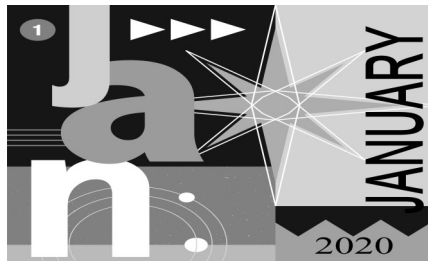


# Bethany Lutheran Church

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



Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly ... and with gratitude in your hearts  
sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.—Colossians 3:16



Dear Wonderful People of God,

"Be Grateful!" At the December Council Meeting during the opening devotion the question was posed, "What does our group or congregation need to hear from God at the end of this year together?" Several fruitful responses were given, but one spoke to me and continues to do so and perhaps might speak to our congregation as we move into 2020 – "Be grateful!"

Some people grumble that roses have thorns.  
I am grateful thorns have roses.  
(Alphonse Karr)

Perhaps, this resonated with me because recently I have begun Affirmation of Baptism (aka Confirmation) class asking the students to name one thing they are grateful for that night. I have challenged them; they can't continue to use some of the more obvious responses such as family, food, friends, house, etc. It's not that these aren't wonderful answers that each of us is indeed grateful for; however, I want them to begin to see that thorns have roses. It didn't take all that long and soon they began to list items such as the chair they were sitting on or the pen they wrote with.

God is about transformation and I believe a mindset of gratitude is one way God helps refocus our eyes to see the world as God sees it. Suddenly, we may move from a mindset of scarcity to one of abundance. Or, we may move from a mindset of glass half-empty to one of glass half full. Or, we may move from grumbling about the thorns on the roses and instead appreciate that thorns have roses.

I believe something else happens when we choose to put on gratitude. We acknowledge the goodness in our lives, in others, in the world and we recognize the source of that goodness often lies outside of ourselves. It helps reorient all we are and all we have is a gift from God.

So, will you join me and our confirmation students in putting on and practicing gratitude this New Year? For Christians, as the Apostle Paul notes, our gratitude is the result of the indwelling of Christ in each of us. Be grateful beloved saints!

In peace,



## Important Dates

1-8 Women's Circle 9:00 a.m.  
1-13 Council meeting 6:30 p.m.  
1-19 Annual Meeting following  
the service in the Great Hall.

## Contact Information

Bethany Lutheran Church  
235 South Second Street  
West Branch, Iowa 52358  
(319) 643-5998

Pastor Chad Whaley  
pastor@wbbethany.org

Office Hours  
Monday & Thursday  
9:00 a.m. - Noon

\*Pastor Chad is also available by  
appointment.

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!

ALSO FIND US ON TWITTER!

Search @blewestbranch



## Birthdays

01/09 Hallie Fitzgerald  
 01/11 Tonya Lovetinsky, Robin Benz  
 01/14 Deanna Pedersen  
 01/15 Alberta Sweat  
 01/17 Cliff Hinkhouse  
 01/20 Tonya Samuelson  
 01/23 Deb Lund  
 01/24 Robbie Boaz, Paul Bruns  
 01/25 Lisa Zimmerman  
 01/26 Hunter Niles,  
       Diana Fuhrmeister  
 01/29 Lance Schiele, Kay Davisson  
 01/30 Kent Pedersen  
 01/31 Pat Cassabaum

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

## Inclement Weather Policy

In the event we need to cancel worship or another activity at Bethany due to inclement weather notification, it will be done in the following formats:

- There will be a post on the church website ([www.wbbethany.org](http://www.wbbethany.org)) and on Bethany's Facebook page.
- There will be an email sent out to all who have provided an email address.
- Notification will also be provided to KGAN channel 2 and KCRG channel 9 television stations.
- The church phone answering machine will also be changed to advise of any cancellations.

These will be the primary means of notification. Thank you!



## Bethany Books



### Books For Adults

*Living With Hope* series is published by Fortress Press. Our library has three titles from this series: *Waiting For Good News: living with chronic and serious illness* by Sally L. Wilke, *Jobs Lost, Faith Found: a spiritual resource for the unemployed* by Mary C. Lindberg, and *Dignity And Grace: wisdom for caregivers and those living with dementia* by Janet L. Ramsey.

