

# Bethany Lutheran Church

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



## Important Dates

- 10-11 Council meeting 6:30 PM
- 10-24 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Celebration (see p.8)
- 10-31 Confirmation Sunday

Jesus  s You!

## Contact Information

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

[www.wbbethany.org](http://www.wbbethany.org)

Pastor Chad Whaley  
[pastor@wbbethany.org](mailto: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  
[blsecretary@lcom.net](mailto:blsecretary@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. [www.wbbethany.org](http://www.wbbethany.org)) or images.

*Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. - Psalm 96:2*

*"Go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead.'"  
- Matthew 28:7*

*From the  
Pastor*



Dear Beloved Saints,

You are loved! It is the love of God in Christ Jesus that has sustained us for 126 years. Jesus came proclaiming the good news of the kingdom. He came down to reveal this great, abundant, and glorious love of God to the world. The women were sent to proclaim this good news upon learning Christ had risen, and later Jesus commissioned his disciples to do the same. That, too, is what we are called to do as the body of Christ.

In his greetings to the congregation as our church celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Pastor Peter Vammen (1940-45) wrote, "We are reminded that every blessing we have, in church and community, especially the precious gift of salvation, comes to us because Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for it on the cross."

At the same anniversary, Pastor Doliver Thogerson (1949-57) wrote, "For seventy-five years Bethany Lutheran has had as its mission the proclamation of God's love in Christ. As you pause to reflect on these years of grace and opportunity, may you be filled with joy that you have been privileged in sharing in the work of bringing the Gospel to people."

Pastor William Thalacker (1961-69) wrote, "There is no challenge or no problem too large for his [i.e., God] power and love. There was abundant opportunity to witness that power and love during the years we lived with you all."

I give thanks for these former pastors' faithful words of wisdom. I give thanks for every pastor who has served alongside the faithful people of God at Bethany and has proclaimed the good news of Christ's love. I give thanks for all of you and every saint who has come before us in carrying out the church's mission to proclaim God's love in Christ.

What started with three benches in a home in 1895 was transformed by the Holy Spirit into a sacred people and place with Christ and his love as its cornerstone. Much has happened in our rich and long history, but as these three former pastors lift up a few things remain constant. First, we abide in the abundance of Christ's love. Second, our mission is to share that love with one another and with the world. Third, God is one of opportunity, and everything we do as a people of God is an opportunity to glorify God and bear witness to the amazing love of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. It's not always easy work. At times we stumble and falter. There were times bills couldn't be paid. A fire forced us out of our worship space as did a global pandemic. Yet, we are reminded, "There is no challenge or no problem too large for his power and love." In Christ's peace! — Pastor Chad



## Birthdays

10/01 Laura Twing  
 10/03 Lynne Haub, Neil Korsmo  
 10/04 Dylan Haub  
 10/05 Theodore Wiele  
 10/09 Emalee Casper, Makayla Casper  
       Reed White  
 10/10 Vicky Kimpe  
 10/12 Kat Korsmo  
 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, Karen Swenson,  
       Casper Heid  
 10/24 Jeni Schiele, Jill Taylor  
 10/25 Frank Frostestad  
 10/26 Layla Samuelson, Hannah Schiele  
 10/27 Heath Graham

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

## All Saints Sunday

Mark your calendar for November 7th, which is All Saints' Sunday. On this day we give thanks for all the saints in the church. In particular we honor our Senior Saints (80+), baptized saints since last year and saints who have died since last All Saints Day.



## Bethany Books

by Frank Frostestad

### Books For Adults

In *12 Tiny Things*, Ellie Roscher and Heidi Barr journey with us through twelve essential areas of life - space, work, spirituality, food, style, nature, communication, home, sensuality, creativity, learning, and community. They invite us to take one tiny action at a time to open up growth and renewal. In a culture that says bigger is better, it seems subversive to take tiny lasting steps toward learning and growth. Tiny things can make all the difference. (recommended in the *Living Lutheran*)

