking world. In this study we will refresh and rediscover our understanding of the qualities of that a life with Christ can bring: contentment, intimacy, authenticity, compassion, and rest. You are invited to join us for this year’s Lenten book study after each midweek service.

For the study we will also need small group facilitators. You will be given the tools to help lead your small group. If you’re interested in being a leader, please contact the church office. I look forward to a great Lenten book study this year.

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# The Gospel is part of all we do

by Bishop Steven L. Ullestad, Northeastern Iowa Synod

as printed in the January Northeastern Iowa Star.

Throughout this year we will be celebrating the Gospel, using the witness of Martin Luther as a symbol of how that Gospel transforms individuals and the church. The Gospel is woven into what Dr. Luther said and wrote. There are several phrases of Luther's theology that exemplify this and the real life impact these teachings have on people.

## Saved by Grace Through Faith

Ruth's confirmation pastor was ordained by the Lutheran church, but was not a Lutheran. He taught her, among other things, that she would need to go into her clothes closet and pray until the "light of Christ" broke into her closet. She did exactly that because her pastor had told her to do so.

The light never shattered her closet door. Consequently, she went to college knowing that she was going to hell.

"For by grace you have been saved." This verse liberated Martin Luther and frees all who hear this Good News.

By the way, Ruth heard the Gospel while I was in seminary and it changed her life.

## Simul Justus et Peccator

Luther introduced the concept that we are simultaneously saint and sinner. Again, this is a liberating word to people who have been taught that you are either one or the other. Simultaneously we are saved and condemned. That is why we must rely on Jesus Christ to save us. Our righteousness, our works, our piety, our faithfulness do not save us. Only Jesus does.

## Sola

If "alone" means to be by itself, how could there be multiple "alone"s?

The answer rests in Luther's understanding that salvation always comes from outside of ourselves. Grace, Faith, Scripture, Christ all bring the power of salvation to us apart from our own "understanding or effort" (Luther's explanation of the Third Article of the Creed).

God is the actor. God makes the decision. "While we were yet sinners, Christ died for the ungodly" (Romans 5:6). In the waters of baptism, it is God who makes the claim on our life.

God's activity "alone" saves us. That adds the fifth "sola." "To God 'alone' be the glory."

This is the Gospel. Alone.

## Alien Righteousness

“Righteousness” is a word that we in the church believe everyone understands. That may not be true for all.

I remember, as a young pastor, a presentation to the synod assembly by a seminary professor who told the story of his car breaking down in a Middle Eastern desert. The driver was able to repair the problem, clapped his hands and said in his native tongue, “righteous.” The car had been restored to its intended purpose. It was now “righteous.”

When God makes us righteous we are restored to our intended purpose. We become what God intends us to be, human beings created in the image of God. We become “right with God.” Righteous.

Righteousness always and only comes to us from outside of ourselves, namely through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We live in a culture that seems to believe that we can become righteous through our decisions and our actions. Pray enough, go to enough Bible studies, be right on the pressing social issues of the day. Then you will be righteous. No, says Martin Luther. You have no hope for righteousness if it is left up to you. That will only bring on the sin of self-righteousness.

Righteousness always comes from outside of ourselves. It only comes from Jesus, and is given as a gift.

## Vocation

Luther was raised in a church that used the word “vocation” to mean the callings of those who serve within the church. Priests, nuns and monks exercised their “vocations,” their callings from God, by serving the institution of the church.

“Vocation” took on a new meaning for the Reformers. Each person who is baptized is called to a lifetime of service of others. That service is a “vocation,” a holy calling that is exercised in the baptized daily life, not simply within the structures of the church. Scrubbing floors, making shoes, teaching, parenting, farming, waiting tables, working in a factory are all “vocations” that serve others and, in so doing, serve God.

The Gospel that comes to us in the waters of baptism calls us to lives of service, our vocations.

