

# Bethany Lutheran Church

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



One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples." - Luke 11:1 (NIV)

## Important Dates

- 12-5 Sunday school 8:45 - 9:20AM
- 12-13 Council meeting 6:30PM
- 12-19 Sunday school 8:45 - 9:20AM
- 12-24 Christmas Eve Services  
5:00PM & 8:00PM
- 12-26 Hymn sing 9:00AM in the  
Sanctuary.
- 12-26 Office of the Bishop worship  
Service. (see page 10)

## 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

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  
blesecretary@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 @blewestbranch

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)), certain images, or  
scan available QR codes.



Dear People of God,

If you noticed the verse above, you most likely already know the emphasis of this article — prayer. You may even be thinking to yourself, not again. I realize I have spent a great deal of time focusing on prayer recently; but unequivocally scripture reveals to us God works through prayer. We must look no further than our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. "What would Jesus do?" was a question once displayed everywhere. I even had a bracelet with the letters "WWJD" on it. Well, one thing Jesus did was pray. At his baptism (Luke 3:21), prior to going to Galilee to proclaim the message that the kingdom of God had drawn near (Mark 1:35), after cleansing a leper (Luke 5:16), before calling his disciples (Luke 6:12), after feeding the 5,000 and just prior to walking on water (Matthew 14:23), on the mountaintop at his transfiguration (Luke 9:28), praying for himself, his disciples and those to come prior to his arrest (John 17), upon the cross (Matthew 27:46), and as we read above just prior to his disciples asking him to teach them how to pray.

Yet, it was not just Jesus that models a life of prayer. King David is often found in prayer, and many of the Psalms attributed to David are prayers. Abraham, Isaac, Moses, Hannah, Solomon, Ezra, Nehemiah, Elijah, Job, Hezekiah, and Jeremiah are just a few faithful servants of God we find praying often in the Old Testament. Similarly in the New Testament we find Zechariah, Elizabeth, Mary, Peter and the apostles, Paul, those first believers, and so many others constantly devoting themselves to prayer. It goes without saying how vitally important prayer has been in the lives of God's people throughout the ages.

God works through prayer. God draws near. God hears our joys, thanksgivings, concerns, cries, hopes and dreams. God speaks to us. God comforts us and grants us peace through prayer. God is at work helping us discern God's will for our lives and our congregation.

Later in this newsletter are some ways we can further be engaged as a community that prays together. Shortly after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, I invited us to a time of brief prayer at noon each day. Like me, you may have stopped as the pandemic prolonged. However, this season of Advent I invite you to join me once again each noon as you are able, to stop and pray—for our congregation, for discernment on where God is leading us, for one another, for our enemies, for Christ's church, for elected officials, for our neighbor, and for calmness amidst a hectic season. May the God who hears all prayers bless and keep you!

Pastor Chad



## Birthdays

- 12-02 Bruce Jeffries
- 12-05 Samantha Yeater
- 12-06 Wanda Anderson
- 12-07 Kellee McCrory
- 12-10 Barb Campbell
- 12-13 Marshall McElhinney
- 12-14 Beth Kaufman, Elizabeth McCrory
- 12-15 Kami Poppen
- 12-17 Traci Fryauf
- 12-18 Marilyn Crow
- 12-19 Jim Friis
- 12-20 Auron Marsh
- 12-21 Lindsey Zimmerman
- 12-22 Mark Colvin
- 12-23 Amber Marsh
- 12-24 Monica Hinkhouse, Howard Moss
- 12-26 Nancy Bruns
- 12-29 Jim Peak
- 12-31 Jon Twing

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

## Bethany Books



I am going to list a number of the many books and DVDs that we have for Christmas.

