

Bethany Lutheran Church

"To grow so deep in Christ through worship, education, and fellowship that we celebrate by reaching out to others."



Important Dates

- 2/04 High School Night 6:00 PM
- 2/12 Council meeting 6:30 PM
- 2/14 Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 PM
- 2/21 Lent Dinner 6:15 PM
Worship 7:00 PM
- 2/25 4th Sunday meal
- 2/28 Lent Dinner 6:15 PM
Worship 7:00 PM

Jesus  You!

Contact Information

Bethany Lutheran Church
235 South Second Street
PO Box 236
West Branch, Iowa 52358
(319) 643-5998
www.wbbethany.org

Pastor Chad Whaley
pastor@wbbethany.org

Pastor is in the office often. Call him at (319) 643-5998 if needed, schedule an appointment, or just to say "Hi!"

Admin. Assistant: Paula Casper
blcsecretary@lcom.net

Office Hours
Tuesday & Thursday 8:00-11:30 a.m.

FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

Simply search "Bethany Lutheran Church (ELCA) West Branch, Iowa" on Facebook and "Like" our page!

FIND US ON X

Search @blcwestbranch

Links to websites are built into the digital version of this newsletter. Click on words highlighted in blue (e.g. wbbethany.org) or images

Greetings faithful people of God! In lieu of a lengthy article this month, as treasurer of the West Branch Area Religious Council (WBARC), I enclose below our 2023 Annual Report I recently prepared so you can see the ways in which our partnership together is impacting our community. Thank you for your gifts that help support our shared mission. If you have any questions, please let me know. — Pastor Chad

WEST BRANCH AREA RELIGIOUS COUNCIL (WBARC)

Our Mission is to foster interfaith connections in order to address needs as they arise in our community.

WHO WE ARE

Bethany Lutheran Church (ELCA)
235 S. 2nd St.
West Branch, IA 52358

West Branch Friends Meeting Conservative
317 N. 6th St.
West Branch, IA 52358

Springdale United Methodist Church
554 290th St.
West Branch, IA 52358

West Branch Friends Church
116 N. Downey St.
West Branch, IA 52358

St. Bernadette's Catholic Church
507 E. Orange St.
West Branch, IA 52358

West Branch United Methodist Church
203 N. Downey St.
West Branch, IA 52358

2023 Annual Report



GIFTS RECEIVED

\$700

Thank you for your generosity!

MINISTRY EXPENDITURES

\$2168.91

SCHOOL HUNGER PROGRAMS

\$600

Operation Backpack, pantries at middle and high school

25 THANKSGIVING MEAL KITS

\$500

Kits included turkey and sides and distributed to those in need

CHILD SAFETY & DRUG PREVENTION PROGRAM

\$390

Partnership with WB Police Department

OTHER EXPENSES

- Lodging
- Gift cards to assist with needs given to police, school counselors/nurse
- Jack n' Jill vouchers
- Fuel expenses

Though many, we are one body in Christ. - Romans 12:5

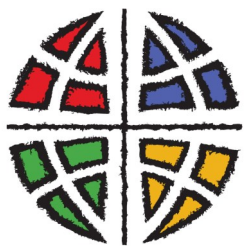


Birthdays

- 02/01 Jennie Wombacher
- 02/02 Becky Paulsen
- 02/04 Del Hughes
- 02/06 Jamie Fetzer
- 02/10 Dave Bahnsen
Kristin McElhinney
- 02/12 Katherine White
- 02/15 Kyle Colvin, Dave Poppen
- 02/20 Joshua Snyder,
Jamie Zimmerman
- 02/21 Tina Webb, Avery Fonseca
- 02/23 Arik Marsh
- 02/24 Lynn Lovetinsky
- 02/26 Isaac Kimpe
- 02/28 JoAnne Brookshear
Brad Kinsinger



If you don't see your birthday listed, please contact Paula so we can update our database.



**Evangelical
Lutheran**
Church in America

Bethany Books



Book For Adults

In teenagers, powerful emotions come with the territory. Many of today's teens are contending with academic pressure, social media stress, worries about the future, and concerns about their own mental health that it becomes easy for them and their parents to feel anxious and overwhelmed. However, it does not have to be that way. *The Emotional Lives Of Teenagers: Raising connected, capable, and compassionate adolescents* by Lisa Damour is a guide to help parents understand their teenagers intense and often emotional lives. It offers how to support teens through this critical developmental stage. With clear, research informed explanations alongside illuminating, real life examples, this book gives parents the concrete, practical information they need to steady their teens through the bumpy yet transformational journey into adulthood.