## Theology of the Cross

This is a very difficult challenge for us in a culture based on a theology of glory. The theology of glory begins with the phrase “If you only ..., then ...” Once again, grace is dependent on you and your decisions, rather than the unconditional love and grace of God in Jesus Christ. A theology of glory also holds that our good actions bring us “blessings,” particularly financial success.

The cross, which includes the resurrection according to John’s Gospel, is about laying down your life in service of others – particularly “the least of these.” The cross is not about my personal financial success. It is about carrying the cross of Jesus Christ in service of others.

The Christian faith is a response to the Good News of Jesus Christ by serving those in need. Anything other than that is about self-interest and not about the Gospel.

We celebrate the Gospel each and every day. This year we give thanks in a particular way, even as we honor Martin Luther

## **BETHANY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:**

Children's Worship Hour Bag Ministry

I would ask that the next time you see Doloris Delly, Darlene Neuman, Pat Thorell or Mary Deike, please thank them for their dedication and time to making sure that the Children's Bags are sorted, filled and kept in order on a weekly basis. They also make sure the bags are washed on a regular basis. And if that wasn't enough; they keep the pencils in the pews sharpened and the envelopes filled and in order.

I have to be honest, I had no idea that they do this weekly and that they have been involved in this ministry for as many as 17 years! It is understandable that they would like to pass this ministry on to a new group of members and hope that it will keep going.

Now if this sounds daunting it doesn't need to, anyone of these ladies will tell you it was a labor of love and greatly satisfying. It takes approximately 1 hour on a normal week, perhaps a little more time at the change of a season.

Doloris Delly has a tote filled with many coloring pages that can be copied. She keeps a supply of crayons and pencils and lets the congregation know if she is in need of more. She is more than willing to be on hand for questions you might have.

This group takes turns weekly so if we can reorganize with a group of 4 to 5 people, it would be approximately a once a month commitment. The best news is that this group is so organized they have it covered through February and ask that it be taken over in March.

Please prayerfully consider this and let's give this group a well-deserved retirement and Thank you.

Peg Bushore

From the Bethany Member Volunteer Coordinator.

First of all I want to send a big thank you to all who have helped me fill in the worship volunteer openings. Your help and quick responses are so appreciated!

I just want to ask that you remember to check your emails and if you have a request there from me please let me know whether you are able to help or not. If this is not your preferred means of communication please, either respond to the email, call or text me at 641-373-0367 and update me on how best to contact you.

Again thank you for all you do for Bethany!

