

MONTHLY CONNECTIONS

SUNDAY SERVICE

Lost Island- 8:45am

Bethany- 10:30am

CHILDREN MINISTRY

Bethany Sunday School-

9:30AM-10:15AM (Sept-May)

Lost Island Sunday School-
10:15am

YOUTH MINISTRY

WEDNESDAYS

SACK (2nd-5th grade): 3:30-5pm

Connect (6th-8th grade): 6-7:30pm

LIFE (9th-12th grade): 7-8:30pm



Pastor's Corner

Can something that happened over 500 years ago have any influence in our lives today? The answer is yes. In fact, it was over 500 years ago that Martin Luther nailed the 95 Thesis on the door in Whittenberg, Germany. His ideas changed the religious world. And the world in general. And it affects us today, probably more than we know.

Luther understood that salvation comes from God through faith. It was not something we work for, but it is something that God does for us through faith. We believe that Jesus died for us, and that Jesus did the work for our salvation. The work of Jesus is to be received by faith.

So, what difference does Luther's ideas make for us today? There are many, many things.

One of the most significant things Luther did was to translate the Bible into German. Before that, only the clergy could read the Bible. Luther believed the Bible was for all. The reason we can have a Bible in our home is because Luther made it available for everyone.

Luther also loved congregational singing. We sing in church at every service because Luther made it a part of worship. The hymns we sing are inspirational and add a lot to worship.

Luther believed in infant baptism. He understood that God does all the action in baptism, and we can do nothing except receive God's grace. We still baptize infants all these years later.

Luther taught us that there is the 'real presence' of Jesus in our communion. He taught us that Jesus is present in the bread and wine. Our communion is more than just a remembrance.

Luther also wrote The Small Catechism. He wanted people to teach faith in the home, so he wrote meanings to articles in the catechism. His words and ideas are still taught today, even by non-Lutheran congregations.

Luther taught us that the much-loved Bible verse John 3:16 is "the gospel in miniature". It is a key verse for faith.

And, Luther was the first to bring a Christmas tree into his home. It was an evergreen tree to symbolize eternal life brought to us by the infant Jesus.

On October 25 we celebrate Reformation Sunday. It is the beginning of the Lutheran Church. Join us. It is an important day.

Blessings, A Friend



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:

Linda Gjerde, Lexi Olson, Punky Kropf, Heather McAlpine, Carol Walker, Jay Hember, Linda Twait, Ryker Stone, Hailey Koenig, Justin Reinert, Mike Schipull, Paul Bedard, Doug Ort, Wilma Nielsen, Korbin Johnson, Omundson Family, Rick Rienhardt, Bridget Johnson 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:*
Alex Meyer

**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

In the same way, prayer is essential in this ongoing warfare. Pray hard and long. Pray for your brothers and sisters. Keep your eyes open. Keep each other's spirits up so that no one falls behind or drops out. -Ephesians 6:18

How can we pray for you?

Stay Connected

Bethany/Lost Island Parish

@bethanyemmettsburg

Bethany Worship

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH EMMETTSBURG, IA

GET INVOLVED.

QUILTING

Morning Quilting
Mondays- 9 AM weekly
Night Quilters
Monday, 5—8 PM weekly
Lost Island Quilting

WOMEN'S CIRCLES

***Tabitha Circle:**
Oct ___ at Alaire's home
***Sarah Circle:**
Oct 13th at Church - Marla will do the lesson and refreshments
***Mary Martha Circle:**
Oct 27th at 9:30 am Mary Martha Circle at Willow Ridge

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

BEGINNING OCT 14
WEDNESDAYS AT NOON

Communion

Remembering His sacrifice.