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Book For Teens

This past year, my youngest grandchild was confirmed. It was a joyous occasion. Besides giving each confirmand a certificate of confirmation, they each received the book, *Remind Me Again* by Joe Davis. It is a collection of 41 poems that inspire, challenge, and affirm the reader. Each poem includes a practice to help the reader connect the themes to their everyday life. The three types of poems are: My Mind, Body, and Spirit: Reminders for myself; My Community: Reminders for each other; and My Purpose: Reminders for the world. While I have included this book under teens, I think that it is equally of value to adults. I have used it in my daily devotions, one poem at a time.

Book For Children

God's Blessings Story Bible written by Laurie Lazzaro Knowlton and illustrated by Doris Ettlinger is the children's book for this month. This deluxe edition is an illustrated Bible storybook that retells fifty well-known Bible stories for children ages 4-8 years of age. Each story ends with a "God's Blessing" followed by a prayer. For extra hands-on learning, you can do the activities at the end of the book. (donated)



Time to shine for our Solar Project

The fundraising for the solar project is well under way. Thank you for all the verbal support, votes for approval, and financial support, in helping draw this project ever closer to reality. As you can see, we are nearing our goal.

Installation cost	\$42,120
Federal Tax Credit	\$12,636 (To be borrowed from Mission Investment Fund)
Gifts to date	\$25,075
Balance needed	\$ 4,409

We have set a **Fundraising Target Goal Date of February 13th** to raise the balance.

Please consider giving as you are able and help us reach the goal. Every gift matters! Donate online at <http://tinyurl.com/5f9v5kku> or by scanning the QR code to the right and select "Solar Panel Fund."





Church Staff

Pastor—Chad Whaley
(319) 643-5998 or (319) 643-7257
pastor@wbbethany.org

Admin. Assistant—Paula Casper
(319) 331-9456
blcsecretary@lcom.net

Custodian—Pat Cassabaum

Pianist—Jill Barnhart

Church Council

Kent Kaufman—**President**
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bkkaufman@lcom.net

Howard Moss—**Building & Grounds**
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Cindy Knoop—**Worship & Music/Vice President**
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Claudia Beyer—**Financial Secretary**
(319)643-2136
iabeyers@aol.com



Midweek Dinner & Worship

Wednesday Lent Fellowship and Worship Opportunities

Join us for a meal and fellowship beginning at 6:15 PM followed by prayer around the cross at 7:00 PM. *Note:* We will not gather on the third Wednesday of Lent, March 13

LENT SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY 21
DINNER @ 6:15 PM
PRAYER AROUND
THE CROSS
WORSHIP @ 7:00 PM

FEBRUARY 28
DINNER @ 6:15 PM
PRAYER AROUND
THE CROSS
WORSHIP @ 7:00 PM

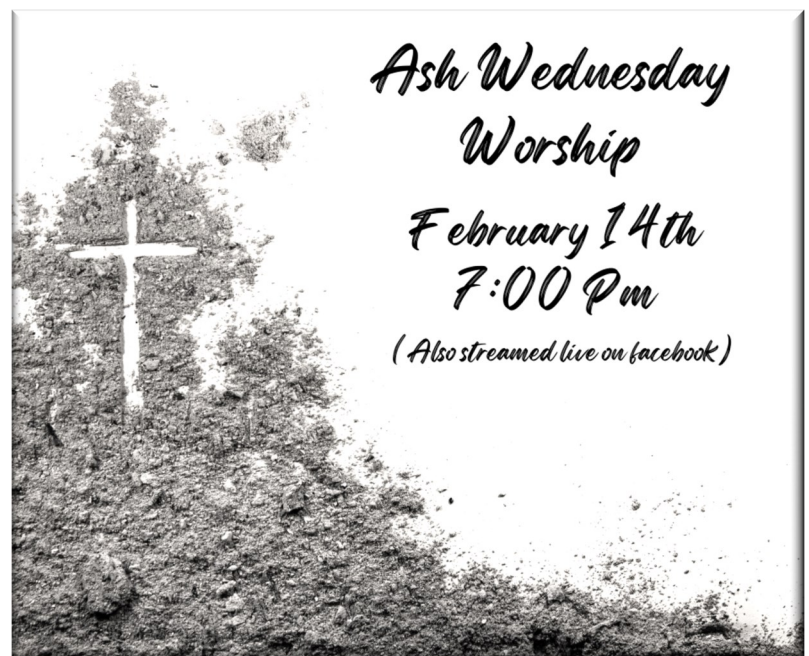


MARCH 6
DINNER @ 6:15 PM
PRAYER AROUND
THE CROSS
WORSHIP @ 7:00 PM

MARCH 20
DINNER @ 6:15 PM
PRAYER AROUND
THE CROSS
WORSHIP @ 7:00 PM

we invite everyone to join us!