We are looking for volunteers to shovel snow from the sidewalks of the church in two week intervals. We have a snowblower for you to use.  
Please sign up or call the church.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>F</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>B.</b>	<b>1</b> 8:30 Exercise 5:15 7 & 8 Youth 6:00 Wed. Meal 6:30 Confirmation 6:30 Parent's Study 7:00 Ruth's Circle 7:00 Choir Practice 7:45 HS Youth	<b>2</b> 9:30 Rebekah Circle 1:00 Quilting 3:30 JAM 6:30 Scouts	<b>3</b> 8:30 Exercise	<b>4</b> 7:30 Men's Breakfast  5:30 Worship
<b>5</b> 8:30 Worship 9:45 Sun School 11:00 Worship 12-1:00 Souper Bowl of Caring	<b>6</b> 8:30 Exercise 1:00 Wings of Refuge Meeting 5:30 BLCW Meeting 6:30 Bible Study	<b>7</b> 9:30 Women's Bible Study 11:30 IF Ministerial 6:00 Worship @ Ashbrook	<b>8</b> 8:30 Exercise 5:15 7 & 8 Youth 6:00 Wed. Meal 6:30 Confirmation 6:30 Parent's Study 7:00 Choir Practice 7:45 HS Youth	<b>9</b> 1:00 Quilting 3:30 JAM 6:30 Scouts	<b>10</b> 8:30 Exercise	<b>11</b> 7:30 Men's Breakfast  5:30 Worship
<b>12</b> 8:30 Worship 9:45 Sun School 11:00 Worship 12:15 Church Council 5:00 Elderberries	<b>13</b> 8:30 Exercise  6:30 Bible Study	<b>14</b> 9:30 Women's Bible Study  6:00 Worship @ Ashbrook	<b>15</b> 8:30 Exercise 5:15 7 & 8 Youth 6:00 Wed. Meal 6:30 Confirmation 6:30 Parent's Study 7:00 Choir Practice 7:45 HS Youth FREE MEALS @ Methodist Church	<b>16</b> 1:00 Quilting 3:30 JAM 6:30 Scouts	<b>17</b> 8:30 Exercise  Work Thrift Shop  8 pm-8am MS & HS Lock-In	<b>18</b> 7:30 Men's Breakfast  Work Thrift Shop  5:30 Worship Caring Callers
<b>19</b> Caring Callers 8:30 Worship 9:45 Sun School 11:00 Worship 5:00 Wings of Refuge Soup & Sounds	<b>20</b> 8:30 Exercise  6:30 Bible Study	<b>21</b> 9:30 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Worship @ Ashbrook	<b>22</b> 8:30 Exercise 5:15 7 & 8 Youth 6:00 Wed. Meal 6:30 Confirmation 6:30 Parent's Study 7:00 Choir Practice 7:45 HS Youth	<b>23</b> 1:00 Quilting 3:30 JAM 6:30 Scouts	<b>24</b> 8:30 Exercise	<b>25</b> 7:30 Men's Breakfast  5:30 Worship
<b>26</b> 8:30 Worship 9:45 Sun School PJ Party 11:00 Worship 2:00 St Olaf Hand Bells	<b>27</b> 8:30 Exercise  6:30 Bible Study	<b>28</b> 9:30 Women's Bible Study  6:00 Worship @ Ashbrook	<b>March 1</b> <b>Ash Wednesday</b>  11:45 Community Lenten Lunch  6:00 Worship Service  7:00 Introduction to the Adult Study			

**Church Council Meeting will be held Sunday, February 12, at 12:15**

**CIRCLE EVENTS**

February 1 at 7:00 p.m. will be the Ruth's Circle meeting.

February 2 at 9:30 a.m. will be Rebekah's Circle

February 6 at 5:30 p.m. will be the BLCW Board Meeting

**ELDERBERRIES**

**We are a group for those 50 years and older. In February we will meet on Sunday the 12th at 5 p.m. in the church for a potluck, social time and**

**CARING CALLERS –February 19 th will be Caring Callers Weekend**

Wings Of Refuge Soup & Sounds will be at Bethany on February 19th from 5:00-7:30pm. If you would like to donate soup or desserts please sign up on the narthex. Bethany's Praise Band "The Voice" will be one of the local bands performing.

Bethany will help with the FREE Meals at the Methodist Church on Wednesday, February 15th. Please sign up to help or to bring baked goods.

**THRIFT SHOP**

We are working at the Thrift Shop February 17-18 and need your help.

Please sign up on the narthex desk. Thank you!

Saint Olaf will be here on Sunday, February 26 at 2:00 with their Handbell Choir.

**CHOIR REHEARSALS** will be moved to Wednesday nights from 7-8pm starting on February 1st. We hope this will encourage past members to return as well as encourage some new folks to join us. If you want to sing with us but can't make it to a Wednesday night rehearsal, just join us at 8am on the following Sunday morning. We can use all levels of talent. Sopranos, Altos, Tenors, and Basses are all needed. We will also be performing a cantata on Palm Sunday. More information coming soon!!

**LWR SOAP DRIVE:** A washstand is set up in the Fellowship Hall to collect any size of wrapped soap for Lutheran World Relief. This can be from motel size to large bars.

## Youth Activities

### Wednesday Activities

5:15 7th & 8th Youth

6:00 Supper

6:30 Confirmation & Parent's Study

7:45 High School Youth

### Souper Bowl of Caring

February 5 12-1:00 proceeds go to the youth program and MICA

### MS & HS Lock-in

February 17, 8p.m.-February 18, at 8a.m.