*Waiting For Good News* is organized around seven questions that those who face serious illness ask. The heart of this book is the stories. From them the reader will find the strength, support, and a way to face difficult situations. Wilke offers tools, tips, ideas, and resources for reflection and for obtaining additional support.

*Jobs Lost, Faith Found* is for those who feel alone due to job loss. It is also for those who offer respect, companionship, guidance, and resources to the unemployed. The author draws on her family's experience with unemployment and the wisdom of others. Readers discover a sense of worth and purpose on their way to a new job. The path toward hope will be the reader's own but the ideas, reflections, and strategies in this book will help get you started on the journey.

In *Dignity And Grace*, the author draws on her own experience as well as interviews with eight family and professional caregivers. She helps caregivers and those with impaired memories learn as they listen to each other. Whether a diagnosis of dementia arrives suddenly or gradually, this illness reorganizes a family's entire life. She also shows them how the Holy Spirit can awaken their imagination and understanding while they discover how to live with dementia.

Whether you are new to Bethany or a long time member, sometimes it is helpful to review basic Lutheran doctrine. The Lutheran welcome series with the illustrations by Daniel Erlander and hand-lettered text are helpful materials to use for this purpose. The titles include:

*A Lutheran Welcome To Holy Baptism*  
*A Lutheran Welcome To Holy Communion*  
*A Lutheran Welcome To Jesus*  
*A Lutheran Welcome To The Bible*  
*A Lutheran Welcome To Forgiveness*  
*A Lutheran Welcome To A Reformation Way*

I will also be putting Christmas books on the table during the month of December.

## Adult Education Opportunities



Pastor Chad's sermons can now be found on Bethany's website ([www.wbbethany.org](http://www.wbbethany.org)) by placing your cursor over the "Resource" tab found on the home page and then selecting "Sermons" when it pops up.

**Bethany Men's Breakfast  
Bible Study Group**  
Wednesdays at 6:00 a.m.  
in the Great Hall  
**All are Welcome**

**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 Women are Welcome**

**Adult Discussion**  
10:20 a.m. in the Small Hall  
**All are Welcome**

## Lutheran Day on the Hill February 25, 2020

Join Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) and the three Iowa synods of the ELCA for Lutheran Day on the Hill in Des Moines on February 25! This day is essential for giving voice to those who are not heard, for seeking social justice, and for empowering people to exercise their right and responsibility to be part of the legislative process.

This program is supported in part through a grant from the ELCA World Hunger (Domestic Hunger Grant) and has been planned in partnership with the three Iowa synods of the ELCA. Registration information coming soon!



## Annual Meeting

**January 19, 2020**

Please plan to attend. Your attendance is very much appreciated and important to our ministry.

Also, this is a reminder of who is a voting member, according to our Constitution. Visitors, inactive and lapsed members are always welcome to attend; however, they can't vote.

**C8.02.c** *Voting* members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members, during the current or preceding calendar year, shall have communed in this congregation and shall have made a contribution of record to this congregation. Members of this congregation who have satisfied these basic standards shall have the privilege of voice and vote at every regular and special meeting of the congregation.

## Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) News

### Finding Her Community

Originally from Eritrea, Kiros, her husband, and her young son were forced to flee their country and live in an Ethiopian refugee camp for almost two years.

When the opportunity came to resettle in Iowa, Kiros and her husband were excited to put down roots and call Iowa home. They settled in the Des Moines community and knew this was it; this was where they wanted to create a new life in the U.S.

Since then, they have raised four more children and set their sights on receiving citizenship in the country that helped them heal and rebuild.

Kiros enrolled in LSI's English and citizenship classes and worked hard to study for her U.S. Citizenship Exam. Every week, she met with instructors from LSI's Refugee and Immigrant Services to prepare for her interview with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

When the time came, she passed her exam with flying colors. She recently attended her U.S. citizenship ceremony, then went home to prepare for her daughter's fifth birthday party.

Kiros has poured her time and energy into building a life where her family has the same opportunities as every other family in their community.

If you are new to advocacy, come learn more about the legislative process and your role as a citizen. If you've attended before, join us again. If you would like more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's director of philanthropy and church relations, at [Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto:Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org) or 563-676-2065.



