

# Bethany Lutheran Church

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



## FEBRUARY 2022

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup> and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." - Matthew 2:1-2

### Important Dates

2-13 Installation of Council during  
worship 9:30 AM  
2-14 Council meeting 6:30 PM

Jesus  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

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

Office Hours  
Tuesday & Thursday 8:00-11:30 a.m.  
Simply search "Bethany Lutheran

FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

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



Greetings Faithful People of God,

On a recent Wednesday Faith Formation class the youth gathered to learn more about the season of Epiphany in which our Sunday lessons continue to make Jesus known and help us grow into a fuller understanding of who the Word made

flesh is. We learned the Magi (aka Wise Men) were given a sign, a star, that led them to the newly born King and upon arrival they worshipped him and gave him gifts.

God continues to give us signs yet today that point and guide us toward Jesus. They are all around us, some more visible than others. Some of those signs we came up with include the Bible, prayer, worship, singing hymns, the cross, our parents and others in our congregation or lives who tell us about Jesus and his great love for us and all people. We also talked about living out Jesus' command

to "love one another" may also be a sign that leads people to Jesus. When we serve in the name of Christ we are being his stars shining brightly in the world.

Then we made Epiphany stars (pictured) that also included pondering one way in which we will serve others in the name of Jesus this year and one gift we will bring to Jesus this year. If you want to join us, the

template to make your own star is located on page 12. *Get creative and email us a picture.* We might just include them in next months newsletter revealing a plethora of stars that remind us Jesus is the true "morning star" (Revelation 22:16) that guides our life. Or feel free to bring them in to be hung alongside these students stars.

Be beautiful stars people of God!  
Thank you for shining the light of Christ in the world. Through the Holy Spirit at work in each of you, continue to guide others to Jesus and make known to them the good news of how much he loves them and loves the world!

In peace,



A few of our congregations stars: Shelby, Hallie, Brennan, Jacob, Arik and Aizlyn.



## Birthdays

02/02 Becky Paulsen  
 02/04 Del Hughes  
 02/06 Hermann Boedecker, Jamie Fetzer  
 02/10 Dave Bahnsen, Paul Friis, Kristin McElhinney  
 02/12 Katherine White  
 02/15 Kyle Colvin, Dave Poppen  
 02/20 Joshua Snyder, Jamie Zimmerman  
 02/21 Tina Webb, Avery Fonseca  
 02/23 Arik Marsh  
 02/24 Lynn Lovetinsky  
 02/27 Dorothy Holmes



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

## Faith and Family

The Iowa Heartlanders hockey team will host their inaugural Faith and Family Night on Friday, February 11<sup>th</sup>.



With the help of Iowa Athletes in Action they will have two Student Athlete guest speakers from the University of Iowa. Doors will open at 5:30 pm, with the Q & A starting at 5:45 to explore both athletes' spiritual journey through sports. The Iowa Heartlanders game will follow at 7 pm. Guest speakers are Logan Lee, defensive lineman on the football Team and Hannah Clayton, middle back on the volleyball team.

Group tickets are available to purchase at \$15 each. If interested in getting a group together, contact us by Friday, February 4<sup>th</sup>.

## Bethany Books



### Book For Adults

When I finished college a number of years ago, most young people after high school or college then went to work and soon after got married and started a family. Today a new trend appears to be taking place. Young people after their education have started to wait a number of years before getting married and many have returned home. This is the subject of the book *Doing Life With Your Adult Children: Keep Your Mouth Shut & The Welcome Mat Out* by Jim Burns. Some people think that parenting stops at eighteen. If you have an adult child, you know that it is not the case. It gets more complicated. You are as involved as ever, whether your child lives under your roof or rarely stays in contact. There are no formulas or job descriptions for making the transition to an adult-to-adult relationship. The author touches on a number of key areas such as: Is it okay to give advice to my grown child? What is the difference between helping financially and enabling? What boundaries should I set if my child moves back home? How do I relate to my grown child's significant other? How do I support my grown children when I do not support their values? This book contains positive principles for encouragement in your changing role that never ends.