1st & 3rd Sunday of the month

BETHANY VOLUNTEERS

Altar Guild: Pat Vician

Date	Lector	Greeter	Ushers	Communion Assistant	Acolyte	Musician	Service Leader
Oct 4	John Thoren	Thoren Family	Kyle Hagen Dave Cole	Kathy Mehan, Laura Reinders Quentin Ort Amelia Ort	Owen Thoren	Tim Nielsen	Pastor Tonna Parsons
Oct 11	Angie Hetrick	Mark & Payton Evans Elaine Nauss	Mark Evans Cael Rodemeyer		Ava Hagen Payton Evans	Serena Lace	Kristin Rienhardt
Oct 18	Marit Veltri	Martini Family	Chuck Duhn Kent Davidson	Sydney Martini Amy Martini Marit & Frank Veltri	Kennedy Martini	Tim Nielsen	Pastor Deb Mechler
Oct 25	Cael Rodemeyer	Reinders Family	Joel Saxton Terry Rouse	Lori Forry, Laure Miller, Darca & Mark Saxton	Zoey Reinders Samantha Prabhakaran	Laura Gustafson	Pastor Jeff Geiger

LOST ISLAND VOLUNTEERS. Altar Guild Karyn Leininger, Amee Norris

Date	Lector	Communion Assistant	Musician	Service Leader
Oct 4	Alaire Nielsen	Troy Leininger	Tim Nielsen	Pastor Tonna Parsons
Oct 11	Troy Leininger		Tim Nielsen	Lynn Potter
Oct 18	Karyn Leininger	Sue Geiger	Tim Nielsen	Pastor Deb Mechler
Oct 25	Charles Henningsen	Karyn Leininger	Tim Nielsen	Pastor Jeff Geiger

MEMORIAL GIFTS GIVEN.

BETHANY FUNERAL SERVERS.

GROUP B

Laure Miller, Elaine Nauss, John & Stephanie Larson-Chairpersons

Phil Andreasen	Darlene Naig	Greg & Ann Sween
Joe Neary	Dan & Michelle Jackson	Greg & Rachel Haack
Bob & Sheryl Mortenson, Jr.	Randy & Deb Jones	Ina Crocoll
Beverly Norland	Aaron & Jackie Leuer	Kristin Rienhardt
Jason & Nicole Sanders	Cordell & Donna Poldberg	Cory & Stacie Fjetland
Doug & Sherri Ort	Tonya Petersen	Dawn Daniels
Tom & Karen Hagen	Bob & Connie Schubert	Tiffany Keller
Jason & Laura Reinders	LuAnn Opheim	Shari Schurg
Paul & Teresa Saxton	Ben & Laura Gustafson	Gina & Angie Cowden
Joyce & John Froisland	Willard & Glenyce Schmeling	Lori Forry

NEWS FROM THE COUNCIL

Thank you to everyone who stayed for the council meeting on Sunday, September 27. Your comments and suggestions were very helpful. Below is a recap for those who were unable to attend.

Furnace Replacement Update

In March, we requested bids from three HVAC businesses to replace the church furnaces. We received one bid, submitted by Bauer Plumbing and Heating for \$53,179.16. Although the current furnaces are 20–24 years old, this aligns with their expected lifespan. After discussion, the replacement was approved.

The council was authorized to determine the funding sources and the amount to borrow. Options include the Mission Investment Fund (the ELCA bank in Chicago), the Undesignated Fund, Deferred Maintenance, or the Furnace Fund. For loans under \$100,000 from the Mission Investment Fund, terms include:

- Unsecured loan options ranging from 5 to 10 years
- No prepayment penalties or origination fees
- Interest rates between 6% and 8.5% (prior to the recent federal interest rate hike)

Financial Update

As of September 20, our fund balances were:

- General Fund: \$297.16
- Undesignated Fund: \$12,952.73
- Deferred Maintenance: \$15,183.08
- Furnace Fund: \$5,266.35

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

BETHANY COUNCIL

Laure Miller, President 712-363-2005
Aaron Leuer, Vice President 712-480-2670
Ed Meyer, Secretary 712-298-1029
Michael Jacobson, Treasurer 712-790-1452
Barb Haack 712-260-3408
Brian Malm 712-260-0721
Jen Boevers 712-298-2143
Tim Rodemeyer 515-341-3955

**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 & Kadin Norris–Trustees
Jeff Geiger & Charles Henningsen–
Deacons

Fall is here! Seasons are changing! Change. Change is hard. Most of us we don't like change unless we are the one changing it (because we have to be in control). The fall is my favorite and even though what follows is my least favorite season it is a great visual reminder for me. I see the temperatures change, the colors of the leaves are turning, and the football season is here. Fall reminds me that change can be so beautiful and yet can also be so abrupt like a drastic Midwest temperature drop. In Ecclesiastes 3 it says, there is a season for everything, which to me says there is change and in its own time change is good.