*Skipping Christmas, Come My Little Angel, The Christmas Promise, A Baxter Family Christmas, A Christmas Secret, A Pioneer Christmas Collection, Christmas In Apple Ridge, The Gift Of Christmas, and The Purpose Of Christmas.*

### Books For Children

*The Story Of Christmas, The Holy Moly Christmas Story, Rufus And The Very Special Baby, The Night Before Jesus, A Christmas Classic, The Very First Christmas, The Shoe Box, A Cat In The Stable, Papa's Birthday Gift, Angels & All Children,*

### DVDs

*The Christmas Blessing, Ada & Leo's Inspired Christmas Adventures, The Holy Moly Christmas Story Collection, The Note, The Nativity Story, Christmas Oranges, Christmas Child, The Story Of Christmas, Homeless For The Holidays, Christmas And Jesus' Early Life.*

Jesus



You!

**It's time to order your poinsettia  
to decorate the altar for Christmas.  
Plants are \$10.00 each.**

Please return this form with payment to the church office. Or mail to:  
P.O. Box 236 West Branch, IA 52358 by December 12th.  
Please make checks out to Bethany Lutheran.  
Plants will be set out for the Christmas Eve services.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to order \_\_\_\_\_ poinsettias in memory or in honor of:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# Annual Meeting



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

Greetings! This is to inform you of the upcoming Bethany Lutheran Church Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 23, 2022. We will meet in the Great Hall shortly after the morning worship service.

Your participation is greatly appreciated. Please note our constitution states we must have 30 voting members present in order to have a quorum. Additionally, a "voting" member is defined as:

**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.

Thank you and please prayerfully consider where God may be calling you to service within Christ's church here at Bethany Lutheran.

Del Hughes, Council President

## NOVEMBER Baptisms

Annabelle Kaye Burnette was baptized during worship on November 21, 2021. She is the daughter of Scott and Katie Burnette and sister to big brother Leo. Baptismal sponsors were Tom and Kate Burnette. Welcome precious child of God!



## ELCA Good Gifts

As members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), we believe that God is calling us into the world – together. And with generous, loving hands, we can make a difference.

ELCA Good Gifts is your opportunity to provide critical support to the ministries and programs that mean the most to you and the people you love.

<https://goodgifts.elca.org/>





## Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) News

Merry Christmas from LSI!

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” — John 1:5

As Christmas approaches, we give thanks to you! This year has been another difficult time for all of us, and we are grateful for the Iowans who have stepped up just for the sake of giving and helping the people LSI is privileged to serve. Thank you for bringing the light of Christ to your neighbors who rely on these important services!

At LSI, we know many people experiencing deep darkness. We know parents who feel hopeless, with little resources to raise their young children. We know adults with disabilities who feel voiceless, with no support system or connection to their community. We know teens who are aging out of foster care, who fear they will never have a forever family.

The holidays can be an especially difficult time for our neighbors who are so often overlooked in our society. In the spirit of giving, the spirit of love, and the spirit of working together, let us stand with them and lift them up this Christmas season. LSI's annual matching gift campaign is currently active, and those making a new or increased financial gift can double their impact through the end of the year. If you would like to learn more about how you can support Iowa children and families, contact Deb Whitford, LSI Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at 563.676.2065 or [Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto:Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org). 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.

Wishing you a blessed and merry Christmas from LSI!

*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](http://www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa).*

### Never Alone

Two years ago, Kayla knew it was time for a change in her life. She had struggled with substance use for years. When she was pregnant with her youngest son, Rafe, she was determined to build a brighter future for him. She entered treatment to become sober and create a healthy home for her baby.

While in treatment, Kayla enrolled in the HOPES program through LSI Early Childhood Services, which provides in-home parenting education and guidance for parents of young children. Kellie, Kayla's LSI worker, met with her every week to ensure she had all the resources and support she needed to raise Rafe in her home. They kept track of all his important developmental milestones, sharing smiles and laughs along the way. Whether it was supplying diapers or being a listening ear, Kellie was always there for Kayla.

Kayla is now two years sober, has a job as a chef, and feels empowered and confident that she has everything she needs to help her family thrive.

