Bethany Lutheran Church

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





Important Dates

10/07 Acolyte Training 10/10 Women's Circle 10/15 1st Communion Education 10/28 Community Dinner 10/28 Community Service of Unity, Peace & Healing

Contact Information

Bethany Lutheran Church 235 South Second Street West Branch, Iowa 52358

Pastor Chad Whaley pastor@wbbethany.org

*Pastor Chad is also available by appointment.

Admin. Assistant: Paula Casper blcsecretary@lcom.net

Office Hours Tuesday & Thursday 8:00-11:30 a.m. Office Phone: (319) 643-5998

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

ALSO FIND US ON TWITTER!

Search @blcwestbranch

For we do not proclaim ourselves, but Christ Jesus as Lord. 2 Corinthians 4:5



Dear Faithful Servants of Christ.

At a recent council meeting, I shared a message from Bishop Burk of the Southeastern Iowa Synod to which we are a part of. Recent studies have indicated there are 4 marks or "vital signs" that are leading indicators of whether or not a community of disciples is alive and grow-

ing. Below is that message.

In the communities of faith where things seem to be "working," where a shared future looks bright, the people consistently hear and experience the good news of Jesus Christ. The apostle Paul calls this good news, "the gospel," which he understood to be the announcement of Jesus Christ, the telling of his death and resurrection and his presence in the Spirit. This gospel is the very ground of faith in God and is the source of love turning toward a world in need. Paul goes on to insist that the gospel = Jesus Christ. This means that in the proclamation (the telling of Jesus), Christ is present. To share this good news is to give Jesus to others. Life together in healthy congregations is shaped by the proclamation that, in Christ, God loves the world—the whole world. There is no one beyond God's loving reach. This good news shapes every aspect of shared ministry in communities where faith is alive and growing. This first mark of vitality looms over all the others. It is the primary "driver" of what it means to be the church. Without it, nothing about mission or ministry as followers of Jesus makes any sense.

As we continue in our life together, I believe these are words important for us to remember in all we do. The questions to keep in the forefront of our minds is, "Are we proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ? How is what we are doing sharing the fact that, in Christ, God loves the world—the whole world?" Each of us are part of this community of disciples for a variety of reasons. Some enjoy the fellowship. Some want to worship. Some want to be involved in the variety of ministries and service opportunities. Yet, we all come with one reason and that is because of the love of Jesus Christ revealed to us and as a result we love our Lord and Savior and wish to share that love with one another and the world.

I wish not to imply we are not already doing this because we are; however, like other aspects of our life we often need to step back, take a look, and possibly reevaluate and look for new opportunities for growth. Our lives are constantly predicated on questions such as "What shall I eat for lunch today?" or "Why is my throat sore? Should I go to the doctor?" or "Where should we go for vacation next summer?" I have read somewhere that each day 25,000-50,000 thoughts go through our brains and I suspect many of those are in the form of a question. What if we moved the questions above to the front of the list or simply asked, "How can I share the love of Jesus Christ today?" This isn't one more thing to do; but, rather it is joy and gift we are invited into because of the amazing grace and love God has abundantly given us through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Pastor Chad

Birthdays

10/01 Laura Twing

10/03 Lynne Haub, Neil Korsmo

10/04 Dylan Haub

10/09 Emalee Casper, Makayla Casper Reed White

10/10 Vicky Kimpe, Jeannette Cummins

10/12 Kat Korsmo, Greg Lipes

10/13 Katie Anderson

10/14 Alexa Fitzgerald

10/15 Deanna Weismann, Tyler Johnston

10/18 Nick Yeater, Erica Fitzgerald

10/19 Billy Friis

10/20 Delores Paulsen

10/24 Jeni Schiele, Jill Taylor

10/25 Frank Frostestad

10/26 Layla Samuelson, Hannah Schiele

10/27 Heath Graham

Thank You

The following was received from the the West Branch Public Library for the work we did on September 9th during *God's work, our hands* Sunday.