### **St. Olaf Handbell Choir to Perform at Bethany Lutheran Church**

St. Olaf College has a tradition of musical excellence. Their handbell program upholds these standards. The premier ensemble, the St. Olaf Handbell Choir, will be presenting a concert at Bethany Lutheran Church on Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm. There will be no admission cost for the concert but a free will offering will be taken. On their weekend tour they will be performing in Mounds View, Iowa Falls and Pella, IA, and Northfield, MN.

The program includes something for everyone: original compositions, pieces adapted from both band and orchestra, hymn arrangements, a jazz standard, a spiritual, and even a little movie music. The concert has a special tie to Bethany Lutheran as it is the home church of St. Olaf senior Kari Hanson. Kari will be a soloist with the choir on flute, playing a piece called Spring Sea, a Japanese piece arranged by Hirotaka Arai. The handbell choir will also be premiering a new work titled *Burst* by composer Timothy Mahr.

The thirteen-member choir is the premier ensemble in a program of three handbell choirs at St. Olaf College. The ensemble is an auditioned group that meets twice a week. On campus they perform for chapel and church services, student recitals, and an annual spring concert with all the handbell choirs. In addition, they regularly perform off campus church services and concerts. They performed their first kid's concert in 2007 and enjoyed it so much they have made it a biennial event. Sixteen years ago the group began touring. They have performed in many cities in Minnesota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Nebraska and Iowa. They have participated in the critically acclaimed St. Olaf Christmas Festival premiering *Glories Ring*, *Joyous Noel* and *Gladsome Bells*, all written by faculty member Steven Amundson for handbells and orchestra. The choir plays five octaves of Malmark handbells and handchimes.



## 2017 LENTEN EVENTS

Below is our 2017 Lenten schedule:

March 1 Ash Wednesday	11:45 a.m.	Community Lenten Lunch
	6:00 p.m.	Ash Wednesday Worship Service
	7:00 p.m.	Introduction to the Adult Study
March 8- April 5 Wednesday's	11:45 a.m.	Community Lenten Lunch
	5:00 p.m.	Lenten Soup Supper
	6:00 p.m.	Lenten Worship Service
	6:30 p.m.	Lenten Book Study
	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Book Study
April 12 Wednesday	6:30 p.m.	Lenten Book Study
April 13 Thursday	6:00 p.m.	Maundy Thur. Worship Service First Communion
April 14 Friday	8:00 p.m.	Good Friday Worship Service
April 15 Saturday	8:00 p.m.	Easter Vigil Worship Service
April 16 Sunday	6:30 a.m.	Easter Sunrise Service
	7:30 a.m.	Easter Breakfast
	8:30 a.m.	Easter Worship Service

## **Church Nurse - Dental Amalgam Fillings—Should I Replace?**

Most metal dental fillings are dental amalgam — a stable alloy made with mercury, silver, tin, copper and other metals. Although concerns have been raised over the years about the safety of mercury in dental amalgam, there is no conclusive evidence to support that you're better off having amalgam fillings replaced with alternative materials. The American Dental Association supports the use of dental amalgam as a safe, reliable and effective treatment for dental decay.

Dental amalgam is often used to fill large areas of decay on back teeth. Generally, replacing metal dental fillings for cosmetic reasons should only be done after careful consideration and if your dentist feels it won't compromise the long-term health of your teeth. Likewise, there's no need to replace metal dental fillings because of concerns about mercury in your fillings.

If your dental fillings are defective or show decay, it's important to replace them. Untreated decay may eventually lead to an infection (abscess). In some cases, replacing a dental filling may benefit the long-term health of your tooth.

If you're unsure whether you need to replace your metal dental fillings, ask your dentist to explain the options and help you understand what's best in your case.

### **Bethany 100 Year Celebration**

The Bethany 100 committee has been meeting and here are the plans for the celebration.