“I just feel overwhelmed and overjoyed. I never thought I could do all this, so I'm proud of myself,” she says. “There are people at LSI that care about you. They are there to support you and they are willing to help.”



**Church Staff**

**Pastor** - Chad Whaley  
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**Admin. Assistant** - Paula Casper  
(319) 331-9456  
blcsecretary@lcom.net

**Custodian** – Patsy Ernst

**Pianist** – Jill Barnhart

**Church Council**

**Del Hughes -President**  
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sunshinegundy@gmail.com

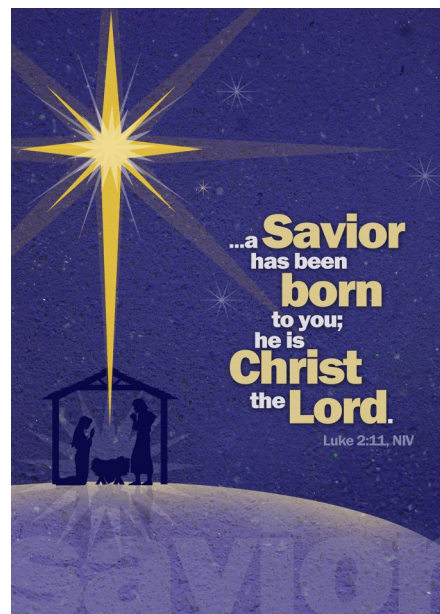
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Anne.r.anderson@pearson.com

**Financial Secretary**

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



Many thanks to Curt Casper for setting up our Nativity and Joy sign around the church grounds.



**God loves you!!!**

**BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
Council Meeting October 11, 2021

The meeting opened with responsive prayer in the sanctuary and then called to order by President Hughes at 6:42 p.m.

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

**Pastor's Report**

Highlights from this month's Pastor's report include: Joys and Thanksgivings for Staff Appreciation Sunday and a successful community spaghetti dinner. Preparation for the church's 125th anniversary celebration, Confirmation Sunday, All Saints Sunday, and Advent.

Attended to pre-marital sessions, an affirmation of vows ceremony and a baptism., as well as the ordination and installation of pastor at Trinity Lutheran in Tipton. Several pastoral visits and prayer meetings were held this month.

Attended preaching workshop sponsored by the Synod, fall Theological seminar and continuing education course via Zoom.

**Secretary's Report**

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

**Treasurer's Report**

Dave P. motioned to approve the report seconded by Anne. Motion approved.

**Committee Reports**

**Building and Grounds**

Curt trimmed bushes and around the church. Parsonage needs a new a disposal, also looking into problems with the exhaust fan vent.

**Education & Youth**

First confirmation/faith formation class held last Wednesday.  
Rolling out Sunday School program on November 7 and 21 before the 9:30 service.  
Looking into a Christmas movie night with popcorn fellowship.

**Evangelism**

Spaghetti dinner held in September went well and received suggestions for next meal.  
Finalizing plans for the 125th anniversary celebration on October 24.

**Fellowship**

No report but looking into ways to start up fellowship sign-ups.

**Stewardship**

No report.

**Worship and Music**

Choir practicing this Wednesday for the 125th anniversary celebration.

**Old Business**

**Online Giving Update**

Buttons on website direct user to Vanco site for collecting donations. We can add designated mission funds, like Angel Tree, Cookie Walk, Easter Lilies or Poinsettias, in addition to regular Sunday offering. It also gives options for frequency (one-time, weekly, monthly, etc.). User can pay by credit/debit card or bank account. User may agree to cover transaction processing fees at submission.

**New Business**

**Alex Poppen – Meal Ministry**

Alex is sponsoring a community ministry called Angel Meals. A link will be on the church website and Facebook for meal and volunteer sign up. This project will also be submitted to Uncommon Student award. The ministry would not only deliver meals but make connections through in home visits.  
Alex is seeking volunteers, permission to use the church kitchen space and startup funds until donations are available to support the ministry. Alex will return to Council in November with a business plan.