Members of Bethany Lutheran Church, The library staff, on behalf of everyone involved in the operation of the library, would like to extend our sincerest thanks for all of the work you put in on Sunday to help the library, our users, and the community. It's been years since our planted area here looked that clean and the community room and window frames have been in need of paint for longer. Everything honestly looks amazing and we can't extend enough gratitude for your efforts. Thank you!

For photos of the work done at the library and other projects from that day, please see pages 6 & 7.

Bethany Books

by Frank Frostestad

No matter which side of the political divide you find yourself most of us are frustrated with the news that we hear daily about our government in Washington. With the midterm elections next month we wonder about its implications for Congress. An interesting book that I have found that has a message for us is Keeping Faith In Congress: Why Persistence, Compassion, And Teamwork Will Save Our Democracy by Lois Capps. She was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives from 1998-2017. She says: "I'm not the kind of person who lectures others. As you'll see in the pages that follow, my Norwegian Lutheran midwestern upbringing precludes that sort of thing." So what was this daughter of a pastor doing in politics? Through the telling of stories, each with a theme, we can see how coming to Congress was for her a fulfillment of her religious calling to serve others. In her role of "servant leader" she tried to work for the common good. She did not just talk bipartisanship but continually sought common ground with those across the aisle. She makes it clear that our communities and country are stronger when everyone has a place at the table. The answer to the problems facing our country is not cynicism but active participation. She was voted the Nicest Member of the House.

Jacqueline A. Bussie in *Love Without Limits: Jesus radical vision for love with no exceptions* states that love is how we can overthrow hate and heal hurt in today's divided world. She gives practical solutions for people who want to love across difference. She challenges readers to answer God's call to practice a love so vast that it excludes no one.

Faith In Action is a short book that gives a quick dive into 12 different topics by as many authors. Each topic includes informative visuals and data, as well as practical suggestions for what you can do to make a difference in your community. This is a book for you if you are ready to make a difference.

Books for Children

We have received a number of new children's books from Augsburg (Spark House Family). Three of these are board books for ages 0-3. Frolic Board Books playfully introduce basic faith concepts in a way that is fun and appropriate for very small children. In *Thank You, God: A book about thankfulness* the frolic animals thank God for the gifts of sunshine, playtime, friends and love. Children are shown to look at the world around them and find blessings to be grateful for.

God Made Feelings" helps children explore and express feelings. God made us with all sorts of emotions. These include: joy, boredom, shyness, anger, and happiness. What do these feel like? How can we handle them? This book offers calming and coping strategies for difficult emotions. It includes a parent guide to help parents. In *I Can Help* Rufus, Ava, Jo, Uri, and Hal discover different ways they can show love and care for others by helping.

I will display the next six books now but talk about each one individual in coming newsletter articles. They are appropriate for 2-5 year olds. They are: Rufus And His Angry Tail, Uri And The Very Busy Day, Jo And The Slow Soup, Rufus Loses His Cape, Happy Birthday Ava, Ava And The Skimpy Picnic

Adult Education Opportunities

Bethany Men's Breakfast Bible Study Group

Wednesdays at 6:00 a.m. in the Great Hall

Thursday Women's Bible Study

6:00 a.m. in the Small Hall All are Welcome

Women's Circle

Second Wednesday of Month 9:00 a.m. in Great Hall unless stated otherwise All are Welcome

Adult Discussion

10:20 a.m. in the Small Hall Next study will begin October 7 All are Welcome

Quarter Tube

For quite sometime now we have had a clear tube on a stand in the hall-way leading to the Great Hall in which you can drop quarters in. In the past, these quarters went toward funding the Operation Backpack program at Hoover Elementary that sends food supplies home over the weekend with children who need them. The good news is that program is fully funded by the Chip Away at Childhood Hunger golf tournament.