A month down! Seems crazy how fast the month went. But God is doing some great things.

We have been learning in so many ways.

SACK- going through Names of God

Connect/Confirmation- Commandments

LIFE- Started going through parables

I am so excited to see what God is going to do in the future weeks!

A portrait of Kristin Rienhardt, a young woman with dark hair, smiling, wearing a red shirt.

Support, drive, donate, teach?
Contact Kristin

**KRISTIN
RIENHARDT**

Kristin.rienhardt@blc.edu
712-790-6470

Thank you to all that helped drive, support, chaperone, lead, volunteer, and pray for the youth and family ministry here at Bethany.

NOISY OFFERING

**Horizons Unlimited
Christmas**

UPCOMING EVENTS/SCHEDULE:

October 11th- Outreach Night, 6th-12th graders, 5-8pm, Okoboji

October 11th- Beyond the Church Doors Passport Due

October 18th- Scholarship Dinner after Church

October 21st- Confirmation Tip Night, 5-7:30pm

October 31st- Trunk or Treat, 4:30-7pm

A graphic with a black background. At the top is a white cross symbol. Below it, the text "JOIN US" is written in large, bold, white capital letters. Underneath that, "FOR YOUTH PROGRAMS" is written in smaller, white capital letters.

JOIN US
FOR YOUTH PROGRAMS



Sundays & Wednesdays

LOST ISLAND NEWS.



AN IMMERSIVE 8-DAY LEARNING TRIP

February 6-13, 2027

- ✓ LEARN FROM LOCAL ARTISANS
- ✓ BUILD REAL RELATIONSHIPS
- ✓ SEE BEAUTIFUL SIGHTS
- ✓ EXPERIENCE THE CULTURE

INFO AT SHARINGTHEDREAM.ORG/TRIPS

FREE WILL
Donation

Soup Supper

Gluten Free Menu
Available!

Sunday, October 25 4pm-7pm

Lost Island Lutheran Church

3797 310th Street Ruthven
Directions @ LostIslandLutheranChurch.org

**Serving Chicken Noodle, Chili,
Vegetable Beef (gf) & Ham & Bean (gf)
Homemade Bread and Pies (gf options)**



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 all the people that brought food for Rally Sunday! Everything was delicious!
- Thank you to those that attended the Congregational Meeting at Bethany on Sept. 27th.

GARDEN OF THE MONTH

Trinity Garden at Bethany was chosen as the Garden of the Month by the Palo Alto Garden Club! Thank you to all that maintain the garden for so many to enjoy!



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, visit us at Lost Island Lutheran Church. If you are interested in learning more contact Karyn Leininger.

BEYOND THE CHURCH DOORS.

Each month there is a challenge.

SEPT- HOME

Love your family.

Do something each week without being asked.

OCT- SCHOOL

Be a light.

Look around school for someone who might feel left out.

Mission- to notice, to include, to encourage.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4... NEWS FROM THE COUNCIL

While monthly expenses have decreased slightly without an on-site pastor, our regular operational bills remain. I was asked to challenge members to contribute an extra \$5/month to help offset bills and prepare for our next minister. Will you accept the challenge?

Pastoral Search & Transition

Our search for a new minister continues. The call committee is active and currently completing the Ministry Site Profile (MSP). Details to come on how the congregation can provide input.

Regarding transition support, Pastor Cara Knudtson, Assistant to the Bishop for the Western Iowa Synod, indicated that no interns or ordained ministers are currently available to assist us. Special thanks to Kristln and Karyn for their ongoing work to secure pulpit supply during this transition.

Parsonage Vote

As a reminder, the congregation will vote at the annual meeting in January on whether to keep, rent, or sell the parsonage as is.

