

Mid-Week Lent Service Wednesday Noon

www.facebook.com/lowaFallsMinisterialAssociation

March 1 - Evangelical Free Church March 8 – First Baptist Church - IFMA March 15 - First United Methodist Church

March-22 – Bethany Lutheran Church March 29 - First Congregational UCC April 5 – First Christian Church

> Mid Week Lent Service Wednesdays 6:30 pm At Bethany Lutheran Church

> > March 1 March 8 March 15

March 22

March 29

Palm Sunday 9:00 Worship Service April 2

MARCH 2023

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PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

The gospel text for the last Wednesday's Supper Worship we offered, prior to our Lenten break, was Matthew 17:1-9, Jesus' transfiguration. Instead of reading the story from the Bible, I showed a cartoon, video version of the story (www.youtube.com/watch?v=KfT5mInsr9A). It was cute and we laughed as the frightened disciples fell to the ground when God the Father spoke from the cloud. Following the transfiguration video, we listened to the song, "Listen to Jesus" (www.youtube.com/watch?v=wkz3DMvA7zA). It's a fun, lighthearted song sung by children with a man singing the voice of God "This is my Son, the Beloved One, listen to Him." The innocent voices of the children carry us along on their sweet, melody. The lovely song concludes with the words, "You are the Son, the Beloved One, we'll listen to you." During the sermon we discussed that "listening" is easy. However, we further discussed that though listening is easy, the following/obeying was difficult. We came up with numerous reasons why following the way of Jesus is difficult; "fearful, countercultural, and don't want to" were some of our responses. The season of Epiphany concludes with Jesus radiating the glory of God ~ an epiphany of Jesus' divinity. The season of Lent begins as Jesus descends the mountaintop and heads to Golgotha.

I grew up Lutheran, but my family did not participate in the practices of Lent. We didn't go to Ash Wednesday worship (it was the Catholics who came to school with their foreheads dirtied with ashes. Yup, it looked like a big smudge mark. That's the deepest I understood Ash Wednesday). My family did not attend any mid-week Lenten services. We attended Sunday worship and when it came to Holy Week, we went straight from celebrating on Palm Sunday to celebrating on Easter Sunday. Lent for me basically began with a dirty smudge, not eating chocolate for several weeks, and concluding with finding a basket filled with chocolates prior to attending Easter worship.

It was not until I was older, did I understand that the smudge was the mark of the cross representing our sinful, mortality. Yet, marked with the cross we know that our mortality is not the end. On Ash Wednesday we will hear from St. Matthew (6:1-6, 16-21) more teachings of Jesus from his Sermon on the Mount. These teachings about alms giving, praying, and fasting are ways that draw us closer to God. Intentionally incorporating these practices in our daily life, particularly in Lent, opens us up to the power of the whisperings of God. As our relationship with God strengthens, we find that our courage to follow/obey also strengthens. I invite you to take this Lenten season seriously and faithfully practice at least one act (alms giving, praying, fasting) during this six-week journey with Jesus to the cross. Through your chosen act, see how your listening to God's Son, the Beloved becomes more astute. Through your chosen act, see how your relationship with God strengthens. Through your chosen act, see how you become bolder in your courage to live the way of Jesus. Jesus is now headed to the cross. May Jesus find us following him as he listens to the Father and has the courage to die and rise for each of us.

Your sister in Christ, Pastor Maureen

Community Lenten Lunches

The Iowa Falls community is invited to a series of informal lunches served here, at Bethany Lutheran Church, at noon on

Wednesdays in Lent. A light lunch will be served by the church of the minister

delivering the message:

March $1^{st} \sim Evangelical$ Free Church;

March 8th ~ First Baptist Church;

March 15th ~ First United Methodist Church;

March 22nd ~ Bethany Lutheran Church;

March 29th ~ First Congregational UCC;

April $5^{th} \sim Holy Week \sim First Christian Church.$

Spend your lunch hour in fellowship with your Iowa Falls neighbors and enjoy a presentation by a local church's pastor.

Wednesday Evening Lenten Services; 6:30 p.m.