The quarters in that tube were \$82. I recently learned of a new need at the Middle School. Some students were also in need of a small snack to take home or even have in the morning. Thus, it was decided to use these funds to purchase snacks. See the photo below of what was purchased. Thank you very much and keep dropping quarters in that tube please! - Pastor Chad



Community Prayer Service

The West Branch Area Religious Council (WBARC) invites all people to attend a Community Prayer Service of Unity, Peace, and Healing. This will be a very short service and those who have attended in the past found very meaningful. We hope you will attend and bring a friend or two with you.

When: Sunday, October 28 @ 6:00 p.m.

Where: Village Green Gazebo (Across from Fire Station)

Who: All are Welcome!



Wednesday Night Faith Formation Schedule September—December 2018

September 16- Rally Wednesday/Family Meal

September 26- NO CLASS (West Branch Homecoming Parade)

October 3

October 10

October 17

October 24- NO CLASS (Parent/Teacher Conferences)

October 31- NO CLASS (Halloween)

November 7

November 14

November 21- NO CLASS (Thanksgiving Break)

November 28

December 5

December 12- Christmas Program Practice

(PreK-6th Grade only; Confirmation class meets as normal)

December 16 (Sunday)- Christmas Program (PreK-6th Grade only)

December 19

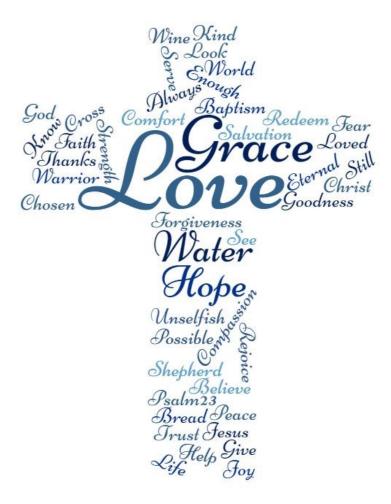
December 26- NO CLASS (Christmas Break)

January 2- NO CLASS (Christmas Break)

January 9

- Dates with nothing behind them indicate regularly scheduled classes
- All classes begin at 6:30 p.m.
 - PreK—6th grade classes end at 7:30 p.m.
 - Confirmation class ends at 7:45 p.m.
- There will be no snack given this year.

Words of Life



The word cloud above was created using words submitted by the congregation during a recent worship service. These are words of life that sustain the people of God. In some instances, phrases, a complete Bible verse, or Psalm were listed in which case key words from those were used. Larger words represent words referred to more often than others. Thanks for sharing everyone!









God's work. Our hands.

E C

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

The pictures on the next 2 pages are from "God's work, our hands" Sunday, which was on September 9th.































www.wbbethany.org · Bethany Lutheran Church (ELCA) 235 South 2nd Street West Branch, Iowa 52358

Hope Chest News

First off, I want to thank each of you for your financial giving! It may not be said enough, but your faithful stewardship is an expression of your faith and love for Jesus Christ and helps us in our proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Some of those gifts help meet various needs of people in our community in a variety of ways. One of those is through the Community Hope Chest. I also want to thank you for the donated items many of you give and I want to thank Neil and Chris Korsmo. They spend a great deal of time sorting donations, changing over spring and summer clothes to fall and winter clothes and welcoming and assisting those who visit the Hope Chest. Additionally, thanks to all others who have assisted with the Hope Chest over the years.

Recently, Paula and I assisted a client who was in. This individual was in need of shoes for one of her children. Using the monetary gifts you all faithfully give, I was able to go out and purchase a pair of shoes as we often don't have shoes on hand. When this woman picked them up, she expressed how grateful she was as they had recently incurred some unforeseen expenses and this would be a tremendous help. We had some small talk and I said "You are welcome" and then wished her well as she left; but, in hindsight, I only wish I had heeded my own advice from my newsletter article on the front page and said something to the affect, "You are welcome! We are grateful we can help and share the love of Christ with you." Or, something along those lines. Short. Simple. And then let the Holy Spirit do the rest. Next time, I will try and move those questions from the front page to the front of my mind. Yes, the Hope Chest is an out word reflection of Christ's love through our actions; however, we also need to verbally proclaim that love.—Pastor Chad

October is the time of transition from spring/summer to fall/winter at the HOPE CHEST.
We are now accepting new or gently used FALL/WINTER clothing and shoes for all ages.