Radon mitigation was completed on September 25th. The church received a grant from PACH for \$1500. Paid to Great American Radon from Bethany \$349.12 (Thaddeus Cook) and the electrician, \$340.00 (Kyle Campbell). Total for mitigation: \$2189.12.

Sincerely in Christ, Laure Miller, Council President

A Grateful Return for All God's Gifts

Everything we have—our time, our talents, and our resources—is a precious gift from a generous God. Stewardship is not just about meeting a budget; it is a joyful response to the grace and love we have first received in Jesus Christ. When we offer our firstfruits back to the Lord, we partner in His ongoing work of healing, hope, and sharing the Gospel in our community and beyond. Thank you for your faithful prayers, your generous service, and your continued support of our church's mission.

*"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."
— 2 Corinthians 9:7*

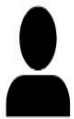
SEPTEMBER FINANCIALS

AS OF 9/29/2026

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.

WAYS TO GIVE.



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

Online



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



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.

MONTHLY BEGINNING BALANCE (6,464.03)			
INCOME		EXPENSES	
OFFERINGS	\$14,609.50	Personnel Expenses	\$4,506.27
TRANSFERS FROM OTHER FUNDS	\$0.00	Program Expenses	\$14.05
LOST ISLAND	\$0.00	Office Expenses	\$337.24
TOTAL INCOME	\$14,609.50	Property Expenses	\$2,815.16
		Western IA Synod	\$423.12
		Other Donations	\$0.00
		Damascus Road	\$50.00
		NO ELCA Donations	\$0.00
		TOTAL EXPENSE	\$8,145.86
	Income Less Expenses	\$6,463.66	
	GENERAL FUND BALANCE	(0.37)	

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4 COMMUNION SUNDAY 8:45 am Worship (LI) 9:30 am SS (Bethany) 10:15 am SS (LI) 10:30 am Worship (B)	5 9 am Quilters 5 pm Quilters	6 6 pm Worship Board	7 3:30-5 PM SACK 6-7:30 PM Connect 7:00—8:30 PM LIFE	8	9	10
11 8:45 am Worship (LI) 9:30 am SS (Bethany) 10:15 am SS (LI) 10:30 am Worship (B) Noisy Offering) 5pm-Outreach Night 6:30 pm Scouts	12 9 am Quilters 5 pm Quilters	13 6:30 pm Sarah Circle Meets at the Church	14 Noon Men's Bible Study 5:15 Youth Board 3:30-5 PM SACK 6-7:30 PM Connect 7:00—8:30 PM LIFE	15 Diane Gone Office Closed	16	17
18 COMMUNION SUNDAY 8:45 am Worship (LI) 9:30 am SS (Bethany) 10:15 am SS (LI) 10:30 am Worship (B) SCHOLARSHIP DINNER	19 9 am Quilters 5 pm Quilters	20 6:30 pm Bethany Council Meets	21 Noon Men's Bible Study 9:30 am Mary Martha Circle 5-6PM PICKUP PIZZAS 3:30-5 PM SACK TIP NIGHT 5-7:30pm 7:00—8:30 PM LIFE	22	23	24
25 COMMUNION SUNDAY 8:45 am Worship (LI) 9:30 am SS (Bethany) 10:15 am SS (LI) 10:30 am Worship (B) 6:30 pm Scouts LI SOUP DINNER	26 9 am Quilters 5 pm Quilters	27	28 Kristin gone in AM Noon Men's Bible Study 3:30-5 PM SACK 6-7:30 PM Connect 7:00—8:30 PM LIFE	29 9-3 pm WIC	30	31

*** BOLDDED WORDS ARE CALENDAR ITEMS THAT ARE UNIQUE TO THE GIVEN MONTH**

*Bethany Quilters: Morning Quilters 9-Noon, Night Quilters 5-8pm

*Council meets every Third Wednesday at 6:30pm

*Youth Groups meet Wednesdays [SACK (2nd-5th) 3:30pm-5pm] [Connect (6th-8th) 6-7:30 pm] [LIFE (9th-12th grade) 7- 8:30 pm] beginning in Sept. and ending in May

*Men's Bible Study will begin on Oct 14th and will be held every other Wednesday from 12 to 1 pm. Led by Pastor KevIn Weeks from St. John's Depew..