**Year End Committees – Budget, Audit and Nominating**  
A few names were recommended for the budget committee. Committee to be determined at the November Council meeting.

The audit committee to include three voting members but cannot be a member of council. Committee to be appointed in November. Names were recommended to fill the committee.

The nominating committee includes Alan Beyer, Linda Black, and Nancy Bruns.

**Lion's Club Donation Request**

Event to be held on October 23. The club is looking for volunteers and monetary donations.  
Jill moved we donate the \$250 gifted to Bethany back to the Lion's Club. Dave B. seconded. Motion approved.

*(Continued on page 7)*

**BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**October 11, 2021 Council Minutes**

*(Continued from page 6)*

Kristin motions we plan for indoor service to celebrate the 125th anniversary. Seconded by Curt.  
 Kristin moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m. Curt seconded. Motion approved.  
 Council closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.  
 Next Regular Meeting – 11/08/2021



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

## Angel Tree

This year, Bethany is sponsoring two families for the "Angel Tree" program. Please click on the link below to view and sign up for your donation. Gifts should be wrapped and marked on the outside with the description of who the gift is for and dropped off in the Great Hall of Bethany Lutheran Church no later than December 17<sup>th</sup>. Signup online (<https://TINYURL.COM/4JJ35VBT>) or use the QR code below. See Kami or Alex Poppen with questions.



## Cookie Walk

**This Saturday  
 December 4**

9:00 a.m.—10:30 a.m.  
 (or until cookies are gone)



Please bring your cookies to the church Friday evening or Saturday morning by 8:30 a.m.

Help is needed for the event,  
 including setup and cleanup.

Setup will be Thursday at 3:30.

See Kristin McElhinney or Sue Hughes  
 with questions.

Proceeds from the event are used to fund various  
 mission efforts.

## Advent Devotions

To assist us in our Advent journey toward the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior, two Advent devotionals are available on our website at the link below or by scanning the QR code in the bottom left corner.

<https://tinyurl.com/2p95b7bw>

The first devotional is provided by Luther Theological Seminary in St. Paul, MN. It provides daily reflections centered on the theme, "Filled With Hope and Gratitude."

The second devotional is from ELCA World Hunger and provides weekly reflections.

Additionally, there are still Advent candle sets available (see image below). If interested, contact Paula.



## 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 2:10-12

When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

- For me, Christmas...
- The gifts I bring to Jesus are...
- My star, or what is guiding me to Jesus, is...



### Isaiah 40:6-8

A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

- A message that God might ask me to cry out to the world is...
- Past human ideas and beliefs that needed to wither and fade...
- The message of God that stays consistent throughout history...

## Fellowship News



Every Sunday, worship ends in the sanctuary with a good word to send us on our week and then we continue the life of the church by gathering for fellowship in the Great Hall. Each week this fellowship time is put on by volunteers, just like you! To continue all the good work Bethany is doing, we are looking for additional volunteers to offer a small amount of time to assist with serving and/or providing snacks and drinks after Sunday worship.

The sign-up linked below is split into three categories to help split fellowship responsibilities. When signing up, feel free to select one or more slots.

1. Two slots available each week for serving
2. Two slots available each week for snacks
3. Two slots available each week for drinks

<https://tinyurl.com/4cnc5fap>

This is a great opportunity to try out that new recipe on the congregation or become acquainted with one another over a sink of dishes!

If you are new to fellowship, I am more than happy to answer any questions. Feel free to contact Anne at [arfetzer77@gmail.com](mailto:arfetzer77@gmail.com) or 319-333-8217.

Thank you,  
Anne Fetzer



### Have a prayer request?

Go to the virtual prayer wall on our website.

<https://bit.ly/bethanyprays>

An introductory video on how to use our prayer wall can be viewed at the link below.

<https://vimeo.com/644492944>

Join Pastor Chad, Paula and others for a short, informal time of prayer most Tuesday mornings at 9:00 AM. If you have a prayer request, post it to our prayer wall.