### DVD

*Full Of Grace: The Story Of Mary The Mother Of Jesus* focuses on her final earthly days ten years after the Resurrection. If there is one person in the gospels who had the experience of living thirty years with Jesus from birth through His Resurrection, it was Mary. After a full life with Jesus - fleeing into Egypt, losing him in the temple and seeing Him placed on the cross - Mary lives her final days in reflection. She awaits the arrival of the apostle Peter. When he arrives, he expresses the overwhelming responsibility of preaching amidst heresies and conflict. After receiving encouragement that only a mother can provide, Peter rediscovers the truth: that he is not leading but is following and walking in the light of God. (donated)



**Evangelical  
Lutheran**  
Church in America



**Church Staff**

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

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

**Custodian – Patsy Ernst**

**Pianist – Jill Barnhart**

**Church Council**

**Dave Poppen-President**  
(563)940-8012  
dkpoppen@hotmail.com

**Howard Moss-Building & Grounds**  
(319)643-7190  
hntmoss@lcom.net

**Anne Fetzer-Evangelism & Missions/Secretary**  
(319)333-8217  
arfetzer77@gmail.com

**Kristin McElhinney-Education**  
(319)930-0130  
mkmcelhinney@gmail.com

**Jill Taylor-Treasurer**  
(319)643-5865  
jtmtemrt@gmail.com

**Kent Kaufman-Stewardship/Vice president**  
(319)643-5734  
bkkaufman@lcom.net

**Amber Marsh-Youth**  
(605)231-0492  
amberrenemarsh@yahoo.com

**Patsy Ernst-Fellowship**  
(319)800-5647  
sunshinegundy@gmail.com

**Cindy Knoop-Worship & Music**  
(319)643-5484  
Cindy.knoop@gmail.com

**Financial Secretary**

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



During worship Sunday, January 23rd we welcomed Kevin and Darla Crosthwaite and son Cole, Howard and Terry Moss, Scott and Katie Burnette and children Leo and Annabelle, and Matt and Kristen Van Scoyoc and children William and Emma as members. While the Burnettes were unable to be with us in person they were present through the use of technology. Unable to attend was Mary McGee.



If you would like to learn more about membership please contact Pastor Chad: pastor@wbbethany.org

**Bible Quiz**

How many wise men followed a star to Bethlehem to worship Jesus?

A. two  
B. three  
C. four  
D. We don't know because the Bible doesn't say.

Answer: D (See Matthew 2:1-12.)

## Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) News

### Happy Valentine's Day from LSI!

*"We love because he first loved us." 1 John 4:19*

Lutheran Services in Iowa's (LSI) mission is about love: responding to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. We give thanks for all the ministry partners, both individuals and congregations, who help share this love for Iowa children, adults, and families!

We see this love in newly adopted children and their families; in teens who are overcoming years of trauma and building bright futures; in Iowans with disabilities who are growing their independence and confidence; in new parents who are raising strong and healthy families; and in so many other moments of joy.

You can help carry out our mission of hope and healing by giving a gift and showing love to the Iowa families we serve. For 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.

Thank you for the love you share and create through LSI. Happy Valentine's Day!

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

### Experiencing Love Incarnate

Penelope had been in and out of residential treatment at various facilities across Iowa for a few years. Her most recent placement was at LSI's Bremwood Residential Treatment Center in Waverly, which provides 24/7 behavioral healthcare and support for children and teens.

Upon her arrival, Penelope was able to build a relationship with the new LSI Spiritual Life Leader, Pastor Kyle. The voluntary Spiritual Life program connects youth on Bremwood's campus to faith-based music and art, youth group, and chapel sessions. After Pastor Kyle had begun to settle into his new call with LSI, he began hosting a worship service each week for children on campus centered around the eucharist. Penelope enjoyed participating in worship and encouraged her peers to join in.

One day while talking with Penelope, Pastor Kyle asked her what got her so excited about worship and why she encouraged her peers to attend.

"Dude," Penelope responded. "It's because we get communion!"

As Pastor Kyle continued the conversation with Penelope, the two discussed the importance of communion and how being fed through the bread of life empowered us to live amongst and for our neighbors.

