

Bethany Lutheran Church

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

September

2021

Important Dates

- 9-7 Prayer Zoom Meeting 7:00 PM
- 9-15 Faith Formation 4th-8th grade
6:30 PM
- 9-15 Community Tailgate @
Beranek Park 7:00 PM
- 9-22 Confirmation and Faith
Formation 6:30
- 9-26 God's Work Our Hand's

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 TWITTER!

Search @blcwestbranch

Links to websites are built into the
digital version of this newsletter.
Click on words highlighted in blue
(e.g. [wbbethany.org](http://www.wbbethany.org)) or images such as
"God's work. Our hands." on page 2.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
to the breaking of the bread and the prayers.

Acts 2:42



Beloved People of God,

Shortly upon receiving the promised Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, many who gathered were left in awe and wonder and subsequently asked Peter and the other apostles, "What should we do?" (v.37) Peter responded they should repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus. A few verses later we read that about 3,000 people were baptized. In the very next verse, found above, we learn what else that young church did.

It would seem we are missing so much. Surely, there must have been many a meeting to figure things out. Planning needed to be done. All the logistics that come with a new community consisting of many different people had to be worked out, which surely brought some differences of opinions.

Luke doesn't seem interested in that. Rather, he gets right to the heart of the matter emphasizing what that early church deemed important in their life together. As the book of Acts progresses, we know many obstacles do in fact come their way including persecution and imprisonment. In the twelfth chapter we find Peter in prison and learn, "the church prayed fervently to God for him." (Acts 12:5)

Prayer was part of the DNA, the lifeblood, of the community. Not just individual prayer, but communal prayer sustained them through thick and thin. The church "devoted" themselves to prayer. Continually. Passionately. Fervently. For one another.

Certainly, prayer is something we do during worship together and is a vital component of our worship. Yet, I have been wondering is there more? What would it look like as a community to pray fervently and to continually devoting ourselves to prayer ... together? What might happen?

I give thanks for your prayers. I know many of you pray daily. I know we have a small team of prayer partners who faithfully pray for the people of Bethany. The early church models the importance of prayer together. Meaningful, transformative, outward focused prayer for the community. Will you join me in prayer inviting the Spirit to help us discern and dream together?

Join the conversation via a Zoom meeting on Tuesday, September 7th at 7:00 PM. (See Zoom invite details below) Additionally, Paula and I will be gathering most Tuesday mornings at 9:00 AM a short time of prayer. If you would like to join us, feel free to stop in.

Blessings,

<https://tinyurl.com/br79h9ra>
Meeting ID: 883 4121 9018
Passcode: 196478



Birthdays

09-01 Dru Johnston, Jared Liebergen
 09-03 Jaden Hierseman
 09-04 Nick Fitzgerald
 09-05 River Harding
 09-06 Cole Bailey
 09-09 Emma Fryauf, John Fuhrmeister
 09-14 Jeff Arp, Jaylen Votroubek
 09-15 Anne Fetzer
 09-16 Rebecca Black, Victoria Yeater
 09-17 Ron Madsen, Kendra Webb
 09-19 Wade Holmes
 09-20 Andrew Samuelson
 09-22 Pam Glandon
 09-23 Cindy Knoop
 09-24 Kyle Anderson
 09-26 Brendt Fetzer

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

Youth Faith Formation

ATTENTION YOUTH (4th—8th Grade) & PARENTS

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, September 15th

as we begin a new year of youth faith formation. We will gather at 6:30 PM, and the entire family is invited to attend. Plans and activities are still being determined.

Affirmation of Baptism

(aka Confirmation) for youth in grades 7-8, and faith formation class for youth in grades 4-6 will begin the following Wednesday, September 22nd at 6:30 PM. Spread the word and invite your friends too!

*For parents of younger children, stay tuned as plans are being made for faith formation opportunities.