THANK YOU to all who continue to support the Hope Chest and its mission to serve those in need.



COMMUNITY HOPE CHEST

I needed clothes and you clothed me.— Matthew 25:36

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Lutheran Services in Iowa

Warming Hearts with God's Love and a Good Pair of Mittens

Far too often, children arrive at LSI's Beloit and Bremwood Residential Treatment Centers with very little in their possession.

We give thanks for Iowa congregations who faithfully respond to these needs, year after year! As winter approaches, LSI relies on your loving support to meet the demands for winter apparel for children and youth at Beloit and Bremwood. Often, children in residential treatment have little control over their lives, so it's important for us to give children the opportunity, when possible, to shop for their new coat or mittens. Because of this, we ask that you please not donate articles of clothing. With your generous financial donation, many children will have the simple joy of choosing their new coat, knowing that they are loved and cherished.

If you would like more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at Debo-rah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the Iove 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 www.LSlowa.org and www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

A Loving Companion

When Tatyana came to LSI's Bremwood Residential Treatment Center in Waverly, she was lonely.

She lost her mom at a young age, and her father was incarcerated. She didn't have anyone to look up to, and the only way she knew how to cope with trauma and anger was by yelling and hitting. When she began seeing her LSI therapist, she wasn't comfortable talking about her difficult past.

Then she met a new friend, Max. Max is a three-year-old yellow Labrador Retriever, and a friendly face to everyone he sees on Bremwood's campus. Thanks to a generous donation by a local church and through a partnership between LSI and Retrieving Freedom, Max is now the official therapy dog at Bremwood.

Max has been working with Tatyana for over a year now. He sits on the sofa next to her during every therapy session, which makes her feel safe talking to her LSI team. Tatyana practices calmly giving Max commands like "sit" or "stay," which is teaching her that her voice is heard without needing to yell. She is using a calmer voice when she talks to others on campus too.

The children and teens at Bremwood love seeing Max each day. And when more children like Tatyana walk through the doors for the first time, Max is there, ready to be a friendly face and let them know they will be loved and cared for at LSI.

The meeting was called to order by President Kaufman. Present were Jon Twing, Nancy Bruns, Beth Kaufman, Linda Black, Wayne Frauenholtz, Alan Beyer, and Pastor Chad. Absent were Tonya Samuelson, Jamie Zimmerman, and Cheryl Fischer.

Pastor's Report: In lieu of devotions, Pastor listed several things that he had been doing and thinking about since our last meeting. He's dealing with computer problems this week. He is rejoicing about his week at Camp EWALU. He is changing how he sends in the bulletin to celebrate the gift of Christ to reach neighbors beyond our borders. His July vacation break was good. June was very busy with many pastoral visits. VBS was great with up to 42 students involved; the counsellors were great. He is working with youth to realize the importance of outreach such as the backpack program (They have raised \$6000.), the Food Pantry, and WBARC.

Secretary's Report: Pastor felt that the credit card issued to Del Hughes should indicate that he was designated on behalf of the Building and grounds Committee. Linda moved and Wayne seconded to accept the secretary's report as amended. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Budget numbers are similar to last year and expenses are below budget. Wayne moved and Jon seconded to approve the treasure's report. Motion passed.

Building and Grounds: No report. A short discussion was held about Curt Casper's condition and the long term plans. No action was taken.

Education: No report. Pastor said that he, Amber, and Tonya will be meeting tomorrow night.

Evangelism: The church will be hosting a blood drive on Tuesday September 11th. A few ideas were discussed about outreach for our church at this time.

Fellowship: Fourth Sunday suppers are taken care of for August and September. Pastor said that the confirmation class will do October. Next Sunday, the 19th, there will be a meeting in the Great Hall for families with young children. A small bounce house will be provided. This is an informal gathering but would like for them to discuss how Bethany can serve to help children grow in their faith and, also, would they like to meet on a regular basis as a parent support group.