As we celebrate Valentine's Day this month, Penelope's story about receiving the sacrament of communion helps us to remember that our love for one another is possible through the one who first loved us. No matter who we might receive valentines or sweet treats from on Feb. 14, we trust that all are embraced in love through Jesus Christ.





January 6, 2022

Rev. Chad Whaley  
Bethany Lutheran Church  
235 S 2nd St  
PO Box 236  
West Branch, IA 52358-0236

Dear Pastor and members,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$619.76 to LSI! Your support ensures that no matter the challenge, LSI is there to answer the call of providing quality care to the children and families we are privileged to serve.

Over the last several months, hundreds of businesses and organizations across Iowa – including LSI – have had to adapt their day-to-day operations. And now more than ever, Iowans need access to the critical mental and behavioral health care they have relied on from LSI. Because of you, we have been able to overcome obstacles and provide virtual therapy services to everyone we serve.

For children in residential treatment or group living settings, therapy can be a critical part of their healing process as they safely return home to their families. Because of LSI's teletherapy services, children and teens are able to continue meeting with the therapists they have grown to trust in out-of-home care, and their families are able to move forward with a therapy plan that works on their schedule.

Your support has also enabled us to continue life-changing services like Strengthening Families, a 14-week in-person program to enhance child development and reduce child abuse and neglect. One major piece of the program is that families gather each week to share a meal, bond, and build a support network. LSI has been able to lead virtual sessions and with your help, we are delivering meals to participating families' homes each week, so they are still able to celebrate this important tradition together.

These are just a few of the ways you are making a positive impact on Iowa families. Thank you for responding to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service!

With gratitude,

Sarah Green  
Vice President of Philanthropy and Church Relations

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/>



Forming Valued Leaders for God's Mission

January 7, 2022

Bethany Lutheran Church  
235 S 2nd St  
PO Box 236  
West Branch, IA 52358-0236

Dear Rev Whaley and Friends at Bethany Lutheran Church,

As we begin another year, and celebrate the light of Jesus Christ, we give thanks to God for you and for your generosity and support of Wartburg Seminary.

This is an exciting time for us here at Wartburg. The theme of my inaugural address was "Life Together in a New Day." In that address, I cast a vision for a holistic process of student formation that will continue to form resilient, creative leaders who are able to walk with the church into the future God is calling it, a future where congregations can be a "repairer of the breach," to use the words of Isaiah 58, and places of hope and bridge-building in a world in need of healing and reconciliation.

So, on behalf of those future leaders, I want to say thank you: thank you for your ongoing encouragement, your continued prayers, and especially for your support of God's bright vision for the church of the future. I am confident that God is at work in Wartburg Seminary, inspiring us to continue to discern our role in God's mission, and respond with a resounding "yes" to the call of the Holy Spirit.

Thank you for your participation in this important work!

Blessings,

The Rev. Kristin Johnston Largent, Ph.D.  
President, Wartburg Theological Seminary

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/>



A statue of Martin Luther stands in the grounds outside the east entrance of Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque. Wartburg is one of seven seminaries within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The others are: Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary (Berkley, CA), Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (Chicago, IL), Luther Seminary (St. Paul, MN), Trinity Lutheran Seminary (Columbus, OH), Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary (Columbia, SC), and United Lutheran Seminary (Gettysburg & Philadelphia, PA). Visit <https://elcaseminaries.org/> for more information.



## *West Branch Area Religious Council (WBARC)*

Bethany Lutheran, Springdale United Methodist, St. Bernadette's Catholic,  
West Branch Friends, West Branch Friends Meeting, West Branch United Methodist



January 13, 2022

To: WBARC Representatives and Congregations

Re: 2021 WBARC Financial Recap

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As Treasurer of the West Branch Area Religious Council (WBARC) and on behalf of my colleagues, I want to once again thank all of you for your faithful partnership and support of our shared ministry together. Through your faithful stewardship and monetary donations to our joint account we were able to continue our shared mission in assisting those in need in our community.

During 2021 WBARC received \$1,118 in monetary gifts. We had mission expenditures of \$753.25 as we assisted 8 individuals and/or families with needs such as lodging at Day's Inn, food vouchers to Jack and Jill, fuel assistance, and other needed supplies. WBARC continued its strong support of food assistance programs within the West Branch Community School District with a donation of \$500.