Bethany Books

by Frank Frostestad

Books For Adults

There are books that provoke action and those that provide a blueprint for taking action. In *The World Is About To Turn: Mending A Nation's Broken Faith* co-authors Rick Rouse and Paul Ingram give us a book that aims to do both. Reading less like an instruction manual than a travel companion on the road toward healing a broken world, this book pulls out insights, invites exploration and provides inspiration. The first set of chapters are sure to spark conversation and maybe a little disagreement if read in a group. A set of reflection questions follows each chapter. The last part of the book aims to educate readers about various faith traditions and perspectives, encouraging interreligious cooperation and helping the work of healing our divides. The final chapter aims to put the theoretical work of the first part and the insight of the next part into practical steps anyone can take to start building bridges in these hyperpartisan days. This book would be a good fit for anyone wondering how they can begin to approach today's most pressing social issues. (recommended in the *Living Lutheran*)

Finding Home by Julie K. Aageson shows that finding home is complicated. This is for those who know the security of home and those who do not. Home is characterized by joy and sorrow, grief and gladness, the realities of complicated lives. What is it like to flee the horrors of war as a refugee in search of home? When daily life is unbearable, what exactly does home mean? How do we learn to be at home in our bodies, at home with ourselves? What does it mean to be made in the likeness of the Holy One? Can we find home in the company of strangers and how do we reclaim our earth home? Home, however, is more than a house. These reflections invite readers to explore identity, the importance of rootedness, discovering home away from home, and what it means to be home for one another. Home defines who we are and what it is that gives our lives meaning. Finding home is challenging. (recommended in the *Living Lutheran*)

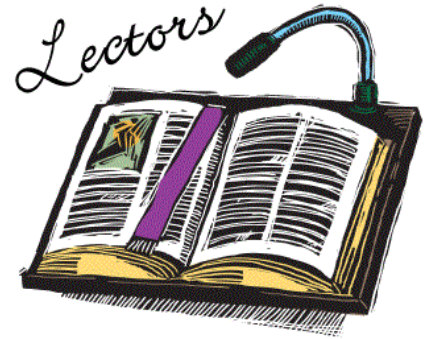
Book For Children

Thank You For This Food written by Debbie Trafton O'Neal and illustrated by Nancy Munger is filled with prayers, songs, and blessings for mealtime. This is a good source of information on how to teach children to give thanks for God's many blessings. (donated)

You Are Loved!

Minister of Proclamation

We are making a new lector list for next year. I assume that everyone on the list will want to lector again in 2022. If not please get in touch with Patsy. If anyone new would like to be added as a lector please contact Patsy 319-800-5647 or at Sunshinegundy@gmail.com.



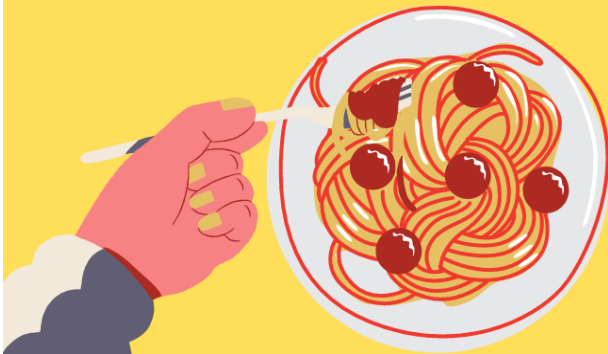
Backpacks

Thank you to everyone that donated financial gifts and thanks to Alex Poppen who helped organize and shop for school supplies.

Through your generosity we were able to equip 4 middle school students with all the supplies they will need to start school this year!



Free Drive-Thru Spaghetti Dinner
Hosted by Bethany Lutheran Church
235 South 2nd St., West Branch



September 26, 2021 5:00-7:00 PM
RSVP Appreciated (Use QR code)
or visit: <https://tinyurl.com/y8y68xts>
or call (319) 643-5998
Drop-ins Welcome, Delivery Available



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

As part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's annual day of service "God's work, our Hands" Sunday we are hosting a community drive-thru spaghetti dinner. If you would like a meal please sign up using the QR code to the left or by visiting the link below.

<https://tinyurl.com/y8y68xts>

We will need many volunteers. If interested, there is a signup just inside the doors from the parking lot or you may contact Dave Bahnsen at: bahn1225@gmail.com

Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) News

Direct Support Professionals Week

Do you know someone who is a caregiver to a loved one? It is a role that is both demanding and meaningful. During September's National Direct Support Professionals Week, we celebrate all the ways in which professional caregivers help children and adults achieve their goals and build meaningful lives.

One way LSI empowers Iowans is through our Services for People with Disabilities. From 24-hour support to occasional respite care, the LSI team lifts up Iowans with disabilities as they find the confidence and independence they need to thrive in their communities. Through our innovative Host Homes program, caregivers can also become mentors to individuals with disabilities, welcoming them into their private family home where they can receive more one-on-one care and encouragement.