Stewardship: No report. Time and talent sheets will be distributed later this fall.

Worship and Music: Linda talked to Tame Irmie about banners for the great hall to supplement the sound abatement panels and to add more color to the room.

Old Business:

- Discussion was held regarding our church's outreach ministry and sharing of resources. Alan moved and Linda seconded to give \$500 each to Chaplaincy Program at U of Iowa Hospitals and to Free Indeed Ministry at the prison in Anamosa. Motion passed. Jon moved and Linda seconded to use funds from Mission Investment Fund.
- Linda contacted Deanna regarding the Sagert Memorial Fund. It was specifically designated for nighttime lighting of the cross on the altar. The council decided to use the interest from this account to be placed in the general fund to pay for the costs.

New Business:

• Pastor sent out a report on God's Work Our Hands plans. Various projects will be done at the public library, including painting their meeting room and outdoor cleanup. Outdoor cleanup will be done at Bethany. Lutheran Disaster Relief Personal Care Kits will be assembled. Breakfast will be served at 9:00 followed be a shortened worship service prior to doing our annual day of service.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

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.

Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

- For me, faith is hoping...
- For me, faith is believing...
- For me, faith is living...



Titus 3:5-6

He saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior.

- Trying to be good enough, or righteous enough for God...
- Receiving mercy, pardoned and forgiven...
- God Spirit poured out and as a part of me...

Exodus 15:1-3

Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the Lord: "I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea. The Lord is my strength and my might, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him. The Lord is a warrior; the Lord is his name."

- God being imaged as a warrior...
- Singing songs to God...
- I lean on God's strength, might and healing salvation...

Daily Bible Readings

The foundational premise of this set of daily readings is their relationship to the Sunday lectionary. The readings are chosen so that the days leading up to Sunday (Thursday through Saturday) prepare for the Sunday readings. The days flowing out from Sunday (Monday through Wednesday) reflect upon the Sunday readings. The complete Daily Lectionary is also found on pages 1121-1153 of our hymnal, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

Monday, October 1	Psalm 5 Zechariah 6:9-15	Wednesday, October 17	Psalm 26 Obadiah 17-21
Tuesday, October 2	1 Peter 1:3-9 Psalm 5 Zechariah 8:18-23	Thursday, October 18,	Luke 16:19-31 Psalm 91:9-16 Genesis 14:17-24
Wednesday, October 3	1 John 2:18-25 Psalm 5 Zechariah 10:1-12	Friday, October 19	Romans 15:7-13 Psalm 91:9-16 Isaiah 47:1-9
Thursday, October 4	Matthew 18:6-9 Psalm 8 Genesis 20:1-18	Saturday, October 20	Revelation 17:1-18 Psalm 91:9-16 Isaiah 47:10-15
Friday, October 5	Galatians 3:23-29 Psalm 8 Genesis 21:22-34	Sunday, October 21	Luke 22:24-30 Isaiah 53:4-12 Hebrews 5:1-10
Saturday, October 6	Romans 8:1-11 Psalm 8 Genesis 23:1-20	Monday, October 22	Mark 10:35-45 Psalm 37:23-40 1 Samuel 8:1-18
Sunday, October 7	Luke 16:14-18 Genesis 2:18-24 Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12	Tuesday, October 23	Hebrews 6:1-12 Psalm 37:23-40 1 Samuel 10:17-25
Monday, October 8	Mark 10:2-16 Psalm 112 Deuteronomy 22:13-30	Wednesday, October 24	Hebrews 6:13-20 Psalm 37:23-40 1 Samuel 12:1-25
Tuesday, October 9	1 Corinthians 7:1-9 Psalm 112 Deuteronomy 24:1-5	Thursday, October 25,	John 13:1-17 Psalm 126 Jeremiah 23:9-15
Wednesday, October 10	1 Corinthians 7:10-16 Psalm 112 Jeremiah 3:6-14	Friday, October 26	Hebrews 7:1-10 Psalm 126 Jeremiah 26:12-24
Thursday, October 11	Matthew 5:27-36 Psalm 90:12-17 Deuteronomy 5:1-21	Saturday, October 27	Hebrews 7:11-22 Psalm 126 Jeremiah 29:24-32
Friday, October 12	Hebrews 3:7-19 Psalm 90:12-17 Deuteronomy 5:22-33	Sunday, October 28	Mark 8:22-26 Jeremiah 31:31-34 Romans 3:19-28
Saturday, October 13	Hebrews 4:1-11 Psalm 90:12-17 Amos 3:13-4:5	Monday, October 29	John 8:31-36 Psalm 119:17-24 Exodus 4:1-17
Sunday, October 14	Matthew 15:1-9 Amos 5:6-7, 10-15 Hebrews 4:12-16	Tuesday, October 30	1 Peter 2:1-10 Psalm 119:17-24 2 Kings 6:8-23
Monday, October 15	Mark 10:17-31 Psalm 26 Obadiah 1-9	Wednesday, October 31	Acts 9:32-35 Psalm 119:17-24 Jeremiah 33:1-11
Tuesday, October 16	Revelation 7:9-17 Psalm 26 Obadiah 10-16 Revelation 8:1-5		Matthew 20:29-34