No matter how many meaningful relationships we may have, it is a rare person who does not feel loneliness. *The Great Belonging: How Loneliness Leads Us To Each Other* by Charlotte Donlon explores loneliness, especially how it is felt by Christians. She uses research, personal stories, literature and visual art to get at the heart of the condition, rather than fix it or avoid it. According to many sources, loneliness has reached epidemic proportions. In an age of mobility and fraying civic life, we are all susceptible to its power. She reframes loneliness and offers us a language for the disquiet within. When we inhabit a posture of curiosity, we discover loneliness does not have to be scary. The author wants to show readers that they are not alone. She wants to normalize loneliness and encourage people to have conversations with others. She wants people to ultimately discover eventually that loneliness has less power over them. (recommended in the *Living Lutheran*)

### Book For Children

*Do You Love Me?* is written by V. Gilbert Beers and illustrated by Jan M. Jones. This book is part of the "Learning to read from the Bible" series. It seeks to introduce the child to new vocabulary. It also presents doctrinal objectives and relates them to present-day objectives. (donated)



**Evangelical Lutheran  
 Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

**You Are Loved!**

## Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) News

Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) has responded to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service for more than 150 years. We have created a legacy of lifting up and empowering thousands of our Iowa neighbors, thanks to the generosity of our supporters.

Through LSI, Iowans also have the opportunity to leave a legacy of their own. When you include LSI in your will or estate planning, you are making a lasting impact for years to come. By including LSI in your will or living trust, you are ensuring that we can continue our mission and ministry well into the future.

If you would like more information on how you can include LSI in your estate planning, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at [Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto:Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org) or 563.676.2065. LSI is also available to provide a customized virtual shared ministry opportunity for your congregation. If you would like to share the message of LSI with your community, please visit [LSIowa.org/church-relations](http://LSIowa.org/church-relations) or contact our Waverly office at 319.352.2630 to get started.

*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 [www.LSIowa.org](http://www.LSIowa.org) and [www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa](https://www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa).*

### One Backpack and a Simple Act of Kindness

The start of fall classes can be difficult for any child – especially as youth of all ages adjust back to “normal” following a year of virtual classes and Zoom meetings. But for kids who have experienced trauma, back-to-school season can bring additional stress: anxiety about meeting new people; worry that their family may not have enough grocery money for lunch every day; insecurity if they come to school without some of the fun supplies other kids have.

Thanks to donations of backpacks, crayons and pencils, glue, and more, LSI is ensuring Iowa youth have access to the school supplies they need to succeed. And because of this, kids are empowered with the ability to choose their own supplies that show off their own styles and personalities so they can feel confident as they return to classes.

After having a tough day, Marisol was feeling sad and was told she and her guardian would be stopping by the LSI office for some school supplies. She wasn't in the mood for a visit but after arriving at the office, she found a bright spot in her day: her LSI worker was there to help her pick out a new backpack of her own. She was delighted after finding her favorite, and eagerly walked around the office to choose more back-to-school items she could place in her backpack.

Thanks to these contributions, Marisol's day was turned around by a simple act of kindness and a new backpack.





**Church Staff**

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**Admin. Assistant** - Paula Casper  
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**Custodian** – Patsy Ernst

**Pianist** – Jill Barnhart

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**Claudia Beyer**  
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Seven amazing and wonderful youth (see below) will affirm their baptisms on Sunday, October 31<sup>st</sup>. We invite you to join in celebrating with them. This day is Reformation Sunday and was chosen due to its remembrance of the Holy Spirit's ongoing presence and work in Christ's church and subsequently in the lives of these youth. This is also a day in which we remember the fact that it is solely, "By grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— not the result of works, so that no one may boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9 NRSV) This is a key teaching emphasized throughout faith formation.

Auron Marsh  
Chloe Klabo  
Cole Crosthwaite  
Miley Shields  
Dylan Schiele  
Tate Frantz  
Layla Samuelson

## Food Pantry News

During November, the West Branch Food Pantry will receive a \$1 donation from each purchase of a \$2.50 reusable red "My Heart" bag from the Hy-Vee located at 812 South 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Iowa City.



**God loves you!!!**

?? ? **Bible Quiz** ? ??

Acts 1:1 (NIV) reads: "In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach." What "former book" did the author write to Theophilus?

- A. Matthew
- B. Mark
- C. Luke
- D. John

Answer: C (See Luke 1:1-4)

?? ? **Bible Quiz** ? ??

Hebrews 11 is called the Hall of Faith because it's a partial list of ancestors who lived out their belief in God. Who is named in this chapter?