## 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, December 1</b>	Psalm 90 Isaiah 1:24-31 Luke 11:29-32	<b>Friday, December 17</b>	Psalm 80:1-7 Isaiah 42:10-18 Hebrews 10:32-39
<b>Thursday, December 2</b>	Luke 1:68-79 Malachi 3:5-12 Philippians 1:12-18a	<b>Saturday, December 18</b>	Psalm 80:1-7 Isaiah 66:7-11 Luke 13:31-35
<b>Friday, December 3</b>	Luke 1:68-79 Malachi 3:13-18 Philippians 1:18b-26	<b>Sunday, December 19</b>	Luke 1:46b-55 Hebrews 10:5-10 Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]
<b>Saturday, December 4</b>	Luke 1:68-79 Malachi 4:1-6 Luke 9:1-6	<b>Monday, December 20</b>	Psalm 113 Genesis 25:19-28 Colossians 1:15-20
<b>Sunday, December 5</b>	Malachi 3:1-4 Luke 1:68-79 (78) Philippians 1:3-11 Luke 3:1-6	<b>Tuesday, December 21</b>	Psalm 113 Genesis 30:1-24 Romans 8:18-30 Luke 1:46b-55
<b>Monday, December 6</b>	Psalm 126 Isaiah 40:1-11 Romans 8:22-25	<b>Wednesday, December 22</b>	Micah 4:1-5 Ephesians 2:11-22 Luke 1:46b-55
<b>Tuesday, December 7</b>	Psalm 126 Isaiah 19:18-25 2 Peter 1:2-15	<b>Thursday, December 23</b>	Micah 4:6-8 2 Peter 1:16-21 Isaiah 9:2-7
<b>Wednesday, December 8</b>	Psalm 126 Isaiah 35:3-7 Luke 7:18-30	<b>Friday, December 24</b>	Psalm 96 (11) Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]
<b>Thursday, December 9</b>	Isaiah 12:2-6 Amos 6:1-8 2 Corinthians 8:1-15	<b>Saturday, December 25</b>	Isaiah 62:6-12 Psalm 97 (11) Titus 3:4-7
<b>Friday, December 10</b>	Isaiah 12:2-6 Amos 8:4-12 2 Corinthians 9:1-15	<b>Sunday, December 26</b>	Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 Colossians 3:12-17
<b>Saturday, December 11</b>	Isaiah 12:2-6 Amos 9:8-15 Luke 1:57-66	<b>Monday, December 27</b>	Luke 2:41-52 Psalm 148 Proverbs 8:32-36
<b>Sunday, December 12</b>	Zephaniah 3:14-20 Isaiah 12:2-6 Philippians 4:4-7 Luke 3:7-18	<b>Tuesday, December 28</b>	John 21:19b-24 Psalm 148 Isaiah 54:1-13
<b>Monday, December 13</b>	Isaiah 11:1-9 Numbers 16:1-19 Hebrews 13:7-17	<b>Wednesday, December 29</b>	Revelation 21:1-7 Psalm 147:12-20 1 Chronicles 28:1-10
<b>Tuesday, December 14</b>	Isaiah 11:1-9 Numbers 16:20-35 Acts 28:23-31	<b>Thursday, December 30</b>	1 Corinthians 3:10-17 Psalm 147:12-20 2 Chronicles 1:7-13
<b>Wednesday, December 15</b>	Isaiah 11:1-9 Micah 4:8-13 Luke 7:31-35	<b>Friday, December 31</b>	Mark 13:32-37 Psalm 147:12-20 1 Kings 3:5-14
<b>Thursday, December 16</b>	Psalm 80:1-7 Jeremiah 31:31-34 Hebrews 10:10-18		John 8:12-19

## Stewardship News

### SUPPORT THE MANY MINISTRIES BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

1

#### OFFERING PLATE

Money can be placed in offering plate on Sunday morning or mailed to:  
Bethany Lutheran Church Box 236, West Branch, IA 52358.