It has been a challenging year for parents of children with disabilities, and there are lots of Iowa families who deserve support right now. You can help by joining the LSI team as a short-term respite care provider for Iowa kids. Visit LSIowa.org/respite to learn more, and if you would like to learn more about how you can support crucial programming like LSI's Services for People with Disabilities, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at 563-676-2065 or Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org.

Where are They Now: Amanda and Mavis

Amanda has lived with her Host Homes mentor, Mavis, for three years and continues to gain more independence through the program. When Amanda first entered Host Homes, she required multiple psychiatric hospital visits throughout the year. She had been living in a busy home with roommates, and she needed a new environment to thrive.

When she moved in with Mavis, the two worked together to build important life skills for Amanda and find ways for her to cultivate her creative mind. Amanda loves listening to Elvis music, sewing, and ceramics, so Mavis helped Amanda enroll in art classes. When she was no longer able to attend during the pandemic, Mavis ensured she had space at home to continue creating art. Amanda recently finished a major ceramics project: a replica of Elvis she has been working on for three years.

Amanda continues to work on her goals, including personal hygiene, exercise, medication management, and cooking. Throughout the pandemic, Mavis and Amanda spent lots of time in the kitchen, and Amanda is now able to cook independently. She loves trying new dishes, and her favorite foods are pasta recipes. And instead of several emergency calls and hospital visits each year, Amanda has not needed mental health hospitalization in more than a year and a half.

"I think I'm doing really well, I've been doing lots of things," Amanda says. "I want to do even more amazing things too. I really like it here."



At its August 9th meeting the council reviewed current guidelines as it pertains to COVID-19. With increased positivity rates due to the spread of the Delta variant, the council encourages all people, regardless of vaccination status, to wear face masks indoors. This is based on recent CDC recommendations for areas in substantial or high transmission, which Cedar County presently falls into.





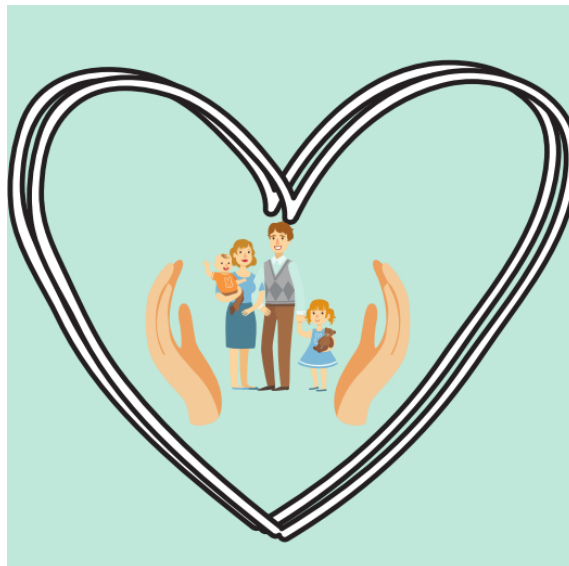
Stewardship News

THANK YOU!!!
Together we have made a
BIG difference for Iowa!

BLC 2020 offerings contributed to the **\$339,000** raised to fund the Southeastern Iowa Synod missions in Iowa, including...

- Lutheran Services in Iowa
- LSI Disaster Response Fund
- Support for Southeastern Iowa Synod seminary students.

The members of BLC continue to provide hope and peace for many!



Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

The meeting was called to order by President Hughes at 6:33 p.m.

Members present: Dave Bahnsen, Curt Casper, Patricia Ernst, Anne Fetzer, Del Hughes, Amber Marsh, Dave Poppen, Jill Taylor, Pastor Chad Whaley

Members absent: Kristin McElhinney

Meeting opened with music and prayer.

Pastor's Report

Highlights from Pastor's report:

Thank you to those who planned Pastor's 10-year anniversary celebration.

Planning for possible trip to 2022 ELCA youth gathering in Minneapolis. Registration opens this fall.

Organizing a council retreat this fall.

Beautiful weather has made outdoor worship possible.

Continued work on technology improvements to support various worship settings. Thanks to David Fischer, Paula Casper and White Dove Electronics for their help in setting up and testing upgrades.

Attended several pastoral visits, graduation open houses and committee meetings.

Celebrated wedding of Mark and Cheryl Boerjan.

Secretary's Report

Small change to May's minutes to adjust graduates from eight to seven.

Amber motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Patsy. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report

Dave P. motioned to accept the treasurer's report, Curt seconded. Motion approved.