- A. Adam, Eve and Seth
- B. Abel, Enoch, Noah and Sarah
- C. Moses' parents, Moses and Rahab
- D. Deborah, Bathsheba and Huldah
- E. A and B
- F. B and C
- G. C and D

Answer: F

## BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH August 9, 2021 Council Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Hughes at 6:36 p.m.

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

**Members absent:** Anne Fetzer

Meeting opened with prayer.

### **Pastor's Report**

Highlights from Pastor's report:

Vacation (rest, relaxation, renewal)

Joy to worship in person again whether indoors or outdoors and continue to see online worship involvement

Continued planning for possible trip to 2022 ELCA youth gathering in Minneapolis.

Built website for confirmation students & parents.

Helped plan 4th Annual Chip Away at Childhood Hunger Golf Tournament and shared with council the impact of this work in our community.

Led pre-marital counseling session and attended several pastoral visits

Funeral for young man in community, and several community prayers for him and a second young man whom both died unexpectedly.

### **Secretary's Report**

Dave B. motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Dave P. Motion approved.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Jill will send out updated/revised July report but shared numbers giving total, expenses total, net revenue and running year total.

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

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Building & Grounds**

Thanks to Del & John for plumbing help.

Tree branches taken down by John, Del, and Kent

Call into Robertsons for parsonage vent work.

Stoop raised outside so it's flat & level.

### **Education**

Looking for interested youth to attend the 2022 ELCA youth gathering.

Amber, Kristin, and Pastor Chad are meeting to discuss Faith Formation this year

Updated some of the children spaces in the Great Hall building with some donations from McElhinneys.

### **Evangelism & Outreach**

God's Work, Our Hands on September 12

Formed a subcommittee to continue planning for a drive-up/to-go community meal

Dave shared an article with council that highlights what we gain/lose with online worship.

### **Fellowship**

Del shared that there is informal fellowship happening after worship service each week.

### **Stewardship**

Have been highlighting missions in monthly newsletter to share/educate where our congregation's designated funds go.

Next effort: adding a "Donate Now" and/or Simply Giving link to the website and looking into the online app and features of Simply Giving/Vanco

### **Worship & Music**

Guest pastors in July while Pastor Chad was on vacation: Dirk Stadtlander and Phil Hougen

Since summer gatherings, choir has decided to wait until fall to reconvene.

Linda Black and Jill Barnhart want to use Bethany's space for West Branch Community Choir, and council discussed scheduling issues.

Patsy motioned to allow the West Branch Community Choir permission to use our facility, pending schedule (TBD). Curt seconded. Motion passed.

### **Old Business**

#### **Building Usage Review - COVID Updates**

We will continue current policy of indoor & outdoor services, and masks optional but recommended. No further motion needed.

*(Continued on p.7)*

**BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**August 9, 2021 Council Minutes**

*(Continued from p.5)*

**New Business**

Jill asked to take off agenda for now for time to study materials received.

School Backpack Donations/Funding

Amber motioned that council provides additional funds, if needed, through Noisy Coin Youth Funds for purchase of school backpack supplies. Kristin seconded. Motion passed.

Council Retreat vs. Book Study

Pastor presented options for a book study or retreat for council to participate in. He and Del will further discuss both and present the council with a recommendation in the coming year.

Dave P. moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 p.m. Curt seconded. Motion approved.

Council closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Regular Meeting – September 13, 2021

*Hallelujah*

**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 6:12**

"And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors."

- When someone forgives me...
- I find it most difficult to forgive...
- I ask God to forgive me for...



**Matthew 6:13a**

"And do not bring us to the time of trial,"

- I worry most about...
- Things that most tempt me...
- I ask God to keep me safe from...

On September 4th, Oakley Shepherd Sexton was baptized in the name of the Triune God. Oakley is the son of J.D. and Jenna Sexton.

Welcome precious child of God!