### Caroling

A group visited Crestview Nursing and Rehabilitation Center following worship on December 22nd to spread some Christmas cheer through singing beloved Christmas favorites.



### Angel Tree

Thanks to all who contributed in some way. We served 4 families with 13 children total this year. Thanks for your help in this service.

Merry Christmas!  
Jeni





## Church Staff

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

**Admin. Assistant** - Paula Casper  
(319) 331-9456  
blsecretary@lcom.net

**Custodian** – Patsy Ernst

**Pianist** – Jill Barnhart

## Church Council

Del Hughes  
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hughesdelsue05@gmail.com

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Cheryl Fischer  
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1982cmf@gmail.com

## Financial Secretary

Claudia Beyer  
(319)643-2136  
iabeyers@aol.com

## Children's Christmas Program

Once again, Bethany children did a fabulous job helping proclaim the good news that is Christmas, the birth of our Lord. Many thanks to all the children, parents, teachers and all in worship that day. A special thank you to Amber and Scott Marsh for their help planning, organizing, and leading the program. Below are some photos of the morning.



**BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**COUNCIL MINUTES— November 11, 2019**

The meeting was called to order by President Hughes at 6:30 p.m.

**Members present** were Nancy Bruns, Linda Black, Cheryl Fischer, Tonya Samuelson, Curt Casper, Del Hughes, Alan Beyer, and Pastor Whaley.

**Members Absent** were Dave Bahnsen and Wayne Frauenholtz.

Del opened the meeting with prayer.

Pastor's Report:

**Council Report – November 11, 2019**

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Last month I talked about how our relationship with Jesus changes us. The Spirit continues to transform us into the people of God. I gave one example of how that has changed me, and I challenged each of you to ponder this and consider sharing a small part of your story with our Confirmation students. We have 7 awesome students this year. Thanks to Wayne who has already shared, Curt (11/6) and Al (11/13) who will also be sharing. Just today (11/6), I prepared a short video and posted it to our website and

Facebook pages inviting others to share a part of their story and the ability to sign up online. I pray we fill those slots and wonder what it says about us and our commitment to pass on the good news of Jesus Christ to our youth if we don't get them filled. It's just 5 minutes. Maybe I should title it "5 Minutes of Faith" or something like that. I know sometimes it's scary, but you all can do it. The Spirit will equip you and assist you with words to say.

Happenings in the last month:

Notes of Joy (Just a few – there are many more)

All Saints Sunday – WOW! 126 people in worship. A baptism (Leo Burnette), 6 of 7 baptized children since last All Saints Day in attendance, and many of our Senior Saints. Praise be to God!!!

Great discussion on Sunday morning! Thanks to all who attend and Neil for doing an excellent job leading.

Choir Singing – Your gifts of song have assisted our worship of our Lord. Thanks!

First Communion – Elijah Fetzer on October 27

Other:

9 Pastoral Visits

Wieneke/Dlhy wedding

Worship with the people of Trinity in Tipton

Baptismal Education

First Communion Education

Crestview worship

Emergency Management Shelter meeting

Free*Indeed* Prison Ministry Meetings (2)

Staff reviews

Hospital visit for a West Branch community member not affiliated with a congregation (Pastor Connie of WBUMC and I went together as a sign of unity)

Worship Committee Meeting

Normal activities (Weekly E-news, newsletter, bulletins, sermon preparation, Wednesday faith formation, etc.)

Upcoming:

On vacation (11/10) – Pastor John Meyer supplying  
 One Sunday left in 2019 and several days of vacation still

WBARC meeting (11/19)

**Secretary's Report:**

Linda moved and Cheryl seconded to approve the secretary's report. Motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:**

The October General Fund Revenue and Expense report reflects income of \$12,257 and expense of \$13,264 for a net decrease of \$1,007. The fellowship expenses include \$283 for the synod meal, which will be offset by the payment from the Synod. The general fund balance is at \$1,683, so we will need to make a decision about transferring money out of the Mission Investment Fund before the end of the year.

Curt moved and Alan seconded to approve the treasurer's report. Motion passed.