2

#### ON-LINE DONATIONS

<https://wbbethany.org>. Click on the blue "Give Now" button.

3

#### AUTOMATIC WITHDRAWAL

Sign up for the "Simply Giving" program for automatic withdrawals from your account. Contact Dave Poppen or Paula Casper.

4

#### MOBILE APP

Download the new Vanco Mobile App from your smartphone app store. Select Bethany Lutheran Church, West Branch, IA and make your donation

5

#### TEXT 844-430-1834

Enter the amount you would like to donate  
Ex: if you want to give \$25, enter 25 in message and click send. You will receive instructions to complete the donation

Visit our website for additional information about how to give an offering.

<https://tinyurl.com/3h9bfrak>



*You Are God's Masterpiece!*

## December Worship

### December 19 — First Communion Sunday

Three awesome youth will be receiving the Sacrament of Communion for the first time: Addison Langley, Hallie Fitzgerald and Brennan Esbeck. Come and celebrate with them and give thanks and praise to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!



### Christmas Eve

Candlelight worship services with Holy Communion

5:00 PM and 8:00 PM



### December 26

The Office of the Bishop is providing a worship service to be used this day to allow for rostered ministers, congregational staff, and volunteers to rest. It will stream on our Facebook page at 9:30 AM. If you wish to view with others, it will be streamed on the large television in the Great Hall at 9:30 AM.

### Hymn Sing

Prior to gathering at 9:30 AM, join us in the sanctuary at 9:00 AM to sing some beloved Christmas hymns and further celebrate the birth of our Savior!

*All worship services streamed live on our Facebook page.*



Each year, a percentage of our budget is set aside to support some partners with us in ministry who also are reaching out to our neighbors in love. Those partners and a short description on the work they do is listed below. Thanks for your gifts to help us continue our support of these partners.

## Bethany Lutheran Ministry Partners



**Free Indeed**

Free *Indeed* is a congregation of the ELCA -Southeastern Iowa Synod at the Anamosa State Penitentiary in Anamosa. Free Indeed is a community that shares the good news of Jesus Christ with and through those inside the prison walls, with support of ministry partners outside the prison walls. For additional information go to:

<https://seiasynod.org/ministries/prisonministry/>

You can also find Free *Indeed* on Facebook (@freeindeedprisonministry).



Lutheran Chaplaincy Outreach's mission is, "To compassionately share the good news of God's healing love and grace through providing an Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) chaplain at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics (UIHC). For additional information go to:

<https://www.lcoiowa.org/>



The mission of Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Iowa is to provide a safe and welcoming space for students and other individuals associated with the University of Iowa. LCM aims to support individuals in transition, educate leaders, and mentor young adults to integrate faith and life. Their goal is to equip young adults for witness, service, and mission. For additional information go to: <https://www.lcmatui.org/>



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). LSI proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. For additional information go to: <https://lsiowa.org/>



Wartburg Theological Seminary (WTS) is a seminary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America located in Dubuque, Iowa. WTS has preparing leaders for over 160 years. For additional information about Wartburg Theological Seminary go to:

<https://www.wartburgseminary.edu/>



The Mission of the Domestic Violence Intervention Program (DVIP) is to provide comprehensive support and advocacy services to victim/survivors, focusing on immediate and long-term safety, empowerment, dignity, and hope. In collaboration with the community, they strive to end domestic abuse through education, accountability, and social justice. DVIP provides services in Johnson, Iowa, Cedar, Des Moines, Henry, Lee, Van Buren and Washington Counties. For additional information go to: <https://dvi Iowa.org/>



Since 1983, Shelter House has provided safe shelter and helped people improve the quality of their lives as they move beyond homelessness. Shelter House began in an old home in Iowa City with a capacity of 29 sleeping spaces including beds, couches, and mats on the floor. Today, Shelter House operates a 70-bed emergency shelter in addition to four homes and an apartment building through which they provide 47 permanent supportive housing units. For additional information go to: <https://shelterhouseiowa.org/>

### West Branch Area Religious Council (WBARC)

The mission of the West Branch Area Religious Council (WBARC) is to foster interfaith connections in order to address needs as they arise in our communities. The congregations that partner together through WBARC are Bethany Lutheran, Springdale United Methodist, St. Bernadette's Catholic, West Branch Friends, West Branch Friends Meeting (Conservative) and West Branch United Methodist Churches.