THERE WILL BE NO ACTIVITIES MARCH 13





Happy Valentine's Day from LSI!

"We love because he first loved us." 1 John 4:19

The idea behind Lutheran Services in Iowa's (LSI) mission is centered around love: responding to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service.

We give thanks to all our ministry partners, both individuals and congregations, who help share this love for Iowa children, adults, and families.

At LSI, we see this love in newly adopted children and their families, in teens who are overcoming years of trauma and building brighter futures, in Iowans with disabilities who are growing their independence and confidence, in new parents who are raising strong and healthy families, and in so many other joyous moments.

You can help carry out LSI's mission of hope and healing by giving a gift and showing love to the Iowa families we serve.

Thank you for the love you share and create through LSI. Happy Valentine's Day!

For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at LSIowa.org and facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

Lutheran Day on the Hill



Lutheran Day on the Hill is Lutheran Services in Iowa's (LSI) biggest advocacy event of the year. Over 200 participants gather at a local downtown church to learn about critical issues Iowa children, adults and families are facing. After learning about advocacy and LSI's mission in action, the group heads to the Iowa State Capitol to talk directly with legislators.

This year, Lutheran Day on the Hill is Monday, February 19th. To learn more or register please visit:

<http://tinyurl.com/25jzmhsv>



Adult Faith Formation Opportunities

Men's Group
WEDNESDAYS @ 7:00 AM
Breakfast, Bible Study and Discussion

MEETS IN THE GREAT HALL

YOUR
WORD
IS
TRUTH.
JOHN 17:17



Women's Group
Thursdays at 6:00 AM
Small Fellowship Hall

Wednesday Women's Bible Study

Second Wednesday of the Month
9:00 AM in the Great Hall

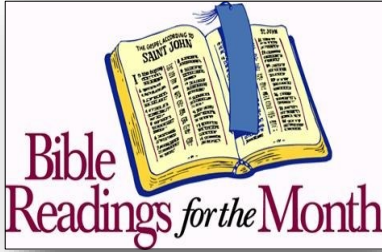




February Sunday Bible Readings

The passages below are the assigned readings for February. You can click on each reading and be taken to the passage on "[Bible Gateway](#)." May this be one more way we can hear and study the word of God.

February 4
[Isaiah 40:21-31](#)
[Psalm 147:1-11, 20c](#)
[1 Corinthians 9:16-23](#)
[Mark 1:29-39](#)



February 11
[2 Kings 2:1-12](#)
[Psalm 50:1-6](#)
[2 Corinthians 4:3-6](#)
[Mark 9:2-9](#)

February 18
[Genesis 9:8-17](#)
[Psalm 25:1-10](#)
[1 Peter 3:18-22](#)
[Mark 1:9-15](#)



February 25
[Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16](#)
[Psalm 22:23-31](#)
[Romans 4:13-25](#)
[Mark 8:31-38](#)

sunday school with Bethany Lutheran Church
Preschool - Grade 3
February 4, 11, 25
8:30 - 9:15 AM
WORSHIP AT 9:30 AM

sunday school with Bethany Lutheran Church
Preschool - Grade 3
March 3, 10, 24
8:30 - 9:15 AM
WORSHIP AT 9:30 AM

Wednesday FAITH FORMATION
Grades 3-8
February 7 - Normal Class Time
Then join us for Ash Wednesday worship on February 14th (7:00 PM) and a meal and prayer around the cross on February 21st and 28th beginning at 6:15 PM.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH NIGHT
FEBRUARY 4TH
6-7:30 PM

Council Minutes — December 2023

Call to Order at 6:28 pm by President
Dave Poppen

Members Present: Dave Poppen, Pastor Chad,
Jill Taylor, Sue Hughes, Howard Moss, Jon Twing,
Cindy Knoop, Kent Kaufmann, Courtney Heid,
Kristen Van Scoyoc