Committee Reports

Building & Grounds

Gas line coming into the parsonage and church needs wrapped.

Tree and bush replaced

Howard Moss installed and donated a few lights on the church property.

Committee looking to install outdoor outlets for easier power access.

Education

Looking at the 2022 ELCA youth gathering.

Faith Formation completed for the year.

Prepared graduation gifts in May.

Vacation Bible School not planned for this summer.

Evangelism & Outreach

Committee meeting in early June to discuss upcoming events.

Hoover's Hometown Days parade on August 7

God's Work, Our Hands on September 12

125th Celebration on October 24

Committee looking for photographs for the 125th celebration booklet.

Fellowship

Coffee has been served the last two services.

Pastor planning for a council cookout this summer.

Stewardship

No report, however, good feedback received regarding Stewardship bulletin posts.

Worship & Music

Choir practiced and performed during an outdoor service in May.

Pastor celebrated 10-year anniversary on June 13 with cake.

Choir reconvening in July.

Old Business

Building Usage Review - COVID Updates

Dave B. motioned that we offer indoor services on Communion Sundays (1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays) without previous safety protocols. 2nd and 4th Sundays outdoor services (weather permitting). Seconded by Curt. Motion approved.

Anne moved that masks are optional, but it is recommended unvaccinated individuals wear a mask. Seconded by Dave P. Motion approved.

Jill moved that Communion will include standard and prepackaged options. Precautions will be taken when preparing and serving standard Communion. Worship assistants distributing Communion will wear a mask. Seconded by Patsy. Motion approved.

New Business

Technology Updates

Possible need for a new laptop. No further discussion or motion during this meeting.

Budget for 125th Celebration

Dave B. requested \$500 to fund banners and cover committee expenses. Seconded by Curt. Motion approved.

Council Social

Cookout planned for Sunday, August 8th at 5:00 p.m.

Dave B. moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

Dave P. seconded. Motion approved.

Council closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Regular Meeting – August 9, 2021

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 6:10b

"Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

- What is God's will for everyone...
- In order to know what God's will is...
- God wants me to...



Matthew 6:11

"Give us this day our daily bread."

- To live life well, I need...
- What I want and what I need...
- When people don't have basic life needs...

Worship News

Join us for worship indoors on the first and third Sunday of the month in which the Sacrament of Holy Communion will also be celebrated. On the second and fourth Sunday of the month we will gather outdoors if weather permits. We will also celebrate communion during outdoor worship on September 11th. All worship services will be streamed online via Facebook.



Fellowship News

Now that we are back to gathering and meeting for fellowship after services our cookie cupboard and coffee supply needs replenished. If you would like to donate please bring your donation in and leave it on the kitchen counter. If you would like to help serve coffee and cookies on a Sunday please let Paula know and we can sign you up. Otherwise we appreciate any help given.



Cookie Walk



We are looking for someone who would be interested in leading the Christmas cookie walk this year.

Candy Madsen and Deanna Weismann have faithfully organized this event for many years and we give thanks for their leadership.

This has been a wonderful outreach ministry, which has supported many other important ministries and helped meet community needs with the proceeds from this event.

Please contact Paula Casper at blcsecretary@lcom.net if interested.

Jesus  's You!

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*.