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!  
By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. ~ 1 Peter 1:3 (NRSV)





## 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>Friday, October 1</b>	Psalm 26 Job 4:1-21 Romans 8:1-11	<b>Sunday, October 17</b>	Luke 22:24-30 Isaiah 53:4-12 Hebrews 5:1-10 Mark 10:35-45
<b>Saturday, October 2</b>	Psalm 26 Job 7:1-21 Luke 16:14-18	<b>Monday, October 18</b>	Psalm 75 Job 40:1-24 Hebrews 6:1-12
<b>Sunday, October 3</b>	Genesis 2:18-24 Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12 Mark 10:2-16	<b>Tuesday, October 19</b>	Psalm 75 Job 41:1-11 Hebrews 6:13-20
<b>Monday, October 4</b>	Psalm 55:1-15; Job 8:1-22 1 Corinthians 7:1-9	<b>Wednesday, October 20</b>	Psalm 75 Job 41:12-34 John 13:1-17
<b>Tuesday, October 5</b>	Psalm 55:1-15 Job 11:1-20 1 Corinthians 7:10-16	<b>Thursday, October 21</b>	Psalm 34:1-8 2 Kings 20:12-19 Hebrews 7:1-10
<b>Wednesday, October 6</b>	Psalm 55:1-15 Job 15:1-35 Matthew 5:27-36	<b>Friday, October 22</b>	Psalm 34:1-8 Nehemiah 1:1-11 Hebrews 7:11-22
<b>Thursday, October 7</b>	Psalm 22:1-15 Job 17:1-16 Hebrews 3:7-19	<b>Saturday, October 23</b>	Psalm 34:1-8 Job 42:7-9 Mark 8:22-26
<b>Friday, October 8</b>	Psalm 22:1-15 Job 18:1-21 Hebrews 4:1-11	<b>Sunday, October 24</b>	Jeremiah 31:7-9 Hebrews 7:23-28 Mark 10:46-52
<b>Saturday, October 9</b>	Psalm 22:1-15 Job 20:1-29 Matthew 15:1-9	<b>Monday, October 25</b>	Psalm 28 Isaiah 59:9-19 1 Peter 2:1-10
<b>Sunday, October 10</b>	Amos 5:6-7 10-15 Hebrews 4:12-16 Mark 10:17-31	<b>Tuesday, October 26, 2021</b>	Psalm 28 Ezekiel 18:1-32 Acts 9:32-35
<b>Monday, October 11</b>	Psalm 39 Job 26:1-14 Revelation 7:9-17	<b>Wednesday, October 27</b>	Psalm 28 Ezekiel 14:12-23 Matthew 20:29-34
<b>Tuesday, October 12</b>	Psalm 39 Job 28:12-29:10 Revelation 8:1-5	<b>Thursday, October 28</b>	Psalm 146 Ruth 1:18-22 Hebrews 9:1-12
<b>Wednesday, October 13</b>	Psalm 39 Job 32:1-22 Luke 16:19-31	<b>Friday, October 29</b>	Psalm 146 Ruth 2:1-9 Romans 3:21-31
<b>Thursday, October 14</b>	Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35b Job 36:1-16 Romans 15:7-13	<b>Saturday, October 30</b>	Psalm 146 Ruth 2:10-14 Luke 10:25-37
<b>Friday, October 15</b>	Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35b Job 37:1-24 Revelation 17:1-18	<b>Sunday, October 31</b>	Deuteronomy 6:1-9 Hebrews 9:11-14 Mark 12:28-34
<b>Saturday, October 16</b>	Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35b Job 39:1-30		



COME AND CELEBRATE!

# 125TH ANNIVERSARY

Sunday, October 24  
Worship 9:30 AM  
Meal Following Worship

FOR THE LORD IS GOOD; HIS STEADFAST  
LOVE ENDURES FOREVER, AND HIS  
FAITHFULNESS TO ALL GENERATIONS. -  
PSALM 100:5 (NRSV)

Bishop Amy Current of the Southeastern Iowa Synod will join us for our 125<sup>th</sup> celebration on October 24<sup>th</sup>. Former pastors have also been invited to attend. It is sure to be a wonderful day!

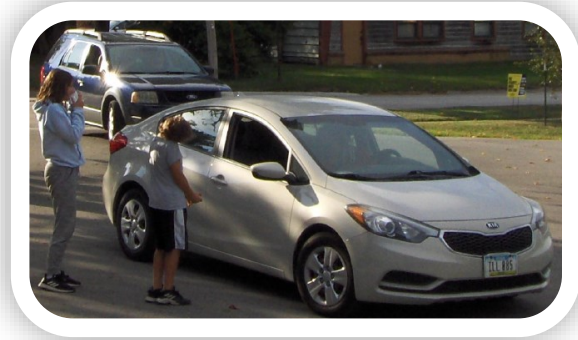
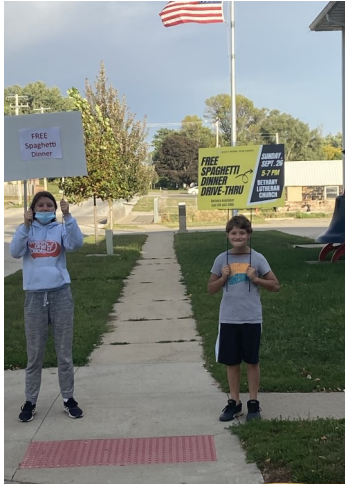
**CHURCH**  
*Anniversary*  
PREPARATIONS