Guest: John Black from Solar Team

Members absent: None

Opening Prayer & Discussion

Pastor's Report

Joys and Thanksgivings
Children and Youth Christmas Program
Hanging of Greens
Cookie Walk
Involvement of new families
High School Youth Night
Ministry Happenings
8 pastoral visits
Funeral of Mary Rundell
Solar Team Meetings (2)
Assemble flier
Budget Meetings (2)
Meeting with seminary student mentoring
Meeting with Bishop Current
Attend Cookie Walk (fun greeting everyone)
Prepare Advent Resource Table
Faith Forward phone interview
Family ministry opportunity through Grandview Uni-
versity
High School Youth Event
9 youth attended
Thanks to Amanda Whaley for assisting me
Men's Bible study
Wednesday Faith Formation
Newsletter, bulletin and worship preparation
Attend 3 wrestling meets
Upcoming
Vacation (December 15 and Sunday December 17)
Pastor Hougen presiding
Christmas Eve worship
January 10 @ Grandview University
Rural Ministry Panel as part of The Moses Project

Secretary's Report - Courtney

November Council Meeting Minutes
Kent moved to approve with corrections; Howard
seconded. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report - Jill

November Treasurer's Report
Courtney moved to approve; Kristen seconded.
Motion approved.
Designated donation of \$7,129.80, Jill has opened
a Solar Fund.
Jon Twing has agreed to be Treasurer in 2024. Jill
is getting him set up with system accesses. They
have had weekly trainings since October.

Committee Reports

Building and Grounds – Howard

Solar Team Update - Bids
Team recommending Rabe Hardware
Plan to have "town hall" discussions in the coming
weeks, Rabe Hardware willing to come and talk.
Record for others who can't make it.
Motion to approve Solar Team's recommendation
to use Rabe Hardware going forward and taking
vote to the congregation at the Annual Meeting.
Sue moved to approve; Kristen seconded. Motion
approved.
Grinnell Mutual no longer insuring churches built
before 1950. Our policy will not be renewed on
March 24th. Agency looking into policy options.
Small Hall bathrooms have been stripped.
Howard recommends storing Christmas decora-
tions in the smaller bathroom.

Education & Youth - Kristen & Courtney

The Christmas Program was really well attended.
High School Night Sunday December 3rd – 9 youth
attended!

Evangelism & Missions – Jon

Library floor tiles – postponing for now.

Council Minutes — December 2023

(Continued from page 7)

Fellowship – Sue

Cookie Walk went well!

Fourth Sunday Dinners – would like to talk about a way to support volunteers in providing these meals.

Stewardship - Kent

Time and Talent sheets in newsletter.

Stewardship campaign planning is ongoing, likely to start in January.

Worship and Music – Cindy

Hanging of the Greens went well.

Planning Christmas Eve services

5pm and 7pm

Old Business

Committee reports and pastor reviews due this week.

Building fees - will discuss in January

Cookie walk funds – postpone discussion for now.

New Business

There is money in a “lighting” CD from a memorial given to support spotlights on sanctuary windows.

Is up to renew this month - Jill discussing with family members about possibility of putting money toward solar panels.

2024 budget

Kristen moved to approve; Howard seconded. Motion approved.

Sue moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 pm, Howard seconded. Motion approved.

Closed with the Lord’s Prayer

Next Regular Meeting, January 8th, 2023



Faith at Home

These short Bible passages and reflection starters are one more way we are trying to spur conversation about faith at home and also absorb ourselves in the word of God. We hope you find them beneficial.

Matthew 7:13-14

“Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road is easy that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it. For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it.”

- Presently, the road I am traveling on looks like....
- Life’s easy looking roads...
- Life’s narrow and difficult roads...



Isaiah 42:1

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.

The qualities of a servant whom God has chosen for leadership...

Today’s nations are in need of...

God’s delight for me...

?? ? Bible Quiz ? ? ?

The precise number varies depending on the Bible version, but roughly how many times does the word “love” occur in the Old and New Testaments combined?

- 200-300
- 400-500
- 600-700
- 800-900



February 2024

View Calendar on our [website](#).