Once again, on behalf of my colleagues, let me express our gratitude and thankfulness for your commitment and faithfulness to our shared ministry. We do our best to faithfully steward these gifts and see they are making a difference and extending God's care and love to all. We look forward to 2022, our partnership together, and our joint efforts in doing God's work in our communities.

Living daily in the abundance of Christ's love and grace,

Chad Whaley  
Pastor, Bethany Lutheran Church  
WBARC Treasurer

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.

...so in Christ we,  
though many,



**FORM ONE BODY,**  
and each member  
belongs to all the others.

Romans 12:5, NIV



## BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH December 13, 2021

**Council Meeting** The meeting was called to order by President Hughes at 6:32 p.m. with the readings of Psalms 23 and 46 by Pastor Chad. The council sat in reflection and prayer for those impacted by recent tornados and for all those we lift in our hearts.

**All 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:

Daily living in the abundance of grace, love, and mercy offered through our Lord and Savior

Children and Youth Faith Formation

Times of Prayer together. A prayer request button was also added to the website.

Baptism of Annabelle Burnette and Dylan Casady

Hanging of Greens Service

Other ministry activities included meetings with the Gospel Gathering Bible Studies, Prayer Ministry, budget and executive committees, Conference 7 with fellow ELCA pastors, WBARC, Free Indeed Prison Ministry, Synod Nominating Committee, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, and Cedar County Auditor.

Pastor also attended to First Communion class, 19 pastoral visits, worship preparation, helping a parishioner move with the assistance of Al Beyer, visits with Bishop Current, and attended a wrestling meeting for a confirmation student.

Upcoming events include Faith Formation Christmas Program, First Communion, and Christmas Eve Worship Services.

### **Secretary's Report**

Dave P. moved to approve the November minutes, seconded by Jill. Motion approved.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Kristin moved to approve the report, seconded by Amber. Motion approved.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Building and Grounds**

An exhaust fan was installed in the parsonage bathroom.

A faucet in the Great Hall kitchen needs repairing.

### **Education & Youth**

Wednesday Faith Formation classes holding a Christmas program Wednesday, December 15 at 7:00 p.m. Followed with treats and hot chocolate.

Six families participating in Sunday School, preschool through grade 3. Committee purchasing Bibles, sanctuary busy bags, and curriculum.

### **Evangelism**

No report.

### **Fellowship**

No report, but online sign-up is active.

### **Stewardship**

A mailing sent thanking the congregation for giving and outlined ways to donate to church ministries.

### **Worship and Music**

Choir sang the first Sunday of Advent and then again for Christmas Eve services.

Set up Angel Tree and Nativity

Poinsettias decorating altar for the Christmas season

Attended a Tuesday prayer meeting with Pastor

### **Old Business**

#### **Angel Meals**

The first meal was prepared on Sunday, December 12. It was led by Alex Poppen with eight high school students from the community, along with the Marsh family assisting. They prepared a meatloaf dinner and served seven people. The group delivered and visited with meal recipients. It was a great success.

Next meal is planned for January 23.

The group is looking for ways to collect donations and volunteers for preparing and delivering meals to help support this ministry.

### **New Business**

#### **Proposed Budget**

Budget committee consists of Pastor, Jill Taylor, Claudia Beyer, Del Hughes, John Black and Nancy Bruns.

Dave B. moved to approve the recommended budget, Dave P. seconded. Motion approved.

The council reviewed offerings designated for local missions. Dave B. motioned we suspend support to Free Indeed Ministry this year due to the uncertainty of the

*(Continued on page 9)*





## December Council Minutes

(Continued from page 8)

program. Provide WBARC a total of \$400 then split the remaining funds among the other six missions. Seconded by Kristin. Motion approved.

### New Members

Crosthwaite, VanScoyoc, and Burnette families asking to become part of the congregation. Dave P. moves we accept the new members, Amber seconded. Motion approved.

### Election Voting Site

Pastor and Del Hughes met with county election officials in the Great Hall to discuss church use for polling and election use. Dave B. moved we use the facility for election purposes, seconded by Dave P. Motion approved.