March 1st ~ Vicar Lisa Robison, St. Paul, Wellsburg

March 8th ~ Pr. Joy Edeker, Bethesda, Jewell

March 15th ~ Pr. Tim Malek, St. Petri, Story City

March 22nd ~ Pr. Jonathan Cooney, Grace United Methodist, Story City

March $29^{th} \sim Pr$. Maureen

Mike Moehlman will lead Holden Evening Prayer

NO MEAL SERVED PRIOR TO WORSHIP

Passion for Ministry

Ministry? Passion? How can you find your passion in ministry? Ministry is defined as carrying forth Christ's mission in the world, expressing, and spreading your faith! Here are 3 ways that you can find your passion for life and ministry.

- 1. Discover and define your purpose. Passion and Purpose go together!!
- 2. Nourish your soul.
- 3. Share your faith.

During the season of Lent, you will learn about many Ministries that Bethany Lutheran Church is currently serving. You will be amazed at the amount of ways we show God's love in the world, our community, and within our church. Stay tuned and get ready to find a ministry that you can be passionate about, will nourish your soul, and allow you to share your faith!!

Daylight Savings: Sunday, March 12th



Before going to bed on Saturday, March 11th, set your clocks AHEAD one hour. Sunday begins Daylight Savings Time. Don't be an hour late for Sunday's 9 a.m. worship!

Jammie Day!



EVERYONE is invited to wear their pajamas to worship on Sunday, **March 12**th! The first day of Daylight Savings Time is always rough, as we lose an hour of sleep. So, roll out of bed and worship in your PJ's. Pastor Howard will be wearing her PJ's! We'll be praising God in robes and fuzzy slippers.

First Communion Retreat



WHO: Second graders and their parent(s)

WHEN: Saturday, April 1st

TIME: 12:30 - 4:30 p.m.

RECEIVE FIRST COMMUNION: Palm Sunday, April 2nd

Holy Hilarity Weekend: April 15th and 16th



Start collecting your dad jokes and one-liners. The weekend after Easter will be Holy Hilarity Weekend and we'll be laughing through worship. The service will be filled with groaners, knee slappers, eye rollers, and a giggle now and then. We celebrate the resurrected Christ with joyous laughter as we rejoice the devil and death no longer

have a hold on us. Mark your calendars, you won't want to miss Holy Hilarity Worship!



BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL

Sunday, January 8. 2023

Members Present:

Robin Sampson, Wanda Koehrsen, Kaitlyn Hoversten, Carol Polzin, Ashley Kuker, Holly Carlberg, Jayne Becker, Brian Sauerbrei, Pat Kreiger, Pastor Maureen Howard,

Robin called the meeting to order.

Regular reports were not given as this is a planned Council Retreat.

Prior to starting the retreat, Kaitlyn moved and Pat seconded to go into Executive Session.

Motion Carried

After a lengthy discussion, Pat moved and Wanda seconded to close the Executive Session.

Motion Carried

Ashley moved and Holly seconded to switch the custodian position from a contract position to that of a part time hourly position of 15 hours/week.

Motion Carried

Pat moved and Kaitlyn moved to gift the current custodian 15 hours of vacation for 2023, to be used at their discretion.

Motion Carried

Jayne moved and Carol second to adjourn.

Motion Carried

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer

The next regular meeting will be Sunday February 12, 2023.

Devotions: Jayne

A TIME OF GIVING

As you all know, the ministries here at Bethany would not be possible without you and your financial support. Your continued support has allowed us to close the door on 2022 without having to stray from doing God's work through our ministries. We ask that you continue to prayerfully consider what you can give so that we can carry on with our ministries into the new year and beyond. Thank you.