**Committee Reports:**

**Building and Grounds:**

The carpet in the Great Hall needs to be cleaned and will be scheduled tomorrow. It will cost \$400 to \$500 to do it.

There is some yard work to be finished around the church if the weather cooperates.

Snow removal. Curt Friis and John Black have agreed to plow the snow this winter. Barnhart's

## BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

*(Continued from page 6)*

Const. did it once for a previous snow. Discussion was held regarding shoveling the sidewalks and sanding or salting as needed. Curt will talk to Barnharts tomorrow about this.

### **Education:**

Tonya received notice from EWALU regarding their program to assist with Vacation Bible School. June 7 – 12<sup>th</sup> is available for them if we agree to use their services. A down payment must be made by the end of this month. Al moved and Curt seconded to continue to use EWALU for VBS. Motion passed.

### **Evangelism and Outreach:**

The Designated Shelter Committee met on October 28<sup>th</sup> at Bethany for a two-hour training by Cedar County Emergency Services. Another meeting will be held on November 18<sup>th</sup> to finalize the organizational plans.

### **Fellowship:**

No report. 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Meal will be provided by Del Hughes and another family.

### **Stewardship:**

No report. Time and Talent sheets will soon be available. Cheryl suggested making the sign-up sheets available online.

### **Youth:**

No updates.

### **Worship and Music:**

The Christmas services are being planned with a few changes from last year.

All Saints Sunday was great. 10 of 19 members over 80 years old were present. 6 of 7 newly baptized members were present.

Confirmation of Aiden Shields and Andrew Samuelson will be held November 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **Old Business:**

Memorial Fund Committee: Members are Deanna and Paul Weismann, Linda and John Black, Neil and Chris Korsmo and possibly some others.

Little Free Food Pantry: Planning is underway. Some discussion was held regarding how many, where will they be located, and who will tend to them. Al moved and Curt seconded to proceed with the project. Motion passed.

Audit Committee: Jill Taylor, Deanna Weismann, and Dave Poppen.

Nominating Committee: Jon Twing, Beth Kaufman, and Jamie Zimmerman.

Synod Meeting Representatives: Dave Bahnsen has volunteered. Another is needed.

Annual Reports are due on December 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **New Business:**

Pastor Chad mentioned that Kristin McElhinney will be using the Great Hall three times for a class during J Term. There was no other new business.

Curt moved to adjourn. Linda seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer at 7:40 p.m.





## 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.

### 1 Corinthians 11:26

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

- During communion, I think about...
- For me, the communion ritual...
- An especially memorable communion worship...



### Ruth 1:16-17

But Ruth said, "Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I will die—there will I be buried. May the Lord do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!"

- Relational commitment requires...
- Role models for me of a faithful relationship...
- The advantages of two people committing to each other...

### 1 Corinthians 1:18

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

- In some ways, religion seems like foolishness because...
- The cross is...
- Being saved or being healed is about...