## Wednesday Faith Formation

Youth in grades 4-8th grades gather Wednesday evenings for a time of faith and a bit of fun mixed in. The photos below are from a recent evening in which students built towers using only spaghetti and marshmallows. This activity was based on a lesson taught by Amber Marsh centered on Matthew 7:24-25.

<sup>24</sup> “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. <sup>25</sup> The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. (NIV)



## All Saints Sunday

On Sunday, November 7th we gave thanks to God for all the saints who have gone before us in faith! We also gave thanks for our Senior Saints (80+) and our newest saints baptized in the last year. Below is a photo taken following worship of those able to attend!



## Sunday Faith Formation

We are starting back up our in-person Sunday School (also known as Faith Formation) for children in Pre-school through Grade 3. (Toddler ages are welcomed if a parent will be close by for assistance ).

Our first date was **Sunday, November 21**. We will be having it every 2 weeks (Nov. 21, Dec. 5, Dec. 19) **from 8:45 - 9:20AM**. We will focus on a Bible lesson through story, craft, and prayer, in addition to sending home some to-go snacks and activities.



*You are a precious, beloved Saint!*



# December 2021

View Calendar on our [website](#).

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29 12:00 PM Monday Gospel Gathering (via Zoom Meeting) 7:00 PM Prayer Zoom Meeting	30	1 6:30 PM Faith formation (Confirmation) 6:30 PM Faith formation 4th - 6th grade	2 6:00 AM Women's Study	3	4
5 8:45 AM Faith Formation (Preschool - 3rd Grade) 9:30 AM Worship (Indoors and online via Facebook)	6 12:00 PM Monday Gospel Gathering (via Zoom Meeting)	7	8 6:30 PM Faith formation (Confirmation) 6:30 PM Faith formation 4th - 6th grade	9 6:00 AM Women's Study	10	11
12 9:30 AM Worship (Indoors 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 (Confirmation) 6:30 PM Faith formation 4th - 6th grade	16 6:00 AM Women's Study	17	18
19 8:45 AM Faith Formation (Preschool - 3rd Grade) 9:30 AM Worship (Indoors and Online via Facebook)	20	21	22	23 6:00 AM Women's Study	24 5:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship 8:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship	25
26 9:00 AM Hymn Sing 9:30 AM Worship Hosted by Office of the Bishop (Online via Facebook or in the Fellowship Hall)	27	28	29	30 6:00 AM Women's Study	31	1



## Monetary Gifts Report

Submitted by Jill Taylor

	October 2021		YTD	
Total Receipts	Actual 12,321	Budget 13,495	Actual 131,047	Budget 134,960
Total Expenses	Actual 13,408	Budget 13,836	Actual 132,083	Budget 138,563

*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 DECEMBER 2021

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



## Ministers of Proclamation (Lectors)

12-5 Wayne Frauenholtz  
12-12 Dave Poppen  
12-19 Wayne Frauenholtz  
12-24 Dave Bahnsen  
12-24 Jill Barnhart

## Ministers of Technology

12-5 Paula C.  
12-12 Cole C. & Tate F.  
12-19 Alex P. & Miley S.  
12-24 Paula C.  
12-24 Cole C.

## Ministers of Christ's Light (Acolytes)

Opportunities available. Sign Up:

<https://tinyurl.com/nhkyxwjs>

## Ministers of Altar Care :

Patsy Ernst and Paula Casper



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

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**@blcwestbranch**

**You Are Loved!**