Financial Report

Month	Income	Expenses	Net Income (Loss)
October	\$13,211.38	\$16,107.94	(\$2,896.56)
November	\$14,184.78	\$20,414.17	(\$6,229.39)
December	\$28,769.33	\$23,395.55	\$5,373.78
January	\$14,119.58	\$22,390.48	(\$8,270.90)
4 Months Total	\$70,205.87	\$82,366.33	(\$12,081.26)

AUTHORIZATION FORM

The Simply Giving Program endorsed by

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Bethany Cares at Easter

It's that time of year again — our chance to make a direct and positive impact on individuals/families in need within our own and the surrounding communities. Not only have we delivered Easter "baskets" (actually boxes) to people in Iowa Falls in the past, we have also delivered to Popejoy, Alden, Buckeye, and Hubbard. For those not familiar with this project, I thought I'd take the time to explain what it is and what happens. The recipients of these boxes are determined from past years' lists, yearly contacts/updates with local school nurses and counselors for other families they feel should be added, suggestions from congregation/community members, and people requesting this gift for themselves. Once we have our list for the year, we then reach out by phone call to the families to ensure that they wish to accept the box(es). Later, we arrange a delivery time with them (to occur the Thursday, Friday, and sometimes Saturday before Easter). Volunteers purchase, package, and deliver the boxed items directly to the recipients' doorsteps with a smile. Personally, I love making deliveries, as you are met with gratitude, appreciation, and sometimes a hug request.

This year, our list is already at 151 families with at least 48 of these families consisting of 5 or more people (those with 5 or more in their family have received double the items in the past). This list has not yet been finalized; therefore, it is likely to grow, as congregation and community members may provide further additions. The following is a list of what a family of 1-4 people has received in the past: large ham, 5 pounds of potatoes, canned peaches, pears, corn, and green beans, peanut butter, box of instant oatmeal, loaf of bread, fresh fruit, 1 dozen eggs, 1 pound butter, ½ gallon 2% milk, ½ gallon orange juice, 4-pack toilet paper, paper towel roll, box of facial tissues. Again, those families of 5 or more people, have received double this amount. In the beginning years of this project, specific food and non-perishable donation requests were made to be brought in, but now that the project has grown immensely, we ask only for monetary donations to purchase the items and to ensure uniformity in what is included in those boxes.

How can you be a part of this project?

As you can imagine, this is a heartfelt and worthy, but also a costly and labor-intensive project. We are grateful that Church Women United has donated \$3,000 towards this project this year. Our challenge to the Bethany congregation is to match or surpass that donation. Please consider a monetary donation to help us reach our goal. Be sure to note "Bethany Cares" in the memo line on your check to ensure that the money is directed to the Easter "baskets". We also are in need of volunteers to make phone calls to reach out to the families and find out if they are interested in receiving a box(es), as well as volunteers to make deliveries. There will be signup sheets at the Narthex desk for these. You can sign up there or let Brenda know if you are able and willing to make phone calls or deliveries. Finally, if you know of anyone that could benefit from this and should be added to our list of recipients, please reach out to Brenda with that information, as well. March 20th is the deadline for names to be added to our list. Thank you for your consideration to contribute to Bethany Cares at Easter. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Darla Sharar.

BETHANY HAPPENINGS

LECTORS*GREETERS*COFFEE HOUR NEEDED: Worship Assistant for the March & April. If interested please sign up at the Narthex Desk, Call or email Brenda at the Church office 641-648-3555.

HARDIN COUNTY EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY: Food Pantry's mission is to provide food for Iowa children, families, and seniors to lead full and active lives and strengthen the communities where they live. So please donate, donate, donate. The gathering box is in the Fellowship Hall. Many thanks.

REBEKAH CIRCLE: There will be no meetings in March.

RUTH CIRCLE: Meets on the second Wednesday of each month next meeting is March 8th at 7:00pm.

FAITH FORMATION: 2022/2023 Sunday school for ages pre-k through 6th grade from 10:15-11:00. **MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICE:** 6:30pm, Wednesday Vicar Lisa Robison will be preaching under the theme "Sing with All the Saints in Glory". Mike Moehlman leading "Holden Evening Prayer".

3,4,5,6 CLUB: Every second Wednesday of the month, 7:00pm, Youth Group for 3-4-5-6 graders after the Lenten Wednesday worship, 6:30pm. Fun activities and service projects planned March 8th.

ACOLYTE NEEDED: For Sundays in March & April. If interested, please Call Brenda at the Bethany office at 641-648-3555 or Look it up online. Thank you!