1. Sunday, June 28, 2017 we will have a celebration kickoff party. This will include worship at 9:00, followed by a fair which will include a barbecue, old time games, and other fun events. On this Sunday we will invite the surrounding community to join us in the celebration.
2. Saturday October 21, 2017 we will have worship at 5:30. Bishop Ullestad will preach and Pastor Tim will lead the service. After service we will have a banquet at Bethany. The committee will give a presentation of the hundred years of Bethany and former pastors will share their reflections.
3. Sunday, October 22, 2017 we will have worship at 10:00, which will be led by former pastors of Bethany Lutheran Church. Followed by a cake and coffee fellowship.

If you have any historical items from Bethany that you would like to loan for the Bethany 100 celebration please bring them to the church office. We are looking forward to a great celebration in 2017.

### **WAYS YOU CAN HELP**

1. **Join the Bethany 100 Task Force.**
2. **If you have any items or pictures you would like to share please bring them by the church.**

## REMEMBER THE BETHANY FAMILIES WITH PRAYER

This month, ask God to protect, direct, and show favor to these members. Give thanks for their presence in this community.

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| February 1-7   | Hensing, Linda<br>Hesse, Robert, Katheryn, Ryan & Eric<br>Hickman, Kent, Andrea, Regan & Brooks<br>Hildebrand, Ron & Mary Ann   |
| February 8-14  | Hill, Matt, Jean, Mary Jane, Ashley and Ryan Hadler; Alexis, Makenzie and Caroline Hill, Rolen, & Clara<br>Hoffman, Kevin, Nancy, Dylan, & Payton<br>Hoover, Scott, Debra, & Joshua |
| February 15-22 | Hoversten, Paul, Rita & Cade<br>Hoversten, Quinn, Kaitlyn, Finley, Kellen, Griffin & Merritt<br>Huffine, Gary & Marilyn<br>Huibsich, Gladys   |
| February 23-28 | Hundahl, Dean & Corrine<br>Inks, Crystal<br>Izer, Lyle<br>Janes, Kyle, Kari, Logan, Lexa, Harli & Rana  |





# Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

## MISSION STATEMENT

Through God's love as revealed to us in Jesus Christ, it is the purpose of Bethany Lutheran Church to proclaim the gospel of that love throughout the world by creating and building a community of worship in the Lutheran tradition of Word and Sacrament, providing fellowship, encouraging growth through learning and reaching out in witness and service.

### **WE ARE CALLED TO LIVE THE MARKS OF DISCIPLESHIP**

As disciples of Jesus we will strive to:

**P**ray Daily

**O**

Worship Weekly

**E**

Read the Bible daily

Serve at and beyond Bethany Lutheran Church

Unite with and be in

Relationship with others

Give of our time, talents, and resources

**E**

### **2016-2017 BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL:**

**Matt Hill, Grace Jones, Amber Lee, Pastor Tim Maybee,**

**Sarah Moehlman, Tom Moravec, Gene Newgaard, Barb Nuss,**

**Billie Jo Shahan, Jaiden Shahan, Jason Snyder, and Joel Weeks**

<b>Church Office Hours</b>	<b>8:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Monday-Friday</b>
<b>Church Phone</b>	<b>641-648-3555</b>
<b>Church's E-Mail</b>	<b><a href="mailto:bethanyiwafalls@gmail.com">bethanyiwafalls@gmail.com</a></b>
<b>Church Address</b>	<b>2712 Washington Ave, Iowa Falls, IA 50126</b>
<b>Pastor Tim's E-mail</b>	<b><a href="mailto:bethanyptim@gmail.com">bethanyptim@gmail.com</a></b>
<b>Pastor Tim's Cell Phone</b>	<b>515-745-3683</b>
<b>Bethany Web Site</b>	<b><a href="http://www.bethanyiwafalls.net">www.bethanyiwafalls.net</a></b>
<b>Volunteer Coordinator</b>	<b><a href="mailto:bethanymem@gmail.com">bethanymem@gmail.com</a></b>