### Annual Meeting + Zoom

The council discussed offering both in-person and online meeting options for the annual meeting in January.

### Christmas Eve Services

Two services at 5:00 and 8:00 p.m.

First Communion for three members - 12/19

Synod Wide Services Reminder - 12/26

Pre-recorded worship service planned for 12/26.

Hymn sing at 9:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary followed by the service premiering on Facebook at 9:30.

This will be available to stream at home or viewed in the Great Hall.

### ALCM Membership

Dave B. recommends Jill Barnhart become a member of this group at the cost of \$90 per year. Jill Taylor seconded. Motion approved.

Dave P. moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. Amber seconded. Motion approved.

The council closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Regular Meeting – 01/10/2022

## 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 5:3

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

- A poor in spirit time of life for me...
- When someone feels hopeless, I...
- The church brings hope to others by...



### Micah 6:8

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

- The issues that are close to home concerning fairness and justice are...
- For me, learning to love kindness...
- Walking humbly with God, I...

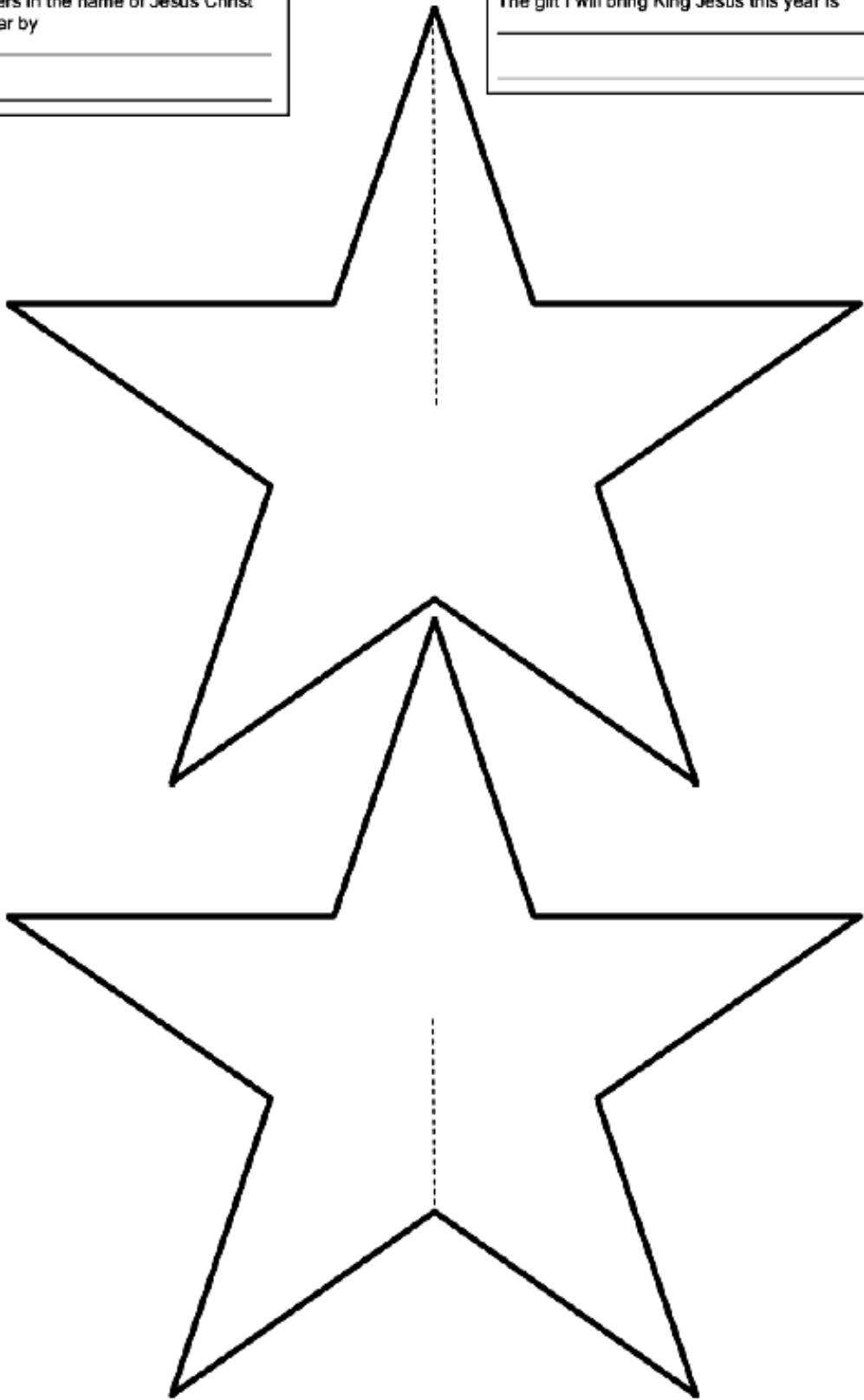
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# God loves you!!!