October 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 9:00 AM Worship	1	2 1:00 PM Hope Chest Open 1:00 PM Quilters	3 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 6:15 PM Choir Practice 6:30 PM Confirmation dinner and study 6:30 PM Pre K-6th grade Faith Formation	4 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	5	6
7 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Acolyte Training following Worship	8 6:30 PM Council Meeting	9 1:00 PM Hope Chest Open 1:00 PM Quilters	10 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 9:00 AM Women's Circle Bible Study 6:15 PM Choir Practice 6:30 PM Confirmation dinner and study 6:30 PM Pre K-6th grade Faith Formation	11 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	12	13
14 9:00 AM Worship	15 6:30 PM First Communion Education	16 1:00 PM Hope Chest Open 1:00 PM Quilters	17 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 6:15 PM Choir Practice 6:30 PM Confirmation dinner and study 6:30 PM Pre K-6th grade Faith Formation	18 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	19	20
21 9:00 AM Worship	22	23 1:00 PM Hope Chest Open 1:00 PM Quilters	24 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 6:15 PM Choir Practice	25 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	26	27
28 9:00 AM Worship 5:00 PM West Branch Community Meal @ Bethany 6:00 PM Community Prayer Service	29	30 1:00 PM Hope Chest Open 1:00 PM Quilters	31 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 6:15 PM Choir Practice 6:30 PM Confirmation dinner and study 6:30 PM Pre K-6th grade Faith Formation	1 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	2	3

Saints in Worship: August

8/5 52 8/12 53 8/19 63

8/26 58

Total 214

Monetary Gifts Report

Submitted by Nancy Bruns

	August 2018		YTD		
Total	Actual	Budget	Actual 98,631	Budget	
Receipts	12,010	13,000		104,000	
Total	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	
Expenses	11,509	13,408	99,684	107,327	

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.



Bethany Lutheran Church 235 South Second Street PO BOX 236 West Branch, Iowa 52358 www.wbbethany.org

Ministry Assistants

Ministers of Proclamation (Lectors)

10/07 Shawn Samuelson

10/14 TBD

10/21 Kami Poppen

10/28 Alan Beyer

Ministers of Hospitality (Greeters)

10/07 Cindy Knoop

10/14 Bonnie Conner

10/21 Alberta Sweat/Paula Casper

10/28 Jamie & Anne Fetzer

Ministers of Christ's Light (Acolytes)

10/07 Jacob Langley

10/14 Hunter Niles/Alex Poppen

10/21 Aizlyn Marsh/Auron Marsh

10/28 Hannah & Dylan Schiele



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