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

*Cub Scouts meet every other Sunday at 6:30 pm during the school year

*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

OTHER EVENTS



St. John's at Depew is holding a Soup and Pie Luncheon on Sunday, Nov. 8th from 11:30 - 1 pm at the Church.

Soup, homemade pies from "The Pie Lady" and Randy's homemade ice cream will be served.

Glenn Henriksen will be playing from 1-2 pm.

Free Will donations will help a relative of Gene & Della Twait as well as a relative of Pastor Kevin & Sarah Weeks.

OTHER EVENTS



Take N Bake Pizza Fundraiser

Order from a Sunday School Kid

October 4th-October 18th NOON

Checks payable to "Bethany Lutheran Church"



Funds go to help bring Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camps to Bethany for VBS and support Sunday School!

Pickup-October 21st at Pizza Ranch Party Room
from 5-6pm

A festive orange poster for Trunk or Treat. It features several jack-o'-lanterns, candy, and a spiderweb. The text reads: "TRUNK OR TREAT OCT 31ST 4:30-7:00PM". At the bottom, it says: "CANDY DONATIONS ARE NEEDED. PLEASE BRING THEM TO KRISTIN'S DESK BY OCT 28TH." The Bethany Lutheran Church logo is in the top right corner.

TRUNK OR TREAT
OCT 31ST
4:30-7:00PM

CANDY DONATIONS ARE NEEDED. PLEASE BRING THEM TO KRISTIN'S DESK BY OCT 28TH.



SCHOLARSHIP DINNER

AFTER CHURCH

OCT 18

HELPING STUDENTS FURTHER THEIR EDUCATION

Free Will Offering
Pork Loin Sandwich Meal
Fellowship Hall
(TO GO MEALS ARE AVAILABLE)

COMMUNITY EVENTS.



OCTOBER 7, 2026

1:00 PM - 5:30 PM

Holy Family Parish Center | 2003 Broadway St. | Emmetsburg

call: 800.287.4903 | visit: lifeservebloodcenter.org | text: LIFESERVE to 515.815.7242



Earn

free Big Ten® tee!



monday

OCTOBER 12

2:00 PM - 6:00 PM

RUTHVEN SOCIAL CENTER
1503 ROLLING ST. | RUTHVEN



THE BIGGEST WIN HAPPENS OFF THE FIELD

Get in
the game!

WALK-INS WELCOME



FREE
BIG TEN®
SHIRT!

TEXT Lifeserve to 515.815.7242 | CALL 800.287.4903 | VISIT lifeservebloodcenter.org

WE GIVE BLOOD
with ABBOTT | BIG

Donate
with LifeServe

Vote
For your Big Ten, School

Earn
free Big Ten, tee!

OKOBOJI OUTREACH NIGHT

October 11

BLOCK PARTY & CAPTURE THE FLAG

5:00-8:00pm \$5 per person 6th-12th graders

Dress for outdoor activities.
RSVP at www.okoboji.org/outreach by 4pm on Oct. 8th
Want to come early for a service project? Let us know.

HANDS ON A MISSION

OCTOBER HORIZONS UNLIMITED

1 MISSION PER MONTH \$100 GOAL EACH MONTH

NOISY OFFERING

Pizza Ranch TIP NIGHT

Oct 21st 5-7:30pm

Confirmation/Confirmation Camp

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A SYNODICALLY AUTHORIZED MINISTER?

In a recent phone call with Pastor Cara LQ Knudtson, Assistant to the Bishop, she suggested that our congregation find a member interested in becoming a Synodically Authorized Minister (SAM), as the synod currently has no one available to provide interim pastoral duties. The requirements to become a SAM are as follows:

1. A conversation with Pastor Cara.
2. A background check submitted to the synod.
3. A meeting with Bishop Dalen to discuss religious matters.
4. Six free Zoom classes offered by the synod, taken over the course of a year, with each session lasting 1.5 hours.

Please note that a candidate may begin serving prior to completing the six classes, subject to approval from the Bishop and a statement from the congregation.