Deanna Weismann and Candy Madsen are gathering memorabilia to be used on a display table for our 125th anniversary. If you have any items they could include, please contact Deanna at 643-2446 or Candy at 643-5869. Thank You!

  
**RSVP**  
P L E A S E

To assist in planning the meal, an RSVP would be appreciated by Sunday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. Please call the church at 643-5998 or email Paula at: [blcsecretary@lcom.net](mailto:blcsecretary@lcom.net)





# 232

## Spaghetti Meals Served



Bethany's Drive-through Spaghetti Supper was a huge success. On the evening of September 26<sup>th</sup>, we provided over 232 meals to the residents of West Branch. Although it was advertised as a "free" meal to the community, we still wound up with many financial donations. This was a complete surprise and an added blessing to a wonderful event. A special thank you to everyone involved. You made it happen.—Dave Bahnsen





**God's work.  
Our hands.**



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







## October 2021

View Calendar on our [website](#).

					1	2
<b>3</b> 9:30 AM Worship (Indoors with communion and online via Facebook)	<b>4</b> 12:00 PM Monday Gospel Gathering (via Zoom Meeting)	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 6:30 PM Faith formation (Confirmation) 6:30 PM Faith formation 4th - 6th grade	<b>7</b> 6:00 AM Women's Study	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 9:30 AM Worship (Outdoors with communion and online via Facebook)	<b>11</b> 12:00 PM Monday Gospel Gathering (via Zoom Meeting) 6:30 PM Council Meeting	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 6:30 PM Faith formation (Confirmation) 6:30 PM Faith formation 4th - 6th grade	<b>14</b> 6:00 AM Women's Study	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 9:30 AM Worship (Indoors with communion and online via Facebook)	<b>18</b> 12:00 PM Monday Gospel Gathering (via Zoom Meeting)	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 6:00 AM Women's Study	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 125th Celebration 9:30 AM Worship (TBD)	<b>25</b> 12:00 PM Monday Gospel Gathering (via Zoom Meeting)	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 6:30 PM Faith formation (Confirmation) 6:30 PM Faith formation 4th - 6th grade	<b>28</b> 6:00 AM Women's Study	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> Confirmation Sunday 9:30 AM Worship (Indoor with communion and online via Facebook)	<b>1</b> 12:00 PM Monday Gospel Gathering (via Zoom Meeting)	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 6:30 PM Faith formation (Confirmation) 6:30 PM Faith formation 4th - 6th grade	<b>4</b> 6:00 AM Women's Study	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>



### Monetary Gifts Report

Submitted by Jill Taylor

	September 2021		YTD	
Total Receipts	Actual 16,787	Budget 13,496	Actual 108,275	Budget 107,970
Total Expenses	Actual 12,688	Budget 13,849	Actual 105,261	Budget 110,887

**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 Branches October 2021

Bethany Lutheran Church  
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[www.wbbethany.org](http://www.wbbethany.org)



## Ministers of Proclamation (Lectors)

10-3 Paula Casper  
10-10 Phil Hougen  
10-17 Mike Fryauf  
10-24 Lisa Zimmerman  
10-31 Kami Poppen

## Ministers of Technology

10-3 Cole C. & Tate F.  
10-10 Paula C.  
10-17 Andrew S.  
10-24 Paula C.  
10-31 Alex P.

## Ministers of Christ's Light (Acolytes)

Opportunities available. Sign Up:

[https://www.signupgenius.com/  
go/30E0B48AFAD2CAAFD0-  
minister1](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0B48AFAD2CAAFD0-minister1)

**Ministers of Altar Care for  
October:** Samuelson Family



## 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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Our Twitter Handle is:  
**@blcwestbranch**

**You Are Loved!**