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 6:00am Women's Study 1:00pm Quilters	2	3
4 8:30am Sunday School Preschool - Grade 3 9:30am Worship (Also streamed live on Facebook) 10:30am Fellowship Hour 6:00pm High School Youth Night	5	6 9:00am Prayers with Pastor & Paula	7 7:00am Men's Study Group 6:30pm Faith Formation Youth grade 3-8	8 6:00am Women's Study 1:00pm Quilters	9	10
11 8:30am Sunday School Preschool - Grade 3 9:30am Worship (Also streamed live on Facebook) Installation of Church Council 10:30am Fellowship Hour 5:45pm Clover Kids	12 6:30pm Council Meeting	13 9:00am Prayers with Pastor & Paula	14 7:00am Men's Study Group 9:00am Women's Circle 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service	15 6:00am Women's Study 1:00pm Quilters	16	17
18 8:30am Sunday School Preschool - Grade 3 9:30am Worship (Also streamed live on Facebook) 10:30am Fellowship Hour	19 7:00pm WB Study Club	20 9:00am Prayers with Pastor & Paula	21 7:00am Men's Study Group 6:30pm Lent Dinner 7:00pm Prayer Around the Cross Worship	22 6:00am Women's Study 1:00pm Quilters 2:00pm Crestview Worship	23	24
25 8:30am Sunday School Preschool - Grade 3 9:30am Worship (Also streamed live on Facebook) 10:30am Fellowship Hour 5:00pm 4th Sunday Community meal	26	27 9:00am Prayers with Pastor & Paula	28 7:00am Men's Study Group 6:15pm Choir Practice 6:30pm Lent Dinner 7:00pm Prayer Around the Cross Worship	29 6:00am Women's Study 1:00pm Quilters	1	2



Monetary Gifts Report Submitted by Jill Taylor

	December 2023		YTD	
Total Gifts	Actual 18,289	Budget 14,333	Actual 174,415	Budget 172,000
Total Expenses	Actual 18,077	Budget 14,756	Actual 174,279	Budget 177,316
Net Revenue	212		136	

To give an offering visit our website wbbethany.org and click on the button.

Thank you all for faithfully stewarding the gifts God has entrusted us with in fulfilling the ministry and mission of God here at Bethany Lutheran Church! In so many ways, not just monetarily, God is abundantly providing for our needs.

Ministry Assistants

Ministers of Proclamation (Lectors)

2-4 Paula Casper
2-11 Phil Hougen
2-18 Mike Fryauf
2-25 Lisa Zimmerman

Ministers of Technology

2-4 Jill Taylor
2-11 Cole Crosthwaite &
Tate Frantz
2-18 Dave Poppen
2-25 Dale Swenson

Ministers of Hospitality

2-4 Anne & Jamie Fetzer
2-11 Wayne Frauenholtz
2-18 Del & Sue Hughes
2-25 Howard & Terry Moss

Ministers of Altar Care:

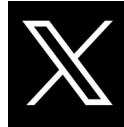
Cindy Knoop



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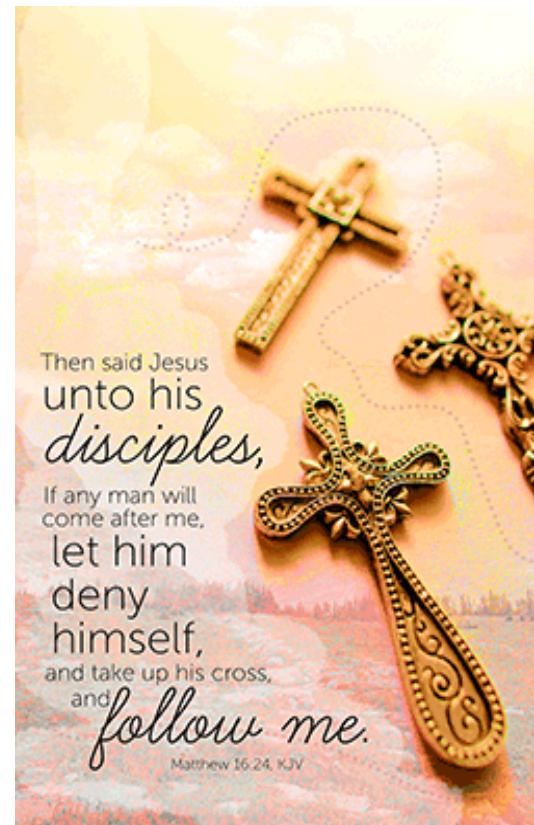
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search "**Bethany Lutheran
Church (ELCA) West Branch,
Iowa**"

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@blcwestbranch

You Are Loved!



Bethany Branches February 2024

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