FELLOWSHIP FUN NIGHT: We invite you to our monthly Fellowship Fun Night, 7:00pm. This will follow our weekly Lenten worship service starting at 6:30 p.m. Fellowship Fun Night will be a time fellowship with our Bethany family, a planned activity with a message, and a whole lot of fun for all ages. We will plan on doing Fellowship Fun Night on the 4th Wednesday of the month. Our next Fellowship Family Fun Night will be March 22nd.

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR 2023: It's that time of year to think of Loved ones with Altar Flowers, In Memory of or In Honor of a Birthday, Anniversary, Family, Friends or To Have A Blessed Day. We still have 5 openings left for 2023 so if you have a special day you would like to Share the sign-up sheet is on the Narthex desk or call the church office. Thank You!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We need help at the Thrift Shop on Friday, March 10th. Please sign-up on the sheet in the Narthex.

BETHANY CARES AT EASTER: Didn't we just get done with Christmas...Easter Baskets? Last year, Bethany Cares at Easter provided food baskets to over 100 families. We anticipate this year the need in our community will be greater. In addition, inflation will make this worthy project more expensive. Please consider giving a monetary donation to this outreach activity, just note on your check that it is for "Bethany Cares." Thank you for your generosity. Please note we will not be collecting food donations as in the past. **ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Join us with the new book for adult Sunday school. <u>Giving to God</u> by Mark Allen Powell. We have 3 extra books that people can borrow or you can buy your own book. If you need help ordering a book, please contact Kim Aldinger. 641-373-4658.

FIRST COMMUNION RETREAT: Pastor Howard will be hosting a Communion Retreat on Saturday, April 1st (12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.). All children, along with their parent(s)/guardian(s), 2nd grade or older who have not gone through a training. The youth will receive their first Communion, with their family, on Palm Sunday, April 2nd.

PORKLOIN DINNER IN APRIL: We are planning our annual Pork Loin Dinner on **Sunday, April 30, 4-6 PM** this year **Carry Out Only**. Please mark your calendars and look for your letter/ticket envelope at the beginning of April.

LWR HEALTH KITS: Lutheran World Relief health kits help refugees maintain personal hygiene while children, men and women live in exile. They also contribute to a new start for those who return home. Please add following four items to this plastic bag and return it to the church and place them in the World Relief Box in the Fellowship Hall. Our goal is 100 kits. Thank you! Linda Lehtola

1) wide tooth comb 2) metal nail clipper with file attached 3) two bath size bars of soap (4-5 oz) in original wrapping

REMEMBER IN PRAYER:

Tom Moravec, Audrey Knott, Doris Harman, Connie Surls, Steve Trusty, Sandi Butt, Patty Andriakos - Celene Andersen's sister; Karen Rew - Friend of Kathy Dagit. Nathan Noriega - Brother of Tuyet Noriega & Uncle of Annaleah and Clarissa Cook. Frank Curtis - Brother-in-law of Diane Hansen & Sonja Bauer. Madison Craighton - daughter of a co-worker of Kathy Dagit. Bentley Anderson- grandson of Mike & Celene Anderson. Rick Meyer - Son of Mary Jones. Merle Reingardt - Friend of Randy & Darla Hansen.

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

Week of March 5

Fred & Julyn, Aaron Hansen Shirley Hansen Michael Hansen Randy & Darla Hansen

Week of March 12

Mark & Joan, Leah, Kari Hanson Michelle and Abigail Harken Doris Harman Randy, Rayce, Kelsey Harman

Week of March 19

Adam & Kim, Grace, Collin, Barrett Hartford Chad & Maria, Calli, Hannah, Andrew Heetland Lois Heflin Jason & Rebecca, Cheyenne, Sierra, Sage Heitland

Week of March 26

Jon & Mary Heitland Deanne Henry Kent & Andrea, Regan, Brooks, Bridger Hickman Ron & Mary Ann Hildebrand