Wed, Sept 1	Psalm 106:1-6,13-23,47-48 Deuteronomy 4:21-40 Mark 7:9-23	Thurs, Sept 16	Psalm 54 Judges 6:1-10 1 Corinthians 2:1-5
Thurs, Sept 2	Psalm 146 Isaiah 30:27-33 Romans 2:1-11	Fri, Sept 17	Psalm 54 1 Kings 22:24-40 Romans 11:25-32
Fri, Sept 3	Psalm 146 Isaiah 32:1-8 Romans 2:12-16	Sat, Sept 18	Psalm 54 2 Kings 17:5-18 Matthew 23:29-39
Sat, Sept 4	Psalm 146 Isaiah 33:1-9 Matthew 15:21-31	Sun, Sept 19	Jeremiah 11:18-20 James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a Mark 9:30-37
Sun, Sept 5	Isaiah 35:4-7a James 2:1-10, 14-17 Mark 7:24-37	Mon, Sept 20	Psalm 139:1-18 2 Kings 5:1-14 James 4:8-17
Mon, Sept 6	Isaiah 38:10-20 Joshua 6:1-21 Hebrews 11:29-12:2	Tues, Sept 21	Psalm 139:1-18 2 Kings 11:21-12:16 James 5:1-6
Tues, Sept 7	Isaiah 38:10-20 Joshua 8:1-23 Hebrews 12:3-13	Wed, Sept 22	Psalm 139:1-18 Jeremiah 1:4-19 John 8:21-38
Wed, Sept 8	Isaiah 38:10-20 Judges 15:9-20 Matthew 17:14-21	Thurs, Sept 23	Psalm 19:7-14 Exodus 18:13-27 Acts 4:13-31
Thurs, Sept 9	Psalm 116:1-9 Joshua 2:1-14 Hebrews 11:17-22	Fri, Sept 24	Psalm 19:7-14 Deuteronomy 1:1-18 Acts 12:20-25
Fri, Sept 10	Psalm 116:1-9 Joshua 2:15-24 James 2:17-26	Sat, Sept 25	Psalm 19:7-14 Deuteronomy 27:1-10 Matthew 5:13-20
Sat Sept 11	Psalm 116:1-9 Joshua 6:22-27 Matthew 21:23-32	Sun, Sept 26	Numbers 11:4-6,10-16,24-29 James 5:13-20 Mark 9:38-50
Sun, Sept 12	Isaiah 50:4-9a James 3:1-12 Mark 8:27-38	Mon, Sept 27	Psalm 5 Zechariah 6:9-15 1 Peter 1:3-9
Mon, Sept 13	Psalm 119:169-176 1 Kings 13:1-10 Romans 3:9-20	Tues, Sept 28	Psalm 5 Zechariah 8:18-23 1 John 2:18-25
Tues, Sept 14	Psalm 119:169-176 1 Kings 13:11-25 Colossians 3:1-11	Wed, Sept 29	Psalm 5 Zechariah 10:1-12 Matthew 18:6-9
Wed, Sept 15	Psalm 119:169-176 Isaiah 10:12-20 John 7:25-36	Thurs, Sept 30	Psalm 8 Genesis 20:1-18 Galatians 3:23-29



September 2021

View Calendar on our [website](#).

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 9:30 AM Worship (Inside and Online via Facebook)	30 12:00 PM Monday Gospel Gathering (via Zoom Meeting)	31	1	2 6:00 AM Women's Study	3	4
5 9:30 AM Worship with Communion (Inside and online via Facebook)	6 12:00 PM Monday Gospel Gathering (via Zoom Meeting)	7 7:00 PM Prayer Zoom Meeting	8	9 6:00 AM Women's Study	10	11
12 9:30 AM Worship with Communion (Outside and online via Facebook)	13 12:00 PM Monday Gospel Gathering (via Zoom Meeting) 6:30 PM Council Meeting	14	15 6:30 PM Faith formation 4th - 6th grade	16 6:00 AM Women's Study	17	18
19 9:30 AM Worship with Communion (Inside and online via Facebook)	20 12:00 PM Monday Gospel Gathering (via Zoom Meeting)	21	22 6:30 PM Faith formation (Confirmation) 6:30 PM Faith formation 4th - 6th grade	23 6:00 AM Women's Study	24	25
26 9:30 AM Worship (Outside and online via Facebook)	27 12:00 PM Monday Gospel Gathering (via Zoom Meeting)	28	29 6:30 PM Faith formation (Confirmation) 6:30 PM Faith formation 4th - 6th grade	30 6:00 AM Women's Study	1	2



Monetary Gifts Report

Submitted by Jill Taylor

	July 2021		YTD	
Total Receipts	Actual 15,763	Budget 13,496	Actual 91,485	Budget 94,474
Total Expenses	Actual 13,994	Budget 13,850	Actual 92,641	Budget 97,038

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.

September 2021 Bethany Branches

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



Ministers of Proclamation (Lectors)

- 9-5 Alan Beyer
- 9-12 Cheryl Boerjan
- 9-19 Del Hughes
- 9-26 Shawn Samuelson

Ministers of Technology

- 9-5 Cole Crosthwaite
Tate Frantz
- 9-12 Paula Casper
- 9-19 Alex Poppen
- 9-26 Andrew Samuelson

Ministers of Christ's Light (Acolytes)

- 9-5 Jacob Langley
Addison Langley
- 9-19 Aizlyn Marsh
Arik Marsh

Opportunities available. Sign Up:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0B48AFAD2CAAFD0-minister1>

Ministers of Altar Care:

Peaches Sweat & Patsy Ernst.



Find us on Facebook

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

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