## 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*.

<b>Wednesday, January 1</b>	Numbers 6:22-27 Psalm 8 Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:15-21	<b>Saturday, January 18</b>	Psalm 40:1-11 1 Kings 19:19-21 Luke 5:1-11 Isaiah 49:1-7
<b>Thursday, January 2</b>	Psalm 72 1 Kings 3:5-14 John 8:12-19	<b>Sunday, January 19</b>	1 Corinthians 1:1-9 John 1:29-42
<b>Friday, January 3</b>	Psalm 72 Genesis 28:10-22 Hebrews 11:13-22	<b>Monday, January 20</b>	Psalm 40:6-17 Exodus 12:1-13, 21-28 Acts 8:26-40
<b>Saturday, January 4</b>	Psalm 72 Exodus 3:1-5 Hebrews 11:23-31	<b>Tuesday, January 21</b>	Psalm 40:6-17 Isaiah 53:1-12 Hebrews 10:1-4
<b>Sunday, January 5</b>	Ephesians 1:3-14 John 1:[1-9] 10-18	<b>Wednesday, January 22</b>	Psalm 40:6-17 Isaiah 48:12-21 Matthew 9:14-17
<b>Monday, January 6</b>	Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12	<b>Thursday, January 23</b>	Psalm 27:1-6 1 Samuel 1:1-20 Galatians 1:11-24
<b>Tuesday, January 7</b>	Psalm 72 1 Kings 10:1-13 Ephesians 3:14-21	<b>Friday, January 24</b>	Psalm 27:1-6 1 Samuel 9:27-10:8 Galatians 2:1-10
<b>Wednesday, January</b>	Psalm 72 1 Kings 10:14-25 Ephesians 4:7, 11-16	<b>Saturday, January 25</b>	Psalm 27:1-6 1 Samuel 15:34-16:13 Luke 5:27-32
<b>Thursday, January 9</b>	Psalm 29 1 Samuel 3:1-9 Acts 1-9	<b>Sunday, January 26</b>	Isaiah 9:1-4 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 Matthew 4:12-23
<b>Friday, January 10</b>	Psalm 29 1 Samuel 3:10-4:1a Acts 9:10-19a	Monday, January 27	Psalm 27:7-14 Judges 6:11-24 Ephesians 5:6-14
<b>Saturday, January 11</b>	Psalm 29 1 Samuel 7:3-17 Acts 9:19b-31	<b>Tuesday, January 28</b>	Psalm 27:7-14 Judges 7:12-22 Philippians 2:12-18
<b>Sunday, January 12</b>	Isaiah 42:1-9 Acts 10:34-43 Matthew 3:13-17	<b>Wednesday, January 29</b>	Psalm 27:7-14 Genesis 49:1-2, 8-13, 21-26 Luke 1:67-79
<b>Monday, January 13</b>	Psalm 89:5-37 Genesis 35:1-15 Acts 10:44-48	<b>Thursday, January 30</b>	Psalm 15 Deuteronomy 16:18-20 1 Peter 3:8-12
<b>Tuesday, January 14</b>	Psalm 89:5-37 Jeremiah 1:4-10 Acts 8:4-13	<b>Friday, January 31</b>	Psalm 15 Deuteronomy 24:17-25:4 1 Timothy 5:17-24
<b>Wednesday, January 15</b>	Psalm 89:5-37 Isaiah 51:1-16 Matthew 12:15-21		
<b>Thursday, January 16</b>	Psalm 40:1-11 Isaiah 22:15-25 Galatians 1:6-12		
<b>Friday, January 17</b>	Psalm 40:1-11 Genesis 27:30-38 Acts 1:1-5		

# Cookie Walk 2019

Hats off to all the Bethany bakers! The annual Cookie Walk was a huge success. Hundreds of beautiful cookies, quilts, and other handcrafted items were available for the multitude of people who were welcomed. Everyone working together and watching the joy of our community makes this event so much fun. Thank you to Deanna Weismann for the beautiful Christmas music and to all who made this possible! Below are some pictures from the day.





# January 2020

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

## Monetary Gifts Report

Submitted by Nancy Bruns

Saints in Worship	
11-3	125
11-10	42
11-17	63
11-24	60
<b>Total</b>	<b>290</b>

	November 2019		YTD	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Total Receipts	\$13,404	\$12,625	\$136,604	\$138,875
Total Expenses	\$11,471	\$13,650	\$151,138	\$150,411

**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.

January 2020  
Bethany Branches



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



### Ministry Assistants

#### Ministers of Proclamation (Lectors)

- 1/5 Toni Dodds
- 1/12 Wayne Frauenholtz
- 1/19 Dave Bahnsen
- 1/26 Bruce Jeffries

#### Ministers of Hospitality (Greeters)

- 1/5 Wayne Frauenholtz
- 1/12 Paula Casper/ Peaches Sweat
- 1/19 Nancy Bruns & Theo
- 1/26 Ron & Candy Madsen

#### Ministers of Christ's Light (Acolytes)

- 1/5 Dylan Schiele/ Miley Shields
- 1/12 Chloe & Shelby Klabo
- 1/19 Tate Frantz/Cole Crosthwaite
- 1/26 Auron/ Aizlyn Marsh

#### Ministers of Altar Care for the month of January

Del & Sue Hughes



Find us on  
**Facebook**

To find Bethany's main page,  
search "**Bethany Lutheran  
Church (ELCA)  
West Branch, Iowa**"

DON'T FORGET TO LIKE US!



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**@blcwestbranch**