03/06 Debra & Scott Hoover
03/15 Peg & Mike Bushore
03/21 Ann & Mike Barr
03/26 Kerry & Steven Mulford
03/28 Lisa & Brian Doering



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Noon Lenten Luncheons in April at Bethany Host: April 5 -First Christian Church Rev TJ Norman			1 Community Meal at UMC 12pm Lenten Lunch at Bethany Host: Evangelical Free Church- Pr Jeremy Nelson 6:30pm Worship-Vicar Lisa Robison 7pm Confirmation- Dave & Susan 8pm KIFG- Bethany Sunday Sermon	2 1:00 Quilting & Quilt-Tiers	3	5:30 pm Worship Service
5 9:00a 2nd Sunday of Lent Service/Brian Herrin/Live Stream 10:15 Sunday School	6	7	8 12pm Lenten Lunch at Bethany Host: Iowa Falls Ministerial Association- Rev Dave Schwechel 6:30 Worship-Pr Jay Edeker 7pm Ruth Circle 7pm Choir Practice 7pm Activities/3,4,5,6 7pm Confirmation- Dave & Susan 8pm KIFG- Bethany Sunday Sermon	9 1:00 Quilting & Quilt-Tiers	10 Pastor Maureen – Sabbath Day	5:30 pm Worship Service
12 Time Springs Ahead 1 Hour 9:00a 3rd Sunday of Lent Service/ Choir Sings/LiveStream/ Youth will Sing & Wear Pajama for Service & Sunday School-Adult too! 10:15 Sunday School 11:15 Church Council Meeting	Pastor Maureen – Sabbath Day	14	15 12pm Lenten Lunch at Bethany Host: 1st United Methodist Church- Pr Erling Shultz 6:30 Worship- Pr. Tim Malek 7pm Choir Practice 8pm KIFG- Bethany Sunday Sermon	16 1:00 Quilting & Quilt-Tiers	17 St. Patrick's Day	5:30 pm Worship Service
19 9:00 4th Sunday of Lent Worship Service/Baptisms Aiden Stalzer & Ellie Krause/Live Stream No Sunday School	20 Pastor Maureen – Sabbath Day	21	22 9:30-5:30p WIC Clinic 12pm Lenten Lunch at Bethany Host: Bethany Lutheran Church-Pr Maureen Howard 6:30 Worship- Pr. Jonathon Cooney 7pm Activities/ Fellowship Family Fun Night 8pm KIFG- Bethany Sunday Sermon	23 1:00 Quilting & Quilt-Tiers	24	5:30 pm Worship Service
26 9:00 Worship Service/Live Stream 10:15 Sunday School	Pastor Maureen – Sabbath Day 4:00 BCLW Meeting	28 5:00 Iowa Falls Historical Society Meeting	29 12pm Lenten Lunch at Bethany Host: First Congregational UCC- Vicar Lisa Robison 6:30 Worship-Pr. Maureen Howard 7pm Choir Practice 7pm Confirmation Dave & Susan 8pm KIFG- Bethany Sunday Sermon	30 1:00 Quilting & Quilt-Tiers	31	









WORSHIP ASSISTANTS IN MARCH

SATURDAY 5:30

MARCH 4

Lector:

MARCH 11

Lector:

MARCH 18

Lector:

MARCH 25

Lector: Mark Hanson

IF INTERESTED IN FILLING AN OPEN SPOT PLEASE CALL THE

CHURCH OFFICE AT 641-648-3555. THANK YOU!

SUNDAY 9:00

MARCH 5

Lector: Gary Huffine

Usher: Gary & Marilyn Huffine

Greeter: Roberta Meyer

Coffee Host: Communion:

Acolyte:

MARCH 12

Lector: Matt Becker

Usher:

Greeter: Roberta Meyer

Coffee Host:

Communion: Kyle Dillon, Kim Aldinger

Acolyte: Drake Sanders

MARCH 19

Lector: Usher:

Greeter: Roberta Meyer

Coffee Host: Communion:

Acolyte:

MARCH 26

Lector: Kim Aldinger

Usher:

Greeter: Roberta Meyer

Coffee Host:

Communion: Kim Aldinger **Acolyte:** Brooks Hickman

Daily Bible Reading

MARCH	OLD TESTAMENT	NEW TESTAMENT	PSALMS	PROVERBS
1	Ex 6:1-7:25	Matt 18:21-19:12	23:1-6	5:22-23
2	Ex 8:1-9:35	Matt 19:13-30	24:1-10	6:1-5
3	Ex 10:1-12:13	Matt 20:1-28	25:1-11	6:6-11
4	Ex 12:14-13:22	Matt 20:29-21:22	25:12-22	6:12-15
5	Ex 14:1-15:19	Matt 21:23-46	26:1-12	6:16-19
6	Ex 15:20-17:7	Matt 22:1-33	27:1-7	6:20-26
7	Ex 17:8-19:25	Matt 22:34-23:12	27:8-14	6:27-35
8	Ex 20:1-21:27	Matt 23:13-39	28:1-9	7:1-5
9	Ex 21:28-23:13	Matt 24:1-28	29:1-28	7:6-23
10	Ex 23:14-25:40	Matt 24:29-51	30:1-12	7:24-27
11	Ex 26:1-27:21	Matt 25:1-30	31:1-8	8:1-11
12	Ex 28:1-43	Matt 25:31-26:13	31:9-18	8:12-13
13	Ex 29:1-30:10	Matt 26:14-46	31:19-24	8:14-26
14	Ex 30:11-31:18	Matt 26:47-68	32:1-11	8:27-32
15	Ex 32:1-33:23	Matt 26:69-27:14	33:1-11	8:33-36
16	Ex 34:1-35:9	Matt 27:15-31	33:12-22	9:1-6
17	Ex 35:10-36:38	Matt 27:32-66	34:1-10	9:7-8
18	Ex 37:1-38:31	Matt 28:1-20	34:11-22	9:9-10
19	Ex 39:1-40:38		35:1-16	9:11-12
20	Lev 1:1-3:17	Mark 1:29-2:12	35:17-28	9:13-18
21	Lev 4:1-5:19	Mark 2:13-3:6	36:1-12	10:1-2
22	Lev 6:1-7:27	Mark 3:7-30	37:1-11	10:3-4
23	Lev 7:28-8:36	Mark 3:31-4:25	37:12-28	10:05
24	Lev 9:1-10:20	Mark 4:26-5:20	37:29-40	10:6-7
25	Lev 11:1-12:8	Mark 5:21-43	38:1-2	10:8-9
26	Lev 13:1-59	Mark 6:1-29	39:1-13	10:10
27	Lev 14:1-57	Mark 6:30-56	40:1-10	10:11-12
28	Lev 15:1-16:34	Mark 7:1-23	41:1-13	10:13-14
29	Lev 17:1-18:30	Mark 7:24-8:10	42:1-11	10:15-16
30	Lev 9:1-20:27	Mark 9:1-29	43:1-5	10:17
31	Lev 21:1-22:17	Mark 9:1-29	43:1-7	10:18

Our Purpose at Bethany Lutheran is to reach out to others and spread God's Word.

Our Vision at Bethany Lutheran is to

Know Christ and to make Christ known by Welcoming! Growing! Serving!

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- 1. Jesus is Lord and Savior.
- 2. We are saved by grace through faith in Christ Jesus.
- 3. All are welcome.
- 4. Our foundation is in scripture.
- 5. As a family of faith, we serve others and one another in Christ's love.
- 6. Through prayer we go where the Holy Spirit leads to proclaim Christ.



BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Joel Weeks – President, Robin Sampson - Vice-President, Wanda Koehrsen – Secretary
Open – Youth Representative, Open – Youth Representative,
Paul Hoversten – Treasurer, Pastor Maureen Howard
Kaitlyn Hoversten, Bernice Lancaster, Jerry Lehtola, Tom Moravec,
Carol Polzin, Jessie VanHove

Church Phone: 641-648-3555 email: bethanyiowafalls@gmail.com Pastor Maureen Howard email: revbethanyif@gmail.com

Web Site: www.bethanyiowafalls.net Office Hours 8:30-2:30