I will serve others in the name of Jesus Christ  
this coming year by  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The gift I will bring King Jesus this year is  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Make your own Epiphany star. See Pastor Chad's report and photos on page 1.



# February 2022

View Calendar on our [website](#).

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>30</b> 9:30 AM Worship in person and Online via Facebook	<b>31</b> 12:00 PM Monday Gospel Gathering (via Zoom Meeting)	<b>1</b> 9:00 AM Prayer with Pastor & Paula	<b>2</b> 6:30 PM Faith formation (Confirmation) 6:30 PM Faith formation 4th - 6th grade	<b>3</b> 6:00 AM Women's Study	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 8:45 AM Sunday School Preschool-3rd grade 9:30 AM Worship in person and Online via Facebook	<b>7</b> 12:00 PM Monday Gospel Gathering (via Zoom Meeting)	<b>8</b> 9:00 AM Prayer with Pastor & Paula	<b>9</b> 6:30 PM Faith formation (Confirmation) 6:30 PM Faith formation 4th - 6th grade	<b>10</b> 6:00 AM Women's Study	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 8:45 AM Sunday School Preschool-3rd grade 9:30 AM Worship in person and Online via Facebook (Council Installation)	<b>14</b> 12:00 PM Monday Gospel Gathering (via Zoom Meeting) 6:30 PM Council Meeting	<b>15</b> 9:00 AM Prayer with Pastor & Paula	<b>16</b> 6:30 PM Faith formation (Confirmation) 6:30 PM Faith formation 4th - 6th grade	<b>17</b> 6:00 AM Women's Study	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 9:30 AM Worship in person and Online via Facebook	<b>21</b> 12:00 PM Monday Gospel Gathering (via Zoom Meeting)	<b>22</b> 9:00 AM Prayer with Pastor & Paula	<b>23</b> 6:30 PM Faith formation (Confirmation) 6:30 PM Faith formation 4th - 6th grade	<b>24</b> 6:00 AM Women's Study	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 8:45 AM Sunday School Preschool-3rd grade 9:30 AM Worship in person and Online via Facebook	<b>28</b> 12:00 PM Monday Gospel Gathering (via Zoom Meeting)	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Ash Wednesday	<b>3</b> 6:00 AM Women's Study	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>



## Monetary Gifts Report Submitted by Jill Taylor

	December 2021		YTD	
Total Receipts	Actual 17,281	Budget 13,495	Actual 165,874	Budget 161,950
Total Expenses	Actual 18,668	Budget 13,830	Actual 164,508	Budget 166,224

*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  
February 2022

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



### Ministers of Proclamation (Lectors)

02-06 Cheryl Boerjan  
02-13 Del Hughes  
02-20 Shawn Samuelson  
02-27 Paula Casper

### Ministers of Technology

02-06 Paula C.  
02-13 Miley S.  
02-20 Cole C. & Tate F.  
02-27 Alex P.

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

Opportunities available. Sign Up:

<https://tinyurl.com/nhkyxwjs>

Ministers of Altar Care :  
Del & Sue Hughes



Find us on  
**Facebook**


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

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Our Twitter Handle is:  
**@blcwestbranch**

**You Are Loved!**

**BUT BY THE  
GRACE  
OF GOD  
I AM WHAT I AM,  
AND HIS   
GRACE  
TO ME WAS NOT  
WITHOUT EFFECT.  
1 CORINTHIANS 15:10, NIV**